

# IRISH STAMPS *Collectors News*



- *50th Anniversary Ronnie Delany 1500m Gold Medal Melbourne Olympics*
- *Centenary of the Death of Michael Cusack*
- *Centenary of the Death of Michael Davitt*
- *25th Anniversary of the National Concert Hall*
- *The 2006 Ryder Cup (Part II)*

# Dear Collector,

Welcome to Collectors News, this edition features some truly exciting articles and a first for Irish philately.

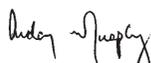
This year the 2006 Ryder Cup comes to the K Club and An Post is celebrating this fantastic event by issuing Ireland's first-ever lenticular stamps! Lenticular images are images that appear to move and we're certain that our 2006 Ryder Cup issue of 14 September will catch the eyes of collectors worldwide. Go to page 16 for more information on these exciting stamps and order yours today!

2006 sees the centenary anniversaries of the deaths of two remarkable Irishmen, Michael Cusack and Michael Davitt. Their contributions to Ireland were immense, Cusack founding the GAA in 1884 and Davitt founding the Irish National Land League in 1879. To commemorate their significant role in Irish history, An Post is issuing two stamps denominated at 48c featuring striking portraits of these key figures.

Another important anniversary is that of Ronnie Delany's outstanding performance in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. He took the gold medal for Ireland and became an instant household name, a feat immortalised in an emotive 48c issue. An additional great performance to note is the 25th anniversary of the opening of the National Concert Hall. Opened to great acclaim in 1981, it is celebrated with an atmospheric 48c stamp and First Day Cover.

To further whet your philatelic appetite, an exhibition of Robert Ballagh's diverse style of stamp artwork opens in the GPO on Friday, September 15. Running until Friday, October 13, it offers a unique opportunity to see the work of a superb Irish artist who has designed over 70 Irish stamps.

I hope you enjoy this unique edition of Collectors News, and I look forward to bringing you even more exclusive items in the future.



Aidan Murphy  
Marketing Manager, Irish Stamps



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*The images throughout Collectors News are correct at the time of going to press, but final products may not be exactly as shown.*

# NEWS & INFORMATION

## IRISH GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND STAMP LAUNCH



An Post recently celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind with the issue of a unique 48c Stamp. The stamp features the denomination in Braille, a first in Irish philately. The stamp also features a Guide Dog silhouette design and was launched at the Irish Guide Dogs headquarters on the Model Farm Road in Cork recently. Pictured on the left is Roy Keane and Miss Cork, Stephanie Barry, at the launch.

## ROBERT BALLAGH EXHIBITION IN THE GPO



An art exhibition featuring stamp artwork designed by Robert Ballagh will open in the GPO on Friday 15 of September and will run until Friday 13 of October. This will coincide with the Robert Ballagh retrospective in the RHA Gallery. The RHA exhibition will feature a number of Robert's stamp art designs.

## STAMP YOUR AUTHORITY COMPETITION WINNERS



Collectors News is happy to announce the winners of our recent Stamp Your Authority competition, picked out at random from the hundreds of correct entries that we received. We'd like to thank you for taking part, and congratulate you on your philatelic knowledge.

The five winners are Alison O'Toole, Dublin; Kamarudin Othman, Clare; James M. Carney, Wisconsin; Austin Foo, Malaysia; and S.F. Esmailji, Kenya.

We'd like to thank you all for taking the time to enter, and we wish you all the best of luck in future competitions!

## IRISH COLLECTOR WINS GOLD AT WASHINGTON

Congratulations to Geoffrey McAuley on winning a gold medal at Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. Geoffrey is only the third ever Irish person to achieve this remarkable feat. Geoffrey won the gold for his "Masayrk's Czechoslovakia" exhibit in the open class.

# RONNIE DELANY

## *Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Ronnie Delany's Melbourne Olympics 1500m Gold Medal*



First Day Cover Image: Original airbrush drawing (for Mitsubishi Olympic Press Campaign) Summer 1992 by Bill Grany.



Product Code: 0618FDC Price: €1.23

Ronnie Delany was born on 6 March 1935, in Arklow, County Wicklow. In 1954, aged just nineteen, he won an athletics scholarship to Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where he trained under legendary coach Jumbo Elliot. Remarkably, in the same year, he reached the final of the 800m at the European Championships in Berne, Switzerland and in 1956 he became only the seventh runner to join the exclusive club of four-minute milers. Nevertheless, he struggled somewhat to make the Irish team for the 1956 Melbourne Summer Olympics.

