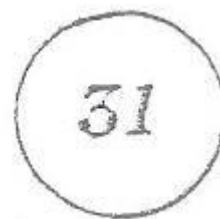


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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

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Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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Request for scans of sheets of 1905 printings of 4, 5 and 10 aurar values *Ron Collin*

We just recently became aware that the museum does not have scans or samples of the full sheets of the 1905 printings of the 4 aurar, the 5 aurar and the 10 aurar values. Those three values of the Christian IX stamps, apparently back then, needed replenishing, because inventory reached lower than normal levels. Requesting scans of the 1905 printings of the 4 aurar, the 5 aurar and the 10 aurar values, will allow the museum to have a complete record of the values and printings of each example that has been missing prior.

In order to tell the difference between the 1902 printing and the 1905 printing, will be under a UV-A light or sometimes commonly referred to as a "black-light", because the stamp inks should fluores differently. And sometimes the differences can be seen, side by side, just with the naked eye.

In order to provide anonymity to anyone wishing to provide said scans, you could just email the scan(s) to Brian Flack, the IPM Editor at: flackbp@gmail.com

A wholehearted **Thank You** to anyone that provides a scan or scans of any or all of these three full sheets.

<http://vip.is/iceland/>

Vigfús Pálsson has produced a website **Pósthús og póststimplar á Íslandi**.

This website contains a comprehensive coverage of data and photos on cancellations from Þór Þorsteins publications.

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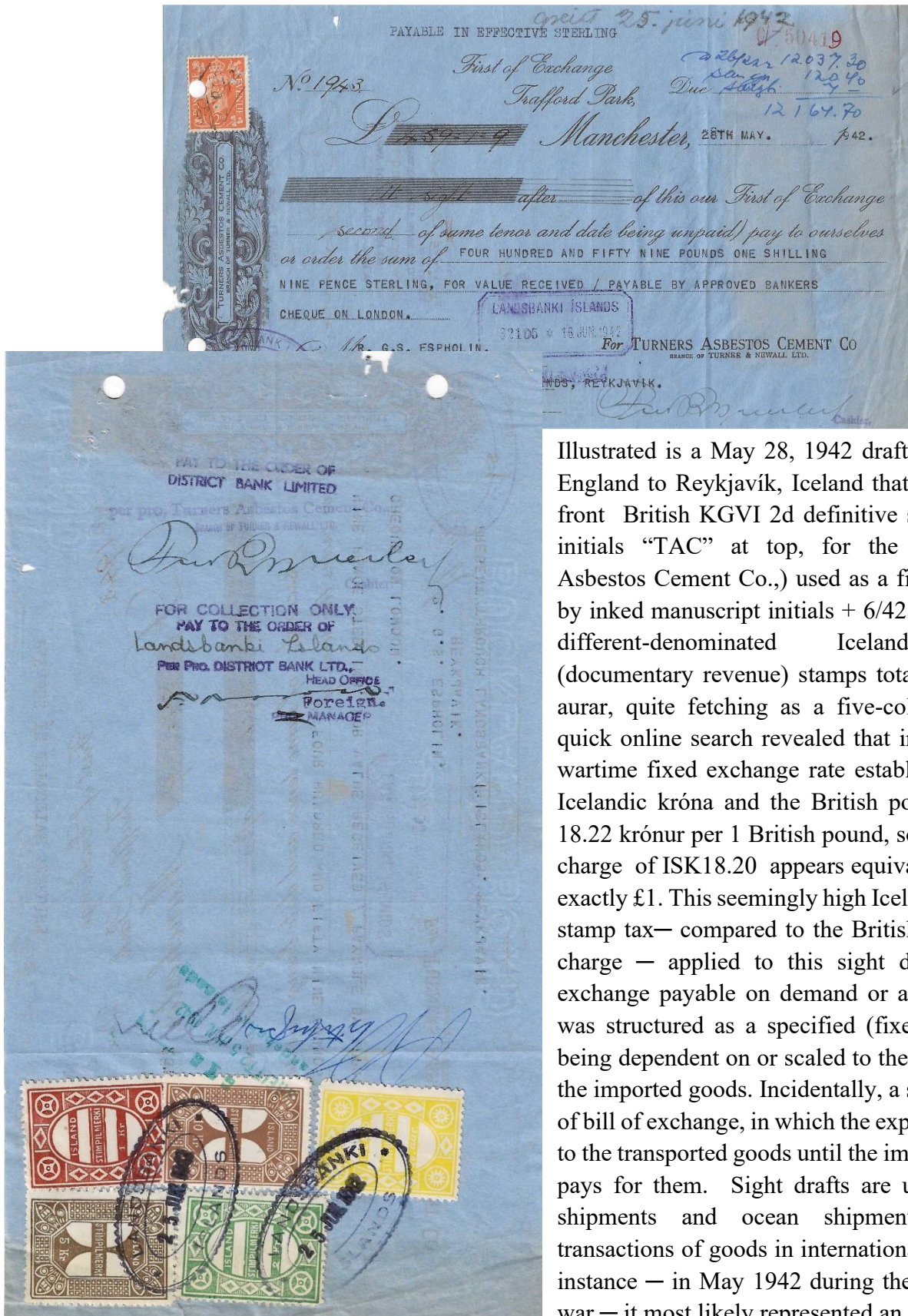
Sunday December 1st 1918 Iceland was proclaimed a sovereign kingdom in union with Denmark.

“By sanctioning the act of union, the king has carried out the thoughts of Frederik VIII, who possessed the most intimate understanding of our affairs. Today the king has decided to grant Iceland its own flag, which is now raised over the Icelandic state. Our sovereign has won the sympathy of every Icelander. The flag is the symbol of our sovereignty, of the most resplendent thoughts of our nation. The honour of our flag is our national honour. We pray God the Almighty to preserve our state and our king. We pray God to help us to carry our flag to honour. May the good fortune of people and king follow it. So let us hoist the flag!”

Editor question:- Was there any sort of philatelic commemoration, i.e. slogans, of this major event at that time? Just a thought.

This Issue 76: The normal interval between magazine issues is 2 months and this one was due to go in early September. There was no point in waiting until then because, thanks to the efforts of a number of regular writers the issue was ready to go much sooner. So here is Issue 76!

