

IRISH STAMPS *Collectors News*



- *Christmas 2005*
- *Centenary of Arthur Griffith's Policy*
- *Year Books and Packs*

Dear Collector,

Welcome to the final edition of Collectors News for 2005.

To start off with, I would like to tell you about the eagerly awaited Christmas stamp issue. Designed by renowned artist Pamela Leonard, the stamps will be issued in denominations of 48c, 60c and 65c and feature three intricate designs depicting the Nativity and Choirs of Angels. For a preview of these exquisite stamps please turn to page 4.

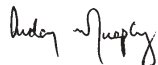
Two more firm favourites at this time of year are the 2005 Year Book – Complete Prestige Collection, containing the full collection of special and commemorative stamps from 2005, and the Commemorative Stamp Collection. These hugely popular items will soon be available from Irish Stamps and you can read all about them on page 8.

Complementing these two superb editions is a fantastic choice of three year books from around the world: The UN New York Annual Collection, Canada Post Year Book and La Poste Belgian Year Book. Go to page 10 now to add a unique international dimension to your collection.

On 10 November 2005 we commemorate the centenary of Arthur Griffith's Policy, which established Sinn Féin, with a stamp denominated at 48c. A First Day Cover, designed by Ger Garland, is also available and features the title page of 'The Resurrection of Hungary: A Parallel for Ireland'.

To bring this packed issue to a close, on page 14 there is a fascinating article on Christmas stamps by John Fitzsimons, President of the Federation of Philatelic Societies in Ireland. Featuring stamps from Ireland and abroad, it provides a delightful insight on the joys of collecting Christmas issues.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of Collectors News and look forward to another exciting year of stamp issues in 2006.



Aidan Murphy
Marketing Manager, Irish Stamps



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The images throughout Collectors News are correct at the time of going to press, but final products may not be exactly as shown.

NEWS & INFORMATION

Stampa 2005

The recently held STAMPA 2005 was very successful, with a large and enthusiastic attendance on each of the three days of the event. Collectors from all over the world gathered for what has become a true high point in the Irish philatelic year.



And the Winner is...?

Congratulations to Pauline Pender from Geashill in County Offaly who is the lucky winner of a set of Limited Edition Signed Railway Prints. Pauline was one of the many visitors to the STAMPA exhibition in the RDS, Dublin. All collectors who spent over €30 at the Irish Stamps stand not only received a free copy of 'Living Earth III' but were also entered into a draw to win a set of Vincent Killowry's Railway Prints signed by the artist himself.

UN Stamp Launch

On 14 October 2005 An Post issued four stamps celebrating 50 years of Ireland's membership of the UN. Pictured below at the launch of the stamps is Barney Whelan, Head of Business Development and Corporate Affairs, An Post.



Stamps for 2008

2005 may not have yet drawn to a close, but we're already planning stamp issues for 2008. Indeed, the Philatelic Advisory Committee are currently seeking suggestions for the 2008 Programme of Special and Commemorative Stamps. If you have an idea that you'd like us to consider, simply send your suggestion in writing to:

The Secretary,
The Philatelic Advisory Committee,
Stamp Suggestions 2008,
An Post,
GPO, Ground Floor,
Dublin 1, Ireland.

The closing date for receipt of suggestions is Friday 27 January 2006.

Websites of Interest

www.irishstamps.ie is just one of a whole host of websites that have been developed in the past few years dealing with the subject of philately. The internet has meant that philatelists from all over the world can not only share information and views but also trade in stamps and other collectibles.

If any readers have found a particular website or indeed any reference source to be of philatelic interest, we would invite you to let us know so that we can share this information with all our subscribers. In the meantime, here is a short selection of websites that you may find interesting:

www.stampshows.com
www.stanleygibbons.com
www.ukphilately.org.uk
www.stamplink.com

By the way, typing the word 'philately' into the Google search engine returns 1.9 million websites. That'll keep you busy for a while!

CHRISTMAS 2005



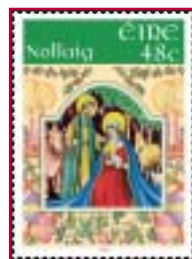
The Season of Goodwill

To celebrate Christmas this year, An Post is launching a remarkable set of festive stamps on 10 November. Designed by Pamela Leonard, and inspired by medieval Italian tempera paintings, the stamps evoke a core religious message coupled with a celebratory feel.



