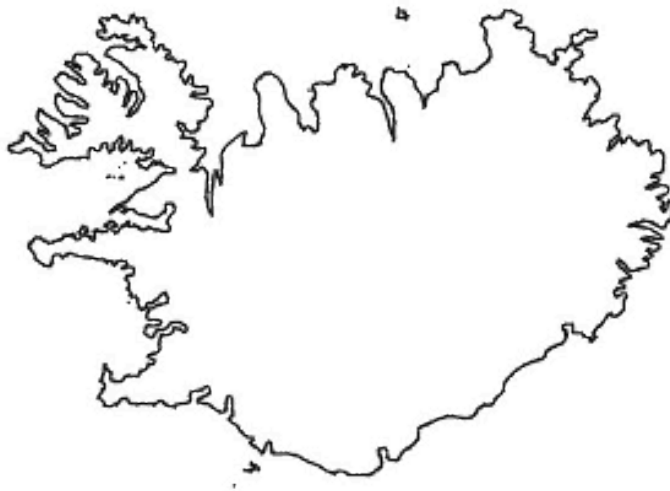
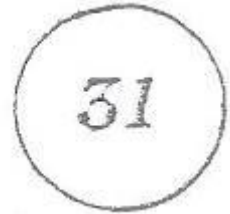


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Issue 34/July 2019

Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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Please let me have your articles if you want them in the next issue which will be September 2019. If you need help with translations let me know.
The editor will help with the English if necessary.
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Correction of 2018 published postal rates.

I am grateful to Jarle Reiersen for challenging my description in Issue 33 of the FORGANGSBRÉF cover (shown below) as underpaid by 10kr. At Jarle's request, a subsequent enquiry with the post office revealed that inland letter postal rates changes announced by the post office in January, February and November 2018 were incorrectly stated in all English language brochures and on their website. The errors were in respect of the 51gm to 2kg letter rates from 1.1.2018 to 31.12.1018. The Forgangsbréf cover posted on 17.12.2018 was correctly franked as this revised caption now indicates.



100gm innanlands (value 210kr), 50gm (value 180kr) plus 205kr in stamps – Total 595kr. Forgangsbréf rate.

For the benefit of anyone who possesses one of the 3 English language P.O. rates brochures issued during 2018, the corrected inland rates are as follows.

	50gm	100gm	250gm	500gm	1kg	2kg
From 1.1.2018						
Letters A Class	195	210	225	285	500	655
From 1.3.2018						
Regular letters*	180	210	225	285	500	655
From 1.11.2018						
Regular letters*	180	210	225	285	500	655

- 'A' class letters abolished from 1.3.2018 and replaced by Regular letters.

The statements in IPM issue 25 page 3 and Issue 26 page 3 should be considered in the light of the above.

In Issue 32 on p.3 I mentioned changes to the domestic letter rates from 1st March which were notified to me by the post office, and I said that there were no other changes to postal rates. We now know that there were other changes from 1st March, namely the registration rates to Europe and other countries.

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1943 Postal Rates Puzzle (Issue 33)

Ólafur Elíasson provides the solution to the postal rates puzzle as well as a description of the route taken. (Thanks also to Kaj Librand for a swift identical breakdown of the 52aur postal rate).

From Ólafur:-

Printed matter rate to Nordic countries valid from 01.01.1943:

12aur/50gr.

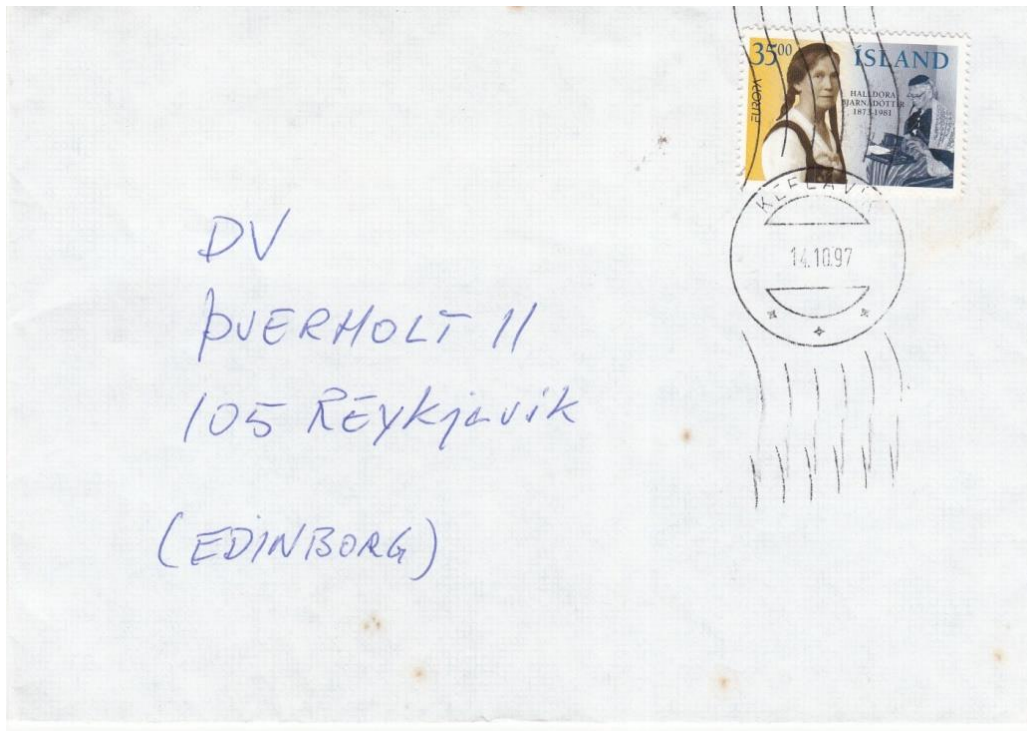
Air mail surcharge to Sweden valid from 01.04.1943: 20aur/5gr, x2 for a letter 5-10gr=40aur.

This adds nicely up to a total of 52aur.

