



Irish Philately

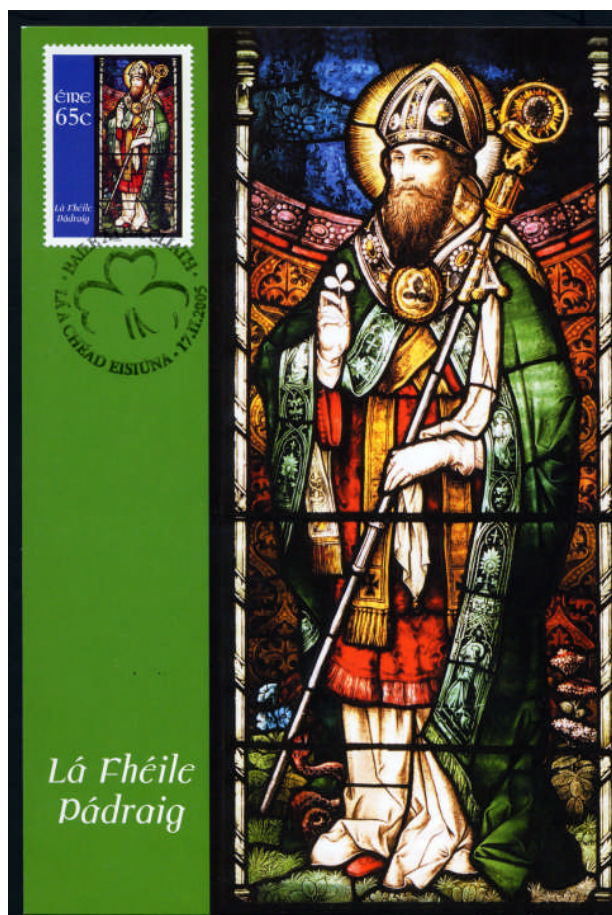
THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE



March 2006 – Supplement

That Was The Year That Was – 2005

Brian Warren



*St. Patrick's Day card
used maximum style with stamp issue*

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2005

by Brian Warren

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

There was no change in postal rates during the year.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 2005 programme, comprising 45 regular gummed stamps, 4 miniature sheets and 4 booklets, was issued over 16 release dates at a total cost of €70.13. All counter issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 35 sheetlets was €314.50.

The 2004 totals of 43 regular gummed stamps, 3 miniature sheets and 5 booklets were 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.

After a fall in the overall cost last year, the figure increased in 2005, but was still below the 2003 high of €80.91. This total for "one of everything" was still well above prior year costs which did not exceed €60.00. The use of single stamp issues to mark a broader spectrum of subjects and events in 2004 was not repeated this year. In addition to the annual Love stamp, there were only two single stamp issues in 2005 as compared to eight last year.

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
    						
28 Jan	Love Stamp (21st Issue)	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
	Greetings Booklet (14th Issue)- Cartoon Animals	€4.80	10 x 48c self-adhesive		11½ x 11	SEP SPrint
	Year of the Rooster- Miniature sheet (with phos.)	€1.80	3 x 60c – see below	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
17 Feb	St. Patrick's Day	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
24 Feb	Irish Female Artists					
	- Landscape, Co. Wicklow (Evie Hone)	48c	se-tenant pair 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
	- Seabird and Landmarks (Nano Reid)	48c				
	- Threshing (Mildred Anne Butler)	65c	se-tenant pair 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Three Graces (Gabriel Hayes)	65c				
7 Mar	Cork – European Capital of Culture	2 x 48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
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14 Mar	UNESCO – World Year of Physics					
	- William Rowan Hamilton (Birth Bicentenary)	48c	1A1A1A1A	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Cartor
	- UNESCO Building	60c	1A1A1A1A	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Cartor
	- Albert Einstein (50th Death Anniversary)	65c	1A1A1A1A	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Cartor
5 Apr	150th Anniversary of Dublin to Belfast Railway					
	- V Class 3 4-4-0 engine No. 85 at Amiens St.	48c	se-tenant 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
	- "The Enterprise" in the countryside	48c				
	- Q Class 4-4-0 engine No. 131 on Boyne Viaduct	60c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
	- "The Enterprise" leaving Belfast Central	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
	- Miniature Sheet (with phosphor)	€2.21	set of four stamps	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
	- Prestige Booklet (face value: €8.84)	€9.00	four panes – see below	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
22 Apr	Biospheres					
	- Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13	Cartor
	- Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13	Cartor
	- Miniature Sheet (with phosphor)	€1.13	48c plus 65c se-tenant	CCP3	13¼ x 13	Cartor
9 May	Europa – Gastronomy					
	- Irish Stew	48c	Sheetlets of ten	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Cartor
	- Oysters	65c	Sheetlets of ten	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Cartor
24 May	Fauna and Flora (Butterflies)					
	- Small Copper	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Green Hairstreak	60c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Painted Lady	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Pearl Bordered Fritillary	€1.00	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Miniature sheet (non-phosphor)	€5.00	Painted Lady	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
4 July	Tall Ships – Waterford					
	- Dunbrody (Ireland)	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Tenacious (U.K.)	60c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Eagle (U.S.A.)	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
	  					
	   					
27 July	Round Towers - Glendalough, Co. Wicklow (Leinster) - Ardmore, Co. Waterford (Munster) - Kilmacduagh, Co. Galway (Connaught) - Clones, Co. Monaghan (Ulster)	48c 48c 48c 48c	- se-tenant strip/block of four - plate number 1A/1B - sheets of twelve stamps	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	ISSP
19 Aug	Apimondia 2005 - Bees	65c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
27 Sept	The Ryder Cup 2006 - Darren Clarke, Paul McGinley & Pádraig Harrington - Eamonn Darcy, Christy O'Connor Jr. & Philip Walton - Harry Bradshaw, Ronan Rafferty & Christy O'Connor Sr. - The K Club, Straffan, Co. Kildare - Prestige Booklet (face value: €8.84)	48c 48c 60c 65c €9.50	- se-tenant format 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B - four panes – see below	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3	14¾ x 14 14¾ x 14 14¾ x 14 14¾ x 14	ISSP ISSP ISSP ISSP ISSP
10 Oct	Erskine Childers – Birth Centenary	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
14 Oct	Ireland's Admission to the United Nations (50th Anniversary) - Medical Aid in East Timor - Garda in Cyprus - F.H. Boland (Signatory) - Classroom in Lebanon	48c 48c 60c 65c	- se-tenant format 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3	14¾ x 14 14¾ x 14 14¾ x 14 14¾ x 14	ISSP ISSP ISSP ISSP
21 Nov	Christmas (35th Issue) - The Nativity - Choirs of Angels - Choirs of Angels - Booklet (self-adhesive - The Nativity)	48c 60c 65c €12.00	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 26 x 48c i.e. one free stamp	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3	14 x 14¾ 14 x 14¾ 14 x 14¾	ISSP ISSP ISSP
	SEP SPrint					11¼ x 11¼
21 Nov	Centenary of Arthur Griffith's Policy which established Sinn Féin	48c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13½ x 13½	ISSP

Printers and Sheet Format: All stamps were litho printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited (ISSP), Cartor Security Printing (Cartor) or the Australian firm, SEP SPrint.



