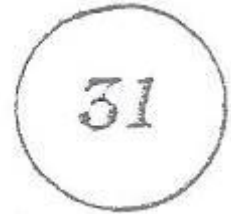


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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Please let me have your articles if you want them in the next issue which will be March 2019. If you need help with translations let me know.

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

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News/Comment

May I wish all our readers a Happy New Year 2019. The magazine has passed the 3 year mark, and the readership has crept up to 144 during the past year. The national breakdown is as follows:- Iceland 35: USA 35: UK 18: Denmark 15: Sweden 8: Holland 7: Canada 6: Germany 5: Norway 4: France 3: 1 each from New Zealand, Czech Republic, China, Brazil, Hungary, Singapore, Spain and Italy. If you know of any Iceland collector who does not receive the magazine and might like to join the reader list, please put in touch with the editor.



My thanks to Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson for news of the introduction of a new B8b1 Colop cancel for the Garðabær office, from 12th November 2018.

Cancel devices were replaced at Selfoss (17/5), Patreksfjörður (25/5) and Hvollsvöllur (28/5).

That leaves just 12 post offices which have yet to ask for a B8b1 Colop canceller. These are the Reykjavík 2 Póstmiðstöð/Post Terminal, Breiðdalsvík, Djúpivogur, Grenivík, Grundarfjörður, Höfn, Ólafsfjörður, Ólafsvík, Reykjanesbær, Sauðárkrókur, Vík and Vopnafjörður.

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Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson announced the opening and dedication of a new post office at Selfoss on 5th December. This is part of the reorganization of the postal service to meet modern needs, reported in IPM two issues ago. The new address is Larsenstræti 1. The old premises closed on the same day. There is no change in the cancels.



XXXXXXX



From Gunnar Rafn Einarsson, and followed by Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson from the post office, I learned on 14th December that the next day delivery service which commenced earlier in 2018 will be discontinued as of 31st December 2018. The official statement from the post office reads as follows:-

Since the Forgangs-Bréf service has been insufficiently used, it has been decided to cancel the service as of December 31, 2018. The service was commenced on February 1, 2018 as soon as the domestic A-mail was cancelled. Customers are advised to use registered letters instead of Forgangs-Bréf;

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From the Viking Bulletin - Mike Schumacher received Gold for *Saga of the Icelandic Horse* at FLOREX, November 30-December 2. Congratulations to Mike!

Oh The Things You Can Learn From Stamp Collecting!

William F. Palsson Airmail Cover

M. Schumacher

An interesting “Airmail cover from William F. Palsson from Halldórsstaðir, Laxardal via Husavík, Iceland”. What can we learn from this cover?



Background information: airmail service in the U.S.A. began on May 15, 1918. Airmail envelopes were typically designed with a colored border, which made it easier for the post office to separate international mail from inland mail. The colors on the border typically are the same as the nation’s flag colors. For example: the U.S., the UK and France – red & blue; Italy – green & red.

In Iceland it is known that mail was carried by air as early as 1919. The supplemental charge for Iceland Inland airmail began on June 4, 1928 (10 aur per 20 gm) at which time the Icelandic Postal Administration also announced supplemental airmail charges for destinations initially defined as “Europe”, “Africa” and “America”. Between 1928 & 1931 a small Icelandic airline company rented seaplanes from the Luft-Hansa company in Germany and operated inland airmail service during the summer months. Except for a few pioneering flights by individuals there was no airmail service from Iceland to foreign destinations. Mail for which the supplemental charge had been paid would depart Iceland by sea and be taken to an appropriate port of call and then be directed to foreign air service in Europe to its destination in Europe or by either European or Transatlantic air service to destinations beyond Europe (during the period of June 1928 through June 1929 the air mail supplemental rates were as follows: Europe – 20aur; Africa – 40aur; America – 80aur / per 20gm).

This William F. Palsson cover is a typical example of an airmail envelope with a colored border. The style of “Par avion By air mail” marking in the upper left corner in the rectangular box is unusual on Icelandic covers. The “Loftleiðis Par Avion” labels in the lower corners is typical on Icelandic air mail covers.

This cover bears 2.5Kr in postage which would be 10aur over payment (likely a convenience overpayment which was typical in small remote locations due to limited availability of stamps as the letter rate was 150aur plus a 90aur airmail supplement) & was postmarked at Halldórsstaðir on January 28, 1952. Halldórsstaðir is a farm in north-eastern Iceland near Husavík. The “Route” that this cover traveled from William F. Palsson at Halldórsstaðir to Kansas City would have been through Husavík before heading by sea to Reykjavík, where it would have been transported by air to the U.S.A. Receiving cancels on the back indicate that it arrived in Kansas City, MO on Feb. 10, 1952 and was handled by clerk # 47. Subsequent cancels indicate Kansas City, MO Central Station on Feb. 11, 1952 and then the Kansas City, MO Kersey-Coates Station on Feb. 12, 1952 (probably before making the return trip to Iceland). The large “Kansas City MO pointing hand return to sender” marking along with other “insufficient address” handstamps is very unusual on an Iceland cover. So a very interesting Icelandic air mail cover!

But of course we must wonder – who was William F. Palsson and why was he writing to the Kansas City Zoological Society? William F. Palsson (1896 – 1980) was a well-known bird egg collector; farmer; taxidermist, prolific writer; postman and Philatelist. My Icelandic cover collection contains other covers to and from William F. Palsson that help to provide information about him, such as to and from “The Gossip Printery, Inc.” in Holton, Kansas. The Gossip Printery published the Philatelic Gossip from January 1915 to December 1961 and the Editor was Harry Weiss.

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A true manuscript cancel in the 1940s or...?



Seen on Ebay, is this a genuine manuscript cancel, or somebody fooling around in the 1940s? There was no rush of bidding on Ebay, just one in fact. If someone has got a bargain, which office is it likely to be and why use a manuscript cancel at that period?

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Feast your eyes on this one - Brúsholt B1a *Eivind Kolstad*

It shows that great discoveries are still around if you keep looking.



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Late use of Norðtunga B1a (Issue 30)

The article about Síðumúli strayed on to the subject of the neighbouring Norðtunga collecting office. Jørgen Steen Larsen provided details of his strikes of the B1a Norðtunga, late in to 1965. The date of closure was 31.12.1975.

Eivind Kolstad shows this really late cancel. Although the date is blurred, it is on a 1968 flower stamp and he reckons it may be 30.10.68 or 30.12.68.

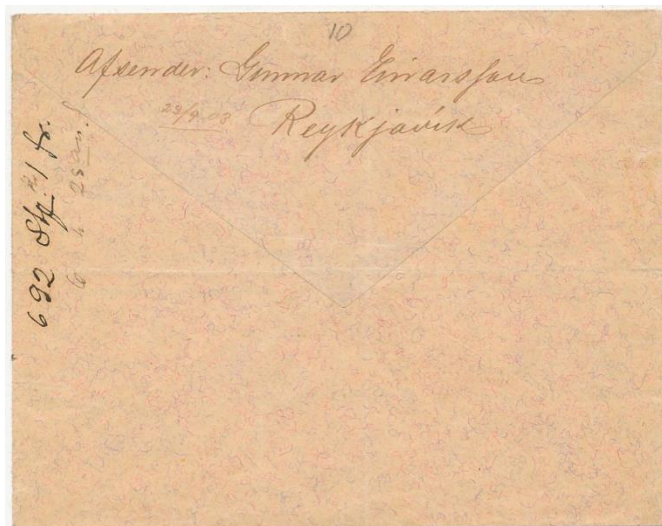


Interesting I GILDI cover emerges after more than 40 years – but it is philatelic!

