



# Irish Philately

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That Was The Year That Was – 2016

Brian Warren



Top two rows of Cycling 72c x 4 sheet showing plate numbers and colour controls in the form of cycling shirts



Top two rows of Commissioners of Irish Lights 72c x 4 sheet showing plate numbers and colour controls in the form of miniature lighthouses

# THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2016

by Brian Warren

Note that illustrations of single stamps, pairs and postmarks (except inkjets - IJPs) are full size; illustrations of IJPs, blocks and strips, booklets, covers and stationery items are reproduced at between 50% and 66% of full size.

Postal rates went up on 21 July 2016, with the minimum inland and international rates increasing by 2c and 5c to 72c and €1.10 respectively. The first weight step limit remains at 100g.

## SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES (excluding Centenary of the Easter Rising issues)

The 2016 programme, comprising 26 regular gummed sheet stamps, 4 self-adhesive stamps, 2 miniature sheets and 4 booklets, was issued over 12 release dates at a total cost of €86.25. The major cost continues to be booklets. All counter regular gummed issues and one of the self-adhesive stamps were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 13 sheetlets was €235.88.

I have included the Centenary of the Easter Rising sheetlet and miniature sheets with the similar definitive issues.

The 2015 totals of 31 regular gummed stamps, 5 self-adhesive stamps, 2 miniature sheets and 4 booklets were issued over 16 release dates at a total cost of €88.13. All counter regular gummed issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 22 sheetlets was €328.16.

The reduction in the cost, despite the increase in postal rates, was due to the fall in the number of commemoratives in favour of the issue of the special Easter Rising issue in various formats during the year (see pages 8 to 13). When these definitives are taken into account the overall cost increased from €119.43 in 2015 to a massive €162.19 in 2016.

There were 5 single stamp issues compared to 2 in 2015, 7 in 2014, 5 in 2013, 4 in 2012, 7 in 2011 and 14 in both 2009 and 2008. The Greetings and Love and Marriage stamps are excluded in these totals as they are only available in self-adhesive pairs and booklets.

| Date of Issue | Description                                                                         | Cost  | Plate Numbers/Notes              | Paper | Perforation | Printer |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-------------|---------|
|               |  |       |                                  |       |             |         |
|               |  |       |                                  |       |             |         |
|               |  |       |                                  |       |             |         |
| 28 Jan.       | Irish Heart Foundation (50th Anniversary) - Heart                                   | 70c   | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B                | CCP3  | 13¼ x 13¼   | Cartor  |
| 11 Feb.       | Love & Marriage - Self-adhesive booklet - Heart                                     | €7.00 | 10 x N values with single design |       | 9 x 11      | Cartor  |
| 25 Feb.       | St Patrick's Day - St Patrick as shepherd                                           | €1.05 | 1A1A1A1AA/1B1B1B1B               | CCP3  | 14¼ x 14    | Cartor  |

(Table continued on next page)

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



|         |                                         |                                                 |           |                        |      |           |        |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|------|-----------|--------|
| 10 Mar. | Dogs                                    | - Irish Wolfhound                               | 70c       | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B      | CCP3 | 14 x 14¼  | Cartor |
|         |                                         | - Irish Red Setter                              | 70c       |                        |      |           |        |
|         |                                         | - Sheepdog                                      | 70c       |                        |      |           |        |
|         |                                         | - Kerry Blue                                    | 70c       |                        |      |           |        |
|         |                                         | - Miniature sheet (designs as per sheet stamps) | €2.80     | 4 x 70c                | CCP3 | 14 x 14¼  | Cartor |
| 7 Apr.  | Charles Gavan Duffy (Birth Bicentenary) |                                                 | 70c       | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B      | CCP3 | 14 x 14¼  | Cartor |
| 12 May  | Europa (55th Issue - Green)             | - Greener planet                                | 70c       | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B      | CCP3 | 13¾ x 13½ | Cartor |
|         |                                         | - "Forty shades of green"                       | €1.05     | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B      | CCP3 | 13¾ x 13½ | Cartor |
| 16 June | Wild Atlantic Way                       | - Horse riding, Grange, Co. Sligo               | 72c       | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B      | CCP1 | 13½ x 13½ | Cartor |
|         |                                         | - Fly fishing at Glenbeg Lough, Co. Cork        | 72c       |                        |      |           |        |
|         |                                         | - Cycling on the Aran Islands                   | €1.10     | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B      | CCP1 | 13½ x 13½ | Cartor |
|         |                                         | - Surfing at Inch, Co. Kerry                    | €1.10     |                        |      |           |        |
|         |                                         | - Prestige booklet (face value €14.56)          | €15.00    | Four panes - see below | CCP1 | 13½ x 13½ | Cartor |
| 23 June | Centenary of the Battle of the Somme    |                                                 | €1.05 (W) | 1A/1B                  | CCP3 | 14 x 14¼  | Cartor |

(Table continued on next page)

Date of  
Issue

Cost

Plate Numbers/Notes

Paper

Perforation

Printer



|          |                               |                                                   |        |   |                                |      |           |           |
|----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------|---|--------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|
| 18 Aug.  | Irish Shop Fronts             | - Vibes & Scribes                                 | 72c    | } | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B              | CCP3 | 12 x 12¼  | Cartor    |
|          |                               | - The Winding Stair                               | 72c    |   |                                |      |           |           |
|          |                               | - Thomas Moran                                    | €1.10  | } | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B              | CCP3 | 12 x 12¼  | Cartor    |
|          |                               | - Clerke                                          | €1.10  |   |                                |      |           |           |
| 15 Sept. | Cycling in Ireland            | - Commuting                                       | 72c    | } | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B              | CCP3 | 13¼ x 13¼ | Cartor    |
|          |                               | - Family & Leisure                                | 72c    |   |                                |      |           |           |
|          |                               | - Sport & Charity                                 | 72c    |   |                                |      |           |           |
|          |                               | - High Performance                                | 72c    | } | 4 x 72c - same designs         | CCP3 | 13¼ x 13¼ | Cartor    |
|          |                               | - Miniature sheet                                 | €2.88  |   |                                |      |           |           |
| 6 Oct.   | Commissioners of Irish Lights | - Working on a buoy                               | 72c    | } | 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B              | CCP3 | 13¼ x 13½ | Cartor    |
|          |                               | - Helicopter above Fanad lighthouse, Co. Donegal  | 72c    |   |                                |      |           |           |
|          |                               | - Technology                                      | 72c    |   |                                |      |           |           |
|          |                               | - ILV Granuaile                                   | 72c    |   |                                |      |           |           |
|          |                               | - Prestige booklet (face value €11.52)            | €13.00 |   | Four panes - see below         | CCP3 | 13¼ x 13½ | Cartor    |
| 3 Nov.   | Christmas<br>(46th Issue)     | - The Holy Family                                 | 72c    | } | Se-tenant – SOAR self-adhesive |      | 11 x 11¼  | CCL Label |
|          |                               | - The Three Wise Men                              | €1.10  |   |                                |      |           |           |
|          |                               | - Booklet (Christmas decorations) - self-adhesive | €18.00 |   | 26 x 72c, i.e. one free stamp  |      | 11¼ x 11¼ | Cartor    |

**Printers and Sheet Format:** All stamps were printed by the French based firm Cartor Security Printing ("Cartor") or the Irish firm CCL Label. Cartor used lithography to print the stamps; CCL Label Art used a HP Indigo high resolution digital printing process.



