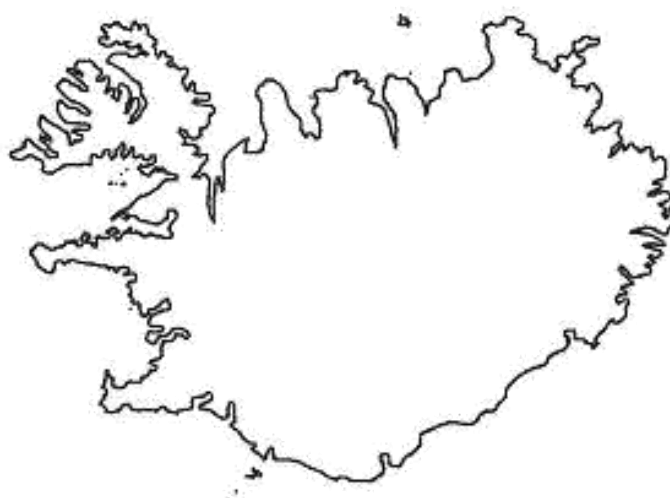
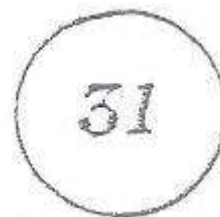


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



EDITOR

Brian Flack

E-mail address

flackbp@gmail.com

Co-editor Ole Svinth

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

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

flackbp@gmail.com

News/Comment

My apologies to the citizens of Lübeck (Issue 19 p.22). As Wilbur Jonsson pointed out, that city was not in East Germany; at the time the cover was posted in 1959, the British Occupation Zone had ceased a few years before and Lübeck was in the West German state. Mea culpa, as I have a number of covers to Lübeck during the occupation period and should have known better.

New Colops – Thanks to Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson we have the following news:-



The post office in the post district 110 Reykjavik or R10 got a new mail dater - a Colop R40d dater with rubber cliché - first day of use June 20, 2017



The post office 850 Hella has also got a new mail dater – a Colop R40d dater with rubber cliché - first day of use June 22, 2017

A.V.2 cover (Issue 19 p.6)

Many thanks to George Wewiora, Roger Cichorz, and Ólafur Elíasson for their explanations of the meaning of the A.V.” marking. The following is a distillation of their responses.

Murray Heifetz discovered the A.V.2” markings while researching “O.A.T.” markings, and his most recent research on both markings is detailed in his book titled *O.A.T. and A.V.2 Markings*, Third Edition, American Air Mail Society, Mineola, NY, 2006, 167 pages, ISBN 0-939429-22-5.

The main purpose of “O.A.T.” (“Onward Air Transmission”) and “A.V.2” markings was to show transit instructions when applied at the exchange office and alert postal authorities that transit by air to destination was required by the office of origin. The “A.V.2” markings were used on a number of countries’ airmail from the 1940s into the 1960s. The U.P.U. “AV2” (an abbreviation for “Avion 2”) Form is a statement of the weights of both registered and nonregistered airmail. The “A.V.2” strike alerted the postal authorities at an exchange point that an “open” dispatch was accompanied by the required AV2 Form. Incidentally, according to Heifetz, with a few cited exceptions, the “A.V.2” markings are essentially post-WWII markings.

Only the top cover of a bundle of flown covers received an “O.A.T.” or “A.V.2” marking, which makes these covers relatively uncommon, and very few of either markings are recorded on covers of Icelandic origin. The “A.V.2” marking on this Icelandic cover appears to be Heifetz’s AV2 Type 18 (unframed serified typeface measuring 24 mm x 8 mm and struck in violet) having known usages from 1950 to 1958. Heifetz indicates Iceland to be the most frequent usage for the AV Type 18 with eight such covers recorded (as of 2006).

Ólafur added that the particular cachet on the cover in question is known to have been used in the years 1950-1958, probably in Amsterdam. But as far as he knows it has not been established beyond doubt. This cachet is not common at all and A.V.2 cachets in general are rare on Icelandic covers, which explain the price.

Jay Smith enlarged further on the subject. “Many of these uses are really quite scarce and the price mentioned in the article does not surprise me. Google shows that Murray Heifetz may be the current guru on these. I have a couple of books (by Ian McQueen??? or something like that) on OAT / AV2 markings, but they are perhaps 10 years old – which is a long time in this developing subject matter

The History of Savings Stamps in Iceland 1907-1985. *Saso Andonov*

(Previously published in Frímerkjablaðið Nr. 31 2017)

The basic idea of the savings stamps in Iceland was to issue stamps that could be used to promote savings on three different levels: (i) firstly, to enable young people including students to save for the future, (ii) to enable workers up to a certain age to save for capital purchases such as real estate and (iii) to enable workers to save for vacation.



First Icelandic savings stamps were issued in 1907 by Landsbanki Íslands and they were intended for students to save until they reached the age of 14; the nominal value was 2 aurar and the stamps were supposed to be kept into savings stamps booklets containing up to 100 stamps for a total of 2 krónur. This practice was similar to the already existing practice in other Nordic countries where savings stamps were in use as early as 1900. This practice lasted more or less with small breaks until 1968 and was mostly conducted by Landsbanki Íslands and by the subsequent Central Bank of Iceland since the monetary authority was separated from the commercial practices of Landsbanki Íslands in 1961.

Landsbankinn savings book from 1907, as reported in greinnini



Vacation stamps. Laws on holiday funds were approved in April 1943. No time was spent to print a special holiday stamp; instead it was decided to overprint stamps from the Post office. The overprint of the stamps was carried out by the Gutenberg Regional Printers in the period from 16 May 1943 to 13 April 1944. Special stamps came on sale in the second part of April 1944 and were printed at Thomas de la Rue in England, which at that time printed almost all Icelandic stamps.

Savings stamps for vacation funds or s.c Orlof stamps were based on a Law passed by the Parliament in 1943 where the employers were obliged to pay 4% of the workers' salary in the form of these stamps. They were kept in Orlof books which were redeemed against cash in the post offices at the time. The first Orlof stamps were simply overprinted regular stamps. These were later replaced by effective Orlof stamps which were printed by De La Rue in England. The percentage the employers were obliged to pay changed with time and from 4% in 1943 went up to 6% in 1957, 7% in 1964 and 8.3% in 1971. This system was discontinued in 1973.

