

IRISH PHILATELY

JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE



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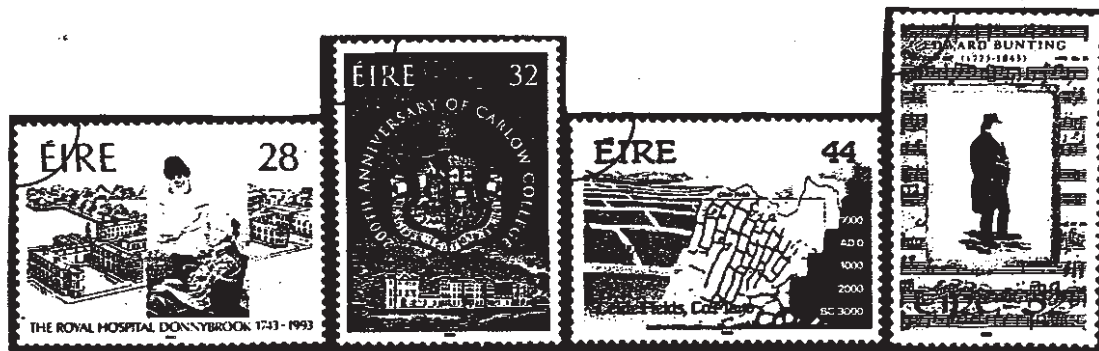


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The latest issue from An Post - Thursday, September 2nd and below the 'Burren Selection Pack'.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROUND TABLES HANDSTAMP

Cartherine Murphy's query in a recent JOURNAL regarding a commemorative handstamp with what appeared to be a dartboard, emanating from Dun Leary and dated July 4th, 1975 - see illustrations - bore many responses from readers.

Suffice to say that the cancellation was used in the temporary post office in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, and was used for use on the mail posted at the International Convention of the National Association of Round Tables of Great Britain and Ireland.

The illustrations are from a previous issue of IRISH PHILATELY (!) and thanks for same to Brain Warren.



The cancellation used in the temporary post office in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire was for the cancellation of mail posted at the International Convention of the National Association of Round Tables of Great Britain and Ireland.

from IP, page 67, September 197

AN UNUSUAL COLLECTING THEME

by A.W. Graham

The collecting of postage stamps as well as commemorative and other handstamps has as such few bounds. The scope is wide and the choice of what to collect is very much a personal matter. Several items, all emanating from Northern Ireland, are herewith discussed and illustrated. These may be of interest to those who, like myself take a delight in obscure but nonetheless connected postmarks. It is an interesting lateral exercise thinking to find them for commemorative postage stamps of Great Britain but restricting the choice of post office handstamps to the six hundred and ninety which remain open in the north of Ireland. The July 1986 Royal Wedding of Andrew and Sarah was commemorated philatelically with a stamp issue. This was released in July of that year. They were created Baron and Baroness Killyleagh on their wedding.



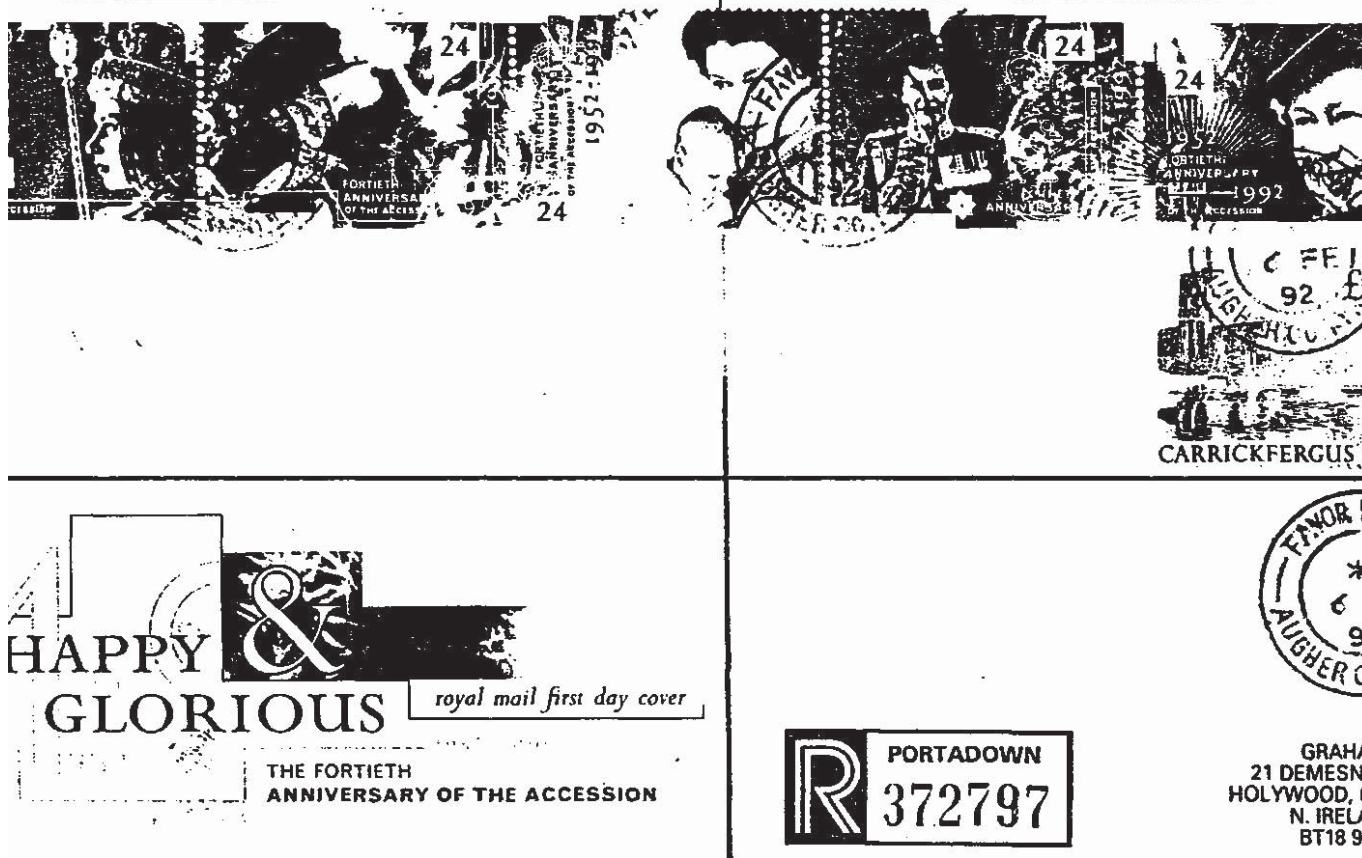
The Royal Wedding Issue of July 1986 cancelled by the KILLYLEAGH/DOWNPATRICK handstamp of July 23rd, 1986.

The above illustrated cover is not strictly a first day cover as these stamps were issued on July 22nd. However I am not sure either when Andrew and Sarah became Baron and Baroness Killyleagh. This title may well have been assumed when they were married - on July 23rd, the date of the postmark on the cover. The cover is not registered and therefore I believe that technically the postmaster acted 'contrary to regulations' when applying the handstamp. Only a dozen or so covers were serviced by the postmaster at Killyleagh on the day and as such remain somewhat unique! Another unusual cover is illustrated on the following page. The handstamp is that of FAVOR ROYAL / AUGHER Co. TYRONE. The town is named after a grant of land given by ROYAL FAVOUR in the aftermath of the Ulster Plantation in the seventeenth century. For some obscure reason the antique spelling of 'favor' for 'favour' was retained and is of course seen on the handstamp

itself.

