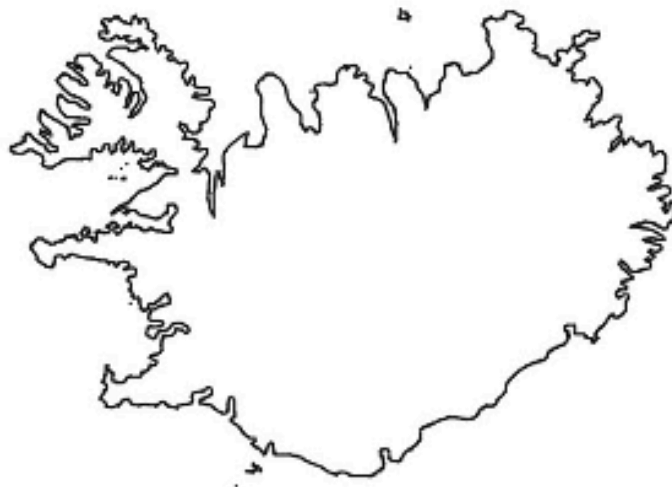
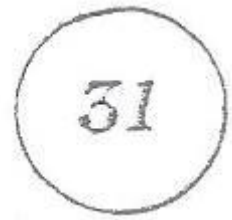


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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H. Th. A. Thomsen card (Issue 52).

Hálfdan Helgason chastised me 😊 for quoting from the ancient Scherer catalogue in my description of the H.Th. A. Thomsen card (Issue 52). I should have referred to Hálfdan's latest catalogue, which was awarded 87 points at London 2022, only 3 points off a gold medal. Postal stationery is not my forte; the sum of my knowledge can be written on the back of a 2022 Iceland postage stamp (if only there were any).

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Two Skilling variety *Ron Collin*



A very good friend of mine sent me a scan of a 2 skilling stamp that he noticed in an auction recently, which didn't sell. I have included a copy of that scan. His questions to me were, is this cancel legitimate; and what about that white mark in the right side of the ring in the design?

There are pictured in Facit, a few cancels that could be the one on this auction item, but not enough of it appears on the stamp to be correctly identified.

As for the white streak on the right side of the stamp design, I am not aware of it being a noted variety. I have gone through my meagre assemblage of literature in my personal stamp library, and can find no mention of this

example being noted.

Can you provide some reference material for this white streak example, or venture an educated guess as to what caused it?

I almost forgot, my friend also inquired about the rough perfs on the bottom horizontal row. I don't think it can be attributed to soft paper, because other perf sides would be equally "rough". I don't think it should be attributed to worn perf pins, because the top horizontal row should appear rough also. Is it merely attributable to a quick and "less than careful" removal from the sheet at the clerk's window?

I would appreciate hearing the thoughts of our readers on this item.



I do have one handbook that deals with the Skilling and Aurar in Oval stamps. I have provided a few scans to give you an idea of its contents. (Ed, I regret it is not possible to reproduce them satisfactorily).

Kurt did a pretty good job of laying out his information. I have provided a scan of his only information on the 2 skilling, plus a scan of the 4 skilling official and 20 aurar blue, just to show that he does provide examples of flaws and provides sheet positions when known. The handbook does cover all skilling and aurar stamps.

The handbook is in German, but I am able to muddle through it. As you are well aware, I have a hard enough time with English (both American English as well as British English).

If you don't mind, maybe an inquiry in your next issue of Iceland Philatelic Magazine might stir up enough dust to reveal some information about this 2 skilling with the white streak.

Laugarnes collecting office and numeral N2-294.

In 2010, Þór Þorsteins expressed his intention to write an article, and described it as follows: - *There will be an article dealing with the Collecting Offices and the Post Offices previously found in Eastern Reykjavík on the estates of Laugarnes and Kleppur which later came under the R-4 office. Today, it is strange to realize that in this part of town there existed really four separate villages, badly connected to the centre of town, with often impassable roads and long distances without any buildings. In the years from 1929 – 1959, the Post tried to serve the few people living there by opening several collecting offices, 12 in all, which very frequently moved owing to different changes. In the article will be recorded the names of the collecting offices, the bréfhirðingarmen, the correct location and the cancels used. Some new information and corrections have been found, for example in Laugarnes. For example, the collecting office which opened on 1.11.42 at the shop of Lísar Jónssonar never received the N2-244 from the previous office. It only received the B1a Laugarnes.*

As predicted, in the following year, 2011, Þór's article entitled "*Collecting offices and post offices in the four settlements bought by the town of Reykjavík.*" appeared in Frímerkjablaðið Nr. 23 2011. He provided me with an English translation which was published with his permission in IslandsKontakt also in 2011. The following extract from Þór's article is restricted to the section relating to Laugarnes.

In the year 1884 the town of Reykjavík bought the landholding of Laugarnes and Kleppur farms. Both held big estates and the purchase was intended for future grazing and building for the town. Shortly afterwards they were moved from the jurisdiction of the rural district of Seltjarnarnes to Reykjavík. For a long time the only buildings on the ground were the existing farm buildings, but after erection of the leprosy hospital in 1898, a path was laid to it named Spítalavegur (hospital path), and its name later changed into Laugarnesvegur. When the new mental hospital (Kleppur) came into service in 1928 the road system of the town was further improved and lengthened, so it became possible to drive cars on the Laugarnes and Kleppsvegur roads to the hospitals. Earlier, draining of the swamps had started on the land intended for cultivation, and as the drying process progressed, scattered farms on inheritance leases were gradually erected, remaining more or less unchanged until after 1939.

After 1924 a few apartment houses had been built on Laugarnesvegur. The connection of the settlement with the town of Reykjavík was limited, and so this was rather a village or a settlement with a large area of uninhabited ground in between. The same trend occurred later with construction of apartments on Langholtiavegur where a large group of houses were built, and still later, around 1946 with the erection of so called "Swedish wooden houses" on the same street. The same happened also in Sogamýri. No continuous inhabited area existed between these outposts and the centre of town, and therefore they should be considered separate villages, which were called Laugarnes district, Kleppsholt/Langholt (hillock), Voga district and Sogamýri (swamp).

In order to serve these inhabited areas, collecting offices were established, and subsequently closed when the area became more densely populated. Some did not operate continuously where suitable accommodation was lacking, or were little used and therefore moved. The intention of this article is to show the development of a postal service which took place on parts of the estates of Laugarnes and Kleppur, to locate them, and state the names of the persons in charge at each collecting office.

Collecting Offices in the district:

1.11.1929 - 31.12.1940 the collecting office is named *Þorgrímsbúð*, a shop situated at Laugarnesvegur 52, at the corner of Laugarnesvegur and Sundlaugarvegur. **1929-31** the bréfhirðingarmaður was Þorgrímur Jónsson a farmer in Laugarnes. **1932-40** His daughter (Guðrún) Sigríður Þorgrímsdóttir took over, living at Laugarnes and later Laugamýrarblettur 33.

Postmarks in use: **N2-244** and **B1a LAUGARNES**.



In 1941 there was no collecting office operating in the district.

