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Welcome to STAMPA 2008

Dear Members and Visitors,

Welcome to the STAMPA Exhibition. Our Public Souvenir is the Sea Stallion of Glendalough mini sheet specially printed for STAMPA and available at the STAMPA Stand. Be sure to view the wonderful competition entries and do consider entering next year. Visit the Trade Stands and visit friends at the Society Stand.

This year we link up with the October Coin Fair as well as the Over '50's Show, which I hope will cause a reawakening of interest in our hobby.

Support for the Exhibition is funded through membership, so please consider becoming a member to keep the show rolling.

We extend a Céad Míle Fáilte to the EPA who are holding their EGM at Stampa and we would also like to congratulate the DSS on their Diamond Jubilee.

Many thanks to the helpers and volunteers and all who give their time freely to the preparation of the show for your enjoyment.

John Lennon
Chairman
STAMPA 2008

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chairman and Council are very grateful to the following for their help: An Post (especially the Philatelic Bureau); The Cork Philatelic Society; 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 Postcard Society; John Fitzsimons; Seamus Kearns; John Lennon; John Mullen; Brian Warren; Irish Stamp Security Printing Co Ltd; Lori Ryan; those who mounted the exhibits and the invited displays; the stewards; the exhibitors; the standholders and the advertisers. We also thank the Stampa members, the frame sponsors, the volunteers and helpers and everyone else who contributed to the success of this show.

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

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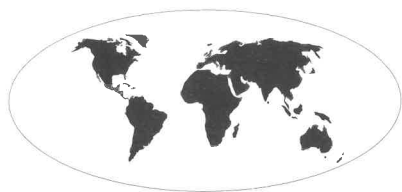
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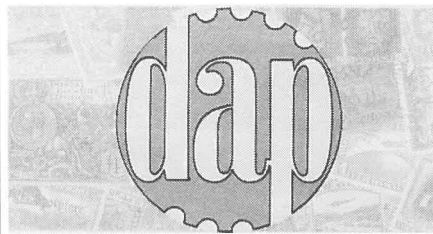
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STAMPA Events

Official Opening	-	Friday
I.P.T.A. AGM	-	Friday 6:15 p.m.
E.P.A. Regional EGM	-	Saturday 2:00 p.m.
STAMPA Awards Dinner		Saturday 8:00 p.m. Wynn's Hotel
F.P.S.I. AGM (Committee)	-	Sunday 1:30 p.m.
F.P.S.I. AGM (Delegates)	-	Sunday 2:00 p.m.

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

Stampa Awards Banquet

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Saturday 11 October, 2008

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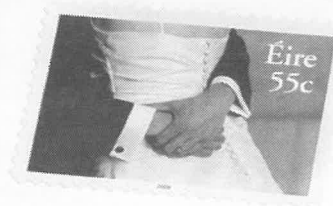
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Stampa 2001 to 2004

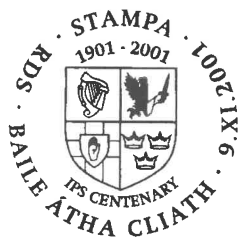
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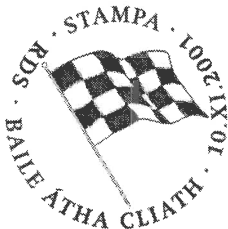
Stampa 2001 – I.P.S. postcard with overprint

The exhibition continued to be held in the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 for all years since 2001. In 2001, members received four different overprinted items, the 2001 Ned Kelly miniature sheet, the 2000 Butterflies miniature sheet, the 1999 Birds of Ireland sheetlet and the 2001 Irish Philatelic Society postcard (membership cost IR£20 – 1,100 of each item overprinted in black). The 2001 Formula One Jordan Grand Prix miniature sheet was also overprinted and was available as a public souvenir (cost: IR£5 – 2,000 overprinted in silver).

The three postmarks in use at the show featured:-



*9 November:
Irish Philatelic Society
Centenary (I.P.S. logo);*



*10 November:
Formula 1 Grand Prix
(Chequered Flag);*

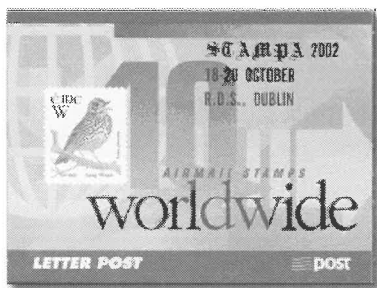


*11 November:
Butterfly*

The overprinting of the I.P.S. card and the related postmark marked the centenary of the formation of the Irish Philatelic Society and a special exhibit tracing the history of the Society was on display. There were no other postmarks/cachets available as no overseas

postal administration attended the exhibition. A large envelope (50p) was available to facilitate collectors who wanted to obtain any of the souvenirs cancelled with the show postmarks.

The overprinted I.P.S. card was also used for the 2001 Awards Dinner Menu which was held in the Lansdowne Hotel, Pembroke Road, Dublin 4 on 10 November. Each of the cards was cancelled with the Chequered Flag postmark of the same date. Total of 99 cards produced – 29 attended the dinner.



Stampa 2002 public souvenir – o/p on Worldwide NVI booklet

The 2002 members received three overprinted souvenirs – the 2002 Otter miniature sheet, the 2002 Irish Soccer Heroes sheetlet and the 2001 Worldwide NVI booklet ((membership cost €25 – 1,200 of each item overprinted in black). The public souvenir was the U2 miniature sheet, also overprinted in black (cost: €7.50, 2,000 overprinted).

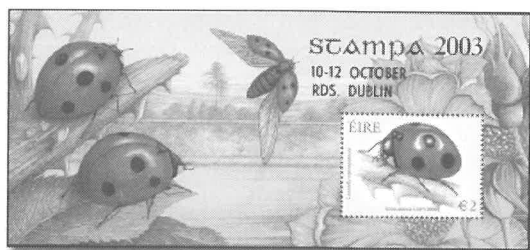
As the Rock Legends stamps were not issued until 17 October, the U2 sheet was not distributed in advance of the show and was not available until the opening day of the show (18 October).



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

- 18 October: Football (Irish Soccer Heroes);
- 19 October: Euro symbol and European Union Stars (Euro Currency); and
- 20 October: Top of Guitar (Rock Legends).

No special official cover was available. The Awards Dinner was held in the Lansdowne Hotel, Pembroke Road, Dublin 4 on 19 October. The Awards Dinner Menu was printed on the reverse of an An Post gold edged invitation style card. The obverse side reproduced the three postmarks. In addition, each card was cancelled with the Euro postmark of the same date. Total of 50 cards produced – less than 30 attended the dinner.



Stampa 2003 - Ladybird miniature with overprint

In 2003, members received three overprinted items – the 2003 St. Patrick prestige booklet, the 2003 Ladybird miniature sheet and the 2003 Aviation miniature sheet (membership cost €25 – 1,000 overprinted in black). The public souvenir was the 2002 Phil Lynott miniature sheet, also overprinted in black (cost: €5, 1,500 overprinted).



