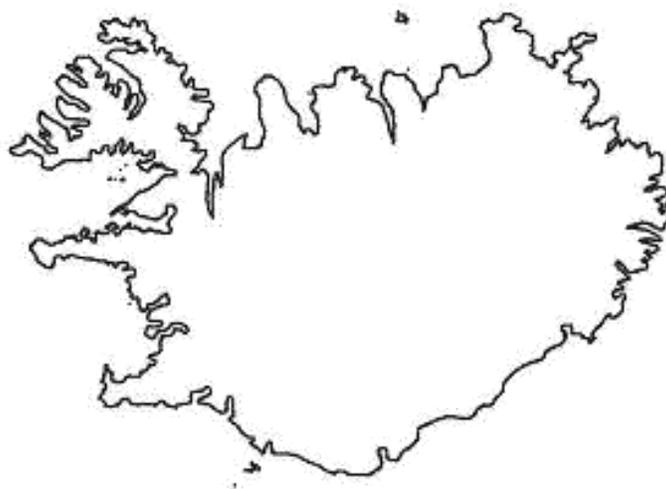
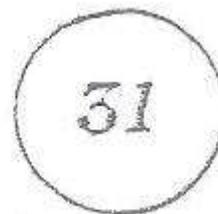


# ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Issue 5/April 2016

## Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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Please let me have your articles if you want them in the next issue which will be end of April. If you need help with translations let me know.

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

[flackbp@gmail.com](mailto:flackbp@gmail.com)



A look at the auctions



This very fine money letter reached USD295 on Ebay. Cancelled Reykjavík 19.II.25 the rate for a 28gm letter was 40aur plus 64aur insurance fee at 32aur per 250kr, plus 30aur registration, total 134aur.



Cat 2,500SEK Ebay \$89  
GRÖF STRAND



Cat \* Ebay \$126  
LUNDARBREKKA



Cat SEK 1500 Ebay \$26  
ÞVERÁ



Cat. 800SEK Ebay \$182  
MIKLIBÆR



Cat SEK 1500 Ebay \$37  
ÞVERÁ (again)



## Crown cancels on cover

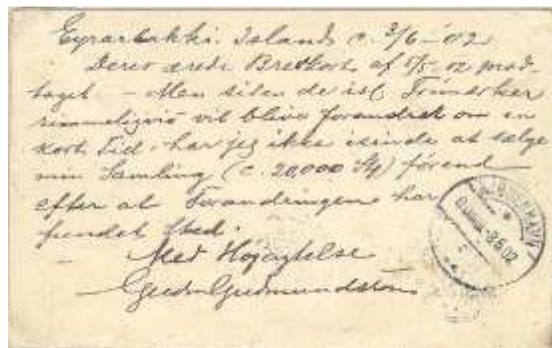
Somewhere in the dim past I saved a cancellation database on the internet with multiple pictures of crown cancels. I cannot recall the author by name but I kept the images ever since for reference purposes. In IPM Issue 4, Ronald Collin started what I hope will be a fascinating dialogue on crown cancels on cover, sometimes with evidence of the route taken by the cover. Here are a few examples taken from the database with some evidence of the routes taken. I have no clue who presently owns these items.



Official letter from Ægissíða Rang. to Reykjavík 2 x 5aur pair of officials. Hraungerði transit 17/11 (1900) provincial. Correct rate 10aur up to 3kvint. 1.8.76-31.12.07. back stamped Reykjavík 19.11.1900.



Borðeyri CP cancel on insured letter with Strandasýsla provincial transit 11/1 and Reykjavík 15.1.1905? receiving cancel. Letter rate for 5kvint letter = 20aur (up to 25kv) and insurance fee for 55kr = 16aur (5aur per 100kr with 16aur minimum). Correct 36aur franking for 1.8.76-31.12.07.



A Norwegian reply card written at Eyrarbakki on 3.6.1902 with CP cancel and transit cancels Hraungerði 9/6, Reykjavík 10.6.1902, then a København transit of 8.5.02 (surely a wrong month?) and Bergen arrival unclear date.



## Express mail from Iceland to other countries before 1940

I begin with the general background and finish with a series of questions.

### The period up to 31.3.1921

UPU agreements in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century provided an accelerated mail service between member countries, where a postal item might be delivered to the addressee by courier from the nearest post office. An extension of the quotation from article 13 from the UPU Postal Congress in Washington in June 1897 reads *“This mail, express mail, is subject to a special rate for delivery to the addressee. This rate is 30 centimes and should be paid in advance with its full amount in addition to the ordinary rate for the letter. The amount belongs to the dispatching country”*. Thus, as a UPU member through Denmark, Iceland had the possibility of sending express mail to certain UPU countries (not Denmark) by agreement. The 30 centimes rate (= 25aur) introduced from April 1<sup>st</sup> 1886 did not change until 1<sup>st</sup> April 1921. However the existence of express mail from Iceland to other countries during the 25aur period which ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1921 must be extremely scarce.

