



Irish Philately

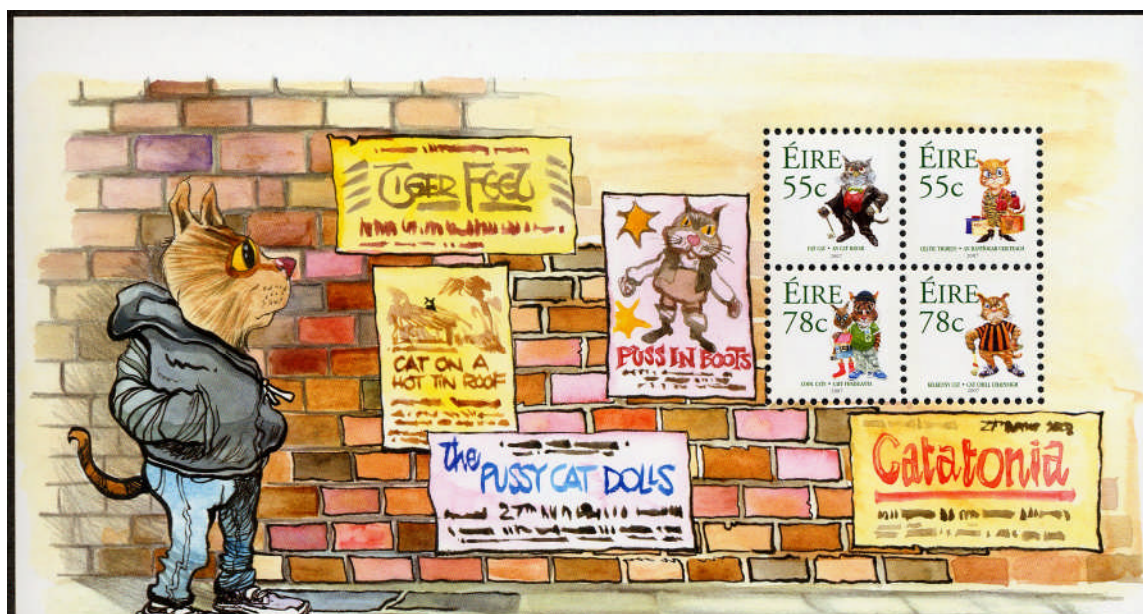
THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE



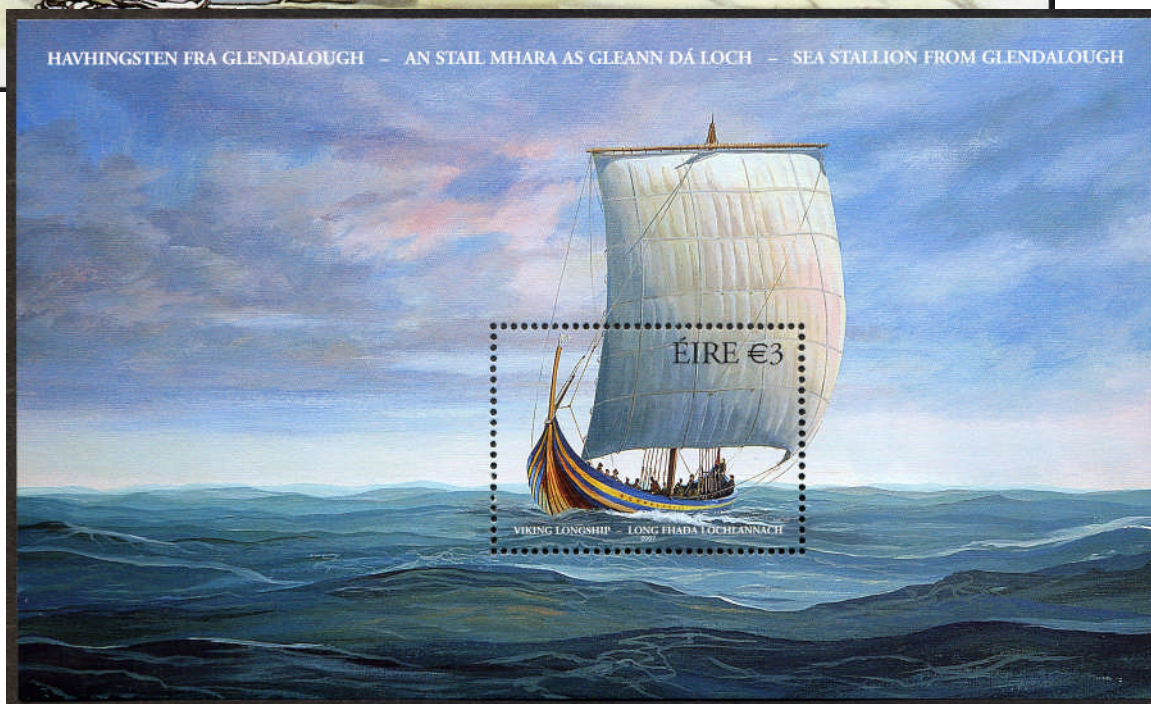
March 2008 – Supplement

That Was The Year That Was – 2007

Brian Warren



HAVINGSTEN FRA GLENDALOUGH – AN STAIL MHARA AS GLEANN DÁ LOCH – SEA STALLION FROM GLENDALOUGH



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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2007

by Brian Warren

Note that illustrations of single stamps, pairs and postmarks (except IMPs) are full size; illustrations of IMPs, blocks and strips, booklets, covers and stationery items are reproduced at between 50% and 75% of full size.

Inland and overseas rates were increased on 1 March. The initial inland rate increased by 7c to 55c. The weight step for standard letters (no larger than C5) was restored to 100g. (previously 50g.). The basic overseas rate increased by 3c to 78c.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 2007 programme, comprising 40 regular gummed stamps, 8 miniature sheets and 7 booklets, was issued over 22 release dates at a total cost of €97.64. All counter regular gummed issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 28 sheetlets was €275.86.

The 2006 totals of 39 regular gummed stamps, 6 self-adhesive stamps, 5 miniature sheets and 5 booklets were issued over 16 release dates at a total cost of €86.57. All regular gummed issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 34 sheetlets was €279.30.

The increase in the cost of "one of everything" will be over €100 after the next rate increase. The major cost is not the sheet issues but the booklets - €57.85 for seven booklets this year as compared to €50.80 for five booklets in 2006.

Single stamps continue to be issued to mark a broader spectrum of subjects and events. There were fifteen single stamp issues in 2007 as compared to thirteen in 2006, two in 2005 and eight in 2004. Wedding stamps are excluded as these were only issued in booklets.

