



Irish Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

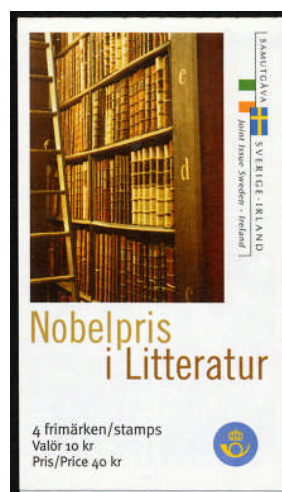
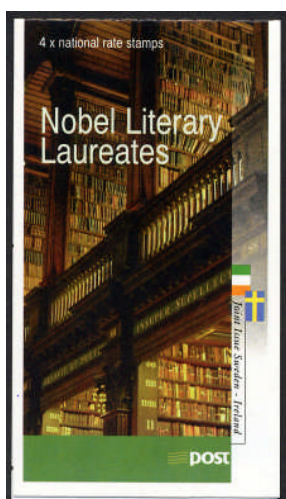


March 2005 – Supplement

That Was The Year That Was – 2004

Brian Warren

Irish Nobel Literary Laureates – Joint Issue with Sweden



Irish and Swedish Booklets together with Swedish Booklet Pane

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Acknowledgments

Once again, I wish to thank my many philatelic friends for their help in producing this annual supplement. Particular thanks to Maurice Barrett (who supplied the information and illustrations relating to IMP/slogan postmarks), to John Mullen for his work in relation to the definitives and special cancellations and to John Lennon for additional information relating to IMPS. Finally, thanks to Brian Donoghue, Tony Finn, John Greer, Heinz Grunz, Otto Jung, Michael Kelly, Declan O'Kelly, Phelim O'Neill, Pádraig O'Shea and David Turner for providing much valuable assistance and information and to Heloise Mitchell for proof reading the article.

As usual, I once again ask members who might be attending any of the international exhibitions attended by An Post or their agents to let me know of the availability of any Irish souvenirs or cachets. In particular, shows attended by agents often result in the use of a cachet organised by the agent without the knowledge of the philatelic bureau in Dublin. I can be contacted by e-mail at brian.warren@ie.pwc.com or by post at 2 Dargle Valley, Marley Grange, Dublin 16, Ireland.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2004

by Brian Warren

Note that illustrations of single stamps (and pairs) and postmarks (except IMPS) are full size; illustrations of IMPS, blocks & strips, booklets, covers and stationery items are reproduced at between 50% and 66% of full size.

Overseas rates (including G.B.) were revised on 6th January, with the G.B. rate increasing to 60c (from 50c) and the basic overseas rate to 65c (from 57c).

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 2004 programme, comprising 43 regular gummed stamps, 3 miniature sheets and 5 booklets, was issued over 17 release dates at a total cost of €65.10. All counter issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 33 sheetlets was €297.50.

The 2003 totals of 43 regular gummed stamps, 8 self-adhesive coil stamps, 4 miniature sheets and 7 booklets, were issued over 12 release dates at a total cost of €80.91. All counter issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 34 sheetlets was €277.64.

As can be noted from the above figures, despite an increase in overseas rates, the total overall cost (excluding complete sheetlets) was lower than in 2003. This was due to the absence of any special and commemorative issues in coil format and the release of two less booklets. Although the number of sheet stamps remained at 43, a wider range of events and anniversaries was commemorated due to the welcome release of a number of single stamp issues. In addition to the annual Love stamp, there were eight single stamp issues in 2004 as compared to four in 2003.

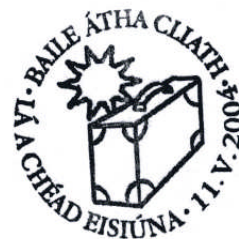
Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perf.	Printer
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15 Jan	Ireland's Presidency of the European Union	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP	
30 Jan	Love Stamp (20th Issue)	- Monkeys in Love	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	Greetings Booklet (13th Issue)	- Cartoon Animals	€4.80	10 x 48c self-adhesive		11¼ x 11½	SNP Sprint
	Year of the Monkey	- Miniature sheet	€1.80	3 x 60c (phos.) – see below	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
27 Feb	Centenary of the Abbey Theatre	- Theatre Logo	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
27 Feb	St. Patrick's Day	- St. Patrick	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perf.	Printer
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19 Mar	Shackleton Antarctic Expedition - 1914 to 1917					
	- Endeavour	{ 48c	se-tenant pair	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
		{ 48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Crew Members on Ice pack	{ 65c	se-tenant pair	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
		{ 65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Miniature Sheet (Crew Members on Ice Pack)	€2.00	2 x €1 – Non-Phosphor	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Prestige Booklet	€9.50	Four panes – see below	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
31 Mar	Centenary of FIFA - Flags, Football and Globe	60c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 12¾	Walsall
1 May	European Union Accession - E.U. Map	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
11 May	Europa – Holidays - Ross Castle, Killarney	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 13¾	Walsall
	- Cliffs of Moher, Co. Clare	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 13¾	Walsall
11 May	Fauna and Flora – Ducks - Tufted Duck	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13 x 13¾	Walsall
	- Red-breasted Merganser	60c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13 x 13¾	Walsall
	- Gargany	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13 x 13¾	Walsall
	- Gadwall	€1.00	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13 x 13¾	Walsall
	- Miniature Sheet	€2.73	One of each value (phos.)	CCP3	13 x 13¾	Walsall
15 May	U.N. International Year of the Family (10th Anniversary) - Logo	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13	Walsall
19 May	Texaco Children's Art - No Title (Daire Lee)	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- "Marmalade Cat" (Cian Colman)	60c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- "Ralleshin Dipditch" (Daire O'Rourke)	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- "Fish on a Dish" (Ailish Fitzpatrick)	€1.00	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
16 June	"Ulysses" - Illustration of James Joyce	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¾	ISSP
	- Photograph of James Joyce	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¾	ISSP
26 June	Irish College, Paris - Painting by Thomas Ryan RHA	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
  						
   						
30 June	Introduction of the Luas	- Luas Carriage 48c - Luas outside Heuston Station 48c	se-tenant pair 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	ISSP
22 July	Camogie Centenary	- Dublin and Antrim 48c - Cork and Kilkenny 48c	se-tenant pair 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
22 July	Olympic Summer Games	- Javelin 48c - Discus 60c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¾ x 14¾ 14¾ x 14¾	Walsall Walsall
16 Sept	National Gallery of Ireland – 3rd Issue	- "The House Builders" (Walter F. Osborne) 48c - "Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus" (Diego Velázquez) 48c - "The Lamentation over the Dead Christ" (Nicolas Poussin) 48c - "The Taking of Christ" (Michelangelo Meris da Caravaggio) 48c - Prestige Booklet €8.00	se-tenant horizontal strip of four } in sheetlets of 16 } no plate numbers on issued sheetlets } CCP3 paper – perf. 14¾ x 14 – printed by ISSP four panes of four stamps (face value: €7.68) – see below			
1 Oct	Irish Nobel Literary Laureates	- William B. Yeats N (48c) - George B. Shaw N (48c) - Samuel Beckett N (48c) - Seamus Heaney N (48c) - Booklet €1.92	Four blocks of four } in sheetlets of 16 } Plate Numbers 1A1A1A only (with phosphor 1A also) } Perf. 12½ x 13½ - Printed by Sweden Post Block of four imperforate top and bottom			
21 Oct	Patrick Kavanagh (Birth Centenary)	- Portrait 48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13 x 13¾	Walsall
	Quakerism in Ireland (350th Anniversary)	- George Fox 60c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13 x 13¾	Walsall
10 Nov	Christmas (34th Issue)	- The Holy Family 48c - The Flight into Egypt 60c - The Adoration of the Magi 65c - Booklet (self-adhesive - The Holy Family) €11.04	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 24 x 48c i.e. one free stamp	CCP3	14 x 14¾ 14 x 14¾ 14 x 14¾ 11¼ x 11½	ISSP ISSP ISSP SNP Sprint

Printers and Sheet Format: Except for the Nobel Literary Laureates set, all stamps were litho printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited (ISSP), Walsall Security Printers (Walsall) or the Australian firm, SNP Sprint.



