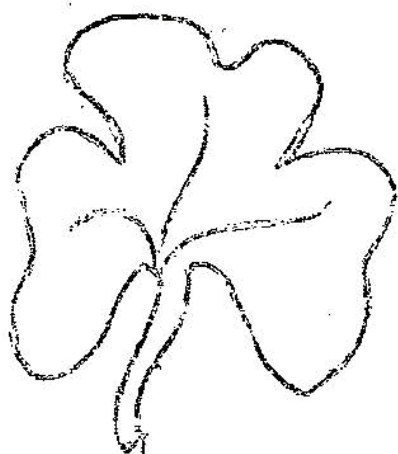


IRISH
PHILATELY



IRISH
PHILATELIC
CIRCLE

Dear Members,

This, the second issue of the Journal with yours truly in charge, comes out just before I sit some important examinations, so will you please excuse any mistakes made in it for that reason.

I have been well and truly taken to task by various members of the group over my hell-fire article about "Secret Societies". Well, I expected a response, but not so much as I did get, and I must apologise to all offended members for hurting their feelings by publishing without due attention to the real facts of the case since I have found only too late that the reference books I used were biased and factually worthless. Below, I append some of the correspondence on the subject which give a far better account of things than I was able to. I can only hope that the persons shocked by my article will forgive me.

In this issue you will also find that pages S.3 and S.4. of the Bibliography of Irish Philately are again included since they were found to be incomplete due to my using an incomplete copy. I again apologise for any inconvenience incurred.

Well, this Editorial sounds more like Cardinal Newman's "Apologia" at the moment, but I cannot help that. I must now apologise for all of you for not sending me articles! True, the Journal is larger this time, and includes more articles, but whereas these articles come from mainly well-tried and trusty sources there are hardly any new contributors at all. This is a shocking state of affairs and one which you alone can rectify. True, most of us, I expect, have to go out to work in order to even afford to collect stamps, but surely there is a Sunday afternoon or some other time when you could sit down, pen in hand, and write me just one little article, (more if you want to), for the Journal, on your pet subject? Please, let's have all those articles you keep meaning to write.

P. Harradine,
College of S.S. Mark & John,
King's Rd.,
Chelsea, S.W.10.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir,

In all countries down the ages secret societies have at various periods played a part—mostly minor—in shaping history. This is particularly true of areas in which native populations have been dominated and oppressed by outsiders. In this respect Ireland is no different from others.

To attempt to deal adequately with the causes, origins, aims and efforts of any one secret society would require long study by professional historians; and it is not surprising that in the well meant summing which Mr. F.W.A. Harradine has tried to give in his article, "The Postage Stamps of Ireland and their relationship with Irish Secret Societies both past and present" in a recent copy of Irish Philately, he goes completely astray.

I shall not attempt here to deal with all the errors and misconceptions in Mr. Harradine's article; that would take too many pages. It will suffice, perhaps, to make a few salient points clear.

1. Daniel O'Connell, the famous Catholic Lawyer and Leader, was at heart a pacifist and completely opposed to bloodshed. For this reason, he was held in discredit by the Fenians, the Young Irelanders of the 1848 period, and even by men of 1916 and later. He condemned Ribbonism, according to O'Hegarty, p.24. (Titles of books at end).

2. The United Irishmen of the 1798 period were led predominately by the patriotic Irish Protestants whose aims were to relieve the burdens of their fellows, the Catholics, the Presbyterians, and others. Wolfe Tone and Lord Edward Fitzgerald, the brothers Sheares, and Henry Joy McCracken were prominent amongst the Protestant national leaders of the 1798 period. The avowed object of the United Irishmen, at least during its early years, was "a brotherhood of affection, a communion of rights and a union of power amongst Irishmen of every religious persuasion, and thereby to obtain a complete reform of the Legislature, founded on the principles of civil, political, and religious liberty". (C.F. Hayden and Moonan Vol II pp. 392/3.)
3. The United Irishmen later were a secret society bound together by an oath. British Government infiltrators encouraged its efforts in order to provoke open rebellion and thus justify the Act of Union 1801, (which was brought about by the direct purchase by money grants and titles of the more venial members of a Protestant Irish Parliament.). (For a good treatment of this see the famous Protestant historian Lecky, Vol. V).
4. The Young Irelanders, again, were led by Protestant patriots such as John Mitchel, William Smith O'Brien, Thomas Davis and others. Their primary aim was "National Independence" compared to which the Irish grievances on the one hand and concessions from England on the other were minor points. (C.F. Edmund Curtis p. 366).
5. The first Parliamentary Leader of the Irish Party was Isaac Butt, a Liberal Protestant. His successor was the famous Parnell, another Protestant.
6. The I.R.B. of the 1867 period came to be known as the Fenian Movement and had both Protestant and Catholic Leaders. This was the secret body which inspired, (through its older surviving members of later decades), the 1916 Rising.
7. Robert Emmett, the sponsor of the abortive 1803 Rising was a Protestant Irish patriot revered ever since in many Irish Catholic households.
8. It was the Ulster Unionists initiative led by Lord Carson and Lord Berkenhead in arousing the Ulster Volunteers to oppose Home Rule, and the mutiny of British Officers at the Curragh which sparked off the Irish Volunteer Movement in 1913, and the body became known, first abusively, and later popularly, as the I.R.A.. This was not a secret organisation; neither was the Sinn Féin.
9. The Gaelic Athletic Association was founded to preserve Irish Sporting traditions against official efforts at suppressing them. It was not a secret society; neither were its founders, Michael Cusack, Archbishop Croke of Cashel, and Maurice Davin, members of any secret organisation. It was founded in 1884, not in 1848.
10. The Gaelic League owes its origin largely to Dr. Douglas Hyde, its first President, a staunch Protestant. It was never a political body. It might be argued that it has some subversive elements in its membership, but it was never a secret society.