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
24 Jan	Irish Franciscan College, Louvain – 400th Anniversary CCP3 14 x 14¾	75c ISSP			1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	
24 Jan	Luke Wadding - 350th Death Anniversary	75c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
26 Jan	Wedding stamp (self-adhesive) - Booklet	€4.80	10 x N (48c) stamps (one design)		11¼ x 11¼	SEP SPrint
26 Jan	Greetings stamps (self-adhesive) - Booklet	€4.80	10 x N (48c) stamps (two designs)		11 x 11¼	SEP SPrint
9 Feb	Chinese Year of the Pig - Sheet issue	75c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
	- Miniature sheet (with phosphor)	€2.25	3 x 75c (see note below)	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
9 Feb	St. Patrick's Day - Shamrock	75c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	ISSP
23 Feb	Flight of the Earls - 400th Anniversary - Hugh O'Neill	48c	} Se-tenant pair 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Rory O'Donnell	48c				
	- Miniature sheet (with phosphor)	96c	Se-tenant pair	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Miniature sheet artwork	-	Free with ordinary sheet	CCP3		ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

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



Wedding



9 Mar	Ireland Series - Castles	- Trim Castle	55c	} Block of four stamps 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
		- Portumna Castle	55c				
		- Lismore Castle	55c				
		- Dunluce Castle	55c				
		- Miniature sheet (with phosphor)	€2.20	One of each design	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
28 Mar	Treaty of Rome - 50th Anniversary		55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
9 May	Europa - Scouting		55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Cartor
			78c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Cartor
25 May	The Planets	- Jupiter	55c	} Se-tenant pair 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	Cartor
		- Neptune	55c				
		- Saturn	78c	} Se-tenant pair 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	Cartor
		- Uranus	78c				
		- Miniature sheet (with phosphor)	€2.66	Set of four stamps	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	Cartor
		- Prestige booklet	€12.00	Four panes (face value €10.64)		13¾ x 13¾	Cartor

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
						
						
5 June	Canonisation of Blessed Charles	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
13 June	Institute of Public Administration - 50th Anniversary	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
19 June	RTÉ Performing Groups					
	- National Symphony Orchestra	55c	Se-tenant strip of five in sheetlets of 20 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Concert Orchestra	55c				
	- Vanbrugh Quartet	55c				
	- Philharmonic Choir	55c				
	- Cór na nÓg	55c				
	- Self-adhesive booklet	€5.50	10 x 55c (one pane - two sets)		11¼ x 11½	SEP SPrint
	- Prestige booklet (face value €11.00)	€11.50	Four panes (see below)	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
10 July	King's Inns Revival 400	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
10 July	Registry of Deeds Act - 300th Anniversary	78c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
17 July	National Anthem - Centenary	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13½ x 13½	ISSP
25 July	Wedding stamp (self-adhesive) - Booklet (2nd issue)	€5.50	10 x 55c stamps (one design)		11½ x 11¼	SEP SPrint
7 Aug	Ireland's Viking Heritage					
	- Skuldelev 2	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
	- Miniature sheet (no phosphor)	€3.00	single €3 stamp	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
20 Aug	Rugby World Cup 2007					
	- Paul O'Connell	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Ireland v England	78c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Miniature sheet (with phosphor)	55c	single 55c stamp	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Miniature sheet (with phosphor)	78c	single 78c stamp	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
6 Sept	Celtic Cats	- Fat Cat 55c - Celtic Tigress 55c - Cool Cats 78c - Kilkenny Cat 78c - Miniature sheet (with phosphor) €2.66	Se-tenant 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B Se-tenant 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B Set of four in smaller format	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
12 Sept	San Clemente Archaeological Discoveries (150th Anniversary)	- Basilica 55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
18 Sept	James Fintan Lawlor - Birth Bicentenary	- Portrait 55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
25 Oct	National History Museum - 150th Anniversary	- Giant Elk 55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	ISSP
8 Nov	Christmas (37th Issue)	- The Presentation in the Temple 55c - The Magi 78c - Booklet (The Adoration of the Shepherds) €13.75	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 26 x 55c i.e. one free stamp	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
15 Nov	Charles Wesley - 300th Birth Anniversary	78c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	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.

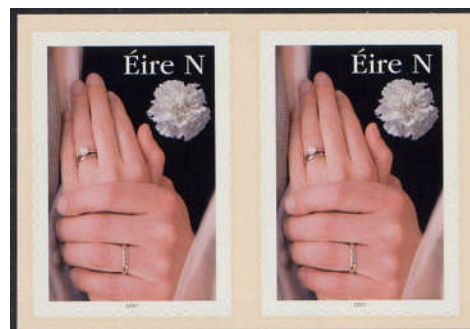


Top margin of 55c Celtic Cats issue

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 being perforated. Any variation in the above format for an individual issue is referred to below and/or in the table above. All stamps have a phosphor frame unless otherwise stated. All stamps bear the year imprint at the foot of the stamp.

First Day Covers: Blank FDCs cost €1 (2006: 75c). Special covers and pictorial cancels were available for all issues. A cardboard presentation box of all 34 (2006: 30) first day covers for special and commemorative issues of 2007, including the five miniature sheets, was available from 22 November. The price of €80 (2006: €60) compares with a cost of €77.66 (2006: €60.67) if bought as individual covers.

Two stamps were previously issued to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of his death in 1957.



Wedding Booklet (1st issue): A "Wedding Stamp" booklet replaced the usual "Love Stamp" (first "Love" issue was in 1986). The design symbolises unity and the commitment of marriage. The annual Love Stamp has been so widely used on wedding invitations in recent years that the issue sold out in 2006. The cover of the booklet features a flower motif on a wedding dress.

As An Post was awaiting confirmation of a rate increase at the time of issue, the stamp was denominated at the National or N rate (48c at the time of issue, 55c from 1 March). The 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. A pair of the stamps ex booklet complete with normal backing was available from the philatelic bureau. The booklet was re-issued in July, with the stamp denominated as 55c - see below. The original booklet sold out later in the year.



Greetings Booklet: The booklet contains ten Greetings Stamps (5 x 2 designs). The two designs feature a stylised birthday cake and a cartoon graphic of a fun stamp with a big heart. The 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. A pair of self-adhesives ex booklet complete with normal backing was available from the philatelic bureau. The cover of the booklet features the same cake design as one of the stamps.



Louvain College: The former Irish Franciscan College was founded in 1607 and is now occupied by the Irish Institute for European Affairs. The stamp features a Franciscan and the door leading to the auditorium of the College.

Luke Wadding: The stamp features a specially commissioned drawing by Thomas Ryan RHA.



Chinese Year of the Pig: The sheet stamp features a sharply defined graphic of two Chinese pigs printed on a green background.

The miniature sheet contains three stamps of the same design, but the middle stamp is printed on a vermillion background. The border of the miniature sheet has the text "Happy New Year" and "Year of the Pig" in Chinese, English and Irish. A different cover was produced for the miniature sheet, but the first day cancel was the same as for the sheet issue.

St. Patrick's Day: The design features a shamrock which St. Patrick used to illustrate the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. The stamp is in a square format and measures 36mm x 36mm.



