

# 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 November 2021. If you need help with translations let me know.  
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## News/Comment

**Póstavísindir (Postal Money Order) rates to Great Britain and Ireland from 1/9.1909.** There is a typing error in Appendix 8 of the latest edition of Iceland Postal Rates 1873-2009. Amend 8aur per 36kr to 18aur per 36kr.

There are nearly 200 readers of this magazine, so there must be a wide range of different Iceland subjects which are of interest. If any of your favourite subjects are rarely, or never discussed in the magazine, please let the editor know. I will make an effort to cover your topic.

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## Census

As we, a group of members of Islandssamlarna/Islandsklubben in Sweden, are currently working on collecting information on the following subjects, we would like to request your assistance with images of such items which you may have in your collection. Good pictures originating elsewhere would also be of help. Should you be scanning or photographing the items specifically for this purpose, we would appreciate if you would save the images in a resolution of at least 300dpi.

Full confidentiality will be kept as to where images originated.

Please send any images to: [islandsklubben@gmail.com](mailto:islandsklubben@gmail.com)

Thank you for your help, Steinar Fridthorsson, chairman of Islandsklubben Gothenburg

## Manuscript cancellations



In order to extend the current Facit listing of these, we are working on collecting images of *postal* manuscript cancellations (including numerals). Many manuscript cancellations are however of a fiscal nature, and as such are not within the scope of this census; if in doubt, we ask you to please send them along anyway as we should be able to distinguish them in most cases.

## 1916-1917 Ölundarfjörður Christmas Post Local Stamps

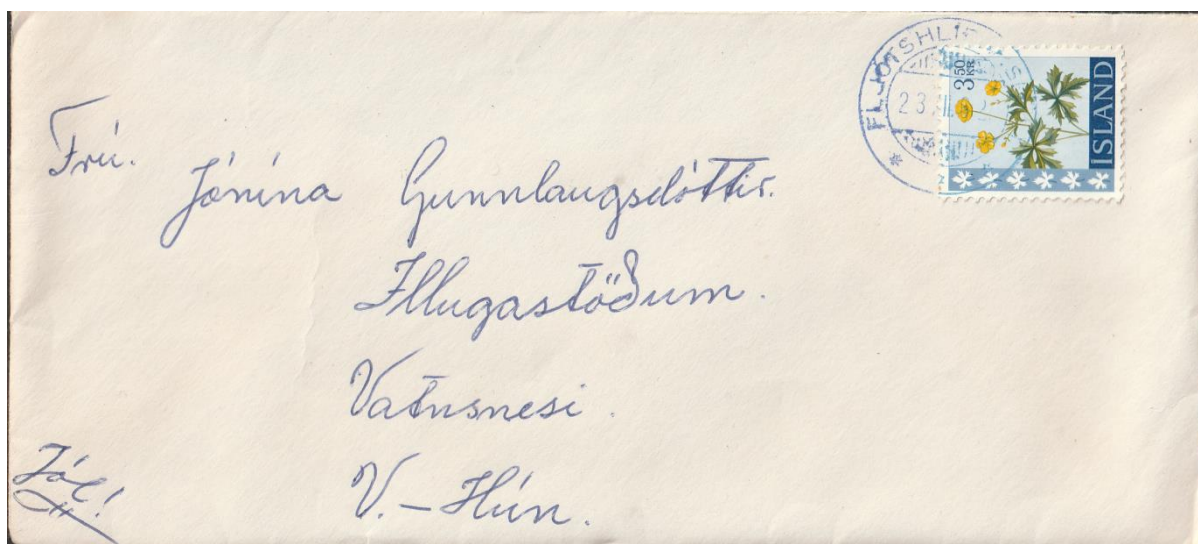


For a future article and listing of these issues in the Facit Special catalogue we would appreciate images of any single copies of the three different stamps you might possess as well as any Christmas cards with such stamps. Good images originating elsewhere would also come in good use here. We ask you to kindly include information as to whether unused stamps are mint never hinged, mint hinged or without gum.

## A great find, maybe from Illugastaðir? Jarle Reiersen

These 3 covers have hardly been seen by any stamp collector earlier. They were found within a larger lot donated as charity to the Icelandic Lutheran Mission (ILM). This specific lot of stamp material donated to the ILM consisted of washed stamps, paper cuts and covers. Within the washed stamps and paper cuts other good cancels were discovered, but they will not be published here. The origin of this lot is most likely a donation from the farm Illugastaðir not far from Hvammstangi - perhaps after an estate and clean-up.

The ILM receives a significant amount of stamp materials annually, aimed to sell for charity. The materials are sorted out and offered for sale; most of it is not of very special interest for experienced stamp collectors. Although sometimes, better items are popping up - as shown in a few examples here. For the sorter, the most excitement is the hope to find something very rare - the unique collector's feelings!



B2c2 Fljótshlíðarskóli 23.XII.62. Merry Christmas greetings to Illugastaðir



B2a Illugastaðir 2.2.42 25aur inland rate to Blönduós



NIC 279 Tjörn (Vestur Húna)

(Ed. Who knows what gems are still lying around waiting to excite collectors? Thanks Jarle.)

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## Identification of editors on First Day Covers *Albert Pelsser (Issue 45).*

Mike Schumacher comes to Albert's aid:-

Hello Brian; Once again, thank you for the latest edition of IPM!  
Just a little information in follow up to the article by Albert Pelsser.

It is my understanding that the letters in the lower left corner indicates the cachet maker.

Here is the information that I have regarding the meaning of the letters:

FV - Frímerkjaverslanir (Stamp House) Reykjavik run by Bolli Davidson (started by his father David Johannesson in 1952) and the store closed in 2012.

FF - Iceland Stamp Company

FM - Frimerkjamiðstöðin (Stamp Center) started in 1962; co-owners were Magni Magnusson (until 1976), Finnur Kolbeinsson (until 1984) and Haraldur Saemunsson (until 1998).

These covers also frequently have a number following the letters. It is my understanding that the number indicates the number of the cachet. Some cachets are available in various colors; sometimes the number changes with a different color, but more frequently the number stays the same with different colors.

"N" - Fritz Neve (Danish Stamp Dealer) Scandinavian Stamp Company.

