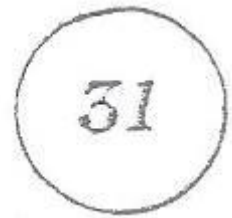


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



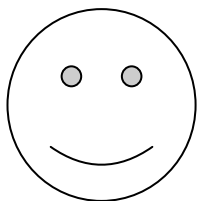
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Issue 51/July 2022

Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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In the last issue it was appropriate to mention the satisfaction in achieving 50 issues of this magazine. I am less confident however that the magazine will continue for another 50 issues, unless there is a significant upturn in the supply of articles for me to publish. The faithful few who regularly supply material need support please, otherwise the magazine may reduce in size and maybe even fewer issues. It is up to you as readers to play your part. It does not matter how long or short, or on what subject you choose to write, or even in which language you use to write in. Tell me what your favourite cover is and why. Ask for help on any subject you need an answer to. I will publish it. Does your favourite Iceland topic rarely if ever appear in the magazine? Write something. Writers frequently ask questions in the magazine, yet answers from readers do not come very often. With 190+ readers there must be a wealth of knowledge out there. It does not take a great deal of time to email the editor with your contribution.



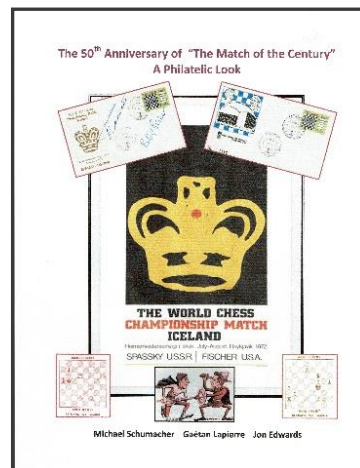
Over to you.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX



The 50th Anniversary of “The Match of the Century” A Philatelic Look
 A Philatelic resource book (414 pages) that examines the material emanating from the most prolific philatelic chess event in history. The 1972 World Chess Championship Match between Boris Spassky (USSR) and Robert “Bobby” Fischer.

The data base is composed of four large collections of this material. The research examines the 15kr Iceland chess stamp that was issued; the special event cancel that was created and used at the temporary post office housed at the Laugardalsholl (stadium) and in service on 34 dates during the two months of the match; the cachets that were created (by the Icelandic Post Office; the Icelandic Chess Federation; stamp dealers and artists); First Day cancels at other town locations; postcards issued and other ephemeral souvenirs. The presentation of the material is interspersed with a flavor of the



dynamics of the chess match as it played out in the Cold War era between Russia and the United States and the charismatic personality of Robert “Bobby” Fischer. The epilogue provides a brief follow up of Robert “Bobby” Fischer subsequent to the 1972 World Chess Championship; the 1992, 20th Anniversary rematch, to his return to Iceland and his final days. The importance and significance of the 1972 World Chess Championship remains prominent to Icelanders and chess players alike even fifty years later. Thus, the importance of this resource book to compile information about the plethora of material (more than 100 different cachets, fifty postcards and numerous souvenirs) that resulted from the match. An estimated 500,000 covers were printed for this two month event.

PRICE: \$45.00 plus postage and any applicable taxes and/or paypal fees.
 (Postage based on shipping destination.)

The book will be available in July 2022.

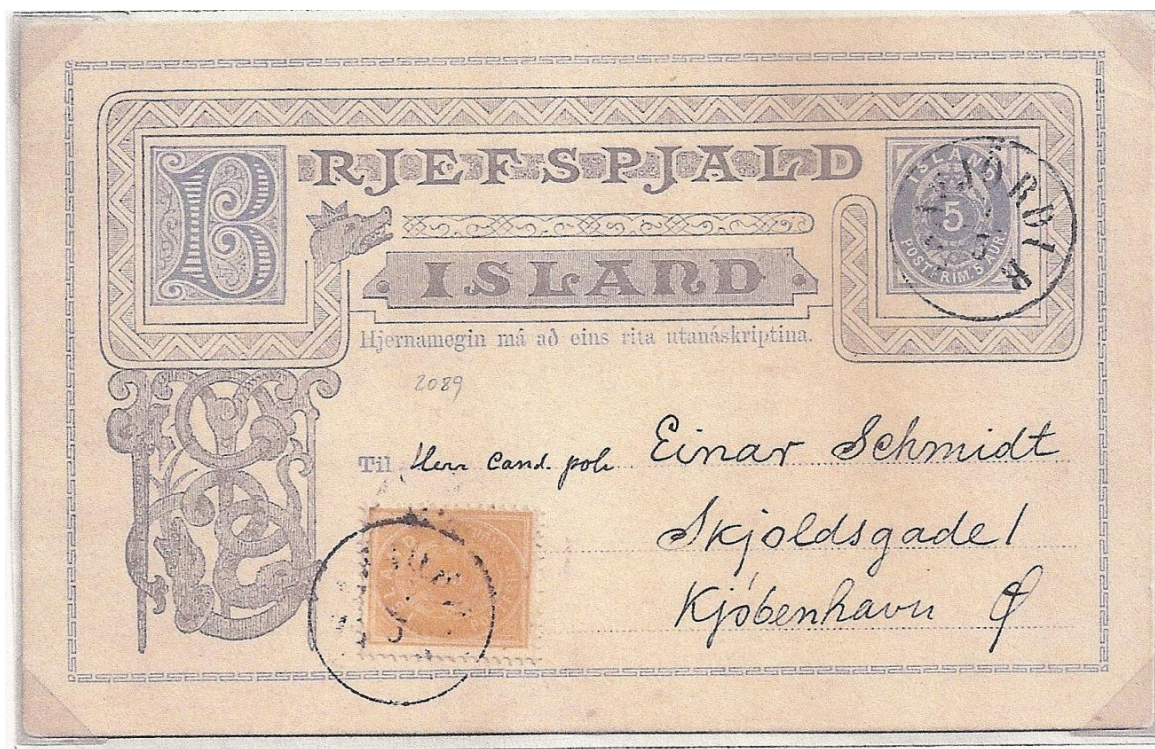
Order Info contact: Mike Schumacher at: icemike51@gmail.com

The beginning of postal stationery in Iceland by Þór Þorsteins

With an agreement in the Union Postal Union (UPU) made in Bern October 9th 1874 and in Paris June 1st 1875 the intention was to make postal stationery usable between postal districts of members in UPU and thereby also in Iceland. But as existing Postal Law in Iceland did not permit this, „Det islandske Ministerium“ (DIM) (Icelandic Ministry) in Copenhagen to amend this, made out a Bill for submitting to the Alþing in 1879, whereby agreements made by UPU were also valid in Iceland. This was done with an addition to the Postal Law from February 26th 1877 „for mailing with land posts in Iceland will be accepted lettercards“. For this will be used forms on sale in all post offices in the country. The postage for each card is 5 aur and they shall be fitted with postage stamps“.

In a letter from the High Sheriff to the DIM dated September 4th 1879, he informs that Alþing has approved the Bill unchanged. He requests the law is placed for the King for his ratification and he signs them on October 10th 1879.

As is stated in the letter to the High Sheriff, he expects after ratification that DIM will take care of printing and delivery to Iceland of suitable quantity of forms with printed on 5 aur. postage stamp and he proposes the forms carries also printed „Brjefspjald – Hjernamegin má aðeins rita utanáskriptina“ (Lettercard – On this side only allowed to write an address) (Picture # 1).



1 Single postcard 1879 type II. 3 aur 3rd print from Ísafjörður 7/5 (1894)
Postal rate 8 aur. (Item Orla Nielsen).

The case receives quick handling as in the documents of DIM, kept by the National Archive of Iceland, an invoice is found from F.Hendriksen's Xylografiske Institut, Copenhagen dated October 15th 1879 for making a wooden form of a stationery for Iceland with blue colour, amounting DKK 50.00 (picture # 2).

XYLOGRAFISKE INSTITUT. <i>Sandens Kjølvægsvej No. 21.</i>		Debet.	
		Kroner	Øre
<i>1879</i>	<i>Oct. 15. Et Brevkort til Island med flert Brejter indfald i Træsmit</i>	<i>50</i>	

2 close up of the essential part

2 entire invoice.

