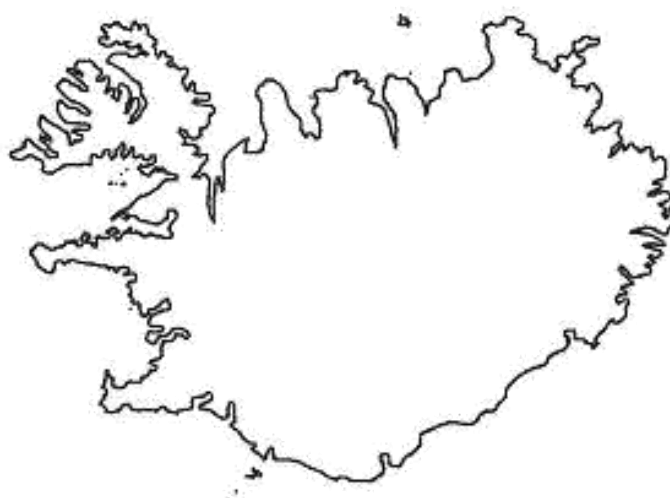
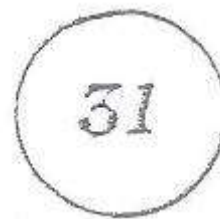


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



EDITOR

Brian Flack

E-mail address

flackbp@gmail.com

Co-editor Ole Svinth

Issue 22/October 2017

Iceland Philatelic Magazine

Contents	Page
News/comment	3
Úlfjótuvatn crown cancel <i>Ólafur Elíasson</i>	3
An interesting 1880 Iceland postcard with "Ship Letter"	4
“FRA ISLAND” a Type Test!	6
AV2 on Iceland cover (Issue 20. p.3) <i>Wilbur Jonsson</i>	6
A seldom visited place in Norway <i>Ole Svinth</i>	7
Postal Service 1938 (Issue 21 p.3) <i>Ólafur Elíasson</i>	10
Some food for thought (Issue 19) <i>Ron Collin & Ellis Glatt</i>	11
Suðureyri and Nic 118 <i>Brian Stwalley</i>	12
Essays or just fakes? <i>Steve Hewitt</i>	12
Was this cancel ever used here? (12)	13
Inflation 1979 – 83 Part IV 1982 Stamps single on cover <i>Ole Svinth</i>	14
The lack of crown cancels on service (official) stamps. <i>Ron Collin</i>	21
“FRA ISLAND” a Type Test!	21
A new Crown Cancel? <i>Johnny Pernerfors</i>	22
An Iceland view of AV2 markings. <i>Ólafur Elíasson</i>	23
Unusual destinations ~ F	24
Iceland Gazetteer Part 14 Skagafjarðarsýsla <i>David Loe</i>	25

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

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

flackbp@gmail.com

News/Comment



OK. The joke is on me. Ha Ha Ha. Thanks Ron Collin for translating B.O.T.N. as “Bullseye on the nose” and not the crown cancel of that name mysteriously disguised on the stamp. I put it down to age, stress and my obsession with crown cancels.

Úlfjótssvatn crown cancel Ólafur Elíasson

Below is a scan of the cover partly shown on page 12 of IPM/21. The scan is taken from a 35 year old auction catalogue (Northland Co., USA), in which the cover was priced at 1000 USD.

Also shown is a nice strike of the Úlfjótssvatn crown cancel on a pair of the 5aur stamp.
Regards, Ólafur



An interesting 1880 Iceland postcard with "Ship Letter"

Ellis Glatt brought attention to this interesting early postcard which drew many bids on Ebay, and which finally sold for \$212. Its attraction to postal historians is quite clear from the image, but for once I am not going to refer to that aspect. Because of its connections to Liverpool, which is my home town, I prefer to concentrate on the message on the reverse, or at least those parts I have been able to decipher.



The image of the reverse is produced below and I wish the purchaser good luck in deciphering the message. I can see a mention of the ship *Camoens* which has just arrived in Iceland from Leith, and is described as *an old boat of ours!* (Where have I seen that ship's name before?) The card is addressed to Henry A. Bright and the sender is B Holt.

Some background to the addressee follows:-

Henry Arthur Bright (9 February 1830 in Liverpool) – 5th May 1884) was an English merchant and author.

He became a partner with his father in the shipping firm of Gibbs, Bright, & Co., which conducted regular sailings to Australia. At one time they owned the famous SS Great Britain. Ashfield was the name of the mansion in Knotty Ash, at that time just east of the port of Liverpool. It was demolished in 2003.



~~Dear Henry~~
 Dear Henry. We have been on shore - seen
 Mr. Jacobsen given him Mr. Spear's note. He
 has been with us - & has had been
 after Ph he & his brother-in-law
 Mr. Jacobsen I think. They are very kind in
 giving help & information - & I think I
 shall go to Thingvalla with the rest on
 Saturday. Lovely weather & they say
 it is likely to last. We go on shore again
 to see the Camoens which has
 just arrived from Leith - an old boat
 of ours! The head dresses of the women
 are funny & picturesque very the white
 high caps & veils but there are not so
 many of them. We've been giving our
 all our newspapers which seems to
 please them - I've written to Harrie & asked her
 to send the letter to Mary & Sarah so I only tell you our
 latest news. we went on shore. Yr. sincere B. Holt June 27th
 1880

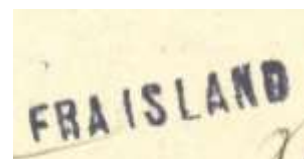
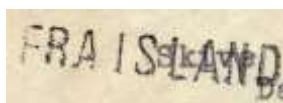
The card was written by B. Holt on June 27th 1880. Here is my best attempt at an interpretation of his scrawled writing. Perhaps others might improve on it.

Dear Henry, We have been on shore, seen Mr. Jacobsen, and given him Mr. Spear's note. He has been with us and here after "Ph" he and his brother-in-law Mr. Jacobsen I think. They are very kind in giving help and information - and I think I shall go to Thingvalla with them on Lovely weather and they say it is likely to last. We go on shore again to see the Camoens which has just arrived from Leith - an old boat of ours! The head dresses of the women are funny and picturesque but there are not many of them. We have been giving our all our newspapers, which seems to please them. I've written to Harrie and asked her to read the letter to Mary and Sarah, so I only tell you our latest we went on Yours sincerely B. Holt. June 27th 1880. (I have not attempted the "across" writing on the left).