This has lead to some inevitable confusion over the actual name of the Post Office.

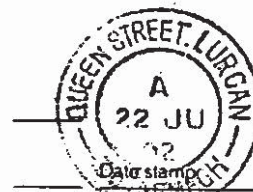
The local townland and surrounding hinterland are named FAVOUR ROYAL and appear thus named on Ordnance Survey maps. The Post Office appears on listings from 1875/77.



The FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACCESSION issue, February 6th, 1992, on registered cover with the £1 CARRICKFERGUS CASTLE stamp, all tied by the FAVOR ROYAL / AUGHER Co. TYRONE double ring handstamp.

For aficionados of connected ROYAL postmarks this FAVOR ROYAL handstamp is one of the few that remains of such Post Offices in the North of Ireland. The QUEENS SQUARE BO BELFAST closed in the early 'thirties and NORTH QUEEN STREET BELFAST was closed for business on January 10th, 1990.

QUEEN STREET. LURGAN / Co. ARMAGH & QUEEN STREET LURGAN / CRAIGAVON closed in June 1992 to be replaced by the less exciting BANBRIDGE RD. / LURGAN CRAIGAVON which opened on July 1st of that year.



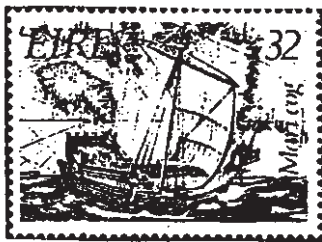
ent them in the order listed.
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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 1992

by Brian Warren

Thankfully there were no new products or any general increase in postal rates (except parcels) during 1992. The only significant development was the decision to install on a permanent basis ATM Frama machines at nine locations throughout the country.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES



The 1992 programme comprising 29 sheet stamps, 1 miniature sheet and 2 booklets was issued over 8 release dates at a cost of IR£19.40. Three of the sheet stamps were issued in sheetlet form with a total retail cost of IR£10.96. The 1991 totals were 30 sheet stamps, 1 miniature sheet and 2 booklets at a cost of IR£19.38; three of the sheet stamps were issued in sheetlet form with a total retail cost of IR£10.96.

Date of Issue	Description	Value	Plate Numbers and Notes	Paper & Gum
28 Jan	Love Stamps (8th Issue)	- Concentric hearts 28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
		- Rainbow 32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
25 Feb	Slí na Sláinte (In the Way of Health)	28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
25 Feb	Olympic Games (Barcelona)	- Boxing 32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
		- Sailing 44p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
		- Miniature sheet IR£1.52	Two sets se-tenant	CCP1
2 Apr	Galway Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bicentenary)	28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
2 Apr	Irish Maritime Heritage	- Mari Cog 32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
		- Ovoca 52p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
2 Apr	Greetings Booklet (4 x 28p plus 4 x 32p)	IR£2.40	Two panes	CCP3
14 May	Europa - Discovery of Americas (32nd Issue)	- Ships 32p	} Sheetlets of ten with side panel	CCP1
		- Landing party 44p		CCP1
14 May	Impact of the Irish Abroad - Americas (3rd Issue)	- se-tenant 2 x 52p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1

Date of Issue	Description	Value	Plate Numbers and Notes	Paper & Gum
9 July	Fauna & Flora - Pine Marten - Adult pair (15th Issue)	28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
	- Adults on branch	32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
	- Female with kittens	44p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
	- Adult with prey	52p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
2 Sept	Trinity College, Dublin - Old Library (400th Anniversary)	32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
	- Front Gate	52p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
2 Sept	James Malton's Views of Dublin - Rotunda (200th Anniversary)	28p	1A1A1A1A1A1A/ 1B1B1B1B1B1B	CCP1
	- Charlemont House	44p	1A1A1A1A1A1A/ 1B1B1B1B1B1B	CCP1
15 Oct	Ireland Series -se-tenant (13th Issue - Food & Farming)	4 x 32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
15 Oct	Single European Market - Sheet Stamp	32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1
	- Prestige Booklet	IR£4.80	15 x 32p (4 panes)	CCP1
19 Nov	Christmas (22nd Issue) - Annunciation	28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
	- Adoration of the Shepherds	32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
	- Adoration of the Magi	52p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
	- Rural Churchyard	IR£3.36	Sheetlet (13 x 28p)	CCP3

All stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited and perforated 14 x 14 3/4 (vertical format) or 14 3/4 x 14 (horizontal format) unless otherwise stated. Except as indicated below, all full sized sheets contain 50 stamps in the usual 10 x 5 or 5 x 10 format with plate numbers at top left ("A" or "B"), colour checks at top right and imprint at bottom left.



Olympic Games: The miniature sheet contains two of each value - same perforation and paper as sheet issues.

Greetings Booklet: The two pane booklet contains four 28p and four 32p stamps. The stamps show various country scenes - Gull and coastal cliffs (28p I), Mountain and meadow flowers (28p II), Fuchsias, honeysuckle and stylised butterfly (32p I), Pond and stylised dragonfly (32p II). Each stamp has two greetings labels attached and the outer edges of the panes are imperforate.

Two stamps have an imperforate right edge giving a total of six different stamps. The stamps were only available in booklets.

Pane 1: 32p I, 32p II, 28p I, 28p II (right margin imperforate);
Pane 2: 28p I, 28p II, 32p I, 32p II (right margin imperforate).

Each pane is rouletted in the left binding margin and stitched into the covers.

Europa: The stamps were printed in the usual sheetlet format comprising ten stamps with illustrated side panels. The side panels are imperforate, all other margins are perforated. Sheetlets have an imprint and colour controls but no plate numbers. The illustrated panels feature the Arms of Spain and Ferdinand with Arms (32p) and the Irish cross and fleet with fearful Lucayans (44p).

Impact of the Irish Abroad: The two 52p stamps in this biennial series were printed in se-tenant pairs, the sheet format being 50 (25 pairs) in two panes of 25 stamps separated by a gutter. Pane 1 contains thirteen of one design and twelve of the second design with the sequence reversed in pane 2. The exhibition logo of "World Columbian Stamp Expo '92" held in Chicago (22-31 May) was printed throughout the gutter; the logo exists on all sheets and not only on sheets sold at the exhibition. The stamps measure 44mm x 28mm and are perf. 13½.

Fauna & Flora: The endangered Pine Marten stamps were issued in association with World Wide Fund for Nature and include the Panda device and the WWF initials, the official authorised logo of the organisation. Ignoring crests, flags and the Europa symbol this appears to be a first on Irish stamps.

Trinity 400: The sheets did not have gutters contrary to the notice in the bureau's Philatelic Bulletin. The stamps measure 28mm x 44mm and are perf. 13½.



Food & Farming: The Food & Farming set was printed in sheets of 40 with two panes of 20 stamps separated by a gutter. Each pane contains five se-tenant strips of the four 32p stamps which form a composite design. As a result, all gutter pairs are of stamps 4 + 1.

Single European Market - Prestige Booklet: There are four illustrated panes of stamps and eight pages of bilingual text. The make-up of each pane is as follows:-

Pane 1: Block of four;
Pane 2: Four stamps set out as single stamps;
Pane 3: Horizontal strip of three stamps; and
Pane 4: Two separated vertical pairs.

All stamps are the same size and perforation as the sheet stamps, although the background blue colour appears to be of a slightly lighter shade. No rouletting in the binding margins of the panes which are stitched into the covers.