Flight of the Earls: The two sheet stamps were printed together, se-tenant, as horizontal pairs, with each pair forming a composite design showing Hugh O'Neill and Rory O'Donnell against the background of Lough Swilly and a map of Europe. The phosphor frame is applied across the composite design so that any individual stamp only has phosphor on three sides.

The miniature sheet contains the same stamps (with phosphor frame) inserted into a larger picture depicting the two Earls being rowed out to a waiting ship anchored in Lough Swilly. Collectors who purchased the miniature sheet from the bureau also received a free souvenir print of the miniature sheet artwork in the burnt sienna colour used for the background of the actual sheet. A different cover was produced for the miniature sheet, but the first day cancel was

the same as for the sheet issue. Note that *Collectors News* did not illustrate the cover used for the sheet issue.

Seán Ó Brógáin, designer of the stamps, signed first day covers at the philatelic bureau on 28 February (and not on the day of issue as originally announced). Boyd Rankin, who was the artist's model for Hugh O'Neill, was also present to sign covers.



Ireland Series - Castles: One castle from each province is shown – Trim Castle, Co. Meath (Leinster), Portumna Castle, Co. Galway (Connaught), Dunluce Castle, Co. Antrim (Ulster) and Lismore Castle, Co. Waterford (Munster). The stamps are set out in a se-tenant block of four with four blocks in the same format in each sheet.

The miniature sheet incorporates an aerial photograph of Dunluce Castle. A different cover was produced for the miniature sheet, but the first day cancel was the same as for the sheet issue.



Treaty of Rome: The issue marks the signing of the Treaty of Rome on 25 March 1957, which established the European Economic Community (now the European Union).

As well as the ordinary first day cover, a special philatelic numismatic cover was also available incorporating an Irish €2 coin commemorating the same event. Cost: €10. The same pictorial cancel featuring the Colosseum in Rome was used on both covers.



Europa (Scouting):

100 years of Scouting was the common theme selected by PostEurop for the 2007 Europa issue. The stamp designs are based on

photographic images which contrast the evolution of the scout movement from 1907 to the present day. Both values were printed in the normal ten-stamp format for Europa issues (5 rows of 2 stamps with illustrative border). There are no colour controls on the sheets. Printer's imprint and plate numbers are included in the usual sheet positions. Top, left and bottom margins are perforated. The illustrated right margin is imperforate.

The Planets: This is the first part of a series on this subject to be issued during 2007/2008. Each pair of stamps was printed together, set out in two separate se-tenant strips, with each pair forming a composite design. The stamps are in a wide format and measure 60mm x 26mm. The phosphor frame is applied across the composite design so that any individual stamp only has phosphor on three sides.

The miniature sheet contains all four stamps set out in two separate se-tenant strips. The prestige booklet contains four panes, with each pane containing a complete set, also set out in two separate se-tenant strips but set against a different solar background on each pane. The right-hand stamps in each pane (55c Neptune and 78c Uranus) are imperforate at right. All stamps in both the miniature sheet and the booklet have the same phosphor frame across each pair of stamps as per the sheet issue.



Canonisation of Blessed

Charles: Although born in Munstergeleen, a village in southern Holland close to the German border, he spent most of his life at the monastery of Mount Argus in Harold's Cross, Dublin

and is buried in the church. He was canonised a Saint in Rome on 3 June. Each stamp measures 36mm x 36mm.

Institution of Public Administration: The Institute trains and educates professional people in key areas of public administration. Each stamp measures 36mm x 36mm.



RTÉ Performing Groups:

Each regular gummed sheet stamp measures 36mm x 27mm.

Two booklets were released with this issue. The prestige booklet

consists of four panes of regular gummed stamps stitched into card covers, each containing a block of 55c stamps (all with phosphor frame, some stamps partially imperforate) as follows:-

Panes 1 and 2: National Symphony Orchestra x 2, Concert Orchestra x 2 and Vanbrugh Quartet x 2.

Panes 3 and 4: Cór na nÓg x 2 and Philharmonic Choir x 2.

The adjoining illustrations of musical scores differ on each of the four panes. The panes of stamps are imperforate at right and bottom and thus there are a total of seven partially imperforate variations - National Symphony Orchestra imperforate right, Concert Orchestra imperforate right, Vanbrugh Quartet imperforate right and bottom, Vanbrugh Quartet imperforate bottom, Cór na nÓg imperforate right, Philharmonic Choir imperforate right and bottom and Philharmonic Choir imperforate bottom. Two of each variation is contained in each booklet.



The self-adhesive booklet contains ten stamps set out in one pane, folded twice, containing two rows of five stamps in the order - Cór na nÓg, Concert Orchestra, Philharmonic Choir, National Symphony Orchestra and Vanbrugh Quartet. The size of the self-adhesive stamps differs from the sheet issue being 37mm x 26mm. Strips of five stamps ex booklet complete with normal backing were available from the philatelic bureau.



King's Inns Revival 400: The stamp features a pen and ink drawing of the Gandon facade of the King's Inns building and an image of the Seal of the Society of King's Inns. The design bleeds into both the left and right margins of each sheetlet. As a result, the margins of the stamps in columns 1 and 4 show an additional part of the facade. Each stamp measures 26mm x 45mm.



Registry of Deeds: The Registry of Deeds is housed in Henrietta Street and is part of the King's Inns complex. The stamp shows an image of bound books containing records held in the Registry. Each stamp measures 41mm x 30mm.



National Anthem: The stamp depicts a girl's choir from Coláiste Íosagáin, Co. Dublin. Each stamp measures 45mm x 24mm. The first day cover was not available on the day of issue. I understand that, due to poor printing quality, the initial printing of envelopes was scrapped. The new printing was not available until some 10-14 days later. The seven girls shown in the choir are Katie Doolin, Jennifer Dowling, Sadhbh Peat, Claire Young, Sophie McGinn (front row, left to right) Fionnuala Gyax and Iseult Mossip (back row, left to right).



Wedding Stamp Booklet (2nd Issue): The Wedding self-adhesive booklet stamp was originally issued on 26 January as an 'N' rate stamp. It was re-issued in July and denominated as a 55c stamp. The cover of the booklet was altered and reproduces the stamp design. The format remains unchanged, with ten stamps plus ten labels set out in one pane, folded twice, containing two rows of five stamps. Each stamp measures 26mm x 37mm. A pair of self-adhesives ex booklet complete with normal backing was available from the philatelic bureau in early August. The FDC and postmark design matched the January issue.



Ireland's Viking Heritage: The stamp marked the voyage of a reconstructed Viking longship from Denmark to Dublin. The boat is a reconstruction of Skuldelev 2, the 30-metre longship exhibited in the Viking Ship Museum. The original vessel, built by Vikings in Dublin using wood from Glendalough ended her days in the late 11th century when she was scuttled to block Roskilde Fjord. The boat was excavated from the bottom of Roskilde Fjord in 1962.

