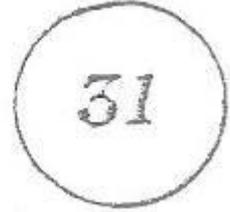


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Issue 47/November 2021

Iceland Philatelic Magazine

Contents	Page
News/Comment	3
Ink cancellation over stamped with Reykjavík B1a strike. <i>Birgir Sigurþórsson</i>	3
Rubber stamps purchased 1930-31 for use on registration labels. <i>Jørgen Steen Larsen</i>	4
Manuscript cancels to challenge you	6
Aerogramme Third Harrison Printing 1.1.1969 (IPM Issue 11) <i>Fred Arnason</i>	6
ICELAND via ORKNEY. <i>Jakob S. Arrevad</i>	7
War Ballot Envelopes for American Servicemen serving in Iceland. <i>David Loe</i>	16
Icelandic Aerograms. <i>Hálfdan Helgason</i>	19
Two special Danish cancels used in Reykjavík around the start of WW2. <i>Jørgen Steen Larsen</i>	22
Íslenskt frímerki fór á 285 þúsund	23
Oh, The Things You Can Learn from Stamp Collecting! A cover to H. E. Harris & Co. <i>Mike Schumacher</i>	24
10. Review of the series "Was this cancel used here? (Issues 10-26)	25
False Numerals 67 and 82 <i>Jørgen Steen Larsen</i>	25
RKH - a rare manuscript treasure	26
Brettingsstaðir has seen better days. In a post on Facebook <i>Ingibjörg Helgadóttir</i>	27
The history of the stamp - the New Icelandic Bible translation <i>Guðjón Axelsson</i>	28
Mysterious manuscript on Ship letter cover	30
Stamp prices 1903 and 2021 <i>Henk Burgman</i>	31

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GLÆÐILEG JÓL !

As far as I am aware, there has been no recent news from Iceland on postal matters. However, all is not gloom and doom. We should be thankful to Gisli Geir Harðarson and Steinar Fridthorsson, who since May this year have helped brighten the lives of Iceland collectors with their excellent safnari.is auctions of postcards and stamps. Here are just some of the more outstanding sales from the September and October auctions, all in ISK:-

September sales:

Efstalandskot cover by ÞÞ, 50,000; *Hellisandur* manuscript, 30,000; 159 numeral manuscript, 72,000; Numeral 2 on cover, 205,000; ship letter Aberdeen, 145,000; Inverness on Í Gildi, 50,000; Queenstown ship letter, 64,000; parcel card on SS Esja with 10 x 7aur Views, 160,000; Swansea Glamorgan transit, 88,000; 233 Hellnar, 54,000, Reykholt crown cancel, 285,000; parcel card with 3 x 1kr FredVIII, 115,000.

October Sales:

Unique shipletter with “Inspektionsskibet Islands Falk” in small letters, 260,000; *Snes* manuscript, 30,000; Partial Undraland bridge cancel, 64,000; Miklibaer crown, 38,000; 89 numeral cover, 76,000; 147 numeral on Petersen cover, 89,000; Calais-Paris strike on 20aur blue, 25,100; Kirkjuvogur B2a cancel, 20,000; 112 manuscript, 44,000; 239 numeral, 125,000; 232 numeral, 50,000; Hjalteyri B1a with numeral 66 on Petersen cover, 56,000.

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**KEEP THE ARTICLES COMING IN -
NEXT ISSUE IS JANUARY 2022**

As this is the last issue for 2021, I am also sending the Index for 2020-2021, issues 36 – 47 which you will find attached with this email. If anyone is lacking the previous indices for 2015-2017 and 2018-2019, please let me know.

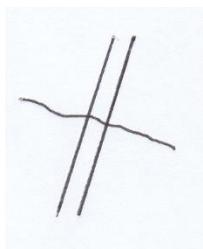
We have reached the 6th anniversary of this magazine; “time flies” as the saying goes. My grateful thanks to those whose contributions have helped keep the magazine on the road. Here is a breakdown of the 193 readership by country of origin.

Iceland – 45, USA - 46, Sweden - 25, UK - 19, Denmark - 19, Netherlands - 7, Canada -7, Germany -5, Norway – 5, Finland – 4, France – 3, and one from New Zealand, Belgium, Singapore, Czech Republic, Italy, Brazil, China, and last but not least, Hungary.

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Ink cancellation over stamped with Reykjavík B1a strike. *Birgir Sigurþórsson*

Birgir gave his permission for IPM to publish this image with his request for advice about the circumstances which might have led to an ink cancellation being subsequently over stamped with a Reykjavík B1a strike of 13.5.1896. Birgir posed his question on *Frímerkjaspjall* and as far as I know, there has been no response.



Do people have any theories about the circumstances which might have caused such a double cancellation?
I suppose the envelope might have given a clue of the probable journey taken. The B1a is definitely struck over the ink cancel.

Rubber stamps purchased 1930-31 for use on registration labels. *Jørgen Steen Larsen.*

Published in IslandsKontakt 55, translated from the Danish and reproduced with the editor's permission.

Some time ago, Leif Fuglsig sent me a copy of a money letter sent to Hólmur, Kirkjubæjarhreppur, Vestur Skaftafellssýsla, where the registration label at the sender post office was stamped with "Gröf 100". Leif asked what the explanation might be for the number "100".

It was relatively easy to answer Leif's question by saying that since there were two letter collection places with the place name Gröf, in order to be able to distinguish, they had chosen to add the old number stamp after the place name. In 1930 there was thus both a letter collection place on the farm Gröf, which is located in Miklaholtshreppur in Hnappadalssýsla and which had number stamp 144, and on the farm Gröf, which is located in Óspakseyrarhreppur in Strandasýsla and which had number stamp 100.

In my collection there is a Fylgibréf, where the registration is stamped "Garður 216". The addition of "216" fits with the fact that in 1930 there were two letter collection places called Garður. One was on a farm in Hálshreppur in Suður-Þingeyjarsýsla, where they had number stamp 73, and the other was on a farm in Aðaldælahreppur - also in Suður-Þingeyjarsýsla, where they had number stamp 216.



Fylgibréf med vignet på stemplet "Garður 216".

It was not really my intention to make more out of this unusual subject until the other day a letter came from Þór Þorsteins with a very interesting copy of all the rubber stamps that were purchased in 1930-31 for use in stamping registration labels. It appears from the copies that in 1930-31 among the many rubber stamps purchased, there were the following rubber stamps, where after the place name a number was added as well as individual rubber stamps without numbers, where the place name was the same as in the stamps with numbers:

"Arnarstapi 118", "Arnarstapi 175", "Ás 75", "Ás 94", "Ás" without number,
"Brekka 21", "Brekka 121", "Brekka 157", "Brekka" without number,
"Flatey 61", "Flatey" without number, "Garður 73", "Garður 216",
"Gröf 100" and "Gröf 144".

These rubber stamps are all made with the same letter and number types as on the address card above. In addition, the following rubber stamps with narrower letter and number types:
"Breiðabólstaður 140", "Breiðabólstaður 203", "Höskuldsstaðir 34" og "Höskuldsstaðir 78".

Finally, a few questions and comments for those who are particularly interested:

(a) Where can the rubber stamp "Ás" without numbers be made for?

"Brekka 121" seems to have an incorrect inscription, as the place name Brekka is not found near the letter collection place Vatnsfjörður, which used N1a-121.

The inscription in "Brekka 121" thus seems to have been "Brekka 127" corresponding to the fact that it was a letter collection place called Brekka in Austur-Barðastrandarsýsla, which used N1a-127.

(b) Where can the rubber stamp "Brekka" without numbers be made for?

"Flatey" without numbers may possibly have been made for Flatey in Breiðafjörður, which was mailed as early as 1913 and here got a bridge stamp to replace number stamp 142.

Finally, we can show another rubber stamp with the inscription Flatey, where the stamp color is violet, the inscription is larger and is slanted:



Is this rubber stamp from before 1930-31, and which of the two Flatey's can it originate from?

The editor has submitted Jørgen's article to Ólafur Elíasson and received this detailed answer:

"Jørgen Steen is absolutely right in his explanation of the numbers that follow the name in the rubber stamps from some letter collection places. One simply added the number of the post office when there were two (or more) farms with the same name, e.g. "Gröf 100" and "Gröf 144".

I can add that over the years the postal service has occasionally published "Bæjartal" (Place list) in which there are names and locations of all Iceland's farms as well as information about which post office / letter collection place serves the farm. These lists also contain a list of all the post offices in the country at the time the book was published, together with the official abbreviation for the names of the post offices (Ak = Akranes; A = Akureyri) and the number (= number stamp) of the letter collection places. In Bæjartal from 1930 there are the following letter collection places with the same name:

Ás 94, Ás 75.

Breiðabólstaður 203, Breiðabólstaður 42.

Brekka 127, Brekka 21, Brekka 157.

Bær 193, Bær 237.

Garður 73, Garður 216.

Gröf 100, Gröf 144.

Hestur 158, Hestur 202.

Hólar 26, Hólar 79, Hólar 217.

Holt 111, Holt 14, Holt 218.

Hvammur 135, Hvammur 163.

Höskuldsstaðir 78, Höskuldsstaðir 34.

Saurbær 72, Saurbær 168, Saurbær 231, Saurbær 132.

Staður 117, Staður 41.

Finally, postal analysis on Jørgen Steen's cover letter if anyone should be interested:

Package 10-15 kg by car: DKK 18; Mail collection: For NOK 50-100: NOK 1.50 + 30 aur / NOK 100: 13 x 0.30 = NOK 3.90 Total: NOK 23.40. It appears that the sender was cheated for 10 öre.

Postage period: 15.11.1942 - 30.09.1947. Sincerely, Ólafur"

Manuscript cancels to challenge you



← I have checked back through a few issues of the magazine and I am fairly sure I have not asked about this one before. I cannot remember anything about it, except I have written “N Þing” on the envelope it came in. It appears to have a date 8/1 beneath.

The seller wrote “1876 10a Carmine Pen cancel”

Does anyone have any ideas what the pen cancel might be?

