

# JÓNAS BLONDAL

Research

*The story of "Jónas Blondal" is not authentic, nevertheless, extensive research took place to back up the contents of the story. The writing and illustrating of this story was preceded by six months of enquiries and particularly as the plot is not authentic special importance was attached to its integration into a realistic setting.*

It is the combination of real elements with the fictional story, which helps to underline the insistence of the message. The realism in the story provides additional educational value. This is of particular importance in the case of "Jónas Blondal": The comic relates the events of 1894, but the plot has strong references to the whaling business of today. And this business is reality (please note [about the story](#) > [comic's message](#)).

The research focused on a large extent on background information about: the Icelandic culture, customs, names and outward appearance of the people, whaling on Iceland and historical whaling in general. Also on the development of whaling in our day, fishing grounds and -seasons, dates and days of the week, typical behaviour and appearance of the whales, names and places on Iceland etc.

In addition to the information taken from books, web sites, museums and an exhibition about whales (organised by "[Greenpeace](#)"), there was an opportunity to gain extra information by interviewing an inhabitant of Iceland. The Hamburg Observatory and the German Meteorological Service also freely helped out with information. Thanks also go to "[Modellbau Rettkowsky](#)" in Hamburg Altona.

The result is "Jónas Blondal", an illustrated story, with high authenticity in every detail. When therefore Coffee and "Skr" (a fermented milk product) is being consumed at the wake, or when whales "water", "breach" or are being "tied up", when the "Draug" (the Nordic equivalent of the ship's kobold), the umbrella or the binocular are mentioned, then these details are factual (for info about whaling boats, please see [about the story](#) > [the age of steamboats](#)). The days of the week and their corresponding dates from the year 1894 are correct and so are the lunar phases. On Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 1894, there really was a full moon over Iceland.

The names of the characters mentioned in the story, were chosen from a selection of 196 surnames, 10 female and 79 male first names. They are both of Norwegian and Icelandic origin. To have a pleasant ring was the main criteria for the selection and combination of the names (for more info about the names, see [special](#) > [protagonists](#)).

At the end of the comic you will find a glossary, which gives a short and concise explanation about the names and special terms used.



Museum of Hamburg History:  
Detailed models make whaling come alive (above and below).

The pictures show a harpooner standing on the fastened cadaver of a whale. While he is cutting the blubber into strips with the "flenser's knife", a winch pulls the first "horse piece" on the whaler's deck

