

Irish Philately



THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

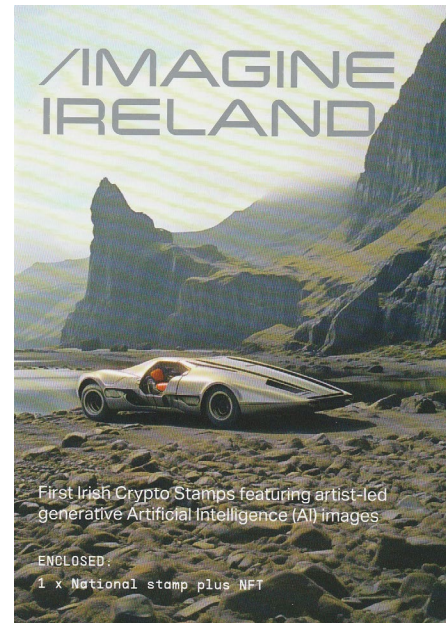
April 2025 – Supplement

That Was The Year That Was – 2024

Brian Warren



*Pintail miniature sheet of 1997
Overprinted for the Spring Stamp & Coin Show 2024*



*Cover of Imagine
Ireland National Booklet (50%)*



*Cinderella airmail
sheet issued for
Stampa 2024
(80% of normal size)*



*Imagine Ireland crypto
stamps issued in
individual booklets*



Richard J King 1907 - 1974 50th Anniversary
STAMPA - 11th to 13th October 2024

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2024

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. Note that the silver or gold foil lettering on the Imagine Ireland, Iconic Irish Voices and Christmas issues looks black.

Postal rates increased on 1 February 2024, with the basic first-step National letter postal rate increasing from €1.35 to €1.40 but the €2.20 International rate remaining unchanged.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 2024 programme, comprising 37 self-adhesive stamps (including stamps in booklets) and 5 self-adhesive booklets and 1 miniature sheet, was issued over 15 release dates at a total cost of €132.39 net of the discount when purchasing together the 17 National stamp and 5 International stamp Christmas booklets (Face value: €103.59). The total cost of all 13 self-adhesive sheets was €196.00. The primary

reason for the increase was the cost of the two Imagine Ireland Crypto booklets which were sold at a combined cost of €14.40 over face value.

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 €107.05¹ 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.

There were 5 single stamp issues compared to 4 in 2023 & 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. Costs in the lists below are the prices at the time of issue.

¹ This corrects an incorrect total given in my 2023 article.

Date of

Issue Description

Cost

Notes and Paper

Sheetlets of

Perforation

Printer



1 Feb	St Brigid and Imbolc	- St Brigid's Cross "N" (€1.40)	TR 196 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13¾ x 13¾	Enschedé
		- "Fire" "W" (€2.20)	TR 196 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13¾ x 13¾	Enschedé
8 Feb	Guaranteed Irish	GI Symbol "N" (€1.40)	TR 196 self-adhesive	8 (2 x 4)	13½ x 13½	Enschedé
22 Feb	Ireland-US Relations	- Bowl of shamrock "W" (€2.20)	TR 196 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13¾ x 13¾	Enschedé
29 Feb	RNLI Bicentenary	- Rescue "N" (€1.40)	TR 196 self-adhesive	8 (4 x 2)	13½ x 13¾	Enschedé
		- Gull over rescue "W" (€2.20)	TR 196 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13¾ x 13½	Enschedé

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes and Paper	Sheetlets of	Perforation	Printer
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14 Mar	Austin Clarke – 50 th Death Anniversary	- Portrait	"N" (€1.40)	TR 146 self-adhesive	8 (4 x 2)	13¼ 13¼	Enschedé
11 April	Branches of Government						
	- Cupola, Government Buildings	"N" (€1.40)	}	Se-tenant pair	8 (4 x 2)	13¼ x 13½	Enschedé
	- "Justice", Dublin Castle	"N" (€1.40)		TR 146 self-adhesive			
25 April	The Freeman's Journal	1763 – 1924	"N" (€1.40)	TR 146 self-adhesive	8 (4 x 2)	13½ x 13¼	Enschedé
16 May	Native Irish Bees						
	- Wool Carder Bee	"N" (€1.40)	}	Se-tenant strip of four	12 (3 x 4)	14 all sides	Enschedé
	- Moss Carder Bee	"N" (€1.40)					
	- Honey Bee	"N" (€1.40)					
	- Patchwork Leafcutter Bee	"N" (€1.40)					
	- Miniature sheet	€5.60	Block of 4 x "N" as above - Gummed			14 all sides	Enschedé
30 May	Public Art						
	- Perpetual Motion Naas	"N" (€1.40)	}	Booklet of four (2 x 2)		11 x 11	Enschedé
	- Tallaght X	"N" (€1.40)					
	- Polestar, Letterkenny	"N" (€1.40)	TR 146 self-adhesive				
	- Riders and Horses, Mallow	"N" (€1.40)					

(Table continued on next page)

Date	Of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes and Paper	Sheetlets of	Perforation	Printer
6 June	Europa (63rd Issue)	- Carrageen Moss "N" (€1.40)	TR 146 self-adhesive	8 (4 x 2)	13½ x 13½	Enschedé	
	(Underwater Flora & Fauna)	- Compass Jellyfish "W" (€2.20)	TR 146 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13½ x 13½	Enschedé	
20 June	First Ordinance Survey of Ireland`	- Athboy "N" (€1.40)	TR 146 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13¼ x 13½	Enschedé	
12 Sept	Iconic Irish Voices	- Christy Dignam "N" (€1.40)	TR 196 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé	
		- Séamus Begley "N" (€1.40)	TR 196 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé	
		- Sinéad O'Connor "W" (€2.20)	TR 196 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé	
		- Shane MacGowan "W" (€2.20)	TR 196 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé	
26 Sept	Imagine Ireland	- Transport "N" (€1.40)	TR 196 self-adhesive	8 (2 x 4)	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé	
		- Housing "W" (€2.20)	TR 196 self-adhesive	4 (2 x 2)	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé	
		- Crypto Booklet "N" (€9.00)	TR 196 self-adhesive	Single	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé	
		- Crypto Booklet "W" (€9.00)	TR 196 self-adhesive	Single	13¼ x 13¼	Enschedé	
3 Oct	Mental Health Awareness	- Rose N (€1.40)	Se-tenant pair TR 196 self-adhesive	8 (2 x 4)	13½ x 13¼	Enschedé	
		- Tree N (€.140)					
31 Oct	Christmas (53rd issue) Booklet Stamps		All TR 246 self-adhesive paper				
		- Booklet of 22 x N (€1.40) stamps	€24.00	4 designs - see below	10¾ x 11¼	Enschedé	
		- Booklet of 5 x W (€2.20) stamps	€11.00	2 designs - see below	10¾ x 11¼	Enschedé	
		- Pair of W stamps	€4.40	One of each design	10¾ x 11¼	Enschedé	