*Top margin of a St Patrick "A" sheetlet showing plate numbers and colour control spots*

Except for the Europa issue, all regular gummed sheet stamps were 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.

For the Dogs, Wild Atlantic Way, Cycling in Ireland and Irish Lights issues, each row/block was set out in the same se-tenant sequence within the sheet.

The format for the Europa stamps is referred to below and/or in the table above. All stamps have a full phosphor frame unless otherwise stated and bear the year imprint at the foot of the stamp.

**Paper/Gum:** As noted in my two previous articles, some issues in both 2014 and 2015 had revised paper/gum combinations.

In 2016, there was only one regular gummed issue which was not on CCP3 paper. This was the Wild Atlantic Way set, which was printed on phosphorised CCP1 paper.

**First Day Covers:** Unserved FDCs cost €1 (2015: €1). Special covers and pictorial cancels were available for all issues.

A presentation folder with all 18 (2015: 18) first day covers for the special and commemorative issues (including the two miniature sheets), and

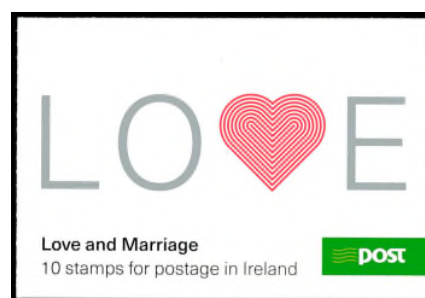
also the 1916 Easter Rising definitive SOAR set, was available from early December. Normally definitive covers are not included in this annual pack.

The price of €70 (2015: €65) compares with a cost of €59.21 (2015: €54.70) if bought as individual covers. 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.



### **Irish Heart Foundation:**

The Irish Heart Foundation is a charity dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. The design features an image of a heart over a cardiograph of a regular heartbeat.



**Love and Marriage (11th Issue):** The booklet is in self-adhesive format and incorporates ten "N" (National rate - then 70c, now 72c) stamps set out in one pane, folded twice, containing two rows of five stamps with an overlapping heart design. Surplus paper retained. The stamp measures 38mm x 26mm. The cover of the booklet features the word "LOVE" with a heart forming the "V". A pair of self-adhesives with plain backing and surplus paper intact is available from the philatelic bureau.

**St Patrick's Day:** The stamp depicts a young St Patrick in slavery as a shepherd, with Slemish Mountain in Co. Antrim in the background. The stamp measures 41mm x 30mm.

**IPC Annual Convention  
Malone Lodge Hotel,  
Eglantine Road,  
off Lisburn Road, Belfast  
Sunday 30 April 2017**



**Dogs:** The block of four stamps features four uniquely Irish dog breeds as listed. The stamp measures 30mm x 41mm. The same four stamps are included in the miniature sheet which measures 150mm x 90mm. The miniature sheet was also overprinted for Stampa 2016 - see below.



**Charles Gavan Duffy (Birth Bicentenary):** Duffy was one of the founders of The Nation, a weekly journal of Irish nationalist opinion. He also formed the Tenant Right League. He was elected for New Ross, Co. Wexford in 1852. Disillusioned with

Irish politics, he emigrated to Australia in 1855 and served as Prime Minister of Victoria in 1871-72. He was knighted in 1873. The design is based on an illustration of Charles Gavan Duffy by Charles Cullen. The stamp measures 30mm x 41mm.



**Europa (Think Green):** The 70c value is in a common design produced by Cyprus Post. Both values were printed in the normal ten-stamp format for Europa issues (5 rows of 2 horizontal stamps with a surrounding illustrative panel). The plate numbers are included in the left margin, with the plate numbers beside stamp 1. The printer's imprint is placed under stamp 2 of row 5 and the colour controls are in the left margin beside stamp 1 of row 5. The top and left margins of both sheetlets are perforated; the other two margins are imperforate. Each stamp measures 45mm x 28mm.



**Wild Atlantic Way:** The Wild Atlantic Way is a defined touring route from the Inishsowen Peninsula in Donegal down the west coast of Ireland ending in Kinsale in Co. Cork. The set of four stamps captures various scenes along the route. Each stamp measures 45mm x 28mm. *The Collector* refers to the paper as TR Yellow Green phosphor with PVA gum. The paper gives a bright CCP1 reaction under a UV lamp and because this issue has no white border around the designs, the phosphor is contained in the paper. You need to be in complete darkness to note the afterglow under a UV lamp.



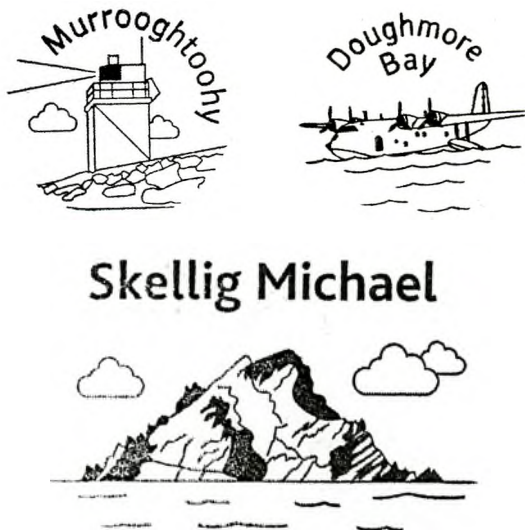
The prestige booklet contains the following four panes, all the stamps being fully perforated:-

- (1) Block of 4 x 72c - Horse riding, Grange, Co. Sligo;
- (2) Block of 4 x €1.10 - Cycling on the Aran Islands;
- (3) Block of 4 x €1.10 - Surfing at Inch, Co. Kerry; and
- (4) Block of 4 x 72c - Fly fishing at Glenbeg Lough, Co. Cork (*illustrated above*).

A faint map of the relevant region forms the backdrop on each pane. The panes are rouletted at left and stitched into the booklet covers.

