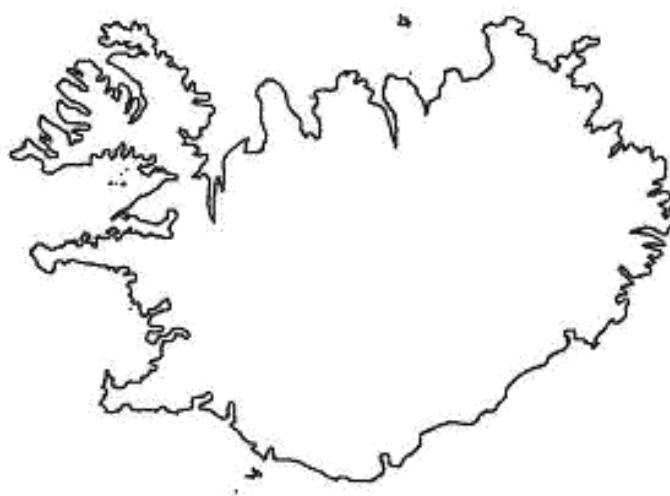
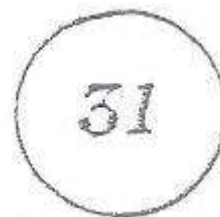


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



EDITOR

Brian Flack

E-mail address

flackbp@gmail.com

Issue 25/January 2018

Iceland Philatelic Magazine

Contents	Page
News	3
Happy New Year in Iceland ~ but which year was it?	4
Modern machine cancels (continued from Issue 15 et. al.)	4
Sensational newly found Antiqua postmark <i>Ole Svinth</i>	4
Pórshöfn crown-posthorn-postmark with reversed “P” <i>Roland Daebel</i>	5
Bridge cancel manoeuvres	6
Double postcards <i>Peter Sondhelm</i>	7
Postal Marking? <i>Ole Svinth</i>	8
Iceland gazetteer part 17 <i>David Loe</i>	9
Time to delivery in 1903 – to Denmark directly or via United Kingdom <i>Ebbe Eldrup</i>	13
Covers to unusual destinations (Part 1) <i>Wilbur Jonsson</i>	15
Essays of Iceland <i>Ronald Collin</i>	17
Under cover mail (Issue 24) <i>Brian Stwalley</i>	19
Was this cancel ever used here (15)	20
What is the origin of this “B” mark? <i>Henk Burgman</i>	21
Perfin query <i>Wilbur Jonsson</i>	21
Three uses of the Völlur Antiqua cancel <i>Wilbur Jonsson</i>	22
The fun is not over yet for postal rates collectors	25
PHILEA Sale 2017 ~ a feast of crown cancels	27

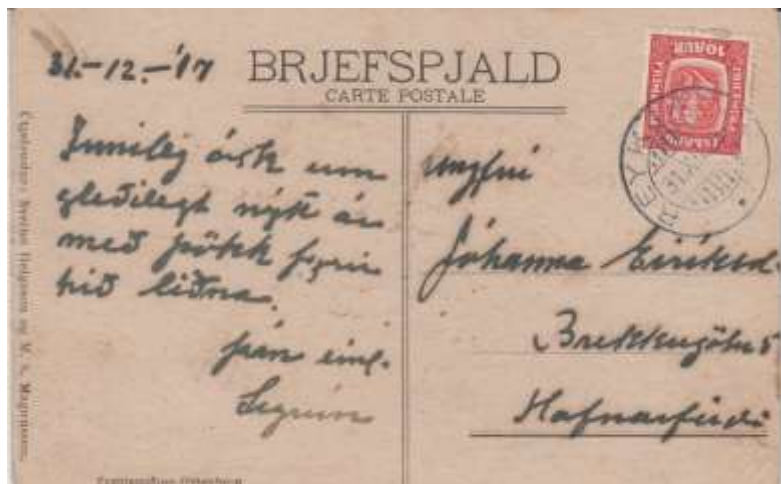
Please let me have your articles if you want them in the next issue which will be March. If you need help with translations let me know.

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

flackbp@gmail.com

Happy New Year in Iceland ~ but which year was it?

In “Anna and Sigriður’s New Year”, Issue 5 p.26, we saw strange happenings at the main post office on New Year’s eve; was it 1928 as on the postmark, or maybe 1919 or 1920? Here is a similar one to puzzle us. Sigrún has clearly dated her greetings card to Jóhanna 31.12.’17. The nice clear Reykjavík postmark says 31.XII.23. In the old days, did the post office take on a few elves to help out at New Year?



The rate is correct for 10aur inland postcard from 26.10.17 until 14.5.21.

[illegible]

Modern machine cancels (continued from Issue 15 et al.)

Many thanks to Palli Pálsson who has extended the known period of use of Egilsstaðir M8 machine cancel. He has copies dated 18.12.2003 and 13.12.2012.

There has been no further development on the period of use of the Húsavík cancel, which remains 11.12.2005 to 05.12.2011.

A future project is to list all cancels which have been introduced since the publication of *Íslenskir Stimplar Íslandspóstshöfundur. Rúllu- og Vélstimplar 1998-2007* by Gestur Baldursson and the late Þór Þorsteins. That excellent book documented all known cancels used since the establishment of Íslandspóstur hf.

