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GREETINGS FROM THE LAND OF ZOG!
ZIG AND ZAG - January 1996 issue.

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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 1995

Brian Warren

Once again, there was no general increase in postal rates (except SDS rates including parcels) during 1995. The rates have remained unaltered since 2 April 1991. However, the annual cost to collectors keeps on rising particularly in the case of sheetlets. Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited commenced production of self-adhesive stamps and there were two joint/co-operative issues during the year. Joint issues are becoming an annual event along with the issue of a miniature sheet to mark the Chinese New Year. Bar coding technology was introduced in the registration service which, as a result, saw the demise of the individual office label.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES



The 1995 programme, comprising 34 sheet stamps, 6 self-adhesive stamps, 3 miniature sheets (including the special 'Year of the Pig' miniature sheet) and 3 booklets, was issued over 10 release dates at a cost of IR£27.64. Nine of the sheet stamps including the se-tenant strip of four stamps featuring Reptiles and Amphibians were issued in sheetlet form with a total cost of IR£24.48 for six sheetlets. The 1994 totals were 31 sheet stamps, one self-adhesive strip of 4 stamps, 3 miniature sheets (including the special Hong Kong '94 sheet) and 3 booklets at a cost of IR£25.04 (and not as stated last year); five of the sheet stamps including the two se-tenant World Cup stamps were issued in sheetlet form with a total cost of IR£13.52 for four sheetlets.

Date of Issue	Description	Plate Numbers	Value	and Notes	Paper & Gum
24 Jan	Love Stamp (11th Issue)		32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
24 Jan	Greetings Booklet (4th Issue)		IR£2.56	Two panes - (8 x 32p)	CCP3
24 Jan	Year of the Pig	- Miniature Sheet	96p	3 x 32p Greetings	CCP3
28 Feb	Transport in Ireland	- West Clare Railway	28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
	(5th Issue - Narrow Gauge Railways)	- Co. Donegal Railway	32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
		- Cork and Muskerry Railway	38p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
		- Cavan and Leitrim Railway	52p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
		- Miniature Sheet	IR£1.50	one of each value	CCP3

Date of Issue	Description	Value	Plate Numbers and Notes	Paper & Gum
6 Apr	Europa (35th Issue Peace & Freedom)	- City and Dove 32p - Dove and Map of Europe 44p - self adhesive 2 x 32p 64p	Sheetlets of ten Sheetlets of ten Same designs - IR£32 per box	CCP3 CCP3
6 Apr	Rugby World Cup	- Ireland v. England 32p - Ireland v. Australia 52p - Miniature Sheet IR£1.00	1A1A1A1A/1C1C1C1C/ 1D1D1D1D 1B1B1B1B 32p extended design	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3
15 May	Battle of Fontenoy - 250th Anniversary- Celtic Cross (Joint Issue with Belgium)	- Souvenir Card IR£2.50	1111/2222	FCP/PVAD
15 May	Ireland Series - Irish Brigade, French Army 1740 (16th Issue - Tercio Irlanda, Army of Flanders 1605 - Military Uniforms) - Royal Dublin Fusiliers 1914 - St. Patrick's Battalion, Papal Army 1860 - The Fighting 69th, Army of Potomac 1861 - The Wild Geese Prestige Booklet	28p 32p 32p 38p 52p IR£4.80	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B Four panes	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3
8 June	Centenary of Radio/Guglielmo Marconi	se-tenant 2 x 32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
27 July	Rotunda Hospital - 250th Anniversary St. Patrick's College, Maynooth - Bicentenary Ending of the War in Europe The Geological Survey of Ireland - 150th Anniversary	28p 32p 32p 52p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3
1 Sept	Fauna and Flora (18th Issue - Reptiles and Amphibians)	- Natterjack Toad 32p - Common Lizard 32p - Smooth Newt 32p - Common Frog 32p - Self adhesive 4 x 32p	} Sheetlet of sixteen set out in four se-tenant strips Same designs - IR£32 per box	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3
9 Oct	National Botanic Gardens - Bicentenary - Natal Lily - Hybrid Pitcher Plant - Potato Vine - Booklet	32p 38p 44p IR£2.60	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B Two panes	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3
19 Oct	United Nations (50th Anniversary)	- U.N. Soldier and Logo 32p - U.N. Insignia 52p	Sheetlets of ten Sheetlets of ten	CCP3 CCP3
16 Nov	Christmas (25th Issue) Illustrations from the Evangeliary of Santa Justina-Padua by Benedetto Bardone - Sheetlet (The Adoration of the Magi) 28p x 13	28p 32p 52p IR£3.36	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B one stamp free	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3

All stamps were litho printed by Irish Security Stamp-Printing Limited (ISSP) and perforated 14 x 14½ (vertical format) or 14½ 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.

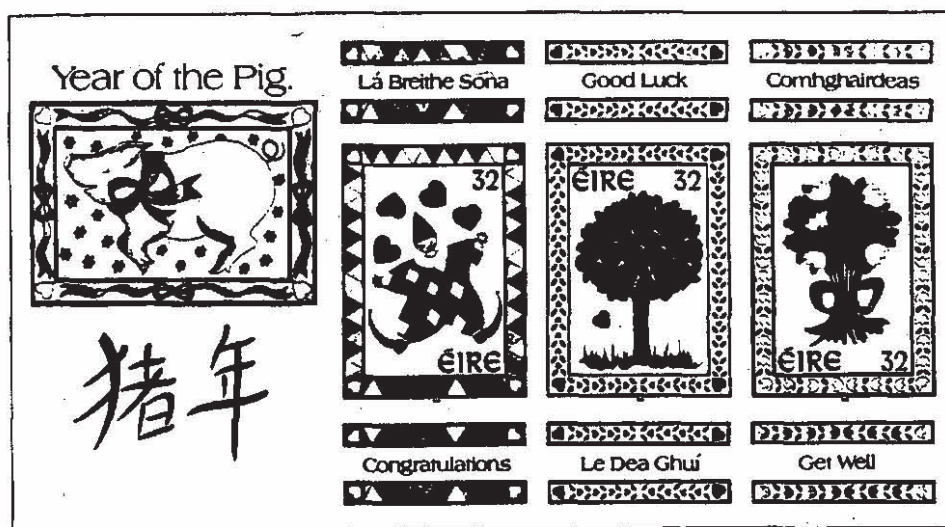
Love Stamp and Greetings Booklet: There was only one "Love" stamp, a 32p value featuring a tree laden with red love hearts. A new innovation for the Greetings set was the inclusion of the Love stamp in the booklet. The two pane booklet contains eight 32p stamps in se-tenant strips of four designs. The stamps show (I) a teddy bear; (II) a clown; (III) a tree laden with red love hearts - i.e. the "Love" stamp; and (IV) a bunch of flowers. Each stamp has two greetings labels attached top and bottom and the outer edges of the pane are imperforate. One stamp in each pane has an imperforate edge giving a total of five new stamps in addition to the sheet issue. The make-up of each pane is as follows:-

Pane 1: 32p I; 32p II, 32p III and 32p IV (right margin imperforate);

Pane 2: 32p III; 32p IV; 32p I and 32p II (right margin imperforate).

Each pane is rouletted in the left binding margin and stitched into the covers. Three of the designs are included in the "Year of the Pig" miniature sheet referred to below.

The sheet and booklet versions of the "Love" stamp can be distinguished easily; the sheet stamp has a black outline around the falling heart, whereas the booklet version has no such outline.



"Year of the Pig" - Miniature Sheet: A special miniature sheet to mark the Chinese New Year was issued on the same day as the "Love" stamp and Greetings booklet. The sheet is similar in layout as the Hong Kong '94 sheet issued last year. The sheet contains three of the Greetings stamps - 32p II, 32p III and 32p IV (right margin imperforate) and the same Greetings labels. The left hand panel shows a pig within a frame. Unlike the Hong Kong '94 sheet the 1995 issue does not give rise to any further imperforate combination.

Transport in Ireland - Miniature Sheet: The attractive miniature sheet contains one of each value in two separate vertical pairs 28p/38p and 32p/52p and incorporates a border design featuring the viaduct at Ballydehob on the former Schull and Skibbereen Railway.

