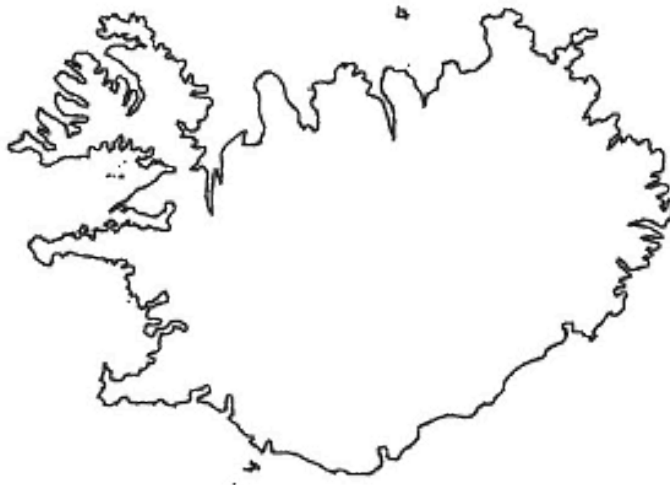
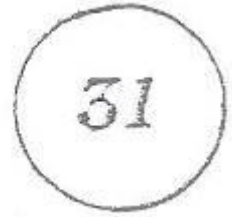


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Issue 58/Sept 2023

Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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Please let me have your articles if you want them in the next issue which will be November 2023. If you need help with translations let me know. The editor will help with the English if necessary.
flackbp@gmail.com



Album closed: Orla Nielsen 1933-2023



A great philatelist has left us. Orla died in his home June 29th, 2023, just 22 days before he would have turned 90 years. Orla started collecting stamps in his late thirties and collected Iceland since 1973. I met Orla during Hafnia 76 and Orla was a co-founder of the Iceland Study group in Denmark in 1977 and later the Danish Iceland Collectors Club in 1987.

Orla Nielsen was an associate professor at Copenhagen Business School (CBS), Institute of Marketing and Center of Market Economics. He was associated with CBS from 1962 – 2003.

Orla was a general collector with collections from the entire world. These were the fun part of his philatelic interest but when it came to very serious collecting, Iceland was the preferred country.

Orla was a philatelist in this word's most profound sense. He has described and published plating of the 5, 6, 10, 16 and 20 aur Numeral of Value stamps from the Icelandic period 1876-1898 as well as many other philatelic discoveries. Much of the work Henry Regeling published within this area was Orla's findings.

Orla exhibited his collection, Iceland – Postage and official stamps (1870-1907), several times and ended up with an International Gold medal, 90 points, and Grand Prix National at Nordia 2013 in Iceland. Orla was most happy and proud of this result, which was well deserved indeed.

This exhibit of classical Icelandic stamps was one in which more than 60% of the stamps were plated and, in most cases, allocated to a position in the sheet. Nobody had done that before nor since. The exhibit furthermore comprised rare covers and proofs as well as rare I GILDI and Chr IX material.

Orla also formed traditional collections of Icelandic stamps from 1907 and all the way up to 2009. These collections were all mounted and comprised nearly all known varieties as well as rare postmarks and fine and rare covers with the stamp shown. This material Orla kept for himself, but it is the most extraordinary material that is very rarely seen.

Orla obtained 50 years membership of Copenhagen Philatelist Club in 2022 and was member of local club in Taastrup for many years as well as a member of Philatelic Society, Denmark, since 1988.

I have visited Orla in the home at Valbyvej, Taastrup, and later at Solbaerhaven, Solroed Strand, numerous times and enjoyed the hospitality of Orla's dear wife Aase, who left him already in 2008 as a consequence of serous Parkinson's disease. Orla is survived by a daughter and a son and grandchildren.

Orla Nielsen's stamp collections will be sold by private treaty and at auctions. You are welcome to contact ebbe.eldrup@gmail.com if you want to buy a collection of a special issue or rare varieties.

May Orla Rest in Peace and let us all thank him for all that he has done for Icelandic Philately. Orla will be deeply missed.

/Ebbe Eldrup

Office Closed Frímerkjaspjall reports that the post office at Bolungarvík closes with effect from 1 September 2023. Postal services will be taken over by the Ísafjörður post office.

Whilst updating the current index for IPM issues for 2022/2023, I noticed that in the last issue number 57, I repeated an article which had previously been published in Issue 51. This was “Boxed cancels Íslandspóst” by Þór Þorsteins. I apologize.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Request for help - Two unusual items from Birgir Sigurþórsson

Encouraged by your invitation to write articles, here are two from my collection which I hope your readers can identify.



XXXXXXXXXXXX

Unknown "ISLAND" line cancellation. *Henk Burgman*



For me at least this is an unknown line cancellation. Inquiries sent to some of our cancellation experts did not bring any information. Maybe one of our other readers has an idea where this comes from?

Four Ring Numeral 175 (Issue 57) *Henk Burgman*



In response to the article in IPM Nr. 57 I send you a scan of a 4 Skilling Þjónusta stamp. It's the same issue as the item spotted by Ron Collin.

An entry in Bunæs/Langangen (Håndbok over Norske 4-ringsnummerstempler), says "Stempelet ble sendt fra Kristiania 4/9 -1883"

I bought this copy nearly a year ago at a British auction. The estimate was £ 108. As far as I can remember it was not sold and I bought it and paid a modest £ 31.40 for it, around 10% of the starting price that AB Philea started with. I'm wondering how much the AB item was sold for, if it was sold? I'm also wondering if there are more similar items known.

The 4-ring cancellation is a question as well. 4-ring cancels were, among others (?) used in Norway. A 4-ring cancellation Nr. 175 was in use on the D/S Kvik in Norway at the end of the 19th century. But is this a Norwegian cancellation? I am not sure.

I put the question to my Norwegian friend Bjørn Mugerud after I got the stamp. Here is his reaction. "I am not sure about this. It definitely looks like a 4-ring. In the Bunæs/Langangen (Håndbok over Norske 4-ringsnummerstempler), there is a rather poor illustration of the first 175-4 ring. I am not sure if your cancellation is identical, but I cannot rule it out. The 3-ring cancel looks different, so it is not that one.

The first 4-ring 175 was received in 1893 and used on a local ship (D/S Kvik between Tvedestrand-Dyngø south in Norway). I have not looked it up but 1893 is probably very late for an Icelandic Sk stamp?

There are quite a few Icelandic stamps with Norwegian cancellations, but my impression is that most are from the larger cities and specifically Bergen. I would say there is a 50/50 chance that this one is ok.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

