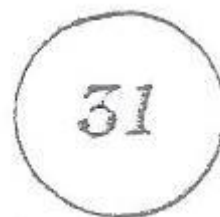


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Iceland Philatelic Magazine

Contents	Page
“New Issues” in 2023?	3
Closure of Iceland post offices 2024	3
Remaining Iceland Post Offices 1 July 2024	4
Photographer Theodor Stephani <i>Harald Thoma & Jakob S. Arrevad</i>	5
Sæból (1) and (2) <i>Jorgen Steen Larsen.</i>	9
Edinburgh 131 between 2x2 bars <i>Jakob Arrevad</i>	12
Search for difficult bridge cancel strikes	21
Late reusage of C1 Kirkjubær. <i>Jørgen Steen Larsen.</i>	22
Commercial use of postal stationery	24
Rare re-use of C1 Lækjamót	24
Former postal stations (5)	25
Artistic franking at Reykjavík	27

“New Issues” in 2023?

In the absence of new stamp issues, I admit that I have allowed the post office brochures to pass me by. My thanks therefore to Jan Prygoda in the Netherlands for pointing out a recent 2024 Pósturinn notice of TWO overprints, which were issued on October 18th 2023, on two stamp issues illustrated below. I can't quote the Facit numbers. Presumably the post office was working through its existing unsold stocks and these two were overprinted 250gm INNANLANDS on probably lesser required 1000gm and 1500gm stamps. Can anyone say if any examples of these overprints have been noticed on covers? The editor would like to show examples! (Dare I ask if there have been any previous similar overprints which I may have missed?)



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Closure of Iceland post offices 2024

In Issue 59 we showed a list of existing open post offices on 1st September 2023. Now, in pursuance of the post office policy to switch away from letter post to mailboxes, we have had notice of the closure of 8 more post offices as listed below. Rolf Dörnbach suggested I try to get the exact dates of closure for each, if Pósturinn will cooperate as they did when I asked them last September. I will report back in the next issue.

Grundarfjörður, Hvammstangi, Siglufjörður, Dalvík, Ólafsfjörður, Neskaupstaður, Fáskrúdsfjörður, Breiðdalsvík.

That leaves 27 post offices still open. A full table follows below.

Remaining Iceland Post Offices 1 July 2024

(as per illustrated list on Pósturinn's website)

Post Code	Post Office	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		
370	Búðardalur	Miðbraut 13		
400	Ísafjörður	Hafnarstræti 9-11		
450	Patreksfjörður	Bjakargata 4		
510	Hólmavík	Hafnarbraut 19	savings bank	
520	Drangsnes	Borgargata 2	supermarket	
540	Blönduós	Hnjúkabyggd 32		
550	Sauðárkrókur	Ártorg 6		
600	Akureyri	Norðurtangi 3		
640	Húsavík	Garðarsbraut 70		
675	Raufarhöfn	Aðalbraut 23	local community office	
680	Þórshöfn	Fjarðarvegur 5	Landsbankinn	
690	Vopnafjörður	Kolbeinsgata 10	Landsbankinn	
700	Egilsstaðir	Kaupvangur 6		
710	Seyðisfjörður	Vesturvegi 1	Kjörbúðin (shop)	
730	Reyðarfjörður	Búðareyri 35		
765	Djúpivogur	Markarland 1	Landsbankinn	
780	Höfn í Hornarfirði	Hafnarbraut 21f		
800	Selfoss	Larsenstræti 1		
900	Vestmannaeyjar	Strandvegur 52		

Total: 27

Photographer Theodor Stephani *Harald Thoma & Jakob S. Arrevald*

Theodor Stephani must have been somebody – he is mentioned as being a photographer on this card:



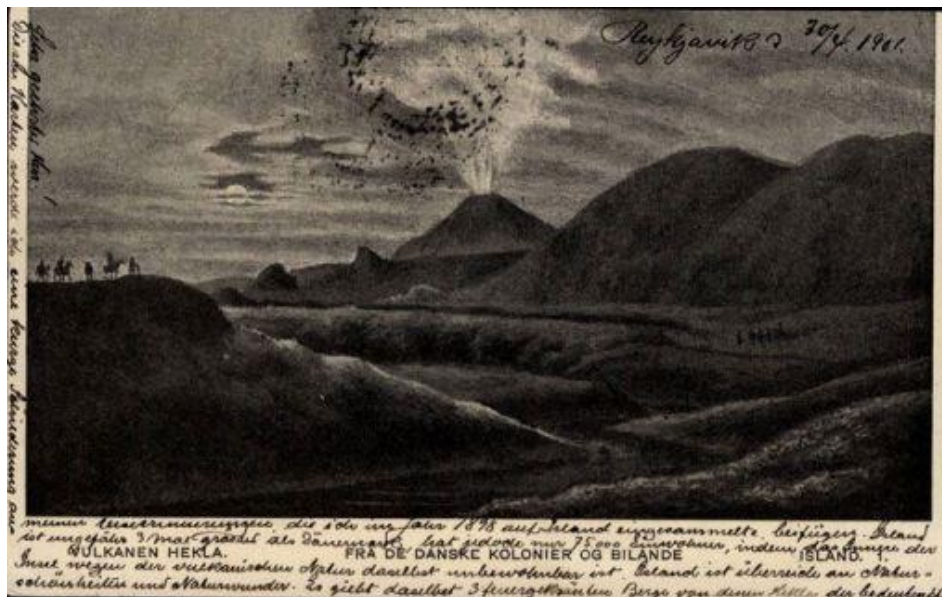
He did receive mail from Iceland in May 1901 – at least 3 postcards sent the same day, and this is part of the story they tell:

The first one is a 5 aur blue brjefspjald with a 4 aur added – we call it “the 9 aur card.”



In the left upper corner “1/1 ¼”, and in the left lower corner a very faint stamp “LUNDINGSGADE” (? A street name in either Copenhagen or Aarhus).

And the back with some text:



The second¹ is also a 5 aur blue brjefspjald further franked with 5 aur green. We call it “The 10 aur card”. It also has a very faint stamp “LUNDINSGADE” at bottom left.



We don't have the back of the card. Can anybody help us with a copy?

The third is also a Brjefspjald but an 8 aur with 3 aur added. We call that “The 11 aur card”. The text “LUNDINSGADE” is weak but the number “1” can be read (bottom left).

¹ Probably being number 3 – see the following.

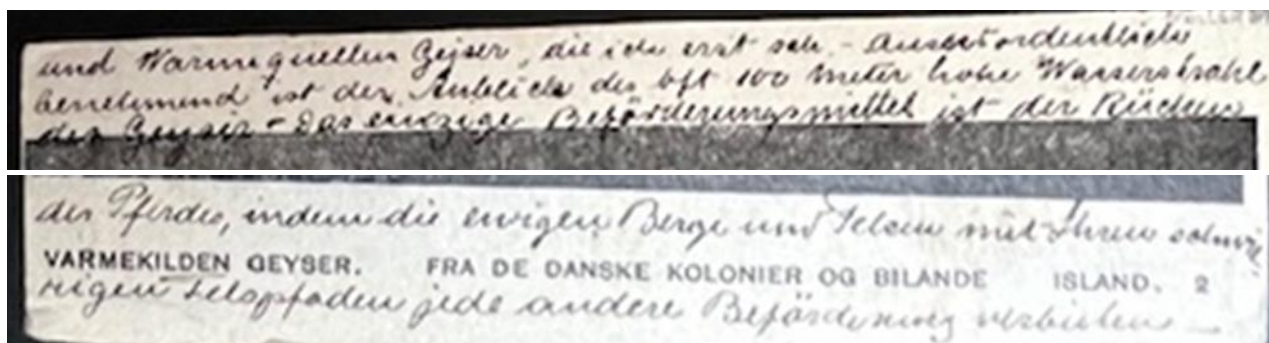
„Sehr geehrter Herr !

Diesen Karten werde ich eine kurze Schilderung aus meinen ???erinnerungen, die ich im Jahr 1898 auf Island ?????sammelte, beifügen. Island ist ungefähr 3 mal größer als Dänemark, hat jedoch nur 75.000 Einwohner, indem das Innere der Insel wegen der vulkanischen Natur daselbst* unbewohnbar ist. Island ist überreich an Naturschönheiten und Naturwunder. Es giebt daselbst² 3 feuergekränzte Berge von denen Hekla der bedeutenste (ist)³ ”

“Dear Sir!

