

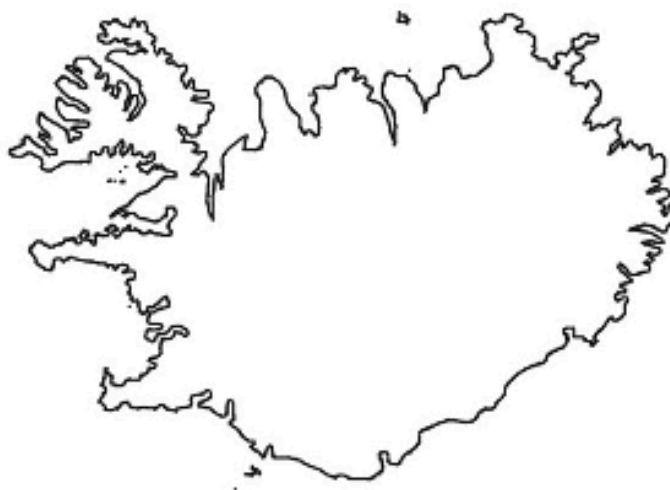
ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



Ardrossan Ship Letter

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SPECIAL # 6 2025 v.4 - ARDROSSAN

This is a part of a series published which summarizes, supplemented by recent discoveries, information published over the years in IslandsKontakt and elsewhere. We must all be grateful for the sustained efforts of all those who, over the years, as Editors¹ or Authors have contributed to the gathering and dissemination of information relevant to the philately of Iceland. Compilations of other British postmarks and other issues in the series “IslandsKontakt Special” can be accessed for free at <https://www.nfvskandinavie.com/artikelen-ijisland.php>

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Ardrossan is a town on the North Ayrshire coast in southwestern Scotland SW of Glasgow north of Troon and Ayr, where River Clyde from Glasgow reaches the sea Firth of Clyde.

Mentioned by Robertson E.10, where you can see an old ship letter –too old to be on an Icelandic mail!

In "Scottish Twin-arc Postmarks with stampers' Numbers" by Mackay the has shown thee versions of the same stamp – stampers # 1. (Mackay's # 759, 760 and 761). # 759 was delivered 16.11.1906, renovated (# 760) 29.05.1911 and totally renewed (# 761) from 26.01.1915.

Þór Þorsteins has compiled the list of sailings paid for caring mail from Iceland, and that is the basis for the registration – but other dates can appear, but then there is no amount registered for carrying the mail.

Before known use on mail from Iceland:



The different transports with mail are recorded in the following system:

Ship	Departure	From	Arrival	To	Payments - remarks
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1906

¹ Among editors are highly reputable philatelists: Ebbe Eldrup, Jørgen Steen Larsen and Ole Svinth.

The first one is "another way round": Trangisvaag - Copenhagen and then Reykjavik:

SS MODESTA	25.09.1906	Trangisvaag	SP 29 05	Ardrossan	01.10.1906 arrived in Copenhagen
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And then resend to Iceland to the firm O. Johnson & Kaaber²

??	01.10.1906	Copenhagen		Reykjavik	
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1907

RAU	22.08.1907	REYKJAVIK		ARDROSSAN	4KR.
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No copies known

MODESTA	17.09.1907	REYKJAVIK		ARDROSSAN	2KR.
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No copies known

² As it is sent from Trangisvaag in the Faroe Islands may indicate, that is a part of the love story between the future Ms. Astrid Kaaber and Ludvig Kaaber, see IslandsKontakt Special # 20 Edinburgh – Twin-arc postmark v1 2024 and # 28 Methil v2 2023 page 8 re: SS Eros departure 16.05.1907.

1909

The following is a picture of “an old friend”: SS OCEANA (2)³.



Oceana is a part of the story of Queenstown⁴ – and here a part of the story of Ardrossan – but she did not go to Queenstown and not to Ardrossan. She took two summercruise from 1906 until 1910 (only one in 1908).



OCEANA was on cruise. She went to Iceland and Spitsberg so that stamp from there must have been available on board⁵.

