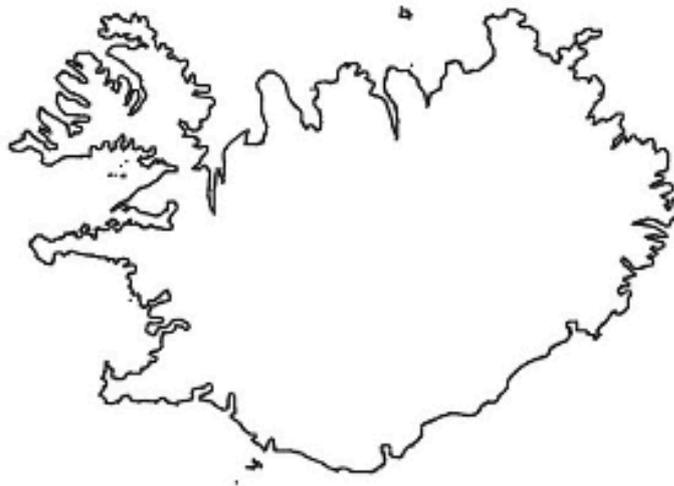
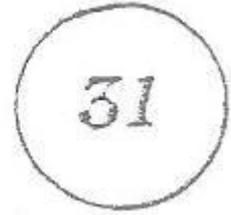


# ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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## Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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Please let me have your articles if you want them in the next issue which will be January 2024. If you need help with translations let me know.

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As this is the final issue of 2023, I have attached an index of the issues for 2022/2023.

## Re-use of C1 Holt. Jørgen Steen Larsen

In the period 1913 – 1917 members of the Önundarfjörður Youth Society took care of delivering local Christmas postcards (and letters?) on Christmas Day.

The local postal route was organized within the society so that each of 4 sections sent a man from farm to farm within his district to bring the local post to the farm Holt, which is situated centrally in the Fjord. From there the post was distributed to the receivers. We do not know how the postage was paid in the first two years.

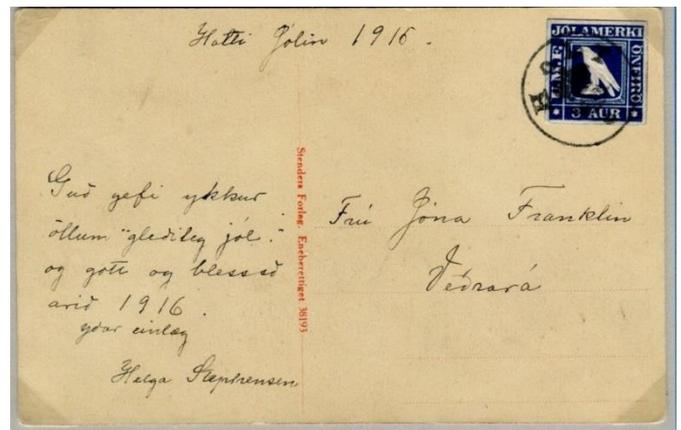
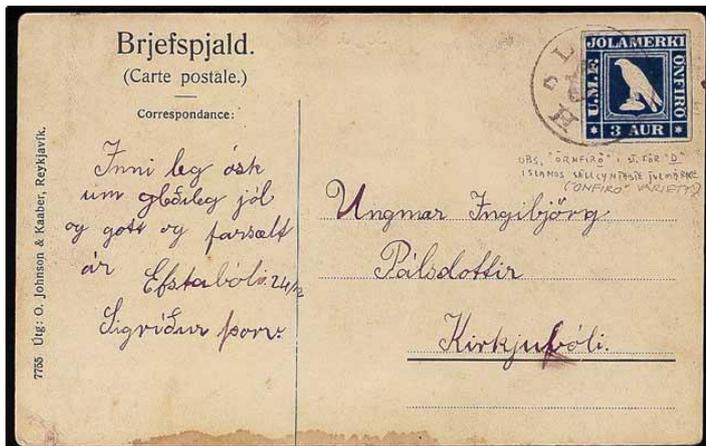


In 1915, 3 aur stamps with a Falcon and the inscription “Jólamerki U.M.F. Önfirö 3 aur” were produced and were used. In 1916 new stamps were produced. In the text the error “Önfirö” is changed to “Önfirð” and both 3 aur and 5 aur stamps were issued.

The post was cancelled with C1 Holt and N1a-111. We also know of manuscript cancellations. From 1918 the local Christmas post in Önundarfjörður stopped.

More information about this topic can be found in: The exhibition Catalogue from NORDIA 91, page 25 – 28, and in Frímerkjablaðið, Nr. 7, page 6\* and Nr. 14, page 9.

- Editor: There follows a translation of the article by Gylfi Gunnarsson, taken from Frímerkjablaðið, Nr. 7, page 6.



### **The reusage of C1 Hvalsnes will be reviewed in the next issue.**

I appeal to readers who possess examples of late use of this crown cancel to send images to the editor in time for the January 2024 issue.

## **Einkapóstur, or what in English is called "Private Post" or "Local Post" has operated in Iceland. *Gylfi Gunnarsson***

Originally published in issue 1/2003 of Frímerkjablaðið and reproduced by permission of the editor.  
Translated from the Icelandic.

Abroad, such mail is usually just for fun ~ and the writer's logo is then placed either on the front of the cover in the lower left corner or on the reverse side, plus the postage stamp which is located in the upper right corner as in general mail. In some cases, Icelandic private mail is handled differently, as private mail operators have run the service for fundraising and circumvented the exclusive right of the postal service to collect and distribute shipments with the collection of postage. There has also been a stamp or mark in the upper right corner of the envelope, but no stamp on the shipment. However, although not complete, here are fine examples of perfectly legal private mail at its best.



### **Öndarfjörður Youth Association**

Most Icelandic private mails have been associated with the distribution of mail in a limited area in connection with Christmas. The oldest example is from Öndarfjörður, where members of Öndarfjörður Youth Association (UMFÖ) operated Christmas mail in the years 1913-1917. UMFÖ was closed at the end of 1916, but a new association ran the post office in 1917, but then stopped. Labels were printed in the denominations of 3 and 5 aur. It is believed that the labels were printed twice, and the quantity was 500 labels. The stamps were 23x22 mm in size with the image of a white falcon on a blue background. Also, the inscription U.M.F. CHRISTMAS STAMPS was on the stamps. Part of the circulation of the 3 aurar stamp had ÖNFIRÖ instead of ÖNFÍRD, so there are three types of stamps. Rubber cancels were made to invalidate the stamps.

