

Irish Philately

JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

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EDITORIAL

I hope that the membership will approve of the "New Look" Irish Philately.

My thanks to Keith Jamieson and John Evans, one of my officers, who designed the masthead.

May I solicit your help by asking you once again to put pen to paper and send in an article for the next issue of the Journal.

O.M. Richards

"Irish Philately"

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:-

Dear Sir,

Re 'Irish People On Stamps'

Fred Dixon in the December issue of the Journal, Volume 1987, refers to an article by Jim O'Byrne in the Aer Lingus 'In Flight' magazine, on the subject of Irish People On Stamps.

I have, as yet, not read the said article but others who have written on the same subject in the past have neglected to mention Thomas Patrick Horan and other Irish born or descent who have made their name in the world of cricket and have been represented on a stamp issue.

In Horan's case, the issue is March 1977 'Test Cricket Centenary' issue from Australia. Horan, who was born in Middleton near Cork, played for his adopted country, Australia, in the very first Test match and so is included among the fielders on the strip of five 18 cents se-tenant stamps which make up part of this set. (SG 647 - 651).

Victor Trumper is but one of several cricketers, mostly Australian, whose immediate ancestors hailed from Ireland; Trumper himself was commemorated by another Australian issue in 1981 (SG 767) - the 35 cents value of the 'Sports Personalities' issue.

Yours faithfully,

C.T. Hinneburg-Murphy

Dear Sir,



I was very interested to read Miss Wright's article about the City of Dublin Perfin in December IP Journal which prompted me to look again at my stamps. I notice that I have a 2d overprint with what appears to be 'GA C' (as illustrated) when viewed from the front.

Is there any significance in this? I apologise in advance for my ignorance.

Yours faithfully,

G. Etoe

Dear Sir,

I hope this letter reaches you without difficulty. I take this opportunity to say how pleased I am with the amount (and variety) of information given in the Journal.

In the last issue JJM Renollaud provided an impressive list of additions to W Kane's "Undated Namestamps of Ireland" and this letter spurred me to obtain a copy of the booklet myself. I have now checked the few examples that I have in my own collection and wish to report the following:-

Group 1A	High St. (Dn)	B	1845	(1837)
Group 4A	Fintona	B (?)	1850	(g 1852)

Receiving House Number

Penny Post Town	Strabane	(As left but
PP Sub-Office	Lifford	Type 9)
RH No	1	
Type	8	
Known Use	1843	

In brackets I have given William Kane's listing. The Fintona double arc that I have is black but on seeing green being listed it occurs to me that it is just possible that a very deep green ink has changed colour. The postmark is a backstamp on an envelope with a 1d Red cancelled by the '222' Fintona obliterator in black and other backstamps in blue and red are clear, so I believe the Fintona one IS black. Perhaps I had better not make life too complicated!

I was struck by the gap in time between the 'High St' marks. Surely someone else has an example of another year?

Yours faithfully,

T. Stephens

Dear Sir,

Further to my letter which appeared in the December 1987 issue of Irish Philately concerning Business Reply Service Licence Numbers, I inadvertently omitted Cork No CK1 - Harrington & Goodlass Wall. Recently my attention was drawn to the Dublin licence number DN 2913 issued to Weatherglaze Anglian for an address in Lower Glanmire Road, Cork.

Yours faithfully,

Dr C.A. Ross

IP

- 3 -

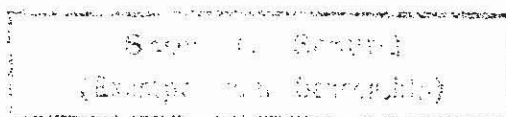
March 1988

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a photocopy of a cover in my collection. It is a foolscap envelope from the United States Consul? in Cork and addressed to New York. The adhesive stamp is cancelled with the CORCAIGH double-ring number 3. What I have never seen before is the cachet in violet indicating that the letter was exempt from censorship. I can find no record of this, can you help?

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IRISH REPUBLIC



Mr. Tilton Zamore,

3094 Brighton 5th Street,

Brooklyn,

New York,

U. S. A.

Yours faithfully,

T. McClean

Dear Sir,

THE CANCELLING MACHINES OF IRELAND -

During April 1987, Bray had on loan an extra Universal machine from Dublin in order to process a special paid sending of 250,000 printed paper rate items from the First National Building Society. (The FNBS is in Booterstown, Co Dublin and not Bray, Co Wicklow).

