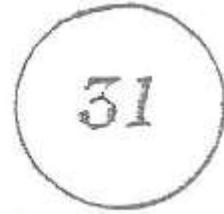


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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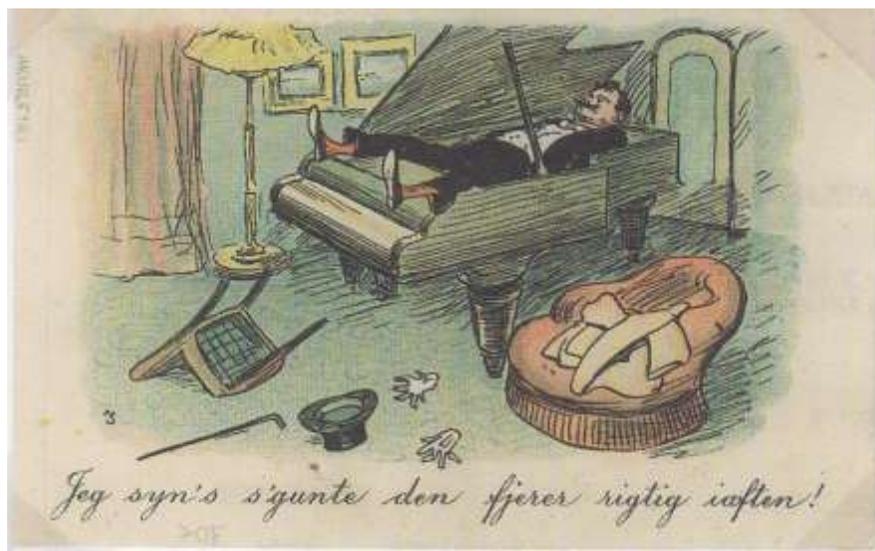
Please let me have your articles if you want them in the next issue which will be February. If you need help with translations let me know. flackbp@gmail.com

News/Comment

New postal rates from 1st January 2016 were announced by Íslandspóstur. The principle changes were to inland letters and inland registration. Overseas charges remain unchanged since 2014. In the next issue the editor may have something more to say about modern letter postal rates and their relevance, or lack of it to the present day collector.

On January 13, 2016 Iceland Post started a cooperation with a new firm or partner in the town of Seyðisfjörður in East Iceland. The new partner or firm is the grocery store chain Samkaup, which has a store at Vesturvegi 1, 710 Seyðisfjörður. The reason for the change is that the bank, Landsbanki (The National Bank of Iceland) which Iceland Post was previously in cooperation with in Seyðisfjörður closed down its branch in the town.

Yes, the fierce face shown in Issue 2 is that of Johnny Pernerfors, Commander in Chief of Islandssamlarna. Here is the other side of the same card. Someone (not I) said it is a good likeness of the Islandssamlarna club members leaving Iceland for Sweden after the 2013 Nordia. Maybe Johnny can recognize and put a name to the guy carrying his suitcases on the beach who maybe thought he had been left behind?



This might be any one of us on January 1st/2nd? (the reverse of local Akureyri card on the following page).

