

# stampa 2012

The Irish National Stamp Exhibition

*Celebrate Stampa's 40th Birthday!*



Friday, 12 October to Sunday, 14 October 2012  
The RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 (Anglesea Rd. entrance)  
11am - 6pm Admission €5

A unique opportunity to obtain a superb set of  
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# PUBLIC SOUVENIR



The public souvenir will be the Volvo Yacht Race 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.

## 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 could win one of Stampa's coveted awards. You will also give pleasure to the many visitors who see your exhibit.

# Welcome to STAMPA 2012

Welcome to Stampa 2012. If it is your first visit and and curiosity has brought you in I hope you get a good idea of how wide a field the hobby covers. It is ideal for someone looking for a retirement interest, not weather dependent or physically demanding but mentally stimulating. It can be a solo or group pursuit and there is no limit to what is collected. Go to the Society's stand and have a chat there.

A major recent event was the opening of the museum in the GPO and comments from visitors to it have been very favourable. I recommend it as a good way to spend an hour or two. An Post (& P7T) have been a major supporter of Stampa since the beginning.

View the competition entries. These competitors are the future ambassadors of Irish philately at international events.

To all partakers, helpers and especially the Council I give my thanks. Without them there would be no Stampa.

*John Lennon,*

Chairman

STAMPA 2012

## 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; The Irish Numismatic Society; The Irish Postcard Society; John Fitzsimons; Michael Kelly; 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.

**Chairman:** John Lennon

**Vice-Chairman:** P.J. Gilmore

**Secretary:** Michael Kelly

**Council Members:** Pat Woods

**Stampa Judges:** John Lennon, Mike Burrington (Canada), Richard Payne (UK)

Website: [www.stampa.ie](http://www.stampa.ie) Email: [stampa@ireland.com](mailto:stampa@ireland.com)

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## **The Fitzpatrick-Thomas Letter of 1840 National Self-adhesive Stamps Booklets and International Self-adhesive Stamps Booklets**

All stamp collectors know the famous Penny Black, the first ever postage stamp, which was used in Britain and Ireland from May 1840. The stamp was sold from 1 May but only valid for postage from 6 May and examples of early usage are highly prized. Penny Black letters posted in Ireland in the first few weeks are very scarce and the earliest certain and unambiguous usage is on a letter posted in Dublin on 8 May 1840.

This letter and the fascinating story behind it, a story which links rural Cavan with the splendour of the Indian Raj, is the subject of a new little booklet by Stephen Ferguson, Curator of the An Post Museum. The booklet, through the generous assistance of the owner of the Fitzpatrick-Thomas letter, contains a beautiful facsimile of the original, complete with Penny Black stamps.

Available from the An Post stand at STAMPA and subsequently through the GPO Philatelic Shop and Irish Stamps, this is a delightful production which tells the human story behind a key moment in Irish postal history and will appeal not just to philatelists but to everyone with an interest in Irish social history.

# STAMPA Events

|                          |   |                                 |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Official Opening         | – | Friday                          |
| I.P.T.A. AGM             | – | Friday 6:15 p.m.                |
| FAI General Meeting      | – | 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 the St. John's Ambulance Brigade 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

*to be held on*

**Saturday 13 October, 2012**

*at Wynn's Hotel,  
35 Lr. Abbey St., Dublin 1 at  
20.00 hours*

**Tickets €35**

**Dress Informal**

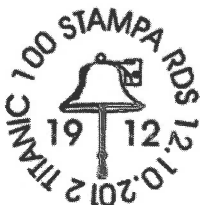
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# **The Forgotten Olympian from Bray**

*Brian White*

**R**ichard James Mecredy (1861-1924), who lived at Vallombrosa, Thornhill Road, Bray was regarded as the 'Father of cycling and motoring in Ireland.' Between the autumn of 1883 and 2nd July 1888, Mecredy rode in 76 cycle races, winning prizes in 71. In 1886 he won the National Championships. He won the Coronation Cup Race in 1902. In 1905 he rode 302 miles in one day, changing his tyres no fewer than six times during the race. He was editor and owner of the *Irish Cyclist* and wrote books on cycling and motoring, as well as co-publishing a pedestrian and cyclist guide to the neighbourhood of Dublin including Bray and north Wicklow.

