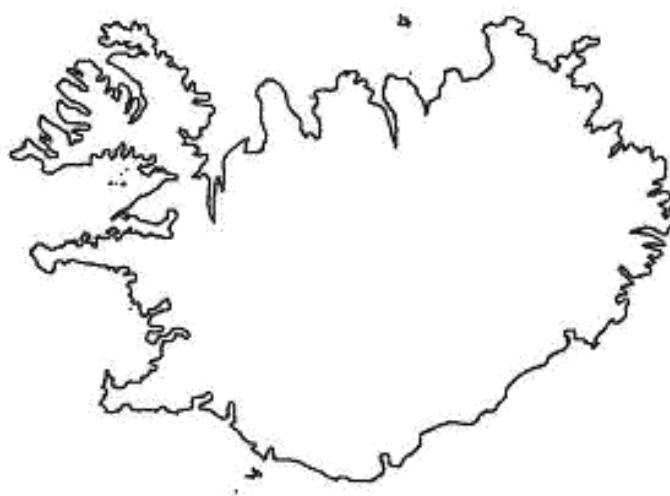
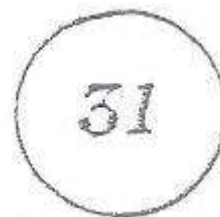


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

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 May. If you need help with translations let me know.

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

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Army Censor on RAF cover *Wilbur Jonsson*

The envelope postmarked RAFPO 001 13 Ju 44 is unusual in that the censor mark is from the Army. The Army Field Post marks are not known to be in use after 1943, but clearly a few Army Personnel must still have been in Iceland. This is the first Army Censor mark I have seen on a cover from an RAFPO in Iceland. Has anyone seen other examples from Iceland of an army censor on mail through an RAFPO?

One cover exists with a naval censor and the 001 CDS.



Proofs, reprints or colour trials? *Roger Cichorz*

Hi Brian,

I have two Iceland proofs (reprints? color trials?) of the oval aurar issues in my collection that I cannot identify. Both are on unwatermarked card stock and not listed in Facit.

Can anyone help me with their identification?



An interesting ship letter postal card Ellis Glatt

Hi Brian,

Just picked up this Iceland ship-letter postal card on eBay. I was especially attracted to the interesting Newcastle-on-Tyne cancellation on the card with adjoining grid cancel on the 10-aur imprint showing the number 545. According to one of Halfdan Helgason's old articles from 1980, numeral 545 was the British numeral cancellation associated with Newcastle back then. Must be a relatively scarce one on Icelandic mail, as I had not seen that one before. Interesting message in English on reverse.



Perhaps readers might explain the presence of the “halfpenny Foreign Branch” mark?

Patikjörnd Iceland 19 July 1893
 My dear Miss Harvey! - A fortnight
 we are on board of the steamer,
 stopping at all the different
 trading places of the east and
 north coast of Iceland and making
 small excursions inland. When
 we have had occasion to get
 postcards - we enjoy it immensely.
 The scenery is not quite so
 grand as in some Norwegian
 fjords, but still it is very
 beautiful. The air delicious.
 Is clear and pure with the delightful
 northern light from Reykjavik.
 We shall make a great excursion
 inland - I wish you and Miss
 Jones were with us - We look quite
 forward to our Norwegian journey
 next year. Best compliments from
 your most devoted
 friend
 Ellis Glatt

Modern machine cancels – but what type are they? (Issue 16 p.24)

The editor is grateful to Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson and other colleagues in the Iceland post office for their efforts to help clarify the origins and type of the two cancels shown below.



Egilsstaðir

What we know for certain is that Frímerkjablaðið Nr 17 1/2008 announced the arrival of the Egilsstaðir cancel with Christmas logo for Christmas 2007. I have one copy dated 2010 without the Christmas logo.

The postmaster at Egilsstaðir recalls receiving his cancel in 2003 just before Christmas, and states that it was similar to the cancel issued to Reykjavík for Christmas 2003, which is shown in Frímerkjablaðið Nr. 9 p.16. The consensus of opinion is that this is incorrect, and the Egilsstaðir cancel began use in late 2007 as described above. Unless anyone can show evidence of copies before Christmas 2007, then we should record that the cancel was used from 2007 and at least until 14.12.2010, both with and without a Christmas slogan. Can readers provide evidence of later use (or maybe earlier!!).

What type of machine was it?

Thanks to Vilhjálmur and his colleagues, the following can be stated. The cancelling machines referred to in the article, located at the post offices at Egilsstaðir (and Húsavík) are of the type FRAMA electron, (Switzerland) M8. It is thought that these two machines were originally franking machines (frímerkingavélar) that were changed into cancelling machines (stimpilvélar). It is not known why 'Íslandspóstur' was omitted from the lower part. These machines are outdated and not in use anymore. It was also pointed out there is a clear difference in the wavy/curved lines compared to the 2003 Reykjavík cancel which indicates the 2007 Egilsstaðir cancel was not the same machine.

Húsavík

The description in the previous paragraph also applies to the Húsavík machine. There is no reliable information available as to when this machine was introduced at the Húsavík post office. There is neither reference to it in any issue of Frímerkjablaðið, nor in the Gestur Baldursson/Þór Þorsteins 2007 book. I have cancels dated 2005 and 2011, and would be grateful if readers can extend the period of use with other examples.

To conclude:- Once again, the time and effort given by Vilhjálmur and his colleagues to satisfy the curiosity of collectors is greatly appreciated. Without their help, where would we be?

Now it is over to readers 😊 to provide evidence of more strikes of these two cancels.

The Censored FDCs of Iceland in WW2, Part 2 Alan Warren

1943



First Day for both stamps, censored at New York. Rate is 95 aur for second weight step plus 60 aur registration (1 yr overpaid). Backstamped New York foreign mail office and registry division 29 May, Brooklyn arrival and registry office 7 and 8 June 1943.

1944



Unsealed envelopes to Sweden were simply handstamped (Torrance and Morenweiser H2D) by the British and sent on. FDCs of this issue with the complete set are overfranked, even with registration and airmail service.



