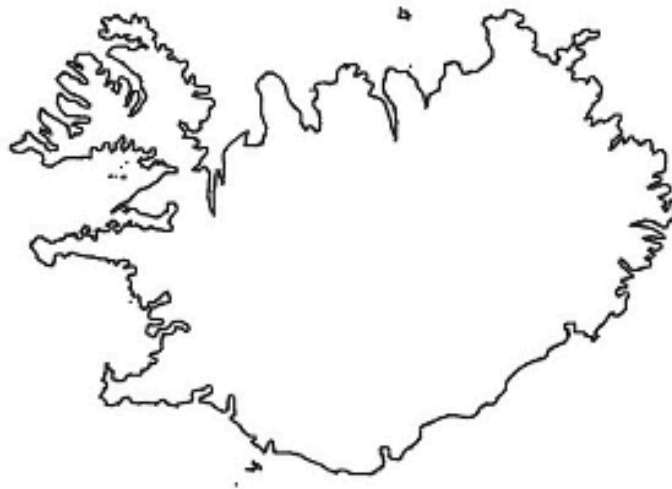
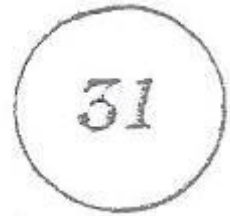


# ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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## Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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## Ólafur Nikulás Elíasson 30.5.1941 – 27.10.2024



I received the sad news from Ingibjörg Ólafsdóttir of her father's death at Landspítali -University Hospital in Reykjavik after a sudden and serious illness. Last August Ólafur and his wife celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They had three children.

Ólafur made a huge contribution to Icelandic Philately, sharing his extensive knowledge of Iceland postal history. He was co-author of the authoritative work *Island Postalt set i Perioden 1939-1945* and also co-author of *North Atlantic Philately* from 1987 to 1993. In more recent years he contributed wonderful postal history articles for *Frímerkjablaðið*. I shall always be grateful for the generous and invaluable support he gave me over a number of years in the research for my 1998 book *Iceland Postal Rates*.

May Ólafur rest in peace.

xxxxxxx

### “New Issues” in 2023? (Issue 63)

Thanks to Jarle Reiersen, at last we have images of those elusive “new issues” with the 250g innanlands overprints. Dare I ask if anyone can show them on cover, please?



## Iceland's Greiðslumerki (Fee) Stamps. *Roger Cichorz*

This brief article offers a personal perspective on Iceland's 1935-1941 Greiðslumerki (fee) revenue stamps of two different types resulting from two different printers. When I seriously collect stamps of Nordic countries, I also collect their covers in an attempt to build a representative postal history collection. Of course, when I can find them, I also add proofs, color trials, and essays to the stamp portion of my collections. I began to collect Iceland stamps about 12 years ago and within two years had an almost complete collection except for some of the scare to rare "Þrír" and "Í GILDI" overprinted stamps, a few of which are still on my wants list today and will probably remain so because their acquisition costs well exceed my stamp budget.

I quickly concluded that Iceland was not an area for me to start collecting postal history as most of its pre-1940s covers were too expensive to put together a comprehensive collection. So, with the Iceland collecting bug nibbling away at me, how could I scratch the itch without breaking my philatelic budget? Revenues came to mind as I already had a representative collection of Faroese Valutagjald (import permit fee) revenue stamps affixed to partial documents, akin to the use of Tollur-cancelled import duty stamps of Iceland. Likewise, for the Faroese freight stamps, although these and the Tollur-cancelled stamps affixed to entire documents or pieces thereof are pricey.

Well, soon on, I discovered that Iceland revenue stamps affixed to entire documents and on piece or as off-paper used examples are relatively plentiful and, apparently because of scant collector interest compared to postage stamps, they are not in high demand and fairly inexpensive – especially in relation to the prices commanded by same-era covers because of a particular stamp use, postmark type, auxiliary marking, registry label, money letter with wax seals, or other such feature that piques collectors' interest. Some Tollur-cancelled postage stamps are the "revenue stamp" exception and costly, especially any affixed to full or partial documents, but Stimpilmerki (documentary) and Greiðslumerki (fee) stamps nicely fall into my inexpensive acquisition criteria.

So, Icelandic revenues fit the bill for me to acquire a rather sizable collection over the past several years without having to take out a second home mortgage. This article features a small grouping of nine items I purchased in March 2023 in an Icelandic on-line auction. Described as "miscellaneous various invoices and receipts with 10 aur Greiðslumerki fee stamps," I won it for \$15.35 (~£12.25), which included the buyer's and shipping fees. The lot contained nine entire documents dated 1935 to 1940, each with one affixed Greiðslumerki stamp.

Three of the items are shown here, but before I mention their specifics, let me present an overview of Greiðslumerki stamps. They are listed in the *FACIT Special Classic 2024* catalogue as Payment tax stamps. Their period of use was from April 1, 1935 to March 31, 1941. They were affixed to money orders, invoices, and receipts valued from 20 kroner or more, and usually were canceled with postal office cancels or by pen, but not always. It is my experience from the 48 examples of full documents in my collection that about 20% of the affixed stamps are not canceled.

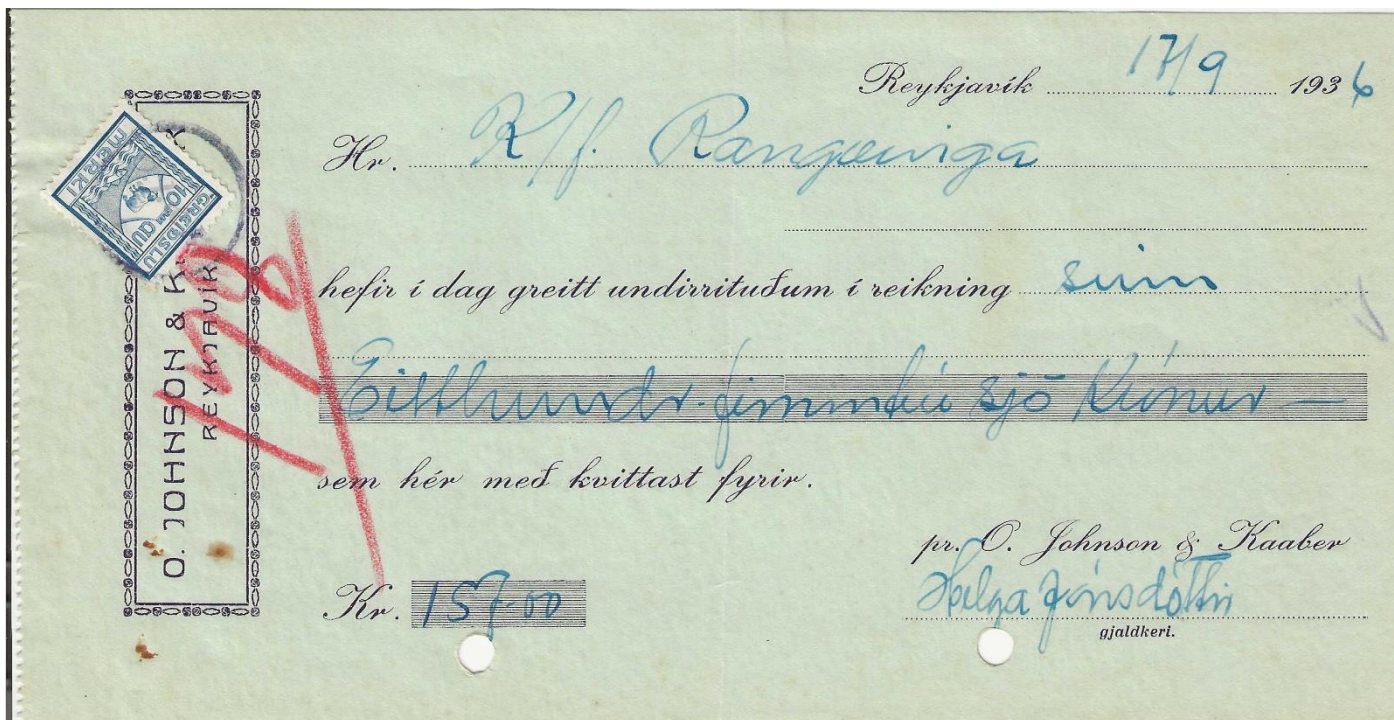
The Greiðslumerki stamps exist as 1935 "**Greiðslu-/merki**/(vertical bar at right)/ **10 10**" surcharges on the 1931-1932 Gullfoss 65 and 75 aurar stamps (*outside the scope of this article*) and as 1935-1941 Greiðslumerki 10 aur stamps, the subject of this article. These 10 aur stamps exist as two types with the same design printed in blue. The 1935 printing by Danska Postverket tryckeri (Danish Post Printing office) in Copenhagen is line perforated 12¾, and the 1938-1941 printings by Gutenberg in Reykjavík are comb perforated 11. Both the Copenhagen and Reykjavík stamps were printed in about equal three million quantities, though *Facit* values them slightly differently as mint and used copies.

The lot I purchased contains stamps of both printings and four of the nine items are affixed with uncanceled stamps. Stamps from both the Copenhagen and Reykjavík printings were present, and representative examples of each are illustrated. The three items with Greiðslumerki 10 aur stamps shown cost only \$5.10 (~£4.00) and comprise a September 17, 1936 bank draft with a Copenhagen perf. 12¾ type tied by an indistinct Reykjavík postal cancel, a February 12, 1937 invoice with a manuscript canceled Copenhagen perf. 12¾ type, and a February 12, 1941 invoice with a manuscript canceled Reykjavík perf. 11 type.

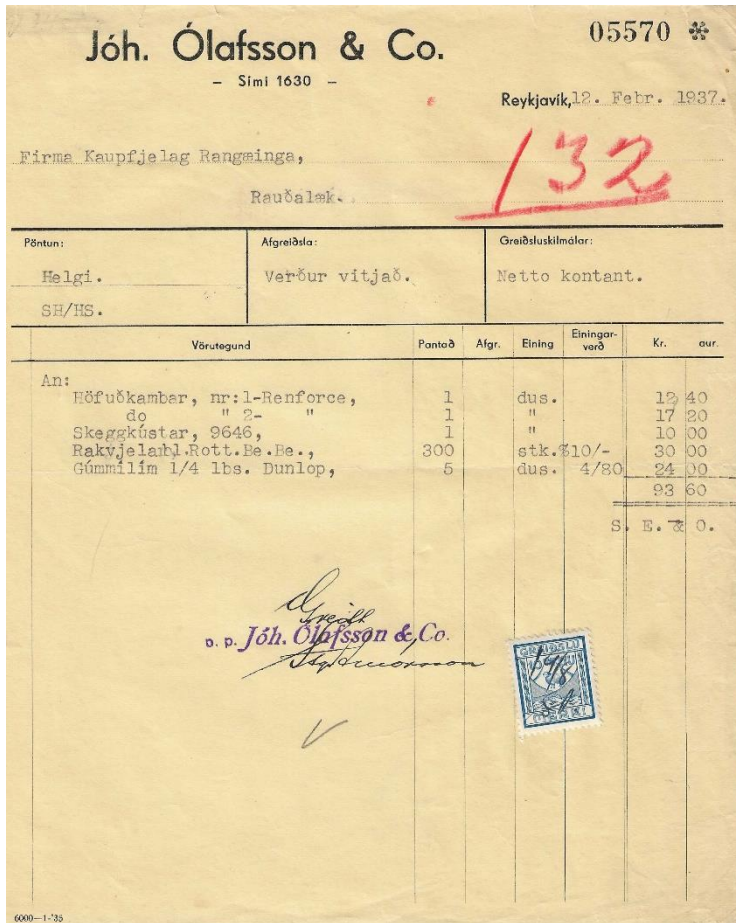
Besides the three items shown, this entire lot had six other complete documents with additional uses, other examples of both perf. types, and uncanceled examples. What kind of postally used covers from this era comparable to these could I get for that cost? Readers' answers and rebuttals are welcome via e-mail ([rcichorz@comcast.net](mailto:rcichorz@comcast.net)).

**Reference:**

*FACIT Special Classic 2024*, page I-430, the Iceland section on “Avgiftsmärke – Greiðslumerki – Payment tax stamps”

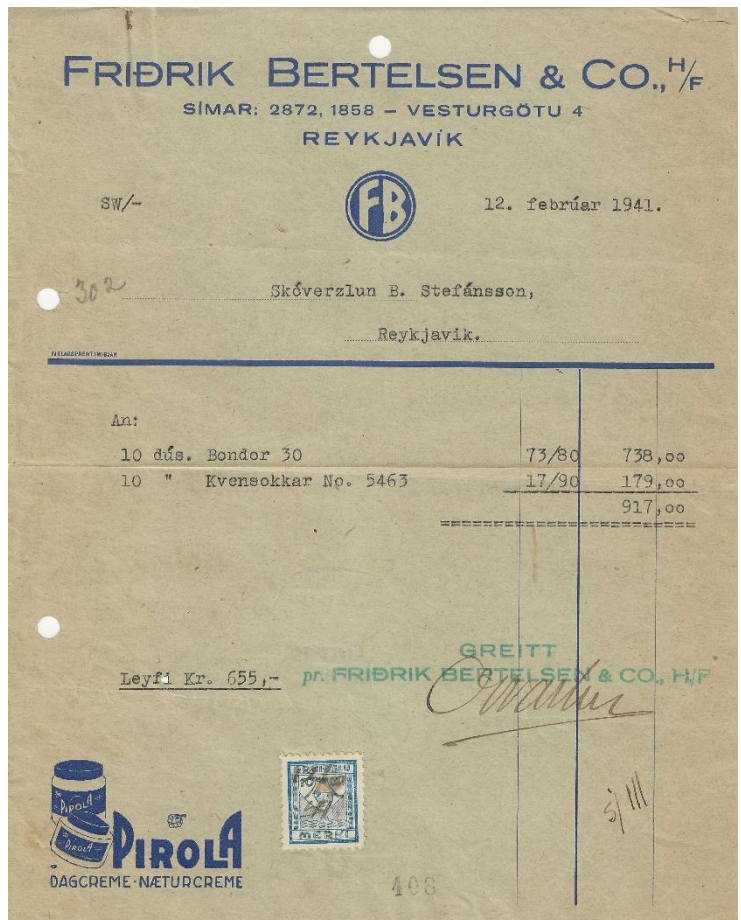


September 17, 1936 bank draft with a Copenhagen-printed perf. 12¾ Greiðslumerki 10 aur stamp tied by an indistinct Reykjavík bank cancel.