1. Could the writer B. Holt have any connection with the shipping family, "Lamport & Holt", or that other major Liverpool shipping company "Alfred Holt"? A clue may be in the answer to the next question.
2. He refers to the Camoens as, "an old boat of ours". Which shipping company owned that ship?
3. The word beginning Ph in the 4th line might be the name of another ship, or a place?

“FRA ISLAND” a Type Test!

The post from Copenhagen “FRA ISLAND” (from Iceland) has been used for more than 100 years. There were two types in the early years. Would you please try to date FRA ISLAND cancellations according to year? I have managed to reproduce some copies without showing the date in the postmark. The correct dating is on page 21. All the postmarks have the same size. I do know, that it is an impossible job, but could you at least differentiate between what hitherto is called type I and type II? Could we agree that more than 2 different postmarks are shown although they all look alike?



XX

AV2 on Iceland cover (Issue 20. p.3) Wilbur Jonsson

I just got an answer to my queries from Ivar Sundsbø with more information, gleaned from his exhibit, about the AV2 mark on Icelandic mail which is discussed in the previous article.

"...the serified type on Iceland shown on the illustration (*Ed. IPM19.p6*) is definitely NOT Amsterdam as suggested. I show five examples of this type used from 1952- 58 and none of them have ever been in Amsterdam.

DDR - Iceland 1955 - sent via Moscow

Karachi - Oslo March 1955- routed via Moscow

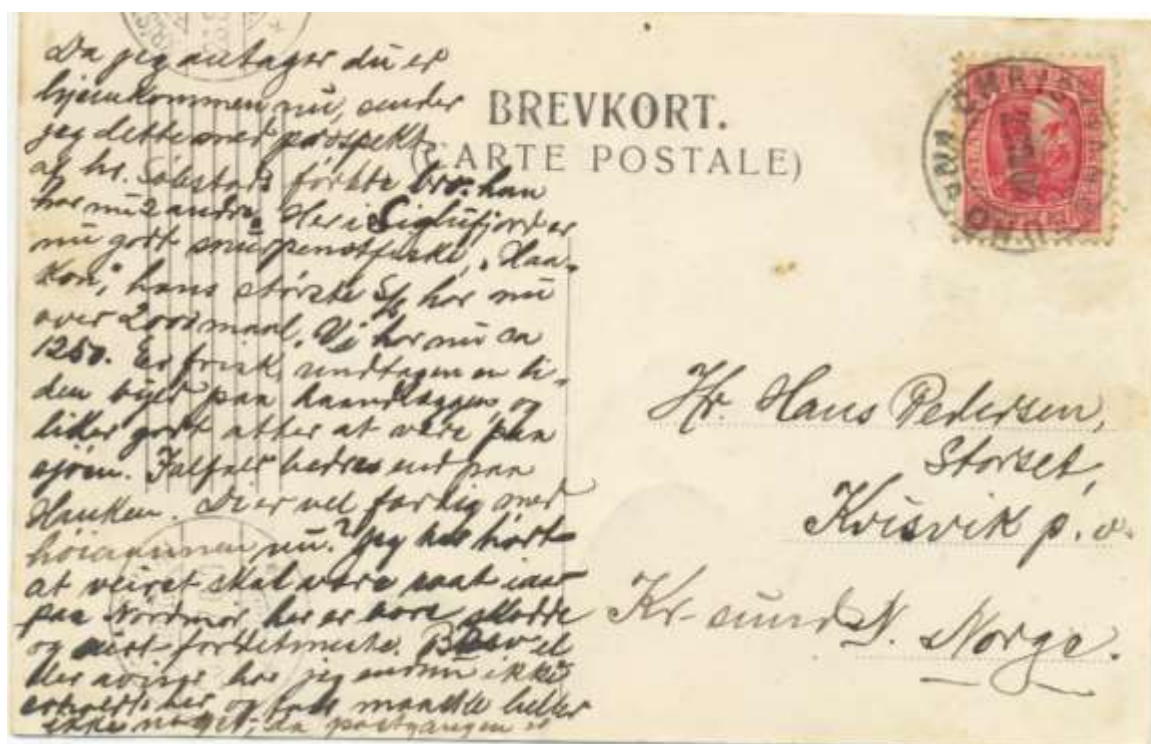
Burma - Sweden 1954 - routed via Moscow

Indonesia - Sweden 1955 - routed via Moscow

First flight Iceland - Moscow to imaginary Poste restante address in 1958 via Helsinki.

The only connecting factor here is Moscow. Stockholm has been suggested, but the first flight from Iceland 1958 rules that out. ..."

Most common place receiving Icelandic mail is Bergen. It has been the case all the way. Stavanger and Christianssand / Kristiansand is also rather common. A very few times mail went via Christianssund / Kristianssund / Kristiansund. I have only met this postmark twice. A postcard in 1907 and the shown letter from 1916.



Only known Postcard cancelled Christianssund N. 26 7 07 on arrival. Also machine roller of Kristianssund N same date. The roller shows new spelling Ch = K. Postcard rate was 10 aur. Rate to Norway were foreign rates until 1 6 1922, when Norway joined the "Nordic Postal Union".

Info from internet:

The city, formerly named Christianssund, is named after the [Danish-Norwegian](#) king [Christian VI](#) in 1742. The last element of the name, sund, means "[strait](#)". The old name of the town/village (originally the island [Kirkelandet](#)) was Fosna or Fosen ([Old Norse](#): fólgsn) which means "hiding place" (here 'hidden port'). It was also often named Lille Fosen ("the small Fosen") to distinguish it from the island [Storfosna](#) ("the big Fosen") in [Ørland](#).

Before 1877, the name was written Christianssund, from 1877-1888 it was spelled Kristianssund, and since 1889 it has had its present spelling, Kristiansund.

As you can see from the post card, the postmarks didn't change very rapidly!