At Ingjallssandi there was a stamp with the inscription "Sandspóstur", at Valþjófsdal – "Dalspóstur" and at Flateyri – "F". There are two types of the cancel "Dalspóstur" and the name is spelled "Dallspóstur" in another. These stamps are also available with a crown stamp from Holt and Flateyri. Also, with a number cancel "III" and private cancels. It is clear that the activity was a violation of the post's sole rights, and it is not unlikely that it was stopped for that reason.

The cancels, and letters and cards with them, are known and popular among collectors. Good articles have been written about this Christmas post, and Ólaf Jónsson's article in the stamp exhibition Nordia 91 as exhibition issue number 3 should be mentioned.

## Sandeyjar post

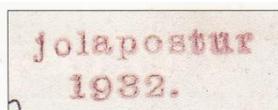


The next private mail was created in 1920 by the then editor of the daily newspaper *Vísir*. Einar Gunnarsson, delivered mail during the summer to residents in summer residences at Lake Þingvallavatn. During the summer, Einar lived in his house by the lake, but went to work in Reykjavík.



The service arrangement was to receive letters from the residents at the newspaper's office; Einar took the mail to Þingvalla weekly at first, but later daily. It is not clear how long the transfers lasted or how many letters were delivered. The fee for the transfer was 2 aurar per letter. Einar would deliver mail back to Reykjavík if requested. As a receipt for the shipping fee, Einar had a diamond-shaped label printed. There was a star at the top, but underneath the inscription "Sandeyjarpóstur" in two lines. In the beginning, the labels were not glued on, but given to the sender as a receipt. Later printings were gummed, and it is believed that those labels were stuck on the letters. The name of the post is derived from Sandey in Þingvallavatn, but Einar owned it. It is not known who printed the labels which were imperforate. They are available in several colours, but envelopes with them are not known. Since the postal service did not handle the delivery of mail to guests staying in holiday homes, Einar's postal operation was legal and Sandeyjarpóst must be considered one of the more important private mails.

## Æskan, Svalbarðströnd



This next known private mail ran at Æskan, Svalbarðströnd as a Christmas service. There are postings available with this mail from the years 1932-1945. The extent of the service is uncertain, but it clearly reached at least residents of Svalbarðströnd and Grýtubakka districts east of Eyjafjörður. There were no labels used for this post, but

letters were stamped with a rubber stamp with the inscription "Jólapóstur" and the year. Most stamps have the word "Jólapóstur" in a straight line and the year below, but there are also elliptical stamps. This service lasted for many years, although it was clear that it was a violation of the postal administration's patent.



## Faxi Scout Association, Faxi Vestmannaeyjum



In Vestmannaeyjar, a private post office for Christmas cards and letters was run in a similar format to that on Svalbarðströnd. This service is believed to have been run in the years 1960-1970, and scouts were responsible for collecting and distributing the mail around Heimaey. Stamped envelopes are available of this post with an elliptical shaped cancel with the inscription "Skátafélagið Faxi Vestmannaeyjum". This service

was not compatible with the exclusive rights of the postal administration.

## Hraunbúar Scout Association, Hafnarfjörður



At the Hraunbúar spring meeting in Hafnarfjörður 4.-7. June 1964 at Höskuldarvellir in Reykjanes, a postal service was offered for the transport of cards and letters from the tournament venue. Special scout labels were used on the post and scouts took care of transport to the next post office, which was Vogar. There, the letters were stamped, and sent like any other mail. Two labels were printed with the logo of the tournament, 2500 labels in each colour, green and blue. The labels were sold before and during the tournament. Hraunbúar also issued 1500 numbered cards with the inscription "Posted at the Hraunbúar spring meeting 1964". These cards are known, but the same cancels and the same cards were used at the spring meeting of Hraunbúar in Krýsuvík in 1965 and have been stamped with a rubber stamp "Krýsuvík" on the cards and posted in Grindavík. This is a perfectly legal and typical private email.

## **National Scout at Úlfljótsvatn 1974**



Similarly to Hraunbúar above, the scouts ran a private post at their national tournament at Úlfljótsvatn 14.-21. July 1974. This time the scout logo was printed, green in colour with the scout lily, three-leaf clover and with the inscription "Skátapóstur Úlfljótsvatn-Ljósifoss", together with a number and stuck on the letters, which the scouts brought to the letter collection office at Ljósifoss. There, the letters were stamped and sent to the recipients. Another great example of private mail.

## **Christmas Post Breiðabliks Smáranum**

Christmas mail at Breiðabliks in Kópavogur was operated in Kópavogur in 1995 and was characterized by a label with Breiðabliks' logo and the inscription "Jólapóstur Breiðabliks Smáranum". Envelopes with this stamp, with and without stamps are available. A verbal agreement was made with the then head of the post and telephone station in Kópavogur that the company could deliver letters within Kópavogur stamped and without stamps, but the postal administration made a comment on this activity after it started, and it was therefore not permanent.

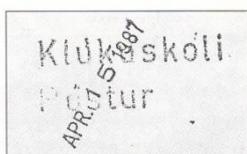


## Stora-Selsvár



We cannot leave a discussion about private mail in Iceland without mentioning a label that Pétur Hoffmann Salómonsson had done and are available on envelopes. There are two labels, one blue and the other yellow. Each of them has an image as a symbol of the seafarer's conflict with the ghost Móra. Inscription is "1942-1960. Iceland. Stora-Selsvár".

## Klúkuskóli



It is also appropriate to mention the school mail of Klúkuskóli, which in the period 1985-1994 used a school bus to send letters to the parents of school children. Envelopes were signed and stamped "School mail" "Klúkuskóli". The Lions Club Bjarmi á Hvammstanga and Lions Club Hólmavík in collaboration with Kf. Steingrímsfjörður also handled the distribution of Christmas cards in Hvammstangi and Hólmavík in the 1970s and 1980s. It is known that the stamp of the Lions Club of Hólmavík or the trade association was used at the post office in Hólmavík.

In addition to the above, there are examples of temporary private mail services run by sports clubs and/or scout clubs in connection with Christmas. There has been no use of labels or stamps, and therefore the records of such have disappeared. Collecting all kinds of stamps other than stamps (Cinderella) is very popular, especially abroad, and no one should throw such items away in a hurry.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## **Drumboddsstaðir B2a**



We have Eivind Kolstad to thank for a glimpse of this rare B2a bridge cancel. He describes it as the only one he has ever seen. Dated 11.10.33 used at Drumboddsstaðir before it was moved to Gýgjarhóll in 1934. I have never seen a copy from Gýgjarhóll despite it being there until 1949. Maybe the Gýgjarhóll postman preferred to use the numeral cancel 239 rather than a bridge cancel with the name of Drumboddsstaðir?