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



US Relations sheet with barcode

All sheet issues were printed on TR 246 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. Colour controls are in the right margin opposite R1 (and in some cases R1&2) and the imprint is in the bottom margin under S1. The other two corners are blank. There are no plate numbers.



First Day Covers: Unserved FDCs cost €1.50 (2023: €1.50). Separate illustrated covers and pictorial cancels were available for all new

issues. A presentation folder with all 16 (2023: 14) covers for the special and commemorative issues (including the Bees miniature sheet) was available from 31 October.

The price of €86.00 (2023: €75.00) compares with a cost of €85.80 (2023: €75.45) 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 2024 issues.

Postcards: Various sets of cards were produced for several of the special and commemorative stamps issued during the year. They are separately listed under *Stationery and Postcards* on page 12.



St Brigid's Day and Imbolc Festival: Two stamps were issued for the feast day of St Brigid and the ancient festival of Imbolc. Brigid became one

of the country's three patron saints. Although born in Co. Louth, she is best known for her association with Kildare where she founded a church. A cross made from rushes is shown on the "N" (€1.35) stamp. Reputedly, she used such a cross in the death-bed conversion of a pagan chieftain. The St Brigid' Cross was used as the station logo of the national television service, Telefís Éireann (now part of Radio Telefís Éireann or RTE) from its opening on 31 December 1961 until August 1995

The symbol on the "W" (€2.20) stamp symbolises her divine transformational, creative and healing powers. Since 2023, a new public holiday to mark this feast day was established – first Monday in February.



Guaranteed Irish (50th Anniversary): The Guaranteed Irish ("GI") symbol was developed in 1974 by the Irish Goods Council. The GI symbol is used on Irish produced products and helps consumers to identify quality Irish products.

Ireland-US Relations (Centenary): Diplomatic relations between Ireland and the USA were established in 1924 when a Minister Plenipotentiary was appointed to represent the Irish Free State in Washington. USA established a Legation in Dublin in 1927. In 1952, the now Irish Ambassador sent a box of shamrock to the American President, Harry Truman. This tradition has evolved into the annual presentation of a bowl of shamrock by the Irish Taoiseach to the US President at the White House on St Patrick's Day.



Royal National Lifeboat Institution – Bicentenary:

The two designs reflect the dramatic experiences by the RNLI crews. The Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey all issued sets of stamps to

mark the bicentenary. They adopted a common design approach across all three issues. Rather surprisingly Royal Mail ignored the bicentenary. Ireland issued a single stamp in both 1974 and 1999 commemorating the RNLI.



Austin Clarke – 50th Death Anniversary: Austin Clarke was considered one of the leading poets of his generation. The portrait on the stamp shows Clarke in contemplative mode.



Branches of Government:

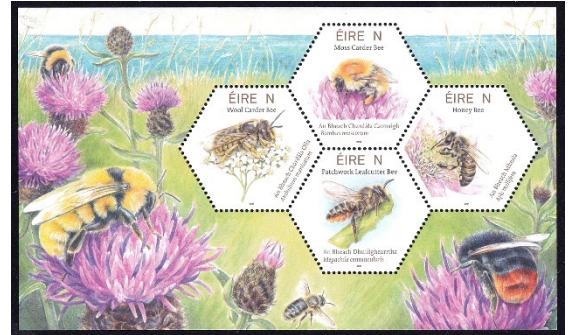
The stamps mark the centenary of the Ministers and Secretaries Act (1924), which created the Irish Civil Service, and of the Courts of Justice Act (1924), which established a new courts

system and eleven government departments. The statue of the allegorical figure Justice by John van Nost the Younger has adorned Dublin Castle since 1753. The central functions of the pre-1922 British administration were in Dublin Castle.

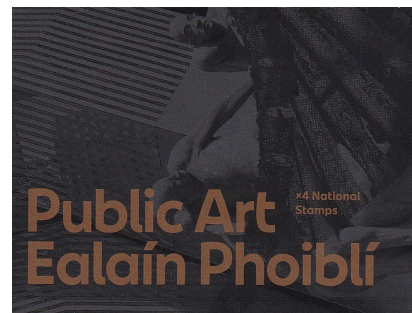


The Freeman's Journal: The paper's masthead as shown on the stamp depicts the sun rising from behind the (now) Bank of Ireland on College Green. This building was formerly occupied by the Irish parliament. Founded in 1763, the Freeman's Journal spoke for the patriot opposition in the Irish parliament. It effectively became the foremost nationalist paper in Dublin. It supported the Anglo-Irish Treaty and in March 1922 anti-treaty forces destroyed its printing press which was situated beside the GPO in Princes Street North. The collapse of the Irish Parliamentary Party in 1918, and the electoral success of Sinn Féin, saw a more radical nationalism appear that was

increasingly out of step with the moderation of the Journal. The Irish Independent, the successor to the Daily Irish Independent, was more aggressively marketed. The last edition of the paper was published on 19th December 1924 and is featured on the first day cover. The paper was merged with the Irish Independent. Until the 1990s, the Irish Independent included the words 'Incorporating the Freeman's Journal' in the masthead over its editorials.



Native Irish Bees (2nd Issue): Following the success of the first Bees issue in 2018, a further four native Irish Bees featured on this set. In addition to the self-adhesive set, an ordinary gummed miniature sheet showed the same stamps. Two separate first day covers were available. The miniature sheet will be overprinted for "Stampa" this year.