To these cards I will add a short description from my ??? memories, which I gathered(?) in 1898 in Iceland. Iceland is almost 3 times bigger than Danmark, but has only 75,000 inhabitants, because the inner island is uninhabitable due to its volcanic nature. Iceland is overabundant with beauties and wonders of nature. There are 3 mountains, wreathed in fire(?), among which Hekla (is) the most famous one”

We believe that “Chapter 2” is on the back of “The 11 aur card”. The text follows the card number ISLAND 1 and 2⁴:



... ”und Warmequellen⁵ Geysir, die ich erst sah. – Ausserordentlich benehmend⁶ ist der Anblick des oft 100 Meter hohe Wasserstrahl des Geysir – Das einzige Beförderungsmittel ist der Rücken der Pferde, indem die ewigen Berge und Felsen mit ihren schwierigen Felspfaden jede andere Beförderung verbieten –“

... “and hot springs geyser, which I just saw. – Extraordinary behaviour?? shows the view of the frequently 100-meter-high water jet of Geysir – The only means of travel (and transport) is on the back of horses, as the eternal mountains and rocks with their difficult stone paths prohibit any different transportation –“

In “chapter 3” we are expecting remarks about waterfalls, glaciers and so on, and it might be on “the 10 aur card”. There is no farewell expression and/or senders name on “the 11 aur card” and that might be on either “The 10 aur card” or on an unknown fourth card.

² “daselbst” (= in that very place) and “gekränzt” (= with wreath/garland) are antiquated expressions.

³ The word “ist” (= is) is missing

⁴ The text fits together. From Hekla (Island 1) to hot spring Geyser (Island 2). The text follows the pictures.

⁵ “Warmequellen” in one word, is not common in German. We think, the writer was inspired by the expression VARMEKILDEN, printed on the postcard.

⁶ “benehmend” is an unusual/antiquated expression

Sæból (1) and (2) *Jorgen Steen Larsen.*

(previously published in IslandsKontakt 101)

In ISK 99 November 2014 on page 21 was an article by Eivind Kolstad about bridge cancel B1a Sæból at letter collecting offices Sæból (1) in Norður-Ísafjarðarsýsla and Sæból (2) in Vestur-Ísafjarðarsýsla. According to the Þór Þorsteins handbook on the Pósthús og bréfhirðingar á Íslandi 1870 – 2011, Sæból (1) was open from 04/11/1923 to 30/09/1952 and used cancels N1A-210 and B1a Sæból.

Sæból (2) opened from 07/01/1945 to 31/12/1965 and used cancels N2-298 and B1a Sæból. Þór Þorsteins adds that bridge cancel B1a Sæból was moved to Sæból (2) at a time after Sæból (1) had been closed. It is also clear from Þór Þorsteins' Íslenskir Stimplar 1894 - 2003, that B1a Sæból was used by Sæból (1) in the period 01.07.1930 to 30.09.1952 and was known used during the period 1930-1950 and B1a Sæból was used by Sæból (2) in the period 07.11.1959 to 31.12.1965 and was known used from 1959 to 1964.



Eivind doubts that this information is valid, and he provides a theory that the letter collection office at Sæból (2) never got bridge cancel B1a Sæból, so that examples for 1952 shall be deemed to be "fake and scam" and without interest.

Further on there appears from my collection an example of B1a Sæból used after 1952. The picture is almost identical to the one Eivind showed in Iceland Contact no. 99. Eivind justified his theory with the following statement. It was an unusual situation that a bridge cancel was used in two places with the same name, a good distance from each other in two different counties. It is doubtful therefore that Sæból (2) should have been given a bridge cancellation that had been available 6-7 years earlier. Very little post was sent from Sæból (2) which was probably closed in the late 50s because of emigration. It is highly unlikely in practice if not impossible that the letter collection office will have received the Europa Stamps for postal use. Eivind added that he has previously seen B1a Sæból applied to a second copy of the same stamp as above and stamped with the same date - 11.12.1964 and this was made by someone who had access to bridge cancels in Reykjavík - or perhaps the B1a Sæból was never returned to Reykjavík after Sæból (1) had been closed.

My supposition is that I pretty much agree with Þór Þorsteins and I do not think that Eivind's theory is correct. To support my opinion, I can give the following information about my known uses of N2-298 and B1a Sæból used after 1952.

From Sæból (2), I have N2-298 used there as follows:-



Facit 249 C2, 25aur Cod, maroon, used 26/03/1946.

Facit 323 1 kr. Manuscripts, used 10/01/1953,

Facit 298, 1 kr. Hekla, used 12/03/1948.

Facit 332, 75aur Sport, used 08/09/1955.

