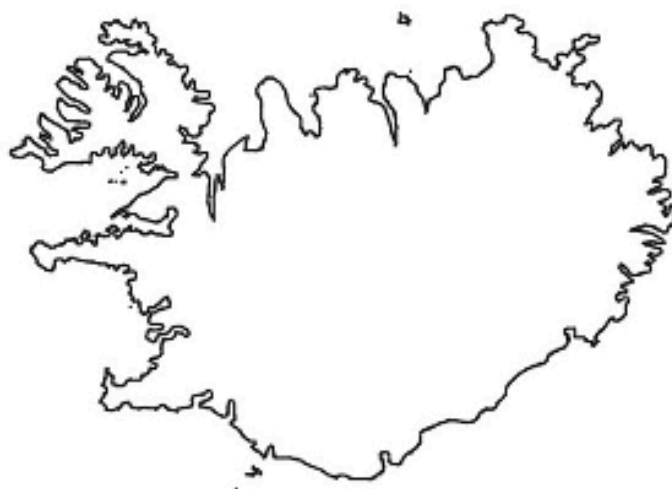
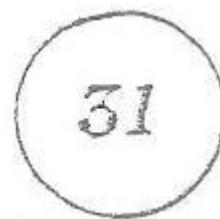


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Issue 70/Sep 2025

Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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Remaining Iceland Post Offices 1 August 2025

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		30.5.2025
230	Reykjanesbær	Hafnargata 89		
300	Akranes	Smiðjuvellir 30		
310	Borgarnes	Brúartorg 4		
340	Stykkishólmur	Aðalgata 31		
400	Ísafjörður	Hafnarstræti 9-11		
450	Patreksfjörður	Bjakargata 4		
510	Hólmavík	Hafnarbraut 19	Krambúðin (shop)	
520	Dranganes	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	1.5.2025
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		
870	Vík í Mýrdal	Sunnubraut 14-16		
900	Vestmannaeyjar	Strandvegur 52		

Total: 27

My thanks to Rolf Dörnbach for this updated list taken from the illustrated list on Pósturinn's website. I regret that my list shown in the July 2024 issue incorrectly showed Búdardalur as open and omitted Vik altogether. I have corrected this in the above list. Two offices have closed since; Hafnarfjörður and Vopnafjörður. Rolf is to be commended for his perseverance in pursuing Pósturinn for the closure dates. Hopefully future changes will be few and there should be no need to reproduce this list again.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Can anyone tell me where and under what circumstances this GÖTEBORG canceller was used? *Ron Collin*

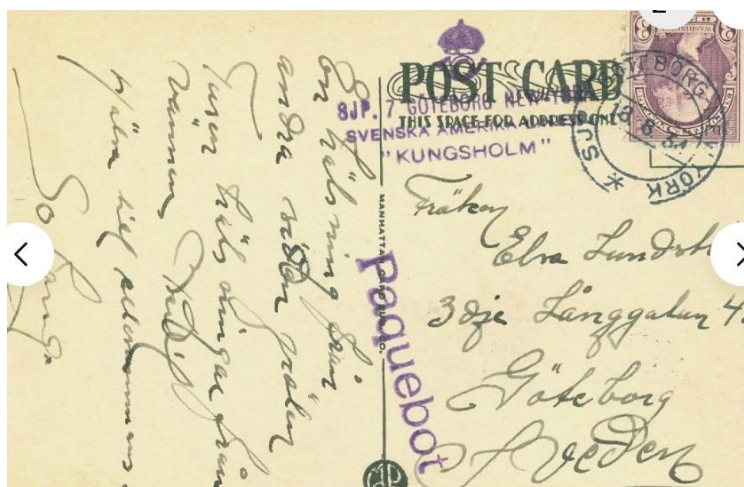


After GÖTEBORG there appears a dash (-) and then it looks like NEW Y which could be NEW YORK. I am familiar with a type of canceller used for railroad routes in Sweden. The two towns at each end of the route that was serviced by that route appear in the canceller separated by a - . That type of use would make no sense for this particular canceller. But I can find no examples in any of the literature in my personal library, that show this particular cancel.

I'm wondering if you or any reader of your Iceland Philatelic Magazine or if any member of the Iceland Facebook Group can identify this cancel and under what circumstances it was brought into use?

(Editor) An appeal to Frimerkjaspjall produced two responses:-

Saso Andanov sent this fine example of the cancel in 1934.