Many scientists believe that the very first [Norwegian](#) lived near the city of Kristiansund. At the end of the [last Ice age](#) some areas at the western coast of Norway were ice-free. There was also a lot of food in the sea around Kristiansund at that time, and it is believed that the first settlement arrived in Kristiansund around year 8000 BC.

During the 17th century a small settlement developed around the area we know today as Kristiansund harbour. As more and more settlers arrived, the area became an important trading port for fishing and the lumber transportation along the coast. The Dano-Norwegian government established a customs station here, which was controlled by the main trading port in [Trondheim](#).



Only known cover cancelled Kristiansund 2 1 16 on arrival from Akureyri.
Framed Paquebot is unknown in Hosking. On back
København? 1 16 and senders wax seal.
Postage was 10 aur 0-20 gr.

Kristiansund is known as the major bacalao city of Norway. [Bacalao](#) is made of [salted, dried codfish](#), and has traditionally been exported in large amounts to [Spain](#), [Portugal](#) and [Latin America](#) as food suitable during [Lent](#).



Christianssund around 1845



An unusual type of town. From this overview, you see the islands making up Kristiansund. Do you know of other letters/cards bearing this postmark?

If you only find part of the postmark you will see Christianssand with an "S" in postmark, either below or after name of town. Kristiansund has an "N".



XX

Postal Service 1938 (Issue 21. p.3) Ólafur Elíasson

"The nice postal service" does NOT give stamps free to the common customer. The Prentspjald illustrated is a very good example on the use of a rule in the postal regulations: "If the postage has not been paid, partly or in full, try to contact the sender and get him to pay the missing amount". (freely translated). That is exactly what has happened to the prentspjald. The sender's name is in the text, he gets the Prentspjald returned for additional postage. He adds a 5aur stamp and mails it again the following day without any penalty fine being imposed and everybody is happy.

Here are scans of two covers showing the handling of underpaid mail according to this rule. Notice the black cancel/cachet on the cover with the machine cancellation: "Postage insufficient, missing kr." and with ink: 1.00.



I might possibly have some more comments later.

Regards
Ólafur

Some food for thought (Issue 19) Ron Collin & Ellis Glatt



First from Ellis Glatt:-

There is absolutely no doubt that the cards (three of them have turned up so far—with 5-aur, 10-aur, and 16-aur stamps) never went through the mail. All cards are addressed similarly and in the same handwriting. Each lacks the usual arrival cancel seen on nearly all mail to Germany during the 1900-1903 period. Perhaps one of three cards might have slipped through without an arrival cancel, but certainly not all three!

Also, the fact that all three cards showed up in Germany is another red flag. Germany has always been the home of some talented philatelic forgers. Then we have those perfect Flateyri strikes, on the 16-aur card especially. Those fine details in the crown could not have come from a canceling device that had already been in postal use. So, if they are not outright forgeries, the only other plausible explanation that I can think of is that they would have had to have been the initial proof strikes with the canceling device, applied to picture post cards for some reason, and then addressed some time later—extremely unlikely.

It also should be noted that the 16-aur example was last offered by Postiljonen (lot 325) in its March 2017 sale. It was not accompanied by a certificate, which speaks volumes, since CAM surely inspected. The item, of course, went unsold and was subsequently put up on eBay.

In any event, the eBay seller of the 16-aur card in Iceland, who I contacted over the weekend, apparently agrees with me and removed his listing. The other two cards are still up for sale (both on philasearch's site and each offered by a different German dealer).

Later from Ellis,

About those all-too-perfect Flateyri post cards on eBay and that German auction. I had a chance to examine the scans carefully, especially the one currently on eBay with 16-aur stamp. I think they are fakes and not ctos. I compared the cancels with illustrations of the cancel that appear in various specialized literature.

For one thing, the space between the crown and the posthorn in these two examples seems much too large, at least in comparison to those literature illustrations. I am not sure how consistent that spacing is among other double-circle crown cancels, but that gap is much smaller on the Flateyri cancel. The shape of crown also looks off in comparison.

Of course, neither of the offered cards exhibits the usual arrival cancel found on most other mailings to Germany during the 1900 to 1903 period. So, unless someone can come up with a bona fide example of the Flateyri cancel for comparison, I don't think any competent authority would issue a certificate of authenticity for these two items.

Finally from Ron Collin:-

That is a pretty interesting comment. I never gave any thought to the possibility of the cancels being fake. I went on the assumption of them being simply applied as favor cancels, or CTOs. I also have doubts as to "when" they may have been applied to the postcards.-

*I'm going to try to have clear acetates made of some legitimate FLATEYRI cancels, so that they may be used to overlay the cancels on the two questionable postcards. I'm not sure how successful this might be (since I'm not working with the originals), but it is worth a try.
Stay tuned.*

(Ed. The 16aur is featured in the October sale of a top German auction house at 900 euros)

XX

Suðureyri and Nic 118 *Brian Stwalley*

I had a question I was hoping to get some clarification on regarding the use of NIC cancel 118. There seems to be some inconsistency around the end of the Suðureyri period. The latest Facit update moved the end from 1923 to 1921 which aligns with older references. Brynjólfur's book maintains the 1923 endpoint. Many of the Chr IX/two kings provisional issues tend to fall in this timeframe somewhere, and there's quite a difference in the values between it and the period that follows at Arnarstapi!

Also noted is a recent write up from Issue 179 of the Swedish Islandssamlarna Rapport, describing, from what I can gather, is a new crown cancel discovery. I can muck through it but it would be great to get an official translation included in IPM.* (Ed. done ! see page 22)

(Ed.) In reply to Brian, I have looked back on all my notes and correspondence concerning numerals and I can find no discussion of the Nic 118 used at Suðureyri.

I do not think the office details are in dispute. It was upgraded to post office from 1.1.1922. The arrival of a bridge cancel is recorded as 8.4.1922, so there must have been scope for the numeral to be used there; indeed it was their only cancel until the arrival of the bridge cancel.

I am posing the following questions for experts to respond to:

1. Earlier references say the numeral was used until 1923. The Swedish handbook has a precise end date of 20.6.1923 for 118. What is the evidence behind this unusually exact date?
2. The revised Facit 2016 suddenly moves the date back to 1921. Why?