Birgir Sigurbórsson showed this manuscript cancel on *Frímerkjaspjall.is* and asked for views on what it might be. So far none have been offered. Can our readers offer any opinions? Is it just an X or possibly something else? →



← A number of distinguished experts have given a view on this. The general view is it does not appear to be an Icelandic word. It appears to have been applied after the stamp was cancelled at Reykjavik. It is thought that the first few letters appear to be “Bail”. Are there any other opinions please?

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Aerogramme Third Harrison Printing 1.1.1969 (IPM Issue 11)

Fred Arnason

On Page 10 of the above quoted issue, there is an article about the third Harrison Aerogramme printing from January 1, 1969. I have attached two pictures of a Reykjavik post office meter cancel number 89 dated 27.VII.71 with a watermark “Imperial Air Mail Z”. I hope this is what you are looking for.

Many thanks for your very interesting magazine, with best regards, Fred Arnason



watermark “Imperial Air Mail Z”.
(Z is just above the “M” of “MAIL”)

(Ed. Definitely a better image than my original, and the watermark too! Thank you Fred.)

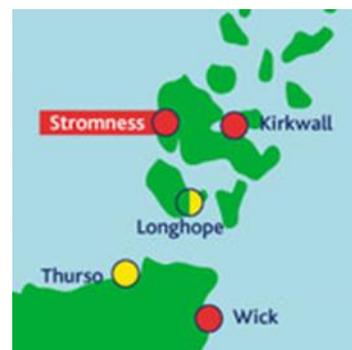
ICELAND via ORKNEY Jakob S. Arrevad

(Based on the compilation "IslandsKontakt Special # 26")

KIRKWALL – number 207

LONGHOPE – number 238 (Later Longniddry near Edinburgh)

STROMNESS – number 316



KIRKWALL

Kirkwall is the largest town of Orkney

As far as Kirkwall is concerned, it is stated that there are very few shipments bearing the stamp of Kirkwall, although many letters have passed. The same may well be the case with Stromness and Longhope, - as will be seen below, many ships have had mail, but only a few shipments known.

Here are examples of a duplex 207 ad twin-arc postmark from Kirkwall – AU 9 1899:



Just after a twin-arc postmark was used:

Shilling show a copy, this from 1899:



STROMNESS

Stromness is the second-most populous town in Orkney. It is in the southwestern part of Mainland Orkney. Cancellation examples to look after:



LONGHOPE



The name of a fjord and a town located between the island of Hoy and its peninsula South Walls in the Orkney Islands.

The town is not mentioned in Robertson or Hosking, but Robertson states (under Kirkwall) that there was regular small-ship service to the mainland (Scotland) and he highlights more regular routes to Leith and Aberdeen.

From 1903 there are records of ships carrying mail from Iceland to Orkney Island. The records state “Longhope”, but as it can be seen – it also sometime covers at least Stromness.

1903

Ship	Departure	From	Arrival	To	Payment
SCANDIA	09.01.1903	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	5 KR.20 AUR Orkney Island
NAPOLI	25.03.1903	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	2KR.
NORRÖNA	09.05.1903	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	4KR. and to Paris
ISAFOLD	11.05.1903	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	2KR.
SCANDIA	06.06.1903	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	5KR.

1904

FIRDA	20.02.1904	REYKJAVIK		LANGHOPE	2KR.
HEKLU	10.04.1904	REYKJAVIK	Via STROMNESS 16.04.1904	LANGHOPE?	6KR.



FIRDA	25.05.1904	REYKJAVIK		LANGHOPE	2KR.
URANIA	06.06.1904	REYKJAVIK		LANGHOPE	4KR. OG TIL PARIS
URANIA	28.06.1904	REYKJAVIK		LANGHOPE	3KR.
SCANDIA	05.07.1904	REYKJAVIK		LANGHOPE	2KR.
ITALIA	30.08.1904	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	1KR.

1905?

1906

CAPRI	23.04.1906	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	50AUR.
EVVIVA	25.04.1906	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	3KR.
NORRÓNA	17.05.1906	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	2KR.
EXPEDIT	18.05.1906	REYKJAVIK	24.05.1906	LONGHOPE	50AUR.



Sent from Reykjavik 18.5.1906 with EXPEDIT, arrived Longhope 24.5.1906 and Copenhagen 28.5.1906.

MARIE	01.06.1906	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	4KR.
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1907

FIRDA	09.04.1907	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	1KR.
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EVVIVA	07.06.1907	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	3KR.
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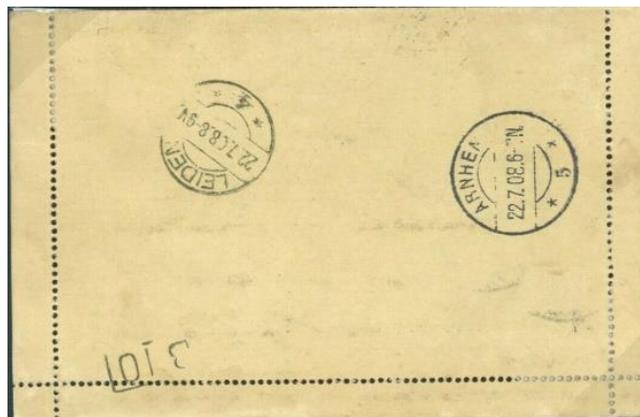
1908

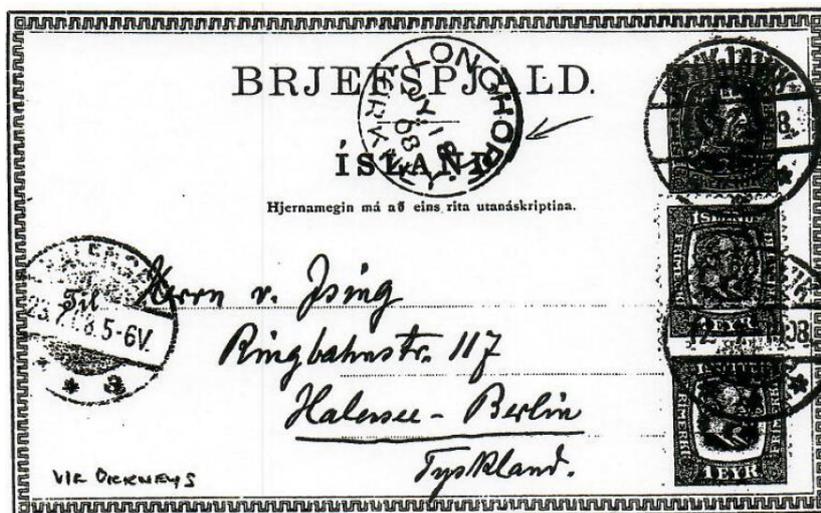
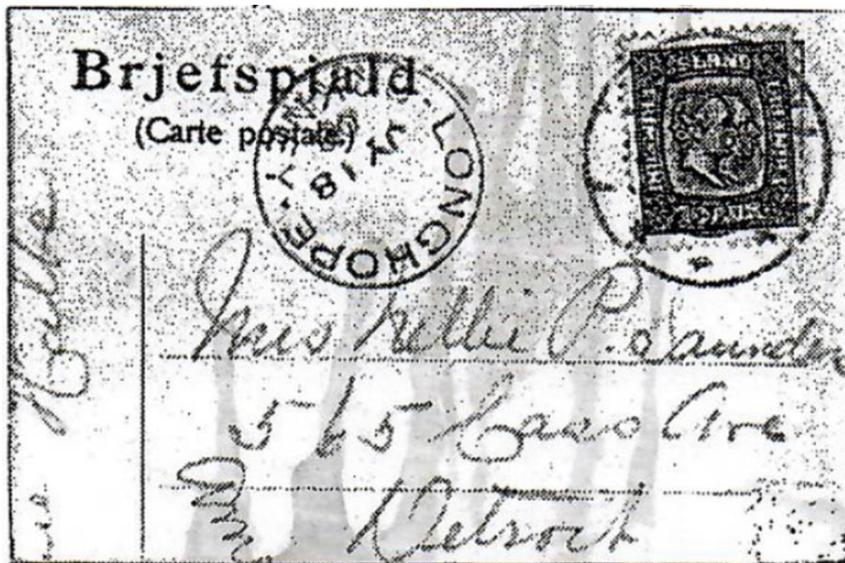
EXPEDIT	19.02.1908	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	2KR.
TRYG	13.03.1908	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	1KR.
GABRIELLA	13.06.1908	REYKJAVIK	16.06.1908	LONGHOPE	5KR.



It arrived in Kolding, Denmark 22.06.08.

FIRDA	13.07.1908	REYKJAVIK	18.07.1908	LONGHOPE	3KR.
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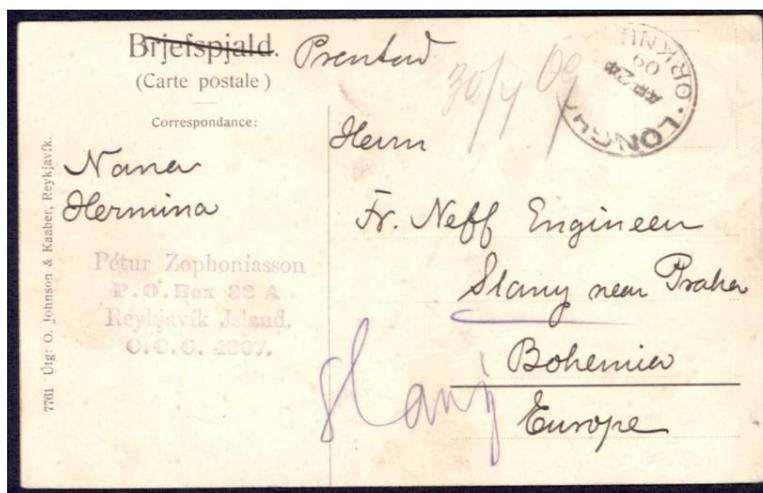




FIRDA	02.11.1908	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	1KR.
URANIA	12.12.1908	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE	50AUR
SVAVA	30.12.1908	REYKJAVIK		LONGHOPE AND KBH.	5KR.

1909

FRIDTJOF	16.04.1909	REYKJAVIK	24.04.1909	LONGHOPE	1KR.
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1910?