Top margin of the E.U. Presidency stamp

All sheet issues continue to be issued in 16 stamp (4 x 4) sheetlet format with both "A" and "B" sheets. The plate numbers are located in the left margin opposite R1/S1 and the colour controls in the right margin opposite R1/S4. The imprint is in the bottom margin under R4/S1. The bottom right corner is blank. Details about the particular stamp are included across the top margin. This layout applies to both horizontal and vertical format designs. All sheetlets have an imperforate top margin; all other margins are perforated. Any variation in the above format for any individual issue is referred to below and/or in the table above. All stamps have a phosphor frame unless otherwise stated.

Year Imprint: Apart from the 65c International Year of the Family stamp, none of the Walsall printed issues bear a date imprint at the foot of the stamp design.

First Day Covers: Blank FDCs cost 75c (2003: 75c/50c). Special covers and pictorial cancels were available for all issues. The serviced FDC for the joint Nobel Laureates issue with Sweden was sold at €7.75 which gives a cover price of €1.33 (€1.92 + €4.50 + €1.33) although blank covers were sold at 75c.

Maximum Cards: No maximum cards were issued by An Post during 2004.



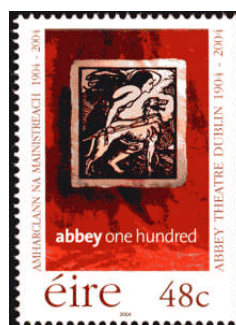
E.U. Presidency Imprint Block

Ireland's Presidency of the European Union: Ireland took over the Presidency on 1 January. The stamp features an image of the spectacular Boyne Bridge near Drogheda on the Dublin-Belfast road which was opened in 2003. In *Collectors News*, An Post stated that the first day cover featured Leinster House (Dublin) and the European Parliament (Strasbourg). The reference to Leinster House is incorrect; the

building illustrated is Government Buildings (also in Dublin).

Love Stamp and Greetings Booklet: The 48c sheetlet issue features two "Monkeys in Love". The greetings booklet is in self-adhesive format and features cartoon representations of animals. The ten stamps plus ten labels are set out in one pane, folded twice, containing two columns of five stamps and five labels. There are five different stamp designs featuring Monkeys in Love, Panda, Koala Bears and Hippopotamus. Each design appears twice and the stamps measure 25mm x 30mm. The cover of the booklet reproduces the Jolly Panda design. Three of the designs are included in the Year of the Monkey miniature sheet referred to below as regular size gummed issues. The labels do not have die cut perforations but are cut with straight edges and feature elements of the stamp designs.

Year of the Monkey Miniature Sheet: A special miniature sheet to mark the Chinese Lunar Year of the Monkey was issued on the same day as the Love stamp and the Greetings booklet. The sheet contains three of the Greetings stamp designs in regular size format – 60c Monkeys in Love, 60c Panda and 60c Koala Bears (all with phosphor frame) plus six small labels. The 60c Koala Bears stamp is imperforate at right. The left-hand panel shows a Monkey and the labels refer to Happy New Year in English, Irish (each twice) plus Chinese and Cantonese. A different cover referring to the Year of the Monkey was produced for the miniature sheet but the first day cancel was the same as for the sheet and self-adhesive issues.



Abbey Theatre and St. Patrick: The stamp issued to mark the centenary of the Abbey Theatre, Ireland's National Theatre, features the Theatre's logo. A single stamp was issued this year for St. Patrick featuring a stained glass image of the Saint from the Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, Magheralin, Co. Down.

Shackleton Antarctic Expedition: – Sheet Stamps and Miniature Sheet: Each stamp is in a square format – 36mm x 36mm. Each pair of se-tenant stamps features a composite picture from the Expedition.



48c showing normal phosphor frame

The phosphor frame is applied across the composite design so that any individual stamp only has phosphor on three sides. This applies to both the 48c and 65c values – see above illustration of the 48c.



65c showing horizontal phosphor frame displaced upwards

In addition, I have also noted both "B" sheetlets of the 48c value and both "A" and "B" sheetlets of the 65c value with an upward phosphor displacement of 2mm – see above illustration of the 65c. This results in 48c and 65c stamps with no phosphor at the top of the stamp (rows 1 to 4) and, at the bottom of each stamp, either a double width (4mm) of phosphor (rows 1 to 3) or a single 2mm band of phosphor (row 4) – the latter approx 2mm above the perforations. In addition, a single 2mm line of phosphor exists in the top margin above row 1 as shown above.



65c showing horizontal phosphor frame displaced downwards

A similar downward phosphor displacement of 1mm exists on "B" sheetlets of the 48c and "A" sheetlets of the 65c. This results in stamps with a narrow 1mm phosphor band at the foot of each stamp (rows 1 to 4) and, at the top of each stamp, either a wide phosphor 3mm phosphor band (rows 2 to 4) or a 2mm phosphor band positioned 1mm below the perforations (row 1). In addition, a single 1mm line of phosphor exists in the bottom margin below row 4.

These are the first significant phosphor shifts noted on Irish commemorative stamps. Bureau stock included both normal and displaced phosphor sheets. I suspect that other variations may exist on this issue and that both variations may have occurred on both "A" and "B" sheetlets.

The miniature sheet contains 2 x €1 stamps (non-phosphor) with the same design as the 65c stamps. Both stamps have an imperforate top margin; in addition, the right-hand stamp is imperforate at right.

Shackleton Expedition – Prestige Booklet: The illustrated panes in the prestige booklet each contain a block of four stamps, with the top margin of both stamps in the first row imperforate. The four panes contain the same se-tenant designs as the sheet issue, as follows:-

- Pane 1: 4 x 48c.
- Pane 2: 4 x 65c.
- Pane 3: 2 x 48c (top row) plus 2 x 65c (bottom row).
- Pane 4: 2 x 48c (top row) plus 2 x 65c (bottom row).

Each pane features a different Arctic scene, so pane 3 differs from pane 4. The imperforate top margins result in four separately identifiable stamps. The phosphor frame format is the same as that of the sheet stamps (but no displacement noted). The panes are rouletted at left and are stitched into the booklet covers. The booklet was sold for €9.50, although the face value of the stamps was only €9.04.