Top margin of Round Towers issue

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, in both English and Irish, about the particular issue 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.

SEP SPrint: Observant readers will note that the printer for the self-adhesive issues printed in Australia is now SEP SPrint and not SNP SPrint. SNP SPrint (Australia) Pty. Limited was owned by the Singapore firm SNP (formerly known as Singapore National Printers). However, following a management buyout in late 2004/early 2005, the company's name was changed to SEP SPrint (Australia) Pty. Limited. All stamps produced for An Post are purchased through Sprintpak, which is a company owned by Australia Post, and it is the latter name that is always referred to in *Collectors News*. However, the printer's name "SNP SPrint" appears on the reverse of the backing paper of all definitive rolls. Presumably this should change to SEP SPrint on future printings. Note the use of the double capital SEP SPrint (as was also the case with SNP SPrint).

Year Imprint: None of the Cartor printed issues or the stamps in the Greetings booklet bears a date imprint at the foot of the stamp design.

First Day Covers: Blank FDCs cost 75c (2004: 75c). Special covers and pictorial cancels were available for all issues. A new product for 2005 was a presentation box of all 22 first day covers for special and commemorative issues issued during 2005, including the three miniature sheets. The price of €55.00 compares to a cost of €54.53 if bought as individual covers.

Maximum Cards: No maximum cards were issued by An Post during 2005.

Love Stamp and Greetings Booklet: The 2005 issue features illustrations of various birds. The 48c regular gummed sheet issue features a pair of

"Lovebirds". The stamp was sold out at the philatelic bureau by the end of July 2005.

The Greetings booklet is in self-adhesive format and incorporates ten stamps plus ten labels set out in one pane, folded twice, containing two rows of five stamps and five labels. The labels do not have die-cut perforations but are cut with straight edges and feature elements of the stamp designs. There are four (instead of the usual five) stamp designs featuring "Lovebirds", a "Rollicking Rooster", a "Studious Owl" and a "Stork". The "Lovebirds" and "Rollicking Rooster" stamps are included three times, the other designs twice. The stamps measure 30mm x 25mm. Three of the designs are included in the Year of the Rooster miniature sheet referred to below as regular size gummed issues. The cover of the booklet reproduces the head of the "Rollicking Rooster" design.



Year of the Rooster Miniature Sheet: A special miniature sheet to mark the Chinese Lunar Year of the Rooster 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 "Rollicking Rooster", 60c "Lovebirds" and 60c "Studious Owl" (all with slightly larger phosphor frame than the sheet stamp) plus three small illustrated labels. All stamps are fully perforated. The top panel shows the head of the "Rollicking Rooster".

A different cover referring to the Year of the Rooster was produced for the miniature sheet but the first day cancel was the same as for the sheet and self-adhesive issues.



St. Patrick's Day Stamp: For the first time since St. Patrick's Day stamps were introduced in 2003, both the stamp and the cards were issued on the same day. The first day cancel matches the cancel used for the postcards (see *Postal Stationery* below) but was applied in black. Details in top margin in Irish only.



Irish Female Artists: One of the 48c stamps features a painting by Evie Hone. A stained glass window by the artist featured on the first Irish Art issue of 1969. "The Three Graces" sculpture (65c) is on the front of the College of Catering building in Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin 1 (now part of the Dublin Institute of Technology).



Cork – European Capital of Culture: Cork was designated the European Capital of Culture for 2005. The pair of se-tenant stamps in square format (36mm x 36mm) forms a composite design which depicts a condensed panoramic view of famous Cork buildings and landmarks on both sides of the City's St. Patrick's Bridge. A chart identifying the various buildings is set out at the foot of page 8.

The phosphor frame is applied across the composite design so that any individual stamp only has phosphor on three sides. This is the same format used for the Shackleton stamps last year. The top phosphor frame has a height of 1mm to match the thin white top frame line; the other three sides have a phosphor width/height of 2mm. I have not noted any phosphor shifts.



UNESCO – World Year of Physics: This issue marked the introduction of a further printer of Irish stamps. This was the first set to be printed by the French firm of Cartor Security Printing, which is now owned by the British firm Walsall Security Printers. The stamps are in an unusual wide format and measure 60mm x 24mm. Usual sheet markings, except only 'A' sheets exist.

William Rowan Hamilton, who is shown on the 48c value, has featured on two previous Irish sets. The 1983 Europa issue was on the subject of "Great Works of the Human Genius" and the 29p value

referred to the Quaternions Discovery by William Rowan Hamilton (in 1843). He was also shown on a two-stamp set issued in 1943 to mark the centenary of this discovery. Albert Einstein was previously featured on a 30p New Millennium stamp (3rd series) issued in 2000.

150th Anniversary of Dublin to Belfast Railway:

The day of issue of the stamps (5 April) marked the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Boyne Viaduct (at Drogheda) on a permanent basis and the through running of trains between Dublin and Belfast. The viaduct is shown on the 60c stamp. The original latticed structure was replaced in 1932. The Boyne Bridge, as it is known, remains the longest free-span viaduct on the Irish railway system. The bridge was also shown as a backdrop on a 28p stamp in the Irish Buses set issued in 1993. The Q Class 4-4-0 No. 131 engine shown on this stamp is owned by the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland (RPSI) and is currently awaiting restoration at its premises at Whitehead in Northern Ireland. Whitehead is situated on the Belfast to Larne rail line.



