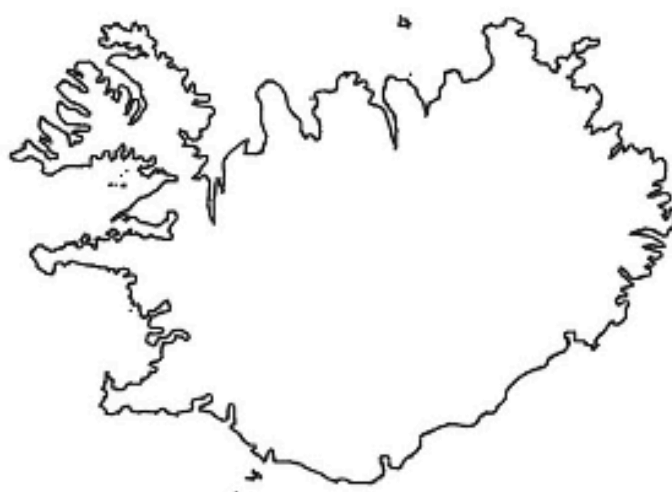


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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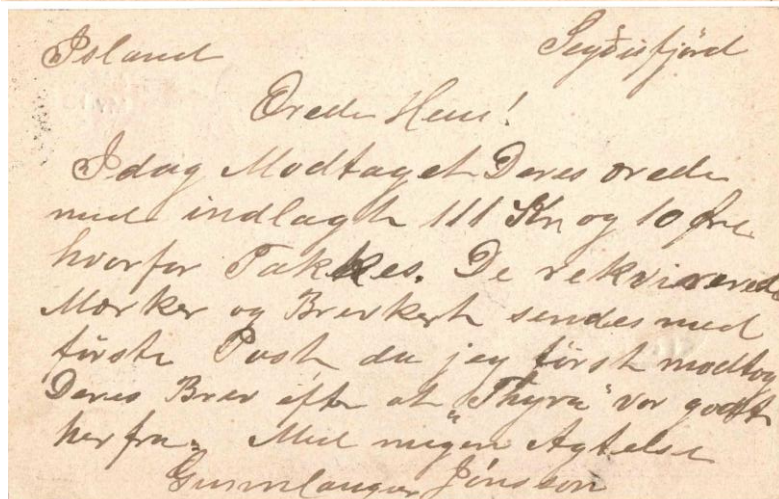
1895 - From Gunnlaugur Jónsson in Seyðisfjörður to the stamp dealer N. S. Nedergaard in Skive.¹ Jakob Arrevad

02 05 1895

A Brjefspjald written at Seyðisfjörður and cancelled 2.5.1895 with Danish text:

“Ærede herr! I dag har jeg modtaget Deres ordre med indlagt 111 kr. og 10 øre hvorfor takkes, De rekvirerede mærker og Brevkort sendes med første Post, da jeg først modtog Deres Brev efter at ”Thyra” var gået herfra². Med megen Agtelse. Gunnlaugur Jónsson”.

Translated: ("Honorable sir! Today I received your order with 111 kr. and 10 øre, thanks, the required stamps and postcards will be sent with the first post, as I first received your letter after "Thyra" had left here. With great respect. Gunnlaugur Jónsson").



The stamp dealer N. S. Nedergaard who apparently bought stamps and cards, received the card in Skive, Jutland Denmark on the 20.5.1895 after a transit cancellation in Middlesbrough MY 18. 95.

The trip:

Seyðisfjörður to Middlesbrough 16 days. Middlesbrough to Skive 2 days. Total transport time 18 days.

¹ An addition to IslandsKontakt Special # 42 – and with assistance as mentioned there.

² THYRA was in Seyðisfjörður 2 May 1895 – left the same day but shortly after turns around and went south.

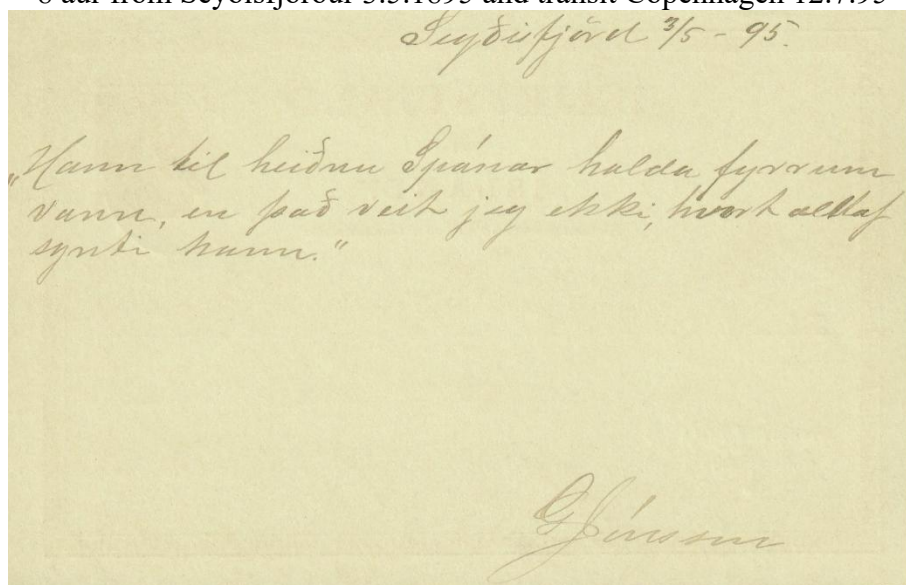
03 05 1895

The transport time and the route can be compared with the following 8 aur Brjefspjald from the day after, 3.5.1895, sent from the same "G. Jónsson"³ and again to Nedergaard.

It went transit Copenhagen, and when only 8 aur was paid, it was meant to be transported in a closed post pack directly from Iceland to Copenhagen⁴ – so it does not and should not have a Middlesbrough transit postmark, but it is interesting compared with the other correspondence. How and why?



8 aur from Seyðisfjörður 3.5.1895 and transit Copenhagen 12.7.95



The text doesn't give any hints to understanding:

"He used to sail to pagan Spain, but I don't know if he ever swam."⁵

From Seyðisfjörður to Copenhagen and Skive 70 days?

³ Compare the characteristic handwriting.

⁴ The 8 or 10 aur rate and the delivery time is described by Ebbe Eldrup in IPM # 25 (2018) page 13f. for the year 1903 for two Brjefspjald per the handwriting also sent from Gunnlaugur Jónsson and addressed to stamp dealer Nedergaard – but in 1903 from Reykjavík.

⁵ According to AI: "Based on common trivia, this phrase often refers to Albert Einstein."

Due to the franking it is likely to be presumed, that the card did have to be included in the closed post pack in Reykjavik before leaving Iceland but that does not explain the time used. Probably it wasn't sent until later.