Having reached Melbourne, he qualified for the Olympic 1500m final, in which home runner John Landy was the commanding favourite. The event was followed avidly in Ireland: across the country, anxious supporters listened keenly to their radios, as 21-year old Delany shadowed Landy throughout the race. Finally, on the last lap, the Irishman started a crushing final sprint, which not only beat Landy and won the race, but set a new Olympic Record. Famously, after crossing the finishing line, he knelt down on both knees and blessed himself, thanking God for his victory.

Delany had been the first Irishman to win an Olympic athletics title since Bob Tisdall in 1932, and in the stagnant Ireland of the nineteen-fifties an outsider storming ahead to beat the favourite caught the imagination of a nation, and made him a sporting icon. But it was in the USA where Delany pursued his running career, and from March 1955 through to March 1959 he ran thirty-four major indoor mile races against all kinds of opponents, domestic and foreign, and was victorious in all. His accolades are numerous: he broke the indoor world record for the mile three times, won four successive Amateur Athletic Union titles in the mile, as well as three National Collegiate Athletic Association titles, and a total of four Irish national titles.

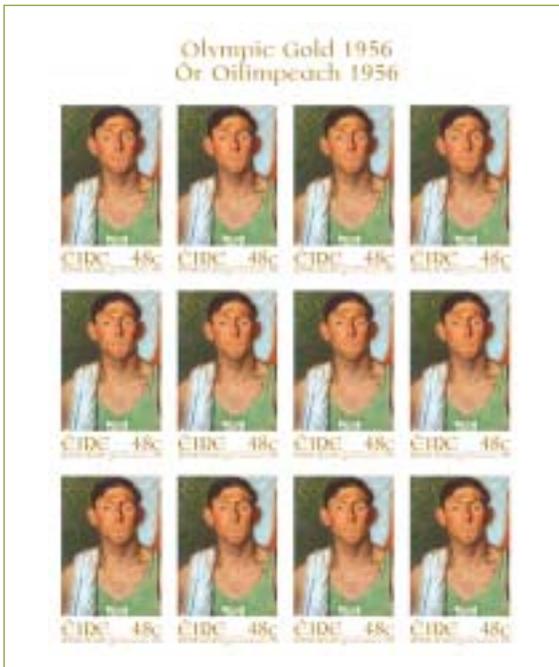
# RONNIE DELANY

However, despite the consistency of his athletic success, Ronnie Delany is perhaps still most revered for his Olympic win in 1956. Fifty years on from that memorable Olympics, he remains one of Ireland's best-known and most-loved sportsmen. The stature of his athletic greatness is unquestionable. Moreover, in March 2006, he was given the Honourary Freedom of Dublin, presented alongside Sir Bob Geldof.

An Post is honoured to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of his historic Melbourne win with this delightful stamp denominated at 48c. Beautifully illustrated by Thomas Ryan RHA, to capture the high drama and keen emotion of such an amazing sporting achievement, it shows Delany with an Irish tricolour, adorned with the Olympic rings, just behind him. It was painted in Rathmines, Dublin on Ronnie's return to Dublin. Indeed, according to the artist Ronnie posed in the same singlet he wore in the final. Celebrating Ireland's greatest ever sporting achievement in athletics, this issue is not to be missed. Order yours today to avoid disappointment!

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

|                  |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Date of Issue    | 16 August, 2006                   |
| Value & Quantity | 48c (330,000)                     |
| Design           | Steve Simpson                     |
| Painting         | Thomas Ryan RHA                   |
| Stamp Size       | 27.94mm x 44.45mm                 |
| Colour           | Multicolour with phosphor tagging |
| Make-up          | Sheetlets of 12                   |
| Perforations     | 13.75 x 13.75                     |
| Printing Process | Lithography                       |
| Printer          | Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd |



**Please Note:**  
**Ronnie Delany has very kindly agreed to sign First Day Covers on the day of issue, 16 August, in the Philatelic Shop, G.P.O., O'Connell Street, Dublin between 11am and 12 midday.**

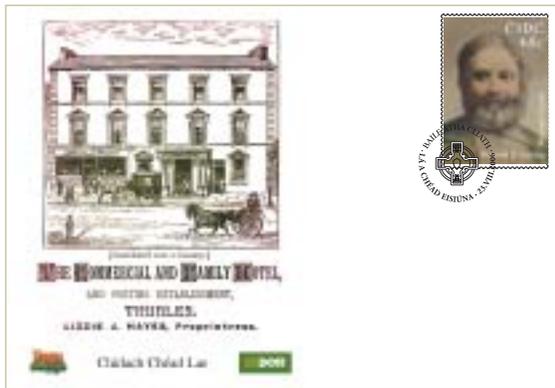
# CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF MICHAEL CUSACK (1847-1906)



Michael Cusack was born on 20 September 1847, in the parish of Carron, on the eastern fringe of the Burren, north Clare. Raised in an area where Irish was still the dominant language, he nevertheless quickly mastered English, and to the end of his life remained bilingual. Originally a schoolteacher, he taught in Blackrock and Kilkenny Colleges, before founding his own highly successful academy. His teaching career receded into the background, however, as he became more absorbed in sporting journalism and politics.