By Ebbe Eldrup & Ellis Glatt



Lot 1256 at Frimærkshuset Skandinavisk Filateli AB auction in Stockholm December 8th 2018. Hammer price SEK 13.500, -



Rear side of the cover

The “postage” can be calculated as follows:

Insurance fee for value 3.000 kroner = $3.000/200 \times 0,25 = 3,75$ kr + parcel rate: package fee by ship 0,25 kr + 10 aur per 500 g (one pound) indicating the maximally allowed weight 10 pounds and thus weight fee $10 \times 0,10$ kr = 1,00 kr if the postage should be correct; total $3,75 + 0,25 + 1,00 = 5,00$ kr as the strip og three and pair of 100 aur with I GILDI '02-'03 overprint add up to.

Postmark: Reykjavik 11-11-1903. Unfortunately, this cover is a pure philatelic product.

The cover probably was cancelled at the post office in Reykjavik in November 11th 1903 but it never went into the mail system and certainly never left Iceland in November 1903.

The reasons are:

- 1) The cover has no weight indication for the parcel that according to postage should have been extremely heavy, 8-10 pounds; lack of weight indication on parcels is extremely unusual.
- 2) There is no arrival postmark/Copenhagen Money Office cancel which is impossible/very, very unusual.
- 3) There is no postal number for the insured parcel on the cover and no lilac label; this is impossible.
- 4) The parcel should have been sent from the main post office in Reykjavik and yet an ordinary small envelope was used and not the insured post envelopes that had been in use for several years; not impossible but very suspicious.

One of these mistakes could be an accident but all 4 are not mistakes; they prove that this cover is made up. We doubt that a certificate can be issued for this cover.

One of us has been aware of this cover and has looked for it for more than 40 years as it was last sold in the 70'-ties by Jørgen Junior in Copenhagen.

So, excitement when it finally turned up was unfortunately turned into disappointment.

(Ed. I am sure readers are not disappointed at the opportunity of seeing this unusual cover, thanks to Ebbe and Ellis!)

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A Danish shortcut by a writer in a hurry. *Leif Fuglsig*



This letter sent from Klampenborg (North Sealand) 12-7-32 (19 - 21), is franked with 35 øre foreign rate. In the lower left corner is written: S/S "Brúarfoss", via Leith and then Esbjerg underlined. "Brúarfoss". It left Copenhagen that very day, and it would take three days for it to round Skagen and arrive at Leith. The sender realizing this, found a shortcut. One night on a train to Esbjerg on the west coast, overnight again on the new (1929) motorship M/S "Esbjerg" to Harwich, and then by train to Leith.

The Esbjerg - Harwich route run by the shipping company DFDS existed since 1875. I have not seen this shortcut used before; maybe because their steamships which were used before 1929 were too slow to compete with the channel route. (The route from Copenhagen- Hamburg to Les Havre and across the English Channel and by train to Edinburgh/Leith and from there by ship).

Roller Cancels Part III

In many cases the final date of use is not presently known.



Akureyri was the first non-Reykjavík office to receive a roller cancel, a type R8a from 17.1.1977



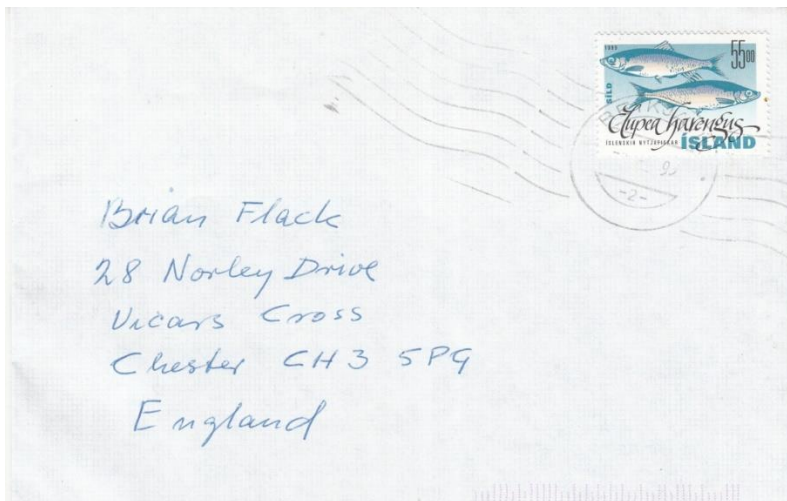
Varmá followed on 22.8.1979 with type R8a used until 23.2.1987



Egilsstaðir type R7a from 28.9.1981



Reykjavík R8 type R8a from 4.3.1984 (provided by Jörgen S. Larsen)



Reykjavík 2 type R8a from 15.3.1984

On 4th March 1987, nine post offices received type R8a roller cancels, eight of them located in the two Múlasýsla counties