Public Art: The set of four booklet stamps features Public Art at various locations in the country.



Europa (63rd Issue): The 2024 theme was Underwater Flora and Fauna.

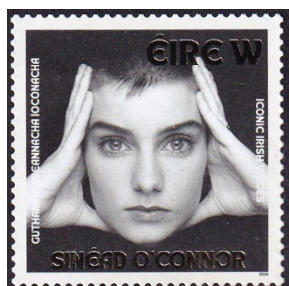
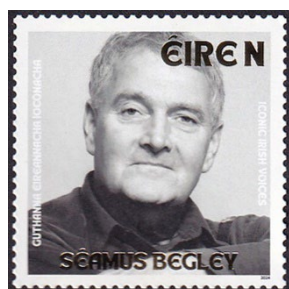


First Ordinance Survey of Ireland: The Ordinance Survey of Ireland was established in 1824. The stamp features an original 1836 map of the townland of Athboy, Co. Meath.



Coming after the Iconic Irish Voices issues, I reckon these were the least inspiring of the stamps released during the year. Each stamp was also available within individual booklets as a crypto stamp with QR code. No FDC facility was available for the crypto stamps but collectors could make up their own cover.

An internal memorandum was sent to post offices on 1 October (i.e. after the date of issue) recalling all stocks as examples of the “W” value were known to be missing the silver foil and that “N” values might also be affected. To date no examples of either value are known to be in the hands of collectors. I understand that the application of the silver foil was completed by a different printer and not by Enschedé.



Iconic Irish Voices: The four individual stamps are probably the best issue design-wise of 2024. All four singers died in 2023. This was a popular issue, with the FDC selling out on the day of issue. It is now only available within the first day cover year pack. Sinéad O'Connor previously appeared in the 2021 booklet issue featuring Irish Singer Songwriters at Glastonbury. The postmark was applied in Gold but collectors could make up their own FDCs with either Gold or Black first day cancellations. The Culture Night postcards could also be used in conjunction with this issue (see illustrations on page 14).

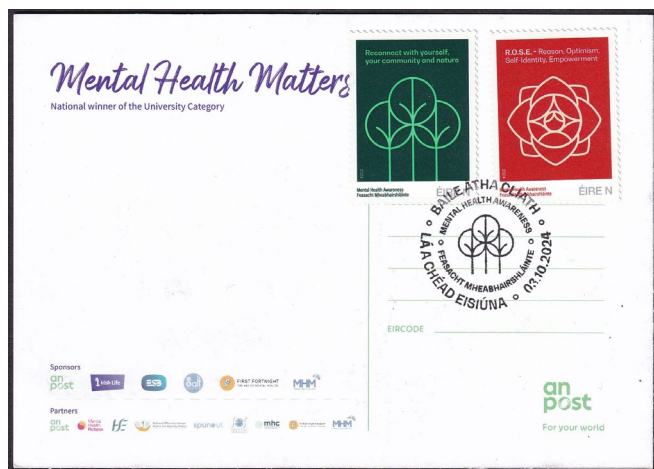
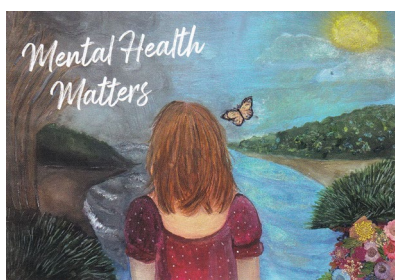


Mental Health Awareness: The R.O.S.E. “N” stamp reflects a model developed to help people cope with mental health issues: R – Reason; O – Optimism; S – Self-identity; and E – Empowerment. The tree-themed stamp reflects the fact that access to nature has a deeply positive impact on mental health. The following 10 October was World Mental Health Day.

In addition to the stamps, our editor Robert Benninghoff discovered by accident, in the week following the stamp issue, that a postcard on the Mental Health theme was freely available at the main post office counter in the GPO Dublin. I found a further three cards on the same theme in St Andrew's Street PO about a week later – all four cards and the reverse side are illustrated on the following page.



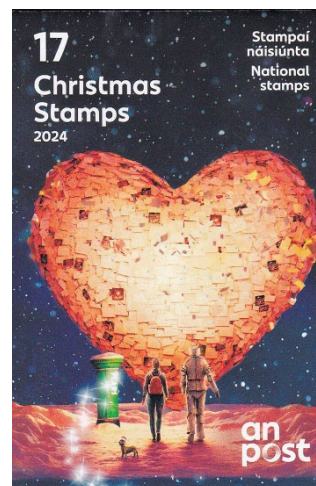
Imagine Ireland: The Artificial Intelligence themed designs explore novel modes of Transport (“N”) and Housing (“W”).



Reverse of cards with stamps
Attached and first day pictorial cancel

The cards were not available from the bureau and as explained on page 23 of the April 2025 issue of Irish Philately, the cards were produced by *Mental Health Matters* in collaboration with An Post and several other organisations as referred to on the reverse of the cards. Four different designs were produced and printed by An Post. They were distributed at the launch event in September 2024 and to a number of post offices (500 sets printed).

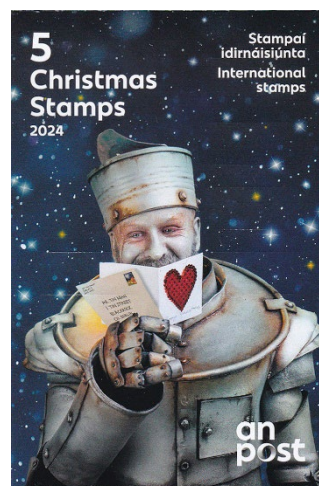
Cellophane packets of “SeeChange” ribbons were also available in some post offices (not illustrated).



Christmas: The four “N” designs feature (a) Christmas Pudding; (b) Decorated House with Snowmen; (c) Angel appearing to Shepherds; and (d) Star over Baby Jesus. The two “W” stamps illustrate (a) an Angel within a stained-glass window; and (b) a Christmas market scene.

The €19.99 booklet of seventeen “N” (€1.40) stamps (i.e. a €3.81 discount compared to €5.70 in 2023) is set out in four blocks of four stamps with each block containing the four different designs plus a single stamp (Christmas Pudding design). There are four different layouts for the blocks of four. The booklet also contains six small stickers featuring “The Tin Man”, a large heart, a star, a large bauble, a postbox with ribbon and a candy stick.