### Express mail to Denmark from 1.1.1920 and subsequently to other Nordic countries<sup>1</sup>

This is first mentioned in the 1919 Postal Regulations for mail between Denmark and Iceland, valid from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1920. Before then express mail from Iceland to Denmark was not possible. Paragraph 4 states *“Express mail shall be carried to places in both countries, where the post office participates in the local delivery of such mail.”* Express fees began at 20aur for letters and 36aur for parcels, changing to 50aur until 14.1.1942.

<sup>1</sup> Norway from 1.6.1922, Sweden from 1.6.28 and Finland from 1.1.1935.

### To UPU countries from 1.4.1921

An 80aur express rate was announced in Póstblaðið Nr. 1/1921 and a change occurred from 1.2.1935 when the rate became 100aur. The number of UPU countries where Express mail was accepted was limited, as is evident by the announcement in June 1929 issue of Póstblaðið that express mail to other countries (but not Denmark) should only be delivered in places where letters are delivered daily. Examples of any express mail to other countries before 1940 are very scarce. I am showing two covers, both at the earlier 80aur rate.



Reykjavík B1d dated 28.V.30 with 8 Millenium stamps. 35aur UPU letter rate plus 80aur Express fee which applied 1.1.1921 – 31.1.1935, total 115aur. TELEGRAPH ZÜRICH 3.VI.30 receiving cancel on reverse, which was 5 days in transit.





## Cold War Censorship



When I saw the illustrated cover the brown tape made me think that the blue circular stamp was probably a censor mark. I wondered who might be censoring mail in the 1950s? The answer soon came from Rolf Doernbach who said –

*The circular cachet on your letter is, indeed, a censor mark. While part of the script is too faint for me to read, I came across a letter image in the internet with a very similar looking cachet, where the German text reads: "Österreichische Zensurstelle" (the underlined part being unreadable on your letter) which translates "Austrian Censorship Point" (or Office). I first thought the "S.Z." in your cachet might stand for "Soviet Zone", but on the piece I found in the Internet it says "Z. 1", so the "Z" might stand for "Zensur" (the German word for "censorship". As for the end of censorship in Austria, I found a book title which indicates "1945-1953" as the period of censorship in Austria (much longer than even in Germany!) but unfortunately does not give any more precise date. It seems extraordinary that the text of your cachet is in German – one would have expected a Russian text, but apparently the Russians may have delegated censorship to the Austrians by that time. British post war censorship in Germany was largely done by German employees.*



If in doubt ask Google. I read – A staff of nearly 1,000 censors stuck their collective noses into letters from Vienna and the Russian zone, and into all telegrams, wireless and teletype messages going abroad. Worse, the Austrians had to pay the \$500,000-a-year cost of all this censorious attention. At the 200<sup>th</sup> session of the four-power Allied Council in 1954, the Russians gave in, and finally agreed to abolition of the four-power censorship bureau.

Above is a slightly better image of an Austrian censor mark taken off the internet.

It is a shame the postmark is not legible but the stamp issue and the 2kr25 post rate puts the cover as sent between 1.9.52 and 30.9.53.

## BAKKI Crown and Posthorn Cancel *Ronald Collin*

There are some distinguishing features that pertain to the Crown and Posthorn cancels of Iceland, which have been classified by Facit as Type C2. There are two outer rings of the cancel along with the inner circle that surrounds the crown and posthorn. One of the other distinguishing features is the period or (punkt) that appears after the town name.

Not all of the Facit classification C2 cancels have the period following the town name. HESTUR immediately comes to mind as being an example with no punctuation following the town name.

The point of this article, however, is to discuss two different punctuation marks that follow the BAKKI town name



Here is an example of BAKKI Type C2, as classified by Facit. (For this discussion, I'll call it BAKKI Type C2a) It has the period that follows the town name, as seen in this scan.

Now a few years ago I acquired an example of a BAKKI Crown and Posthorn cancel that was different. It had a punctuation mark called a colon (kolon) following the town name. (For this discussion I'll call this one BAKKI Type C2b). Over the years I have actively tried to acquire additional examples of both types of BAKKI C2 cancels.

Here are scans of some of the BAKKI C2b cancels. I have shown more than one example so that they can be seen with strikes in different positions, thereby eliminating the thought that the colon could have been caused from an uneven strike of the canceler.



