



IRISH STAMPS

THE COLLECTOR

01/10

Douglas Hyde – President of Ireland

Our first President:
a popular choice

Wedding Stamp 2010

A very inviting
stamp

Chinese Year of the Tiger

A sign of bravery and a
noble spirit

St. Patrick's Day

The day the world
turns green!

25th Anniversary of Gaisce

25 years of
achievement

Irish Countrywoman's Association

Women in a century
of change

www.irishstamps.ie

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.

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Joanne Murphy



DEAR COLLECTOR...

Welcome to our first issue of 'The Collector' for 2010. Already we can tell that it's going to be a great year for anyone interested in stamps.

We examine a very special stamp to mark the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Douglas Hyde, our first President, on page 10. We stay at the Áras for a look at the President's Award in its 25th year. That's on page 18. Page 20 sees us commemorating 100 years of the Irish Countrywoman's Association, before we talk about investing your money in stamps on page 22.

There are new issues for the Chinese Year of the Tiger, page 14, and for St. Patrick's Day, page 16. Other familiar favourites return with new Weddings and Greetings stamps – see pages 8 and 12.

All of our commemorative cancellations from 2009 are reviewed on page 24. Turn to page 26 and you can take up one last chance to collect some of the Commemorative Stamps you may have missed out on early last year.

So there you have it. 2010 is off to a flying philatelic start. Set a little time aside for yourself and read all about it in 'The Collector'.

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

Joanne Murphy,
Marketing Manager, Irish Stamps

Stamp Suggestions 2012

As 2010 begins, we're already planning our stamp issues for 2012. As always, we welcome any stamp suggestions that our collectors wish to put forward for consideration. If you have an idea that you'd like to see on our stamp programme, simply send your suggestions to us at:

The Secretary, The Philatelic Advisory Committee, Stamp Suggestions 2012, An Post, GPO, Ground Floor, Dublin 1, Ireland. Or email us at pac@anpost.ie. The closing date for receipt of suggestions is Friday 29 January 2010.

Stampa Dinner

The evening of Saturday October 16 played host to the annual Stampa Awards dinner. We would like to say a big thank you to the organisers of Stampa, whose President, John Lennon, kindly presented An Post Assistant Company Secretary Stephen Ferguson with a beautifully illustrated manuscript to mark the 25th anniversary of An Post. A wonderful evening was had by all.



IRISH STAMPS WEBSITE

Coming soon

Irishstamps.ie is getting a whole new look! We would like to let our collectors know that the Irish Stamps website will be getting a new look and feel before the next issue of The Collector in April. Don't worry – all your usual features and information will still be available but we hope that visitors to the new site will find it more user-friendly and up to date.

A new feature is the “Collector’s Corner” which is a space dedicated to philatelic pursuits,

including your 2010 Stamp Programme, your Collectors Account section and mailing list sign-up area.

As part of the new site we will also be uploading the press releases which are issued for each new stamp launch. Another development is the inclusion of Laser cards as an additional payment method.

We hope that you will enjoy the new site and we look forward to hearing your comments.

Cork Philatelic Show

Although the floods were still in evidence in Cork and the rest of Munster, it was difficult to deter those hardy souls who collect stamps. Many of them made their way by varying methods to the annual Cork Stamp & Coin Fair held in the Imperial Hotel on November 21 last. Although the numbers were slightly lower than normal and despite much mentioning of the dreaded 'R' word, all dealers and An Post recorded very satisfactory sales. An exhibition booklet featuring the Volvo Ocean Race was produced and, in addition, a limited edition overprinted minisheet was available. Both of

these can be obtained by contacting Padraig O'Shea at (021) 427 1750 or sales@ravenstamps.com

A monthly stamp and coin show will take place on the second Saturday of each month in the Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Cork. The dates for the next six months are as follows:

January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 12.

Free valuations will be available at all of these shows.