The cover of the booklet features a large heart covered with envelopes plus a postbox. The number of stamps in the booklet was reduced from 22 to 17 this year, presumably to keep the price to under €20.00. There was no 5 x “N” booklet this year. Blocks of four supplied to standing order customers had the normal printed backing. Blocks included in the Year Book and Year Pack had plain backing.



The €11.00 booklet contains a block of 4 x “W” (€2.20) stamps – two of each design plus an additional example of the Christmas market design together with five airmail labels. The cover features “The Tin Man” from “The Wizard of Oz”, as was illustrated on the large “N” Christmas booklet in 2023. “The Tin Man” was once again the theme of the An Post Christmas TV

advertising this year (as it was in both 2023 & 2022). If bought together, the booklets could be purchased for €28.99 (a further saving of €2.00). A pair of “W” stamps with plain backing was also available from the bureau. The same pair in the Year Book and Year Pack also had plain backing.

A pack of 17 Christmas cards designed by Irish artist *Hephee* and a booklet of 17 Christmas stamps were also available for €29.95. For every pack sold An Post donated 5% of the sale price to the value of €10,000 to *The Magic of Christmas Appeal*. Unlike the free cards available last year, this set did have the An Post logo on each card (5 designs).

Year Pack: The Year Pack contains all the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2024, including the Public Art booklet pane, the Christmas collectors’ pair (W values) and a pane of the four National Christmas booklet stamps. The two crypto stamps were not included. A total of 30 stamps (2023: 36) with a face value of €56.20 (2023: €54.45). Cost: €57.00 (2023: €55.00).

Year Book: The bilingual book also contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2024, as per the Year Pack plus the Bees miniature sheet. All are pre-mounted in the year book. Total printing of 600 books (2023: 600). Cost €95.00 (2023: €95.00). 60 (2023: 60) leather bound editions are also available at a cost of €240.00 per book (2023: €240.00).

Flower Definitives Pack: At Stamp 2024, a simple A4 sized presentation pack was released with the full set of the 2004-2008 Flower Definitive sheet issues. Sold at €20.00, this was below the face value of €25.87 (24 stamps). Only ten stamps from the complete set can still be bought individually from the bureau.

SOAR ISSUES - ART ON A STAMP - TENTH DEFINITIVE SERIES

There were no new additions to the “*Art on a Stamp*” series during 2024. A new set of eight designs plus a 100-stamp roll coil and two booklets are due to be released in June 2025.

Self-Service Kiosks: No further changes were noted during 2024. All machines, irrespective of whether you use the “*Buy Stamps*” or “*Mail*” function, continue to 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”). The machines in Ballina and Thurles post offices were removed during 2024 but the former was



*Art on a Stamp strips (Series II)
from kiosks at Swords (left) and St
Andrew's Street post offices
Note EUR on Swords strip*

reinstated in 2025. In January 2025, two new kiosks were installed in the GPO Dublin parcels section and in the new relocated post office within The Square Shopping Centre, Tallaght (beside Dunnes Stores). At the time of writing, they have yet to be brought into service.

The second Arts set released in 2023 finally appeared in a number of kiosks at end 2024. It has been found in the two St Andrew's Street machines (35365011/031), GPO Dublin (35365301) and one of the Swords machines (35365151). In the latter case, this is the kiosk that dispenses strips with the currency designation EUR rather than EURO (see illustrations).

A listing of all known kiosk/machine locations in use is set out on the following two pages.

SELF-SERVICE KIOSK/MACHINE LOCATIONS

This is the known list of kiosk/machine locations as of April 2025. 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 9 numbers missing in the sequence 01 to 59, viz. 04, 19, 20, 22, 24, 27, 56, 57 & 58 and that five machines have been removed - 02, 06, 08, 10 and 45. The Newbridge kiosk was moved to Ballina but the ID was changed. The St Andrews Street machine was moved in 2025 to the GPO Parcels Office but the ID was changed. I

am not aware of the new locations of the Cork or Thurles kiosks. The Ballinasloe machine was still issuing all SOARs as singles when last checked. Since the year end, two new kiosks have been installed at the relocated Tallaght Post Office in The Square Shopping Centre and in the GPO Dublin Parcels Office. The machine in the GPO has been working since the end of March but, to date, the Tallaght machine has not been switched on. If any member can add to the information below, please drop me note or send an email to brian.warren1952@outlook.com

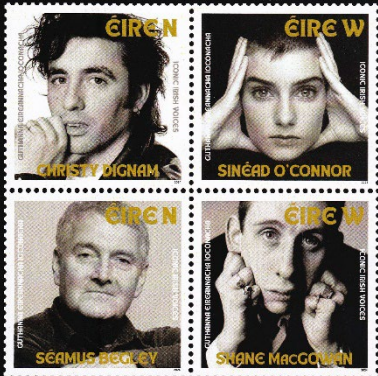
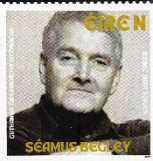
POST OFFICE	NUMBER OF KIOSKS	MACHINE ID NUMBERS	CURRENCY DESIGNATION AND YEAR FIRST NOTED
St Andrew's Street, Dublin 2	2 (Initially 3)	35365011/021/031 (#02 removed in 2023)	EURO (2020)
Newbridge	3	35365051/061/071 (#06 removed in 2023)	EUR (2019) and EURO (2021)
Thurles	Removed in 2024	35365081	EUR (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	EURO (2024)

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 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	EURO (2024)
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)
GPO Parcel Office	1	35365591	EURO (2025)

1. Removed in 2024 but reinstated by April 2025.

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., unless otherwise indicated					
 ICONIC IRISH VOICES AT THE GPO, DUBLIN, CULTURE NIGHT 2024.   ICONIC IRISH VOICES GUTHANNA ÉIREANNACHA IOCONACHA 					
2023					
13 Dec	National Print Museum	- Small postcard	no charge	illustrated Shannon Scheme FDC of 6 October	?
		- Poster	€50.00	See below	
2024					
1 Feb	St Brigid and Imbolc	- Set of two postcards	no charge	Illustrates the N and W values	?
20 Mar	An Post/SE Lamp Box	- Postcard	no charge	Illustrates an An Post/SE lamp box	?
18 April	Irish Stamp Design Symposium	- Postcard	no charge	See notes below	?
25 April	The Freeman's Journal	- Postcard	no charge	Illustrates front page of last issue`	?
16 May	Bees	- Postcard	no charge	Illustrates the miniature sheet issued on same date	?
17 Aug	National Heritage Week	- Postcard	no charge	Illustrates National Botanic Gardens set of 1995	?
20 Sept	Culture Night	- Postcard (Type I)	no charge	Iconic Irish Voices (Stamps shown in block of four)	?
		Postcard (Type II)	no charge	Iconic Irish Voices (Stamps shown individually)	?