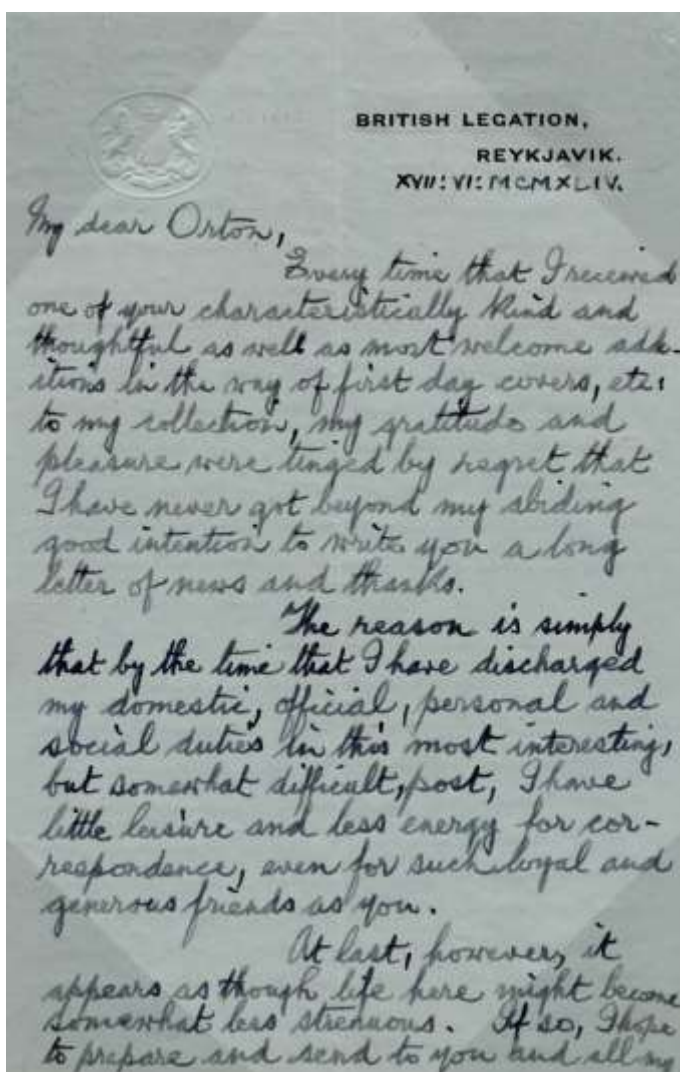
However, sealed envelopes to Sweden were opened and examined by the British and then resealed, in this case with tape (Torrance and Morenweiser P.C.90 2A).



Examined in New York and resealed with Broderick/Mayo cellophane tape T 2.20.1 before forwarding to Washington D.C.



FDC of the Republic issue, with letter (below) sent by Gerald Shepherd, minister in the British Legation at Reykjavík. Shepherd represented Britain at the first day ceremony. Faintly stamped, next to 10 aurar stamp, with “Passed By.....U.S. Censor” handstamp, Broderick/Mayo B 1.6



Letter from British Legation Minister Gerald Shepherd enclosed in the preceding FDC. Shepherd attended the first day ceremony at Pingvellir in official capacity and states on the second page of the letter, “I have been appointed Special Ambassador for the occasion, but revert to my ministerial rank afterwards.”



To Faroes Islands with P.C. 90 2A resealing tape. Backstamped Tórshavn 23 June 1944.

1945



All four stamps were issued 26 March 1945. Sent to Sweden and examined by the British.

The story of "Ship Letter Leith", Leith and Edinburgh cancels *Jakob S, Arrevad*

(Ed. In Issue 16 p.28, "Edinburgh cancels", Pál Pálsson asked for information about the cancel/types classification and periods of use for the Leith Ship Letter, the Leith cancel and Edinburgh Paquebot cancels. Jakob begins with the Leith cancel).

Leith Cancel

The examples shown by Palli are:

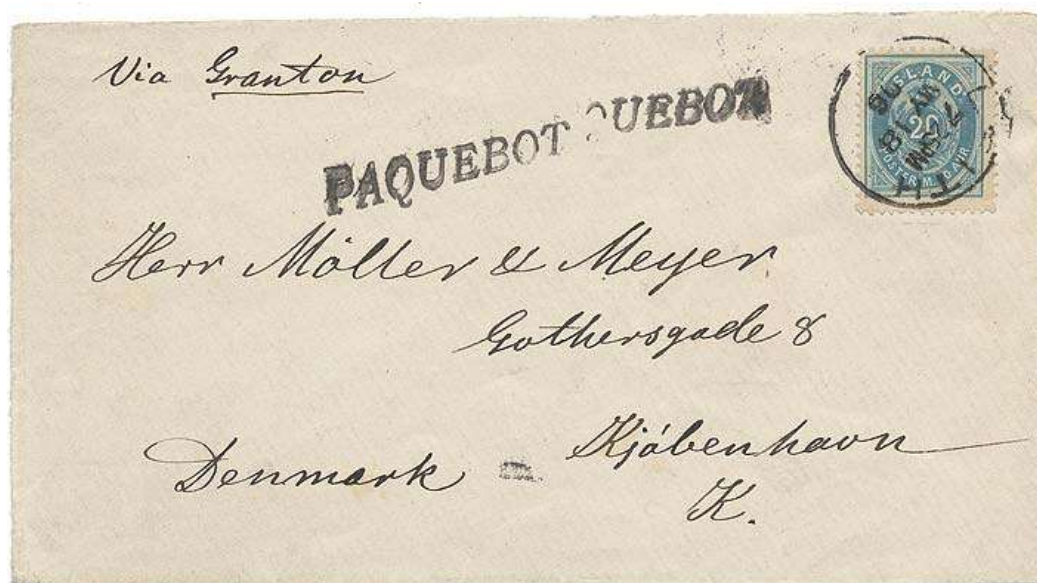


Answer: In the Kirkwood proof book for 1895 there is a "new seal" to Leith.



And again a bit later

So the use is from the beginning of 1896 (theoretically late November/December 1895)
Here is a copy from 18 MY 1896.