End of Roll

£32 Europa : Self-Adhesive

M	C	M	C	M	C	M	C	M	C	L	C	M
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M = Map plus Dove design C = City plus Dove design

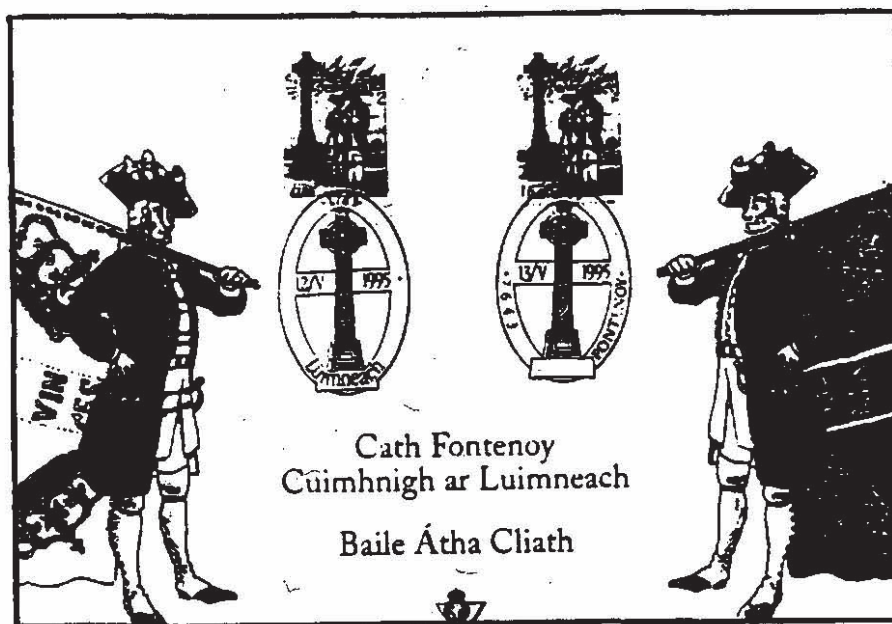
L = Label - "Only 10 Stamps Left ! Order Now"



Europa: The sheet 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. This issue was also available in self-adhesive format with the two designs reproduced as alternate 32p denominations in boxed rolls of 100 i.e. 50 of each design (plus 2 labels). Pairs of stamps were available from the philatelic bureau. The self-adhesive stamps were litho printed by Printset-Cambec, Australia. The overall size was smaller than the sheet stamps - 37.5mm x 26mm and there is no year imprint. Perf. 11¼ (die-cut). Both the stamps and the backing paper have a bright UV reaction. The rolls are made up of five strips of twenty stamps in the same manner as the Moths issue of last year. As usual, there are reminder labels located 20 stamps (before the join i.e. at end of strip 4) and 10 stamps from the end of the roll. In the case of the "only 10 stamps left" etc. label, the label replaces the Map plus Dove design. The rolls are reeled sideways with right hand delivery beginning and ending with the Map plus Dove design. The bi-lingual box illustrates both designs and is similar in format with tear off tab etc. as previous issues.



Rugby World Cup (South Africa): The stamps were litho printed by Walsall. The sheet format and layout is similar to ISSP issues with the plate numbers at top left and colour controls at top right. However, the imprint in the bottom margin is situated under stamp three i.e. in the middle of the margin. In addition the Walsall logo is in the equivalent position in the top margin. The additional markings/gutter included on the previous Walsall printed special issue "Irish in Britain" was thankfully not repeated this time. Both values were printed in one master sheet of 200 stamps which was split into four post office sheets of 50. Sheets "A", "C" and "D" contained the 32p value whereas the 52p value was allocated sheet "B". As a result, the 52p value only appeared with plate numbers 1B1B1B1B whereas the 32p value appears with either "A", "C" or "D" numbers. The IR£1 miniature sheet contains an extended design of the 32p value. This is the first time that a miniature sheet contains a stamp of different value from the equivalent sheet/booklet stamp. Both sheet stamps and miniature sheets are perf. 13¼ x 14. There is no year imprint on the individual stamps. Ireland did not advance beyond the initial group matches. South Africa beat New Zealand in the final.



Battle of Fontenoy: This was a joint issue with the Belgium Post Office which issued a 16 B.Fr. stamp in the same design on the same date. Both stamps were photogravure printed by the Mechelen Printing Works in Belgium. The English information leaflet prepared by the Belgium Post Office states that this was the first time that a foreign postage stamp was printed in Belgium. The Irish stamps were distributed in sheets of 30 (6 rows of 5 stamps) with the cylinder numbers (1111 or 2222) in the right margin between rows 3 and 4. The cylinder numbers indicate two panes as there are matching colour check triangles and black bars in the left margin of sheets with numbers 1111 and in the right margin of sheets with numbers 2222. In the bottom margin there is a printing date (16.II.95 or 17.II.95) under stamp 1 and a sheet number under stamps 3 and 4. The inclusion of a printing date is another first for Irish stamps. Has anybody seen any dates other than 16 or 17 February? Curiously sheets examined by me with the 16 February date have higher sheet numbers. Finally in the top margin there is a colour register cross above stamp 3. The stamp measures 27.5mm x 40.5mm. Perf. 11½. The individual stamps of both countries have no year imprint. The paper has a phosphor type reaction with a yellow after glow from the printed area presumably to meet with Belgium technical requirements. However the same paper was used for the Irish stamps and thus, in effect, they are Ireland's first phosphor postage stamps! Further details about the Belgium stamp are set out in the section "Foreign Stamps and Postmarks with Irish Associations". A special Belgium souvenir card was also available bearing both stamps - see also the section headed "First Day Covers, Cancellations, Souvenir and Maximum Cards".

Ireland Series (Military Uniforms) - Sheet Stamps: The 32p stamp featuring the Royal Dublin Fusiliers was a late addition to the set as apparently the Government were lobbied about the lack of an Irish regimental uniform of the British Army in the set. An Post managed, within the space of few weeks - to their credit - to produce a 32p stamp featuring the uniform of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers to be included in the set which came out on the scheduled release date. The stamp is slightly different in design when compared with the rest of the set. The other four stamps are coloured line drawings while the illustrations on the additional stamp seem to be reproductions of a different style. Unlike the other stamps, the additional design does not incorporate a battle flag or emblem; also the lettering "Royal Dublin Fusiliers - 1914" is in a different typeface to the inscriptions on the rest of the set. No credit is given as to who designed the additional stamp.

Ireland Series (Military Uniforms) - Prestige Booklet: The additional 32p stamp featuring the Royal Dublin Fusiliers is not included within the Prestige Booklet entitled 'The Wild Geese'. There are four illustrated panes of stamps and eight pages of bilingual text; the text also extends to inside the front and back covers. The panes contain a total of fourteen stamps made-up as follows:-

Pane 1: 28p, 32p (imperf. right), 32p and 28p (imperf. right) in a block of four;

Pane 2: 28p, 32p (imperf. right), 38p and 52p (imperf. right) in a block of four;

Pane 3: 28p, 32p and 38p in a strip of three; and

Pane 4: 32p, 28p and 52p in a strip of three.

As a result there are three new singles - 28p, 32p and 52p - all imperf. at right. This was the first Prestige Booklet since the Maritime Fishing Fleet issue in 1991 which contained stamps with one side imperforate. All stamps are the same perforation and paper/gum (CCP3) as the sheet stamps. All panes are rouletted in the margin.

Centenary of Radio - Guglielmo Marconi: The stamps measure 44.5mm x 28mm and were issued in sheets of 40 in se-tenant format both horizontally and vertically throughout the sheet. The sheets are set out in 8 rows of 5 stamps with a gutter between rows 4 and 5. Perf. 13½. This issue was a cooperative effort between Ireland, Germany, Italy, San Marino and Vatican City who issued stamp(s) of similar design on the same day. However, the foreign stamps were not available from An Post. Details of the stamps issued by the other four administrations are set out in the section 'Foreign Stamps and Postmarks with Irish Associations'.



initial design



issued design

Anniversary Issues (27 July): All four stamps were issued in sheets of 50 with no gutters and with the usual sheet markings. The Rotunda Hospital (41mm x 30mm, perf. 14¼ x 14) and the St. Patrick's College, Maynooth (28mm x 44.5mm, perf. 14¼ x 14½) stamps were printed by the House of Questa. ISSP was responsible for the printing of the Ending of the War in Europe (41mm x 30mm, perf. 14¼ x 14) and Geological Survey (36mm x 36mm, perf. 13¼) stamps.

Ending of the War in Europe: The 32p stamp was not included in the original schedule of issues for 1995. However, due to Government pressure, an additional 32p stamp was added to the programme. That the twenty-six counties were neutral and that the war was always officially referred to as 'The Emergency' did not deter the inclusion of an inscription 'Deireadh an Chogaidh 1939-45' (End of the War 1939-45). The original design featured a symbolic Laurel Wreath and a piper from the Royal Irish Rifles set against a backdrop of a map of Europe and was depicted in the advance publicity from An Post. Protests were made to An Post and the Government, firstly over the issue of a stamp at all, but more forcefully over the choice of regiment. The Royal Irish Rifles was one of the regiments used to quell the 1916 Rising. The stamp scheduled for release on 6 July, was eventually released on 27 July, but the Royal Irish Rifleman had disappeared from the design !

Fauna and Flora - Reptiles and Amphibians: The sheet stamps were printed by ISSP in sheetlets of sixteen stamps made up of four se-tenant strips each containing one of each design. All sheetlets were perforated through all four margins and have an imprint and colour controls but no plate numbers. Cumulative row totals appear in the right margin (bottom to top - £1.28 to £5.12). I believe that this is a first as I cannot recall row totals on any previous issue.