The V Class 3 cylinder compound 4-4-0 engine No. 85 "Merlin" as shown on one of the 48c stamps is also owned by the RPSI and had its last steam run in September 2004 between Dublin and Whitehead (via Belfast). I was fortunate to travel on the train. Unfortunately, the engine has been in use now for ten years since its last major overhaul. Insurance regulations require that the boiler and firebox of all steam engines must be effectively rebuilt every ten years. In the absence of funds to undertake this major task, the engine will probably be transferred to the Ulster Transport Museum at Cultra, near Hollywood, Co. Down.

The current "Enterprise" train as shown on two of the stamps is designed as a push-pull arrangement. The train is pulled to Belfast by a 201 Class diesel-electric locomotive (48c stamp). Then, on the return journey, the carriages are pushed by the same locomotive, but driven from a cab built into the Dublin facing end of the train, which is the end featured on the 65c stamp. The livery on the Enterprise train is specific to the Dublin to Belfast service. The term "Enterprise" was first used post World War II to denote the express service between the two cities.

The miniature sheet contains a full set (all with phosphor frame); the background features a morning southbound train crossing the low viaduct near Malahide, Co. Dublin. At the head of the train is an S Class 4-4-0 locomotive No. 170 "Errigal", which was delivered in 1913 and finally withdrawn and scrapped in 1965. A similar engine (No. 171) is owned by the RPSI and is currently undergoing overhaul.

The illustrated panes in the prestige booklet each contain a block of four stamps with the two stamps at right imperforate. The four panes contain the same designs as the sheet issue as follows:-

- Pane 1: 4 x 48c Merlin
- Pane 2: 4 x 48c Enterprise
- Pane 3: 4 x 60c
- Pane 4: 4 x 65c

Each illustrated pane features various train artefacts (timetables, tickets, etc.) on a background of a pair of train tracks. The imperforate right margins result in four separately identifiable stamps (each value/design imperforate at right). All booklet stamps also have a phosphor frame.



Biospheres (Joint Issue with Canada): This was a joint issue with Canada which issued a similar pair of stamps on the same date. The two separate Irish stamps measure 48mm x 29mm. The miniature sheet measures 150mm x 90mm with a background which repeats the Killarney National Park design. Usual sheet markings except: (a) there are no colour controls and (b) for both 'A' and 'B' sheets, the plate numbers are repeated and appear in the top of both the left and right margins, i.e. a total of eight blocks for the two stamps.

The Canadian set was issued as a se-tenant pair of 50c stamps with the same designs and was sold for 80c (euro). The overall size of each stamp is slightly larger being 48mm x 30mm. The Canadian set was printed in Canada by Lowe Martin and was also issued in sheetlets of sixteen with various marginal markings/inscriptions. The miniature sheet is smaller than the Irish sheet (120mm x 70mm) and the background design features Waterton Lakes National Park. This also had a face value of C\$1.00 and sold for 80c (euro). All stamps (including the miniature sheet) have a phosphor frame.



A joint FDC for the four single stamps was sold by An Post for €2.68 with a Dublin bureau cancel on the Irish stamps and a separate Waterton Park cancel on the Canadian stamps. A similar first day cover was sold by the Canadian Post Office but utilising their own separate cover design. The Irish miniature sheet was also available on FDC but not the Canadian sheet.

Europa (Gastronomy): Both values were printed in the normal ten-stamp format for Europa issues. All stamps with phosphor frame. Each sheetlet has five rows of two stamps with illustrated panels at left. Both sheetlets are imperforate at left; all other margins are perforated. There are no sheet markings.



Fauna and Flora (Butterflies): This is the fourth Irish set to feature either butterflies or moths. Previous sets were issued in 1985, 1994, and 2000 – all, including the current set, were designed by Ian Loe. All stamps measure 36mm x 36mm with phosphor frame.

The miniature sheet contains a single €5 stamp with no phosphor and features the same butterfly as shown on the 65c sheet stamp.



Tall Ships – Waterford: The annual Tall Ships race commenced in Waterford on 9 July. In advance of the race, An Post issued three stamps, all in a square 36mm x 36mm format. A Waterford pictorial first day cancel (4 July) was also available from the philatelic bureau; the design was the same as the Dublin cancel.

The 48c *Dunbrody* is a replica of an Irish emigrant ship and is permanently moored in New Ross, Co. Wexford. The *Tenacious* (60c stamp) is the largest wooden Tall Ship in the world and was built specifically to allow physically disabled people to experience the thrill of sailing this type of vessel. The *Eagle* (65c) was built in 1936 in Hamburg, Germany. It was originally named *Horst Wessel* but following World War II it was taken over by the U. S.

Coast Guard and re-named *Eagle*. The *Eagle* also appeared on the 1998 Tall Ships set (30p value) when Dublin was a visiting port. All three ships were in Waterford from 6 to 9 July. The *Tenacious* and the *Eagle* both participated in the race to Cherbourg (France) and subsequently to near Newcastle (England) and finally to Fedrikstad (Norway).

The Dublin Stamp Society organised a special An Post paquebôt postmark to commemorate the start of the race on 9 July – see *Exhibition and Society Souvenirs* below.

Round Towers: Irish Round Towers are hand crafted in native stone and, of more than 100 towers built in the country, 65 survive in various states of repair. The stamps feature a tower from each of the four provinces. The set was designed by Michael Craig, who was also responsible for The Architecture Definitive series. The monochrome drawings are in the same style as the definitive set. He was available at the bureau on the day of issue to sign first day covers. The first day cover features the round tower and St. Brigid's church in Kildare town.

The four stamps were issued as a se-tenant strip of four within a sheet of twelve stamps (three rows of four). All stamps measure 30mm x 51mm. The sequence of rows 1 and 3 is as set out in the above table; row 2 was in reverse order. As a result, all four designs could be collected as a block of four as well as a strip of four.



Apimondia 2005: The international Apimondia Congress was held at the R.D.S. Dublin from 21 to 26 August 2005. Apimondia promotes co-operation of beekeepers' associations, scientific bodies and individuals involved in apiculture worldwide.

The top margin has a single line inscription "Apimondia 2005".

The Ryder Cup 2006: The Ryder Cup Golf Tournament between Europe and the U.S.A. will be held for the first time in Ireland in September 2006, at The K Club, Straffan, Co. Kildare. This promotional issue features current and past Irish players who have participated in the competition (48c and 60c values) plus a view of The K Club (65c value). The two 48c stamps were set out in se-tenant format both horizontally and vertically within the sheet. A further issue will be released in 2006.