Miniature Masterpieces Stamp Exhibition – National Print Museum: A joint exhibition between An Post and the National Print Museum, which celebrated a century of postage stamps in Ireland, was hosted at the National Print Museum, Beggars Bush, Dublin 4 from 13 December 2023 to 3 May 2024.

An illustrated exhibition booklet *Miniature Masterpieces – Cultural identity, artistic expression and a century of Irish stamps*, by the exhibition's curator, Stephen Ferguson of An Post, draws on additional material held in the An Post Museum & Archive and elsewhere to accompany what was the first major display of Irish philatelic material for many years. The booklet costs €12 and is available from both the museum and the philatelic bureau,

The Museum collaborated with graphic designer Niall McCormack and letterpress printer at the Museum Mary Plunkett to create an original artwork as illustrated on the previous page. The 50 signed sheets at €50 each were sold out.



In addition, a small postcard (148mm x 105mm) illustrating a Shannon Scheme FDC dated 16 October 1932 was available as a comment card at the exhibition. The comment card could be left in a mock wooden postbox. This was available from the opening day of the exhibition in December 2023 (not listed in my 2023 article).



St Brigid and Imbolc: Two cards were available illustrating the two stamp designs against a suitable background – St Brigid's Church, Kildare Town in the case of the "N" stamp.



An Post/SE Lamp Box: An Post/SE lamp box illustrated on the card is situated in the area of the GPO formerly occupied by the now closed Museum Café¹.

The card was produced by An Post for the Philatelic Societies' visit to the GPO Museum (see also page 15).

The card with appropriate overprint on the reverse was also available as part of the set of members' souvenirs for Stampá 2024. See also illustration and notes *under Exhibition and Society Souvenirs and Postmarks* (pages 15-17)



Irish Stamp Design Symposium: An Post organised a stamp design symposium on 18 April 2024. It was held at the Labour History Museum which is located beside the National Print Museum. Various designers of recent An Post stamp issues gave short presentations as to how they turned the An Post brief into final designs and their interaction with the Stamp Design Committee. Although aimed at the design community and staff in An Post, the event was open to the general public. A reception followed in the Print Museum.

A card was distributed at the event which illustrated the poster design referred to above.

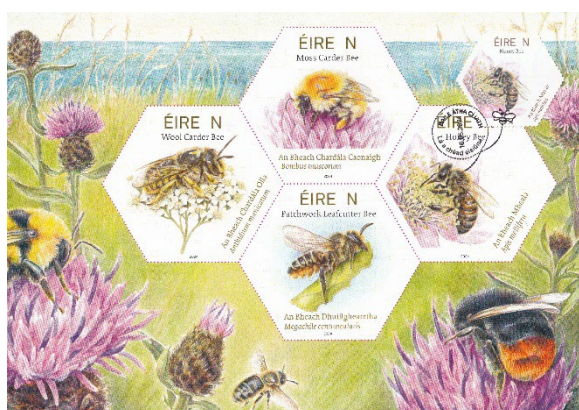
¹ The Museum Café had closed by June 2024 but the postbox display, including the An Post/SE box, is still accessible via the Museum entrance (no charge). The An Post/SE box dates from the 1920s and is the only one known to survive.



The Freeman's Journal: The postcard reproduces the front page of the last issue of the paper. The card was handed out at a launch for the issue in the GPO, together with a first day cover and a mint pair.

All were contained in a special folder which also reproduced the front page of the last issue. The card was not on general sale.

The postcard, with added stamp and first day cancel, is illustrated above.



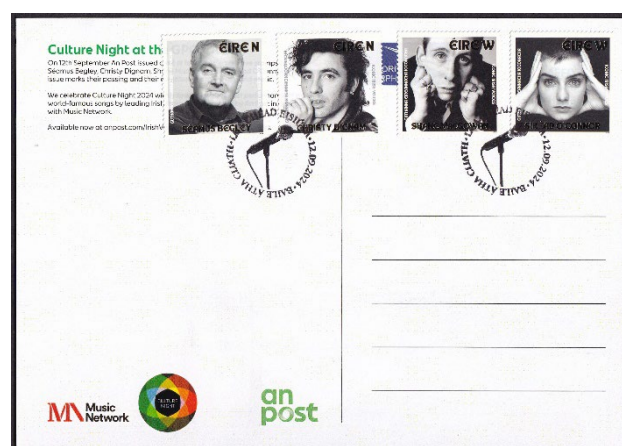
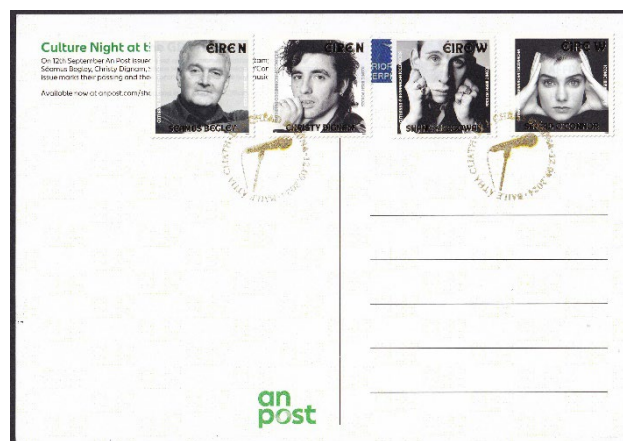
Bees postcard used maxicard style with single stamp

Bees: A postcard was produced illustrating the Bees miniature sheet – a very attractive item.