3 entire invoices

There is also another invoice from William Simmelkiær Skriftstøberi, Copenhagen for 4 galvanic printing clichés on a block (Stationery) and 8 plates on lead blocks (Capital letters and stamp). Further one cliché made for a model prefabricate and engraved (postage-stamp). It is dated October 24th 1879 for DKK 40.60 (picture # 3).

Kjøbenhavn den 24 Oktober 1879
 Høit det islandske Ministerium.
WILLIAM SIMMELKIÆR,
 Kjøbenhavn, den 15^{te} Nov. 1879.
 Ministeriet for Island.
F. HENDRIKSEN'S
 XYLOGRAFISKE INSTITUT
Sandens Kjølvægsvej No. 21.

		Debet.	
		Kroner	Øre
<i>1879</i>	<i>Oct. 15. Et Brevkort til Island med flert Brejter indfald i Træsmit</i>	<i>50</i>	

SKRIFTSTØBERI, Vestergade 22, 2den Sal i Bagbygningen.		DEBET	
<i>4 Sty galvaniske Clichés paa Ford. (Brevkort)</i>	<i>= 6.50</i>	<i>26</i>	
<i>8 " do do Blyfor (Lithiat + Træsmit) : 1.75</i>		<i>13 60</i>	
<i>1 Originalcliché (Træsmit) istaadet af indgravet</i>		<i>1</i>	
<i>Kroner</i>		<i>40</i>	<i>60</i>

3 close up of the essential part

11. *Copenhagen, d. 30. Novbr. 1879*
V.
Herr Ministeriet for Island
til
NIELSEN & LYDICHE,
BOGTRYKKERI OG PAPIRHADEL,
INDUSTRIUDSTILLINGSBYGNINGEN.

		D E B E T	
		Kr.	Øre
1879			
Novbr	7	<i>Brevkort for Island a 5 Øre, trykt med graa og blaa Farve, glattet Heften 20550</i>	
		154	
		<i>Kortens Beskrivning, Afstalling og Bimulning</i>	
		109	70
		<i>Omslagsstrimler til de</i>	
		4	75
		<i>Emballage: 1 Pakkasse 2,50; 2 Aen Værdig 2,00</i>	
		4	50
		<i>Sum</i>	<i>272 95</i>

70. 2. 11. 1879. 17/279.

It is obvious that DIM does not know of the agreement between the Danish Postal Administration and H.H.Thiele printers for printing of all postage stamps in Denmark as in the records of DIM is also an invoice from Nielsen & Lydiche Bogtrykkeri og Papirhandel, Copenhagen, from 7th November 1879 for printing of 5 aur. postal stationery for Iceland, with two colour printing on a blue grey carton with a limited shine texture in total quantity of 20.550 pieces. It amounts for DKK 154.00 plus extra for cutting, counting, bunching and packing (**picture # 4**). The printed stationeries are shipped on the postal steamer Phönix, sailing from Copenhagen November 7th 1879 for Reykjavik. DIM informs the High Sheriff the same day of quantity printed and that sold have been 1000 pcs. and further 300 pcs. are used for promotion. Therefore some 19.250 pcs. are shipped. First day of sale in Iceland is uncertain but believed shortly after arrival of Phönix in Reykjavik on November 23rd 1879.

4 The entire invoice and a close up of the essential part.

		Kr.	Øre
1879			
Novbr	7	<i>Brevkort for Island a 5 Øre, trykt med graa og blaa Farve, glattet Heften 20550</i>	
		154	
		<i>Kortens Beskrivning, Afstalling og Bimulning</i>	
		109	70
		<i>Omslagsstrimler til de</i>	
		4	75
		<i>Emballage: 1 Pakkasse 2,50; 2 Aen Værdig 2,00</i>	
		4	50
		<i>Sum</i>	<i>272 95</i>



(Ed. This short article appeared in IslandsKontakt Issue 75 in April 2010. As far as I can see from subsequent issues, nobody provided the answer to Ólafur's question. Now it is IPM readers' turn to apply your expert knowledge to solve the mystery).

The object that gives rise to this short article is an address letter for a package of 3 kg without value, sent from Akureyri 18.11.1940 via Reykjavik 22.11.1940 to Selfoss by Ölfusárbrú. The address letter is correctly stamped in Akureyri with DKK 1.50 for a package of 1-3 kg.

In Selfoss, the address letter has been franked with a 5 aur stamp and stamped Selfoss 25.11.1940. Why? In the relevant postage rates there is only one option for 5 aur postage, namely local postage for printed matter up to 50gr. Admittedly, there is also a car post fare / fee for packages, 5aur / kg / 50km, but since the package weighs 3kg, the minimum fee would have been 15aur.

Is it possible that the staff at Selfoss Post Office franked the address letter as a printed matter and used it as a message to the addressee that he had a package waiting at the post office? Who paid for the 5aur stamp?? Was it the addressee when he picked up his package?

Can any of our readers give an explanation of the mysterious 5 aur?

Both types of Numeral 144 on the same cover. *Brian Stwalley*



Recently this quite unusual cover from the renowned collector Folmer Østergaard was shared on an Icelandic collectors Facebook forum by Sveinn Ingi Sveinsson and is worthy of further discussion. Unusual in the sense that both the type N1a and N2 144 cancels appear on the same cover when one would normally assume the replacement N2 cancel was issued due to the loss of the original cancel. This particular case is a bit more complicated apparently.

The letter collecting station at Gröf was issued the numeral 144 type N1a cancel in 1903 when the original distribution of numeral in circle cancels occurred. They continued to use this cancel until a fire occurred in 1917 which unfortunately damaged the cancelling device but apparently did not destroy it entirely. As an immediate fix, the NIC 96 cancel was sent from Reykjavík on loan arriving 9 October of that year having been used at Hólmavík previously up until 1914 when they were promoted to full post office status. The uses of the 96 cancel during this time period at Gröf are understandably scarce and difficult to identify with certainty given the few stamp issues occurring around this time. Jorgen Steen Larsen reports having 3 examples which can be definitively identified on Facit 94, 104, and 134. All of these were issued after 1914 but prior to the arrival of the 144 N2 replacement cancel which was delivered 31 August 1922 once the first N2 cancelling devices arrived from Denmark (which also included the replacement cancels 82, 117, and 178 as well as 211-220). It may very well have been the case though that the N2 cancel was not needed at Gröf, the N1a device having been repaired and back in use by the time of its arrival. What evidence exists of this claim? From my own collection I share this example:



Here we have Facit 97 (issued 1918) and 131 (issued 1920). The key for both of these being they ceased to be valid for postage at the end of 1921. Thus they had to have been used after the fire but before the arrival of the N2 replacement cancel. It can be surmised then that the N1a cancel was likely available again later in 1920 or at the latest 1921.

The fact that both the N1a and N2 cancels were available for use concurrently can also be shown here:



Jorgen reports post-fire use of the N1a cancel on Facit 97, 105, 132, 135, and 170. I can add examples on 99 and 104 as well. These would have been likely concurrent with regular N2 uses seen by Jorgen on Facit 128 and 170 to which I can add 132, 141, 158, and 169 suggesting the cancels were likely used more or less interchangeably after the N2 cancel arrived and up until the arrival of the Gröf Hnapp bridge cancel in 1930 which would have been the regular cancel used after that time. However, late 144 uses have also been reported by Jorgen:

N1a on Facit 202 (another Østergaard letter)

N2 on Facit 204, 210, and 215 though it is strongly suspected these are from a Bio Petersen cover.

Overall, the existence of two numeral cancels with the same number at the same time is certainly a fairly unusual circumstance which has few if any other examples in Icelandic postal history.



Late use on Facit 204 from my collection:

XXXXXXXXXX

Stamps used on express letters which could not be urgently delivered to the recipient.

Previously published in 2011 in IslandsKontakt 106 and translated from the Danish

Below, Jørgen Steen Larsen shows some examples of how, when the postal service did not succeed in getting an express letter delivered urgently, a special frame stamp was placed on the letter for a period of time, which was then filled in with time, date and initials. The examples are all from the period 1968 - 1975.