Christmas Sheetlet: The 13 stamps plus 2 labels are set out in three rows of five stamps/labels (as in 1991). Sheetlets have an imprint but no plate numbers or colour controls and are perforated through both left and right margins. The stamps were only sold in complete sheetlets (as with all previous Christmas sheetlets) and the price of IR£3.36 gives one free stamp.

DEFINITIVES



Sheet Issues: Two new sheet values were released on 14 May - 40p (G.B. non POP letter rate) and 45p (airletter rate). There were also three further new printings including one new plate combination on the 2p.

Value	Plates	Issue Date	Format	Paper/Gum	Design
2p	1A2A/1B2B	August 92	V	CCP3	Silver Kite Brooch
5p	1A1A/1B1B	May 92	V	CCP1	Dunamase Food Vessel
20p	1A1A/1B1B	March 92	H	CCP1	Gold Dress Fastener
40p	1A1A/1B1B	14 May 92	V	CCP1	Gleninsheen Collar
45p	1A1A/1B1B	14 May 92	V	CCP1	Silver Thistle Brooch

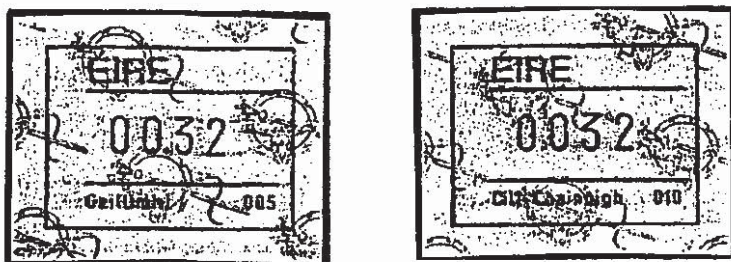
All sheet printings were by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. Perforations 14 x 14 3/4 (20p) and 14 3/4 x 14 (others). The above issues/printings give four new singles - 5p, 20p, 40p & 45p (all CCP1).

IR£1 Booklet: The cover of the third Irish Heritage and Treasures machine and counter booklet depicts the St. Patrick's Bell Shrine as featured on the IR£5 definitive. The contents and layout are the same as the previous booklet issued in May 1991. Both cover and contents continue to be printed by Enschedé in Holland with the stamps once again in photogravure. Paper/Gum: FCP/PVA. The incorrect spelling of "circa" on the inside of the front cover has been corrected but the rates panel on the back cover still refers to 1 April 1991 as being the operative date instead of 2 April. The contents and layout are the same as the 1991 booklet (4p x 2; 28p and 32p x 2).

32p Self-adhesive: The 100 stamp rolls have proved to very popular and a new printing became available in July. The new rolls contain two "reminder labels" located 20 stamps and 10 stamps from the end of each roll. The red line at the end of each roll is thus no longer printed on the reverse of the backing paper. The bureau sell a pair of stamps with each of the reminder labels @ 64p each. The new printing appears to have been printed on a different paper as individual stamps have a different UV reaction as compared to the original.

The first issue has a dull slightly orange luminescent glow whereas the new printing gives a white reaction.

ATM POSTAGE LABELS

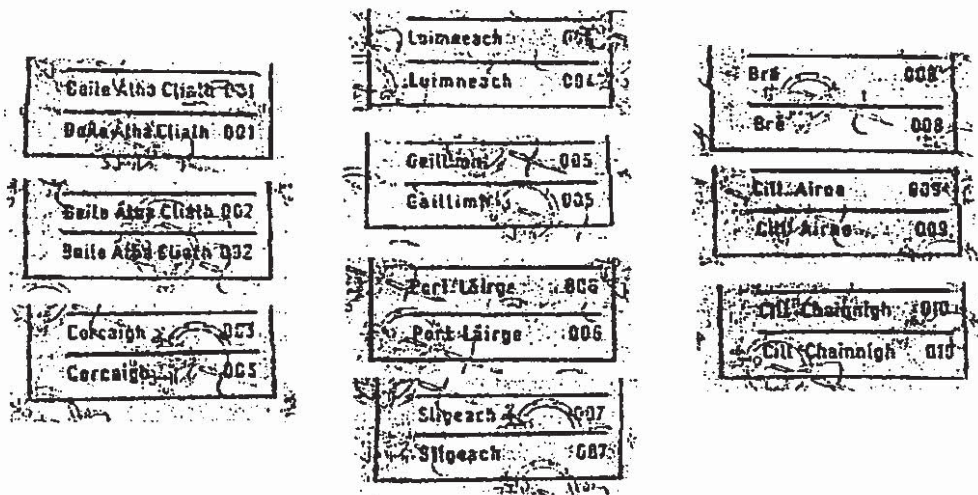


The Swiss made Frama machines were introduced on a permanent basis commencing with four locations on 6 April with further additions on 20 July and 7 September (my birthday !). A total of ten machines have now been installed at nine main post office locations in major cities/towns as follows:-

Location	Machine No.	Date of Installation
Dublin	001	6 April
Dublin	002	7 September
Cork	003	6 April
Limerick	004	6 April
Galway	005	6 April
Waterford	006	7 September
Sligo	007	20 July
Bray	008	20 July
Killarney	009	20 July
Kilkenny	010	7 September

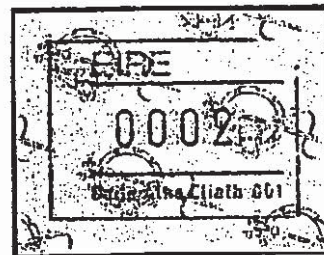
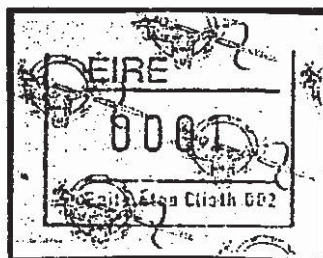
Each machine is located inside each post office and dispenses labels of any value from 1p to IR£99.99 which are unique to each machine indicating the place and machine number as listed above. The machine cliché applies a red impression on a preprinted roll of paper which bears a grey illustration of the Tara Brooch in continuous format on a dull stone coloured background. The overall size of the label measures approx 40mm x 32.5 mm (1,500 per roll). The preliminary designs as illustrated in the bureau's bulletin for the 1991 Fishing Fleet issue were far better, both in layout and choice of background colour. I have noted in all cases that it is possible to differentiate the labels distributed by the bureau from labels printed by the actual machines. The bureau labels are produced from separate clichés which differ slightly in all cases. The most identifiable and collectable difference is on the Dublin 001 label. The actual machine label has the correct acute accent over the A of Atha. However on the bureau label the accent on the A is incorrectly shown as grave (À). The Dublin 002 label has a similar difference. The accent is acute in both cases but the actual machine label has a smaller A in Atha as compared to the bureau label. - see illustrations on next page.

The remaining labels (apart from Bray and Kilkenny) can be readily differentiated by reference to the length/spacing of the lettering of each city/town designation and machine numeral. The spacing between the city/town name and numeral also differs in some cases as tabulated overleaf. In the case of the bureau labels for both Bray and Kilkenny the town designation is set slightly to the right by reference to the upper horizontal line.



Labels from actual machines (top example in each case) as compared with bureau examples - see table below for measurements in millimetres.