It is a great pity when old enmities are being buried and good relations are being happily restored between different but neighbouring nations that miscalculations of any kind in any sphere should endanger harmony. I write to preserve that harmony.

Books by recognised historians:

- History of Ireland in the 18th century-in 5 Vols., by W.E.H. Lecky.
- A History of Ireland under the Union-by P.S. O'Hegarty.
- A short history of the Irish people-in 2 Vols., by H. Hayden & G.A. Moonan.
- A History of Ireland-by E. Curtis.

WILLIAM KANE.

also:-

Dear Mr Harradine,

I see from Irish Philately that you have undertaken the task of acting as Editor of the organ of the Irish Philatelic Circle. I congratulate you

...on your spirit of help and enthusiasm in striving to keep alive and circulate the news and activities of our hobby.

However, I think it very unfortunate that you should have included an article entitled "The Postage stamps of Ireland and their relationship with Irish Secret Societies both past and present." It is unfortunate that in your very first venture an article of this nature should appear. It is unfortunate because it can create a wrong impression and, in fact, disrupt the harmony so prevalent in this group for so long.

I will say, right away, that you are not aware of this, because you say you "trust it does not lead to any bad feelings". You say that you welcome constructive criticism, suggestions and advice". It is because of this that I write to you and I hope that what I have to say will include all three.

First of all, you are not correct in assuming that "All the books are biased in favour of either English or Irish". There are several books by recognised and reliable historians which give sound history unbiased in any way. There are also quite reliable Biographies which help to fill in the picture. A list of these may be found at the end of "A History of Ireland" by Edmund Curtis, in a current University Paperback Publication, (2/6). On the other hand it is possible to get other books obviously biased in one way or another; these should be ignored by educated people. Your title brings to mind one such book; it is "The Secret Societies of Ireland" by H.B.C. Pollard. This gentleman was a police officer and saw Secret Societies lurking under every society of Ireland, no matter how harmless. His unreliability may be gauged from the fact that he did not even know how many people had signed the 1916 Proclamation. He gives six, (you give six also!). They were Clarke, Mc Dermot, Mc Donagh, Pearse, Ceannt, Plunkett, and Connolly, seven in all. It may be that this gentleman made the fantastic statement that the I.R.B. numbered 150,000 men, I write from memory only.

Your section on O'Connell is really misleading. He was always a pacifist. To say he threatened civil war simply is not true. In fact he broke with any people who encouraged violence. I never knew he was a Ribbonman, and find it hard to believe that this is true. Where did you find it?

Parnell and Davitt had nothing to do with the founding of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Later, Parnell was invited to become a patron and accepted. It was founded in 1884, as the Golden Jubilee shows. Its purpose was the preservation of national games, nothing more. You are quite wrong in saying it had any other purpose, and to brand it secret because some of its members were also members of other organisations is ad-hoc reasoning and quite invalid. One could "prove" anything by this method.

Your inclusion of the 150th Anniversary of U.S.A. Constitution is quite unwarranted, and your argument is simply tendentious.

You are quite wrong about who conceived and "perpetrated" as you say, the 1916 Easter Rising. In the 1st. place, no Irish Secret Society was pro-Catholic as such or pro anything except pro-Irish and national. The date of the Rising was fixed irrespective of anything you have written. There is plenty of reliable proof available if you are interested in it.