They used the old machine cancel "Bri Chualann" for this correspondence as the normally used "Bre" was in their own machine during this one month period dealing with the office's

ordinary volume of mail.



Yours faithfully,

K. Winkelmann

THE CANCELLING MACHINES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

by O.M. Richards

BELFAST - Part 2

UNIVERSAL MACHINE

During the time that the two Hey Dolphin machines were in use at Belfast, a Universal machine was issued to the office, this was in 1920, Figure 13. It may be that this issue was on a trial basis as it had been withdrawn in 1921, my last date being August of that year, Figure 14. Mr James Mackay reports an example used in 1922 but I have not seen any examples for that year.



E. Bate, Esq.

POST CARD



FOR ADDRESS

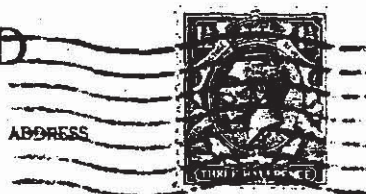


Figure 13

Figure 14

Readers may recall that a Universal machine was issued to the

Dublin office in 1920 and was in use to the middle of 1921. Stitt Dibden in his listing of Universal machines to 1921 omits both Belfast and Dublin and it may be that these machines were issued to these offices on a trial basis. The next general issue of Universal machines was in 1921 and by June 1924 some 411 machines were in use in 340 offices. It will be noted that both these machines were fitted with seven wavy lines.

HEY DOLPHIN MACHINES - UNIVERSAL DIES

The Hey Dolphin machines continued to be used in the Belfast office for many years after they were fitted with Universal type dies in 1933, probably until after the 1939 - 1945 war. One of the drawbacks with the Hey Dolphin dies was the fact that they were required to be replaced each year, the figures of the year were an integral part of the die and therefore could not be changed.

The first of the new Universal dies were anonymous in as much that they did not have an identifying letter, there was a long arc over half the circumference, Figure 15. The earliest date I have is for 27 December 1933.



Figure 15



Figure 16

If as is assumed there were two machines in the Belfast office they must have been very hard-worked, this is evident in the frequency with which dies were replaced. The first die was replaced in 1936, Figure 16., the most noticeable difference is seen in the length of the arc. This die suffered damaged shortly after it was fitted, this damage can be seen in Figure 16, and it was replaced in 1938, Figure 17. The outer rims seemed to be very prone to being damaged and further replacements showed evidence of this, Figure 18, and by 1939 it was getting worse, Figure 19. Slogans were nearly always used with these anonymous dies, I have very few examples with wavy lines my earliest being for 13 May 1935. Some philistine has removed the adhesive stamp and I show an example dated

21 May 1935. It will be noticed that the bars are continuous,
Figure 20.



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20

Very few slogans were in use during the war years, the most popular seems to have been POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS although this die can be seen with ROAD USERS TAKE CARE AVOID RISKS, used in August 1939, Figures 21 and 22, and the GROW MORE FOOD DIG FOR VICTORY in November 1939, Figure 23



Figure 21

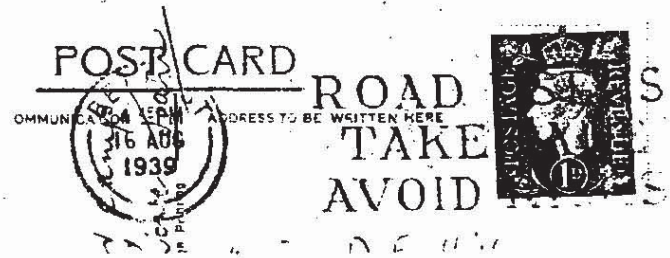


Figure 22

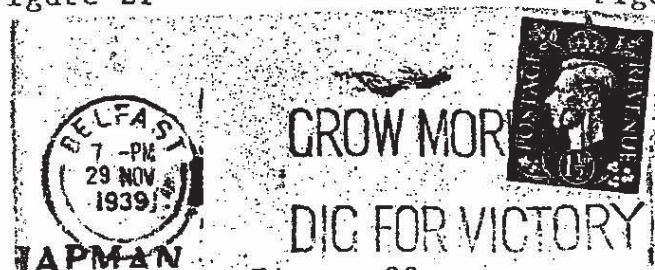


Figure 23

By December 1942 the die was showing distinct signs of wear and damage, Figure 24, and was replaced in 1943, Figure 25.