## Pingeyjarsýsla Ron Collin

I think the relative scarcity of the PINGEYJARSÝSLA cancel is noteworthy. It is also noteworthy that the strikes of the canceler are for the most part, very nice complete strikes. The postmaster was conscientious enough to make sure the recipients knew where their correspondence was mailed from. Two examples from my collection are as follows.



I do not own the following items, but found the images (used block of four, and the additional postcard) on the internet.

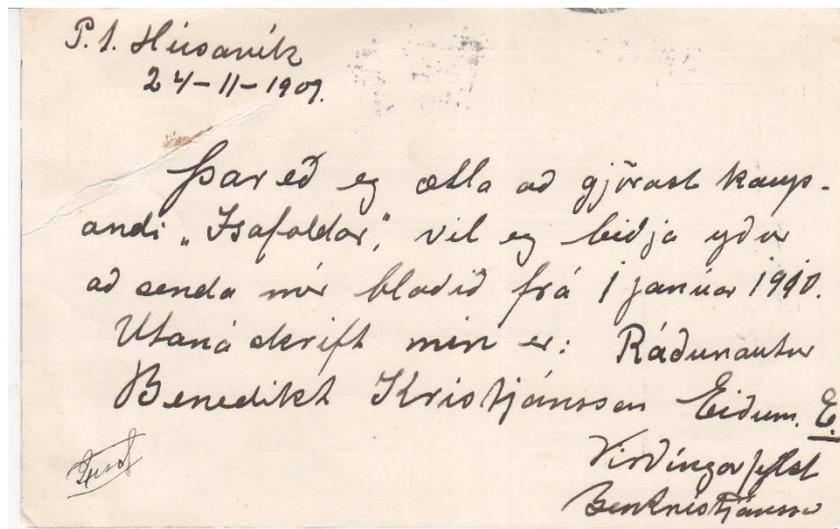


It should be noted that the date of the cancel is inverted, and therefore, the canceler is used upside down, so that the date can be correctly interpreted as the 3rd of August.



I noticed on the Southeast stamp in the used block, that which appears to be a bubble in the N of the word Þjónusta, as compared to that "N" on the other stamps. I wasn't sure if that was a constant variety on the sheet, or if it was just an anomaly appearing on this particular stamp. I referred to my sheet of the 10 aur Official Christian IX, and found that it was just that, an anomaly.

(Ed. I am pleased that Ron has shown us his own copies and other examples of this scarce cancel. I have yet to see any dated in the so-called loan period at Grenjaðarstaður from 1895 to 31.12.1905. Can readers oblige?) Below is my dated example from 1909 used at Húsavík.



The message is dated 24.11.1909 from Benedikt Kristjánsson who was the Húsavík postmaster from 1907 to 1915. He is ordering a newspaper “Isafold” to be sent from 1.1.1910.

## Previously Unlisted Tollur-Canceled Stamps (Issue 58)

(Editor: The following was unfortunately omitted at the end of the text in Roger Cichorz's article on page 26 of the last issue).

### Iceland Tollur (Revenue) Cancellations Concordance

*FACIT Special Classic Catalogue vs. Scott's Catalogue Numbers (8/15/23 Revision)*

<u>Facit #</u>	<u>Scott #</u>
98v	130
99v <sup>3</sup> (listed but not valued)	<u>132</u>
100v (listed but not valued)	<u>134</u>
101v	137
102v	138
103v	142
104v	131
105v (*listed but not valued)	<u>133</u>
106v	135
107v	143
121v	149
122v	140
123v	141
124v-130v, 131v <sup>2</sup> -132v <sup>2</sup> , 133v, 134v <sup>2</sup> -135v <sup>2</sup> , 136v-141v, 142v <sup>2</sup> , 143v-144v	108-128
145v-150v, 151v <sup>2</sup> , 152v-154v, 155v <sup>2</sup> , 156v-157v	176-187, 202
158v <sup>3</sup>	139
159v <sup>2</sup>	150
160v <sup>2</sup> -161v	C1-C2
165v <sup>3</sup> , 166v <sup>2</sup> -167v <sup>2</sup> (*listed but not valued)	<u>C12-C14</u>
168v, 169v <sup>2</sup> , 170v-172v	144-148
173v-177v, 179v-181v (#182v is not listed)	152-156 + 158-160 (see Note at end of list)
178 + 183-187 (*listed but not valued or assigned variety #s)	157 + 161-166
194v-199v	170-175
204v, 205C <sup>1</sup> v, 205C <sup>2</sup> v, 206C <sup>1</sup> v, 206C <sup>2</sup> v, 207v, 208v, 209v	C15-C16, C16a, C17, C17a, C18-C20
210v-211v	193-194
212v-215v	195-198
218-220 (listed & valued but not assigned variety #s)	199-201
227v <sup>3</sup> , 228v, 229v <sup>2</sup> , 232v	203-205, 208
242 + 250-251 (note indicating CTO after Tollur period of use)	219 + 226-227 (footnoted as favor cancels)
Tj 42v	O40
Tj 44v-Tj 46v	O42-O44
Tj 49v-Tj 52v	O46-O49
Tj 54v <sup>1</sup>	<u>O51</u>
Tj 55v <sup>2</sup>	O52
Tj 56v <sup>1</sup>	<u>O70</u>

**Notes:**

*Facit* lists 114 Tollur varieties. Eight underlined *Scott* #s in the Concordance are not listed as having Revenue cancellations, but #s 132, 133, and 134 will be added to future catalogues.

For the 1930 pictorial issues, a footnote in *Scott* indicates: *Nos. 152-166 exist with "TOLLUR" revenue cancellations, but regulations did not permit their use as revenues.*

## Fakes - 10 kr overprints (Issue 58)

Ólafur Elíasson refers to an article in the annual magazine "Fakes Forgeries Experts" no. 8, May 2005, in which Carl Aage Möller describes these particular fakes. I have pleasure in reproducing that article with the permission of Carl Aage and of Andreas Lindekvist of Postiljonen AB.

### ICELAND 1924, 10KR./1KR. PROVISIONAL WITH DOUBLE OVERPRINT, FACIT CATALOGUE NO. 123V.

#### Carl Aage Möller BPP, A.I.E.P.



Born 1956, lives in Greve Strand, Denmark.  
Expert since 1986, BPP-member.  
A.I.E.P. member since 2000.  
Expert for Denmark, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, Danish West Indies, and Schleswig-Holstein.  
Stamp collector since childhood.  
Youth exhibitor at several Nordic and international exhibitions until 1983.  
Educated philatelist from Robert Bechsgaard, 1975-1980. Co-editor of the AFA specialised catalogue.  
Philatelic consultant for stamp auctioneers since 1985.

