



IRISH STAMPS

THE COLLECTOR

AN POST 25 YEARS
SPECIAL EDITION

www.irishstamps.ie

 **post**

PHILATELIC IMAGES FROM THE LAST 25 YEARS



Celtic Cats 2007



*30th Anniversary
of the Irish Guide
Dogs for the Blind*



*Bicentenary of
the birth of
Louis Braille*



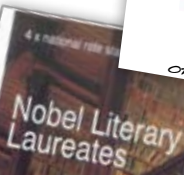
*International Year
of Planet Earth 2008*



Filmed in Ireland 2008



*6th Definitive Series
Wild Flowers
of Ireland*



Ryder Cup 2006



*The birth
centenary of
Count John
McCormack*



*Bicentenary of the
Irish Post Office*



CONTENTS

PHILATELIC FACTS FROM THE LAST 25 YEARS	4
25 YEARS IN THE PHILATELIC BUREAU	5
AN POST 25 YEARS	6-9
WORDSEARCH	10

Joanne Murphy



DEAR COLLECTOR...

Welcome to this very special edition of The Collector, created to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of An Post. Here, I'd like to tell you what we have in store for you in this special issue – and what An Post had to offer philatelists back in 1984. Firstly, however I would like to thank you all for your continuing support over the last 25 years and look forward in anticipation to the next 25.

On page 6, you'll find reflections on the changes that have taken place over the last 25 years from Stephen Ferguson, Assistant Secretary of An Post. Des Bell joins us on page 5 to consider the effects of innovations in the Philatelic Bureau, and philately itself, over the last quarter of a century.

As 2009 marks our Silver Jubilee you may remember how, on 2 January 1984, An Post celebrated its first day in business with a 1p stamp that could be used to post any item.

Over 4 million of these stamps, from the 'Irish Architecture Down the Ages' Definitive series, were sold that day. This wildly successful 'Penny Post' promotion was followed at the end of January by An Post's first commemorative stamps, designed by Charles Rycraft, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Irish Railways.

1984 marked not only the beginning for An Post, but also the bicentenary of the Irish Post Office. Naturally, this occasion saw the issue of a special stamp – the first to bear the An Post logo.

Then, in the year of European Parliamentary Elections, Ireland's membership of the European Economic Community was celebrated. Looking to the west, An Post also marked the 1,500th Anniversary of the birth of St Brendan, 'The Voyager', and the Los Angeles Olympic Games. The birth centenary of the legendary Irish tenor Count John McCormack was remembered in a joint issue with the United States Postal Service.

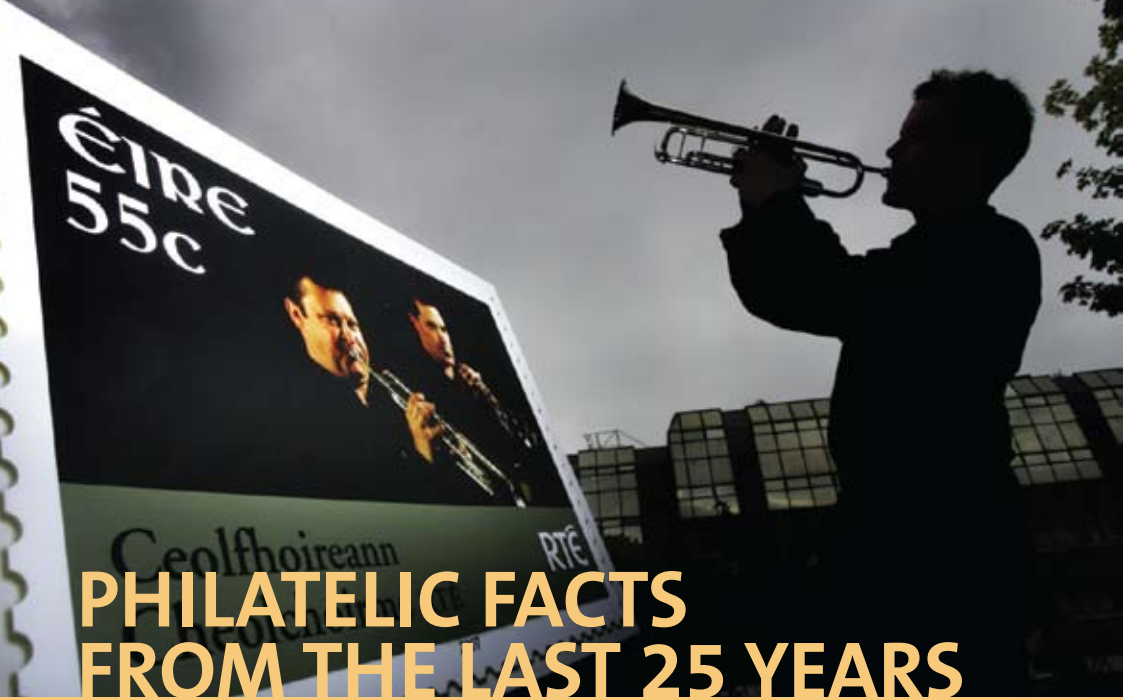
Two major events in Irish history were also the subject of stamp issues in 1984: the 100th Anniversary of the GAA and the 500th Anniversary of Galway City.