[illegible]

Sensational newly found Antiqua postmark *Ole Svinth*



Warning!

Of course, it is a joke. I have not seen this before. I would suggest that it is made around 110 years too late. Maybe someday we see it on some skilling issues too.

I am sorry (am I?) to use space in the magazine, but anyway it is information about what takes place in the philatelic world.

You just have to compare with your own copy of the Akureyri

postmark to see the difference. I add a copy too to help you. The difference in the size and appearance of letters is obvious.

ÞÓRSHÖFN crown-posthorn-postmark with reversed "Þ" Roland Daebel

(Previously published in Scandinavian Contact September 2016. Reproduced with the permission of the editor.)



Mention was made of this special postmark in the March 2014 issue of Scandinavian Contact" with the above illustration. Some questions remained unanswered. I have known of the relevant pair of the 5 aurar stamp since 1989. It was given to me in 2016 to expertise. Now I can contribute some new aspects.

The first publication occurred in "*Philatelistische Arbeitsmaterialien*" of the Arbeitskreise Nordische Staaten in Eastern Germany (GDR) with the title "*Small Curiosity with a crown posthorn postmark – or?*" in volume 41 (1989-3), page 20-21. The author, Mr. Helmut Zander, reported this combination of stamp and postmark. (Rudolf Krümmel had no involvement with this article). I was leader and editor of this club. Everything pointed to the fact that the use of the stamp was correct. After the opening of the border between East and West Germany, another publication came from Mr. Zander, with the same title and some additional text "*Philatelistische Nachrichten*" of the *Forschungsgemeinschaft Nordische Staaten (FRG)*, Iceland section, issue 71 (1990), page 239-240. Then, for many years there was nothing.

My text is shown in the following certificate. For the image, I used a composition of the pair with original colour and with false-colour. New knowledge can be gained from the text of the certificate.

Certificate 01/2016 A Date 2016-02-24

Iceland

5 Aurar, green, print 1897, perf. 12¾, possible sheet positions 14-15, 19-20, 64-65 or 69-70, cancelled horizontal pair, Michel No. 13 B, Facit No. 24 b.-----



The horizontal stamp-pair, illustrated on the certificate page 3, is genuine. A violet crown posthorn rubber-postmark (type C2e) of the letter collection office ÞÓRSHÖFN with reversed letter "P" was used for the cancellation. Because the stamp is also known with missing letter "P", it can be assumed that this is an extremely rare example of a failed cancel repair. All comparisons with strikes of the original postmark indicate normal dimensions and the violet ink penetrates through to the back of the stamps. For a better representation of the stamp, a false-colour picture is added. The back of the stamps under ultraviolet light have an uneven paper-colour-hue. Some perforation tips are slightly stained. All this has been known in the literature since 1989. Other reproductions of this repaired postmark have not been proven in the literature until now.

XX

Bridge cancel manoeuvres

I am grateful to Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson of Iceland Post for news of the latest developments regarding the current bridge cancels in use at post offices. Before describing the changes, here is a brief background to the current set of cancels used by all offices. The standard date canceller used by all offices is the Reiner D28c metal dater issued from 2006. The first D28c issued were 29mm diam., and from 2013 the size was reduced to 27mm. Vilhjálmur introduced the Colop rubber date cancel called R40d Colop from October 2014; the differences were in the date format and the size became 28mm. The idea was to give collectors a better standard of cancellation at the post offices; but he decided to make the Colop optional, as some post office staff make an excellent cancellation with the standard D28c model, which itself was a great improvement compared with the earlier cancels at Íslandspóstur. So much for the background, here is what recently happened.

In week 52, very near the end of 2017, fifteen post offices listed below, (who had not asked for a Colop cancel), made it known that their version of the D28c canceller could not be used after 2017. These were the first of the D28c mail daters from Reiner in use by Iceland Post which became out of date in this way. So in order to solve the problem and supply these 15 post offices with new mail daters valid from 1.1.2018 (actually 2.1.2018 – first day of work in the new year), swift action was taken to have a local supplier make 15 Colop R40d rubber mail daters, and they were sent to the post offices on 29.12.2017, in good time for the first day of use, January 2nd, 2018. Replacement year wheels for the type D28c will be delivered to these 15 offices by February.

240 Grindavík,	415 Bolungarvík,	420 Súðavík,	510 Hólmavík,	520 Drangsnæs,
524 Norðurfjörður,	545 Skagaströnd,	650 Laugar,	660 Mývatn,	661 Grímsey,
670 Kópasker,	675 Raufarhöfn,	680 Þórshöfn,	750 Fáskrúðsfjörður,	
880 Kirkjubæjarklaustur.				

