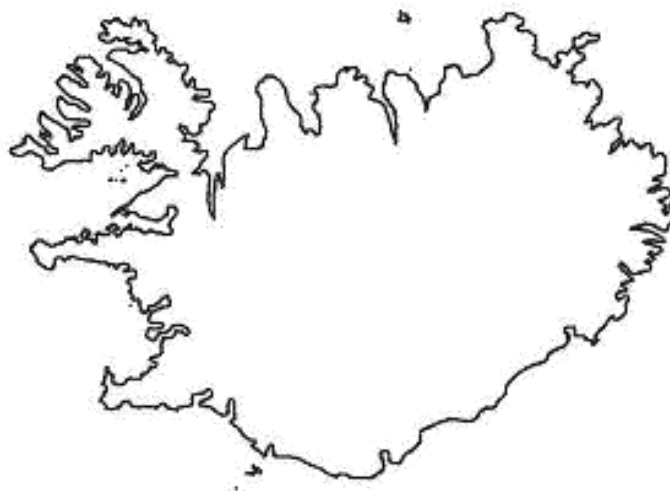
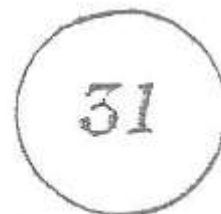


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

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News

By the time you read this, Christmas has passed, but the season is not so long ago; so here is some Christmas cheer. Does anyone recognize the “fierce face” of the Icelandic warrior? If not, there are clues on the greetings side of the card. Answer in the next issue, plus observations on the picture side.



From Páll Pálsson

Dear friends. May I wish you merry christmas, and happy collectors year.

Palli





Recently when organizing some NIC cancels, I came across a stamp which was not easily explained. The currently available information suggests the N1a 195 cancel's use originated at the bréfhirðing (BH) Þykkvibær (1) on 1.7.1910 where it was used until its closure 31.12.1923. Use was not recorded again until 1.1.1948 when it appeared at Keldunúpur. This 25 year span is the longest recorded gap between known uses of all numeral cancels. So what is the cause for interest in this case? The re-engraved Christian X official stamp was issued in March 1932 and along with all stamps of this issue declared invalid at the end of 1946. So a valid use of the N1a cancel on this stamp would have occurred during a period where use

has not previously been recorded.

It appears to have been a usual practice that NIC and/or bridge cancels were transferred to the new BH when the location moved. So it is somewhat curious and unusual that when the BH at Breiðabólstaður (5) was closed on 31.12.47 and relocated to Keldunúpur the next day, the NIC 42 canceling device which had arrived there in 1930 from Kirkjubæjarklaustur was evidently not available. This cancel is reported to have been returned to the authorities but it is not clear when. The B2a cancel Breiðabólstaður Skapt did apparently make the move where it was available for use alongside the N1a 195 cancel until the Keldunúpur B3e cancel arrived some years later. But if this cancel was available, why was the N1a 195 required? Where did it come from? Was there a delay in the B2a cancel arriving even though a short distance away? Please share any examples of the NIC 195 cancel you may have from the 1924-1947 time period as well as any ideas or additional thoughts you might have about this use.

Two “mysterious” items seen on eBay

A small sized 8 skilling official tempted no buyers. The size of the stamp is too small, but perforation looks fine. No wonder! The stamp has been re-perforated, but at least the postmark is OK.

The 40 aur I GILDI is cancelled about 50 years after issue. The “canceller” didn't change the year in the postmark which clearly shows 52. Yes, the stamp is used and cancelled, but the seller made no remarks on where and when!



Problems in Cuba and Akureyri.



Akureyri types B7f and B2c1 (30mm) dated 13.5.51 on FDC to Cuba. The 5kr franking was enough to cover the 2kr40 all in rate plus 2kr registration.



The Akureyri B2c1 30mm diam. bridge cancel (1951-1974) had been an annoying gap in my Akureyri collection for many years. Then along came the above illustrated cover with a nice strike of the cancel. However the Cuba destination fitted nicely into my collection of “Exotic Destinations”, and that is where I decided to show the cover. Then recently I acquired another cover shown below, to the same addressee in Cuba, and so I was able to switch the first cover to the Akureyri section. However by opening the Akureyri pages I discovered another

problem, no doubt caused by paying too little attention to the larger offices such as Akureyri, which have had many cancels. Somehow I have overlooked that I lack the two smaller Akureyri B2c1 types, one described by Þór Þorsteins in his book *Íslenskir Stimplar 1894-2003* as found only on FDC between 1951 and 1953, and another similar cancel but with smaller date numbers. I now have to find these last two in order to complete my Akureyri. I think that the next update of Facit should list the 30mm Akureyri cancel if not the other two.