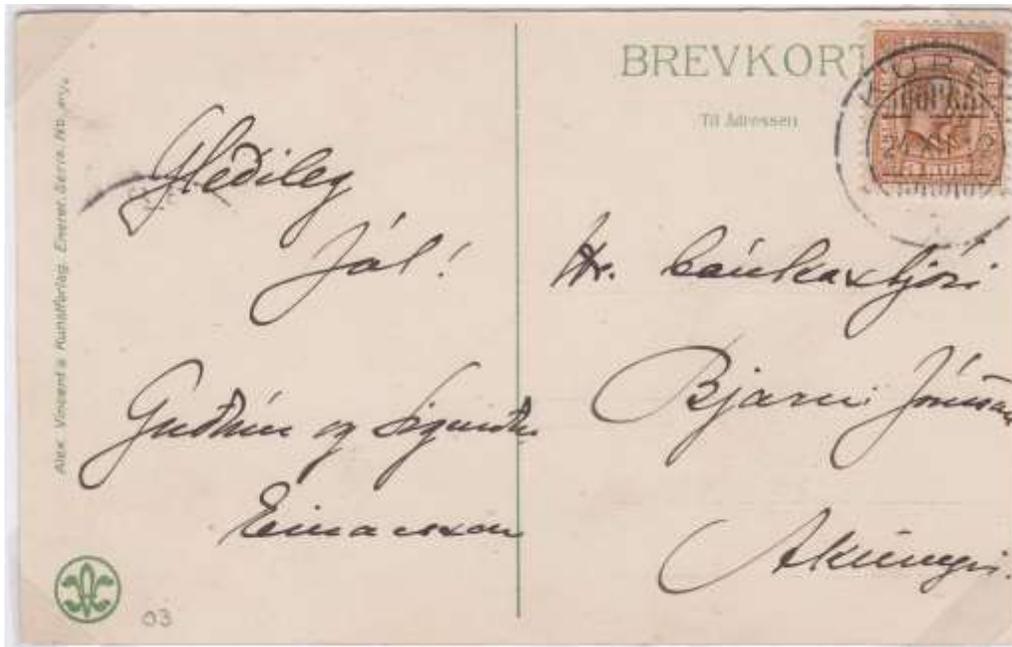
Non-Reykjavík Locals from before 1919

An article by Leif Fugslig *Local Posts Inland* was published in *IslandsKontakt* nr.41. Leif said that although the Postal Law of 1.7.1902 introduced local post rates for all of Iceland, in practice this was not commonly applied outside Reykjavík and Hafnarfjörður where a letter delivery service existed. In the absence of home delivery elsewhere, the mail was collected from the postal station. He had tried unsuccessfully to find evidence of local deliveries outside Reykjavík/ Hafnarfjörður before 1919. However he finished his article with the mention of an extraordinary undated local rate letter from Suðureyri to Botn, probably in the period 1912-1914. An article was later published about this letter in *IslandsKontakt*. Here is an image as a reminder.



Numeral 118 used at Suðureyri and addressed to Botn.
4 x 1eyr Sigurðsson. 4aur local letter post rate applied from 6.1.1900 to 28.2.1919.

Rather less exotic is this Akureyri local card.



Akureyri B2c1 dated 24.IX.12. 3aur local card rate.

Two from Ísafjörður



The sender used the 4aur local letter rate when 3aur would have sufficed for a postcard.
B2c1 Ísafjörður dated New Year's Day 1912



Ísafjörður provincial cancel on a Gruss Aus card. 3aur local postcard rate. The writer dates it as 8/3-'08

Can any of our readers come up with examples of other (non-Reykjavík) places where local post was used pre-1919?

Late use of Numeral Cancels *B Stwalley*

The new Facit Special Classic 2016 arrived last autumn and one of the enhancements was a major revision of the numeral cancel listings. This revision has already been reviewed elsewhere, but as a reminder, the most significant change was the identification of the proper late use of numerals after 1930. This successfully removed from the numeral listings many instances where there was no evidence of proper use after 1930. As always in this hobby of ours, the last word is never written. Shown below is a group of numeral cancels which are on stamps issued well after 1930 and after the latest recorded use in the updated Facit catalog. It would be interesting to know readers' opinions about these examples.



31 on 1954 Fac.331



72 on 1954 Fac.331



76 on 1948 Fac. 282



163 on 1957 Fac. 350



164 on 1948-50 Fac. 242



C3 203 on 1950 Fac. 298

Postal rate Mystery



In response to an earlier discussion about the scarcity of covers with multiples of printed matter rates, Brian Stwalley sent this image with the following advice, *So--if multiples of printed matter rates are interesting, this one I found in Göteborg should be fun! The cancel isn't clear but it's September 1922--*. Thank you Brian S.!

The stamp issue dates and the use of the R registration stamp limit the cover to the period March 1920 to 31.3.28 after which adhesive registration labels came into use in Reykjavík. UPU rates applied to Sweden until 31.5.28. The weight is unknown, but whichever period of C.O.D. and Registration rates are used, either 1.4.21 to 30.9.25 or 1.10.25 onwards, neither appear to leave a correct amount for a printed matter rate to equal the 1kr60aur franking. Maybe Ólafur can unravel the puzzle?



The numeral 47 on a stamp might not attract more than a passing glance



However, on a card with a dated sidemark is a different story. Sold for 350 US\$ with 7 bids on Ebay.

Ardrossan – An unusual transit mark Ole Svinth



Ardrossan is rather uncommon as a transit mark on mail from Iceland. The postcard is over franked by 3 aur as the postcard rate was 10 aur. The Ardrossan postmark July 20th 1909 is very nice and clean on this card which was seen on the internet. The price 400 USD looks a little too high to find a customer. The card was cancelled Reykjavik July 11th 1909. A 9 days journey seems to be quite long.

Ardrossan is a small coast town on the Scottish mainland 40 km south west of Glasgow. Yet to be seen is a letter cancelled at Ardrossan as the first treatment by postal authorities. Hitherto only known as a transit mark.

If you should come across an Ardrossan postmark on an Australian stamp, it needs not to be from a ship letter arrived in Great Britain. Why? Ardrossan is also the name of an Australian town on the east coast.

+++++

A rarity sold on eBay Ole Svinth

This card was sold at eBay from Italy, and apparently the seller didn't know much about Iceland. This is a shipletter to Denmark cancelled on arrival in VEJLE 6 9 20. What makes it special is the "home made" cancel "Fra Island". Vejle had no official Paquebot postmark until 1924. In the meantime this special cancel was used. The card itself is in a rather poor condition (tears/bends) and the postcard had a final bid of 53 USD having begun with a very low start.



Duration of the validity of stamps by Ólafur Elíasson - translation from the original published in Frímerkjablaðið Nr.10/2004 Edited and approved by the author.

A short time ago a discussion arose concerning the period of validity of the 1930 Alþing issue in relation to their use with some quite rare bridge cancels. We have no shortage of experts and I was referred to articles written by Ólafur Elíasson in two issues of Frímerkjablaðið, nos. 10 and 11. It occurred to me that not everyone has access to the pages of Frímerkjablaðið, and some of those who do might struggle with the Icelandic in which the articles were written. Ólafur gave me permission to publish the essential parts in English provided he first checked it for factual accuracy. The article which follows is from Part 1 and covers issues up to the Republic.