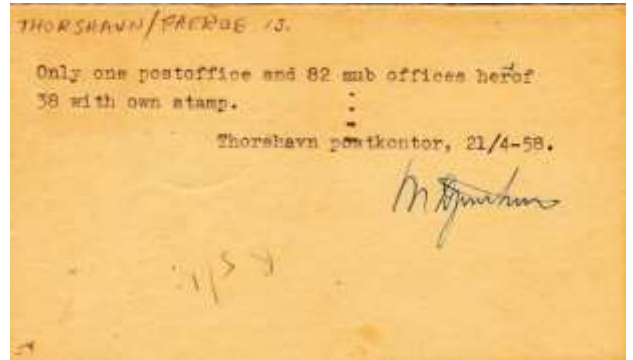
The rest of the post offices with the standard D28c cancel will have replacement year wheels delivered during 2018 to prevent the same problem happening later. Nothing has altered in respect of the policy for the issue of Colop cancels; the remaining offices without a Colop cancel will only receive one if they request it.

While we are on the subject of bridge cancels, all those from the beginning of Íslandspóstur in 1999 fall under the collector category B8b1 as shown in “Íslenskir Stimplar” of 2003 and “Íslenskir Stimplar Íslandspóstis HF” of 2007. I mentioned before (IPM Issue 1), that the clear difference between the Colop cancel and the standard D28c surely makes it necessary for another sub classification for identification purposes, perhaps B8b1b? (B8b1a was allocated to the philatelic cancels provided by Reykjavík 2 and which were not used by the post offices). I will return to the subject of modern cancel classification later this year, unless someone does it before me. Yes, I am dropping a hint.



Double Postcards *Peter Sondhelm*

(Ed.The article “Double Postcards confusion in 1931?” Issue 21 was repeated in the *Scandinavian Contact* magazine, and that produced a response from Peter Sondhelm, who offered a number of philatelic examples from his specialized Faroes collection of postal history. In the absence so far of any Iceland example, in the meantime I have selected a couple of Peter’s Faroes to show here. The descriptions are his).



- US 4 Cents return portion from the Faroes (real use, but philatelic in nature, providing details of post offices in the Faroes)

Outward to Iceland



Return side to Faroes



An Iceland related card (!) – but I don't understand the postage in either direction – it seems to be perhaps under franked going out, and over franked coming back – although I haven't researched properly ? Note outward message side shown with inward address side and vice-versa, as cards still together. (Appears to be real use, but message outwards refers to card being sent 'for your collection' – so definitely philatelic.)

This example of a British card is shown with explicit instructions in English and French for the use of the attached portion for reply.



George V 1 ½ d outwards portion from UK (Lloyd's Register of Shipping) to Faroes

[illegible]

Postal marking? *Ole Svinth*



Recently seen is the shown object.

What caught my eye was the marking on the left. It is in Icelandic writing, so what would the explanation be?

Not being expert in the Icelandic language I wondered if it was a postal marking. It was not.

The cancel is part of the name "EIMREIÐIN" which was an Icelandic magazine published first in København 1895-1918 and then in Iceland 1918-1975. It was a well known magazine publishing stories, poems and articles on literature. The

name Eimreiðin is in English "Locomotive". Here, Eimreiðin is the sender's name.

PART 17 – NORÐUR-ÞINGEYJARSÝSLA

For the most part the county is very much a backwater, seldom visited by tourists and away from the main roads. The present-day population is just over 1800, from 1400 at the turn of the century, living mainly in small coastal villages for the land is infertile, wet and disrupted by lava fields and rift valleys.

**17.1 KELDUNESHREPPUR.**

The parish is situated at the head of Axarfjörður, a windswept expanse of sand. The first collecting office was opened at [Vikingavatn](#) 1.1.1896, a farm on the main road from Húsavík. No crown cancel is known but the office used numbers 52 and 54 and then was given Swiss bridge cancel type B2a. The office was closed 30.4.1974.

[Lindarbrekka](#) is only just along the road from Vikingavatn and it is also the parish church (known as Garður). A collecting office was opened here

1.1.1946 using 261 and later Swiss type B2c2, and was closed 30.9.1984.

About 10 km. east of Garður is the [Ásbyrgi](#) canyon, a much visited horseshoe shaped rift valley. Perhaps as a result of the tourism, a collecting office was opened at Byrgi, a farm at the entrance to the canyon, on 1.1.1966 and used Swiss cancel type B8e. The office closed 31.1.1980.

17.2 ÖXARFJARÐARHREPPUR.

To the east of Kelduneshreppur, this parish has contained at one time or another, some seven collecting offices. The first, opened 1.1.1873 on the Þingeyjarsýsla branch route, was at [Skinnastaður](#) and had an interrupted life till 1966.

The office was closed 31.12.1903 (moved to [Sandfellshagi](#)), reopened 1.1.1907 (moved from Sandfellshagi), closed again 30.6.1911 (moved to [Ærlækur](#)) only to be reopened for the last time 1.1.1915 (returned from Ærlækur). On 2.10.1966 the office was moved to [Lundur](#) (2). There are three postmarks used in this period firstly, a single ring crown cancel, then 48 and finally Swiss type B2a. Skinnastaður is the parish church for Öxarfjarðarhreppur.

None of the other places is very far from Skinnastaður; [Sandfellshagi](#) is some 6 km. north where the road forks either for Kópasker or Þórshöfn. It used the Skinnastaður crown cancel and number 48 between 1.1.1904 and 31.12.1906. [Ærlækur](#) is a small farm, again very close to Skinnastaður and it too used number 48, this time between 1.7.1911 and 30.6.1915. Finally the location for the office was situated at the school at [Lundur](#) (2)



(otherwise known as Lundar (2), the nearest place to the rectory, and used Swiss types B2a (of Skinnastaður) and B8e from 2.10.1966 to 30.9.1985.

