

Visit to STAMPA 2025 Irish National Exhibition

By: Tim Carey



The 53rd Irish National Stamp Exhibition (STAMPA) was held at the Griffith College Conference Centre in Dublin between 10th-12th October and brought together collectors from Ireland, Great Britain, Europe and North America.

With well over 100 frames of exhibits and displays, there was plenty to see, and a good range of dealers were on hand to help visitors add to their collections. Notable landmarks that were marked were the 250th anniversary of the birth of Daniel O'Connell (with a special display), and the 75th anniversary of the USA-based Éire Philatelic Association with a dinner. The exhibition was well attended, and the atmosphere was jovial and engaging.



The competition included 42 exhibits in 10 classes, and the overall winner was Des Quail with an outstanding exhibit in the Picture Postcard class on “The Development and Usage of the Postcard in Ireland 1870-1918”. The Youth Section (12-18 age group) included champion of champion winners from the USA as well as an Irish Team competition from a school in Kilkenny,



Ireland. Tim Carey received a Vermeil for his exhibit “The Indestructible Irish” as well as the Michael Giffney Perpetual Trophy for Best

Irish Postal History Exhibit. Tim was not the first Carey to win this trophy.

On Saturday, original artworks for this year’s “Mental Health Awareness” post cards which were produced by An Post, the state-owned provider of postal services in Ireland, and were signed by the winning artists (age 6 to 46). A set of postcards could be had with a donation to the cause, Mental Health Matters.

Souvenirs were created exclusively for members. The first souvenir is the first pane from the Wild Atlantic Way booklet. The second item is the Year of the Horse miniature sheet issued in 2002. The third is a souvenir sheet celebrating Charles Rycraft stamp designs. The final item is a mint An Post postcard with added Stampa imprint which commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Éire Philatelic Association complete with imprinted Ireland/USA Relations stamp of 2024. Only 450 sets of souvenirs were produced.

No trip to Ireland would not be complete without some sight-seeing. The Famine Memorial, EPIC (Irish Emigration Center), Dublin Castle, Rock of Cashel, City of Cork including the English Market, Blarney Castle as well as Guinness in a Pub completed a busy week.



Blarney Castle

Upcoming Show Dates:

November 7 & 8, Hamilton, ON, Bishop Ryan High School, 1824 Rymal Rd. East,
Hannon, ON – Fri. 5-10 PM, Sat. 10-4; <https://hamiltonstampclub.ca>
December 13th, Winter Show “Stamping with Santa 2025”, Erie, PA