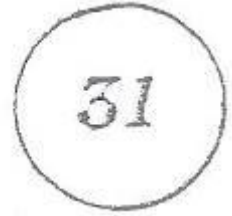


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



EDITOR
Brian Flack
E-mail address
flackbp@gmail.com

Issue 60/Jan 2024

Iceland Philatelic Magazine

Contents	Page
News/comment	3
Iceland 1920 Censored Registered letter to Germany (Issue 59)	4
Paper Fold on Icelandic stamp (Issue 58 and 59)	7
Handstamped registration marks on Icelandic mail <i>David Loe.</i>	8
Request for help - Two unusual items from Birgir SigurPórsson (Issue 58) <i>Jakob Arrevad</i>	15
Pingeyjarsýsla <i>Ron Collin</i> (Issue 59)	16
Marginal Numbers which appear on sheets of Iceland stamps printed by H.H. Thiele in Kobenhavn <i>Ron Collin</i>	17
Grundarfjörður or Önundarfjörður C/P? (Issue 32)	20
B1a Hvammur locations (Issue 59)	20
B1e Hoffell <i>Eivind Kolstad</i>	21
Late re-use of C1 Hvalsnes <i>Jørgen Steen Larsen</i>	22
Former postal stations (3) <u>Garðstaðir and Hagi</u>	23
WWW. SAFNARI.IS recent 2023 auctions	25
Grytubakki C1 R3 in Facit?	26
Analysis of Icelandic Þrír stamps <i>Mogens Moe</i>	27
Plating the last two printings of 10 aur of 1897 & 1898 <i>Lars Bjarki Schmidt</i>	28

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Remaining Iceland Post Offices 1 September 2023 Issue 59

Rolf Dornbach corrected my error on page 17 where I showed Akureyri as having closed. Here is Rolf's correction:- . "In Akureyri, the PO having its last day on 31 May 2021 was the one in Strandgata 3 downtown, whereas the surviving one is that in Norðurtangi 3 (port facilities)".

We await with interest what schedule of closures we can expect for 2024.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

The range of subjects to be found in past issues of this magazine can be found in previously circulated indices for the years 2015 through to 2023. Question - Does your particular Iceland philatelic interest appear in the magazine either not often enough, or perhaps even not at all? You could send the editor a note about your interests, or even an article. I promise to publish it, and it might encourage a response from fellow readers. Think about it!

XXXXX

Crown cancel database

Another year has passed, and the database completes 5 years since its launch by Steinar Fridthorsson. Readers have been sending images of crown cancels rated at 5, RR, and RRR in Facit, also crown cancels with varieties and crown cancels on cover. The database is used by the Islandsklubben Crown Cancel Committee for Facit revised listings. I would like to thank all those who have contributed images over the past years. The database will remain in place as a useful future reference, and will continue to be updated as and when new images are discovered. A necessary modification was to remove the crown cancels which were reduced from 5 to 4 rating in the latest Facit, however, the corresponding images have been retained in the images databases as it would be a shame to delete them.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Modern Iceland bridge and machine cancels

It is encouraging to see displays and discussion of modern Iceland bridge and machine cancels by members of the excellent Iceland Facebook group, *Frímerkjaspjall*. I recommend it to anyone interested in this area of collecting. Translations are provided from the Icelandic. As a reminder, a special issue of this magazine was produced in July 2018 listing the bridge and machine cancels issued between 2007 and 2018.

To our 201 readers

GLEÐILEGT ÁR 2024

Iceland 1920 Censored Registered letter to Germany (Issue 59)

(Editor: we have had an excellent response on this subject from David Loe, Ib Karup and Rolf Dörnback. Their replies are set out here.)

From David Loe:

As per the attachment, I have a similar cover in my collection dated 11.8.1921. The sealing strip and markings are for German currency control – checking whether foreign currency was being sent to Germany, against regulations. These regulations are printed on the resealing strip. Interestingly there is a connection to R cachet use. The cover on email extends the use of the Seyðisfjörður cachet back to 1920.



From IB Krarup:

You show a 1920 registered letter from Iceland to Germany with censorship. It is not a censorship of the written message in the letter but what they call “*Devisencontrol*” – a post war control to avoid import of foreign currency. They didn’t control ordinary letters only registered letters.

I can write a little article on the subject. I have similar items sent from Denmark in the period and I have handbooks of German censorship to consult.

The answer is that in November 1918, to approximate end of 1923, the German authorities prolonged censorship on outgoing and incoming registered letters. There is a text on the censorship label referring to the legal background for the censorship: “Auf Grund der Verordnung vom 15. November 1918 (Reichsgesetzblatt S. 1324) geöffnet”. In English this is “Opened because of law of November 15th 1918”.

The law is quite short:

“*Verordnung über die Post- und Telegrammüberwachung im Verkehr mit dem Ausland. Vom 15. November 1918.*”

§ 1 Die Post- und Telegrammüberwachung im Verkehr mit dem Ausland wird bis auf weiteres aufrechterhalten, soweit sie im Steuerinteresse oder aus wirtschaftlichen Gründen erforderlich ist. Auf militärische oder politische Angelegenheiten darf die Überwachung nicht erstreckt werden.

§ 2 Die bisherigen Überwachungs- und Überprüfungsstellen bleiben zu dem im § 1 Satz 1 bezeichneten Zwecke bestehen und werden dem Reichsschatzamt unterstellt.