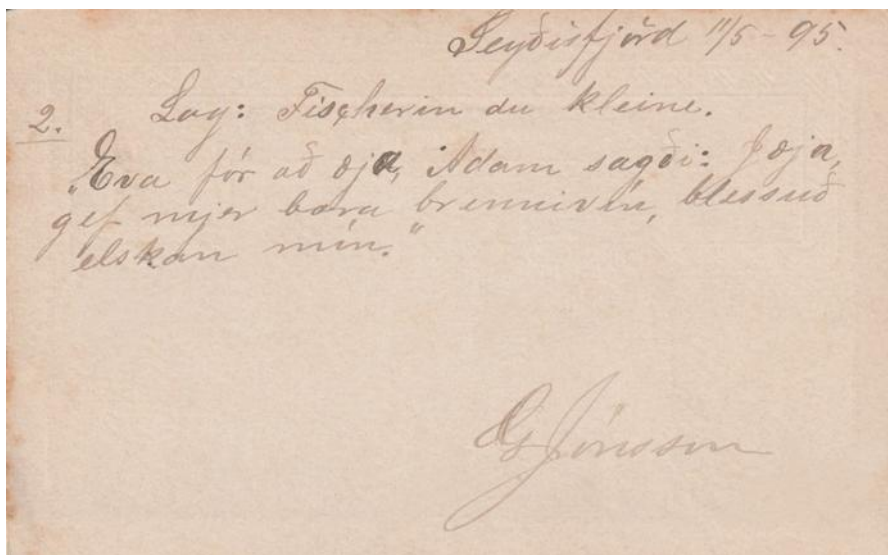
A similar Brjefspjald from 03 05 1895 was also received in Copenhagen 12 07 1895 (and the same applies for the following with the date 11 05 1895 and 19 05. 1895!)



11 05 1895

Shortly after, the following card also from Gunnlaugur Jónsson to stamp dealer Nedergaard





It was written 11th May 1895 and transit Copenhagen 12.07 and presumably arrived in Skive on the same day or the next. An additional franking is missing.

It starts with “2.” so we are looking for nr. 1!

The text contains the German words: “Fischerin du kleine” (= fisherwoman you little one).

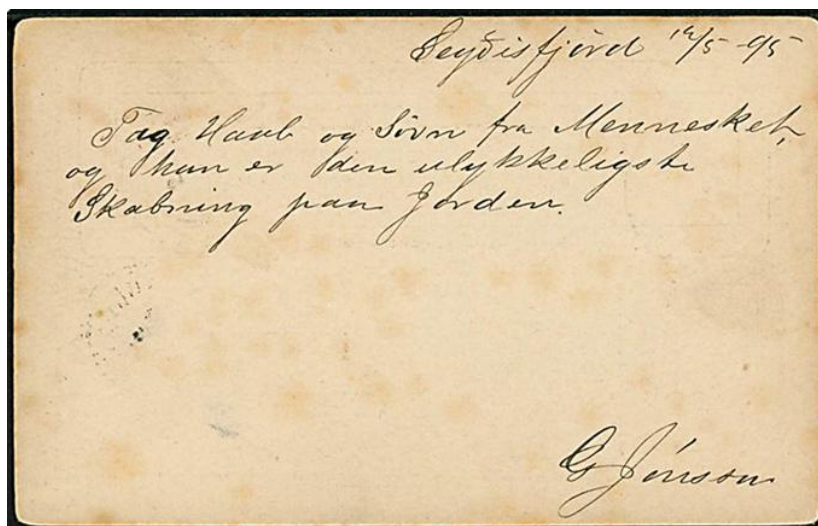
This is the first line of the chorus of the German folksong “War einst ein kleines Fischermädchen” (= There was once a little fisher girl). The song was published 10 years before (around 1885) by composer Ludolf Waldmann.

The rest of the text is app: “Eve started to cry, Adam said: cry, just give me some brennivín⁶ my blessed love. Gunnlaugur Jónsson“

19.05.1895



⁶ The word “brennivín” is not translated to snaps or brandy – as the card is from Iceland!



5 aur Brjefspjald with additional 6 aur gray – one too much - cancelled Seyðisfjörður 3.6.(1895) via Copenhagen 12.7.1895 to Nedergaard in Skive. British PAQUEBOT from Hull⁷.

Ísafold (22.06.1895) – “The steamer Cimbria, Capt. Bagger, arrived here on the evening of the 19th from Hull and took on board 36,000 pounds of halibut from the icehouse, for export in ice; bound for Onundarfjordur and thence straight to England. The halibut that was shipped here on the ship's previous voyage, about 7,000 pounds, had not sold well, and it appeared that the buyers were quite unaccustomed to such a product, and preferred to keep it in ice, — whatever there was in it.” “Cimbria” might be the carrier.

Written in Seyðisfjörð 19.05.1895 by Gunnlaugur Jónsson and now with a text in Danish:
 „Tag Haab og Sovn fra Mennesket og han er den ulykkeligste Skabning paa Jorden“
 "Take hope and sleep from man and he is the most unhappy creature on earth" ⁸

22 06 1895 ⁹



⁷ It is a year earlier than registered before. Robertson (“P.1”) 1899-1956 “Black. Exceptional life, probably renewed, but Schilling 1896-1970 and “Hosking 4th” have two almost identical versions # 99 1896-1970 and # 102 1971-76. IslandsKontakt Special # 30 v.2 does not mention PAQUEBOT only with letters. It will be corrected.

⁸ The quote is from the famous German philosopher Immanuel Kant.

⁹ the year is until now uncertain

Again 5 aur brjefspjald to Nedergaard in Skive Denmark sent from Gunnlaugur Jónsson – text unknown. Cancelled Seyðisfjörður 22.6. The 5 aur is not cancelled until arrival in Skive 3.7. If from 1895 it is sent after 11 May and other from May – but arrive before?? Transport time 11 days.

08 09 1895 ¹⁰

I end this short story with a 10 aur double Brjefspjald from Seyðisfjörður cancelled 08 09 1895. Again from Gunnlaugur Jónsson with the characteristic handwriting to Nedergaard.



Seyðisfjörður 8.9 95 – no transit - Skive 20.9.95 and a 12-day trip.¹¹

I have found no information about Gunnlaugur Jonsson's activities with stamps in 1895, but I have found an advertisement in Bjarki - 29. April 1897:

“Enn þá kaupir Gunnlaugur Jónsson a Seyðisfirði, alskonir brúkuð íslensk frimerki” and 17. July 1897 in the same newspaper:



Gunnlaugur Jónsson in Seyðisfjörður gives used Icelandic shilling stamps from 50 aur.—6 kr. á piece, and for 5 aur. blue 1.50, 20 ounces purple 1.20, 40 ounces green 2 ISK. the piece and all other types of used Icelandic stamps and he buys postcards for the highest price.

¹⁰ It might be 3!

