

STAMPA 2001

The Thirtieth National Stamp Exhibition

The RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 2



Friday 9th November to Sunday 11th November, 2001
Open 11.00 hrs. to 18.00 hrs. daily

Official Handbook £2



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Welcome to Stampa 2001

I welcome all those members who are planning to attend the show along with members of the public who are curious to know what the show is about. Your support is much appreciated and needed. Last year was well attended with a good buzz around the displays.

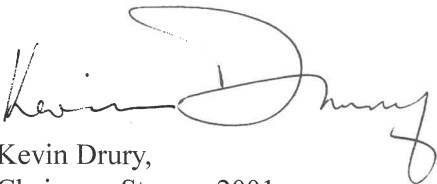
To those who wish to add to their membership souvenirs we offer our public souvenir, the Jordan Formula 1 Racing Car Mini-Sheet, in both mint and used formats. An Post will have a special postmark for each day of the show, which may be affixed to your mint souvenirs.

The Irish Philatelic Society is celebrating its 100 Centenary this year and to mark the occasion they are mounting a 40-frame display of outstanding material in the Court of Honour. They are also present along with other Irish clubs and societies in the Concert Hall. The Concourse Room is given over entirely to competition entries this year and can be found on the way to the Lawn Restaurant.

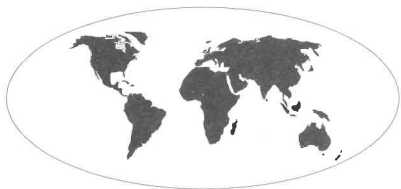
This year the Irish members of the Eire Philatelic Association (EPA) will have an opportunity to attend the AGM as the events of 11th September caused the Wisconsin AGM to be cancelled and it has been rescheduled for 2.00 p.m. on Saturday 10th November at Stampa 2001. This is the first occasion in its history that the AGM has been held in Ireland. It will be held in the Meeting Room on the stage and I hope you will attend to show our solidarity with our American cousins.

Once again, I would like to thank all the voluntary helpers who put this show together, the exhibitors for their wonderful display, the standholders for their patronage and not least An Post and our members whose sponsorship and support enables us to mount this splendid exhibition.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Drury', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Drury,
Chairman Stampa 2001.



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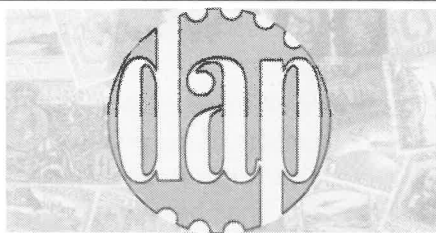
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The Meeting Room behind the stage will have the following programme:

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
11.45 - 12.45 <i>Philatelic Videos</i> <i>Presentation of the Schools Trophy on stage in the Concert Hall</i> 14.15... <i>Philatelic Videos</i>	11.15 - 12.30 <i>Annual General Meeting Irish Airmail Society</i> 13.00 - 14.00 <i>A discussion by Patrick Walsh on the sayings and quotations of Oscar Wilde</i> 14.00 - 15.45 <i>Annual General Meeting Eire Philatelic Assoc.</i> 16.00 - 17.00 <i>Philatelic Slide Show presentation by Pat Casey</i>	14.15 - 15.15 <i>Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland Meeting</i> 15.30 - 16.00 <i>Seminar</i> 16.00 - 17.00 <i>Philatelic Video Show and/or Slides</i>
Show closes 18.00 hrs.	Show closes 18.00 hrs.	Show closes 18.00 hrs.

Medical Care and First Aid is available courtesy of St. John's Ambulance Brigade of Ireland at the First Aid Centre between the Concert and Exhibition Halls. Further details available from National Headquarters, St. John's Ambulance (01) 668 8072.

The Irish National Stamp Exhibition Ltd is a non-profit-taking company, limited by guarantee, run on a voluntary basis by an elected Council.

Chairman: Kevin Drury; ***Vice-Chairman:*** Mike Burrington;

Treasurer: Michael Kelly; ***Secretary:*** Phelim O'Neill;

Council Members: John Fitzsimons, PJ Gilmore, John Mullen, Eoin Boyle.

Stampa 2001 Judges: Charles Verge (Canada) Chairman; John Lennon (Ireland), John Mullen (Ireland).

Stampa Fax: (01) 454 6675 ***Stampa e-mail:*** stampa2000@mail.com

The Irish Philatelic Society 1901 – 2001

an appreciation by John Lennon

Just over 100 years ago, on 12th February 1901, a gathering of nineteen in the Hibernian Hotel, Dawson Street, passed a motion that “an Irish Philatelic Club be formed.” William Lane Joynt was the chief motivator and continued so for twenty years.

The first meeting of the new club was held on 27th February in the Dublin Bread Company’s Club Room in Lower Sackville Street (now O’Connell Street). They continued weekly until May, monthly through the summer and weekly again from November. After the initial enthusiasm, the club began to falter and no meetings were held between February and November 1902. A revival in February 1906 kept the club going until October 1908, when it ground to a complete halt.