Berlin, den 15. November 1918.

Der Rat der Volksbeauftragten. Ebert, Haase”

This means that the censorship maintained during World War I was upheld, but the purpose of the censorship was purely economic. It has nothing to do with political and military questions. The purpose was controlling import and export of valuables including money.

The geographical locations of the censorship were the same as during the war. A little number above the text on the label to the left indicates the place in question. The Icelandic letter had a little “4” printed which is Dresden. My airmail letter from Denmark to Berlin is being censored in Berlin = 1

The different places are as follows:

1. Berlin W8 or Berlin SW77, 2 Bremen, 3 Breslau, 4 Dresden, 5 Duisburg, 6 Emmerich, 7 Flensburg, 8 Frankfurt am Main
- 9 Freiburg, 10 Hamburg, 11 Karlsruhe, 12 Konstanz, 13 Königsberg, 14 Lindau, 15 Lübeck, 16 München, 17 Nürnberg
- 18 Pforzheim, 19 Stuttgart, 20 Zittau, 21 Friedrichshafen, 22 Lauenburg (Lauenburg), 23 Elbing, 24 Köln-Deutz, 25 Cleve
- 26 Aachen, 27 Trier, 28 Ludwigshafen

The censorship was upheld both ways so that both letters sent to Germany from foreign countries as well as letters sent from Germany to abroad were subject to censorship. Normally this took place for registered or value insured letters seldomly ordinary letters. Besides the printed number on the label there also was a round, triangular or square stamp for the censor with a number.

According to my information this censorship was practiced in the period 1918 to 1923.





Registered letter sent by airmail September 17, 1920 Copenhagen-Warnemünde-Berlin. Airmail surcharge 20 øre, letter rate: 20 øre, registration: 20 øre, in all 60 øre. A specimen of the first regular airmail route from Denmark with Berlin currency control (quite rare!) On this Danish airmail letter it is “34” – this mark is personal for the individual censor. Normally the label was also supplied with some kind of postmark or other stamp indicating fixing of the label to the letter.



I show you also an inflation letter from 1923 with a lot of millions on it. Here it is a little changed text referring to a new law of January 26, 1923. The purpose here is very clear: the letter was opened with the purpose of avoiding capital flight from Germany.

Registered letter sent from Stettin to Denmark October 16, 1923. Rate period in the inflation of 1923: October 10 to October 20, 1923: letter rate to 20 g.: 15 million Mark, registration fee: 5 million Mark, in all: 20 Million. Censorship 1: Berlin.

From Rolf Dörnbach:

In the latest issue of *IPM*, on page 25, a "censored" registered letter of 1920 from Iceland to a place in Thüringen (Germany) is shown, raising the question who might have performed the censoring of it, about two years after the end of World War I. The answer is as follows:

Military censorship in Germany stopped after the end of hostilities about 9 November 1918, but on 15 November 1918 the German government issued an instruction to the effect that surveillance of mail and telegrams from and to foreign countries was to be continued by the existing c. 20 censoring offices, which were now placed under the ministry of finance (treasury). The chief purpose of this was to discover and stop illegal deals with foreign currency. The text of the letters/telegrams beyond this was not censored. Ordinary letters were not normally checked, but voluminous and registered ones were suspect and hence likely to be opened. The practice ended near the end of 1923. The place of censoring depended on where the letter entered the country. In Thüringen, far from Germany's borders, there was no censoring office at all.

Military censoring was performed to some extent by Allied occupation forces (British, French, Belgian, American) in the Rhineland area during the period 1919-1923), but this is a different story not connected with the case under review.

XXXXXXXXXX

Paper Fold on Icelandic stamp (Issue 58 and 59)

Relatively modern Iceland stamps are usually quite free of errors of printing and perforating. In IPM issues #58 and #59 (respectively) shown here, are examples of pre-printing folds, that show up in the stamp design.



But I would think that paper folds that happen after the sheet is printed, and before the sheet is perforated, are much less common.

Here is an item that appeared in the Safnari auction #90. It is a copy of the 1.25 Kr Hannes Hafstein stamp, where the lower right corner of the margin happened to get folded prior to perforation, and caused this spectacular variety.

If any other readers of this magazine own or have scans of other paper fold examples, kindly forward scans to the Editor, for future issues of IPM.



HANDSTAMPED REGISTRATION MARKS ON ICELANDIC MAIL

David Loe.

Previously published in Scandinavian Contact in December 2002

Updated December 2023

My impetus for finding out more about these marks started when I purchased a registered cover in an auction (fig 2) which had a mark inscribed DANEMARK which I thought a strange spelling. Then I asked myself 'why wasn't ÍSLAND used' and the hunt for answers was on.

My main source for help has been Þór Þorsteins and his article in the Nordia 91 catalogue, provided to me by the late Johnny Pernerfors in Sweden. Brian Flack has translated it from the Icelandic. In addition to this Þór has provided me with some additional information gleaned recently from the Þjóðskjalasafn_Islands, the National Archives of Iceland.

