

Irish Philately



THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

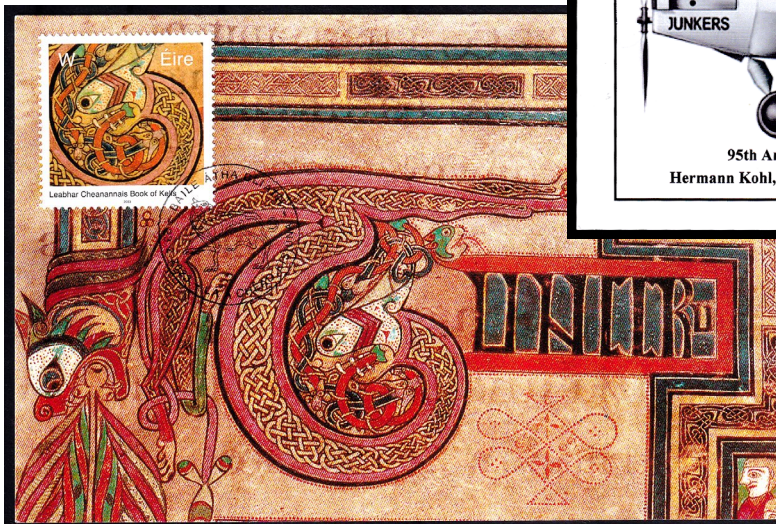
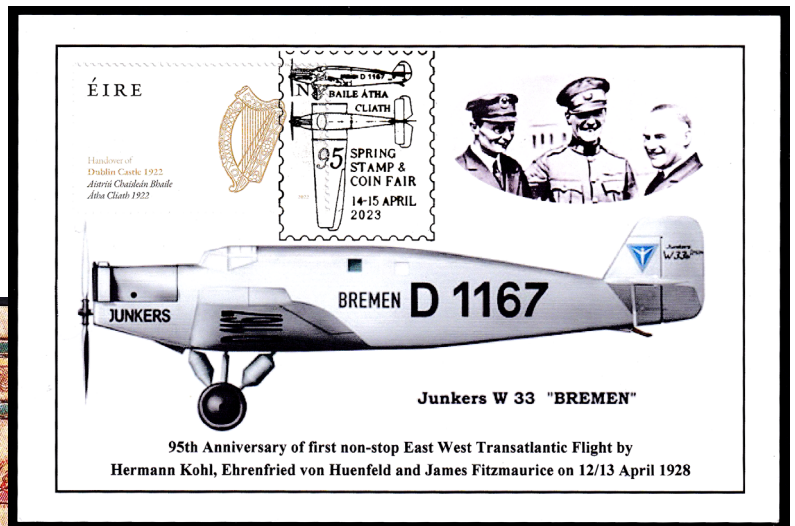
April 2024 – Supplement

That Was The Year That Was – 2023

Brian Warren

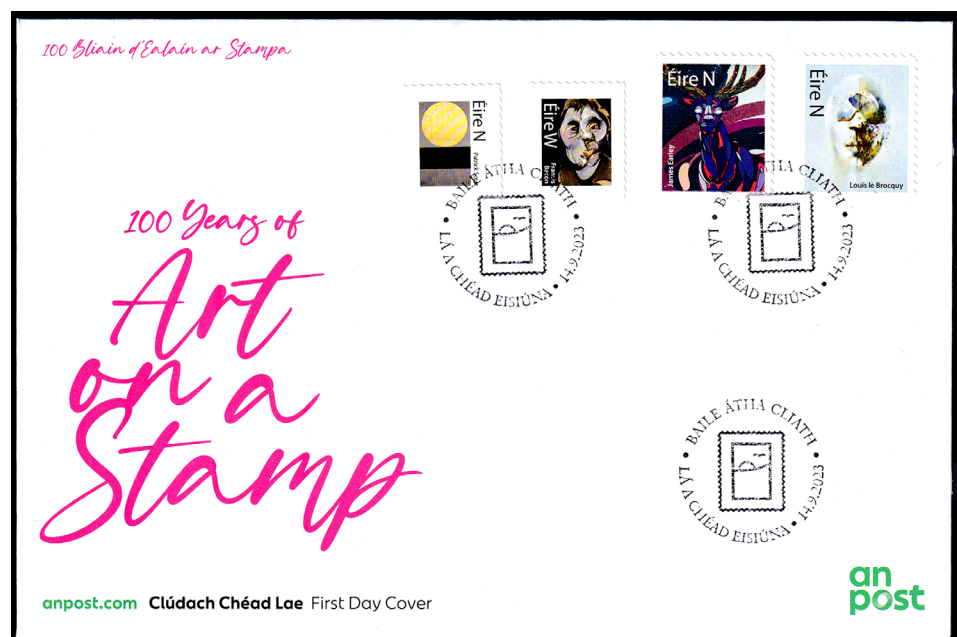


Dublin Stamp Society maximum card for Spring Stamp and Coin Fair



Privately produced maximum card for Book of Kells W stamp

Art on a Stamp – Issue II Booklet and Coil stamps on First Day Cover



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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2023

by Brian Warren

Note that illustrations of single stamps and postmarks (except inkjets - IJPs) are full size unless otherwise stated; illustrations of IJPs, pairs, blocks, strips, booklets, booklet panes, covers and stationery items are reproduced at between 33% and 66% of full size.

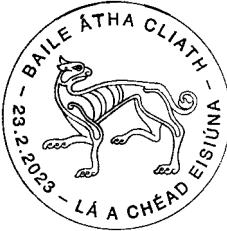
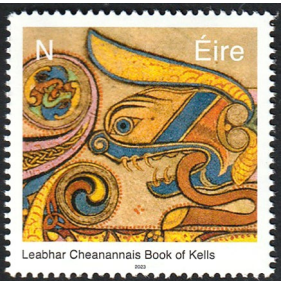
Postal rates increased on 1 February 2023, with the basic first-step National letter postal rate increasing from €1.25 to €1.35 but the €2.20 International rate remaining unchanged.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 2023 programme, comprising 7 regular gummed stamps, 29 self-adhesive stamps and 5 self-adhesive booklets, was issued over 14 release dates at a total cost of €107.05 net of the discount when purchasing together the 22 National stamp and 5 International stamp Christmas booklets (Face value: €115.75). The total cost of all 13 regular gummed and self-adhesive sheets was €191.95.

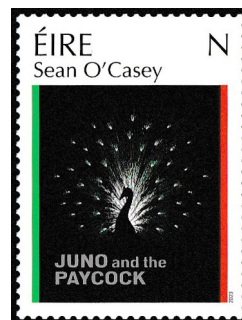
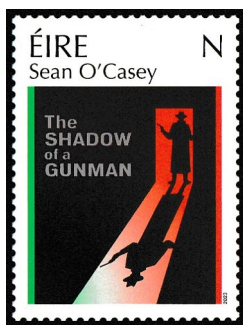
The 2022 programme comprising of 17 regular gummed stamps, 21 self-adhesive booklet stamps, 1 regular gummed souvenir sheet and 7 self-adhesive booklets, was issued over 17 release dates at a total cost of €126.00 net of the discount when purchasing together the 20 National stamp and 5 International stamp Christmas booklets. The total cost of all 14 regular gummed sheets was €327.90. The foregoing figures for 2022 do not include the 5 stamp commemorative booklets which I included with the SOAR issues.

There were 4 single stamp issues compared to 4 in 2022, 3 in 2021, 2 in 2020, 12 in 2019, 2018 & 2017, 3 in 2016, 2 in 2015, 7 in 2014, 5 in 2013, 4 in 2012 and 7 in 2011. The Love and Marriage stamps are excluded from these totals as they were only available in self-adhesive pairs and complete booklets. Costs in the lists below are the prices at the time of issue.

