



Technical details

Date of Issue:	6 September 2007
Values & Quantities:	2 x 55c se-tenant (410,000) 2 x 78c se-tenant (360,000) €2.66 Minisheet (35,000)
Illustration:	Martyn Turner
Design:	Steve Simpson
Stamp Size:	29.79mm x 40.64mm
Minisheet Size:	150mm x 90mm
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	14 x 15
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd.

CELTIC CATS

Since 1978 we have issued stamps every year for Flora and Fauna and over the years butterflies, ferns, ducks, trees, beetles and many more subjects have featured in this issue. This year - for one year only - we have decided to take a small break and to take a look at the nation's felines. We will return to our usual Flora and Fauna theme next year.

This issue reveals the domestic Celtic Cat in an eye-pleasing comic style and positions their characters as slightly irreverent reflections of familiar aspects of contemporary Irish society.

These comic stamps which are denominated at 55c and 78c feature the artist's impressions of images representing a Kilkenny Cat, a Celtic Tigress, a Fat Cat and a couple of Cool Cats.

Also available for this issue is a special Martyn Turner illustrated Minisheet and two First Day Covers. The Minisheet features a cartoon cat in an alley checking out the entertainment. One of the First Day Covers features a humorous image of a stressed looking postman surrounded by lots of mischievous Celtic Cats, while the other First Day Cover features a cat's tail poking out from a postbox. Be sure and place your order early to avoid disappointment, as this issue is sure to be a bestseller!

MARTYN TURNER (AUTO)BIOGRAPHY!

Martyn Turner, designer of the stamps, is a graduate of Queens University, Belfast and a former editor of "Fortnight" magazine. He has been drawing and contributing political cartoons on a daily basis to the Irish Times and a few other places since the early 1970s (his hand hurts a bit!). He has had 17 books published, been awarded two doctorates (on your knees, please!) and was Commentator of the Year at the Irish Press Awards the only year he entered. He got the Bronze Bee of Satire for European Political Cartoonist of the Year from some nice Italians once and such is the power of satire that the Bronze Bee was scanned for explosive substances at Stansted Airport on the way home. He believes Leyton Orient are the finest football team in Britain and are just lulling the 60 teams above them into a false sense of security. This artist and political caricaturist had this to say about his designs.

CELTIC CATS

MARTYN TURNER WRITES...

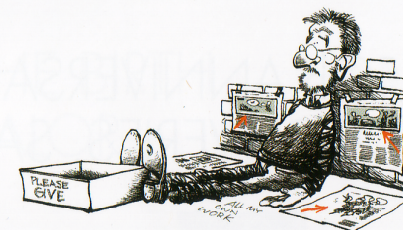
"Well there are lots of satirical Irish cats, aren't there? There's the Kilkenny Cat and The Celtic Tiger and the Kilkenny Cat and the Celtic Tiger and, let me see, there's the Kilkenny Cat...and...Kitty O'Shea? And with the advent of the British High Street into Ireland there's Puss in Boots, the Chemist...And then I thought of Pangur Ban, the monk's cat from a medieval Irish manuscript (found in Austria if you really want to know) which I drew, and it was my favourite drawing of them all but the Stamps Committee thought it didn't go with the rest of the drawings. And they were right, but for the wrong reason. Her Indoors, being bright despite supporting Leeds United, pointed out that the Bán in Pangur Bán might mean white and I'd drawn a brown cat I thought it was Ban as in Ban Garda (which means police woman in the Irish language!)

So the rest of the cats, after the Kilkenny one became the Celtic Tiger family, mother, father and brats. I painted them in watercolour on fancy paper that doesn't absorb the water like normal watercolour paper. They took ages, as with that technique I don't really know what I'm doing. I save it for special occasions. I did the drawings for the First Day Covers and the sheet in black ink and then filled in with watercolour, a much quicker process and more akin to my method for drawing cartoons in the newspaper. I knew what I was doing with those.

We used to have cats when we lived in the countryside in Co. Down. Any resemblance to any of them in the stamps is entirely coincidental."



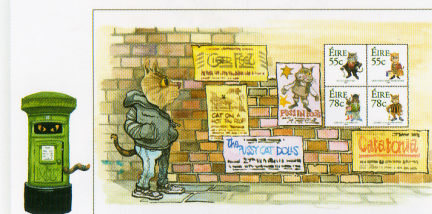
Product Code 0721FDC Price €3.66



MARTYN TURNER SELF-PORTRAIT

STOP PRESS!

* Martyn Turner, will be signing First Day Covers on the day of issue, 6 September, between 12.30 and 2pm. Arrive early to avoid disappointment.*



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Product Code 0721FDCMS Price €3.66



Product Code 072178ST58 Price €12.48