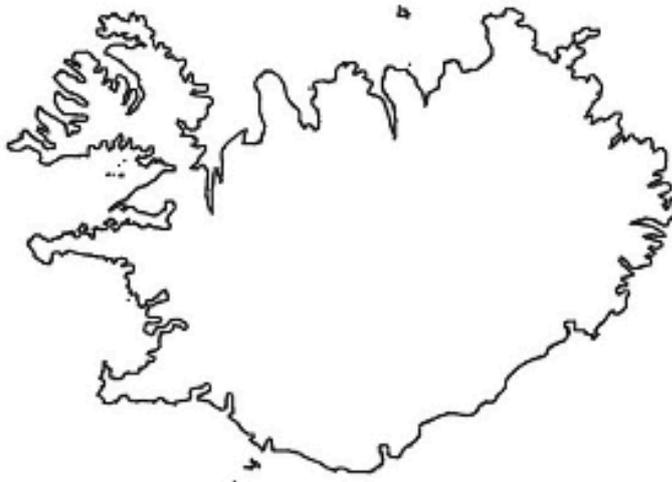
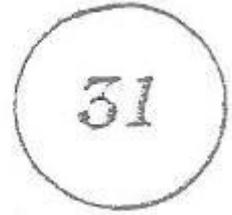


# ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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## Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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## News

Ron Collin quotes the announcement from the Danish postal service about their decision to stop delivering letters. "Denmark's state-run postal service, PostNord, is to end all letter deliveries at the end of 2025, citing a 90% decline in letter volumes since the start of the century". The decision brings to an end 400 years of the company's letter service. Denmark's 1,500 post boxes will start to disappear from the start of June.

PostNord says it will switch its focus to parcel deliveries and that any postage stamps bought this year or in 2024 can be refunded for a limited period ending in 2026.

It may be a forewarning of a similar development in Iceland?

## Late reusage of C1 Skinnastaður

A farm and church on the east side of the Jökulsá á Fjöllum, where the coast road bypasses Austursandur in the direction of Öxarfjörður and the Arctic. The name translates as “Tanning House”. The first office opened here in 1873 as part of the Þingeyjarsýsla Branch Route.



Bréfhirðing opened on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1873. It received a C1 crown cancel in the first allocation of 1894/95, inscribed SKINNASTAÐUR. Current opinion about the origins of a much larger cancel, which is 29mm instead of the normal 24mm, is that they used kerosene (commonly found on farms) to cleanse the dirty rubber cancel, which caused the rubber to swell. This is supported by the fact that all of the known larger crown cancels exist on later stamp issues, and well after the period of intended use of the crown cancels. These cancels appear during the second spell after the office was moved to Sandfellshagi from 1.1.1904. There are examples on the first series of the Two Kings issue in parallel with the numeral cancel N1a -48. The office moved to Ærlækur on 1.7.1911 and returned to Skinnastaður on 1.7.1913.

Sandfellshagi from 1.1.1904. There are examples on the first series of the Two Kings issue in parallel with the numeral cancel N1a -48. The office moved to Ærlækur on 1.7.1911 and returned to Skinnastaður on 1.7.1913.



In IslandsKontakt 46 (January 2003), Jørgen Steen Larsen wrote about this enlarged cancel:

The use of the enlarged cancel seems to have started around the time after the office returned to Skinnastaður in 1913. Moreover examples of the very common numeral N1a 48 became scarce in the period after Frederik VII series until the Christian X issues. It seems therefore that someone in Skinnastaður, after 1.7.1913 used the crown cancel instead of N1a 48. At the beginning of the 1920s the crown cancel and the numeral seem to have been used side by side, At the end of the 1920s the crown cancel had become very large and it looks as if someone preferred the N1a-48 cancel. The crown cancel is therefore rare on the landscape series.

(There are many images shown in the ISK46 article but unfortunately not of good enough quality to show here. Instead, here are some fine examples from other internet sources



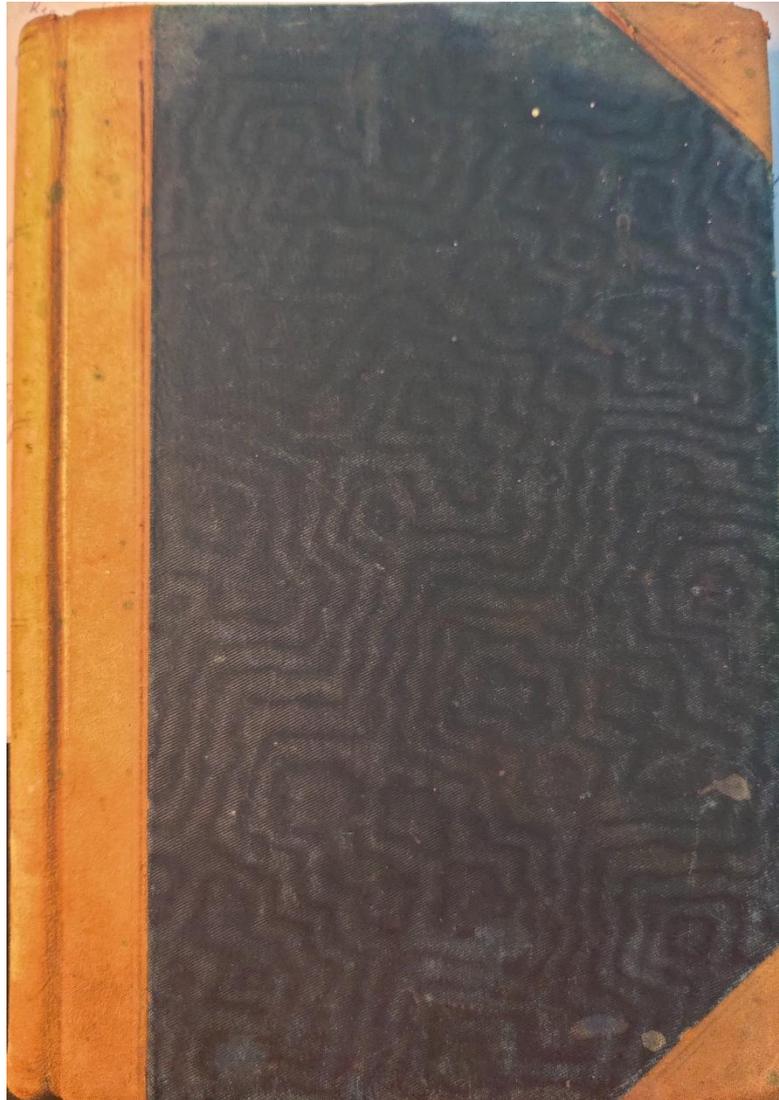
## Missing Gamla Bíó Letter *Dr. Stefan Schmidt*

Probably I have a missing Gamla Bíó letter in my collection: see below for the images. On the frontside the cancel is B2a Silfrastaðir dated 26.4.1938, and the numeral cancel 176 is on the stamps. The backside shows the Saudakrokur B2a dated 26.4.38 and Reykjavík B1a 1.5.38.

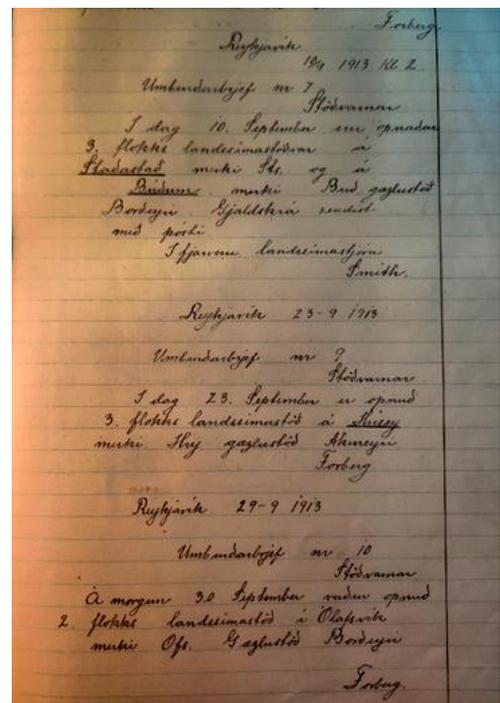
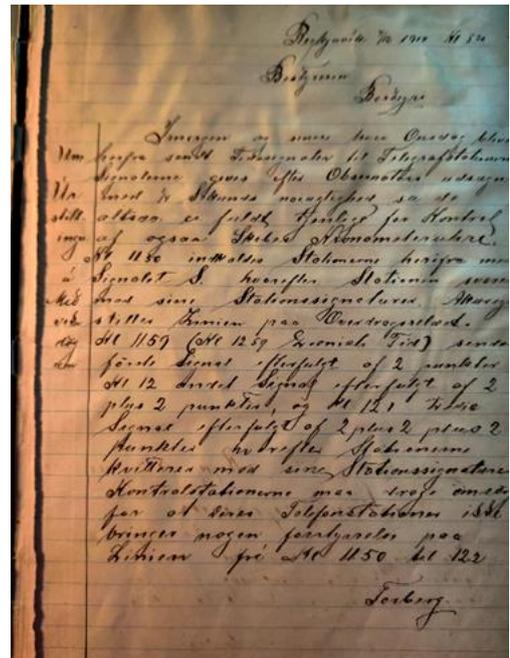


**A Rare piece of Icelandic Postal History**  
**Borðeyri, Iceland**  
**Postmaster's Regulation Journal**  
*Mike Schumacher*

As philatelists, we spend a lot of time filling those spaces with the stamps missing in our albums, but this philatelic gem won't fill one of those spaces nor fit in an album. It is a unique album all on its own. It is 181 pages of hand duplicated bulletins and messages from the Icelandic Telecommunications Authority covering the period of 1910 – 1929, written by the local Post Master of Borðeyri, Iceland.



Copy of two journal pages



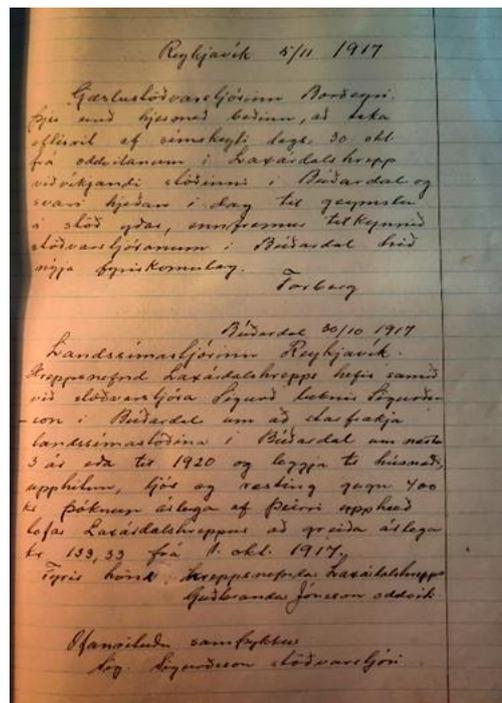
Throughout my philatelic collecting years, I have often heard the saying; “We are the temporary caretakers of history.” This gem certainly proves that saying to be correct. Much can be learned from this journal. Having not yet learned to read much Icelandic yet, I have not been able to decipher the entries.

A couple more random pages follow

None-the-less, it has been interesting to research Borðeyri. A map is included here to orient readers to where Borðeyri is located in Iceland.



Borðeyri – means Plank by the Sea. It is a Viking settlement that dates to the 8<sup>th</sup> century and is located on the Hrótafjörður Fjord.

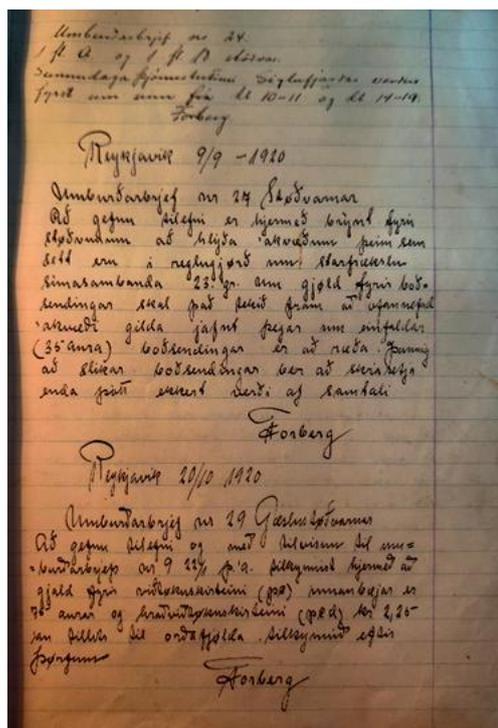


Borðeyri between 1905-09. Photo Ljósmyndasafn Reykjavíkur.

Copy of photo from *Icelandic Numeral Cancels 1903-1960* By Brynjólfur Sigurjonsson page 115

As I have collected and studied Icelandic Postal history, the remoteness of many areas is one aspect that I find very interesting and always a challenge to portrait in exhibits to help enlighten philatelic judges about this unique component of Icelandic philately.

Borðeyri during the period of 930 -1262 was quite a busy port, however during the 1300s Iceland came under Norway and Danish rule and business in Borðeyri declined. No recorded ship arrivals are documented during the period of 1602-1787.





In 1846, the village for Borðeyri was given township by the Icelandic Althing. Petur Eggerz, a merchant from Great Britain arrived and built a turf house and warehouse to aid the area sheep farmers to begin trade through the seaport.

His son, Sigurdur Eggertz was Prime Minister of Iceland from 1914 – 1915 and again from 1922 - 1924.

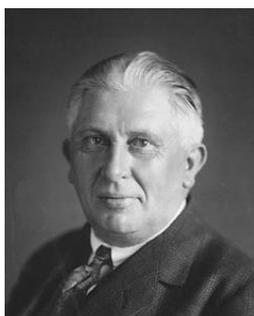


Photo of Borðeyri early 1900s. Population in 1931 was 45.

The postal service in Borðeyri was first a Bréfhirðing (Receiving office) from 1.1.1895 to 31.7.1923. It became a Post Office on 1.8.1923 until 21.6.1951. Pre 1903, the “Borðeyri” Crown & Posthorn canceller was used.



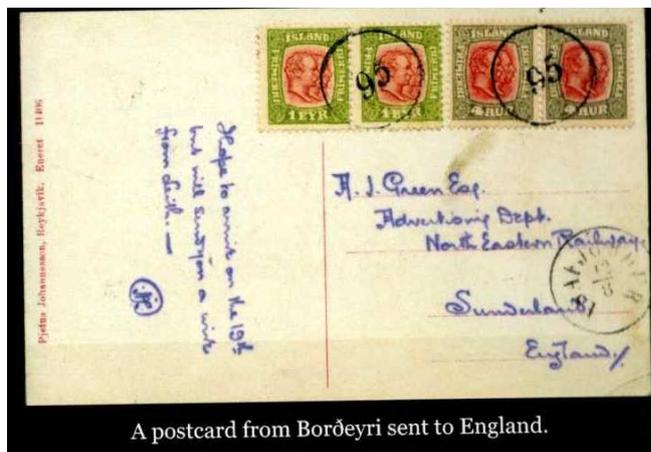
After 1903, the Borðeyri post facility used the numeral cancel # 95. Examples of use shown here on a King Christian IX stamp issued on September 12, 1902 and a King Frederick VIII stamp issued on February 12, 1912.



Numeral cancel # 95 is known “on 11 postal items...6 postcards, one parcel and 4 letters.”

*Icelandic Numeral Cancels 1903-1960*  
By Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson page 115

Copy of photo from  
*Icelandic Numeral Cancels 1903-1960*  
By Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson page 115



Thus, from this information it is easy to see the importance of this special, rare piece of Icelandic postal history – the Borðeyri Post Master’s hand-written journal. Hopefully, this journal can be translated in the future.

On 22.6.1951, the post office relocated to Brú on the Hrútafjörður Fjord.

Below is a more recent photo of Borðeyri. Population in 2018 – 16.



XXXXXXXXXXXX

### **Crown cancels on cover database**

Thanks to the diligence of Ron Collin, our database of crown cancels on cover has now reached a total of 284 items. There are approx. 70 crown cancels for which there are no examples on cover in the database.

## Ahrenberg Flight covers *Ron Collin*

I am still actively seeking information on my census of Ahrenberg Flight covers. (See IPM issue 32/8). I am looking for the following information pertaining to each cover, in order to be added to the census:

Registration Label Number    Addressee on each cover    Cover prepared by: (if known)

Amount of postage used to frank the cover

No names of collectors that provide this information will be released, if that happens to be a concern of someone who owns one of these covers. If you could provide the information to the Editor of this magazine, he will forward only the data to me for inclusion in the census. The census currently has 30 covers identified, and I am hoping that with your help, we can expand that listing.

A copy of my current census of 30 covers is provided below, so that collectors can check to see if their cover(s) need to be added to the census.

Ahrenberg Floden Flight Cover Census			
65 covers carried from Iceland			
Registration Label Number	Addressee	Covers Prepared By	Total Franking
66	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
67	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
128	Herr Anton Muller	?	26.05 Kronor
353	The Berkshire Exchange	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
354	The Berkshire Exchange	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
359	The Berkshire Exchange	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
360	The Berkshire Exchange	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
365	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
367	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
368	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
369	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
370	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
371	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
372	Unknown	?	?
373	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
374	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
375	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
376	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
378	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
380	Mr. Robert B. Turnbull	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
383	H. E. Harris & Co.	?	26.40 Kronor
385	H. E. Harris & Co.	?	26.05 Kronor
386	Joseph Jaeger	K.A. Hansen	26.05 Kronor
387	Mr. A. R. Squibb & Sons	?	26.05 Kronor
388	A. C. Roessler	?	26.00 Kronor
389	A. C. Roessler	?	26.00 Kronor
391	Kirk A. Landon	Gisli Sigurbjornsson	27.10 Kronor
392	Kirk A. Landon	Gisli Sigurbjornsson	27.10 Kronor
395	Scott Stamp & Coin Co.	Gisli Sigurbjornsson	27.10 Kronor
397	Scott Stamp & Coin Co.	Gisli Sigurbjornsson	27.10 Kronor

**A Follow up to Wilbur Jonsson's article –  
"When is a FDC not a FDC?"  
Icelandic Philatelic Magazine # 8/July 2016 Page 33-34  
Mike Schumacher**

Below is a follow up article to an article that Wilbur Jonsson wrote for issue # 8 of the IPM. And I didn't realize that I should have highlighted this info in the recent article that I sent you regarding the King Christian X Silver Jubilee issue article. So here it is and that way the question is answered and the information is highlighted, so folks don't miss it.

In the article Wilbur presents information about the King Christian X Silver Jubilee issue and how the first day of issue is listed as: 15<sup>th</sup> May 1937, however there was an event on the evening of 14 May 1937 and a number of covers and the miniature sheet was cancelled on that date. Thus, making as he described it – first day of issue as 14 May 1937 and "Jubilee" issue on 15 May 1937, as that was the date of King Christian X's reign.

He further indicated in the article that in the "Handbók" that it "mentioned that a framed "First Day Cover" cancel was used for the first time on this issue. However, at the time he questioned could this be wrong as "Guðmundsson (specialist on this issue) has never met this marking. At the time of this article being published in July 2016, the only FDC marking that I was able to provide Wilbur with, was a straight line "First Day Issue" cancel. Shown below.



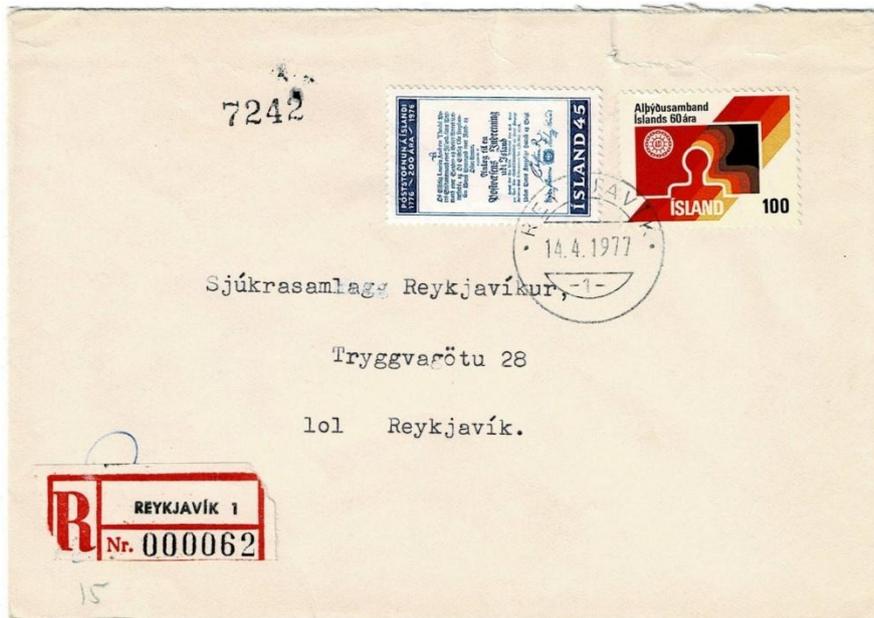
However, as I proceed on adding new material and remounting my exhibit, I realized that I do indeed have an example of the "framed First Day Cover" cancel. Shown below.



This second cover, certainly answers the question about the "framed First Day Cover" cancel. It is the only one that I have seen on this issue. Miss you Wilbur, but at least the question has now been answered in the affirmative.

## Unusual items *Ole Svinth*

Brian has repeatedly urged readers to send articles. I stopped collecting years ago, but I still have some covers left. I went through them to see if any of them were of a special character. The first one was this registered cover with a label in red. I was once informed that this label was intended to be used on local registered letters inside Reykjavik. One could wonder why these labels were made.



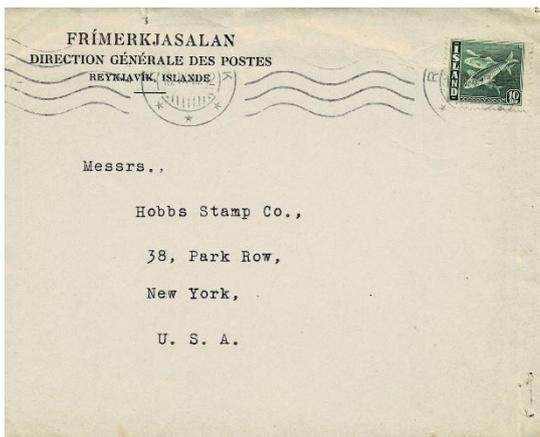
Local registered cover cancelled Reykjavik 1 14 4 77. Registration fee was 100kr. Letter rate 0-20 gr. Was 45 kr.

The next item is an express cover. Not that unusual, but a special cancel is not often seen. When the postman was not able to deliver the letter directly, on return to the post office he could use the cancel to inform recipient of why letter was not delivered. It was easier to use the cancel instead of writing a longer “fairytale”, explaining the delayed delivery.



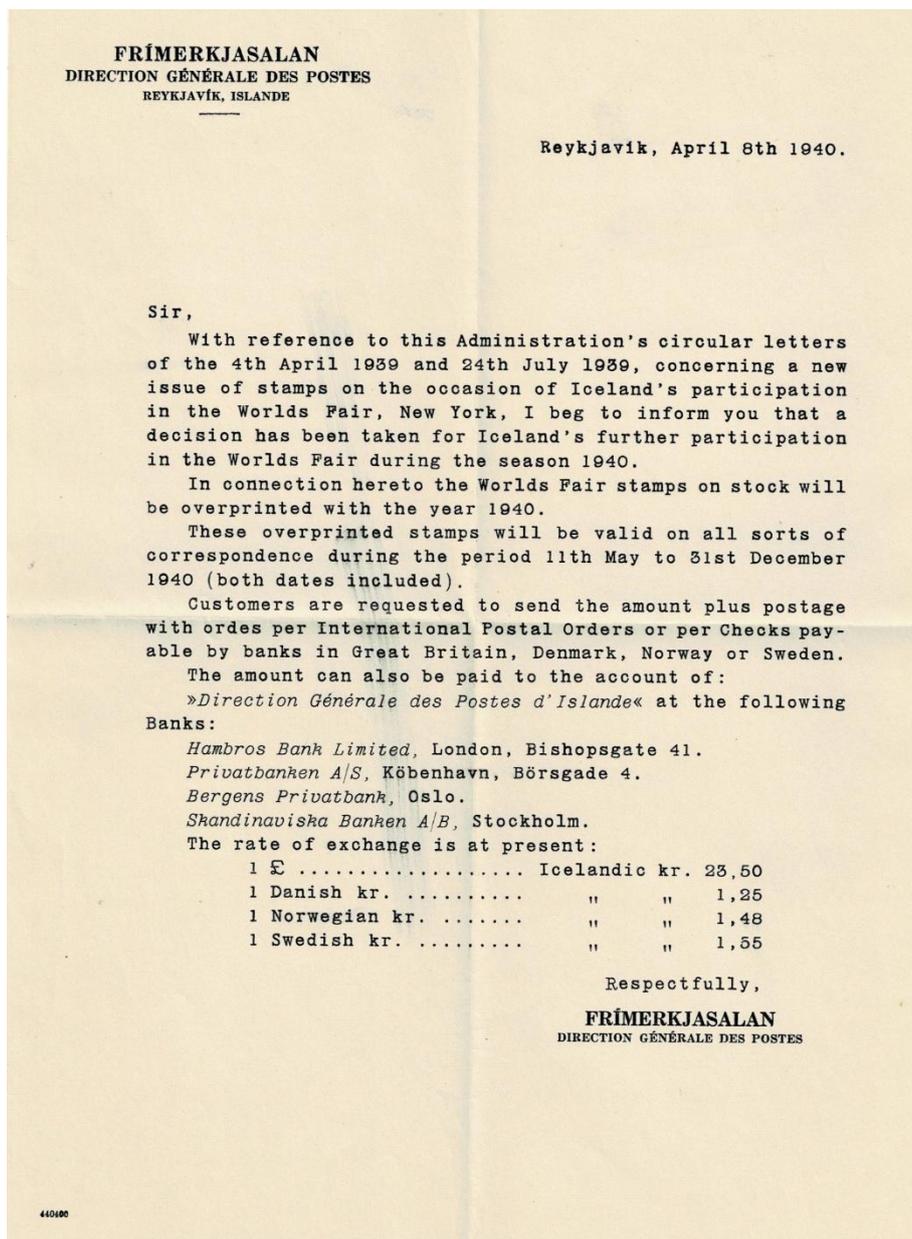
Express cover cancelled Akureyri 27 11 1972 sent to Reykjavik. Express fee was 25 kr. Letter fee 0-20 gr was 9kr.

The final item seems to show nothing of importance. And you are right. However, there was an interesting item inside this printed matter to the USA.



Printed matter to USA cancelled Reykjavik 18 IV 40. PM rate was 10 aur 0-50 gr.

The US stamp dealer got his answer to a former request about an issue for the World Fair in New York 1940. He was not the only interested dealer, as Frímerkjasalan had made this printed announcement shown below.



## Postiljonen Auction – Crown cancels on cover

Ron Collin sent this fine selection of results from the Crown Cancel section of the recent Postiljonen sale.  
All prices are in euros.



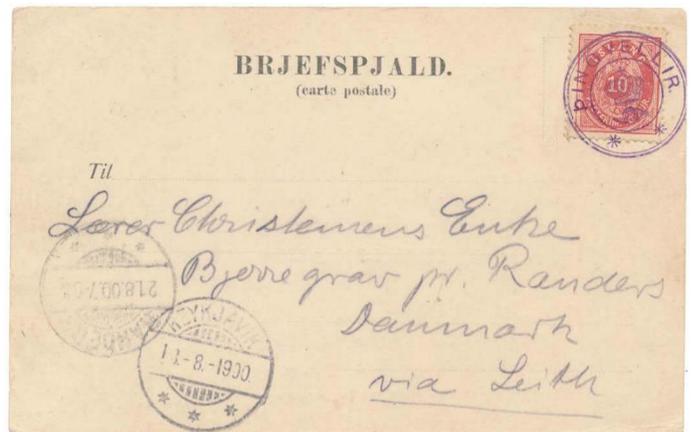
Skagaströnd 1600



Seljaland 3,600



Snæfjöll 5,500



Þingvellir 1,300



Kalfatjörn 1,300



Grindavík 420



Hafnarfjörður 2,600



Gufudalur 1,900



Mýrar 1,200



Hestur 1,200



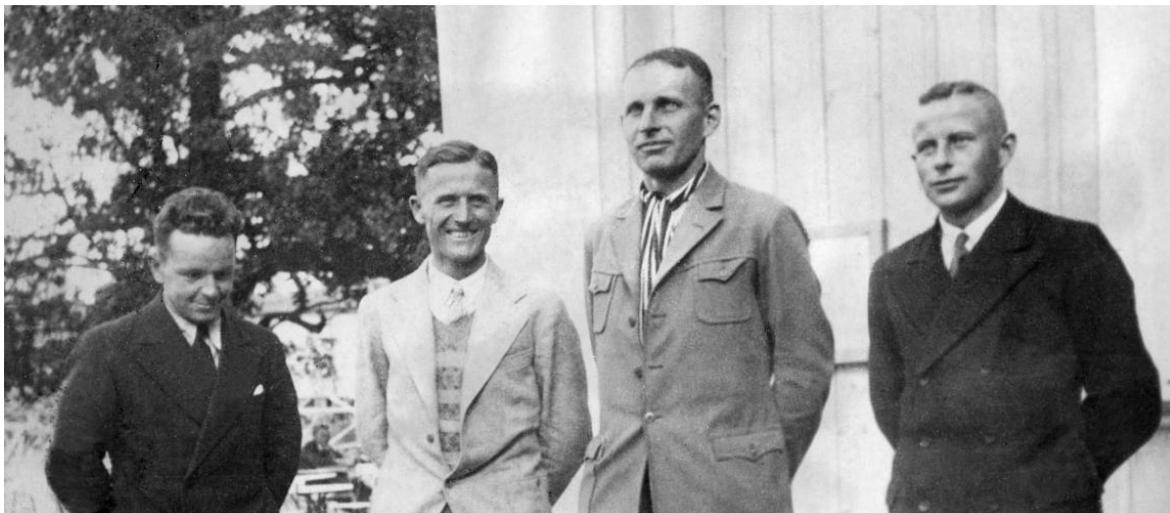
Hrafnagil 3.000

## Wolfgang von Gronau Flight, in 1931, "Grönland-Wal" to Chicago *Ron Collin*

Mention of the Hopflug Flight Cover Census, in Iceland Philatelic Magazine Issue #67, reminded me of another flight with an Iceland connection. I'm referring to the 1931 flight by German aviator Wolfgang von Gronau. He embarked on a remarkable transatlantic flight from Berlin to Chicago, piloting the Dornier D-2053 seaplane, affectionately known as the "Grönland-Wal" (Greenland Whale). As you can tell, it had an interesting arrangement of both tandem engines and the placement of the propellers.



Capt. von Gronau was the chief pilot at a commercial aviation school. On this 1931 flight he took a crew of three from his school. Students: Franz Hack, and Fritz Albrecht as mechanic and radioman, and Teacher Ghert von Roth as copilot. This flight was characterized by methodical planning, and absence of publicity. The Dornier D-2053 was chosen for this ambitious endeavor due to its impressive range and ability to land on water.



Pictured here are left to right: Franz Hack, Ghert von Roth, Wolfgang von Gronau, and Fritz Albrecht

They left Berlin on August 18, 1931. (cover canceled when taken in at Berlin post office). Their mission was to demonstrate the feasibility of long-distance flights over the Atlantic Ocean. The flight path included several strategic stops to refuel and rest. The first leg of the journey took them to the Shetland Islands, located northeast of Scotland. From there, they continued to Reykjavik, Iceland, where they were greeted with enthusiasm by the local population. Reykjavik cancellation on 11 VIII 31.

The next stop was Angmagssalik (now Tasiilaq) in Greenland, a remote, and challenging location. The crew faced harsh weather conditions and treacherous icebergs, but the Dornier Wal's sturdy design allowed them to navigate these obstacles with relative ease.



(This cover sold at Postiljonen Auction #244 on 18 March 2025 for 320.00 Euros). Bargains do exist!

\*\*\* The prices realized that are quoted in this article, is the Hammer Price of the lot, and the amount does not include the buyer's commission.

The daunting part of the journey was the transatlantic crossing from Greenland to Canada. von Gronau and his crew flew over the vast expanse of the North Atlantic, relying on their navigational skills and the reliability of their aircraft. After hours of tense flying, they successfully reached Cartwright, Labrador, marking a significant achievement in aviation history,

From Labrador, the crew continued their journey to Canada. Longlac, Ontario Sep. 1, 31, where they received a warm welcome. The final leg of the journey took them to Chicago, their ultimate destination. On September 3, 1931, von Gronau and his crew landed in Lake Michigan, off of Grant Park, to the applause of an excited crowd.



No detail information as to where this cover was displayed or sold.

These next two covers both sold at auction in a Daniel Kelleher Sale #754 on March 16, 2021, as Lot #6018 and Lot #6019. Each lot had an estimated realization of \$500.00. However, each cover sold for \$1,300.00.





This example was seen in the Fred Goldberg Collection, at the Polar Postal History Society of Great Britain. Exact date of the display is unknown.



This cover was recently discovered listed in the H.R. Harmer Sale #3019, May 18, 2017. Lot #2674.

This lot was estimated at \$1,300.00, and it realized \$1,500.00.

This article just started out to be the telling about the 1931 flight of Wolfgang von Gronau's "Gronland Wal" seaplane, from Sylt, Germany to Chicago, Illinois, (with stops along the way). But as this article progressed, I guess it turned into an unofficial "census" of some covers carried on that flight.

It is unknown by this writer, how many covers were taken on this flight by von Gronau. I have been able to account for only six such covers, and they are all shown in this article. Five of the six covers are identically franked. Since there is no numbering on etiquette labels, the only way to tell the difference in acknowledging each cover, is by the placement of the adhesives and/or the positioning of the various cancels.

If any reader of this fine publication has a cover from this flight, I would appreciate receiving a scan of said cover. If anonymity is preferred, you can send the scan to the Editor of IPM, who will keep the source confidential. I hope you found this article of interest, and Thank You to any reader that is able to further the census of these flight covers.

## In place of red adhesive labels used on inland value declared letters

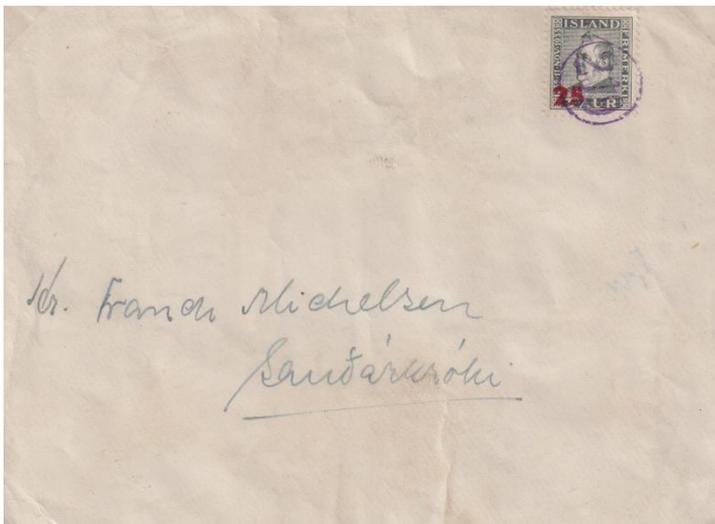
Somewhere, I can't remember where, I found an official notification saying that those post offices that have not received red adhesive labels for affixing to value declared letters (inland mail only), shall use ordinary registered adhesive labels on their value declared letters, but before the adhesive labels are affixed to the value declared letters, the »R« shall be cut or trimmed off. (I hope I have got that correctly!).

### Numeral 219 in red ink *Gunnar Leósson*

One number stamp has been incredibly hard to find and it is 219. Considering the facit price then there should be a lot of it in circulation but few I have seen. Then my surprise was great the day when I got one 219 (MV Fagranesi). And not only that, it was very well stamped and also with red ink and I have never seen that before. It would be nice if this has been seen before on 219 and if this is common



Editor: The numeral handbook shows that 219 was used on various coastal steamers from 1927 onwards. The longest allocation recorded by the numeral handbook is on M/S Fagranes from 1943. The following examples I have extracted from articles have a similar colour to the one shown by Gunnar. Perhaps this shade of ink was found in the M/S Fagranes period but no earlier? Can anyone comment\//////////



## Bisected stamp from Bær (1) Austur Barð Jarle Reiersen

Jarle Reiersen sent this image of a remarkable cover and asks if I have ever seen a cover with a bisected stamp like this.



Before we turn to the bisect, let us get to the origin and background of this undated cover. The later manuscript stamp was issued in October 1953 and the postal rate for inland letters was 125aur from 1.1.1952 to 31.3.1956. In IPM 32, an article by Jørgen Steen Larsen and Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson, “*Where was Nla 193 reused in the 1950s?*” examined the locations of numeral 193 and provided many examples on stamps and some on covers. We know from their research that Jarle’s cover must have originated at Bær in Austur Barð.

