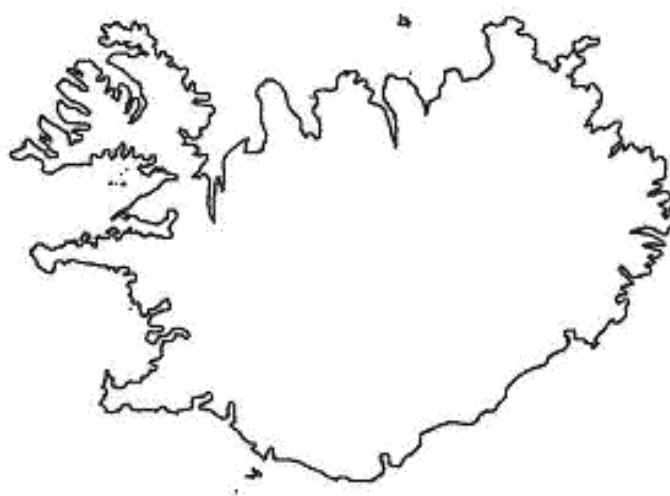
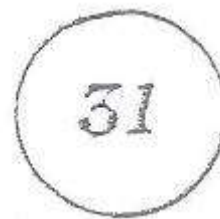


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

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 end of April. If you need help with translations let me know.

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

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News/Comment

There are now 56 collectors who receive Iceland Philatelic Magazine. You may be interested to know the breakdown by country:- Iceland 18, Denmark 11, Sweden 3, USA 8, Holland 4, Germany 2, France 2, UK 2, Canada 1, New Zealand 1, Norway 3, Spain 1. If you know anyone in your country who might like to receive this magazine please let me know. I am pleased to say that Frímerkjablaðið and Posthorn will be carrying an advert for the magazine in a future issue.

In Issue 4 I wrote about the few possibilities of finding modern inland covers correctly franked with krónur value stamps, sometimes because of bizarre basic A and B letter rates, e.g. 97kr, 103kr, 112kr, 132,kr, 153kr, 137kr and 159kr. The very helpful Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson of Iceland Post explained that they had no choice but to enforce these rates which were dictated to them by Post and Telecom Administration in Iceland. For example the 159kr rate, which applied only for a short period from 1.10.2015 to 12.1.2016, left Iceland Post with no option but to destroy an old stock of perfectly good 160kr stamps which could have been used if the rate had been fixed at 160 and not 159kr. How crazy is that?

[illegible]

Only known Boston postmark? Ole Svinth



30 years ago I got hold of this unique cancellation from Boston, North East England. At that time I corresponded a good deal with Mike Tuttle about our mutual interest in foreign postmarks. When I sent him a copy his reaction disappointed me heavily. He told me he had visited the area, and that the coast near Boston was all sand and that he never saw a harbor there.

A few days ago I got curious on this town and tried Google. The internet was not available in those days. Wikipedia had this text about Boston among a good deal of information,

.....Boston once again became a significant port in trade and fishing in 1884, when the new dock with its associated wharves on The Haven were constructed. It continued as a working port, exporting grain, fertilizer, and importing timber, although much of the fishing trade was moved out in the inter-war period.

During the First World War many of the town's trawlermen, together with those from Grimsby, were taken prisoner after their ships were sunk by German raiders in the North Sea. Their families did not know what had happened to them until late September 1914. The men were taken to Sennelager camp, then on to Ruhleben POW camp where most remained till repatriated in 1918. There is a full report of their homecoming in the *Lincolnshire Standard* newspaper, January 1918. Meanwhile, the port was used by hospital ships and some 4,000 sick or wounded troops passed through Boston.

Of course I was happy to read this, and I am sure my stamp gets a higher rank in my collection. Boston town is situated 5 km from the North Sea. The river “The Haven” connects the docks to the sea.

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)

Why 20 aurar?



Perhaps Guðmundur had consumed a few festive drinks when he sent this greeting to his friend, or maybe he just liked the recently issued 20aur on 25 surcharge; either way he paid rather a lot considering the local card rate was only 8aur.

[illegible]

Another philatelic re-use?



