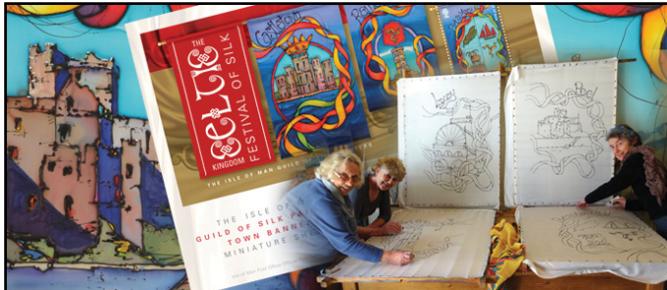


Colorful Banners on Colorful Manx Mini-sheet



On October 24, the Isle of Man Post Office released a colorful miniature sheet that was the result of a collaboration between the artists (shown here working on the designs) and The Island of Culture and Manx National Heritage—the organizers of The Celtic Kingdom Festival of Silk 2013 when the Island's Guild hosted the bi-annual festival.

The design and painting of the town banners were undertaken by seven of the Guild's artists. The three banners featured on the miniature sheet are, left to right:

- Ann Cannell chose Castletown topping her design with a crown over Castle Rushen;
- Jan Avron Cotton turned the Ramsey town emblem with Albert Tower into a colorful image;
- Chris Cowell and Sarah Goulden, chose the Port St. Mary town emblem to work on, portraying a map of the Island, a loughtan sheep, the Legs of Man and the bright red sails of a Manx nobby fishing boat.

In the other banner designs that were part of the project, Hilary Bruce designed the Laxey banner around the Laxey Wheel, “The Lady Isabella” and sought to incorporate a salmon in the picture for the old



norse “Laxa” meaning Salmon River whereas Jean Buck designed Port Erin’s banner to add life to the tower at Bradda Head with a chough (crow) flying overhead.

Betty Hopson’s design of Peel Castle was executed along with her design of Tynwald Hill, which was jointly worked on with Jean Buck.

The eye-catching miniature sheet is available in mint condition and Cancelled to Order, a First Day cover postmarked with the first day of issue, and a Presentation Pack four-sided folder featuring information about the IOM Guild and these artworks.

At present the banners are on display as part of this year’s Island of Culture festival at the House of Manannan in Peel. At the end of the “Year of Culture” the banners will be returned to the relative town commissioners for display in the Island’s town halls.

For information on this and other Isle of Man new issues and a link to the Isle of Man postal administration website, please go to <https://www.iompost.com/stamps-coins/>.

You can also read about all previous Isle of Man 2014 issues at <http://www.stampnewsnow.com/IsleOfManNewIssues.html>.