G.B and Iceland Revenue Stamp Use on a British 1942 Sight Draft *Roger Cichorz*



Illustrated is a May 28, 1942 draft from Manchester, England to Reykjavík, Iceland that has affixed on its front British KGVI 2d definitive stamp (with perfin initials “TAC” at top, for the remitter, Turners Asbestos Cement Co.,) used as a fiscal and cancelled by inked manuscript initials + 6/42. On back are five different-denominated Iceland stimpilmerki (documentary revenue) stamps totaling 18 krónur 20 aurar, quite fetching as a five-colour franking. My quick online search revealed that in 1942 the official wartime fixed exchange rate established between the Icelandic króna and the British pound was 18.19 to 18.22 krónur per 1 British pound, so the Iceland fiscal charge of ISK18.20 appears equivalent to a charge of exactly £1. This seemingly high Icelandic documentary stamp tax— compared to the British nominal 2 pence charge — applied to this sight draft (as a bill of exchange payable on demand or at sight) apparently was structured as a specified (fixed) fee rather than being dependent on or scaled to the monetary value of the imported goods. Incidentally, a sight draft is a type of bill of exchange, in which the exporter holds the title to the transported goods until the importer receives and pays for them. Sight drafts are used with both air shipments and ocean shipments for financing transactions of goods in international trade, but in this instance — in May 1942 during the throes of a major war — it most likely represented an ocean shipment.

Changeling! *Ron Collin*

One fact about the early stamps of Iceland, is that the colors and inks used were "rock solid". I believe it is for this very reason that one seldom encounters a "changeling". What is a changeling? Loosely described in philately, a postage stamp becomes a **"changeling"** when its printed colors alter their appearance at some point after production, due to environmental or chemical effects rather than a true printing variety. The core causes fall into three major categories: **chemical exposure, light exposure, and aging/atmospheric reactions.**

These color changes can be caused by many outside influences on the stamp in question. A color change can be caused by chemicals in the particular method of that stamp being stored. (mounts, non-acid-free paper, etc., etc.) Also, unprotected exposure to sunlight can cause color changes. Often, whatever changes the color of the ink also darkens the paper from its natural color. Comparison with normal stamps should be helpful in making that determination.



The reason I bring this up is because I recently acquired a small grouping of stamps from an online marketplace. When I opened up the package I ran into a "changeling". This particular one is the 3 aurar King Christian IX of 1902. This stamp should be a nice solid orange color. But it is a brownish gray in color, similar to that of the 6 aurar value of the same issue.

A nearby scan will show you three stamps. The first is the normal color of the issued 3 aurar. The middle item is the "changeling" and the third item you can compare to the issued color of the 6 aurar of the same issue.

Over decades, inks can react with air pollutants—especially sulfur compounds from older heating systems. For many years I had heard of late-19th and early-20th-century **yellow and orange inks** are prone to **sulfurization**, darkening significantly.

Orange and vermilion inks often turn **brown or even black.**

Though I had often heard of this happening, I have never seen an example of it until now!

A possible new manuscript „Vest“ Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson

In the magazine Grúsk is an article from 1979 written by Sigurður Þorsteinsson about Icelandic manuscript cancels. In it can be found a list of all the manuscript cancels that were known at the time of writing. When I find manuscript cancels out in the "wild" I usually compare it to Sigurður's list to answer the question if my newfound manuscript is unknown or not. Late in July I was going through items from the auction house Valby and found a manuscript with the letters "Vest". When compared to Sigurður's list I found no match, so the question is, is this a new manuscript cancel. Another question arises and that is, from what postal station it might be from. I would guess it is from Westmann Island (Vestmannaeyjar). I ask fellow collectors to send in their "Vest" manuscript cancels and send Brian a note if you know where it is from.



Image 1. A manuscript cancel „Vest“ auctioned of from the Valby auction house late in July 2026.

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Vestm ?



Editor: Following Brynjólfur's article I searched through old computer records and found this, which I think probably came from an old issue of IslandsKontakt magazine of unknown date. The image is not very satisfactory but here is the surviving extracted test.

“Apparently there were other ink cancels at Hoiland. It is not easy to give a good picture of this one, but one might as well get a comment from Jørgen Steen Larsen again. The letters Vestm are for Vestmannæyjar. Jørgen says: As far as I can see, there is talk about "Vestm" for Vestmannaeyjar”.

1938 Invoice from Germany with Late Use of "Tollur"-Cancelled Stamps Roger Cichorz

I wrote in the past about Iceland's "Tollur"-cancelled stamps and their revenue-related use to indicate paid duties on imported goods into Iceland. With the advent of additional tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump on goods coming into my home country, the United States of America, I was reminded that tariff charges are not a new concept. I thought now might be a good time to share a recent acquisition to my Iceland revenues collection.

HERMANN BACKOFEN / MEISSEN
SCHUHFABRIK

BANKKONTEN:
STADTBANK MEISSEN
NR. 15
POSTSCHECK:
AMT DRESDEN NR. 169

FERNRUF 2135
DRAHTWORT:
SCHUHFABRIK BACKOFEN
ZWEIGNIEDERLASSUNG U.
EXPRESSLAGER DOBELN

Me.82/2 di. Original! MEISSEN, am 6. September 38

Rechnung für Herrn Skoverzlum B. Stefanssonar. Reykjavik/Island

Laugaveg. 22 A.

Die Lieferung erfolgt unter Bestätigung Ihres Auftrages vom 2.7.38 auf Grund umstehender Lieferungs- und Zahlungsbedingungen.