Per Hanner had N2-298 on a clip from an address card stamped with Facit 325 * 2 (10 kr. manuscripts) + 353 (25 kr. President's residence, issued 01/08/1957 cancelled with B2c1 Ísafjörður in 1958 and with hand stamp N2-298 (arrival stamp), and Facit 357, 1 kr. Flowers, issued 08/07/1958, which was probably a philatelic use. Based on these applications, it is estimated that N2-298 was used continuously in Sæból (2) until around 1958/59.

I have B1a Sæból used after 1952: on a philatelic letter (see below) stamped with Facit 357 + 358, flowers, issued 08/07/1958, cancelled 2/11/1959 - and on Facit 401, 5.50 kr. Europe, issued 17/09/1962, cancelled 11.12.1964 - see first illustration above.

Additionally, I have seen in another major bridge cancel collection a clip with Facit 422, 4.50 kr. Europa, issued 14/09/1964, cancelled 12.11.64 - the same date as the two applications on Facit 401.



The philatelic letter with B1a Sæból corresponds to a number of similar letters stamped by other mail collectors and all franked with Facit 357 + 358.

From Northwest Iceland, I have these examples:

Cancel type	Collecting office	Cancelled	Cancel known to have been used until
B1a	Eyri Ís	12.3.59	1963
B1a	Hagi	22.2.59	1961
B1a	Holt Ís	24.2.58 (the year probably should have been 1959)	1962
B1a	Melgraseyri	X3.5.43 (a rare cancel – the date was not updated)	1959
B1a	Staður Ís	X5.3.59	1962
B1a	Sæból	11.2.59	1964
B2a	Selárdalur	X3.3.X9	1959
B2c2	þúfur	21.II.59	1973

22

It looks as if "someone" in February / March 1959 issued a number of letters for cancellation similar to the Bio Petersen letters from spring 1938. At this time Sæból (1) was closed, and he or she sent the letters to Sæból (2). The letters are of course philatelic, but there is in my view no reason to believe that they should not be cancelled by the respective collecting office.

I will allow myself to ignore the possibility that any of these letters – but not the Sæból letter - should be stamped by a person who had access to bridge cancels in Reykjavík.

Of course, it cannot be excluded that B1a Sæból never was returned to Reykjavík after Sæból (1) had been closed, but was moved to Sæból (2) as a local action. The relocation of the cancel - as pointed out by Eivind - occurs from a letter collecting office in one county to another letter collecting office in another county. It is my opinion that it is more likely that B1a Sæból had been returned from Sæból (1) through the post office in Ísafjörður to Reykjavík, and from there was redistributed via the post office in Flateyri to Sæból (2). For comparison we can look at the corresponding movements at a time around 1945 of the cancel B1a Hvammur from Hvammur (3) in Dalasýsla (mid-west of Iceland) to Hvammur (4) in Gullbringusýsla (in Iceland southwestern corner). There is hardly anyone who imagines that this move originated from outside of Reykjavík.

As for the theory that Sæból (2) was closed in the late '50s because of emigration, there is an entry in Bæjatal 1961 showing that at that time there were 8 farms (incl. Sæból) so a collecting office could have been operating at Sæból (2). One of these farms was Hraun (5), which in 1983 opened a letter gathering, which remained open until 1995.

The known uses of B1a Sæból at Sæból (2) seem to be made by philatelists who have either sent some Europe Stamps for Sæból (2) to be cancelled, or were on the site and asked to get the stamps cancelled. It fits well with the fact that I bought my copy of B1a Sæból dated 11/12/64 from a now deceased stamp collector who I know, sent stamps to be cancelled.

Conclusion:-

The Þór Þorsteins information appears in my view to be correct, except that the start of the opening period at B1a Sæból can be moved back a bit from 11/07/1959 to February 1959.

(Ed. I have one fairly obvious philatelic strike dated 14.12.64 on Fac 415. I can find no further discussion in later issues of ISK, so that appeared to have settled the issue?)

Edinburgh - Two circle stamps with one arch and stampers' number –V1 2024

Jakob S. Arrevad

This is a part of a series published online which summarizes, supplemented by recent discoveries, information published over the years in IslandsKontakt and elsewhere. We must all be grateful for the sustained efforts of all those who, over the years, as Editors or Authors have contributed to the gathering and dissemination of information relevant to the philately of Iceland.

This issue is inspired by and with support from Harald Thoma.