1.11.1942-31.12.1960. Collecting office named *Laugarnes* at the shop of Elías Jónsson, situated first at Kirkjutorg 5, later Hrístateigur 1, and then at the end at Kirkteigur 5; it was the same house, but the street names changed because of the area development. The bréfhirðingarmaður was Elías Jónsson. Earlier he had a retail shop in Skerjafjörður but owing to construction of the Reykjavík airfield in WWII it was necessary to tear down his house and he moved to Teiga district. In a letter from 1948 he states he has only received a datestamp but not a numeral.

Following the publication of his article in Frímerkjablaðið Nr.23, there appeared also in 2011, Þór's revised edition of *Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar á Íslandi 1870-2011*. From this, I quote from the entry for Laugarnes, "N2-294 talinn úthlutaður til EJ en ekki notaður" or N2-294 is thought to have been allocated to EJ (the postal official).

Presumably in the short time between his Frímerkjablaðið 2011 article and the publication of the book in the following August, Þór (?) had discovered evidence of the allocation of numeral 296 to Laugarnes. Unless anyone can say otherwise, this is the only information we have in this respect. At the beginning of 2012 Þór wrote to me as follows:-

When I decided to renew the old book in February last year, I made a decision that when finished it would be an end with my philatelic writing. So, when everything was finished in August last, I took all my notes collected during these 20 years and destroyed them with satisfaction. As that would be the end and no more correction to be decided on my behalf. I will stick to this, as I am tired of all the philatelic research and writing. So, if anybody wants to continue, he is welcome to it, but without any help from me.

Kind regards, Þór

So, where are we today regarding numeral N2- 294? Þór's destroyed notes may have revealed the source of the evidence for the numeral being allocated to Laugarnes. The latest Facit states N2-294 1942 – 1957, which are just the dates of opening. Apparently only four copies are known. In his book *Icelandic Numeral cancels 1903-1960*, Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson illustrates a 294 on a cover said to be from late 1948 and refers to another cover to England after March 1945. The 2005 Swedish handbook illustrates a false 294 with a brief comment by Per Hanner.

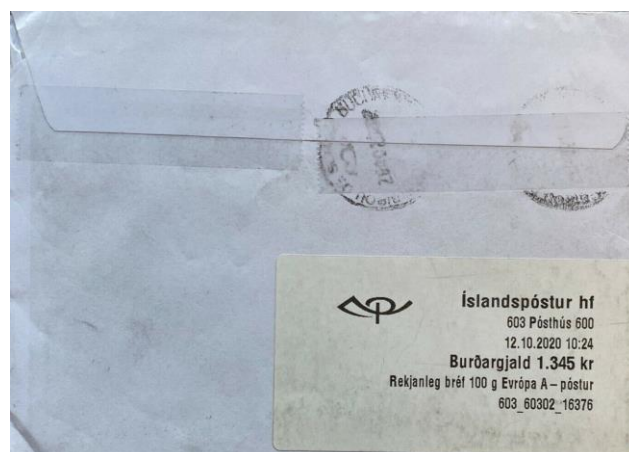
Here is a fine example recently sold in the WWW. SAFNARI.IS auction.

Finally, N2-294 is in the National archive in Reykjavík. This seems to show that it has never been on private hands. We may never discover any further information.



The Iceland Post administration and postage stamps

Two examples of how registered letters with valid stamps were processed by the Iceland Post administration.



The sender of both covers has presumably calculated the cost of a registered letter to Romania in October 2020 and again in February 2021 and attached appropriate stamps to cover the cost. In both cases, the post official at Akureyri seems to have ignored the stamps.

If we take the first cover of October 2020, the post office applied a label to the reverse describing a breakdown of the postage charged, which was 1345kr for a basic letter registered to Europe. I suspect the postal official probably refused to calculate the mixed franking of kr values plus n.v.i. stamps. I admire the sender, for trying it. I wonder if it was an amicable transaction at the Akureyri office?

The second cover of February 2021 is a bit more intriguing. I guess there was also a label on the back which I am unable to show. This time, the very same sender has applied krónur stamps to the value of 2035kr. They are not cancelled, although the official has applied an Akureyri bridge cancel dated 15.02.2021 to the envelope.

The sender, whose address is clearly visible, is not on the email list of readers of this magazine; however, judging from the franking he/she must surely be a stamp collector? Maybe one of our Iceland based readers would make this article available to him? We might get an interesting reply concerning his experience at Akureyri post office, and of course hopefully even gain a new reader of our magazine.

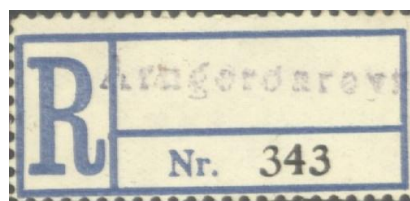
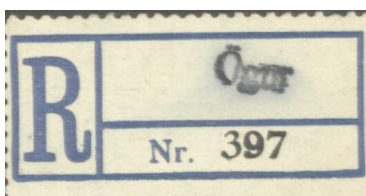
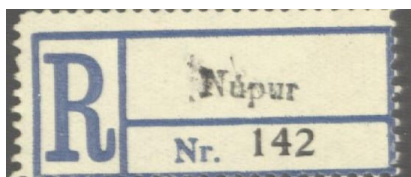
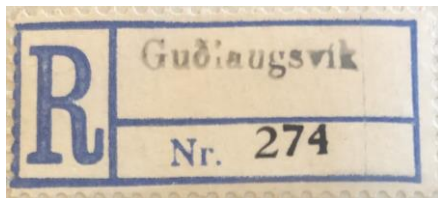
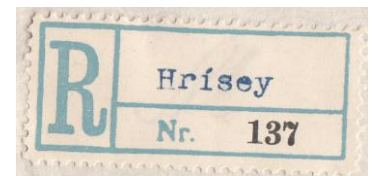
The decision to cease the production of postage stamps, probably signalled to the Icelandic public that stamps were an obsolete concept and would not in future be necessary to access postal services. Possibly a majority of the public might not disagree or worry too much. However, large stocks of valid stamps are supposed to still exist and a statement was issued indicating these would continue to be used until exhaustion. The covers illustrated above seem to show a reluctance or refusal even to cancel stamps when already applied by their customers. Maybe we can still hope for an initiative from the government in Iceland to pay for a future limited stamp production, for the good reason that stamps serve a valuable purpose in advertising the country to the outside world. I would still like to keep track of some aspects of modern postal history, eg. post offices closing, perhaps even postal rates changes, although the introduction of the n.v.i. stamps have already damaged interest in modern postal rates.



The 1930/1931 rubber stamped registration labels

In the previous issue, I promised to show registered labels with rubber stamped office names issued to collecting offices in 1930/31. To re-quote Þór, "In the year 1930 all collecting offices then operating, altogether 276, received a line rubber stamp for use on the labels". In ISK 55 Jørgen Steen Larsen referred to a listing from Þór of all the rubber cancels ordered in 1930 (and 1931) for use by collecting offices for this specific purpose. Regrettably the listing is no longer available. For the purpose of identification and separation from later stamped labels, the collecting office must have been open in 1930/31 to receive its rubber stamp. A feature of labels used around the period 1930 and 1931 shows a distinctive upward curl of the right foot of the letter R, as illustrated here. This might make separation from subsequent stamped labels issued in later years that much easier. However, if anyone can identify a 1930/31 collecting office registered cover with a different shaped letter R, that might mean adding more examples of rubber stamped labels to the list shown below. The search should not be confined to 1930s postings. Some are found on covers in subsequent years.