## ***His son the Olympian***

Richard's eldest son, Ralph Jack Richard Mecredy, was born on 12th July 1888. He too was a keen cyclist. The younger man was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and represented the college in track and field events as well as cycling. He also took part in two Olympic Games, in 1908 and 1912.

## ***Cycling in Bray***

Not everyone in Bray was always enamoured of the bicycle. At the Bray Petty Session Court of Saturday, 22nd January 1894, a Miss Edith Bruce from Herbert Road, Bray and a Mr. Stepeny of Enniskerry were each fined five shillings for cycling on the footpaths with Bray Township. The Magistrate, Mr Devaynes, took a dim view of this offence and said that it should be clearly understood that no person could legally ride a bicycle on the footpath within the township of Bray. However, playing cycle-polo on Bray Esplanade.....now, that was a different matter.

## ***Cycle-polo invented at the Scalp***

In 1891, at the Scalp near Enniskerry, Mecredy senior invented the game of cycle-polo. Up to 1907 it was played on Bray seafront. The first cycle-polo match was played between *Rathclaren Rovers* and the *Ohne Hast* (meaning 'Without Haste') Cycling Club. By the end of the nineteenth century, the game had reached Britain, the USA and France. The first international match was played between Ireland and England at Crystal Palace in 1901. The Irish won easily. Writing thirty-five years later on 14th March 1936, 'Quidnunc' of the Irish Times recalled that, *'In the closing years of the last century, cycle-polo became amazingly popular in Dublin...it cast a spell over the cyclists of this country.'* It may come as an even greater surprise to some readers that, in 2010, cycle-polo is still being played in Ireland and abroad. There is an Irish website for enthusiasts: <<http://bicyclepoloireland.com/>>. Today, polo is also played on segways.

## *The London and Stockholm Olympics*

Cycle-polo was a demonstration sport on the opening day of the London Olympics of 1908. The British Olympic Council's *Official Report of the Fourth Olympiad* (London 1909 p. 627) shows that the single scheduled game was played at six in the evening of Monday 13th July. The Irish Bicycle Polo Association beat Germany's Deutscher Radfahrer Bund. On the winning team were Mecredy junior and the Oswald brothers from Rathclaren in Bray.

By the time of the census of 1911, Ralph was 'head of the household' at an address in Dublin, where he appears to have recorded the religion of himself and four boarders with him in the house as 'Buddhist!' He graduated as a doctor, but put his career on hold while he trained for the 1912 summer Olympics, which were held in Stockholm. The thirty-strong 'Great Britain' (UK) cycling team for the Stockholm games included nine Irishmen. These were C.W. Anderson, Thomas Donaldson, R.J. Doyle, David Livingston, Francis Guy, John Walker, Mathew Walsh, Michael Walker and Ralph Mecredy.

Mecredy competed in two races at the Stockholm Olympics. In the Men's Individual Road Race he finished in eightieth place. His second event was the Men's Team Road Race. In this, Ralph's fellow team members were John Walker, Francis Guy and Michael Walker. Their collective times resulted in an eleventh place finish.

Other men from the Bray area who have participated in the Olympic Games have included Bertie Mesitt (marathon) and Peter Crinnion (cycling), in Rome in 1960; Peter Doyle (cycling) Mexico 1968 and Munich 1972; Gary O'Toole (swimming) Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992; Robin Seymour (mountain bike) Sydney 2000, Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008.

Mabel Hilda Wallis represented Ireland at the 1924 Olympics as a tennis player. Four years later, Lilian Lucy Davidson represented Ireland, but did not win a medal in the art competition, which competition formed part of the Olympics from 1912 to 1948. Katie Taylor from Bray is hoping to win a gold medal for boxing in the 2012 Olympics.

*Extract from Journal No.6 of the Bray Cualann Historical Society 2011  
with their kind permission*

# Tom Kelly

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Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

# Happy Birthday STAMPA!

This year, we celebrate STAMPA'S 40th Birthday! It is difficult to believe that the years fly in so fast. STAMPA has expanded a lot since that first exhibition in Ireland House, St. Stephen's Green in 1972. It was held in Newman House and the Gresham Hotel and then the RDS for a number of years. The next venue to support STAMPA was The Riverside Centre, Sir John Rogerson's Quay and then in 1997 moved back to the RDS to celebrate 75 years of Irish stamps and here we are still.