Tekst i rammestemplerne:

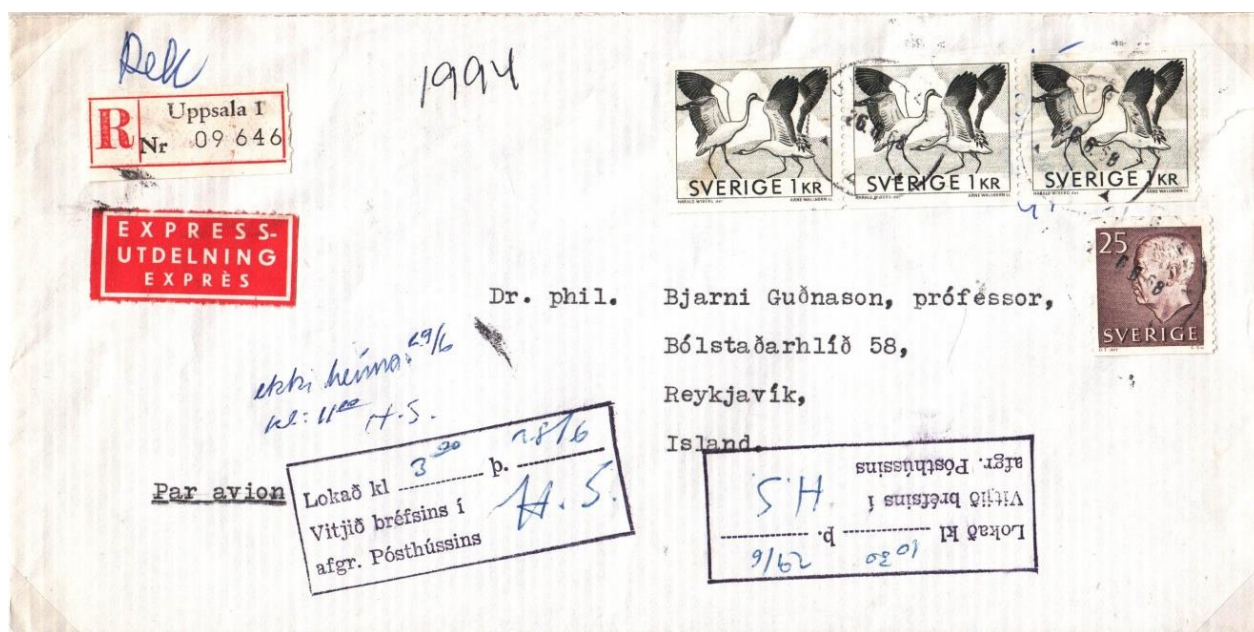
Tekst	<i>Translation</i>
Lokad kl.	<i>Closed time</i>
Th.	<i>Date</i>
Vitjid brefsins í afgr. Pósthússins	<i>Collect letter at postoffice</i>

In addition, there is finally a single express letter where a special stamp without a frame has been used.

It appears from Brian Flack's handbook on Postal Rates, that all the way back to 1.1.1920 there was a special rate for express letters. I would be interested to hear from those of our readers who may have express letters with special frame stamps used before or after the period 1968 - 1975.

The express letters have been sent to different addresses in the postal districts R-1, R-4 and R-5. Where did the express letters come from?

Did it happen from the same central post office, or did it happen from each of the post offices to which the recipient addresses belonged?



Express letter sent from Uppsala 1, S, d. 26.6.1968 to Bólstaðarhlíð 58, Reykjavík-5

Box cancel ca. 57,0 mm * 22,8 mm. Black colour.

Lokad kl.	3.00	10.30
Th.	28/6	29.6

Vitjid brefsins í afgr. Pósthússins	H.S.	H.S.
--	------	------

On the letter is written "ekki heima 29/6 at: 11.00 H.S." which means that the recipient was not at the address at this

time. The endorsement "1994" is the number of postal receipt book.



Express letter sent from Allerød, DK, d. 29.11.1972 to Dyngjuvegi 14, Reykjavík-4.

Box cancel ca. 57,0 mm * 23,3 mm. Black/violet colour.

Tekst	
Lokað kl.	15.00
Th.	29-11
Collect letter at P.O	SH



Express letter sent from R-1 d. -9.10.1973 to Skaftahlid 9, Reykjavík-5.

Box cancel ca. 57,0 mm * 26,0 mm. Blue/violet colour.

Tekst	
-------	--

Lokad kl.	13.40
Th.	10/10-73
Vitjíd brefsins í afgr. Pósthússins	HN

Postage calculation:	
Postage for letter up to 20 gr.	13 IKR
Registration	25 IKR
Express	40 IKR
Total	78 IKR

This was the postage charge for the period 01.07.1973 - 31.03.1974. It used a red R label. These were taken into use in the spring of 1973 on local letters. On the letter is written "ekki í bærnum" which means that the recipient was not in Reykjavík at this time.

The endorsement "224" is the number of postal receipt book.



Express letter sent from Eskifjörður d. 15.III.1974 til Vatnastíg 3, Reykjavík-1.

Box cancel ca. 57,5 mm * 26,5 mm. Blue/violet colour.

Tekst	
Lokad kl.	9.35
Th.	16/3
Vitjíd brefsins í afgr. Pósthússins	Blank

Rate for letter up to 20 gr.	13 IKR
Express	40 IKR
Total	53 IKR

This was the postal rate for the period 1.7.1973 – 31.3.1974.

Express letter sent from Akureyri d. -2.4.1975 to Snekkjuvogi 19, Reykjavík-4.



Box cancel ca. 57,5 mm * 25,8 mm. Red colour.

Tekst	
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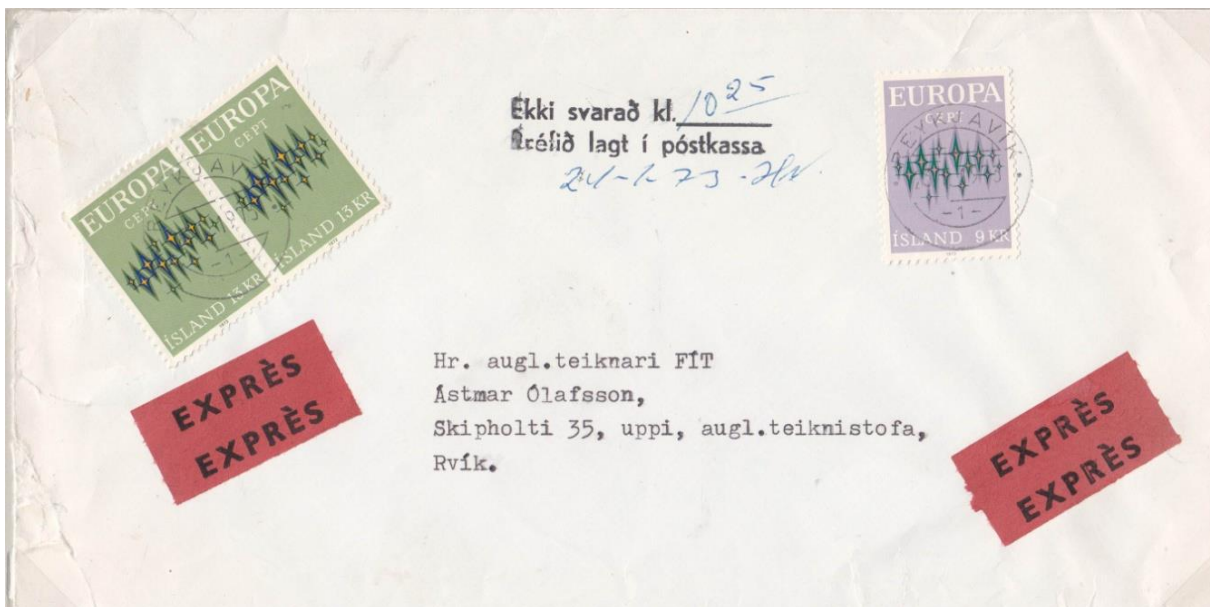
Lokad kl.	15.05
Th.	3-4
Vitjíd breffsins í afgr. Pósthússins	HH

Postage calculation:
Rate for letter up to 100 gr. 46 IKR
Registration 50 IKR
Express 100 IKR
Total 196 IKR

This was the rate for the period 1.1.1975 – 30.9.1975.

The endorsement "207" is the number of postal receipt book.

On the back there is a postmark from R-1 dated 04/03/1975. This could indicate that the letter was delivered from R-1 regardless of the recipient's address which is in R-4



Express letter sent from Reykjavík-1, d. 23.1.1973 to Skipholtí 35, Reykjavík-5.

Here the frame is missing and the inscription has been changed. Black stamp colour.

Tekst	
Ekki svarað kl.	10.25
Bréfið lagt í póstkassa	24-1-73 HN

After having tried in vain to deliver the express letter, the postman has put this in the mailbox for regular delivery the following day.

Rates calculation:

Rates period: 1.4.1972 – 30.6.1973.

Rate for letter up to 20 gr. 9 IKR

Express 25 IKR

Total 34 IKR

The letter is franked with (9 + 13 + 13) = 35 IKR and is overpaid by 1 IKR.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Earlier Reyðarfjörður bridge cancels

According to Þór's book, a B2c1 was used from 5.5.1916 until 1969. It also says that a B2b is known used from 1956. Can anyone show an example of the B2c1 cancel with a date from 1956 to 1969? Why should the office receive a B2b cancel c.1956 if the B2c1 was still in use for another 13 years?



B2c1 dated 17.XI.49



My earliest B2b is dated 30.10.1971

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

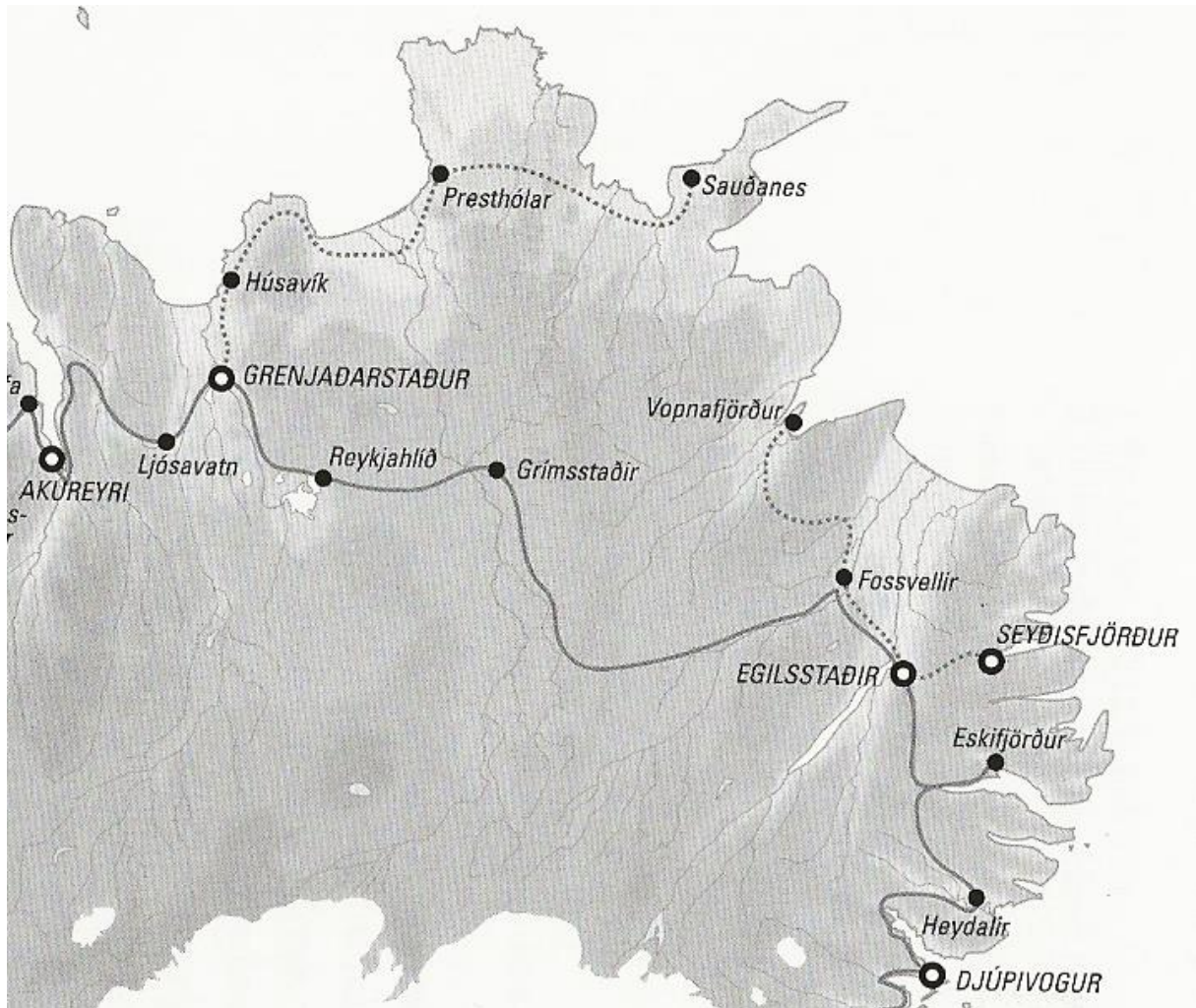
When the postal routes were opened in 1873, the main route – Aðalpóstur – from Akureyri to east Island was the Northern and Eastern Post (Norðan- og austanpóstur), which went from PA Akureyri through BH Háls and BH Ljósavatn to PA Grenjaðarstaður and on to BH Reykjahlíð, BH Grímsstaðir to PA Egilsstaðir, BH Eskifjörður and BH Heydalur to end up in PA Djúpvogur.

In addition there were the following branch routes – (Aukapóstgöngur)

Þingeyjarsýsla Post from PA Grenjaðarstaður to BH Húsavík, BH Skinnastaður, BH Presthólar and BH Sauðanes.

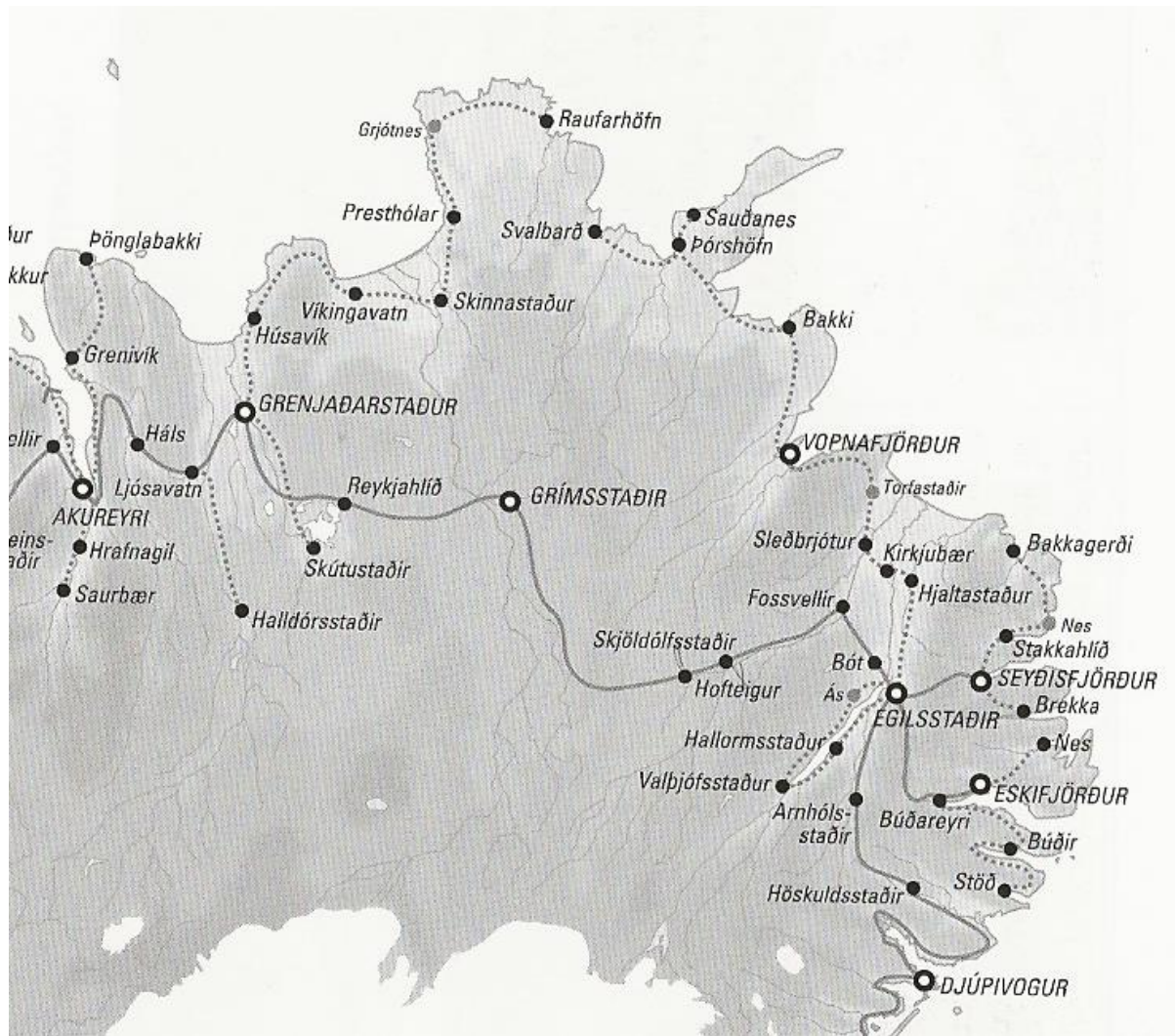
Norður Múlasýsla Post from PA Egilsstaðir to BH Fossvellir and BH Vopnafjörður.

