

Celebrating Northern Ireland A miniature sheet and new Generic and Smilers sheets



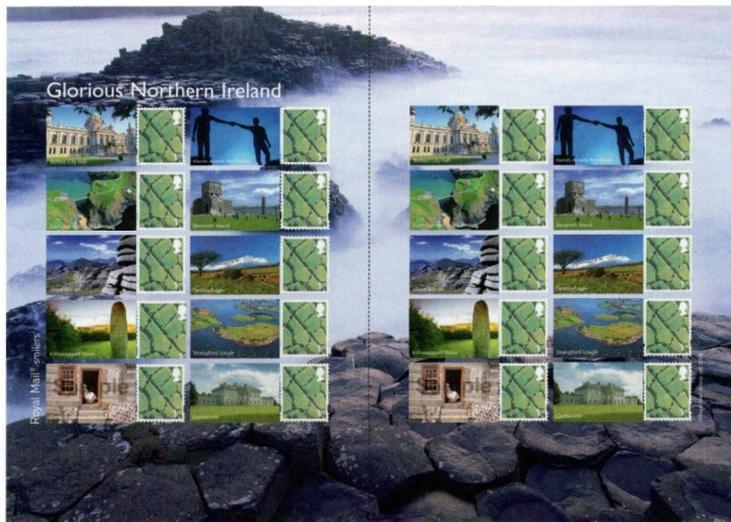
The sheet was designed by Silk Pearce and printed in litho by De La Rue Security Print.

A NEW MINIATURE SHEET goes on sale on 11 March, the third in the series of country sheets. The sheet features two new Northern Ireland 1st class stamps depicting Carrickfergus Castle and the Giant's Causeway (both definitive stamp size) and two special stamp size 78p stamps featuring a representation of St Patrick and the 'The Angel of Thanksgiving' sculpture and The Queen's Bridge in Belfast. The 15-metre sculpture symbolises the need for thanksgiving across a once-troubled city. Many people worked hard to make the statue a reality, principally the late Myrtle Smith, a well-known practitioner, lecturer and author on the healing of Christian Science, who raised a large part of the funding for the project.

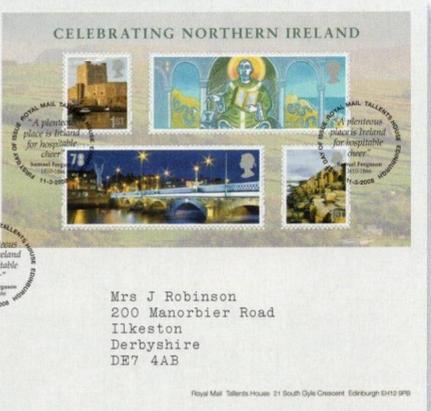
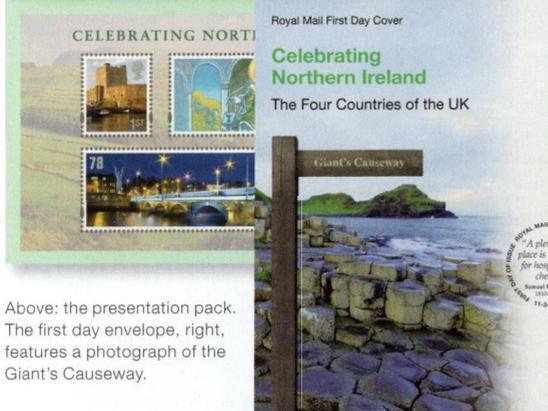
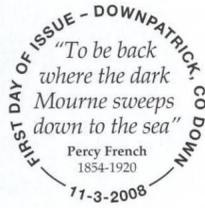
The sheet is 123 x 70mm; the two 78p stamps are 60 x 24mm. The illustrations on the 1st class stamps are by David Lyons (Carrickfergus Castle) and Ric Ergenbright (Giant's Causeway). The illustration of St Patrick is by Clare Melinsky (designer of the 1997 Saints Columba and Augustine stamps) and the photograph of the Angel sculpture and The Queen's Bridge is by Tony Pleavin. The sheet background features a rural scene.

The colourful presentation pack includes a map of Northern Ireland showing the varied scenery, architecture and culture, surrounded by quotations about the country, and two traditional Irish blessings. It was written by Esther Kennedy and printed by Walsall.

Serviced covers with Tallents House or Downpatrick, Co Down first day postmark must be received at Tallents House by the day of issue. The postmarks feature quotations by Samuel Ferguson and Percy French. Details of sponsored postmarks will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.



Generic sheet The sheet was designed by Rodney Miller, and printed in litho by Cartor. 20 Northern Ireland 1st class country stamps (patchwork scenes) in the Province. Price £7.35.



Above: the presentation pack. The first day envelope, right, features a photograph of the Giant's Causeway.

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Generic & Smilers sheets A 'Glorious Northern Ireland' generic sheet will be issued on 11 March. The stamp and labels will be printed in litho on self-adhesive paper, making this the first self-adhesive country stamp for Northern Ireland. Similar sheets in this series were issued for Wales, England and Scotland on 1 March, 23 April and 30 November 2007. A 'Glorious UK' sheet will be issued in September 2008.

To order Smilers versions, with your own image on the labels, phone 0845 074 2000 (UK orders) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas) or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch. Orders using digital photos can also be placed at www.royalmail.com/smilers ●

Celebrating Northern Ireland prices	
Miniature sheet	£2.24
Presentation pack	£2.75
Stamp cards set of five	£1.50
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK orders)	£3.11
Serviced FDC (overseas)	£2.65