An avid sports enthusiast, Cusack himself was a fine athlete and shot-putt champion. He became disillusioned, however, with the social exclusiveness of existing sporting bodies, and came to believe that the propagation of English games was destroying national morale. In 1884, having enlisted the support of Maurice Davin, a renowned international athlete, Cusack founded the Gaelic Athletic Association for the Preservation and Cultivation of National Pastimes.

Maurice Davin was elected President with Cusack as Secretary, and Archbishop Thomas Croke, Michael Davitt and Charles Stewart Parnell became patrons. Shortened to the GAA, its aim was to revive the sports of hurling and Gaelic football, and to obtain control over athletics. It based its clubs on the parish and representative teams on the county, which fitted in perfectly with the local nationalism then prevalent. As a result, the association developed into a hugely popular mass movement.



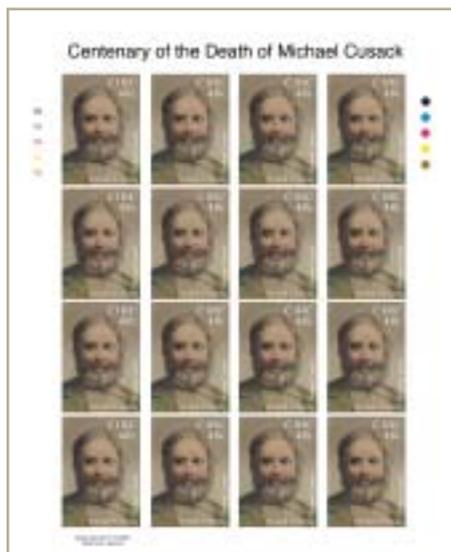
Product Code: 0619FDC Price: €1.23

# CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF MICHAEL CUSACK (1847-1906)

Cusack was also involved in a move to restore the Irish language, and he was editor of the weekly newspaper United Ireland. He also founded and co-edited The Celtic Times, which was devoted to 'native games', athletics, and Irish culture in general. A colourful character in manner and dress, Cusack was hard to ignore.

Michael Cusack died on 27 November 1906, but by then the association he co-founded had become the largest sporting body in Ireland – a position it maintains to this day. His memory was honoured by the GAA in 1938, with the opening of the Cusack Stand in Croke Park, Dublin. This magnificent stadium, recently re-built, is regarded as the home of the GAA.

An Post is delighted to issue this striking stamp to commemorate the centenary of Cusack's death. Rendered in a sensitive portrait style with delicately applied colour and contrast, Thomas Ryan's gentle image gives Cusack an emotive, mystic aura; a fitting tribute to his love of Ireland and the legacy he left behind. The stamp is denominated at 48c and a First Day Cover, designed by Paul Raftery is also available. Don't miss this remarkable opportunity to add this outstanding stamp to your collection - make sure you order yours today!



Product Code: 061948SH Price: €7.68

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Date of Issue    | 23 August, 2006                    |
| Value & Quantity | 48c (330,000)                      |
| Design           | Q Design                           |
| Painting         | Thomas Ryan RHA                    |
| Stamp Size       | 29.79mm x 40.64mm                  |
| Colour           | Multicolour with phosphor tagging  |
| Make-up          | Sheetlets of 16                    |
| Perforations     | 14 x 15                            |
| Printing Process | Lithography                        |
| Printers         | Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. |



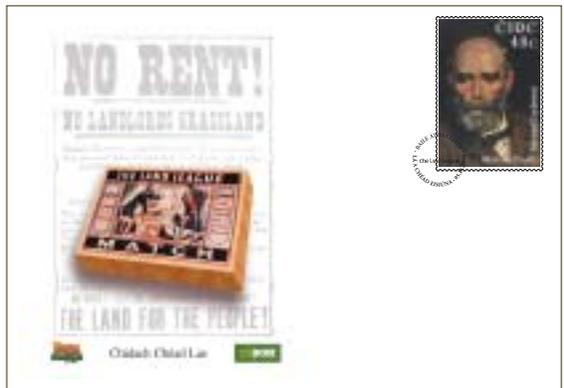
# CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF MICHAEL DAVITT (1846 - 1906)



Michael Davitt, founder of the Irish National Land League, was born in Straide, Co. Mayo in 1846, the son of a small farmer. Following forcible eviction in 1850, his family moved to Lancashire, England. It was here that Michael would lose his arm, at age eleven, whilst working in a cotton mill.

