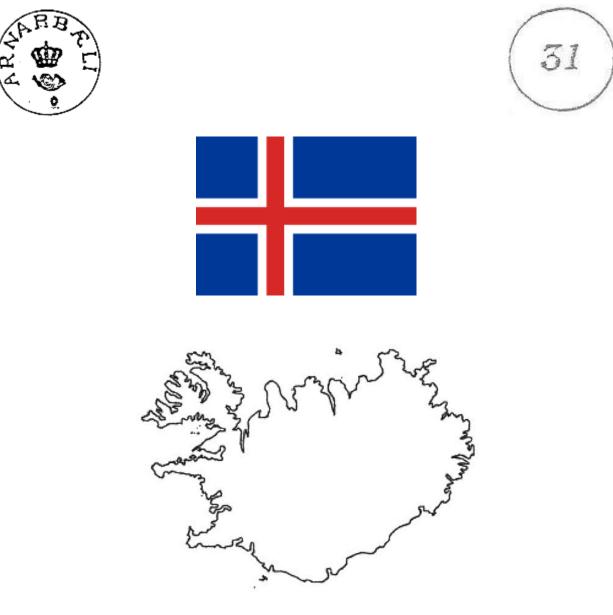
# ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

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 March 2021. If you need help with translations let me know. The editor will help with the English if necessary. flackbp@gmail.com

## **News/Comment**

You might think when you read the following, "oh no, here he goes again". Why doesn't the editor accept the inevitability of the end of Icelandic stamps? I was reading through back numbers of the Swedish *Rapport*, and I came across this address given by the President of Iceland at that time, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, at the opening of the Nordia 03 exhibition. Here is an extract:-

"We welcome the great Nordic Stamp Exhibition to Iceland once again, and salute all those who have journeyed from afar, from Scandinavia and other countries to participate in this magnificent event. Stamp collecting is both deeply rooted in national cultures, in our history and heritage, and also profoundly international in character, a symbol of how people have interacted and linked different places. It is splendid to witness how different series of stamps allow us to celebrate important epochs, events, achievements, outstanding personalities, poets, painters, scholars, scientists, historical leaders, heroes; and those who have deeply influenced our lives, molded our societies, shaped our identity, created the fabric which makes us modern, but has at the same time influenced us through tradition and culture.

A nation reveals itself through the stamps it issues; the character of the people interpreted through the choices of what is celebrated by special series. Thus, exhibitions such as the one we open today are national landmarks, signposts in our journey towards the future. We are also able to witness how we are increasingly becoming aware of nature through the enhanced importance of stamps devoted to the beauty of creation, to flowers and birds, to species of fish and other marine resources, to mountains, volcanoes and geysers, to the ever-changing symphony of colour and light which different places conjure forth.....now we have opened up the world of stamps to all the glories of the creation. It is therefore truly wonderful to see in great stamp exhibitions how they reflect ourselves, how they are magnificent mirrors which enable us to interpret who we are. Stamps have been a part of our upbringing, of our memories, of our family life, and although times have changed, stamps will always have a secure future through devoted collectors.

I wonder if anyone in the present Icelandic postal administration (or government) shares these sentiments? Can readers in Iceland say if there is any current discussion on this subject in Iceland's media or on public networks? Have there been any hints that the government might take over responsibility for Iceland's future stamp production?

#### \*\*\*\*\*

**Faroe Islands**? One of our readers, Peter Sondhelm is a specialised collector of Faroe Islands. He asks whether any readers with interests in the Faroes have copies of 1970s Wowern Faroe catalogues – they were renamed GF10 maybe in the mid-1970s. If you can help Peter, his email address is faroes.information@virgin.net.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

My latest and possibly final attempt to get on a mailing list to receive notification of future postal organization changes, post offices, date cancellers etc., ended with the following reply from postur.is.

Hello, Thank you for contacting us and apologies for the late reply. As far as I know if you are registered to <u>minn.postur.is</u>, that is the closest to a mailing list we do. We mostly notify people about changes on our website and social media.

Hope you have pleasant weekend.

May I ask if any of our readers receive or are expecting to receive any "mailing lists" from postur.is? I tried to register at <u>minn.postur.is</u>, and got nowhere.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

Many thanks to the remarkable effort of so many collectors who sent in their images of crown cancels currently rated 5, R and RR, making a database totaling 949 examples. A future Facit will be updated with revised valuations for those categories. I am sure this will be welcomed by crown cancel enthusiasts.

## Vestmannæyjar B5a cancel Jørgen Steen Larsen

In his excellent book "Walking into Iceland's Postal History" on page 71 Don Brandt writes, that B5a "Vestmannæyjar, the one (of the B5a cancels) seen most frequently, apparently lacked vertical bridge lines to begin with; every cancellation discloses two black patches instead."

Here you can see a scan of a Leifr Ericsson block cancelled FDC -9.10.1938 with B5a Vestmannæyjar, where the vertical bridge lines are visible. Þór Þorsteins did not know this cancel used before 1939, so this is a very early usage.





Can any of our readers show more copies of B5a Vestmannæyjar with vertical bridge lines visible? (Ed. The enlargement from JSL's miniature sheet clearly shows the vertical bridge lines. My 1948 and 1949 strikes show no evidence of the vertical stripes, just black splodges!)

#### XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## Stamp Exhibition "Nordia 84" II block

I was reading through old copies of the Swedish magazine *Rapport*, and in issue 158 (2010) I came across an article by Henk Burgman, showing an imperforate copy of the Stamp Exhibition "Nordia 84" II block (Facit 643/644). See illustration.

Henk tells me that following some enquiries among collector friends, one other imperforate copy turned up. Can IPM readers tell us if any more imperforate blocks are out there?



## The 1938 collectors covers of Peter Petersen Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson

Ever since I finished my book on Icelandic numeral cancels in 2016, it has tickled my fingers to write a short article about the infamous Petersen letters, mainly because of how much wealth of information they encompass over the latter part of the numeral cancel period. Collector's covers are a well-known phenomenon in the history of philatelic studies and collectors have often looked down on them and not counted those envelopes as equals to others as their purpose was not the same as regular covers, but rather only done for collectible nature, such as achieving certain postmark on stamps. Nevertheless, the fact stands that collector's covers were sent through the postal system from one location to destination. They can therefore show the handling of the postal system and the use of postage stamps equally well as regular letters.

Peter Petersen, director of Old Cinema, was not the first to create a collectors letter. Today we know names like H.F. Harwood (1923-1926) and W.T. Wilson, who were Peter Petersen's predecessor, as their covers were sent decades before Petersen's covers which were sent in the first half of 1938. In this little article I will go over various things that I find interesting regarding the Petersen letters.