Centenary of Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA): The single 60c stamp with phosphor frame is in a square format (36mm x 36mm). All four sides of the usual sixteen-stamp sheetlet are perforated. Usual sheet markings.



European Union Accession: This was a late addition to the 2004 programme to mark the accession of ten new countries to the European Union. The Accession ceremony took place in Dublin on 1 May as Ireland held the E.U. Presidency during the first six-month period of 2004.

There was criticism in both the Irish and foreign media about the map design as Cyprus appeared so close to Greece, and actually resembles the outline of Crete. As a result of the publicity, the stamp sold out within two months, although stocks were reserved for the Year Book and Pack.



Europa - Posters: Both values were printed in the normal ten-stamp format for Europa issues. "A" and "B" sheetlets were available this year. There are three rows in each sheetlet, with the top row containing two stamps (in positions 1 and 4) and a pair of se-tenant labels showing a composite rural roads sign scene (in positions 2 and 3). The same labels' design was used for both values. Rows 2 and 3 each have four stamps.

Left and right margins are imperforate. The bottom margin is perforated. In the top margin only the margin above the two stamps is perforated. Usual sheet markings but with the colour controls in the same block as the printers' imprint.



Fauna and Flora – Ducks: The four duck illustrations are by Killian Mullarney, the same artist who was responsible for all the Bird definitive designs. All four sides of the usual sixteen-stamp sheetlets are perforated. Usual sheet markings. All stamps with phosphor frame. The miniature sheet contains the same four stamps – also with phosphor frame.

There was criticism that the Latin inscription for the Red-breasted Merganser of "Mergus Serrator" was incorrect but all my internet searches confirm this spelling which is repeated in the Year Book.



U.N. International Year of the Family: The stamp is slightly smaller than normal – 30mm x 40mm. All four sides of the usual sixteen-stamp sheetlet are perforated. Usual sheet markings and phosphor frame.



Texaco Children's Art: This competition began in 1955 and three of the previous winning designs appeared on a set issued in 1979 to mark "International Year of the Child".



Ulysses Centenary: Both stamps measure 30mm x 52mm and, due to the larger format, were issued in sheetlets of twelve (3 rows of 4 stamps).

Irish College (Paris): The release of the Irish College, Paris issue coincided with the "Le Salon du Timbre" exhibition in Paris (26 June to 4 July) – See Overseas Exhibitions below (page 16).

Luas: The two 48c stamps are set out in se-tenant format both horizontally and vertically within the sheetlet. Each stamp is in a square format (36mm x 36mm). The stamps which marked the re-introduction of a tram system to Dublin were issued on the opening day of the Luas line from Sandyford to St. Stephen's Green (Line 'B'); the second line, from Tallaght to Connolly Station (Line 'A'), commenced operations on 28 September and passes by Heuston Station which is featured on one of the stamps. "Luas" is the Irish for "Speed".

The release of this issue also coincided with the "Le Salon du Timbre" exhibition in Paris (26 June to 4 July) – See Overseas Exhibitions below (page 16).



Camogie Centenary Issue: The two 48c Camogie stamps are set out in se-tenant format both horizontally and vertically within the sheetlet. Dublin (blue) and Antrim (yellow) team colours plus the Camogie Association logo, are shown on one stamp; the Cork (red) and Kilkenny (black and gold) colours, together with the O'Duffy Cup, which is awarded to the All Ireland senior champions, are shown on the second stamp. Dublin have won the All Ireland title 26 times (including 10 in a row), Cork (20 titles), Kilkenny (12) and Antrim (6).



Olympic Summer Games: The horizontal perforation size is different on the two values. All four sides of the usual sixteen-stamp sheetlet are perforated. Usual sheet markings.



"The House Builders" (Walter F. Osborne)

National Gallery of Ireland: This is the final set of a series of three sets issued over a three-year period (2002 to 2004) to mark the 140th Anniversary of the National Gallery of Ireland. Sheetlets do not bear any plate, imprint or colour control markings. Same se-tenant order (as listed in the table above) for each strip of four within the sheetlet. "The Taking of Christ" by Caravaggio was previously shown on a 32p stamp issued in 1994.

The prestige booklet consists of four panes, each containing a block of 4 x 48c stamps (all fully perforated with phosphor frame) as follows:-

Pane 1: "The Taking of Christ" (Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio)[‡].

Pane 2: "Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus" (Diego Velázquez).

Pane 3: "The Lamentation over the Dead Christ" (Nicolas Poussin)[‡].

Pane 4: "The House Builders" (Walter F. Osborne)[‡].

The National Gallery sells attractive postcards for the three paintings marked [‡] above plus a greetings card for the remaining painting by Diego Velázquez, all of which could be used as maximum cards. At the time of issue three of the four paintings were on public display in the National Gallery; the exception was "The House Builders".



Colour controls – note phosphor control can also be seen under U.V. light below the top black spot

Irish Nobel Literary Laureates - Sheet Issue: This was a joint issue with Sweden, who printed both the sheet and booklet using a combination of offset litho for the colour element and recess for the black elements of the designs. The sheet has imperforate top and bottom margins and perforated left and right margins. There is no reference to the issue in the top margin.

Three litho plate numbers (cyan, magenta, yellow) appear in the top of the left margin – no plate number for the recess element. All sheets had the plate numbers "1A1A1A"; 1B sheets not seen. There is also a phosphor plate number (also 1A) which is set above the three ink plate numbers. The colour controls are in the top of the right margin and include a black spot as well as the three colour spots; each of the colour spots have the letters C/M/Y under each respective colour. A phosphor spot (with letter F) is positioned between the black and colour controls. This is the first Irish phosphor issue to include a printed phosphor plate number and colour control. Finally, the imprint "SWEDEN POST STAMPS" appears twice in the bottom margin – at left and right.

Each individual stamp measures 45mm x 26.5mm with phosphor frame and the figure of value is denoted by "N" (National Rate – currently 48c). Presumably, An Post were anticipating a rate increase given, no doubt, the longer lead time for printing this issue. The serviced FDC sold by An Post did NOT include the sheet issue but instead incorporated the booklet pane – see below. However dealers and collectors did service covers which included the sheet issue.

The designer was Gustav Malmfors with engravings by Lars Sjöblom (Sweden). Each design features a portrait of the Laureate against backgrounds associated with them or their work. *Seamus Heaney*, born in 1939, is a poet, lyricist and essayist and was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1995. "Seeing Things" (1991) is regarded as one of the highlights of his work. *William Butler Yeats* (1865-1939), poet and playwright, received the Nobel Prize in 1923. His first drama "Catleen ní Houlihan" was performed at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, which Yeats helped to found. The original Abbey Theatre is featured on the stamp (and the An Post FDC). *Samuel Beckett* (1906-1989), writer and playwright, won the Nobel

Prize in 1925. His best known drama is the provoking and humorous work "Waiting for Godot" – a scene from this play is featured on the stamp. *George Bernard Shaw* (1856-1950) received the Nobel Prize in 1925. Through the musical "My Fair Lady" his "Pygmalion" became a worldwide success.



