

the Revealer

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

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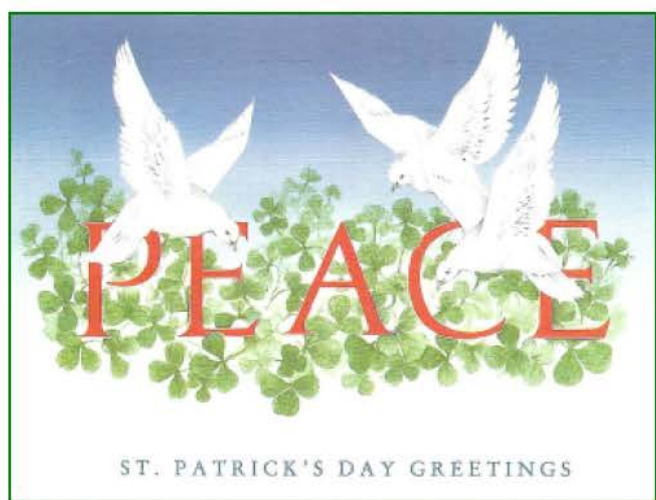
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Bento

In my last Message I mentioned that the EPA would be holding a general meeting at STAMPA 2012 and promised further details for this issue. STAMPA 2012 will be held October 12-14 at the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) in Ballsbridge, Dublin. Most of your officers and Board members from the States will be staying at Bewley Hotel Ballsbridge, a short walk from the RDS. The hotel has an extensive web site at www.bewleyshotels.com/ballsbridge. If you visit the site you will see photos of the facility, special offers, and competitive rates starting at approximately 60 euros per night. I plan to arrive Thursday morning after an overnight flight and depart on Monday.

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

The Association Secretary provides Coordinators with names and addresses of new members. Coordinators welcome new members and invite them to join the local Chapter.

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Members reside in NJ, NY, PA
Coordinator: David J. Brennan,
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James Hoban Chapter

Members reside in MD, VA, DC
Coordinator: Myron Hill
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Benicia, CA 94510
beniciaal@yahoo.com

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Members reside in Southern CA
Coordinator: William A. O'Connor,
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Fallbrook, CA 92028

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Summer: May 1; Fall: Aug. 1; Winter: Nov. 1; Spring: Feb. 1

Each Issue published about a month after above dates.

The Revealer ADVERTISING RATES

	size (inches)	per issue	4 issues (contract rate)
Full Page	7.375 X 9.75	\$160	\$550
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Half Page Vertical	3.625 X 9.75	\$90	\$320
Quarter Page	3.625 X 4.875	\$50	\$180
Eighth Page	3.625 X 2.50	\$30	\$105

CAMERA READY COPY REQUIRED

Contact Richard Kelly at kellyrd@sbcglobal.net

We will post the day and time of our meeting after we coordinate a bit more with the STAMPA officials. As I have stated previously, United States law requires that an Annual General Meeting be held within the country where we are incorporated. We will satisfy that requirement electronically.

Whether or not you attend STAMPA I encourage you to consider exhibiting at the show. As of the date I am writing this the information for STAMPA 2012 has not appeared on the internet, but you can visit STAMPA 2011 to get information on the competition, entry forms etc. I suspect there will be little change for 2012.

Although it has been a relatively mild winter in the Northeast United States, it has been cool enough to keep me indoors for large amounts of time. I have used this time to work on my collections, follow eBay and other auctions, and catch up on my reading. One of the more interesting works I have recently read is "The International Reply Coupons of Ireland – A Research Collection". It was written by Hans Bergdolt and printed as Publication #28 by the FAI in 2011.

While I have a few of these coupons, I do not actively collect them, but I found this 56 page publication fascinating. Most of the illustrations are from the author's collection and are illustrated in color. The few remaining illustrations are from other sources and present in black and white. Mr. Bergdolt describes his work as an update and supplement to Otto Jung's FAI Publication #23 on the same subject published in 2000.

According to Bergdolt, the International Reply Coupon (IRC) is a reply postage stamp not valid for postage. The sender buys it at the post office and sends it in an envelope to his correspondent. It can be exchanged worldwide for the postage for a standard foreign airmail letter. Philatelically IRC's are postal stationery and date back to 1907. They were sold in Ireland until 2003.

Please look at your name and address label on this Revealers. If a STAR * and the year 2011 appear, it means that this will be your last issue of the Revealers. We do not want to lose you, so please send a check for 2012 dues to the EPA Treasurer. If you feel this is an error, please contact the EPA Treasurer at bclanz@aol.com

Thank you!

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

2049 Maguire, Dennis P., PO Box 9, Pomfret, MD, 20675-0009
2050 Pope, Robert N., 9408 Appalachian Drive, Sacramento, CA 95827

Deceased

0561 Canning, Terry D., 4680 Fairways Court, Marion, IA 52302-9156

Change of Address

2765 Malone, William T., 1124 Girard Street NW, Washington, DC 20009
2646 Curtin, Paul J., 293 Salem Street, Wilmington, MA 01887-1123

New Email Addresses

If you have recently gotten a PC, changed your email address, or if the address below is not correct, please send a message to Barney Clancy, EPA Treasurer at: bclanz@aol.com

1974 Houseman, Donna J., dhouseman@amospress.com
2049 Maguire, Dennis P., pomfretmd@verizon.net
2050 Pope, Robert N., thepope66@hotmail.com
2763 Werlander, Robert W., stamps@prairiestamps.com

Bad Email Addresses

2688 Mackle, Dr. William R., mackle@telus.net
1847 Nickmann, Rudy, rnickmann@optonline.net

Membership Status

Members as of September 1, 2011	381
New Members	2
Reinstatements	0
Resignations	0
Drop for Non Payment	0
Adjustments	0
Deceased	1
Membership as of February 12, 2112	382
Plus life members of unknown status	12 394
Complimentary mailings	22 416

Prices realized for auction 165, continued from the Sleeve.