As said in an earlier issue, the Hjalteyri C/P postmark seems to be found on items issued after the deliverance of their numeral cancel in 1903. Here is yet another item, sold at eBay at 80 USD. It is a matter of belief if these items are from letters gone through the Post.

[illegible]

Going – Going – Gone! for 60,000USD

Described as 1873 4s Dark carmine and 8s Brown, perforated 14 x 13 1/2, two singles of the former and a single of the latter, all tied to a unique "parcel" cover to Reykjavik by very rare antique type "Völlur" town postmark. The only known inland parcel letter franked with skilling stamps. I was too slow to put my hand up so I will just have to wait for another Völlur on cover.



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 19th 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 1st 1886 did not change until 1st April 1921. However the existence of express mail from Iceland to other countries during the 25aur period which ended on 31st March 1921 must be extremely scarce.

Express mail to Denmark from 1.1.1920 and subsequently to other Nordic countries¹

This is first mentioned in the 1919 Postal Regulations for mail between Denmark and Iceland, valid from 1st 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.

¹ 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 200th 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.

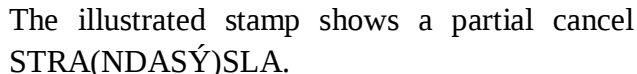
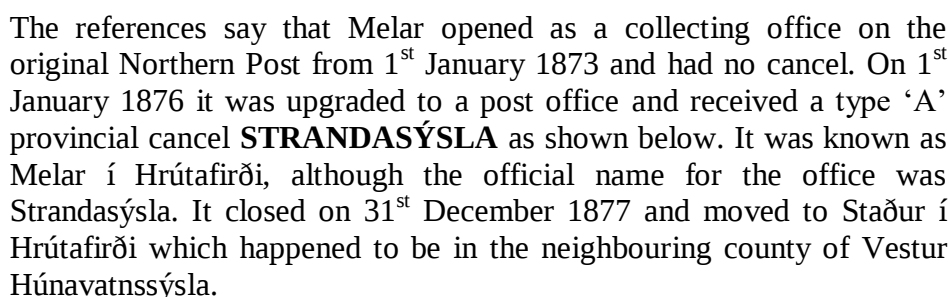
I have not seen anything in print about the period (punkt) type C2a canceler having been destroyed or recalled, thereby requiring a replacement canceler. If for some reason, Type C2b was a replacement canceler, was the colon used in error following the town name? Or was the colon used intentionally,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

I look forward to receiving any comments, agreements or disagreements about the information expressed above. Kindly correspond directly with the Editor of this magazine, so that any comments received, can be seen by the entire readership.

[illegible]

Now the following has a degree of self-interest involved but I will make the case anyway. Someone else can shoot it down, which they probably will.

[illegible]

(Roger, Here it is on the following page. Ed)

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 Grotesque (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 12 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
dépôt au bureau de

þann 15. Apríl 34 til pósthússins í Vopnaförðum
pour le bureau de

Nafn sendanda Nom de l'expéditeur	Númer póst- skráðunnar Numéro du mandat	Nafn, fornöfn, staða og heimilisfang viðtakanda Nom, prénoms, qualité et domicile du destinataire	Upphæð póst- skráunnar Montant du mandat
Ólafur Eliasson	2254 2255 2256	Þryg. Þeirsson Simarson	1000.-

Innbætt upphæð
Somme versée
(Montant des taxes d'origine)
Kr. 2000,00

þann 15. Apríl 1934
Signature: Ólafur Eliasson

(Undirskrift Signataire)

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.

Stimpill útgáfupósthússins
Timbre du bureau d'origine

Stimpill áskrunarþósthússins
Timbre du bureau de destination

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.

