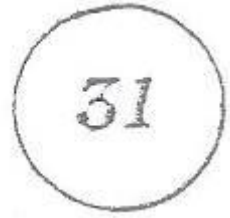


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

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 2022. If you need help with translations let me know.

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

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News/developments

It seems a long time since Íslandspóstur's lamentable decision to stop printing postage stamps, The last issue was in October 2020. I recall seeing a statement in 2020, or was it my imagination, that existing stocks of unused postage stamps would be used to exhaustion? There was an interesting comment on Jarle Reiersen's Facebook page to the effect that the post office claim to have a very large stock of valid unused stamps dating from 1985. Now we are well into 2022, and there seems to be public and even official confusion regarding the legitimate use of existing stamps by the post office's customers.

I am grateful to Jarle for the following description of what he aptly describes as "a kind of mess regarding use of stamps for payment of shipping costs."

Before Christmas I sent a request to Íslandspóstur for clarification as I experienced that the post offices did not accept my letters/parcels when I put stamps on them. The first answer was that it was not legal anymore, and then shortly after that, it would be legal until the end of 2021 on registered letters as well as on parcels. I repeated the request in the beginning of January (2022) and I posted the reply from Íslandspóstur on Facebook, as follows:-

"Unfortunately, we are not accepting stamps as payment methods for registered shipments; only for unregistered letters domestic and abroad. This was taken into effect now around the New Year and it was the head of the Icelandic Post that decided this."

Jarle continues "We have done some research on this, and some stamp dealers/collectors have found post offices that still accept the use of stamps and other post offices are not accepting it any longer. We have checked it out and Íslandspóstur has not published any information on their website to inform us that stamps are not valid as payment any longer for certain shipments.

Hope this will clarify the situation a bit - admit it is quite unclear to both collectors and postal officers."

Then a few days ago I got this depressing news from Jarle:-

*Today we got the information that the post offices in **Mosfellsbær** and **Garðabær** will be closed May 1st this year. Last week we also heard that the post offices in **Hella** and **Hvolsvöllur** will be closed at the same date. And I will not be surprised that other post offices will be closed too. There is no information from the administration of Íslandspóst - as we say: If we live, we will see!*

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London 2022 Exhibition awards

Árni Gunnarsson (the exhibition's Icelandic commissioner) in **Aerophilately** class with exhibit **Zeppelin Mail to and from Iceland** . 88 points Large Vermeil.

Páll A. Pálsson in **Traditional** class, with **Variants on Icelandic Christian IX. Issues Initial, surcharged and official stamps**. 87 points Large Vermeil.

Hjalti Jóhannesson in **Postal History** class, with **Icelandic Crown Cancels**. 82 points Vermeil.

Hálfdan Helgason in **Literature** class, with

1) **Icelandic International Reply Coupons**. 81 points Vermeil

2) **Icelandic Postal Stationery**. 87 points Large Vermeil.

Dangerous Iceland Í GILDI Forgeries from Years Past are Still Circulating

by Ellis Glatt and Þorvaldur Þórsson

One of the most challenging collecting areas in Icelandic philately are the Í Gildi '02-'03 overprints. The overprinting, which took place largely between late October 1902 and mid July 1903, was handled by Reykjavík printing firm Fjelagsprentsmiðjan. As a result of the weak control exercised by Iceland's postal authorities over the overprinting process and further impacted by the ability of the public to submit their own sheets (or at least half sheets) of aurar stamps for overprinting, a number of scarce and some very rare varieties emerged. They include the '03-'03 and 02'-'03 type-setting errors, several wrong ink-color varieties, and a number of rare perforation varieties, all of which have been heavily sought after by collectors and dealers since news of their existence first reached the philatelic press in 1903.

Because of the high demand for these errors and varieties and their limited supply, at least one or more printing-firm insiders and ultimately outright forgers stepped in to quickly help meet the demand. Some of these forgeries and fakes, in fact, have been circulating in the marketplace for more than a century now and even more still reside in collections. Two of the more dangerous groups of Í Gildi forgeries that largely circulate among the most expensive and sought-after varieties are presented in this article. Over the years, they have fooled many, including advanced collectors, dealers, and even some expert authorities. Fortunately, over the last two decades, more and more useful reference material housed in postal museums and national archives has been made available to Í Gildi researchers, including the writers. Hopefully, the details presented here will help fellow IPM readers avoid falling prey to the forgeries highlighted in this issue.

The first group of forgeries is especially interesting because they have probably been around for nearly a century. Examples are presented in Figures 1a through 1g. An example from this group was even spotted in the famous Hals collection of Iceland, held at the National Archives of Iceland, where it has resided since the mid-1930s. In this case, the forged overprint (Figure 1a) appears on a 25-aur with inverted overprint in black (originally listed as Facit 56v). In fact, this listing was dropped by Facit beginning with the 2013 edition of its catalog, when it was noted that no other example of that variety had surfaced to date with a genuine overprint.



Figure 1a

A second and equally famous example from this same group of Í Gildi forgeries is shown in Figure 1b. It surfaced in 1998 at a prominent auction, where it was billed as the highlight of the sale. It was spotted immediately as a forgery by at least one expert authority and withdrawn from the sale. The 6-aur variety, perforated 14x13 ½ and overprinted in black, had been listed by Facit since 1960 (Facit 38A) and was believed to be unique. The listing was ultimately removed with the 2006 edition of the catalog.



Figure 1b

Other Group 1 forgeries found among the more expensive Í Gildi stamps include the 6-aur with red overprint (Figure 1c) and the 10-aur (Figure 1d), both perforated 14x13 ½, along with the 20-aur with black overprint (Figure 1e) and the 25-aur with upright black overprint (Figure 1f), both perforated 12 ¾.



Figure 1c



Figure 1d



Figure 1e



Figure 1f

Most of the forgeries that have surfaced to date from this first group have targeted the rare and high-value perforation and overprint-color varieties. A few examples also are known for some of the lesser varieties. One such example of a large 3-aur with a forged inverted overprint is presented below in Figure 1g,



Figure 1g

This first group of forgeries generally exhibits the following key overprint characteristics: small, centered accent elevated over the “Í”, malformed “2” that is visibly inconsistent with the original type, and a slightly forward-leaning “3”. The zero combination is always thick-thick. Forgeries recorded to date are all unused. In contrast to the first group of forgeries, the second group is found almost exclusively on used stamps. Once again, the high-value perforation and overprint-color varieties were targeted. Shown below in Figures 2a through 2d are some of the forged perforation 14x13 ½ varieties that have surfaced to date on 10-aur, 16-aur and 20-aur stamps. A 20-aur by the same forger overprinted in black and perforated 12 ¾ is also included in Figure 2e. Some of the forgeries in this group can be especially dangerous and, in fact, had initially fooled more than one Í Gildi researcher and expert. (See the postscript at the end of this article for more on that.)