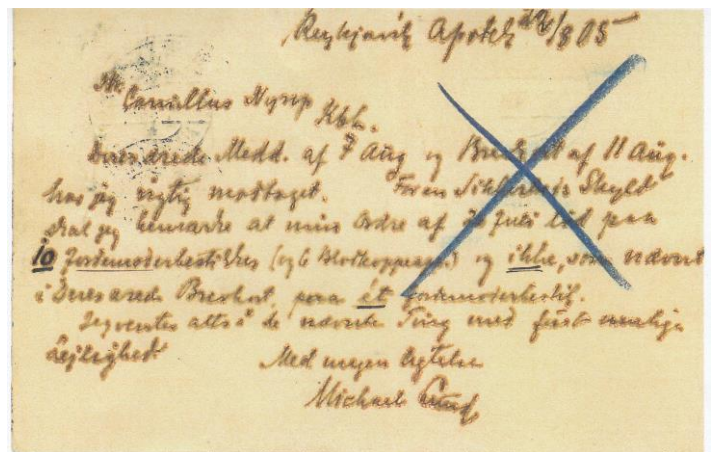
The following list of 17 labels is from my collection and Steinar Fridthorsson's. As time passes, I hope readers will participate and add other examples. I do not believe we will ever remotely reach the 200+ estimates of the total numbers of rubber stamps issued. Registration from collecting offices is not common and some labels must be very rare indeed.





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Is this form of "express sending" seen before? Leif Fuglsig



This 10aur CHR IX card was sent from a pharmacist in Reykjavík on 22.8.1905 to a medical firm in Copenhagen, arriving there 29.8.1905. On the front is written “med “KONG TRYGVE” via Leith”. The text on the back is about a correction to an earlier received acceptance of an order, and the sender is trying to save time. He uses a 10aur instead of an 8aur card and tries to send the card on a route by train and ferry. As the card shows no markings, in English or otherwise, we cannot know if he succeeded.

The 7 days taken (in summer) does not reveal much, but “Kong Trygve” from the “THORE” company, was 692 brt, rather small and should take at least 3 days to get to Copenhagen.

The “Kong Trygve” career on the Iceland route was short lived. On 22.3.1907 en route from Húsavík to Seyðisfjörður it ran into a storm and was caught and crushed in polar ice and sank. Nine crew members drowned and one died from exhaustion shortly after coming ashore. The full story of the wrecking can be found on the internet.

15. Final review of the series “Was this cancel used here? (Issue 52) Jørgen Steen Larsen

I have never seen B1a Árnes used from 1947. My latest usage is from 11.11.43.

B2a Breiðabólstaður Hún. My newest usage is on a philatelic letter -3-3.59. I have never seen usages from 1.8.1960.

B2a Bjarnastaðir. My newest usage is on a Folmer Østergaard letter from 1953. I have never seen usages from 1954 and onwards.

Torfabær used the signet cancel POSTUR SIMI 442 to cancel ordinary letters. I have a piece and a registered letter.

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Aerogrammes - Harrison issues 1963 - 1969

A translation of Hálfðan Helgason's article on aerogrammes in Frímerkjablaðið issue 27 was reproduced in IPM 47. Whilst reading it again recently, I came to the paragraph relating to the final new type issues printed by Harrison's, and to quote Hálfðan, “During the time of these last three editions, their postage changed over 30 times. It would be a daunting task to get aerogrammes with all those changes, if it were at all possible”.



2400aur rate to USA cancelled 02.03.1989. Icelandic message.

Although the aerogramme happens to be one of my favourite subjects, I am not sure how much interest there is amongst our readers. However, I hope there may be enough examples scattered amongst readers' collections of the 1963-1969 issues, used between 1963 and the final 26kr rate in October 1991, to make a reasonable attempt at what Hálfðan described as a daunting task, and see how many we can identify. I have counted 36 rates changes between 1963 and 1991, with many periods of validity lasting 3 months and less, which inevitably makes many rates that much scarcer. Hopefully readers will send details of the rates in your collections, preferably with images. We can get around to showing images perhaps later, depending on your response.

I have the following 16 values: - 5kr, 6.50, 10, 15, 45, 60, 90, 200, 240, 280, 310, 500, 750, 1200, 1700, and 2400.

Blay Akureyri with flat top 3 *Jørgen Steen Larsen*

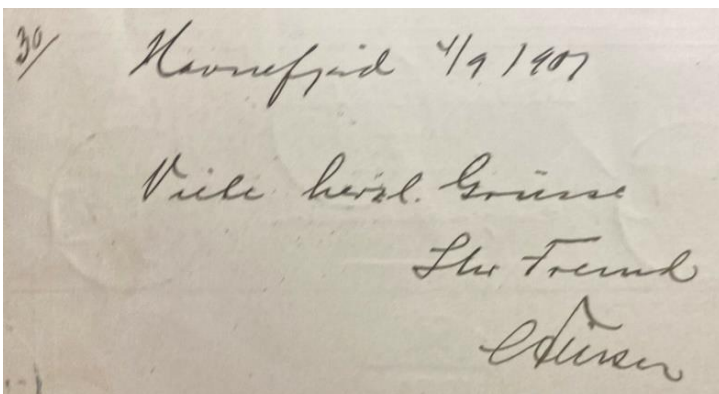
Cover dated 6.1.1937 observed by Jørgen Steen Larsen and reproduced below. That means we know the cancel was used from 1.1.1937 and *Íslenskir Stimplar brúar-, rúllu og vélstimplar 1894-2003* can be amended accordingly.



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Covers to stamp dealer Otto Bickel *Hálfdan Helgason*

Just recently, when reading IPM nr. 44, I came to a halt when I saw that the sender of a card posted 5.9.1907, to O. Bickel in Germany was suspected to be Ole Finsen, postmaster in Reykjavik. Ole Finsen died in 1897, so he did not write this short note on the card. But some Finsen obviously did and I would guess that Ole's son, Carl Finsen (1879-1955) is very likely the writer. Not many Finsens were here at that time. Although posted in Reykjavik, the card is written in Hafnarfjörður, where Carl Finsen worked commercially as a young man, (later on he became a director for an insurance company in Reykjavík). In IPM issue 25 Wilbur Jonsson shows a card to the Postmaster General in Cape Town, South Africa, written by Carl Finsen, and on the backside he states his interest in collecting used postage stamps. Most likely he wrote similar letters to other Postmaster Generals. It would be interesting if more similar cards are known.



Those Iceland Collectors are Everywhere! Ron Collin



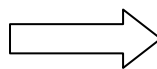
I spent some time on Midway Island. It is in the middle of nowhere in the North Pacific, and you have to be an expert navigator in order to find it. It is quite small and the 2010 population was 39 people. Current population figures are not available, but shouldn't be much different.

What intrigues me the most is that an Iceland collector lived there and had his philatelic mail delivered there, in 1942.