The Ryder Cup - Prestige Booklet: The booklet contains four illustrated panes of stamps and ten pages of bilingual text and/or photographs; the text/photographs also extend to inside the front and back covers. The four illustrated panes in the booklet each contain a block of four stamps positioned at top right with top and right margins imperforate.

The four panes contain the same designs as the sheet issue as follows:

Pane 1: 4 x 48c (Darren Clarke, Paul McGinley & Padraig Harrington)

Pane 2: 4 x 48c. (Eamonn Darcy, Christy O'Connor Jr., & Philip Walton)

Pane 3: 4 x 60c

Pane 4: 4 x 65c

The imperforate top and right margins result in a total of 12 separately identifiable stamps from the booklet, viz. imperforate top, imperforate top and right and imperforate right for each of the four stamps. All stamps have the usual phosphor frame. 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 €8.84. This is the largest premium for such a booklet since this practice was introduced with the St. Patrick booklet in 2003. The Railway booklet, issued earlier in 2005 with the same face value, had a minimal premium of 16c to round it to €9.00.



Erskine Childers: Erskine Childers succeeded Éamon de Valera to become the fourth President of Ireland on 30 May 1973. He died suddenly of a heart attack in November 1974. He was making a public speech in Dublin.



Ireland's Admission to the United Nations: The four stamps were launched at a special ceremony held in the R.D.S. in conjunction with the opening of Stamp 2005. Garda Joe Hodgins was one of the many members of the Defence Forces and An Garda Síochána present at the ceremony. Garda Hodgins is featured on the left of the two 48c stamps shown above and was photographed whilst on duty in the U.N. protected area in Cyprus. The two 48c stamps were set out in se-tenant format both horizontally and vertically within the sheet.

Christmas: This issue was postponed from 10 November which was the date given in *Collectors News*. All three designs by Pamela Leonard were specially commissioned by An Post and are based on medieval Italian tempera paintings. The 60c and 65c designs show different "Choirs of Angels".

The Christmas booklet contains 26 x 48c self-adhesive stamps, giving one free stamp per booklet. The 26 stamps are set out on one pane, folded six times, containing two columns of 13 stamps, all with phosphor frame. Each stamp measures 25mm x 30mm.

In similar manner as in 2004, the design matches the 48c sheet issue. A pair of self-adhesives ex booklet complete with normal backing was available from the philatelic bureau. The booklet cover repeated the design used in 2004.

Centenary of Arthur Griffith's Policy which established Sinn Féin: This issue was also postponed from 10 November. The stamp, which was designed by Ger Garland, features a portrait of Arthur Griffith by Leo Whelan which hangs in Leinster House, together with the title page of "The Resurrection of Hungary: A Parallel for Ireland". This book of 27 essays was referred to as "Griffith's Policy" and formed the principles on which Sinn Féin was founded in 1906. The stamp measures 45mm x 24mm.

PRESENTATION PACKS, BOOKS AND FRAMED SHEETLETS AND PRINTS

Apart from the usual Year Pack, there was only one individual presentation pack this year.

4 July – Tall Ships: The pack contains a set of the three stamps together with a first day cover with Dublin pictorial cancel. Cost: €5.00 – face value: €4.22.

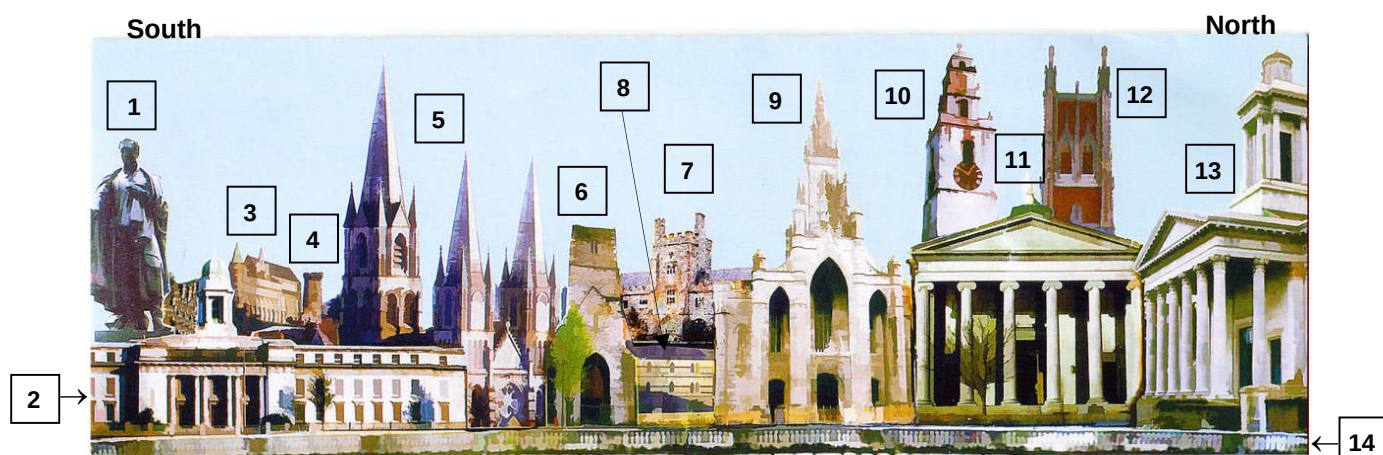
21 November - Year Pack: The Year Pack contains one each of the special and commemorative stamps

issued during 2005, including a pair of the Christmas self-adhesive stamps (cut from a normal booklet with backing) and the two Canadian stamps for the joint Biospheres issue, but excluding the Greetings self-adhesive stamps and any of the miniature sheets – a total of 49 (2004: 45) stamps with a face value of €26.45 (2004: €24.27). Cost: €30 (2003: €30.00). The text in the pack is bi-lingual for the first time.

16 December - Year Book: The contents are the same as the Year Pack plus the four miniature sheets (Year of the Rooster, 150th Anniversary of Dublin-Belfast Railway, Biospheres and Butterflies). Total printing of 3,000 standard copies (2004: 2,500) and 150 (2004: 150) full-bound leather editions. Total face value: €36.59 (2004: €30.80). Cost: €55.00 (leather-bound edition €160.00). Although due to be issued on the same day as the Christmas stamps, the book was not available for sale at the philatelic counter until 16 December.