Savings stamps intended to enable workers up to a certain age to make capital purchases such as real estate were in use from 1957 to 1985. When introduced, employers were supposed to pay 6% of the salaries in the form of these stamps. Similar with the Orlof practice, these stamps were preserved in booklets and redeemed against cash. This list of the main three uses represents the core of the savings stamps practice in Iceland.

However, there are a few examples of private companies issuing savings stamps in connection with various events, such as the participation in Scouts' jamborees (savings stamps issued by the Scouts' associations), or with different purposes, such as travel funding (savings stamps issued by schools or by nursing homes), or the purchasing of goods (savings stamps issued by local shops).



Individual companies printed collecting books which when filled up gave the right to further purchases, such as housing tools. A three-digit phone number gives us an indication of when the book was used



Scouting stamp for national event 1948



Central Bank took over savings collection in 1961, which lasted until 1968, when inflation began to cut a big slice out of school childrens' savings. There were special three-color editions.



An agency Gísla B. Björnssonar designed the Central Bank's savings stamp. Issued 1964, Printed in Finland.



Savings stamp from 1963
Printed in Britain

Dorsteins, Þór, "Gjalda – og söfnunarkerki á Íslandi auk stimpla", 2000.
Nelson, P., Catalogue of Scandinavian Revenue Stamps", Vol. I, 1983.
Pernerfors, J., "Orlofsmerki 1943-1973", One Frame Exhibit.
Félag frimerkjasafnara, "Handbook VI", 1973.
Facit Special 2014.

ORLOF overprints on stamps *Ron Collin*

(Ed. The following sits neatly after the previous article from Saso.)



I recently happened upon an old article about the ORLOF Overprints that were applied to Regular and Official postal issues.

Over the years, I have seen a few different articles discussing the Overprints, the quantity issued, etc., etc., but I don't recall any of the articles actually showing the various stamps used with the Overprints.

I have therefore gathered my examples from the various parts of my collections pertaining to the basic issue stamps. For example, each of the Two Kings stamps shown here should be included with any exhibit of the Two Kings Issue, since these ORLOF Overprints do represent a partial use of some of the original quantities printed of the basic stamps.

I have attached an image of all of the examples. I thought perhaps your IPM readership would appreciate seeing what the actual stamps look like with their appropriate ORLOF Overprint on them.

I hope you don't mind me sending this to you. I had to acquire these individually over the years, and the most difficult to acquire, by far, was the 5 Krónur Frederick VIII.

Regards,

Ron

Rare Postage Rates 1907 *Ebbe Eldrup*

Published in IslandsKontakt Nr.84 December 2011. Reproduced with the permission of the author.

King Christian IX died on 29th January 1906. In Iceland the only current postage stamps were at that time the series 3,4,5,6,10,16,20,25,40 and 50 aurar, plus 1,2 and 5 krónur, as well as the official stamps. All carried the portrait of Christian IX who was a very popular king in Iceland. According to Jón Aðalsteinn Jónsson (One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps, Post and Telecommunications Administration, Reykjavík 1977), about one month after his death the Icelandic Post contacted the postal authorities in Denmark about new postage stamps corresponding to the values of those in existence. They were produced in the spring of 1906, and presumably because of CHR IX's great popularity in Iceland, a portrait of the new king Frederik VIII was chosen together with his deceased father CHR IX, instead of just a portrait of the new king. Thus the Two Kings issue was created.

The stamps arrived in Iceland during the spring of 1907 (J. A Jónsson) and went on sale at post offices from 1st June 1907. Postal Stationery was also produced with values corresponding to those of CHR IX, namely 3,5,8 and 10 aurar single and double letter cards. (Brjefspjald), plus 4 and 10 aurar correspondence cards (Spjaldbrjef). I did not succeed in finding out the date of the issue of the postal stationery, but I suppose they also came out from 1st June 1907.

With a new Postal Law of 16th November 1907, and the announcement concerning the mutual arrangements between the Danish and the Icelandic Post Office of 16th September 1907, both were valid from 1st January 1908, and several postal rates were changed. For example the registration rate inland and to Denmark was reduced from 16 aur to 15 aur. The minimum fee for inland insured letters was reduced correspondingly from 16 to 15 aur. Letter card postage to Denmark was reduced from 8 to 5 aur, as also letter post to Denmark was reduced from 16 to 10 aur (0-20gm), from 30 to 20 aur (21-125gm) and from 50 to 30 aur (126-250gm).

This change in rates meant that postage stamps and official stamps with the value of 16 aur issued only 7 months earlier were no longer necessary; it also meant that in the course of 1908 new Two Kings stamps were issued with values of 1eyr and 15 aur plus an official stamp of 15 aur.

A period of validity of only 7 months from 1st June to 31st December 1907 gave rise to a number of extremely rare mailings with the new Two King postage stamps in this short rates period. Such mailings are generally less seen, and are therefore illustrated here.



Letter card to Denmark Single letter card of 8 aur value, cancelled in Reykjavík 10.9.1907 and the correct use to Denmark (8 aurar postage period). Arrived in Copenhagen K 26-9-07 and delivered the same day Copenhagen F with the 3rd delivery. (Yes, that was the time with more than one postal delivery).

Inland insured letter



This is an inland money letter at the second weight rate (8 kvint=40 gm) and a value of 200 kr from Seyðisfjörður 22/10 to Reykjavík. (arrival 25.10.1907). The postage of 36 aurar is made up of 2nd weight rate (3-25 kvint) = 20 aurar (1.8.1876-31.12.1907) and value letter fee is 5 aur per 100kr, however the minimum was 16 aurar, so = 16 aurar (1.7.1902-31.12.1907).

The author does not know of any other inland money letters from this period, but would like to hear more about this and also about other letters to Denmark from the period 1. June-31. December 1907.

Early use of Siglufjörður B2c1 *Brian Stwalley*

In response to the request in Issue 19 for 1910 strikes of Siglufjörður B2c1, Brian obliged with this copy dated 6.IX.1910. Can anyone show an earlier date in 1910?



(Incidentally the article 'Fire at Siglufjörður' is on page 21 of Issue 19, and not 22 as incorrectly shown in the Contents page, with corresponding page number errors for the following two articles. Ed.).

Burttisland *Ron Collin*



Ron found this excellent Burttisland strike on Ebay and declared he had not seen one before.

(Ed.) Foreign cancels on Iceland stamps are not my forte, although I wish now I had formed an interest. I am sure one of our cancel experts will help us out.

VESTUR-HÚNAVATNSSÝSLA.