International Events:

Collectors, please note the following International Philatelic Events:

April 9–12: Antwerp, Belgium – Antverpia 2010

May 8–15: Islington, London – London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition

May 21–23: Verona, Italy – Veronafil Philatelic and Numismatic Trade Fair

June 4–6: Paris, France – Salon du Timbre 2006

August 4–12: Bangkok, Thailand – Bangkok 2010

October 1–10: Lisbon, Portugal – Portugal 2010 (General World Philatelic Exhibition)

October 21–24: New York, USA – ASDA Fall Mega Event

Stamps on a Roll

An Post is due to pilot the new stamps on a roll product in certain Post Offices in February. Post offices will then be able to print stamps of any denomination, subject to a minimum value of 55c directly from the counter automation system. The stamp format will be similar to those currently available from the Postal Services Centres around the country. The participating Post Offices are as yet unconfirmed but do keep an eye on www.irishstamps.ie from February for more details and updates.



2010 STAMP PROGRAMME

Once again this year, we're delighted to present a colourful and exciting schedule of issues to keep you occupied throughout 2010. We hope you enjoy adding these beautiful stamps to your collection.

ISSUE DATE	DESCRIPTION	STAMPS
21-JAN	150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF DOUGLAS HYDE – PRESIDENT OF IRELAND	1
21-JAN	WEDDING STAMP 2010	1
28-JAN	GREETINGS 2010	2
11-FEB	CHINESE YEAR OF THE TIGER	1
18-FEB	ST. PATRICK'S DAY	1
11-MAR	25TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAISCE – THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD	1
25-MAR	CENTENARY OF THE IRISH COUNTRYWOMAN'S ASSOCIATION	1
08-APR	IRELAND SERIES – HIGH CROSSES	4
06-MAY	EUROPA – CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR EUROPE	2
27-MAY	CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF MÁIRTÍN Ó DIREÁIN	1
27-MAY	150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF RODERIC O'CONOR	2
03-JUN	FAUNA & FLORA – BIRDS OF PREY	4
17-JUN	INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIANS – MOTHER TERESA & HENRY DUNANT	2
15-JUL	IRISH FASHION DESIGNERS – LOUISE KENNEDY, PAUL COSTELLOE, PHILIP TREACY, LAINEY KEOGH, ORLA KIELY, JOHN ROCHA	6
26-AUG	CZESLAW SLANIA (JOINT ISSUE WITH SWEDEN)	1
09-SEP	50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRISH WHEELCHAIR ASSOCIATION	1
14-OCT	CENTENARY OF AA IRELAND	1
28-OCT	LEGENDARY SHOWBANDS	4
04-NOV	CHRISTMAS	3

Collect a Piece of Ireland...



Irish Stamps Year Book

Holding the full collection of stamps and miniature sheets issued by An Post for 2009, this full colour hardback with accompanying text on each stamp issue will capture the attention of anybody that has an interest in Irish culture and heritage. Included amongst 53 others in the book are the stamps issued to celebrate the Volvo Ocean Race coming to Ireland for the first time and our stamp featuring Arthur Guinness issued to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Guinness Brewery.

When looking for something special to give as a gift, the Irish Stamps Year Book 2009 priced at just €60, will always have a special place in anyone's collection.

Irish Stamps Year Collection 2009

A spectacular collection of all the commemorative stamps issued by An Post from 2009. The stamps are presented on protective mount cards with explanatory notes on each stamp all housed in an attractive full colour folder.

Priced at just €35 the Irish Stamps Year Collection 2009 would make a fantastic souvenir or gift.



Available from December from the Philatelic Shop, GPO, Dublin 1, telephone 00353 (1) 7057400 or online at www.irishstamps.ie.

 **POST**



WEDDING STAMP 2010

“ An Post’s Wedding stamps are also immensely popular with couples who are about to get married ”

‘Here comes the bride’. We all know the stirring, rousing music that accompanies these words, music that has often been used to accompany a bride as she makes her way up the aisle.

This iconic piece of music originally came from the opera *Lohengrin*, composed by Richard Wagner and first performed in 1850. In its original setting, it was played as *Lohengrin*, hero of the opera, enters the bridal chamber with his new wife Elsa.

This scene takes place after the hero and heroine have become man and wife, so how

has this melody - the *Bridal Chorus*, G major, to give it its more formal title - become so closely associated with the final moments before the wedding actually takes place?

Eight years after its first performance in *Lohengrin*, the *Bridal Chorus* was used at a royal wedding ceremony. The occasion was the marriage of Princess Victoria, daughter of Queen Victoria of Britain, to the German Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Prussia.