February 12, 1937 invoice with a manuscript-canceled Copenhagen perf. 12¾ Greiðslumerki 10 aur stamp

February 12, 1941 invoice with a manuscript-canceled Reykjavík perf. 11 Greiðslumerki 10 aur stamp



## GRUND (Borgar) collecting office

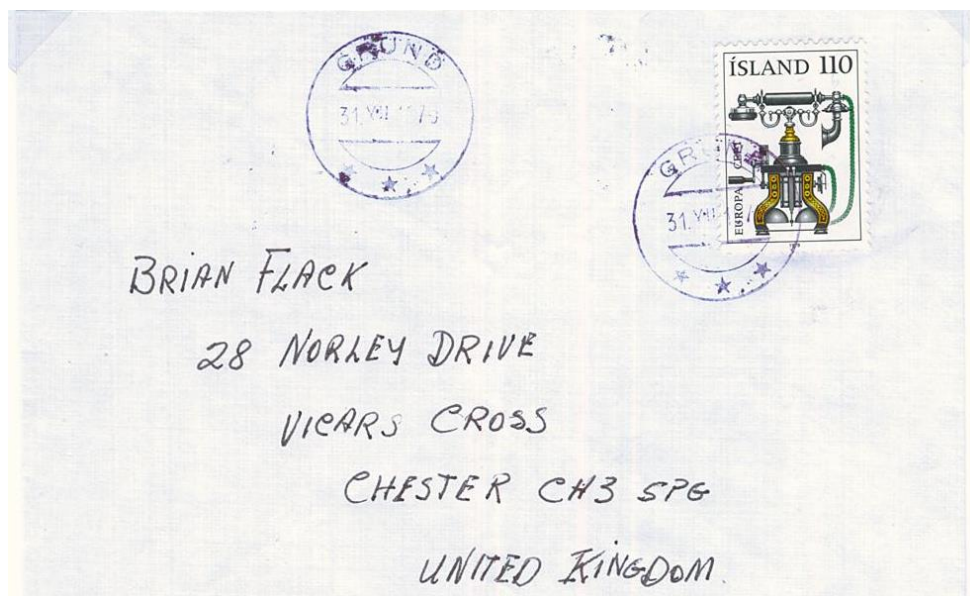
My thanks to Eivind Kolstad who gave me enough encouragement to write about this small farm collecting office. Grund the collecting office was located in Skorradal in Borgarfjarðarsýsla and was opened on 1.1.1957 and used a type B8e bridge cancel, I am surprised the subject had not been covered in the previous issues of IPM, so I will now correct the omission.

Eivind sends this part image of his 1993 cover with the Grund B8e cancel dated 4.II.1993, fully 20 years after the office was supposed to have closed.



Back in 2002, Per Olov Abrahamsson wrote an article in Rapport 128 about his discussion with Sigurður Þormar regarding a collecting office named Grund. There seemed to be some confusion regarding some earlier correspondence about Grund in Kjósarsýsla, which opened in 1936, and this Grund in Borgarfjarðarsýsla, the subject of this article. Back in 1982 when I was writing to post masters asking for cancellations on self-addressed covers, I sent two covers to Grund in Borgar which both came back cancelled in Borgarnes, along with a letter from the farmer Davíð Pétursson explaining that his office had officially closed on 31.12.1979 and he was forbidden to let mail cancelled with the Grund postmark through the posts after the closure. However, because I had written my request in Icelandic, as a favour to me he made up a cover with a correct postage stamp, cancelled it with the Grund B8e with the date of closure and included it with his letter, see below.

Type B8e cancelled by favour on the last day of opening on condition it was not put in the post. It went under cover from Borgarnes.



I had written to Grund in 1982 seeking the cancel, because it was still listed as open in PÓST OG SÍMSTÖÐVAR. A long time later in the 1990s (?), I asked that wonderful helpful post office official Rafn Júlíusson, why several collecting offices, not just Grund, were still listed as open when there seemed to be evidence they had closed. Rafn promised to write to the relevant post offices concerned. In the case of Grund he got this amusing reply. *“The farmer Davíð Pétursson is a speciality, rough and stubborn, and running one of the smallest districts now found in Iceland. He was appointed a BH-man by a former postmaster in Borgarnes who passed away many years ago. When the BH closed (Pétursson) kept the Grund hand stamp and refused to return it. The lady who is the current Postmaster in Borgarnes knew this but is not ready to press the case against Davíð as he was a man not to be argued with. She has from time to time seen covers with stamping from Grund.”*

Grund continued to be included in the list of open offices until the issue of PÓST OG SÍMSTÖÐVAR in 1996.

Our defiant farmer evidently overcame his reluctance to use the Grund cancel in the post and produced later cancels. Eivind asks, are there any later examples than his 1993 cover? Perhaps our readers will write to the editor. I finish with this legitimate Grund cancel obtained by Sigurður Þormar in 1979.



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## Auxiliary stamps with “Finnst Ekki” (Issue 65)

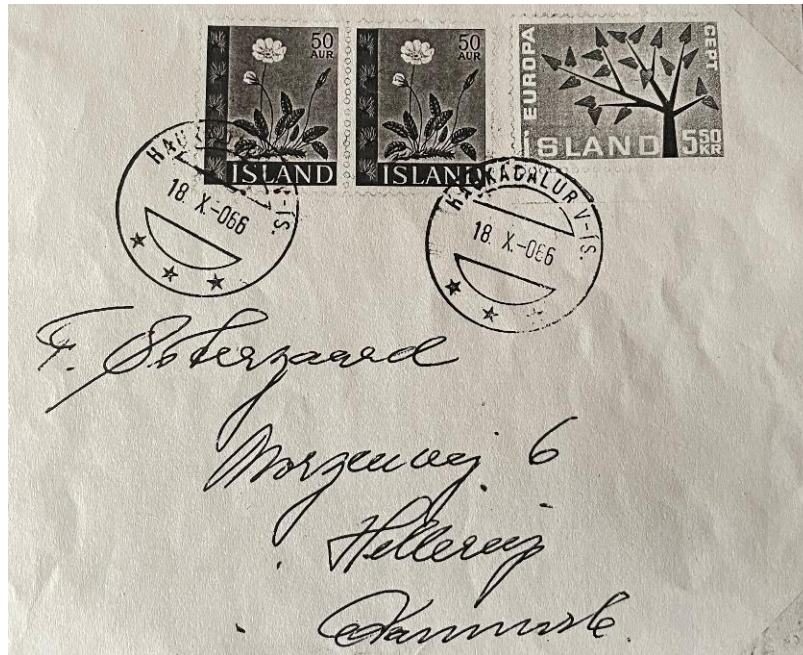
From Palli Palsson here is one card with the Finnst Ekki stamp. The initials of presumably the postal official are added.



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## Haukadalur V – ÍS

Showing this from Eivind, an image from Joergen. B8e Haukadalur V – Ís. Unpriced in Facit, and used 3 March 1966 to 31.12.1966



## The Cancellations Nobody Wanted (Issue 65)

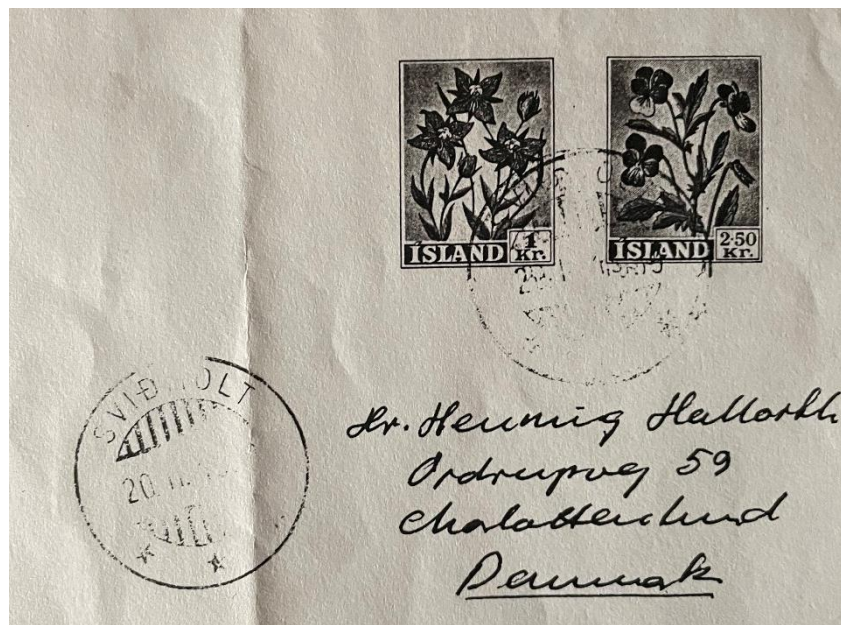
From Eivind Kolstad:-

Reference the collecting offices in Reykjavik: I know all the bridge- cancels have been in use. Myself, I show here a very good example of B8e SOGAMYRI. It is the jewel in my collection: B8e SOGAMYRI. I call it the jewel for several reasons. First because of its rarity, of course, maybe it is unique; I have never seen another. Second because it is a beautiful strike, and I also like to think that it is a postal used one. Also, because the cancel is on one of the most beautiful Icelandic stamps issued: The "LØVETANN" flower stamp. Løvetann means "lion-tooth", and the flower is quite hated here in Norway, because we consider it as weed, but still: A beauty.

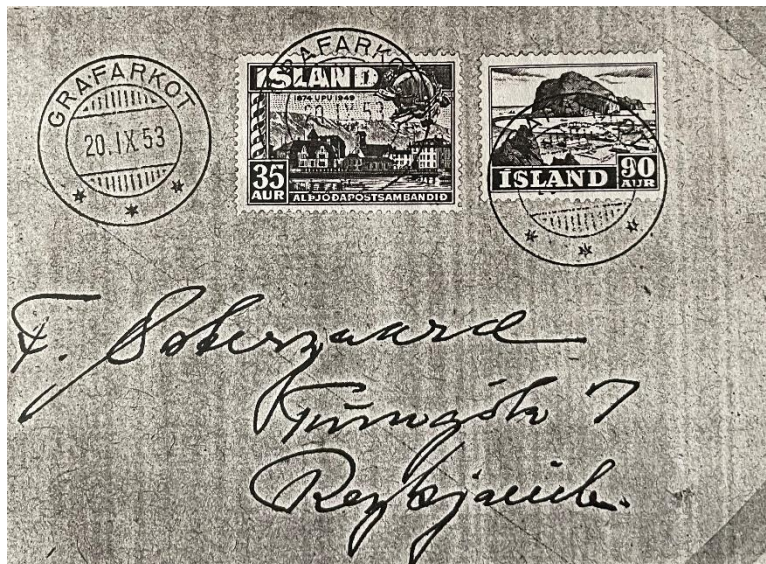


B8e SOGAMYRI.

Jørgen sent me these two images years ago:-.



B3e SVIDHOLT. On 1958 Flowers issue. 350aur letter rate to Denmark 1.9.1961 to 31.12.1962



Grafarkot B2c2 20.IX.53 Correct 125aur inland letter rate

Thanks to Jørgen Steen Larsen here are two (!! ) of the rare Undraland B1a:



C  
15aur king from  
1937- series

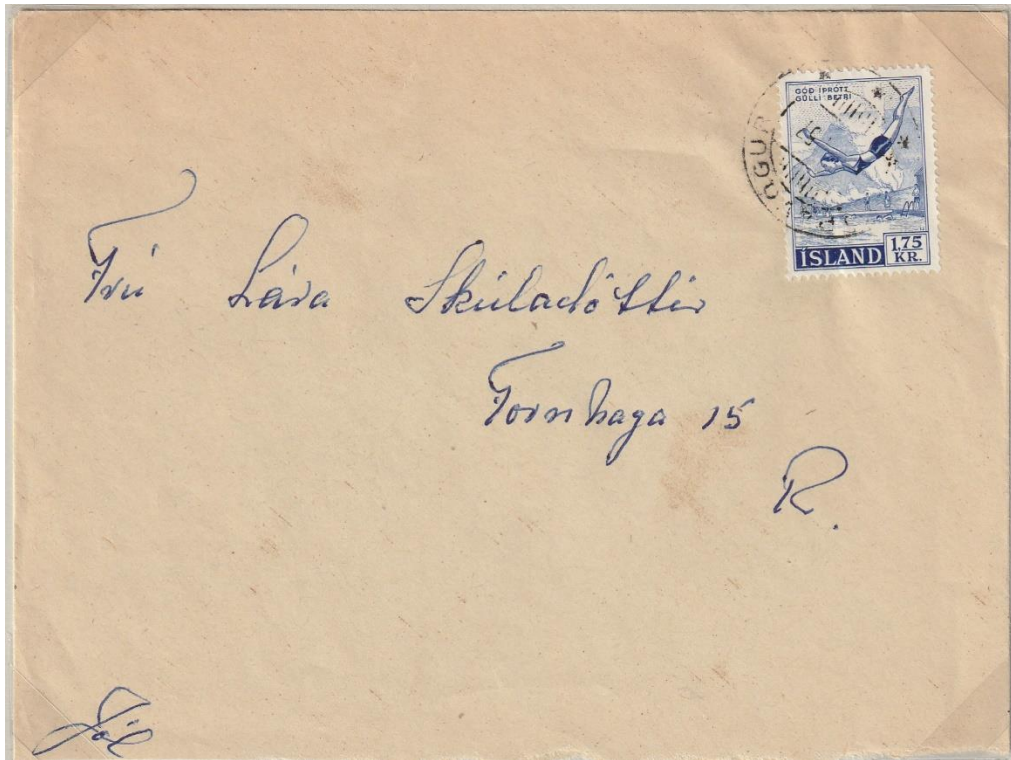


40aur CHX 1937 Jubilee

and a good B2c2 VOGAR is on a 75 aur tractor from the fish/ agriculture series.



