

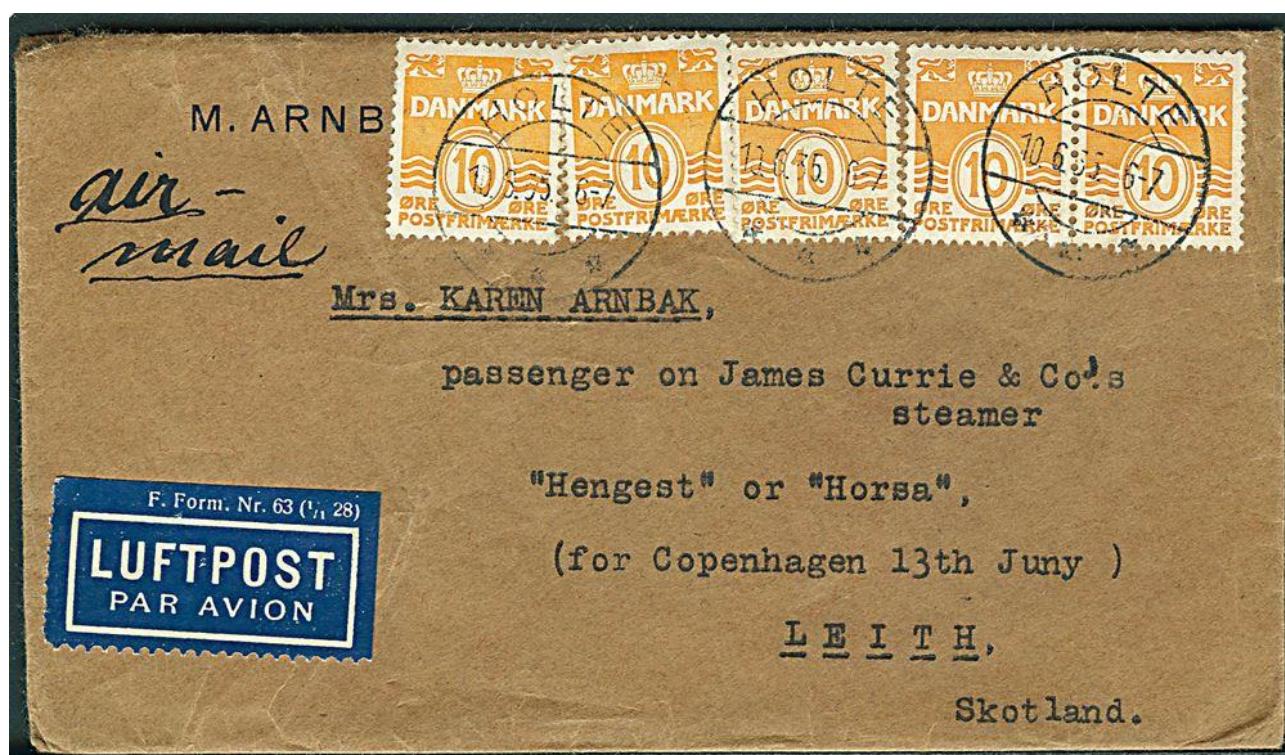


# ISLANDS *Kontakt*

**SPECIAL # 19 – S/S HORSA OG HENGIST – 2020 V2**  
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This is a part of a series published online which summarizes, supplemented by recent discoveries, information published over the years in IslandsKontakt and elsewhere. We must all be grateful for the sustained efforts of all those who, over the years, as Editors or Authors have contributed to the gathering and dissemination of information relevant to the philately of Iceland.

An air mail letter from Holte (DK) on June 10, 1935 with five "10-øre" waveline "for passengers aboard the James Currie & Co. steamship" Hengist "or" Horsa "to Copenhagen in Leith, Scotland" opened for this IslandsKontaktSpecial:



Horsa and Hengist were built in 1928 and deployed on the weekly freight / passenger route between Leith and Copenhagen."

