

ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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Please let me have your articles if you want them in the next issue which will be January 2019. If you need help with translations let me know.

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

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News/Comment

Readers might be interested to see this amazing archive of old Iceland related newsreels. The link is https://filmcentralen.dk/museum/danmark-paa-film/film?field_topics=%22Island%22

Thanks to Steinar Fridthorsson and Ron Collin for pointing this out.

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An editorial mistake in the previous issue (29) described David Loe's Gazetteer as Part 12. It should have read Part 21.

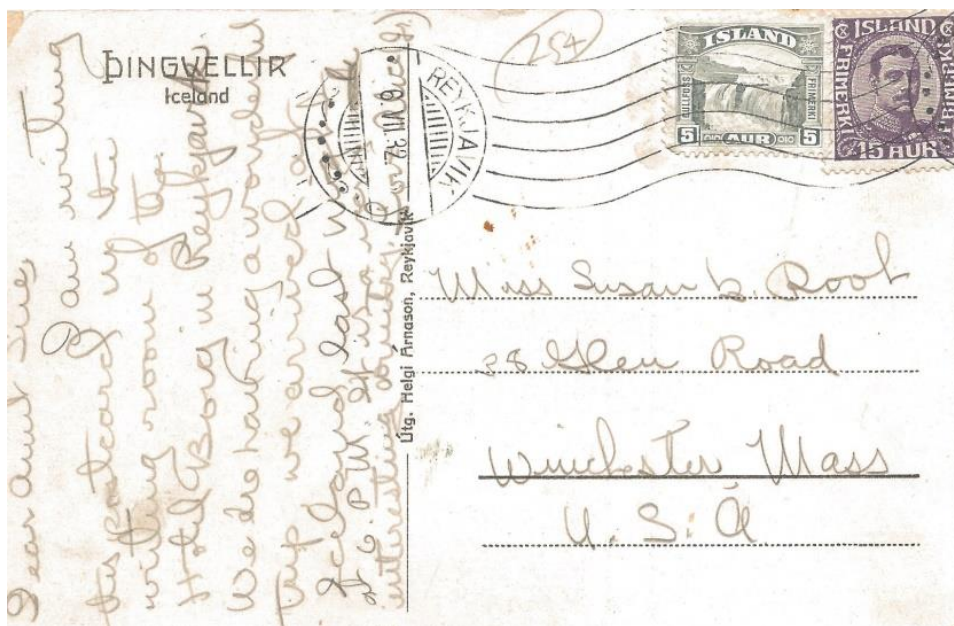
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NEW - an Iceland Philatelic Magazine Index.

After nearly 3 years of IPM issues, it has become increasingly problematic to recall all the articles which have been published since the inception of the magazine in 2015. As far as the editor is concerned, the solution is an index. It may be that some readers and contributors of articles will also find an index useful. Therefore this 30th issue finishes with an index covering the first 24 issues ending with December 2017. The next index will follow in late 2019 and will cover the 2018 and 2019 issues. In order to make the various article titles more meaningful, I have added extra explanatory notes where necessary.

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Very early R1d roller cancel *Brian Stwalley*



Although I showed an example of a R1d roller cancel in part I of the roller cancel series, I wish I had seen this magnificent example first. It is dated 8.VIII.32 and comes from Brian Stwalley. The cancel was introduced only 7 months earlier on 12.11.1931.

The Facit RRR Crown Cancels

The purpose of this article is to conduct an inventory of the RRR rated crown cancels in Facit, and to encourage readers to provide references to any research articles, and particularly images of these fascinating cancels, which had a comparatively brief postal use between 1894 and 1902, when they were replaced by the numeral cancels. The names of the owners of any images received in response to this article will not be published. There are 21 crown cancels listed in Facit as rarity RRR. Some have been the subject of research articles, but for the majority, I am not aware of any written research.

I have deliberately omitted Mýrar (V. Skaft) from the following listing because, unless an example appears on cover or with a dated cancel, the 2017 article by Jørgen Steen Larsen and Wilbur Jonsson effectively killed off the chance of differentiating this cancel from the identical one from Mýrar V. Ísa.

Here then is a list of the remaining 20 listed in Facit as RRR: - Type C1:- Arnarbæli, Auðkúla, Bakki, Búðir, Eiríksstaður, Gilsbakki, Hrafnagil, Kirkjuvogur, Mosfell, Reykholt, Rofabær, Seljaland, Torfastaðir, Úlfhljótsvatn,

Type C2:- Flatey, Haukadalur, Hofteigur, Höfn, Veðrará. Type C3:- Staður.

To start with, here are the images I have unearthed from all sources presently available to me. My thanks to Ron Collin for helping with images.



Arnarbæli



Auḍkúla



2 copies



Eiríksstaðir two copies*



Gilsbakki 2 copies



Described as Kirkjuvogur



Hrafnagil



Mosfell 5 copies



Reykholt 2 copies

Reykjahlíð 2 copies



Rofabær 4 copies (all with O missing) ►

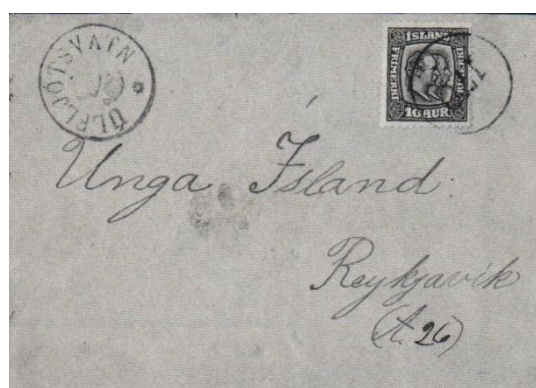
Rofabær O present



Seljaland



Torfastaðir





Úlfjótsgjöld 7 copies ▲



C2 Veðrará 2 copies



C2 Höfn 2 copies



C2 Flatey



C3 Staður 4 copies

*At this point I wish to bring to readers' attention, a debate on the existence of a third Eiríksstaðir crown cancel. Rapport 96 of December 1994 reported a discovery in Sweden by Sture Hegland of a second Eiríksstaðir crown cancel. Only one copy was previously known. The first of the two strikes shown above is the original discovery in the 1970s, mentioned by Hans von Strokirch; the second image is the Sture Hegland find.

In Scandinavian Contact magazine of September 1995, in my "Iceland Notes" was the following statement:- *A third copy of the rare EIRÍKSSTAÐIR crown cancel has turned up in a London auction. Mike Edwards has provided photocopies of both it and a rare BRÚ crown cancel.*

I must have received the image of this 3rd strike from our late friend Mike Edwards; inexplicably I did not include an illustration of it in my "Iceland Notes". Regrettably, I have no trace of it now.

Later, the Islandssamlarna publication of 1997, *Handbok över Ísländska stämplar*, declared that 3 copies of this cancel were known. As far as I am aware, nothing else seems to have been published about this third strike. Is it possible that one of our readers can show an image of it? (I asked this in IPM Issue 5 but received no response.)

