



IRISH STAMPS

06/08

Collectors *NEWS*

www.irishstamps.ie



Christmas 2008

 **POST**



Dear Collector,

Welcome to another exciting edition of Collectors News.

As ever at this time of year, we celebrate the approaching festive season with our special Christmas stamp issues. Inspired by traditional crib figures, this year's stamps feature beautiful paintings by James Hanley, RHA, and superb typography and layout by Steve Simpson. Have a look at them on page 4.

We also bring you news of our 2008 Irish Year Book and Pack with all our special and commemorative stamps from this year in an attractive 56 page book.

Of course, stamps don't have to be square or rectangular. On page 10, we turn the spotlight on some of the many unusually-shaped stamps that have been issued over the years.

You'll find details of four international editions that are sure to add lustre to any collection on page 6: the UN New York Annual Collection, the Canada Post Quarterly Collectors Packs, Collection Canada 2008 and La Poste Belgian Year Book.

Plenty here for you to read and enjoy as 2008 draws to a close. See you next year!

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 product may not be exactly as shown.

NEWS & INFORMATION

IRISH MUSIC PART 2 - THE LAUNCH

Pictured below are Jennifer Lenihan and Helen Hayes from The Tulla Céilí Band, Charlie Piggott from De Dannan, Triona Ní Dhomhnaill from The Bothy Band, Frankie Gavin of De Dannan and Andy Irvine from Planxty. All artists joined us in the GPO for a photocall for our new Irish Music stamps which were issued on 10 October.



CORK PHILATELIC SHOW

The Cork Stamp & Coin Exhibition will take place from 10am to 4pm, Saturday 22 November 2008 at The Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Cork. An Post and leading Irish stamp and coin dealers will attend. Free valuations and a limited edition souvenir will be available. For further information please contact Pádraig O'Shea of Raven Stamps on 087 2574309 or sales@ravenstamps.com

NEW LOOK COLLECTORS NEWS

This will be the last Collectors News for 2008 and it will also be the last edition with the current look. 2009 will bring a new design and layout to Collectors News so be sure to watch out for our first edition in the New Year.

POSTAL SERVICE CENTRE NEW LOCATIONS

The pilot Postal Service Centres are currently operating at Dublin Airport, The Square Shopping Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 and the Merrion Centre, Dublin 4. The three remaining locations are currently under review. We will let you know as soon as each Postal Service Centre goes live. For updates please log on to www.irishstamps.ie

JAMES HANLEY, RHA, SIGNING

We are delighted to welcome James Hanley, RHA, to the GPO on 7 November. James painted and designed our Christmas stamps for 2008 and will be signing First Day Covers from 12:45pm until 2pm in the Philatelic Shop.

STAMP SUGGESTIONS FOR 2011

Collectors, please remember we are interested in getting your suggestions for the 2011 Stamp Programme. If you have an idea that you'd like to be considered, simply send your suggestion to us at:

The Secretary, The Philatelic Advisory Committee, Stamp Suggestions 2011, An Post, GPO, Ground Floor, Dublin 1, Ireland.

The closing date for receipt of suggestions is Friday 30 January 2009.

STAMPA



Pictured at the recent Stampa exhibition are enthusiastic collectors at the Irish Stamps stand.

CHRISTMAS 2008



Continuing a tradition established in 1971, An Post once again celebrates the festive season of Christmas with three special stamps, a First Day Cover, an SAS pair for collectors and a promotional booklet of 26 self-adhesive stamps – including one FREE stamp.

This year's Christmas stamps depict three scenes from the Nativity, in a style each originally painted and designed by James Hanley, RHA, who also had the original idea for the First Day Cover. The three scenes are depicted in a style inspired by traditional crib figures, a visual approach very much in keeping with the Christmas season.

The 82c stamp features the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel visited Mary in Nazareth and announced to her that she would give birth to Jesus.

The Flight into Egypt is shown on the 55c stamp. Following a warning from an angel, Joseph takes Mary and Jesus to safety in Egypt.

Technical details ✱

Date of Issue	7 November, 2008
Values & Quantities	55c (1.9m) 82c (1.5m) 55c Promotional (30.29m)
Illustration	James Hanley, RHA
Typography & Layout	Steve Simpson
Booklet Design	Javelin/Y&R
Stamp Sizes	40.64mm x 29.79mm 25mm x 30mm (Promotional)
Colour	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up	Sheetlets of 16 Booklets of 26 (Self-adhesive)
Perforations	15 x 14
Printing Process	Lithography
Printer	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. Walsall Security Printers (Self-adhesive booklets)



CHRISTMAS 2008

In the 55c self-adhesive stamp we see the birth of Christ, represented by perhaps the most powerful image of Christmas: the baby Jesus in a manger.