After this momentous event, Wagner’s *Bridal Chorus* quickly became popular as matrimonial



PRODUCT CODE 1001BK Price €5.50

Technical details

Date of Issue:	21 January 2010
Value & Quantities:	55c (1.5m) Strip of 2 x 55c (20,000)
Illustration:	Cathy Dineen
Typography & Layout:	Steve Simpson
Stamp Size:	37.5mm x 26mm
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Booklets of 10 Collectors' Strip of 2
Perforations:	13 x 13
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd.

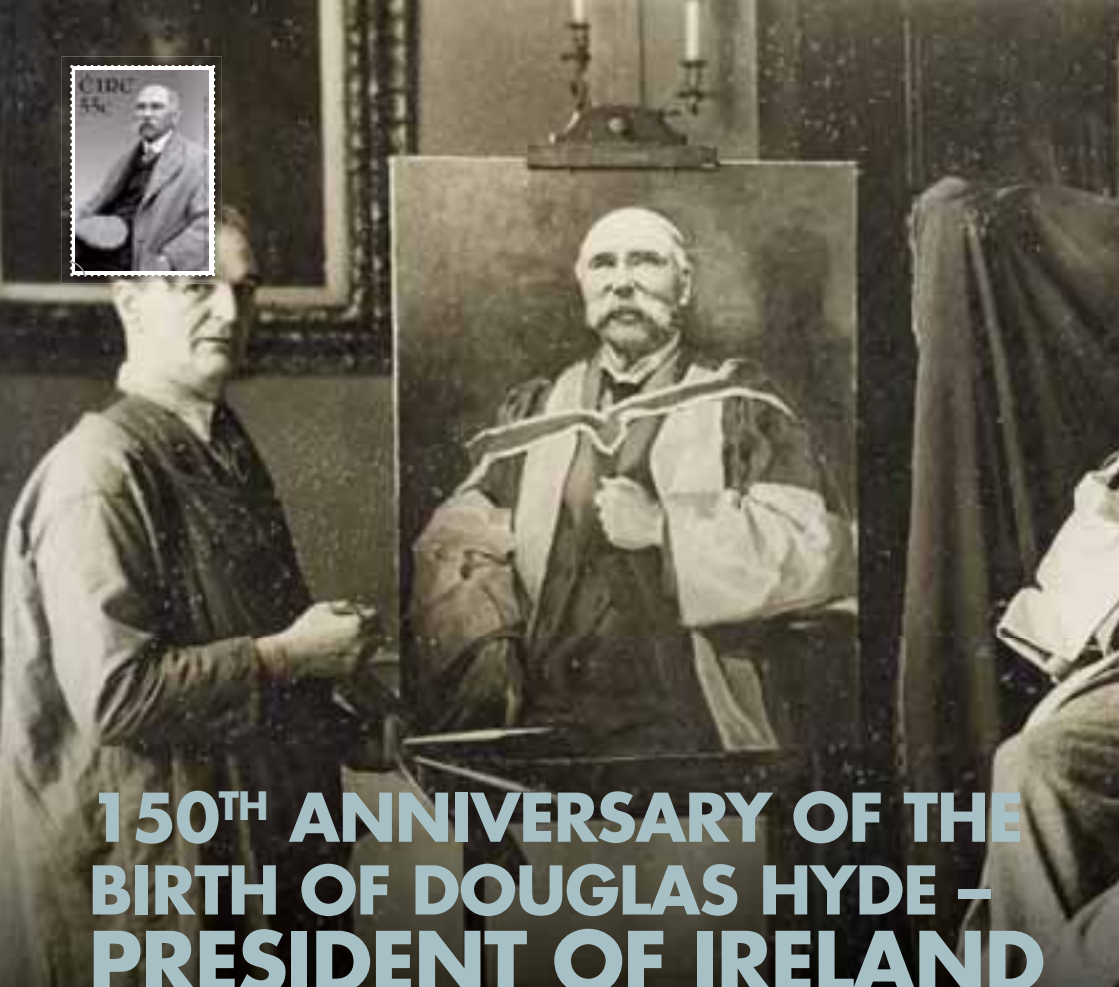


PRODUCT CODE 1001FDC Price €1.55

music. Even now, it remains one of the most popular pieces to be played when a bride approaches the altar.

