

ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



EDINBURGH SMALL SHIP LETTER

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Special Issue June 2024

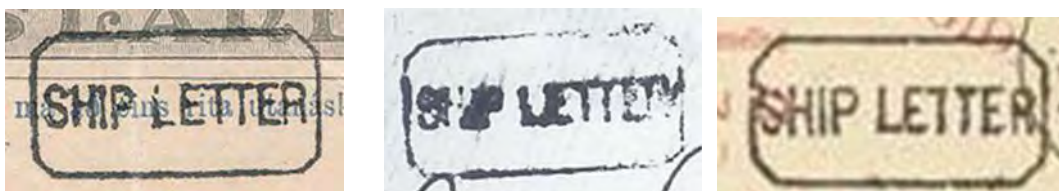
SPECIAL # 32 – 2024 V1 – EDINBURGH SMALL SHIP LETTER

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This is a part of a series published which summarizes, supplemented by recent discoveries, information published over the years in IslandsKontakt and elsewhere. We must all be grateful for the sustained efforts of all those who, over the years, as Editors or Authors have contributed to the gathering and dissemination of information relevant to the philately of Iceland.

Compilations of other British postmarks and other issues in the series **“IslandsKontakt Special” can be accessed for free at <https://www.nfvskandinavie.com/artikelen-ijsland.php>**

Valuable contribution to this issue has been given by Arni Gustafsson.



The SMALL SHIP LETTER cancellation is only known on mail from Iceland and mail from Faroe Island¹. We have found no historical sources about the origin of the stamp. There is no original issuing date in the Kirkwood Proof books. The years before 1880 are incomplete in the copy at hand.

We try to describe the use and reach a conclusion: where has it been used; In Granton? In Leith or in Edinburgh?

Mike Tuttle reports use from 1880² and it is in line with Robertson page E 77³, Shilling⁴ and Morris, Keith & Dovey, Mike⁵ and our findings. As documented in the following, we have only found uses in 1880.

There are recorded two recuts and as seen from the copies there are different shapes overlapping each other. It is (at least after 1887) a brass stamp with a great deal of wear and tear. In the end we compare the different uses.

We have recorded all the known use (some of it is just extracts from auction catalogs **without copies**) and we have **registered the year if possible. For some copies we don't have** the background information from there that can change our registration.

We have tried to verify the different use – over time – and **divided the use between “type 1”, “type 2” and “type 3”** It is done in the section **“Wear and Tear – examples/types”**, as it is an uncertain subjective judgment. **For the same reasons the “judgement” is not added to the text.**

¹ With one exemption; a letter from Norway in 1890.

² Mike Tuttle: Iceland Foreign Port-of-Arrivals & Transit Marks (part 10), Scandinavian Contact, volume 18, Numbre 7 Whole number 193, June 2001 page 361

³ Robertson, Alan W.: A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles.

⁴ Schilling, Heinrich: “Fremde Anlandstempel auf Islandpost” (1996).

⁵ Morris, Keith & Dovey, Mike: “Paquebot cancellation of the World and more...” (4th edition of Hosking - 2010).

Part of our conclusion is based on our parallel studies:

GRANTON SHIP LETTER IslandsKontakt Special # 29 V1– 2021,
EDINBURGH LARGE SHIPLETTER IslandsKontakt Special # 31 V1 2023 (to come)
LEITH SHIP LETTER IslandsKontakt Special # 33 V1 2023,
LONDON SHIP LETTER IslandsKontakt Special # 37 V1 2023, and partly
LEITH PAQUEBOT IslandsKontakt Special # 5 V1 2016,
EDINBURGH PAQUEBOT IslandsKontakt Special # 3 V2 2018.
SS MAGNETIC IslandsKontakt Special# 39 – V1 2024.

CONCLUSION

The Small SHIP LETTER was introduced (at least first used) in 1880. It was renewed in September 1887 and again in March 1888. The last recorded use (besides special use in 1901) is September 1892.

The use was in “concurrence” with the LEITH SHIP LETTER produced in 1873, but first use is in 1887. In the period from production in 1873 until 1887 and specially from 1880 until 1887 LEITH SHIP LETTER was not used. The reason is unknown.

From 1886 until 1895 it was **in “competition” with GRANTON SHIP LETTER**. That ship letter is in our opinion definitively used in Granton. Granton was the main transit harbor for the mail ship from Island and one other line transporting mail. Some mail with the GRANTON SHIP LETTER has further cancellations in Edinburgh – but not elsewhere in the nearby area.

From 1885 until 1889 it was **in “competition” with** the large SHIP LETTER⁶. It was in our opinion used at the Edinburgh main post office. The reason for two SHIP LETTER stamps is unknown.

When both the large and the small SHIP LETTER was recut in September 1877, it was entered in the Kirkwood **Proof Book with the remark “EDINR OFFICE”**.

There are no examples known to us where the small SHIP LETTER is used together with either LEITH ROUND CITY stamp or LEITH SHIP LETTER – or any other sign from LEITH.

Even the examples with the small SHIP LETTER addressed to LEITH have no arrival cancellation from Leith.

There are some examples with further EDINBURGH cancellations alongside the small SHIP LETTER.

It is our conclusion: The small SHIP LETTER was used in EDINBURGH at the main post office.

Unsolved problems:

⁶ Earlier used from 1868 or 1870 until 1877. The reason for the lack of use from 1877 until 1886 is also unknown.

It appears that the older stamps has been kept and used. There are significant details indicating different stamps used the same day or after the recut – see further the examples in the end where we have tried to indicate whether it is stamp 1, 2 or 3. Here we describe the development over years.

Stamp 1:



1880 - Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected.



1885 Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT plus E is connected. Final “E” tumbles to the left. “R” is damaged. “LE” connected.



1887 Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT plus E is connected. Final “E” tumbles to the left. “R” is damaged. “I” is “sandwiched” between “H” and “P”. First “S” is shrunk. “LE” connected.

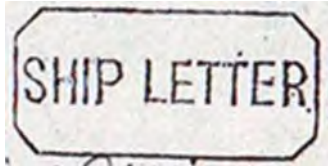
Stamp 2



1887 – RECUT. Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper parts of TT are unconnected. It looks like the

"S" and "L" are not aligned at the bottom with the other letters.

Stamp 3.



1888 RECUT – all letters equal and unconnected



1890 - **Space from frame to "S" and "R".**"S" is separated from the left frame and The "R" is cut off. LE is connected



1891 Left frame damaged



1892 –”S” is separated from the left frame and the “R” is cut off. LE separate.

We have found no reason for a recut in September 1887 and again March 1888. The cancellations before September 1887 seem to be ok.

We have not seen cancellations with the recut stamp from September 1887 in the period until the second recut in March 1888. **It might be, it wasn't used as the large SHIP LETTER** was delivered. – or the small stamp **wasn't** delivered?

Some cancellations are in red, but we have not found any explanation.

Mike Tuttle⁷ mentions two examples in blue:

- (i) Cover to Denmark , Rvk. 25/8 20 aur violet, with Edinburgh back-stamp AU 29/(18)81
- (ii) Registered cover to Washington, USA, 40 aur mauve numeral plus 16 aur brown numeral with **“Registered / Edinburgh JU 17 / (1884)**

We have no explanation to the 1901 example.

⁷ Iceland Foreign Port-of-Arrivals & Transit Marks (part 10), Scandinavian Contact, volume 18, Numbre 7 Whole number 193, June 2001 page 361.

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1880

The first known use:



If this letter ever reaches you, it will tell you that
 I am at Reykjavik Iceland - & that we have
 had a delightfully good time of it. We first
 had a few delightful days in Scotland, seeing
 Tobermory, Skye, Staffa, Iona, Loch Coruisk
 then Stornoway & then we set off here. We
 had a capital run doing some 600 miles in
 68 hours. Of course she rolled & all were more
 or less miserable - But on the whole we
 have had a glorious time - & I am awfully
 happy - This is such an odd place - very fishy
 & the people are most curiously dressed.
 On Tuesday we start for the fjords - & they talk
 of the Faroe Isles & Norway. Reykjavik
 Monday Jan 27th Ever your Florence - 8407 Iceland.

Written and cancelled 27 06 80 in Reykjavik. Sent to Germany. Probably carried with SS CAMOENS (Trip 1) and the small SHIP LETTER was added.



Reykjavik 27.6.(80) on cover (5a blue, horizontal pair and two singles) to Liverpool, England, with the small SHIP LETTER and Edinburgh 05 JY 80 transit on reverse. Probably carried with SS CAMOENS on trip 1.



Stationary 10 aur– Reykjavik 10 08 and small SHIP LETTER – red LONDON SHIP LETTER PAID 16 08 80 and Copenhagen 16 08 80. **Directed “pr. CAMOENS via Leith”** (Trip 3) Scotland and then via London – the Channel and by train to Denmark.



Cover with 20 aur pale violet on a REYKJAVIK 28.8 "SHIP LETTER" to Edinburgh arriving SP 2 80. Only Ex. Orla Nielsen

1881



Cover with 20 aur violet sent to the United States canc. "REYKJAVÍK 25.8". Small "SHIP LETTER" on front as well as "EDINBURGH AU 29 81" and "NEW YORK 8.9 81" transit canc. on back plus "HARTFORD 9.9" arrival canc.



20a violet, "Clean Print", on blue cover sent via England to Copenhagen, tied by Reykjavik 25.8 small SHIP LETTER, Edinburgh transit and Copenhagen (1.9) arrival on reverse. Mike Tuttle says⁸ that SHIP LETTER is with blue ink (?) but it doesn't look so. It might be a later year.

1882



Stationary from Reykjavik 14 7 to US with transit cancellation Edinburgh JY 19 82 and small SHIP LETTER.

⁸ Iceland Foreign Port-of-Arrivals & Transit Marks (part 10), Scandinavian Contact, volume 18, Number 7 Whole number 193, June 2001 page 361.



Stationary from Reykjavik 14 7 to UK with transit cancellation Edinburgh JY 19 82 and small SHIP LETTER. Directed "pr. Camoens".



From Mike Tuttle: UTLÄNDSKA ANKOMST- & TRANSITSTÄMPLAR - Rapport # 169 page 19, translated to Swedish by Leif Nilsson. Reykjavik 14.7.82 and transit Edinburgh JY 19 82



5aur POSTAL STATIONERY; Reykjavik 20 Aug. (Year 1882 because of the condition of the small ship letter) to Scotland with small "SHIP LETTER". "With interesting message ref. having just missed the mail by another ship from Reykjavik". We are missing the text. Directed "pr. Camoens"



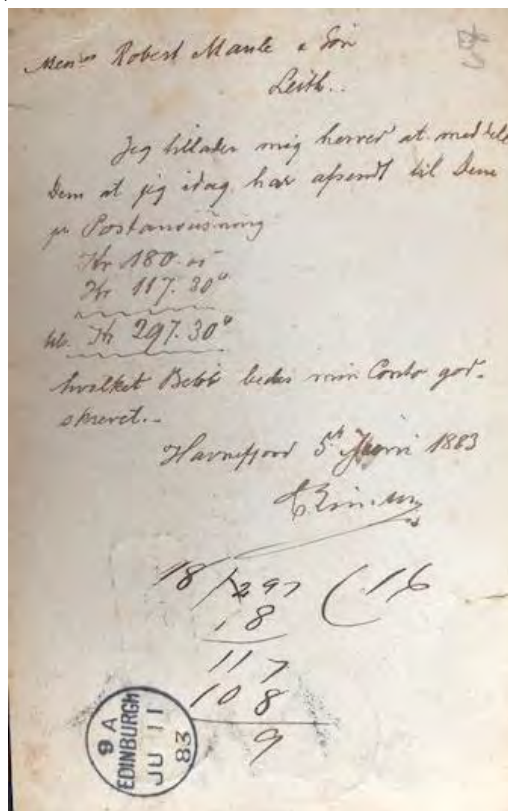
Again – based on the condition of the SHIP LETTER (the left lower corner) – from 1882 Only two⁹ known LONDON SHIP LETTER PAID on mail from Iceland.

⁹ UTLÄNDSKA ANKOMST- & TRANSITSTÄMPLAR: Mike Tuttle. Translated into Swedish by Leif Nilsson/Kjell Idling. Rapport Nr. 168 December 2013: "I have only seen 4 black stamps in the period 1881- 86"

1883



Written Havnfjord 5 06 83 – Reykjavik 5 06 83 – to Edinburgh JU 11 83 and Leith 11 JU 83 – probably SS Camoens.



Stationery 10 aur from "REYKJAVIK 28.7.(83)" (text unknown to us) to Pola, Austria



From the same day.



Letter from Reykjavik 28 7 with 20 aur ultramarine to Loire in France. Transit Edinburgh with small "SHIP LETTER" and with Calais a Paris cancellation (August 1883).

And a month later to the same recipient:



Reykjavik 20 08 83 to France – small SHIP LETTER and Edinburgh 25 08 83 on the back
1884

A registered cover to Washington with 40 aur mauve numeral plus 16 aur brown numeral – Registered Edinburgh JU 17 84 should according to Mike Tuttle¹⁰ be with blue ink (?) but **it doesn't look so. We don't have a copy.**



Registered letter with pair of 10 aur carmine of printing VI of 1884. REYKJAVÍK 26 08 and small "SHIP LETTER" on front, EDINBURGH SP 14 84 transit on back as well as an arrival canc. In Germany dated 16 09. **We don't have the back** – the SHIP LETTER looks like from another year.

¹⁰ Iceland Foreign Port-of-Arrivals & Transit Marks (part 10), Scandinavian Contact, volume 18, Number 7 Whole number 193, June 2001 page 361.

1885

New: Large SHIP LETTER used at the same time.



Reykjavík 8. júní '85.
Kærleiki elskulegi vin!
Í þetta sínu fátte þú ad ains þinnar mita i
statium þínu yðar ageta þú vinnuanna þína, sem
mér var mjög mikil ánægja og föðleikar ad þú.
Ad þú ad skipid ekki skendur mit nema núna
dag i þetta sínu en morgun er ad skrifa, veit þú
ad geyma nákvæmara svar til nöðra þínar. Iki
bestu kvæðum til alls yðar fólks er þú met djúpri
virkni
Yðar ein leyur vin
P.3 541 A63 Björn M. Ólsen

Written and sent from Reykjavik 8.6 1885 and arrival in Munich, Germany 19 06 1885.





Registered letter from Reykjavik - Edinburgh AU 31 85 – Edinburgh roller 131 and small SHIP LETTER– transit London to Tönsberg, Norway.



Letter from Reykjavik 12 11 sent from the French consulate to Rugles, Normandie. Small SHIP LETTER and Calais/Paris cancellation from 19 11 85.

1886



Stationery with reply card from Reykjavik 24 3 to Hamburg, Germany with small SHIP LETTER. Send to H.C. Fischer:



Stationery 31 05 86 from Reykjavik. Small SHIP LETTER and arrival in Goteborg, Sweden.

And the test written in Reykjavik 31 05 1886:



Letter from Reykjavik 31 5 to Dresden, Germany with small SHIP LETTER



Stationary canceled in Reykjavik 25 June - Year?? See the next.



Stationary from Reykjavik 25 06 86 written in French but sent to Berlin, Germany. Small SHIP LETTER. No transit cancellations. A stamp has been removed.

First SHIP LETTER GRANTON known 23 10 86.

In RED 25 11 86.



Written 25 November 1886 in Reykjavik – arrival in Germany 7 December 1886. Red - but it looks like the same stamp.

Reykjavik, 25. nóvember 1886.

Höf. Dr. Hugo Gering!

Ég votta yör hár með minar berta þakkeis fyrir Glassar
á den áledorn dör Edala Ég hefí lauslega áhíð á bókonu,
og vörðist mér hún vera vel samun og eftir föstum reglum.
Vörðingarfylst
Jon Þorkelsson.



Reykjavik 27/11 86

Dear Robert Maule & Son!

Wit De were our wish, at sende mig
nogle Prøvet af hvilke Løvedet de
sæde conlige man længe

Med Opføls
Hans Jensen

Stationery from Reykjavik 27 05 86 to Robert Maule & Son in Leith. Small SHIP LETTER in red.

The correspondence from Iceland to Robert Maule & Son is known over the years (1883, 1885 1886 and perhaps 1889). **Robert Maule & Son originally set up in 1872 in Tolbooth Whyne Leith**, and such was their success that in February 1894 they opened their glittering new Princes Street store, described as one of the largest and best-appointed drapery houses, **furnishing and fashion emporiums in Scotland** (Edinburgh world heritages – on Facebook).

1887



Letter from Reykjavik 8 2 1887. Transatlantic double rate (20 aur blue 1885 printing) from Reykjavik to Tracy, Minnesota Small SHIP LETTER and Edinburgh 14 FE 1887.





Part of 10 aur 14 on a letter sent from Djúpvogur 5 2. via Reykjavik 31 3, SHIP LETTER and Edinburgh 20 MR 87, New York to Grayling, Mich., USA. It took some time to come to Reykjavik. From Reykjavik it was carried by SS LAURA



Brjefspjald send May 1887 from Reykjavik to Norway

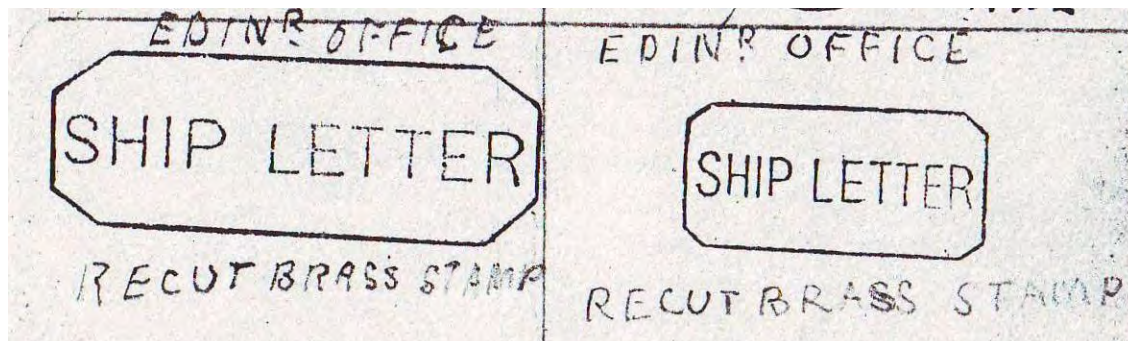




Written 26. June 1887. 10 aur stationary to Gothenburg canceled in Reykjavik 29.6. Small SHIP LETTER. Arrival 09 07 87

New: First LEITH SHIP LETTER 27 06 87 – on mail from Norway
1887 September recut.

Both the large and the small SHIP LETTER in octagonal frame handstamp was recut in September 1887, and in the Proof Book with the remark "EDIN^R OFFICE" next to the impression of the handstamp. Pictures from the Kirkwood's Proof Book 1887:



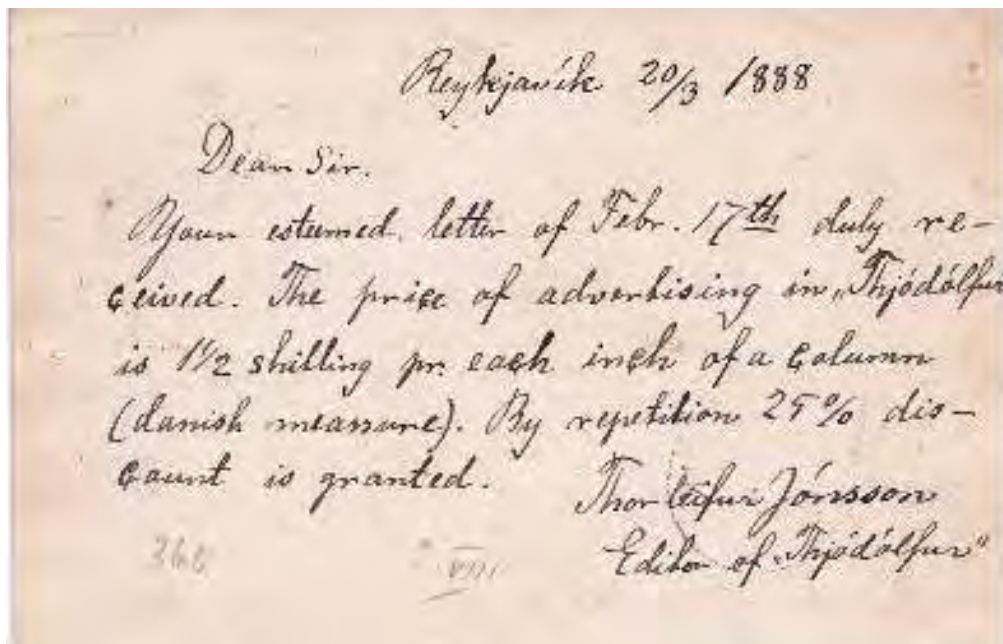
The S is slightly bigger than the rest

1887 September 1887 until Marts 1888

–only one recording with the recut stamp –in the period.
It might be because the big SHIP LETTER was used – but not a significant number - or because of the introduction of the round LEITH SHIP LETTER? The first one we know is from 27 JU 87, but we have only seen two examples from Norway, and they are both before September 87 and the third we have seen is from 1889. So – a bit of a mystery.



Written Reykjavik 20 03 88– and sent to Böhmen arriving 30 03 88. Small SHIP LETTER



Looking at the small SHIP LETTER, it might be the stamp from before – but it has at least 3 straight corners:



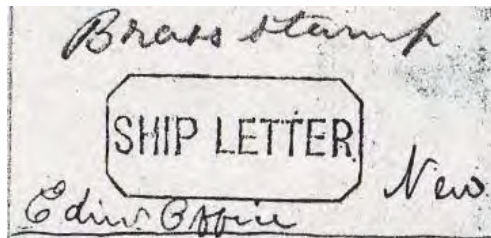
and they were round and unclear before



But – it is not clear.

1888 Marts recut

In Kirkwood from Marts is registered a “new” stamp – again to “Edinb. Office”:



The examples generally now look nice and clean from 1888.

The examples include a German correspondence with a significant handwriting.



8 aur stationery sent to Prussia with added franking of 3 skilling (!), which was at that time of course no longer valid. Canc. "REYKJAVIK 8.5" (1888), Edinburgh "SHIP LETTER" and "DÜSSELDORF 22.5.88 arrival canc. The handwriting can be seen on further correspondence – all (?) with strange “mistakes”



10 aur stationary with answering card from SEYDISFJÖRDUR 7.8.(1888) and with small SHIP LETTER. To Berlin, Germany.



Oval, 3 Aur, yellow, small 3 (par) on 5 Aur, blue brjefspjald. From AKUREYRI 5.8.(1888) sent to Berlin. "Künast" stamp dealer.

And then number two with the significant handwriting:



8 Aur lilac written 13. 07 88 (!), but with a REYKJAVIK cancellation 4 9 (1888) (!). Small SHIP LETTER. Sent to Düsseldorf, Preussen. Received in Preussen 17.9.1888. One stamp is unfortunately missing but the rest looks ok.

And the correspondence with a beautiful handwringing continues, and again with a strange dating:



5+5 Aur double stationary upgraded with 5 Aur green First Reykjavik 2 8 and then from REYKJAVIK 4 9 via Edinburgh with small SHIP LETTER to Düsseldorf, Preussen. Arrival 17 09 88. The attached unused answering part is also upgraded with 5 Aur green.



Cancellation 4 9 is also used on the next item with the same data – but not with the significant handwriting – also to Düsseldorf:



Clean 4 9 Reykjavik – small SHIP LETTER – and arrival in Düsseldorf, Germany 17 09 88.

From the same sender:



Stationary from Reykjavik 4.9 to Düsseldorf arriving 11.9.1888 - small SHIP LETTER and transit in Edinburgh SP 15 88

But then the same day the small SHIP LETTER looks different.



Stationary Reykjavik 4 9 sent to Hannover, Germany arriving 17.9.1888. Transit small SHIP LETTER. No real information on the back.

There are significant differences between the two SHIP LETTER stamps from the same day:
 The new one and the old one the "Hanover" stationary



So, it looks like the old one is kept.



Double rate registered cover sent to Germany franked with 6 aur II printing of 1883, three copies 10 aur V printing of 1884 and 20 aur IV printing of 1884 canc. "REYKJAVÍK 23.10 (1888)". On front are transit marks small SHIP LETTER and London Registration postmark, Berlin arrival canc. on back.

In RED 30 11 88.



A ship letter to Paris, France with 20 aur blue. **Sent from “Consulat de France in Iceland”**. Calais a Paris transit cancel. It has both cancellation SHIP LETTER GRANTON and very interesting on the same letter the small SHIP LETTER in red. Transit Edinburg DE 8 88 and arrival 10.DEC. (18)88. The letter was not cancelled in Iceland and that is probably why the stamp got the small SHIP LETTER at the main post office in Edinburgh. Granton was not authorised to cancel the stamp.



We don't have a copy but a 10 aur postcard was sent from Reykjavik 30.11.88 to Paris – with SHIP LETTER in red. Calais/Paris TPO 10 DEC (18)88.¹¹

¹¹ Mike Tuttle: Iceland Foreign Port-of-Arrivals & Transit Marks (part 10), Scandinavian Contact, volume 18, Number 7 Whole number 193, June 2001 page 361

1889

End: Large SHIP LETTER – the end 17 April 1889

In RED 4 06 89 and JU 16 89 + ?

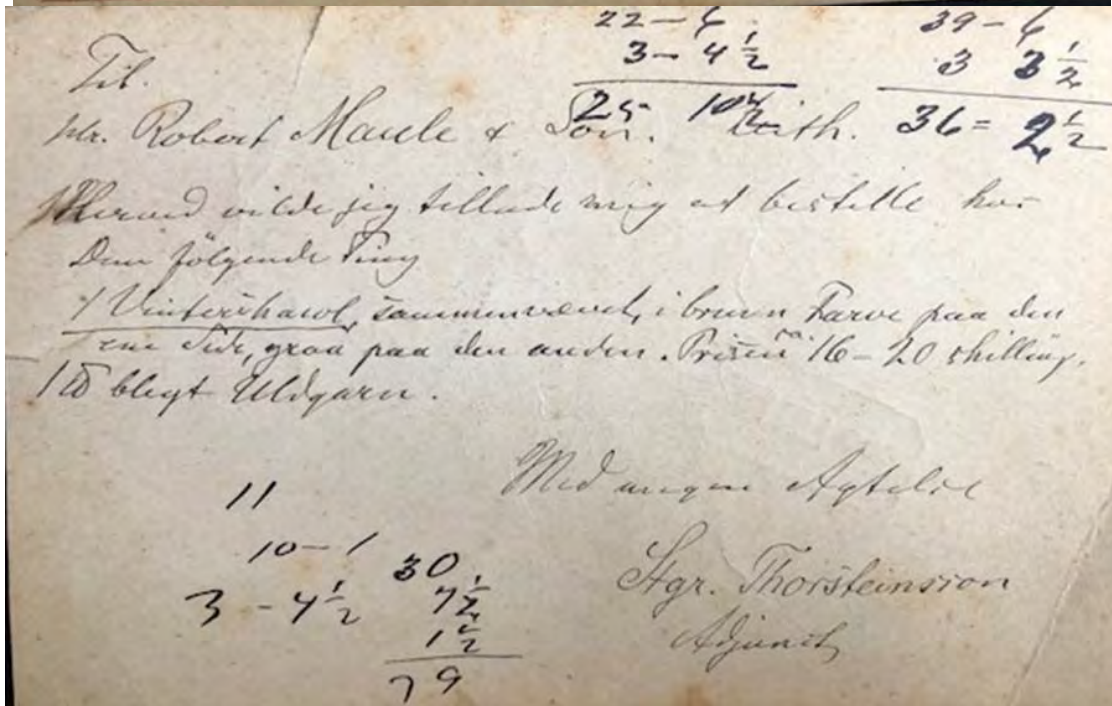
There should be two examples from June 1889 with a red stamp¹² but we only have copy of one!



The other one should be from Ísafjörður 4 6 to Norway, 20 aur blue with Edinburgh backstamp JU 16 89.

¹² Mike Tuttle: Iceland Foreign Port-of-Arrivals & Transit Marks (part 10), Scandinavian Contact, volume 18, Number 7 Whole number 193, June 2001 page 361.

Looking at the following small SHIP LETTER in red we have decided, that it is from 1889!



Stationary from Reykjavik 1889?? to Robert Maule & Son in Leith – and a small red SHIP LETTER.

It is a clear cancellation fitting the “red series” from 1889, but it can be from another year.

We don't have any idea why some cancellations are red.

New: First LEITH SHIP LETTER from Iceland AU 7 1889

In October 1889 it is black SHIP LETTER again:



A letter sent from Vopnafjörður in 1889 to Winnipeg, Canada, franked with a pair of 10 aurar and cancelled 10 10 with Vopnafjörður Lapidar cancel, then transit cancelled with Edinburgh small SHIP LETTER. Finally, arrival cancelled with a small Winnipeg cancel 4 Nov. 1889.

Only text: Stationary sent from Reykjavik 28 11 89 arrival. Strasbourg 9 12 89 (No copy) Viking auction 9.10.2003 # 570.

And the following bad copy:



From the Roger Hosking collection: Card to Sweden from Reykjavik 28 11 89 usage of the Iceland 10a red replay card (half with "Svar, - Response" crossed out). Sent to Lund in Sweden. Small SHIP LETTER.

1890



10 Aur red stationary written in Eyrarbakka 5 12 1889 canceled REYKJAVÍK 4 2 90 to Hamburg, Germany. Arrival 15 (02 1890). The last ship in 1889 was gone so it had to wait until the first in 1890.



Stationary from Reykjavik 4.2.1890 to France with SHIP LETTER, Calais & Paris 12 FEVR and arrival in Neuilly 15 FEVR 1890. On the back is a long text in Icelandic – it was addressed to Paul Passy an international well-known French linguist. He issued a book in 1891: “De Nordica Lingua”

Hæri kerra ~~Passy~~!
 Jég áskao í jólatíðinu að veita
 við þou idar og skrifa dælitid um
 niðslenskú, emu þá lagðist jég
 veikur í ischiat og er ekki
 orðum góður em. Jég má sem
 allra minst sitja þogum ífr
 skrifnum og veit þu' ekki hvenur
 jég munni geta orsíd þíum með
 það, em jég lofaði idar. Jég hef
 em þá ekki treist míu til að
 berjja á þu' vegna sjúkleika
 míns. Hvenur verður rit idar
 búið? Hvenur þurfit þú að
 fá þetta frá míu í síðasta
 lagi? Þetta þakki míu goth
 að fá að vita með fyrstu þerð.
 Með djúpri virðingu og
 vinsund. Þar Björn Mósen
 Nov. 4/2.90.

Only text: A letter sent from Reykjavik 4 2 1890 to Texas USA with 20 aur blue: seen in Kurt Bliese: "Skilling und aurar-Marken im Oval» - Handbuch 1991 page 99.



Stationary with no Icelandic cancellations send to Amsterdam, Holland-. Transit in Edinburgh FE 13 90 and small SHIP LETTER. Arrival in Amsterdam 14 FEB 1890. Stamp removed.

Same sender and recipient a month later:



8 aur stationary from Reykjavik 23 3 90 and transit Edinburgh AP 2 90 sent to Amsterdam, Holland. Stamp removed.



Stationary 10 aur from Ísafjörður 21 4 to Berlin, Germany – small SHIP LETTER transit and arrival cancellation in Berlin 07 05 90.



Stationary 5 aur uploaded with 5 aur from Reykjavik 12 5 to Helsingfors, Finland. Transit small SHIP LETTER and Finnish arrival cancellation.

From the same trip.



10 aur stationary written and sent from Reykjavik 12 05 transit Edinburgh MY 20 90 and SHIP LETTER



From Norway - 20 øre cancelled with "Bureau de Mer Bergen-Newcastle 2.VI.90" endorsed "pr. S/S Britannia" sent via Edinburgh and a small SHIP LETTER to Gènes, Italia.

Interesting as S/S Britannia was the ship used by HALVORSENS LINE - Norwegian Royal Mail Steamers from Bergen to Edinburgh (GRANTON).
The actual letter was carried on the second trip¹³.

We have also registered: 10 aur red stationary to Copenhagen, Denmark from Reykjavik 2 July 1890 (overpaid) with small "SHIP LETTER" and Copenhagen arrival cancellation (No copy). SS LAURA left Reykjavik 3. July west and north around the island to Copenhagen.

¹³ Per Eirik Danielsen: "Sjø-Postruer på utlandet" (1991) page 20-22



Letter to Norway –2x10 aur sent from Ísafjörður 7.7 and transit Edinburgh JY 17 90



Ihr geehrtes schreiben ~~was~~
habe ich eben empfangen und bitte
Sie mir die weiteren abtheilungen
des "Grundrisses der german. Philo-
logie" zu senden. Ich hoffe porto-
freie Zusendung zu erhalten,
weil ich hier ~~bei~~ ^{durch} meine buch-
handlung die gewinnreichten ab-
theilungen ohne erhöhung des
buchladenpreises erhalten kann.
Reykjavik Island d. 23. august 1890.
Hochachtungsvoll
Björn M. Ólafur

10 aur stationary from Reykjavík 23 8 to Strassburg, (at that time in Germany). Small SHIP LETTER French transport cancellation Calais á Liege SEP 1, 1890 and arrival in Strassburg the same day.



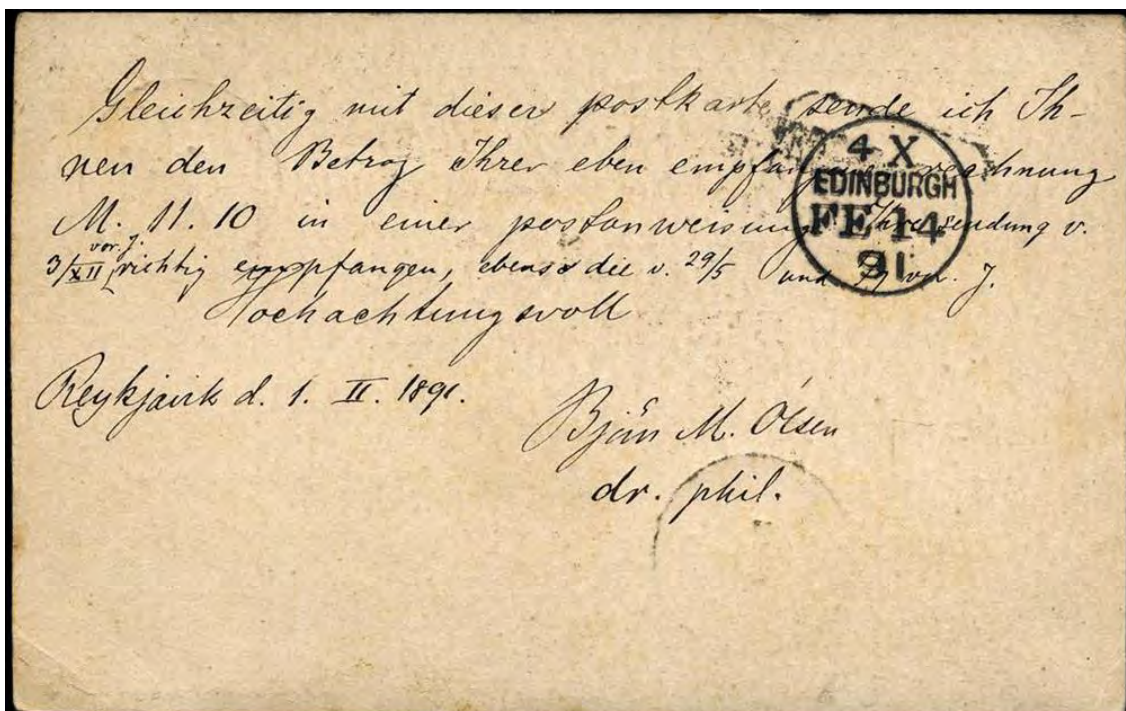
Cover sent from Reykjavik 25 11 to Austria in 1890. Franked with a pair of 10 aur carmine of printing VI of 1889. Small SHIP LETTER and the reverse transit canc. EDINBURGH DE 6 1890 as well as arrival cancellation WIEN 9.12.90.

1891



Stationary, 10 Aur, red from REYKJAVIK 4 2, TRANSIT Edinburgh with small SHIP LETTER, to Ottensen, Altona, Hamburg, Germany and arrival 17 02 91.





10 Aur stationary written 1st February 1891 and sent from Reykjavik 4 2 to the same bookshop as in September 1990 in Strasburg, Germany. Small SHIP LETTER and Edinburgh transit FE 14 91 – arriving in Strasburg 17 2 91.



8a lilac stationary from Reykjavik 4 2 with small SHIP LETTER, to Marseilles France (underpaid but no sign of uprating). Arriving 16 02 91 in France and cancelled with Calais A Paris stamp.

Three stationaries sent to the same on the same day:



8 Aur from Reykjavik 4 2 to Amstel, Holland with transit small SHIP LETTER and arrival 16 FEB 1891.





It is interesting that the underpaid stationaries and the one with correct 10 aur for transit via UK all of them cancelled 4 2 91 but arriving as late as 16 3 and 17 3 1891. Per schedule LAURA were intended to leave Reykjavik on the third of March. She actually left on the 6th. The scheduled arrival in GRANTON was 9th plus the delay, so actually arriving the 14th. It **doesn't explain** the under franking.

And on the same trip but from the Faroe Islands:



Danish Coat of Arms 20 øre blue, sent **from "C Restorff & Sønner" Thorshavn**, tied by single circle "THORSHAVN 12/2" (1891) to preprinted pharmacist's envelope with small SHIP LETTER to Rudolstadt, Thyringen, Germany. Transit Edinburgh FE 14 91 and arrival cancellation 17.2.91.



Thorshavn 13.2 – on 20 øre blue weapon - same sender and recipient as 12.2.1891 but the SHIP LETTER is different.



8 aur lilac stationery from Reykjavik 7 03 and transit Edinburgh MR 26 91 on the back, small SHIP LETTER addressed to Leipzig.



Stationery from Reykjavik 21 3 to Bournemouth, UK. Small SHIP LETTER

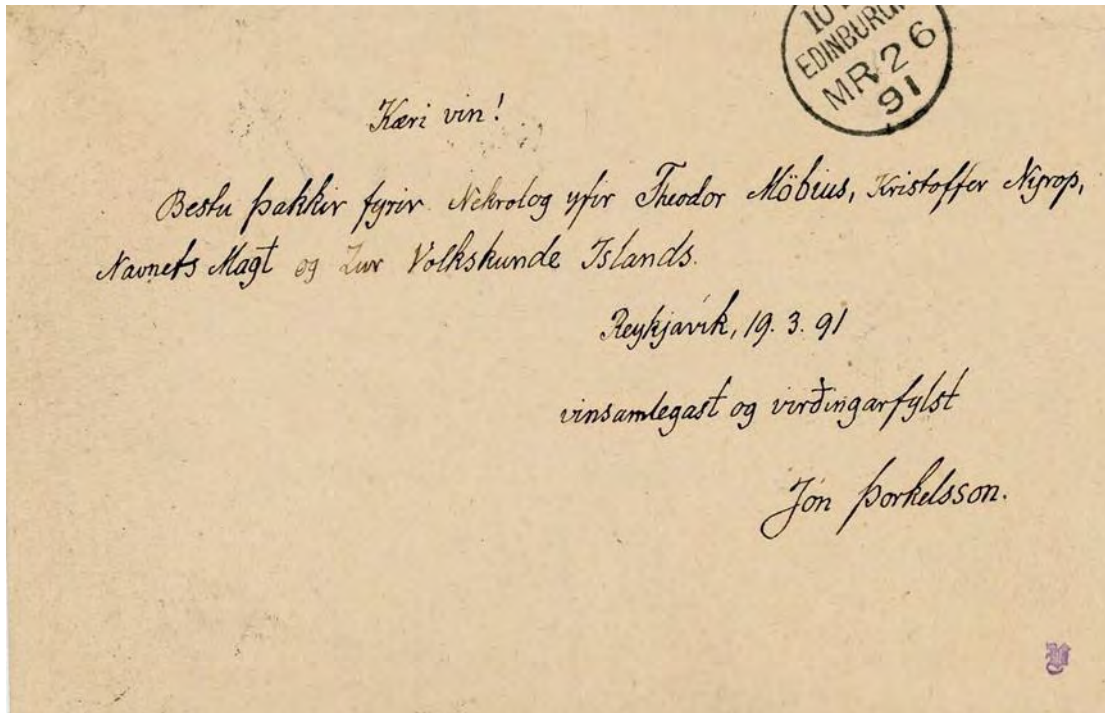


Hættir! skakulegi vinur!
 -Þjett eftir að póstskipið var farið hjólan síðast, fjékk
 þú af pósthúsinu nekrolog idar eftir Möbius, sem
 státt hafði í Arkiv, og nú með þessari férd
 póstskipisins fjékk þú annan nekrolog eftir sama manni,
 samdan af idur með viðbót M. Geringe. Þáða þessa
 nekrologa hef þú lesit mjög til mikillar ánægju
 og þakka idur alitlega fyrir þá. Mjög lítur vel.
 Ad lokum sendi þú idur, frá idar og börnum
 bestu heillaóskir
 Reykjavík 20th 1891
 Idar einlogur vinur
 Björn M. Ólafsson



Reykjavik 21.3.91 – Edinburgh MR 26 91

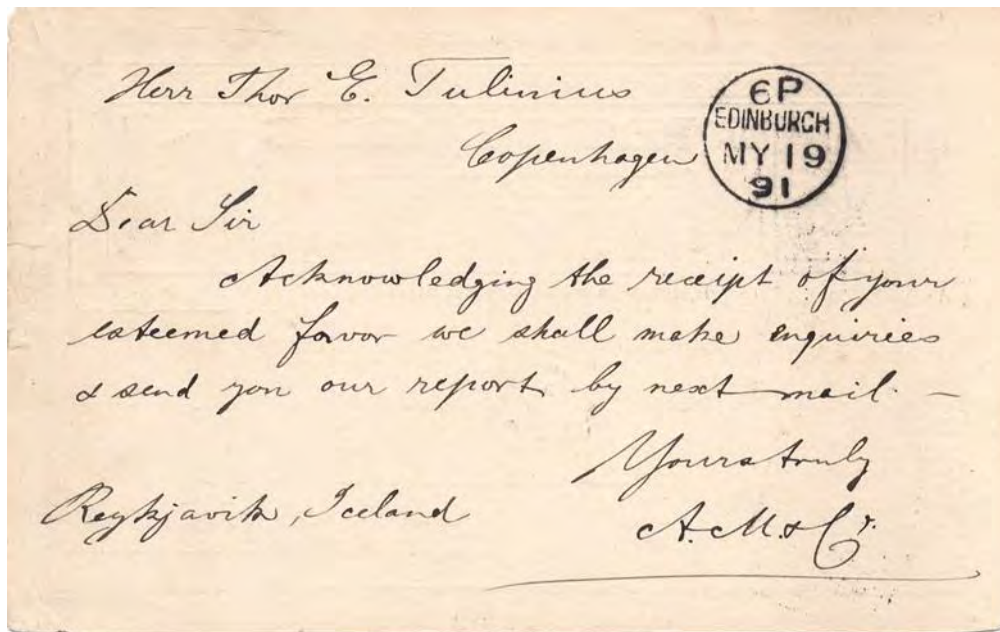




Reykjavik 21.3.91 – Edinburgh MR 26 91 – Munich 28 MAR 1891



Stationery sent from Reykjavik – cancelled 2.4 (!) to the later owner of “THORE” – with SHIP LETTER and Edinburgh MY 19 1891 (!) The reason for the delay is unknown.



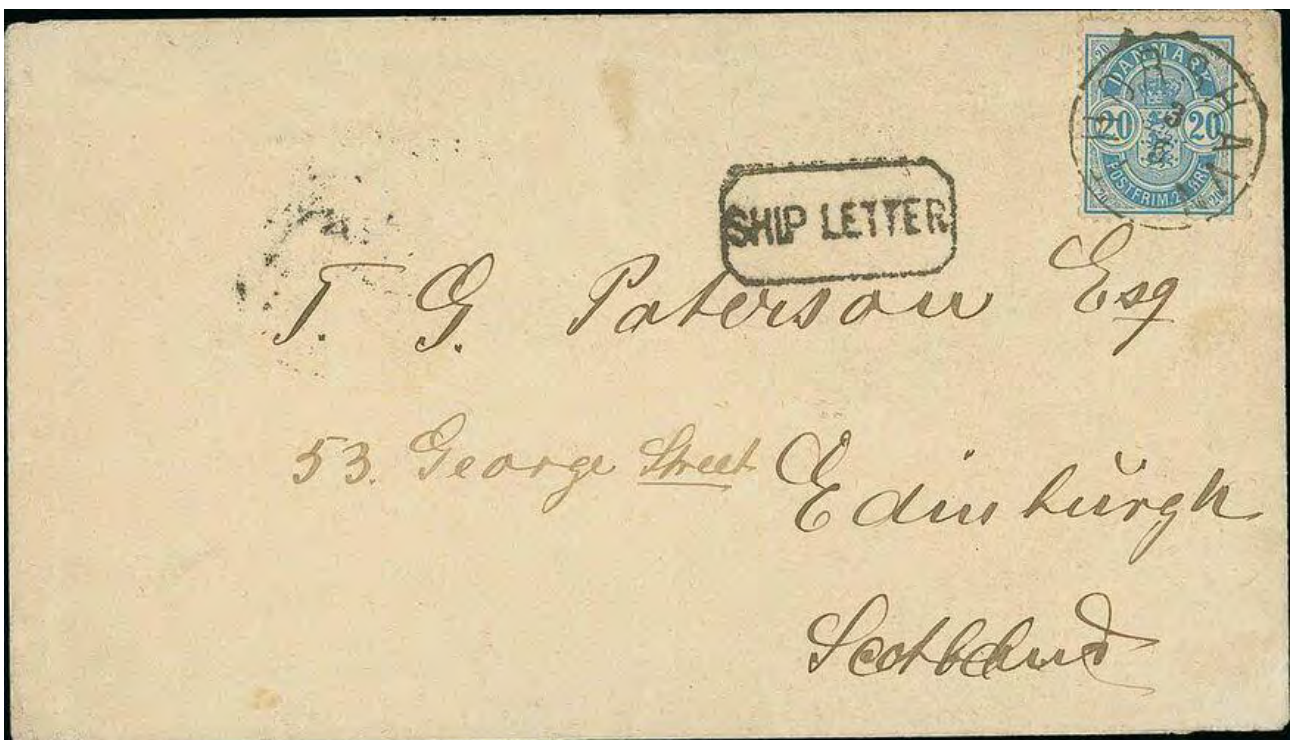
Same trip - a returned letter (REBUTS):



Stationery from Argentina, dated 10.11.90 and BUENOS AIRES 13.11. sent to Reykjavik but returned. Small SHIP LETTER and LEITH MR 21 91 is due to it being returned – on 4th trip with Laura.



Stationery written 12.4.1891 and sent from Reykjavik 22 4 – small SHIP LETTER - to Gustavsminne, Mörarp, Sweden.



Faröe Islands 1891 (3 May), envelope to Edinburgh franked Denmark 20 öre blue with Thorshavn cancellation and framed "ship letter" of Edinburgh alongside; arrival on reverse – but unknown.



Stationary from Reykjavik 197 – small SHIP LETTER – to Upsala, Sweden – arrival 27.7.1891.



10 aur stationary written 21 09 91 in Reykjavik. Small SHIP LETTER and arriving cancellation in Berlin 27 09 91



5 aur stationary uprated with 5 aur green from Reykjavik 20.10. Sent to Denmark. Correct franking Iceland – UK Denmark but marked (T). Transit small SHIP LETTER and arrival in Denmark 6 11 91. Carried by SS Thyra. "S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off.



5 aur stationary uprated with 5 aur green from Reykjavik 28 10. EDINBURGH 3 No 91, Helsingfors, Finland 8.XI.91. "S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off.



Geachteter Herr!

Ich möchte mich das eigentlichen Supplement-
band zu Meyer's Konv. Lex., das heißt Bd. XVII
(den hiebzehnten) - Sie haben mir den XVIII ge-
sandt. Ich sende die Zahlung für den XVIIten Bd
und hoffe dies mit nächstem Post zu erhalten.

Reykjavik 26/11 91 hochachtungsvoll
Ben Fründal

L128-00

Stationary written 26/11 91 and sent from Reykjavik to Leipzig, Germany, arriving 7-8 12 1891. Transit with small SHIP LETTER.

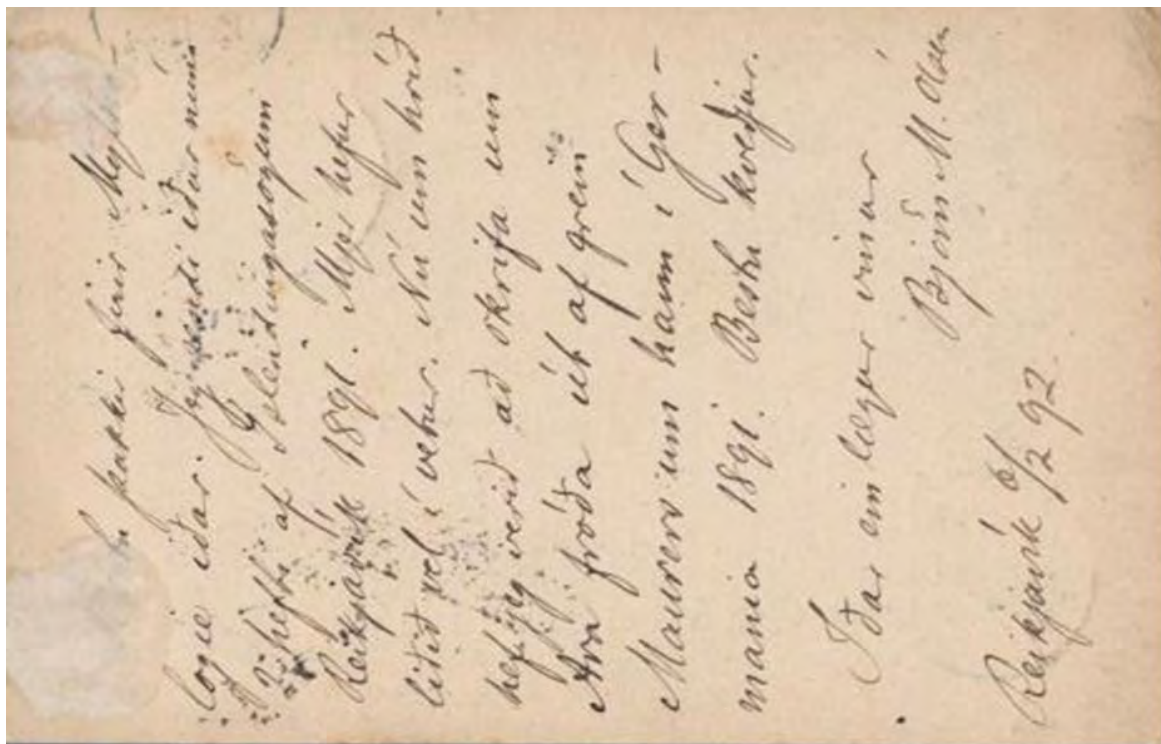


10 aur stationery sent to Denmark via the United Kingdom canc. REYKJAVÍK 28 11 - transit canc. with SHIP LETTER GRANTON and small Edinburgh SHIP LETTER. Arrival "K OMB. 1 8.12.91". "S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off.

1892



Stationery written 6/2 92 and sent from Reykjavik 8 2 directed “via Granton” to Leipzig, Germany. Small SHIP LETTER Edinburgh (S and R are not close to the frame)



The following examples are probably from two different trips with different ships. The assumption is based on the differences in the small SHIP LETTER. The two first examples have open space from S and R – they are not close to the frame and the back and R is cut off. It further leads to the assumption that



Meinetwegen, lieber Freund! Für Ihre letzte liebe Briefmarke meinen
 besten Dank. Es freut mich zu sehen dass Sie so freundliche
 gütliche Tage in Ihrer Heimat verbracht hatten und
 überhaupt dass es Ihnen wohl gieng. Als ich Ihnen
 meinen vorigen Brief schrieb war ich nicht recht
 wohl, von einem heftigen Zahnen Katarrh angegriffen
 aber nun bin ich wieder recht wohl. Influenza war
 es doch nicht. Wir hatten vom Neujahr bis zum Anfang
 dieses Monats viel Schnee und Frost, aber für jetzt ist
 die Kälte verschwunden so lange es dauert, aber zum
 Sommer ist Frühling ist er noch geräume Zeit. Wenn Sie
 diese Zeiten empfangen werden Sie wohl die ersten Vorteile
 davon haben. — Und nun leben Sie wohl fünf
 bismal und seien herzlich gegrüßt von
 St. Olaf aet. und wir
 danken einander. Mein
 besten Grüsse an P. Jönsson

Ihrem treuen Dankbaren
 J. M. Jönsson

stationary from Iceland but not cancelled there. Arriving in Granton and SHIP LETTER GRANTON, handled at Edinburgh main post office and cancelled MR 26 92 (type 17.1.3¹⁵) plus small SHIP LETTER (S and R not close to the frame). Sent to Copenhagen and probably arriving 29.3.92.

¹⁵ Arrevald type of designation: Stampers number (17) type (here number 1 for two arcs and 131) and sup-types (here 2)

At the same day a registered letter to Germany was also cancelled in Edinburgh¹⁶ – MR 26 1892 – but not SHIP LETTER GRANTON. "S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off.



17

Also, in March :
But SHIP LETTER GRANTON and not Edinburgh and different small SHIP LETTER



¹⁶Part of The Roger A. Swanson Collection, Sold at Northland Auction November 18, 1995

¹⁷ Former Swansons collection

*Genies sind Sie in
 Ihrem Rechte, aber es
 lässt sich nichts gegen
 solche Piraterien thun.
 Hochachtung
 Axel Lindström*

Stationary sent from Reykjavik 20 3 to Gohlis – Leipzig with small SHIP LETTER IN TRANSIT Edinburgh and arrival 28 3 92. (S and R close to the frame)

Same sender



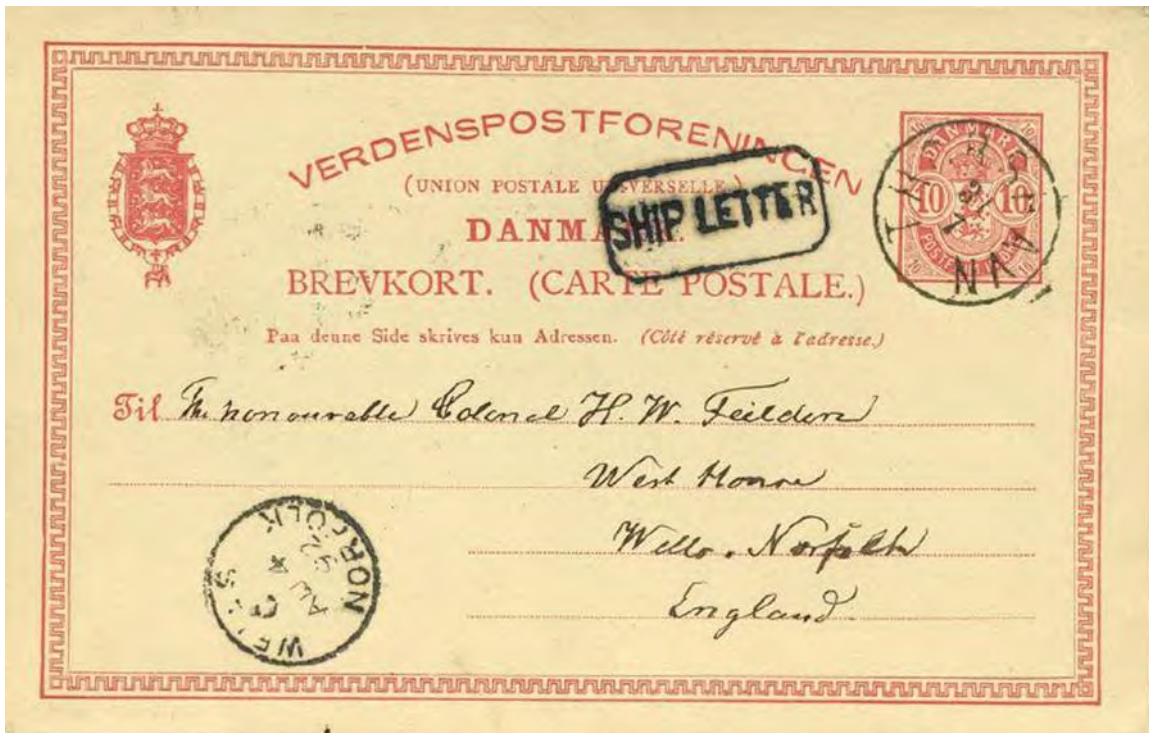
Same sender – 20 3 (92?):



8 aur Stationary uploaded with 3 aur from Reykjavik 20 3 to Leipzig, Germany and with small SHIP LETTER (S and R close to the frame) from Edinburgh (I am not certain about the year – but it looks like the same sender – and again:



The text doesn't help placing the year, but it looks like cancellation in Reykjavik 20.3 as the one above. The text mentions SS Hull, but I cannot find any recording of a SS Hull being in Iceland. SHIP LETTER (S and R close to the frame).



Stationary with Danish 10 øre -Sent from THORSHAVN 31.7.(1892) to Wells Norfolk, England arriving AU 4 92. Small SHIP LETTER. (Here “S” is close to the frame – “R” is not).

The latest known (except the following from ten years after in 1901) is probably the one Robertson shows¹⁸ cancelled in Edinburgh SP 20 92¹⁹ and with a small SHIP LETTER. Stationary sent to London UK

¹⁸ Robertson, Alan W.: A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles E.77

¹⁹ twin-arc 10.1.3 (see the bar cut).



Reykjavik, Iceland.
29/8/92

Dear Doctor

Herewith specimen of postcard
from northern seas which I thought you
would like. yours ever,
Arnold B. Wood

Written 29/8/1892 but LAURA went north and west and then to Denmark. Edinburgh SP 20 92. SMALL SHIP LETTER and Edinburg 10 with bar cut (10.1.3)

1901

And then out of the blue:



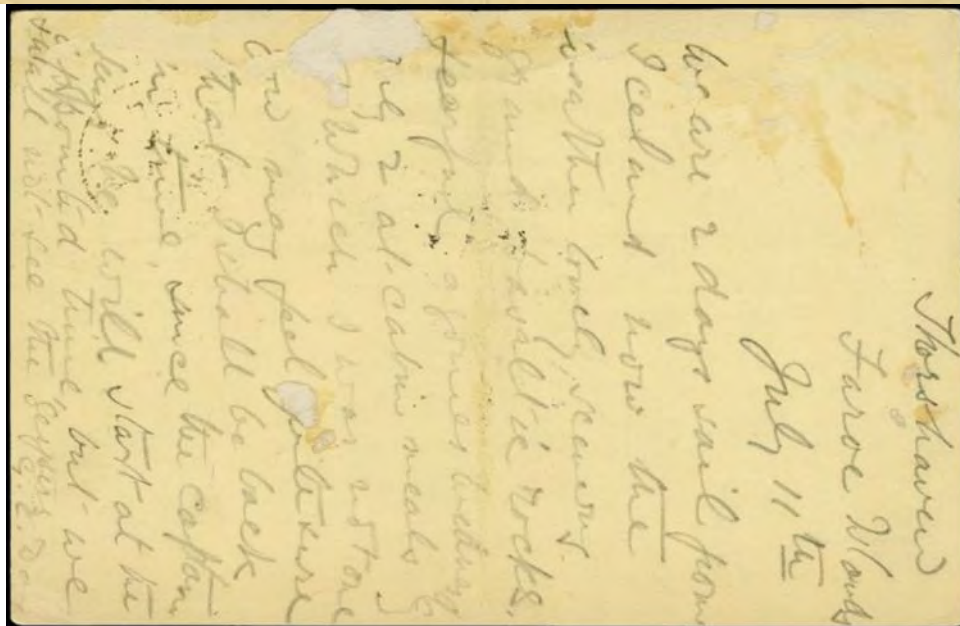
And the back



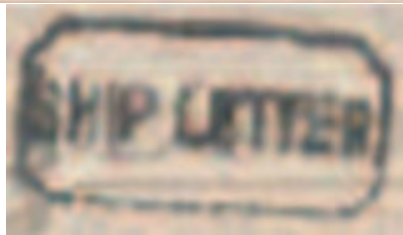
Letter from Reykjavik 4.9.1901 send to Vienna, Austria “per SS HELSINGØR”; via Edinburgh with twin-arc from SP 15 01 (17.3.4 ²⁰),– and arrival in Wien 18.9.01. The recipient was unknown, and it was returned to Reykjavik – arrival 18.10.1901. The small SHIP LETTER can have been added on the way out – or the way back to Iceland. It looks like it is added over the red lines annulling the Vienna address.

²⁰ Arreavad type of designation: Stampers number (17) type (here number 3 for two arcs and stampers number 131) and sup-types (here 4)

UNKNOWN YEAR

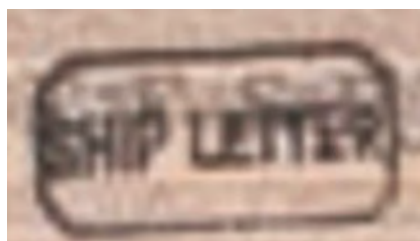


Postcard 10 øre red with single circle "THORSHAVN 14/7" Faeroe Island, sent to Northampton, England with boxed "SHIP LETTER" on front.



Text from Postiljonen:

5 aur green of 1884 added franking on 5 aur postal stationary card sent **from** "Eskifjörður 13 07" to Germany via Edinburgh as per chamfered SHIP LETTER handstamp on front.



13 07 18?? - 5 Aur ultramarine card with additional 5 Aur green (14:13½) from Eskifjörður to Babenhausen, Hessen, Deutschland





Stationary 10 aur from Ísafjörður 9 1 to the island SAMSØ in Denmark. Small SHIP LETTER. Directed "via Granton" and arrived in Tranebjerg, Samsø, Denmark. The year is until now unknown. May be 1892.

WEAR AND TEAR – EXAMPLES/TYPES

As part of the illustrations are copies from copies the size of the stamp is uncertain. What can be observed is the differences in the letters and especially the space between the frame and the letters
“S” in the beginning and “R” in the end.

The date is generally the departure day from Iceland.

We try to indicate whether it is stamp 1 from 1880 (1), stamp 2 from 1887 (2) or stamp 3 from 1888 (3). If no number or a ? is specified it is because we are seriously in doubt.

<p>27 June 1880 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected. The connection between “S” and “H” is only seen in June 1880</p>	
<p>27 June 1880 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected. The connection between “S” and “H” is only seen in June 1880</p>	
<p>10. August 1880 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”</p>	
<p>28. August 1880 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”</p>	
<p>25 August 1881 (1)</p> <p>Unclear but: Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. The “I” is weakening.</p>	

<p>14 July 1882 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”.</p>	
<p>14 July 1882 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”..</p>	
<p>14 July 1882 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”.</p>	
<p>5 June 1883 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”.</p>	
<p>27 July 1883 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”.</p>	

<p>27 July 1883 (1)</p> <p>Unclear but: Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” ??</p>	
<p>20 August 1883 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”.</p>	
<p>20 August 1883 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” ??</p>	
<p>8 June 1885 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” ??</p>	
<p>31. august 1885 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”.</p>	

<p>12 November 1885 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” ??</p>	
<p>24 March 1886 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” ??</p>	
<p>31 May 1886 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” ??</p>	
<p>31 May 1886 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” ??</p>	
<p>25 June 1886 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” ??</p>	
<p>25 June 1886 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” disappearing?</p>	

<p>25 November 1986 (1)</p> <p>Read – and the same: Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” disappearing?</p>	
<p>25 November 1986 (1)</p> <p>Read – and the same: Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” disappearing?</p>	
<p>8. februar 1887 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” disappeared?</p>	
<p>21. marts 1887 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” not ”disappeared”</p>	
<p>X May 1887 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” ??</p>	
<p>29 June 1887 (1)</p> <p>Space from frame to “S” and “R”. The upper part of TT is connected – now also with the “E”. ”LE” ?? ”I” is almost disappearing?</p>	

<p>September 1887 (2)</p> <p>RECUT "S" and "L" looks too big</p>	
<p>20 Marts 1888 (1 ?)</p> <p>It looks like the old one – but TT is not connected – the "last E" is upright.</p>	
<p>Marts 1888 (3)</p> <p>RECUT AGAIN Equal size of letters "LE" close</p>	
<p>8 May 1888 (3)</p> <p>Equal size of letters "LE" close</p>	
<p>Akureyri 5. August 1888 (3)</p> <p>Equal size of letters "LE" close</p>	
<p>7 August 1888 (3)</p> <p>Equal size of letters "LE" close</p>	

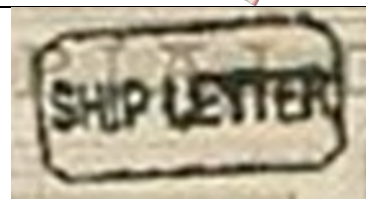
4 September 1888 (3)





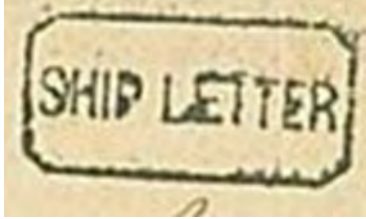
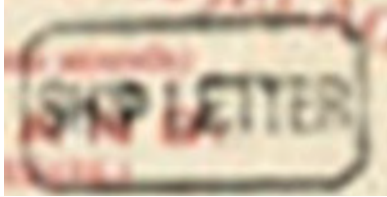
Equal size of letters



4 September 1888 (?)

It looks like one from before 2nd recut? The I looks like squeezed between H and P



<p>23. oktober 1888 (3)</p> <p>Equal size of letters "LE" close</p>	
<p>31. December 1888 (3?)</p> <p>"P" is not clear. "L" is damaged "TT" is damaged "P" is unclear</p>	
<p>4 June 1889 (3?)</p> <p>Read. "L" is damaged</p>	
<p>? 1889 (3)</p> <p>Read. Equal size of letters "LE" close</p>	
<p>10 October 1889 (2)</p> <p>Space from "S" and "R" to the frame. LE is connected "P" is unclear</p>	
<p>28 November 1889 (2)</p> <p>LE is connected</p>	

4 February 1890 (3)
Damage at left. S is near to the frame
LE is connected







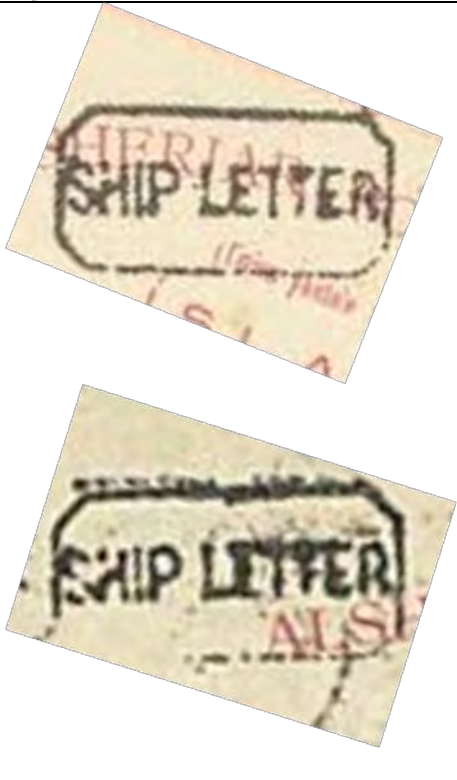
23 Marts 1890 (3)
Damage at left. S is near to the frame
LE is connected


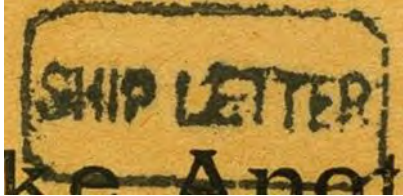




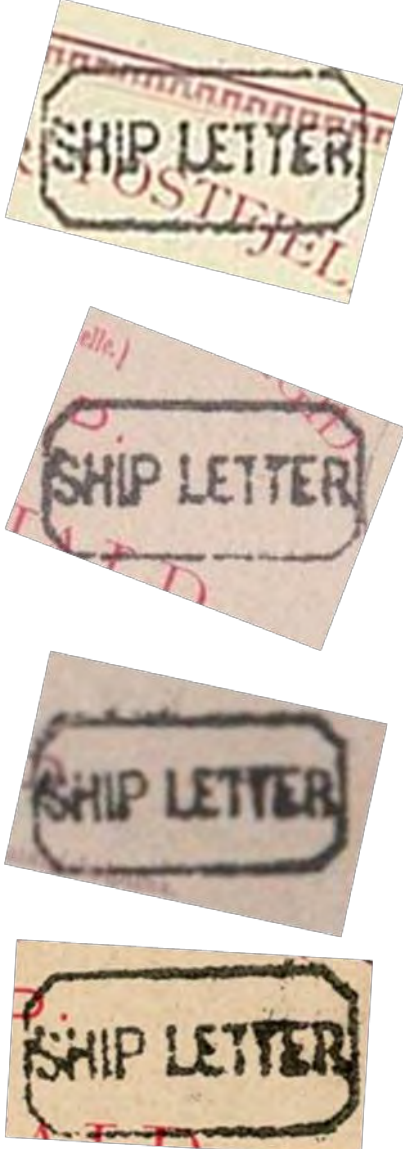

21 April 1890 (3)
Damage at left. S is near to the frame








<p>12 May 1890 (2)</p> <p>"S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off. "TT" is damaged. "P" is unclear</p>	<p>12 May 1890</p> 
<p>2 June 1890 from Norway (2?)</p> <p>"S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off. "TT" is damaged. "P" is unclear</p>	
<p>3. July 1890 (2)</p> <p>"S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off. "TT" is damaged. "P" is unclear</p>	


<p>23 August 1890 (2)</p> <p>"S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off. "TT" is damaged. "P" is unclear</p>	
<p>25 November 1890 (3)</p> <p>Damage at left. "S" is close to the left side LE is connected. "TT" is damaged.</p>	
<p>4 February 1891 (3)</p> <p>Damage at left. S is near to the frame. LE is connected. Now "TT" and "R" is in better shape</p>	






	
<p>Thorshavn 12 February 1891 (2)</p> <p>Space between “S” and the damage “R” and the frame LE is connected</p>	
<p>Thorshavn 13 February 1891 (3)</p> <p>S near to the frame – different from 12.2.81? LE is connected. Now ”TT” and “R” is in better shape</p>	

<p>7 March 1891 (3)</p> <p>Damage at left. S is near to the frame LE is connected</p>	
<p>21 March 1891 (3)</p> <p>Damage at left. S is near to the frame. LE is connected. Now "TT" and "R" is in better shape.</p>	
<p>22 April 1891 (3)</p> <p>Damage at left. S is near to the frame - LE is connected. Now "TT" and "R" is in better shape.</p>	

<p>Farøe Islands 1891 (3 May), (3)</p> <p>S close to the frame. LE is connected. Now "TT" and "R" is in better shape</p>	
<p>19 May 1891 (2)</p> <p>Space between "S" in the beginning and damaged "R" at the end "LT" separated.</p>	
<p>21 May 1891 (2)</p> <p>RETURN LETTER via LEITH</p> <p>Space between "S" in the beginning and damaged "R" at the end "LT" separated.</p>	
<p>19 July 1891 (3)</p> <p>Damage at left. S is near to the frame - LE is connected. Now "TT" and "R" is in better shape.</p>	
<p>21 September 1891 (2)</p> <p>Space between "S" and the damage "R" and the frame. LE is not connected.</p>	 <p>"S" i separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off. LE separate.</p>
<p>20 October 1891 (2)</p> <p>Space between "S" and the damage "R" and the frame. LE is not connected.</p>	

<p>28 October 1891 (2)</p> <p>Space between “S” and the damage “R” and the frame. LE is not connected.</p>	
<p>28 November 189 (2)</p> <p>Space between “S” and the damage “R” and the frame. LE is not connected.</p> <p>Also SHIP LETTER GRANTON</p>	
<p>28 November 1891 (3)</p> <p>“S” close to the frame. LE is connected. Now ”TT” and “R” is in better shape</p>	
<p>8 February 1892 (2)</p> <p>Space between “S” and the not really damaged “R” and the frame. LE is not connected.</p> <p>Directed via Granton</p>	
<p>? Marts 1892 (2)</p> <p>Space between “S” and the damage “R” and the frame. LE is not connected.</p> <p>Also SHIP LETTER GRANTON</p>	

<p>20 Marts 1892 (2)</p> <p>Registered letter</p> <p>”S” is separated from the left frame and the “R” is cut off. LE separate.</p>	
<p>20 Marts 1892 (3)</p> <p>”S” close to the frame. LE is connected. Now ”TT” and “R” is in better shape</p>	

	
<p>11 July 1892 (2)</p> <p>From Thorshavn</p> <p>"S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off. LE separate.</p>	
<p>31 July 1892 (3)</p> <p>From Thorshavn</p> <p>"S" close to the frame. LE is connected. Now "TT" and "R" is in better shape</p>	
<p>29 August 1992 (2)</p> <p>"S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off. LE separate.</p>	
<p>4 September 1901 (2)</p> <p>"S" is separated from the left frame and the "R" is cut off.</p>	

OVERVIEW

Ship letter postmarks used on mail from Iceland in Edinburgh, Leith and Granton.

Year	SHIP LETTER Large	SHIP LETTER small	SHIP LETTER GRANTON	Round LEITH SHIP LETTER
1868	1868			
1869				
1870	1870			
1871				
1872				
1873				
1874				
1875				
1876				
1877	1877			
1878				
1879				
1880		1880		
1881				
1882				
1883				
1884				
1885	1885			
1886			1886	
1887				1887
1888				
1889	1889			
1890				
1891				
1892		1892		
1893				
1894				
1895			1895	
1896				
1897				
1898				
1899				
1900				
1901		1901		
1902				
1903				
1904				
1905				
1906				
1907			1907	
1908				1909
1909				
1910				
1911				
1912				1912

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- Arrevad, Jakob S. and Eldrup, Ebbe: GRANTON SHIP LETTER IslandsKontakt Special # 29 V1 – 2021.
- Arrevad, Jakob S. and Eldrup, Ebbe: LEITH SHIP LETTER IslandsKontakt Special # 33 V1 2023.
- Arrevad, Jakob S. and Eldrup, Ebbe: LONDON SHIP LETTER IslandsKontakt Special # 37 V1 2023.
- Arrevad, Jakob S. and Eldrup, Ebbe: SS MAGNETIC IslandsKontakt Special# 39 – V1 2024.
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