Earlier in the year, An Post launched a Wild Atlantic Passport (cost €10) which can be presented at 124 post offices and a number of tourist offices along the route, at which a

specific cachet(s) relating to the location(s) in the area can be obtained. There are a total of 188 cachets to collect.



I illustrate a sample of three cachets above. Further details of the locations and post offices can be obtained at [www.wildatlanticway.com](http://www.wildatlanticway.com).



**Centenary of the Battle of the Somme:** The Battle of the Somme took place near the Somme River in France and lasted from 1 July to 18 November 1916. Poorly planned, poorly researched and poorly executed, what ensued was the biggest blood bath in the history of the British Army. By the time it ended, more than one million soldiers from both sides had died without making any significant alteration in the opening position. Among the dead were over 3,500 Irish soldiers, with many more wounded, all mostly on the very first day.

This was the third in a series of four sets remembering World War I. The stamp measures 44mm x 44mm and features an image of the Royal Irish Rifles from the Imperial War Museum. The W was to take account of the fact that the overseas postal rate was to change the following month. This is the first sheet stamp bearing a W (World) indicia. The only previous W stamps were in a Bird Definitive self-adhesive booklet issued prior to the change over to the Euro.



**Irish Shop Fronts:** The set of four shop fronts features some classical design elements that are fast disappearing in Ireland today. Each stamp measures 40mm x 26mm.

Vibes & Scribes in Cork City is an arts and hobby shop. The Winding Stair on Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin 1 is a bookshop - there is also a restaurant of the same name above the shop. Thomas Moran in Westport is a souvenir shop still in the same family, as is Clerke, a grocery shop in Skibbereen in West Cork.

I have visited the Dublin, Cork and Westport locations and can confirm that only Thomas Moran has a postcard featuring the shop. I have seen an old postcard for Clerke in Skibbereen but do not know if it is still available. Another interesting fact is that the Cork, Skibbereen and Westport shops are all located in Bridge Street.



**Cycling in Ireland:** The stamps feature various aspects of cycling in Ireland. Note that all the cyclists are wearing a protective helmet; but this is not the case with the cyclists shown on the €1.10 Wild Atlantic Way stamp issued earlier in the year. The colour controls take the form of cycling shirts (see *illustration on front cover*). Note also that a bicycle is cleverly incorporated into the word "Cycling" on each stamp. Each stamp measures 36mm x 36mm. The miniature sheet contains a block of four of the same stamps.

Separate first day cover designs were available for the single set and the miniature sheet. The postmark was the same for both covers. The

miniature sheet was also overprinted for the Cork Stamp and Coin Exhibition - see below.

**Commissioners of Irish Lights:** This very attractive set appears to be a popular seller at the bureau. Each stamp measures 45mm x 28mm. The ILV Granuaile (*bottom right stamp in block*) is pictured passing Valentia Lighthouse at Cromwell Point. Rathlinobearne Lighthouse in Co. Donegal is featured on the first day cover. The same lighthouse is also featured on the front of the prestige booklet which contains four panes of stamps. The colour controls take the form of miniature lighthouses (see *illustration on front cover*).



Each pane in the booklet includes a set of the four stamps shown as individual stamps (see illustration). All stamps are fully perforated.

The panes are rouletted at left and stitched into the booklet covers. Each pane has a backdrop illustration as follows:-

- (1) A view of the bridge on the ILV Granuaile;
- (2) Rockabill Lighthouse off Skerries, Co. Dublin;
- (3) Fastnet Rock Lighthouse, off the southwest coast in Co. Cork (*illustrated above*); and
- (4) ILV Granuaile alongside an East Cardinal Buoy.

Cardinal marks or buoys (North, East, South and West) are used in conjunction with the compass to indicate the direction from the mark on the buoy in which the deepest navigable water lies. This helps to draw attention to a bend, junction or fork in a channel, or to mark the end of a shoal.

**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 (72c) and 2 (€1.10), with the date code of 16308 which corresponds to 3 November 2016. Complete rolls as issued

to post offices contained 600 stamps numbered 1 to 600, i.e. 300 se-tenant pairs, and any value could be obtained.



Each stamp measures 56mm x 25mm. They replaced the Easter Rising definitive issue whilst on sale. The stamps, which each measure 56mm x 25mm, have the usual 3 phosphor bars.

The self-adhesive booklet issue, which is similar to previous Christmas booklets in layout, contains 26 x 72c 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 frames. Each stamp measures 25mm x 30mm. A pair of self-adhesives from the booklet with normal booklet 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 2016, including a pair of the Love and Marriage self-adhesive booklet stamp and a pair of the Christmas booklet self-adhesive stamp, together with the two Christmas SOAR stamps, but excluding all booklets and all miniature sheets; the 1916 Easter Rising sheetlet is included in the pack – a total of 48 stamps with a face value of €40.19. Cost €45.

**Year Book:** The bilingual book contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2016, including both regular gummed and self-adhesive stamps as included in the year pack, together with the two miniature sheets. The 1916 Easter Rising sheetlet is included but not the four Easter Rising miniature sheets - a total of 48 stamps plus 2 miniature sheets with a face value of €45.87 are pre-mounted in the year book. Total printing of 1,500 standard copies and 100 leather-bound editions. Cost €75 (leather edition: €210).

# CENTENARY OF THE EASTER RISING DEFINITIVES AND COMMEMORATIVES

| Date of Issue | Description                                                                         | Cost    | Notes                                                                                | Perforation | Printer       |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
|               |    |         |    |             |               |
|               |   |         |    |             |               |
|               |  |         |  |             |               |
| 21 Jan.       | Centenary of the Easter Rising Definitives                                          |         |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - Thomas Clarke, Seán Mac Diarmada & Éamonn Ceannt                                  | 70c     | } <u>Leaders and Icons</u>                                                           | 11 x 11     | Label Art     |
|               | - Pádraig Pearse, Joseph Plunkett & Thomas MacDonagh                                | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - James Connolly & Starry Plough Flag                                               | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - The Irish Republic Flag                                                           | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - The Proclamation                                                                  | 70c     | } <u>Easter Week</u>                                                                 | 11 x 11     | Label Art     |
|               | - Seán Foster                                                                       | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - Louisa Nolan                                                                      | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - Sir Francis Fletcher -Vane & Francis Sheehy-Skeffington                           | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - Constable James O'Brien & Seán Connolly                                           | 70c     | } <u>Participants</u>                                                                | 11 x 11     | Label Art     |
|               | - Michael Malone & William Malone                                                   | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - Dr Kathleen Lynn & Elizabeth O'Farrell                                            | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - Jack Doyle & Tom McGrath                                                          | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - GPO, Sackville Street                                                             | 70c     | } <u>The Aftermath</u>                                                               | 11 x 11     | Label Art     |
|               | - Children gathering timber for fuel                                                | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - Prisoners from Richmond Barracks                                                  | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
|               | - Roger Casement                                                                    | 70c     |                                                                                      |             |               |
| 21 Jan.       | Centenary of the Easter Rising Definitives - National                               | €7.00   | 10 x 70c GPO, Sackville Street                                                       | 14 x 14     | Cartor        |
|               | (Self-adhesive Booklets) - International                                            | €10.50  | 10 x €1.05 Roger Casement                                                            | 14 x 14     | Cartor        |
| 21 Jan.       | Centenary of the Easter Rising Definitives                                          | 70c x 2 | €70 per roll of 100                                                                  | 11¼ x 11    | Ashton-Potter |
|               | - Wrapped coil (self-adhesive)                                                      |         | (Two designs - The Proclamation and The Irish Republic Flag)                         |             |               |