The amazing thing is that there are still many dedicated members of STAMPA who were at that first exhibition and still watch over our progress. STAMPA was set up with forethought and foresight and has endured. Philately is as strong as ever with quite a few top Irish awards at international level. The STAMPA Councils over the years have directed the National Stamp Exhibition to best advantage for you, the loyal members.

Celebrate STAMPA's 40th Birthday and soak up the collecting atmosphere.

If you were at any, or all, of the first 10 STAMPAs, please let us know of your - memories and please show us any photos you may have.

STAMPA exists for you, the membership, and your loyal support of STAMPA over the years ensures its continuance. A special celebration souvenir is available for our 40th anniversary, so renew your membership this year and support the hobby. Membership is open until December and you can download an application form from the website: [www.stampa.ie](http://www.stampa.ie)

Thank you for your support.

Michael Kelly, Secretary STAMPA



## The Letter Box Study Group

From modest beginnings three decades ago, the Group has grown to become the recognised authority on British and Irish boxes - Further details can be found at [lbsg.org](http://lbsg.org)



## Irish Airmail Society

*Collectors of Irish material related to aerophilately are invited to join the society.*

*Contact Brian Warren or David Reid.*



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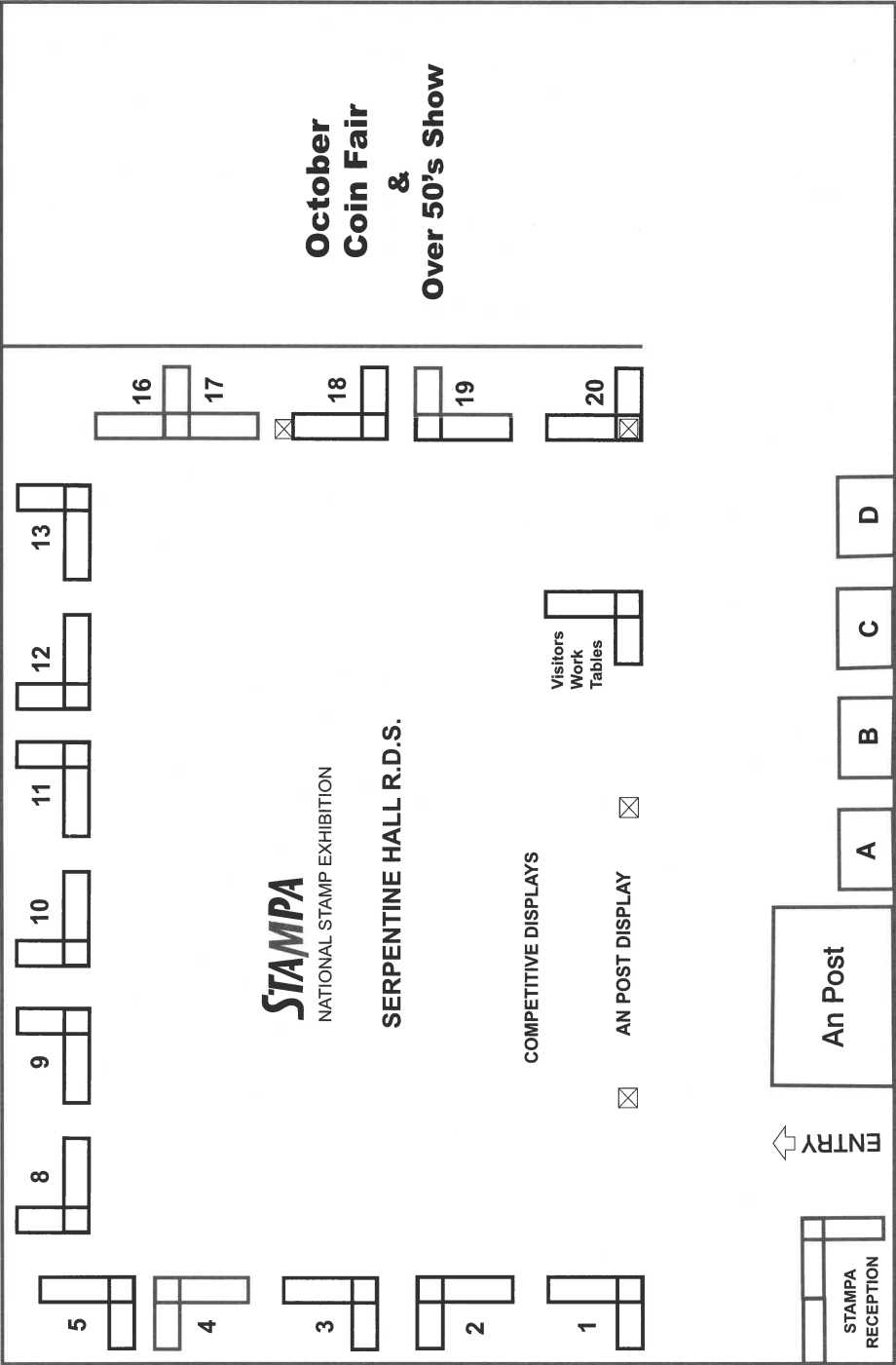
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# Trade Stands 2012