In the beginning of 1911, it is officially announced, that the mails from Iceland in the future are to be sent to the post office in Edinburgh, instead of as previously to the post office in Leith – so the Leith cancel was used up to 1911, but possibly also later, but not on mail from Iceland.

Leith Ship Letter Cancel

Orla Nielsen indicates in IslandsKontakt # 80 the use from 1894 until 1909, but at the same time, the editor shows the end use in 1912.

Mackay "Scottish Postmarks" show as # 1668 the stamp drawn with the date NO 4 1869, but write in the text that the "ship letter" stamp was from 1875, but do not mention anything specific about Leith (page 124).

Robertson indicate the use to 1887-1903

Shilling is writing 1889-1912 and show a Brjefspjald with 10 aur from AU 7 1889 sent to Vienna.

Mike Dovey & Keith Morris show (# 315) and the use 1894-1908, but with the note: "Studds. 12 first used in 1887"

And 1887 is – until now the right starting point:

1887



10 øre card cancelled with 3-rings number "92" (Vossebanen) transit cancellation "Leith Ship Letter AUG 24 87" send to Ashfield, England.

1889



1890

I have: JU 27 90

1891



10 aur stationery card canc. "REYKJAVÍK 20.7" sent to France via England with transit canc. "LEITH SHIP LETTER JY24 91", "SHIP LETTER LONDON JY25 91" and "CALAIS 25 JUL 91" as well as arrival canc. "TOURS INDRE ET LOIRE 26 JUL 91".

1892



1893

Below: COMMERCIAL STREET LEITH on a letter with UK stamps and addressed to Denmark:



1894



(Also: 10 aur red, perf. 14 on ship letter from "REYKJAVIK 3.10.94" to. Copenhagen. Transit mark "LEITH SHIP LETTER OC 94", noted "pr. Princess Alexandra".Postiljonen 201).

1895



20 aur greenish blue of printing III of 1891 on cover sent to Denmark via Scotland canc. "REYKJAVÍK 12.11.95". Transit canc. "LEITH SHIP LETTER NO 18 95" and arrival canc. "KJØBENHAVN 21.11.95".



Pair of 10 aur red carmine canc. "REYKJAVÍK 9.12.95" on cover sent to Denmark. Endorsed "Via Scotland" and with "LEITH SHIP LETTER DE 18 95".



1896



Hosking's collection

1897

Shilling shows: JY 22 97



1898

I have: DE 20 98: Seen: FE 20 98

1899

I have two service marks:

MR 3 99

I have: NO 3 99



1900



I have: MY 26 00¹ and I have two: from AU 3 00

1901

Seen: FE 18 1 Seen: JU 24 01

I have: JY 31 01

1902



1903

I have: MY 3 03

Seen JU 5 03



1904

?

¹ As far as I know it is only AP 3 (1900), without a year (I don't believe the example from MY 05 by Orla Nielsen in IslandsKontakt # 80 is without year)

1905



1906

Seen: MY 5 06 and NO 11 06

I have: NO 1 06

1907



Hereafter ends the agreement between The Danish Iceland department and DFDS.

1908

?

1909

I have one from 25 SE 09

1912

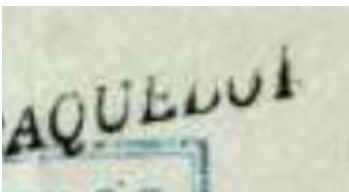
And suddenly again – the latest known examples:



Edinburgh Paquebot cancels

For an overview of paquebot cancellations from Edinburgh see with references IslandsKontakt **SPECIAL** 2015. 3, v.1 at Islandsklubbens free knowledge page, Connect.

Illustrations and classification of Páll's two examples follow next:-



Edinburgh "A1" NO 19 1903 until JY 30 1909



Edinburgh "A2" From JY 24 1910 until
MA 29 1913

Twin-arc Postmark

Palli asks about the cancel type/classification and period of use for several Edinburgh Twin-arc Postmark – and one single-arc Postmark.

Answer:

There is a special study of Twin-arc Postmarks from Scotland: James A. Mackay: "Twin-arc Postmarks with stampers' numbers 1894:1963". Edinburgh cancellations are specifically dealt with from page 20 to 27, and as a supplement, there are five pages of drawings. The majority of the cancellations are with the numbers 207 until 391. The numbers mentioned are those.







I can further refer to my study: "Arrevad Edinburg stempler på islandske forsedndelser" at Islandsklubbens free knowledge page, Connect.




Number 17		
V	313	New from 9.4.1903
VI	314	New from 14.4.1905



Number 4		
III	221	New 5. Marts 1901 – 29 mm
IV	222	Repaired 5. December 1903 -
V	223	New 6. Juni 1906