The Eiríksstaðir crown cancel was one of the original allocation of 1894/95; as that office closed on 13.12.1894, it is quite possible the cancel did not reach there before closure. It is likely that the cancel was used at the Brú collecting office which opened on 1.1.1895, a short distance further south along the Jökulsá River. In 1898 Brú received a type C3 BRÚ cancel followed by a numeral 30 until it closed on 31.12.1903. The collecting office reopened at Eiríksstaðir from 1.1.1904. I have a note to the effect that on 4.1.1930 Eiríksstaðir reported it still had the Brú type C3 as well as the C1 Eiríksstaðir.

Possibly there is more research available than that listed below. I hope readers can provide evidence of this.

C1 Bakki. Rapport 112 Dec. 1998, J.S. Larsen; Lundur and Bakki, Hans von Strokirch undated article, New crown cancel, Þ. Þorsteins; Handbok över Ísländska stämplar P.28.

C1 Reykholt. Handbok över Ísländska stämplar P.26.

C1 Eiríksstaðir. (See above.)

C1 Búðir. ISK 43 January 2002, J.S. Larsen & Þ. Þorsteins.

C2 Höfn. Bréfhirðingin HÖFN í Sléttuhreppi Frímerkjablaðið Nr.2. 2001, Árni Þór Árnason

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From the Auctions:-

Postiljonen Sale 222

FACIT Tj 3



Description

At NORDIA 2018 in Garðabær a family presented to us this previously unknown larger part of a cover sent from Reykjavik to Hjarðarholt in 1874. Nicely canc. "REYKJAVIK 27.7" and on back a beautiful arr. pmk "HJARDARHOLTI 31.7" as well as inside note "Til Sýslumannsins i Borgarfjarðarsýslu". A very light horizontal bend through the stamp and a part of the left side of the cover cut away. On private hands only two covers franked with official stamps have been recorded, the famous "Bible cover" as well as a cover with a single severely damaged 4 sk. Please see census in Facit Classic. Cert. Möller. GREAT PHILATELIC DISCOVERY - Sold at 28000.00 EUR

Very unusual ship letter *Ole Svinth*



A while ago the illustrated cover was offered at an auction in Denmark. It is a war cover, indicated by the year (1944) and the British censor label. There was no British censor at the Faroes; the cover was therefore censored in Britain. The censor had done nothing to cancel the stamp, and the stamp was cancelled on arrival at Kvívík. Letter was redirected (recipient had obviously moved to Thorshavn) and got the dated side mark May 23rd 1944. Is it a little unusual that the cover landed at the rather small village? The cover could have been transported by a fishing boat (fishermen from Kvívík?). The views of our Faroes experts would be welcome.

Auction description – “Unstamped Icelandic 50 aur cod on letter from Iceland via England to Kvivig, Faroes – posted and cancelled with the star cancel KVIVIG and the side stamp Thorshavn d. 23.5.1944 to Thorshavn. British Censorship PC90 / 4268. Exciting combination”.

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A small note on 25 aur Hekla single *Ole Svinth*

The Hekla issue appeared December 3rd 1948.

Maybe readers think that I am a real freak. However, I just like to point out single covers that may have past your vision without some attention. The 25 aur Hekla single must be from the period November 11th 1949 – April 30th 1950. In this interval the local printed matter rate 0-50 gr. was 25 aur.

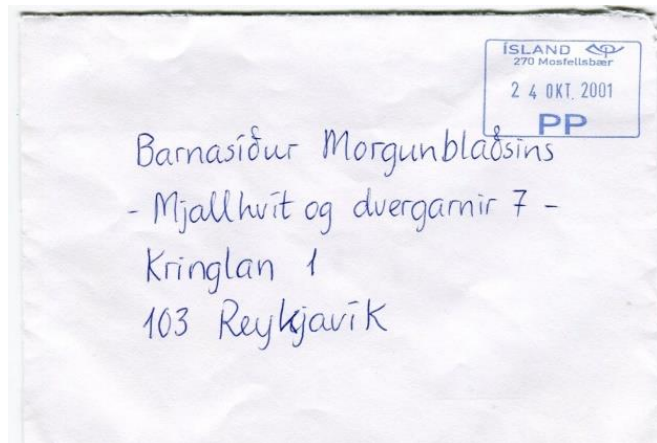
If we look for another possible single use, we must go for local post cards. From October 1st 1947 to November 14th 1949 we had the 25 aur rate. Look for local X-mas cards from 1948!



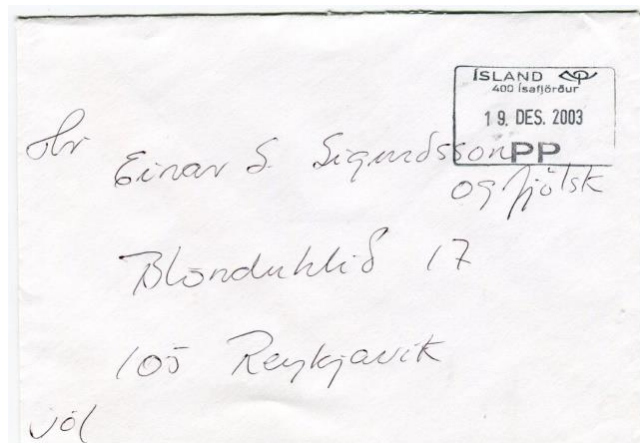
Local printed matter in Reykjavik December 5th 1949.

Iceland Mail without postage stamps

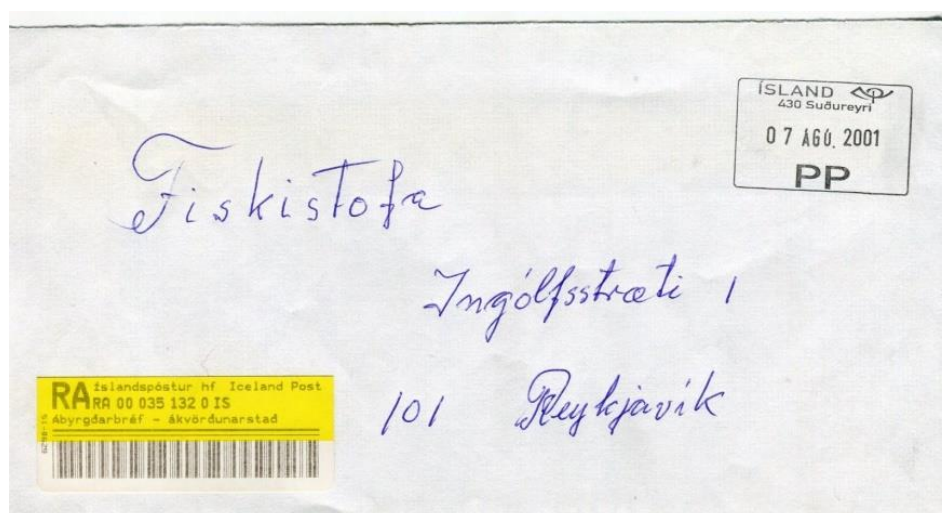
Hrafn Hallgrímsson showed two 1999 examples of these in IPM Issue 3. There is a saying “kicking the can down the road”, which means delaying a decision on something. I wrote this article some time ago, and have now decided to include it. It refers to a period roughly from 1998 to 2005, and Þór Þorsteins describes it in the text shown below. His forebodings about the future of postage stamps in 2001 ring true now in 2018. In recent months a number of those stampless covers appeared on Ebay, and many attracted bids. Here are a few examples.