This is the information that I have learned from folks in Iceland over the years doing exhibits. Hopefully that helps. Best regards, Mike S.



## Unusual destinations ~ Y and Z

### YUGOSLAVIA



Hafnarfjörður B2c1 dated 27.VI.22 addressed to Zagreb. 40aur UPU letter rate plus 30aur registration. The letter rate applied from 1.4.21 to 30.9.25. The registration applied from 15.5.21.

Transit cancels Reykjavík 23.VI.22 – Edinburgh 6 JY 22 – London F.O. 7JY 22  
Zagreb arrival 11.VII.22



## ZANZIBAR

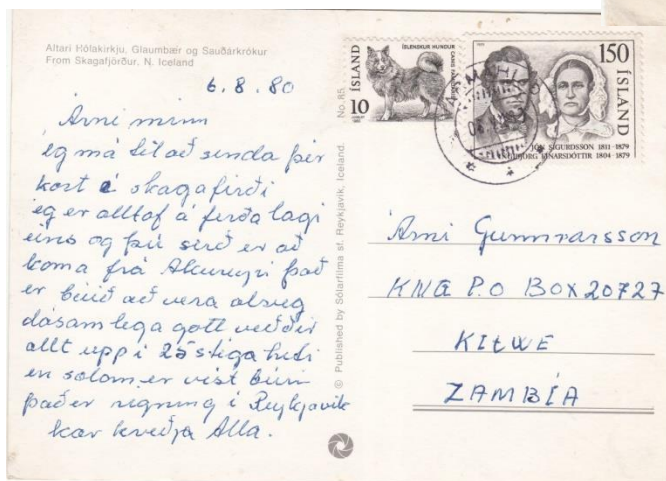
Magni Magnússon might have something to say about this cover because he sent it back in 1955!



Reykjavík B1d dated 17.V.55 the scattered choice of stamps adds up to 150aur, the correct 150aur flown printed matter rate up to 10gm.

## ZAMBIA

These two Zambia items complete the alphabet in this “Unusual destinations” series. It followed an earlier A-Z series called “Exotic Destinations” published in IslandsKontakt magazine. I doubt I will try for third series, but when something unusual turns up, I am certain to show it!



Top:- Reykjavík 1977 to Arni Gunnarsson at Chikuni with a Ridgeway transit cancel

Bottom:- this time Varmahlíð B2c2 dated



## Stamps issued in connection with the introduction of B mail domestically for general letters 0-50g. *Guðjón Axelsson*

As of July 1, 2012, Pósturinn offered a new service for general letters 0 - 50g. Customers, both individuals and companies, were now invited to send these letters as A-mail domestically or as B-mail domestically. With the introduction of domestic B-mail, it proved necessary to overprint the ISK 90 stamp issued on 18 September 2008 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the first Cod war (Facit 1236). Overprinting with the text "B50g domestic" was handled by the printing company Svansprent and the value of the stamp was 103 ISK, on its date of issue July 2, 2012 (Facit 1381). Total circulation was 500,000 stamps. As is often the case when stamps are overprinted, variants appeared, the overprinting was either too high or too low but the lateral displacement was insignificant (Figure 1).

Fig. 1



On July 2, 2012, a stamp (Facit 1382) was issued with a picture of a crab brittlegill (picture 2). Crab brittlegill (*russula xerampelina*), also called herring fennel because of its smell, is found in birch forests all over the country and is a decent edible fungus while it is young. The designer was Tryggvi T. Tryggvason. The size of the stamp is 36x25 mm, 10 stamps in a sheet in perforation 13  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 13, total circulation 1,000,000 stamps and its value was 103 ISK. on the date of issue. Walsall Security Printers Ltd. offset printed the stamp in April 2002, at that time without postage and year. Svansprent later printed B50g domestically and the year of the stamps onto them in June 2012.

Fig. 2



An examination of several hundred stamps revealed that the stamps are either printed on white or yellow paper. There is a considerable color difference between the red letters in ICELAND, the green color of the vegetation and the red-brown color of the Crab brittlegill. On closer inspection, these three colors are all darker when the stamp is printed on white paper. However, the black colour is always the same. There can be a considerable difference in the red color in which the printing factory Svansprent used to imprint the value and year on the stamps. The reason is the same. When the stamp is printed on white paper, the red color appears darker than when using light yellow paper (Figure 3).

Fig.3



Hvítur pappír

Gulleitur pappír



The value and year are located differently (Figure 4) and the horizontal position of the value is different (Figure 5). If more stamps were examined, it is likely we would find stamps where the value is either higher or lower than in Figure 4, or either nearer or farther from the left edge of the stamp. Because of all this, it can be difficult to find 2 stamps that are exactly the same. This is the disadvantage of using the method described here for printing stamps. However, the method seems to be suitable when there is a short time between the increase in postage and time for designing and printing new stamps.



Fig.4



Fig.5

On November 1, 2012, a stamp was issued (Facit 1392) with a picture of a king mushroom (picture 6). King mushroom (*boletus edulis*) is the last stamp in a series dedicated to wild edible mushrooms. It is a good edible fungus found in old birch forests in most parts of the country. The designer was Tryggvi T. Tryggvason, the size of the stamp is 36x25 mm, 10 stamps in a sheet in perforation  $13 \frac{3}{4} \times 13$ , a total issue of 500,000 stamps and its value 103 ISK. on the date of issue. Walsall Security Printers, Ltd. offset printed the stamp in April 2002, then without postage and year. Svansprent later printed B50g domestically and the year of the stamps onto them in June 2012.



Fig. 6

The stamp is printed on white and yellow paper. The green color of ICELAND and the grass, and the brown color of the king mushroom's hat appear darker when the stamp is printed on white paper. The same goes for the green color that Svansprent used to imprint B50g domestically and year (Figure 7).



Fig. 7

Hvítur pappír

Gulleitur pappír

Both the height (Figure 8) and the horizontal position of the B50g domestically and year (Figure 9) are different and therefore it is difficult to find stamps that are exactly the same.





Fig.8

Fig. 9

An examination of several hundred stamps found an interesting variant of the postage stamp. The domestic value of B50g is missing, but the year 2012 is in the upper right corner (Figure 10).