Your section on the Gaelic League is really quite offensive. The moving spirits in the founding of the Gaelic League were Dr. Douglas Hyde, Fr. Eugene O'Growney, and Eoin McNeill. Its object was the preservation of the ancient Irish Language and culture. Its expansion to include the buying of Irish goods at that period was due to the fact that Ireland was being flooded with Irish goods. Thus an effort was being made to preserve and develop the Irish market. Why you should have considered it necessary to comment on this as being "ludicrous and illogical etc.", even in an article on Secret Societies is quite inexplicable. It is difficult to see how you are being "as unbiased as possible" in writing this. Incidentally, the Gaelic League was not founded out of the "wreckage" of anything;

...it was a successor to previous societies, mostly connected with book publishing, which had served the purpose for which they were set up.

I take you to task on the statement that Thomas Davis's founded an extreme section of the Repeal Movement. There was no extremist section in the Repeal Movement of Davis's lifetime. The Young Irelanders broke away from the Repeal and became revolutionary in 1846; but Davis died on the 16th. September 1845.

Amongst many muddled and untrue things said about Davitt you include his journey to America "ostensibly to visit his relatives, but really charged with definite mission by Parnell". Apart from this having nothing to do with Secret Societies, this is quite untrue. Davitt's mother had gone to America and his sisters were there already. He had not seen his sisters since he was five years old when his family was evicted. He himself said in a letter to his friend, Thomas Chambers, that he was going there to bring his mother and sisters back to Ireland. When he got to America he received many invitations to speak and lecture. He stayed on to do this, thereby encouraging the extremists to back Parnell. It was they who contacted Parnell through John Devoy. Davitt had no mission from Parnell, (see life of Michael Davitt by D.E. Cashman). The fact that I.R.B. and Clan-na-Gael backed and used Parnell does not make the latter a member of any secret society.

The avowed object of the United Irishmen, in its early days, was a brotherhood of affection, a communion of rights and a union of power amongst Irishmen of every religious persuasion. Only after its suppression by the British did it become secret. Even your expression "thus cheating the hangman" with reference to Wolf Tone can be objected to. Lord Milwarden sent a sheriff to the Barrick where Tone was held to inform the Provost Marshall that a writ was being prepared, and that the execution of Tone was not to proceed.

Your statement re. Redmond that Home Rule was "passed in recognition of his Patriotism" is to me a new reason why this bill was "passed", (so called). Incidentally, what is "Patriotism"? To what secret society did Redmond belong to merit his inclusion in your article on Secret Societies past and present. What are the present Secret Societies of Ireland?

You say, in your introduction, that Ireland seems to have made a habit of commemorating these societies ever since 1929 with its first commemorative issue. This can be taken by many people as ungracious and in bad taste to the subject country of I.P.C.. It is unfortunate that those whom Ireland honours as Patriots from past history may have earned this honour by opposing the forces of occupation representing Britain in this country. If we collect Irish stamps we accept this with no reference whatever to people of either England or Ireland of the present generation.

It is to be regretted that you introduced such a subject as secret societies and placed so many people, quite unfairly in them. The harmony which reigned in Irish philatelic circles over the years has been very pleasant. I can assure you that by writing what you have done, you are about to break this up very quickly. I trust that the editorial policy which you adopt in I.P.C. Journal will strive to foster and encourage harmony at all times. What I have written in this letter is no indication whatever of the pain and hurt I received when I first read your article. I simply could not believe that an educated person would write such and at the same time say he was being "as unbiased as possible".

The obvious ignorance of Irish history prompts me to suggest that articles be written on each of the stamps of Ireland's commemoration, giving especially the reason for commemoration. I myself would be prepared to help in this if necessary. Indeed, do not hesitate to seek my help in this, or in any other matter. I appreciate your work and your enthusiasm and I should like to make all activities in the hobby as pleasant as possible for all of us.

Yours Sincerely,

Fr. John Brennan.

General Correspondence.

FR. Michael Noonan writes:

Dear Mr. Harradine,

Some years ago I spent two months working in Florida. While there, I made the acquaintance of one of the leading collectors of U.S. pre-cancels. He showed me many stamps from towns and cities bearing Irish names. I was interested. When he showed me a stamp from "Michael" and another from "Noonan"—two towns in the U.S.—I was completely won over. I have now made a collection of these "Irish" precancels and I enclose a list of them which may be of interest to some others of our readers.

ERIN.....Tennessee.

SHARROCK...Texas.

ANTRIM.....N.H.

BELFAST...New York.

DUBLIN....Ohio.

DUBLIN....Indiana.

DUBLIN....PA.

LONDONDERRY.....VT.

ST. PATRICK.....MD.

ULSTER.....PA.