10 stamps have been produced to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of An Post. Issued in self-adhesive booklets, these stamps illustrate An Post's close relationship with the people of Ireland – more details on pages 8 and 9.

We hope you enjoy this little addition to your regular reading. Watch out for the next issue of The Collector, heading your way soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Murphy'.

Joanne Murphy,
Marketing Manager, Irish Stamps



PHILATELIC FACTS FROM THE LAST 25 YEARS

- There have been 12 joint stamp issues involving An Post and other postal authorities since 1984.
- The Dublin Millennium stamp booklet issued in 1988 was the first booklet to be produced in Ireland containing commemorative stamps.
- Three new Definitive stamp series have been introduced since 1984.
- The Single European Currency issue from 1999 showed the stamp value in Euro and Irish Punt for the first time.
- Christmas stamps from 2001 were the last stamps to show the Irish Punt values.
- Irish winners of the Nobel Prize stamps from 2004 were the first commemorative stamps to be issued with the 'N' or National value displayed on them.
- Ireland's first lenticular stamps were issued in 2006 to celebrate the hosting of The Ryder Cup.
- An Post has issued two stamps featuring Braille. The first was issued in 2006 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, and the second this year to celebrate the birth bicentenary of the inventor of the reading and writing system, Louis Braille.
- The Postal Service Centre Franking Labels are the first stamps to be issued with special barrier coated thermal paper.
- The first Year Book was issued in 1989, covering all issues from June 1988 to June 1989.
- Maximum cards were issued in 1985 for the first time for the Fauna & Flora Butterflies issue.
- The Irish Stamps logo appeared first in 1995 when what was the Irish Philatelic Bulletin changed its name to Collectors News.

25 YEARS IN THE PHILATELIC BUREAU!!!

BY DES BELL

This year An Post is celebrating its 25th anniversary, which also happens to coincide with the 25th anniversary of my arrival in the Philatelic Bureau. As you can see from the number of exclamation marks in the title, this fact came as quite a shock to me.

When I first arrived in the Bureau it was staffed exclusively by men, older than I am now (127!), who knew their customers by name (approximately 1,000 customers each) and recorded all transactions on the collector accounts manually. Invoices were handwritten at a ferocious rate and all calculations were done by mental arithmetic. They had calculators but that was considered cheating.

I still have the mental scars from the trauma of trying to keep up with them while processing my first stamp issue. One of these giants of calculation gave me a pitying look and comforted me with the immortal words 'Don't worry son. In about 25 years you'll get the hang of it...' He was partially right.

Since then, An Post has undergone almost continuous technological and operational change, with the Philatelic Bureau in the forefront of that change process.

Indeed, even now, we are currently updating our computer system - just as I figured out how the old one works.

One piece of technological innovation of which we in the Bureau are justifiably proud was the launch of www.irishstamps.ie in March 2002. Since then, the website has gone from strength to strength and has proven an invaluable shop window and means of contact for our customers.

The pastime of stamp collecting has also changed over this period. Some aspects have all but disappeared (gutter T blocks, anyone?) while other new avenues have opened up.

Many innovative changes have occurred in the design and production of stamps, for example self-adhesive, personalised and lenticular stamps.

The range of philatelic and collectible products available through the Bureau has greatly increased. I believe that, overall, these changes have enhanced and improved the pastime of collecting Irish stamps.

The last 25 years have seen Ireland transformed. An Post has mirrored that transformation. One thing, however, has never changed and that is the commitment of the management and staff of the Philatelic Bureau, both past and present, to providing our customers with the first class service that they deserve. Here's to the next 25 years!



AN POST 25 YEARS

“This year An Post celebrates its Silver Jubilee”

This year An Post celebrates its Silver Jubilee, 25 years as a commercial State company. The Irish Post Office, of course, has been around for very much longer than that and during that long period it has naturally gone through various transformations, changes in administrative structure and legal form, which have reflected business and political changes over the years.

An Post and its sister company, Telecom Éireann, were created in 1984 out of what was the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, the largest Civil Service department in the State, with a workforce of close to 30,000 people and an extraordinary range of business services which touched every citizen almost every day. By the mid 1970s it was becoming clear that direct State management of such a vast enterprise was holding back Post Office development, particularly in telecommunications where significant investment was required to provide modern

services. A Government-appointed Review Group, comprised of prominent Irish business people and Post Office consultants from Britain and Denmark, recommended radical structural change which would allow two new state-sponsored companies the commercial flexibility necessary to modernise both telecommunications and postal services in Ireland.

