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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Richard Kelly

With the lead-time to produce *The Revealer*, I am writing the Spring letter in the middle of winter. In fact, I am writing this as winter storm NEMO is hitting the East Coast. I don't recall when we started naming winter storms and perhaps this started with our overly excited TV weathermen. If we could only bottle that energy. We wish God Speed to all of our members who may be affected and also to those still recovering from Sandy.

Since my last letter, I have attended the Chicagopex show. It is always a good show and was happy to see some of our local members. The show always has a few dealers with Irish material. A nice addition was a postal history dealer who had substantial new stock of Irish covers. Plans are made to go to St Louis Expo in late March

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.

Commodore John Barry Chapter

Members reside in NJ, NY, PA

Coordinator: David J. Brennan,

PO Box 704, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Lone Star Chapter

Members reside in Central TX

Coordinator: Robert J. Joyce,

14302 Oak Shadow,
San Antonio, TX 78232

Connecticut Chapter

Members in CT & Western MA

Coordinator: Michael J. Conway,

239 Judd Rd., Easton, CT 06612

Northern California Chapter (NORCAL)

Members reside in Northern CA

Coordinator: TBD

James Hoban Chapter

Members reside in MD, VA, DC

Coordinator: Myron Hill

PO Box 61436, Potomac, MD 20859

Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)

Members reside in Southern CA

Coordinator: William A. O'Connor,

3803 Foxglove Lane,
Fallbrook, CA 92028

John McCormack Chapter

Members reside in Greater Boston

Coordinator: Paul Bento, 107 Old

Common Rd., Auburn, MA 01501

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)
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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

President's Message continued

The EPA along with other philatelic organizations has programs to support and promote youth collecting. I would like to expand this program to include all new collectors. Many of our members are also members of groups like the Knights of Columbus, VFW, American Legion, church clubs, etc. Do you have co-members who may have an interest in stamp collecting? If so, why not get them a starter kit from the Youth coordinator. See the masthead for contact info.

It is not too early to make plans for our next annual meeting at Balpex. The show web site is www.balpex.org. We need a strong showing of Irish exhibits. Please consider putting an exhibit together. More information will be in the Summer issue.

Please let our advertisers know of your patronage and thank them for their support of the EPA.

When mailing out the Winter Revealer, an outdated members' mailing list was used. Because of this, only dues payments received prior to August, 2012 were reflected on the mailing labels.

Many of you have written to the EPA to complain that your dues were paid. Please be assured that the problem has been corrected and the labels on this Issue of *The Revealer* should reflect your current payment status.

Please review your mailing label. If it reads "Expires: 2013," then you are paid up for this year. If it reads "Expires: 2012," then we have not received your dues and request that you please submit them to the Treasurer, Barney Clancy.

If you feel the label is in error, please contact Barney Clancy at bclanz@aol.com

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

Reinstatements

2161 Wooldridge, Thomas D, 1848 Northwood Drive, Tupelo, MS 38804

Resignations

2763 Welander, Robert W, 16177 S Norton St, Olathe KS 66062

Deceased

2039 McKenna, John V. Deceased 2012

Change of Address

2169 Winkelmann, Karl, Maneau, 32700 Lectoure, France

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

2644 Keating, Frederic A, fredkeating88@verizon.net

1123 Lynch, Fredric C, seamus116@att.net

Wooldridge, Thomas D, tomwooldridge@gmail.com

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1355 Barry, Rev James F, jfb12@earthlink.net

2851 Cote, Michael, mcote@tlw-steelplatework.ca

1399 Crowe, Richard T, rtc123@core.com

2606 Drury, Kevin, kdrury@revenue.ie

2845 Dudley, Denis Q, denisdudley@eircom.net

1607 Hanley, Thomas A, tomhanley27@yahoo.com

1667 Holzmuller, Frank, fhfh@tiscali.de

2331 Johnson, Walter, W, waltj5@verizon.net

2211 Morse, William J, hotair200@yahoo.com

2836 Nelson, Charles E, stamps2@yahoo.net

1847 Nickmann, Rudy, mickmann@verizon.net

0959 O'Brien, Rev George L, crusader54@msn.com

1059 O'Connell, John P, pilots2@optimon.net

Bad Email Addresses—Non-operational contd.

