

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 May 2021. If you need help with translations let me know.

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

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Special Issues of Iceland Philatelic Magazine

From time to time a major article becomes available which is suitable for a separate special issue of this magazine. Previous special issues were:-

1. April 2018 - The Definitive Guide to Iceland's Two Kings Postal Cards - Part I - The 3-aur and 5-aur Single and Double Cards by Ellis Glatt
2. July 2018 - Listing of Icelandic bridge and machine cancels issued 2007-2018 (Editor)
3. February 2021 - The Ship Letter Granton article by Jakob Arrevald

If you did not receive any of these and would like a copy, please email me.

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Iceland Postal Rates 1873-2009 Whichever edition of Iceland Postal Rates 1873-2009 you might have, it will require an amendment on the page relating to airmail rates from 23rd March 1950. The Aerogramme rate of 150aur commenced from 23 March 1950 and not 1st May as stated.

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Iceland Stamp Production:

As I understand it, at the present time there is no campaign or much media discussion on the possibility of reversing the decision to cease production of Icelandic stamps. The matter is apparently closed. The last ever stamp issue was 29th October 2020. Existing stocks will somehow be used until exhaustion. I am advised that the post office has changed its CEO again, and the present occupant is Þórhildur Ólöf Helgadóttir. I have attempted to contact her through the Iceland Post website, as I did with her predecessor Birgir Jónsson. I suggested the possibility of some sort of link with this magazine to provide news on Iceland Post developments. I fear they are only interested in business success and appear to have no interest in Iceland philatelists, and none in continuing their proud history of publicizing their beautiful country via stamp issues.

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Islandssamlarna Auction

Congratulations to Steinar Fridthorsson for his hard work and that of his colleagues in producing a magnificent Islandssamlarna auction. The range of material was amazing and the prices obtained proved there is no lack of enthusiasm for Iceland philately.

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Icelandic Readers :- Articles for the magazine

I am glad to say that the number of our Icelandic readers has steadily increased and has now reached 43. I would like to encourage them to send articles to the editor for publication. Send them in Icelandic if that is your preference. It will not be a problem.

Announcement

We "The Dutch Philatelic Association Scandinavia" are proudly to announce that we have a new way to become a member of the **DPAS**.

We call it "digital membership".

It is only for people outside the Netherlands. You cannot use the swapping system and you do not get the magazine. **But you are allowed to buy and sell on the auctions!**

It cost only € 15 for one year.

You can find more information here:

<https://www.nfvskandinavie.com/membership.php>

We invite, and gladly welcome, the readers of the **IPM** as a "Digital member".

If someone needs more info you can always visit our website: www.nfvskandinavie.com/ or contact me by e-mail: henk.burgman@gmail.com

On our website you can find an archive with older auctions:

<https://www.nfvskandinavie.com/veiling.php>

When you scroll down halfway that page you will find them.

When you visit our website, take the opportunity to go through it. You will not be disappointed.



Downloadable bid sheet

Here you can download a bid sheet, after filling it out you can scan it and mail it to the auctioneer.

[biedbriefje.pdf](#)



Grootte : 129,514

Kb

Type : pdf

The last auction was at the end of December 2020 (19/12).

The next auction is later this year. Normally we have one in March. This March meeting is cancelled (due to COVID-19) and the labour concerning written auctions is much more as with a normal auction I did plan the next one for the end of April (24/4). The other two written auctions will be 28/8 and 18/12.

If things become better and we will have the possibility to have normal meetings we will fall back on the old schedule (12th of June - 11th of September and the 11th of December). Of course you can send written bids (E-mail or Snail-mail) to the auctioneer.

The 1938 collectors' covers of Peter Petersen (Issue 42) Ron Collin

Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson has written a finely detailed account of the Peter Petersen covers (or Gamla Bíó covers as they are sometimes referred to). The combined census listing in Table 1, using the research of Mr. Eivind Kolstad combined with Brynjólfur's own research, is a staggering amount of information. Their success in gathering this information is to be commended.

In reviewing my collection of Number cancel covers, I came across an example of Number cancel 181 on a Peter Petersen cover from Núpsdalstunga. The cover bears stamps totaling 53 aur in postage, and a Núpsdalstunga registered etiquette label. There is a CDS cancel from Núpsdalstunga dated 28. 4. 38. On the reverse of the cover is a transit cancel from Hvammstangi on 30. IV. 38, along with a receiving cancel in Reykjavík on -6. V. 38.



This is another example of Mr. Petersen having advance knowledge of the cancelers, since the number 181 is written in the lower left corner of this cover. I hope this will add to the census listing.



I am wondering though, if Brynjólfur or any other collector has been able to determine the significance of the pencil number notations I have noticed on virtually every Peter Petersen cover. For instance, the 2/734 on the cover pictured here? Almost all of them contain a 2/ before the number. Two exceptions to this observation are the two Laugarvatn covers shown in Brynjólfur's article. The cover on the left, has no pencil number notation, and the cover on the right, has a pencil notation that begins with 1- and then the number 614.

If any other collector familiar with these covers, or if any reader of this fine journal can provide any insight as to the significance of the pencil number notations, kindly forward your knowledge to the Editor, so that it can be provided in a future issue of Iceland Philatelic Magazine.



(Ed.) Another cover to add to the listing, this one with Numeral 164. It was sold at auction recently for 1610DKK.

Jørgen adds the following comment: - N1a-164 was reused on Bíó P letters and commercially in a few cases just after the war. Now we know of a complete Bíó P letter with N1a-164. The usages here on Fc.204 and 205 seem to come from another almost identical Bíó P letter. It is my guess that the Bíó P letter with N1a-164 was cancelled in Hveragerði in the spring of 1938. (We have no date.). There were probably no R-labels in Hveragerði at that time, so a label was not added until the letter came to Reykjavík. A similar practice is seen in a number of other cases.

The History of the Danish post office in Vestdalseyri Þór Þorsteins

(translated from the Icelandic; previously published in Frímerkjablaðið and reproduced with their permission)



Fig 1

Fig 2

the Post Board took over the operation of mail vessels that were to sail between Denmark and the Faroe Islands and Iceland from January 1, 1870.

Thus, mail and freight transport should be under one control and more regular than otherwise. Seven annual trips were planned from March to December and should apply in Scotland or the Shetland Islands, the Faroe Islands and the east coast of Iceland, e.g. Berufjörður on the way to Reykjavík. The change was that they now had to pay a carrier for general letters and papers that had previously enjoyed a free exchange rate.

Seyðisfjörður chosen destination

N. Jacobsen was hired as captain and he went to Iceland on 1. June 1869 in preparation for the voyages. A report after the trip stated that he had consulted with Hilmar Finsen, the founding officer, about sailing to the east coast, e.g. Seyðisfjörður with stops, in three summer trips. Hilmar reiterated this in a letter dated 19 June 1869 and said that Berufjörður was badly chosen, because spring and autumn sailing there was difficult and there was little mail and other transport from there. But if the intention was to come to the east coast, a fjord should be chosen that was not as remote, e.g. Seyðisfjörður or Eskifjörð. The ministry suggested that a visit to Seyðisfjörður be approved before 1870, as the plan could then be revised.

The Post Office wrote a letter dated 23 August 1869 to Ole Worms Smith, County Officer of Norður-Múlasýsla. There he was asked to take care of the delivery of mail steamers and mail delivery in Seyðisfjörður, but if he could not, to point out another qualified person for the job. Ole gave thanks for his nomination and was happy to take on the job, with the proviso that he was sometimes absent due to his position. He was offered 30 rd. and 4% of freight charges in annual salary. Ole Smith came to Iceland in 1862 with his family and settled in Vestdalseyri in Seyðisfjörður, in a house which was later called Sýslumannshúsið. The office was in the same building as the steamship and post office.

The steamship Diana handles the sailings

On August 25, 1869, the Post Office issued regulations for the steamship DIANA, which was to handle the voyages. Letters could be carried which had prepaid postage or not. The postage should be 8 skillings for each 3 kvint prepaid, but 12 sk. if unpaid. Letters of guarantee should also be included in the transfer if they were so marked or with NB and should then be 8 sk. additional postage. Postage should be paid with (Danish) stamps with 2sk. to 16sk. nominal value, but they were for sale at post offices in Reykjavík and Seyðisfjörður, although it was not mentioned.

Post office opened in Vestdalseyri

The post office in Vestdalseyri is considered to have opened on March 1, 1870. H.G. Petersen, the postal inspector for the Eyjafjörður area, on 18 August 1869, had compiled a list of items that postal services should receive, together with rules of procedure, and they were sent together with items dated 9 March 1870. The service in Seyðisfjörður received the same equipment for use as at Reykjavík. Among the items sent to Vestdalseyri were: letter box, postmark, day stamp, cancellation stamp, decimal weight and letter weight with weights, stamp utensils (tray for black) and stamp pad.

According to the rules, all stamps with a valid stamp had to be cancelled, as well as the outgoing letter stamped on the front with the date of delivery, but on the back when received from a mail ship. The same

applied to money bonds and parcels. As no letters are known from or to Vestdalseyri, there is some uncertainty about the stamping. The stamp should have a cancellation stamp, i.e. three-ring stamp with the number 237 (Fig. 1). There has been some doubt about the existence of a day stamp, but after a letter describing the details of all the data common to the new post offices in Iceland and the Faroe Islands, there is no doubt that it has been created. Figure (2) shows a copy of the day stamp.