Five members got together in June 1913 and called a general meeting, at which a new committee was elected. Meetings resumed in September, with a new enthusiasm and membership grew to seventy-four by April 1914.

In 1920, Stafford Johnson took over as Secretary and organized the club on the lines still being used today – a display or talk and an auction. In January 1923, a member who was disappointed with the quality of the auctions, wrote suggesting a special auction at the end of the session. This was discussed and grew to become the first public stamp auction in Ireland on 22nd June 1923.

The name of the club was changed to ‘The Irish Philatelic Society’ around 1929. The minutes were missing from 1925 to 1940, but from other sources we know that the Society staged exhibitions in Jury’s Hotel on 15th April 1936 and again on 16th and 17th February 1938. The success of these encouraged the Society to consider a competitive one and in 1943 it was decided to investigate the possibilities.

A room was obtained in the National Museum, but the scale of the exhibition grew too big for this and it was transferred to the Central Hall, which it almost filled with thirty-six entries, comprising a total of 1,715 sheets. It ran for two weeks and the catalogue shows that there was a very wide range of displays. Membership increased from sixty-four to one hundred and twenty-five over the next few years.

An exhibition fund was established and in 1951, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee, attempts were made to have another, but these were unsuccessful, mainly due to the inability to find a suitable venue. It was the fiftieth anniversary of Irish stamps in 1972 that prompted the next one, which became STAMPA ’72. The Society initiated it in 1969 and later joined with the Hibernian Stamp Company and David Feldman Ltd. to form an exhibition committee, co-opting members from other societies and groups. Following the success of this, a special STAMPA Committee was formed to organize future STAMPAs.

For more information on the Society’s 100 years, see the special display at this year’s STAMPA. A history of the Society will be published next year.

Unfortunately, philately has no fixed abode in Dublin and the Society has met in many locations down the years. At present, it meets in Ely House, Ely Place every second Thursday. The format is usually a display, followed by a Bourse, but there is always plenty of chat as well and visitors are always welcome.

Stampa 1996 and 1997

by "Marius"

The 1996 show was held at the Riverside Centre, Dublin 2 from 18th to 20th October. Members received two souvenirs - pane two from the Irish Naval Service booklet overprinted "stampa '96/25th irish national stamp exhibition-dublin, october 18-20 1996" plus the Irish T.T. Winners miniature sheet overprinted "25th irish national stamp exhibition-dublin, october 18-20 1996". Total printing of 700 pairs (membership cost: IR£12.50). The public souvenir was pane three from the Horse Racing booklet also overprinted "25th irish national stamp exhibition-dublin, october 18-20 1996" (cost: IR£2.50 – 1,200 printed and sold). All souvenirs were individually numbered. A large cream coloured card was also available which reproduced the three exhibition cancels. The large size was to facilitate collectors who wanted to affix any of the three souvenirs to obtain the show cancel(s). This replaced the card insert within the catalogue of prior years.

Stampa
dublin '96



An Post issued a set of three exhibition cards on the opening day of the show. The three postcard themes, stamps and matching postmarks were as follows:-

18th October: Irish Naval Service/32p Naval Service stamp/Anchor postmark;

19th October: UNICEF/32p UNICEF stamp/Mother and Child postmark plus the numeral 50; and

20th October: 25th Stampa/32p definitive stamp/"Stampa 25 Years" within a laurel wreath.

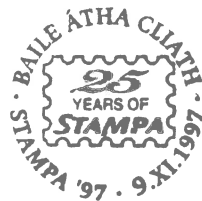
The stamp designs were the same as the sheet issues complete with issued values and simulated perforations but in much darker colours. A change in the format of the cards was introduced as compared to prior years. The illustrations, which included a blow up of the relevant stamp design without the figures of value, were on the obverse side of the cards and only the stamp imprints appeared on the reverse.

All three cards were also overprinted on the reverse for the Stampa Awards Dinner which was held in Snipes Restaurant, Ely Place, Dublin 2 on 19th October. The cards were

cancelled with the UNICEF postmark of the same date. The Irish National Committee for UNICEF once again had a stand at the show and for a donation (minimum IR£1) collectors were able to obtain the UNICEF card cancelled with their two colour (blue and red) meter postmark. All cards were dated 19 October with 0.00 value. Total of 200 cards issued.

The Isle of Man Post Office was the only overseas postal administration to attend the 1996 show. Their special Stampa cachet was not supplied in time for the exhibition but orders were accepted and covers with the cachet were subsequently forwarded by post from the bureau. All stamps were cancelled with a Douglas, Isle of Man CDS of 18 OC 96 - the cachet was only applied to the cover.

