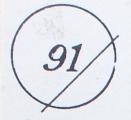
Numeral Cancellations



39





Typ/ Type la

Typ/ Type Ib

Typ/ Type Ic

Typ/ Type II

The one-circle numeral cancellations almost exclusively have been used at the smallest kind of post office, so called mail-collecting place (in Icelandic "bréfhirding"). The first ones (Nos. 1–173) were sent out in 1903 and then replaced the previous crown-cancellations, while the last ones (Nos. up to about 300) were taken in use as late as in 1945–46. As appears from the price list, many of the cancellations were used at several different post offices, in most cases depending on the office being moved or in several cases closed down, opening of new offices or the up-grading of a mail-collecting place to a secondary post office. In the list, if so has been possible, the time period for the use of the cancellation at various post offices has been given. Where only a year followed by a line is given, only the first year of use of the cancellation in question at the mail-collecting place has been possible to determine.

Information about years is based mainly on the 1973 edition of the historic list of post-offices published by the Icelandic Postal Administration. In many cases there is considerable uncertainty as to places and years. Further research is necessary. Suggestions and corrections are welcomed. The last year of use of the respective cancellation usually cannot be stated. Most of the older cancellations were withdrawn at the beginning of the 1930s, being replaced by date postmarks, but quite a few numeral cancellations have been in general use as late as in the 1950s. A dozen cancellation-stamps were still in use at the mail-collecting places as late as 1965, but these are supposed to have been withdrawn during 1966.

TYPES

The following main types exist:

Type I. Slanted numbers, height of the digits appr. 6 mm.

- Ia Diam. 22 mm. This is the first series containing one stamp each of Nos. 1–200.
- Ib Diam. 18 mm. Numbers similar to those of Type Ia. Only known with No. 39.
- Ic Diam. 22 mm. New type of numbers, particularly in the following respects:

digit "3" with rounded instead of straight upper part ("tail") digit "4" open at the top

digits "0", "6", "8" and "9" considerably thinner and more "pointed" than on Type Ia. This type includes Nos. 201–210 and replacement cancellation-stamps (for damaged or lost ones) with Nos. 32, 39, 73 and 145.

Type II. Upright numbers, height of the digits 8-9 mm. Diam. appr. 18 mm. This type includes all Nos. 211-300 as well as replacement cancellation-stamps with Nos. 82, 117, 144 and 178.

In some additional cases (e.g. No. 25) replacement stamps seem to have been made but with such small differences from the original that they are not separately entered in the price-list. Manuscript cancellations, i.e. the number written with ink on the stamp, exist from a few offices (8, 25, 36, 44, 86, 96, 148, 156, 158, 159, 160, 171, 260). Only the most well-known case, No. 148, is priced here.

As the digit "6" in Type Ia is almost identical, to a "9" turned upside-down, cancellations Nos. 6 and 9 as well as Nos. 66 and 99 can only be distinguished from each others by the somewhat different placings of the numbers within the circle. A model illustration is required.

Forgeries are known, among others of Nos. 15 and 76.

I found this information distributed across an Iceland Postmark collection that my father left so I taped it together. A spreadsheet correlating cancel numbers with their rarity would be a triumph.