First scheduled trip to Seyðisfjörður

The mail steamer DIANA called at Vestdalseyri 6 times in 1870. First on 15 June on its way from Þórshöfn to Reykjavík, but it was also the first scheduled trip to Seyðisfjörður from abroad. Other arrivals were 26 June, 19 July, 2 August, 29 August and 11 September on its way from Reykjavík, which was the mail ship's last voyage of the year.

Due to a survey of the need for mail transport, a list was compiled of all mail transport to and from Seyðisfjörður and it has been preserved. It shows that a very limited quantity was transported in 1870 while the post office was operating, but 395 letters and parcels were received and 456 units were sent.

The post office in Vestdalseyri was closed on November 7, 1870. In a letter from O.W. Smith from Lemvig in Denmark, he announced that all mail materials and tools will be sent by J. Hall Faktor in Seyðisfjörður to the Post Office in Copenhagen. It all went with the sailing ship *Ciro* from Seyðisfjörður on October 24, 1871 and receipt was confirmed on November 27, 1871.

Cancel 237 reallocated

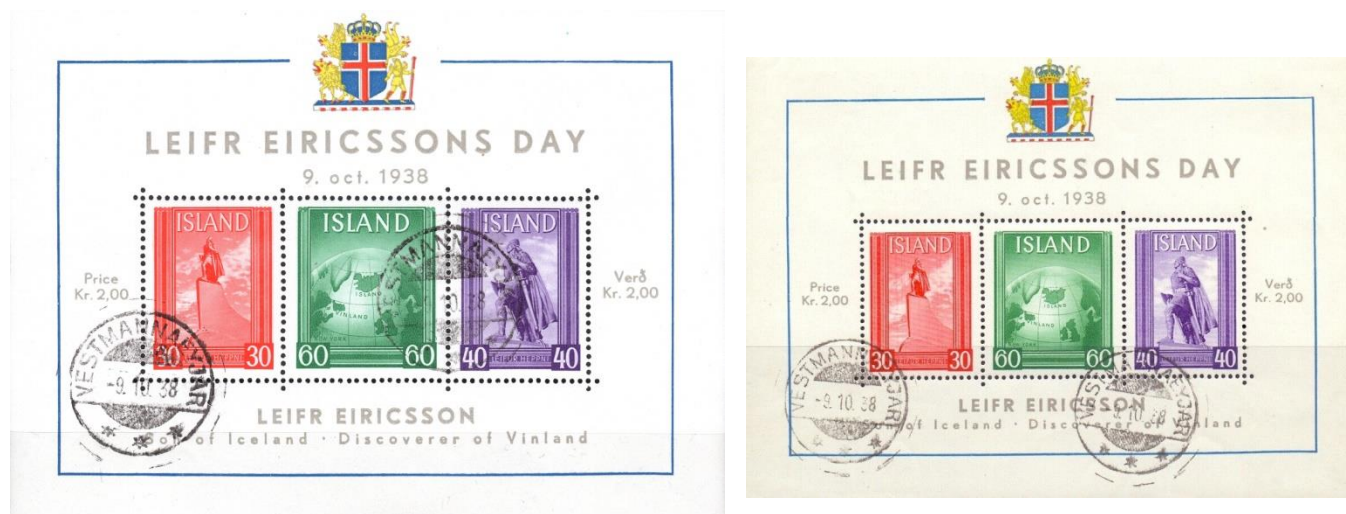
In the 1940s, the three-ringed cancel 237 was redistributed to a post office in Denmark. It is known that a philatelist had access to it and used it for post-stamping of 4 sk. Danish stamps. There are no reliable sources about the stamps use from the time of the post office in Vestdalseyri.

Almost all the data that was available in this country from the time of the service in Vestdalseyri was destroyed in a fire in the office of the county governor of Norður and Austuramt in Möðruvellir in 1873.

What has been published above was printed in the *Journal of Icelandic Political Affairs*, and was in the documents of the *Icelandic Government in Copenhagen* preserved at the National Archives of Iceland as well as in *Mail documents at the National Archives in Copenhagen*.

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Stamp Exhibition “Nordia 84” II block (Issue 42) Johan Toft



Here are two blocks both cancelled on 9.10.38 without the vertical lines. The first is from Johan Toft and the second was seen on Ebay. Why these should lack clear vertical lines, and yet were used on the same day as Jørgen's example in Issue 42, I leave it to others to speculate. Subsequent use of the cancel is apparently without the vertical lines, unless somebody can show otherwise.

The Crown Cancel Project

During the latter part of 2017 a project was started in order to reassess the relative rarity of crown cancels rated R5 or above according to the Facit catalogue. A three year census by the Islandsklubben Postmark Committee with the help of crown cancel collectors from around the globe has now resulted in a database consisting of 930 strikes of the 73 different such cancels.

The premises for the new grading were the following: R4 = 21-40 copies, R5 = 10-20 copies known, RR = 5-9 copies known and finally RRR = 1-4 copies known. The current number of different cancels in each rarity group versus the previous number is shown in the table below:

Rating	Current Number	Previous Number
RRR	20	22
RR	15	22
R5	20	28
R4	17	

As the table shows, quite a few cancels have been downgraded although it doesn't show the number of cancels that have been upgraded.

The census has resulted in an updated listing of crown cancels in the new Facit Special catalogue (expected to be published early April). The main listing now applies to strikes on Aur and Christian IX issues, later usages are addressed in a separate listing. The Facit catalogue values for rarity grades R4 and upwards have now been increased, mostly due to increased interest in these fascinating cancels leading to a strong market.

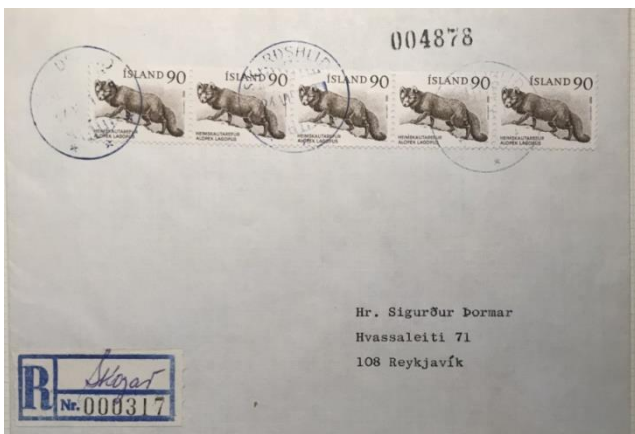
We would like to thank everyone that has been involved in the project in one way or another including all those that have contributed with images for the database.

A new project has been started in order to record as many of the existing covers/cards bearing crown cancels. We are also continuing to add pictures of crown cancels with missing letters to our database, we would be very thankful for your contribution in the form of images of such items, these are to be sent to: flackbp@gmail.com All contributions are treated confidentially.

The Islandsklubben Postmark Committee

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SKARDSHLÍÐ (Issue 42) *Eivind Kolstad*



Thanks for another interesting magazine! I may add some comments and photos about the P. Petersen-article, but today I enclose some photos of my B3e SKARDSHLÍÐ-cover used at Skógar, which is, as you mentioned- quite rare. Although it is a CTO-cover, and the fact that it is difficult to read the year here, it is a good one! Kveðja, Eivind.



Stamps in use in Iceland 1870-1902 (by Indriði Pálsson), Part 1 of 2

Previously published in Frímerkjablaðið Issue 1 and reproduced with their permission. Translated from the Icelandic by Steinar Fridthorsson

Stamps used in Iceland during this era often classify as expensive and sought after collectibles. This certainly applies to stamps with nicely struck well readable cancellations. Regretfully, many of these nicely cancelled stamps are what are referred to as post-cancelled, meaning that they have not been used for postage but rather cancelled with either a correct cancelling device for the issue or even a forged one after the stamps had been invalidated for postage. Further a large number of different forgeries of the overprints of 1897 and 1902-03 have been on the market. In the following text you will find some of my observations on these subjects.

Doubtful cancellations and doubtful overprints

A

THE CANCELLATIONS OF THE DANISH POSTAL AUTHORITY 1870-72:

Danish stamps were used in Iceland (Reykjavík-Seyðisfjörður / Berufjord) 1870-72. Numeral cancellation 236 (D1) was used in Reykjavík to cancel Danish stamps. (In the period 1931-1936 this cancellation was used to cancel stamps at Flaga in Vestur-Skaftafellssýsla). A total of six covers where this cancellation has been used to cancel the stamps are known from this period; of these five are in private collections and one in the National Archives.



It is likely that the numeral cancellation was refurbished somewhere in the period 1910-1920 and later used to post-cancel Danish stamps of the same types as those used in Iceland in 1870-1872. See picture no. 1.

Pic 1

This numeral cancellation was not to be used to cancel Icelandic stamps. Icelandic stamps cancelled with numeral 236, skilding as well as aurar stamps are therefore in most cases (or perhaps all) to be considered post-cancelled. See picture no. 2. No covers are known from the period 1873-1902 where this cancellation has been used to cancel an Icelandic stamp.



Pic.2

Danish datestamp

Danish datestamp Reykjavik (D2) was only to be used as a transit cancellation (or arrival cancellation?) on postal items after the stamps had been cancelled with numeral cancellation D1. The six covers known from this period are all cancelled in this correct manner. The datestamp was not to be used for cancelling the stamps themselves.



Pic. 3

These Danish cancellations were not intended for use after the start of the Icelandic Postal service at the beginning of 1873. Use of the Danish datestamp (D2) is however known on skilding- and aurar stamps up until the beginning of 1885. It is my belief that most of these usages are in fact post-cancelled and that this cancellation was very seldom used to cancel stamps on postal matters. Several factors back up my opinion, I shall not be going further into these factors in this article. See picture no. 3.