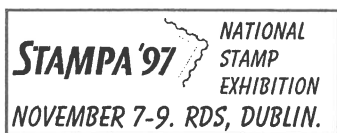
Stampa '97 marked the silver jubilee of the exhibition which returned to its former venue in the premises of the Royal Dublin Society in Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 (7th – 9th November). This was one of the largest ever shows which also marked the 75th Anniversary of the First Irish Postage Stamp. The exhibits were of a very high standard and included in the Court of Honour “The Mauritius Ball Invitation Envelope” (*courtesy of David Feldman S.A.*). Members received three souvenirs (1,100 of each printed) plus, at no extra cost, the general souvenir (2,000 printed) which was on public sale at the show. The member souvenirs consisted of three overprinted panes from the Lighthouses Prestige Booklet – panes 1, 3 and 4 (membership cost: IR£15.00). The general souvenir was pane 2 from the same booklet (cost: IR£2.00). All overprints were in black – the wording varies on each pane but all referred to Stampa '97. A cream coloured card was also available at the exhibition which reproduced the three exhibition cancels (cost: 40p). The large size was to facilitate collectors who wanted to affix any of the souvenirs to obtain the show cancel.



An Post issued a set of three exhibition cards on the opening day of the show. The three postcard themes, pre-printed stamps and matching postmarks were as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 7th November: | 75th Anniversary of Irish Stamps/32p Legislature stamp/Harp postmark; |
| 8th November: | 150th Anniversary of Bram Stoker's Birth/32p Dracula stamp/ Dracula postmark (8th November was Bram Stoker's actual birth date); and |
| 9th November: | 25th Anniversary of the First Stampa/32p Robin definitive/25 Years of Stampa postmark. |

The stamp designs were the same as the sheet issues complete with issued values and simulated perforations but reduced in size. The standard of printing of the stamp element was poor. The illustrations were once again on the obverse of the cards (as in 1996) and incorporated reproductions of the 2d Map stamp, 32p Dracula stamp and the 1972 miniature sheet featuring the map design respectively.



In addition to the special postmarks, a slogan die was used in Dublin to publicise the show. It was used at the Dublin Mail Centre (one die) during October but was withdrawn before the end of the month. All examples seen were of very poor quality. The illustration is taken from the original artwork and does not exactly match the type font used on the actual die.

The 25th Anniversary of the First Stamp card was overprinted on the reverse for the Stamp Awards Dinner which was held in Snipes Restaurant, Ely Place, Dublin 2 on 8th November. The cards were distributed uncanceled but collectors could have the 8th November cancel applied on the cards at the An Post stand the following day.



All visitors to the show were given an exhibition passport at no extra charge. There was a separate page for Ireland, the Crown Agents plus the six other postal administrations who attended the show and provided cachets and/or cancellations. The Crown Agents, Isle of Man and Norway stands were staffed by their own personnel; Canada, Finland, Mexico and U.S.A. were represented by An Post. Norway also produced an attractive

card featuring a view of O'Connell Bridge, Dublin (cost: IR£1.50). Two stamps were affixed to the picture side of the Norwegian card and were cancelled with their show cachet. Cachets were also available from Canada, Crown Agents, Isle of Man, Mexico, and United States of America. Finland did not provide a cachet - stamps were cancelled with a Helsinki steel datestamp (as illustrated).

In the case of the Isle of Man, the special Stampa cachet was normally applied to the envelope/passport with a rubber bureau CDS with moveable date used to cancel the stamp(s). However, the bureau cancel was giving poor impressions and was rarely used. As a result the Stampa cachet can be found cancelling the stamps. Envelopes handed in for subsequent cancellation in the Isle of Man were postmarked with either a Douglas, Isle of Man steel CDS of 7 NO 97 or a rubber bureau CDS of 7 November with, in each case, the cachet applied to the cover.