³ Hamburg America Line steamship built 1890 at Dumbarton by William Denny & Co. for the Union Line. Launched as the "Scot" for their Southampton - Madeira - Cape Town service. Rebuilt and lengthened 1896. Used as a Boer War troopship 1899. Purchased by HAPAG 1904 to be used for cruising and renamed Oceana.

⁴ See IslandsKontakt Special #1 V.4 2023

⁵ Same kind of franking is known from 1910 canceled in Blyth – but mail from SS Grosser Kurfürst



The "Oceana" in Adventfjorden.

And going back she arrived in Reykjavik 11th of July 1909 and SS MODESTA took over carrying the mail from the passengers via Adrossan. Quite a lot of mail was sent July 11

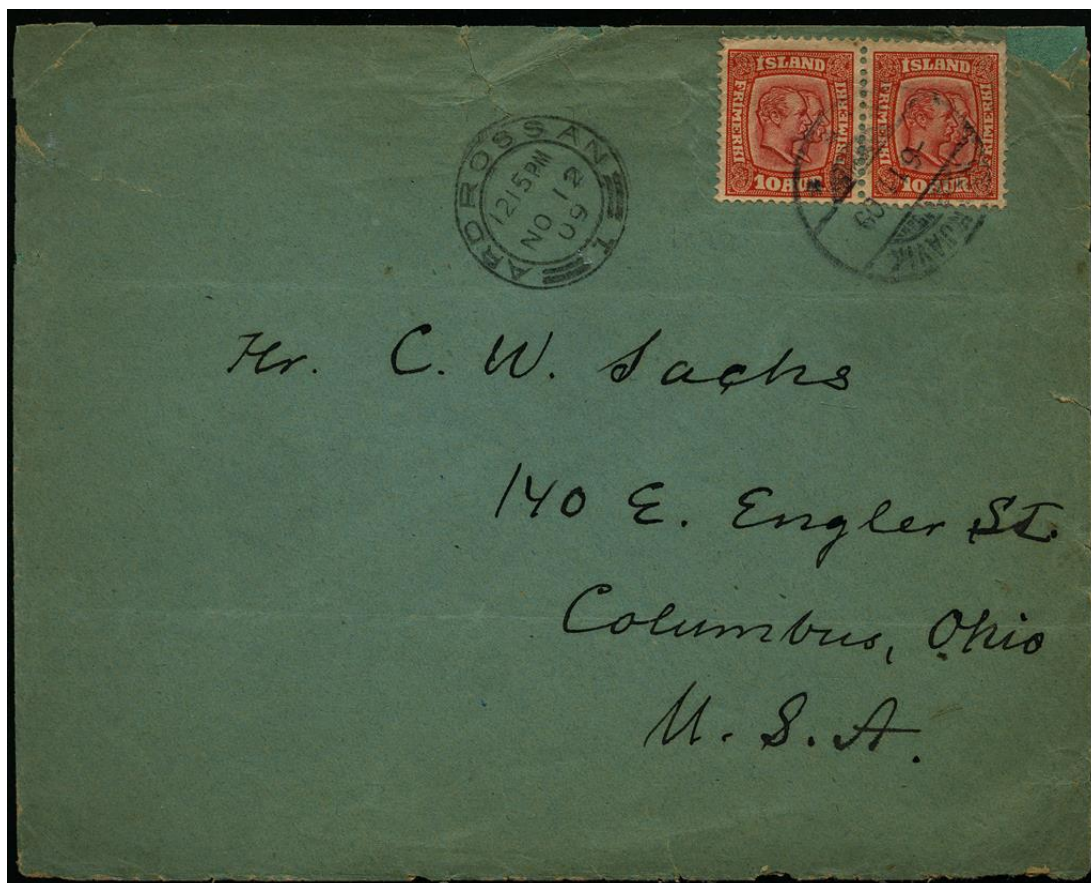
Brjefasendingar						
farþega á skemtiskipunum þýsku hafa verið frá pósthúsinu hjer, sem hjer segir:						
Ár og dagur		Skipsnafn	Tala farþega	Brjef spjöld	Brjef	Samtals
1909	Júlí 11.	Oceana	350	2482	214	2696
—	Ág. 8.	—«—	210	2150	90	2240
1910	Júlí 3.—4.	Grosser Kurfürst	330	4496	195	4691
—	Júlí 12.	Oceana	270	2674	256	2930
—	Ág. 11.	—«—	250	2962	276	3238
1911	Júlí 12.	Cinncinnati	340	5489	391	5880