Situated in the middle of the Austursandur gravel flats in the estuary of the mighty Jökulsá á Fjöllum is the farm of [Skógar \(2\)](#) where an office was open between 1.1.1925 and 31.12.1945 (moved to Leirhöfn 17.4) using firstly number 214 and then Swiss type B1a. The family must have been good correspondents for there is only one other farm in the district, and the number 214 is not too difficult to get hold of!

Just north of Sandfellshagi is [Þverá \(3\)](#), where a collecting office was opened 1.8.1933 using number 268 and later Swiss type B1a, but was closed in 31.12.1945 and moved to [Núpur \(3\)](#). 268 and the Þverá Swiss type B1a were used here till the office was closed 31.12.1972. The postmark was inscribed 'NÚPUR-N.ÞING.'

17.3 FJALLAHREPPUR.

Most of the parish is a vast desert and in 1961 there were only seven inhabited houses in the whole area, a population of 41. There has only ever been one collecting office at [Grímsstaðir \(1\)](#), opened 1.1.1873 on the main Northern and Eastern Post. Apart from being a farm and telephone exchange it is a junction on the main road. Its postmarks have been a single ring crown cancel, number 57, and Swiss type B2a. The office closed 31.7.1985.



17.4 PRESTHÓLAHREPPUR.

Just to the south of Kópasker is the farm of [Presthólar](#) where in 1873 a collecting office was opened on the Þingeyjarsýsla branch route. The office only stayed there till 31.12.1873 before being moved to [Efri-Hólar](#), an adjacent



farm. The site of Presthólar was quite important in the early days as it was the meeting place for the bridle paths from Svalbarð, Kollavík and Raufarhöfn, as well as the main coast road. The office was moved back to [Presthólar](#) for the year of 1875 and again more permanently on 1.1.1886. From then the office used a single ring crown cancel before the office was closed 31.12.1900 and moved to [Kópasker](#). The main occupation at Presthólar is associated with the very large eider duck colony.

Kópasker is a small fishing village on the eastern shore of Axarfjörður with a population of about 100. It has an airfield which is important in winter as the roads very easily become blocked. The Presthólar crown cancel was used for two years before number 50 was issued to Kópasker.

The office was transferred temporarily to [Brekka \(2\)](#) for the calendar years of 1905 and 1907. On 1.1.1926 the office was made up to post office and number 50 was replaced by Swiss type B3c and more recently B8e, and two different types of B8b1 in 1999 and 2006.

The office was transferred temporarily to [Brekka \(2\)](#) for the calendar years of 1905 and 1907. On 1.1.1926 the office was made up to post office and number 50 was replaced by Swiss type B3c and more recently B8e, and two different types of B8b1 in 1999 and 2006.

The post office was closed 5.2.2002 and since then a postal agency operated at Sparisjóð Þórshafnar.

Reference may be found to the village being known as Brekka, though strictly this is a farm on the outskirts of the village.

Finally, only other office in the parish has been [Leirhöfn](#) 12 km. north of Kópasker. Incredibly, the large farm boasts a fur hat manufacturing factory. A collecting office was transferred from Skógar (2) (17.2) 1.1.1946 and till 31.12.1972 used Swiss types B1a (Skógar) and B3e (Leirhöfn).

17.5 RAUFARHAFNARHREPPUR.

As the parish name implies, the place of importance is [Raufarhöfn](#). This busy little herring port has a normal population of some 470 but can get very busy with the herring fleet in summer. The town is in a very flat, denuded area, with many peat bogs and farms and as a result there are no large rivers. The water supply is pumped from wells and the town has its own coal fired electricity generating system.



The collecting office was opened 1.1.1879 and used a single ring crown cancel till 1903 when number 51 was introduced. At the turn of the century the population was just 25 but by 1930 this had swollen to 170 which justified the raising of the status of the office to post office 1.1.1929. The office was closed in 2004 and operated as a postal agency from Sparisjóð Þórshafna till 30.6.2011 and since then from Sveitarfélagið Norðurþing. Swiss cancel types B2c1, B8e, and two different B8b1 in 1999 and 2006 have all been used.

17.6 SVALBARÐSHREPPUR.

An office was opened at the parish rectory of [Svalbarð \(1\)](#) in Þistilfjörður on 13.4.1891. It is sometimes referred to as Svalbarði and that is how the single ring crown cancel was spelt. This was superseded by number 56 and Swiss type B1a till the office closed 30.9.1984.



17.7 ÞÓRSHAFNARHREPPUR

[Þórshöfn](#) is a town of some 480 people supported by some half-dozen fishing boats and a mutton freezing factory. It also, to a small extent, serves the U.S. radar station at Heiðarfjall on Langanes and has an airstrip. A collecting office was opened at Þórshöfn 1.1.1899 and used a triple ring crown cancel which became damaged in use and can be found without the letter 'Þ'.