A project to reconstruct the ship commenced in 2004 and the new boat was named *Havhingsten fra Glendalogue* ('The Sea Stallion from Glendalough'). The boat arrived in Dublin on 14 August and will remain there until June 2008. The sheet stamp features a line drawing of Skuldelev 2. Each stamp measures 41mm x 30mm. The miniature sheet contains a single €3 stamp (no phosphor frame) with a full colour image of the boat in open water – *illustration on front cover*.

Separate FDCs (with the same postmark) were available for the sheet stamp and miniature sheet. Vincent Killowry, who designed this and several other transport-related issues, was available to sign FDCs at the philatelic bureau on the day of issue.



Rugby World Cup: The 55c stamp features a close-up of Paul O'Connell (Munster and Ireland - second row forward) in action against Australia, at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on 19 November 2006, a game Ireland won 21-6.

The miniature sheet of the same value features the full photograph from which the image was taken and includes an unidentified Australian player. The original photo, from the sports photo agency Inpho, can be seen on their website (inpho.ie – search for photo number 00205003). Their original photograph also includes another Irish player, Neil Best. However, as the logo of mobile phone operator O2 (the Irish team sponsor) can be clearly seen, he was removed from the stamp image.

The 78c stamp features a now iconic image of the historic victory over England during the Six Nations game in Croke Park on 24 February 2007, a game Ireland won 43-13. The 30-point margin smashed Ireland's all-time record winning margin of 22-0 against England in 1947. The stamp shows Paul O'Connell jumping in a line-out with John Hayes and Donncha O'Callaghan. The full image is shown on the miniature sheet. Both stamps measure 30mm x 52mm.

A separate first day cover was available for the miniature sheet. Serviced first day covers of the sheet stamps were pre-released at the philatelic bureau on Wednesday 8 August. This was to facilitate the signing of covers by Paul O'Connell in the GPO on that date. It was the most successful of any such first day cover signings, with a large number of collectors



waiting patiently to meet one of Ireland's most popular rugby players. I personally queued for over two hours on the day.



Celtic Cats: The unusual set of cartoon cats was designed by well known Irish cartoonist Martyn Turner, who was available in the GPO, Dublin to sign first day covers on the day of issue. The same four designs are incorporated into the miniature sheet in a block of four, but in a much smaller format. The stamps measure 18mm x 18mm and are the smallest postage stamps ever issued by the Irish Post Office. Each stamp within the miniature sheet has the usual phosphor frame – *illustration on front cover*.

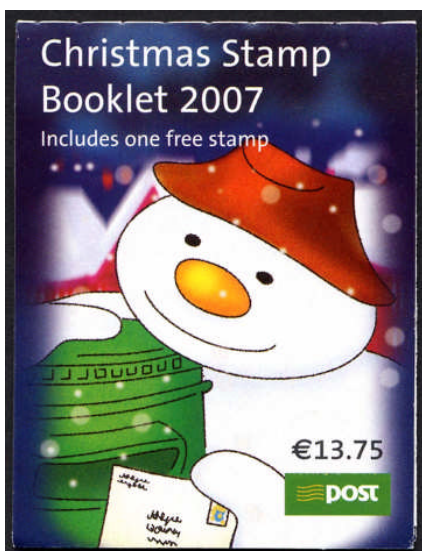
The "Kilkenny Cat" design features a cat with a hurley stick and it refers to the Kilkenny hurling team who are known as *The Cats* as they wear black and amber colors which are said to resemble the colours of a tom cat. Kilkenny are one of the most successful county hurling teams, having won the All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship on 30 occasions (as have Cork). Four days prior to the stamp issue, they beat Limerick 2-19 to 1-15 in the 2007 final at Croke Park. They have won the trophy, known as the Liam McCarthy Cup, five times since 2000.

San Clemente: The stamp commemorates the 150th Anniversary of Archaeological Discoveries at the Basilica of San Clemente in Rome. The Basilica is under the control of the Irish Dominican Order, and the stamp shows Fr. Joseph Mullooly (b. Co. Longford, 1812) in the northex of the Basilica. Fr. Mullooly entered the Dominican Order in 1841 and began the excavations under the existing structure, which led to the discovery of the tomb of St. Cyril in 1863.

James Fintan Lawlor: The stamp commemorates the birth bicentenary of the political writer, James Fintan Lawlor (1807 – 1849). The design incorporates an original illustration of the writer based on a portrait in *The Irish Fireside*.



National History Museum: The stamp design is based on a specially commissioned photograph of a Giant Elk from the Museum's collection in Dublin. The stamp measures 52mm x 30.5mm.



Christmas: The stamp designs are based on original illustrations, produced in acrylics, and feature three traditional images associated with Christmas.

The booklet is similar to previous issues in layout and contains 26 x 55c stamps, giving one free stamp per booklet. The 26 stamps are set out in one pane, folded six times, containing two columns of 13 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.

Charles Wesley: Born in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England, Charles Wesley was the younger brother of John Wesley, founder of Methodism. He was one of the most notable hymn writers of our time and is primarily remembered as the writer of the Christmas favourite *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*. He preached in Ireland during his lifetime. The stamp incorporates a painting entitled "The Lily Portrait". The Methodist Philatelic Society produced a special FDC for this issue.

PRESENTATION PACKS, PRINTS AND YEAR BOOK

8 January - Ryder Cup – Framed Collection:

A specially framed collection was available containing both the gummed and lenticular miniature sheets, issued in 2006 together with three celebratory images marking the victory by the European team. Cost: €70.

9 March - Castles: The pack contains a mint miniature sheet plus the two serviced first day covers. Cost: €13 - face value: €8.60.

7 August - Ireland's Viking Heritage: Two limited edition prints featuring the images shown on the stamp and miniature sheet were available at a cost of €60.

20 August – Rugby World Cup: The pack contains the first day cover of the single stamps, the two miniature sheets (mint) and blocks of four of the sheet stamps. Cost: €10 – face value: €8.98.

22 November - Year Pack: The Year Pack contains one each of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2007, including pairs of the Wedding (both issues), Greetings and Christmas self-adhesive stamps (cut from normal booklets with backing), but excluding the Music self-adhesives and all the miniature sheets – a total of 48 (2006: 47) stamps with a face value of €28.85 (2006: €26.61). Cost: €35 (2006: €32).

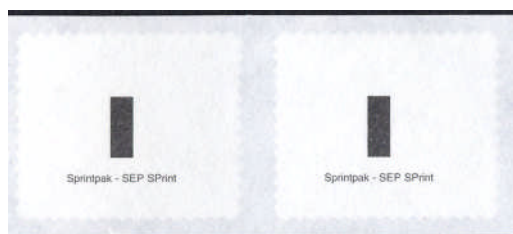
6 December - Year Book: The bilingual book contains one each of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2007, including both regular gummed and self-adhesive stamps and all miniature sheets. The self-adhesive sets comprise pairs of the Wedding (both issues), Greetings and Christmas sets and a strip of the RTE Music stamps (all cut from normal booklets with backing).