Most Icelandic stamps have been valid for the payment of postage for a limited time. Individual issues have been in use for very different lengths of time, from just one postal journey to many decades.

Information on the duration of validity has not been complete and it is the purpose of this edition of Frímerkjablaðið to improve on this. The information on this subject presented in this article is derived from official reports and should be reliable. Each issue is taken separately and the order of the issues is essentially followed. Where deemed necessary, the specific Facit numbers are used.

In consideration for the readers of Frímerkjablaðið and the rather dry nature of the content, it has been decided to divide the article into two parts. The first part covers the stamps up to the Republic of 1944. In the second part we will examine the validity of general issues of the Republic, postal stationery and official stamps.

Skilding stamps

On March 27, 1877 the governor, Hilmar Finsen made an announcement which said verbatim: "After half a year the skilding stamps which have not been exchanged (i.e. for the new stamps) should be treated as void and useless." In accordance with this announcement all skilding stamps have been invalid for the payment of postage after 27 September 1877.

Aurar stamps issued 1876-1901.

On October 9, 1902 the governor, Magnus Stephensen, announced the issue of new stamps and postcards, with the image of King Christian IX. He said "all the older stamps and post cards are invalid." Aurar stamps were therefore withdrawn on 9th October 1902. However, the matter was not that simple, because of a decision of the Universal Postal Union to coordinate the color of the stamps used by member countries for the most common rates between themselves. This decision meant that the 5 aurar blue stamp (F.9), the 20 aurar purple stamp (F.14) and 40 aurar green stamp (F.16) were reprinted in new colors in accordance with the UPU decision. According to the letter from the governor to the postmaster dated May 27 1882, it was prohibited to use the stamps mentioned on letters to Denmark and other countries. However, they could be used for the time being on ordinary domestic letters. It is not known whether the words "for the time being" meant months or years. It is known that there are a considerable number of domestic letters with these stamps after the date of the governor's letter.

Overprints Þrír 1897

I have not found any specific details about whether or when this special issue was invalidated for the payment of postage. At this stage it is the author's opinion that the stamps with the overprint "Þrír" fall within what the

Governor described in the notice of October 9th 1902 as "All older ordinary stamps ...", and that this stamp issue was withdrawn simultaneously with the aurar stamps.

Overprints Í Gildi '02 - '03

In accordance with the previously mentioned Governor's announcement of October 9, 1902 the "Í GILDI stamps would be valid for use until the end of 1903". The last permitted use of this issue was 31. December 1903.

Stamps with the image of Christian IX issued 1902-1905

In Post Gazette nr.2/1907 is the following message: "New stamps and letter-cards have been issued of all types. Post office officials will henceforth send these out in response to received orders. The old stamps can be used for as long as stocks last." By "old stamps" is meant those with an image of Christian IX. They were not repealed on a particular day, according to this announcement, but it is safe to say that the stamps ceased to be issued soon after the arrival of the Two Kings stamps. These stamps became invalid from 1st January 1922 along with all the old King stamps.

Two kings issue 1907-1908 and 1913-1918

Jón Sigurðsson stamps, issued 1911

Frederik VIII stamps issued 1912.

The stamps were all withdrawn with effect from 1 January 1922 (the Post Gazette no. 4/1921).

Christian X Issues 1920-22 and 1931-37

The following stamps from the first issue were invalidated from January 1, 1922: 5 aurar green (F.127), 10 aurar red (F.131), 20 aurar blue (F.134), 25 aurar green / brown (F.136) and 40 aurar purple (F.139). The reasons for this decision were changes of the colours of the stamps to accord with the UPU rules for postage between member countries. However, the two latter stamps (F.136 and F.139) were put back on sale probably from October 1st.1925, if not officially then at least unofficially. It is known that they were reprinted in the years 1930 and 1932 which would not have happened had the stamps been invalid for payment for postage. These two stamps therefore could really only have been invalid for almost four years from 1 January. 1922 until 1st October 1925. The author considers that they have been valid in effect from October 1.1925 until 1st January 1947, when all the stamps of these two issues were withdrawn.

The following table records the validity dates of all overprinted stamps issued from Facit 98 and the subsequent commemoratives issued during the period up to the Republic.

	Date valid to	Notes
Overprints		
on Christian IX	01.01.47	F98-103
on Two Kings	01.01.47	F104-F107
on Jón Sigurðsson and Frederik VIII	01.01.47	F121-123
on Christian X	01.01.47	F158-159
Airmail overprints	01.01.47	F160-161
Landscapes 1925	01.01.47	
Alþing festival 1930	01.08.30	
Alþing festival Airs 1930	01.08.30	
"Zeppelin 1931"overprints	These stamps were used only for posting (letters and cards) sent by airship on 1. July 1931.	

Nice letter from Illugastadir



In the last few years the interest in Bridge postmarks has increased. It began more or less as Facit started to list these markings.

Illugastaðir is not an extremely rare postmark. However, the end bid on this cover was 156 USD on eBay. The letter is well kept and the postmark is nice and clean.



