

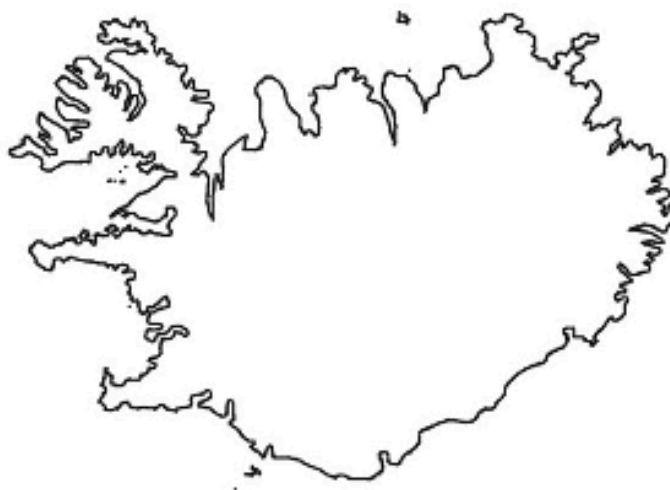
# ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



## Fleetwood Ship Letter

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## **SPECIAL # 7 – 2025 V3<sup>1</sup> - FLEETWOOD**

**This is a part of a series published 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<sup>2</sup> or Authors have contributed to the gathering and dissemination of information relevant to the philately of Iceland.**

**Compilations of other British postmarks and other issues in the series “IslandsKontakt Special” can be accessed for free at <https://www.nfvsandinavie.com/artikelen-ijland.php>**

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"Fleetwood is a town and civil parish within the Wyre district of Lancashire, England, lying at the northwest corner of the Fylde. It had a population of 25,939 people at the 2011 census. The town was the first planned community of the Victorian era. For most of the 20th century, Fleetwood was a prominent deep-sea fishing port, but, since the 1970s, the fishing industry has declined precipitously, and the town has undergone economic difficulties.

Fleetwood is also a seaside resort, serving as a quiet contrast to nearby Blackpool."  
(Wikipedia)

Þór Þorsteins has compiled the list of sailings paid for caring mail from Iceland, and it is used to fill in the following:

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
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Ole Svinth writes in Iceland Philatelic Magazine Issue 5 page 19: "At least on 4 occasions Fleetwood was the first port to receive the Icelandic mail delivered directly to the ship. Once in 1899 (from Índriði Pálsson collection) and 1901, twice in 1920 and once in 1940."

There are some more. The Proofs are included below. The following also include mail first cancelled in Iceland.

### 1899

#### Single circle stamp – from 1899 until 1901?



3

<sup>1</sup> Earlier version (V.2 from 2017) was published at the mentioned Dutch homepage.

<sup>2</sup> Among editors are highly reputable philatelists: Ebbe Eldrup, Jørgen Steen Larsen and Ole Svinth.

<sup>3</sup> The illustrations are from: Heinrich Schilling: Fremde Anlandestempel auf Islandpost (1996 + amendments)

1899

Use from 1899 until 1901

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
	1899	REYKJAVIK	16.05.1899	FLEET- WOOD	<sup>4</sup>



5 aur stationery card sent as printed matter from "REYKJAVÍK 10.5.99" to Germany with transit marks "FLEETWOOD D MY 16 99", "PRESTON MY 16 99" and "LONDON MY 17 99" in red.<sup>5</sup>

1901

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
	01.07.1901	REYKJAVIK	07.07.1901	FLEETWOOD	

Two almost identical Brjefspjald to the same recipient:

<sup>4</sup> The clip is from "Índriði Pálsson collection". Postiljónen # 211  
<sup>5</sup> Illustration in Heinrich Schilling: "Fremde Anlagenstempel auf Islandpost. Sold Postiljónen # 203 with the additional information: "The Fleetwood post mark is known as a "Thimble" the D is a time code letter and denotes late in the day. Passed on to Preston for transmission by rail to London, the time code this time is in figures 9.30pm. The red London Mark is a Morning Duty mark, applied to most over-night mail"



"FLEETWOOD A JY.7.01", landing cancel clear on postcard, franked with 4 a. rose/grey and horizontal pair 3 a. yellow with cancel "REYKJAVIK 1.7.01" to England (Heinrich Koehler Auktionen # 361)



6

And - 5 aur green, perf. 12 as additional franking on reply part of double card sent from "REYKJAVIK 23.9.1901" via "FLEETWOOD JY 7 01" to Somerset, England. (Postiljonen # 201).<sup>7</sup>

Same day – but now duplex with number 629.