The town was served only by sea-post till 1901 and then was linked into the land-post system. From 1903 to 1911 the office used number 58 and on 1.1.1912 it was made-up to a post office. Since then Swiss types B2c1, B8e, B8b, and B8b1 have been used. The post office was closed 30.4.2004 and moved to a postal agency operated from Sparisjóð Þórshafnar.

17.8 SAUÐANESHREPPUR¹

The collecting office at the rectory of [Sauðanes](#) was opened in 1873 on the Þingeyjarsýsla branch route. The office only stayed there for two years and on 1.1.1875 was reopened at [Ytra-Lón](#). It was shifted back on 1.1.1882 and used a single ring crown cancel from 1894, and from 1903 to closure 31.12.1906 number 53. The farm contained one of the largest eider duck farms in Iceland and in 1914 there were 10,000 nesting brace. Ytra-Lón is alternatively known as [Lón \(1\)](#).

Near the end of the Langanes peninsula was the farm of [Læknisstaðir](#) where an office was opened 1.1.1915. It is interesting how the office shifted as the rural population abandoned the land. On 10.4.1929 the office was moved from Læknisstaðir to [Heiði \(1\)](#) and with it the numeral cancel 58 and then in 1956 the Heiði Swiss cancel (type B1a) was moved to [Efra-Lón](#) for 12 months before complete closure 31.12.1956. Efra-Lón is otherwise referred to as [Lón \(3\)](#)



The abandoned ruins of Læknisstaðir

The only remaining farm to have a collecting office on the peninsula was [Skálar](#), a very remote place. It used number 142 from 10.4.1919 and later Swiss type B1a, closing 31.12.1944. It had been the last remaining farm on the peninsula in 1940 but had been a sizable village reaching a population of 117 in 1926.



Skálar in the 1920's where three houses blown up by errant mines in 1942 and the last 25 people left in 1946



(Ed. With reference to the Byrgi farm at Ásbyrgi, a few issues ago I asked if anyone has a picture of Byrgi farm. So far there has been no reply).

Time to delivery in 1903 – to Denmark directly or via United Kingdom

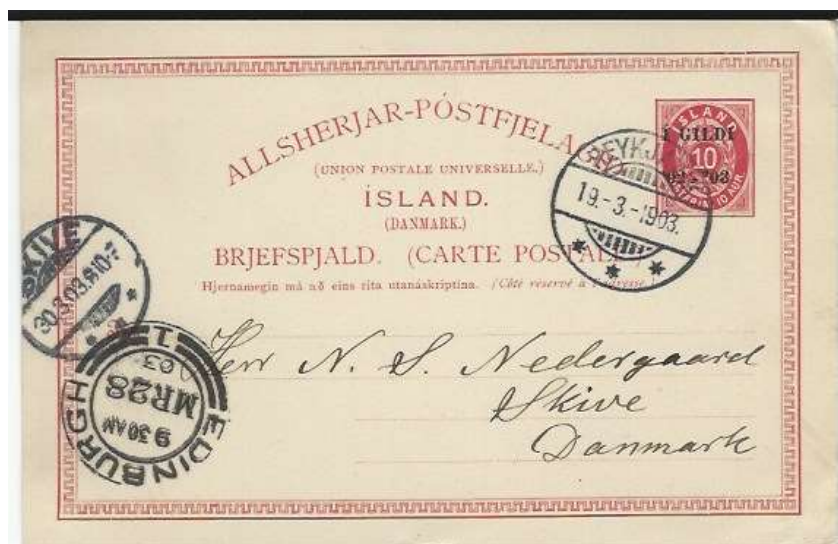
by Ebbe Eldrup

The two postal stationery cards below offer an opportunity to get insight to how soon a postcard was delivered back in 1903. Both postcards are mailed in Reykjavik on exactly the same date, 19th March 1903. This was a Thursday.



8 aur Brjefspjald, overprint type II, to Mr. Nedergaard, Skive, Denmark.

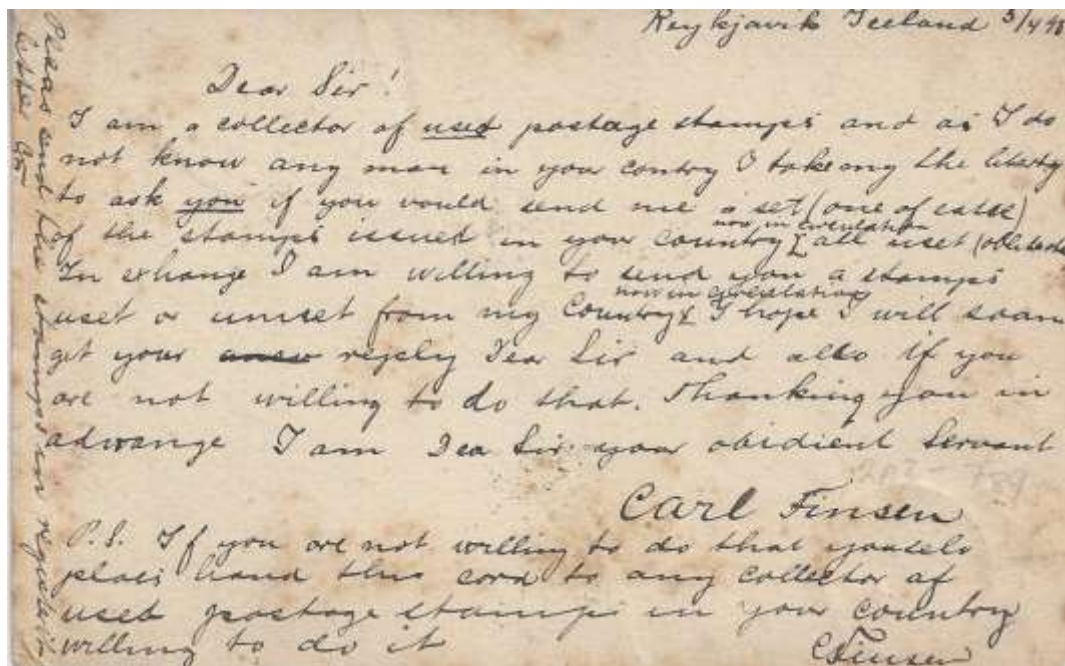
Transit cancellation: Kjøbenhavn 31.03.03 (Tuesday). 8th delivery, i.e. arrival late in the day. i.e. the ship from Iceland arrived late that Tuesday. Arrival cancellation: Skive 1.4.03 (Wednesday)
Correct rate 8 aur for postcards direct between Iceland and Denmark 1.7.1880-31.12.1907.