73-\$2.00, 74-\$2.00, 75-\$3.50, 76-\$4.50, 77-\$1.00, 78-\$2.00,
79-\$2.00, 80-\$4.50, 81-\$1.00, 82-\$2.00, 83-\$1.00, 84-\$1.50,
85-\$1.50, 86-\$2.00, 87-\$3.00, 88-\$1.00, 89-\$1.00, 90-\$2.00,
91-\$2.00, 92-\$1.00, 93-\$2.00, 94-\$3.00, 95-\$3.50, 96-\$6.00,
97-\$6.00, 98-\$11.00, 99-\$2.00, 100-\$6.00, 101-\$6.00, 102,
\$5.00, 103-\$6.00, 104-\$3.00, 105-\$4.00, 106-\$2.50, 107-
\$2.00, 108-\$5.00, 109-\$11.00, 110-\$30.00.

More on the Overprint Short '1s'

Iben Olsen, Denmark - lagoni@adr.dk

In different Revealers articles I have shown the existence of short '1' in the date '1922.' In the Winter 2009 issue on page 14 showing the 1 d. coil (MW T63) and in the Spring 2009 page 11 the ½ d. coil (MW T62) with the "short" '1' in the date. Again in the Winter 2010 issue page 14, I presented my discovery of the 2 d. coil (MW T65) with the same variety. In that article, I challenged our readers to find the "missing link" which is the 1½ d coil (MW T64) with the exact same variety. Believe it or not, I did find it myself. I am very happy and lucky to send you the new discovery together with all the others. I can confirm, that I now have four pieces of 1 d. (singles), one of the 1/2d (single), one of 1½d (in vertical pair on cover) and the 2 d. (horizontal 3 strip). Please refer to the images below. Could we agree that there will be others found? It is my hope that one of our super-specialist of coils will be able to confirm and comment on my discoveries and of course, if possible, the position in the strips and perhaps an idea of the degree of rarity compared with the "Long 1".



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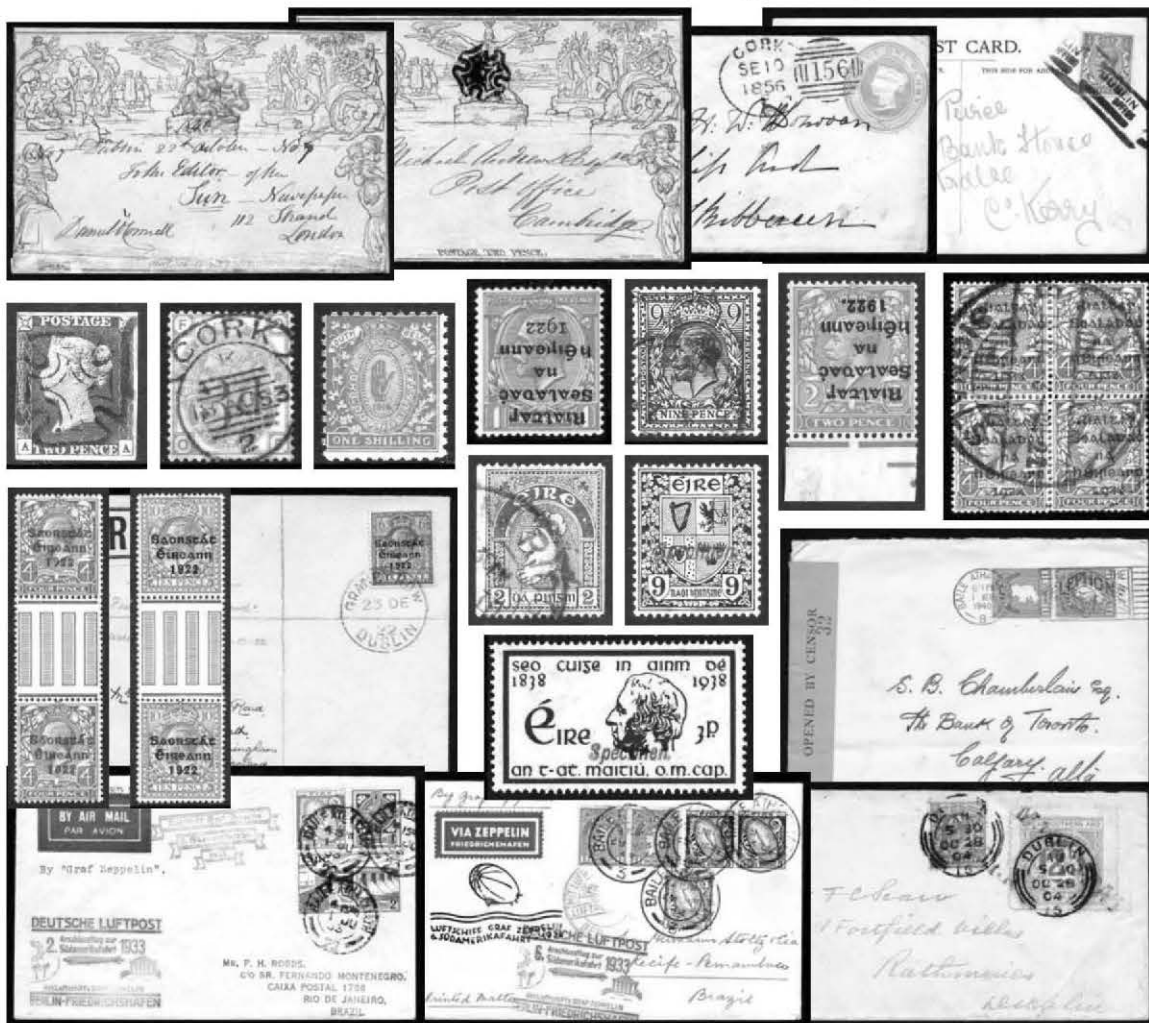
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Auction # 86 March 24th, 2012