Figure 24



Figure 25

My last date of use for this type of die is 26 April 1951, Figure 26.



Figure 26

This was not the last of the anonymous type of die. In 1951 there appeared a new series of dies, one of which had no identifying letter, Figure 27. This die continued in use to at least 21 December 1953. This is my latest example, Figure 28.

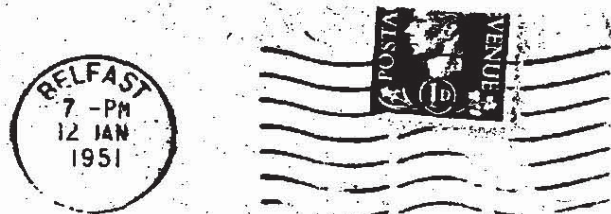


Figure 27



Figure 28



Figure 29

The only slogan I have seen used with this die is the POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS, Figure 29. This anonymous die was the last one issued without an identifying letter, all subsequent dies being identified.

In 1934 there appeared a die with the 'A' identifying letter between arcs. My earliest example is shown at Figure 30, it is for 8 February 1934.



Figure 30

Slogans were used regularly and a selection is shown below, Figure 31.



Figure 31

On the occasions when wavy-line cancelling bars were used, initially they were continuous but later (1935?) bars with a removable centre segment were used, Figure 32.



Figure 32

A new die appeared in 1940, see GROW MORE FOOD DIG FOR VICTORY slogan, Figure 31. In 1943 the previous die, damaged as it was, was used again, Figure 33. In 1948 yet another die was used, BELFAST being smaller with neater lettering, Figure 34



Figure 33

Figure 34

By 1951 the first die was in use once more, see Figure 31. It might be advisable at this juncture to step aside from the 'A' die with arcs to mention that a new die of the same type as the last anonymous die came into use in 1944, my earliest example being for 21 June 1944, Figure 35. My latest example being for 7 January 1952, Figure 36..



'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST.



Figure 35

Figure 36

The use of two different 'A' dies concurrently makes me wonder if, in fact, sorting was being done at two different offices at this time as the letters in this type go up to 'C', that is 'A', 'B' and 'C'.

To be continued.

* * * * *

RUBBER DATESTAMPS

Although used earlier elsewhere in Ireland, Dublin does not seem to have used rubber datestamps until the 1890s. I recently found an example of 30 SEP 96, more than a year earlier than I have had hitherto.

FED

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

MILEAGE MARKS Most early markings of Newtownmountkennedy understandably use abbreviated forms of the name, N.T.MT. KENNEDY and NEWTOWN MT.KENNEDY being recorded. Rev E Davey reports another variant, N T MT KEN Y on a cover of 1814. All have the same mileage, 17.

"REMEMBER MITCHELSTOWN" When An Post announced a special cancellation for 9 September 1987 most of us were mystified by its slogan of "Remember Mitchelstown". The liner of the commemorative envelope tells the story. On that day in 1887 two Land League leaders were to be tried for incitement. 8000 of their supporters held a meeting. The police intervened; there was a riot, the police having to retire to the barracks. They fired on the crowd, killing three men. It was Gladstone who coined the slogan when condemning the Tory mismanagement of Irish affairs.

POST OFFICE TOKEN Bulletin 26 of the Numismatic Society of Ireland reports a hitherto unknown token for 2s 6d issued by Arthur Boyd of Ballysillan and Ligoniel, two Belfast suburbs. He was also listed in the Belfast directories of the 1880s as Postmaster at Ballysillan. However, I can find no record of a post office of that name but there was one listed at Ligoniel and it seems likely that the one office served both districts.

PILLAR BOX FIRES In mid-August 1987 (I have not heard the exact date) letters were destroyed or damaged by fire in the pillar box on Zion Road, Rathgar. Some were salvaged and given a framed cachet reading:-

"VANDALISED MAIL"

THIS ITEM WAS DAMAGED
IN A PILLAR BOX FIRE.
An Post regrets any
inconvenience caused.

RAILWAY POSTMARK Richard McBride has found a cancellation of Maryborough RLY. STN. T.O. on a cover of June 1923. The cover is "philatelic" as the normal use of the cancellation was on telegrams. Surprisingly the name of the town was not changed to Port Laoighise until 1924.

SLOGANS BOOK James A Mackay has published a new edition of his "Irish Slogan Postmarks" with many additions and updated to 1986. The layout has been improved and it is excellent value at £3.50 in UK or £4.50 elsewhere, including Ireland, both prices sterling but including postage.