XX

Essays or just fakes? *Steve Hewitt*



(Ed.) Anyone know please? I am showing four of the 9 values sent by Steve. The others are denominated, 4, 8, 24, 32 and 48sk.

Was this cancel ever used here? (12)



B2a Saurbær Barð Vestur Barðastrandarsýsla

Recorded use 1.7.1930 – ?
Kirkjuhvammur ? - ?



Whilst writing this article, I was astonished to find conflicting information regarding the dates of opening of both of these collecting offices. In both *Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar á Íslandi* 1991, and *Íslenzkir Stimplar* of 2003, Saurbær Barð (3) is shown as open until 8.3.1974, with Kirkjuhvammur opening from the following day and with the date of closure unknown. But in *Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar á Íslandi* 1870-2011, Þór changes the closing date of Saurbær (3) to “the beginning of 1952”, over 20 years earlier, with Kirkjuhvammur shown as open from 1952 to 1974. Can anyone explain this please? Both of my examples of Saurbær Barð are on philatelic covers.

The cover illustrated is dated in 1967, the other in 1969. Until now, I thought they were used at Saurbær Barð, and was going to ask readers to find an example from Kirkjuhvammur. Google says that farming at Kirkjuhvammur ended in 1947, and the farm building had fallen down by 1960. The church ceased to operate in 1957 and is now a museum. Over to our readers for a definitive answer, or at least an opinion please



B3e Skarðshlíð Rangárvallasýsla

Recorded use 1955 – 30.3.1980
Skógar 1.4.1980 – 17.8.1980



Skógar did not receive its B7b cancel until 18.8.1980, which allows over 4 months for the continued use of the B3e Skarðshlíð.

I have yet to find one, but I am sure one of our readers will.



B3e Skarðshlíð dated 28.VI.1972

Inflation 1979 – 83 Part IV 1982 Stamps single on cover Ole Svinth



The 20 aur of course is not possible as single. The 600 aur was from June 1st the rate for 20-100gr. letter inland and Scandinavia, and airmail letter 0-20 gr. outside Europe.

Day of issue March 23rd.



Letter to South Africa cancelled Reykjavík 21 6 1982.
Airmail rate 0-20 gr. 600 aur.

Postage period June 1st 1982 - August 31st 1982



The two CEPT stamps this year had values of an odd character. The 350 aur, however, could be used from June 1st as rate to Europe 0-20gr.

450 aur rate was not introduced until December 1st as rate to Europe was 0-20 gr.

Day of issue May 3rd.



Letter to Germany cancelled Akureyri 23 6 1982.
Surface rate to all countries outside Scandinavia 0-20 gr. was 350 aur.

Postage period June 1st 1982 - August 31st 1982



Letter to Bulgaria cancelled Reykjavík 25 1 1983. Postage 0-20 gr. was 450 aur by airmail.

Postage period December 1st 1982 –February 28th 1983



300 was the letter rate 0-20 gr. for inland/Scandinavia on day of issue. 400 and 500 had to wait. From September 400 was the 1st letter rate to Europe 0-20 gr.

500 as letter rate came on March 1st 1983, almost a year later. Rate was for 0-20 gr. letter to Europe.

Day of issue June 3rd.



Local letter 0-20 gr. cancelled Reykjavík 23 7 82.

Postage period June 1st 1982 - August 31st 1982



Airletter to GB cancelled Reykjavík
 14 9 82. Rate to Europe 0-20 gr. was 400.

*Postage period September 1st 1982 -
 November 30st 1982*



Letter to Czech Republic cancelled Reykjavík
 22 3 83.

Letter rate for 0-20 gr. was 500.

Postage period March 1st 1983 - May 31st 1983.



Day of issue June 3rd.

From day one, the value of this stamp
 covered a registered letter to Europe 0-20
 gr. Letter 350 + registration 650 = 1000.

*Postage period June 1st 1982 - August 31st
 1982*



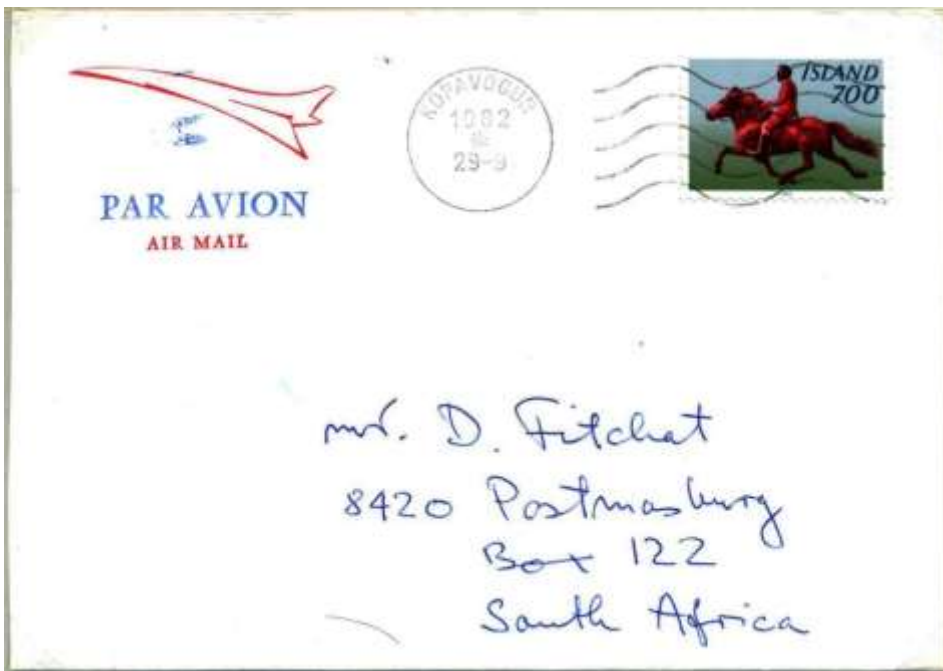
Registered cover to Germany cancelled Seyðisfjörður 18 8 82.



It wasn't until September 1st we find the 700 single.

1500 could be used from day of issue on a registered cover.

Day of issue July 1st.



Airmail cover to South Africa cancelled Kópavogur 29 9 82.

Postage was 700 0-20 gr.