Figure 2a



Figure 2b



Figure 2c



Figure 2d



Figure 2e

In terms of the key overprint characteristics of this second group of forgeries, we have the following: backward-tilted “2”, largely missing lower serif on “D”, slightly extended upper serif on the “G”, and, in most cases, one or both apostrophes somewhat thickened. The observed zero combination is always thick-thick.

Of course, the two groups of Í Gildi forgeries presented in the article are by no means the only ones out there. However, they appear to be among the more dangerous ones with respect to detection. When it comes to the authentication of Í Gildi overprints, plating and the right kind of mission-critical reference material are most often the key ingredients for a confident result.

Postscript by Ellis Glatt:

Back in 2006, I came across the 10-aur Í Gildi pictured in Figure 2b and acquired it for detailed study. I was drawn to the stamp because it initially appeared to a genuine Facit 39, although a less than perfect specimen. But more important to me, it exhibited a reasonably legible Strandasýsla town cancel with a clearly readable date of 11/2 (1903). At the time, I was trying to pin down the approximate date the Setting III overprint plate came into use, which I believed was during February 1903. Moreover, the subject overprint exhibited not only a thick-thick zero combination, but also appeared to have a thickened leading apostrophe. And these same characteristics were consistent with those known to have been introduced in position 21 of the Setting III overprint plate. So how did I get it wrong? The answer: that mission-critical reference material and related detailed plating were absent from the analysis.

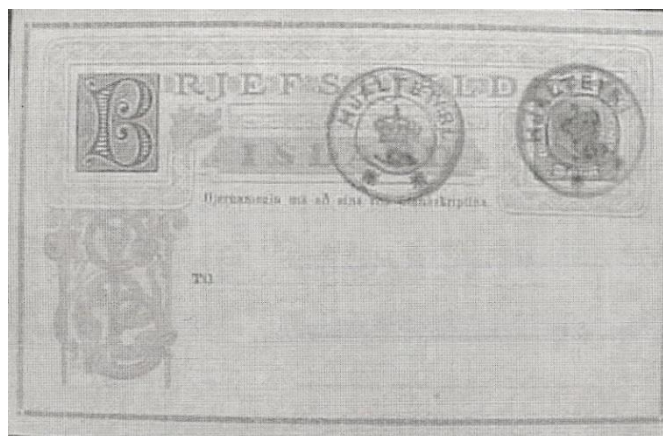
As it turns out, only a single intact sheet overprinted with the Setting III plate is recorded to date and, in 2006, was hidden away in that famous Hals collection at Iceland’s National Archives. Fortunately, in 2008, thanks to the persistent efforts in Iceland of fellow-researcher and co-author Þorvaldur Þórsson, we were able to finally access the collection and that Setting III sheet. The overprint on the subject 10-aur looked nothing like that found in plate position 21 of Setting III nor any other plate position in any of the overprint plate settings. It was a well-done forgery I had in hand!

Reuse of C2e Hjalteyri. *Jørgen Steen Larsen*



Above a commercial reuse of C2e Hjalteyri on a pair of 10 aur TK perf. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$.

We also know of philatelic reusages of the C2e Hjalteyri cancel.



The Brjefspjald above has two very clean strikes, no receiver and the back is without text.
All clear signs that this is a philatelic reuse.

C2e Hjalteyri is not listed in Facit Classic as a known reused. To be listed here we need to know at least 3 commercial copies. The reason for this is to try to eliminate coincidental reusages so that only reusages with a regular period of reuse are shown.

Can our readers help with more copies of reusages of C2e Hjalteyri so that we can find out if C2e Hjalteyri should be added to Facit Classic as a cancel with a regular period of reuse?

Both commercial and philatelic reusages would be of interest to help identifying the period of reuse.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Icelandic National Archives - Rarely seen Early Postal History Treasures *Steinar Fríðthorsson*

Steinar Fríðthorsson recommends IPM readers to access this link, and describes the contents thus:-.

“Rarely seen Early Postal History Treasures” https://www.skjaladagur.is/2006/001_04_01.html

The Icelandic National Archives hold a considerable assembly of Skilding and Aurar stamps on “covers”. These come from different various archives now kept there, and most of these have survived, due to them being actually “folded letters” that have had the franking applied to the opposite part of the same sheet of paper as used for the letter’s text.

The link will take you to a page associated with the National Archives which shows scans of 24 such covers, of which most have unusual frankings or cancellations. An enlarged picture of the franking of each respective item can be opened by clicking the relevant link, as can an image of the entire folded out cover be opened in the same manner. Clicking: “Næsta síða” at the bottom of the page will take you to the next page.

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

Two cancels are reviewed here: - B2a Garður. Þing. Ein, Suður-Þingeyjarsýsla and B1a Heiði, Norður Þingeyjarsýsla both of which featured in Issue 14/2017.



B2a Garður. Þing. Ein Suður-Þingeyjarsýsla

Recorded use 1930 -31.12.57

Hjarðarból 1.1.1958 – 31.12.1958

Hjarðarból opened for only one year before closure and did not receive a Hjarðarból cancel of its own. Since the IPM article appeared in 2017, nobody has provided an example of B2a Garður. Þing. Ein used with a 1958 postal date at Hjarðarból. It is likely that examples exist, although quite scarce. Frustratingly, although plenty of openings/closings of collecting offices are recorded in 1957, 1958, and 1959 editions of Póst-og Símatíðindi, I could not find any mention of either the closure of Garður in 1957, nor the opening and closing of Hjarðarból collecting office in 1958.



B1a Heiði Norður Þingeyjarsýsla

Recorded use 1930 – 31.12.1955

Efra-Lón 1.1.1956 – 31.12.1956

Efra-Lón opened for only one year before closure and did not receive a cancel of its own. Since the 2017 IPM article appeared, nobody has provided an example of B1a Heiði used in 1956. One imagines that examples should exist although scarce. Again, despite a search of the 1955, 1956, and 1957 editions of Póst-og Símatíðindi, I found no record of the closure of Heiði at the end of 1955, although it was included in a master list of collecting offices recorded as open in July 1955. There was no record either of the opening and closing of Efra-Lón collecting office in 1956.

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Bailir or Búðir? Manuscript cancels to challenge you (Issue 47, and 48)

An interesting contribution from Henrik Sundén:-

Regarding the various interpretations of the Búðir manuscript cancel: I have all 9 map sheets of the old 1:250 000 Iceland map with place names on their backs. There is no place called Bailir there. But there are many Búðir, only two of them suitable for bréfhirðingastöð or post offices, in Snæfellsnes and in Fáskrúðsfjörður.



Bailir is a word that does not seem Icelandic. To pronounce ai as a diphthong, the letter æ is used. The only exception seems to be maí. A funny thing is that Bæli means a ruined house, but the plural form of bæli is still bæli, not bælir. No bréfhirðingastöð would be opened in a ruined house.