Each scene is set on an attractive frieze, on which the decorative inner border mirrors the shape of a church window. The stamps also feature traditional decorations and rich colours and are themed to create a truly stunning issue.

The designs depict the Nativity and Choirs of Angels and are denominated at 48c, 60c and 65c respectively. The 48c stamp is also available in a self-adhesive format.



The First Day Cover, shown below, features all four stamps and is available to buy online at www.irishstamps.ie, from the Philatelic Bureau, GPO, Dublin 1, or by using the order form at the back of Collectors News.

Self-adhesive 48c pair
0519SAS €0.96



Product Code: 0519FDC Price: €2.96

CHRISTMAS 2005

The Christmas Stamp Booklet

The Christmas Stamp Booklet 2005 is on sale from 10 November at Post Offices throughout the country. Featuring our old friend, the Snowman, the booklet contains 26 stamps - including one free. These self-adhesive Christmas stamps can be used to post Christmas cards weighing up to 100 grams within Ireland.



Last dates for posting in Ireland

Britain	19 Dec
Northern Ireland	19 Dec
National	20 Dec
Swiftpost National	22 Dec

Product Code: 0519SASBK
Price: €12.00

Did you know...

- The electric Christmas light was invented in 1895 by Ralph Morris, an American telephonist. Morris looked at the tiny bulbs on his switchboard and had the idea of using them on his tree.
- Christmas pudding was first made as a kind of soup with raisins and wine in it.
- December 25 was not celebrated as the birthday of Christ until the year AD 440.
- It is not until the Feast of the Epiphany (Twelfth Night) that the figures of the Three Kings are supposed to be added to the Christmas crib. In Germany, Twelfth Night is known as 'Three Kings Day'.
- In Italy it isn't Santa Claus who brings gifts for the children but a kindly witch called La Befana. The gifts are delivered on 6 January.
- The tradition of erecting a Christmas tree is believed to have started in Germany as far back as the sixteenth century. In North America, the earliest known mention of a Christmas tree is in the diary of a German who settled in Pennsylvania.
- Christmas crackers were invented by Thomas Smith in 1847. He had imported some French novelties to sell as Christmas gifts, but these were not popular until he wrapped them up and added a snapper.
- The real St. Nicholas lived in Turkey. St. Nicholas was bishop of the Turkish town of Myra in the early 4th century.

CHRISTMAS 2005



Many Christmas stamp issues started in the 60's and 70's. Illustrated above is the first Irish Christmas Stamp from 1971 and the first UK Christmas stamp from 1966.

To read more about the subject of Christmas as a philatelic theme turn to page 14.

(Collectors please note, the above stamps are for illustration purposes only and are not for sale.)

Christmas around the world

India

Christians decorate mango or banana trees at Christmas time. Churches are decorated with poinsettias and lit with candles for the Christmas Evening service. In some parts, small clay oil-burning lamps are used as Christmas decorations; they are placed on the edges of flat roofs and on the tops of walls.

Japan

Christmas was introduced to Japan by Christian missionaries but is now almost universally observed. There is also a God or priest known as Hoteiosho, who closely resembles Santa Claus. He is always pictured as a kind old man carrying a huge sack and is said to have eyes in the back of his head - very useful for keeping an eye on children!

Mexico

The main Christmas celebration is called Las Posadas, which refers to processions re-enacting Joseph and Mary's nine-day journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Friends and family divide into two groups - pilgrims and innkeepers - and when the pilgrims finally arrive they are admitted with great rejoicing. A traditional prayer is spoken, and the party begins.



Product Code: 051948
Price: €7.68



Product Code: 051960
Price: €9.60



Product Code: 051965
Price: €10.40

Portrait of the Artist

Pamela Leonard, who designed this year's Christmas stamps, is a graduate of the National College of Art & Design and a member of the Water Colour Society and the Graphic Studio Dublin. Etching has occupied an important place in her work in recent years, because the medium permits experimentation with combinations of colour, texture and line and Pamela finds the richness of the process deeply rewarding.

Pamela has to date designed 16 stamps for An Post, illustrated several children's books and was commissioned to do work for the P&O liner 'Aurora'. The Office of Public Works has placed many of her works in public buildings and many more are in public and private collections. A self-portrait of Pamela hangs in the National Collection of self-portraits in the University of Limerick.