National Heritage Week (17-25 August): An Post produced a special postcard illustrating the National Botanic Gardens set issued in 1995. The

card was only available at the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Visitors were encouraged to leave comments about the Gardens and drop the cards in a postbox provided on site.



Culture Night: There was a change in design this year. Two large-format cards were available illustrating the Iconic Irish Voices set. The Culture Night logo was only shown on the card featuring the block of four. Neither card was prepaid. Both are illustrated on the previous page.

A number of collectors added the four stamps and had the cards postmarked with the first day cancel. Black or gold postmarks were available as illustrated above.

See also notes on page 8 about four Mental Health cards not included above. The cards were issued in connection with the Mental Health stamps – see also Irish Philately – December 2024 and April 2025 issues.

EXHIBITION AND SOCIETY SOUVENIRS AND POSTMARKS

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes and Paper	Perf.	Printer
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20 Mar	Visit of DSS & IPS to GPO Museum	- Cover	€5.00	° An Post/SE lamp box	Brian Warren
	- An Post Postcard (approx. 70 cards printed)	no charge	± Features SE lamp box and Penfold stamp of 1998	?	
21 April	Spring Stamp & Coin Fair	- €2 Pintail MS	€15.00	† Overprinted – see below	14 x 14 Lee Press
	- Dublin Stamp Society cover		€5.00	° Irish Harp on blue background	Brian Warren
	- Dublin Stamp Society postcard		€5.00	° Irish Republic Parade, Easter 1949	Brian Warren
3 Oct	Stampa 2024 - Membership				
	- Native Irish Bees (2024 issue) M/S with black o/p	}		* 600 overprinted - CCP3	14 all sides N.P.M.
	- Galway European City of Culture M/S black o/p			* 600 overprinted - CCP3	13¼ x 13¼ N.P.M.
	- Postbox Postcard (600)		€20.00	* Features SE lamp box and Penfold stamp of 1998	?
3 Oct	Stampa 2024 - Public souvenir				
	- Airmail design sheet (non postal)		€5.00	* 600 printed – see below	11 x 11 YOURSTAMPS
10 Oct	Stampa 2024 – Postbox postcard as above		€5.00	* Cancelled with 10 October postmark	?
	- Airmail design postcard (see notes below)		€5.00	* Mint or cancelled and with or without NPM cachet	MOO
10 Oct	Stampa 2024 - 100 Years of Art on a Stamp (EasyPost)				
	- SOAR set of eight with 2023 designs		€13.00	* with STAMPA 2024 imprint RT P200.	11 x 11¼ CCL (I) Ltd
	- SOAR set of eight with 2022 designs		€13.00	* with STAMPA 2024 imprint RT P200	11 x 11¼ CCL (I) Ltd

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

± : Produced by An Post for the Societies. Only available at the event.

† : Privately produced by Michael Kelly, organiser of the show.

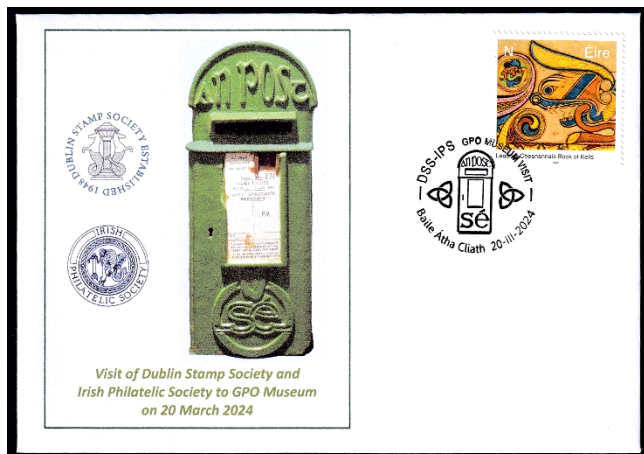
* : Privately produced souvenirs issued by Irish National Stamp Exhibition CLG (Stampa) – not available from An Post.

NPM = National Print Museum



A special postmark was provided by An Post who attended the show and this marked the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic in 1949.

Both the cover and maximum card were produced by the Dublin Stamp Society. The postmark and cover were designed by Alan Farrell and the postcard design used for the maximum card by John Mullen. The card features a photograph of the 1949 Easter Parade marking the Republic and shows an unusual view of O'Connell Bridge and Westmoreland Street.



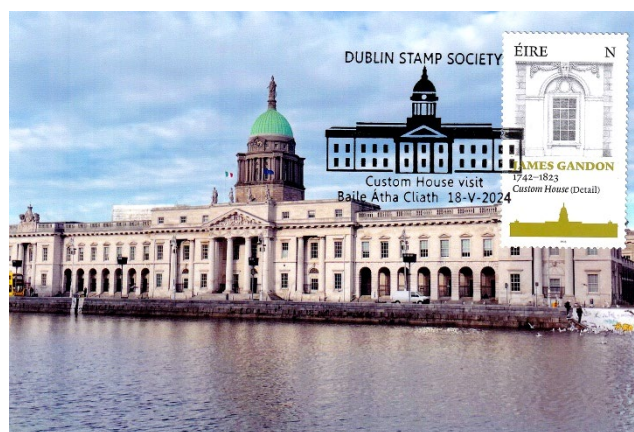
DUBLIN STAMP SOCIETY



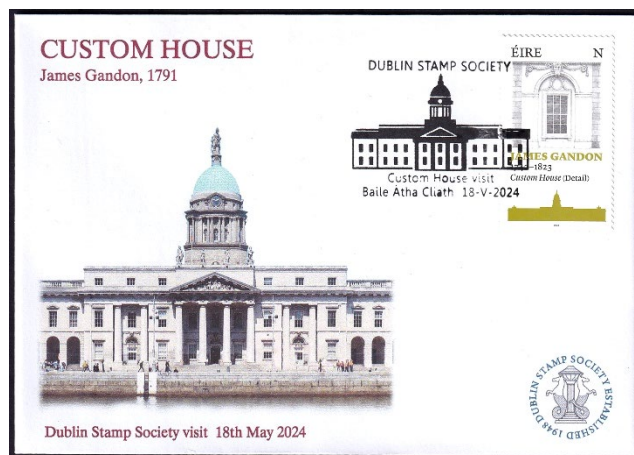
Custom House visit
Baile Átha Cliath 18-V-2024

Philatelic Societies' Visit to GPO Museum: An Post hosted a special tour of the GPO Museum for members of the Dublin Stamp Society and The Irish Philatelic Society on 20 March 2024. The guided tour was followed by a talk about the GPO by Stephen Ferguson. An Post provided a large format postcard featuring the unique An Post/SE lamp box which is situated in the former Museum Cafe.