Suður Múlasýsla Post from PA Egilsstaðir to PA Seyðisfjörður.



Postmap 1873 copied from the late Heimir Thorleifsson's PÓSTSAGA ÍSLANDS 1873 – 1935, page 72.

The main postal route via BH Grímsstaðir reduced the length of the route from Akureyri to Egilsstaðir as much as possible. In return this route had a difficult crossing of the river Jökulsá á Fjöllum near Grímsstaðir. Postmen and travellers had to wait in the Sælahús shelter situated on the west side of the river until assistance came from the farm Grímsstaðir on the east side of the river to supervise the crossing.



Postmap 1900 copied from the late Heimir Thorleifsson's PÓSTSAGA ÍSLANDS 1873 – 1935 page 118.

The main postal route - Aðalpóstur – in 1900 still passed though BH Grímsstaðir. The postal branch route (Aukapóstgöng) through BH Skinnastaður is shown as a dotted line, and there is still no connection overland between BH Skinnastaður and BH Svalbarð.

The postal route from Akureyri to east Iceland via BH Grímsstaðir stopped in 1927.

Brian Flack has informed me that according to Póstblaðið October 1927, at that time the main postal route – Aðalpóstgöngur - went through BH Skinnastaður and not BH Grímsstaðir.

When and why did this change take place?

It follows from Postkort 1922, that there is still a postal connection through BH Grímsstaðir.

Is this an Aðalpóstur connection or an Aukapóstur connection?

Jökulsá á Fjöllum is one of Iceland's largest rivers. It comes from Vatnajökull and flows from there to the North. Jökulsá divides into many forks before emptying into Öxarfjörður. The river has several waterfalls: Selfoss, Dettifoss, Hafragilfoss, Réttarfoss and Vígabergsfoss.

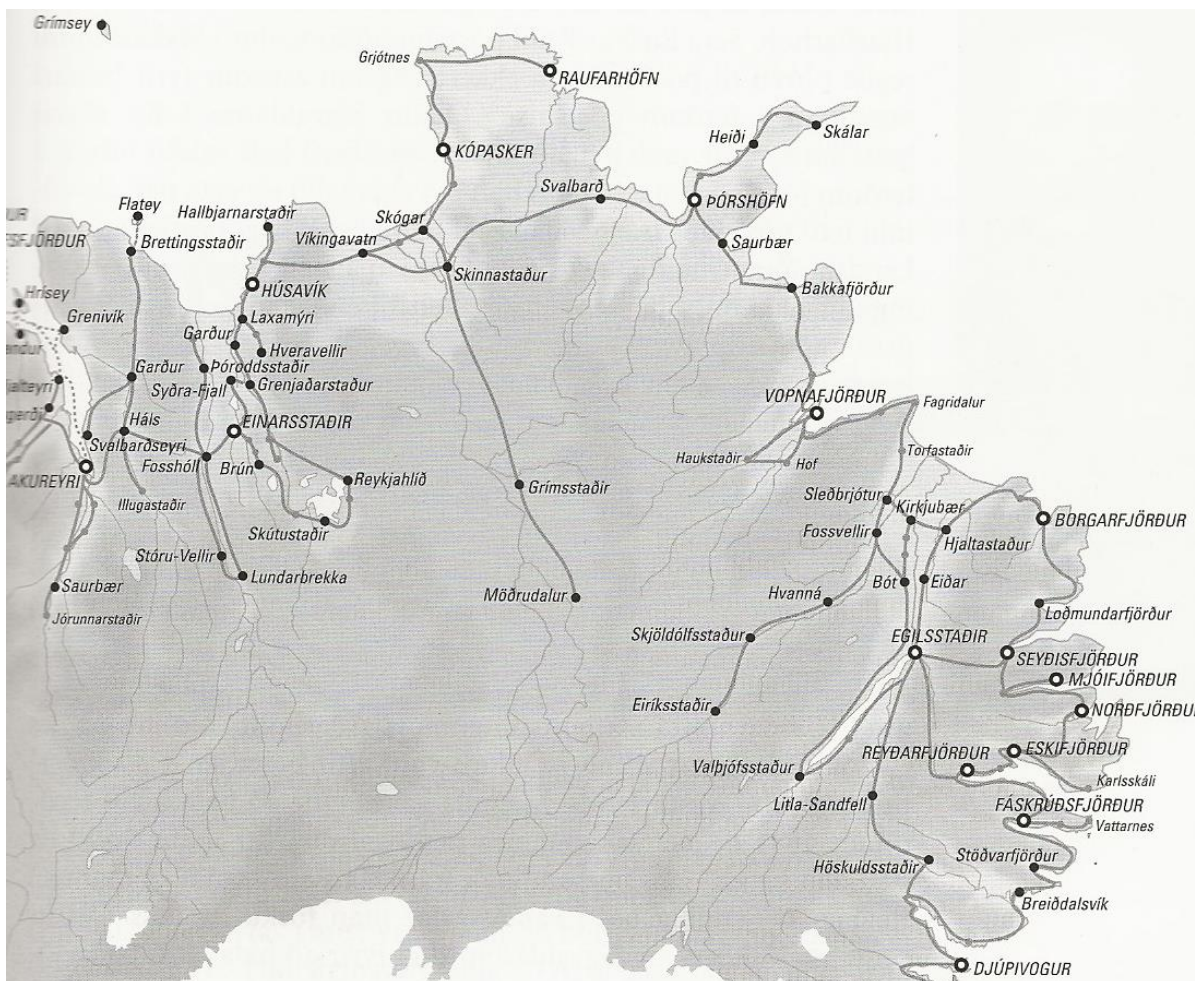
From 1928 – probably long before - the main postal route from Akureyri to east Iceland went from PA Akureyri through BH Háls and BH Fosshóll to PA Einarstaðir, BH Brún, BH Skútustaðir BH Reykjahlíð, BH Grenjaðarstaður, BH Garður, BH Laxamýri to PA Húsavík, BH Víkingavatn, BH Skinnastaður, BH Svalbarð, PA Þórshöfn, BH Saurbær, BH Bakkafjörður, PA Vopnafjörður, BH Sleðbrjótur, BH Fossvellir, BH Bót to end up in PA Egilsstaðir.

Instead of crossing the river Jökulsá á Fjöllum near Grímsstaðir the river was crossed near BH Skinnastaður. The farm Skinnastaður is situated on the east side of the river. A map show that there has been a long abandoned place between Skinnastaður and the river called Ferjubakki, so from old times there seems to have been a ferry crossing here.

In 1905 a bridge over Jökulsá á Fjöllum near Ferjubakki was opened.