Booklet panes showing plate 1 (top) and plate 2 with serial number (bottom)

Irish Nobel Literary Laureates - Booklet Issue:

The booklet is in the normal Swedish style and contains a block of four stamps with imperforate top or bottom margins giving four separately identifiable stamps – W.B. Yeats and G.B. Shaw imperforate top plus S. Beckett and S. Heaney imperforate bottom. Both the left binding margin and the right margin are imperforate. A black plate number 1 or 2 also appears in the narrow right margin of some booklets. Plate 2 booklets also have a sequential serial number in the left binding margin. The booklet cover features the library shelves of the Long Room at Trinity College, Dublin.

The An Post FDC was in a larger format (217mm x 149mm) as it incorporates both the Irish and Swedish blocks – both ex. booklets with respective Dublin and Stockholm first day cancels. The An Post FDC's appear to have been pre-prepared and cancelled in Sweden as the Swedish first day cancel was only available in this format.

Note that this issue coincided with the opening day of Stampa which had a similar Quill and Ink Bottle postmark as used to cancel the Irish stamps – see page 15.

Irish Nobel Literary Laureates - Swedish Booklet:

As Sweden does not issue stamps in sheet format, the Swedish set was only issued in booklets. The format is the same as the Irish booklet (but no phosphor) with the addition of four priority labels to the left of the binding margin. Similar to the Irish booklet, a black plate number 1 or 2 also appears in the narrow right margin of some booklets.



Plate 2 booklets also have a sequential serial number in the left binding margin.

The booklet cover features a different view of the library shelves of the Long Room at Trinity College, Dublin. The Swedish FDC (different design) also incorporates both booklet panes and the respective Stockholm and Dublin first day cancels.

Patrick Kavanagh: The stamp features a photograph of the celebrated Irish poet by Evelyn Hofer. The FDC features an illustration of the bronze statue of the poet situated on a seat beside the Grand Canal at Wilton Terrace, Dublin 2 near where he resided when he lived in Dublin.



Quakerism in Ireland: George Fox, founder of the Quakers, is pictured on the stamp, as is the Quaker Meeting House in Ballitore, Co. Kildare which was built circa 1708; the same building is featured on the first day cover. This building also included a schoolhouse which Ernest Shackleton attended as a child.



Plate block of 60c value



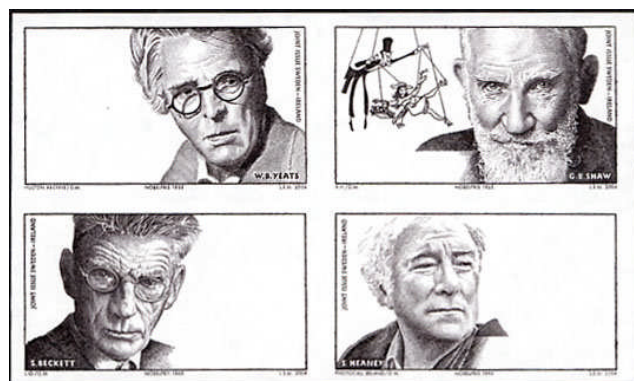
Christmas: All three designs by Finbarr O'Connor were specially commissioned by An Post; usually the regular gummed Christmas stamps reproduce paintings or illustrations held by galleries and libraries.

The Christmas booklet contains 24 x 48c self-adhesive stamps, giving one free stamp per booklet. The twenty-four stamps are set out on one pane (folded five times) which contains two columns of twelve stamps, all with phosphor frame. Each stamp measures 25mm x 30mm. A pair of self-adhesives ex. booklet complete with normal backing was available from the philatelic bureau. The design matches the 48c sheet issue. This is the first Christmas booklet issue to use the same design as the regular sheet stamp.

PRESENTATION PACKS, FOLDERS AND SHEETS

19 May - Texaco Children's Art: The pack contains a set of the stamps. Cost: €5.00 - face value: €2.73.

16 September - National Gallery of Ireland (3rd Issue) - Presentation Folder: The folder contains a complete sheetlet of sixteen stamps plus the four booklet panes. The packs could be added to the folder sold with the 2002 & 2003 collections. Cost: €35.00 – face value: €15.36.



Black print ex. Nobel presentation pack

1 October - Irish Nobel Laureates Folder: The folder contains the Irish and Swedish booklet panes (no margins and stuck down) cancelled with the respective first day cancels together with a mint black print of the recess element of the designs (primarily the portraits). Total printing of 8,000 copies. Cost: €10 (SEK 95 in Sweden) – face value of two stamp panes: €6.40 approx.

The Swedish Post Office also sold a Collectors Sheet (A4) with mint blocks of both issues. Cost: SEK 82 (approx €9). This was not sold by An Post.

2 December - Year Pack: The pack contains one each of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2004, including a pair of the Christmas self-adhesive (cut from a normal booklet with backing), but excluding the Greetings booklet pane and any of the miniature sheets – a total of 45 (2003: 53) stamps with a face value of €24.27 (2003: €26.53). Cost: €30 (2003: €30.00).

2 December - Year Book: Each book contains one each of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2004, including a pair of the Christmas self-adhesive (cut from a normal booklet with backing), but excluding the Greetings self-adhesive booklet pane. The three miniature sheets (Year of the Monkey, Shackleton, Fauna & Flora - Ducks) were also included.

As in 2003, there was no black print included this year. Total printing of 2,500 standard copies (2003: 3,000) and 150 (2003: 150) luxury leather-bound editions. Cost: €55.00 (leather-bound edition €160.00). The total face value is €30.80.

DEFINITIVES

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perf.	Printer
						
5 Jan	Birds – Sheet issues – new design/value	- Puffin 60c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
		- Song Thrush 65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	Birds – Self-Adhesive booklets	- Puffin €6.00	10 x 60c (new G.B. rate)		11¼ x 11½	SNP Sprint
		- Song Thrush €6.50	10 x 65c (new overseas rate)		11¼ x 11½	SNP Sprint
Feb	Birds – Self-Adhesive Roll					
	- Peregrine Falcon and Pied Wagtail (New printing)	2 x 48c	€48 per box of 100 (50 x 2)		11 x 11¼	Enschedé
April	Birds – Self Adhesive Booklet					
	- Peregrine Falcon and Pied Wagtail (New printing)	€4.80	10 x 48c – 2 designs		11¼ x 11½	SNP Sprint
9 Sept	New Wild Flowers Definitives - Part 1					
	Sheet Issues					
	- Dog-violet	4c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Dandelion	5c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Primrose	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Hawthorn	60c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Bluebell	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	Lords and Ladies	€2.00	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
	- Dog-rose	€5.00	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	Self-Adhesives					
	- Booklet (Daisy on cover)	€4.80	10 x 48c - 2 designs		11 x 11¼	SNP Sprint
	(Primrose and Daisy)	- Boxed Roll 2 x 48c	€48 per box of 100 (50 x 2 designs)		11 x 11¼	SNP Sprint
	Vending Machine Booklet (Primrose on cover)	€4.80	10 x 48c (2 designs)	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
Dec	Birds – Self-Adhesive booklet (Reprint)- Song Thrush	€6.50	10 x 65c (see note below)		11¼ x 11½	SNP Sprint
Note: Sheet Reprints not included in above listing – see notes below						

Note: Sheet Reprints not included in above listing – see notes below

Birds of Ireland

Sheet Issues: International (including G.B.) postal rates increased on 5 January 2004. As a result, a basic letter to overseas destinations (including Europe) now costs 65c and to G.B., 60c. These rates are for Priority 1st class treatment. Economy service rates for the initial weight step are 55c (Europe/Rest of World) and 50c (G.B.). As a result, two new sheet stamps were issued – 60c (C5 envelope, up to 50grms G.B. priority rate) and 65c (C4 envelope, up to 50grms, Europe/Rest of World priority rate). Both stamps have a phosphor frame.