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
	   					
5 Jan	European Communities (50th Anniversary)	N (€1.25)	1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¾ x 13¾	Enschedé
23 Feb	Stamp for Ireland (Book of Kells)	N (€1.35) W (€2.20)	1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3 CCP3	13¾ x 13¾ 13¾ x 13¾	Enschedé Enschedé
2/3 Mar	Women in Public Life	- Jennie Wyse Power - The Hon Justice Susan Denham - Mary Robinson - Thekla Beere	N (€1.35) N (€1.35) N (€1.35) N (€1.35)	Se-tenant set of four stamps 1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1B		CCP3 14 x 13½ Enschedé

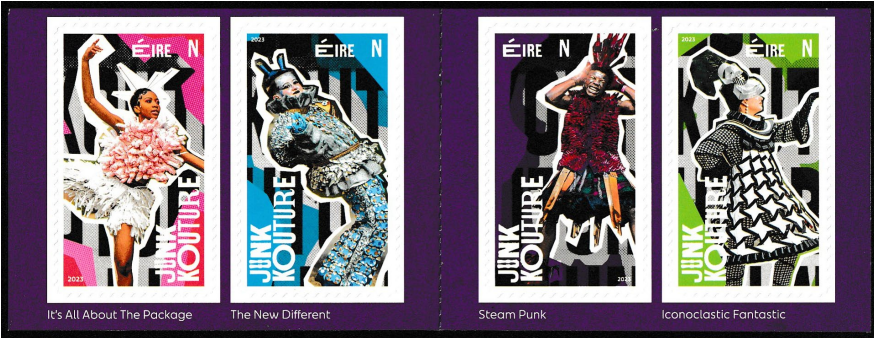
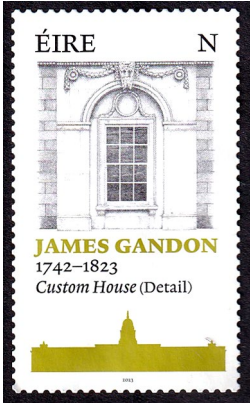
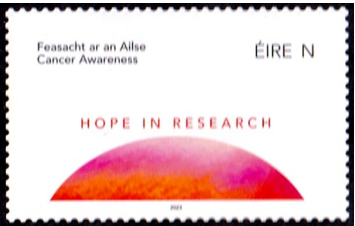
(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
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21 Mar	Sean O'Casey's Three Dublin Plays					
	- The Shadow of a Gunman	N (€1.35)	} Se-tenant set of three stamps – sheetlet of 3 x 3	1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B	TR196	13½ x 13½
	Juno and the Paycock	N (€1.35)				
	The Plough and the Stars	N (€1.35)				
30 Mar	Keep It Country					
	(Self-adhesive)					
	- Philomena Begley	N (€1.35)	} Booklet of 5 stamps	TR 246	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé
	- Big Tom	N (€1.35)				
	- Daniel O'Donnell	W (€1.35)				
	- Nathan Carter	W (€2.20)				
	- Cliona Hagan	N (€2.20)				
20 Apr	Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts - Exhibition Gallery	N (€1.35)	} Se-tenant pair of two stamps – sheetlet of 4 x 2	1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B	TR 196	13¼ x 13½
	(Self-adhesive)	N (€1.35)				
27 Apr	President Patrick Hillery	N (€1.35)	} Sheetlet of 4 x 2	TR 196	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé
	(Birth Centenary – Self-adhesive))					

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
						
						
						
						
						
4 May	Junk Kouture (Self-adhesive)	"It's All About The Package" N (€1.35) "The New Different" N (€1.35) "Steam Punk" N (€1.35) "Iconoclastic Fantastic" N (€1.35)	Booklet of 4 stamps Cost: €5.40	TR 246	10 x 11	Enschedé
9 May	Europa (62nd Issue – Peace) (Self-adhesive)	- Multicoloured Birds N (€1.35) - Unity W (€2.20)	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B Sheetlet of 2 x 4 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B Sheetlet of 2 x 4	TR 146	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé
7 Sept	Admittance of Irish Free State to League of Nations (self-adhesive)	N (€1.35)	Sheetlet of 2 x 2 stamps	TR 196	13¼ x 13½	Enschedé
21 Sept	Cancer Awareness (Research and Hope)	- Hope in Research N (€1.35) - Strength in Community N (€1.35)	Self-adhesive sheetlet of 4 se-tenant pairs	TR 196	13¼ x 13½	Enschedé
19 Oct	Sydney Opera House (50th Anniversary)	W (€2.20)	TR 196 self-adhesive (1 x 2)		13½ x 13¼	Enschedé
2 Nov	Christmas (52nd issue) - Booklet Stamps		TR 246 self-adhesive paper		11¼ x 10½	Enschedé
	- Booklet of 5 x N (€1.35) stamps	€6.25	4 designs – see below		11¼ x 10½	Enschedé
	- Booklet of 5 x W (€2.20) stamps	€11.00	2 designs – see below		11¼ x 10½	Enschedé
	- Booklet of 22 x N (€1.35) stamps	€24.00	4 designs - see below		11¼ x 10½	Enschedé
	- W Collectors strip of 2	€4.40	One of each design		11¼ x 10½	Enschedé
9 Nov	James Gandon (50th Anniversary)	- Custom House (window detail) N (€1.35) - Carriglas Manor (gate) N (€1.35)	TR 196 self-adhesive 4 x 2		13¼ x 13½	Enschedé

Printers and Sheet Format: All stamps were printed by the Dutch firm Royal Joh. Enschedé. Lithography was used to print all issues.

The first three issues were printed in the usual sheet format of 16 stamps (4 x 4). On all sheets, the plate numbers are in the left margin opposite R1. The colour controls are in the right margin opposite R1 and the imprint is in the bottom margin under S1. The bottom right corner is blank. Each sheet is imperforate through the top margin, all other margins are perforated. All stamps have a phosphor frame.

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. The “*Women in Public Life*” issue was the last issue to be printed on regular gummed paper.



Top section of Sean O'Casey sheet

All subsequent sheet issues were printed on TR246 self-adhesive paper. The sheet content varied from 2 to 8 perforated stamps per sheet as indicated in the tables above. In addition, each stamp is rouletted to enable the sale of individual stamps. All sheetlets have a barcoded informative panel above the stamps. The plate markings were the same as for regular gummed stamps. However, the practice of including plate numbers ceased following the Europa issue.



A presentation folder with all 14 (2022: 17) covers for the special and commemorative issues was available from 17 November.

The price of €75.00 (2022: €81) compares with a cost of €75.45 (2022: €77.65) if bought as individual covers. All serviced covers sold by the

bureau continue to bear a "printed", and thus sharper looking, first day postmark compared to the hand applied cancellation used on collectors' own covers. Pictorial first day cancels were only available in Dublin for all 2023 issues.

Postcards: Various sets of cards were produced for a number of the special and commemorative stamps issued during the year. They are separately listed under *Stationery and Postcards* below.



European Communities FDC with added SOAR from GPO main counter. The SOAR reproduces one of the stamps issued in 1973 to mark Ireland's admission to the E.C.

European Communities (50th Anniversary): Ireland joined the European Economic Community (EEC), as it was then known (and the other European Communities), on 1 January 1973. A two stamp set designed by Robert Ballagh was issued to mark the event on the same date in 1973. At the time New Year's Day was not a public holiday in Ireland – it became one from the following year. The 50th anniversary stamp features gold stars that relate to the European Union flag. Instead of the current flag's 12 stars, nine are shown, being the number of member states in 1973. Oddly though, the first day cancellation has all twelve stars. The design also incorporates the six key values that are part of the EU way of life – Human Dignity, Freedom, Democracy, Equality, Rule of Law and Human Rights.