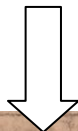
From Sjónarhóll to Sogamýri (Issue 52)

From Eivind Kolstad,
Thanks for another great magazine. The RVK-bréfhirðingar are very interesting, and one of my "precious ones", the blue Sogamýri B8e is here. Maybe it is unique, I don't know about others.



From David Loe,

The only thing I have of interest is a cover sent to Sogamýri when it didn't have an office.



Official letter from the Ministry of Courts and Church (sticker on reverse) to the Gullbring. County Sheriff
16.8.1939.

Registered double-weight letter. 30aur registration. 40 aur postage. Very rare use of the surcharged stamp on cover.

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About ship mail in Iceland (Issue 52) Jørgen Steen Larsen

There are two different Skipsbrjef cancels frame type Hoskins 313, used 1914 - 54. The old type is 10, 5 mm high and has a complete "j". The more modern type is 10.0 mm high and has an "i" instead of a "j". My newest usage of the old type is dated -6.VI.27. My oldest usage of the new type is dated 21.XII.37. Both cancels are fairly common. Somebody might write a short article about this?

A silhouette delight (Issue 52)

From Jakob Arrevad:-

I hope that the buyer paying \$215 enjoys the attractive cover.

It is a decent example from a trip with Viktoria Louise which was originally named Deutschland but later renamed.

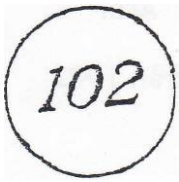
In Visir from 2. May 1912 it was explained:

Viktoria Louise, tourist ship from Hamburg American Line, which has been here a few times, will come twice in the summer, according to Die Welt auf Reisen;. First trip begins in Hamburg on July 2 and the ship comes back there 27th. The subsequent tour begins July 30 and ends on August 24. On both trips she visits Scotland, Orkney, Faroe Islands, Spitsbergen, and calls in various northern ports not visited before, and then to Norway and home.



In IslandsKontakt SPECIAL - TROON there are further examples - even from the same sender.

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Bessastaðir, home of Numeral 102 from 10.01.1909 to 29.02.1920

Provided by Steinar Fridthorsson.

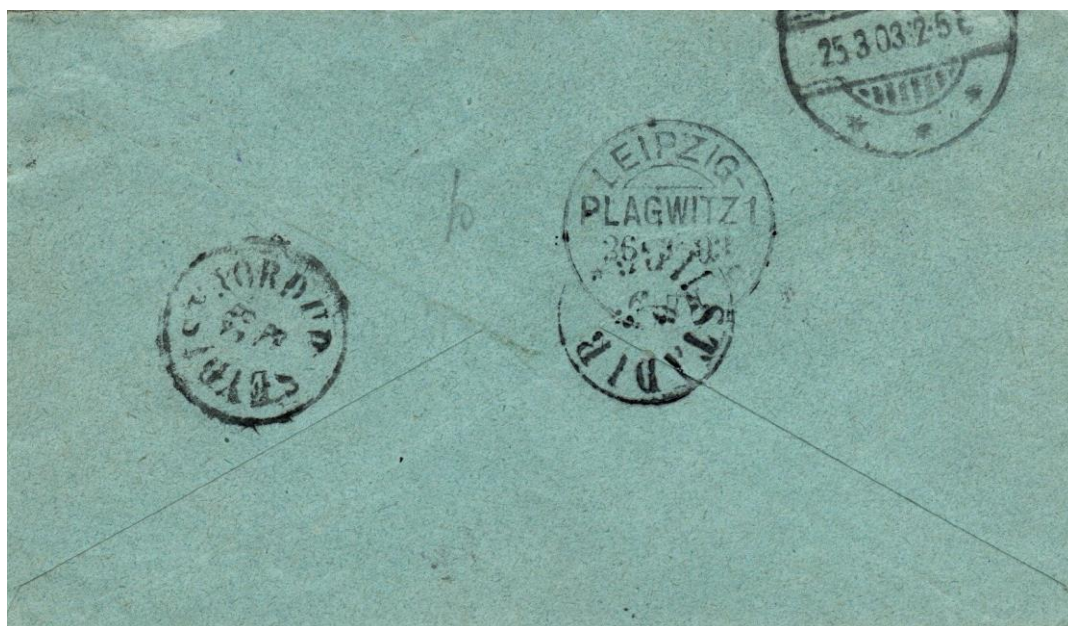


A Beautiful Cover with BRJEFHIRÐING cancel – Where was the cancel located?

Árni Gústafsson

I send you a copy of a beautiful cover with BRJEFHIRÐING cancel. This is the first cover I have seen with this crown cancel. The cover was cancelled in the east part of Iceland, I don't know where BRJEFHIRÐING was located there.

On the backside we can see strikes from Egilsstaðir and Seyðisfjörður and Copenhagen and Leipzig. Maybe your readers know where BRJEFHIRÐING was located?



Was this cancel used here? - conclusion

The long series under the heading “Was this cancel used here” is finished. It was inspired by an earlier purge of numeral cancels in Facit, which removed many apparently non-existent locations for numerals. There is no intention here to suggest amending the Facit listing of bridge cancels; as Jørgen S. L. said, “*I suggest that we keep Facit as it is with only one place name for each cancel. Names of different places of use are for specialists like you and me and not so many more*”. My intention was (1) to reduce my wants list and (2) add N/K (not known) where appropriate in my bible of bridge cancels, *Íslenskir Stimplar brúar-, rúllu og vélstimplar 1894-2003*. I took that wise advice from Ólafur Elíasson, to avoid stating the cancels were not actually there. Of course, it will mean a lot of amendments to the write up of my collection, where spaces were left in anticipation of bridge cancels. My bridge cancel wants list has been reduced by 28. ☺

B1a

Árnes from 1.1.1947 at Finnbogastaðir
Heiði from 1.1.1956 at Efra-Lón
Húsatóftir from 1.8.1973 at Borgarkot
Melstaður from 1.1.1957 at Laugarbakki
Miklibær from 1.10.1954 at Stóru-Akrar
Mjóaból from 1.1.1946 at Smyrlahóll
Sveinseyri from 21.6.1961 at Innsta-Tunga
Sævarland from 1.10.1935 at Skiðastaðir
Vogatunga from 1.4.1958 at Stóri-Lambhagi

B2a

Bjarnastaðir from 26.3.1954 at Nes and later Torfabær (JSL said Torfabær used the signet cancel POSTUR SIMI 442 to cancel ordinary letters. He has it on a piece and a registered letter).