A total of 51 stamps plus 8 miniature sheets with a face value of €45.70 (2006: €36.73) are pre-mounted at the back of the year book. Total printing of 3,000 standard copies (2006: 3,000) and 150 (2006: 150) leather-bound editions. Cost of standard edition: €60 (2006: €55). The leather-bound edition costs €180 (2006: €150).

DEFINITIVES – WILD FLOWERS OF IRELAND

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
						
Feb	€48 Roll - Reprint	- Boxed roll (self-adhesive)	2 x 48c	€48 per box of 100 (50 x 2 designs)	11 x 11¼	SEP SPrint
1 Mar	New Values	- Yellow Flag	3c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾ ISSP
		- Large-flowered Butterwort	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾ ISSP
		- Black Bog-rush	78c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾ ISSP
		- Purple Loosestrife	95c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾ ISSP
		- Boxed roll (self-adhesive)	2 x N (55c)	€55 per box of 100 (50 x 2 designs)	11 x 11¼	SEP SPrint
		- Booklet (self-adhesive)	€5.50	10 x N (55c - two designs)	11 x 11¼	SEP SPrint
20 Apr	New Booklets and Rolls	- Machine booklet	€2.00	Pane of six (see below)	CCP3	14¾ x 14 ISSP
		- Machine booklet (gummed)	€5.50	10 x 55c Large flowered-Butterwort		14 x 14¾ ISSP
		- Boxed roll (self-adhesive)	55c	€55 per box of 100 (one design)	12¾ x 12¾	Pemara
		- Booklet (self-adhesive)	€5.50	10 x 55c Large flowered-Butterwort	11¼ x 11¼	SEP SPrint
		- Booklet (self-adhesive)	€7.80	10 x 78c Black Bog-rush	11¼ x 11¼	SEP SPrint
17 Aug	€7.80 Booklet (self-adhesive)	- Reprint	€7.80	10 x 78c Black Bog-rush	11½ x 11¼	SEP SPrint
Sept	€55 Roll - Reprint	- Boxed roll (self-adhesive)	55c	€55 per box of 100 (one design)	11 x 11¼	SEP SPrint

Sheet Issue: Four new values, as listed, were issued to accommodate the new rates effective from 1 March 2007. The 95c rate covers the inland rate for large envelopes (up to 100g.). All four values were issued in the normal 100 (10 x 10) format with the usual sheet markings. The 3c value does not have a phosphor frame.



€48 Self-adhesive Roll (Reprint): The name of the Australian printer SNP SPrint changed to SEP SPrint in late 2004/early 2005. As reported last year, the first rolls to bear the new name on the backing paper were the Ryder Cup issue of 2006. In February 2007, I noticed that the 48c definitive rolls had been reprinted with the change in name. The reverse of the backing

paper now has a repeated "Sprintpak – SEP SPrint" reference under a small rectangular square.



The self-adhesive roll of 100 stamps is split into four strips of 25 plus two 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 for previous flower definitive rolls. Surplus paper removed. The box remains

unchanged, complete with reference to "Sprintpak", and there are no markings on the bottom flaps of the box.



The new 48c rolls may have been available from late 2006. Can any member report an earlier date? This reprint was not available from the philatelic bureau. In addition, strips with surplus paper intact appeared on the philatelic market during 2007. The strips are irregularly cut and some include what appears to be a cutting line, as if the strips came from larger sheets – see illustration.

“N” Rate Self-adhesive Roll: National rate (“N”) rolls were issued on the day the new postal rates came into effect. The rolls are reeled vertically (top feed) and contain two designs – the Large-flowered Butterwort (as per the 55c sheet issue) and the Blue-eyed Grass. The reverse of the backing paper has a repeated "Sprintpak – SEP SPrint" reference under a small rectangular square. The make-up and reminder labels are the same as per the previous €48 rolls. One of the bottom flaps of the box has a number (9 and 24 seen) plus a reference 2010270XM-112C. The "Sprintpak" name does not appear on the box.

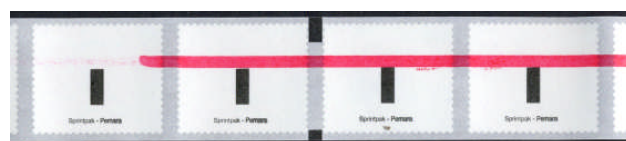


“N” Rate Self-adhesive Booklet: The 10 x N booklet features the same two designs as per the roll, in the usual two-column format. I have seen one booklet with the die-cut perforations out of line to the left when compared to the stamps. A pair of “N” stamps ex booklet complete with normal backing was available from the philatelic bureau. This is unusual as normally the pair of self-adhesive definitives sold by the bureau would be from the roll not

the booklet. The booklet must have been printed well in advance, as the label included in the shrink-wrapped pack of 25 distributed to post offices gives a year date of 2006.



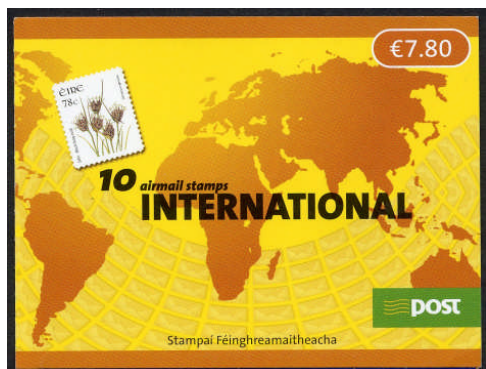
€55 Self-adhesive Rolls: A 55c roll replaced the “N” roll on 20 April. The rolls only contain the Large-flowered Butterwort design. Pemara, another Australian printer, produced this issue. The roll format differs from SNP/SEP issues in that there are neither coil joins nor reminder labels. The perforation size also differs as compared to SNP/SEP issues. Complete rolls are reeled vertically (top feed). The reverse of the backing paper has a repeated "Sprintpak – Pemara" reference under a small rectangular square, and two small black marks appear after every 10th stamp.



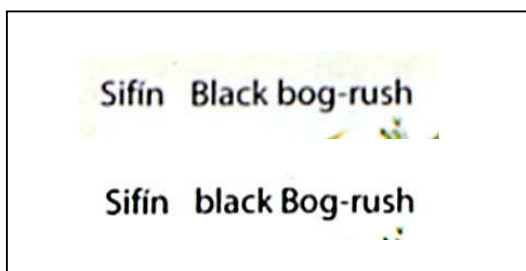
In addition, a roughly printed red line appears on the reverse of the backing paper towards the end of the roll. On my roll, the red line appears from stamp 89 to 99. Presumably, this can vary slightly from roll to roll. The “Sprintpak” name does not appear on the box and there are no markings on the bottom flaps. Single 55c stamps ex rolls are available from the philatelic bureau (and not pairs as advertised in *Collectors News*).



In September 2007, reprints of the roll by SEP SPrint were first noted. Like the Pemara printing, the rolls only contain the Butterwort design. The make-up and reminder labels are the same as the “N” rate roll issued on 1 March.