1911

VALHALLA	27.04.1911	REYKJAVIK	08.05.1911	LONGHOPE	1KR.
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The following is a Postcard sent from Reykjavik 2. May 1911 to Rosario de Santa Fé, Argentina. On the picture side bearing a pair 3 aur and a 4 aur King Christian IX tied by “Reykjavik 2.V.11” CDS, transit mark “LONGHOPE – ORKNEY MY 8 11” on address side.





Same day is shown by Mike Tuttle in Scandinavian Contact v. 18, # 7 from June 2001 p. 359.

1 August 1914 – 11 November 1918

During WW1 ships from Faroe Island and Iceland (and other) were searched:

I have recorded, that:

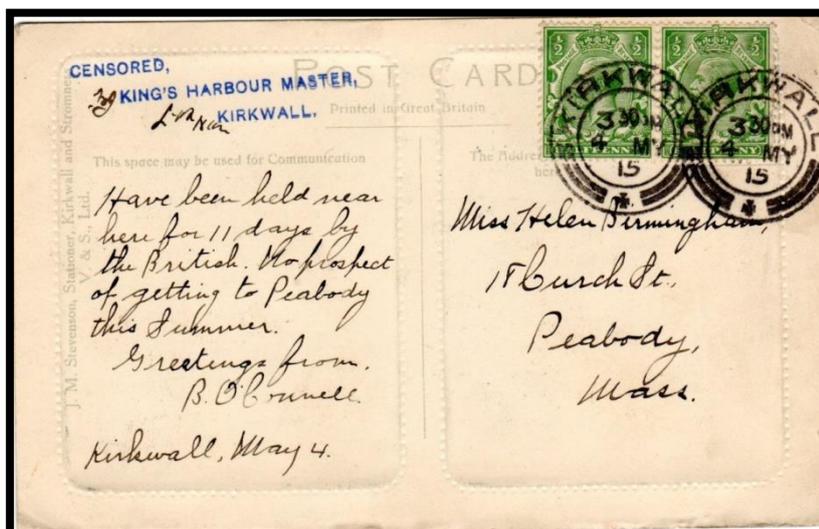
Tjaldur: in Kirkwall, 31.12.15, on trip from Faroe Island to Denmark.

Tjaldur: In Kirkwall 21.11.16, on trip from Denmark to Faroe Island

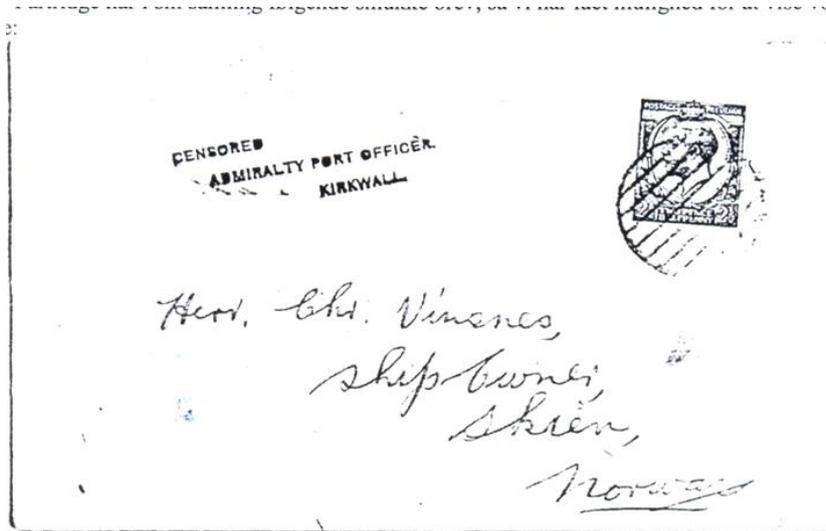
Vestas: in Kirkwall, 15.12.1916, on trip from Faroe Island to Denmark.

David Shaw writes in The Scottish Post # 132:

“I thought readers might like to see this 1915 PPC posted in ORKNEY during WW1 – it bears a fine blue 3/line ‘CENSORED/KING’s HARBOUR MASTER/KIRKWALL’ and is dated 4th MAY 1915. As this is only the second example, I have handled in 30 years I wonder if anyone knows why it should be so rarely seen? Was it reserved for special mails - the message to USA reads ‘have been held near here for 11 days by the British...no prospect of getting to PEABODY (MASS.) this summer??’”



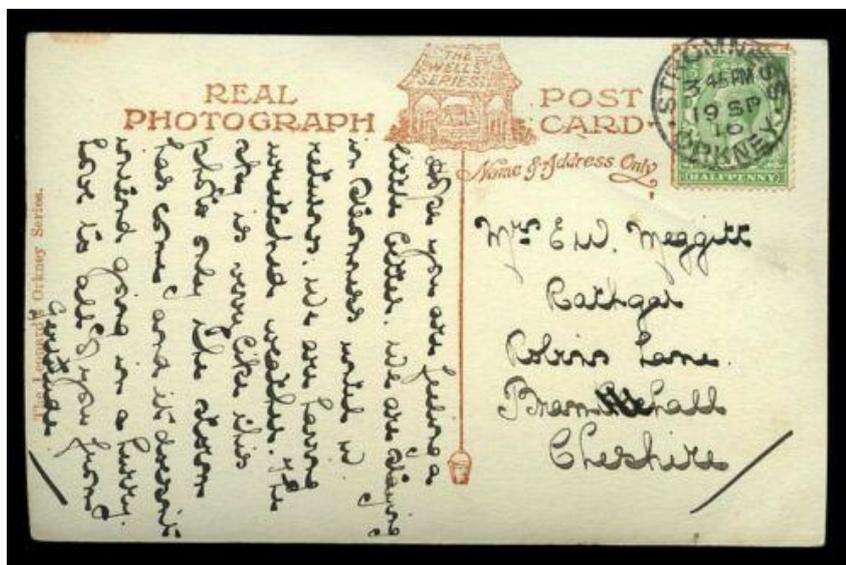
As a supplement from IslandsKontakt # 41 (Roger Partridge)



It is arrived in Skien Norway 7/7 1916 – but what is interesting is the cancellation on the stamp. Seen on several stamps from Iceland, and here located in Kirkwall (may also be used elsewhere?)



			11 OC 15	KIRKWALL	
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1934



1940

DFDS's ship S/S Bergenshus during the period 8.11.1939 - 5.3.1940 made three voyages. The schedule from Iceland to Denmark for the third and last of these trips is as follows:

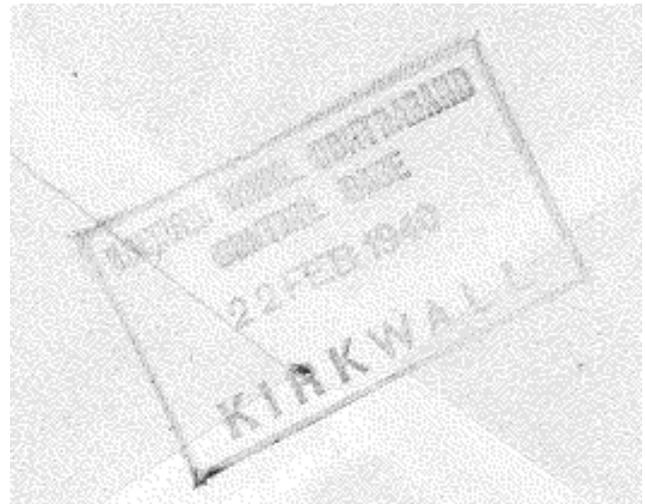
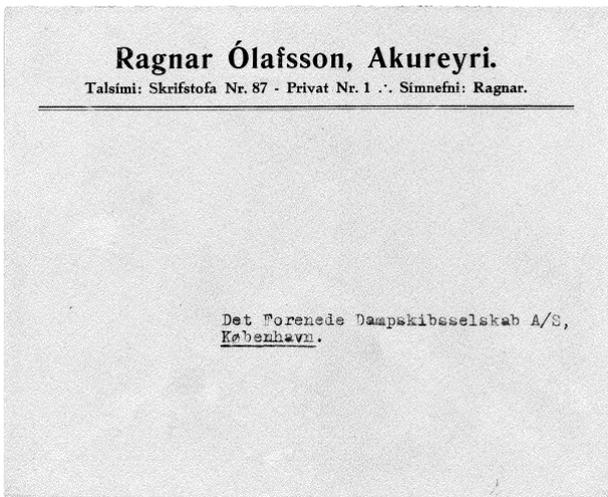
Dep. Reykjavik 16.02.1940.

Dep. Vestmannaeyjar 17.02.1940

Arr. Kirkwall 21.02.1940 the ship did not arrive in Thorshavn because it was boarded.

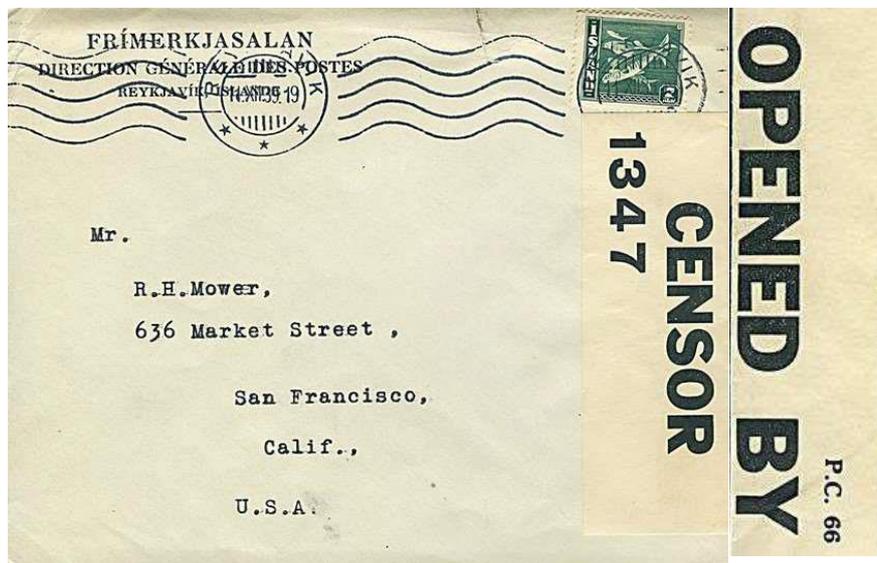
Dep. Kirkwall?