EX. ACTUAL MACHINE					EX. BUREAU				
Location (No.)	City/Town	Gap	No.	Total	City/Town	Gap	No.	Total	
Dublin (001)	19.25	1.75	3.25	24.25	18.50	2.50	3.25	24.25	
Dublin (002)	19.00	1.50	3.75	24.25	19.00	1.50	3.75	24.25	
Cork (003)	10.00	10.50	3.50	24.00	10.25	10.00	3.75	24.00	
Limerick (004)	11.75	8.75	3.50	24.00	12.75	7.50	3.75	24.00	
Galway (005)	9.50	11.00	3.75	24.25	10.25	10.00	4.00	24.25	
Waterford (006)	13.25	7.00	4.00	24.25	14.00	6.75	3.75	24.50	
Sligo (007)	9.75	10.75	3.75	24.25	10.25	10.25	3.75	24.25	
Bray (008)	3.75	16.75	3.75	24.25	3.50	17.00	3.75	24.25	
Killarney (009)	11.50	8.75	3.75	24.00	11.75	8.75	3.75	24.25	
Kilkenny (010)	16.50	4.50	3.25	24.25	16.50	4.50	3.25	24.25	



I have also noted examples of labels from the Dublin 001 machine with the frame line partially missing in the top right corner and from the Dublin 002 machine with the top frame line completely missing. In both cases the inking is weak.

FIRST DAY COVERS, CANCELLATIONS AND MAXIMUM CARDS



Stampa '92



Stampa '92

FDC's cost 18p. Special covers were available for all special, commemorative and definitive issues (including the Greetings panes). The same special cover was used for the Galway Chamber and Maritime Heritage stamps issued on 2 April. The Trinity 400 and Malton stamps were also placed on the same special cover. Pictorial cancels were available at the usual locations. Adapted versions of the Food & Farming and Single European Market cancels were available at Stampa. The word "Stampa" was added at the foot of the postmark. Similar adapted cancels were available at Stampex (London) for the Olympic Games and Slí na Sláinte issues - see also notes under Exhibition Souvenirs.

A new general purpose cover featuring flying envelopes was introduced for the Frama issues. Special first day postmarks were available at each Frama location for their respective issue. A special cover illustrating the machine as used for the initial experimental issue in 1990 would have been appropriate given that it could be used for all locations and future design changes. I understand that this new general purpose cover will be used for mixed commemorative/special releases in future.

A set of four maximum cards (17p each) was available for the Fauna & Flora (Pine Marten) set. The cards are very attractive and are by far the best set issued by An Post to date.

BOOKS AND PRESENTATION PACKS

4 May - Maritime Heritage Book: The book is slightly larger in format than the Year Books. The book contains the four Maritime Fishing Fleet stamps issued last year, the two 1992 Maritime Heritage stamps and the Olympic Sailing stamp. Cost IR£20. Face value of stamps - IR£2.84. A rather unusual promotional leaflet was produced for this book which incorporated a Postage Paid back page for posting to subscribers and a freepost reply envelope for returning your order. The Postage Paid imprint has "Postas Iochta" instead of the correct spelling "Postas Iochta".

24 September - 1991/92 Year Book: Each book contains all special and commemorative stamps from the the three stamps issued on 2 July 1991 (Costello/Parnell/United Irishmen) to the Europa/Discovery of the Americas sets issued in May 1992. A total of 28 sheet stamps, 1 miniature sheet plus one of the Greetings booklet panes - face value IR£13.18. Both the Olympic single set and the miniature sheet are included. A black print of the two Europa stamps is also included. Total printing of 5,500 ordinary copies (IR£25) plus 300 leather bound editions (IR£100). A similar leaflet incorporating a Postage Paid back page and a freepost reply envelope was used for this book. Once again the imprint reads "Postas Iochta".

27 November - 1992 Year Pack: The Year pack contains one each of the special and commemorative stamps issued during the year including the 28p Christmas sheetlet stamp but excluding the Greetings stamps. Sold at face value of contents - IR£10.68.

POSTAL STATIONERY AND GREETING CARDS

Peel out this section and apply to item to be posted

SWIFTPOST

Priority Tosaíocht
SPA B10767

Receipt Admháil
SPA B10767

Hand this portion in with item

Date and office of issue is as shown with this datestamp.
Léiríonn an dát stampa seo an dáta agus an oifig eisiúna

DATE STAMP

Destination: _____ Time: _____

Hand item over post office counter See back for conditions

Inland
label/receipt

20 January - Swiftpost: The Express letter service both nationally and internationally was replaced by a new priority letter service, Swiftpost, on 20 January. Swiftpost items must be handed in at post offices and the service incorporates a preprinted proof of posting certificate. A two part label is available for use with customers' own envelopes. The left hand side is self-adhesive and is attached to the cover and the remaining section is datestamped and retained by the sender. All labels are pre-numbered with separate designs for the inland (incl. N. Ireland) and international (incl. G.B.) services. The labels prepay the Swiftpost charges of IR£1 and IR£2 respectively which are in addition to postage which must be prepaid by use of stamps etc. in the usual manner. The previous minimum Express letter charge was 70p. Vertical blue lines should also be added as before although given the size (46mm x 82mm) and design impact of the labels this appears superfluous.

The international service also offers two sizes of prenumbered and prepaid envelopes - C5 (230mm x 165mm) and C4 (330mm x 230mm). The cost of the C5 envelope (IR£3) includes the Swiftpost fee plus airmail postage up to 100grms. The larger C4 envelope (IR£5) includes both fee and airmail postage up to 250grms. The proof of posting receipt is incorporated as a tear-off item attached to the envelope flap. The envelopes appear to represent good value for the maximum weight limits as the equivalent cost if ordinary stationery is

used is currently IR£4.48 (100grms) and IR£7.78 (250grms) - both inclusive of the IR£2 Swiftpost fee. Unfortunately, the envelopes are very flimsy and of poor quality and would likely tear if they contain heavy bulky documents. Postage in excess of the weight limits must be prepaid by additional stamps.

The various fees and costs are lower in some cases as compared to the advance notice given in the bureau bulletin for the 1991 Maritime issue. Special envelopes for use in the inland service were not issued.

18 February - St. Patrick's Day Cards: Four postcard designs were available with the usual prepaid shamrock imprint - (1) Tara Brooch; (2) Mantlepiece & Table; (3) Viking Ship & Fish; and (4) Cartoon shamrock (35p per card). The cartoon shamrock is a repeat of a design used in 1989. Three greeting cards similar to the cards first introduced for Christmas 1991 were also sold complete with prepaid envelope - (1) Dove of Peace; (2) Sceilig Mhichil, Co. Kerry; and (3) Historic sites (60p each). The envelope is the same as the Christmas 1991 inland design. The envelopes for this and later issues were not sold separately but were prepaid worldwide. The dove design on one of the cards is similar to one utilised on one of the 1988 postcards. Usual green first day of issue cancel available from the philatelic bureau for the postcards. Known used on the greeting card envelopes.

20 March - Easter Greetings Cards: Three different greetings cards were available complete with the same postage paid white envelope as previous issues (60p per card).

July - Bureau de Change Postcard: In order to promote their Bureau de Change services, An Post printed a special leaflet which was freely available at most offices which provided such services. The leaflet urged visitors to post cards etc. home and listed the main overseas rates. It also offered and illustrated a pack of five cards which could be claimed on presentation of the leaflet when completing a foreign currency transaction. The undenominated postcard illustrates Sceilig Mhichil, Co. Kerry; the same design was used on one of the larger St Patrick's Greeting Cards issued in February. The card is unstamped and the pack of five has a plain wrapper band "With/Our Compliments/Bureau de Change". The earliest date recorded is 6 July, but the card may have been available earlier.

