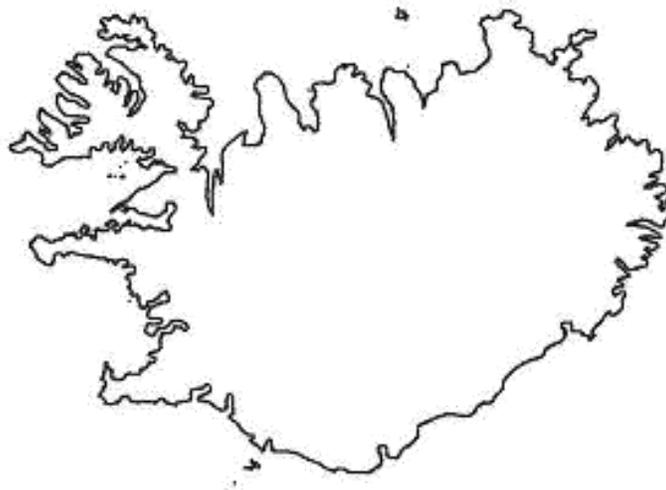


# ICELAND PHILATELY

An independent magazine for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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## Iceland Philately

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### **A Happy Christmas and New Year to all of you!!**

The next issue should be out by the beginning of February. Please let me have your articles. The editor will help with any improvements to the English if necessary.

If you need help with translations of published articles just let me know.

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## News and Opinion

Well here it is, the first issue of *Iceland Philately*. I hope it will become a regular platform for people to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for Iceland postal history. We will thrive if there is a regular flow of articles, comments, questions for which you need answers. I hope you will take the opportunity to tell us what you think, and over time to contribute articles for others to enjoy. As mentioned in your invitation there is no society, therefore no fees, only your agreement to receive this online magazine. For most of you, English is not your first language, and although English will be the main language used, there is nothing to prevent you sending articles in your own language. Translations will be readily available, I am sure.

### Indriði Pálsson 1927-2015

Postiljonen has been entrusted to sell Indriði Pálsson's amazing collection "Classic Island until 1902," which we are very happy to do. This world famous collection was judged in 2001, when it was awarded a Large Gold at HAFNIA 2001, being the most important and most complete collection of classic Iceland. Indriði Pálsson was 88 years old and passed away last spring. He was a well-known and respected businessman in Iceland. He was CEO of Icelandic Shell for almost 20 years and a director of Icelandair and Iceland's largest shipping company: Eimskipafélag Íslands. The collection with related material will be sold in three auctions starting at the international spring auction March 18 to 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 in Malmö. The first part



will include several highlights

including a letter franked with a 4 skilling cancelled in Hjarðarholt and sent to Reykjavík in 1873. This is the only known skilling letter with this stamp. A letter with 16 skilling sent to Denmark in 1874, and the only known letter with this denomination in perforation 14 x 13 ½, will also be offered. For catalogs and more details once the auction is approaching, please visit our website.

[www.postiljonen.com](http://www.postiljonen.com).





The cancel first appeared in October 2014, and readers of the Danish IslandsKontakt and the British Contact magazines will know I have been recording their progress. There have been further developments. The new cancels at Húsavík and Þorlákshöfn had to be replaced in the first week of May as the staff had mistakenly used the regular canceller ink instead of the special ink reserved for these rubber cancels, which resulted in damage to the rubber. Presumably cancel strikes from the replacements will only be identifiable by the date of posting. Surprisingly, a second Colop cancel was requested by Akranes and delivered in early May. Finally for now, the latest addition is Seltjarnarnes which received a Colop cancel for use from 19th November. That makes 22 offices so far.

The cancels belong to the B8b1 category, but nobody has yet come forth and offered an opinion for a more precise classification. They cannot be called type B8b1a to differentiate them from the B8b1 cancellers issued from 1999 to 2006, because the B8b1a designation was allocated in Þór Þorsteins's latest book *Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar Á Íslandi* 2008 to the philatelic cancellations offered to collectors from March 2005 and only available from Reykjavík R2. I disagreed with their recognition as proper cancels, but Þór claimed the cancels provided by R2 were popular and were collected in Iceland, even though they were never issued to the post offices. I have seen them on one or two covers for sale on Ebay. Does all this matter? If we are to continue in the fine tradition of providing excellent literature for the use of collectors, then the new Colop types should surely be eventually added to the standard reference books. I would like to see an agreement reached on this and other new canceller additions which have occurred since the publication of the 2008 book.