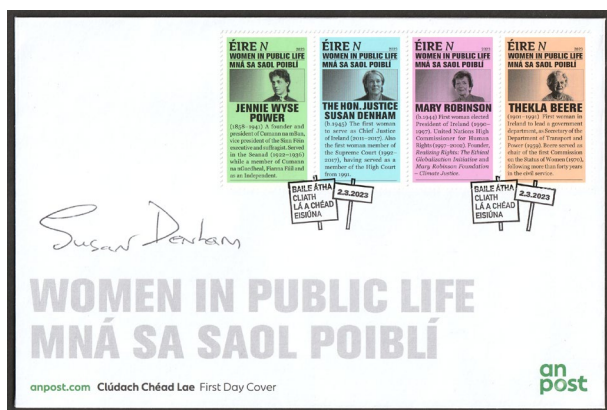


exhibition in the Old Library, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

Stamp for Ireland – Book of Kells: This is the third set in the series “*A Stamp for Ireland*” and is the best to date. Both stamps feature illustrations from this famous masterpiece, which is on public

One of the illustrations is taken from Folio 114v Matthew XXVI. A stylised lion is featured at the top of the initial letter T of the text. The lion element forms the design for the N value. The illustration on the W value is taken from Folio 124r Matthew XXVII. The capital T at the start of the verse is formed by a stylised lion; it is the latter lion image shown on the stamp. Both the aforementioned folio pages were illustrated in the 2024 official Book of Kells calendar.

No postcards featuring either of the individual images as shown on the stamps were available in the Trinity College bookshop. There was, however, one card featuring four of the pages, one of which includes the image shown on the W value. A privately produced maximum card is illustrated on the front cover.



FDC signed by The Hon. Justice Susan Denham

Women in Public Life: The first of the four set-tenant stamps features Jennie Wyse Power (1858-1941) who played a prominent role in the War of Independence and was a former President of Cumann na mBan. The second stamp features The Hon. Justice Susan Denham (b. 1945) who was the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court in 1992 (see also below). The third stamp features Mary Robinson (b. 1944) who was the first female President of Ireland. The fourth stamp features Thekla Beere (1901-1991) who was the first woman to serve as a Government Department Secretary.

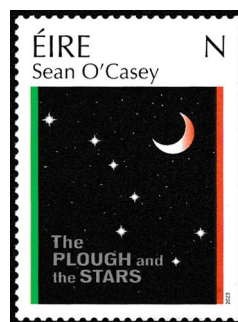
The stamps were due to be on general sale from Thursday 2 March. International Women's Day was on 8 March and this year marks 50 years of the (Irish) National Women's Council for which a slogan was released on 28 February as illustrated in the slogan section.

The biographical details about The Hon. Justice Susan Denham were incorrect. The error was noted in advance of the release date and the whole issue was reprinted. However, in error, the original incorrect printing was distributed in advance (as normal) to post offices rather than

the corrected printing. This was only noticed at the last moment and the issue was pulled at 8.45am on 2 March by way of an e-mail to all post offices. The correct reprinted sheets went on sale at the philatelic bureau on the following day and subsequently at post offices that receive new issues. The first day pictorial cancel was not changed and reads 2 March. In Ireland, all judges of the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court are referred to as "*The Honourable*". The original printing of the Susan Denham stamp omitted the prefix "*The*". In addition, the reference in the text that she was the longest serving member of the Supreme Court was incorrect; she is the third longest. The longest serving judge was The Hon. Justice Brian Walsh (1961-1990). The text was revised.

A detailed article illustrating the original and issued design was included in the August 2023 issue of *Irish Philately*. It will be interesting to see if any sheets of the original printing were sold by post offices despite the withdrawal notice. To date no examples have been offered for sale. Both printings had "A" and "B" sheets. A press launch was held in the GPO on the evening of Thursday 2 March. There was no mention of the error at the event.

I also understand that no FDCs were made-up with the wrong design. The stamp issue and its designer Oonagh Young of Design HQ featured on an RTE magazine programme "*Nationwide*" in March 2023. The programme also featured interviews with me and Stephen Ferguson of An Post about stamp design and collecting. Needless to say the "*design error*" was not mentioned!



Sean O'Casey – Three Dublin Plays: This set was originally due to be released on 6 April but was brought forward to 21 March. Born in Dublin Sean O'Casey's working class background influenced his writings. The set-tenant set features his three Dublin plays which focus on events that affected the lives of ordinary Dubliners. A single 12p stamp to mark the playwright's birth centenary was issued in 1980.



Keep It Country: This set was due to be released on 23 March but was deferred by a week to 30 March. The set of booklet stamps acknowledges well known Irish Country Music stars Big Tom (McBride) (1936-2018, b. Co. Monaghan), Cliona Hagan (b. 1989

– Co. Tyrone), Philomena Begley (b. 1942 – Co. Tyrone), Daniel O'Donnell (b. 1961, Co. Donegal) and Nathan Carter (b. 1990 – Liverpool). All five are or were hugely popular as concert performers, with a loyal fan base across Ireland.

The names of the artists that appear on the stamps were not released in the advance publicity in *"The Collector"*. You will note that four of the artists were born in Ulster and that British-born Nathan Carter now lives in Co. Fermanagh.

I received in ordinary mail a non-philatelic cover with the Philomena Begley stamp postmarked 28 March (2 days early) at Carrick P.O., Co. Donegal.



Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts: This set was originally due to be released on 10 August but was brought forward to 20 April. The Academy was founded in 1823. It is a 32 county body, and the membership comprises the disciplines of architecture, painting, sculpture and print including photography.

It has a gallery in Ely Place, Dublin 2, which is featured on the FDC.

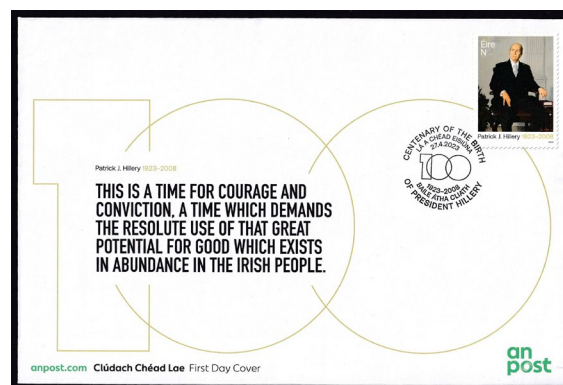
The four pictures shown on the Exhibition Gallery stamp feature:-

Left: *Portrait of Sir Thomas Deane* (7th President of RHA), James Butler Brennan RHA, 1852

Centre: *Untitled*, Sinéad Ní Mhaonaigh ARHA, 2019, © RHA Collection

Right: *Guest*, Martin Gale RHA, 2011-12, © RHA Collection

Foreground: *Prudence*, Abigail O'Brien RHA (Current President of RHA)



President Patrick Hillery:

A former member of Dáil Éireann for Co. Clare, he served in several Ministerial positions and led the negotiating team which helped to secure Ireland's membership of the EEC in 1973. He subsequently became Ireland's first European Commissioner. In 1976 he became Ireland's sixth President and served two terms in office. The portrait on the stamp is based on a painting by John F Kelly RHA.



Junk Kouture: The stamps in this booklet mark the achievements of the Junk Kouture movement and feature high-end fashion designed by Irish students from junk materials. Using only recycled materials, the students aged 13-18 are challenged to design and create haute couture from everyday junk.

The founder and CEO of Junk Kouture is Troy Armour from Buncrana in Co. Donegal. Since he started the movement in 2010, it has grown to become the world's largest youth sustainability event.



Europa – Peace: The bilingual N value is inspired by the concept that individual nations, represented on the stamp as multicoloured birds, can come together as one flock to be a driving force for peace.