¹¹ The text is until now unknown.

Bréfapóststofa (Post office for letters) *Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson*

In July 2022 an item was sold at www.safnari.is with a peculiar cancellation which read “Bréfapóststofa”. The description read “not known to us” which was a surprise. The cancel was on 7 aur Christian X issued in 1933.

I did not give this item much further thought after the auction, until I saw a much better version of it at the Postiljonen 2026 spring auction. That cancel originated from the collection of the late Ólafur N. Elíasson. The cancel lies on a 20 aur Gullfoss issued in 1931. This cancel prompted me to search for this name “Bréfapóststofa”. I found one mention of Bréfapóststofa in *Nýja Daglaðið* from 14 September 1935. In that column is an advertisement about the opening hours of museums and offices. The post office in Reykjavík was at the time apparently divided into two a) Bréfapóststofa (post office for letters) and b) Bögglapóststofa (post office for parcels).

Ólafur Elíasson writes below his cancel that it is a cancel for sealing letters (innsiglisstimpill). Árni Gústafsson believes the cancel was occasionally used to cancel postage stamps on the back of covers carrying unpaid postage. That would fit nicely with the pair of 20 aur Gullfoss stamps seen on image 2 as the postage for inland letter was 20 aur at the time and the penalty for unpaid postage was double the original rate.



Image 1. Bréfapóststofa cancel sold at Safnari.is in 2022.



Image 2 Bréfapóststofa cancel sold at Postiljonen in 2026 from the collection of Ólafur Elíasson

Stöfn og skrifstofur:	
Landsbókasafnið	1-7
Alþýðubókasafnið	10-4
Þjóðskjalasafnið	1-4
Landsbankinn	10-1
Búnaðarbankinn	10-1
Útvegsbankinn	10-1
Útibú Lb., Klapparstíg	2-7
Skrifstofa útvarpsins	10-12 og 1-6
Flakifélagið	10-12
Búnaðarfélagið	10-12
Samb. íal. samv. fél.	9-1
Stjórnarráðsskrifst.	10-12
Flakskrifstofa	9-1
Skrifstofa lögreglustjóra	10-12
Skrifstofur bæjarins	10-12
Skipaútgæf. ríkisins	9-12
Landsmínn	8-9
Pósthúsið: Bréfapóststofa	10-6
Bögglapóstst.	10-5
Skrifstofa tollstjóra	10-12
Skrifstofa lögmanna	10-12
Hafnarskrifstofan	9-12 og 1-3
Lögregluvarðst. opin allan sólarhr.	

Image 3. Bréfapóststofa mentioned in *Nýja Daglaðið* from 14 September 1935.

How did the Starmýri cover look? – A digital reconstruction from a text description

Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson

In IPM issue 70, I mentioned in a short article that two cinema covers were known described only by text. This text description originates from the Swedish philatelic newsletter Rapport (No. 124, 2001). The two covers mentioned were Seyðisfjörður and Starmýri. In the mentioned article I focused on the Seyðisfjörður cover.

Now I feel is the time to talk about the Starmýri cover. The description in the Swedish philatelic newsletter Rapport tells us what stamps were on the cover. The description is as following: „Cancelled with B1a "Starmýri" 10.4.1938. Transit cancelled in Djúpivogur 10.4.1938 and arrival cancelled in Reykjavík 18.4.1938. Registered label reading "Starmýri". Postage: Facit nr. 146, 212, 214, 218, 219: 1+3+7+10 +30, total = 51 aur“. According to the Petersen database we find out that fourteen covers are known with this franking and they are the following: Ægissíða, Breiðabólstaður, Egilsstaðir, Eiðar (1), Einarssstaðir, Eiríksstaðir, Eskifjörður, Hjalastaður, Höfn, Hvanná, Reyðarfjörður, Saurbær (1), Sleðbrjótur and of course Starmýri. The cover illustration chosen here was modeled after the Eiðar cover but it should be mentioned that the stamps are not always arranged in the same order on the cover among these fourteen covers. I also added the handwritten arrival index notation "2/227" because the detailed description mentions that the cover was arrival cancelled 18.4.1938 in Reykjavík and hence belongs to the notation batch K along with Kálfafell (1) (A.-Skaft.), Fossvellir (N.-Múl.), Kirkjubær (N.-Múl.), Víkingavatn (N.-Þing.), Stöðvarfjörður (S.-Múl.), Kópasker (N.-Þing.) and Hvanná (N.-Múl.) which all were arrival cancelled 18.4.1938 in Reykjavík.

The real cover might still exist and if that is the case I would like to encourage the owner to send us an image of this legendary cover, if only to prove how far off my illustrated reconstruction was!



Image 1. The Starmýri cover as imagined from a text description from the Swedish philatelic newsletter Rapport (No. 124, 2001).

Unusual bridge cancel spelt REYKJAVIE Valery Efremov

Recently, while looking through my collection, I noticed an Icelandic service stamp with an interesting cancellation. Instead of "REYKJAVIK," the stamp reads "REYKJAVIE." I couldn't find anything similar online. It's quite possible this is a well-known case, but I'm not familiar with it, and I'd really like to know what kind of cancellation this is. If you have any information, please share it. If this topic has already been covered in the magazine, please send me a link. An enlarged image of the stamp is below.



Nowadays, there are many ways to create any image. Therefore, I thought it was appropriate to confirm that such a stamp actually exists, and not just as an image in a photograph.

To start, I decided to find out how this stamp came to be in my collection. I eventually discovered that it was purchased in a set with other stamps on eBay in the fall of 2019. I've attached an image of the original Ebay lot where the stamp is clearly visible.

Editor: - I decided to consult our expert Eivind Kolstad. Here is what he said: - This must be a bad forgery. No mistakes of Reykjavik cancels exist, except for the well-

known machine cancel REYKAVIK early in the 80-ies. In your copy, there is no space for an «R» in front of the faint «E.» If you draw a line from the first to the last E, it is parallel to the upper bridge.

A very strange forgery, but still false, in my opinion. Also, the use of RVK B1a was 1894-1899 and 1906-1912.

First day covers from 1879 to 1932 *Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson*

First day covers from 1950 to 2000 are in most instances rather common. A lot of such covers are seen at Félag frímerkjasafnara on Saturday meetings when the public is welcome to visit and trade with us. Although their market value is modest, they can make for a fascinating collecting area due to the sheer variety of organizations that produced them over the years with lot of interesting decorations usually on the left side of the covers. The scarcity of individual first day covers increases a lot when they are dated before 1950. The plan for this article is to show known first day covers from 1879 to 1932 and reflect on their scarcity.

1879 – 18.12:

This is not a pure first day cover of a stamp but for the 5 aur stationary instead which was issued 18 December 1879. It is cancelled in Reykjavík with an Antiqua cancel 18.12 and arrival cancelled in Copenhagen 26.1.1880. A truly amazing item indeed and the only one known in existence. Rarity grade: RRR (1 cover exist).