H.B. Nr.	Paar	Artikel	Sie empfangen auf Ihre Rechnung und Gefahr per: Post:	Sortiment	p. Paar	Reichsmark	Pfg.
			1 Paket:			5.	35
	1	305	Absatzschuh, Filzstoff, farbig	35/42		1.	85 X
	1	325	"	35/42		2.	35 X
	1	572	Kamelhaar - Niederstreter, Leders.	36/42		1.	05 X
	1	663	Kragenschuh, mit Hinterkappe	36/42		1.	20 X
	1	571	Laschenschuh, Ledersohle	36/42		1.	50 X
	1	563	Kamelhaar - Laschenschuh	36/42		1.	65 +
	1	232	Kamelhaar - Niederstreter, Ledersohle	36/42		1.	35 X
	2	39 L	Kroko - Niederstreter, Ledersohle	36/42	1.35	2.	70
	1	39 G.	" Gummischle	36/42		1.	30 X
	1	39 L.L	" Ledersohle	40/46		1.	65 X
	1	39 L.W	" Gummischle	40/46		1.	50
	1	1113	Schnürstiefel, Kernbox.	36/39		6.	10 X
	13					29.	55
			Cond:				
			"Sofortige Kasse nach Erhalt mit 4% Skonto."				
			Es wird bescheinigt, dass die angegebenen Stücke keine anderen oder mehr Waren enthalten als, die, die in dieser Rechnung aufgeführt sind, und dass alle Waren mit dem vollen Werte des Betrages aufgeführt sind, den der Empfänger für sie zu zahlen hat.				
					29.55		
					5.35		
					24.20		
						52.60	

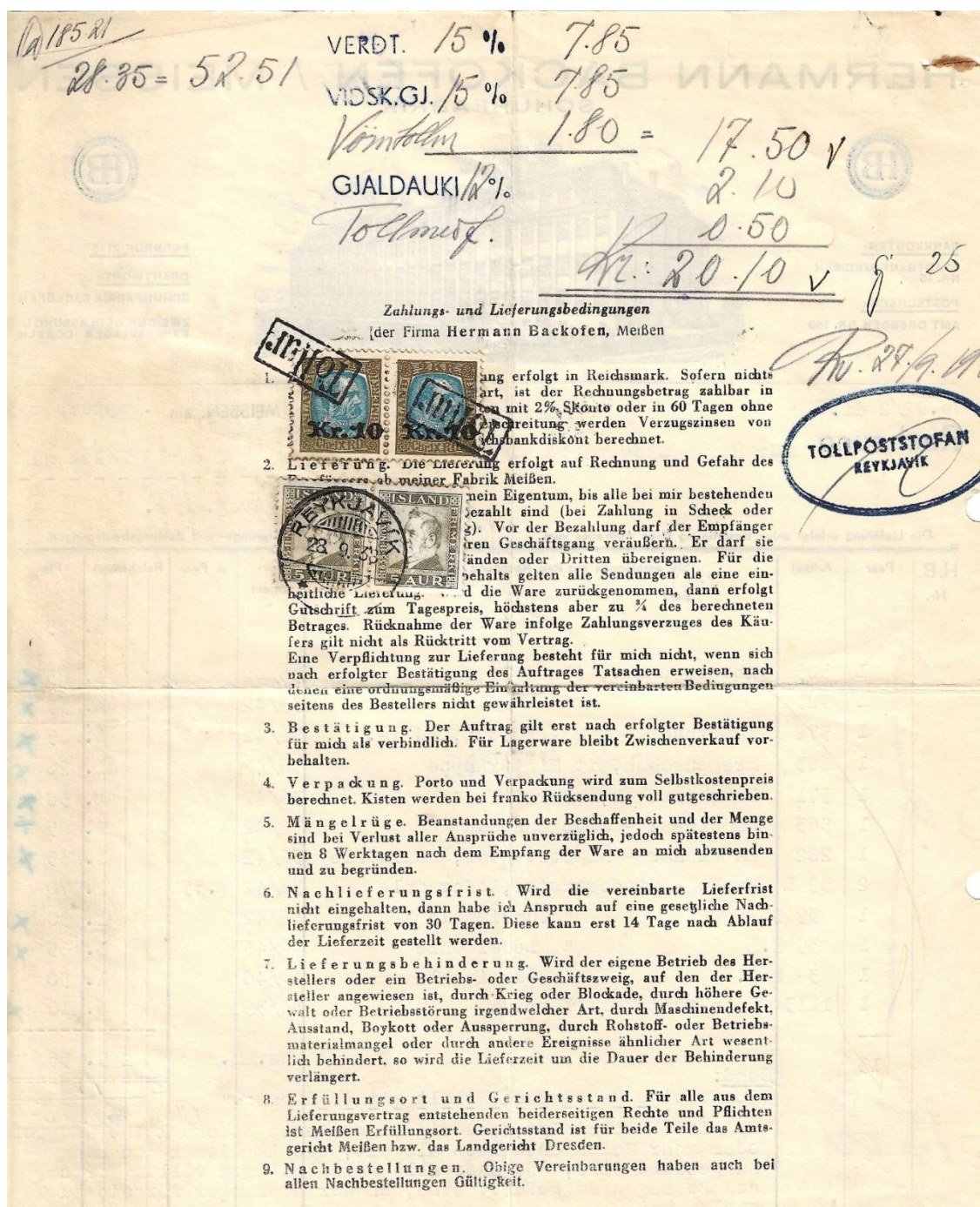
Hermann Backofen

Am. 28. 35-18

= 15%
= 15%

It is a commercial invoice dated September 6, 1938, from the Hermann Backofen Shoe Factory in Meissen, Germany for a shipment of shoes and other footwear to a Skoverzlum B. Stefanssonar in Reykjavik. Itemization of the customs charge of 20.10kroner is annotated on both sides of the invoice. The tariff duty charge is indicated paid on the reverse side with 20.10 kroner applied in the form of two 10kr-surcharged

stamps tied with boxed Tollur cancellations and two 5 aur Jochumsson stamps cancelled with a postal "Reykjavik 28. 9. 3" bridge-type datestamp.



Note that the high-denomination "Kr.10" surcharged 1904 KCIX 2kr stamps (Facit #103, issued April 23, 1929) are relatively common with "Tollur" cancellations and accordingly its catalogue value is substantially less than postally-used counterparts. The same is true of the "Kr.10" surcharged 1912 KFVIII 50 aur and 1kr stamps (Facit #s 122 & 123, issued December 24, 1925 & November 1, 1924, respectively). These two KFVIII surcharged stamps were issued shortly after the "Tollur" cancellers were introduced in July 1924, so there is much speculation and some evidence that these stamps were primarily intended for Tollur use as there was little need for such high-denominated stamps for postal use at the time. When stocks of these two issues were depleted circa 1929, it was then that the 1904 KCIX 2kr stamps were surcharged.