The W value features the winning PostEurop design competition and is inspired by the Celtic Love Knot symbol with interlocking hearts. This represents a symbol of unity, friendship and love. The POST Luxembourg winning entry was by Linda Bos and Runa Egilsdottier. The Irish design was by Aibhe Phelan. The issue date of 9 May coincided with “Europe Day”.

League of Nations: The design is unusual and clever and shows the colours of the Irish flag inserted among the flags of the members of the League at the time.



Cancer Awareness – Research and Hope: The two stamps are designed to convey a message of hope and positivity in relation to the advances being made in cancer research and care in the community.



Sydney Opera House (50th Anniversary): Born in Dublin, Peter Rice (1935-1992) was the resident site engineer on the Sydney Opera House project. The design imagines acoustic sound waves reflected in the water. The design by David Rooney was far better than the Australian stamp issue. The first day cover shows Peter Rice. In my opinion, this is one of the best Irish designs in many a year.

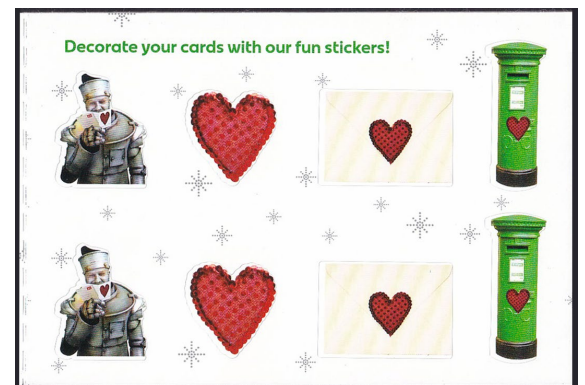
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Christmas: The four N designs illustrate (1) Family reading Christmas cards beside tree; (2) Bringing home presents; (3) Mary and Child; and (4) Three Wise Men. The two W designs feature (1) Family posting cards and a postbox; and (2) The Holy Land. All stamps were issued in self-adhesive form in booklets.



The €24.00 booklet of 22 x N stamps (i.e. a €5.70 discount compared to €5.00 in 2022) is set out in five blocks of four stamps, with each block containing the four different designs plus a pair of stamps (Designs 1 & 3). There are

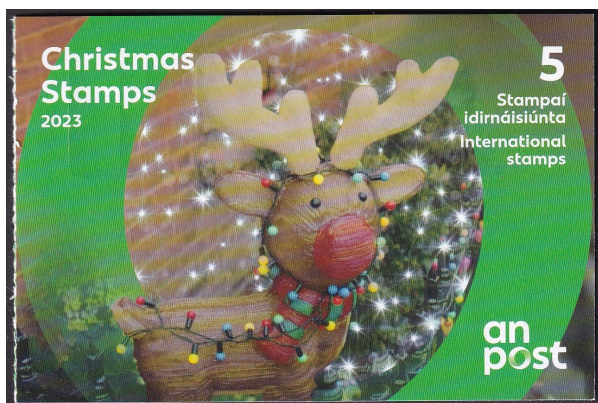
four different layouts for the blocks of four with one layout repeated twice. The cover features the “The Tin Man” from “The Wizard of Oz” which was the theme of the An Post Christmas TV advertising this year (as it was in 2022).



The booklet also contains eight small stickers, two each of “The Tin Man”, large heart, small heart and postbox with heart.

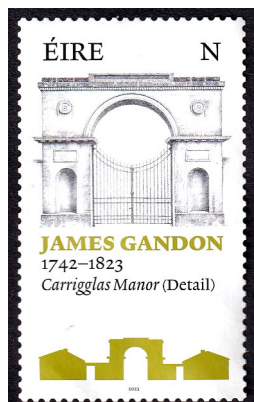


The €6.75 National booklet contains a block of the four x N designs plus an additional example of design 1. The cover illustrates a woman posting a Christmas card in a pillar box.



The €11.00 International booklet contains 2 x Design 2 (top row) and 3 x Design 1 (bottom row). A block of four from the booklet is illustrated above. The International booklet also contains five small airmail stickers. The cover features a cartoon reindeer (Rudolf). A philatelic pair of W stamps was also available. There was no general philatelic sale of a block of four of the N stamps but standing order customers of commemoratives/special stamps received a block of four taken from a complete booklet.

There was a special bundle offer of 1 booklet of 22 x N stamps plus 1 booklet of 5 x W stamps for €32.00. In addition, two free Christmas cards were distributed without charge with each €24.00 National booklet (including online sales). There were three different card designs. They were normal commercial ("Hephee") cards with no reference to An Post.



James Gandon (Death Bicentenary): James Gandon (1742-1823) was born in London and was the architect responsible for overseeing the construction of some of Ireland's finest buildings. The illustrations on the two stamps and cover were by Dorothy Smith.



A full view of the Custom House was shown on the 52p stamp issued in 1991 to mark Dublin's hosting of the European City of Culture.

I illustrate a maximum card above which I produced for the Customs House stamp (photo courtesy of Robert Benninghoff). As the port of Dublin moved further downriver, the building's original use for collecting customs duties/taxes became obsolete. It currently houses the Department of Local Government, Housing and Heritage. A Visitor Centre was opened in 2021 and guided tours are available. Emo Court in Co. Laois shown on the first day envelope was also a Gandon design.

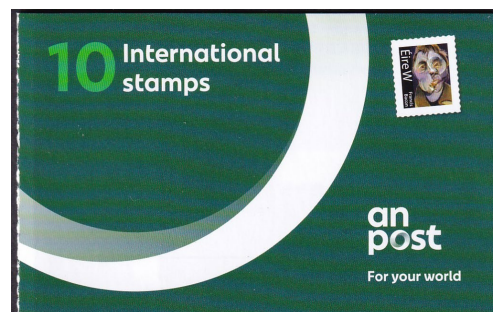
Year Pack: The Year Pack contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2023, including the Keep It Country and Junk Kouture booklets, the Christmas collectors' pair (W values) and a pane of the four National Christmas booklet stamps. No definitive issues were included. A total of 36 stamps (2022: 38) with a face value of €64.25 (2022: €54.75). Cost: €55.00 (2022: €53.00).



Year Book: The bilingual book also contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2023, as per the Year Pack. I think this is the first time that the contents of both the Year Pack and Book were the same. All are pre-mounted in the year book. Total printing of 600 books (2022: 600). Cost €95.00 (2022: €95.00). 60 Leather bound editions are also available at a cost of €240.00 per book (2022: €170.00).

SOAR ISSUES - ART ON A STAMP - TENTH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes	Perforation	Printer
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14 Sept 10th Definitive Series – 100 Years of Art on a Stamp
(2nd Series – Self-adhesive)

- 3d & 9d Catholic Emancipation (1929) – Leo Whelan (1)
- J M Synge Birth Centenary (1971) – Jack B Yeats (2)
- 16p & 25p Flora and Fauna (1980) – Wendy Walsh (3)
- 32p Irish Buses (1993) – Charles Rycraft (4)
- Brian Friel (2009) – James Hanley (5)
- Irish Fashion (2010) -Paul Costelloe & Louise Kennedy (6)
- Contemporary Arts III (2014) – Diana Copperwhite (7)
- 70c Transat Chair (2015) - Eileen Gray (8)

€1.35
€1.35
€1.35
€1.35
€1.35
€1.35
€1.35
€1.35

Se-tenant vertical strip of 4
Numbered 1 to 4
Se-tenant vertical strip of 4
Numbered 5 to 8

11 x 11¼
11 x 11¼

CCL (I) Ltd
CCL (I) Ltd

14 Sept[‡] 100 Years of Art on a Stamp – National Booklet
(2nd Series) – International Booklet
- N Philatelic booklet pair – see below
- W Philatelic booklet pair – see below
- N Philatelic coil pair (two designs) – see below

€13.00
€22.00
€2.70
€4.40
€2.50

10 x N (€1.35) self-adhesive
10 x W (€2.20) self-adhesive
2 x N (€1.35) self-adhesive
2 x W (€2.20) self-adhesive
2 x N (€1.35) self-adhesive

11½ x 11¼
11½ x 11¼
11½ x 11¼
11½ x 11¼
11 x 11¼

Enschedé
Enschedé
Enschedé
Enschedé
Ashton-Potter

Note: All amounts quoted above reflect the cost at the time of issue i.e. €1.35 for N stamps and €2.20 for W stamps. N stamps increased from €1.35 to €1.40 on 1 February 2024. W stamps remain at €2.20.

