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IN THIS ISSUE - BRIAN WARREN'S REVIEW OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC YEAR, 1996 - *THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS*.



ROYAL MAIL *SAINTS* ISSUE; THE 26p VALUE DEPICTING St COLUMBA SAILING TO THE ISLAND OF IONA. 1997 MARKS THE 1400th ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT COLUMBA'S DEATH. MORE ON THIS ISSUE INSIDE IN *NEWS AND VIEWS*.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Another New Year and another new volume of the *JOURNAL*. My thanks to all who keep forwarding material for future issues but there is still a need to keep material flowing.

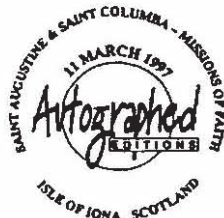
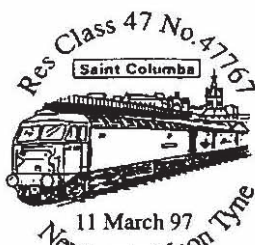
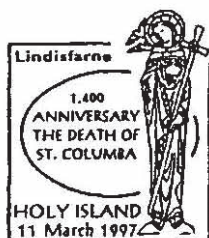
This issue of the *JOURNAL* is, as usual for the March edition, devoted to Brian Warren's *THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS* - the review of the previous year of Irish philately. As expected it is up to the high standard that Brian maintains and he is to be congratulated in ensuring that we are all kept up to date. The problem now of course is securing those items mentioned which were missed! On behalf of the *CIRCLE* many thanks for yet another splendid effort, Brian.

Over the coming months Royal Mail will issue stamps with an Irish background. The first of these is the 'Saints' issue which honours St Columba and St Augustine. The 'Saints' stamps, to be issued on March 11th, commemorate the 1400th anniversary of the death of Columba and of the arrival of St Augustine in Kent. St Columba preached the gospel in Scotland from the Monastery which he established in the island of Iona.

The two St Columba stamps depict the saint sailing to Iona, 26p, and on the 37p, he is shown as a scribe.

Collectors should be aware that there are quite a number of commemorative handstamps to be used in conjunction with this issue. The island of Iona will be one such source.

Also of Irish interest is the 26p stamp to be issued in the May 'Tales of Terror' set. 1997 marks the centenary of the first publication of *DRACULA* and this is the subject of the 26p stamp. Bram Stoker, the author, was of course from Dublin.



Apology; The December 1996 issue of the *JOURNAL* included an article by Des Quail on *BALLYMACLINTON POSTCARDS* [pages 100/101]. Unfortunately Des' name was given as 'Quaide'. My apologies for the error and any inconvenience caused.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 1996

Brian Warren



Once again, there was no general increase in postal rates (except SDS rates including parcels) during 1996. Letter and printed paper rates have remained unaltered since 2 April 1991.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES



The 1996 programme, comprising 40 sheet stamps, 2 self-adhesive stamps, 3 miniature sheets (including the special "Year of the Rat" and China '96 miniature sheets) and 3 booklets, was issued over 12 release dates at a cost of IR£28.64. Ten of the sheet stamps were issued in sheetlet form with a total cost of IR£19.52 for five sheetlets. The 1995 totals were 34 sheet stamps, 6 self-adhesive stamps, 3 miniature sheets (including the special "Year of the Pig" sheet) and 3 booklets at a cost of IR£27.64; nine of the sheet stamps were issued in sheetlet form with a total cost of IR£24.48 for six sheetlets.

Date of Issue	Description		Value	Plate Numbers and Notes	Paper & Gum
23 Jan	Love Stamp (12th Issue)		32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
23 Jan	Greetings Booklet (5th Issue)		IR£2.56	Two panes - (8 x 32p)	CCP3
23 Jan	Year of the Rat	- Miniature Sheet	96p	3 x 32p Greetings	CCP3
1 Feb	Olympic Games	- Running	32p	Se-tenant sheetlet of nine (3 x 3) with three se-tenant sets	CCP3
		- Discus	32p		CCP3
		- Canoeing	32p		CCP3
1 Feb	Paralympic Games	- Wheelchair Athlete	28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
12 Mar	Ireland Series	- Fairyhouse	28p	1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
	(17th Issue - Horse Racing)	- The Curragh	32p	se-tenant	CCP3
		- Punchestown	32p		CCP3
		- Galway	38p		CCP3
		- Leopardstown	52p		CCP3
		- Prestige Booklet	IR£4.92	Four panes	CCP3

Date of Issue	Description	Value	Plate Numbers and Notes	Paper & Gum
12 Mar	L'Imaginaire Irlandais	32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
2 Apr	Europa (36th Issue - Famous Women)	- Louie Bennett 32p - Lady Augusta Gregory 44p - self adhesive 2 x 32p 64p	Sheetlets of ten Sheetlets of ten Same designs - IR£32 per box	CCP3 CCP3
2 Apr	UNESCO	- Boyne Valley Monuments 28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
	UNICEF	- Children 32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
18 May	Beijing - China '96 - Horse Racing Miniature Sheet	64p		CCP3
30 May	Isle of Man T.T. - Irish Winners (Joint Issue with Isle of Man)	- Stanley Woods 32p - Artie Bell 44p - Alec Bennett 50p - Robert and Joey Dunlop 52p - Miniature Sheet (Robert and Joey Dunlop design) 50p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3
4 July	Michael Davitt- 150th Anniversary	28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
	Ireland's Presidency of the European Union	32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
	T. McLoughlin - Birth Centenary	38p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
	Bord na Móna - 50th Anniversary	52p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
18 July	Naval Service (50th Anniversary)	- Coastal Patrol Vessel (LE Ciara) 32p - Corvette (LE Cliona) 44p - Torpedo Boat (M1) 52p - Booklet IR£2.24	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B Two panes	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3
3 Sept	People with Disabilities	se-tenant 2 x 28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3
24 Sept	Fauna and Flora (19th Issue - Freshwater Ducks)	- Teal 32p - Widgeon 38p - Shoveler 44p - Mallards 52p - Miniature Sheet IR£1.66	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B Set in two vertical pairs	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3
17 Oct	Irish Cinema - Centenary	- Man of Aran 32p - My Left Foot 32p - The Commitments 32p - The Field 32p	} Sheetlet of sixteen set } out in four } se-tenant strips	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3
19 Nov	Christmas (26th Issue)	- Visit of the Magi 28p - The Annunciation 32p - The Shepherds Receive News of the Birth 52p - Sheetlet (Holy Family - Stained Glass) 28p x 15 IR£3.92	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B one stamp free	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP1

All stamps were litho printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited (ISSP) and perforated 14 x 14¼ (vertical format) or 14¼ x 14 (horizontal format) unless otherwise stated. Except as indicated below, all full sized sheets contain 50 stamps in the usual 10 x 5 or 5 x 10 format with plate numbers at top left ("A" or "B"), colour checks at top right and imprint at bottom left.

