

Irish Philately

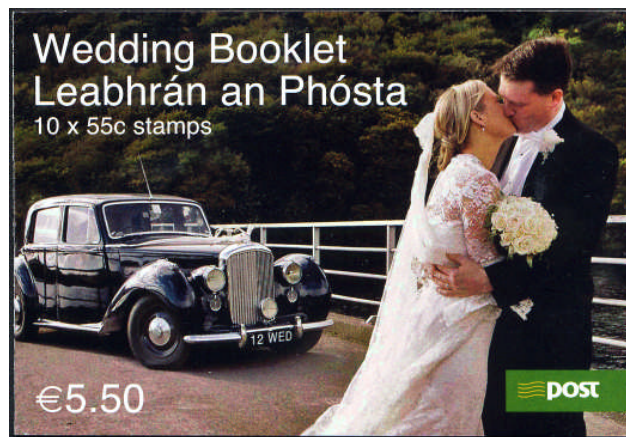


THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

March 2013 – Supplement

That Was The Year That Was – 2012

Brian Warren



Wedding booklet pair with car registration ZJ 4379 and booklet cover with registration altered to 12 WED.



Revised leader for €5.50 wild flowers coil with weight reference altered to 50g (previously 100g.).



Pair of €8.20 booklets showing shade differences on cover

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2012

by Brian Warren

Note that illustrations of single stamps, pairs and postmarks (except IMPs) are full size; illustrations of IMPs, blocks and strips, booklets, covers and stationery items are reproduced at between 50% and 100% of full size.

Postal rates changed with effect from Tuesday 1 May 2012. Although the basic inland and overseas rates for the first weight step remain unchanged, this weight step was reduced from a maximum of 100g to a maximum of 50g.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

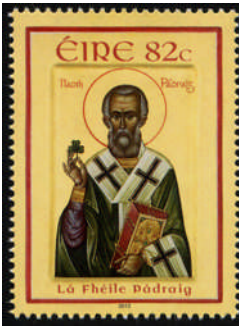
The 2012 programme, comprising 26 regular gummed stamps, 10 self-adhesive stamps, 3 miniature sheets and 6 booklets, was issued over 16 release dates at a total cost of €78.58. All counter regular gummed issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 17 sheetlets was €161.82.

The 2011 totals of 24 regular gummed stamps, 6 self-adhesive stamps, 3 miniature sheets and 7 booklets were issued over 17 release dates at a total cost of €75.70. All counter regular gummed issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 15 sheetlets was €133.38.

The decrease in costs in 2011 was reversed in 2012 although the total is still below the 2010 total of €85.38. The major cost continues to be booklets – €51.15 for 6 booklets in 2012, €51.00 for 7 booklets in 2011 and €49.75 for 5 booklets in 2010.

There were only 4 single stamp issues in 2012 compared to 7 in 2011 and 14 in both 2009 and 2008. The wedding stamp is excluded in all these totals as it is only available in self-adhesive pairs and booklets.

The 2011 totals given above correct the amounts referred to in my article last year.

Date of Issue	Description		Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
							
19 Jan	Wedding stamp (self-adhesive)	- Booklet	€5.50	10 x 55c stamps (one design)		13½ x 13	ISSP
26 Jan	Greetings stamps (self-adhesive)	- Booklet	€5.50	10 x 55c stamps (two designs)		12¾ x 13½	ISSP
2 Feb	Ireland's Chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe	- Logo	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
9 Feb	St Patrick's Day	- St Patrick (icon painting)	82c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

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



22 Mar	Contemporary Arts I – Dance (self-adhesive) -Booklet	€4.40	8 x 55c (four designs)		13 x 13	ISSP
12 Apr	RMS Titanic	55c	Se-tenant horizontal pair 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B Se-tenant horizontal pair 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B Four panes – see below	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	(Centenary of the Sinking)	55c				
	- Captain Edward J Smith	82c				
	- 'Unsinkable' Molly Browne	82c				
	- Prestige booklet (face value: €10.96)	€12.00				
19 Apr	Bram Stoker – Death Centenary	55c	Se-tenant One each of the 55c stamps	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Dracula	55c				
	- Miniature sheet	€1.10				
3 May	Europa – Visit Ireland	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	(52nd Issue)	82c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
7 June	50th International Eucharistic Congress					
	- Chalice and Host	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
	- Monstrance and the Blessed Sacrament	82c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¾	ISSP
14 June	Volvo Ocean Race	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¾ x 14	ISSP
	- Miniature sheet	€3.00	See note below	CCP3	15 x 14	ISSP
28 June	Dublin Fire Brigade (150th Anniversary)					
	- General firefighting	55c	Se-tenant horizontal strip of four stamps 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Chemical firefighting	55c				
	- Road traffic rescues	55c				
	- Water rescue	55c				
	- Prestige booklet (face value: €8.80)	€10.00	Four panes – see below	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

Date of
Issue

Cost

Plate Numbers/Notes

Paper

Perforation

Printer



5 July Significant Science Milestones

- Dublin City of Science 55c
- Boyle's Law 55c
- Miniature sheet €1.10

Se-tenant horizontal pair
1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
Se-tenant pair

CCP3 13 x 13¼ ISSP
CCP3 13 x 13¼ ISSP

19 July Olympic Games 2012

- Medal ceremony 55c
- London 2012 82c

1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B

CCP3 14 x 14¾ ISSP
CCP3 14 x 14¾ ISSP

13 Sept Myths and Legends

- The Children of Lir 55c
- Deirdre of the Sorrows 55c
- Fionn Mac Cumhaill 82c
- Setanta 82c

1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B

CCP3 14¾ x 14 ISSP
CCP3 14¾ x 14 ISSP

11 Oct Barnardos Ireland

- Girl plus painting 55c

1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B

CCP3 13¾ x 13¾ ISSP

8 Nov

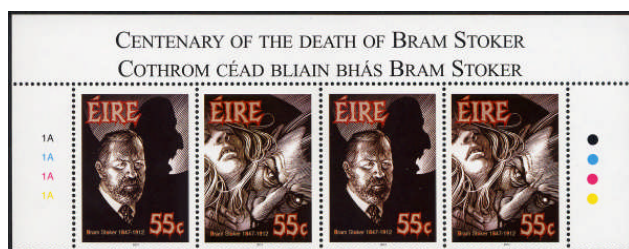
Christmas
(42nd Issue)

- The Adoration of the Shepherds 55c
- The Adoration of the Magi 82c
- Booklet (Traditional Candle) – self-adhesive €13.75

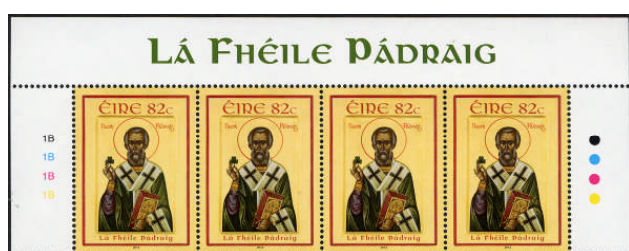
Se-tenant – SOAR self-adhesive
26 x 55c i.e. one free stamp

11 x 11¼ Label Art
11 x 11¼ Label Art
11 x 11¼ Enschedé

Printers and Sheet Format: All stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited (ISSP), the Irish firm Label Art or the Dutch firm Enschedé. ISSP and Enschedé used lithography to print the stamps; Label Art used a HP Indigo high resolution digital printing process.



Top margin of Bram Stoker of "A" sheetlet showing plate number and colour control



*Top margin of St. Patrick's Day Festival of "B" sheetlet showing plate number and colour control
Note – Irish only in top margin*

The majority of sheet issues continue to be issued in 16-stamp (4 x 4) sheetlet format with both "A" and "B" sheets. The plate numbers are located in the left margin beside row 1 and the colour controls in the right margin beside row 1.

The imprint is in the bottom margin under the first stamp in the last row. The bottom right corner is blank. The subject of the issue, normally in both English and Irish, is printed across the top margin. This layout applies to both horizontal and vertical format designs. All sheetlets have an imperforate top margin, all other margins being perforated.