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Here are a few of the high-lights:



The complete auction catalog can be viewed on our web-site at

www.hibernian-news.eu

ALL of the lots can be viewed from late February at
www.liveauctioneers.com/auctioneer/harpmann

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2011

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 75% of full size.

There were no increases in postal rates during 2011.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 2011 programme, comprising 24 regular gummed stamps, 6 self-adhesive stamps, 3 miniature sheets and 6 booklets, was issued over 17 release dates at a total cost of €66.70. All counter regular gummed issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 15 sheetlets was €133.38.

The 2010 totals of 37 regular gummed stamps, 6 self-adhesive stamps, 3 miniature sheets and 5 booklets were issued over 18 release dates at a total cost of €85.38. All counter regular gummed

issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 27 sheetlets was €257.10.

This dramatic decrease in costs and in the number of stamps issued is to be welcomed. Perhaps An Post is finally taking note that collectors are turning away from new issues due to the spiralling costs of recent years. The last time that the total cost of "one of everything" was below €66 was in 2004 (€65.10).

The major cost continues to be booklets – €42 for 6 booklets as compared to €49.75 for 5 booklets in 2010 and €47.75 for 6 booklets in 2009.

There were only 7 single stamp issues in 2011 as compared to 9 in 2010 and 14 in both 2009 and 2008. The wedding stamp is excluded in all these totals as it is only available in self-adhesive booklets.

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
						
20 Jan	Wedding stamp (self-adhesive)	- Booklet	€5.50	10 x 55c stamps	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
27 Jan	Greetings stamps (self-adhesive)	- Booklet	€5.50	10 x 55c stamps	13½ x 12¼	ISSP
3 Feb	American Chamber of Commerce, Ireland (50th Anniversary)	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¼	ISSP
10 Feb	Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh (Birth Centenary)	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
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17 Feb	St Patrick's Day	- St Patrick (stone carving)	82c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14%	ISSP
3 Mar	Women's Rights	- Votes for Women	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
		- Equality	82c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
14 Apr	Irish Amateur Boxing Association	- Boxers in ring	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14% x 14	ISSP
5 May	Europa (51st Issue – Forests)	- Knockabbey	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14% x 14	ISSP
		- Avondale	82c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14% x 14	ISSP
12 May	Year of Craft in Ireland	- Booklet	€2.75	5 x 55c – see below	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
		- Prestige Booklet (face value €8.25)	€9.00	Four panes – see below	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
7 June	National Parks	- Ballycroy National Park	55c	Se-tenant horizontal strip of three 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14% x 14	ISSP
		- The Burren National Park	55c				
		- Connemara National Park	55c				
		- Glenveagh National Park	82c	Se-tenant horizontal strip of three 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14% x 14	ISSP
		- Killarney National Park	82c				
		- Wicklow Mountains National Park	82c				
		- Miniature Sheet (3 x 55c)	€1.65	Contains 3 x 55c	CCP3	14% x 14	ISSP
		- Miniature Sheet (3 x 82c)	€2.46	Contains 3 x 82c	CCP3	14% x 14	ISSP
		- Prestige Booklet (face value €12.33)	€13.00	Six panes – see below	CCP3	14% x 14	ISSP
30 June	Amnesty International – 50th Anniversary		55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
						
						
						
5 Aug	Renewable Energy Technologies					
	- Self-adhesive Booklet	€5.50	10 x 55c – see below		13¼ x 13	ISSP
	- Collectors se-tenant strip of five stamps	€2.75	5 x 55c – see below		13¼ x 13	ISSP
	- Self-adhesive Prestige Booklet (face value €8.25)	€9.00	Five panes – see below		13¼ x 13	ISSP
1 Sept	The Irish Horse					
	- Coloured Horse	55c	Block of four 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Irish Draught Horse	55c				
	- Thoroughbred Horse	55c				
	- Connemara Pony	55c				
	- Miniature Sheet	€2.20	Block of 4 x 55c	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
15 Sept	Solheim Cup - Suzann Pettersen and Michelle Wie	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¼ x 14	ISSP
6 Oct	Brian O'Nolan ("Flann O'Brien") - Birth Centenary	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
10 Nov	Christmas					
	- Colourful baubles	55c	Se-tenant – SOAR self-adhesive		11 x 11¼	Label Art
	- Christmas stars	82c			11 x 11¼	Label Art
	- Booklet (Robin) – self-adhesive	€13.75	26 x 55c i.e. one free stamp		11 x 11¼	En schedé
24 Nov	RTE - Irish Television Service					
	(50th Anniversary)					
	- Gay Byrne	55c	Se-tenant	CCP3	14¼ x 14	ISSP
	- Emma O'Driscoll	55c				
	- Anne Doyle	55c				

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.