Love Stamp and Greetings Booklet: The two pane booklet contains eight 32p stamps in se-tenant strips of four designs. The stamps show show Zig and Zag with hearts (I) as per sheet issue; Zig and Zag waving (II); Zig and Zag in space ship (III); and Zig and Zag wearing hats (IV). Each stamp has two greetings labels attached top and bottom and the outer edges of the pane are imperforate. One stamp in each pane has an imperforate edge giving a total of five new stamps in addition to the sheet issue. The make-up of each pane is as follows:-

Pane 1: 32p I; 32p II, 32p III and 32p IV (right margin imperforate);

Pane 2: 32p III; 32p IV; 32p I and 32p II (right margin imperforate).

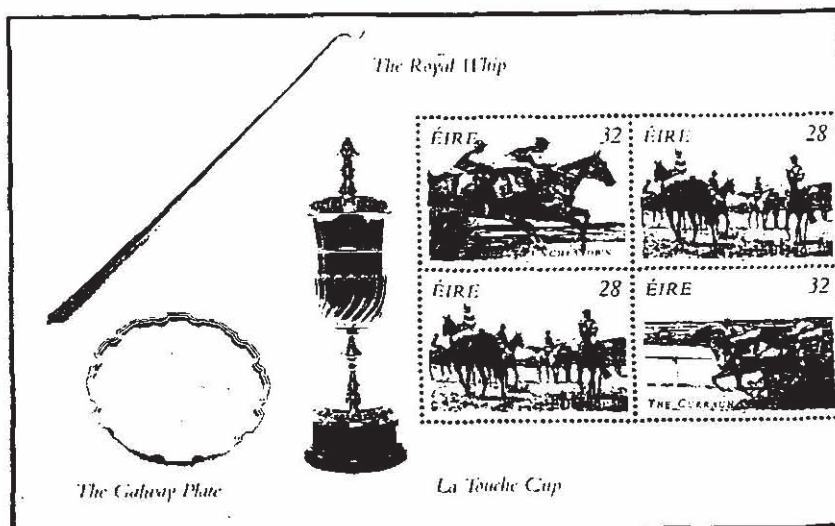
Each pane is rouletted in the left binding margin and stitched into the covers. Three of the designs are included in the Year of the Rat miniature sheet referred to below.



Year of the Rat - Miniature Sheet: A special miniature sheet to mark the Chinese New Year was issued on the same day as the Love stamp and Greetings booklet. The sheet is similar in layout as the Hong Kong sheets issued in 1994 and 1995. The sheet contains three of the Greetings stamps - 32p II, 32p III and 32p IV (right margin imperforate) and the same Greetings labels. The left hand panel shows a pig within a frame.

Olympic Games: The margin of the attractive nine stamp sheetlet refers to the years/locations of all previous modern Olympics (1896-1992) in their 100th anniversary year. The three designs are set out se-tenant both horizontally and vertically in staggered format. No plate numbers, imprint or colour controls. The bottom margin is perforated, other margins imperforate.





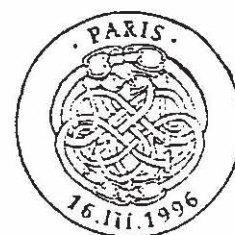
Pane 1

Ireland Series (Horse Racing) - Prestige Booklet: There are four illustrated panes of stamps and eight pages of bilingual text; the text also extends to inside the front and back covers. The front cover features the Punchestown design. The panes contain a total of fourteen stamps made-up as follows:-

- Pane 1: 32p (P), 28p, (imperf. right), 28p and 32p (C) (imperf. right) in a block of four;
- Pane 2: 32p (C) and 38p in a vertical pair plus 52p (imperf. right) and 32p (P) (imperf. right) in a vertical pair ;
- Pane 3: 32p (P), 38p and 32p (P) (imperf. right) in a strip of three; and
- Pane 4: 32p (C), 52p and 32p (C) (imperf. right) in a strip of three.

(P) = Punchestown; (C) = The Curragh.

As a result there are four new singles - 28p, both 32p and 52p - all imperf. at right. All stamps are the same perforation as the sheet stamps. Panes rouletted at left and stitched into the covers.



L'Imaginaire Irlandais: La Poste issued a FF2.80 stamp on 16 March to mark the same event. The French stamp depicts a stained glass window by Evie Hone which is based on a sculpture of St. Patrick held by the National Gallery in London. The stamp was available from the philatelic bureau in Dublin (36p) as was the Philatelic Document which bears a print of the stamp together with the stamp itself with a first day cancel of Paris (Face value FF30 and sold for IRE£3.90). Both the Irish and French stamps were available at a temporary post office at the Irish College in Paris on 16/17 March. As well as a French FDC cancel, a special An Post cachet (similar to the Irish FDC cancel) was available on each day.

Only 20
Stamps Left...

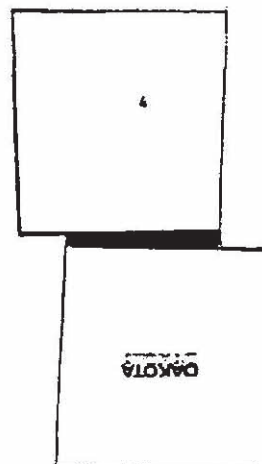


Only 10
Stamps Left...
ORDER NOW

Europa: The sheet stamps were litho printed by the House of Questa in the usual sheetlet format comprising ten stamps with illustrated side panels featuring:-

32p Sheetlet: Eva Gore Booth (poet and trade unionist), Ria Mooney (actress) and Siobhán McKenna (actress); and

44p Sheetlet: Sinéad Bean de Valera (author and folklorist), Countess Markievicz (revolutionary) and Maud Gonne McBride (Nationalist).



The stamps are perforated 14½ x 14. The side panels are imperforate, all other margins are perforated. Sheetlets have an imprint and the single Questa colour control but no plate numbers.