MODESTA	14.07.1909	REYKJAVIK	20.07.1909 Type 759	ARDROSSAN	3KR.
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CONDOR ⁷	17.08.1909	REYKJAVIK		ARDROSSAN	1KR.
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No copies known

MODESTA	06.11.1909	REYKJAVIK	NO 12 09	ARDROSSAN	2KR.
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1910

MODESTA	23.06.1910	REYKJAVIK		ARDROSSAN	2KR.
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No copies known

MODESTA	24.06.1910	REYKJAVIK		ARDROSSAN	50AUR.
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No copies known

EROS	12.07.1910	REYKJAVIK	18.07.1910 Type 759	ARDROSSAN	1KR.
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⁷ Probably the one built in 1895 as the British cargo ship LESTRIS by Wigham Richardson, England for the Cork S.S.Co Ltd, Cork. In 1904 she was bought by Argo Dampfschiffahrts Gesellschaft - Richard Adler & Söhne and renamed **CONDOR**. In 1913 she sold and renamed EUGINIE.

Again: "Oceana, a passenger ship from the Hamburg-America line arrived here last night with 270 passengers. They have fun here today and look around. Racing at Melun at 4 -5. The ship leaves north by land to Spitzbergen. Passengers mostly German and American."⁸

The passenger did also that time sent quit a lot of mail:

Brjefasendingar						
farþega á skemtiskipunum þýsku hafa verið frá pósthúsinu hjer, sem hjer segir:						
Ár og dagur		Skipsnafn	Tala farþega	Brjef spjöld	Brjef	Samtals
1909	Júlí 11.	Oceana	350	2482	214	2696
—	Ág. 8.	—«—	210	2150	90	2240
1910	Júlí 3.—4.	Grosser Kurfürst	330	4496	195	4691
—	Júlí 12.	Oceana	270	2674	256	2930
—	Ág. 11.	—«—	250	2962	276	3238
1911	Júlí 12.	Cinncinnati	340	5489	391	5880



⁸ Fjallkonan 12.07.1910





MODESTA	26.09.1910	REYKJAVIK		ARDROSSAN	1KR.
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No copies known

1913

MODESTA ?	22.02.1913	REYKJAVIK	03.03.1913 type 760	ARDROSSAN	To Carlsbad
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Only the name of the sender on the back – see below.



Heinrich Schilling also show a copy cancelled MR 3 1913 and also send to Herrn Julius Seemann. As there are many with the name it has not been possible to identify the recipient. As the correspondence apparently stop in 1913 it might be the Julius Seemann born June 30, 1890 in Frankfurt, Hesse, Germany, who died October 9, 1914. Killed in WW1. I have not seen the text on the cards.



There are probably more examples – please respond with your supplements. – and I got the name of the sender – but who is he?

Liguster Jansson

From “The Folmer Østergaard Collection – Part 1: Pair 10 AUR Chr. IX – Reykjavik 22.2.1913 and Ardrossan MR 3 13.

References:

- Alan W. Robertsson: A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles (volume II) – reprinted edition by Colin Tabeart 1983.
- Mackay: "Scottish Twin-arc Postmarks with stampers' Numbers".
- Heinrich Schilling: "Fremde Anlandestempel auf Islandpost" 1996.
- Ole Svinth: Iceland Philatelic Magazine Issue # 3 – page 8
- Copies from auction catalogs.
- Þór Þorsteins list of sailings from Iceland.