(Table continued on next page)

| Date of Issue | Description                                                                        | Cost    | Notes                                                                                                                 | Perforation                                        | Printer       |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
|               |  |         |                                                                                                                       |                                                    |               |
| 24 Mar.       | Centenary of the Easter Rising Definitives - Sheetlet                              |         |                                                                                                                       |                                                    |               |
|               | - Thomas Clarke, Seán Mac Diarmada & Éamonn Ceannt                                 | 70c     | 1A1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B1B                                                                                             |                                                    |               |
|               | - Pádraig Pearse, Joseph Plunkett & Thomas MacDonagh                               | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     |                                                    |               |
|               | - James Connolly & Starry Plough Flag                                              | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     | <u>Leaders and Icons (4)</u>                       |               |
|               | - The Irish Republic Flag                                                          | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     |                                                    |               |
|               | - Constable James O'Brien & Seán Connolly                                          | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     | Printed by Cartor                                  |               |
|               | - Michael Malone & William Malone                                                  | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     |                                                    |               |
|               | - Dr Kathleen Lynn & Elizabeth O'Farrell                                           | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     | <u>Participants (4)</u>                            |               |
|               | - Jack Doyle & Tom McGrath                                                         | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     |                                                    |               |
|               | - The Proclamation                                                                 | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     | Paper: CCP3                                        |               |
|               | - Seán Foster                                                                      | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     |                                                    |               |
|               | - Louisa Nolan                                                                     | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     | <u>Easter Week (4)</u>                             |               |
|               | - Sir Francis Fletcher -Vane & Francis Sheehy-Skeffington                          | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     |                                                    |               |
|               | - GPO, Sackville Street                                                            | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     | Perforation: 13½ x 13½                             |               |
|               | - Children gathering timber for fuel                                               | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     |                                                    |               |
|               | - Prisoners from Richmond Barracks                                                 | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     | <u>The Aftermath (4)</u>                           |               |
|               | - Roger Casement                                                                   | 70c     | }                                                                                                                     |                                                    |               |
| 14 Apr.       | Centenary of the Easter Rising Definitives - Miniature Sheets                      |         |                                                                                                                       |                                                    |               |
|               | - Leaders & Icons                                                                  |         | }                                                                                                                     | Sold as a unit in presentation folder - see below. | Cartor        |
|               | - Easter Week                                                                      | €15.00  | }                                                                                                                     | Perforation: 13½ x 13½                             |               |
|               | - Participants                                                                     |         | }                                                                                                                     | Paper: CCP3                                        |               |
|               | - The Aftermath                                                                    |         | }                                                                                                                     |                                                    |               |
| 21 Apr.       | Centenary of the Easter Rising Definitives - Sheetlet                              |         |                                                                                                                       |                                                    |               |
|               | - Souvenir folder                                                                  | €15.00  |                                                                                                                       | Same sheetlet as issued on 24 March (listed above) | Cartor        |
|               | - Book and sheetlet                                                                | €19.99  |                                                                                                                       | Same sheetlet as issued on 24 March (listed above) | Cartor        |
| 21 July       | Centenary of the Easter Rising Definitives - National Booklets (Self-adhesive)     | €7.20   | 10 x 72c Dr Kathleen Lynn & Elizabeth O'Farrell                                                                       | 14 x 14                                            | Cartor        |
|               | - International                                                                    | €11.00  | 10 x €1.10 Jack Doyle & Tom McGrath                                                                                   | 14 x 14                                            | Cartor        |
| 21 July       | Centenary of the Easter Rising Definitives - Wrapped coil (self-adhesive)          | 72c x 2 | €72.00 per roll of 100<br>(Two designs - Michael Malone & William Malone and Constable James O'Brien & Seán Connolly) | 11¼ x 11                                           | Ashton-Potter |

**Counter Issue:** A new definitive series replaced the Animals and Marine Life definitive series on 21 January 2016. This series will be on sale for one year only. As old stocks were used up, post offices changed over to the new rolls. There are 16 designs as listed, and the bureau set, which is numbered 1 to 16, is split into four strips of four. The strips sold by the bureau have the sixteen designs set out in the same order as the SOAR set sold at post office counters. Strips of any length can be obtained from post office counters. All counter rolls are printed in the same sequence. The date code 16021 corresponds with 21 January 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 previous SOAR issues. As with previous issues, the surplus paper is removed between stamps. In addition, all of the stamps contain image recognition technology to allow Smartphones to link to specially compiled online material related to the Rising. The same technology was used on *"The Five Senses"* issue of 2015.

There were four separate first day covers, with four stamps on each cover. Each cover bears the same image of the GPO but is inscribed "Part 1 of a set of 4 covers", etc.

The set of sixteen stamps has been grouped into four categories: *Leaders and Icons*; *Participants*; *Easter Week*; and *The Aftermath*. *Leaders and Icons* features the seven leaders, Thomas J. Clarke, Seán Mac Diarmada, Thomas MacDonagh, Pádraig H. Pearse, Éamonn Ceannt, James Connolly and Joseph Plunkett, who signed the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. The Irish Republic flag completes this category of four stamps.

The category *Participants* highlights the forces involved in the fighting. Dublin Metropolitan Police Constable James O'Brien and rebel Sean Connolly became the Rising's first two fatalities. The image of the Malone brothers demonstrates the complexity of Irish identities and responses to the war and the Rising. Lieutenant Michael Malone fought with the Irish Volunteers and was killed during the battle of Mount Street Bridge. His brother, Sergeant William Malone of the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers, was killed in the battle of Ypres, in May 1915. Dr Kathleen Lynn and Elizabeth O'Farrell represent the role played by female combatants. Dr Lynn was a medical campaigner and suffragist, and an officer with the Irish Citizen Army. Cumann na mBan member Elizabeth O'Farrell played a prominent

role in the general surrender. Emphasising the role of the rank-and-file, the image featuring Jack Doyle and Tom McGrath is one of only two surviving photographs of the rebels taken inside the GPO during Easter Week.