Postage period September 1st 1982 – November 30th 1982



Letter to Belgium cancelled Akureyri

16 8 82.

Letter 20-100 gr. was 850 and 650 was registration.

Postage period June 1st 1982 – August 31st 1982



Both values were too high for immediate use.

Within half a year both values get useful for our purpose.

Just look below.

Day of issue September 8th.



Cover to USA cancelled Reykjavík 19 12 82. Letter rate was 800 0-20 gr.

Morton Nash
POB 305
Hyde Park VT 05655
USA

Postage period December 1st
1982 – February 28th 1983



Cover to Australia cancelled Hafnarfjörður 3 3 83.

Air rate 0-20gr. was now increased to 900.

Postage period March 1st 1983
- May 30th 1983



Day of Issue October 7th.

On day of issue increased rates must have been expected. Why precisely these two values were chosen is hard to say. From the start, only the 400 was useful as 0-20 gr. rate to Europe. However, a few months later 800 was the rate 0-20 gr. outside Europe and everyone was happy.



Letter to England cancelled Seltjarnarnes 8 10 82. Letter rate was 400 0-20 gr.

Postage period September 1st 1982 - November 30th 1982



Letter to USA cancelled Reykjavík 25 1 83.

Postage period December 1st 1982 – February 28th 1983



When these stamps were ordered at the printers, I am sure these two X-mas stamps were expected to cover the rate for inland X-mas card and inland letter. The inflation had its effect, and suddenly only the 350 could be used for X-mas.

350 being the postcard/printed matter rate from December 1st.

Day of issue November 16th.



300 used on inland printed matter 0-20 gr. cancelled Reykjavík 25 11 82.

Could only be used single for two weeks.

Postage period September 1st 1982 – November 30th 1982



Printed matter to Denmark cancelled Reykjavík 21 12 82.

PM rate 0-20 gr. was 350.

Postage period December 1st 1982- February 28th 1983

Final chapter 1983 in next issue

The lack of crown cancels on service (official) stamps. *Ron Collin*

I have been studying my Crown and Posthorn cancels, covers, and my accumulation of scanned C&P images that I have come across from various sources over the years. What I have noticed is that there seem to be conspicuously missing Officials, or Service Stamps with C&P cancels for most towns. But a few of my towns, have maybe two or three Service stamps with C&P cancels, so they must have had a nominal amount of "official correspondence" emanating from their town/farm/church.

I certainly realize that no logical conclusions can be drawn from just my paltry collection, but I am wondering why there seems to be a poverty of used Service stamps bearing C&P cancels.

1. Was there not much correspondence (reports) from each C&P town/farm/church that had to be mailed to the main post office periodically, thereby requiring Service stamps?
2. Were the majority of the reports and the cover envelopes, filed away in the P.O. storage catacombs, and are never meant to see the light of day. This possibility of course, meaning that the ones we already have may have escaped that fate.

I would be interested in readers' thoughts on this. Perhaps an "informal" inventory of Service stamps with the C&P town name might help us see any patterns developing. (Ed. Have made a note to do this)

Ron

[illegible]

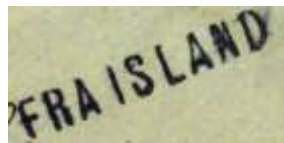
“FRA ISLAND” a Type Test!

Answers from page 6.

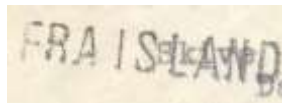
The difference between the two types is the low stroke in “A”. It is placed closer to bottom in type I. Type II is known from 1920 and onwards.



1915



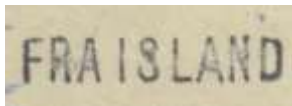
1914



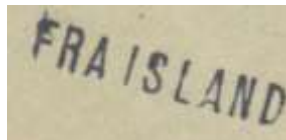
1934



1934



1926



1913



1936



1914

A new Crown Cancel? *Johnny Pernerfors*

(Ed. What follows is a translation from the Swedish of an article in the latest Rapport Issue 179, and reproduced here with the permission of the author Johnny Pernerfors).

In January, I received an email from Ólafur Elíasson who had discovered that the FACIT catalogue and also the Islandssamlarna handbook on crown cancels lacked information about a new crown stamp which in 1999 was found at the Postal Museum's premises in Hafnarfjörður. In that same year, in the first edition of the Frímerkjablaðið magazine, on p.6, there was an article by Þór Þorsteins about a newly discovered crown cancel; later in Rapport Issue 115, Ólafur and Per-Olov Abrahamson translated Þór's article.

(Ed. I have not reproduced the article from Frímerkjablaðið, which some readers will be familiar with, which concerns the "Saurbær in Eyjafjörður" crown and posthorn cancel, as this is not the main theme of Johnny's article).

Johnny continues... I have to admit that I did not even notice the discovery that was mentioned in the Frímerkjablaðið in 1999, and did not search through my little collection of crown cancels. But I have done that now, and on the first page of my collection, where I set up those of my crown cancels which I could not identify due to the difficulty of reading the text, I found not "Saurbær in Eyjafjörður", but instead, a 10aur official stamp with a violet crown stamp, and the text beneath the crown can be clearly read as "**Suður og Vest**", see picture below.

It is evident that the crown stamp was used on stamps, and there are also traces of red sealing wax, with remnants of a seal from the old worn stamp. Using hot wax for seals must be hard on a rubber stamp!

(Ed. I have rotated the second image below to give a better view of the text).



So now, do not hesitate to examine all your crown stamps that you have failed to identify; and who knows, maybe already in the next Rapport issue, someone will have found either the missing crown cancel, or like me, a Sýsla crown cancel.



Undoubtedly, "Saurbær in Eyjafjörður" will be mentioned in the "Kronstämplrar" section in the forthcoming edition of the FACIT catalog, and with the note unknown "OK", as well as being included in the Islandssamlarna handbook of crown cancels type C.

(Editor: Does that mean we might expect an update of the handbook? 😊. That would be a work a few of our readers would be willing to contribute to?)