An award-winning designer, Pamela has also exhibited at many prestigious venues including:

- The Royal Hibernian Academy
- Frankfurt Book Fair
- An tOireachtas
- 1991 & 1996 RHA Banquet Exhibition

Pamela's unique style is personified in the designs for An Post's Christmas stamps 2005, and when commissioned she deliberately set out to do work that was different from other years. She used her technique to great effect to convey the feeling of Christmas, with seasonal decorations on the surrounds combined with plenty of colour and movement in the orchestras and angels. In the nativity scene she created a quieter ambience, but kept the overall affinity with the other stamps by unity of design.

The source of Pamela's inspiration was medieval Italian tempera paintings. She used a square format for the design with an inner decorative band influenced by the shapes of church windows. Using very rich colours for the stamps, she maintained design continuity by using decorative friezes and images in a stylised setting.



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Date of Issue	10 November, 2005
Values & Quantities	48c Stamp (2.3 million) 60c Stamp (1 million) 65c Stamp (1 million) 48c Promotional (1.165 million)
Design	Pamela Leonard Javelin Direct
Stamp Size	29.8mm x 40.64mm 25mm x 30mm (Promotional)
Colour	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up	Sheetlets of 16 Booklets of 26 (Self-adhesive)
Perforations	14 x 15
Printing Process	Lithography
Printer	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd Australia Post - Sprintpak (Self-adhesive)

IRISH YEAR BOOK AND PACK

2005 Year Book

A firm favourite with collectors all over the world, the 2005 Year Book – Complete Prestige Collection is now available from Irish Stamps. Containing the full collection of special and commemorative stamps (including miniature sheets) from throughout 2005, it is offered in two attractive formats:

- Standard Hardback Edition, priced at €55.00
- Luxury Leather-bound Hardback, priced at €160.00

The 48 page full colour book was designed by Ger Garland and the text - in both Irish and English - was written by Liz Dwyer. The year book was printed in Germany by specialist philatelic printer Prinz Verlag and features a fascinating cross section of associated photographic material relating to the stamp subjects.

The year book would make a prestigious gift, highlighting the many fascinating aspects of Irish culture and heritage. It is advisable to order early to avoid disappointment because both editions are always extremely popular: demand always exceeds supply.



Product Code: 05YB Price: €55.00



IRISH YEAR BOOK AND PACK

Luxury Edition Year Book

A special Luxury Edition Year Book is also available. This edition is leather-bound and is limited to 150 copies.

Product Code: 05YBS Price: €160.00

Commemorative Stamp Collection 2005 Year Pack

The Commemorative Stamp Collection is available in a Year Pack containing all the 2005 issues. Each stamp is expertly mounted, and alongside each there are many intriguing details on special issues such as 'Europa – Gastronomy' and the '150th Anniversary of the completion of the Dublin-Belfast Railway Line.'

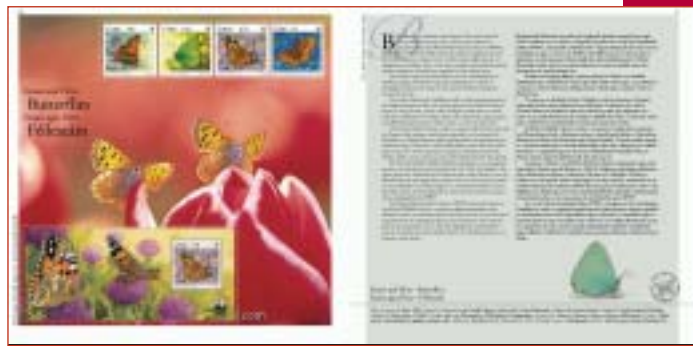
This is a truly fascinating collection, combining a high degree of visual appeal with both informative and topical subject matter. It is also the ideal way to capture the 2005 issues in one high quality pack.

From colourful and superbly defined butterflies to classic depictions of Round Towers, the majesty of Tall Ships, to a celebration of Ireland and the Ryder Cup, this collection is as eclectic as it is beautiful.

Priced at €30.00 it is the perfect seasonal gift and will be available to order from 21 November from www.irishstamps.ie or by using the order form attached.



Pictured below and opposite are pages from the 2005 Year Book. Each subject is explored in intricate detail and accompanied by exquisite imagery and the stamps themselves.