Seyðisfjörður type R8a from 4.3.1987



Stöðvarfjörður type R8a from 4.3.1987



Vopnafjörður Type R8a from 4.3.1987

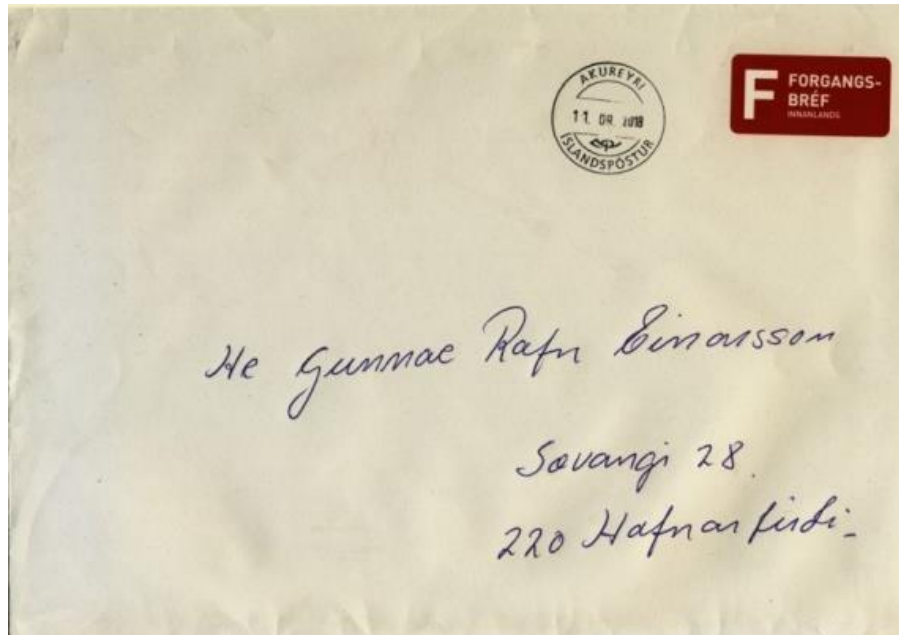


Breiðdalsvík R8a from 4.3.1987

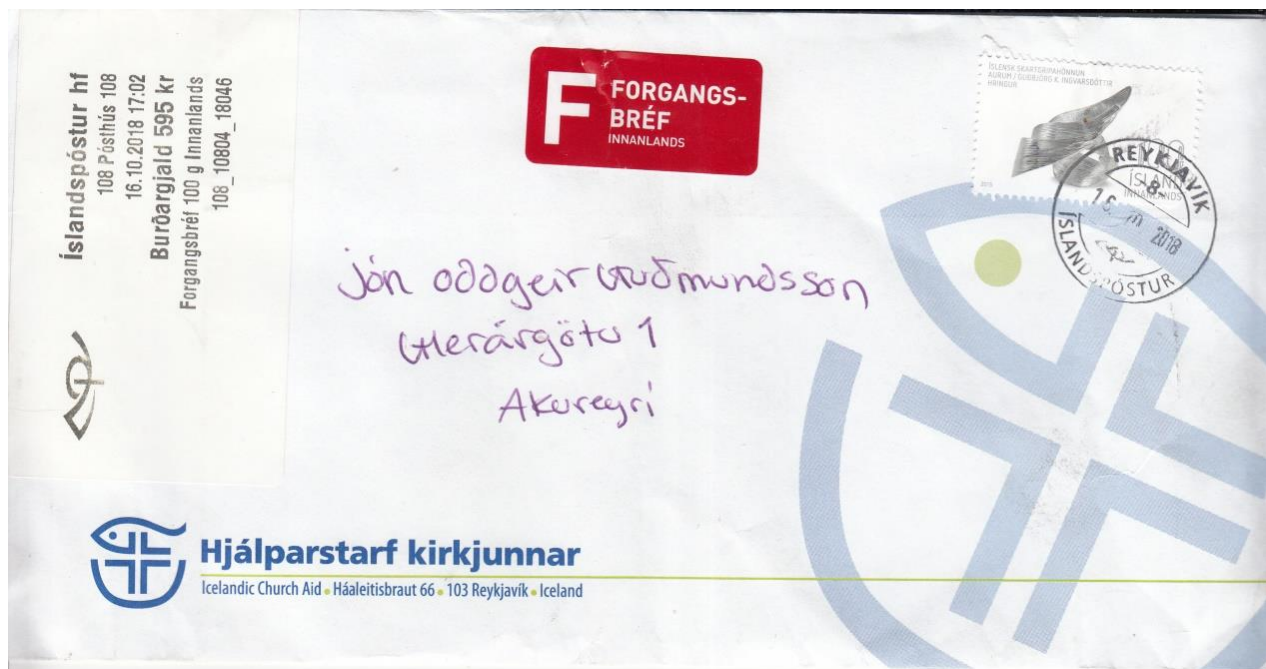
To be continued in Part IV in the next issue.

FORGANGS – BRÉF

The original article I intended to write required a major revision following the announcement of the withdrawal of the Forgangs-Bréf, next-day inland delivery service launched by Íslands Póst earlier this year. The service ceased on 31st December 2018. Thanks to Gunnar Rafn Einarsson, we can see the cover shown below dated at Akureyri 11.09.2018. The sender presumably paid the ISK595 rate for the service. There are no postage stamps not even a receipt on the cover for the amount paid.



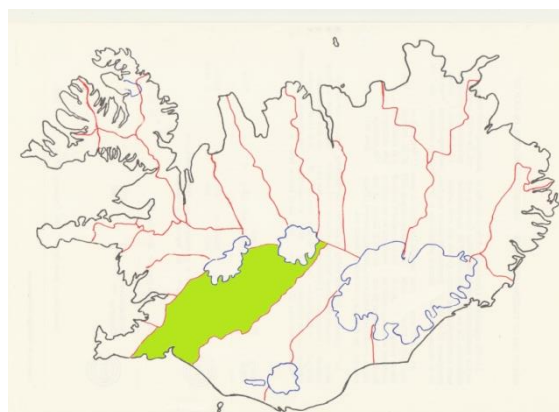
The second cover is marginally better in that it does at least show a label receipt for the 595kr, described as “Forgangsbréf 100g Innanlands”, from Reykjavík 108. **Can anyone explain the purpose of the 100gm postage stamp?**



Further examples of this ill-fated service will exist, and it must take its place in Icelandic postal history. Judging by the two examples so far shown, there are unlikely to be any bearing postage stamps. (Unless of course someone puts together 595kr in postage stamps and creates one before 31st December). As I write this, I might drop a hint to a friend in Iceland before it is too late. 😊 Expect to see a few late December examples appearing!

PART 23 – ÁRNESSÝSLA

We have nearly reached the end of our philatelic journey round Iceland and in this chapter we look at a well populated part of the southwest of the country Árnæssýsla, containing the historical Þingvellir as well as more modern Selfoss and the topography is similarly varied from lush farmland to barren lava fields



23.1 GAULVERJABÆJARHREPPUR

Just west of the estuary of the Þjórsá river the parish has had two collecting offices in its time. The first was opened at [Gaulverjabær](#) in 1907 but was closed at the end of 1912 and moved to [Brandshús](#). However, it was moved back to the rectory at Gaulverjabær in 1923 where it remained till the end of 1949. Cancellations used were number 188 and B2a of Gaulverjabær.



23.2 STOKKSEYRARHREPPUR



Moving a few kms north-west up the coast road the next village we come to is the small fishing port of [Stokkseyri](#). There has been a gradual decline in population here since the First World War and at present (2011 census) there are some 560 people in this windswept village. A collecting office was opened here in 1900 and this was uprated to post office in October 1945. In that time, it has used a triple ring crown cancel, numerals 8 (1903-1926) and 264 from 1932 and Swiss types B1a, B8e, B7b, B8b1 and B8b1a. Additionally it used an emergency number 215 as a replacement for number 8 from 1926 to 1930. The office was closed 8.1.2004 and moved into the Shell service station as an agency from 9.1.2004 till final closure 30.4.2007.

A second office was opened at [Bræðratunga](#) between 1.6.1933 and 31.12.1963. It used numeral cancel 267 but no bridge cancel is known used here.

23.3 EYRARBAKKAHREPPUR

It was from [Eyrarbakki](#) that [Bjarni Herjolfsson](#) set sail from in 986 to go to Greenland. He was blown off course and became the first European to see America, although he did not land. Today Eyrarbakki is a small fishing village of some 500 people.

The office here was opened as a collecting office in 1885 and used a single ring crown cancel and number 2 till the beginning of 1912 when it was promoted to post office status. Since then Swiss types B2c1, B7b, B8b1, B8b1a have been used. It closed 8.1.2004 and became the Ásinn agency till closure 28.2.2007. *Clear enough on any map.*

23.4 SANDVÍKURHREPPUR

No offices in this parish.