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

First Day Covers: Unserviced FDCs cost €1 (2011: €1). Special covers and pictorial cancels were available for all issues.

A presentation box of all 19 (2011: 20) first day covers for the special and commemorative issues of 2012, including the three miniature sheets, was available from 24 November. The price of €60 (2011: €60) compares with a cost of €50.48 (2011: €50.48) if bought as individual

covers. As with 2011 issues, all serviced covers sold by the bureau continue to bear a "printed", and thus sharper looking, first day postmark as compared to the hand applied cancellation which is used on collectors' own covers.

Wedding Booklet (7th Issue): This year's design is based on the Harry Weir photograph of a loving couple and classic wedding car. The actual registration of the vintage car (ZJ 9379) is clearly visible on the actual stamp. The booklet is in self-adhesive format and incorporates ten stamps set out in one pane, folded twice, containing two rows of five stamps. Surplus paper retained. The stamp measures 37mm x 26mm. The cover of the booklet features the same photograph except that the 'car registration' has been changed to WED 12 – see illustrations on front cover. A pair of self-adhesives with plain backing and surplus paper intact is available from the philatelic bureau.



Greetings Booklet (22nd Issue): The booklet was issued in the usual format with 5 x 2 designs which feature stylised depictions of a gift box and four birthday candles respectively. The booklet is in self-adhesive format and incorporates ten stamps plus ten labels set out in one pane, folded twice, containing two columns of five stamps and five labels. The labels do not have die-cut perforations but are cut with straight edges. Surplus paper retained. Each stamp measures 25mm x 30mm. A pair of self-adhesives with plain backing and surplus paper intact is available from the philatelic bureau.



Ireland's Chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe: Ireland assumed the Chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) in January 2012.

Ireland has been a member of the OSCE since 1973. The square format stamp measures 36mm x 36mm and features the OSCE logo.



St Patrick's Day Festival (Lá Fhéile Pádraig):

The 2012 design is based on an icon painting by renowned Russian artist Ekaterina Platoshechkina. The stamp measures 30mm x 41mm.



Contemporary Arts I – Dance – Booklet: The booklet contains two blocks of four self-adhesive diamond shaped stamps. Each stamp depicts a unique contemporary dance performed by some of Ireland's foremost dance companies. The name of each dance company is not referred to on the actual stamp but is included beside one of each design in the booklet. The four dance companies, in clockwise order, are (1) Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre; (2) Irish Modern Dance Theatre; (3) CoisCéim; and (4) Dance Theatre of Ireland. A block of four with a choice of either the front or back cover of the booklet was available from the philatelic bureau. Each square format stamp measures 35mm x 35mm.



The Dublin Dance Festival was held from 11 to 26 May and was advertised in advance by way of a slogan postmark which was in use from 23 April to 9 May.

Centenary of the Sinking of RMS Titanic:

The Titanic was the largest ship afloat when it was launched at the Harland and Wolff Shipyard in Belfast in 1911. As is well known, the ship sank on its maiden voyage after it struck an iceberg on the night of 14 April 1912.

The four stamps depict various personalities associated with the ship. Thomas Andrews (shipbuilder) and the Captain, Edward J. Smith, both of whom were lost; the photographer, Father Browne, who disembarked at Queenstown (now Cobh); and the 'Unsinkable' Molly Brown who also survived the tragedy. The stamps measures 52mm x 30mm and are in the same se-tenant format in each row.



The stamps were also issued in a Prestige Booklet with each pane containing a block of the four designs. The two right-hand stamps in each pane (55c Father Browne and 82c 'Unsinkable' Molly Brown) are imperforate at right. The background photographs on each pane are as follows:-

- Pane 1: Queen's Road, Belfast - Workers leaving the Harland & Wolff shipyard;
- Pane 2: Looking down the length of the ship;
- Pane 3: Lone figure on the 187 yards long deck, thought to be Captain Smith. (The photograph was taken by Father Browne); and
- Pane 4: Leaving Southampton.

The panes are rouletted at left and stitched into the booklet covers. The front cover also depicts the ship leaving Southampton. The first day of issue pictorial cancellation for this issue was also available at Cobh.

The RMS Titanic was previously shown on the £1 stamp in the Maritime History set issued in 1999. Two of the £1 stamps were also included in a miniature sheet released with the same set. An Post is currently selling a key ring containing the £1 stamp of 1999 (cost: €3.50).



Bram Stoker – Death Centenary: Bram Stoker, born Abraham Stoker on 8 November 1847 in Clontarf, Dublin, is best known for his classic Gothic horror novel, *Dracula*, first published in 1897. Each stamp measures 30mm x 41mm. The stamps in the miniature sheet are not se-tenant and are separated by an image of a cinema entrance. A separate first day cover was available for the miniature sheet. This is the second time that Bram Stoker has been commemorated on Irish stamps. In 1997, An Post released a set of four stamps and two miniature sheets to mark the centenary of the issue of *Dracula*.



Europa – Visit Ireland: The common theme for 2012 was 'Visit'. The two Irish stamps are thus on the theme 'Visit Ireland' and depict the Small Skellig, an island off the coast of County Kerry, and the iconic Ha'penny Bridge that spans the River Liffey in Dublin. The Ha'penny Bridge's name is derived from the fact that a toll of one halfpenny (but pronounced Ha'penny, hence the name) was charged to cross this pedestrian only bridge. The charge was discontinued in 1919. The bridge was renovated and restructured in 2001 by Harland & Wolff.

Both values were printed in the normal ten-stamp format for Europa issues (5 rows of 2 stamps with a surrounding illustrative panel). The plate numbers and colour controls are

included in the left margin, with the plate numbers beside stamp 1 and the colour controls beside stamp 5. The printer's imprint is placed under stamp 1 of row 5. The illustrated right margins are imperforate. Details about the issue are included at top right in the illustrated right margin. The square format stamps measure 36mm x 36mm.

The illustrated margin of the 55c sheet shows the 'beehive' huts on the neighbouring and larger Skellig Michael. The margin of the 82c sheet features the Custom House in Dublin. There is a shade difference on some sheets of the 82c stamp which affects the background in the illustrated margin.



50th International Eucharistic Congress: Dublin was the host city for the 2012 Congress, last held in Ireland in 1932. The 55c stamp features the Chalice and Host and illustrates the importance off the Eucharist to the Catholic faith. The 82c stamp depicts the Monstrance and the Blessed Sacrament and illustrates how the lay faithful in the Church view them as the visible presence of God. The stamps measure 24mm x 54mm and were issued in sheetlets of 12 containing three rows of four stamps.

The Congress was held in the premises of the Royal Dublin Society, Dublin 4. There was no An Post presence although they did provide a postbox for the event. The stamps were on sale at the information desk, and the organisers had a large undenominated card on sale which was not an An Post product. All mail posted in the postbox received a normal operational slogan cancellation. No special postmark was provided.

The Vatican City Post Office also produced a pair of stamps (see page 23) and a special cancellation (not first day) to mark the Congress.



Volvo Ocean Race: The 2011/12 race started in Alicante in November 2011 and finished in Galway in July. Galway was a port of call in 2009. Once again An Post issued a single stamp plus miniature sheet to mark this event. The single stamp measures 41mm x 30mm and the miniature sheet 150mm x 90mm.



There were six yachts in the 2011/12 race which was won by the French Groupama sailing team. Ireland did not participate although there were two Irish sailors among the various crews – Justin

Slattery on the Groupama yacht and Damian Foxall, who was part of the crew of Team Sanya (China). The 55c stamp shows both the Groupama and Team Sanya yachts. The miniature sheet shows all six yachts, with the Groupama yacht forming the main picture on the €3 stamp included in the sheet. A first day pictorial cancellation was available in Galway for this and all new issues.