Recently a major accumulation from an old estate was offered at auction. Among this material was an exceptionally great number of the scarce stamps with the "Kr.10" black overprint.

Quite refined forged overprints on the scarce values have been known to exist for many years, so the quantity had to be checked. They were at first sight quite trustworthy, but all the stamps had two facts in common: The zero in the overprint had a crack at top right, and they were all issued with certificates from the late Mr. Svend Grönlund in his older days (dated between 1975-1976). He kept on expertizing until his death at a very late age, and it seems to me that somebody has persuaded him to issue certificates for this forged material. – I mention this fact to ease the identification of the fakes, - it is absolutely not my intention to hurt the reputation of Mr. Grönlund. He is as a matter of fact commonly regarded a trustworthy expert of the older generation of philatelists, but it is also well known that at the end of his career he was abused by dubious persons.

Among the material was a sensational copy of a stamp that I had never seen before, the double overprint on the 1kr. Frederik VIII. This stamp was unknown to all the specialist collectors with whom I have been in touch. Unfortunately, this stamp also shows the crack in the zero, so there was an evident connection between the double overprint and the "normal" stamps with single overprint.

The stamp has obviously been adopted in the Facit catalogue years ago on the basis of the Grönlund certificate. I have informed both the Danish as well as the Swedish society of Iceland collectors about my opinion on this stamp and they

both agree that the stamp is a forgery. The editorial committee of the Facit catalogue has also been informed, and the stamp will be withdrawn from the next issue of the catalogue.

Now it is up to the collectors to have their Provisionals checked for this new discovered fake. The significant characteristics of the cliché used for this particular forgery should make it easy.

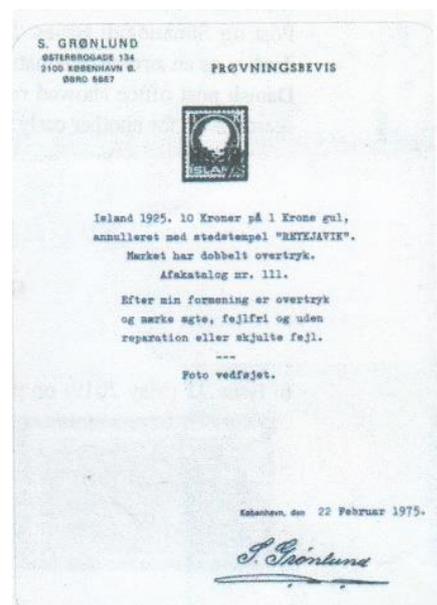




Fig. 1. Facit No. 123v2 Forged double overprint.



Fig.2. Facit No.107  
Forged overprint and  
cancel (type I).



Fig3. Facit No.107.  
Forged overprint and  
cancel (type I).



Fig.4. Facit No.107  
Forged overprint and  
cancel (type II) with broken bridge  
bridge.



Fig.5. Facit No.107.  
Forged overprint and  
cancel (type II) with broken  
bridge.



Fig. 6. Facit No.123  
Forged overprint on unused stamp.

## Former postal stations (2)

The second in this series of former postal stations, with pictures from Steinar Fridthorsson's 2023 trip.

Eyri - in Norður Ísafjarðarsýsla, known as Eyri in Seyðisfjörð



A collecting office opened on 23.4.1892 and closed on 31.12.1959. It used a numeral 144 previously used by Melgraseyri, and a type B1a bridge cancel, the very scarce EYRI ÍS.



## Fiskilækur in Borgarfjarðarsýla



Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1948. For whatever reason it did not get a cancel until 21<sup>st</sup> May 1962, a type B8e FISKILÆKUR. This was used until closure on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1976. Surely, over a period of 14 years without a cancel, the postal official must have handled some mail, however infrequent? How did he identify his office? Are there some unidentified manuscript cancellations out there? The manuscript expert Hans von Strokirch did not list any for Fiskilækur.



## Iceland - the Freezing of a Collecting Area *Rolf Dörnbach*

Friends of Iceland's stamps and postal history are experiencing hard times these days: The management of Pósturinn (the country's postal service) decided to stop issuing new stamps from the end of October 2020 onwards (except a recent commemorative series of four in memory of the first Icelandic stamps 150 years ago), and post offices keep being closed in an unending succession, without closing dates announced or published. Sending inquiries to Pósturinn re closing dates has in the past been a waste of time, but perseverance paid off recently with a list of closing dates provided by one post office source.

The reasons for these drastic actions seem economically sound and compelling: Saving money by avoiding unnecessary expenditure (inter alia to cover rising costs per unit due to the dramatically declining volume of letter mail). It is sad but true: modern postal services can do without stamps and post offices!

To make sure that POs recorded by us continue to exist, Pósturinn's official list on its website will have to be continually checked, as well as Pósturinn press releases announcing or publishing PO closures. If the respective PO is not found any longer on the official list, it is likely to have been closed. Of each existing PO, the list shows a photo, the name of the place, the opening hours and the designation "pósthús", but no longer the postal address nor - if it is a "samstarfspósthús (postal agency) - the name of the host. A dynamic map (variable in size) gives the geographical position of the PO and can be magnified to identify streets of the area.

Below are two tables listing all POs active in Iceland on 1 May 2022 and 1 September 2023 respectively, as shown on Pósturinn's website on the dates mentioned. The first list (1 May 2022) serves as a kind of baseline: Almost all PO closure dates up to that point in time are generally known, verified and recorded (the latest four, 210 Garðabær, 270 Mosfellsbær, 850 Hella and 860 Hvollsvöllur, all had their last day on 30 April 2022 and are mentioned below the framed table). Last days of closed POs meanwhile received from Pósturinn (or other sources) are added in the last column ("Last Date").

An interesting item on both lists is the apparently resurrected PO of 870 Vík í Mýrdal. The original PO was closed on 2 March 2015 and replaced by a so-called "post point", where in a small room hired in support of a mobile PO ("póstur á hjólum" = post on wheels), incoming mail was sorted for distribution and outgoing mail cancelled (with its own cancel!). These post points actually had no public access, but addressees picking up their own incoming mail were tolerated there. In Pósturinn's official list, a photo of the new PO is still missing, nor is its re-opening date known yet.

Incidentally, the term "closing date" seems to me somewhat ambiguous. When a PO ends its life, say, on 30 April and packs up for good in the afternoon or evening of that day, this would, for some people, be the closing date. Others would consider the following day, 1 May, as the closing date, viz. the first full day on which the PO no longer exists. To avoid this ambiguity, I prefer to use the term "last day" (see last columns on the attached lists).