14 September - Grandparents' Day Postcards: Four undenominated cards were issued well in advance of the actual day (26 September). All designs refer to "Grandparents" this year. The cards were pre-released in G.P.O. Dublin the previous Thursday 10 September. No advance notice. No charge.

15 October - Exhibition Cards: Issued on the opening day of Stampa, the 1992 set is on the theme of "70 Years of Irish Postage Stamps" and are similar to the 1991 design format. Each card reproduces prior stamp issues - 2p Map (15th), Commemorative Firsts (16th), Children's Art (17th) and Single European Market (18th). The cards bear a printed 32p Single European Market stamp. There were matching postmarks for each day as indicated above. In addition the Single European Market FDI cancel could be used on October 15th. Cost 32p per card.

15 October - Oireachtas Postcard: This extra large undenominated postcard (235mm x 118mm) was also released on the opening day of Stampa and continued the "European" theme - "Gaelachas ina Eorpachas" ("Irish Culture as European"). The 1992 Oireachtas was held in Dingle (23-26 October). The postcard features Irish and European writers associated with the region and commemorates the contribution to the Blasket literary heritage of Norway's

Carl Marstrander and Britain's Robin Flower, Kenneth Jackson and George Thomson. No charge.

16 November - Christmas Greetings Cards: A set of six different cards complete with postage paid envelopes was sold for IRE£3.75. The postage paid imprint on all envelopes issued in conjunction with the three greeting card releases of 1992 is Type 1 as referred to below.



Type 1 - Modern "a"



Type 2 - Roman "a"



Type A



Type B

Ordinary Postage Paid Envelopes (Reprints): In my 1991 article, I referred to various reprints of the regular postage paid envelope. Three further printings have been noted as follows:-

1. Same as original printing with Type I Postage Paid imprint and Type A "Glenmalure" in brown. However, the envelope is on the lighter white paper as compared to the coarse cream paper of the original issue.
2. Type B "Glenmalure" with white frame line added; the inside of the envelope is in light brown. The outside of the envelope is on the light white paper. Imprint remains Type I. The inscription on the flap is known with a misprinted "n" in the word "return".
3. Type 1 Postage Paid imprint and Type A "Glenmalure" in dark blue on white paper. The boxed "Glenmalure" with no frame line is repositioned with three lines of "Glenmalure" above the box (instead of one). The wording and lines are also more distinct.

Nos. 1 & 2 date from 1990. No. 3 was first noted in October 1992.

There is one further difference between the two Postage Paid imprints not referred to in my previous article. A different typeface has been used and as a result the style/shape of the letter "a" differs. The imprints on other stationery items e.g. postcards, letter cards and registered envelopes have a typeface with an "a" as Type I. Changes could occur as new stocks of other stationery items are reprinted.

PostAim Envelope (Reprint): First issued on 2 April 1991, this envelope is used exclusively for Direct Mail advertising. In December 1992, I received my first example of a direct mail shot which utilised this envelope. I noted one difference - inside the original envelope there was a printed repeating diagonal design - "Autofil" - whereas the latest envelope has no internal printing. The reprint may have been available some months earlier.

Undenominated Items etc: The undenominated items referred to above are not stationery items within the FIP definition of the term because they do not bear any stamp imprint. All such items are included above as they were produced by An Post. There was no "Slógadh Náisiúnta" postcard this year.

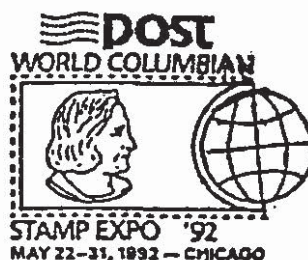
EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS, POSTMARKS AND CACHETS

SOUVENIRS AND CACHETS - OVERSEAS



10 to 12 January - Philex, Toronto: The North American agent of An Post attended this show. A cachet was available.

25 February to 1 March - Spring Stampex, London: The opening day coincided with the issue of the Olympic Games and Slí na Sláinte stamps. Separate first day cachets were available for each issue at the show. The designs were identical to the Dublin bureau cancels complete with Baile Átha Cliath (!) but with the word "Stampex" added to the foot of the postmarks. A general purpose cachet was also available.



24 April to 3 May - Granada '92: A special cachet featuring the exhibition's logo was in use during the show.

7 to 10 May - Essen: A special cachet was also in use at this biennial German event illustrating the show's logo.

22 to 31 May - World Columbian Expo '92 Chicago: The Olympic Games miniature sheet was overprinted for the show with the exhibition's logo. Cost IR£1.52. A special cachet illustrating the logo was also available. The Eire Philatelic Association produced a numbered card featuring their own and the exhibition's logo. Card available mint or with Irish stamp attached and cancelled with either the cachet or the EPA's circular datestamp.

18 to 27 September - Genoa '92: A special illustrated cachet incorporating the An Post logo was in use during this international thematic exhibition held in Italy.

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS AND POSTMARKS - REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Philatelic facilities were available at all of the Irish shows referred to below.



14 March - Mid-Western Philatelic Society Exhibition: The numbered edition of 300 booklets contains a pair of the 1991 Williamite Wars issue. Cost IR£1.50. The usual special postmark featuring the Limerick Treaty Stone together with a special cover were available. The show was held in Halla Ide, Limerick.

28/29 March - Dublin Stamp Show: A new event in the philatelic calendar and successor to "Collectorex" was held in the Mont Clare Hotel. 400 numbered 1980 Fauna & Flora miniature sheets with an overprint were available. Cost IR£2.00. An unstamped postcard (25p) was also available and was used in conjunction with a special postmark used on 29 March only.

25/26 April - Irish International Coin Stamp & Collectables Fair: The second year for this event which was held in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin. A special cover featuring the Trinity 400 logo and postmark was available. The postmark features a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I who granted the College its Charter in 1592. The same postmark with both dates (contrary to postal regulations) was used on both days. A special cover was available.



13 June - IPTA Collectors' Road Show, Athlone: Held in the Prince of Wales Hotel. 200 sets of the 1991 Exhibition Cards were overprinted "Aonach Na Bailitheoiri/Ath Luain/13.VI.1992/Athlone/Collectors Fair". Cost IR£2.00 per set. A special postmark illustrating Athlone Castle was also available.

20 June - Donegal Philatelic Society Exhibition: The annual show was held in the Abbey Hotel, Donegal town. A limited edition of 100 prenumbered booklets were produced each containing the se-tenant block of 2 x 28p plus 2 x 32p stamps from pane 3 of the Maritime Fishing Fleet booklet. Cost IR£2.50. A special postmark in similar design as previous years was also available. No special cover.

29 August - Sligo Philatelic Society Exhibition: The annual show was held in the Silver Swan Hotel, Sligo. A limited edition of 100 prenumbered booklets were produced containing the strip of three cycle stamps from the 1991

miniature sheet. Cost IR£2.50. The usual special postmark featuring W.B. Yeats was available. No special cover was produced this year.



Actual

Back Cover

26 September - IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Wexford: The show was held in the Talbot Hotel. Sheets of the 1p Postage Due labels were overprinted and numbered for the show; each overprinted sheet incorporates the An Post logo and refer to the I.P.T.A. together with the wording "Wexford Regional Show 26.IX.92". The pane was sold at the show by An Post and thus has semi-official status. It was not available by post from the bureau. Total printing of 300 less 30 spoils. Cost IR£2.00. A postmark similar to the 1991 cancel featuring Commodore John Barry was also available. No special cover.