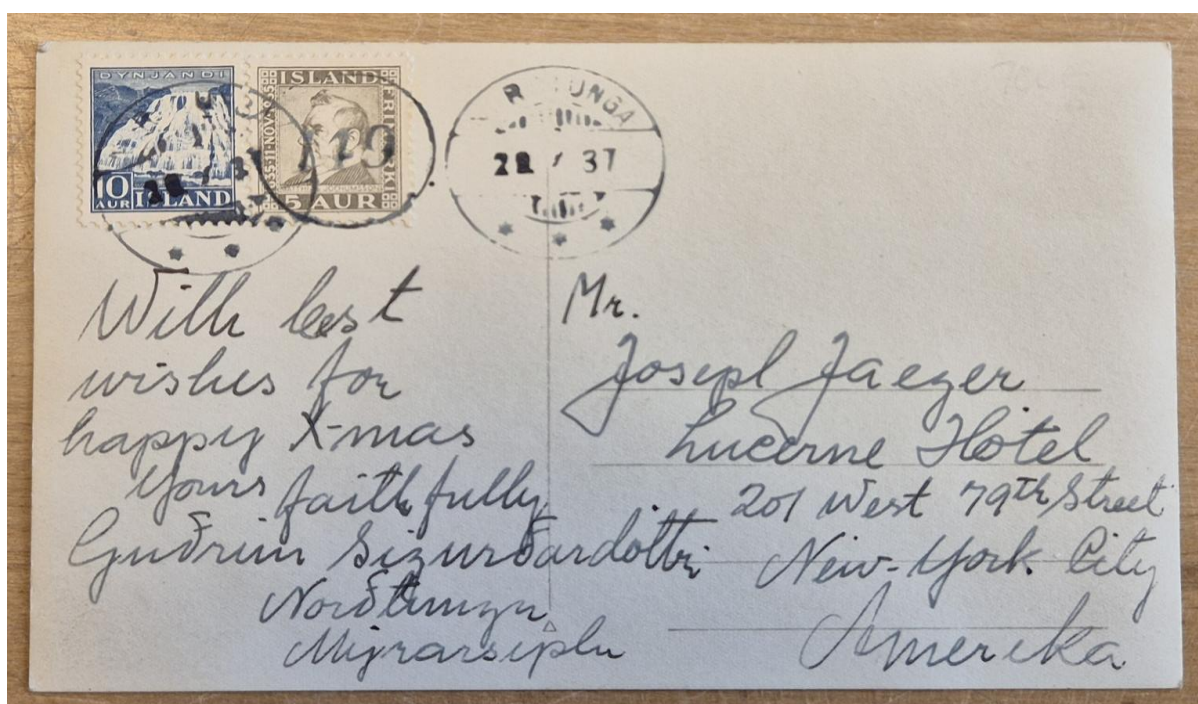
And from Kári Elíson Catzilla.



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

A new cover from Norðtunga

Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson



Árni Gústafsson and Hallur Þorsteinsson approached me a few days ago to point out to me a fascinating newly discovered numeral canceled cover, seen on the image above. This cover bears the numeral cancel 149 which in and of itself is not that remarkable as the book “Icelandic numeral cancels 1-300” states six such covers were known to bear this cancel when the book was written in 2016. What is interesting is that this is up until now the only cover known from the Norðtunga period which lasted from 1 April 1905 to 1964 or fifty-nine years. It is also worth mentioning that the covers from the Borgarnes period have increased from six to eight in the nine years since the numeral cancel book was written. The newly discovered cover is addressed to Mr. Joseph Jaeger, a well known American stamp collector who created a lot of philatelic covers addressed to himself in 1937. I have in my database at least five other covers addressed to him from the following post offices: Mosfell, Strönd, Hvammur and Þingvellir.

Interesting Stromnes Cancel *Ron Collin*

Recently while searching the internet, I came across this image of a 10 aur Christian IX stamp (Facit #67) with an interesting cancel which I had never seen before.



Thus, the cancel on the Chr IX stamp is of the circular cancel used in Stromness from 1901.

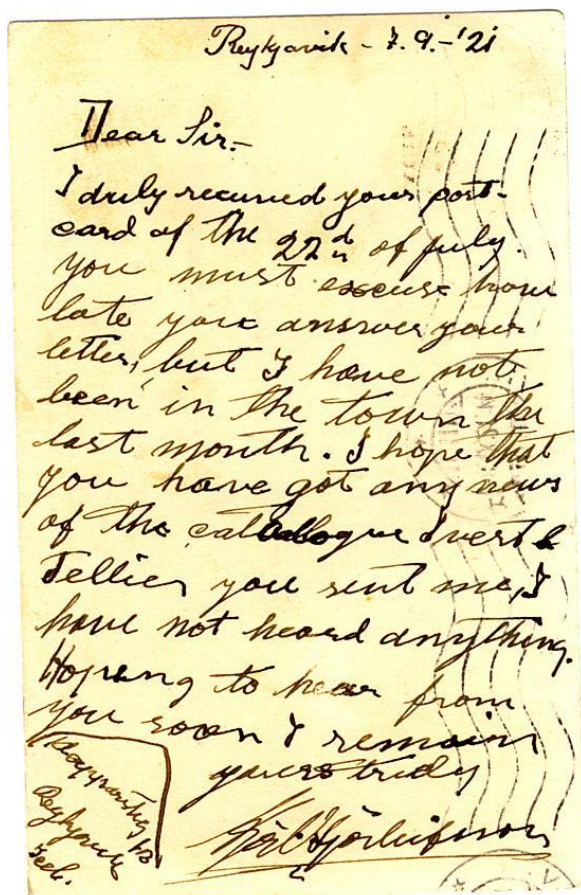
If any of the readers of this fine magazine have an example of a Stromness cancel, kindly send a scan to the Editor.

After some GOOGLE searches, I was able to determine that the town name is STROMNESS. Stromness was a lesser populated village than the larger Kirkwall, in the Orkney Islands off the Northeast coast of Scotland. Being a smaller community and located further west on the islands, it therefore received less port arrivals. Though collectors always try to have a well inventoried personal philatelic library, mine certainly was lacking having anything to do with the postal history of the Orkney Islands.



