

Faroe Islands Postal History

1854 - 1945



The Faroe Islands have been part of the Kingdom of Denmark since 1380, gradually gaining more autonomy during the Twentieth Century. The archipelago of eighteen islands lies midway between Shetland and Iceland in the North Atlantic, is volcanic in origin, and has a temperate climate. All except one island are inhabited. The population of the islands is predominantly Lutheran, and numbers about 50,000, of whom more than half live in or close to the capital, Tórshavn. From 1870 until an independent postal administration was established in 1976, postal services were run by Denmark, and Danish stamps and postal stationery were used for both local and overseas mail. However, on two occasions of shortages, in 1919 and 1940-41 respectively, locally arranged overprints were used. For the remainder of the period, local usage can be identified by the cancellers, which were of the contemporary Danish types.

Prior to the opening of a post office in Tórshavn in 1870, postal services were dependent on need. Government and church communications had a priority on delivery, effected by a system known as "Skyds" which required each village (and all except one village are beside the sea) to provide a team/man to take the mail and travellers to the next village. There were no roads on the islands until early in the Twentieth century, and the paths between villages often had to cross steep hills which divided one valley from another. The Skyds obligation generally meant manning a boat. Private mail usually had to wait until the Skyds system was triggered when it could "piggy back" on the official delivery, or the sender had to negotiate his own private arrangements for transport.

Before 1856 trade with the Faroe Islands was a Royal monopoly, and postal services were part of that monopoly. The monopoly was abolished in 1856, but mail was still shipped under contract. The Skyds system, introduced in the eighteenth century, lasted until 1922.

Until 1870 the Royal Trade Monopoly ships carried mail between the islands and Copenhagen free of charge. Once a post office opened in Tórshavn in 1870 it was possible to develop a series of postal routes and extend post office services across the islands. The earliest known letter from the islands is dated 1751 and the earliest known private letter is dated 1756. The earliest known incoming letter is dated 1796. Because of the Royal Monopoly mail other than with Denmark was scarce. The earliest known letter from Scotland to the Faroes is dated 1811, and before 1856 the only other known correspondence was with Norway, and that is dated 1851 and 1852.

Official mail was marked "K.T." = Kongelig Tjeneste (Royal Official) and was carried free of charge.

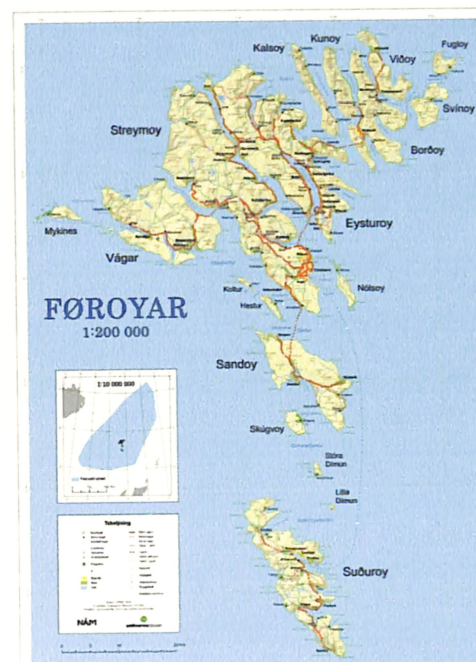
Plan of Display:

1. Pre Stamp period – pages 2 – 5
2. Postal Services 1870 – 1918
 - first cancellers – pages 6 and 7
 - Stampless Ship letters – page 8
 - Other mail items – pages 9 – 11
 - Incoming mail – pages 12 – 17
3. World War One Mail – pages 18 and 19
4. Provisionals of 1919 – pages 20 - 23
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 - Incoming mail – pages 37 - 41
6. World War II – Provisionals and Postal Services
 - 1940-41 Provisionals – pages 43 – 46
 - Services Mail – pages 47 and 48

Sources and References:

DAKA GF10 Catalogue (22nd edition 2017) has narrative sections on Postal History.

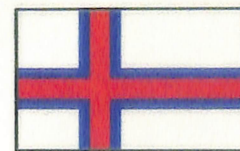
Stefan Heijitz, "Postal History of the Faroe Islands 1751 – 1945" (handout with display to RPSL April 2025).



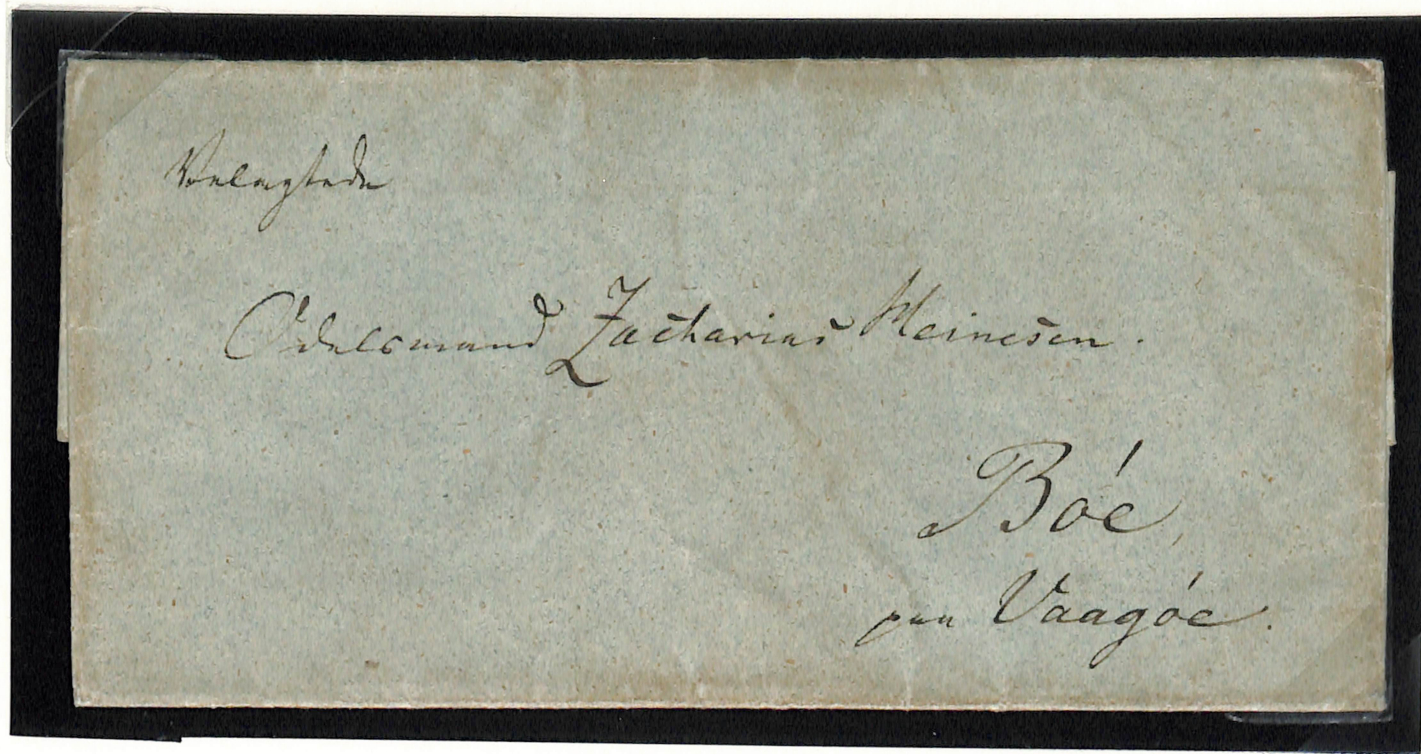
Sandevaag.

Entire sent from Tórshavn to Sandavágur (Sandevaag) dated 22 August 1854, using the Skyds system of transporting mail by row boat between islands. Roads were not established on the islands until after WW1, and for most of the 18th and 19th centuries the only people who needed transportation and who sent mail were the clergy and administrators. The established system was to commandeer men and transport for both people and mail, and often official mail might require a boat and up to nine oarsmen to take a single letter to its destination, all without payment!

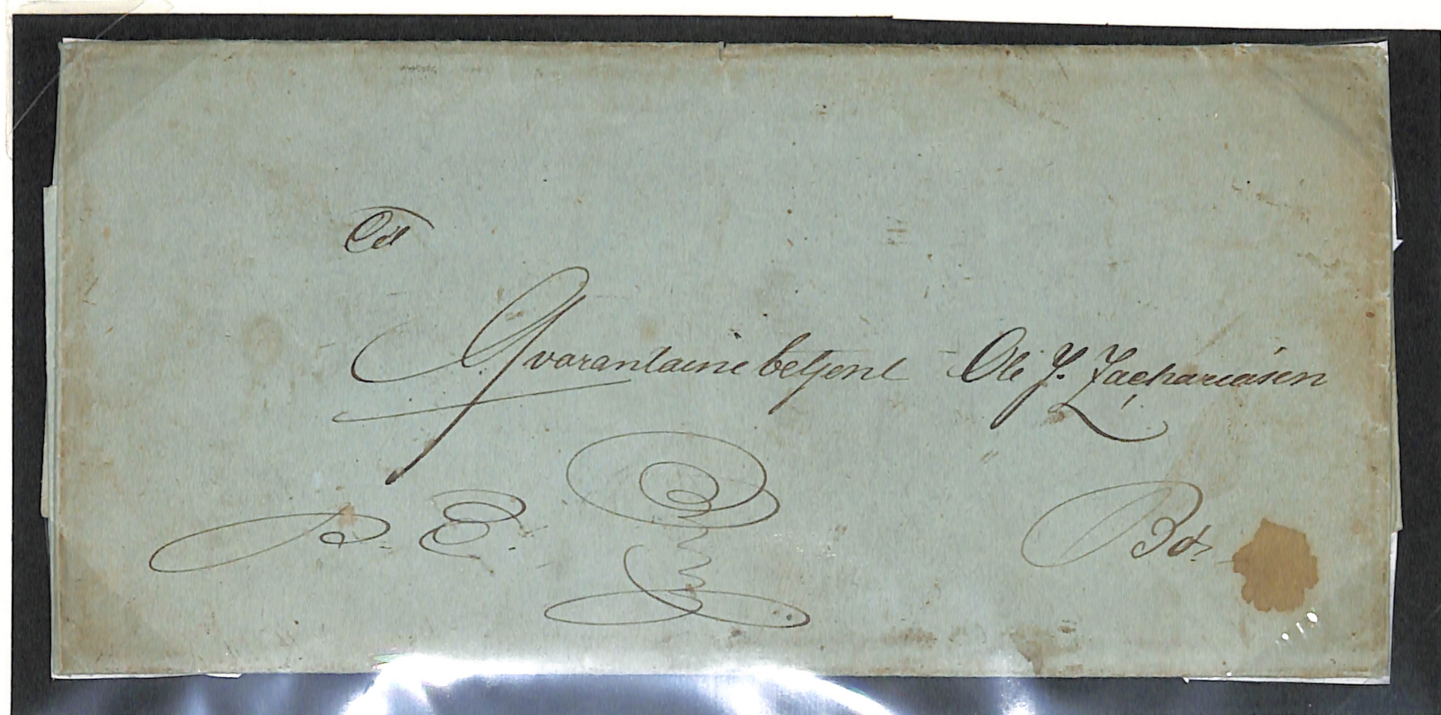
Correspondence to Bö (Bøur)



Outer sheet (no contents or script on reverse) addressed to Zacharias Heinesen at Boe (or Bö – now Bøur) via Vaagoe (now Vágur). Seal on reverse has initials “IAL”. No date but presumed to be ca. 1850 – 1860.



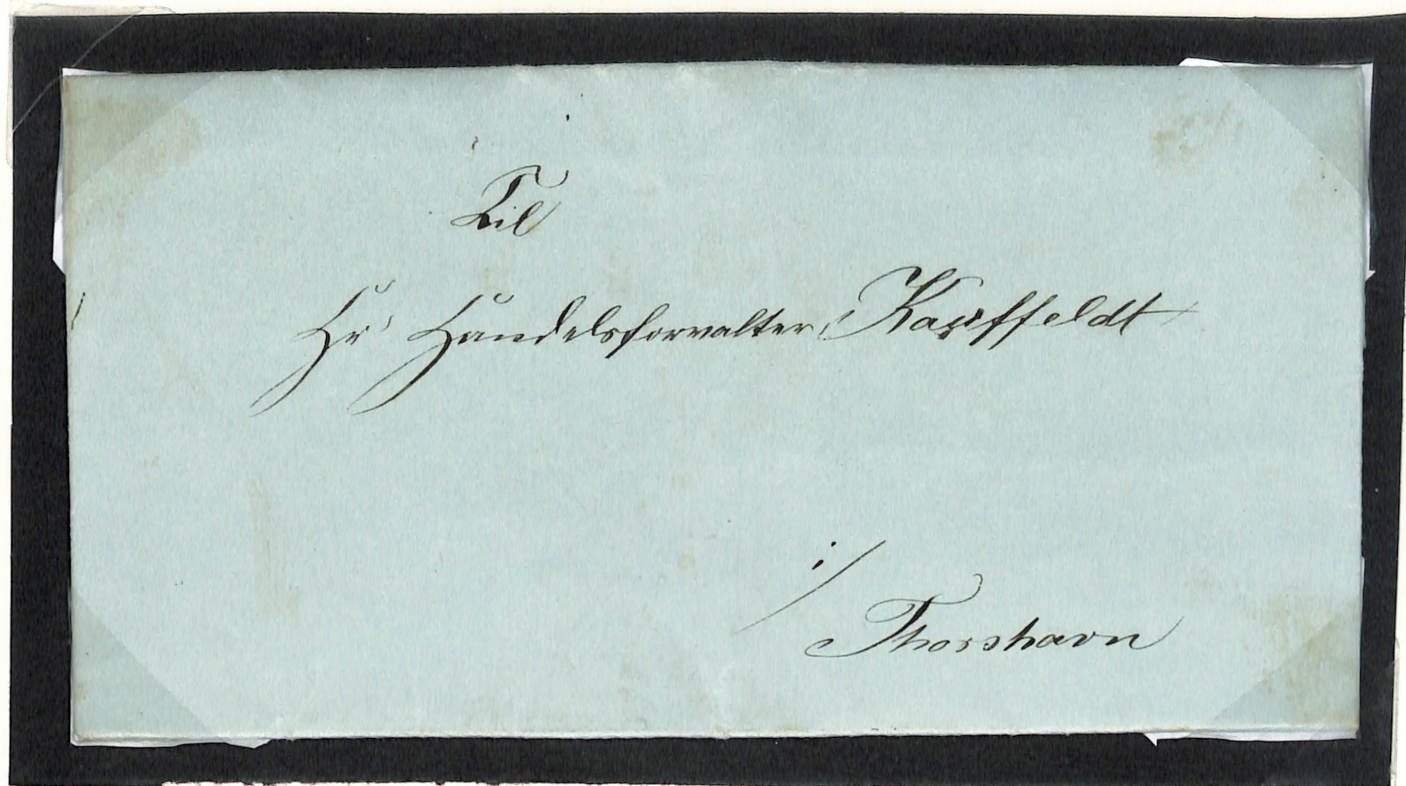
Letter from Thorshavn (now Tórshavn) to Ole J. Zachariasen in Bö dated 1 June 1867. I have been unable to decipher the sender's signature. Zacharias Heinesen (see sheet above) and his sons Heina and Ole Jacob Zachariasen built a property in Bøur in 1861 which included a shop and later a post office. It is now a restaurant.