1900 – 6.1:

This cover could be said to be the first real first day cover for Icelandic stamps because it represents a first day use of a stamp and not a stationary card. The 4 aur stamp was issued 6.1.1900 to accommodate the rate for local post (innanbæjar). Rarity grade: RRR (1-2 covers exist).



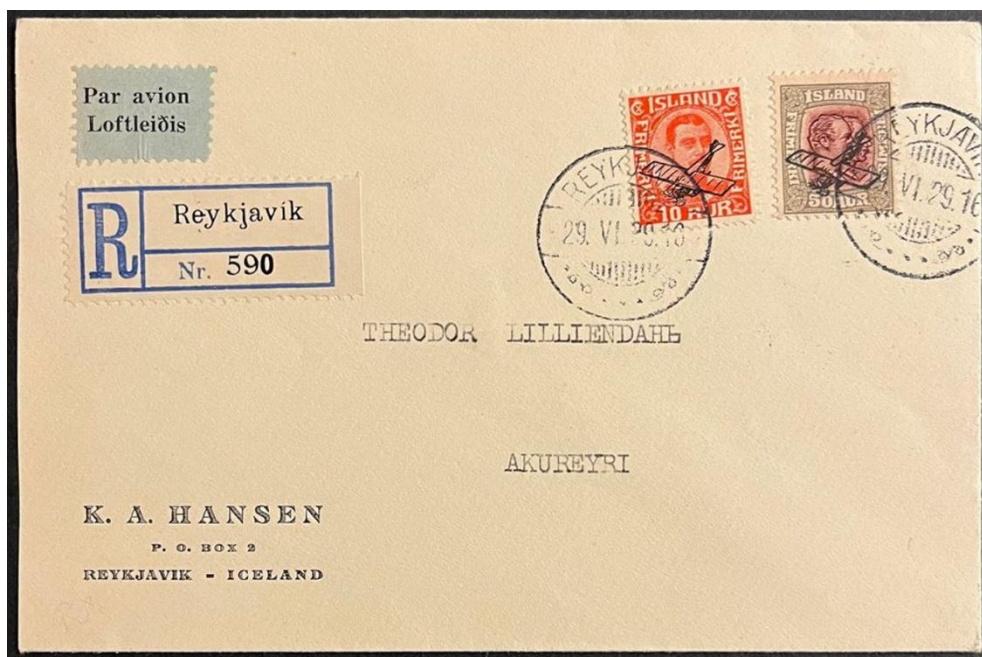
1911 – 17.6

The Jón Sigurðsson stamps were issued 17.6.1911 and several first day covers exist according to the first day cover database. Rarity grade: RR (3-5 covers exist).



1929 – 29.6.

A large time gap is found between the 1911 first day cover and the next or almost 18 years, even though a lot of stamps were issued between these years. On 29 June 1929 the 50 aur Two-kings stamp was reissued overprinted with an aeroplane. Note that the 10 aur Christian X with the aeroplane overprint was issued earlier or 31.5.1928. Several covers have been recorded with a first day cover of this stamp. At least one such cover was made by the stamp dealer K.A. Hansen. Rarity grade: R5 (6-9 covers exist).



1930 – 1.1.

The first day covers found thus far all look similar with a four-block of the 10 aur Gyr Falcon stamps and one 25 aur stamp completing the 65 aur postage for a registered letter. Half of the covers that I have seen are made by the famous stamp dealer K. A. Hansen. Rarity grade: R5 (6-9 covers exist).



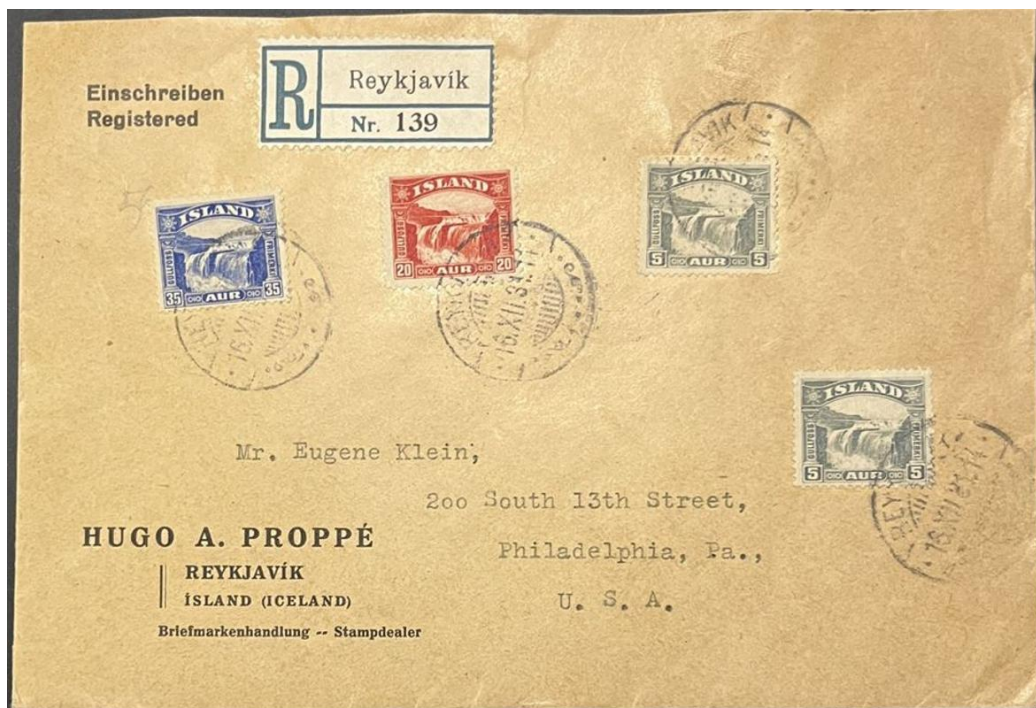
1930 – 1.6.

Only six months later we find the next first day cover which is also with the Alþingi theme. One of the five covers recorded is also made by the stamp dealer K. A. Hansen. Rarity grade: R5 (6-9 covers exist).



1931 – 16.12

The first part of the Gullfoss stamps were released 15 December 1931 according to the Facit catalog. The only cover found thus far is cancelled the day after or 16.12.1931. The big question is whether a first day cover exists at all for this issue. Only one second day cover is known at the time of this writing. Rarity grade: UK (0 covers exist).



1932 – 30.5

The latter part of the Gullfoss series was issued 30 May 1932 and those were the higher values: 60 aur, 65- and 75 aur. The only two covers found thus far are cancelled the day after or 1.6.1932. The big question is whether a first day cover exists at all for this issue. Only two second day covers are known at the time of writing. Rarity grade: UK (0 covers exist).