An Post's Wedding stamps are also immensely popular with couples who are about to get married. Lovingly illustrated by well-known Irish artist Cathy Dineen, this year's stamp uses a pair of devoted lovebirds to embody the love and joy shared by the happy couple. Steve Simpson supplied the superb typography and layout for this beautiful representation of love and marriage, which is available in booklets of 10 self-adhesive stamps.

These products are available to purchase by using the order form attached, by calling +353 (1) 705 7400 or by logging onto www.irishstamps.ie from date of issue.



150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF DOUGLAS HYDE – PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

“ In 1893 he was a founder member and first President of Conradh na Gaeilge (The Gaelic League) ”

The first President of Ireland, Douglas Hyde was born on 17 January 1860 near Castlerea, County Roscommon. Seven years later his family moved to Frenchpark, County Roscommon, where his father served as a Church of Ireland clergyman. Growing up, he took a great interest in the Irish language.

This interest continued when he moved to Dublin to study at Trinity College. Also fluent in French, Latin, German, Greek and Hebrew, he embarked on a career as a distinguished scholar. In 1893 he was a founder member and first President of Conradh na Gaeilge

(The Gaelic League), an organisation set up to preserve and promote the Irish language.

Appointed as a Senator after the formation of the Irish Free State, he lost his seat in 1925 when the Seanad became an elected body, after a false claim that he was in favour of divorce. He returned to his career as an academic, working as Professor of Irish at University College Dublin.

By 1938, he had retired. However, he was appointed again to the Seanad, and then he was named first President of Ireland later that same year.



Technical details

Date of Issue:	21 January 2010
Value & Quantity:	55c (.294m)
Stamp Design :	Q Design
Stamp Size:	29.79mm x 40.64mm
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	14 x 15
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd.



PRODUCT CODE 1002FDC Price €1.55

He proved immensely popular in this role, which he carried out until 25 June 1945, despite suffering a massive stroke in 1940. After leaving office, he moved into a new home on the grounds of Áras an Uachtaráin. He passed away there on 12 July 1949.

The stamp and first day cover were designed by Q Design. The stamp features a photographic portrait, by Keogh Brothers Ltd., of Dr. Douglas Hyde in relaxed pose. The first day cover design shows Dr. Hyde entering St. Patrick's Cathedral prior to his inauguration as first President of Ireland. Stamps and first day cover images are

courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

These products are available to purchase by using the order form attached, by calling +353 (1) 705 7400 or by logging onto www.irishstamps.ie from date of issue.

Photograph of President Douglas Hyde having his portrait painted by the artist William Conor, 8 November 1938. President Hyde is seated to the right hand side of the portrait with William Conor standing to the left of the painting.

*Photograph copyright courtesy of The Irish Times
Image courtesy of National Archives of Ireland*



GREETINGS 2010

“ Kinderfest was an 18th century birthday celebration for German children that featured candles burning on a cake ”

When you think about sending greetings, birthdays are probably the first thing to spring to mind. After all, we all have them – and every day is somebody's birthday! For birthdays or any type of greeting cards or invitations, An Post's Greetings stamps 2010 will add an extra touch of celebration.

Cards apart, another favourite way to celebrate a Happy Birthday is a great big birthday cake! But who made the first birthday cake? And who was the first person to blow out their birthday candles?

Historians differ on the origins of the cake as a birthday celebration. Some say it started with the Romans, while others favour the Greeks as the creators of this tradition. Another theory has the birthday cake coming from Germany in the Middle Ages.

There are similarly divided opinions on how candles came to appear on the top of the cake. Again, the favourite candidates for the starting place are Ancient Greece and Germany. Kinderfest was an 18th century birthday celebration for German children that featured candles burning on a cake.



Technical details

Date of Issue:	28 January 2010
Value & Quantities:	55c (.5m) Collectors' Strip of 2 (20,000)
Illustration:	Roger O'Reilly
Typography & Layout:	Steve Simpson
Stamp Size:	25mm x 30mm
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Booklets of 10 Collectors' Strip of 2
Perforations:	13 x 13
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd.



PRODUCT CODE 1003FDC Price €2.10

When the song 'Happy Birthday To You' caught the world's imagination in the early years of the 20th century, a new tradition arose and the words 'Happy Birthday' began to appear on cakes.