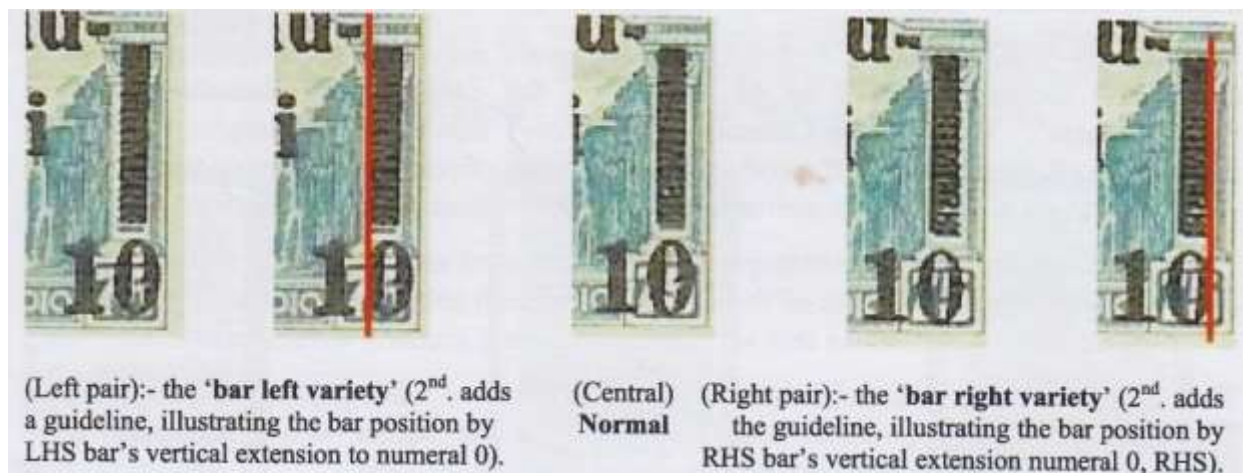
Iceland Revenue Stamps, the 1932 Greiðslumerki Overprints Rufus Wilson

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 3rd 2002 until June 30th 2004 the rate was 60 kr.

Cheap rate across the Atlantic?



Reykjavík B5a, cancelled presumably at Frímerkjasalan on 13.1.50. Was it CTO with an address added later to give it some appearance of legitimacy? Saur would not have carried it across the Atlantic surely?

[illegible]

Early flight to a truly exotic destination



This lovely example of an early airmail was recently sold at Scanfil for 2300Nkr. I knew I had seen the cover before but could not remember where. Then, not for the first time when looking for something else, I saw an illustration of the cover in Frímerkjablaðið No.2 in the second part of Ólafur Eliasson's article *Flugpóstgjöld 1928-1939*. Ólafur's description reads "Letter to Leeward Islands, cancelled at Akureyri 31.07.36 and backstamped at St. Johns 21.08.'36. Postage 175aur, was calculated as follows: Letter of 20gm, UPU rate 35aur. Airmail to the various islands in the West Indies 70aur/10gm x 2 : 140aur Total 175aur".

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 1st 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.

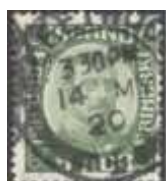


◀ OK, it is a Nørgaard card, but he knew what he was doing in 1939 at Kirkjubæjarklaustur, when he paid the 7aur printed matter rate instead of the 10aur postcard rate to Denmark and typed *Prent!* on the card.

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 20th 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

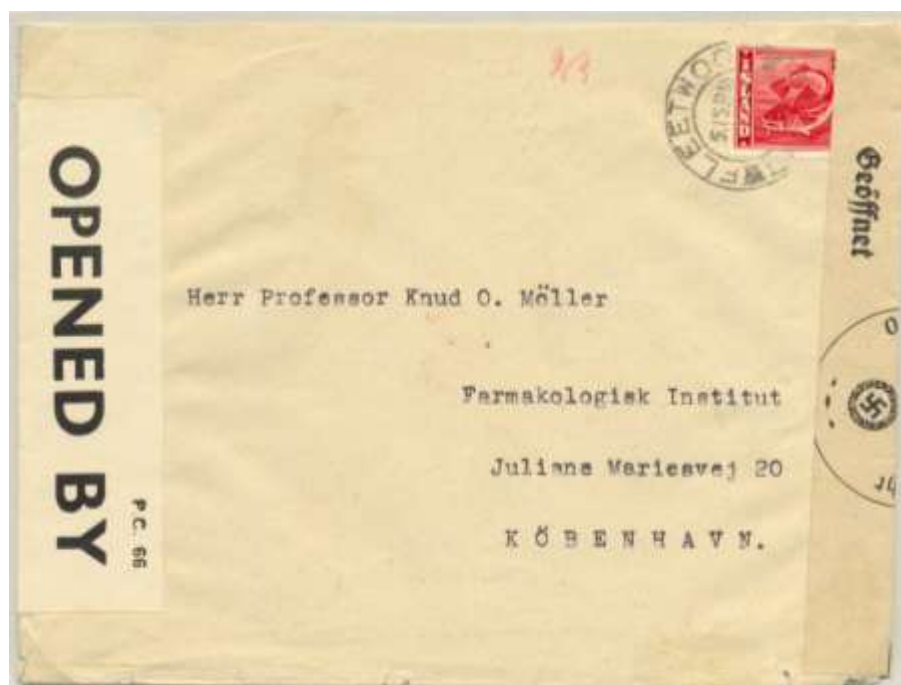
For most of the 20th century, Fleetwood was a prominent fishing port, but since the 1970's, the fishing industry has declined, and the town has had economic problems. Fleetwood is also a seaside resort, serving as a quiet contrast 10 km from Blackpool.