Four New Petersen Covers - A Notable Addition to Icelandic Postal History

Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson

Four new Peter Petersen covers have recently been discovered. Three of them are being offered for sale at the 2026 spring auction at the Postiljonen house. The last one was found in an old Thomas Hoiland auction catalogue.

The first cover bears numeral cancel 260 used at Kálfafell. I wrote the following comment on this undiscovered cover in the second edition of the cinema cover book: *"This Petersen cover could only have N2 260 if it exists. Usage of N2 260 in the Petersen period (1938) is moderately scarce when looking at the numeral cancel database. Rarity of N2 260 (100 Skr) makes the existence of a whole cover a decent possibility."*

The second cover carries numeral cancel 270 which was located at Óspakseyri which is a small coastal location in the West Fjords. I wrote the following comment in the cinema cover book: *"This Petersen cover could only have N2 270 if it exists at all. Although numeral cancel N1a 100 and B3e "Óspakseyri" were both in use at Óspakseyri neither of them were stationed there in 1938. Usage of N2 270 in the Petersen period (1938) is relatively common when looking at the numeral cancel database. Rarity of N2 270 (R2) makes the existence of a whole cover rather likely."*

The third cover displays the bridge cancel B2c1 Ólafsvík which was used at the fishing town of Ólafsvík on the Snæfellsnes peninsula. I wrote the following comment in the cinema cover book: *"This Petersen cover could only have B2c1 Ólafsvík if it exists. Although N1a 146 and N2 246 numerals were both in use at Ólafsvík neither of them were stationed there in 1938. Rarity of B2c1 Ólafsvík (50 Skr in Facit) makes the existence of a whole cover likely."*

The fourth and last cover was found by Gústaf A. Gústafsson when browsing an older Thomas Hoiland auction catalog recently. It was cancelled with B2c1 „Vestmannaeyjar“ 31.3.1938. Three other Petersen covers are already known from Vestmannaeyjar. What is remarkable about this cover is the postage which when added together sums up to 1,426 aur which is the highest for any Petersen cover.



Image 1. The newly discovered Kálfafell cover.



Image 2. The newly discovered Óspakseyri cover.



Image 3. The newly discovered Ólafsvík cover.

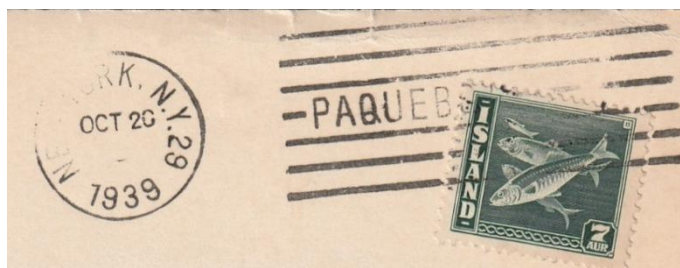


Image 4. The newly discovered Vestmannaeyjar cover.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

NEW YORK. N. Y. PAQUEBOT (Issue 73) *Harald Thoma:*

Referring to IPM issue 73/March 2026, I can show HOSKING 957, HOSKING 958 and HOSKING 960 on Iceland stamps.



More on a potential cinema cover from Arnhólsstaðir Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson

In the May 2023 issue of *IPM*, I wrote an article named “*Was the crown cancel Arnhólsstaðir used on a Petersen cover in 1938*”. In that article I concluded that there might have existed a cinema cover with the crown cancel “Arnhólsstaðir” which then was based on two clippings that were known at the time. I further concluded, based on the Petersen cover database that the other three stamps should be : 1-aur Christian-X issued in 1937, 7-aur Matthías Jochumsson and 10-aur Christian X Jubilee. A new Arnhólsstaðir cancel surfaced at the 2026 Postiljónen spring auction appearing on 7-aur Matthías Jochumsson just as predicted in my article from 2023. This new find further supports my theory that there once existed a cinema cover with the Arnhólsstaðir crown cancel.



The new crown cancel on 7-aur Matthías Jochumsson found at the Postiljónen 2026 spring auction and the two earlier crown cancels from Arnhólsstaðir.

xxxxxx

Borgarkot

This collecting office was open for a short period from 1st August 1973 until closure on 28th February 1975. It opened following the closure of the Húsatóftir office and never received a cancel with the name Borgarkot. Can any of our readers show an example of the B1a Húsatóftir used during the Borgarkot period?



Ultramar John Kuin

It doesn't happen often, but sometimes you find something special in the material you get presented with. Of course, the chance is a bit greater when you get a lot of material under your nose and know a lot about certain collection areas. Then the special thing stands out. What happened to me in February of this year, almost made me fall off my chair, just like the Icelandic books a few years ago.

Our auction cycle is semi-annual; It is extremely busy in September for the autumn auction and in March for the spring auction. The question "until when can I hand in" from many entrants has only one good response: "as soon as possible" (or jokingly: until yesterday). Many entrants come to bring material just around the closing time of the auction. They often do not realize that the auctioneer has little or no time left to rearrange properly. This can sometimes be at the expense of the auction result. Timely submission to an auction is therefore in the interest of the consignor.

We have a good regular provider from Portugal, who is always reliable. The week before the catalogue has to be ready (the printer does not make exceptions), a pallet full of 40 to 50 lots arrives at our office that still needs to be processed quickly to be entered into the auction. So also it occurred last February. It concerned part of an old stock that had apparently been a bit damp, set up per country in stock books. The sender had already classified the books roughly by country, with a short description and, in our view, with far too high starting prices.

During the inspection of the lots, my eye fell on a selection of Iceland in a booklet. A few classics, otherwise used regularly until 2000; quite a bit of rust and no expensive material. What struck me were the weird bright colors of the stamps with Í-Gildi imprints on the first page of the booklet.



1904 Complete series Bernese edition with large watermark in the perforation 12 3/4 with **Í-Gildi** overprint and with **Ultramar** overprint (edition ?)

Fig.1

When I took a closer look, I saw that there was a faint purple/blue print "**Ultramar**" on the stamps. 15 stamps with this overprint were hiding in this booklet of "junk". The strange thing about this was that the stamps with values 100 Aur, the 16 Aur service and the 50 Aur service had the perforation 12 3/4. Those stamps don't "exist" at all in this perforation! To understand what happened at that time, I have to take you through the history of the Í-Gildi overprints.

Countries that are members of the UPU (Universal Postal Union) also had to send stamps that were issued to the UPU in Bern (Switzerland), so that they could provide all member countries with examples that were used in all other countries. This was to be able to check whether the stamps on letters from other countries were indeed valid stamps. The UPU made sure that each country knew what was common in another country in terms of stamp material.