Original cartoon illustrations by Roger O'Reilly grace this year's Greetings stamps. Featuring a boy and a girl zooming through outer space, these bright, colourful stamps come in self-adhesive format, in booklets of 10. With typography and layout by Steve Simpson, they're superb for birthdays and many other occasions.

These products are available to purchase by using the order form attached, by calling +353 (1) 705 7400 or by logging onto www.irishstamps.ie from date of issue.



CHINESE YEAR OF THE TIGER

“ People born between these dates share the sign of the Tiger – a sign of bravery, naturally enough ”

The Chinese Zodiac is based on the year in which a person was born. There are 12 signs, each named after an animal. When you're born in a year named after one of these animals, you're thought to share certain traits with it – and with other people born in that year.

And so, this year is the Year of the Tiger. The Chinese New Year starts on 14 February 2010 and continues until 2 February 2011. People born between these dates share the sign of the Tiger – a sign of bravery, naturally enough.

One of the most admired attributes of the

Tiger is its ability to keep away the three main tragedies that can afflict a Chinese home: fire, thieves and ghosts. The Tiger is also admired for its bold, independent nature, which can make it both friendly and loving. On the other hand, this animal can be selfish and short-tempered, and prone to jealousy. Tigers like to live dangerously, which can lead to trouble.

If you're lucky enough to be born in the Year of the Tiger, you're a natural leader with a noble spirit. You will be well liked and charismatic, happiest when you're pursuing power and success. And when you've achieved your goals,



PRODUCT CODE 1004FDCMS Price €3.46

Technical details

Date of Issue:	11 February 2010
Value & Quantity:	82c (.26m)
Design:	Paul Raftery
Stamp size:	36mm x 36mm
Mini-sheet size:	130mm x 74mm
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Perforations:	13 x 13
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd.



PRODUCT CODE 1004FDC Price €1.82

you're glad to share the results!

The stamp image is from an 18th century Tibetan-Buddhist painting from Gansu Province, Northwest China. The painting was donated to the National Museum of Ireland by Albert M. Bender and is part of the exhibition "A Dubliner's Collection of Asian Art" which is on display at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks. Stamp image © National Museum of Ireland.

These products are available to purchase by using the order form attached, by calling +353 (1) 705 7400 or by logging onto www.irishstamps.ie from date of issue.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

“ After his ordination as a priest he became involved in working to convert the Irish people to Christianity ”

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day 2010, An Post will be issuing a stamp on 18 February 2010. St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. He was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner and transported to Ireland where he spent 6 years in captivity. During this time he worked as a shepherd before later escaping back to Britain.

One night he had a dream of a visit from an angel. The dream had such a profound impact on him that he returned to Ireland as

a missionary. The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty, but it is widely believed he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the second half of the fifth century. He began religious training and studied for more than 15 years. After his ordination as a priest he became involved in working to convert the Irish people to Christianity.

Popular legend suggests that as St. Patrick was thinking about how to explain his ideas to the Irish people, he passed through a field of shamrocks. Looking at the shamrocks he saw three leaves, but coming out of the one plant.



Technical details

Date of Issue:	18 February 2010
Value & Quantity:	82c (.244m)
Stamp Design:	Paul Raftery
Typography & Layout:	Steve Simpson
Stamp Size:	40.64mm x 29.79mm
Colour:	Five colour process with phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	15 x 14
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd.



PRODUCT CODE 1005FDC Price €1.82

He believed that this symbolised the Trinity, one God but three Persons in the one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. With this idea, St. Patrick travelled all over Ireland with his shamrock preaching and converting.

The stamp features an image of St. Patrick which is from a stained glass window in St. Patrick's Cathedral (Roman Catholic) Co. Armagh. The stamp and first day cover were designed by Paul Raftery, with typography and layout by Steve Simpson.

These products are available to purchase by using the order form attached, by calling +353 (1) 705 7400 or by logging onto www.irishstamps.ie from date of issue.

Photograph courtesy of The Archdiocese of Armagh



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAISCE – THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

“ Over 220,000 young people have taken part in this prestigious programme over the last 25 years ”

‘To contribute to the development of all young people through the achievement of personal challenges.’ This is the Mission Statement of Gaisce – the President's Award, which was set up 25 years ago in 1985, to mark International Youth Year.