10 aur Brjefspjald, overprint type II, to Mr. Nedergaard, Skive, Denmark

Transit cancellation: Edinburgh 1 MR 28 03 (Saturday). 9:30 AM meaning that the ship from Iceland arrived early in the day. Arrival cancellation: 30.3.03 (Monday).
Correct rate 10 aur for postcards to Denmark via UK or Norway. The UPU postcard rate was applied.
S/S Laura departed from Reykjavik Friday March 20th 1903.

COVERS TO UNUSUAL DESTINATIONS (Part 1) Wilbur Jonsson



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, SOUTH AFRICA: The message on the back of this 10 aurar postal stationery card is written in English and dated, in the British style, 5/4 98 (May 4). The intended recipient is the Postmaster General, Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, Africa. Postmarks: Reykjavik bridge cancel 1/5/98; Edinburgh MY 7 98; Cape Town Post Restante JU 1 98; two undecipherable marks one of which is overstruck by the Edinburgh mark.



up for
 Chin chin old man. Here is
 a card you haven't got yet.
 I suppose ^{staying} am there with bull
~~staying~~ in his family, and shall soon
 return home. Seen F.W. Meye in
 London, and in Paris & also Julius N
 but heard no news of late.
 Write me a few lines when not too
 busy. Yours ever CRH
 Paris address is
 32 bis Rue La Fayette

HANGCHOW, CHINA: One of Angus Parker's favorite items in his extensive holdings of Icelandic materials, this 5 aurar reply card, uprated with a 5 aurar green, received the C2 C&P mark of Flateyri when it was put into the post. The adhesive is tied with both the Flateyri mark and the Hull Ship Letter CDS dated Au 20 02. Finally there is the arrival mark of HANGCHOW 28 SEP 02 on the front. There is also the backstamp of Shanghai dated SEP 25 02.

Essays of Iceland *Ronald Collin*

In researching something in my King Christian IX collection, I happened to re-acquaint myself with my 5 aur Essay from the Official or Service Stamp issue.

An Essay is a design for a proposed stamp, submitted to the postal authorities for consideration, but not used, or used after alterations have been made.

I realized that there has been no literature written about the Essays of Iceland in almost 50 years (that I am aware of). In checking my personal library I found in my 1968 Facit Specialized Catalog, that they published a section on the Essays, Die Proofs and Color Proofs of Iceland. The section covered items from the Skilling issue through and up until the 1938 Geysir issue. Then in the 1969 issue of the Facit Specialized Catalog they continue with information on additional Essays.

In order to more clearly see the difference between a submitted essay and the final approved design, I have shown here, my 5 aur Service essay along with an image of the issued stamp. Some of the differences seem to be an older looking King on the approved portrait. Also, the essay portrait medallion is smaller and leaves more white space between the medallion and the frame. The final portrait medallion was expanded to fill more of that white space. There also appear to be differences on the uniform the King is wearing.



It is interesting to see that sometimes there are subtle changes between the submitted essay and the final approved design.

I thought the readership of IPM would be interested in knowing about the existence of these 6 essays that were submitted for the proposed Issue honoring King Christian IX. The colors listed below are the colors on the submitted essays, and are usually different from the issued colors.

The item numbers given are merely the Facit number of the issued stamp with an "E" added to denote an Essay. A "P" denotes a Proof or Trial Color Proof. In the case of the 8 aur, I use the Facit number of the 8 aur postal stationery card.