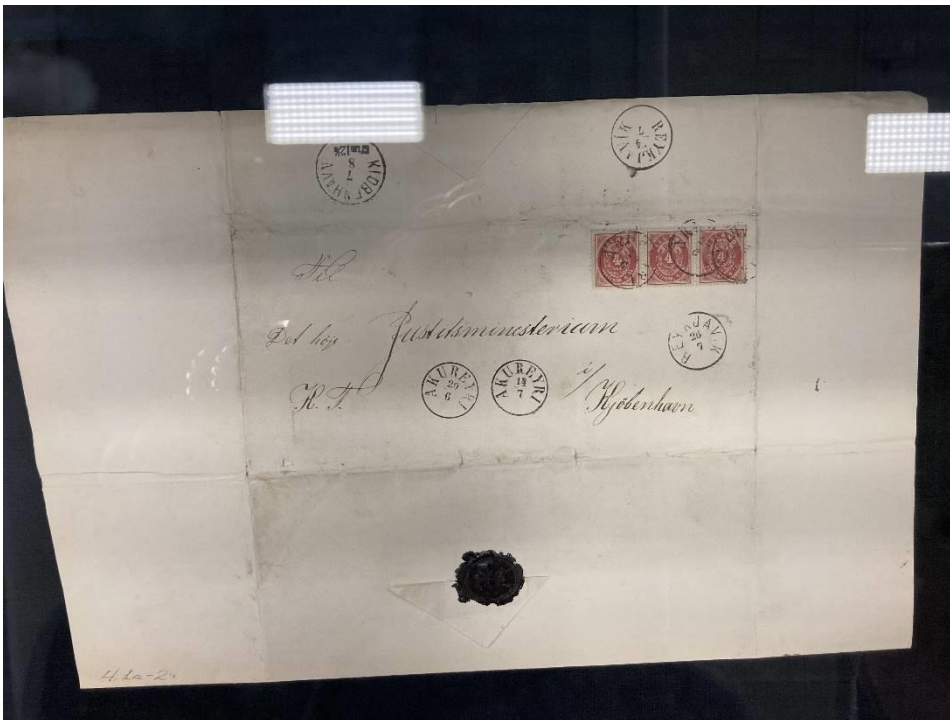
For the benefit of readers who do not have the original article and maybe don't read Icelandic or Danish I am repeating here some of the information from Þór's article, with his kind permission. The illustrations are from my own collection and that of Brian Flack.

Prior to 1870

It was not possible to send internal registered inland mail and as far as external mail was concerned the mail carrier accepted no responsibility for loss and paid no compensation as a result. Additionally, and importantly no postal charges were made between countries of the Union (Denmark, Iceland and the Faroes).

The Danish Period 1870-1872

An additional 8sk was charged for each letter marked 'anbefalet', 'rekommanderet', 'NB', or similar. This charge had to be paid in advance (unlike postage which could be paid on receipt) though subject to a 50% surcharge. This additional rate applied to letters between Iceland and Denmark. Mailings between Reykjavik and Seyðisfjörður, later Berufjörður were paid at 50% of the postage rate and we can assume that registration was therefore 4sk, but no covers are known from the Danish period. An example from the skilling period was shown at Garðabær (Nordia 2023), so they do exist and are in the archives at



Þjóðskjalasafn Islands. (Fig. 1)

Figure 1



Figure 2

The Icelandic Postal Service from 1873

With the 'announcement on postal matters in Iceland' from 26th Feb 1872 came the authority to send registered mail within Iceland and elsewhere but no rules were laid down concerning how these should be marked. However, at the UPU congress in Paris in 1878, agreement was made for the compulsory marking of all registered letters between countries with a clear large **R** (recommande). This is quoted in a letter from the Governor to the Postmaster dated 27.1.1883 sent with the Reykjavík cancel and a request whether further cancels were required. The Postmaster replied immediately and asked for a further 6 copies. These cancels were delivered in April 1883 to the other offices.



Figure 3

Thus, the first registration handstamp was inscribed **DANEMARK** (ie the French for Denmark) in compliance with the regulations. A space to fill in the number was left under the R (figure 2 and 3). This cancel cannot be found in Þjóðskjalasafn Íslands.

TYPE 1 cachets as follows

Used at	delivered	known used from	to
Reykjavík	27.1.1883	1884	1904
Akureyri	4.1883	1900	1925
Djúpivogur	4.1883	1900	
Eskifjörður	4.1883	1903	
Ísafjörður	4.1883	1885	
Seyðisfjörður	4.1883	1895	
Stykkishólmur	4.1883	1902	
Sauðarkrókur	4.1883	1909	

Table 1 – Type 1 R cancels

The only variation to the above was at Reykjavík and Akureyri, where a numerator was introduced in 1892 and again in 1914 to enter the numbers into the allocation space – more of this later.

TYPE 2 DANMARK



This mark was introduced in 1892 and is the Danish version of Denmark

Figure 4



Figure 5

Used at	known used from	to
Bjarnarnes	1902	
Blönduós	1903	
Egilsstaðir	1914	1922
Hjarðarholt	1902	
Kirkjubæjarklaustur	1921	
Reykjavík	1896	1900
Strandasýsla	1900	

Table 2 – Type 2 R cancels

TYPE 3 COUNTRY NAME DELETED



Figure 6

From 1902 some **R** cancels were used without any country name, and Þór Þorsteins thinks that this may be because the DANEMARK or DANMARK gave rise to confusion in some foreign parts as to whether the letter from Iceland or Denmark. Or it might have been that the postal officials in these places were more nationalistic than at others.

(See fig 6, 7).



Figure 7

Used at	known used from	to
Ísafjörður	1925	?
Reykjavík	1902	1922
Strandasýsla	1903	?