Best Regards, Henrik Sundén

Royal Norwegian Air Force on Iceland during WW II

Rolf J. Scharning

The Norwegian RNoAF squadron 330 was activated on 25 April 1941 on Iceland, under RAF Coastal Command, also called Corbett Camp near Reykjavik. There were three stations: flight A Corbett Camp at Reykjavik, flight B Valhall at Akureyri in the north and flight C Camp Norse at Búdareyri on the east coast. (Fig. 1). The squadron became fully operational in July 1941 with Northrop N-3PB float planes. (Fig.2). The tasks were U-boat hunt, escort, reconnoitre and defence of the Icelandic airspace. Some ambulance flights were also undertaken, which was much appreciated by the civilian population.

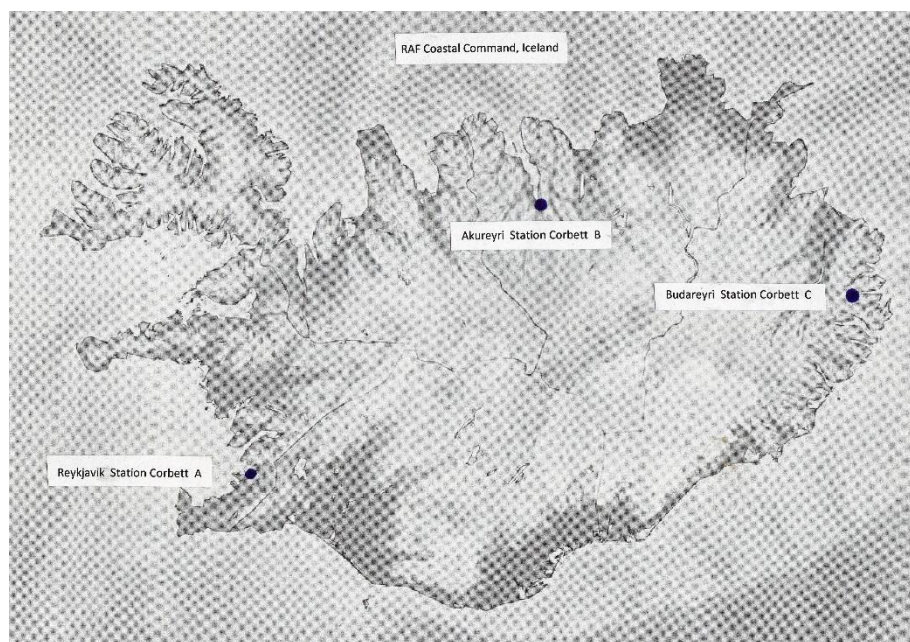


Fig 1



Fig 2



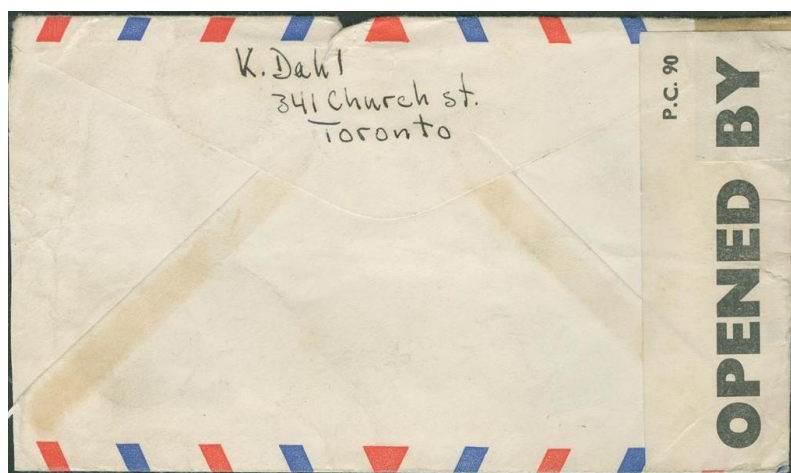
Fig 3

Mail to the squadron was normally addressed to the headquarters at Reykjavik, Corbett Camp or Corbett Station (Fig. 3), where it was sorted and distributed. Letters addressed directly to the outposts are few and far between. An envelope sent from Little Norway, Toronto, addressed to RAF Station Corbett, Iceland (C), was sold in Skanfil's 205th auction in May 2019 for the incredible sum of 20,795 NOK (commission included), or about £2,000. (Fig. 4 and 5). I was one of the bidders, but "fell off" quite early in the process. The *Little Norway* postmark was of course a contributory factor to the auction price, but I believe the main reason was the letter C in the address.

Fig 4



Fig 5



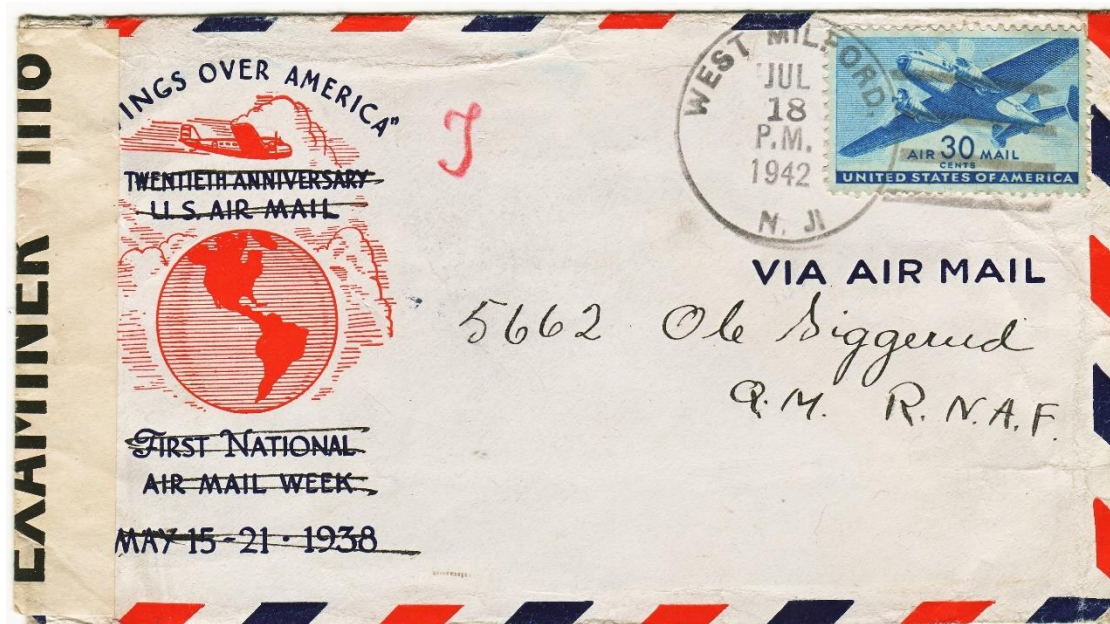
I was the lucky buyer of a similar envelope, but without the letter C in the address, in an auction in the *Norwegian War and Field Post Society*. (Fig 6). The envelope has a TORONTO-LITTLE NORWAY ONT postmark dated DE 14 42 and addressed to quartermaster O. Siggerud, R.N.A.F., RAF Station Corbett, Iceland. The envelope has seven stamps, totalling 47 cents; maybe Siggerud (or the sender) was a stamp collector? An airmail sticker was affixed, but was nullified with a rubber stamp at bottom left: NO AIRMAIL SERVICE AVAILABLE. There was no regular airmail service with Iceland during the war. Mail to RAF bases on Iceland was sent via England; hence the letter was censored by British censor number 1116 and sealed with a P.C. 90 strip.