All of my examples of BAKKI (both types of C2) are on perforation 12  $\frac{3}{4}$  Aurar values, so I cannot assign a particular time period that could be exclusive to just the (colon) type cancels. After studying these strikes for some time now, I can only come to one conclusion; and that is the existence of more than one BAKKI canceler.

I have not seen anything in print about the period (punkt) type C2a canceler having been destroyed or recalled, thereby requiring a replacement canceler. If for some reason, Type C2b was a replacement canceler, was the colon used in error following the town name? Or was the colon used intentionally, to purposely differentiate it from the original canceler?

Unfortunately I do not have any BAKKI covers in my collection, upon which to study for either a Type C2a or a Type C2b cancel. A cover with either cancel might aid us in determining where and when either type canceler was used. Any cds cancels on such a cover, could provide clues about the time periods of the use of the canceler. Any transit markings could aid in determining where the BAKKI cancelers may have been used, simply by verifying the routes taken by those covers.



# ICELAND

1873 Oval Issues

Skilling Denominations – Genuine vs. Spiro Forgeries

## 2 Skilling

(Scott #1)



**Scott #1 (genuine)**  
ultramarine  
perforated 14 x 13½  
thin (0.5 mm) paper



**Scott #1 forgery)**  
greenish blue  
crude perforated ~13  
medium (0.09 mm) paper



**Scott #1 forgery)**  
greenish blue  
perforated 12½ (incorrect gauge)  
medium (0.09 mm) paper

## 4 Skilling

(Scott #2 and #6)



**Scott #2 (genuine)**  
dark carmine  
perforated 14 x 13½  
thin (0.065 mm) paper



**Scott #2 (forgery)**  
rose pink  
crude perforated ~13  
thick (0.12 mm) paper



**Scott #6 (forgery)**  
bright rose  
perforated 12½  
medium (0.09 mm) paper

## 8 Skilling

(Scott #3)



**Scott #3 (genuine)**  
brown  
perforated 14 x 13½  
thin (0.065 mm) paper



**Scott #3 (forgery)**  
deep brown  
perforated 12½ (incorrect gauge)  
medium (0.09 mm) paper

## 16 Skilling

(Scott #4 and #7)



**Scott #7 (genuine)**  
yellow  
perforated 12½  
thin (0.065 mm) paper



**Scott #4 (forgery)**  
bright yellow  
crude perforated ~13  
medium (0.09 mm) paper



**Scott #7 (forgery)**  
bright yellow  
perforated 12½  
medium (0.09 mm) paper

## Production Characteristics

### Genuine Stamps:

- printed by typography
- watermarked crown, thin (0.05 to 0.07 mm) paper
- irregular and shorter perforations for gauge 12½
- irregular and shorter perforations for gauge 14 x 13½
- perforating process resulted in usually badly off-centered stamps
- used stamps usually postmarked with either Antiqua typeface or Grottesque (sans-serif) typeface town circular datestamps

### Spiro Forgeries:

- printed by lithography
- unwatermarked, medium to thick (0.09 to 0.12 mm) paper
- uniform, well defined perforations for gauge 12½
- crude, blunt perforations attempted for gauge 14 x 13½
- perforation process resulted in generally well centered stamps
- always "cancelled" only partially with a fake Antiqua typeface "REYKAVIK" circular datestamp

Spiro Brothers was a prominent lithographic firm in Hamburg, Germany that produced a broad line of printed items. In 1864, the company began to produce lithographic imitations of postage stamps, and during the next 15 years or so manufactured about 500 varieties, ordinarily printed in sheets of 25 (5 by 5) copies. Spiro Brothers never intended its lithographed facsimiles to deceive buyers, but some were rather well-done and delude collectors even today.

(Source: Varro E. Tyler, *Philatelic Forgers: Their Lives and Works*. Robson Lowe, London, 1976.)

## Closing the gap *Ole Svinth*

From **Jørgen Steen Larsen** I got information of a telegraphic money order on eBay having a “dated” Vopnafjörður lapidar postmark. The M.O. showed both date and year in a Reykjavik postmark. Jørgen says that this is now the latest certified date it was known used before the new bridge mark B4c was delivered. The problem is that a lapidar postmark carries date only and no year. A few Gullfoss items are known to have the postmark, but it is not possible to certify the year even if it is second print of Gullfoss issued 22 II 32. A charity stamp would help (issued April 1933). A letter/card with transit or arrival is the only safe way to establish when the G1a cancel was used latest. It is very hard to find such an item.