£32 Reptiles and Amphibians : Self-Adhesive

End of Roll

Toad	Liz.	Newt	Frog	Toad	Liz.	Newt	Frog	Toad	Liz.	L	Newt	Frog	Toad	Liz.	Newt	Frog	Toad	Liz.	Newt	Frog
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	---	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

↑
Join

L = Label - "Only 10 Stamps Left... Order Now"

The self-adhesive set was also litho printed by ISSP. As usual, the overall size was smaller than the sheet stamps 37.5mm x 26mm and are perf. 8¼ x 9. Produced in boxed rolls of 100 stamps plus 2 labels. The roll of 102 stamps/labels is split into six strips of seventeen. The rolls are reeled sideways with left hand delivery commencing with the Natterjack Toad design. The two bi-coloured reminder labels are the same as used in the 32p definitive rolls produced by ISSP referred to below except that the numerals (10 and 20) are in a darker shade of green. The reminder labels do not interrupt the four stamps sequence and thus there are twenty-five stamps of each design in a roll. The coil join every seventeenth stamp/label gives four roll join combinations:-

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Join 1 | Natterjack Toad and Common Lizard; |
| Join 2 | Common Lizard and Smooth Newt; |
| Join 3 | Smooth Newt and Common Frog; |
| Joins 4 & 5: | Common Frog and Natterjack Toad. |



Joins 4 and 5 have the same combination due to the insertion of the "Only 20 Stamps Left" label. They are the first self-adhesive stamps to have a year imprint at the foot of each stamp.

National Botanic Gardens Bicentenary - Booklet: The two pane booklet contains seven separately identifiable stamps as follows:-

- Pane 1: 32p imperf. top, 38p imperf. top and right, 44p imperf. bottom and 32p imperf. right and bottom;
 Pane 2: 32p imperf. bottom, 38p imperf. bottom and 44p imperf. right and bottom.

Each pane is stitched into the covers but unlike prior issues there is no rouletting in the left binding margin.

United Nations - 50th Anniversary: The sheetlets of ten stamps plus illustrated side panels were litho printed by Enschedé on paper similar to CCP3, perf. 13¼ x 13½. The side panels are imperforate, all other margins are perforated. Sheetlets have colour controls but no plate numbers. The printer's name is within the side panel. Individual stamps contain a year imprint, the first time for non-ISSP issues.

Christmas - Sheetlet: The 13 stamps plus 2 labels are set out in five rows of three stamps/labels. Sheetlets have an imprint but no plate numbers or colour controls and are perforated through all four margins. The stamps were only sold in complete sheetlets.

DEFINITIVES

Sheet Issues (ISSP): The only new sheet printing produced by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited was in respect of the 38p value. The stamp was printed on CCP1 paper - first noted in May 1995 - plates 1A1A/1B1B.



Colour Control



Imprint

Sheet Issues (Enschedé): In a press release issued in late November subsequent to distribution of the stamps, An Post announced that they had contracted Enschedé of The Netherlands to print six values of the current Heritage and Treasures definitives - 20p, 28p, 52p, IR£1, IR£2 and IR£5. The stamps were released from stores on 15 November but it was unlikely that they were on sale at any post office before 16 November. However, stocks of the 28p were pre-released and I have noted use of the 28p in Dublin on 11 November. Although the press release stated that there were no changes in the technical specifications the sheet markings differ and even individual stamps can be identified.

All six stamps were litho printed with the same perforation as the same values printed by ISSP - 14 x 14½ (20p and IR£5); 14½ x 14 (28p, 52p, IR£1 and IR£2). The paper is similar to CCP3 in that it gives a dark UV reaction but it appears to have a more shiny appearance. The background graduation on all values differs from those printed by ISSP, and in particular, the background colour and/or the black on each value are of a darker shade thus enabling identification of individual stamps. The most noticeable shade difference is the orange/red of the 28p value. Under high magnification the density of the screen is higher than on the ISSP definitives. Although the typeface remains the same (Palatino), the £ symbol on the three high values differs in appearance and is slightly smaller. The tail of the silver wire chain attached to the Tara Brooch featured on the IR£2 value extends slightly further at the foot of the stamp.

All six values are double pane printings with both 'A' and 'B' sheets as before. The low values (20p, 28p and 52p) are distributed in sheets of 200 (as before) but there are no gutters and are set out in 20 rows of 10 stamps (20p) or 10 rows of 20 stamps (28p and 52p). The three high values are distributed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10). All sheets with the exception of the 52p are perforated through all four margins. In the case of plate 1A1A sheets of the 52p the right margin is imperforate with no single pin extension. The 1B1B sheets are fully perforated on all four sides and not with imperforate left margin as would be expected given the perforation of the 'A' sheets.

The positioning of the sheet markings differ from ISSP printings. The plate numbers ('A' or 'B') are situated in the top margin above row 1, stamp 1 and the lettering is in a different and slightly larger typeface. The

three line imprint which reads "Joh. Enschedé/Security Printing B.V./- Holland -" is situated in the bottom margin below row 10, stamps 1 and 2 (28p, 52p, and IR£5), row 10, stamp 1 (IR£1 and IR£2) or row 20, stamps 1 and 2 (20p). The colour controls are in the form of small circles and are in the same position on both 'A' and 'B' sheets - in the top margin above row 1, stamp 10 (20p, IR£1, IR£2 and IR£5) or row 1, stamp 20 (28p and 52p). As a result of the imperforate right margin on 1A1A sheets of the 52p value, the colour control block exists with imperforate right margin (ex 1A1A sheets) or perforated (ex 1B1B sheets).

28 February - IR£1 Booklet (Walsall): The sixth booklet in the Heritage & Treasures series has an orange coloured cover illustrating the Gleninsheen Gold Collar which is utilised on the 34p, 37p, 38p and 40p values. The booklet was once again litho printed by Walsalls and the content (1 x 4p plus 4 x 32p) and layout is the same as the previous booklet produced by the company and issued last year. Paper CCP3.



£1 (Walsall) booklet with missing perforation hole at top left (arrowed)

£1 (Walsall) booklet with complete vertical row of perforations



A constant perforation variety has been noted on all three Walsall booklets (Nos. 4, 5 & 6 in the series). Most booklets have a complete row of vertical perforations between the selvedge and the adjoining stamps. However, on some booklets the top perforation hole is missing in similar manner to the middle row of vertical perforations. This can only be conclusively proved by obtaining a pane which is off-centre (downwards) as illustrated. When found in examples obtained from machines it is normal for several booklets in sequence to have the variety. This might indicate that panes from the top row of the master sheet all have the variety. No examples have been found with the pin missing at the foot of the same vertical row of perforations.

16 November - IR£1 Booklet (ISSP): The seventh booklet in the Heritage and Treasures series has a bright violet cover illustrating the Broighter Collar (as per 32p value). The booklet was litho printed by ISSP. The only previous booklet in the series printed by ISSP was the first edition featuring the Tara Brooch on the cover and issued in 1990. The pane layout was altered with the 4p now at bottom left and, in addition to the normal binding margin at left, there is a narrow selvedge at right. The stamps are on CCP1 paper, perf. 14 x 14½ (32p) or 14½ x 14 (4p). The perforation size differs from the previous litho panes printed by Walsall. There are three new identifiable stamps - 4p imperf. left, 32p imperf. top and 32p imperf. bottom. The 4p imperf. left appeared in the first IR£1 booklet referred to above but was on CCP3 paper.

L:20	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	L:10	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p	32p
------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

↑ Join

L:20 = Label - "Only 20 Stamps Left..."

L:10 = Label - "Only 10 Stamps Left... Order Now"

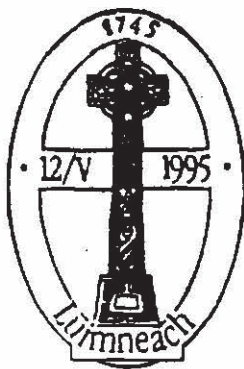
8 June - 32p Self-Adhesive: A new litho printing of the self-adhesive was produced by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. They were the first self-adhesive stamps produced by ISSP for An Post. The rolls of 100 stamps differ from the previous Australian printings. The individual stamps have a different die-cut perforation which measures $9\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$ (as compared to the previous $11\frac{1}{4}$) and have a "comb" type rather than a "line" type appearance as per previous issues. The green colour is of a lighter shade and the shading of the Brighter Collar is also lighter with more white areas. The complete rolls are reeled sideways as usual but with left hand delivery (previously right hand delivery) and the coil joins are every 20th stamp (previously the roll was split 25/25/26/24 plus 2 labels). The backing paper is slightly larger in height by approx. 0.5mm. The reminder labels are now bi-coloured with the numerals 20 and 10 in green with the remainder of the text in the usual black. The "Only 20 Stamps Left ..." label is positioned before the last join. The UV reaction is dark for both the stamp and the backing paper. The boxes are similar to recent issues except for the reference to ISSP and some additional use of the green and black colours. The illustrations of the stamps on the box also highlight some of the individual stamp differences referred to above. Sold by the philatelic bureau in strips of three.