Table 3 – Type 3 R cancels

Type 4 NO NAME WITH No. NEATLY SOLDERED ON.



Figure 8

Known use at Oddi from 1920.

Another is reported at Seyðisfjörður and is described as having the No crudely added. None of this type could be illustrated but a few examples have now been found. Unfortunately, no examples exist in the archives. (See fig 8)



Figure 9

Used at	known used from	to
Oddi	1920	
Seyðisfjörður	6.1915	5.1927

Table 4 – Type 4 R cancels

Type 5 ÍSLAND WITH NO NUMBER



Figure 10

In May 1909 fifteen new **R** stamps were sent out, with the new inscription **ÍSLAND** (Fig 10). 18 copies exist in Post Office records, 10 with wooden handles.

General Note By late 1920 all post offices were supposed to have R-cancels so there are many names missing. Happy hunting!



Figure 11

Akureyri	Hafnarfjörður	Sauðarkrókur	Flateyri (1923)
Blönduós	Hólmavík	Vík	Suðureyri (1925)
Borgarnes	Hvammstangi	Þórshöfn	
Eskifjörður	Reyðarfjörður	Vestmannæyjar (1917)	
Eyrbakki	Reykjavík	Akranes (1922)	

Table 5 – Type 5 R cancels

Type 6 ÍSLAND WITH NUMBER

One example of this is in the archives.

More examples have been found used at Seyðisfjörður and Hafnarfjörður.



Figure 12



Figure 13

Used at	known used from	to
Hafnarfjörður	1922	
Seyðisfjörður	6.1915	5.1927

Table 6 – Type 6 R cancels

Numbering System (Accountancy Number)

One aspect that I hadn't considered was the use of the numbers inserted, normally by hand, into the R stamp. Actually, more often than not the number was alongside due to the lack of space. Up until 1919 each office had a unique number for each registered item, an example of this being Fig 3 showing number 934 i.e. the 934th registered item sent from Seyðisfjörður.

By 1918 the numbers in some places had become quite large so from the spring of 1919 the numbering commenced from the number 1 beginning each year afresh. This system was in place even after the introduction of new labels on 1.5.1928, because although they were pre-printed 1-500 or 1-1000, there was a separate number entered alongside. An automatic numerator came into use in Reykjavík in 1892 and Akureyri from 1914 and this is shown in Figure 6.

Registered Mail from Collecting Offices

No R stamps were issued to collecting offices, but from the examples in my collection, Fig 14, it was obviously possible to register items. Again, the postal official placed an R, Áb or NB on the cover and an accountancy number alongside.

The pictured example, Fig 14, is a cover from Fagurhólsmýri (date not known), to North Dakota. The rate of 65 aurar is made up of 35 aurar for a UPU letter and a registration fee of 30 aurar. The 116 is the accountancy number and the REGISTERED straight-line cachet has been applied in the UK with the blue crayon cross.



Figure 14

Conclusion

Please let Brian know if you have more examples of each type that extend the date range or number of places. Registered mail R cachets are not common, but they are not rare either.

Request for help - Two unusual items from Birgir Sigurþórsson (Issue 58)

Jakob Arreavad answers Birgir Sigurþórsson's question in Iceland Philatelic Magazine 58.



To me, collecting Icelandic mail cancelled in Edinburgh (and soundings) it is a little wonder. Even in my overall “Edinburgh cancellation reference collection” it is a little wonder – I have not seen it before.

But to start, the answer is not so difficult: 131 is used since 1844 as the official number for EDINBURGH

But then it became more complicated. Some triangle dies are described by James A. Mackay: “Machine Cancellations of Scotland” as number 693 – 701, but they are not with “113” – see page 17-18 – and used far later than the use of the 5 aur. The recorded use is from 1922 and onwards.

In another publication from James A. Mackay: “Scottish Postmarks” “I have found a further link in chapter 18 POSTMARKS ON NEWSPAPERS, CIRCULARS AND PRINTED MATTER on page 102f under the headline “Triangular Cancellations and Circulars”:

“New regulations in 1895 permitted circulars in imitation typewriting (i.e. duplicating) to be sent at printed matter rate. To qualify for these rates, however, the circulars had to be in unsealed envelopes and handed in the larger offices where they had the adhesives cancellation by triangular stamps.

Subsequently the regulations were relaxed and eventually the triangular cancellations were applied to all other kinds of circulars and printed matter, such as bills and postcards.

The earliest triangles were handstamps bearing the telegraphic code of the post office, generally a two- or three-letter combination (1219). These stamps were made of brass and mostly supplied from London.”

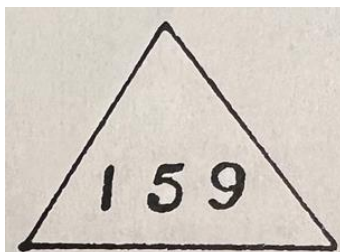
Here is an example of that one:



“In December 1902 some offices we

re supplied with stamps bearing the official number from 1844 onwards (1220). Machines installed in Edinburgh, Glasgow and other major offices from 1905 onwards had triangular dies with the telegraphic code and from 1924 they may also be found with the S-number (1222-1223).”

The example # 1220 with 159 is the triangle from Glasgow.