[‡]: This is the official issue date for both the booklets and coil roll and is the same date as the initial SOAR stamps. However, the booklets were not actually available from the philatelic bureau until early October 2023 and the coil roll was not on sale from the bureau until late October. They may have been on sale at post offices prior to philatelic sale. The booklet philatelic pairs were not available until at least 2 weeks after the complete booklets went on sale at the bureau.



Art on a Stamp – 2nd Issue: The second set was released on 14 September and feature the designs as listed above. Each stamp measures 60mm x 24mm as per the previous issue and all have the usual three vertical phosphor bars.

This year, at the request of several collectors, including myself, the new rolls were available from counter 1 on the day of issue and thus collectors could prepare first day covers with the genuine counter printed stamps as illustrated on the next page.

A number of post offices are still using the older Epson printers with thinner typeface. The majority of offices have a Zebra printer which has a much bolder typeface. Both types are illustrated on the next page.



*Strip of Art on a Stamp II
from GPO Dublin on day of issue
(4.9.2023 – 23257)*



*Strip of Art on a Stamp II
from Blackrock P.O., Co. Dublin
(17.1.2024 – 24017)
Older Epson Printer still in use*



*Strip of Art on a Stamp I
from the kiosk at Thurles P.O., Co.
Tipperary – all stamps on the day visited
in early 2023 were out of alignment*

Booklets and Coils: Two new booklets in the same format as previous issues were released in early October but were given the same issue date by An Post as the SOAR set. The stamp in the National booklet features the painting “Mediation Painting 28” by Patrick Scott which featured in the souvenir sheet issued in 2021.

The International booklet reproduces the “Self-portrait” design by Francis Bacon originally issued in sheet form in 2009. Both philatelic pairs have a massive white margin surrounding both stamps and are on a plain backing. All stamps measure 20mm x 24mm and have a phosphor frame.

The first design in the new 100 stamp coil features the Contemporary Irish Art design issued in 1977 and showing “Head” by Louis le Broquy. The second stamp features the 2017

Urban Art design “Irish Deer” by James Earley. Both stamps measure 25mm x 30mm and have a phosphor frame.

Self-Service Kiosks: A further change occurred in March/April 2023. All machines irrespective of whether you use the “Buy Stamps” or “Mail” function, now print the SOARs with the small-font typeface. The two Limerick machines and one of the two machines in Swords still have the prefix “EUR” (all others read “EURO”). I have yet to note any machine using the Arts II designs.

A listing of all known kiosk/machine locations is set out on the following two pages. Illustrations of strips from two other locations are shown on page 24. Kiosks are constantly out of order particularly the kiosks at Blanchardstown and Sligo P.O.s.

SELF-SERVICE KIOSK/MACHINE LOCATIONS

This is the known list of kiosk/machine locations as of April 2024. The second and third last digits of the ID are the short machine/kiosk identification number i.e. 35365171 (Dun Laoghaire) is known as “17”. It will be noted that there are 6 numbers missing in the sequence 01 to 55 viz. 04, 19, 20, 22, 24 and 27 and 3 machines have been removed 02, 06 and 10. The Newbridge kiosk was moved to Ballina but

the ID was changed. I am not aware as to the new locations of the Cork and St. Andrews St kiosks. The Ballinasloe machine still issues all SOARs as singles. Two locations still require confirmation – Mallow and Tullamore. They have the reference “*stamps not seen*” below. If any member visits can add to the information below please drop me note or send an e-mail to brian.warren2@upcmail.ie

POST OFFICE	NUMBER OF KIOSKS	MACHINE ID NUMBERS	CURRENCY DESIGNATION AND YEAR FIRST NOTED
St. Andrew Street, Dublin 2	2 (Initially 3)	35365011/021/031 (02 removed in 2023)	EURO (2020)
Newbridge	3	35365051/061/071 (06 removed in 2023)	EUR (2019) and EURO (2021)
Thurles	1	35365081	EUR (2019)
Merrion Row, Dublin 2	1	35365091	EUR (2020) and EURO (2022)
GPO Cork	2 (1 initially in 2020)	35365101/111/121) (10 removed in 2023)	EURO (2020-21)
Limerick	2	35365131/141	EUR (2020)
Swords – Kiosk 1	2	35365151	EUR (2019)
Blanchardstown, Dublin 15	1	35365161	EURO (2023)
Dun Laoghaire	1	35365171	EURO (2022)
New Ross	1	35365181	EURO (2023)
Dundalk	1	35365210	EURO (2023)
Carlow	1	35365231	EURO (2023)
Tralee	1	35365251	EURO (2023)
Clonmel	1	35365261	EURO (2023)
Letterkenny	1	35365281	EURO (2024)
Tullamore	1	35365291	Stamps not yet seen

SELF-SERVICE KIOSK/MACHINE LOCATIONS (continued)

GPO Dublin 1	1	35365301	EURO (2020)
Galway	1	35365310	EURO (2023)
Ballinasloe	1	35365321	EURO (2023)
Roscommon	1	35365331	EURO (2023)
Phibsborough	1	35365341	EURO (2023)
Rathmines	1	35365351	EURO (2023)
Bray	1	35365361	EURO (2023)
Arklow	1	35365371	EURO (2022)
Gorey	1	35365381	EURO (2023)
Enniscorthy	1	35365391	EURO (2023)
Wexford	1	35365401	EURO (2022)
Tipperary	1	35365411	EURO (2024)
Waterford	1	35365421	EURO (2022)
Navan	1	35365431	EURO (2023)
Longford	1	35365441	EURO (2023)
Ballina	1	35365451	EURO (2023)
Castlebar	1	35365461	EURO (2023)
Sligo	1	35365471	EURO (2023)
Ennis	1	35365481	EURO (2022)
Nenagh	1	35365491	EURO (2024)
Mallow	1	35365501	Stamps not yet seen
Clonakilty	1	35365511	EURO (2023)
Killarney	1	35365521	EURO (2024)
Portlaoise	1	35365531	EURO (2023)
Athlone	1	35365541	EURO (2023)
Swords – Kiosk 2	1	35365551	EURO (2022)

STATIONERY AND POSTCARDS

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes	Printer	
All postcards listed below are in the usual large format of 210mm x 148mm approx					
					
					
					
5 Jan	EU postcard	- postcard	no charge	European Communities stamp design	?
17 Jan	Irish Stamp Centenary Postcard	- 1980s	no charge	22p Common Blue butterfly of 1985 (M&A S6/7 – 3.22)	?
23 Feb	Book of Kells	- St. Patrick's Day postcard	no charge	Available in most post offices	?
23 Feb	Irish Stamp Centenary Postcard	- 2000s	no charge	Seamus Heaney N stamp of 2004 (M&A S6/9 3.22)	?
2 Mar	Women in Public Life	- postcards (4)	no charge	Reproduce all 4 individual stamp designs	?
21 Mar	Sean O'Casey's Three Dublin Plays	- postpaid postcards (3)	no charge	Reproduce all 3 individual stamp designs	?
30 Mar	Keep It Country	- postcards (6)	no charge	Reproduce all 5 individual designs plus a card with all five	?
14 Apr	Irish Stamp Centenary Postcard	- 2010s	no charge	68c Super Mario® (M&A S6/10 – 3.22)	?
4 May	Junk Kouture	- postcards (4)	no charge	Reproduce all 4 stamp designs	?
July	Postpaid Postcards	- set of five	€9.00	Sold in a cellophane pack - see below	?
21 Sept	Cancer Awareness	- postcard with design	no charge	Available in most post offices	?
22 Sept	Culture Night	- postpaid postcard (GPO Dublin)	no charge	Usual GPO fisheye image with 2023 date	?