Tollur cancellations officially ended on December 1, 1938, so this German invoice is a rather late example showing Tollur stamp use. It wasn't until June 17, 1944, that Iceland Post issued its next 10kr stamp (Facit #273), the high denomination in the Jón Sigurðsson Founding of the Republic of Iceland commemorative set, so it should be apparent that there was little need for such high-denominated stamps for postal purposes during those two decades of import duty charges, and their elevated catalogue values for postally used examples (especially on cover) reflect that.

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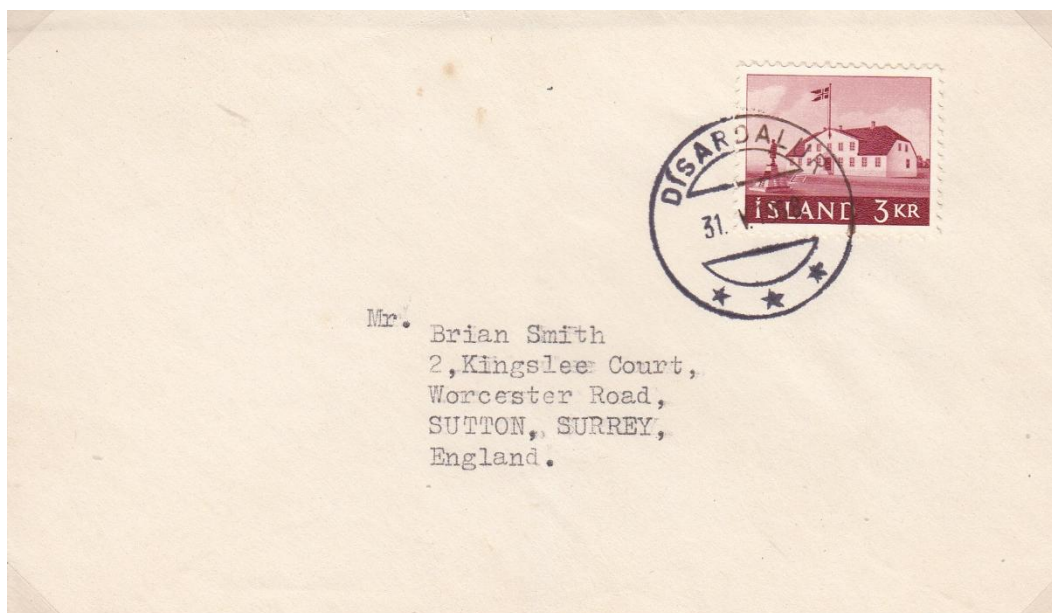
DÍSARDALUR *Sigurður Haraldsson.*

I have this cancel and think it is not often seen.



(Editor) Thank you Sigurður, as you say it is not often seen, although the office was open from 1953 to 1969. There must be more examples around of this rare B8e cancellation. Perhaps readers can oblige with others?

Below is an example on a philatelic cover dated 31.V.1968.



Is this bridge stamp B1b (1900-1910) on 5. aur service invalid ?

This question was raised by Bjarni Sigurðsson on Facebook and I was asked by Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson to put together an article for IPM readers using the responses.



Steinar Fridthorsson: This particular stamp is fake, created to imitate the B1b Reykjavík stamp that was in use at the time when the Í-Gildi stamps were in use.

Saso Andonov: If the cancel is not fake, this would be the earliest known use of Í-Gildi stamps, so far, the earliest known usage is the cover to US cancelled 24.10.1902 (there is no official record when the use of Í-Gildi stamps started in 1902). Can you please send me image of the back side of the stamp, and I will have a closer look if the cancel is real.

Steinar Fridthorsson: What clearly separates this fake Reykjavík cancel from the genuine one is that the stars in this cancel are much larger and different in shape than the stars in the genuine cancel. It is also worth mentioning that the font of the numerals in the date is slightly different, the font of the letters and the spacing between them does not quite match either. This cancel appears almost without exception placed in a very precise position BUT UPSIDE DOWN on the Í-Gildi stamps.

Birgir Sigurpórsson: here is my copy of this fake stamp.



Siggy Óli: Yes, I think you're right I started to look at this based on what I've been discussing from the first Reykjavík cancel. I think there's a shorter gap and smaller font in the first cancel.



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Priority Letter Service to foreign countries (Issue 33)

Reading back through old issues of IPM, I came across the article in Issue 33 May 2019 with the title “A Priority letter service to Foreign Countries”. It described a little known Icelandic express service, which lasted just short of 6 years from 2000 to 2006. It was intended to produce an additional express letter service, and was limited to overseas countries capable of sharing an internet trackable system to monitor progress of transit. Effectively this meant most or all of Europe. The post office described it as a priority express letter service to most of Iceland’s trading partners via a special transport system, which enables monitoring of the shipments on the website www.postur.is. The cost of the shipment included the special envelopes used. This additional express service which was called PRIME Letter/ EXPRES POST, was expensive, for example the rate to Europe during its last period of use in 2006 was 800kr up to 250gm, and 1800kr up to a maximum of 2kg. When the service ceased in 2006, only European destinations were listed, although brochures quoted prices for outside Europe.