The similar postmap 1913 shows both the postal routes over BH Grímsstaðir and BH Skinnastaður with full drawn lines – no longer as a dotted line for the route over BH Skinnastaður as on postmap 1900. In 1913 a postal connection over land between BH Skinnastaður and BH Svalbarð had been established.

Does this mean that the main postal route was moved from Grímsstaðir to Skinnastaður in 1905, when the bridge over Jökulsá á Fjöllum near Ferjubakki was opened?



Postmap 1930 copied from the late Heimir Thorleifsson's PÓSTSAGA ÍSLANDS 1873 – 1935 page 139.

Taking the route from PA Akureyri to east Iceland through BH Skinnastaður meant that the main postal route became app. 70 km. longer than the previous route via BH Grímsstaðir.

It was not until August 26th 1947, that a bridge over Jökulsá á Fjöllum was opened near BH Grímsstaðir and the main postal route was moved back to where it originally was placed.

Can anybody help with information about when the main postal route was moved back?

Did it happen at August 26'th 1947 or later?

From 1928 until 1947 the only postal route to BH Grímsstaðir went from BH Skinnastaður to BH Grímsstaðir and another farm called Möðrudalur. In this period of time Grímsstaðir seems to have been "at the end of the road".

Today the main Highroad 1 around Iceland still follows the old route over Grímsstaðir.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Í Gildi warning *Ellis Glatt*



Ellis Glatt reports that an Í Gildi stamp offered on eBay and represented as a used example of Michel 31 BF (Facit Nr. 56) is in fact, a poorly done fake with a forged overprint. Moreover, the overprint was applied to the wrong shade of the underlying 25-aur stamp. Genuine examples are known on the clear-blue shade, but not on the greenish-blue shade as exhibited by the subject stamp.

Based on the bidding and the final selling price of only \$409 US (Michel has it catalogued at 6500 Euros, with Facit recording only a single used example known), one could assume that most sophisticated Iceland collectors were wary of bidding on the item. Unfortunately, a number of others, perhaps looking for a bargain and hoping for the best, jumped in (bidding opened at only one cent). Further compounding the problem, the seller, who was apprised of the stamp's bogus status well in advance of the sale, opted not to amend his description or even mention the possibility that the stamp might not be genuine. As the saying goes, caveat emptor.

N1a 18 before and after repair

As a cancel collector I make frequent reference to the crown cancel and numeral handbooks provided by Islandssamlarna all those years ago. Do you keep your handbook in its original state, or do you alter and add to it as time goes on? I altered my numeral handbook so many times; it reached a point where I decided to re-write the whole numeral listing and include many of the notes of discoveries and results of research over the past 17 years. The advantage gained is I now have one reference point instead of constantly hopping from magazine articles to the handbook and back again. I need help please to properly describe the visible differences between numeral 18 before and after the repair, which is said to have occurred no earlier than 1926 and no later than 1928.

I begin by illustrating the cancel below on two particular issues which are certain to be have been made before and after the said dates of repair.



Numeral 18 before repair



Numeral 18 after the repair

Frankly, I cannot discern much, if any difference, and these two examples make it difficult for me to describe the change in appearance.

This is not so when one looks at the next two strikes on the 1925 issue. There is a clear difference between one and the other, so why not with the first pair?



Before repair?



Post repair?

The ever helpful Jørgen Steen Larsen said:-

The information about a different looking N1a-18 came from me to Per Olav Abrahamson. This means that if I am wrong, I am the scoundrel who has made you frustrated! As far as I can see the figures "18" on two of the usages on Safnahúsið are smaller and thinner. The third of the usages on Safnahúsið on a piece are with normal large figures.

Normal type: The holes in the "8" are app. 0,5 mm wider, both the "1" and the "8" is app. 6 mm high.

Unusual type: The holes in the 8 are thinner, both the "1" and the "8" is app. 5,5 mm high.

Normal type: The line round the "8" has a varying width – thin line on the top, middle and bottom, thicker line to the right and left.

Unusual type: The line round the "8" has almost the same width all way round.

I do not know if a repair took place and I do not know the reason for, what seems to me, a different appearance.

As you can understand, I am also a bit frustrated.

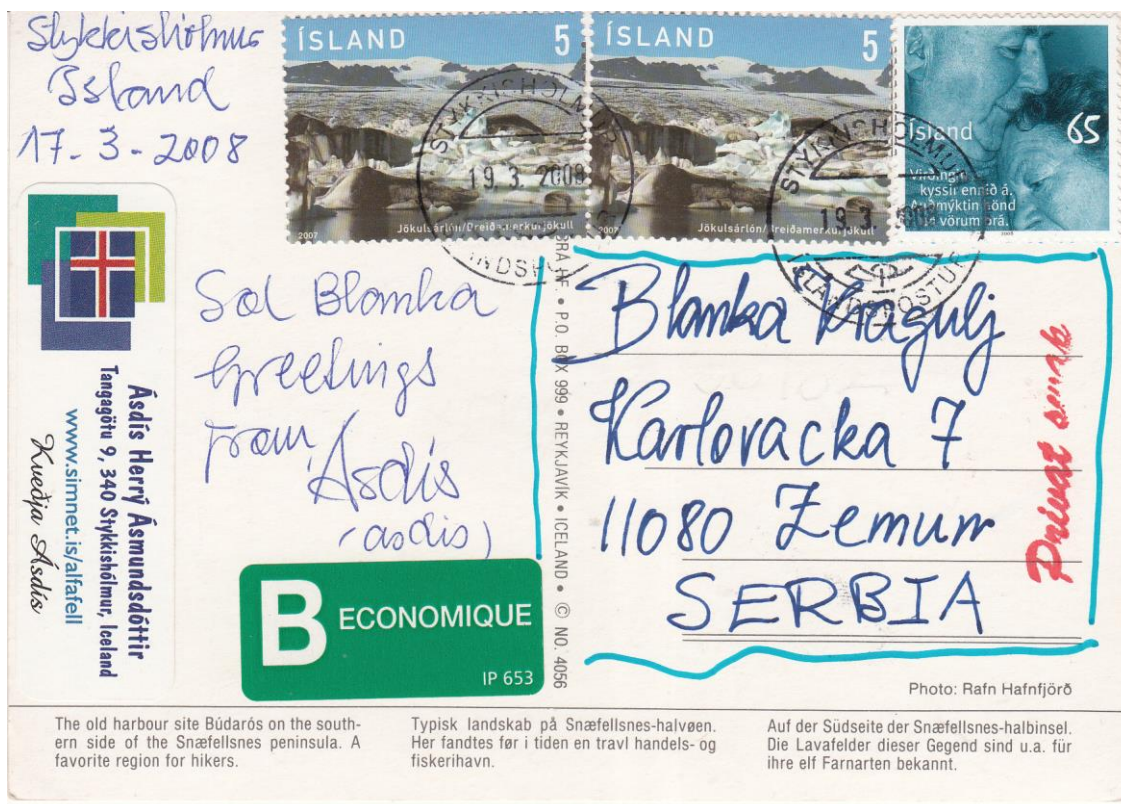
Best wishes, Jørgen

I appeal to our readers to help dispel my doubts about N1a-18. I will not mind if somebody says the editor needs a new pair of glasses.

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Stykkishólmur to Serbia

I was glad to add this card to my collection of exotic destinations. The picture side is a standard view of Snæfellsnes, but for me all the attractions are on the side illustrated here.



Stykkishólmur B8b1 dated 19.3.2008. 75kr B-Póstur Europe rate from 1.1.2008 to 31.7.2008

HAUKADALUR Vestur Ísa



I have been collecting Iceland postmarks for over 40 years, and inevitably there are some cancels which have defied my attempts to find them. Several of the missing ones belong to just one office, Haukadalur. If we begin with the opening of the collecting office on 1/1/1901, various sources claim that it used a type C2e crown cancel BRJÉFHIRÐING. How such an cancel can be pinned down to belonging to Haukadalur, I do not know.



What is certain is that a C2e crown cancel was allocated here and probably used from 1901 to 1903. I have never seen an example. Can anyone show one?

Ink cancels are known, Hauk and Haukadalur. Again, I have not seen one. Have you?