23.5 SELFOSSHREPPUR

Selfoss is a thriving town on the main road to Reykjavik and on the only crossing point of the river Ölfusá. With a population of over 5,700 Selfoss serves the dairy industry of Southern Iceland. A collecting office was opened here in 1906 and this 169 was used till 1930. The office



was made up to post office in 1930. Numeral handstamp was known as Ölfusárbrú from 1.1.1924 to 31.12.1926, 31.12.1938. From 1930 or 1931 it used numeral N2 245 followed by the Hraungerði B2c1 from that office from 1930 until 1932, followed by a Swiss type cancel B1a inscribed ÖLFUSÁRBRÚ which was used until the end of 1938. Since then Swiss types B1a, B8e, B8b, B8b1 and 3 machine cancels all inscribed SELFOSS have been used. The post office had previously been at Hraungerði

prior to its move. Although outside the scope of this publication, the RAF operated an air base and postal facility at Kaldarðarnes in WWII. The present Selfoss airport is located next to the old airbase.

23.6 HRAUNGERÐISHREPPUR

The rectory at **Hraungerði** was chosen to be one of the first Icelandic post offices opened in 1873. It is situated on the main road some 8kms east of Selfoss and used the undated provincial postmark till the end of 1911. It was then superseded by Swiss type B2c, which was used till 1930. The office was then closed, the post office function going to Selfoss and the collecting office function going to **Skeggjastaðir**. The rector must have been a soft touch for many Í GILDI stamps were cancelled to order at Hraungerði (or was the cancel misused after recall?!).

The farm of **Skeggjastaðir (1)** is only 2km to the north-east of Hraungerði and the collecting office was here between 1930 and the end of 1945 using number 263 and Swiss type B2a. *See map of 23.6 in 23.5.*

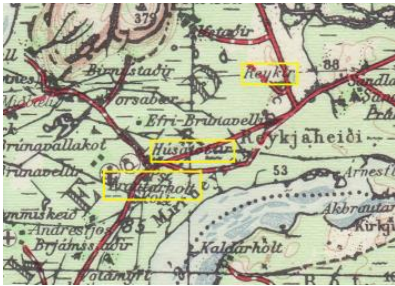
23.7 VILLINGAHOLTSHREPPUR

The parish occupies the eastern-most part of the coastal plain of Árnessýsla and the main road crosses the river Þjórsá at **Þjórsárbrú**. This place is also known as **Þjórsártún** or **Þjótandi** depending on which side of the river you are and in which county you prefer! **Þjótandi** is actually in Árnessýsla. The collecting office was moved here from **Ás** (Rangárvallasýsla) (22.10) in 1899 and until the introduction of the numeral 11 in 1903, used the crown cancel of ÁS I HOLTUM. A Swiss bridge cancel type B1a inscribed ÞJÓRSÁRBRÚ was then used till the office was closed 1-1-1951.



Further south on the right bank of the Þjórsá at **Villingaholt** a collecting office was open between 1-6-1930 and 31-12-1958. It used number 241 and then Swiss type B2a.

23.8 SKEIÐAHREPPUR



Travelling further north between the rivers Þjórsá and Hvítá this parish has had two offices in its time. The first was opened at [Reykir \(2\)](#) in 1879 as a collecting office. The cancels used were a single ring crown cancel, number 7 and Swiss type B1a inscribed REYKIR ÁR (manufactured but not known used here as the office closed). On 1-6-1930 the office was moved to nearby [Húsatofir](#). Here both the old numeral and Swiss cancels (REYKIR ÁR) were used for a while before the office got its own Swiss type B1a. The office was closed 31.7.1973 and moved to [Borgarkot](#) although no change in postmarks was involved. The office was finally closed 28.2. 1975.

23.9 GNÚPVERJAHREPPUR



We are now getting near to the highlands although still close to the river Þjórsá. A collecting office was opened near the school at [Stóri-Núpur](#) in 1898 and used an unusual triple ring crown cancel but with the outer ring shaped like a cog wheel. The place name was spelt in one word but is alternatively known as [Núpur \(1\)](#). This was superseded by numeral 9. It was

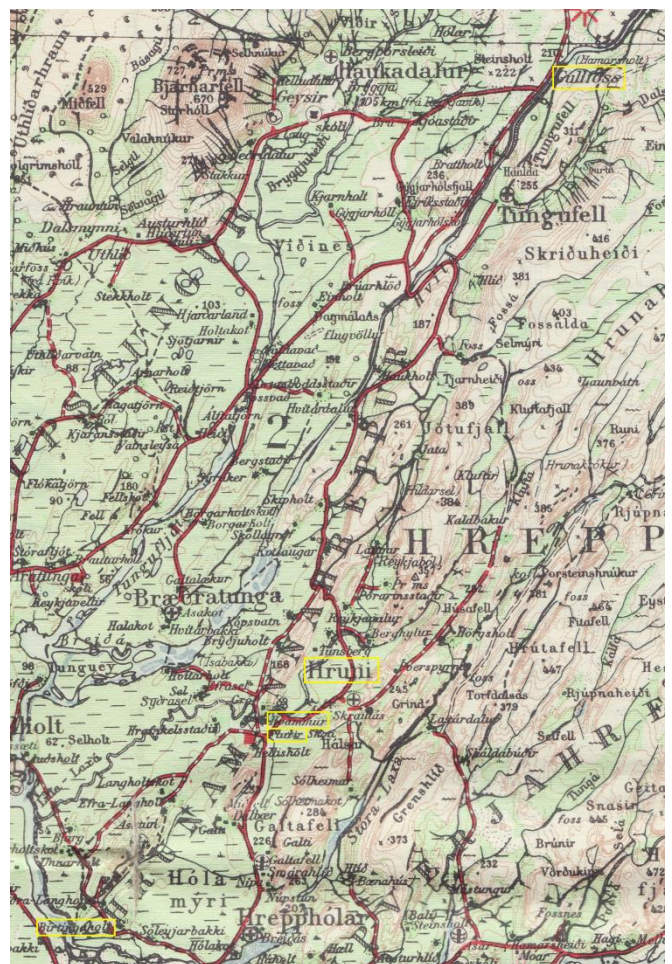
closed 1-6-1930 and moved to [Ásar](#), the nearest farm to the north. Here it remained till 9.4.1979 using number 9, B2a inscribed STÓRI-NÚPUR and Swiss type B1a inscribed ÁSAR.