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.



*p margin of RTE issue
showing plate number and colour control*

The subject of the issue, 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. All stamps bear the year imprint at the foot of the stamp.

First Day Covers: Unserved FDCs cost €1 (2010: €1). Special covers and pictorial cancels were available for all issues.

A presentation box of all 20 (2010: 24) first day covers for the special and commemorative issues of 2011, including the three miniature sheets, was available from 24 November. The price of €60 (2010: €70) compares with a cost of €50.48 (2010: €62.68) if bought as individual covers. Commencing with the first issue of 2011, all serviced covers sold by the bureau have a "printed" and thus sharper looking first day postmark as compared to the hand applied cancellation which is used on collectors' own covers (see illustrations for Brian O'Nolan issue below).

Wedding Booklet (6th Issue): The 2011 design features a classic black and white photographic image of a newly married couple walking away from the camera while sheltering under a shared umbrella. The booklet is in self-adhesive format and incorporates ten stamps set out in one pane, folded twice, containing five rows of two stamps. The stamp measures 26mm x 37mm. A pair of self-adhesives with plain backing was available from the philatelic bureau.



have die-cut perforations but are cut with straight edges. Each stamp measures 30mm x 25mm. A pair of self-adhesives with plain backing and, with

Greetings Booklet (21st Issue): The booklet was issued in the usual format with 5 x 2 designs. The two designs show typical symbols of goodwill and feature balloons and flowers respectively. The booklet is in self-adhesive format and incorporates ten stamps plus ten labels set out in one pane, folded twice, containing two rows of five stamps and five labels. The labels do not

either the flowers or balloons stamp on top, was available from the philatelic bureau.



American Chamber of Commerce, Ireland: The Chamber currently has 400 corporate members including US companies operating from Ireland, their strategic partners and organisations with strong bilateral trade linkages between the two countries. The stamp features the entrance to the Chamber's headquarters in Dublin. It measures 30mm x 41mm.

Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh (Birth Centenary): The stamp bears a profile of the 5th President of Ireland who served from 1974 to 1976. It measures 31mm x 38mm.



St Patrick's Day: The 2011 design features a stone carving of St Patrick located at the entrance to the spire of the college chapel at St Patrick's College, Maynooth. The stamp measures 30mm x 41mm.



To celebrate Ireland's national holiday, a series of events are held in Dublin each year as part of "St. Patrick's Festival". This year the various events were held during the period 16 to 20 March. On Saturday 19 March (and perhaps on other days) a special cachet (as illustrated on the above cover) featuring the Festival logo was available from Festival staff, situated at a special table set up in the public area inside the GPO in Dublin.

The cachet was not available from An Post or the bureau but, given that permission from An Post would have been necessary to provide this facility, it has a semi-official status. At least one enterprising collector purchased some St Patrick's Day FDCs from the bureau counter and ensured that the cachet was applied to the covers. The cachet could be applied to any postal item.



Women's Rights: The stamps celebrate the centenaries of both International Women's Day and the Irish Women's Suffrage Federation. "Votes for Women" (55c) was commonly seen on the

suffrage handbills of the early 20th century. Irish women achieved the right to vote in 1928. Purple is one of the colours associated with the suffrage movement and is the predominant image on the 82c value which refers to "Equality". Each stamp measures 36mm x 36mm.



Irish Amateur Boxing Association: The stamp marks the centenary of the founding of the Association. The boxers shown on the stamp are Stephen O'Reilly (in the red singlet) of the Twin Towers Boxing Club, Balleybofey, Co. Donegal and David Joyce of St Michael's Boxing Club, Athy, Co. Kildare. The stamp measures 41mm x 30mm.



Europa: 'Forests' was selected as the common theme for the 2011 Europa issue. The 55c value features a scene from the gardens and forests of Knockabbey Castle, Co. Louth. The 82c value

features the forest park and river adjoining Avondale House, Co. Wicklow, the birthplace and home of Charles Stewart Parnell. Each stamp measures 41mm x 30mm.

Year of Craft in Ireland: This issue was only released in gummed booklet format. The unusual booklet of five stamps celebrates the Year of Craft in Ireland. Although *"The Collector"*, the An Post press release and the stamps themselves refer to each designer, no details were given of the items depicted on the stamps. Thankfully, and I believe this is a first, the actual items were on public display in the GPO Dublin during May. The five 55c stamps depict the following items:-

Craft	Designer and Title
Ceramics	Deirdre McLoughlin <i>We Are Top</i>
Glass	Róisín de Buitleár <i>Catch a Breath</i>
Jewellery	Inga Reed <i>Seed Head Brooch</i>
Textiles	Helen McAllister <i>Bubble Gum Pavements, Dublin</i>
Wood	Liam Flynn <i>Inner Rimmed Vessel</i>

The high fired ceramic *We Are Top* has a diamond polished finish. The *Catch a Breath* (my favourite piece) is in blown glass using the reticello technique. It also incorporates a worked glass handle with silver although this cannot be seen on the stamp. The *Seed Head Brooch* is an embossed silver brooch with 18ct. gold detail. The textile piece *Bubble Gum Pavements, Dublin* is made of recycled fabrics with buttonhole stitches, beadings and suffolk puffs and, finally, *The Inner Rimmed Vessel* is turned and carved in whitewashed ash. The pane of 5 x 55c stamps is set out in a single row in miniature sheet format with large perforated margins. The last time we had a similar miniature sheet style booklet issue were for the two Bird definitive stamp booklets issued in 1999.