An Iceland view of AV2 markings. Ólafur Elíasson

The subject of auxiliary air mail markings is quite interesting. As Wilbur Jonsson mentions in his article in IPM/21, such covers to and from Iceland are not common at all, except covers to Portugal showing the Prestwick O.A.T. cachet during WWII. I am showing two Iceland related covers.



The first is an air mail cover cancelled Reykjavík 19.XI.36 and addressed to Germany. The postage is correct; made up of 35 aur surface rate and 25aur/20g airmail surcharge. There are no backstamps, but the airmail label is cancelled with a large violet "X" applied in Leipzig. Can anyone explain the route this letter has taken?



The other cover is a recent one from Taiwan to Iceland showing two strikes of an AV2 cachet. This cachet is not recorded by Heifetz. Does anyone know this cachet, where was it applied and what does the "S" in the cachet mean?

That is all for the moment.

Best Regards, Ólafur

Unusual destinations ~ F

Falkland Islands

This is from the prolific writer, William F. Pálsson. His mailings are so well-known that single handedly he has turned the type B2a Einarstaðir bridge cancel into a common one. Perhaps he and Maud Duffin of Burns Cottage, Port Stanley, Falkland Islands had a shared philatelic interest. I would be interested to know what route it took to get from one end of the Atlantic to the other. I have not managed to find any record of Maud Duffin nor of her house “Burns Cottage”, named no doubt after the famous Scottish poet Robert Burns.



Cancelled Einarstaðir type B2a dated 11.11.34. A faint Port Stanley (date indecipherable) receiving cancel on reverse. 35aur surface up to 20gm, valid 1.10.25 to 31.12.39.

French Equatorial Africa

This eventually consisted of French Chad, Oubangui-Chari, French Congo, French Gabon and French Cameroon, until it became Gabon in 1960.



Reykjavík B1d dated 18.1.55.

385aur airmail rate valid from 1.10.53 to 30.6.58.

Addressed to Dr. Albert Schweitzer the famous French-German, physician, philosopher and theologian, who founded the Lambarene Hospital in Gabon and died there in 1965.

SKAGAFJARÐARSÝSLA

The county is quite a large one, with the scenery varying between high mountains (over 4500 ft.) and fertile valley pastures. The population of some 2800 is almost entirely resident in the villages of Haganesvík and Hofsó and the town of Sauðárkrókur, with only 200 people living on the surrounding farms.



14.1 SKEFILSSTAÐAHREPPUR

This remote northern parish completes the second half of Skagaheiði mentioned in the last chapter. The first collecting office was opened at [Keta](#), the parish rectory in 1.10.1935 and used numeral cancel number 278 and bridge type B1a. The office was moved to [Hraun \(4\)](#) on the northern tip of Skagaheiði on 1.1.1942 where the bridge was again used. However, on 1.1.1958 the office returned to Keta and used the same B1a till eventual closure 31.12.1963.

A second office operated earlier at [Hvammur](#) from 1.4.1892. The collecting office used a rare single ring crown cancel until 1903 when number 86 was issued. 1.6.1919 the office was moved to [Sævarland](#) and in addition to number 86 used a Swiss type B1a. 1.10.1934 the office was returned to Hvammur only to be closed exactly a year later and moved, this time to [Skíðastaðir](#). The old B1a Sævarland cancel was used before it got its own type B5a. All three farms are in Laxárdalur.

14.2 SKARÐSHREPPUR

There are only two offices in this small parish on the coast of Skagafjörður, the first open between 1.1.1929 and 31.12.1933 at [Reykir \(4\)](#) using number 223. The farm was at the end of the coastal track but is now uninhabited. The office was moved to [Daðastaðir](#), which continued to use number 223 before replacing it with a Swiss cancel type B5a. The office was finally closed 30.6.1957. (See map above).



14.2 SKARÐSHREPPUR

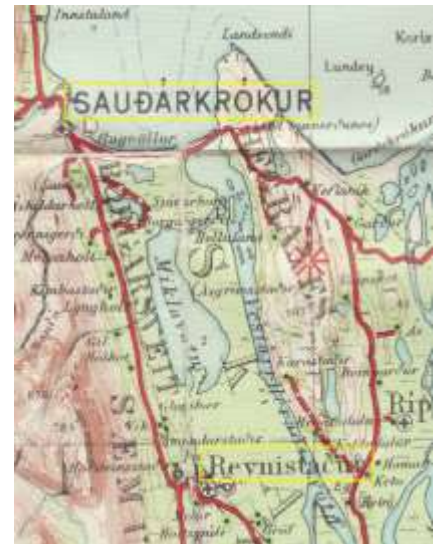
There are only two offices in this small parish on the coast of Skagafjörður, the first open between 1.1.1929 and 31.12.1933 at [Reykir](#) (4) using number 223. The farm was at the end of the coastal track but is now uninhabited. The office was moved to [Daðastaðir](#), which continued to use number 223 before replacing it with a Swiss cancel type B5a. The office was finally closed 30.6.1957. (See map above).

14.3 STAÐARHREPPUR

The town of [Sauðárkrókur](#) has grown from a population of under 500 at the beginning of the century to a present bustling 2620 and has all the modern facilities including an airfield. It used to be visited by the Akureyri based mail boat 'Drangur'. It was incorporated as a town or kaupstaður in 1947.

A collecting office was opened here 1.1.1878, and was made up to a provincial post office 1.10.1890. It received a provincial type postmark (day and month only) which was used to about 1910, though occasionally later. My latest example is on a 1922 stamp. Swiss type B2a superseded the provincial cancel, to be followed by types B8b, B8e, B8b1 (2 types) and three machine cancellers.

The parish church is situated at [Reynistaður](#) where, on 1.1.1899, a collecting office was opened at the rectory. The office has used a 3 ring crown cancel, number 83 and Swiss cancel types B2a and B8b. The office closed 31.7.1974. Reynistaður is some 10 km. south of Sauðárkrókur.