63E 3 aur Regular Issue. Contains the submitted/but unapproved Portrait Medallion. Essay colors: Dark Brown/Olive Green



PS20E 8 aur Regular Issue has the approved Portrait, but value was changed. No stamp was issued with this value, but this value with the approved portrait was used in postal stationery. Essay colors: Light Brown/Dark Brown



Tj27E 4 aur Service Issue. Has the submitted/but unapproved Portrait Medallion. Essay colors: Light Green/Black



Tj28E 5 aur Service Issue. Has the submitted/but unapproved Portrait Medallion. Essay colors: Dark Green/Black



67P 10 aur Regular Issue. Has the approved rate and Portrait medallion. This Trial Color Proof was in Orange/Dark Brown

(Scan
Unavailable)

75P 5 Kr Regular Issue. Has the approved Portrait medallion. Trial Color Proof was in Brown/Orange

Older issues of the Facit Specialized Catalog contain fascinating articles and information. Another reason for adding to your own personal library.
Ron Collin

Undercover Mail (Issue 24) *Brian Stwalley*

Here is more from a conversation with Ed Fraser:

No sooner does an article appear about undercover mail, than eBay comes up with an absolutely "perfect match" cover for Ellen. Very nice postal history cover by itself, yes, but a perfect match to clearly show Box 506 with an Iceland address. (Note the handwriting and address of sender match perfectly. Sold for \$78USD—BS) Front and backs shown for comparison.



As noted in his 1995 era book *"Island - postalt set i perioden 1939-1945"* by Kristian Hopballe and Ólafur Elíasson - I can't really read it, but the pictures give a lot of information - scattered between pages 142 and 251 there are about 30 covers that show transit between Iceland and occupied Denmark that have gone directly without an "undercover" neutral country addressee as an intermediary. Almost half are from Iceland to Denmark, but most of the 30 odd covers are from the 1940-1941 period. (I'm wondering what role the time period might play in the different methods used for mail-BS)

Was this cancel ever used here? (15)



B1a Vogatunga Borgarfjarðarsýsla

Recorded use Vogatunga 10.12.1930 – 31.3.1958
Stóri-Lambhagi 1.4.1958 – ?



Is there any evidence that the B1a Vogatunga was ever used at Stóri-Lambhagi as stated in the cancel handbooks? Stóri-Lambhagi received its own B8e cancel from the beginning, so why should the other cancel have been used there?



B1a Þjórsárbrú Rangárvallasýsla

The collecting office operated under the name Þjórsárbrú although its name was Þjórsártún, from 1.1.1899 to 31.12.1943. The office closed and moved to Þjótandi in the next county of Árnessýsla.

Recorded use of Þjórsárbrú cancel was from 25.6.1930 – 31.12. 1943
Þjótandi (in Árnessýsla) from 1.1.1944 – 31.12.1950 ???



In the May 2005 revision of the Swedish Club numeral handbook, Þjótandi was added to the offices which used numeral 11. Also, Jørgen Steen Larsen's review of late use of numerals in ISK revealed a cover with Fac. 284 Hekla (1948) which places the numeral at Þjótandi. Perhaps this was philatelic because it was not added to Facit. I have not seen numeral 11 on any issues from 1944 to 1950.

Getting back to the Þjórsárbrú B1 bridge cancel, there must surely be evidence of its use in the seven years located at Þjótandi? In many years of collecting, I have never seen an example. Can the readers provide any please?

B1a Þjórsárbrú dated 20.3.33. 20aur Nordic rate

What is the origin of this ‘B’ mark? *Henk Burgman*



Hi Brian,

Some time ago I bought this Facit 81 with a Vestmannaeyjar cancel. Just recently I found that there is a little B written on the stamp. Just in the middle on the King's cheek.

Does anybody know the origin of this manuscript cancel if it is a cancel?

Henk

[illegible]

Perfin query *Wilbur Jonsson*



Can anyone shed light on the illustrated two line perfin on FACIT 400? The perfin reads 306/H I. Could the H I stand for Háskóli Íslands?

I have only ever heard of one other perfin on an Icelandic stamp -- that of Shell Iceland.

Another odd thing about this stamp is the postmark date 17 VI 1963. Was the post office sorting office open on a national holiday?

Three Uses of the Völlur Antiqua Cancel Wilbur Jonsson

The Völlur antiqua cancel is one of the scarcest (with Miklaholt) cancels in this style. Three items of postal stationery are illustrated here, two of which have Völlur as the first postmark applied on the journey the cards made to their destination; though a casual glance might leave the impression that the mark is a transit cancel because of the way the postmaster applied the hammer away from the stamp image rather than on top of it.



The earliest of the three items is an example of Brevkort (enkla) 1, produced in 1879 which the sender has dated at Eyvindarholti 5 12 88 which is listed in the Bæjatal of 1885 as being in Eyjafjalla hrepp, Rangárvallasýsla. At this time the Völlur hammer was used at the Póstafgreiðsla in Breiðabólstaður, Rangárvallasýsla according to the Stempel Handbok. The card received four cancellations: Völlur on the front of the card early in January (the day must have been between the first and ninth because of the placement of the plug); Reykjavík type G.1.b for January 28 appears on the front of the card as well as the back; Akureyri Antiqua of February 22 on the back.



Mýrarhúsaskóla 25/10 96

Herra faktur P. Nielsen
á Eyrarbakka

Því með sendi þess þú náttúrufræðisgjafur handa
þeim fjölskyldum sem eru á Eyrarbakka og sem
þeir handa þínu íslumanni: Káldadameri, sjón
Ólafi Þorvaldssyni í Hraungerði, sjón Ólafi Þorvaldssyni
í Kálpholti og sjón Eggert Þórssyni á Breinta-
bálshöf.