The Í-Gildi overprints on older Icelandic stamps were actually a stopgap solution until the Christian IX issue which arrived in Iceland in 1902. The older stamps were declared valid for use in 1902 and for some time in 1903. What the Icelandic postmaster forgot to do because of the urgency of the situation, was to register these overprints and send them to the UPU. That took some time, but soon the UPU asked Iceland to also register those overprints with the UPU in order to inform all members. That's where it went wrong. It was already 1904 and the vast majority of the Í-Gildi overprints had already been used, no longer in current use and no longer in stock in the postal service. What now?

The printer (Thiele) was approached and knew what to do. He could produce some more, provide it with an imprint and send it to the UPU. However, two "mistakes" were made. The paper used was provided with a different watermark, this new crown was much larger than the one used in the original stamps. In addition, all these new stamps are perforated 12 3/4. A number of the original series do not exist/did not exist in this perforation. The 100 Aur, 16 Aur officials and 50 Aur officials were originally never issued in this perforation, which exist as official stamps only in perforation 14:131/2.

In a relatively low edition, these stamps with EN without Í-Gildi overprint were issued to the UPU in Bern (Switzerland). Advanced Iceland collectors call these special editions for the UPU the "**Bernese Edition**".

Very occasionally, and then and usually as a complete set/series, these series come on the market. A large part of these issues are certified by the Danish Association. Most of the series I have seen in my stamp collecting life have their certificate, inspected by judge Grønlund. The number of series made is very low. Presumably, only a few sheets of each value were printed on the paper with the watermark that was then customary for the 1902 issue of Christian IX.

Difference in watermark

Issue 1902
Christian IX
Berner
editions used
the paper and
watermark of
this issue



1902-1903



1904 Bernese edition

Fig.2



Fig.3

1904 Complete series Berner edition with large watermark in the perforation 12 3/4 **without 1-Gildi** print. (18 values, edition only **106** series)

Getting back to what I saw in the booklet, 3 stamps were missing: the 5 Aur green and the 10 Aur red and the 4 Aur official. All stamps are in perforation 12 3/4 and also appear to have a large watermark and can therefore be qualified as Bernese editions. The "**Ultramar**" print makes extra sense in this case. Ultramar translates from Portuguese to English as "territories overseas"

The UPU in Bern took care of distributing the stamps to all members. Some of those members had colonies that were under the responsibility of the mother country with regard to mail processing. My suspicion is that about 15 of these original UPU editions were sent to Lisbon and provided with

the blue Ultramar print, with the intention of shipping them to the overseas Portuguese territories. That translates most logically to "specimen". The stamp is thus declared invalid for use. The idea behind this was that these stamps could not be sent back to Iceland to be used there and could thus provide an alternative source of income for the postal worker who had control and management over that material. The Portuguese Post Office therefore excluded the parallel import of those "original" stamps with the 'Ultramar' overprint. Let the Icelandic 5 Aur and 10 Aur (the stamps not present in this set) be the most commonly used values. Would those 2 have been returned and used after all? The table in fig. 6 gives an overview of all variants of the Bernese editions known to me, including these ultramar prints.



Fig.4

1904 Complete series Bernese edition with large watermark in the perforation 12 3/4 with Í-Gildi print. (18 values. Edition only a maximum of 1,500 series, printed numbers differ per stamp)

These stamps were then distributed to the main post offices of all areas and included in large registers. An example of such a register with "Specimen" and "Ultramar" overprints was once auctioned at Cavendish Philatelic Auctions in London. This concerned the postal archive of Madagascar of the collector Angus Parker, who was also a great Iceland collector. That specimen archive and the Iceland collection of Angus Parker were sold in 2009. I had kept that auction catalogue. Correct literature and catalogues often put you on the right track. The Netherlands also has stamps with an "Ultramar" imprint.

In 1904, Portugal still had a number of colonies of which it can be assumed that they were provided with stamps with "Ultramar" overprints via the mother country. In Africa, these were Angola, Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe. In Asia, this was Portuguese India (Goa, Daman, Diu), Maçao and Portuguese Timor. In Europe (Atlantic Ocean) we could count the Azores and Madeira. That includes Portugal itself ± **15 Portuguese main post offices** that should have had a sample book for incoming mail from the UPU.



Fig 5
Dutch series (incomplete)
Various values of the emissions
figure and fur collar with
"Ultramar" imprint around
1900.

Franking stamps		Bernese edition								
Nominal	Color	Perforation	Year	Imprint	Watermark	Circulation	Facit	SEK	Michel	Euro
3 aur	Yellow	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	21N	SEK 1,500.00	22nd	€ 120
3 aur	Yellow	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	1.500	49N	SEK 800.00	23B ND	€ 60
3 Gold	Yellow	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	157	49NOW	SEK 80,000.00	23B NDU	€ 6,000
4 Gold	Pink/Grey	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	22N	SEK 1,500.00	20 ND	€ 120
4 Gold	Pink/Grey	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	1.500	50N	SEK 800.00	25B ND	€ 60
4 Gold	Pink/Grey	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	157	50NOW	SEK 80,000.00	25B NDU	€ 6,000
FIG5 Gold	Green	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	24N	SEK 1,500.00	13B ND	€ 120
5 Gold	Green	12 3/4	1904	In-Value/ Rood	Large crown	1.500	59N	SEK 800.00	26B ND	€ 60
5 Gold	Green	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Rood / Ultramar	Large crown	157	59NOW	SEK 80,000.00	26B NDU	€ 6,000
6 Gold	Grey	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	25N	SEK 1,500.00	7B ND	€ 120
6 Gold	Grey	12 3/4	1904	In-Value/ Rood	Large crown	1.500	60N	SEK 800.00	27B ND	€ 60
6 Gold	Grey	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Rood / Ultramar	Large crown	157	60NOW	SEK 80,000.00	27B NDU	€ 6,000
10 Gold	Red	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	26N	SEK 1,500.00	8B ND	€ 120
10 Gold	Red	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	1.500	53N	SEK 800.00	28B ND	€ 60
10 Gold	Red	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	157	53NOW	SEK 80,000.00	28B NDU	€ 6,000
16 Gold	Brown	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	27N	SEK 1,500.00	9B ND	€ 120
16 Gold	Brown	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	300	54N	SEK 600.00	29B ND	€ 60
16 Gold	Brown	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	157	54NOW	SEK 60,000.00	29B NDU	€ 6,000
20 Gold	Blue	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	28N	SEK 1,500.00	14B ND	€ 120
20 Gold	Blue	12 3/4	1904	In-Value/ Rood	Large crown	1.500	61N	SEK 800.00	30B ND	€ 60
20 Gold	Blue	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Rood / Ultramar	Large crown	157	61NOW	SEK 80,000.00	30B NDU	€ 6,000
25 Gold	Blue/Brown	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	29N	SEK 1,500.00	21 ND	€ 120
25 Gold	Blue/Brown	12 3/4	1904	In-Value/ Rood	Large crown	1.500	62N	SEK 800.00	31B ND	€ 60