We now start a journey east along the north coast and each of the counties has its own distinct scenery and attractions, in my opinion improving the further east one travels.

To start with, we shall have a look at Vestur-Húnavatnssýsla which today has a population of some 1200 that has decreased from some 1650 at the turn of the 19th century. Of these 580 people live in Hvammstangi, the largest town in a land dotted with farms rather than ports.



12.1 STAÐARHREPPUR

For collectors of postmarks there are only two offices to be looked at in this parish, but for the record, a collecting office was opened at [Þóróddsstaðir \(1\)](#) in 1873 on the Northern and Eastern post. However, it was closed at the end of the year. Þóróddsstaðir is on the eastern shores of Hrótafjörður.



The collecting office at [Staður \(2\)](#) has been mentioned in the last chapter, as the post office was moved from Melar in Strandasýsla 1.1.1878. The provincial cancel of Strandasýsla was used at Staður till about 1910, though it can occasionally be found much later. The office actually operated under the name of STRANDASÝSLA until 1897 and this was changed to Staður whereupon the type 3 crown cancel was issued. Swiss type B2c1 was then introduced followed by types B7b, B7b (Brú), B8b and B8b1. On 22.06.1951 the office was demoted to collecting office status and then on 1.1.1999 the post office was moved here from Brú (11.8) but changed to a postal agency operated out of Staðarskála hf. The office finally closed altogether 30.3.2007.

The second office was opened at [Reykjaskóli](#) 1.1.1938. As the name suggests, this is a boarding school near Reykjahver and it also has quite an interesting local museum containing, if I remember correctly, a large number of whale vertebrae. Initially number 286 was postally used till 1959, though this was superseded by Swiss type B5a and latterly by type B8e. The office closed 31.12.1988

12.2 FREMRI-TORFUSTAÐAHREPPUR

This parish is very isolated and rarely visited. Núpsdalur starts in the vast upland wastes of Arnavatnsheiði and falls gradually north. The first inhabited farm on the track is at [Núpsdalstunga](#), where there was a collecting office between 1.1.1906 and 31.12.1968 using number 181 and then Swiss type B2a.



12.3 YTRI-TORFUSTAÐAHREPPUR

The parish occupies head of Miðfjörður east of Hrítafjörður. The first collecting office was opened at **Staðarbakki** 1.1.1873 on the Northern and Eastern post. The office was located at the parish



rectory until 12.06.1930 when it was moved to **Melstaður (1)**, and in that time used a single ring crown cancel, and then number 103. Melstaður is the other church in the parish and only about 5 km N.W. of Staðarbakki. The office used Swiss type B1a until 31.12.1956 when it was moved, this time to **Laugarbakki**, a hamlet on the main road to Akureyri where it meets the Núpsdalur road. Here the old Melstaður cancel was used and then type B3e inscribed Laugarbakki until closure 31.12.1999.

12.4 HVAMMSTANGAHREPPUR



The town of **Hvammstangi** is the largest settlement in the county and has grown from a population of only 114 in 1910 to its present (2012) population of 580. Situated on the eastern shore of Miðfjörður it serves as a market town for Víðidalur and Vatnsdalur. A collecting office was opened 1.1.1898 and even though the village was close to the Northern and Eastern post, it is recorded as being served only by sea until the turn of the century. Number 97 was used from 1903 till 1.1.1914 (noting no cancel before 1903) when the office was made up to post office and from then Swiss types B2c1, B8e, B8b and B8b1 were used.



12.5 KIRKJUHVAMMSHREPPUR

A collecting office was opened at [Geitafell](#), further north on Vatnsnes 1.1.1925 (moved from Flatnefsstaðir (12.6)), but was only open for a year and a half at this farm, using number 106. On 1.8.1926 the office was moved to [Illugastaðir \(2\)](#), the next farm, about 3 km south. Number 106 was superseded by Swiss type B2a which was in use until 30.5.1962 when the office was closed.



12.6 ÞVERÁRHREPPUR

The first office in this parish was opened at the rectory of [Tjörn \(2\)](#) 1.4.1888 near the tip of the Vatnsnes peninsula. A rarely used single ring crown cancel was issued to Tjörn inscribed 'TJÖRN Á VATNSNESI' and then number 106 was used until the office was closed 31.12.1920 and moved to [Flatnefsstaðir](#). The office was reopened between 1.1.1936 and 31.5.1945 and for this period used number 279.

Flatnefsstaðir was open till 31.12.1924 and used number 106. The office was then transferred to [Geitafell](#) (12.5). The farm of Flatnefsstaðir is just north-east of Tjörn.

An office was opened at [Breiðabólstaður \(3\)](#) much further south, on 1.1.1915. Postmarks used were number 203 and Swiss type B2a inscribed BREIÐABÓLSSTAÐUR HÚN before closing 31.7.1960 and moving further north to HARASTAÐIR. Don't confuse this Harastaðir with Harrastaðir in Dalasýsla that had a crown cancel misspelt HARASTAÐIR. So Harastaðir in Þverárhreppur remained open till 31.12.1966 using the old Breiðabólstaður cancel, number 203 and Swiss type B8e.



The remaining office in the parish was at [Ósar](#) open 1.1.1911 to 31.3.1980. It operated under the name of Lambhúsavík 1.1.1911 to 31.12.1915 and used cancels N1c-39 and B1a. The farm was located on the south-west corner of Húnafjörður.

12.7 ÞORKELSHÓLSHREPPUR

[Lækjamót](#) is the only office in this last parish. The collecting office was opened here 1.1.1873 and closed 31.12.1971. In that time it used a single ring crown cancel from 1894, number 99 from 1903 to 1930 and then Swiss type B1a. The numeral was used again from about 1948-1950 for no apparent reason. Lækjamót is situated in Víðidalur.





Number 99 used at Lækjamót 10.12.1910 with Strandasýsla transit cancel (12.12.1910) used at Staður (2) at this time (see 12.1).

Observations on a censored cover (Issue 19 p.7) Ólafur Elíasson.

The cover on page 7 was not anywhere near Bermuda. There are a number of covers around, practically identical to this one. The sender was the Philatelic Bureau of the Icelandic Post, and they are believed to have contained an announcement of the issue of new stamps. The 7aur is the correct rate for printed matter up to 50gm at that time. The cover left Reykjavík on an Icelandic ship (we do not know with certainty which one), that was diverted to Kirkwall where the mail was confiscated and sent to Liverpool to be censored. After censoring, the mail was returned to Kirkwall and from there it went with M/S Bergenshus which arrived at Copenhagen on January 14th 1940. From Copenhagen the mail was dispatched onwards to destinations. I recommend the book “ISLAND postalt set I perioden 1939-1945” of which I am the co-author.