So far Ólafur Eliasson has the earliest known use of the bridge mark B4c dated 5 V 34. Postmark is shown below.



This piece could be from 1 2 1933 or 1934. Year cannot be established.

Administration des postes d'Islande.  
**Tilkynning um útgáfu**  
*Avis d'émission d'un mandat*

afhent á pósthúsið í Reykjavík  
 déposé au bureau de

þann 5. Ágúst 34 til pósthússins í Vopnafjörður  
 le pour le bureau de

(Land) (Pays)

Nafn sendanda <i>Nom de l'expéditeur</i>	Númer póst- sviðunárinna <i>Numéro du mandat</i>	Nafn, fornöfn, staða og heimilisfang viðtakanda <i>Nom, prénoms, qualité et domicile du destinataire</i>	Upphæð póst- sviðunárinna <i>Montant du mandat</i>
Andriússon	2254 2255 2256	Þryggr. Þeirsson Simunardóttir	1000.- Innhættuð upphæð Somme versée (Montant approuvé) Kr. 2000,00

Reykjavík þann 5. Ágúst 1934  
 Ólafur Eliasson  
 (Undirskrift) (Signature)

Upphæðina má ekki greiða við sýningu á þessari tilkynningu, heldur eingöngu eftir samskeytinu, sem hún á við.  
 Le montant ne peut pas être payé sur le vu de cet avis d'émission, mais seulement sur celui du télégramme auquel cet avis se rapporte.

This item confirms the theory that the lapidary postmark was used until spring of 1934 when B4c was received. The item with official stamps was offered at 795 USD on eBay.

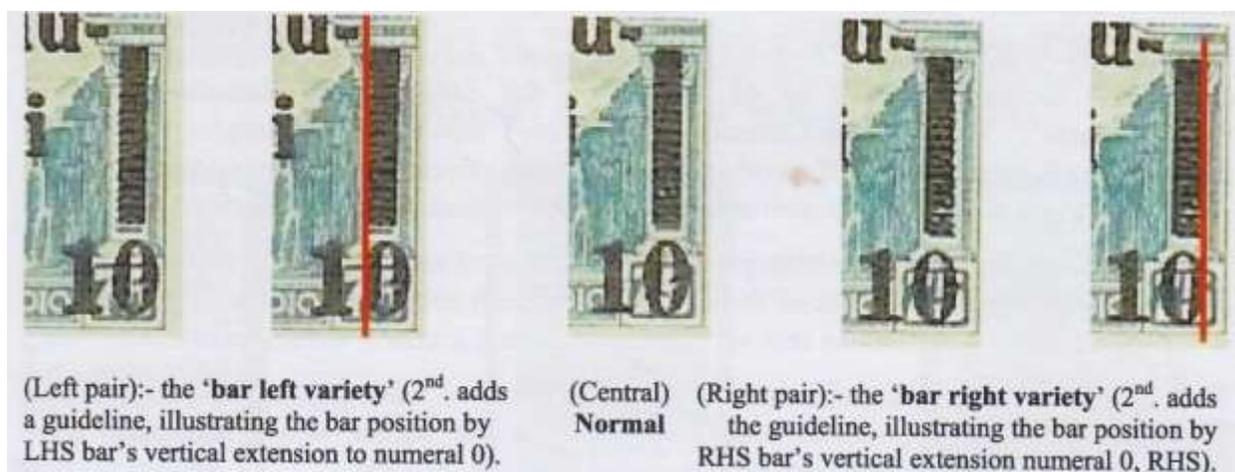
## Iceland Revenue Stamps, the 1932 Greiðslumerki Overprints Rufus Wilson

Previously published in Scandinavia Contact September 2008 and reproduced with their permission.

### Greiðslumerki Stamp Overprint Varieties.



About a year ago, I noticed several settings of the 10aurar Greiðslumerki overprints on the 75 aurar Gullfoss issue of 1932. The varieties are with the position of the bar, compared to the zero numeral of the 10 in the overprint, located on the right side of the stamp. I am aware of three positions, with the first being 'bar left', when the left edge of the bar is aligned with the outer left edge of the 0. The second is presumably normal, with 'bar centered', which is when neither edge of the bar is aligned with either outer edge of the 0, usually placing the bar perfectly centrally above the 0. The last position is the 'bar right', which is when the right edge of the bar is aligned to the outer right edge of the 0. I had asked numerous collectors and dealers if anyone has ever recorded these varieties; I did not receive an affirmative answer.