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mallirao@comcast.net

2789 Saucedo-Sullivan, Paul,
pablo0732@cox.net

2752 Vlaming, Thomas J,
tom@grandeagleins.net

Membership Status

Members as of November 1, 2012	380
New Members	0
Reinstatements	1
Deceased	1
Resignations	1
Drop for Non Payment	0
Adjustment	0
Membership as of February 1, 2013	378
Life members of unknown status	12
Complimentary mailings	22
Total Mailings	412

2013 Annual General Meeting

to be held in conjunction with

BALPEX 2013

Baltimore, MD August, 30, 31, September 1, 2013—Labor Day Weekend

www.balpex.org

More information to follow as we learn about it.

Please give serious consideration to exhibiting at BALPEX.

We are always looking for first time exhibitors.

If you have never exhibited, may we suggest you contact an EPA officer listed on Page 2 for some guidance.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

The DVD of the past Revealers is now available for sale. In order to purchase a DVD please submit your request to Tim O'Shea at tosheal@comcast.net or write to him at 58 Porter Street, Granby, MA USA 01033-9516. The cost of the DVD shipped to US member addresses is \$25.00, to non-member address is \$35 including postage. The cost for shipping to non-US member addresses is 30 Euros, to non-members is 40 Euros including postage.

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Auction # 88 March 16th, 2013

Mail-Bid and Live on-line!

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

“DRUNKEN” HARPS AND OTHER “NO - NO’S”

by Raymond Murphy

While researching materials at the Irish National Archives, I stumbled on to a series of letters concerning printing problems, in, of all places, the *Taoiseach* files concerning the Post Office. (TAOIS/96/6/125) These appeared interesting so I read them over.

In April 1949, it was decreed, that all official stationery, from letterhead paper to envelopes were to use the Harp of Tara as the national symbol in place of *Eire*. The Stationary Office was to distribute appropriate dies for printing, and the paper noted that the size and positioning were to be determined as appropriate.

Some stationery appeared with both the harp and Eire - the harp positioned above the word *Eire*. This was felt necessary to remind the *Sasanach* that their next-door neighbor was now The Republic of Ireland. A note from the *Taoiseach*'s office to the Stationery Office, through the appropriate Minister pointed out that this was a “No - No” and the harp was to stand alone. Case closed. Apparently only some stationery and no covers were affected, however the Spring 1949 quarterly phone bill forms, which were folded and sent through the mail, proudly displayed both designs. [FIGURE 1 goes about here]

The next letter from 1952 revealed that the *Taoiseach* (Mr de Valera) had reviewed a published report entitled “Irish Instruments of Ratification of the Protocol of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms” printed by The Stationary office. This time the comment was “Nice Harp - but not the harp of Brian Boru”. Since the report was already printed and distributed, there was little to be done. [FIGURE 2 goes about here].

The Harp of Tara is supposed to be positioned so the strings are vertical, or almost so. (Most references have the strings as vertical, but one source cited 1 degree from vertical.) In 1969, Mr de Valera, now the President, discovered that the harps were at all different angles on stationery and covers. This caused a series of nasty letters through various channels to inform the printers which way was up, so to speak, but permission was given to use existing stocks.

The President was referring to harps with strings about ± 5 to 10 degrees from vertical. Figure 3 shows a variety of harps seen on the official mail of the period, with various angles. [FIGURE 3 goes about here]. The printers responded that they had resolved the problem, but about six months later another set appeared. It seems that the printers had made stereotypes of the master die, and some “reappeared”, but all is well. A third occurrence happened with Woods Printing Works Ltd and Alex Thom Co. Ltd being the transgressors. Regardless if you are civil servant or private employee, it is not a career-enhancing move to have the President upset with you, especially in a country of 7 million. This time the press picked up on the fray and entitled it “The Drunken Harps”.

Fortunately for all concerned, the harps appearing on the Land Commission [*Comision na Talun*] forms of 1952 with strings at about 70° were overlooked by the President, and were corrected by the 1955 edition. [FIGURE 4 & 5 goes about here]

Time heals all wounds - serious matters of state took precedence, and no more was heard of the “Drunken Harps”, but all the harps since then were printed with vertical strings!



Figure 1. Phone bill form T.P. 315, with both harp and Eire national symbols 15 February 1949.