3 October - Cork Philatelic Exhibition: 300 numbered booklets in usual format were produced; each includes 2 x 32p Europa stamps. Cost IR£1.30. The attractive cover (20p) features a 1493 Italian woodcut depicting Columbus Reaching the New World. The postmark is on the same theme but differs from the reproduction on the back cover of the booklet. Held as usual in the Imperial Hotel, Cork.



15 to 18 October - Stamp '92: Held in the Riverside Centre, Dublin 2. Members received pane 2 from the Prestige Booklet with a suitable overprint (363) - subscription IR£12.50. Pane 1 with a similar overprint was on general sale at the show - cost IR£3.00. Total printing of 697 copies but numbers above 697 exist up to 745 due to a break in the numbering sequence. Panes numbered 553 to 600 do not exist. The additional inscriptions were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. The numbering was privately completed by Stamp. The general souvenir was sold out by the second day of the show. An Post provided a special "Happy 21st Birthday Card" for the show (no charge). The card incorporated a space for either pane which could then be cancelled at the show.

As well as the special Stamp cancels referred to above, special first day of issue postmarks were available on the opening day for the Food & Farming and Single European Market issues. The pictorial cancels were of the same design

as used at the philatelic bureau but with the word "Stampa" added at the foot of the circular design. This followed the practice for stamps issued on the opening day of the 1990 and 1991 shows. The Single European Market FDI cancel could be used on 15 October on covers bearing either the single stamp or the booklet panes as well as the exhibition cards referred to in the postal stationery section. Registration service available. DN100 philatelic bureau label applied. Baile Atha Cliath single ring bureau CDS was also in use at the show.



14 November - IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Waterford: The show as held at the Tower Hotel, Waterford. The 2p postage due sheet was overprinted and numbered in similar manner as the Wexford sheet (300 printed less spoils). Cost reduced to IRE1.00. The special cancel featured the local Reginald's Tower (as per 1991). No special cover.

5 December - IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Galway: The show was held in the Great Southern Hotel, Galway. The 3p postage due sheet was overprinted and numbered in the margin in similar manner as the Wexford and Waterford sheets (300 less spoils). Cost IRE1.00. The special cancel featured the Galway Coat of Arms as used at previous Galway shows. No special cover.

OTHER SPECIAL POSTMARKS

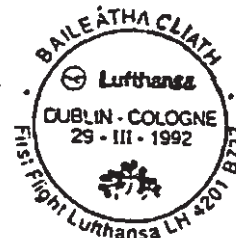
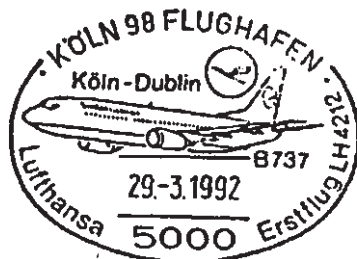
I set out below details of special postmarks noted other than the exhibition items referred to above. Apart from the FAI cancellation, none of the Irish postmarks listed below were given advance notice by the philatelic bureau.



3 to 7 June - Carrolls Irish Open Golf Championship, Killarney, Co. Kerry: The annual Carrolls Irish Open Golf Championship was held for the second year in succession in Killarney (Kileen course). The normal rectangular postmark was once again in use at the temporary post office during the event - 4 to 7 June. Applied in black. The same postmark was also in use on 3 June (the Pro-Am day). Although there is a Pro-Am event held every year on the preceeding

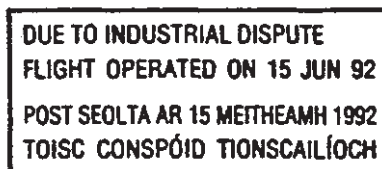
Wednesday, the last time I recall the use of a postmark for this day was at Portmarnock on 1 July 1987.

The 1993 Championship will be held from 1 to 4 July (Pro-Am day: 30 June) at the recently built Mount Juliet course, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. The course was designed by Jack Nicklaus.



21 March - FAI 10th Anniversary: The German based Irish Study Group (Forschungs und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland) marked their 10th anniversary with a special postmark which incorporated the Group's Harp logo. Postmark applied in green on the Group's own special cards distributed to members (see Miscellaneous Section) or black in other cases. 21 March was the date of their annual general meeting which was held in Berlin. A special cover and postmark was also available in Germany on 19 September in association with "Bavarica '92" (illustrated in section dealing with Foreign Stamps & Postmarks with Irish Associations).

29 March - Dublin to Cologne First Flight: A special cancel was sponsored for the introduction of this new Lufthansa service on 29 March. A special cancel was also in use in Cologne for the inward flight.

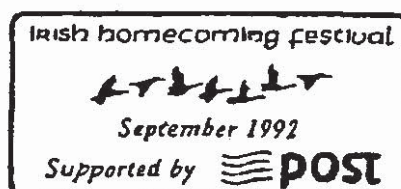
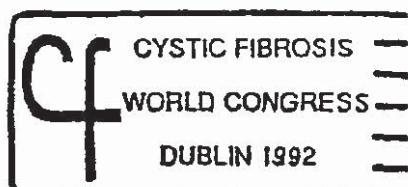
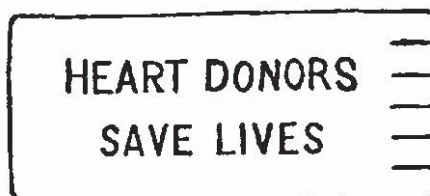


18 May - Dublin to Milan (via Munich) - First Flight: A special cancel was sponsored for the introduction of this new Lufthansa service. Due to the postal dispute (see notes in Miscellaneous Section), the covers were not carried till the 15 June although dated 18 May. A special bilingual cachet was applied to some covers explaining the delay. A special cachet was also used for the inward flight on the same date (see Flight Covers Section)



26 November: A printed cancellation was used on Christmas postcards distributed by An Post to philatelic deposit account holders and Voyager Club members (see also Miscellaneous Section).

SLOGAN POSTMARKS



1992 was another quiet year on the slogan front, with just four more to add to the list. Three of the slogans incorporate the year "1992" and will thus not reappear.

- 304 "HEART DONORS/SAVE LIVES". One die used in Dublin in February (with B).
- 305 "TRINITY/400/Trinity College Dublin 1552-1992". One die used in Dublin in July (with E and G). Originally scheduled for May, the actual month of the 400th Anniversary but postponed due to the postal dispute.
- 306 "CF/CYSTIC FIBROSIS/WORLD CONGRESS/DUBLIN 1992". One die used in Dublin in July (with E and G).
- 307 "IRISH HOMECOMING FESTIVAL/SEPTEMBER 1992/SUPPORTED BY POST". Used in Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Dundalk, Dublin (with G x 2, B and E), Galway, Limerick and Waterford from August to October in most cases but continued in Cork to early December! In Dublin there are two different date dies in use with the letter "G".

FLIGHT COVERS

29 March (Sunday): First flight by Lufthansa - Cologne to Dublin. Special cancel used.

29 March (Sunday): First flight by Lufthansa - Dublin to Cologne. Special cancel used.

1 May: First flight by Birmingham European Airways - Dublin to Birmingham.

2 May: First flight by Aer Lingus - Shannon to Düsseldorf. Cachet sometimes used as a special postmark.

18 May: First flight by Lufthansa - Milan to Dublin (via Munich). Special cachet available. As some covers bear a philatelic bureau receiving CDS of 19

May, they appear to have been carried on the actual day unlike the return covers (see below).