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

- 10 October: Beetle (Fauna and Flora – Beetles);
- 11 October: Propeller (Centenary of Powered Flight); and
- 12 October: Shamrock (St. Patrick)

The designs are based on the equivalent first day cancels for stamps on the same theme issued during 2003. Note the inclusion of "Dublin" instead of Baile Átha Cliath". No official cover was available.

The Awards Dinner was held in the Lansdowne Hotel, Pembroke Road, Dublin 4 on 11 October. The Awards Dinner Menu was printed on the reverse of an An Post gold edged invitation style card. The obverse side reproduced the three postmarks. In addition, each

card was cancelled with the Propeller postmark of the same date. Total of 50 cards produced.

Four overprinted souvenirs were provided to members in 2004 – the 2003 Irish Mariners miniature sheet, the 2004 Shackleton miniature sheet, the 2004 Ducks miniature sheet and the 2001 National NVI booklet (membership cost €25 – 1,000 overprinted in black). The public souvenir was the 2002 Van Morrison miniature sheet, also overprinted in black (cost: €5, 1,100 overprinted).



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

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

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

In error, 100 of the miniature sheets supplied to the printers for overprinting were of the Rory Gallagher design (which was used in 2005). A small number of the sheets with the overprint in the same position as on the Van Morrison sheet were printed before the error was noted. The remainder of the Rory Gallagher sheets with the overprint position corrected were distributed as an additional Awards Dinner souvenir.

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



2004 Awards Dinner Souvenir with overprint (as reset) on Rory Gallagher miniature sheet

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

TALLAGHT DSU **Delivery/Sorting/Unit**

By John Mullen

On 1st September I received a cover from Germany and much to my surprise it had a new two coloured Tallaght hand stamp on it. I called down to the delivery office to enquire, to find that they had 2 hand stamps, the second being all black, when I enquired as to what the DSU stands for I was told it was Tallaght Delivery/Sorting/Unit. The hand stamp reads, Tallaght DSU with a centre date and the unit address Unit 5, Sq. (Square) Ind. (Industrial) Complex, Dublin 24.

You will also note that the date in the Bi-colour stamp has a slash / for 1 (01)

Actual size



Tallaght DSU in black in use since June 2008 originally two colour



Tallaght DSU in two colours Red and Black in use since 1st September 2008

100 Years of Scouting in Ireland

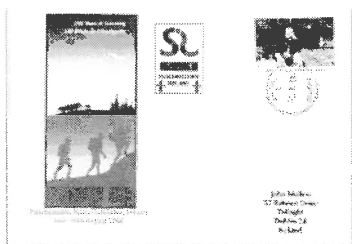
by John Mullen

August 2008 marked One Hundred years of scouting in Ireland. A major World Jamboree took place in Punchestown race course, Naas Co. Kildare from 2nd to 10th August in which scouts from all over the world participated. My good philatelic friend Adrian Lee and I could not let this event go without commemorating it in some philatelic way, so we prepared some covers to be posted at the event if there was a temporary Post Office on site.

We both made representation to different authorities, Adrian contacted the Scouting Authority and I contacted An Post, we were told that the Scouting Authority were in talks with An Post and that An Post would be represented at the Jamboree but as yet there were no final details.

Adrian being a scout received a pass and on arriving went to the post office, unfortunately they had no post mark and all mail went through Portlaoise, but remembering the scout motto "be prepared" we sent some covers directly to Naas for the first day where all covers received a date stamp for 2nd August.

Much to our surprised An Post had sponsored a special pre-paid postcard for the event of which he managed to secure a small number. I received one of these cards through the post but it received no postmark but did receive a barcode as is normal when passing through the sorting machines.



Prepared cover which received a Naas date stamp for the first day 02.8.08 showing printed cachet of Scouting Ireland logo.

Unfortunately by the 7th August rain had caused major problems and Irish Cub Scouts who were due to arrive on site were unable to do so due to the site been waterlogged, as was the rest of the country.



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A lost tribe of Israel in ancient Ireland?

by John A. Kavanagh



Adopted by the state after 1922 the sovereign seal/coat of arms of Eire is the harp, the preferred symbol also for Gaelic Ireland as prescribed by the English monarchs (the earliest reference being Edward II). But the English certainly did not give the harp to Ireland, which leads us to believe that the instrument was already an important part of Irish society from ancient times.

Some maintain that it is actually a replica of the harp of David, King of Israel, brought to Ireland thousands of years ago from the Near East by one of the lost tribes of Israel, possibly the seafaring tribe of Dan. All historians agree that the early history of Ireland was influenced and shaped by several people groups who migrated from the Mediterranean countries.

The Old Testament Kingdom of Israel had split into two after the death of Solomon, forming a two tribe southern Kingdom of Judah and a confederation of ten northern tribes remaining as the Kingdom of Israel. This northern kingdom was the first to be invaded and displaced by the Assyrian empire that scattered them to the 'ends of the earth.' Obviously, the tribes of Israel did not disappear from the face of the planet, but went somewhere. Tradition says that they crossed over the Caucasus Mountains, where they settled for some time and were known as the first Caucasians. Later they migrated west into Europe and adopted the name Saxons, an ancient word meaning Isaac's sons because the Hebrew scripture said, "in Isaac your seed shall be called" (Genesis 21:12).

Some moved further west into England and became Anglo-Saxons. These Hebrews apparently gave the name Britain to England (the Romans later called it Britannia) coming from two Hebrew words "B'rith" meaning covenant and "ain" meaning land, so to those in exile Britain was literally the new "land of the covenant." Meanwhile, the Israelite tribe of Dan, a seafaring people, supposedly passed the "pillars of Hercules" (the straits of Gibraltar) went north and landed in Ireland. The name of Dan consequently influenced many Irish names such as the legendary Tuath de Danaan and many family names with the Hebraic DN consonants.

The Hebrews in Ireland apparently had a significant influence in establishing the primacy of the Hill of Tara and its stone of destiny as the seat of Irish kingship from where the High Kings ruled and issued their laws. Indeed, there are some striking similarities between the kingship of ancient Israel and Ireland. Some believe that Tara is derived from the Hebrew word Torah meaning the 'book of the law' because at Tara's triennial festivals Celtic brehon laws were passed and genealogies recorded. Standing stones such as the liath fail were common throughout Israel known as mazzeboths.



By the same token, it is argued that the Tara High Kings were chosen after a bull had been sacrificed and a chief druid slept in its carcass to claim prophetic confirmation. Likewise a bull sacrifice was present at the inauguration of the kings of Israel and God's prophet would be sent to announce his prophetic and divine conformation. If the High King of Ireland bore a physical handicap (or developed one during his tenure) he was disqualified from assuming the office and this idea of an unblemished physical offering was also an essential part of Israelite worship.

