



GÍSLI J. ÁSTÞÓRSSON

COMMEMORATION OF HIS CENTENARY 2023



Gísli J. Ástthórsson was born on April 5, 1923. He was known as a journalist, editor, writer, playwright, comic author and cartoonist. Gísli completed his BA degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina in USA in 1945 and was the country's first educated journalist.

He struck a new tone in journalism in this country and emphasized concise reporting independent of party politics. After completing his studies, Gísli joined Morgunblaðið, where he worked as a journalist for the next five years. He then worked at various jobs, both at sea and on land, and among other things founded and edited the newsletter Reykvíkingur, which was published bi-monthly in nine issues in 1952.

Gísli was the editor of the review Vikan from 1953-1958 and of the newspaper Alþýðublaðið from 1958-1963. It was during the

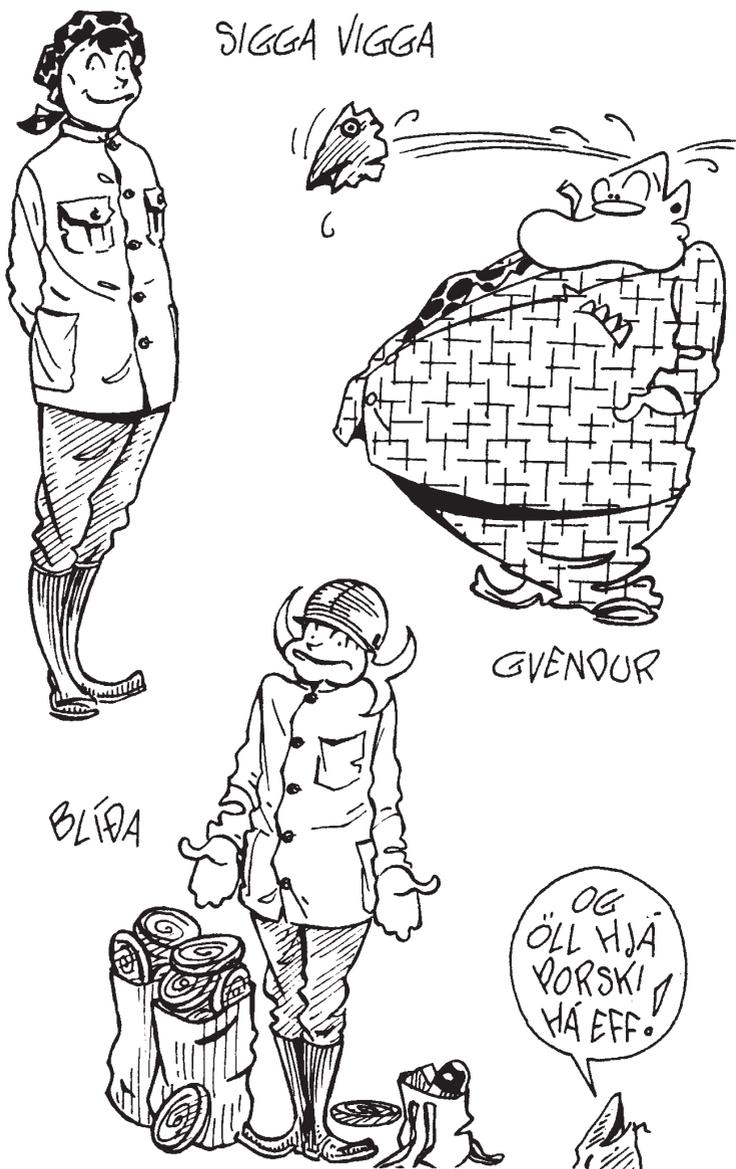
Alþýðublaðið years that his first satirical cartoons appeared at the beginning of the first cod war in 1958. His comic strip about Sigga Vigga, the fish processing girl in the rubber boots, also appeared first in Alþýðublaðið and later in Morgunblaðið and several books.

After Gísli left the editorship of Alþýðublaðið he worked for two years in the program department of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, but then turned to teaching in elementary schools. He then returned to Morgunblaðið in 1973, where he worked until 1993, when he retired due to age. It was during his years at Morgunblaðið that the satirical series “Þankastrik” first appeared but it continued in the newspaper Dagblaðið after Gísli left Morgunblaðið.

Gísli J. Ástthórsson published novels, collections of short stories and plays, as well as paperbacks with the comics about Sigga Vigga and friends. Gísli died on August 25, 2012



Gísli (to the far right) on herring in Vopnafjörður, 1963.



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Exhibition made in collaboration with the family of Gísli J. Ástþórsson
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