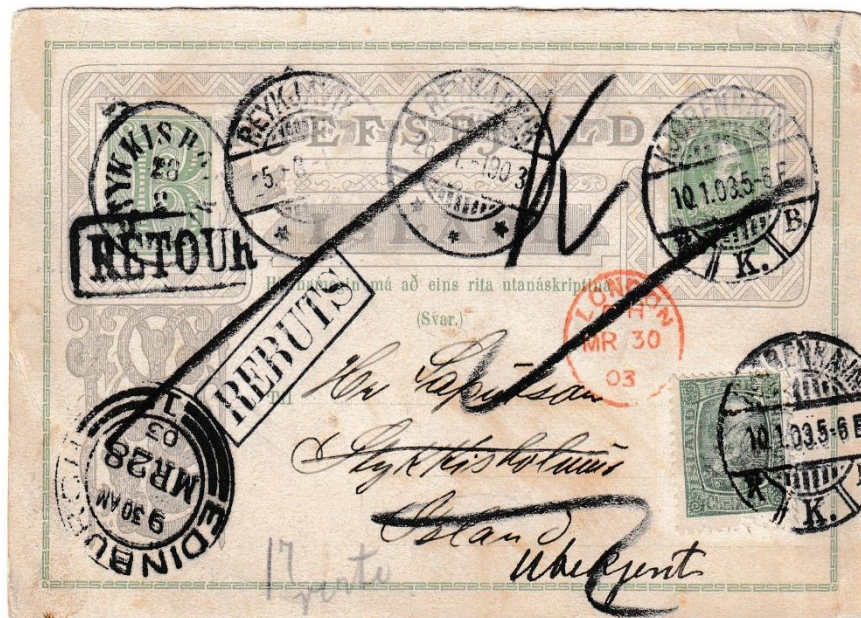
Despite an appeal to readers to show examples, none have been revealed in the 7 years since the article was published in Issue 33! They may be extremely rare? Here are the special outer envelopes provided for the overseas service. I ask again, can readers show us an example of use?



Two interesting postal items for readers to interpret. *Sigurður Jensson*

1. An Interesting brefspjald:

I have this interesting brefspjald in my collection that is canceled in Stykkishólmur, Reykjavík, London, Köbenhavn and Edinburgh. It contains the words RETOUR and REBUTS and some strange handwritten cancellation.



So, if any readers could shed some light on what story can be read from this card, I would be interested to hear.

2 Cover from 1920 sent from Mr. Oskar Sæmundsson, stamp dealer and publisher.



If you look at the cover, you see 12 different values of the 1920 issue of Cr.X. But if you look closer you see written in pencil in Icelandic “Gjörið svo vel að stimpla öll merkin, ÓS.” In English “Please cancel all the stamps, ÓS” .

So, we have there on the cover almost hidden messages from Mr. Sæmundsson to the post office. This text provides insight into how stamp dealers operated during this period.

I do not have more information about Mr. Sæmundsson; but somewhere it is said that he was a well-known stamp dealer in those years. Anyway, this is a person that has left very interesting items for us collectors to look at and inspect.

Mr. Óskar Sæmundsson published a small journal named Den Islandske Filatelist; the issue of 20 February 1920 is shown here.

DEN ISLANDSKE FILATELIST		
REDIGERET & UDGIVET AF OSKAR SÆMUNDSSON, EYSTRIGARÐSAUKA, ISLAND.		
L. Aarg.	Eystrigarsauka, den 20. Febrúar 1920.	2 Blad
Den islandske Filatelist		
Udgaar hver a. Maaned og koster Kr. 2,50 aarlig + Porto.		
Til alle Abonnenter som for dette Aar (1919—20) sender Kr. 3,00 pr. Postanvisning tilsendes aldeles Gratis 8 forsk. øgte fine letstemplede islandske Mærker til en Værdi efter Senf. 1919 Mk. 5,00. Foruden dette tilsendes alle som køber mindst 5 expl. en Præmie paa ca. Mk. 5,50.		
Annonceprisen er for en hel Side Kr. 50,00, 1/2 Side Kr. 27,00, 1/4 Side Kr. 15,00, 1/8 Side Kr. 8,00, 1/16 Side Kr. 5,00. cm. (2 spaltet) Kr. 2,00. Rabat: 3×10%, 6×15%.		
1907.	6 — graa	7 Øre
	10 — rød	4 —
	15 — rød & grøn	13 —
	16 — brun	22 —
	20 — blaa	14 —
	25 — grøn & brun	27 —
	40 — lilla	45 —
	50 — graa & graaviol.	65 —
	1 Kr. blaa & brun	120 —
	2 — brun & sortgraa	230 —
	5 — brun & sortblaa	650 —
1912.	1 Eyr. olivengrøn	3 —
	3 Aur. gulbrun	22 —
	4 — blaa	5 —
	6 — graa	12 —

A card with part of history and outstanding questions.

Jakob S. Arrevad and Harald Thoma

Can anyone add further to the story?

The card was sold at Scanfil for 1.200 NKR plus 23% after a starting price at 225 NKR.

It contains some outstanding questions, and something is a bit mysterious – see the text in the following:



Written at ”Langeyri 14th July 00” – Langeyri a peninsular in Álftafjörður (close to Ísafjörður).¹ Sender H. Aaset – perhaps captain Haakon Aaset (1864-1945) on the Norwegian ship Maria?

¹ Langeyri is a large and flat peninsular in the land of the farm Eyrardalur in Álftafjörður, just south of Súðavík. Inside the peninsular there is a good berth as there is depth and shelter from most directions. In earlier centuries, it was the base of the Germans and later the Dutch and still later the English. The Norwegians built a whaling station at Langeyri around 1883 by two Norwegians named Lars Mons and Svend Foyn and was used until whaling was prohibited in Iceland in 1915. The law was changed in 1928 and from 1948 on, Iceland had a (own) whaling station at Hvalfjörður.



Apparently cancelled 11 07 00 in Ísafjörður - 3 days before it was written?



Then Flateyri cancellation without date is added.

And almost a month later arriving in Hull and cancelled HULL SHIP LETTER AU 8 00.

Kristiania 12-08-1900 - Addressed to Isak Kobro - he was a Norwegian doctor and medical historian (1867-1953).

And then the text:

“J. B. Lier påmønstret med Marie der afgår idag. Øvrige brevkort samt nogle tjenestemærker postes fra Scotland. Agter at anløbe Stornaway for ordre om vind og veir sådan”

“J. B. Lier signed on with Marie which departs today. Other postcards and some service stamps are posted from Scotland. Intends to call at Stornoway for orders on wind and weather so and so”

Who is “J.B. Lier”?

Stamp proposals for 1938 *Brynjolfur Sigurjónsson*

On 14 May 2026, Siggi Óli drew attention in the Facebook group Frímerkjaspjallið to a fascinating article published in 2018 on the homepage of the National Archives of Iceland, dealing with stamp proposals for the 20th anniversary of Icelandic sovereignty in 1938.