## Stampa Reception

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- 2. Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland
- 3. Cathedral Stamps (D. O'Kelly)
- 4. Cathedral Stamps (D. O'Kelly)
- 5. Andy Ballard
- 8. Lawrence Morrison
- 10. Roy Hamilton-Bowen
- 11. Roy Hamilton-Bowen
- 13. Tom Kelly
- 16. S 'n' H Stamps (S. Hanvey)
- 17. Raven Stamps (P. O'Shea)
- 18. Raven Stamps (P. O'Shea)
- 19. Raven Stamps (P. O'Shea)
- 20. Raven Stamps (P. O'Shea)



# Stampa Christmas Cards



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 (*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



*STAMPA'S new medal design*

## 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)

**E.P.A. Medal** (Best Irish Exhibit)

**Gwyn Bennett Trophy** (Novice competition)

## TRADITIONAL

### *“Falkland Islands, The ½d stamps”*

*John Baverstock*

A study of printings including specimens.

## POSTAL HISTORY

### *“The ½d O’Cleary, postally used 1944–1972”*

*H.E. Mitchell*

It usages, basic postal rates and cancellations on domestic and foreign mail.

### *“Austro Hungarian Empire in WWI”*

*Franz Joseph*

Military structure, censorship, hospitals, P-O-W mail and social aspects.

## THEMATIC

### *“Civil Engineering”*

*Peter L. Joseph*

A look at civil engineering from ancient to modern times.

### *“Discovering West London”*

*Frank McDonald*

A look at royal, political, social and cultural aspects of Chelsea, Kensington and city of Westminster.

## AEROPHILATELY

### *“Graf Zeppelin 127 South American Airmail”*

*Brian Callan*

Establishment and development of this transatlantic service.

### *“Pan American Airways 1928–41”*

*Gerry Byrne*

## OPEN CLASS

### *“Celebrating Christmas”*

*John Fitzsimons*

The story and coverage of the traditions and activities of the festive season.

### *“Germany, The Hitler Years 1933–45”*

*Patrick Carey*

Traces, elements of Hitler’s era from appointment to WWII.

### *“Victoria Regina”*

*Pat Casey*

Aspects and topics relative to her life, times and legacy.

## NOVICE

### *“Water Conservation; Save Water, Save Life”*

*Brian Harmon*

### *“Postage Dues of North Borneo 1895–1939”*

*Brian O’Connell*

Introducing the complicated history of the postage dues and specimens.

# COMPETITION ENTRIES

## ONE FRAME

### *Traditional:*

#### *“Irish Rugby Football Union Centenary”*

**Brian Warren**

A display of the various markings and printings of the first Irish issue on Harrison's Jumelle Press.

### *Postal History:*

#### *“The Derry Mails”*

**Rod Greer**

#### *“Irish Official Mail Logos”*

**Raymond Murphy**

Interesting study of predecessors and first series logos on official mail.

#### *“New York to North Pole by submarine”*

**Aquaman**

The 1931 attempt by Sir Hubert Wilkins.

### *Thematic:*

#### *“The International Eucharistic Congress”*

**Brían O'hArgadáin**

### *Revenue:*

#### *“Newspaper Stamps of I.F.J.”*

**Jörg Hofman**

Irish Farming Journal study of double plate dies issued 1810 to 1821.