23.10 HRUNAMANNAHREPPUR

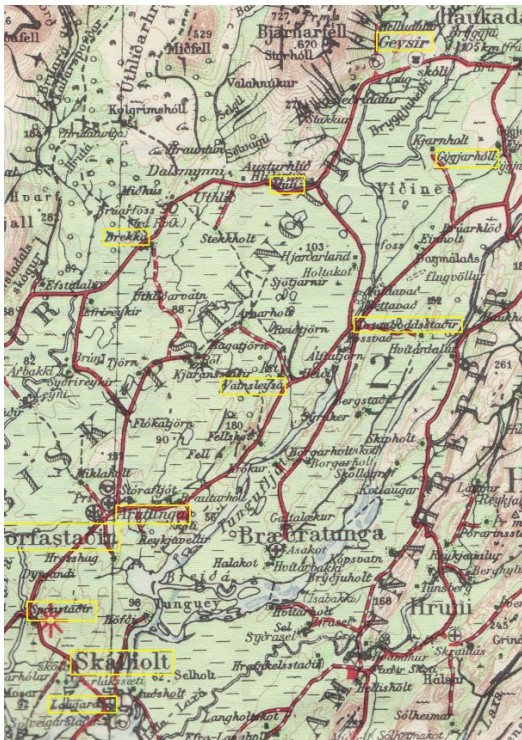
There have been, at various times five offices in the parish. The first was opened at [Hruni](#) in 1902 and used number 5 and Swiss type B1a before being moved to nearby [Hvammur \(5\)](#) on 1.1.1931. Here it remained till 31.12. 1957 using the same canceller

[Birtingaholt](#) collecting office was opened in 1.1.1913 and until 31.12.1960 used number 196 and Swiss type B2a. The farm is located on a minor road in the south of the parish. [Gullfoss](#) as we all know is a large waterfall on the river Hvítá but it was also the location of a collecting office between 1952 and 1972. To quote from (1) “Obscure collecting office just for tourist mail”, it used Swiss types B1a and B8b.

Finally, an office was opened at [Fluðir](#) at the boarding school 1.1.1958. It was made up to póstaftgreiðsla 2.10.1995 till 31.5.2000, moved to a postal agency in the Búnaðarbanka Íslands 1.6.2000 to 26.5.2003 and KB Banka 27.5.2003 to 11.7.2008 when it was closed. In that time it has used Swiss types B8e, B8b and B8b1.



23.11 BISKUPSTUNGNAHREPPUR



As the name of the parish tells us this is the area round the bishopric of **Skálholt** founded in 1056. The school, which had been founded at the same time, and the cathedral were both badly damaged by an earthquake in 1784 and they were removed to Reykjavík in 1785, while the church estates were sold off. The 900th anniversary of the Bishopric of Skálholt was commemorated in 1956 by a set of three stamps. A collecting office was opened here 1.9.1966 and closed 31.5.1993 using Swiss types B8e and a pictorial cancel. The first office in the parish was at **Torfastaðir**, opened in 1892 the office has used a crown cancel and from 1903 it used number 10 and then Swiss types B2a and B8e, before removal 31.10.1961 to **Aratunga**. Swiss cancel type B8e and the old Torfastaðir cancel were used here till closure 5.4.1979.

On the road between Geysir and Laugarvatn is the farm of **Brekka** (4) where a collecting office was opened in 1910. Using number 21 and Swiss type B1a (BREKKA ÁR) it remained here till being moved to **Múli** (3) 1.1.1946. Until final closure at the end of 1963 number 21 was used at Múli.

Drumboddsstaðir collecting office opened 1.6.1930 and before closure on 1.1.1934 used number 239 and bridge type B2a. The office then went to **Gýgjarhóll** (or **Gífgjarhóll** or **Gýjarhóll**) where the old cancels were used till 1.1.1950.

Very close to Skálholt is the farm of **Laugarás** where a collecting office was opened 3.12.1923. In 1947 the office was moved to **Spóastaðir** but

this is of little interest as no cancels were changed, and at the end of 1946 it was shut, only to reopen 1.1.1948, shut again and reopened 1.12.1959. The office was finally closed 31.12.1982 and over the years used cancels no. 96 and 199, Swiss types B1a and B8e. North-East of Skálholt a small office was opened at the farm of **Vatnsleysa** (1) 27.9.1929. This office was issued with numeral cancel 236 and then Swiss type B2a before the office was closed 1.1.1964. Finally in this parish we come to the famous tourist spot of **Geysir**. The Great Geysir was illustrated on the 1938 definitive set and gave its name to all other geysers in the world. The collecting office was open here 1.1.1931 to 31.12.1960 and used a variety of marks. Number 248 was used from 1931 to be superseded by Swiss type B2a inscribed HAUKADALUR ÁRN. Then B2c2 inscribed GEYSIR and finally a pictorial handstamp inscribed GEYSIR Í HAUKADAL.



23.12 LAUGARDALSHREPPUR.

A collecting office was opened at [Laugardalshólar](#), east of Laugarvatn, in 1907 and used number 189 till 1930 when the office was moved to [Laugarvatn](#). Here the same cancel was used till a new Swiss cancel could be made, type B2a. This was in turn replaced by B8b and B8b1. The office was made up to post office status in 1959 and the comparatively large amount of mail with a Laugarvatn postmark is because there is a boarding school here. The office was reclassified to “Samstarfspósthús” or “Postal Agency”, the official designation for a new type of post office, run in partnership with non-postal enterprises from 4.6.2000 and moved to the Búnaðarbanka Íslands office till 2.1.2005, then H-Sel till November 2006 and then at Samkaup strax. The office finally closed on 1.9.2012.



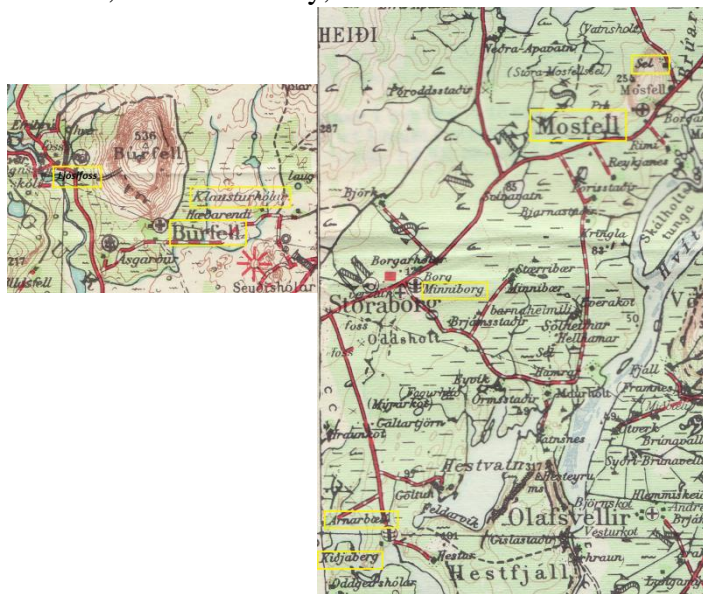
23.13 GRIMSNESHREPPUR

South-West of Skálholt this parish is mostly farmland. The first collecting office was opened at [Arnarbæli](#) in 1885. It was issued with a rarely used single ring crown cancel, in use till 1903 except between 27.2.1890 and 1.4.1892 when the office was located at [Búrfell](#). Number 1 was then used until the office was closed at the end of 1916 and moved to [Klausturhólar](#). The same numeral cancel was used here till a Swiss mark type B2a was introduced. The cancel, by now quite dizzy, was used again, this time at when the office was moved here in 1942 after the power station and small community was built in 1937. Again, it was superseded this time by B3e though the old Klausturhólar Swiss cancel may have been used for a short time. The office finally closed 15.5.1996.