Fig.10



The stamp shows a part, SHÖFN, of the bridge stamp Þorlákshöfn (B8b1) which was taken into use on 20.04.2001 and was still in use in 2013. The date of the stamp can be seen, 2.2013, and it is clear that the stamp was cancelled in 2013, either in February or December. It is likely that all the sheets were torn down and the stamps used to frank letters and that most of the stamps have been lost. If readers have seen this variant before or know how the variant came to be, I would be grateful if they would provide that information to me.

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## Interesting ink cancellation received from Orla Nielsen

*Published in IslandsKontakt 77, translated from the Danish and reproduced with the editor's permission*



The cancel is shown in the hope getting help identifying this cancellation. There are not many examples of this cancellation, or we would have known about it already. Now the questions are:-  
Where has the cancel come from, and also why?  
It could be that it is something to with revenues?  
Could it be a postman's initials?  
Or is it an abbreviation of a place name / postal place?  
If you have a suggested explanation, please let us know.

(Ed) As far as I can tell, there was no response to Orla's question back in 2010. Can anyone suggest an answer to this mystery?

## One or two flights?

Iceland's participation in the earliest period of airmails holds special interest for me, particularly flown covers from 1928 up to the introduction of the first all-in airmail tables on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1943. The period saw a substantial development of international air services across the globe, and an increasing use of those services by postal authorities for the transport of mail. There were no commercial airmail services from Iceland before WW2. All international mail left Iceland by sea. Icelanders could choose to pay a supplementary amount to use airmail services on routes covered in part by foreign airlines. The Reykjavík Post Office published regulations and rates for Icelandic mail to be carried by overseas air services in foreign countries to further destinations. These airmail rates were supplementary to the surface rates and were published in 1928, 1929, 1932, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1941 and 1942, illustrating a progressive extension of the areas of the world covered by air services.

It was intended that when a letter was to be carried on two different airmail services, then two airmail supplements would apply, with rates dependent on where the airmail services were operating. Such examples must be rare, and I regret I cannot show one. Some time ago, I forget when, I was asked to comment on the postal rate on a cover from Iceland to France. Apparently, it had arrived by sea in the UK, was definitely flown on a British air service to Paris, and then very probably, but not with certainty, flown again on a French air service to another destination in France. The rate was correct for the UPU surface rate plus two European airmail supplements. I hope the owner reads this, and will make that cover available for readers to see!

As fate would have it, I acquired the cover shown below, which gave a glimmer of hope that it might be a double airmail supplement. I will go on to explain why, unfortunately, this may not be so.



Reykjavík B1d dated 19.III.30. Bergen 25.III.30 transit, New York 5th April 1930 (US style date), and Hartford Connecticut, with the month indecipherable. 35aur surface rate plus 30aur registration plus 70aur (?) airmail supplement, total 135aur (includes the 10aur on the back).



My interpretation of the rules which applied to the early airmail supplements up to the period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 1943, is that from 1928 to March 1934, the surface rate was supplemented by an airmail charge for using an air service within a particular country or continent. From April 1934 the regulations specified rates for flights within Europe and also rates for destinations beyond Europe using European and US

air services. It was always intended that should a letter be carried for example on two European air services, or one in Europe and another in N. America or Africa, Australia etc., that this would attract an additional airmail supplement.



At the time of this Hansen cover, 30aur was the airmail supplement for using a single European air service, which in this case was from Oslo to London. There were no airmail services across the Atlantic in 1930 as far as I am aware. There is no evidence on the cover that it was carried on a second flight elsewhere, e.g. within N. America, which would have been an additional 70aur. I am left wondering therefore, what did Hansen and/or the postal clerk think he was paying for with the additional 70aur? Is it possible they interpreted the 1930 airmail rates incorrectly, as meaning 70aur to North America, instead of within North America, which would explain the postage paid? I know it is a K.A. Hansen cover, but surely he would not throw his money away by paying an unnecessary additional 40aur? (Perhaps Ólafur E. might comment on the cover, and correct anything I have said?). The crucial change from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1943 was that new all-in rates tables allowed only one airmail supplement according to weight and final destination, and it became irrelevant how many air services were used en route.

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### Postage Dues from Iceland *Ole Svinth*

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Postage due letters from Iceland are quite rare, but here is one. It happens quite frequently that franked letters go through without intervention.



The postage paid on this letter is 20aur, and is 15aur short. You may have seen letters with this franking to Sweden without any postage due markings. The reason is that Sweden was not always a member of the Nordic Postal Union. It joined on June 1st, 1928, so there should have been the foreign postage rate of 35aur on this letter, which is dated 4.2.1928, a few months before Sweden joined the Convention.

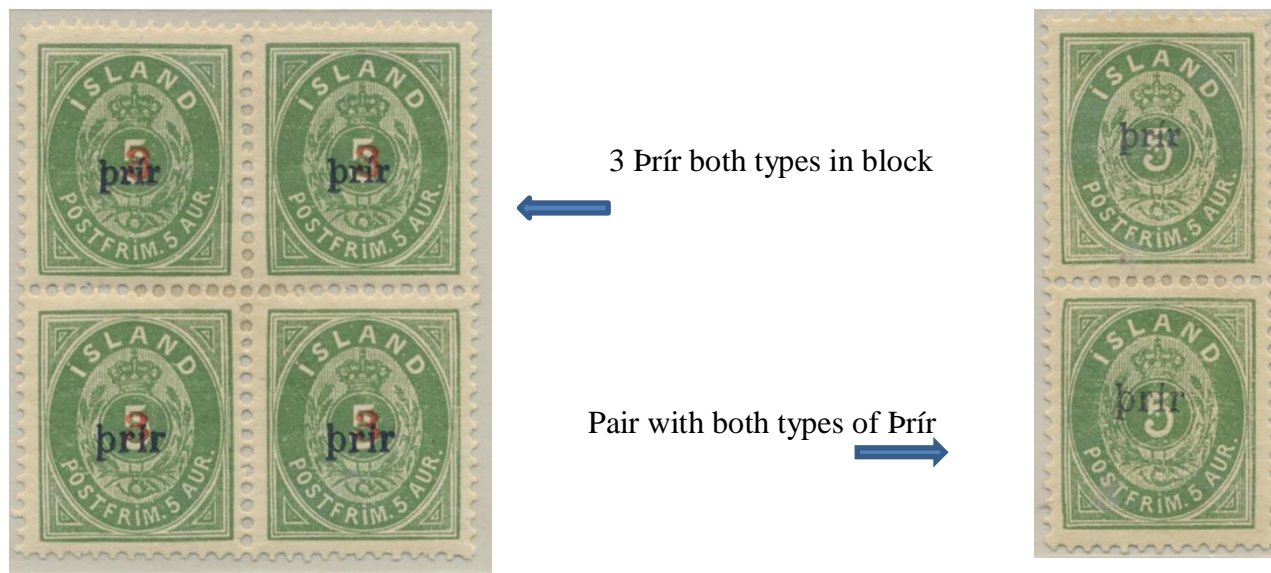
How it came to have a penalty postage amount of 25 öre, I cannot explain. Perhaps it relates to contemporary exchange rates. There are 25 öre in Swedish stamps on the back canceled Malmo 19.2.28. The 20 aur stamp was issued on 12.9.1925, and was for many years along with the King definitives used for regular domestic letter postage, and of course to Scandinavian members of the Nordic Convention. The letter was sold at auction for 1,600SEK