Fig 6



There was another envelope in the same auction lot, also addressed to Siggerud (Fig. 7). However, the address was rather sparse: 5662 Siggerud, Q.M. R.N.A.F. How this letter reached Great Britain is a mystery, but it has been censored by examiner No. 1116, the same one as the other letter. A red hand written letter can be seen at the top. I suggest that this could be an indication for Iceland and that the letter was forwarded accordingly. This is definitely a speculative theory, but possible?

Fig 7



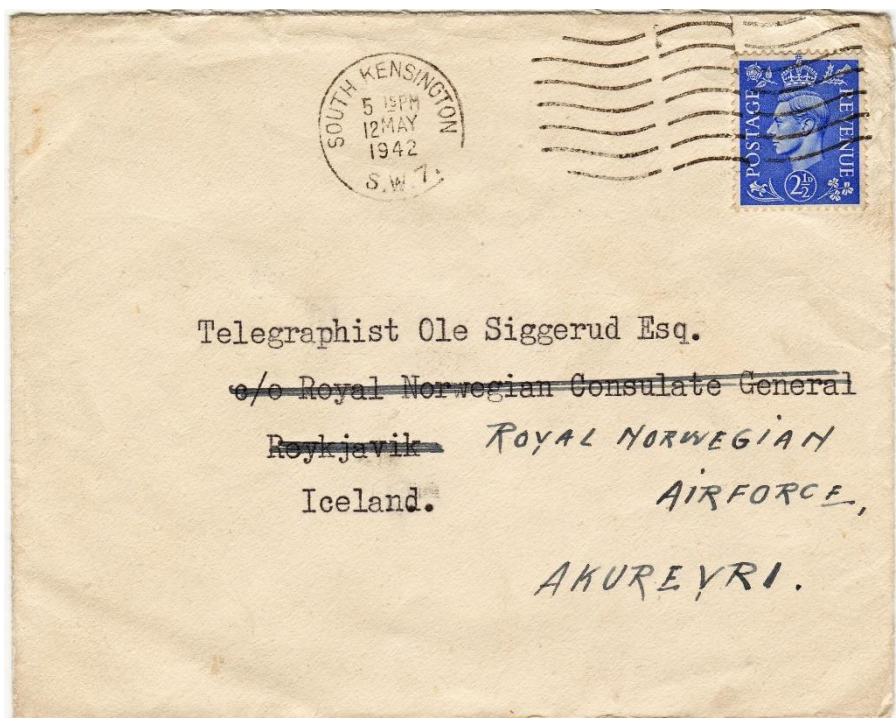
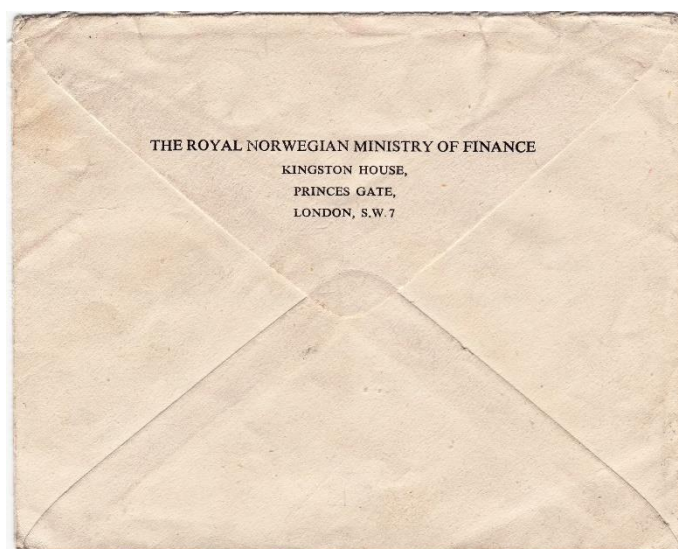


Fig 8

I did not know much about Ole Siggerud, apart from the fact that he was trained at Little Norway. He is included in the list of personnel who served at the base. But then, another envelope addressed to him turned up in another auction house in Norway (Fig. 8 and 9). The letter was sent from The Royal Ministry of Finance, Kensington House, London, postmarked South Kensington S.W.7 on 12 May 1942. Maybe it contained a tax matter? The addressee was Telegraphist Ole Siggerud Esq., c/o Royal Norwegian Consulate General, Reykjavik. The Consulate readdressed the letter and forwarded it to Royal Norwegian Airforce Akureyri. This shows that Siggerud was a telegraphist based at Akureyri
Bingo!

Fig 9



Squadron 330 was the first Norwegian operational airbase in exile. The Northrop aircraft were ordered before the war and were later replaced with Consolidated Catalina aircraft; the first ones arrived in February 1942. The squadron moved to Scotland in January 1943 and to the Shetland Islands later the same year. The squadron was based at Sola seaplane station after the war and was a most welcome addition to the country's transport problems after five years' occupation. Squadron 330 was deactivated on 15 December 1945.

This article was originally written in Norwegian and published in the Norwegian War and Field Post Journal No. 3/2021 in September 2021. A couple of nice items have found their way into my collection since. (Fig. 10 and 11). One is an envelope addressed to a Second Lieutenant in RAAF, at RAF Station Corbett (C), posted at Little Norway. It came in a mixed lot; hence I paid considerably less than £2,000 for it! The other item is an envelope sent from a Norwegian pilot based at RAAF, Corbett Camp, Iceland. Norway did not have post office facilities in Iceland, but our soldiers were allowed to use the British field post system as they were connected to RAF Coastal Command. My envelope bears a strike of Field Post Office number 305 which was used at the Corbett Camp in Reykjavik, dated 13 January 1942. It has a rectangular British censor mark and was sent to an address in Stamford, USA.