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.

More cancels from *Mike Schumacher*

I have two Iceland stamps with US cancels on them; one from Chicago, IL and one from Minneapolis, MN. Thanks to everyone for all the work on the newsletter. It is wonderful to see and learn so much about Iceland philately. I have been collecting Iceland for nearly 30 years and particularly enjoy cancels from locations other than Reykjavik. My maternal grandfather's side of the family emigrated from Iceland to Canada in the late 1800's. They were from Vopnafjörður.



USA



Mike's favourite
Foreign cancel

[illegible]

An attempt at humour

I am sure you are familiar in any language with some auctioneer's descriptions when trying to sell something which is rather less than perfect, e.g. "*large tear does not detract.*" etc. How then would you describe this cover? What about "*violently opened at the top with serious trauma to right hand stamp, otherwise VG*". It was offered on Ebay at a "low" start of \$8, but to be truthful, not with my pretend description.



Again to be fair, the seller of this beauty did not say “*few missing perfs o/w VG*”. (However, if it had a strike of the Eiríksstaðir crown cancel, I would give it a home anyway).



OR this one:-

Iceland - 1939 Registered cover mailed to USA. Actual description - *There should be more postage for the cover being registered but I cannot find any partial cancels to indicate missing stamps. Backstamped and wax sealed. Cover is in very good to fine condition ,* I think I would prefer it front stamped rather than back stamped, but that is just me I suppose..... No sale yet!



A dead-end question *Colin Stuart*

Þúfur is attributed by Facit to N. Ísafjörður. I have a 1962 cover (per Ebay) with B2c cancel. Investigating via google map, Þúfur is a single farmhouse in a remote dead-end valley not far from Vatnsfjörður (121), with no obvious need for a postal facility. Google shows another Þúfur near Hofsós, Skag., which appears to be a large modern establishment with large carpark etc. (invisible on older maps). Has Facit, as I suspect, mistaken the location of Þúfur?

(I thought this one will be easy to answer, but two unfruitful hours later, started to wonder if Colin might have discovered something. My earliest reference for the 1950s period is *Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar á Íslandi 1991*, and that shows Þúfur was in Reykjarfjarðarhreppur, (now Súðavíkurbhreppur) N. Ís. opening 1.1.59 and closing 31.8.73. However, the later 2011 edition changed the opening date to an imprecise “1951”. I searched through every copy of Póst-og Símatíðindi from 1947 through to 1975, confident I would find it there, but could find no reference at all to this office either opening or closing. It appeared to be shrouded in mystery. Finally, Ole produced a copy of a book I had not previously heard of, *Skrá yfir póstaðgreiðsla og Bréfhirðingar árin 1873-1973* issued by Póst- og símamálastjórninni. This confirmed the Þúfur location, but again no precise opening date, just “1951”. Does anyone have any more information about this “dead-end” place in Iceland’s remote North-West? *Editor*)

[illegible]

Puzzle corner

Clues- Sent by airmail to Herr Engelbrekkson in Sweden dated Reykjavík 11.VII.50. The other side of the cover was not available to me and I am assuming there were no more stamps there.