Reykjavík B1d dated 23.III.49 to Cuba. 1kr85 was correct for the all in rate up to 5gm until 30.9.47, but not when this cover was posted. The all in rates to Cuba had changed to 1kr 60 for 10gm from 1.10.47 to 14.11.49. The cover is adequately franked. Strangely 1kr85 became the all in rate to Cuba from 15.11.49, but up to 10gm.

Possible answer to Ronald Collin



In issue # 1 Ronald Collin asked a question about letters missing in some crown/posthorn marks.

I think it is possible that the rubber marks were constructed just like the metal ones. The letters and the symbol in the center were made separately and added to the cancel by some sort of glue.

The letters moved slightly at each application of the cancel and somehow the “glue” lost its grip and a letter fell off. That could explain why several postmarks lose a letter (or two in the case of BUDIR).

That the “O” in Snæfjöll disappears and not the umlaut could support my theory. I don’t know if I am right. Maybe someone else has the correct explanation?

Furthermore we have an example of the crown/posthorn in the center missing in the Hafnarfjörður postmark.

Ole Svinth

15 aur airmail single on cover 1948



This 15 aur stamp was issued on August 18th 1947. It was only meant as a supplementary value and there was never a single postal rate for which it could be used. However, it is possible to find it used as a single until November 14th 1949 as the worldwide rate for printed matter 0-50 gr. was 12 aur from January 1st 1943 until November 14th 1949. The “Frimerkjasalan” probably had plenty of copies of this value and found use for them as in this example, a single on a printed matter to USA, although of course we have an over-franking of 3 aur. There are collectors who are very keen on single values on cover.

Another stamp single from Frimerkjasalan



Here is another example of an over franked printed matter from “Frimerkjasalan”. It looks like the employee was in a good mood on May 19th. The printed matter (surface) rate was 60 aur.

The 75 aur stamp was intended for a local letter, and the 125 aur stamp from this small charity issue was intended to meet the inland letter rate from date of issue until March 31th 1956. However, these stamps were only valid until June 30th 1953. As the stamps were issued February 9th 1953 they could only be properly used for approximately 5 months.

Both items were sold at eBay.

Why produce these fake “stamps” and why buy them?



Sold on eBay from a Japanese seller.

One bid on each at 3\$

In my opinion there are two possibilities for producing these “stamps”, for fun or for money. In this case I find no intention of trying to cheat collectors, partly because of the low price and partly because these varieties are known not to exist as genuine items. The answer must then be that it is just for fun. However it is not easy to make this kind of Cinderella. First you have to find suitable paper, print the “stamps”, and then make the perforations. I would think a maximum of 100 can be sold, or am I mistaken? If they are bought by collectors, where would they fit in?? I can’t see any reason why anyone should buy them. At least I am proven wrong as the 3 shown copies were sold!! What do you think?

A few days later I found the “genuine” Balbo overprint. This time the price had increased to 4.99 USD. All previous remarks go for these items too. This time one could use them as space fillers. The genuine articles are rather expensive.



Sold at 5.50 USD

9.00 USD

16.50 USD



As on the above examples, the back shows “COPY” on all “stamps”.

One thing I object to is that the seller calls them “REPLICA” or “COPY” instead of “FAKE”.

In my opinion this “EIN krona” is a worthless piece of paper with or without inverted overprint.



A Writer and a Crown cancel

Amongst my most prized books are the works of Gunnar Gunnarsson, one Iceland's greatest writers. One of his most famous works is the two volume autobiographical novel *The Church on the Mountain*. The first volume entitled *Ships in the Sky* is a beautiful description of a young boy named Uggi Greipsson, living in poverty and in harsh conditions on a remote Icelandic farm near the end of the 19th Century. Although it was based on his own life experiences, Gunnarsson subsequently said there was rather more fiction than fact in the novel.



Reading it for the second time whilst away on holiday, it occurred to me that there might be a postal link I could exploit as an excuse for an article. The reality was that he did grow up on his father's farm in considerable poverty, and his first home was at Valþjófsstaður in Fljótisdalur, and the second home where they moved to in 1896 and where his mother died was Ljótstaðir in Vopnafjörður, both in Norður Múlasýsla. Full of optimism, I searched for other place names mentioned in his first life in Iceland, such as Ófeigsstaður, Hjalli and Grímsstaður. I do not know if these are fictional names or were real farms in or around Fljótisdalur, but there was no further evidence of a postmark connection, although there were four or five postal places in Fljótisdalur, only Valþjófsstaður seems to be relevant to the story.