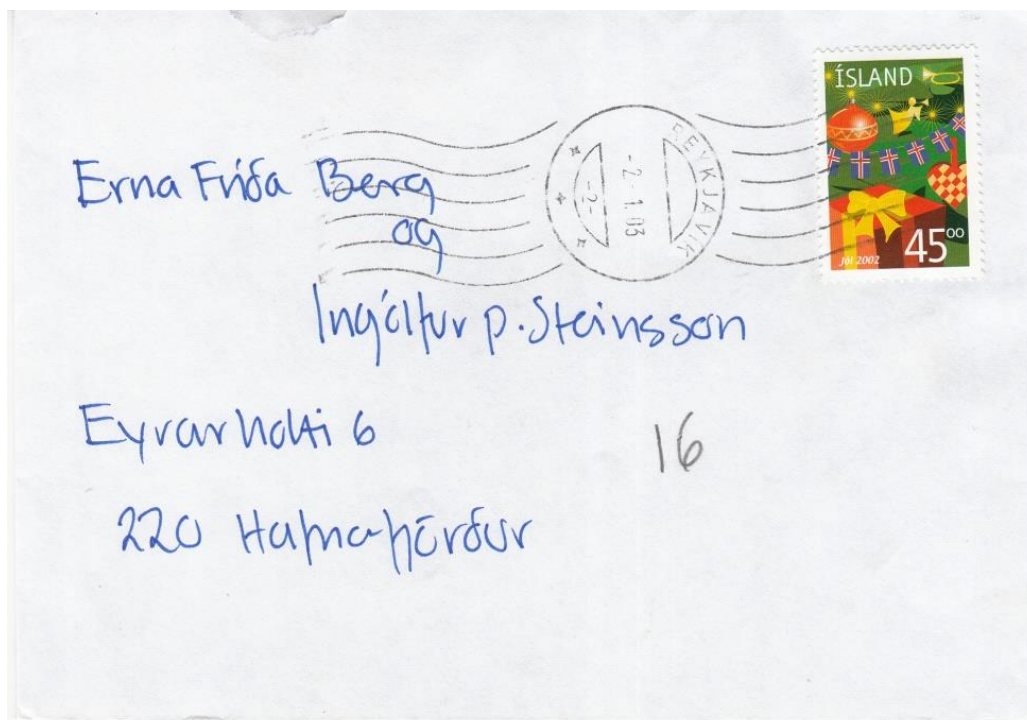
The route was by ship to England where the cover was censored (probably in Edinburgh), then by train to Leuchars airfield (Scotland) and by English plane to Bromma airfield in Stockholm where it entered the Swedish postal system.

Roller Cancels 6th and final part

I am grateful to Jørgen Steen Larsen and Eivind Kolstad for their assistance in providing several of the following examples.



Keflavik type R8a sideways used from 2.12.96. Dated 14.10.97 on 35kr inland letter



Reykjavík 2 type R8a from 9.9.98. Dated 2.1.03. 45kr inland rate.