After searches of many philatelic libraries without success, I tried the Research Department of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. A person named Lenka, provided me with information from a publication of the *"Island Postal History Series: No.7 Orkney & Stromia"*, by James A. Mackay.

Rare overprinted postal stationery reply card



Black surcharge

5
AUR

on 8 aurar Christian IX reply card.

Facit describes it as 1,923 issued in 1923 ??

This card is clearly used in September 1921 with additional 20 aurar postage to make up the 25 aurar postcard UPU rate to Switzerland.

I have never been familiar with these overprinted postal stationery cards and may have misinterpreted this one?

Late reuse of C1 Stakkahlíð

Situated on Loðmundarfjörður, Stakkahlíð is only accessed by jeep track, and is wholly dependent on fishing. Known by the fjord's name as LOÐMUNDARFJÖRÐUR from 1.1.1902-31.12.1907, and from 1.1.1913-31.12.1929. The total population of this very remote parish was only 23 in 1961. A collecting office opened on 23rd April 1892. It received a type C1 crown cancel inscribed STAKKAHLÍÐ in the first allocation of these cancels in 1894/95.



Late use of the crown cancel is known from 1908 on Two Kings and Frederik VIII issues.

Larger impressions (26.5mm) are known, thought to be circa. 1911, and usually on invalid Í Gildi issues. By soaking the dirty cancellers in petrol or paraffin, this caused the rubber to expand. These are philatelic strikes.

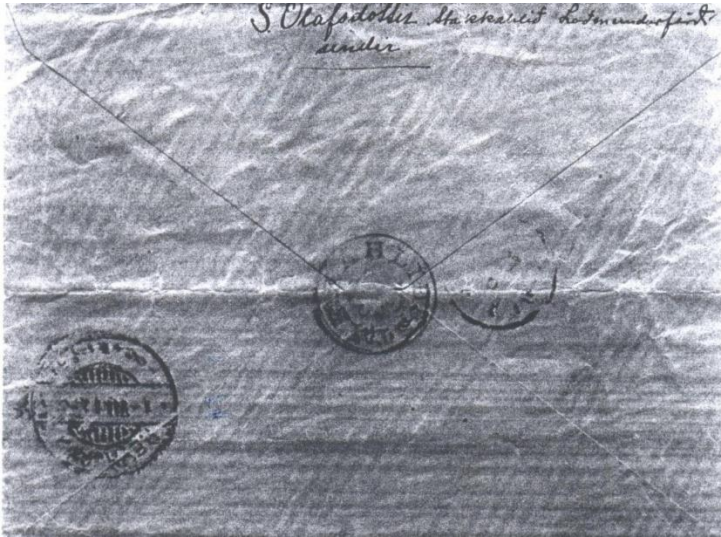


circa.1911 CTO



The following are from the crowns on cover database





Back side of a cover sent to Vatneyri via Patreksfjörður, with Reykjavík transit cancel date indecipherable

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Puzzle of the day – Sævarland or...? Jóhann Ragnarson (*Frímerkjaspjall*)



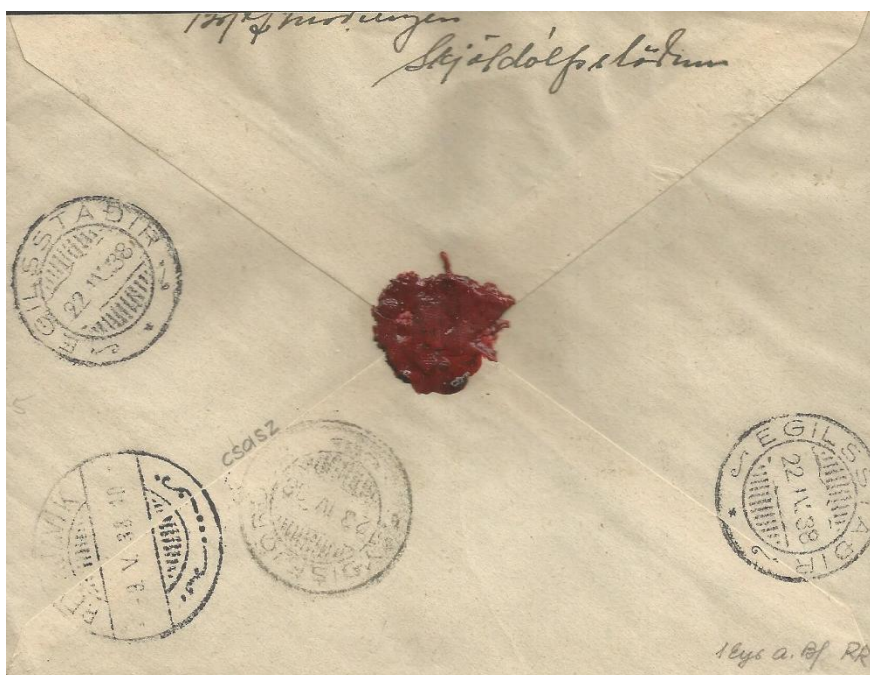
I'm leaning towards this being Sævarland. I considered it could be Brúarland, but it wasn't in use at the time of Seljaljand, but the font on D doesn't match, Undraland and Sævarland remain. I know that at least one of the known stamps of Undraland is on a service stamp, but does anyone know if Sævarland is known on a service stamp?