25 Gold	Blue/Brown	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Rood / Ultramar	Large crown	15?	62NOW	SEK 80.000,00	31B NDU	€ 6.000
40 Gold	Purple	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	30N	SEK 3.500,00	15B ND	€ 120
40 Gold	Purple	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	1.500	57N	SEK 800,00	32B ND	€ 60
40 Gold	Purple	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	15?	57NOW	SEK 80.000,00	32B NDU	€ 6.000
50 Gold	Red/Blue	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	31N	SEK 1.500,00	16B ND	€ 120
50 Gold	Red/Blue	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	1.500	58N	SEK 800,00	33B ND	€ 60
50 Gold	Red/Blue	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	15?	58NOW	SEK 80.000,00	33B NDU	€ 6.000
100 Gold	Lilac/Brown	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	19N	SEK 1.500,00	17B	€ 120
100 Gold	Lilac/Brown	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	3.000	44N	SEK 600,00	34B ND	€ 60
100 Gold	Lilac/Brown	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	15?	44NOW	SEK 60.000,00	34B NDU	€ 6.000

Service stamps	Bernese edition									
Nominal	Color	Tanding	Year	Imprint	Watermer	Circulation	Answer	SEC	Michael	€
3 Gold	Yellow	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	Tj. 10N	SEK 1.500,00	D3B ND	€ 120
3 Aur	Yellow	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	1.500	Tj. 21N	SEK 800,00	D10B ND	€ 60
3 Gold	Yellow	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	15?	Tj. 21NU	SEK 80.000,00	D10B NDU	€ 6.000
4 Gold	Grey	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	Tj. 11N	SEK 1.500,00	D9B ND	€ 120
4 Gold	Grey	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	1.500	Tj. 22N	SEK 800,00	D11B ND	€ 60
4 Gold	Grey	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	?	Tj. 22NU	SEK 80.000,00	D11B NDU	€ 6.000 Still unknown!
5 Gold	Brown	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	Tj. 12N	SEK 3.500,00	D4B ND	€ 120
5 Gold	Brown	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	1.500	Tj. 23N	SEK 800,00	D12B ND	€ 60
5 Gold	Brown	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	15?	Tj. 23NU	SEK 80.000,00	D12 DNU	€ 6.000
10 Gold	Ultramarine	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	Tj. 13N	SEK 1.500,00	D5B ND	€ 120
10 Gold	Ultramarine	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	1.500	Tj. 24N	SEK 800,00	D13B ND	€ 60
10 Gold	Ultramarine	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	15?	Tj. 24NU	SEK 80.000,00	D13B NDU	€ 6.000
16 Gold	Carmine	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	Tj. 7N	SEK 1.500,00	D6B ND	€ 120
16 Gold	Carmine	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	3.000	Tj. 18N	SEK 600,00	D14B ND	€ 60
16 Gold	Carmine	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	15?	Tj. 18NU	SEK 60.000,00	D14B NDU	€ 6.000
20 Gold	Green	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	Tj. 14N	SEK 3.500,00	D7B ND	€ 120
20 Gold	Green	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	1.500	Tj. 25N	SEK 800,00	D15B ND	€ 60
20 Gold	Green	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	15?	Tj. 25NU	SEK 80.000,00	D15B NDU	€ 6.000
50 Gold	Purple	12 3/4	1904	None	Large crown	104	Tj. 9N	SEK 1.500,00	D9B ND	€ 120
50 Gold	Purple	12 3/4	1904	In-Value / Zwart	Large crown	3.000	Tj. 20N	SEK 600,00	D16B ND	€ 60
50 Gold	Purple	12 3/4	1904	I-Value / Zwart / Ultramar	Large crown	15?	Tj. 20NU	SEK 60.000,00	D16B NDU	€ 6.000

Circulation	Type of publication	Number of stamps	Imprint	Imprint	Summary SEK	Euro
104	Bernese edition without overprint	In-Value 18 ex.			SEK 34.500,00	€2,280.00
1500	Bernese edition with overprint	In-Value 18 ex.	SW / RD		SEK 14,400.00	€1,140.00
15?	Bernese edition with ultramar	In-value 17 ex.	SW / RD	Overseas	SEK 1,360,000.00	€ 108,000.00

Fig 6

My conclusions:

The entry comes from Portugal. They are Bernese editions and they have an "**Ultramar**" overprint that belongs to the Portuguese treatment of such stamps, intended for shipment to the Portuguese overseas territories to be included in the sample books present in the main post office. The provenance seems to be in order. The "**Ultramar**" overprints are in the same color and style as I recognize them on comparable Dutch stamps. Nowhere in the literature can I find a reference to "**Ultramar**" overprints on Icelandic stamps.

A deep search on the Internet yields one hit of a single copy (16 Aur Official), auctioned online at Safnari in 2023. My library gives only one hit: Then there is the collection of Angus Parker where eight such stamps were auctioned at Cavendish in London in 2009. In that lot, the 5 and 10 aur were present, which are missing in this lot. With a probability bordering on certainty, the 4 Aur service with "**Ultramar**" imprint will also exist. So that is the only value of the Bernese edition that is not present in Parker's collection and also not in this set. It is possible that in the distant past, articles have appeared in Islands Kontakt regarding these imprints and something has been auctioned at Postiljonen in Sweden, but that was certainly not very recent.

They tell me that there are other stamps with "**Ultramar**" overprint of Iceland, but not the Í-Gildi overprints. My suspicion is that Portugal has had about 15 to 20 series of the Bernese edition with Í-Gildi imprint from the UPU, provided them with an "**Ultramar**" imprint in Lisbon and then forwarded them to the overseas Portuguese territories. After all, there were about 15 Portuguese parts of the Kingdom with a sample book for incoming mail in 1904.

This is something very special with a circulation of (most likely) only a dozen. And that in a "junk book" from a trader's entry. The initial proposed starting price of the lot by the submitter now suddenly seems very reasonable. The stamps were auctioned on April 20. At the time of writing (before April 20, 2026), they are still part of the offer in the auction. They are in the auction catalogue and on Philasearch. I am very curious about the result.