Change in CCP3 Paper and Sheet Reprints: CCP1 paper was produced by Harrison & Sons, which was

taken over by De La Rue in 1997. Following the acquisition, De La Rue Security Print upgraded the former Harrisons plant at High Wycombe. They then purchased the House of Questa, which is based in Byfleet in Surrey, in September 2002. Following this acquisition, they closed the High Wycombe plant, transferring some machinery to the Byfleet premises. This closure of High Wycombe may explain the non-appearance of CCP1 paper in recent years.

I have been able to ascertain that CCP3 paper continues to be supplied to ISSP by Tullis Russell. However, commencing with the ordinary gummed vending machine booklets issued on 6 August 2002 (€2 with 41c and €4.10 with 10 x 41c), there was a change in CCP3 paper. Although the paper still gives a dark reaction under U.V. light (on the front), the gum is less creamy and more off-white in colour, and has less of a shine when held up to artificial light. The 1c and 2c values, which were the only original Bird sheet issues in the euro set to appear on CCP1 paper, were reprinted on this CCP3 paper. This occurred in early 2003.

All subsequent new sheet values issued in 2003 and 2004 (7c, 48c, 60c Puffin, 65c, 75c & 95c) and ordinary gummed booklets (€2 with 48c Peregrine Falcon and €4.80 with 10 x 48c Birds) were only noted on this CCP3 paper as were late printings of the 41c sheet issue. I suspect that original Tullis Russell CCP3 paper may also have been used for the 48c value. Later printings of the 5c (August 2003), 10c (early 2004), 50c (late 2004) and 60c Jay (2003) have also been noted on this CCP3 paper variation. These four values, and the 41c as referred to above, are the only values I have definitely noted on both types of CCP3 paper. Other values may also exist on this paper. All the booklets mentioned were only seen on the later CCP3 paper. In the case of the sheet issues, the paper appears whiter on the front akin to CCP1 but this is not evident on the booklet issues.

I have also been able to ascertain that this CCP3 paper has been supplied by De La Rue, although I'm unsure as to the place of manufacture. The De La Rue Group own Portals Batchford, a paper maker near Bath; however, the De La Rue website makes no reference to the manufacture of stamp paper by this subsidiary. It is very difficult to distinguish the two CCP3 papers when looking at single stamps, and for this reason I'm inclined to treat this as a variation rather than a new type of paper. More study is required and I hope to return to this subject in a later article.

The new Wild Flowers gummed issues and all recent commemorative and special issues appear to have been printed on the original Tullis Russell CCP3 paper.

Self-Adhesive Booklets: New booklets for the 60c G.B. and 65c Overseas priority rates were also issued. The phosphor frame is complete on both booklets (but see later reprint of 10 x 65c below). The 60c Puffin sheet stamp was a change in design, as a 60c featuring the Jay was issued on 17 June 2002. Presumably, An Post decided that sheet and booklet issues should feature the same design. This was not the case when the G.B. rate was 50c; the 50c sheet issue features the Grey Heron, whereas the 50c booklet stamp introduced the Puffin design to the euro set. One lucky collector found one of the €6.00 booklets completely imperforate with no die-cut perforations.



Self-Adhesive Reprint -

Roll: A new printing by Enschedé of the €48 box of 100 x 48c stamps was released in February with the spelling corrected on the Pied Wagtail stamp. The Irish inscription is now correctly shown as "Glasóg shráide". The phosphor frame is complete (as per previous roll printing). The surplus paper was removed and a small white peelable label seals the roll.

The roll format is the same as the 41c Enschedé printing of 2002 and differs from Irish and Australian produced issues in that there are neither coil joins nor reminder labels. Complete rolls are reeled vertically, commencing with the 48c Pied Wagtail (top feed i.e. top of stamp design appears first from the box). A series of numbers is printed on the reverse of the thin backing paper every 5th stamp, commencing with 100 on the first stamp and ending with 5 on stamp 96. The numbers appear back to front when viewed from the reverse of the backing paper. In addition, a roughly printed red line appears on the reverse of the backing paper of the last ten stamps in the roll. Elements of red also appear on earlier stamps. This can vary from roll to roll.

Although the perforation style and size are the same as the Australian printing, individual stamps are identifiable from the previous SNP Sprint printing as follows:-

- the phosphor frame (which is complete) is a darker yellow under U.V. light (similar to ISSP phosphor printings) as compared to the lighter yellow on Australian self-adhesives.
- the Pied Wagtail stamp has the correct spelling of "Glasóg shráide".
- photogravure rather than litho printing.

The box is similar to the SNP Ausprint box except that it refers to Enschedé and there is a wording change to refer to the maximum C5 envelope size for 48c postage. No first day facilities were available for this issue.

Self-Adhesive Reprints - Booklets: The 10 x 48c booklet was first noted by me on 30 April 2004 with the corrected Irish spelling on the Pied Wagtail/Glasóg Shráide stamp. This reprint was never announced by the philatelic bureau, but the lighter yellow phosphor identifies it as another Australian printing. The phosphor frame is complete on all stamps – the initial Australian printing of this booklet (with incorrect "GlasÜg shr-de" spelling) had either a small or large indent in the phosphor at bottom right.

The individual stamps differ from the corrected roll printing by Enschedé due to the lighter yellow phosphor. However, in the case of the Peregrine Falcon design, the individual stamp will match the initial roll printing by SNP Sprint issued in September 2003 as both had complete phosphor frames; however, in the case of mint stamps the backing paper/card identifies the source of the stamp.



Complete phosphor frame (left) and with indent (right)

The 10 x 65c Song Thrush, first issued in January with complete phosphor frame (see above), was also reprinted; new stocks with a darker phosphor frame with a small indent at bottom right were first noted in December 2004.

Wild Flowers of Ireland

Sheet Issues: The first part of a new definitive series featuring wild flowers native to Ireland was released on 9 September (48c noted used on 7 September). All stamps in this first release feature flowers native to Irish Woodlands and Hedgerows.

All values are double pane printings with both "A" and "B" sheets in similar manner as the Birds series. The five low values issued to date are all in vertical format and measure 24mm x 27mm and are issued in sheets of 100 (10 x 10); the €2 (vertical format - 27mm x 48mm) and €5 (horizontal format - 48mm x 27mm) values are issued in sheets of 50 (€2 - 5 rows of 10; €5 - 10 rows of 5). There are no gutters. The positioning of the marginal markings is the same for both low and high values irrespective of format and for both "A" and "B" sheets - plate numbers in left margin at top left, colour controls in top margin at top right and imprint in bottom margin at bottom left. The 48c, 60c and 65c have the usual phosphor frame; other values are non-phosphor.

