

# Iceland's NIC 167 – A New Find!

by Michael Schumacher

Having collected Iceland stamps for nearly 30 years, one area of Iceland philately that I find interesting is Iceland's NICs (number-in-circle) cancelers, as they were primarily used at remote mail collecting stations beginning in 1903. Over the course of their use – *300 numbers were used on a total of 310 cancelers, at 538 locations – 487 farm/church sites; 17 boats/ships; 31 small villages and 6 islands.* Needless to say collecting a complete set of NICs is quite a challenge and research on the subject continues to be updated.

The best resource on this topic, that I am aware of, is the two-volume set of books *Icelandic numeral cancels 1903-1960* by Brynjolfur Sigurjonsson. It provides information regarding rarity, both as to on stamps and on covers, location and time period of usage, color of ink used, etc.

According to this resource NIC 167 is known in black ink only, thus the 20 aur King Christian IX stamp **[Figure B1]** is of significant interest, in that it appears to be signed and more importantly bears a NIC 167 Iceland cancel in blue ink. That would make it the first known NIC 167 cancel in blue ink.

The 6 aur King Christian X stamp bears a black ink cancel **[Figure B2]**.

NIC 167 was used at:	Nedri-Hals	1903 – 11.10.1921
	Reynivellir	12.10.1921 – 1930
	Nedri-Hals	1950 – 1961
	Eyrarkot	1962 – 1964

The rarity of the cancel on stamps is a 3 and on cover 5.

This discovery was made as I was putting together my Iceland NICs exhibit after collecting Iceland philately for nearly 30 years. The exhibit contains just over 200 of the different NICs, primarily on stamps. It's a reasonably good start, but by far the best Iceland NICs exhibit, that I know of, is by Sveinn I. Sveinsson and I had the good fortune to see it in Iceland at the 2013 and 2018 Nordia Exhibitions.

Thanks to all of those that I have had the opportunity to learn about Icelandic philately and this new find is a way for me to contribute to the knowledge base.

Figure B1



Figure B2

# Orlando Dedicates Its New Municipal Airport

by A. Stephen Patrick



Figure B3

The cover in **Figure B3** has a simple cachet noting the Dedication of the Municipal Airport in Orlando on October 4 – 5, 1928. But the two-day celebration was one of the largest in the early history of Orlando.

On Thursday October 4, the celebration began with an Aviation Parade up Orange Avenue to Livingston and back to Eola Park. **Figure B4** is a post card look at what the route would have looked like in 1928. According to the *Orlando Sentinel*, the parade had three floats including a large Post Office truck with Uncle Sam giving air mail souvenirs and another with an airplane towed by members of the Jaycees with a boy and girl and a sign that said, “Yes sir, that’s my baby.”

Three boy bands from Eustis, Kissimmee, and the *Reporter Star* Newsboys’ Band provided music. Mayor Autrey had gotten the boys out of school, fed them sandwiches and sodas from NuGrape Bottling Co., and got them out to the airport for more performances. Doyle Carlton, the soon to be elected governor of Florida, was the main speaker.

That night there was a banquet for 150 at the Orange Court Hotel (**Figure B5**), which at four stories, had 275 rooms. The location of the Orange Court Hotel was across the street from the Sentinel (which was razed in 1990). Afterwards, there was a ball for 1,500 people in the Orlando Coliseum (built in 1926 and razed in 1972).

On Friday October 5, at the Dr. Phillips Park on Lake Underhill, 15,000 people gathered for air races, stunts, and pinpoint landings by fliers from the army, navy, marine, commercial, and private aviators. Twenty boys participated in a model airplane contest. At night there was a fireworks show and more music by the newsboys’ band, and some vaudeville entertainment.

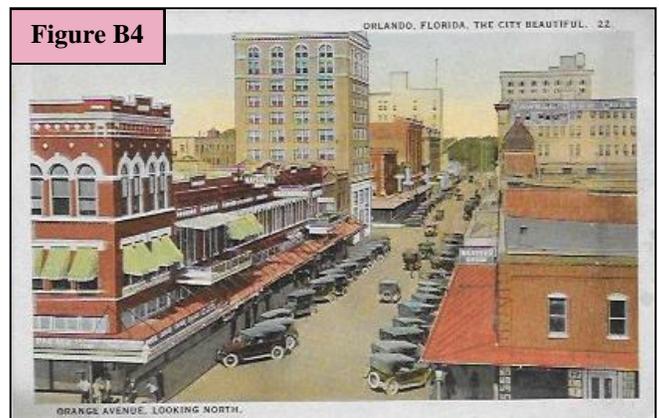


Figure B4



Figure B5

Pilot Ray of the Pitcairn Aviation Co. made a spectacular demonstration of a night landing by dropping a flare at 2,000 feet that illuminated 12 square miles so that he could easily land at the airport. Many of these activities were broadcast by WDBO radio.

That’s a lot to get from one simple cover.

\*\* Added notes.

**Figure B4:** The Aviation Parade route started at Jackson Street north to Livingston, then a turn east to Eola Park where it disbursed.

**Figure B5:** The Orange Court Hotel was built in 1924 at 650 North Orange Avenue and had the first steam heated pool in Orlando, 500 varieties of plants and a small orange grove where guests could pick fruit. It later became apartments and was razed in 1990.