Dublin Fire Brigade (150th Anniversary): The set of four stamps depicts the breadth of services provided by the Dublin Fire Brigade. The stamps measure 30mm x 52mm and are in the same se-tenant format in each row. They were also issued in a Prestige Booklet. Each pane contains a se-tenant strip of four stamps – one pane for each design as detailed

below. The right-hand stamp in each pane is imperforate at right thus giving four different separately identifiable stamps.

- Pane 1: 4 x 55c Road traffic rescues;
- Pane 2: 4 x 55c General firefighting;
- Pane 3: 4 x 55c Water rescue; and
- Pane 4: 4 x 55c Chemical firefighting.

The panes are rouletted at left and stitched into the booklet covers.



Significant Science Milestones: Dublin was the host for the City of Science 2012 Festival. The Euroscience Open Forum 2012 was held in the Conference Centre Dublin between 11 and 15 July.

The City of Science stamp features the Conference Centre and the Samuel Beckett Bridge, the newest bridge on Dublin's River Liffey, together with a graphic of the molecular structure of DNA. To the right of the bridge you can also see a part of the building which is the Irish headquarters for the accountancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers – I worked there until my retirement in October 2012!

The second stamp marks the 350th anniversary of the famous Boyle's law by Lismore born Robert Boyle, who is regarded by many as Ireland's greatest ever scientist. The stamp features an image of Boyle and his famous formula. Robert Boyle also featured on the 12p stamp in the Science and Technology set issued in 1981. The stamps measure 52mm x 30mm and are in the same se-tenant format in each row. The two stamps were also included in a miniature sheet which measures 150mm x 90mm. Line drawings of a number of other Dublin buildings/bridges are shown in the margin of the sheet, including Trinity College, the Custom House, the Spire and the Sean O'Casey Bridge.



Olympic Games 2012: The 55c stamp depicts a graphic interpretation of the medal ceremony. The 82c stamp uses five verticals combined with contemporary typography to represent Ireland's proximity to London.



Team Ireland had a very successful Olympics bringing home five medals - Katie Taylor (Gold), John Joe Nevin (Silver) and Paddy Barnes, Michael Conlan, and Cian O'Connor (all Bronze). Each stamp measures 30mm x 41mm.

Myths and Legends: The set of four stamps features some of the more popular Irish myths and legends. Each stamp measures 41mm x 30mm and both values are in the same set-tenant format in each row.



Barnardos Ireland (50th Anniversary):

The founder of the organisation, Dr Thomas Barnardo, was born in Dublin in 1845 and he opened his first home for homeless boys in London

in 1870. His work in Ireland started in 1962, supporting children and families in Dublin and also in the border counties. Today the charity has grown to become Ireland's leading independent children's charity. The 55 cent stamp features a girl, together with colourful elements from the paintings of young children attending some of Barnardos 42 project centres. The square format stamp measures 36mm x 36mm.



Pair from GPO counter on day of issue

Christmas: The annual Christmas counter issue was only issued in self-adhesive format. The two SOAR self-adhesives issued by the bureau are numbered 1 (55c) and 2 (82c), with the date code of 12313 which corresponds to 8

November 2012. Complete rolls as issued to post offices contained 600 stamps numbered 1 to 600, i.e. 300 set-tenant pairs, and any value could be obtained. They replaced the Animals and Marine Life definitive issue whilst on sale. The Adoration of the Shepherds by Girolamo Troppo is in the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin but is not currently on view as most of the Gallery is presently undergoing refurbishment. The stamp only illustrates part of the painting and, unfortunately, the Gallery has no postcard or greeting card reproducing the painting.

The Adoration of the Magi by Jan Brueghel the Elder is held by the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. A foreign postcard does exist reproducing the full painting.

The self-adhesive booklet issue, which is similar to previous Christmas booklets in layout, contains 26 x 55c stamps, giving one free stamp per booklet. The 26 stamps are set out in one pane, folded six times, containing two columns of 13 stamps, all with phosphor frame. Each stamp measures 25mm x 30mm. A pair of self-adhesives from the booklet, but with plain backing, was available from the philatelic bureau.

YEAR PACK AND YEAR BOOK

Year Pack: The Year Pack contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2012, including pairs of the Wedding, Greetings and Christmas booklet self-adhesive stamps and the two Christmas SOAR stamps, together with a block of four self-adhesive stamps from the Contemporary Dance booklet, but excluding all other booklets and all miniature sheets – a total of 38 (2011: 42) stamps with a face value of €23.33 (2011: €24.99).

Year Book: The bilingual book contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2012, including both regular gummed and self-adhesive stamps as included in the year pack, together with the three miniature sheets. A total of 38 stamps plus 3 miniature sheets with a face value of €28.53 (2011: €31.30) are pre-mounted in the year book. Total printing of 1,500 standard copies (2011: 1,500) and 125 (2011: 125) leather-bound editions.

DEFINITIVES

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes	Perforation	Printer
---------------	-------------	------	-------	-------------	---------



1 May	New Booklets	- National	€5.50	10 x 55c Hermit Crab	14¼ x 14¼	ISSP
	(Self-adhesive)	- International	€8.20	10 x 82c Common Frog	14¼ x 14¼	ISSP
9 Aug	Animals and Marine Life Definitives (3rd Issue)					
	(Counter and Bureau Issue)					
	(Self-adhesive)	- Fireworks Anemone (1)	55c	Se-tenant vertical strip of four (bureau)	11 x 11¼	Label Art
		- Spiny Seahorse (2)	55c			
		- Green Crab (3)	55c			
		- Pike (4)	55c			
		- Smooth Newt (5)	55c	Se-tenant vertical strip of four (bureau)	11 x 11¼	Label Art
		- Irish Hare (6)	55c			
		- Raft Spider (7)	55c			
	- Kestrel (8)	55c				
Sept	Animals and Marine Life Definitives (3rd Issue)					
	(Postal Service Centre Issue)					
	(Self-adhesive)	- Fireworks Anemone	55c	Se-tenant vertical strips – maximum of five in a single strip	11 x 11¼	Label Art
		- Spiny Seahorse	55c			
		- Green Crab	55c			
		- Pike	55c			
		- Smooth Newt	55c			
		- Irish Hare	55c			
		- Raft Spider	55c			
	- Kestrel	55c				

ANIMALS AND MARINE LIFE DEFINITIVES



Counter Issue (3rd Issue): The third series of designs was released in August. As old stocks were used up post offices changed over to the new rolls. There are 8 designs, as listed above, and the bureau set, which is numbered 1 to 8, is

split into two strips of four. The strips sold by the bureau have the eight designs set out in reverse order as compared to the SOAR set sold at post office counters. This also occurred on the 2nd issue released in 2011 (but not with the 1st issue of 2010). Strips of any length can be obtained from post office counters. All counter rolls are printed in the same sequence. The bureau date code 12222 corresponds with 9 August and the reference code is 02501000001 (as before). Each stamp measures 56mm x 25mm and has three small preprinted vertical yellow phosphor bars similar to those on the first and second issues. As with previous issues, the surplus paper is removed between stamps.

There were two separate first day covers, with four stamps on each cover. On serviced covers sold by the bureau, designs 1 to 4 featured the Irish Hare design on the cover, even though this stamp is in the second strip and is numbered 6; the second cover with stamps numbered 5 to 8 features the Green Crab on the cover which corresponds to stamp number 3. This same reversal of design used on the FDCs also occurred in both 2010 and 2011.

Postal Service Centre ("PSC") Issue: The same eight designs are now in use at over 50% of the PSC machines replacing the 2nd series. A full listing is set out on pages 21 and 22.



As a result of the postal rate changes on 1st May, two new unannounced booklets were released. They refer to the 50g weight step as compared to 100g on previous booklets.

National €5.50 Self-Adhesive Booklet: The booklet contains 10 x 55c small format Hermit Crab stamps of the same design as in the previous booklet. Surplus paper retained. The booklet cover differs in colour from the previous 2011 issue and the illustrated stamp shown on the cover does not correctly match the actual stamp. No first day facilities or cover were provided by the bureau but the booklet (and the €8.20 booklet) were on sale at the bureau counter on 1 May.



