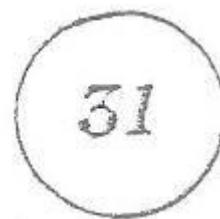


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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A Connection to the 1972 World Chess Championship!

By: Mike Schumacher

Some of you may be familiar with the wide variety of philatelic material that resulted from the 1972 World Chess Championship, which was held in Iceland between July 2, 1972 & September 3, 1972. Most of the material which originated in Iceland and ended up with one or more of Iceland's first themed chess stamp and the special event postmark that was created for the event. (If you are not familiar with this material, you can find it well documented in the book titled:



The 50th Anniversary of "The Match of the Century" A Philatelic Look that was published in July 2022 (available through the ad in the Chess Stamp Review.)



The material in this article is a bit different, in that it did not originate in Iceland and didn't end up with either the chess stamp or special event postmark. None-the-less, the items are quite unique and do have a direct connection to the 1972 World Chess Championship. The first pair of items are:

U.S. PS form 3806, from Oct. 1970 and
Registered No. 35544

U.S. POD Form 2865, June 1966

What makes them interesting is that from them it is clear that – the sender George Matichak from Trenton, NJ was sending a registered letter with “return receipt notification request” to Bobby Fischer (correct spelling – Fischer) on Aug. 7, 1972 at the World Chess Championship Match in Reykjavik, Iceland.

And it appears Mr. Matichak was successful in his attempt to send a letter to Bobby Fischer, as Form 2865 contains a postal marking indicating receipt of the letter at Hotel Loftleidir in Reykjavik, Iceland on Aug. 9, 1972. (The hotel where Bobby Fischer was staying during the event.) Additionally, from viewing the reverse side of POD Form 2865 it is apparent that Mr. Matichak's return notification was postmarked for return on Aug. 18, 1972. Return Receipt notification was sent back to Mr Matichak via Air Mail.

The second pair of items are also a:

(The reverse side of form)

U.S. PS form 3806, from Oct. 1970 and
Registered No. 35545

U.S. POD Form 2865, June 1966

REGISTERED NO. 35545

POSTMARK OF
TRENTON, NJ WEST TRENTON, NJ
AUG 7 1972

FROM
GEO. MATICHAK
36 CHELMSFORD COURT
TRENTON, N.J.

TO
MR. BORIS SPASSKY
REYKJAVIK ICELAND

WORLD CHAMPION CHESS MATCH
REYKJAVIK ICELAND

REGISTERED article, 1
Envoi recommandé
1. Parcel insured for
Colis avec valeur déclarée de \$
Mailed at the post office of
Déposé au bureau de poste de
W. TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
on 8-7, 1972, under No. 35545
Address of the addressee
MR. BORIS SPASSKY
WORLD CHAMPION CHESS MATCH
REYKJAVIK ICELAND
The undersigned declares that the article mentioned above was duly delivered
Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné ci-dessus a été dûment livré
Signature of the addressee: 7/8/72
Signature of the agent of the office of destination: J. Smieszynski
Postmark of the office of destination: TRENTON, NJ, AUG 7 1972

From these documents, it is clear that Mr. Matichak also sent a registered letter with a "Return Receipt" notification request, as well to World Chess Champion Boris Spassky at the World Champion Chess Match in Reykjavik, Iceland on Aug. 7, 1972. It appears that again Mr. Matichak was successful in having his letter delivered to Boris Spassky – at the SAGA Hotel (which is where Boris Spassky was staying during the match) by the marking on POD Form 2865. This letter was also delivered on Aug. 9, 1972.

From the reverse side of POD Form 2865 it is clear that the Return Receipt was post-marked for return in Reykjavik on Aug. 10, 1972. Again, the return receipt was sent back to Mr. Matichak via air mail. Obviously, it is unknown whether Mr. Matichak ever received any correspondence back from either Bobby Fischer or Boris Spassky, but at least Mr. Matichak was successful in sending a letter to each of them and knowing that his letters were delivered. A most unusual find and unique connection to the 1972 World Chess Championship indeed.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Administration des Postes des
Etats-Unis d'Amérique

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

RETURN RECEIPT
Avis de réception

RETURN TO:
envoyez à:
GEORGE MATICHAK
36 CHELMSFORD COURT
TRENTON, NJ 08608
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Etats-Unis d'Amérique

POSTMARK OF THE OFFICE RETURNING THE RECEIPT
TIMBRE DU BUREAU RENVOYANT L'AVIS
REYKJAVIK
AUG 10 1972

(reverse side)

Footnote: George Matichak was born August 29, 1928, in Peckville, Pennsylvania and died September 15, 1983 in Trenton, New Jersey. His parents were Harry Matichak and Kathryn (Domanish) Matichak. He also had a brother William and a sister Barbara (Matichak) Shekita. The items highlighted in this article were obtained from Mr. J. Shekita.