BAITRY.....N. Dakota.

BELFAST.....Maine.

DUBLIN.....CA.

DUBLIN.....N.H.

LONDONDERRY.....Ohio.

LONDONDERRY.....N.E.

FR. Noonan also has a query:

...In a lot of Irish stamps which I bought some time ago there was what was written up as:

"Copy of 3d. Thom. Blue-black opt. with watermark reversed and inverted.

(Only one sheet known of this variety, and about 100 of them were sold over the Post Office counter before the sheet was found by chance by a friend of mine".

He wonders whether any other members know of any other copies of this variety. The watermark is definitely reversed and inverted.

I.F.C. Officers.

President: T.E. Field.

Vice-Presidents: W. Kane. (Ireland).
M.G.L. Fletcher. (England).
G.C. Cleary. (U.S.A.).

Hon. General Secretary: D. Warren.

Hon. Treasurer

Area Officials: Ireland.

England.

Chairman: F.E. Dixon.

Chairman: Dr. de Burca.

Secretary: N. Langton.

Secretary: Mrs. M.C. Habblerly.

Packet Superintendent: W.H. Goodhew.

Journal: P.W.A. Harradine. (editor). R.P. Woods. (assistant editor).

Wanted.

Mr. A.E. Sedgely wants data on the location of British F.P.O.'s used in N. Ireland during World Wars I and II.

In addition, details of R.A.F. station handstamps used in Northern Ireland.

This is required as he is at present compiling and bringing up to date relevant data on the subject of Wartime P.O.'s and Postmarks.

What about those articles???

POSTMARKS AND SLOGANS.

The original function of a postmark was, I think, twofold, one being to deface the stamp and so prevent re-use, and the other to record the place, date, and time of posting. The expression "time of posting" being taken as synonymous with the delivery of the letter to the postal authorities.

These two purposes, defacement of the stamp and recording of place and time, were served by one handstamp, and still are, of course, in thousands of post offices all over the world, but hand-stamping does not always satisfactorily fulfill both purposes, because handstamping is uneven, smudgy, and sometimes illegible because of the colour of the stamp.

Machine cancellation, coming later, was a great improvement, and very satisfactory, because the two functions of the post-mark were separated, and the postmark proper came back onto the envelope clear of the stamp, which was cancelled by rows of wavy lines following after, but clear of the postmark.

Then some genius thought perhaps that the wavy lines were a waste of ink and space, which might be avoided by using this ink and space for exhortations to the recipient of the letter, such as: "Have you renewed your radio licence?", "Post early for Christmas", and the like, or more unnecessary advice. - "Teach your children to clean their teeth", etc.. Soon these requests became interspersed with advertisements for holiday resorts and announcements for shows and events of all kinds.

All sorts of objects were depicted: Bells for Victory and Royal Weddings, Crowns and loyal wishes for coronations etc. etc. ad infinitum.

All this was tolerably, and even slightly amusing, perhaps, except to the most sourly cynical philatelists, but lately there has developed a tendency to interchange the position of the slogan and the postmark, so that the latter, bearing important, (ask pool promoters or bookmakers), or useful information, goes back onto the postage stamp, and the advertisement, in all its commercialised glory, comes back to the optical centre of the envelope, where it is most seen.

This is deplorable and the question might well arise as to who actually owns the letter (and the space on the envelope). Is it the sender, the recipient, or the P.M.G.? It is a moot point, perhaps, but if anyone wishes to use the side of my house for advertisements he has to pay me for the privilege, and possibly I have to get the approval from some country council or other before I am permitted to rent the space to him.

These advertisements, even if they are called slogans, tend to irritate the writer, and yet I know that some friends collect them, study them, and joyously by albums to stick them in. Will somebody please tell me why? - F.H.H. August 1963.

Odd news and wants.

Has anyone any stocks of Serbian and Montenegrin stamps for sale? These are urgently required for the American market. Please write to Mr. Harradine with offers. (He's the Editor, if you didn't know!).

Of late, a member of the I.P.C. has been trying to help Miss Bianconi of Cashel to arrange for a lecture tour of the U.S. during the course of 1964--using many of his contacts in the E.P.A. for this purpose. She is the great granddaughter of Charles Bianconi, (Italian by birth), who played such an important part in the organisation of the posts in Ireland, in the middle of the last century, and although ill-health made it impossible for the member to attend the Annual Conference of the Postal History Society at Dun Laoghaire in September 1963, he was able to help in arranging for her to speak to the Society. Members will most likely know of her book published in 1962: "Bianconi, King of the Irish Roads".