A collecting office was opened at the rectory of [Mosfell](#) (2) in 1892 and used a rare single ring crown cancel till 1903 when it was given number 6. This, plus Swiss cancel type B1a were used until closure at the end of 1948, and when the office moved to [Sel](#) between 1.1.1923 and 30.6.1924.

Very close to Arnarbæli (mentioned above) is the farm of [Kiðjberg](#) where a collecting office was opened in 1917. Before closure 31.12.1963 it used number 205 and Swiss type B1a. Finally in this parish a collecting office was opened at the hamlet of [Minni-borg](#) in 1926. Ref (1) lists two types of number 155 and two types of B3e, but I do not know the differences. Anyhow, between 1927 and 30.4.1977 cancel types 155, B1a inscribed MINNIBORG, B3ex and B3ey, inscribed MINNI-BORG were used. Minni-Borg is also known as [Borg](#) (2).



23.14 ÞINGVALLAHREPPUR

The parish has played host to quite a lot of Iceland's history, it being the site of the ancient Þing or parliament. There has only ever been one office opened at [Þingvellir](#) itself in 1902 as the termination of the mail run from Reykjavík. For a short time a triple ring crown cancel was used, then number 172 and Swiss types B1a, two different types of B2d (for B2dy see 23.15 GRAFNINGSHREPPUR below), B3d, B8e and the pictorial commemorative handstamp issued for the parliamentary millenary celebrations in 1930. The office was closed 25.5.1981. At other times temporary postal services have been set up for festivals, for instance the 1100th Anniversary celebrations in 1974. No map needed



23.15 GRAFNINGSHREPPUR

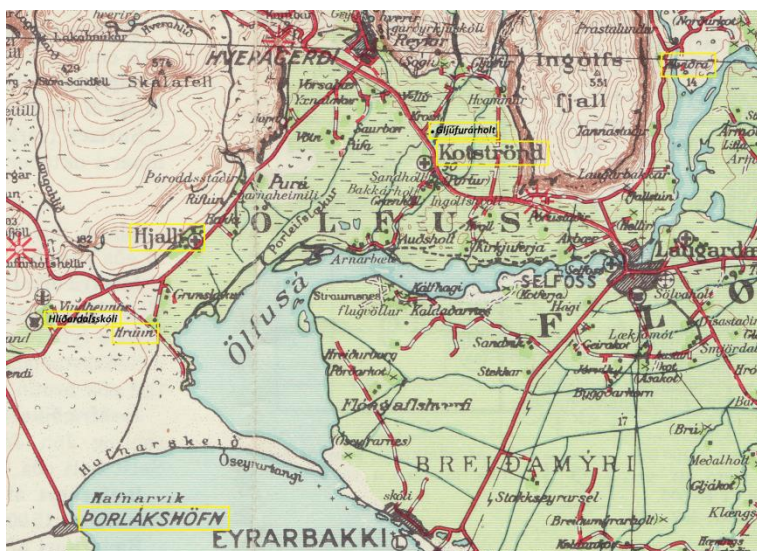
This parish is located at the southern end of Þingvallavatn and has had only one office at any one time. It was opened at the rectory of [Úlfjótsvatn](#) in 1892 and was issued with a single ring crown cancel. This was used until the office was moved to [Villingavatn](#) in 1902. Here the office remained till 1.1.1946 using the old Úlfjótsvatn crown cancel, then number 170 and finally Swiss type B2a. In 1948 a temporary postoffice was set up at Úlfjótsvatn for a scout jamboree using the Þingvellir B2dy cancel supposedly used at Þingvellir.

23.16 HVERAGERÐISHREPPUR

[Hveragerði](#) is the centre of an active hot spring area and has become well known for its greenhouses. Started by Garðyrkjuskóli, the State Agricultural College, in 1938, there are now many hothouses producing exotic fruits and vegetables. The collecting office was opened here 1.6.1934 having been moved from [Kotströnd](#) (see 23.17), made up to post office status 1.10.1945 and demoted 18.6.2004. It has used cancel types number 164, B1a (Kotströnd), B5a, B7b, B8e, B8b1, and B8b1a. *No map needed.*

23.17 ÖLFUSHREPPUR

At one time or another there have been six offices in the parish. The first was opened at [Þorlákshöfn](#) on the coast. This is a small fishing village of some 500 people but it is important because the milk-boat sails from here to [Vestmannaeyjar](#). The collecting office was opened 1.1.1895 closed 31.7.1927, reopened 1.1.1929, closed 31.12.1934 and moved to [Hraun](#), reopened again 1.1.1959 and made up to postoffice 1.1.1967 to 4.11.2007. Since then it has been a postal agency at Landsbanka Íslands to 5.10.2008 and since then at Landsbankann hf. In that time, it has used a single ring crown cancel, number 173 and Swiss types B2a, B8e, B8b (2 types) and B8b1 (2 types).



Open between 1.1.1935 and 31.12.1954 the office at [Hraun](#) (3) used number 173 and B1a as well as the Þorlákshöfn B2a. The farm is to the North-East of Þorlákshöfn.

An office was opened at [Gljúfurárholt](#) 27.1.1887 and then moved to [Kotströnd](#) in June 1888. No cancels are known for Gljúfurárholt. The office at the rectory of Kotströnd on the main south coast road was open till 31.5.1934 when it was moved to [Hveragerði](#) (see 23.16) and used a single ring crown cancel, then number 164, number 196, number 207 (type

N1c used 1913-1921) and finally B1a.

Half-way between Þorlákshöfn and Hveragerði is the rectory of [Hjalli](#) where a collecting office was open between 1.1.1915 and 31.12.1923. The numeral cancel 201 was used for this period. An office was opened at [Hlíðardalsskóli](#) in 1951 and used Swiss type B8e from 1970 till closure in 1988. It had no cancel from 1951 to 1970!

Finally, [Alviðra](#) was open between 1.1.1934 and 31.12.1961 using number 271 and B3e. This is situated by a road bridge over the Alfavatn discharges to the Ölfusá.

23.18 SELVOGSREPPUR

The next six offices form a chain which started at **Vogsósar** 8.4.1892, moved to **Erta** 1.1.1894, to **Stakkavík** 1.1.1906, to **Bjarnastaðir** (2) 1.1.1925 (having been closed 1.1.1919 to 1.1.1920), to NES (2) (otherwise known as **Selvogur**) 1.4.1954 and finally to **Torfabær** 2.10.1956. The office was closed 30.11.1962. The cancels used were temporary triple ring crown cancel (inscribed BRJEFHIRÐING) a triple ring crown cancel of Erta, number 155 used at Erta and Stakkavík, number 199 at Stakkavík, B2a inscribed BJARNASTAÐIR but used at Nes and number 173 and B8e at Torfabær. There was some overlap of cancel use as with other offices.