In the Swedish Rapport number 104 from 1996 Mr. Eivind Kolstad asked fellow collectors to send him information about Bio Petersen covers in their possession in an attempt to list them up in a common database. Five years later (Rapport 124 from 2001) he had succeeded to gather together a total of 28 covers. I have incorporated Eivind's covers into my own database which is listed here in table 1.

### The story begins - March 1, 1938

On March 1, 1938, Peter Petersen wrote a letter stating:

"Reykjavík 1 March 1938. The post office (Hafnarfjörður). The undersigned, who is collecting stamps from all the post offices in the country, is missing in this collection of stamps, cancels from your post office. Please do me a favor to cancel the stamps on the enclosed envelope and send it back as soon as possible. Note that the cancels should preferably be stamped as clearly and distinctly as possible. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Respectfully, P. Petersen. Gamla Bíó, Reykjavík. "

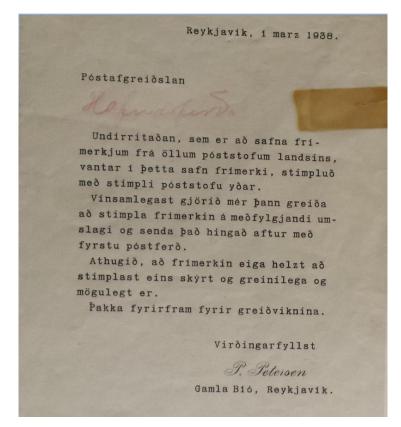


Figure 1. The letter inside all Peter Petersen covers dated 1 March 1938.

This letter was probably copied at least 140 times, if not more. These letters were then placed in a large envelope along with a smaller envelope, which had postage stamps for at least 50 aur glued to it, as mentioned in the attached letter.

# Next step - March 22 the letters sent out

Up to this time, only three larger outer envelopes have been found, that is, those sent out to the post offices from Reykjavík. One of these known letters was sent to Svalbarði in Reykjavík, one to Sogamýri in Reykjavík and the third and last known letter was sent to Vattarnes in Austur-Barðastrandarsýsla. All three outer envelopes were cancelled at the Reykjavík Post Office on March 22 1938. It is clear that Peter Petersen had prior knowledge on where each cancel was located, because on the outer envelope sent to Sogamýri is handwritten at bottom left the digits "243" and "272" at the bottom left of the Svalbarði envelope. It is worth mentioning here that none of these three outer envelopes have been found as P. Petersen collectors covers (inner envelopes), that is to say with numeral cancels 243, 272 and 133. Although it should be mentioned here that a possible remnant of an inner envelope from Sogamýri (243) has been found on Facit 146 (issued 11 January 1937) and Facit 212 (issued 11 November 1937).



Figure 2. The three known outer covers sent to Sogamýri, Svalbarða and Vatterness, all sent 22. March 1938.

# The first ones

Grímsstaðir was the post office that cancelled the inner envelope first of all the envelopes that went out, and it happened on March 10, 1938 or only nine days after the original letter was written. What's more that is



twelve days before the only known three outer envelopes, mentioned above, were cancelled, which happened on March 22, 1938. This fact tells us that either Peter Petersen sent some outer envelopes before March 22, or that a wrong date was cancelled on the Grímsstaðir cover. The latter theory must be considered unlikely because in addition to Grímsstaðir, another inner envelope is cancelled before March 22, Höskuldsstaðir, which was cancelled on March 17, 1938.

Figure 3. Grímsstaðir was the first inland cover to be cancelled at location.

Based on these results, it must be assumed that Peter Petersen sent some of the outer envelopes in the beginning of March 1938. In fact, it is possible to estimate more accurately which day Petersen sent out the first batch of outer envelopes, by using information about the travel time of the inner envelopes back from the post offices and to Reykjavík. Today, there are 22 known letters with both day cancels at the post office and a Reykjavík arrival cancel. The average number of traveling days for these 22 letters was 8 days in March 1938. Based on this, it can be estimated that Peter Petersen sent the first batch of outer envelopes just a day or two after the initial letter was written, or around March 2, 1938.

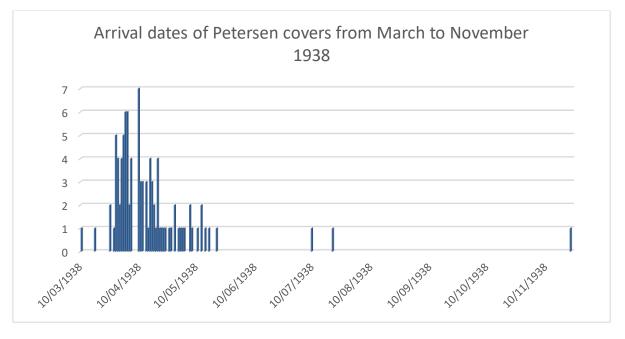


Figure 4. Arrival dates of the known Petersen covers.

The next two inner envelopes were cancelled on Eyrarbakki (March 25) and Skeggjastaðir (March 27). Fourteen other inner envelopes reached their destination in Reykjavík at the end of March. It should be noted here that it is of course possible that the inner envelopes that were only cancelled with a numeral cancels were received in Reykjavík by their owner before the above mentioned covers, but since there is no date accompanying a numeral cancel, it will always be hard to know when they were cancelled. It is however possible to estimate the date of numeral cancelled covers indirectly by observing both their transit-, and arrival cancels. With this weapon in hand it turns out that the Álftanes letter with NIC-179 was also received by the post office in March because that letter was transit cancelled 25 of March in Borgarnes and arrival cancelled in Reykjavík 30 of March the same year. That means that the Álftanes envelope (bearing NIC-179) was the second envelope to returns to its owner Peter Petersen in Reykjavík. The same applies to the Múli cover bearing NIC-274 because that letter is transit cancelled Ísafjörður 31 March 1938 and arrival cancelled in Reykjavík 4 April the same year.

# The odd one

The cancel story of the cover from the Kálfafell postal station seems to break down when looked at in greater detail. That cover was cancelled 15 April 1938 at the front, but then we find a surprising transit cancel from 3 April on the back reading Hornafjörður. That is a full twelve days before the letter was stamped in Kálfafell. Is there a possible explanation for the discrepancy? My theory is that the outer envelope was opened immediately upon arrival in Hornafjörður and the inner envelope was immediately taken out and transit cancelled with Hornafjörður on the back and then sent from there along to Kálfafell. It reaches Kálfafell 15 April where it is cancelled and sent back to Reykjavík where it find its original owner three days later 18 April 1938.