### Single circle duplex stamp



<sup>6</sup> Unfortunately, the best copy I have

<sup>7</sup> I do not have a copy yet but hopefully someone will come up with a better copy and information about any text.



Twin circle with one bar from 1903 until 1914 plus 1917-1920 plus 1940 - 19?



1903

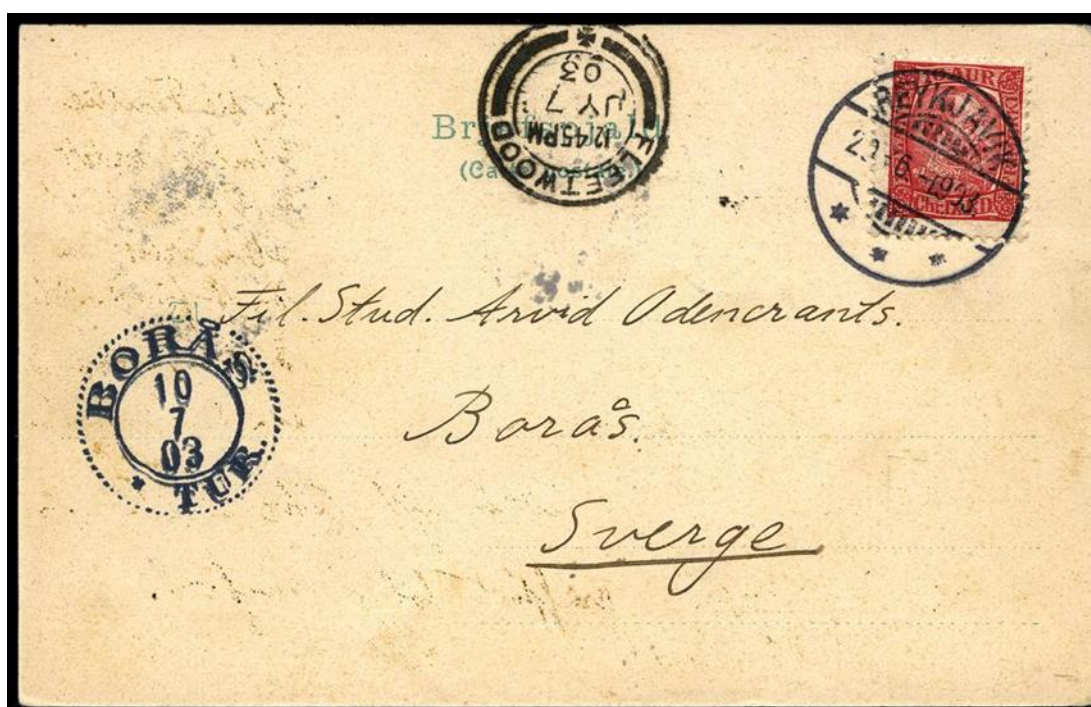
SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
ISAFOLD	30.06.1903	REYKJAVIK	07.07.190	FLEETWOOD	2KR.



And the same day:<sup>8</sup>



<sup>8</sup> Copy Heinrich Shilling;



1904

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
ISAFOLD	14.07.1904	REYKJAVIK		FLEETWOOD	3 KR.

I know the ship and the information that 3 kr. was paid for caring mail from Þór Þorsteins – but I have no copy.



1908

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
NORRÓNA	03.02.1908	REYKJAVÍK	09.02.1908	FLEETWOOD	4KR.



