

REYKJAVÍK

POST OFFICE



THE DANISH POSTAL ADMINISTRATION 1870 - 1872

In 1869 it was announced that from 1st March 1870 the Danish Post Office would open two secondary type post offices (Póstafgreiðsla in Icelandic) in Iceland, at Reykjavík and at Seyðisfjörður on the east coast, and that the warship Diana would carry mail between these ports and Copenhagen. Danish stamps of the 1864 Royal Emblem issue were sold at these post offices, but only for mail leaving Iceland, and from 1871 all values of the Danish bi-coloured skilling issue. Numeral cancellers of the Danish type were allocated to these offices, number **'236'** to Reykjavík and **'237'** to Seyðisfjörður. The '236' cancellation is known on the 8sk and the 16sk of both issues, these franking the standard and double weight letter rates to Denmark. It is recorded on other issues also, but even the most commonly used are extremely rare on any value. Only six covers from this period have survived.





236 used on 8sk of the 1864 Danish Emblem series.

In addition to the '236' cancel in March 1870 Reykjavík also received a cancel with the name REYKJAVÍK, known as the Danish cancel in Egyptian style letters and date digits in Roman (no year). This was intended only to be used as a side cancel on letters leaving Iceland, and as a receiving mark on incoming letters. The Postal Law of 1872 established Iceland's first true internal postal system under a postmaster general responsible to the governor of Iceland. In this law Reykjavík was upgraded to a main post office. Although the Icelandic postal system became independent of Denmark from 1st March 1870, it was not until the end of March 1873 before Icelandic stamps were delivered from Denmark.



The Danish cancel not for use on stamps

THE ICELANDIC TYPE 'A' CANCELLERS

As well as the two earlier "Danish" cancellers which researchers have classified as type D1 and D2, in 1873 Reykjavík (and 15 secondary post offices or póstafgreiðsla), received 22mm cancellers with the place name and day and month only. These have antiqua seriphed letters and number digits. These are called the type 'A' cancels. The Reykjavík type 'A' cancel was used until 1891 and by 1888 it was known with replacement grotesque style numbers.













The original '236' also continued in use to cancel skilding and then aurar stamps, and is believed to have been used through the 1890s at the quayside in Reykjavík as an incoming shipmail postmark. It is not uncommon on aurar issues.





236 used on aurar issues

Frimærkeprøvning
v/Lars Svendsen
Abildgårdsvej 30, 1. th
2830 Virum
Tel.: 42 85 57 72

UDTALELSE nr. : **-I18989-**

Det afbildede frimærke

Island 1873, 8 sk taltype brun, takket 14 x 13 1/2, vandmærke krone II, annulleret med antiquastempel Reykjavik

er ægte, men mærket er påsat nye takker og rande i nord og vest samt begge sydhjørner.

Afa (1989-90) nr. 3

Virum, den 15. oktober 1989 Lars Svendsen Ebbe Eldrup





Type 'A' cancel on 8sk.brown of 1873 with certificate. Re-perforated north and west.

THE ORIGINAL DANISH 'D2' CANCEL

By 1875 it became necessary to order new numbers to replace those lost or damaged. Each number in the date had to be removed and replaced every change of date. This system continued for years, and gradually the postmaster's stock of type absorbed different styles of numbers from different suppliers. By 1885 the D2 cancel became known with grotesque style numbers







There has been much debate about the fate of the old D2 cancel. A letter of 26.1.1888 to the Danish Post Office returns an old cancel with a request for a repair and a new supply of numbers. An account dated 27.2.1888 from the Copenhagen office of P Batz Engraver, reads "One piece datestamp to Reykjavik, engraved and provided with type". It is accepted that this was the original D2 cancel repaired and returned with a different appearance. By drawing a line from the letter 'I' it passes between the letters 'E' and 'Y'. In the original state such a line would have bisected the letter 'E'. This cancel in its repaired state is known from 12.7.1888 and is given the designation G1b (by now another different cancel was in use and called G1a). It is known with mixed type numbers in the years 1893-94. It is also known on late cancelling of the skilding stamps sold by the post office in 1890 and many aurar stamps similarly late cancelled. It was also used for a short period, January 1914 – April 1914 at the parcel office which was moved from Reykjavik PO to Bárunni (Tjarnargötu 9). It only has antiqua style numbers in the date.













A new supply of 25mm cancels came into use from the beginning of 1883. The Reykjavík cancel arrived there on 5.1.1883 from C.Chr. Jespersen of Copenhagen. The earliest known use is 2.2.1883. Researchers gave it the classification G1a as it came into use before the revamped D2 cancel which became type G1b. The script and numbers are in grotesque style. It can be found with a mixture of antiqua numbers from 1885 – 1891. The last known use was 29.4.1891.





Two more 25mm cancellers appeared in 1891 from John R Hansen of Copenhagen, and arrived in Reykjavík on 12.9.1891. These are called type G1cI and G1cII. The chief difference between these two cancels is in the upper stroke of the letter 'Y', which on G1cI is short and on GicII it is long. Also the figure '1' looks slightly different. The earliest date known is 21.11.1891. The G1cII cancel appeared again in 1934/35 at the customs office when this was moved from the parcels office, which by then had a bridge cancel. To identify these two cancels from type G1a is fairly simple. In G1c both the letter 'J' has a longer foot and also the downstroke on the letter 'A' is longer.







1889-90 PRINTING
5 AURAR

Facit 4

Scheer PC 7b. White dot in 5. 2nd/3rd address lines equal length. bar on ð broken

5 aurar inland rate. REYKJAVÍK type G1b provincial 21/3 sent to Þórormstunga in Húnavatnssýsla. Landsbanki Íslands pre-printed form on reverse dated 7.3.1893







Type G1c1 No date in message or cancel.

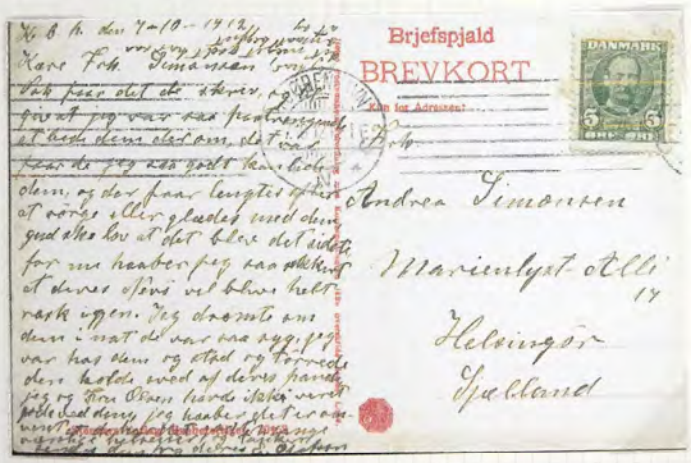
THE REYKJAVÍK CROWN AND POSTHORN CANCEL

Some years after the first allocation of crown and posthorn cancels, in 1899 a type C2e three ring cancel was issued to Reykjavík. Apart from that issued to Staður í Hrútafirði in Vestur Hunavatnssýsla, this is the only other crown cancel known to have been issued and used by a post office rather than the normal collecting office. The Reykjavík cancel is also misspelt with no accent over the letter 'I'. Caröe and others were of the opinion that the Staður cancel was a misused postmasters stamp, possibly a reserve cancel for emergencies. The intended purpose of the Reykjavík cancel is presently unknown.





Shipping in Reykjavik harbour. PPC posted within Denmark in 1912.



Diam 27mm
Horizontal bands
across whole width
Month in arabic



B1a



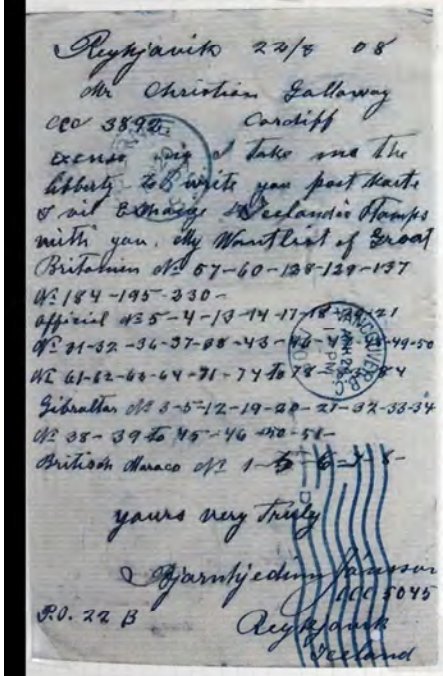
The following page shows an invoice dated 5.8.1894 from Københavns Stempelfabrik for the despatch of one postal date stamp in steel at 18 Kr 4 öre, plus another rubber datestamp. This is the first of the so-called swiss bridge cancels to be used in Iceland. Unlike previous cancellers, the new type had moveable wheels for setting the date. These steel cancellers were expensive and were only gradually introduced to post offices after Reykjavik. The next did not arrive until 1899 at Blönduós. This Reykjavik cancel was used from 1894 to 1899 and again from 1906 to 1912.





CANADA





Originally posted at Reykjavik 25.3.08 to Christian Galloway, Mining Engineer, Cardiff, England (!) transit Copenhagen 1.4.08. Redirected to FERNIE B.C. Canada. Vancouver BC machine cancel 24 APR 1908 and boxed "VANCOUVER BC APR 24 16.5.24 ..... DELIVERY"

Appear to be FERNIE B.C. APR 20 1908.

5 aur plus 5 aur PPC rate.



An invoice from J. Chr. Danielsen, engraver from Copenhagen, shows the delivery on 16th march 1899 of two rotating date stamps, one for the Blöndúas post office, the other for Reykjavik. The Reykjavik cancel was used from 1.1.1900 until 1913. The main difference to the previous 1894 cancel (B1a) is that the year is shown in full. Type B1b.



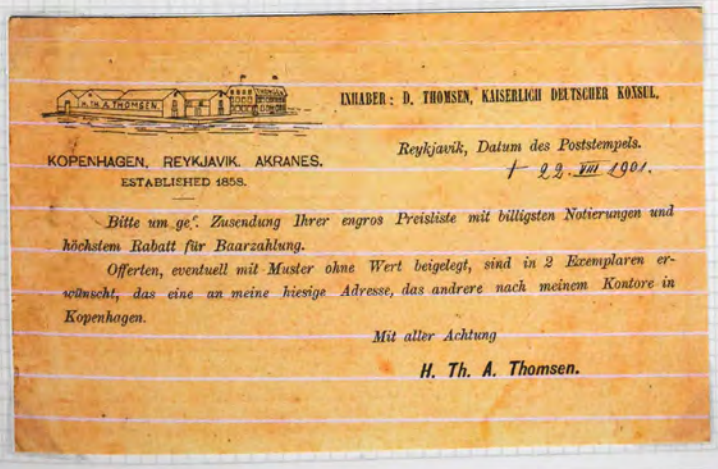


Type B1b dated
8.7.1905
20 aur letter rate
UPU foreign rate for Sweden was applicable until their admission to the Nordic Union in 1928.
EDINBURGH JY 14 transit and MALMO 16.7.05 receiving cancel.

BRJEFSPJALD (POSTCARD)
1895 PRINTING
5 AURAR

Facit 5 New stamp value, no dot in 5
Scheurer PC 12a 2nd/3rd address line unequal
5 aur printed matter rate to Germany. Reykjavik B1b dated 9.8.1901
WURTTEMBERG receiving cancel 20 AUG 01. THOMSEN imprint on reverse with + 22.VIII.1901. Inscription on front H.Th.A.Thomsen





ITALY



Reykjavík type B1b 24.5.1905 to Rome. 10 aur PC rate







Type B1b dated 4.7.1903. 10 aur postcard rate to UK.

The card was addressed to Olafia Jóhannsdóttir, c/o Miss Agnes Slack of Ripley Derbyshire, with Rip arrival mark of 11.7.03. It was redirected to Denmark with a VEJEN arrival mark of 17.7.03, readdres again to Newmarket England where it presumably caugt up with Olafia. The message in Icelandic on picture side reads, "Now at last I am sending you the address of my aunt from Holl, which I last knew to Miss H Paulson Flat A, 16 Pearson St, Chicago, Ill, USA."

With regards
Ágústa Magnúsdóttir

B1d
Type B1b dated
13.VI.1912
Written at Hotel
Reykjavik, to
Denmark.
5 aur Denmark PPC
rate.

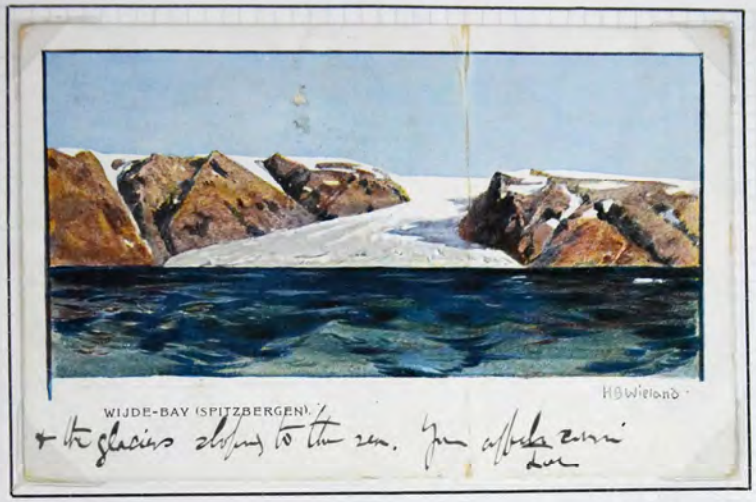








B1d
Type B1b dated
31.VIII.1911 to Newark
New Jersey U.S.A.
Mixed franking 10 aur
rate. Written in German
he describes a voyage
via Halifax and Greenland.
The ship was R.M.S.
VICTORIA LOUISE,
formerly DEUTSCHLAND
Hapag Lloyd, converted
in 1910/1911 to a luxury
cruise liner. See pic. above





TYPE B1b dated 5.7.1908. 10 aur postcard rate to Dublin, Eire. THE WRITER WAS SAILING TO SPITZBERGEN. A LABEL HAS BEEN REMOVED.



(R 16) 28.2.1910 – 1936

HE THIRD TYPE OF BRIDGE CANCEL IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE BEGAN IN 1910. THE MON
S IN ROMAN, SHORT YEAR FOLLOWED BY TIME INFORMATION. RUNEBORG TYPE B1d
ÓR ÞORSTEINS LISTS NO FEWER THAN NINE VARIATIONS OF TYPE B1d (R16 – R24)
YPE R16 IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT ALONE HAS A STAR IN THE LOWER FRAME. THIS WAS
USED FROM 28.2.1910 TO 1936, ALTHOUGH THE LAST EXAMPLE KNOWN IS 1923.



TYPE B1d (R16) DATED 19.V.10 5 AUR POSTCARD RATE TO FRANCE *
HE CARD IS ADDRESSED TO MLLE JEANNE DE LAMAGE. 6 RUE GÉNÉRAL CHANZY. DIEPPE
NO MESSAGE. THE VIEW IS SHIPPING IN REYKJAVÍK HARBOUR.

* THE POSTCARD RATE TO FRANCE WAS 10 AUR FROM 1908 TO 1921. 5 AUR WAS THE
INLAND CARD RATE. THE CARD MAY BE JUST A SOUVENIR FOR A COLLECTOR.
BBE CLORUP ADVISES THAT CARDS WITH LESS THAN FIVE WORDS WRITTEN ON THEM, COU
BE PAID WITH THE PRINTED MATTER RATE, 5 AUR.

PORTUGAL



Reykjavik type B1d (R-16) dated 8.IX.10 with METHIL Fifeshire transit cancel SEP 14.1910 and Lisbon Portugal receiving cancel ?.9.10. Postcard sent at the printed matter rate of 5 aur if less than 5 words. METHIL PAQUEBOT mark.





Bld (R-16) dated 17.XII.16. 5 aur printed matter rate to Denmark.



Bld (R-16) dated 28.VIII.21. 10 aur printed matter rate from 1.4.21 to 30.9.25

Below - (R-16) dated 8.II.16. 5 aur Denmark rate for cards from 1.1.1908

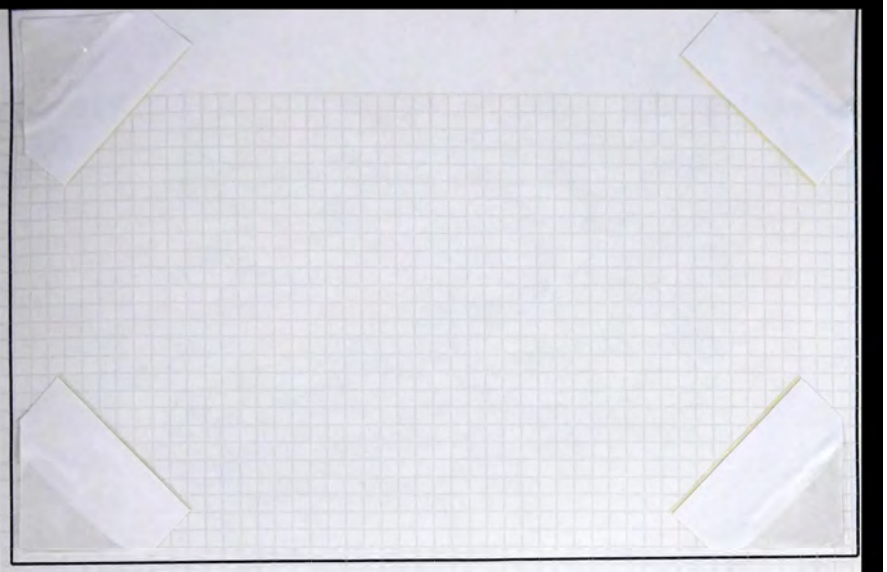




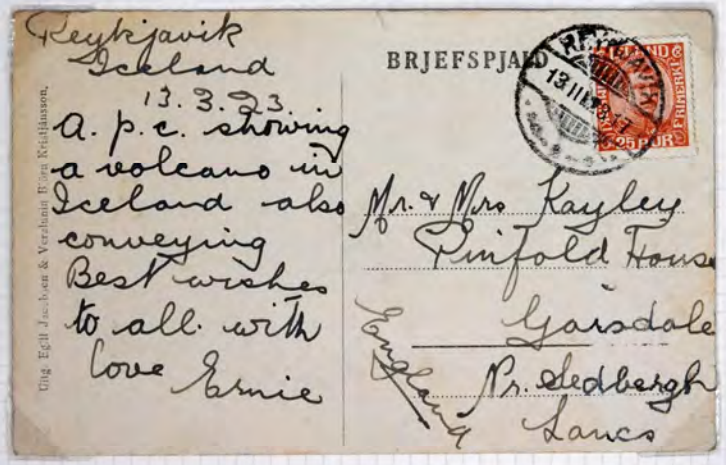
B1d (R-16) dated 12.XI.11 10 aur PPC rate to Germany. from 1.6.80 to 31.3.21



B1d (R-16) dated 6.V.14 20 aur UPU rate to Sweden from 1.8.76 to 31.3.21
Edinburgh transit 13.MY.14. MALMO receiving 15.5.14



Type B1(d) R-16 dated 10.VIII.11. 25 aur paid, underfranked by 10 aur. The rate to England from 1902 - 1921 was 20 aur plus 15 aur registration :. 35 aur



B1d (R-16) dated 13.III.23 25 aur PPC rate to England. Valid 1.4.21 to 30.9.



Bild (R-17) dated 24.XI.22. 15 aur PS card Rate applied 15.5.21 to 31.12.39. Typed message in Danish inside.

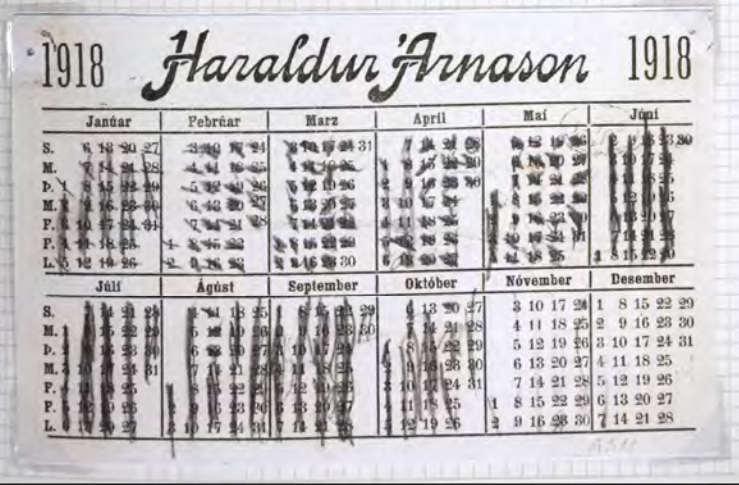
BRJEFSPJALD (POSTCARD)
1913 PRINTING
3 AURAR TWO KINGS

FACIT 27

Scheer PC 42b watermarked.

3 aurar local rate card uprated by a 4 + 3 aur Double Head for the scarce 10 aur inland rate imposed from 26.10.17 due to the Great War. REYKJAVÍK 3.1.1918 Sent to Djúpivogur. New Year greeting with a 1918 calendar









Type B1d (R-16) dated 27.VI.14 10 aus postcard rate to Rochdale England from 1920 until 1921



B2c1

From 1910 a different style of bridge cancel began to make its appearance, with double frame and crossbands across the inner circle only, ends closed. This permitted larger under spaced letters. At a later stage the Reykjavik cancel of this type was sent to the Parcels Office. The month is in Roman with one large and two small dots in the lower frame.



B2c1 dated 31.XII.23. The card was clearly written on 31.12.17. The 10 aus postcard rate is correct and applied from 26.10.17 until 14.5.21. Strange happenings on New Years Eve at P.O. HQ!

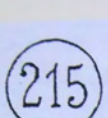


Type B2c1 (R-26) dated 31.XII.28. Thin 5 aur Double Head unwmk issued in 19 was invalidated from 1.1.1922. The last 5 aur local rate Esja postcards applied from 1.3.19 to 14.5.21. How this invalid stamp and in any case insufficient postage was permitted on New Years Eve 1928 remains unclear.



215

Reykjavík ms. Esja
1925-1926



Reykjavík ms. Esja
1926-1938







Bc 3 (33)





30mm

R-17

14.XI.1917 - 1931



R-18

28·5 mm LARGE LETTERS
11 LINES IN UPPER INNER CIRCLE, 12 IN LOWER
10.12.1934 - 1937.

THE OTHER VARIATIONS OF B1d ALL HAVE TWO SCROLLS AND FIVE DOTS IN THE LOWER FRAME. (R17 IS NOT DEALT WITH HERE, AS IT WAS USED AT THE CUSTOMS OFFICE AT A LATER STAGE, SEE NEXT PAGE)



R-19

31.5 mm
10 mm BRIDGE

1929 - 1945



R-20

31.5 mm
9 mm BRIDGE

7.1933 - 1951



R-21

1933 - 1938



R-22

31.5 mm
10 mm BRIDGE

10.6.1936 - 1948 1951



R-23

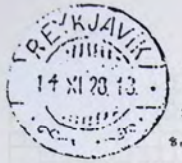
1946 - 1974
EARLIEST REPORTED DATE 1957



R-24

ALL THIN LETTERS AND NUMBERS

6.9.1935 - 1974
EARLIEST REPORTED DATE 1958



No central dot

B1d
RN
30mm
8mm bridge
1917 - 1931

B1d (R-17) was originally allocated to the Letter office in 1917, AND was there at least until 1927. Records show that it came to be used by the Customs Section which shared premises at one time with the Parcels Office.



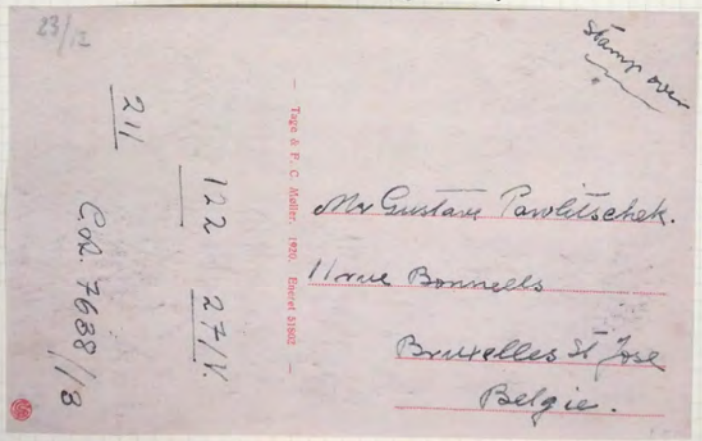
Type B1d (R-17) dated 23.VI.27 20 aur foreign postcard rate from 1.10.25 to 31.12.29. Sent to Lincolnshire England.



BELGIUM



Reykjavik 10.XII.31 7 aus printed matter rate for short message B1d(27)



SPAIN

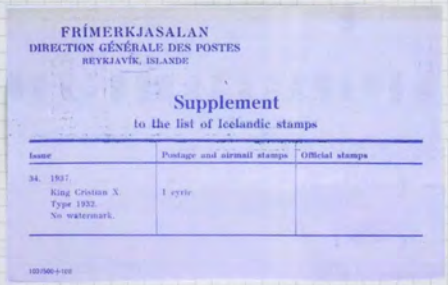


B1d(27)
Reykjavik cancel 16.VII.36 35 aus surface rate to SPAIN. Valencia cancel dated 31 JUL 36 on reverse



Facit 22 1907 Card with "Square Imprint" from 1907. With additional franking 4 aur Chr X Facit 148 postmarked 25.10.1937, sent to Norway.
Frímerkjasalan notification of the issue of an additional postage stamp Christian X 1 eyr. B1(d) 22.




FRÍMERKJASALAN
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES POSTES
REYKJAVÍK, ISLANDE

Supplement
to the list of Icelandic stamps

Issue	Postage and airmail stamps	Official stamps
24. 1937. King Cristian X. Type 1932. No watermark.	1 eyrir	

Rapport article on similar card No 140 December 2005

Facit 43
Scheer PC 69a
1930 National Museum impression. Watermark wavy lines. Control N° 98-Hn
UPU 20 aur foreign postcard rate. Cancelled 21.IX.33 Reykjavik Type B1d (R-2
FRÍMERKJASALAN privately overprinted. San Remo Italy receiving cancel 30.IX.
message in German.







B1d (R-18) with large digits and smaller diameter. Heavy letter 21-125 gm 55 aur UPU surface rate plus 30 aur registration.



13.X.26



7.IV.27



25.VIII.28



30.XI.33

ITALY



~~B1d~~ B1d(18)

1933 registered letter to Italy. Reykjavik 20.V.33, transit REGISTERED EDINBURGH N°1, 24.MY.33 and Turin arrival and registration marks 25|26 MAY. 85 aur rate comprises 55 aur second weight step for overseas surface mail and 30 aur registration fee.

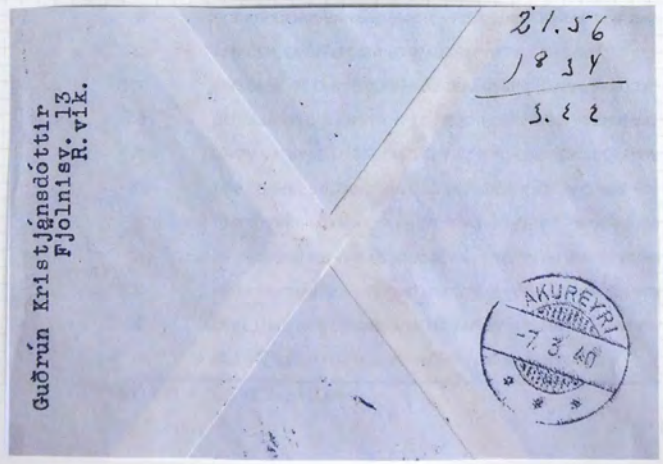




Bid (R-19) dated 18.III.43. Censored USA. 60 aur UPU rate from 1.1.43 – 14.11.49



Bid (R-19) dated 4.III.40 to Akureyri. 25 aur letter rate plus 45 aur registration. Rates 1.1.40 to 14.11.42. AKUREYRI B1a dated 7.3.40





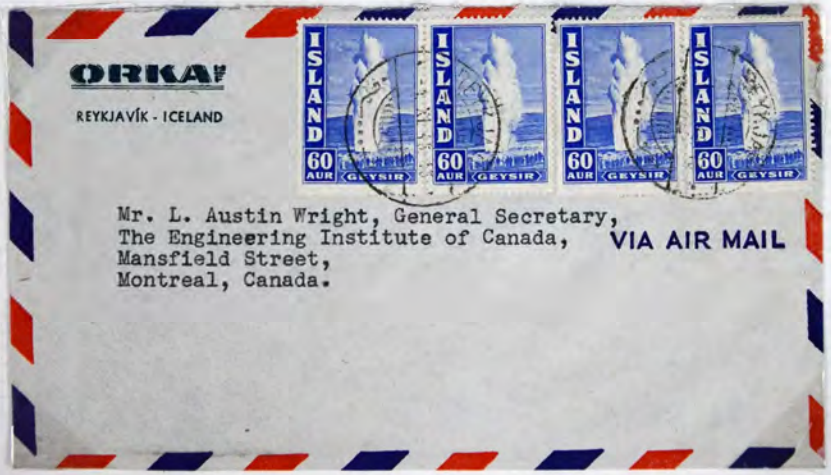


Type B1d (R-22) dated 17.VII.36 to Manchester. 5 aw underpaid. Correct rate 20 aw for postcards to UK. Icelandic P.O. applied the (T) and 7½ c. The Post Office collected 1D. PDue cancelled 23.7.36



Dated 9.1.33. 7 aw overseas printed matter rate to England. Both Chx are Die II

B1d (R-20) Dated 1.XI.46 to Canada 60 aw surface rate to 20 gm plus 2 x 90 aw air supp pd 5 gm for a 10 gm letter. Total 240 aw. Rates current 1.4.46 to 30.9.47





Tyge Bid (R-20)
dated 1.VII.40
45 aw UPU letter rate
plus 40 aw registration
Rates valid 1.1.40 - 31.12.42
Transit cancels
LIVERPOOL REGISTERED
9.IV.40

CHICAGO
JUL 23 1940



Tyge Bid (R-22) dated 4.V.39. 20 aw Nordic surface rate plus 30 aw registration to Sweden. Rates 1.4.21 to 31.12.39



1945 Censored Airmail cover to Switzerland. Cancelled B1d Reykjavík 27.1.45. (R-22)
Surface rate =60aur
40aur per 5gm air supplement = 2x40 for 10gm letter =80aur
Total 1kr40
Back cancelled Lisbon central 16.2.45. There is no arrival cancel, but the 8 okt 1945 date stamp might indicate date the cover was received. Readdressed in Zurich.





Cancelled at Reykjavík Type B1d (R-22) dated 27.XI.45. The destination was probably misread as "Norge" and the letter sent by the next ship to Norway, although an airmail supplement has been paid. The reverse has a receiving mark of Ålesund in Norway and a rubber stamp "Ukjent av postbudene Ålesund" or "Not known at Ålesund post office" The addition of "Danmark ?" was probably added in Ålesund, and presumably the letter eventually got to Hørve, a small Danish town in Sealand. The franking prepaid the intended airmail to Denmark, 180aur all in rate up to 20gm which applied from August/September 1945 to 31st March 1946.





1944 Censored Airmail cover to Switzerland. Cancelled B1d Reykjavík 12.X.44 (R-22)
surface rate = 60aur
40aur per 5gm air supplement = 2x40 for 10gm letter = 80aur
Total 1kr.40aur
The air supplement applied to Switzerland from 1.4.1943 until an unknown date in mid 1945, and the vailable routes were via England or Portugal. This letter is backstamped LISBON-CENTRAL 8.11.44. The arrival stamp at BERLINGEN, Switzerland is dated 6.X.45 fully 11 months later, an extraordinary delay between two neutral countries, particularly as the sender had paid for airmail. Wartime restrictions must have been a factor.





An interesting cover posted in Reykjavík to Copenhagen on 31st July 1945, cancelled with type B1d (R-22). The Danish military censorship mark indicates that Denmark was no longer occupied when it arrived. An Icelandic government notice in the immediate aftermath of WWII in Europe announced the resumption of airmail facilities from Iceland to the nordic countries, initially via Sweden, one weekly in both directions. The airmail supplement was increased to 130aur per 20gm, plus the 1943 still current surface rate. This cover may have preceded this change by a few days, and is franked at 110aur. The route taken is unknown, but could have been via UK. The July 1945 air supplement to England became 60aur and if applied with the still current 1943 nordic rate to Denmark of 50aur makes the franking correct. If as is possible it went via Sweden, then the revised all in rate would have been 130aur. Conceivably but unlikely the 1943 all in rate to Sweden might have been intended, which would make the cover overfranked by 10gm.

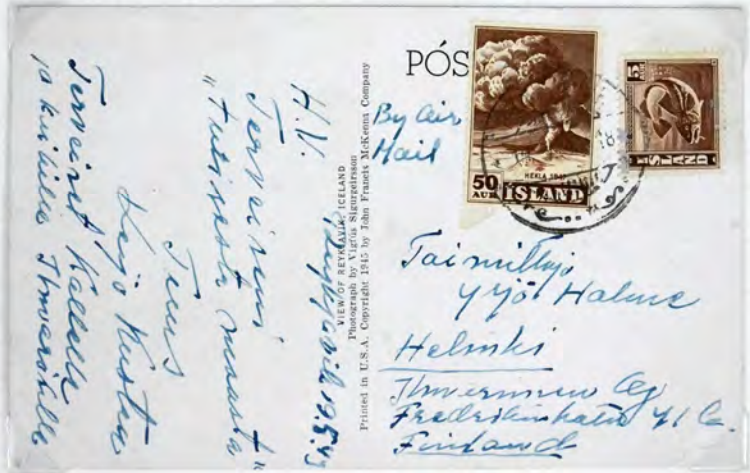


Type B1d (R-22) 10 øre bridge. Dated 28.VII.37. Philatelic cover to UK with full set of Christian x Jubilee stamps. Royal Mail Lines "Atlantis"





(R-22) B1d dated 17.IV.45 to USA. 60 aur surface rate plus 90 aur pr 5 gm 150 aur all'in airmail. Rate applied 1.4.43 to August/September 45



PPC B1d (R-22) dated 19.V.49 to Finland. 35 aur PPC surface rate plus 20 aur Nordic airmail. Rate valid 1.10.47 to 14.11.49



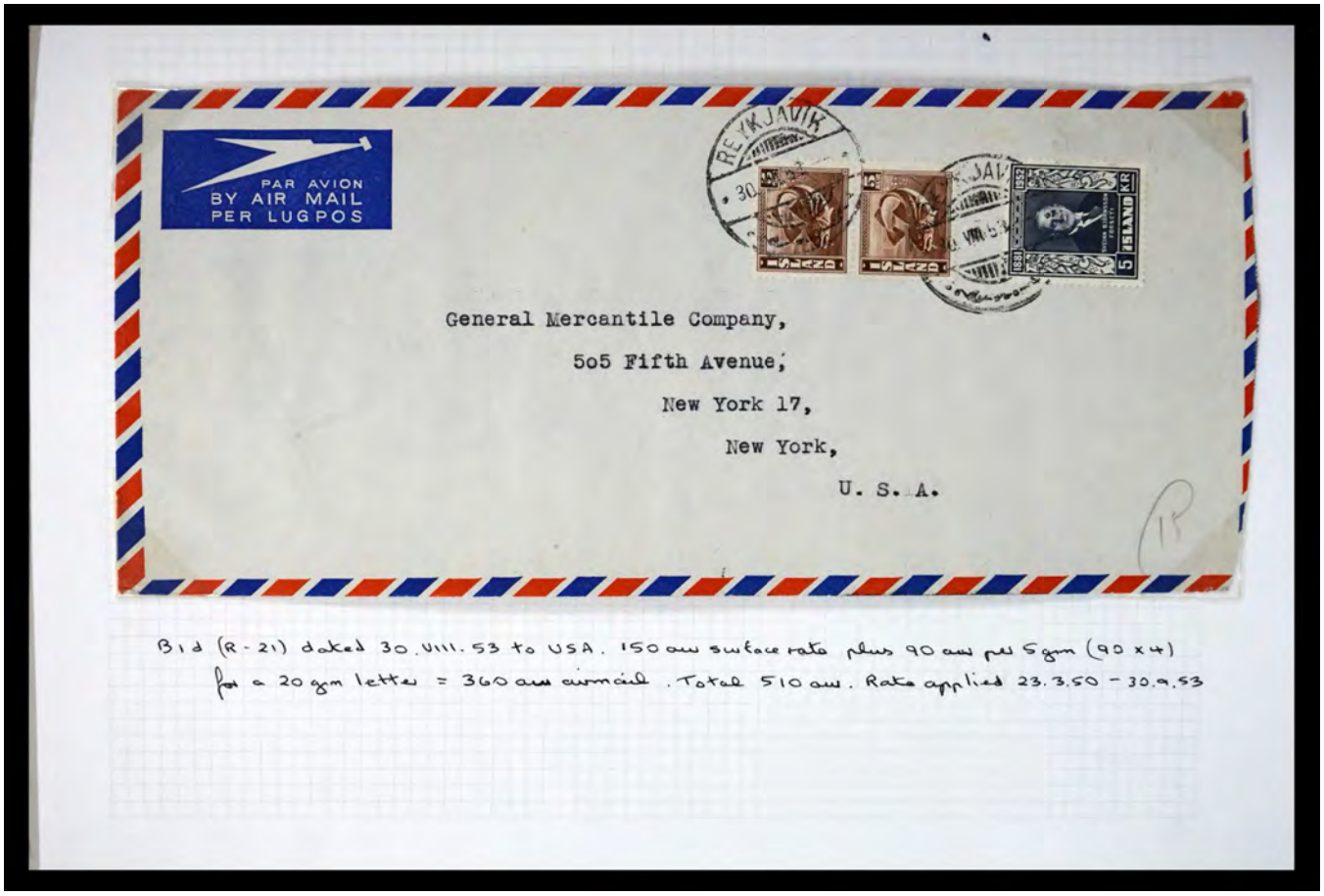


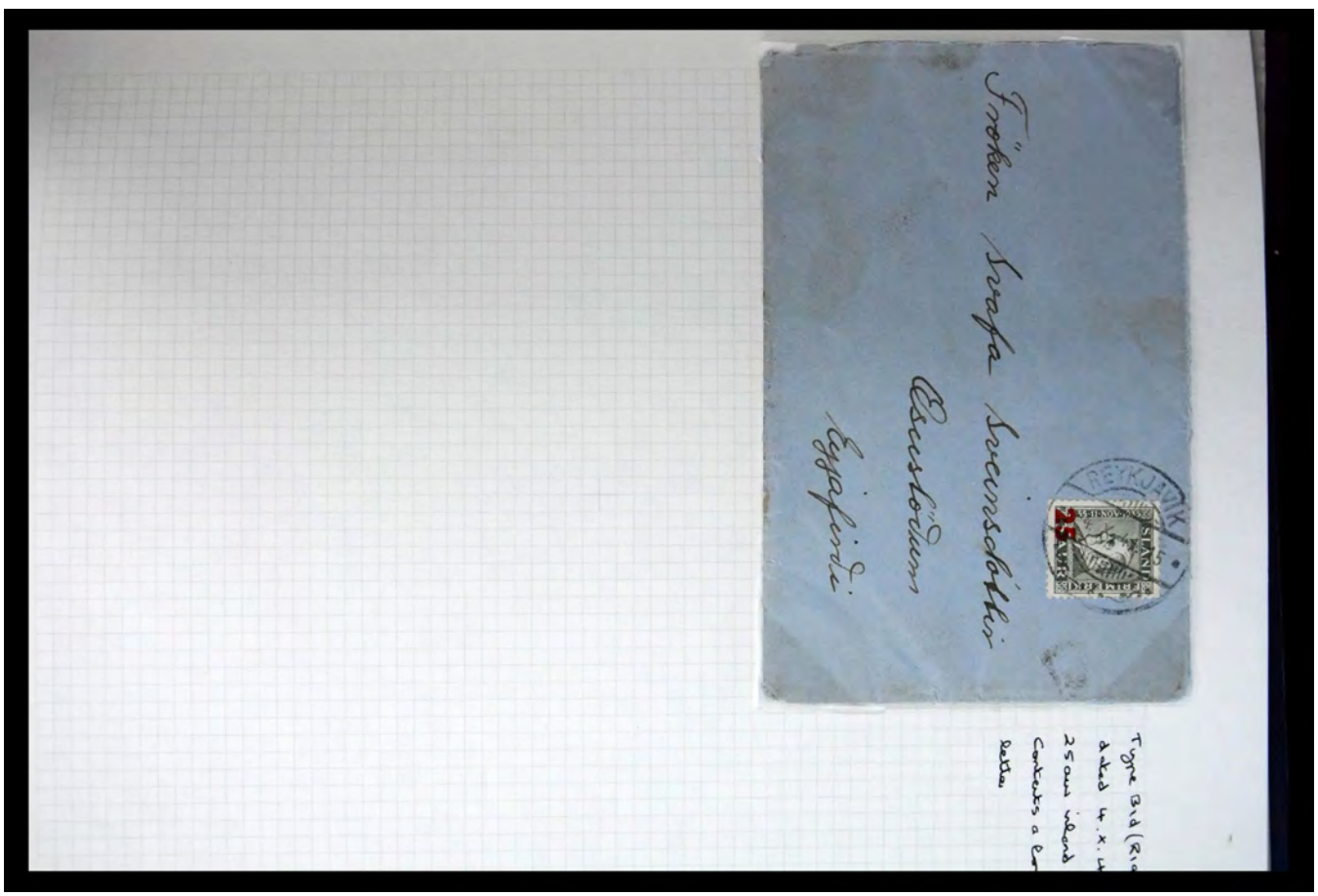
Type B1d (R22) dated 29.1.41 to Hull. 70 aur surface rate for 20 - 40 gm letters current from 1.1.40 to 31.12.42. Censored

Type B1d (R-22) dated 14.V.52 to Denmark 125aur surface rate plus 80aur airmail supp. 205aur.


Bld (R-20)
Two 1948
examples
60 aur plus
15 aur airmail
supplement
VIA AIR MAIL
Messrs Percy Wadham's Specialities Ltd.
1,Portland Street, Newport. I.W.
England.
VIA AIR MAIL
Messrs Wight Manuf.Co.
(Percy Wadham's Specialities Ltd)
1 Portland Street.
Newport.I.W. England.
P.O. BOX 3
REYKJAVÍK - I
Bld (R-20)
25.I.51
150 aur
surface rate
plus 70 aur
airmail.
Loftleiðis
Par avion
VIA AIR MAIL
The Mouldex Co. Ltd.
128 Macdonald Street
Liverpool. 15.
England
ÁSGARÐUR, H.F.
P. O. BOX 417
REYKJAVÍK - ICELAND


Bld (R-20)
1945
12 aur
printed matter
Hr. Sankar. Björn Jónsson
Hagamel 15
R
Prent
Bld (R-22)
16.III.46
60 aur
surface rate
Mr. R. Hovenden & Sons,Ltd,
29-33 Berners Street,
London W,1.
England.
VERZL. „GOÐAFOSS"
LAUGAVEG 5
REYKJAVÍK – ISLAND


PAR AVION
BY AIR MAIL
PER LUGPOS
REYKJAVIK
General Mercantile Company,
5o5 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17,
New York,
U. S. A.
1P
B1d (R-21) dated 30.VIII.53 to USA. 150 aur surface rate plus 90 aur per 5 gm (90 x 4)
for a 20 gm letter = 360 aur airmail. Total 510 aur. Rate applied 23.3.50 - 30.9.53


Fröken Svafa Sveinsdóttir
Eiustöðum
Eyjafirdi
REYKJAVIK
25 AUR
Type B1d (R1
dated 4.X.4
25 aur inland
Contents a
letter