270 Mosfellsbær 2001



400 Ísafjörður 2003



Just for variety, a 430 Suðureyri registered cover. The yellow label indicates ‘Ákvörðunarstað’ or delivery to anyone at that address, hence the postage should have been 325kr; not that you can tell that from the cover of course.

The dates I have seen range from 2001 to 2005. They did not escape the attention of that great researcher, the late Þór Þorsteins whose observations appeared in the *Luren* publication of February 1999 (reproduced here with permission), and elsewhere.

Beginning in January 1999, inland covers handed over the counter in Icelandic post offices without stamps affixed do not receive any stamps from the postal clerks, unless specifically requested by the clients. Instead the clerk hands the customer a computer-generated receipt for the payment of postage and marks the covers with a rectangular rubber cashier date stamp (see Figure A) as proof of postage paid.

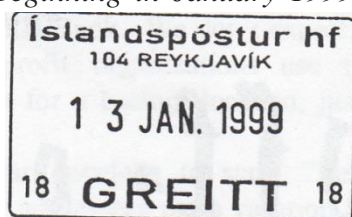


fig. A.



Each post office has received its own date stamps, with the post office name and a security number for each clerk. This stamping is intended, for the time being, only for inland mail. Covers with stamps affixed will receive a cancellation with bridge type cancellers or machines as in the past.



Fig. B

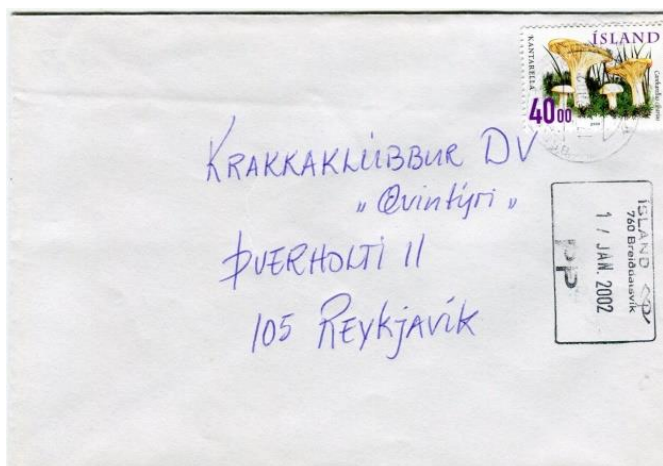
This rule will also cover mail to foreign countries, as Íslandspóstur hf. (the newly independent corporation) has now ordered special cancellers (see Figure B) for use on all mail. These new ones will carry the names of post offices, the recently modernized post symbol, the date, and “PP”, but without the security number. In

future they will be used on all mail, inland and abroad, and the intention is to have them in use beginning in March.

It is uncertain what effect this new handling system for mail will have on the use of stamps, but because most clients are indifferent about their covers, it is certain that ordinary used Icelandic stamps will become scarcer in the future. Also, it seems that the “temporary” inland mail canceller markings might become quite uncommon, especially after the new special cancellers come into use.”

Further examples appeared in the pages of Frímerkjablaðið up to about 2004. Later, Þór wrote an extensive article in the 2006(2) issue, in which he listed 7 variations. He specifically stated he had no intention of attempting to classify them by style or list them by office names. I do not believe anyone else has tried to either. If anyone has done so I shall be glad to publish it.

Why do the following three examples bear cancelled postage stamps, as well as boxed cancels?



760 Breiðdalsvík 2002



355 Ólafsvík 2002



300 Akranes 2001

Exotic connections



This would have fitted into the series of “Unusual Destinations”, but I could not resist offering this one as an “Exotic Connection”. The writer, Mircea, tells us that he moved to Iceland from Moldova, and is writing to Michel in Andorra! What more can I add, except that I do not know which route the card took from Iceland to Andorra. Cancelled Egilsstaðir B8b2 dated 14.06.2017, with a receiving cancel of 3.7.2017, indicating it took a long time getting there. Of course there is no postal rate to be seen on the stamp, but I can’t resist saying that Mircea presumably paid the postal rate of 225kr to Europe, valid from 1.9.2016. ☺

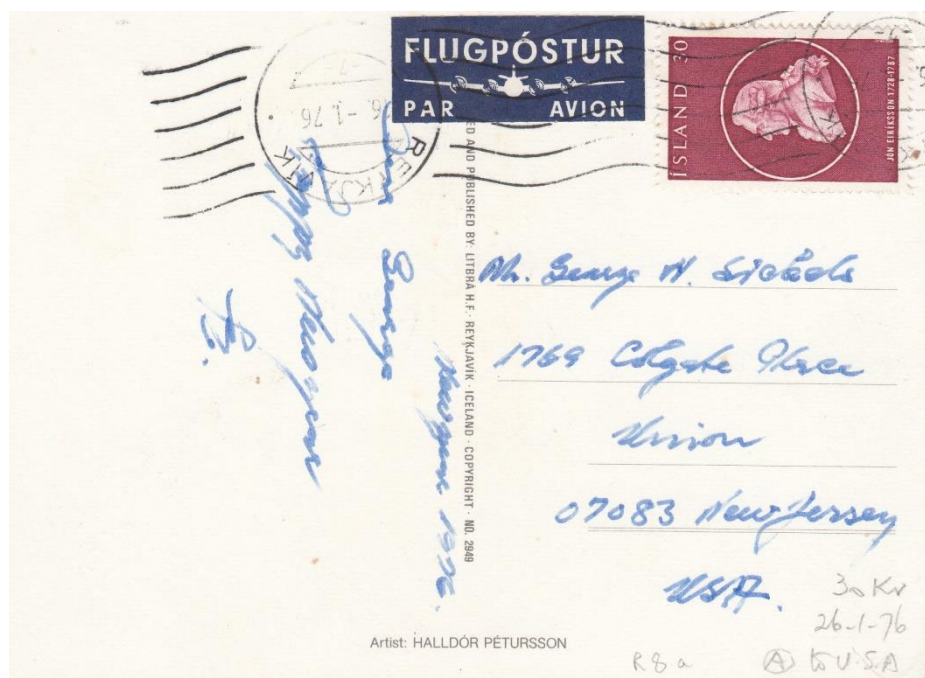
I already had another Iceland item addressed to Andorra. The receiving cancel on the cover below is La Vella, whereas the above card is Sant Julia.



The postmark is Reykjavík dated 15.12.04 and the postage paid was 90kr which was the rate to outside Europe from 1.7.2004 to 30.4.2005. The correct rate to Andorra should have been 65kr for Europe. At least it does have value stamps on it. Sadly, the label indicates the addressee was not living at the address.

Roller Cancels Part II

Beginning with some Reykjavík branch offices, the distribution of roller cancels increased from 1975. The main cancel type from now on was R8a. I am grateful to Jørgen Steen Larsen for helping with examples of these scarce strikes.