Arr. Copenhagen 05.03.1940



And on the back

(ISLAND postalt set I perioden 1939-1945" p. 130)



Ólafur Elíasson (in Iceland Philatelic Magazine 20 p.13): The cover left Reykjavík on an Icelandic ship (we do not know with certainty which one), that was diverted to Kirkwall where the mail was confiscated and sent to Liverpool to be censored. After censoring, the mail was returned to Kirkwall and from there it went with M/S Bergenshus which arrived at Copenhagen on January 14th, 1940. From Copenhagen the mail was dispatched onwards to destinations." See extensively "ISLAND postalt set i perioden 1939-1945" from p.107.

War Ballot Envelopes for American Servicemen serving in Iceland *David Loe*

Thank you very much for the feedback to the special issue of IPM on the Postal History of the American Forces in Iceland in WWII. One or two of you have asked about some subjects I didn't cover. Examples of these might be V-Mail, War Ballot Envelopes and Reykjavik Port Control markings. There may be more. Ellis Glatt and I are working on V-Mail and I will write about Port Control another time but please feel free to suggest other topics of interest relating to US Forces that I did not cover in the special issue.

Many thanks, David Loe

Introduction

One aspect of the American Presidential Election of 1944 was that servicemen were issued with some special postal stationary to enable them to return their ballots. The election itself was held on Tuesday, November 7, 1944.

By late 1944 the number of American service personnel remaining in Iceland had reduced to less than 10,000. With not all of the 20 American States operating the Absentee War Ballot scheme, and not all of those States releasing used ballot envelopes to the market, not many are available to the collector.

It is only possible to collect ballot envelopes used at APO's 610 and 860, other offices having closed. It should be possible to find Navy use but identifying these of Icelandic origin would be especially difficult and I have never seen an example.

Historical record (from Wikipedia).

Roosevelt had become the first president to win a third term with his victory in the 1940 presidential election, and there was little doubt that he would seek a fourth term. Unlike in 1940, Roosevelt faced little opposition within his own party, and he easily won the presidential nomination of the 1944 Democratic National Convention. Concerned that Roosevelt's ill-health would mean the Vice President would likely become President, the convention dropped Roosevelt's running mate Henry A. Wallace in favour of Senator Harry S. Truman of Missouri.^[2] Governor Dewey of New York emerged as the front-runner for the Republican nomination after his victory in the Wisconsin primary, and he defeated conservative Governor John W. Bricker at the 1944 Republican National Convention.

As World War II was going well for the United States and its Allies, Roosevelt remained popular despite his long tenure. Dewey campaigned against the New Deal and for a smaller government, but was ultimately unsuccessful in convincing the country to change course. The election was closer than Roosevelt's other presidential campaigns, but Roosevelt still won by a comfortable margin in the popular vote and by a wide margin in the Electoral College. Rumours of Roosevelt's ill health, though somewhat dispelled by his vigorous campaigning, proved to be prescient; Roosevelt died less than three months into his fourth term and was succeeded by Truman.

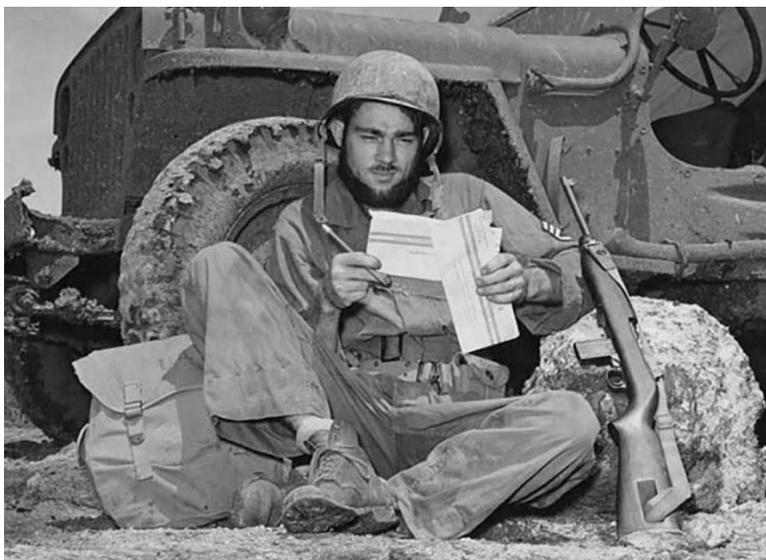
The War Ballot (<http://www.nww2m.com/2012/11/the-1944-war-ballot/>)

Measures to ensure that the American soldier's right to vote was protected *and* counted date back to the 1862 and 1864 elections of the Civil War. During World War II, the United States established the War Ballot Commission composed of two Republicans and two Democrats to supervise the shipment of ballots to servicemen overseas. However, unique state-by-state voter requirements, a lack of shipping space for materiel other than vital war supplies, as well as the remote positions occupied by many of America's fighting men made this mission to deliver ballots to the front lines an exceedingly challenging proposition. Some servicemen – such as the recipient of the ballot above – did not receive their ballots until well after the election was already over (the postmark reads Dec 5, 1944).

Ideally, when the ballots were received, the serviceman had either the option of selecting individual candidates or voting the straight party ticket. When completed, the ballot would be sealed in a provided envelope and returned to the state offices of the War Ballot Commission where they would then be counted.

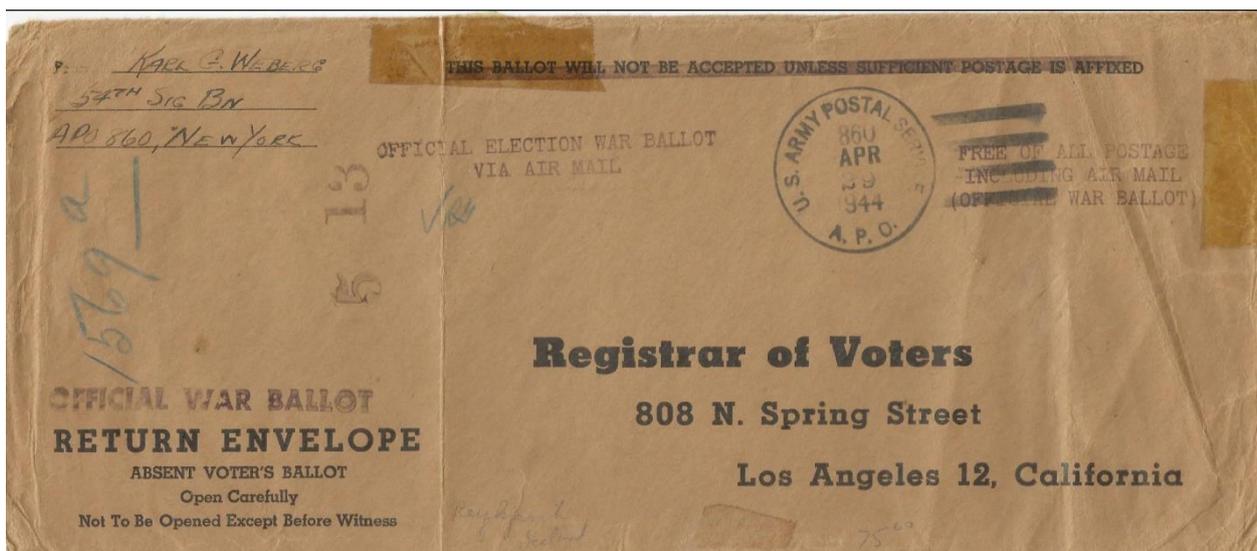
It is difficult to accurately assess the full impact of the soldier vote in the 1944 election. Although only 20 states authorised the use of the ballot, approximately 3.4 million absentee votes were cast in the election, with President Franklin D. Roosevelt winning re-election to a fourth term by a margin of slightly more than 3.5 million votes. Only 25 percent of service members voted in 1944 compared to more than 55 percent of the population as a whole. Nevertheless, the bill gave an estimated 9,225,000 men and women in uniform a voice in their government during a global war in which few soldiers of other nations enjoyed the same privilege.

Ref <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/soldier-voting-act-1942-absentee-ballots>



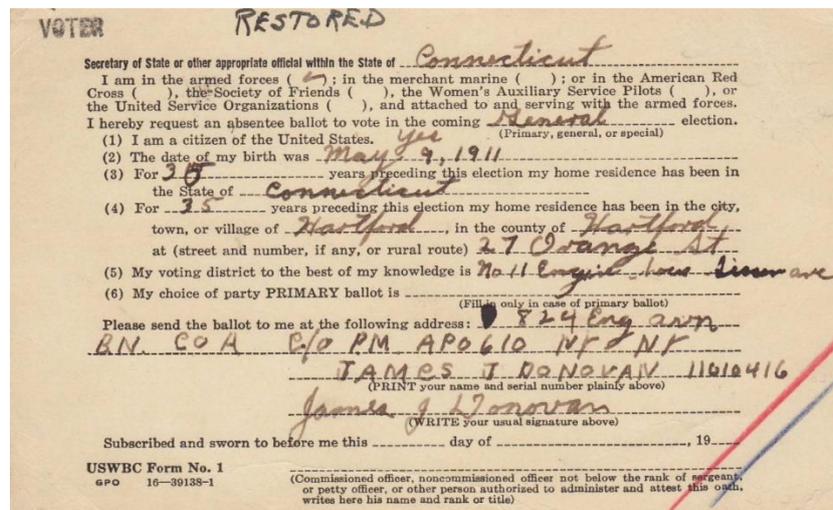
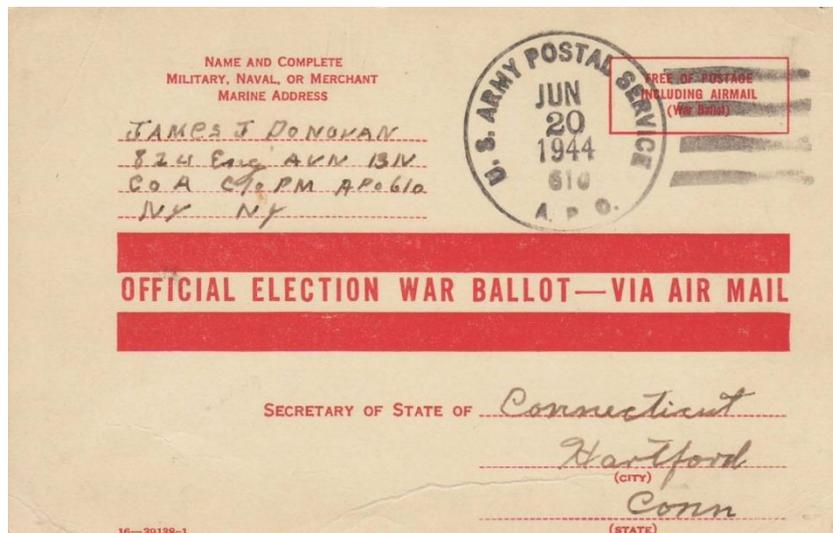
The Postal Stationary

I have seen several types of War Ballot envelopes. One commonality is that the items all have FREE OF POSTAGE Including Air Mail (War Ballot) in the space where a stamp would normally be stuck.