	<p>Number 23</p> <table><tr><td>I</td><td>345</td><td>Issue 24.11.1904</td></tr><tr><td>II</td><td>346</td><td>New from 27.9.1907</td></tr></table>	I	345	Issue 24.11.1904	II	346	New from 27.9.1907									
I	345	Issue 24.11.1904														
II	346	New from 27.9.1907														
	<p>Number 20</p> <table><tr><td>III</td><td>332</td><td>New from 29.7.1901</td></tr><tr><td>IV</td><td>333</td><td>Repaired 10.7.1903 – fat arcs</td></tr><tr><td>V</td><td>334</td><td>Repaired 13.6.1906</td></tr><tr><td>VI</td><td>335</td><td>Repaired 19.9.1908</td></tr><tr><td>VII</td><td></td><td>New from 18.2.1911</td></tr></table>	III	332	New from 29.7.1901	IV	333	Repaired 10.7.1903 – fat arcs	V	334	Repaired 13.6.1906	VI	335	Repaired 19.9.1908	VII		New from 18.2.1911
III	332	New from 29.7.1901														
IV	333	Repaired 10.7.1903 – fat arcs														
V	334	Repaired 13.6.1906														
VI	335	Repaired 19.9.1908														
VII		New from 18.2.1911														
	<p>Number 17</p> <table><tr><td>VI</td><td>314</td><td>New from 14.4.1905</td></tr><tr><td>VII</td><td>315</td><td>New from 12.3.1907</td></tr><tr><td>VIII</td><td>316</td><td>New from 24.9.1907</td></tr></table>	VI	314	New from 14.4.1905	VII	315	New from 12.3.1907	VIII	316	New from 24.9.1907						
VI	314	New from 14.4.1905														
VII	315	New from 12.3.1907														
VIII	316	New from 24.9.1907														
	<p>Number 25</p> <table><tr><td>III</td><td>352</td><td>New from 28.2.1908</td></tr><tr><td>IV</td><td>353</td><td>New from 19.1.1911</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Changes date system from 1. januar 1914 ??</td></tr></table>	III	352	New from 28.2.1908	IV	353	New from 19.1.1911			Changes date system from 1. januar 1914 ??						
III	352	New from 28.2.1908														
IV	353	New from 19.1.1911														
		Changes date system from 1. januar 1914 ??														
	<p>Number ??</p> <p>It is a hard one – I cannot see the stampers number.</p> <p>A better copy can perhaps enlighten the use.</p>															
	<p>Nummer 13</p> <table><tr><td>VII</td><td>287</td><td>New from 26.2.1907</td></tr><tr><td>VIII</td><td>288</td><td>Repaired 1.4.1910</td></tr><tr><td>IX</td><td>289</td><td>Maybe new from end 1912 ??? It is difficult to see</td></tr><tr><td>IX</td><td></td><td>Datoændring fra 1.</td></tr></table>	VII	287	New from 26.2.1907	VIII	288	Repaired 1.4.1910	IX	289	Maybe new from end 1912 ??? It is difficult to see	IX		Datoændring fra 1.			
VII	287	New from 26.2.1907														
VIII	288	Repaired 1.4.1910														
IX	289	Maybe new from end 1912 ??? It is difficult to see														
IX		Datoændring fra 1.														

	a		januar 1914	
	X	290	New from 8.7.1914	

	Nummer 9		
	IV	255	New 4.9.1908. 24 mm
	IV a		Changes date system from 1. januar 1914
	V	256	New 28.2.1918. 26 mm. – used in 1927

I can again refer to my study: "**Arrevad Edinburg stempler på islandske forsødsndelser**" at Islandsklubbens free knowledge page, Connect. It is mostly in Danish, but there you can read about the two-ring postmark with one arc and stampers number too.

The knowledge about use of the postmark with one arc is in fact limited. The type is in the Kirkwood Proof Book recorded in 1914 but not for Edinburgh with stampers number, and the proof book stop I 1918 without examples from Edinburgh. The use with stampers number is probably from after WW1. The ordinary use is probably up to 1937 - or perhaps to WW2.