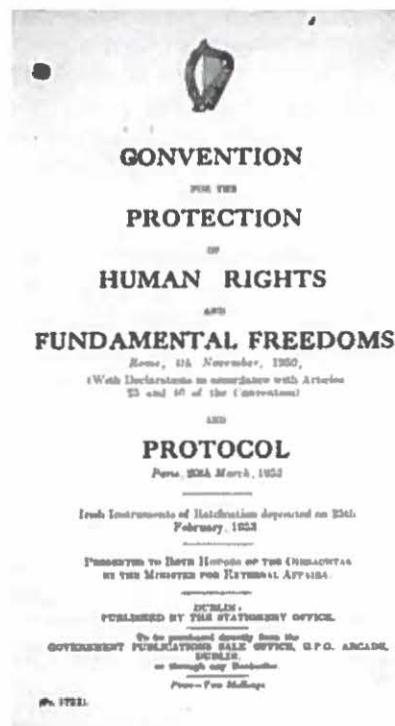


Figure 3. Harps printed at various angles, both to right and left of vertical.



Figure 4. 63 degrees left.



Figure 5. 70 degrees left

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2012

by Brian Warren

Note that illustrations of single stamps, pairs and postmarks (except IMPs) are full size; illustrations of IMPs, blocks and strips, booklets, covers and stationery items are reproduced at between 50% and 75% of full size.

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

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

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

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

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

There were only 4 single stamp issues in 2012 compared to 7 in 2011 and 14 in both 2009 and 2008. The wedding stamp is excluded in all these totals as it is only available in self-adhesive pairs and booklets. The 2011 totals given above correct the amounts referred to in my article last year.

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

(Table continued on next page)

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



22 Mar	Contemporary Arts – Dance (self-adhesive) -Booklet	€4.40	8 x 55c (four designs)		13 x 13	ISSP
12 Apr	RMS Titanic					
	(Centenary of the Sinking)					
	- Thomas Andrews	55c	Se-tenant horizontal pair			
	- Father Browne	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Captain Edward J Smith	82c	Se-tenant horizontal pair			
	- 'Unsinkable' Molly Browne	82c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Prestige booklet (face value: €10.96)	€12.00	Four panes – see below	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
19 Apr	Bram Stoker – Death Centenary					
	- Bram Stoker	55c	Se-tenant	CCP3	14 x 14¼	ISSP
	- Dracula	55c				
	- Miniature sheet	€1.10	One each of the 55c stamps	CCP3	14 x 14¼	ISSP
3 May	Europa – Visit Ireland					
	(52nd Issue)					
	- Small Skellig (Kerry)	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Ha'penny Bridge (Dublin)	82c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
7 June	50th International Eucharistic Congress					
	- Chalice and Host	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¼	ISSP
	- Monstrance and the Blessed Sacrament	82c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¼	ISSP
14 June	Volvo Ocean Race					
	Groupama and Team Sanya	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¼ x 14	ISSP
	- Miniature sheet	€3.00	See note below	CCP3	15 x 14	ISSP
28 June	Dublin Fire Brigade (150th Anniversary)					
	- General firefighting	55c				
	- Chemical firefighting	55c	Se-tenant horizontal strip of four stamps			
	- Road traffic rescues	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP
	- Water rescue	55c				
	- Prestige booklet (face value: €8.80)	€10.00	Four panes – see below	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

Date of
Issue

Cost

Plate Numbers/Notes

Paper

Perforation

Printer



5 July Significant Science Milestones

		- Dublin City of Science	55c	} Se-tenant horizontal pair	CCP3	13 x 13%	ISSP
		- Boyle's Law	55c				
		- Miniature sheet	€1.10	Se-tenant pair	CCP3	13 x 13%	ISSP
19 July	Olympic Games 2012	- Medal ceremony	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14%	ISSP
		- London 2012	82c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14%	ISSP
13 Sept	Myths and Legends	- The Children of Lir	55c	} 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3		ISSP
		- Deirdre of the Sorrows	55c				
		- Fionn Mac Cumhaill	82c	} 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3		ISSP
		- Setanta	82c				
11 Oct	Barnardos Ireland	- Girl plus painting	55c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13% x 13%	ISSP
8 Nov	Christmas (42nd Issue)	- The Adoration of the Shepherds	55c	} Se-tenant – SOAR self-adhesive		11 x 11%	Label Art
		- The Adoration of the Magi	82c			11 x 11%	Label Art
		- Booklet (Traditional Candle) – self-adhesive	€13.75	26 x 55c i.e. one free stamp		11 x 11%	Enschedé

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

A presentation box of all 19 (2011: 20) first day covers for the special and commemorative issues of 2012, including the three miniature sheets,

was available from 24 November. The price of €60 (2011: €60) compares with a cost of €50.48 (2011: €50.48) if bought as individual covers. As with 2011 issues, all serviced covers sold by the bureau continue to bear a "printed", and thus sharper looking, first day postmark as compared to the hand applied cancellation which is used on collectors' own covers.