The perforation size of $14\frac{1}{4} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$ differs from the Hermit Crab booklet stamp issued in 2011, which measures 14×14 . The corners of each stamp have an even perforation cut as compared to the uneven corners of the 2011 issue (see illustrations). The yellow phosphor is much brighter than the previous US printing by Ashton-Potter who were responsible for the 2011 booklet. A pair of self-adhesives with normal booklet backing and with surplus paper intact is available from the philatelic bureau.



International €8.20 Self-Adhesive Booklet: This is a completely new booklet as the previous issue released in 2009 contained the Sea Aster flower design. It contains 10 x 55c small format Common Frog stamps, which is one of the designs included in the current counter issue. The perforation size, format and phosphor are the same as for the €5.50 booklet stamps. Surplus paper retained. A pair of self-adhesives with normal booklet backing and with surplus paper intact is available from the philatelic bureau. A good shade variety exists on the front cover of the booklet – see illustrations on front cover.



€55 Coil Roll: Although no new roll was issued, existing stocks of the roll had a new unattached leader applied over the outer shrinkwrap. This new leader also refers to the 50g weight step. The existing green leader (with 100g reference) is still attached to the actual stamps.

Previous €5.50 National Self-Adhesive Booklet (2011 issue)



As well as issuing new booklets, an additional sticker was added to inside the cover of existing €5.50 booklets which referred to the revised 50g weight step – see illustrations above. Not all stocks were changed and no sticker was produced for existing stocks of the €8.20 Flowers self-adhesive booklet.

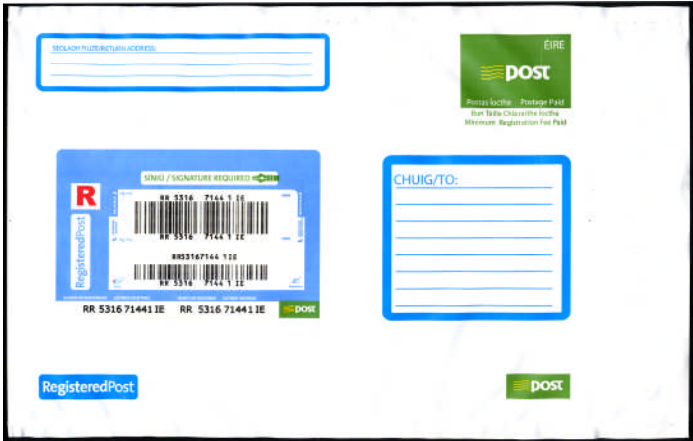


Protective Cardboard Wallet: In late May/early June, a protective cardboard wallet with tab (88mm x 60mm excluding tab) was available at most offices. This was given out free of charge to those purchasing long strips of the SOAR issues. Both the obverse and reverse of the card show the Cuckoo Wrasse from the 2011 Animals and Marine Life set.

FLOWER DEFINITIVES

€55 Coil Roll: Stocks of the rolls of the €55 Flowers definitive also exist with a specially printed unattached leader which refers to the 50g weight step. What is unusual is that rather than use the Animals and Marine Life leader, a special leader illustrating the 55c Flower stamp was also produced for these rolls. The existing green leader (with 100g reference) is still attached to the actual stamps. It is surprising that there were sufficient rolls of the Flowers stamp still in stock to warrant the printing of a special leader – see full size illustration on front cover.

POSTAL STATIONERY AND RELATED ITEMS

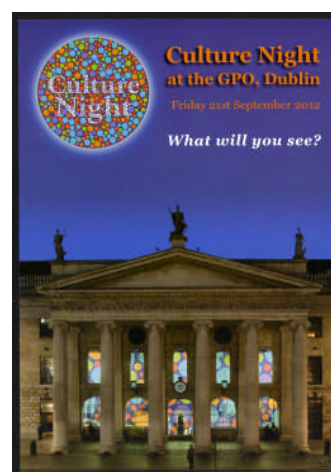
Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Note	Printer
				
Mar	Registered Envelope – New plastic version	€6.00	see note below	?
May	'A' Envelope	€1.00	See note below	?
21 Sept	Culture Night at the GPO - Postcard	no charge	See note below	An Post Print & Design

Registered Envelope: A new plastic version of the registered envelope was first noted in March 2012. The stamp element matches the previous paper version – see illustration. The envelope measures 232mm x 172mm (excluding flap). The paper version is still on sale in most offices. The information printed on the back of the envelope refers to the 100g weight limit. I presume that this will be revised to 50g in the light of the postal rate changes referred to above.

'A' Envelope: An envelope with a new type of postage paid imprint appeared in June (see illustration). Members will note that there is no reference to the country of issue on the envelope which suggests that it is intended for use only within Ireland. Despite the printed reference to "Postage Paid Worldwide", I have been informed that it is only valid for inland postings and post office clerks refuse to uprate the envelope for posting overseas. This means that at a price of €1 the envelope element is costing an exorbitant 45c.

Culture Night: As part of Culture Night which took place on Friday 21 September, An Post hosted an event in the GPO. This included free access to the Postal Museum and commenced at 5.15pm. A special undenominated card was given out free to all who visited the GPO on the

night. This was the seventh Culture Night which is now an nationwide event. It was the fifth year that An Post opened the GPO for Culture Night and produced a postcard for the event.



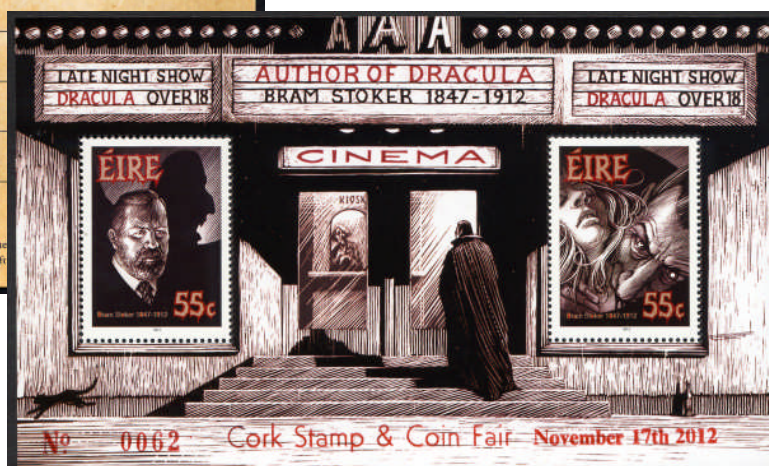
The large format card measures 148mm x 210mm and shows an illustration of the GPO on the obverse which is the same as the 2010 and 2011 designs. Most cards were handed out with an 82c booklet stamp already affixed to the card. There was no special cancellation. A number of collectors added a GPO counter self-adhesive stamp from the Animals and Marine Life series and obtained either a counter SID cancellation or the bureau CDS coupled with the Museum cachet. A small number of mint cards (without stamp) were subsequently handed out at the philatelic bureau counter.