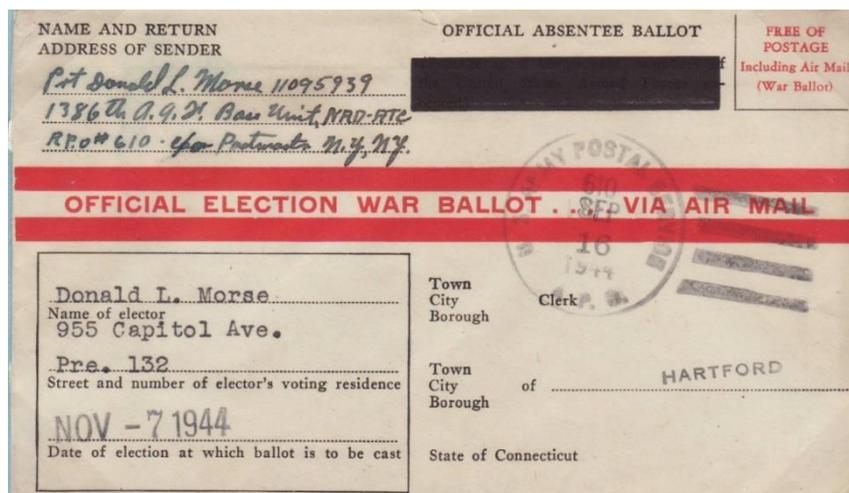


Return envelope from APO 860 postmarked April 29, 1944

I assume that this was a form of voter registration and an old envelope has been for the war ballot and suitably endorsed



Card to register as a voter in Hartford, Connecticut from APO 610 postmarked June 20, 1944
The rear has the voter details, stamped VOTER and manuscript RESTORED



The envelope used to mail the actual absentee ballot form
APO 610 dated September 16, 1944

Further reading (non-philatelic)

https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2171&context=fac_articles_chapters

2016 Fighting to Lose the Vote: How the Soldier Voting Acts of 1942 and 1944 Disenfranchised America's Armed Forces, Molly Guptill Manning, New York Law School, Molly.Manning@nyls.edu

Icelandic Aerograms. Hálfðan Helgason

Published in Frímerkjablaðið No.1 2013, and reproduced with the editor's permission

(Ed.) I do not need much encouragement to include the subject of aerogrammes. Indeed they have featured in a number of articles in earlier issues of this magazine. However, I thought it would be appropriate to reproduce Hálfðan Helgason's original article describing the history of this interesting aspect of Iceland's postal history. What used to be called "entires", i.e. entire letters, more or less disappeared from the philatelic scene many years ago. However, as well as postal interest, aerogrammes can and do provide interesting messages from over half a century ago. Here is the article by Hálfðan:-

On 15th September 1949 the Icelandic press issued the following press release:-

The postal authorities of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have given their approval to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, on 9 October next and to include a special type of mail delivery from that day, the so-called "Aerogram" (air letter), which may be sent by air to all countries for a standard international letter postage, currently 60 aurar.

This is a one sheet letter, which folds and closes together. No enclosure is allowed, but if one is, then it will not be sent by air. The letterhead with a 60 aurar printed postage label will be for sale at most post offices in the country and costs 75 aurar.

As you can see the postal authorities announced the first Icelandic air letter in a little more than 60 years. The purpose of the type was to give the public a simple and cheap solution for airmail transmission. And what was simpler than using ultra slim stationery with an imprinted stamp, which would be split up and glued back together in a predetermined manner.

According to UPU regulations the mail content must not weigh more than 2.5gm and had to have a clear printed inscription that no one could put anything in the letter, otherwise it would not be sent by air, but only by ship. The instructions appear on the back of the letter. The letter paper itself was printed in greyish colour, but in the background print is the word 'ISLANDE' repeated in 2mm high white letters on the front and smaller letters on the back. On the front is the prominent inscription AEROGRAM and below LOFTBRÉF. In the blue area one can read PAR AVION and in small print LOFTLEIÐIS.

The same postage applied to the entire world, should be the same as ordinary domestic postage, and therefore it was obvious that air letters were not used domestically between people. Collectors have to look for overseas sendings, which makes accumulation vastly more difficult. One must keep in mind that the mailings were in most cases personal communications between individuals, and thus found their way much less frequently to the collectors' markets than ordinary covers did and do.

The value of the first Icelandic air letter was, as stated in the press release, 60 aurar, but the sale price was 75 aurar. The "stamp" was an image of a plane over Hekla peak, the same as the 25 and 50 aurar airmail stamps of 1934. Copies printed were only 18,000, and the postage for air letter was raised 37 days after the date of issue to 85 aurar on November 14 the same year. It is not surprising if air letters sent during this period are rare, apart from a considerable number which were stamped on the day of issue, both sent and unsent.

Because the aerogram with 85aurar value, to meet the increase in postage from November, was not made available until 1st March 1950, they sold 60aurar aerograms with 25aur in stamps affixed. The sales price however was 100aurar. Sendings from the period 14 November 1949 to 1 March 1950 with the right postage are rarely seen. Although 85 aurar aerograms were printed at just under 30,000 copies, they still have a rarer postal life - with or without affixed additional stamps on the earlier mentioned type, because postage was

increased to 150 aurar only 23 days after publication, or on 23 . March 1950. Yet it should be noted that the first day stamp is common on this value at 60aurar and also on all the price levels still to come.

Once again it proved impossible for the Post to time the issue of aerograms with the changes in postage, and so aerograms to the value of 175 aurar did not appear until 15. June 1954, or just over eight months after the postage change. There were 50400 copies of the new version at a sale price of 2 kr. It was different from earlier versions in that the margins were decorated with red and blue diamonds, and in the position where AEROGRAM once appeared on the front there now appeared AÉROGRAMME. This was directed by the UPU.

The rate now remained unchanged for a surprisingly long period up to 1 July 1958 when it rose to 225 aurar. During the period it was considered necessary to issue a new air aerogram with the same value as before (175 aurar) and it differed from the previous version in that the ISLANDE background overlay was omitted. Print run was higher than previously at 114,000 copies. This version was for sale at the main post office until 1962 and could be found in small quantities at individual post offices.

It should be added that in addition to selling aerograms with additional stamps affixed, the Post increased the value of the aerograms using meter cancellers in red ink. Also private companies received licenses to overprint with meters in the same way.

NEW TYPE AEROGRAMS

In 1963, from 1. October they began selling new types of aerograms, which were different from those previously in use. The new aerograms were bigger and they were printed without a value but with attached stamps. At first, the additional value in stamps was 500aurar. This new type was released again on 1. January 1968, when the postage charge was 650 aurar. The third version came on 1. January 1969 when the rate was 1000aurar or 10 krónur. These three versions are slightly different from each other. The periods of use overlapped, so the affixed postage determines the type. Another trick is to check the back flap; its width varies depending on the issues.

After 31. October 1990 aerograms were no longer for sale at post offices. During the time that these three last types were in effect, the postage changed over 30 times. It would be a big task to obtain all the aerogram rate changes, if it would be at all possible.

Unfortunately there are no statistics on the use of aerograms. As previously said the vast majority or maybe all will have been sent to recipients abroad. This is a broad outline of Icelandic aerograms. They got more attention from collectors than they do at present.

(Ed. I decided to supplement Helgi's article with a few examples from my collection which I hope might stimulate interest in this fascinating aspect of Icelandic postal history).

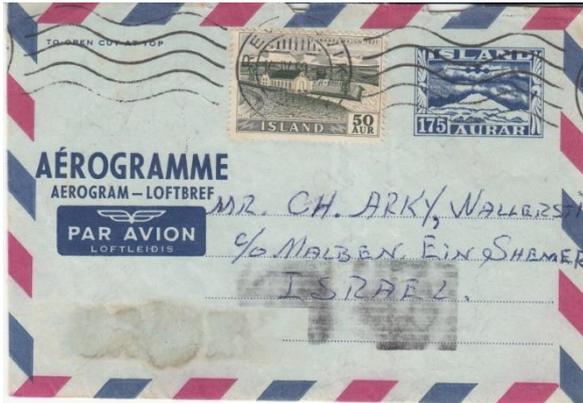


The first 60aur issue postally used within the 37 day period of validity of the 60 aurar rate.

B1d (23) Reykjavík dated 19.10.49 and sent to an address in the US Occupation Zone in the recently created state of W. Germany. It contains a brief typed message of greetings from the Otto Grundtvig, Pharmacist, Laugarvegs Apotek, Reykjavík.