Reykjavík 7 type R8a from 12.6.1975 to 8.7.2002



Reykjavík 4 type R8a from 6.11.1975 to 12.7.1999



Reykjavík 5 type R8a date unknown in 1975 to 1999



Reykjavík 10 type R8a from 25.3.1976



Reykjavík 9 type R8a from 5.4.1977 to 31.12.1999

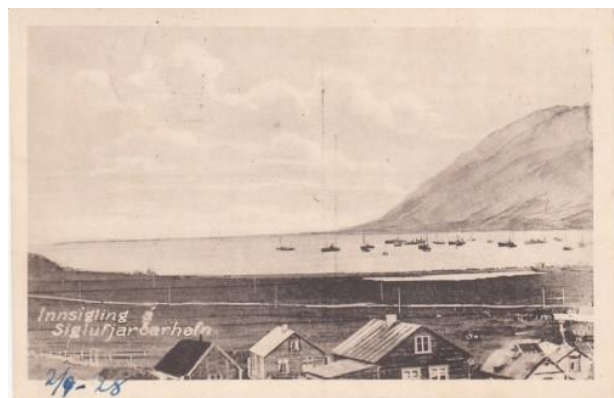
An early airmail

Sometimes with a very early airmail, say 1928 or 1929, one might question if it really did travel by air as intended. This one appears to have done so and is not philatelic. The writer obligingly wrote the date 2/9-28 on the front of the card which validates the Siglufjörður B2c1 cancel of 4.IX.28. The rate is correct at 10aur postcard plus 20aur airmail to Europe, which was valid from 4 June 1928 to June 1929. I am most grateful to Rolf Dörnbach for his translation from the German. *"Although we probably shall go home on the next steamer we quickly send you our greetings. The card will be send from here by the newly arranged airmail, as the stamp shows. See you soon. Cordial regards to you, dear Mrs. Schlegtendal, and to your husband from my husband and your Alfhild Paul."*

The family name of the addressee was probably misspelt on the card; it should be as spelt in my translation.

Best regards,

Rolf



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Why 16 aurar? (Issue 29)

From Brian Stwalley.

I'm going to offer a possible (maybe not totally satisfying) explanation for the 16aur local letter rate you showed in the last issue. My best guess is somewhat related to your theory about lack of proper franking availability. The local postcard rate was 8aur at the time so perhaps the sender was more accustomed to sending postcards locally for Christmas and had a supply of 8aur stamps on hand. When confronted with the 10aur local letter rate (non-printed matter) on Christmas Eve, they had no choice but to

use 2 of the stamps they had on hand?



Cancellation questions for Reykjahlíð and Reynihlíð

Reykjahlíð is a small settlement on the northern shore of Lake Mývatn. The lake is a major tourist attraction and there is a long history of receiving and serving travellers in Reykjahlíð which had a population of 263 in 1995. Reynihlíð is merely a hotel a few hundred metres from Reykjahlíð. The collecting office was located at Reykjahlíð until 31.12.1953, before moving to the nearby Reynihlíð hotel where it remained until 1974, finally returning to Reykjahlíð. Pétur Jónsson was the bréfhirðingarmaður at Reynihlíð from 1954-1968 and póstaðgreiðslumaður until 1972.

The purpose of this article is to clarify the periods of use of the B2b Reykjahlíð cancel, which according to the manual was between 1951 to 31.12.53 at Reykjahlíð and 1.1.54 to 30.6.56 at Reynihlíð.

1. Why would the B2b arrive at Reykjahlíð from 1951 according to the Þorsteins book, when the B1a cancel was available until closure on 31.12.53? Examples of B1a and B2a during that period will help provide answers.
2. Use during this period of 2 years + must have been rare hence the 5000SEK price in Facit.
3. According to the book, the B2b Reykjahlíð continued in use at Reynihlíð from 1.1.54 until 30.6.56, and yet the Þorsteins says that the B3e Reynihlíð did not arrive until 1.9.56, leaving an unexplained gap of 3 months. I have a postcard with Reykjahlíð B2b dated 20.8.1956, which must indicate that the B2b was used up to the arrival of the B3e.
4. How scarce is the B2b cancel used for a second period of 2.5 years, this time at Reynihlíð? Does it justify 5000SEK as in Facit?
5. My copies are dated 19.1.1955, 30.6.1957 (! still available at Reynihlíð?), and 20.8.1956.

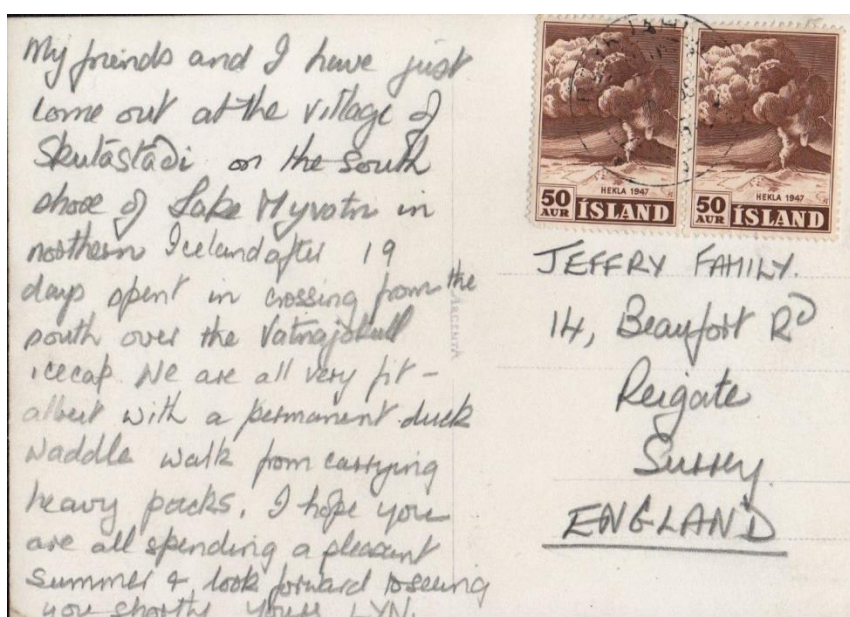
I am very hopeful readers will provide dates from their collections to help clear this up.



19.1.1955



6.6.1957



20.8.1956

The 6 aurar grey 1876 to 1898 *Jay Smith*

Sometimes, there is something that I have handled many times (such as USED Perf 12.75 6 aur numeral stamps), but which I have never thought much about. Well, after a few decades, this one has just struck me as quite odd.

From 1876 until the rate was changed 15.4.79, the 6 aur had a solo-use purpose for foreign printed matter. However, the original Perf 14x13.5 was saw four additional printings after the rate change that seemingly rendered 6 aur stamps obsolete. And then it was printed again with Perf 12.75. Even though there were 3, 4, and 5 aur stamps, I suppose a 6 aur had utility as a make-up value, but given that there was also already a 16 aur (as well as 10 and 20), I would have guessed that the utility was fairly limited. (Had there not been a 16 aur, then a 6 aur would have been important). Yet the four subsequent (after the rate change) early-perf printings amount to 300,000 stamps and the two later-perf printings amount to another 500,000 stamps (the final printing of which was NOT fully consumed in postal use). That's a lot of stamps -- in Iceland -- for a time period in which there seemingly was no solo-use postal rate. Am I missing something? Or is this just one of those postal rate / stamp issue oddities for which there is no logical explanation? (Ed. I hope this will produce a response from our readers).