EXHIBITION AND SOCIETY SOUVENIRS AND POSTMARKS

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



Stampa - Titanic card with added stamp and Titanic bell cancellation



Cork Philatelic Exhibition
Bram Stoker/Dracula sheet
with overprint in red

15 Apr	Spring Stamp & Coin Show						
	- Dance booklet with overprint in black	€8.00	400 overprinted *	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Mahons	
	- Special cover with postmark	€4.00 #	160 covers with Titanic stamp			DSS	
23 May	Dublin Stamp Society – Irish Aer Corps Museum	€4.00 #	75 covers – see note below			DSS	
8 June	Arcadia Festival postcard	no charge	see note below				
9 Oct	Stampa 2012 (Members' Souvenirs)						
	- Science Milestones miniature sheet (2012)		1,200 overprinted *	CCP3	13 x 13¾	Mahons	
	- Bram Stoker/Dracula miniature sheet (2012)		1,200 overprinted *	CCP3	15 x 14	Mahons	
	- Renewable Energy booklet (2011)	€20.00	1,200 overprinted *	CCP3	13¾ x 13	Mahons	
	- Titanic Poster postcard		1,000 overprinted on reverse * – see note below			An Post	
	- 1972 Miniature sheet postcard		1,500 special printing – see note below			An Post	
	- Key ring (6d Map stamp of 1972)	€5.00	1,000 produced - also sold for €5 to non-members				
9 Oct	Stampa 2012 (public and other souvenirs)						
	- Volvo Ocean Race miniature sheet (2012)	€5.00	2,000 overprinted *	CCP3	14 x 14¾	Mahons	
17 Nov	Cork Philatelic Exhibition						
	- Booklet	€5.00 #	300 printed (contains full Titanic set)				
	- Unserved illustrated cover	€1.00 #	139 printed (120 sold)				
	- Bram Stoker/Dracula miniature sheet with black o/p	€8.00	1,000 overprinted *	CCP3	14 x 14¾	Mahons	
	- Bram Stoker/Dracula miniature sheet with red o/p	€50.00	100 overprinted *	CCP3	14 x 14¾	Mahons	

* : The production and overprinting of the miniature sheets, booklets and card marked with an asterisk above were arranged by the organisers of the show. Overprinting of the miniature sheets and booklets was with the permission of An Post.

: The Spring & Coin Show and Tall Ships covers were prepared by the Dublin Stamp Society. The Cork booklet and cover were produced by the Cork Philatelic Society.

None of the items listed above were sold by An Post.

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS AND POSTMARKS

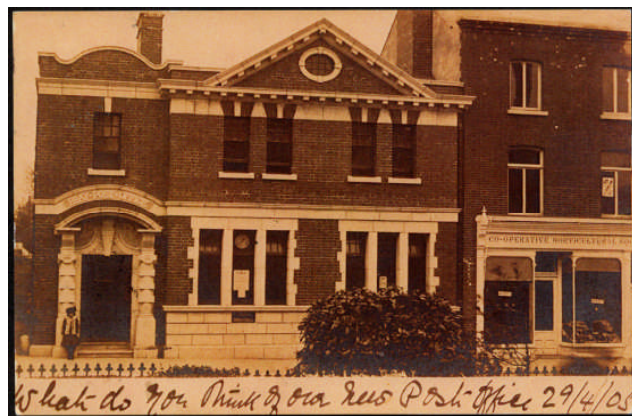


Spring Stamp & Coin Show (formerly known as Stampania): This annual show was held at the RDS in Dublin on Sunday 15 April. The cover of the recently issued Dance booklet was overprinted by the organisers for the show and numbered. Total printing of 400. The overprint reads "SPRING STAMP/ & COIN FAIR/R.D.S. 15-4-2012".



An Post was in attendance and provided a special postmark which incorporated an illustration of the Titanic. The day of the show coincided with the centenary of the sinking of the ship of 15 April 1912. The Dublin Stamp Society provided two illustrated covers, both of which were available serviced with a Titanic stamp and the special postmark. Total printing of 160 covers, 80 of each design.

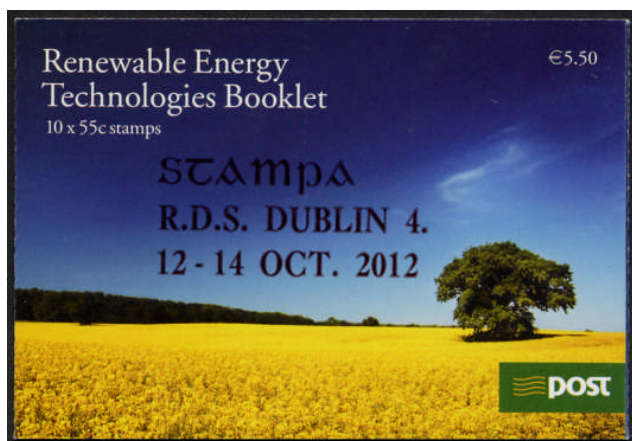
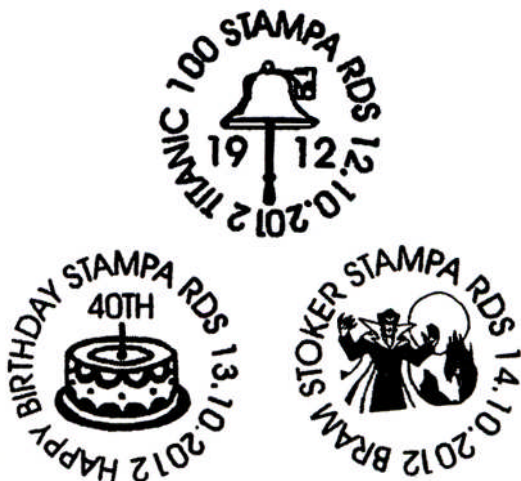
Arcadia Festival Bray: In connection with the Arcadia Festival, which was held in Bray, Co. Wicklow throughout the summer months, an exhibition, "From Bray with Love", took place in the Mermaid Arts Centre from 8 June to 13 September. The exhibition documented Bray's success as a tourist resort and included a large display of local postcards and railway posters. An Post also provided a small display of stamps and postal items connected with Bray.



They also produced an undenominated postcard for the event, which reproduced an earlier card showing Bray Post Office in 1904. The post office still occupies the same building today. This postcard was available free of charge at the exhibition and could be posted in a Penfold postbox situated in the foyer for the duration of the exhibition. The attractive Penfold postbox was formerly located in the nearby Main Street in Bray until damaged by a lorry some years ago. Stamps were on sale at the information desk.



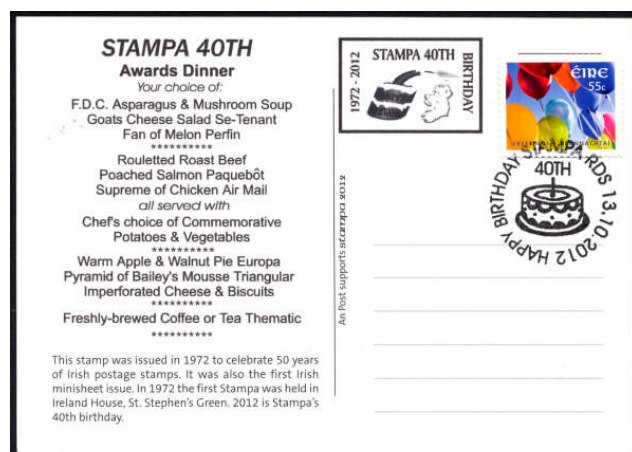
Cards posted in the box received an "Arcadia Festival" cachet in red applied by staff at the Arts Centre (two types of cachet noted – small and large). The cards were transferred to the main postbox in the main street and received a normal operational postmark as no special postmark was provided. A small number of cards were available from the philatelic counter in the GPO but the card was not included on the bureau website.



Stampa 2012: This year marked Stampa's 40th birthday – the first exhibition dates back to 1972. The various souvenirs as listed were posted to members in advance with certain members only receiving them on 9 October. The postcard produced by An Post reproduced the 1972 2d Map miniature sheet and was only available from Stampa. The three line overprint in black reads "STAMPA / R.D.S. Dublin 4./ 12 - 14 Oct. 2012". The Titanic postcard was obtained from the Titanic Exhibition Centre in Belfast and, as well as the three-line overprint referred to above, has the added four-line inscription in black "Please use the space above / to affix a Titanic Stamp and / obtain an Exhibition / Cancellation". The three special cancels and the related stamp issues were as follows:-

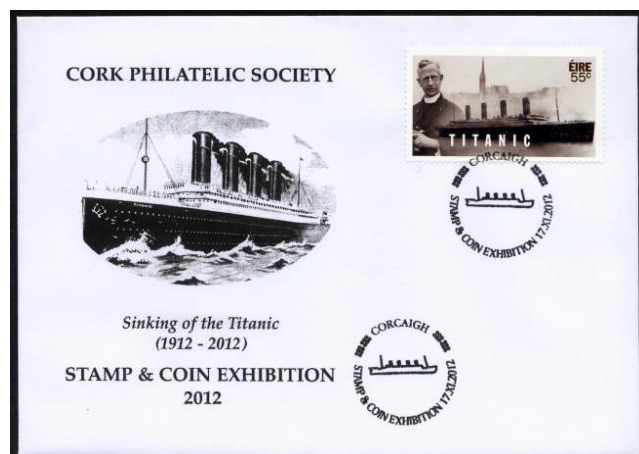
- 12 October: Titanic bell (Titanic stamp of 2012).
- 13 October: Birthday cake with candle to mark the 40 years of Stampa (Greetings stamps of 2012 or 2011).
- 14 October: Dracula (Bram Stoker/Dracula stamp of 2012).

