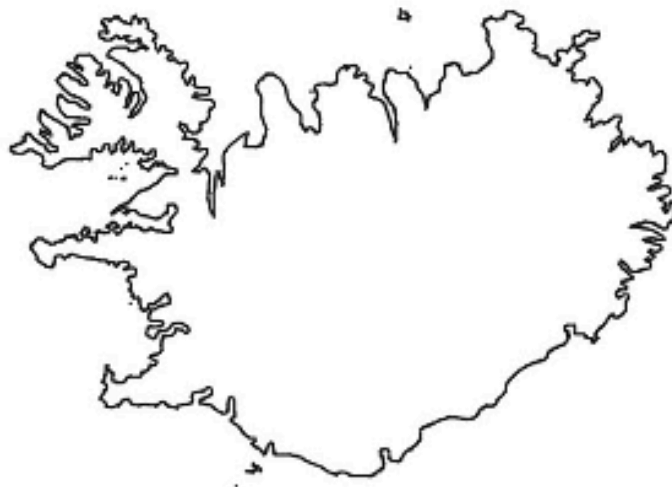
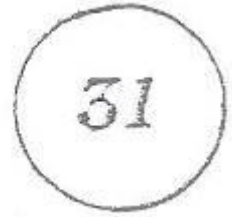


# ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



EDITOR  
Brian Flack  
E-mail address  
flackbp@gmail.com

Issue 65/Nov 2024

Contents	2
Auxiliary stamps with ” <i>Finnst ekki</i> ”. Jørgen Steen Larsen.	3
Crown cancels on cover	7
The Cancellations Nobody Wanted	8
Crown cancel identification R Collin	18
Late reusage of C1 Raufarhöfn	20
Late reusage of C1 Kirkjubær (Issue 63)	20
The Eden Booklet Ólafur Elíasson	21
Zeppelin exotica	22
Rare use of Sauðlauksdalur at Hvalsker in 1947	23
Unusual registered metered parcel card	24

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Editorial note:

As can be seen, but for one long article, this issue would not have been issued, due to the lack of material coming from the readership.

I appeal to those who enjoy this magazine and wish it to continue, to provide articles, ask questions on any subject, and of course most important, respond with answers to the questions already posed by others. There is a huge amount of knowledge amongst our wide readership. Please share it with others. The next issue, all being well, provided I get support from readers, will be early January.

Thank you.

## Auxiliary stamps with "Finnst ekki". Jørgen Steen Larsen.

(Previously published in IslandsKontakt 103/2015. My best attempt at a translation from the Danish)

In IslandsKontakt no. 102 there was an article about the auxiliary strike "Þekkist ekki". The corresponding stamps "Finnst ekki" are described here.

These stamps seem to have been used to indicate that either the recipient or the recipient's address could not be found.

### A. "FINNST EKKI í bréfberaumdæmi"

bréfberaumdæmi" means district letter carrier

Below are two examples of the use of this auxiliary strike.



Local printed matter letter stamped with Reykjavík M1A d. 26.II.38 and with inserted advertising text. The letter has been sent to Barónsstíg 59, which is part of the R-1 district.

It appears from the back, the letter was sent from Hið Íslenska Bókmenntafélag in Reykjavík.

On the front of the letter is also a weak Reykjavík stamp. It is a private stamp used by this bookseller. Street name and Reykjavík cancel is crossed out, and there is instead of with pencil bear the words "Heimili ökunnugt" - meaning "home address unknown" - and added "Denmark" - so someone must have known that the recipient had moved to Denmark. Thanks to Ólafur for interpretation of the text.



Miniature Letter of New Year's greeting sent to Nýlendugata - without specifying the street number. Nýlendugata is part of the R-1, so it is a local letter. On the reverse, there was a postage stamp, that was torn. In addition, there is a smaller part of a cancel Reykjavík B 1d. I've seen a few other letters with this stamp.

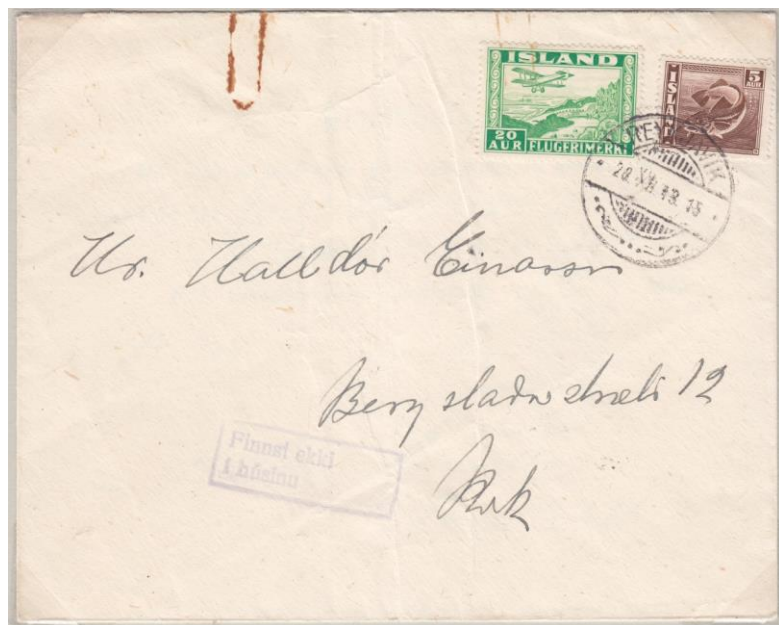
Johnny Pernerfors has examples used on a Brjefspjald from d. 17.03.1932, as well as on the letter shown below from Denmark, shipped from Holbaek d. 11.13.36.



The address, Túngötu 22, Reykjavík, Iceland, is crossed, bearing the stamp "FINNST Ekki in bréfberaumdæmi" in violet ink and a signature. The letter is then sent to the police in which they have applied to the bottom of the letter "FINST ekki" stamp d. 12.27.1936. The letter was from here returned to the post office, who stamped it with Reykjavik B 1d d. 28.XII.36 and with the framed stamps JNCONNU (on the backside) and REBUTS in black ink.

## B. "FINNST EKKI Í HÚSINU"

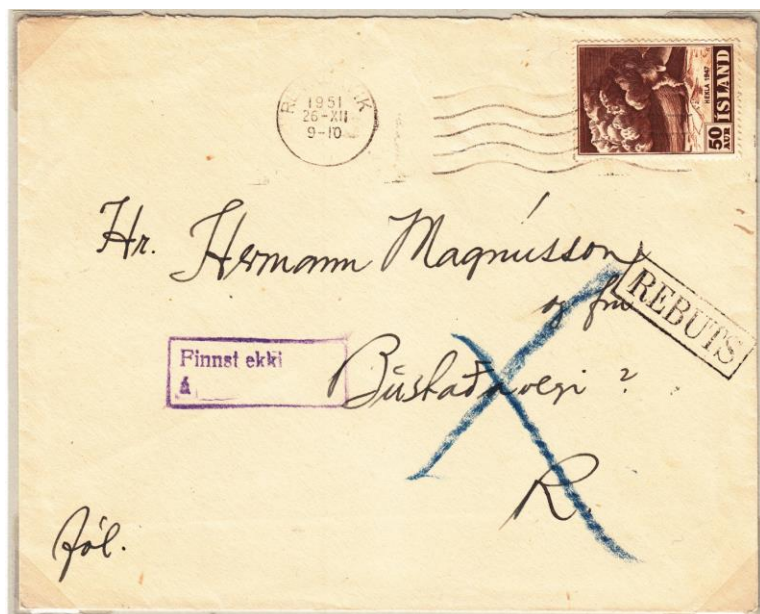
Local letter sent from Reykjavík 1. dated. 29.XII.43 to Bergstaðastræti 12, part of R-1.



On the back there is an oval cancel with a crown + SAKADÓMARINN Í Reykjavík. In the envelope is a form entitled "Kvadning" dated 12/28/1943. It seems to be a summons. The cancel is weak, because it has light blue ink. I've only seen a second letter with the same "Finnst ekki in húsinu" stamp.



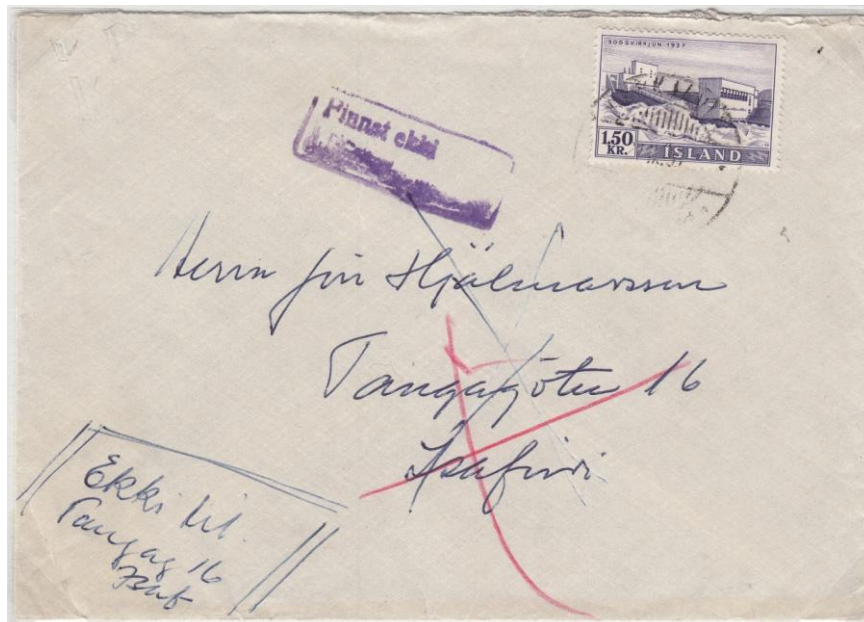
C. "Finnst ekki á ..."



Local letter sent from Reykjavík 1 d. 26.XII.1951 to Bustaðavegi - no street number - that belonged to R-1. The road name is crossed out.

"Finnst ekki á" strike with dark blue ink. There is also a REBUTS stamp used to indicate that the letter was returned to the sender. I have not seen other uses of this "Finnst ekki á" stamp.

D. "Finnst ekki ..."



The letter sent from Reykjavík 1, where it is cancelled with Reykjavík B1c (12) d. 21.IX.56, Ísafjörður, where the lower left corner is stamped "Ekki til ??? 16 Ísaf".

The "Finnst ekki" stamp is used with violet ink; there is text in the bottom line, but it is smeared. I wonder where this "Finnst ekki ..." stamp was used? Has it happened in Ísafjörður or Reykjavík? I have not seen other uses of this "Finnst ekki ..." stamp.

**E. "Finnst ekki".**

None of the auxiliary stamps A - D above can be found in the post museum in Kópavogur. It appears from the Þór Þorsteins handbook "Hjálparstimplar varðveittir í Póstsafninu, Kópavogi" published 3/22/2000, the museum has (1 + 2) = 3 others and apparently identical stamps with the inscription "Finnst ekki" in curly font.