In 1865 he joined the Fenians, and in 1868 became organising secretary of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. In 1870, he was arrested for arms smuggling, and sentenced to fifteen years penal servitude. Along with other political prisoners, however, he was released in 1877.

The Irish National Land League was founded in 1879. It was a political organisation, which sought to abolish 'landlordism' in Ireland, and also to enable tenant farmers to own the land that they worked on. The first target of the League was land owned by Canon Ulick Burke, in County Mayo. On 20 April 1879 the first of many 'monster meetings' of tenant farmers was held: an estimated 20,000 people turned out. It was an astounding success, and the Canon was eventually forced to reduce rents by 25%.



Product Code: 0620FDC Price: €1.23

# CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF MICHAEL DAVITT

## (1846 - 1906)

While the Land Act of 1881 gave tenants the three F's – fair rent, fixity of tenure and free sale – the League fought on for full tenant ownership. Davitt, ultimately, saw the nationalisation of the land as the primary means toward Irish independence. The fall of Parnell, and the split in the Irish Parliamentary Party that resulted, would, however, set the cause back generations.

On his retirement from politics, Davitt wrote and travelled widely, and campaigned ceaselessly for the oppressed everywhere, whether the Boers in South Africa, the Jews in Russia, the working class in Britain, or his own people in Ireland. He died, in Dublin, in 1906, several years before the final passing of the Labourers (Ireland) Act of 1911, which left the vast majority of Irish land and housing in the hands of small farmers, not large landowners.

To commemorate the centenary of the death of Michael Davitt, An Post is proud to issue this stunning 48c stamp. The stamp design is based on an original painting by Sir William Orpen, and uses strong colours and flowing strokes to create a truly striking image, an outstanding addition to any collection! A stamp was previously issued in 1946 to commemorate the birth centenary of Michael Davitt, so demand is sure to be high for this historic issue. Go to the order form and place your order now!



Product Code: 062048SH Price: €7.68

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Date of Issue    | 5 September, 2006                     |
| Value & Quantity | 48c (330,000)                         |
| Design           | Q Design                              |
| Painting         | Sir William Orpen RA                  |
| Stamp Size       | 29.79mm x<br>40.64mm                  |
| Colour           | Multicolour with<br>phosphor tagging  |
| Make-up          | Sheetlets of 16                       |
| Perforations     | 14 x 15                               |
| Printing Process | Lithography                           |
| Printers         | Irish Security Stamp<br>Printing Ltd. |



# NATIONAL CONCERT HALL



*Singing its praises:  
Famous performers on  
the National Concert Hall.*

*Anne Sophie Mutter*

*It is always an extraordinary experience to play in this acoustically perfect hall. I love the warmth of the audience, which inspires me every time I am here.*

*Olivier Messiaen*

*Bravo pour la magnifique ucoustique de cette très belle salle du 'Concert Hall'!*

*Julian Lloyd-Webber*

*Many thanks once again! A pleasure to play in your beautiful concert hall!*

*John O'Connor*

*Many thanks for all the years! - Silver Anniversary Recital.*

*Phil Coulter*

*What a memorable evening. Love peace and tranquillity from 'the town I loved so well'.*

*André Previn*

*With many thanks for all your hospitality and for allowing us to play this superb hall.*

*Yuri Bashmet*

*Con Amoroissimo!*

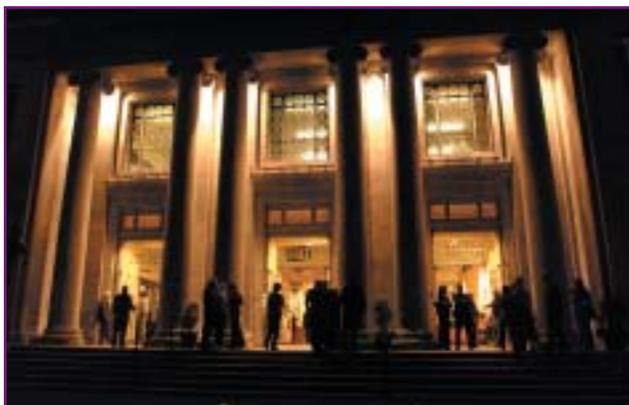
## *25th Anniversary of the National Concert Hall*

The National Concert Hall, based in Dublin's city centre, is rated by performing artists as one of the finest concert halls in Europe. Since its opening in 1981, the Hall has established itself as Ireland's premier centre for the performance of live music.