The above member has also recently loaned to Robson Lowe all he has in the nature of Essays and Proofs in designs suggested, but not accepted for the old Definitive series, which, with one change of watermark, has largely been current in Ireland for 40 years. Robson Lowe has been invited to be a member of the design committee which is studying the possibility of new designs, and felt that some of the old ones, not used in the 1920's, might be worth consideration by the committee.

POSTMARKS. (Triangular Cancellations).

A member of the Forces Postal History Society has requested information concerning "K E" triangular type cancellation.

In 1960, the I.P.S.G. Journal noted this K E mark, but place of origin could not, at that time, be identified.

Has any member any information or suggestions to help our FPHS friend--and ourselves at the same time? Please advise, (With copy to editor)--

W. Garrard Esq.,
7. Hillbeck Way,
Greenford,
Middlesex.

Incidentally, K J G was also noted in 1960, but again was left unidentified.

Tragedy comes to Dromahair, the ridge of the Two Demons, in the County of Leitrim. by B. de Burca.

Dromahair is a small town of some 260 inhabitants situated near Lough Gill. It is the site of the Palace of the O'Rourkes, Princes of Breffini, and the ruins still exist near the town. Nine miles to the North East lies Cluanin Ui Ruairc, the little field of the O'Rourkes, now four times as large as Dromahair, but not so attractive.

Dromahair is the cradle of the last and longest invasion of Ireland, as it was here in 1152, that Dermot Mc Murrough carried off Devorgilla, wife of Tiernan O'Rourke. This incident led eventually to the flight of Dermot Mc Murrough from Ireland, and to his agreement with King Henry II for the invasion of the Anglo-Normans.

Five miles in a southerly direction the nearest Post Office was at the village of Beagh, and this came under Dromahair postally. Between the two places there is a Pillar Box near the church of Killamunnery. Mail from Dublin is sent by rail to Sligo, and from there to Dromahair by mail van.

Since 1952, and probably for several years before, Dromahair has had two date stamps. (1) a double ring type, with letters for the month, and (2) a single ring type with the month in Roman figures, but very occasionally this order was reversed. Only the name of the town appears in the hand stamps, as for a similar type at Cluanin Ui Ruairc, but that for Beagh also incorporated the county name.

On the night of Thursday the 30th. April 1959, the Post Office at Dromahair was gutted by fire, but the date stamps were saved, and are still in use. There was no loss of life, and the Post Office has now been rebuilt. It is in charge of a retired school teacher, Mrs. Downey.

Disaster struck again during the next two years, this time at Beagh Post Office. Here two brothers and sisters died in quick succession, all four, rumour states, of T.B.. The next in office, whether from alarm or dissatisfaction with the conditions, soon resigned, and Beagh Post Office was closed. To replace it, a new Post Office was opened at a neighbouring village, Tulach an Chudaille, (Tullagh Coola), in charge of a widow named Mrs. Dolan. This village I have been unable to trace on any map. Unlike Beagh only the name of the town is given in the date stamp, and the bottom bar has become a thin line.

Does the ghost of Devorgilla still haunt the area? Certainly amidst these lonely hills there is a weird atmosphere at times. I remember well one evening as I sat at the edge of one of the lonely lakes in this area. The sun was setting against a background of dark, bare hills, and a mist was rising from the water. As I watched its ghostlike strands waft across the water, a strange feeling came over me and my skin contracted. I glanced at my wife and saw her shiver as she said: "Come, let's go". You don't believe me? Well, then I can recommend a visit to this delightful country.

CUTTING.....

Mr Warren sends me a cutting from a newspaper:

"At the annual meeting of the Irish Philatelic Society the following officers were elected for the next season: President, Mr F.E. Dixon; Vice-President, Mr A. Malcolm; Hon. Secretary and treasurer, Mr W.J. Langton; Hon. Packet superintendent, Mr S.A. Deacon; Hon. Librarian, Miss M. Murray; Committee: Mrs. J. Purser, Mrs M.A. Griffiths, Messrs. L.E. Dawson, J.D. Houston, D. Rose, Dr. R.P. Towers.

During the meeting a silver cup was presented to Mrs. J. Purser, the first award of the trophy established in memory of the late Mr Neill Dobbs, secretary of the society for several years.

London Area.

At a meeting of the Area on Whit-Saturday, Mr H.G.L. Fletcher gave a talk on the results of his study of the High Value Overprints. The talk was in the form of a preliminary discussion on the identification of the various Thom and Government printings as related to the plating of the original G.B. stamps. It was clearly evident that Mr. Fletcher had put in a considerable amount of work and he is indebted to many members for the loan of material, as well as the operation of the G.B. Society. It is hoped that in due course, when further confirmation has been obtained, that the full results of his far-reaching findings will be published in the "Journal".