The *Easter Week* strip includes stamps featuring a detail from the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, together with images portraying wider civilian experiences. John F (Seán) Foster was among the youngest of the forty children killed during Easter Week. Louisa Nolan risked her life tending to the wounded at the battle of Mount Street Bridge. Sir Francis Fletcher-Vane and Francis Sheehy-Skeffington are linked to one of the most infamous incidents of the rebellion, the killing of several civilians, including Sheehy-Skeffington, on the orders of Captain J. C. Bowen-Colthurst.

The category *The Aftermath* focuses on the consequences of the Rising. The GPO Sackville Street on the first stamp is the most iconic location of the Easter Rising. Children gathering timber for firewood demonstrates how ordinary people were caught up in the events of Easter Week and also illustrates the poverty of the era. The image of two unidentified prisoners highlights the role of rebels from ordinary backgrounds. Sixteen of the most prominent rebels were singled out for execution in the aftermath of the rebellion, including former member of the British consular service Roger Casement, who had previously won international recognition as a result of his humanitarian work in the Belgian Congo and South America. He was also honoured for his humanitarian work by a stamp from Iceland in 2016.

**€70.00 Self-adhesive Coil:** The roll is issued as a shrink-wrapped coil of 100 stamps. There are two designs in each roll – The Proclamation and the Irish Republic Flag. The rolls of 100 stamps continue to be reeled vertically (top feed) with no joins, commencing with a small white label which measures 25mm x 17mm. Each stamp measures 25mm x 30mm and has a yellow phosphor frame.

There are five labels in the roll, each with the same three-line wording in black "See reverse / for quantity / remaining". The numbers 100, 80, 60, 40 and 20 are printed on the reverse of the respective labels. This is the same make-up as previous definitive printings by Ashton-Potter. The roll is sealed with a peelable adhesive printed slate-lilac coloured leader which can be easily removed and is not permanently attached

to the stamps/labels. There is a number on each leader - my own leader is numbered 5. The surplus paper is removed between stamps on complete coils. A pair of stamps, but with surplus paper intact and on heavier backing paper, is available from the philatelic bureau.



**National €7.00 Self-adhesive Booklet:** The booklet contains 10 x 70c small vertical format stamps showing the GPO Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street), which is one of the designs included in the new SOAR counter issue. Each stamp measures 20mm x 24mm and has the usual yellow phosphor frame. Surplus paper retained. A pair of self-adhesives with normal booklet backing and with surplus paper also intact is available from the philatelic bureau.



**International €10.50 Self-adhesive Booklet:** The booklet contains 10 x €1.05 small vertical format stamps with the Roger Casement design, which is also one of the designs included in the SOAR counter issue. Each stamp measures 24mm x 20mm and has the usual yellow phosphor frame.

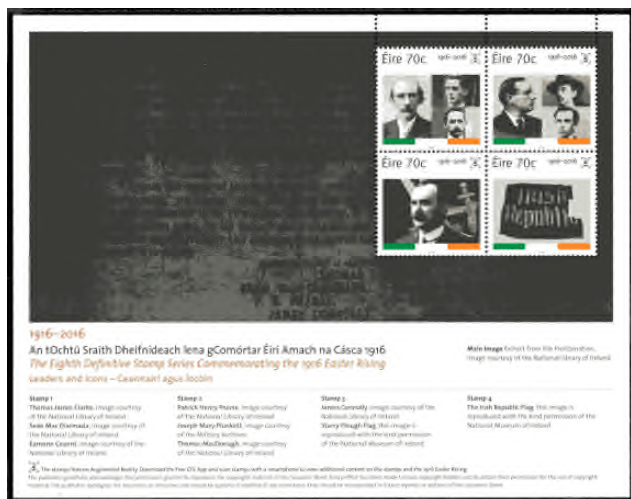
Surplus paper retained. A pair of self-adhesives with normal booklet backing and with surplus paper intact is available from the philatelic bureau. The booklet also contains 10 x small format airmail labels.



**Sheetlet and Book:** A gummed sheetlet of 16 stamps (4 x 4) reproducing the same designs as the earlier SOAR issue was released on 24 March. The overall size of the sheetlet is 170mm x 215mm and includes a monochrome image of the GPO Dublin in the top margin. The stamps can only be bought as a complete set. Each stamp measures 34mm x 32.5mm and has a phosphor frame. The sheetlet was also available from 21 April in a souvenir folder. No first day postmark was available. Note the use of six colour plates for this issue.

The sheetlet was included in a book "The 1916 Easter Rising" also released by An Post on 21 April and is attached to the inside of the back cover. The book was written by eminent historian Fearghal McGarry, a reader in Modern Irish History at the School of History and Anthropology at Queen's University Belfast. It draws on eye-witness accounts to assess this key turning-point in modern Irish history as McGarry explores the impact of events at the General Post Office, as well as setting the rebellion in its wider historical context. The book was sold out by January 2017.

This short-term definitive series was replaced in January 2017 with a new series on the theme "100 Irish Objects, a Selection". Initially, the new series will be available at main offices and will be gradually rolled out across the network as supplies of the 1916 rolls, coils and booklets are used up.



**Miniature Sheets:** Four large miniature sheets (190mm x 150mm) were issued as a unit in a Presentation Folder on 14 April. The tri-fold folder incorporates a large-scale reproduction of the Proclamation and a historical narrative.

The souvenir miniature sheets are cellophane wrapped and each features a block of four stamps with the same designs as in the SOAR and sheetlet issues i.e., 'Leaders and Icons', 'Participants', 'Easter Week' and 'The Aftermath'.

The individual stamps have a phosphor frame and are of the same format/size as the sheetlet issue. The folder was sold at €15 as compared to the face value of €11.20. I would advise collectors to remove the miniature sheets from the cellophane wrappers as I doubt if the latter are archivally safe for long-term storage. No first day postmark was available.

**Postal Rates Increase:** A further increase in postal rates came into effect on Thursday 21 July 2016. Two new booklets and roll as listed above and detailed below were issued on the same date. No first day postmark was available.



**National €7.20 Self-adhesive Booklet:** The booklet contains 10 x 72c small horizontal format stamps with the Dr Kathleen Doyle & Elizabeth O'Farrell design, which is one of the designs included in the SOAR counter issue. Each stamp measures 24mm x 20mm and has the usual yellow phosphor frame.