	<p>Nr. 24</p> <p>Seen 6 February 1922 as suspected for the one in question and August 1925.</p>
	<p>Nr. 25 ?</p> <p>If 25 - Holz and Schilling say 1921.</p> <p>A better copy can perhaps enlighten the use.</p>

~~~~~



## Was this cancel ever used here? (8)



### B3e Ketilsstaðir Norður Múlasýsla

Recorded use 15.9.1955 – 30.6.1973

Laufás 1.7.1973 – September ? 1973



The collecting office at Laufás received a B8b cancel with its own name on 25.9.1973. This leaves a window of nearly 3 months when the only available cancel was the Ketilsstaðir B3e.

Examples used at Laufás must be very scarce. Can anyone show one between 1.7.73 and September 1973?



B3e Ketilsstaðir dated 26.VI.1965. 450aur Nordic surface rate to Sweden from 1.10.63 to 31.12.65.



### B1a Melstaður Vestur Húnavatnssýsla

Recorded use Melstaður 12.6.1930 – 31.12.1956

Laugarbakki 1957 ????

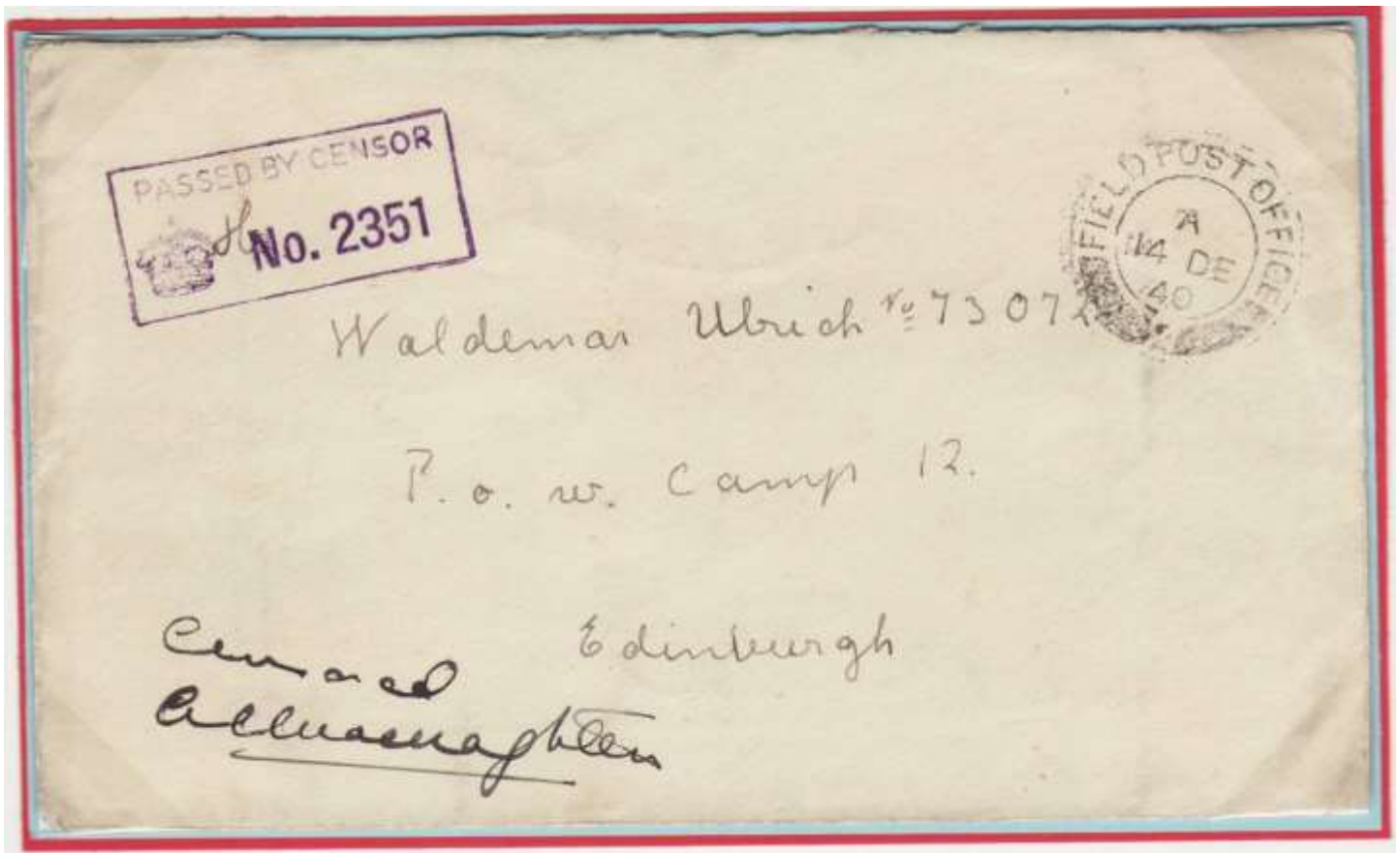


B1a Melstaður 18.12.56 is my latest strike.

Laugarbakki opened on 1.1.1957, and according to the reference books had a B3e cancel available from opening. There is no reason why the Melstaður cancel should have been sent there, let alone used there. Yet the reference books do show it as used at Laugarbakki in “1957”. If anyone can produce a strike dated after 1956, then that will remove any doubt. Alternatively, perhaps the source of the claim that the Melstaður cancel was used after 1956 can be identified and maybe verified. In the absence of either, there appears to be no adequate reason to continue recording that the B1a Melstaður cancel was used at Laugarbakki, and the reference to this should be removed from the reference books.

## Cover with a Story from 1940 Iceland *David Loe*

First published in Scandinavian Contact March 2017, and reproduced with the permission of the editor and author.



This letter sent from FPO 2 dated 14.12.1940 is not from a serving member of the armed forces but has nevertheless been sent free of charge. The rear flap shows it is from Anna Tryggvadottir address Laugavegur 31, Reykjavík and the censoring officer has struck out the Reykjavík and Iceland. POW Camp 12 was located at Donaldson's School, West Coates, Edinburgh.

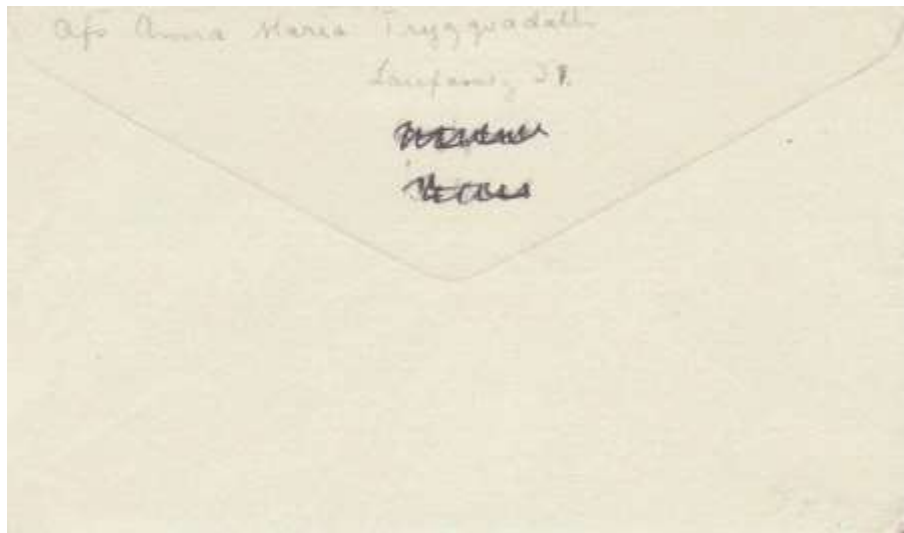
The letter actually has a bigger story concerning the Steamer "Bahia Blanca" of Hamburg Sudamerikanische Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft, Hamburg. Here is a timetable of events:

29. 8. 1939: D. Bahia Blanca sailed from St. Vincent, Portugal and arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 10. 9. 1939.

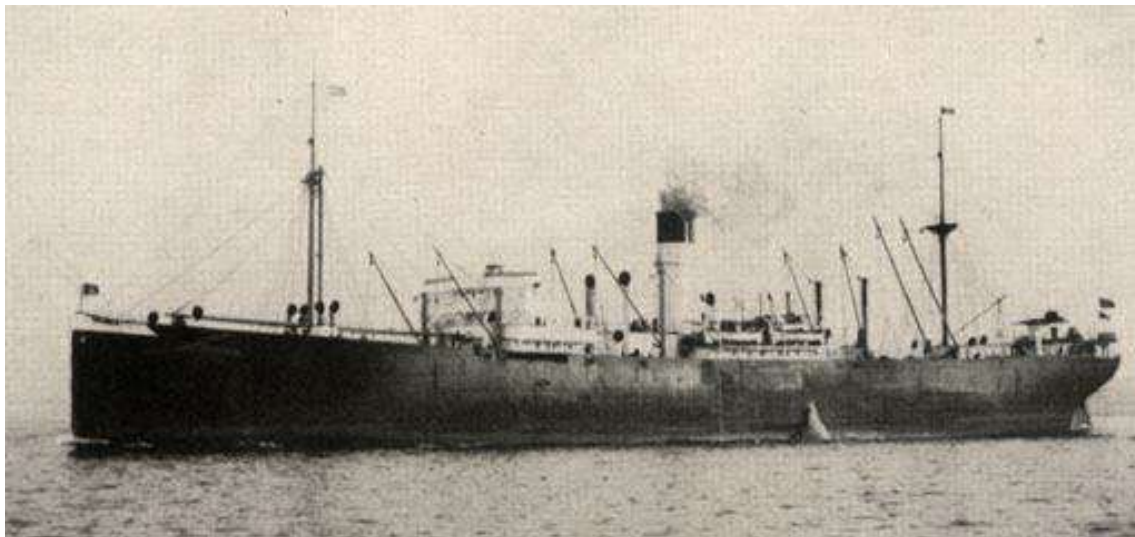
9. 12. 1940: Sailed from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for Germany via Denmark Strait to avoid the British naval blockade and was thus a "blockade runner".

10. 1. 1940: Hit an iceberg in the Denmark Strait and sank on the following day. The whole crew was rescued by the Icelandic trawler "Hafsteinn". (D. Bahia Blanca was shadowed by HMS Glasgow in Denmark Strait.) The 62-man crew was taken to Reykjavík and stayed at a hotel while they waited to be repatriated back to Germany. All the sailors were arrested by the British authorities on 10. 5. 1940 - when Iceland was occupied. The crew was transferred to camps in Great Britain and later in Canada.

Mail from Icelandic girlfriends to interned sailors was sent via HQ Field Security Corps at Laugarvegur 67 in Reykjavík and normally cancelled FPO 306 – censored by army unit censor No 2351. This example is the only one known postmarked at FPO 2.



Reduced rear showing the censoring and sender's address



SS D Bahia Blanca

Ref: [http://www.warcovers.dk/greenland/bahia\\_blanca.htm](http://www.warcovers.dk/greenland/bahia_blanca.htm)



### **Mystery cancel *from Ron Collin***

Any idea what this cancel is, or where or why it was used? It is an eBay lot, without a description of the cancel.

(Ed. Over to the readers – hopefully someone might know the answer).



## Learn about the small town of Longhope on South Walls



Overview of the Orkneys

### *Some facts from the internet:*

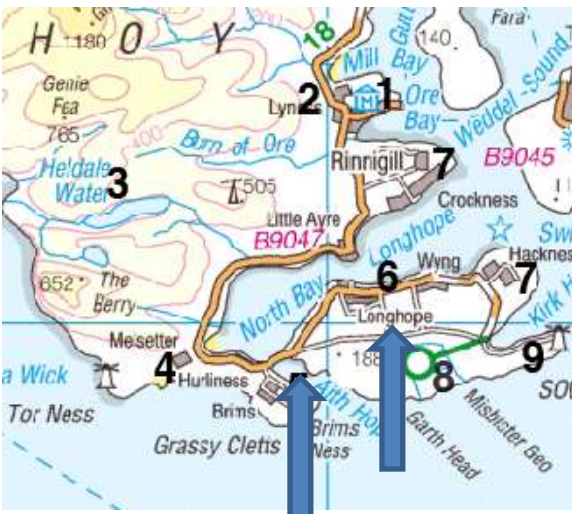
What's normally thought of as Hoy's largest settlement, Longhope, isn't really on Hoy at all. It sits on the north shore of South Walls, which was a separate tidal island finally connected to Hoy by a short causeway during World War II.

The village of Longhope straggles along the shore near the mouth of the sheltered anchorage, also known as Longhope, which forms part of Scapa Flow and bites deeply between South Walls and North Walls. The focus of the village is the harbour at South Ness, once home to a ferry service across to North Ness in North Walls. At its east end is St Columba's Church which now serves much of Hoy.

The name Longhope comes fairly directly from the Old Norse for "long bay" and it comes as little surprise that the Vikings made use of the shelter it afforded 1,000 years ago, but they were not the first to settle here: the remains of a number of brochs around the coast of South Walls show others had been living here at least as far back as the iron age.