B8b1 2006



B8b1a philatelic strike available to collectors from March 2005 on application to Reykjavík R2.

**"FRA ISLAND" missing on two postcards from Ole Svinth**

It is rather unusual to find letters/cards arriving at Copenhagen directly from Iceland without the cancel "FRA ISLAND". I wonder if the cancel went for repair or went missing late 1905, when these two cards arrived at Copenhagen. Both cards were sent from Reykjavik and dated by sender. Found on the internet.



Date of arrival **19 11 05**

Card dated by sender **5 11 1905**



Date of arrival **8 10 05** late 7-8 E (=PM).  
Delivered early 9.10.05  
Card dated by sender **27 Sept. (05)**



Arrows point at date of departure from Iceland.



Here is an example showing the expected "Fra Island", but that is from 1902.



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**Observations** from Brian Stwalley



Staying with Borgarfjarðarsýsla, Brian recalls this illustration of the Kúludalsá B1a cancel with a partial date ??5.33 on the 20aur Gullfoss, which was shown in an IslandsKontakt editorial, Nr.107, page 21, "Is one too expensive and one too cheap?" It was described as a nice specimen with the comment that the sale price of "only" \$180 was one tenth of the catalogue value of SEK10,000.



Brian spotted the date similarity with another example shown here on the 10aur Views, which appeared in IslandsKontakt 95 page 5 in an article by Jørgen Steen Larsen called, "Warning - CTO cancelling with bridge cancel from Kúludalsá". Brian is not suggesting it is CTO for certain, but he thinks the level of suspicion must be raised about both strikes, which could explain the depressed sale price on Ebay.

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## ”Søndagsbrev” to Denmark from Ole Svinth

”Søndagsbrev” was a special kind of delivery in Denmark for delivery on Sundays.

The letters had to be “crossed” in ink or pencil and an extra fee had to be added together with the word “Søndagsbrev”. This arrangement was used from May 1<sup>st</sup> 1929 until June 30<sup>th</sup> 1972.

This extra fee was:

1.5.1929: 10 øre	1.7.1946: 20 øre	1.6.1950: 25 øre	1.7.1952: 30 øre
15.4.1963: 55 øre	15.5.1965: 100 øre	3.7.1967: 200 øre	1.7.1972: Stopped

It is unusual to find a ”søndagsbrev” to Denmark from Iceland. However, here is one sent from Reykjavik by airmail on **Friday** the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 1953. In order to be delivered on Sunday, the cover correctly was signed “Søndagsbrev” and the extra fee, - **which had to be paid in Danish stamps** – was affixed.

Letter rate was 80aur 0-20 gr. Airmail rate 0-20 gr. was 125 aur. This was a slight over franking by 5 aur.

As you can see from the above list the fee in this period was 30øre. Here the sender was not well informed on the “Sunday-rate”. A Sunday-letter must be delivered anyway, but a penalty had to be charged. In this case the Danish Post seems to have overlooked the missing 5 øre.

From the UPU point of view the fee was OK with a 5aur over franking and 5 øre missing.

The cover was for sale at 480 DDK.



The Icelandic charity stamps were valid until the end of 1958.

From the first period we have here another “Søndagsbrev” correctly signed “Søndagsbrev” and ink crossed. The Danish stamps were correctly used as the extra fee of 10 øre.

Furthermore the letter was handed over directly to the ship before departure from Iceland and thus treated as a shipletter on arrival at Copenhagen where it received cancellation 3 7 36. The ship might have had tailwind as the letter arrived on a Friday, and could easily be delivered on the Saturday delivery.



OMK "10" type C on letter to Denmark cancelled 3 7 36. FRA ISLAND type II. Postage 20 aur 0-20 gr. "Søndagsbrev" fee was 10 øre and had to be paid in Danish stamps.

Finally from the last period shortly before it ended we can show a "Søndagsbrev" with the 200 øre fee.



Cover cancelled Reykjavik 22 2 1972. Danish stamps (Sunday-letter fee 200 øre) cancelled Vanløse 24 2 72. The letter rate was 7 kr. 0-20 gr. and airmail fee 3 kr. 0-20 gr. Letter arrived early for a Sunday delivery as February 24<sup>th</sup> was a Thursday.

What do these 3 examples have in common? Well, the Danish stamps in all 3 cases show that a philatelist might be involved.