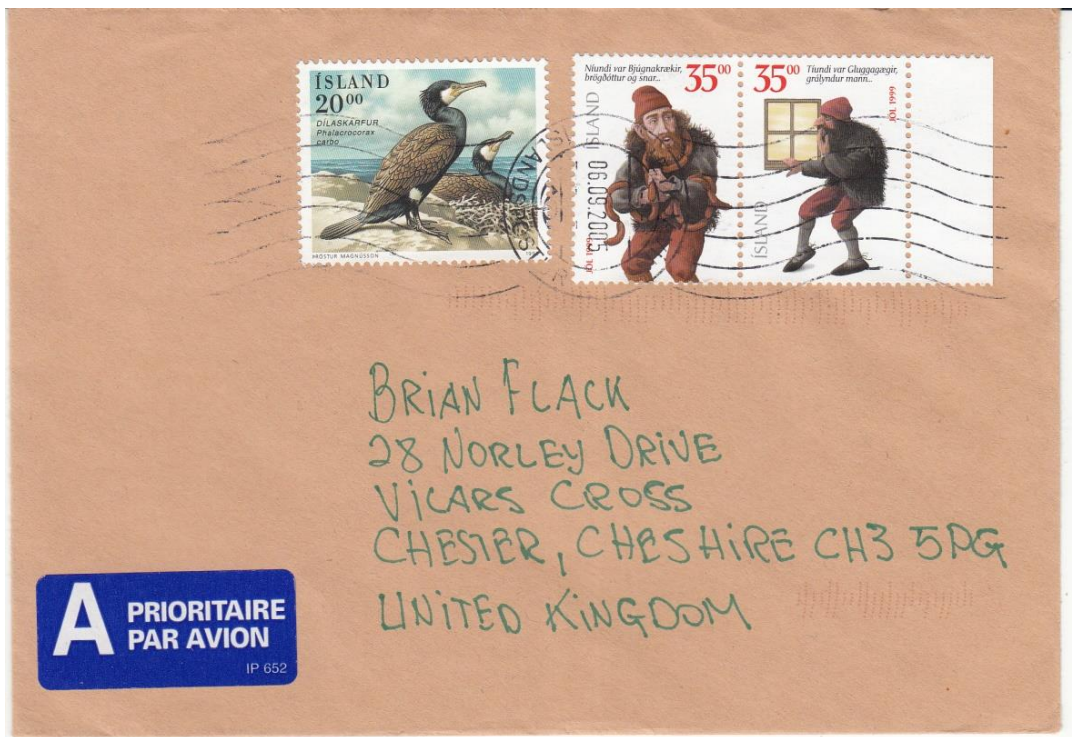


Reykjavík R10 type R8a sideways from 1.12.1998. Dated 25.8.99 to Norway

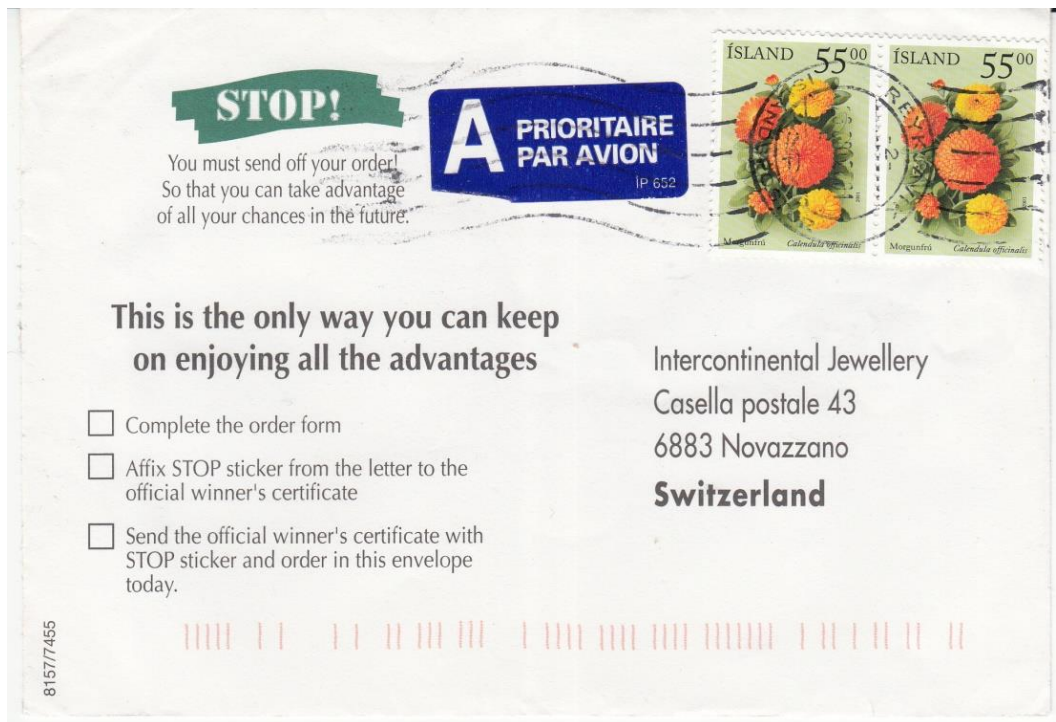


Akranes type R8a sideways from 8.4.99. Dated 21.7.99 to Denmark

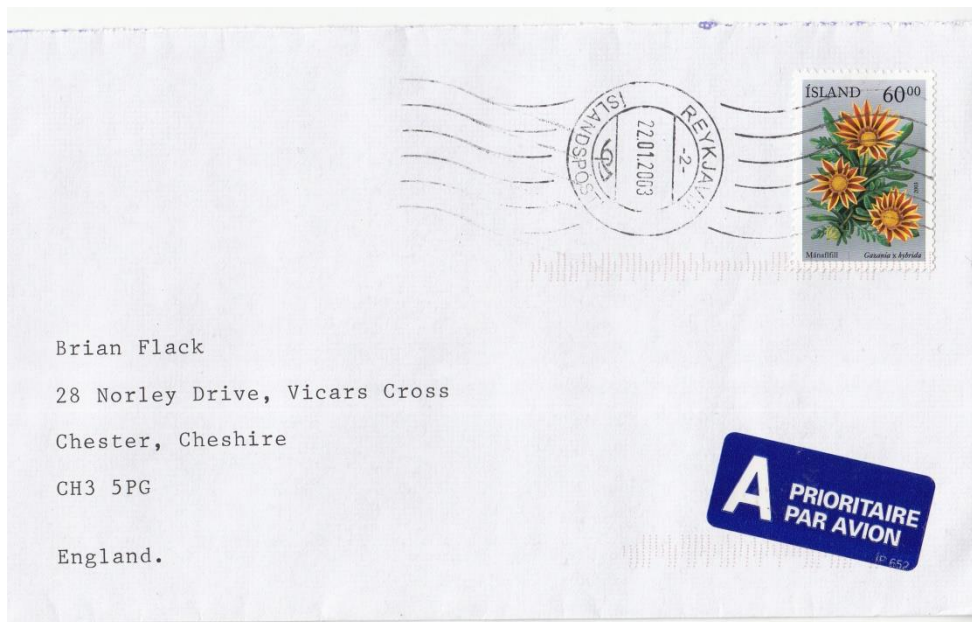
Following the privatization of the post office a series of type R6b sideways roller cancels were issued with the company logo.



Reykjavík R5 type R6b used from 6.2.2000 until the office closed on 31.12.2006. Dated 06.09.2005.



Reykjavík 102 type R6b from 06.06.2000. With small letters. Dated 23.09.2001 to Switzerland. 110kr Europe rate 21-50gm.

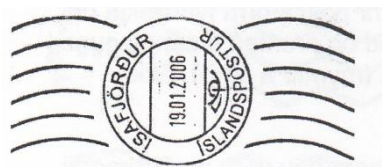


Reykjavík 102 type R6b from 26.12.2001 to 18.09.2003. With large letters and “reversed posthorn” error.
Dated 22.01.2003 60kr letter rate UK.



Reykjavík 102 type R6b from 20.11.2003 with corrected posthorn.
Dated 01.09.2005 73kr to UK. (3 kr overpaid)

Ísafjörður type R6b from 19.01.2006. Unfortunately no example available. Can a reader supply one please?



As far as I know, no new roller cancels have been issued since 2006. This ends the series.

Numeral 95... (Issue 33)

Here is a response from Jørgen Steen Larsen to the points raised in the article about late use of the numeral 95.

Comments:

You start with stating that due to Brynjólfur's numeral book this cancel is known on issues up to 1936. This is not correct. Brynjólfur states that is known up to one issue from 1920.

The cancel is as stated by Brynjólfur common on issues up to Fred VIII in 1912 and rare on issues from 1913 and onwards. Brynjólfur has seen 6 usages out of 140 after 1912.

In my collection I have the following late usages:

Facit 95, 5 aur TK perf 14, on a postcard dated 4/1 – 16.

Facit 96, 10 aur TK perf 14, issued 1916.

Facit 97, 20 aur TK perf 14, issued 1918.

Facit 135, 20 aur Chr X brown, issued 17.7.22.



These usages have been found over a period of perhaps 30 years, so they confirm that usages of N1a-95 are rare on issues from 1913.

The usage shown in IPM on Facit 218, Chr X, 10 aur Jubilee issue from 1937 is in my opinion from a Bio Petersen letter from April 1938. The Chr X Jubilee stamps were not sent to smaller post offices, except on Bio Petersen letters - where they were used regularly, and the 12 o'clock usage is typical for the Bio Petersen letters.

In IPM it is stated that Borðeyri was a collecting office from 1.1.1885. Here we have a typing error. The correct date should be 1.1.1895. (Ed. Agreed!)

The correct date shows, that the C1 cancel Borðeyri from the first delivery of crowns in March 1894 was sent to Borðeyri before it became a collecting office and was just a landing place.