The self-adhesive set was printed by ISSP. As usual, the overall size is smaller than the sheet stamps 37.5mm x 26mm and are perf. 8½ x 9. Produced in boxed rolls of 100 stamps plus 2 labels. The roll of 102 stamps/labels is split into six strips of seventeen. The rolls are reeled sideways with right hand delivery commencing with the stamp featuring Louie Bennett. The two bi-coloured reminder labels (10 and 20) are in the same colours as the stamps. Sold in strips of two by the bureau. Although the stamps were printed by ISSP, the boxes are produced by Dakota, a Dublin printing company. Their name/logo appears on one of the inner bottom flaps together with a number on the matching flap which varies - the only number seen to date is 4.

As first noted by fellow member Maurice Barrett, the boxes for the previous ISSP self-adhesive roll for the Reptiles set issued in September 1995 was also produced by Dakota and also bear their name/logo and a number on the inner bottom flaps. Numbers seen to date 4 and 9. Can anybody confirm any other numbers on the boxes for either of these two issues ?

UNESCO (Boyne Valley)/UNICEF: Both stamps were printed by Walsall. Perf. 13½ x 14. In similar manner as the Rugby issue printed by the same firm last year, the imprint is located in the middle of the bottom margin under stamp 3 and the Walsall logo is positioned in the top margin in the same position.

China '96 (Beijing): A special miniature sheet was available for the China '96 exhibition. The bi-lingual miniature sheet design was adapted from pane 4 of the Horse Racing Prestige Booklet and incorporates two rather than three stamps - 32p Punchestown and 32p The Curragh - both fully perforated. Overall size of 120mm x 95mm is smaller than the booklet pane.



Isle of Man T.T. - Irish Winners: The stamps were litho printed by Questa. The sheets of 40 stamps are set out in two panes of 20 with an illustrated vertical gutter; each pane of 20 contains two columns of ten stamps giving 10 gutter pairs in each sheet. The plate numbers are in the left bottom margin with the imprint in the matching position in the right bottom margin. The colour controls are at the top of the right margin. The top margin contains the wording "Tourist Trophy Irish Winners". Note that the 50p stamp contained in the miniature sheet is effectively a further 'single' stamp as it bears the design of the 52p sheet value. Both the sheet stamps and the miniature sheet are perf. 14.

As noted in the table, the 32p value exists with all four plate combinations (A, B, C & D). The remaining three values only exist with "B" (44p), "C" (50p) and "D" (52p) plates which infers that the master sheet contained all four values with perhaps a further master sheet for the 32p value. The right hand margin of the 44p and 52p sheets (i.e. with plates "B" and "D" respectively) are imperforate. The "B" and "D" sheets of the 32p value are perforated in a similar manner.

For all four values, positions 1 and 10 (top and bottom) of the illustrated gutters bear a TT 96 logo. In the case of the 32p, 44p and 52p values, positions 2 to 9 illustrate different motor cycle logos - Velocette (32p), Norton (44p) and Honda (52p). The gutter of the 50p value features various logos/badges which in the order positions 2 to 9 are - Auto Cycle Union Badge (1903), Yamaha logo, Kawasaki logo, TT Supporters badge, Moto Guzzi logo, Royal Bullet Enfield badge, Triumph logo and Motor Cycle Union of Ireland badge.

This was a joint issue with the Isle of Man who released a matching set of four stamps on the same day - 20p (Alec Bennett - 1898 to 1973), 24p (Stanley Woods - 1903 to 1993), 45p (Artie Bell - 1915 to 1972) and 60p (Robert and Joey Dunlop) - note designs in different order. In addition they issued a £1 single value miniature sheet which paid tribute to the TT Festival Fortnight and did not match the Irish design. The Isle of Man set was also printed by Questa in post office sheets of 40 with gutters. Neither the Irish or Isle of Man stamps named the depicted riders on the stamps. This would be normal in the case of the Irish set given the standard regulation not to depict/name living persons (viz. Robert and Joey Dunlop) within a stamp design. Two of the Irishmen previously appeared on Isle of Man stamps - Stanley Woods was commemorated (and named) on a 3p value in a previous TT set issued 1974. Joey Dunlop previously appeared on the 37p value of a four stamp TT set issued in 1991; the full set was also issued in a miniature sheet. Joey Dunlop won two events during the 1996 TT bringing his total number of successes to 21.

50

Years of the Irish Naval Service



Anniversary and European Union Issues (4 July): All four stamps were litho printed by Enschedé - perf. 13½ x 13¼ (28p) or 13¼ x 13½ (32p, 38p and 52p).

Irish Naval Service - 50th Anniversary: Although the An Post publicity did not identify the actual boats depicted on the stamps, thanks to fellow member Tony Finn, they were identified by reference to an illustrated brochure produced by the Naval Service. The coastal patrol vessel - "LE Ciara" (32p) was first commissioned in 1984 and purchased from the Royal Navy in 1988 and is still in service. The corvette - "LE Cliona" (44p) was built in 1946 and remained in service until 1970. The M1 torpedo boat (52p) was one of six boats (numbered M1-M6) purchased from Britain and was in service from 1940 to 1952.

Irish Naval Service - Booklet: The front cover illustrates "LE Ciara", the same boat as depicted on the 32p value. The back cover shows "LE Macha" (1946-1970) - it was scrapped in 1972. The two pane booklet contains six different singles as follows:-

Pane 1: Three stamps in a vertical se-tenant strip - 32p imperf. top and right, 32p imperf. right and 32p imperf. right and bottom. The pane also illustrates a helicopter landing on the "LE Eithne" which is a Helicopter Patrol Vessel with a modern Naval Gunnery System which was commissioned in 1988 and remains in service. It is one of five boats built for the Naval Service at the Verolme Dockyard in Cork;

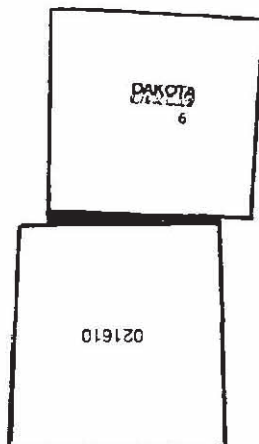
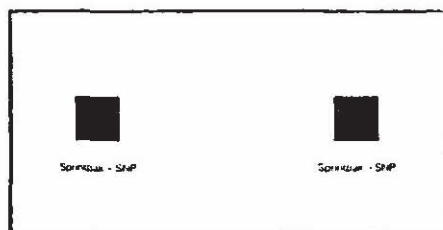
Pane 2: Two stamps se-tenant - 44p imperf. bottom and 32p imperf. bottom plus 52p imperf. right and bottom. The pane also illustrates the M1 Torpedo Boat as shown on the 52p value.

Each pane is rouletted in the margins and stitched into the covers.