The postcard design was by Brian Warren and the postmark was designed by Alan Farrell. Brian Warren also produced a special cover for the event which features the same postbox. Karl Winkelmann took the original photograph of the box shown on both the card and cover.



Spring Stamp and Coin Fair: The fair was a stand-alone event in the RDS this year. The show souvenir was an overprint on the £1 Pintail miniature sheet issued in 1997 (illustrated on front cover).



Dublin Stamp Society "Away Day": The annual Dublin Stamp Society Away Day was held on Saturday 18 May. This year the Society visited the Custom House, Dublin 2.

A postmark and cover designed by Alan Farrell was available. A postcard featuring a recent

photograph of the building taken by Robert Benninghoff was also available. Both cover and card were serviced with the stamp featuring the Custom House window (ex James Gandon set) issued in November 2023.



Stampa 2024 - Membership Items: Stampa was held from 11 to 13 October 2024 at Griffith College Conference Centre, Dublin 8. Both the Bees (2024 issue) and Galway European Capital of Culture (2020) miniature sheets were overprinted in black “**STAMPA 2024 / 11th – 13th October**”. The overprinting was completed by the National Print Museum (NPM). In addition, members also received the An Post/SE lamp box postcard referred on page 13 with added imprint in green and black which reads “**STAMPA 2024 / Griffith Conference Centre / 11th – 13th October 2024**”.

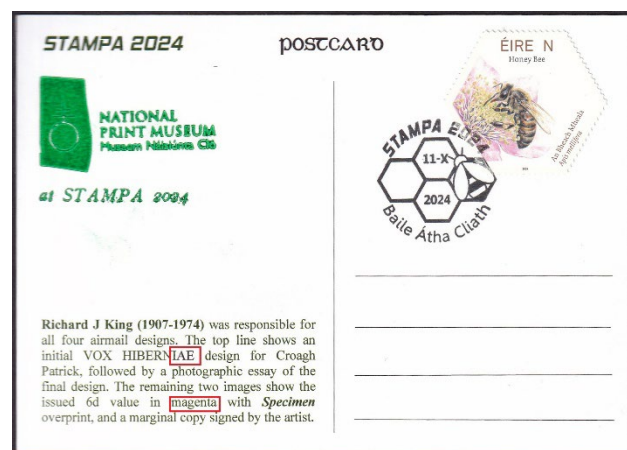
The card was also available cancelled with the 11 October postmark and was also used for the dinner menu with 12 October postmark.

Stampa 2024 - Public Souvenir: The public souvenir was a Cinderella item similar to the 2022 and 2023 sheets. 2024 marked the 50th anniversary of the death of Irish stamp designer Richard Joseph King (1907-1974). A miniature sheet was available detailing the progression of the design for the 6p stamp from the Vox Hiberniae airmail series.

The sheet shows photo essays of an early art deco design concept, together with the final design (both held in private hands), a Specimen overprint and the issued stamp signed by R J King. Uncut master sheets of six were also available at €30 per sheet (all 30 sheets sold out at the show). The bottom margin of each sheet is inscribed in two lines in black “**Richard J King 1907–1974 50th Anniversary / STAMPA – 11th to 13th October 2024**”.

Covers, Airmail Postcard and Postmarks: There was a special postmark and matching illustrated cover for each day – “Bees

Honeycomb” (11 October), “*Irish/USA Relations*” (12 October) and “*Sydney Opera House*” (13 October).



A small format postcard was also available bearing the same four images as reproduced on the miniature sheet (100 cards). The National Print Museum were present at the show on Friday 11 October with an Adanas press and printed a special green cachet as illustrated on the Airmail Stamps postcard (2nd printing only – see below) or any other cover/card. The card with added cachet was also available by post with a Bees stamp and the 11 October cancel at €5.00.



Please note that there were two typographical errors on the initial printing of the airmail cards.

Richard J King (1907-1974) was responsible for all four airmail designs. The top line shows an initial VOX HIBERNIA design for Croagh Patrick followed by a proof of the final design in brown. The remaining two images show the issued 6d value in blue with *Specimen*. overprint and a marginal copy signed by the artist.

The last “E” was missing from HIBERNIAE and the colour reference to “blue” should have read “magenta”. This printing was used for the dinner tickets (100 cards).

A reprint (100 cards) was ordered for the cards on sale at the show which corrected these errors and, in addition, brackets were added around the dates on the front of the card (1907-1974).

Stampa 2024 - EasyPost SOAR Strips: EasyPost strips were once again available. Both Arts I and Arts II designs were on sale. Arts I strips were limited to approximately 200 sets as most rolls supplied were of the latter issue. Two special blank FDC envelopes were also available, as were serviced covers.

Due to a malfunction of the machine when changing over rolls, a small number of strips of both designs were printed with the 10 October date, i.e. code date 24284. This was not noticed until after they were sold. The number of strips sold with this code date error was estimated to be approximately 20-30sets of each.



Awards Dinner: The menu was printed on the reverse of the An Post/Se Lamp Box postcard (75 cards printed).



*Art on a Stamp – Sets I and II
with Stampa 2024 imprint
with code date 24285
i.e. 11 October 2024*

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)

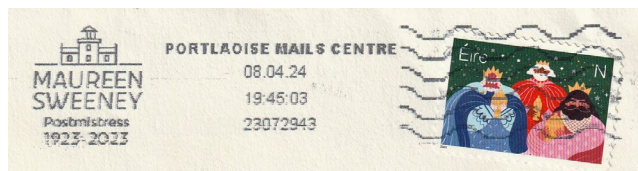
There were seven new slogans during 2024. I am unable to confirm if they were all in use at all three mail centres (Athlone, Dublin and Portlaoise). The dates given below may not apply to all three mail centres for all the dates shown. There may also be earlier and later known dates of use.