## INVITED DISPLAYS

#### *“Ireland A History”*

**John Mullen**

A view of events with focus on Daniel O'Connell and the National Repeal Association.

#### *“Tall Ships Visit Dublin 2012”*

**Brian Warren**

#### *“Titanic Postcards”*

**Des Quail**

#### *“Titanic – Stamps & Postcards”*

**Tony Finn & Brian Warren**

#### *“The Red Cross”*

**J. Fitzsimons**

*“A selection of artwork from the Archives featuring the An Post Issued stamps of the prominent Irish artist and designer, Robert Ballagh”*

#### *“The Fitzpatrick-Thomas Letter of 1840”*

**An Post**

One of the first uses of the penny black in Ireland. Not just a letter, but a fascinating insight into contemporary life.

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# Botanic Gardens Stamp Art Exhibition By Susan Sex

*By John Mullen*

The official opening of the stamp art exhibition by Susan Sex (noted Irish artist and stamp designer) took place in the Botanic Gardens exhibition hall on 9th May 2012. An Post exhibited Susan's art work for the definitive Flower series, the exhibition was opened by Brian Hayes TD. Minister of State for the Department of Finance. I was fortunate to have received an invitation to the opening, I brought with me some covers hoping for some autographs, also present was Wendy Walsh who is another great Irish artist and designer of Irish stamps.



*Minister Brian Hayes & Susan Sex*

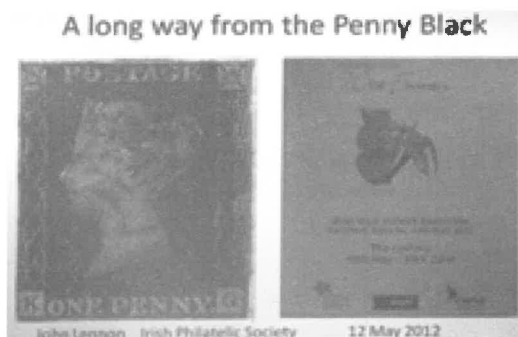


*S.O.A.R. Stamps FDI signed by Susan Sex, Brian Hayes & Wendy Walsh*

On Saturday members of the FAI attended talks at the Botanic Gardens by John Lennon and Susan Sex. John gave a very interesting talk with the assistance of a slide show, on the post in Ireland from the seventeenth century up to and including the flowers issue, showing the different printings and varieties that have occurred in the flower series which was very interesting and informative. After John's talk we adjourned and had some lunch and a stroll around the gardens, we reassembled at the auditorium for a talk by Susan Sex also assisted by a slide show which she explained the much work involved in painting these flowers, which were all painted from live specimens.

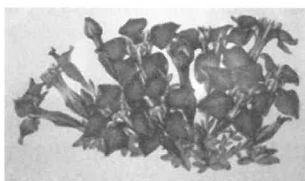


*John Mullen, John Lennon and Brian Warren viewing some of Susan's artwork.*



*Introduction Heading to John Lennon's talk*

After Susan's talk we moved up to the exhibition hall and Susan took us through each painting and taking questions which there were many, among the known designs (Stamps) there were six un-issued designs On the day Susan prepared a special cover for those attending with one of her designs printed on the cover and four stamps applied 1c, 2c, 3c, and 4c, we had to apply extra postage to have the covers serviced by An Post, I decided the most appropriate stamp was a first issue of the SOAR flower stamps, The exhibition was supported by The Dublin Naturalists' Field Club, which was founded in 1886, of which John Lennon's wife is a member, each cover received an embossed hand stamp of the Field Club.



*Susan's artwork. While working on this project Susan kept a journal of all of her designs*

# Organize and Display

Many stamp collectors become stamp hoarders, accumulating lots of stamps, covers and other philatelic material. They leave them in stock books and boxes and in presses and drawers etc. As time goes on, collectors can lose track of what they have and continue to add to this disorganized accumulation of collectibles.

Stamp collecting comes in many forms and guises. The majority of philatelists carefully organize their material in albums, stock books and various display pages. Organizing and keeping tabs on your stamps and covers is the first step towards branching out into the myriad of avenues to which philately can take you.