Irish Cinema Centenary: The sheetlets of sixteen stamps were made up of four se-tenant strips (vertically and horizontally), each strip containing one of each design. All sheetlets were perforated through all four margins and have an imprint and colour controls but no plate numbers. Perf. 13½. Individual stamps measure 44mm x 28mm.

Christmas - Sheetlet: The fifteen stamps are set out in three rows of five with matching decorative margins. Sheetlets have an imprint but no plate numbers or colour controls and are perforated through both left and right margins. The stamps were only on general sale in complete sheetlets. The CCP1 gum varies and appears either as mottled green or flat and white with slight blue tinge.

DEFINITIVES - HERITAGE AND TREASURES



32p Self-Adhesive: In February 1996, a new version of the Sprintpak/Printset printing was noted. The stamp has not altered in appearance or perforation but the reverse of the backing paper which was previously blank, now refers to Sprintpak - SNP. This is repeated throughout the roll. Sprintpak are a subsidiary of Australia Post and organise the production of the stamps. The actual firm who prints the stamps in Australia is "Printset SNP Cambec" formerly known as "Printset Cambec" who have always printed the Australian produced Irish self-adhesives. SNP refers to Singapore National Printer who now own the firm. I understand the contract for the 32p definitive self-adhesive is shared between ISSP and Sprintpak and, therefore, both versions are likely to be in circulation at the same time. Paper, roll make-up, labels and box unchanged. Sold by the bureau in strips of three.

A further printing by ISSP appeared in September 1996. ISSP no longer strip the waste from around the stamps on the roll. The individual stamps match the previous printing although overall they are slightly lighter in colour. UV reaction remains dark. Rolls are reeled sideways with left hand delivery with joins every 20th stamp plus the usual reminder labels as per previous printing. The box has been altered with three notable differences:-

- (a) The 'D' flap has been cut down so as to reveal the printer's reference ('Produced by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited') on the 'C' flap underneath;
- (b) The reference 'Covers Postage up to 20g (POP)' has been added to one of the side panels; and
- (c) The shading behind the stamp illustrations has been changed from dark blue to black.

The boxes for the ISSP printings also bear the Dakota name/logo and a number on one of the inner bottom flaps in similar manner as the 'Europa' issue as referred to above except that both logo and number appear on the same flap. Numbers seen to date on the original printing issued in 1995 - 7 and 8. Numbers seen to date on the latest printing - 6 and 9. In addition, a reference number 021610 is also printed on the second flap of the latest printing. Can anybody confirm any other numbers/combinations? Sold by the bureau in strips of three.

Sheet Issues - ISSP: A printing of the 52p value on CCP1 paper was first noted in March 1996 - to date only plate 1B1B seen although plate 1A1A is presumed to exist. Can anybody confirm? Given that Enschedé printings were available since November 1995, presumably this ISSP printing was distributed prior to that date. Can any member confirm?

Machine and Counter Booklet: No new IR£1 booklet was issued during 1996 although one was due in March and was listed in the Bureau stocklist. The next booklet will contain the new Birds of Ireland definitives.



20p Enschedé - Plate 1A1A
with imperf. top margin



28p Enschedé - Colour Control
with imperf. right margin

Sheet Issues - Enschedé: In my 1995 article I referred to a perforation variation on sheets of the 52p value. At the time, it was noted that all sheets printed by Enschedé were perforated through all four margins with the exception of 1A1A sheets of the 52p - the right hand margin is imperforate with no single pin extension. Recently the same variation has been noted on 1B1B sheets of the 28p (resulting in a new colour check block with right margin imperforate) and 1A1A sheets of the 20p value. In the case of the 20p value, as the design is horizontal, the top margin is imperforate resulting in both the plate and colour check blocks with imperforate top margins. There is the possibility that 1A1A sheets of the 52p exist with perforated right margin although this would not give rise to any other collectable block. Other variations may exist on either 'A' or 'B' sheets of the three low values printed by Enschedé - 20p, 28p and 52p. No variations have been noted to date on the large format high values. Has any member noted any other variations ?

PRESENTATION BOOKS, PACKS AND FOLDERS

30 May - Isle of Man T.T. - Irish Winners: A presentation folder was available which contains both sets of stamps and miniature sheets. Although initially advertised by An Post, it was only sold by the Isle of Man Post Office. Cost Stg£5.95 - face value Stg£4.70.

23 November - 1996 Year Pack: The Year Pack contains one each of the special and commemorative stamps issued during the year, including the 28p Christmas sheetlet stamp and both the sheet set and self-adhesives for the Europa issue, but excludes the Greetings booklet panes and miniature sheets - a total of 42 stamps. Initially advertised in Collectors News at IR£15.50, it was sold at the face value of the contents - IR£15.16.

December - 1995/96 Year Book: Each book contains all special and commemorative issues from the four stamps issued on 27 July 1995 (Rotunda Hospital/St. Patrick's College, Maynooth/Ending of War in Europe/Geological Survey of Ireland) to the Christmas 1996 issue i.e. a period of eighteen months. The book includes 67 individual stamps (including the French FF2.80 L'Imaginaire Irlandais stamp and the four Isle of Man Post Office T.T. stamps), 3 miniature sheets (Year of the Rat, Isle of Man T.T. and Freshwater Ducks) and 1 Greetings booklet pane - total face value of IR£28.84. Both the sheet set and the self-adhesives are included for the Reptiles & Amphibians and Europa issues. The China '96 miniature sheet was not included. A numbered black print of the Geological Survey stamp is included in the book. Total printing of 3,000 (1995: 4,000) standard copies and 130 (1995: 150) half-bound leather editions. The standard edition was initially sold for IR£25 (i.e. below the face value of the contents) but was increased to IR£30 from 17 January 1997. The luxury edition was sold for IR£100.

FIRST DAY COVERS, CANCELLATIONS AND MAXIMUM CARDS

IN CELEBRATION
OF THE
50th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE IRISH
NAVAL SERVICE



First Day Covers: A new FDC size was introduced with the first issue of 1996. The new cover measures 190mm x 127mm and costs 25p (previously 18p). The squarer format is very welcome and allows collectors to mount FDC's on conventional album pages. Special covers were available for all special and commemorative issues except for the four individual stamp issues released on 4 July. A new general purpose FDC was used for this issue. The illustration on the cover features a reproduction of the wall plaque above the main entrance doors to the G.P.O. in Dublin. During 1996, the FDC contract was shared between ISSP and Walsall with the latter producing the majority of the covers.