A Call to Reunite the Gaulverjabær Cover *Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson*

Philately often feels like puzzle solving. The Gaulverjabær cinema cover presents precisely such a challenge. When one looks at this cover it becomes apparent that it appears to lack a stamp and a numeral cancel below the address. In such cases a comprehensive database with more than ten thousand numeral cancellations comes in handy. The database was built and published in the book “Icelandic numeral cancels 1903-1960” which was issued in 2016. Numeral cancel 188 was located at Gaulverjabær between 1923 and 1948 according to Þór Þorsteins “Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar” from 2011 and should have been at Gaulverjabær in 1938. Only one cancel in the database fits the bill and that cancel lies on a Dynjandi stamp issued in 1935. When this cancel is digitally positioned where the missing stamp would have been, the fit proves remarkably precise. The alignment and spacing suggest this identification is correct which solves the puzzle. The stamp and the numeral cancel 188 may have been added at the Gaulverjabær post station and sent back to Peter Petersen in Reykjavík because the cover already had enough postage for a registered letter in 1938 or 53 aur. It would be an event if the owners of these two items came together and combined these two items into one in a once-in-a-lifetime ceremony maybe at the next 2026 NORDIA in Finland.



Image 1. The original Gaulverjabær cover with a remnant of a numeral cancel strike below the address.



Image 2. The reproduced Gaulverjabær cover containing the numeral cancel 188 lying on Dynjandi issued in 1935.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Interesting domestic ship mail cover (Issue 72)

Thanks to Lucas Mertens who spotted an error I missed which described the cancellation on the stamp as Seyðisfjörður on December 6th 1912 instead of Stykkishólmur.

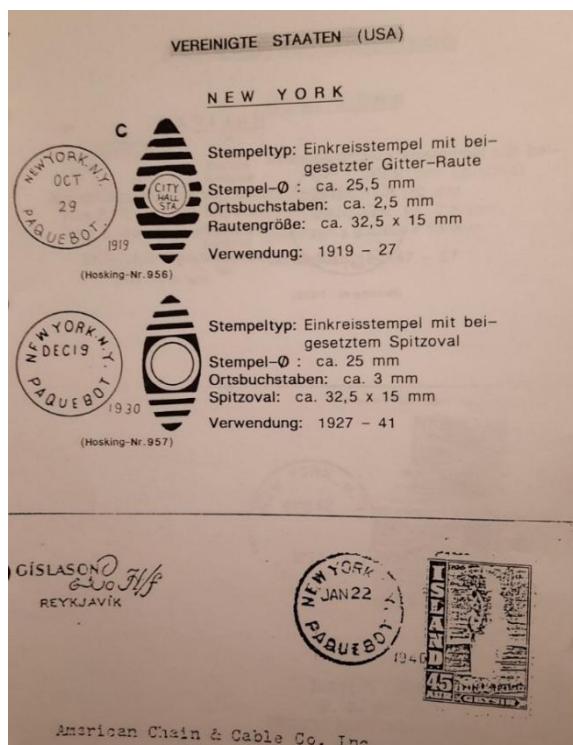
NEW YORK. N. Y. PAQUEBOT

Illustrated in Frímerkjasalan in January by Sigurður Haraldsson



The example shown by Sigurður is the 1930 type Hosking 957.

I do not remember seeing other examples on Iceland stamps. Can readers provide any?



XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

A nice charitable cover- but a little short on postage

9kr strip of 5 plus 7kr. Arctic Tern Charity issue.

Cancelled B8e Vestmannæyjar 26.IV.1974 to South West Africa,

Windhoek and Swakopmund receiving marks.

24kr airmail rate up to 5gm from 1.4.74 to 31.12.74 plus 30kr registration.

The 52 kr franking is 2kr short



Hard to get Í GILDI overprints Olli Thorsson

I have been collecting Í *GILDI* overprints for many years, focusing on both overprint varieties and the different printings of the stamps on which they were applied. In the *Facit Catalogue*, four different printings are listed for the 6 aurar grey, fine perforation ($14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$), catalogued as Facit 46a through Facit 46d.

To the best of my knowledge, only a single example of Facit 46a is known on cover. The majority of the fine-perforation 6 aurar stamps belong to either Facit 46c or Facit 46d. I have only encountered one example of Facit 46b (1882), which leads me to ask: are there more of these in existence?