Local Post 1970?

No, it cannot be. Local post rates for all categories of domestic mail were abolished on 31.12.1969. This cover was seen in a recent auction described as domestic local post. Unfortunately part of the date is indecipherable due to the dark stamp colours, but the year is clearly 1970. So how can we explain the calculation of the 17kr postage rate? It fits perfectly the local domestic letter post rate of 5kr from 1.1.69 to 31.12.69 plus the 12kr registration fee from 1.1.69 to 31.10.70. There is no possible rate combination valid from 1.1.70 which will fit. Can it be that it was early January 1970 and the postal official had not yet been informed of the abolition of the local post? Has anyone seen other examples of local post rates applied after the official abolition date?



Síðumúli - the full story Ole Svinth

From 1969 and onwards I sent letters (being a postmark collector) to different Icelandic post offices. I had a list of all the Icelandic post offices. In 1970 I sent two covers with “R” notation to the office at Síðumúli. Big surprise!

I received the letters with the numeral postmark 252. No registration label was attached in Iceland. The Copenhagen office must have spotted the “R”-marking and attached the registration label. When I collected the letters at the post office I thought an arrival postmark would be appropriate documentation. Therefore, I asked the clerk to cancel letters on back. Normally registered letters never have arrival postmarks in Denmark.

After this incident I hurried home to forward further letters to have them cancelled. Sadly, the covers were returned showing the Síðumúli bridge postmark.

This letter confirms the “252” was still at Síðumúli office in 1970. What happened thereafter I don’t know. In one of the covers the “postwoman” inserted the later shown letter. It was written in Danish and I have done my best to translate the content into English.



*Registered letter to Denmark cancelled numeral 252. Postage 0-20 gr. was 650 aur-
Airmail fee 0-20 gr. 300 aur. Registration 1200 aur. Total 2150 aur*



Arrival postmark

The “postwoman” letter:

Síðumúla, 2/7 1970

Hr. Ole Svínth!

Jeg har talt med postmannen i Nordtunga. Han har ingen stempel mere. Nordtunga & Síðumúli har ikke stempet breve for mange, mange år, men vi her i Síðumúla har endnu vores gamle stempel, 252, og med den stemples jeg Deres breve.

Jeg har ikke samlet frimærke siden den jeg får på min privat post, og den de har min datter overtaget. Venlig hilsen J. Andrésdóttir
Síðumúla

Síðumúla 2/7 1970

Mr. - Ole Svínth !

I have spoken to the postman at Norðtunga. He has no canceller anymore. Nordtunga and Síðumúli have not cancelled letters for many, many years, but we in Síðumúli still have our old canceller 252, and with that I shall cancel your letters.

I have not collected stamps except for those I have got from my private mail, and they are taken over by my daughter.

Kind regards J. Andrésdóttir

Síðumúla

(Ed.) She could not know that one year after her correspondence with Ole, Síðumúli would receive a B8b cancel, which had occasional use from 9.7.71 to 30.4.86.

Ms. Andrésdóttir refers not just to Síðumúli, but also to her nearby colleague at Norðtunga, saying that he also had not cancelled any mail for many years previously. My only copy of Norðtunga B1a is April 1942 on a 1941 Jochumsson overprint, so I asked Jørgen Steen Larsen, and here is his reply:-

JSL: - I have the following late usages from Norðtunga:

- Piece with Fc 242C3+288*2+290 = 75 aur. Date X7.1.XX. Blue ink. Philatelic. FØ?*
- Philatelic letter Fc 357+358. Date 2X s X9. Blue ink.*
- Philatelic letter to B. Beskow. Fc 416+420. Date 1? 9. X5 + on back transit B8e Borgarnes 31.X.1965. Norðtunga with blue ink.*

It is my guess that most of the letters from BH Norðtunga were cancelled in Borgarnes. I have an example of this from 1937.

Best, Jørgen

(Ed. JSL's evidence is of philatelic activity at Norðtunga as late as 1965. The date of closure was 31.12.1975.

Can anyone show other late uses of Norðtunga B1a?



Two prints of an official stamp (Issue 27) *Brian Stwalley*

Re: the 3aur ChrX X official stamp. I agree with the observation made. It is worth noting though that this issue did not contain a 1, 6, or 8aur printing. So it is possible the 3aur was meant to be somewhat of a supplemental franking to be used as needed. That being said there are few rates at the time of issue where this need would clearly exist. Some others emerged over time (the 7aur printed matter rate of 1925 comes to mind) but that might not explain the large amount printed initially.

Prior to issue the printed matter rate was 6aur so perhaps that was taken into account, but that rate changed months prior to issue. The only clear example where it might be needed when issued was to make the 8aur local letter rate in combination with 5aur (until 15.5.21). Honestly the same argument could be made about the 4aur, which was issued in even larger quantity! The only clear need at issue was use of 2 stamps to make the aforementioned 8aur local letter rate (a 4aur local printed matter rate emerged years later). So it might be reasonable to think these were both intended as stamps to have available should some shortage of usual stamps exist (both can be used to make 10 or 20aur rates in multiples) or to provide supplemental values for unforeseen postal rate changes. In the end I think the point made though is quite correct as evidenced by the scarcity of covers containing these stamps. One could possibly argue the scarcity implied by the cover values contained in Facit are somewhat misaligned when compared to the more common 10 and 20aur covers, at least in my experience. Perhaps others feel differently? In addition it seems significant quantities of these stamps continue to exist in either unused or used CTO condition which suggests an oversupply had occurred.

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Ein Króna Facit 159 *Brian Stwalley*

Regarding the Ein Krona 159v1 discussion:

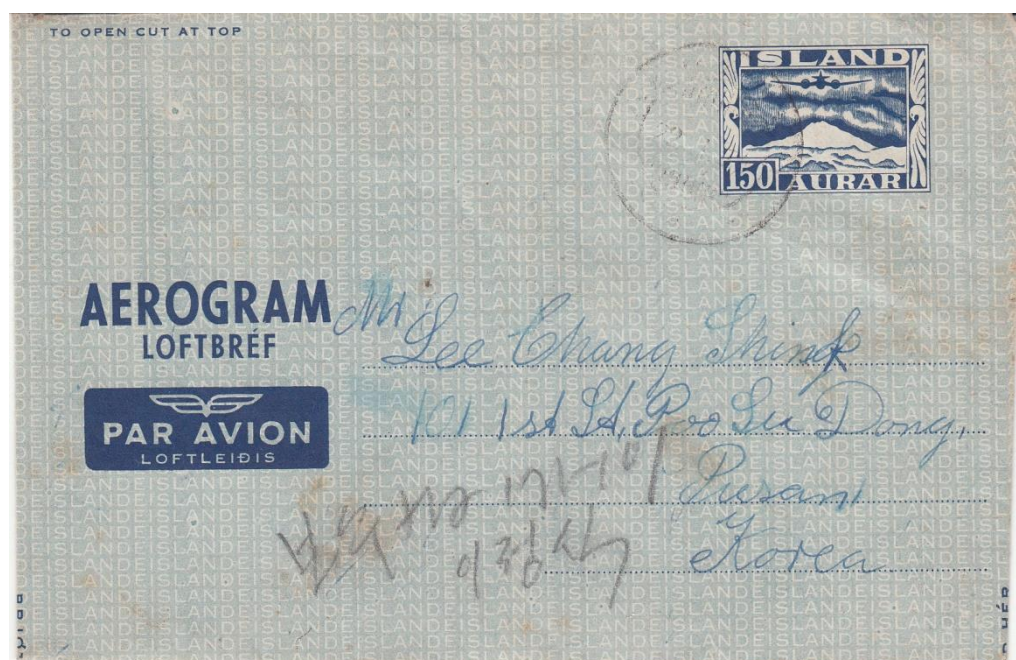
I can confirm I have a copy, which I keep in a section of varieties, also used. But the conversation made me wonder if I had any other examples lurking about, especially in an unused state. While I didn't find that, what followed was one of those philatelic discoveries where I had joy and at the same time was criticizing myself for being careless...I was so excited about this parcel card that I clearly failed to notice something else!