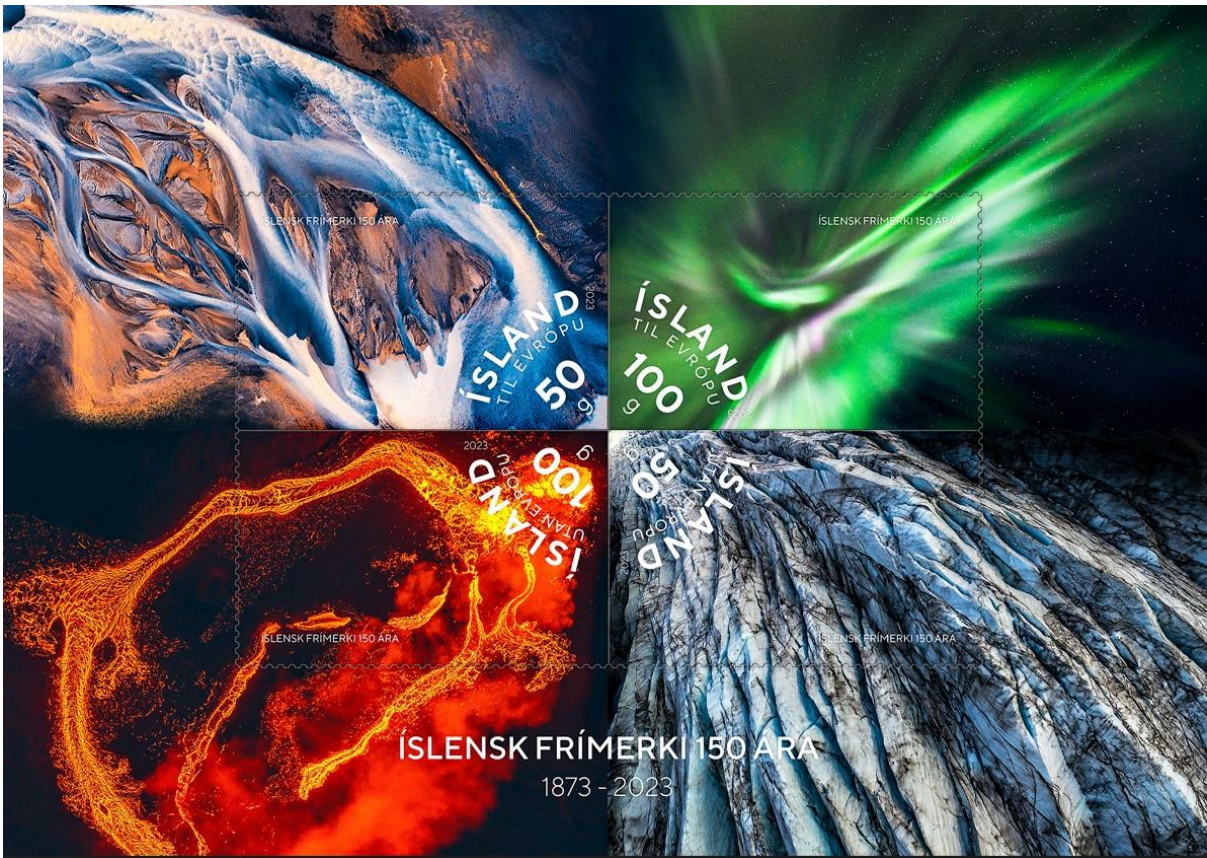
Another Cold War censor from Austria (IPM 57 and 48) *Henk Burgman*



Future of Icelandic stamp issues

Armağan Özdiñ

As most readers already know, Iceland Post stopped issuing new stamps at the end of 2020. As part of the Post's communication about this decision at the time, they stated they had enough stamp stocks of past issues to keep them going for many years without the need to issue new stamps. It has been a discussion among Icelandic stamp collectors for some time as to whether Iceland Post would ever issue new stamps again in the near future. This question found its answer during NORDIA 2023. The Post made a surprise announcement at the exhibition by stating that they were going to issue a souvenir sheet of four stamps on August 23rd to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Iceland's first stamp issue. They displayed the image of this new souvenir sheet on a roll-up banner at their booth. The souvenir sheet also featured on the cover of the NORDIA 2023 program book.



The Icelandic souvenir sheet issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first Icelandic stamp

As announced during NORDIA 2023, Iceland Post issued their first new set of stamps on August 23rd after more than two and half years. The new Icelandic souvenir sheet includes four self-adhesive offset-print stamps with the motifs of northern lights, rivers, lava flows and glaciers, depicting four natural Icelandic phenomena. The motifs are the drone pictures taken by Ragnar Th. Sigurðsson, an Icelandic photographer. The stamps may be used for 50/100gr. letters sent to Europe and 50/100gr. letters sent outside Europe. The price of the souvenir sheet is ISK 1,950.



*Þórhildur Ólöf Helgadóttir, CEO of Iceland Post,
and Armağan Özdiñç at NORDIA 2023*

Þórhildur Ólöf Helgadóttir, Iceland Post CEO, attended NORDIA 2023 on the last day of the exhibition, Helgadóttir, was appointed as CFO of Iceland Post in August 2019 and became CEO in December 2020. I had a chance to talk to her and discuss the future of new Icelandic stamps. I asked Helgadóttir how Iceland Post decided to issue a new set of stamps after stopping their new stamp issuing program more than two years ago. She replied, “Gísli Geir Harðarson, the Icelandic Philatelic Federation President, reached me some time ago and asked if Iceland Post would consider issuing a set of stamps to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first Icelandic stamp, which is an important milestone for Icelandic philately. Although the Post had already decided not to issue new stamps, I felt we had to honour this request for the celebration of such an important anniversary in the postal history of Iceland. I prepared a proposal for this matter and submitted it to the Iceland Post Board of Directors. In the end, my proposal was accepted. Here we are now ready to release this historic souvenir sheet in two months.”

I continued my conversation with the CEO to learn about the future philately plans of the Post. “The reality is that letter sending is declining in Iceland. Many companies in Iceland and Icelandic authorities have told us in response to our surveys that they will not be sending letters after 2025. Not only businesses, but also individuals shifted to using electronic communications. The parcel shipping now generates more revenue for us than letters. Having said this and given that we still have lots of stamps in our inventory, we need to be prudent in going forward with issuing more new stamps. First, let’s see how the new stamps that we will issue in August will be received and how successful we will be in its sales”, said Helgadóttir.

I told the CEO “It would be good if Iceland Post would start issuing only a few stamps in limited quantity in each year going forward. These issues would primarily be for the stamp collecting market more than for letter franking purposes. The stamps promote the splendid natural beauty of Iceland, given that tourism is now the country’s number one revenue source.

Posta Faroe Islands is a smaller postal administration than Iceland and very successful in this endeavour. You can look into their business model. I have good relations with Posta Faroe Islands and can assist you in this matter”. She responded “I am flexible and open to any future suggestions to consider and take it to the board. I am not a philatelist. I am a businesswoman with a finance background. So, I will need the support of the philatelists like you and Gísli in the future.”

I told her that I would be more than happy to provide any support she needs in the future. She asked for my contact information, and I provided her with my philatelist card. I left Reykjavík with a positive impression and hope that Iceland Post will continue to issue new stamps after August.

For the occasion of the issuance of this new souvenir sheet, Helgadóttir made a public statement and said "The images are brand new to the collection of Icelandic stamps. We believe they will be popular in tourist destinations as a reminder of a trip to Iceland. At the same time, stamp collectors are ecstatic that Iceland Post is celebrating the 150th anniversary of Iceland's first stamp with the issue of these stamps."

As the future of Icelandic stamp issues hinge on the selling success of this beautiful new souvenir sheet, it is important that all Icelandic stamp collectors purchase it and encourage others to do the same.



Sigríður Ástmundsdóttir, Iceland Post Philately Manager, at the NORDIA 2023 Iceland Post booth next to the display banner advertising the upcoming first stamp issue since 2020

Comparison of genuine Iceland skilling ovals with Spiro forgeries Roger Cichorz

Interestingly, Wolfgang Maassen's 2022 book titled *Forgers and Forgeries in the 19th Century, The Spiros – A Family from Hamburg* suggests that many Spiro-attributed forgeries were done by others, as many European stamp forgers were proliferating about the same time the Spiros were at work, and, other than those forged stamps that can be absolutely attributed to others (namely Sperati and Fournier), most are claimed to be Spiro forgeries.

1873 Oval Issues Skilling Denominations – Genuine vs. Spiro Forgeries

2 Skilling (Scott #1)



Scott #1 (genuine)
ultramarine, perf. 14 x 13½
thin (0.5 mm) paper



Scott #1 (forgery)
greenish blue, crude perf. ~13
medium (0.09 mm) paper



Scott #1 (forgery)
greenish blue, perf. 12½ (incorrect gauge)
medium (0.09 mm) paper

3 Skilling (Scott #5)



Scott #5 (genuine)
gray, perf. 12½
thin (0.065 mm) paper



Scott #5 (forgery)
light gray, perf. 12½
medium (0.09 mm) paper



Scott #5 (forgery)
light gray, crude perf. ~13 (incorrect gauge)
medium (0.09 mm) paper

4 Skilling (Scott #2 and #6)



Scott #2 (genuine)
dark carmine, perf. 14 x 13½
thin (0.065 mm) paper



Scott #2 (forgery)
rose pink, crude perf. ~13
thick (0.12 mm) paper



Scott #6 (forgery)
bright rose, perf. 12½
medium (0.09 mm) paper

8 Skilling (Scott #3)



Scott #3 (genuine)
brown, perf. 14 x 13½
thin (0.065 mm) paper



Scott #3 (forgery)
deep brown, perf. 12½ (incorrect gauge)
medium (0.09 mm) paper