## Iceland´s Post Offices on 1 May 2022

(as per Posturinn´s illustrated list)

Post Code	Post Office	(assumed) Postal Address	Samstarfsþósthúsar: Host (if any)	Last Day
107	Reykjavík 7	Hagatorg 1		31.01.2023
108	Reykjavík 8	Síðumúli 3-5		
109	Reykjavík 9	Þönglabakki 4		28.04.2023
110	Reykjavík 10	Höfðabakki 9		
201	Kópavogur	Dalvegur 18		
220	Hafnarfjörður	Fjarðargata 13-15		
230	Reykjanesbær	Hafnargata 89		
240	Grindavík	Víkurbraut 56	Landsbankinn	31.01.2023
300	Akranes	Smiðjuvellir 30		
310	Borgarnes	Brúartorg 4		
340	Stykkishólmur	Aðalgata 31		
350	Grundarfjörður	Grundargata 38	Kjörbúðin (food shop)	
355	Ólafsvík	Bæjartún 5		31.05.2023
370	Búðardalur	Miðbraut 13		
400	Ísafjörður	Hafnarstræti 9-11		
415	Bolungarvík	Aðalstræti 14	local admin. office	30.08.2023
420	Súðavík	Grundarstræti 3-5	local admin. office	31.08.2023
450	Patreksfjörður	Bjarkargata 4		
510	Hólmavík	Hafnarbraut 19	savings bank	
520	Dranganes	Borgargata 2	shop	
530	Hvammstangi	Lækjargata 2		
540	Blönduós	Hnjúkabyggd 32		
545	Skagaströnd	Höfði	Landsbankinn	31.01.2023
550	Sauðárkrókur	Ártorg 6		
580	Siglufjörður	Aðalgata 34		
600	Akureyri	Strandgata 3		13.05.2021
600	Akureyri	Norðurtangi 3		
610	Grenivík	Túngata 3	„Jónsabúð“ (food shop)	30.08.2023
620	Dalvík	Hafnarbraut 26		
625	Ólafsfjörður	Aðalgata 2-4	Kjörbúðin (food shop)	
640	Húsavík	Garðarsbraut 70		
650	Laugar	Kjarna	savings bank	31.08.2023
660	Mývatn (Reykjahlið)	Helluhraun 3	savings bank	31.08.2023
670	Kópasker	Bakkagata 8-10	Landsbankinn	31.01.2023
675	Raufarhöfn	Aðalbraut 23	community office	
680	Þórshöfn	Fjarðarvegur 5	Landsbankinn	
690	Vopnafjörður	Kolbeinsgata 10	Landsbankinn	
700	Egilsstaðir	Kaupvangur 6		
710	Seyðisfjörður	Vesturvegi 1	Kjörbúðin (food shop)	
730	Reyðarfjörður	Búðareyri 35		
735	Eskifjörður	Strandgata 50	Kjörbúðin (food shop)	
740	Neskaupstaður	Miðstræti 26		
750	Fáskrúðsfjörður	Skólavegur 59	Kjörbúðin (food shop)	
760	Breiðdalsvík	Selnes 38	Landsbankinn	
765	Djúpivogur	Markarland 1	Landsbankinn	
780	Höfn í Hornafirði	Hafnarbraut 21		
800	Selfoss	Larsenstræti 1		
810	Hveragerði	Sunnumörk 2-4	tourist bureau	31.08.2023
815	Þorlákshöfn	Hafnarberg 1	Landsbankinn	31.12.2021
870	Vík í Mýrdal	(former „postpoint“, re-opened post office? since when?)		
900	Vestmannaeyjar	Strandvegur 52		

**Total: 50 + Vík í Mýrdal = 51**

**14**

The following four post offices had their last day on 30 April 2022 (deleted from the above list):

210 Garðabær, 270 Mosfellsbær, 850 Hella, 860 Hvolsvöllur.

Rolf Dörnbach, Hamburg

**Remaining Iceland Post Offices 1 September 2023**  
(as per illustrated list on Posturinn's website)

Post Code	Post Office	(assumed) Postal Address*)	Host (if any)	Last Date
108	Reykjavík 8	Síðumúli 3-5		
110	Reykjavík 10	Höfðabakki 9		
201	Kópavogur	Dalvegur 18		
220	Hafnarfjörður	Fjarðargata 13-15		
230	Reykjanesbær	Hafnargata 89		
300	Akranes	Smiðjuvellir 30		
310	Borgarnes	Brúartorg 4		
340	Stykkishólmur	Aðalgata 31		
350	Grundarfjörður	Grundargata 38	Kjörbúðin (food shop)	
370	Búðardalur	Miðbraut 13		
400	Ísafjörður	Hafnarstræti 9-11		
450	Patreksfjörður	Bjakargata 4		
510	Hólmavík	Hafnarbraut 19	savings bank	
520	Drangsnes	Borgargata 2	supermarket	
530	Hvammstangi	Lækjargata 2		
540	Blönduós	Hnjúkabyggd 32		
550	Sauðárkrúkur	Ártorg 6		
580	Siglufjörður	Aðalgata 34		
600	Akureyri	Norðurtangi 3		31.5.2021
620	Dalvík	Hafnarbraut 26		
625	Ólafsfjörður	Aðalgata 2-4	Kjörbúðin (shop)	
640	Húsavík	Garðarsbraut 70		
675	Raufarhöfn	Aðalbraut 23	local community office	
680	Þórshöfn	Fjarðarvegur 5	Landsbankinn	
690	Vopnafjörður	Kolbeingsgata 10	Landsbankinn	
700	Egilsstaðir	Kaupvangur 6		
710	Seyðisfjörður	Vesturvegi 1	Kjörbúðin (shop)	
730	Reyðarfjörður	Búðareyri 35		
735	Eskifjörður	Strandgata 50	Kjörbúðin (shop)	
740	Neskaupstaður	Miðstræti 26		
750	Fáskrúðsfjörður	Skólavegur 59	Kjörbúðin (shop)	
760	Breiðdalsvík	Selnes 38	Landsbankinn	
765	Djúpivogur	Markarland 1	Landsbankinn	
780	Höfn í Hornarfirði	Hafnarbraut 21f		
800	Sellfoss	Larsenstræti 1		
870	Vík í Mýrdal	(former "postpoint")**)		
900	Vestmannaeyjar	Strandvegur 52		

**Total: 37**

\*) addresses, no longer published by Iceland's post, could be obsolete meanwhile

\*\*\*) resurrected as post office?

Rolf Dörnbach, Hamburg

## Mail from Iceland with a Queenstown Ship Letter Mark *Mike Tuttle*

Previously published in *Scandinavian Contact* September 2009, reproduced with the editor's permission.

The postcard illustrated below has appeared in two major auctions in the past two years. The estimated bid price rose by 600 euros in nine months. It is rated DD in Roger Hosking's "Paquebot cancellations of the World" 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, published in 2000.



Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner GmbH, Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany, December 2007 sale Lot number 1229.

1907 K1 "QUEENSTOWN SHIPLETTER" klar auf Ansichtskarte gebr. Ab Reykjavík nacg Leipzig, min. Eckberg. Estimate 250 euros.

MacDonnell Whyte Ltd, Dublin. 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008 sale Lot number 434: -

1907 postcard from Reykjavík 13 Aug 1907 to Leipzig with Iceland 10a, put ashore at Cobh and showing the very rare undated QUEENSTOWN / SHIP LETTER in black on face. Robertson S2a, clear strike, few known. Note: the five recorded examples dated 1907 appear to emanate from a single voyage from Iceland. Estimate 850 euros.

Investigating what could make the postcard so attractive to warrant the high estimate, I report as follows: -

The undated single ring 22mm diameter "Queenstown Ship Letter mark is sought after on Iceland mail, because this town (now Cobh, in Eire) was not a port of call for Icelandic ships, nor other shipping destined for Iceland.

Most of the 30 (or so) Iceland covers known with this mark come from the crew of the German battle cruiser SMS "Freya", which left Kiel on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1907 on a training cruise, calling at Christiania (now Oslo), Balestrand (both in Norway), then Reykjavik on or about the 12<sup>th</sup> August. The vessel left on the 15<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, because the captain was paid six Icelandic krónur on the 16<sup>th</sup> by the Icelandic Post Office to convey mail to the next port of call. This mail was cancelled Reykjavík 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August, but some of the marks are faint.

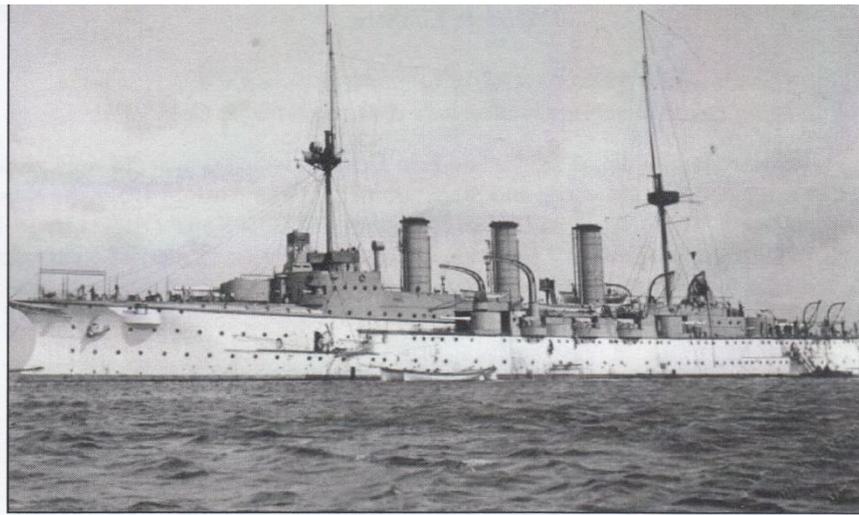
The next port was Queenstown. The "Queenstown Ship Letter" mark (Hosking 370, or cachet as it lacked a date), was supplemented by a larger single ring datestamp of Queenstown showing the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1907, which was applied to the reverse of some of the items received. This consignment consisted of picture postcards and lettercards, the postage on which was 10 aur; some of which were up-rated with a further 10 aur

for the overseas letter rate. The two non-German addressed items of which I am aware are addressed to the United States and Switzerland. The complement of SMS “*Freya*” was about 450, although on this particular voyage, the strength was supplemented with naval cadets. It could be thought, therefore, that there should be more than 30 postal items in existence – mostly in Germany.

After calling at Queenstown, *Freya* continued its voyage, calling at Madeira, La Palmas and into the Mediterranean, before returning home in March 1908.

**References:**

- 1) Philatelistische Nachrichten “Queenstown Ship Letter” by Kurt Bleise in German – issue 80, (1992), page 284.
- 2) Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd.\*, and other auction catalogues, (\*postscript below).



SMS *Freya* about 1905 before she was re-boilered and the removal of one of her funnels.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Paper Fold on Icelandic stamp (Issue 58)**

John Kuin sends this more modern version of a paper fold or split on a 1957 Hallgrímsson stamp.



## B1a Hvammur locations

The cover shown below re-opened at least for me, the question of where and when this cancel was used. According to Bæjatal 1930, when many bridge cancels were distributed, there were two postal stations or collecting offices which had the name Hvammur. 1). Hvammur, known as Hvammur í Dölum in Dalasýsla, which is the subject of this article (Hvammur 3 in Þór's book), and 2). Hvammur í Höfnum in Gullbringusýsla (Hvammur 4 in Þór's book). The B1a HVAMMUR must have been allocated to Hvammur í Dölum in Dalasýsla in 1930 because B2a KIRKJUVOGUR was issued to Hvammur í Höfnum at the same time. The choice of the name Kirkjuvogur for the Gullbringu office was presumably because it was the name of a nearby farm, and they already had a Hvammur cancel for the Dala office. There may have been the intention to set up a collecting office at Kirkjuvogur?

Hvammur (3) closed on 31.1.2.1943 and the collecting office moved to Ásgarður, a nearby farm with 20 people resident. Different opinions have been offered for the subsequent location of the B1a Hvammur cancel. Research by Jørgen S Larsen in ISK 59 shows that the numeral 135 was used extensively at Ásgarður. It was not unusual that after a local move a bridge cancel ceased to be used. The Swedish authors of the numeral handbook stated "*When the collecting office moved to Ásgarður in 1944 it was using only the cancel N1a 135. Probably it did not use the bridge cancel B1a Hvammur at all at Ásgarður. One must conclude that it continued to use the numeral cancel until it received its own B2c2 Ásgarður cancel around the year 1950*".

Þór's Þorstein's book Íslenskir Stimplar shows the B1a Hvammur cancel was allocated to Hvammur (4) (Hafnir) in Gullbringusýsla in 1944 where it remained until 1980. This is not correct. We now know from this 1946 cover shown below that the cancel was used at Ásgarður in May 1946.



Ásgarður registration label and Hvammur B1a, date unclear, Reykjavík arrival cancel 2.V.46.

How long was it at Ásgarður? That office received its own B2c2 ÁSGARÐUR on an uncertain date; Þór states 1951 in his book. It might have been reasonable therefore to claim that B1a Hvammur was at Ásgarður from 1944 until that office received its B2c2 ÁSGARÐUR cancel, in 1950/1951. However, that does not fit with Íslenskir Stimplar which gives 1.10.1946 as the date of issue of B1a Hvammur to what had been renamed Hafnir in Gullbringusýsla. Presumably Ásgarður continued with its numeral 135, see below.

