COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS
to be issued on May 13th 1951
ON THE 175th ANNIVERSARY
OF POSTAL SERVICE IN ICELAND
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An official Postal Service was established in Iceland on May 13th 1776 by Royal Decree. Therefore the 13th May 1951 marks the 175th anniversary of this establishment. In commemoration of this event it has been decided to issue two stamps on that day. The picture size of these stamps is $21 \times 27$ mm, perforation size $24 \times 30$ mm, and their value and quantity is 2 krónur 500 000 and 3 krónur 400 000, respectively.

The first Icelandic stamps were issued in 1872 and they were of the skilling currency, i.e. 2, 4, 8 and 16 sk. (skillingar). On Jan. 1, 1875, a new monetary unit, krónur and aurar, was introduced in Iceland. The first postage stamps of this new currency were issued on August 1, 1876, and carried the value of 5, 6, 10, 16, 20 and 40 aurar respectively.

In the aforesaid Decree instructions were given by the Government to the Governor of Iceland and the Sub-Governor of the North- and Eastdistrict to establish official postal routes to be served three times a year by carriers from the four quarters of the country to Bessastaðir, the residence of the Governor, and back to the counties, mainly to the county Bailiffs. These postal trips were to be performed about the same time as ships departed from Iceland for Copenhagen in order to ensure that letters from every part of the country could reach their destination within the shortest possible time. It was then decided that
the carriers should set off on their journeys from the different counties so that they met at Bessastaðir at the beginning of March, June and October each year. The main object in the establishing of this postal service was for official purposes, to secure that important official mail could circulate safely between the Bailiffs, the Governor and the Government in Copenhagen.

At this time all affairs relating to Iceland were divided between two governmental departments in Copenhagen, the Chancellery or "Cancelli" and the Customs and Revenue Office "Rentekammer". The first of the two dealt with all judicial matters, while the latter handled affairs pertaining to commerce, industry and communications.

About 1771 all Icelandic affairs dealt with by the Customs and Revenue Office were transferred to a new department named the Norwegian Department ("Norske Kammer"). An Icelandic, Jón Eiríksson, a legal scholar and professor at the University of Soroe and later Chief Librarian of the Royal Library at Copenhagen, was attached to this new department as Commissioner. In 1773, however, these affairs were brought back to the Customs and Revenue Office and Jón Eiríksson there assumed the duty of Commissioner and Deputy, i.e. a sort of Permanent Undersecretary of State. From then until his death in 1787, he was a leading personality in all affairs concerning Iceland.

The highest authority residing in Iceland at the time was the Governor, who at the same time was also functioning as Sub-Governor of the South and West District. He was the King's representative and in direct connection with the governmental departments in Copenhagen.

On the 17th June, 1944, Iceland became an independent Republic.
For the attention of customers.

Customers are requested to send payment plus postage with their Orders by International Postal Orders or by Checks payable through banks in Great Britain, U. S. A., Denmark, Norway or Sweden. The amount can also be paid to the account of:

„Direction Générale des Postes d’Islande“ at the following Banks:

- Privatbanken A/S, Børsgade 4, Köbenhavn K.
- Bergens Privatbank, Kirkegaten 23, Oslo.
- Skandinaviska Banken A/B, Stockholm, 16.

or at the Icelandic Legation in each of these cities.

The rate of exchange is at present:

- 1 £ .................. Icelandic kr. 45.60
- 1.00 Dan. kr. .......... — — 2.36
- 1.00 Norweg. kr. ...... — — 2.28
- 1.00 Swed. kr. .......... — — 3.15
- 1.00 U. S. A. $ ....... — — 16.30

Customers may obtain information beforehand of any new issue (new printing or overprints). As orders from far-away places do not always reach this Office before the day of issue it may be mentioned that several amongst our customers have a standing order of all new issues and „first day covers“ to be shipped on the day of issue. In order to do so they have to advance some amounts necessary to meet with the expenses each time.