The 123 numeral cancel was replaced in 1930 with a B2a bridge cancel inscribed HAUKADALUR and neither cancel present much difficulty finding examples. But then we come to 1966, at the end of which the Haukadalur office closed. Þór's book tells us that a B8e bridge cancel was issued on 3rd June 1966, inscribed HAUKADALUR V-ÍS. Do I have one? No. Can anyone show one?

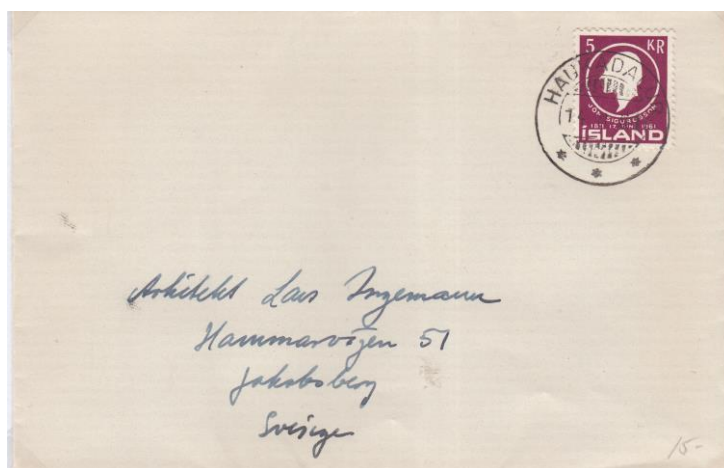


I will finish on a positive note and show the two Haukadalur cancels I do have, the numeral 123 and the B2a bridge.



Even the B2a bridge cover has a problem. The postage rate should have been 450aur and not 500 aur. Never mind.

Can readers show examples of my missing Haukadalur cancels? 😊



The fascination of aerogrammes

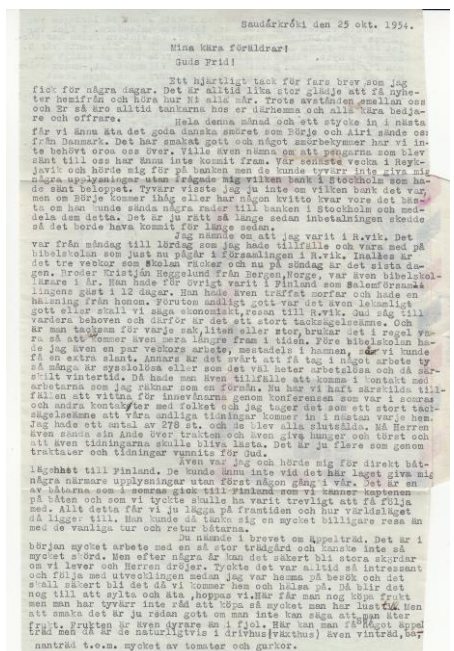
In the opening issue of the magazine back in December 2015 I wrote about my fascination with aerogrammes both from the philatelic viewpoint as well as their written contents, and gave a few examples with interesting messages from c.70 years ago. I have not subsequently missed any opportunity to show one whenever a good example came my way.

Of course aerogrammes have a philatelic interest, such as the type of aerogramme, the postal rate used, maybe even the destination, the postmark etc. This one is a common 175 aurar, but what attracted me to bid was the Sauðárkrókur B2a 26.10.54 postmark, very unusual on an aerogramme. The Finnish destination seems so brief, that at first glance it seems quite remarkable it reached the Edvin Glad family in Täkter, Finland, which it did, shown by a Täkter receiving cancel 1.11.54.



When bidding for aerogrammes you nearly always take a risk with regard to the message contents, which are rarely mentioned and not usually shown by the seller. I struck lucky with this one. The writer Danial Glad filled every available space with a typewritten Swedish message to his parents thanking his father for his latest letter with news from home. He goes on to describe life in Sauðárkrókur where he and his wife Marianne had eventually settled, and were helping to set up a branch of the Philadelphia Pentecostal Church. Here, I will only summarise the contents of his long message to his father, which is all about the food, weather, problems with missing funds not received from Finland, difficulty finding paid work amidst high unemployment, and his hopes for evangelizing.

What follows now, is taken from a description of Daniel and his missionary efforts in Iceland by a fellow church member Guðni Einarsson in Morgunblaðið 30/7/1997. Daniel, who was of Swedish/Finnish extraction sailed to Iceland c.1952 to assist in setting up the Pentecostalist Church there. He spoke no Icelandic, which he had to pick up as best he could as he went along. He settled in Sauðárkrókur and had three sons during his time there. In 1959 the family went to Finland and the couple had a daughter in Helsinki. From 1960 he returned to Iceland and travelled the country by car, preaching, visiting homes and selling spiritual magazines. In 1966 the family moved to Stykkishólmur and then later settled in Reykjavík. He is described with the honorary titles of director, elder, preacher, missionary, and pastor of the Iceland Pentecostalists. Guðni Einarsson gave a comprehensive account of Daniel's missionary work in Iceland which I am not including here, but I hope



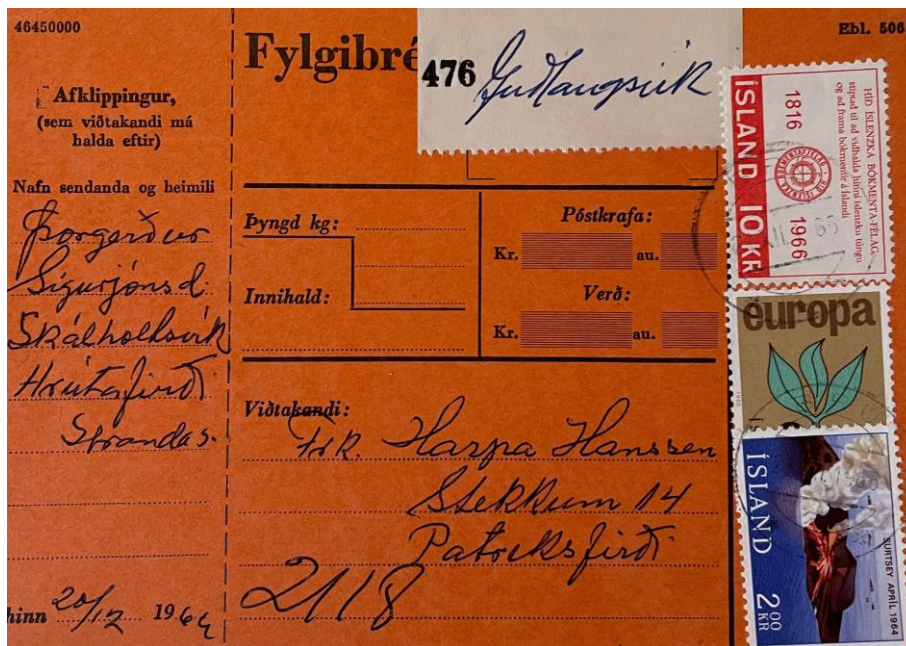
you will agree that the following extract is remarkable enough in itself to justify a mention, taken from Morgunblaðið.

A small example of Daniel's invisible ministry occurred in the fall of 1972. He was working in the Westman Islands and spent four weeks before Christmas at Bethel, the Pentecostal church. He was alone there and every night for those four weeks, Daniel was awakened at three o'clock and inspired to pray for the Westman Islands and the Islanders. Daniel received the news on January 23, 1973 when the eruption broke out on Heimaey, and that the townspeople all escaped in a miraculous way.

Guðni described Daniel to be “first and foremost a proven true friend and brother to Icelanders in joy and reality”.

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Guðlaugsvík/Brú - a fairy tale or? Eivind Kolstad



Brian, what do you say about the enclosed parcel-card from Guðlaugsvík, cancelled in December 1966? The mysterious part is the cancel: B8e BRÚ.

I replied:- Eivind, The writer lives in Skálholtsvík a very short distance north of Guðlaugsvík. He takes the parcel to Guðlaugsvík who apply their label, calculate and attach the postage stamps but for some reason fail to cancel the stamps. The route south takes the parcel to Brú where they see the stamps are not cancelled and cancel them. The parcel continues south west to Patreksfjörður. How does that sound?