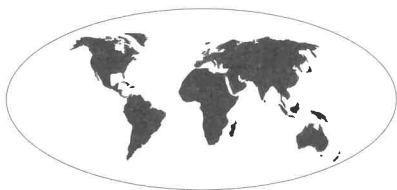
The basic area of philatelic interests is the traditional one, which is collecting by country. Postal history is also a very popular pursuit and this covers many aspects of the whole postal service over the centuries. Postal history by its very nature can require a great deal of research and study.

Some philatelists collect themes, such as sports, wildlife, trains, music, medicine and lighthouses etc. There is no limit to the amount of subjects in which one can specialize.

There are many enthusiasts in the world of airmail covers, stamps and related material. A recent development in our hobby is a method of display called "Open Philately" and this allows for the inclusion of non-philatelic items such as maps, photographs and advertising labels etc. One of the rules in Open Philately is that a display must consist of at least 50% philatelic material. In addition to the principle areas of collecting interest, there are many other peripheral and related subjects which form part of this broad hobby of philately such as revenue stamps, maximum cards and mail transport - there is something to cater for all tastes.

Displaying stamps and covers brings a whole new dimension to the enjoyment of your hobby. All that is needed is to review and organize enough material to complete relatively few pages, nine would be sufficient to display at Stamp Society level and sixteen pages would qualify for a STAMPA display in the Novice or One Frame class. The rules and regulations for these competitions are not too demanding and are easy to follow. The exercise of organizing your stamps and displaying them is really a very simple one if you just put your mind to it.

John H. Fitzsimons  
President  
Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland.



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**Michael Giffney**

*wishes Stampa  
a successful  
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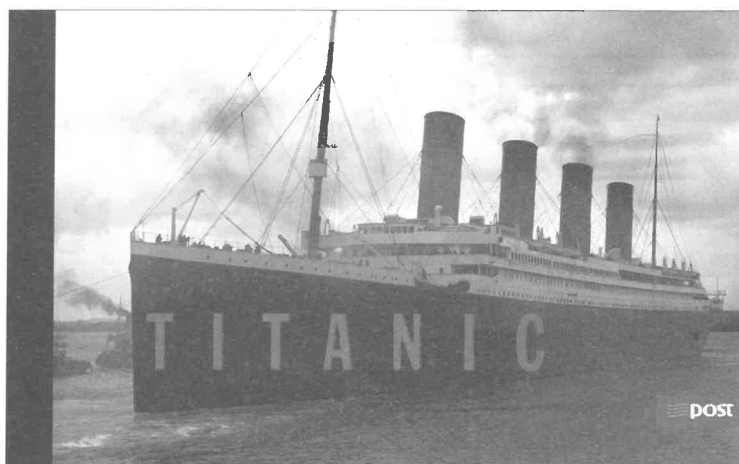
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# Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee

## Northern Ireland Visit 27th June 2012

*by John Mullen*

***Queen Elizabeth II shook hands with Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness at a historic meeting in Belfast.***

The Irish Republican Army-linked Sinn Fein party says one of its leaders, Martin McGuinness, will meet Queen Elizabeth II next week - a once-unthinkable symbol of progress toward peace in Northern Ireland.

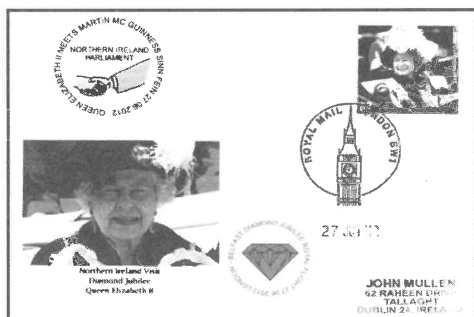
McGuinness, a former IRA commander, has been invited to attend an event with the queen in his role as deputy first minister of Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant power-sharing government.

Neither Sinn Fein nor Buckingham Palace revealed detailed plans for the meeting. Britain's Press Association news agency said McGuinness and the queen would meet and shake hands in a private room at the beginning of the engagement. But even if it amounts to little more than a quick hand-shake, the meeting will have great symbolic value. The queen and her husband, Prince Philip, visit Northern Ireland as part of her United Kingdom-wide tour celebrating 60 years on the throne.