Self-Adhesive – Booklet: The 10 x 48c booklet features 5 x 48c Primrose design (as per sheet issue) plus 5 x 48c Daisy design in the usual two-column format. The phosphor frame is complete on each stamp.

Self-Adhesive – Boxed Roll: The roll of 100 stamps is split into 4 strips of 25 plus 2 reminder labels in black on the last two strips. The labels read "Only 25/stamps left..." and "Only 10/stamps left.../ORDER NOW". This is the same roll format as the previous Australian definitive roll of 10 x 48c Birds. Surplus paper removed. The reverse of the backing paper has a repeated "Sprintpak – SNP Sprint" reference under a small rectangular square. The roll is reeled vertically (top feed) with two designs (Primrose and Daisy designs as per booklet) commencing with the Primrose design. The individual self-adhesive stamps have the usual

complete phosphor frame. There are no markings on the bottom flaps of the box, which features the Daisy design. The philatelic bureau also sell the usual pair of stamps but, unusually, the surplus paper has not been removed. This appears to indicate that loose pairs are printed in a separate operation from complete rolls.

Vending Machine Booklet: The €4.80 booklet contains 5 x 48c Primrose and 5 x 48c Daisy in the normal alternate layout. The outer margins are imperforate with an imperforate binding margin on the left and a perforated margin at right. This gives four new identifiable stamps – 48c Primrose either imperforate top or bottom and 48c Daisy either imperforate top or bottom - all with complete phosphor frames. The phosphor is darker than the equivalent stamps ex. rolls. The cover includes an illustration of the Daisy stamp and incorporates the wording "10 GUMMED 48c". Note that no €2 booklet has been released to replace the Birds of Ireland issue.

Artwork Display: The designs for this series are by renowned botanical artist Susan Sex who opened a display of all 32 original artwork drawings on the day of issue in the G.P.O. Dublin. This display continued until late October. The 32 wild flowers are split into 5 different habitat groupings:-

Burren

- Bloody Crane's Bill
- Fly Orchid
- Irish Orchid
- Spring Gentian*
- Mountain Avens

Coast

- Pyramidal Orchid
- Sea Aster
- Thrift
- Yellow Horned Poppy
- Biting Stonecrop
- Kidney Vetch



Dry Grassland and Rocky Heath

- Autumn Gorse
- Carlina Thistle*
- Devil's Bit Scabious
- Foxglove
- Common Knapweed
- Navelwort
- Viper's Bugloss



Wetlands

- Black Bog-rush
- Blue-eyed Grass
- Yellow Flag*
- Large-flowered Butterwort
- Marsh Marigold
- Purple Loosetrife

(listing continued on next page)

Woodlands and Hedgerows

- Bluebell* (65c)
- Daisy* (48c S/A only)
- Dandelion* (5c)
- Common Dog-violet* (4c)
- Hawthorn* (60c)
- Dog-rose* (€5)
- Lords-and-Ladies* (€2)
- Primrose* (48c)

An illustrated leaflet was available giving details about the series and the designer. Twelve of the flowers were illustrated in the leaflet - marked * above. The Definitive drawings were replaced by artwork for various issues associated with Transport; this latter display was also shown at Stampa and accompanied by a similar illustrated leaflet.

The final artwork for 30 different transport stamps was on display, commencing with the 1984 issue featuring Trains and ending with the Luas set of 2004.

POSTAL STATIONERY

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes
	 <i>Rounded flap (2003)</i>  <i>Sharp and tipped flap (2004)</i>		
20 Feb	St. Patrick's Day	- set of three prepaid postcards - set of three greetings cards	€1.20 per card - sold separately €2.00 per card including prepaid envelope - sold separately



I did not note any new variations on existing standard items i.e. postcard, registered envelope or aerogramme, and no special or commemorative items were issued during 2004 other than the standard St. Patrick's Day set.

St. Patrick's Day Cards: Three postcards were available featuring (1) Dog and Basket of Shamrock (illustrated above); (2) St. Patrick and (3) Shamrock superimposed on Earth from Space. The Postage Paid imprint has the usual R.J. King design. It would have been an opportunity to use the St. Patrick design featured on the 48c stamp issued later in the month. The St. Patrick's Festival logo also appears on each card.

Three greetings cards, complete with prepaid envelope bearing the same R.J. King stamp design, were also available featuring (1) Photos of various cities and sites (incl. Statue of Liberty, Tower Bridge and Eiffel Tower); (2) Map of Ireland with stained glass image of St. Patrick; and (3) Montage of traditional Irish items.

The envelope is similar to the type used since 2001 but differs from printings of previous years as follows:-

- the overall size is slightly larger – 191mm x 127mm (previously 184mm x 128mm).
- the paper is thinner and cream in colour (previously white).
- the back flap is sharp and tipped (previously rounded) – see illustrations above.
- the pre-printed "Priority/Aerphost" label is positioned 70mm to the right of the left-hand side of the envelope, as compared to 68mm on the envelopes used in 2001 and 2002 and 74mm in 2003.
- the wording "*In the event.....*" is positioned 2mm to the left of the three sender's address lines as per previous years but there is a larger 9mm gap between this wording and the first address line (previously 5mm).

A green "first day of issue" cancel was available from the bureau for use on both postcards and envelope. The price of both types of cards increased by 20c over the previous year.

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS AND POSTMARKS – REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
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18 Apr	Stampania 2004	- Shackleton M/S with red o/p	€4.00	600 printed	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Mahons
11 July	IPTA Roadshow /Kilkenny Antiques & Collectables Fair	- Shackleton M/S with red o/p	€9.50	600 printed	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Mahons
18 July	IPTA Roadshow /Killarney Antiques & Collectables Fair	- Shackleton M/S with red o/p	€9.50	600 printed	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Mahons
18 Sept	IPTA Roadshow /Killarney Antiques & Collectables Fair	- Shackleton M/S with red o/p	€9.50	600 printed	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Mahons
20 Sept	Stampa 2004 (Members' Souvenirs)	- Irish Mariners M/S with o/p	€25.00	1,000 overprinted in black	CCP3	14¼ x 14	Mahons
		- Shackleton M/S with o/p		1,000 overprinted in black	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Mahons
		- Flora and Fauna (Ducks) M/S with o/p		1,000 overprinted in black	CCP3	13 x 13¼	Mahons
		- Birds S/A Booklet (10 x N) with o/p		1,000 overprinted in black		11 x 11¼	Mahons
20 Sept	Stampa 2004 (Public Souvenir)	- Van Morrison miniature sheet with o/p	€5.00	1,100 overprinted in black	CCP3	12¾ x 13¼	Mahons
1 Oct	Stampa 2004	- Official cover	€1.00	500 printed			Mahons
2 Oct	Stampa 2004 (Awards Dinner – see note below)	- Rory Gallagher miniature sheet with o/p	-	100 overprinted in black	CCP3	12¾ x 13¼	Mahons
16 Oct	Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition	- Booklet	€3.00	250 printed (contains 2 x 48c Camogie stamps)			
		- Illustrated cover (Camogie Sticks)	€1.00	200 printed			
24 Oct	IPTA Roadshow/Tralee Antiques & Collectables Fair	- Irish Nobel Literary Laureates sheetlet with o/p	€9.50	600 printed	CCP3	12½ x 13½	Mahons
14 Nov	IPTA Roadshow /Limerick Antiques & Collectables Fair	- Irish Nobel Literary Laureates sheetlet with o/p	€9.50	600 printed	CCP3	12½ x 13½	Mahons

The production and overprinting (if applicable) of all sheetlets/miniature sheets/booklets/covers as listed above was arranged by the organisers of each show. Overprinting was with the permission of An Post.