It is hoped that the next meeting of the London Area will take place some time in August during the course of a visit by Fr. J. Brennan from Thomastown, Ireland.

The Exchange Packet Secretary, Mr. W.H. Goodhew-Canterbury, advised that he will be unable to continue in office after the next Annual General Meeting in November, due to his taking up duties in the Kent Societies. The Hon. Gen. Sec. would be pleased to receive nominations for this office, or to hear of any member who would be willing to undertake the duties of Exchange Secretary. Whilst the duties are not arduous, they do, of necessity, require a devotion of spare time to I.P.C. affairs in general and the Exchange in particular.

I.P.C. News.

Mr. J. Harris-Stratford-upon-Avon-reports that there was considerable congestion at the local P.O. with the purchase and posting of the SHAKESPEARES issued on April 23, 1964; demand far exceeded the expectations of the P.O. and all F.D.Cs have not as yet, (May 5th), been handstamped with the day of issue mark. Complaints are rife among London dealers, and others who await supplies to serve their regulars. The view is expressed by Mr Harris-with which we are bound to agree-that any cover 'posted' after the day of issue cannot possibly be a F.D.C. Therefore, those people who received a Cover soon after the 23rd April are luckily in possession of the genuine article.

All I.P.C. members are indebted to Mr. S. Telfer, who posted "R.M.s no. 80" on April 23, 1964 to secure the London F.D.I. mark. This mark is typical of some 30 others, including Belfast and Londonderry. To those who are interested there is a variety to be sought amongst such marks as the name "SOUTHERN OIL SEA (Assen)" is located differently from all the others; why? goodness only knows!

D. Warren.

NEW ISSUES FOR SALE to benefit I.P.C. Funds.

apply to T.S. Telfer, 8 Clivedon Rd., Highams Park, London, E.4.

U.K. SHAKESPEARES issued April 23rd. 1964.

- Lot A. Two - blocks nine, 3d. value with cylinder nos. 1A 1B 1C and 1A.1B.1C. attached. ...5/6.
- Lot B. 4 - blocks of 4, 3d., two as above, and 2 having 3-colour guide, one with bottom margin perf. ...6/-
- Lot C. 1 set of 5 values, singles, margins positioned. ...7/3.
- Lot D. 1. set 5 values, singles only. ...6/9
- Lot E. 1 - block nine, 6d., with cylinder nos. 1A 1B 1C 1D bottom margin imperf., and 1 block of 6, 2x3, as above but with margin perf. ...8/6.
- Lot F. 1 - pair of Shakespeare air letter forms. ...2/-.

P.C.G.B. BOURNEMOUTH CANCELLATIONS MAY 26th-29th, 1964.

- Lot G. 1 set of plain covers, ordinary postage. ...1/9
- Lot H. 1 set 4 souvenir covers, (2), and Post cards, (2) ord. postage. ...3/6
- Lot I. 1 set of 4 Souvenir covers using Shakespeare 5 val. set. ...9/6.

ORGANISATION.....T.S.Telfer.

It has recently become evident that there are a few members who are unaware of the efforts and plans which are being made to achieve the objects for which the Irish Philatelic Circle was formed. If I may be permitted to resort to plagiarism I believe the following "thoughts" may serve to clarify the position and to show what has been and what might be done to improve the affairs and activities of our Circle.

I must firstly give acknowledgement to BACKGROUND OF PHILATELY published in 1953 by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in which are two papers on the subject of Study Circles: one presented in 1938 by Dr. Em. Byam and the other in 1948 by Mr. Harry Green. Both papers may, by today's standard, be considered outdated, but many of the "thoughts" expressed by both authors are well worth repeating, (asides my own).

1. Circle. A study Circle is a group of people bound together by a common interest; with a desire to study the stamps they collect; and acknowledging no order of seniority, in that a Circle has neither top nor bottom, ends nor sides.

As with every other circle, a centre there must be... a member who acts as Chairman (or President); and on his powers of leadership and his capacity for inspiring interest and enthusiasm, we have in Mr. T.B. Field much of the success on which the circle will depend.

2. Committee. Much routine business, though of little interest to the members as a whole, is essential to the well-being of a circle, and for its enactment an Executive Committee is required. This should consist of the following:

- a. Secretary, who may also combine the duties of
- b. Treasurer.
- c. Keeper of Philatelic Records, (not necessarily an Editor)
- d. Leader(s) of Circle. (President + Vice-Presidents).
- e. Exchange Secretary, (if this activity is required).
- f. Such additional members as may be co-opted.