The individual square format stamps measure 36mm x 36mm. A loose pane was included in the Year Pack. In addition, the five stamps were also issued in a Prestige Booklet (which likewise omitted any details about the stamp designs). Each of the five booklet panes incorporates a se-tenant strip of three stamps. Each pane depicts a different design and incorporates in the background an enlarged photograph of part of each piece as follows:

- Pane 1:* We Are Top
- Pane 2:* Catch a Breath
- Pane 3:* Seed Head Brooch
- Pane 4:* Bubble Gum Pavements, Dublin
- Pane 5:* Inner Rimmed Vessel

The panes are rouletted at left and are stitched into the booklet covers. All stamps in the booklet are fully perforated and have a phosphor frame. There is a small shade difference between the stamps in the two types of booklet.



Irish National Parks: The six stamps illustrate various National Parks. Each stamp measures 41mm x 30mm. The miniature sheets incorporate a se-tenant strip of three stamps. The background on the 3 x 55c miniature sheet features a larger image of The Burren National Park. The 3 x 82c sheet features a slightly different view of the Wicklow Mountains National Park. Two separate first day covers were available for the miniature sheets.

In addition, the six stamps were also issued in a regular gummed Prestige Booklet containing six panes of stamps. Each pane depicts a different stamp design and incorporates in the background a scene from the same National Park as set out below. Each pane incorporates a se-tenant strip of three stamps, with the third stamp imperforate at right, thus giving six different separately identifiable stamps.

- Pane 1:* 82c Glenveagh National Park
- Pane 2:* 55c Ballycroy National Park
- Pane 3:* 55c Connemara National Park
- Pane 4:* 55c The Burren National Park
- Pane 5:* 82c Killarney National Park
- Pane 6:* 82c Wicklow Mountains National Park

The panes are rouletted at left and stitched into the booklet covers. The front cover features a further illustration of Killarney National Park.



Amnesty International: The stamp illustrates the Amnesty symbol of hope – a lit candle wrapped with barbed wire – the wire symbolising human oppression. The stamp was issued on the same day as the first day of the Tall Ships visit to

Waterford. In the absence of a paquebôt cancellation for the Tall Ships this year, some collectors, like me, obtained the Waterford first day cancellation on some covers bearing the Amnesty stamp, along with a ship's cachet from one of the visiting boats. The stamp is in a square format and measures 36mm x 36mm.



Renewable Energy Technologies: The stamps show various sources of energy that reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions and diversify our energy supply – solar power, wind power, ocean energy, hydropower and biomass. The only identifiable location is the Ardnacrusha hydroelectric station built in 1929. Ardnacrusha has featured on two previous stamp issues, in 1930 and 1996.

The stamps were only issued in booklet format. Each self-adhesive stamp measures 38mm x 26mm. They were due to be issued on 6 June but the release date was delayed by a day and both booklets were therefore issued on 7 June.

The first self-adhesive booklet contains ten 55c stamps set out in one pane, folded twice, containing two rows of five stamps in the order - solar power, wind power, ocean energy, hydropower and biomass.

Each stamp measures 37mm x 26mm and the surplus paper is retained. The front cover features the biomass design. In addition to complete booklets, strips of five stamps with plain backing were available from the philatelic bureau.

The five stamps were also issued in the first ever Prestige Booklet to contain self-adhesive stamps. Each of the five panes incorporates a different vertical strip of three stamps – one design per pane as follows:

- Pane 1:* Solar power
- Pane 2:* Wind power
- Pane 3:* Ocean energy
- Pane 4:* Hydropower
- Pane 5:* Biomass

There is a gap between each stamp in the strip. The panes are rouletted at left and stitched into the booklet covers. All stamps in the booklet have full die-cut perforations (same perforation size as the stamps in the 10 x 55c booklet) and have a phosphor frame. The front cover features the ocean energy design.

The Irish Horse: The four horses illustrated on the stamps were painted by renowned artist Peter Curling. The stamps in both the sheet issue and the miniature sheet (illustrated on front cover) are set out in a block of four.

A separate first day cover was available for the miniature sheet. The stamps are in a square format and measure 36mm x 36mm. The miniature sheet was also overprinted for use as the public souvenir for Stampá.



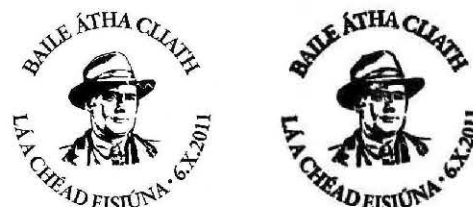
The Solheim Cup is the women's equivalent of the Ryder Cup and is played between teams representing Europe and the United States of

Solheim Cup: The Jack Nicklaus designed Killeen Castle Golf Course in Dunsany, Co. Meath was host to the Solheim Cup (23-25 September). The Solheim Cup is the women's equivalent of

America. Prior to the 2011 event, the US team had won eight of the eleven tournaments since it was first contested in 1990. However, the 2011 tournament was won by the European team by a margin of 15 to 13.

The two players shown on the stamp, Suzann Pettersen of Norway (left) and Michelle Wie of the USA, both played in the tournament. Unfortunately, there was no Irish participation in the European team. The stamp measures 41mm x 30mm.