Facit 46b is easily identified by its very thin paper. When viewed from the back, the thinness of the paper is immediately apparent, as shown in the image to the lower right. If this stamp is indeed as rare as I believe, then in my opinion it should be valued significantly higher in the *Facit Catalogue*.

6 aurar 1883 printing.
Setting IV position 20.
The sheet position is
seventh vertical row.



The thin paper is
obvious

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The sheet collection of the National Archive Olli Thorsson

I have been in good contact with the National Archives of Iceland for many years. The NAI houses the sheet collection from the Icelandic Postal Service, the famous Hans Hals collection along with many different covers from the 19th century. They have now completed scans of all full and partial sheets from the Skilding stamps up to the year 1960.

I had previously heard of overprint varieties in the Hóþflug Ítala, but no one seems to know the position of them within the sheet. I examined full sheets of 1kr, 5kr and 10kr, specifically and checked for the missing „Comma“ over „Í“ in Ítala. This variety appears in the same position (position 57) on all of them. On some sheets, however, a small part of the comma can still be seen. This variation is illustrated to the right on a 10 kr Christian X Stamp. I carefully examined three different sheets of this overprint and position 57 was the only position where I could find this variation.



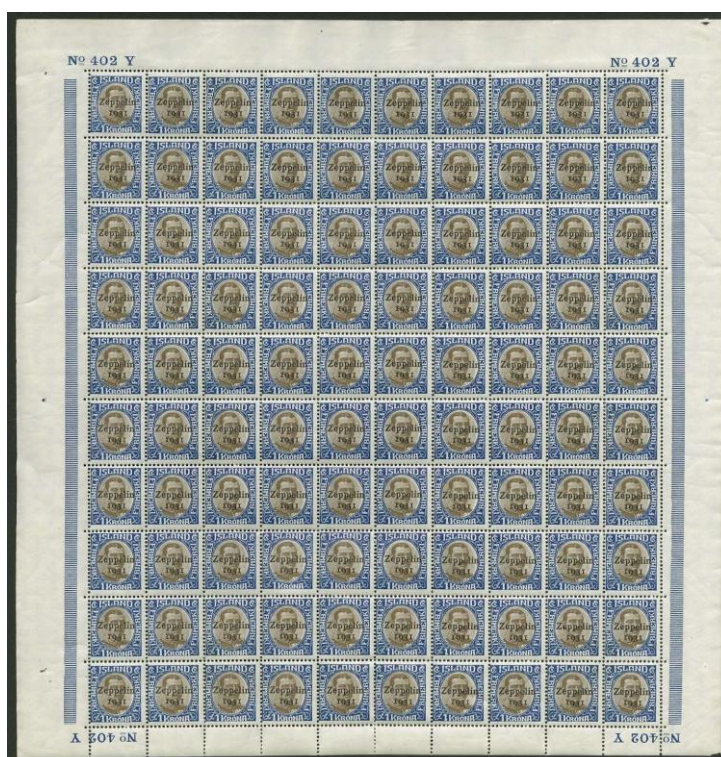
There is one other variation in this overprint that I am aware of, and it is open upper part of „P“ as shown in the image to the right. I checked all the different sheets I had access to and it was in position 72 of them all.

If anyone knows of additional variations of this overprint, then I would be happy to check the position of them. There are plans to make all the sheets publicly accessible in the near future.

Die and Cliché making process. *Ron Collin*

This article concerns only one of the three different sheets of stamps that were requested of H. H. Thiele. The Job Ticket Number was 402 Y, and created sheets of Facit #124, Facit #126 and Facit #142 (some of which were subsequently overprinted to also become Facit #163. All "four" of the resulting stamps have the Marginal Corner Numbers in each of the 4 corners of the sheets. I do not have a lot of knowledge about the process of making dies and the clichés for printing the Christian X stamps. I am aware of the "spur" on the 1 of the 1 Krona stamp, both the Regular issue and the overprinted Airmail issue. I realize that an "error" can show up on a sheet, even perhaps a few times on the sheet.

You will notice from the images shown from the upper portion of a full sheet of the H. H. Thiele 402 Y job ticket printing, and also the bottom portion of the sheet, that the "spur" version shows up on every stamp that populates the 7th vertical column of the sheet.