STAMPA Some excellent exhibits but there was only one gold award - to Dr Mackey for his Saxony. Best of the Irish were G Brady, Miss Wright and Col Zellers with Vermeil.

One exhibit included an exceptional discovery, not realised by its owner - an 1860 Dublin duplex cancellation with sideways H, hitherto known only as a backstamp on covers of the H & K Packet.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS The 24p was too drab and the design should have included an indication that it is a detail from 15th century vestments associated with Waterford.

There are twelve days of Christmas and it is ridiculous to depict only three of them on the special bargain 21p. There must be Irish subjects suitable for adaptation to Christmas stamp design. What about the Wren Boys?



PROPAGANDA LABELS

I have been sent a photocopy of an interesting label dated 1917 published by Fr Paul Anderson in San Francisco, depicting the Irish tricolour and American eagle.

It quotes from Woodrow Wilson "WE SHALL FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF SMALL NATIONS" and adds "IRELAND IS A NATION AND SHOULD BE FREE".

CHRISTMAS CARDS Being in hospital gave me a good excuse for not sending Christmas Cards but I am very appreciative of the many which were sent to me. One deserving special mention was prepared well in advance by the Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin. Inside is the 24p stamp issued 1 September 1987 to commemorate their 350th anniversary, with special day of issue cancellation.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 1987

by B. Warren

I first began to produce this yearly article in the mid '70s with the help of Eddie FitzGerald. At the same time I collected 90% of the material referred to in the article. However, the gradual increase in modern Irish material produced by both the Post Office and non-official sources necessitated a reappraisal of the scope of my collection. By the early 1980s I began to cut back and today I limit my specialised collections to the definitives, postal stationery and exhibition souvenirs. In addition, I maintain a straight run of the special and commemorative stamps and put aside any foreign stamps of Irish interest. As a result I do not necessarily view all items contained in this yearly article, particularly in the case of postmarks. Therefore errors/omissions may arise and I would be grateful to receive details/comments from readers. Subscribers to Irish Stamp News will be aware that I complete a regular column under the title "Recent Releases" which covers 90% of the same material. However, I will continue to complete the yearly article as it enables me to add some new information not to hand when I pen my article for Irish Stamp News. I also hope that it will be a useful reference source for future collectors.

However, the increasing length of the article has forced me to initiate some changes this year. The design/designer details in the special/commemorative stamps section has been deleted as most readers will have this information by reference to the Post Office bulletins for each issue. I have also deleted the repeat slogan listing as the majority of collectors are primarily interested in new items. In the special postmark section I have only given a brief resume of the various cancels rather than the complete wording of each. Unfortunately it has not been possible for me to obtain impressions of all items for illustration.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 1987 programme comprising 26 stamps, 1 miniature sheet and 1 sheetlet was issued over eight release dates at a total cost of IR£12.09. This compares with the 1986 totals of 25 stamps and 1 sheetlet at a cost of IR£10.00. There was no increase in postal charges during the year. For illustrations see page 21.

Date of Issue	Description	Paper	Value	Plate Numbers
21 Jan	Love Stamps [3rd Series]	CCP3	24p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	28p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
4 Mar	Transport in Ireland [1st Series - Trams]	CCP3	24p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	28p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	30p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	46p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	£1.28	Miniature Sheet
9 Apr	Waterford Chamber of Commerce	CCP3	24p	1A1A1A 1B1B1B
	Muintir na Tire/ Canon Hayes	CCP3	28p	1A1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B1B
	Trinity College Dublin, Botanic Gardens	CCP3	30p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
	Medical Missionaries of Mary	CCP3	39p	1A1A1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B1B1B
14 May	Europa (27th Issue - Modern Architecture)	CCP1	28p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP1	39p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
2 Jul	Fauna and Flora (10th Issue - Cattle)	CCP3	24p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	28p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	30p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	39p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
27 Aug	Ireland (9th Issue Festivals of Ireland)	CCP3	24p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	28p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	30p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	46p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B