16 Skilling (Scott #4 and #7)



Scott #7 (genuine)
yellow, perf. 12½
thin (0.065 mm) paper



Scott #4 (forgery)
bright yellow, crude perf. ~13
medium (0.09 mm) paper



Scott #7 (forgery)
bright yellow, perf. 12½
medium (0.09 mm) paper

Production Characteristics

Genuine Stamps:

- printed by typography
- watermarked crown, thin (0.05 to 0.07 mm) paper
- irregular and shorter perforations for gauge 12½
- irregular and shorter perforations for gauge 14 x 13½
- perforating process resulted in usually badly off-centered stamps
- used stamps usually postmarked with either Antiqua typeface or Grottesque (sans-serif) typeface town circular datestamps

Spiro Forgeries:

- printed by lithography
- unwatermarked, medium to thick (0.09 to 0.12 mm) paper
- uniform, well defined perforations for gauge 12½
- crude, blunt perforations attempted for gauge 14 x 13½
- perforation process resulted in generally well centered stamps
- always "cancelled" only partially with a fake Antiqua typeface "REYKAVIK" circular datestamp

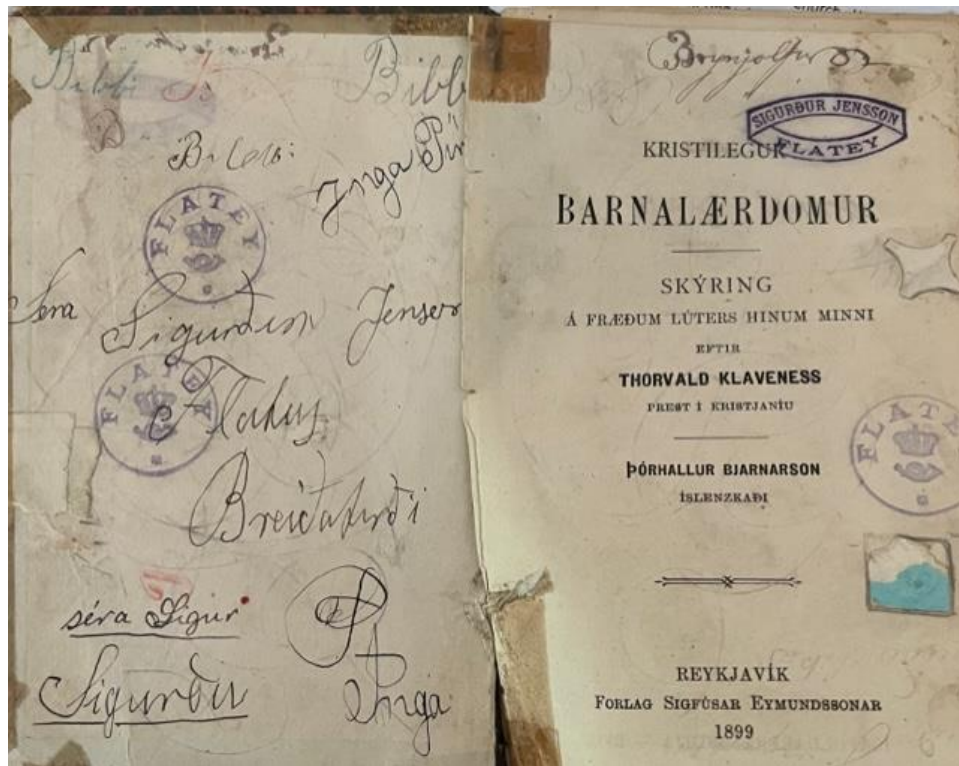
Spiro Brothers was a prominent lithographic firm in Hamburg, Germany that produced a broad line of printed items. In 1864, the company began to produce lithographic imitations of postage stamps, and during the next 15 years or so manufactured about 500 varieties, ordinarily printed in sheets of 25 (5 by 5) copies. Spiro Brothers never intended its lithographed facsimiles to deceive buyers, but some were rather well-done and delude collectors even today.

(Source: Varro E. Tyler, *Philatelic Forgers: Their Lives and Works*, Robson Lowe, London, 1976.)

This page provides a perspective of Spiro's handiwork, so you can be the judge of how well the Iceland stamps were done!

A piece of Flatey history

Cameron McKenzie found this interesting item amongst the late Wilbur Jonsson's collection. It bears quite a few strikes of the C1 Flatey crown cancel used at Flatey in Austur Barð. These were very likely applied by Sigurður Jensson, who may have had a dual role of priest and postal official at Flatey. The book printed in 1899 is entitled "Christian Children's Learning - An explanation of Luther's teachings to others".



official who handled the mail. There are various scribbles and another C1 strike on a third page which I can't decipher.

An internet search provided some background: -

Sigurður Jenssen was a priest at Flatey (1880-1921), and later the post official from 1914 when it became a post office. He had a rubber stamp "Sigurður Jenssen" which he applied to the book cover.

He probably used the C1 Flatey crown cancel in different places in the book as a mark of ownership.

The crown cancel was used in the collecting office period from 1894 to 1913 and I guess he was very probably the collecting office

A somewhat battered cover with some questions *Henk Burgman*



It is a registered cover from the "Frímerkjasalan" Icelandic Philatelic Service to the USA. The cover is franked with a total of 2,70 ISK. The stamps are cancelled 30.V.34. But the stamps used, for franking, were not issued at that time. The American transit and receiving cancels are from July 1945.

Dating a cancel device wrong with an hour, day, month, or year figure I can understand. But has this cancel been outdated for eleven years? (1934 instead of 1945)

Did the postal clerk have a (victory) party the day before, that he changed the year digits instead of the day digits? Nobody can tell after so many years. But it is curious.

By the way, I noticed the pencil scribbling "Fel på ártal" just under the Geysir stamps, only after I had scanned the cover. The cover was not censored. I thought that censoring covers stopped somewhere in August 1945.

The sender was the Icelandic Philatelic Service, and the contents were probably stamps for a collector. The customs were interested in this, but I cannot find any signs that the cover was opened by them. However, they charged 10 US cents for "customs service". What kind of service could that have been?

At the time that I acquired this cover, I had asked Jørgen Steen Larsen if he knew if this cancel mistake was noticed before. That was not the case, but he pointed out the closing seal, which was "most interesting" as he said. Closing seals are not my core collection thing, but sure, I had never seen this one as well.

I forgot about this cover until I did see the same seal on the cover that Ron Collin, showed in IPM 56. By having this cover on hand, I can partly answer Ron's question, about the printing on the seal. The text on the seal is not printed but embossed. You can see it very clearly, if you have the cover in hand, and you can feel it, if you run your finger over it, as well.

Right, let us get back to the franking of the cover. The weight was, as indicated on top of the cover, 75 grams and it was registered. Looking for the correct franking I do have, however - what else, Brian's Postal rates book and I find that an "overland" letter of 75 grams to a destination outside Scandinavia was to be franked with 165 Aur (up to 80 Gr.) + R-fee of 60 aur, a total of 225 aur.

I cannot find evidence of any other extra service. I can see a blue 'A', near the left hand bottom corner. That could be the A of A.R., but I don't think so. However, if there was an extra fee of 60 aur (for A.R.), it would make the required franking to a total of 285 Aur.

My question on the franking is, where do I miscalculate? Or did the postal clerk really have a day off, by not only misdating the canceler but also miscalculating the franking? Who can be of any help in this?

Vestmannaeyjar – A look at the Archives *Michael Schumacher*

A person never knows when a new philatelic adventure and opportunity will arise when traveling to a stamp exhibition, such as the recent trip to Nordia 2023 in Iceland in June. I allowed a few extra days after the show to do a bit of traveling around Iceland in areas that I had not been to on previous trips. I especially wanted to visit Vestmannaeyjar, so made plans to do so after Nordia 2023.