## The þrír overprint of 1897 By Þór Þorsteins,

Published in Frímerkjablaðið no. 1/2001 Issue 5. Translated from the Icelandic by Steinar Fridthorsson and reproduced with the editor's permission

*Information about this issue has been published in various printed articles and books. The most detailed title to date is "One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps" by Jón Aðalsteinn Jónsson. Most of the articles contain some errors and misunderstanding. With new data found in the Icelandic National Archives, including documents of the Post Authority, the Governor's Office as well as the Accounts of the Treasury, much of which has previously been claimed can now be corrected.*



### Need for 3 aurar stamps?

First up for discussion is the actual need for the issue. The predominant view is that the lack of 3 aurar stamps was the reason for the overprint. A review of the sales figures for all post offices for the years 1896, 1897 and 1898 shows the following for the delivery and sale of 3 aurar stamps: (Numbers in parentheses represent sold outside Reykjavik/sold in Rvk.)

	Stock 1.1	Delivered Sheets Respective Year	Sold during Resp. Year
1896		675 (133/542)	509 (34/475)
1897	108 (41/67)	1326 (223/1103)	879 (177/702)
1898	555 (87/468)	525	786 (219/567)

When looking at the inventory of stamps and keeping in mind that there was a hand stamp available at the Reykjavik post office reading "FRANCO" (Postage paid), the sales figures reveal that something was odd with the stated need for more 3 aurar stamps and therefore it can be asserted that the demand was created in order to justify the issue. The reason that was given for this sudden need for the overprint was the delayed delivery of new 3 aurar stamps from Copenhagen. If compared with a similar shortage in 1901 much seems to have changed as no need was seen to provisionally overprint stamps to meet the need, or as it says in a letter sent by the governor to the Iceland government department in Copenhagen: "As stocks of regular 3 aurar postage stamps are exhausted, I must allow myself to request that the Ministry order a new printing of 3000 sheets and ship these stamps to Iceland as soon as circumstances allow". Most evidence suggests, however, that there were other reasons behind the need for the overprint despite the earlier statements by the Postmaster and the Governor.

## **Settlement of the accounts of the Post Office**

But what is likely to have happened behind the scenes in 1897? On March 2, Postmaster Óli Finsen died while traveling abroad. Prior to his departure from Reykjavík, he had commissioned Ólafur Ásmundsson to collect his salary from the treasury as well as payment for office costs, and this was all settled by the beginning of March.

On March 31, 1897, the Governor appointed a postal worker by the name of Hannes Ó. Magnússon to serve as Postmaster from April 1, 1897, but following a formal advertisement Mr. Sigurður Briem was given the position from August 1, 1897.

Hannes applied for the position but to no avail. It is believed that his performance was affected by heavy drinking. At the change of officials, it was customary to review all accounts and funds of offices. In reviewing the status of Óli Finsen's estate at the Postal Office, a deficit of 13,587.92 kr. was revealed. After a mere four months of Hannes' being in office, the audit showed a deficit of 4,658.15 kr.

After adjustment to the postal accountancy for 1897, the debt of Finsen's estate was reduced by 800 kr. On February 28th. 1899, 9000 kr. was paid towards the debt and on June 7, 1899 the remaining 3787.92 kr. was paid by the widow.

### **Hannes' debt**

The settlement of Hannes Ó. Magnússon's debt was a different matter. In a letter to Hannes on May 18, 1898, the Governor refers to Hannes' own recognition of deficit during his period as postmaster to the amount of 3000 krónur. In the letter, the Governor urges Hannes "to remit to me by tomorrow evening at the latest 3500 krónur, either in cash or valid securities that will be used for payment of the deficit, as it will prove to be according to the audit of the post accounts of 1897. "Should you be unable to remit the amount within the time frame given, I will let suffice the liability of three reliable persons who are indebted to pay your deficit". In a letter on December 19, 1898, to Halldór Kr. Friðriksson, head teacher, the Governor challenged Halldór, in accordance with a declaration of liability dated May 20, 1898, to see to it that the before mentioned amount is paid as soon as possible either to the Treasury or to himself.

On March 3, 1899, Halldór and publisher Sigurður Kristjánsson paid the total amount of 3600 kr. towards the debt and on April 29, 1899, watchmaker Eyjólfur Þorkelsson paid the remaining 1058.15 kr., but at the time Eyjólfur was Hannes's father-in-law (his wife was Ragnheiður, they later divorced).

### **Overprinting stamp sheets**

According to every text that has been written about this issue, it is said that both overprints were done by the Félagsprentsmiðjan printing shop.

This is incorrect. The accounts of the Treasury for 1897 contain an invoice from Ísafoldarprentsmiðja print shop which has an entry from October 30, 1897: "Printed on 150 sheets of stamps twice: "3" on top of "5" and " þrír" on top of "5" (5 aurar stamps revalued to 3 aurar)". For this, a total amount of 12 kr. was charged. The invoice is addressed to the governor of Iceland and signed by Editor-in-Chief Björn Jónsson. A receipt for the payment of the invoice can also be found in the books of the Treasury along with a statement that the payment is for the overprinting of stamp sheets, dated March 4, 1898. The invoice is signed: "Paid Björn Jónsson", and that the payment is part of the budget, per Article 12. A.3.d, for the years 1896 and 1897, and this is confirmed as being correct by Magnús Stephensen and Jón Magnússon. No invoice from Félagsprentsmiðjan is to be found in the accounts of the Treasury or the postmaster for the period in question.