The Irish High Kingship was also a representative/federal one. In other words, the blessings or curses of the gods on the people were related directly to the integrity of their king. If the king showed contempt for the sacred ways and worshipped foreign gods, disaster and defeat could be expected and interpreted as divine retribution by the druids. This concept was very strong in the kingship of Israel to the point that it led to a cycle of judgments and the very exiling of the entire nation of Israel and Judah as mentioned above. If a bad king was seated on the throne 'who knew not the Lord' or 'sacrificed to Baal,' the children of Israel were cast into repeated bondage.

The legend of the great Cuchulinn could have been borrowed or transmuted from the Hebrews, because Cuchulinn's story has close similarities to that of Samson, the one time super-hero of the Israelites. Both were endowed with supernatural strength and both single-handedly judged and fought for their people against the national enemy. In Cuchulinn's case it was the armies of Queen Maeve of Connacht, in Samson's case it was the Philistines. Alas both were tricked by their foes into revealing their secret strength resulting in their final demise.

The Children of Israel were punished and exiled by their God Yahweh in the Old Testament for breaking the covenant. This unfaithfulness to the cult of Yahweh involved sacrificing 'under every green tree,' 'on every high hill' (Jeremiah 2:20), 'sacrificing to Baal' and 'practicing abominations' (human'/infant sacrifice and the fertility cult). This implies the Israelites in exile could very much have affected early Celtic religion because of the many sacred oak groves and sacred trees that became essential to the druids.

Likewise, Ireland had numerous 'high hills' of religious importance such as the Hill of Tara, the Hill of Uisneach, the Hill of Slane, the Hill of Ward, the High place of Macha (Armagh), the Hill of Allen and the great Rock of Cashel and Rock of Dunamase to mention but a few. Interestingly, the near eastern god Baal was sacrificed to and venerated at the Hill of Ward on the Celtic feast of Samhain. Human sacrifice and fertility rites were also an intrinsic part of pre-Christian Ireland.



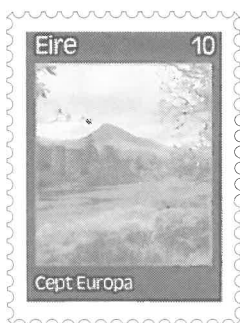
The Israelite's religious adultery, as condemned by their prophets through the Old Testament, involved adherence to the fertility cult as evidenced by the numerous 'pillars'

and ‘groves’ that became places of worship throughout the land. These pillars represented the male, whereas the groves represented the female. Irish Celtic worship was identical, as seen by its countless standing stones, sacred oak and yew groves all over the island.

In another Celtic tradition we find that representative combat as a form of warfare was sometimes preferred. In other words, instead of entire armies trying to slaughter the others to death, the best fighter from each opposing side was chosen to decide the outcome. We see a similar kind of warfare operating between rival countries in Old Testament times such as David’s epic clash and defeat of the giant Goliath, the colossus and representative of the Philistine army. David rose to the occasion and represented Israel whereby his faith, bravery, zeal, fearlessness and charisma qualified him to become King of all Israel and the Hebrew’s greatest monarch.

Likewise, these heroic personality traits and charismatic abilities were exactly what the Irish High Kings needed to possess if they were to take the seat at Tara.

This article is an extract from the very readable and informative book “Irish County Nicknames and Arms” by kind permission of its author, John A. Kavanagh.



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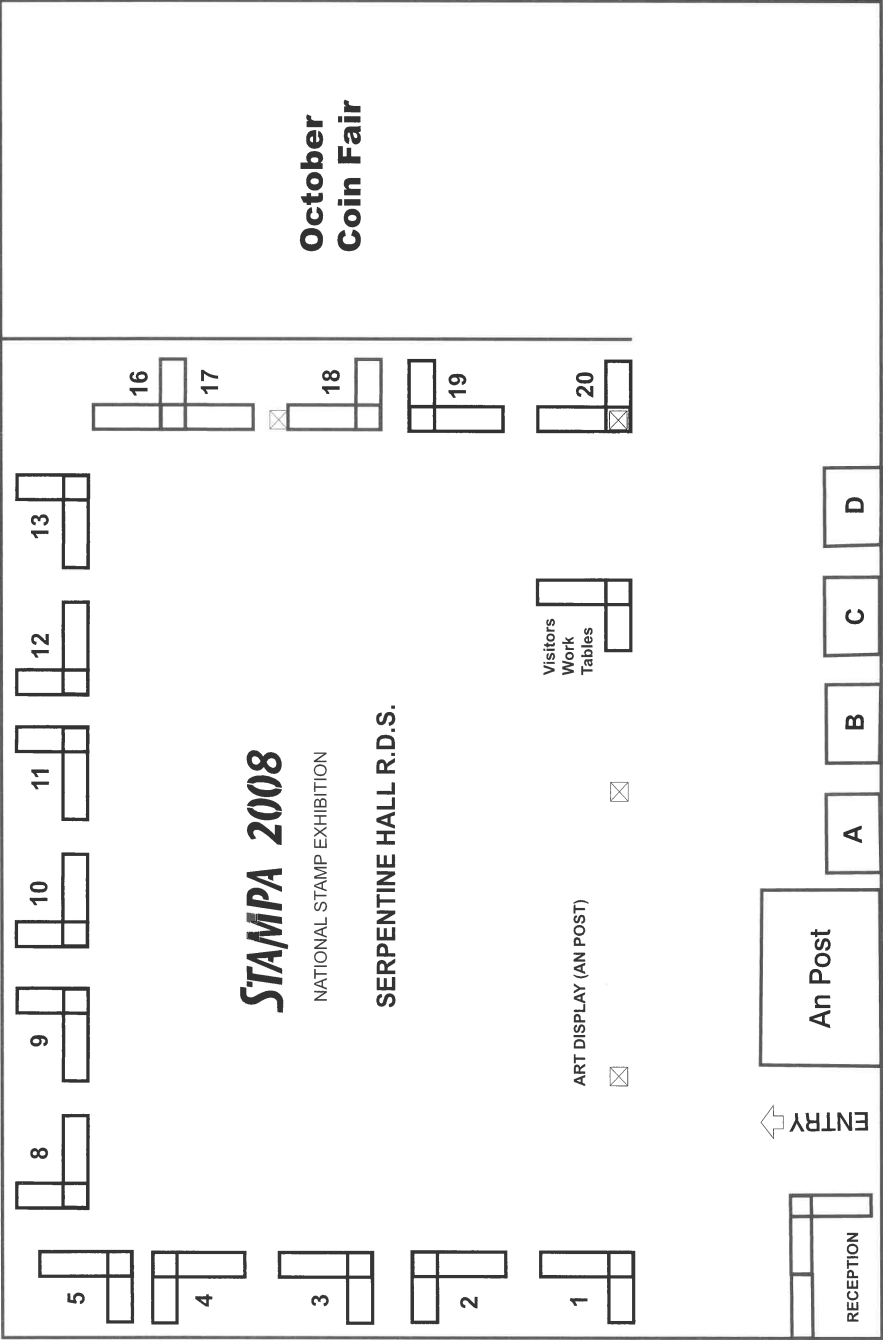
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Large size (230mm x 162mm) coloured photo of Dublin's Custom House with reproduction imprint of the Custom House small stamp (52p) monochrome.