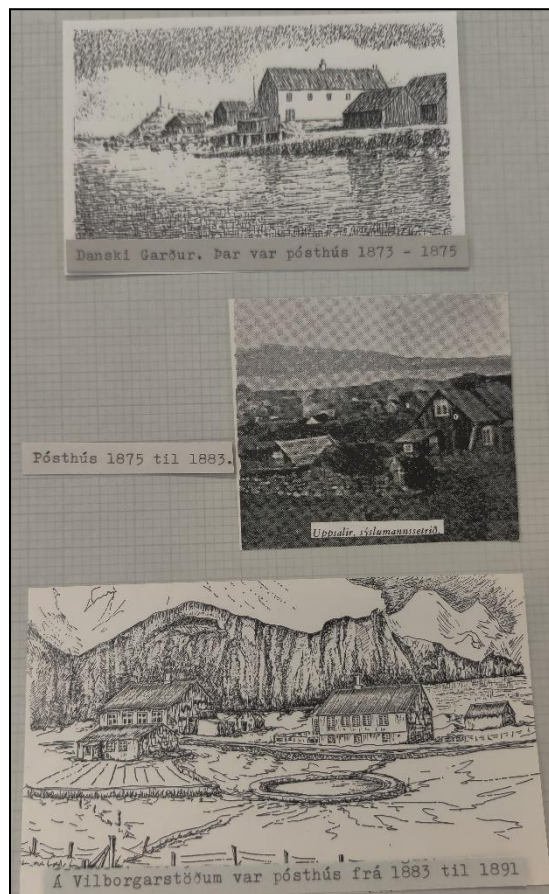
I was joined in this side trip by David Loe from New Zealand and Armağan Özdiñç from the U.S. At Nordia we learned about a collection of Vestmannaeyjar postal history that was donated to Library archives. When we arrived in Vestmannaeyjar we inquired about viewing the collection and was provided the opportunity to do so. We all enjoyed the time spent looking through the collection and observed many interesting covers and a wealth of postal history information about Vestmannaeyjar. The following items are just a sampling of the material contained in the collection.



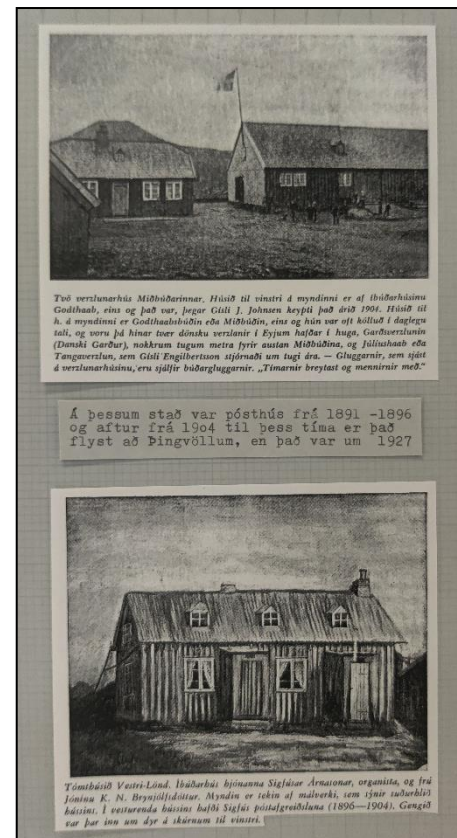
(David and Armağan)

Pictures of Vestmannaeyjar Post Office locations over the years:

These pictures show the post office locations from 1873 to 1875; 1875 to 1883; and 1883 to 1891 respectively.



The pictures below show the post office locations from 1891 to 1896 and 1896 to 1904.



There were more pictures of subsequent post office locations from later years.

Additionally, there was information of Vestmannaeyjar postmarks over the years. The pictures below show Vestmannaeyjar postmark types over the years and the periods of usage.

Stimplar í V E S T M A N N A E Y J U M frá 1873.

A Antiqua í notkun frá 1873 til ca. 1911.

Aa Texti lesinn frá vinstri.

Ab Texti lesin frá hægri (lang algengast).

Ac Tölur í blandaðri leturgerð.

B Brúarstimplar :

B2 c1 í notkun frá um 1911 til 1938.

B5 a í notkun frá um 1938 til 1954.

B2 c2 í notkun frá um 1953 til 1961.

B8 ea í notkun frá um 1959 til 1977, lítið frá 1962. Stórar stjórnur, 2 oddar niður.

B8 eb í notkun frá 3.4.1962, en lítið eftir 1985. Litlar stjórnur, 1 oddur niður.

B8 b í notkun frá 23.1.1978. Ný stjarna.



P. Myndstimplar :

a Míningarstimplar um eldgosið 23.1.1973, í notkun 23/4. 1975, 1976, 1977 og 1978 .

b Vestmannaeyjakaupstaður 70 ára, 30.6.1989.


Vélstimpill er í í Vestmannaeyjum. Fyrsta þekkt notkun er 2.9.1964.

Frímerkjavélar fyrirtækja eru líka í notkun.





Þetta áttugasafn sýnir notkun póststimpla Vestmannaeyja. Sýnd eru laus merki, bréf, bréfnifsi og ýms önnur notkun stimplanna. Í heild spannar safnið yfir notkun allra póststimplanna og er nú á ...³⁸⁴... blöðum.

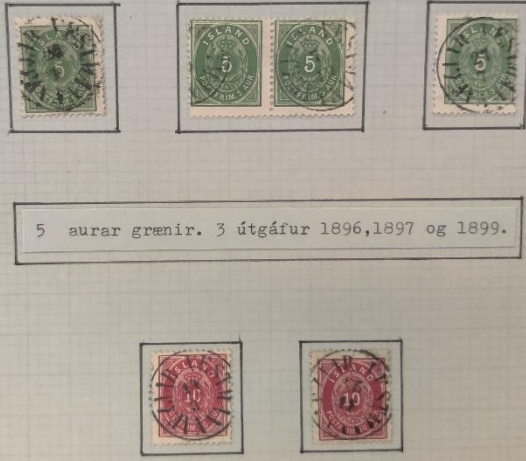
Hér eru sýnd blöð úr safninu. .



Of course, these various postmarks were also shown on stamps and covers contained within the collection.



Auramerki tökkuð 14 x 13 1/2, útgefin 1876 til 1895. Hér eru sýnd merki frá 1891 og 1892 .



5 aurar grænir. 3 útgáfur 1896, 1897 og 1899.

10 aurar rauðir. 2 útgáfur 1897 og 1899. Ekki er talið mögulegt að greina milli útgáfa. .

A 1904 Postal stationary card from Vestmannaeyjar to Ísafjórður via Reykjavík.