	FAIT		
Herra P	Ч( • Pete	rsen (	
R Kalfafell Nr. 317	20+3	Gamla Reykj	Box 173



Figure 5. Date of cancels is confusing for the Kálfafell inland cover.

# The double one

When one takes a look at the cover collection as a whole, two different envelopes from the same post office are surprisingly revealed. This doubling only applies to the post office at Laugarvatn. The first cover, bearing the registration label "Laugarvatn", was cancelled 28 March 1938. The second envelope was cancelled 9 July 1938, or three months and 12 days after the first one. It should be noted here, however, that the previous letter also contains at least one cancel with the date 9 July. Therefore it is considered likely that both letters did not arrive in Reykjavík until mid-July 1938, although we do at present time not have copies of the back of either of these covers. One theory as to why there are two letters from one and the same postal station, is that Peter Petersen wanted one letter to be cancelled with the bridge cancel and the other with the rare numeral cancel 189, which is considered to have been located at Laugarvatn at that time. There is for example a known cancel with 189 on Christian X stamp issued in 1937.

I also have in the database two covers from Stóruvellir, one dating from 19.4.1938 and the other with the date 16.10.1938. The source from the latter cover comes from Eivind Kolstad's article in Rapport from 2001, while the first one I have a picture of. My feeling is that perhaps it could have been a misread of some kind on the latter cover and in reality it is some other cancel, but I hope fellow collectors will correct me on this point soon.



Figure 6. Laugarvatn is the only postal station that is represented with two different covers.

# The last cover

Most of the envelopes were returned to their owner in Reykjavik in the months of April and May 1938 as is seen in figure 4. One envelope differs in terms of arrival time from the rest and that is from the post office at Höskuldsstaðir. The cover bears the numeral cancel 34 on the front and is transit cancelled in Fáskrúðsfjörður 22 November 1938 and finally arrival cancelled in Reykjavík 30 November the same year. It is no less than half a year after other covers had been returned to their owner Mr. Peter Petersen. I have nothing in my documents that can explain this great delay that is seen here, other than that the letter was somehow lost or forgotten and found and then sent back again about six months later. The other possibility is that Peter forgot to send a collector's envelope to Höskuldsstaðir in March and did not discover the mistake until October or November 1938.



Figure 7. The Höskuldsstaðir inner cover was the last cover to reach Reykjavík in late November 1938.

# How much did the adventure cost?

But how much did this collector's cover adventure of Peter Petersen cost him? I have 133 letters and 26 stamps which are a likely remnants of Petersen covers, which totals 159 potential collectors' covers. Each letters postage was at least 50 aurar. And when we total up the postage for each 133 covers we get 81.8 ISK. And if we then assume than all the remnant cancels were also real covers, we can add 26 x 50 aur = 13 ISK, which gives us a total of 94.8 ISK. But it must not be forgotten that the smaller collectors' envelopes were sent in larger envelopes to all the post offices and they also carried at minimum 50 aurar postage. If we assume they all had the postage 50 aur we get 159 x 50 aur = 79.5 ISK. So all in all Peter Petersen would have at least paid out 94.8 ISK + 79.5 ISK = 174.3 ISK. This amount alone does not tell us much, as the buying power of such an amount is very limited in the second half of 2020. But fortunately, there are ways to convert older ISK figures into modern money using price calculator located at the homepage of Statistics Iceland. It turns out that ISK 174.3 from 1939 (the calculator does not go any further back) equals ISK 4.5 million today or 28.000 EUR adjusted to inflation. For that amount, it would be possible to buy a new family car, so it is clear that Peter Petersen did decide to sacrifice a considerable amount for his collector's cover adventure.

# Peter Petersen remnants

When researching for this article I came across surprisingly many numeral cancels that one might call a remnant of a Petersen cover. All in all, I have put forth 26 cancels that I consider to once have been a part of a Petersen cover and that includes the following numeral cancels: 16, 90, 110, 172, 201, 202, 211, 223, 224, 226, 228, 234, 237, 241, 243, 244, 251, 254, 264, 265, 268, 277, 278, 280 and 288, see figure 8 below. I am basing my analysis manly on the quality of the cancels and on what stamps the cancels are lying on. The following Facit numbers are the main culprits: 146, 148, 149, 150, 204, 205, 206, 207, 210, 212, 213, 214, 215, 218, 219 and 220.

I am sure that other collectors will be able to fill in the gaps, especially those that collect bridge cancels. My suspicion is that I have omitted a lot of covers and cancels in this article and I count on fellow collectors to send in additional information to Brian Flack in the near future.





Figure 8. Possible remnants of Petersen covers.

Table 1. List of known	Peter Petersen cinema	a covers as of November 2020.
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Number	Cancel	Registered label	Other cancels and remarks	Postage
1	11	Þjórsárbrú	Reykjavík 16.4.1938	56
2	46			80
3	56	Svalbarð		50
4	58	Heiði	Reykjavík 18.4.1938	50
5	61	Flatey 61	Akureyri 28.4.1938 og Reykjavík 3.5.1938.	50
6	65	Skógar	Akureyri 4.4.1938 og Reykjavík 8.4.1938	51
7	91	Holtastaðir	Blönduós 11.4.1938 og Reykjavík 16.4.1938	80
8	99	Lækjamót	Reykjavík 9.4.1938	65
9	102	Hólmavík		55

10	116	Sandeyri	Ísafjörður 20.4.1938 og Reykjavík 2.5.1938	48
11	125			53
12	126	Flatey	Reykjavík 10.5.1938	53
13	142	Skálar		50
14	146	Brimilsvellir	Reykjavík 13.4.1938	55
15	147	Staðastaður(ur)		44
16	150			40
17	153	Brúarfoss		80
18	177	Egilsstaðir	Egilsst 22.4.1938, Seyðisf 23.4.1938, RVK 9.5.1938	51
19	179		Borgarnes 25.3.1938 og Reykjavík X.3.1938	55
20	193	Bær	Reykjavík 20.5.1938	53
21	208	Norðurfjörður	Hólmavík 15.4.1938 Reykjavík 23.4.1938	55
22	221	Reykjavík	No stamps on cover.	
23	273	Gjögur	Reykjavík 5.4.1938. No stamps on cover.	
24	274	Múli	Ísafjörður 31.3.1938 Reykjavík 4.4.1938	57
25	275	Stóra Giljá	Reykjavík 9.4.1938	80
26	104 + Stóra- Fjarðarhorn 3.4.1938	Stóra-Fjarðarhorn	Reykjavík 9.4.1938	69
27	127 + Brekka Barð 1.5.1938	Brekka 127	Patreksfjörður 5.5.1938	
28	144 + Gröf Hnapp 11.4.1938	Gröf	Borgarfjörður 12.4.1938 Reykjavík 13.4.1938	
29	17 + Strönd 21.4.1938	Strönd	Reykjavík 25.4.1938	54
30	81 + Miklibær 25.4.1938	Miklibær	Reykjavík 14.5.1938	53
31	Árnes 25.1.1938			50
32	Bakki 6.5.1938	Bakki		51