In more recent history the inlet of Longhope became an important gathering place for convoys during the Napoleonic Wars before they set off around the north and west coast of the UK to avoid French warships in the North Sea and Channel. It was protected from French and US privateers by the guns of the Hackness Battery and the Martello Towers placed either side of the mouth of the inlet.

As a result of all this activity the village of Longhope thrived. In 1814 Sir Walter Scott wrote: "*Longhope will one day become a flourishing place; there will soon be taverns and slop shops, where sailors rendezvous in such numbers; then will come quays, docks and warehouses; and then a thriving town.*" Perhaps this was wishful thinking from a man who was on record as disliking Stromness because the steps in its main street obstructed his carriage: but Sir Walter was wrong and it was Stromness that saw the later growth.



[Hackness Martello Tower and Battery](#), one of a pair on either side of Longhope, built in 1814

Map showing the two islands connected by the causeway and the town of Longhope.



## PROVINCIAL CANCEL VARIETIES

The first cancellers, Antiqua and Lapidar types, sometimes referred to as provincials were allocated from 1873 onwards to the district post offices. The period of use varied, and in some cases cancellers were in use for over 40 years. Inevitably, damage and loss of the loose type occurred, creating varieties interesting to collectors. As far as I am aware, the only detailed references to the variations in the type used for the date numbers, were by Þór Þorsteins in *The Story of Post Office Cancellations 1873 – 1897 – Nordia 1984*, and later by the same author, with more detailed descriptions and illustrations in *Frimerkjablaðið Issue 14* for Seyðisfjörður and *Issue 17* for Bjarnarnes, where þór describes the story of the cancel which was made of a copper-alloy instead of steel like all the others.

Postiljonen, in their sale 216 of 24/25<sup>th</sup> March show the remainder of Hjalti Jóhannesson's exhibition collection of these cancellers. Here are illustrations from the catalogue.

### Bær



Upside down date

### Hjarðarholt



Upside down date

### Bjarnarnes



Examples of missing dates and a hand-written date

### Eskifjörður



Small '0'



19/2 lapidar numerals in  
cancels in 1909

### Kirkjubæjarklaust

Unfortunately, there are no examples shown of the Kirkjubæjarklaust cancel which originally had ':' after the T, then T. and finally just a dot. Can any readers provide examples of these?

## Grenjaðarstaður



Missing dates



## Ísafjórður



small '23'

In JSL's opinion the strike on the 50aur Í Gildi is CTO.

## Seyðisfjórður



Small '2'



date upside date down (12/8)



small '1'



Small '6'



Small '2'



small '6' and small '00' on postal stationery



By 1911 the numerals were replaced by larger lapidar style

## Stykkishólmur



dates upside down



## Völlur



half of date upside down.

## Vestmannæyjar



small '3'

small '9'



## Remarkable crown cancels



This appeared in the March Postiljonen sale described as “*Strip of 4 5aur double canc. Seyðisfjörður 26.X.26 as well as scarce crown cancel. “UNADSDALUR” without crown.*” The cancel is a perfectly centred upright strike. Why would it be found on a strip of CHX stamps cancelled in 1926? An excellent series of articles on the subject of the late use of crown cancels was published in various issues of IslandsKontakt, from ISK45 onwards. This made no mention of the late use of this rare crown cancel. Whatever may be the reasons behind this unusual use, it is made even more intriguing by the absence of the central crown ornament. As far as I am aware, this is previously unrecorded. I will be disappointed if this remarkable cancel does not provoke a response from the readership.



Also remarkable was the price of 750 euro achieved for this R3 rarity crown cancel, priced at 800SEK in Facit.



## VESTUR-ÍSAFJARÐARSÝSLA

This county is, perhaps, one of the most mountainous in Iceland, which makes for very poor communications over the high passes that tenuously connect the long fjords. Each community tends to be self-contained in its fjord and relies mainly on the very good fishing from this part of north-west Iceland.

The population of the county is about 1300, most living in Þingeyri, Flateyri, and Suðureyri.



### 9.1 AUÐKÚLUHREPPUR

On the northern shores of Arnarfjörður are the two farms of [Auðkúla](#) and [Hrafnseyri](#).

The office at Auðkúla (2) comes under Bíldudalur post office on the other side of Arnarfjörður and this reflects the difficulties of communication for it is easier to travel by boat to Bíldudalur for the greater part of the year, than cross Hrafnseyrarheiði to Þingeyri by pony or car, a much shorter distance. For the last generation at least, the families at Auðkúla and Hrafnseyri have second homes in Þingeyri where they winter. As a result no recent winter postmarks exist for these two farms.