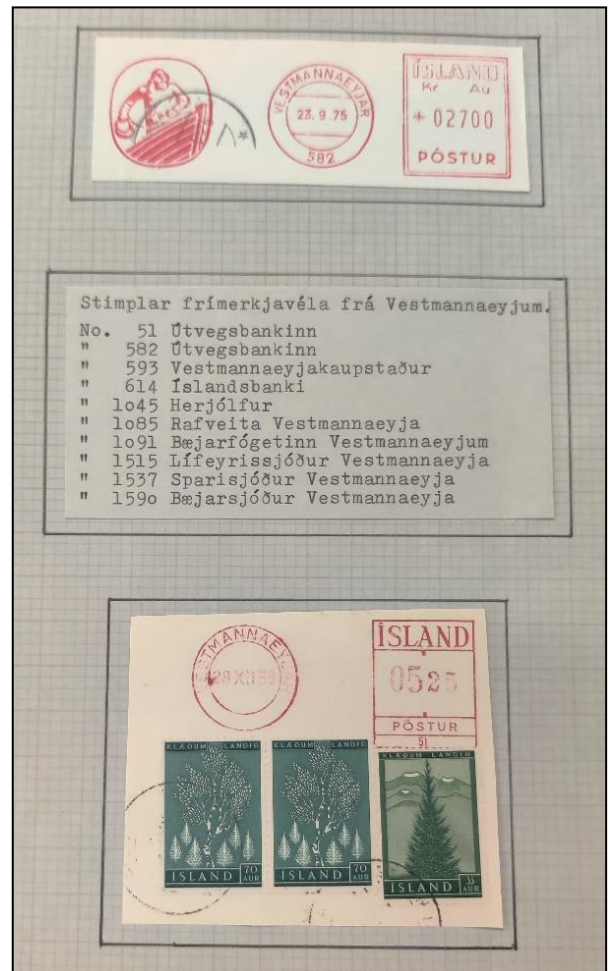
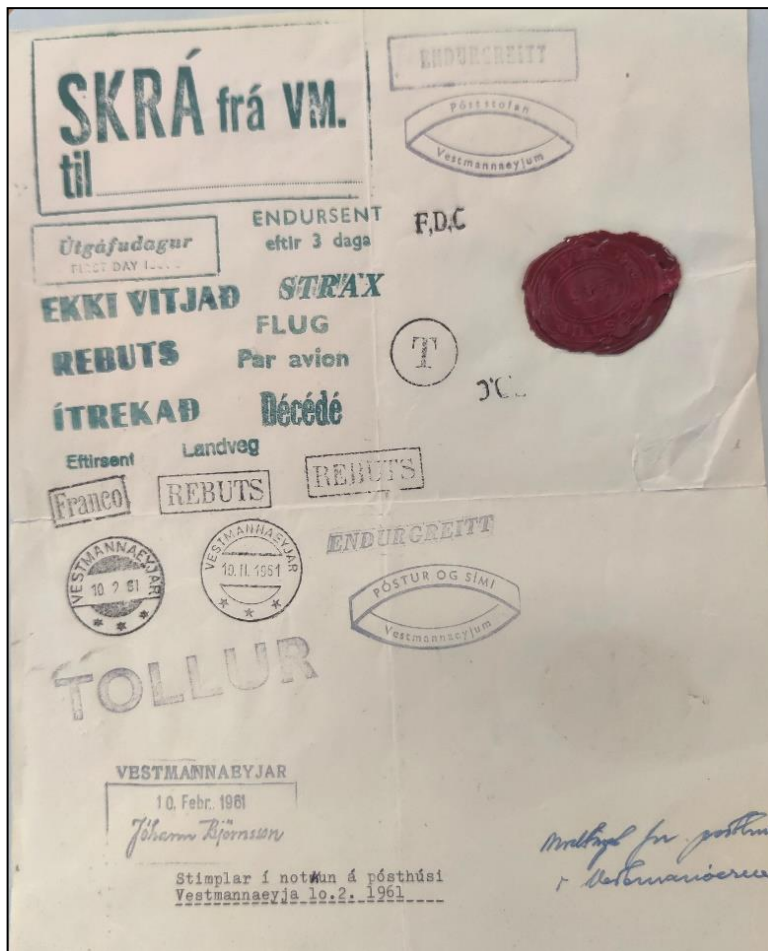
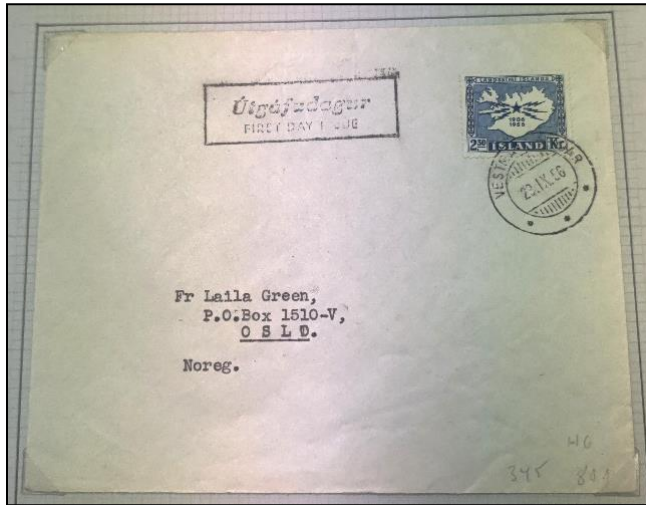
A 1908 cover from Vestmannaeyjar to Hamburg via Edinburgh with “T” marking postage due.



The variety of interesting covers and material spanned the years to more modern items, such as these covers and postmarks.

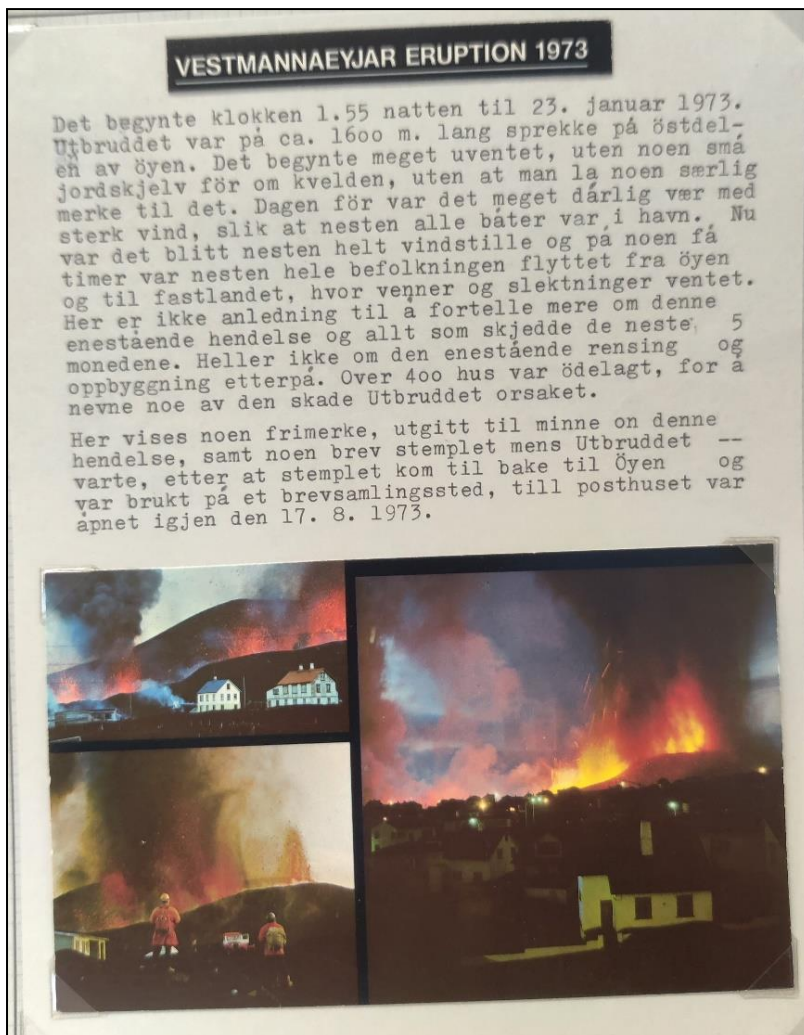
1956 first day cover

1938 P. Petersen cover with block of four King Christian X Silver Jubilee issue



Other postal markings used in Vestmannaeyjar.

The collection of course contained material related to the 1973 eruption of Eldfell where most of the population of 5200 residents had to be evacuated in the middle of the night. The lava and ash covered nearly one-fifth of the town and closed off part of the way into the harbor before it stopped.



Iceland issued two stamps in commemoration of the event in January 1975.

Items contained in this article are just a small sample of what was in the collection.

Philately – what a wonderful hobby that provides such interesting opportunities to learn about other countries and events. Hopefully this article whets your appetite to visit Vestmannaeyjar the next time you are in Iceland. It was well worth the extra days spent in Iceland.



Former postal stations (1)

Steinar Fridthorsson took a family trip to the northern regions and for our benefit took pictures of former postal stations. We can enjoy them in a series beginning with this issue.

We start with Arngerðareyri in Norður Ísafjarðarsýsla.



A collecting office
opened on 23.4.1892.
Closed 31.12.1959.



Brjámslækur Vestur Barðastrand

Collecting office opened on 1.1.1873.

Crown cancel from 1894.



The name changed later to Brjámslækur.
It finally closed on 31.3.1990.

Late re-use of C1 Goðdalir. *Jørgen Steen Larsen*

Goðdalir was an old manor farm in Skagafjarðarsýsla, situated south of the Northern main postal route - aðalpóstur route - through Viðimýri. From Viðimýri an aukapóstur route led through Mælifell to Goðdalir, so one could say that BH Goðdalir was placed at the end of the track.