Breiðabólstaður Hún from 1.8.1960 at Harastaðir
Breiðabólstaður Snæf from 1.1.1950 at Drangar
Garður Þing. Ein from 1.1.1958 at Hjarðarból
Litla Sandfell from 1.1.1932 at Arnhólsstaðir
Reynivellir from 1.7.1950 at Neðri-Háls
Sauðlauksdalur from 1.1.1946 at Hvalsker
Staðastaður from 1.1.1944 at Traðir
Valþjófsstaður from 1.1.1967 at Viðivellir-Ytri
Þorfinnsstaðir from 1.1.1945 at Kirkjuból
Þóroddsstaður from 1.4.1976 at Rangá

B2b

Finnbogastaðir from 1.10.1995 at Bær (3); (Eivind Kolstad has one done by favour)

B2c1

Hólar from 1.1.1925 at Höfn (1)

B2c2

Látur Mjóaf from 1.1.1977 at Eyri (4)

B3e

Ketilsstaðir from 1.7.1973 at Laufás
Skarðshlíð from 1.4.1980 at Skógar

B7b

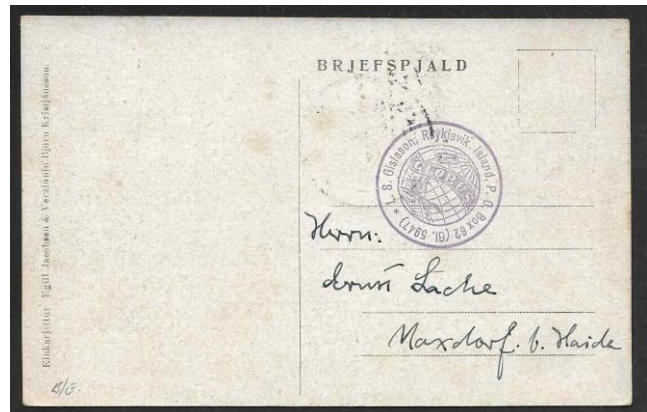
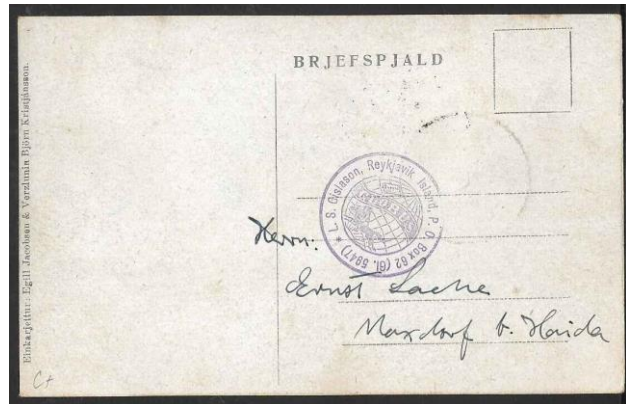
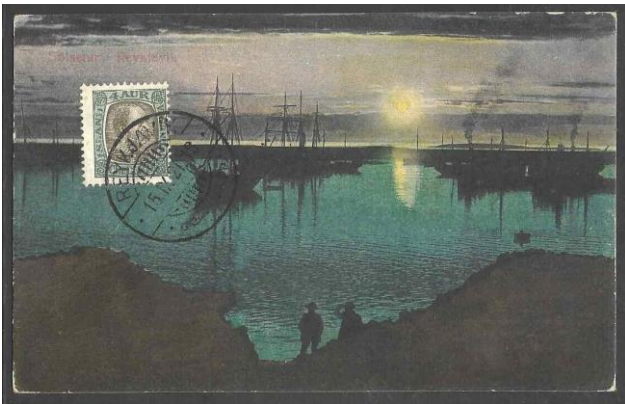
Heydalur from 15.7.1987 at Eyri (4)

B8e

Innsta-Tunga from 1.1.1968 at Tálknafjörður
Reykjaborg from 1.1.1972 at Laugarholt

Curious postally used officials in 1921 *Ron Collin*

These two items may be the start of a few more Official stamps franking picture postcards addressed to the same individual, and not for legitimate Official Business. I just find it curious, even in 1921. The cards were addressed to Maxdorf which is in Germany. I can't make out the second word in the address, following Maxdorf. I would imagine that they were posted, and probably were delivered.



XXXXXXXXXX

Deildartunga – rare bridge cancel



This beautiful example sold for 3410DKK at auction recently for. Amongst many websites showing the hot springs of Deildartunga, I failed to find any image of the farm which used this cancel.

Foreign Aerogrammes used from Iceland (2)

I am glad to add two more non-Icelandic aerogrammes to those shown in issue 39/2020. The first is a most unusual Danish aerogramme with 300aur Express rate added to the current 175aur aerogramme rate. It is dated Reykjavík 11.VI.57 and arrival marks of København one day later on 12.6.57. I am most grateful to Ole Svinth for translating the scribbled and not very legible message.



Writing to his friend Lotte in Denmark, he describes his departure from the Greenland Nord arctic station and his desire to see her as soon as possible.

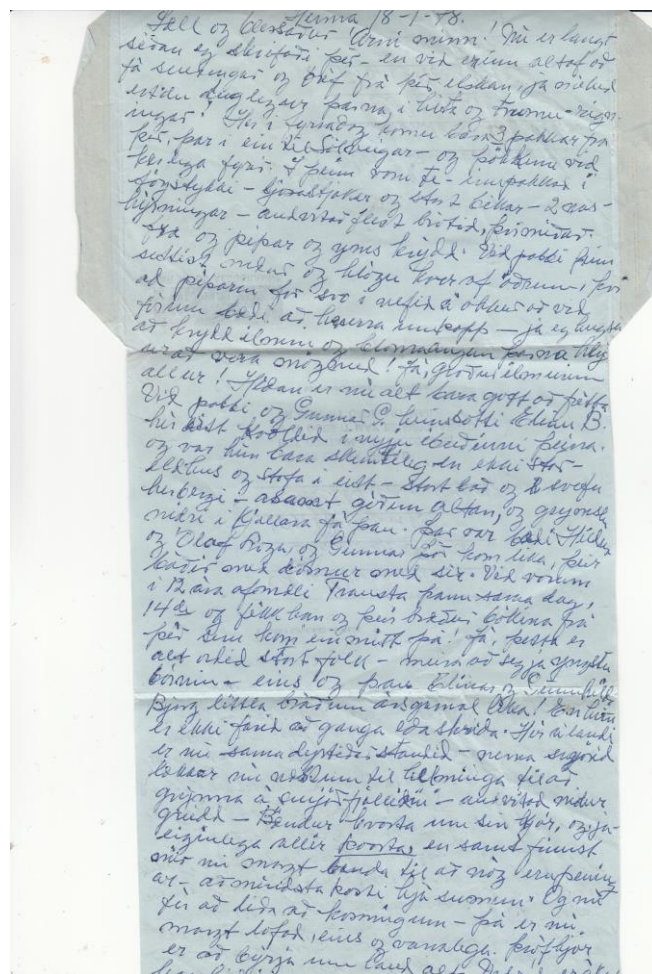
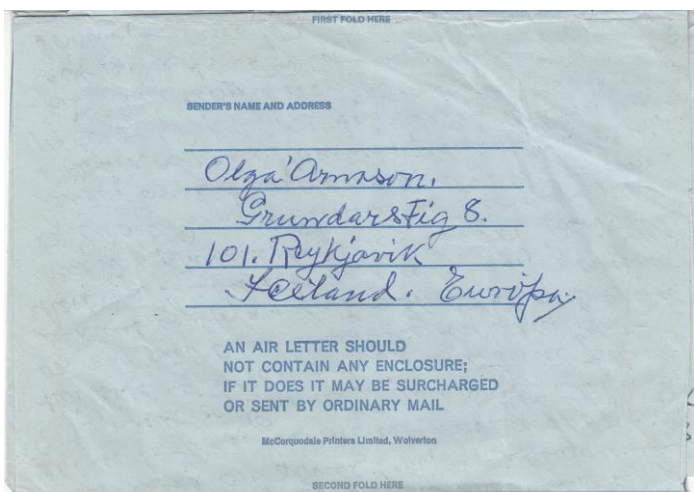
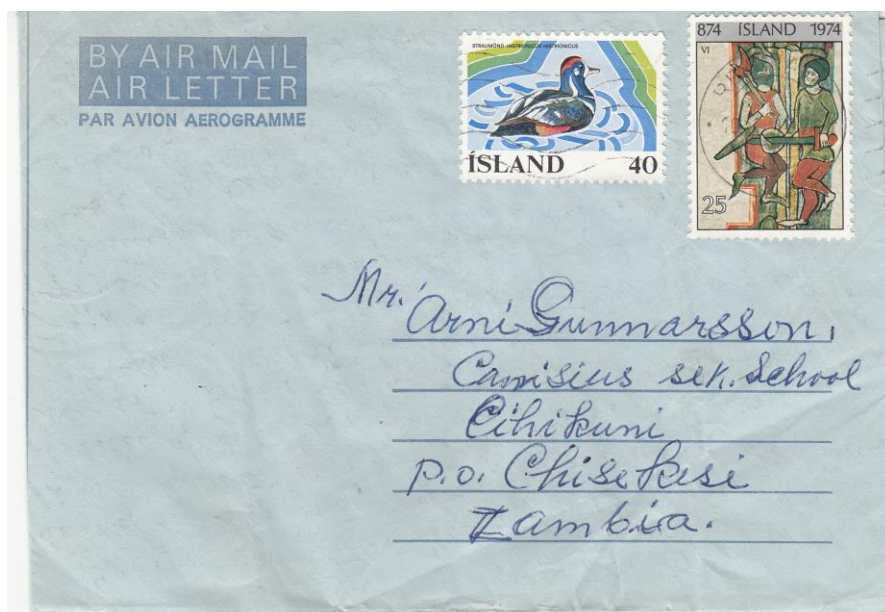