From its first day of business, when it reintroduced penny postage for one day, An Post signalled its intention to be innovative in its approach to marketing. Ably assisted in this respect by its first Chairman, Fergal Quinn, the Company strove, through new products, to stimulate demand. This has remained a core objective for An Post, particularly in the face of the huge technological changes which have affected the way people communicate with each other over the last decade or so. Mobile phones, e-mail and the internet



challenge the continuing existence of the traditional letter but they also represent opportunities for new An Post products and, outside of Star Trek, there is no substitute for the physical delivery of the products people buy on-line every day!

While, from the customer's point of view, a commercial, market-led approach to business has probably been the greatest single change in the Post Office over the last quarter of a century, there have been several very significant internal operational changes. Not surprisingly, the main one has been technological. Computerisation has affected our operations at every level – postal collection times are recorded by a scanning system, mail sortation is overwhelmingly automated and concentrated into large centres, counter transactions of all types, be they bill payments, pensions or banking, are handled by the latest data capture technology.



An Post 25 Years Stamps Strip 1 & 2





AN POST 25 YEARS

“We in An Post are well used to challenge and change”

Structurally, the Company has also changed greatly. The Travelling Post Office, for so long a very useful and well-loved feature of An Post operations ran for the last time in 1994. The organisation of the service into Head Post office districts, each administered by a Head Postmaster, which was the epitome of solid efficiency for well over a century, has given way to a regional structure more in keeping with today's operational needs. The sub-office network, that living system of dedicated postmasters and postmistresses which gives An Post its unrivalled local presence has also changed. The much-respected job of running a local post office, like some other professions in today's society, is seen by people in a different light perhaps, and numbers have fallen since 1984.

The technological and structural changes of the last 25 years are essential in helping An Post deal with what is certainly one of the greatest challenges the Post Office has faced in its long history.

Charged with the responsibility of providing a nationwide postal service at an affordable cost, An Post has always had a degree of monopoly protection so that it can deliver through the length and breadth of the land at a fixed price. Reduced over the years, that monopoly assistance is due to disappear completely in 2011 but the primary responsibility for operating the State's postal service is likely to remain with An Post.

The future, particularly in these difficult times, is uncertain but, with such a long history, we in An Post are well used to challenge and change. What we believe will remain constant, is the human touch – the friendly smile at the door or greeting at the counter – and a tradition of service that sees us look forward with expectation to our Golden Anniversary.

Stephen Ferguson



An Post Travelling Post Office

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Date of Issue:	3 April 2009
Value:	10 x 55c
Design:	Zinc Design
Stamp sizes & Quantities:	20mm x 24mm (12.5m) 25mm x 30mm (60m)
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Self-adhesive Booklets of 10 Boxes of 100
Perforations:	Booklet: 14 x 14 Box: 11 x 11.5
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.

Ten stamps designed by Zinc Design to illustrate the integral relationship between An Post and the people of Ireland have been produced in self-adhesive booklets. Each image is placed on a silver background to highlight our 25 years in business and together they show our involvement in many aspects of the community, from people carrying out transactions in their local post office to companies doing business globally. Also shown is the Seán Kelly Cycling Team which has been sponsored by An Post since 2008. The Irish Post Office goes back over 200 years and is steeped in history. This could not be shown more clearly than in the iconic image of the G.P.O. which, like An Post, will remember its past but embrace the future.

Add this moment in Post Office history to your collection. Order now by going online, using the order form attached or by calling +353 (1) 705 7400.



Product code: 0909FDC Price €6.50

WORDSEARCH

Here's a bit of philatelic fun for you!

Hidden in this grid are 20 words relating to stamps and stamp collecting. They can run across, down or diagonal – but not backwards. You can check your answers in our next issue. If you find all 20 words, well done!

S	H	E	E	T	L	E	T	X	D	T	M	O	W	Q	A
C	B	L	J	P	Y	N	H	I	U	H	I	N	G	E	W
A	O	Y	V	A	X	P	J	R	J	I	S	S	U	E	O
N	A	M	C	K	P	H	O	S	P	H	O	R	M	P	I
C	Z	I	M	S	C	E	W	G	P	A	J	R	M	F	S
E	R	N	A	E	I	O	R	U	R	M	I	Y	E	H	E
L	X	I	D	T	M	S	L	F	R	A	N	R	D	B	R
L	P	S	Q	E	S	O	C	O	O	D	P	U	G	R	I
A	E	H	D	N	K	W	R	R	U	R	I	H	K	Y	E
T	H	E	C	A	R	U	K	A	S	R	A	O	Y	E	S
I	T	E	D	N	A	C	F	T	T	X	M	T	F	C	Z
O	P	T	Y	T	O	J	R	E	A	I	G	T	I	V	I
N	G	H	F	L	I	P	Y	M	M	A	V	E	O	O	F
P	H	I	B	W	S	T	R	I	P	T	H	E	N	J	N
S	F	D	C	U	D	E	F	I	N	I	T	I	V	E	X
L	I	T	H	O	G	R	A	P	H	Y	U	R	C	K	N

Check the next edition of The Collector to find the solution!