FIRST DAY COVERS, CANCELLATIONS, SOUVENIR AND MAXIMUM CARDS

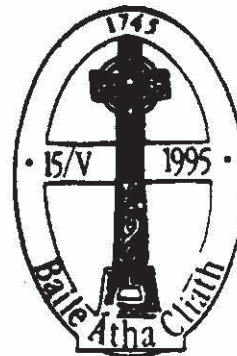
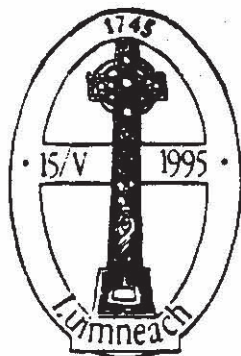
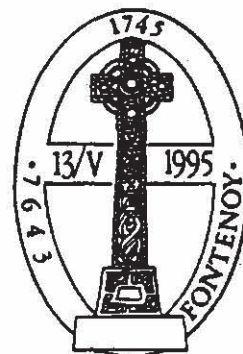


First Day Covers: FDC's cost 18p. Special covers were available for all special and commemorative issues except for the four individual stamps released on 27 July. The general purpose FDC was used for the latter issue. All FDC's continue to be printed by ISSP even for issues produced by other printers.

Pictorial cancels were available for all issues. The same first day cancel (and FDC) was used for the individual "Love" stamp, the Greetings booklet panes and the "Year of the Pig" miniature sheet. The Narrow Gauge Railways set was issued on the opening day of Stampex (London) and a special first day cachet was available at the exhibition. This set also saw the introduction of a better quality first day postmark in larger format for special and commemorative issues. The Fauna and Flora set (Reptiles and Amphibians) was released during the Singapore '95 exhibition which was attended by an agent for An Post. A special first day cachet was available.



RÉAMH DHÍOL - LUIMNEACH



Battle of Fontenoy: In accordance with normal Belgium practice both stamps were placed on advance sale at the Civic Offices in Limerick on 12 May (13 May in Belgium at various locations). Two advance sale cancellations were available in Limerick, both oval in shape, and incorporating the Celtic Cross of Fontenoy - Luimneach 12/V 1995 and Fontenoy 13/V 1995. FDC's bearing either the Irish stamp or both stamps were postmarked with the Luimneach cancellation - another first viz. Irish special cancellation on both an Irish and foreign stamp. Such covers also received a boxed cachet which reads "Réamh Dhíol - Luimneach" ("Advance Sale - Limerick"). The Fontenoy cancel was available on covers with either the Belgium stamp or both stamps. A special Belgium souvenir card was also available bearing both stamps - the Irish stamp with the Luimneach cancel and the Belgium stamp with the Fontenoy cancel. This was the only way you could obtain the two different cancels on the same item. The card was only sold in this form and I understand that 5,000 cards were produced. Initially advertised at IR£1.50, the card cost IR£2.50 (120 B.Fr). It was not possible to have both an Irish and a Belgium cancel on the same FDC.

On 15 May the usual first day facilities were available. The Irish postmarks were of the same design and included a Luimneach cancel of 15/V 1995. The philatelic bureau in Dublin also made available one of two first day postmarks of 15/V 1995 available in Brussels but only applied it to covers bearing the Belgium stamp. However the Belgium Post Office applied it to covers bearing both stamps.

Further details of the Belgium Post Office postmarks including a further "Limerick" cancel are set out in the section "Foreign Stamps and Postmarks with Irish Associations".

Maximum Cards: Sets of four maximum cards (17p each) were available for the Narrow Gauge Railways and the Fauna and Flora (Reptiles and Amphibians) issues. The Narrow Gauge Railway cards were printed by Euroscreen Limited.

BOOKS, PRESENTATION PACKS AND FOLDERS

28 February - Transport in Ireland: A special Presentation Pack Folder was available containing a miniature sheet, a serviced first day cover and a set of mint maximum cards. Cost: IR£4.50.

1 September - Living Earth Book: The book is a co-operative production between the Post Offices of Ireland, Australia, Canada, Singapore, Sweden, Great Britain and the United Nations featuring the Fauna and Flora of each participating country. The 20 page book with multilingual text (Chinese, English, French, German and Swedish) was produced by Sprintpak of Australia. The book contains stamps from all seven countries - four each from Canada, Ireland, Singapore, Sweden, United Nations (US\$ issue), Australia (Australian Antarctic Territory issue) and five from Great Britain. In addition An Post provided collectors with a copy of the Moths miniature sheet issued in 1994 as an added incentive to purchase the book. Reply paid cards with special offers were also included for each of the seven postal administrations. Cost: IR£8.90.

28 September - 1994/95 Year Book: Each book contains all special and commemorative issues from the Moths set issued on 12 July 1994 to the Centenary of Radio/Marconi set issued on 8 June 1995, a total of 41 stamps (incl. Belgium 16 B.Fr. - Battle of Fontenoy), 4 miniature sheets (Moths, "Year of the Pig", Railways and Rugby World Cup) and 1 Greetings booklet pane - total face value of IR£20.95. Both the sheet set and the self-adhesives are included for the Moths and Europa issues. A numbered black print of the Centenary of Radio/Marconi set is included in each book. Total printing of 4,000 standard copies (as per 1994) - Cost: IR£25 and 150 leather bound editions (50 less than last year) - Cost: IR£100.

16 November - 1995 Year Pack: The Year Pack contains one each of the special and commemorative stamps issued during the year, including the Belgium Fontenoy stamp, the 28p Christmas sheetlet stamp and both the sheet set and self-adhesives for the Europa and Reptiles and Amphibians issues, but excludes the Greetings booklet panes and all miniature sheets - a total of 41 stamps. Sold at face value - IR£14.55.

POSTAL STATIONERY AND GREETING CARDS

18 February - St. Patrick's Day Cards: Four postcards were available featuring (1) Dog in shoe; (2) Gleninsheen Gold Collar and Poulmabrone Dolmen; (3) Large Shamrock; and (4) Child with balloons - Cost 36p per card. The Dog in Shoe design was previously used on one of the 1993 greeting cards and the shamrock design with slightly different wording and colouring was used on one of the first postcards issued in 1984. There was an unexpected change to the postage paid imprint. Instead of the usual shamrock imprint there was an adapted version of the R.J. King design for the high value definitives first issued in 1937 featuring St. Patrick and the Paschal Fire. Printed in green and in slightly smaller size (20.5mm x 35mm) with the value tablet altered to read "Postas Íoctha"; in addition the words "Postage Paid" appear below the main design giving an overall size of 20.5mm x 37mm.



The card featuring the Gleninsheen Gold Collar and the Poulnabrone Dolmen was privately overprinted by the Stampa Council with a combined greetings and thank you message. One card was sent through the post to each member cancelled with a Dublin double ring CDS - Baile Átha Cliath 5 of 12 III 95. This cancel is in use at the Dublin Mails Centre.

Five greetings cards complete with prepaid envelope bearing the same R.J. King design in slightly larger format (overall size 20.5mm x 39mm) were also available - Cost 60p each. The cards featured (1) Lakeshore flora in Springtime; (2) Quill and ink pot; (3) Prayer; (4) Dove and Peace; and (5) Croagh Patrick. Four of the designs were previously used on postcards - Lakeshore flora in 1986 (large card), Quill and inkpot in 1993, Dove and Peace in 1986 and Croagh Patrick in 1990.



The usual green first day of issue cancel was available from the philatelic bureau for use on both cards and envelopes.

March 1995 - Passport Office Envelope: In March 1995, An Post in conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs introduced a new Passport Express service. Passport application forms are now available at a large number of post offices nationwide which are listed in a special leaflet giving details of the service. You also receive a special plastic envelope complete with Ceadúnas imprint with preprinted address for forwarding your application to the Passport Office in Dublin. Although given the absence of a stamp imprint it is not a true stationery item, the interesting aspect for collectors is the inclusion of a preprinted Swiftpost label on the envelope. Unfortunately it is also the first use of the dreaded plastic for a stationery type item. There is no charge for the envelope but when posting your application you must pay a fee of IR£3 plus the passport fee direct to An Post at one of the designated offices. The service guarantees a turn-around of ten working days. In addition there is a similar but smaller Swiftpost envelope (plastic) which is used by the Passport Office for returning the passport but this is only available in used form by obtaining a passport. Finally there is a small paper Freepost envelope (not Swiftpost) with preprinted Passport Office address which is sent to applicants for replies to any queries arising from applications. Again this is not generally available.