This datestamp (D2) was located at the Reykjavik post office. Several covers are known where it has been used either as a receiving or transit cancellation; such usages must however have been rare. In addition to this there are also two skilding covers known where this cancellation has been used as the obliterating

cancellation, one of these dating from 1873 and the other one from 1874 (ed. as of 2018, three such covers are known, the third one also being from 1874). It is my belief that the known covers where this datestamp has been used for the obliteration of stamps is due either to lack of knowledge or mistakes of postal employees at the time. 17 skilding covers cancelled in Reykjavik are currently known, most of these residing in state museums/archives (ed. the number is now 18). Covers franked with aurar stamps cancelled with this datestamp are not known, however some such covers are known where this datestamp has been used as a receiving or transit cancellation.

Seydisfjord



At the start of the Danish postal service in Iceland, numeral cancellation 237 (D1) was sent along with other equipment to Seyðisfjörður where it was to be used to cancel Danish stamps (in the same manner as 236 in Reykjavik). Apart from the numeral cancellation there was also a datestamp inscribed SEYDISFJORD sent there. The datestamp was to be used as a side cancellation for showing the date for outgoing mail after the stamps had been cancelled by

Pic. 4 numeral 237. The datestamp was also to be used as a receiving cancellation on incoming letters. All of this equipment was received in Seyðisfjörður in the early months of 1870. 418 shipments have been registered to have been sent from the post office at Seyðisfjörður that year, none of which are known to exist today. Due to the small volume of mail originating at this office and the fact that the appointed post official decided to move to Denmark, the office was closed on the latter half of 1870 and its equipment returned to Denmark. One cover from a later use of the cancel in Gadstrup, Denmark in 1879 is known; there it may have been used temporarily as a reserve cancel. Around 1900, numeral cancellation 237 was in the hands of the Danish postal authorities. From around that time the cancellation is known to have been used to post-cancel Danish stamps by an employee of the Danish authorities, Mr. Ole Bøgh.

Berufjord



A post office was established at Berufjörður in April of 1872; like the office at Seyðisfjörður it received all relevant equipment from the postal authorities in Denmark. This office however only received a datestamp for use as a side cancellation, but no numeral cancellation for cancelling stamps. It was later decided to also use the datestamp for cancelling the Danish stamps that were in use. The office at Berufjörður was closed at the end of 1872. Two covers with the BERUFJORD datestamp used as a transit

Pic.5 cancellation are known, both of which reside in the national archives. The BERUFJORD datestamp is known on later issues such as Í Gildi and Two Kings; these are of course cancelled long after the normal period of use for the datestamp. Please see picture no. 5.

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Strange looking cancels on CHX G Cooklin



Does anyone know what these cancels are?

The Almanac Fund of the University of Iceland *Steinar Fridthorsson*

Previously published in Swedish in Rapport Issue 189, and reproduced with their permission. Translated by Steinar Fridthorsson from Þór Þorsteins book *Fee and collection marks as well as stamps in Iceland*

With law no. 25, June 27th 1921, the University of Iceland was awarded a monopoly on publishing or by other means distributing almanacs and calendars in Iceland. According to the law other entities were prohibited to sell or distribute these, otherwise risking fines. The minister was however allowed to grant permission, according to proposals by the University council, to print almanacs and calendars as well as for import of these. Publishers and importers were to pay a set fee for each copy; no almanac was to be distributed without the application of a hand stamp or printed marking by the University council.

The proceeds went to a specific fund, "The Almanac Fund" that was used to promote mathematical science in Iceland (the fund's regulation no. 16 of 1922). The first Icelandic almanac according to law was to be issued for 1923; the University of Iceland was responsibility of publishing almanacs yearly.

In practice up until 1940, almanacs were handed over at the University office to be hand stamped with a rubber stamp inscribed "Almanakssjóður HÍ" in either red or violet colour. From around 1940 Icelandic printing firms received special printing clichés for the printing and were also made liable for payment of the fee to the fund. In later years the demand of having the marking applied has been lifted while the fee is still to be paid. The fee has now been lifted off imported calendars/almanacs. The fee was set by the minister according to the proposal of the University council, 16 ½ eyrir in 1949 but from November 28th 1989 onwards it was 2.50 kr. per copy.

The Almanac markings may be distinguished according to the following:

Rubber hand stamps from 1921 onwards:

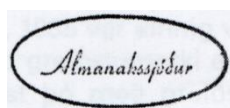
Printing cliché a. Double circle from 1940:

b. Simple circle from around 1960:

c. Oval shaped from around 1960:



a



b

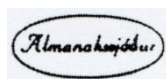
Printing Clichés

1a. Double circle from 1940:

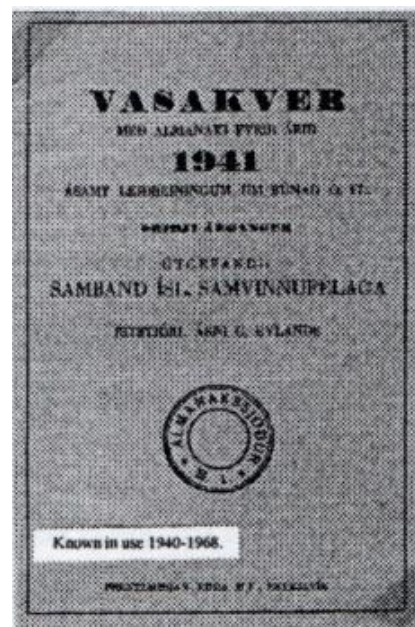


2a

1b. Single circle from ca 1960:



2c



2b

Where was C1 Bakki used? *Jørgen Steen Larsen*

The crown cancel handbook has on page 28 an article about the crown cancel C1 Bakki, which was found by Hans von Strokirch and until now is only known in one copy. After Hans died his collection was sold and many of the crowns were bought by Wilbur Jónsson. Last year I became the lucky owner of the C1 Bakki cancel.



The big question about C1 Bakki is where the cancel was used?

Some years ago Þór Þorsteins asked me if I was interested to work with him on a new handbook about the crowns. He added that he knew where all the crowns were intended to have been used. Unfortunately I was too modest to become a partner in this project as Þór knew so much and I knew so little. I had hoped that ÞP would have written the handbook himself and would gladly have helped, but Þór died and the information he had gathered about the crowns seem to have disappeared. Still I received some help from Þór which I will try to use in this article.

From ÞP we know that Bakki was a landing place. Where can that take us?

From the first delivery of 17 C1 crowns – with invoice dated 13.3.1894, we know about C1 BRJEFHIRÐING, C1 PÓSTAFGREIÐSLA and 15 other cancels all with names of landing places. The 15 places were:

Akranes, Arnarfjörður, Bakki, Blönduós, Borðeyri, Borgarnes, Eyrbakki, Flatey, Húsavík, Patreksfjörður, Reykjarfjörður, Siglufjörður, Skagatrönd, Vík, and Ønundarfjörður.

Now the job is to find a farm with the name of Bakki that was a landing place in 1894. If we look up in Bæjatal 1885, there is a long list of 37 places with the name Bakki. Some of them were abandoned. Other places were situated far away from the coast line. When we exclude these places, we come down to this shortlist:

Bakki, Dala hr. Vestur Barðastrandarsýsla.

This farm was situated on the southern side of Arnarfjörður app. 14 km North West of Bíldudalur. This place had formerly been an official trading place. The trading place was later moved to Bíldudalur. BH Bíldudalur was a BH from 1.1.1873 to 31.12.1913 when it became a PA. BH Bíldudalur received C1 Arnarfjörður in the first delivery of crowns, from where we know an invoice dated 1.12.1894.

Due to Bæjatal 1915, the farm Bakki was at this time postally served from BH Selárdalur. BH Selárdalur was opened 1.1.1896 and received one of the C2e Brjefhirðing cancels. This BH was moved to the farm Bakki from 1.1.1911 to 31.12.1913 and then back to Selárdalur.

The farm Bakki was opened again as BH 1.1.1922 where it used N1a-209.

Bakki, Tálknafjarðar hr. Barðastrandarsýsla.

This farm was situated on the northern side of Tálknafjörður (7 – 8) km. northwest of Sveinseyri, a really deserted area without natural harbor facilities. Due to Bæjatal 1915 the farm Bakki was postally served from BH Sveinseyri where there is good natural anchorage. BH Sveinseyri received C1 Sveinseyri in the second delivery of crowns, from where we know an invoice dated 1.12.1894.

Bakki, Borgarfjarðar hr. N. Múlasýsla.

This farm was situated in Borgarfjörður about 1 km west of the village Bakkagerði. Bakki was a substantial farm but is now abandoned. Bakkagerði is a village situated at the coast line and has been an official trading place since 1894.

Bakki in Borgarfjörður was postally served from BH Desjarmýri – situated inland about 3 km. south of Bakkagerði. BH Desjarmýri received C1 Desjamýri (without an “r”) in the second delivery of crowns, from where we know an invoice dated 1.12.1894.

Bakki, Skeggjastaða hr. N. Múlasýsla.

This farm was situated in Bakkafjörður at the coast line about 3 km. south west of the village Bakkafjörður. A bréfhirðing was opened in Bakki 1.1.1899 and stayed there until 31.12.1916, where it was moved to Bakkafjörður. BH Bakki received C2e Bakki in 1899.

Comparing the information from the list of payments to postal employees “Skýrsla yfir brjefhirðingar á Íslandi árið 1894 and 1895” with the BH that were open when the C1 cancels were delivered.