Question – Is this cover correctly franked or not?

My opinion will be in the next issue. (Opticians fees not refunded by the editor).



Inverted year Jarle Reiersen

Jarle shows this beautiful example of a mourning cover with the same Reykjavík machine cancel as on Ole's cover (IPM Issue 4. p.7). It shows that the year slug was not inverted nine days later.



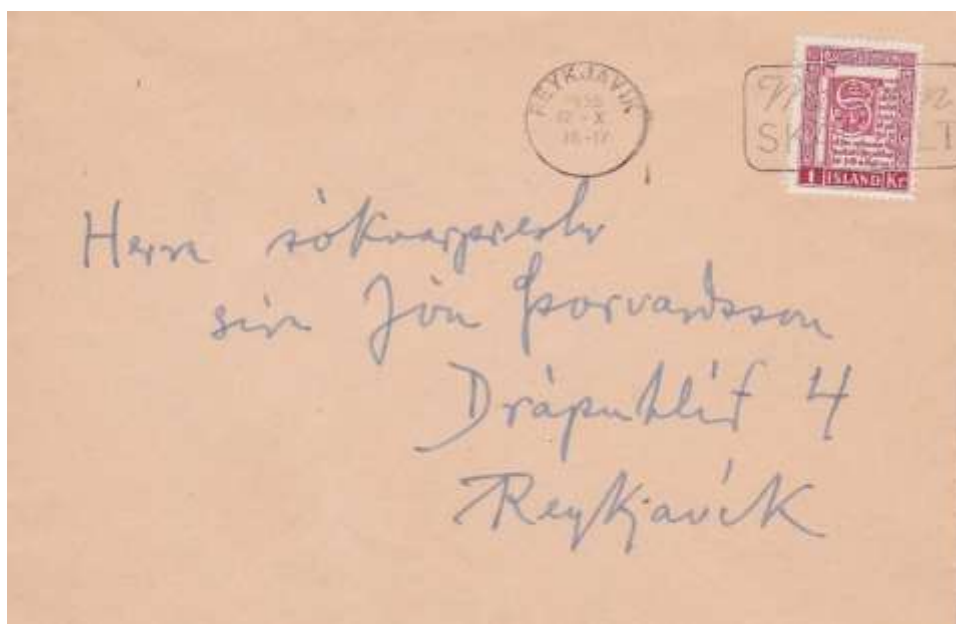
And then, again from Jarle.....

Today I got another cover with "Munum Skálholt" cancel, dated 12-X-1956.

This cancel is non-inverted as the cancel dated 30-X-1956 I sent you the other day. Just sending the scan for fun, you decide if you want to use it in the next IPM-issue.

All the best, Jarle

Thanks to Jarle, this shows the year slug was not inverted nine days earlier! Any more offers from anyone?



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 4th June 1928. Vilhjálmur's cover dated 1st June must be the intended date of the first flight. Below is a cover from the return flight from Akureyri which was cancelled on 4th and 5th June by bad weather before leaving on 6th 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.

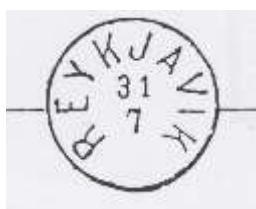
Doubtful cancels on Icelandic stamps *Indriði Pálsson and Þór Þorsteins*

(Translated from the Icelandic, reproduced by permission of the editor of Frímerkjablaðið. Originally published in issue 22/2010)