Hvammur



Ásgarður



Continued use of Numeral 135 at Ásgarður, probably until the arrival of the B2c2 Ásgarður, circa 1951.



Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar á Islandi gives 1.10.1945 as the date of the name change from Hvammur (4) to Hafnir in Gullbringusýsla. It had been using numeral 163 as well as the B2a Kirkjuvogur until 1944 according to Íslenskir Stimplar. This must be doubtful as surely 1944 was too early to release the Kirkjuvogur bridge cancel? We need evidence of a B2a Kirkjuvogur 1945/46 cover to prove it.

Using the illustrated cover of May 1946 as a guide, we know that the B1a Hvammur was presumably removed from Ásgarður at a later date and returned to Reykjavík. According to Íslenskir Stimplar it was eventually sent to Hafnir from 1.10.1946.

The period of use for B1a Hvammur at Ásgarður is therefore limited to 1.1.1944 until circa. June 1946 or later. Evidence from another cover would be most welcome to narrow down the date! This may be the only instance of a cancel being issued at two different locations with the same name.

Questions to resolve:

Can anyone show a B2a Kirkjuvogur cover from 1945/46?

An example of the B1a Hvammur later than May 1946 and before 1.10.1946?

What is the earliest known date for the B2c2 Ásgarður cancellation? My example is 10.V.52 on this block of 20aur Facit 298



Bc2c Ásgarður 10.V.52

XXXXXXXXXXXX

### Request for help - Two unusual items (Issue 58)



From Arthur Jennion:  
displayed is a pair of Iceland 5 øre Green Facit No 24.

The cancel is a Telegraph Code Triangular, Letters or Numbers indicated the place of origin.

We can see quite clearly the number 131 in the centre and had this been on a GB stamp one might think it was Greenford, a district of Outer London.

However, the give-away here are the Iceland stamps and the number 131 which suggests it was applied at Edinburgh. British Post Office numbers 1924 - 1969 James A. MACKAY Pages 13, 14, 15, gives a good account of their introduction in 1895 and continued use well into the 1900's. On page 45, Scotland, makes reference to this cancel being in use between 1844 – 1906.

The thickness of the lines and the size varied many times over their period of use; page 15 show how varied the cancels were.

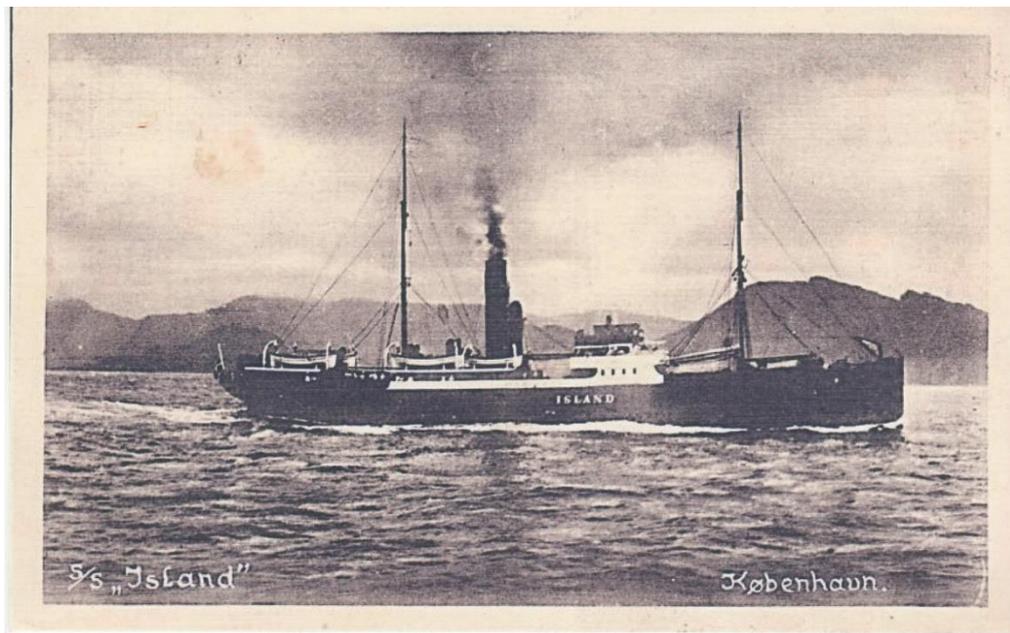
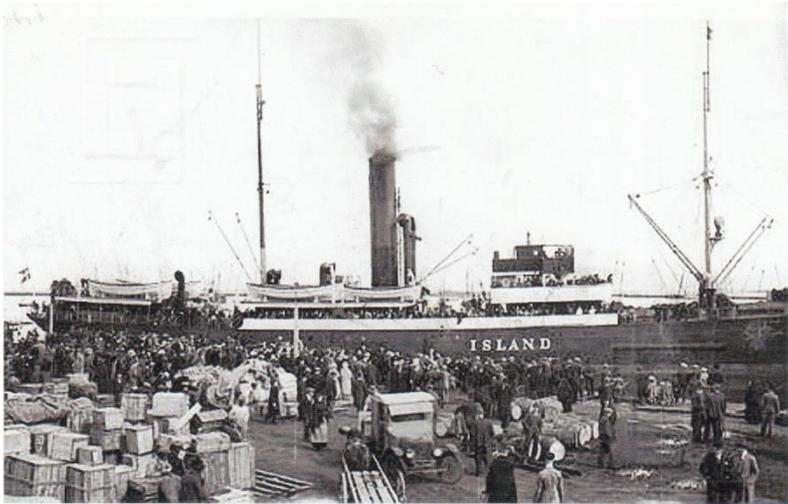
One may speculate that this has been Paquebot Mail, and the clerk has used the hand stamp nearest to hand Its main use was on bulk mail; Newspapers & Small Packets.

## Unknown "ISLAND" line cancellation (Issue 58)



I am not a ship-mail collector, but might this line cancellation provided by Henk Burgman be a ship cancel used on the S.S. ISLAND? I can't decipher the postmark behind the cancel on this Danish 8 øre stamp.

There have been several ships of this name. I managed to find details of an S.S. ISLAND built for the Danish Thingvalla shipping line in 1882. That ship was scrapped in 1906. It travelled between Kristiania and New York. This is almost certainly an earlier ship than the one shown in the 3 images below, of a later vessel. The second image is noted 1915. I have been unable to find details of the later S.S. ISLAND.



## Nameless cancel *Ron Collin*

I have in my collection, a King Christian IX 10 aur double postal card. It was mailed to Svendborg, Denmark on May the 12th, 1904.