Surplus paper retained. A pair of self-adhesives with normal booklet backing and with surplus paper also intact is available from the philatelic bureau.



**International €11.00 Self-adhesive Booklet:** The booklet contains 10 x €1.10 small horizontal format stamps with the Jack Doyle & Tom McGrath design, which is also one of the designs included in the SOAR counter issue. Each stamp measures 24mm x 20mm and has the usual yellow phosphor frame.

Surplus paper retained. A pair of self-adhesives with normal booklet backing and with surplus paper intact is available from the philatelic bureau. The booklet also contains 10 x small format airmail labels.



**€72.00 Self-adhesive Coil:** The roll is issued as a shrink-wrapped coil of 100 stamps. There are two designs in each roll:-

- (a) Michael Malone & William Malone; and
- (b) Constable James O'Brien and Séan Connolly.

The rolls of 100 stamps continue to be reeled vertically (top feed) with no joins, commencing with a small white label which measures 25mm x 17mm. Each stamp measures 30mm x 25mm and has a yellow phosphor frame.

There are five labels in the roll, each with the same three-line wording in black "See reverse / for quantity / remaining". The numbers 100, 80, 60, 40 and 20 are printed on the reverse of the respective labels. This is the same make-up as previous definitive printings by Ashton-Potter. The roll is sealed with a peelable adhesive printed orange-red coloured leader which can be easily removed and is not permanently attached to the stamps/labels. Each leader is numbered - mine is numbered 10. The surplus paper is removed between stamps on complete coils. A pair of stamps, but with surplus paper intact, is available from the philatelic bureau.



**Desktop EasyPost Issue:** The 1916 Easter Rising SOARS were also made available to entities with EasyPost machines and thus appear with boxed values. One of the sixteen designs is illustrated above.



**Easter Cachet:** Although no special postmark was provided for either 27 March (Easter Sunday) or Sunday 24 April (the actual centenary date), a special cachet was available from 24 March (the day of issue of the sheetlet set). This could be used in combination with a

Baile Átha Cliath steel CDS for any Easter Rising stamp/card since that date.

The GPO was open for stamp sales (including the philatelic counter) on each of the three Sundays - 3, 10 and 17 April (but not on 27 March or 24 April).



*Privately produced cover  
with 24.4.16 CDS and Easter cachet*

In addition, it has been open every Sunday since 1 May provided the Witness History museum is open.

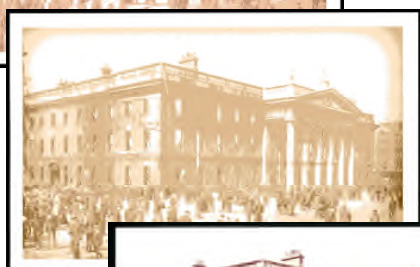
## POSTAL STATIONERY AND RELATED ITEMS

| Date of Issue | Description                                                                         | Cost  | Note                                                            | Printer                |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|               |  |       |                                                                 |                        |
| Jan. ?        | GPO in ruins after Easter Rising - Postcard                                         | €1.50 | 1st reprint (white card stock) - see notes on page 14           |                        |
| Mar.          | GPO in ruins after Easter Rising - Postcard                                         | €1.50 | 2nd reprint (darker image on cream card) - see notes on page 14 |                        |
| 24 Mar.       | Centenary of the Easter Rising - Postcards                                          | €5.00 | Set of seven cards - see notes on page 14                       |                        |
| Apr.          | James Connolly and GPO interior - Postcard                                          | €1.50 | Reprint - see notes on page 14                                  |                        |
| May           | GPO Witness History - Postcard (small format)<br>- Postcard (large format)          | -     | See notes on page 15<br>See notes on page 15                    |                        |
| 16 Sept.      | Culture Night - Postcard                                                            | -     | GPO Design - see notes on page 15                               | An Post Print & Design |

**Postcards:** A set of seven undenominated postcards was also released on the 14 April featuring images of the seven signatories to the Proclamation (grouped by affiliation to the three movements that organised the Rising – the Irish Republican Brotherhood, Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army), the Irish Republic flag, an extract from the Proclamation, the GPO and rebels Jack Doyle and Tom McGrath. They repeat seven of the sixteen designs on the various stamp issues. The cards are printed as one unit and folded accordion style with a horizontal line perforation between each card. Two of the cards are illustrated on page 13.

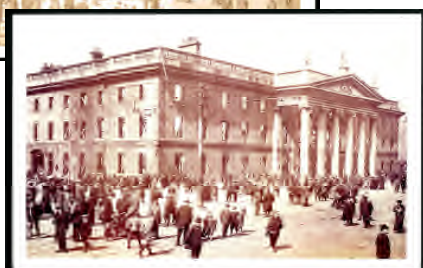


*Original  
issue  
(2009)*



*First  
reprint*

*Second  
reprint*



**Postal Stationery Reprints:** Two of the six postpaid postcards first released in July 2009 have been reprinted. Both cards relate to the Easter Rising and were reprinted due to an increase in sales during the Centenary Year.

The first postcard reprint features the GPO in ruins after the 1916 Easter Rising. The card appeared in early 2016 printed on white card as compared to cream card for the 2009 issue. The image is brighter but, like the original, has a somewhat "fuzzy" in appearance.

A second reprint of the same card appeared in March. This reprint has a far clearer and far darker image and is printed on cream card. The stamp imprint, featuring the Statue of Cúchulain design used for the 75th Anniversary of the Easter Rising stamp issued in 1991, remains unaltered.



*Postage Paid  
Postas loctha*

*Original issue*



*Postage Paid  
Postas loctha*

*Reprint*



The second card to be reprinted was that reproducing the well known image, ascribed to Walter Paget, which shows the wounded James Connolly in the GPO on a stretcher, with Pádraig Pearse at his side.

The 1966 set of seven stamps marking the 50th anniversary of the Rising is superimposed on the picture. The colours of the illustrated stamps on the reprinted card are slightly darker but the main difference is the imprinted stamp featuring the Statue of Cúchulain (see *stamp illustrations above*). The overall image is darker and, in particular, the lettering of the Proclamation wording is blue-green rather than the olive-green on the original card. The card is printed on cream stock. I first noted this card at the bureau stand in the RDS at the Spring Stamp & Coin Fair.

All cards still refer to "2009" in the copyright notice on the reverse side. I'm surprised that, to date, the card reproducing the Proclamation in full has seen no change.