(Ed. This provides the added bonus of a challenging postal rate. I am not going to try to decipher the 2kr30 franking on this value parcel sent to Norway on 12.12.1926. I anticipate, indeed I fervently hope that one of our experts will rise to the challenge and explain the breakdown of the postage charged and an explanation of the various intriguing labels, notations and stamps).

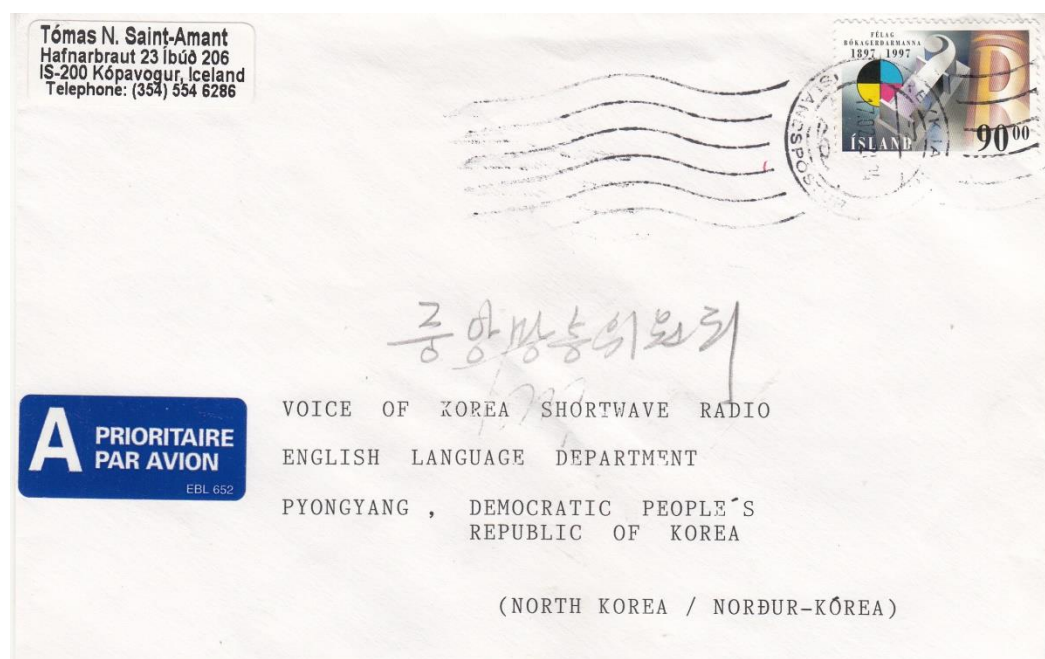
Unusual destinations ~ K

South Korea



Pusan is in South Korea and the message was written about 1 year after the Korean War had ended in 1953. The Akranes cancel B2c1 cancel is almost unreadable, but fortunately Guðni of Akranes dated his message 21.1.1954. The Pusan arrival strike is 1.2.1954. The 150aur aerogramme rate changed from 1.10.1953 to 175aur, but Guðni seems to have got away with it. I wonder if he succeeded in exchanging stamps with Lee Chang?

North Korea

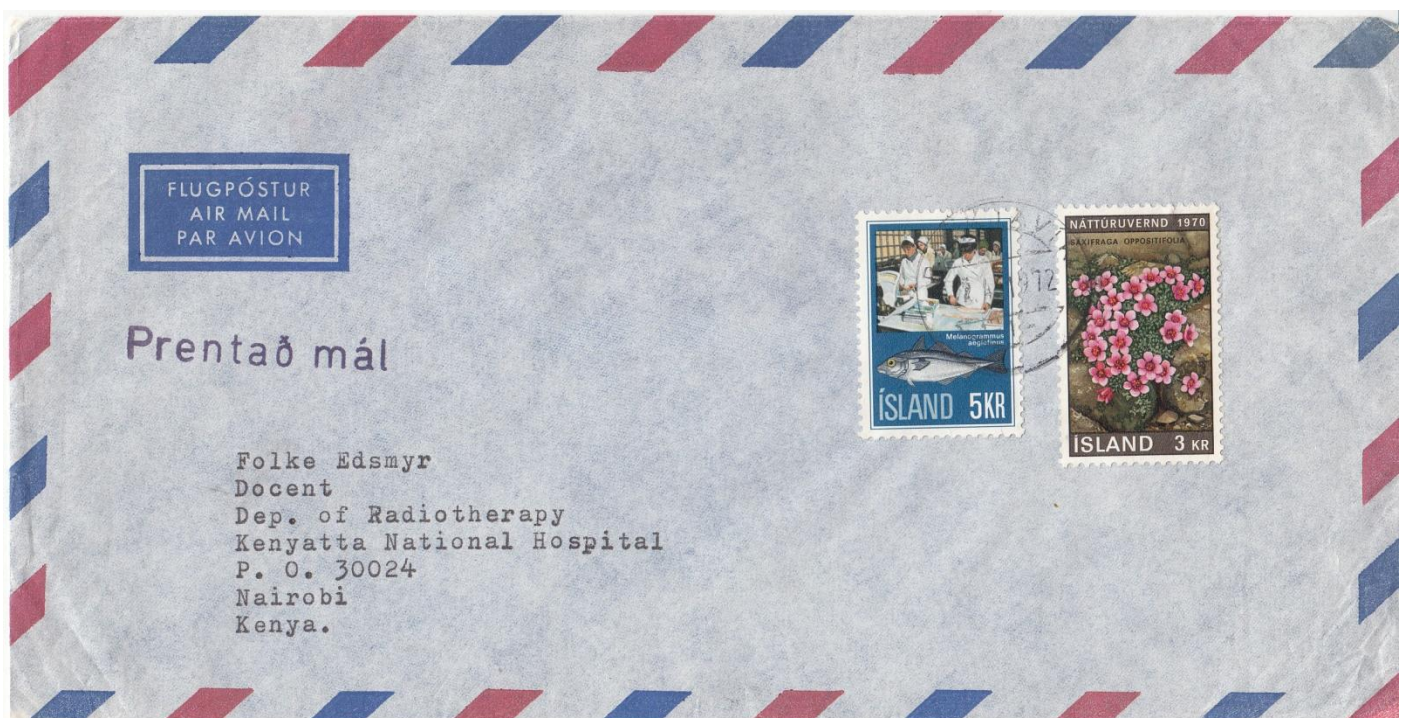


Reykjavík Roller cancel R6b first type with smaller letters, dated 17.02.2004. 5kr overpaid for the 85kr rest of world rate from 3.7.2002 to 30.6.2004. Faint PYONGYANG receiving cancel 2, MAR 2004