The stamp is only briefly mentioned in Mackay, "Scottish Postmarks", page 52, called "English Pattern Combined Stamp", and he explains that this type of stamp is also called the "Dulwich type", as there had been experiments in 1894 with the stamp in East Dulwich, UK. From the sample books of the stamp factory Kirkwood, it appears that the stamp appears in Scotland from 1914, and it is in the proof book bearing the superscription "English Pattern" – or just "English".

There are probably not all the stampers' numbers from 1 to 32 from Edinburgh - but if it is correct, I don't know why. There are different designs of stamps with the same stamp number.

Cross pattée

It starts in 1914 not with a stampers' number, but with a proof with one bar and a cross pattée⁷.



And the UK copy from 16 October 1916.⁸

The first date I have heard about⁹ for Edinburgh with stampers' number is 11 AU 1920. The first I have is from 11 JU 1921. The last ordinary use is from app. 1939.



⁷ Mackay also shows a district stamp (WESTERN D.O. EDINBURGH #575) dated 4 November 1915

⁸ When I refer to use it include Scottish use – but I primary show examples on mail from Iceland

⁹ The Kirkwood Proof Book end in my version in 1919 and I have found no proofs until then.

Documented changes to the time of use are welcome. Shilling certainly states that No. 18 should have been used in 1958, but I have not seen it.

I have, see below, only seen no. 13 together with sealing strips.

It looks like many of the later examples are on damaged mail, on lack of postal rate, missing address and similar.

There are probably stampers' numbers 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33 and maybe 36 - but why shouldn't there be more? I would still like examples, both of Icelandic and English stamps.

No. 1:

It is seen used from 1931 to 1936 on Icelandic mail.



An example from 1933.



Presumably sent on S/S Island which departed Reykjavik 27 March 1933 for Leith.

No. 3:

I only have seen it from 1937 - and the ones I've seen on Icelandic stamps, are from 20 April and 4 May 1937.



4 May 1937 is on mail from the Faroe Islands: with Danish stamp:



No. 4:

Only one known: 3 AU 35



No. 6:

It is stated by Schilling used 1932. I have it from 1933 to 1936



No. 9:



I only have it from December 1927

No. 11:

I only have one from probably January 1931



No. 13:

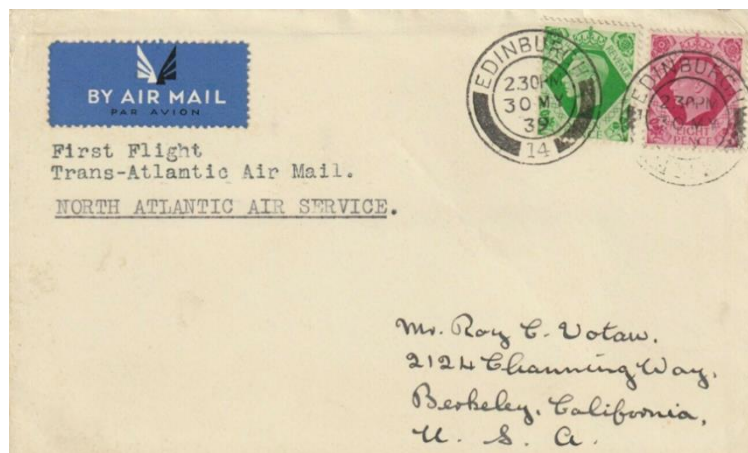
Only seen twice in connection with use of sealing strips in FE 1949 and Dec 1953.

Used on a closing strip 12 DE 53 on a local Edinburgh letter, as the letter was open. The stamp is canceled with an Edinburgh machine stamp.



No. 14:

30 MY 1939



Nr. 18:

From 1931 until 1937 (+UK 1943, 1948 and 1958)



Chr.X,1 Eyr, green/red. "Block of seven" on printed mail, canceled PAQUEBOT, and transit stamp EDINBURGH 25.7.1936. Cancelled the same day as another letter sent to the same – but here with a machine cancellation! (It is not easy).