10 aur Two Kings perf. 12 on postcard sent from "REYKJAVÍK 28.1.1908" to England with scarce transit date stamp "FLEETWOOD 9 FE 08". (Postiljonen # 203)





1914

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
Njörður	1914		25 SP 14	FLEETWOOD	



The only one I know from 1914 with twin circle with one bar – from 25 SP 1014 and as can be seen in the following in the period with the SHIP-LETTER FLEETWOOD. The use of twin circle with one bar start again in 1917 so the use is within WW1 (28. JU 1914 – 11. NO 1918)

SHIP-LETTER FLEETWOOD 1914 - 1925

SHIP-LETTER  
FLEETWOOD



The stamp has per Heinrich Schilling: “Fremde Anlandestempel auf Islandpost” been used between 1914 and 1919.

Robertson, Alan W Robertson: “The History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles” Reprinted edition latest edition; use from December 1914 until October 1919 – but as you can see below – it is not accurate. It is at least from 11 August 1914.

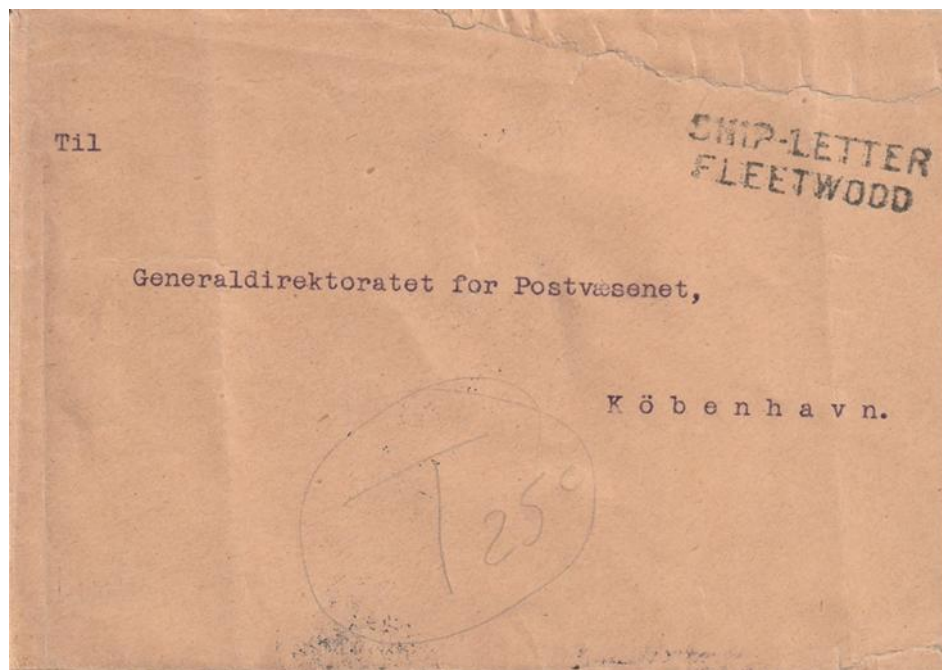
Mike Dovey & Keith Morris, “Paquebot Cancellations of the World and more.” 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (#67) indicate “H” as the rarity: “Copies of such a mark can be counted on one hand” – but as you will learn – that it is a big hand. Indicate from 1914 until 1919

The first example is without date and year - and I start with the back:



Then the external text from e-bay:

“Iceland, rare “Ship Letter Fleetwood” two-lined cancel on official cover to Denmark, back side receiving Copenhagen cancel and seal Government of Iceland, tear above the cancel and also reduced at right, ex. Bruun-Rasmussen auction 1316/4481 described as postage due charged 25c for the missing postage (official stamps not allowed on mail sent out of Iceland), alternatively, cover is reduced to the right where the stamps are cut-off so the postage due charge notation with pencil “saves” the item, you decide.”



1914

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
	1914	REYKJAVIK		FLEETWOOD	To US

"SHIP-LETTER FLEETWOOD" on cover to United States franked with 3 aur Two Kings in a strip of six together with a pair of 1 eyr Jón Sigurdsson, sent from "REYKJAVIK 1914".