Kenya



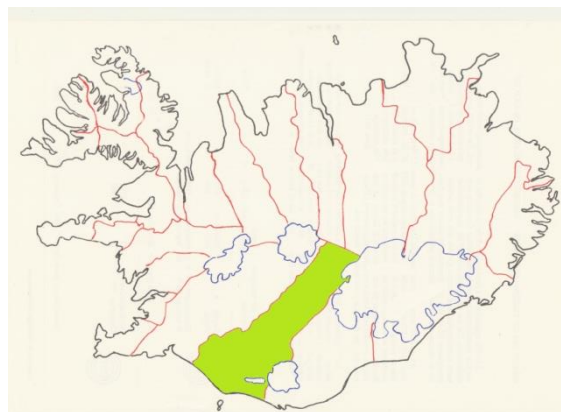
Another aerogramme, this time a Danish one. Reykjavík machine cancel 9.5.1963. The rate for an Icelandic aerogramme was 450aur. Maybe the use of a Danish aerogramme did not qualify, and the letter rate was appropriate. The writer used a 900aur to cover the 850aur airmail letter rate for Kenya. Contains a long message in Icelandic



Reykjavík dated 22.4.1972. The printed matter rate outside Europe from 1.7.71 to 30.4.72 was 7kr up to 10gm. The letter was 1kr overpaid.

PART 22 – RANGÁRVALLASÝSLA

This prosperous county occupies part of Iceland's fertile south-western quarter. For the most part it consists of flat grasslands split up by many rivers flowing from the icecaps of the interior. The population of less than 4000 is distributed through the many farms and one or two larger villages.



22.1 AUSTUR-EYJAFJALLAHREPPUR

We start our journey in the very eastern part of the county, on the narrow raised beach between Mýrdalsjökull and the sea. [Skógar \(1\)](#) collecting office was opened on the Southern Post in 1873 but was closed and moved to [Holt \(2\)](#) 1.1.1876 (see next parish 22.2). It therefore had no cancel in this period but when the office was reopened between 1.4.1980 and 31.12.1995 it used the B3e cancel of Skarðslíð and then B7b inscribed SKÓGAR RANG. Skógar is a school next to the spectacular Skógarfoss waterfall, which is 60m high and was featured on the 1956 waterfalls set.



The second office in the parish was opened at [Skarðshlíð](#) 1.1.1905, just west of Skógar and on the main road. Closed at the end of 1919 it reopened 1.1.1925 and then was moved to Skógar 1.4.1980. It was situated at a wayside service station and telephone exchange. The postmarks used were number 19, number 220 (from 1927-28), number 222 and Swiss types B2a and B3e.



22.2 VESTUR-EYJAFJALLAHREPPUR

As mentioned above [Holt \(2\)](#) office was opened in 1876 and remained open till 1-1-1947. Though no crown cancel has been found it is probable that one was issued and from 1903 number 14 was used and then Swiss type B1ax and B1ay inscribed HOLT RANG. This old farm is now deserted but was just west of [Varmahlíð \(2\)](#) which took over from Holt as a collecting office in 1947. In fact the location is recorded as [Vallatún](#) (sometimes referred to as Vallnatún) but no cancels are recorded with that name so it seems likely that

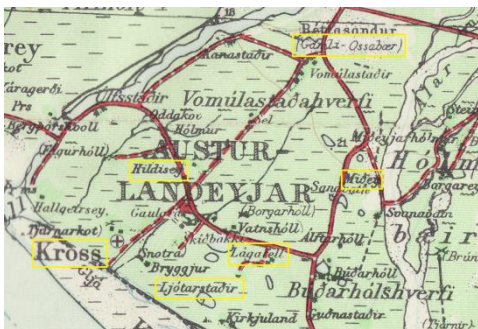
Varmahlíð was used all the time and not just from Dec. 1959 as 'Skra' suggests. The cancel used has been VARMAHLÍÐ HVV, Swiss type B8e, the HVV standing for Hvolsvöllur, the local post office, and was closed in 30.4.1979.



Lastly in the parish is [Seljaland](#), further west along the main road, where a collecting office was opened 1.4.1892. It used a single ring crown cancel, then number 18 and Swiss types B1a and B8b. The office was closed 30.4.1979.

22.3 AUSTUR-LANDEYJAHREPPUR

The parish forms an island in the braided estuary of the Markarfljót, so farmland alternates with large areas of barren sandur.



The first collecting office was opened at [Kross](#) 1.1.1873 on the Southern Post but was moved to [Hildisey](#) 15.5.1875 and then [Ljótastaðir](#) in 1879, a farm quite near the sea opposite Vestmannaeyjar. It used a single ring crown cancel, then number 15 till 1906 when the office was moved to [Hraukur](#) (see 22.4 below). The parish church at Kross was where the local mail from Vestmannaeyjar was landed, and is very near to Ljótastaðir. Neither Kross nor Hildisey had cancels of their own.

The next office to open was at [Ossabær](#) (sometimes referred to as Vorsabær) in 1907 just south of the main road. The farm was called Gamli-Ossabær and is now deserted. It closed temporarily on 31.12.1930 and reopened 1.1.1933 until 31.12.1945 moving to [Lágafell](#). Ossabær used numeral 190 and a rubber cancel OSSABÆR from 1942-1944. [Lágafell \(2\)](#) collecting office was opened in 1.1.1946, to replace Ossabær and continued to use number 190 and then Swiss type B8e misspelt LÁGARFELL (use unknown), before the office was moved to [Miðey](#) in 1960, both of these places being small farms on the sandur. The office was open till 31.12.1963 at Miðey, using number 190.

22.4 VESTUR-LANDEYJAHREPPUR

Continuing west over the sandur, the first office to be opened in the parish was at [Grímsstaðir \(2\)](#) in 1896. The farm is long since abandoned. There is a probability that a crown cancel was issued to the office but none is known. On 1.5.1901 the office was moved to [Ytri-Hóll](#), and again on to [Nýibær](#) in an adjacent parish (see 22.10) on 31.12.1902. No cancel is known from Ytri-Hóll (1), otherwise known as Hóll (2).



[Kálfsstaðir](#) was opened as a collecting office between 1.1.1909 and 31.12.1911 and again from 1.1.1913 to 30.9.1930. Cancels used were the late use of crown cancel from Ljótastaðir and number 15. In both periods the office was moved to and from [Hraukur](#) otherwise known as [Lindartún](#). Kálfsstaðir is situated some 4km NE of Lindartún a little way off Fljótsvegur (road).