Nr. 20:

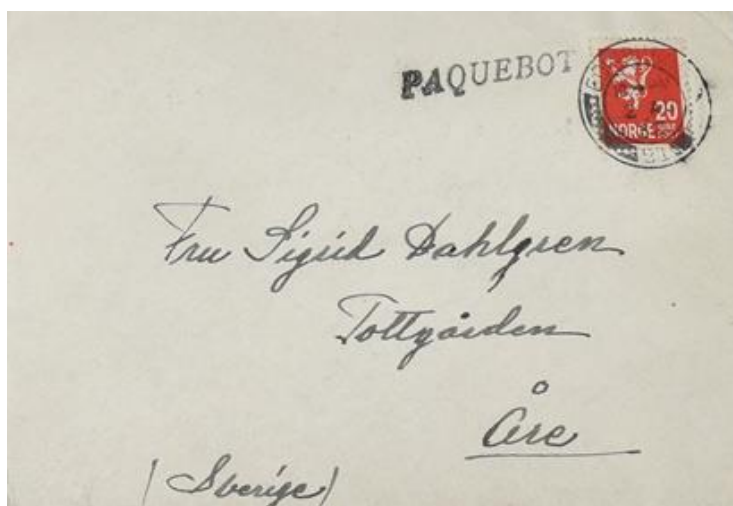
I have only seen it from 24 AP 25



Nr. 21:

Per information from Holz¹⁰ from 1921. Here on a special letter from Norway over Edinburgh to Sweden. The date is unclear and on UK stamp 1937.

¹⁰ Wolfgang Holz: "Anladungsstempel auf Islandsmark", PHILATELISTISCHE NACHRICHTEN, Arbeitsgruppe Island, page 26



Nr. 22:

I have seen examples from 11 JU 1921.



Nr. 24:

I have seen 6 February 1922 and 1925 – here 1923



Nr. 25:

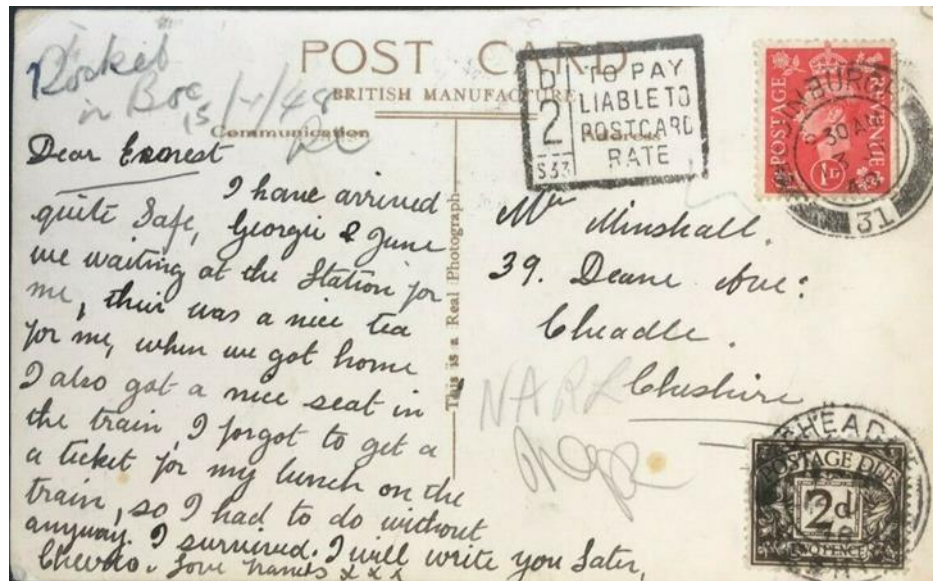
Here UK example from 1920 (I have seen 1921) and here 15 DE 24 from Iceland



Two different stamps – se the archs and the letters.

Nr. 31:

UK 13 JY 48



Nr. 32:

Here there are at least 5 versions that can be distinguished by the length of the arc and other differences. The “preferred one” on mail from Iceland.

I have from 1923 to 1939.

Here is an example from 1928 with a bold relatively short arc.



And a "Wilson letter" from 1931 with a long and thin arc.



Nr. 33:

My only copy is muddy – but from the thirties.

Nr. 36:

Picture by Holz page 26 (but not on page 78)¹¹. Use from 1935 - I have not seen examples.



Handstempel - Edinburgh:

Stempel wie vorher, jedoch der Durchmesser des äußeren Kreises nun wieder 26,5 mm.

Innerer Kreisdurchmesser: 17 mm

Höhe der Buchstaben: 3 mm

Anwendungszeit ab etwa 1935

¹¹ Wolfgang Holz: "Anladungsstempel auf Islandsmark", PHILATELISTISCHE NACHRICHTEN, Arbeitsgruppe Island.
<https://nordische-staaten.de/index.html?https://nordische-staaten.de/journal/journal.php?is>

Search for difficult bridge cancel strikes

This Brettingsstaðir B2a cancel is a scarce one. The 16.11.3 (0?) below was shown in ISK Issue 108. The other is my example of a favour cancel dated 29.2.x2 (52) by Folmer Østergaard. Can our readers show any other examples (other than favour cancels)?