I noticed this variety on the overprinted 75 aurar Gullfoss stamp only, for at that time, I did not have many 65 aurar Gullfoss overprinted stamps to examine. I was later made aware by the dealer Jay Smith, that the 65 aurar Gullfoss overprinted stamp also has the same settings. I have recently inspected a few partial sheets, and multiples of both issues (the 65 & 75 aurar), some of which contain examples of all three bar positions. However, I have not been able to inspect any full panes or sheets of either value to determine which columns may contain each setting, but I believe they will probably be consistent throughout each entire column. Is any reader familiar with these, and would care to make informed comment? (*Replies through the Ed.*).

To conclude, I should add that the Greiðslumerki stamps are Revenue stamps, and were created for the payment of a flat fee on receipts of payment for amounts greater than 20 aurar, starting in 1935 and ending in 1941. This included Money Orders. Remainders of 65 aurar and 75 aurar Gullfoss stamps of 1932 were overprinted for this use, until specific Greiðslumerki stamps were definitively issued in 1936. They are Cinderellas, therefore, but might be of interest to readers.

## Letters upside down *Ole Svinth*

One could wonder why the date is correctly readable while the text is “inverted”. As this in my opinion wasn't intentional, why was this machine canceller used for such a long period? I can verify that the cancel was used at least 11 months. All 3 items are on entire covers. Is it one of the local offices in Reykjavik using this postmark?



The 3 dates are:

14 11 2002

31 01 2003

22 10 2003



Letter to Denmark cancelled Reykjavik 22 10 2003. Letter rate 60 kr. 0-20 gr.

From July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2002 until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2004 the rate was 60 kr.



## Concessionary rate for postcards.

A few years ago I was challenged to prove that for a period of time postcards were permitted to be sent at a concessionary rate, i.e. the printed matter rate, provided the message was restricted to a maximum of 5 words excluding the address. A fruitless search through all my literature for evidence of this concession caused me to look elsewhere, and finally I found the answer in the Rome UPU convention of 1906. This announced the acceptance of the so-called divided back postcards with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 1907 (although Britain had introduced them as early as 1901). I found confirmation of the printed matter rate concession for postcards in *Detailed Regulations – Section XIX paras 3(a), (b) and para 6.*



◀ This card might be a little dubious, but if allowed, is my earliest example. The 5aur UPU printed matter rate has been used, addressed to France in 1910 instead of the 10 aur postcard rate. Why is it dubious? Well some of these cards sent by French seamen did not necessarily go through the postal system. There is no message on the back, only an address.

It is probable, but not certain that the printed matter rate concession for postcards started with the divided back postcard, as the earlier type of card, (or at least some of them) did not leave much space for a message anyway. It is not entirely clear when the concession ended. The postal rates for postcards and printed matter finally converged from 1.1.1969, so perhaps the concession became irrelevant rather than officially withdrawn. I have no recollection of seeing any examples in the post WW2 period.



▶  
*1936 card sent in Reykjavík at the 5aur local printed matter rate instead of the 10aur local card rate.*



◀ OK, it is a Nørgaard card, but he knew what he was doing in 1939 at Kirkjubæjarklaustur, when he paid the 7aur printed matter rate instead of the 10aur postcard rate to Denmark and typed *Prent!* on the card.

**To conclude:** It is not so easy just to say the concessionary system started on this date and ended on that date. For example, the earliest possible inland card should be dated **no earlier than 1.1.1920 for ordinary inland post, and no earlier than 15.5.1921 for inland local post**, as these were the first times that inland postcard and printed matter rates diverged. My hazy recollections of early postcards sent in the first decade or so of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century marked “printed matter” in

Icelandic or maybe in Danish, should have been sent to overseas destinations outside Denmark and not inland, as the UPU rate then was 10aur for postcards and 5aur for printed matter and would have attracted the concession. Do not forget the later years! It will be interesting to know from readers of examples later than 1939, and hopefully post-war?

### Solution on Edinburgh postmark in # 3 Ole Svinth



A trained collector of foreign postmarks will not recognize the cancel on the green 5 aur as being from Edinburgh as stated on the sales page. We have the rather unusual postmark of Fleetwood situated on the coast of North-West England. At least on 4 occasions Fleetwood was the first port to receive the Icelandic mail delivered directly to the ship. Once in **1899 (from Índriði Pálsson collection)** and 1901, twice in 1920 and once in 1940. Proofs shown below.