Letter cancelled Illugastadir 10 6 35. Inland letter rate 20 aur 0-20 gr.



Crown Cancel Corner



Eiríksstaðir is one of the scarcest crown cancels. As far as I know, this illustration on the left is an artist's impression. The late Mike Edwards reported one had been sold at auction in the 1980s? I have only this poor photocopy. Can anyone provide a better image?



I am led to believe this exists without the accent over the letter 'I'. Can anyone confirm that?



▲ with accent?



Maybe or maybe not with accent? ▲



The Handbók states the letter 'O' fell off. I have seen 5 images all with the 'O' in place.

Has anyone seen a copy without the O ?

A minor comment on Brian Stwalley's article on N1a- 195 in issue #2.

Jørgen Steen Larsen



Þykkvibær was open as mail collecting place from 1 7 1910 until 31 12 1923.

The collecting place was under supervision of the post office at Prestbakki, which from 1 1 1930 were moved to the post office at Kirkjubæjarklaustur.

The collecting place only had N1a 195.

The cancel was used regularly on issues until the issue of Frd. VIII (inclusive).



My latest use of N1a 195 at Þykkvibær is on a pair of 5 aur doublehead issued in 1914.

It is my experience that this usage is unusually late.

Do other readers know of late use of N1a 195 at Þykkvibær?

The collecting place at the farm Breidabólstaður was moved locally several times.

Originally the collecting place was situated at the farm Kirkjubæjarklaustur and then moved from there to Hólmur, then back again to Kirkjubæjarklaustur and moved later to Breidabólstaður. Finally from 1 1 1948 it was situated at Keldunúpur.



We know that the collecting place at Keldunúpur received N1a 195 as well as B2a Breidabólstaður Skapt. My latest use of B2a Breidabólstaður Skapt on the farm Breidabólstaður is on 1 kr. Republic which was valid until 31 12 1946.

N1a 195 looks to have been used at Keldunúpur in the period 1948-1950. I have this cancel used as follows,