33	Bolungarvík 3.4.1938	Bolungarvík		55
34	Borðeyri 31.3.1938	Suðureyri		80
35	Borgarfjörður 13.4.1938	Borgarfjörður		50
36	Borgarnes 31.3.1938	Borgarnes		50
37	Bólstaðarhlíð 10.4.1938 + NIC=89	Bólstaðarhlíð	Blönduós 11.4.1938 Reykjavík 16.4.1938	80
38	Bót 30.3.1938	Bót		61
39	Breiðabólsstaður Skapt 5.4.1938	Bbs		51
40	Brún 3.4.1938	Brún		51
41	Búðardalur 1.4.1938	Búðardalur		55
42	Búðir 7.4 .1938		Borgarnes 12.4.1938, RVK 13.IV.1938	56
43	Dalsmynni 5.4.1938	Dalsmynni		80
44	Djúpivogur 10.4.1938	Djúpivogur		52
45	Egilsstaðir 3.4.1938	Egilsstaðir		51
46	Einarsstaðir 2.5.1938	Einarsstaðir	Akureyri 4.5.1938 Reykjavík 8.5.1938	51
47	Eiríksstaðir 1.4.1938	Egilsstaðir		51
48	Eskifjörður 29.3.1938	Eskifjörður		51
49	Eyjólfsstaðir 1.4.1938	Blönduós	RVK 9.IV.38	54
50	Eyrarbakki 25.3.1938	Eyrarbakki		55
51	Flaga 12.5.1938	Flaga		53
52	Flatey 2.4.1938	Flatey	Reykjavík 4.4.1938	80
53	Fossvellir 31.3.1938	Fossvellir	Egilsst 3.5.1938 og Reyðarf 15.3.1938 og RVK 18.5.1938	57
54	Garður Þing Ein 2.4.1938	Garður 216	Akureyri 22.4.1938 + Reykjavík 26.4.1938	63
55	Gerðar 24.3.1938	Gerðar	RVK 24. Ill. 38	51
56	Grenivík 20.4.1938	Grenivík		51
57	Grímsey 5.4.1938	Grímsey		58
58	Grímsstaðir 10.3.1938	Grímsstaðir		82

59	Haganesvík 15.4.1938	Haganesvík		55
60	Hjalteyri 16.4.1938 + NIC-66	Hjalteyri		55
61	Hnúkur 28.4.1938	Hnúkur	Bíldudalur 30.4.1938, Ank. RVK 6. V. 38	80
62	Holt Rang 9.4.1938			140
63	Hornafjörður 3.4.1938	Höfn Hornarfirði		51
64	Hólar Skapt. 12.5.1938	Hólar		50
65	Hraukur 2.5.1938	Hraukur	Transit: -9.V.38, Ank. RVK 25.V.38	50
66	Hraun 25.3.1938	Reykjavík		52
67	Hruni 19.4.1938	Hruni	Ölfusárbrú 21.4.1938 Reykjavík 22.4.1938	
68	Húsavík 29.3.1938	Húsavík		50
69	Hvammstangi 6.5.1938	Hvammstangi		55
70	Hvammur 30.4.1938	Hvammur		50
71	Hvanná 2.4.1938	Hvanná	Egilsstaðir 3.5.1938 Reyðarf. 15.3.1938 RVK 18.5.1938	51
72	Höskuldsstaðir 34		Fáskrúðsfjörður 22.11.1938 Reykjavík 30.11.1938	50
73	Höskuldsstaðir Hún. 17.3.1938	Höskuldsstaðir 78		80
74	Illugastaðir 7.5.1938	Illugastaðir		51
75	Kálfafell 15.4.1938	Kálfafell	Hornafjörður 3.4.1938 Reykjavík 18.4.1938	50
76	Keflavík 28.3.1938	Keflavík	Reykjavík 29.3.1938	405
77	Kinnarstaðir 23.4.1938	Kinnarstaðir		50
78	Kirkjubær 31.3.1938	Bót	Egilsstaðir 3. 4.1938,?15.IV. 38, Ank. RVK 18. IV. 38	50
79	Kópasker 9.4.1938	Kópasker	Skip Nr. 1 14.4.1938 Reykjavík 18.4.1938	55

80	Kúludalsá			50
81	Laugarvatn 28.3.1938	Laugarv		50
82	Laugarvatn 9.7.1938			62
83	Loðmundarfjörður 1.4.1938	Loðmundarfjörður		55
84	Lónkot	Handwritten Lónkot no. 2	Hofs6s 7.IV.38, Siglufjörður 8. IV 38, RVK. 12.IV 38	50
85	Lundur	Borgarnes	RVK. 16. IV. 38	57
86	Mjóifjörður 13.4.1938	Mjóifjörður		50
87	171 + Vogatunga 30.3.1938	Vogatunga	Reykjavík 5.4.1938	51
88	49 + Guðlaugsvík 17.4.1938	Guðlaugsvík	Reykjavík 23.4.1938	53
89	Ólafsfjörður 1.4.1938	Ólafsfjörður	Akureyri 6.4.1938 Reykjavík 12.4.1938	57
90	Ósar 1.4.1938 + NIC- 39 (type N1c)	Ósar	Hvammstangi 10.4.1938 Reykavík 16.4.1938	50
91	Patreksfjörður 1.4.1938	Patreksfjörður		56
92	Pjetursey 23.4.1938	Pjetursey	RVK. 20. VI(!) 38	51
93	Rafnseyri 9.4.1938	Rafnseyri	Ísafjörður 11.4.1938 Reykjavík 18.4.1938	80
94	Raufarhöfn 14.5.1938	Raufarhöfn		51
95	Reyðarfjörður 29.3.1938	Reyðarfjörður		51
96	Reykjarfjörður 3.4.1938 + NIC-101	Reykjarfjörður	Hólmavík 15.4.1938 Reykjavík 23.4.1938	55
97	Reynisstaður 3.4.1938	Reynisstaður		54
98	Salthómavík 14.4.1938	Salthómavík		57
99	Sandgerði 6.4.1938	Sandgerði	RVK. 7. IV. 38	56
100	Sandur 4.4.1938	Ólafsvík		50
101	Saurbær Barð 16.5.1938	Saurbær 139		50