Old duplex postmark JY 7 01 "625"



Ordinary pm 18 FE 20



One ring MY 16 99



Undated shipletter mark

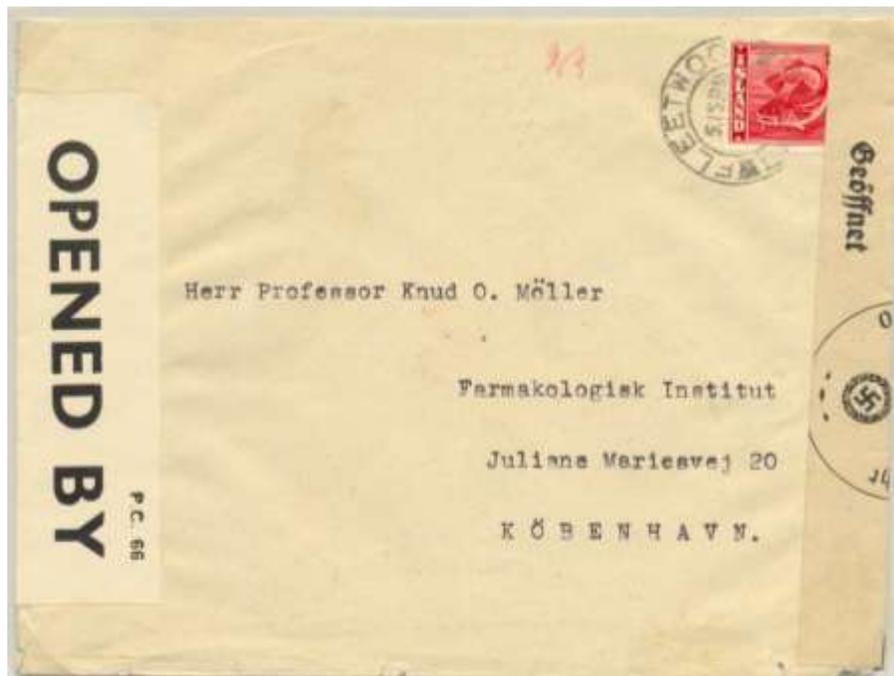
For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Fleetwood was a prominent fishing port, but since the 1970's, the fishing industry has declined, and the town has had economic problems. Fleetwood is also a seaside resort, serving as a quiet contrast 10 km from Blackpool.

SHIP-LETTER  
FLEETWOOD

Copy of entire mark



Ordinary pm 14 MY 20



Letter to Denmark cancelled Fleetwood 15 4 40. Double censored covers are unusual. We have here British and German censor labels. Postage was 25 aur 0-20 gr.

**More on Sunday covers to Denmark Ole Svinth**

In issue #1 I showed 3 "Sunday covers". One with the 10 øre Danish "Sunday-fee" and one with 25 øre fee and finally 200 øre.

I have in the meantime on the internet spotted two more sendings of this kind.

The 20 øre fee was found on an express postcard. It was for sale at 250 DKK but remained unsold.



Express card to Denmark cancelled Reykjavik 26 8 48 (Friday) and arrived and distributed København 28/8 (Sunday).

Postcard rate was 35 aur. Airmail fee 20 aur and express fee was 100 aur. Danish "Sunday fee" was 20 aur. This fee had to be added in Danish stamps.

Here we find the 30 øre Sunday fee on a letter to Denmark cancelled Reykjavik 23 2 56 (Thursday) and arrived and distributed Hellerup 26 2 56 (Sunday).



Airmail letter rate 0-20 gr was 205 aur.

This extra Sunday-fee was:

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

So far 5 different rates are shown. The 55 øre and 100 øre still needs to be shown. Do you have one?

The cover was sold at Ebay at 15.50 USD.







Just got this picture sent yesterday from a colleague here in the Iceland Post Head Offices.



The Icelandic text written onto the envelope states:

*It is hereby formally declared that this is the first letter, that is delivered with transportation with an airplane from Reykjavik to Akureyri.*

*Reykjavik, 1st. June 1928 Þorleifur Jónsson Postmaster*

Addressee: Mr. swimming instructor Ólafur Magnússon, Gránufélagsgötu 7, Akureyri

The owner of the envelope is Mr. Kristinn Jónsson – Háaleitisbraut 36, 108 Reykjavik.