(Ed. Can readers show late uses of numeral 95?)

Orlof Double-Overprint Variety on 60-aur Gullfoss *Ellis Glatt*

A previously unrecorded double-overprint variety was recently discovered among one of the surcharged Orlof (Holiday) saving stamps. The variety was found on a 60-aur Gullfoss example, which was among a group overprinted in several batches between June 1943 and April 1944 by the Gutenberg printing firm in Reykjavik. An initial batch of 119,200 stamps was overprinted in June 1943, followed by two smaller runs of 19,700 and 19,600 in early 1944. At this juncture, there is not enough information available to pinpoint which of these batches contained the variety.

Pictured below and on the left is the subject example exhibiting the double overprint. The stamp on the right exhibits a normal overprint for comparison. Although the double impression is visible over the entire surcharge, it can be most easily spotted by looking at the accent in “króna” on the bottom line.

Since it is more than likely that an entire sheet received the second impression, there should be other examples of this variety out there. Happy hunting!



Double-Overprint Variety

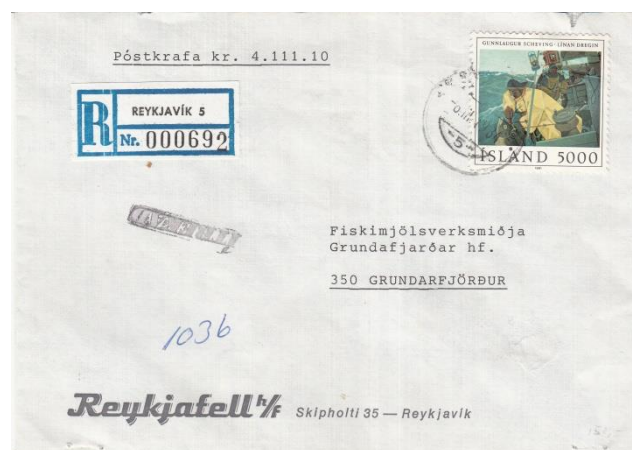


Normal Overprint

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Inflation high value

This 1981 5000aur stamp was not the highest value issued during the years of high inflation in Iceland, but it is not easy to find used as a single. This example shows a legitimate single use, with the added bonus of the ÍTREKAÐ (posted too late) stamp. It was posted in a period when the postal rates had settled down following years of inflation.



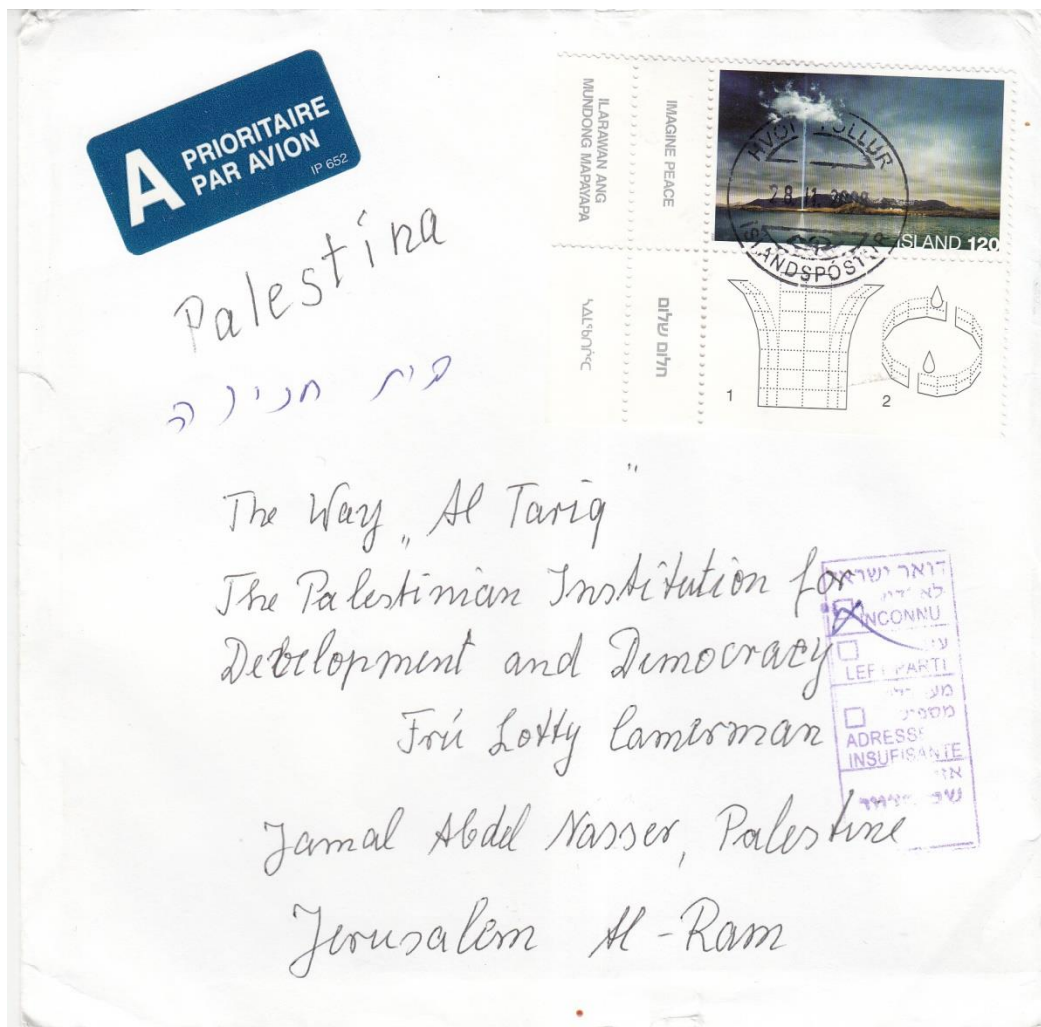
Reykjavík 5 dated 6.III.1984. 650aur inland rate, 1400aur registration and 2950aur C.O.D. Total 5000aur.

Unusual destinations ~ P

Inevitably, I have to omit any destination beginning with the letter 'O', as happened about 10 years ago in the first series of Unusual Destinations in IslandsKontakt. Covers to Obock or Orange Free State have still not come my way. The Iceland post office lists of airmail destinations did include "Orania" between 1.1.1968 and 31.10.1970. This was a name given by Afrikaners in the late 1960s to an area of South Africa which they wanted to have as a separate state of their own. It was never granted international recognition. Nobody answered when I enquired how Orania appeared on the Icelandic UPU airmail rates with a postal rate. Reluctantly I have to move on to the next letter P.