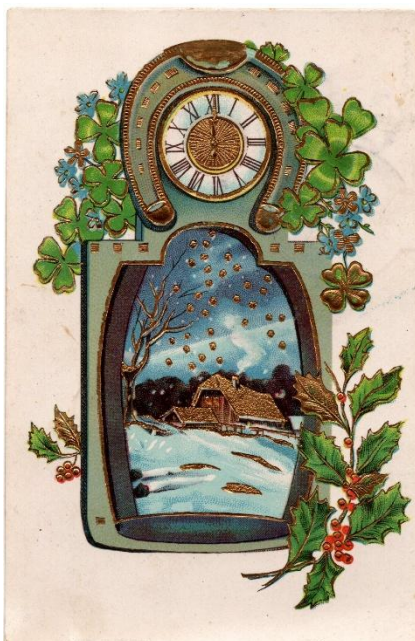


Perhaps one of the IPM readers that happens to be very familiar with the way dies and cliches are made, could enlighten me and the readership on the process. Is it the way the cliches are created or the way the plate is constructed that causes this position consistency? What prompted a change in the way they were created?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

New year greetings from Mike Schumacher

Just thought I would share a Happy New Year wish to you and IPM readers. Illustrated below is a New Year's Postcard (front and back) from 1.1.1913. The postcard was made in Germany, but used in Iceland. The very best to all in 2026!



A follow up to the article by Jonas Persson, “Postal Stationaries of Iceland Part 1” from IPM # 72 “Single Postcards (Brjefspjald) 1879-1932” Mike Schumacher

5 aur type Iceland Stationary cards description beginning on page 22, Jonas presents the first type (figure on page 23 IPM # 72) 5 aur numeral card, thus I will refer to it as a type 1 card. Figure 1 below from my collection – appears to match the description of Jonas’ type 1 card.

Figure 2 below also from my collection appears to be a different type than any of the three in his article – note no initials in the lower left corner of the cachet design and no line under the word BRJEFSPJALD as indicated by the blue arrows. Would this be a type two card, or just a card not mentioned in Part 1 of the article and will appear in Part 2? Note that the corners of the type 2 card are also more rounded than the type 1 card, which are more squared.

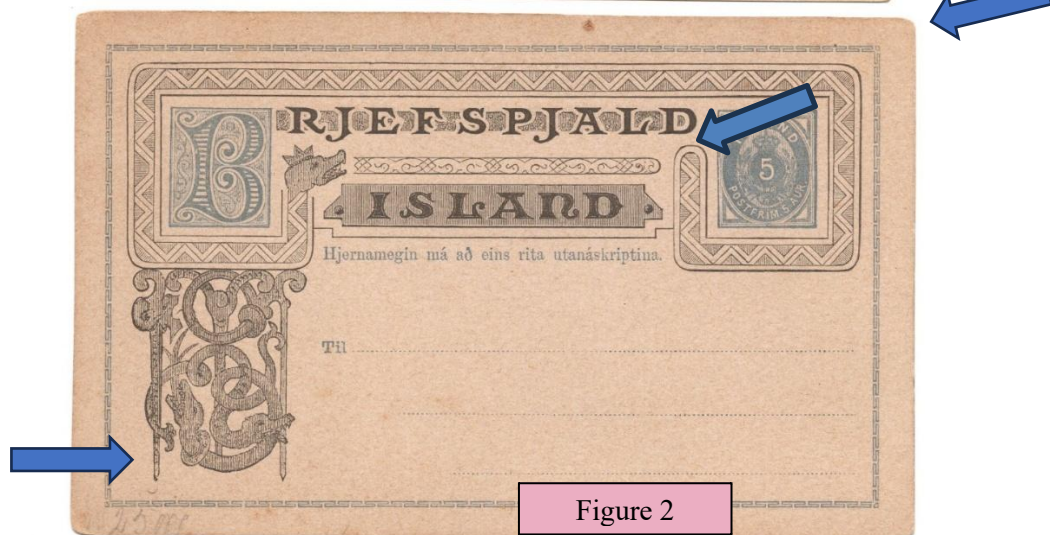
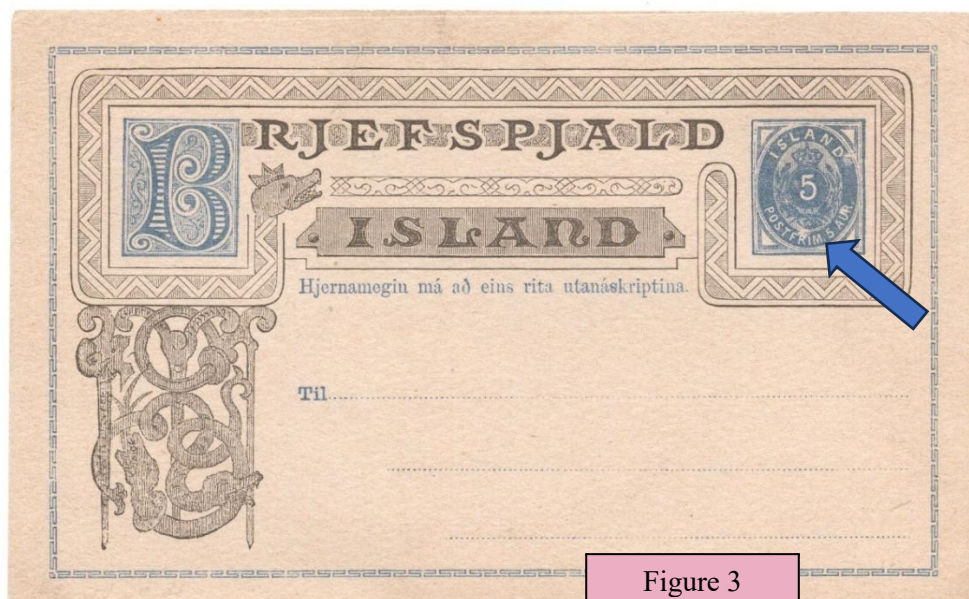


