Reykjavik, March 25th 1959

The Icelandic Post- and Telegraph Administration will on May 5th 1959 issue two new postage stamps commemorating the 200th death anniversary of Jón Perkelsson rektor of Skálholt.

Jón Perkelsson (Johannes Thorkillius) headmaster of Skálholt was born in 1697, died 5th May 1759. Graduated from Skálholt college 1715 and from the University of Copenhagen as a theologian 1721. Was abroad until 1728, for instance at Kiel in Germany. 1728—1737 he was headmaster of Skálholt, but at the end of that period he returned to Copenhagen.

He travelled around Iceland as an assistant to L. Harboe, later bishop of Zealand, who was sent to investigate the national church and school affairs and to present proposals accordingly to the government. Jón Perkelsson had been the originator of this investigation being made. The proposals of L. Harboe and Jón Perkelsson concerned certain restoration of culture, e.g. changing the form of the Latin College and promotion of public education.

Jón Perkelsson died single and childless and gave all his possessions, which were considerable, to school education in the county of Kjalarnes for poor and orphaned children. He was a great scholar, composed Latin poems, translated and composed many hymns, apart from historical writing, mostly in Latin. He was most energetic about public education in Iceland, as can be seen when he left all his possessions after his death to educate poor and orphaned children.

Jón Perkelsson is considered one of the promoters of Icelandic culture in the 18th century.

The design of the stamps is done by the firm of Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd., London according to a drawing of a statue by Rikarður Jónsson, Reykjavik. — The engraving and printing in Single Direct Plate in sheets of 50 stamps is done by Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd. The stamps will be valid for postage until December 31st 1960.
Official First Day Covers will be available at an extra charge of 1 kr. Orders for First Day Covers must be received not later than one week before the day of issue.

Customers are requested to send payment plus postage and registration fee 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 PTT POSTES" at the following banks:
- Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 140 Broadway, New York
- Bergens Privatbank, Kirkegatan 23, Oslo,
- Skandinaviska Banken, Stockholm 16.
- Privatbanken A/S, Köbenhavn, Borsgade 4, Konto 8679.

Note: Payment permit must be obtained from "Directoratet for varelorsyning" in order for payments through Privatbanken A/S. Icelandic currency or stamps are not accepted as payment for foreign orders.

The rate of exchange, plus premium, is at present:

1 U.S.A.$ ............... Icelandic kr. 25.27
1 £ .................... — — — 70.68
1 Norwegian kr. .... — — — 3.53
1 Swedish kr. ......... — — — 4.88
1 Danish kr. .......... — — — 3.66

Respectfully,

Direction Générale des Postes.
et des Télégraphes

FRIMERKJASALAN