Fig 10

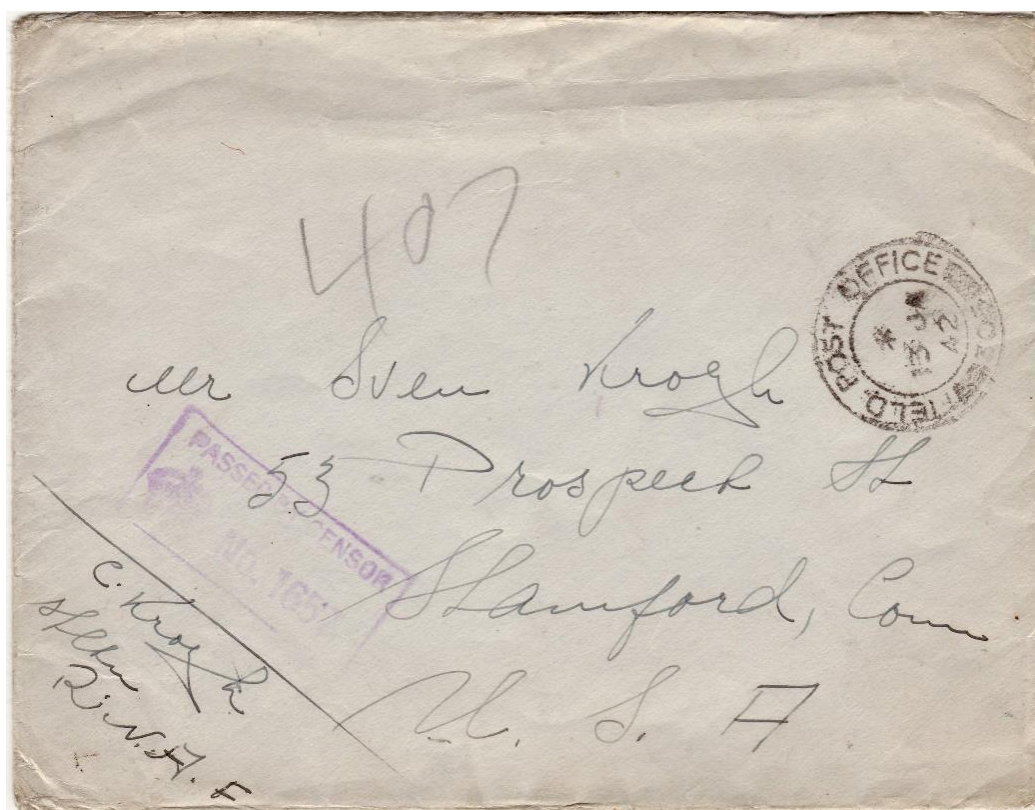


Fig 11

Sources

Fig 1 Internet Wikipedia / No. 330 Squadron RNoAF

Fig 2 Internet Pinterest. UK

Fig 3 Northrop-flyene på Island, by Cato Guhnfeldt

Fig 4 and 5 Skanfil auction catalogue

The others are from own collection

Replies to 11. Review of the series “Was this cancel used here?” (Issue 48)

B2a Litla Sandfell :-

My thanks to Jørgen Steen Larsen for clarifying the position on the cancels used during the second period at Arnhólsstaðir. I had completely overlooked the late use of the C1 Arnhólsstaðir crown cancel after re-opening in 1932. It fits the likely circumstances where the official would prefer to use a crown cancel with the correct name on it rather than a bridge cancel with a different name from a previous office. To make it worse, I have to confess that if I had looked in my own collection I would have seen a copy of the crown cancel used at Arnhólsstaðir. That settles the issue of the complete absence of any example of B2a Litla Sandfell used during the period 1932 – 1951 at Arnhólsstaðir. I must be more diligent!

B1a Húsatóftir :-

Ólafur Eliasson has suggested a better way to record Borgarkot and its relationship to B1a Húsatóftir. Ólafur says that the official record tells us that the P&T-station at Húsatóftir was transferred to Borgarkot. That presumably means that all the equipment of the station, including postal cancel, seals, papers etc., was transferred to Borgarkot. Ólafur continues: -

I see no reason at all to doubt the existence of the Húsatóftir cancel at Borgarkot even if it is (not) known used during the Borgarkot period by some stamp collectors. In my opinion its existence should not be excluded unless solid documented evidence is found. Until then I suggest that we call it "not recorded", "unknown in use" or something like that.

I agree with Ólafur, and put it out accordingly for bridge cancel collectors to consider.

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The postcard tells a story (Issue 48)

Ólafur Eliasson replies:-

Page 19: Hugo A Proppé (1910-1933) was indeed a stamp dealer during the last few years of his short life. Here is a scan front and back of his 16 pages price list 1931-32. I also attach a scan of the rate of exchange taken from the newspaper Vísir 29.10.1927.



GENGI ERL. MYNTAR.	
Sterlingspund	kr. 22.15
100 kr. danskar	— 121.90
100 — norskar	— 119.83
100 — sænskar	— 122.57
Dollar	— 4.55¼
100 fr. franskir	— 18.04
100 fr. svissn.	— 87.90
100 lírir	— 24.99
100 gyllini	— 183.34
100 þýsk gullmörk ...	— 108.80
100 pesetar	— 78.26
100 belga	— 63.51



New postal seals issued in the autumn of 1958. Jørgen Steen Larsen

Published in IslandsKontakt 93, translated from the Danish and reproduced with the editor's permission

In Frímerkjablaðið no. 8 (No. 2/2003) pages 8 - 9, Þór Þorsteins has written an interesting article about the Icelandic seals. This article has been translated into English so that it is accessible to all. Those particularly interested are referred to the article itself.

Below is an excerpt.

"The seals were used among other things to seal post sack strings, money letters and envelopes with telegram money orders.

When the collecting offices received metal numeral cancels in 1903 they were to serve two purposes: to seal with and to cancel stamps. Therefore, they were not recalled and taken back from use, when in 1930 all collecting offices received bridge-type date stamps. In the Postal Gazette Nr. 10-12. Oct. - Dec. 1958 it is announced that all post and telegraph offices will receive their own seal with a number. They should come into use immediately upon receipt. It is known that some 474 seals were distributed and a record of all of them is found in the gazette. Some cases are known where these seals were also used to cancel stamps instead of date stamps."*

**(Ed. Póst og Símatiðindi Nr.10 contains a list of the postal seals and their place of allocation)*

What interests me especially is Þór Þorstein's last statement above, that in some cases the new number stamps were used instead of the date stamps to cancel stamps.

Some of these examples are mentioned in Þór Þorstein's handbook Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar á Íslandi 1870 - 2011. Here we typically have usages for a short period of time in between two bridge cancels.

Þór Þorstein's reports usages from

Sveinungseyri 436

Torfabær 442

Examples of these two usages follow below.

Section of money letter from
Sveinungseyri with post seal
436 →

It appears that the Sveinungseyri post office for a period used postage seal 436 to cancel stamps, and, as shown on the following page, the post office Torfabær used postage seal 442 for cancelling stamps between 1956 and 1958. Other examples are shown here on loose stamps.





Clip from Torfabær with seal 442.



Seal 35



Seal 67



Two of Seal 152 Pósthúsið Bæ (Kfn.)

There are also examples of philatelic stampings of letters with seals, but to me these are less interesting.