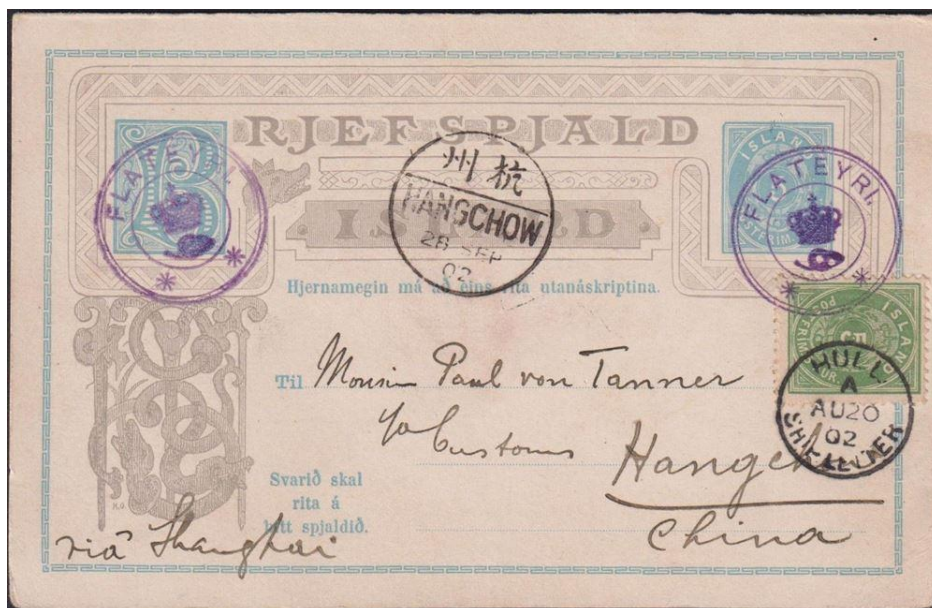
Finally, the B2c2 Kópavogur on 1957 cover



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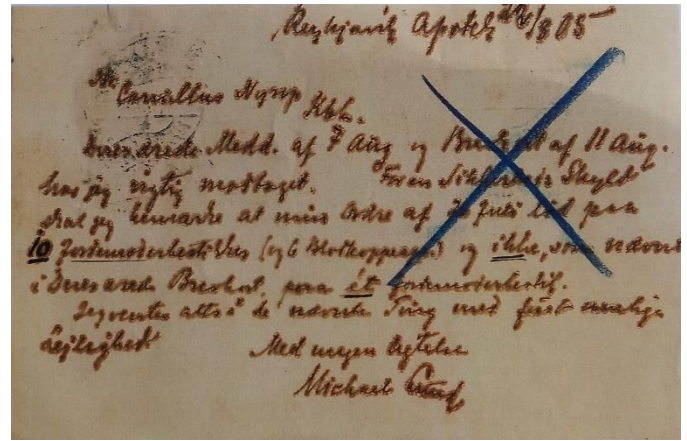
**A bidding battle produces an extraordinary result.**

Ron Collin spotted this recently on safnari.is. Winning bid out of 47 bids, 1 million ISK plus commission!!

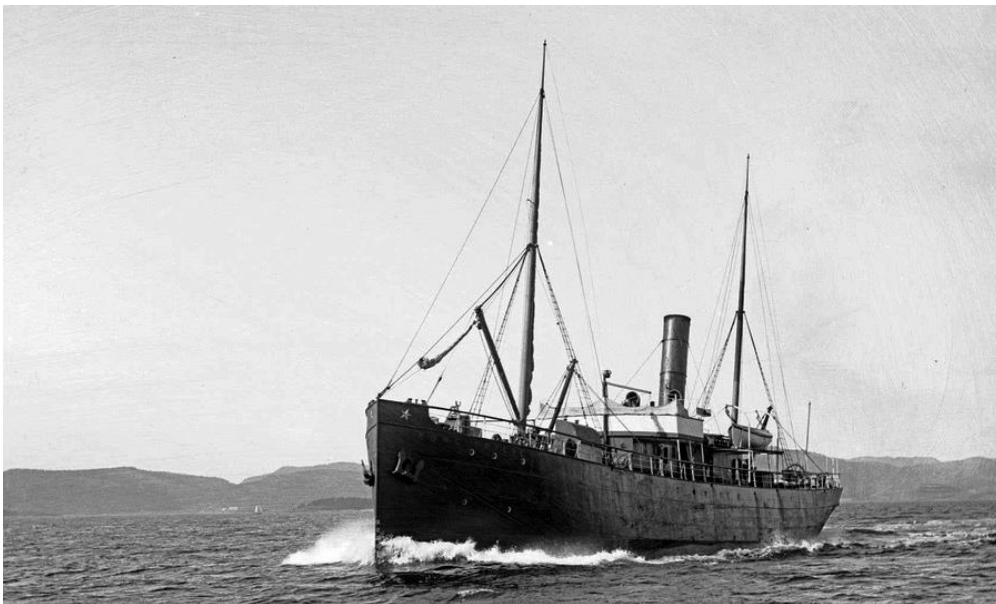


## Kong Trygve via Leith *Leif Nilsson*

A 10 aurar CHIX postal stationery card with an interesting direction note. Sent from a pharmacist in Reykjavik dated 22.8.1905 to a medical firm in Copenhagen, arriving there on 29.8.1905. On the front is written “med Kong Trygve” via Leith. The text on the back is about a correction to an earlier received order acceptance, and the sender is trying to save time. He used a 10 aur and not an 8 aur card and tries to send the card by train and ferry.



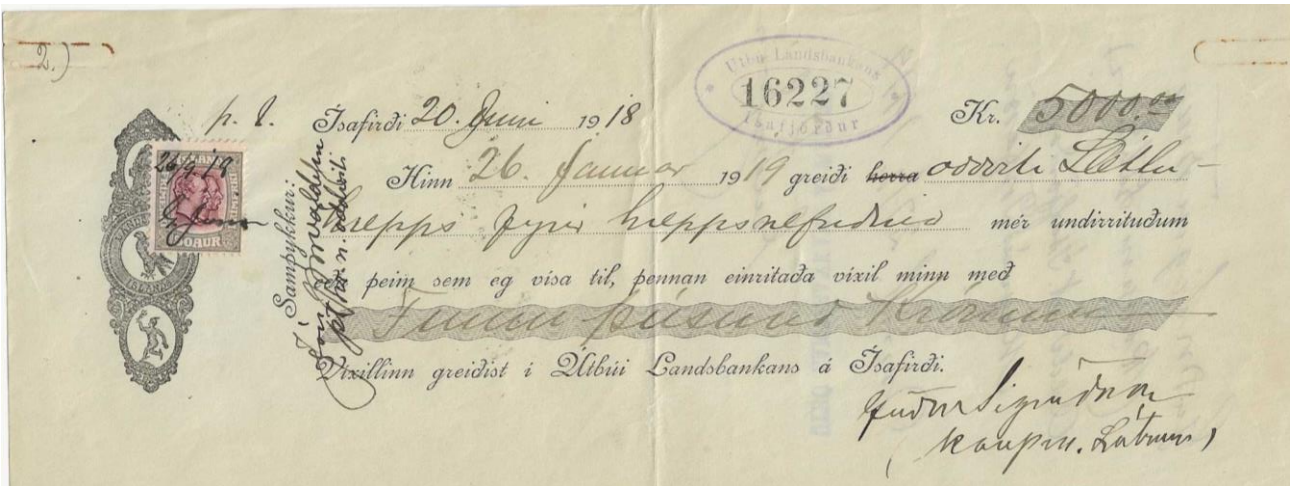
As the card shows no markings English or other, we cannot know if he succeeded. The transit time of 7 days (in summer) does not tell us much, but “Kong Trygve from the Thore Company was 69Brt and rather small, and should have taken at least 3 days to get to Copenhagen.



The Kong Trygve career on the Iceland route was short. On 22.3.1907 bound from Húsavík to Seyðisfjörður it ran into a storm and was caught and crushed by polar ice and sank. Nine crew members drowned, and one died of exhaustion shortly after coming ashore.

## Iceland's Postage Stamps – Precursor Stimpilmerki Use. Roger Cichorz.

Iceland's stimpilmerki (documentary revenue) stamps were first introduced for use in late September 1918 following legislation implemented August 12, 1918, that set stamp duty on commercial and official documents. However, stimpilmerki stamps only became readily available across the country in October, so there was a period of time of only about two months when regular postage stamps were used for documentary revenue purposes. The postage stamps pressed into revenue service during this brief period exist either with manuscript cancellations or with rubber handstamps from official agencies or banks. While the stamps are not uncommon – FACIT Classic values them at SEK300 (~£21.50) – a complete document with a postage stamp showing proper documentary tax use during this brief time period is extremely rare.



I was the fortunate buyer in a recent Safnari auction of such an item with stimpilmerki precursor use. My “forerunner” stimpilmerki document is a bank draft from 1918 in the amount of 5,000 kroner. It bears a 50aur Two Kings postage stamp with a manuscript cancellation with the name of the bank employee as well as the date of issue, September 26, 1918, which is in the time of unavailability of stimpilmerki According to Íslensk Frímerki ehf., “only a handful of complete stimpilmerki forerunner documents are known to exist.” This is the only stimpilmerki forerunner document I have seen in the several years that I have been actively seeking Iceland revenue stamps on documents for my collection, and wanted to share my find with readers. Also illustrated are several postage stamps from my collection used as precursor stimpilmerki with manuscript cancels, rubber handstamps, and both.



### REFERENCES

FACIT Special Classic 2024, Gunnar Lithén (Editor-in-Chief), Facit Förlags AB, Malmo, Sweden, Iceland Section, pages I-433.

Safnari. Ís Iceland on-line Stamps Auction No. 120, November 3, 2024, lot #61779 description.

## 2 Krónur World Fair Provisional `1940` Knud Arne Jürgensen

We have earlier been in contact with regard to my letter franked with a 2 Krónur World Fair Provisional `1940` (see below). May I ask you if you have any knowledge of other letters franked with this stamp, and if so, how many do you think may exist?



2 Krónur PROVISIONAL STAMP 1940 on a registered letter sent from Reykjavík 27.V.40 to Ísafjörður with Póstkrafa" (Ítrekað) for the amount of `Kr. 1083.55`.

(Editor) What follows is inspired by Knud's enquiry above. I confess the peculiar history of the 2kr World Fair issue had escaped me, but no doubt some readers will be familiar with the story. Don Brandt in his book "Walking into Iceland's Postal History" refers to the Da La Rue error regarding the production of the 2kr with N.Y. 1939 W.F. overprint. He describes how the postal authorities hastily printed ordinary 2kr stamps without the World Fair overprint and they shared the same first day of issue of 30.6.1939. In "One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps" by Jón Jónsson, he says that such an error as the incorrect printing of the 2kr with overprint had never previously occurred in Icelandic postal history. The administration had intended a future ordinary 2kr stamp but not with the World Fair overprint. They decided to stop the issue of the overprinted stamp and informed the New York pavilion not to sell any and to return the stamps to Iceland. In the meantime, in Iceland a postal official inadvertently took 35 sheets of the overprinted 2kr stamps and used them to meet orders, instead of ordinary 2kr stamps. The valid 20, 35 and 45 aur stamps became invalid for postage on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1939 when the New York fair ended.

So, Knud's question remains to be answered please. How many used examples on cover of the incorrect 2kr World Fair overprint are known to exist?

# 1914 Customs Declaration Form for Imported Goods from Germany –

## An Early Precursor Tollur Use of Postage Stamps. Roger Cichorz

Illustrated below is an item from my Iceland revenues collection, an invoice dated May 22, 1914 from the Hamburg, Germany firm of Brunn & Giesler for import goods into Reykjavík. At bottom is the top portion of this invoice's backside with an affixed pair of Iceland's 1911 Jón Sigurdsson 15 aur stamps, used to pay the import goods duty fee of 30 aurar, tied by a "REYKJAVÍK 2. VI. 14" bridge-type datestamp.

Sendefest Beger: ..... Erzeugungsland: *Deutschland*  
 Abfertigungsort, Lieu de départ: **Hamburg.** Abfertigungsland: **Deutschland.** Bestimmungsort, Lieu de destination: *Reykjavik*  
 Pays d'origine: **Allemagne** Pays de destination: *Island*  
**Zollinhaltsklärung.** Déclaration en Douane.  
 Empfänger: *Carl Lundin & Co* in *Reykjavik*  
 Destinataire: .....

Zahl, Art der Verpackung und Beschreibung der Sendungen. Nombre, nature de l'emballage et désignation des colis.	Bezeichnung des Inhalts. Désignation du contenu. (Wenn nicht Vorschriften des Bestimmungslandes weitergehende Angaben erfordern, genügt allgemeine Angabe der Gattung der Waren, auch wenn verschiedene Waren zusammengepackt sind)	Rohgewicht. Poids brut. (Stein ausrufen!)				Gesamtwert. Valeur totale.				Rein-gewicht. Poids net. (Für anzurefüllen, wenn die Vorschriften des Bestimmungslandes es erfordern)				Bemerkungen. Observations.	
		kg	g	h	l	kr	h	l	l	kg	g	h	l		
<i>Pakete in Papier.</i>	<i>Shawls aus Wolle mit angewandten Seidensträngen.</i>														

Ort **HAMBURG,** den *22. Mai* 1914  
 Name des Absenders: **Brunn & Giesler**  
 Nom de l'expéditeur: *Hamburg*

**Zur Beachtung\*)** 1. Es ist in allen Fällen Sache des Absenders, sich genau zu erkundigen, ob die zu versendenden Gegenstände in das Bestimmungsland eingeführt und durch die etwaigen Zwischenlande durchgeführt werden dürfen. Die aus mangelhafter oder unrichtiger Abfassung der Zollinhaltsklärungen entstehenden Folgen fallen dem Absender zur Last.  
 2. Ein Doppel der Zollinhaltsklärung muß bei Paketen und Kisten mit Wertangabe und ferner bei Paketen ohne Wertangabe auf grünem Papier ausgefertigt werden.  
 3. Die nach den Zollvorschriften des Bestimmungslandes etwa erforderliche Angabe des Ursprungs (Herstellungslandes) der Waren ist in der Spalte Bemerkungen niederzuschreiben.

Zu haben bei Friedrich C. Jensen, Inh.: Heinrich Ide,  
 Hauptgeschäft Spitalerstraße 12, Semperhaus,  
 Filiale Caledoniahaus, Mönckebergstraße 5.

*Isl 2*

ISLAND ISLAND  
 15 15 A  
 REYKJAVÍK 2. VI. 14



The Customs Laws for Iceland in 1907 required, for the first time, that recipients of import parcels containing items subject to duty had to submit a signed document specifying the kind and quantity of goods. The Import Duty Law of 1909 required any import duty fees had to be prepaid and confirmed by written receipts before any parcels were released to recipients. The Import Duty Law of 1912 set import duty at 15 aurar per parcel and required it to be paid with postage stamps affixed to the parcel invoice and cancelled with a regular postal hand canceller. The Duty Law of 1913-1919 increased import duty from 15 aurar to 30 aurar per parcel until January 1, 1919, thus the proper 30-aurar revenue payment franking is on this 1914 invoice. Iceland's Stimpilmerki (documentary revenue) stamps were not introduced until late September 1918.

Prior to the introduction of the Tollur cancellers in July 1924, Iceland's postage stamps used for customs-duty revenue stamps were cancelled by the application of irregular needle holes, sewing-machine holes in a line, large punch holes, smaller punch holes (e.g., from pencil points, coarse needles, or nails), and, starting in early 1924, by postal officials writing the dates and their names, or more commonly their initials, on the stamps. These Tollur-forerunner fiscal uses of postage stamps are outside the scope of this brief article. However, in this instance, the two Sigurðsson 15 aur stamps with the Reykjavík bridge datestamp on this 1914 customs declaration form paid the import goods duty fee of 30 aurar. Consequently, they represent an early Tollur forerunner use rather than a documentary revenue payment.

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### Single use of 1986 250kr high value



Single use of 250kr high value at Húsavík 22.9.1986. Inland letter rate 10kr, Value letter registration fee 30kr, Value letter insurance at 30kr per 500kr ( (7 x 30) 210  
Total 250kr

## Late reusage of C1 Reykjarfjörður

Not to be confused with the fjord of the same name off Ísafjarðjúp in the West Fjord region, Reykjarfjörður in the parish of Árneshreppur was the location of the long abandoned farm Kúvíkur which for a long time was the district's only trading post, until Borðeyri on the Hrúta Bay was authorized in 1846. According to Danish sources Kúvíkur was described as the only liver oil trading post of the country, because of the important trading in shark liver oil. In the wake of the Danish trade monopoly, the merchants took up permanent residence in the trading posts all over the country. Kúvíkur remained inhabited well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but gradually the people moved to Djúpavík during the so-called Herring Adventure until no one was left. Prior to this development, shark fishing was the most important source of income, and two big pots used for the liver oil processing lie half buried in the home fields as reminders of the past. Norwegian businessmen built a herring processing plant just east of Kúvíkur shortly after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and named it Hekla. The name Reykjarfjörður means Smokey Bay.

A bréfhirðing opened at the farm at Reykjarfjörður (formerly Kúvíkur from 1st January 1879. It had no cancel until the allocation of a type C1 crown cancel in 1894/95, inscribed REYKJARFJÖRÐUR.

Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson records that the crown cancel is recorded on Two Kings 1907 issue.

Jørgen Steen Larsen wrote in several articles that the crown cancel is known used instead of numeral 101 on Facit 76, 77, 81 and 83, sometimes possibly philatelic or accidental use.



From ISK 46



1909 card to Kobenvavn

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



## The arrival index notations of the Petersen covers *Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson*

In the March 2021 issue of IPM (Nr. 43), Ron Collin raised an intriguing question about pencil number notations found on the majority of Peter Petersen covers. Previously when writing the Petersen book, I had noticed these handwritten notations but assumed they were connected to the registration of the covers. However, upon comparing the Petersen covers to other covers from that time period, I realized these markings had no connection to the registration procedure. Following this revelation, I compiled all these notations, both handwritten and printed, into a spreadsheet to search for patterns. The dataset included 159 covers with notations.

Initially, I tracked the following parameters:

- a) Notation
- b) Name of the mail office
- c) County location of the mail office
- d) Date of the cancel on the stamps

Despite considerable analysis, no clear pattern emerged from this initial dataset that might explain what the notations stood for. I discussed this problem with Jørgen Steen Larsen and he came up with a lot of ideas and concluded in his email that he was sure that we would crack the code soon as this was not "a WW2 Enigma problem".