Cover 1: Here we know the sender. Folmer Østergaard was a highly respected collector in Icelandic philately. He worked for a long period in Iceland as an engineer. The blue 25øre was issued in a rather small quantity and is rather seldom seen on covers. Most of the covers showing charity stamps have philatelic involvement.

I am sure that the philatelists have paid their share of the income from these stamps.

Cover 2: Normally a bank is closed on Sundays, so why send a Sunday letter to a Bank? The Danish tête bêche stamps are very uncommon to possess for an Icelander.

Cover 3: Normally the sheet margin is removed before the stamps are attached to the cover. A philatelist would know that the margin number might add value to the item. An airmail cover from Tuesday would easily reach Denmark before Sunday.

Nevertheless, these covers are attractive as well as unusual.

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## Póst-og símatiðindi

Editor

On page 14 I refer to Póst-og Símatiðindi in relation to airmail rates in the 1940s. A few months ago, a substantial collection of these important documents and other early official notices were sold to the Iceland Post office and, it grieves me to say it, will probably remain untouched in their archives. I believe that amongst the documents are short issue announcements, temporary postal rates and probably other information useful to postal historians. I made a couple of approaches to the post office to try and get answers to specific questions which might be found in this archive, but alas my request seemed not to get the attention I had hoped for. It would be wonderful if all existing Póst-og Símatiðindi and other Post Office notices could be digitized and made available for access to collectors. Some hope I suppose!

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## From the auctions



Numeral 166  
Facit 7500SEK  
Sold Ebay \$250



Brekka Ár 1932. Facit 5000SEK  
The seller kept reducing the Ebay price until he got a bid. It finally sold for \$117.

## Once upon a time.... Editor

Before emails, and what is now called "social media", people used to write to each other. The vast majority of the contents of letters were not preserved, and very few covers are found with the original message inside. Of course postal stationery often carried messages, usually rather brief, but aerogrammes if you are lucky can contain lengthy and sometimes interesting messages. Some writers used every space available to squeeze their message into the available space whether typed or handwritten. Although my main interests in aerogrammes are in the various postage rates and the different ways postage was made up with adhesives, I do get enjoyment from the human interest found in the messages inside them. I am briefly describing three to illustrate what I mean.



60aurar printing with additional 25aur adhesive for the 85aurar rate valid 15.11.49 to 30.4.50. Cancelled B2a Keflavík Flugvöllur 16.3.50 to USA.

The writer, employed by the Iceland Air Corp, acknowledges delayed "morale packages" from the US which contained badly needed socks. (Perhaps he was not good at darning his own?). He goes on to describe contractual difficulties with the US government which makes his job more difficult, and looks forward to the end of his contract when he hopes to go to Sweden by an Icelandic ship, but he has been told they will not carry Americans to Sweden !! He intends to find out why! Does anyone know?



60aurar printing with additional adhesives to make up the 150aur rate current from 1.5.50 to 30.9.53. Cancelled Reykjavík B1d 1.VII.50. to USA.

An Icelandic importer refuses to deal with an American trying to sell bonds, unless he provides convincing proof that they did not originate from war-looted bonds!



175aur rate from 1.10.53 to 30.6.58, cancelled Keflavík Airport B6c 3.II.58 to Beirut, Lebanon.

A long interesting description of family life in Iceland during Christmas 1958, including the birth of a child. The BOAC office at Keflavík is closing down and he is waiting for a suitable posting.

I have many aerogrammes with messages in German, Swedish, Icelandic etc., and somehow I must try and translate at least the typewritten ones. The hand written ones are probably too difficult.

Staying with aerogrammes for the moment, I could not resist adding one more because of its unusual origin. It is a South African issued aerogramme, in Afrikaans and English, and was posted in Reykjavík on 14 August 1959 by a South African stamp dealer, possibly on vacation there en route to London. It is addressed to Harris Publications who were holding books for him to collect. He asked them to supply a recently published encyclopedia on Africa. He paid the correct 225aur rate for the period 1.7.58 to 28.2.60, but avoided the premium which would have been payable to the Iceland post office had he used an Icelandic aerogramme.