Pictorial cancels were available for all issues except the China '96 miniature sheet. No first day cover service was available for this issue although the stamp content (2 x 32p) differed from the equivalent booklet pane (3 x 32p). The same first day cancel (and FDC) was used for the individual Love stamp, the Greetings booklet panes and the Year of the Rat miniature sheet.

A special cachet (as illustrated) was used at the Hawbowline base in Cork in connection with the Naval Service issue. It appears to have been organised by the Naval Base as it was not available from An Post. The 1995/96 year book illustrates most of the first day postmarks including a Douglas, Isle of Man cancel for the Irish Post Office in connection with the T.T. issue. Presumably this was used in the Isle of Man in connection with sale of Irish FDC's but there was no reference to same in Collectors News at the time.



Normal



Missing Crossbar
in Á of LÁ

Maximum Cards: Sets of maximum cards (now 20p each, an increase of 3p) were available for the Horse Racing and Isle of Man - Irish T.T. Winners issues. The Isle of Man did not issue a set of maximum cards. The T.T. cards were not available at the philatelic bureau counter until subsequent to the issue date (14 June) and, unlike previous cards, there is no reference to An Post on the reverse.

I noted two versions of the Dublin cancel for the Horse Racing set. The second version has the crossbar missing from the 'Á' of 'LÁ'. I have only noted it on serviced maximum cards prepared by the bureau.

POSTAL STATIONERY AND GREETING CARDS



Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes	Printer
17 Feb	St. Patrick's Day			
	- set of five prepaid postcards	38p	Per card	Colorprint
	- set of five greetings cards with prepaid envelopes	65p	Per card/envelope	Colorprint
18 Oct	Stampa Exhibition Cards - set of three	32p	per card	B.C.R. Press
18 Oct	Oireachtas '96 (Gaoth Dobhair) - postcard	-	no charge	
Nov	New C5 Registered Envelope (Plastic)	IR£1.55		
1992 (?)	Discount Postcard			
	- Reprint with Security Underprint	IR£1.20	Per pack of five	Task Print & Packaging
1995 (?)	Discount Postcard			
	- Reprint with incorrect spelling			
	Stamp refers to 'íochta' instead of 'íochta'	IR£1.20	Per pack of five	Moate Press

St. Patrick's Day Cards: Five postcards were available featuring (1) Shamrock and bee; (2) Mamturk Mountains, Co. Galway - Part of the Western Way; (3) Peace and Celtic Motif; (4) Gold Dress Fastener and Bronze Age Settlement; and (5) Balloon and Flying Envelopes. The Gold Dress Fastener which originates from Clones, Co. Monaghan is featured on the 20p Heritage and Treasures definitive.

The card featuring the Balloon and Flying Envelopes design was privately overprinted by the Stampa Council with a combined greetings and thank you message. One card was sent through the post to each member cancelled with a Dublin Mails Centre rectangular postmark of 9 March 1996. Total of 400 cards produced.

Five greetings cards complete with prepaid envelope bearing the same R.J. King design in slightly larger format (overall size 20.5mm x 39mm) were also available. The cards feature (1) Paintbrush and Butterfly; (2) Shamrock, Window and Celtic Motif; (3) Celtic Motif (4) Smiling Child; and (5) Shamrock.

None of the designs (postcards or greeting cards) were used in prior years. The imprint features St. Patrick and the Paschal Fire as first utilised in 1995. The usual green first day of issue cancel was available from the philatelic bureau for use on both cards and envelopes.



Postage Paid
Within Ireland Only

10 REGISTERED ENVELOPES
AT £1.55 EACH
TOTAL VALUE £15.50

Stampa '96: A set of three exhibition cards which this year specifically referred to Stampa's 25th anniversary were issued by An Post - full details are set out on page 18 under Exhibition Souvenirs, Postmarks and Cachets.

Oireachtas Postcard: The 1996 Oireachtas was held in Gweedore, Co. Donegal (25 October to 3 November). The undenominated card was released prior to the event on the opening day of Stampa (18 October).

C5 Registration Envelope: The existing paper registered envelope has been replaced by a larger C5 envelope (238mm x 180mm) made of heavy duty plastic. The price remains at IR£1.55 including minimum registration fee of IR£1.05 and postage up to 50g. The 50g. limit is referred to in the stamp imprint but an additional sticker states "Postage Paid/Within Ireland Only". Presumably for overseas sendings (incl G.B.) postage of 32p for up to the first weight step of 20g. is included although this is not stated. Subsequent printings of the envelope will probably incorporate the wording as part of the basic envelope. The combined paper registration label and receipt attached to the front of the envelope differs in layout and style from the normal bar code label. They were distributed to post offices in a clear plastic bag containing ten envelopes; a small sticker indicating quantity and price is attached to the bag - there are no wrappers.

Discount Postcards: Two new printings were noted by fellow collectors during 1996. The first type was discovered by my eagle eyed philatelic colleague, Maurice Barrett. It bears a security type underprint beneath the "stamp" which can be seen when the card is tilted to the light - it is more clearly seen under a UV lamp. The underprint is by way of a four line repeating pattern "Posta íochta Postas íochta/Postage Paid Postage Paid". The earliest date recorded is April 1992 on stock from the bureau in connection with a special flight cancel. The earliest commercially used copy noted is dated 30 June 1992. How many other variations have gone unnoticed in the interim ? I understand that the underprint was added by the printers and was not an An Post specification. The firm, Task Print and Packaging subsequently closed due to financial difficulties and the contract was transferred to Moate Press.



The second type does not bear any security underprint but has an incorrect spelling - "íochta" (should be "íochta") The earliest date recorded so far is 11 October 1995. The overall appearance and the size of the lettering differs from previous printings; in particular the lettering is much thinner. In addition the wrapper, although unchanged, is shiny in appearance. Moate Press were responsible for this printing.

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS, POSTMARKS AND CACHETS

SOUVENIRS AND CACHETS - OVERSEAS



24 to 28 January - Stampex (London): The Love and Greetings stamps featuring Zig and Zag had been issued the day before the show opened so no "first day" cachet was available this year. However, there was a surprise change in the ordinary cachet design which incorporated Zig and Zag and an interchangeable datestamp. This is the first time that an interchangeable datestamp has been used for an overseas show.

18 to 24 May - China '96 (Beijing): As already referred to under "Special and Commemorative Issues", a special miniature sheet was available in connection with this exhibition.



8 to 16 June - Capex '96 (Toronto): A special cachet was provided by the local agent as none was provided by the bureau in Dublin - see note below.

13 to 15 June - Essen (Germany): A special cachet was available.