This is another way to try to follow in ÞP’s footsteps.

The attempt here is to try to find a place from where we do not know a C1 cancel, although a payment for postal services was made in 1894 / 1895.

Place name according to list of payments.	Clarification of place name.	Sýsla	Fee 1894	Opened as BH	Cancel as BH
Borgareyri	Brekka ín Mjóafirð	S Múl	30	1.4.1892	C2e Mjóifjörður in 1901
Skjöldólfsstaðir		N Múl	30	1.1.1882	N1a-36 in 1903
Háls		S Þing	20	1.2.1894	C2b in 1898
Garður	Garður (1)	Skag	15	30.1.1894	N1a-75 in 1903
Fell		Skag	5	1.1.1911	N1a-84 in 1911
Bólstaðarhlíð		A Hún	25	1.1.1873	N1a-89 in 1903
Skarðstöð		Dala	20	1.1.1894	N1a-137 in 1903
Vatnsfjörður		N Ísa	25	1.1.1873	C2e in 1900
Ögur		N Ísa	20	30.1.1894–31.12.1894 Gardsstaðir from 1895.	C2a Ögur in 1898
Saurbær		Borg	35	1.1.1873	C2e in 1899
Fossá		Kjós	10	1.1.1896 – 31.12.1896	No known cancel – but manuscript “Fossá”
Erta		Árn	10	1.1.1894	C2e Brjefhirðing in 1899. C2e Erta in 1900

The only wild idea I can come up with, after having looked closely at this list, is Brekka in Mjóafirði. Did the postal authorities in 1894 plan to close this place and open a new BH in Bakki í Bakkafirði, which is one of the four landing places listed above?

Steinar Fridthorsson has tried to find something in the archives that could throw a light on this wild idea. Unfortunately he did not find anything.

My conclusion is that we do not come closer to an answer about where C1 Bakki was used when we try to follow ÞP's footsteps in this way.

We know that ÞP studied sailing plans in order to find out where the crowns were produced for.

My knowledge about sailing plans for 1894 is limited. I only have a photocopy of a page 52 from a book with headline "IV Skipakomur". Here 37 landing places are listed. Studying the list didn't give me any ideas as to where C1 Bakki was produced for.

These are all the attempts that I know ÞP made. As no more facts seem to exist, the rest of this paper is based on guesswork.

My guess for a solution of where C1 Bakki was produced for and used.

I will go back to the four landing places listed above.

Bakki, Dala hr. Barðastrandarsýsla.

In 1894 and 1895 no payment was made to this place.

To me it is unlikely that two C1 cancels – C1 Bakki and C1 Arnarfjörður - were produced for landing places in Arnarfjörður both from the first delivery of crowns.

Bakki, Tálknafjarðar hr. Barðastrandasýsla.

In 1894 and 1895 no payment was made to this place.

This place is on one hand so deserted, and the other hand so close to BH Sveinseyri, that it seems unlikely that it was for this place that the crown cancel C1 Bakki was produced.

Bakki, Skeggjastaða hr. N. Múlasýsla.

In 1894 and 1895 no payment was made to this place.

BH Bakki was not opened before 1.1.1899.

Steinar Fridthorsson has not found anything about plans for an earlier opening.

It seems unlikely that C1 Bakki was produced for this place.

Bakki, Borgarfjarður hr. N. Múlasýsla.

To me it seems possible, that C1 Bakki was ordered in the first delivery of crowns for use at this place.

The farm Bakki was much closer to the coast and the landing place at Bakkagerði, than the farm Desjarmýri, and as Bakkagerði became an official trading place in 1894, it might have been the intention to move the BH from Desjarmýri to Bakki already in 1894 and not wait until 1.1.1897, where the move actually took place.

In the Skýrsla yfir brjefhirdingar á Íslandi we find the following place names for the BH in Borgarfjörður:

Year	Place name	Annual fee	Comment
1893	Desjarmýri.	15	
1894	Desjarmýri.	15	
1895	Desjarmýri.	15	
1896	Bakkagerði (Desjam.)	20	List written 1. April 1897.
1897	Bakkagerði	20	
1898	Bakkagerði	20	

This fits with the information in ÞÞ's handbook that the BH was moved from Desjarmýri to Bakkagerði 1.1.1897. I do not know if the increase of the annual fee could have something to do with the delay?

Based on all this information, it is my guess that C1 Bakki was send to the farm Desjarmýri in 1894.

As a move to Bakki (as planned?) didn't take place in 1894, a new cancel C1 Desjamýri was ordered and send to Desjarmýri around the end of 1894 / the beginning of 1895.

When Desjarmýri received C1 Desjamýri they immediately stopped using C1 Bakki.

This means that C1 Bakki was only used app. 8½ month – which fits perfectly with the fact that only one copy is known to exist.

C1 Bakki was probably lost or destroyed in Desjarmýri. Otherwise it would have been reused in Bakki after the move 1.1.1897.

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GRAMS THINGEYRI (Issue 42) *Steinar Fridthorsson*

(Ed. I did not expect this would produce such an interesting story as provided below by Steinar)



In relation to the small piece on the violet handstamp of the merchant Grams at Thingeyri, then I translated a short article on him that I found online. I have seen a few of these through the years but they are certainly scarce.

The Grams shop was the main store at Þingeyri from 1867 to ca 1900. The store was owned by merchant Niels C. Gram who was Danish. He also ran shops in Ólafsvík and Stykkishólmur. He lived at Þingeyri during the summer but spent his winters in Copenhagen. He operating fishing vessels (sailing ships) concentrating on exporting salted cod as well as dealing in import and export of various other goods. Mr. Gram died at Þingeyri in September 1898, when one of his big toes was to be amputated due to diabetes. For the surgery

he required a large dose of anaesthetics, but when the doctor finally succeeded in putting him out, Gram didn't wake up again.

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Commercial handstamps on late 1800s issues *Ólafur Elíasson*



Continuing on the theme of commercial handstamps, Ólafur shows an item similar to the Danish "Grams at Thingeyri" shown above. Here is a 10aur stamp with the elliptical stamp of "Ásgeirdverslun Ísafirði". He asks if any of our readers have a reasonable explanation of why commercial handstamps of private firms were applied to postage stamps of the late 1800s?

Churches on stamps from Iceland

About philately and theology, beheading, and being welcomed by an angel!

By Øyvind T. Gulliksen (Previous published in NTF, Vol.79:8, 2020 and reproduced with their permission. Translated from the Norwegian).

When I have visited Iceland, or when I read about Iceland's history, I have been interested in church buildings. My collection of Icelandic stamps has been useful when I have wandered around to various churches in Iceland. My albums with Icelandic stamps now function both as sources of joy, knowledge and reflections, as well as travel memories. There are, as everyone knows, a good number of churches on Icelandic stamps. In this short overview, I have set up Icelandic "stamp churches" in alphabetical order and with numbers from the AFA catalog. Most of the churches I have included belong to the Icelandic National Church, which is Evangelical Lutheran.

It strikes me that many of the churches that have adorned Icelandic philately since the Skálholt stamps from 1956, are often churches found in small settlements. The author Jón Kalman Stefánsson begins his novel *Summer Light* and *Then Comes the Night* (2005) by pointing out that in the small Icelandic town of his story, there is no church. It is also regarded by some people in that small town as a shortcoming, because "the low sound of church bells can brighten up a sad person". This is how I regard Icelandic church stamps. They can cheer somebody up.



The Akureyri Church (AFA 373, 1335)

Two stamps with urban landscapes have been issued from Akureyri, one in 1963 and one in 2012. The church in the town is clearly visible on both. The two steeples above the entrance protrude into the cityscape. Going up the big stairs to the church in Akureyri is like going up to a huge organ. The towers look like organ pipes. When I visited this church some years ago, it was common to claim that the stained glass in the center above the altar was a work of art from the Coventry Cathedral, the one destroyed during World War II. Miraculously, the picture should have been saved and later bought by an Icelandic buyer and then given to the church in Akureyri. It even created good contact between Akureyri and Coventry. But the whole thing has turned out to be wrong. The stained glass is probably English, but it is not from Coventry Cathedral. Sitting down in the church in Akureyri for a quiet moment is still rewarding enough to have travelled so far north in Iceland. After being in this church, I had to hold on tight to the railing, down the church steps.



The Bessastaðir Church (AFA 320)

The church is located on the property that, after 1944 has been the residence of the Icelandic president. No matter what happens to the Icelandic church as an institution, the church building at Bessastaðir will serve as a symbol of Iceland's old state church model. The place is said to have belonged to the author Snorre Sturluson. When he was killed in Reykholt in 1241, envoys from Norway took over the farm. Later, Danish delegates lived there. The old church was probably part of the property at that time as well. The stone church that stands here today was consecrated in 1796.

When Reagan was on Bessastaðir in 1986, and Gorbachev was out there again, twenty years later, I do not know if they visited the church, but none of them were primarily there as churchgoers. Both have at least seen it up close. In the famous picture of Presidents Vigðis and Ronald from 1986, they must have rounded the corner of the church before the summit began. Imagine the great powers gathering midway between the continents, in Iceland! Of the three political leaders, I am in favour of Vigðis. I have not been inside the

church at Bessastaðir, so I have to trust in the nice, grayishly toned stamp from 1957, where, in fact, the church appears to be the most central building.