European Communities Postcard: The postcard depicts multiple images of the European Communities stamp. The illustration above has the stamp affixed at right and is cancelled with the first day pictorial postmark. The card was not on general sale.

St. Patrick's Day Card: The card reproduced the N design from the Book of Kells set was distributed to most post offices in February 2023. This was available free of charge and no purchase was necessary. Both stamps were reproduced on the reverse of the card which was inscribed "Happy St. Patrick's Day".

Women in Public Life: A set of four postcards featuring each of the stamp designs was produced for this set. They were not on general sale.

Sean O'Casey's Three Dublin Plays: A set of three postpaid postcards was produced for this issue. All cards have a Postage Paid Impression. This is a first for this type of card. They were not on general sale.

Keep It Country: A set of six postcards was produced for this set. They were not on general sale. The sixth card reproduces all five stamps.

Junk Kouture: A set of five postcards was produced for this issue and they were available free to students when purchasing the booklet online from the philatelic bureau. In practice though anybody could purchase same. The fifth card reproduced all four stamps.



Cancer Awareness card with matching stamp added and cancelled with first day postmark

Cancer Awareness – Research and Hope: A large format postcard was available in most post offices (no charge) which illustrated the “*Strength in Community*” design on the obverse side. Both designs were illustrated on the reverse. Due to the large quantity required, there were at least three printings. The main difference was the colour of the top banding on the reverse side. The size of the card also varied slightly.



Centenary Postcards: The final three cards in the series as listed were released during 2023. I illustrate above the Seamus Heaney card released on 23 February 2023. The final card to be released featured the Super Mario stamp issued in 2014. This was released during the Spring Stamp and Coin Fair on 14 April 2023.



Publicity card featuring the five designs

Prepaid Postcard set: A set of five postcards was released in late July featuring various designs as illustrated above. All had the usual An Post postpaid insignia and were valid for both national and international mail. All were in the usual large format.



Culture Night: A Culture Night postcard was released on Friday 22 September 2023. It features the same fisheye photograph of the GPO as used in prior years. However, this year the An Post postage paid insignia was included on the card as illustrated.



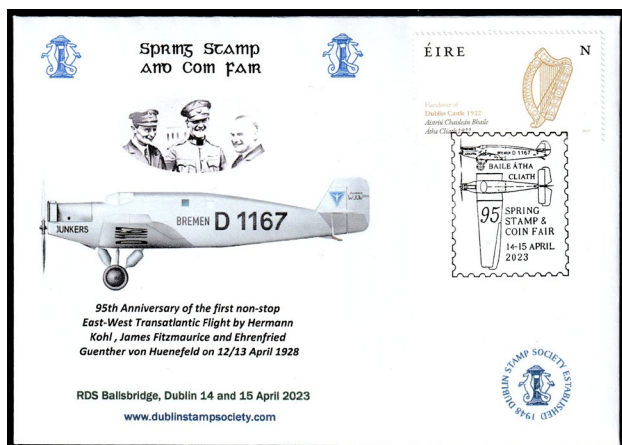
An Post Santa Envelope: The 2023 envelope and postmark was a new design and are illustrated above.

EXHIBITION AND SOCIETY SOUVENIRS AND POSTMARKS

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes	Paper	Perf.	Printer
14 Apr	Spring Stamp & Coin Fair - DSS Cover	€5.00	± Bremen aircraft and pilots			B. Warren
	DSS Maximum Card I (Photograph of flyers)	€5.00	± Bremen aircraft and pilots (colour images)			B. Warren
	DSS Maximum Card II (D 1167 aircraft)	€5.00	± Bremen aircraft and pilots (black and white image)			B. Warren
13 May	Dublin Stamp Society "Away Day"					
	- DSS Cover 1 (Flyers plus D 1167 aircraft)	€5.00	± Casino, Marino - single colour image			B. Warren
	- DSS Cover II	€5.00	± Casino, Marino - two colour image			B. Warren
	- DSS Maximum card I (Drawing of Casino)	€5.00	± Casino, Marino - single colour image			B. Warren
	- DSS Maximum card II (Photograph of Casino)	€5.00	± Casino, Marino - multicolour image			B. Warren
22 Sept	Stampa 2023 - Membership					
	- Sir Alfred Chester Beatty m/s (2018) with black o/p	€25.00	600 overprinted	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Lee Press
	- Cycling in Ireland m/s (2016) with black o/p		* 600 overprinted	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Lee Press
	- Sean O'Casey postcard - mint		500 overprinted with Stampa 2023 imprint			B. Warren
6 Dec	Stampa 2023 (Public souvenir)					YOUR
(2022)	- Centenary of 1st definitive series (non postal)	€5.00	* 700 overprinted – see below		13¼ x 13¾	STAMPS
6 Oct	Stampa 2023 – Sean O'Casey postcard ("Juno")	€5.00	* 150 of 700 cancelled with 6 October postmark			B. Warren
	- Keep it Country postcard	€6.00	* 150 cards with Stampa 2023 imprint - see below			B. Warren
6 Oct	Stampa 2023 - 100 Years of Art on a Stamp (EasyPost)					
	- SOAR set of eight with 2023 designs	€13.00	* with STAMPA 2023 imprint RT P200. 11 x 11¼			CCL (I) Ltd
	- SOAR set of eight with 2022 designs	€13.00	* with STAMPA 2023 imprint RT P200 11 x 11¼			CCL (I) Ltd
6 Oct	Stampa 2023 - Objects (EasyPost)					
	- SOAR set of 16 with designs of 2019	€8.00	* with STAMPA 2023 imprint RT P200 11 x 11¼			CCL (I) Ltd

± : Privately produced covers and cards issued by Dublin Stamp Society – not available from An Post.

* : Privately produced souvenirs issued by Irish National Stamp Exhibition CLG (Stampa) – not available from An Post.



Spring Stamp & Coin Fair: The event was held as part of the Over 50s show at the RDS, Dublin 4. The usual souvenir was unavailable for the show due to technical problems at the printer. A special postmark was provided by An Post who attended the show. The two serviced covers and two maximum cards produced by the Dublin Stamp Society marked the 95th anniversary of the first non-stop east-west flight by the Bremen across the Atlantic in 1928. The postmark which was designed by John Mullen with graphics by Alan Farrell was on the same theme.



The covers and cards were designed by John Mullen and Brian Warren. The last card in the Irish Stamp Centenary Postcard set was released by An Post at the show. It features the 2014 stamp design "Super Mario".



Dublin Stamp Society "Away Day": Members of the Society visited the Casino at Marino in Dublin. A special postmark was available from An Post and the Society produced two covers and two maximum cards (see also page 24).



The Casino building was designed by Sir William Chambers in the late eighteenth-century as a pleasure house for James Caulfield, 1st Earl of Charlemont. It is widely acknowledged as the most important example of neoclassical architecture in Ireland. The name 'Casino' is the diminutive form of the 18th-century Italian word 'Casa' meaning 'House', thus 'Little House', and is not used in the modern sense of "gambling establishment".