(Editor: This attracted suggestions from several experts who hover between Sævarland and Undraland. IPM readers are invited to put forward your suggestions!!)

Gamla Bíó covers, Issues 67 and 68 *Henk Burgman*

(Editor: On page 3 of the last issue, I omitted to add the following article sent by Henk Burgman showing another Petersen cover).

I enclose a Petersen cover. The stamps are not cancelled with a numeral cancellation. It's a R-cover but without an R-label, but with a handwritten remark. I have the idea that there were no R-labels available at that time. At the back, you can neatly follow the route that the cover followed to arrive in RVK. This is just informative. Henk



"ÞÓRSHÖFN" type C2e crown cancel Halfdan Helgason

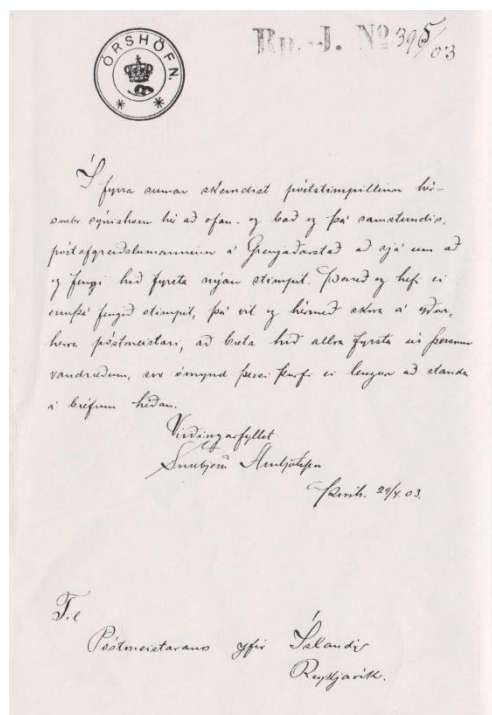
(From Facebook Group Frímerkjaspjall, reproduced with Halfdan's permission.)

As those who are interested in Icelandic postage stamps know, a copy of the crown stamp "ÞÓRSHÖFN" was damaged in use for a short time. The damage was that the letter "Þ" had fallen off, leaving "ÓRSHÖFN". I do not know how long the defective stamp was in use, but the postmaster at Þórshöfn tried to have this defect corrected with the attached letter, which I am rewriting for the relief of the visually impaired.

"Last summer the postmark here was damaged - see sample above - and I immediately asked the postman at Grenjaðarstaður to see to it that I received the first new stamp. Since I have not yet received a stamp, I hereby challenge you, Mr. Postmaster, to remedy this problem as soon as possible, so that this ugliness no longer needs to appear on letters from here. Respectfully, Sveinbjörn Arnljótsson, Þórsh. 29/4. 03."

The information I present here was obtained from Þór Þorsteins (1932-2017) many years ago, but he was, as stamp collectors know, the most diligent person in researching postmarks, by whatever name they are called. In Þór's book, *Pósthús og bréfhirðingar á Íslandi 1870-2011*, it is stated that the letter Þ was dropped in 1902, but there is no mention of a possible new postmark.

Collectors are now encouraged to bring forward letters and stamps with the Þórshöfn crown postmark, intact or damaged, so that it may be possible to shed light on whether or when the postman's problems in Þórshöfn were resolved.



Editor:- I replied to Halfdan's article on Frímerkjaspjall and said I was unable to help with dated examples of **ÞÓRSHÖFN** and **ÓRSHÖFN**.

I now appeal to our IPM readers to let the IPM editor have any images which might assist Halfdan. The years 1902 and 1903 are likely to be helpful.

From Árni Gústafsson

I send you a scan of Þórshöfn crown cancel, one normal and one with reverse P.

You can use it with the letter from Þórshöfn Halfdan showed us in "Frímerkjsspjall"



ÞÓRSHÖFN crown-posthorn-postmark with reversed "Þ" Roland Daebl



Mention was made of this special postmark in the March 2014 issue of *Scandinavian Contact* with the above illustration. Some questions remained unanswered. I have known of the relevant pair of the 5 aurar stamp since 1989. It was given to me in 2016 to expertise. Now I can contribute some new aspects.

The first publication occurred in *“Philatelistische Arbeitsmaterialien“* of the Arbeitskreise Nordische Staaten in Eastern Germany (GDR) with the title *“Small Curiosity with a crown posthorn postmark – or?”* in volume 41 (1989-3), page 20-21. The author, Mr. Helmut Zander, reported this combination of stamp and postmark. (Rudolf Krümmel had no involvement with this article). I was leader and editor of this club. Everything pointed to the fact that the use of the stamp was correct. After the opening of the border between East and West Germany, another publication came from Mr. Zander, with the same title and some additional text *“Philatelistische Nachrichten“* of the *Forschungsgemeinschaft Nordische Staaten (FRG)*, Iceland section, issue 71 (1990), page 239-240. Then, for many years there was nothing.

My text is shown in the following certificate. For the image, I used a composition of the pair with original colour and with false-colour. New knowledge can be gained from the text of the certificate.