A collecting office was opened at [Hrafnseyri](#) 8.4.1892 and from 1894/95 a crown cancel was used spelt 'RAFNSEYRI', a reflection of pronunciation. This was followed by numeral 124 in 1903, Swiss type B1a (again spelt [Rafnseyri](#) ) before closing 31.12.1966 and moving to Auðkúla. Auðkúla used the RAFNSEYRI B1a for 2 years followed by type B8e with its own name until 31.5.1980 when the office was closed.

Hrafnseyri was reopened 1.9.1991 to 1.11.2004 using type B8b (correctly spelt) but was also opened for the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations for Jón Sigurdsson on 17.6.2011 as this was his birthplace. A commemorative pictorial postmark was used for the occasion.

Jón Sigurdsson is regarded as the father of the nation as he was a very famous independence campaigner, and the present farm contains a Patriotic Society meeting room complete with extensive library. Ruins of the original turf farmhouse can be seen beside the existing buildings.

### 9.2 ÞINGEYRARHREPPUR

[Þingeyri](#) is an important fishing centre and the town has a population of 260. The port has very good repair facilities and was commonly used by British ships. There are three trawlers and a dozen motor boats kept at Þingeyri supplying a modern fish processing plant. Þingeyri also has an airstrip and is at the southern end of the good road to Ísafjörður.

The history of Þingeyri goes right back to the time when a regional parliament was set up here for the northwest fjords, but in more recent times the Americans used Þingeyri as a centre for their halibut fishing from 1886.

The collecting office was opened in 1873 as part of the Ísafjörður branch post and Þingeyri was made up to post-office status in April 1892 when a provincial cancel was introduced, inscribed 'DÝRAFJÖRÐUR'. This was superseded by a Swiss cancel type B1a that was in use till the office closed and became a postal agency on 31.1.2001, firstly Sparisj. Vestfirðinga (1.2.2001-21.2.2008) then Sparisj. Keflavíkur (22.2.2008 to 6.3.2011) and since then at Landsbankinn hf. until closure on 30.4.2014. Since 1999 two types of B8b1 have been used.



A collecting office was opened at [Haukadalur \(1\)](#) 1.1.1901 eventually closing 31.12.1966. In that time it used firstly a C2e crown cancel inscribed BRJEFHIRÐING, a very rare double ring crown and posthorn cancel inscribed HAUKADALUR, number 123 from 1903 and later Swiss-bridge type B2a and B8e inscribed HAUKADALUR V-ÍS. Today Haukadalur is the last inhabited farm on the coast road extending west from Þingeyri, formerly there was a small farming community around the church at Hraun (see 9.3 below).

### 9.3 MÝRAHREPPUR

Situated on the north coast of Dýrafjörður facing Þingeyri and including the isolated community of Sæból this parish embraces about a dozen farms.



The first office was opened at the rectory at [Mýrar \(2\)](#) 30.4.1892, and used a crown cancel from 1894/95 and then number 115 and Swiss type B1a until the office was closed 31.12.1930. There is a very large eider duck colony at Mýrar.

Number 115 was transferred to [Gemlufall](#) although there is no evidence it was ever used commercially, where an office was opened 01.07.1931 was open to 1989 (day and month not known) and used bridge type B1a.

Additionally, an office was opened at [Núpur \(2\)](#) for use at the boarding school founded by the Rev. Sigtryggur Guðlaugsson in 1904. Number 251 was used from 01.07.1931 and then Swiss types B1a and B7b. The office closed 1.6.2004

[Hraun \(5\)](#) was open between 10.10.1983 and 30.9.1995 using a B7b cancel. There is a community centre here. Finally, the office at [Sæból \(2\)](#) was open between 1.7.1945 and 31.12.1965 using number 298 followed by B1a that had previously been used at Sæból (1) in Norður-Ísafjarðarsýsla. Hraun and Sæból are part of one of the more isolated communities in Iceland. Although situated in Öndarfjörður the only road connection is with Núpur over a 530m high pass that is closed in winter.

### 9.4 MOSVALLAHREPPUR

The parish takes its name from the valley leading from the south, and encompasses the southern shores of Öndarfjörður.

The first office was opened at the old parsonage of [Holt \(1\)](#) 1.1.1873 as a collecting office on the Ísafjörður branch route. It used a crown cancel Latest research has established that a letter exists dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 1894 from the postmaster at Ísafjörður addressed to Reykjavík, querying their decision to issue a crown and posthorn cancel Önundarfjörður to Holt collecting office in 1894. He used the proper spelling of the name Önundarfjörður. He suggested that Flateyri should have been allocated that cancel and not Holt. Therefore it can be concluded that the first cancel allocated to Holt was the misspelt cancel made in Denmark **ØNUNDARFJÖRÐUR**. This has the Danish Ø instead of the Icelandic Ö and no umlaut over the small letter o. Following the suggestion of the Ísafjörður postmaster, the Önundarfjörður crown cancel was withdrawn from Holt and reallocated to Flateyri in 1895/96. Holt then received its own named cancel in 1895/96 inscribed **HoLT**. The cancel has a small stunted letter o. Late examples of this cancel are known on Christmas cards sent in 1916, 1917 and 1918.