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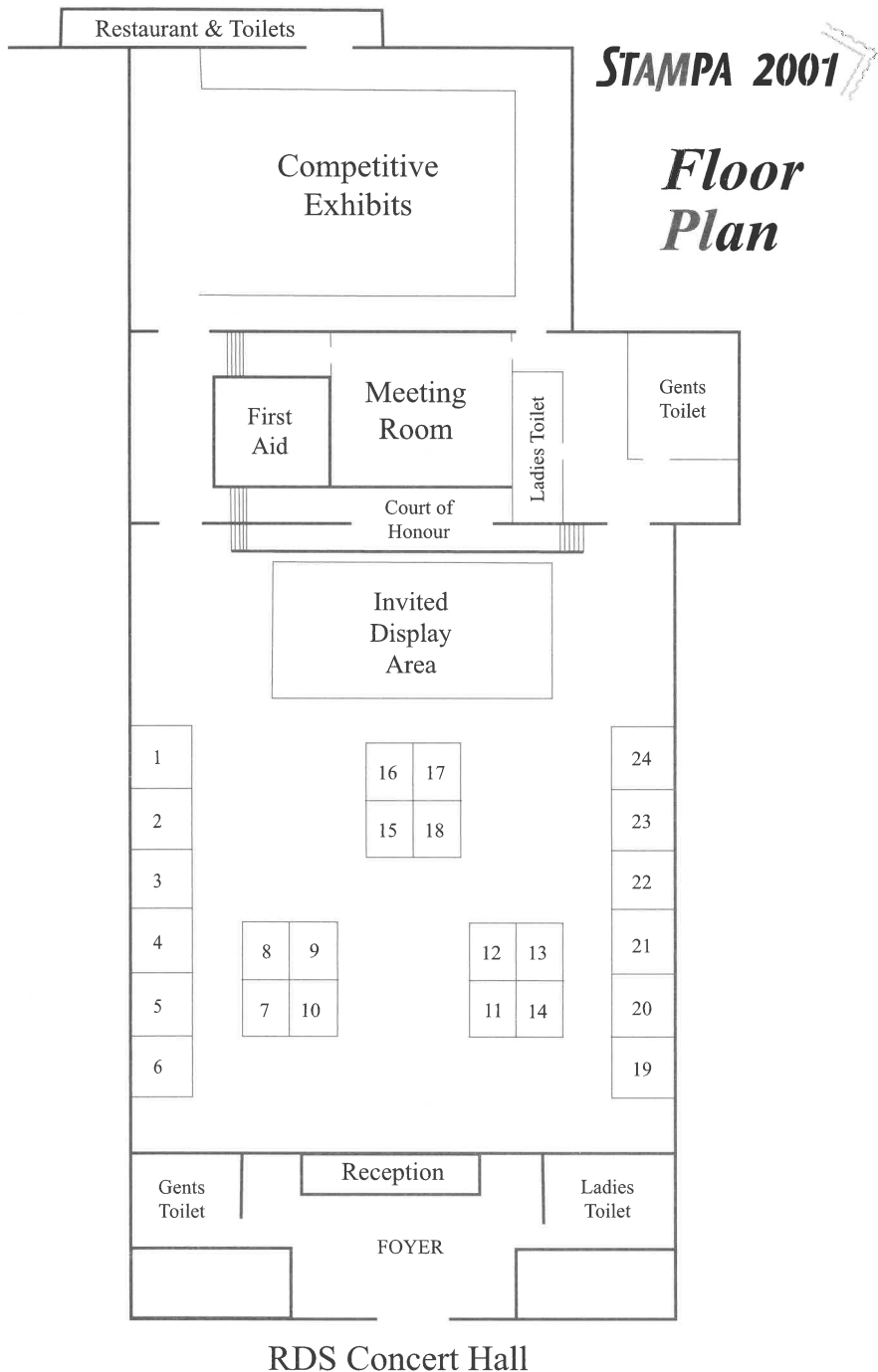
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Stampa Quiz 2001

Solve the riddle and send your answer to the Editor, PO Box 2723, Cardiff Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Closing date for entries 31st January, 2002

A man had 12 pennies, one penny was bad being either lighter or heavier than the rest. He had a simple scales and could weigh the pennies against each other.

But the scales was only capable of three weighings before it would work no more.

Since he couldn't fix or replace the scales, how could he ensure he could find the bad penny and determine whether it was light or heavy.

Stampa Quiz 2000

ANSWERS

1. Chapelizod, 2. Dolphin's Barn,
3. Blackrock, 4. Marino,
5. Stoneybatter, 6. Stepside,
7. Killester, 8. Batchelors Walk,
9. Ringsend, 10. Leopardstown,
11. Donabate, 12. Harold's Cross,
13. Coolmine, 14. Ballsbridge,
15. Crumlin, 16. Fairview,
17. Swords, 18. Windy Arbour,
19. Foxrock, 20. Knocklyon,
21. Kilmainham, 22. Portrane,
23. Rathmines, 24. Finglas,
25. Lucan, 26. Stillorgan,
27. Phibsboro, 28. Bluebell,
29. Walkinstown.

From the many correct answers received, 3 lucky winners prizes are on their way. Congratulations to all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chairman and Council are very grateful to the following for their help: An Post (especially the Philatelic Bureau); The Dublin Institute of Technology; The Dublin Stamp Society; The Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland; The Irish Philatelic Society; The Irish Philatelic Traders Association; the RDS staff; Ian Whyte; the Exhibition Judges; St. John's Ambulance Brigade of Ireland; The Irish Numismatic Society; The Irish Post-card Society; John Hinde Ltd; Seamus Kearns; John Lennon; John Mullen; Irish Stamp Security Printing Co Ltd; Finbar O'Mahony; David Feldman; Joe Foley; Charles Verge; those who mounted the exhibits and the invited displays; the stewards; the exhibitors; the standholders and the advertisers. We would also like to thank the Stampa members, the frame sponsors, the volunteers and helpers and everyone else who contributed to the success of this show.