Valþjófsstaður was a collecting office from 1892 and throughout Gunnarsson's time there, but he only made a brief mention of the arrival of letters. One of the main characters was the priest at the parsonage, who was Gunnarsson's uncle. He was pastor of Valþjófsstaður until 1894 but probably left before the arrival of the crown cancel in 1894/95. His successor was Þórarinn Þórarinsson who was pastor from 1894 for over 40 years. I believe he probably wielded the crown cancel and presumably the numeral which followed, although that was after Gunnarsson's time there.



Valþjófsstaður collecting office used a type C1 crown cancel misspelt VALPJÓFSSTAÐUR from 1895 until 1903, with much evidence of later cancels until the 1920s.



Normal strike



enlarged impression after cleaning

ICELAND 1903, 10aur (Sc 54) single franking to Belgium



Commercially used Í GILDI stamps are seldom seen on the market. Here is a nice postcard that looks like an ordinary postcard. It was seen on eBay with a sales price of 900.00 USD. Although it is nice, the 900 \$ seems to be too much in order to find a buyer.

+++++

Nice 4 skilling cancelled abroad??

One thing is for sure; it is not an Icelandic postmark.

The origin of the postmark (if it is one) could be from any country. Norway and Denmark had 3 ring postmarks. Great Britain never had these sorts of ring marks. What about USA, Canada, and Germany? Can readers help? In my opinion it is a fake postmark. A 4-ring genuine postmark is not known to me on Icelandic stamps.



Note the different distance between the rings on the 4 skilling. A rubber cancel?

The 4 skilling was on sale at eBay at 99.99 USD. Not sold yet.

After several bids, the 2 skilling was sold on the eBay auction at 224.50 USD. The cancellation is an “unknown postmark”. The price seems to be a good bargain (for the seller).

Why was additional 95 aur added? Only 25 aur was needed. Ole Svinth



Aerogram cancelled Reykjavik 8 II 55. Aerogram rate was 175 aur.

In 1955 when this aerogram was posted the airmail letter rate was 245 aur to USA. The aerogram rate was 175 aur in the same period. Question is why the additional franking was used. There were two possible reasons:-
Something was enclosed in the aerogram. That was prohibited if the 175 aur rate was to be used.
Secondly, the sender was not aware of the rules for aerograms.
The aerogram was offered at Ebay at 60.00 USD and remained unsold.

How does numeral 65 end up on this greiðslumerki?



The numeral is placed on top of the handwritten cancellation of this Greiðslumerki. The “merki” was cancelled in ink in April 1941. It looks as if the numeral is applied in order to increase the value, and not as an official consequence of the use of this tax stamp.
It was offered on eBay, but not sold for the asking price of 40 USD.
The # 65 was placed at Skogar in 1941.

Does anyone have an answer?

ICELAND Postcard with two kings Crown Cancel "HJALTEYRI".

This was the headline on eBay.



Hjalteyrri is situated on the western bank of Eyjafjörður, the “fjord” leading down to Akureyri.

Now to the item itself. The card was correctly franked with 10 aur to Germany. The amount requested was 99.99 USD. The dating August 29th 1911 is only possible to deduce from the message on the card. A transit mark or an arrival mark would have helped in this case.

The text does not give an impression of authenticity.

We collectors are always suspicious and that’s because we rather often meet questionable items both in auctions and in free trade.

What would the price be if the stamp were tied to the card by the postmark? Item was not sold.

We have received the following comments on the postcard and the use of the Hjalteyrri Crown/Posthorn postmark from Jørgen Steen Larsen, Denmark.

C2e Hjalteyrri is known used up to Chr. IX and in some cases even after N1a – 66 was delivered in the summer of 1903.

I have seen a very beautiful upright copy of C2e used on a pair of 1 eyr Two Kings perf. 12¾ (Facit 76) and furthermore on a “Brjefspjald” 5 aur Two Kings (Facit postal stationery # 24) with the address removed showing a neat mark on the printed stamp and another neat side mark as well. There was no text on the card. The card was sold at 31.22 USD on Ebay in 2006.

It looks as if the C2e has been philatelic re-used.

The shown use on the 10 aur Two Kings looks to be of a commercial nature.

So far so good.

This 10 aur shows to my surprise an excess of ink on the stamp itself but nothing at all outside the stamp.

Iven though the card is dated Hjalteyrri 29 8 11 I can’t help asking myself “Does the stamp and card originally belong together”?

There are probably other collectors who have asked themselves the same question. That is surely the cause, why this item is still unsold in spite of several attempts of sale on eBay.

Best regards Jørgen

Market prices on numerals

We have been following the market on numeral postmarks through the months of December with the results shown below.