In the years following the Act of Union in 1918, December 1st, Sovereignty Day had an uncertain status as a public holiday. By 1938, however, there was broad consensus that the 20th anniversary deserved proper commemoration. Among those eager to mark the occasion was the Post and Telegraph Administration. In early November 1937, Director General Guðmundur Hlíðdal issued a public call for stamp designs, offering a prize of 500 krónur for any selected entry. The response was enthusiastic, with around 20 proposals submitted. All entries were under pseudonyms leaving the identity of most designers unknown.

A review committee consisting of Matthías Þórðarson, Gunnlaugur Halldórsson, and Guðmundur Hlíðdal ultimately rejected all entries, concluding that none adequately represented the occasion. The designs themselves are varied and telling. Many feature symbols of progress and national identity while one striking proposal depicts a broken chain link referring to the relationship between Iceland and Denmark.

The Administration ultimately issued a stamp featuring the University of Iceland which in 1938 was under construction. The rejected proposals are preserved in the Post and Telegraph archive at the National Archives. The original article was written by Unnar Rafn Ingvarsson.



Image 1. One of the proposals sent in for the 1938 stamps depicting Christian X and scenes from midtown Reykjavík before 1938.

A discussion followed regarding the turf house seen on the above proposal (image 1), and Kári Elíasson Catzilla proposed that it might have been the turf house at the corner of Vesturgata and Garðastræti, which stood well into the twentieth century (see image 2).



Image 2.

Reference:

<https://heimildir.is/20-ara-afmaeli-fullveldisins-arid-1938-juli-2018/>

The Facebook group „Frímerkjaspjallið“

<https://claude.ai/>

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More on early Icelandic first day covers *Brynjolfur Sigurjónsson*

Hálfðan Helgason wrote an article in IPM 56 (May 2023) describing one of the first Icelandic first day covers ever recorded. In the piece, Hálfðan examines a postal stationery card that was originally a 5 aur Christian IX green issue from 1904. He explains that towards the end of 1906, Iceland experienced a significant shortage of 3 aurar denominations. To fix this, the postal service decided to overprint the existing stock of the 1904 5 aurar cards with a new "3" denomination inside a reddish-brown square. According to Hálfðan, the overprinting was done in four batches by the Gutenberg printing house.



Image 1. One of the earliest first day covers is this stationary card dated from 7 January 1907.

Records show that the first batch was completed on Friday, January 4, 1907. The specific card featured in Hálfðan's article is dated January 7, 1907, which, since it fell on a Monday, was the earliest possible date of sale for these new 3 aurar postcards (see image 1). I failed to include this first day cover in my article „First day covers from 1879 to 1932“ in the last IPM (Nr.74). I urge readers to send articles to Brian if they know of other first day covers like this one, that I missed.

Numeral Cancel 95 — A Late Appearance Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson



Image 1. A late appearance of numeral cancel 95 located at Borðeyri.

In IPM issue no. 33, an interesting observation was brought to light: numeral cancel 95 has been found on a 1937 issue of the Christian X Jubilee stamp, issued in May of that year. This is noteworthy, as my numeral cancel handbook states that the use of this cancel ends in 1936 which is a conclusion that now appears to need a revision, given that the cancel is clearly documented on a stamp issued a full year later.

Adding further context to the story, the B1a bridge cancel "Borðeyri" was taken in use in 1930 which must have resulted in little or no use of the numeral cancel after that date. In 1937 the bridge cancel was replaced or repaired.

In IPM no. 34, Jørgen Steen Larsen responded to the original article, theorizing that the cancel may originate from a Petersen cover. Inspired by this, I decided to reconstruct how such a cover might have looked (see image 2). The Petersen cover database shows that twenty-one covers carry the postage combination featured on the reconstructed cover, while a broader seventy covers include the 10 aur Jubilee stamp. It should therefore be noted that the cover may not have looked like this when based on only one stamp. The chances of finding the correct postage increase significantly when three or more stamps have been found from the same cover.



Image 2.

Reconstructed Petersen cover made from the clipping seen in image 1.

Numeral cancels on service stamp – An update *Brynjolfur Sigurjónsson*

Jóhann Ragnarsson approached me a few months ago regarding numeral cancels on service stamps. He began collecting numeral cancels a few years back and has today a very respectable collection. As to be expected he is very meticulous in his approach. Among interesting things he has done is to list up all the cancels on service stamps and collect them separately. When doing so he observed a few cancels in his collection that were not listed found on service stamps in the numeral cancel handbook that I published in 2016. New cancels found on service stamps from Johann's collections and from other collections are pictured below.

The following cancels listed below have not been found on service stamps according to the numeral cancel database from 2016. Cancels that have been found on service stamps after 2016 are marked blue and also pictured below (except 177 and 271 which were found on service covers).

1, 4, 7, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, 45, 48, 55, 61, 63, 64, 67, 68, 72, 73, 74, 76, 79, 82, 83, 86, 88, 90, 92, 96, 110, 113, 115, 120, 122, 123, 125, 128, 130, 131, 136, 137, 139, 140, 142, 143, 147, 151, 160, 166, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 179, 180, 181, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 191, 192, 194, 195, 198, 199, 201, 202, 204, 205, 206, 208, 209, 210, 213, 215, 216, 218, 220, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 237, 238, 239, 241, 243, 244, 246, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 259, 260, 261, 263, 264, 267, 268, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300.





Caritas - The First Icelandic Christmas Seal and the first Icelandic infant nursery. *Sigurður Jensen*



What does Caritas /Karitas stand for:

Karitas is used as a female given name in Iceland and carries the meaning “charity”, “kindness”, or “loving care.”

The Arrival of the 1904 Caritas Seal

The 1904 Caritas charity seal marks the beginning of organized fundraising for a children’s home in Iceland. The seal is believed to have arrived as a gift from Danish Caritas, reportedly through the involvement of Ragnheiður Hafstein, who later became chair of the women’s association Karitas. The proceeds from its sale were intended to support the establishment of a home for infants of impoverished mothers. These assertions are based on knowledge that emerged only later, as no contemporary sources have been found that document when the stamp was issued or provide any information regarding its origin.