102	Seyðisfjörður 27. Ill 38	Seyðisfjörður		55
103	Skagaströnd 2.4.1938	Skagaströnd		120
104	Skarð 28.4.1938	Skarð	Reykjavík 6.5.1938	80
105	Skarðshlíð 9.4.1938	Skarðshlíð		50
106	Skeggjastaðir 27.3.1938	Skeggjast		53
107	Skildinganes 20.7.1938	Skildinganes		82
108	Skjöldólfsstaðir 19.4.1938	Skjöldólfsstaðir		51
109	Skógar 8.6.38	Skógar	Akureyri 26.6.38, Ank. RVK 28. IV. 38	51
110	Sleðbrjótur 29.3.1938 + NIC-37	Sleðbrjótur	Egilsstaðir 22.4.1938, Seyðisfj. 23.4.1938, RVK 9.5.1938	51
111	Staður + NIC-41	Staður	Staður-Barð 19.4.1938	140
112	Staður Barð 19.4.1938	Staður 41		140
113	Staður Ís 31.3.1938	Ísafjörður		68
114	Stafafell 16.4.1938	Stafafell		51
115	Starmýri 10.4.1938	Starmýri	Djúpivogur 10.IV.38, Ank. RVK 18. IV. 38	51
116	Stóruvellir 16.10.1938	Sandvík	Akureyri 19.10.1938, RVK 22.X 38	52
117	Stóruvellir 19.4.1938	Sandvík	Akureyri 30.4.1938 Reykjavík 4.5.1938	50
118	Stykkishólmur 11.4.1938	Stykkishólmur		120
119	Sveinseyri 9.4.1938 + NIC-131	Sveinseyri	NIC-131 on back.	53
120	Svignaskarð 8. 4.1938	Svignaskarð	Borgarnes 8. IV.1938, Ank. RVK 9. IV 38	80
121	Svínafell 15.4.1938	Svínafell	RVK 25. IV 38	48
122	Syðrafjall 20.4.1938	Syðra Fjall	Akureyri 22.4.1938,   Ank RVK 26 4. 38	44
123	Torfastaðir 28.3.1938	Torfastaðir		53

124	Tunga 14.8.1938			50
125	Vestmannaeyjar	Vestmannaeyjar		120
126	Viðey 2. 4. 38			140
127	Víkingavatn 9.4.1938 + NIC-54	Víkingavatn	Reykjavík 13.4.1938	50
128	Þingeyri 2.4.1938	Þingeyri		120
129	Þjórsárbrú 12. 4. 38	Þjórsárbrú	RVK. 16. IV 38	57
130	Þórshöfn 28.3.1938	ÞΗ		53
131	Ægissíða 25.3.1938	Ægissíða	RVK 29. III. 38	52
132	Ölfusárbrú 28.3.1938	Ölfusárbrú	Ank RVK. 29.Ill. 38	52
133	Önundarfjörður 2.4.1938	Önundarfjörður	Ísafjörður 6.4.1938 og Reykjavík 8.4.1938	50
134	16	Possible remnant		5
135	90	Possible remnant		1
136	110	Possible remnant		5
137	172	Possible remnant		10
138	201	Possible remnant		7
139	202	Possible remnant		1
140	211	Possible remnant		10
141	223	Possible remnant		7
142	224	Possible remnant		47
143	226	Possible remnant		13
144	228	Possible remnant		30
145	234	Possible remnant		1
146	237	Possible remnant		6
147	241	Possible remnant		1 + 40 aur
148	243	Possible remnant		1 eyrir
149	244	Possible remnant		1 eyrir
150	251	Possible remnant	Þingeyri 31.3.1938	30 aur+ 4 aur +3 aur= 37aur
151	254	Possible remnant		1 eyrir
152	264	Possible remnant		4 aur+1 eyrir

153	265	Possible remnant	30 aur+ 1 eyr
154	268	Possible remnant	5 aur
155	277	Possible remnant	7 aur + 3 aur + 6 aur
156	278	Possible remnant	5 aur
157	280	Possible remnant	1 eyrir + 30 aur + 10 aur + 10 aur
158	288	Possible remnant	4
159	Sauðafell 12.4.1938	Possible remnant	80



(Editor) – I was convinced I had two of these Petersen covers, but only managed to find the one shown below. Maybe readers can come up with more examples for Brynjólfur.

B1a Hruni dated 19.4.38 in the Hvammur period. Ölfúsárbrú transit on reverse.



## Unusual Paquebot cancel Jørgen Steen Larsen (Issue 39)



From Jørgen came the answer:- Today I have looked into an old pile of literature about Icelandic cancels etc. To my surprise I found a handbook: "The Paquebot Marks of Norway Denmark Finland Iceland and Sweden by Edwin Drechsel."

The handbook was published by Robson Lowe Ltd. in 1977. Price £2,50.

On page 24 there is a small section with SWEDISH SHIP PAQUEBOTS Here the Paquebot cancel shown in IPM is listed.

Text: Used \* 1929 – 1948 \*. The stars mean that the usage probably started earlier and

ended later.

The cancel is similar to another Paquebot cancel used in Stockholm 1934 - 1961. Used onboard Drottningholm 1933, Gripsholm 1934 and Kungsholm 1936 – 1939 + 1948.

# Unusual destinations ~ T

#### TAIWAN



Reykjavík type B1c dated 29.X.58. 435aur all in rate to 10gm rate from 1.7.58 - 31.3.59

#### **TONGAN ISLANDS**

PAT. Decided TO Flequer P The Nile + hide EGYPT The Bull Rushes 18 on my 70th Survives mAZING COUNTRY Worth A Visit So old MAL hes Antonia Feel Cu ARE You No. 461 KARNAK MO بالحدة المقدسة The Sacred Lake Le lac sacré Der heilige SegNeed ONTAN

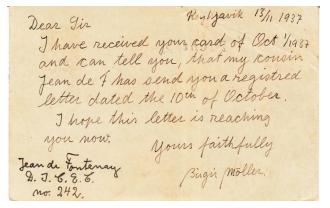
The 650aur rate was valid from 1.9.83 to 30.6.85

It is a shame that the date in the Reykjavík cancel is illegible. Nevertheless I thought it worth including not only because it is most certainly an exotic destination, but it also has an unusual additional feature. The postcard is Egyptian and shows Karnak The Sacred Lake. The sender has evidently been to Egypt and describes in a few words his trip along the Nile. He has presumably carried the card to Iceland and posted it to Vavau in the Tongan Islands, a bizarre combination surely.

#### TANGANYIKA

Printed matter card with almost indecipherable Reykjavík machine cancel with the university slogan. Sent to Tanga, Tanganyika, British East Africa. The card was written 13.11.1937

Prentspjald Rofesson, Dr. Indvig Bright P.B.B. 237 East Africa Tanganyka Terr.