Product Code: 05YP
Price: €30.00

INTERNATIONAL YEAR BOOKS



Product Code: 05UNYP
Price: €12.00

The New York collection features the following issues from 2005:

- 60th Anniversary of the UN
- Nature's Wisdom
- International Year of Sport
- World Heritage - Egypt
- My Dream for Peace One Day
- Food for Life



There's never been a better time to add an international flavour to your collection. Irish Stamps are pleased to offer you a choice of three year books from around the world, offering a great insight into how other countries and administrations have treated 2005 from a philatelic point of view.

The UN New York Annual Collection

The New York Annual Collection folder contains single mint stamps and souvenir sheets issued in 2005. The album is printed in full colour, and provides background information on each issue in English, French and German. Profiles of the artists are also included. The mint stamps and souvenir sheets are not affixed inside the albums, although spaces and mounts are provided for this purpose.

The 2005 UN New York Year Collection costs just €12.00 and is available from 1 December from the Philatelic Bureau, GPO, Dublin 1 or online at www.irishstamps.ie.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR BOOKS

Collection Canada

The 2005 edition of Collection Canada captures the best of the stories, people and events that inspired an entire year of stamps. It is also the easiest way to collect all 67 stamps



05CPYB €40.00

issued by Canada Post in 2005 and makes a treasured gift for any collector. For Irish collectors 2005 was especially significant in that it represented the first occasion whereby An Post and Canada Post joined forces and issued the superb Biosphere Stamps.

This year, the Canada Post year book also contains a 13-page feature celebrating the amazing career of world-renowned jazz legend Oscar Peterson.

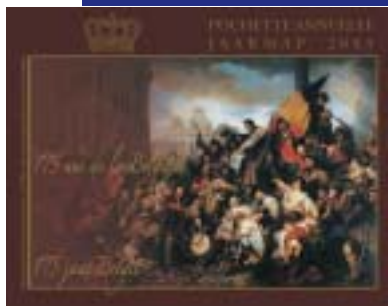
2005 Canada Post Quarter Pack 1: 05CPP1 €16.00
 2005 Canada Post Quarter Pack 2: 05CPP2 €6.00
 2005 Canada Post Quarter Pack 3: 05CPP3 €3.00
 2005 Canada Post Quarter Pack 4: 05CPP4 €9.00

La Poste Belgian Year Book & Pack

A rich diversity of topics was a strong feature of the stamps issued in Belgium in 2005. With everything from fantastic landscapes, rich fauna and flora, sporting events and Belgian culture to choose from, the Philately Book Belgium 2005 is a wonderful, informative and comprehensive reference work that will give hours of pleasure. Priced at €60, this 64 page hardback edition also features, as a special gift, a black and white ex-libris reproduction of the Christmas and New Year postage stamps.

The Year Pack would make a great end of year gift containing all the uncanceled definitive and special postage stamps, booklets and sheetlets issued in Belgium in 2005. It also contains an exclusive black and white print from the 2005 Europa series with the De Post – La Poste dry stamp.

Collectors should note that the Belgian Year Book and Year Pack are the French Language versions.



05BELYB €60.00

The Canada Post Quarterly Pack includes every stamp issue in a three month period. Issued four times a year it provides an opportunity to sample a smaller selection of the stamps issued by Canada Post.

05BELYP €80.00



ARTHUR GRIFFITH

Centenary of Arthur Griffith's Policy which established Sinn Féin



On 10 November, 2005, An Post will issue a stamp to mark the centenary of Arthur Griffith's Policy which established Sinn Féin.

At the close of the 19th Century, aspirations for Home Rule were waning. With the death of Charles Stewart Parnell and the defeat of the second Home Rule Bill in 1893, Ireland slipped into a mood of disillusionment and division. This created a vacuum out of which emerged a new type of nationalism, which aspired to give

prominence to Ireland's cultural and literary identity and therefore earn the nation recognition as a separate cultural entity.

The Gaelic League, the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Anglo-Irish literary revival gained massive popular support as their activities re-ignited national pride and promoted self-reliance and demonstrated that Ireland had the right to become an autonomous nation. Arthur Griffith was among those whose philosophy tended toward a real manifestation of this ideal. To this end, Griffith published 27 essays entitled 'The Resurrection of Hungary: A Parallel for Ireland'. Normally referred to as 'Griffith's Policy', these essays formed the principles on which Sinn Féin was founded.