As can be seen in the illustration alongside, the stamp closely resembles the Icelandic coat of arms designed by the Danes for Iceland in 1903. The similarity suggests that its design may have been intended as a reference to the coat of arms and the Icelandic flag, which shared the same visual elements at the time. However, no contemporary sources have been found that explicitly confirm such a connection.

This news report below (01.01 1905) is the first and only contemporary source I have found regarding the 1904 issue of the Caritas charity seals. From the wording, it can be inferred that the seals had already been released, meaning the report confirms that they arrived in Iceland before the end of the year. It is still uncertain when they were put on sale. No sources exist that provide that date.

11. Barnahælið í Reykjavík hefir gefið út merki til að líma á bréf. Á merkinu er fálki í bláum feldi. Hvert merki kostar 5 a. Stjórn félagsins mælist til þess, að póstmenn taki að sér útsölu merkjanna og styðji hana. Séu merki þessi límd á spjaldbréf, skal borga undir þau eins og almenn bréf, sbr. reglugjörð um notkun pósta 5. gr. bls. 17, 4. lið.

Póstmeistarinn í Reykjavík.

From Idea to Reality: 1905–1906

By 1906, contemporary newspapers confirm that the children's home *Karitas* had begun operating in Reykjavík. The association behind it counted around fifty women, with Ragnheiður Hafstein as chair. The home cared for children aged three to eighteen months and appears to have operated for several years, though exact details about its location and closure remain unknown.

Barnahælið „Karitas“
nefnist félag eitt, nýlega stofnað hér af ýmsum heldri konum bæjarins, og er ráðherrafrú R. Hafstein forstöðukona þess. Tilgangur þess er meðal annars að annast börn fyrir fátækar mæður, svo að þær geti verið að heiman skemmri eða lengri tíma, til að vinna fyrir sér t. d. um sumartímann. Félagið hefur nú gefið út laglegt merki með íslenzka fálkanum á bláum grunni, á stærð við stórt frimerki, og er það selt hér á pósthúsinu og víðar til ágóða fyrir »Barnahælið«. Kostar hvert stykki 5 a. Slík merki gefin út í velgerðaskyni eru nú mjög farið að útdrast erlendis og seljast mjög vel. Þau eru venjulega sett á bréf til skrauts. Þetta barnaheimilismerki ættu sem flestir að kaupa helst nokkur stykki hver nú fyrir jólin. Það munar engan um það, en fyrirtækið getur munað það miklu, ef margir kaupa, því að safnast þegar saman kemur. Fyrirtækið er gott og merkið er fallegt. Hvorttveggja næg ástæða til kaupanna.

Karitas
heitir kvenfélag hér í bæ, undir forstöðu ráðherrafrúarinnar, sem starfar að því að koma á barnahæli fyrir börn fátækra mæðra. Félagið hefir gera látið mjög lagleg merki; þar er íslenzki haukurinn hvítur á bláum feldi og stendur á: »Barnahælið Karitas«. Merkinu eru nokkru stærri en frimerki, og kosta 5 au. hvert. Ált, sem inn kemur fyrir sölu þeirra, gengur til barnahælisins, og fást þau á Pósthúsinu hér (og væntanlega á fleiri pósthöðvum á landinu). Menn setja þessi merki á bréf jafnframt frimerkinu, annaðhvort sama megin eða þá eins og innsigli hinum megin á bréfið. Það er ódýrt og fyrirhafnarlaust að gera góðverk með því að kaupa nokkur af merkjum þessum. Þess ættu sem flestir að minnast, ekki sízt um Jólin.

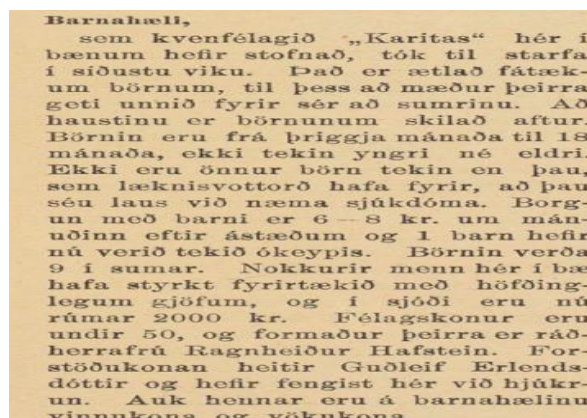
Above are two contemporary newspaper reports from *Reykjavík* and *Þjóðólfur* in December 1905, which confirm the involvement of the minister's wife in the seal issue and its intended purpose. They also describe the seal as it appeared when released.

In article from *Fjallkonan*, dated 19 May 1906, is stated that during the previous week a children's home began operating, founded by the women's association *Karitas*.



This provides direct evidence that the idea underlying the 1904 issue — the plan to establish a home for the infants of impoverished mothers — did in fact become a reality. The article refers to a *barnahæli* ("children's

home"); however, in modern Icelandic the institution would be more accurately described as a *vöggustofa* (an infant nursery).



For unknown reasons the issue of Karitas Christmas seal is not mentioned as source of income in this article!

Design and Variations of the Seal

The seals show noticeable variation in color and printing, and little is known about their production, quantity, or formal release date in Iceland other than the similarity with the Icelandic coat of arms. The name appears both as *Caritas* and *Karitas*, a change not explained in sources but likely intended to adapt the Danish initiative to Icelandic conditions and link it to the newly founded women's association.

Here you see different variations from the 1905 issue.



Gaps and Unanswered Questions

Despite confirmed contemporary reports of the children's home, many aspects of the story remain unclear:

- The role of Danish Caritas in the Icelandic initiative. It comes as later knowledge, but from where, it is not in the contemporary reports.
 - The role of Ragnheiður Stefánsdóttir (Hafstein).
- Is the issue somehow linked to the new falcon flag for Iceland?
 - Where were the seals printed and how many were issued?
- How does the name shift from *Caritas* to *Karitas* and then back to *Caritas* occur?
- The exact release date of the 1904 seal in Iceland, the Danish seal (the first in the world) is issued 13/12 1904, so there is a small window for the Icelandic seal.
 - The fate of the Karitas association.
- The precise timeline and location of the children's home.
 - Why did the operation eventually end?
- Is there a connection with the Thorvaldsen society?
- Did it have any connection to the Catholic Church in Iceland?