#### TRINIDAD



Keflavík Flugvöllur B6d dated 19.XII.1975. 50kr airmail rate 1.10.75 to 30.4.76

#### TUNISIA

	Hollandshjálp 1953	Hollandshjálp 1953	
BY AIR MAIL PER LUGPOS		ISLAND L	ISLAND 250
	and an an and a second	de PROV	EE PENCE
	Tunis		
		4-AFR	lica.

Reykjavík B1d date indecipherable. The charity stamps were issued in 1953: The nearest 500kr airmail rate to Tunisia is 1.3.60 to 31.8.61

#### TURKEY

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Reykjavík B1a 12.7.1901 10aur overseas postcard rate.

Airmail rates to Turkey were split with different rates applied according to whether the destination was Turkey in Europe or Turkey in Asia. This continued in the official listings until June 1973, when the airmail rates tables changed to a simpler division between Europe and the Rest of the World. Presumably, the evidence of post-June 1973 Iceland covers to Turkey should indicate whether the Europe rates applied to all Turkish destinations, or the Rest of the World rates. Frustratingly, both of the following covers are incorrectly franked, as were two others shown previously in IPM Issue 6.

SLAND L25 ÍSLAND -Mr. Ara Yarcan Sair Nigâr J. Istanbul 69/1 Sigl1 Air Mail

Egilsstaðir B2c dated 31.V.55. to Istanbul (Turkey in Europe). Arrival mark of Sisli, a district of Istanbul. 335aur franking. The minimum airmail rate to Turkey (Europe) from 1.10.53 to 30.6.58 was 350aur. 15aur underpaid.

Cold H S	RATE ALLER MR.
183.50 m	I. Erman Neplun 3. Box 64
	Par Bursa Turkey

Reykjavík B2c dated 9.III.54. Arrival cancel of Bursa, a town on the Asian side of the Bosphorus. The 410aur franking lies between the 365aur to 10gm and the 460aur to 15gm rates.

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# Iceland Fish Issue Perforations (Scott #s 217-227 and Varieties) Jay Smith

Source: Reproduced by kind permission of the author, Jay Smith of Jay Smith & Associates, from his "Behind the Scenes" commentary in his February 13, 2020 *Philatelic E-News* email newsletter. Jay's e-mail publication is free to all interested collectors who supply their name, email address, and full postal address. Contact *js@JaySmith.com*.

From time to time, I will provide tips and tricks for identification of difficult stamp issues. Recently a client discovered, in a collection he purchased, some blocks of Icelandic "Fish" issue stamps (*Scott* #s 217-227). He asked for clarification of *Facit*'s listing of these stamps.

*Facit* lists different perforation types both by perforation measurement and by the appearance of the stamp corners (i.e., the area around the center perforation hole of a block of stamps. There are up to FOUR varieties per stamp. Fortunately, modern *Facit Catalogs* have good pictures of the differences in the perforation holes at the centers of blocks. The *Scott Catalogue* only lists two perforations by measurement.

Unfortunately, the perforation measurement differences are very small, and most people have difficulty measuring them. For some stamps, *Scott* has only a single listing where *Facit* has two. This all makes it extremely difficult to figure out what you have and to correlate that with spaces in albums, etc.

These stamps were issued, including with multiple printings, from 1939 through 1950. The printing and perforating were done by Thomas De la Rue & Company of London, England, including during the difficult war years. As the printer coped with production and resource problems, four different perforating methods/tools were used. Three of the perforations are comb type and one is line perforated.

The type of comb perforator used, for at least two of the comb types, perforated three sides of a single row (or column, if the paper was turned 90 degrees) per stroke of the perforator tool. Thus, a small spacing difference can result between the perforation holes at the join of each row/column (i.e., at the center of a block).

The following perforation numbering and information relies on *Facit*'s listings and illustrations. If you have a modern *Facit Catalog* with illustrations of these perforations, take a look at it and compare to the following information.

The actual measurement of the perforations is really not that important. In my opinion, the difference can better be visually determined by looking at the corner teeth of the stamps. However, if you are going to measure the stamps, you have to use a variable-measure perforation gauge such as the Gibbon's Instanta (which I sell for \$14 plus shipping & handling) or the Linn's Multi-Gauge, and you have to work in quarter-perfs (or even less; the catalogs state the measurements in exact quarter perfs, but that is not completely correct).

**Perf C1 (14 x 13.5 Comb):** Perfect intersection/corner perfs. All four corner perforation teeth of each stamp look the same and have same spacing around them.

C2 (14 x 14 Comb): Thin (nearly nonexistent) perforation tooth at top corners of each stamp. (The top vertical perf hole is right next to horizontal perf hole row.)

C3 (14 x 13.75 Comb): Wide perforation tooth at top corners of each stamp. This is the opposite of C2. The *Facit* image does show a wider tooth at the top corner, but many people don't realize it is wider than that shown for C1.

C4 (14 x 14 Line): Almost every corner perforation tooth is random and different appearing. The rows and columns are perforated in different operations – thus the corners are irregular. Some random stamps can appear to have more regular corners, but the vast majority of examples will have obviously irregular corners comparing the four corners of any single stamp.

I noted that the actual perforation measurement is not as relevant as the appearance of the corners. However, since C2 and C4 both are said to measure 14 x 14 (sometimes they are not completely exact), they can be confused with each other if only by measurement. Comparing ONE intersection in the center of a block, C2 and C4 might look similar (just by chance). However, in a larger block or multiple blocks, EVERY C2 intersection will be identical to every other C2 intersection, while MOST C4 intersections will be different. Also, if you are looking at corners of singles or non-middle-intersection corners, four corners of C4 stamps will look mostly different, while C2 corners will be virtually identical (for what it is). While it

is in blocks that the difference is easiest to see, most people are not lucky enough to own blocks of these stamps. However, with practice and logic, you can sort out singles.

Only one stamp (the 5 aur brown) exists with all four perforation types. The 7 aur dark green exists only with C1, and the 12 aur green exists only with C2. Thus, using any examples of those two 7 and 12 aur stamps, you can know what C1 and C2 look like. The other values of the set exist with two or three types. The C4 is usually fairly obvious if you know what to look for, thus it is only the C3 you may end up having to determine by comparison and logic. Note that there are considerable *Facit* value differences between the perforation types of these stamps. For example, the 5 aur brown can range from a NH value of around \$1.50 to \$75! The *Scott Catalogue* does not tell you that!