Jay Smith adds:-

In the latest edition there is a query about PC66 censor tape. I assume you know (not me! Ed.) that the PC66 labels were left over from WWI and were used up before the PC90 labels came into use. I won't contest that the censor number was in Bermuda, but, since they are PC66, I wonder if that is just use of “old labels” and used somewhere in the UK mainland? If any reader wants to contact Flynn who is very approachable and helpful, I can look up his contact information. .

From the auctions



Described as - Iceland 1912 10A violet
NUMERAL CANCELLATION 178 ship-
mail S/S Botnia. Sold for \$338 (Facit 1000SEK)



Saurbær C2e crown cancel. Facit 200SEK (\$24) sold for
\$147, the result of two large last minute “killer bids”.
I imagine the seller was very happy.

DUTCH EAST INDIES

Brjefspjald
(Carte postale.)

Reykjavík
JAN 11 1901

ISLAND
10AUR

Den Handelskøbergaard
helt Høland) i den de
1^{te} Høst. Høst. Høst, der er
Høland ved den Høst
gaard) var
Høst. Høst. Høst.

Mr & Mrs. Jensen
p/o Jan. Kautz
Kali aspin
Sasabaja
Java
Dutch. East. India

Byörn Jonsson, Reykjavík

Reykjavik.

DAHOMEY



The postcard is cancelled Hveragerði B5a dated 22.7.? addressed to Monsieur Dapuzoy, the Field Administrator, Kandi, Dahomey, A.O.F (Afrique Occidentale Française or French West Africa), with a Cotonou transit cancel 27.7.? Regrettably the year is indecipherable on both cancels. The stamp issue date was May 1952. At first, the 180aur franking was a puzzle. A specific “French West Africa” destination did not appear in the Iceland Post rates publications until October 1953. However, examination of the airmail rates publication for the period 23rd March 1950 to 30th September 1953, revealed that for various individual destinations, e.g. Algeria, Morocco and Tangier, the airmail supplement was 90aur per 5gm. As Dahomey and the aforementioned places were all part of French West Africa, it is reasonable to suppose that this card is correctly franked at the postcard rate of 90aur surface + 90aur airmail = 180aur. It was posted on 27 July 1952 or 1953.

Benin was a French colony from 1892, renamed Dahomey from 1894, became independent from 1960 and reverted to Benin from 1975. Kandi is a town in the east, and Cotonou the biggest town in the country. The message in French, from Michelle, is that the children are happy in Switzerland and we look forward to seeing you in September or October at home in France. An additional signature appears at the bottom. Maybe it was a French military location and needed the signature of a commanding officer? The picture side shows a scene from Snæfellsnes in Western Iceland. I have another postcard from France to the same person in 1956 but at a different Benin town, Natitingu. Interestingly Dapuzoy’s name is obliterated on both cards, which may indicate a form of censorship or a security measure in place during a period of conflict?

Inflation 1979 – 83 Part II 1980 Stamps single on cover Ole Svinth

In the latest issue I promised to go through 1980. In that year we had 4 changes in the postal rates. Of course we will find many issues with a nomination “arriving” too late for the purpose.

First issue in 1980 was the dog and the arctic fox.



Issued January 24th

The 10 kr was of course for additional purposes, and could be used already from day of issue as many of the stamps on hand did not match actual fees.

The 90 kr. was meant for printed matter.



This item doesn't belong to this “single franking” story. I feel obliged to show it anyway, as it is a good example of the use of this stamp.

Postcard rate by air to outside Europe, by the time this card was sent was 160kr. A 10 kr increase took place on August 1st 1980. Postmark shows Varmahlið 06 VIII 80.

Postage period August 1st 1980 - October 31st 1980

The 90 kr had few chances of being used correctly as single postage.

Issued January 24th and the printed matter rate was raised February 1st. **7 days** was the limit.

90 kr was the printed matter rate 0-20 gr inland and surface rate to Scandinavia.

Postcards inland and Europe were also 90 kr.



Printed matter Reykjavik 31 1 1980

Postage period June 1st 1979 - January 31th 1980.



The CEPT stamps were for sale in due time, but could only be used “correctly” for **3 days** as rates went up on May 1st.

You are looking at 2 real gems.

Issued April 28th



Letter to England postmark dated 30 4 80.
Airmail rate to Europe 0-20 gr 140 kr.

To Scandinavia was 120 kr.

Postage period February 1st 1980 - April 30st 1980

Letter to Namibia postmark dated 30 4 1980. Airmail rate outside Europe 0-20 gr 250 kr.



Postage period February 1st 1980 - April 30st 1980



Again a value appearing for sale in time, the 120 kr Value was meant for printed matter. **23 days** for intended use.

The 300 kr had no specific rate on day of issue or earlier.

Both stamps issued July 8th



Printed matter to Germany dated Akureyri 24 7 80. surface rate being 120 kr to the whole world - Iceland included. The same rate for surface postcards.

Postage period May 1st 1980 - July 31st 1980



Letter dated Reykjavik 19 1980. Airmail rate 300 kr 20-100 gr. to Scandinavia and inland.

Postage period August 1st 1980 - October 31st 1980



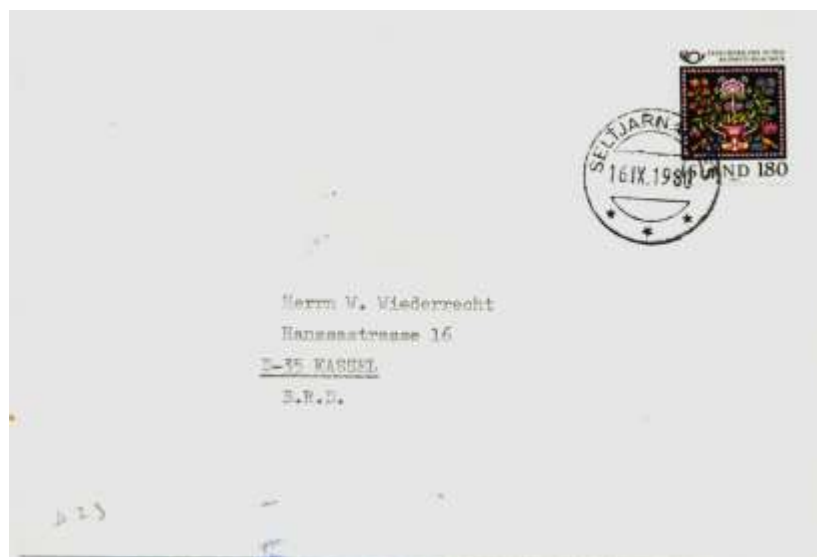
These two values were intended for letters 0-20 gr. 150 kr for Inland and to Scandinavia. 180 kr. was airmail to Europe and surface rate to rest of the world.