The three postmarks listed above were designed by John Mullen. There was no official cover.



The Awards Dinner was held in Wynn's Hotel, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1 on 13 October. The Titanic postcard was additionally overprinted and used as a ticket for the dinner (100 produced). Some diners added a stamp and had the card cancelled at the show.

The reverse of the postcard reproducing the 1972 map stamp miniature sheet was overprinted with an amusing menu and cancelled with the 13 October cancellation. 80 produced (57 attended the dinner). An invitation, in the format of a double size folded card incorporating the same map design, was also produced (25 copies) for this year's dinner at which Héloïse Mitchell signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

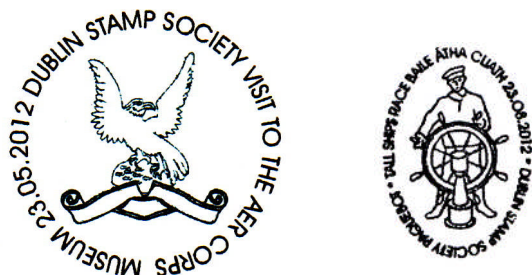


Cork Philatelic Exhibition:

The Cork Philatelic Society held its annual show in the Imperial Hotel, Cork in association with Raven Stamps. This year's souvenir was a larger than normal numbered booklet containing a complete set of the Titanic stamps mounted in hawid type strips as issued earlier in 2012. The Titanic docked at nearby Cobh (then Queenstown) during its famous voyage. The Society also produced an

illustrated cover, and a special postmark was available from An Post. Unserved covers were sold by the Society at the show for €1.

Raven Stamps arranged for the overprinting of the Bram Stoker/Dracula miniature sheets. The two-line overprint reads "Cork Stamp & Coin Fair / November 17th 2012". All souvenirs were individually numbered. The postmark reads "Corcaigh Stamp & Coin Exhibition".



OTHER SPECIAL POSTMARKS



Irish Aer Corps Museum: As part of the Dublin Stamp Society's programme for the year, members visited the Irish Aer Corps Museum at Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell on 23 May 2012. At the last minute An Post produced and sponsored a special handstamp for the Society and the Society itself prepared a special cover as illustrated. Total printing of 75 covers.

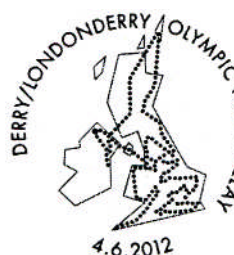
Tall Ships: The Tall Ships came to Dublin once again from 23 to 26 August. The last visit to Dublin was in 1998. Waterford was a Tall Ships port in both 2005 and 2011, Belfast was a host port in 2009 and Cork in 1991. There were previous stamp issues in both 1998 and 2005.

Dublin was the final host port this year so there were plenty of cachets to collect. The Dublin Stamp Society secured a special paquebôt postmark from An Post – see illustration. There was a total of 15 ships' cachets available – all from the larger ships. Unfortunately, the general

public were not allowed access to the smaller vessels tied up on the specially built pontoon platform. This limited the number of cachets available.



The Polish brig *Fryderyk Chopin* was the overall winner of the 2012 Race. It was the only ship to have a postcard of the ship on sale. The Mexican barque *Cuauhtemoc* won the Coruna to Dublin leg of the race.



Olympic Torch Relay:

The Olympic Torch was carried across the border from Northern Ireland and transported to Howth (headquarters of the Olympic Council of Ireland) and then to

Dublin's Croke Park on 6 June. Forty-one torch bearers took part in a six-hour dash that included a cross border ceremony, a civic event in Howth, a run on the Skyline of the stadium at Croke Park and a relay around the capital. Ireland's most famous Olympian, 77-year-old Ronnie Delany, was one of the runners. Although An Post did not provide any special postmark to mark the event, a number of collectors prepared commemorative covers, which were cancelled on the day with a Dublin CDS cancel. Covers exist autographed by Ronnie Delany.

Royal Mail provided a large number of postmarks marking the route of the torch around the UK, including five cancellations for Northern Ireland. As can be seen from the illustration for Derry/Londonderry (a first?), each of the Northern Ireland postmarks included an outline of the route clearly indicating that the torch was travelling south of the border to Dublin.

SLOGANS USED ON INTEGRATED MAIL PROCESSORS (IMP - AEG German machines in use at DMC) and INTEGRATED LETTER PROCESSING SYSTEM MACHINES (ILPS - NEC Japanese machines in use at all four mail centres)

The two AEG machines in PMC were withdrawn in 2011. The five AEG machines in DMC had been decommissioned by the end of 2012.

(Illustrations of all Ink Jet Postmarks have been reduced)

This was a year for very few slogans with only three new slogans during 2012 compared to seven in 2011 and fourteen in 2010. These, and other repeated slogans, were in use at Athlone Mails Centre (AMC), Cork Mails Centre (CMC), Dublin Mails Centre (DMC) and Portlaoise Mails Centre (PMC). The earliest known dates for a new or repeated slogan are recorded, although slogans were not necessarily introduced at all Mail Centres and in all machines on the same date. The town element of the cancellation on all AMC slogans seen during the year was in English only.

I have compiled a detailed list of the various OCR tagcodes used since their introduction in 1993. This is included in the main March 2013 issue of the *Journal of Irish Philately*.

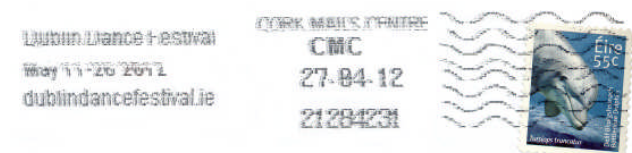


IMP 126 – Valentine's Day Card / From Online / to Your Loved One's Hand / @www.anpost.ie

This was in use at DMC on 10 and 13 February on two NEC machines and the last remaining AEG machine still in use at DMC, at AMC on 14 February only; at CMC on 10, 13 and 14 February and at PMC on 10, 14, 15 and 16 February.



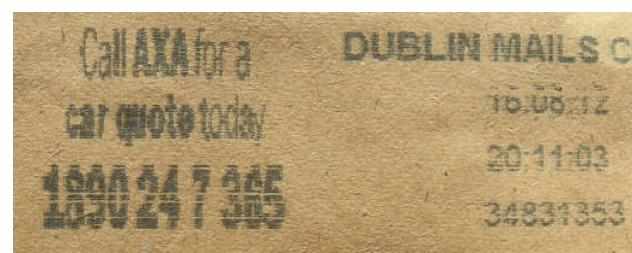
IMP 127 used at PMC on 26 April 2012
No "I" in "Festival"



IMP 127 used at CMC on 27 April 2012

IMP 127 – Dublin Dance Festival(I)/ May 11-26 2012 / dublindancefestival.ie.

This was in use at DMC (old AEG and new NEC machines), PMC, AMC and CMC from late April to early May. Note the missing "I" in "Festival" on the newer ILPS machines in DMC and PMC. Known used with ÍOCTHA at AMC on 9 May 2012.



IMP 128 used at DMC on 16 August 2012



IMP 128 (part impression)
used at DMC on 8 November 2012

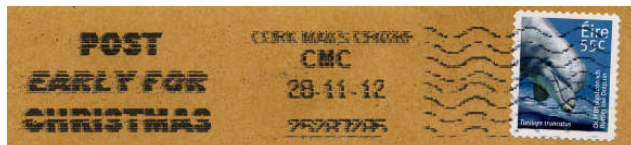
IMP 128 - Call AXA for a / car quote today / 1890 24 7 365.