Photo taken by renowned photographer and Stampa member Ken Kelly (Bir mingham).

The official Stampa Christmas Card. Pack of 12 (including envelopes) €10



Exhibitors invited to enter Stampa Competitions

All collectors are invited to participate in the exhibition. The various competitive classes cater for wide philatelic interests from novice (*only sixteen pages*) to advanced (*up to eighty pages*). Social Philately has been increased by one frame this year (*up to eighty pages*). Trophies and medals are awarded by an international jury and exhibits which achieve Vermeil or Gold will be eligible to enter international exhibitions (*the stamp 'Olympics'*).

If you have not already done so, start now to prepare your entry for **Stampa**. In doing so you will gain immense personal satisfaction and you could win one of Stampa's coveted awards. You will also give pleasure to the many visitors who see your exhibit.

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Competition Awards



Awards and Trophies

The following medals may be awarded by the exhibition judges, based on compliance with FIP standards:

1. Gold (85%+) (Qualifies exhibit for entry to FIP World Stamp Exhibitions).
2. Vermeil (75% - 84%) (Qualifies exhibit for entry to FIP World Stamp Exhibitions).
3. Silver (65% - 74%)
4. Silver Bronze (60% - 64%)
5. Bronze (55% - 59%)

The **David Feldman Trophy** will be awarded to the **best overall exhibit**.

The following trophies will be awarded, subject to a sufficient standard being attained:

Whyte's Trophy (Traditional philately - excluding Ireland)

F. E. Dixon Shield (Postal History)

C. O'Neill Memorial Trophy (thematic)

William Kane Trophy (Aerophilately)

The Irish Security Stamp Printing Trophy (Irish stamps issued since 1922)

The Michael Giffney Salver (Open Class)

FPSI Trophy (One frame class)

Gwyn Bennett Trophy (Novice competition)

TRADITIONAL

“Ireland The Map Stamp 1922-1949”

Joanna Williamson

Various issues of the map stamps, an extensive study

“Carrickfergus Castle”

Brian Warren

Stamp issues with a view of the castle in the design

“Ireland Postal Stationery – The Transition”

Leitrim

British postal stationery used in the Irish Free State

“Eire Commemorative Varieties 1929-1980”

Roibeárd Ó’Sinclair

“Postage Stamps of Zanzibar”

Ian Bailly

POSTAL HISTORY

“GB used in Ireland 1840-1901”

Eugene Labiuk

Postal markings, domestic, colonial and foreign rates

“Mail by Rail in LMS area”

Barry Wilson

Rail mail used prior to grouping in 1923

“Post of the Yews 1731-1900”

John Matthews

Markings rates and routes of Newry and district

THEMATIC

“Liquid of Life”

Peter Weir

Philatelic study of the circulatory system and related matters

“Old Glory”

Robert Moore

The evolution of the American flag to the present day

“Two centuries of Chemists & Chemistry”

Brian Callan

AEROPHILATELY

“Pan American Airmails”

Gerry Byrne

Mail carried by Pan American Airlines

LITERATURE

“Northern Ireland Philatelic Society Centenary 1907-2007”

John Perrott

Booklet produced to accompany the NIPS display at the Royal Philatelic Society London

MPETITION ENTRIES

OPEN CLASS

“Celebrating Christmas”

John Fitzsimons

The first Christmas and some of its celebratory customs and traditions

“Traditions & Customs in Westmeath”

Anthony Hughes

ONE FRAME CLASS

“Balloon Montés to Ireland”

Ronny Vogt

Balloon montés to Ireland during the siege of Paris 1870-1871

“Dog License Stamps of Ireland”

John Pedneault

Printers’ proofs, colour trials and usage 1866-1922

“Political & Propaganda Labels of Ireland”

Leitrim

Labels used for and against the establishment of the Irish Free State

“Advent of the Euro”

John Greer

Stamps of countries in and out of the Euro Zone

“Edwardius VIII Rex”

Pat Casey

NOVICE

“Flags of Occupied Countries”

Gerry Byrne

USA stamp issues of 1943-1944

“USA Telegraph Stamps & Forms in Ireland”

Dave Brennan

“Dublin, People and Places”

Pamela Reynolds

“Ireland’s Europa Issue 1966”

Pat Linanne

SCHOOLS COMPETITION ENTRIES

see frame notices

INVITED DISPLAY

“Post Office Reward Notices 1820 - 1870”

Stephen Ferguson

“Varieties of the 1p Map Stamp”

Patrick Evans

“The 2p Green Map, Printing Plate Proof”

Patrick Evans

“Asgard II, its Life & Times”

John Mullen

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Weather Postmarks

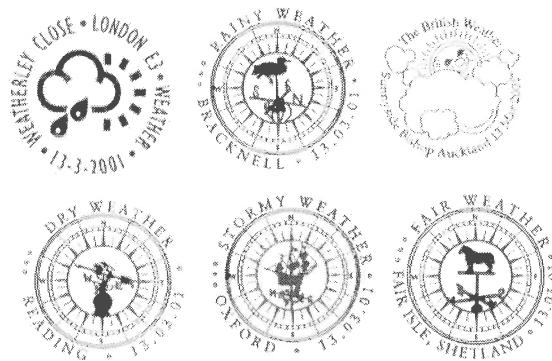
by Maurice Barrett

“Exceptionally wet and dull; temperatures above normal due to high minimum values.....

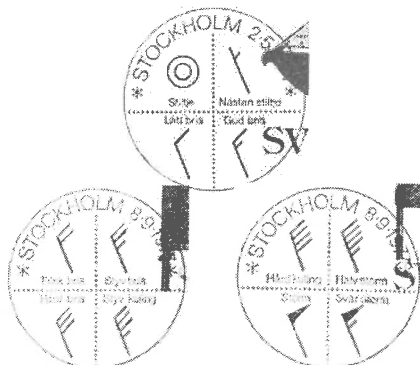
August was a month of exceptionally heavy rain over most of the country, bringing flooding in many areas. Following the pattern of much of this summer's weather, low pressure close to or over Ireland brought a succession of Atlantic frontal systems across the country, giving some significant falls. It was the wettest August on record at a number of stations, including Dublin (Phoenix Park), where rainfall records began in 1837. Birr had its wettest August since 1917, while Dublin Airport had both its highest monthly total (190mm) and highest one-day fall (76.2mm on the 9th) for August since the station opened in 1941. Among other exceptional rainfall events this month, a 60-minute fall of 38.4mm at Shannon Airport on the 6th was the highest for any month in the station's 63-year history.

Not surprisingly, the number of wetdays recorded during the month (days with 1mm or more rainfall) was also well above normal; there were between 14 and 21 wetdays at most stations this month compared with the August average number of between 10 and 14. Mean air temperatures for the month were between half a degree and one degree higher than normal generally. While mean minimum temperatures were up to two degrees above normal in places, mean maximum values were below normal almost everywhere. Over the west and north of the country, the temperature did not rise above 20°C on any day during the month; here, mean maximum values were the lowest for August for between 12 and 16 years. Sunshine totals were exceptionally low, with between 20% and 40% less sunshine than normal at all stations. Totals this month of between 70 and 110 hours are more typical of October than of August, and it was the dullest August on record at stations in Dublin.”