21 to 27 October - Tapei '96 (China): A special cachet was available.

Official cachets were also prepared in Dublin for **Bandung '96**, Indonesia (21 to 30 March), **Stamp '96**, Wembley, London (25-28 April), **Hong Kong '96**, (10-13 May), **China '96**, Beijing (18-24 May) and **Capex '96**, Toronto (8 to 16 June) but due to an industrial dispute in An Post they were not forwarded to the shows and thus were not applied to any covers sent to the bureau. Apart from Capex '96, cachets may have been prepared by the local agents but I'm not aware of any such cancels. Any further information from members would be welcome.

In addition to the foregoing exhibition cachets, there was a cachet available on both 16 and 17 March at the Irish College in Paris in connection with the *L'Imaginaire Irlandais* issue - see page 6 under Special and Commemorative issues.

SOUVENIRS, POSTMARKS AND CACHETS - REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

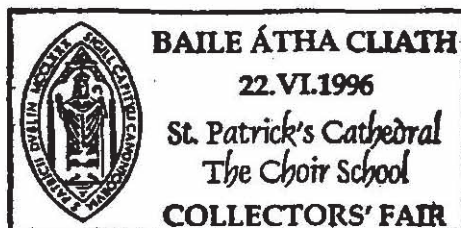
Philatelic facilities were available at all of the Irish shows referred to below other than for the Sligo Philatelic Society show. Except for Sligo, all IPTA/Collectors' Road Show postmarks repeat the designs of prior years. All overprints on booklet panes and miniature sheets are in black. Numbers printed and printer details given, if known.

stampa '96



25th
national stamp exhibition
DUBLIN OCTOBER 18-20 1996

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Number Printed	Printer
17 Feb	IPTA/Collectors' Road Show, Kilkenny - Year of the Rat Miniature Sheet with o/p	IR£2.50	400	Mahons
24 Mar	IPTA/Collectors' Road Show, Limerick - Horse Racing Prestige Booklet Pane 1 with o/p	IR£2.50	400	Mahons
13 Apr	IPTA/Collectors Road Show, Cork - Horse Racing Prestige Booklet Pane 3 with o/p	IR£2.50	400	Mahons
22 June	Collectors' Fair St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir School - reproduction picture postcard	40p	500	Reprint
27 July	Sligo Philatelic Society - Booklet	IR£2.00	200	
14 Sept	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Sligo - Horse Racing Booklet Pane 4 with o/p	IR£2.50	400	Mahons
5 Oct	Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition - Booklet	IR£1.50	200	
8 Oct	Stampa '96 - Irish Naval Service Booklet Pane 2 with o/p - Isle of TT Miniature Sheet with o/p - Horse Racing Booklet Pane 3 with o/p	IR£12.50 IR£2.50	700, all sold 700, all sold 1,200, all sold	Mahons Mahons Mahons
18 Oct	Stampa '96 - Large Card	20p	300	Reprint
9 Nov	IPTA/Collectors' Road Show, Waterford - Irish Naval Service Booklet Pane 1 with o/p	IR£2.50	400	Mahons
23 Nov	IPTA/Collectors' Road Show, Galway - Irish Naval Service Booklet Pane 2 with o/p	IR£2.50	400	Mahons



IPTA/Collectors' Road Show, Kilkenny: The one day show was held in the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. The Year of the Rat miniature sheet was individually numbered and overprinted "Kilkenny Collectors' Show/17th February 1996". The show also coincided with the issue date for the St. Patrick's Day cards and it was thus possible to obtain the cards postmarked with the show cancel.

IPTA/Collectors' Road Show, Limerick: The one day show was held in Jury's Hotel, Limerick. The first pane from the Horse Racing booklet was individually numbered and overprinted "Collectors Show/Limerick/24-3-'96".

IPTA/Collectors' Road Show, Cork: The one day show was held in Jury's Hotel. The third pane from the Horse Racing Prestige booklet was individually numbered and overprinted "Collectors Show Cork 13th April '96".

Collectors' Fair - St. Patrick's Cathedral - The Choir School: Held in St. Patrick's Choir School (beside St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin), there was a souvenir postcard featuring a reproduction of card of the Cathedral, published by Hely & Co. (c. 1905) and a cancel for the one day show. 40 of the cards were serviced with the 1991 commemorative issued for St. Patrick's Cathedral 800th anniversary and signed by the Dean of the Cathedral, price IR£5 each.



Sligo Philatelic Society: The local society held a one day fair and issued a numbered booklet incorporating the strip of three stamps (32p, 38p and 44p) taken from pane 2 of the Botanic Gardens booklet issued in 1995. A private cachet was available similar to the 1995 design. An Post did not attend the show.

IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Sligo: The one day show was held at the Sligo Park Hotel. The fourth pane from the Horse Racing booklet was individually numbered and overprinted "Collectors Show/Sligo 14-9-96".

Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition: The one day show was held at the Imperial Hotel. The numbered booklet contains a pair of the 32p Irish Naval Service stamps. As usual the back cover of the booklet reproduces the postmark used at the show. A matching cover (30p) was available which featured a map of Hawbowline Island in Cork Harbour, the headquarters of the Naval Service.

Stampa '96: Souvenirs for the three day show (18 to 20 October) were distributed to members prior to the show on 8 October. Members received two souvenirs this year - pane two from the Irish Naval Service booklet overprinted "Stampa '96/25th Irish National Stamp Exhibition-Dublin, October 18-20 1996" plus the Irish T.T. Winners miniature sheet overprinted "25th Irish National Stamp Exhibition-Dublin, October 18-20 1996". The public souvenir was pane three from the Horse Racing booklet also overprinted "25th Irish National Stamp Exhibition-Dublin, October 18-20 1996". All souvenirs were individually numbered. A large cream coloured card was also available which reproduced the three exhibition cancels. The large size was to facilitate collectors who wanted to affix any of the three souvenirs to obtain the show cancel(s). This replaced the card insert within the catalogue of recent years.



An Post issued a set of three exhibition cards on the opening day of the show which was held at the Riverside Centre, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2. The three postcard themes, stamps and matching postmarks were as follows:-

- 18 October: Irish Naval Service/32p Naval Service stamp/Anchor postmark;
- 19 October: UNICEF/32p UNICEF stamp/Mother and Child postmark plus the numeral 50; and
- 20 October: 25th Stampa/32p definitive stamp/"Stampa 25 Years" within a laurel wreath.