In the Junior competition, the US team retained the PING Junior Solheim Cup in dramatic circumstances when they came from behind to earn a 12-12 draw against Europe. This was played earlier the same week at Knightsbrook Hotel Spa & Golf Resort in Trim, Co. Meath. The Junior team had two Irish participants – twins Lisa and Leona Maguire from Co. Cavan, who were aged only 16 and will undoubtedly progress to the senior event if they turn professional. Leona is ranked 6th in the female World Amateur Rankings and her sister 35th as of September 2011.



Printed postmark (left) together with hand applied impression – see note under "First day Covers" above.

Brian O'Nolan ("Flann O'Brien"): Brian O'Nolan was a famous Irish novelist. Known for his satirist style, he wrote under a number of pseudonyms, the most notable of which was Flann O'Brien. For over thirty years, under the name "Myles na gCopaleen", he wrote The Irish Times column "Cruiskeen Lawn", a satirical take on Irish life. The stamp features a painting of the writer by his brother, Micheál O'Nualláin, who was present at the launching of the stamp.

As a result, this was a popular issue with non-collectors at the philatelic bureau counter as the stamp, like most commemoratives, was not readily available at post offices, given the almost total use of counter self-adhesives. The stamp measures 31mm x 38mm.



Christmas: As all post offices can now print SOAR issues, this year's Christmas issue was only issued in this format. The two SOAR self-adhesives issued by the bureau are numbered 001 (55c) and 002 (82c) with the date code of 11314, which corresponds with 10 November 2011. Each stamp has three vertical phosphor bars. 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. They replaced the Animals and Marine Life definitive issue whilst on sale.

The self-adhesive booklet issue is similar to previous Christmas booklets in layout and 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 ex booklet, but with plain backing, was available from the philatelic bureau.

Unlike all other current self-adhesives, used copies of the booklet stamps can easily be soaked off paper. Presumably Enschedé continue to use a water-soluble liner between the adhesive and the stamp paper which means that used stamps can be soaked off paper. This was also the case with the 2010 Christmas booklet stamps printed by the same firm.



The design was that previously used on the Christmas issue of 1973 (3½p and 12p), although the painting was then attributed to Jan de Cock. The National Gallery of Ireland, who own the original picture of "The Flight into Egypt", now attribute the painting to the Flemish artist Jan de Beer. Greetings and Christmas cards featuring the painting are available from the National Gallery of Ireland and were used by some collectors to produce maximum cards.

RTÉ – 50 Years of Irish Television: The Irish Television Service commenced broadcasting on New Year's Eve 1961. The three stamps show three well known TV presenters. The first stamp in the se-tenant strip features Gay Byrne, who presented "The Late Late Show" during the period 1962 to 1999. It is the longest-running chat show to be hosted by the same broadcaster and it continues to the present day. Gay Byrne also appeared on the 30p/38c stamp of the Broadcasting set, issued in 2001 to mark 75 years of the RTÉ radio service. As a result, I believe he is the first living Irish person to appear twice on an Irish stamp.

The second stamp features current children's programme presenter Emma O'Driscoll on the set of Hubble. The third stamp shows the renowned newscaster Anne Doyle, who first presented the news on Christmas Day in 1978.

Subsequent to the issue of the stamps, she announced her retirement, making her final news broadcast on Christmas Day 2011.

Chinese New Year: There was no issue to mark the Chinese New Year in 2011. A miniature sheet has been issued annually to mark the Chinese New Year since 1994 and, in addition, a single stamp since 2007.

YEAR PACK AND YEAR BOOK

Year Pack: The Year Pack contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2011, including pairs of the Wedding, Greetings and Christmas booklet self-adhesive stamps, the two Christmas SOAR stamps, together with the collectors' strip of five of the Renewable Energy issue and the Year of the Craft booklet pane, but excluding all other booklets and all miniature sheets – a total of 42 (2010: 45) stamps, including

1 booklet pane, with a face value of €24.99 (2010: €28.66). Cost: € 30.

The Year of the Craft booklet pane is complete with selvage and is only available as a loose pane with full gum in this Year Pack.

Year Book: The bilingual book contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2011, including both regular gummed and self-adhesive stamps as included in the year pack, together with the three miniature sheets. The Year of the Craft stamps are included as a se-tenant strip but without any selvage. A total of 45 stamps plus 3 miniature sheets with a face value of €31.30 (2010: €36.73) are pre-mounted in the year book. Total printing of 1,500 standard copies (2010: 1,500) and 125 (2010: 125) leather-bound editions. Cost: € 57. leather edition: €210 .

DEFINITIVES

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes	Perforation	Printer
					
Feb	€55 Coil roll - Reissue - Wrapped coil (self-adhesive)	55c	€55 per roll of 100 (one design)	11 x 11¼	Ashton-Potter
22 June	Animals and Marine Life - Self-adhesive booklet	€5.50	10 x 55c Hermit Crab	14 x 14	Ashton Potter
21 July	Animals and Marine Life Definitives (2nd Issue)				
	(Counter and Bureau Issue) - Beadlet Anemone (1)	55c	Se-tenant vertical strip of four	11 x 11¼	Label Art
	(Self-adhesive) - Squat Lobster (2)	55c			
	Cuckoo Wrasse (3)	55c			
	- Common Frog (4)	55c			
	- Green Huntsman (5)	55c	Se-tenant vertical strip of four	11 x 11¼	Label Art
	Elephant Hawk-moth (6)	55c			
	- Goldfinch (7)	55c			
	- Red Deer (8)	55c			
29 Sept	Animals and Marine Life - Wrapped Coil (self-adhesive)	55c	€55 per roll of 100 (two designs)	11 x 11¼	Ashton Potter

FLOWER DEFINITIVES

New Definitive Roll (Self-adhesive): A new Ashton-Potter printing of the €55 roll went on sale in February 2011. The roll was now issued as a shrinkwrapped coil of 100 stamps and was no longer sold in a box. 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. 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. See illustration on previous page.