PALESTINE

I am grateful to Jarle Reiersen for discovering this cover sent to Jerusalem in 2008. The addressee is Fru Lotty Camerman, who at the time was presumably associated with the Palestinian institution shown. Cancelled Hvollsvöllur B8b1 dated 28.11.2008, it was returned by the Israeli post office "inconnu" as Fru Camerman appears not to be known there. The word 'Palestina' and some Arabic writing were presumably for the benefit of the postman. Fortunately the contents, a Christmas and New Year greetings card are present, with a long interesting message from an Icelandic man of German origin living in Hvollsvöllur, who had visited Jerusalem as a tourist and met Fru Camerman there in October 2008. Regrettably the card has never been received by her.



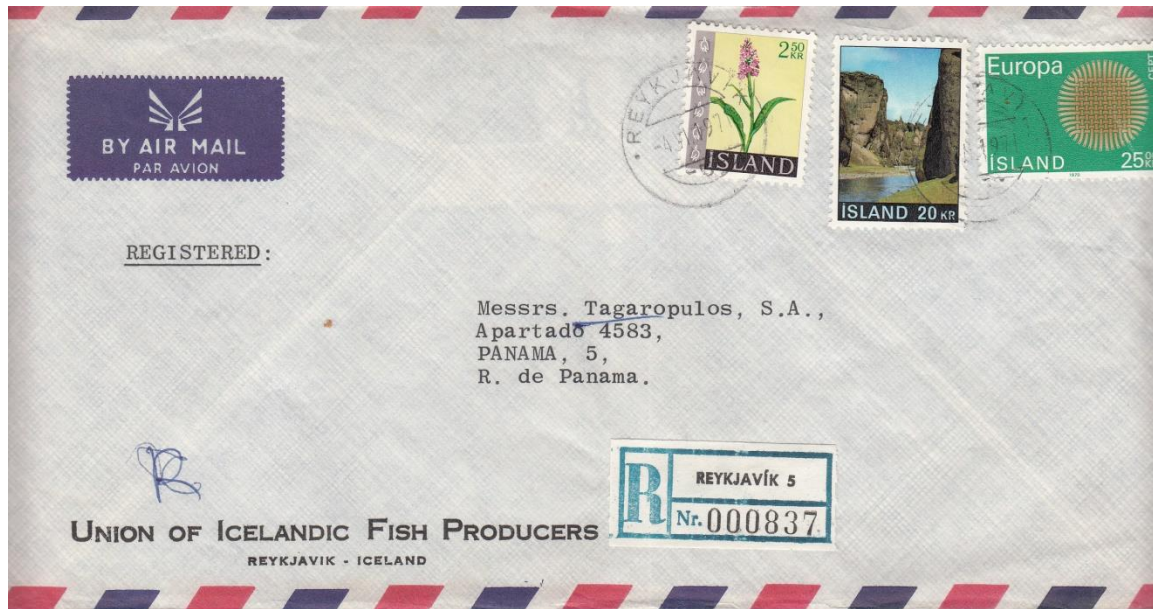
PANAMA



Reykjavík B1c dated 23.X.57

Boquette receiving mark 6 Nov on front with Panama transit of NOV 4.

The correct all in airmail rate was 255aur from 1.10.53 to 30.6.58. The cover is 5aur overpaid.



Reykjavík R5 B8e dated 4.VI.1971. Panama City receiving cancel 10 Jun on reverse.

4750aur franking = 2350aur for 15gm airmail letter plus 2400aur registration which includes 800aur for delivery only to the addressee.

Airmail rate from 1.1.69 to 30.6.71. Registration rate applied from 1.11.70

PARAGUAY



Reykjavík B1d dated 21.I.48. New York Registry Div. transit 28.1.48. Asuncion receiving cancel 2.Feb.1948.

60aur surface rate plus 60aur registration plus 100aur airmail supp up to 5gm. Total 2kr20.
Rates current 1.10.47 to 14.11.49

PERU



Reykjavík B1d 7.XII.49. Lima arrival cancel 14 Dec 1949 with slogan. "Visit Peru Land of the Incas"

6kr35aur all in airmail rate up to 25gm from 15.11.49 to 20.3.50

“I GILDI” or not *Ole Svinth*

Some issues ago there was a question about this charity issue of 1956. The stamps were banned in exhibitions because of the high surtax. The cover shows that these stamps apparently were still valid in 1963. These stamps are not seen often on letters/cards (except for FDC of course). The letter was sent to the daughter of the famous Iceland collector Folmer Østergaard. From the handwriting I can tell, that it was not sent from Folmer himself.



The postage is not correct and Folmer never made mistakes in franking. Letter to Denmark from Reykjavik 6 II 63. Is it a surface letter? Any way the airmail label is covered by stamps. The total is 525 aur and as postage it doesn't fit anywhere. Surface rate 20 gr. was 400 aur and airmail rate was 600 aur. It seems to be an over franked surface letter.

Although the stamps are forbidden at exhibitions, this issue was “I GILDI” for a long period. Do you have a copy? Very few are seen.

I have tried to contact FIP, but never had an answer to my question if the exhibition ban was still in place.

(Ed. This might start a search through collections? I have no copies of these charity stamps on cover).

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Missing wing tip variety (Issue 33) *Ron Collin*

This is in response to Henk Burgman's query in IPM Issue #33, Page 21. But first, some background information.

Iceland's first airmail stamp, Facit #160, was actually Facit #131 that was overprinted with a stylized version of a Fokker airplane. Fokker aircraft were the most abundantly used airplanes during the 1920's and 1930's. The overprint was made up of a rack of 50 of the plane design cliches that would be used to overprint the sheets of Facit #131 in two passes through the press. The rack would be used to overprint one half of the sheet on the first pass, then they would put the sheet through the press again to overprint the other half of the sheet.

Here is a cropped scan of my sheet showing the placing of the overprint on the top 5 horizontal rows. Notice the position of the overprint in relation to King Christian X's face. You will notice that the overprint placement is different for the second pass through the press, starting with horizontal row 6. It appears lower on the King's portrait.



