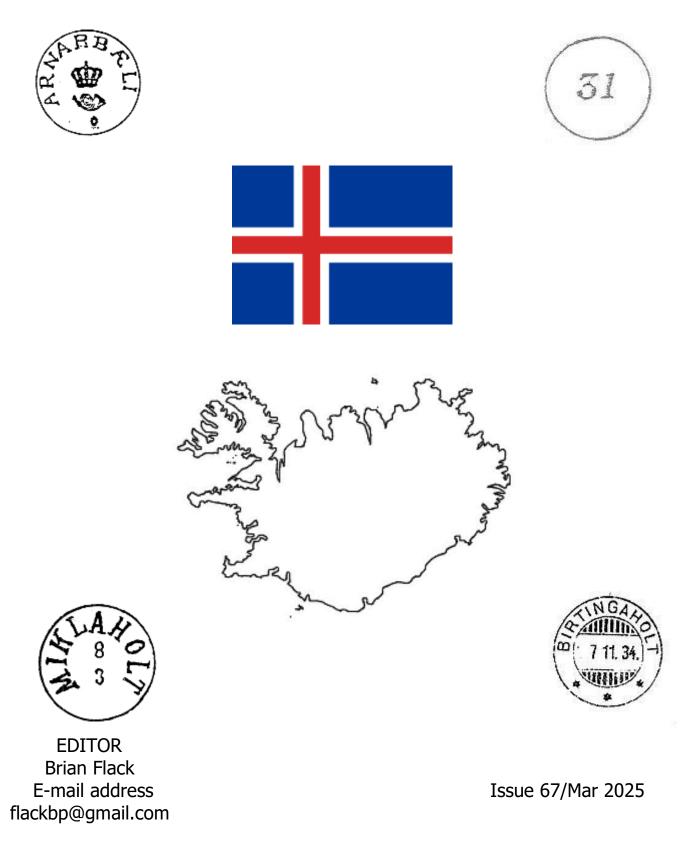
ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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Iceland's 1937 King Christian X Silver Jubilee Issue

By Mike Schumacher

The purpose of this article is to study and provide information about Iceland's 1937 King Christian X Silver Jubilee postage stamps. A very brief background of Icelandic history is provided to assist the reader in understanding how Iceland comes to being under the rule of Denmark.

The settlement of Iceland occurred primarily between 874 and 930 by Norwegian Vikings. Norwegian Ingolfur Arnarson sailed to Iceland in 874 with the purpose of settling the country. The Chieftains formed the Althing in 930 (the assembly of the Icelandic Commonwealth) at Thingvellir. The early settlers developed an agrarian lifestyle.

In the early 13th century Iceland was gripped by a civil war known as the Age of the Sturlungs, where the chieftains battled to decide whether Iceland should become a subject of Hakon the Old, King of Norway. The opponents of the Sturlungs prevailed and in 1262 an agreement was signed that ended the Icelandic Commonwealth and brought Iceland under the Kingdom of Norway. In 1380 Denmark and Norway were untied under one king, which brought Iceland under Danish rule. In 1845, even though Iceland remained under Danish rule the Althing was restored as a national consultative assembly. In 1874, Iceland obtained a constitution providing the Althing its own legislative authority and celebrated 1000 years of Nordic settlement. However, a Danish governor sat as the highest royal authority in Iceland until 1904 when "Home rule" was introduced and based in Reykjavik. During the period of 1863 to 1906, Christian IX was King of Denmark, followed by Frederick VIII from 1906 to 1912 and Christian X from 1912 to 1947. In 1918, Iceland became an independent and sovereign state in union with Denmark. (As stated above – a brief history!)



Christian X (Christian Carl Frederick Albert Alexander Vilhelm) was born 26 September 1870. His parents were Christian Frederick Vilhelm Carl (Frederick VIII - King of Denmark from 29 January 1906 until his death in 1912) and Louise Josefina Eugenia (Queen of Denmark – 1906 until 1912 and daughter of King Charles XV of Sweden and Norway).

In 1937, King Christian X had reigned for 25 years. In honor of the celebration both Denmark and Iceland issued a set of postage stamps.

The four stamps issued by the Danish Post Office in honor of King Christian X Silver Jubilee can be seen on the First Day cover and postcards that follow.



Reverse side receiving cancels: 5.24.1937 New York, N.Y. Reg'd. Div. & 5.25.1937 Ozone Park, N.Y. Reg'd



Postcards of King Christian X & Queen Alexandrine of Mecklenburg-Schwerin Sent to: Skafti Gudjonsson Reykjavik, Iceland. (photographer & bookbinder who worked for National Library). Iceland issued a block sheet with three stamps and an additional three stamps. Iceland's 1937 King Christian X Silver Jubilee stamp issue made Icelandic postal history in the following ways:

- It was the first Icelandic block (souvenir sheet) issued by the Icelandic Postal Administration, it included three stamps of various denominations and colors;
- The block was sold for more than double face value of the stamps;
- Nearly 50% of the blocks were presold in London before they were issued;
- Three individual stamps were also issued in three denominations and colors different from the three stamps in the block issue;
- Both the stamps and the blocks were <u>sold for a very limited period</u> (May 14, 1937 to December 31, 1937);
- Both the stamps and the block were <u>valid for usage for a limited time period</u> (May 14, 1937 to April 30, 1938;
- The first day of issue is listed as May 15, 1937, however a special event was held on May 14, 1937 and blocks/covers are known postmarked on May 14, 1937; and
- According to information provided by the Icelandic Postal Administration the stamps were to be sold only as sets. This, however, was not possible considering that each of the three stamps were issued in different quantities.





55,000 blocks were printed using typography by J. Jorgensen printing works in Copenhagen Perf. 14 x 14.5 Stamp denominations: 15aur; 25aur; and 50aur.

Purchase price of the block was: 2kr (the additional funds were used to raise money for post offices).

Blocks are also known first day cancelled in:

Bolungarvik – is the northern most village in the Westfjords peninsula 14km from Isafjordur.

Hafnafjordur – is a port town located about 10km south of Reykjavik.

and Hvammstangi – is a fishing village in north-west Iceland on the Vatnsness peninsula.

Blocks used in full or in part on regular mail is limited partly due to the stamp denominations not matching up with typical Icelandic postal rates at the time and half of the blocks being presold to London.

Inland rates	20gm 125gm	Nordic countries	Non-Nordic countries
Letter	20aur 40aur	20aur	35aur
Printed matter	7aur per 50gm	7aur	7aur
Postcard	15aur	15aur	20aur
Registration fee	30aur	30aur	30aur
Express fee	50aur	50aur	80aur

King Christian X Silver Jubilee Block issue

One of the challenges of collecting this material is finding a postally used cover with single block usage. Currently, I have only seen one cover with a <u>single block used for postage</u>.



Registered cover to Germany Reykjavik 17.XI.37 postmark

90aur postage

Surface rates to countries Outside of Scandinavia Letter rate to 40gm 55aur plus registration fee 30aur

Most covers also have the other three Iceland King Christian X Silver Jubilee stamps on them as well. Examples of some covers with block usage and additional stamps include:



Philatelic FDC 14.V.37

Contains block & additional three Silver Jubilee stamps issued.

Recipient: <u>Skafti Gudjonsson</u>

Cover size: 5 ¾ by 8 ¾ inches

170aur postage

Registered Philatelic FDC 14.V.37 Contains block & additional three Silver Jubilee stamps issued Recipient: <u>H. Bjornsson (Hermann Jonasson – Iceland Prime Minister 1934 – 1942 & 1956 – 1958).</u> Cover size: 6 by 10 inches

170aur postage (triple rate inland letter rate to 250gm with registration fee would only be 90aur)

Cover size: 6 x 10 inches

Cover size: 7 ½ x 11 ¼ inches



Registered cover to Italy 28.VIII.37 Reykjavik postmark

Contains the Silver Jubilee block and two additional stamps (one of the individual Jubilee stamps) 105aur postage – letter rate outside Scandinavian countries 75aur to 60gm plus 30aur reg. fee



Registered cover to Danmark 31.V.37 Reykjavik postmark Contains block & additional three Silver Jubilee stamps issued Recipient: Director Hans Rye in Kobenhaven Cover size: 6 x 9 ¾ inches Receiving cancel on reverse 5 Jun 37 Kobenhavn

170aur postage triple letter



rate to Nordic countries 60aur to 250gm (20aur for each additional 20gm) plus registration fee 30aur

Philatelic Cover to Danmark 31.V.37 Reykjavik postmark Contains block & additional blocks of four of the three Silver Jubilee stamps issued Recipient: Doctor J. E. Terygssen in Kobenhavn. Cover size: 7 ½ x 11 inches



Clearly over franked 410aur postage

triple letter rate to Nordic countries 60aur to 250gm (20aur for each additional 20gm)

Value Declared money cover to Danmark 25.X.37 Reykjavik postmark

Contains block & additional three Silver Jubilee stamps issued. Recipient: Mr. K. Levang in Kobenhavn. Cover size: 6 x 9 ¾ inches 170aur postage (per information on envelope - 45gm letter and 50kr value declared) double letter rate to Nordic countries 40aur to 125gm, plus registration fee 30aur, plus 32aur insurance premium per 250kr of declared value).



Reverse side reduced: Receiving cancel: 1.11.47 Kobenhavn

Also 5 wax seals of the Danish Legation



In addition to the seven covers with usage of the block sheet in my data base there are the following items:

A die proof of the 50aur stamp



The three stamps cut from the block and an <u>Akureyri postmark</u> (Obviously a CTO as the gum is undisturbed.)



A block on a cut envelope 24.V.37 Reykjavik postmark

Registered cover with a <u>rare single usage</u> of the 50aur stamp from the block 31.II.38 Reykjavik postmark

Nordic Countries letter rate 20aur to 20gm plus 30aur registration fee 2.3.38 Kobenhavn receiving cancel on reverse





A block signed by two individuals: by Prime Minister Hermann Jonasson & second signature - unknown



There are also two other covers in my database with block usage not shown in this article.

King Christian X Silver Jubilee – three individual stamp issue

In addition to the three stamps in the block sheet, Iceland also issued three individual stamps to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King Christian X. These stamps are different denominations and colors than the three stamps on the block sheet. Each stamp was printed in sheets of 100 stamps.

Printed using steel engraving recess by J. Jorgensen printing works in Copenhagen

Perf. 13 x 13 Stamp denominations: 10aur; 30aur; and 40aur.



Per information from the Icelandic Postal Administration these stamps were to be sold only as sets. Not likely that happened, as there were different amounts of each printed.

10aur (175,000) 30aur (160,000) 40aur (175,000) Like the block, these stamps were available for sale from 14 May 1937 thru 31 December 1937 and valid for usage from 14 May 1937 thru 31 April 1938.



In thirty years of collecting Icelandic philately, I have seen one full sheet of each denomination. Covers with usage of the three additional King Christian X Silver Jubilee issue stamps are more plentiful than covers with the block sheet. My data base has more than 70 covers and a variety of used stamps (some on piece) using some or all of the three additional King Christian X Silver Jubilee issue stamps. Obviously, I will not be able to show all of them in this article, so I will highlight some of the interesting ones.

First Day Covers - 14 May 37 Reykjavik postmark

Inland cover <u>with first usage of the boxed</u> <u>First day cover hand stamp marking</u> Inland letter rate: 60aur to 250gm



Registered cover to Sweden Reverse side receiving cancel 26.5.37 Sodertalje, Sweden Nordic country letter rate: 40aur to 125gm plus 30aur registration fee



Registered covers to U.S.A.

Registered cover to U.S.A. <u>w/straight line First Day Cover</u> reverse side markings June 1, 1937 New York, N.Y. & June 2, 1937 Falls Church, VA.



Letter rate outside Scandinavian countries - 35aur 20gm plus 30aur registration fee

Reverse side markings June 1, 1937 New York, N.Y & June 2, 1937 Thompson, Conn. (Marianapolis college is a Lithuanian Catholic boarding school)



First Day Covers - 15 May 37 postmarks Reykjavik postmark Inland letter rate: 60aur to 250gm



Cover to Danmark <u>Akureyri postmark</u> Nordic country letter rate: 40aur to 125gm



Three other FDC Inland covers in the database all to individuals in Reykjavik using the three additional Silver Jubilee stamps. No covers to countries outside of Scandinavia currently in the database.

Covers during the valid usage period after FDCs. These covers will be grouped by the three postal rate categories – Inland; Nordic Countries & Non-Scandinavian countries.

Inland letter rate group - 20aur to 20gm; 40aur to 125gm; 60aur to 250gm; registration fee 30aur 18.V.37 (3 days after first day of issue) Seydisfjordur to Reykjavik 18.8.37



(upper portion shown is top of enclosed letter)



Rafnseyri to Reykjavik P. Petersen (Gamla Bio) cover

Reverse side markings 11.IV.38 Isafjordur & 18.4.38 Reykjavik

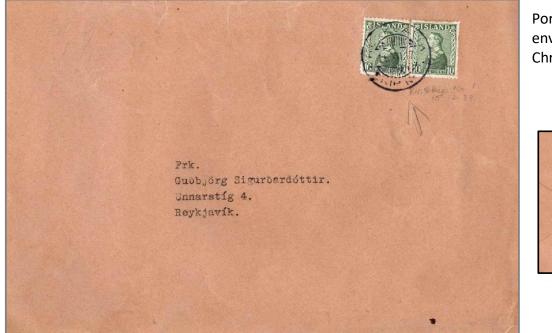
P. Petersen known to have sent covers to small towns

My research has found 17 other Gamla Bio covers with King Christian X Silver Jubilee stamps.



<u>Siglufjordur to Porshofn</u> (two villages on the east coast of Iceland)





Portion of reverse side of envelope – Akureyri 1937 Christmas seal affixed



Reykjavik Slogan Machine cancel on <u>last day of sale</u> (31.12.37) of King Christian X Silver Jubilee stamps Inland Printed matter rate 7aur contents hand made Christmas card



Registered Commercial cover 20aur to 20gm plus 30aur registration fee



Reduced portion of reverse with seal



King Christian X Silver Jubilee stamp issue use on Parcel Card

Reykjavik postmark



Reykjavik 9.VIII.37 postmark



Isafjordur 27.IV.38 postmark



King Christian X Silver Jubilee stamp issue use on revenue documents

Revenue usage instead of tax stamps on ledger sheet Company hand stamp "SIS" – Association of Icelandic Unions



10aur stamp on cut ledger 10aur was single invoice rate Pen cancel



Tollur revenue cancel



10aur King Christian X Silver Jubilee stamp used on receipt to pay greidslumerki fee properly tied with company's hand stamp.

Ng 1922 Kr. 75.00 as 1SL 22/7. 1937 SAMBAND allander gjaldkeri

Covers to Danmark <u>Reykjavik machine slogan cancel</u> 28.V.37 Double weight letter 40aur

ÁFENGISVERZLUN RIKISINS REYKJAVIK ICELAND I ICELAND I IC
Bryggeriet C. Fuglsang A/S,
HADERSLEV
Denmark.
Land and the set

Registered letter with mixed franking



Letter rate 20aur to 20gm Machine slogan cancel on commercial cover



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<u>Hull Yorks Paquebot ship cancel</u> 14 June 37 single weight letter 20aur



Reg. letter rate 20aur to 20gm + 30aur reg. fee 50aur correct rate



<u>Registered C.O.D. cover</u> Letter rate 20aur + 30aur reg. fee + 40aur C.O.D. fee to 5kr "Postkrafa" triangle label indicates it's C.O.D.

· ATTREAM
elimd de 12 ² avr q
iavn q

<u>"F" post office hand stamp</u> indicates letter can be collected at "Frederiksberg" P.O.



Boxed "Afh.Kh.N" post office hand stamp



Covers to Sweden

Reykjavik machine slogan cancel 29.V.37 Letter rate 20aur to 20gm



Reverse side – seal of Director General Post & Telegraph office.

"Anmeldt den" hand stamp means "announced to receiver" on 30.6.37 & signed by Postmaster P.N. Sorensen



Reverse side Post Office hand stamp markings again "announced to receiver" on 7.1.37 & signed by Postmaster



Registered letter double weight letter 40aur plus 30aur reg. fee



Reverse side Icelandic Post Office seal

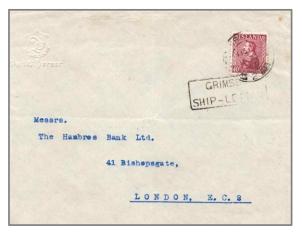


Covers to England

Sender: President of Icelandic Stamp Collectors Recipient: Oswald Hellrigl (member of A.I.E.P) International Association of Philatelic Experts Reykjavik 27.10.37 postmark



Boxed Grimsby ship letter cancel 35aur letter rate



Reykjavik slogan machine cancel 20.X.37 Iceland 1937 Christmas seal

VINNINGAR Í HAPPDRÆTTINU Halldon Palsson, Esq., 77, mill Road, Cambridge,

Edinburgh Paquebot cancel 22.May 1937



<u>Grimsby Links fancy cancel "Post Early"</u> 28 Jun 37 35aur letter rate



<u>Cover to Switzerland</u> 175aur postage Reykjavik 23.VII.37 cancel. Reverse side arrival cancel Basel 29.VII.37

Di brie Hartinga Minighamets Bank Reykjavík Nr. 315 Emi tehnikan

Covers to U.S.A.

Reverse side receiving cancels 13 June 37 New York, N.Y. & 14 June 37 Bridgeton, N.J.



Covers to Germany

Registered covers to Germany <u>Airmail & Ship Cover</u> Mail route: departed Reykjavik 20.VIII.37 on board E.S. Esja to Glasgow & departed Glasgow by plane to Berlin.



Reverse side receiving cancels 13 June 37 New York, N.Y. & 13 June 37 Philadelphia, PA.



11.X.37 Reykjavik cancel Reverse side receiving cancel 13.10.37 Thuring



Airmail cover to Germany

Mail route: Depart Reykjavik 3.I.37 to Edinburgh, arrival 7 Jan. 38 & depart Edinburgh by Airplane to Berlin arrival 9.1.38

Letter rate 35aur to 20gm 30aur registration fee 25aur airmail fee

Jonnen fel Meraner Sk. M Reykjavík Berlin - Schöneberg Byskaland - Jeanany Nr. 196 Loftlei Par avior Loftleiðis

<u>Covers to Unusual destinations</u> <u>Akureyri, Iceland to Czechoslovakia</u>

Mail route: Depart Akureyri 25.6.37 to Edinburgh arrival 3.July.37 & then to Czechoslovakia arrival 7.VII.37 Tuchomy where "Neprijato Refuse" label added, then returned to Akureyri 19.7.37.



<u>Siglufjordur, Iceland to Romania cover</u> Mail route: depart Siglufjordur 6.IV.38 to Reykjavik 8.IV.38 & then to Edinburgh arrival 13 AP 38 & then by air to Romania arrival 13 AP 38 65aur correct postage



Reverse side with postal markings & label "blue crayon +" indicates cover went through British mail system

18 1 61

Reverse side with transit markings & seal



King Christian X Silver Jubilee issue stamps used

Iceland's King Christian X Silver Jubilee issue provides for some interesting covers considering that the block and stamps were only sold during the period of 14 May 1937 thru 31 December 1937 and were only valid for usage from 14 May 1937 thru 31 April 1938. In addition to these stamps being found on cover, there are some stamps available that have been removed from the envelopes which provide some interesting cancels.

Arnholsstadir Crown & Posthorn only 1 known on this stamp



NIC 76 Godalir farm

#76 known on 9 stamps



NIC 95 Bordeyri



95 only known use after 1936

Haganesik

Olfusarbru



Einarsstadur 23.I.38



Isafjordur 23.1.38



Akueyri 16.VI.37

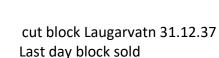


Hornafjordur 14.IV.38



Isafjordur 14.IV.38





ISLAND

EISLAND



Siglufjordur 31.VIII.37



Isafjordur 31.VIII.37 Stykkisholmur 11.IV.38



Siglufjordur 31.12.37 last day stamp sold





King Christian X Silver Jubilee issue stamps used continued.

Conclude with a few more unique pieces.

Saudafell 12.4.38 Very likely cut from a P. Petersen Gamla Bio cover



Hagi 14.4.40 Likely a CTO as the date is nearly two years past the valid usage date.



Reykjavík 9.V.39 "forged" postmark Reykjavik is misspelled also date is after last date of valid usage.



Hopefully this study and information sheds some light on this interesting issue of Icelandic philately. I will be updating and remounting my exhibit soon and would appreciate any corrections or additional information that IPM readers could provide.

xxxxxxxxxxx

Editorial apology. Issue 66: I wrongly attributed Leif Fuglsig's article **Kong Trygve via Leith** to Leif Nilsson. My weak excuse is that I was corresponding with both of the Leifs around the time of the article being discussed.

Kong Trygve via Leith in 1905 Jakob Arrevad

Þjóðólfur - 25.08.1905:

"King Trygve" (Emil Nielsen) set off from here on to go abroad on the 22nd. and with him these passengers: Einnur Jónsson professor and Jón his son, Bogi Th. Melsted, Pastor P.O. Monrad, Mrs. Kjær, 2 Ms. Light, Ms. Thit Jensen, Ms. Hemmert, Finn Ólafsson (from Leith), Sigurður Guðmundsson merchant, Davíð Ólafsson baker, the students: Sveinn Björnsson, Gunnar Egilsen, Guðm. Ólafsson, Gisli Sveinsson, Þór. Kristjánsson, Þorgrímur Kristjánsson and others. fl.

Kong Trygve was scheduled to leave on 21 August and arrive in Leith on the 27 August and Copenhagen 31 August (15th trip in 1905)

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Among the passengers:

Einnur Jónsson professor

Bogi Thorarensen Melsteð (born Klausturhólar 4 May 1860, died 12 November 1929) was an Icelandic historian. He wrote articles and books on Icelandic history.

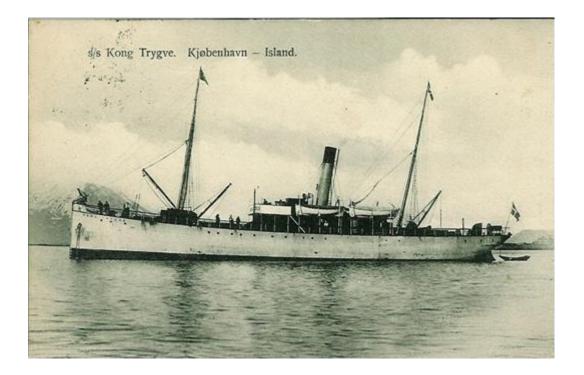
Pastor P. O. Monrad: "Monrad, the Norwegian priest, who is famous and well-known for his spiritual lectures in Reykjavik last year."

Marie Kirstine Dorothea Jensen, better known as **Thit Jensen** (born 19 January 1876, died 14 May 1957) was a Danish author and lecturer who, through popular novels and great personal impact, illuminated the position of women in society. As one of the first Danish authors, she understood how to stage herself in

order to get her messages across with topics such as marriage, eroticism, contraception and abortion. The fact that she even spoke about such taboo subjects created great resistance in her time but also helped to change attitudes in society.

Kong Trygve returned to Reykjavik 18 September 1905 (Scheduled to leave Denmark on 7. September and arrive in Reykjavik on 16 September.

	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.														24.	25.									
							Hjaln.	K. Inge	K. Tr.	Hjøln.	K. Inpo	K. Tr.	Mjøln.	K. Inge	K. Tr.	Mjøln.	K. Inpo	Hjain.	K. Tr.	K. Inge	K. Tr.	Hjain.	K. Inpo	K. Tr.	Au. sk
	jan.	febr.	febr,	IDACI	marr	SUMPL	10.012	apr.	mai	mai	júní	jání	Juni	948	jali	3481	6g.	sept.	sept.	okt.	okt.	okt.	nóv.	nóv.	1
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Quandarf.	21	25				9	**		15				**		9	* *		1.4	21						
Isafirði	21	20 20				9		20	15			26			2	11	11	1.5	23	1	27	1.1	1.	14	



The 1938 Cinema Covers of Peter Petersen Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson

I just wanted to let the readers of IPM know that I have updated the Petersen book, first published in 2021 and it is free to read for all IPM subscribers. A downloadable link is here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bzaqtkn_QW3FvFv52rZY_iXyJ_VPr7KY/view?usp=drive_link

The book can also be read in Postsaga at:

https://www.postsaga.is/is/baekur/the-1938-cinema-covers-of-peter-petersen

Since the first edition was published in 2021, fourteen new covers have been discovered making the total number of known covers 195. The new covers are in alphabetical order: Akranes, Brekka (4) (Árn.), Eiðar (N.-Múl.), Fosshóll (S.-Þing.), Gaulverjabær (Árn.), Hólar (Skag.), Ísafjörður, Reykjahlíð (S.-Þing.), Reykjavík, Siglufjörður, Stykkishólmur, Svalbarðseyri (S.-Þing.), Valþjófsstaður (N.-Múl) and Vestmannaeyjar.

Likewise, eleven former undiscovered remnants have been discovered since 2021. They are in alphabetical order: Eyri (1) við Seyðisfjörð (N.-Ísf.), Fjörður (S.-Múl.), Furufjörður (N.-Ísf.), Gaulverjabær (Árn.), Holt (V.-Skaft.), Keta (Skag.), Lundar (Mýr.), Tröð (N.-Ísf.), Undraland (Reykjavík), Vestra-Miðfell (Borg.) and Þorfinnsstaðir (V.-Ísf.). Likewise, the following four remnants have been demoted as remnants from the earlier 2021 edition of this book and they are the following: Breiðabólsstaður (V.-Hún), Haukadalur (Árn.), Ísafjörður and Reykjavík.

Last but not least the mystery of the arrival notations has been at least partly solved with an additional table seen on pages 254-257.

I also made a podcast with the help of an artificial intelligence app from Google. You can listen to that by copying the following link to a browser:

https://notebooklm.google.com/notebook/91f28f19-5762-4705-a8e5-be65df648385/audio?pli=1

Note that you might have to wait for about a minute while it uploads.

XXXXXXXXXXX

The Cancellations Nobody Wanted (Issue 65 and 66)

Eivind Kolstad rightly questioned why I had included a cover on page 12 of Issue 66 showing a B2c2 Kópavogur. I have no recollection how I came to show this as one of the "unwanted cancellations". It certainly does not qualify as such. Pór Þorsteins described in his book Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar the complicated history of the offices in the region of Kópavogur, as did Don Brandt in Walking into Iceland's Postal History, and the only collecting office in that area with a B2c2 cancel was Fossvogur. An example of that very rare cancel is shown in Issue 65 P.10. There are five known copies. Can anyone provide another example?

There is more to a brjefspjald to China than 1 million ISK plus commission!!

Jakob Arrevad

I agree with Ron Collin, that 1 million ISK plus commission was an extraordinary result for this:

Til Mousin Paul von Tas

Beside the prize it deserves some additional comments, and they are based on an upcoming update of HULL SHIP LETTER as I have been so lucky to receive several comments including copies of mail canceled in Ísafjörd, Önundarfjörður and Flateyri. It has resulted in some further material back to 1893"

"Önfirðir benefited from the activity of the DAN association. One was that the company's steamship, Cimbria, which was carrying ice fish from Flateyri to Hull, also carried mail between the countries during these trips. Such mail transports from the Westfjords to Hulls will have started in 1893 and they were continued in the following years.

However, the mails with Cimbria were illegal because the United Danish steamship company then had the exclusive license for all mail transport to and from Iceland. During the summer months, however, Cimbria's journeys were more frequent than the trips of the coastal cruise ships that take mail for the United steamship company."

It continued in the years to come.

Þjóðviljinn + Þjóðviljinn ungi - (23.07.1896) Danish Fishing Association in Fredrikshavn ... (has) this summer 6 [1896] sailing ships on coal fishing here in the west, and 4 steamships (2 Danish and 2 English). — These ships have their main station at Önundarfjörður, and include steamer "Roma," Captain Bast, who this summer lay at Flateyri harbor. The steamers "Gipsy" and "Cimbria" make regular transits between Flateyri and the Hull river in England, in order to transfer the catch, so that steamship trips are now from Flateyri to England every week.

For more information see Kjartan Ólafsson: "Flateyri", special pages 278ff

(https://www.safnis.is/upload/files/104Flateyri%20.pdf) and the press:

Fjallkonan - (14.04.1896): "The fishing vessel, Cimbria, which spends most of the year in frequent trips from England, arrived on the 10th this month, then left outward bound for England the same evening."

(Þjóðviljinn + Þjóðviljinn ungi 01.06.1901): The steamship "Cimbria" makes various trips this summer between Flateyri and Hull in England and journeys are planned from Flateyri; 23 May, 6 June, 20 June, July 4, July 18, Aug. 1 and 15th Aug. When the trips will stop this summer has not yet been decided. The post clerk in Ísafjörður always sends mail to Flateyri the day before the ship's departure, and these trips are therefore of great benefit to Ísafjörður.".

The brjefspjald to China is probably one of the latest carried on that special route. Here is an example from 1895.



Comb perforations Ron Collin

It would seem that sometimes, if you are operating a comb perforator, and you are perforating an issue of stamps, that possibly, once you get the rhythm going, it is hard to stop. And in so doing, you perforate the selvage. Perforating errors on Icelandic stamps doesn't happen very often. Their accuracy rate has always been exceptional. This item was seen listed for sale on eBay.



Finding the lesser-known perforation variety in 5 aur blue Lars Bjarki Schmidt

The first Icelandic aur stamps from the period 1876 to 1895 are all perforated $14 \ge 13\frac{1}{2}$ with one notable exception: the first printing of 5 aur in blue from 1876. In what must have been an edge case, perhaps due to time constraints, these stamps were line perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$; similar to some of the earlier skilling issues.

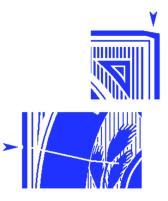
Upon closer inspection, one will find that the Facit catalog notes a variety under # 23 as v2; perf. 14 $13\frac{1}{2}$ The specialized version of the AFA catalog also lists this under # 6, with some additional details: the authors claim 5000 copies were made, which is equivalent to 50 sheets. The remaining sheets of 350 line perforated stamps are listed as # 6B.