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



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

Ireland's Chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe: Ireland assumed the Chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) in January 2012. Ireland has been a member of the OSCE since 1973.



St Patrick's Day Festival (Lá Fhéile Pádraig): The 2012 design is based on an icon painting by renowned Russian artist Ekaterina Platoshechkina. The stamp measures 30mm x 41mm.



Contemporary Arts – Dance – Booklet: The booklet contains two blocks of four self-adhesive diamond shaped stamps. Each stamp depicts a unique contemporary dance performed by some of Ireland's foremost dance companies. The name of each dance company is not referred to on the actual stamp but is included beside one of each design in the booklet.

The four dance companies, in clockwise order, are (1) Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre; (2) Irish Modern Dance Theatre; (3) CoisCéim; and (4) Dance Theatre of Ireland. A block of four with a choice of either the front or back cover of the booklet was available from the philatelic bureau. Each square format stamp measures 35mm x 35mm.



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

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



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

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

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

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



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



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

Both values were printed in the normal ten-stamp format for Europa issues (5 rows of 2 stamps with a surrounding illustrative panel). The plate numbers and colour controls are included in the left margin, with the plate numbers beside stamp 1 and the colour controls beside stamp 5. The printer's imprint is placed under stamp 1 of row 5. The illustrated right margins are imperforate. Details about the issue are included at top right in the illustrated right margin. The square format stamps measure 36mm x 36mm.

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



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

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

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



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



There were six yachts in the 2011/12 race which was won by the French Groupama sailing team. Ireland did not participate although there were two Irish sailors among the various crews – Justin Slattery on the Groupama yacht and Damian Foxall, who was part of the crew of Team Sanya (China). The 55c stamp shows both the Groupama and Team Sanya yachts. The miniature sheet shows all six yachts, with the Groupama yacht forming the main picture on the €3 stamp included in the sheet. A first day pictorial cancellation was available in Galway for this and all new issues.

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

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

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



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

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

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



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



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

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



Barnardos Ireland (50th Anniversary): The founder of the organisation, Dr Thomas Barnardo, was born in Dublin in 1845 and he opened his first home for homeless boys in London in 1870. His work in Ireland

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



Pair from GPO counter on day of issue

Christmas: The annual Christmas counter issue was only issued in self-adhesive format. The two

SOAR self-adhesives issued by the bureau are numbered 1 (55c) and 2 (82c), with the date code of 12313 which corresponds to 8 November 2012. Complete rolls as issued to post offices contained 600 stamps numbered 1 to 600, i.e. 300 se-tenant pairs, and any value could be obtained. They replaced the Animals and Marine Life definitive issue whilst on sale. The Adoration of the Shepherds by Girolamo Troppo is in the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin but is not currently on view as the most of the Gallery is presently undergoing refurbishment. The stamp only illustrates part of the painting and, unfortunately, the Gallery has no postcard or greeting card reproducing the painting.

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

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

YEAR PACK AND YEAR BOOK

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

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

DEFINITIVES

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes	Perforation	Printer
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1 May	New Booklets (Self-adhesive)	- National - International	€5.50 €8.20	10 x 55c Hermit Crab 10 x 82c Common Frog	14½ x 14½ 14½ x 14½	ISSP ISSP
9 Aug	Animals and Marine Life Definitives (3rd Issue) (Counter and Bureau Issue) (Self-adhesive)	- Fireworks Anemone (1) - Spiny Seahorse (2) - Green Crab (3) - Pike (4) - Smooth Newt (5) - Irish Hare (6) - Raft Spider (7) - Kestrel (8)	55c 55c 55c 55c 55c 55c 55c 55c	Se-tenant vertical strip of four (bureau)	11 x 11½	Label Art
Sept	Animals and Marine Life Definitives (3rd Issue) (Postal Service Centre Issue) (Self-adhesive)	- Fireworks Anemone - Spiny Seahorse - Green Crab - Pike - Smooth Newt - Irish Hare - Raft Spider - Kestrel	55c 55c 55c 55c 55c 55c 55c 55c	Se-tenant vertical strip of four (bureau)	11 x 11½	Label Art