In chapter 24 “INSPECTOR’S AND EXAMINERS MARK” page 119 Mackay mention another type of triangle cancellation:

“In 1902 small brass triangular stamps with the office number were issued to many of the larger offices and may be found on mail which has been surcharged in some way (1552). These stamps are much smaller than the triangles used on printed matters and duplicated circulars, though in fact I have found them mistakenly used as cancellations like their larger counterparts.”

My conclusion is, that it is a brass stamp from after December 1902 used probably for some printed matter from Iceland.

It is a rare cancellation and must be especially rare on stamps from Iceland.

Jakob S. Arrevald

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Þingeyjarsýsla Ron Collin (Issue 59)



I find that I neglected to forward a scan to the Editor for the article on Þingeyjarsýsla in Issue 59. The anomaly was mentioned on Page 9 of that issue.

I was mentioning the anomaly that caught my eye, but I neglected to show a scan of it. Here it is, in case other readers may come across an example of it.

Marginal Numbers which appear on sheets of Iceland stamps printed by H.H. Thiele in Kobenhavn. *Ron Collin*

Some years ago, I came across an English Translation by Jay Smith, of the 1997 AFA Iceland Specialized Catalog. This hardcover book (translation) was published by The Press for Philately, in cooperation with AFA-Forlaget. In reading through that translation, I was able to gather information on the Marginal Numbers which appear on sheets of Iceland stamps printed by H.H. Thiele in Kobenhavn. These Marginal Numbers were used during the period 1913 through 1933, which is when the postal administration then took over stamp production.

More often than not, these Marginal Numbers are referred to as Plate Numbers or Plate Number Blocks, when described in auction catalogs or dealer listings and price lists. This misnomer happens because they don't realize what these numbers actually represent.

When the Iceland Post Office requested stamps from Denmark, the request, once approved, was turned over to H.H. Thiele. When Thiele received the approval, all paperwork was attached to prenumbered "Job Tickets" which were then sent to the print shop. This job ticket number became the Marginal Numbers that would appear on each and every sheet that was printed, as requested by this job ticket. The Marginal Numbers appeared in each of the four corners of the sheet, as shown by this sheet of AFA Number 81, with Marginal Number No 93-H.



As you can see, the Marginal Numbers appear right side up in the Northwest and Northeast corners of the sheet. But the bottom Marginal Numbers appear upside down in the Southeast and Southwest corners of the full sheet.

Here is the Excel listing of the Marginal Numbers. For reference, I have provided AFA, Scott and Facit numbers of the stamps

Listing of Iceland Blocks of Four With Marginal Numbers										
AFA #	Scott #	Facit#	Marginal Number	AFA Danish Kr	Marginal Number	AFA Danish Kr	Marginal Number	AFA Danish Kr	Marginal Number	AFA Danish Kr
76	99	91	61-D	600						
77	100	92	14-D	400	61-O	1200	61-S	400	93-H	500
78	101	93	61-D	400	93-H	600				
79	102	94	14-D	6500	61-O	6500	93-H	7000		
80	103	95	93-H	1600						
81	104	96	61-O	400	61-S	750	69-	750	93-H	350
82	107	97	93-H	16000	126-W	16000				
83	108	124	143-Z	175	227-Z	275	340-Y	275	402-Y	700
84	109	125	143-Z	350						
85	110	126	143-Z	325	340-Y	400	402-Y	700		
86	111	127	143-Z	225						
87	113	129	143-Z	1000	340-Y	1200				
88	114	130	143-Z	800	379-G	1200				
89	115	131	143-Z	250						
90	117	133	143-Z	3200						
91	118	134	143-Z	300						
92	120	136	143-Z	1500	379-G	1800				
93	122	138	143-Z	3800	299-Y	4000				
94	123	139	143-Z	4000	379-G	4200				
95	125	141	143-Z	12500	227-K	14000				
96	126	142	143-Z	8000	227-K	8500	245-	9000	299-Y	8000
96	126	142	349-G	8500	402-Y	8000				
97	127	143	143-Z	15000	299-Y	16000	379-G	17000		
98	128	144	143-Z	6000	299-Y	6500	379-G	6500		
99	112	128	206-X	350	227-X	300				
100	116	132	177-K	400	227-Z	300				
101	119	135	206-X	6800	227-Z	6200				
102	121	137	177-K	1400						
103	124	140	177-K	7500	227-K	7500				
114	144	168	274-M	4800	368-A	5000	402-Z	5000		
115	145	169	274-M	4800	299-Z	5000	353-X	5000	385-X	5000
116	146	170	274-M	4800	327-G	5000	349-O	5000		
117	147	171	274-M	7000	316-K	7500	360-	7500	379-	7500
117	147	171	402-N	7500						
118	148	172	274-Z	7000	316-H	7500	368-Z	7500	429-Y	7500
118	148	172	463-Y	7500						

Continued on next page.