The National Concert Hall building was originally part of the Coburg Gardens (now Iveagh Gardens) in which the Dublin International Exhibition was held in 1865. After the exhibition, the building was converted into examination halls for the Royal University of Ireland, and parts of the building are still in use today by University College Dublin. In 1914 the architect Rudolph Maximilian Butler redeveloped it to reflect an austere classical style very similar to that of the Customs House.

The impressive aura of the National Concert Hall gives it a real sense of occasion and presence, making it an ideal venue for Ireland's national orchestra. With its weekly recitals, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, in conjunction with an array of Irish and international artists and groups, enthral concert-goers almost every night throughout the year. The main auditorium accommodates 1,200 people and the John Field Room 250, and performances are regularly sold out.



# NATIONAL CONCERT HALL



Product Code: 0621FDC Price: €1.23

Along with a number of lunchtime concerts, the National Concert Hall promotes a programme of visiting international artists and orchestras as well as concerts of jazz, opera and contemporary and traditional Irish music, totalling around 400 events annually. In addition, its popular Education and Outreach Programmes present concerts and workshops for children and families.

To herald the 25th anniversary of this fantastic institution, An Post is issuing a 48c stamp and First Day Cover. The First Day Cover is designed by Louise Carroll, National Concert Hall, and it will be a superb addition to your collection. Available now at just €1.23, it will be music to your ears.



Product Code: 062148SH Price: €7.68

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

|                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Date of Issue                 | 8 September, 2006                     |
| Value & Quantity              | 48c Stamp<br>(330,000)                |
| Design                        | Steve Simpson                         |
| Photography                   | Harry Weir                            |
| Photographic<br>Art Direction | Rosita Wolfe                          |
| Stamp Size                    | 29.8mm x<br>40.64mm                   |
| Colour                        | Multicolour with<br>phosphor tagging  |
| Make-up                       | Sheetlets of 16                       |
| Perforations                  | 14 x 15                               |
| Printing Process              | Lithography                           |
| Printer                       | Irish Security Stamp<br>Printing Ltd. |



# Robert Ballagh



The Robert Ballagh stamp art exhibition in the GPO, Dublin will start Friday 15 September and will run for one month.

Photo by John Crowley.

## *Robert Ballagh - The Artist*



Robert Ballagh is one of Ireland's most prolific stamp designers. For four decades he has designed stamps, starting in 1973. Ballagh has successfully interpreted a wide range of subjects from sensitive portraits to technically brilliant depictions of objects such as aircraft and lighthouses. When asked recently about how it all began Ballagh explains, 'When I received a phone call from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs in the early 1970's asking me to design a stamp for the Irish Postal Service I have to admit that I almost passed out with shock, because, at that time, I had been working as a professional artist for such a short period and was well aware of my own technical shortcomings but, on the other hand, I felt both humbled and exhilarated by the proposed commission.'

## *Biography of Robert Ballagh*

Robert Ballagh was born in Dublin in 1943. He studied architecture and worked for a time as a professional musician, a postman and an engineering draughtsman. He has been painting on a full time basis since his first exhibition in Dublin in 1969. Ballagh's work as a painter is represented in many important collections including the National Gallery of Ireland, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Crawford Municipal Gallery, Cork, the Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery Dublin, the Ulster Museum and the Albrecht Durer House, Nuremberg. Major survey exhibitions of his work have taken place in Lund, Warsaw, Moscow, Sofia and Dublin.

Due to the difficulty of earning a living in Ireland through painting alone, early in his career, Ballagh began to widen his range of work. As a graphic designer, he has produced book covers, posters, limited editions, over 70 stamps for the Irish postal service and the last Irish banknotes produced by the Central Bank of Ireland. In 1985 he was commissioned by the Gate Theatre, Dublin to design Barry McGovern's acclaimed one man Beckett piece "I'll Go On", and since then he has designed many successful theatrical shows, including Steven Berkoff's version of Oscar Wilde's "Salome" and Samuel Beckett's "Endgame", both at the Gate Theatre, the imagery and set design for the dance phenomenon "Riverdance" and the staging for the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics in Croke Park Dublin. He has recently been commissioned to design the setting for the opening ceremony of the 2006 Ryder Cup.