This slogan was used at DMC, on a machine with tag number 3985, during the period 16 to 24 August 2012. The example illustrated, dated 16 August, is the only full impression noted. Also noted on DMC machine with tag number 3990 on both 8 and 13 November 2012. Most examples are part impressions only. Noted in DMC only.

Re-use of Other Slogans



IMP 93 used at PMC on 19 December 2012



IMP 93 used at CMC on 28 November 2012

IMP 93 – POST / EARLY FOR / CHRISTMAS

This slogan was re-used at all locations in December 2012 and was still in use post 25 December at all four Mail Centres.

By early January 2013, IMP 124 (mybills.ie) was once again in use at all locations.



IMP 124 used at PMC on 29 May 2012



IMP 124 used at AMC on 27 November 2012

IMP 124 – TAKE CONTROL OF / YOUR BILLS WITH / mybills.ie

This slogan continued to be used at all locations throughout 2012 except when replaced by IMP 126, IMP 127, IMP 128 and, during the Christmas period, by IMP 93.

Other

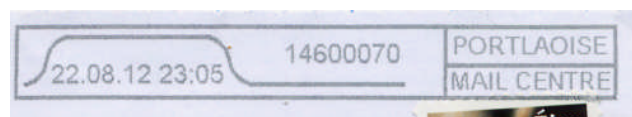


This unusual version of the ILPS machine cancellation incorporating a series of horizontal lines in place of a slogan was noted during November 2012.



An undated ÍOCTHA cancel (see illustration above) was also noted used at DMC on 8 November 2012 (tag code 3985).

FLATS SORTING MACHINES (FSM)



New FSM cancellation used at PMC on 22 August 2012 on small DL size envelope

The new type of postmark shown above, first seen with a date of 22 August 2012 was applied by a "CFSM" (compact flats sorting machine), built by Selex Eltag in Genoa, Italy. According to the company's website, the SELEX Eltag Compact Flat Sorter Machine, which was designed in the mid-1990s to sort flat mail with very high productivity and reliability, remains the most compact and flexible system in its category. The first use of five CFSMs was at PMC.

In order to deal with different sizes of envelopes and increase the potential of ensuring that stamps are not placed beside each other receive a cancellation, 12 different cancellation marks are programmed into the printer controller software. The format illustrated above was only noted on a DL size envelope and may have been an example of live testing. Apart from a further example dated 20 September 2012, this layout has not been seen on any subsequent date. FSM cancellations are normally reserved for use on larger than C5 size envelopes.



FSM postmark used at PMC on 30 August 2012

The "regular" format as shown above was in use by the end of August 2012.



FSM postmark used at PMC on 29 November 2012 incorporating "ÍOCHTA / POSTAGE PAID"

The postmark also exists with the words "ÍOCHTA / POSTAGE PAID" added at bottom left. Note the incorrect spelling of "ÍOCHTA" (should be "ÍOCTHA") in all the paid cancels listed here. The sequence number within the postmark is preceded with a machine and time reference (by half-hour i.e. 45 = 22.30 +). The PMC machine reference is "1".



FSM postmark used at AMC on 22 October 2012



FSM postmark used at AMC on 4 January 2013 incorporating "ÍOCHTA / POSTAGE PAID" (also in use during 2012)

A machine was also installed at AMC by October 2012. It exists with and without "ÍOCHTA / POSTAGE PAID". The machine reference is "2".



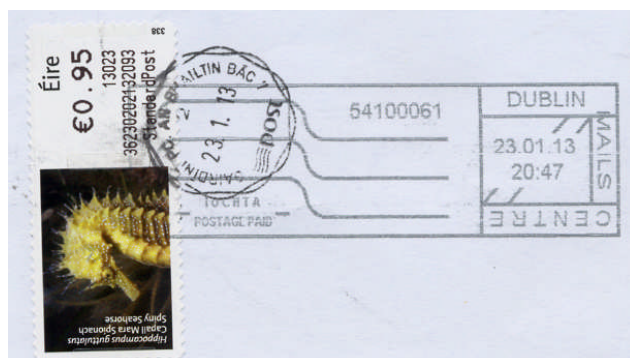
FSM postmark "DUBLIN 1" used at DMC on 19 November 2012 incorporating "ÍOCHTA"

DMC obtained two machines (postmarks initially inscribed DUBLIN 1 and DUBLIN 2), with the first machine noted in November and the second by mid-December. All examples seen to date include "ÍOCHTA" in the postmark.



FSM postmark "DUBLIN 2" used at DMC on 14 December 2012 incorporating "ÍOCHTA"

The machine references are "4" and "5" respectively. Presumably "3" has been allocated to the next machine to be installed – perhaps at CMC.



FSM postmark "DUBLIN MAILS CENTRE" used at DMC on 23 January 2013 incorporating "ÍOCHTA / POSTAGE PAID" (not seen in use in 2012)

In January 2013, the wordings "DUBLIN 1 MAIL CENTRE" and "DUBLIN 2 MAIL CENTRE" were replaced by "DUBLIN MAILS CENTRE". Note insertion of "S" after "MAIL". On the few examples I have seen to date, "MAILS" is slightly out of line and all include the words "ÍOCHTA / POSTAGE PAID". Earliest example seen was dated 2 January 2013.

The two new Selex Elsag CFSMs replace the two AEG/Siemens FSMs used at DMC since 1998.

BAUMANN MACHINES



Baumann postmark used at DMC on 7 December 2012

The Baumann machines appear to have been rarely used during the year. I noted examples primarily during December, used at both DMC (wavy lines) and PMC (wavy lines only and ÍOCTHA within wavy lines).

POSTAL SERVICE CENTRE MACHINES

New Printings and Locations

There have been no new printings of the Waterways issue since my 2011 listing, and therefore the listing which follows is confined to the Animal and Marine Life series. By the end of 2012, the second series of designs from the Animals and Marine Life series introduced in 2011 had appeared in all 34 machines. Sligo, the Waterford Institute of Technology and the eBay locations were the last machines to make the changeover from the Waterways designs.



Waterways set from GPO Dublin machine dated 26 September 2012 (E270) including new preset values of 65c and 90c

For a brief period during October 2012, the Waterways set reappeared in the GPO machine before reverting to the third series of Animal and Marine Life designs.

Arsing from the postal rates changes on 1 May for weight steps above 50g, the four preset values were altered in all machines on that date to 55c, 65c, 82c and 90c (previously 55c, 82c, 95c and €1.50). 65c and 90c are the 51g to 100g letter rates for National and International destinations. The rates 65c and 90c did not represent any specific postal rate and therefore could not have been obtained from the machine prior to 1 May.

The machines at UCC and City Quay Waterford now issue stamps in complete strips. The machine located at the Applegreen Petrol Station on the M1 North, Lusk, Co. Dublin (9819001) was removed during October 2012 but as yet I'm unaware of its new location. The Tallaght machine was removed in January 2013 and has yet to be re-located.



Set of eight designs (series 3) from Dun Laoghaire (9810001) dated 1 January 2013 (F001)

The third series of Animals and Marine Life designs was first noted in the Merrion Shopping Centre machine in September 2012, and at the time of writing (February 2013), the new designs have been noted in 25 machines – see full listing on the following pages. The PSC set of eight designs is printed in the same order as the counter issue.

Desktop machines



Set of eight designs (series 2) from desktop machine dated 4 September 2012 (E248)

The rolls included in the desktop version of the PSC machine used by many commercial firms were changed over to the second series of Animals and Marine Life designs during 2012, i.e. the same designs issued as counter values and in PSC machines during 2011. As can be seen from the illustration of a strip dated 4 September 2012 (E248), the denomination continues to be included in a rectangular black box. See also note at the foot of page 22.