Goðdalir was appointed BH from 1.5.1892. Around 1894/95 the BH received the cancel C1 Goðdalir, and in the summer of 1903 it received N1a-76. Until 1907 it had a church and was a parsonage. C1 Goðdalir is seldom seen used before the summer of 1903. The N1a-76 was used regularly up to app.1926. I have one usage of this cancel as arrival cancel on a piece with Facit 128, 159*2 and 172. The piece is from a package and cancelled in Reykjavík 31.VII.1926.

N1a-76

N1a-76 does not seem to have been damaged so why was C1 Goðdalir reused during this period of time?

C1 is known reused in a period from app. late 1926 to the summer of 1930.

Reusages from this period of time are scarce but not rare, probably because the cancel is so unusual that most of the few that existed have been kept by collectors. I have reusages of C1 on Facit 128, 128 and 170 and have seen several other reusages on Facit 170.

Illustrations of C1 reused on Facit 125, 128, 169, 170 and 172.



The reusage of C1 Holt will be reviewed in the next issue.

The next cancel for review will be C1 Holt in the November 2023 issue. I am told that few examples of this are known from the 1916-1919 period. I appeal to readers who possess a copy to send an image to the editor.



The last missing C1 cancel? *Steinar Fridthorsson & Jørgen Steen Larsen*

From Facit Classic we know that 114 out of the 115 C1 cancels delivered have been identified. Here, we will try once more to find out to where the last missing C1 cancel was delivered. In *Frímerkjablaðið* nr. 5, 1/2001, page 13, Þór Þorsteins shows an unknown C1 cancel.



The readable part of the letters is “ÁS” and “OTUM”.

It must be a double strike as the letters are not positioned symmetrically to the posthorn.

The “ÁS” is positioned much lower than the “OTUM”. In addition, the lower part of the circle nearest to the “ÁS” doesn't seem to fit exactly with the rest of the circle.

We do not know any other C1 cancels which could fit this combination of letters. The nearest we can come up with is C1 ÁS Í HOLTUM but the “O” in “OTUM” is so clear that it could not have been part of “HOLTUM”.

This means that the C1 cancel shown in *Frímerkjablaðið* must be part of the missing C1 cancel - but which place name is it? The only guess we can come up with is C1 ÁS Í FLJOTUM – but such a place name has never existed. Our conclusion is that the cancel was misspelled.

As an alternative placename we would like to suggest the nearby farm of Ás í Hegranesi, Skagafjarðarsýsla. This farm is close to the farm Garður í Hegranesi that opened as BH 30.1.1894. We do not know a crown cancel from this BH but Þór Þorsteins has made an notation: “C1?” to indicate that this is one of very few places that might in his opinion have received a C1 cancellation. The BH Garður was moved to the neighboring farm of Ás í Hegranesi on 1.6.1908. Perhaps it was originally intended that the BH should have opened at Ás and not at Garður?

Illustration no. 2.

Dot near bottom left corner maps out the location of Ás í Hegranesi, the region of Fljót marked out near the upper right corner. Photo taken from www.map.is, an invaluable website for anyone interested in Icelandic postal history and/or geography.

How could ÁS Í FLJOTUM have been used instead of ÁS Í HEGRANESI?

The place Haganesvík í Fljótum is positioned in NE Skagafjarðarsýsla, opened as BH 1.1.1891 and received C1 HAGANES. It seems possible that someone at the post office in Reykjavík believed Ás to belong to the nearby region of Fljót (Fljótum).



In addition, we can report, that in the Skýrsla lists with information about fees paid annually to BH-men, for the year 1895 we can find two farms with the names Garðar and Garðsstaðir in Skagafjarðarsýsla. Both farms received 15 kr. for 1895. In 1894 and 1896 only the name Garður/Görðum is listed, and the fee is 15 kr. for 1894 and 20 kr. for 1896. Garður is clearly Garður á Hegrnesi and a BH with the name Garðsstaðir never existed in Skagafjarðarsýsla. We only know of a BH Garðsstaðir in Norður-Ísafjarðarsýsla. Our conclusion is that there was a mistake in the Skýrsla list for 1895. Garðsstaðir should have been omitted.

We add this just to show that there seemed to be some confusion at the post office in Reykjavík around 1895 as to the BH in Hegrnes, Skagafjarðarsýsla, so it is perhaps not so surprising that there also was confusion about the correct name in the C1 cancel to this place.

Our conclusion is that a C1 cancel with the inscription ÁS Í FLJÓTUM was produced and delivered to BH Garður í Hegrnesi around 1894/95.

(Editor: At the time of writing, this illustrated cancel is the only copy of Ás í Fljótum known to exist. I suggest that readers might like to re-examine their strikes of Ás í Holtum to ensure that they have not misidentified any which are in fact Ás í Fljótum).

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Late Re-use of C1 Fagurhólsmýri (Issue 57) Brian Stwalley

This adds to the debate on late use of this cancel with this example. The description reads - 20aur insured letter for 25kr sent from Fagurhólsmýri to Reykjavík, arrival 7.3.24. transit cancel Kirkjubæjarklaustur 27/2. Domestic standard insured letter 0-300kr 80aur 17.7.22 to 31.12.39. Late use of C1 Crown cancel Fagurh()lsmýri. Less than 5 covers with CHX are known with a crown cancel.

This example likely extends the late use into 1924. I'm rather curious about the late use of this cancel and if there is any relationship to the late use of the Vík crown cancel located further down the route. It seems again to be a situation where I have more examples of the crown cancel from this time compared to the NIC 23.



Unreported manuscript cancels? (Issue 57) *Jørgen Steen Larsen*

Reference page 8 Manuscript cancel.

I was wrong when in 2009 I guessed that the manuscript cancel was “Vestm” for Westman Islands. It is “Viðim” for Viðimýri. Miklibær was a PA until 30.6.1885 when it was moved to the farm Viðimýri, that was upgraded from BH to PA at 1.7.1885.

The manuscript cancel “Viðim” could either have been used at BH Viðimýri during the period 27.3.1884 to 30.6.1885 or after 1.7.1885, where PA Viðimýri primarily used A type Miklibær, but perhaps sometimes did not like to use the old A Miklibær cancel? The A Miklibær cancel was replaced by G2 Skagafjarðarsýsla in November 1897.

It is my guess that “Viðim” was primarily or only used during the BH period from 27.3.1884 to 30.6.1885.

In my collection I have “..mýri” on Facit 10 and 3 copies of “Viðim” on Facit 12, 12 and Tj 8.

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A Forgery that’s a “bit” off *Steinar Fridthorsson*

I recently came across this forgery of a 1 kr Hopflug stamp being offered by a German auction house and notified the auctioneer of its status.

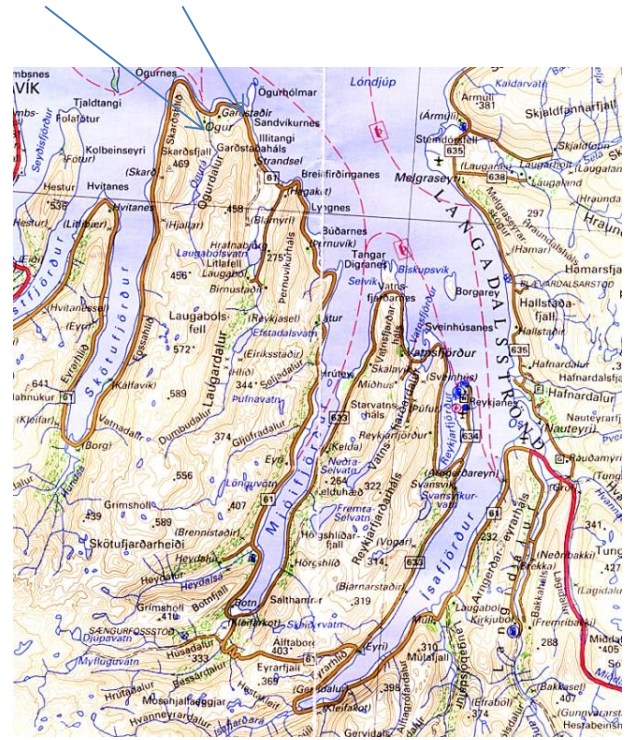


It has either been created by someone with an exceptionally low level of knowledge in Icelandic stamps or simply as a joke. To start with the overprint is of course on the wrong stamp, being on the first issue of Christian X rather than the second one with re-engraved center (the stamp used for the overprint even cancelled in the 1920s). Secondly the colour of the overprint is much more pinkish in colour than the correct dark red colour. Thirdly many of the letters and accents in the overprint are off when compared to the original.