Day of issue was September 9th.



Inland letter 0-20 gr Dated Reykjavik 19 9 1980

Postage period August 1st 1980 - October 31st 1980



Letter to Germany 0-20 gr dated Seltjarnarnes 16 IX 1980

Postage period August 1st 1980 - October 31st 1980



Issued October 16th



Letter to Denmark 0-20 gr Reykjavik 18 XII 1980

Postage period November 1st 1980 - January 31st 1981

Here we have the letter rate 160 kr coming up November 1st 1980.

The authorities might have foreseen this increase of rate, as the rates changed rapidly. Furthermore the colour indicates that this could be a fact.

On the other hand the two values of 170 and 190 might have been a sort of precaution in case the rates were running too fast.

Anyway, the 160 was just a perfect guess.



170 kr was another lucky guess, as the PM/postcard rate was 170 kr for postcards and printed matters by air to countries outside Europe.

Also to be used in the upcoming period.

Printed matter (New Year's greetings) to Australia Seltjarnarnes 30 XII 1980

Postage period November 1st 1980 - January 31st 1981



Air PM cover to Namibia dated Akureyri 13 V 1981.

Postage period February 1st 1981 - May 31st 1981

The 190 kr was of no use until we meet the rate in 1981. The airmail rate outside Europe was from February 1st increased to 190 **new aur** 0-20 gr.

As you can see, the currency was changed on January 1st. From this day on 100 old kr was = 1 new kr.



Issue November 20th

This stamp was valid for an airmail letter to Europe from day of issue until end of January 1981.



Issue November 20th



The 400 kr. was just a complimentary value.

Letter to Poland Akureyri 4 XII 1980. Air letter 0-20 gr.

Postage period November 1st 1980 - January 31st 1981

1981 in next issue

Was this cancel ever used here? (11)



B8e Sandur Snæfellsnessýsla

Recorded use 1957 – 20.12.1962
Hellisandur 21.12.1962 – 1965 ???



I have strayed from the normal pattern, and this first item is probably inappropriate, given the title of the series. Instead of describing the move of a cancel, Sandur merely changed its name, when it was renamed Hellisandur from 21.12.1962. Ten months later it is recorded that a B8e cancel with the name Hellisandur was used (from 17.10.1963). Although I have never seen an example, I am hopeful that one of our readers might provide evidence of a B8e Sandur cancel used between 21.12.1962 and 16.10.1963; after all it was a relatively busy post office. If not, is it possible that the Hellisandur B8e was issued earlier than 17.10.1963 as stated in the book, perhaps even when the office name changed?

The cover shows B8e Sandur dated 8.IX.1962.



B2a Sauðlauksdalur Vestur-Barðastrandarsýsla

Recorded use 1930 – 31.12.1945
Hvalsker 1.7.1945 (?) – 1951 ???



Sauðlauksdalur B2a dated 20.11.31

If we accept that Sauðlauksdalur closed on 31.12.1945, is it likely that its bridge cancel was passed to Hvalsker on 1.7.1945? Admittedly Sauðlauksdalur also had a numeral cancel. A more simple explanation is that there is an error in Íslenskir Stimplar 1894-2003 p.34. Hvalsker did not receive its own very scarce cancel, a B2c2 Hvalsker until 1951. I have not seen a B2a Sauðlauksdalur used during the Hvalsker period. Does such a cancel exist? It is rated at 5000SEK in Facit.

Removed bulge on 1 kr. Chr. X

The bulge on right side of "1" in the first issue of this stamp was removed in the later issue. It was made by hand instead of replacing with new clichés. The error is the 7th row in sheet, and 10 different varieties were a consequence.



Bulge on "1"



7: Incision in bottom of foot



17: "K" is open. Vertical line bottom of both "1" and "K".



27: Open "K" and incision left on "1".



#37: Curve on right side of "1"



47: Small incision right side of "1"



57: Right side of "1" no curve at all.



#67: "1" has incision in lower part. 2 white spots between "1" and "K"



77: Sharp incision middle right of "1".



#87: soft curve



97: Vertical stroke on foot of "1". Incision in "1".

Analysis of How Iceland Lots Fared in Two Postiljonen Auctions ...and What a Difference a “Name Sale” Makes — Part 2

by Roger Cichorz

(Part one of Roger's analysis was in IPM Issue 12 page 24. Ed.)

This article was originally published in slightly modified form in Issue 2/2017 of The Posthorn, Journal of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, and appears here by kind permission of its Editor, Seija-Riitta Laakso.

Postiljonen Auction House International conducted four major auctions, #212 through #215, in Malmö, Sweden on September 30 and October 1, 2017. #212 was a general sale of worldwide material held over both days. The first day's session included lots comprising non-Scandinavian countries in alphabetical order, German and Northern European ship mail (with the covers to Nordic countries interspersed among the individual country lots), Denmark, and Danish areas (Slesvig, Faroes, Greenland, and DWI). The #212 Danish lots were followed by a name sale — “The Wolfgang Large Gold Medal Collection of Classic Denmark” — that had its own separate #215 catalogue.

The second day's session of #212 included lots comprising Sweden, Finland, and Iceland. The #212 Finland lots were followed by a second name sale — “The Gummesson Grand Prix d' Honneur Collection of Classic Finland, Part 1” — that had its own separate #214 catalogue. The #212 Iceland lots were followed by a third name sale — “The Indriði Pálsson Large Gold Medal Collection of Classic Iceland, Part 2” — that had its own separate #213 catalogue.

This article is exclusively about the Iceland material offered in #212 and #213, an analysis of how the Iceland lots fared in both auctions, and ultimately the difference a name sale makes. I had previously compared the Iceland lots in Postiljonen's #210 general sale with those in Postiljonen's #211 “Pálsson Part 1” sale in an article published in the August 2016 issue of *The Posthorn* (pages 8-11) and reprinted in *Iceland Philatelic Magazine*, Issue 12, November 2016, pages 24-26.