Figure 3 shown below appears to be a type 2 variety in that it has a white spot area under the value-stamp “5” on the postfrim area.



Although, I wonder if this card is again different than type 2 in that the corners of the card are more squared like the type 1 card. Maybe something Jonas or IPM readers can clarify.

From Jay Smith: -

In the article by Jonas Persson, ... there seems to be no mention of Halfdan Helgason's 2019 book "Islenskur Heilpostur" [English title: Icelandic Postal Stationery]. I suspect this lack of mention is because Jonas probably did not know about Halfdan's catalog/handbook back then (*) and perhaps still not today. The two publications seem to have at least some similar information and illustrations. Some of the illustrations sought by Jonas may be in Halfdan's book.

I think it might assist the readers of IPM to know that there exists such a catalog. As far as I know, it is sold out / out of print. My notes indicate that Hálfdan told me that only 100 books were produced and that I bought the last examples a few years ago. I have only 4 copies remaining in stock. If anyone is interested, I have it listed here:

<https://www.jaysmith.com/Literature/lit070-ice.html>

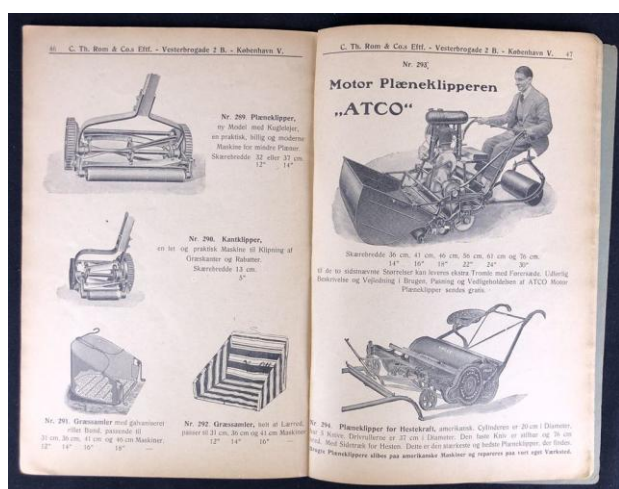
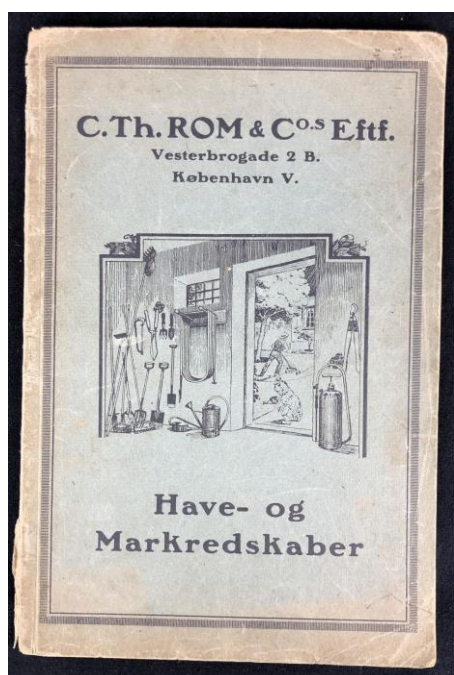
- Editor: reference Jay's comment, Jonas informed me that he had seen a note on Halfdan's book a few years ago but did not have time to follow it up.

The Mystery of "C. Th. Rom & C^os Eftf." Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson

Since completing the numeral cancel book in 2016, one question has puzzled me: what did "C. Th. Rom & C^os Eftf." actually do? The name of this firm appears repeatedly on Icelandic numeral cancel covers and I did not get any clear answers from my Danish colleagues about what this address represented.