Garðsstaðir and Ögur collecting offices

As you will have seen on page 17, in this and future issues we will have the pleasure of photos of remote postal stations, taken by Steinar Fridthorsson on a family trip this year. The two pictures shown below inspired me to turn to my favourite region in Iceland, Norður Ísafjarðarsýsla, and examine the circumstances surrounding the crown cancel allocations in respect of the two offices named in the title. Steinar says there are only about 300 metres distance between Ögur and Garðsstaðir! Both collecting offices were located in the remote parish of Ögurhreppur. See map.

The first collecting office to open here was at Ögur on 30th January 1894. Researchers have published some details of the two contracts to deliver type C1 crown cancels in March and December 1894 to circa. 112 collecting offices. For reasons unexplained, a C1 cancel for Ögur was not included in the mentioned second delivery of crown cancels in late 1894. The Ögur office closed anyway at the end of 1894 and was immediately replaced on 1st January 1895 by a collecting office at Garðsstaðir, again without a canceller.



Ögur

As far as is known, there were no further deliveries of crown cancellers from Denmark until 1898, when new type C2 crowns were delivered for use in some collecting offices. Garðsstaðir received a C2 cancel inscribed ØGUR with the name misspelt with the Danish Ø.

As David Loe describes in his Gazetteer (IPM Issue 18), Ögur was served by the M/S Fagranes and so was quite important as the road head before 1970, when the coastal route was finally linked between Eyri and Ögur. It was also the name of the parish Ögurhreppur, and so the choice of Ögur for the C2 cancel name rather than Garðsstaðir is understandable.



Garðsstaðir

Subsequently in 1902, Garðsstaðir received a N1a numeral 109. Garðsstaðir office closed on 30th April 1904 and returned to Ögur, which continued with the Garðsstaðir numeral 109.



C2 Øgur used at Garðsstaðir from 1898 - 1902.

At least I have managed to satisfy my curiosity about the absence of any C1 crown cancel inscribed Garðsstaðir. That collecting office was open for over 3 years from 1895 until 1898 apparently without any cancellation at all. Mail would surely have been scarce in that area, but how the bréfhirðingarmaður identified his occasional mail handling remains a mystery. Unless of course there are a few manuscript cancels hidden somewhere? Readers - I will be glad to show them in the next issue if anyone has one !!

The Post Ship Laura 178 N1a 1905 – 1908 Páll A. Pálsson

Previously published in the Nordia 2023 Exhibition Catalogue. Reproduced with the author's permission.
Translated from the Icelandic

At the turn of the 1900s, Icelanders started a battle with the Danes to issue customized stamps for Iceland, since they believed that "the country would be able to make millions of ISK on stamp sales". Magnús Stephensen, head of state, was against such a publication at first, and expressed his opinion in the Alþingi that it was not appropriate for the Icelandic Parliament to "speculate with stamps". However, the remaining skilling marks were sold for a low price and the national treasury received nothing for it, which greatly upset the citizens, and Magnús deviated from that opinion in the following seasons. In 1898, he recommended that a new stamp law be ratified, but the Danish government refused to ratify that law, especially since the Danish government opposed such a change. Þjóðólf's editor made mocking comments about that attitude and said, among other things: "There is not much freedom now, not being able to manage so little as changing a single letter on our stamps, without bringing the Danish government to its knees."

However, the struggle continued, and Alþingi Íslendinga challenged the administration in 1901 to make new stamps to replace the ones then in use. The controversial Peter Alberti, the last Danish minister of Iceland, finally accepted that challenge and the preparation of a stamp issue began as a result. Danish newspapers challenged Alberti "to make them happen as masterpieces of beauty and invite all Danish artists to compete for the most beautiful design model they can create for them".

Governor Magnús presented the adviser's announcement to the parliament in August 1902, where he said he had made arrangements for the production of new stamps with the image of King Kristján IX. It was the first time that an image of that king appeared on a stamp. Danish artist Hans Tegner designed the logo. The ministry seems to have had a problem with this stamp production. The stamps were printed with the image of the king at H.H. Tyle in Copenhagen. Minister of Iceland sent out an announcement on September 24, 1902, that Icelandic stamps and postcards were now in use and said that: all older general stamps and cards are no longer valid, however, that people can exchange them for new stamps and postcards at the post offices until December 31 this year. The older stamps and postcards will be overprinted with this "Í GILDI 02-03" and will then be made valid until the end of the year 1903. After that time only the new stamps and postcards shall be valid." After that, all mail that was not stamped with the new stamps had to be considered unpaid. All overprinted stamps were to be sent to postal clerks and they would then be sent to the post office in Reykjavík. The stamps came with the steamship Laura to Iceland and were put into circulation on October 9, 1902.



The stamps were in sheets of 100 along with lettercards and postcards. Some newspapers claimed that it was "a unanimous opinion that the old stamps were much more beautiful than the new ones". Others claimed that the new stamps were not so "clever", i.e., that it would be hard to distinguish some of them, especially in bright light.

After the change became known, great competition began to acquire the older stamps, especially the overprinted ones, although previously there had been little demand for used stamps. *Norðurland* said that at the end of October, one dealer had learned about the change before others and had "bought most or everything that was available at the post office". It was said that the value of the old stamp stock was close to half a million ISK at that time, and in a short time the Icelandic postal administration sold the old stamps for 150 thousand krónur. Because "many Reykjavík residents now have "stamp fever", so much so that they are very eager to get hold of the old stamps in order to make money from them later". Companies and individuals advertised stamps in the country's newspapers by the dozen and most offered the "highest price". The *Reykjavík* newspaper said: "on October 9, a contagious disease called stamp fever broke out here, and it seized many, both high and low, but it did not put anyone to bed, much less to the grave. The symptoms of this disease are unusual restlessness, shortness of breath, dreams and rapid heartbeat."

When someone examined the 20 aura stamps, in two stamps on each sheet there was a typo, instead of "frímerki" there was "þjónusta", people's interest grew even more. *Reykjavík* added that "with this remarkable discovery, the search grew on people so that some have made it up to the clouds and some more or less all the way up - but hopefully it will rain them back down to earth as soon as time passes, and their dreams have come true". In Iceland, cancels with numbers were put into circulation, at first from 1-173 and then up to 300, albeit with slight changes to the typeface. The mail steamer *Laura* was given the stamp N1c – 178 and was used there from 1905-1908.

Laura arrived at the port of Reykjavík on Sunday, November 26, 1905, a day later than expected, from Copenhagen with a stopover in Leith in Scotland. With the ship came, among others, Hannes Hafstein, the first domestic minister of Iceland, after a two-month stay abroad, and Tryggvi Gunnarsson, the bank manager of *Landsbank*, after a one-month stay, Pétur Oddsson, a merchant in Bolungarvík, Sigurður Á. Kristjánsson, merchant on Ísafjörður and other powerful men. *Laura* then arrived at Ísafjörður on December 2, stayed there for two days and sailed again on December 4. The letter shown in this article is stamped with the number 178, received in Reykjavík 6, or 8 December, but the next thing we know is that on the way to the capital, the letter has been stamped on board the *Laura*. The letter is in good condition even though it is almost 120 years old. The steamship *Laura* ran aground at Skagaströnd on March 16, 1910, and ended its life there as a ship, but the locals used the timber for all kinds of purposes.