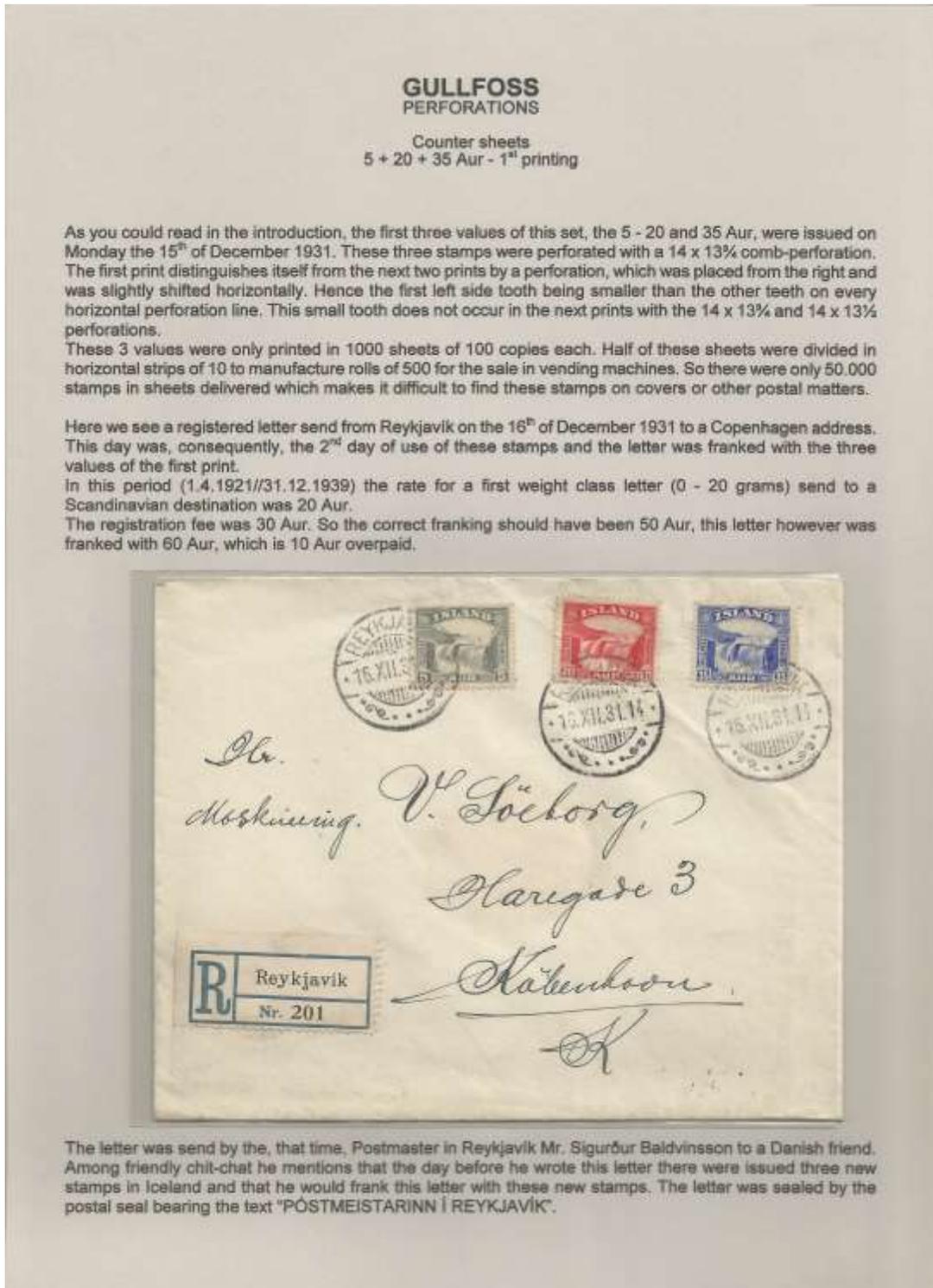
Piece with 3 x 25 aur Hekla



2 x 5 kr. Viking perf 11½

Do “Real” First Day Covers exist for the Gullfoss issue? From Henk Burgman

Henk has provided these pages from his top class display of the Gullfoss issues and asks for help from readers. Apparently 2nd day covers are known to him, but he would like to know if any examples of real first day covers are known? By “real” he means of course commercially used and not contrived covers. He asks the same question about last day covers, again “real” ones only. So please have a closer look at your Gullfoss covers and let us know if any first or last day covers are known. I am sure Henk would appreciate it if you provide scans!



GULLFOSS
PERFORATIONS

Counter sheets
60 Aur – 1st printing

Of the three high values (the 60, 65 and 75 Aur) there was only one print. The order for these three "high" values was placed on the 23rd of March 1932. The stamps were ready on the 25th of May. They were sent that same day from Hull with the s/s "Dettifoss" and were available at the Reykjavik post office on the 30th of May 1932. From each of these three values there were 600,000 stamps (6,000 sheets of 100 stamps) printed.



An over franked, philatelic inspired, 2nd day cover, 1.VI.32 send registered from Reykjavik to Seyðisfirði.



This Registered cover was sent from Hafnarfjörður 03-01-1933, via Reykjavík 03-01-1933 (transit cancel on backside), to Hong Kong, China. Rate calculation: Surface letter to a non-Scandinavian destination up till 20 Grams was in the period 01-10-1925 // 31-12-1939: 35 Aur, R-fee was: 30 Aur. This makes a total of 65 Aur.

The story of a Bridge postmark *Jørgen Steen Larsen*



We have sent this cancel image - which in December was offered at eBay at 50 USD - to Jørgen Steen Larsen, Denmark in order to have an answer to these 3 questions.

- 1 Is this the first Bridge cancel of Hafnarfjörður?
- 2 Is this postmark genuine?
- 3 Was this postmark delivered to the office in 1903?

Hello Brian,

First an attempt to answer briefly the three questions.

- 1 Yes, this is the first Bridge type postmark sent to Hafnarfjörður.
- 2 Postmark was delivered to the office in 1910.
- 3 Yes – The postmark seems to be genuine.

Editor asks for a little more information on this postmark/post office, and I can confirm that the office was established 1 1873 as a “mail collecting office” = brjefhirðing in Icelandic.

The collecting office had the crown/posthorn cancel C1 delivered around new year 1894/95 which later was replaced by numeral postmark N1a “157” in 1903.

On January 1st 1910 the collecting office was upgraded to a post office.

As a post office you were not allowed to use the numeral postmark anymore and consequently the bridge type postmark B2c1 was delivered.

The B2c1 was used until 1957. From January 1st 1953 and onwards when the bridge postmark went for repair the numeral postmark N2 “263” was used as a reserve postmark (1953-57).

In 1957 the B3e Hafnarfjörður was received.

The use of this postmark (1957-1966) is found together with the occasional re-use of B2c1.

I have an example of re-use on a X-mas cover 1961, and according to Þór Þorsteins this re-use is seen as late as 1966.

The use of B2c1 on I GILDI stamps are surely CTO. The stamp was in use until the end of 1903 and the postmark delivered 1910. This fact was not obvious as only the date and not the year is seen. The cancel looks nice and clean. This could indicate that the CTO was made shortly after 1910. The cancel could also have been cleaned later and used many years after.