Framed Sheetlets and Prints: Framed sheetlets with serviced first day cover were available for the St. Patrick and Cork - European Capital of Culture stamps (€60 per frame). A set of five signed prints was available in connection with the Dublin - Belfast Railway issue. The prints feature the four single stamp images with the stamp attached and cancelled with the pictorial first day postmark. The fifth print features the background artwork for the miniature sheet but the miniature sheet is not attached. Limited edition of 750 numbered sets signed by the designer, Vincent Killowry (Cost: €100).

Cork – European City of Culture



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Statue of Father Matthew | 6. Red Abbey | 11. St. Mary's Church, Pope Quay |
| 2. City Hall | 7. U.C.C. Quadrangle Clock Tower | 12. North Cathedral Belfry |
| 3. St. Vincent's Church | 8. Friary of the Holy Trinity | 13. St. Patrick's Church |
| 4. Tower in Tower Street | 9. Holy Trinity Church | 14. St. Patrick's Bridge |
| 5. St. Finbar's Cathedral* | 10. Shandon | |

* Three views shown

DEFINITIVES

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
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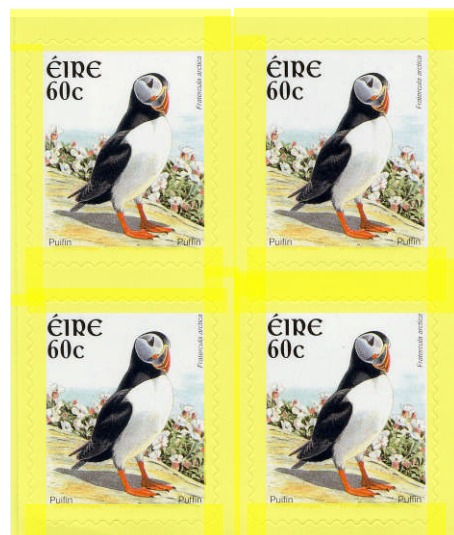



12 Apr	Wild Flowers Definitives - Part 2 ("The Burren")					
	- Bloody cranesbill	1c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Irish Orchid	2c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Fly Orchid	7c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Mountain Avens	10c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Spring Gentian	€10.00	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
July (?)	Wild Flowers - Self-Adhesive booklet (Reprint) SEP SPrint	€4.80	10 x 48c - 2 designs (see note below)			11 x 11¼
Oct (?)	Birds - Self-Adhesive booklet (Reprint)	€6.00	10 x 60c Puffin (see note below)			11¼ x 11½ SEP SPrint

Birds of Ireland



Block of 60c with gaps between phosphor



Block of 60c with no gaps between phosphor

Self-Adhesive Booklet (Reprint): In a reprint of the 10 x 60c self-adhesive booklet, the phosphor layout has altered. Previously, there were small gaps between each phosphor box as shown in the first illustration. This was the normal phosphor layout in all previous booklets of this type. The layout differs in the new printing and, as can be seen from the

second illustration, there is now no horizontal or vertical gaps between each phosphor box. The phosphor is also a dull yellow as compared to the bright yellow of the original printing issued on 5 January 2004. There is no change in the individual stamps. I have not noted any change in the 10 x 65c self-adhesive booklet. First noted in October 2005.



fig. 1

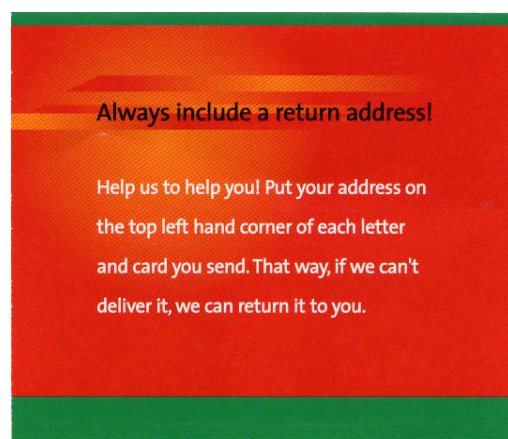


fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4

Sheet Issue: The second part of the new definitive series featuring wild flowers native to Ireland was released on 12 April. All five stamps in this second release feature flowers native to the Burren in Co. Clare. Usual sheet format and markings. Susan Sex, who designed the stamps, signed first day covers in the bureau on the day of issue.

The artwork display referred to last year was shown again during the year in the G.P.O. Dublin, together with a display of artwork associated with various Cork commemorative and special issues. This latter display was also shown in the Cork G.P.O. and at Stampa.

€4.80 Self-Adhesive Booklet (Reprint): The original 10 x 48c self-adhesive booklet was issued on 9 September 2004. The Swiftpost advertisement (fig. 1) in the booklet has been replaced by a reference to "Always include a return address!", etc. (fig. 2). I first obtained a booklet with this new advertisement in July.

The phosphor on the stamps in the new booklet is not as bright as the first issue. The basic stamps and the phosphor layout remain unchanged with gaps between each phosphor box.

Self-Adhesive Rolls (Reprint): The original boxed rolls of 100 x 48c were also released on 9 September 2004. One side of the box also promoted the Swiftpost Service (fig.3). During 2005, the Swiftpost reference was also replaced with the new advertisement promoting "Always include a return address!" (fig. 4).

In addition, a number reference is now included on one of the bottom flaps of the box and reads 2010270XM_146C-2, with a further number printed alongside – 12 and 25 noted. There was no change in the stamps or the make-up of the roll of 100 x 48c stamps contained in the box. First noted in October 2005 but I suspect that this change and the similar change to the €4.80 booklet may have occurred earlier in the year.

POSTAL STATIONERY

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes
17 Feb	St. Patrick's Day Cards		
	- set of four prepaid postcards	€1.80	per card (50c to charity)
	- set of two greeting cards	€2.70	per card including prepaid envelope (50c to charity)
9 Mar	St. Patrick's Day Cards		
	- set of four prepaid postcards (small format)	€1.50	per card (50c to charity)
7 Mar	Cork – European Capital of Culture		
	- Postcards	€10.00	Set of eight prepaid postcards



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 2005 other than the standard St. Patrick's Day set.

St. Patrick's Day Cards: Four postcards were available featuring (1) St. Patrick with crozier (stained glass design as per stamp issue – see *illustration on front cover*); (2) Shades of Green; (3) The Spire; and (4) Feared by Snakes. The Postage Paid imprint has the usual R.J. King design. The St. Patrick's Festival logo also appears on each card.