(Editor. The postmark date on Vilhjálmur’s cover is the earliest I have seen. At one time I owned a copy of *Annálar Íslenskra Flugmála* (A History of Icelandic Flights) by Arngrímur Sigurðsson. I may have taken a reference from that which stated that the intended first flight to Akureyri was postponed due to bad weather and did not take off until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 1928. Vilhjálmur’s cover dated 1<sup>st</sup> June must be the intended date of the first flight. Below is a cover from the return flight from Akureyri which was cancelled on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June by bad weather before leaving on 6<sup>th</sup> June. About 20kms from Reykjavík the plane came down in the sea with engine trouble and was towed into Reykjavík by a fishing boat. The message reads “*Dear Old Friend! I am sending you this by the first airmail service from Akureyri with a picture of Óðin riding his horse Sleipnir.....*”



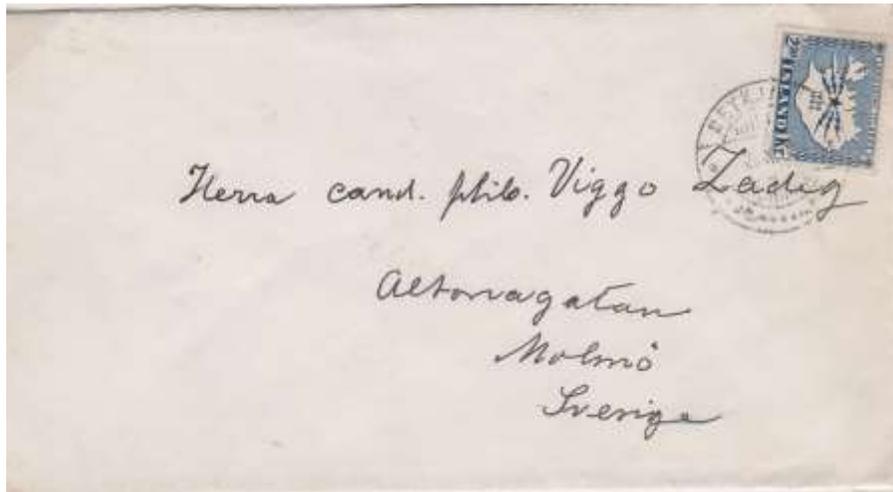
Unfortunately Óðin appears to have offered little assistance to the new air service which collapsed in 1931 due to costs and general unreliability.



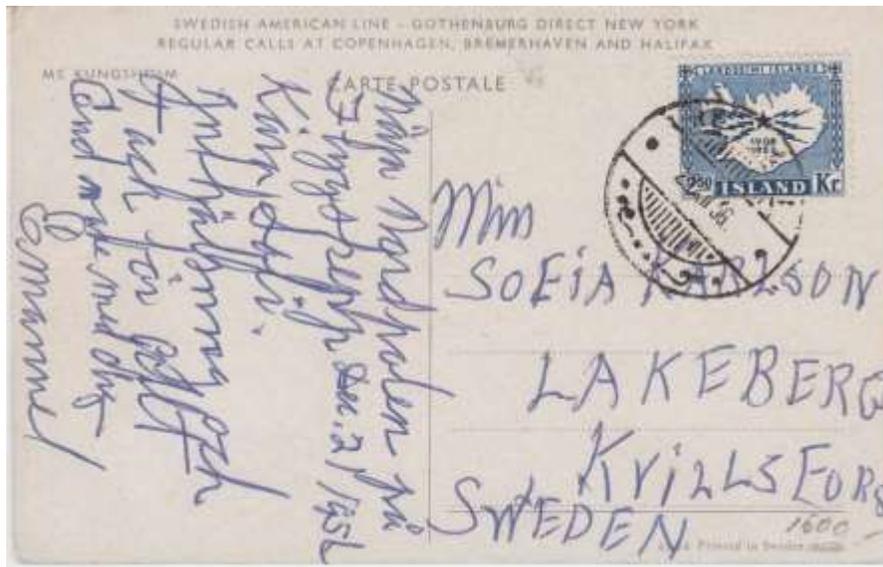


## Replies to questions in Issue 1

Ole mentioned how difficult it is to find the 2kr30 Telegraph stamp (Facit 345) properly used, and wondered where all the stamps had gone. Mike Scumacher showed us a few more in Issue 4; here are two more



I have seen this gentleman's name before on covers, but the use of the stamp is correct. Cancelled Reykjavík B1c dated 20.X.56. Nordic all-in rate up to 20gm to Sweden 1.4.56 to 31.3.57.



Reykjavík B1c dated 22.XII.56

I am going to offer an excuse for this 75aur over franking. Someone told the sender Emannel that the letter rate to Sweden was 2kr30 which was correct, except she used a postcard instead of a letter to her friend Sofia.