“Now it won't be long, until this part of my wasted life will be over. We left "Nord" (arctic station) Saturday evening, or more correctly Sunday morning 1 o'clock after some quick farewell drinks. The aeroplane, which came from Thule with our replacements, stayed for 1 ½ hours, and one of the guys brought two bottles of whiskey; you might imagine the mutual joy. Anyway they had to send a girl to look for me, as everybody else was on the plane.....After 3 hours stay at Thule we boarded the Icelandic plane for a pleasant flight to Iceland. We landed here in Reykjavik, where we unfortunately shall stay for some days. Time passes OK, but here it is extremely expensive, if you stick to the official

exchange rate around 240. However we have been on the black market, and there we got 5 Icelandic kroner for 1 Danish, and prices became a little better. Yesterday we were on a bus to Thingvallasletten, Geysir and Gullfoss, a very interesting tour of about 300 km. Price: 1150 kroner. We will leave from here Friday the 14th at 8.00 with the Flugfélag scheduled plane, which via Glasgow shall arrive at Kastrup at 15.00 according to the schedule. If you can leave your work at this time, I shall be happy to see your face at the airport. I look with forward with joy to put my feet on home soil, and look forward to be with you again. I hope this letter reaches you in good time, and I shall be very disappointed if you are not at the airport. Looking forward to see you Friday afternoon. With love yours??? (His name was too difficult to decipher).

(Ed. I hope this extraordinary use of Express on an aerogramme was rewarded by the appearance of Lotte at the airport to greet him on the Friday afternoon!)

Below a British aerogramme sent to a school at Chikuni in Zambia. Reykjavík machine cancel dated 10.1.1978. The aerogramme rate was 60kr so this is 5 kr overpaid.



The scan shows only part of Olga Arnarsson's message in Icelandic, which was crammed into every available blank space on the aerogramme.

Iceland's first balloon post airmail flight *Árni Gustafsson*

(Ed. The following account is as written by John Boesman, the husband of the pilot).

We were informed that the Iceland Postal Service would be pleased to cooperate in our scheme to carry official mail on a flight over Iceland with our antiquated aircraft, and that for this occasion a specially designed postmark would be employed. It would be the first ever special postmark to be used for internal Icelandic air-transport. A second speciality was that all the balloon post had to be registered. The registration label was also a novelty for Iceland as it had the name of Reykjavík's airport inscribed. We could only carry a limited weight of 10 kilogram of mail, and when this became known on the island it caused a real stampede on the one-day post office at the airfield. A long queue of philatelists stood for hours in the open air, but it was not cold on that June day although Iceland lies near the Arctic circle.



Picture of the Balloon taken on Reykjavíkurlugvelli

Usually we inflate our balloon with 100 cylinders of hydrogen, but as a balloon ascent had never before been made in Iceland, there were not sufficient gas cylinders available, 19 only. We inflated the balloon in a hangar at the airfield; the empty cylinders had to be sent back to the factory 15 kilometers from Reykjavík for refilling, so we had to reserve a day and a half extra for inflating the balloon. In the meantime we were forewarned against the difficulties of the landing area. They took us up in a plane for a round flight over the island, pointing out the great lava-fields with their hard and sharp rocky formations, most dangerous for a descent; then we flew over the 8 glaciers covered by eternal snow with not a soul to be seen. We saw the geysers spouting steam and that spot too did not look ideal for a landing. Finally they showed us the lonely crater-lakes, and the places where under a thin tacky overlay, the red-hot lavas still bubbling. Tourists unaware of this are known to have disappeared. This island of fire and ice lies in the middle of the ocean and so you can well imagine that to ensure a safe flight quite a large amount of spare manoeuvre ballast had to be taken on board. We had hoped to make the flight together but safety ordained that one of us had to disembark. As the difference in weight between Nini and myself was more than one mailbag, I decided to stand down.

The Postmaster brought the mailbag containing 2480 covers carefully packed against damage upon landing; this extra wrapping had been put in a waterproof bag and the bag once again in a sealed Icelandic mailbag.

They were certainly good organizers, but much faith in the successful outcome of our flight they did not have.

With the greatest difficulty the Postal Service had succeeded in insuring the mail at a premium 20 times higher for "third party risk" of the 20,000 spectators. At the last moment, the Director-General of the Icelandic Government Aviation Department, Mr. Hansen, came running along with a crash-helmet and an inflatable life-jacket for Nini to put on. Moreover a motor-vehicle of the government life-saving brigade followed the balloon on the ground to warn the pilot with a red flag should she drift towards a dangerous area. We were deeply moved and wholly reassured by such great concern for the safety of the first lady – balloonist to fly over Iceland.

There were two types of Registration label used: - Normal (Nr. 101) - It would be interesting to know if they were numbered from 1-1000 or 1-600. The highest number I have seen is 474. Perhaps readers could inform us of the highest number?

The registration label with number 30 is very rare; I have only seen two so maybe readers could show us more of this type.