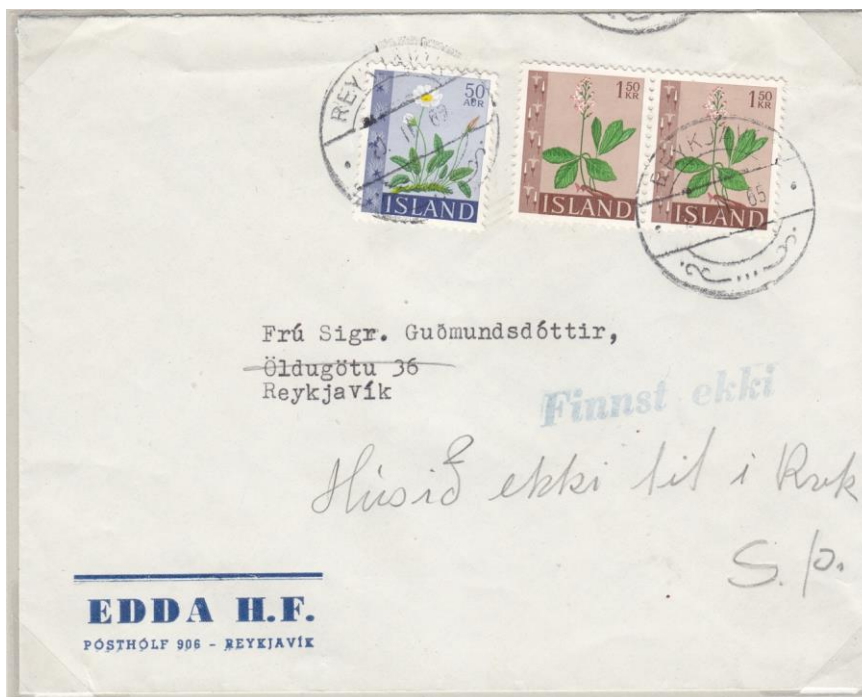
*Finnst ekki*

1st example.

*Finnst ekki*

2nd example.

Below is the impression that I know of with this type of stamp.



Local letter sent from Reykjavík 1 dated 20.II.65 to Öldugötu 36, Reykjavík 1.

"Finnst ekki" stamp is weak because they have used light blue ink.  
The letter is endorsed "Húsið ekki in Rvík S.Þ".



Letter sent from Akranes d. 19.X.1970 to Víðimel 85 which belonged to R-7, which had just opened on 3.10.1970. "Finnst ekki" in red ink on vignette with a cross of that house number not found. I've seen a few other uses of this "Finnst ekki" stamp.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

### Crown cancels on cover

The choices on what we collect are of course dictated by our particular interests but also the cost of the items. Most of my collection consists of the cancellations of the various post offices and collecting offices, and at an early stage I resolved not to include crown cancels on cover because of their very high cost. The result is that my collection has no cards or covers bearing a crown cancel of the original office of posting. I might have an odd transit crown cancel on cover but that is it. As readers will know, back in 2019 an appeal was launched to establish a database of the rarer crown cancels to be used by the Islandsklubben Crown Cancel Committee as a basis for future literature as well as for the listings in subsequent editions of the Facit catalogue. and we launched an appeal for readers to send to the IPM editor images of crown cancels currently rated at 5, RR, and RRR in Facit. Subsequent appeals were made for crown cancels with varieties and crown cancels on cover.

The total of crown cancels on cover in the database has now reached circa. 270, which includes duplicates and transit cancels. However, no fewer than 72 crown cancels are not represented on cover in the database.

I am listing below all the crown cancels from the lowest three scarcity ratings R1, R2 and R3, for which there are no images in the crowns on cover database. Can readers possibly identify any images of these crowns on cover from any source and send them to the editor to be added to the database. Alternatively, let me know where to find them. If we only add a few images, it will have been worth it. Judging by the last year or two, when additions to the database have practically ceased altogether, we may indeed be approaching the stage where all known crowns on cover are in the database. We shall see.

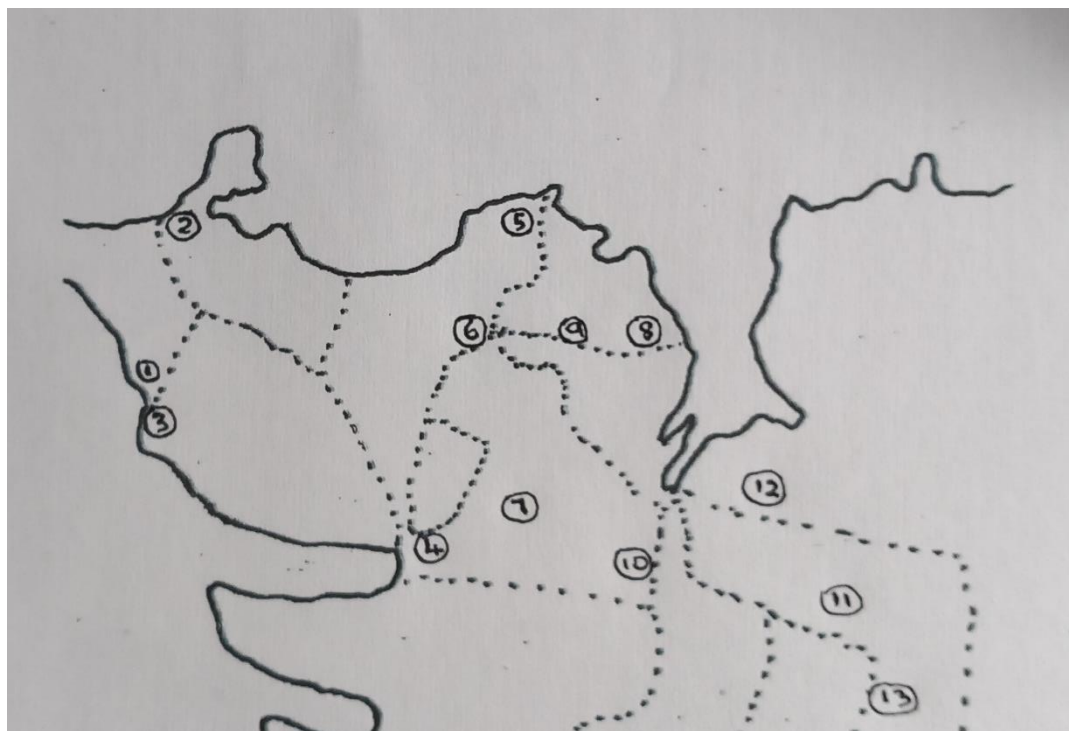
C1. Arngerðareyri, Brjámslækur, Búðareyri, Flatey, Haganes, Hesteyri, Hofsóss, Höskuldsstaðir, Kalfanes, Kleifar í Gilsfirði, Kollafjarðarnes, Kotströnd, Ljótastaðir, Lón, Presthólar, Raufarhöfn, Skarð, Staður í Grunnavík, Svalbarði, Sveinseyri, Útskálar.

C2. Arnarholt, Bakki, Hornafjörður,

## “The Cancellations Nobody Wanted”

The title of this article is a slight variation from the heading of Chapter 5 of Don Brandt’s magnificent book “Iceland’s Postal History”. Don asked the question, how does one attempt to explain the difficulty, in some cases near impossibility, of finding cancellations from 13 offices, which as he expressed it, were swallowed up by Reykjavík’s expansion between 1930 and 1970? The offices were, Hólabrekka, Kleppsholt (Svalbarð), Skildinganes, Fossvogur, Laugarnes (Þorgrímsbúð), Undraland, Sogamýri, Langholt (Kleppsholt), Vogar, Blesugróf, Selás, Smálönd, and Dísardalur.

Reykjavik area



- 1 Hólabrekka,
- 2 Kleppsholt (Svalbarð),
- 3 Skildinganes,
- 4 Fossvogur,
- 5 Laugarnes (Þorgrímsbúð),
- 6 Undraland,
- 7 Sogamýri,
- 8 Langholt (Kleppsholt),
- 9 Vogar,
- 10 Blesugróf,
- 11, Selás,
- 12 Smálönd,
- 13 Dísardalur

A few years after the arrival of Don’s book, Frímerkjablaðið Nr. 23 2011 published Þór Þorstein’s article entitled “Collecting offices and post offices in the four settlements bought by the town of Reykjavik.” That described the office and cancellation movements between Laugarnes, Kleppsholt, Langholt, Vogar and Sogamýri, but without images of the actual cancels.

With the benefit of Don’s and Þór’s research, I created a separate section of my collection for those 13 offices overtaken by Reykjavík’s expansion. Unsurprisingly, I have not managed to acquire all the cancels for my collection, and in order to present as complete a display as possible in this article, with the aid of that great supporter of IPM, Ron Collin, I have added images from various sources each notated “*image 1*”. Some of the images came from the online exhibits of Leif Nilsson and Eiður Árnason, others are from various research articles. I will of course be happy to receive from our readers images of the few cancels still missing!

What follows is my attempt at presenting a picture of this intriguing period of “lost” Iceland postal history. I hope it appeals to those for whom this area of collecting has remained something of a mystery.



## HÓLABREKKA

This was located in the Grímsstaðaholt area just north of Skildinganes southwest of where the University of Iceland now is. Timber houses first opened here in 1925, and the development was called Grímsby. The collecting office appeared under the name Hólabrekka, the name of a house dating to 1890.

Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1930 and used a type N2 numeral cancel 242

Image<sup>1</sup>



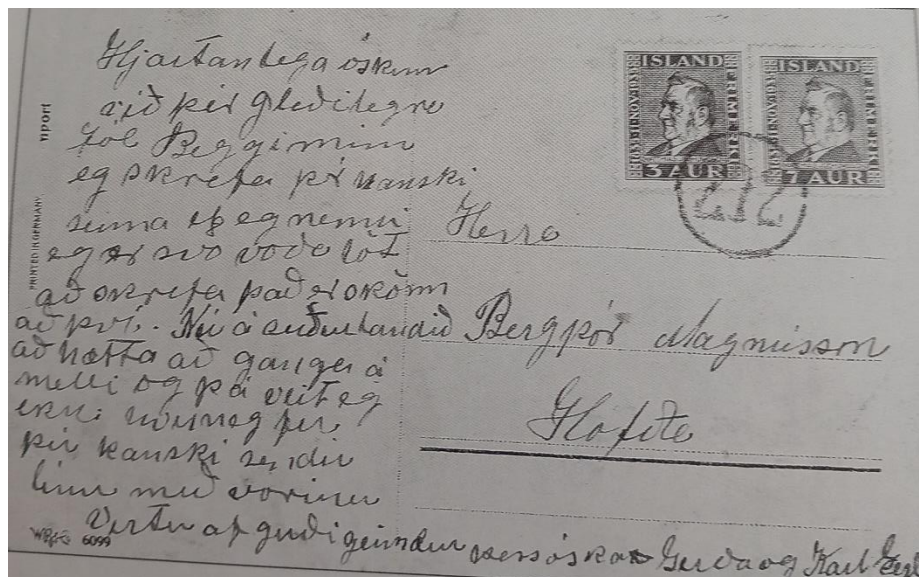
Hólabrekka closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1936

## SVALBARÐ

The collecting office was located in a shop called Svalbarð. This still exists as a fresh fish shop on Framsnesvegur in what is now western Reykjavík, in the R-1 delivery area.

Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1934 and used a type N2 numeral cancel 272

Image<sup>1</sup>



Svalbarð closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1935

## SKILDINGARNES

A city map of 1802 shows a horse track wending south to the sea where Skerjafjörður begins. There were then only two farms, one called Skildinganes. By the year 1930 enough people had moved out to this area and built houses to justify a bus route from the city. The population of Reykjavík greatly increased as a result of World War 2 when jobs were created by the allied occupation forces. Skildinganes lost some of this population increase because of excessive noise from a military airbase which cut the area in two.

Bréfhirðing opened on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1929 and used a type N2 numeral cancel 235

Image <sup>1</sup>



From July 1930 a type B2a bridge cancel inscribed **SKILDINGANES** was used as well as the numeral cancel.



7.4.30



? 4.43

Skildinganes closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1960.

## FOSSVOGUR

Fossvogur Bay ends at a lowland area called Fossvogsdalur. In 1932 it was decided to plan and build a church which would serve all Lutheran parishes in the Reykjavík by providing top class funeral and crematorium facilities for the whole area. Standards for funerals elsewhere had caused great concern among the city elders. Although the original cemetery was first used in 1932, it was not until the end of 1948 before Fossvogur church, with all the latest funeral facilities, and which seats nearly 300, was finally dedicated. As a result of an influx of people living in Fossvogsdalur during and after the war, new housing was built in some parts of the valley.

Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1945 and used a type B2c2 cancel inscribed **FOSSVOGUR**

The office closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1952.

Image <sup>1</sup>



## ÞORGRÍMSBÚÐ (LAUGARNES)

East of Reykjavík along the seacoast towards Viðey island was a choice farming area called Laugarnes, which had been inhabited since AD950. By AD1200 it had a church, and the Icelandic hero and leader Jón Sigurðsson served the bishop here between 1830 and 1833. Reykjavík town bought the landholding of Laugarnes and Kleppur farms in 1884. Erection of houses on Laugarnesvegur took place partly in the years 1924-28 but increased considerably around 1933 by which time it had 422 inhabitants. On Laugarnesvegur from Kirkjuból to Bjarmaland (the names of houses on each end of the road), the road carried two continuous rows of houses, around the middle of which was split by Sundlaugarvegur and a side road down to Kirkjusandur (a seaside place used by the fish-processing industry).

Collecting Offices in the district:

**1.11.1929 - 31.12.1940** the collecting office is named *Þorgrímsbúð*, a shop situated at Laugarnesvegur 52, at the corner of Laugarnesvegur and Sundlaugarvegur.

**1929-31** the bréfhirðingarmaður was Þorgrímur Jónsson a farmer in Laugarnes. A collecting office operated from a shop (búð) on the property of Þorgrímur Jónsson, who had the largest and subsequently the last farm at Laugarnes, hence the title Þorgrímsbúð. It is now the site of the present Laugarnes swimming pool.

**1932-40** His daughter (Guðrún) Sigríður Þorgrímsdóttir took over, living at Laugarnes and later Laugamýrarblettur 33.

Postmarks in use: **N2-244**.



The collecting office closed at Þorgrímsbúð in 1940 at the height of military activity in the area following the arrival of the British forces, and re-opened two years later, but was renamed Laugarnes.

## LAUGARNES

The collecting office closed at Þorgrímsbúð in 1940 at the height of military activity in the area following the arrival of the British forces, and re-opened two years later, but was renamed Laugarnes and was at the shop of Elías Jónsson, situated first at Kirkjutorg 5, later Hrístateigur1, and then at the end of Kirkteigur 5. These were actually all one and the same house, but was renamed because of the street name changes as the area developed. Between 1942 and closure on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1960 the bréfhirðingarmaður was Elías Jónsson.

Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1942 and used a B1a cancel inscribed **LAUGARNES** until closure.



31.12.1945

The numeral 244 was not transferred to Laugarnes, but it is understood that a Numeral N2 **294** was allocated here, but only occasionally used. Contrarily there is a letter dated 1948 in which Jónsson stated he only had a date stamp and no numeral cancel. Only 4 copies of 294 are known.

Image <sup>1</sup>



## UNDRALAND

The general area south of Laugarnes was once the meadow of a farm called Undraland (Wonderland). This is now the location of the Reykjavík 8 district.

Bréfhirðing opened on 7th January 1930 and used a type N2 numeral cancel 238.



Image <sup>1</sup>

Although a type B1a bridge cancel UNDRALAND was also issued, it is believed that no example has been found.

## SOGAMÝRI

A new numeral cancel 296 was issued from 1945.



Manuscript numeral 296

From 1958 until closure on 31.12.1960 it is said to have used B8e cancel SOGAMÝRI. Examples are unknown, as far as I know.

The former bréfhirðing building.



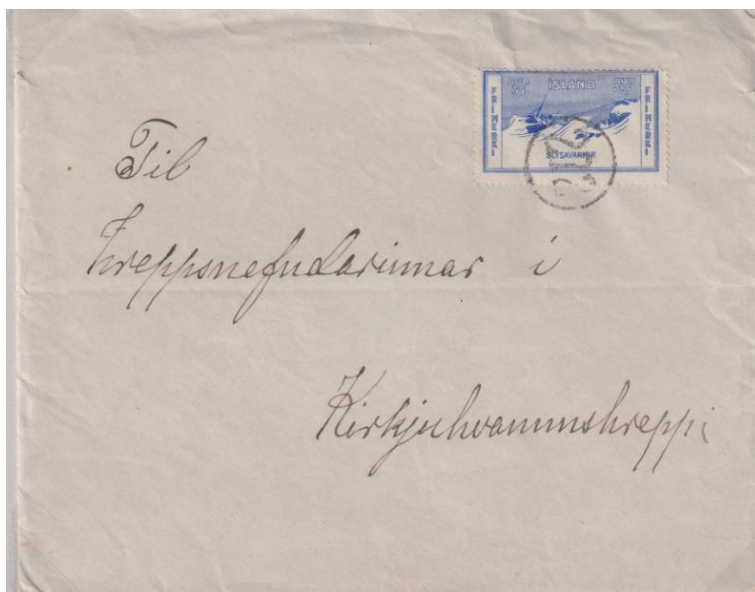


## KLEPPSHOLT (LANGHOLT)

Following the sea northward from the mouth of the river Eliðaár, the Langholt district curves back around to meet Laugarnes. The city of Reykjavík purchased it in 1885 from the monastery on Viðey Island. By the end of World War 2, only a large hospital and a few farms and houses existed here. Nearby a seaplane facility served General Balbo's squadron and the Charles Lindbergh flight. The Kleppur Mental Hospital opened on the coast here in 1907. The collecting office opened in a shop called Svalbarð on Langholtsvegi 23. Research in 2010 revealed that the office name was Kleppsholt and not Svalbarð.

Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1934 and used an extremely rare type N2 numeral cancel **272**

Image <sup>1</sup>



The bréfhirðingarmaður changed on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1935 to Tryggvi Guðmundsson who was the manager at Kleppur Mental Hospital. Possibly the office location may have moved there until closure on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1935, and possibly the name may have changed to Kleppur. There was no collecting office in the area from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1936 until the bréfhirðing **KLEPPSHOLT** opened at Langholtsvegi 17 on 10th November 1945 and used a type N2 numeral cancel 297.



On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1948 it was renamed **LANGHOLT** and in 1951 a bridge type B2c2 inscribed **LANGHOLT** came into use.



Between 1948/49 the office was located at the Langholt Shop at Langholtsvegi 17. On 1.1.1950 it moved to the Sigvald Þorsteinsson Bookshop in Eftasundi 28. On 1.1.1951 it was moved to Langholtsvegi 43, and from 1.1.1952 until 30.11.59 it was located in the Landsbanki Íslands branch office also at Langholtsvegi 43. On 1<sup>st</sup> December 1959

Langholt became a branch office of the Central Post Office, when by then was part of the eastern suburbs at Langholtsvegi 62.



B2c2 Langholt dated 21.XII.53. 75aur local letter rate

## VOGAR

The district began in the southern end of Langholtsvegur with the erection of prefabricated wooden houses purchased from Sweden in 1946. On a 1947 city map, a few buildings are shown west of Langholt, about where the Langholtskirkja church stands today. Eventually stone buildings appeared and the population reached 139.

Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1947 and was named after the Árni J. Sigurðsson shop. This was located next to the Hálogaland sports centre, where now stands a house at Gnoðarvogur 42-44. The bréfhirðingarmaður from 1947-1948 was Ragna Ingvarsdóttir, wife of Árni J. Sigurðsson, and again from 1950-1957 apart from 1949 when it was Guðbjörg Jónsdóttir. Finally, from 1958 until closure (caused by a fire at the shop in 1961), the bréfhirðingarmaður was Árni J. Sigurðsson himself.

Research in 2010 indicates that the numeral cancel N2- **295** was used here infrequently before the arrival of the B2c2 cancel in 1953.

B2c2 bridge cancel inscribed **VOGAR** (no image available to me).



## BLESUGRÓF

The area southeast of Sogamýri and west of Elíðaár, where Reykjavík, Kópavogur and Breiðholt join today, remained farmland until World War 2; then it became a combination of farms and military camps. After 1945, houses started appearing. A bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1945. The name Blesugróf might translate as “Blessed Hollow”. It is in Reykjavík 108

Used a type N2 numeral **249**

Image <sup>1</sup>



Replaced in 1951 by a type B2c2 inscribed **BLESUGRÓF**



B2c2 19.XII.59 to Kópavogur. Local 1kr postcard rate from 1.7.58 to 28.2.60

Blesugróf closed 30<sup>th</sup> September 1968

## SELÁS

Its position in the residential eastern suburbs is now covered by R-10 postal area. In 1929 Fillipus Guðmundsson, a local mason, built a summer house for the family at Selás. Later in 1941 he erected a large house at its side which was always called “the big white house”. The collecting office operated from this house.



Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1947 and was allocated one of the four type B1d **REYKJAVÍK** cancels (R-20 - R23); which one is difficult to identify.

In 1952 the Reykjavik B1d was replaced with type B2c2 **SÉLAS** which was used until closure on 31.12.1968



B2c2 **SÉLAS** dated 14.XII.65.  
1kr 50 local letter rate



## SMÁLÖND

This was in the area facing Grafarvogur along the present road Stórhofði and Vesturlandsvegur. The collecting office moved frequently making it difficult to state which premises were used.

Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1948 and used a B2c2 cancel inscribed **SMÁLÖND**

B2c2 SMÁLÖND date unclear

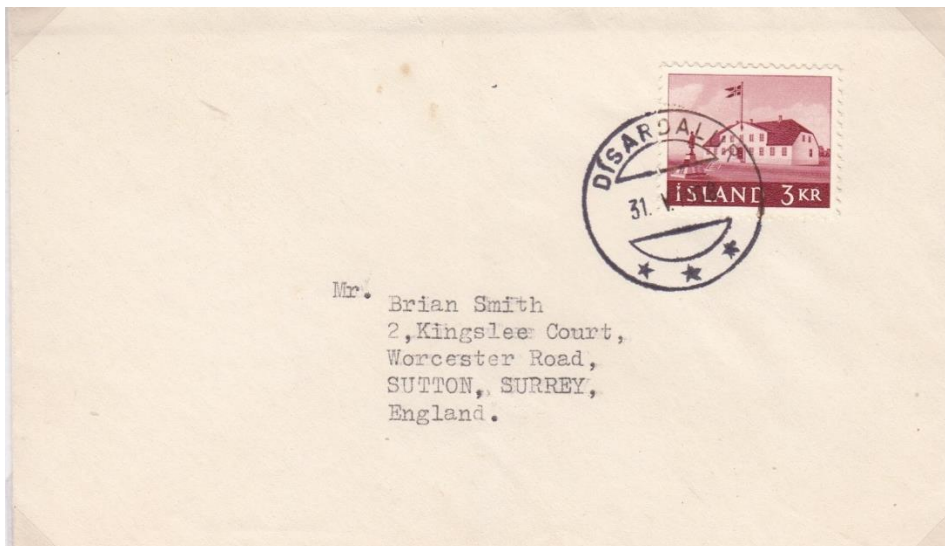


Smálönd closed 31.12.1963.

## DÍSARDALUR

This was a farm located next to Lake Rauðavatn. The house was still occupied in the 1960s and stands between the modern suburb of Selás and Lake Rauðavatn, probably on the main Suðurlandsvegur road leading to Selfoss and the south coast. It is close to Baldurshagi, where the first US Army Post Office was located. Its position is now in the residential eastern suburbs and covered by R-10 postal area. Dísardalur means “Fairy (or Goddess) Valley”

Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1953 and used a B8e bridge cancel inscribed **DÍSARDALUR**



Type B8e dated 13.V.1968 3kr surface rate to UK

Dísardalur closed 31.12.1969

## Crown Cancel Identification. *Ron Collin*

Periodically a stamp will show up with just enough of the Crown Cancel to cause confusion in identification. This mostly happens when only the back portion of the town name is present. This sometimes happens when the cancel was applied to a pair of stamps that somehow became separated, or the cancel was applied in such a way that the beginning of the town name was the portion of the cancel that tied it to the cover.

In any event, identification of the cancel has to be determined with the letters that are present. Working backwards with the letters you can sometimes identify the cancel. But with similar town name endings, this method is not always foolproof. A case in point, was recently for sale on eBay. Here it is.



A check with the Facit Specialized catalog reveals that there are two type C2 cancels that end in STADIR. So that didn't completely identify the cancellation. This cancel could be either HOLTASTADIR or FROSTASTADIR.

For comparison, I have included another example of a similar C2 cancel on another common 10 aur issue.



Another method used to try to identify a cancel is to count the number of letters in the town name. HOLTASTADIR has 11 letters. FROSTASTADIR has 12 letters. Since the crown and the town name are usually centered within the canceller device, it should be easy to identify the cancel. HOLTASTADIR with its 11 letters, should have the cross on the top of the crown pointing at or very close to the middle letter, which is the S. The FROSTASTADIR cancel, having 12 letters, should have the cross at the top of the crown pointing between the A and the S.

You must bear in mind that not much is known about the exact process of making the mold to form the molded rubber portion of the canceller. So the "centering" of the town name and crown, might have been "eyeballed" as opposed to exact measuring.

In order to confirm this, here is a clearer example of a FROSTASTADIR cancel. The point of the cross is definitely pointing between the A and the S



So this process, though not very scientific, allowed the identification of the item that appeared on eBay, to be identified as a HOLTASTADIR Crown cancel.

These processes should allow the identification of most cancels having the back end of the cancel shown on the stamp. If the ending of the town name can be determined, you should be able to come up with some possibilities. If the point of the cross on the crown is visible, then this process should be able to help you decide.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## Late reusage of C1 Raufarhöfn.



Raufarhöfn village is by the plateau Melrakkasletta (transl. Arctic Fox Plain) the northernmost part of Iceland, almost on the Arctic Circle and closest to the midnight sun. It is the northernmost village in Iceland. BH Raufarhöfn in Norður þingeyjarsýsla was opened 1.1.1879 and continued as a collecting office until upgrading to post office from 1.1.1929.

The first cancellation was a crown and posthorn inscribed **RAUFARHÖFN** delivered in the first allocation of 1894/95. In *Islandskontakt* 46, Jørgen Steen Larsen shows a block of 4 Facit 94 with a clear blue crown cancel and said it may have been used in 1913/1914 philatelically or accidentally. I can find no other reference to late use in the literature. The above is the best image I can extract from ISK. I know of no other example, so can anyone provide a better one? Surely there must be others?

The numeral 51 is also known in the same colour.

In the next issue we are looking at the reuse of **C1 Reykjarfjörður**. Readers are encouraged to send images of this reuse to the editor please.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## Late reusage of C1 Kirkjubær (Issue 63)

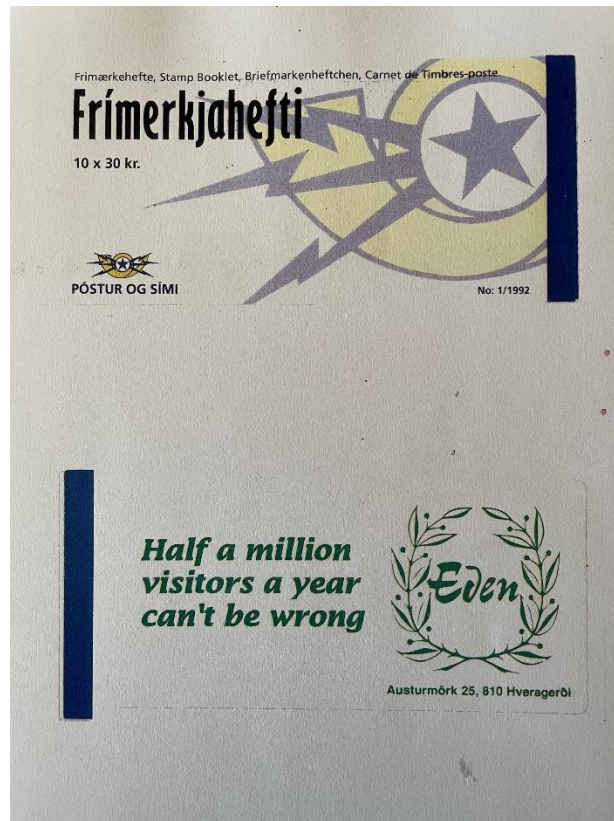
Another example of the frequent late use of this crown cancel up to 1920. This appeared for sale in November.





## The Eden Booklet Ólafur Elíasson

Eivind Kolstad encouraged me to publish this article which was by Ólafur Elíasson and is believed to have been published in an edition of Rapport, although I can't find it! This is my not very good attempt at translation from the original Swedish.



In 1992, a stamp booklet was issued in Iceland containing a block of ten of one of the year's Export Trades and Commerce stamps, booklet no. 1/1992. On the back of the front cover is an advertisement from one of Iceland's largest souvenir shops, Rammagerðin in Reykjavík. It is precisely that advertisement which is the direct cause of the complications that followed.

The booklet was sold at the nominal price of the stamps, SEK 300, and customers bought them at the post office and in many of the kiosks and other shops where stamps are normally sold. However, there was an exception. In Hveragerði, a town approx. 40km east of Reykjavík is another of Iceland's biggest souvenir shops, called Eden. Hveragerði, with its bubbling hot springs and greenhouses with exotic plants is a popular stopover for tourist buses and the vast majority stop at Eden. Now the owner of this popular souvenir shop refused to deal with the Icelandic postal service's new product, booklet no. 1/1992. His defence for this decision was simple. He saw no point in advertising his biggest competitor in the souvenir business, and that without getting a penny in commission. No thanks, that kind of business wasn't for him. (and that can be well understood).