The stamp designs are the same as the sheet issues complete with issued values and simulated perforations but in much darker colours. A change in the format of the cards was introduced this year. The illustrations which included a blow up of the relevant stamp design without the figures of value were on the obverse side of the cards and only the stamp imprints appeared on the reverse.

All three cards were overprinted on the reverse for the Stampa Awards Dinner which was held in Snipes Restaurant, Ely Place, Dublin 2 on 19 October. The cards were cancelled with the UNICEF postmark of the same date.

The Irish National Committee for UNICEF once again had a stand at the show and for a donation (minimum IR£1) collectors were able to obtain the UNICEF card cancelled with their two colour (blue and red) meter postmark. All cards were dated 19 October with 0.00 value. Total of 200 cards issued.

The Isle Of Man Post Office was the only overseas postal administration to attend the exhibition this year. Their special Stampa cachet was not supplied in time for the show but orders were accepted and covers with the cachet were subsequently forwarded by post from the bureau. All stamps were cancelled with a Douglas, Isle of Man CDS of 18 OC 96 - the cachet was only applied to the cover.



IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Waterford: The one day show was held at Tower Hotel. Pane one from the Irish Naval Service booklet was individually numbered and overprinted "Waterford Collectors Show/9-11-'96".

IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Galway: The one day show was held at Jury's Inn Hotel. The second pane from the Irish Naval Service booklet was individually numbered and overprinted "Collectors Show/23-11-'96".

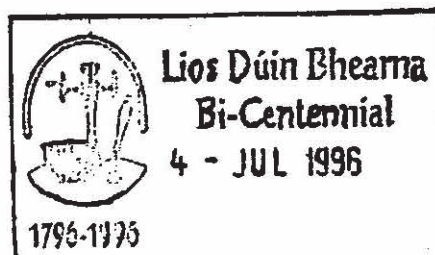
OTHER SPECIAL POSTMARKS AND CACHETS

I set out below details of special postmarks other than the exhibition items referred to above. The Lisdoonvarna cancel was the only postmark referred to by An Post in Collectors' News.



Na Clocha Liatha

5 VII 1996



3 to 7 July - Murphy's Irish Open - Druids Glen: The Irish Open Golf Championship was held for the first time Druids Glen, near Greystones, Co. Wicklow. The usual temporary post office facilities were provided for the Pro Am day (3 July) and the Irish Open (4 to 7 July). The same postmark which was applied in a rose-pink colour was available for all five days. Swiftpost service available. 4 July also coincided with the four new special and commemorative stamps issued on that day. The Open was won by Colin Montgomerie.

4 July to 31 December - Lisdoonvarna Bicentenary: To coincide with the bicentenary of the town of Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare and the 150th anniversary of the town's post office, a special cancellation was available from 4 July and was due to be withdrawn on 31 December 1996. The large rectangular cancel was poorly applied in black to all mail posted from the office (including commercial mail).



6 October - Beatification of Edmund Ignatius Rice - Callan: A special one day cancel was available at Callan P.O., Co. Kilkenny on Sunday 6 October to mark the Beatification of Edmund Ignatius Rice on that day in Rome. The post office opened for a short period on the day to accept and cancel covers. Westcourt, near Callan was the birthplace of Edmund Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers. The postmark reproduces the same side profile as used in the Cork Stamp Exhibition cancel of 1994.

12 to 15 December - European Union Summit - Dublin Castle: The European Union Council Meeting was held in Dublin Castle (13 to 15 December) preceded by a meeting of Finance Ministers on 12 December. Temporary post office facilities were provided at Dublin for all four days and a special cancel was available which incorporates an illustration of one of the entrance gates to the Castle. There was no public access to the Castle and thus none to the post office during the period.



Original Design
(as submitted)



Actual Cachets
(English and French)

National Museum - Oldest Letter Box Cachets: In 1989, fellow member Karl Winkelmann and I submitted a proposal to the National Museum to renovate Ireland's oldest letter box which, at the time, was stored at their premises in Daingean, Co. Offaly. The box is the sole survivor of the "Ashworth" type and dates from March 1855. The box was subsequently renovated in accordance with our proposals and was installed in the entrance foyer of the Museum's premises in Kildare Street, Dublin 2. We also advised that the box should be brought back into regular use and that a cachet (design supplied) be applied to all items posted in the box. During 1996, the cachet idea was finally introduced even though there are no regular collections. No collections times are indicated although the Museum staff in the adjoining souvenir shop say that the box is cleared on a daily basis. However, any items I posted in the box remained uncollected for up to a month! The revised cachet design is available in six different languages - English, Irish, German, French, Italian and Spanish. All six rubber cachets are chained to a stand complete with ink pad (pale-blue ink) and visitors apply the cachets on a self-service basis. As a result there is no need to actually post anything in the box to obtain the cachet(s).

SLOGAN POSTMARKS



330 - KINSALE/WINNER OF THE/EUROPEAN PRIZE/FOR TOURISM &THE ENVIRONMENT/1995: In use in Kinsale from May.

331 - 96/BANTRY/BAY 96/FESTIVAL/SUMMER 1996: In use in Bantry from 6 June to at least 8 August as part of a local festival to mark the 200th anniversary of the failed French invasion of 1796 (under Wolf Tone).

332 - STAMPA 96/October 18-20/Riverside Centre/Dublin 2: In use in Dublin to publicise the National Stamp Exhibition. Unfortunately, through no fault of Stampa, the slogan was only brought into use on 17 October and continued until early November. It was also used, in error, on 9 December (die L).

333 - 20th ANNIVERSARY/NEWBRIDGE/KILDARE/LIONS CLUB/we serve: The slogan was only used in Newbridge during December 1996.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

December - An Post Christmas Cards: A large Christmas postcard was forwarded by the philatelic bureau to all account holders which reproduces on the obverse side the 28p Christmas sheetlet stamp design. The reverse side carries a Christmas message together with a printed stamp featuring the same design together with the wording 'Postage Paid/Postas Íoctha' below the stamp design area. The card was datestamped with a preprinted version of the usual bureau CDS of 6 December. There was no special postmark this year. Printed by B.C.R. Press.



The general card used by An Post was in three dimensional format and incorporated the 28p sheetlet stamp design. The small and rather plain SDS card featured a Christmas parcel. The Post Offices Division of An Post produced a traditional type of card which featured a post office and snow scene; inside the card Santa could be seen serving behind the counter.



December - Santa Christmas Envelope: The 1996 postage paid envelope repeats the prior year design with Santa pulling a sleigh together with a pre-printed "North Pole 12.00 PM Dec Christmas" postmark. The only changes are that the usual An Post postage paid indicator is slightly larger and the inner lining of the envelope has a repeating green castle design.