This is the same make-up as the previous US printing. The roll is now sealed with a peelable adhesive printed blue leader. The leader can be easily removed and is not permanently attached to the stamps/labels. There is no end paper. The individual 55c stamp with phosphor frame is unchanged and is the same as the initial Ashton-Potter printing distributed in boxes in January 2009.

Other Flower Definitive Stamps: I'm not aware of any new printings. As far I can determine, all post offices now sell the SOAR issues, and all gummed stamps (apart from the gummed €2 and €5.50 machine booklets) have been withdrawn from general sale. The only other Flower definitive item that remained on sale at the end of 2011 is the €8.20 (10 x 82c) self-adhesive booklet.

The number of €2 machines appears to be declining in recent years and I wonder if they will be withdrawn completely given the number of retail outlets which now sell the ten stamp National self-adhesive booklet. I'm only aware of one working machine in the South Dublin area that still sells the €5.50 regular gummed booklet. I understand that a new 10 x 82c self-adhesive booklet with an Animal and Marine Life design has been printed and will be issued once stocks of the current Flower booklet are exhausted.

The Flower SOAR designs had disappeared from all offices by May 2011 and all post offices now use the Animals and Marine Life designs.

ANIMALS AND MARINE LIFE DEFINITIVES

This definitive issue is becoming more complicated because of added designs and the introduction of the series across the full range to include booklets and coils to replace the previous Flower designs.



National €5.50 Self-adhesive Booklet: A new National rate booklet was released without advance notice in June 2011. An official date of 22 June has since been given by the bureau but the stamp is known used commercially prior to that date. No official first day service was available. The 10 x 55c stamps in the booklet feature the Hermit Crab design (but cut down to fit the small stamp) from the first issue of 2010. This is a particularly dreadful looking stamp and I wonder why, given the large number of other more pleasing designs available, this design was chosen. Each stamp measures 20mm x 25mm and has a yellow phosphor frame. Surplus paper not removed. A pair of stamps with normal booklet backing, and with surplus paper intact, is available from the philatelic bureau.



Bureau strip

GPO counter strip

Counter Issue (2nd Issue): The second series of designs was released in July. As old stocks are used up post offices will change 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.



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 Goldfinch design on the cover, even though this stamp is in the second strip and is numbered 7; the second cover with stamps numbered 5 to 8 featured the Common Frog on the cover which corresponds to stamp number 4. This same reversal of design use on the FDCs also occurred in 2010 with the first set of designs. The bureau date code 11202 corresponds with 21 July 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 the first issue. As with the first issue, the surplus paper is removed between stamps.

Some of the stamp counters in the GPO Dublin had stocks of the new rolls on the issue date, and thus collectors could make up FDCs with genuine counter issues rather than the bureau set. The main GPO office code is 235 followed by the

counter position (01 or higher) and then a transaction reference.

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 (see illustrations at left). All counter rolls are printed in the same sequence.



€55 Coil Roll (Self-adhesive):

The roll is issued as a shrinkwrapped coil of 100 stamps, like the Flowers issue referred to above. 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.

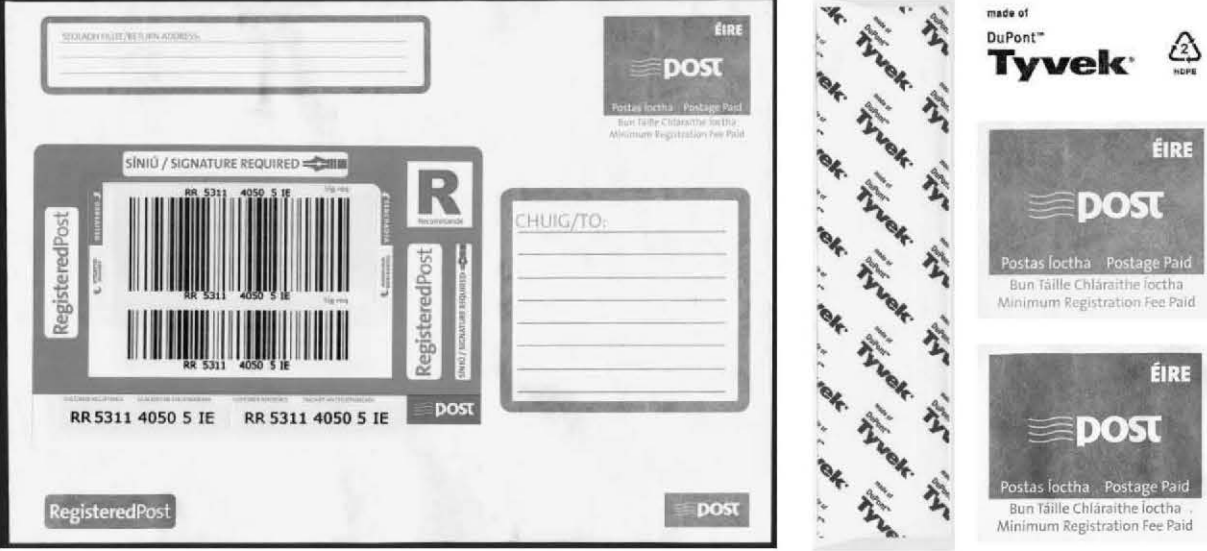


There are five labels in the roll, each with the same three line wording in black "See reverse / for quantity / remaining". The numbers 100, 80, 60, 40 and 20 are printed on the reverse of the respective labels. This is the same make-up as the previous US Flower printings. The roll is sealed with a peelable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

Two designs from the first 2010 issue are included in the coil – the Red Squirrel and the Bottlenose Dolphin. The surplus paper is removed between stamps on complete coils. A pair of stamps with surplus paper intact is available from the philatelic bureau. A first day cover and cancellation were provided.