On the following page you might think, "Surely the editor could show better looking copies of aerogrammes

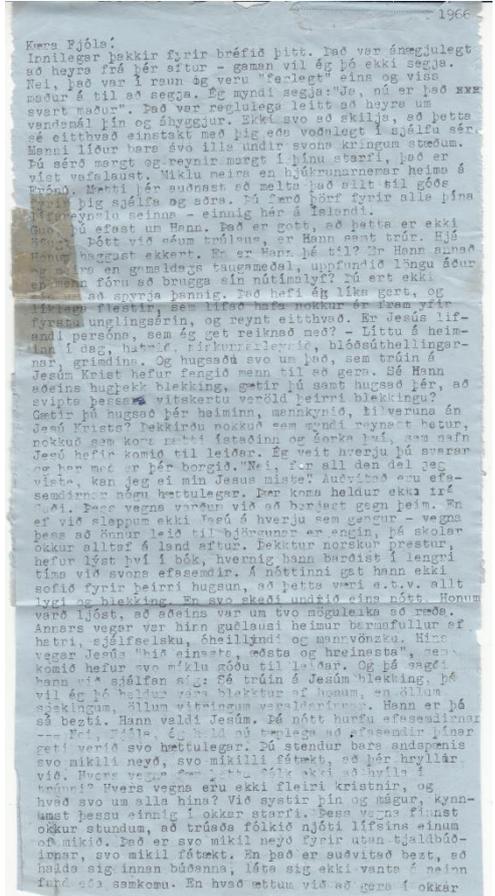
than the two which follow?" The answer is yes, of course, but these two are chosen because they illustrate what added historical interest can sometimes be found within these intriguing pieces of postal history.



175 aur uprated with 50aur adhesive to make the 225 aurar rate. Cancelled Reykjavík machine cancel 14.IV.59, sent to Israel. Haifa transit slogan cancel 14.4.59. Two other Hebrew strikes one with a visible date 20.4.59. Long message in English in which the writer declines the offer to exchange Iceland stamps for Israel which he does not collect, and asks if the Israeli could exchange Ghana, or the new republic of Guinea instead. The address is Malben village at Ein Shemer. Built on the site of a former British air force base, it was converted to a facility for elderly or disabled immigrants brought to Israel through “Operation Magic Carpet”. The village was opened in 1953 with a projected capacity of 1200 residents.

(MALBEN (Heb. initials מוסדות מוקדוים לטיפול בעולים נהשחלים, *Mosedotle-Tippul be-Olim Neḥshalim* – "Institutions for the Care of Handicapped Immigrants"),

First Harrison London printing



With the Harrison types you will often find philatelically inspired examples with no message inside. However this writer managed to cram approx. 800 closely typed words in Icelandic to a fellow religious sister in Oslo. Part of it is shown here. I will gladly scan a full copy of her message to anyone who is willing to provide a translation ☺!

The sister in Hafnarfjörður managed to get away with a 5kr stamp instead of a 5kr50, which became the rate from 1.1.1966. Posted on 17.II.1966 to Norway.

Two special Danish cancels used in Reykjavík around the start of WW2.

Jørgen Steen Larsen

”Kgl. Dansk Gesandtskab Reykjavik”



The paper is thick and yellowish brown which indicate that the letters were heavier than normal.

The 40 aur stamp was issued at 10.5.1939. The 50 aur stamp at 1.4.1938.

I have tried to identify the time of use from the postage rates in Brian Flack´s book. The postage (50 + 50) aur fits with an ordinary letter sent to Nordic countries in the period 1.1.1940 to app. February 1940 with a weight of 251 – 500 gm.

The postage (40 + 50 + 50) aur fits with a registered letter sent to Nordic countries in the period 1.1.1940 to app. February 1940 with a weight of 251 – 500 gm.

Brian Flack adds that “from that period onwards the normal route was by Icelandic fishing boats to GB for censorship and forwarding on from there to Scandinavian destinations.”

Based on this it is my guess, that the Gesandtskab cancel was used in the period 1.1.1940 – app. February 1940. I have never seen other copies of this cancel than on the two pieces above.

”KGL. DANSK REPRÆSENTATION I REYKJAVIK” + manuscript ”26/3 1940”.



In my collection I have a letter with this cancel sent to “A/S Nordisk Kabel- og Traadfabrikker, Fabriksvej, København F.” Postage 25 aur Fish. Receiving cancel København K 24, -3.4.40 16.05. On the back a paper seal ”KGL. DANSK REPRÆSENTATION I ISLAND”.

From the book “ISLAND postalt set i perioden 1939 – 1945” by Kristian Hopballe and Ólafur Elíasson we know, that the letter was sent as courier post to Denmark with the ship Gullfoss, leaving Reykjavík March 26th 1940, via Porsgrund in Norway and further to Copenhagen. The ship was arrested by the Germans on

9.4.1940. In addition to the letter I have the piece shown above and a single 25 aur Fish stamp with part of the same cancel + manuscript “??/6 1940”.

Through the years I have seen a few more usages on pieces and stamps.

Comments / questions.

It seems odd to me that we have two different names, “Gesandtskab” and “Repræsentation”.

It follows from a book about “Denmark’s independent foreign service 1940 – 1945” written by Bo Lidegaard, that in Reykjavík the ministry of foreign affairs had appointed, Frank le Sage Fontenay, as “gesandt” since 1924. He continued as “gesandt” up to 23. august 1943, where he officially broke with the ministry of foreign service.

Perhaps the Kgl. Gesandtskab Reykjavík and Kgl. Dansk repræsentation i Reykjavík are just two different words for the same institution?

Any more comments about the two special Danish cancels used in Reykjavik would be welcome.

Jørgen Steen Larsen.

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Íslenskt frímerki fór á 285 þúsund

You don’t need a translation. It says Iceland stamp went for ISK285 thousand, and the following article appeared in *Morgunblaðið* on 14th September.



An Icelandic collector yesterday bought a stamp for ISK285 thousand on the auction website Safnari.is. This is confirmed by Gísli Geir Harðarson, one of the owners of the website. The stamp is Icelandic and Gísli considers it to be from around the year 1895. He says the stamp itself is not remarkable as such, but the cancel on it is. This is a rare crown stamp that was used in Reykholt in Borgarfjörður and there are only three other known copies with it.

The stamp is the most expensive single item that has been sold on this website since it launched last May. Gísli Geir says that the reception has been great and mentions as an example that postcards have cost less than ISK 40,000 each. Collecting has generally flourished as a "fun indoor hobby" during the viral epidemic, and both domestic and foreign collectors have made their mark.

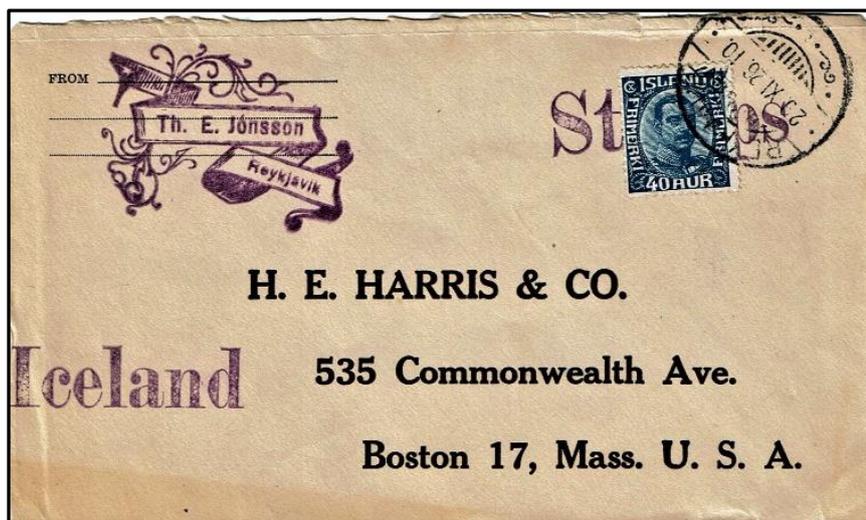
"I want to encourage people to look at what they have and seek advice if they think they have something like that because there is a great demand for good things and there are very good prices going on," he says.

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Oh, The Things You Can Learn from Stamp Collecting! A cover to H. E. Harris & Co.

Mike Schumacher

This article is about an interesting looking cover recently added to my Icelandic collection. It is a 1926 cover, sent to H. E. Harris & CO. in Boston, Massachusetts with a couple of unusual stamped markings. In the upper left corner of the envelope is a stamped logo of the sender - Th. E. Jonsson, Reykjavik, who it appears was a stamp dealer (conclusion based on the other two markings which indicate "Iceland" "Stamps"). None of these markings have I previously seen on a cover. Affixed to the cover is a 40aur King Christian X stamp, which was first issued on November 25, 1920 and reprinted in 1923. The postmark is a type B1d Reykjavik cancel.* All things combined make it a very pleasant looking cover.



The H. E. Harris Company (a mail-order stamp company) was founded by Henry Ellis Harris when he was 14 years old (1916), with 25 cents in capital, in a spare bedroom of his family's home. He opened his first retail store in 1921 and by 1935, Henry E. Harris was the largest stamp dealer in the world, employing more than 200 people. In 1943, he purchased the Kenmore Stamp Company.

Kenmore Stamp Company was started in 1932 by Ernest Greenway Jarvis, owner and president of the Niagara Falls Smelting and Refinery Company, when his doctor advised him that he needed to take up a hobby and relax. Thus he resumed his boyhood interest – stamp collecting.

The Kenmore Stamp Company returned to the stamp scene in 1947, when Henry E. Harris Jr. bought the rights to the name from his father and reestablished the company in 1948 in the Boston suburb of Arlington.

In 1975, the H.E. Harris Company was sold to the venture capitalism division of General Mills. The H.E. Harris Company was stripped of its assets, inventory was sold, the publishing division was floated and the approval division was closed. The number of H. E. Harris employees went from hundreds to zero. A sad end to what was once the largest stamp company in the world.

Henry E. Harris died in 1977. In 1979 he was inducted into the American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame. Henry E. Harris was also the recipient of the American Philatelic Society Luff award in 1966.

- For more information on Iceland cancels see "PÓSTHÚS OG BRÉFHIRÐINGAR Á ÍSLANDI" by Klubbur Skandinaviasafnara

(ED. Mike added: - The article info is more about recipient U.S. Stamp dealer(s). But maybe some reader(s) know or have info on the sender that I could add to the story).