ILPS 160 used at AMC on 8 March 2023

ILPS 160 – Guaranteed Irish / g l i / 50 Years 1974-2024

First noted on 4 March and last noted on 4 April 2024. Used again in September.



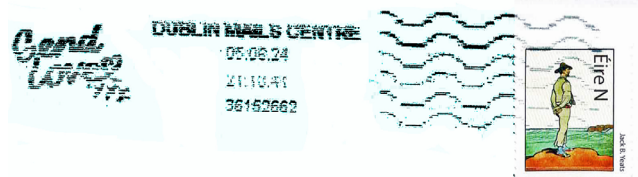
ILPS 161 used at PMC on 8 April 2024

ILPS 161 – MAUREEN / SWEENEY / Postmistress / 1923-2023

First noted on 5 April and last noted on 19 April.

In her younger years, Maureen worked at the observation station and post office in Blacksod, near Belmullet in Co Mayo. It was here that she provided weather forecasts from the lighthouse at Blacksod for the British and American militaries during the Second World War. For the D-Day invasion planners in southern England, Ms Sweeney's weather reports would be the first to confirm any break in the weather.

On the night of 2-3 June, Ms Sweeney reported bad weather, a rapidly falling barometer and a force six wind. This report was forwarded from the Irish Met Service to the Allied headquarters in southern England. Unusually, Ms Sweeney received a call back a short while later to confirm the report and D-Day was postponed to 6 June. She died in December 2023 at the age of 100.



ILPS 162 used in error at DMC on 5 June 2024

ILPS 162 - SEND / LOVE / xxx

This was used, apparently in error, at DMC for one day only on 5 June 2024. The slogan was in use on a continuous basis from Monday 27 January 2025 at AMC and DMC. PMC was still using ILPS 158 on this date.



ILPS 163 used at PMC on 26 July 2024

ILPS 163 – TAY70 / Celebrating 70 Years

First noted on 7 June and last noted on 14 June. Used again in July.

Tayto is a crisp and popcorn manufacturer in Ireland, founded by Joe Murphy in May 1954.

They were apparently the first to produce cheese and onion crisps. During 2024, I do not recall seeing any special media advertisements or crisp packs referring to the 70 year milestone.



ILPS 164 used at DMC on 28 June 2024

ILPS 164 – GO TEAM / IRELAND! / EUROPEAN / WINNERS

First noted on 18 June and last noted on 1 July.

At the 2024 European Outdoor Athletics Championships held in Rome (7-12 June), Ireland earned gold in two events. Ciara Mageean won gold in the 1,500m and the mixed relay team of Chris O'Donnell, Rhasidat Adeleke, Thomas Barr and Sharlene Mawdsley won gold in the 4 x 400m.



ILPS 165 used at DMC on 25 September 2024

ILPS 165 – Free Phone / Samaritans / 116 123 / for emotional support

First noted on 2 September and last noted on 27 September.



ILPS 166 used at DMC on 11 October 2024

ILPS 166 – 1875 2025 / 150 YEARS / IRFU

First noted on 30 September and last noted on 18 October.

Initially, there were two unions: the Irish Football Union, which had jurisdiction over clubs in Leinster, Munster and parts of Ulster and was founded in December 1874, and the Northern Football Union of Ireland, which controlled the Belfast area and was founded in January 1875. The IRFU was formed in 1879 as an

amalgamation of these two organizations. Hence the reference to 1875-2025 although the correct anniversary is the 2024/25 season. Members may recall that two stamps were issued in 1974 to mark the centenary. A further two stamps were issued on 13 February 2025. To date, the slogan has not been noted in use in 2025.

Continued Use/Re-use of Slogans

**Send
Love**

DUBLIN MAILS CENTRE

04.09.24

19:47:14

32636032



ILPS 143 used at DMC on 4 September 2024

ILPS 143 - SEND / LOVE

Noted in use during the period 19 March to 4 April and again from 2 to 29 May and 19 August to 13 September.



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

Noted in use from 29 October 2024 until 24 January 2025.



DUBLIN MAILS CENTRE

21.02.24

20:26:58

31021312



ILPS 159 used at DMC on 21 February 2024

ILPS 159 – Send / from the / ♥

Noted in use since November 2023 through to 1 March 2024.

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

I have NOT noted any changes in the CFSM postmarks during 2024.

OTHER ITEMS

Booklet Advertising Pouches - Definitives

There were no changes during 2024.

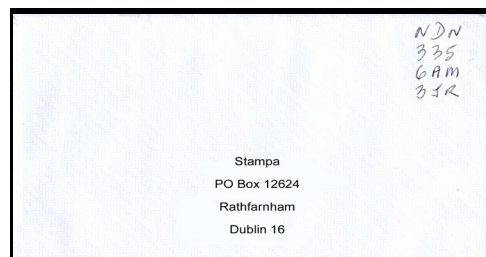
Booklet Advertising Pouches – Christmas

Two pouches were available for the Christmas booklets (not illustrated).

An Post Santa Envelope: The 2024 envelope and postmark were the same as in 2023.

An Post Christmas Card: The 2024 card featured a rural image which included a postvan, a postbox and “The Tin Man”.

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 above). A similar international service was introduced in 2024. The cost was €2.00 (International: €2.50) as against the stamp prices of €1.45 and €2.20 respectively. Since 27 February 2025, the cost is €2.22 (National) and €2.95 (International) as against the stamp prices of €1.65 (National) and €2.95 (International). Many people posed the question why was digital more expensive? Should it not be cheaper?

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 confirmation by text or email 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 using this service.

Any letters (national or international) that I have seen utilising this service have not received any sort of postmark or other postal marking.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Thanks also to Paul Coleman, Dave Mulholland and Aileen Mooney of An Post, Paul Baines, Barbara Brennan, John Fitzsimons, Des Howard, Philip Kane, Michael Kelly, Paddy Lineen, Héloïse Mitchell, John Mullen, John Proctor, Stephen Ferguson, 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.