These gaps make the story both historically significant and intriguingly incomplete.

Later Developments: The Thorvaldsen Society

Around the same time, the Thorvaldsen Society established the Child Upbringing Fund in 1906, with Ragnheiður Hafstein serving on its board. Although the society intended to establish a similar children's institution, this did not materialize until decades later. From 1913 onward, the society issued Christmas seals to support the fund — the same year Ragnheiður Hafstein passed away.

End of the Caritas/Karitas Seal Issues

After 1906, no seals are known to have been issued until 1910, and the Caritas/Karitas issues ceased entirely in 1911. The reasons for this discontinuation remain unknown.

In Summary

The 1904 Caritas seal is the first Icelandic charity seal and the catalyst for the establishment of the Karitas children's home in 1906. While the existence of the home is confirmed, many details surrounding the seals, the association, and the broader initiative remain unanswered — leaving the story both remarkable and ripe for further research. If the readers of this article have some new information about this story, please share it with the philatelic society.

Sigurður Jensson.

References: Póstmeistarinn í Reykjavík, 01.01 1905, Þjóðólfur, 51 tölublað, 8.12 1905. Reykjavík, 59. Tölublað 1905, Fjallkona, 21 tölublað, 16.05.1906. Íslensk Jólamerki, Haukur Valdimarsson, Þór Þorsteins, 1999. Bridgecancels.is/caritas. Photos of stamp are from the author's collection. The image of the coat of arms is reproduced from the website of the Government of Iceland.

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More on the Gullfoss second day covers (Issue 75) *Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson*

Henk Burgman raised an interesting point in IPM-75 regarding the second day covers of Gullfoss issued 1.6.1932. He mentioned that there must have been at least 13 second day covers based on the registration numbers of his cover and the cover I showed in the first day cover article back in IPM-74. What I left out regarding these covers is that I have a photocopy of one other cover and that has the registration numbers 79 (see image 1). That would mean that at least $99 - 79 = 20$ second day covers were made that day if we assume that all the registration numbers were used to produce these second day covers in the first place.



Image 1. Pictured here is the third second day cover of the 60 aur, 65 aur and 75 aur cancelled 1.6.1932.

Póstkrafa Rate Problem

This subject featured in ISK November 2009 and what follows is a modified version of that discussion. It may interest followers of postal rate puzzles.

The illustration shows part of a parcel card or rather a clipping from a printed Póstkrafa form which was sent with a registered parcel from a shop in Reykjavík to a recipient in Vestmannaeyjar in November 1926. The total franking is 270aurar.

In normal circumstances the postage on this clipping would be calculated by working out the C.O.D. charge, and then by deducting that from the total postage paid, we would arrive at the rate paid for the parcel postage, having made an allowance in this case for the registration charge. Fortunately, we can still see part of the 'R' registration stamp without which the calculation would have been even more difficult to arrive at. Unfortunately, we cannot see on the clipping a detail such as the weight of the parcel which would have helped in the calculation of the postage paid.

However, normal circumstances do not apply to this item, which has rather unusual and confusing features which required a second opinion before any attempt was made to arrive at an explanation of the postage rate. There was no better person to seek advice from than Ólafur Elíasson. This was Ólafur's interpretation verbatim of the conflicting information shown on the clipping.



There is something strange going on here, which I do not fully understand. The amount of the COD as typewritten in red on the shadowed line at top reads: "Seven hundred ninety and three (in ink) kr 50aur." The amount in red numerals above reads 79 (+ something unreadable in ink) kr 50aur. At the bottom of the card the text/receipt reads: "The above-mentioned amount has been paid by 79kr 50ur" and signed by The Post Office Ve (= Vestmannæyjar) plus a violet cachet.

Either one or the other of the two following calculations applies, depending, on which of the conflicting C.O.D. amounts you choose to believe to be true. (I have expanded Ólafur's calculations in order to illustrate for the reader how the individual parts of the total calculations are arrived at).

This is a reconstruction of the rate for a C.O.D. amount of 793.50kr:-

C.O.D.-fee: 20aur + 60aur up to 100kr + 20aur per additional 100kr or less = $(7 \times 20) = 220\text{aur}$.

Registration fee is 30aur and a minimum parcel fee by ship is 50aur plus 10aur min. per 500gm = 60aur.

This adds up to **310aur** which clearly does not fit the postage of 270aur.

A reconstruction of the rate for a C.O.D. amount of 79.50kr reads:--

C.O.D.-fee: 20aur + 60aur up to 100kr, = 80aur.

Registration fee is 30aur.

This leaves 160aur for the parcel rate. This would be correct for a 5.5kg parcel as follows:-

50aur parcel fee by ship plus 10aur per 500gm $(10 \times 11) = 160\text{aur}$. **In all 270**

Unusual bridge cancel spelt REYKJAVIE (Issue 74 and 75) *Eivind Kolstad*

Here are my comments on the very interesting work done by Valery Efremov with the REYKJAVIE-cancel.

I agree with you that the R-letter fits in, this is obvious. But I have compared the genuine B1a with «our» cancel, and in my opinion, the position of the letters is not the same. The A as well as the J are leaning a bit in wrong directions. Hard to explain in my lousy English, but I am sure you know what I mean. Especially the A is too much upright, compared to the pillars. I also would have thought that traces of date/year would have been visible. Furthermore, the «i gildi»-stamps bear a B1b-cancel, not a B1a.

Re. the 10 aur service stamp: This is surely a B1b-cancel, and even if it doesn't look like it: I believe that the last letter is a blurry K.

Summary: REYKJAVIE = FAKE.



Editor: By chance I was reading through copies of that excellent magazine *Frímerkjablaðið*, and on page 16 of Issue 11 in an article entitled “False Icelandic Bridge cancels” by Þór Þorsteins, it shows this beautiful image of the disputed cancel in a list of 19 “Lýsing falsana” (translates as “Description of the fakes”.) Nothing else is said about it. Valery and Eivind might be interested!

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