**IPC Annual Convention  
Malone Lodge Hotel,  
Eglantine Avenue.  
off Lisburn Road, Belfast  
Sunday 30 April 2017**



**GPO Witness History Postcard (small format):** A small postcard (148mm x 105mm) was available in the GPO Dublin during the summer period - from May 2016. The card was freely available at the philatelic counter and was also given out at the main stamp counters when a purchase was made by a customer. The card shows a front shot of the GPO in Dublin through a fisheye lens. The reverse gives a short history of the GPO and promotes the An Post GPO Witness History exhibition. There were shade variations on the picture side of the card. The card did not bear any stamp.



*Card at right with black omitted*

**GPO Witness Postcard (large format):** A larger card (208mm x 149mm) also promoted the GPO Witness History exhibition and was first made available in May 2016. This was also given out freely in the GPO and included on the reverse was a request to go online and vote for the exhibition Visitor Centre in the Irish Architectural Awards for 2016 (Public Choice Award). In addition, there was a competition

which required the card to be sent to a PO Box before 17 June 2016. The obverse of the card included a picture of the courtyard area on the roof of the GPO which forms part of the exhibition. There was an even wider variety of colour variations on the picture side of this card, including, the black omitted on some cards. Although the card did not bear any stamp, no postage stamp was necessary if posted in the Republic of Ireland to the preprinted PO Box address in Dublin.

The Visitor Centre did not win an award, with the Public Choice award going to the Public Realm Space & Sculpture, Peter Street, Westport by Simon Wall, Architects' Section Mayo County Council.



**Culture Night Postcard:** The large format undenominated postcard measures 210mm x 148mm and shows the same fisheye illustration of the GPO Dublin as used in 2015 (with the date inscription changed to 2016). Most cards were handed out with a €1.10 self-adhesive booklet stamp and airmail label already affixed to the card.

There was no special cancellation. Mint cards (without a stamp) were subsequently available at the philatelic bureau counter. The card was given out free of charge. The obverse side of the card is illustrated above.

## **STAMPA 2017**



**GRIFFITH COLLEGE CAMPUS,  
SOUTH CIRCULAR ROAD, DUBLIN 8**

**Friday 6th October to Sunday 8th October 2017**

**Free Parking, Free Wi-Fi, Full Catering Facilities**

**see [www.stampa.ie](http://www.stampa.ie) for further details**

# EXHIBITION AND SOCIETY SOUVENIRS AND POSTMARKS

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



|          |                                                              |                                                   |        |   |                                                         |      |           |  |        |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------|---|---------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------|--|--------|
| 10 Apr.  | Spring Stamp & Coin Fair                                     | - €7 1916 Rising booklet                          | €12.00 | * | with black overprint - see below.                       |      |           |  | Mahons |
|          |                                                              | - Illustrated cover                               | €3.00  | # | with special postmark - see below.                      |      |           |  | DSS    |
| 7 May    | Dublin Stamp Society visit to Cavan & Leitrim Railway Museum |                                                   |        |   |                                                         |      |           |  |        |
|          |                                                              | - Illustrated cover                               | €3.00  | # | with special postmark - see below.                      |      |           |  | DSS    |
| 30 Sept. | Stampa 2016 (Members' Souvenirs)                             |                                                   |        |   |                                                         |      |           |  |        |
|          |                                                              | - 1916 Easter Rising M/S (Leaders & Icons)        |        | * | 600 overprinted                                         | CCP3 | 13½ x 13½ |  | Mahons |
|          |                                                              | - Dogs M/S                                        | €20.00 | * | 600 overprinted                                         | CCP3 | 14 x 14¼  |  | Mahons |
|          |                                                              | - 1916 Reproduction postcard featuring GPO Dublin |        | * | 800 printed with Stampa imprint                         |      |           |  | Mahons |
| 30 Sept. | Stampa 2016 (Public Souvenir)                                |                                                   |        |   |                                                         |      |           |  |        |
|          |                                                              | - 1916 Easter Rising M/S (The Aftermath)          | €5.00  | * | 600 overprinted                                         | CCP3 | 13½ x 13½ |  | Mahons |
| 14 Oct.  | Set of 3 official Stampa covers                              |                                                   | €9.00  | # | See note below (covers also sold separately at €3 each) |      |           |  |        |
| 12 Nov.  | Cork Philatelic/Stamp & Coin Exhibition                      | - Booklet                                         | €3.50  | * | 125 printed (contains a pair of O'Donovan Rossa stamps) |      |           |  |        |
|          |                                                              | - Serviced illustrated cover                      | €2.00  | # | 100 printed (cover bears O'Donovan Rossa stamp)         |      |           |  |        |
|          |                                                              | - Cycling miniature sheet with black o/p          | €8.00  | * | 500 overprinted                                         | CCP3 | 13¼ x 13¼ |  | Mahons |
|          |                                                              | - Cycling miniature sheet with red o/p            | €50.00 | * | 100 overprinted                                         | CCP3 | 13¼ x 13¼ |  | Mahons |

\* : The production and overprinting of the miniature sheets and booklets 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 Dromod covers were prepared by the Dublin Stamp Society. The Cork booklet and cover were produced by the Cork Philatelic Society. The Stampa covers were produced by the organisers and the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland.

None of the items listed above were sold by An Post

**Spring Stamp & Coin Fair:** This annual show was held at the RDS in Dublin on Sunday 10 April. The front cover of the 2016 Centenary of the Easter Rising National booklet was overprinted by the organisers for the show and numbered. Total printing of 400 booklets. The overprint reads "Coin & Stamp Fair RDS 2016".

An Post was in attendance and provided a special postmark illustrating the Statue of Hibernia which is one of three statues above the GPO in Dublin. This was the second of a series of three cancellations during the three-year period (2015-2017), with the statue of *Mercury* to follow in 2017. The Dublin Stamp Society provided an illustrated cover which was available serviced with a gummed stamp(s) and the special postmark. Total printing of 70 covers.

The Irish Heart Foundation ("IHF") also offered (for a €3 donation) a plain DL sized envelope at the show. The cover has one of the IHF stamps attached cancelled with the show postmark together with a carmine coloured IHF cachet.



**Dublin Stamp Society - Visit to Cavan & Leitrim Railway Museum:** The Dublin Stamp Society visited the museum in Dromod, Co Leitrim on 7 May 2016. As well as railway memorabilia and rolling stock, the museum has a varied array of vehicles including buses, fire brigades and small planes. They are currently rebuilding a steam engine purchased from Scotland. In addition, they have reconstructed a short 1km line of track on which they run a diesel train and coach. Dromod was the southerly point of the narrow gauge Cavan & Leitrim Railway which closed on 31 March 1959. The museum is situated beside the Irish rail mainline station of Dromod on the Dublin-Sligo line and is well worth a visit. An Post provided a special postmark which shows an outline of a small steam engine and the Society produced an illustrated cover for

the event. Total printing of 70 serviced covers. Note, "Dromod", as used in the postmark, is the Irish version of Dromod.