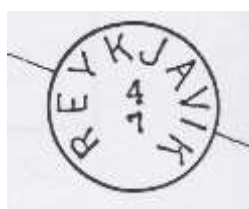
Skildingar:	Akureyri	2/6	3sk
		5/9	2sk, 3sk, 16sk large perf, 4sk.official, 8sk offic.
		19/8	2sk, 3sk, 4sk, 8sk, 16sk, 4sk official, 8sk offic.
	Grenjaðarstaður	24/11	8sk
	Hraungerði	18/8	3sk, 4sk fine perf, 8sk, 16sk large perf
	Ísafjörður	18/11	2sk, 3sk, 8sk
		20/11	3sk, 8sk, 16sk large perf
		28/11	3sk
	Miklibær	7/5	2sk, 3sk, 46k fine perf, 8sk, 16sk large perf
		5/7	16sk large perf, 4sk official
	Reykjavík	20/10	4sk fin eperf, 8sk, 16sk large perf
		29/11	4sk fine perf, 8sk, 16sk large perf
	Copenhagen	(1)	3sk, 16sk large perf
	Aurar stamps	Grenjaðarstaður	24/11
Hraungerði		7/8	10aur false cancel, more values known
		18/8	10aur false cancel, more values known
Ísafjörður		25/6	40aur green, more dates and values known
Reykjavík		26/6	Antiqua letters, Grotesque numbers, false cancel
		1/11	Same
		7/11	same
Sauðárkrókur		18/?	20aur dull violet second perf

All Icelandic skilling stamps cancelled with Reykjavík G1a and G1b are cancelled by favour.

G1a



G1b



The above details are based on recorded opinions and are not exhaustive.

[illegible]

Misspelling in REYK(J)AVIK again (Issue 4)



I do not know when the error cancel with the missing letter 'J' was first reported, but its period of use is recorded in *Íslenskir Stimplar.... Þór Þorsteins* (2003) as 13.2.1981 until 27.10.1981, a full eight months of use until it was replaced. My copy is dated 15.10.1981.

Danish or Norwegian 237?

No apologies, but no answer came forth after this was published in Scandinavian Contact in the UK, so here it is again. What follows is remarkable, no less than a 1950 example of a "3 ring 237" cancelling an Akureyri cover discovered by Eivind Kolstad which he says he "bought for fun".



Several eminent collectors have since failed to provide an explanation for this exotic item. The real Danish 237 cancel is supposed to be located in the Copenhagen Postal Museum. Wilbur Jonsson mentions that it was used at Roskilde in the late 1880s and is scarce. How it could possibly have turned up at Akureyri in Iceland in 1950 defies explanation. Wilbur pointed out that some of the Danish cancels of this type can be confused with corresponding Norwegian cancels, but the Norwegian 237 is also very rare, and again we would need to know how it found its way to Akureyri in 1950. Eivind will not be the only one interested in the answer to this curiosity.

[illegible]

Anna and Sigríður's New Year.

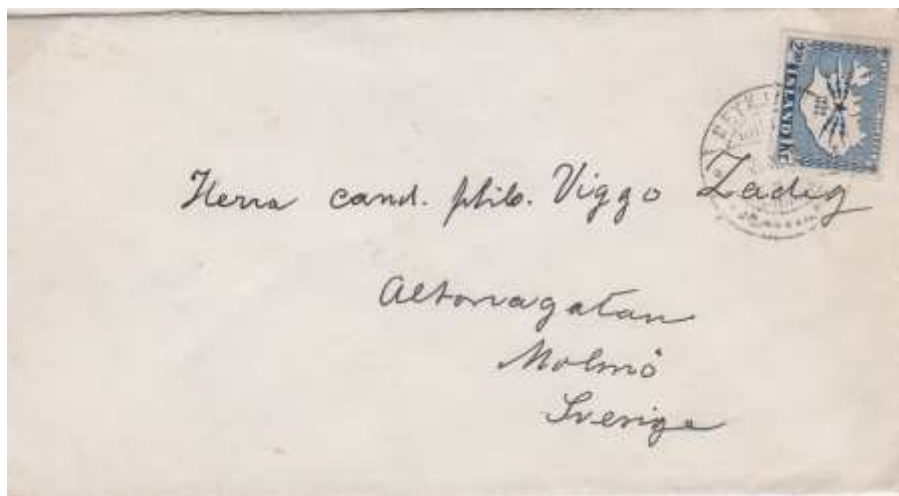


I am certain Sigriður was pleased to get New Year greetings from Anna, but did she receive it in 1928 or perhaps many years earlier? We may never know, but it is worth trying an educated guess. The stamp is a Double Head 5aur with crosses watermark issued in 1913. We know from Ólafur's article in IPM Issue 3 that this stamp was withdrawn with effect from 1. January 1922. So how is it cancelled very clearly 31.XII.28 in Reykjavík? Start with the postage rates for postcards and decide when 5aurar was applicable at New Year during the period of validity of