Certificate 01/2016 A Date 2016-02-24

Iceland

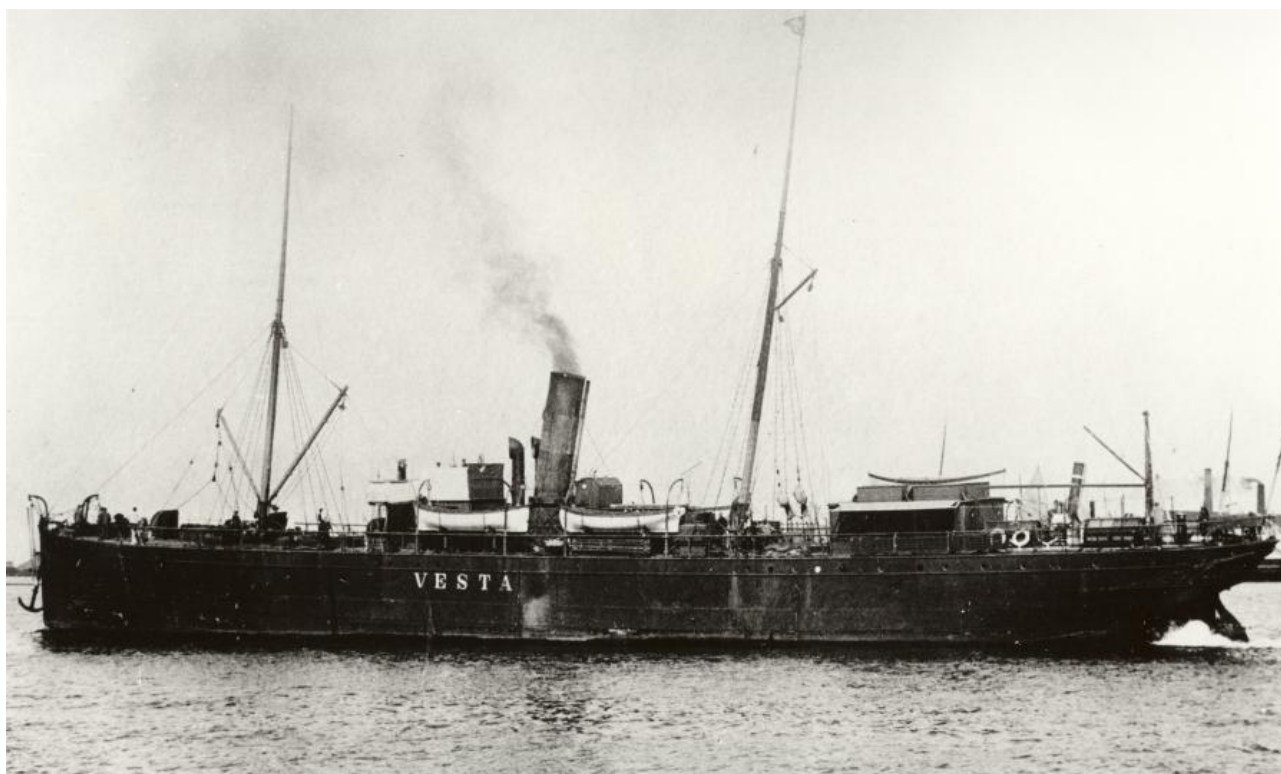
5 Aurar, green, print 1897, perf. 12¾, possible sheet positions 14-15, 19-20, 64-65 or 69-70, cancelled horizontal pair, Michel No. 13 B, Facit No. 24 b.-----

The horizontal stamp-pair, illustrated on the certificate page 3, is genuine. A violet crown posthorn rubber-postmark (type C2e) of the letter collection office ÞÓRSHÖFN with reversed letter "Þ" was used for the cancellation. Because the stamp is also known with missing letter "Þ", it can be assumed that this is an extremely rare example of a failed cancel repair. All comparisons with strikes of the original postmark indicate normal dimensions and the violet ink penetrates through to the back of the stamps. For a better representation of the stamp, a false-colour picture is added. The back of the stamps under ultraviolet light have an uneven paper-colour-hue. Some perforation tips are slightly stained. All this has been known in the literature since 1989. Other reproductions of this repaired postmark have not been proven in the literature until now.



S/S Vesta - Gone but not Forgotten *Ron Collin*

The ship, the S/S Vesta was built by the British shipbuilding firm Palmers' Shipbuilding & Iron Co. Ltd., in Jarrow, in north-eastern England, and was launched on April 22, 1879. Its propulsion was 1 screw (propeller), and a speed of 12 knots.



Picture from Tyne archives.