1 Oct	Statesmen of Ireland -	CCP3	24p	1A1A
	Cathal Brugha			1B1B
	Company of Goldsmiths	CCP3	24p	1A1A1A1A
	of Dublin			1B1B1B1B
	50th Anniversary of	CCP3	28p	1A1A1A1A1A
	Constitution			1B1B1B1B1B
				2A2A2A2A2A
				2B2B2B2B2B
	Women in Society	CCP1	46p	1A1A1A1A1A1A
	(2nd Issue)			1B1B1B1B1B1B
17 Nov	Christmas (17th Issue)	CCP3	24p	1A1A1A1A
				1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	28p	1A1A1A1A
				1B1B1B1B
		CCP3	£2.90	Sheetlet (14x21p+ label)

All stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited with the exception of the two Europa values and the 46p Women in Society stamp; the foregoing stamps were printed by Harrison and Sons Limited. Perforation 14x14 $\frac{3}{4}$ (vertical format), 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ x14 (horizontal format). The Trams miniature sheet differed from previous sheets in that only the stamps were perforated; all margins were imperforate. The Christmas sheetlet was available in two versions. Type 1 had four perforated margins whereas Type 2 had only three perforated margins; the top margin was imperforate. The release of the Love stamps also saw a further change in the positioning of the various sheet markings. Since the introduction of Post Office sheets of 50 with the Anniversaries set of 1985 the positioning of sheet markings varied between "A" and "B" sheets and between vertical and horizontal format designs. All sheets now have the same position for each of the three markings as follows:-

Plate Numbers: Top margin above R1/1. In some cases the numbers extend across the width of two stamps.

Colour Checks/Traffic Lights: The previous use of squares has changed to 'circles' usually referred to as 'Traffic Lights'. Positioned in top right margin above the last stamp in the first row.

Imprint: Positioned in the bottom margin below the first stamp in the last row. In the case of vertical format stamps (eg 28p Love and 30p TCD) the imprint of Irish Security Stamp Printing

Limited is in two lines in order to fit the width of one stamp. In the case of the Harrison Printings their imprint extends the width of two stamps. See page 21.

FIRST DAY COVERS, CANCELLATIONS AND MAXIMUM CARDS

FDCs cost 17p. FDC pictorial cancels were once again available at Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Dun Laoghaire, Athlone, Carrick-on-Shannon, Sligo, Tralee and Waterford. The pictorial cancel was available at Callan, Co Kilkenny for the Love Stamps. Tara Collins who designed the 24p value attends the local St Bridgids National School. Her teacher, Clodagh Holohan, designed a special FDC in connection with this issue (not official). In connection with the multiple issue of 9 April, four individual cancels were available as follows:-

- 24p Waterford Chamber of Commerce - Waterford.
- 28p Muintir na Tire/Canon Hayes - Tipperary (founded in town).
- 30p TCD Botanic Gardens - Dublin.
- 39p Medical Missionaries of Mary - Drogheda (their Motherhouse and their International Missionary Training Hospital as featured on the stamp are in Drogheda).

Four maximum cards, price 16p each, were available for the Festival of Ireland set. The general pictorial cancel was extended to all four locations as depicted on the stamps for this issue ie Ennis 24p, Tralee 28p, Wexford 30p and Ballinasloe 46p

PRESENTATION PACKS

Year Pack: Released on 24 November, cost IR£8.25 (face value IR£8.12). The pack contains all the special and commemorative stamps issued during the year including the 21p Christmas stamp ex. sheetlet but excluding the Trams miniature sheet.

Selection Pack F: A new selection pack was released in July entitled "Nostalgic Transport". The pack contains the 1986 Bianconi and 1987 Trams stamps and costs IR£2.20 (face value IR£1.95).

DEFINITIVES

There were no new values issued during 1987 but new printings were numerous. The white CCPl paper was re-introduced for the definitives. A complete list is set out as follows:-

CCP1 PRINTINGS (white paper)

Value	Plate Numbers	Perforation Type	Month of Release	Notes
2p	2A/2B	G4	September	
6p	2A/2B	G4	October	2B only seen
24p	3A/3B	G4	September	
28p	5A/5B	G4	October	
46p	1A1A/1B1B	G4	September	

CCP3 PRINTINGS (cream paper)

1p	2A/2B	G4	September	
2p	2A/2B	G4	March	
5p	1A/1B	G4	August	
10p	1A/1B	G4	March	
12p	1A/1B	G3	May	1B only seen
28p	4A/4B	G4	March	
28p	4A/4B	G4 variation	September	Note below
28p	5A/5B	G4	June	
30p	2A/2B	G4	March	
50p	3A2A/3B2B	G4	August	
£1	1A1A/1B1B	G4	August	Formerly G3
£5	2A1A/2B1B	G4	August	

Note re 28p: The left margin of some Plate 4A sheets has an unusual perforation.