This quote was taken from Met Éireann's website and sums up a disappointing summer in Ireland in 2008. The weather, however, features prominently in postmarks and this article takes a brief look at some of these.



Six of the special postmarks used in 2001 in connection with the issue by Royal Mail of a set of weather stamps



Swedish cancellations of 2 May 1977 showing wind speed symbols from lowest to highest



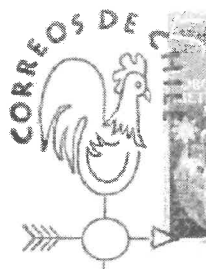
Double ring cancellation from Tornado post office, West Virginia, USA used in 2006



Cancellation from Stockholm, Sweden from 24 May 1973 showing weatherfronts and isobars



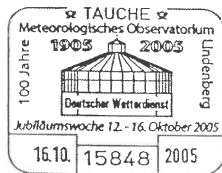
Rubber cancellation from Sunshine post office, Victoria, Australia dated 16 January 2003



First day cancellation dated 28 August 2000 from Santiago, Chile featuring a weathervane



Double ring cancellation from Hurricane post office, Utah, USA used in 2002



Commemorative postmark used on 16 October 2004 to mark the 100th anniversary of Meteorologisches Observatorium, Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD), Lindenberg, Germany



Postmark from White Cloud, Michigan, USA dated 20 February 2007



Special cancellation showing a tornado used at Langdon, North Dakota, USA on 5 October 2004

Special cancellation showing a tornado used at Edmore, North Dakota, USA on 27 October 2004

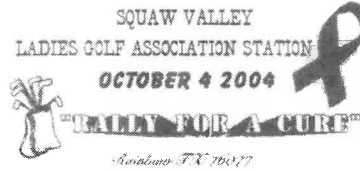


Special cancellation showing weather instruments used at Clearwater, Florida, USA on 2 November 1973

Special cancellation showing the sun emerging from behind clouds used at Lehigh, Pennsylvania, USA on 5 October 2004



Pictorial cancellation from Norman post office, Oklahoma, USA used on 4 April 2004 showing clouds and rain shower with the wording "April Shower"



Pictorial cancellation from Rainbow post office, Texas, USA used on 4 October 2004



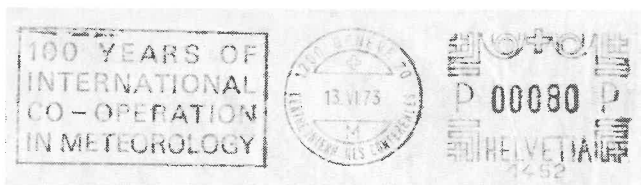
Meter mail cancellation from Rain, Germany dated 9 January 2006



Slogan cancellation from Argentina of 23 March 1969 – World Meteorological Day



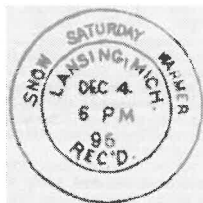
Meter mail cancellation of the Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, Australia from 1984



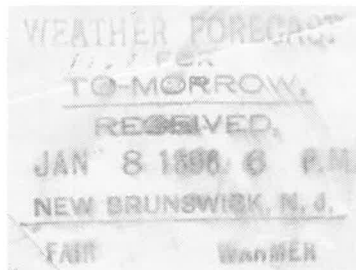
Meter mail cancellation from UN offices in Geneva, Switzerland from 1973

In 1895 the U.S. Post Office Department began an experiment using special backstamps on incoming mail for that day's delivery, primarily in rural areas to tell farmers the upcoming forecast. Two cancel styles were used: a round double ring type, and a linear type.

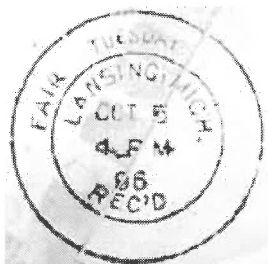
The double ring format featured interchangeable days and conditions in the outer ring. The linear format was designed to only give the following day's weather outlook



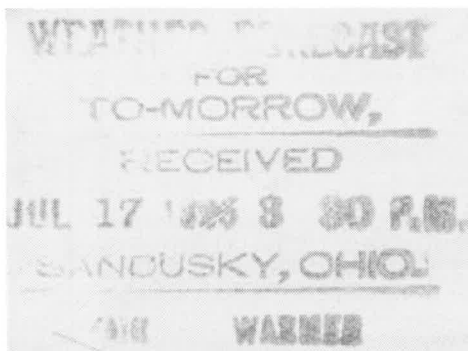
4 December 1895
(Wednesday) – Thursday
now, with Saturday warmer



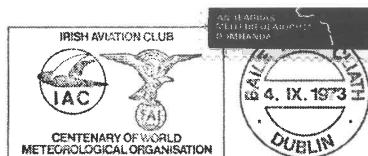
Fair warmer



5 October 1896
(Monday) – Tuesday
turning fair



Fair Warmer



12p stamp plus special first day
postmark sponsored by the Irish Aviation Club

In 1973, Ireland issued two stamps (3½p and 12p) to mark the centenary of the foundation of the World Meteorological Organization. The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, the oldest aviation body in the world, held its 66th General conference in Dublin at the same time as the issue of the stamps on 4 September. The Irish Aviation Club which hosted the Conference sponsored a special cover and postmark.

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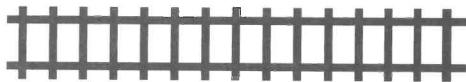
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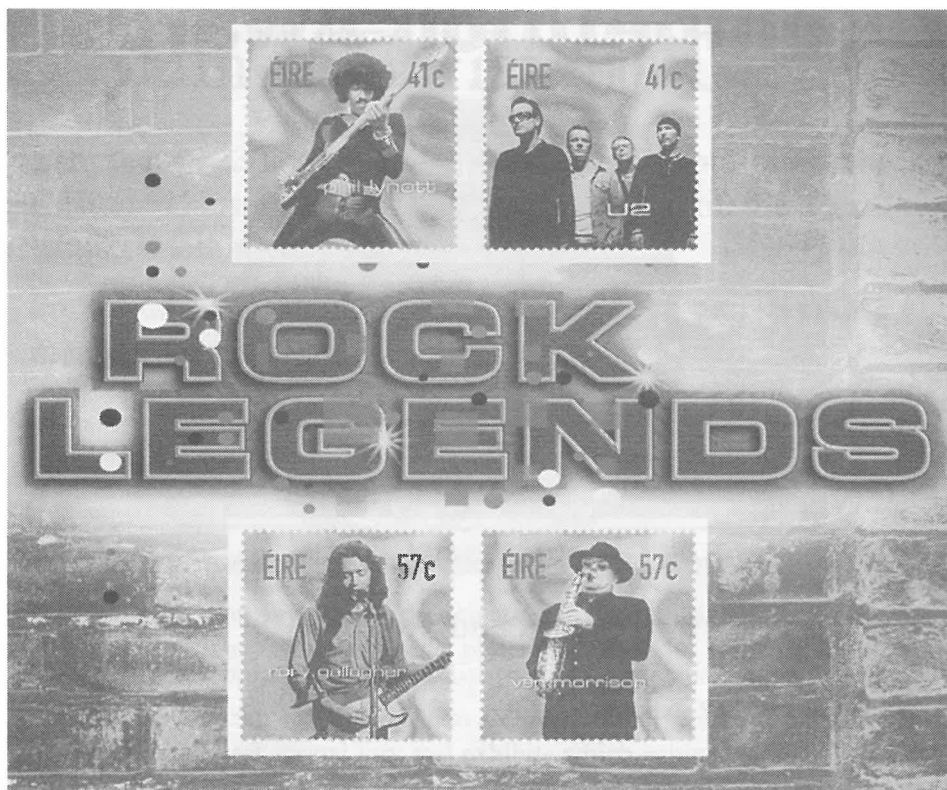
Lawrence Morrison