the stamp. Let us be generous, and say that Anna knew very well she only had to pay a 5aur local postcard rate. That means this postcard could only have been posted validly at New Year 1919 or 1920. If however she did not know of the local card rate and was deliberately paying the ordinary inland card rate, then the posting could have occurred at New Year in 1914 after that cancel was introduced, 1915, or 1916, but at no time thereafter. I think it was posted in either 1919 or more probably 1920 and the year slug was wrong. Is there a reasonable alternative? Well the postal clerk may have been “worse for wear” on New Year’s Eve 1928 and merrily accepted Anna’s card with the invalid stamp and cancelled it with a lovely strike of Reykjavík type B2c1 (R26) which I am pleased to have. What is your opinion?

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.

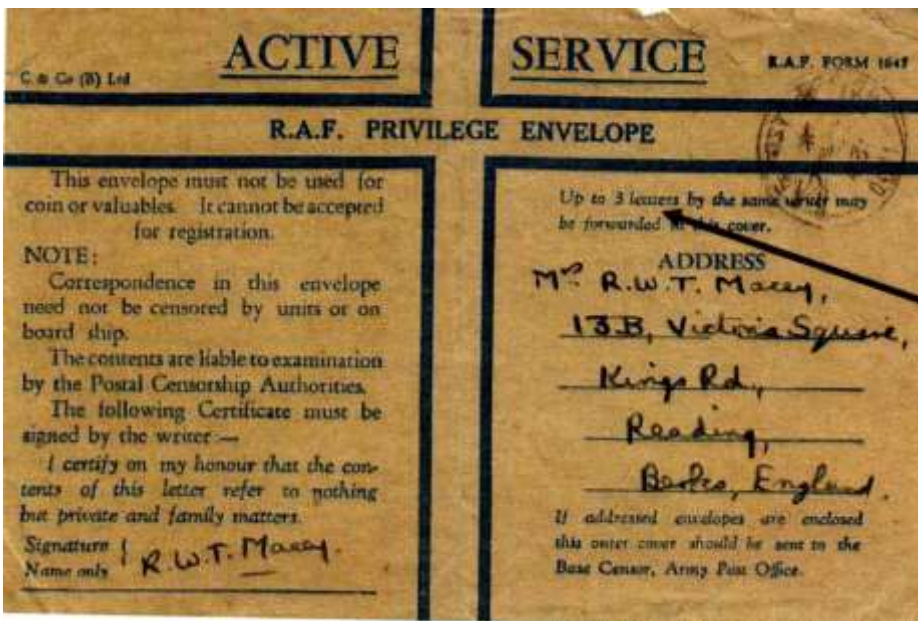


Ron Collin asked if anyone has seen a complete SNÆFJÖLL crown cancel with all letters present. I dare to say this looks like one; alas it is not mine. I have been looking for a full strike, with or without the O for years.

RAF privilege covers from Iceland Wilbur Jonsson

Previously published in Scandinavia Contact September 2012 and reproduced with their permission.

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:
Lettters

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?)