Here the story could have ended, (i.e. then there would have been no story) if a bright spark among the employees of the postal service had not had an idea. If it was just a single advertisement on the back of the booklet sales that was the reason why the booklet could not be bought in one of Iceland's biggest souvenir shops, then it was an easy problem to solve.

Unfortunately, the author of this article does not know the exact sequence of events, but roughly speaking, it happened in the following way. Labels with a printed advertisement from Eden were obtained. I don't know if these were produced especially for this reason, or if they were already at the company. An unspecified number of these labels were delivered to the post office in Hveragerði, along with the task of pasting them on top of the printed advertisement on the back of the booklet. The booklets treated in this way could only be sold to Eden, who then sold them on to their tourist customers. Even so, a few Eden booklets were sold at the post office to regular customers "due to a mistake" as an official at Hveragerði post office informed the author of the article, when he went there to buy some of these special booklets. (It is therefore a fact that the booklets were produced by the post office and that they were sold to customers at the post office in Hveragerði, even if it was a mistake. This means that this addition to Icelandic philately must be designated as official and not just a private invention.

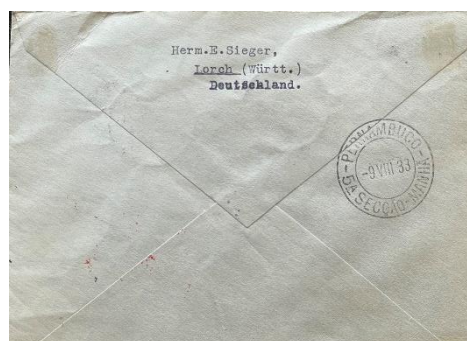
Finally, let me state that the Eden booklets are unusual. No one knows how large the edition was, but one can guess at a maximum of a few hundred booklets. Most were probably sold to foreign tourists for franking postcards (of which there is a large assortment in Eden). It was a pure coincidence that Icelandic philatelists discovered this before the tourist season was over and were able to save a few rare specimens to please posterity.

PS The story can probably give rise to some questions about business ethics, but it is a delicate area that the author does not dare to venture into.

XXXXXXX

## Zepelin Exotica

Jón Hafþór Þorláksson showed this amazing cover on Frímerkjaspjall and asked for observations. He gave his permission to show it in IPM. I told him I am confident that our Zeppelin experts will provide the story behind the cover. Please don't disappoint him (and me).





## Rare use of Sauðlauksdalur at Hvalsker in 1947



Many thanks to Jóhann Ragnarsson for identifying this example which as far as I am concerned is possibly unique.

The B2b Sauðlauksdalur cancel is unpriced in Facit for the period it is believed to have been located in Hvalsker from 1.7.1945. Hvalsker had also taken the numeral 129 from Sauðlauksdalur and the numeral itself is also a scarce cancel when used 1945 up to 1951, which surely indicates a general lack of postal traffic at Hvalsker at this time! The numeral 129 passed on to Haukaberg from 1951 presumably after Hvalsker received its own bridge cancel. We should thank the creator of this cover, perhaps an unknown travelling postmark researcher (?) for “arranging” this example. The 10 aurar rate was valid in 1947 for local post, which this cover is clearly not to the Reykjavík destination. Now of course if one of our readers can show us a “real” example of postal use of B2b Sauðlauksdalur in the Hvalsker period before it received its own B2c2 cancel in 1951, that would be even more exciting.

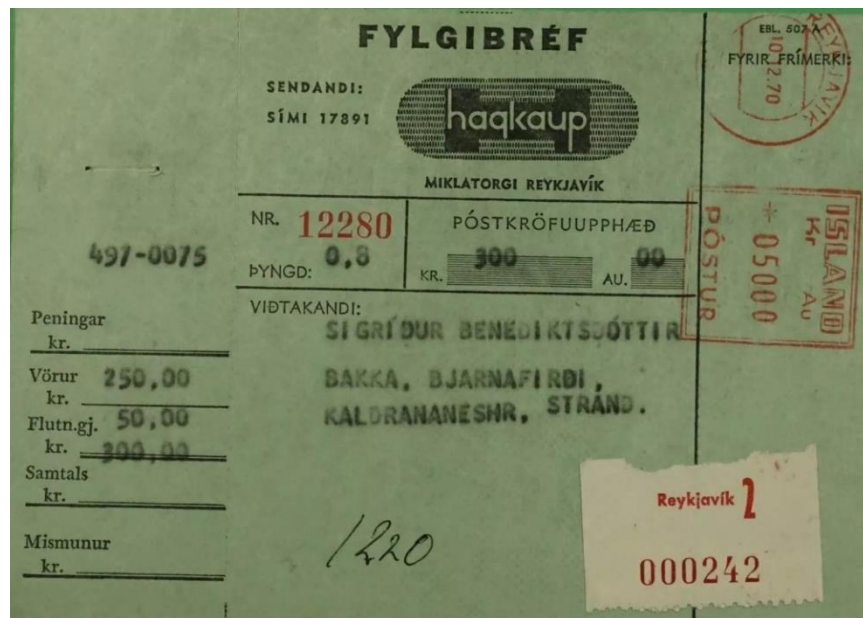


Hvalsker closed on 31.12.1954, and guess what? My only copy of the B2c2 Hvalsker is shown below dated 27.VI.51 and is rather “philatelic” as I am sure you will agree. The postage paid bears no resemblance to any current postage rate. As you might have guessed, I am asking if any reader can show this B2c2 Hvalsker genuinely postally used.



XXXXXXXXXX

### Unusual registered metered parcel card



I have never seen a parcel card of this type before. Described as registered metered parcel card and posted in Reykjavík 2 on 10.12.70. Hopefully one of our readers can explain the unusual format and the calculation of the postage?