Are the following two images unique strikes, or can readers provide more examples?



← The Fossvogur letter collection office was in Reykjavík suburbs near Kópavogur. The B2c2 cancel was issued in 1951 and was used until 31/12/52.

Hallormsstaðir B2c2,



The collecting office in Mælifell closed and moved on 01/01/1930 locally to the farm Starrastaðir. When the 1930 order was made for new bridge cancels, the move of Mælifell was presumably overlooked. The error was corrected with an order for a new B2a cancel with the inscription Starrastaðir. Therefore, use of the B1a Mælifell is very rare. Can anyone show another example to add to this March 1931 example on the 20 aurar Views issue?

How many other examples of the B1a Mýrar exist? This image was provided by Eivind Kolstad in ISK 108.



ÁS SKAG
Sold at auction in 2015 for
3200DKK



As Garð B1a Unique

Late reusage of C1 Kirkjubær. *Jørgen Steen Larsen.*

The collecting office Hjaltastaður was opened in Norður-Múlasýsla 12.4.1890. The office was moved to the nearby farm at Kirkjubær on 16.4.1892 and was closed on 30.9.1965. A new collecting office was opened at Hjaltastaður on 1.1.1898.

Kirkjubær which had a church and a parsonage is situated north of the post office at Egilsstaðir, close to the river Lagarfljót with the waterfall Lagarfoss and a powerplant. The old Aukapóstur route (branch route) went from PA Egilsstaðir to BH Hjaltastaður, across the river Lagarfljót to BH Kirkjubær, and across the river Jökulsá a Brú to BH Sleðbrjótur and on to Viðkomustaður, Torfastaðir and on to the post office at Vopnafjörður.

The Kirkjubær collecting office received C1 Kirkjubær around 1894/95, and then numeral N1a-35 in the summer of 1903.

I have a usage of N1a-35 on Chr IX 4 aur; Per Hanner had a usage on Chr IX 3 aur, and I have seen 2 other usages on Chr IX 5 aur and 10 aur. All usages are perfect 12 o'clock. They are even nicer than early usages of the C1 cancel that almost always are in good quality. The usages of N1a-35 on Chr. IX are all almost too nice. Could all these usages be philatelic?

All the other usages of N1a-35 I have seen are from the 1920s or later on Chr. X or Landscape issues. My earliest usage of N1a-35 is on a piece with 15 aur Chr. X.

We know many reusages of the C1 Kirkjubær cancel from the period 1903 to app. 1920. It should be added that I have never seen a reusage of C1 on Chr. X. My conclusion is that the C1 cancel was used all the time from 1894/5 up to app. 1920.

This C1 cancel is one of the crowns that gradually become larger. In the beginning, the diameter was app. 23,5 mm from the middle of one ring to the middle of the opposite ring. The diameter gradually grew to 24,0 mm on Chr. IX, 24,0 – 24,5 mm on Two Kings perf. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ and app. 25,5 mm on Two Kings perf. 14.



Perf 14. 23.5mm



Perf 12.75. 24mm



N1a 35



c.24mm



c.24mm



c.24mm



C. 24.5mm



c.24.5mm



c.25.5mm in 1916



24.5mm with Egilstaðir 6.III.14 on reverse

(Ed.) My thanks to Ron Collin for providing this late example of Kirkjubær. I add two more.