Court of Honour

- Frames 1–5** *Centenary of the Irish Philatelic Society*
Events and milestones in the Society's one hundred years of existence.
- Frames 6–10** *Finbar O'Mahony. The Franking Privilege in Britain and Ireland, 1652 to 1840.*
- Frames 11–15** *P. J. Carton. Irish Postal History, 1684 to 1900.*
This display is a study of the postal marks and cancellations used in Ireland, also of the Irish postal routes and rates of the period.
- Frames 16–20** *Anthony Hughes. The Postal History of Westmeath.*
The story of the development of the post in County Westmeath, 1689 to 1922.
- Frames 21–25** *Barra O'Keeffe. Irish Postal Stationery, 1922 to 1945.*
Covering the formative years of the Irish State after leaving the United Kingdom and showing in-depth the transition period.
- Frames 26–30** *F. G. McDonald. Discovering West London.*
The exhibit takes the viewer on a walk through West London. The area has attracted many famous people, living and dead. Their connections with this area are shown.
- Frames 31–35** *Geoffrey McAuley. Ocean Sail.*
The development and decline of the ocean-going sailing ship.
- Frames 36–40** *Brian Warren. The Gerl Definitives - Booklets and Coils.*
A detailed study of both the £.s.d. and decimal currency booklet and coil stamps which were issued over a nine year period between 1968 and 1977.

There is also a one-frame display entitled The Irish Philatelic Society down through the years. Photographs of members past and present.

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

TRADITIONAL PHILATELY

The Bird Definitives – The Story So Far

Brian Warren

A chronological display of the various sheet, booklet and self-adhesive issues since the introduction of the series in 1997.

Great Britain, The Twopence Blue 1841-68

Charles Reid

A study of the characteristics of the various plates with special emphasis on the repairs to plates 4, 8, and 9.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – The 1906 Issue and its Derivatives

Mike Burrington

A study of the 1906 definitive issue and later use of the same designs.

Forgeries of the British Commonwealth

Kevin Drury

Selected pages from a collection of forgeries of Empire and Commonwealth stamps.

East Africa 1890-1930

Ian Bailey

Examples of the issues British East Africa, German East Africa, Zanzibar, Uganda, Kenya and Tanganyika.

Siam 1883-1940

Stephen Parker

The classic period of Siam philately from the first Siamese only issues in the reign of Rama V through to the locally-printed issues of the late 1930's.

THEMATIC PHILATELY

Safety at Sea

Rosemary Perrott

Illustrates various factors which contribute to safety at sea.

Lighthouses of the North Atlantic

Jon Perrott

Development and operation of lighthouses of the North Atlantic and adjoining seas.

Detector Story

Margaret Morris

From unaided eye to interplanetary probe, this exhibit describes the progress of human knowledge about the amazing universe of which we are a small part.

Queen of the Century

Patrick Casey

A display illustrating notable personal and family events and milestones in the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother during the first one hundred years of her life.

SOCIAL PHILATELY

Ireland and Her Troubles

Joseph E. Foley

Political labels from the 19th century to the modern era.

Masaryk's Czechoslovakia

Geoffrey McAuley

The history of Czechoslovakia during its early years, as illustrated by postal material of the time.

POSTAL HISTORY

Postal Markings of the Holyhead & Kingstown Packet 1860 – 1922

Anthony Lovelock

A study of the markings used by the mail packets of the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company which held the contract to operate the Holyhead to Kingstown service from 1860 to 1925.

The Red Cross Message Service in the Channel Islands

Mike Burrington

An exhibit of material from the Red Cross – operated message service to and from the occupied Channel Islands during World War II.

The 18th and 19th Century Postal Markings of Cork City

Colin Ross

A study of the postal markings of the City of Cork illustrating its rise in prosperity and importance during the period.

AEROPHILATELY

Irish Mail Accelerated by Air

Ray How

This display shows the progression of Irish mail by air using flights from London and elsewhere.

Irish Uniform Airmail Rate

Karl Winkelmann

The introduction of a uniform foreign airmail rate on March 1, 1951. Shows rates for letters, printed papers, postcards and airletters.

NOVICE

Transport

Elaine Cunningham

Its social impact today with some previous history.

LITERATURE

Hibernian “Postage Stamps of Ireland” 2002

R. Hamilton-Bowen

COURT OF HONOUR (Non-competitive)

Roots, Necks and Crowns

Charles Verge

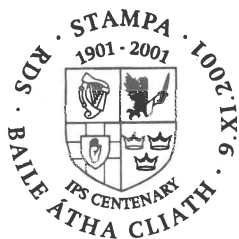
A serious, sometimes tongue-in-cheek look at teeth and dentistry.

Irish Airmail Stamps

Seamus Kearns

A display of original artwork and stamps.

Stampa Exhibition Cancellations



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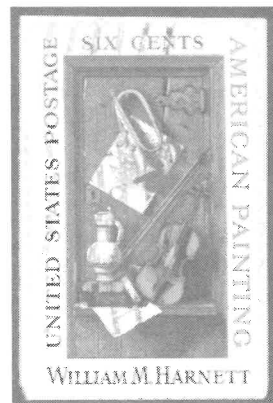
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PAINTER WAS TOO REALISTIC

3rd December 1970 saw the United States issue a 6c stamp - the ninth in the American painting series. It honoured William M. Hartnett, a 19th century painter. The stamp reproduces Hartnett's painting "Old Models."