The Brautarholt Church at Kjalarnes (AFA 983)

The Christmas stamp from 2001 with Brautarholt Church attracts me for two reasons. It is a rare wooden church, small and dark in color. On the stamp, it gives a sharp contrast to the snow landscape around. The church is located just across the strait north of Reykjavík. But the most important thing is that here the poet Matthias Jochumsson (1835-1920) worked as a pastor from 1867 to 1873. The Post Office made some rather boring stamps, based on his portrait, in 1935. They could at least have used a photo of him as a handsome young man! (AFA No. 183-186, 205, 223). On the stamp he looks old and dreary.

I do not know if any of the sermons that young Matthias gave at Brautarholt have been preserved, but I should have enjoyed reading them. It must have been cramped for space in the small church, then as now. Matthias came from a modest background and had studied theology in Reykjavík. He was in the middle of the battle between literature and theology and was inspired by Grundtvig. While a priest at Brautarholt, he translated several of Shakespeare's plays into Icelandic. It was a good way to prepare his sermons. He was a romantic poet and hymn writer and he emphasized a common Nordic literary heritage, without defending all the violence he found in saga literature. He wrote a long poem about the murder of Snorre that I would have liked to read, but I do not know enough Icelandic to do so.



The Free Church in Reykjavík (AFA 1018.)

The Free Church in the capital is located by Lake Tjörninn, down in the center of the city, next door to the incredibly beautiful National Gallery. I was here in October of 2018 to see the exhibit about the liberation from Danish rule and to look at a selection of old Icelandic manuscripts. I had the colours of the incredible handwriting in fresh memory, with capital letters in red and green, when I sat down in a chair on the second floor of the gallery and looked straight at the white wall of the Free Church. Against the colours of the Icelandic manuscripts I had just seen, the wall of the church outside seemed like a fairly colourless building to me. Sorry. Yet, the stamp with the Free Church, which was issued in 2003, still serves as a good memory.



The Hofskirkja í Skaftafell (AFA 1454.)

The Hofskirkja in Skaftafell parish, in the southeast of the country, is a peat church, one of the few that still stands. The church has a turf roof. It is a simple church building, set up in a small village, where today there are only a few permanent residents. The church is now part of the nation's museum collection, but it is still in use by the congregation. People have had houses of worship at Hof at least since the 14th century, but the first churches there fell into disrepair or were demolished. The peat church that stands there now was built in the 1880s. It has later been renewed and repaired. A sod church is not easy to take care of! There is probably no real old church building in Iceland. They were there, of course, but they disappeared. It is easier to preserve books than church buildings, at least in Iceland. In a sense, the stamp of Hofskirkja from 2015 shows how easily such a structure can be demolished. The drawing of the church is so carefully done that it somehow shows how fragile this building is, and how easily it can be erased from the peat and stone from which it is built. The building on the stamp looks more like a simple boathouse than a sacred building. But it is precisely stone and peat and nature that make this small church a rare, small cathedral. Seen from the entrance, only the cross in the ridge tells us that this is a church. But the stone walls on the sides are laid out with peat above, so that the building gets a strange triangular shape, a simple architecture that may serve as a perfect illustration of the doctrine of the Trinity.

The green grass that covers the roof and outer walls makes the church building strangely blend in with the ground. Some of the old tombs next to the church have simple crosses. But many of them lie only as anonymous mounds, crisscrossed, covered with peat and grass, as if the graves were miniatures of the church itself. It gives those who go there a feeling of both belonging and transience, and reminds us that from turf we have come, to turf we will return, and as (or from?) turf we shall rise again. It is a beautiful stamp, carefully drawn, even if the cemetery is not included. I would like to have a lot of such stamps from Hofskirkja for use on cards and letters from Iceland, if I ever return there. I would rather make a pilgrimage to the peat church in Hof than to St. Peter's Church in Rome.



The Hólar Church in Hjaltadal

(AFA 1386; see also 272-273,495,586,625-626.)

One late summer day a few years ago, I drove off from the main road to Hofsós, in the north of Iceland, and took the road inland to Hólar in Hjaltadal. I wanted to see what was once an episcopal residence and a learning center of the north. It is difficult to imagine that this was once a diocese under the archbishop of Nidaros, in a period before the Reformation. When you visit the church in Hólar, you may wonder how such an arrangement could work at all. It is so remote and so far from Nidaros in Norway! But the most famous churches in Iceland are not connected to city centers. The episcopal see in Hólar started in 1106. The church that stands there today was built in 1763, built with reddish stone and restored in 1990. The large white tower is a separate building. There was not a human being to be seen when I got there.

But the church was open and when I entered, there was only one Icelandic student there. She was reading a book and her job was to look after the sanctuary. She asked if I needed help. It was like being welcomed by an angel. I shall never forget it. I tried to turn my thoughts to the Lutheran bishop of Hólar four hundred years ago, Guðbrandur Þorlákshöfn (1571-1627). He must have been convinced that Luther's idea of "Scripture alone" was a point well taken. The bishop and his co-workers sat in Hólar and translated parts of the Bible into Icelandic, long before it was published in Norwegian. He had it printed in Hólar in 1584. This first Icelandic Bible is often referred to as the Guðbrands Bible (AFA no. 625-626). The church must have had a small printing house, already in the 16th century, and in Hólar of all places! There may not have been many permanent residents here at that time, but the printing of the Bible had priority. The tombstone of Guðbrandur is marked on the floor up by the altar. So, I have two memories from my visit to the episcopate of Hólar: A living young woman at the entrance and the name of a dead bishop at the altar. You can see a painting by Bishop Guðbrandur, honoured by a stamp, (AFA no. 495), typically with a book in hand. He warns us: It is the text that counts.

Things got worse with Jón Árasón, the last Catholic bishop of Hólar. He became bishop there in 1524 (see AFA nos. 272-273). Helga was his cohabitant and they had several children. A Catholic bishop could not be formally married, but a female cohabitant must have been OK in Iceland in 1524! In any case, the pope was far from Hólar. Jón was probably not fluent in Latin either. He even sought help from Nidaros and from Norwegian laws to avoid Danish Lutheranism! His bishop colleague in Skálholt sided with the Reformation, but Jón of Hólar did not want to give up. He went to the church in Skálholt with his men to bring Catholicism back for the whole of Iceland. The problem was that at the same time he went against the Danish king. That, needless to say, brought its own punishment. Jón's efforts failed, but he continued the fight from Hólar for a while. Finally, he was outlawed by the Danish king in 1549. The pope, on the other hand, supported Bishop Jón in Hólar. But the pope was, in the long run, a hopeless and distant ally. Eventually, Bishop Jón was captured and taken to Skálholt with two of his sons, and in 1550 all three were beheaded at the bishopric of Skálholt. The following spring, people came from Hólar to bring the three dead men back to Hólar, where they belonged. Iceland has a dramatic church history.

The miniature sheet from 2013 (no. 1386) gives a good impression of a chapter in Icelandic church history. The top mark shows the tower and the red church building in Hólar, with the symbol of the first Bible on the left of the sheet. The other episcopal see, the one at Skálholt, was probably larger and more central, but I hold on to the post-Reformation Hólar in the north. I left Hólar Church with a major sense of Iceland's church history. If I should be overtaken by an urgent need to hide from the world, I would have settled alone in Hólar, collected Icelandic stamps and taught myself to read *Læksdala Saga* and the Bible in Icelandic. But it is too late now.



The Húsavík Church (AFA 532)

It is a beautiful church building, far to the north; a cruciform church built of wood and timber from Norway in 1907. The unique reddish molding frames the building as seen on the stamp from 1978. On the miniature sheet from 2011 the same church is a distinct part of the view of the town. The parish pastor is (or was?) Solveig Halle. That sounds good to me.

Reykjavik Cathedral (AFA 846)

Many believe that it is the majestic Hallgrímskirkja (same architecture as the church in Akureyri), finished in the 1980s, which is the cathedral of the Church of Iceland. But it is not, even though that's where we often go when we are in Reykjavik, especially for organ concerts. No, the cathedral center for the church of Iceland, is located down in the city square, at Austur Völlur. Here I walked one Sunday, in stormy weather and heavy wind, past the statue of Jón Sigurðsson, who fought for Iceland's liberation from Denmark, and to the Cathedral nearby, the one that was celebrated with a stamp in 1996. Here the nation and the national church are still connected. I came to high mass, sat down next to one of the back pillars, as I am accustomed to do, and participated carefully in singing according to the text in the hymnal, even though I did not understand everything that was written. I'll be happy to do it again.



Skálholt Church (AFA 1386; see also 301-303, 488.)

Skálholt is the church everyone who comes to Iceland should see. It belongs as an important site in tourist route of Icelandic democracy (Þingvellir) and nature (Gullfoss). Then, as the third stop, comes the visit to the church, school, and diocese at Skálholt.

The Skálholt stamps were published in 1956, to celebrate the church center's 900 years of history. I have an FDC of these stamps, cancelled Skálholt, in my collection. But on regular envelopes, these stamps are hard to find. The three stamps were for a while banned by the FIP (), which turned out badly for the old bishopric. Did the negative response come from the fact that they had very high added values? If you would like to have a stamp of the old church at Skálholt, you would have paid kr 1.25, plus 0.75 then in extra cost! I assume that the money that came from the sale of the stamps would go to the reconstruction of Skálholt. The large old wooden church on the stamp fell down in 1803. The current church was completed in 1963. The commemorative issues must have helped to finance the new church building.

I was there for the first time in 1992. Every time I am there, I think of the hymn writer Hallgrímur Pétursson (see AFA 506) who became a pastor here. He wrote *Passíusalmur*, published in 1666, one of the most famous books of hymns in the Church of Iceland. In Haldor Laxness' novel *The Clock of Iceland* (1951), much of the action happens at Skálholt in the 18th century. Here Laxness appears to be more interested in the "bishop's wife" in the story than in the bishop.