The invoice indicates that both overprints occurred at the same time, i.e. on October 30 or some time before. This goes against the statement of the postmaster in his letter to the governor where he states that the second overprint had been applied on November 3; the letter was entered undated into the postmaster's log of correspondence in February 1899.

According to this, it is likely that both overprints were planned already in the beginning to make the issue more diverse, thus increasing the demand. Reasons for the different letter types/sizes in the overprints will not be discussed in this article.

The invoice does not show how many sheets were overprinted with each type of overprint, but according to the invoice the total quantity was 150 sheets. The quantity does not match previously stated numbers. The postmaster claims to have received 86 sheets overprinted "3 in red and þrír in black" followed by 40 sheets with "three" in black from the governor.

This makes for a total of 126 sheets. Despite increasing that number by 10 sheets of the second overprint as according to information from the governor, 14 sheets or 1400 stamps remain unaccounted for.

### **Active stamp traders**

In a letter dated May 24, 1898, The Iceland Department requested several sheets of both overprinted stamps. In his reply on June 18th the governor states that he has no stocks of the "þrír/3" overprint, but that he has 10 sheets of "þrír" overprint and that he is able to supply them with 5 such sheets.

It is not known how the sheets were delivered but when the remaining stock of Icelandic stamps was returned by the Danish postal administration in 1930 there were 92 stamps returned of the "þrír" overprint and one such sheet remains in the inventory of the Danish Postal Museum. Thus, something seems to have been delivered.

In a letter sent by postmaster Sigurður Briem to the Cabinet Office of Iceland on August 28, 1905, he forwarded an inquiry from a certain Captain Aasberg, who was in town at the time, as to whether the Cabinet is willing to sell him 4 sheets of 5 aurar stamps overprinted with "þrír" for 600 kr. Nothing more is known as to whether any business took place but it is worth mentioning that the offer was \$588 above the face value, the stamps then having increased in price by 4900% in 8 years.

Considering that there was little or no need for a 3 aurar stamp except due to the shortage that had been created, then what is the most likely reason for the issue of this overprint? Stamp dealers are known to have been very active during these years, but it is not reasonable to assign them the entire responsibility for the issue. The other reason to consider is the deficit of the estate of the former postmaster as well as the man who acted as his temporary replacement.

The amounts missing from the postal fund were very high and compared to the annual salary of the postmaster, which amounted to ISK 2400 per year, over five times the annual salary of the estate and almost double that of Hannes' yearly salary. The payments of a large part of Hannes' debt by stamp dealing speculators makes one believe that the entire issue may have been thought of as a solution to the shortcomings, and then surely conducted in cooperation with stamp dealers who without doubt would have rewarded graciously for the favour.

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## Why do cancels show up in violet ink? Ron Collin (Issue 45) Stan Rehm

Greetings from Madison - Your question regarding the apparent changing of ink color from black to violet and back again got me to wondering whether this may arise not because of the original color of the ink, but because perhaps the ink *changes color over time after being applied to the stamp*.

I consulted Mr. Google this morning and found the following opinion offered –

"The most common pigment used to create black ink nowadays is carbon black -- literally charred carbon, as in burnt coal or charcoal, so there's nothing purple about it. But -- if you run a solvent, like water, over paper printed with carbon black, what the water is taking away are those things that are attracted to and are soluble in it -- and carbon black is water soluble.

How does carbon black create "black?" By preventing the reflection of light. But, when you dissolve it in water, what happens? Its powers to absorb all light are reduced because the molecules are pulled apart and diluted. And... how do the colors in the spectrum run, from shortest to longest wavelength? From deep-blue/violet to red. So... the ink, when it's been used to print, is actually black. But as soon as you start to dilute it and lift it from the page it starts to become less opaque (or less absorptive) through dilution. At first, this means that you'll see deep violet/purple, but keep washing long enough, and you'll see all colors through the spectrum until you hit red."

I doubt that true carbon black would be water soluble. But there may be some inks that might be affected in this way. And I found these statements on a webpage discussing [inks used for tattoos](#):

"Every black ink is made differently, by different manufacturers with different base colors. *There are blue blacks, gray blacks, black blacks, all types and they will all age differently.* Age of the tattoo, sun exposure, location and ink brand all are factors in this." Before you decide on an all-black, or a black and white tattoo, you might want to take this information into consideration.

Josh Egnew of Electric Anvil Tattoo tells me how ink quality has improved over the years, "*Pigments used back in the day were of poorer quality and as they aged discolored.* Since then pigments have improved, but time will tell how they will age as well."

I have no idea whether these statements apply to philatelic inks. But perhaps something to think about, since some of our stamps may have been soaked in water, exposed to sunlight, etc.

As always, thank you for the time you expend to create your philatelic journal.

Stan Rehm

Madison, Wisconsin

More on this issue from Jørgen Steen Larsen:-

I believe that there is only one period around 1918 - 1921 from where NIC 50 can be found with blue /violet ink.

The usage on 20 aur Chr IX (shown by Ron Collin) is in my opinion a late reusage – which is quite common for this stamp.

In my collection I have three usages with blue ink: Fc 96 \* 2 on a piece, Fc. 69 and Fc. 127.

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## ICELAND BRIDGE CANCEL ALVIÐRA ON COVER

*Previously published in IslandsKontakt 77, translated from the Danish and reproduced with the editor's permission*



Thus was the heading on an Ebay lot. Now I am not a specialist on bridge stamps but I can see that it must have been one of the rarer. Also I have myself a 90aur cover with a single franking. It is postmarked Reykjavík. So the value must be about 5kr. Alviðra is a farm situated north of Selfoss (see arrow on map). It is now the site of an independent educational institution for nature conservation with places for 30 students.