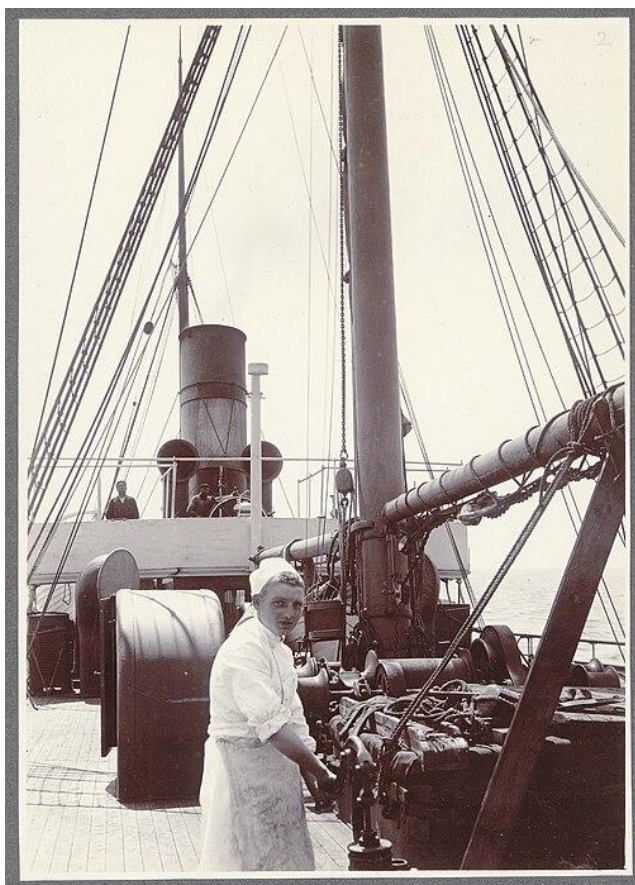
It was purchased by FG Schmidt, of Hamburg in May of 1879. It was built for their Hamburg to London service. It was subsequently resold 4 more times until the last purchaser was Det Forenede D/S, of Copenhagen, when it was purchased in 1899.

The Vesta had an unfortunate ending when it was torpedoed on July 16, 1917. It was sunk by U-Boat U88, 110 miles S of Sumbo, Faroe Islands on a voyage from Seydisfjord, Iceland to Fleetwood, England with a cargo of herring and wood.

There are only two recorded examples of the „VESTA“ mark, both are shown here.



This is a recent acquisition. The bluish-purple marking reads „VESTA“. Researching this marking revealed much information about the ship that used it. This marking was apparently applied to mail that was handled by ship personnel, to be turned into the postal system at the ship's next port of call.



Picture of deck and 3 crew members.
(from Fiske Icelandic Collection)

If any readers of IPM can show the „VESTA“ mark ,
or are aware of any other examples on any stamps, or on
a cover, kindly let the Editor know.

Resources:

<https://www.tynebuiltships.co.uk/V-Ships/vesta1879.htm>

Brian Flack, Editor - Iceland Philatelic Magazine

Cornell University Library, Fiske Icelandic Collection

Postsaga.is/is/frimerkjasofn - Usage of Iceland Christian IX Issue

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“New Issues” in 2023? (Issue 66)

When I recently sent a corrected print of an earlier issue 66, I did not expect any answers to the articles in that issue! However, Hrafn Björnsson of Icestamps has now responded to the appeal on page 3 of Issue 66 for any example of a first day cover for this elusive Pósturinn overprint in October 2023. Here it is.



Alviðra collecting office

(District of Ölfushreppur)

A former turf farm on the shores of Dýrafjörður, a fjord in the Westfjords region of Iceland. It is located on the eastern boundary of the Ölfus district between Ingólfssjall and the Ölfusá river. Currently a tourist site. The background in the postcard view is Ingólfssjall. Gestur Baldusson affirms this is Alviðra farm.

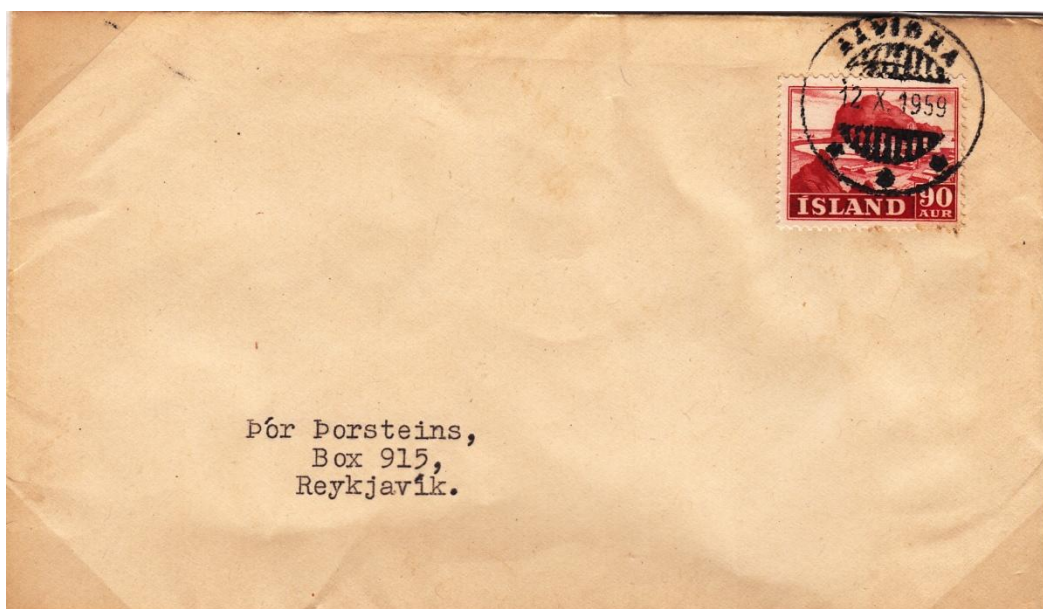
Bréfhirðing opened 1st January 1934 and closed 31st December 1961. It used numeral cancel **271**

In 1948 Alviðra reported it only had a numeral cancel. It is known used up to 1951.