Sendingaskrá

yfir flugpóst

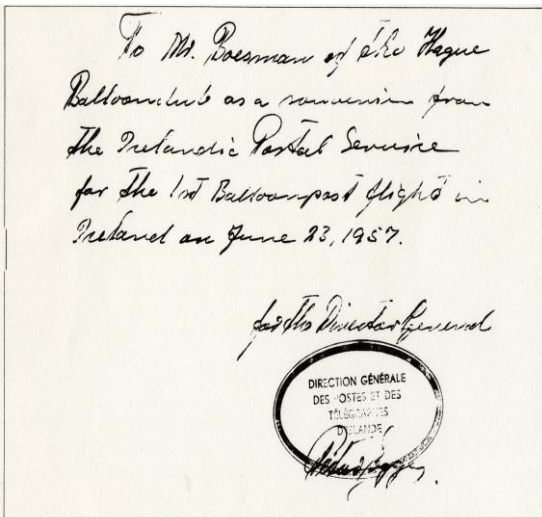
frá Reykjavík þ. 23.-6
með hafþbelg

Afhendist á	Ákvörðunarstaður	Upprunalega frá	Brefa- póstur Fokur	Bláa- póstur Fokur	Brefa umslag Stykki	Böggla- póstur Fokur	Lausir böggjar Stykki	Bref kg
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Reykjavík	Reykjavík	Dub.-ingull	1					10
			1					10

Ath. 1. Þegar ákvörðunarstaður er sami staður og afhenda skal sendinguna á, þarf ekki að útfylla 2. dálk.
 2. Þegar sendingin er upprunalega frá þeim stað, er útfylling sendingaskrána, þarf ekki að útfylla 3. dálk.

75820000

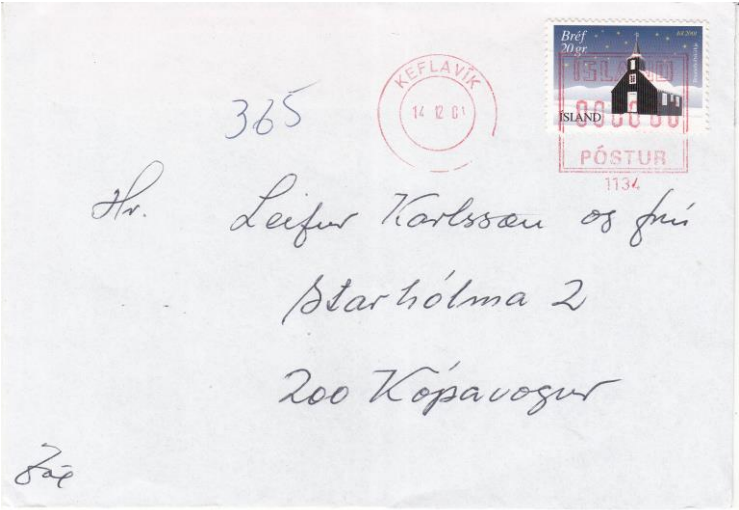
Letter Bill of the first balloon post flight over Iceland



Insurance certificate

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Square rubber stamp used by Íslands Póst 1999 to 2003



In Luren of February 1999, Þór Thorstein's article entitled "Iceland Mail without Stamps" described the new policy of only putting stamps on covers if requested by the customer, and illustrated examples of the cancel from a device called Colop S2160 used by the postal clerk. Much later, in Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar á Íslandi of 2011, Þór Þorsteins shows "examples of square rubber stamps of Íslandspóst" all dated 1999 to 2003 presumably in support of the new practice used at post office counters. The above cancel dated 2001 might be a variation of the machine cancellers listed in his later 2011 book.

The 50th Anniversary of “The Match of the Century” A Philatelic Look, *Michael Schumacher*



A Year of Anniversaries

In 2022 the Norwegian posthorn issue and Swedish ring-type issue each celebrated 150 years. Both have long been popular collecting areas among SCCers and both were celebrated at home in Norwegian and Swedish philatelic publications. The year also celebrated 50 years since the 1972 World Chess Championship between Boris Spassky and Bobbie Fisher was held and its accompanying Icelandic philately. A new book commemorates this.

The 50th Anniversary of “The Match of the Century” A Philatelic Look, Michael Schumacher, Gaétan Lapierre and Jon Edwards. 414 pages, 8 1/2 by 11 1/8 inches, hardbound. ISBN 9798-218-01273-1 Available from Mike Schumacher, icemike51@gmail.com, cost \$45 plus \$5 shipping within US. Foreign shipping costs between \$35-65 depending on destination.

Mike Schumacher collects the *Saga of the 1972 World Chess Championship “Match of the Century”* and exhibits eight frames in display class which tell the saga of this match using philatelic and ephemeral items created during the event of July 2 - September 3, 1972, to show how the 1972 World Chess Championship was a dramatic event for chess, as well as a significant major event for philately. Schumacher contends that no other chess or Icelandic event has ever created this large of a philatelic bonanza for dealers, artists and collectors.

Mike’s original intention was to create a listing of event cancel dates for cachets and other town first day covers. He networked with other chess collectors to accomplish that which progressed to the publication of this book together with colleagues Gaétan Lapierre and Jon Edwards. Gaétan has competed in chess tournaments since 1974 and continues to compete and serve as an arbiter and organizer of tournaments in the Quebec area. He has collected chess and FDC for more than 25 years and specializes in the 1972 “Match of the Century” covers. Jon is President of COSSU (The Chess-on-Stamp Study Unit) and Editor of *The Chesstamp Review*. He has collected chess for more than 50 years and maintains one of the largest chess stamp collections in the world. Jon recently became Grand Master when he won the ICCF World Correspondence Chess Championship. Mike, Gataén and Jon not only provide the brain bank for a philatelic look at the 1972 World Chess Championship but also own, along with Löic Habsaque, the beautiful colorful covers comprising 414 pages.

The 50th Anniversary of “The Match of the Century” A Philatelic Look takes the format of an exhibit and begins with the centerpiece of the subject – the 1972 Iceland 15 kroner Chess stamp (F501) and its printing information (see illustration on page 24). Plate numbers and perforation errors are illustrated followed by Post Office Bulletin documentation and order forms for FDCs. FDCs that bear cancels at the Laugardalshöll Stadium Post Office, the downtown Reykjavik Post Office and 19 other towns are found on 29 different cachets. Illustrations of these comprise 57 pages.

Game day or event cancels were used at all 21 matches and the September 3 Banquet Day. They are collected on cachets, tickets, menus and programs. The Laugardalshöll Post Office functioned as such and handled other mailed correspondence including numerous registered covers. Many postcards were issued with Spassky/Fischer themes. “Warriors Battle” (see illustration) depicts Spassky and Fischer as warring Vikings and was created by Ragnar Lar. A set of 21 “Final Position” postcards were issued for each game by the G.J.S. and the Federation published score sheets. The on the Chess stamps postcards. Finally, sampling of total there were more cachets created, an covers printed and postcards produced.