What interests most is the philatelic aspect. The Facit catalogue price for the Alviðra postmark is 5000SEK. Here we have it on a letter, and this sold at \$315. There are probably not many of these and here we have a rare example. It was thus a good buy, looking at the catalogue price. This was the reason that I talked to JSL in order to hear a bit more about Alviðra. Here is what he says.

On 1.1.1934 Alviðra was opened as a letter collecting office, and received numeral N2 – 271. This postmark saw regular use until the end of the '40s. I have seen the pmk used on Fac. 151, 152, 194, 195, 210, 213, 217, 228, 232, 242, 244, 245/46, 248/49, 251, 265 and 282, plus on an official registered letter with Tj.44\*4 and 45\*2.





Moreover I have two clips with Hekla 50aur issued 3.12.48 and 1kr Industry issued 12.10.50, which presumably were both used in the period 1.5.50 to 31.12.51 when the postage for an inland letter for weight up to 20gm was 1kr.



It is my impression that these two were unusually late for N2-271. I have never seen a later use of the numeral.

Bridge cancel B3e ALVIÐRA was supplied in 1956. According to Þór Þ. Íslenzkir Stimplar the earliest known use of the postmark is from 1959. See ÞÞ's cancelled to order 1959 cover above. In my collection I have the B3e ALVIÐRA from 1961.



Here appears to be an example of the late use of the cancel. The letter collecting office closed on 31.12.61, but according to ÞÞ it is known that B3e was still being used in 1962. The editor is correct in saying that the B3e stamp is rare, as well as my impression also that the late use of N2-271 in the '50s is unusual. I happily invite other examples of the late use of N2-271 from the '50s as well as further examples of B3e ALVIÐRA. It is not unusual that a postmark such as N2-271 could have been common in one period and rare in another. For me it is a challenge to find common postmarks used in unusual periods. JSL.

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## Reflections about the two still missing C1 and C2e cancels. *Jørgen Steen Larsen*

### C1.

Due to two known invoices dated 13.3.1894 and 1.12.1894 (17 + 98) = 115 C1 cancels were delivered at the end of 1894.

From Facit Special Classic 2021 we know of 114 C1 cancels - so one C1 cancel is still missing.

By comparing the 114 C1 cancels with "Skýrsla yfir brjefhirdinga á Íslandi árið 1894 and 1895" we can find 12 places to which payments were made for 1894, but from where we do not know a C1 cancel.

Place name according to list of payments	Clarification of place name	Sýsla	Fee 1894	Opened as BH	Cancel as BH
Borgareyri	Brekka in Mjóafirði	S Múl	30	1.4.1892	C2e Mjóifjörður in 1901
Skjöldólfsstaðir		N Múl	30	1.1.1882	N1a-36 in 1903
Háls		S Þing	20	1.2.1894	C2b in 1898
Garður	Garður (1)	Skag	15	30.1.1894	N1a-75 in 1903
Fell		Skag	5	1.1.1911?	N1a-84 in 1911
Bólstaðarhlíð		A Hún	25	1.1.1873	N1a-89 in 1903
Skarðstöð		Dala	20	1.1.1894	N1a-137 in 1903
Vatnsfjörður		N Ísa	25	1.1.1873	C2e in 1900
Ögur		N Ísa	20	30.1.1894–31.12.1894 Gardsstaðir from 1895.	C2a Ögur in 1898
Saurbær		Borg	35	1.1.1873	Manuscript + C2e in 1899
Fossá		Kjós	10	1.1.1896 – 31.12.1896?	No known cancel - manuscript "Fossá"
Erta		Árn	10	1.1.1894	C2e Brjefhirðing in 1899. C2e Erta i 1900

In the table above, Breiðdalsvík and Flatey S Þing are both omitted, as ÞÞ has made typing errors in Pósthús & Brjefhirðingar from 2011, where the opening dates are 1.1.1889 instead of the correct dates 1.1.1899.

Holt (1) is also omitted although we know from ÞÞ that C1 (HoLT) was send to Ønundarfjörður / Flateyri for some period of time.

The opening date for Fell seems to be wrong. There were payments of 5 kr. annually from 1894 and at least to 1900, so there must have been an earlier period as BH.

The closing date for Fossá seems to be wrong. There were payments of 10 kr. for both 1898 and 1900 – perhaps also for 1897 and 1899? I do not know if the payments continued for 1901. The still missing C1 cancel seems to have been ordered to one of these 12 places.

ÞÞ reports "C1?" for both Garður (1) and Bólstaðarhlíð. I do not know the reason for this.

I have been told that ÞÞ's archive about crowns is now with a study group in Reykjavík. To me there seems to be other possibilities from the list above.

In addition to Garður (1), my personal guess would be Skarðstöð because these two BH both opened in 1894 and didn't receive a crown cancel later. This would fit with the usual habit of distributing crowns first of all to newly opened BH. Skjöldólfsstaðir opened already in 1882 and was probably forgotten when the C1 cancels were ordered.

My conclusion is that unless we find a genuine usage of the missing C1 cancel we will never find out to where the last C1 cancel was ordered.

#### C2e.

Due to an invoice dated 10.11.1899, 15 cancels were ordered.

We know 14 of these cancels:

Bakki, Þórshöfn, Flatey, Hjalteyri, Grímsey, Dalvík, Reynisstaður, Frostastaðir, Holtastaðir, Höfn, Melgraseyri, Haukadalur, Saurbær and Reykjavík. One C2e cancel is still missing.

Ás in A Hún that opened 1.1.1896 could according to ÞÞ be the missing cancel no. 15. ÞÞ has stated "C?"

In this case I doubt ÞÞ's guess. Perhaps the study group in Reykjavík can help?

By studying the BH that received payments for 1900 and have a missing crown cancel - in the same way as with the C1 cancels above - my own best guess is Óspakseyri, as this BH opened 1.1.1899, close to when the 15 cancels were ordered, and never received a crown cancel. But this is just a guess.

Another possibility is that not one but two C2e cancels were ordered for Reykjavík? This possibility should be possible to clear up based on Brian Flack's database with illustrations of rare crowns.

My conclusion is that unless we find a genuine usage of the missing C2e cancel we will never find out to where the last C2e cancel was ordered.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

#### **Some replies from Jørgen Steen Larsen to questions raised in Issue 45**

Thanks for one more fine IPM. I have a few comments..