Sinn Fein leaders declined to meet the queen last year during her first state visit to the neighbouring Republic of Ireland, arguing it was still too soon after the end of decades of conflict and bloodshed. But party President Gerry Adams said the party has decided Martin McGuinness should meet the monarch, a decision that is sure to meet opposition from some Irish republicans, who want to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

"We don't have to do it. We're doing it because it's the right thing to do, despite the fact that it will cause difficulties for our own folk," Adams said. "But it's good for Ireland. It's good for this process we're trying to develop. It's the right time and the right reason," he added.

Buckingham Palace said it understood Mr. McGuinness had been invited to Wednesday's event in Belfast for the Co-operation Ireland charity, which works to bring Catholic and Protestant communities together. It was a sign of progress toward peace that the royal visit was announced several weeks in advance. The queen has regularly visited Northern Ireland over the past four decades of bloodshed, but none of her previous visits had been announced even a minute ahead of time to minimize the risk of attack. Threats against the royal family have been real, as evidenced by the Provisional IRA's 1979 assassination of Lord Louis Mountbatten, Prince Philip's 79-year-old uncle. Several small IRA splinter groups still launch gun and bomb attacks in Northern Ireland. But the situation has been transformed since the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 brought a virtual end to a conflict, known as "the Troubles," that saw about 3,000 deaths over three decades.



*Diamond Jubilee Royal Flight London to Belfast  
Printed cachet Northern Ireland Parliament Queen Elizabeth II meets Martin McGuinness for a historic handshake*

# The Federation Award

Two years ago, the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland decided to establish an award which would be given to persons who had made a significant contribution, in various ways, to the promotion of the hobby of philately. A design sub-committee was set up comprising: John Mullen, Brian Warren and John Fitzsimons and the result of their deliberations is shown on this page. The central design of this very fine award medallion is a depiction of the 9 pence value of the first Irish definitive stamp series. The use of this design is by the kind permission of An Post and we are very thankful and appreciative of their assistance in this important matter.

The F.P.S.I. wish to extend their thanks to the Council and Officers of STAMPA for the generous sponsorship of the cost of the die and manufacturing of this award medallion, which is struck with an antique gold coloured finish. It will be the privileged duty of the Executive Committee of the F.P.S.I. to give consideration to and decide upon suitably qualified persons for presentation of this very unique award.

John H. Fitzsimons  
President F.P.S.I.



## Federation Of Philatelic Societies Of Ireland

**The AGM of the F.P.S.I. will take place at STAMPA on  
Sunday, 23rd October at 2:00 p.m.**

### ***IRISH SUCCESS!***

Congratulations to the Irish competitors on their fine performances at the World Philatelic Exhibition "Indipex" held in New Delhi in February 2012.

**Mike Burrington:** *"1906 Definitive Issues of Bosnia and Herzegovina"* Vermeil

**John Fitzsimons:** *"Mozart...from Prodigy to Genius"* Silver

**Frank McDonald:** *"Discovering West London"* Vermeil

**Brian Warren:** *"Northern Ireland Regional Issues"* Large Silver

## JOIN A STAMP SOCIETY!

Stamp societies cater for many of the interests and needs of those involved in the hobby of philately. There are some collectors who prefer the privacy of their own home as the sole environment in which to pursue their chosen hobby and for many philatelists the meeting place of societies is simply too distant from them and would not be convenient to reach for meetings. For those who reside in or near Dublin, there are two stamp societies available and if you are interested, there are many benefits and much enjoyment derived in being a member of such august bodies. There are regular meetings at which stamp displays and competitions are held. There are disseminations on many and varied aspects of philately and the postal services and there are opportunities to buy and sell stamps through the members bourse and the society auctions.

The societies in Dublin are: The Irish Philatelic Society (IPS) and The Dublin Stamp Society (DSS).

The IPS meets every second Thursday (season: September-July) in Ely House, Ely Place, Dublin 2. The DSS meets every other Wednesday (season: September-June) in the Teacher's Club, Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Meetings commence at 7:30 p.m. and have a duration of about two hours.