IslandsKontakt Nr.108 contained the second part of Jørgen Steen Larsen's article on the wonderful collection of bridge cancels accumulated many years ago by the late Sigurður Thormar. One of the spectacular covers shown was a 1943 cover from Ystu-Garðar which showed damage in the form of a large bulge over the letter "U". Jørgen asked for help in narrowing down the date when the damage occurred, previously thought to be sometime between 1934-36. I could only supply cancel dates of 3.9.32 without damage and 28.1.37 with damage. Can anyone narrow it down further?

Jørgen's collection of the B2a cancel includes the following:- ??8.33 on a pair of Facit 151 10aur CHX without the damage, and 28.1.37 on a philatelic letter with the damage. His other 6 usages are all from after 1.1.47 when the collecting office had moved to Syðstu-Garðar. His 1937 cover with a 35aur is written in ball-point pen, not thought to be in use in 1937 (!) and addressed to someone in Akureyri. Jørgen believes the address was added much later by Albina Jensen, the wife of a former club chairman Torben Jensen. That makes mine also suspicious.

**An odd airmail rate designed for only a small group of countries** from Ole Svinth

This 230aur stamp was issued September 29<sup>th</sup> 1956. 230aur was the rate for a 20 gr. airmail letter to Scandinavia from April 1<sup>st</sup> 1956 until March 31<sup>st</sup> 1957.

Letter rate was 150aur up to 20 gr. and airmail fee was 80aur pr. 20 gr.

I myself struggled a great deal to get this stamp single on cover. I looked for it for more than 30 years. 750.000 stamps were issued, but these stamps would have no purpose except for a "small" group of Scandinavian countries. Proper use was possible for only 6 months. What happened to all these stamps?



Letter to Denmark cancelled Reykjavik 5 X 56.

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## A Turkish Question



Reykjavík Type B1d dated 21.1.1947 to The Royal Danish Legation in Ankara, Turkey

Fellow writers will have experienced the frustration after you write an article hoping for an answer, and none comes. In this case I am going to try again with a shortened version of the original article, and hope that somebody, probably in Iceland, will know the answer. Here is my main question.

Why is Turkey not mentioned as an airmail destination in the Iceland post office airmail rates publications before 30<sup>th</sup> November 1949? It first appears as "Turkey in Asia" from 30<sup>th</sup> November 1949, and remained with that title for the next 20 years. From 1<sup>st</sup> October 1953 an additional entry can be found as "Turkey in Europe" with different airmail rates to "Turkey in Asia". Is it possible that the UPU did not recognize Turkey at all as an airmail destination from any country before 30<sup>th</sup> November 1949?

The illustrated cover was sent to Ankara on the Asian side of Turkey in January 1947, apparently by airmail, and 1kr postage was paid. If it is true that Turkey did not exist as a UPU airmail destination prior to late 1949, then how was the postage assessed on this cover? There is possibly a clue in a faint pencil scrawl on the reverse, "rate was 90aur (for 5gm). Excess 10aur?" At that time there were two 90aur airmail rates to other countries, but not it seems to Turkey.

My guess is that at some time before "Turkey in Asia" appeared in the November 1949 airmail rates publication, an announcement had been made in an earlier issue of Póst-og símatiðindi, which succeeded Póstblaðið (the Postmen's' Newsletter). I hope that our Icelandic friends who have copies of Póst-og símatiðindi around that period can come up with an answer.

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## Missing Letters

from Ronald Collin

When I first started to seriously go after C&P cancels, I sometimes came across examples with "missing" letters. I originally thought that the canceller consisted of metal type representing the letters of the town name. I later realized that the canceller was made of molded "kautschuk", or rubber. If, as I originally thought, the town names were formed with metal type, I can understand a letter dropping out of the canceller, occasionally. I have included some examples that evidence my curiosity.



The first FAGURHÓLSMÝRI has the full complement of letters. The second example has the Ø missing.



I would imagine that the original condition of the ROFABÆR canceller had the full complement of letters; however, mine has the O missing. None of my ROFABÆR cancels have all the letters present.



I am thinking that the original condition of the SNÆFJÖLL canceller also had the full complement of letters; however, mine has the Ö missing. None of my SNÆFJÖLL cancels have all the letters present. If the Ö was worn enough to disappear then why is there no sign of wear in the J and the L which are in pretty good shape? Why are the two dots of the umlaut accent still there, surely they should show signs of wear?

What has bothered me for some time now is that if these cancellers were made of metal type, I can understand a letter dropping out of the canceller, but these cancellers were made of molded rubber.