The answer emerged unexpectedly while browsing the Danish stamp auction house Fyns Frimærke Service. They offered a catalog for 100 Danish kroner that finally solved the puzzle: C. Th. Rom & C^os Eftf." sold "Have- og Markredskaber" which translates to „Garden and Field Tools”. You can see tools on the pictures accompanying this article.

The agricultural sector in Iceland clearly relied on imported Danish equipment during this period, explaining the substantial postal traffic between Icelandic merchants and this Copenhagen firm.



Icelandic bridge cancels from Sigurður Þormar collection - Part 2

In this issue we continue with a translation of Sigurður's article from ÍslandsKontakt written by Jørgen Steen Larsen, showing bridge cancels from B1a Kirkjubær to B1e Hoffell

B1a Kirkjubær on registered letter from 25.6.50.

The bridge cancel replaced the rare N1a-35 in the summer of 1930. The letter is transit cancelled B1a Bót 12.10.5?. Kirkjubær and Bót were neighbouring collecting offices. JSL had a use on a letter stamped 3?.12.30 as well as a B1ó P letter stamped 31/3/38. According to Þór Þorsteins the B1a Kirkjubær is known used only until 1950, despite the letter collection office being open until 1965. Reason anyone?



B1a Mýrar 20aur Museum dated ?7.7.30.

Letter collection office Mýrar in Vestur-Ísafjarðarsýsla was only open until 31/12/1930. The bridge cancel can only be found used in the period from summer 1930 to the end of 1930. Sigurður asked me at the time whether I had ever seen this stamp, which he thought was the only one that existed. My answer was no. I would like to encourage others who may have the cancel to contact the editor.

B1a Mosfell on money letter from 10.11.31. The letter is transit backstamped Reykjavík 14/11/31. The numeral N1a – 6 was used from 1903 to 1948, but also the office received the bridge cancel in the summer of 1930, it seems that both cancels were used in combination.



B1a Mælifell 20 aur on Museum stamp 20.3.31. Letter collecting office in Mælifell moved locally on 01/01/1930 to the farm at Starrastaðir. When they ordered a new bridge cancel in early summer 1930, they must have forgotten this move. The error was corrected by ordering a new B2a cancel with the inscription Starrastaðir. B1a Mælifell is very rare - I have never seen other copies. I would like to encourage others who may have the cancel to contact the editor.



B1a Seljaland on a letter from 27.11.31. The bridge cancel was delivered in the summer of 1930 to replace N1a-18. The stamp was used until 1973 and therefore is not rare, but early applications - as shown here - are unusual.



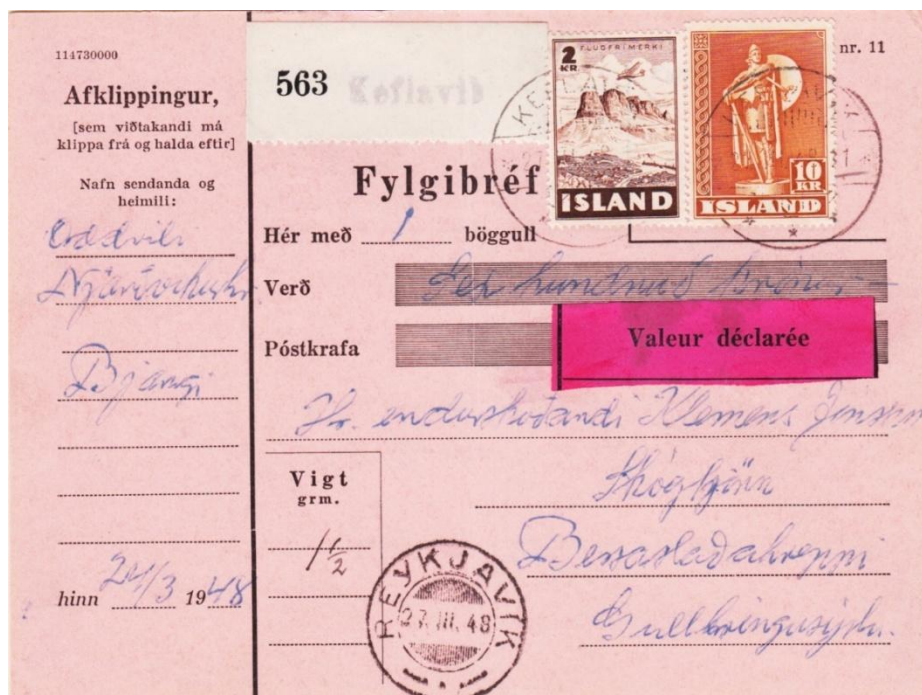
B1a Sævarland dated 21/1/32 on 20 aur Museum and on a 21/1/32 clip with 3 * 15 + 50 aur Chr X from 10.2.35. Collecting office Sævarland was moved locally on 1.10.1934 to Hvammur farm, and on 01/10/1935 was moved again this time to the farm at Skiðastaðir. Application periods for B1a Sævarland are rare both in Sævarland and in Hvammur. JSL had the bridge cancel used 30/01/34 in Sævarland and 12/01/35 and 22/03/35 in Hvammur. JSL reported he had not seen B1a Sævarland used in Skiðastaðir, B5a Skiðastaðir was delivered in the spring 1938.