Ed. This issue sees the final part of this wonderful gazetteer by David Loe. When, as a new Iceland collector I saw the first version back in the 1980s, it brought my postmark collecting to life, and to this day my collection is arranged geographically according to his gazetteer. Thank you David.

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Þjótandi location



This is an appropriate location to drop in this little piece as I will explain. A decision needed to be made after I recently acquired my first postmark of B1a ÞJÓRSÁRBRÚ, a rather philatelic strike dated 12.5.50, during the period at Þjótandi. My Þjórsártún pages, with cancels of B1a ÞJÓRSÁRBRÚ for the appropriate period are, in accordance with David's explanation in his Gazetteer section 23.7 above, correctly filed in my Rangárvallasýsla box. So where should this Þjótandi period strike be located? David provides the answer; in the Árnessýsla box.

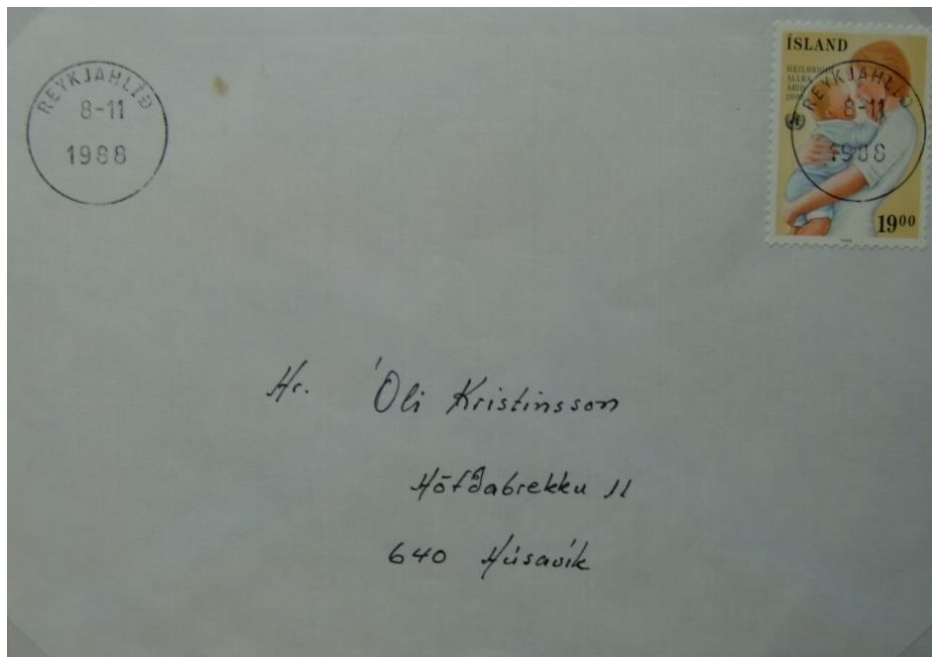
Incidentally, recent changes renamed the parish of Villingaholtshreppur to Flóahreppur.

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Cancellation questions for Reykjahlið and Reynihlið (Issue 30)

Again from Eivind Kolstad:- Here are some images of my Reykjahlið-cancels. Both 2Bs are CTOs; the one with Hekla is cancelled 07. 1. 1950, which must be very early. The other one from 18.9.1956 was used as an illustration in Þór's first issue of ÍSLENSKIR STIMPLAR. In the second edition, he used -4.3.1954 for ALL B2bs, except for Undhóll. I don't know why.

I don't think the B2b qualifies for 5000 SEK, it is not that rare, in my opinion. What is rare, is the waveless machine cancel, which you can see on one of the images below. Do you have this one? (Ed. No!) Unfortunately I only have this one.



From Jørgen Steen Larsen:-

In IPM nr. 30, page 15, you ask for data on the use of these cancels. My latest use of B1a Reykjahlið is from 13.2.49 on two pieces. I have the following usages of B2b Reykjahlið: 17.9.1951 letter, 17.11.1952 letter, 31.1.1955 stamp, 27.4.1956 piece.

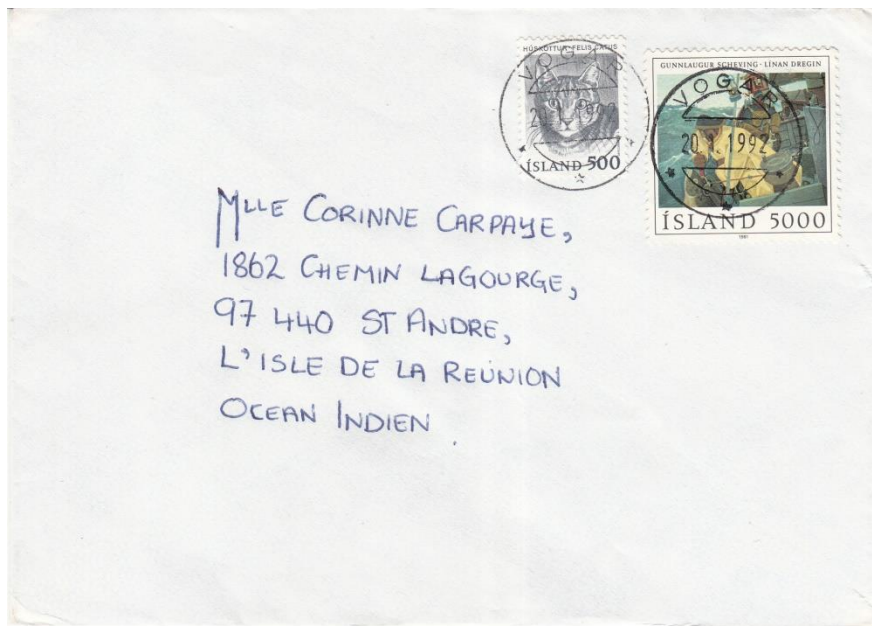
These four usages are all I have gathered from several large bridge cancel collections. To me it is not unusual, that the B1a cancel is used in a few cases after the B2b cancel was delivered.

(Ed. That last comment from JSL is an interesting one. It points to a tendency, which I admit to, of taking the dates of final use of cancellations in Þór's book too rigidly)

Unusual destinations ~ L

La Réunion

(The French call it “La Reunion” so why shouldn’t I?)

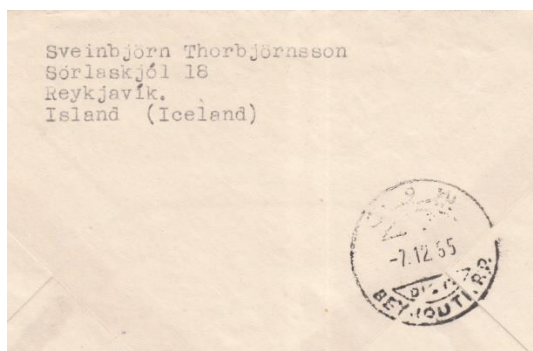


Vogar B8e dated 20.1.1992. 55kr overseas letter rate from 1.10.91 to 31.10.92

Lebanon



Reykjavík dated 4.XII.1965 to Beirut. 8kr airmail up to 10gm plus 10kr Express fee. Rates current 1.10.63 to 31.12.65. Endorsed in French “Return to Sender”, and “Party has left this address”. Beirut receiving cancel 7.12.65.