My conclusion there, based on the ratio of realizations to starting bids of the lots sold in both auctions (95.74% for the general lots vs. 227.98% for the Pálsson lots), was that a name sale performs superiorly. Toward the end of my previous article, I mentioned “stay tuned!” because after the “Pálsson Part 2” sale occurred I intended to summarize the results and compare them to “Pálsson Part 1.” As previously, Postiljonen preceded “Pálsson Part 2” with Iceland lots in its #212 general sale, and this permitted me to do another analogous comparison and analysis — so here goes...

General Auction #212 Iceland Lots

The Iceland section in the general auction #212 was smaller in scale than #213 in that only 111 lots were offered compared to 283 for the #213 Pálsson sale. The realizations in the text and four summary tables that follow are given in euros and do not include the 20% or 25% buyer's premiums inclusive of Swedish V.A.T. as applicable. On the date of these two auctions, October 1, 2016, 1.00 euro (€) closed at an exchange rate of US\$1.1232.

For the sake of accuracy in reporting the results of both sales, I will mention that Postiljonen indicates “Bid” rather than specifying starting bid amounts for some less-expensive lots, indicating any bids for these lots are acceptable. For a “Bid” lot, I arbitrarily used the lot realization as its starting bid amount in the four summary tables that follow. For #212 there were 13 “bid” lots, all of which sold, that realized €790, or a mean realization of ~€61 per lot. For #213 there were 39 “bid” lots, all of which sold, that realized €4790, or a mean realization of ~€123 per lot.

For the general auction #212, of the 111 Iceland lots offered at cumulative starting bids of €30,390 (\$34,134), 111 (79.2%) sold, realizing €39,670 (\$44,557) against their cumulative starting bids of €25,540 (\$28,686), an impressive 155.3% ratio of realizations to starting bids. The fact that the 79.2% of sold lots represented 84.0% of the cumulative starting bids indicates that slightly more of the pricier items sold than the less expensive lots. A detailed summary of the Iceland lots in this general sale #212, listed by category, is given in Table 1

For the general auction #212, the 74 stamp, proof, and essay lots outperformed the 37 postal history lots, both in the percentage of lots sold (82.4% vs. 72.9%) and in the ratio of realizations to starting bids (167.1% vs. 126.9%). The summary of stamp versus postal history lots in #212 is given in Table 2. These results represent a reversal from the #213 Pálsson sale in which postal history lots outperformed stamp lots, indicating the postal history lots in the general #212 sale were not of as high quality as the Pálsson postal history lots. Indeed covers in the general sale had mean starting bids of ~€256 while those in the #213 auction had mean starting bids of ~€1319, or even if the four superlative covers (discussed two paragraphs down) are subtracted from these totals, the other 77 Pálsson postal history lots had mean starting bids of ~€446, still ~174% greater than those in the general sale.

Three stamp lots and one postal history lot in #212 fared exceptionally well and merit mentioning as the “outstanding performers” in the general sale. An unused upper right corner block of four of the 16 skilling yellow with inverted watermark (*Facit* #7v¹) realized €800 against its €300 starting bid, an unused perforated 14 x 13½ 16 aurar brown with black “Í GILDI” overprint (*Facit* #40c) fetched €750 against its €200 starting bid, and an unused perforated 14 x 13½ 5-aurar brown with red “Í GILDI” overprint (*Facit* #45c) sold for €800 against its €250 starting bid. A 5-aurar postal stationery card with an added franking two kings 5-aurar definitive, cancelled “REYKJAVÍK 25.IV.19,” sent to Russia with a framed “SERVICE SUPENDED” handstamp and returned to Reykjavik (written in black crayon), was described as “extremely rare” and bore that out as it realized €1200 against its €500 starting bid.

Auction #213, Indriði Pálsson Part 2 Iceland Lots

Now let’s examine how the lots fared in the Indriði Pálsson #213 auction, the “Name Sale” of the title of this article. 283 lots were offered at cumulative starting bids of €174,490 (\$195,987), and 273 (96.5%) at cumulative starting bids of €171,240 (\$192,337) sold, realizing €356,760 (\$400,713) for a superlative 208.3% ratio of realizations to starting bids, or slightly more than double their cumulative starting bids! The ten lots that did not sell represented only 3.53% of the 283 lots offered and 1.86% of the cumulative starting bids, indicating these lots were set at lower starting bids than the lots that sold. These results compare favorably to Postiljonen #211, the Indriði Pálsson Part 1 auction held March 19, 2016 when 206 of 207 lots sold at a superlative 228.0% ratio of realizations to starting bids.

A summary of the Pálsson lots in name sale #213 is given in Table 3. Akin to the breakdown of lots given in Table 1 for #212, the #213 lots have been categorized for ease of comparison. Four superlative covers (lots #s 2014, 2020, 2043, and 2070) with cumulative starting bids of €72,500 (\$81,432), which sold for €141,500 (\$158,933), managed to represent a significant 61.8% of the postal history realizations. These four covers, however, only sold for 203.4% ratio of realizations to starting bids, actually less than the 219.3% for the entire postal history category. Because these covers were the most expensive Pálsson lots and only a few stamp lots had realizations of €4000 or more, a summary of how the lots of “stamps and proofs” compared with the “postal history” (covers and used postal stationery lots) is given in Table 4. In actuality, stamp lots fared quite favorably against comparably priced postal history lots.

So many of the lots in Pálsson #213 sold for double or even greater multiples of their starting bids that any attempt to list all that fared exceptionally well would require another full-length article. Consequently, I will limit mention here to only a few “outstanding performers” among the stamp and postal history lots. An unused block of four of the perforated 14 x 13½ 16 skilling (*Facit* #4) fetched €3300 against its €1000 starting bid despite described as having “one short perf. and an improved corner perf.” A well-centered unused perforated 14 x 13½ 20-aurar ultramarine 1882 first printing with red “Í GILDI” overprint (*Facit* #47a) sold for €4800 against its €2000 starting bid.