Facsimile of the 1916 Proclamation



Product Code 1916WP Price €10.00

An original 1916 Proclamation, the document which was read by P. H. Pearse from the front of the GPO, Dublin, at the start of the Easter Rising, has been on display in the Philatelic Shop of the Post Office for some years. While various reproductions are on sale in shops around the city, there was until now nothing available in the GPO itself for those who might want a souvenir of their visit to one of Dublin's most famous buildings.

An Post has now produced a fine facsimile of the Proclamation on display in the GPO. The poster size of 72cm by 48cm is just slightly smaller than the double-crown measurement of the 1916 printing and, retaining the creases of the original, folds down into a neat 24cm by 18cm. A short explanatory note by Stephen Ferguson, on the reverse of the poster, sets the document in context and outlines the complications that faced the printers as they worked in secret on an old press in Liberty Hall. Copies of stamps commemorating the events of 1916 and those who signed the Proclamation illustrate his commentary.

This facsimile edition of the GPO Proclamation, on sale at €10, will be prized by all who would like to have their own copy of one of the most famous documents in Irish history.

ORDER FORM

Orders should be sent to:
Philatelic Bureau, Order Department,
PO Box 1991, GPO, Dublin 1, Ireland.
Tel: + 353 (1) 705 7400
Fax: + 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)

Tel: Email:

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

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further editions of Irish Stamps The Collector ☐

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

() Add	() Change	() Delete
Entered by	Date	Checked by
Date	Ship To	Sales Order No
Order Type	(Ot)	Customer Po
Origin (So)	Operator	(Op)

Exchange Rate Guidelines:
€1 = US\$1.37: €1 = Stg £0.96

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

NB Customers, please be aware when stamps are ordered for more than one issue the entire order will only be dispatched after the last stamp issue date.

ORDER FORM

LOT 1

DATE OF ISSUE	PRODUCT/ITEM	PRODUCT CODE	UOM	QUANTITY	PRICE	VALUE
03 Apr 09	An Post 25 Years - Self-adhesive Booklet	0909BK	EA		€5.50	
03 Apr 09	An Post 25 Years - 100 Stamp Box	0909SASB	EA		€55.00	
03 Apr 09	An Post 25 Years - FDC	0909FDC	EA		€6.50	
03 Apr 09	An Post 25 Years - 100 Stamp Box strip 1	0909SAS1	EA		€2.75	
03 Apr 09	An Post 25 Years - 100 Stamp Box strip 2	0909SAS2	EA		€2.75	

LOT 2

	1916 Proclamation Facsimile	1916WP	EA		€10.00	
	Van Set	03VANSET	EA		€60.00	

SUB TOTAL €

POSTAGE €

TOTAL DUE €

THE FOLLOWING POSTAL CHARGES WILL APPLY:
Ireland = 55c; International (including U.K.) 82c. Orders over €63.50 in value and coin collection/set will be sent by Registered Post €5.25 for Ireland & €5.85 for Rest of the World. (This fee includes Priority Postage) Postage for Framed Items, Prints, Books, Albums or Van Sets are €6.00 (within Ireland) & €7.50 (International including U.K.).

AN POST VAN SET



*Product Code: 03VANSET
Price: €60.00*

An official limited edition collection of five An Post Model Vehicles is available to purchase from the Philatelic Shop, GPO, Dublin 1. The vehicles featured, which measure 80mm x 30mm approx. are, the Model T Ford, Horse Drawn Vehicle, Anglia Van, Transit Bus and VW Transporter. Each of these vehicles featured in the fleet over the years and has its own legitimate Fleet Number.

The collection is contained in a superb presentation box set. A card showing an illustration of the General Post Office sits on top of a foam underlay. The models are housed in five cut-outs making for a delightful set. The collection is limited to 2,500 sets with each one being certificated and individually numbered.

This limited edition collection costs €60 (postage €6.00 within Ireland and €7.50 rest of the world) and is a must-buy for model enthusiasts and collectors alike. Available now from the Philatelic Shop, GPO, Dublin 1, 00353 (1) 705 7400 or online at www.irishstamps.ie.