Stampania 2004: This annual show was once again held at the R.D.S. in Dublin on Sunday 18 April. The Shackleton miniature sheet was overprinted by the organisers for the show. An official special postmark was provided by An Post this year although they did not attend the show. Note that the "4" within the date was distorted on all examples seen. This appears to have been a problem with the actual cancellation.

IPTA Collectors' Roadshows/Antiques & Collectables Fairs: The Irish Philatelic Traders Association have incorporated their Roadshows as part of local Antiques & Collectables Fairs. The first two of these shows were held in Kilkenny and Killarney on successive weekends in July, followed by shows in Tralee and Limerick later in the year.

The Shackleton 48c sheetlet was overprinted by the IPTA for the initial two fairs. The maroon overprint on the Kilkenny sheets reads "N^o /Kilkenny, 11th July 2004/Supported By an Post/IPTA Collectors Roadshow". A similar overprint exists on the Killarney sheet with the date of 18th July 2004. All sheetlets were numbered and both "A" and "B" sheetlets were used for both overprints. All overprinted sheetlets seen have an upward phosphor shift.

The Nobel sheet was overprinted for the shows held in Tralee and Limerick. The overprint reads "IPTA COLLECTORS ROADSHOW – TRALEE, 24th OCTOBER, 2004 (or LIMERICK, NOVEMBER 14th, 2004) SPONSORED BY AN POST". All sheetlets were numbered.

No postmark or cachet was available for any of the shows, none of which was attended by An Post.



Stampa 2004 (1 to 3 October): The various souvenirs were posted in advance to members, with certain members receiving them as early as 20 September.

The three-line overprint in black reads "STAMPA/RDS, DUBLIN/1, 2, 3 OCTOBER 2004".

The three special cancels available and the related stamp issues were as follows:-

- 1 October: Quill and ink bottle (Irish Nobel Literary Laureates).
- 2 October: Sextant (Ernest Shackleton Expedition).
- 3 October: Tram (Luas).



The postmark designs are based on the equivalent first day cancels for stamps on the same theme issued during the year. Note once again the inclusion of "Dublin" instead of "Baile Átha Cliath" (as also in 2003) and the inclusion of the days (Friday/Saturday/Sunday). As far as I can recall, this is the first time that the day of the week has been included in a special or first day postmark.



Awards Dinner Stampa Souvenir with overprint (as reset) on Rory Gallagher miniature sheet

In error, 100 of the miniature sheets supplied to Mahons for overprinting were of the Rory Gallagher design (to be used next year). A small number of the sheets with the overprint in the same position as on the Van Morrison sheet were printed before the error was noted. The remainder of the Rory Gallagher sheets with the overprint position corrected were distributed as an additional Awards Dinner souvenir (see below).

There was a large official cover for use with the souvenir miniature sheets. The pale yellow/buff cover measures 229mm x 162mm and has the words "STAMPA @ RDS" together with an illustration of the 2d RDS stamp of 1931 printed in blue-green at top left.

The Awards Dinner was held in the Mespil Hotel, Mespil Road, Dublin 4 on 2 October. The Awards Dinner Menu was printed on the reverse of remaining supplies of the overprinted Irish Philatelic Society postcard issued at Stampania 2001. Each card was cancelled with the Shackleton postmark of the same date. Total of 70 cards produced. In addition, each diner received the Rory Gallagher miniature sheet with revised and corrected overprint position referred to above.



Cork Philatelic Exhibition (16 October): The annual show was held in Jurys Hotel, Cork. A booklet containing 2 x 48c Camogie stamps plus a special postmark and illustrated cover was available. One of the Camogie stamps features a player in the Cork colours.

OVERSEAS EXHIBITIONS



*Lufthansa flight (Hong Kong – Frankfurt)
postcard with Irish first day cachet on wrong stamp*



Honk Kong 2004 Stamp Expo (30 January to 3 February): A first day cachet was available for the Love Stamps. It was not available from the bureau in Dublin. I do not know if a general cachet was also available.



Essen (3 to 5 June): An Post were represented at this annual German show and a special cachet was available as illustrated.



Le Salon du Timbre – Paris (26 June to 4 July):

Two stamp issues were released during this show, the Irish College in Paris stamp (on 26 June) and the Luas set (on 30 June). Special first day cachets with the same central design as the bureau cancel were available as shown for each issue.

In addition, a third cachet illustrating the Eiffel Tower was also available. I suspect this was the general cachet for use throughout the show but it is also inscribed "26 June 2004 First Day of Issue".



All three cachets were available from the bureau in Dublin.

OTHER SPECIAL POSTMARK



IPTU Meeting (14 to 17 October): A special cancel was available at the Regency Hotel, Dublin for the annual meeting of the International Postal and Telecoms Union. The organisation was founded in 1961 and has members in 15 countries. Members are either active in, or retired from, organisations involved in the postal and telecommunications sector. The Irish branch is known as "Meitheal Jumelage Eireann". "Meitheal" is an Irish word for "Gathering". "Jumelage" refers to "Twining".

A special cover was produced by the organisers. The postmark was not referred to in Collectors' News but was available from the bureau.

Irish Philatelic Circle Annual Convention: The Annual Convention was held in The Commercial Hotel, Chester on 15 & 16 May. There was no souvenir or cachet available this year.

SLOGANS USED ON INTEGRATED MAIL PROCESSORS (IMPs)

(All illustrations of IMP postmarks reduced)

All new slogans used for the first time in 2004 are listed below. Repeat uses of earlier years' slogans are referred to at the end of this section. Slogans were in use at the Athlone Mails Centre ("AMC"), Cork Mails Centre ("CMC"), the Dublin Mails Centre ("DMC"), and the Portlaoise Mails Centre ("PMC").

Earliest known dates are recorded, although slogans were not necessarily introduced at all Mail Centres on the same date. Each slogan is usually replaced by the following listed cancel.

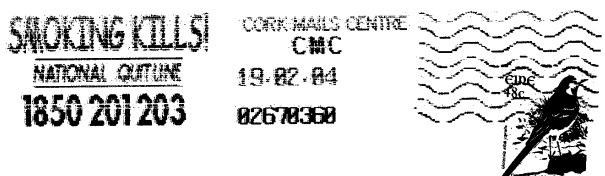
DMC continued to exclude the time within the postmark whereas PMC always has the time printed. AMC and CMC have never normally included the time.



