

IRISH STAMPS *Collectors News*



*Ireland Series - Round Towers
Apimondia*

Dear Collector,

Welcome to the fourth edition of Collectors News 2005. Packed with unique and interesting detail, this issue features not only captivating stamp issues but also contributions by artist, Michael Craig and collector, Maurice O'Connell.

The first exciting stamp news is on page 4, where you can see the Round Towers stamps which will issue on 27 July. Featuring famous Round Towers of Ireland, the stamps are issued as a 4 x 48c se-tenant strip. There is also a fascinating article on Michael Craig who illustrated the stamps – even more fascinating when you consider that the illustrations were done actual size! Collectors, please note, Michael Craig will be signing First Day Covers in the GPO, Dublin, on the day of issue from 12.30pm to 2.00pm.



Another article with a real sting in the tail features the Apimondia 2005 stamp, which issues on 19 August. Apimondia 2005 is the international bee-keeping congress and is being held in Dublin this year. To celebrate this An Post is launching the Apimondia issue with a stamp denominated at 65c. Featuring illustrations of bees, the stamp and First Day Cover would make a great addition to any collection.

Finally, renowned philatelist Maurice O'Connell is interviewed on page 7. He takes us on an eye-opening journey through his world of stamp collecting, from the countries he collects to his favourite themes.

We hope you enjoy the latest edition of Collectors News.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aidan Murphy".

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

Fauna & Flora Summer Exhibition in the GPO

An exhibition of Fauna and Flora stamp artwork continues in the GPO, Dublin until mid-August. Fauna and Flora stamps have been issued every year since 1978 and continue to be one of the most popular themes. The exhibition shows the highlights of 27 years of Fauna and Flora stamps featuring subjects from Irish wild animals to Irish orchids. The subject matter provides an ideal platform for renowned wildlife and botanical artists to show their work; and they certainly do not disappoint, capturing their subjects in exquisite detail and colour. Artists featured include Wendy Walsh, Ian Loe and Richard Ward among others.



Credit Card Reminder

You may recall from the last issue that we have introduced a new enhanced Credit Card system, designed to add even more security to the ordering process and ensure that your interests are best protected. The new system requires up-to-date Credit Card expiry dates, and this is where we need your help!

Simply send us your Collector's Account Number, the expiry date on your Credit Card and your signature. That's it. Once you do this we can ensure you will receive all your orders on time and in full. For more information turn to the order form.

Biosphere Launch

In April An Post and Canada Post joined forces for the very first time to produce two stamps depicting Biospheres in both countries.

Pictured below at the launch of the Biosphere joint issue are (left to right): Canadian Consul, Carl Schwenger; An Post Chairperson, Margaret McGinley and Eanna Ní Lamhna, Chairperson of An Taisce.



Collectors News on the Web

Collectors will be pleased to know that our 'Collectors News Archive' is now up and running on our website, www.irishstamps.ie. Starting from Issue 1 2005 you can view and download copies of 'Collectors News'.



ROUND TOWERS



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Date of Issue	27 July, 2005
Values & Quantities	4 x 48c se-tenant (570,000)
Design	Michael Craig
Stamp Size	30mm x 51.46mm
Colour	Single colour with phosphor tagging
Make-up	Sheetlets of 12
Perforations	13.25 x 13.25
Printing Process	Lithography
Printer	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd

The Round Towers of Ireland are remarkable among the world's ancient monuments in that whilst they make a bold historical and cultural statement, they were built with a very practical use in mind. While the pyramids of Egypt were dedicated to the enjoyment of a future life, and the Roman amphitheatres reflected the pastimes of their builders, the Irish Round Towers were used as bell towers and as hiding places in times of Viking invasion (between the 10th and 12th centuries).

The Towers were designed to protect so they were usually a good height – typically, between 50 and 150 feet high. The only access was through a narrow doorway, situated high on the tower wall, which was reached by a ladder.

Irish Round Towers are hand-crafted in native stone and cemented with sand, lime, horsehair and oxblood mortar – a technique imported from Roman Britain. Of more than 100 Round Towers built in Ireland, 65 survive in various states of repair.