**Stampa 2016:** The various souvenirs as listed were posted to members in advance, with certain members receiving them on 30 September. The two Easter Rising miniature sheets had a single line overprint in black which reads "STAMPA 2016". The Dogs miniature sheet also has a two-line overprint in black which reads "Stampa / 14th-16th October 2016". All three miniature sheets were sold out (600 copies of each). The public souvenir sold out on the opening day of the exhibition.

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

- 14 October: Irish Setter dog (Dogs issue);
- 15 October: Sword of Light (any Easter Rising issue); and
- 16 October: Fanad Lighthouse (any Irish Lights stamp).



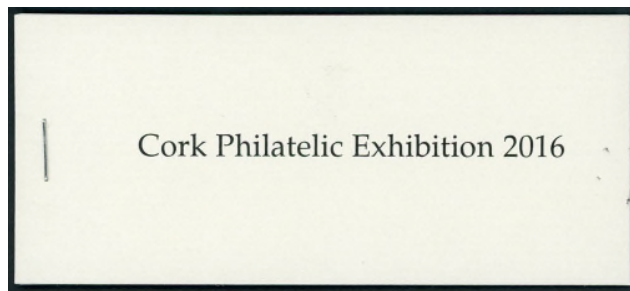
The three postmarks listed above and illustrated on the previous page were designed by John Mullen and Brian Warren. The Sword of Light, as shown on the 15 October postmark, was a symbol used in 1966 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Rising. There was a set of three official covers showing an Irish red setter, the Irish Republic flag and Fanad lighthouse. There are two versions of the postmarks - large format with a diameter of 34mm and a smaller format in line with the size of first day cancels. The smaller format was used by An Post during the show. The larger format was used on the pre-prepared Stampa/FPSI covers (see above).

The Awards Dinner was held in Wynns Hotel, Dublin 1 on 15 October (56 diners present). The menu was printed on the reverse of the 1916 reproduction postcard, as was the dinner ticket (60 of each produced). One of the gummed 70c Easter Rising stamps was affixed to each menu postcard and cancelled with the Stampa cancellation for 15 October.



**October Coin Fair:** The 2016 Stampa was a "Stamp only" show in the smaller Griffith College venue. The following week a separate Coin Show was held as part of the 50 Plus Expo in the

RDS, Dublin 4 (21-23 October 2017). A local dealer as agent for the Isle of Man Post Office provided a cachet as illustrated (23 October only).



### Cork Philatelic Exhibition/ Cork Stamp & Coin Exhibition:

The Cork Philatelic Society held its annual show in the Imperial Hotel, Cork in association with Raven Stamps. The front cover of this year's booklet refers to the "Cork Philatelic Exhibition 2016" and contains a pair of the

O'Donovan Rossa stamps issued in 2015. The Society also produced an illustrated cover and a special postmark was available from An Post. All covers were sold with the stamp affixed and cancelled as the stamp was no longer on sale from An Post.

Raven Stamps arranged for the overprinting of the Cycling miniature sheet. The three-line overprint reads "CORK STAMP / & COIN SHOW / November 12th 2016". All souvenirs were individually numbered (booklets and sheets).

### OTHER ITEMS

#### December The Post Office in Ireland - An Illustrated History:

This carefully researched and exquisitely illustrated book draws on An Post's own and many other archive sources to present for the first time a comprehensive history of the Irish Post Office. The book was written by Stephen Ferguson, Assistant Secretary of An Post and runs to over 400 pages. It retails at €24.99 and is available online from the bureau and leading booksellers. Highly recommended.

**December – Santa Christmas Envelope:** The envelope and printed postmark was the same as used since 2014.

**An Post Christmas Card:** The 2016 card reproduced the external courtyard on the roof of the GPO which forms part of the 1916 Witness Exhibition at the GPO.

## SLOGANS USED ON INTEGRATED LETTER PROCESSING SYSTEM MACHINES (ILPS - NEC Japanese machines in use at all four mail centres)

(Illustrations of all slogan postmarks have been reduced)

Only one new slogan was introduced in 2016, together with one repeated slogan. They were both in use at Athlone Mails Centre (AMC), Cork Mails Centre (CMC), Dublin Mails Centre (DMC) and Portlaoise Mails Centre (PMC).



ILPS 137 used at PMC on 22.3.2016



ILPS 137 used at DMC on 17.2.2016

### ILPS 137 - Remember to / Use Your / EIRCODE

First seen at DMC on 17 February replacing ILPS 134 (see below). It was in use at all four locations by the following day, 18 February. The slogan continued in use throughout 2016 at all four mail centres and was still in use as of February 2017.

### Continued use of Slogan



ILPS 134 used at PMC ON 16.2.2016

### ILPS 134 - Grow your / business with / Admailer.ie

The An Post Admailer slogan, which was used throughout 2015 except when replaced by the Hairybaby slogans (ILPS 132 & 133), continued in use into 2016 until replaced by ILPS 137.

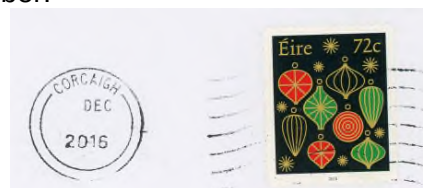
## OTHER CANCELATIONS



**Universal Machine Use:** The old style "POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / POST" slogan was used with the L die on a Universal machine in Dublin during December 2016. All examples seen are with the slogan inverted with the only discernable date being 19 December.



The "HAPPY CHRISTMAS / POST" slogan was used in Dublin with H die, again in December, mostly undated but also noted dated 19 December.



A universal machine die (no slogan) was also used in Cork throughout 2016.

**New Experimental Tagging System:** The new experimental tagging system noted in use during 2015 was not seen during 2016.

## COMPACT FLATS SORTING MACHINES (CFSMs - built by Selex Eltag in Genoa, Italy and in use at all four mail centres)

I have NOT noted any changes in the CFSM postmarks during 2016.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank my many philatelic friends for their help. Particular thanks to John Lennon and Michael McNamara for supplying information relating to the ILPS slogan postmarks; also thanks to Pat Casey, Paul Coleman, Stephen Ferguson, Tony Finn, John Greer, Michael Kelly, Héloïse Mitchell, John Mullen, Declan O'Kelly of Cathedral Stamps, Pádraig O'Shea of Raven Stamps and Lee Wolverton of Rodgau Philatelie for providing much valuable assistance and information; and, finally, thanks to Héloïse Mitchell for proof reading the article.