€5.50 and €7.80 Self-adhesive Booklets: A 55c booklet replaced the “N” booklet on 20 April 2007. The 10 x 55c booklet also contains the Large-flowered Butterwort design and the 10 x 78c booklet features the Black Bog-rush (as per the equivalent sheet issue). Both booklets are in the usual two-column format. I have assumed that, as the die-cut perforation is NOT the same as the initial 55c roll issue, both booklets were printed by SEP SPrint. A pair of 78c stamps ex booklet complete with normal backing was available from the philatelic bureau.



A typographical error occurs in all €7.80 booklets. On row 4, stamp 2, the English inscription reads “black Bog-rush”, with the lower case “b” and capital “B” in “Black” and “bog” reversed. All other nine stamps have the correct inscription “Black bog-rush”.

In August 2007, reprints of this €7.80 booklet appeared with the error corrected.



Vending Machine Booklets: Both booklets contain regular gummed stamps. To take account of the inland rate increase, the €2

booklet now contains 3 x 55c, 1 x 25c and 2 x 5c (all designs as per sheet issues). The outer margins are imperforate, with a top imperforate binding margin and a perforated bottom margin.



The booklet thus has five new identifiable singles – 55c Large-flowered Butterwort (imperf. left or right), 25c Common Knapweed (imperf. right) and 5c Dandelion (imperf. left or right). The 55c stamps are the only values with phosphor frame.



The new €5.50 regular gummed booklet contains 10 x 55c Large-flowered Butterwort (with phosphor frame). The outer margins are imperforate with an imperforate binding margin on the left and a perforated margin at right. This gives two new identifiable stamps – 55c with either imperforate top or bottom. This stamp is rarely seen on mail as there are very few vending machines for this booklet in operation. During 2007, the only two machines in central Dublin at St. Andrews Street PO were removed. The machines at Ballsbridge and Rathmines have been out of order for at least two years.

First Day Covers: The serviced cover provided by An Post for the stamps issued on 1 March included the four sheet stamps plus a pair of the “N” self-adhesives.

The serviced cover provided for the 20 April issues only included the 55c self-adhesive. However, collectors could service covers with any combination of stamps and panes issued on the relevant dates.

Susan Sex was available in the philatelic bureau to sign covers on 1 March.

POSTAL STATIONERY

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Note
			
Aug?	Registered envelope – new printing	€5.50	Revised registration label

Registered Envelope: In August 2007, I noticed a new printing of the registered envelope. The basic envelope and stamp imprint remains unchanged, but the printed registration label has been revised and now matches the registration label used on ordinary envelopes.

This was the only new stationery item issued during 2007 (apart from the special card produced by An Post for the FAI – see *Exhibition and Society Souvenirs*). There was no issue of the St. Patrick's Day cards which have appeared every year since 1984.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

December – An Post Christmas Card: I have not seen the 2007 An Post Christmas card .



December – Santa Christmas Envelope: The 2007 envelope repeated the design and

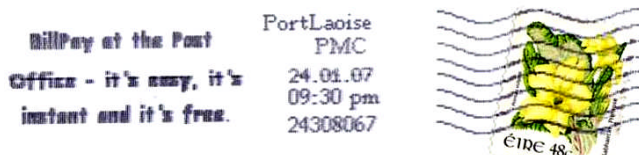
postmark first used in 2006. It features Santa on his sleigh and a North Pole printed postmark, both printed in red.

SLOGANS USED ON INTEGRATED MAIL PROCESSORS (IMPs)

(Illustrations of IMP postmarks are reduced)

Eight new slogans were used for the first time in 2007. These and other repeated 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). The earliest known dates for a new or repeated slogan are recorded, although slogans were not necessarily introduced at all Mail Centres on the same date.

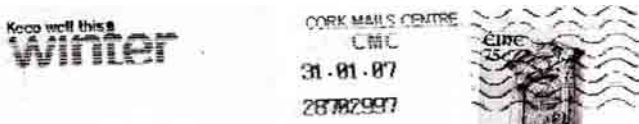
DMC continues to exclude the time within the postmark whereas PMC always indicates the time. AMC and CMC have never normally included the time.



IMP 79 used at PMC2 on 24 January 2007

IMP 79 - Billpay at the Post / Office – it's easy, it's / instant and it's free.

This was used from 3 January 2007 at all Mail Centres. The latest date recorded was 2 February 2007.

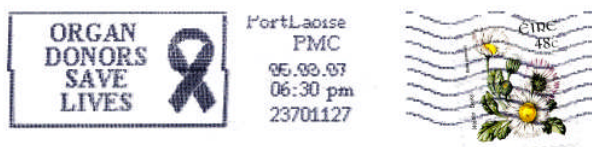


IMP 80 used at CMC on 31 January 2007

IMP 80 - Keep well this / winter

This was used from 31 January 2007 at CMC and from 2 February 2007 at DMC. The latest recorded use was 16 February 2007.

The slogan was used as part of a nationwide campaign organised by the Health Service Executive to highlight what can be done to protect health in the winter months. It was sponsored by An Post, among others. The campaign was aimed primarily at older people, people with a disability and those with long-term illnesses.



IMP 81 used at PMC2 on 5 March 2007
(Note use of 48c stamp – rate increased to 55c on 1 March)



IMP 81 used at CMC on 26 March 2007
(Note use of 7c stamp to uprate to 55c)

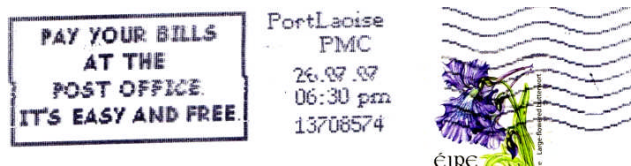
IMP 81 – ORGAN / DONORS / SAVE / LIVES

This was first seen used at AMC on either 13 or 14 February 2007. It has been recorded at AMC, CMC, PMC1 and DMC1 from 15 February 2007. The latest recorded use was 14 April.

IMP 81 was replaced on a phased basis by the reuse of IMP 74 PASSPORT EXPRESS.....



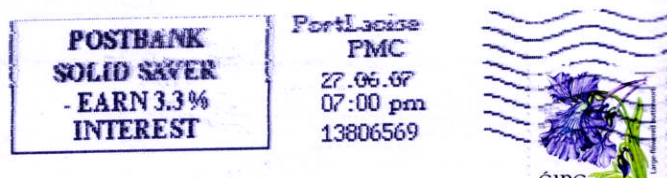
IMP 82 used at DMC2 on 30 May 2007



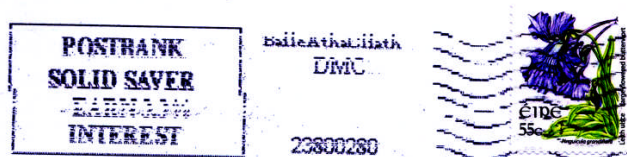
IMP 82 used at PMC1 on 26 July 2007

IMP 82 – PAY YOUR BILLS / AT THE / POST OFFICE. / IT'S EASY AND FREE.