9 Dunraven Dve., Belfast BT5 5LD

Tel: 048 906 52311

Badges • Paper collectables





On 17th October 2002, An Post issued four stamps featuring famous Irish Rock Legends. A minisheet of each artist was also issued. Stampa has overprinted and utilized minisheets as Public Souvenirs for the National Stamp Exhibition. Some are still available as follows:

• Stampa 2002	U2	Mint or Cancelled	€8
• Stampa 2003	Phil Lynott	Mint or Cancelled	€6
• Stampa 2004	Van Morrison	Mint or Cancelled	€6
• Stampa 2005	Rory Gallagher	Mint or Cancelled	€6

They are on sale at the Show or by mail from:

Stampa Sales, P.O. Box 2723, Cardiff Lane, Dublin 2

- Payment in euro by cash or cheque drawn on an Irish bank.
- Or by cheque in UK£stg. or US\$

*Please make cheques payable to **Stampa**. Always send cash by registered post.*

50th Anniversary of the Defence Forces Serving on a U.N. Mission

by John Mullen

On the 26th of June An Post issued a stamp to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Defence Forces serving with the United Nations. The United Nations was formed in 1945 after World War II, Ireland joined the U.N. in 1955 and in 1958 the Government sent 50 unarmed members of the Irish Defence Forces as an Observer Force for six months, since then the Irish forces have served on 74 U.N. missions involving over 58,000 tours of duty which included 85 members who paid the ultimate price.



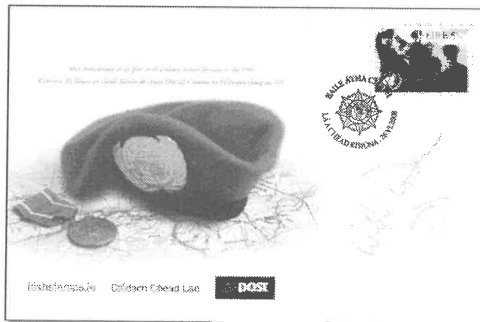
*50th Anniversary stamp
designed by Paul Raftery*



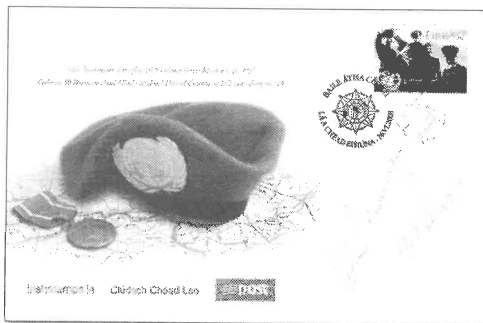
F.D.I. hand stamp



*Defence Forces
Commemorative Badge*



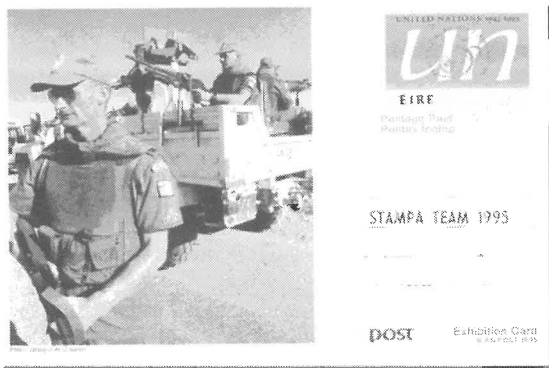
First Day of Issue signed by the Minister for Defence Mr. Willie O'Dea T.D.



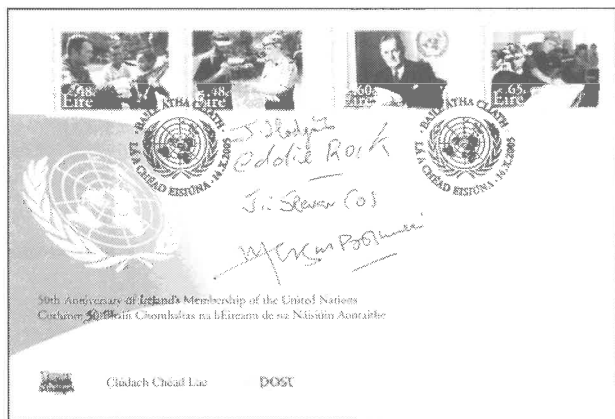
*First Day of Issue signed by Colm Mangan Lt Gen Retired, and M Power Pte both veterans of
the Congo*



1958 Irish United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon, Lieutenant Carroll



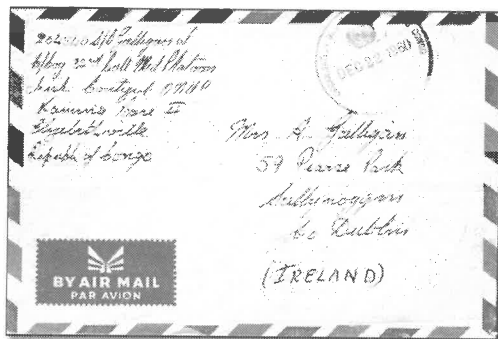
50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (Stampa Team Exhibition Card)



50th Anniversary of Ireland's membership to the United Nations (Stamps launched at Stampa 2000).

Signed by members of the Irish troops whose pictures appear on the stamps.

Areas where Irish forces have served with the U.N., Lebanon, Central America, Russia, Former Yugoslavia, Cambodia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Namibia, Western Sahara, Liberia and East Timor, unfortunately some of these areas did not have a U.N. hand stamp to commemorate the involvement of the Irish contingent.