ANIMALS AND MARINE LIFE DEFINITIVES



Counter Issue (3rd Issue): The third series of designs was released in August. As old stocks were used up post offices changed over to the new rolls. There are 8 designs, as listed above, and the bureau set, which is numbered 1 to 8, is split into two strips of four. The strips sold by the bureau have the eight designs set out in reverse order as compared to the SOAR set sold at post office counters. This also occurred on the 2nd issue released in 2011 (but not with the 1st issue of 2010). Strips of any length can be obtained from post office counters. All counter rolls are printed in the same sequence. The bureau

date code 12222 corresponds with 9 August and the reference code is 02501000001 (as before). The strip illustrated is from the GPO on issue day (office reference code 235). Each stamp measures 56mm x 25mm and has three small preprinted vertical yellow phosphor bars similar to those on the first issue. As with previous issues, the surplus paper is removed between stamps.

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

Postal Service Centre ("PSC") Issue: The same eight designs are now in use at over 50% of the PSC machines replacing the 2nd series. A full listing will be set out in the second part of this article in the next issue of *The Revealer*.



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

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



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



International €8.20 Self-Adhesive Booklet: This is a completely new booklet as the previous issue released in 2009 contained the Sea Aster flower design. It contains 10 x 55c small format Common Frog stamps,

which is one of the designs included in the current counter issue. The perforation size, format and phosphor are the same as for the €5.50 booklet stamps. Surplus paper retained. A pair of self-adhesives with normal booklet backing and with surplus paper intact is available from the philatelic bureau. A good shade variety exists on the front cover of the booklet.



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

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



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



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

FLOWER DEFINITIVES

€55 Coil Roll: Stocks of the rolls of the €55 Flowers definitive also exist with a specially printed unattached leader which refers to the 50g weight step. What is unusual is that rather than use the Animals and Marine Life leader, a special leader illustrating the 55c Flower stamp was also produced for these rolls. The existing green leader (with 100g reference) is still attached to the actual stamps.

(to be continued in next issue)

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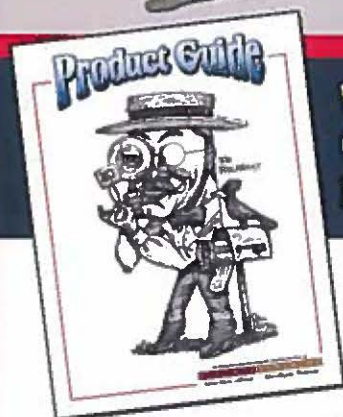
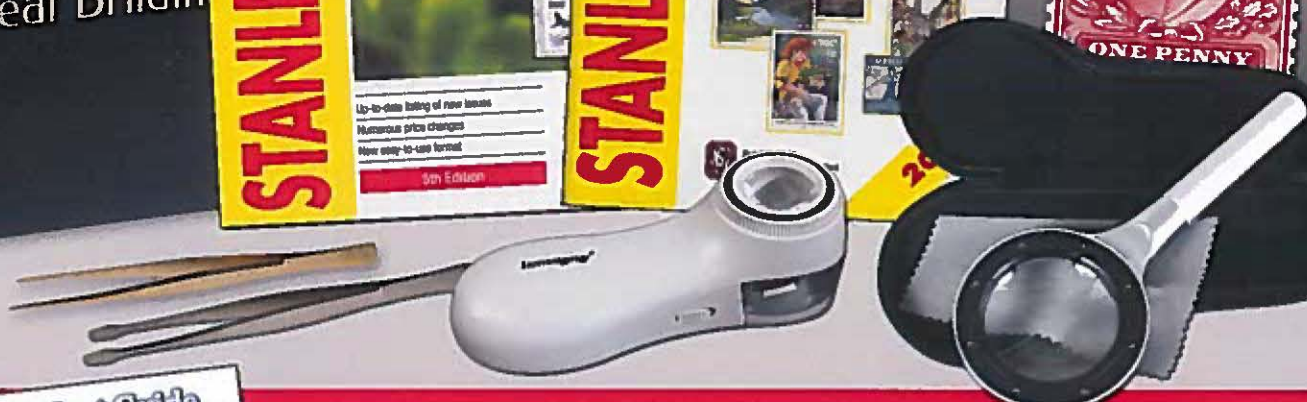


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