Swiftpost Labels: Revised Swiftpost labels were introduced on Monday 17 July 1995. The two-part label and receipt now incorporates a barcode strip. The label element is now much reduced in size (25mm x 40mm) and is attached to a larger barcode strip (101mm. x 57mm.). The all-in-one self-adhesive label/barcode strip is attached so that the label element is at the top centre of the cover with the barcode on the reverse. As for the previous versions the inland label (cost: IR£1) incorporates a map of Ireland in the design, while the international (cost: IR£2) label bears a globe. Given the small size and similar colours of the label element, the inland and international versions can be easily confused and it may well be that a further revision of design will be necessary.

August (?) - 'A' Envelope: The large sized envelope which was first issued in March 1994 has been reprinted. First noted in August 1995, the new printing of the envelope has a plain dark blue inner lining as compared to the 'Glenmalure' pattern of the first printing. Can anybody confirm an earlier date? Cost: 36p.

issued in 1987. Cost: IRE£2.25.

introduction of the new bar coded registration labels. Can anybody confirm earlier use ? Cost: IR£1.50.

PEEL HERE AND AFFIX TO THE ITEM TO BE POSTED

ATTEMPTED DELIVERY



RR 0117 1439 61E

DELIVERY

RR 0117 1439 61E

LIFT

LIFT

This identification label must be folded over the top of the envelope.



FOLD HERE

RR 0117 1439 61E

Affix the flap to the front and the bar code to the back.



REGISTERED

POST

CUSTOMER RECEIPT / ADMHAIL

SENT TO _____

Item No. **RR 0117 1439 61E**

VALUE OF CONTENTS (IN WORDS & FIGURES)

£ _____

Stamp
Date

ACCEPTING OFFICER'S INITIALS

£

NOTE: This receipt is your proof of posting and should be retained carefully. See back for conditions.

CUSTOMER'S REFERENCE CUSTOMER'S REFERENCE

RR 0117 1439 61E RR 0117 1439 61E

for this purpose.

postmark the new label could easily be attached at a later date.

Trace[®] system for both services.

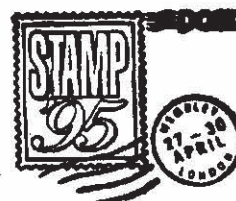
31 October - Illustrated Aerogrammes (Flowers): A new pack of five illustrated aerogrammes featuring flowers has replaced the previous single design pack. The main design area on each aerogramme illustrate Meadow Flowers, Brilliance of Spring Yellows, Honey Suckle, Poppies and Yellow Iris. The postage paid imprint is larger than that used on the Views of Ireland aerogramme first released in 1990 and incorporates five An Post logos as compared to four on the previous issue. Printed by Colorprint of Chapelizod, Dublin. Sold in packs of five for IR£2.20 with card wrapper which features the Poppies design.

3 November - Oireachtas Postcard: The 1995 Oireachtas was held in Dublin (3-12 November). The undenominated card differs from earlier years with its striking modern design and incorporates an illustration of the Halfpenny Bridge, Dublin. No charge.

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 Bureau de Change postcard issued during 1995.

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS, POSTMARKS AND CACHETS

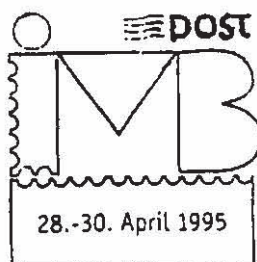
SOUVENIRS AND CACHETS - OVERSEAS



9 February - Hong Kong Stamps, Coins and Phonecards Exhibition: This exhibition was held in the Museum of Chinese Historia of Relics. A privately produced souvenir was arranged by a dealer - Peter McBride of Cookstown - who attended the show. An additional Chinese inscription in red was added to the 'Year of the Pig' miniature sheet. The original Chinese inscription on the sheet translates as 'The Year of the Pig' and the new inscription reads 'Hong Kong 1995'. Total printing 500. Cost: IR£6.50. There was no official Irish exhibition cachet. An unofficial cachet was available as illustrated - 'Gong Xi Fa Cai' translates as 'Happy New Year'.

28 February to 5 March - Stampex (London): The annual exhibition coincided with the issue of the Narrow Gauge Railways set issued on the opening day. A special first day cachet was available which was the same as the Dublin FDC postmark with 'Stampex' added at the foot of the cancel. In addition the usual general cachet was available.

27 to 30 April - Stamp '95 (London): This new venture was held at Wembley and was the subject of much favourable comment in the British philatelic press. A special cachet was available from the Irish agent for An Post who attended the show. Examples applied at the show were of poor quality due to a faulty self-inking datestamp. Impressions supplied subsequently by the philatelic bureau were of better standard.



28 to 30 April - Internationale Münchner Briefmarkentage (Munich): A special cachet was held for this three day show.

10 to 15 May - Finlandia '95 (Helsinki): A special cachet was available for this international exhibition. The show coincided with the issue of the Battle of Fontenoy stamps. However I can confirm that the Irish agent did not have the Irish stamp available for sale at the show and no special first day cachet was available. The Belgium Post Office did have a 13 May Helsinki cancel for the Fontenoy stamp so presumably the Belgium stamp was available at the show.

19 to 21 May - Brufila '95 (Brussels): A special cachet was available for this Belgium show.



17 to 25 June - Junaphilex '95 (Basle): A special cachet was available for this Youth Exhibition held in Switzerland.

1 to 10 September - Singapore '95: This international exhibition coincided with the release of the Reptiles and Amphibians set on the opening day. A special first day cachet was available which was the same as the Dublin FDC postmark with "Singapore '95" added at the foot of the cancel. In addition a general cachet illustrating the show logo together with a special printing of the Narrow Gauge Railways miniature sheet also incorporating the show logo (cost: IR£1.50) were also available.

20 to 22 October - Philatelia '95: A special cachet was available for this show held in Cologne.

I also understand that an unofficial cachet was in use at Jarkarta '95 in Indonesia (19 to 25 August) but have not seen same. There was no official An Post attendance at the show.

SOUVENIRS, POSTMARKS AND CACHETS - REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Philatelic facilities and special postmarks were available at all of the Irish shows referred to below other than for the Cork Stamp & Callcard Fair and the Sligo 750 Fair. Except for Waterford, all IPTA/Collectors' Road Show postmarks featured the city/town's coat of arms and all repeat the designs of 1994.



18 February - IPTA/Collectors' Road Show, Kilkenny: The show was held in the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. The second pane from the 1994 Nobel Prizewinners Prestige Booklet was overprinted with the An Post and IPTA logos together with the wording "Limited Edition of 300" and "Kilkenny Collectors Fair 1995". Cost: IR£2.00. The show also coincided with the issue date for the St. Patrick's Day cards and it was thus possible to obtain the cards postmarked with the show cancel.

8 April - IPTA/Collectors' Road Show, Limerick: The show was held in Jury's Hotel, Limerick. The Rugby World Cup miniature sheet was individually numbered (300) and overprinted with the An Post and IPTA logos together with the wording "Limerick Collectors Fair 8 April 1995". Cost: IR£2.00.

22 April - IPTA/Collectors' Road Show, Letterkenny: The show was held in the Mount Errigal Hotel. The Rugby World Cup miniature sheet was individually numbered (300) and overprinted with the An Post and IPTA logos together with the wording "Letterkenny Collectors Fair 22 April 1995". Cost: IR£2.00.

6 May - Cork Stamp & Callcard Fair: The show was held in Jury's Hotel. A numbered edition of 400 booklets were produced containing 6 x 1p postage due labels. Cost: IR£1.00. There was no postmark for this show.

29 July - Sligo Philatelic Society - Sligo 750 Fair: The local society held a one day fair as part of the town's 750th anniversary celebrations. A large format booklet with a lime green cover was produced (150) which contained pane 4 from "The Wild Geese - Military Uniforms" prestige booklet. Cost: IR£3.50. A special cachet was applied to various covers (200) bearing a 32p Military Uniforms stamp. This was a private cachet and not a postmark applied by the post office.





actual



per booklet cover

23 September - IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Sligo: The one day show was held at the Sligo Park Hotel. The fourth pane from the Wild Geese Prestige Booklet was overprinted in black with the An Post and IPTA logos together with the wording 'Collectors Fair Sligo 23 - IX - 95' (300). Cost: IR£2.00.

7 October - Cork Philatelic Exhibition: The one day show was held in the Imperial Hotel, Cork. The numbered booklet (250) contains a pair of the 38p Cork and Muskerry Railway stamps. Cost: IR£1.50. A matching cover (25p) was also available for use in conjunction with 'The Hook and Eye' special cancel. The 'Hook and Eye' refers to the coupling system used between carriages/engines. The postmark in originally drawn form is illustrated on the back cover of the booklet.