Postal Service Centre ("PSC") Issue: The same eight designs are now in use in most PSC machines, replacing the original Waterways designs. The changeover to the new designs commenced in October 2011. Further details are set out in the separate Postal Service Centre section in the next issue.

POSTAL STATIONERY AND RELATED ITEMS

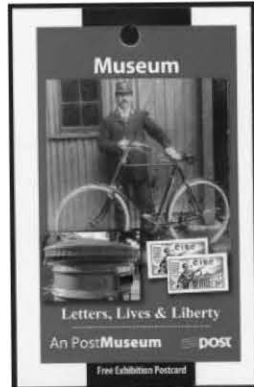
Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Note	Printer
				
March ?	Registered Envelope	€6.00	New postage paid imprint – see below	
Aug ?	Postal Museum Postcard	no charge	see note below	An Post Print & Design
24 Sept	Culture Night at the GPO - Postcard	no charge	see notes below	An Post Print & Design
13 Oct	Postal Museum Postcards - set of six cards	35c	Per card – see details overleaf	An Post Print & Design

Registered Envelope: A new style of prepaid registered envelope was first seen in March 2011. The An Post logo and the words "Postas Íochta" and "Postage Paid" are now printed on a green background. The style of the imprint is similar to that used on the prepaid envelope first seen in May 2010. I suspect that this new registered envelope may have been available back in 2010.



Two printings have been noted. Most cards have a light green An Post stamp imprint, together with the words "made of DuPont™ Tyvek" printed in black on the reverse and on the tear-off adhesive strip. Some envelopes have been noted in a darker green ink without any reference to "Tyvek" on either the strip or the reverse of the envelope.

Postal Museum Postcards – History and Heritage: In August 2011, a special undenominated postcard (155mm x 102mm) was produced showing a photograph of part of the "Letters Lives & Liberty" display in the postal museum. The card is given to each visitor to the museum on production of a small advertising card which refers to the free postcard.



The advertising card (as illustrated above) is available in public libraries in the Dublin area. At present, the postcard is not for sale. The admission price remains at €2.



Later in October, a series of eight undenominated postcards was released showing various scenes and artefacts. Each individual card (103mm x 155mm) can be purchased at a cost of 35c per card. The postcards feature (1) Postbox on Achill Island (P&T lampbox) - illustrated on front cover; (2) Irish Zeppelin Cover, 1933 - illustrated above; (3) GPO Reward Notice of 1821; (4) Early 20th century card promoting the use of the telephone; (5) 1916 Proclamation as held by the museum; (6) Old view of the GPO and Nelson's Pillar; (7) Old advertising poster promoting Savings Certificates; and (8) Business as Usual (May 1916) showing sorting in the Rotunda in Parnell Street following the Easter Rising. This is the photograph shown in advertising literature for the museum but shows a number of people at left not seen in the earlier reproduction.



Reverse of Culture Night card with GPO Counter SID applied to 55c Animals & Marine Life stamp purchased at the same counter.



Culture Night at the GPO: Dublin's sixth Culture Night took place on Friday 23 September. An Post hosted an event in the GPO from 5.30pm which included free access to the Postal Museum. A special undenominated card was given out free to all who visited the GPO on the night. This was the fourth year that An Post opened the GPO for Culture Night. As usual, they produced a postcard for the event. It is a large format card measuring 148mm x 210mm, and the obverse shows an illustration of the GPO which is very similar to the 2010 design. Most cards were handed out with an 82c flowers booklet stamp already affixed to the card. There was no special cancellation. I illustrate above a card with a 55c Animals & Marine Life attached and cancelled on the night at the GPO.

continued in next issue.

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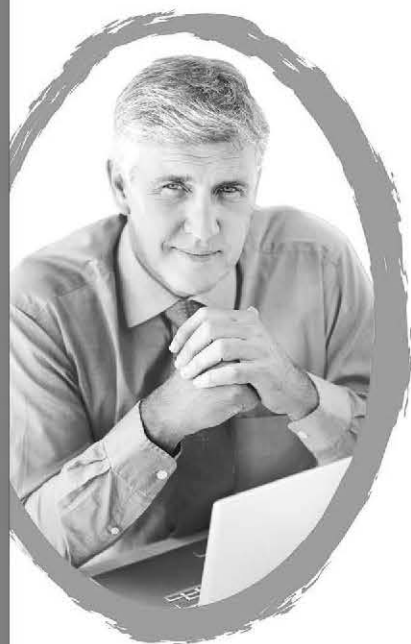
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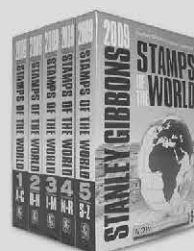
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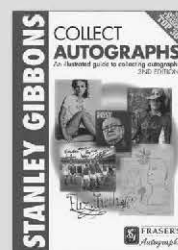
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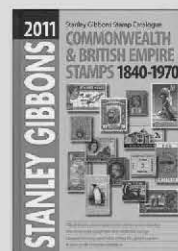
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