2005 is the 75th anniversary of the Monuments of Ireland Act, and to commemorate this it is only proper that the Round Towers of Ireland should feature as part of the Ireland Series. These stunning stamps and the accompanying First Day Cover are available from the Philatelic Shop, GPO, Dublin 1 or online at www.irishstamps.ie.

One Tower from each province is featured in the collection: Glendalough, Co. Wicklow (Leinster), Ardmore, Co. Waterford (Munster), Kilmacduagh, Co. Galway (Connaught) and Clones, Co. Monaghan (Ulster).

MICHAEL CRAIG

We talk to Michael Craig about his illustrations

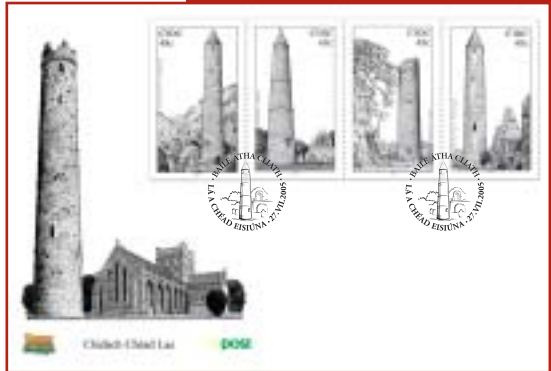
Since graduating from Cambridge Art School Michael Craig has been a freelance artist, perfecting a style of pen-and-ink drawing reminiscent of the engraving traditions of an earlier age. The fine detail of his work led to the commissioning, by the Irish Post Office, of the Third Definitive Series in 1978. “The brief required someone who could draw buildings very small but accurately, so I got the job,” says Michael. “I tried to draw them four times larger, then two times, but I was only happy when I drew the definitives at the actual stamp size.”

The Round Towers issue consists of four towers, one from each province. “I wanted to show the doorways, to give scale, which limited my point-of-view. I didn’t want to draw all the gravestones that clutter every round tower site in the country, so my artistic licence has collected a few endorsements on this job; Ardmore, Co. Waterford is a case in point.”

The province of Leinster is represented by the elegant tower of Glendalough. “The setting in the valley is extraordinarily romantic and the tower itself is full of texture supplied by all the different sizes and colours of stone with which it is constructed. I have manoeuvred the landscape slightly to show off the site’s picturesque qualities,” comments Michael.

The third tower is ‘The Leaning Tower of Kilmacduagh’. Subsidence has given it a slight but noticeable tilt. Michael explains: “Luckily the doorway is on the axis of tilt, so my point-of-view is where the tower would fall towards. I don’t think a composition showing the lean would work - it is so subtle that the viewer would simply think that the artist had drawn it badly!”

The 75ft stump of Clones suffers in the company of better preserved companions throughout the province of Ulster but retains a nobility all its own. “I visited it on a frosty February morning which influenced my attitude to this oasis of solitude on the edge of the town of Clones,” says Michael. “The beech tree seems as ancient as the tower and gives interest to the composition.”



0512FDC Price: €2.67

A Date for the Diary

Michael (pictured below) will be signing First Day Covers in the GPO, Dublin, on the day of issue from 12.30pm to 2.00pm.



ROUND TOWERS

APIMONDIA 2005



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Date of Issue	19 August, 2005
Values & Quantities	65c Stamp (280,000)
Design	Steve Simpson
Stamp Size	29.8mm x 40.64mm
Colour	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations	13 x 13
Printing Process	Lithography
Printer	Cartor Security Printing

For more information on
Apimondia 2005 visit
www.apimondia2005.com

Creating a real buzz in Dublin

The international Apimondia Congress is to be held in Dublin from 21 to 26 August 2005. Apimondia promotes co-operation of beekeepers' associations, scientific bodies and individuals involved in apiculture worldwide.



To mark the start of Apimondia Ireland 2005, Philip McCabe, President of Apimondia Ireland 2005, recently attempted to get into the Guinness Book of Records by wearing a beard of bees. The current world record stands at 87.5 lbs of bees, an estimated 350,000 bees in number.