22.5 FLJÓTSHLIÐARHREPPUR

The rectory at [Breiðabólstaður \(2\)](#) was the location of the first post office in the area, opened in 1873 on the Southern Post. The office used the VÖLLUR provincial cancel till 18-1-1889 when it was moved to



[Oddi \(22.7\)](#) in an adjacent parish. The only other office in the parish moved three times in its history. Initially opened at [Teigur](#) in Fljótsdal in 1892, a single ring crown cancel was used till 1903, then number 20 until 1919, when the collecting office was moved to the adjacent farm of [Þverá \(2\)](#). Number 20 was used here too, then 15.5.1921 moved with the office, literally next door to [Hlíðarendi](#). The office stayed at the rectory till 31.3.1944, using additionally Swiss type B1a and then it was moved to [Fljótshlíðarskóli](#) a boarding school just a few km east. Number 20 was used here for a short period, then the Swiss cancel of Hlíðarendi until cancel type B2c2 inscribed Fljótshlíðarskóli was issued. Between 15.9.1948 and 15.11.1948 the office was actually located at Ormskot but is of little importance as there were no new cancels were issued. The office finally closed 30.6.1964.

Hlíðarendi and Ossabær (22.3) feature in the saga of Burnt Njál and one of the main characters - Gunnar Hámundarson - lived at Hlíðarendi and indeed died there when he refused to leave Iceland having been outlawed for killing Þorgeir Otkelsson.



22.6 HVOLHREPPUR

The first office was open between April and September 1873 at [Völlur](#) (hence) as a post office on the Southern Post using a provincial postmark. However, it was moved to [Breiðabólstaður \(22.5\)](#), as mentioned above, the postmark going with it. The post office was reopened 16-6-1944 (moved from Garðsauki) and is open to this day using Swiss type B8b1 inscribed HVOLSVÖLLUR, which superseded numeral 222 and types B3a and B8e, B7b and B8b1. The village today has a population of just over 400 growing from 90 in 1950.



The other two offices in the parish are [Stórolfshvöllur](#) and [Garðsauki](#) (otherwise known as Eystri-Garðsauki) near Hvolsvöllur. A collecting office, using number 200 was opened at the first between 1915 and 1917, and a post-office was open at Garðsauki between 31.5.1918 and 15.6.1944 when it was moved up the road to

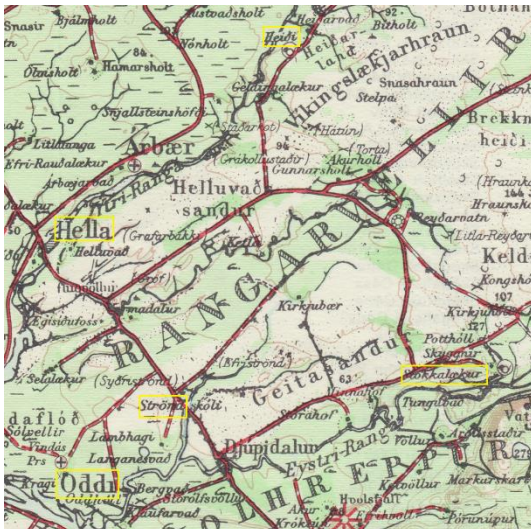
Hvolsvöllur. The cancels used were ODDI (type B2c1) and the numeral cancel number 222 was used from 1940 until 15.6.1944 when the office went to Hvolsvöllur.

22.7 RANGÁRVALLAHREPPUR

Oddi (1), as mentioned a few times already, was the situation of a post office between 19.1.1889 (moved from Breiðabólstaður 22.5) and 31.5.1918 (moved to Garðsauki). Initially it inherited the provincial cancel of VÖLLUR and then from mid-1911 a Swiss cancel, type B2c1 was used.



Oddi



Oddi was, in ancient times, the home of Sæmundur the Wise in the 12th Century and later of Bishop Páll who died in 1214. Sæmundur produced literary works of learning rather than the later 'Saga' writers, and his efforts chronicle early history. Strönd (2) was opened as a collecting office in 1935 and till 1949 when it was moved to Hella (2) used number 71. This was used here till 1951, then Swiss types B2c2, B8b and B8b1 in use today. The office was upgraded to post office 1-5-1964 and this reflects the growth of the town. In 1950 the population was only 90 but this has swelled to the present 500. It has an airfield which provides regular direct flights to Vestmannaeyjar amongst other places.

Stokkalækur was opened in 1947 as a collecting office. It is north-east of Hvolsvöllur and was closed at the very end of 1977. Whilst open Swiss cancel type B2c was used.

Heiði (2) was opened 1.1.1947 as a collecting office. Heiði is a small farm inland in the south of the parish and till 14.6.1991 used Swiss type B2c2. It had no cancel from 1947 to 1953.

22.8 LANDMANNAHREPPUR

Under the shadow of Hekla volcano the parish is a fertile valley in the midst of barren lava fields. The collecting office was opened at the rectory of Skarð (2) in 1892 but was moved to the adjacent farm of Fellsmúli in 1895. It used the Skarð crown cancel from 1895 to 1903, then number 3 and later Swiss type B1a, the office closing 1.1.1956.



Fellsmúli

22.9 HOLTAHREPPUR

The church at [Marteinstunga](#) was where in 1920, a collecting office was established using cancels number 97 and later Swiss type B2a. It was moved to [Vegamót \(1\)](#) on 1.7.1954 and remained open to the end of 1976 using the cancels previously used at Marteinstunga and Swiss type B3e of its own. Vegamót (cross-roads in English) is a filling station on the main road.



22.10 ÁSAHREPPUR



On the estuary of the Þjórsá river, the parish occupies fertile farming country with many farms. The first opened at [Ás \(1\)](#) in 1884 and moved to [Þjórsárbrú](#) in 1899. In that time a single ring crown cancel was used inscribed ÁS I HOLTUM. Þjórsárbrú (otherwise known as [Þjórsártún](#)) was open till 31.12.1943 (moved to [Þjórtandi](#)) and used the Ás í Holtum crown cancel, number 11 and a B1a Swiss cancel inscribed Þjórsárbrú. [Þjórtandi](#) was open 1.1.1944 to 31.12.1950 and is slightly further north on the banks of the river and used number 11 and the B1a cancel of Þjórsárbrú.

In 1904 an office was opened at Nýibær (mentioned earlier 22.4) to replace Grímsstaðir, near to Þykkvibær (2) (22.11). Number 4 was superseded by Swiss type B1a till removal to Þykkvibær on 31.12.1940.

The location of the office of Nýibær remains a mystery. Whilst there are farms at Suður and Norður-Nýibær very close to Þykkvibær that would put it in the wrong parish or *hreppur*. Although I have asked several Icelanders to help in the search, no one I have asked can help! If any reader can assist, the author would be most grateful!

22.11 DJÚPÁRHREPPUR

The parish consists mostly of gravel flats but includes the village of [Þykkvibær \(2\)](#) on the estuary of the Þverá river. Also 'trading' under the name of [Miðkot](#) this office was moved from Nýibær (22.10) and opened 1.1.1941. It was promoted to Post Office 1.1.1972 till closure 27.12.1996 and in that time used number 4, Swiss type B1a (Nýibær), B8e (Þykkvibær) and B8b.

[Ægissíða](#) was opened as a collecting office between 1.1.1899 and 31.12.1949. It used a triple ring crown, number 12 and Swiss type B1a. Ægissíða is the other side of the river Þverá from Hella.



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Postal Stationery/Postcards

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