The left margin of the sheet is very narrow (6mm) with the plate number just visible. There are only three perforation holes in the left margin of every alternate row of the sheet and two of the three holes are at a slight angle in comparison to the third hole.

There were ten new identifiable single stamps in the above list as follows:-

CCP1 - 24p, 28p and 46p CCP3 - 1p, 5p, 10p, 12p, 30p and £5.

POSTAL STATIONERY

24 FEBRUARY - ST PATRICK'S DAY CARDS

The fourth set of cards in this series reverted to a standard set of six normal size cards measuring 110mmx155mm - cost 30p including airmail postage worldwide. The postage paid imprint was the same as 1986: The six designs are Peace, Naomh Padraig, Breast Plate, Harp, Irish Eyes are Smiling and Croagh Patrick.

A special green pictorial shamrock first day postmark was available in Dublin. Kestrel Design and Art Studio was responsible for the designs. Printed by Richview Browne, Nolan.

24 APRIL - £1.23 SIZE H REGISTERED ENVELOPE

Same design and format as previous size G envelope. The envelope was printed on slightly better quality paper and the imprinted stamp has three small differences - no colon between Claru and 95; no full stop after 95 and top serif of 5 is cut short. Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited. Cost £1.39.

7 MAY - "KEEP IN TOUCH" POSTCARD - 24p

This unannounced item was issued on the same day as An Post released their accounts for the calendar year 1986. Each customer who visited a post office on that day received one of the 24p cards together with a printed note explaining that the card was being distributed as a token of appreciation for their support. The cards were limited to one per customer [including the philatelic bureau] and were withdrawn at the end of the day. Standing order customers of the bureau subsequently received a copy of the card. The card has the usual sepia G.P.O. Dublin design but is missing the words "Carta Poist". The back of the card instead of being blank has a green frame line together with the words "Keep in Touch". No charge. Printed by Task Print & Packaging Limited, Naas, Co. Kildare.

MAY - 72p INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON

A new printing with the 72p rate was first noted in May. Design unchanged. The rate has been 72p since 3 March 1986.

3 JUNE - DISCOVER IRELAND POSTCARD

This post paid item cost 30p including worldwide airmail postage. Usual imprint. The card was issued in connection with the annual campaign by Bord Failte [Irish Tourist Board]. The rolling hills landscape was designed by Raymond Kyne. Sheets of 75 labels (15 rows of 5) similar to airmail etiquettes were made available from the same date at all post offices. The white on green labels bear the slogan "Discover Ireland in '87". Both the card and the labels were printed by Task Print & Packaging Limited.

8 JULY - AEROGRAMME FORM

The standard aerogramme form was reprinted on a better quality heavier paper as there were complaints that the writing could

be seen on the previous printings when the form was held up to the light. In addition, earlier in the year a further version of the form first released in September 1986 was noted. The form was printed on sky blue paper - the four green lines under the heading "Sender's name and address" are missing on this printing. Printed by Dafil Limited.

13 JULY - 24p "KEEP IN TOUCH" DISCOUNT POSTCARDS

The special discount packs of postcards first announced in 1986 were finally released in packs of 15 (IR£3.50), 50 (IR£11.00) and 100 (IR£20.00). Individual cards were available from the bureau at 24p each. The cards are unillustrated but do include the words "Keep In Touch" within a green frame line on the reverse of the card (similar to the "Giveaway postcard of 7 May). The usual 24p An Post stamp is slightly smaller than on the first 24p card issued in 1986 and on the Stampa '86 cards but matches the stamp on the Giveaway card. The wrappers for each pack are in an attractive four colour design with the "Keep In Touch" postbox etc. Printed by Task Print & Packaging Limited. See page 21.

31 AUGUST - KIDDY COLOUR CARDS

Four cards under the above name were issued to instil letter-writing confidence among children. The front of the cards feature outline drawings which can be coloured in by children before posting. The four designs are (1) BMX bikes, (2) "Happy Birthday" party scene, (3) "Thank You" with a selection of toys and (4) country scene featuring two children with a rabbit. A special 15p stamp illustrating a clown is printed on the address side with the inscription "Within The State Only - 15p). If the cards are sent outside the Republic of Ireland additional stamps need to be affixed to make up the normal postage. Each card is sold individually at 15p each. The cards were designed by Yvette O'Connell of Kestrel Design and Adrian Kelly. The stamp was designed by O'Connor O'Sullivan Advertising.