Page 16.

##### **B1a Miklibær**

ÞÞ states that the cancel is known used in Miklibær up to 1954 and not in Stóru-Akrar.

My latest usage is on a FØ letter from -7. 6. X2 = 52.

I believe that ÞÞ is right.

*(Ed.) OK, but I look at it in a different way. The inclusion of Stóru-Akrar under B1a Miklibær in the handbook could mislead collectors to believe it may have been used there, when there is no evidence it was. On the other hand, maybe its inclusion leaves the door open to the possibility of use at Stóru-Akrar? I leave it at that, but welcome further opinions.*

##### **B1a Mjóaból.**

I have a commercial letter with B1a Mjóaból 14.1.46 + transit N2-293. The ink pad seems to have dried out so the cancel is faint.

My latest usage of B1a Mjóaból is on a FØ letter 20.9.X3 = 53. Blue ink.

In between, manuscript cancellations were used.

I have "Smyrlaholi 17 / 12 1947 on Fc 249 C2 and a commercial letter with Fc 293 \* 2 with "Smyrlahóll". Inside the envelope is a letter dated 2.2.50.

(Ed.) These examples confirm that B1a Mjóaból was used at Smyrlahóll, as stated in the handbook. Thanks Jørgen.

##### **Sogamýri – manuscript "296".**

I have the following usages: Fc 338, 352, 364, 369, 371 and 372.



## Page 21. Unknown bridge cancels.

I have most of these cancels on paper. Eivind Kolstad has a usage of Álftanes on Fc 188, probably philatelic. It will be difficult to find space in Facit to add comments about these cancels as this section fills 4 pages completely. My suggestion is that we leave Facit as it is.

## Page 24. MIÐKOT – ÞYKKVIBÆR

I have got B1a Nýibær used -?7.46 on Fc 249 \* 4, 13.5.49 with violet ink used on Fc 284, on a FØ letter dated 10.12.52 and finally on one more philatelic letter dated 17.2.59.

It is my guess that B1a Nýibær was used scarcely in Þykkvibær until the B8e cancel was delivered in 1965.

Best wishes Jørgen

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## From the auctions

Rare and Most Unusual was the apt description of this item on Ebay fairly recently.

The describer continued – Clear LONGHOPE ORKNEY transit on face. Interrupted mail via Longhope Orkneys, en route to Leiden, stamp lost (?)



The selling price is unknown but it is surely one to raise some comments from our many expert ship mail readers?

More auction exotica



These three fetched (1kr) \$119 (Facit 5,000SEK), (5kr) \$221 (Facit 14,000) and (10kr) \$219 (Facit 30,000). Unless my bean counter is wrong, they sold for 1/10<sup>th</sup> of Facit.

## Mixed frankings of officials and regular postage stamps *Steinar Fridthorsson*

Recently my mind drifted onto the subject of *mixed frankings of officials and regular postage stamps*. This is a subject of which I hadn't thought for years so I felt the need to freshen up my memory. As so often before, I decided to contact our most valuable asset when it comes to Icelandic postal history Mr. Ólafur Elíasson (no offense to other knowledgeable collectors). His comments on the subject were as follows:

"Official stamps were solely intended for use by officials to use on official mail, absolutely not on private mail. The regulations for the use of official stamps were very strict with penalties being applied for their abuse.

Officials were to keep detailed books covering their use of official stamps on official correspondence. They were then to be reimbursed for their cost according to these books, after the books had been audited and approved that is. In cases where officials used regular postage stamps, either along with official stamps or on their own (both options being completely legal), they would not be reimbursed for their cost. It was that simple.

Mixed frankings are uncommon; I have mostly seen them towards the end of the period where official stamps were in use. It's possible that the regulations were no longer being followed to the letter by that time".

MP 2  
[11.32: 20000] Eyðublað nr. 9

Administration des postes d'Islande.

**Tilkynning um útgáu símapóstávisunar**  
*Avis d'émission d'un mandat télégraphique*

afhent á pósthúsið í Seyðisfjörður  
déposé au bureau de

þann { 26/5-34 } til pósthússins í Reykjavík  
le { } pour le bureau de

(Land) (Pays)

Nafn sendanda Nom de l'expéditeur	Númer póst- ávisunarinnar Numéro du mandat	Nafn, fornafn, staða og heimilisfang viðtakanda Nom, prénoms, qualité et domicile du destinataire	Upphæð póst- ávisunarinnar Montant du mandat
1	2	3	4
<u>Póstsk. Guðjóns</u>	<u>707</u>	<u>Kristjánsmælingar Drömmesgerði</u>	<u>1.05</u> Innborguð upphæð Somme versée (Mynt upprunallandsins) (Monnaie du pays d'origine) Kr. <u>1.05</u>

þann { 28/6 } 1934 skr.  
le { }  
Pósthús Bureau de poste: Reykjavík skr.  
(Undirskrift Signature)

Stimpill  
Stigapósthússins  
Timbre du bureau d'origine

\*) Upphæðina má ekki greiða við sönnun á milli tilkynningu, heldur eingöngu eftir sín  
) Le montant ne peut pas être payé seulement sur celui du télégramme et avis d'émission, mais et avis se rapporte.

Stimpill  
Ákvörðunarpósthússins  
Timbre du bureau de destination





**Some results from the safnari.is auction run by Gísli Geir Harðarson –  
(hammer prices in ISK)**



**Þjorsábrú B1a**  
13,500



**Kleifar B1a**  
48,000



**20aur official  
with Tollur  
cancel** 14,500



**Parcel card Reyk. to Vestmannæyjar 1937**  
5 x 40 CHX Jubilee stamps. 38,000



**Parcel card Reyk. to Vestmannæyjar 1933 incl.**  
2kr CHX 120,000



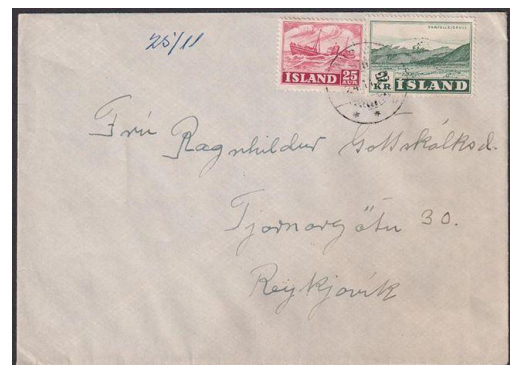
**Advertising envelope O. Johnsen & Kaaber.**  
Registered with 30aur & 1kr CHX correct postage  
81,000



**Registered to USA with numeral 105 (Sveinsstaðir)**  
various transit cancels to Southampton 130,000



**First flight cover 1929**  
**Bíldudalur- Ísafjörður**  
17,000



**Sandnes B1a on cover to Reyk.** 44,000



The above is the name of a souvenir sheet issued on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the six founding countries of Belgium, France, W-Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands issuing the first “Europa Postes” issue. The issue date was September 15<sup>th</sup> 1956 and it was the start of the Europa stamp issues that we know today.