Every time I have been to Skálholt, archeologists have been busy excavating. There are several layers of soil with church history here and diggings occur all the time. Once when I sat in the cathedral here, a woman

was standing in the pulpit, rehearsing to sing "Amazing Grace" for a concert later in the evening. I did not attend Aretha Franklin's famous "Amazing Grace" concert, and the Icelandic version I heard in Skálholt was more quiet and with volume, but I will never forget it. It means more to me than newly excavated stone coffins. The young singer made me think of old hymns and the passion songs of both Hallgrímur and Aretha, and every time I look at my beautiful Skálholt stamps from 1956, I add my own uncertain voice to the singing (in solitude) of "How sweet the sound".



The Þingvellir Church (AFA 1233; see also 132).

This is a great stamp from 2009! The small church, with only three windows on the long wall, has the fitting address of «Valhallavegen»! It is white with green mouldings. I have only seen the church in the distance from up on the Þingvellir plateau. There has been a church here down by the river for hundreds of years, the first one constructed by gifts from Norway, but churches disappear in Iceland, as I have already mentioned. The church that stands here today was set up in the 1850s, a signal of a historical link between democracy and religion in Iceland. It is also strange to think that here is a small church, with a few modest graves around it, built on the spot where the North American plate and the European one pull apart, year after year, with enormous geological forces. In this sense, this church has a great symbolic power. It stands against the forces of nature, as long as it lasts.

The Viðimýri Church in Varmahlíð (AFA 984.)

Viðimýrarkirkja is not far from the cathedral in Hólar, just a short detour from the national main road. It is one of the few remaining peat churches in Iceland. On the Christmas stamp for 2001, the church is depicted in snow. There is snow on the mountains behind, snow in the fields around the church and snow on the turf roof. The church looks completely isolated. It resembles a sheep shelter with a cross on the ridge, and so far it is in line with the Christmas theme it is supposed to emphasize. The exciting thing about many of the small rural church buildings in Iceland is that they look so pastoral, as if they blend in with nature. On this stamp, it is not even certain that the path to the church door has been trodden or shovelled, so the church looks even more abandoned under the starry sky. Those who gathered here to listen to the Christmas text from Bethlehem in the Gospel of Luke need no reminder that it is much colder in Varmahlíð (!) than in Palestine.



There have been peat churches here since Catholic times, but it goes without saying that such small church buildings, which look as if they go straight into the ground, must be repaired constantly. A church here was closed in 1804 because there were few people in the congregation. The church that now stands is from 1834 but has been renewed according to traditions several times. The altar ring is shaped like a small square. There is not room for many. Above the altar was a picture of the Eucharist, in which Judas has a central place. He looks out from the painting as if he is seeking support from the congregation in the peat church. He keeps his purse in hand, visible to us who see the picture from the church pews, but not seen by those who sit around the table (in the painting). Judas is barefoot and curls his toes up from the cold stone floor, as if he is sitting in Iceland and not in Jerusalem!

And what is more natural, than that on one side of the altar painting in Viðimýri church, Moses is seen descending the mountain, with text written on his famous stone tablets. It is as if Moses, from the Hebrew bible suddenly becomes a scribe from the sagas who descends from Icelandic mountains as an advocate of Old Norse literacy. «It was especially as a center of literary activity, as the home of skaldic song and saga literature, that Iceland won its widest fame among European nations» (According to my old colleague at Luther College, Knut Gjerset, in his book, *History of Iceland*, London, 1922, v.).

The cemetery outside the Viðimýri church also reminds us of a vibrant literacy, of writing on stone tablets, if you will. For here, many of the tombstones are shaped like open books, a cemetery art you are not able to see on the stamp, because the headstones are all covered with snow.

Iceland's philately has several connections to the nation's church history. It is a pity that Iceland now has terminated its stamp program. Issues of Icelandic stamps, such as the few I have briefly mentioned, have delighted many of us since the days of our childhood.

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6 -Review of the series “Was this cancel used here?” (IPM Issues 10 to 26)

Occasionally this series has revealed rare examples of cancels used at second or subsequent locations, as listed in Þór Þorsteins' *Íslenskir Stimplar*'. The next pair of cancels in sequence for review would be B8e Sandur and B2a Sauðlauksdalur, which featured in Issue 20 in August 2017. These produced a response from Eivind Kolstad for both cancels in Issue 22. He showed B8e Sandur used after the office name changed to Hellisandur. The bigger challenge was met with an unusual example of B2a Sauðlauksdalur dated 5.1.47 used apparently in the Hvalsker period. This is rated 5000SEK in Facit.

So, we move on to the next challenge, a pair which featured in Issue 19 in June 2017, and produced no response from readers at all.



B8e Reykjaborg Lýtingsstaðahreppur

Recorded use 1.1.1957 – 31.12.1971

Laugarholt 1.1.1972 – 4.4.1972 ???

The B8e Reykjaborg surely would have been used at Laugarholt in a period of over 3 months before Laugarholt received its own cancel, a B8b Laugarholt on 5.4.1972? However, no examples were offered by readers, and the conclusion must be that they are not commonly known. On that basis, surely the Reykjaborg 100SEK valuation in Facit is far too low for its use in the Laugarholt period?



B2a Reynivellir Kjósarsýsla

Recorded use 25.1.1930 – 31.12.1945

Neðri-Háls 1.7.1950 – 1951 ????

There was no response from readers for strikes of B2a Reynivellir used in the Neðri-Hals period. If it is accepted that numeral 167 was still at Neðri-Háls when it re-opened for the second time on 1.7.1950, then it is reasonable to ask why the postal official would use a bridge cancel with a different place name when the numeral was available? I have no reason to doubt the claim that the Reynivellir bridge cancel was located at Neðri-Háls as stated by Þór, but in the absence of an example, its use there might be considered as “Unknown”.

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4 skilling challenge – can anyone interpret the manuscript on the stamp?



Left as shown on Ebay



Upside down may give a better chance to interpret

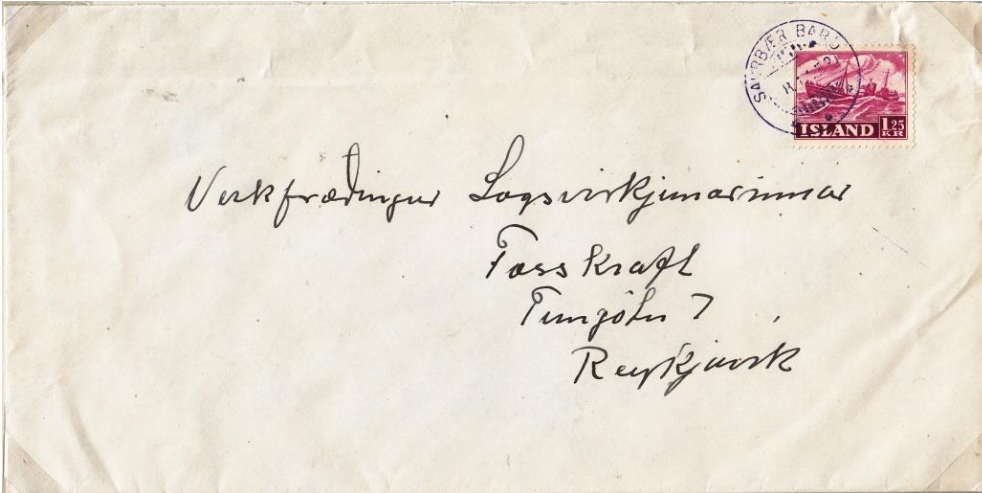


B2a Saurbær Barð used at Kirkjubammur and B3e Skarðshlíð used at Skógar (Issue 42)



Here is a detailed response from Jørgen Steen Larsen of his B2a Saurbær Barð used from the 1950s. He proves that examples exist and so my search is renewed. In the case of B3e Skarðshlíð used at Skógar, there remain questions unanswered.

Jørgen:- You ask about late usages of B2a Saurbær Barð in Kirkjubammur. Let me inform you about cancels in my collection used in the period from around 1950.



B2a on a pair with Fc. 249*2. Black ink.

B2a on a piece with Fc. 282 * 2 + 278. Violet ink. Date not readable.

B2a on Fc. 303. Violet ink. Date not readable. 1953?

Letter from Kirkjubammur dated 18. Okt. 1953 to Folmer Østergaard.

Cancelled with B2a 8.1?53. Violet ink. Ivan Ivansson from BH Kirkjubammur writes in

the letter, that the bridge cancel is damaged. It is impossible to turn the wheels, and if you try, the letters break.



N1a-132 on a piece with Fc. 303. Violet ink. The letter tells that two envelopes were returned to FØ, one with the B2a cancel and the other with the N1a-132 cancel. The piece with N1a-132 is probably from the second letter – so it is probably used 18.10.53.

N1a-132 on Fc. 323 * 4. Violet ink.

N1a 132 + Bridge cancel – Akureyri? – 7.55. Violet ink.

After B2a was repaired, I have it reused 19.12.66, 19.4.67, 29.12.70, 22.4.72, Registered letter 23.5.73 with a R-label “Saurbær”, 13.8.73.

Finally I have B8b Melanes -4.7.1974 on a piece of paper.



B3e Skarðshlíð.

I have a registered letter send to Sigurður Thormar, date: 24.VII.19(XX) = 80. R-label: “Skógar”

handwritten.