William M. Hartnett (1848-1892) painted so realistically that he was arrested and charged with counterfeiting because of a bank note he painted on a still life. The charges were dropped.



Born in Ireland, he came to America when an infant, grew up in Philadelphia, moved to New York where he worked as a silver engraver, meantime studying art at night at Copper Union. Then followed six years study in Europe, where he came under the spell of the 17th century Dutch still life painters.

As an illusionist interested in creating a replica of real objects, Hartnett was a master of texture and he had a keen eye for detail. Often when he exhibited his paintings, special guards were posted to keep people from touching his art – they wanted to feel the *porcelain*, the *pewter*, the *leather* and the *wood*. It has been said that the objects he painted were clearer and crisper than they were in reality.

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An Post 2001 Christmas Stamps



Christmas time is just around the corner, and this year An Post have once again produced three stamps featuring the beautiful drawings of Mayo born artist Richard J. King (1907 - 1974).

Images of these paintings, reproduced by kind permission of the Capuchins, represent the three standard Christmas stamps i.e. The Annunciation, The Nativity and The Presentation in the Temple, taken from the Joyful Mysteries Series.

The promotional stamp, Mother of Christ, is one of four images from the Scriptural titles of Mary, which appeared in the 1972 edition of the Capuchin Annual.

Stamps are dual denominated at 30p/38c 32p/41c and 45p/57c and designed by Q Design.

Also available is the Christmas booklet which is priced at IR£6.60 and includes 24 Stamps, two absolutely FREE!

All available from Post Offices nationwide.

Robert Moon

Invention of the Postcode led to Deluge of Junk Mail

If there was ever a good intention on the road to success, it was that of Robert Moon, who died on 10th April aged 84. His laudable aim, in which he succeeded brilliantly, was to speed the delivery of America's mail. But his deceptively simple scheme rapidly turned the demographic world on its head, brought unheard-of refinement to social discrimination and unleashed an ever-growing mountain of junk mail.

Robert Moon invented the US postal code. For the first 50 years of the 20th century, Americans used the post mainly for social letters, carried across the country on 10,000 mail trains and sorted in transit. By the late 1950s, however, two simultaneous developments were bringing the system to its knees. The railways were in precipitate decline and equipment had been invented which enabled businesses to generate personalized mass mailings. Suddenly, millions of pension cheques, electricity bills and mortgage payments arrived by post. By the early 1960s they accounted for 80 percent of the traffic.

In 1962, President Kennedy appointed an advisory board to cope with what was rapidly turning into a crisis and Robert Moon was at last able to ride his hobby-horse. At the time, he was a postal inspector in Philadelphia and had been tinkering with various distribution schemes for 20 years. He had unsuccessfully offered two improved versions to the US authorities, however, his final version was grabbed by the advisory board and put into operation on 1st July 1963.

His Zoning Improvement Plan (Zip) was wonderfully simple and organisationally brilliant. The entire US was broken into 10 zones, starting from zero on the east coast to nine on the west. A second digit was added for the regional sorting centre, a third for the sectional sub-division, and so on. By the time the Zip code had reached five digits, it could define almost any address to within a few city blocks.

It took a while for the public to accept this addition to its addresses, but the scheme hit the marketing world like a bombshell. Detailed census information released by the government could isolate a maximum of 424 households in any given area. Someone quickly realized that marrying this census material to the areas defined by the Zip code, could offer an extraordinarily detailed profile of the population.

Anyone wanting to send material to, say, college-educated whites with above-average incomes, suddenly had a much more precise tool. Rather more sinisterly, insurance companies had been handed a mechanism to "redline" specific high-risk areas (usually poor and black) and to load their premiums accordingly.

The success of Robert Moon's scheme, which allowed each of thousands of machines to

sort more than 500 letters a minute, brought widespread imitation around the world. Hard behind, naturally, came the marketers to ensure that millions more doormats could be littered with unsolicited post.

The addition of four further digits has enabled the US Zip code to define an address down to a specific building and it is now possible to classify any postal area according to 62 separate criteria – ethnic composition, median income, mobility, education, spending patterns and on and on. None of this was ever, of course, envisaged by poor Robert Moon, who was just trying to do his best by his employers.

Robert Moon was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania on 15th April 1917. His mother died when he was young and his father, a grocer, went bankrupt during the Depression. He won a scholarship to Duke University, but could find no work to support him away from home. So instead, he became a postman in his home town.

If the marketing industry had any soul, it would raise a gold-plated statue to the man who inadvertently gave it the keys to the kingdom.

Robert Aurand Moon: born 15th April 1917 – died 10th April 2001.