The tunnel linking it to the former main house¹ for servants' use is where Michael Collins and his men carried out tests with their first Thompson sub-machine gun. The tunnel complete with a similar Thompson sub-machine gun can be seen as part of a tour of the building. The Asgard guns are believed to have also been hidden there.

¹ Marino House was demolished in the 1920's. It was named after Marino in Italy, which the Earl of Charlemont visited on his grand tour of Europe. The present-day suburb of Marino in Dublin took its name from the former house and estate.



Stampa - Membership Items: Stampa was held from 6 to 8 October 2023 at Griffith College Conference Centre, Dublin 8. Both the Cycling in Ireland and the Sir Alfred Chester Beatty miniature sheets issued in 2016 and 2018 were overprinted in two lines in black **"STAMPA 2023 / 6 - 8 October"**. Readers will note that there was a new printer for the overprinting of the sheets this year – Lee Press based in Cork. The previous printers, Mahons, who had overprinted most exhibition sheets and booklets for over 30 years ceased trading during 2023.



"Juno and the Paycock" card with Stampa overprint and postmark

In addition, members also received the Sean O'Casey postcard, featuring "Juno and the Paycock" design, with added imprint in green and black which reads **"STAMPA 2023 / Griffith Conference Centre / 6th – 8th October 2023"**.



Public Souvenir: The public souvenir was a Cinderella item similar to the 2022 sheet. The sheet was printed in Germany and features the 2d, 4d, 5d and 10d designs of the original definitive issue of 1922/23. Each stamp has the word "Facsimile 2022" included in the bottom margin as they were printed in November 2022.

The margins have a two-line inscription in black **"CENTENARY OF IRISH STAMPS / 6th December 2022"**. This sheet has been available from Stampa since 6 December 2022. 30 uncut sheets consisting of 3 perforated miniature sheets were also available at €30 per sheet.



Stampa Postmarks: There was a special postmark and cover for each day – "Centenary of Admission of Irish Free State to the League of Nations" (6 October); "Celtic Knot – Book of Kells" (7 October); and "50th Anniversary of Ireland's Admission to the European Communities" (8 October).

Originally the Celtic Knot postmark was to be used on 6 October in conjunction with an overprinted version of the St Patrick's Day card issued by An Post last February. However, An Post was unable to provide same and the Sean O'Casey card was substituted, with the Celtic Knot cancel being used on 7 October.



Postcards with postmark: The Sean O'Casey card was available cancelled with the 6 October postmark as illustrated on the previous page.

An Post also provided Stampa with the “Keep it Country” postcard featuring all five designs on the one card. This had an overprint similar to that on the Sean O'Casey card and was sold with one of the N or W stamps from the “Keep it Country” booklet affixed. It was cancelled with the same 6 October postmark.



Special Stamp Covers with EasyPost stamps from the Objects series



EasyPost SOAR strips:

The SOAR strip of 8 stamps featuring the latest set of designs issued in September

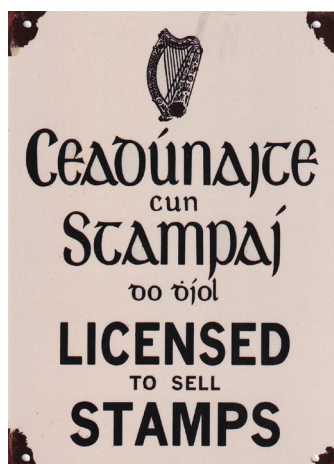
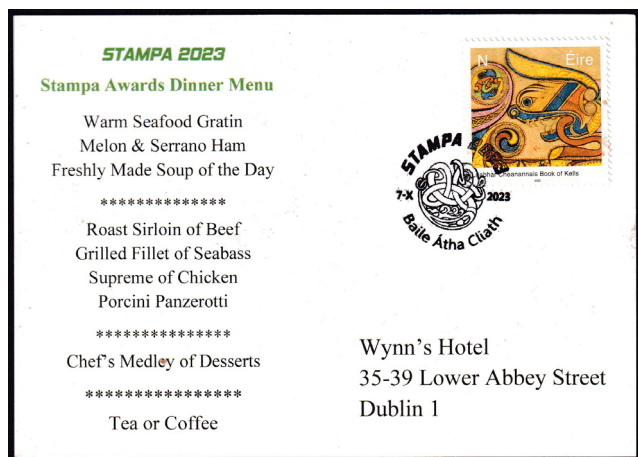
incorporates a “STAMPA 2023” inscription and contained 8 x €1.25 stamps. EasyPost and Meter users are allowed a 10c reduction on the 3 basic inland rates, hence €1.25 rather than €1.35. An Post also provided rolls of the 2022 set which were available in similar strips of 8 stamps with the same STAMPA 2023 inscription.

In error, when the EasyPost machine was delivered, a box of 3 rolls (plus part roll in machine) was included. These rolls were from the Objects plus Commemoratives set with the two Wild Atlantic Way stamps which had been released in February 2019. As this was a set of 16 values, permission was obtained to include low values in the strips. Two strips of eight stamps each with a make-up of 2 x €1.25 (5c + 10c + 10c + €1.00) were available as illustrated at left on cover. Strips with all €1.25 values were also available on request.



Art on a Stamp I set with Stampa 2023 imprint on special cover with 6 October postmark (first day)

Three large printed covers (One Art on a Stamp and two for the Objects set) were available at €2.00 per cover at the show to allow collectors to make up first day covers.



Awards Dinner: The ticket and menu were printed on the reverse of a postcard which reproduced an old "Licensed to Sell Stamps" sign. The original sign which is a reproduction was on display at the Stampa sales stand. The card was also available blank at €5.00.

SLOGANS USED ON INTEGRATED LETTER PROCESSING SYSTEM MACHINES (ILPS - NEC Japanese machines in use at all three mail centres)

(Illustrations of all slogan postmarks have been reduced)

There were ten new slogans during 2023. I am unable to confirm if they were all in use at all three mail centres (Athlone, Dublin and

Portlaoise). The dates given below may not apply to all three mail centres for all the dates shown.



ILPS 160 used at DMC on 8 March 2023

ILPS 160 – NWC National Women's Council / 50 Years

In use from 28 February to 9 March.



ILPS 161 used at AMC on 29 March 2023

ILPS 161 – Send Irish / Send Home / Send Love / St. Patrick's Day

In use from 10 to 31 March.



ILPS 162 used at DMC on 9 April 2023

ILPS 162 – KEEP IT / COUNTRY (in frame)

In use from 3 April to 3 May.



ILPS 163 used at AMC on 5 May 2023



ILPS 163 used at DMC on 17 May 2023

ILPS 163 – JUNK KOUTURE

In use on 4 and 5 May and from 15 May to 8 June.



ILPS 164 used at DMC on 11 May 2023

ILPS 164 – EU / 50 (plus stars)

In use from 8 to 12 May.



ILPS 165 used at AMC on 4 July 2023



ILPS 165 used at DMC on 4 August 2023

ILPS 165 - 100 / 1923-2023 / SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

In use from 29 June to 7 July and from 4 to 9 August.



ILPS 166 used at AMC on 11 July 2023



ILPS 166 used at DMC on 24 August 2023

ILPS 166 – 1798 / THE YEAR OF / THE FRENCH

In use from 11 July to 18 July (and probably also 10 July) and re-used from 14 to 29 August.



ILPS 167 used at DMC on 18 July 2023

ILPS 167 – COYGIG / AUS/NZ23 (no FAI logo)

In use for one day only on 18 July 2023 (Dublin only). Corrected the following day to include the FAI logo as below. The reference **COYGIG** was to the supporting theme for the Irish Women's football team at the World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand - **C**ome **O**n **Y**e **G**irls In **G**reen.