On the postal history side, one of the five recorded covers franked with a 100-aurar stamp realized €8000 against its €2500 starting bid — specifically this was a domestic parcel cover to Reykjavik with a franking of 100a + 20a + 10a definitives (*Facit* #s 12d, 15c, and 19, respectively), the stamps pen cancelled than again cancelled with two “REYKJAVÍK 12.2.97” arrival postmarks — and it still managed that much despite a rounded corner on the coveted 100-aurar stamp. A small cover to Reykjavik franked with a 10-aurar definitive

(*Facit* #26) postmarked “VOLLUR 11.12” (described as a “very rare cancellation on cover”) fetched €1550 against its modest €300 starting bid.

Worth mentioning among the superlative performers in this auction are the two lots of Type C3 crown cancels. The first is a strip of three 5-aurar green definitives (*Facit* #24) on piece tied by two very fine strikes of “BRÚ” (*Facit* = SEK4000/~€419) that sold for a whopping €4600 against its €300 starting bid. The second is a pair of 3-aurar yellow (large 3) (*Facit* #21) with a “STAÐUR” strike (described as “exceptionally beautiful and extremely rare” and “unpriced in *Facit*”) that realized €5600 against its €500 starting bid. By contrast, two Type C1 crown cancels that are also unpriced in *Facit* sold for only four times their starting bids — a “FOFABÆR” on a 10-aurar red (*Facit* #26), described as “extremely rare,” realized €850 against its €200 starting bid, and a “ÚLFLJÓTSVATN” on another 10-aurar red (*Facit* #26), described as an “extremely rare and beautiful,” sold for €1150 against its €300 starting bid.

I confess that I know nothing about the Type C3 crown cancels and assume they are difficult items to come across; however, why was there such a disparity between Postiljonen’s starting bids and realizations? The “STAÐUR” lot may be understandable in that it is unpriced in *Facit*, suggesting it is exceptionally rare or not enough are traded to list a price, but the “BRÚ” lot sold for more than ten times its *Facit* valuation! Either way, the *Facit* editors should take note of these results and consider amending the value listings to reflect the current market. Readers who are knowledgeable about the crown cancellations are invited to send me their comments (rcichorz@comcast.net) as I would like to better understand and follow-up on these items.

Interestingly, there were four “ex-Crafoord” lots offered in the general sale #212 and one as a Pálsson lot in #213. The four offered in the general sale sold for €1230 against a €750 cumulative starting bid, or a 164% ratio of realizations to starting bids, just slightly greater than the 155.3% ratio experienced for the entire general sale Iceland lots. The sole “ex-Crafoord” lot in the Pálsson sale sold for €3300 against a €1000 starting bid, a significantly larger 330% ratio than the 208.3% ratio experienced for the entire Pálsson sale. Of course, this is not a statistically valid comparison because of the small sample size, but still points out how the performance of an item of previous provenance appears to be enhanced in a name sale!

Here is a great example that reinforces the premise of what a difference a name sale makes when compared to a general sale. Lot 2269 in the Pálsson sale — a very fine strike of the rare “Stóri-Núpur” Type C2 crown cancel on a pair of 4-aurar KCIX definitives (*Facit* = SEK4000/~€419) — sold for €1300 (\$1460), 650% greater than its €200 starting bid. By contrast, another pair of 4-aurar KCIX definitives with an identical “Stóri-Núpur” crown cancel, described as superb and arguably an even finer (stronger and more centered) strike, sold on the eBay auction site by a seller in Denmark on January 29, 2017 for \$730 (~€682 on that date), only half the amount of the Pálsson pair!

Reasons for Superior Performances of “Name Sales”

Based upon the ratios of realizations to starting bids for both auctions, the outcome of sale #213 compared to the Iceland lots in sale #212 leads to the conclusion of “What a difference a ‘name sale’ makes!” At this point, with the help of a friend, I offer reasons of why name sales will generally fare better than general sales, even if the quality of the material offered is comparable.

After my previous auction report appeared in the August 2016 *Posthorn* and the November 2016 *Iceland Philatelic Magazine* comparing the Postiljonen #210 general sale with the Postiljonen #211 “Pálsson Part 1” sale, I received comments from two readers. The first, who requested to remain anonymous, chastised me for comparing “apples with oranges” indicating the result differences were in his words solely due to “items of exceptional quality and/or rarity” offered in the “name sale.” I disagreed with him and in my e-mail rebuttal pointed out that both auctions had a mix of pricier and cheaper lots and that a general sale is not necessarily devoid of exceptional material as he suggested. I had even presented in that account an analysis of adjusted figures after subtracting out five exceptionally pricey Pálsson postal history lots, and the Pálsson sale still greatly outperformed the general sale.

The second responder is a longtime Iceland collector, Ron Collin, who agreed with my premise that a name sale

will outperform a general sale even for comparable material. Ron and I subsequently got into a discussion about the factors that led to my conclusion, and he consented that I could share some of his insights as to why this is generally, if not always, the case. The following explanation by Ron, made before sales #212 and #213 took place, is one that I totally agree with, and it seems to be reinforced by the comparative outcomes of sales #212 and #213.

Of course there will be differences between the name sale and the general sale material. But that should not preclude those sales from being compared, objectively. In most instances I believe total gross realizations will be higher, not necessarily because of rarity, but perhaps because of the pure volume of material sold in a name sale. So for that reason, I believe your method of calculating an apples to apples comparison, is the only way to reach a conclusion.

First of all, I do not want anyone to think that this phenomenon should only be centered on these two Postiljonen sales. As I believe I mentioned to you previously, I began noticing this disparity between auction results starting back in the 1970s when I started attending and bidding in the sales of Danam Stamp Company in Pennsylvania and later on in the Northland auctions in New Jersey. More often than not, the prices realized in name sale material were higher than prices realized for comparable material in the general sale. I think you were more than fair and objective, by pulling out the five pieces of postal history from your calculations, even though that would have bolstered your position. This kind of material, items of economically higher value, would tend to not show up in a general sale, and therefore should be eliminated from the comparison.

Your critic said that in a name sale "one expects to find items of exceptional quality and/or rarity." Though this is primarily true, that does not assume that the material in general sales couldn't be of similar quality and rarity. There might just be less of it in quantity. To assume that material in a general sale is inferior in quality, and therefore should not be compared to the material in a named sale, is unfair.