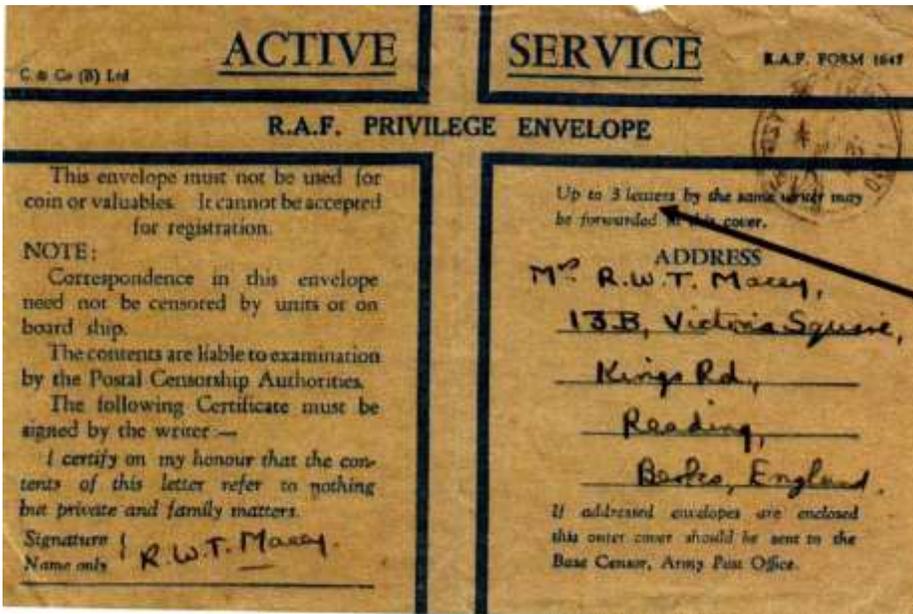


Ron Collin asked if anyone has seen a complete SNÆFJÖLL crown cancel with all letters present. I dare to say this looks like one; alas it is not mine. I have been looking for a full strike, with or without the O for years.

## RAF privilege covers from Iceland *Wilbur Jonsson*

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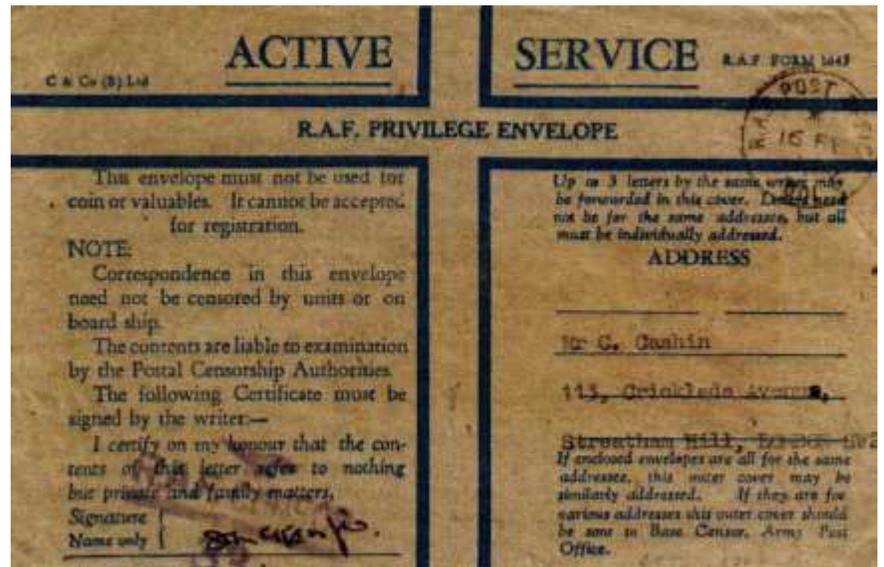
A friend browsing through one of my albums pointed out a typographical error on one of the two illustrated blue RAF privilege covers used at RAFPO 001 in 1943-4. Just above the hand-written address, one sees “lettters” instead of “letters”, see arrow point on top cover, (1943) illustrated below. The texts above and below address are varied, and clearly these two are from different printings of the same postal stationery format of RAF Privilege Cover. Note that the second, (the bottom one as shown below, with typo corrected) is cacheted with RAF censor 33 in violet, despite the privilege, by the honor declaration.



TEXT ERROR HERE:  
Letters

Because the RAF asked the Army to let its members use the Army Field Post Office in Reykjavík, one sees many green Army Privilege Covers with RAF censors (particularly from 526). Only very few of the RAF privilege envelopes have been recorded from Iceland, apparently because Army-supplied ones were used until exhausted, (or until the RAF delivered their own to Reykjavík?)

Curiosity value? on something already rare!



**Reference.** *Scandinavia Contact* 2000, pp195-6: “Iceland: the Royal Navy privilege envelope”, by David Kindley, refers to these envelopes (of all three services), stating, (inter alia) “RAF blue envelope form 1645 is rare, eight recorded only”, as owned by then-members of this Society, the author here (Jonsson) included.

