

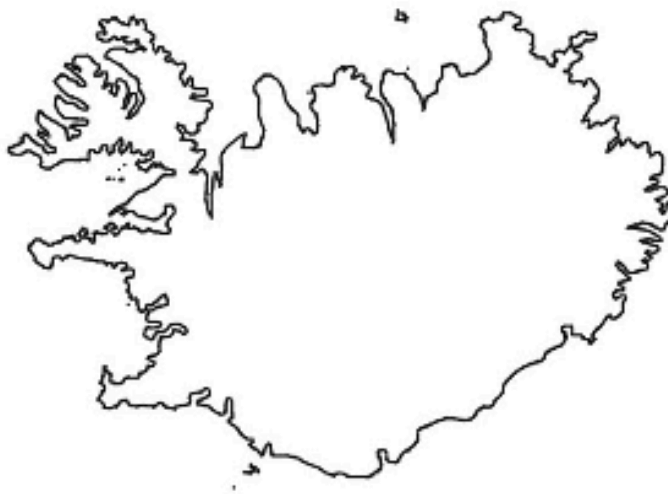
ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



Blyth Ship Letter

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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 Editors² or Authors have contributed to the gathering and dissemination of information relevant to the philately of Iceland.

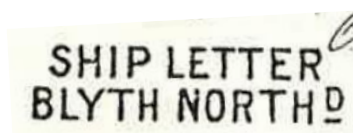
Compilations of other British postmarks and other issues in the series "IslandsKontakt Special" can be accessed for free at <https://www.nfvskandinavia.com/artikelen-ijceland.php>

Compiler: Jakob S. Arrevad: jsa@agadvokatfirma.dk

Blyth is at the river Blyth 15 miles north of Newcastle Upon-Tyne on the east coast of England. Just south of the Scottish/English border.

1. Robertson (E.19) mention a round ship letter cancel (E.18/B s.2) and show the proof from the dispatch-book entry 17th November 1880, but his remark is "Use at present unrecorded".

2.



Robertson (s.1) indicate the use 1903 to 1913 but Hoskin (9D³) and Mike Dovey & Keith Morris⁴ indicate: "The Two Line Cancel: SHIP LETTER / BLYTH NORTH HD - 2 line cancellation from 1903 and, although it was rarely used, it lasted until 1920"⁵. Shilling indicate a use from 1901 until 1933. Mike Tuttle indicate 1903 until 1926 with an addition, that a part of the cancel is known at 25 aur airmail stamp from 1934⁶.

The "ordinary recorded use" must be between 1903 and 1922 (perhaps 1926) – but there can be later use.

3. "NORTHUMPERLAND" (NH)



Without time but "letter" – in 1902 until 1. May 1903?

4. Shilling include (B 74):

¹ Earlier version (V.3 from 2019) was published at the mentioned Dutch homepage.

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

³ 4th edition by Mike Dovey & Keith Morris(2010)1903-1922

⁴ <http://www.tpo-seapost.org.uk>

⁵ He show at tpo-seaport a letter from 1922 – so that i the correct year

⁶ Rapport # 167 - <http://www.islandssamlarna.se/Rapport%20167.pdf>



Seen used in 1906 on mail from Iceland – see below – but it is in fact a part of a rather common duplex postmark⁷.



5. Also seen as a separate postmark in 1906 and 1911 – with time



6. Twin circle with a fat arc and a cross (MK), indicated used from 1908 until 1922 (+?).



Ship	departure	From	Arrival date and cancellation	To	Remarks ⁸

1903

⁷ See Dr J T Whitney: Collect British Postmark, Second edition 1980 from page 22 and the actual on page 31

⁸ Þór Þorsteins: Compiled list of sailings paid for caring mail from Iceland

?	13.04.1903	REYKJAVIK	No.2 1. May?	BLYTH	And to Nederland, Austria and Germany
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It is "a day" with many examples – and most of them are from the same:



The same day.



Three 1903 Ship Letter Blyth North D, from Reykjavik 13 April 1903 to "The Hauge". No text on the back.⁹

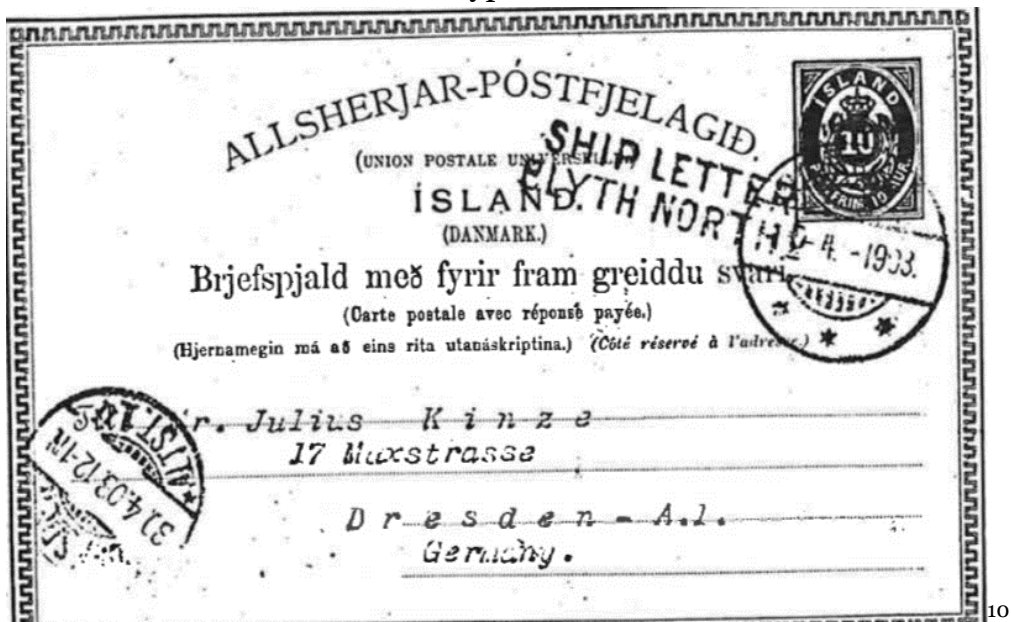


Two to "Oberleutnant Dudy"

⁹ The first one has been described as from 1908 – then the franking is insufficient – and it is 1903.



And the same typewriter to KINZE.



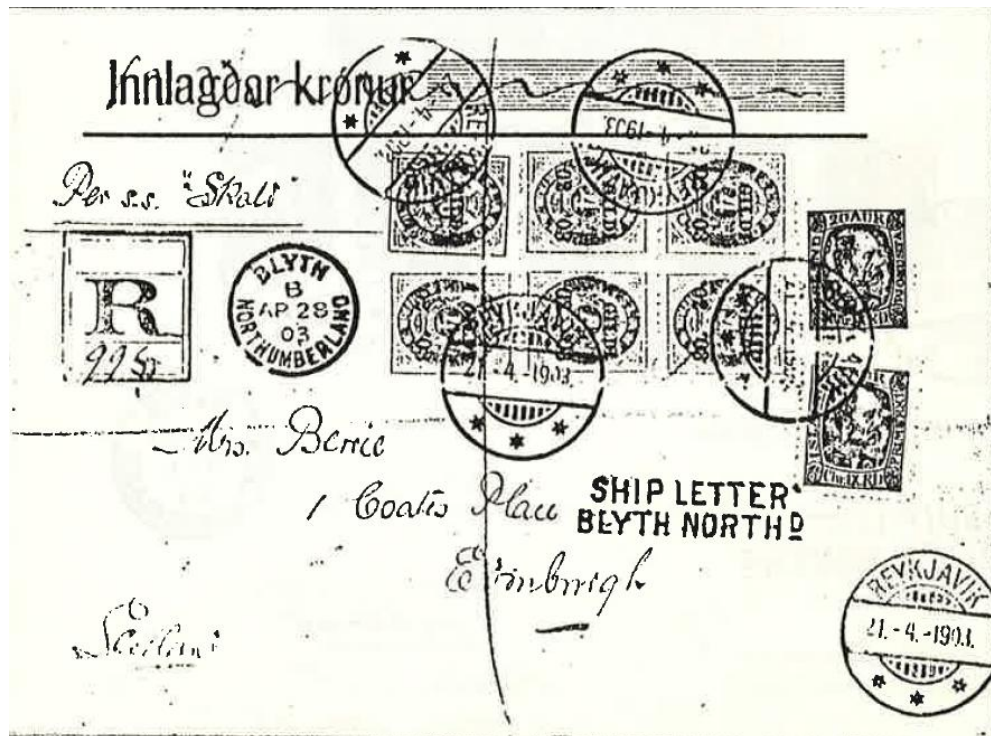
The next one is bad – but it is what I have:



10 See more about Kinze: Philatelic cards and covers from Iceland: Stamp Dealer Julius Krize, Dresden Jakob Arrevald and Ebbe Eldrup IPM # 43 page 25 ff and "More on those philatelic covers from Iceland to stamp dealer Julius Kinze, Dresden" Ellis Glatt IPM # 44 page 14 ff – also about the typewriter.

I cannot find any ship going from Iceland on 2 April or before the next ship "SKALD". SS SKALD came to Reykjavik 7 April: "Gufuskipið Skald kom hingað frá Englandi A fimtudag með timbur og kol til B. Guðmundssonar"¹¹. The departure is not mentioned.

SKALD	21.04.1903	REYKJAVIK	28.04.1903 No.2 and NH	BLYTH - Leith is indicated	5KR.
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SCHWEI- GAARD	01.05.1903 Maybe also 30.04.1903	REYKJAVIK		BLYTH	2KR
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"Gufuskipið Schweigaard (hvalabátur) kom frá Patreksfirði á sunnudaginn og fór aftur vestur í gær."¹² It was a transport ship for a whale station – not a whaleboat itself.

¹¹ "Steamship Skald came here from England on Thursday with wood and coal B. Gudmundsson"

¹² "Steamship Schweigaard (whaleboat) came from Patreksfirði on Sunday and went back west yesterday."



13

MINERVA ¹⁴	05.05.1903	REYKJAVIK	11.05.1903 No.2 and NH	BLYTH	1KR.
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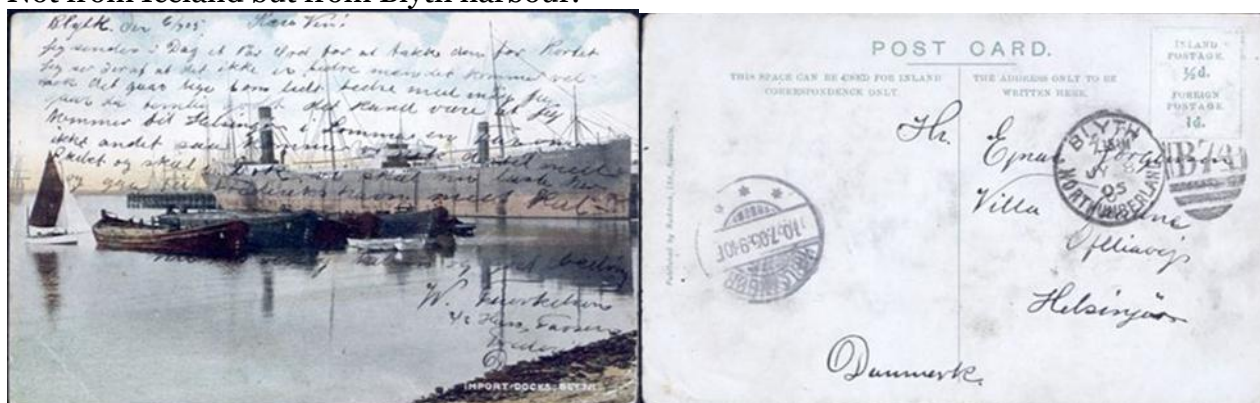


13 Build 1883 – wreck on 5 November 1916.

14 A whaleboat build 1894 – a brig. Isafold 6th May 1903: “30. f. m. kom briggskip Minerva (193, Fnglesang) frá Middles-borough með salt til Ásg. Sigurðssonar.”

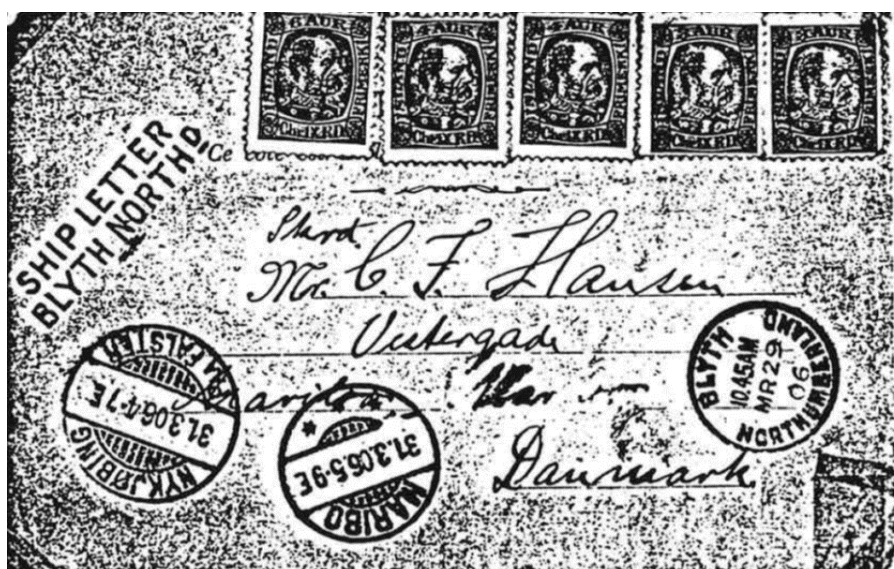
1905

Not from Iceland but from Blyth harbour.

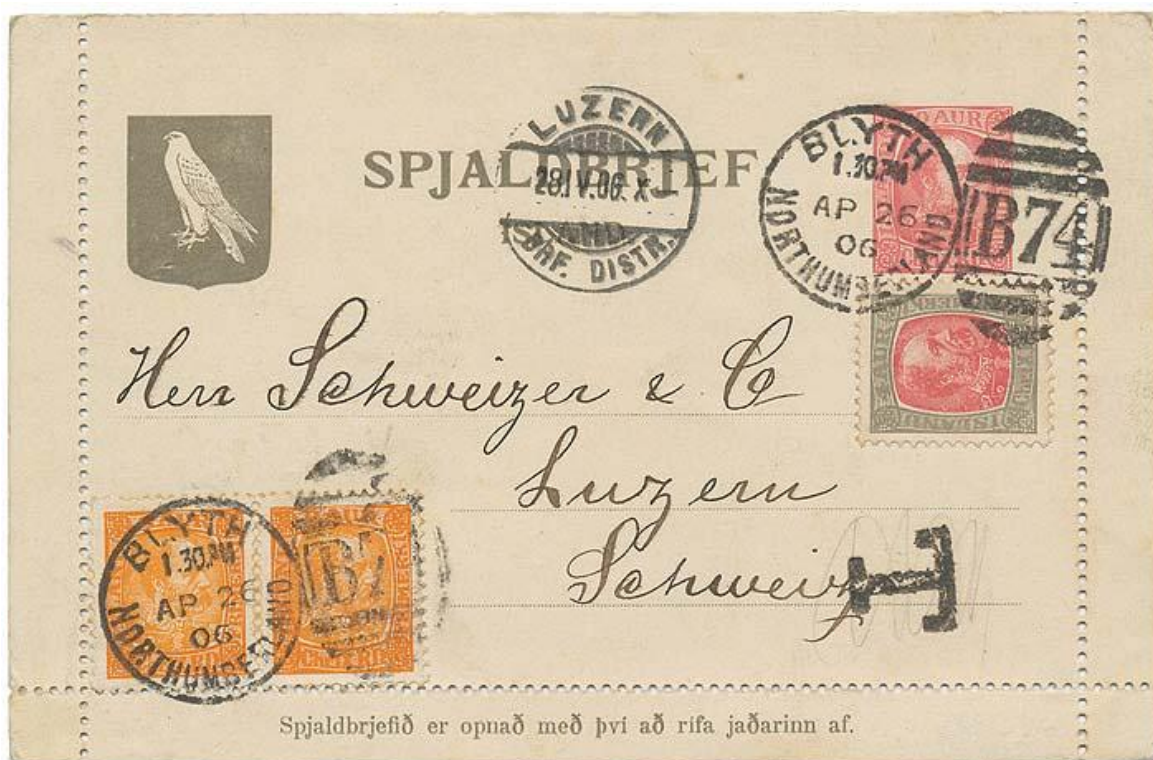


1906

unknown			29.03.1906	BLYTH	To Denmark
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unknown	21.04.06	Seydisfjord	26.4.1906	Blyth	Luzern Switzerland
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15

1907

RAGNHILD	16.03.1907	REYKJAVIK		BLYTH	2KR.
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No copies known

1908

ITALIA		REYKJAVIK	28.05.1908	BLYTH	1KR.
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unknown	2.05.1908	AKUREYRI	30.06.1908	BLYTH	1KR.
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¹⁵ The company was founded on January 18, 1906, as Chemische Industriegesellschaft mbH Mannheim and has been successful on the market for over 110 years. Even back then, the focus was on horse and leather care.



FIRDA	02.11.1908	REYKJAVIK		BLYTH	1KR.
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No copies known

ITALIA	05.12.1908	REYKJAVIK		BLYTH	1KR.
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No copies known

1909

FIRDA	28.01.1909	REYKJAVIK		BLYTH	15KR.
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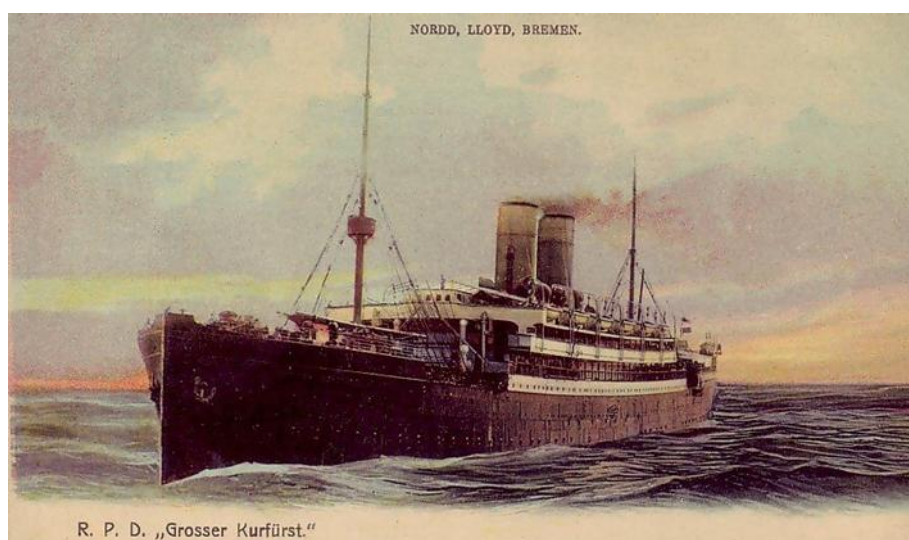
No copies known

1910

RAYDTON DIXON	21.05.1910	REYKJAVIK		BLYTH	2KR. and to KBH.
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No copies known

Grosser Kurfürst 1910



The Norddeutschen Lloyd passenger ship Grosser Kurfürst was in Reykjavik from the 3ed to the 7th July 1910.

Polarfahrt des Norddeutschen Lloyd, Bremen, mit dem
Dampfer „Großer Kurfürst“ 25. Juni - 27. Juli 1910.

The passengers were sending quite a lot of mail:

Brjefasendingar						
farþega á skemtiskipunum þýsku hafa verið frá pósthúsinu hjer, sem hjer segir:						
Ár og dagur	Skipsnafn		Tala farþega	Brjef spjöld	Brjef	Samtals
1909 Júlí 11.	Oceana		350	2482	214	2696
— Ág. 8.	—«—		210	2150	90	2240
1910 Júlí 3.—4.	Grosser Kurfürst		330	4496	195	4691
— Júlí 12.	Oceana		270	2674	256	2930
— Ág. 11.	—«—		250	2962	276	3238
1911 Júlí 12.	Cinncinnati		340	5489	391	5880

It is specified in Þjóðólfur from 08. July 1910:

“The British tourists on the Grosser Kurfürst. They left here 195 letters and 4396 postcards. — They were to these countries: To the United States 494, Germany 2768, Austria and Hungary 463, Switzerland 152, France 122, the Netherlands 107, Italy 103, England 50, Russia 46, Finland 33, Portugal 17, Malta 16 and various other countries 125.”



Some of the mail was transported further via Blyth:

ELFI	10.07.1910	REYKJAVIK	15.07.1910	BLYTH	2KR.
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No copies known

TRYG	27.08.1910	REYKJAVIK		BLYTH	2KR.
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No copies known

BOSTAD	31.12.1910	REYKJAVIK		BLYTH	
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No copies known

1911

GEIRA	29.07.1911	REYKJAVIK		BLYTH	3KR.
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No copies known

ELIZABETH	11.08.1911	REYKJAVIK	16.08.1911	BLYTH	2KR.
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Different cancellation on the next two from same day.



On the back of both:

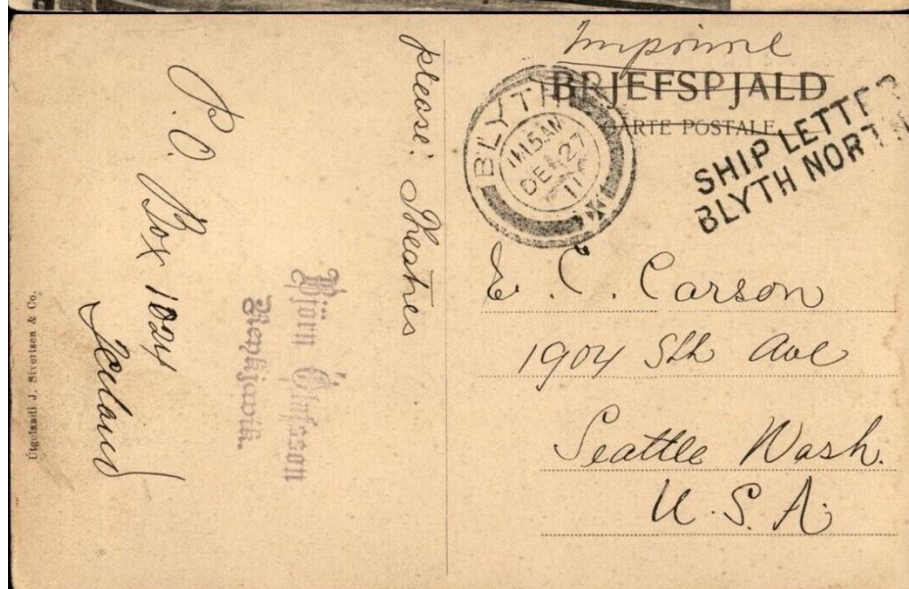
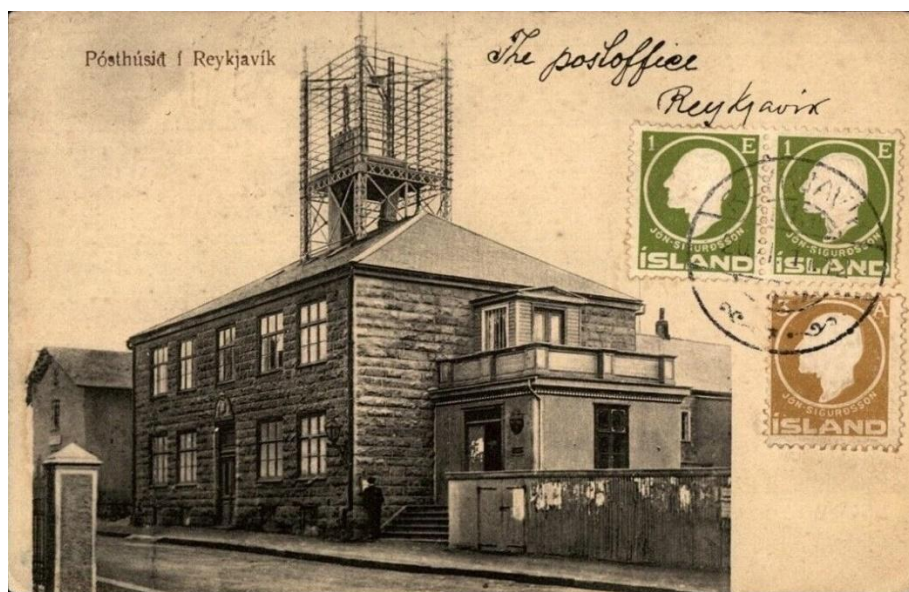


16

unknown	?		27.12.1911	BLYTH	USA
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16 Shilling

14



17

Notre-Dame de la Mer¹⁸ 1911 – 1914

Notre-Dame de la Mer: In 1910 a number of shipowners donated a large steam trawler (ex Occident) to Les Œuvres de Mer. It was converted into a modern hospital ship and would increasingly take over the tasks of its aging predecessor. In 1914 it was incorporated by the French navy as a military hospital ship. After the war, the ship was sold in 1920 because the organization had insufficient funds to make it fully operational again. The ship was operating in the waters around Island.



Postcard issued by LES ŒUVRES DE MER: the hospital ship NOTRE-DAME DE LA MER (1911-1914) off the coast of Iceland, leaving Reykjavik.

1912

unknown	04.05.1912	REYKJAVIK	14.05.1912	BLYTH	And to Edinburgh
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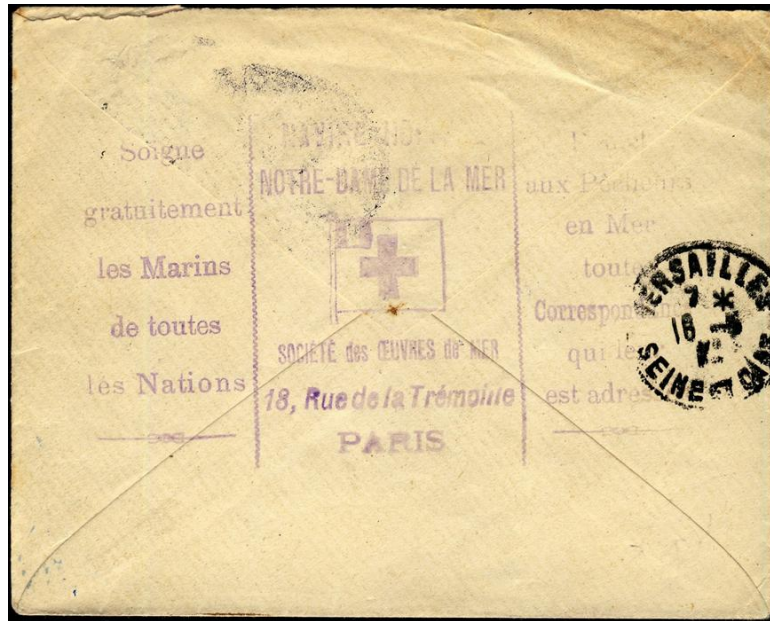


¹⁸ From: Postverkeer van Franse kabeljauwvaarders via Société des Œuvres de Mer 1895 – 1939 by Luc Selis - Nederlandse Academie voor Filatelie : Notities nr. 59 - najaar 2019 – page 8 – my translation. Further:

<https://paquebot.info/>

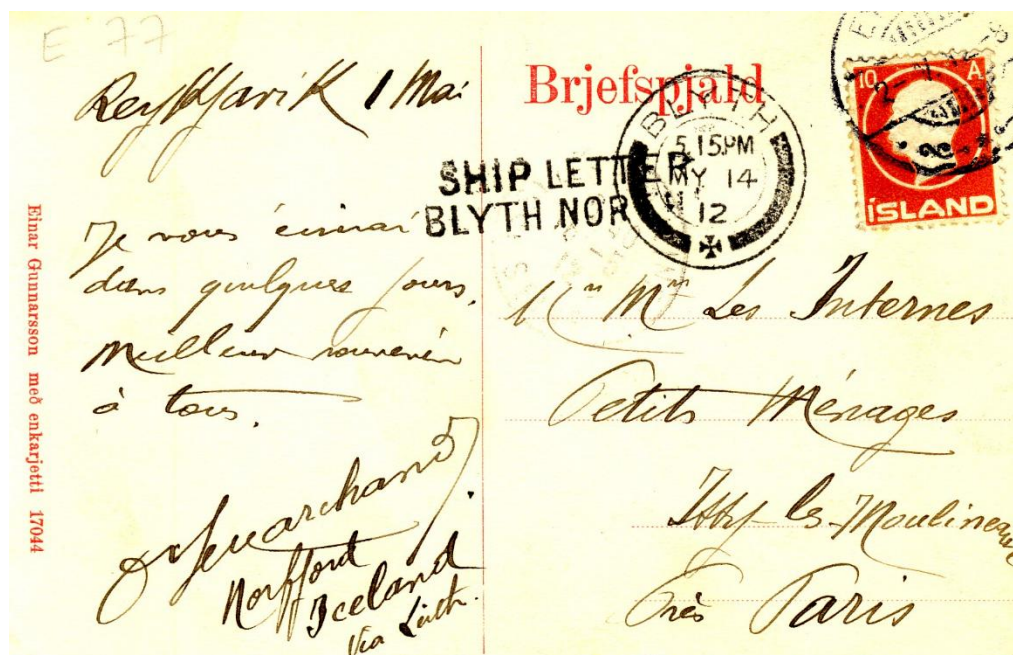
https://fr.wikisource.org/wiki/Les_%C5%92uvres_de_mer

<http://marine-opale.fr/notre-dame-de-la-mer/>



Letter issued at the hospital ship Notre-Dame de la Mer, prepaid with (invalid) French seal, Icelandic T-stamp placed in Reykjavik on 4.5.1912. By boat to BLYTH (North East England), on arrival line stamp Ship Letter Blyth Northumberland 14.5.1912, to France 18.5.1912. Valued at 50 cents, double the missing letter postage of 25 cents.

The following might be from the same hospital ship:



Hl. Universitätsbibliothek!
 Minnast bringur þar með bókabibliothekar Ögnun minn bókafyrir þann
 hljóðla Þögn: "Upplata Almennu Hæðir 1911 f. D. B." samt önnur bók
 "Alma Almennu minnstöðun" m. m.
 188 undirskrift Reykjavíkur
 Ág. Þorsteinsson
 p. L. Póthar
 Reykjavík 28/10 1912.
 Mars 99. AAMT -

1913

unknown	25.03.1913	REYKJAVIK	?	BLYTH	Leipzig
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21 "SHIP LETTER BLYTH NORTH D", on postal stationery card King Christian 10 a. from "REYKJAVIK 25.III.13" to Leipzig,

1053 B Reykjavík, 25/3/13.

Herrn Hogo Jacobi,
 — Leipzig.

Nehme höfl. Bezug auf meine Karte vom 9 d. M. und habe ich nun die genannten Prospekte erhalten, welche durchgelesen habe, aber haben Sie nicht eine vollstaendige Preisliste mit Abbildungen Ihrer saemtlichen Schraenke in allen Grössen? Ich möchte höfl. bei Ihnen vorfragen, ob Sie nicht eine spezielle Preisliste haben fuer Buecherschraenke, naeml. fuer gewöhnliche Buecher und nicht Geschaefts-buecher? Bitte höfl. um gefl. Antwort. Inzwischen werde Ihre Preise naeher pruefen, welches doch kaum möglich ist bevor ich Abbildungen aller Grössen in Haenden habe.

In Erwartung Ihrer gefl. Nachrichten zeichne
 hochachtungsvoll
for. Portenarson

unknown	10.05.1913	REYKJAVIK	21.05.1913	BLYTH	Denmark
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22



1914

unknown	24.04.1914	REYKJAVIK	30.04.1914	BLYTH	
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23

unknown			21.05.1914	BLYTH	
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22 Described in Rapport No 167 August 2013: <http://www.islandssamlarna.se/Rapport%20167.pdf> by Mike Tuttle - May 21st, 2013 on the back.

23 Hoskin Auction: "BLYTH (NORTHUMBERLAND) - THE RARE "SHIP LETTER/BLYTH NORTH 7." ON ICELAND COVER; Fine 21 Apr. 1914 env. to Germany with Iceland Sigurdsson 20a Blue tied by partly fine "REYKJAVIK" 'Bridge' c.d.s. having a superb rare "SHIP LETTER/BLYTH NORTH 7." (H9; D - "Rare" - slight wrinkle) matching the very fine Blyth backstamp."

I do not have a copy. Auction text: "BLYTH - RARE "SHIP LETTER/BLYTH NORTHD." ON ICELAND CARD TO FRANCE, ETC.; 12/14 May 1914 PPC (of Reykjavik) to Paris franked by '2 Kings' 10a Red tied by a fine "REYKJAVIK" 'Bridge' c.d.s. but also unusually having a mainly very fine strike of the rare "SHIP LETTER/BLYTH NORTHD." mark alongside."

1916

unknown			8.8.1916 s.1	BLYTH	
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1922

unknown			26.12.1922	BLYTH	
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References:

<https://paquebot.info/>

[https://fr.wikisource.org/wiki/Les %C5%92uvres de mer](https://fr.wikisource.org/wiki/Les_%C5%92uvres_de_mer)

<http://marine-opale.fr/notre-dame-de-la-mer/>

Pór 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

Hoskin (9D²⁴) Mike Dovey & Keith Morris: Paquebot Cancellations of the World and more... - 4th edition.

Mike Dovey <http://www.tpo-seapost.org.uk>

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

Mike Tuttle Rapport # 167 - <http://www.islandssamlarna.se/Rapport%20167.pdf>