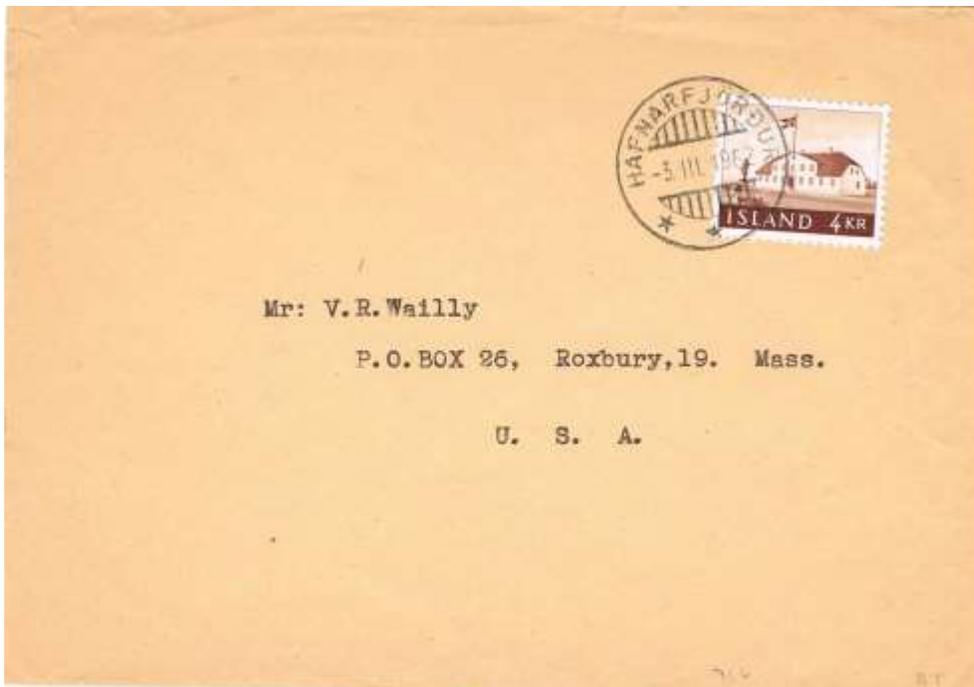
A comparison between the illustrated cancel and other copies seems to indicate, that the genuine cancel was used on the I GILDI stamp.



Early use of B2c1 on postal stationery to Denmark cancelled Hafnarfjörður 10 II 15. Postcard rate was 5 aur.



Late use of B2c1 on Inland cover to Akureyri cancelled Hafnarfjörður ? XII 61. Inland rate 0-20 gr. was 350 aur.



B3e Hafnarfjörður on letter to USA cancelled Hafnarfjörður 3 III 1962. Surface rate 0-20 gr. was 400 aur

Unusual use of stamp from Stamp Day block Ole Svinth



Cover cancelled Reykjavik "9"10 4 87. Letter fee 0-20 gr was 24 kr.

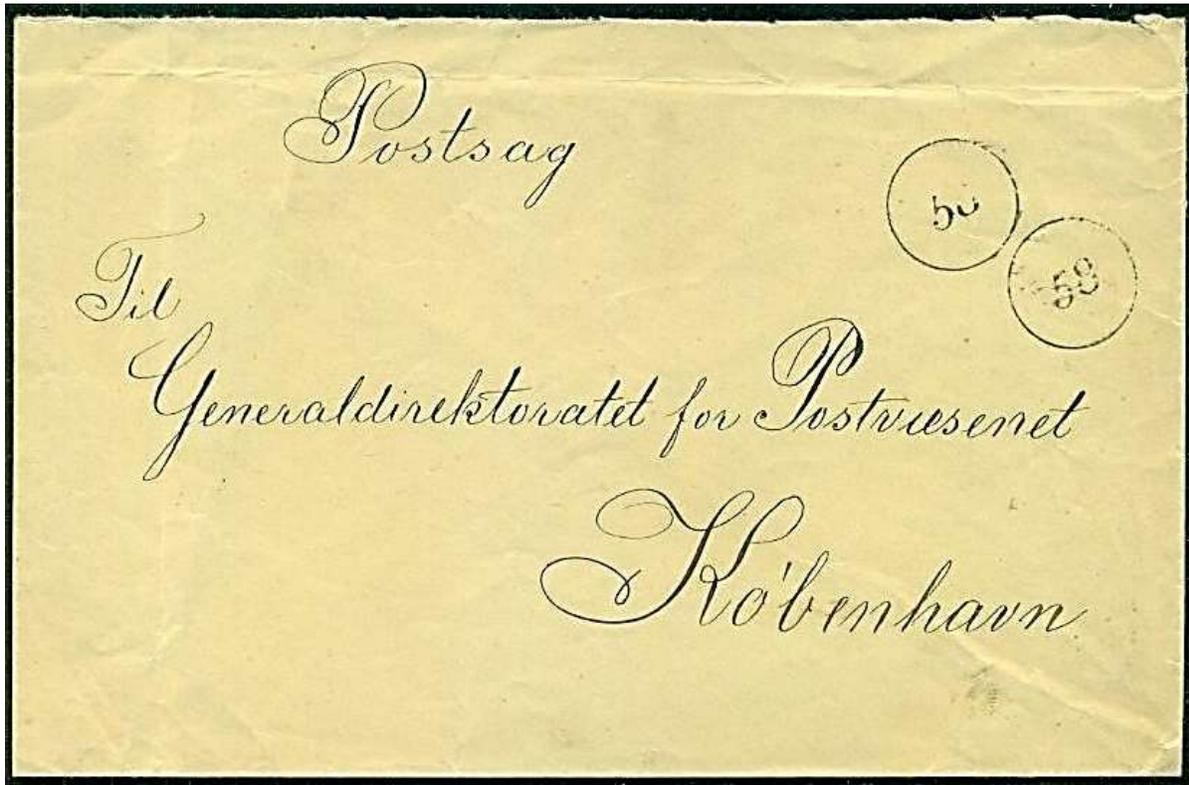
Normally the different miniature sheets on cover are seen in full. I should say, there are more F.D.C.'s than ordinary covers with these small sheets. Here is an example of the use as single stamp from the "Stamp Day" sheet of 1986.