Europa stamps with a mutual design were issued in Iceland from 1960-1974, after which the issues changed into having a mutual theme rather than a mutual design. Such mutual themed stamps were issued as CEPT issues from 1975 through 1992; from 1993 onwards they have been issued under a different logo of *EUROPE* after PostEurop having taken over the administrative role associated with the issue.

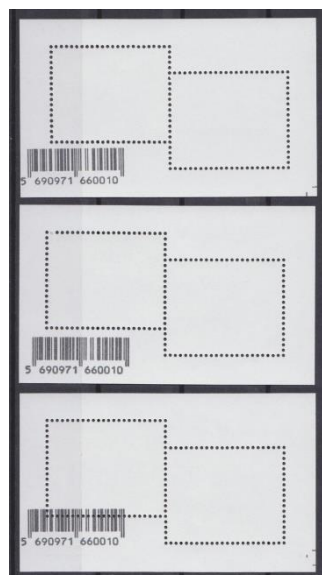
Fig.1

Imperforate BL 49.



The Icelandic souvenir sheet was designed by Hlynur Ólafsson, the design being in the form of two 150 kr. stamps showing the Icelandic issue of 1969 (F. 465) as well as the issue of 1968 (F. 454). The issued quantity of 600.000 souvenir sheets was printed by Österreichische Staatsdruckerei GmbH, each sheet was numbered. A quantity of 500.000 sheets (no. 000.001-500.000) was sold to a customer who had them delivered within a Duty-Free zone in Switzerland. 100.000 sheets (no. 500.001-600 .000) were therefore printed for the Post for sale to its regular customers.

A certain British dealer ordered 2000 copies (nr. 500.001-502.000) from the Post. An imperforate copy of the souvenir sheet (no. 500.899) was offered at an auction at Bruun Rasmussen in Denmark on June 18<sup>th</sup> 2017, the sheet clearly being from the purchase of the before mentioned British dealer (Fig. 1). The auction starting price was 2500 Danish Kroner, it remained unsold.



In the lower left corner on the reverse of the sheets (gum side) there is a black bar code whose placement can vary slightly (Fig. 2). On the before mentioned imperforate sheet no. 500.899 the bar code is however in blue colour. How this came to be is difficult to understand as the sheet is in the correct numerical order (Fig. 3).



Fig.2 Differently situated bar codes on reverse

Fig. 3 Blue bar code on imperforate sheet

Should the readers have any information regarding how this variety came to be I would appreciate hearing from them.



A few other varieties are known of BL49. Figure 4 shows incorrectly cut sheets. On sheet no. 233.400 the difference between the right and the left sides is rather small while on no. 526.586 the difference is rather large.

Fig. 4

Incorrectly cut sheets

On sheet no. 408.168 the perforation has been shifted upwards (Fig. 5). The perforation on sheet no. 200.608 is very unusual (Fig. 6). Should any of the readers have an idea how this may have happened I would be grateful

hearing from them by email: [gaxelsson@simnet.is](mailto:gaxelsson@simnet.is)



Fig. 5 Perforation shifted upwards



Fig. 6 Abnormal perforation

Sources:

Eðvarð T. Jónsson. The issues of the first part of 2006. Frímerkjablaðið. 7. year., 2. vol., pages 3-6, 2006. Email correspondence with Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson, Manager of Frímerkjasalan, August 11th 2016.

(Ed. For those interested in modern varieties there is an excellent illustrated summary of these available, compiled by Orla Nielsen and is named "Modern Varieties 1934-2014". Published by Islandssamlarna in 2014. This is available in pdf-format (free of charge) by emailing the editor at [flackbp@gmail.com](mailto:flackbp@gmail.com))



## 9 Review of the series “Was this cancel used here? (Issues 10-26)

The cancels reviewed here are B3e Ketilsstaðir and B1a Melstaður which featured in Issue 17/2017.

(Editor's apology:- in Issue 43 The numbering of this series slipped out of step and should have read No.7. Consequently Issue 45 contained No.8)



### **B3e Ketilsstaðir** Norður Múlasýsla

Recorded use Ketilsstaðir 15.9.1955 – 30.6.1973

Laufás 1.7.1973 – September ? 1973

The collecting office at Laufás received a B8b cancel with its own name on 25.9.1973. This left a window of nearly 3 months when the only available cancel was the Ketilsstaðir B3e. Although no examples have been offered by readers, a strike of Ketilsstaðir used at Laufás between 1.7.73 and September 1973 may exist and must be very scarce indeed. Check your dates!



### **B1a Melstaður** Vestur Húnavatnssýsla

Recorded use Melstaður 12.6.1930 – 31.12.1956

Laugarbakki 1957 ????

This may be an example of the P P handbook recording the presence of a cancel at a second office, in this case Laugarbakki, without claiming that it was used there. No example has been provided by readers. Laugarbakki received its B3e cancel from the date of opening on 1.1.1957.

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## **Unwrap this postal rate puzzle.**



I do not anticipate anyone providing the answer to what may have been sent via Edinburgh in 1931 which required a full sheet of 100 CHX 4aur. The seller's description said:-

Iceland Partial Wrapper franked with sheet of 100 of 4 aur Chr X 1st Issue. Portion of Dealer Paper Seal remains on wrapper. Sheet has multiple Reykjavik 19.I.31 cancels. Sheet is tied to the wrapper with a Registered/Edinburgh CDS dated 26. JA. 31