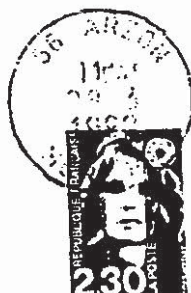
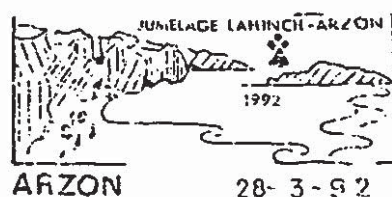
18 May: First flight by Lufthansa - Dublin to Milan (via Munich). Special cancel used dated 18 May. Due to the postal dispute (see notes in Miscellaneous Section), the covers were not forwarded till 15 June. All covers seen bear the 18 May special cancel; some also bear an English/Irish cachet explaining delay (see also Other Special Postmarks section above).

10/11 August: Special Aer Lingus flight Barcelona to Dublin with returning members of Irish Olympic team including boxing medalists Michael Carruth (Gold) and Wayne McCullough (Silver). 40 covers flown bearing both Spanish and Irish stamps, cachet and colour photo of boxers on arrival in Dublin.

September: Special flights by visiting Lufthansa Junkers on Tour of Ireland (18 to 20 September). Cards flown on 18 September (ex. Dublin) and 19 September (ex. Shannon).

6 December (Sunday): First flight by Cityflyer Express - Dublin to London Gatwick. Covers cancelled 5 December.

FOREIGN STAMPS AND POSTMARKS WITH IRISH ASSOCIATIONS



As well as 1992 items there are also two further 1991 issues (Isle of Man & Tanzania) not mentioned in my last article.

Bermuda: A six value set (SG673/8) issued on 12 November 1992 marked the seventh World Congress of Kennel Clubs. The 35c value (SG674) features an Irish setter. Not yet seen by the author.

France - Slogan Cancel: Lahinch, Co. Clare was twinned with Arzon in Brittany, France in October 1991 when a group of twenty-eight people from the North Clare resort visited West Brittany. This was followed up by the visit of a group of people from Brittany to Lahinch in April 1992. A slogan cancel was in use in Arzon (as illustrated). I'm not aware of the period of use.

Another French town, Plouzane was twinned with the Clare town of Kilrush in 1992. A French postbox was installed in Kilrush as part of the twinning celebrations. I'm not aware of any French postmark similar to the Arzon slogan.

Great Britain: The Castle high value designs were re-engraved and new security features were introduced during 1992. The new set was issued on 24 March. The £1 value continues to show Carrickfergus Castle, Co. Antrim. The Queen's

portrait has been changed from a Machin head style to a silhouette as used on special issues and is printed in optically variable ink. This is the first time such an ink has been used in postage stamp printing. Another new security feature is the use of an elongated perforation on the left and right edges of each stamp - otherwise the stamp is perforated 15 x 14.



Germany - Postmarks: The German based Irish Study Group (FAI) produced a special cover for their 10th Anniversary for use with a special postmark on 19 September 1992 which was available at "Bavarica '92". A special postmark was also available for a Cologne - Dublin first flight as already referred to above - see "Other Special Postmarks".

Greece: A single stamp was issued by each E.C. member state in late 1992 to mark the commencement of the Single European Market on the following 1 January 1993. The Greek stamp (60dr) issued on 12 October (SG1923) includes a map of Europe and the flags of member states including Ireland.

Grenadines of Grenada: A twenty-seven value set issued on 13 February 1992 (SG 1441/67) featured "Great Railways of the World". The set was divided into three sheetlets of nine. The second sheetlet of \$1 values included the Kestrel, 1932 (Ireland) on one of the stamps (SG1453). Not yet seen by the author.

Isle of Man: A five stamp set (SG478/82) was issued on 30 May 1991 to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the TT Mountain Course. The 37p value (SG482) features Joey Dunlop who was born in Northern Ireland. The design features him in action on an RVF 750 Honda at Ballaugh Bridge in 1985. In this TT he completed a hat trick of wins in a week. He has won a total of 13 TT races. The set was also available in a miniature sheet (MS483). The miniature sheet was also overprinted for Philanippon (Japan).

Italy: The Italian Single European Market stamp (Lire 600) also featured the flags of member states including Ireland.

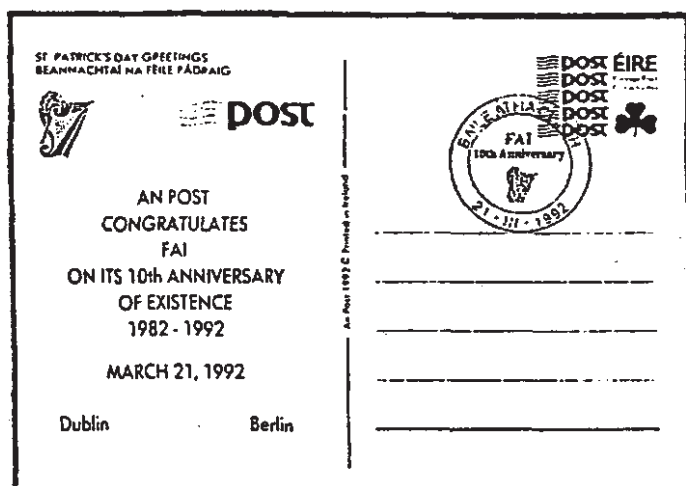
Maldives Islands: An eleven value set plus three miniature sheets on the Disney theme "Mickey's World Tour" was issued on 4 February 1992. One of the miniature sheets with a value of 25r. (SG MS1615a) features Donald Duck chasing a leprechaun in Ireland !

Sweden - Postmark: A special postmark was used in Brålanda on 23 May 1992 in connection with an Irish Music Festival.

Tanzania: A sheetlet containing 16 different 50/- values, all featuring Horses and Ponies was issued during 1991; one of the stamps features a Connemara Pony. Not yet seen by the author.

United Nations: The fourth set in its five year series commemorating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was issued on 20 November 1992. Each of the six stamps in the 1992 set feature one of Articles 19 through to 24 from the Declaration. Various paintings to match the wording of the Articles are depicted on the stamps. The 29c value for the New York office features Article 19 which expresses the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The painting reproduced on the stamp is "Lady Writing a Letter with her Maid" by Johannes Vermeer (Netherlands). This painting was presented to the National Gallery of Ireland by the late Sir Alfred Beit. Sadly, the work was stolen from his former residence, Russborough House, Co. Wicklow prior to its move to Dublin and has yet to be recovered. A complete sheet comprises of 12 stamps plus 12 labels set out in four blocks of 3 stamps of the same value/design plus 3 labels; each label carries the wording of the Article in one of three languages (English, French and German).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS



EMERGENCY POSTAL SERVICE Dublin - Belfast



21 March: The Germany based Irish Study Group (FAI) overprinted the reverse side of the 1992 St. Patrick's Day cards in connection with their 10th Anniversary and their annual general meeting which was held in Berlin on the foregoing date. The cards were cancelled in green with the special Dublin postmark referred to in the Other Special Postmarks section.

April: Mail services were seriously disrupted during the period 27 April to 7 June (inclusive) due to a strike at the Central Sorting Office, Dublin. International mail (incl. GB) was suspended and after 7 to 10 days, deliveries virtually ceased in the Dublin area, apart from local mail within the same postal district. An emergency postal service was established by Ian Whyte (Dublin) and Peter McBride (Belfast), whereby a special courier took mail from Dublin to Belfast or Newry by train and then posted in the normal manner. A special self-adhesive label was affixed to each item of mail. The fee was IR£1. Labels were laser printed in black in sheets of 21 (7 rows of 3). The design incorporates an Irish Rail diesel locomotive. A rectangular boxed cachet was also applied to covers "Emergency Postal Service/Date/Dublin". Incoming covers via Belfast to Ian Whyte also exist.