This was the first time they qualified for the World Cup. The tournament was held in Australia and New Zealand (20 July to 20 August). Republic of Ireland were drawn in Group B with Australia, Canada and Nigeria. The Irish team lost to both Australia (1-0) and Canada (2-1) and drew their final game with Nigeria (0-0). Spain beat England in the final.



ILPS 168 used at DMC on 19 July 2023
(FAI logo now included)



ILPS 168 used at AMC on 19 July 2023

ILPS 168 – COYGIG / AUS/NZ23 (with FAI logo)

In use from 19 to 21 July in Athlone and Dublin (three days only). Unknown as to which days it was used in Portlaoise.



ILPS 169 used at DMC on 22 September 2023



ILPS 169 used at AMC on 29 September 2023

ILPS 169 – HOPE / for 60 Years / Cancer Research

In use from 22 to 29 September.

Continued Use/Re-use of Slogans



ILPS 143 used at DMC on 10 October 2023

ILPS 143 - SEND / LOVE

In use from 27 June to 3 July, 24 & 25 July, 30 August to 21 September, 30 September to 19 October and 30 November to 1 December.



ILPS 146 used at AMC on 9 June 2023



ILPS 146 used at DMC on 14 June 2023

ILPS 146 Seol bród

In use from 9 to 26 June.



ILPS 147 used at PMC on 24 November 2023

ILPS 147 ChampionsGreen.ie

In use from 22 November to 1 December.



ILPS 158 used at PMC on 7 November 2023

ILPS 158 – One 4 all / A perfect gift / at your / post office

In use from 23 October to 10 November.



ILPS 159 used at DMC on 13 November 2023

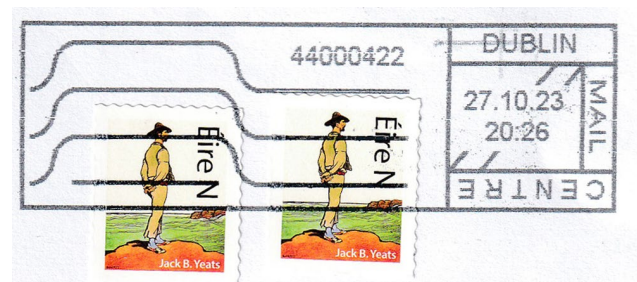
ILPS 159 – Send / from the / ♥

In use from the beginning of 2023 up to 27 February and again from 13 to 21 November and from 4 December through to end February 2024.

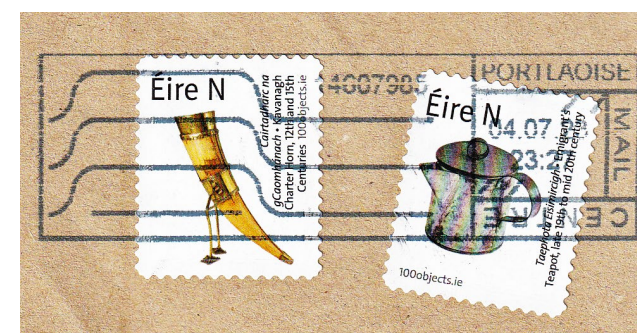
COMPACT FLATS SORTING MACHINES (CFSMs - built by Selex Elsag in Genoa, Italy and in use at all three mail centres)



AMC – 22 December 2023



DMC - 27 October 2023



PMC – 4 July 2023

I have NOT noted any changes in the CFSM postmarks during 2023 except I am aware that since at least 2022 there is only one machine (previously two) in operation at the DMC. I noted one machine in use in both AMC and PMC during 2023 as illustrated above.

OTHER ITEMS



Booklet Advertising Pouches - Definitives:

The three definitive pouches mentioned in my 2022 article were replaced in late February/early March 2023 with the same designs but without any prices shown. I have also become aware that the first set released in 2022 with prices printed on one side was also issued with the price shown on both sides.

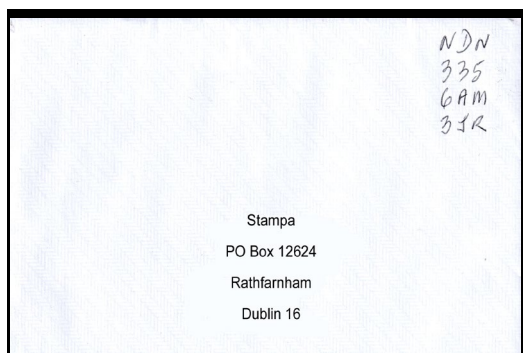
Booklet Advertising Pouches – Christmas

Booklet advertising pouches were available for all three Christmas booklets.



An Post Christmas Card: The theme for 2023 was once again an illustration of Tin Man from the film *"The Wizard of Oz"*. This was the theme of An Post's Christmas TV advertising campaign for both 2023 and 2022.

DIGITAL STAMP (2022)



On 12 October 2022, An Post launched what it claimed to be the world's first digital stamp that can be bought in seconds, at any time and from anywhere using the An Post app. Buyers can purchase the stamp through the app, and hand

write the 12-digit code supplied on the envelope (see illustration in previous column).

The "stamp" also comes with next working day delivery (although this is not guaranteed), provided the item is posted by the last posting time on the day. In addition, the sender receives a confirmation by text or email to confirm that the item has been delivered. Note that the sender needs to keep a record of the addressees and the matching code as the confirmation only states the code for the delivered letter.

But that convenience comes with a cost as the price for a digital stamp is €2.00, compared to €1.25 (then, now €1.40) for a regular national stamp. Large A4 envelopes cost €3.80 per stamp. The digital stamp can only be used for postage within the Republic of Ireland.

Any letter I (or other collectors) posted using the service never received a machine postmark and sometimes not even a machine code on the reverse. So from a postal history viewpoint the service is disappointing.

Initially, I did receive confirmation when the item was delivered but in 2023 when I posted a total of ten letters to various addresses both at home and abroad, no confirmations were received. The digital codes must be used within six months. However, for the aforementioned ten codes, I received an e-mail prior to the expiry date urging me to use the codes. Items addressed to locations abroad were also delivered (@ €2.00) without delay!

I have seen very little commercial use of the service. There has been criticism in the media as to how an online service that does not require the printing of a stamp is more expensive than purchasing a stamp at a post office.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank my many philatelic friends for their help. Particular thanks to Anthony Hughes, Liam Byrne, John Lennon and Michael McNamara for supplying information relating to the ILPS slogan postmarks.

Thanks also to Paul Coleman, Stephen Ferguson and Aileen Mooney of An Post, Paul Baines, John Fitzsimons, Des Howard, Philip Kane, Michael Kelly, Paddy Lineen, Héloïse Mitchell, John Mullen, John Proctor, Declan O'Kelly of Cathedral Stamps and Pádraig O'Shea of Raven Stamps for providing much valuable assistance and information; and, finally, thanks to Héloïse Mitchell for proof reading the article.



Art on a Stamp II set from counter 7 at GPO Cork (123207) on 10 April 2024 (24101) with "Standard Post" inscription and using Epson printer.



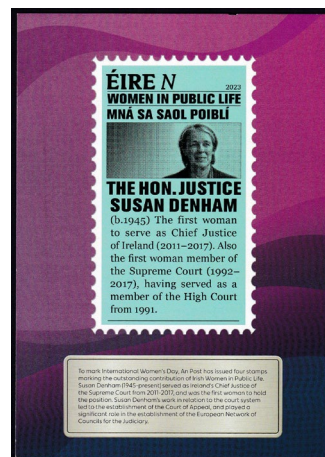
Art on a Stamp I from Cork kiosk 11



Objects IV plus Commemoratives part strip from Tralee kiosk 25



Dublin Stamp Society Maximum card for their "Away Day" to Casino, Marino, Dublin 3



Women in Public Life Issue Postcard reproducing The Hon. Justice Susan Denham stamp