It was new (to me), but it may explain some of the shipping route from Iceland to Denmark for the time being from 1928 - and it is true that there was such a route:

A model was sold for GBP 15.275 på Christie in 2002 with the description: ““A DETAILED BUILDER'S MODEL FOR THE PASSENGER/CARGO SHIPS S.S. ENGIST AND HORSA, BUILT BY RAMAGE & FERGUSON FOR THE LEITH, HULL & HAMBURG STEAM PACKET CO. LTD, 1928”



It is indicated that both should have sailed on the route Leith to Copenhagen, but only Hingist is in the following sailing schedule for 1928.

LEITH (Victoria Dock) to COPENHAGEN				
EVERY THURSDAY.				
"HENGIST,"	2nd August	-	-	10 p.m.
"COBLENZ,"	9th August	-	-	7 p.m.
"HENGIST,"	16th August	-	-	10 p.m.
"COBLENZ,"	23rd August	-	-	6 p.m.
"HENGIST,"	30th August	-	-	10 p.m.
FARE (including food)—Cabin Single				£5 0 0
COPENHAGEN to LEITH				
EVERY THURSDAY.				
"COBLENZ,"	2nd August	-	-	7 p.m.
"HENGIST,"	9th August	-	-	7 p.m.
"COBLENZ,"	16th August	-	-	7 p.m.
"HENGIST,"	23rd August	-	-	7 p.m.
"COBLENZ,"	30th August	-	-	7 p.m.
FARE (including food)—Cabin Single				Kr. 100
AVERAGE PASSAGE 56 HOURS.				
<i>Above Sailings are subject to alteration without notice.</i>				

But both are in the following flyer:



In another place I learned about ships sailing on the Baltic:

“They sailed from the Albert Dock. The ships sailing to the Baltic would be those of the Currie Line. They were Courland, Gothland, **Hengist** and the **Horsa**.

The Captain of the Horsa was David Sinclair (now deceased) who lived at 4 Dudley Terrace”



We now turn to art: A picture of: Victor Qvistorff (Danish, 1883–1953) "S/S Horsa beim Löschen im Hafen von Kopenhagen, 1932"







Then to the time under WW2:

At the first shareholders meeting in the Eimskipafélag Islands on June 7, 1941, recorded in *Sjómannablaðið Víkingur*, it is stated that in the early 1940s it became clear to the company that it would lack ships to handle traffic to England, and therefore the company leased two ships. at Currie Line, Leith, E/s "HORSA" and E/s "HENGIST", and they sailed regular trips between Leith and Iceland - and around the island.

In *MORGUNBLAÐI* from 8 July 1941, the meeting is also recorded, and it is stated:

“E/S. "HORSA" began in May 1940 and took a total of six trips between Iceland and England and two trips from Reykjavik to the western and northern parts of the country.

E/s "HENGIST" began its voyages in July 1940, taking a total of five between Iceland and England and three from Reykjavik to the western and northern parts of the country.”

There has thus been a firm connection to England - and it allows for shipments during the war. It may have been hitherto assumed to be fishing vessels, but there are also other possibilities, and Horsa and Hengist are also mentioned on page 35 of "Iceland postally in the period 1939-1945" concerning 1940 and 1941 - and page 37 for the years 1941 and 1942 for Hengest and 41, 42, 43 and 44 for Horsa.

From 1941/42 I have been unable to find anything but the conclusion, from which it can be deduced that traffic between Iceland and England continued at least into 1942:

**"SS Hengist"** (984t) cargo ship. Sunday, 8th March 1942, on its way from Reykjavik to Grimsby with fish, U 569 sank Hengist NE of Cape Wrath. In the

evening, the unescorted Hengist (Capt. Arthur Jamieson) was torpedoed two crewmembers and one gunner were lost. The master, 24 crewmembers and four gunners were picked up by the French trawler Groenland and landed at Loch Ewe.

**SS Horsa** came through the war and in 1953 was sold to W. Sloan & Co., Glasgow and was named **Endrick**.

It is an undiscovered part of the Icelandic mail history – so I look forward to input.