Philatelic stamp from the post office Eyrarkot with postal seal 175, which was sent to the telegraph station in Eyrarkot, and postal seal 342, which was sent to the letter collection point Neðri-Háls. I have found the following partial strikes

Alviðra? 10? might be 104

Bót? 13? might be 133

Brautarholt? ?35 might be 135

Þorrisstaðir? ?67 might be 467

Please contact the editor in case you have more full or partial strikes of PÓSTUR SÍMI cancels used on stamps.”

Here you can see a number of money letters where PÓSTUR OG SÍMI cancels were used on the back to seal the envelopes. This is in my opinion the ordinary intended usage of these cancels.



Seal 250 Hóll

1960 letter	300aur
Registration	300aur
2*50aur per 100kr value	=850aur
Valid 1/3/60 to 31/8/61	



Seal 184 Flaga

1960? letter	300aur
Registration	300aur
50aur per 100kr value (not paid)	50aur
Underpaid 50aur	
Valid 1/3/60 to 31/8/61	



Seal 282 Kálfafell

1960 letter	300aur
registration fee	300aur
plus 50aur per 100kr value	50aur
Total 650aur	
Valid 1/3/60 to 31/8/61	



Seal 383 Selfoss

1971 letter 21-100gm 14kr
 registration 16kr
 value 11 x 16kr per 5000kr 176kr
 Total = 206kr
 20kr Counting fee not paid in stamps
 Valid 1/11/70 to 30/6/71



Seal 286 Keflavík

1965 letter 450aur
 value up to 2000kr 500aur
 registration fee 500aur omitted
 underpaid 500aur. Total = 950aur
 Valid 1/10/63 to 31/12/65



Seal 321 Litli Hvammur

1961 letter 300aur
 registration fee 300aur
 plus 50aur per 100kr value 50aur
 Total 650aur (50aur underpaid)
 Valid 1/3/60 to 31/8/61





Seal 436 Eyri í Kollafirði (Sveinungseyri)

1/1974 letter	13kr
registration fee	25kr
plus 25kr for each 5000kr value	
(32,220kr) = 7 x 25kr	175kr
Total	213kr

Omitted to pay the 13kr letter charge
underpaid 13kr Valid 1/7/73 to 31/3/74



Seal 402 Skjöldólfsstaðir

1970? letter	650aur
registration fee	1200aur
plus 1200aur per 5000kr	
(12,300kr) = (3 x 1200aur) = 3600aur	
Overpaid 50aur	Total 5450aur
Valid 1/1/69 to 31/10/70	



Seal 250 Hóll

1960 21-125gm letter	400aur
420kr value - up to 300kr	250aur
+ 2 x 100aur	200aur
Total	850aur
Valid 1/7/58 to 29/2/60	

(Ed. The following two examples are not money letters, but the sending offices decided to use the seals, presumably because of the contents' importance if not the actual value. On the first cover the stamps were not cancelled at Stokkalækur, but at Selfoss en route to Reykjavík.

From Jørgen: - *We see this now and then where post from small places are not cancelled until they reach some PA on the postal route. Here the letter should have been cancelled in PA Hella, but it actually did not happen before it reached PA Selfoss.*

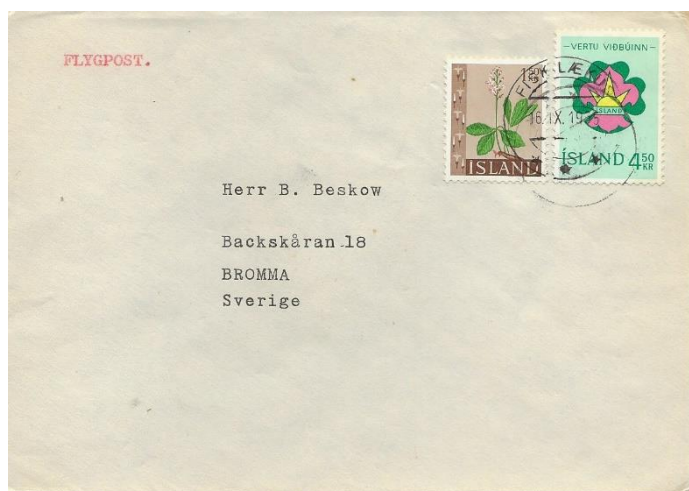
The second letter is not a money letter but registered with correct postage (6,50 + 12,00) = 18,50 ISK for the period from 1.1.1969 to 31.10.1970. It is sent to a bank and the paper used is a little thicker than normal, so for the sender the content seems to have been important.



Seal 419 Stokkalækur

1969? letter	650aur
registration fee	1200aur
Total	1850aur

Valid 1/1/69 to 31/10/70



Seal 183 Fiskilækur

1965 airmail to Sweden 600aur

Beskow was a well-known collector and for some reason this letter (self-addressed?) was sealed.

If any of IPM's readers have examples of uses of the postal seals issued in the autumn of 1958, I would very much like information on these.

In particular, an important thing for me is to have more examples from the readers about where the Póstur Sími cancels were used instead of the normal postal cancels to cancel stamps.

Please send to the editor.

Kirkjuból (4) in Vestur Ísafjarðarsýsla

I was curious to know why during the 20 years this collecting office was open, there is no evidence of any cancellation used there. ÞP's book shows that the B2a Þorfinnsstaðir was sent there after that office closed on 31.12.1944. I asked Steinar, a man from the West Fjords for his advice.

Steinar wrote:-

I must start with admitting that when it comes to V-Ísafjarðarsýsla, my knowledge is more limited than of N-Ís. I would doubt that they used the Þorfinnsstaðir cancel in that period. I actually can't even remember seeing that cancel on a stamp. I have copied Jørgen on this, in case he could share with us what he has of material on the Kirkjuból (4) office as well the Þorfinnsstaðir cancel.

From Jørgen:-

Þorfinnsstaðir / Kirkjuból is one of the difficult BH. I have N1a-53 used on Chr. X and Safnahusið.

I also have B2a Þorfinnsstaðir used on Chr X dated 10.9.30 and 11.10.30. In addition I have N1a-53 reused on 20 aur airmail from 1934. This is probably from a Bio P letter.

*You might look up in Brynjólfur's book to see if more Bio P usages from Þorfinnsstaðir are known.**

It is my guess that post from Þorfinnsstaðir was sent to either PA Ønundarfjörður or PA Þingeyri for cancelling. We know this pattern from the suburbs to Reykjavík and Akureyri.

Local post from 1931 and onwards to BH Hestur Ís, Holt Ís, Sæból, Núpur and Gemlufall seem to be unknown but may turn up some day.

Another possibility is, that mail from Þorfinnsstaðir from 1931 and onwards was cancelled in BH Holt Ís as there was only one postal route to and from Þorfinnsstaðir and this led to Holt.

Just guesses. Jørgen

And I was hoping for a definitive answer! It seems that another complication finds its way into our study of postmarks allocated at collecting offices, and that is the direction of chosen postal routes! On that subject I am sadly lacking.