All cards sold in post offices and by the bureau were in the usual large format and measure 122mm x 178mm (vertical designs) or 178mm x 122mm (horizontal design). The three non stamp designs were the result of a competition among third-level art students. The winning designs were by Áine Kierans ("Shades of Green") and the other two designs ("The Spire" and "Feared by Snakes") by John Paul Murray. Both are students at the Dublin Institute of Technology, Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1. The "Shades of Green" design incorporates various elements of a Victorian period post box. The Stampa Council sent a St. Patrick's Day card to each member with a printed message advertising the 2005 show.

Two greetings cards, complete with prepaid envelope bearing the same R.J. King stamp design, were also available featuring (1) "Shamrocks" by renowned designer John Rocha; and (2) "At the Races" by artist Graham Knuttel. The cards are larger than previous years and as a result the usual prepaid envelope is larger and measures 229mm x 161mm.

A green "first day of issue" cancel was available from the bureau for use on both postcards and envelope. The cost of postcards increased by 60c and of greeting cards by 70c as compared to 2004, with 50c being donated to charity.

A French manufactured experimental machine for dispensing postcards was installed at the bureau's philatelic counter on Wednesday 9 March. Initially,

the machine sold the four St. Patrick's Day postcards at a cheaper price of €1.50 per card. In order to fit the machine, special smaller sized cards were printed – the cards measure 105mm x 150mm (vertical designs) or 105mm x 150mm (horizontal design), with the R.J. King stamp imprint also in a smaller format. The designs are the same as the regular large size cards.

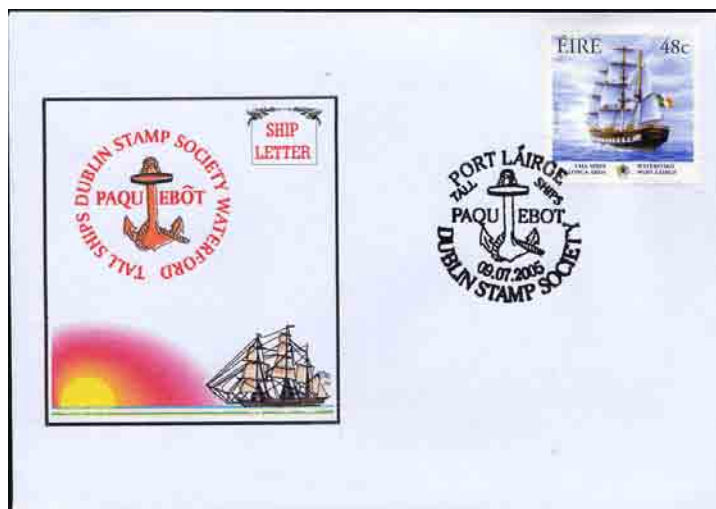
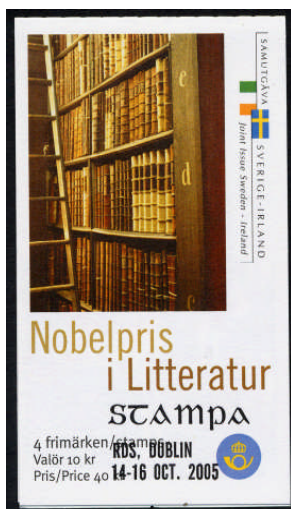
The machine accepts 10c, 20c, 50c, €1 and €2 coins but does not give change. The cards were not sold over the counter at the bureau (or, as far as I'm aware, elsewhere) and were not advertised in *Collectors News*. Two days later (i.e. 11 March), the eight Cork European Capital of Culture postcards (see below) were also available from the machine (at €1.50 per card). They are the same as the set sold by the bureau in complete packs. The machine is capable of selling a maximum of 15 cards with separate dispensing slots for each card. An example of each card can be seen beside each slot. The machine was removed on Tuesday 22 March. I understand the intention was to move the machine to the G.P.O. in Cork to sell the Cork European Capital of Culture set but I have been unable to confirm if the machine was in use in Cork.

The small format cards were not sold or advertised by the bureau and were only available from the machine.

Cork – European Capital of Culture: A set of eight cards was issued on the same day as the stamps. Each card reproduces various Irish stamps with a Cork connection – (1) Cork – European Capital of Culture; (2) St. Ann's, Shandon; (3) Cork Electric Tram; (4) Cork and Muskerry Railway; (5) Titanic; (6) Christy Ring; (7) Roy Keane; and (8) Frank O'Connor. Each card bears a Postas Íochta stamp imprint which incorporates a poor reduced reproduction of the Cork European Capital of Culture stamps. The cards are only sold by the bureau as a pre-packed set of eight (with label) for €10. However, the experimental dispensing machine referred to above sold individual cards for €1.50 per card.

EXHIBITION AND SOCIETY SOUVENIRS AND POSTMARKS

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
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9 Jan	IPTA/Collectors Roadshow, Kilkenny - Irish Nobel Literary Laureates sheetlet with o/p	€9.50	600 printed	CCP3	12½ x 13½	Mahons
3 Apr	Stampania 2005 - Love sheetlet with maroon o/p	€4.00	600 printed	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Mahons
10 Apr	IPTA Collectors Roadshow, Cork - Irish Nobel Literary Laureates sheetlet with black o/p	€10.00	600 printed	CCP3	12½ x 13½	Mahons
17 Apr	IPTA Collectors Roadshow, Limerick - Irish Nobel Literary Laureates sheetlet with black o/p	€10.00	600 printed	CCP3	12½ x 13½	Mahons
24 Apr	IPTA Collectors Roadshow, Waterford - Irish Nobel Literary Laureates sheetlet with black o/p	€10.00	600 printed	CCP3	12½ x 13½	Mahons
9 July	Dublin Stamp Society – Tall Ships Covers	€6.00	set of two covers with special Waterford Paquebôt cancellation			
17 July	IPTA Collectors Roadshow, Killarney - Irish Nobel Literary Laureates sheetlet with red o/p	€10.00	600 printed	CCP3	12½ x 13½	Mahons
7 Aug	IPTA Collectors Roadshow, Bunratty - Irish Nobel Literary Laureates sheetlet with red o/p	€10.00	600 printed	CCP3	12½ x 13½	Mahons
18 Sept	IPTA Collectors Roadshow, Cork - Irish Nobel Literary Laureates sheetlet with black o/p	€10.00	600 printed	CCP3	12½ x 13½	Mahons
3 Oct	Stampa 2005 (Members' Souvenirs)					
	- Dublin to Belfast Railway M/S with o/p	€25.00	1,000 overprinted in black	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Mahons
	- Biospheres M/S with o/p		1,000 overprinted in black	CCP3	13¾ x 13	Mahons
	Flora and Fauna (Butterflies) M/S with o/p		1,000 overprinted in black	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	Mahons
	- Nobel booklet with o/p (An Post issue)		1,000 overprinted in black		12½ x 13½	Mahons
	- Nobel booklet with o/p (Swedish Post issue)		1,000 overprinted in black		12½ x 13½	Mahons
3 Oct	Stampa 2005 (Public Souvenir) - Rory Gallagher miniature sheet with o/p	€5.00	1,100 overprinted in black	CCP3	12¾ x 13¾	Mahons