B1a Sæból used 11.12.64.

Here is a clip with B1a Sæból applied from Sæból in Vestur-Ísafjarðarsýsla. The date is the same as on a few other uses of Facit 401, 5.50 kr. Europe III. Perhaps the clipping comes from a letter with which the other copies were returned to Sigurður.

B1d Keflavík on parcel card dated 27.III.48, with a 10 kr. stamp which is unfortunately damaged - but is still unusual.



B1e Hoffell on 2 * 25 aur Republic 18.III.45 and on a clip with 50 aur Fish 25.III.1946.

Collecting office Hoffell opened 01/01/1941. Initially it apparently used only N2-289.

According to Þór Þorstein the bridge cancel was delivered in 1941, but is known only used in the period 1945-1946. The period can be extended, since I have it used on 17.XI.1943.

Stóri Kambur



The collecting office at the Stóri Kambur farm had only a brief history from 15th May 1957 to 30th June 1964. In the parish of Breiðavíkurhreppur, it is located near Breiðavík bay about halfway between Búðir and Arnarstapi, and in modern times provided tourist accommodation, and horse riding. The name Stóri Kambur means “Larger Peak”. It possessed only one postmark, a type B8e.



Type B8e dated 10.VII.1962. 3kr50 inland rate valid 1.9.61 to 31.12.62

The Discovery of an Exceptional Postcard

By Þór Þorsteins. Previously published in Frímerkjablaðið Nr. 17 of 2008. Translated from the Icelandic

When old collections of postcards after long years of storage come on the market, whether with or without stamps, there are sometimes uncovered hidden gems.



This happened with a postcard collection, with fancy glossy pictures, when sold in Copenhagen recently. Nothing exceptional was noted about the cards, though many of the pictures were beautiful. But when the reverse side was observed, on one of them an unique cancel was found. The postcard showed typical Christmas and New Year wishes and it was mailed on 24th December 1935. On it is a 35 aur Matthías Jochumsson stamp cancelled with the numeral 239. The postage at that time was 20 aur for a card so it was overpaid by 15 aur, but what is special about the item is the numeral.



The numeral cancel 239 was used at the letter collecting office at Drumboddsstaðir, Biskupstungna district in Árnessýsla in the years 1930 – end of 1933, but on 1st January 1934 the collecting office was moved to Gýgjarhóll in the same district. The new office received both the numeral cancel and a bridge type B2a with the name Drumboddsstaðir. It is reasonable to consider that the new postman (at Gýgjarhóll) found it wrong to use a bridge cancel with an incorrect name, and he therefore used the numeral instead. If either of these cancels (numeral or bridge) are found on an undamaged postal item it must be considered exceptional, as little outgoing mail was probably carried from this place. This numeral is unknown so far on a cover, and will without doubt decorate a good numeral collection in the future. The card is offered for sale by the stamp dealer Reynir Sverrisson, and is expected to reach the highest price paid for such an item.

There is more to this story, certainly if you glance a little at the writing; one can see that he dips at least 6 times into the inkpot. It brings to mind being at school with a steel nib, pen handle and the inkwell in the desk. I think that the fountain pen had not been invented in 1912, not even in America perhaps. Oh! that gave me a trip back through time. (Editor:- Ole goes on at length about the history of the fountain pen, which I am not bothering to reproduce here! Sometimes you need to translate an article before you realize there is not that much interest in it. This may be one!)

Ólafur continues. "But it was the addressee's name which got my attention, Hr. Skrautritari Samúel Eggertsson. (Skrautritari means Calligrapher).

Samúel Eggertsson was born in 1864 and was naturally talented with pencil, and indian ink. He drew among other things, Icelandic postcards, cards with maps of areas with houses close together (town maps?). In the years 1911 -1941 he drew and had printed 20 postcards, which mainly showed Iceland's history or landscape. His cards came out in more than 30 printings and totalled more than 200,000. For quite a few years reprints of his cards have been issued. It is really here that my interest lies. I collect these postcards and I lack one third of them! Kind regards, Ólafur."