From Brian Stwalley

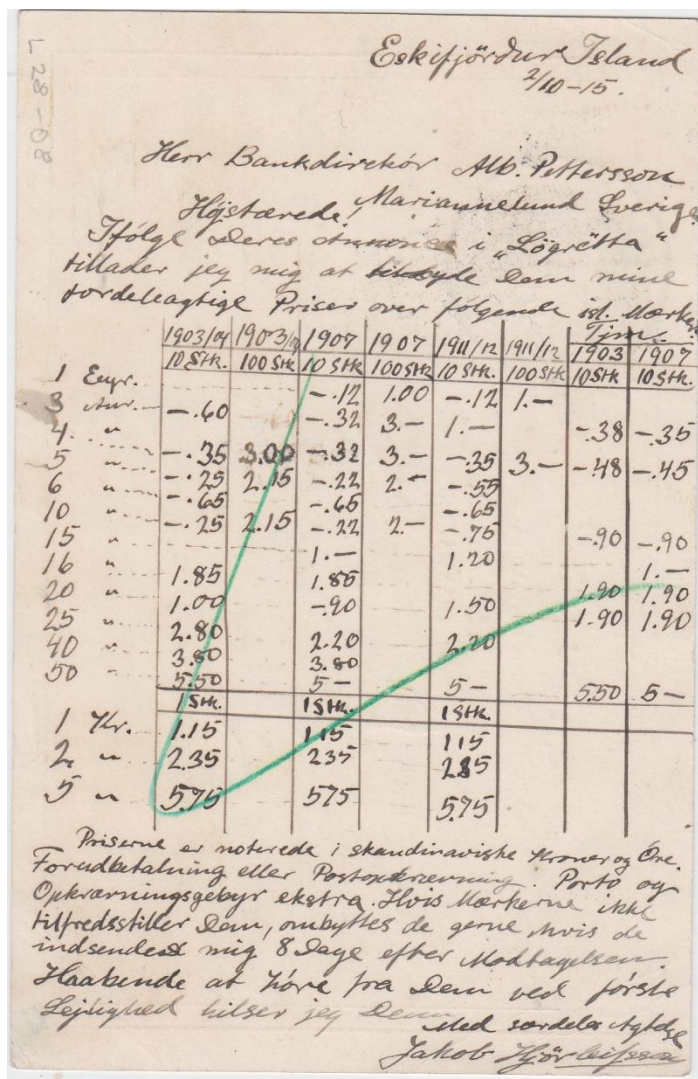


Last but not least is this 1906 cover with transit Egilstaðir and Reykjavík receiving cancel 21.11.06. Taken from ISK Issue 54.



The reusage of **C1 Ljótastaðir** will be reviewed in the next issue. Crown cancel collectors, please help the editor by sending images of late usage from your collections.

Commercial use of postal stationery?



A few years ago, ISK ran a short series showing examples of postal stationery used for commercial purposes. I seem to recall that most if not all were typed or printed by the originator. Although the card shown here was hand-written by the sender, I think it still qualifies as commercial use. Most readers of this article will not need a translation, but briefly Jakob Hjörleifsson, presumably a stamp dealer in Eskifjörður, has sent a detailed list of his Iceland stamps for sale from the CHIX series through to the 1911/12 sets. It is addressed to the bank manager at Mariannelund in Sweden. I would like to think that Herr Pettersson did purchase some stamps considering the extraordinary effort taken by Jakob to cram his entire sales list on one side of the PS card. I wonder what Jakob would have done if one day later, someone else asked if he had stamps for sale? I think he would have borrowed a typewriter, or had some cards printed!



B2c1 Eskifjörður dated 2.X.15. 10aur UPU ► postcard rate to Sweden.

XXXXXXXXXX

Late use of C1 Lækjamót



A challenge to crown cancel collectors, can you show another example of this rare late use?

Former postal stations (5)

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

Sauðlauksdalur in Vestur Barðastrandarsýsla



A collecting office opened from 1st January 1896. It received its first cancel in the second delivery of crown cancel in 1898, a type C2 which is very rare.



A faint transit strike on this SS Laura cover from Denmark.



The numeral 129 arrived in 1903 and that was replaced by the B2a SAUÐLAUKSDALUR B2a from 1st July 1930 until closure on 31.12.1945



Kinnarstaðir in Vestur Barðastrandarsýsla



(Ed. On a trip in 2007 I managed to get this view of Kinnarstaðir.)

The collecting office opened on 1st January 1905 and the numeral 128 appears to have been reserved for this office.





From 1st July 1930 until closure in 1980, Kinnarstaðir used the B2a cancel KINNARSTAÐIR



XXXXXXXXXX

Artistic franking at Reykjavík.

86230000

Afklippingur,
(sem viðtakandi má klippa frá og halda eftir)

Nafn sendanda og heimili:

Reykjavík
000321

Verð kr.

Póstkrafa kr. 452.00

Innihald: Vélavarahlutir.

Hr. Einar Jónsson

Vigt grm. 1kg

Drangsnesi

hinn 22/3 19 63

396 x 3 400

I am not sure the franking adds up to the correct rate for this parcel posted on 23.11.1963, but the neat arrangement of these stamps, so all the values can be seen, is admirable. I can't imagine such artistic care being exercised these days.

3 x 3kr, a 6kr plus 3 x 50aur adds up to 16kr50.

Is the rate correct?