Griffith's Policy was influenced by Francis Deak, the Hungarian nationalist who espoused a struggle for independence based on a non-violent struggle and the adoption of the Dual Monarchy which would ultimately become the Austro-Hungarian model.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Date of Issue	10 November 2005
Value & Quantity	48c Stamp (330,000)
Design	Ger Garland
Stamp Size	44.45mm x 23.52mm
Colour	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations	13.75 x 13.75
Printing Process	Lithography
Printer	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd



ARTHUR GRIFFITH

Later this influential document was presented at a convention in Dublin in November 1905, and like Francis Deak's philosophy, it posited a 'dual monarchy' between Britain and Ireland. Griffith's Policy was an innovation which had no precedent in Irish politics, and although it did not gain the support of the majority who favoured Home Rule, it did form the platform from which Sinn Féin was launched as a political entity.

Also available from 10 November is a First Day Cover featuring the title page of 'The Resurrection of Hungary: A Parallel for Ireland'. The stamp, which was designed by Ger Garland, features a portrait of Arthur Griffith by Leo Whelan, which hangs in Leinster House, Dublin and which has been reproduced with the kind permission of the Office of Public Works.



Product Code: 051848

Price: €7.68

Stamp your authority and Win a 2005 Year Book!

Test your philatelic knowledge with this fun quiz and be in with a chance to win one of five 2005 Year Books! (Hint: if you get stuck, all the answers can be found in this edition of Collectors News.) Simply send your answers, with your name and address, to: Stamp Your Authority Competition, An Post Philatelic Section, Ground Floor, GPO, Dublin 1.

1. Name the artist who illustrated this year's Christmas Stamps.
2. What is the Japanese version of Santa Claus called?
3. What kind of painting inspired the design of the Christmas 2005 stamps?
4. Which stamp series was issued jointly between Ireland and Canada in 2005?
5. How much does the Irish Stamps 2005 Year Book cost?
6. In which year was the first Irish 'Christmas' stamp issued?
7. What is the Irish Stamps website address?
8. What well-known Christmas symbol is featured in this year's Christmas cancellation?

Foreign Christmas Stamps



COLLECTING

There are probably more stamps commemorating the festive season of Christmas than any other subject. These stamps cover many aspects of Christmas, from the traditional religious story of the Nativity and associated events to some of the secular and contemporary customs such as the Christmas tree, the seasonal snowman and, of course, Santa Claus.

Most Christmas stamp issues commenced in the 1960s and 1970s and are now a regular annual feature of many postal administrations around the world. However, there are a few notable exceptions that date to earlier times. For instance, the first postage stamp with a Christmas connection was the 1898 'map' stamp of Canada. This stamp was imprinted 'XMAS 1898' which was to signify the introduction of the imperial penny post on Christmas Day of that year.

Irish Christmas Stamps



CHRISTMAS

The first Irish Christmas stamp appeared in 1971. It featured the Madonna and Child, a sculpture by John Hughes which is in Loughrea Cathedral, County Galway. The first Christmas stamps in the UK were produced in 1966, the contemporary designs resulting from a children's art competition.

The collecting of Christmas stamps and other relevant philatelic items such as booklets, covers and postal slogans makes for a very interesting and colourful theme. That's because every Christmas there is a new array of imaginatively designed festive stamps to be admired and collected: and what more could a keen philatelist ask for!

By John Fitzsimons
President of the Federation of Philatelic Societies in Ireland



First Christmas Stamps



Gift Ideas

from Irish Stamps

Railway Prints

This Limited Edition Set of five prints features original illustrations by renowned artist Vincent Killowry. Commissioned to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the completion of the Dublin-Belfast Railway Line, each print has been individually signed and numbered by the artist.

The edition of 750 sets features prints of the four stamp images as well as the actual Railway Stamp issued. The prints carry a First Day of Issue cancellation and a bonus print features an illustration of a specially designed Minisheet.

(Each print measures
295mm x 210mm)

Limited Edition Railway Prints
0508PRSET €100



An Post Van Sets



This wonderfully crafted set features five die-cast metal classic An Post vehicles: the Model T Ford, Horse Drawn Carriage, Anglia Van, Transit Bus and VW Transporter. Each vehicle has its own legitimate Fleet Number and each Set is contained in a superb presentation box. Individually certified and numbered and limited to 2,500 sets, the Van Set makes a wonderful gift.