When I revisited the problem in early December this year, a breakthrough occurred after adding one crucial parameter: the arrival date of each cover back to Reykjavík. The index notation numbers appeared to be ordered by their Reykjavík arrival dates, as demonstrated by the following table below:

**Table 1. Petersen Covers Index Notation Analysis**

### Chronological Listing of arrival Index Notations

Index Number	Type	Post Office	Arrival Date in Reykjavík	Batch
2/479	Handwritten	Álftanes	30.03.38	A
2 560	Printed	Staður Ís.	04.04.38	B
2 571	Printed	Múli Ís.	04.04.38	B
2 845	Printed	Sauðlauksdalur	08.04.38	C
2 867	Printed	Önundarfjörður	08.04.38	C
2 897	Printed	Reynisstaður	08.04.38	C
2 899	Printed	Sauðárkrókur	08.04.38	C
2 948	Printed	Siglufjörður	08.04.38	C
2 953	Printed	Háls	08.04.38	C
2/219	Handwritten	Fossvellir	18.04.38	D
2/221	Handwritten	Kirkjubær	18.04.38	D
2/478	Handwritten	Ystu-Garðar	30.03.38	A
2/224	Handwritten	Hvanná	18.04.38	D
1 915	Printed	Lundur Borg.	16.04.38	E
1 955	Printed	Holtastaðir A. Hún.	16.04.38	E
1 967	Printed	Ósar V. Hún.	16.04.38	E
1 032	Printed	Rafnseyri	18.04.38	F
1 039	Printed	Þingeyri	18.04.38	F
1185	Handwritten	Ossabær	25.04.38	G

1195	Handwritten	Strönd	25.04.38	G
1/402	Handwritten	Garður Skag.	26.04.38	H
1/413	Handwritten	Gilsbakki Mýr.	26.04.38	H
1/414	Handwritten	Gilsbakki Mýr.	28.04.38	H
1 255	Printed	Skútustaðir	26.04.38	I
1 256	Printed	Syðra-Fjall	26.04.38	I
1 257	Printed	Garður	26.04.38	I
1 258	Printed	Garður	26.04.38	I
1/902	Handwritten	Skjöldólfstaðir	03.05.38	J
1/903	Handwritten	Sleðbrjótur	09.05.38	J
1/904	Handwritten	Valþjófsstaður	09.05.38	J
1/905	Handwritten	Hjaltastadir	09.05.38	J
1/925	Handwritten	Saurbær N.Múl	12.05.38	J
2/734	Handwritten	Núpsdalstunga V. Hún.	06.05.38	K
2/742	Handwritten	Hnúkur Dal.	06.05.38	K
2/743	Handwritten	Skarð Dal.	06.05.38	K
1 330	Printed	Bær A. Barð.	20.05.38	L
1 333	Printed	Múli Ís.	20.05.38	L

A general rule seems to be that if the notations are sequential then they were probably arrival canceled in Reykjavík at the same date as we note for example for the printed index notations in the table above between 845 and 953, all canceled 8.4.1938. A surprising fact is that even though the notations are ordered by arrival dates to Reykjavík, they don't seem to be sequential from the earliest date to the last, as one might expect. The earliest arrival date in the table above are from 30 March 1938 but the index number begins at 478 (batch A). The next batch (B) arrives 4 April with the index numbers from 560 to 571. The third batch (C) with index numbers from 845 to 953 arrives four days later 8 April. The fourth batch (D) arrives 18 April but with a lower index number sequence from 219 to 224.

That said, I have not been able to explain the prefix in front of the manuscript number, which in most cases is either "1" or "2". One theory might be that "1" stands for a letter that came in the morning and "2" that the letter came in the afternoon.

And to finally answer Ron Collin about his Núpsdalstunga cover and the notation "2/734" we can see in the table that Núpsdalstunga belongs to batch "K" which all have arrival date 6 May 1938. The other two covers are Hnúkur (notation: "2/742") and Skarð (notation: "2/743") which both arrived at Reykjavík on the same date.

Does this knowledge have any practical usage one might ask? In the Petersen book we have 37 black and white photocopies of older covers that most probably are now lost to time. The notation knowledge can help us date when some of these covers arrived back to Reykjavík. For example, we have Haganesvík. The cover was most likely arrival canceled in Reykjavík 26.4.1938 based on the handwritten arrival index notation number "1/404" (batch "H" in the table). This is based on the arrival cancels of Garður Skag, which has the index number "1/402" and arrival canceled in Reykjavík 26.4.1938 and Gilsbakki with the index number "1/414" and the arrival cancel 26.4.1938.

75 Garður (1) (Skag.)



Cancelled with B1a "Ás-Skag" 18.4.1938 and arrival cancelled Reykjavík 26.4.1938. Postage: 5+10+4+7+25+7 = 58 aur. Registered label in the lower left corner rubber cancelled "Sæðárkrókur". Handwritten arrival index notation "1/402".

Hg. Haganesvík (Skag.)



Cancelled with B2c1 "Haganesvík" 15.4.1938. Postage 7+20+7x4=55 aur. Registered label rubber cancelled "Haganesvík". Handwritten arrival index notation "1/404".

150 Gilsbakki (Mýr.)

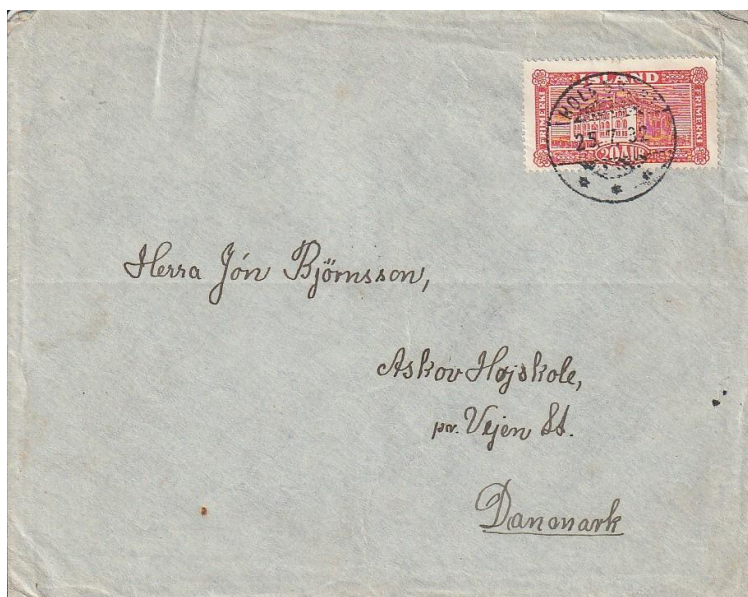


Cancelled with B1a "Gilsbakki" 19.4.1938. Transit cancelled Borgarnes 25.4.1938 and arrival cancelled in Reykjavík 28.4.1938. Postage 10+20+25=55 aur. Registered label in the lower left corner rubber cancelled "Gilsbakki". Second cover of four from Gilsbakki. Handwritten arrival index notation "1/414".

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## HOLT SKAPT *Jarle Reiersen*

Below is a scan of a letter cancelled Holt Skapt 25.7.32. Referring to my "old" Facit 2016 the use of this cancellation is from 1937-59. Do you think my cancellation is false?



Editor:- Jarle's question illustrates the risks using Facit as a guide to the usage dates of bridge cancels. The detail in Facit covering the bridge cancels developed over time. Evidently, Jarle's 2016 Facit restricts the use of B1a Holt Skapt to beginning (or perhaps known?) from 1937. My 2022 copy gives the B1a type a general issue date of "summer "1930, with a few exceptions noted. The standard reference guide is Þór Þorstein's Íslenskir Stimplar produced in 2003. It shows Holt Skapt used from 1.7.1930. Jarle's cover is a fine example dated 25.7.32. I could not resist showing my copy below dated 22.11.30, written in identical handwriting to the same recipient in Denmark!