20 to 22 October - Stamp '95: The souvenirs were distributed to members prior to the show on 12 October. The exhibition was held in the Riverside Centre, Dublin 2. Members received a numbered copy of pane 3 from the Wild Geese Prestige Booklet with a black overprint 'Stampa '95 Dublin' (plus harp) - total printing of 500 copies. Cost: IR£12.50. The general souvenir was a similar overprint in black on pane 2 from the same booklet. Total printing of 2,000 copies. Cost: IR£2.50. Sales figures for both souvenirs have yet to be announced.

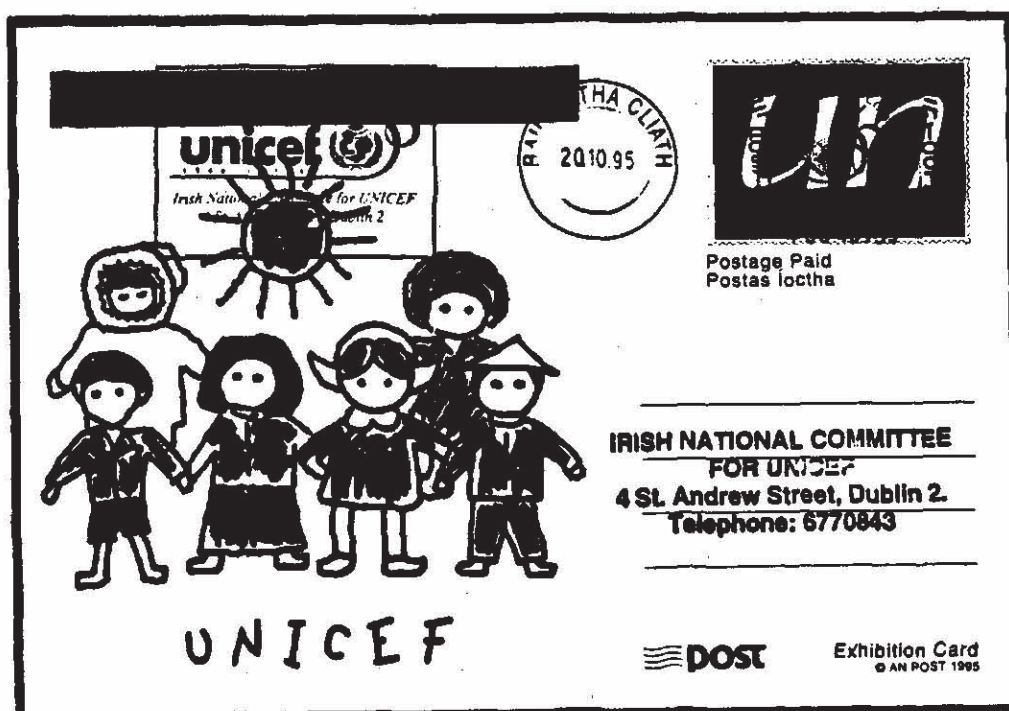
A special Stamp '96 postcard was sold by the organisers promoting the 25th Stamp next year (2,000). Cost: 20p per card. A Philatelic Passport was available for the first time at the show for use with the various cancels/cachets referred to below. The Passport was distributed without charge. The initial printing of 800 on shiny card was followed by 300 colour photocopies and by the third day of the show plain black and white photocopied pages were all that were available (200). An attractive member's label badge was also available (IR£2.00).

An Post issued a set of three exhibition cards (32p per card) on the opening day of the show commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations. The three cards and matching postmarks were as follows:-

- 20 October : Irish soldiers serving in Somalia/Head profile of soldier;
- 21 October : United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)/Children; and
- 22 October : United Nations - 50th Anniversary Insignia (card and postmark).

Stampa
DUBLIN '95

The stamp design featured the 52p sheet value design issued on 19 October except the figures of value were deleted and replaced with the words "Postage Paid/Postas Íoctha" below the stamp design area. The cards were printed by B.C.R. Press of Navan and not by Enschedé who were responsible for the U.N. stamps.



The Irish National Committee for UNICEF had a stand at the show and for a donation (minimum IR£1) collectors were able to obtain the UNICEF exhibition card cancelled with their two colour (blue and red) meter postmark. All cards were dated 20.10.95 with 0.00 value. Total of 200 cards issued and sold.

The exhibition catalogue contained a detachable centre double page which incorporated illustrations of the three special postmarks and a blank space for either of the Stampa souvenirs which could then be cancelled with any one of the three An Post postmarks.

Registration facilities were available at the show with the usual DN 100 label of the philatelic bureau. In some cases the label was additionally inscribed "Stampa" in manuscript. The final day of the exhibition coincided with the last day of such registration labels as, on 23 October, a new barcoded label was introduced as referred to above.



Four overseas administrations attended the show - Belgium, France, Gibraltar and Isle of Man. In addition, one of the dealer's attending the show represented the Crown Agents in respect of Ascension, Falkland Islands, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha. Exhibition cachets were available for all eight countries for use in connection with the Stampa Passport or any item bearing a stamp of the appropriate territory. The Belgium cachet incorporates an illustration of part of The Campanile situated in the quadrangle of Trinity College, Dublin. The Gibraltar cachet was the only cancel not to refer to Stampa and/or Dublin and only gave the opening day date - 20.10.95. Three unofficial cachets were also available for Bangladesh, Mozambique and the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland.

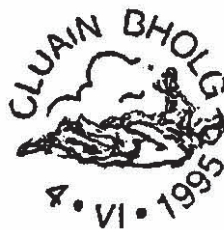


4 November - IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Waterford: The one day show was held in the Tower Hotel, Waterford. The third pane from the Wild Geese Prestige Booklet was overprinted with the An Post and IPTA logos together with the wording "Collectors Fair Waterford 4 - XI - 95" (300). Cost: IR£2.00. The special postmark featured Reginald's Tower as per previous years.

25 November - IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Galway: The one day show was held at the Great Southern Hotel in Eyre Square. The first pane from the Prestige Booklet was overprinted with the An Post and IPTA logos together with the wording "Collectors Fair Galway 25 - XI - 95" (300). Cost: IR£2.00.

OTHER SPECIAL POSTMARKS

I set out below details of special postmarks other than the exhibition items referred to above. The Clonbullogue and Irish Open cancels were not the subject of advance notice by the philatelic bureau.



1 April - Lufthansa - Dublin to Berlin: A new scheduled service commenced on this route on 1 April. A special postmark was available for covers carried on the inaugural return flight from Dublin. The German Post Office also provided a special postmark for the inward flight.

4 June - Freefall Parachute Jump - Clonbullogue: The Irish Parachute Club organised a record breaking freefall parachute skydive at Clonbullogue, Co. Offaly on 4 June. A special postmark was available in connection with the successful 25,000 feet skydive. A special printed envelope (300) was produced by the Club and carried by the skydivers. Signed copies were also available. A souvenir postcard was also privately produced by a collector incorrectly captioned 'Irish Parachute Association'.



Baile Mhic Andáin

6.VII.1995

Co. Chill Chainnigh



Baile Mhic Andáin

8.VII.1995

Co. Chill Chainnigh

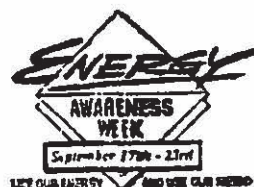
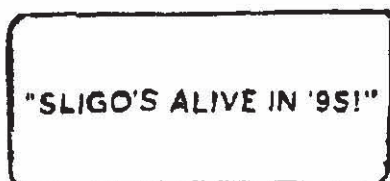
6 to 9 July - Murphy's Irish Open - Thomastown: The Irish Open Golf Championship was held for the third time at this venue. The usual temporary post office facilities were provided for the Pro-Am day (5 July) and the Irish Open (6 to 9 July). This year no special postmark was provided for the Pro-Am day. An illustrated unboxed cancel, applied in black, which differs from last year's design was available for the remaining four days. As there was no special cancel for the Pro-Am day and as the special postmarks did not arrive at the venue until Saturday 8 July, the ordinary Cill Chainnigh 5 (Kilkenny) self-inking counter datestamp was available on all five days. The Championship was won by Sam Torrance. A souvenir postcard was privately produced for use with the special postmark.

The Championship was scheduled to return to Portmarnock in 1996, but the very dry summer in Ireland in 1995 has affected the course there to the extent that Portmarnock have had to withdraw their facility. The Championship will instead be held at Druids Glen, Co. Wicklow (4 to 7 July).

A second PGA European Tour event was held for the first time in Ireland in 1995. The European Open was held at the K Club, Straffan, Co. Kildare. However, no post office facilities (or special postmark) were provided for this event.

1 December: A special pre-printed postmark which reproduced the same first day cancel design as used for the Christmas set was used on the large Christmas postcard featuring the 28p sheetlet stamp sent to philatelic bureau account holders (see illustration on page 28).

SLOGAN POSTMARKS



326 - Parknasilla Great/Southern 1895-1995/The welcome that's lasted/100 years. The Great Southern Hotel, Parknasilla, Sneem, Co. Kerry celebrated 100 years of operation during 1995. The slogan was in use from 1 March in both Cork and Killarney. The majority of impressions seen are of very poor quality.