Stamp day block on Letter to Spain cancelled Akureyri 25 3 1987. Letter rate 0-20 gr. was 15 kr. Registration 35 kr. On back Igualada arrival 2 MAR 87.

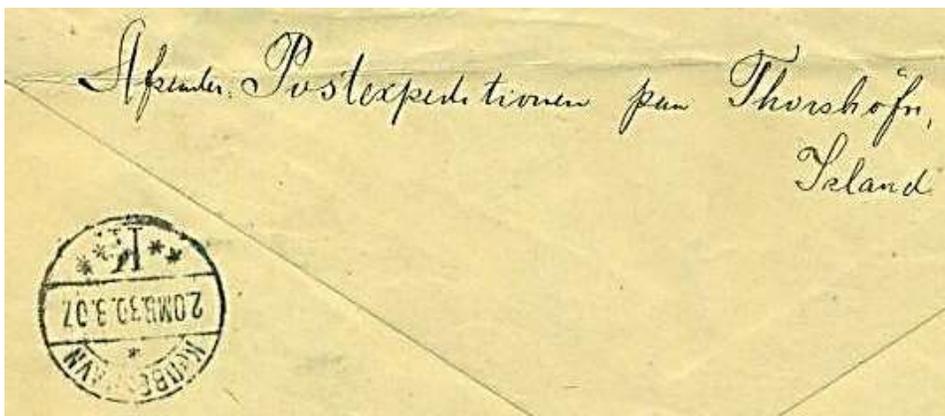
Cheap numeral on official letter to Denmark

This nice cover was sold for 293 USD on eBay after a short battle.



Cover was free of charge being a "Postsag" (postal matter).

The first collecting office to receive # 58 was Þórshöfn. It was used from 1903 – 1911. In 1912 Þórshöfn was announced as a post office and had a bridge type mark delivered. The amount of post in Þórshöfn made the "58" rather common in this period. This is seen from the valuation in Facit. Later on # 58 was used at smaller mail collecting places, which increased the value by 10 times.



Arrival on back København 30 8 07.

Life of # 58

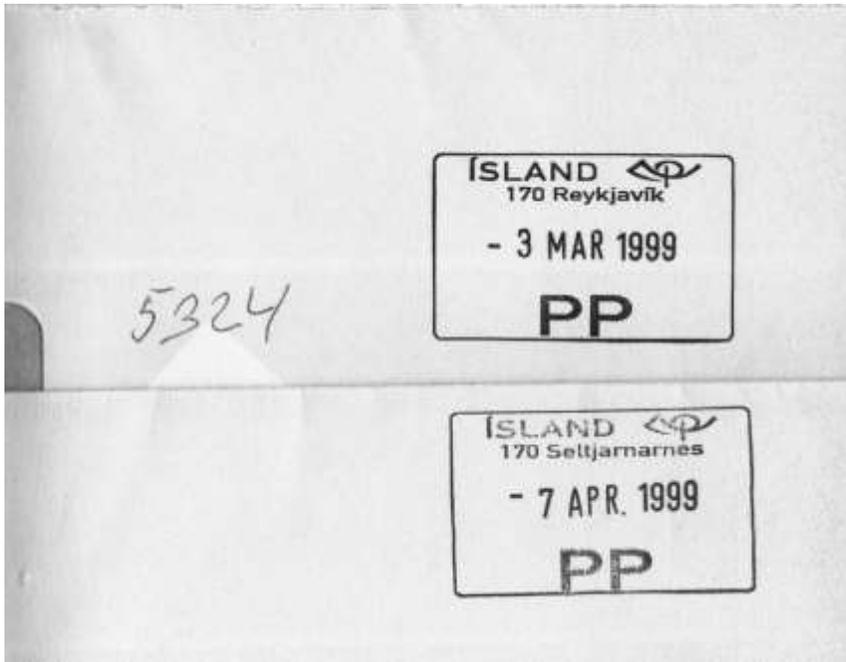
1903 - 11 Þórshöfn
1915 - 29 Læknisstaðir
1929 - 55 Heiði
1956 -? Efra-Lón

From Hrafn Hallgrímsson

These horrible boxfranking were in use from 1999, but are now not in use. I found this wrongly marked 170 Reykjavik dated 3 MAR 1999 corrected to 170 Seltjarnarnes a month later. Unfortunately I do not know when the failure was found out. Thor Thorsteins wrote about these boxes in Frimerkjabladið (Nr. 14, 2/2006).

I hope you find this interesting.

Best wishes, Hrafn



The entire cover

Sensational new postmark type seen on eBay *Ole Svinth*

How lucky can one be? May be I was not the first to see this nice looking series on eBay. Was I the first to spot this unique postmark? I think this postmark was only used one day. Why else has it not been registered long time ago? I have stopped collecting Icelandic postmarks and shall not buy these unique items. Of course I feel obliged to inform our readers about this, and I shall personally inform Facit.

I will suggest that Facit will use my initials for this rare unknown type of postmark.



Unknown post mark type "OS". Unfortunately it is cancelled after the stamps were invalidated on July 31st 1930

The same seller has this very nice block for sale too. Again we find a hitherto unknown Reykjavik postmark. The bottom part has been heavily repaired and the date line have got a new look.