As for Henk's query, since his variety is an overprint variety of one of the cliches used in the rack of 50, then there must be two examples of it on every sheet. In examining my sheet I found the examples in position 30 and position 80.



Position 30



Position 80

As long as we are talking about varieties, I'm sure your readers are aware of the joined ME variety on Facit #131; the basic stamp used in the creation of Facit #160. The overprinting of that sheet created overprinted varieties of the joined ME positions. Since the varieties are on the basic sheet, they do not have a difference of 50 in their positions.



Facit 160 V1
Position 32

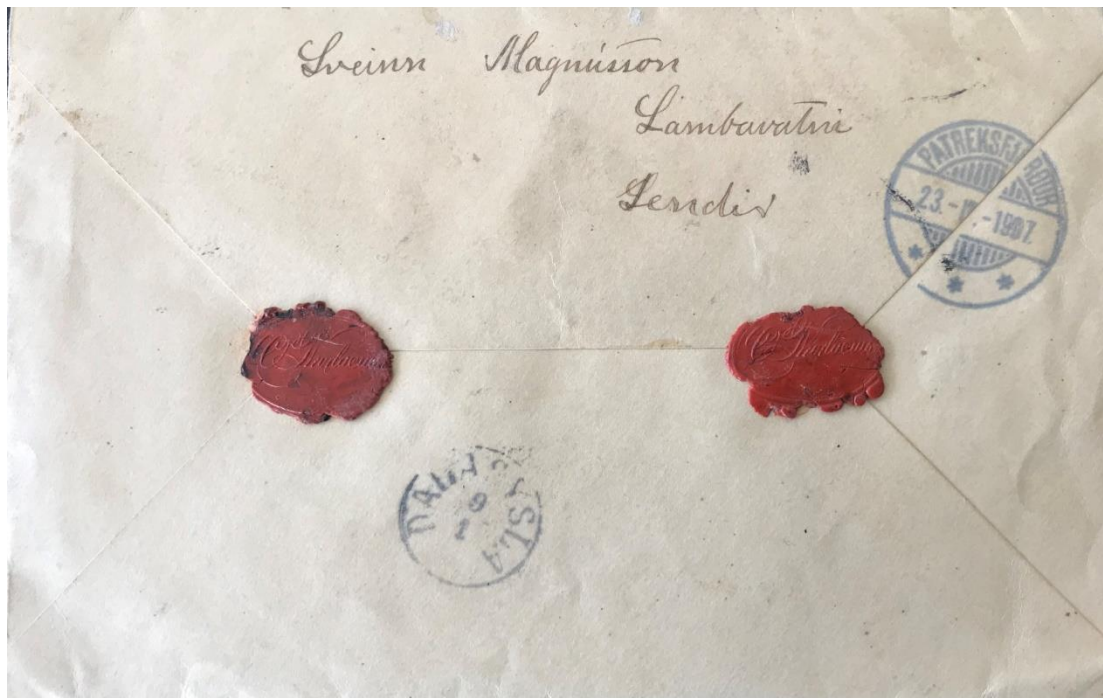
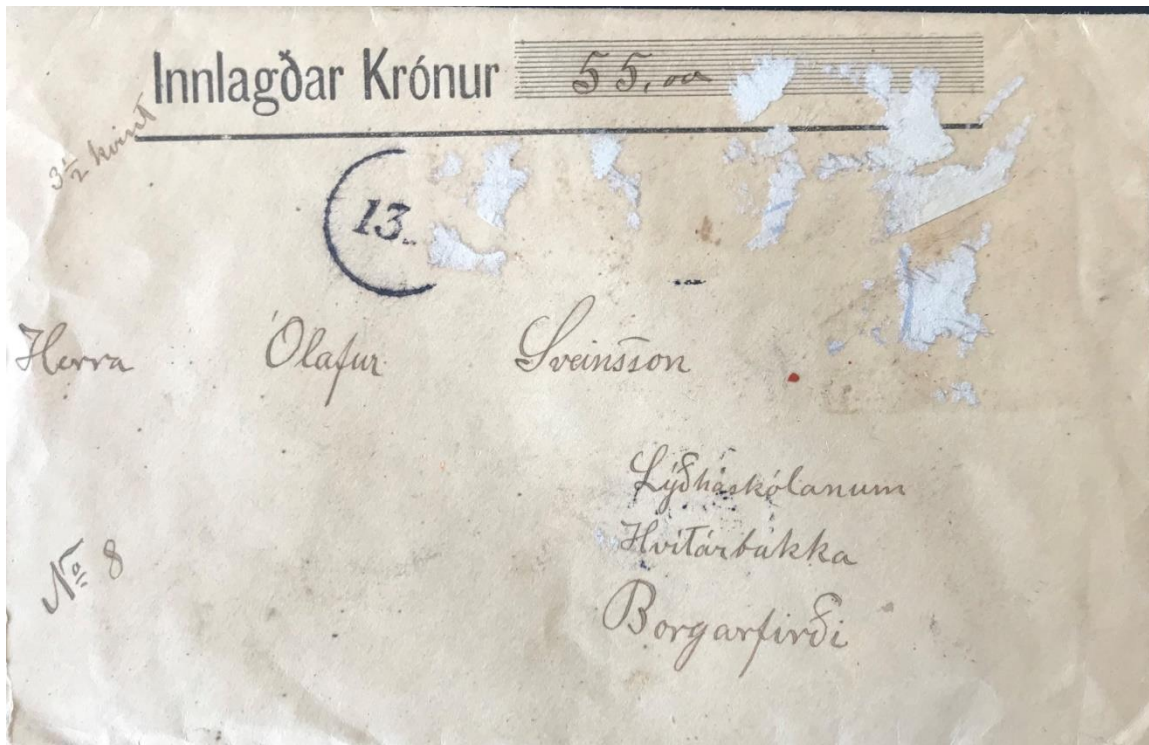


Facit 160 V1
Position 92

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1907 Money letter with a few puzzles to solve *Magnus Þorsteinsson*

I have a puzzle that I would like to share with you, and hopefully it's interesting enough to share with your readers. I bought a money letter from Sveinn today at the stamp club (see attached images). Unfortunately the stamps have been torn off, but what remains is a partial numeral cancel 132 and Patreksfjörður 23.-1?-1907 (most likely 23.12) and Dalasýsla 9.1 transit cancels on back.