Obviously (to the greater majority of the members) somebody enthusiastic has got to take the reins (of Office), but, if he/she be given the proper support BY THE MEMBERS it should not prove a laborious job.

3. Membership. Enrolment of members should be by completion of a questionnaire to ensure that the applicant is a person suitable for membership, and, (besides giving personal data) stating by which member of the Circle he is proposed? whether he is able to attend meetings? his desire, or otherwise, to receive exchange packets? past philatelic activities? his interests? his present studies? articles written? when and where did they appear? displays given? and so on. (The Secretary might even like to have a photograph, so he would know the chap when he turns up at the next meeting: ((or London Airport))) ((or Shannon))).

It is quite useless having anyone in the circle unless he is prepared to GIVE as much as he takes, either financially or otherwise.

4. Meetings. a. Full Circle Meetings, once a quarter

b. all other meetings, possibly monthly, by groups, undertaking research, or study, (or mutual admiration, or just noggin' and natter). Each Group to have its own leader and to make whatever arrangements seem desirable to its members.

c. a programme should be arranged for all meetings so that members attending will come prepared to display, to discuss or take part in the subject that has been chosen.

5. Exchange. The running of a Packet may be found difficult with a scattered membership. (it has). You do not join the circle with the sole idea of seeing how much material you can dispose of, (or obtain from), the others. Further, if you are a serious philatelist, (collector), you have little time to spare

mounting 100s of stamps in club booklets.

Apart from all this, a Packet Secretary would be needed, and as the amount of work involved is considerable, you are overloading this member with unnecessary duties.

6. Studies, Reports, Publications. Volunteers are called for to take charge of and act as Leaders of Study, (or any other) Group. Any member wishing to do so can join a group. The duty of each Group is to search for all data relating to the subject or problem in hand.

Each quarter (at a Circle meeting), a Progress Report is made. Eventually a draft report is submitted. An interim report is prepared and circulated throughout all membership, (Home and Overseas), for comments and approval. A final report is prepared, (by the Group and Editorial/Publication committee) and offered for publication either in a Press machine or as a separate published work.

7. Finance. The main outgoings are usually:

- a. Stationery.
- b. Typing, photography, duplicating facilities.
- c. Postage.
- d. Purchase of books for record purposes. (and a number of other items could be added - see 1963 I.P.C. A/c.).

main sources of income came from:

- x. in 1938, 7/6 pa. for the Egypt S.C.
- y. in 1948, 21/- pa. for Belgian S.C.
- z. in 1964, 81 pa. for the I.P.C. (represents good value).

8. Do's and Dont's. (Dr. Byam concluded his paper with some advice which, still applies today).

- a. Don't forget a Circle is formed primarily for entertainment of its members and not for the value of its Reports which may never be published.
- b. Choose the best leader you can and give him your wholehearted support.
- c. Make the Circle's studies as varied as possible, so that all are interested.
- d. Look for members who are willing to give of their best, and exclude those who only join for what they can get (out of the I.P.C.).

In conclusion, as Hon. Treasurer for I.P.C., I am more than conscious of the fact that we have in the majority a generous membership, that there is a considerable amount of enthusiasm and support as yet untapped, and that given time and chance the organisation of activities and affairs could achieve the objects of the I.P.C.. There is much to be collected, even more to be recorded, and a vast amount to be published for the benefit of all, and.... so little time to do it.

DEFINITIVES: THE FOUR MASTERS DESIGN.

The circulars on the Definitive series are now being circulated and further data is required on the subject of the 1d, and 1/- values of the "Four Masters" design issued since 1944. Draft notes have been prepared and copies of same will be forwarded to each of the following:-

1. Mr. Langton..... Ireland.
2. Mrs. Mabblerley..... London.
3. Mr. T.E. Field..... England.
4. Mr. Cleary..... N. America.
5. Mr. Warren..... Others.

It is suggested that these notes on the "Four Masters" design should be subject to discussion and study at early meetings of members. Those who cannot attend but who could provide data and confirmation - no matter how trivial - should advise one or other of the members listed above who will arrange to incorporate any information in the "Notes".

T.S. Telfer.

The Bibliography-Interim Report by the Editors of "Irish Philately".

DO WRITE and say whether with the issue of the page "12" it could be said that you have "by hook or by crook" got to the end of the book.
DO WRITE and advise if you never received pages "A-D-C" etc. and that without them you find that the Bibliography loses much of its value.
DO WRITE and point out where pages have been badly edited, printed and produced, where there are errors and omissions, where there is insufficient data of the book or article, and any other shortcomings you can find.
DON'T WRITE and inform us that most of the pages are printed on one side of the sheet, that it is only a loose leaf index and record of publications on Irish Philately, and that it lacks continuity-all that is obvious, and there are good reasons.