The earliest known dated example with "SHIP-LETTER FLEETWOOD":

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
NJÖRDUR <sup>9</sup>	05.08.1914	REYKJAVÍK	11.08.14	FLEETWOOD	To UK

The date is known as there is a single circle cancellation on the back:



Letter from Reykjavík 5. VIII. 14. Arrival Fleetwood 11.AU.14 on the back and SHIP-LETTER FLEETWOOD on the front.<sup>10</sup>

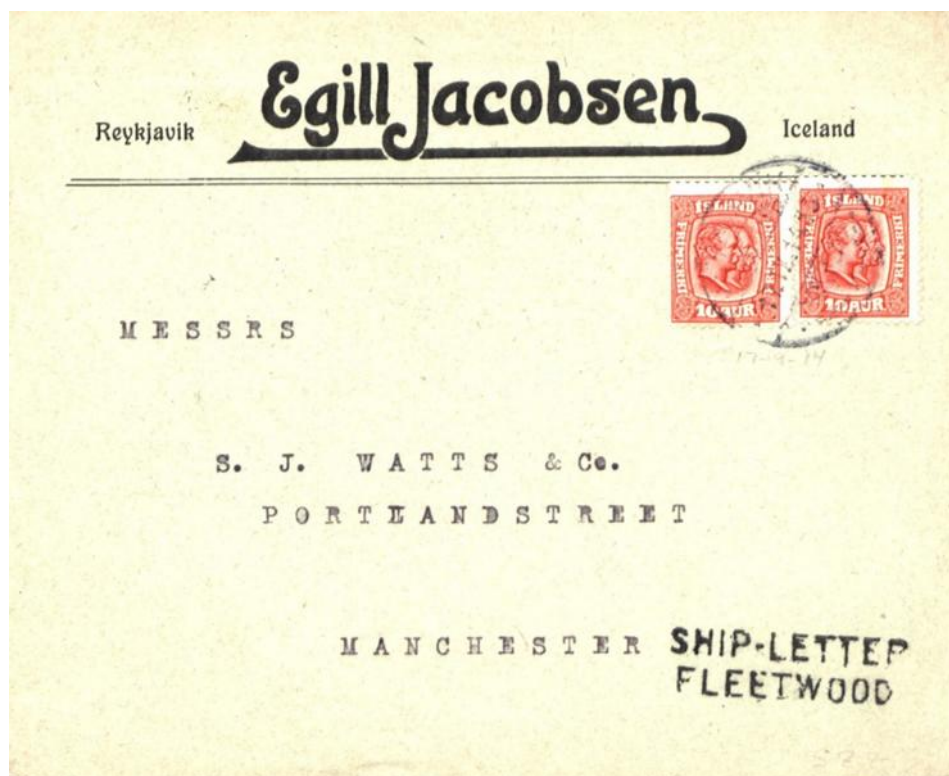


<sup>9</sup> Morgunblaðið: 12.08.1914: "Njördur kom til Fleetwood, heilu og höldnu í gærdag."

<sup>10</sup> (Árni Gústafsson Frimerkjabladid 1/2008 page 17)



SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
NJÖRDUR <sup>11</sup>	17.09.1914	REYKJAVIK	25.09.1914	FLEETWOOD	



Cover sent to England franked with two copies of 10 aur Two Kings cancelled REYKJAVIK 17.IX.14. Transit cancelled with two-line handstamp SHIP-LETTER FLEETWOOD on front as well as a small circular FLEETWOOD 25 SP 14 on back.



<sup>11</sup> Morgunblaðið 22.9.1914 N j ö r ð u r fór til Fleetwood í gær með fiskfarm.

Same recipient as above– but unknown data:

Watts Warehouse is a large, ornate Victorian Grade II listed building standing on Portland Street in the centre of Manchester, England. It opened in 1856 as a textile warehouse for the wholesale drapery business of S & J Watts and was the largest single-occupancy textile warehouse in Manchester.



And a letter to Sweden from the same trip from 17. IX 19, send from Th. Krabbe. Director of the Icelandic Lighthouse Service: 20 aur mixed franking on letter to Malmö, Sweden. Two SHIP-LETTER FLEETWOOD.



SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
SKALLA-GRIMUR <sup>12</sup>	11.11.1914	REYKJAVIK	16.11.1914	FLEETWOOD	To Denmark



Letter from Nathan & Olsen – a company established on 1 January 1912 by two Danish entrepreneurs, Fritz Nathan and Carl Olsen to Hugo Salmson – probably a son of the Swedish painter with the same name.