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Stamp of approval

LET'S not write off the Royal Mail delivery service too quickly in favour of alternative delivery companies.

We recently spent two weeks in the Canaries, and after being told that it generally takes up to two weeks for postcards to arrive in the UK, we bought and posted our cards on the second day.

Using the private TNT postal service stamps – no pretty pictures – we posted them in the special TNT box. Towards the end of the holiday, we posted a couple more cards, this time using the Spanish postal service's much cheaper stamps. They arrived within a week, four days after our return.

The others? They arrived two weeks after our return. In future years will we bemoan the 'good old days' of the Royal Mail?

MARGARET CURTIS,
Little Somerford, Wilts.

A CHARRED postcard from the 1937 Hindenburg airship blaze in New Jersey, US, sold for £17,500 to an anonymous buyer in London.

Scent packing by post

THE first 'scratch and sniff' postal stamp issued in Britain delivers the sweet smell of eucalyptus with the mail.

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C is for Christmas cancellations

by Maurice Barrett

With the annual Irish National Stamp Exhibition "Stampa" now taking place, there can be but a short few weeks until Christmas is upon us. This article takes a brief look at postmarks associated with Christmas.

Bethlehem is the town where Jesus was born 2,000 years ago and today there are towns named Bethlehem in Connecticut, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Georgia, New Hampshire and Maryland in the USA, in New Zealand and in Lesotho in Africa. Some of the postmarks from these towns are shown here.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

First day of issue machine cancellation from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA



Cachet used on mail posted from Bethlehem, Georgia, USA



Rubber postmark and cachet used on mail posted from Bethlehem, New Hampshire, USA

Nazareth is the town where Jesus spent his childhood years. It is also the name of places in at least five US states, India, Lesotho, South Africa, Belgium and Costa Rica. A postmark from Nazareth in Belgium is shown here.



Postmark from Nazareth, Belgium

Santa Claus is the person most associated with Christmas and he is named on postmarks from Indiana, Idaho and Georgia in the USA. Santa himself is shown on a postmark from Santa Claus Main Post Office at Napapiiri, Finland, inside the Arctic Circle.



Special postmark from Santa Claus, Indiana, USA, dated 25 December 2000



Rubber postmark from Santa Claus, Indiana, USA



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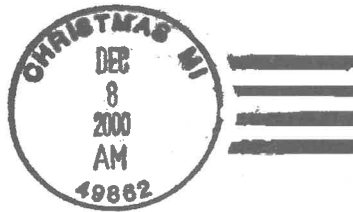


Santa Claus appearing on postmark from Santa Claus Main Post Office, Finland

Of course, Christmas itself is postmarkedly represented by Christmas Valley, Oregon, and Christmas, Michigan in the USA and by Noel and Christmas Island both in Nova Scotia, Canada.



Special postmark from Christmas Island, Nova Scotia, Canada



Rubber postmark from Christmas, Michigan, USA

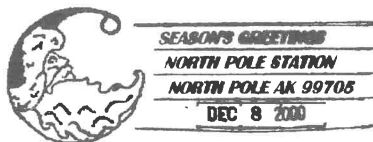


Postmark from Noel, Nova Scotia, Canada

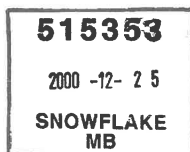
Of course, no article on Christmas postmarks would be complete without reference to Rudolph, the North Pole and snowflakes; postmarks from each of these places are shown here.



Rubber postmark from Rudolph, Wisconsin, USA



Special postmark from North Pole, Alaska, USA



Rubber postmark from Snowflake, Manitoba, Canada

Happy Christmas!



Irish Airmail Society

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Last Piece of Ned's Armour Falls into Place

He was the son of an ex-convict father from Tipperary and migrant mother from Co. Antrim. He was born in Melbourne in 1854, the eldest of eight children and became the world's most famous Australian. After some spectacular episodes, Ned Kelly was finally wounded and captured in a shootout in which his brother Dan and friends Joe Byrne and Steve Hart were killed. Kelly dressed in homemade armour, tried to shoot his way out of a hotel siege, but was seriously wounded, arrested, charged and jailed. He was nursed back to health only to be hanged in Melbourne gaol on 11th November 1880. He was 25 years old. His life and exploits were portrayed in a 1970 film "Ned Kelly" with Rolling Stones, Mick Jagger playing the part of Ned and a 1980 mini series entitled "The Last Outlaw."

Earlier this summer, the shoulder piece from the armour worn by the folk hero and outlaw when he was captured, sold at auction for just under Aus\$200,000 (about IR£98,000 or €124,434). It was bought at Christies in Melbourne by the State Library of Victoria and was the only surviving piece of Kelly's armour that was privately owned. The rest of Ned's armour, fashioned from parts of a "borrowed" plough, is displayed at three different sites – the State Library, the Victoria Police Museum and the Museum of Victoria. This piece had been owned by members of the same family from the time it was stripped from the infamous bushranger. The original owner, apart from Ned himself, was Constable Patrick Charles Gascoigne, a member of the police siege party.