1960 Irish 32nd Battalion Medical Platoon Contingent in the Congo

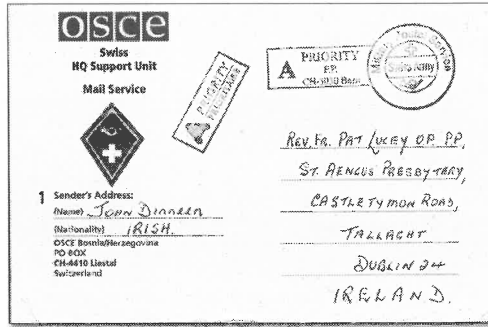
I was fortunate to be invited by the Minister for Defence Mr. Willie O'Dea T.D. and An Post to the celebrations held on the 26th June 2008 in McKee Barracks. Some of the dignitaries present were, An Taoiseach Mr Brian Cowan, Mr. Willie O'Dea Minister for Defence, Mr Liam Crosgrove (Former Taoiseach) and the Lord Mayor Councillor Paddy Burke.

An Taoiseach was invited to inspect the troops present which included the Army, Navy, Air Corps and U.N. Veterans. 8 members of the original 1958 Observer Force were also present.

Mr John Fitzgerald Chairman of An Post invited An Taoiseach and Minister O'Dea to unveil the U.N. commemorative stamp, after which Fr. Pat Morrin spoke about the Irish Soldiers and the contribution they have made to world peace and continue to so, finishing with a blessing.

At this time An Taoiseach laid a wreath at the memorial stone. Following a salute from a 25 pound field gun, a minute's silence was observed in honour of fallen soldiers, then a final salute by the field gun the Last Post was sounded. With the National Anthem and the raising of the Tricolour the parade concluded and all adjourned to the Mess Hall for refreshments. When the festivities were over all present were presented with a First Day Cover by An Post and a badge and pen by the Defence Forces.

*The Numismatic Society of Ireland
are proud to be associated with and congratulate
Stampa*



Ireland via the Swiss Army contingent in Bosnia/Herzegovina (Former Yugoslavia)

Examples of the some of the U.N. hand stamps since 1960



*1960 Congo (Black & Red)
Red, Black & Blue*

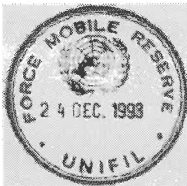


*1985 Lebanon (Large)
Red, Black & Blue*



*1994 Lebanon
(Small & Large)*

Selection of U.N. Assorted Hand Stamps



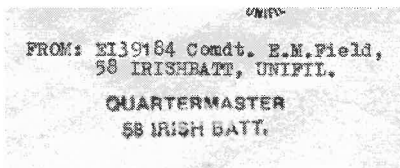
Force Mobile Reserve



*Headquarters Coy
58 Infantry Battalion*



*Quartermaster
58 Infantry Battalion*



Quartermaster 58 Irish Battalion



Irish Headquarters Stabilisation Force Nato (HQSFOR) showing cross obliterator Bosnia/ Herzegovina. This Cross also appears on the UN / Nato Service Medal

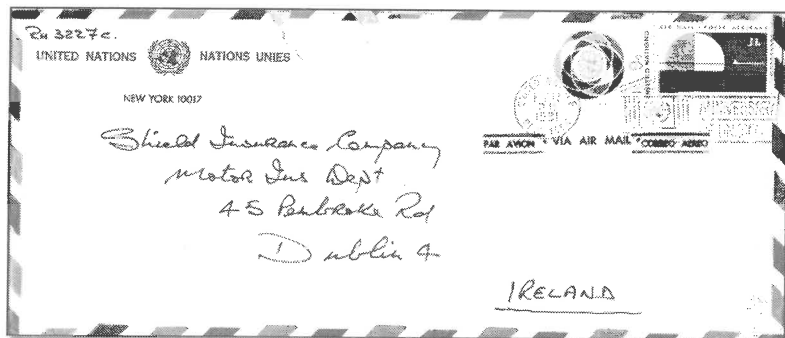


Adjutant 55 Infantry Battalion

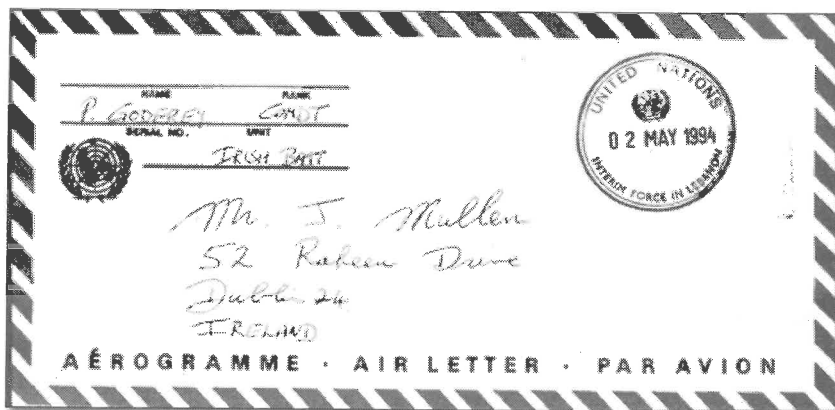


70 Infantry Battalion U.N.I.F.I.L

United Nations Stationary, selection

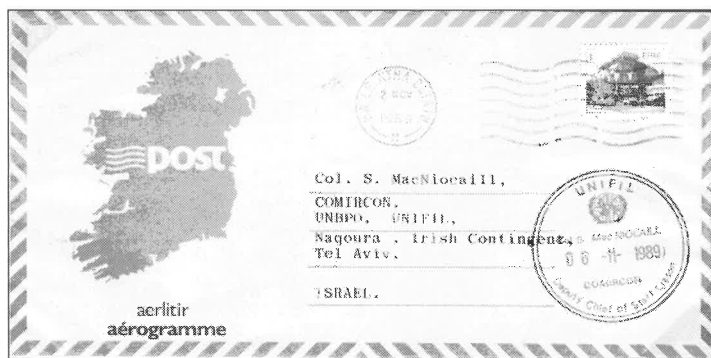


United Nations stationary, New York to Ireland showing UN stamps





To send a letter to a member of the forces between the years 1960 to 2000 cost 1 penny concessionary forces rate from Ireland to members serving with the United Nations. In the year of 2000 this concession was removed and the cost of sending a letter was the equivalent to air mail letter rate to said Country.



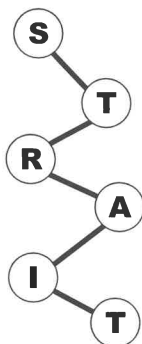
1989 Irish Aerogramme to Israel with a personalised Unifil red hand stamp of Col. S. Mac Niocaill Deputy Chief of Staff Liaison

WORD SCRAMBLER

Today's word: STRAIT

How many words can you make from the word STRAIT? You have 15 minutes to find as many as possible. Words must be at least 3 letters. Plurals and multiple forms of the same verb are acceptable, but proper nouns and hyphenated words are not allowed.