This is the highest award that can be given to a young person in Ireland. Described as a challenge from the President of Ireland to the young people of Ireland, the programme offers three types of award for three different age categories: Bronze, with a minimum age of 15; Silver starting at 16 and Gold for 17-year-olds

and older. An upper age limit of 25 applies.

Each of the three categories calls for participation in four challenge areas: Community Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Recreation and Adventure Journey. To qualify for the Gold Award, an additional Residential Project must also be undertaken.

Challenges can include learning a musical instrument or a foreign language, completing a hike along the Wicklow Way or working as Assistant Team Leader in a local youth club. It's important to remember that each young



Technical details

Date of Issue:	11 March 2010
Value & Quantity:	55c (.294m)
Stamp Design:	John Conway
Stamp Size:	36mm x 36mm
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	13 x 13
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd.



PRODUCT CODE 1006FDC Price €1.55

person taking part sets their own personal challenge, which they agree with their own President's Award Leader, or PAL, so they're not competing with anyone but themselves.

Over 220,000 young people have taken part in this prestigious programme over the last 25 years. Each person who has received one of these awards has not only developed their own potential as individuals, but also contributed to the development of the community.

John Conway has designed this elegant stamp, which places the Gaisce symbol on a

background formed by a representation of Áras an Uachtaráin.

These products are available to purchase by using the order form attached, by calling +353 (1) 705 7400 or by logging onto www.irishstamps.ie from date of issue.



CENTENARY OF THE IRISH COUNTRYWOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

“ It is unquestionably the largest women's organisation in Ireland, with over 15,000 members ”

It was 100 years ago that the Irish Countrywoman's Association, or Bantracht na Tuaithe, was set up. When the association started, in Bree, Co Wexford, it was known as the United Irishwomen. Its first president was Anita Lett, who was also a powerful driving force in setting up an organisation committed to making life better for the women of rural Ireland. From the outset it was thought that promoting 'better living' for women would benefit the whole country.

In 1935, a new name was chosen, and the Irish Countrywoman's Association as we know it

came into being. Although the name was new, the organisation's aims of improving conditions for women, including family health and education, continued as before.

There's no denying that the last century has seen many significant changes in agriculture and rural life in Ireland, and in the role played by Irish women in the life of the country. The ICA has been involved in all of these shifts and transformations.

Today, it is unquestionably the largest women's organisation in Ireland, with over 15,000



Technical details

Date of Issue:	25 March 2010
Value & Quantity:	55c (.294m)
Stamp Design:	John Conway
Stamp Size:	36mm x 36mm
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	13 x 13
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd.



PRODUCT CODE 1007FDC Price €1.55

members and a guild in every town and village – and in some city neighbourhoods. As ever, the Association works to make life better for women and families all over the country, while also promoting Irish language and culture. Of course, we should not forget the friendship and support the ICA offers, across a range of activities including sport, drama and arts and crafts.

Some of these activities are portrayed on the stamp, which has been colourfully designed by John Conway.

These products are available to purchase by using the order form attached, by calling +353 (1) 705 7400 or by logging onto www.irishstamps.ie from date of issue.

An Grianan, headquarters of ICA – Image courtesy of the Irish Countrywoman's Association



COLLECTING STAMPS AS AN INVESTMENT

Whereas normal stamp collecting is done mainly for the collector's own pleasure, philatelic investment sees stamps being bought and sold for profit. In recent years, interest in philatelic investment has grown steadily as many investors see it as a smart alternative to currently volatile stock markets. However, those electing to try it must proceed with caution.

Ask the professionals

There is a massive difference between knowing what stamps you like and which ones are profitable. Try to dissect as many books,

blogs and websites on the subject as you can. Gather as much information as possible from respected, professional philatelic investors. Their knowledge of which stamps to invest in and how much you should pay is vital.

What to look for

The single most important thing to look out for is the condition of the stamp. Although also an important factor, a stamp's rarity and how much it is sought after should play second fiddle to how intact it is and whether or not it has been used. For instance, a stamp that could go for €1,000 in mint, unused condition could



end up being worth as little as €100 if it has a tear in it or it has been used.

Errors are worth extra

When stamps are being printed they must be made to a very specific format and match the original design exactly. If a printer has run off a small number of a stamp with an anomaly, it can become highly sought after. One of the most famous examples is the Inverted Jenny, which was printed with its image of a plane flying upside down and is worth €3million.