Listing of Iceland Blocks of Four With Marginal Numbers

AFA #	Scott #	Facit#	Marginal Number	AFA Danish Kr	Marginal Number	AFA Danish Kr	Marginal Number	AFA Danish Kr	Marginal Number	AFA Danish Kr
121	150	159	227-K	10000						
123	C1	160	143-Z	250						
147	C9	162	299-Y	2800						
148	C10	163	402-Y	1200						
149	C11	164	379-G	4200						
156	176	145	423-G	600	439-Y	200				
157	177	147	423-G	1000	450-G	1400				
158	178	148	429-M	250						
159	179	149	429-M	250						
160	180	150	450-G	150						
161	181	151	423-G	8000	432-G	7500	450-G	7500	459-G	7500
162	182	152	429-M	1500						
163	184	154	429-M	16000						
164	185	155	410-J	3500	450-G	3200				
165	186	156	413-J	19000						
166	187	157	407-J	22000						
171	C12	165	410-J	14000						
172	C13	166	379-G	32000						
173	C14	167	407-J	65000						
174	183	153	459-G	1600						
193	202	146	464	150						
Tj32	O39	Tj41	93-H	1500						
Tj33	O40	Tj42	143-Z	700	316-Z	700				
Tj34	O41	Tj43	143-Z	700	316-Z	700				
Tj35	O42	Tj44	143-Z	200						
Tj36	O43	Tj45	143-Z	200						
Tj37	O44	Tj46	143-Z	200						
Tj38	O45	Tj47	143-Z	2000	379-G	2000				
Tj39	O46	Tj49	143-Z	1800	327-Z	2200	379-G	2200		
Tj40	O47	Tj50	143-Z	2200	349-G	2200				
Tj43	O52	Tj55	143-Z	1200						
Tj60	O48	Tj51	385-X	900						
Tj61	O49	Tj52	385-X	2500						
Tj62	O68	Tj48	429-M	2800	459-G	2200				
Tj63	O70	Tj56	450-G	750						
Tj64	O71	Tj57	143-Z	400						

You may notice that AFA Numbers 96, 117 and 118 each have two lines that list the Marginal Numbers used. This is because more reorders were placed due to the frequent need of those values.

I realize that listings of row after row of numbers, are sometimes difficult to follow. For this reason, if any reader of this fine magazine would like to have an actual copy of the Excel file, simply send me an email request at: collinr@ameritech.net and I will send a copy, as an attachment, when I send you the reply.

I also realize that time has moved on, as it pertains to actual values used by AFA, but the relative values among the various items should be quite consistent. When I first made this Excel spreadsheet, I used it merely as a checklist as I acquired the items for my Marginal Number block collection. For this purpose it worked out quite well, by having all the information in one concise location.

Grundarfjörður or Ønundarfjörður C/P? (Issue 32)

An article in IPM Issue 32 has come back to haunt me. I offered readers an image of what I hoped was that of crown cancel GRUNDARFJÖRÐUR, and asked for opinions. Alas there was no response. That was in 2019. Recently, following advice from Steinar Fridthorsson and Brian Stwalley, I made additions to the crown cancel database and added two more images of GRUNDARFJÖRÐUR, making 5 in total, which corresponds to its Facit rarity rating of RR. Facit 2024 includes a warning to beware of confusing it with another crown cancel, Ønundarfjörður!



So, I will try again in the hope that somebody, not under any pressure from me of course, will offer their opinion which cancel the above image represents, the rare Grundarfjörður or the cheap and common Ønundarfjörður. If I am forced by weight of opinion to remove it from my Grundarfjörður album page, I promise not to get upset and remove anyone from the readers' list! I will publish the result in the next issue.

If this results in crown cancel collectors re-examining their own copies, you never know, we might unearth more examples of the rare cancel for our database.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

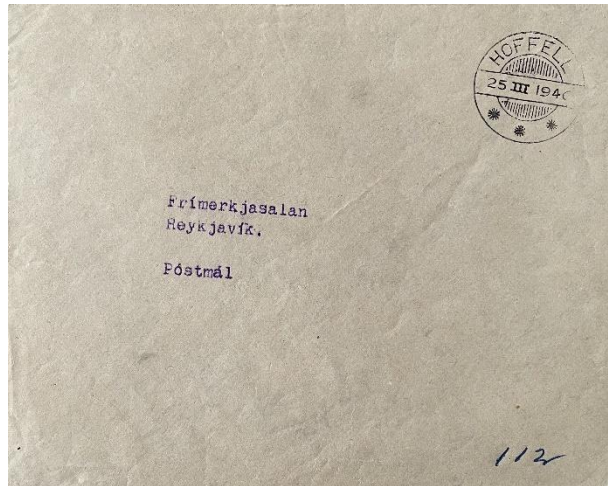
B1a Hvammur locations (Issue 59)

From Eivind Kolstad:-

You ask if someone has an early Ásgarður B2c2, and I enclose one of my copies. I am not absolutely convinced, but to me it seems like 3.X. 51. Day and month is certain, but unfortunately the year is almost gone. But as both the stamps were produced in 1950, it is likely (?) that the year is 51. I can see the last 1 (I think!!) (Ed. I think it is 1951 too! Are there any more early examples from readers please?)



B1e Hoffell (Eivind Kolstad)

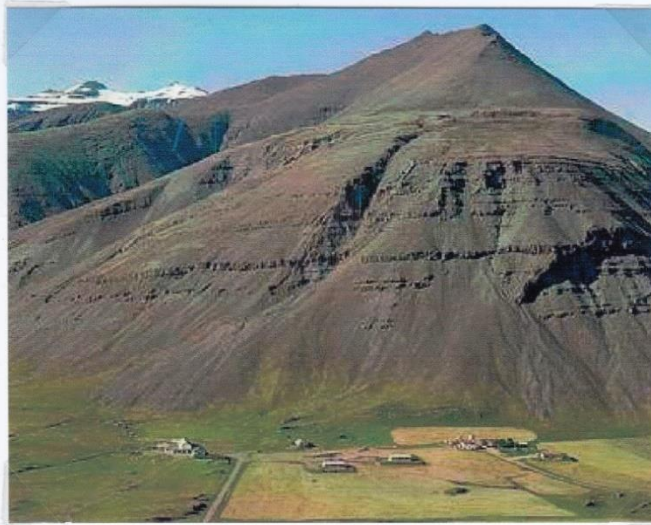


Here is my Hoffell B1e, which is a strange one. I don't remember the story behind this, but it is a strange bird, probably made locally or in the U.S., if I am not wrong. Something is written about this in one of Don Brandt's books.