PostShop Postcard: Maurice Barrett has found one further card in the series featuring Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford. The card is numbered 20 in the series leaving five missing cards - 19, 27, 33, 34 and 35.

Railway Preservation Society of Ireland Issues: No new issues were released during 1996. A special cover was prepared to mark the 20th Anniversary of the last running of the Mullingar-Sligo Sorting Carriage. Covers were postmarked at Mullingar on 14 May 1996 and had a preprinted cachet on the envelope.

An Post Diary: No diary was produced for 1997.

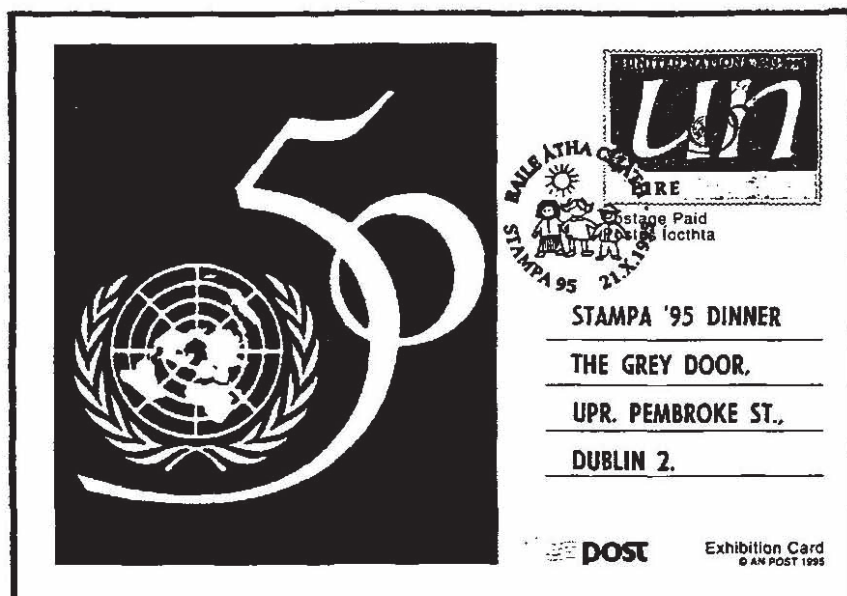
CONCLUSION

In order to shorten the overall length of this yearly article I have dropped the sections on "Flight Covers" and "Foreign Stamps and Postmarks with Irish Associations". I will include separate articles on these subjects in later issues of the Journal.

Once again, I wish to thank An Post and my many philatelic friends for their help in producing this article and in particular Maurice Barrett, John Barrington, Bernard Donohoe, Tony Finn, Peter Geoffroy, Heinz Grunz, John Holman, Otto Jung, Jimmy Kelly, Michael Kelly, Gene Labiuk, John Lennon, John Mullen, Tony Quigley, Jim Ryan, David Turner, Ronny Vogt, Ian Whyte and Bill Zellers for their never ending patience in answering my queries and providing much valuable information.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 1995 - AN UPDATE

Brian Warren



Type I
(four lines)



Type II
(six lines)

Marconi Issue: Two versions of the Dublin FDC cancel have been noted by Otto Jung and are illustrated above. Type I has four inner lines making up the diamond shape whereas type II has six lines.

Stampa '95: Details of the souvenir sales for the previous year are now available. A total of 500 member souvenirs were ordered, spoils 20 leaving 480 available for distribution. A total of 383 were sold. 2,000 of the ordinary souvenir were ordered, spoils 20 leaving 1,980 available for sale. A total of 965 were sold of which 610 were sold at Stampa with 355 of the members purchasing matching pairs. All unsold souvenirs were either used for postage or re-purchased by An Post.

I forgot to mention in my 1995 article that the United Nations 50th Anniversary card was overprinted with the menu on the reverse side for the Stampa Awards Dinner held at The Grey Door, Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin 2 on 21 October. The venue address was printed on the front of the card. The cards were not cancelled. Note that the UN card for day 3 (22 October) was used not the UNICEF design (21 October). A small number of the cards featuring Irish Soldiers serving in Somalia were rubber stamped on the obverse side with a single line green overprint "STAMPA 1995 TEAM" and signed by the Organising Council chairman - Finbar O'Mahony. These cards were distributed to the volunteer helpers at the show. A similar overprinted card was NOT made available in 1996.

OBITUARIES

It was in the late 1940`s that I first met the **Revd. EDWIN DAVEY** and we had a most wonderful fifty years as friends.

On February 1st, 1997, I had a telephone call telling me that Edwin had passed away on January 29h. For me that was the saddest night I ever spent in my 88 years of life. Edwin was a most wonderful person and a real fountain of knowledge when it came to Irish Postal History. Everyone I know has always praised his kindness in imparting that knowledge.

While he was interested in this subject from the early 1950`s, it was not until 1984 that he was elected Vice President of the *IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE*. He was then elected President in 1987.

Following this Presidency, he was called by the *FEDERATION OF PHILATELIC SOCIETIES OF IRELAND* to sign the roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Ireland. This was an honour that he particularly proud of.

Everyone praised his booklet *AN INTRODUCTION TO IRISH MILEAGE MARKS*, published in 1989, which is the standard text on the subject.

His health was not so good in 1996, and it was from March of that year that he had four operations.

He worked in various parishes in Northern Ireland and England and made countless friends. His wonderful wife helped him all the time, as parishioners in Culmore will tell you, being there from 1948 until 1953.

I will end with this short epitaph -

`Remember me is all I ask, but should it prove too great a task ..... forget!`

[Percy French; from the `Visitors` Book`, Glenveagh Castle, County Donegal; 1909]

Bill Kane

Any donations in Edwin`s memory should be sent to -
Salisbury Hospice Care, Oldstock Hospital, Salisbury.

MARGARET ZELLERS was born in Madison, Wisconsin. She was an elementary school teacher for nineteen years, spending the last ten years of teaching at the Moreno Valley Unified School District before retiring in 1976.

Mrs Zellers served in the Women`s Auxillary Corps of the United States Air Corps before her discharge as a second lieutenant. She was the department commander of the Central California Military Order of World Wars and an officer in the Moreno Valley Teacher`s Association. She was a member of the Retired Officers` Association and the Board of Directors of the Health Systems Agency. She was also a member of the Riverside Geneology Society and treasurer of the *EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION*.

Peg is survived by her husband, Bill and two sons, Robert and James, four grandchildren and a sister, Dorothy.