One observation I have made over the years is that the named sale draws the attention of a bigger crowd of onlookers (myself included). These onlookers are interested in the named sale for two reasons that are not necessarily mutually exclusive. One group of them is genuinely interested in knowing about the material acquired by the Named Collector and seeing how well that material is/was received by the still-active collectors. The other part of that crowd comprises collectors who will try to acquire some of the named sale material to act as provenance. This may seem to have a portion of their ego attached to the transaction, but over the years I have seen many times (ex-So-and-so's collection) noted on exhibit pages. There is no question that the psyche of bidders in a named sale is different than that in a general sale. I sincerely feel that, in not a small way, helps to drive up the prices of material in a named sale. I feel that there are various reasons that cause this result, but I totally agree with your premise.

Readers are invited to comment on my comparison of these two auctions and conclusions I drew from their respective performances, and also on Ron's explanations. Contact me at reichorz@comcast.net.

Acknowledgments: The author is grateful to Ron Collin for providing a review of and suggestions for this article, bringing my attention to the "Stóri-Núpur" Type C2 crown cancel sold on eBay, and especially for letting me include his insights on why name sales outperform general sales. Also, to *The Posthorn* Editor, Seija-Riitta Laakso, who made several editorial changes that resulted in an improvement of my published article.

TABLE 1. Summary of Iceland Lots in Postiljonen's #212 General Auction of October 1, 2016

<u>Category</u>	<u># Lots Starting Bids (€)</u>		<u># Sold Starting Bids (€)</u>		<u>Realizations (€)</u>	<u>%R:SB</u>
prephilately	3	700	3	700	880	125.7
skilling issues	10	3,890	10	3,890	4,390	112.9
aurar issues	19	4,110	14	2,360	2,780	117.8
Prior surcharges	1	200	1	200	410	205.0

Í GILDI overprints	9	1,800	9	1,800	3,420	190.0
KCIX issue	4	350	3	250	330	132.0
two kings issue	7	1,700	4	900	1,820	202.2
silhouette issues	4	1,400	2	1,100	1,000	90.9
KCX issues	3	550	2	400	520	130.0
later issues	20	2,970	14	1,770	2,660	150.3
officials	10	1,470	8	1,220	1,310	107.4
postal stationery	2	200	0	---	---	---
collections	3	3,900	3	3,900	7,500	192.3
<u>mixed lots & accumulations</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>7,150</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7,050</u>	<u>12,650</u>	<u>179.4</u>
Totals	111	30,390	88	25,540	39,670	155.3

Note: %R:SB is the percentage ratio of the total realizations to cumulative starting bids before the buyer's premium and applicable V.A.T. are added to the final costs of the lots.

TABLE 2. Iceland Postal History Lots Versus Stamp Lots In Postiljonen's #212 General Auction

<u>Category</u>	<u># Lots</u>	<u>Starting Bids (€)</u>	<u># Sold</u>	<u>Starting Bids (€)</u>	<u>Realizations (€)</u>	<u>%R:SB</u>
postal history	37	9,480	27	7,480	9,490	126.9
<u>stamps, proofs, & essays</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>20,910</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>18,060</u>	<u>30,180</u>	<u>167.1</u>
Totals	111	30,390	88	25,540	39,670	155.3

Note: %R:SB is the percentage ratio of the total realizations to cumulative starting bids before the buyer's premium and applicable V.A.T. are added to the final costs of the lots.

**TABLE 3. Summary of Iceland Lots in Postiljonen's #213 "Name Sale" of October 1, 2016
Part 2 of the "Indriði Pálsson Large Gold Medal Collection of Classic Iceland"**

<u>Category</u>	<u># Lots</u>	<u>Starting Bids (€)</u>	<u># Sold</u>	<u>Starting Bids (€)</u>	<u>Realizations (€)</u>	<u>%R:SB</u>
prephilately	4	2,700	3	1,950	3,960	203.0
Danish period	1	150	1	150	180	120.0
skilling issues	32	73,640	31	73,540	124,790	169.7
aurar issues	69	30,980	67	30,430	80,980	266.1
Prior surcharges	13	4,700	12	3,700	6,570	177.6
Í GILDI overprints	25	19,280	25	19,280	28,370	147.1
Berne reprints	2	650	2	650	730	112.3
KCIX issues	14	2,950	12	2,500	5,600	224.0
later issues	11	1,830	10	1,730	2,080	120.2
officials	10	2,640	9	2,540	2,830	111.4
postal stationery	6	1,300	6	1,300	1,760	135.4
Crown cancels Type C1	69	15,000	68	14,800	45,190	305.3
Crown cancels Type C2	17	3,370	17	3,370	7,870	233.5
Crown cancels Type C3	2	800	2	800	10,200	1275.0
<u>collections & large lots</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14,500</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14,500</u>	<u>35,650</u>	<u>245.9</u>
Totals	283	174,490	273	171,240	356,760	208.3

Note: %R:SB is the percentage ratio of the total realizations to cumulative starting bids before the buyer's premium and applicable V.A.T. are added to the final costs of the lots.

TABLE 4. Iceland Postal History Lots Versus Stamp Lots in Postiljonen's #213 "Name Sale"
Part 2 of the "Indriði Pálsson Large Gold Medal Collection of Classic Iceland"

Category	# Lots	Starting Bids (€)	# Sold	Starting Bids (€)	Realizations (€)	%R:SB
postal history	81	106,810	75	104,330	228,830	219.3
stamps & proofs	202	68,310	198	66,910	127,930	191.2
Totals	283	174,490	273	171,240	€356,760	208.3

Note: %R:SB is the percentage ratio of the total realizations to cumulative starting bids before the buyer's premium and applicable V.A.T. are added to the final costs of the lots.



Lot 2269 of the Postiljonen #213 Pálsson Part 2 Auction #213 (at left) — a very fine strike of the rare "Stóri-Núpur" Type C2 crown cancel on a pair of 4-aurar KCIX definitives (Facit = SEK4000/~€419) — sold for €1300 (\$1460), 650% greater than its €200 starting bid. By contrast, another pair of 4-aurar KCIX definitives with an identical "Stóri-Núpur" crown cancel (at right), described as superb and arguably an even finer (stronger and more centered) strike, offered on the eBay auction site by a seller in Denmark on January 29, 2017 realized \$730 (~€682 on that date), exactly half the amount of the Pálsson pair!

Reaction to Issue 18 page 16 concerning the Icelandic Jule seals. *Henk Burgman*

More can be found in the DAKA Iceland catalogues (GF 20). Also in the Íslensk Jólamerki from 1996 but much more in the "AFA Julemærker Norden katalog" issued 2012 (about 50 pages) with a supplement (10 pages) issued early this year. From these catalogues I sold about 20 copies each here in the Netherlands.

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