The card bears a "nameless cancel" dated 12/5, plus a transit cancel from Reykjavik on 13.-5.1904, a transit cancel from Edinburgh on MY 29 04, and a receiving cancel from Svendborg on 31.5.04. It should be noted that the Edinburgh transit cancel was applied to the back of the still attached Reply portion of this item.



There is no indication on the back of the postcard as to where it was sent from, I have seen at least three other examples of this "nameless cancel". To the best of my recollection, the date is always present, but the town name is always missing. Since most of the town names occupy a goodly portion of the inside circle of the cancel, it is doubtful that the town name didn't show up just because of the way the cover/postcard were lying on the table when canceled, and the canceler didn't make full contact, since the entire outside ring made contact.



Perhaps one or more of the readers of this fine magazine can provide an answer or at least some clues as to the name of this "nameless cancel". Kindly provide any thoughts on this, to the Editor. Thank you.

## Iceland 1920 Censored Registered letter to Germany



Seen on Ebay recently:- Dated 10.V.20 Seyðisfjörður B2c1 sent by Hans Schlesch a pharmacist in Seyðisfjörður - 20aur letter plus 15 aur registration with indistinct Thüringen receiving mark.

The allied occupation of Germany following the end of WW1 seems a complicated story. Thüringen is in central Germany. Who, presumably in Germany, carried out the censoring of this letter from Iceland in 1920? Perhaps experts of censorship for this period can interpret the censor marks on the front of this letter and tell us the answers?

## More on Iceland’s “Clandestine” Reproductions of Í Gildi “Missing Í” Overprint Varieties *Ellis Glatt*

In Issue 45 of this publication (July 2021)<sup>1</sup>, the writer presented an extensive article on the subject of the Í Gildi “Missing Í” overprint varieties. As previously mentioned, this major variety was among the first to surface and is found on a number of different aur values, both regular postage and official service stamps. The existence of these scarce variants, first reported on in the philatelic press around April or early May 1903, quickly became highly sought after by both collectors and dealers.

As was detailed in that last article and others by this researcher dating back to 2005, illicit reproductions of some of those original “Missing Í” varieties began showing up on the market by mid-May 1903. Moreover, because of the specific manner in which these overprints were created, one or more insiders of the Reykjavik printing firm that handled the official overprinting for the postal authorities had to have been involved in their mischievous production. As documented previously by the writer, all of these “clandestine” reproductions were the product of a manipulated Setting V overprint plate, wherein the leading accented “Í” was intentionally removed from 18 plate positions, all situated on the right-hand side of the plate. More on that later.

An updated list of aur stamps currently known to have received these illicit overprints is shown in Table 1. This latest information also appears in *Facit Special Classic 2024*<sup>2</sup>. However, other aur stamps also could have been impacted and will join the list if and when they surface and plate correctly.

Table 1. “Clandestine” Setting V “Missing Í” Reproductions

Facit No.	Denomination	Normal	Inverted
44	100 aur	Yes	
51	5 aur	Yes	
54	16 aur	Yes	
Tj 18b	16 aur OS	Yes	
Tj 20	50 aur OS	Yes	
Tj 21b	3 aur OS	Yes	Yes
Tj 22	4 aur OS	Yes	Yes

Note that all genuine “Missing Í” varieties for the above stamps originate in Setting IA and are individually listed and priced in Facit. No genuine Setting IA examples of Tj 21b with inverted “Missing Í” overprint have yet to be recorded, however.

As numerous examples and photographic images of stamps exhibiting these “clandestine” overprints began showing up in the marketplace, enough material soon became available for a detailed plating analysis. The Setting V overprint plate was quickly identified as the source of the overprints. Among the accumulated material were enough horizontal and vertical pairs to ultimately identify all of the 18 manipulated plate positions. The findings are summarized below in Table 2. However, there is yet another piece of evidence also tying these productions back to the first half of May 1903, about the time the Setting V overprint plate was in use and also when the “clandestine” material began surfacing. It is the used horizontal pair of Tj 21b pictured in Figure 1.



Figure 1. “Clandestine Missing Í” Variety in pair from Setting V plate positions 39-40.

This remarkable piece of evidence exhibits overprint plate positions with characteristics only found in Setting V. Note that the normal overprint on the left stamp in the pair (plate position 39) no longer exhibits the large leading “I” in “GILDI” that was present in that position in earlier Settings I through IV. And, the right stamp (plate position 40), with its “clandestine Missing Í” overprint, further exhibits a thick-thin zero combination along with two thick apostrophes. Again, a combination of characteristics only found in Setting V, but not in Setting VI. To cap this off, the pair exhibits a Reykjavik bridge cancel, proper for its period of use and dated 16-5-1903, again tying it back to Setting V. Of course, all authentic “Missing Í” varieties for the stamps enumerated in Table 1 always exhibit a thin-thin zero combination.

Table 2. Manipulated Positions in the altered Setting V Overprint Plate.

Plate Position	Zero Combination	Other Characteristics
6	Thick-Thin	
8	Thin-Thin	
9	Thick-Thick	
16	Thin-Thick	
17	Thick-Thin	Large Final “I”
18	Thick-Thick	
26	Thick-Thin	
28	Thin-Thick	
29	Thin-Thick	
30	Thick-Thick	

36	Thick-Thin	
37	Thick-Thick	
40	Thick-Thin	Large Final “P”, Thick Apostrophes
46	Thick-Thick	Large Final “P”
47	Thick-Thick	
48	Thin-Thin	
49	Thick-Thick	
50	Thin-Thick	02’-’03 Overprint Error

As can be seen from the above tabulation, all of the altered plate positions are on the right side of the overprint plate. One can only speculate, but more than likely this was done by the manipulator for convenience. Having to loosen the type on only one side of the plate to remove that large group of leading “Í” characters would certainly speed up the illicit operation.

Finally, as was highlighted in the writer’s July 2021 IPM article on this subject, virtually all of these “clandestine.

Missing Í” creations are easily identified. Sixteen of them exhibit zero-combinations other than the thin-thin combination found on genuine Setting IA examples. As for the two manipulated overprints exhibiting a thin-thin zero combination (plate positions 8 and 48), their overprint characteristics are markedly different from that found on authentic Setting IA specimens (see Figure 1a vs. Figures 5a and 5b in the aforesaid article).

**Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> Glatt, Ellis: “Iceland’s “Missing Í” Í Gildi Overprint Varieties-the *Good*, the *Bad*, and the *Ugly*,”  
Iceland Philatelic Magazine, Issue 45/July 2021.

<sup>2</sup> *Facit Special Classic 2024, Facit Förlags AB, Malmö, Sweden, 2023.*