Sounds like a fairy tale! 😄 No, I think you're right, but it COULD be that the B2a Guðlaugsvík was withdrawn for a while, maybe for a repair or something. Anyway, we have a great hobby!

Eivind

(Ed. So which is it? The fairy tale or was the B2a Guðlaugsvík temporarily unavailable? Readers?)

Crown Cancel forgeries *Ron Collin*

The STADUR example you already covered in Issue #49 of IPM. But I came across a recently added image, Stóri-Nupur.



The fact that I have an image of it means that it almost assuredly was offered for sale on the internet, and most likely will be offered again. The crowns (including the STADUR) are rather crude in appearance. Your first thought seems to be that the canceler was under-inked. But when you look closer, you get the impression that the "canceler" didn't have enough solid surface to pick up the ink. It is almost as if the canceler was made of cork instead. What do you think?

(Ed. The appearance of this image is unlike any of the 23 images of Stóri-Núpur on our database. I have not come across one like it and am looking forward to the opinions of readers on the probable cause and whether it is seen to be a fake cancel).

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Vík crown cancel with partial or no crown *Ron Collin*

I was going through a 2018 Facit catalog listing of Crown Cancels, and noticed something I don't remember noticing before. It is the listing of VÍK (without Crown). It is also listed in the 2014 and 2016 Facit. I've gone through my collection, and I've gone through my accumulation of Crown Cancel images, and I have never seen an example of VÍK without crown. Why have I never seen an example?

If you have an example, or at least an image, I would greatly appreciate receiving an image of it. I just went through the Crown Cancel exhibits of Páll Pálsson, Hjalti Johannesson and Arni Þór Arnason, and there are no examples of the cancel VÍK utan krone. So the hunt remains.

I had overlooked the reference to Vík with no crown or partial crown in the Swedish handbook. There is no mention of it in my Facit 2022 Special listing of crown cancels. Was this an accidental omission, or done deliberately and if so may we be told why?)

Hopefully we can rely on our readers to provide us with opinions and images showing a deterioration of the crown culminating in no crown at all!

(Ed. Prompted by Ron's enquiry, I am showing two from my collection showing the absence of detail on the left part of the crown on a 1908 DH issue, and a 1920s official stamp with no crown visible at all. I have added a third example on the 5aur CHIX which I am less sure about. Unless it is my imagination, it appears to show the start of deterioration on the left part of the crown which is more evident when enlarged).



Jørgen Steen Larsen helpfully pointed out that numeral 21 is scarce on CHIX at Vík, which may indicate an extended use of the crown cancel and its subsequent deterioration. Can we hope that one of our readers might write something about the circumstances which caused the extended use of the crown and the scarcity of the numeral 21?

Box stamps Íslandspóstur h.f. Þór Þorsteins

Previously published in Frímerkjablaðið Nr. 14 and republished with their permission.
Translated from the Icelandic.



(1)

Shortly after the establishment of Íslandspóstur hf. in 1998 a self-contained box hand stamp with an adjustable date was created by the hand stamp manufacturer Boði. After appropriate experiments with use, such hand stamps were purchased for all post offices in the country.

Over the past 8 years (Ed. This was written in 2006), we have seen various types of them and we will try to use the main ones to illustrate the variety, but these hand stamps have only been covered very briefly in Frímerkjablaðið in the past. Attempts will only be made to explain the different types extant; we will not be going into the number of different names within each of the different types nor the total of hand stamps within each specific type.

The purpose of all the stamps was to confirm the payment of postage without the use of stamps. The oldest type (1) came into use in all post offices and postal outlets in February 1999. The name of Íslandspóstur hf. together with the number of the relevant post office and date together with the word "Paid". In addition, there was a registration number for each cashier, but each cashier received his or her own special stamp. Comments were soon received from abroad that the stamps were not in accordance with international postal practices and agreements. The text within the hand stamps therefore had to be edited. It was also decided that the hand stamps should from then on only be used on domestic mail.

Later in 1999 came the so-called "PP" stamps (2)



(2)

The name of Íslandspóstur within the hand stamps is now replaced with the word "Ísland". In addition "PP" in capital letters that stands for "Post Paye" (postage paid) (Ed. It actually stands for porto payé). As before, there is a frame around the text, but due to the use of incorrect ink, hand stamps with wrinkles are found on the frame (3). Some deviations are known from types 1 and 2 and here are some samples of them without date (4).



(3)

(4)



In the same year, an experiment was carried out with so-called three-colour box hand stamps (5) at three post offices; these are however by a different manufacturer. As before, these are self-contained stamps, but

unfortunately at first the names of the months were in English. The months were soon changed into being numerical. After a short period of use, the use of these hand stamps was discontinued.



(5)



(6)



The special labels, such as Company Services Fyrirtækjapjónusta), must not be forgotten with the words: processed (afgreitt), charged (gjaldfært), paid

(greitt) and Distribution Station (Dreifingarmiðstöð), to name but a few.

After the introduction of agency post offices, several payment stamps of savings banks are known to have been used to confirm the payment of postage, but this is undoubtedly due to mistakes (7).



(7)

Stamps should now be used on all pre-paid (ed. spot paid, without credit), and the use of most of these stamps on postage will be discontinued, but if postage is charged to the account, Íslandspóstur's ordinary bridge type circular date stamps will replace it (8).



(8)

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

The countdown has begun. We have only three more articles in this series left to review. The following are from Issue 12/2017 and featured three cancels. In respect of two of them, B2c2 Látur and B7b Heydalur, no evidence has been provided by readers of their use at the second office allocations. Strangely, this was Eyri (4) in both cases. My conclusion is that examples of the use of B2c2 Látur Mjóaf at Eyri (4) in the four months before the arrival of B7b Eyri Mjóafirði in May 1977 must remain possible, and surely are extremely scarce indeed.

When Eyri (4) re-opened on 15.7.1987 from Heydalur, there is a possibility, or even a probability, that the Eyri B7b cancel from the opening period 4 years previously was no longer available, and Eyri (4) had no option but to take the Heydalur B7b until Eyri (4) itself finally closed on 31.7.1988. While accepting that mail would have been very infrequent in those remote parts, one would surely hope that a Heydalur B7b might exist from a period lasting a full year from July 1987 to July 1988? I would say keep looking. I have no examples of any cancels at Eyri for its second period of opening 1987-1988. Póst og Símsstöðvar 1. January 1988 confirms its existence as a collecting office.



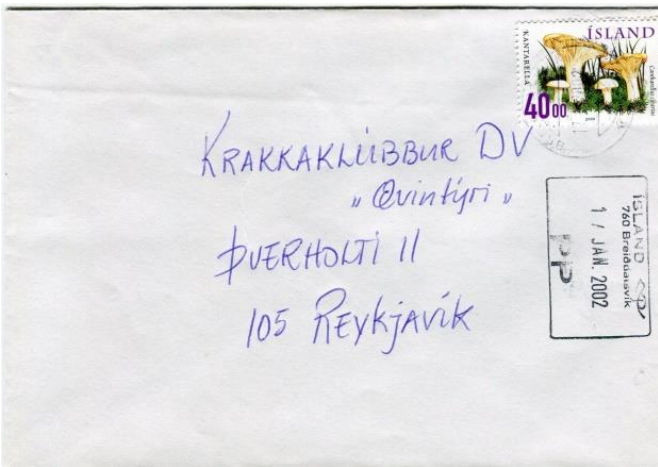
B2c2 Látur (2) Norður Ísafjarðarsýsla
Recorded use 1950 -31.12.76
Eyri (4) 1.1.1977 - ?



B7b Heydalur Norður Ísafjarðarsýsla
Recorded use 6.10.1983 – 14.7.1987
Eyri (4) 15.7.1987 – 31.7.1988?

A function of post office box stamps

What seems a long time ago (IPM Issue 30), I asked why the following three covers bear cancelled postage stamps, as well as boxed cancels. I should have looked closer. They are all underpaid and the boxed cancels were receipts for the full payment applied at the sending offices.



760 Breiðdalsvík 2002



355 Ólafsvík 2002



300 Akranes 2001

It would have been preferable if postage stamps were applied to pay the shortage and maybe a big **T** cancel.

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