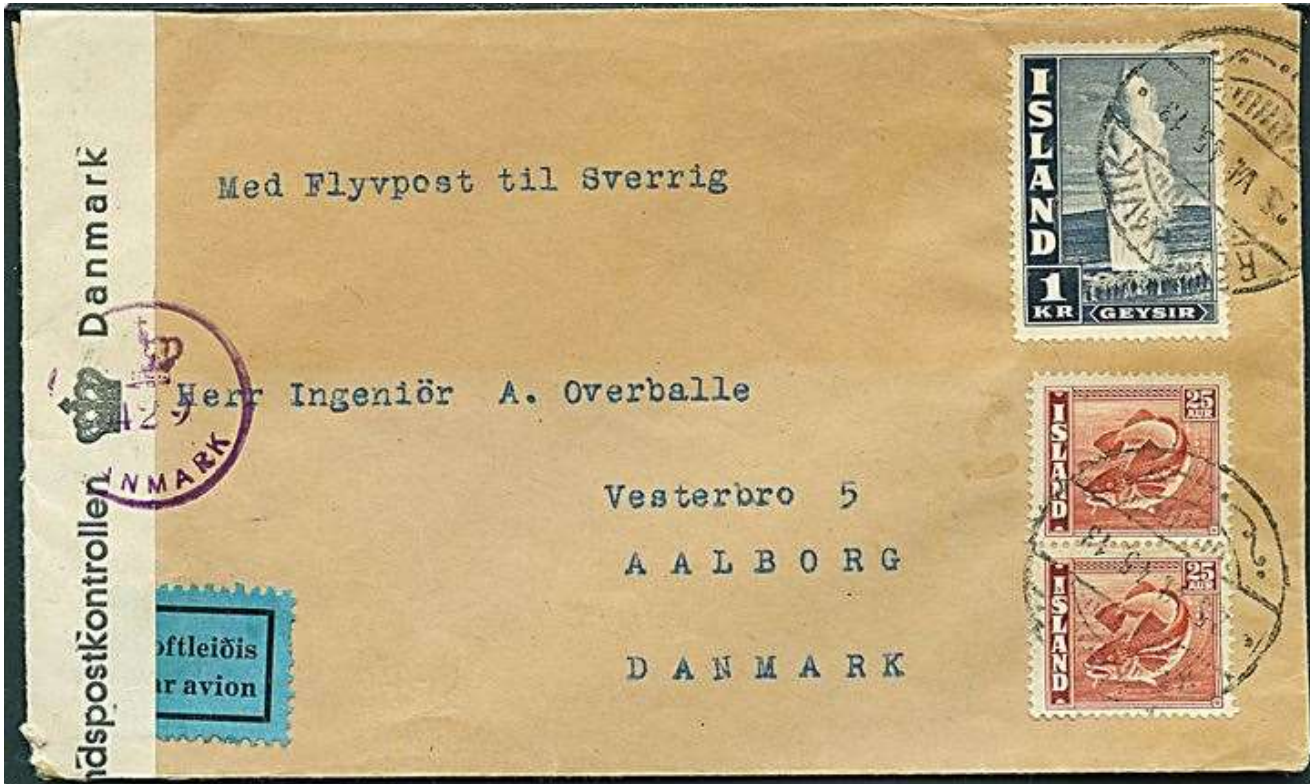
Curiosity value? on something already rare!



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.

Help required on this postal rate

Seen on Fyns Frimerke, this nice looking censored cover dated 25.VI.45 from Iceland to Denmark, via Sweden. with 150aur franking. The nearest all-in rates from 1.4.1943 to August/September 1945 were - 140aur up to 10gm (Denmark rate), and 140aur up to 20gm (Sweden rate). I have to admit that Note 4 on page 104 of the Postal Rates book could be more explicit. It assumes that the reader knows that for all the Nordic countries (Groups 2 and 3) the 60aur UPU surface rate was used to calculate the all-in rate, because all mail flights to European destinations were intended to go via GB or Portugal. However if “*med flyvpost til sverrig* “ indicates that this cover went via Sweden, then the Nordic surface rate would have been used and not the UPU rate. Unfortunately this does not help, because by applying the 50aur Nordic surface, the all-in rates for Groups 2 and 3 are reduced by 10aur and none come close to the 150aur paid on this cover. What am I missing, Ólafur?

[illegible]

Where are they?

In Issue 3 of IPM the Eiríksstaðir crown cancel was mentioned as one of the rarest crown cancels, and so it is. I have just re-read some of my old Iceland articles in the UK Scandinavia Contact magazine. In 1995 I reported that a second copy had been discovered in Sweden, and then later in 1997 the excellent Swedish *Handbok över Ísländska stämplar av taverna* confirmed that three copies are known. Can anyone show an image of an Eiríksstaðir crown cancel?

Next Issue End of April. If you have not seen your favorite subject so far, write about it and send it to the editor, who will be pleased to publish it.

If it is in Danish or Swedish or no problem !