Icelandic Chess a set of 20 “moves” cancels were also used on non-Chess picture there is a large autographed covers. In than 105 different estimated 500,000 more than 50 different

In addition to the collectors of “The add related ephemeral collections. The

Federation issued 23 editions of *SKÁK* coinciding with the matches. Programs covers are illustrated along with newspaper clippings and photographs. These items, included in a quasi “back-of-the-book” section, further advance the story and are well suited for a display class exhibit.

philatelic items, Match of the Century” items to their Icelandic Chess

The purpose of *The 50th Anniversary of “The Match of the Century” A Philatelic Look* is to bring together information about the material as a philatelic resource to collectors. The material presented has certainly accomplished this even as the author admits there are other items not included. In itself the book is a 414-page mega-exhibit amounting to 26 frames illustrating the philately accompanying “The Match of the Century” and comprising items from the most advanced collectors of it!

The book also attests to the author’s contention that “The Match of the Century” was the largest philatelic event in Iceland’s history. The extensiveness and specialty of the book establish “The Match of the Century” as a highly advanced Icelandic collecting area even as most collectors are chess collectors. The author also contends that “The Match of the Century” is the largest event in chess collecting. Is there any doubt?

The 50th Anniversary of “The Match of the Century” A Philatelic Look is a very fine product that FDC and event cover collectors along with chess collectors will cherish. The collector of Iceland will also want this in their library for its specialty of Iceland’s largest philatelic event.

- Steve Lund

The 1972 Iceland 15 kroner Chess stamp (F501) and its printing information follow on the next page.

Plate numbers and perforation errors are illustrated followed by Post Office Bulletin documentation and order forms for FDCs.

The 1972 Iceland 15 Kroner Chess stamp

Details:

The stamp was issued to commemorate the World Chess Championship held in Iceland. The stamp depicts “the globe in flat projection superimposed on a picture of a chess board. The idea behind the design is obvious: it denotes the news that the world chess championships are being held this year.”

Hannes Pétursson

SKAK *Iceland Chess Magazine*



Printed by Thomas de La Rue and Company LTD., England utilizing photogravure printing.

2,000,000 stamps in sheets of 50 were printed.

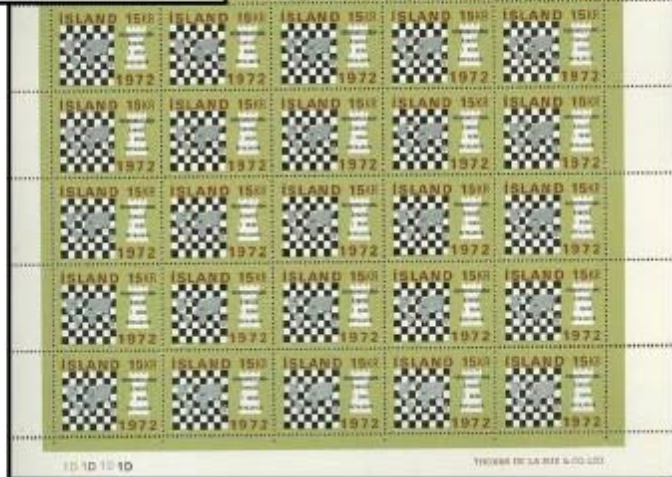
First day of issue was scheduled to coincide with the opening of the World Chess Championship on July 2, 1972. The stamp issued on July 2, 1972. However the start of the match was delayed until July 11, 1972 because Bobby Fischer did not show up in Iceland owing to a list of demands to be met before he would play.

Nýtt frimerki, Nyt frimærke, New Stamp, Neue Briefmarke Nouveau timbre (142).			
Heimsmeistaraeinvigi í skák, Verdensmesterskab i skak, World Chess Championship, Weltmeisterschaftskampf in Schack, Championnat du monde des échecs.			
Útgáfudagur:	2. júlí 1972	Verðgildi:	15 kr. marglitt
Udgivelsesdag:	2. juli 1972	Værdi:	15 kr. flerfarvet
Day of issue:	July 2nd 1972	Value:	15 kr. multicoloured
Tag der Ausgabe:	2. Juli 1972	Wert:	15 kr. vielfärbig
Jour d'émission:	1e 2 juillet 1972	Valeur:	15 kr. polychrome
Prentunaraðferð:		Prentsmíðja:	Thomas de la Rue & Co. Ltd.
Trykningsmetode:		Trykkeri:	BASINGSTOKE
Printing process:	Delaeryl	Druckerei:	England.
Druckart:		Imprimerie:	
Procès d'impression:			

Research concludes that sheets were issued with the following plate numbers:

1A 1A 1A 1A
 1B 1B 1B 1B
 1C 1C 1C 1C
 1D 1D 1D 1D
 2A 1A 1A 1A
 2B 1B 1B 1B
 2C 1C 1C 1C
 2D 1C 1C 1C
 3A 1A 2A 1A
 3B 1A 2B 1A
 3C 1C 2C 1C
 3D 1D 2D 1D

Plate number sheet
 1D 1D 1D 1D



Sheets with plate numbers starting with # 1 are the rarest.

Partial Plate number sheet
 1A 1A 1A 1A



Airmail to the Occupation Zones of the Federal Republic of Germany and the DDR

Póst-og símatiðindi Nr.3-4. March-April 1946 comprehensively covered the regulations for the handling of airmail destined for the Allied Occupation zones in Germany. A description of the postal arrangements applying from 1946 appeared in *IslandsKontakt* Issue 88. In order to assist delivery by the occupation authorities, airmail destined for Germany was sorted and batched in area code numbered bundles by the UK and Scandinavian postal authorities, using approx. 28 area and district codes as defined by the UPU.



Area code 13b for South Bavaria in the American zone.

Reykjavík B1d 27.V.48.

60aur surface rate via UK for 15gm letter. Plus 15aur per 5gm airmail supplement (3x15) = 45aur. Total 105aur

Following the creation of the Federal Republic of Germany in May 1949 and the DDR in October 1949, some, but maybe not all of the special regulations ceased, for example the restrictions on letter weight and content for the occupied zones. Also the airmail rates to the two new German republics now conformed with the "Rest of Europe" rates announced from 15th November 1949. The Allied occupation continued for a further 5 years. However it would seem that the identification and sorting of incoming airmail by area code continued for several years after the establishment of The Federal Republic and the DDR. I do not know when this part of the 1946 regulations ceased to apply. It was probably announced in *Póst-og Símatiðindi*. Perhaps one of our readers might tell us?

Area code 3 for Mecklenburg, Pomerania now in the DDR.

Vestmannaeyjar B5a dated 17.3.53 150aur surface rate plus 100aur per 20gm Rates applied from 23.3.1950



Area code 24a for Hamburg including Lübeck in the Federal Republic



Borgarnes B2c1 dated 22.II.50. 85aur UPU surface rate from 15.11.1949 plus 60aur Europe airmail supplement.

The following two covers are examples of airmail after 1949 which have no area code displayed



Reykjavik B2c1 dated 8.I.53 to Hamburg in the British Zone. No area code used.

No weight or content restrictions applied.. 240aur surface rate 20-44gm plus 200aur registration and airmail supp 100aur per 20gm (100 x 2) total 640aur



Borgarnes B3c dated 12.VII.51 to Halle (Saxony) in the DDR. No area code used.
150aur UPU surface rate plus 100aur per 20gm airmail.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX