



ISLANDS *Kontakt*

SPECIAL 2015.2 v.1 - TROON

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

This article is no. 2, and Troon in Ayrshire, Scotland, as a transit port for Icelandic mail in the period 1897 to about 1923 is the subject of this report.

Each of these articles will be published "as a manuscript" and labelled "v.1". Readers are invited to submit corrections and/or supplementary material including scans to one or other of the compilers with a view to possible inclusion in a revised "v.2". The process of revision will be open ended and need not finish with "v.2".

Line drawings appearing in this series of articles are, in general copied from Robertson or in the case of Scottish date stamps, Mackay. Illustrations of covers or cards taken from the literature are credited as such in the tables where these items are cited.

Through use over years of service it is inevitable that post office handstamps should show signs of wear. The two principal types of material for the manufacture of these handstamps are metal (brass or steel) and rubber. Damage to a metal handstamp will show as bumps or breaks on the periphery or on the text. The damage to rubber handstamps will be caused by the flexible nature of the rubber and the effect of unsuitable inks which cause the rubber to stretch and otherwise to deteriorate. The rubber paquebot handstamps used in Edinburgh show such damage and this makes them difficult to classify (and it may be that the office was issued with more than one example of a particular manufacture leading to independent deterioration on each example).

Þór Þorsteins has compiled a list of sailings from Iceland. Here, this list as it applies to any given port is reproduced with, where possible, examples of mail with the carrier and sailing identified. A sailing may appear on the list with no recorded cover or card, but because it was listed as carrying mail, there is hope that an example will turn up at some future time.

The tables are organized as follows:

Date of cancellation in Iceland or date for departure from Island * ¹	Comments	Vessel carrying mail ** ²
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¹ * Indicate, that the departure date from Iceland is estimated because the only dates known are the arrival date at the port and, if there is one, the date of the Icelandic postmark.

² ** The name of the vessel is mentioned: when on a list from Þór Þorsteins; on the letter; traced from Icelandic newspapers.

The primary purpose of this article and the accompanying listing is to match each cover/cards, usually from Iceland, but where appropriate, the Faroes, with the vessel that carried the item. As a bonus to this listing is the possibility of a census of the occurrence of the various ship letter and paquebot marks seen on mail from Iceland.

Note that the Postal Authorities (GPO) of the United Kingdom made a distinction between incoming and outgoing ship letters. Incoming ship letters might receive a handstamp of the point of entry. Outgoing ship letters are identified by an annotation on the address panel such as "by private ship" or more specifically "by [name of vessel]". Circulars were issued on a regular basis listing private vessels which would take mail, together with sailing dates and destinations. Use was made of this service because it could be quicker than the Packet (i.e. the official mail boat).

Troon in Ayrshire, Scotland as a transit port for Icelandic mail in the period 1897 to about 1923 is the subject of this report. Of the town and its harbor, Wikipedia tells us:

"The Duke of Portland took the existing natural harbor on the north side of the headland and added docks. Later improvements included increasing the protection afforded by the headland with an artificial "ballast bank" made from the dumped ballast of incoming merchant ships. And from 1812 Troon was the terminus of a horse-drawn railway connecting it to the Duke's coal mines around Kilmarnock. This was not licensed for passengers, a minor technicality evaded by weighing those wishing to travel and charging them freight rates."

Of interest also are the two Ship Letter marks and four circular date stamps (abbreviated CDS) which appear on mail from Iceland, usually as transit cancels and (perhaps) occasionally in lieu of paquebot cancels (in the sense of the UPU regulation, which came into effect 17 January 1894, governing uncanceled mail arriving, usually with foreign stamps, at a port). Surprisingly, all the recorded covers/cards with the boxed mark also have an Icelandic postmark.

This register of Troon marks on mail from Iceland shows that the scarcity of the boxed Troon Ship Letter mark has been grossly exaggerated.

List of Troon Transit Marks

The two Ship Letter marks

1) Oval GR metal ship letter handstamps were issued to various ports, including Troon, sometime around 1814 during the reign of King George III.

This mark is known used in 1832 (and is quite rare from that period) then again in 1897 and 1898 by which time the mark had suffered wear and the R (for Rex) could be mistaken for an H.

Two items from the Faroes and one from Iceland in 1897 are recorded with this handstamp, as well as one item from Iceland in 1898.

This makes four examples of the mark recorded on mail from Iceland and the Faroes before the boxed two line Troon /Ship Letter brass metal handstamp was manufactured by Kirkwood at the beginning of 1899 and forwarded to Troon by the postal authorities on 4 February 1897).

This mark is catalogued in Robertson as S1 and by Hosking 4th edition as 5205.³

³ Illustrations of marks in Cockrill, Studd, Hosking, Dovey and Morris, Seeposter ... are based on drawings and cannot always be trusted for fine detail such as relative placement of letters or size of ornaments. For such details, look to the illustrated covers/cards

This mark appears as a type in James A. Mackay, "Scottish Post Marks" as no. 1646, but Troon is not discussed in the text on page 123.



Here is one of the four examples, a Brjefspjald to Silkeborg in Denmark send from Reykjavik 5.8.1897.



2) Rectangular boxed two line cancel SHIP LETTER/TROON



This mark is Robertson S2 and he indicates the handstamp was sent to Troon on Feb 4 1899. He records the earliest and latest dates as 1904 and 1912. It is shown in James A. Mackay, "Scottish Post Marks" as no. 1674 and Hosking 4th edition as 325 indicating use from 1900 until 1912. Now items with the boxed ship letter mark of Troon are known from 1900 to 1914.

Oddly, all the items here recorded for the boxed handstamp have been cancelled by the Icelandic Post Office reducing the use of the Troon marks to the role of transit cancellations. From other ports, letters with the postmark of the port as the first cancellation are known: such mail required a paquebot mark in order to satisfy the UPU regulation which came into force 17 January, 1894.

DAMAGE to the canceller: Sometime after 10 10 1906 handstamp for the boxed mark must have been dropped or been damaged in some way or other way the later applications of the mark all show a dent in at the top of the right hand Framed S/L line as well as two breaks in the top Framed S/L line. There also is a dent in the bottom Framed S/L line and a smaller one just after the "N". Not long after this a larger bump appears below the first "O" of Troon.

3. The Circular Date Stamps of Troon on Icelandic mail

1) Small single ring (thimble) circular date stamp of which there are two versions (perhaps the same hammer slightly modified):

a) one with the letter "A" above the date (according to Schilling, known on mail from 1901 to 1904),⁴



b) the other with an empty space above the date (recorded on a pair of 20 aur red Christian X stamps).



2) Double ring circular date stamp of which there are two types:

a) twin arcs also referred to as wings) enclosing the town name Troon at the top and the office number 330 at the bottom. The type is no. 538 in "Scottish Post Marks" by Mackay.



b) Twin arcs or wings enclosing the town name Troon at the top and a cross at the bottom.⁵

⁴ The type is no. 720 in "Scottish Post Marks" by Mackay

⁵ In the language of Heraldry this is the "cross pattee" (i.e. with feet) which appears on items of the regalia of the United Kingdom as well as being the shape of various military medals. The Maltese cross has the form of an eight pointed star.



Mail in transit through the Troon office is known without the Ship Letter mark, having received only a Troon CDS of one or other type. According to Schilling used from 1906 to 1912 – but it appears in 1904. These particular circular date stamps of Troon are not explicitly referred to by James A: Mackay in his rather comprehensive book "Scottish Post Marks, but the type is no. 538.

REGISTER OF SAILINGS FROM REYKJAVIK TO TROON WITH, WHERE POSSIBLE, EXAMPLES OF MAIL CARRIED WHICH RECEIVED A TROON TRANSIT MARK

For a particular sailing to be in the following tables, the ship must be known to have carried mail and to have made its first British port of call Troon.

Diligent reporting by members of Islandsklubben over the years now allows individual covers/cards with a Troon transit mark to be linked to the ship that carried the item from Iceland. A sailing may appear on the list with no recorded cover or card -but an example might well turn up in the future. The task of recording continues.

05.08.1897	To Silkeborg. Robertson S.1 (see above)	
TRANGISVAAG 9.6.1897	TROON JU 9 97 (Robertson S.1 and twin arc with 330)	



- And on the back side:



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?.?.1898		
0?.09.1899	Troon SP 12 99 (3.a)	
08.01.1900	Troon JA 16 00 (330) + Framed S/L. Same day only with Framed S/L ⁷	



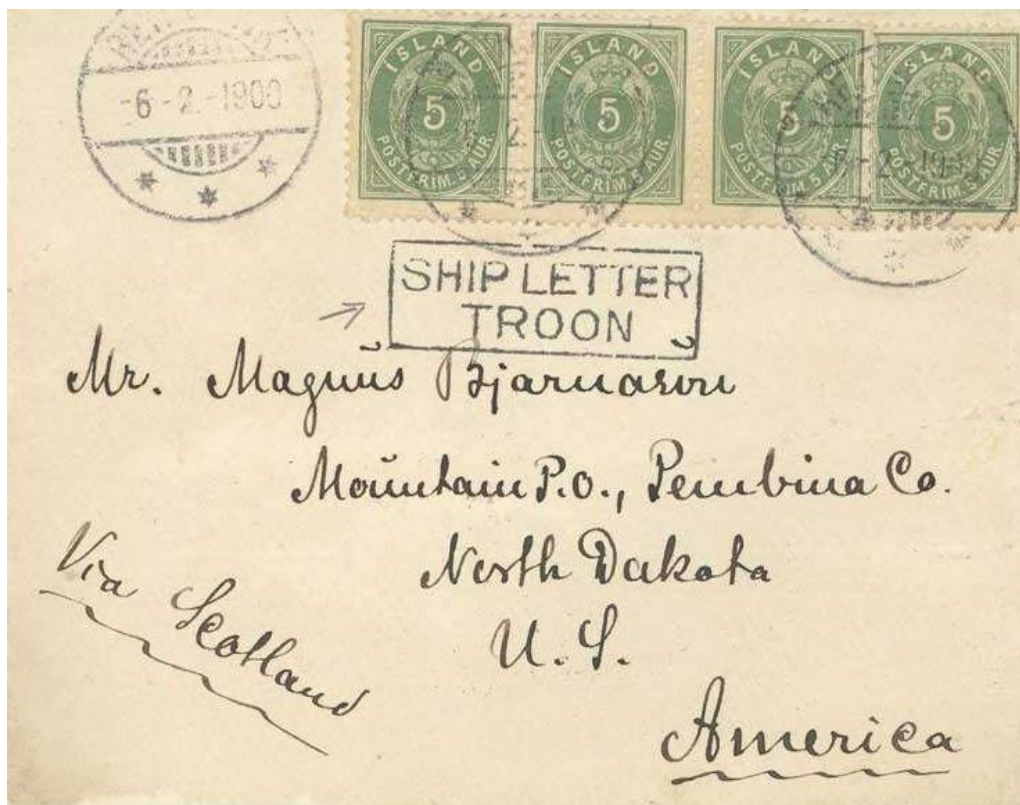
⁶ Letter 1897. 8 ore black / red on cover from TRANGISVAAG 06.06.1897 to Copenhagen sent via Troon where it received the transit cancels: TROON JU 9 97 (twin arc with 330); the oval Canc. TROON SHIP LETTER. Sent from the corvette DAGMAR.

⁷ The date is from Per Olav Abrahamson – it is a bit unclear - letter with 4x4 aur.



15.01.1900	Only FRAMED S/L	SS Colibri
06.02.1900	Troon FE 14 00 - (330) on single stamp and with Framed S/L on letter	







03.05.1900	FRAMED S/L - Swedish "svarkort"	8
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07.12.1900 *	Only Troon DE 14 00	
15.01.1901	Only FRAMED S/L	
03.09.1901		
08.09.1901	Troon SP 15 01 Two (SR) and one with only (303)	

⁸ Answer part of double cart returned from REYKJAVIK 3.5.1900 via Troon, England, and Sassnitz, Germany, to Stockholm. Framed S/L cancellation SHIPLETTER TROON, and bridge SASSNITZ-TRELLEBORG 19.5.00.



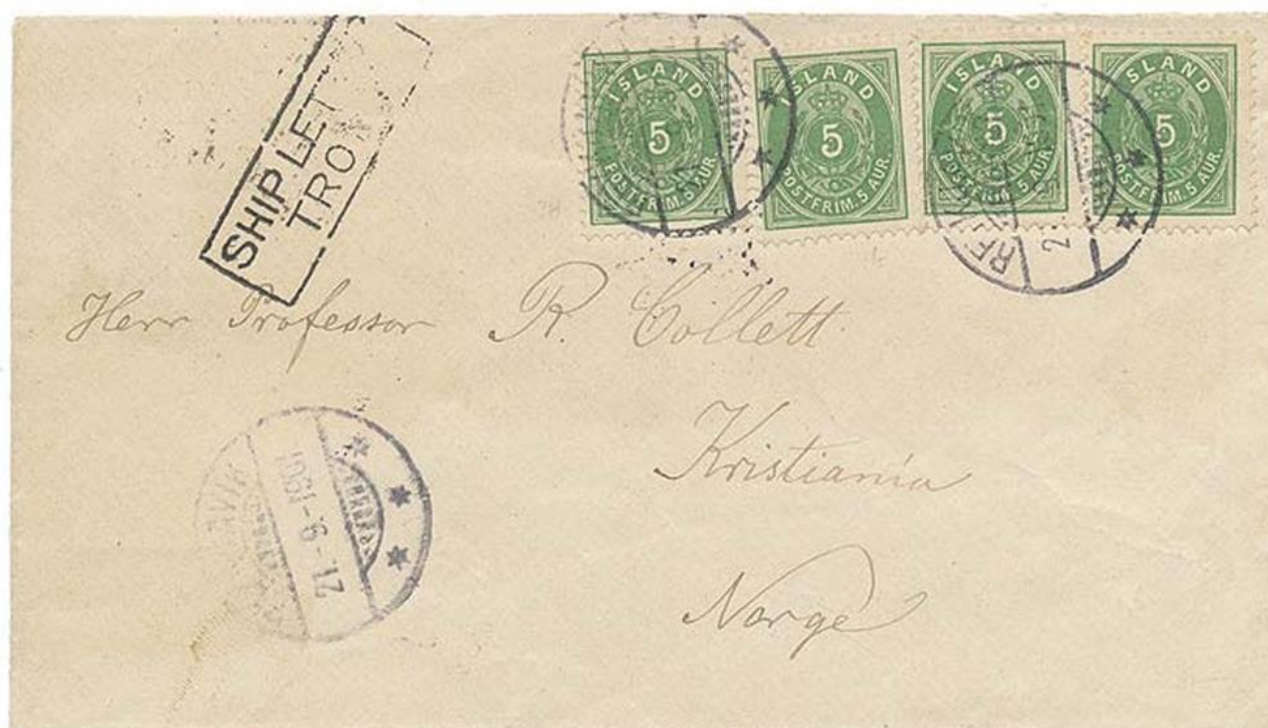
9

The next has same handwriting but different cancellation (330)

⁹ Another card is also sent to Solingen but to a different recipient



20.09.1901	Troon OC 01 01 (330) + FRAMED S/L	S/S Kronprinsesse Victoria
21.09.1901	And only FRAMED S/L ¹⁰	



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¹⁰ Folmer Østergaard i NFT 2 1987

¹¹ Postiljonen 197 # 358



05.11.1901	"Olaf's kart" see IslandsKontakt 37 page	S/S Eros
07.11.1901	19 f. Hviid-cart	



12

11.04.1902	Fra Isaffjord - Troon AP 26 02 (330) + FRAMED S/L	
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19.06.1902	Troon JU 28 02 (330) ¹³	
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¹² at least two known - produced by Hviid

¹³ Information from Orla Nielsen

21.07.1902	Only Troon JY 27 02 (330)	
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05.08.1902	Troon AU 13 02 (330) + FRAMED S/L	
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¹⁴ Viking auction 23. Marts 06 lot # 410

13.10.1902	Only FRAMED S/L ¹⁵	
15.10.1902		
18.10.1902	Copenhagen 25.10.1902	



22.01.1903		Isafold
28.02.1903	Tron MR 8 1903 (330) + FRAMED S/L ¹⁶	Isafold ¹⁷



¹⁵ Cancelled Reykjavik 15.10.02- arrival Canada 06.11.1902 and on copy Viking auction. 9.10.2003 lot # 572 arr. Copenhagen 25.10.1902

¹⁶ Viking Marts 2006 lot # 518

¹⁷

05.05.1903	Fra Isafjord / Troon MY 12 03	
06.06.1903		Alacrity
03.07.1903		Saga
17.07.1903 18.07.1903	Troon JY 24 03 - set i Forum 2000 + FRAMED S/L (330)	Ansgarius



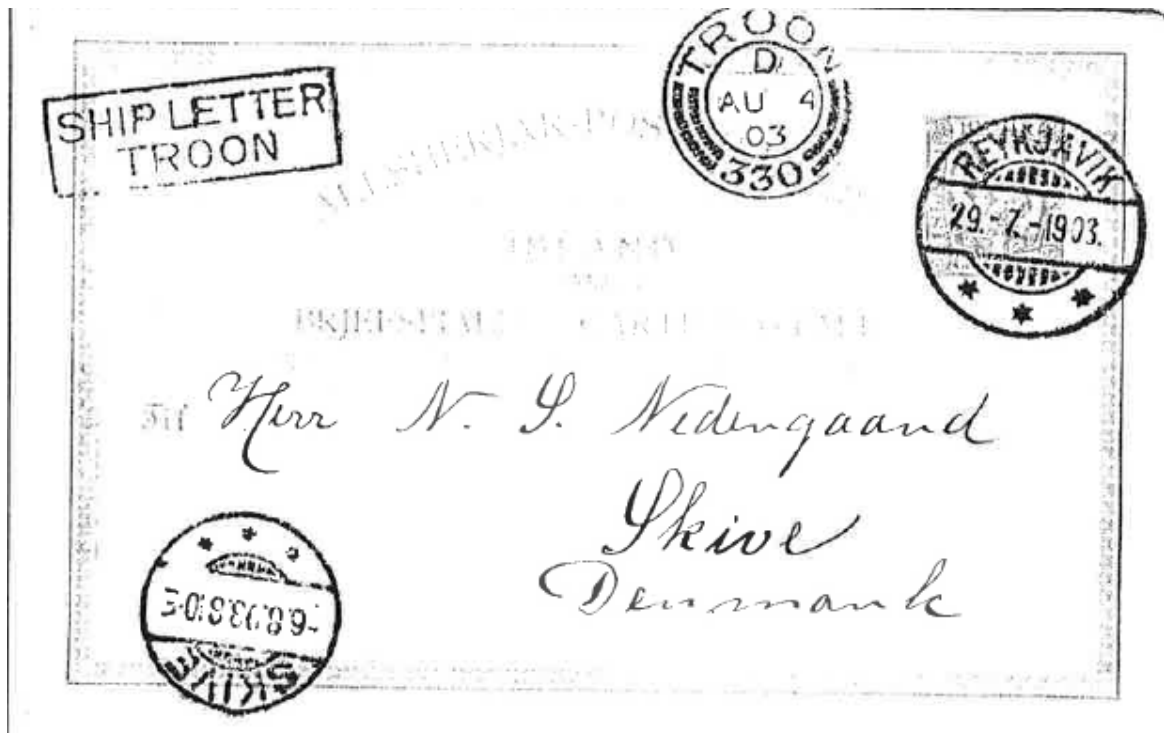
18

¹⁸ Cavendish 616 lot# 1458 - Postiljonen 188 # 420 I GILDI, perf. 12 3/4 single on postcard from "REYKJAVIK 17.7.1903" to Coventry, England. Framed S/Ld "SHIP LETTER / TROON" and c.d.s. "TROON JY 24 03". Another exist with same date and handwriting.

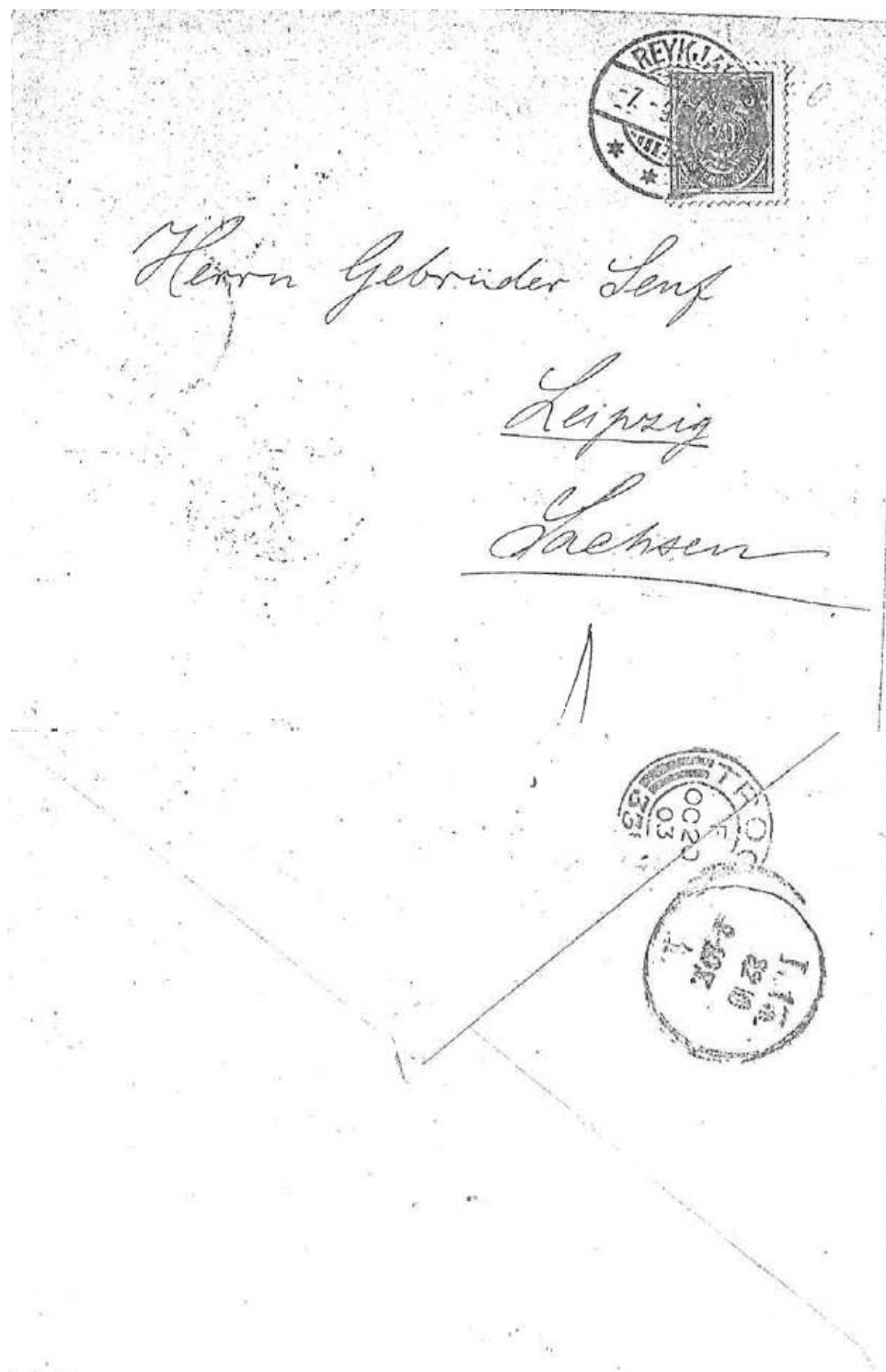
29.07.1903

Troon (330) AU 4 03

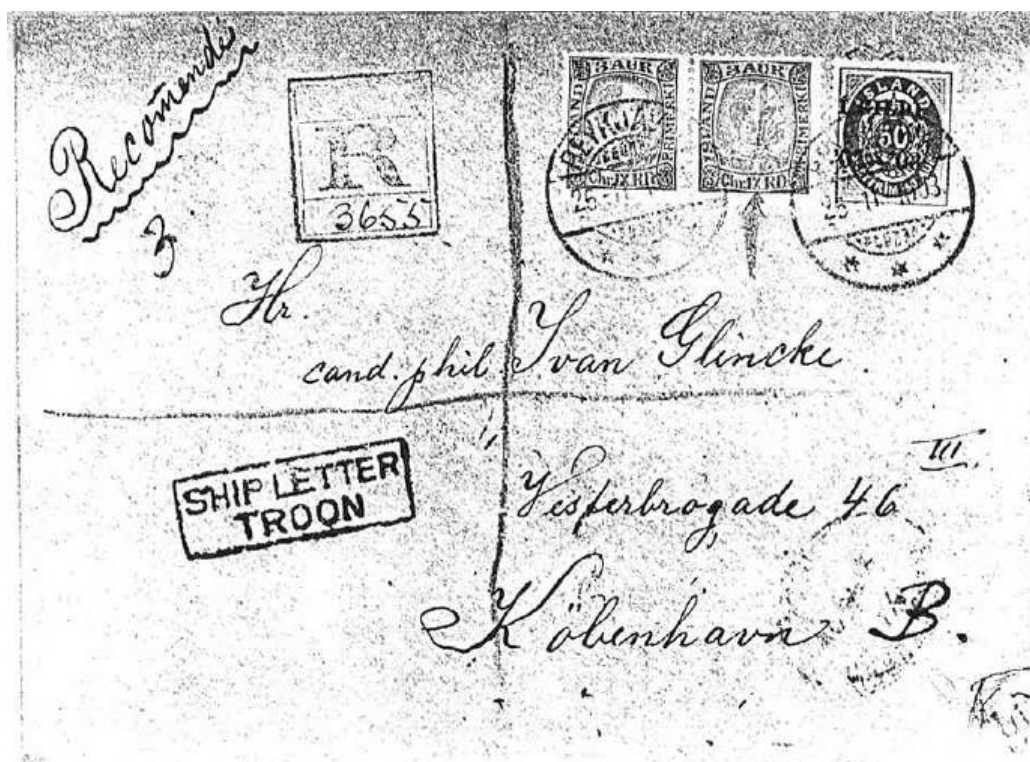
Scandia



07.09.1903	Troon (330) OC 20 03 (it was a long trip – see the following!!)	Ansgarius
06.10.1903	Troon (330) OC 20 03	
08.10.1903	Troon (330) OC 20 03	
12.10.1903		



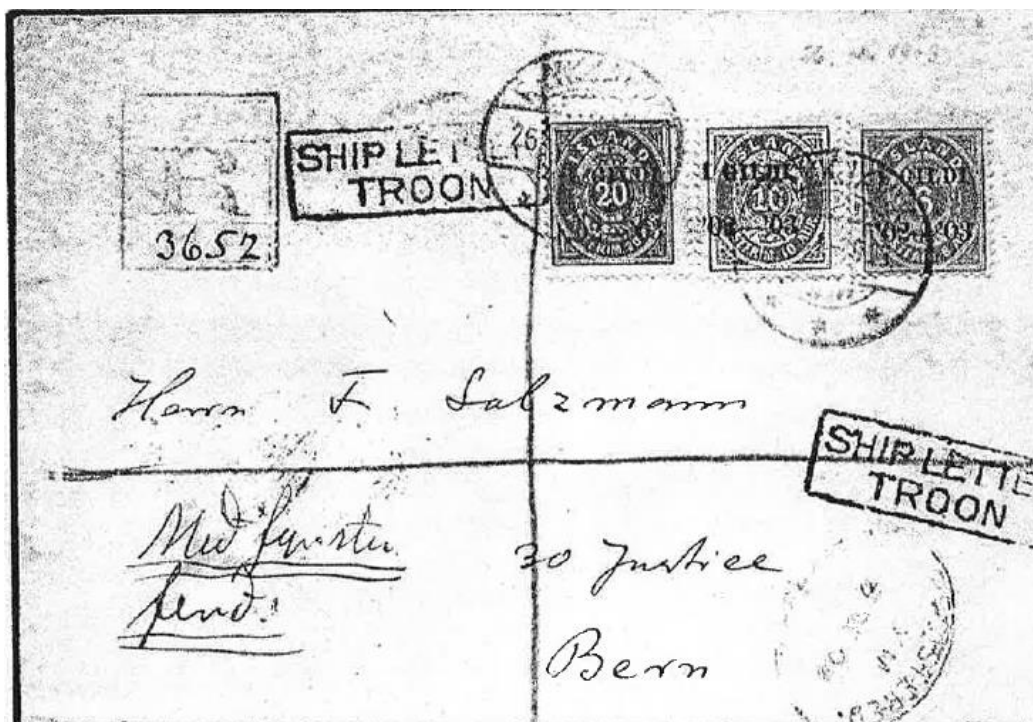
18.11.1903		Isafold
25.11.1903	Troon 02.12.03 + FRAMED S/L – and one with (330) ¹⁹	
26.11.1903	Troon 02.12.03 + FRAMED S/L ^{20 21}	



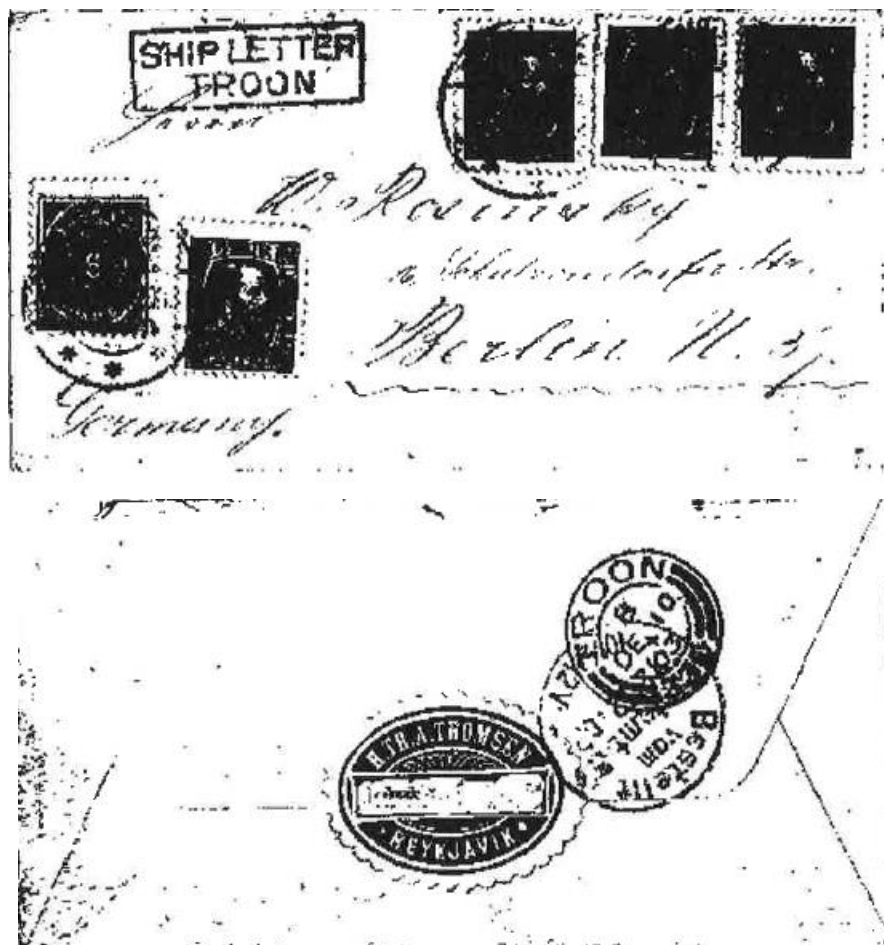
¹⁹ Send to Bern without text.

²⁰ The information from the back of the letter is from Tor Jensen – it now belong to Ebbe Eldrup. It vent over Glasgow – London to Copenhagen. 50 aur I Gildi + 3x3 aur Chr. IX

²¹ Same day registered letter med 20 + 10 + 6 aur I gildi to Bern and postcard to the same (next page).

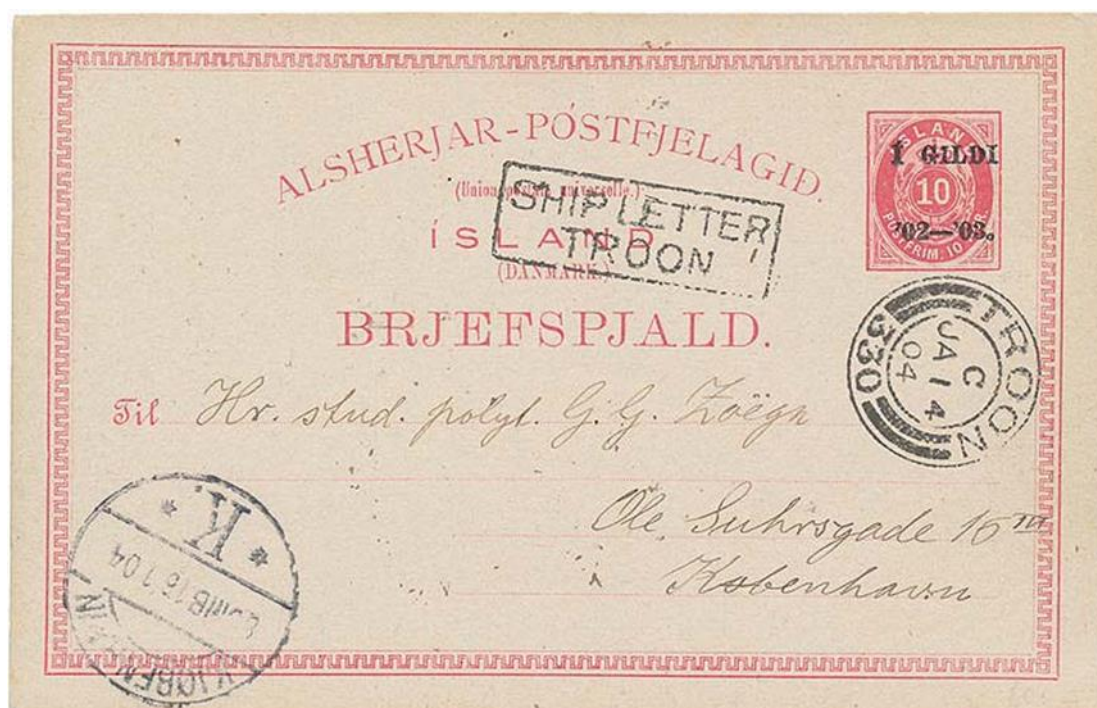


27.11.1903	FRAMED S/L + (330) on the back DE	Breifond
01.12.1903	10 03	

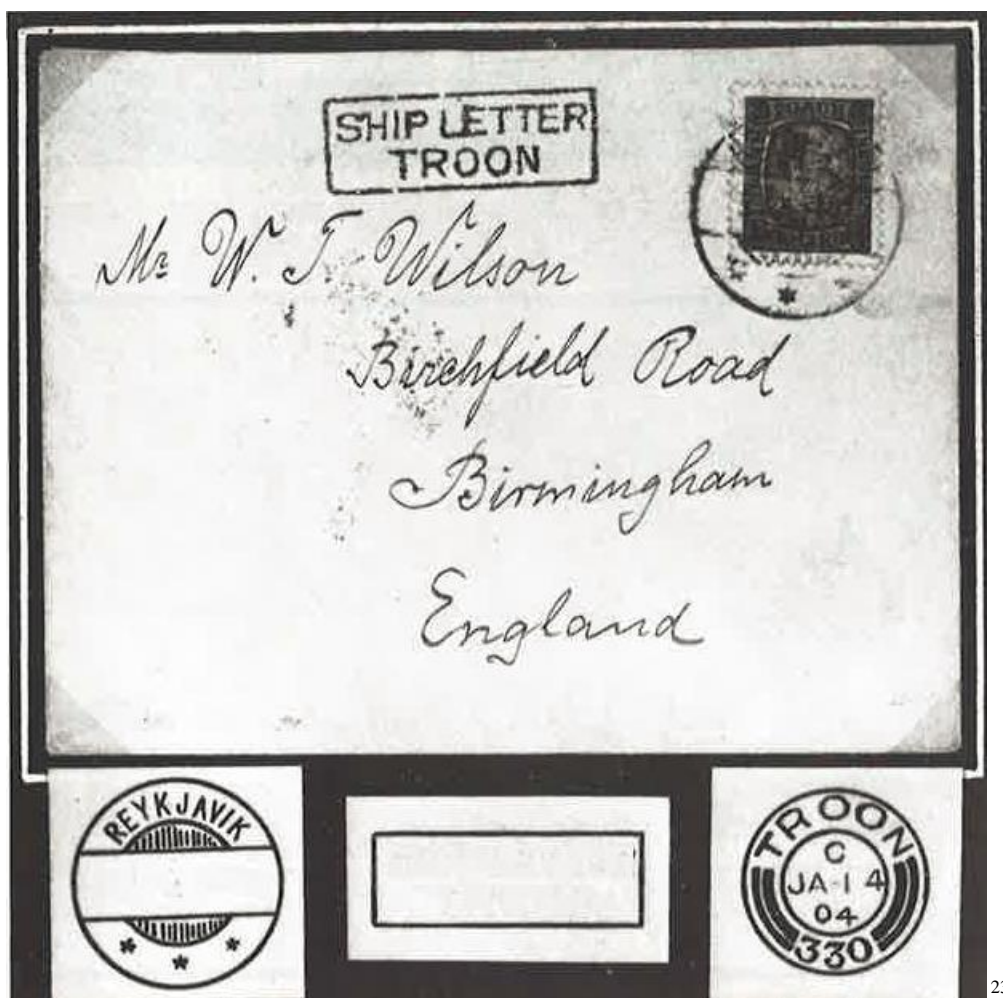




31.12.1903	Troon JA 14 04 (330) + FRAMED S/L	Scandia
05.01.1904	Troon JA 14 04 - FRAMED S/L + 330 ²²	



²² Several cards were produced to the same recipient see IslandsKontakt #103 p. 21 and # 104 p. 4



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13.02.1904	Saga
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²³ Illustration from Robertson: Ship Letter

07.04.1904	Only round Troon SP 13 04 ²⁴	Breifond
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15.04.1904		Nanna
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18.05.1904		Isafold
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07.08.1904	Troon AU 07 04 + FRAMED S/L. From Borganes "149"	
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²⁴ Højland 99 2993.

14.08.1904		Carlotta
21.08.1904		Brage
07.09.1904	Troon SP 13 04 (3a)	Patria or with Breiforss
07.09.1904	Troon SP 13 04 (3a) ²⁵	Breifond or with Patria
25.10.1904 *	Only Troon OC 28 04 - CDS twin arcs, cross	Saga
08.11.1904		Brage
07.12.1904		Breifond
24.12.1904		Nohr
12.07.1905	Troon JY 17 05 - CDS twin arcs, cross + FRAMED S/L	



²⁵ Højland 99 #2993

10.04.1906 *	Only Troon AP 20 06 - CDS twin arcs,	Gambetta
14.04.1906	cross	



16.6.1906 ²⁶	FRAMED S/L	
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26.07.1906	²⁷	Gambetta
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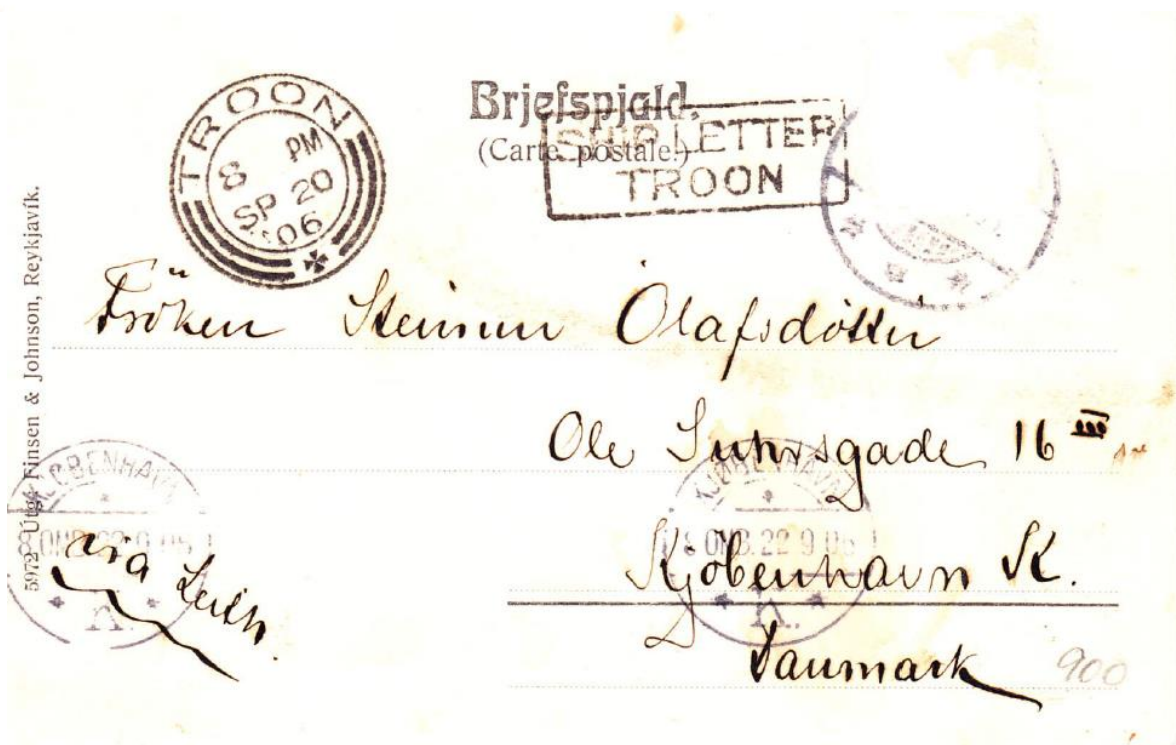
²⁶ Date 16.6 when send from Isafjord. Arrived in Copenhagen 25.6.1906

²⁷ Islandsklubbens aukt 1.11.08 lot 1191. Sendt Eyrarbakka 26.8 06.

14.09.1906

FRAMED S/L and - CDS twin arcs,
cross SP 20 06

Ansgarius



10.10.1906

Only FRAMED S/L

Urania



And to the same:



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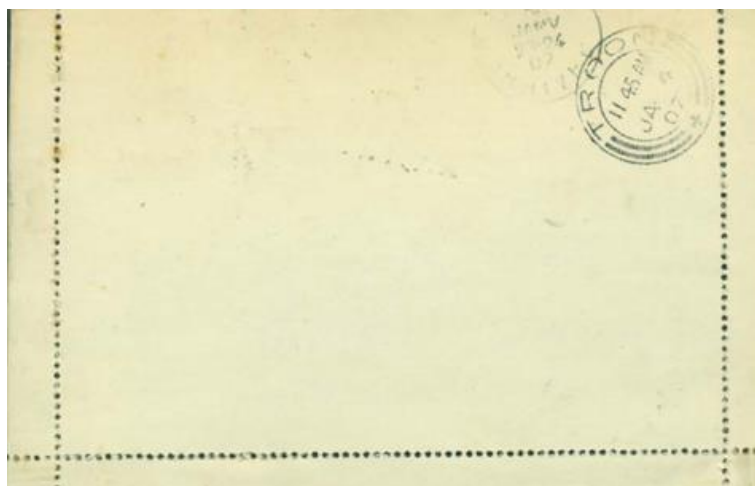
17.10.1906	Troon OC 25 06 - CDS twin arcs, cross ²⁹	Isafold
29.11.1906		Gambetta
29.12.1906	Troon JAN 4 07	Ilderen (eller Idderen)



²⁸ No message on the back on either of them.

²⁹ Højland 90 # 1259





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³⁰³⁰ All five to the same recipient (Antonio Torres 2015)

23.02.1907	Troon MR 01 07 - CDS twin arcs, cross + FRAMED S/L	Eros
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16.05.1907 17.05.1907	Troon MY 23 07 FRAMED S/L ³¹ Troon MY 23 07 - CDS twin arcs, cross + FRAMED S/L	
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23.05.1907	FRAMED S/L	Gambetta
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³¹ Fra Olofsvik

17.07.1907		Viking
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The following from Faeroe Iceland can be carried with SS Viking



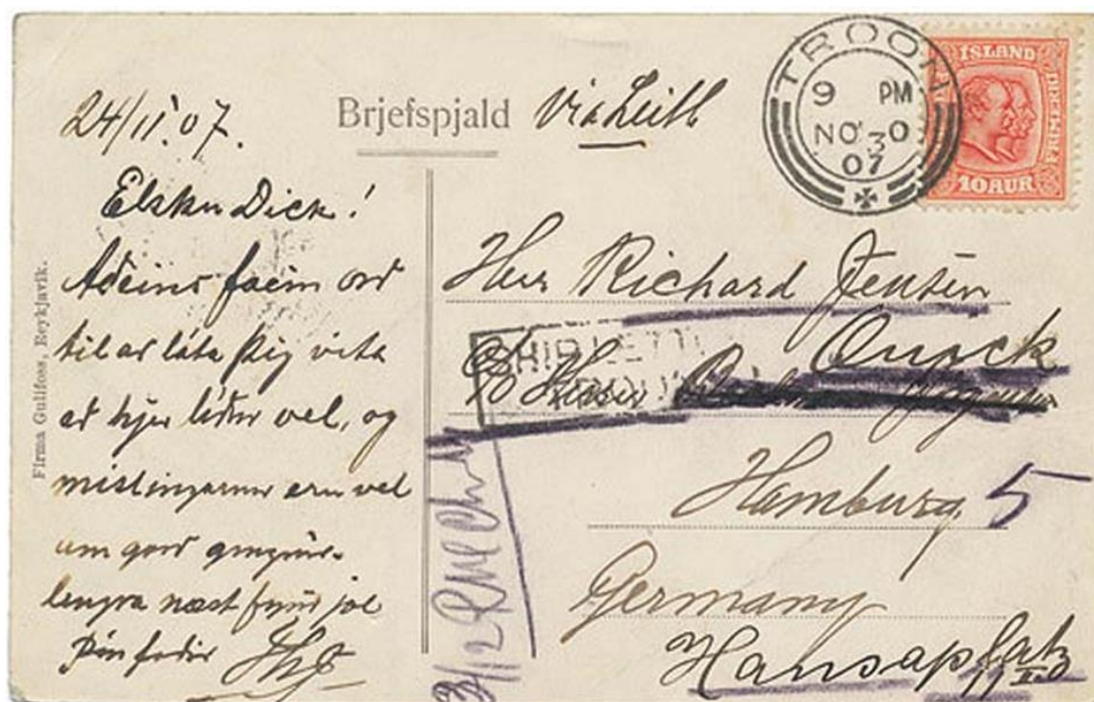
12.08.1907		Adria
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10.09.1907	Troon SP 16 07 + FRAMED S/L	Gambetta
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15.10.1907 16.10.1907 17.10.1907	25.10.1907 FRAMED S/L + MS	Ansgarius
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23.11.1907	Troon NO 30 07 - CDS twin arcs, cross +FRAMED S/L (IK # 38 page 10)	Isafold
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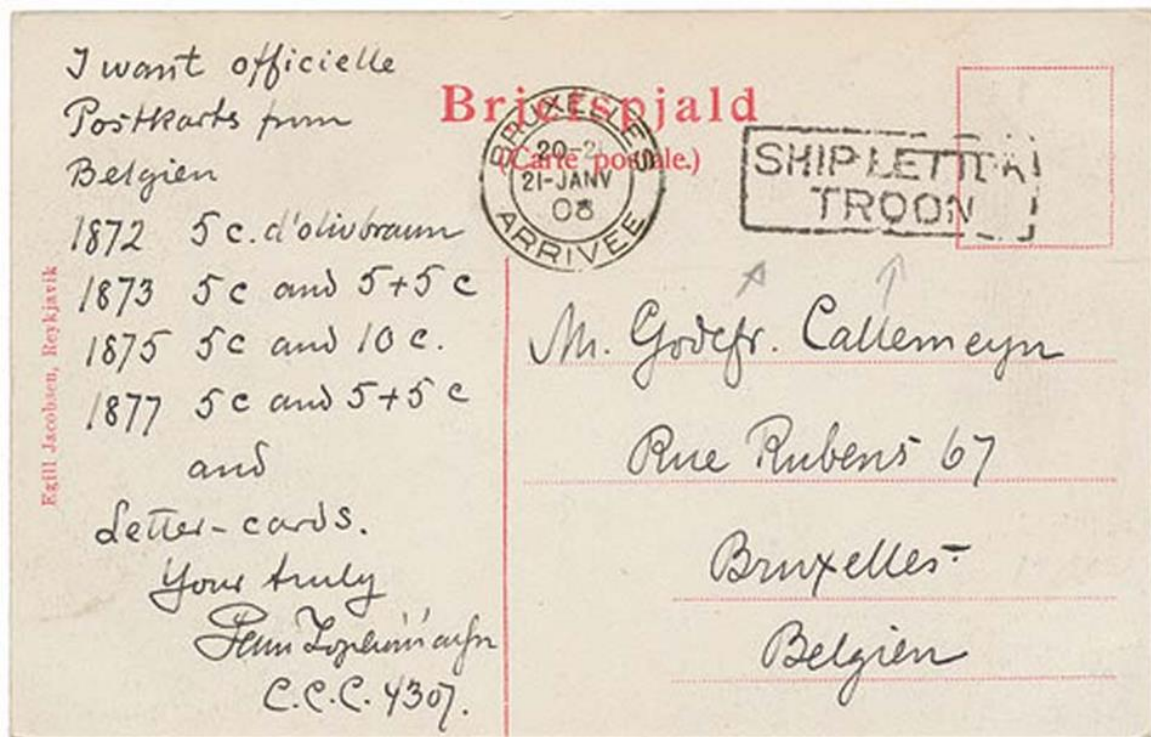
13.01.1908	FRAMED S/L	Vessel ? arrival Haarlem 22.1.1908
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³² Postiljonen 231 # 333

³³ Højland 104 # 2118



34



³⁴ Postiljonen 197 # 442 – same recipient as the next



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29.06.1908 ??.06.1908	FRAMED S/L – Arrived in Copenhagen 7.7.08	Gambetta
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³⁵ Islandsklubbens Jubilæumsauktion 2015

12.09.1908		Isafold
21.09.1908 24.09.1908	FRAMED S/L ³⁶	Agnes
29.09.1908		Viking
29.10.1908	Troon NO 6 08 - CDS twin arcs, cross + FRAMED S/L	Klar



28.08.1909		Vignos
30.09.1909	Troon OC 12 09 - CDS twin arcs, cross – and from there to Hobro 14.10.09!	Klar
07.01.1910		Bauta (eller Paula)

³⁶ A&A auktion1. nr.166

04.04.1910	Troon AP 20 10 - CDS twin arcs, cross + FRAMED S/L	Naurander
08.04.1910		
09.04.1910		
10.04.1910		
14.04.1910		





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³⁷ At least 3 to the same address.



11.08.1910 17.08.1910	Troon AU 22 10 FRAMED S/L + CDS twin arcs, cross ³⁸	Oddfrid
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³⁸ Viking okt.2004 lot # 552 + 3.06 - Højland #130 lot 2694

³⁹ Postiljonen 201 # 329

102742



not a first!

Reykjavik, Iceland, August 11th 1910.

lots of rain & fog this trip.
Can Riba send \$10 to Manor
Really Co, Cranford N.J. for my
August payment? I don't have
enough to spare before leaving
Hawmby - Business pretty good
so pocket refilled, but need it
to buy things with - if don't get my
wages soon. Still having good time
keep well & keep cool. I'll
be home some day. Love
to all.
Egil

Egil Jacobsen, Reykjavik

Brjatspjalda
(Carte postale.)



Mr. Clarence Williams

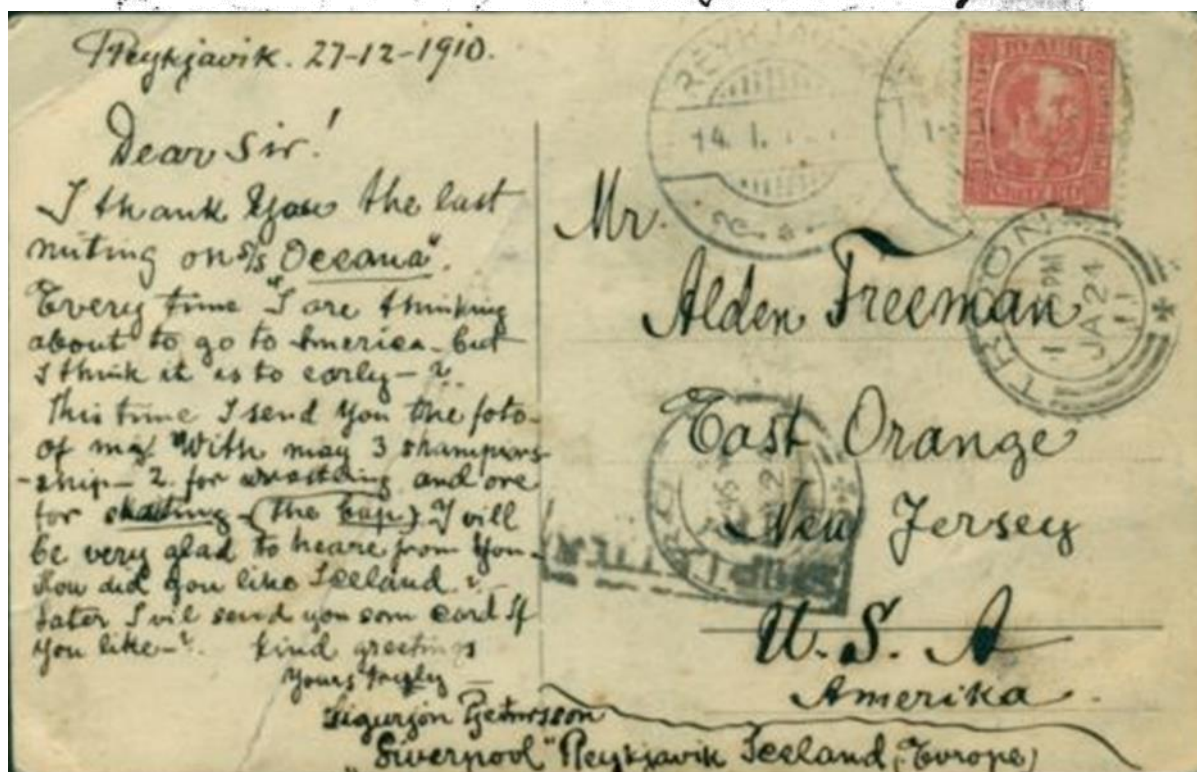
P.O. Box 1,000

New York City

U.S.A.

% L. Stans home

08.09.1910	Troon SP 15 01	
12.09.1910		Bonanza
14.01.1911 (maybe 15.01)	Troon JA 24 - CDS twin arcs, cross + FRAMED S/L	Bonanza – left on 16 th for Spain and Italy with fish ⁴⁰



⁴⁰ SHIP LETTER/TROON-Framed S/Ld mark in black ink on address side of postcard addressed to Russia from the "MARTHA D" at Reykjavik. At left is d/ring TROON/+ dated 24.1.1911. The stamp from the picture side has been removed [floated off]

04.04.1911		Patria
10.04.1911		Clar (Klar?)
15.08.1911 18.08.1911	Troon AU 25 11 CDS twin arcs, cross + FRAMED S/L	Tryg





41



42

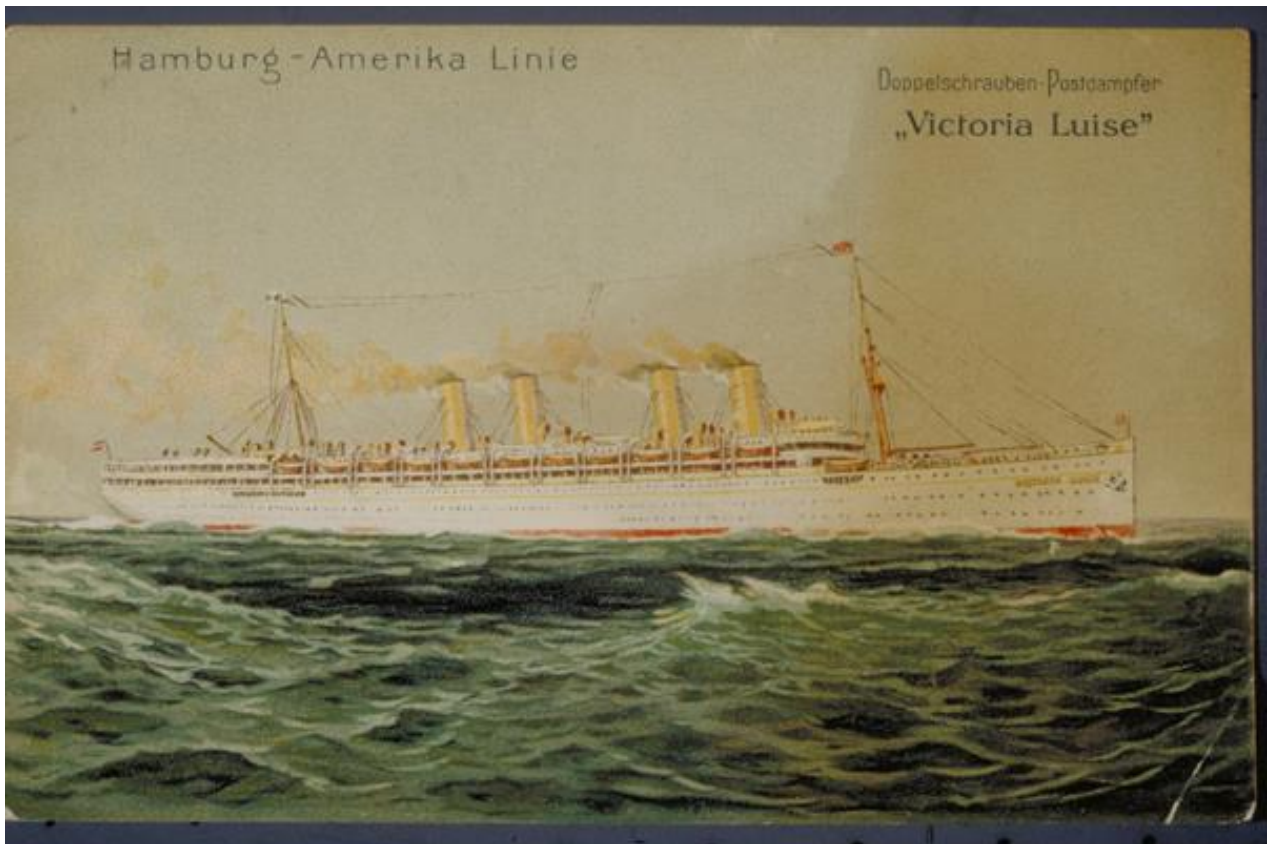
24.10.1911		Activ
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04.11.1911		
09.11.1911		Constant
05.12.1911		Constant

⁴² Postiljonen 203 #714

06.08.1912	FRAMED S/L + CDS twin arcs, cross	Victoria Luise ⁴³
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Visir 2. May 1912:

"Viktoria Luise, tourist ships from Hamburg American Line, which has been here a few times, will come two times in the summer, according to "Die Welt auf Reisen". First trip begins in Hamburg on July 2 and the ship comes back there 27 sm. The subsequent tour begins July 30 and ends on August 24. On both trips she visit Scotland, Orkney, Faroe Islands, Spitsbergen, and come in various northern ports not visited before, and then to Norway and home."⁴⁴

⁴³ Victoria Luise was originally named Deutschland but later renamed.

⁴⁴ Google and homemade translation

An Bord des Doppelschrauben-Postdampfers
"Victoria Luise"

den

6 August 1911
P. P. Meyer
König Victoria Maria
für die Zeit bei uns
den 1. und 2. August
und den 3. August
Reykjavik eingetroffen
Kapitän J. H. Himmelfarb
Lieber Herr
H. Himmelfarb

Postkarte
TROON



Herrn
H. Himmelfarb
Lieber Herr
H. Himmelfarb

MÜHMEISTER & JENSEN, NORDHOLM, Dänemark

F. 1023

Nº 1020

Wirtshaus
Brev-K

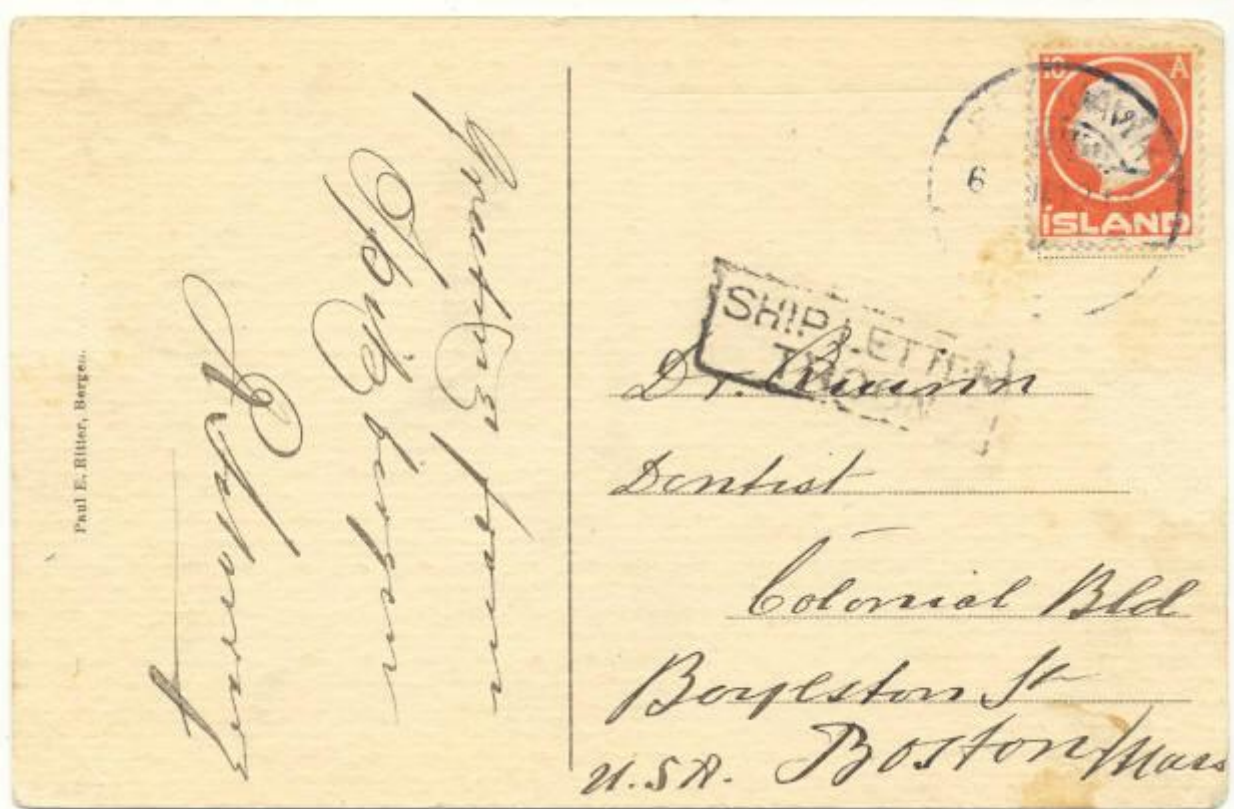


SHIP LETTER
TROON

Herrn
H. Himmelfarb
Lieber Herr
H. Himmelfarb

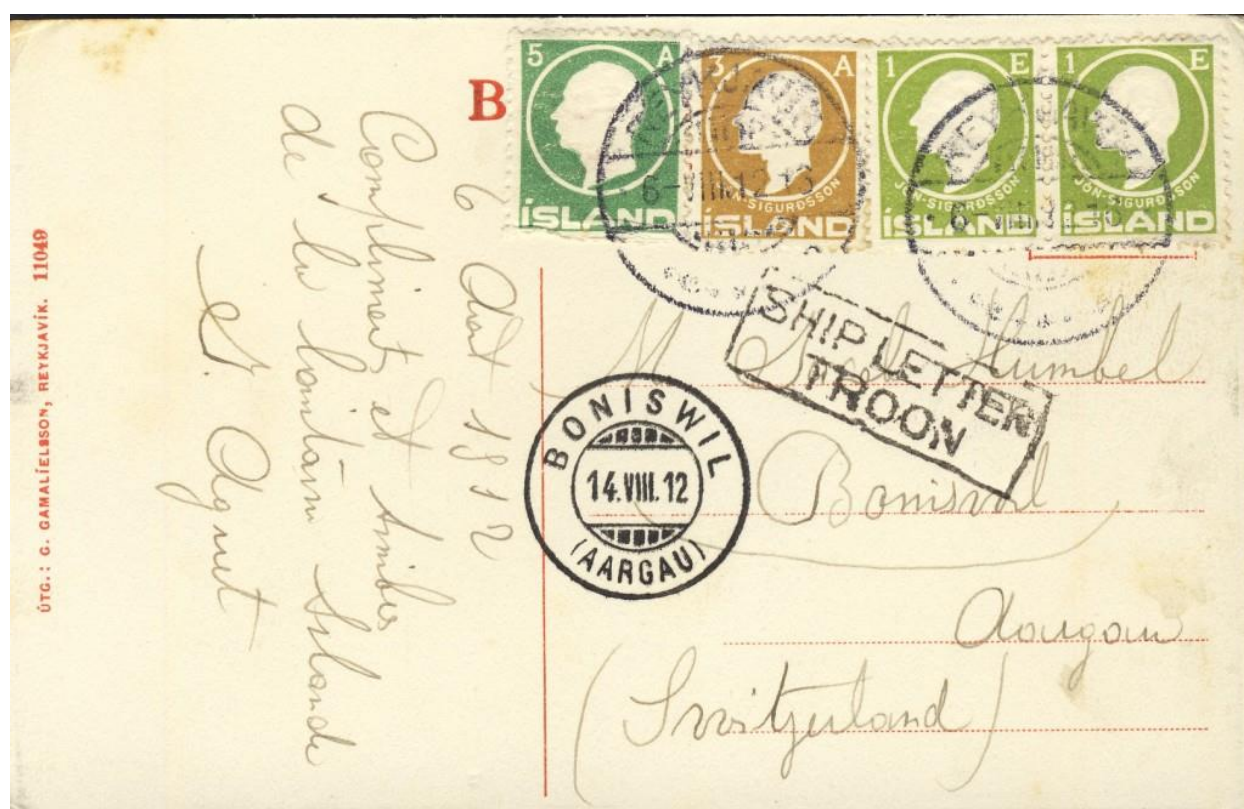
63, 70, 71

153848



45

⁴⁵ Postiljonen 231 # 338







Hamburg-Amerika Linie



Deutschland

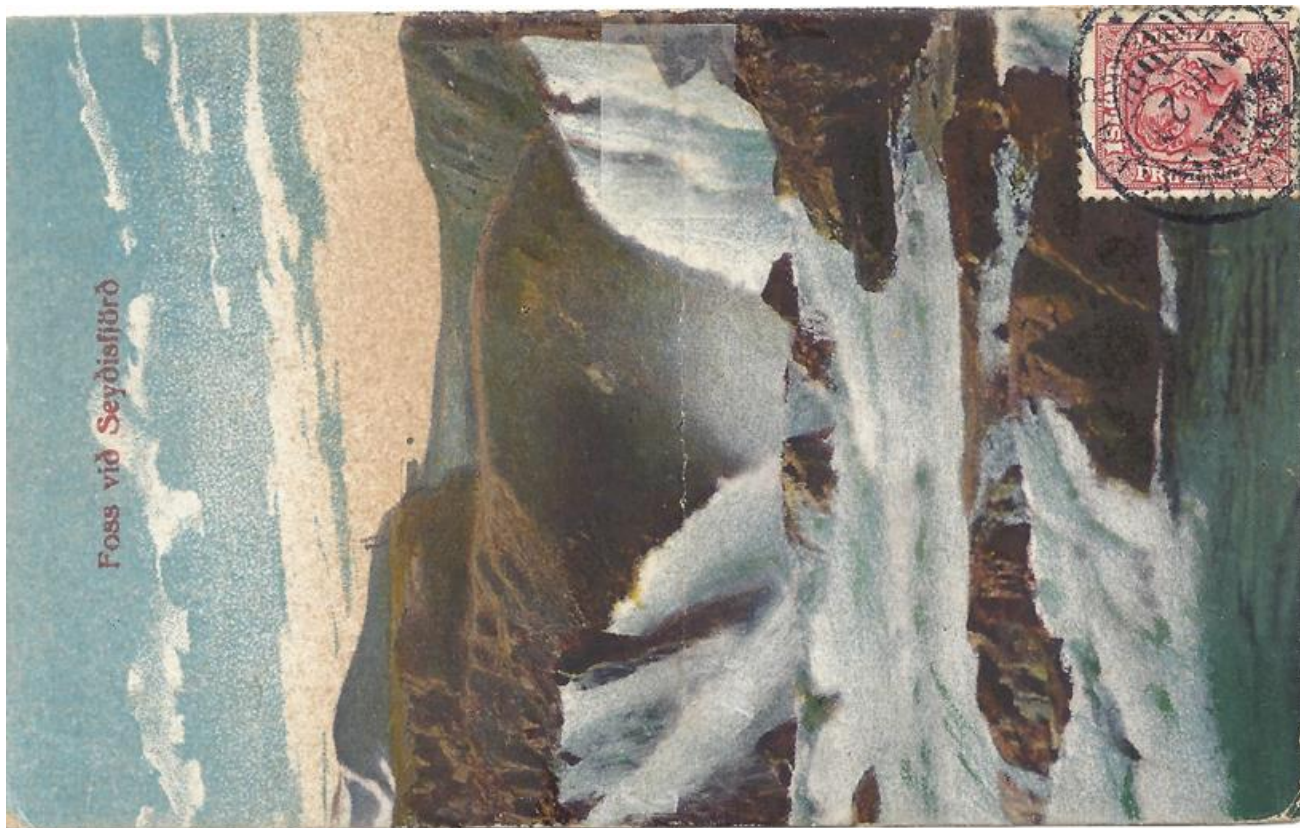
SHIP LETTER
TROON



Herrn
Richard Auehalde
Goldschmidtstrasse
Berlin N. O.
Pöthe St. 2.



CH 02





And "Victoria Luise" came from Faeroe Iceland



08.08.1912	Only FRAMED S/L	
06.11.1912		
04.10.1913	Troon 09.10.1913 CDS twin arcs, cross	
07.02.1914	Only FRAMED S/L	
07.11.1914	Only FRAMED S/L	



20.04.1915 *	Troon 1 AP 1915	
20.10.1921	Troon 24 OC 21 - (3.c)	

⁴⁷ Højland #130 2564

08.05.1923

Troon 14 MY 23 - CDS twin arcs, cross
with one arc (3.d)[illegible]

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