The IPS has a 'Country Membership' category which allows those in rural areas to participate in various activities of the society, including members' stamp auctions and competitions, such members are also kept up to date on the business of the society through the regular issue of a newsletter. Membership of a stamp society will enhance your interest and enthusiasm in philately and could add an extra dimension to your social activities! If you require further information on the above societies, write to: P.O. Box 5685, Dublin 4.



Stampa have a limited number of autographed copies of Patrick Walsh's book *"Oscar Wilde - World's Favourite 100 Quotes"* cancelled with an Oscar Wilde stamp and cancellation. Price €15

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# The Irish Air Corps Fouga Magister

## An Irish Perspective

By John Mullen

The Irish Air Corps Baldonnell was the location for the launch of a book on the Fouga Magister on the 6th September 2012, which came into service in 1975 with the Air Corps. An interesting story told about the the Fouga Magister was that the first time an Irish soldier set eyes on one was during the trouble in the Congo 1961 in which a Katanga Air Force Fouga Magister opened fire on Irish UN troops who responded by shooting at the plane, later two Fouga's were confiscated by the United Nations, which were purchased by the Irish Government, on arrival at Baldonnell the planes were examined to see if any damage appeared on either plane from the Congo encounter.

Forword by Brigadier General Paul Fry G.O.C. Irish Air Corps. (Extract)

*"Joe Maxwell & Radu Brinzan who have crafted a very readable and thoroughly researched book which I am sure will be enjoyed by all who flew the Fouga Magister, worked on it or even admired it from the ground".*



Commemoration Cover showing the Fouga Magister & flown on board a Pilatus PC 90 signed by Brig. Gen, Paul Fry. Date stamped with the Air Corps meter mark in red. "Defence Forces, Central Registry, Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell, Co. Dublin".



Commemoration cover signed by both Authors of the book Joe Maxwell & Radu Brinzan. All covers received two Air Corps hand stamps "Casement Base Baldonnell" in green & "Flight Control" in blue

# One Frame Class

The purpose of the One Frame Class (16 pages) is to encourage new exhibitors to venture into the competitive field of philately and also to provide established exhibitors with an opportunity to prepare displays on subjects or themes which cannot be treated well in more than one frame. It is important to stress that the subject matter of a One Frame exhibit must, as near as is practical, tell a full story. It must not merely be an extraction from a multiple framed exhibit. The concept or plan of a One Frame exhibit must be clearly explained on the first page and the title should reflect the content of the display.

In addition to the special regulations for the One Frame Class the principles of the F.I.P. regulations for all competitive classes are valid for these displays. This means that a One Frame Display may be based on traditional philately, postal history or aerophilately etc., and will be judged accordingly.

There are many possibilities for the preparation of a One Frame display. For example, in traditional philately a single stamp issue or set of stamps in their various guises may prove a suitable subject. Within thematic philately, there's a myriad of subjects which could be pursued. In postal history the mail service of the Bianconi coaches or a short lived private mail service during a postal strike might just fit the bill for a One Frame display. There is a multiplicity of subjects and themes to choose from and all it requires to create a suitable display is a little imagination, research and a will to succeed. What could be easier!

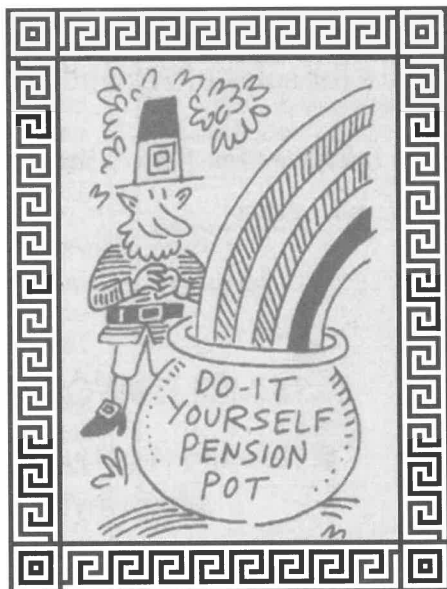
John H. Fitzsimons.

## 350 Years of the Postmark

The Royal Mail marked the 350th anniversary of the first postmark by stamping information about postcards and posting times on last year's Christmas postbag.

The first ever postmark – known as the Bishop Mark after its creator Henry Bishop – was introduced in 1661, imprinted by hand and marking the day and month an item was posted.

Machine-printed postmarks were introduced in 1857.



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