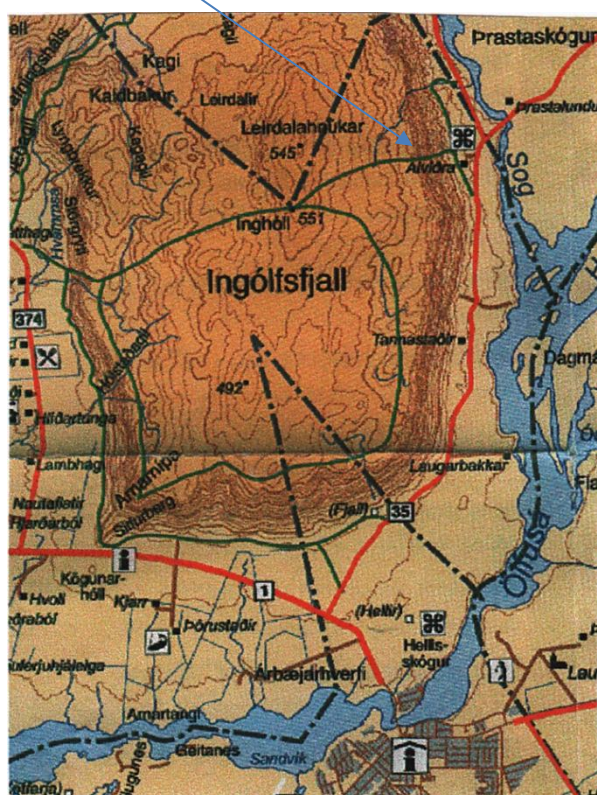
On 1st September 1956 it was issued with a type B3e bridge cancel inscribed **ALVIÐRA** which it used until closure on 31st December 1961.





Thanks to Þór Þorstein we have this type B3e dated 12.X.1959. 90aur inland printed matter rate from 1.7.58 to 29.2.60

ALVIÐRA



Expensive cruise and spending money:

Jakob S. Arrevad with help from the Editor

On eBay you could buy "ICELAND TO GERMANY VIA EDINBURGH 78 aur RATE ON MULTIFRANKED REGD. COVER 1907."



It is colourful but the final price on eBay was an amazing \$615.

(Editor: Jakob asked me to comment on the postage used on this registered letter sent in 1907 to Germany via Edinburgh. UPU postal rates applied, and until the end of 1907 the weights were expressed in kvints. (3 kvints is the equivalent of 15 grams). There is no evidence I can see of the weight of this cover, so may I assume it was within 3 kvints. The correct letter rate was therefore 20 aurar, plus 15 aurar registration. My opinion, is that the writer, had an accumulation of Icelandic stamps with him and decided to fit 9 different stamps totalling 67 aurar, into the available space on the cover. The variety of values may indicate that he was a stamp collector. The Edinburgh postal authorities were happy to send it on its way to Germany as it was more than adequately franked. One might choose to be generous, and suggest the letter weighed more than 3 kvints, which would add an additional 20 aurar per 3 kvints. However, no such calculations could arrive at the Argentinian seller's description of a "78 aur RATE". Or have I missed something?)

\$ 615 is an extremely high price even for a colourful letter but there is a little story to it, when you examine the letter:

Under the R label is some information:



"Hamburg Amerika Line" and the company flag in blue and white can also be seen on the following card showing SS OCEANA¹



¹ SS OCEANA is mentioned in IslandsKontakt Special TROON, ARDROSSAN and QUEENSTOWN as "involved" in mail transport.

The sender was on a cruise announced like this:

“To Scotland, Orkney and Faroe Isles, Iceland, Spitzbergen and Norway. By the specially equipped cruising steamer *Oceana*, leaving Hamburg July 6th, including Edinburgh, Orkney Islands (Kirkwall), Faroe Islands (Thorshavn), Iceland (Reykjavik, Sneefells-Jökull (Glacier), Staalbiorg, Isasjord, Evjafjork, Akreyri), Spitzbergen (Advent Bay, Bell Sound), North Cape, Hammerfest, Tromsø, Digermulen, Maraak, Gudvangen, Bergen, Hamburg. Duration, 24 days. Cost, \$137.50 and upward, including stateroom accommodations and meals. Cost of shore excursions, \$37.50 per person”

S/S OCEANA arrived in Iceland on July 13th, 1907 and you can read in the newspaper:-

“German cruise ship

The very large *Oceana* arrived here on the night of the 13th from Hamburg with 334 passengers, mostly German but some English and American. They looked around the city on Saturday. Late night dancing outside on the ship and singing by a Icelandic singing group led by Sigfús Einarsson. On Sunday evening the ship went to Akureyri and from there to Spitzbergen and Norway.

At the national telephone exchange, direct messages were sent abroad for around 700 ISK. this one day when the ship stopped - the phone rang once the night before.

In a shop here in town (“Bazar Thorvaldsens”) the crew bought various things for 8-900 ISK.”