So my only conclusion is that these letters had to have been removed manually, or cut out of the canceller WHY? A letter in the middle of a word in a rubber stamp cannot just disappear, can it?

Also, as with the Ó in FAGURHÓLSMÝRI, and with the Ö in SNÆFJÖLL, did they cut out just the letter, and leave the umlaut accent marks that appear above the letter, just below the outer ring of the canceller? I am assuming they used a knife or razor blade, and were meticulous enough to leave those accent marks.

What is the reason for this? If anyone has an idea or explanation for the above, I would love to know what happened. Also, if you have any examples of other "missing" letter cancellers, could you please provide illustrations? I am excluding the well-known missing P from Þórshöfn, as the basis of this article is to query the missing letters from the middle of place names.

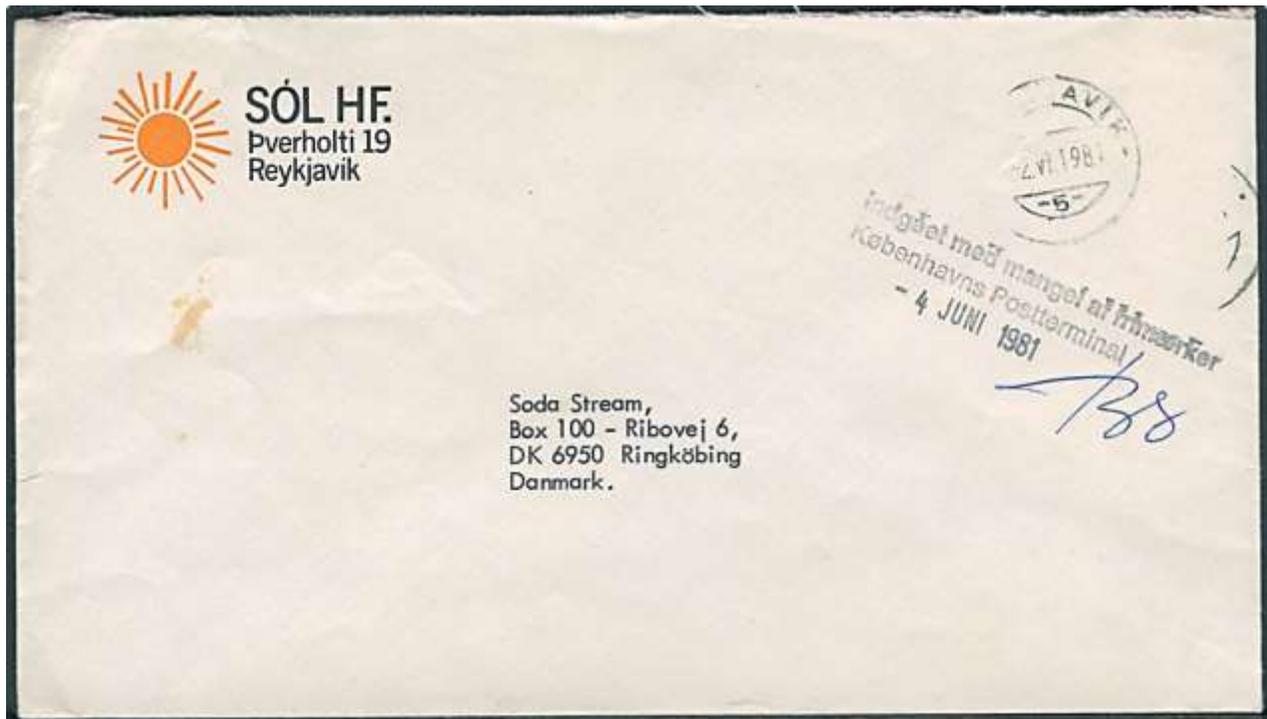
## Has the letter been in the sea? from Ole Svinth

"Fyns Frimærke Service" had this cover for sale. The cover might have lost the stamp in several ways, and that has happened on its way to Copenhagen.

The question is where to place it in one's collection. Maybe it could fit in an appendix for funny items. It might also fit in the collection under the shown 190aur stamp, which in this short period 1/6 1981 – 31/8 1981 was the rate for a 0-20 gr. letter to Denmark. It was a good thing that the post office at Copenhagen added the illustrated cancel telling that the letter arrived without stamps. Otherwise the cover would have been worthless.



Issued February 24th 1981



Cover to Denmark cancelled Reykjavik 2 VI 1981