14.4 SEYLUHREPPUR



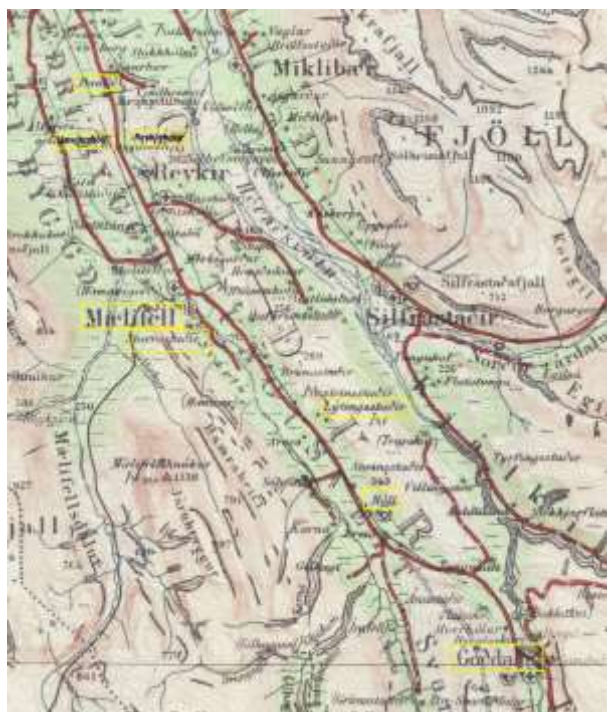
Moving further south we come to a fertile area containing many farms, some of them featuring in the old sagas. At Glaumbær there is a very interesting turf farmhouse containing a small museum and at [Viðimýri](#) there is an old turf church dating from 1828. The collecting office here was opened 1.1.1873. It was upgraded to Post Office and used the provincial cancel of Miklibær. It was closed 31.12.1875 and moved to nearby [Krossanes](#) but returned 1.1.1879 but closed again 31.12.1880 and moved to [Vallholt](#) (sometimes referred to as Syðra- Vallholt). The office was reopened as a collecting office 27.3.1884 and upgraded to post office 1.7.1885. In 1897 the cancel was changed to SKAGAFJARÐARSÝSLA. The most likely reason for the change seems to be that with the office moving so frequently, and not always being located at Miklibær, a more general cancel was better. Another important change was that the cancel had the year, as well as the day and month inscribed within the postmark, making it unique among the provincial cancellations. The cancel was used till 31.12.1931 when the office was closed.

On the road between Glaumbær and Varmahlíð to the south is the farm of [Stóra-Seyla](#) (sometimes referred to as Seyla), where on 1.1.1932 a collecting office was opened using number 262, replacing Viðimýri. On 31.8.1941

the office was moved to [Varmahlíð \(1\)](#) - a stopping place on the main north coast road having a hotel and restaurant. Number 262 was used here, followed by Swiss type B2c2. On 1.1.1967 the office was made up to post-office and used cancel types B8b and 2 types of B8b1. The office was moved to a postal agency at Kaupfélag Skagfirðinga on 1.3.2001 and closed 30.11.2008.

Finally, close to Glaumbær is [Halldórsstaðir \(3\)](#), opened as a collecting office between 1.1.1972 and 31.12.1972 but no cancels are known from here.

14.5 LÝTINGSSTAÐAHREPPUR



The parish is at the southern end of Skagafjörður. The first office was opened at the farm of [Lýtingsstaðir](#) 12.4.1890, though it was closed 30.4.1892 (no cancels used) and moved to [Mælifell](#). Here the rectory used a rare single ring crown cancel until 1903, when number 82 was issued. In 1921 this first, slanting, cancel was lost and so used number 210 temporarily until 1924 when a replacement 82 was made, this time with upright figures. The office was closed 31.12.1929 and moved to [Starrastaðir](#), a farm next door to the rectory. The office closed 31.12.1979 in that time used N2-82, possibly but unlikely the B1a Mælifell never used at Mælifell, B2a and B8e. The other office in this area is [Hóll \(3\)](#) where on 1.8.1949 a collecting office was opened just south of Lýtingsstaðir. The farm used Swiss cancel type B3e from 1952 (none known before 1952), and closed 31.12.1983.

1.1.1957 a collecting office was opened a short distance north of Mælifell at [Reykjaborg](#) and until 31.12.1971 used Swiss type B8e. In 1972 the office was moved to [Laugarholt](#) across the main road from Reykjaborg and used the old REYKJABORG cancel and then type B8b. It closed 31.12.1984.

At the end of Skagafjörður on the threshold of the uninhabited interior is the rectory of [Goðdalir](#) where 1.5.1892 a collecting office was opened and used a single ring crown cancel. This was superseded by number 76 in 1903 and by Swiss cancels B1a and B8b. It closed 31.1.2007.

North of Reykir is the farm of [Daufá](#) open between 1.1.1932 and 31.12.1957 as a collecting office using number 266.

14.6 AKRAHREPPUR

The rectory at [Miklibær](#) was one of the original (1873) Icelandic post offices, on the eastern side of the Skagafjörður valley. The office was actually open only between 1.1.1873 and 31.12.1874 and then 1.7.1883 to 30.6.1885 (see Viðimýri, Vallholt 14.4 above) when the provincial cancel was used. However, a collecting

office was in operation in the intervening years (apart from 1.7.1885 to 1.1.1890) and remained open until 30.9.1954 when it was moved to [Stóru-Akrar](#) (sometime Akrar), some 5 kilometres north. Miklibær used a provincial post office cancel, a single ring crown cancel (for the period it was a collecting office), then number 81 and finally Swiss type B1a. The collecting office at Stóru-Akrar used number 74 (1954-55), number 81 in 1954, the B1a Miklibær cancel and B8e before closing 31.12.1980.

About 10 kms. north of Stóru-Akrar is the farm of [Frostastaðir](#) where a collecting office was opened 1.1.1899. Using a triple ring crown cancel and number 74, the office stayed open until 30.6.1931 when it was moved to [Réttarholt](#), nearer to Stóru-Akrar. Number 74 and B2a (FROSTASTAÐUR) were used here until 30.9.1954 when the office was closed and amalgamated with Miklibær at Stóru-Akrar.

[Silfrastaðir](#) is a rectory on the road to Akureyri and on 1.1.1905 a collecting office was opened here using number 176. Later it used a Swiss cancel, type B2a and closed 31.1.1991.

Finally, though without a cancel, [Hjaltastaðir](#), a farm just south of Frostastaðir, was a collecting office from 1.1.1873 to 31.12.1873 on the original Northern Post route.