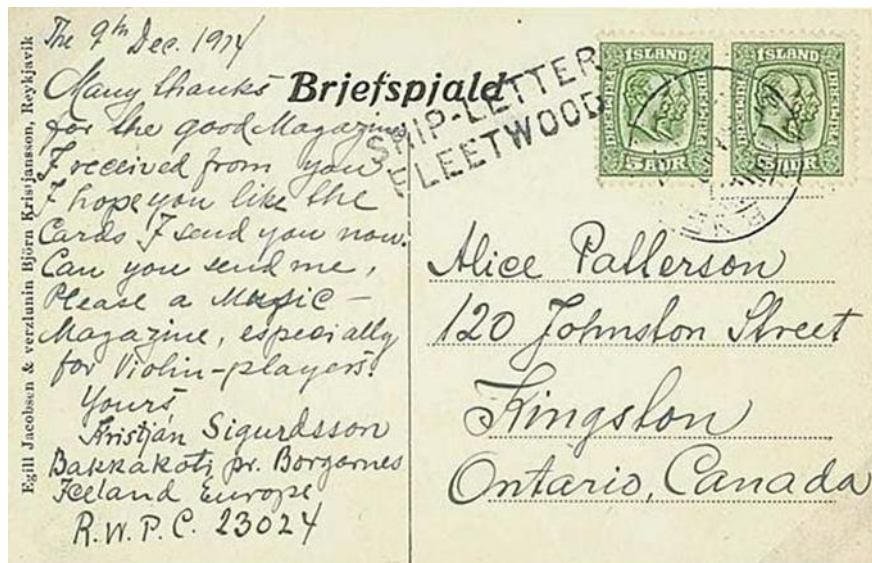
"Envelope posted during WW1, dated 11. XI 1914, with censor label, deposited at Fleetwood in Lancashire, England, where it received the 2 line "SHIP – LETTER FLEETWOOD".<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Visir: 17.11.1914: Skallagrimur kom til Fleetwood ígær.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.tpo-seapost.org.uk/tpo2/image2/ishipletters2oc.html>



SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
Njörður <sup>14</sup>	09.12.1914 10.12.1914	Borganes REYKJAVIK		FLEETWOOD	To Canada



Pair 5 aur Two Kings on postcard sent from "BORGARNES" 9. December 1914 to Canada with rare transit mark "SHIP-LETTER FLEETWOOD".<sup>15</sup>

1915

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
Njörður <sup>16</sup>	15.1.1915	REYKJAVIK		FLEETWOOD	

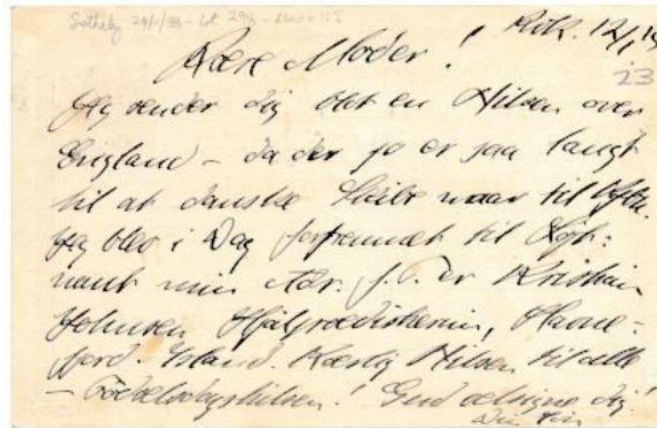


<sup>14</sup> Morgunblaðið: 10.12.1914: Njörður fer til Fleetwood í nótt

<sup>15</sup> Illustration in Alan W Robertson: "The History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles" Reprinted edition

<sup>16</sup> Visir - 15. januar 1915: Njörður fer til Englands f dag - Norðurland - 16. januar 1915: Njörður botnvörpungur úr Reykjavík var tekinn fastur í Stornoway af hinu brezka hervaldi 21. des. en var slept aftur eftir tvo daga og hélt þá leiðar sinnar til Fleetwood. - Heimskringla - 21. januar 1915: — Njörður seldi afla sinn i Fleetwood á Englandi fyrir 541 pund sterling.

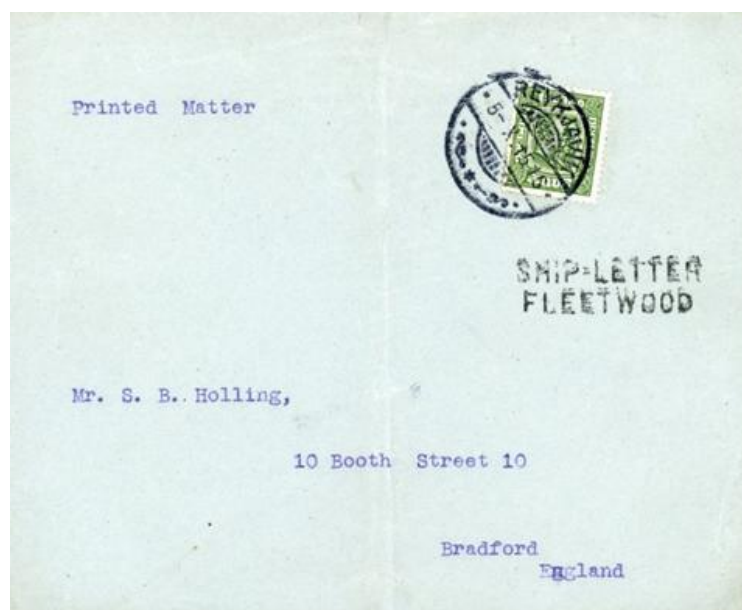




The next is a 10 aur Brjefspjald written 12 January 1915 and sendt to “dear mother”:  
 “I am sending this message over England as it possibly will take some time before a Danish ship reach Iceland”

Mother “Miss M. Johnsen “ is living Ryegade 84 B 4” Copenhagen. <sup>17</sup>

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
Eggert Ólafsson or Njörður <sup>18</sup>	05.10.1915	REYKJAVIK	12.10.15	FLEETWOOD	



From Collection R.Hosking: "SHIP-LETTER/FLEETWOOD" ON PRINTED MATTER COVER FROM ICELAND TO G.B.; 5 Oct. 1915 commercial env. to Bradford inscribed "Printed Matter" and so with Iceland 5 aur Green tied by a very fine Reykjavik "

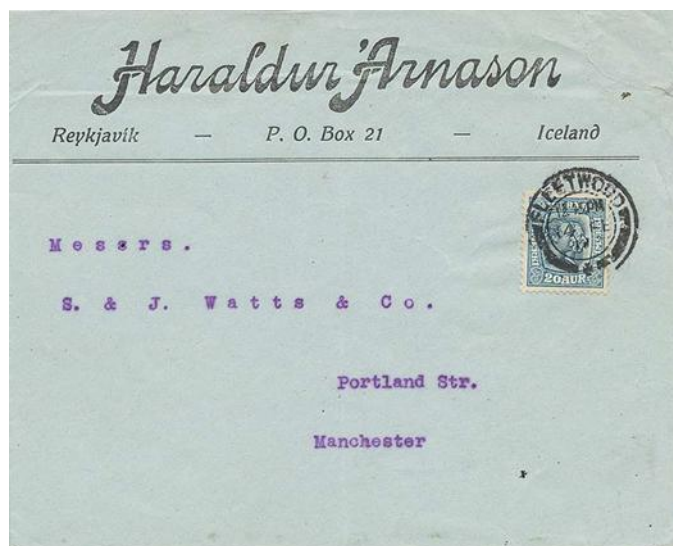
<sup>17</sup> See further Arthur Jennion, IPM 55/March 23 page 8f.

<sup>18</sup> Sale of Fish: Now they have obtained authorization, with the British government, for to sail from here to Fleetwood with fish. Two vessels leaving when the paper comes out, Njörður and Eggert Ólafsson. (Fréttir 5.10.1915)

## And again in 1917-19?

1917

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
	1917	REYKJAVIK	14.02.1917	FLEETWOOD	



20 aur Two kings blue from Reykjavik again to S & J Watts, Manchester, transit cancelled "FLEETWOOD 14 FE 17" (Postiljonen # 201) and here after a 10 aur two kings from the same trip



Fleetwood was used during WW1, but with some major risk and losses. For example the steamship S/S "Ceres" was sunk by German submarine U88 d. 13.7.1917 on a journey from Fleetwood to Reykjavik.

1920

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
Gylfi	1920	REYKJAVIK	05.02.1920	FLEETWOOD	



SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
Gylfi	1920	REYKJAVIK	18.02.1920	FLEETWOOD	



SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
Gylfi	1920	REYKJAVIK	30.03.1920	FLEETWOOD	



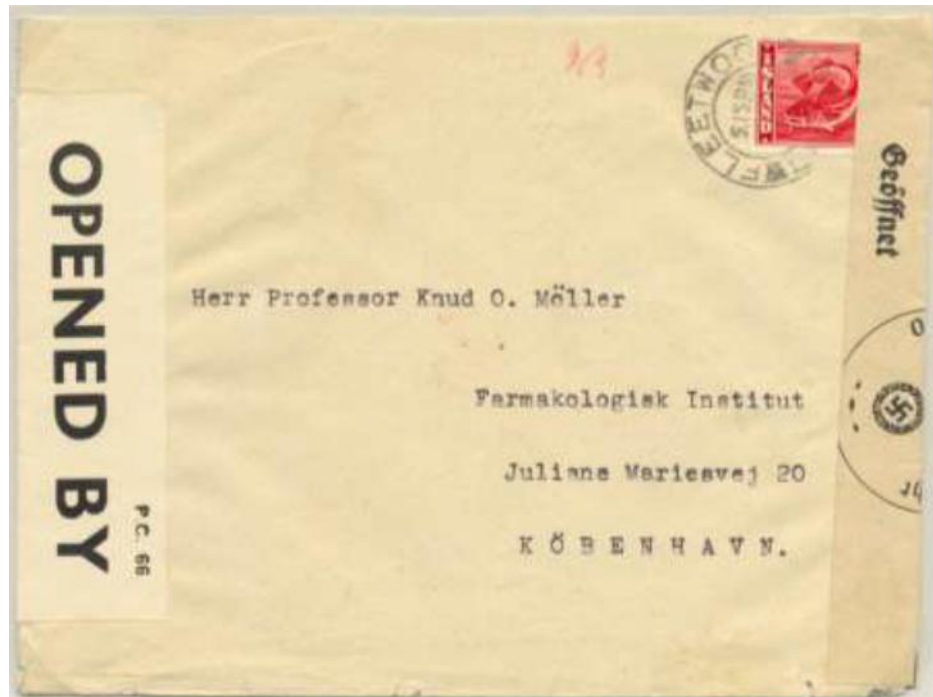
SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	COMMENTS
Gylfi	1920	REYKJAVIK	14.05.20	FLEETWOOD	



And again in 1940

1940

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	To	COMMENTS
	1940	REYKJAVIK	12.08.1940	FLEETWOOD	



### Single circle Fleetwood – Lanc. 1940?



1942

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	To	COMMENTS
SS SELFOSS <sup>19</sup>	1942	REYKJAVIK	15.11.1942	FLEETWOOD	

<sup>1919</sup> It is a possibility Kristian Hopballe og Ólafur Eliasson: "Island postalt set i perioden 1939-1945" page 27





## 6. References:

Wikipedia

Heinreich Schilling: Fremde Anlandestempel auf Islandpost (1996 + amendments)

Ole Svinth: Iceland Philatelic Magazine Issue 5 page 19

Þór Þorsteins: Compiled list of sailings paid for caring mail from Iceland

Robertson, Alan W Robertson: "The History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles" Reprinted edition

Mike Dovey & Keith Morris: Paquebot Cancellations of the World and more... - 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

<http://www.Paquebot.info>

Árni Gústafsson: Frimerkjabladid 1/2008 page 17

<http://www.tpo-seapost.org.uk/tpo2/image2/ishipletters2oc.html>

Postiljonen.

Kristian Hopballe og Ólafur Eliasson: "Island postalt set i perioden 1939-1945"

Arthur Jennion: "SHIP-LETTER FLEETWOOD" Iceland Philatelic Magazine # 55 - page 8f.

Ron Collin: "British SHIP-LETTER Markings" Iceland Philatelic Magazine # 69 page 17