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Interesting 1945 COD letter



Inland letter to 20gm from 15.11.42 – 30.9.47 50 aur

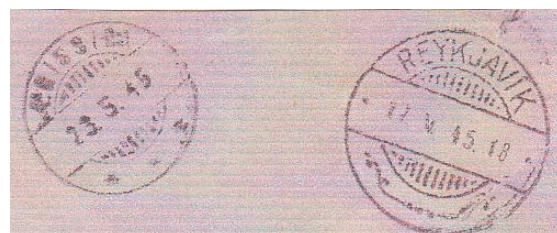
Registration 60 aur

3210kr COD up to 100kr 150 aur

30 aur for each additional 100kr (30 x 32) 960 aur

Total 1220 aur

Akureyri B1a dated 17.5.45, Reykjavík transit cancel 17.V.45, Ægissíða B1a receiving cancel 23.5.45.



Postal Stationeries of Iceland Part 2

Single Postcards (Brjefspjald) 1879-1932 *Jonas Persson*

The response to part one was encouraging, This second part covers Facit 3 to Facit 6. Readers are invited to contact Jonas on jonas.persson@physics.org if they wish to share any information or images.

Postal Stationary – Single Postcard		
1902-03	I GILDI '02-'03	10 aur
Overprint, I GILDI '02-'03, on 10 aur carmine (Facit No 3)		
	Wm:	
Grey carton, rough		
FACIT: 10	Ringström: 18,19,20	Schiller: 10
		
Three types: Overprint on card no		
:		
A: Type I: 3A,3B,3C		
Varieties		

a) Overprint with colon before “02-’03”		
b) Inverted overprint in ornament.		
B: Type II: unknown		
C: Type III: 3A,3C		

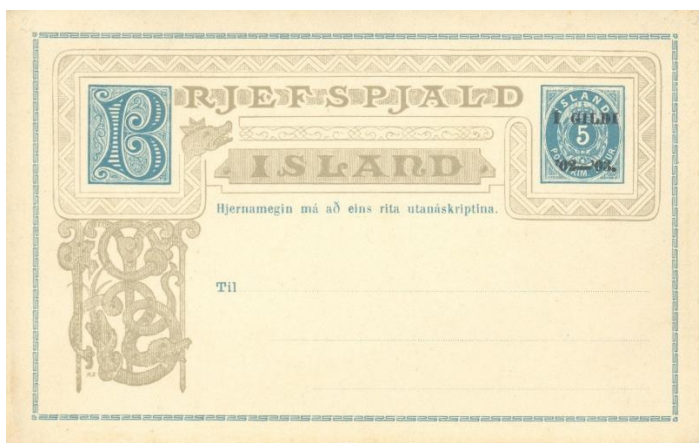
Postal Stationary – Single Postcard		
1902-03	I GILDI ’02-’03	5 aur
Overprint, I GILDI ’02-’03, on 5 aur blue (Facit No 4)		
	Wm:	
Grey carton, glazed		
FACIT: 11	Ringström: 21	Schiller: 11
		
Three types: Overprint on card no:		
A: Type I: 4B		

B: Type II: 4A,4B		
Varieties		
a) Overprint without hyphen		
C: Type III: 4A,4B		

Postal Stationary – Single Postcard		
1902-03	I GILDI '02-'03	5 aur
Overprint, I GILDI '02-'03, on 5 aur blue (Facit No 5)		
	Wm:	
Grey carton, glazed		
FACIT: 12	Ringström: 23	Schiller: 12
Three types:		
A: Type I:		
Varieties		
a) Inverted overprint in ornament.		
B: Type II:		
Varieties		
a) Overprint without hyphen between and period after “’03”		

b) Overprint with offset		
C: Type III: 1 known		

Postal Stationary – Single Postcard		
1902-03	I GILDI '02-'03	5 aur
Overprint, I GILDI '02-'03, on 5 aur blue (Facit No 6)		
	Wm:	
Grey carton, glazed		
FACIT: 13	Ringström: 24,25	Schiller: 13



Four types:		
A: Type I:		
Varieties		

a) Overprint with colon before “02-03”		
b) Overprint without period after “03”		
c) Inverted overprint in ornament.		
B: Type II:		
Varieties		
a) Overprint without hyphen between and period after “03”		
b) Inverted overprint in ornament.		
c) Overprint with offset		
C: Type III:		

: Type IV
(Reprint):



To be continued:-