Robert Ballagh married Elizabeth Carabini in 1967, they have two children, Rachel and Bruce and they continue to live in Dublin's inner city.

# TRADITIONAL STAMP COLLECTING

## By John Mullen

I've been collecting stamps for many years now, and I find that there are four basic themes one can follow: traditional, thematic, postal history and open philately. One should remember, however, that there are no rules to collecting stamps (unless one is competing). Stamp collecting, like most hobbies, is an outlet for pleasure: People should collect whatever pleases them.

Stamp collecting may take many forms. Traditional collecting can include collecting not only stamps, but also first day issues, commercial covers and postal stationary of a particular country. In addition, one can also collect sets of stamps issued by other countries, which can include single stamps, un-issued designs, plate blocks, proofs, essays, art work, varieties and postal rates etc. (This list will fit into all forms of collecting).

My own preference is for Traditional (or specialised) collecting, and in my opinion Ireland produces some of the world's best stamp designs. I have a particular interest in Irish Airmail stamps of 1948 / 65, which feature seven stamps depicting The Angel Victor carrying the voice of Ireland (Vox Hibernia) over four famous landmarks – one for each province. They were designed by R.J.King, and printed on £ watermarked paper in sheets of 60. The values issued were 1d, 3d, 6d, 8d, 1/-, 1/3d, 1/5d (Fig. 1).

(Fig. 1).

**Loch Dearg**



**Cruch Phádraig**



**Gleann dá Loch**



**Caisail**



A number of photographic essays are also known to exist but are rarely seen



In the printing of these stamps, a number of varieties occurred. It was noticed, on examining the printing of the 3d stamp, in particular Row 6 / Stamp 3, that this particular stamp had a very weak impression. As a result, the printers were able to replace the sheets back into the engraving machine and reprint this one stamp, and it is clear that the re-entry did not line up exactly: thus, this stamp appears as very slightly doubled, and is known as the "3d Re-entry" (Fig. 2). This variety also appears, to a lesser extent, on the 6d stamp of Row 4 / Stamp 3. The 8d stamp of Row 4 / Stamp 3, appeared with a different variety: due to over inking, a small spot of ink appears on the right hand of the Angel, and is known as the "Stigmata" variety (Fig. 3).

# TRADITIONAL STAMP COLLECTING

## By John Mullen

**Fig. 2.**



**Fig. 3.**



The 1/3d stamp has three varieties. One sheet is known to have been printed on inverted e watermark paper; the second variety, due to a crack in the printing plate, has an "Extra Feather" on the top of the angel's left wing, Row 4 / Stamp 6 (Fig. 4). The third variety has not yet been located to an exact position, but appears as an ink blob on the bottom of the value bar, again due to over inking. The greatest number of this variety appears on first day issues, and is, therefore, of the first printing. There was more than one printing of these stamps.

**Fig. 4.**



**Fig. 5.**



The 1/5d stamp is the only printing that has plate numbers 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B. It has two notable varieties, Plate No. 2B. Row 10 / Stamp 5 has a "Retouch" of five lines under the Angels right wing, due to a weakness in the printing Fig. 5. Plate No. 1A. Row 9 / Stamp 1 has a line going through the wall of the castle ("Cracked Wall") due to over inking. All values have constant minor varieties due to the over inking and the printing process. Four of the stamps were overprinted "SPECIMEN", it is thought, for the purpose of a presentation for the 10th Anniversary Dinner of Shannon Airport, although, to date, no presentation pack has ever been seen. Fig. 6.

**Fig. 6.**



Some of the values have a perforation variety: in the side margins, extra perforations appear, ranging from one single perforation to eight perforations. A great number of these varieties are quite difficult to find, and much sought after, and when one comes across one of these rarities the satisfaction one feels is exhilarating. I really enjoy the study and the research of this particular issue, and it has given me many hours of pleasure. Therein lies the thrill of collecting.

# THE 2006 RYDER CUP - LENTICULAR STAMPS



## *An Post celebrates the 2006 Ryder Cup with Ireland's first ever lenticular stamps!*

The 2006 Ryder Cup is a hugely significant event for Ireland, and to mark it, An Post is thrilled to announce a truly momentous stamp issue. On 14 September 2006, Ireland's first-ever lenticular stamps will be issued. Lenticular images, like holographic ones, are those that appear to move when you change their angle. An Post's stamps feature visuals of a powerful drive off the tee, and a classic bunker escape, and, as the first lenticular stamps to be issued in Ireland, are set to make history.