5 OCTOBER - KIDDY COLOUR CARDS - HALLOWEEN

Two further cards on the theme "Halloween" were released. Cost 15p each. They were withdrawn from general sale on 31 October but remain on philatelic sale. Both sets of Kiddy Colour Cards together with the Christmas set, referred to below, were printed by Task Print & Packaging Limited.

15 OCTOBER - POSTAL HISTORY (1) EXHIBITION CARDS

An Post launched the first of a new annual series of postcards under the theme "Postal History" at Stampa '87. The first set

of cards feature Postal Uniforms and will be utilised as exhibition cards at overseas shows during the twelve month period following the date of issue. A matching set of four cancels featuring hats was available at Stampa in conjunction with the cards. Printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. Cost 30p each and bearing the usual 24p stamp (similar size as on Stampa '86 cards).

23 OCTOBER - OIREACHTAS PREPAID POSTCARD

This prepaid postcard (cost 30 incl. postage worldwide) was issued in connection with the annual Oireachtas which was held in Dingle, Co. Kerry this year (23 October - 1 November). The card features a photograph of "An Marbhan" one of the Blasket Islands, Co. Kerry. Sheets of large square green labels bearing the Oireachtas logo/crest were also made available with this issue. Sheets of 25 labels (5x5). Both cards and labels were printed by Task Print & Packaging Limited, Naas, Co. Kildare. The Oireachtas is an annual festival of Irish music, dance and literature. The photograph featured on the card was taken by Michael Diggin and the design work was the responsibility of Barry Hurley, Head of Projects at An Post. Mr Hurley is in charge of the current Postal Museum project and organised the recent exhibition of material at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin and Stampa '87.

17 NOVEMBER - KIDDY COLOUR CARDS - CHRISTMAS

Two further cards were released on the theme "Christmas". Cost 15p each.

17 NOVEMBER - CASSETTE POST PREPAID ENVELOPE

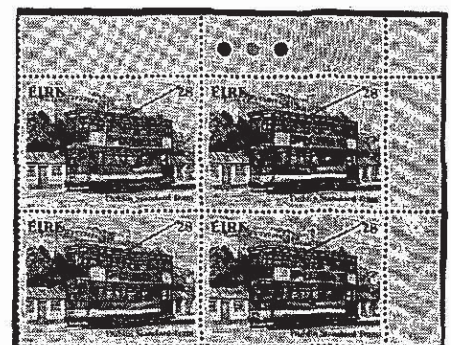
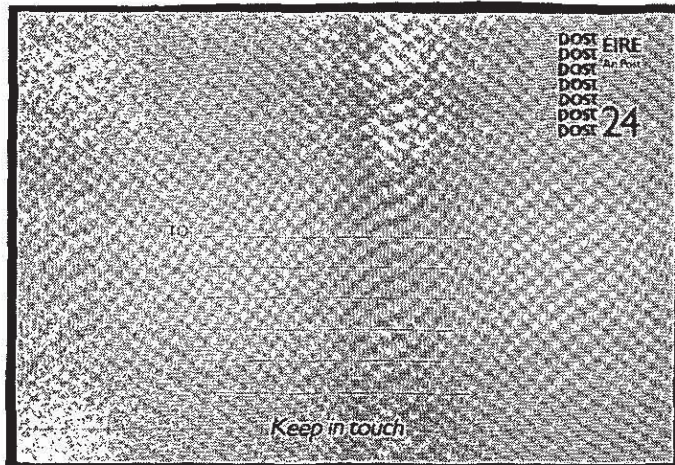
This special padded envelope comes complete with a 15 minute cassette and costs £2 which includes airmail postage worldwide. The usual postage paid imprint is on the envelope giving it the status of a stationery item. As a bonus, inside the envelope is a variation of the 24p "Keep in Touch Discount Postcard" issued in July. A questionnaire has been printed on the reverse of the card and purchasers are asked to complete same and return it to An Post. Their G.P.O. Dublin address is pre-printed on the front of the card. The padded envelope was manufactured/printed by I.L.P. Protective Packaging, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The cassette was produced by Trend Studios, Dublin and the insert card was printed by Task Print & Packaging Limited.

To be continued.

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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 1987

ILLUSTRATIONS



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