Later, number 111 was used from 1903 and then Swiss type B1a (HOLT ÍS), finally closing 31.12.1963.

The second office was opened in 1898 at [Veðrará](#) or Veðraá as it is sometimes spelt, a farm on the main road near the junction with the road to Ísafjörður. Here a rare crown cancel was used and then number 122 until 31.12.1922 apart from 1907 to 1911 when it was used at Hnífsdalur.

At the end of the road leading along the south coast is the farm of [Þorfinnsstaðir](#) where a collecting office was opened 24.6.1921 using number 53 and Swiss type B2a. The office was closed 31.12.1945 and moved next door to the rectory of [Kirkjuból \(4\)](#), using the same cancel. It remained here until closure 31.12.1964.

The last office in the parish was situated at [Hestur \(2\)](#), a now uninhabited farm at the head of Önundarfjörður. Opened 13.12.1921 the office used number 202 before closing in 31.12.1963. The use of a B1a Hestur is unknown. It is otherwise known as Hafurs-Hestur.

## 9.5 FLATEYRARHREPPUR

The largest village in the county is [Flateyri](#), an authorized (1823) trading place, where trading actually started soon after 1790. Fishing and fish-processing are now the main industries. In 1889 the Norwegian Hans Ellefsen started a whaling station near Flateyri, called Sólbakki, which was burned down in 1901 and then closed. In the early hours of the 26th of October 1995 an avalanche fell on nineteen houses in Flateyri. Of the 45 people in the houses, 20 died. The population is now 200. Before this tragic event the population of Flateyri was 380. A protective wall against avalanches has now been built above the town.

A collecting office was opened here 1.1.1884 and used two crown cancels until 1903 inscribed ÖNUNDARFJÖRÐUR (type C1) the Önundarfjörður crown cancel was withdrawn from Holt and reallocated to Flateyri in 1895/96 and FLATEYRI (type C2e) from 1900 followed by numeral 108. On 1.1.1914 the office was made up to post-office status, so Swiss type B2c1 was introduced inscribed ÖNUNDARFJÖRÐUR. Number 249 was used here as a temporary cancel in 1935 and then Swiss cancel types B2b, B7b and two types of B8b1 all inscribed 'FLATEYRI'. The office was closed 30.6.2000 and became a postal agency firstly Sparisj. Vestfirðinga (1.7.2000-21.2.2008) then Sparisj. Keflavíkur (22.2.2008 to 6.3.2011) and since then at Landsbankinn hf until closure on 1.11.2012. Some references have this office also using the Holt crown cancel but I do not subscribe to this view. See the references under Holt (9.4). (see map above (9.4))





108 of Flateyri dated 21.1.1908 via Ísafjörður 23.1, Staður (2) (postmark Strandasýsla) 3.2 then Akureyri 10.2, Egilsstaðir 21.2 and finally 42 of Búdareyri. All overland and in the depths of winter.



## 9.6 SUÐUREYRARHREPPUR

This northern parish is marked on some maps as part of Norður-Ísafjarðarsýsla. Only two offices have been opened, the first was at [Botn \(1\)](#) in 1892. However, it was only open for ten years, using a crown cancel, until the office was closed 31.12.1901 and moved down the road to [Suðureyri](#) otherwise known as Sígandafjörður.

Suðureyri is at the entrance to a short, narrow and steeply sided fjord and has a population of some 312. The community was isolated for years by the huge mountains and rough road that led over them. Now it is connected to Ísafjörður by a 5 km tunnel. Most of the boats in the harbour are herring drifters and the fjord is blocked at its entrance by a sand bar, so the shelter is not very good but there used to be there are regular calls by the Eimskipafélag Íslands ships.

Suðureyri used the Botn crown cancel till 1903 and then number 118 to 1.1.1922 when it was made up to post office status. The office was closed 31.10.2001 and was reopened as a postal agency at Sparisjóð Bolungarvíkur until closure on 30.4.2014. Cancels used since 1922 have been Swiss types B3c, B8e and two types of B8b1.

## From Postiljonen March auction



Lot 425 “Hg” manuscript on 5aur reply card, not cancelled at Akureyri on 4.1.1907, and cancelled in ink on arrival at Haganesvík the nearest postal station to Hraun í Fljótum Sold for 310 euro.

This is the second Hg manuscript I have seen recorded. The other was shown by Hans von Strokirch in a 2000 Posthorn article. That was also a CHIX 5aur stationery card, sent from an unknown port on the S.S. Kong Ing, and cancelled on arrival at Haganesvík.

## Closing the gap (Issue 5. p.14) more from *Brian Stwalley*

Brian

I have this observation to follow-up from issue #5. You might recall the money order pictured which supported the late use of the Vopnafjörður Lapidar cancel in the "Closing the gap" section. This piece offers a bit of further intrigue when the reverse side is viewed. On careful observation one might notice the bottom middle three 20aur stamps are from the first Chr X printing while the rest are from the second printing issued in the previous year to this use. One has to wonder if this might not be the moment the Reykjavik post office exhausted their supply of the first printing? I have later examples of this stamp used from smaller offices but could not find any from R'Vk.

Best, Brian