Until recently, lenticular printing was limited to simple 'flip-cards', comprising images of 2 or 3 frames, which produced only a very stilted movement. The more frames used to create an image, however, the greater the detail and motion, and thanks to new, sophisticated software, the production of much finer lenticular images can now be achieved. An Post's stamps feature 50 frames, which combine to provide a virtually seamless passage of dramatic action.

There are only a few companies in the world which can produce lenticular images at this level of sophistication, and even fewer security printers who can convert them into a stamp. An Post identified such a specialist company in New Zealand which could produce the images, and a security-certified printer in Australia who could print them. The printer also applied the security features that make a bona fide stamp, before die cutting and finishing the sheetlets for packing and delivery.



First Day Cover.

Image  
not available at the time  
of print

# THE 2006 RYDER CUP - LENTICULAR STAMPS

Images, however, cannot do full justice to the stunning effect delivered by these unique stamps: with some gentle motion, the tee really flies and the sand really scatters. Printed in deep, rich colours and denominated at 75c, both stamps carry the prestigious Ryder Cup 2006 logo on the top left-hand corner. We anticipate very high demand for this outstanding issue, and production of the lenticular pair is strictly limited to 500,000. These stamps have been produced as Self-adhesive pairs and can only be ordered as a pair, not as individual stamps. To avoid disappointment, place your order straight away by visiting [www.irishstamps.ie](http://www.irishstamps.ie), by calling 00 353 (1) 705 7400, or by writing to the Philatelic Bureau, Order Department, PO Box 1991, GPO, Dublin 1, Ireland.

## Did you know ... how lenticular printing works?

Lenticular printing uses special materials and processes, and converting a 2 or 3 second video into a series of still 'frames' (much like movie film frames) requires very special software. The separated images are composed of very precise fine dots. Once 'grabbed', they are output to printing plates from which images are printed onto the reverse side of transparent plastic sheets.

The plastic sheets are made with precise fine curved ridges (about 40 per centimetre) called 'lenticules', hence the term 'lenticular' printing. After printing, the sheet of lenticules is laminated to a self-adhesive white paper backing sheet. The printed image reflects off the white paper and refracts through the lenticules. They allow the refraction to be focused and magnified, so that, as it is moved, the refracted image changes, creating motion.

At this stage of the production, the images are still in a sheet form. Converting them into stamps involves two complex processes. The first is to print a special coating that ensures cancellation ink will adhere to the stamp, and phosphor 'tagging' to activate the cancellation process in mail sorters. The second is to die-cut the stamp image so it can be removed from the sheetlet and applied to an envelope. Naturally, all these processes have to be achieved in a highly secure environment, but the end result is truly spectacular.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Date of Issue       | 14 September, 2006                   |
| Values & Quantities | 2 x 75c (500,000)                    |
| Design Concept      | Javelin Y & R                        |
| Design Technical    | Outer Aspect<br>(New Zealand)        |
| Stamp Size          | 39mm x 47mm                          |
| Colour              | Multicolour with<br>phosphor tagging |
| Make-up             | Lenticular Pair                      |
| Perforations        | 19.75 x 15.75                        |
| Printing Process    | Lenticular printing                  |
| Printer             | SEPSprint, Australia                 |



Product Code: 062275SAS Price: €1.50

# THE 2006 RYDER CUP - LENTICULAR STAMPS



An Post is proud to celebrate Ireland's hosting of the Ryder Cup with the issue of a special prestige booklet.

This 34 page booklet, with expertly written text by noted Golf writer Dermot Gilleece features articles on Irish golf, Irish involvement with the Ryder Cup down the years and a handy course guide to the K Club. Produced in an unique A5 size, the booklet features 8 stamps from our 'Ireland and the Ryder Cup' stamp series of 2005 together with 8 stamps and an enlarged minisheet from our 'Mark of the Irish' Ryder Cup issue of 25 July 2006.



Product Code: 0622PBK Price: €12.00

In addition, the prestige booklet contains the 2 stamps which have been printed using lenticular technology. To further enhance this item, these lenticular stamps have been placed on a clear mount within the prestige booklet. Available at just €12 from 14th September, supplies of this item are very limited and Collectors are urged to place an order now!

This superb prestige booklet was designed by Javelin/Young & Rubicam.

# Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition



## - An Irish Collector's View



The exhibition was held in the Convention Center, Washington, D.C. from May 27 to June 3. The first thing that struck me as I went down the escalator was the sheer size of the show. They said the floor area was 500,000 feet and it looked larger. There were 64,000 pages of exhibits, in 4,000 frames; showing traditional philately, postal history, thematic philately, postal stationery, aero- and astro-philately, revenue stamps, maximaphily, and the two new experimental classes, open class, and one-frame exhibits. There was also a large youth class, with many fine exhibits. Exhibits from over eighty countries were there, including three from Ireland. They were, William Barry Wilson's 'Isle of Man Postal History up to 1911', which included such rarities as one of the only two blue Mulreadys used in the Isle of Man. This exhibit, shown for the first time in a world exhibition, received a vermeil (silver gilt) medal and will surely go further in the years to come. William Moore's 'Irish Postal history to 1910' had many rare and unusual items, from 17th century Bishop marks to ship letters, all in superb condition with clear crisp markings, received a well deserved large vermeil medal. Geoffrey McAuley's 'Masaryk's Czechoslovakia', in the open class, traced the birth and development of the new republic from 1914 to 1925, and earned a gold medal, the first won by an Irish collector this century.

Two other exhibits of Irish interest were Bernard Clancy's 'Irish Postal Stationery – The Transition' large vermeil, and Kenneth Magee's Ireland 1840 – 1941' showing the stamps of the United Kingdom used in Ireland, from the Penny Black and Mulready envelope to the final Victorian issues, which was awarded a vermeil. It would be nice to see these exhibits in Stampa at some time in the future.

Ninety eight postal administrations were represented. An Post was on stand 1435, where Janet Pollack was friendly and helpful in postmarking my covers with the special Irish handstamp. And the dealers! Hundreds of them, with stamps, covers and postal history of every country and period, from boxes of items at a dollar each to rarities costing tens of thousands. The United States Post Office had an appropriately huge booth. I noticed up to ten people serving the queue, which, at times stretched all through the zigzag laid out for it and far across the floor. There was plenty new to buy. If you could afford it; the Wonders of America sheet of fifty different designs at \$15.60; Distinguished American Diplomats, pane of 6 at \$2.34; Washington Exhibition souvenir sheet of three at \$8.00; Sameul de Champlain, pane of 20 at \$17.80, joint souvenir sheet with Canada, \$1.75. Some of these were available with six of fifteen different plate number positions. As I sat trying to finish a 'small' American coffee, two collectors sat close to me. 'How are you, Dave?' said one. 'Poor!' was the reply, 'I'm on credit cards from now on!' There's lots more to say, but my brain is still suffering from 'system overload'. Or it is jet lag? Phew!



The images are taken from Geoffrey McAuley's Masaryk's Czechoslovakia.

# STAMPA 2006

The Irish National Stamp Exhibition Ltd. is a non-profit organization which operates under the name of "STAMPA." The first exhibition was held in 1972 at Ireland House in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. Its success was such that it has continued as an annual event ever since. This year's STAMPA will be the 35th National Stamp Exhibition and will be held at the R.D.S. Dublin on 13, 14 and 15 October.

STAMPA exists and prospers through the subscription of its members and the support of the general public. Members receive special philatelic souvenirs and these are usually in the form of exhibition overprinted miniature sheets and booklets. Over the years, these unique STAMPA souvenirs have become very desirable collectibles.

STAMPA provides the opportunity for philatelists to enter their displays in the Irish National Stamp Exhibition with the possibility of qualifying to represent Ireland at international level. The trade stands at STAMPA afford both the keen philatelist and the casual stamp collector an annual fair of international dimensions.

The focal-point for current Irish stamp sales at STAMPA is the An Post stand, where special exhibition cancellations are available for each day of the Show.

STAMPA has become an annual meeting place for members of various philatelic bodies, including the F.A.I. from Germany, the E.P.A. from the United States, and the I.P.C. from Great Britain. The Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland hold their A.G.M. at STAMPA each year. STAMPA has established itself as a Mecca for stamp collectors from Ireland and abroad – and long may it continue to be a fitting showcase for our wonderful hobby of philately.



# Stanley Gibbons

## Ireland Catalogue

This catalogue lists the stamps of Ireland to the level of detail familiar to users of the 'Part 1' British Commonwealth listings. The Ireland volume provides priced listings of all stamps from 1922 overprints on Great Britain up to the Commemoratives of February 2006, including watermark varieties, major errors and booklets. Illustrated in colour, the listings of issues up to 1952 have been extracted from Stanley Gibbons' 2006 Commonwealth & British Empire Stamp Catalogue. Later issues have been revised and updated specially for this publication.

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