- Brynjólfur refers only to a possibility of a Petersen cover bearing either N1a 53 or B2a Þorfinnsstaðir, or both if it exists.

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Usages of N1a-116 and B1a Sandeyri during a difficult period of time. (Issue 48)

Eivind Kolstad sent this fine example of B1a Sandeyri used in the short period 1931 to 1934.



Where was the Reykjavík office cancel used? *Jørgen Steen Larsen*

I try to collect cancellations from each and every post office – also the many Reykjavík post offices.

Most cancels from here are quite common, and so to make my collection more interesting I try to collect the many office cancellations that these post offices also used.

Cancels like Itrekað, REBUTS, Finnst ekki, Þekktist ekki, ENDURSENT ekki vitjað, special cancels used when Exprés letters were not possible to deliver etc.,

These cancels were not used by the sender post office but by the receiver post office.

In most cases it is obvious from the receiver's address which receiving post office was relevant, as most places only had one post office. But sometimes it is a problem to me to find the relevant receiving post office in Reykjavík. For old letters it was usually RVík-1 that had these office cancels.

From 1976 – when post numbers were introduced - Póst og Síamamálastjórninni now and then published handbooks where all the roads in Reykjavík were listed and for each road there was information about the relevant post office.

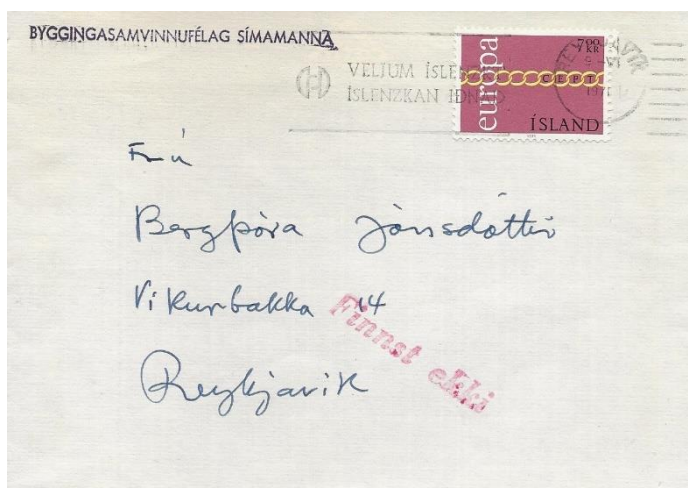
This means that my problem is especially related to the period from November 1964 up to the end of 1975.

In this period of time we have: R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6 (from 1.1.1967), R-7 (from 3.10.1970) and R-9 (from 22.4.1972).

I am sure that even the postal employees reading the addresses, sometimes needed help to determine which of these post offices a letter should be sent to, so in my opinion something must have been published.

Can anybody help me with lists of roads in Reykjavík, and for each road information about the relevant post office from the period between November 1964 and the end of 1975?

Here are two letters with “Finnst ekki” in red ink.



One from 9.VI.1971 to Víkurbaka 64 and the other from 20.VII.1971 to Hraunbæ 132.

At which post office was the Finnst ekki cancel used in the summer of 1971?

These are examples where a list of Reykjavík roads and relevant post offices from the period would have been of great help.

Postal stationery cards - Rare Fore-runners *Halfdan Helgason*

These are two postal stationery cards which I find a bit special. We are familiar with the cards „produced“ by the Danish photographer Agnus Munck, with Icelandic motifs and serial numbers from 1 to 6.



Of those cards in the value of 5 aurar I have only seen the issue of 1900, all posted after year 1900, but the two shown here are both of 1895 issue and posted 22.12.1899 and 27.3.1900. Also, the two have no number and the name of the motifs are not printed.

C2e Brjefhirðing used in BH Hjaltastaður. *Jørgen Steen Larsen.*

In IPM issue 45 page 18 – 20 there is an article “Where could the five C2e Brjefhirðing cancels have been distributed to?”

It follows from the description on Issue 45 page 19, that one of the five seems to have been distributed to BH Hjaltastaður where it was used with deep violet ink.

Below we can show examples of cancellations from Hjaltastaður.



C2e on 2*5 aur Chr IX.



C2e + N1a-32 on 6 aur Chr IX.



N1a-32 on 5 aur Chr IX.

The three objects above are all cancelled with the same deep violet ink. We know for sure, that N1a-32 was distributed to BH Hjaltastaður in the summer of 1903. The combined cancellation with both C2e and N1a-32 show, that it was correct, when BH Hjaltastaður was identified as one of the places that received a C2e Brjefhirðing cancel.

Note:- Correction for IPM issue 45, page 20:- Conclusion, The comment “Deep violet ink.” is due to a typing mistake and was added for Hellissandur instead of Hjaltastaður. Hellissandur used ordinary black ink.

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Crown cancel STADUR forgery



This is a fine example of a forgery of the STADUR type C3 crown cancel allocated to Staður í Hrútafirði. It is misspelt STADUR. I do not remember seeing one before. The handbook just refers to several known forgeries. I have searched my records, including a great article covering crown cancels written by Tore Runeborg, edited by Kjell Idling in Rapport No.38 February 1979, and found no mention of this forgery. If anyone can provide more information it would be appreciated.

Comment to Þór Þorstein's article from Frímerkjablaðið nr. 4, page 9, about the priest's cancel used in Norðfjörður. *Jørgen Steen Larsen*

Norðfjörður was a BH until the end of 1913 where it was converted into a PA. B2c1 Norðfjörður was distributed from Reykjavík to Norðfjörður 23.1.1914, with the expected arrival in Norðfjörður app. 1 week later.

For an unknown reason – but probably because of a need for repair - N1a-41 was send from Norðfjörður to Reykjavík. The date for this is unknown, but to me it seems that it probably happened after the B2c1 cancel had been taken into use approx. 1.2.1914.

ÞÞ states from the handbook that N1a-41 was returned from Reykjavík to Norðfjörður 2.7.1914.

N1a-41 was then returned again to Reykjavík where it arrived 5.10.1914, because Norðfjörður was no longer a BH.

This leaves plenty of time until N1a-41 was redistributed from Reykjavík to BH Staður (4) around 1.1.1915. So far so good, but why does ÞÞ make this statement from the handbook in his article about the special priest's cancel?

The only reason I can come up with is that ÞÞ would like to mention the possibility that N1a-41 was returned to Reykjavík for a repair before B2c1 was distributed.

If this is the case, there was a need for another cancel in a short period before approx. 1.2.1914 when B2c1 Norðfjörður was taken into use.

ÞÞ's idea might have been, that the priest's cancel possibly could have been used in such a short period of time. We will not know if this idea is correct or not unless more information comes up.

My own idea is that the cancel was used by the priest – who also was Póstafgreiðsmaður - on his own private letters.



Above are 3 examples of the use of the priest's cancel.