This year's Christmas Booklet is on sale from 7 November 2008 at Post Offices all over Ireland. The booklet contains 25 stamps – plus one free! These self-adhesive stamps can be used to send Christmas cards up to 100 grams within Ireland. You can also use these stamps to post to Britain, Europe and the rest of the world by affixing the additional postage due.

Please note these latest dates for posting:

Great Britain 18 December

Ireland 19 December

Express Post ROI 22 December



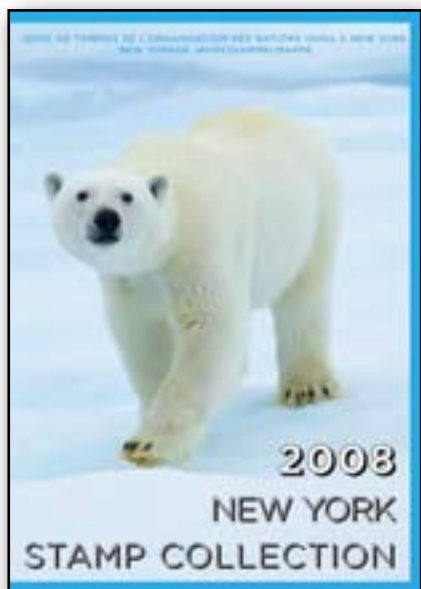
Product Code 0825BK Price €13.75



Product Code 0825FDC Price €2.92

Works by James Hanley, RHA, can be found in many collections including IMMA, The Arts Council, the National Gallery of Ireland and the European Parliament.

INTERNATIONAL YEARBOOKS



Product Code 08UNYP Price €10

The UN New York Annual Collection

The 2008 UN New York Annual Collection is available to order for our collectors. This year the collection includes such issues as International Year of Planet Earth (Climate Change), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, We Can End Poverty, Vienna definitive stamps, Remembrance and Beyond, and Sport for Peace – Games of the XXIX Olympics, Beijing, China. The album is printed in full colour and details of each issue featured are given in English, French and German.

Spaces and mounts are provided to affix the mint stamps and souvenir sheets to this fantastic album.

This Collection is always very much in demand, so order yours today.



Quarter Packs 1 - 4

Collection Post Quarterly Collector's Packs

The Canada Post Quarterly Pack includes every stamp issue for a three-month period. Issued four times each year, it gives collectors the chance to sample a modest selection of the stamps issued by Canada Post in a particular year.

INTERNATIONAL YEARBOOKS

Collection Canada 2008

Collection Canada 2008 contains all stamps issued this year, including Canada's first Braille stamp, The Guide Dog, and is guaranteed to appeal to philatelists and anyone who appreciates truly unique collectibles.

Other issues in this year's book include the 100th Anniversary of Anne of Green Gables, British Columbia's 150th Anniversary and a stamp to commemorate Sam McLaughlin, known for his cars and also commemorated for helping countless community and national organisations across Canada.

This is certainly the easiest way to collect all stamps issued by Canada Post in 2008, and its amazing photographs, exquisite original illustrations and protective mounts all add up to make Collection Canada 2008 a superb gift for any collector. Order yours early to ensure you have this amazing book in your collection.

La Poste Belgian Year Book & Pack

This year's Belgian Year Book contains every special issue from 2008, with illustrations and explanatory text about the stamps, which are well protected in transparent strips. You also get this year's special Belgian postage stamps, sheets and books, plus the gift of the black and white Christmas and New Year sheet with special cancellation.

The 2008 Year Pack is also available, with all Belgian postage stamps, sheets and books issued in 2008, the 2007 mourning stamp and a special gift: a black and white print of the 2008 Europa issue, bearing a De Post-La Poste embossed stamp.



Product Code 08CPYB Price €39



Product Code 08BELYB Price €65



Product Code 08BELYP Price €80

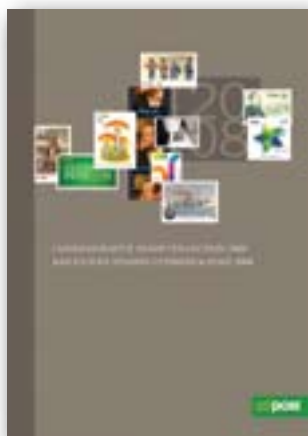
IRISH YEARBOOK & YEARPACKS



Product Code 08YBS Price €195



Product Code 08YB Price €60



Product Code 08YP Price €35

What an interesting year 2008 has been, with the issue of our first circular stamps, beautiful set-tenant stamps produced by Paul Henry and our Filmed in Ireland series, to name but a few. Now, our entire collection of special and commemorative stamps from 2008 is included in our Year Book for 2008.