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# Review of the series "Was this cancel used here?" (IPM Issues 10 to 26)

The cancels reviewed here are B8e Saurbær Barð, and B3e Skarðshlíð which featured in Issue 22 in October 2017.

B2a Saurbær Barð Vestur Barðastrandarsýsla



Recorded use 1.7.1930 – 1952 ? Kirkjuhvammur 1953? - uncertain

Since IPM 22 of October 2017, there has been no response from readers to show B2a Saurbær Barð, used at Kirkjuhvammur. The cancel arrived at Kirkjuhvammur in 1952/53 with the wheels jammed and numeral 132 had to be used. After a few years the bridge cancel was presumably fixed. I have a Norgaard cover, and another shown below, both philatelic from 1967 and 1969. Facit do not show specific locations for bridge cancels, and the valuation of 100SEK surely relates to the c.20 years at Saurbær. It would be nice if someone can provide an example of non-philatelic usage at Kirkjuhvammur.



B2a Saurbær Barð philatelic? use at Kirkjuhvammur. 10.10.69. 9kr50 airmail rate to Denmark from 1.1.69 to 31.10.70.



#### B3e Skarðshlíð Rangárvallasýsla

Recorded use 1955 – 30.3.1980 Skógar 1.4.1980 – 17.8.1980

**B3e Skarðshlíð** Since issue 22, no evidence has been provided to show an example of B3e Skarðshlíð used at Skógar in the brief 4 month period from 1.4.1980 – 17.8.1980.

Facit rates it quite common at 300SEK in the first period. A strike from the Skógar period must be very rare. Keep looking, you might have one. The editor would be pleased to show it.

# Kleppsholt or Svalbarð?

The Þ. Þorstein article about the collecting offices overtaken by the expansion of the Reykjavik conurbation presents several challenges to postmark collectors. One relates to the space we originally reserved for a Svalbarð collecting office, which used numeral 272 from 1.1.34 to 31.12.35. The late Don Brandt in his excellent book *Walking into Iceland's Postal History*, described Svalbarð collecting office as a shop in Framsnesvegur in the west of the town, in what later became postal district R-1. Þór's later research revealed that Don Brandt's description was slightly wrong, and that the collecting office was in fact called Kleppsholt and not Svalbarð, although it was located in a shop named Svalbarð at Langholtsvegi 23, in the east of the town. This later became familiar as postal district R-4.

I do not have the pleasure of owning a 272 numeral used at Kleppsholt between 1934 and 1935. It is valued at 20,000SEK, and possibly there are two known copies somewhere? It is not clear from Þór's article if the collecting office, which opened in 1934 under Þórdur Þórdarson, remained at the shop from 1.1.35 until closure on 31.12.35, when it was run by Tryggvi Guðmundsson, who was also the resident manager of Kleppur Mental Hospital. The hospital was (and still is) on the coast a little further east from Langholtsvegi 23.

Ordinary mortals like you and I  $\bigcirc$  can take up the story from 10.11.1945, when a new Kleppsholt collecting office served the area from Langholtsvegi 17, and used a type N2 numeral 297.



On 1.1.1948 it was renamed Langholt, and in 1952 received a bridge cancel type B2c2 with that name.



B2c2 Langholt dated 1.III.60. 120aur inland printed matter rate from 1.3.60 to 31.8.61

The office at Langholtsvegi 17 relocated again, and on 1.1.50 it moved to the Sigvald Þorsteinsson bookshop at Eftasundi 28, and on 1.1.51 to Langholtsvegi 43, where from 1.1.52 the Landsbanki Íslands branch office was located. Finally the Central Post Office opened a branch office for the eastern suburbs at Langholtsvegi 62.

# **Blesugróf Mystery ?**



The Blesugróf collecting office originated in the expanding Reykjavík area of the post WW2 years. In a *Rapport* issue of 1995, Eivind Kolstad wrote about his auction purchase of a group of 1960s covers, all with the B2c2 BLESUGRÓF, addressed to Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, with incorrect franking, with various handwriting and even with a few non-Icelandic stamps. Eivind said "*The letters were undoubtedly philatelic but* 

still interesting. What is certain is that the letters had not been mailed and were probably stamped with the cooperation of the Blesugróf postal official." Eivind tells me there was no response to his appeal for help in tracing the background to those covers, two of which are reproduced here. Does anyone know?



Joinkaland Ha Heinz Rohmon 12. Bahrentrasse Kolin Deuts chila in



The B2c2 cancel was allocated in 1951 until closure in 1968. The Facit price of 200 SEK is curious as it implies the cancel is common. In my experience it is not so common. Apart from a 1968 cover to a well-known philatelist, I only have this 1959 Christmas greetings card shown here. Can readers show more postally used examples?

B2c2 sent to Kópavogur. 1kr local postcard rate from 1.7.58 to 28.2.60



KÓPAVOGUR

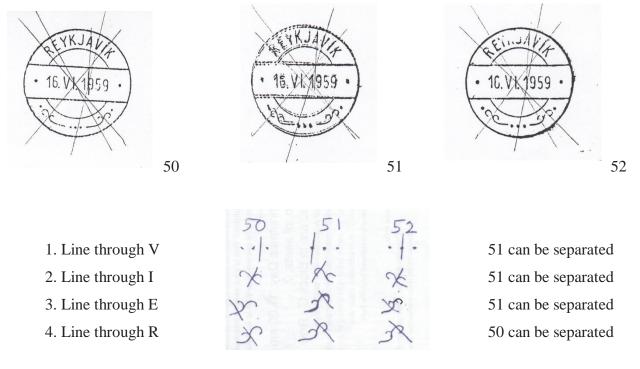
## Reykjavík B7e bridge cancels

Plenty has been written about the bridge cancels, ranging from B1 to B8 etc. What is surprising, at least to me, is that almost nothing seems to have been written about the B7e cancel, which is unique to Reykjavík. It is listed in the 2003 Þór Þorsteins' *Íslenskir Stimplar*, which allocates references R-38 to R-42 to the first five B7e types, along with a range of usage dates between 1958 and 1983, followed by R-43 to R-46, all of which are mysteriously described as "unknown". The only other listing known to me, appeared in an earlier 1991 booklet issued by *Klúbbur Skandinavíusafnara*. The following illustrations are taken from that book. For consistency, from now onwards I choose to use the *Klúbbur Skandinavíusafnara* reference numbers 50 – 58 instead of the R38-R46 used in *Íslenskir Stimplar*.



ÞÞ records these four as "unknown"

Jørgen Steen Larsen offers a system for identifying between types 50, 51 and 52. The following diagrams, a magnifying glass and lots of patience are necessary. It helps if your strike is a clear example. I am not aware of any guidance for identifying type 54.



compare with position of 1 in year

In the distant past, from a source now lost in time, I made a note that R50 was used for Letter Delivery, R-51 for registration purposes, and R-52 for parcels section. I would hesitate to say that these claims are valid.