327 - "SLIGO'S ALIVE IN '95!" In use from March in Sligo to celebrate the town's 750th Anniversary. The slogan continued in use up to early January 1996.

328 - SALMON FESTIVAL/BALLINA - JULY. The illustrated slogan featuring a leaping salmon was first used in Ballina in late April in black ink but on 26 April there was a change over to green ink.

329 - ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK/September 17th-23rd/USE OUR ENERGY AND USE OUR HEAD. In use from mid September in connection with Energy Awareness Week. Used at Cavan, Cork, Donegal (up to and including December), Dublin, Dundalk, Limerick Galway and Waterford.

The numbering system has been revised to follow on from the listing in "Irish Slogan Postmarks 1918 - 1994" by Uwe Netzsch published by the Irish Study Group (FAI) of the German Philatelic Federation.

FLIGHT COVERS

I set out below a list of all outward and inward flight covers known to me that were carried on either inaugural or special flights during 1995.



Date	Route	Carrier
27 March	Stockholm to Dublin	SAS
27 March	Dublin to Stockholm	SAS
1 April	Berlin to Dublin*	Lufthansa
1 April	Dublin to Berlin*	Lufthansa
18 April	London Stanstead to Dublin (BA146 Whisper Jet - Delivery Flight)	Aer Lingus

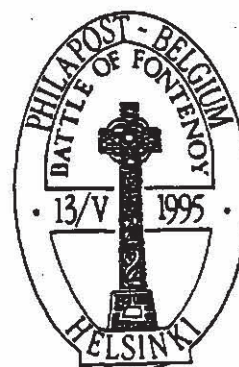
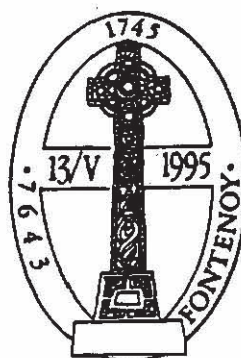
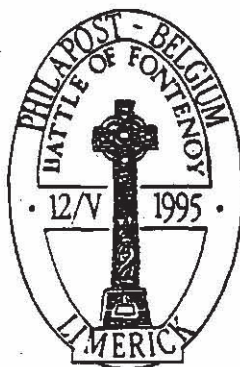
Date	Route	Carrier
23 April	Dublin to Shannon (BA146 Whisper Jet)	Aer Lingus
23 April	Shannon to Dublin (BA146 Whisper Jet)	Aer Lingus
15 May	Dublin to Belfast via Derry	Jersey European Airways
6 June	Clonbulloge, Co. Offaly - Free Fall Parachute Mail*	Irish Parachute Club
30 July	New York (JFK) to Kerry Airport (Farranfore)	American Trans Air
31 July	Kerry Airport (Farranfore) to New York (JFK)	American Trans Air
24 September	Rochester NY to Dublin (Europe Ryder Cup Team by Concorde)*	British Airways
25 September	Dublin to Sydney	Qantas
11 October	Dublin to Blackpool	Air South West

Special cancels were available in connection with the flights marked with an asterisk (*). The Dublin to Berlin and Clonbulloge cancels are illustrated on page 23.

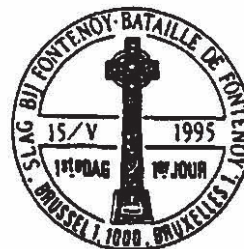
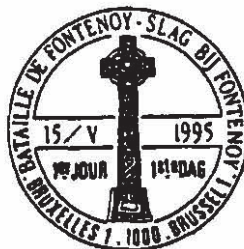
FOREIGN STAMPS AND POSTMARKS WITH IRISH ASSOCIATIONS

A number of 1994 issues are referred to below which were not included in my article last year. If any members know of any additional items I should be grateful to receive details of same.

British Antarctic Territory - Sir Ernest Shackleton: A surcharged set of four stamps (SG246-9) on the theme "Antarctic Heritage" was issued on 23 November 1994. The top value (76p+4p) features Sir Ernest Shackleton (b. 1874 in Kilkea, Co. Kildare) and his ship HMS Endurance trapped in ice.



Belgium - Battle of Fontenoy Joint Issue: The 32p stamp issued by An Post on 15 May was a joint issue with Belgium. The Belgium Post Office issued a 16 B.Fr. stamp (SG3266) with the same design on the same day. The stamp was printed by the same printer and in similar format as the Irish stamp with the same sheet markings but in addition the top margin has an inscription either side of the colour register crosses "Bataille De Fontenoy" and "Slag Bij Fontenoy". The printing date on the sheets of the Belgium stamp held at the philatelic counter in Dublin all read 11.I.95. The sheets sold by the Belgium Philatelic Bureau at their stand at Stamp '95 had a printing date of 12.I.95. The Belgium stamp incorporates the name of the Belgium designer - Eric Daniels - and was sold by An Post at 33p.



In a leaflet produced by the Belgium Post Office they illustrated a total of eight different FDC cancels as follows:-

12 May

Limerick - note inscription in English (not Luimneach).

13 May

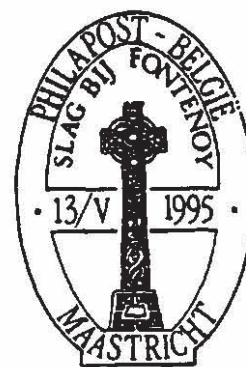
Fontenoy - as also available from An Post in Limerick.

Helsinki (Finlandia '95).

Maastricht (Mosaphil 1995).

Tervuren.

Tienen.



15 May

Brussels - Bilingual with French inscription first.

Brussels - Bilingual with Flemish inscription first - as also available from An Post.

It was interesting to note that the Limerick cancel offered by the Belgium Post Office for 12 May was inscribed in English and thus differed from that available from An Post. The two cancels used in Brussels and those from Tervuren and Tienen were circular, the remaining four were the same oval design as the Irish handstamps. All the above cancels were available for a period of eight weeks after the date of issue from the Belgium Post Office. It was possible to send covers with both stamps to Belgium to receive any of the eight cancels. As normal, the Belgium Post Office did not produce their own FDC. I can confirm that any covers sent to Belgium were promptly returned with the relevant cancel. The Belgium Post Office also illustrated five unaccepted designs in their publicity leaflet.

Centenary of Radio/Guglielmo Marconi Issue: The Centenary of Radio/Marconi set issued by An Post on 8 June 1995 was a co-operative effort with four other postal administrations - Germany, Italy, San Marino and Vatican City. Each of the four other countries issued stamp(s) on the same day.

Germany issued a single 100pf value (SG2638) in sheetlets of ten with the same Ernst Junger design showing Guglielmo Marconi and the radio apparatus used in December 1901 for Transatlantic transmissions as that used on one of the 32p Irish stamps. The margin reproduces symbols which represent radio waves.



San Marino issued two L850 stamps (SG1521-2) in sheetlets of five alternating se-tenant pairs. Once again the Marconi/radio apparatus design was used together with a radio display dial showing radio stations of each of the five participating countries with Ireland represented by Dublin. The display dial differs from the equivalent 32p Irish stamp being of modern design. The margins of the sheetlet have the same radio wave symbols as on the German sheetlet. Italy issued a L850 value (SG2322) also featuring the Ernst Junger design but in slightly smaller format together with a larger L750 value (SG2321) showing the Marconi family home of Villa Griffone, near Bologna. The Italian stamps were issued in regular sheets of 50 stamps. The Vatican issue also used the Marconi/apparatus design (L850 - SG1099) together with a stamp showing Pope John Paul II making a radio broadcast (L1,000 - SG1100). Both values were issued in separate sheetlets of ten stamps. The margins of both sheetlets incorporate the colours of the flags of the participating countries.

Finally although not part of the same series one of the two British stamps (SG1889-90) issued on 5 September 1995 commemorating Marconi's first wireless message in 1895 has an Irish connection. The 41p value (SG1889) features a close-up of the same portrait of Marconi and part of the radio apparatus as used in the Junger design against a map of the North Atlantic including Ireland.

Dominica - Dogs: A set of four stamps and a miniature sheet was issued during 1995 featuring Dogs. The \$5 value depicts an Irish Setter.

Grenada Grenadines - Dogs: A set of twenty-eight stamps (SG 1900-28) and two miniature sheets were issued on 3 May 1995 on the theme "Domestic Animals". Twenty-four of the sheet stamps are set out in two sheetlets of twelve stamps. The second sheetlet (all 75c.) features Dogs and one of the values (SG 1921) depicts an Irish Setter.

Micronesia - Dogs: A se-tenant block of four stamps (SG 426-9) issued on 5 April 1995 features dogs. One of the four 32c. stamps depicts an Irish Setter (SG 428).