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
						
						
						
						
8 Oct	Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition	- Booklet €3.00 - Illustrated cover €1.00	250 printed (contains 2 x 48c Cork City of Culture stamps) 200 printed			
23 Oct	IPTA Collectors Roadshow, Tralee	- 48c Butterflies sheetlet with black o/p €10.00	600 printed	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Mahons
12 Nov	IPTA Collectors Roadshow, Limerick	- Dublin & Belfast Railway 48c sheetlet with black o/p €10.00	600 printed	CCP3	14¼ x 14	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 2005: This annual show was once again held at the R.D.S. in Dublin on Sunday 3 April. The Love sheetlet was overprinted by the organisers for the show.

All sheetlets were numbered. An Post attended the show this year and an official special postmark was provided. This was the first postmark to incorporate "The Spire" in Dublin's O'Connell Street which was erected during 2004.

IPTA Collectors' Roadshows / Antiques and Collectables Fairs: The Nobel sheetlet issued in 2004 was overprinted for seven of the nine shows held during the year. The 48c Railway sheetlet and the 48c Butterflies sheetlet were overprinted for the remaining two shows. All sheetlets were numbered. The shows were held at the Newpark Hotel in Kilkenny, the Silver Springs Hotel in Cork, the South Court Hotel in Limerick, the Ardee Hotel in Waterford, (*other o/s*). No postmark or cachet was available for any of the shows, none of which was attended by An Post. The second Limerick show was a two-day event (12/13 November).

Tall Ships: The Dublin Stamp Society organised a special An Post paquebôt postmark to commemorate the start of the race on 9 July. The Society also prepared a pair of illustrated covers bearing the 48c stamp cancelled with the special postmark. The first cover (as illustrated on the previous page) had the cancellation applied in black; the second cover with a different illustration had the same postmark applied in blue. Both covers are available at €4 each, inclusive of postage and

packing, from the Society's secretary – John Mullen, 52 Raheen Drive, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland.

Cork Philatelic Exhibition: The annual show was held in Jurys Hotel, Cork. A booklet containing 2 x 48c Cork – European City of Culture stamps plus a special postmark and illustrated cover was available.



Stampa 2005: The various souvenirs were posted to members in advance, with certain members receiving them as early as 3 October. The three-line overprint in black reads "STAMPA/RDS, DUBLIN /14-16 OCT. 2005".

In the case of the two booklets, the overprint was applied to the front covers. The three special cancels available and the related stamp issues were as follows:-

- 14 October: Butterfly (Fauna and Flora – Butterflies)
- 15 October: 201 Class locomotive (Dublin and Belfast Railway)
- 16 October: Sailing Ship (Tall Ships)

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 2004) and the inclusion of the days (Friday/Saturday/Sunday – as in 2004). There was no official cover this year.

The Awards Dinner was held in the Mespil Hotel, Mespil Road, Dublin 4 on 15 October. No official menu souvenir card was produced this year. At least 35 of the hotel's A4 menu for the dinner were obtained, a 48c train stamp applied and the menu then cancelled with the 15 October train postmark. William Moore signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Ireland at the Awards Dinner.



Philatelia and Coin Expo: A cachet was available from the Irish agent at this show, held in Cologne from 22 to 24 September. The cachet was also available from the philatelic bureau in Dublin.

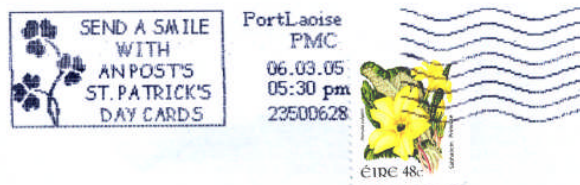
SLOGANS USED ON INTEGRATED MAIL PROCESSORS (IMPs)

(Illustrations of IMP postmarks are reduced)

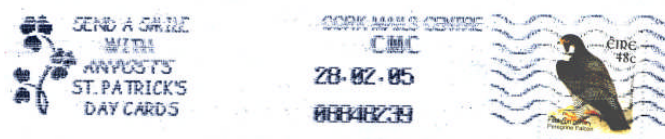
All new slogans used for the first time in 2005 are listed below. There were only six new slogans this year, compared to eleven in 2004. Repeat uses of earlier years' slogans are referred to at the end of this section. Slogans were in use at the Athlone Mails Centre (AMC), Cork Mails Centre (CMC), the 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.

In my 2004 article, I recorded the **POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / =POST** slogan used in Cork, but unframed, and this was numbered IMP 71. However, as recorded below, most of the slogans framed on four sides appear as unframed if used at the CMC. One of the slogans partly framed on two sides at top and left (IMP 73) also appeared unframed at CMC. Maurice Barrett and I have agreed that these variations will not be recorded with a separate IMP number and instead will be given the designation "X" in any future listings. Thus the last slogan listed in 2004, viz. **PAY YOUR BILLS / AT YOUR LOCAL / POST OFFICE**, which continued in use in early 2005, is now re-numbered **IMP 71**, and the unframed version of the slogan is re-numbered **IMP 71X**.