This year, the Irish Stamp Year Book returns to the classic format with the stamp and minisheet mounts positioned alongside the subject information, technical details and cancels. The 56 page publication was designed by Ger Garland, with text in both Irish and English written by Anne Sexton and Paul O'Kelly and translated by Gearóid Ó Casaide.

As always our Year Book is available in two attractive formats:

1. Standard Hardback Edition €60
2. Luxury Leather-bound Hardback €195

The Year Book was produced and printed in Germany, by specialist philatelic printer Prinz Verlag GmbH and would make a wonderful gift for anyone with an interest in Irish culture and heritage.

Our Year Book is a limited edition of 2,000 copies and the Luxury Edition Year Book is limited to just 150 copies. Be sure to order early and avoid disappointment, as both editions are extremely popular year on year with our collectors.

Commemorative Stamp Year Pack 2008

Capture all of our Commemorative Stamps from 2008 in one, high-quality pack. Each stamp is mounted and is also accompanied by information on each issue. The pack contains stamps from 25 stamp issues throughout 2008. Available from 1 December and priced at just €35, our Year Pack is the perfect seasonal gift and can be ordered from www.irishstamps.ie, or by using the order form attached.

Top Up Your Collection

with these two spectacular Prestige Booklets from 2008



Filmed in Ireland
Prestige Booklet - €12

Ireland Series -
Paul Henry Landscapes
Prestige Booklet - €9



Filmed in Ireland
Scannáin a Rinneadh in Éirinn

Filmed in Ireland
Scannáin a Rinneadh in Éirinn

Filmed in Ireland
Scannáin a Rinneadh in Éirinn

Filmed in Ireland
Scannáin a Rinneadh in Éirinn

Both available now from www.irishstamps.ie or visit
the Philatelic Shop, GPO, Dublin 1, tel. (01) 705 7400

 **POST**

OUTSIDE THE ENVELOPE- UNUSUALLY-SHAPED STAMPS



Bee Gees Isle of Man Stamps



Tonga Royal Visit Stamp



Pacific 97 Stamp

When you hear the word 'stamp' it's only natural to think of a rectangular shape, or maybe a square. But stamps of many other shapes have come into circulation down the years. Triangular, circular and heart-shaped stamps have all made their mark... there have even been stamps in the shape of bottles and maps!

The first 'unusual' stamps were produced by The Cape of Good Hope (Africa) in 1853, when two triangular stamps were issued. All the more remarkable when you consider that the first stamps of any shape had been issued only 13 years earlier. The triangular stamps were produced so that illiterate workers could easily tell the difference between incoming and outgoing mail. The distinctive shape also made mail from the Cape of Good Hope stand out clearly from other mail.

Other notable triangular issues include Poland's 'World of Toys' from 2006 and the United States Postal Service's stamp to mark the 400th Anniversary of the 'Settlement of Jamestown' in 2007. This stamp was triangular to reflect the shape of the fort built by the Jamestown settlers who landed in 1607.

OUTSIDE THE ENVELOPE -

UNUSUALLY-SHAPED STAMPS

Tonga, in the South Pacific, is one of the most interesting nations in terms of irregular stamp issues. From the 1960s onwards, its catalogue has included heart, map, coin, cross and even banana shapes. Trinidad & Tobago showed its creative side with the issue of three bottle-shaped stamps for the 175th Anniversary of the Angostura distillery.

Circular designs have been popular too. For the 30th Anniversary of the first moon landing in 1999, Ascension Island issued a series of stamps including a souvenir sheet which showed the moon from Earth with a perforated circular stamp at its centre. In the same year, the Isle of Man issued two souvenir sheets to commemorate the Bee Gees, who were born on the island, featuring a circular stamp within a circular sheet which reflected a compact disc.

In 1973, a series of stamps from the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan were small records that actually played music. Indeed Irish Stamps issued our first circular stamps in the International Year of Planet Earth series just this year!

Although we will never say goodbye to our familiar square and rectangular stamps, these other unusually-shaped designs will always hold a place in our miniature art galleries, in history - and in our hearts.



International Year of Planet Earth Series



International Year of Planet Earth Series



Pacific 97 Stamp

*Stamp images courtesy of
Cathedral Stamps, Dublin.*

IRISH STAMPS

Commemorative First Day Cover Collection



This year's collection of our First Day Covers is the perfect way to acquire every Irish Stamps commemorative FDC issued for 2008. Included in this is the Irish Music Part 2 FDC as well as the hugely popular International Year of Planet Earth FDC and the 50th Anniversary of the Munich Air Disaster FDC.

The First Day Cover collection contains 31 commemorative FDC's, and includes 6 FDC's with minisheets. Priced at €80 and housed in an attractive presentation box, this collection is a great way to round up the full wealth of covers from the past year.