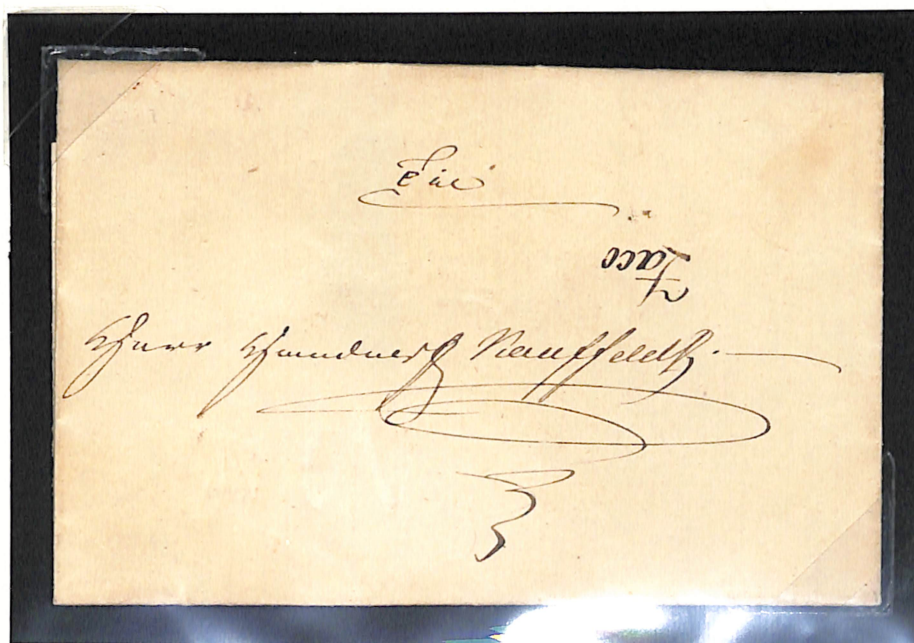
Private Correspondence



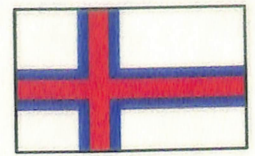
Letter from Jacob Jacobsen from Dal (now Dalur) on Sandoy to Handelsforvalter ("Trade Manager") Kauffeldt in Tórshavn dated 8 October 1855. As a private letter this may have been taken as Skyds mail but would have had to wait for the departure of official transport unless Jacobsen arranged delivery at his own expense.



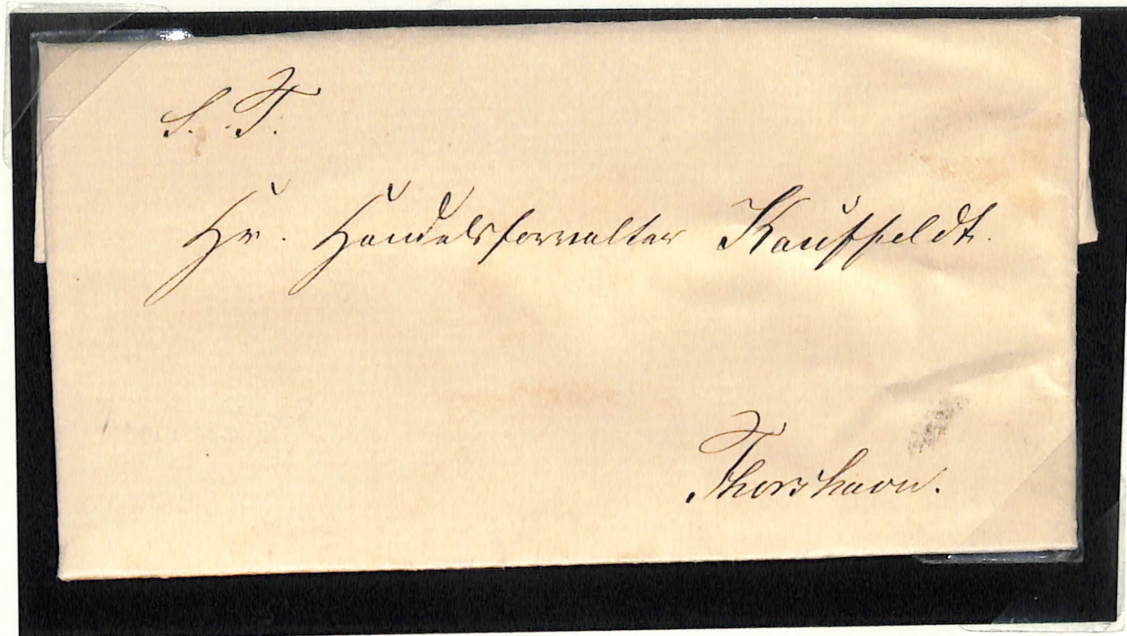
Local Entire dated at Tórshavn 18 August 1856 and sent to Trade Manager Kauffeldt.



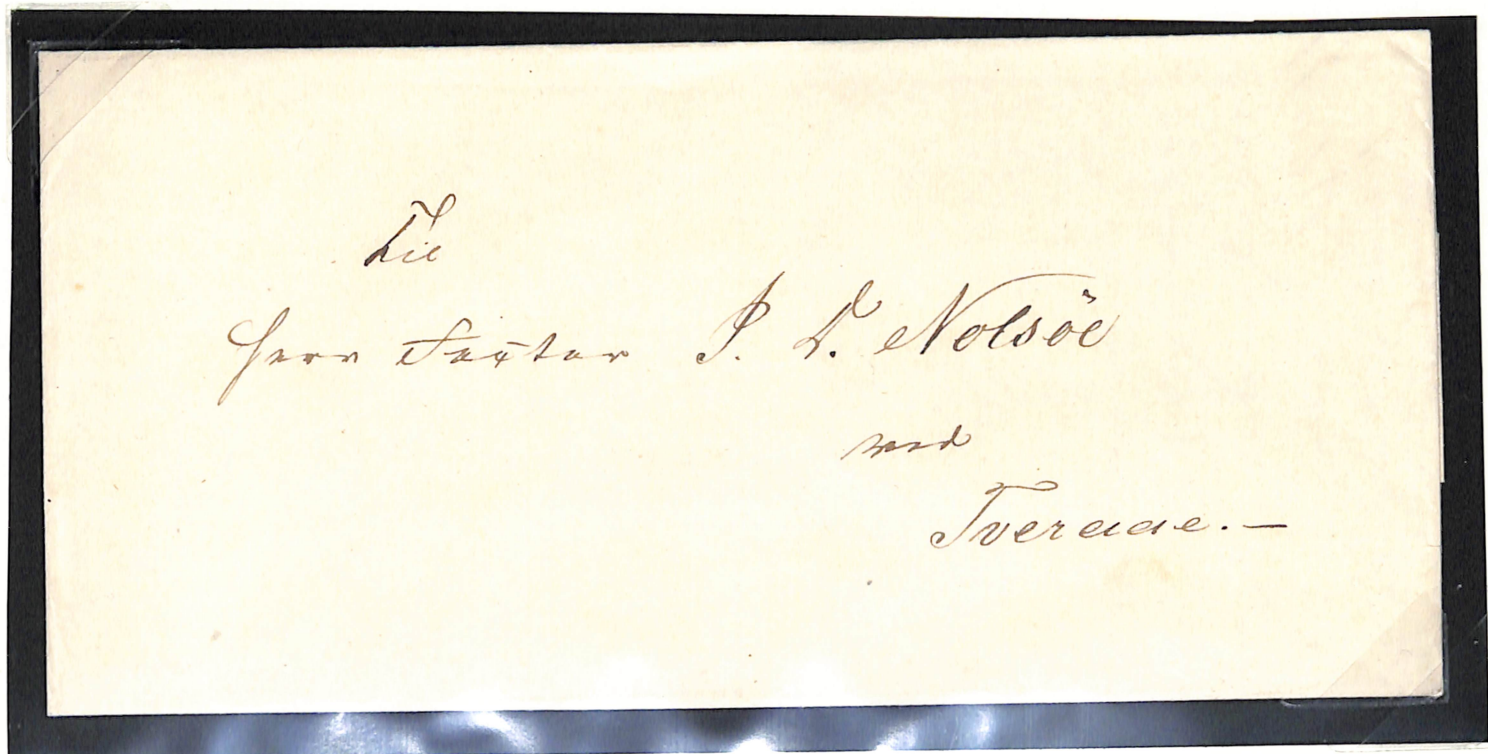
Official Mail



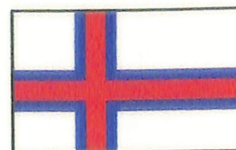
Entire sent by Kongsbonde (King's farmer) Joen Mikkelsen, Trødum, Sandø (Sandoy, one of the islands south of Tórshavn) to Trade Manager Kauffeldt in Thorshavn dated 8 August 1853, which would have used the Skyds system of transporting mail by row boat between the islands. Kauffeldt was Trade Manager in Thorshavn between 1850 and 1856. **Mail from Sandoy at this time is unusual.** The 1845 Census gives Mikkelsen's birth year as 1797. He was married and his household included his wife, three children of whom the eldest was married and part of the household with his own wife and year old daughter, together with two farm labourers aged 28 and 16 at the time, and a servant girl aged 24.



Entire sent by Trade Manager Kauffeldt to Factor J D Nolsøe in Tveraa (Trangisvaag or Tvøroyri) dated 31 July 1854, probably using the Skyds system. J D Nolsøe was Factor or Trade Manager in Tveraa between 1852 and 1860, and was previously Trade Manager in Thorshavn between 1831 and 1850.



Postal Services 1870 - 1918



Formal postal services on the islands began with the opening of a sub-office in Tórshavn on 1 March 1870. The office, initially in the postmaster's house, was promoted to the status of Post Office on 1 May 1908. In keeping with the system then in use throughout Denmark, the first canceller was a numeral one, the number "238" being allocated. On 1 April 1877 a collecting office was opened in Tvøroyi (Danish Trangisvaag) and allocated the number "284". Only two examples of the 284 canceller are known one of which is in the Danish Postal Museum. Numeral cancellers were withdrawn in 1884, so these were the only two used in the Faroes. Lapidar cancellers were introduced shortly after 1870, and used interchangeably with the numeral cancellers, and even sometimes together. Bridge cancellers were in use from 1899, but only in Tórshavn and the three main sub-offices (Klaksvig, Trangisvaag and Vaag) until 1953. Star cancellers were used elsewhere on the islands from 1903, and had their stars removed in 1929. All star-removed cancellers were returned to Denmark by June 1953 when they were replaced with bridge cancellers with collecting offices showing the principal office referenced by "pr." on the lower arc.



"238" cancel on 3 skilling 1870 - 1874 issue (SG41 or 42). Currency changed 1875.

Tórshavn Lapidar Cancellor

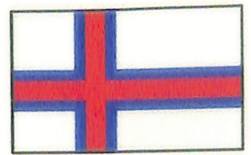


A lapidar cancel was introduced at Tórshavn shortly after the sub office opened, and this canceller seems to have been used interchangeably with the numeral 238 canceller and sometimes together with it until the numeral cancels were withdrawn in 1884.

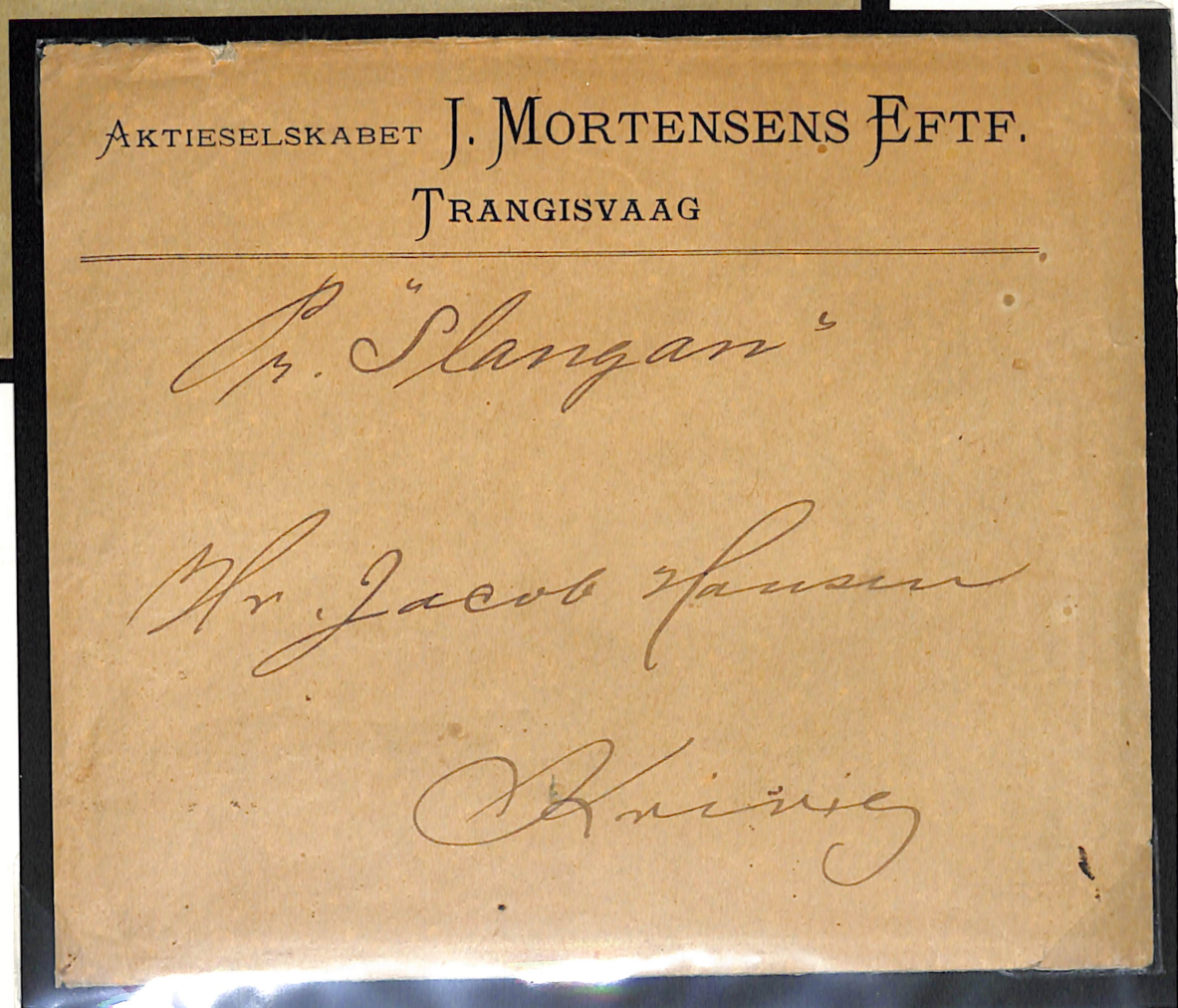
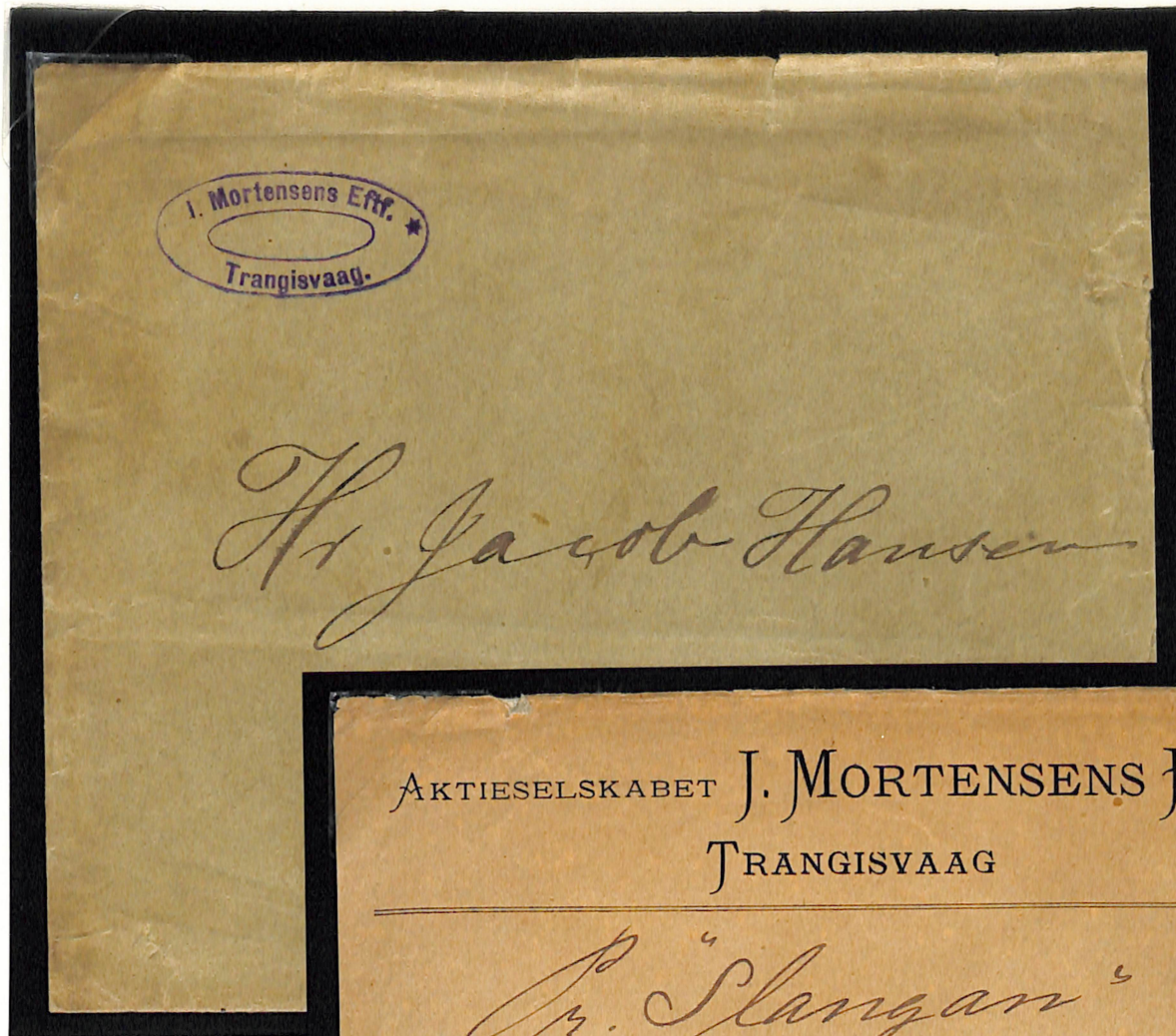
Cancel dated 10/9 (1899) (last recorded usage in September 1899) on 8 øre stamp (SG82 - perf. 12½) on cover addressed to Skive in Denmark. Backstamped Kjøbenhavn K 17.9.99 and Skive.



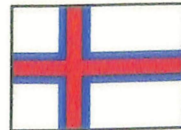
Local Ship Letters



Stampless local ship letters from J Mortensens Eftf. in Trangisvaag to Kvivig. The first has their cachet and is slit or cut on right hand side. Contains a note stating that time is short and an invoice will be sent at the first opportunity. The second is a printed cover, slit or cut on left hand side, stated to be carried on the steamship "Slangen", and contains a long list of purchased goods on ledger paper dated 16 June 1897 counter-signed by addressee.

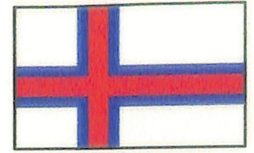


Cover to Denmark dated 14 July 1901

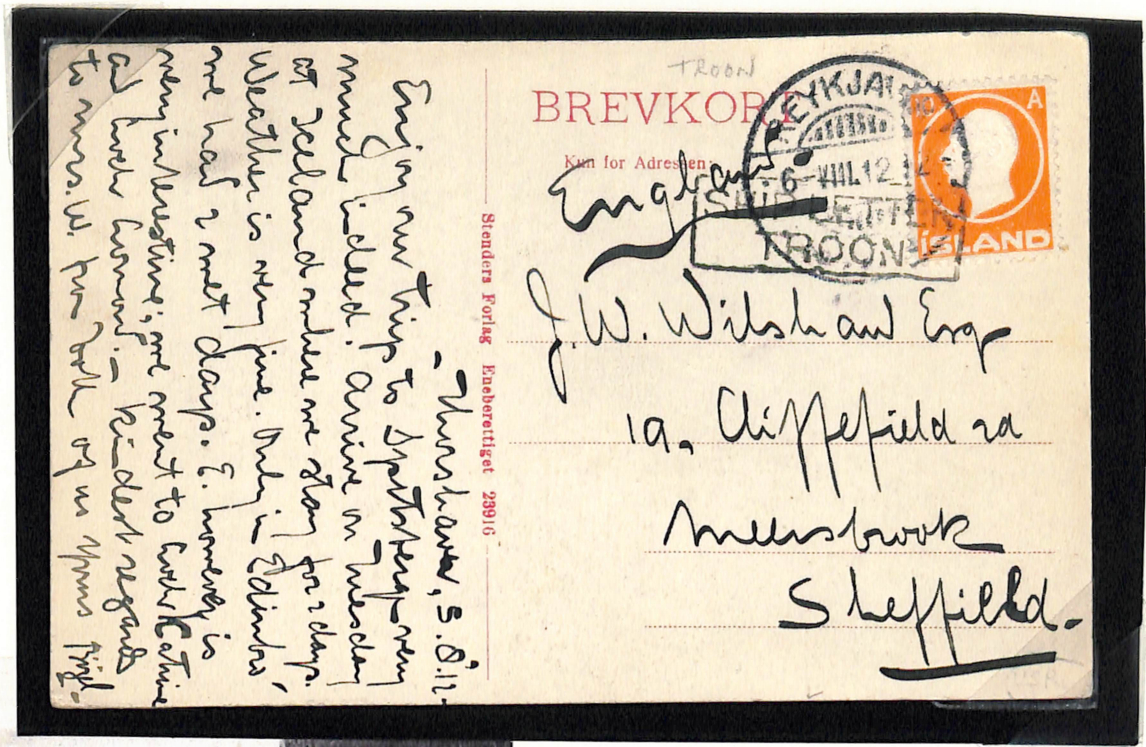


Cover from S Djurhuus (doctor in Klaksvig) (his cachet on flap) to Mrs Postmistress E Andersen at Valby Post Office, Copenhagen. 8 øre (SG61) (Inland rate 50 - 250g letter) tied Klaksvig bridge cancel (GF10 type 03.02) dated 14.7.01. Redirected to Skodsborg, a small town on the coast north of Copenhagen. Kjøbenhavn Valby transit marking on front, and also on reverse, along with a Kjøbenhavn K transit marking and Skodsborg arrival cds dated 21.7.01.

Ship Mail 1912



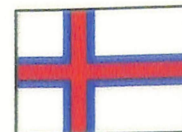
The location of the Faroes between Shetland and Iceland is emphasised by this black and white postcard of Gadeparti, Thorshavn with message datelined "Thorshavn 5.8.12". Sent to Sheffield, franked by Iceland 1912 10a. (SG103) tied by Reykjavik bridge cancel dated 6.VIII. 12 and over stamped by the scarce boxed "SHIP LETTER / TROON" cachet.



Card inscribed "Stenders Forlag Eneberettiget (sole copyright) 23916". Stenders Kunstforlag was a leading Copenhagen postcard publisher.

Message on card from these intrepid tourists reads: "Enjoying trip to Spitsbergen very much indeed. Arrive on Tuesday at Iceland where we stay for 2 days. Weather is very fine. Only in Edinburgh we had 2 wet days. E. however is very interesting; we went to Loch Catrine and Loch Lomond - kindest regards to Mrs W. from both of us."

Fragile Parcel 1918



729 Thorshavn

**Remboursement.
Postopkrævning.**

Kr. Øre.

Postopkrævning:

5 Kr. **65** Øre.

Herved **128**

mærket: **Adressen.**

(Postvæsenets Vægtnotering.)

THORSHAVN
15.10.18 95

THORSHAVN
15.10.18 95

THORSHAVN
15.10.18 95

Adressebrev.

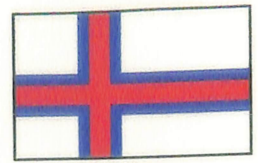
Til **Herr**
F. Ole Jacobsen

Bö

Forsigtig

COD/Postopkraevning "Adressebrev" with Christian X 15 øre (x 3) and 3 øre Numeral (SG141 and 111) addressed to Ole Jacobsen, Bö (Böur), marked "Forsigtig" (Fragile) and tied by Thorshavn 15.10.18 cds (Type 01.05 Bro IIIb). Rate from 1 November 1917 to 1 January 1919 20 øre up to 2½ kg., plus COD fee 20 øre, plus fragile fee 8 øre. Actual weight 1 kg. **Rare example of fragile fee for parcels.**

Incoming Mail before 1918



Both before and after the abolition of the Trade Monopoly, the principal source of incoming mail to the islands was of course Denmark. After 1856, there was increased contact with Scotland. Mail from (and to) other countries was much less common.

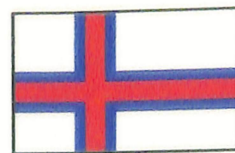
Letter (in Danish) from J. Evenson in København dated 9 September 1856 to his aunt and uncle the Danish Governor (Amtskontor) J. Davidsen in Thorshavn. At upper right, letter number 74. Evenson's son studied in Copenhagen around 1895 and later became a pastor in the Faroe Islands.



Postcard from Kjøbenhavn to Thorshavn, with SG121 cancelled 8 June 1907 and Thorshavn arrival bridge cancel type Bro Ig dated 15.6.1907. Correct rate for an inland postcard from 1 October 1902 until 1 January 1919.

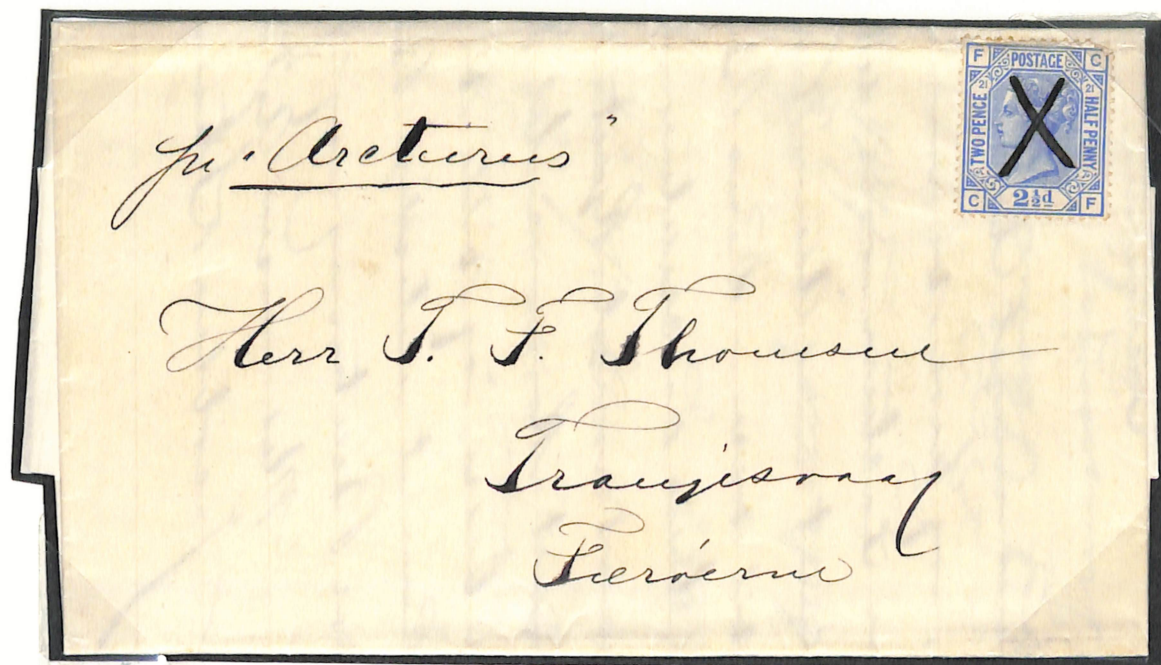


An 1881 wrapper from Leith



An entire wrapper and contents dated at Leith for 5 July 1881 from the Danish Vice Consulate at Leith and addressed to Trangisvaag "per Arcturus", franked with a 2½d. blue of the 1880 issue (plate 21) (SG157) cancelled with manuscript "X" and put directly on the ship.