IMP 72, used on 6 March 2005 at PMC 2

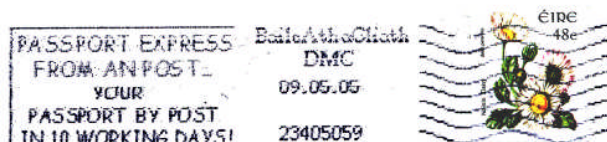


IMP 72X, used on 28 February 2005 at CMC – unframed

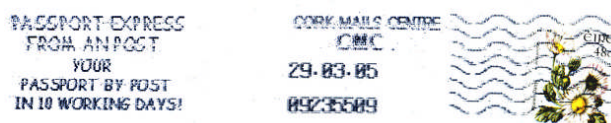
IMP 72/72X - SEND A SMILE / WITH / AN POST'S / ST. PATRICK'S / DAY CARDS

Used from 24 February 2005 until after St. Patrick's Day itself. The latest dates of use reported are: DMC - 23 March 2005; PMC - 24 March 2005; AMC – 23 March 2005; and CMC - 22 March 2005.

Noted in use at all mail centres. Unframed at CMC.



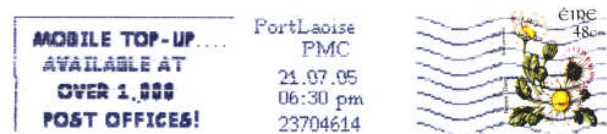
IMP 73, used on 9 May 2005 at DMC 2



IMP 73X, used on 29 March 2005 at CMC – unframed

IMP 73/73X - PASSPORT EXPRESS / FROM AN POST / YOUR / PASSPORT BY POST / IN 10 WORKING DAYS!

Used from 21 March 2005 until at 29 June(DMC)/8 July (CMC) at DMC 1, DMC 2, DMC 3, DMC 4, DMC 5, PMC 1, PMC 2, AMC and unframed at CMC.

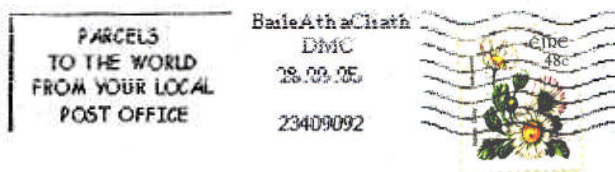


IMP 74, used on 21 July 2005 at PMC2

IMP 74 - MOBILE TOP UP.... / AVAILABLE AT / OVER 1,000 / POST OFFICES!

First seen used at DMC on 29 June 2005. It was subsequently seen in use at DMC 1, DMC 2, DMC 3, DMC 4, PMC 1, PMC 2, AMC and CMC but has not been reported in use at DMC 5.

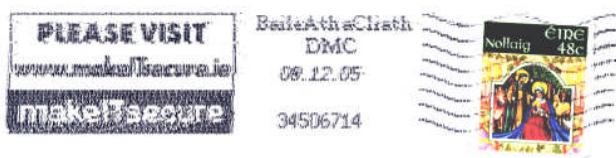
It was still in use at some mail centres up to at least 26 September 2005.



IMP 75, used on 28 March 2005 at DMC 2

IMP 75 - PARCELS / TO THE WORLD / FROM YOUR LOCAL / POST OFFICE

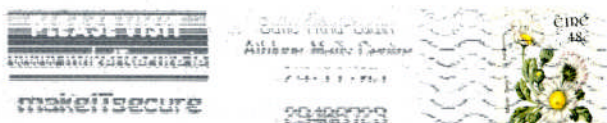
First seen used on DMC 2 and DMC 4 dated 6 September 2005. It was subsequently noted at all DMC machines, PMC 1, PMC 2, AMC and CMC.



IMP 76, used on 8 December 2005 at DMC 3

IMP 76 - PLEASE VISIT / www.makelTsecure.ie / makelTsecure

First seen used at DMC on 20 November 2005 and at CMC and PMC on 21 November. This slogan publicised a national campaign to increase public awareness of Internet risks, including the use of spyware, identity theft, phishing and child safety online. In use until 9 December and replaced by IMP 11/11X.



IMP 77, used on 24 November 2005 at AMC

IMP 77 - PLEASE VISIT / www.makelTsecure.ie / makelTsecure POST with white lettering on black background.

The same image as per IMP 76 but in reverse was used at AMC. Presumably, the negative image was an error, although it was not replaced by the regular positive image. There was a similar occurrence in 2003 at the AMC with the **POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / = POST** slogan (IMP 61).

Repeated Slogans

IMP 11/11X - POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / =POST

In use at all mail centres.

IMP 33/33X - Happy / Christmas / from / An Post

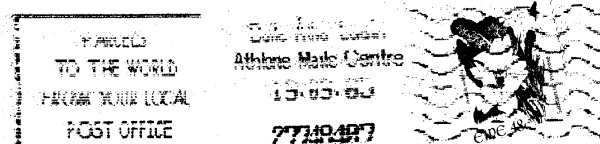
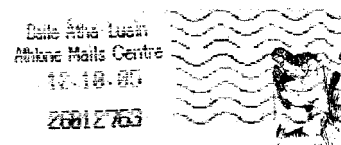


IMP 33X, used on 23 December 2005 at CMC

This slogan was first introduced in 2001 but was not used during the intervening years. It was re-used this year including for the first time in Cork, the latter

being unframed. First use in Cork on 21 December. Also used at AMC, DMC and PMC.

Athlone IMP Machines



AMC slogans are frequently omitted from one of that Mail Centre's cancellations, even on mail to Irish addresses. This first occurred in February 2005 and is confined to one machine. The other three machines continue to use slogans all the time. An example used on 12 October 2005 is shown above, together with an impression used on 19 September 2005 with IMP 75. The use of a cheaper incorrect ink causes the poor impressions on all machines.

Cork IMP machines

Since January 2005, two of the four Cork machines place the slogan at far left (see illustrations IMP 72X and IMP 73X on previous page) leaving a large gap between the slogan and the date position. The normal position is shown in IMP 33X shown above.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

December – An Post Christmas Card: The 2005 An Post Christmas card features the same snow scene as shown on the front of the Christmas booklet and thus is a repeat of the 2004 card.

December – Santa Christmas Envelope: The 2005 envelope repeated the design used since 1997, with the larger format (240mm x 163mm) first noted in 2003. The insert was the same as that of 2004.

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 relating to IMP/slogan postmarks), to John Mullen for his work in relation to the definitives and special cancellations, to Pat Casey for identifying all the buildings on the Cork stamp 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 Héloïse Mitchell for proof reading the article.