By far the most common cancel is the easily identifiable R53 with no dots and a smaller 27mm diameter. The less common R50, R51 and R52 with dots are probably all 28mm. Here is a word of warning from Jørgen in respect of the use of his system. "*Even with guidance it is difficult to separate the 3 cancels. In my experience one has to draw all the lines and then find out which of the three* (i.e. 50, 51 or 52), *that has the best fit with each of the lines.* The different periods of use for the various B7e types are shown in PP's manual, and this does help a little to narrow down the choice of identification, e.g. B7e 52 was not used after 1962; 54 was not used until 1971. I think, but am not certain that the two examples below are type 51.



1962 philatelic aerogramme B7e (51?) 16.1.1962

Jolin 1965 Gledileg jil, In. golt og gafusikk Kini Sika gamalh og galt

B7e (51?) local postcard 4.1.1966

3716 Posthis Narma dis Póstávísun endurskoðun innlendra póstpegar eftir samanburð útborg. - aur. unarpósthússins við símskeytið. Greiðið filkynning um útgáfu fin hundruf Kr. símapóstávisunar. Guoman son Freisar Unars til gummanst 29.11.1960 ávísana Sendist Frímerkist á bakhlið, en þó ekki á miðju blaði. 65920000×3

B7e (52) dated 29.II.1960 on notification of the issue of a postal money order for 300kr issued to Varmahlíð.



Thanks to Jørgen we can see this Póstavisanir form. The fee was 200kr up to 100kr plus 100kr for each additional 100kr - total 400kr. Rates applied 1.7.58 to 29.2.60. The stamps were always applied to the reverse side. I have never seen one of these forms before. Jørgen (and the editor) would be pleased to see other examples held by readers.

Finally, although Reykjavík bridge cancels may not be a particularly popular collecting area at the present time, they have a place in Iceland's postal history. Can anyone provide the answer to why types B7e 55 to 58 were apparently never used? If anyone can add anything to the study of type B7e?

# Facit 510 Varieties Henk Burgman

Herewith are what I hope are new found varieties on Facit 510. Look at stamp nr 4 and stamp Nr. 20.



We all know that in the 1973 jubilee stamp set (100 years Icelandic stamps) we can find some perforation and printing varieties, such as displaced black print in the 10 and 15 Kr, values; stone in front of the wheel with the 40 Kr stamp; dot in 8 on the 80 Kr stamp etc. Some time ago I found on Facit 510 two different varieties that I have not seen before. I have different copies stashed somewhere but forgot where they are. Recently I did get a sheet of this 10 Kr. stamp and both varieties were, to my surprise, in this sheet. Look at stamp nr 4 and stamp Nr. 20. The sheet bears, in the left hand bottom corner, print issue number 1B. I have another sheet with the same numbering but without the varieties! So it seems that the varieties occurred somewhere during the printing of these sheets.

I don't know if there are sheets with other print issue numbers with these varieties. So my questions are : Who has seen these varieties before? If they are found in complete sheets I like to know which print issue numbers they have.

#### XXXXXXXXXXXXX

# Iceland Revenue Stamps, the 1932 Greiðslumerki Overprints (IPM Issue 5 2016)

Fred Arnason



The two varieties referred to in this article are about the bar left edge and bar right edge aligning with the outer edge of the letter O. I have two stamps in my collection which may be of interest to readers. I hope the clarity is acceptable.

The stamp on the left appears to be

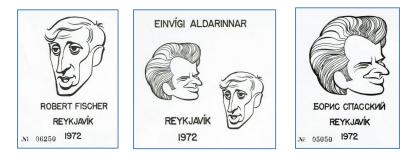
the 'bar left' variety while the stamp on the right could possibly be a <u>third variety</u>? The right edge of the bar does not align with the outer edge of the O and appears to have shifted away to the right of the outer edge of the O.

Also, can anyone help to identify the cancels? The one on the right appears to have a triangular shape. Thank you for your great magazine! Fred Arnason

# Chess Questions Mike Schumacher

Wondering if any Icelandic Collector friends could help in identifying who may have created/published the following cachet covers during the 1972 World Chess Championship and in what quantity were printed. Two of them do indicate number printed. Any information would be greatly appreciated and would help immensely with the resource book on the subject. Hoping to complete the project in time for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. Thanks to anyone who can help with information! Cachets with

1. Spassky and/or Fischer facial profiles



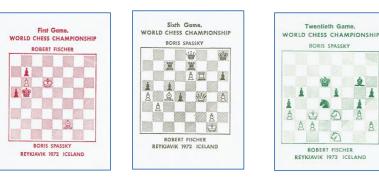
2. Laugardalsholl on Chess Board



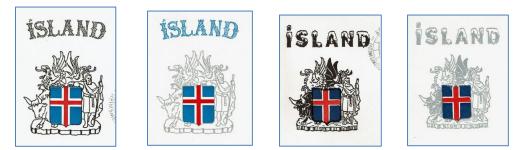
3. Heimsmeistaraeinvigi I skak "Location, Location"



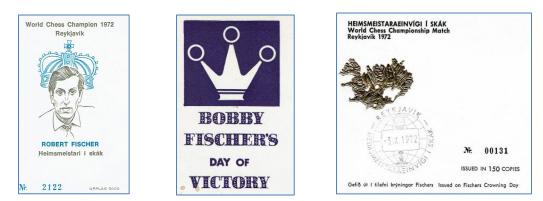
4. "Final Pieces Position" set of 21 cachet covers



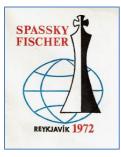
5. ISLAND with Icelandic Coat of Arms (variety of colors & some snow capped)



6. Robert Fischer World Chess Champion 1972 / Day of Victory / Crowning Day



7. Spassky/Fischer Reykjavik 1972





8. Iceland Viking

Thanks to anyone who can help identify who created/published these cachet covers in 1972!

Another question please for our readers: On the large postcards that have the "Final Pieces Position" cachet like the envelopes, it says "copyright G.J.S." This is possibly a good clue to who did the cachet. Does anyone know who G.J.S. is?

Thank you,

Mike Schumacher

#### \*\*\*\*\*

# **GRAMS THINGEYRI ??**

The auctioneer described this as "Upright and centric oval-canc. in purple colour "GRAMS THINGEYRI". I am taking a risk by asking if anyone can say what this is. I expect someone will reply, "it is obviously......". Another question, surely it cannot be from an Icelandic source, as TH is used instead of P?