Block cancelled with unknown postmark on day of issue 14 V 37



For comparison
(Not size)

Did you like the fairy-tale?

USA postmarks on Icelandic mail *Ole Svinth*

By far the most common postmark found is New York. The transatlantic mail was bound for New York as were most of European ships to the States.



The 3 shown stamps might be victims of “post-cancelling” or “false cancellation”. In my opinion, they all look authentic. In spite of several attempts it has not been possible to achieve a positive identification. USA could be a possibility. The 4 skilling official seems to be used which is very unusual if the postmark were from USA as it was only used on official matters.



N.Y.P.O. PENN TERM: STA. PAQUEBOT
Dated 8 5 18. Hosk. 955 (used 1918-21)



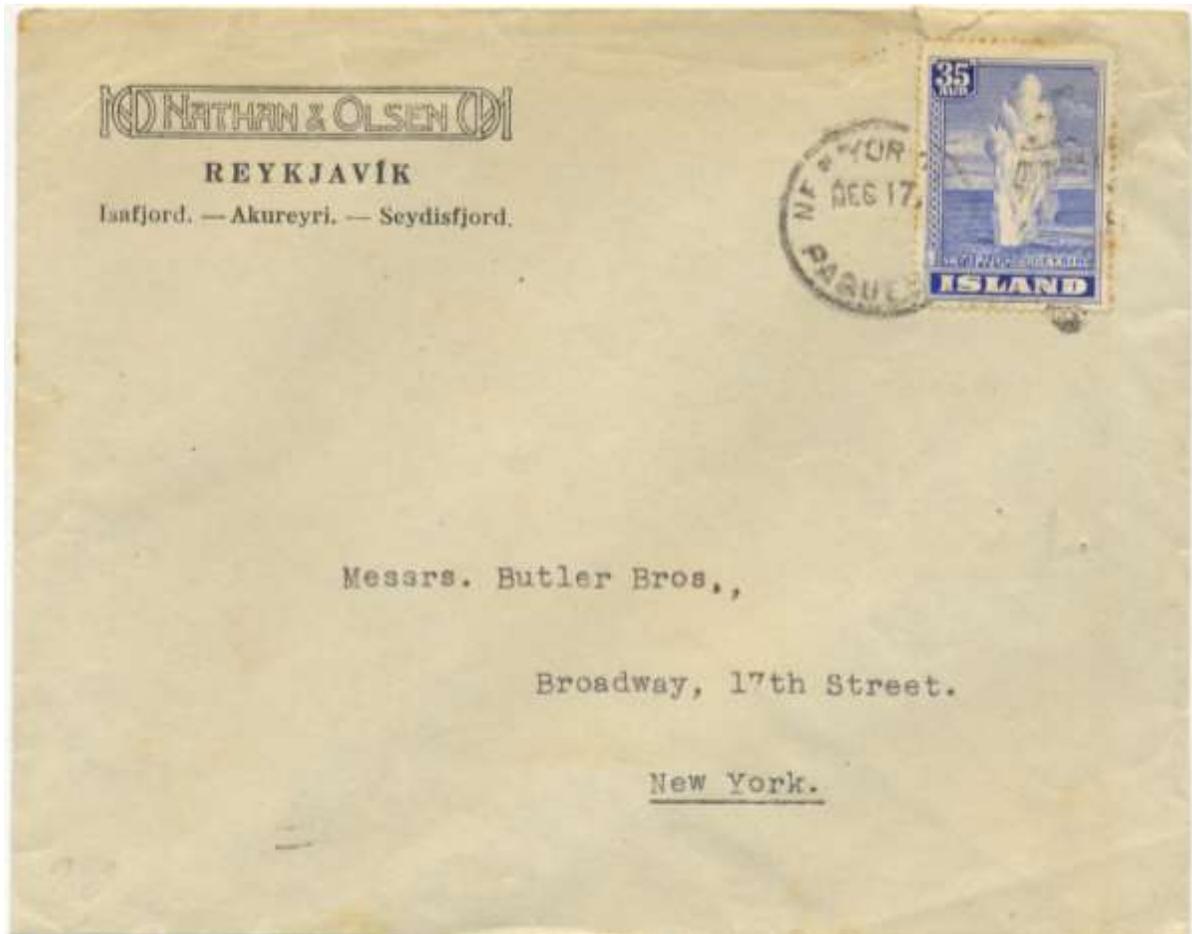
“Grand Central Annex”
Probably New York



Cover to USA cancelled on arrival New York Paquebot 22 1 1940. Hosk. 957 (1927-41).
Postage was 45 aur 0-20 gr since January 1st 1940



The same postmark as seen on the two covers



Letter to USA cancelled on arrival NEW YORK PAQUEBOT 17 12 39. Hosk. 957 (1927-41).
Foreign rate 0-20 gr. was 35 aur.



Erie 4/8 1928

Postmark to the right is non Icelandic.

The Erie postmark is most likely an arrival mark or a re-direction postmark. I imagine the unknown foreign postmark to the right came first.

Do you have other US postmarks that can complete the “picture”? Please send a scan to editor.