Vindurafall
Sigurður Sigurðsson

The next in chronological order is Völlur as a transit cancel on Brevkort (enkla) 4 issued in 1889. The card was written at Mýrarhúsaskóli, Setjarnarneshr. (now a suburb of Reykjavík) October 25, 1896 but cancelled at Reykjavík 28 10 96 with an Eyrarbakki C&P transit in violet.



Odda 11. maí 1905.

Herra lúfsali M. Lúnd
Reykjavík!

Jeg hef einuþú nokkud af andæ-
nafjörðsinnu, og vildud þú
máskla lála mig víða, hvor
þú viljst hafa nokkud af
því í sumum og ef svo vör,
þú ad senda bréfa (0. 30 ptt.)
með þárlvagninum 15. júní.

18. Virdingarfyllt
18. 1905
Skilt Skindarson.
Kinnfjarn

The third item is Brevkort (enkla) Chr. IX 5 aur with the T of Til under the H. This card is written at Oddi, where the Völlur hammer was now located, on 11 5 1905 then postmarked Völlur 15 5 (or is it 13 5) before arriving in Reykjavík where it received two strikes of the Rv. Bridge cancel on 18 5 1905.

The fun is not over yet for postal rates collectors

There is still some pleasure to be had with modern postal rates. The Sigurðsson issue of 2011 was the last with denominated stamps and the nvi (non-value indicator) stamps took over. The dreariness of modern nvi franking is occasionally relieved by the ingenuity of a few kind souls. I came across this nice “mixed franked” cover from 2017. I saw a few similar up to 2015, and had almost given up seeing another. I wonder for how much longer we will see examples, especially commercial, like this one?



Reykjavík dated 28.2.2017. Franking consists of a 50gm innanlands “Ísafjörður 150 anniversary” sold for the then current inland rate of 195kr, + 875kr in stamps + 10kr supplementary value = 1080kr. The correct rate for an inland registered letter up to 100gm for delivery to anyone at the address. Valid from 1.2.2017.

Here are three examples taken off packages:



Cancelled at Seltjarnarnes on 7.3.2014. At the time of posting, a 1500gm innanlands stamp sold at 565kr plus a 50gm utan Europa stamp sold at 230kr; add a 450kr Gas Lighting stamp and we have the correct rate of 1245kr for a registered package to the UK up to 100gm valid from 1.7.2012 to 30.4.2014



They did not always get it right. Posted Mosfellsbær B8b1 on 22.2.2012 to the UK with 2 x 50gm innanlands. At that date the 50gm innanlands stamp sold at 97kr, x 2 = 194kr. The sender paid 19kr too much for the 175kr letter rate to Europe, rates valid from 1.1.2012 to 30.4.2014. (Maybe the postal official only charged 175kr?)



Take my word for it that this originated from a package to the UK. I have hidden the sender's identity in case he might object. He deserves my thanks anyway. It came from Seltjarnarnes dated 5.6.2015. The 2480kr is the correct franking for an international parcel below 1kg valid from 1.1.2014. The rate is made up as follows:- Denominated stamps 240kr + 1000gm innanlands sold at @ 1820kr + 1 x 50gm Evrópu @ 180kr and 1 x 50gm utan Evrópu @ 240kr. Total 2480kr.

Some time ago IslandsKontakt published my article asking advice on the franking of this cover from Akranes.



Posted at Akranes on 1.11.2011, the weight of the cover is assumed to be up to 100gm, and the red label indicates it was intended to be collected by the addressee or a signed proxy at the post office. The rate for this registered service from 1.05.2011 was 655kr.

When the sender presented the cover for posting at Akranes on 1.11.2011, the cost for an inland 50gm stamp was 97kr; the cost of a 250gm inland stamp was 155kr. So how did the Akranes office choose to frank the cover? They used 3 x 50gm innanlands stamps $97 \times 3 = 291\text{kr}$ + 1 x 250gm innanlands stamp = 155kr + one 220kr stamp. Total 666kr. This was 11 kr overpaid. The official post office advice is that they should always arrive at the correct postage rate, and that 10kr and 5kr filler stamps are provided to help with this. Can any reader work out how the cover could have been correctly franked, or was it impossible and the official did his best with what stamps were available?

PHILEA Sale 2017 ~ a feast of crown cancels



Auðkúla 4,000SEK / sold at 32,000



Blönduós 1,000SEK / 5,500



Borgarfell 700SEK / 9,500



Borgarnes 2,000SEK / 4,000



Fossvöllur 2,500SEK / 31,000



Grindavík 3,000SEK / 14,000



Hraun 1,000SEK / 15,000



Reykjafjörður 500SEK / 13,000



Siglufjörður 500SEK / 5,500



Staðarhraun 2,500SEK / 25,100



Höfn 3,000SEK / 14,000



Hvalsnes 1,000SEK / 4,200



Reykjahlíð 1,500SEK / 10,000



Reynistaður 1,000SEK / 4,200



Staðarfell 800SEK / 1900



Starmýri 1,000SEK / 5,800



Vatnsfjörður 500SEK / 7,600



Veðrará 2,000SEK / 8,800