My first question is, what would have been the correct franking for this letter? There are remnants which may give a clue how many stamps were used. And then I'm not sure if it's missing a V sticker, or if the "No 8" was written instead of using a sticker?



Secondly, I'm very interested to know what types of stamps were used. This would have been in the double kings era, but Christian IX is also a possibility.

Lastly I'm very curious what the initials on the wax seal stand for as they don't seem to match the sender's name.

Any help in solving this puzzle is greatly appreciated. I will restore the cover in photoshop once I have a plausible theory.

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Foreign cancel on 16 skilling *Ron Collin*

I don't believe I have ever seen this cancel on an Iceland Skilling. It was part of a used mixed lot in a recent sale.



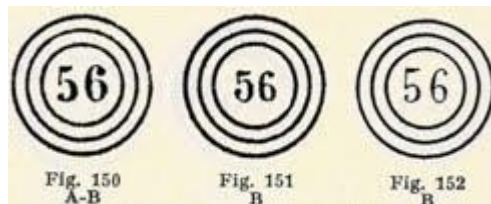
Over to Ole Svinth for his shrewd analysis.

Hello,

The numeral is certainly not a Danish 56. Could it be Norwegian? I have no copies of a Norwegian 56.

Conclusion will be "Norwegian or false".

Here is an image from "Danske poststempler" by Svend Arnholtz showing the different Danish 56 cancels.



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Single use charity issue

Since the appeal in Issue 9 (2016) for examples of single use charity stamps, this cover is the first that has come my way. The 7kr Arctic Tern stamp was valid for both inland and Nordic printed matter and postcard rates from the stamp issue date on 22nd November 1972 until 30th June 1973.



Reykjavík machine cancel dated ?. Dec 1972. 7kr printed matter rate.

The editor encourages readers to show other examples of single use charities, if you can find them.

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Can anyone explain the background to this cover?



American slogan “Buy War Bonds and Stamps” 10 Apr 1943 Washington DC strike on 30aur Iceland stamps. Why the 30aur franking?

The auction description from the Danish reads “10 aur Herring (3) on preprinted envelope from American Legation in Reykjavik sent as courier and stamped Washington D.C. 10.4.1943 to New York, USA.

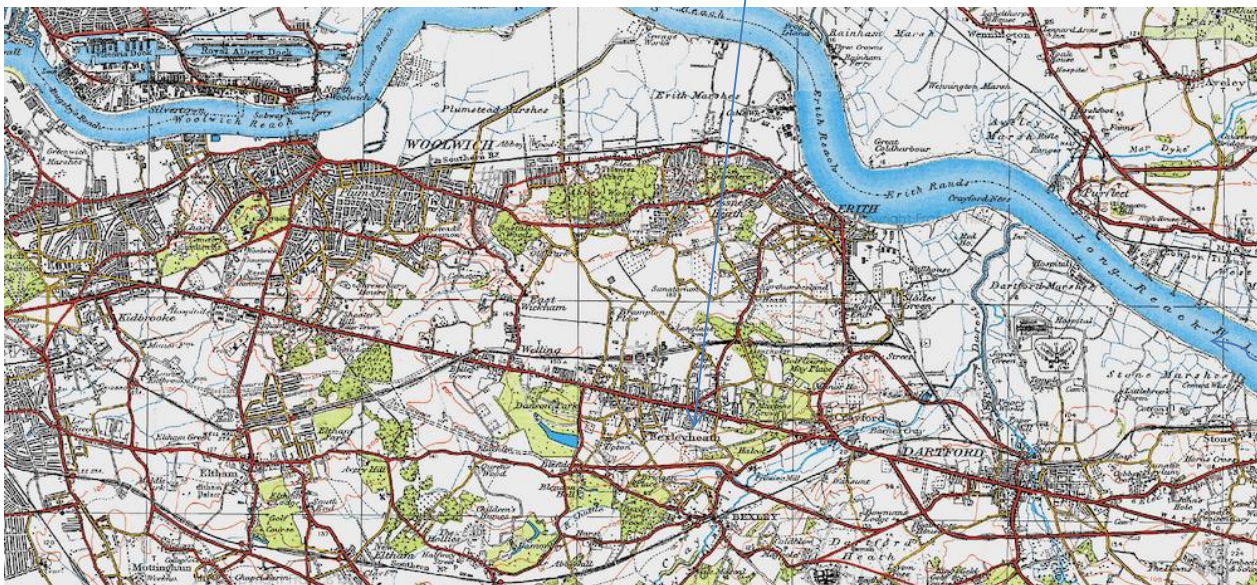
Claimed: Approved for Pouch / American Minister and Signature”.

BEXLEY HEATH – Unusual on Iceland stamp?



Seen on Ebay. British cancel 15 Oct 1943 of Bexley Heath, Kent, a town in Greater London. The ship would have passed up the Thames heading toward London. Where might the post have been landed?

← 12 miles to Central London from Bexley Heath



Maybe Bexley Heath is not so unusual, considering that it received no bids on Ebay with a starter of \$49.50.

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An unanswered question – Perfin 306. H I.

As does sometimes happen, a question is asked in these pages and there is no answer forthcoming (☺). It may be that none of the readers know the answer, but occasionally one does wonder. Maybe it is worth asking some questions again. So here goes; on p.21 of Issue 25/January 2018, Wilbur Jonsson asked for advice on a two line perfin on a Facit 400 cancelled 1963. The perfin reads **306.H I**. Can any of our readers, especially those in Iceland, identify this perfin?

The C2e Reykjavík crown cancel *Jørgen Steen Larsen*

The current survey of images of rare crown cancels shows that 8 out of 12 copies of C2e Reykjavík are on a 3 aur stamp. It is my guess that the cancel was mainly used at a separate desk at the post office for some special purpose. The 3 aur stamps seem to indicate that it had something to do with printed matter.

Could it be something to do with newspapers?

All the usages on 3 aur seem to me to be on Facit 20 – 3 aur perf 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ with small 3. No usages on Facit 21 – 3 aur perf. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ large 3 – issued in 1901 – so by that time it seems as if the use of C2e Reykjavik had terminated. C2e Reykjavik was delivered in 1899 – invoice dated 10.11.1899 - so the period of use of this cancel is probably not much longer than the year 1900.