(Ed. The same cover is shown in Don Brandt's "Walking into Iceland's Postal History. Below is my only

copy of this rare cancel dated 23.X.1944.

In January 1941 Hoffell also received the only type B1e cancel used outside Reykjavik. This remained here until 1966. Examples are extremely rare.



Readers are encouraged to send images of B1e Hoffell to the editor. There is a mention of a B1e dated 25.III.46 in IslandsKontakt 24 but no image. I managed to find the following two images from the Thorma collection.

Described as dated 18.III.1945 on 2 x 25aur Republic and a clip on 50aur Fish dated 17.XI.1943).



Late re-use of C1 Hvalsnes *Jørgen Steen Larsen*

Hvalsnes (“Whale point”) was a farm in Gullbringusýsla in South West Iceland – West of Keflavík – situated at the western coastline.

Hvalsnes was opened as a Brjefhirðing 1.4.1892. It was the end station on the local postal route from Keflavík to the west through Útskálar/Gerðar. The BH received C1 HVALSNES in the beginning of 1895. In the summer of 1903 it received N1a-160. Then the office was moved on 1.1.1916 to Sandgerði.

C1 Hvalsnes is known reused on: 3 * 1 eyr TK perf 12 $\frac{3}{4}$, Facit 76, issued 1908, and on 10 aur TK perf 12 $\frac{3}{4}$, issued 1.6.1907. The ink is black. I have only seen one more such reuseage.



Now the question is, at what period of time was C1 reused instead of N1a-160?

It is my guess that the reuse took place in BH Hvalsnes – not in BH Sandgerði - this means before 1916. In Facit the period of reuse is stated to be app. 1910 – 1912.

Our readers might be able to assist with more images of reusages of C1 Hvalsnes.

In my collection I have N1a-160 with blue ink. on 10 aur TK perf 12 $\frac{3}{4}$, Facit 81, issued 1.6.1907 and on 2 * 10 aur TK perf. 14, Facit 2 * 96, issued 1916. Both usages are probably from around 1916. (The Sandgerði period.)

I also have N1a-160 redrawn with black ink on 10 aur TK perf. 14, Facit 96, issued 1916. To me this might be an indication that N1a-160 had been damaged in Sandgerði around 1916.

We also know N1a-160 with manuscript cancellation “160”. In my collection I have “160” on 15 aur Jón Sigurdsson, Facit 112, issued 19.12.1911, 20 aur TK perf. 14, Facit 97, issued 1918, 8 aur Chr. X, Facit 130, issued 16.3.1920, 50 aur Chr X, Facit 141, issued 5.6.1920.

I have seen a similar usage of “160” on a strip with 3 * 15 aur Jón Sigurdsson. The usages on 15 aur Jón Sigurdsson are written with a slim pen nib. The three other usages are with a thicker pen. The period of use of “160” is stated in Facit as approx. 1915 – 1920.

As the postage rate for a normal inland letter was 10 aur until 25.10.1917, 20 aur from 26.10.1917 and 15 aur from 1.1.1920, the usages on 15 aur Jón Sigurdsson might be late usages so that the period of use of “160” might be only in circa. 1920.

If this is the case, there seems to be no connection between the reuse of C1 Hvalsnes and “160”.

For the time being, the best guess I can come up with is a period of reuse of C1 Hvalsnes from app. 1910 – 1912, as listed in Facit.

The reuseage of C1 Höskuldsstaðir 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 March 2024 issue.

Former postal stations (3)

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

Garðstaðir in Norður Ísafjarðarsýsla



A collecting office opened on 1.1.1895 after the closure of Ögur. Garðstaðir remained open only until 30.4.1904 before returning to Ögur. It used the Ögur C2a crown cancel and a numeral N1a 109.



Hagi in Vestur Barðastrandarsýsla



A collecting office opened on 1.1.1923 and used numeral N2-211 followed by B1a Hagi.



B1a dated 19.4.51. This was 10aur underpaid if the intention was printed matter. Maybe the Hagi postal official took pity on the writer, who was evidently a young person judging by the handwriting.

Hagi used a B8e cancel from 5.3.1965 until closure on 1.1.1990. In fact Hagi was closed for 12 years from 25.7.1978 and re-opened sometime in 1986.



26kr rate for 21-100gm from 1.9.89 to 31.10 90

WWW. SAFNARI. IS recent 2023 auctions

Here are some outstanding prices, all in ISK. (Three of these images were added to the crown cancel image database - (Hólar, Grímsstaðir and Gufudalur). 😊 Observation of the auction results show high prices are also being achieved for early stamps and other categories.