The predominant bee in Ireland is the Dark European Bee (*Apis mellifera*). Due to the cool damp climate the beekeeping season is short, with the main honey flow occurring between mid-June and the end of July. Wild flora adds to the flavour of Irish honey and in certain areas nectar sources such as Lime, Fuchsia and Bell Heather can give delicious distinctive flavours.

To celebrate Apimondia 2005, this sweetest of events, An Post is issuing the stamp shown opposite and the First Day Cover below. The stamp was designed by Steve Simpson, while the First Day Cover features an illustration by Dr. Thomas Ryan R.H.A. Both can be ordered using the order form attached - or indeed by visiting www.irishstamps.ie.



Product Code: 0514FDC

Price: €1.40

MY COLLECTION

Maurice O'Connell tells us about his likes and dislikes in the world of stamp collecting

“As the proud possessor of stamps from nearly every country, what appeals to me most about stamp-collecting is what the stamp depicts, why it was issued, and the design of the stamp itself. I enjoy collecting stamps which not only look attractive but are part of a set or series. Single issue stamps look lonely; how much better they look when they have companions. As transport issues hold particular appeal for me, I am naturally drawn to stamps showing cars, trains, ships and aircraft. This of course is a very popular form of thematic collecting and many postal administrations have recognised this.

Stamp collecting is not only an enjoyable hobby but it can also be very educational. Part of the appeal of stamp collecting is that there is an infinite variety of ways to collect, and it need not be expensive.

And beyond the stamps themselves there is of course a vast array of product available to collect. The most obvious is the First Day Cover. I collect these by way of subscription from a number of countries: Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Iceland, Sweden and Montserrat.

Another product I enjoy collecting is the Miniature Sheet. Miniature Sheets tell a more complete story than the stamp itself and what's more they look great in an album or when framed. I also enjoy receiving regular philatelic bulletins and reading the background information on philately.

I don't think any of us has an overall favourite in our collection. We like them all! Stamps from countries that no longer exist are interesting, as are stamps from other postal administrations showing an Irish link. Among my favourite Irish issues is the Arthur Guinness Set. However, if I had to choose one particular favourite it would be something by the legendary Czeslaw Slania, the world's foremost stamp engraver who has produced over 1,000 stamps, an incredible amount considering the time and precision demanded for every single engraving.

Must go, as I see the postman is coming. Now I wonder what additions to my collection he might be bringing?”



Illustrated here are just a few items from Maurice's extensive collection.

A Papal Memento

In April of this year the world lost a truly great and hugely revered world leader. Since the passing of this great man, we have received many enquiries regarding the availability of the products introduced in 2003 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the election of Pope John Paul II.

Irish Stamps is pleased to advise that a limited number of Papal Portraits and the specially commissioned Papal Book 'A Polish Pilgrim' are still available to order.

'A Polish Pilgrim' contains 64 pages and features a First Day Cover mounted within the front cover and one of each of the Papal Stamps. It would make a wonderful souvenir or gift.

Also available is a superbly mounted, limited-edition Papal Portrait with three imperforate stamps. The portrait comes with a Certificate of Authenticity and is ready to frame (dimensions 280mm x 370mm).

Pope John Paul II Book 'A Polish Pilgrim'
0317B €40.00

Pope John Paul II Papal Portrait
0317IS €20.00



LIMITED EDITION RAILWAY PRINTS

Following the recent issue of four stamps to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Dublin – Belfast Railway line, a limited edition set of five prints individually signed and numbered by the artist, Vincent Killowry, is available to buy from An Post.

The set features prints of the four stamp images with the stamp and special first day cancellation affixed. Included also is a bonus fifth print featuring the artwork which appeared on a specially produced minisheet for this series.

This very special limited edition of 750 sets is available to order on the attached order form. Priced at €100 for the complete set, it would make a wonderful acquisition for the home or office!