What was the postal official at Bær thinking of when he halved a 75aur stamp on this inland letter to Reykjavík? I might be wrong, but in my opinion the cover really does not appear to be philatelic. Perhaps the bréfhirðingarmaður had run short of stamps and could not make up the necessary 25 aurar to add to the 1kr. Why he chose to split 75 aurar is a mystery. It does not add up. Presumably he charged the writer only the required 1kr25for the postage.

Fascinating articles on Icelandic bisects have been written by philatelic experts. Ólafur Elíasson wrote that bisects were never authorised by the Icelandic postal authorities, and as far as he knew neither were they forbidden. The bisects he and others illustrated came from an earlier period than Jarle’s cover. A few more modern examples (1940s) were shown but Ólafur regarded them as curiosities.

I have not been able to discover any article written about Jarle’s cover. If an article is known, please let us know, I hope that our readers will respond with their opinions on this remarkable Bær cover.

Bær office



## What is This? *Roger Cichorz*

As Acting Librarian for the U.S.-based Scandinavian Collectors Club Library (SCCL), I write a regular library-related column titled "From the Stacks" for SCC's quarterly publication, *The Posthorn*. One frequently recurring feature of my columns is answers to queries posed by readers about subjects that require what I term "limited research" at SCCL using its resources.



Charles Peterson, who among his other Scandinavian-related collecting interests, has a fondness for cinderellas, and recently sent me a scan of an item from his collection on which he is seeking information. It is an Iceland mini-sheet of 25 imperforate stamps, the design of which mimics that of Iceland's Mt. Hekla 1kr greenish gray stamp issued June 28, 1935 (*Facit* #211). The sheetlet shown measures only  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and is crudely printed in black on a light buff paper. It is denominated "10 Au" rather than the "1 Kr" of the issued stamps, its black perforations are printed rather than being actual perforations, and it has no identifying text such as date or designer initials.

Consequently, it would be hard pressed to think that this mini-sheet is an official item, such as a contemporary artist submission or trial design proposed for the issued stamp, and I think it is more likely to be a posthumous creation of a philatelic club or organization (in Iceland?) to be given to members. Or possibly a premium prepared by a stamp dealer or philatelist to be given to clients or friends. Generally, when an item with stamp reproductions is prepared for an event or commemoration by a club or individual that is not intended to deceive collectors, the product will have text in its margins giving some information about its purpose.

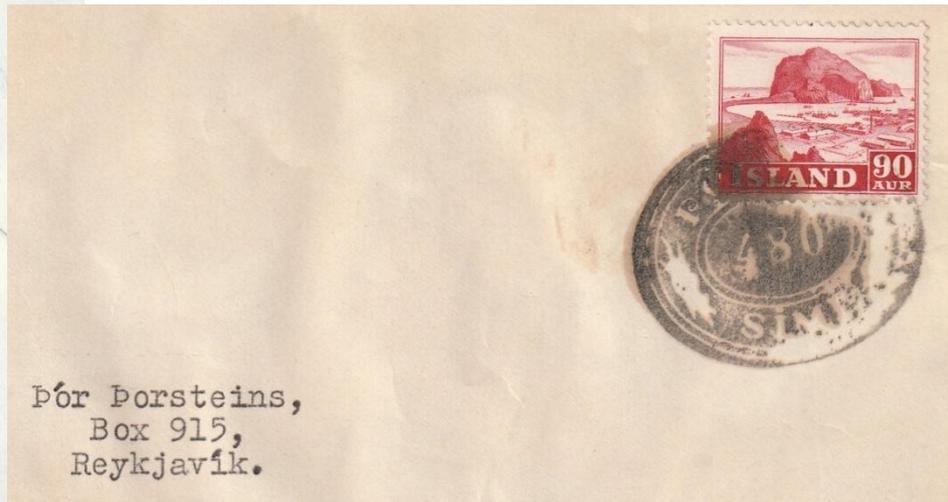
When I began my "limited research," I thought I might be able to find out something about it in SCCL's large holdings of Iceland philatelic-related literature – which includes three large binders of Iceland articles on every conceivable subject that was amassed by the late Les Winick during his lifetime as an Iceland specialist collector – but I drew a complete blank. I then went through every issue of SCCL's complete runs of *The Posthorn* and *Bältespännaren*, the periodical of Sweden's Cinderella Stamp Club, and also found nothing. I then contacted my friend in Hågersten, Lars Liwendahl, a principal in Sweden's Cinderella Stamp Club, who also knew nothing about this item. Lars suggested I contact two other member-collectors of Iceland in the Swedish Club, which I did, but received no further information.

So, with all this "limited research" behind me and no information whatsoever on this mini-sheet, I turn to *IPM* readers for an answer. What do you say? Any information or ideas would be most appreciated. Please contact the *IPM* Editor or me at [rcichorz@comcast.net](mailto:rcichorz@comcast.net) for anything you may have to offer about this item.

# New postal seals issued in the autumn of 1958. (Issue 49)

(Harald Thoma)

Referring to IPM issue 49 /March 2022, I am able to send four images of POSTUR SIMI cancels.  
See below:-



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## Strange looking cancels on CHX ( Issue 43)

Editor: Harald Thoma has offered his opinion on the cancels shown by Greg Cooklin in IPM Issue 43, where he asked what these cancels were.



I think they are Belgian railroad cancellations. The examples I own are from 1925, but they look very similar.