Experts on the prints of the numerals should correct me if I am wrong.



(Ed.) In addition to Jørgen's comments, I am grateful for the contributions of other experts summarized as follows:-

1. It could be that these are favour cancels. They look good on a yellow stamp, especially when they were inexpensive to buy from the post office at the time.
2. Although they might have been favour cancelled, it is rather unlikely as surely such strikes would be considerably nicer than most of the 8 so far accumulated.
3. They look as if the stamps have been cancelled on an uneven surface which could have been a newspaper wrapper or similar. This use on the 3 aur contrasts the normal 10 aur or 5 aur (sometimes 16 and 20 aur) usages of crown cancels.
4. It is confirmed that all of the images, in addition to other strikes of the C2e on 6aur and 20aur, have 15 vertical perforation teeth, perf 12 $\frac{3}{4}$. If any of them were perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, they would have 16 vertical perf tips. This validates Jørgen's suspected timeline.

This has been an interesting subject and readers are encouraged to offer their opinions.

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Was this cancel ever used here? – Series in IPM 10 to 25

A series of 16 articles with this title began in the September 2016 issue. The opening introduction read:-

Readers may be familiar with the recent purge of numeral cancels in Facit which removed many apparently non-existent locations for numerals. The result is a much slimmer list of cancels for collectors to search for. In a similar fashion, it might be useful to investigate the validity of many bridge cancels, which are recorded in Íslenskir Stimplar brúar-, rúllu og vélstimplar 1894-2003 by Þór Þorsteins, as having been used at an office subsequent to the original location.

In this and following issues, my intention is to present my conclusions with regard to the use of specific bridge cancels shown in the published handbook based on the evidence presented. As it seems unlikely that there will be any further major publication on the subject of cancellations, and Þór's book may remain the standard for many more years, my intention is to amend my own copy according to the findings. Readers can draw their own conclusions as they see fit.

(Note: Nobody will be more pleased than I, should someone provide evidence which contradicts the conclusions made in this and following issues ☺).

Presently Facit gives a price for each named bridge cancel, but does not include the names or give a value for subsequent locations of the cancels. The findings may be useful should it be eventually decided to add the names of subsequent locations and rarity values to Facit.

I have decided to begin with the last article in the series (Issue 25) and work backwards.



B1a Vogatunga Borgarfjarðarsýsla .

Conclusion: no evidence has come forth to suggest that this cancel was ever used postally at Stóri-Lambhagi which had its own B8e cancel from the date of opening in 1958.

Delete B1a Vogatunga at Stóri-Lambhagi.



B1a Þjórsarbrú Rangárvallasýsla.

Conclusion: The evidence of the use of numeral 11 at Þjótandi on a cover in 1944 gives credence to the opinion that the postal official at Þjótandi in Árnessýsla would be rather unlikely to choose to use a Þjórsarbrú bridge cancel from another county in preference to the numeral 11. No evidence has been provided that the Þjórsarbrú bridge cancel was ever used at Þjótandi.

Delete B1a Þjórsarbrú at Þjótandi.

To be continued in Issue 35 with B1a Sævarland and B2a Valþjófsstaður.

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1943 Philatelic Gems from Ísafjörður? *Mike Schumacher*

Are these two covers simply "Philatelic Gems" by Alfred Baarreagaard? I find them of interest due to the use of the 1937 King Christian X Silver Jubilee issue; however they are used well after the valid usage period. (May 14, 1937 - April 30, 1938). Both of these covers are mailed in 1943, the first one on 6/9/43 and the second one on 16/11/43. The 6/9/43, I suppose has correct postage if only counting the fish stamps (60aur for 20gm letter)?

Ed. Thank you, Michael for showing these rather exotic covers. I hope someone can tell us more about Alfred Baarreagaard, the local Tannlæknir (dentist) in Ísafjörður. How did he get the Ísafjörður postmaster to cancel a load of invalid stamps? I have never come across such mischief from that area before. Mike asked if I could offer any thoughts or wisdom regarding the franking.



Cancelled B5a Ísafjörður 6.9.43, the 3 fish stamps paid the correct 60aur surface letter rate to USA valid from 1.1.1943. There are no additional stamps on the back. The additional two invalid Christian X Jubilee were presumably added for fun? "Return to" clearly indicates he wanted Kirsten in Ohio to return the cover for his benefit.

My theory is, that having successfully received this cover back from Kirsten, the emboldened Alfred really "went to town" and plastered the next cover dated 16.11.43 with no less than 10 invalid stamps.

For variety, he addressed this one to Soren instead of Kirsten at the same address and managed to get the postmaster to cancel 1. The Snorri Sturluson set, valid up to 1.1.43; 2. The 1937 Jubilee set, valid up to 1.5.38; 3. An additional 50aur Sturluson; 4. 1938 30 and 40aur University, valid up to 1.1.40; 5. 1939 35aur NY Fair, valid up to 1.11.39.

Added fairly neatly on the back, possibly for the benefit of the postmaster, is the correct 4kr20 airmail rate up to 20gm to USA from 1.4.43 using valid 1934 Airs and fishes.

These covers have survived intact, and I suspect there may be others around created by the dentist of Ísafjörður.



Airmail to USA cancelled B5a Ísafjörður 16.11.1943. 345aur on the front and 485aur on the back = 830aur.

A 36 bid battle was fought on Ebay mainly by two bidders and the final price was \$227.

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Ink cancellation 1902! *Leif Fuglsig*

Previously published in IslandsKontakt Nr. 94, and reproduced with the permission of the author



Here is a 6 aur í Gildi on piece with a manuscript cancellation **Bergstaðir** 20 11 1902. This location in Austur-Húnavatnssýsla had been a collecting office from 1-1-1901 but got its first cancellation (N1a 88) in 1903. Later came a bridge cancellation with the name spelt **Bergsstaðir**. Ólafur Elíasson described the manuscript as an understandable misspelling.

On the bottom edge of the piece can be discerned the preprinted word "Herra". This seems to be a preaddressed envelope. There have probably been a number of stamps (over franking) on a larger envelope placed at appropriate intervals so that they could be split into clips. At this early stage, it is doubtful whether values other than 6 aur have been available. More clips should exist.

(Ed. Hans von Strokirch in the Posthorn August 2000 listed this as the only recorded example of Bergsstaðir).

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