First noted on 3 May 2007 at PMC1. Also used at all other Mail Centres except CMC.



IMP 83 used at PMC1 on 27 June 2007 (first day of use)



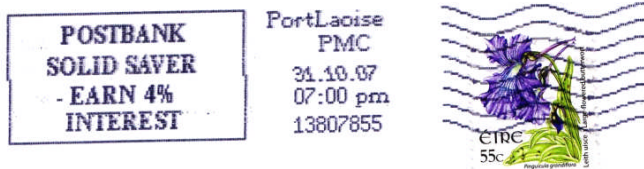
IMP 83 used at DMC2 and received 20 July 2007

IMP 83 – POSTBANK / SOLID SAVER / - EARN 3.3% / INTEREST

The slogan, first noted on 27 June 2007, was used at all five DMC machines, both PMC machines and at AMC and CMC. Mail received on 20 July 2007 with the SOLID SAVER slogan from DMC2 had no date included.

From 10 October 2007, the interest rate on the Solid Saver account was increased from 3.3% to 4%, and an updated IMP slogan, similar to IMP 83, was introduced with the wording on IMP 82 being changed (see IMP 84 below).

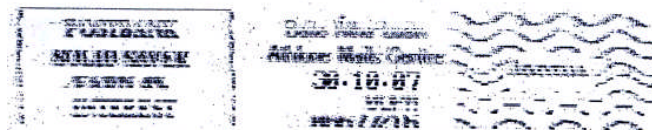
Postbank is a community-based bank operating through An Post's local post office network and it is backed by the Belgian-Dutch bank, Fortis.



IMP 84 used at PMC1 on 31 October 2007



IMP 86 used at DMC2 on 12 December 2007

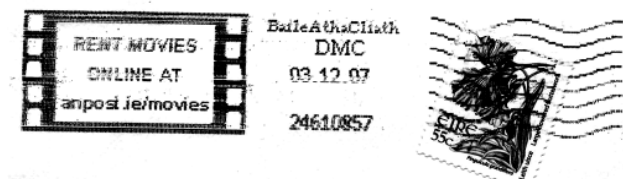


IMP 84i used at AMC on 30 October 2007 with IOCTHA wording

IMP 84 – POSTBANK / SOLID SAVER / EARN 4% / INTEREST

This was first recorded on 22 October 2007 at DMC4 and was introduced on the other machines over subsequent days.

The slogan has been used at DMC1, DMC2, DMC3, DMC4, DMC5, PMC1, PMC2, AMC and CMC. The slogan continued in use at some Mail Centres up to and including 4 December 2007. A variation with IOCTHA wording included was seen on 30 October 2007 at AMC (IMP 84i).



IMP 85 used at DMC2 on 3 December 2007

IMP 85 - RENT MOVIES / ONLINE AT anpost.ie/movies

This was first recorded on 3 December 2007 at DMC2 and also at DMC2 between midnight and 1.30 a.m. on 4 December. However, on the same day, 4 December 2007, DMC2 was reusing IMP 11 (see below). To date IMP 85 has been recorded used only at DMC2 and only on the above dates.

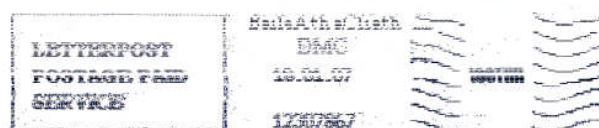
From their website, www.anpost.ie/movies, An Post is now offering a new DVD rental service, combining traditional postal delivery with the latest in online technology.

IMP 86 – We're All / Connected

First seen on 8 December 2007 at DMC2 and subsequently used at all other Mail Centres. Still in use at the beginning of February 2008.

The tagline "We're All Connected" features as a sign-off line in a television advertisement and has also been used across other media. It relates to the connectivity of the An Post mails and retail network.

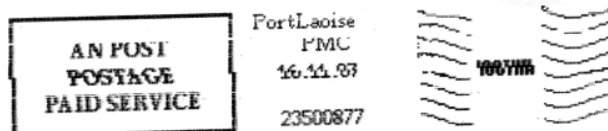
Postage Paid Slogans



IMP P3 used at DMC1 on 10 January 2007
(earliest date recorded)

IMP P3 (PAID 3) – LETTERPOST / POSTAGE PAID / SERVICE with IOCTHA.

This IMP is periodically used at the Dublin Mails Centre on DMC4 only and the same layout has been in use for some time. The previous version, IMP P2, had = POST instead of SERVICE (see 2003 listing).



IMP P4 (PAID 4) – AN POST / POSTAGE / PAID SERVICE with IOCTHA.

This newly worded Paid / IOCTHA IMP slogan was used at PMC2 on 16 November 2007. The earliest recorded date of use, is shown above.

Reuse of Other Slogans

IMP 11 - POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / =POST

This was reused at PMC1 from 3 December 2007, the earliest date of reuse recorded for the 2007 Christmas season. It was also used at DMC1 and DMC2 from 4 December 2007.

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

As stated above, this slogan was reused during May 2007.

EXHIBITION AND SOCIETY SOUVENIRS AND POSTMARKS

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
						
20 Jan	IPTA Roadshow, Castlebar - The Chieftains (Irish Music) sheetlet with o/p	€9.00 *	600 printed	CCP3	13½ x 13½	Mahons
28 Jan	IPTA Roadshow, Kilkenny - Altan (Irish Music) sheetlet with o/p	€12.00 *	600 printed	CCP3	13½ x 13½	Mahons
4 Feb	IPTA Roadshow, Cork - The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem (Irish Music) sheetlet with o/p	€12.00 *	600 printed	CCP3	13½ x 13½	Mahons
18 Feb	IPTA Roadshow, Tralee - The Dubliners (Irish Music) sheetlet with o/p	€9.00 *	600 printed	CCP3	13½ x 13½	Mahons
15 Apr	Stampania 2007 - Castles sheetlet with o/p	€12.00 *	600 printed	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Mahons
5 May	FAI - 25th Anniversary - Postcard	-	with preprinted postmark in green			
28 Sept	Stampa 2007 (Members' Souvenirs)					
	- Irish Music (2006) miniature sheet		1,200 overprinted	CCP3	13½ x 13½	Mahons
	- Flight of the Earls miniature sheet		1,200 overprinted	CCP3	14 x 14¾	Mahons
	- Year of the Pig miniature sheet	€25.00 *	1,200 overprinted	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Mahons
	- Wedding self-adhesive booklet ("N")		1,200 overprinted		11¼ x 11¼	Mahons
	- Europa First Day Cover		1,200 overprinted			Mahons
28 Sept	Stampa 2007 (Public Souvenir) - Ryder Cup (2006) booklet pane (pane 2)	€5.00 *	2,000 overprinted	CCP3	14 x 14¾	Mahons
17 Nov	Cork Stamp & Coin Exhibition - Booklet	€3.00 *	300 printed (contains a single 78c Rugby stamp)			
	- Rugby World Cup 78c miniature sheet with overprint	€5.00 *	1,000 printed	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	Mahons
	- Illustrated serviced cover	€2.50 *	500 covers bearing a 55c Rugby stamp			
*: The production and overprinting (if applicable) of all sheetlets / miniature sheets / booklets / covers marked with an asterisk above was arranged by the organisers of each show. Overprinting was with the permission of An Post						

IPTA Collectors' Shows: Various sheetlets were overprinted in black for four shows as listed, with a different overprint for each show. All sheetlets are numbered. There were no postmarks for any of these shows. The Castlebar fair was a two-day show (20 and 21 January).