Where the details of how many sheets were treated to which perforating machine came from is not known to me, however, in Regeling's book Stamps of Iceland 1872 - 1904 we find the same numbers. I have not read every page of Regeling's book acutely enough but it's possible the details are in the scanned documents obtained from the printer.

Facit makes no attempt to say how many stamps are in existence, only that a subset of sheets was indeed perforated $14 \times 13^{1/2}$.



I recently acquired this stamp at an auction in Denmark. It immediately caught my attention with its prominent scrape across the left side of the oval which I recognized as cliché # 33 (*Stamps of Iceland 1872 - 1904*) This cliché flaw is listed only in the very first printing of 1876.



A vectorized representation of cliché 33 (source: TOFDATA, L.N.)

It can't be entirely ruled out that this cliché was not used in the second printing, there are known instances of clichés being swapped or reordered entirely between printing sessions. There have also been found inaccuracies in Regeling's work. To ensure that this stamp truly came from the 1876 printing and not the later one, I have also noted the following additional properties:

- The KII perforation characteristics match that of vertical row 4, the listed position for this cliché in the first printing is 14.
- The paper is thin and gray colored with a slightly rough, almost pockmarked grain texture. Much of the ink on the front can be seen from behind, owing to the thinness of the paper. The second printing has a somewhat thicker, more ivory colored paper
- The appearance of the ink is dry and slightly less smudged than that of the second printing. Details in fine engraving lines are reproduced more clearly

All of the above only serve as additional guidance, it is not *necessarily* enough to distinguish one copy from another this way. However, all things considered I can say with some fairly high degree of confidence that the stamp is indeed from the smaller subset of blue 5 aur stamps perforated 14 x $13\frac{1}{2}$ from the very first printing.

Finally, here are examples of the line perforated first printing against the perforated 14 x 13¹/₂ second printing of 1878. I'm lucky enough to own both of these which share the same cliché flaw.



1876 line perf $12^{1/2}$



1878 comb perf. 14 x 13¹/₂

While there are often various shades of ink and paper the difference in appearance should hopefully be apparent. I hope that some of you will take a closer look at your own copies, perhaps you'll find a similar discovery in your collections.

Holt Rang B1a Eivind Kolstad

The Holt Rang cancel puzzles me. I enclose my copies, which are not very good, but apparently this HOLT had two B1a's, the first with thick pillars and low letters, the other with slim pillars and high letters. It seems that only my copy with 20 aur library is B1a x, while the other ones are B1a y. But I can't see any differences, maybe because my copies are all bad. Do you have better ones?

It seems that the change was in 1937. What happened to the B1a x? Some thoughts in the new year.









Editor:-

I have found no explanation in the literature for the clear design change for the Holt Rang B1a cancel before it left Holt and went to Vallatún at an unknown date in 1937. Was it simply that the original cancel was lost at Holt? Can anyone find any references to the redesign, apart from the brief description in Íslenskir Stimplar by þór þorsteins?

Here are my images of the first period to the end of 1946 and from the period at Vallatún from 1.1.1947.



Neither Eivind nor I have any Holt Rang of either type on cover, Can anyone oblige with images on cover?

Holt Skapt (Issue 66)

The article on Holt Skapt prompted Eivind to show this image with an unfortunately vandalized cover, from the same sender ass mine in Issue 66. Does anyone have the missing stamp (piece) with Holt Skapt dated 22.11.30? If so contact Eivind!



olt 218 56 Nr. erra Jon Bjørnsson Askvir Højskole pr. Vejen SL 407 Danmark

"New Issues" in 2023? (Issue 63) Lars Bjarki Schmidt

Referring to the new overprinted 250gm domestic stamps I was able to purchase a sheet of each at the post office on Dalvegur. They are also available for purchase at the Icelandic Post (seemingly new) website https://posturinn-vefverslun.myshopify.com. In the search field type "overprinting" and the first two issues should appear. They come at a price of ISK370 per stamp. The sheets have 10 stamps each.

Editor: Continuing on the theme of these two new issue 2023 overprints, Jarle Reiersen shows us an example on an inland cover cancelled at Húsavík on 11.12.2024. The sender would have paid 295kr for the 250gm inland rate.



Hopflug Covers

Ron Collin has mentioned a census of Hopflug covers which he believes was recorded in past issues of the Rapport magazine. Can anyone advise if that census is still being maintained? A reference for the latest version presumably in Rapport would be greatly appreciated. I cannot find any mention of it, but my archive of Rapport issues is far from complete. Here is one coming up for auction in case someone is working on a census.