15 October - Postage Stamps of Ireland: The second edition of this catalogue of Irish stamp issues published by An Post was released at Stampa '92. Cost IRE7.95 (hardback IR£14.95). This expanded edition includes details of booklets and official Post Office first day covers. Listings are fairly straight forward with all illustrations in colour. The catalogue is aimed at the beginner rather than the advanced collector.

 **POST SHOP**

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

5

POSTCARD

July (?): An Post has designated certain offices as "PostShops". At least two such offices (Westport and Wexford) are selling ordinary picture postcards with a "PostShop" logo on the reverse. The cards are numbered in the stamp space. Most cards are of general unnamed views. There are eight "PostShops" at present - Ballinasloe, Carlow, Cavan, Clonmel, Mullingar, Tuam, Westport, and Wexford. Cards with various numbers between 2 and 29 noted to date. Cards first seen in Westport in July. Any further information from members resident in Ireland as to the availability of cards at their local "PostShop" would be welcome.

November/December - An Post Christmas Cards: The general card design features three of the Christmas stamp designs (28p Annunciation, 32p & 52p) and makes-up to a four cornered lantern. In addition, deposit account holders with the philatelic bureau received a postcard which reproduced the 28p sheetlet stamp design in maximum card format. A Christmas greeting from the bureau was printed on the reverse side. Each card has the usual postage paid imprint cancelled with a small pre-printed pictorial postmark dated 26 November which is based on the FDI Christmas cancel. I believe that this is the first example of a printed cancellation apart from that used on the annual Santa Claus North Pole envelopes (see below). The same card with a different printed message was sent to all members of the Voyager Club.

December - Santa Christmas Envelope: The 1992 postage paid envelope design featured Santa in a sleigh pulled by three reindeers. The pre-printed "North Pole Christmas" postmark in red was the same as for 1991.

CONCLUSION

Once again, I wish to thank my many philatelic friends for their help in producing this article and in particular Maurice Barrett, Tony Cassidy, Jim Derwin, Tony Finn, Heinz Grunz, Otto Jung, John Lennon, Eugene Labiuk, Frank McDonald, John Mullen, Barra O'Keeffe, Finbar O'Mahony, Tony Quigley, David Turner, Gunter Vogt, Ronny Vogt, Ian Whyte and Bill Zellers for their never ending patience in answering my queries.

R.S.Os. IN COUNTY DUBLIN AFTER INDEPENDENCE

by Tony Goodbody

The reporting of a very late date for Cabinteely R.S.O. by Mr J.R. Frost of Lewes has prompted me to consult a document of the Irish Post Office headed 'List of Head Offices with Sub Offices and Class VI Offices in Saorstát Éireann'. Under the heading of Dublin are listed Town Sub-Offices and Rural Sub-Offices.

In the past I have always been very insistent that R.S.O. stands for Railway Sub-Office, and for the period of validity (i.e. before June 30th, 1905) I have no reason to modify this point of view, indeed it is fully supported by various Post Office Documents.

However, as it is very well known by collectors of R.S.O. marks, many former railway sub-offices continued to use their R.S.O. datestamp in a mutilated or un mutilated state for a considerable period after 1905. The fact that the term railway sub-office was a matter of history and that the initials R.S.O. therefore had no meaning seemed not to matter in the slightest. However, by a curious coincidence, after a period of twenty or more years for a tiny minority of former railway sub-offices the initials R.S.O. again took on a meaning. Some former railway sub-offices in County Dublin had become rural sub-offices. It is a nice point therefore whether such of these offices as were still using an R.S.O. datestamp were doing so by default or whether the initials were intended to convey their new status.

The following is a list of County Dublin R.S.O. postmarks with first and last dates quoted from my computerised list:

R.S.O.	first date	last date
Balbriggan	MR.25.02	JY.12.22
Cabinteely (S.R.)	MY.11.04	MY.11.04
Cabinteely (D.R.)	OC.27.30	MY.25.36
Chapelizod	MR.03.51	MR.23.54
Clondalkin	AP.23.06	FE.05.13
Dalkey	OC.16.10	OC.16.10
Lucan	AU.11.03	DE.13.14
Rathfarnham (S.R. 23)	FE.25.07	JY.31.07
Rathfarnham (S.R. 28)	FE.26.02	MR.13.09
Stamullen/Balbriggan	DE.23.08	AU.14.09
Swords	OC.14.03	NO.27.22

From a study of this list and a comparison with the Dublin Rural Sub-Office list the following very interesting points emerge -

1] With the exception of Dalkey, all offices on the above list appear on the Dublin Rural Sub-Office list. Stramullen appears as a rural sub-office in its own right.

2] The 'Irish Free State' was established on December 6th, 1922. As yet there is no record of a postmark having been in use both before and after 'Independence', although Balbriggan and Swords come very close, and it is quite possible that later dates will

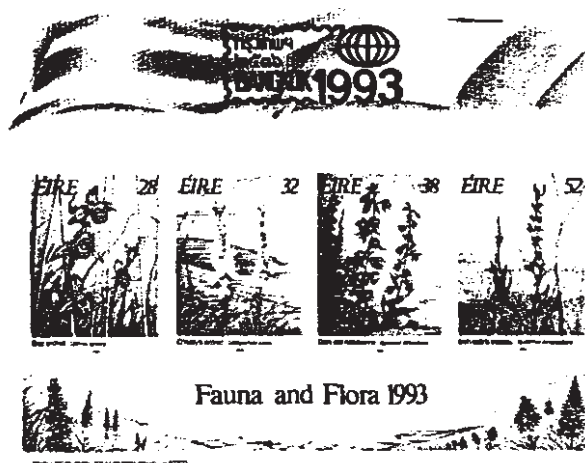
be reported.

3] The interesting marks are Cabinteely (double ring) and Chapelized, both of which have their earliest dates well after that 'Independence' date.

The question I leave is; Have theses two marks any connection whatsoever with the railway sub-office?

NEWS AND VIEWS

The annual Sligo stamp exhibition is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 25th in the Sligo Park Hotel. A special cancel will be in operation and collectors can order this cancel from the Sligo Head Post Office. Further afield the 1993 World FIP Philatelic Exhibition will take place in Bangkok from October 1st to the 10th inclusive. The Irish Philatelic Service will be represented at the event. A special overprint of the Orchid miniature sheet is being produced as a souvenir of this show and will be on sale at £1.50 from October 1st. Customers who wish to do so can order this from the Philatelic Bureau in Dublin as long as stocks are available but this is likely to be sold out quickly.



The biennial Cologne Philatelic Exhibition takes place from October 21st to the 24th and the Irish Philatelic Service will be represented by the German Agency, G Roll. A special cachet will be in use at the sales booth for the duration of the event and collectors seeking a copy should contact the Bureau in Dublin before October. Nearer home a limited edition booklet will be available at the Portadown Stampex. This exhibition takes place at the Town Hall 9in Portadown on September 25th. Admission is free and the booklet which is limited to 150 is priced at £1.50. A special Burren selection pack is now available from the Philatelic Bureau. Because of the popularity of the Pine Martin and the Orchids issues both are included in this special pack which retails at £3.06. Also available from the Bureau is a Gaelic League and Oireachtas postcard. Although free of charge there is an upper limit of 25,000 being 'issued'.