At the same sale, a transcription of Kelly's original 38-page letter dictated by him after the daring Jerilderie Bank hold up, sold for Aus\$59,625 (about IR£29,250 or €37,000). It was the only significant copy in private hands. It was described by one historian as "one of the most powerful and extraordinary of Australian historical documents." Ned Kelly has become synonymous with the Australian attitudes of mateship, rebellion to authority and independence.

"Ned - The Exhibition" takes place in the old Melbourne Gaol from September 2001 to May 2002. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to view original artefacts from the life and times of Ned and the Kelly Gang with many items on display never viewed before by the public. Entry charge Aus\$16 with concessions for pensioners and students.

An Post have issued a Ned Kelly £1 (€1.27) mini sheet as part of the series "Irish Heritage in Australia" which Stampa has overprinted as part of the Stampa membership package. Details available at the Stampa stand.

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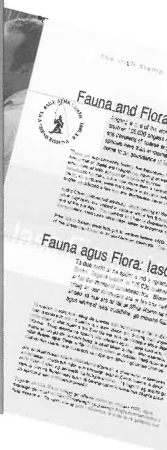
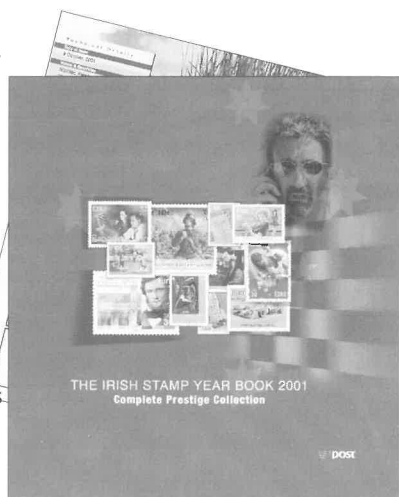
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2001 Yearbook

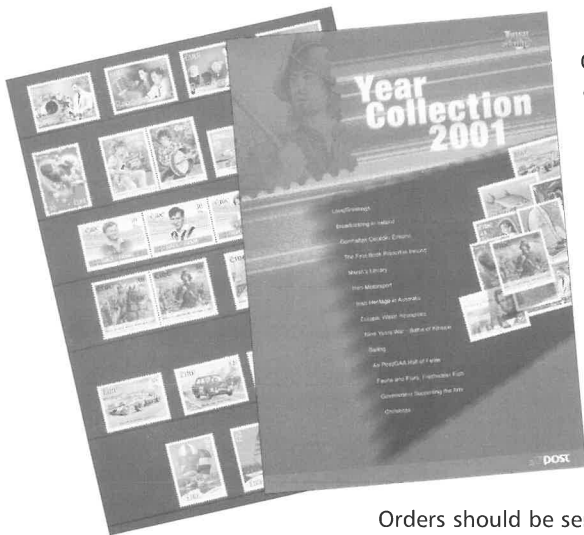
The annual Yearbook has proved immensely popular with a large number of our collectors. This year should prove no different, and we again have both the Standard and Luxury Hardback editions. The Standard Edition is limited to 3,500 copies, and is available at the very attractive price of IR£32.00.

The Luxury Leatherbound Edition is restricted to just 150 copies, and is priced at IR£110.00.

There is always a big demand for these much sought after stamp books, and, as demand is sure to greatly exceed supply, early ordering is advisable.



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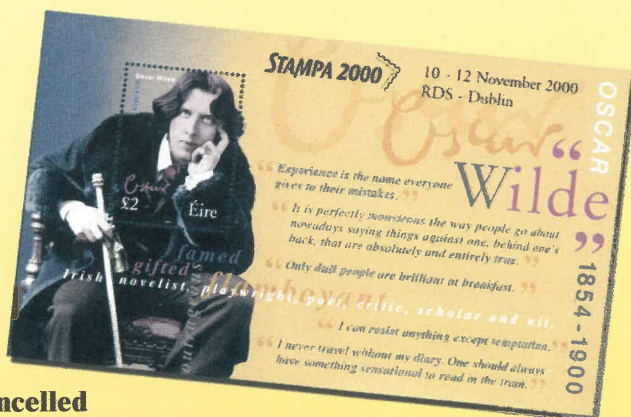
PUBLIC SOUVENIR



The public souvenir will be the special **Eddie Jordan Miniature Sheet** issued on the 26th April, 2001. This will be overprinted by STAMPA and will be on sale at the exhibition for IR£5.

A cancelled version will also be available with a Stampa envelope.

STAMPA have a limited number of Stampa 2000 cancelled Oscar Wilde mini-sheets at £6 each and some copies of Patrick Walsh's book "*Oscar Wilde - World's Favourite 100 Quotes*" cancelled with an Oscar Wilde 13p stamp and cancellation. Price £9.



Available at the Stampa Stand No. 2