Snæfjöll missing 'o' 56,000



Reykir) 80,001



(Hólar) 44,000



(Gufuda)lur) 54,000



(Grí)msstaðir) 48,000



(Staðar)hraun) 48,000



(Tjörn á Vatn)nesi) 38,000



Þingvellir C2e) 135,000



(Rafn)seyri) 29,000



Grundarfjörður) 316,000



Grytubakki) 34,000



Stakkahlíð) 105,000



Sold for 1,010,000 ISK (74,833SEK). The auction description follows:-

The only known cover or postal matter of any kind with the very rare crown cancel HVAMMUR, of type c1. The cancel has been applied as a transit cancel to a postcard that was sent from Horsens in Denmark to Kelduvík farm in Skefilsstaðar – district in Skagafjörður county, via Sauðárkrókur in 1905. To give context to the rarity of this cancel it should be noted that only six copies of it are known on loose stamps in addition to this unique cover. Formerly owned by the great Swedish collector Hans von Strokirch.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Grytubakki R3 in Facit ???



This beautiful strike fetched 34,000ISK (2,513SEK) at the most recent Safnari auction. The describer expressed surprise that the cancel is only classed as R3 in Facit which is 800SEK. This of course puts it a long way off from inclusion in our crown cancel database which only records Facit value ratings at R5 and above. Fair enough, the very high price obtained for this one probably was influenced to a degree by the perfection of the strike. However, it tempts me to invite a count of images of this cancel, and see where it brings us. If the total comes to 40 or below, then we have a case for moving the cancel to R4 in a future Facit.

You never know, we might even see a sensational promotion of Grytubakki from R3 to R5 and its admission to our database! So, I invite readers to send an email to the editor detailing Grytubakki crown cancels in your possession. I will come back to it in the March 2024 issue.

Analysis of Icelandic Þrír stamps *Mogens Moe*

I have now divided my Þrír stamps in three groups as I think that Facit (Fc) with the numbers 32 – 37 does not tell the whole story.

Products from the Thomsen project

Jón Aðalsteinn Jónsson: *One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps (Reykjavík 1977)* (JAJ) describes on pp. 197-243 the Thomsen project in detail. The idea was to create a philatelic product that could be sold to collectors. On 2 November 1897 a very big number of printed mail letters were sent with the normal post to persons affiliated with the merchant Ditlev Thomsen. They were franked with Fc. 34 or 35.

As a new version of the Þrír stamps – Fc. 36 and 37 – was issued some days later, the idea of a huge number of printed mail letters was repeated on 11 and to lesser extent on 14 November 1897.

Covers and single stamps from such covers were picked up by collectors at the time. That has given a high survival rate compared to other stamps. That is why covers and single stamps cancelled Reykjavík 2/11/14.11.97 now dominate the market for Þrír stamps.

Stamps cancelled in Seyðisfjörður

According to JAJ pp 236-237 the Seyðisfjörður Post Office received 12 sheets (1200 copies) of the overprints.

On 2 April 1898 the Pharmacy in Seyðisfjörður published an advertisement to buy stamps with Þrír overprints for 25 aur (JAJ p. 237).

I have in my collections several Þrír stamps cancelled in Seyðisfjörður in the months 12 (Dec. 1897), 1 (Jan. 1898) and 2 (Febr. 1898). They are all Fc. 34 or 35. I have never seen Fc. 36 or 37 with Seyðisfjörður cancel.

I assume that the stamps cancelled in Seyðisfjörður have been used for normal postal purposes.

Stamps cancelled in Reykjavík on dates other than 2/11/14 November 1897 or cancelled in the Province.

I have a cover cancelled Reykjavík 3.11.97 containing a printed Althing law. That is an example of the normal postal use of a 3 aur stamp.

I have several Þrír stamps with Reykjavík cancellation other than 2/11/14 November. I have also several Þrír stamps with Provincial cancellations.

It is a reasonable assumption that Þrír stamps have been used also for normal postal purposes. But as there has been no systematic collection of those stamps, most of them have probably been lost. Use in Seyðisfjörður is a middle category: Survival rate is probably relatively high but not as high as the covers/stamps produced by Ditlev Thomsen for collectors.

Plating the last two printings of 10 aur of 1897 & 1898 *Lars Bjarki Schmidt*

The 8th and 9th printing of the 10 aur oval stamps are famously hard to tell apart. In fact, the Facit catalog makes no attempt at describing them and they are simply noted combined as #26.

10 aur is the denomination of which the most amount of stamps were printed, a true workhorse stamp of its time.

I recently came into possession of these two blocks of four.



What's interesting is the cliché flaw found in the lower left stamp in both blocks. This particular cliché flaw is listed in Regeling's book *Stamps of Iceland 1872 - 1904* as C.8 and is characterised by two small dents close to the top right corner of the frame:

Cliché 8.1



As well as a notch on the lower left frame close to the top of the triangle ornament:

Cliché 8.2



Cliches for any given print run were assembled in a block of 5x5, printed in quarters to make a sheet of 100 stamps.

When a new printing run was required the cliches were again assembled and thus the layout of cliches were randomised for each new print, often accruing more damage over time due to rough handling.

Referring again to Regeling's work we can see that C.8 in print 8 is in position 23 while in print 9 it is in position 13. The surrounding stamps in the blocks do not share similar cliche flaws and thus the printings can be identified.

After plating the other cliche flaws in the blocks it can be established that one block is from the 8th printing while the other is from the 9th. Besides studying the stamps under UV light this is a sound method of telling the two prints apart.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX