

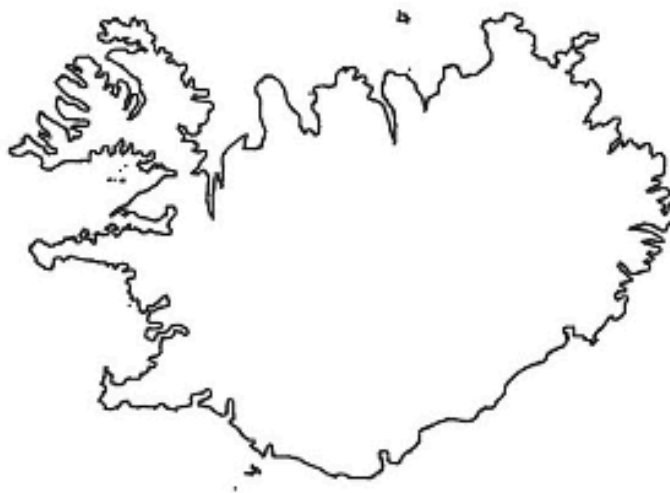
ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



HORSE TRANSPORT FROM ICELAND TO VEJLE, DENMARK 1920-1925

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SPECIAL # 23 part III– "Horse transport from Iceland to Vejle, Denmark 1920-1925" –v6 2025

Compiler: Jakob S. Arrevad: jsa@agadvokatfirma.dk. Based on articles from Kristian Kristensen, Værløse from 1994 and follow up articles and further information from Gert Guttenbergs collection of handstamps from Vejle and the local press.

This IslandsKontakt Special is a part of a series published online summarizes information published over the years in IslandsKontakt, supplemented by recent discoveries, and information published 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.

This is the "story" about mail from Iceland to the town of VEJLE in Jutland, Denmark. Vejle is a city not on the schedule of ships carrying mail from Iceland, but for special reasons ships went to Vejle in 1920 until 1925 – because they all delivered of Icelandic horses to horse dealer Carl Sørensen. Some of them (all?) carried mail canceled in Vejle.

We divide the information; **part I** is a reprint [in Danish] of the articles from Kristian Kristensen in IslandsKontakt (1994 and 1997), **part II**, by Gert Guttenberg, is focusing on "the story" and the newspaper articles; PHT 2019 no 3 page 113. **Part III** (the present one) is focusing on the ships carrying the mail and show copies of all the examples known until now.

The other parts and compilations of British postmarks and other issues in the series "IslandsKontaktSpecial" can be accessed for free at:

<https://www.nfvskandinavie.com/artikelen-ijceland.php>

CANCELLATIONS

1.. MACHINE CANCELLATION 1920



2. BRO III B 2 – 1920-1924



3. BRO IIB-1 + IIB-2 – 1922¹-1925



4. "Fra Island" handwritten used (on day?) – 15.08.1920.

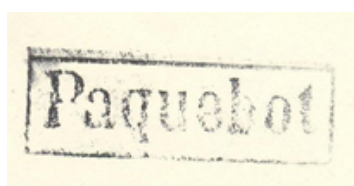


¹ Perhaps not before 1923 – see below

5. "Fra Jsland" (a rubber stamp probably reproduced from a text from a type righter?) – used 6.09.1920 and 13.10.1921.



6. PAQUEBOT used 1923²



The major background for this compilation is an article in IslandsKontakt from September 1994 – IslandsKontakt # 18, and a follow-up article from January 1997 in IslandsKontakt # 25, both from Kristian Kristensen, Værløse – see IslandsKontakt or part I.

The research done by Gert Guttenberg now further develops these studies. The arrival of horses (and mail) from Iceland was a major event. It was news in the press.

² According to Mike Dovey & Keith Morris (Hosking 4th): "1st Omnibus Type" (# 534) – used in Vejle from 1923 until 1925 - 47 x 15 mm.

1920 – START OF HORSE TRANSPORTS

1. TRIP

An article in Visir from 11. August 1920

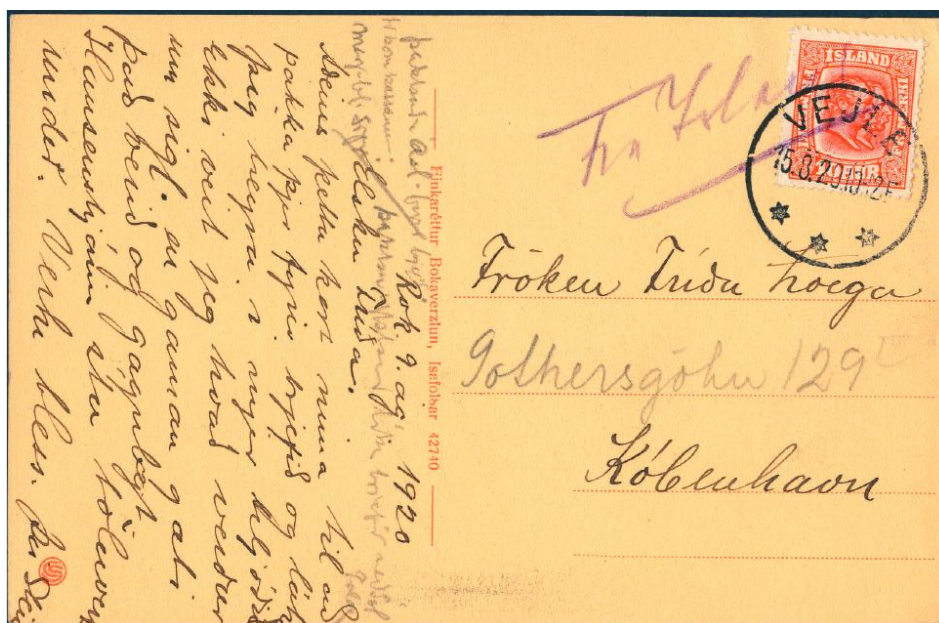
<p>Botnia ³ á að fara með hestafarm til Vejle, en nú eru hestar ekki til taks, svo að skipið verður að bíða þeirra fram yfir helgi. Mun fara á mánudag.</p>	<p>Botnia Was going to transport horses to Vejle, but the horses has not arrived so the ship has to wait over the weekend. The ship wil leave on Monday.</p>
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It was SS Gullfoss I. She transported 400 horses on the first trip.

SHIP	DEPART	FROM	ARRIVAL	POSTMARK	REMARKS	TRIP DURATION
S/S GULLFOSS I	1920.08.09	Reykjavik	1920.08.14 late in the evening	VEJLE 1920.08.15	“Fra Island” in blue crayon	5 days



³ It is partly fake news – [Morgunblaðið wrote correctly about Gullfoss – and it left already on the 9th.](#)



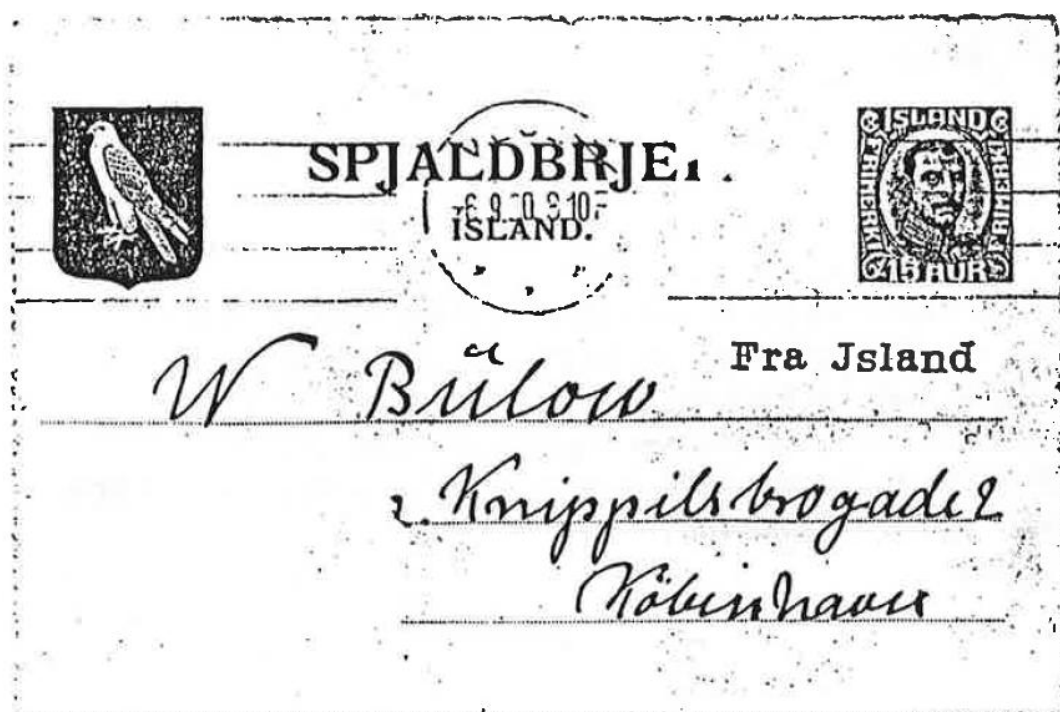
And the newest example:



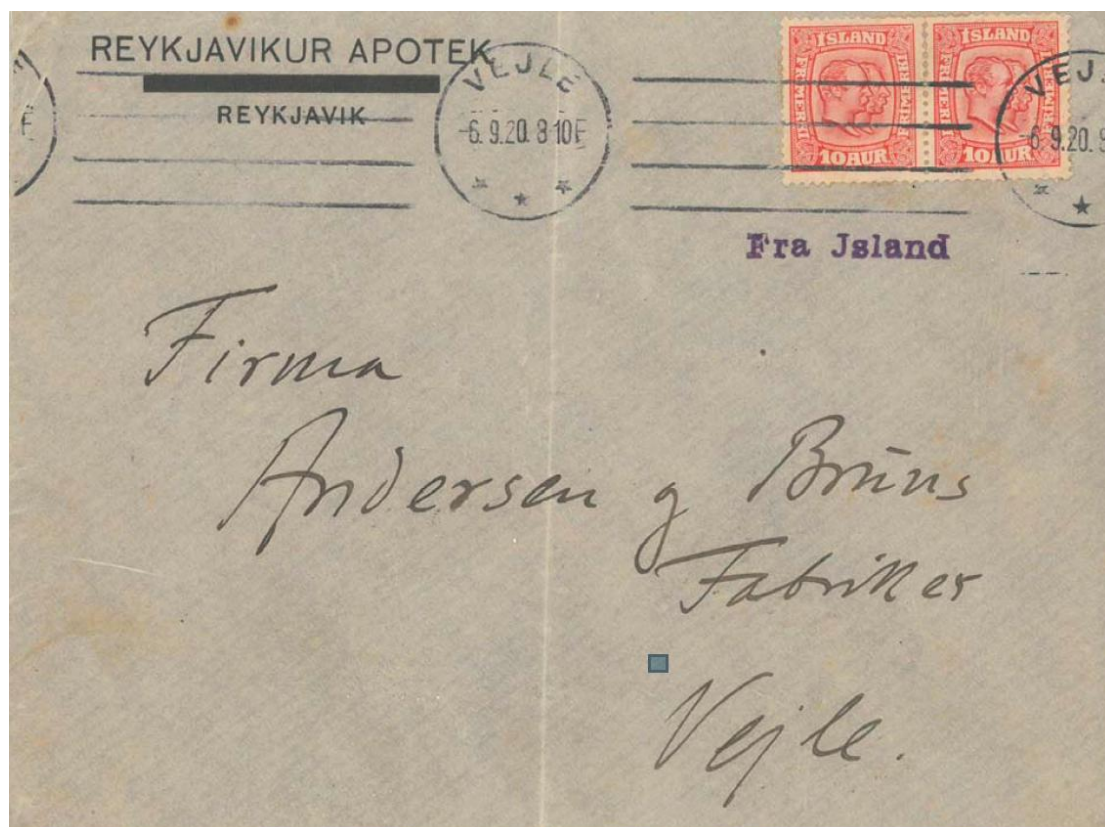
2. TRIP

⁴ Curious: from 1973 until 1990 the compiler had his office at that address

SHIP	DEPART	FROM	ARRIVAL	POSTMARK	REMARKS	TRIP DURATION
S/S ISLAND	1920.09.01	Reykjavik	1920.09.06	VEJLE 1920.09.06	"Fra Jsland	5 days



I will like to have a better scan – but where is the original?





3. TRIP

SHIP	DEPART	FROM	ARRIVAL	POSTMARK	REMARKS	TRIP DURATION
S/S GULL-FOSS I	1920.09.17	Reykjavik	1920.09.22	VEJLE 1920.09.22		5 days



4. TRIP

SHIP	DEPART	FROM	ARRIVAL	POSTMARK	REMARKS	TRIP DURATION
S/S ISLAND	1920.10.06	Reykjavik	1920.10.12	VEJLE 1920.10.12	Fra Jsland	6 days





1921

5. TRIP

SHIP	DEPART	FROM	ARRIVAL	POSTMARK	REMARKS	TRIP DURATION
S/S ISLAND	1921. 09.01 at 4 pm	Reykjavik	1921.09.08 at 9 am	VEJLE 1921.09.08	Fra Jsland	7 days



⁵ Written onboard the inspection vessel "Fylla"



Lot 2344/Est 250

K

ICELAND

R. GUÐMUNDSSON & Co.

KERS

INSURANCE AGENTS



Herr H. C. Grube

Fra Islandi

MARSTAL.--

Danmark.

6. TRIP

SHIP	DEPART	FROM	ARRIVAL	POSTMARK	REMARKS	TRIP DURATION
S/S ISLAND	1921.10.06	Reykjavik	1921.10.13	VEJLE 1921.10.13	Fra Jsland	7 days





"Íslendingur" from 19.09.1921 announced: Tours of the steamship "Islands" from Copenhagen to Iceland until the end of the year are as follows:

D. F. D. S.				
Ferðir gufuskipsins „Islands“ frá Kaupmannahöfn til Íslands eru til ársloka áætlaðar þannig:				
Frá Kaupmannahöfn	18. sept.	21. oktbr.	25. nóvbr.	
« Leith	22. —	25. —	29. —	
« Thorshavn . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
« Seyðisfirði	26. —	. . . . .	. . . . .
« Akureyri	28. —	. . . . .	. . . . .
« Ísafirði	30. —	. . . . .	. . . . .
Í Reykjavík	1. okt.	29. —	3. des.	
Frá Reykjavík . . . . .	. . . . .	2. nóv.	7. des.	
« Ísafirði . . . . .	. . . . .	4. —	9. —	
« Akureyri . . . . .	. . . . .	6. —	11. —	
« Seyðisfirði . . . . .	. . . . .	8. —	13. —	
Í Reykjavík . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Frá Reykjavík	3. okt.	. . . . .	. . . . .
« Thorshavn . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
« Leith	8. —	12. nóv.	17. —	
« Newcastle	8. —	. . . . .	. . . . .
« Vejle	11. —	. . . . .	. . . . .
Í Kaupmannahöfn	12. —	16. —	21. —	

Akureyri í september 1921.

Ragnar Ólafsson.

The scheduled time for a trip is 8 days. SS Island left a bit late on the 6th but came only two days late.

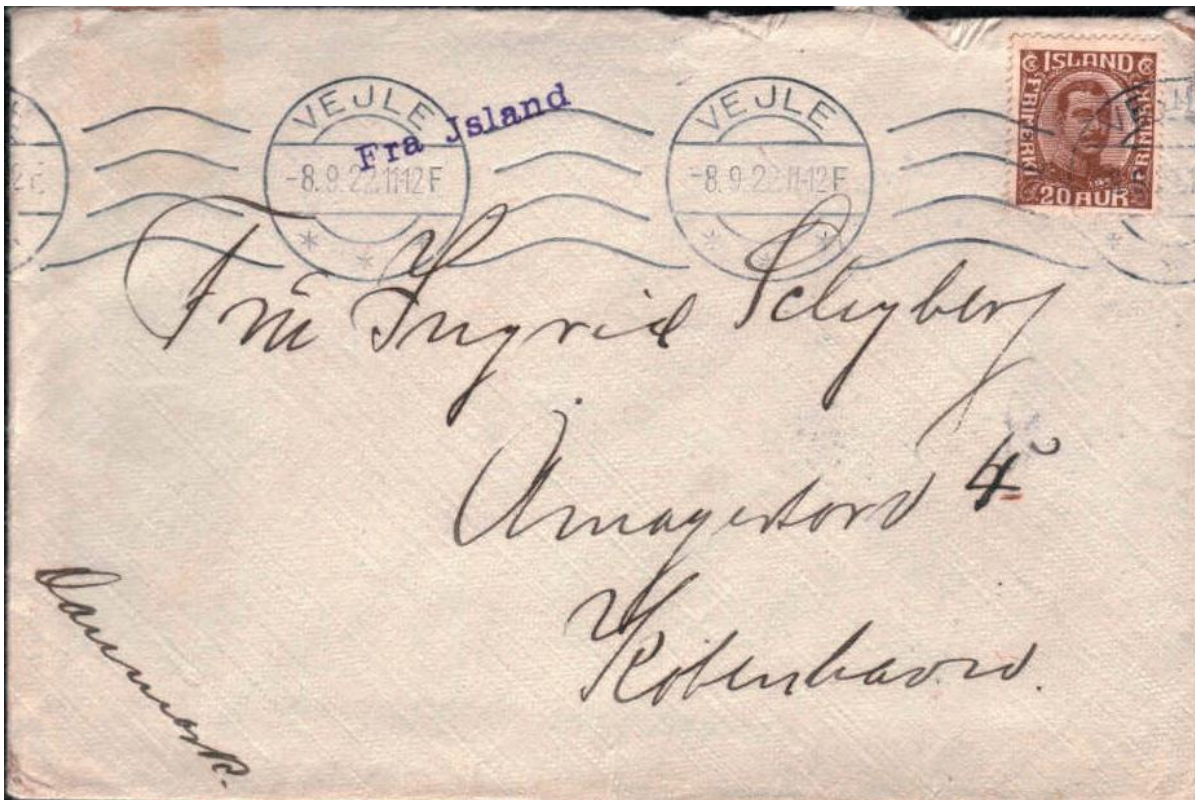
Frá Reykjavík	3. okt.
« Thorshavn . . . . .	. . . . .
« Leith	8. —
« Newcastle	8. —
« Vejle	11. —
Í Kaupmannahöfn	12. —

1922

7. TRIP

SHIP	DEPART	FROM	ARRIVAL	POSTMARK	REMARKS	TRIP DAYS
S/S ISLAND	1922.09.01	REYKJAVIK	1922.09.08	VEJLE 1922.09.08		7 days

According to articles in Icelandic and local Vejle press, horses arrived in Vejle on 08.09.1922 – but here to no sign of mail - until recently! Now One letter an one single stamp.



The trip was announced in the Icelandic press:



Morgunblaðið - 8. September 1922

Island kom til Newcastle á þriðjudaginn og mun vera konrrð til Vejle nú.	Island came to Newcastle on Tuesday and will be in Vejle now.
--	---

1923

8. TRIP

SHIP	DEPART	FROM	ARRIVAL	POSTMARK	REMARKS	TRIP DURATION
S/S GODA- FOSS II	1923.08.19	Seyðis- fjörður	1923.08.25	VEJLE	Paquebot in frame	6 days

The trip is not mentioned earlier. Now we know:

The beginning of the story of that trip is 17.8 in Morgenbladet:

"Esja" fer hjeðan í fyrramálið kl. 11 suður og austur um land. Vegna farþega, sem þurfa að komast til Kaupmannahafnar, lætur Eimskipafjelagið „Esju“ hitta „Goðafoss“ á Reyðarfirði, sem fer svo þaðan samdægurs til Kaupmannahafnar. Utlendur póstur mun einnig verða sendur- með „Esju“ hjeðan.	"Esja" goes off tomorrow morning at 11 am south and east of the country, because there are passengers who need access to Copenhagen, Eimskipafjelag "Esja" meet "Goðafoss" in Reyðarfirði. Posting abroad will also be sent with "Esja".
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The meeting point, Reyðarfjörðu, explain some of the mail found – from Seyðisfjörður and Eskifjörður

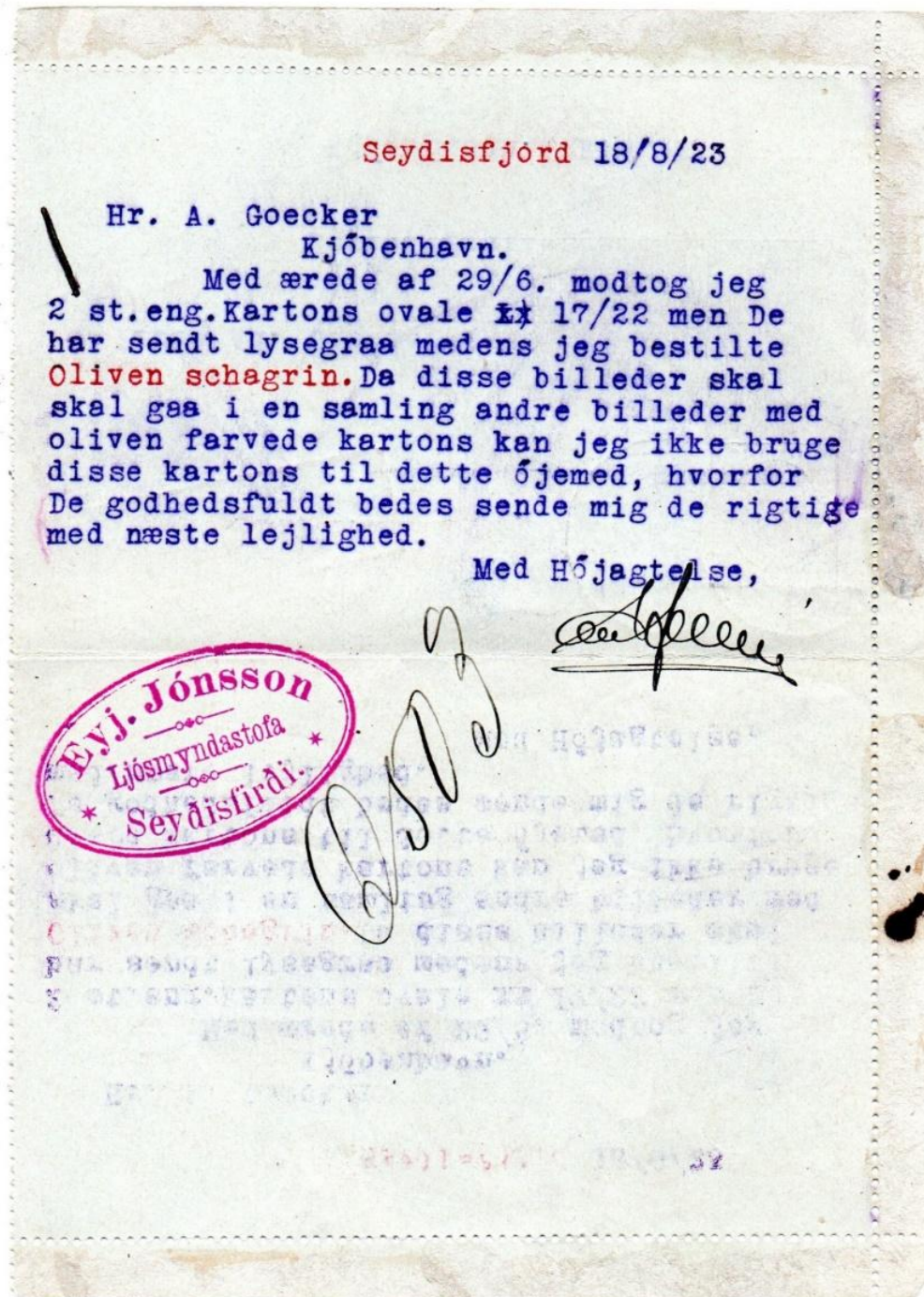


20.8.1923 – Visir:

"Skipafregnir. "Goðafoss fór frá Seyðisfirði kl. 12 í gærkveldi. Esja fór frá Reyðarfirði kl. 7 í morgun"	Ship reports. "Godafoss left Seyðisfjörður at 12 noon yesterday evening. Esja left Reyðarfjörður at 7 this morning"
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Goðafoss left Seyðisfjörður, on the 19th at midnight. It meets with Esja i Reyðarfjörður on 20th august and pass Eskifjörður on its way in or out of Reyðarfjörður, on the 20th

This is sent with Goðafoss:





Together with this letter from 20th august cancelled in Eskifjörður



1924

9. TRIP

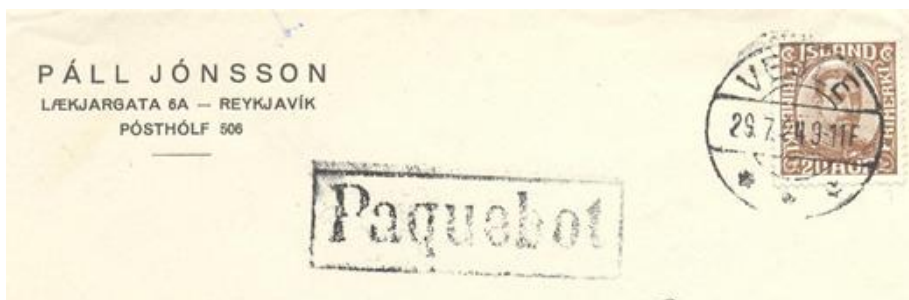
SHIP	DEPART	FROM	ARRIVAL	POSTMARK	REMARKS	TRIP DURATION
S/S GULL-FOSS I	1924.07.20 ⁶	Reykjavik	1924.07.29	VEJLE 1924.07.29	Paquebot in frame	9 DAYS

The trip was communicated in the local press:



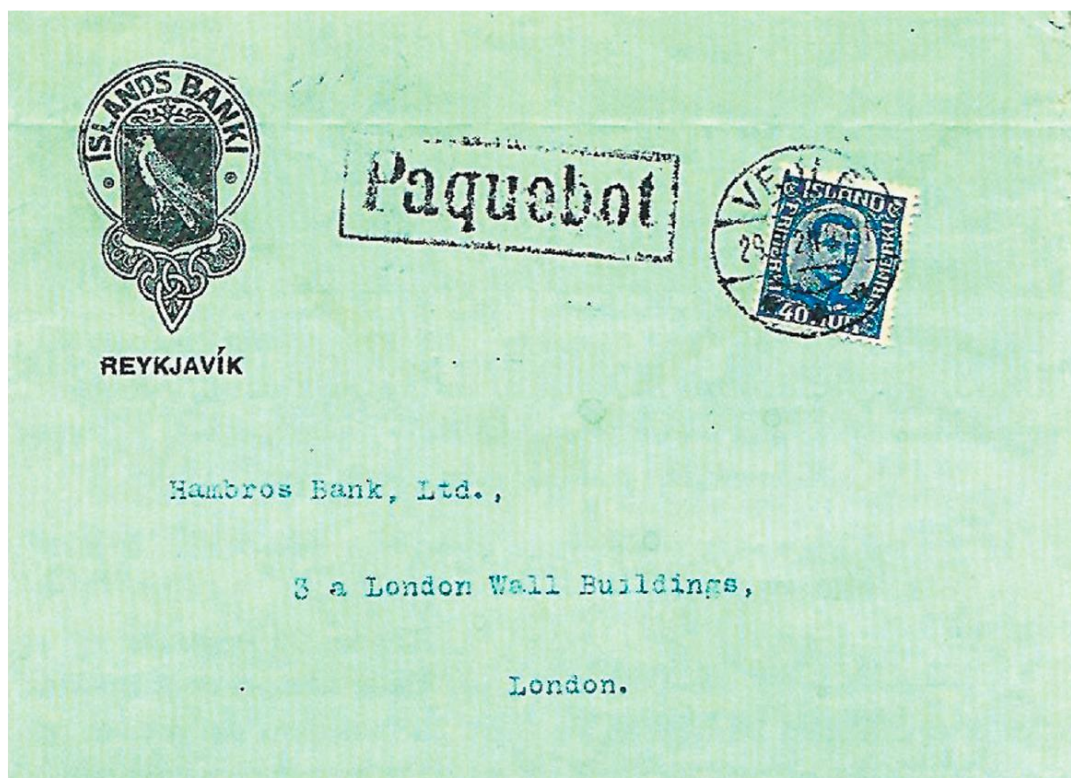
[Morgunblaðið](#) 29. júlí 1924:

"E.s. Gullfoss. Samkvæmt beiðni nokkurra farþega kóm Gullfoss við í Noregi nú í útleiðinni og setti farþegana á land þar í gærmorgun. Meðal þeirra er í land fóru, voru: Jon Hermannsson lögreglustjón, Bjarni Jónsson forstjóri og Ólafur Þorsteinsson læknir. Gullfoss var væntanlegur til Vejle nú í morgun og setur þar á land hesta. Hefir ferðin gengið ágætlega"	E.s. Gullfoss. Upon request from several passengers, Gullfoss stopped in Norway on his way to Vejle and put the passengers a shore land yesterday morning. Among those who went was Jón Hermannsson Police Commissioner, Bjarni Jónsson CEO and Dr. Ólafur Þorsteinsson. Gullfoss was expected to arrive to Vejle this morning with some horses as a cargo. The trip so far has gone well.
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⁶ Passed Vestmannaeyjar the same day – mentioned in the local press, Skjöldur on 21. July 1924







10. TRIP

SHIP	DEPARTURE	FROM	ARRIVAL	POSTMARK	REMARKS	TRIP DURATION
S/S GÖÐA- FOSS II	1924.08.25	Seyðis- fjörður	1924.09.01	VEJLE 1924.09.01	?	7 days

"Íslendingur" from Akureyri on 1904.08.29:

„Goðafoss" fór á sunnudagsmorguninn áleiðis til útlanda. Meðal farþega voru Þorsteinn Sigvaldason verzlunarmaður og ungfrúrnar Guðrún Jónsdóttir og Lára Ouðjónsdóttir, öll til Kaupmannahafnar.	" Goðafoss" went on Sunday morning going abroad. Among the passengers were Thorsteinn Sigvaldason shopkeeper and Miss Guðrún Jónsdóttir and Lára Ouðjónsdóttir, all to Copenhagen.
--	--

"Hænar" from Seyðisfjörður 1924.08.24

Biskupinn Dr. Jón Helgason, dvelur hér í bænum þessa dagana, kom hingað á Esju. Héðan ferhann á Goðafossi til útlanda. Biskupinn heldur guðspjónustu hér í kvöld kl. 8.	The bishop Dr. Jón Helgason, staying here in town these days, came here with Esja. From here, he goes on Goðafoss abroad. The bishop holds worship service here tonight at. 8.
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Therefore, Goðafoss must have left Seyðisfjörður after the worship service – 1924.08.25



1925

11. TRIP

SHIP	DEPART	FROM	ARRIVAL	TO	REMARKS	TRIP DURATION
S/S GÓÐA- FOSS II	1925.07.14	Reykjavík	1925.07.25	VEJLE	Paquebot in frame	? days

"Visir" 1925.07.13:



"Goðafoss leaves tomorrow (Tuesday) 5 in the afternoon, west and north around the country and then abroad and "Visir" 1925.07.15: "Goðafoss came to Isafjörður at 10 am this morning."





BJÖRN BJÖRNSSON

Norðfirði

ÍSLAND

00

Paquebot



Firma:

A/S. CANDOR

Kompagnistræde 20

KÖBENHAVN, K.

=====

Pr. S/S. Godafoss

Gert Guttenberg did a great job continuing the description of the 11 horse-trips to Vejle.
The following is an example of his work and at the same time “departure” from the subject.



Bruun Rasmussen's auction 3.11.2024

And - that was the end of import of Icelandic horses to Carl Sørensen in Vejle.

References:

IslandsKontakt no. 18, September 1994, Kristian Kristensen (Also printed in Posthistorisk Tidsskrift)

"Rapport" No. 102, June 1996, Kristian Kristensens article in Swedish

IslandsKontakt No. 25, January 1997, Kristian Kristensen – follow-up.

Gert Guttenberg: "Skibspost fra Island til Vejle" – PHT no. 3, September 2019 page 113. Also printed in DFT no. 2 2019.

Islandsklubben i Goetheborg member auction 2011

Mike Dovey & Keith Morris (Hosking 4th): Paquebot Cancellations of the world.

Heinrich Schilling: Island: Fremde Anladestempel auf Islandpost, (1976 and later supplements)

Collectors and friends from around the world, especially: Árni Gústafsson, Brian Stwalley, Ebbe Eldrup, Peter Skov Nielsen and Ole Sv