	Achieved	Facit
	eBay 104.50 USD	800 SEK
	eBay 15.61 USD	Facit 100 SEK
	eBay 23.50 USD	Facit 400 SEK
	eBay 13.33 USD	Facit 200 SEK
	eBay 57.50 USD	Facit 1.000 SEK



eBay 32.00 USD

Facit 200 SEK



Bruun Rasmussen Auctions, Copenhagen

650 DKK

Facit 1500 SEK



Bruun Rasmussen Auctions, Copenhagen

Not sold

Facit 200SEK

We have no date, therefore we are not able to name on which ship it was cancelled. Different ships carried this numeral postmark 1935-43.

The stamp was issued 6 1 1940. Letter rate changed November 15th 1942 to 50 aur. This postmark was probably used 6 1 40 – 15 11 42.

Ships serving in this period were “mb Kolbein” 1940, “mb Harpa” 1941-42, and “mb Richard” 1942.

Conclusion,

Many factors have influence on the sales price. First of all quality and secondly number of buyers. The more expensive numerals are seldom found and here we have to apply restrictions as the number of banknotes in the wallet may be limited.



Well, this is another type, but anyway it's a numeral. It seems to be a genuine 236 as we can see the rather wide space between 3 and 6.

From eBay.

The price on this item with 236 very much depends on the visual impression given. This one is OK, although a little weak.

Sold at 37.51 USD

More from the Auctions



Crown cancel sold on Ebay \$2.45

My guess is Húsavík? Any other ideas?
Or was the buyer just after the stamp?

Manuscripts are always popular. This one of Eskifjörður is not uncommon but this has part of the date, but sadly not the year which would have been nice. Sold \$ 63.50



A rare cancel which has not attracted a bid after several attempts.
with a start price of \$349.99. Facit SEK4000.
Probably too high an opener but are there any opinions on the cancel?

A well-kept stamp booklet



This booklet containing the fish-issue is priced in Facit at app. 1000 USD. It is not the most expensive issue. The booklet was offered on eBay at 675\$ but remained unsold at the end of December.

A problem with a booklet is that it is rather difficult to show on an exhibition page.

A booklet vending machine was installed at the main post office in Reykjavik on July 19th 1932 and was in use until 1964.

In 1932 a vending machine selling single stamps was also placed at the Post office. For a start the Gullfoss stamps were used here and consequently found with “cut perforation” on the vertical perforation. Only the two low values were used. The 35 aur was never in the vending machine although rolls were prepared for the machine.



This nice cover was sold at eBay in December. The question is why does “Facit” say that this bridge cancel was in use 1937 – 59, as here we have the date 23 3 31.

A comment from Jørgen Steen Larsen, Denmark,

Hello Ole,

It’s a good thing that you did wonder.

It’s a mistake on my behalf, that Facit says that this postmark only is known used from 1937 and onwards.

Pór Þorsteins states in Íslenskir stimplar both in 1993 and in 2003, that the postmark is known used from 1930.

In my collection I have B1a HOLT SKAPT used on commercial covers 30.10.30, 22.11.30, and 23.3.31 (the same date as on the shown cover) and a single stamp 23 3 31.

Until summer 1930, when HOLT SKAPT was delivered the N2-218 numeral was used, and this postmark was re-used from somewhere during the 30’s until the small office was closed down ultimo 1963.

B1a HOLT SKAPT seems to be unusual after 1931.

Thor Thorsteins states that B1a HOLT SKAPT is known used until end 1963.

Who can show late use of this postmark used after 1931??

I shall see to that the error in Facit shall be corrected, when the Bridge cancel section will be revised.

Best regards Jørgen

Questions on a censored cover

During WW II most of the airmail letters from Iceland to the outside world went via Lisbon in Portugal. This registered airmail cover is a nice example of this procedure. The letter was recently sold at eBay auctions at 94.99 USD.



Registered airmail cover to US cancelled Reykjavik 14 VIII 1941.
 Transit marks Lisboa 3 Out 41, New York 10 17 1941, and arrival Chicago
 Oct 18th 1941 and again Oct 20th 1941.
 Foreign letter rate 0-20 gr. was 45 aur. Registration 40 aur.
 Airmail fee to US (outside New York) 255 aur each 10 gr.



In this case two questions arise to a non-specialist on this matter.

1 Why is a British postmark not found if the cover was censored by Britain (in Britain)?

2 Was there a British censor in Lisbon?

Ólafur Eliasson, Reykjavík is far the most knowledgeable collector on this subject. He had these answers,

This is a very nice letter. Air mail letters to USA outside New York during WWII are not common at all.

My answers to your questions are:

1. At the outbreak of the war England ceased applying transit markings on mail. This was for security reasons; all possible informations on shipping (routes, sailing time etc. etc.) was to be kept strictly secret.
2. No, there was no British censor in Lisboa.

Best regards Ólafur