The wrapper was initially folded in half and the inner half, the right hand side of the full sheet, was pre-printed with the address of the sender, the remainder being used as a letter. Once folded over, the letter was then folded top and bottom, then folded lengthwise in three, the ends being tucked in and sealed to form the wrapper as it was inserted in the mail system.



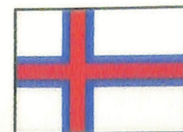
The letterhead is that of Jacobsen and Steenberg, Royal Danish Vice Consulate, 20 Constitution Street, Leith (Telegraph address "Steenberg") and the letter is written in very polite old business Danish. Jacobsen. And Steenberg are listed as corn factors and commission agents in the contemporary Post Office Directories. The 1881 census records 6 Jacobsens and 5 Steenbergs in Leith.

The letter very politely acknowledges an order which has been sent by the "Adam Wilhelm" and for which they request payment of £2/3/4d. They look forward to hearing from the addressee when he is in either Kirkwall or Stornoway in August, presumably on a fishing trip, as reference is made to hoping to make an acceptable bid for the fish. A report is enclosed concerning landings of fish since a previous report on 4 June, with cold weather keeping prices up, and good expectations for the potato harvest. Projections are made on prices for fish, and the arrival of some whale oil from Norway is reported.

The report is a copy and not terribly legible due to age. The oldest similar type of copy I have traced courtesy of a Danish friend is in the Vejle City Archive and dates from 1894.

Arcturus was a regular ship on the Faroes run. She was built by Alexander Denny at Dumbarton in 1856 (Yard Number 40) and named "Victor Emanuel". She was sold in 1859 to Koch and Henderson and renamed. Sold to DFDS in 1867, and continued on the Faroes run, but sank after a collision in 1887.

Incoming mail



Cover with contents from Edinburgh to the pastor at Sand dated 6 January 1904. GB Edward VII 2½d. tied with Leith single ring canceller JA.6.04. Partial Thorshavn bridge arrival cds on reverse.

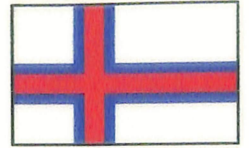


Larkfield,
Warden Road,
Edinburgh.

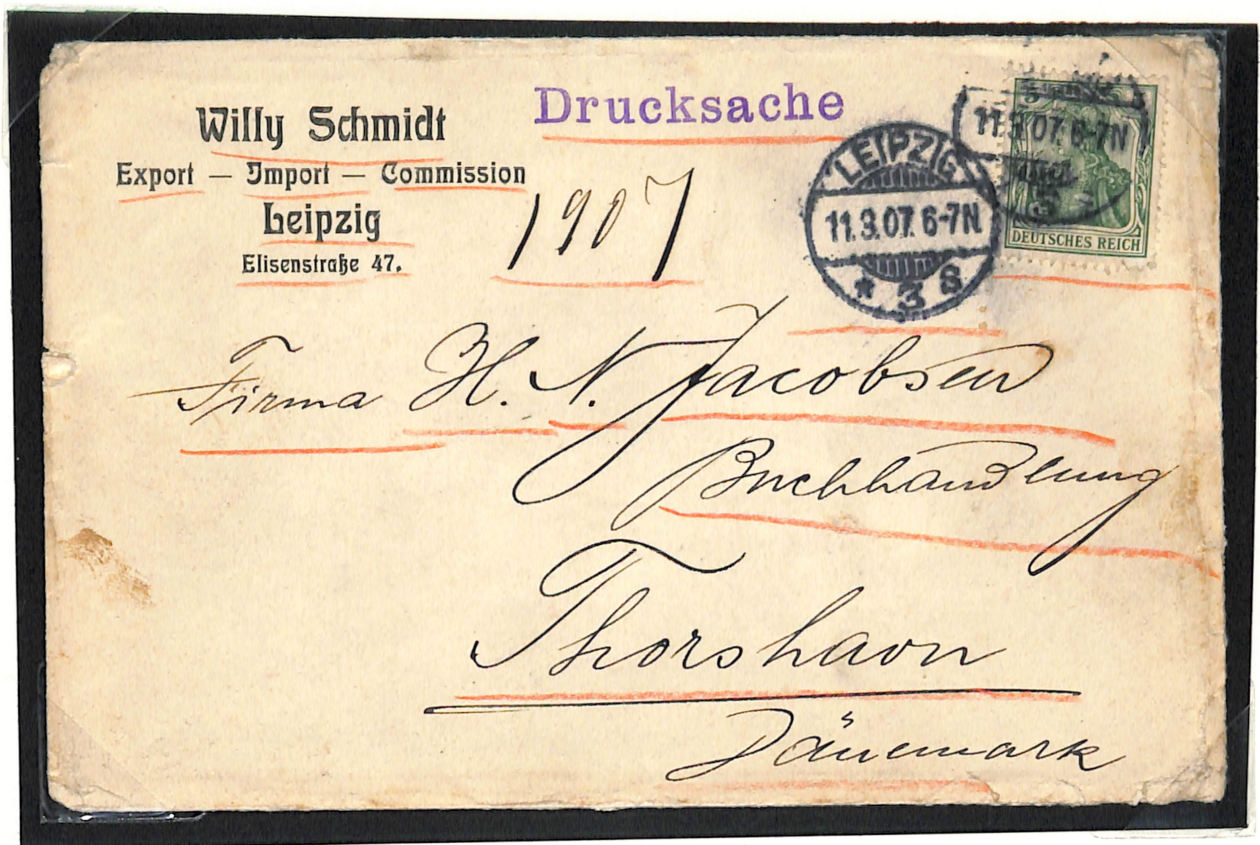
Kjære Hverre Pastor,
jeg samler alt som
jeg kan over Færøernes
mineralogi, og i en gammel
Bog finder jeg en Hen-
visning til en Sted "Logloise"
i Sandø, som jeg ikke kan
finde på Kortet. Vil De
måske være så snild og
sige mig om De kender
en saadan Sted, og, hvis den
ikke findes på Sandø, om
De kan formode hvilket
Navn de forfaldet deri.
Har De måske ogsaa hørt
af en Sted i Sudees som
skal kaldes Farnpøen?
Også
James Currie

The letter is from Dr James Currie, who was a member, and Council member for thirty years, twenty six of them as Hon Treasurer, of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (his father was a founder member). He was a shipowner and senior partner in the firm of James Currie & Co. managers of the Leith, Hull and Hamburg Steam Packet Co. Ltd. His leisure interests were scientific (he was a graduate in the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge University) particularly geology and mineralogy. He wrote an article on the Faroe Islands for the Scottish Geographical Magazine in 1906, having been a regular visitor. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and its Treasurer for many years. The letter asks about minerals in the Faroes.

Incoming Mail 1907



Commercial printed cover from Leipzig to Thorshavn with 5 pfennig April 1902 "Deutsches Reich" stamp cancelled on 11.3.07, with poor strike of Thorshavn arrival cancel dated 22-3-1907 on reverse (GF10 type 01.03 Bro Ig). *An unusual source of incoming mail.*



Incoming mail 1911



12

Registered cover from Iceland with Christian IX 4 aur (x 5) and 5 aur (SG44 and 45) tied by Seydisfjörður 25.8 cds, addressed to Mortensens Eftf, Trangisvaag with Thorshavn transit cds dated 18-9-1911 and Trangisvaag arrival cds dated 22-9-1911 on reverse. (Type GF10 01.03 Bro Ig and 02.04 Bro Ig respectively). **Unusual incoming registered cover.**

Incoming Mail from Great Britain



British Postal stationery wrapper with ½d. Edward VII printed stamp cancelled with F.S.A. (Foreign Section) obliterator addressed to Trangisvaag, with Trangisvaag arrival marking dated 20 January 1909 (Type GF10 02.04 Bro Ig).

Cover from Leith to Sandevaag, with 2½d. George V (SG371) tied by Thorshavn bridge canceller on 23.4.1915 (Type 01.03 Bro Ig). Seal on reverse with second strike of Thorshavn cancel. Denmark was neutral in World War One and no censorship is evident.

Mauritzen is listed in the Edinburgh and Leith P. O. Directory as an importer, exporter and general merchant, resident at 33 Dudley Gardens, Leith.

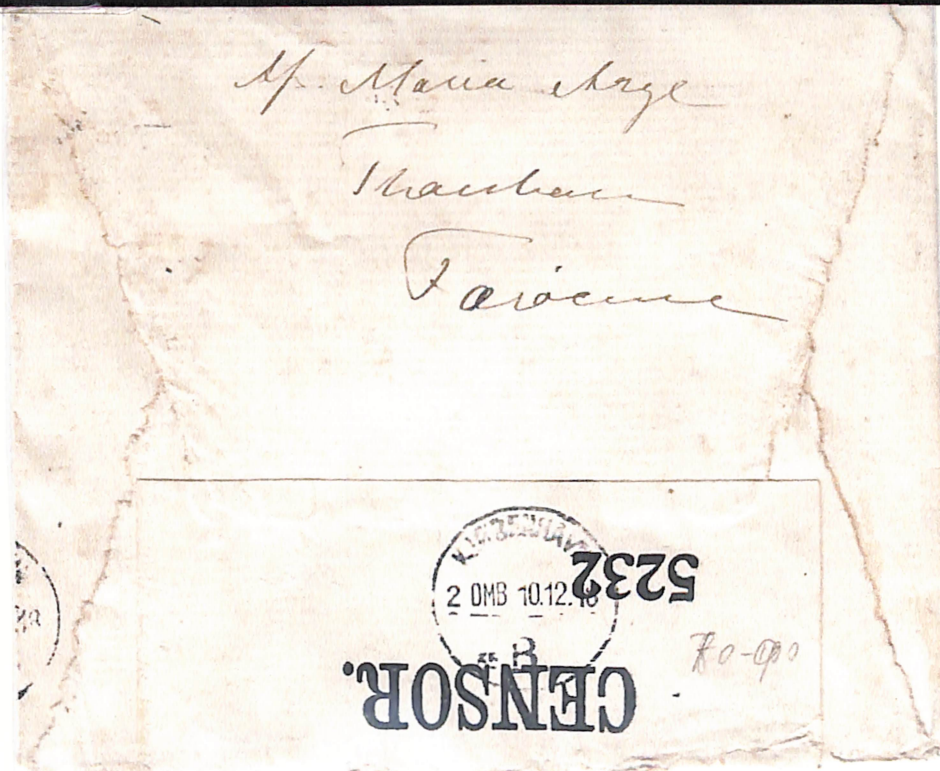
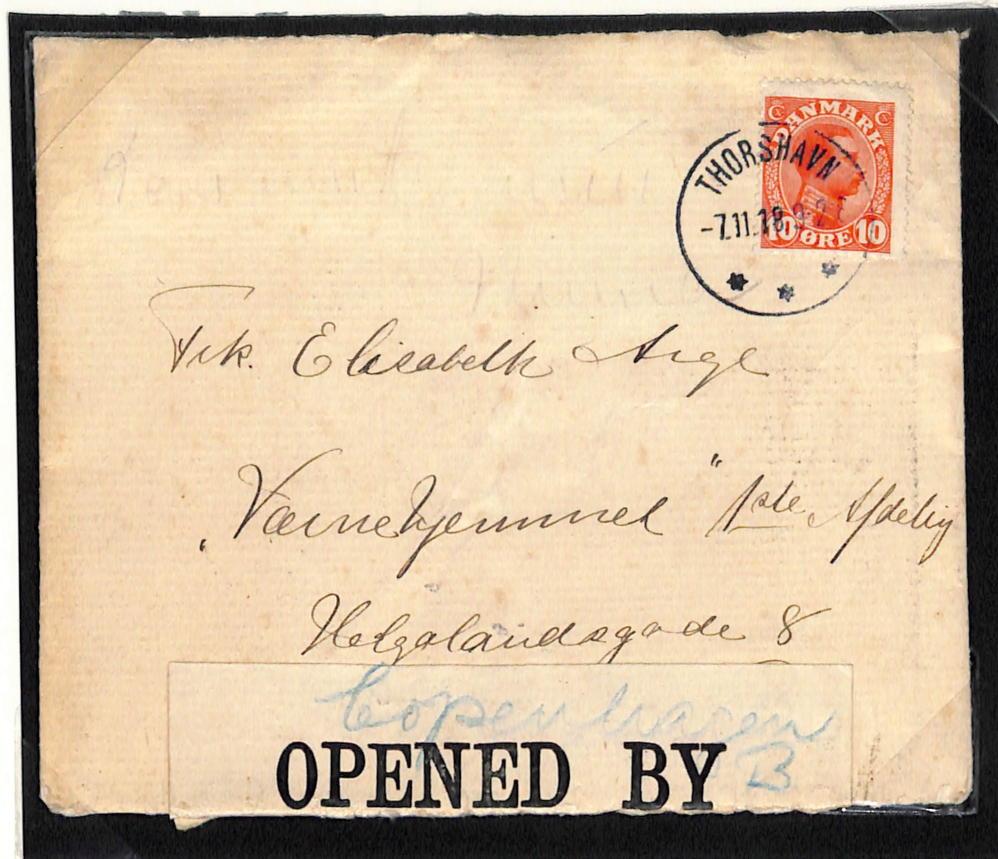


World War I Mail

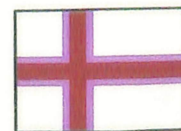


Cover from Tórshavn to Copenhagen cancelled by Thorshavn single circle bridge removed canceller type Bro IIIb (GF10 01.05) dated 7 November 1918. 10ö stamp (SG138) paid the inland letter rate for a letter up to 250g. Opened and sealed by censor. Copenhagen arrival c.d.s. on reverse 10 December 1918.

Great Britain began censorship of mail to neutral countries such as Denmark, Norway and Sweden on 29 August 1914, and at least some mail to and from the Faroes that passed through G.B. was censored as a result. Censorship policies in place regarding the Faroes at this time are not fully understood.



World War I Mail

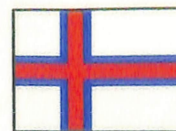


Postcard from Kallundborg (now Kalundborg) in western Zealand, to Tórshavn, with SG135 cancelled 17 February 1918. Correct rate for an inland postcard from 1 October 1902 until 1 January 1919.

No evidence of censorship so presumably routed within Denmark.



Bisect and Overprint, 1919



The history of the 1919 bisect and overprint is well documented. Tórshavn was advised in early December 1918 that with effect from 1 January 1919 the local letter rate was to rise from 5ø to 7ø. There was no 7ø stamp then in issue. Tórshavn asked for 1,000 sheets of the new 7ø value on 22 December. The new 7ø stamp went on sale in Copenhagen on 28 December, but it was not until 4 January that a shipment of stamps left Copenhagen for Tórshavn, via Bergen, England and Scotland, arriving on the evening of 23 January.

A telegraphic correspondence between Tórshavn and Copenhagen ensued, conducted in English because of lingering war-time restrictions. Tórshavn was instructed that existing stocks – 6 sheets of 1ø, 2 sheets of 2ø, 1 sheet of 3ø, 11 sheets of 4ø, and at least 155 sheets of 5ø – were to be used in this sequence: firstly, sell 5ø plus 2ø; secondly, 5ø plus 2 times 1ø; and thirdly bisect 4ø. The postmaster at Tórshavn quickly realised that his stock would not last, but his request for a suspension of the rate increase was refused.



4ø perforated 14 x 14 ½ bisect plus 5ø on local cover, tied Tórshavn 9 January 1919 (GF10 1A)

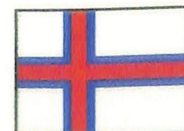
Bisecting the 4ø stamps in stock began on 3 January 1919. Approximately 2,500 – 3,000 bisects are known. Most were used before 14 January although it is believed that the official period of use lasted until 31 January. The cut is usually top left to bottom right, and those cut top right to bottom left command a premium.

Cover within Thorshavn 12 January 1919



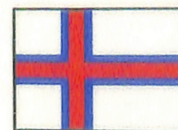
Cover addressed within Thorshavn, with Christian X 5 øre (SG135) and bisected 4 øre wavy line (SG112) tied by Thorshavn cds (type 01.05 Bro IIIb). **Cover attested by Arno Debo 22.5.1973.**

Cover to Thorshavn 14 January 1919



Cover addressed to Thorshavn, with Christian X 5 øre (SG135)and bisected 4 øre wavy line wrapper cut up tied by Tofte (Toftir) Star cancel (Type 33.01) and Thorshavn cds (type 01.05 Bro IIIb). **Cover attested by Møller 24.10.2018.**

Bisect and Overprint, 1919



Further permission was granted to produce a local overprint of 2ø on the more plentiful supply of the 5ø value (SG135 of Denmark). Each overprint was made by hand using printer's type set into the base of a chair leg. Some very uneven overprints resulted. The overprint remained valid for postal use in the Faroes until 1926. However use after the end of January 1919 was rare. Unused copies were being offered for 10 - 12 Kr each as early as July 1919



2ø overprint
mint (GF10 3)
(Grønlund
Certificate dated
1 August 1966)



2ø overprint (GF10 3) on piece with
unoverprinted 5ø cancelled Tórshavn 21
January.



2ø overprint plus 5ø on local cover, tied Tórshavn 17 January 1919 (GF10 3) (Grønlund Certificate dated 14 November 1970)

Postal Services 1920 - 1940



Once life returned to normal after World War One (in which Denmark and therefore the Faroe Islands had been neutral) postal services resumed their usual pattern. The network of post offices in the Islands expanded and postal rates and charges reflected those in Denmark as a whole. This section of the exhibit focuses on the more unusual items of mail and rates rather than featuring the various cancellers in use across the islands at this time, and the following section features some incoming mail carried on named ships or paquebot covers.

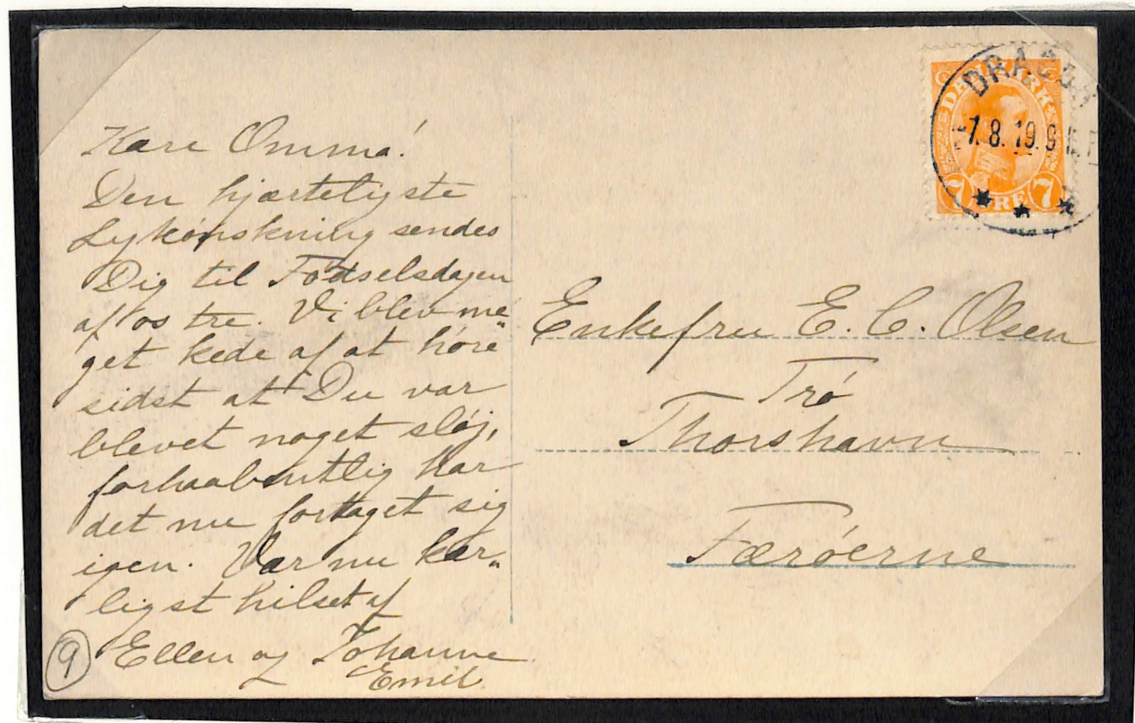


Postal Stationery Wrapper with 5 öre printed Christian X stamp uprated with 15 öre stamp (SG141) to make rate for a package of 150 – 200 grams. Addressed to Holland and tied with Thorshavn canceller type 01-05 Bro IIIb on 10.12.19. **Scarce destination.**

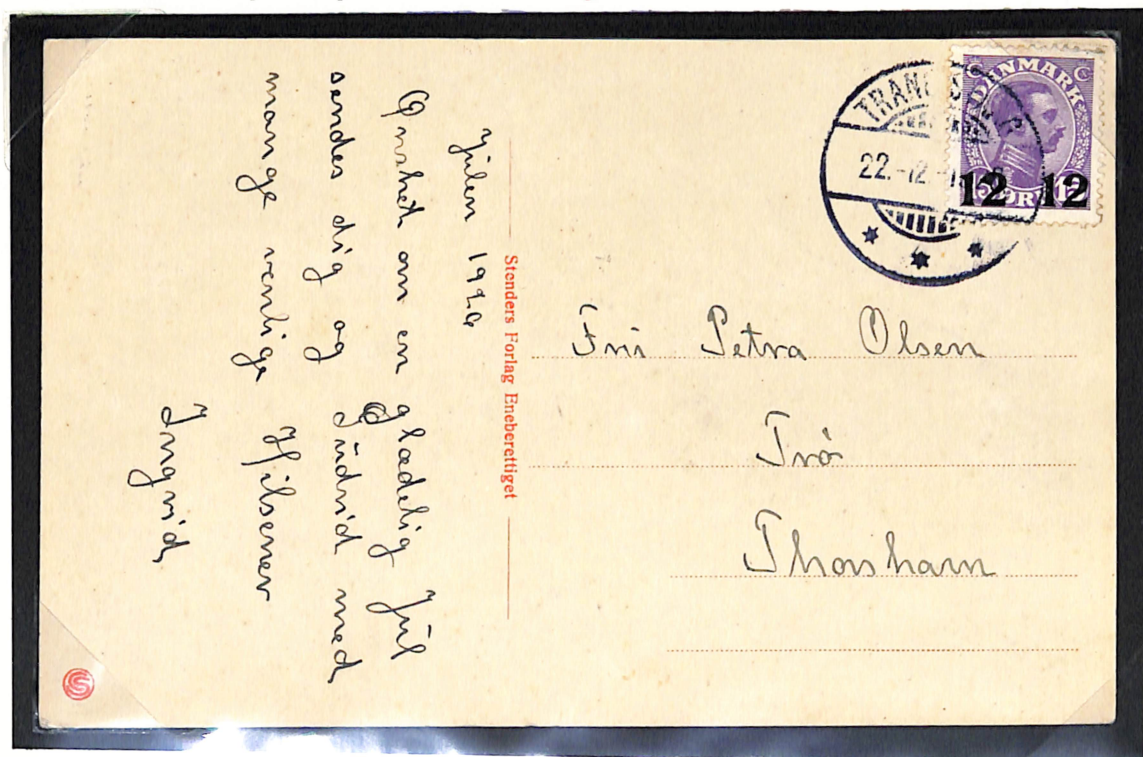
Postcard Rates



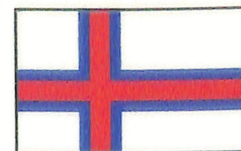
Postcard from Denmark to Widow E C Olsen, Trø, Thorshavn with birthday greetings. 7 øre Christian X (SG136) tied Dragør 7.8.19 cds. Postcard rate 1 January to 14 October both 1919. **Very unusual to find examples of this short-lived rate.**



Christmas postcard sent from Trangisvaag (Tvøroyri) on Suduroy to Thorshavn, with Christian X 12 öre overprint (SG237) cancelled by Trangisvaag bridge cancel (type 02.04 Bro lg) on 22.12.26. Correct Inland Postcard rate, reduced from 15 öre on 1 April 1926 before being further reduced to 10 öre on 1 January 1927. **Scarce usage.**



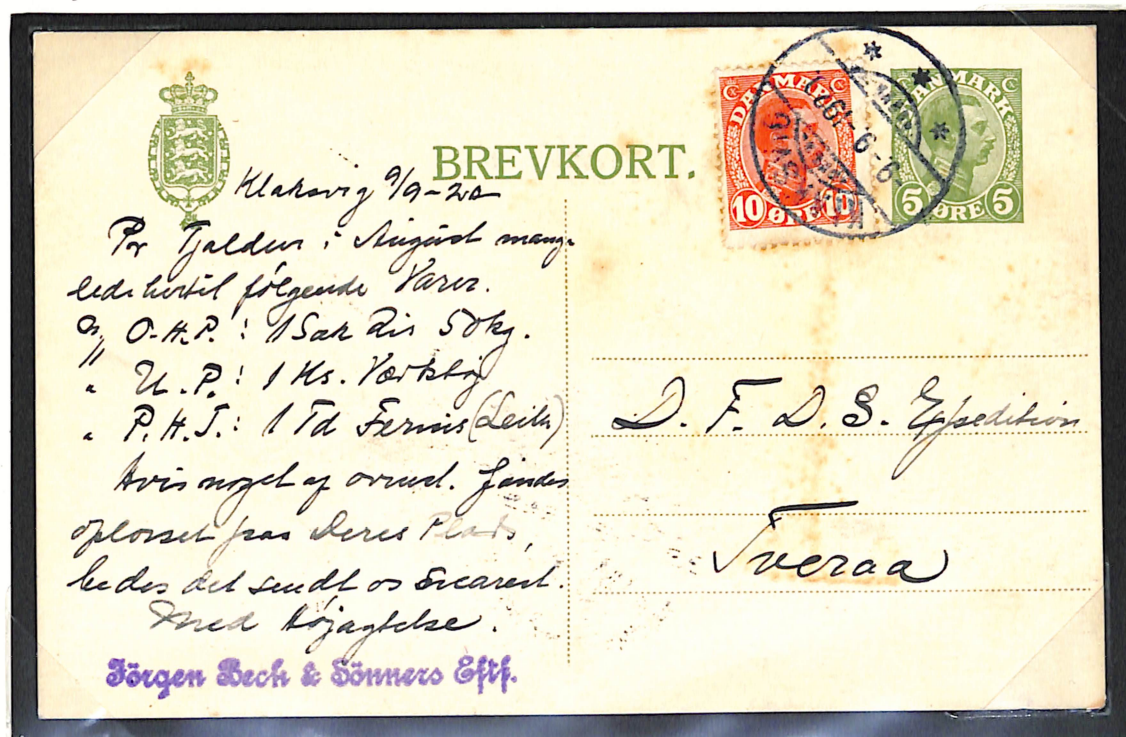
Upated Postal Stationery Cards



3 øre Postal Stationery Card uprated by 2 øre Numeral stamp (SG110), sent from Fugleffjord on 27 March 1915 to DFDS Expedition in Trangisvaag (now Tvøroyri). Cancelled at Thorshavn with canceller type 01.03 Bro lg on 27-3-1915. The message asks for missing goods (a case of ironmongery, and 2 x 50kg sacks of potatoes). Correct rate - the local postcard rate was 3 øre from 1 October 1888 until 1 January 1919; the inland postcard rate was reduced from 8 øre to 5 øre on 1 October 1902 until 1 January 1919 when it increased to 7 øre. Fugleffjord lies in north east Eysturoy and Trangisvaag on Suduroy, so this was not a local rate.



5 øre postal stationery card uprated with 10 øre Christian X stamp (SG138) to meet inland postcard rate in force from 1 July 1920, tied Klaksvig 9.9.20 (type 03.02 Bro lg) to DFDS Expedition Tveraa (Trangisvaag or Tvøroyri) regarding missing goods. The inland postcard rate had risen from 7 øre from 1 January 1919 to 10 øre on 15 October 1919.



COD/Postopkrævning Cover 1920



Inland COD/Postopkrævning cover with Christian X 15 öre (SG141) and 35 öre (SG154) tied by Thorshavn canceller type 01.05 Bro IIIb dated 9.9.20 paying inland rate of 20 öre and COD fee of 30 öre, addresses to Andefjord (a village on the north east coast of Eysturoy, Oyndarfjørður in Faroese) and redirected to Klaksvig. Insurance premium receipt enclosed.

Indlagt Fornyelseskvittering No. 205613
 Til Brandassurance Police No. 237094
 Gyldig indtil den 9. September 1921.

Postopkrævning 23x40

Kr. 24x50

Mr. Handelsmand Jacob E. Jacobsen
Klaksvig Andefjord

1920

20x30

THORSHAVN 9.9.20

15 ÖRE 35 ÖRE

Stampless Cash-on-Delivery address card (the stamps would have been on the letter) postmarked Thorshavn 19.4.24 (type 01.05 Bro IIIb), addressed to Mrs. Anna Andreassen, Øre. **Very unusual.**

Postopkrævnings-Adressekort.

Bet. Form. Nr. 20. (20/12 1922.)

Ankomst Nr.

(Til Registernummer m. v.)

Herved 1 Pakke Brev

Post-opkrævning: 8 Kr. 95 Øre

Angiven Værdi eller anbefalet: Kr. Øre

(Ved anbefalede Forsendelser antages „Anb.“ i den skraverede Rubrik.)

Til Fru Anna Andreassen

Øre

Udfyldes af Postv. Vægt: kg

NB. Til Adressaten (naar Adressekortet modtages uden Pakken): Se Bagsiden angaaende Pakkens Afhentning.

Til Frimærkerne, der dog kun ved Pakkeforsendelser anbringes her. Ved Breve og Forsendelser anbringes Frimærkerne paa Brevet. Tilgangen etc.

THORSHAVN 19.4.24

2420

Registered Covers to Denmark 1920



Registered cover with Christian X 10 øre (SG138) and 20 øre (SG142) tied by Thorshavn 17.1.20 canceller (type 01.05 Bro IIIb) and with registered label, addressed to Maskinmester V. Söeborg, København with København K arrival cds 7.2.20 on reverse. Correct letter rate (15 øre 15 October 1919 to 30 June 1920) plus 15 øre registration fee. **Scarce.**



Registered postal stationery cover to the same addressee. Uprated with Christian X 27 øre (SG149) and two x 3 øre Numeral stamps (SG111) to make the correct rate which was in force only 1 July 1920 to 28 February 1921. Tied by two strikes of Thorshavn canceller type 01.05 Bro IIIb 9.10.20 and with registration label. København K arrival cds on reverse dated 17.10.20. 27 øre stamp very scarce used in Faroes. Certificate by Lasse Nielsen 3 January 2004..



Insured Mail

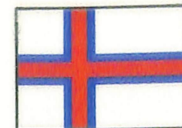


Inland Insured
Money Letter from
Føroya Banki,
Thorshavn to Vagi
(Vagur, on Suduroy)
with Christian X 50
øre grey (SG160a),
Numeral 5 øre
yellow-green
(SG268) and Caravel
25 øre (SG248) each
tied with Thorshavn
15.12.33 cancel (type
01.07 Bro IIIc with
angular "3") and
with Thorshavn
insurance label,
insured for 1241 Kr.
37 øre. Correct
Inland letter rate 25
øre for up to 250g (1
January 1927 to 10
July 1940) plus 55
øre insurance fee (50
øre up to 1000 Kr.
and 5 øre each
additional 1000Kr.).
Two wax seals of the
bank on the reverse.



Inland Insured
Money Letter
from Føroya
Banki, Thorshavn
to Sandevaag
(Sandavágur).
Christian X 70
øre (SG163) tied
by Thorshavn
20.10.25 cancel
(type 01.05 Bro
IIIb) pays the
correct rate 20
øre for a 50g
letter and
insurance fee of
50 øre. Two
bank wax seals
on reverse.

Cover to Nolsø Lighthouse 1926 from Tofte



Cover addressed to Nolsø Lighthouse sent at Inland letter rate in force 1 March 1921 to 31 December 1926 with a pair of Stamp 75th Anniversary stamps (SG231 issued 11 March 1926), each cancelled with Tofte Star Cancel (Type 33.01) and additionally Thorshavn cancel (Type 01.05) dated 24.4.26. No other markings.

The Geoff Noer census in March 2018 recorded **only six non-philatelic covers with the Tofte STJ star cancel where the postmark was used to cancel stamps.**

"Sunday Postmark" 1927

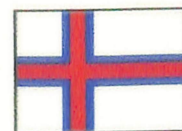


Cover with printed "Johan Evensen, Thorshavn, Færøerne" and Christian X 15 öre (SG141) tied by Thorshavn 27.2.1927 cds (type 01.04 Bro Illg-1 – the "Sunday postmark"). Addressed to Bø (Bøur on Vagar). Correct Inland rate for letters up to 50g from 1 January 1927 until 10 July 1940. Cover reduced on right.

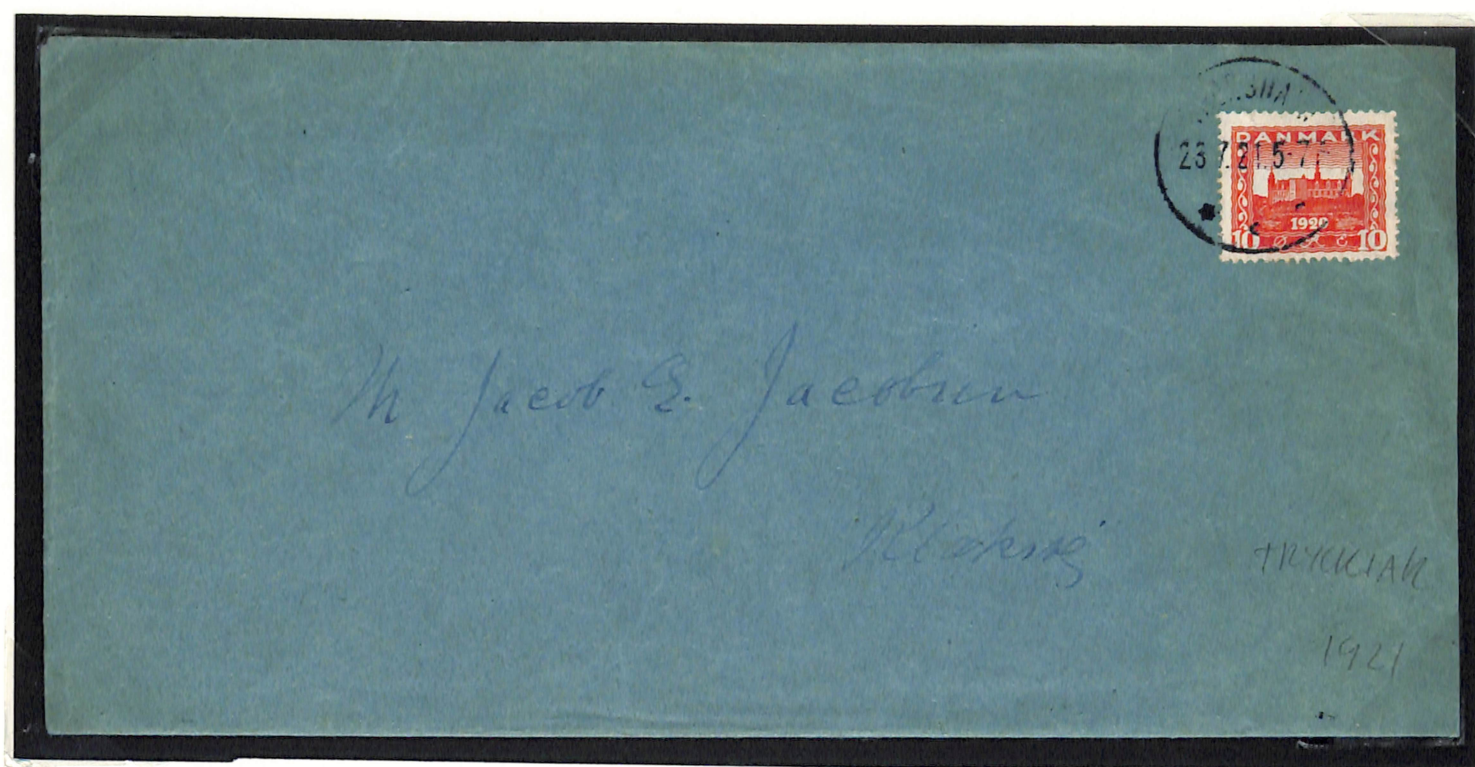
The "Sunday postmark" was used on Sundays – 27 February 1927 was a Sunday – and as an emergency cancel. The first known date of use is February 1917 and the last known usage is 30 May 1962.



Printed Matter Cover 23 July 1921



Printed Matter Cover (unsealed) to Klaksvig with Reunion of Northern Schleswig 10 øre red (SG208) tied by Thorshavn cds 23.7.21 (Type 01.05 Bro IIIb) paying the correct printed matter Inland rate rate for 50 gms in force 1 March 1921 to 1 April 1926. Klaksvig arrival cds 25.7.1921 on reverse (Type 03.02 Bro Ig).



Inland Cover 10 December 1924



Cover from Tórshavn to Klaksvig with Tercentenary of Danish Post se-tenant pair of 10 øre Christian X head to right (SG218B) and Christian IV head to left (SG218A) tied by Thorshavn cds 10.12.24 (Type 01.05 Bro IIIb) with Klaksvig arrival cds 10.12.1924 on reverse (Type 03.02 Bro Iq). Contents a receipt for hospital bill.



Foreign Cover 29 October 1924



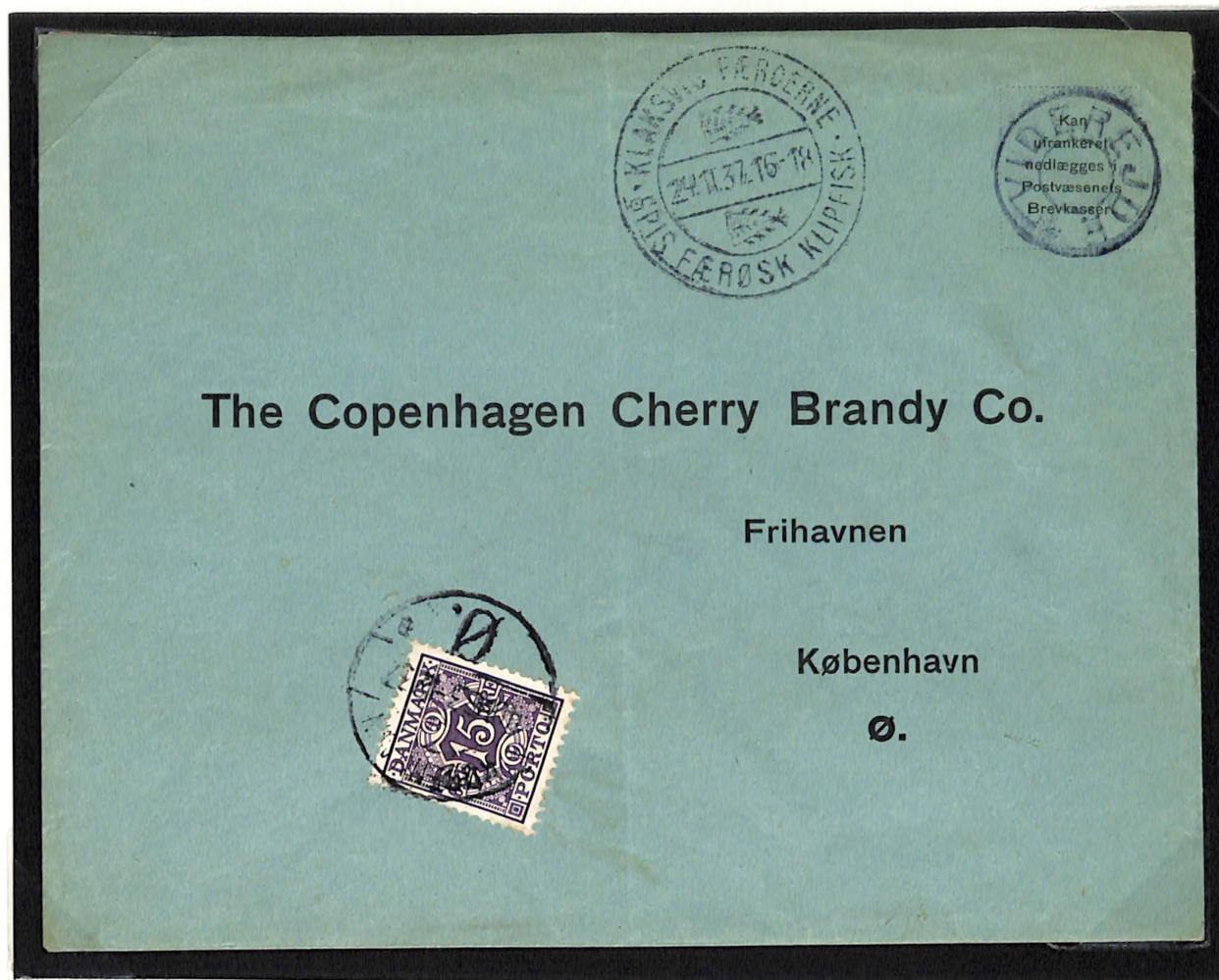
Cover with printed "Aktieselskab Føroya Banki, Suderø Afdeling, Trangisvaag" to London with Christian X 20 øre brown (x 2) (SG143) tied by Trangisvaag cds 29.10.24 (Type 02.04 Bro Ig) paying the correct foreign rate for 20 gms in force 1 January 1921 to 1 April 1926. Thorshavn transit cds 31.10.1924 on reverse (Type 01.05 Bro IIIb).



Unpaid Cover 1937



Unpaid cover to Denmark with Viderejde (now Viðareiði) no star cancel type 18.02 and Klaksvig Klippisk cancel (type 03.Sær.01) dated 24.11.37, with 15 øre Postage Due (SG D292) tied by Copenhagen 3.12.37 cds. Pre printed company envelope with printed box top right corner saying "may be posted without stamps". The company had a contract with the Danish Post Office allowing this, and they only had to pay normal postage with no extra charge. Correct inland Rate up to 50g 1 January 1927 to 1 July 1940. **Very scarce.**



Mail to France



Air Mail cover to France with Thorshavn bridge cancel type 01.07 (angular 3) Bro IIIc dated 13 March 1935 cancelling 5 x 5 öre yellow-green numeral type (SG268) and 10 öre and 15 öre of the Airmail issue of 1934 (SG287 and 288). Correct rate of 30 öre for overseas letters up to 20g and airmail supplement of 20 öre. No transit markings on cover, but as the Faroe Islands had no air strip until World War Two, the letter would have gone by sea to Copenhagen and then by air.

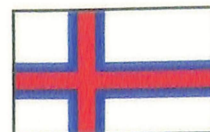


Cover to the same addressee with Thorshavn bridge cancel type 01.07 Bro IIIc dated the same day cancelling blocks of four of each of the 1 öre, 2 öre and 4 öre and one 5 öre numeral type (SG265, 266, 267 and 268). Correct rate of 30 öre for overseas letters up to 20g is overpaid. The reverse carries a partial Versailles roller cancel dated 26 March 1935.

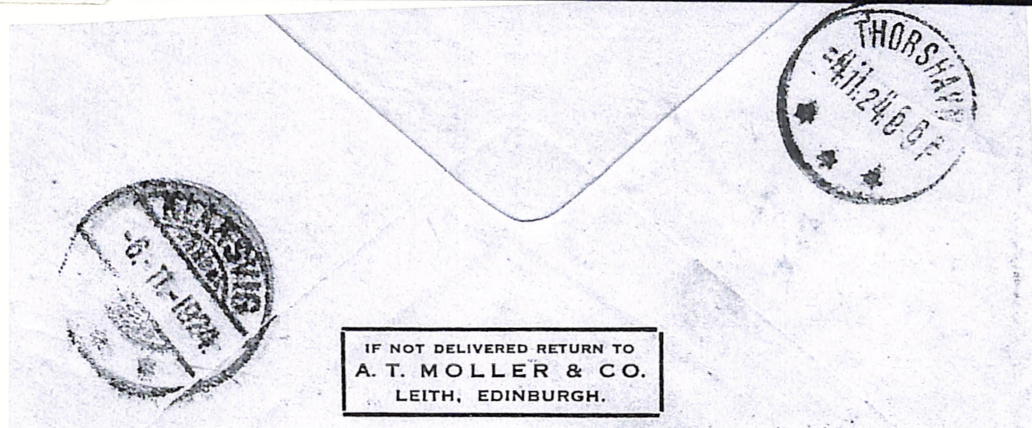


Postal Services 1920 – 1940

Incoming Mail



Incoming mail during the Inter-War years from Denmark relatively common, and mail from elsewhere relatively uncommon, although trade with Great Britain means that Edinburgh/Leith features strongly. Some mail designates the ship on which it was or was expected to be carried and there is a little paquebot mail to the Islands.



G.B. 1½d. Postal Stationery cover uprated by King George V 1d. (SG357) tied by Edinburgh machine cancel Oct 31 1924 with printed sender on reverse (A T Moller & Co, Leith) addressed to Svinø, with large cachet "FAROE ISLES" added. Arrival markings Thorshavn 4.11.24 and Klaksvig 6.11.1924 on reverse. Svinø (now Svinoy) is an island in north east Faroes, to the east of Bordoy and Viðoy. A T Moller & Co were based at 2 Commercial Street in Leith.

Incoming Mail from Scotland



Cover from Chr. Rasmussen, 54 Bernard Street, Leith with KGV 2½d. (SG422) addressed to Vaag tied by Faroes boxed Paquebot mark (T023) and Thorshavn 15.4.31 cds (type 01.06 Bro IIIc, which was in use for only three years 1930 - 1933). Various manuscript arithmetical calculations in pencil on reverse.

Herr. Magnus J. Veyhe

V A A G .

Faroe Isles.-

Cover from J. Mehren & Co. of Leith with KGV 2½d. (SG422) addressed to Kvivig tied by Leith D.O. machine cancel 9 May 1929 and sent "Per S. S. "Sleipner". Wax seal impressed with "W.J. Frew" on reverse. Letterhead describes Frew as "Sole Partner" of Mehren & Co, and letterheads variously describe the business as "Mehren & Co.", "J. Mehren & Co." and "J. von Mehren & Co." Contents comprise a typewritten letter, a handwritten invoice for goods, and a second invoice for shipping charges. No transit/receiving marks.

J. MEHREN & CO.
LEITH.

Per S.S. "SLEIPNER"

Mr. Jacob Hansen,

Kvivig,

FAROE ISLANDS.

21062

2116

M. CORIS
LONDRES, 186
BARCELONA

ISLAS FAROE

Margeir Sigurjonsson, Esq.

THORS HAVN
(Faroe Isles)

REPUBLICA ESPANOLA
50 CORREOS

REPUBLICA ESPANOLA
50 CORREOS

PUERTA DE LA FLOTA
CENTRO DE LA B

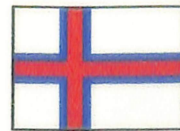
Ship Mail 1936



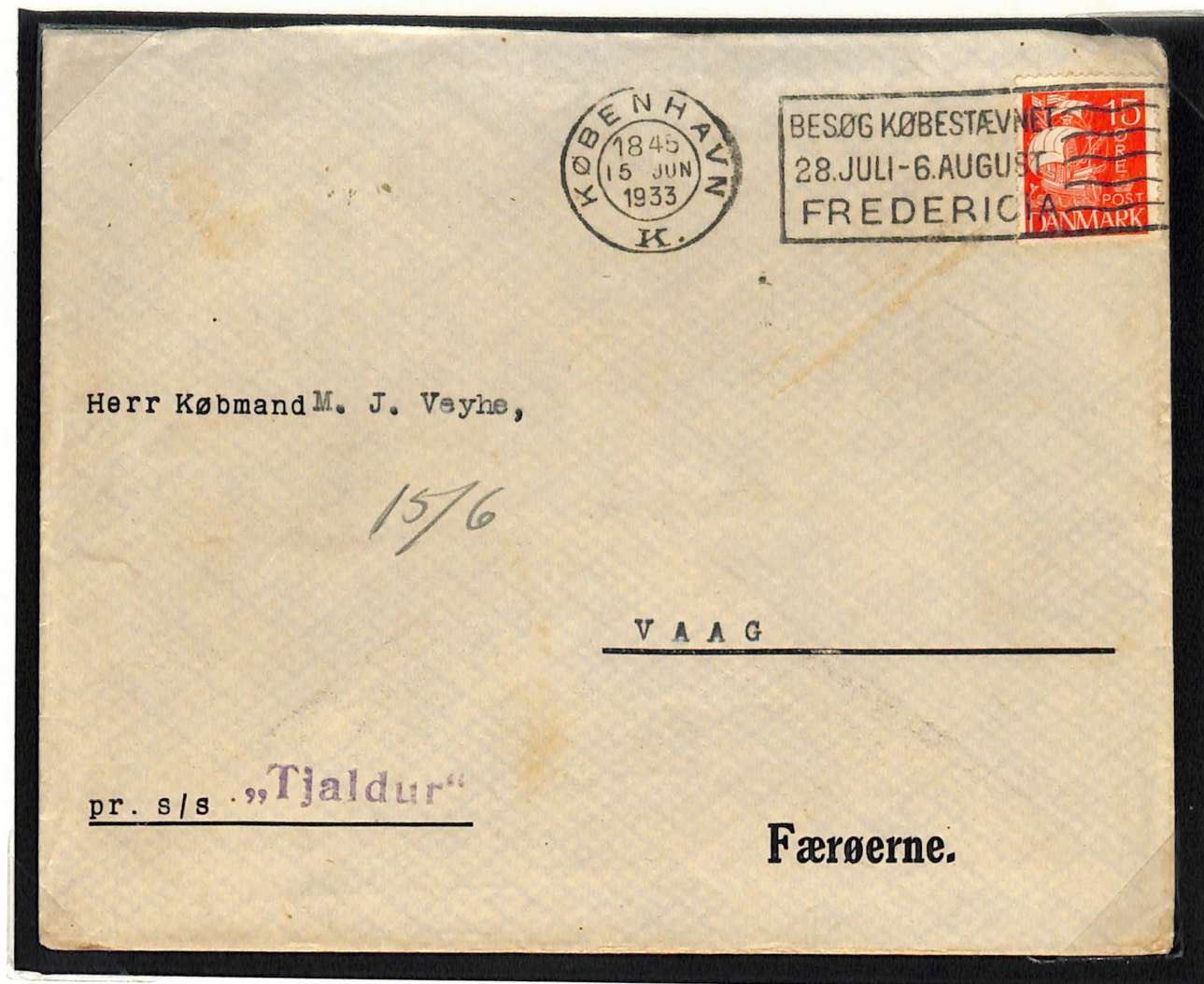
Paquebot cover from Norway to Thorshavn with two Norwegian 10 øre stamps tied by Thorshavn 8.8.36 cancel (type 01.07) and boxed Paquebot marking (GF10 type T023).



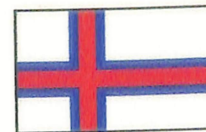
The Inter War Years – Ship Mail



Cover from Copenhagen to Vágur (Vaag) with Copenhagen roller cancel and slogan dated 15 June 1933. Carried on S/S "Tjaldur" per cachet applied in purple. No arrival or other transit markings.



World War II – the Provisionals and Postal Services



Great Britain occupied the Faroe Islands on 12 April 1940, not long after the German invasion of Denmark. The initial occupying force were the Lovat Scouts, but during this "Friendly Occupation" the forces changed and at its height there were three Forces Post Offices operating on the islands, numbers 219, 611 and 695. The types of mail exchange and the routes used changed frequently, and some mail was sent undercover via Lisbon. Mail was generally subject to censorship, but dependent on routing. Normal mail services resumed in May 1945 after the German surrender and continued as part of the Danish Post Office until an independent postal administration was established on 1 April 1976.

On 12 March 1940 mail left the islands for the last time before the German invasion of Denmark and the "Friendly Occupation".



Window envelope of A/S Føroya Banki to Denmark with 15 øre Caravel (SG277b) cancelled by Thorshavn cancel type 01.07 Bro IIIc on 27.3.40. Correct rate for Inland letter 1 January 1927 until 10 July 1940. German censorship tape and cachets applied to reverse.

This item is one of five commercial items recorded as sent on 27 and 28 March which were (unusually) not opened and resealed by British censorship, but handstamped with an octagonal "Passed by Censor T.83" cachet.

The 1940 - 41 Provisionals



Increased postal rates took effect on 10 July 1940 (nine days later than in Denmark). As supplies of stamps to meet the new rates had not reached the islands, Faroese postal officials authorised the local production of overprints to be used to meet the new rates. Definitive issues were available in reasonable quantities and were overprinted by H. N. Jacobsen in Tórshavn, creating five different provisional stamps with values of 20ø (the new basic letter rate), 50ø (the basic letter rate plus registration fee) and 60ø (the basic letter fee plus value letter rate). Shipments of the new 20ø stamp arrived on 16 November 1940 and more on 6 December 1940 but the quantities were insufficient to meet demand. When fresh supplies of the older values arrived on 20 May 1941 second printings of the 20/1 øre, 50/5 øre and 60/6 øre were produced. The new 20øre stamps only became widely available on 5-6 June 1941. (Pollak certificate dated May 13 2003).



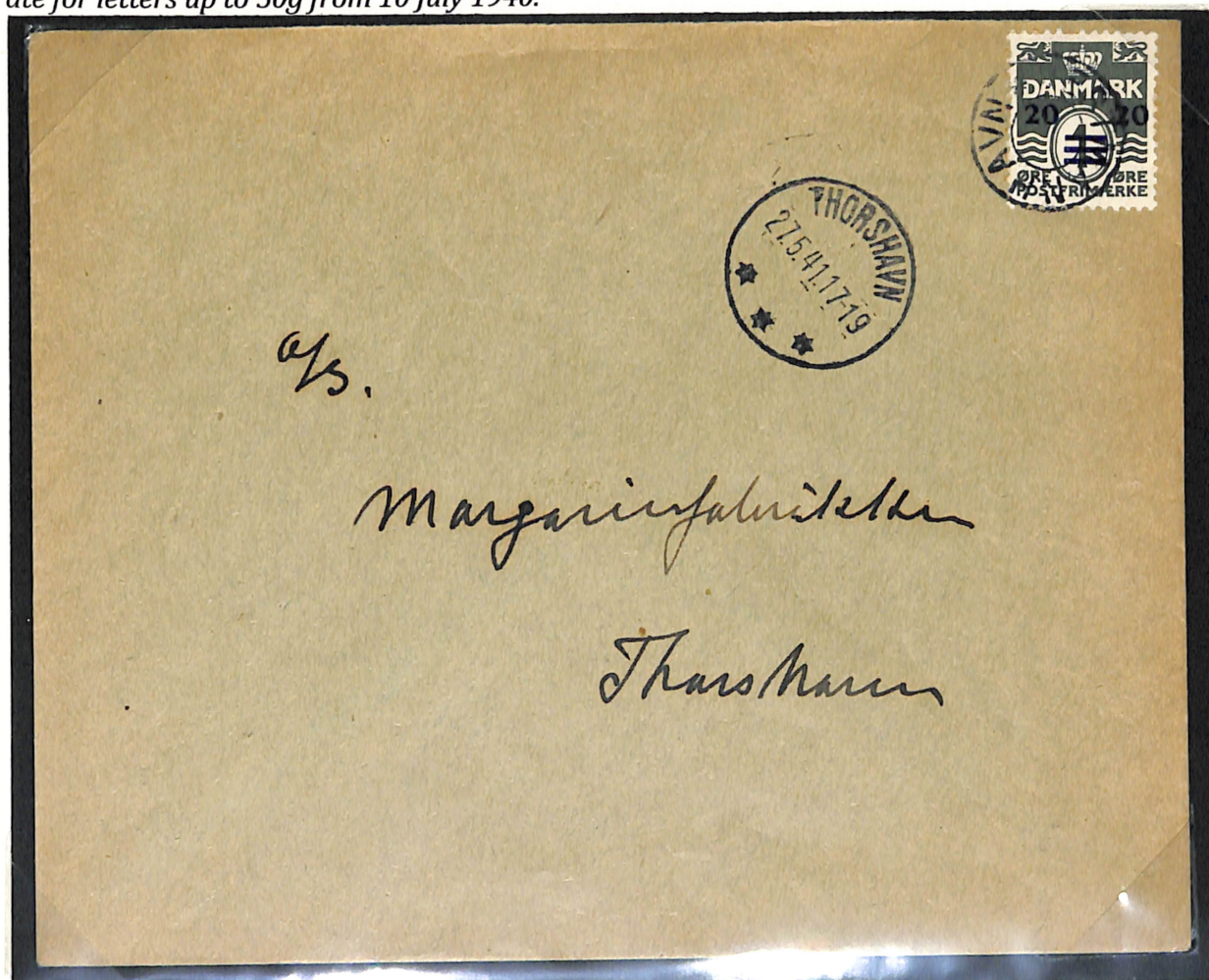
World War II – the Provisionals



Local cover with 20 øre surcharge on 15 øre Caravel (SG1) tied by Thorshavn Klipfisk cancel type 01.Sær.01 dated 5.11.40 and side cancel type 01.07 Bro IIIc of same date. Correct Inland rate for letters up to 50g from 10 July 1940, although as the letter was sent within Tórshavn a 50g letter would have been 10 øre at Local rate while 20 øre would have overpaid even the 15 øre rate for letters up to 250g.