Stampania 2007: The Castles sheetlet was overprinted in green for the show. All sheetlets were numbered. An Post attended the show

and an official special postmark was provided. The postmark continued the "Dublin" theme for Stampania cancels and incorporates an illustration of the Molly Malone plus wheelbarrow statue in Grafton Street, Dublin 2 (*postmark and cover illustrated on back cover*).

5 May - FAI (25th Anniversary): An Post produced a special overprinted version of the prepaid postcard reproducing the 1916 Proclamation, first issued in 1992. The card

was cancelled with a simple pre-printed CDS in green dated 5.V.2007. The unoverprinted postcards are no longer on sale. The card was not on general sale (*illustrated on back cover*).

Stampa 2007: The souvenirs, as listed, were posted to members in advance, with certain members receiving them on 28 September. The overprint in black reads "STAMPA/R.D.S. DUBLIN/ 12, 13, 14 OCT. 2007". The overprinted Wedding booklet is the original issue with NVI stamps. The cancels available, and the related stamp issues, were as follows:-

12 October: Golf (Ryder Cup stamp of 2006)
13 October: Scouts (Europa issue)
14 October: Music (Irish Music issue of 2006)

The postmark designs are based on the equivalent first day cancels for the stamps issued during 2006 or 2007 on the same theme. Note that the postmarks were correctly inscribed "Baile Átha Cliath" instead of "Dublin" this year. There was no official cover.

The Awards Dinner was held in Wynns Hotel, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1 on 13 October. The hotel provided a folded A5 menu. A Europa 55c stamp was affixed to each menu and cancelled with the 13 October Scout postmark. 100 produced.

A selection of original artwork covering a total of 16 stamps designed by Vincent Killowry was on display at the show. The various issues featured were:-

- Titanic stamp of 1999 (1);
- Centenary of Flight of 2003 (4);
- Luas stamps of 2004 (2);
- Dublin/Belfast Railway issue of 2005 (4);
- Tall Ships set of 2005 (3);
- Viking Heritage designs of 2007 (2).

A special four-page leaflet "Art at Stampa 2007" illustrating the 16 designs was available to accompany the exhibit (no charge).

Cork Stamp & Coin Exhibition: The Cork Philatelic Society, in association with Raven Stamps, held their annual show in the Imperial Hotel, Cork.

The Society issued their normal numbered booklet souvenir containing a single marginal copy of the 78c Rugby World Cup stamp. 2007 marked the 30th anniversary of their first booklet. They also produced a numbered illustrated cover cancelled with a special postmark. Raven Stamps produced an

overprinted and numbered 55c miniature sheet from the same set (*illustrated on back cover*). In addition, a small number of the 78c miniature sheets were also overprinted and distributed to standholders.

Overseas Exhibitions: I'm not aware of any cachets provided by An Post or their agents for overseas shows during 2007.

OTHER POSTMARKS

Dublin - Düsseldorf - Frankfurt - Anniversary Flight: To mark the 50th anniversary of the first Aer Lingus flights to Düsseldorf (12 April) and Frankfurt (15 April), covers and cards were flown on the Dublin to Frankfurt and Frankfurt to Dublin flights on 15 April. As far as I'm aware, no covers were flown on the Düsseldorf route. An Post provided a special postmark for the outgoing flight which refers to both destinations and dates.

Outgoing covers and cards with the special cancel exist with arrival postmarks of Frankfurt Flughafen for either 14 or 15 April. Incoming covers from Frankfurt were datestamped Frankfurt Flughafen on 14 April and received the special Irish cancel on arrival. As far as I'm aware no covers were carried on the Dublin - Düsseldorf route (*illustrated on back cover*).

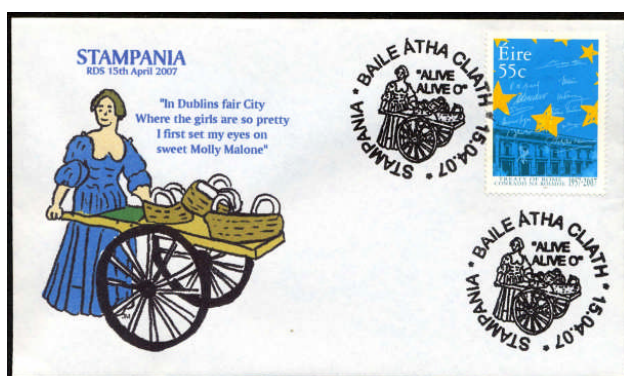
Foynes Flying Boat Festival: The festival coincided with the 70th anniversary of the first survey flight from Botwood, Canada to Foynes, which took place on the 5/6 July 1937. A temporary landing pontoon for the docking of a Catalina flying boat was erected in Foynes to facilitate a re-enactment of the flight. A special luncheon hosted by the Irish Aviation Authority was held in an adjoining marquee on 6 July.

Unfortunately, due to a technical fault and deplorable weather, the flight was postponed and the Catalina crew arrived by a commercial flight to Shannon, carrying with them flight covers from St. Johns Philatelic Society to commemorate this historic event. All covers were backstamped with a special An Post postmark for 6 July. Various other covers were also carried by the crew from/to Canada.

The Irish Airmail Society also prepared a special cover for their members, while guests attending the luncheon received a copy of the Foynes B314 postcard issued in 2006. Both items were cancelled with the postmark (*cancellation illustrated on back cover*).



Exhibition and other special postmarks



Illustrated cover with Stampania cancellation

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 special cancellations and flight covers, and to John Lennon for additional information relating to IMPs.

Finally, thanks to Tony Finn, John Greer, Heinz Grunz, Otto Jung, Michael Kelly, Declan O'Kelly, Pádraig O'Shea, Robert Sinclair, Paddy Smithers and David Turner for providing much valuable assistance and information, and to Héloïse Mitchell for proof reading the article.



Dublin to Frankfurt flight cover with special postmark



Special FAI postcard provided by An Post with preprinted cancellation



Flight of the Earls miniature sheet overprinted for Stampa



55c Rugby miniature sheet overprinted in gold for Cork Stamp & Coin Exhibition