IMP 62, used on 15 January 2004 at AMC

IMP 62 – International / Year of the / Family / 10th Anniversary

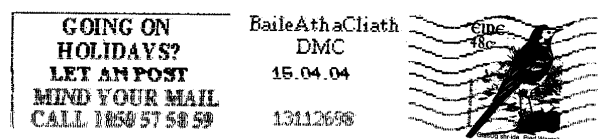
In use from 5 January to 28 January. In use at AMC, DMC, and PMC but not at CMC. Note that a 65c stamp was issued to mark this anniversary on 15 May.



IMP 63, used on 19 February 2004 at CMC

IMP 63 – SMOKING KILLS / NATIONAL QUITLINE / 1850 201 203

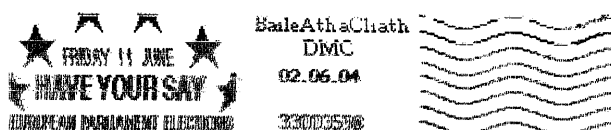
First noted in use on 16 February. Noted in use at all four Mail Centres. The slogan was used as part of an anti-smoking campaign run by the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health and Children, in advance of the Irish ban on smoking in all workplaces, which came into effect on Monday, 29 March 2004.



IMP 64, used on 15 April 2004 at DMC 1

IMP 64 – GOING ON / HOLIDAYS? / LET AN POST / MIND YOUR MAIL / CALL 1850 57 58 59

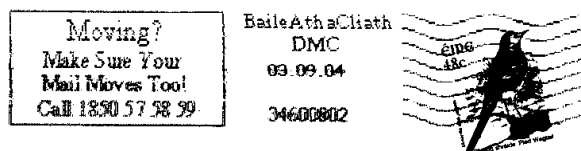
First seen on 16 March and re-used after IMP 65. Used at all Mail Centres.



IMP 65, used on 2 June 2004 at DMC 3

IMP 65 – FRIDAY 11 JUNE / HAVE YOUR SAY / EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

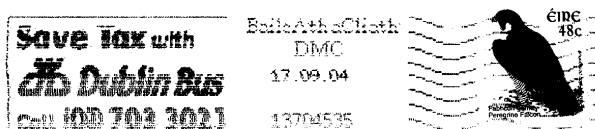
First used on 17 May and continued in use until 14 June 2004 - three days after the elections in Ireland. IMP 65 was replaced by a re-use of IMP 64. Used at all Mail Centres.



IMP 66, used on 9 September 2004 at DMC 3

IMP 66 – Moving? / Make Sure Your / Mail Moves Too! / Call 1850 57 58 59

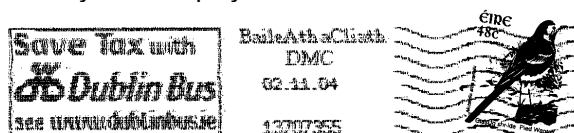
First used on 19 August on DMC machine 4. It was gradually introduced on other DMC machines in subsequent days. It was first used at AMC on 20 August. It was not used at CMC or PMC until sometime between 22 and 24 August. It continued in use at AMC, PMC and CMC until at least early November 2004. In Dublin, it was replaced by IMP 67 below but reappeared again on 15 October.



IMP 67, used on 17 September 2004 at DMC 1

IMP 67 - Save Tax with / DUBLIN BUS / call (01) 703 3021

This was used only at DMC and not at the other three Mail Centres. It was first used on 13 September 2004 and continued in use until 15 October when it was replaced by IMP 66. The "Save Tax" refers to a national scheme whereby employees can save tax on the cost of annual and monthly travel tickets when purchased on their behalf by their employers.



IMP 68, used on 2 November 2004 at DMC1

IMP 68 - Save tax with / DUBLIN BUS / see www.dublinbus.ie

The wording on IMP 67 was revised to refer to the website. Again, it was used only at DMC and not at the other three Mail Centres. First noted on 28 October 2004 replacing IMP 66. It was shortlived as it was replaced by IMP 69 on 8 November.



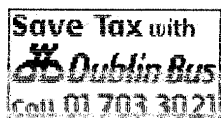
Baile Atha Cliath
DMC
11.11.04
22901135



IMP 69, used on 11 November 2004 at DMC 2

IMP 69 - DUBLIN BUS / Serving the Entire Community / www.Dublinbus.ie

Replacing IMP 68 on 8 November, this also was used only in Dublin. Again it was shortlived and was only in use until 14 November when it was replaced by IMP 70.



Baile Atha Cliath
DMC
18.11.04
12906573



IMP 70, used on 18 November 2004 at DMC 1

IMP 70 - Save Tax with / DUBLIN BUS / call 01 703 3021

Used only at DMC. First noted on 15 November and in use until 25 November. Similar to IMP 67 but without brackets in the "01" part of the telephone number. The font size of the telephone number is also larger than that used in IMP 67. Replaced by IMP 11.



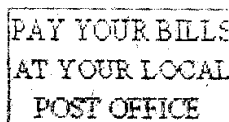
CORK MAILS CENTRE
CMC
19.12.04
88298274



IMP 71, used on 19 December 2004 at CMC

IMP 71 - POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / =POST [Unboxed]

This is similar to IMP 11 but is unboxed and was only in use in Cork. First noted on 26 November.



Baile Atha Cliath
DMC
05.01.05
34108279



IMP 72, used on 4 January 2005 at DMC 3

IMP 72 - PAY YOUR BILLS / AT YOUR LOCAL / POST OFFICE

First noted in use at AMC on 22 December, followed by Dublin and Cork on 23 December and PMC on 29 December.

Repeated Slogans



CORK MAILS CENTRE
CMC
04.02.04
82338315



IMP 56, used on 4 February 2004 at CMC

IMP 56 - Argos / new catalogue / OUT NOW!

This was re-used at DMC and PMC in January 2004 and up to 13 February 2004. In addition, it was used at AMC and CMC for the first time. The slogan was the first to be used at the CMC. Up to and including 28 January 2004, CMC used no slogan in its cancellation.

Note also from the illustration above (and that of IMP 63 on the previous page) that the alignment was once again altered from that in use in 2003, with left alignment of the date and number and CMC now in a central position.

IMP 11 - POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / =POST [Boxed]

This was in use from late November to at least 22 December and was used at AMC, DMC and PMC.

IMP 7 - ALWAYS INCLUDE A / RETURN ADDRESS / ON YOUR ENVELOPE = POST

This is the usual default slogan used on all machines in the absence of a sponsored or An Post slogan. This was in use during the period 20 to 23 December at DMC and PMC.

Other IMP Matters

Industrial action resulted in the suspension of most staff at the DMC on 19 March and there was little use of the automatic machinery including the IMP slogans until full working resumed on 1 April.

Note there was no Budget Travel Sale IMP slogan this year.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS AND CORRIGENDUM

December – An Post Christmas Card: The 2004 An Post Christmas card features the same snow scene as shown on the front of the Christmas booklet. The 2003 An Post Christmas card featured a picture of the G.P.O. Dublin in the snow.

December – Santa Christmas Envelope: The 2004 envelope repeated the design used since 1997, with the larger format (240mm x 163mm) first noted in 2003.

Corrigendum: The book entitled "A Polish Pilgrim – Celebrating XXV years of Pope John Paul II's Papacy" was issued on 16 October 2003. It incorporates a first day cover and a set of the stamps (not a pair, as stated in my 2003 article and by An Post in *Collectors News*).