There is a visible inscription: JÓN GUÐMUNDSSON PRESTUR NORÐFIRÐI.

1. Can anybody show the lower part of this cancel?
2. Does anybody have a letter or a piece with this cancel?

Any additional information about the usage of this private cancel would be of interest.

An unusual Aerogramme *Halfdan Helgason*

S.M. Gillette
1971 AACS Sqdn.
APO 81 NY, NY

22 March 60

Drasin
5116 Baltimore Ave
Phila 43, Penna.

Gentlemen,

Your ad in Linns Stamp Weekly has been noted as an interested buyer. I have on hand a considerable stock of older mint ICELAND sheets, others are available to me. May I offer you the following for consideration at this time;

Iceland mint sets, per 10	per 100	USED ICELAND	per 10
Scott #			
265-66	\$ 1.90	\$ 17.10	#240-45 comp, \$33.00
267-68	1.90	17.10	271 5.40
B12-13	.95	8.55	280 2.90
297	.90	8.10	
300-01	1.10	9.90	
B14-16	2.30	20.70	
305	8.00	72.00	SHEETS C.T.O. or mint
306-07	.40	3.66	#285 per
311-12	.82	7.38	306 \$0.17
313-14	15.50	139.50	311 1.04
315-16	2.25	20.25	new 25aur fish 0.32
317-18	1.75	15.75	
Memorial airc	2.45	22.05	regular mail service
New Birds	.95	8.55	
Fish	1.55	13.95	
Falcon 25kr.	7.50	67.50	

NOTICE JUST RECEIVED: New issues due 7 April 60

World Refugee Year 2 vals 7kr face, \$ 2.25 per 10 plus post
20.00 per 100 post paid

Same type as Scott A65 1val 1kr face, 0.40 per 10 plus post
3.00 per 100 post paid

I believe you will agree that these rates are extremely favorable. If you need any of these items may I suggest with sincerity to ORDER NOW Stocks Are Not Unlimited and at these prices they will move quickly.

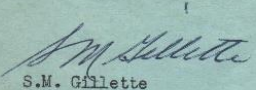
Cash with order, will accept up to 25% of payment in your excess min U.S. to 4¢ or 6&7¢ aircs.

Air mail, Set orders add 35¢ postage, \$20.00 orders will be sent post free.

Sheet orders add \$1.00 for reg postage, excess refunded. \$50.00 orders post free.

\$50.00 orders may take 2% off list price. \$100.00 orders may take 5% off list.

for your consideration,

Sincerely, 
S.M. Gillette



Halfdan says, "The funny thing is that it is posted in Keflavík Airport. Maybe he had a short stop at the airport, couldn't get the right stamp to add up to the right rate, which was 3,50, so therefore the letter is overpaid by 25 aurar."

(Ed.) It was posted by Mr. Gillette, a stamp dealer/collector? in March 1960 at Keflavík Airport to a potential US buyer in Philadelphia. David Loe tells me all US Forces had a Stateside address for security reasons.

APO 81 is the address for post-war American Airforce Base at Keflavik, so Mr. Gillette was presumably based there.

So, the Philadelphia USA buyer would address any reply to **1971 AACS Squadron, APO81 New York.** and magically it would be directed to Iceland!

(Ed. Halfdan sent me the images with the message "I understand that a good Aerogram is more than „Just One of Those Things“ to you. Therefore, I send one to you, one I think is a little bit special". Yes it is. Thank you Halfdan).

Kollafjarðarnes – Missing letters, but which ones?



This image is the only one I know of which shows nearly the full circumference of the cancel

In the latter part of 2017, the Islandssamlarna Committee on Crown Cancellations began a project to update the rarity grading of scarcer Icelandic crown cancellations. The purpose was to conduct a census of existing strikes of such cancellations currently rated: 5, RR or RRR (i.e. those priced at SEK 2.000 or higher in the current specialized Swedish Facit catalogue), as well as any cancellations with letter variations e.g. missing letters or other abnormalities. This variety section now consists of 35 images, predominantly those with missing letters. I want to discuss one of those here, namely Kollafjarðarnes.

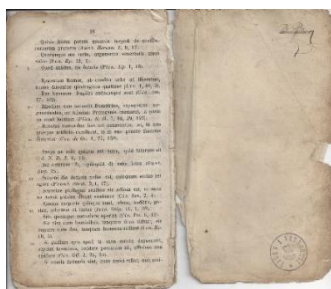
As far as I am aware, the Kollafjarðarnes crown cancel with all the letters present is either unknown or very rare, hence the Facit rating of RRR.

Our database includes the cancel without the letter 'o', i.e. K llafjarðarnes, which is the commonest form, and is only rated 1 in Facit. We know that the letter 'o' fell off very early in the life of the cancel, and that at some later stage further damage occurred with the loss of the letters NES at the end. Our census shows 6 images with NES missing, and this recently added image shown above, with only the ES missing at the end. This appears to prove that the damage at the end of the name was gradual,

1. Can anyone show an image with all the letters present and visible?
2. Can anyone show an image with the letter 'o' present even if the full circumference of the cancel is not visible?
3. Can anyone show an image with just the final letter 's' missing?

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Unusual use of Tjörn á Vatnsnesi crown cancel



Wilbur Jonsson provided this picture of an old Latin grammar text with a Tjörn á Vatnsnesi crown cancel. It bears the signature of Pál Pálsson who may have been the pastor/postal official there.



WWW. SAFNARI.IS January/February 2022 auctions

Iceland philately is alive and well despite the lack of support from the postal authorities. If you want proof, look at the results of the auctions run by Steinar and Gisli in the past 12 months. Here are just a few outstanding examples from the recent January and February stamp auctions. Prices all in ISK.

January auction



FÁSKRÚÐSFJÖRÐUR
on 10KR overprint on
1kr. Frederik VIII
50,000



235 Skildinganes
76,000



82 Mælifell
115,000



21 Brekka 4 145,000



132 Patreksfjörður 116,000



Hofn Ís B1a
38,000



19 Flatey 2
58,000



224
Litli-Árkógssandur 72,000



Unregistered
manuscript cancel
Goðdalir with
partial Miklibær
60,000



manuscript
"H X A"
Hestur Í Andakil
22,000



122
Veðrará
34,000



80 Lón official 21,000



182 (Kálfshamarsvík) on 1915 cover 90,000



170 Villingavatn official 24,100

February auction



15 Kálfsstaðir
36,000



large Prír 54,000



226 Ofeigssfjörður
42,000

Staðarfell crown cancel 171,000



173 Þórlákshöfn
crosses wmk 32,000



239 Drumboddsstaður
142,000



Numeral 98 Kirkjuból 225,000



294 Laugarnes
340,000



Numeral 11 Þjórsártún 115,000



183 46,000



N2 202 165,000



Charlottenlund on Sigurðsson 76,100



Hopflug set 172,000