LAURA

Follow-up to Previously Unlisted Tollur-Canceled Stamps Roger Cichorz

I am pleased to report that as a result of my bringing these stamps to the attention of Facit's Iceland section editor, Steinar Fridthorsson, the three previously unlisted *Facit* and *Scott* 20 aur stamps with Tollur cancellations (*Facit* #99/*Scott* #132, *Facit* #100/*Scott* #134, and *Facit* #105/*Scott* #133) have been added to the Iceland listings in *FACIT Special Classic 2024* as #s 99v³, 100v, and 105v, respectively. However, these stamps are presently not given valuations and indicated with asterisks.

I have also brought the existence of these stamps to the attention of the Scott Catalogues Editor, Jay Bigalke, and received word from Scott's Editor Director Donna Houseman, that these three Tollur-canceled stamps will be added to the Iceland listings in future editions of the *Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps & Covers* and *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue Volume 3B*. What valuations Scott will assign to these three stamps, if any, remains to be seen. It is likely that any values will be italicized, indicating insufficient market activity for the Editor to assign realistic retail values.

With these three stamps, it can be stated that now all the 1921-1925 surcharged stamp issues are known to exist with Tollur cancels. Steinar Fridthorsson remarked to me that he had always expected all the 1921-1925 surcharged stamps to be used for Tollur purposes, especially when such "outliers" as the "Hópflug Ítala/1933"-overprinted airmails exist with Tollur cancels. It makes sense that all three of these stamps are legitimate Tollur use and should exist as they were issued and available during the 1924 to 1938 period of Tollur-cancelers' use and not among the stamps prohibited from receiving the Tollur cancellation. A skeptic, of course, could argue that these stamps were contemporaneously canceled to order or otherwise favor canceled for the benefit of collectors. I suppose the only way to verify actual Tollur use of any Tollur-canceled stamps is if they are affixed to a revenue document or a portion thereof.

I want to point out, however, that most surviving Tollur-canceled stamps are off-paper examples, and the Tollur-canceled stamps that exist on entire documents or substantial portions thereof are modest in number and scarce by comparison. A 1934 invoice affixed with 12 Tollur-canceled stamps totaling 13.77 kroner shows typical customs-duty fiscal use of Icelandic postage stamps during the Tollur period of 1924 to 1938.

A revised Concordance of *Facit* numbers versus *Scott* numbers for Tollur stamps reflecting the recent catalogue changes is provided after the text of this article.

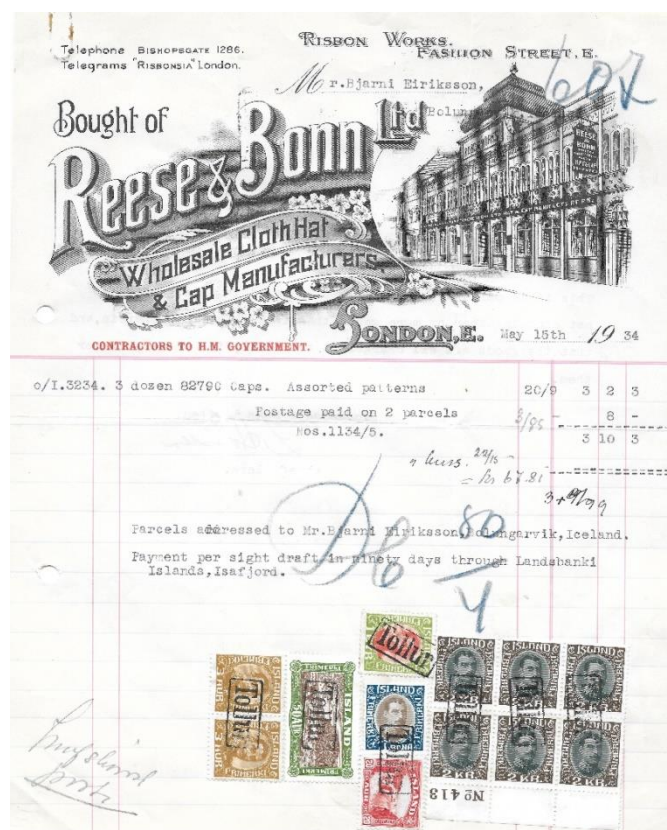
REFERENCES

Personal correspondence via e-mail, with Gunnar Lithén, Steinar Fridthorsson, Jay Smith, and Donna Houseman, January-June 2023.

FACIT Special Classic 2024, Gunnar Lithén (Editor-in-Chief), Facit Förlags AB, Malmö, Sweden, Iceland Section, page I-409.

1934 invoice from London for imported goods, assessed a total customs duty of 13.77 kroner, shows fiscal use of Icelandic postage stamps during the 1924 to 1938 period of Tollur cancelers' use. Roger Cichorz,

"Tollur (Revenue) Cancellations on Iceland's Postage Stamps," *The Posthorn* 2/2023, pages 6-11. (Update to two articles previously published in *IPM*. Issue 8/2016, 54/2023)



1934 invoice from London for imported goods, assessed a total customs duty of 13.77 kroner, shows fiscal use of Icelandic postage stamps during the 1924 to 1938 period of Tollur cancelers' use.

Fakes - 10 kr overprints Jay Smith

While looking at an old (1988 #1; issue 20) of "Grusk", I found a small article regarding Arno Debo stating that he had discovered extremely good forgeries of the 10 kr overprints. However -- very unfortunately -- no information was given as to the points of identification of the forgeries, etc. As somebody interested first in the distribution of knowledge, that is not how I would have approached this. Perhaps the points of identification are too small to describe? The images in "Grusk" are certainly of no help, at least not to me.



(Editor: Adjacent are the poor quality b/w images taken from Grusk. Above are images of the overprinted stamps taken from "One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps" by Jón Aðalsteinn Jónsson.

Jay goes on to ask if there have been any articles on these forgeries in philatelic journals. A quick scan of the IPM indices for previous issues does not reveal any reference to forgeries on these issues. I can find nothing in the 37 issues of *Frímerkjablaðið*. I can only suggest that either *IslandsKontakt Danmark* or *Rapport* might be a possible source? At Jay's request I am putting his query out to our readers who may have knowledge of this subject).

What follows is the article taken from Grusk and translated from the Icelandic.

At a meeting held by the Iceland Association, during the Hafnía exhibition last autumn, the German expert and international judge, Dr. Arno Debo, introduced forgeries, which he has found when issuing certificates for 10 ISK. overprinted stamps. He found these for 10 ISK on 50 aurar Fr. VIII, the 10 kr on 1 kr Jón Sigurðsson and 10 kr on 5 kr Double Heads.

Since these forgeries are so well made, stamp collectors are strongly warned against these overprinted stamps and do not buy them unless certified by an expert.

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Paper fold on Icelandic stamp Mike Schumacher

Just thought I would pass this along, because as someone who has collected Icelandic philatelic material for nearly 30 years this is something you don't see every day. While searching a dealers stock a couple of years ago, I happened upon this gem. It contains a paper fold printing defect.



(front)



(back)

I do not recall ever seeing mention of this sort of thing before with Icelandic stamps. Have other collectors come across this sort of thing on Icelandic material?

Private stamp from Norðfjörður (Issue 57) Vigfus Þór Sveinnbjörnsson



I just read issue 57 and noticed you asked for examples of the Jón Guðmundsson private cancel. Attached is one from my collection.

In the same issue there is a picture from Jørgen Steen Larsen about a fake Reykjavik cancel on 25 aur Alþing stamp. He mentioned that the seller probably didn't know it was fake, well me, the buyer, didn't know either! So, thanks for the information.



(Ed.) Jørgen Steen Larsen added this: - Prestur Jón Guðmundsson – Norðfirði.
In addition to the copies shown I have this cancel on Facit 66, 78 * 2 and 79 * 2.

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“Wrongly” franked postcards in 1934? (Issue 57)

I know that postal rates are not a subject followed by everyone, but I am amazed that there has been no response from readers to this question! Are there no suggestions for possible reasons for not just one, but five examples provided by Brian Stwalley showing the 10 aurar Christian X issue on varying 1934 postcards, none of which can be described as local post?

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The next issue (59):- I am away on holiday for 3 weeks in October. It would greatly help to reduce the pressure following my return if as much material as possible for Issue 59 could reach my email address before the end of September. Anything received after October 12th will be dealt with following my return.