My “problem” with Skógar is, that my latest usage of the B2a cancel is dated 19.?43 and my earliest usage of the B3e cancel is dated X8.VII.69.

ÞP reports that the B3e cancel is known used from 1965. Quite a large gap from 1948 to 1964!

What happened in between?



Aerogramme rate confusion



The date on the Reykjavík B1c postmark is 15.V.53, the same as the sender's handwritten English message inside. The aerogramme rate then was 150aur and there was no need for the additional 25aur stamp. However the rate did increase to 175aur from 1.10.53 and the stocks of 150aur aerogrammes were uprated accordingly. Why was this stamp added in May 1953? The answer came from Halfdan Helgason.

Regarding the aerogram, attached to this email, I think I have the answer:

Beginning 23.3.1950, the rate increased to 150 aurar. From that time through 2.7.1951, the 85-aur Aerogram was sold at 175 aurar with 65 aurar in adhesive affixed. On 3.7.1951, a new Aerogram was issued with a 150 aur stamp imprint, which also sold at 175 aurar.

I think that the sender of your Aerogram was mistaken by the difference of the rate and the selling price and as he had to pay 175 aurar for that 150 aur Aerogram he added that 25 aurar stamp.

Well, so I see it 😊 And so do I! Thank you Halfdan.

I wondered if I had any other similar sender errors in my collection, and sure enough there were three more, which indicates that this misunderstanding of the rules was not uncommon.

This 85aur aerogramme has additional adhesives making 175aur. The correct rate when posted at Keflavík on 4.V.50 was 150aur. The selling price of the 150 aurar aerogramme was an additional 25 aurar, and the sender's additional franking covered the selling price.



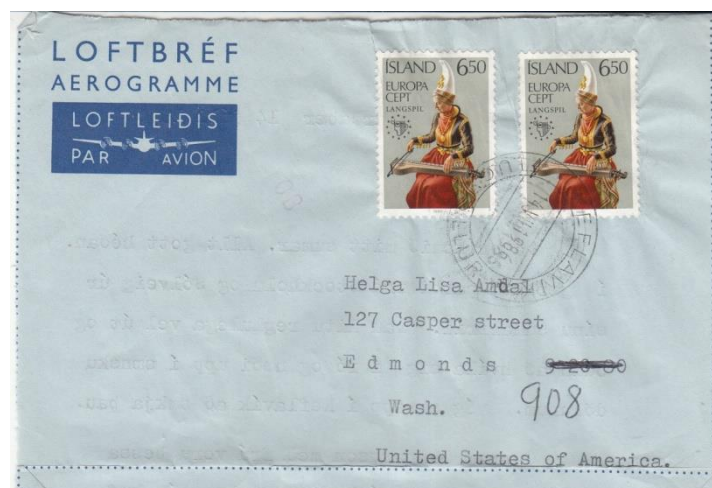
From 1963 the old type of Aerogramme was replaced by the so-called Formula printings without an imprinted stamp. They were printed in a series by Harrisons of London. As usual, they were sold with a cost additional to the postal rate.

Third Harrison, London printing 15kr rate from 1.1.73 to 31.3.74



Hafnarfjörður B8e dated 14.1.1974 to Canada. Overpaid by 2kr which was the selling price for the aerogramme. The long English message inside is by a Bahai missionary, describing the progress he was making to establish the Bahai faith in Iceland.

Third Harrison, London printing 1200aur rate from 1.2.86 to 31.1.87



Keflavík Flugvöllur B6 dated 14.VII.1986 to USA. The 1200aur aerogramme was sold for 100aur, and the sender has wrongly covered that with his 1300aur franking.



Finally, we have what appears to be a different sort of disregard for the regulations, this time at Reykjavíð, where I suggest aerogrammes were rarely called for. The correct rate was 175aur which applied from 1.10.53, yet no additional 25aur has been applied. Maybe the Reykjavíð postal official was unaware of the need to uprate his stock of aerogrammes? Also we can only guess if the writer from Grímsstaðir was charged the additional 25aur selling price of the aerogramme. B1a dated 13.12.53, with a Danish handwritten message inside.

Philatelic cards and covers from Iceland: Stamp dealer Julius Kinze, Dresden

Jakob Arrevald & Ebbe Eldrup

Mr. Kinze is mentioned in British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin No. 205 – June 2005

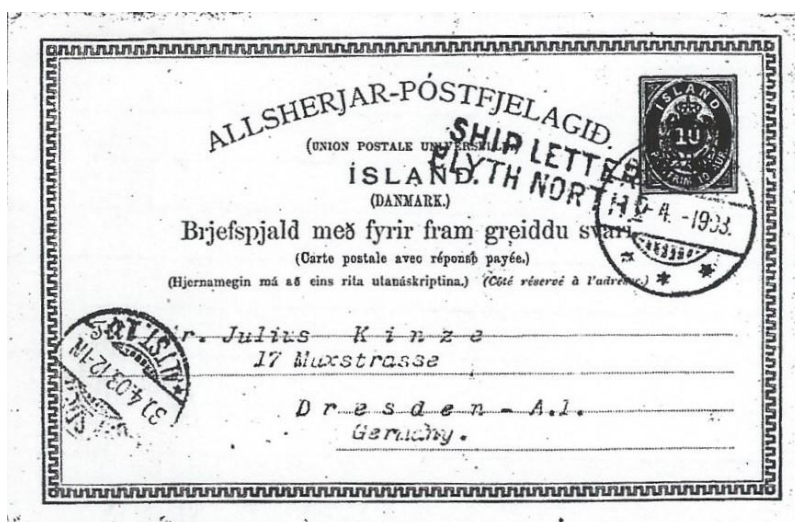
Page 15: THE EVOLUTION OF PHILATELIC COVERS OF BRITISH WEST INDIES 1880 – 1935 by ERIC BATESON:

“Two names seen on classical philatelic covers in the early 1900s are those of Jackson of Birmingham and Zissler of London but the majority are German with names ranging from Bickel to Zander. Most numerous are those of Kiderlen ...and Kinze Kiderlen's are an exception to the rule being hand addressed but definitely philatelic because the stamps on his covers are few in number or single but of high value in excess of postal requirements. Classical covers are also seen from other European countries including Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France and Switzerland.”

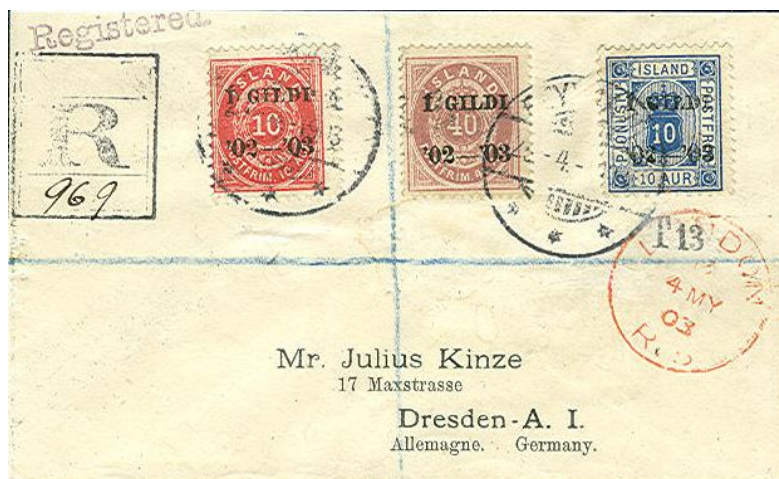
Iceland is not mentioned but Iceland was indeed part of Mr. Kinze's activities during 1903.

No 2 reference in Mr. Bateson's article is: Brunner R. Personal communication 2004 (Munich Philatelic Library): "Neither Paul Kiderlen or Julius Kinze are listed in the German Who's Who of philately as not important philatelists but purely stamp dealers who supplied their clientele with self produced covers".

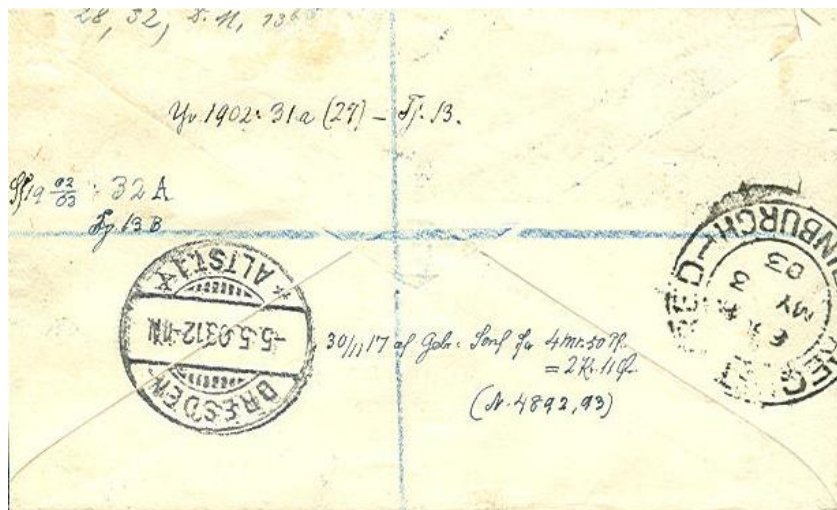
Mail to Mr. Kinze is not appropriate in any serious collection of Icelandic covers and cards