Literature

Facit Special Classic 2024

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions London Sale 23rd April 2009 (lot 1081) £ 420,- result then (Angus paid £ 650 in 1991)

One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps / Jón Adalstein Jónsson. – 1977, Pag. 144

<https://safnari.is/en-gb/lot/23106/iceland-ultramar-overprint-on-a-well-centered-and-fresh-copy-of-16-aur-official>

XXXXXX

When did the bridge cancel Fáskrúðsfjörður begin its use in 1906? *Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson*

According to the book Hagskinna, around the turn of the century, 271 people lived in Fáskrúðsfjörður. This population led to increased services and in 1897 a post office was established in the Fáskrúðsfjörður which initially used the crown cancel “Kolfreyjustaðir”. The numeral cancel “40” replaced the crown cancel in 1903 but was used for a short time only until 1905. Sometime in 1906, Fáskrúðsfjörður received the bridge cancel “Fáskrúðsfjörður” of type B1b, but it is unclear when exactly the bridge cancel was put into use. In Þór Þorstein’s book “Íslenskir stimplar, brúar, rúllu og vélstimplar” published in Reykjavík in 2003, only the year 1906 is mentioned. Below is a picture of a postcard with the bridge cancel in question that was struck 6 November 1906. The postcard was transit cancelled at Egilsstaðir 21 November and arrived cancelled at Akureyri 2 December the same year. What particularly caught my attention as a former collector of numeral cancels was the number 40 handwritten in the lower left corner. Could it be that it is supposed to represent the numeral cancel 40 that had been in use there the year before? It would be interesting to hear from readers about that theory and also whether anyone has seen Fáskrúðsfjörður cancelled before 6 November 1906.



Icelandic bridge cancels from Sigurður Þormar collection Part 3

In this issue we continue with a translation of Sigurður's article from the last edition of ÍslandsKontakt written by Jørgen Steen Larsen, showing bridge cancels from B2a

B2a Breiðabólstaður Used - 6.8.31 on money letter. Used a registration label, where "R" is removed. The label is stamped "Prestsbakki". This suggests that the letter collection office at Breiðabólstaður Skapt had neither its own labels or its own office stamp, but instead recycled labels from the post office in Prestsbakki, which was closed 31/12/1929 and moved to

Kirkjubæjarklaustur, which probably got its own labels

and its own office stamp and therefore got some old labels Prestsbakki left over. We would like to hear if anyone has registered labels from Kirkjubæjarklaustur from this period.



B2a Brautarholt X9.7.31. It is probably the only existing copy of the bridge cancel from this letter collection office. The office was on the farm Brautarholt from 1/06/1919 to 30/6/1936. Until the summer of 1930, when the B2a stamp was delivered, it used the N1A-162 numeral. From the period 01.06.1919 until the summer of 1930, I have only one use of N1A-162 on 10 aur Chr X green.



B2a Brettingsstaðir 16.11.3 (0?) This is also a rare bridge cancel. It was issued in the summer of 1930. I have only seen applications from 1930/1931 and favour cancels by Folmer Østergaard 29.2.X2 = 52. Any other known other times of application?



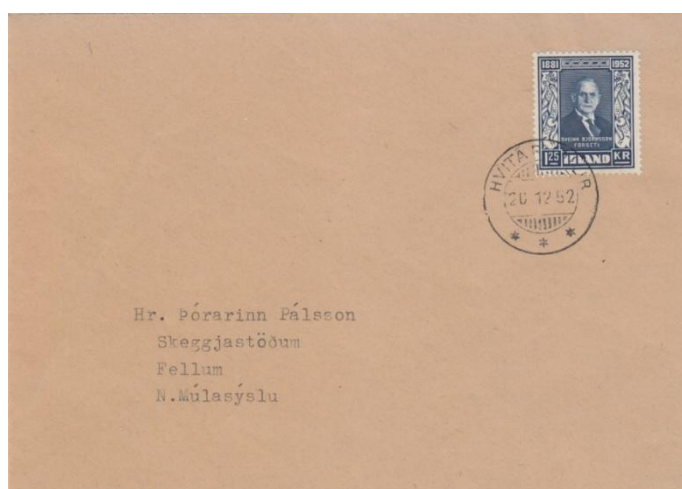
B2a Bugðustaðir 14.2.X1 = 61 on a registered letter on which the label is written "Bug" On the back are transit stamps from Búdardalur, Reykjavík and arrival stamp Akureyri 17/-2/61. The collection office at Bugðustaðir was open until 31/12/1963



B2a Deildartunga 19/05/48. The cancel after moving to Kleppjárnshreykir on 01.01.1952 was replaced in 1956 by B3e Kleppjárnshreykir. This stamp can be seen later in the article

B2a Hestur Borg 11/14/31.

According to Þór Þorsteins this cancel was only used in the period 1931 - 1934, even though the letter collection office at Hestur Borg was open until 31/05/1944. The reason for the short period of use for the bridge cancel is that starting in 1934 it reused N1A-158.



B2a Hvítarvellir dated 20.12.52.

The cancel was issued in summer 1930 but is only known used from 1946. I have clips from 02/08/49, 29.9.50 and 16/08/51. Until 1946 it used N2-234 instead of the bridge cancel.

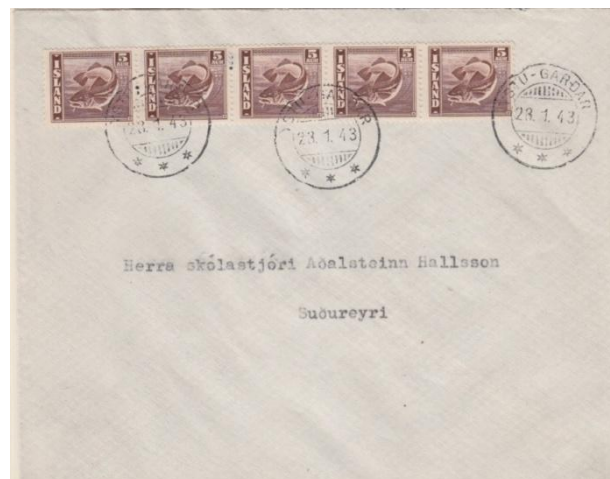


B2a Möðruvellir 11/12/60 but bluish ink.

The letter collection office was in Spónsgerði until 30/6/31. Here was used the bridge cancel B2a Spónsgerði I have from 30/1/31. I've never seen other uses of this stamp. The B2a Möðruvellir was issued in 1936 but is only known used from 1943 instead it reused N1A-70. My earliest use of B2a Möðruvellir is from 7.5.54 and with black ink. Additionally, I have only three applications with bluish ink from 1957 and 1959.

B2a Ófeigsfjörður 25.9.X9 = 59.

A difficult stamp - not least in this quality.



B2a Svignaskarð 13.9.33.



Another difficult stamp - and particularly in this quality as the cancel is often seen with weak imprint.



B2a Valpjófsstaður X8.1.61 the registered letter on which the R label has a recycled crown cancel C1 Valpjófsstaður. On the back is arrival stamp Akureyri 17.1.61.

B2a Ystu-Garðar 23/1/43. A rare letter. Note the large bulge in the ring of "U". The bulge occurs apparently already at some point in the period 1934 - 36. Can anyone help to date the damage more precisely? Mine no damage 3.9.32 and damage 28.1.37.

B2a Þorlákshöfn 08/13/32. The cancel known used from 1930 to 1934. Letter collection office then moved to Hraun 01/01/1935, and here reused N1A-173.