Product Code: 0508PRSET
Price: €100.00

The prints measure 297mm x 210mm and are accompanied by a certificate of authenticity



ORDER FORM

Date of Issue	Product/Item	Product Code	UOM	Quantity	Price €	Value
N/A	Pope John Paul II Papal Portrait	0317IS	EA		€20.00	
N/A	Pope John Paul II Book 'A Polish Pilgrim'	0317B	EA		€40.00	
N/A	150th Anniversary Dublin-Belfast Railway Line Signed Prints	0508PRSET	EA		€100.00	
27 July 2005	Ireland Series - Round Towers 48c se-tenant stamp set	051248ST	EA		€1.92	
27 July 2005	Ireland Series - Round Towers 48c se-tenant sheetlet of 12	051248ST	S3		€5.76	
27 July 2005	Ireland Series - Round Towers FDC	0512FDC	EA		€2.67	
19 August 2005	Apimondia 2005 65c stamp	051465	EA		€0.65	
19 August 2005	Apimondia 2005 sheetlet	051465	SH		€10.40	
19 August 2005	Apimondia 2005 FDC	0514FDC	EA		€1.40	

The following postal charges will apply:

Ireland = 48c; UK = 60c; Rest of the World = 65c. Orders over €63.50 in value will be sent by Registered Post €3.90 for Ireland & €4.05 for Rest of the World. (This fee includes Priority Postage.) Postage for Framed Items, Books, Albums or Van Sets is €2.40 (within Ireland) & €4.80 (rest of the world).

SUB TOTAL	
POSTAGE	
TOTAL DUE	

Where stamps and associated products are ordered for more than one stamp issue, the entire order will be dispatched after the last stamp issue date. If you would prefer to obtain issues on an individual basis please photocopy the order form and order separately.

Is your Credit Card near its expiry date?

To protect your interests we've introduced a new enhanced credit card processing system.

The process, however, requires up-to-date Credit Card expiry dates and this is where we need your help. Simply make sure to let us know the expiry date on your Credit Card. Failure to do this will result in your order being delayed or even cancelled. So help us to help you and send in your updated details now.



Expiry Date

All you have to do is send your Collectors Account Number, the expiry date on your Credit Card and your signature to: Tom Bent, Irish Stamps, An Post, GPO, FREEPOST, Dublin 1 (FREEPOST within Ireland only). We will do the rest to ensure you receive your order on time and in full.

If you prefer, you can also update your Credit Card expiry details on the 'Change Details' page of our website: www.irishstamps.ie.

ORDER FORM

ORDERS SHOULD BE SENT TO:
Philatelic Bureau, Order Department,
PO Box 1991, GPO, Dublin 1, Ireland.
Tel 00 353 1 705 7400
Fax 00 353 1 705 7289
www.irishstamps.ie

Collector Account Holders: Please note that this order will be treated as additional to your standing orders.

Please send my order to:

Mr/Mrs/Ms

FIRST NAME

SURNAME

Address

Account Number (if any)

Payment Method:

Cheque/Bank Draft

Money Order

Eurogiro

Postal Order

Credit Card

From Account

Please note Visa Electron and Maestro cards are not acceptable for mail orders.
(These cards must be swiped.)

Credit Card Payments:

Please debit my VISA card MASTERCARD/EUOCARD

Amount to be debited €

Credit Card Number

Credit Card Expiry Date

Cardholder's Name: (Please Print)

Mr/Mrs/Ms

Cardholder's Signature

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

() Add () Change () Delete

SHIP TO	SALES ORDER NO
ORDER TYPE (OT)	CUSTOMER PO
	ORIGIN (SO)
OPERATOR (OP)	

Entered by

Date

Checked by

Date

Exchange Rate Guidelines:

€1=\$1.20: €1=Stg £0.69

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Irish Stamps BIC Code: BOFIE2D at Bank Of Ireland,
College Green, Dublin 2.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Continuous Debit Authorisation

Collector Account customers who wish to have their Account Balance credited on an ongoing basis can do so by availing of a continuous direct debit facility. All you have to do is complete the authorisation below and we will arrange to debit your Credit Card as required.

Mr/Mrs/Ms

FIRST NAME

SURNAME

Address

Collector Account No:

Please debit my VISA card MASTERCARD/EUROCARD
as required to maintain my Collector Account from An Post Philatelic
Bureau until further notice in writing.

Credit Card Number:

Expiry Date:

Cardholder's Name (please print):

Mr/Mrs/Ms

FIRST NAME

SURNAME

Cardholder's Signature

Date