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10. Review of the series “Was this cancel used here? (Issues 10-26)

Three cancels are reviewed here: - B2a Höskuldsstaðir Hún, B1a Sveinseyri, and B8e Innsta-Tunga, all of which featured in Issue 16/2017.



B2a Höskuldsstaðir Hún Austur Húnavatnssýsla

Recorded use 1930 -31.12.1966

Ytri-Hóll (2) 1.1.1967 – November 1968

In a subsequent Issue No. 21, Eivind Kolstad provided evidence of Höskuldsstaðir Hún used at Ytri-Hóll; although undated it was on a stamp issue which proved use in the second period.

Next was the possibility that **Sveinseyri B1a**, following closure on 20.6.1961, was used at Innsta-Tunga from 21.6.1961 until Innsta Tunga received its own B8e on 18.8.1961. No examples have been offered by readers, but there must be a possibility of usage in a 2 month period which will be scarce, so check your Sveinseyri dates again.



B8e Innsta-Tunga was used until closure on 31.12.1967, and is recorded in Þórs handbook as being at Tálknafjörður until that office received its B8e cancel from 29.1.1968. Again, no examples have been provided, and if any exist in that short 4 week period, they must be extremely scarce. Check your Innsta Tunga dates just in case.

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False Numerals 67 and 82

After Hálfdan Helgason posted these images on a July Facebook page, Steinar consulted Jørgen Steen Larsen and they agreed that the images were forgeries.



Jørgen commented:

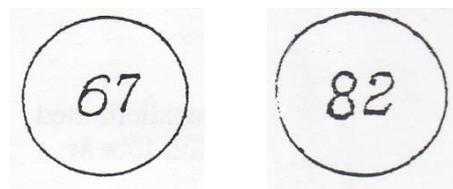
There are well known forgeries of both 67 and 82. Unfortunately they are not shown in the Numeral handbook page 22, where there was only space for the false 39 and the false 73. Here we have two false cancels – both in very nice and clean quality.

The figures in the false N1a-67 cancel are clearly placed too far to the left.

The figure “2” in the false N1a-82 cancel has a middle part that is too straight. The middle part of the “2” should bend more like a swan’s neck.

Below you can see scans of the genuine N1a-67 and N1a-82 taken from the Swedish Numeral Handbook.

Jørgen



RKH - a rare manuscript treasure

Published with the permission of the owner. I am also grateful to Hálfðan Helgason whose comments in the Facebook page *Frímerkjaspjall* are translated below from the Icelandic.



I am allowed to show a rare treasure here, even though I do not own it. The postcard is from the first issue, i.e. from 1879, of the subtype 3, which some call subtype c. It is known by the fact that the upper left corner of the frame is rotated 90 degrees to the right and the 20th horizontal frame at the bottom is reversed (counted from the left). I am certain that the ink cancellation is * **Rkh** *. I'm pretty sure you've never seen this ink cancel before (but of course you should never say never). But what does Rkh stand for? The postcard was written on 16 February 1892 in Reykholt in Borgarfjörður and the recipient is, as can be seen, an editor in Akureyri.

The card is stamped on February 27 with the Antiqua stamp Hjarðarholt. But do you think that the action took place in Hjarðarholt? A long time ago, I wrote an article in the excellent collectors' magazine *Grúsk*, which I called *Upprunastimplar*, and outlined how the cancel stamps were moved between places, according to which was responsible for the postal service each time. It can be seen that the post office in Hjarðarholt was moved to Arnarholt, where that stamp was used until the middle of 1900 when the service and the stamp were moved to Norðtunga. You can read about further movement in the article, which is in issue number 6 (1st volume, 2nd issue 1979).

According to this, the postcard is not stamped at the post office at Hjarðarholt, but at the farm Arnarholt, which is about 5 km southwest of Hjarðarholt. The card is then stamped (back cover) in Akureyri on March 11th.

(Ed. I invite readers to give their opinions on this amazing manuscript.)

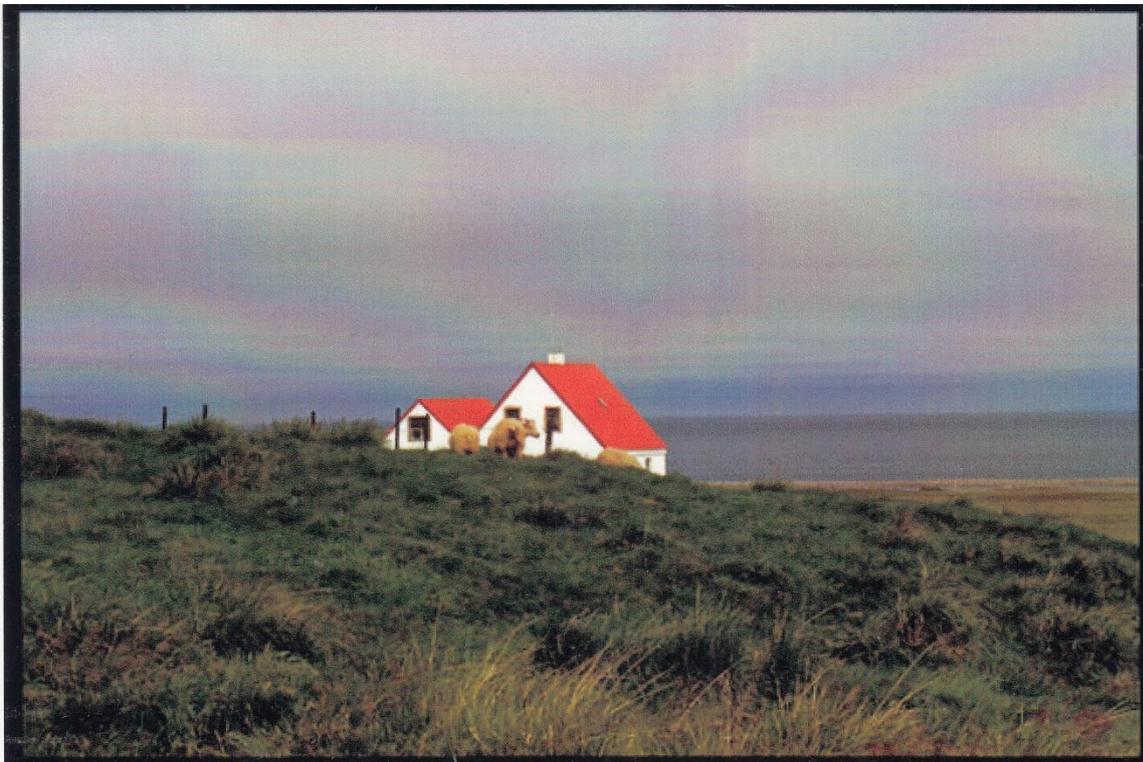
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Bretttingsstaðir has seen better days. *Ingibjörg Helgadóttir in a post on Facebook*



A picture was published of Björn Friðfinnsson (1939-2012) who was the mayor of Húsavík in the years 1966-1972. The people of Húsavík tell me it is of Björn by the house Bretttingsstaðir which has seen better days. (The picture seems to be by Höskuldur A. Sigurgeirsson in Húsavík).

(Ed. Here is Bretttingsstaðir in a more happier time.)



The history of the stamp - the New Icelandic Bible translation *Guðjón Axelsson*

On the occasion of the sixth translation of the Bible into Icelandic, a new stamp was issued on September 20, 2007. Örn Smári Gíslason designed the stamp and the motif was 6 letters, ten ISK60 stamps in a sheet and a perforation C. The Dutch printing house John Enschedé Security Print printed 400,000 stamps. Printing method: Offset printing and 20 carat gold foil. (Fig 1).

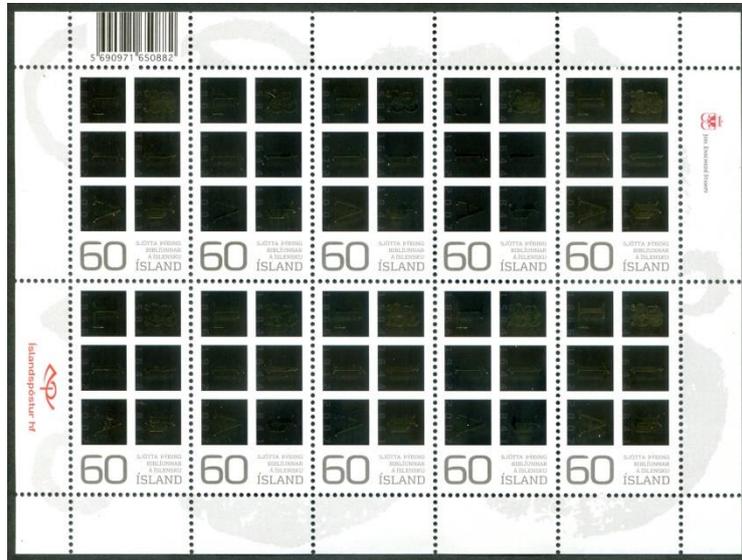


Fig.1

In 2017, the article "Wrong value" by Kristján Kristjánsson was published on p. 6 in *Frímerkjablaðið* (2nd issue, 19th volume). Kristján had come across a sheet of the Icelandic Bible translation stamp from 2007 from a British stamp dealer, noticed that the value was ISK55 instead of ISK60 and therefore bought the sheet.

Where the British dealer had bought the sheet, Kristján did not know, and therefore could not trace its origin further than that.

To verify the origin of the sheet and whether it was genuine, Kristján contacted the Danish auction company Bruun Rasmussen. Its experts believed that the sheet was genuine and originated in the printing press that printed the Bible translation stamp with the value of ISK60.