Libya



Reykjavík B8b dated 25.11.1985. 1600aur airmail rate from 1.7.85 to 31.1.86. Misurata receiving cancel 28.11.85



Lithuania



Skagaströnd B8e dated 14.V.1993, B-Póstur 50kr 2nd class Europe rate, valid 1.11.92 to 15.11.95. Vilnius receiving cancel 27.5.93

Strange Póstkrafa rate

Steinar Fridthorsson asked for advice on the postage paid on a Póstkrafa form in 1929. After a great deal of searching, I failed to arrive at any explanation for the franking of 66aur. However, I thought I had seen this particular item before, and decided to search through my copies of IslandsKontakt magazine. I discovered an article in ISK 100 which I had written, called "Postal Rate puzzle for the experts". The first illustration is from the ISK100 article, and shows identical franking to Steinar's example. To the best of my knowledge, no reply was received from the ISK readers.



This Póstkrafa was sent from Reykjavík on 8.VII.29, received at Ísafjörður 9.VII.29, and appears to be a request for payment of 6kr 65aur for the delivery of a copy of a government law. The C.O.D rate inland from 1.4.1925 to 31.12.1939 was 20aur basic fee plus 15aur up to 12kr = 35aur, to which has been added 30aur for registration. What was the 1 eyr added for?

My interpretation of the manuscript notes is "2 ítrekun" for "2 attempts?" and "Retur ekki viljað" for "returned not wanted (or refused)". The partially obscured written date at bottom left may be 28 júlí 29. (I

thought it was júní but it cannot be). The 1 eyr appears to have been applied at Reykjavík and is cancelled 8.VII.29, which adds to the mystery. Was it some sort of fee?



Now we come to Steinar's form above, posted on the same day, with the same franking with identical contents, this time addressed to Patreksfjörður, with receiving cancel B1b Patreksfjörður dated 22.7.1929, 14 days in transit, unlike the other which arrived in Ísafjörður the day after sending. This is stamped REBUTS.

From Steinar:- There could of course be more similar items out there. I can't help but think that there might be something we are missing regarding the rate, especially as these seem to be packages of Alþingistiðindi circulars, and one would have thought that people sending these out in such volumes of mail should have known what they were doing. Ólafur Elíasson says that these appear to be 1 eyr overpaid. He has two similar items each franked with a single 65aur Gullfoss postmarked 15.V.34.

From Brian Stwalley:- I am aware of at least two other similar examples with the same franking. My example was posted on the exact same day as the one you shared Steinar with the exact same franking. Mine was returned because the addressee was not there. I had surmised that maybe the return had caused some need for postage but that doesn't hold up because the 1aur was cancelled in R'Vk the same day as the other two. My registration number is 892 perhaps suggesting there were quite a few of these sent on the same day. It's just a mystery why the all examples from this date are 1aur overpaid. One would have to think they might have gone to the post office to send several of these renewal notices and perhaps were misinformed? The only other thing I can see is that the franking is almost exactly 10% of the amount requested. 6kr65aur requested—66aur franking. Probably just a weird coincidence.

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An appeal to our fellow Collectors of Icelandic Crown Cancellations *Steinar Fridthorsson*

A group of Iceland collectors (the Islandssamlarna Committee on Crown Cancellations) are now looking to update the rarity grading of scarcer Icelandic crown cancellations. We are now conducting a census of existing strikes of such cancellations currently rated: 5, RR or RRR (i.e. those priced at SEK 2.000 or higher in the current specialized Swedish Facit catalogue), as well as any cancellations with letter variations e.g. missing letters or scarce complete names, or other similar abnormalities.

Apart from being made available for free to anyone online, the results of the census will be used as future basis for literature published by the Swedish Iceland Collectors Club (Islandssamlarna) as well as for the listings in future editions of the Facit catalogue.

We would like to appeal to our fellow collectors or anyone else possessing such cancellations to be kind enough to share with us scans or pictures of their copies. Identities of submitters will be kept strictly confidential and will be available only to the data analyser Brian Flack to whom scans/pictures should be submitted in jpeg format by email: flackbp@gmail.com

On behalf of the Islandssamlarna Crown Cancellation Committee,
Steinar Fridthorsson
steinar.fridthorsson@gmail.com

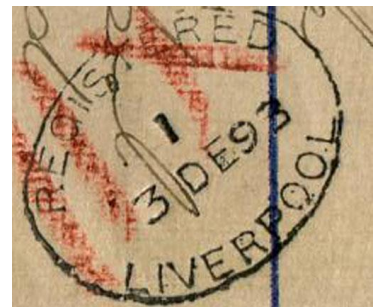
(Ed. If it helps those who might find it a problem to scan individual stamps with crown cancels, just send me an image of a whole page, or a stock card or whatever bears the stamp, and I will pick off the image of the relevant crown cancel).

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Mystery solved – it is REGISTERED LIVERPOOL



Ron Collin bought this nice 5aur with a foreign cancel and sent the image in the hope that someone could identify the cancel. Then he found the answer himself. It is a REGISTERED LIVERPOOL. It would be interesting to hear from others how unusual this strike is on Iceland stamps. This one is dated 11 DE 88. Ron supplied another image to illustrate the strike in full on a British registered letter.



A bridge cancel question (Ölfusárbrú-Selfoss) (Issue 28)

I think we can close this matter now, thanks to the latest contribution which comes from Brian Stwalley. His two copies below are evidence enough that the end date for Ölfusárbrú was 31.12.1938 and the Selfoss from 1.12.1939. That gets rid of the strangely imprecise "1938 and 1939" start and end dates of these two quite common cancels in the Porsteins book.



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Buy before it is too late!

(The title of an article in IslandsKontakt 72, September 2009)

Seen on Ebay in 2009. Envelope stamped 15 XII 15.

In 6 years, it is not worth much. It will only be an under franked envelope with an older stamp!

It's a little more exciting if a letter is mistakenly stamped before the launch date of the stamp. Stamps cancelled before the day of issue do hold their value better. Sold for \$4.38.



(Ed. For fun, if we pretend that it was posted on the date of cancelling 15.XII.15, then the 50kr stamp fell rather short of the postal rates of that time which were 159Kr for A class and 137kr B class letters. A potential puzzle for anyone finding it in the future and not knowing the background to it?

1932 Airmail to South Africa



Seen on an auction site a few months ago, I have no idea if it sold. The postal rate is intriguing. According to the official listings the only African destinations for air services in 1932 were to North African (60aur air supplement) and West African destinations (150aur air supplement). The postal rate should have been 35aur overseas letter plus 30aur registration, plus an airmail supplement. The franking leaves 60aur to cover an airmail supplement. Maybe it was landed in North Africa and made the rest of the journey overland? Has anyone any views on this cover? Did anyone see the auction result?