- 15 words - good
- 23 words - great
- 30 words - fantastic



Send entries to:

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THE IRISH AIR CORPS

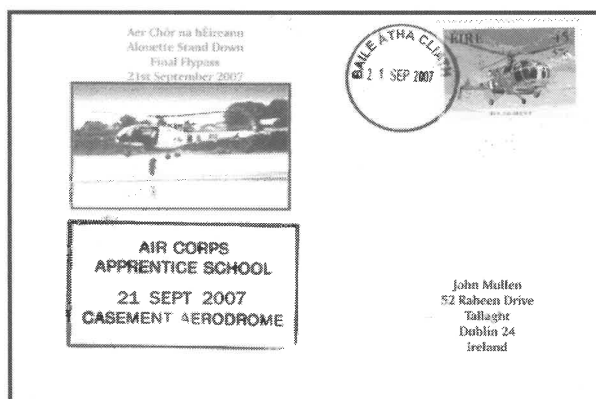
by John Mullen

On Friday the 21st September the Air Corps retired five of their six Alouette helicopters with a spectacular fly pass over Rathcoole, Sagart, Tallaght and Clondalkin. The six Alouettes and three of the Air Corps new helicopters flew in formation flanked by four Pilatus PC9Ms planes.

In 1962 the Government decided to purchase the Alouettes after heavy snows paralysed the country. During their 44 years in service they saved more than 500 lives in 1,700 air sea rescue missions. Carried out 2,882 Air Ambulance flights. Flew more than 77,000 flying hours without a single fatality.

Stories have it that the tricolour was put on the tail and underside of the helicopters after the Provisional IRA, in the early days of the troubles, let it be known that they almost shot an Alouette down, believing it to be a British Army helicopter.

Present at the celebrations at Baldonnell, was the pilot who flew the first Alouette to Baldonnell in 1963, Brigadier General Brian Mc Mahon, who is now retired.



Note from the Editor

Member, Philip Kane, is writing a comprehensive history of Stampa and is currently looking for any old photographs, press cuttings or any items of interest. If any member, past or present, can help, Philip can be contacted at philkane@dublin.ie. Any material used will be acknowledged and returned. Items can also be posted to Phil Kane, c/o STAMPA, PO Box 2723, Cardiff Lane, Dublin 2 and these will also be returned.



A RARE STAMP

There are lots of rare stamps and they are not necessarily of the expensive kind. Some stamps are simply hard to find and some philatelists are constantly looking for that elusive stamp to fill a gap in their collection.

Rare valuable stamps are not in the collections of the ordinary philatelist. Such stamps tend to be the property of the investor and are usually locked away in bank vaults. Some of these valuable specimens may also reside in the files of national archives and seldom see the light of day.

It is generally accepted that the rarest and most valuable stamp in the world is the 1856 British Guiana 1c Magenta. This stamp last changed hands in 1980 when John E. du Pont paid \$935,000 for it. It would appear that the owner of this famous stamp was convicted of murder in the U.S.A. and is currently serving a 30 year sentence in prison. In the meantime the "Magenta" is also locked away!.....in a bank vault awaiting release on its sale.



John H. Fitzsimons

Federation Of Philatelic Societies Of Ireland

The Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland was instituted in 1976 with the object of making provision for Irish collectors to exhibit at International Exhibitions under the aegis of IRELAND, which was not possible up to then as we did not have a National Federation. Then in 1982, the Federation became affiliated to Federation Internationale de Philatelie, and since then, many of our Irish collectors have exhibited in many countries with much success, the most recent being::

BUCHAREST 20 - 28 June 2008

Geoffrey McAuley	Vermeil	Barry Wilson	Vermeil
Wayne Wright	Vermeil	Hans Neumann	Vermeil
Stephen Parker	Vermeil	Mike Burrington	Large Silver
Anthoi Parker	Vermeil	Brian Warren	Silver

PRAGA 12 - 14 September 2008

Des Quail	Gold
Anthony Hughes	Large Vermeil
Barry Wilson	Vermeil

Congratulations to all of them

Dublin Culture Night 2008

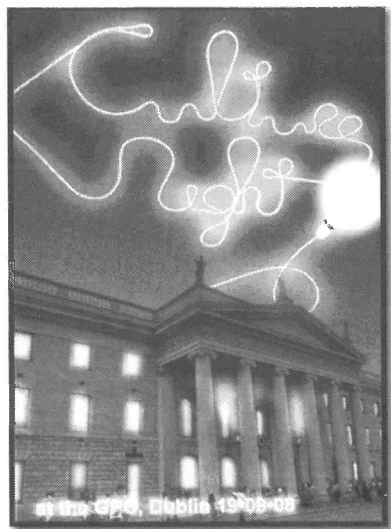
by J. Mullen

Dublin's first Culture Night took place in 2006, since then it has grown to include over 100 of the city's arts and cultural organisations. This year on Friday September 19th An Post hosted an event in the GPO from 6pm to 10pm which included a talk on the historic pictures and the Proclamation in the Philatelic Bureau. For the children "Design Your Own Postcard" and to all, send a Free Postage Paid Culture Night postcard to a friend.

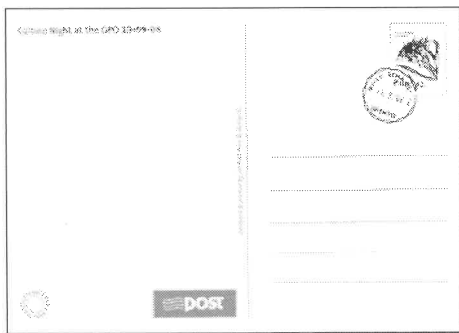
I arrived at 5-45pm to note that the event had already started and much to my surprise there was a great buzz about and was truly a great night. I received a card and noted that the card was produced by An Post but was not a Postage Paid as we know, it had an 82cent stamp applied, it is a large format measuring 21cms x 14.75cms, so I posted it to myself hoping that there might be a special post box where all postcards might receive a special hand stamp for the event, unfortunately it was not to be, I posted the card in the wooden post box that we all know in the foyer of the GPO. I returned to An Post staff and they were kind enough to give me a number of the cards, which I might add all postcards were gone by 7.30pm I don't think An Post were expecting so many to attend.

I stopped at counter number 2 and asked the teller if he might apply the date stamp for the 19th which he did. Unfortunately the post marks were very poor.

I was going through the An Post web site when I came across this event and I will keep an eye out for next year's event so as we might be better prepared.



*Postcard front showing the GPO at night
19.9.08 Baile Átha Cliath cds*



An Post sponsored Postcard date stamped

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Telephone Ian Whyte, Jane Eckett or Sarah McCloskey for details

*Office and gallery open 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.,
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PUBLIC SOUVENIR



The public souvenir will be the “Sea Stallion” minisheet issued by An Post. Overprinted by STAMPA, it will be on sale at the exhibition for €5. Members may purchase the public souvenir along with their membership.

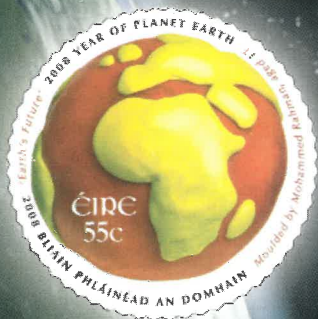


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