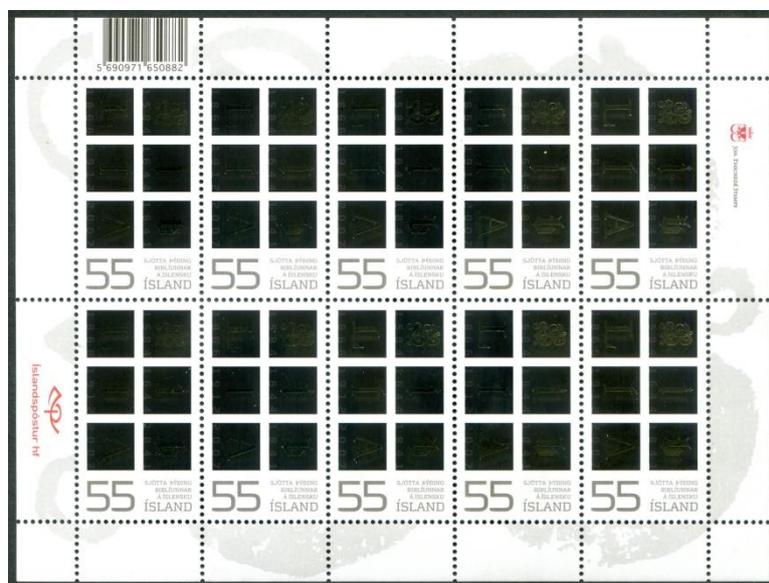


Fig.2

On August 23, Kristján sent an e-mail to Helga María Stefánsdóttir at Pósturinn. He said he had recently seen a sheet of the Bible translation stamp, where the value of the stamps was ISK55. The sheet is in other respects like the sheet that was issued on September 20, 2007 with a ISK60 value from the same printing house and seems completely genuine. He asked whether Pósturinn thinks this is a misprint or a proof sheet that has escaped from the printing house? Reply was received from Pósturinn.

Hello Kristján

Thanks for the inquiry. As you rightly point out, the stamp, the new Icelandic Bible translation, edition No. 292A, was issued with a value of ISK60. The stamp was originally supposed to be ISK55 and was printed as such, but once in Iceland that printing was destroyed in sealed unopened packages. A new printing was received and the stamp was issued with the value of ISK60 on September 20, 2007. There is therefore only one possibility in the situation and that is that this stamp sheet has, as you say, escaped from the Dutch printing house John Enschedé. Best regards, Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson. Director

The reason why the ISK55 stamps were not issued was, that after the ISK 55 stamp, the new Icelandic Bible translation, was designed and agreed with the printing house Royal John Enschedé for the printing of the issue, the price list of the mail was changed, so that from 1 May 2007, the postage for 0-25 g of ordinary letters was ISK60, and therefore the need for a ISK 60 stamp was obvious. A brilliant solution, as it was only necessary to change the value of the stamps from ISK55 to ISK60 and print a new issue. Due to frequent tariff increases, it was quite common for the value of proofs to be lower than the value of issued Icelandic stamps.

Íslandspóstur must deliver to the National Archives of Iceland 500 stamps of each issue for preservation, 100 issues with 4 stamps, 5 issues with 10 stamps, 5 gift folders and 5 annual folders. I did not know if this also applied to stamps that were printed but not issued. I was therefore given permission to view documents in the custody of the National Archives of Iceland regarding the stamp issued on September 20, 2007 on the occasion of the sixth translation of the Bible into Icelandic. There, I came across 2 closed plastic envelopes from Íslandspóstur. In one envelope was a pile of sheets of the stamp, the new Icelandic Bible translation with a value of ISK60, in the other envelope a pile of sheets of the stamp, the new Icelandic Bible translation with a value of ISK55. This came as a big surprise to me, as Íslandspóstur's answer to Kristján Kristjánsson's question states that the entire edition of that stamp had been destroyed in Iceland in unopened sealed packages. Archivist Benedikt Eyþórsson, who was present while I was looking at the documents, agreed to my request to open the second envelope and count the number of sheets of the stamp, the new Icelandic Bible translation with a value of ISK55.

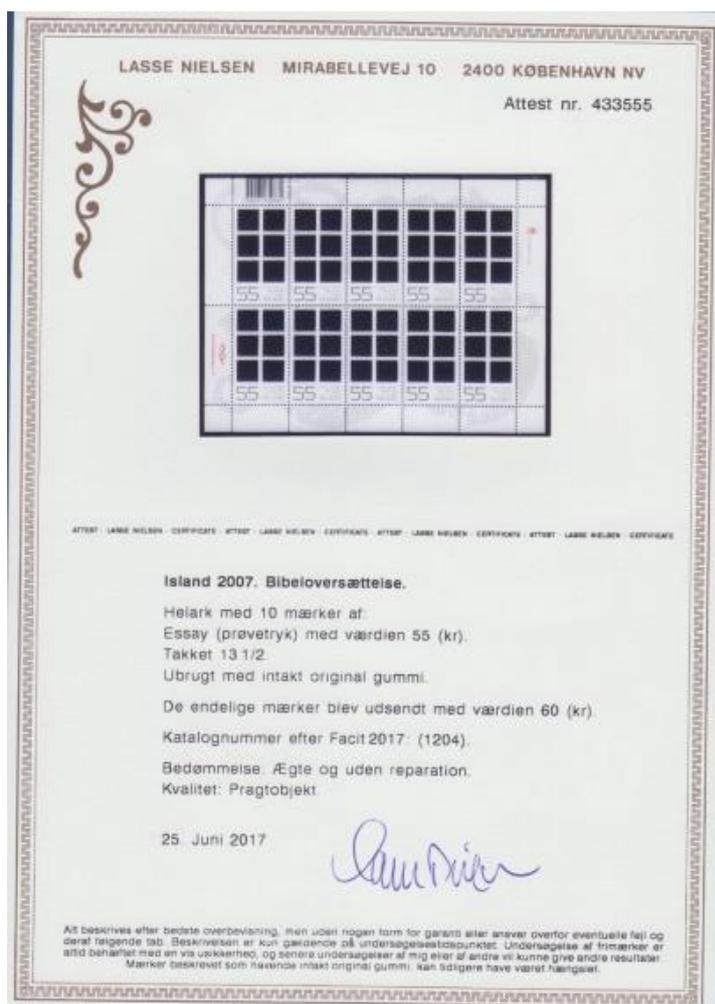


Fig.3

After counting the sheets twice, it turned out that 51 sheets, 510 stamps, were in the envelope. If these 51 sheets are part of the issue, Íslandspóstur has had to open one stamp package from the Dutch printing house. It would be desirable for Íslandspóstur to explain what happened to the other sheets, how many sheets were destroyed, and if any are in Íslandspóstur's custody, then how many?

At an auction by Bruun Rasmussen on 14 November 2017, an unused sheet of the stamp was offered for purchase, the new Icelandic Bible translation, where the value of the stamps is ISK55 instead of ISK60 (Fig.2). The target price was DKK10,000. The final bid was DKK 20,000 + commission. The sheet was accompanied by a certificate (Certificate No. 433555) issued on June 25, 2017 by Lasse Nielsen (Fig.3).

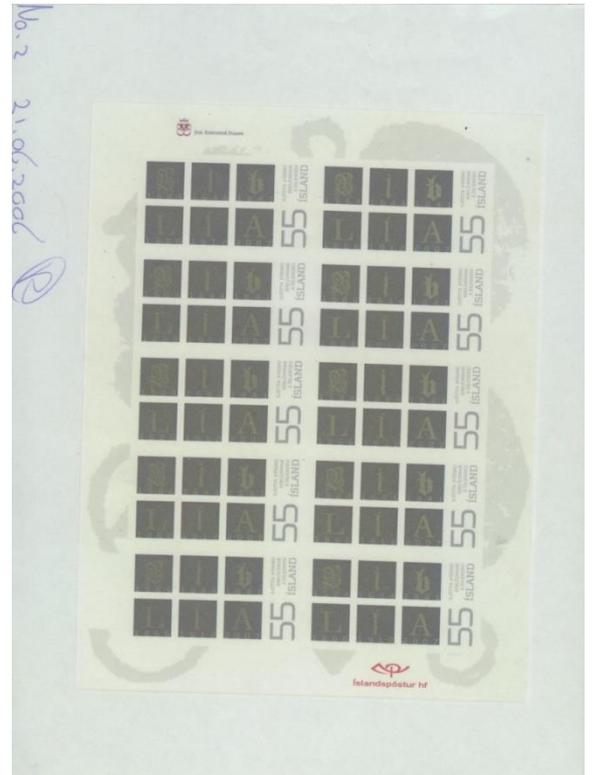


Fig.4

National Archives of Iceland preserves proof no. 2 from 21.06.2006 of the stamp, the new Icelandic Bible translation, with a value of ISK55 (Fig.4). There is no barcode on the sheet. This has been added when the edition with the ISK55 value was printed. It is therefore incomprehensible how Lasse Nielsen comes to the conclusion that the sheet sold at the auction at Bruun Rasmussen's is an essay or proof print.

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Mysterious manuscript on Ship letter cover



Hálfðan Helgason asks what the manuscript symbol might mean on this 1929 GB to Iceland ship letter. Has anyone seen anything similar on other covers of this type?

Arthur Jennion suggests perhaps it might be a ship's purser mark?

Reykjavík machine cancel 13.II.29 on 2½d British franking.

Stamp prices 1903 and 2021 *Henk Burgman*

Hi Brian,

I got this card and wanted to share it with the readers of IPM. The card was sent by a Danish stamp dealer to a Swedish customer. It's interesting as you can find prices for Icelandic stamps in August 1903. So you can compare them with the prices nowadays. Henk



Odense den 10/8 03 .
 H. H. E. Ljungström !
 Af de mere sælsynede sorten nyere isländ-
 ska märken offererar jag i fins fins obe-
 gynnade exemplar
 Med I Q I L D I
 50 aura Aundal 1 1/2 Kr. 4.00
 Sjuerste 10 " " 0.75
 Med I Q I L D I.
 3 aura Aundal 14 5.00
 3. gammal typ 3 1 1/2 4.00
 3. ny " 3 1 1/2 0.35
 4. " " " 1.20
 5. " " " 0.30
 16. " " " 1.25
 40. " " 14 1.50
 50. " " " 4.00
 Sjuerste.
 3 aura " 1 1/2 0.40
 4 " " " 0.40
 5 " " 14 1.25
 10. " " " 4.00
 16. " " " 1.50
 Vanlig frimärke 3 och 5 aura med upp och
 nedre till påbröck kostar Kr. 15.00 pr. stk.
 4 aura rosapri Kr. 12.00
 Högskningsfull
 Johannes Nielsen