14.7 RÍPURHREPPUR



Opened 30.1.1894 the collecting office at [Garður](#) (1) remained open to 31.5.1908 (moved to Ás (4)) and then from 1.7.1932 (moved from Ás (4)) to 31.12.1944. In the intervening period the office was located at [Ás](#) (4) which used number 75 and then Swiss type B1a. A crown cancel is not known inscribed GARDUR, but from 1903 number 75 was used and then B1a inscribed ÁS SKAG. The parish is on an island in the estuary of the Héradsvötn River and is known as Hegranes.

14.8 VIÐVÍKURHREPPUR

On the east coast of Skagafjörður is the parish of Viðvíkurhreppur. The first collecting office was opened at the parish rectory, [VIÐVÍK](#) in 1873 for just a year, and then 1.1.1907 to 30.6.1922 using number 183.

On 12.4.1890 a second collecting office was opened at [Lón](#) (2) on the coast, and used a single ring crown cancel until 1903, then number 80 and B1a (no examples known) until 31.5.1940 when the office was moved to [Vatnsleysa](#) (2) a few kms south. Using the Lón B1a (no examples known) this office stayed open until 31.12.1951 when it changed again, this time to [Kýrholt](#), to be finally closed 31.12.1964. Kýrholt is midway between Lón and Viðvík, but



no cancel is known with that name, nor is there any evidence of the B1a Lón being used there.

Ósland is just north of Kolkuós and was where a collecting was open 1.1.1920 to 31.5.1923 using number 184. The office was moved to **Kolkuós**, a small coastal hamlet some 12 kms north-west of Viðvík which was open between 1.1.1907 and 31.12.1919 and then again from 30.12.1921 to 31.12.1941. Number 184 was the normal cancel from 1907 but 183 was used 1922 to 1930. Later Swiss type B1a was used. The office was moved to **Melstaður (2)** open 1.1.1942 to 30.6.1942 and using number 183.

14.9 HÓLAHREPPUR

Hólar (2) has got a long and chequered history. The bishopric for northern Iceland was founded here in 1106. One of the early bishops, Guðmundr Arason (bishop 1203 - 1237) was a constant aggressor and at the battle of Hólar in 1208 seven hundred men marched on the bishopric. Arason survived, but due to his constant warrings Norway intervened in Iceland's internal affairs especially from 1238 when the positions of the two bishoprics in Iceland became vacant.



The present church was founded in 1763 but in 1801 the bishopric and school which had been established at Hólar were removed to Reykjavík. Hólar is also famed for its old printing press, established by Jan Arason in 1530, from which the first Icelandic Bible was published in 1584.

Today there is a state run agricultural school, and Hólar was featured on a stamp issued in March 1982 to commemorate the school's centenary.

The collecting office at Hólar was opened 1.5.1892 and used a single ring crown cancel, in fact one of the rarest examples found. Number 79 was

introduced in 1903, 210 (1920-21) and this was followed by Swiss type B2a inscribed 'HÓLAR SKAG'. This was superseded by type B8e inscribed 'HÓLAR' there being no other Hólar offices by this time. It was closed 24.10.1979.

14.10 HOFSHREPPUR



Undhóll was open between 1.7.1942 to 30.6.1959 as a collecting office and used number 183 and Swiss B2b. The abandoned farm is situated a short distance east of Melstaður and Kolkuós.

14.11 HOFÓSREPPUR

Travelling north up the eastern shore of Skagafjörður the next place we come to of any size is **Hofsós**. It is a small fishing village that had a population of some 70 at



the turn of the century which has grown to the present 190 odd. It used to be visited by the Akureyri based mail boat M/v 'Drangur'.

The office was opened in 1873 as a collecting office on the Höfðaströnd Post. It was closed 30.6.1877 before any cancels were issued. It was moved to [Grafarós](#) and returned again 1.1.1880. Its first cancel was a single ring crown handstamp, to be followed in 1903 by number 78. It was changed to a post office 1.6.1916 and so used a Swiss cancel type B2c1 and later type B8e, B8b1 (2 types). The office changed to a postal agency 1.3.2001 at Kaupfélag Skagfirðinga but closed for good 2.5.2011.

Grafarós had no cancels but was open 1.7.1877 to 31.12.1879 as a collecting office.

14.12 FELLSHREPPUR



On the north east coast of Skagafjörður, Fellshreppur has contained only two collecting offices. The first was opened at the parish rectory at [Fell \(2\)](#) 1.1.1911 and apart from 1.1.1932 to 31.12.1943 remained open until 31.12.1965. Before being moved the office used number 84 and then the Swiss cancel type B1a was used in the second term. [Lónkot](#) used number 84 from 1932 and the B1a FELL which was superseded by B1a LÓNKOT before closing on 31.12.1943. Lónkot is a farm in between the main road and the coast opposite Málmey Island.

14.13 HAGANESHREPPUR

The first office in the parish was opened at [Hraun](#) 1.5.1892, and was open till 31.12.1898. This isolated farm is on the road to Siglufjörður and used a single ring crown cancel.

Haganes or [Haganesvík](#) is the most northerly village in the county, and there is a sizeable port that was served by the mail-boat 'Drangur'. There is a population of some 150 centred on the fishing port. Opened 1.1.1891 the collecting office first used a single ring crown cancel (inscribed 'HAGANES') and then number 77. 1.1.1929 the office was made up to post office status and used Swiss cancels type B2c1 inscribed HAGANESVÍK and B8e inscribed HAGANESVÍK. The office was known as Haganes from 1891 to 1900. On 26.10.1978 the office was renamed [Fljót](#) (sometimes referred to as Ketilás) and used B7b till closure 29.11.1996.



14.14 HOLTSHREPPUR

Further south on the road to Ólafsfjörður there was once a community centred on Knappsstaðir Church. A collecting office was opened at Tunga 11.9.1924, closed 31.12.1946 and moved to Melbreið where it stayed open until 1957. Number 122 was used at Tunga, superseded by Swiss type B1a. Melbreið used the Tunga Swiss type B1a followed by B2c2 MELBREIÐ examples of which are unknown. Both farms are now abandoned.