POSTAL SERVICE CENTRE MACHINES – LISTING AS OF FEBRUARY 2013

Animals and Marine Life				
Location	Series 2 (2011)	Series 3 (2012)	Ref. on stamp	Earliest Date Known Series 1 (1) Series 2 (2)
GPO Dublin	x	x	9801001	21 December 2011 (2) 31 October 2012 (3)
Dublin Airport - Terminal 1	x	x	9802001	By December 2011 (2) By November 2012 (3)
Blanchardstown Shopping Centre	x	x	9803001	By December 2011 (2) By November 2012 (3)
The Square Shopping Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24	x	x	9804001	By November 2011 (2) By September 2012 (3) Removed w/c 7 Jan. 2013 – note 1
Merrion Shopping Centre, Dublin 4	x	x	9805001	By October 2011 (2) By September 2012 (3)
Greystones Shopping Centre	x	x	9806001	By November 2011 (2) By January 2013 (3)
Ballincollig, Co. Cork (Supervalu)	x	x	9807001	By April 2012 (2) By February 2013 (3)
University College Cork (Students Union Building, College Road entrance)	x	x	9808001	By December 2011 (2) By November 2012 (3) Note 2
Applegreen Petrol Station, Naas Road, Dublin 22	x	x	9809001	By November 2011 (2) By October 2012 (3)
Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre (Marine Road), Co. Dublin (Basement floor)	x	x	9810001	By December 2011 (2) By October 2012 (3)
Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford	x	-	9811001	By August 2012 (2)
Scotch Hall Shopping Centre, Drogheda, Co. Louth (1st Floor, Customer Service Desk)	x	x	9812001	By December 2011 (2) By November 2012 (3)
The Marshes Shopping Centre, Dundalk, Co Louth (beside Penneys)	x	-	9813001	By December 2011 (2)
Temple Bar, Dublin 2 (Centra store)	x	x	9814001	By December 2011 (2) By October 2012
Charlestown Shopping Centre, St Margaret's Road, Dublin 11 (Dunnes Entrance)	x	x	9815001	By October 2011 (2) By November 2012 (3)
St James's Hospital, Dublin 8 (Inside main entrance)	x	x	9816001	By December 2011 (2) By October 2012 (3)
Ebay European HQ, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15	x	-	9817001	By December 2012 (2) Note 3
Sligo (Tesco – O'Connell St)	x	-	9818001	By July 2012 (2)
Applegreen Petrol Station, M1 North, Lusk, Co. Dublin	x	-	9819001	By November 2011 (2) Removed October 2012 – note 4
Pavilion Shopping Centre, Swords, Co. Dublin (near Service Desk)	x	x	9820001	By December 2011 (2) By November 2012 (3)
St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre, Dublin 2	x	x	9821001	By November 2011 (2) By October 2012 (3)

Animals and Marine Life (continued)				
Location	Series 2 (2011)	Series 3 (2012)	Ref. on stamp	Earliest Date Known Series 1 (1) Series 2 (2)
Trinity College, Arts Block, Dublin 2	x	x	9822001	By November 2011 (2) By November 2012 (3)
Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, Dublin 22	x	x	9823001	By November 2011 (2) By October 2012 (3)
Mahon Point Shopping Centre, Cork	x	x	9824001	By April 2012 (2) By February 2013 (3)
Dublin Airport - Terminal 2	x	x	9825001	By October 2011 (2) By November 2012 (3)
City Quay Shopping Centre, Waterford	x	-	9826001	By December 2011 (2)
McDonagh Junction Shopping Centre, Kilkenny	x	x	9827001	By April 2012 (2) By January 2013 (3)
Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre, Limerick	x	-	9828001	By July 2012 (2)
Fairgreen Shopping Centre, Carlow (no postbox)	x	x	9829001	By November 2011 (2) By December 2012 (3)
Midleton Shopping Centre, Co. Cork (Supervalu)	x	x	9830001	By January 2012 (2) By February 2013 (3)
Eastpoint Business Park, Dublin 3 (Munchies Café)	x	-	9831001	By December 2011 (2)
Bridgewater Shopping Centre, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	x	x	9832001	By November 2011 (2) By January 2013 (3)
Manor West Retail Park, Tralee, Co. Kerry	x	-	9833001	By March 2012 (2)
Swords PO, Pavilion Shopping Centre, Co. Dublin	x	x	9834001	By November 2011 (2) By November 2012 (3) Note 5

- Note 1 The machine was removed week commencing 7 January 2013. New location not yet known.
- Note 2 The machine at UCC only issued stamps as singles, not strips since at least April 2010. However, when obtaining the Animals and Marine Life (3) stamps in November 2012, the machine had reverted to strips.
- Note 3 The machine located at the Ebay HQ is for staff use only and is not accessible to the general public.
- Note 4 The machine was removed during October 2012. New location not yet confirmed.
- Note 5 The main post office in Swords moved to this location on Monday 8 November 2010. The machine is located inside the post office and is in addition to the PSC machine near the customer service desk beyond Eason's (9820001).



I have also recently obtained a used copy of the Waterways set with the 54c denomination in a rectangular black box. The stamp was printed on 4 May 2011 (D124). 4 May 2011 = D124 being the 124th day of 2011 (D = 2011 as the first year of use of these machines was 2008 = A). The boxed value format has not previously been recorded on the Waterways set.

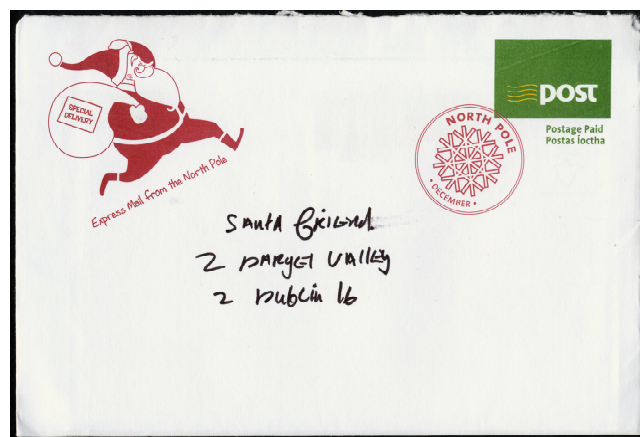
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS



July - An Post Advertising Card: During the month of July, An Post distributed a promotional card nationwide advertising the sale of "Commission Free" sterling and Dollar foreign currency at larger post offices. The cards, which gave the address of the nearest local office(s) offering this service, included a preprinted illustration of a 55c Hermit Crab booklet stamp (copying the US printing with irregular corner perforations and 2010 date imprint).



12 October - The Fitzpatrick-Thomas Letter of 1840: The earliest certain and unambiguous usage of the Penny Black in Ireland is on a letter posted in Dublin on 8 May 1840. This letter and the fascinating story behind it is the subject of a new booklet by Stephen Ferguson of An Post which was launched at Stampa 2012. The booklet, through the generous assistance of the owner of the letter, Dieter Michelson of Köhler-Auctions, contains an excellent facsimile of the original and is on sale at €8.50.



December – Santa Christmas Envelope: The basic envelope design remained the same as in 2011 and 2010 but the printed postmark and insert were altered.

December – An Post Christmas Card: The 2012 card had no philatelic connection.



11 May - Vatican City - The Eucharistic Congress: The Vatican City Post Office produced a pair of stamps to mark the holding of the Congress in Dublin. The 75c stamp features a Celtic cross at the Rock of Cashel and the €1 features the Ardagh Chalice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank my many philatelic friends for their help. Particular thanks to Maurice Barrett, John Lennon, Michael McNamara and Anthony Hughes for supplying information relating to the IMP slogan postmarks; also thanks to Tony Cassidy, Paul Coleman, Stephen Ferguson, Tony Finn, Michael Giffney, John Greer, Tom Hassett, Michael Kelly, Héloïse Mitchell, John Mullen, Declan O'Kelly of Cathedral Stamps, Pádraig O'Shea of Raven Stamps and Patrick Smithers for providing much valuable assistance and information; and, finally, to Héloïse Mitchell for proof reading the article.