Local cover with 20 øre surcharge on 1 øre Numeral (SG2) tied by Vestmanna star removed cancel type 11.02 and Thorshavn arrival cancel type 01.07 Bro IIIc dated 27.5.41. Correct Inland rate for letters up to 50g from 10 July 1940.



World War II – the Provisionals



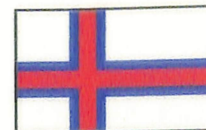
Local Cover with 20 øre surcharge on 5 øre Numeral (SG3) tied by Thorshavn cancel type 01.07 Bro IIIc dated 17.3.41. Correct Inland rate for letters up to 50g from 10 July 1940. *First day of issue.*



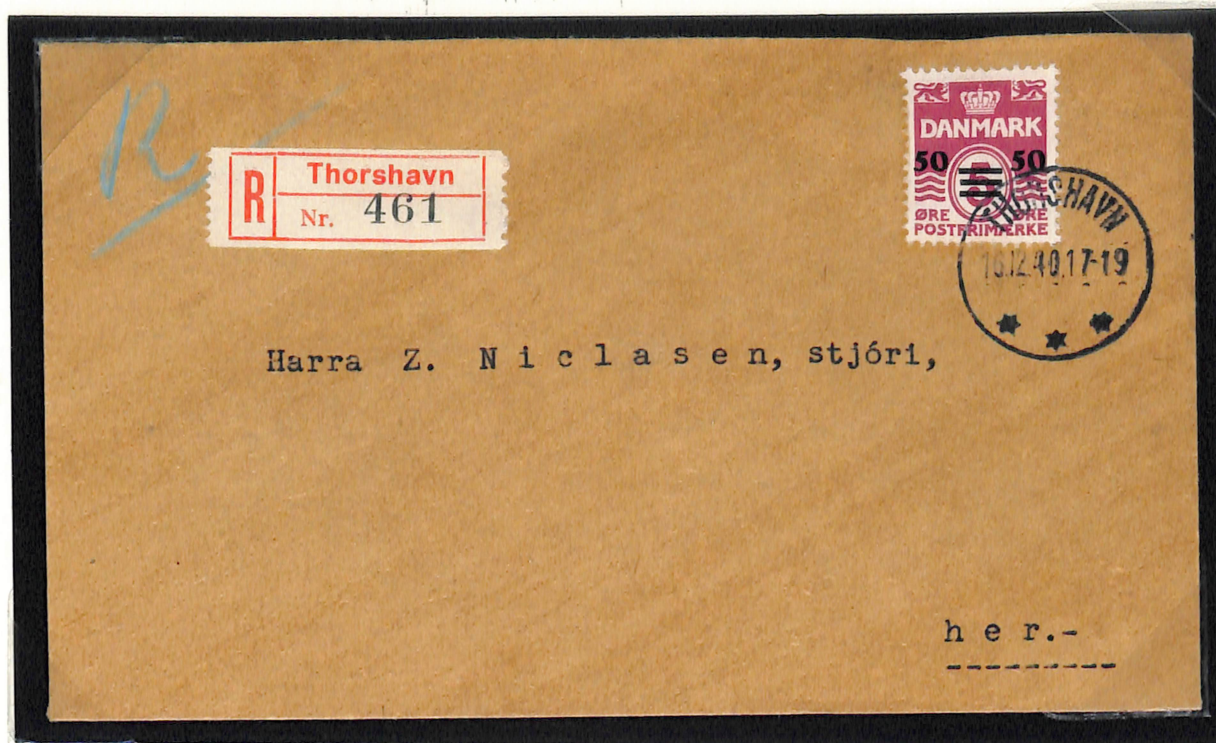
Cover to Leith with 2 x 20 øre surcharge on 5 øre Numeral (SG3) tied by Thorshavn cancel type 01.07 Bro IIIc dated 9.4.41. Correct Foreign rate for letters up to 20g from 10 July 1940. Opened and re-sealed by censor 2094.



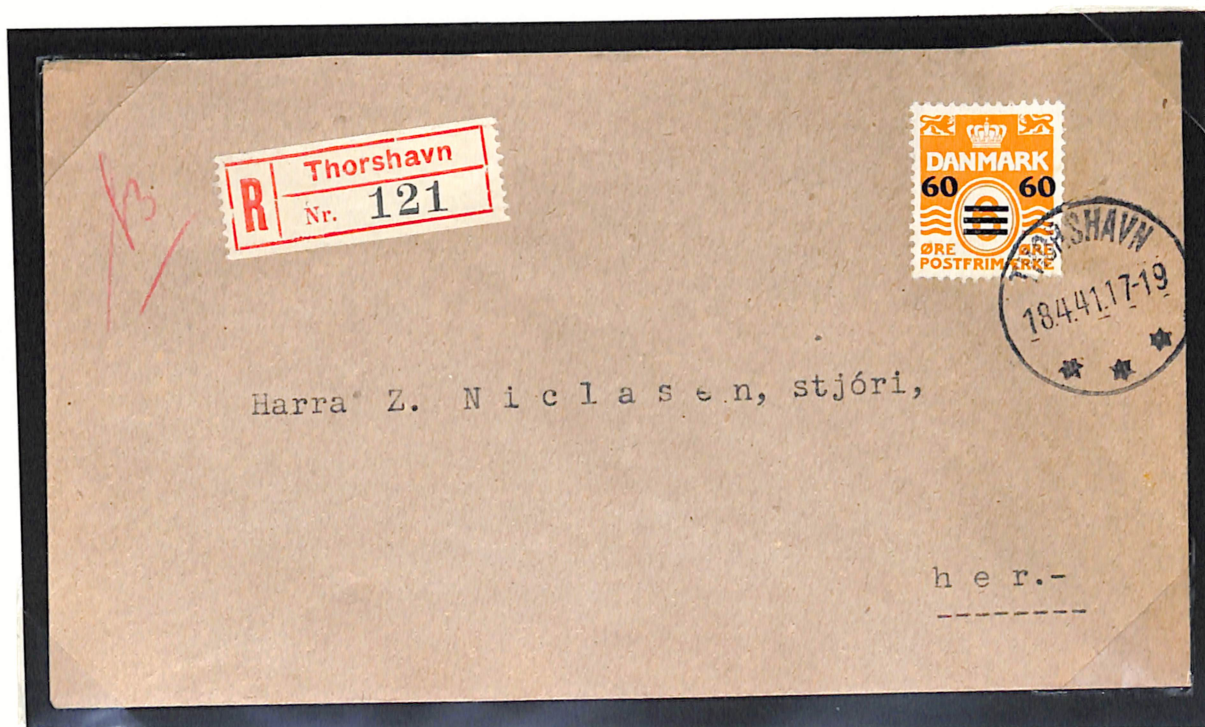
World War II – the Provisionals



Registered Local Cover with 50 øre surcharge on 5 øre Numeral (SG4) tied by Thorshavn cancel type 01.07 Bro IIIc dated 16.12.40. Correct Inland rate for registered letters up to 50g from 10 July 1940 (20 øre plus 30 øre registration fee)



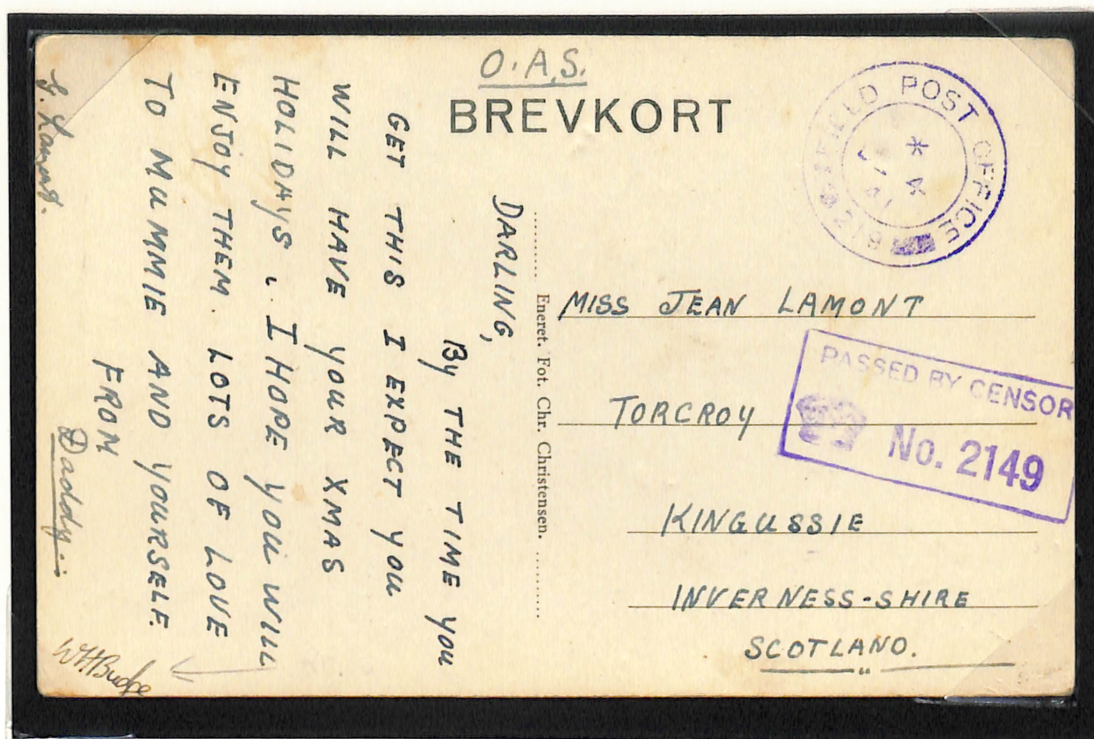
Registered Local Cover with 60 øre surcharge on 6 øre Numeral (SG5) tied by Thorshavn cancel type 01.07 Bro IIIc dated 18.4.41. The basic rate was 20 øre plus 30 øre registration fee for values up to 1000 Kr. And an additional 10 øre for each additional 1000 Kr of value.



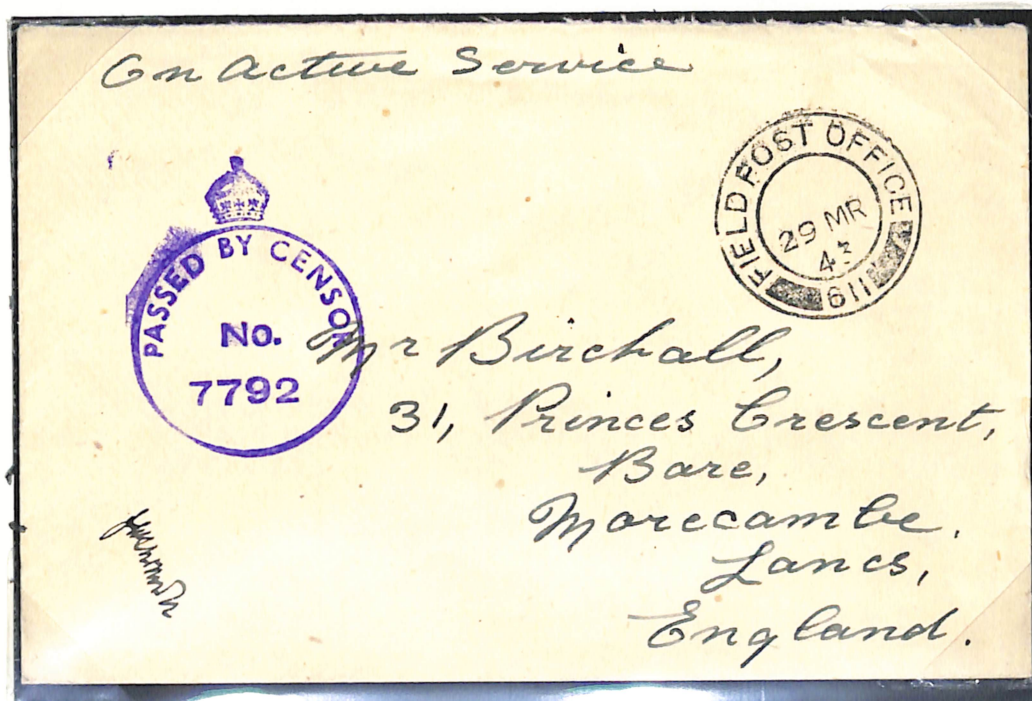
World War II – Services Mail



Sepia Postcard with unidentified panorama (Tórshavn?) cancelled F.P.O. 219 on 4 December 1941 (Type 1 canceller). Rectangular boxed Army censor mark in purple and censor's signature in bottom left. Sender has added his signature (presumably 'Daddy' was insufficient to support the claim to Active Service mail privileges).



Cover to Morecambe cancelled F.P.O. 611 on 29 MR 43 in black (Type 1). Circular Army censor mark with Crown in purple and signed by censor bottom left. This F.P.O. was on Vágar where the British were constructing an airstrip which later became the Faroes Airport.



World War II – Services Mail



Cover to Morecambe cancelled F.P.O. 695 on 5 OC 43 in black (type 1). Circular Army censor mark with Crown in purple and signature of censor in red. F.P.O. 695 was, like 219, in Tórshavn.



Cover to Worcester cancelled F.P.O. 219 on 25 MY 41 (type 1). Rectangular boxed Army censor mark under "received from H.M. Ships" roller cancel. Signature of censor in bottom left corner.