Netherlands: A single 100c. stamp (SG 1750) issued on 2 January 1995 features maps of the European Union countries including Ireland within the design of a flying cow.

Nevis - Dogs: A set of thirteen stamps (SG879-91) and two miniature sheets issued on 23 May 1995 features dogs. Nine of the stamps are included within one sheetlet (all 80c.) and one of the designs depicts an Irish Setter (SG881).

Rumania - World Cup: A set of six World Cup stamps (SG 5625-30) was issued on 17 June 1994 illustrating the flags of the twenty-four participating countries. The Irish flag is featured on the 500l. value (SG 5629).

St. Vincent: A set of forty eight stamps (all \$1 values) set out in four sheetlets of twelve stamps was issued on 2 October 1995 featuring Nobel Prize Winners. Two of the stamps feature Irish born Nobel Prize Winners - Samuel Beckett (Literature - 1969) and Ernest Walton (Physics - 1951). Ernest Walton did not feature on the Irish Nobel Prize Winners set of 1994 given the general rule not to depict identifiable living persons on Irish stamps. He died in 1995.

Tanzania - World Cup: A set of eight stamps (SG 1745-52) and two miniature sheets issued on 14 February 1994 feature footballers including Kevin Sheedy (Republic of Ireland) on the 30s. sheet value (SG 1746).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

13 July - 8th World Congress of Kennel Clubs: The congress was held in Trinity College, Dublin. A special souvenir pack presented to delegates included a numbered 1983 Dogs Miniature sheet with a black overprint which reads '8th World Congress of Kennel Clubs/Ireland 1995'. Total printing of 100 sheets.

26 July - An Post Diary for 1996: The large format diary has a chocolate brown cover and is similar in format as previous issues. The diary includes a selection of original artwork from a wide range of previous stamp issues and first day covers. Cost: IR£10.95.

May - Irish Philatelic Circle - Annual Convention: The 1995 annual convention and general meeting was held at the Stafford Hotel, Chester on 6-7 May. A printed self-adhesive sticker was attached to the two GB stamp cards featuring the stamps issued on 2 May marking the 50th anniversary of the ending of World War II. The text on the blue sticker reads 'Irish Philatelic Circle/ANNUAL CONVENTION/6 - 7 May 1995/Stafford Hotel/Chester CH1 3AE'. Twenty-five of each card were available, each bearing the appropriate stamp and cancelled with the illustrated Chester Philatelic Counter postmark of 2 May. Each card was numbered in manuscript 1 to 25 (Victory Night in London) or 26 to 50 (Celebrating Peace and Freedom). Each card cost 50p. In addition a cream card privately produced in 1994 and featuring the special postmark used at Clifden for the Alcock & Brown anniversary of 15 June 1994 plus a green cachet ('The adventure to CLIFDEN, the 75th Anniversary of the World's First Non-Stop Transatlantic Flight by ALCOCK and Brown') was available. A self-adhesive sticker in black was attached to each numbered card which reads 'I.P.C. - A.G.M./1995/CHESTER/6/7 MAY'.



December - An Post Christmas Cards: A large Christmas postcard was forwarded by the philatelic bureau to all account holders which reproduces on the obverse side the 28p Christmas sheetlet stamp design. The reverse side carries a Christmas message together with a printed stamp featuring the same design (including 28p value) together with the wording Postage Paid/Postas íochta below the stamp design area. The stamp was cancelled with a printed postmark of 1 December which reproduced the same first day cancel design as used for the Christmas set. No card was forwarded to Voyager Club members this year.

The same general card was used by all business units this year and featured a three dimensional format incorporating the 28p sheetlet stamp design. The message side incorporated various printed messages and/or signatures. I did not see any SDS card this year.

December - Santa Christmas Envelope: The 1995 postage paid envelope features a revised design with Santa instead of the reindeers pulling the sleigh. There is a new pre-printed 'North Pole 12.00 PM Dec Christmas' postmark in dark red. The inner lining of the envelope has no pattern and is blue in colour.

PostShop Postcards: Few PostShop postcards are now available as the initial series of cards have not been reprinted. Most PostShops now sell the same types of picture postcards as available elsewhere. I have not noted any further cards. Numbers not yet seen are 19, 20, 27, 33, 34 and 35 (as per listing of last year).

Railway Preservation Society of Ireland Issues: No new issues were released during 1995. I understand that a number of current sets were overprinted for specific sale at overseas exhibitions.

CONCLUSION

Once again, I wish to thank An Post and my many philatelic friends for their help in producing this article and in particular Maurice Barrett, John Barrington, Jim Derwin, Bernard Donohoe, Tony Finn, Peter Geoffroy, Heinz Grunz, John Holman, Otto Jung, Michael Kelly, John Lennon, John Lorenzen, Peter McBride, John Mullen, Tony Quigley, Jim Ryan, David Turner, Ronny Vogt, Ian Whyte and Bill Zellers for their never ending patience in answering my queries and providing much valuable information.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 1994 - AN UPDATE

Brian Warren

THE IRISH POST OFFICE



Philakorea 1994 World Stamp Exhibition



Prior Year Exhibition Cachets: In my 1994 article I referred to possible cachets for overseas shows at Philakorea '94 (16 to 25 August, 1994), Philatelia '94 (7 to 9 October, 1994), FEPA Post (15 to 24 October) and Copenhagen (10 to 13 November, 1994). I can now confirm that there were cachets available for Philakorea '94, Philatelia '94 and FEPA Post. Finally, I have also established that no cachet was available at the Copenhagen show held in November 1994 (nor in 1995). Many thanks to Bernard Donohoe, Heinz Grunz, John Lorenzen and Peter McBride for their help in providing the necessary information. Particular thanks to Peter, Bernard and Heinz who between them provided the Philakorea and FEPA Post illustrations.

Stampa Souvenirs: Revised figures are now available for the Stampa '94 souvenirs. The membership souvenir total was 343 and the public souvenir sales total was 760. The general public souvenir cost £2.50 and not as stated.

Irish in Britain: I omitted to give the perforation size for this Walsall printed set. The perforation for both 32p and 52p values is 14 x 13%.

JOHN CURTIN, THE IRISH CONNECTION - Colm Murphy

Last August, 1994, the Australian Post Office issued a stamp honouring John Curtin. This was part of a set commemorating Australian War time Prime Ministers. Few readers may be aware of the Irish background.

It was back in the last years of the nineteenth century that two Curtin brothers decided to emigrate to Australia. The family lived in Dromohane, a village to the west of Mallow. Mallow is a large town some twenty or so miles to the north of Cork City. The two elder brothers were to be driven to Mallow railway



Australia's Wartime Prime Ministers



station to catch the train to Cork and then onto Cobh for the boat to Australia. However the younger brother, whose job it was to drive the horse and cart, could not part with his elder brothers. The three convinced a neighbour to take a message back to the family home that all three were off to Australia! This younger brother was subsequently the father of the Prime Minister, John Curtin!

GEORGE ITHELL, RIP

It was with sadness that everyone heard of the bereavement of GEORGE back in December. Those that had the good fortune to know GEORGE will remember him as an enthusiastic and knowledgeable philatelist. Just prior to his death he telephoned me to inquire about his updated manuscript on BALLYMACLINTON which had been forwarded for inclusion in the *JOURNAL* (this will feature in the next issue). His modesty was such that he hoped that I would consider the article suitable for inclusion!

My lasting impression of GEORGE dates back some years; at a major Exhibition I bumped into GEORGE, who to my delight remembered who I was. He in turn introduced me to the distinguished personnel he was chatting to - as his long time friend. I was more than chuffed!

Many will have their memories but that remains special to me.

There were of course the London meetings where GEORGE always remained a dominant background figure. He was there but only spoke when he had knowledge to impart.

A wonderful man, a wonderful figure.

Editor

A SMALL TRIBUTE TO GEORGE ITHELL

I only used to see George once a year at the *IPC* Convention, but whenever we met it was just as though we had seen each other the day before. Of course we exchanged cards and letters, usually on *IPC* business.

I think what impressed me most about George was his boundless energy and philatelic knowledge. My only regret was that I had not known him earlier in life when he was at his peak.

One has only got to read his book on *THE STORY OF BALLYMACLINTON* to realise that beneath those twinkling eyes was a man of steadfast dedication and an eye for detail.

My lasting impression of George will be at the Dublin Convention in 1994, not at the meeting, but in his hotel room surrounded by bags of covers. He was sorting for that elusive postmark which he could add to his collection.

I hope that the good Lord will allow GEORGE to carry on searching.

George Etoe

STAMP ISSUES (An Post) Spring 1996

January 23rd	Greetings Issue	4 X 32p stamps
February 1st	Olympic Games	28p & 3 X 32p values
March 5th	Ireland Series	28p, 32p, 38p, 44p & 52p
	L'Imaginaire Irlandais	32p
April 2nd	Europa	32p & 44p
	UNICEF & UNESCO	32p & 52p