The cinema cover from Arnhólsstaðir and the use of the bridge cancel "Litla-Sandfell"

Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson

In the May 2023 issue of IPM I wrote an article named "*Was the crown cancel "Arnhólsstaðir" used on a Petersen cover in 1938*". In that article I conclude that there might have existed a cinema cover with the crown cancel "Arnhólsstaðir" which is based on two clippings found by Jörgen Steen Larsen. I further concluded, based on the Petersen cover database that the other three stamps should be : 1-eyrir Christian-X issued in 1937, 7-aur Matthias Jochumsson and 10-aur Christian X Jubilee. Since I wrote this article I have developed a layman's proficiency in digital image editing using the program paint.net. This newfound knowledge has allowed me to create an image of this cover (see image 1 below). When reconstructing the Arnhólsstaðir cinema cover I noticed that the bridge cancel "Litla-Sandfell" was probably kept at Arnhólsstaðir in May 1938 so I added the bridge cancel to the cover with the date 4.4.1938. But now the question arises, was "Litla-Sandfell" ever used after it was moved from Litla-Sandfell to Arnhólsstaðir 1.1.1932? A comment from bridge cancel collectors would be welcomed.



Image 1. A reconstructed cinema cover from Arnhólsstaðir cancelled with C1 "Arnhólsstaðir" and B2a "Litla Sandfell" 4.4.1938. Postage might have been the following: $3+1+10+30+7 = 51$ aur based on the 21 covers found with 30 - and 3 aur.

Image 2. The cover is constructed out of these two cancels which are the only things to survive to present day.



Editor:- Brynjólfur asked me to add a note regarding the possible use of Litla-Sandfell from the Arnhólsstaðir period. I have never seen an example of Litla Sandfell used in the Arnhólsstaðir period. I hope readers will search their collections and let us know if one can be found.

In IPM Issue 15 I wrote:-

B2a Litla Sandfell Suður Múlasýsla

Recorded use 1930 – 31.12.1931

Arnhólsstaðir 1.1.1932 – 1951



It was only 18 months at Litla Sandfell before it was moved to Arnhólsstaðir, where it was located for nearly 20 years until sometime in 1951 when that office got its own B2c2 Arnhólsstaðir. Surely there are copies known of Litla Sandfell from that period? (But why do I not have one?).



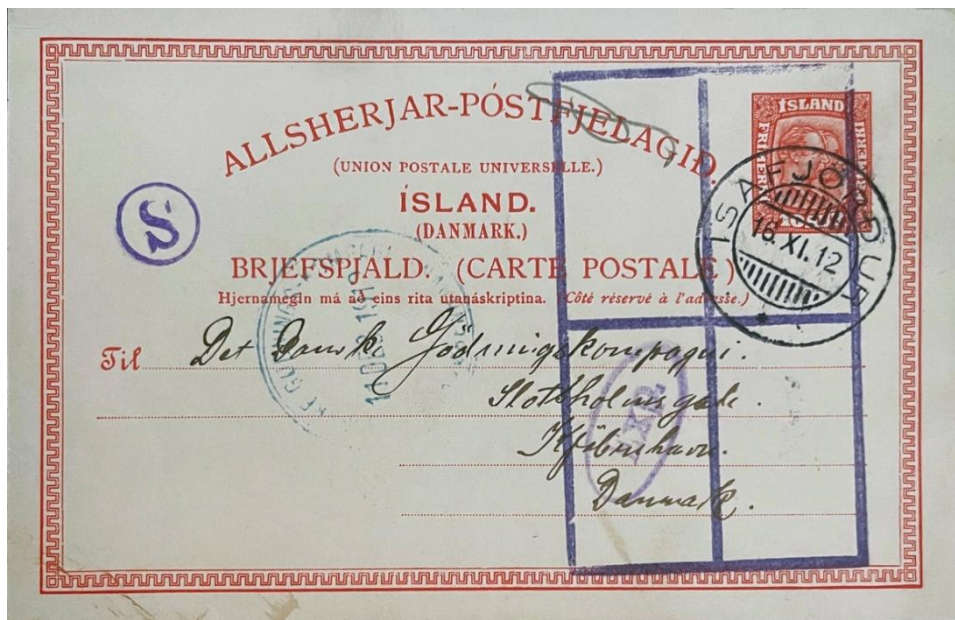
Dated 30.1.31.

And in a follow up article in IPM Issue 48:-

Arnhólsstaðir is reported as reopening from 1.1.32 following the closure of the Litla Sandfell collecting office. Since the article appeared in Issue 15, no reader has reported having a B2a Litla Sandfell cancel with a date during the nearly 20 year period at Arnhólsstaðir. However the office did have the N1a numeral 29, which according to Brynjólfur's book had some use in 1948/49. ÞP's handbook is vague about the date of the appearance of a B2c2 Arnhólsstaðir cancel and gives it as "1951". My only copy of B2c2 Arnhólsstaðir is on a 1958 stamp issue. Despite the above, surely there must be a B2a Litla Sandfell out there somewhere dated between 1932 and 1951, and such a cancel must be very scarce.

A very interesting 10 aurar card *Páll Pálsson* Issue 69

Páll sends this beautiful 10 aurar postal stationery card and asks if readers can explain the unusual large stamped “box” and other markings. Posted in Ísafjörður on 16.XI.12 to Denmark. I have never seen anything like it before.



Editor: I am really surprised there has been no response to this article from Páll Pálsson in the last issue. Here is another chance to respond. Surely our Icelandic readers can offer an opinion on the highly unusual markings on this card?

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“New Issues” in 2023? (Issue 66)

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