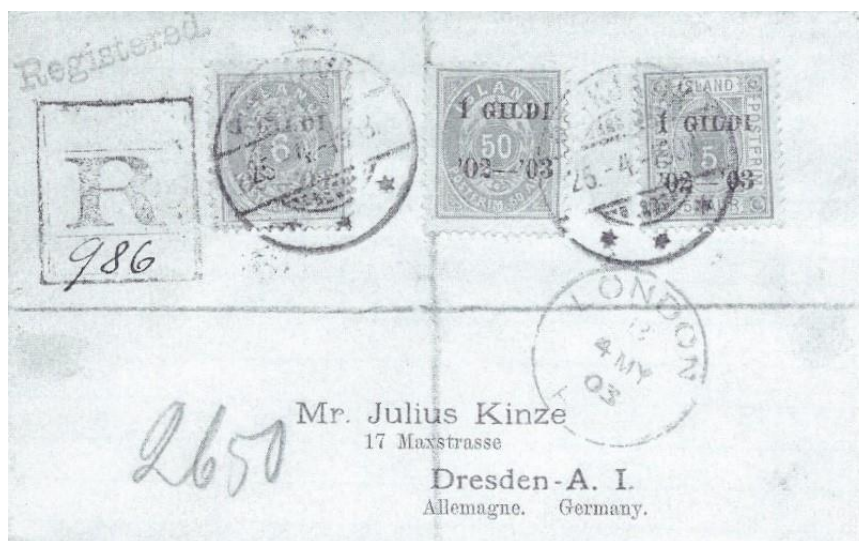
Reykjavik 10(?) - 4 - 1903. We do not know if this card has any text. It may be commercial and acceptable. Correct 10 aur UPU postcard rate. Unusual transit SHIP LETTER BLYTH NORTH



Reykjavik 25-4-1903. Illegal use of official stamps. 60 aur stamps. Correct rate 35 aur.



Back of above cover documenting correct transit and arrival cancellations



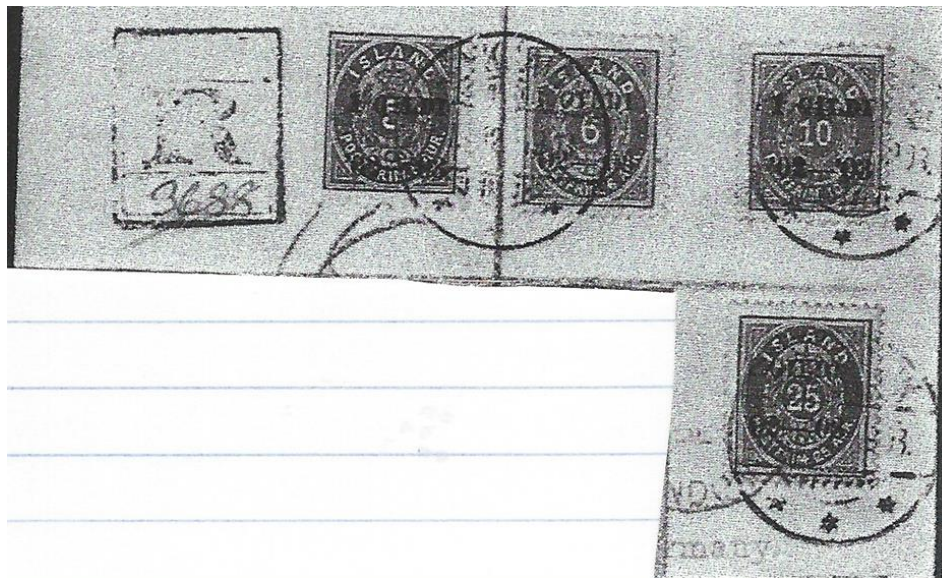
Reykjavik 25-4-1903. Illegal use of official stamps. 61 aur stamps. Correct rate 35 aur.



Reykjavik? but probably late May or early June 1903.
Not possible to figure which stamp has been removed



Reykjavik 1-12-1903. Illegal use of official stamps. 90 aur stamps Correct rate 35 aur.



Reykjavik 1-12-1903. 46 aur stamps. Correct rate 35 aur. The 5 aur stamp with I Gildi overprint was not available from the post office since January/February 1903, but it was most likely available from private people in Reykjavik.

If you try to search Julius Kinze on the internet you will get the background for our statement: Mail to Mr. Kinze should be avoided in any serious collection of Icelandic covers and cards – philatelic “Kinze” covers are known from many countries.

Finally, it can be added that Mr. Kinze apparently had a corporation with Paul Kiderlen (and others)– se Albert-Friederich Gruene: Stamp News Australasia April 2014 page 38.

Other References:

British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin No. 205 – June 2005 Page 15 - ERIC BATESON : THE EVOLUTION OF PHILATELIC COVERS OF BRITISH WEST INDIES 1880 – 1935.

Photos from internet, e-bay, auction catalogues, IslandsKontakt, Rapport and our copy-collections.

Julian Calendar versus Gregorian Calendar *Ron Collin*

It isn't often that one single piece of Iceland Postal History involves both the Julian Calendar and the Gregorian Calendar.



This 5 aur King Christian IX postal card was in the recent Islandssamlarna Club auction. Unfortunately I was not the successful bidder on this item. The difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars was 13 days. This postal card was mailed in Reykjavik on 13. 1. 1908 (Gregorian date), which translates to the date of 31. 12. 1907 (on the Julian calendar).

The card was received in Rostoff on Don (Ростов-на-Дону) on 14. 1. 08 (Julian date) which translates to the date of 27. 1. 08 (on the Gregorian calendar).

Rostoff (Rostov) is a port city on the Don River, in Southeastern Russia. That is about 1,075 km from Moscow. This card transited through Troon, Scotland on its journey, as evidenced by the SHIP LETTER/TROON marking. Since the reverse side of this card was not visible in the auction, we were not able to see if there were any other markings which would have further evidenced its routing to the destination. Total transit time for this card to travel from Iceland to Southeastern Russia, was 14 days. That is probably very close to the same amount of postal travel time in effect today.

If you lined-out the word BRJEFSPJALD on the postal card, you could write PRINTED MATTER on the card and it could be sent for the 5 aur printed matter rate.

XXXXXXXXXX

Finnbogason Cover *Greg Cooklin*



Greg Cooklin asks for opinions on this attractive cover. Apart from the use of the 1937 Jubilee stamps which are nice to have on cover, it has an early (double) example of the Express label used in that period. I am sure Finnbogason was a stamp dealer, judging by the preprinted cover he used. I know I have seen covers with that distinctive imprint of the triangular airstamp. Unfortunately he did not manage to get the postage rate correct, which should have been 20aur + 30aur registration plus 50aur express fee.

More on the 1938 collectors' covers of Peter Petersen (Issue 42) Eivind Kolstad

(Editor: another welcome response to Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson's article on these attractive Petersen covers)

Sæll aftur, Brian! In issue nr. 42, there was an interesting article about the famous (?) P. Petersen-covers. I enclose some photos of my own covers, an exception is the first one from Gilsbakki, which I found at an auction recently (but I didn't buy it). My LÓN-cover was for many years the only proof of the existence of this bridge-cancel and it is one of my favourites in my collection.



Gilsbakki



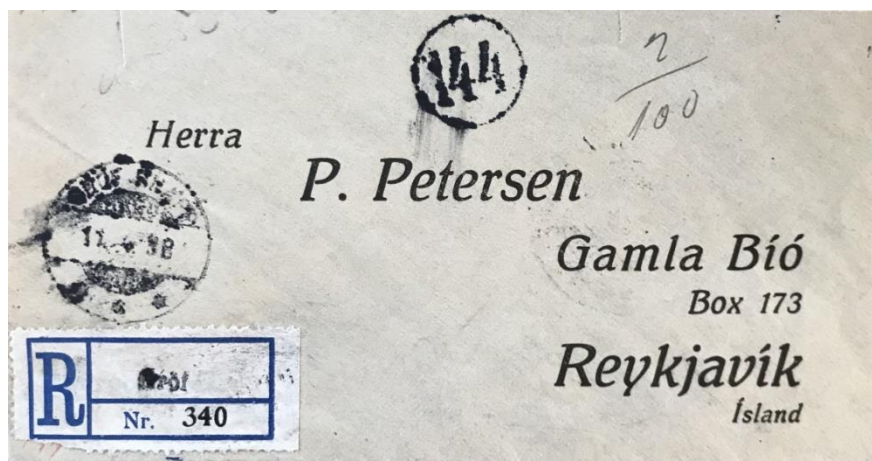
Lón



Saurbær Múl



Saurbær Barð



Gröf Hnapp



Tunga



Kirkjubæjarklaustur

Thank you Eivind: We owe a debt to those collectors from former times who managed to save for posterity so many fine examples of rare postally used postmarks, of a quality which would be otherwise unavailable for present day collectors. Petersen was a fine example. I was asked recently by a reader for an idea of what sort of price Petersen covers fetch. I was unable to answer with any conviction, until Eivind mentioned one I am unable to reproduce here due to the poor image resolution. Eivind explained thus *"The one from Gröf Strand with NIC 100 is not mine either, but was sold at a Danish auction last week. The final price for this one was 2850 DKK, which tells us that the P. Petersen-covers are extremely popular"*.

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Crazy date at Birtingaholt



Did anyone notice? In the last issue of this magazine, I altered the Birtingaholt image on the cover page. The original image was taken from P.28 of the 2003 Þór Þorstein's book. Why he selected an image showing a bizarre date of 37.11.34 is beyond me, unless it was the only example he had of Birtingaholt, and it happened to show an apparent error by whoever applied the cancel. You might ask why it took 42 issues of this magazine before the editor noticed it. Maybe someone will tell me there is an article about Þór's strike which explains the crazy date? There was no problem in 1937 as can be seen here.

