



A greeting from the President of Iceland

In 1918, Iceland achieved a great victory in its campaign for independence. That year, it entered into a personal union with Denmark, becoming a free and sovereign state. The Danish king remained the head of state in Iceland, but the final goal of full independence was now within sight and the way we approached it was under our control. It is fitting and gratifying to see that the centenary of our sovereignty is being celebrated in a significant way at Nordia 2018, the Nordic Stamp Exhibition. Stamps retell history in their own way: in them we can find images and symbols of our independence, our culture and how we used to live and work. Many of them commemorate important events in the history of our nation.

I welcome all collectors and other philatelic enthusiasts to this Nordic Stamp Exhibition. Garðabær, where it is being held on this occasion, is where I grew up, and Bessastaðir, the presidential residence, lies in the same municipal area. It is interesting to note that President Ásgeir Ásgeirsson attended the first Nordia exhibition to be held in Iceland just on 60 years ago.

Though we live in a time of rapid change and technological innovation, we can still expect new stamps to appear. We must hope that they will continue to tell the story of our country and its people, and also that collectors will go on meeting and talking about their passion. I am pleased that we are hosting this Nordia exhibition, a manifestation of Nordic cooperation and the bonds of friendship that link our nations.

Guðni Th. Jóhannesson