Set of Five An Post Vans
03VANSET €60.00

ORDER FORM

Date of Issue	Product/Item	Product Code	UOM	Quantity	Price €	Value
10 Nov 2005	Christmas stamp set	0519SET	EA		€ 1.73	
10 Nov 2005	Christmas 48c SAS Pair	0519SAS	EA		€ 0.96	
10 Nov 2005	Christmas 48c sheetlet	051948	SH		€ 7.68	
10 Nov 2005	Christmas 60c sheetlet	051960	SH		€ 9.60	
10 Nov 2005	Christmas 65c sheetlet	051965	SH		€ 10.40	
10 Nov 2005	Christmas FDC	0519FDC	EA		€ 2.96	
10 Nov 2005	Christmas SAS Booklet	0519SASBK	EA		€12.00	
10 Nov 2005	Centenary of Arthur Griffith's Policy 48c stamp	051848	EA		€ 0.48	
10 Nov 2005	Centenary of Arthur Griffith's Policy 48c sheetlet	051848	SH		€ 7.68	
10 Nov 2005	Centenary of Arthur Griffith's Policy FDC	0518FDC	EA		€ 1.23	
21 Nov 2005	2005 Year Pack	05YP	EA		€ 30.00	
21 Nov 2005	2005 Year Book	05YB	EA		€ 55.00	
21 Nov 2005	2005 Year Book Special Luxury Edition	05YBS	EA		€ 160.00	
1 Dec 2005	2005 Canada Post Year Book	05CPYB	EA		€ 40.00	
1 Dec 2005	2005 Canada Post Quarter Pack No. 1	05CPP1	EA		€ 16.00	
1 Dec 2005	2005 Canada Post Quarter Pack No. 2	05CPP2	EA		€ 6.00	
1 Dec 2005	2005 Canada Post Quarter Pack No. 3	05CPP3	EA		€ 3.00	
1 Dec 2005	2005 Canada Post Quarter Pack No. 4	05CPP4	EA		€ 9.00	
1 Dec 2005	La Poste - Belgian Year Book 2005 (French Language Version)	05BELYB	EA		€ 60.00	
1 Dec 2005	La Poste - Belgian Year Pack 2005 (French Language Version)	05BELYP	EA		€ 80.00	
1 Dec 2005	UN Year Collection (New York Edition)	05UNYP	EA		€ 12.00	
N/A	An Post Van Set	03VANSET	EA		€ 60.00	
N/A	Railway Print Set	0508PRSET	EA		€ 100.00	

The following postal charges will apply:

Ireland = 48c; UK = 60c; Rest of the World = 65c. Orders over €63.50 in value and coin collection/set will be sent by Registered Post €3.90 for Ireland & €4.05 for Rest of the World. (This fee includes Priority Postage.) Postage for Framed Items, Books, Albums or Van Sets is €2.40 (within Ireland) & €4.80 (Rest of the World).

SUB TOTAL	
POSTAGE	
TOTAL DUE	

ORDER FORM

ORDERS SHOULD BE SENT TO:
Philatelic Bureau, Order Department,
PO Box 1991, GPO, Dublin 1, Ireland.
Tel 00 353 1 705 7400
Fax 00 353 1 705 7289
www.irishstamps.ie

Collector Account Holders: Please note that this order will be treated as additional to your standing orders.

Please send my order to:

Mr/Mrs/Ms

FIRST NAME

SURNAME

Address

Account Number (if any)

Payment Method:

☐ Cheque/Bank Draft

☐ Money Order

☐ Eurogiro

☐ Postal Order

☐ Credit Card

☐ From Account

*Please note Visa Electron and Maestro cards are not acceptable for mail orders.
(These cards must be swiped.)*

Credit Card Payments:

Please debit my

☐ VISA card

☐ MASTERCARD/EUROCARD

Amount to be debited €

Credit Card Number

Credit Card Expiry Date

Cardholder's Name: (Please Print)

Mr/Mrs/Ms

Cardholder's Signature

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

() Add () Change () Delete

SHIP TO	SALES ORDER NO
ORDER TYPE (OT)	CUSTOMER PO
	ORIGIN (SO)
OPERATOR (OP)	

Entered by

Date

Checked by

Date

Irish Stamps IBAN No. IE51 BOFI 9000 1770 9738 87.
Irish Stamps BIC Code: BOFIE2D at Bank Of Ireland,
College Green, Dublin 2.

Exchange Rate Guidelines:
€1=\$1.22: €1=Stg £0.69