Enjoy yourself but be careful with your money

Collecting stamps is a fantastic hobby to have but you should be very careful if you decide to do so for investment. There are few, if any, safeguards and little government regulation. This is especially true with private deals conducted internationally. That said, if you are willing to put in the groundwork at the beginning, stamp collecting for investment is great fun and a rewarding pursuit.



Bicentenary of the Birth of Louis Braille



Wedding Stamp 2009



Greetings 2009



Centenary of the Death of John Millington Synge



An Post 25 Years



100th Anniversary of the Founding of the ITGWU

Chinese Year of the Ox



St Patrick's Day 2009



Birth Bicentenary of Charles Darwin



150th Anniversary of the Irish Times



Birth Centenary of Francis Bacon



Volvo Ocean Race



COMMEMORATIVE CANCELLATIONS 2009

Here's a comprehensive listing of the commemorative cancellations issued by An Post in 2009. These cancellations were only available at the time of issue. However, you

can still pick up any you may have missed by buying a complete set of First Day Covers featuring last year's cancellations – available now at www.irishstamps.ie



Europa – International Year of Astronomy



50 Years of Europa CEPT



European Dog Show



400th Anniversary of Kilkenny City Status



Anthony Trollope



Centenary of the Birrell Land Act of 1909



Classical Composers – Handel, Mozart, Chopin and Haydn



250th Anniversary of the Guinness Brewery



400th Anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster



Modern Irish Playwrights - Brian Friel, Frank McGuinness and Tom Murphy



Fauna and Flora - Dragonflies



Christmas 2009

LAST CHANCE SALOON

Once they're gone, they won't be coming back!

Collectors, as you may know, Commemorative Stamps are only on sale for one year from the date of issue. We are offering you the chance to add products to your collection that you may not have had the opportunity to obtain during 2009. Please see below, details of stamp issues from 2009 that you may wish to purchase before they are consigned to history.



Chinese Year of the Ox

Issue Date: 23 January 2009

Expiry Date: 23 January 2010

Designed by Renze Zhou, this colourful issue uses a stylised illustration of an ox to portray the celebratory feelings invoked by the start of the Chinese New Year.



Bicentenary of the Birth of Louis Braille

Issue Date: 23 January 2009

Expiry Date: 23 January 2010

This stamp features an eye, created with a series of dots representing the Braille system, now the standard form of reading and writing for blind people all over the world.



Weddings 2009

Issue Date: 23 January 2009

Expiry Date: 23 January 2010

A pair of gold wedding bands lies over a simulated parchment background bearing a definition of the word 'love' in an elegant stamp created by Zinc Design.



St. Patrick's Day 2009

Issue Date: 19 February 2009

Expiry Date: 19 February 2010

Ger Garland designed last year's St. Patrick's Day stamp, based on an original painting by Margaret Clarke entitled 'St. Patrick Climbs Croagh Patrick'.



Greetings 2009

Issue Date: 6 March 2009

Expiry Date: 6 March 2010

Two stamps with light-hearted illustrations by Cathy Dineen to show the fun and enjoyment of sending – and receiving – greetings through the post.



Bicentenary of the Birth of Charles Darwin

Issue Date: 20 March 2009

Expiry Date: 20 March 2010

Marking 200 years since the birth of Charles Darwin, this stamp shows the great naturalist in a pen and ink drawing courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London.



Centenary of the Death of John Millington Synge

Issue Date: 24 March 2009

Expiry Date: 24 March 2010

A scene from 'The Playboy of the Western World' is featured here, using a painting by the noted Irish artist Seán Keating.



150th Anniversary of The Irish Times

Issue Date: 27 March 2009

Expiry Date: 27 March 2010

To commemorate 150 years of The Irish Times, a diamond-shaped stamp shows the famous clock which came to symbolise this notable newspaper.

THE IRISH POST BOX

by Stephen Ferguson



Product code 09B €9.95

The post box, in its green livery, is a familiar and comforting sight at street corners and crossroads throughout the country. Introduced to Ireland over 150 years ago by the novelist Anthony Trollope, it deserves a little recognition and *“The Irish Post Box - Silent Servant and Symbol of the State”* by Stephen Ferguson tells the story.

Available from the Philatelic Bureau or order online at
www.irishstamps.ie