However, when we come to the point-we have a problem?
The author of this Work, who has worked on it from 1948 to 1959 and from 1960 to 1964 and now feels that he would like a rest, and we think he deserves it, but before retiring to have a look at his stamps, he suggests that we form a group having before it the following tasks:

1. To collect and review Names of Authors and Titles and collate under subject headings.
2. To revise the Bibliography, prior to further issue of any more pages or publications.
3. To form a team of Readers throughout our World membership who will report abstract, photocopy, or even cut out every reference to "Irish Philately" which can be found.
4. To give general assistance to any I.P.C. member, but more especially to the Editor, with editing, re-editing, checking and rechecking COPY or PRINTERS PROOF. All tasks are very desirable, but to form a Group is a problem-OURS! If you would like to join this group and give a hand... DO WRITE!!! If you do not wish-or cannot-DO WRITE!!!

DO WRITE to Mr. T.S. Telfer, 8 Clivedon Road, Highams Park, London, E.4., and tell him how best to solve our problem.

R.P. Woods.

P.W.A. Harradine.

WOULD READERS PLEASE NOTE THAT MY ADDRESS IS NOW:

P.W.A. HARRADINE.

32 BROMLEY R.D.,

CATFORD,

S.E.6.

due to my leaving College.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF IRISH PHILATELY. Page 8.3. & 8.4. etc.
SIDENOTTON, J. E.

The additional Halfpenny tax, 1813-39.

Pub. 1955, PMSB.

SIMPSON, F. L. and GARDNER, F. C. S.

Chart for use in distinguishing the various comparative positions of the lines of the overprint on the Provisional issues of the I.P.S. postage stamps, with short hints on the use thereof. Published 1922.

SIMS, G.

Irish Postal History Review.

Pub. 1935, the Philatelist.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS of the REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, 1922-1959

by F. E. Dixon, 1959.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS AND POSTMARKS., 1922 onwards.

Ireland's Slogan Postmarks, PH, 1924, July 42th, refers to some early slogans of 1922-1924 in both S and N Ireland.

Slogan Postmarks of Eire. (Mc Cormick) 1947.

Slogan Labels (Ward) MSN 1936.

Slogan Cancellations of Ireland. (Tomkins) PT. 1947 Jan., a 5 pp article with illustrations, and check list for 1922-1944: incomplete but useful together with the undernoted.

Supplementary data on Slogans. (Trout. Flint) PT. 1952 Oct.

Dublin Slogan Cancellations. (Preston) PT. 1952 Oct.

Slogan Postmarks (H. C. O'Reilly) Rev. 1957.

Irish Holidays (S. L. O'Connell) GIP. 1956 Aug. lists and illustrates some of the holiday resort slogans.

Slogan Postmarks. Rev. vol. 7, p. 303.

Slogan Cancellations of the Republic of Ireland (Dixon) 1959.

considered to be the standard work on the subject for the period 1922-59

Slogan Marks in N. Ireland. - refer to V. Swan's Work.

SMYTH, E. (daughter of Sir Roland Hill).

Sir Roland Hill, 1907.

References to Ireland. Irish Famine, Irish Haymakers & Harvesters. Irish in Manchester.

Also reference to Ireland in two volume "Life"
pub. 1880.

SMYTH, T. G.

Postal History.

Pub. Dublin 1941 and supplement in 1942.

A pamphlet of no great value with only 14 small pp. of text.

SOLOMONS, ROSA, J.

Facts and Fancies. pub. 1885, Dublin.

A collection of miscellaneous (and amateurish) poems including "For the Stamp Album" and "The Pillar Post".

SOME FACTS ABOUT IRISH STAMPS.

by J. Cannon, (1949).

SOME NOTES ON THE OVERPRINTED STAMPS OF IRELAND.

by M. H. Sampson, IPT. 1960-61.

S.P.A. JOURNAL. (Society of Philatelic Americans, pub. U.S.A.).

1946. August.

I.P.S. Scotts No. 90. (Diamond).

1947. June.

I.P.S. accent inserted by hand. (Diamond)

1947. July.

Saorstát Opts. Accent.

1947. August.

I.P.S. Distinguishing the Opts.
Overprints. Addenda.

SPENCER'S STAMP JOURNAL.(pub.U.S.A.)

1949.August.

Eire Penny Carmine.by G.H.W.

SPOON CANCELLATIONS or POSTMARKS.

Article,(O'Reilly),Rev.vol.5,pp218,238.

Duplex SPOON Cancellations,(Willcocks & Bentley),S.C.1958.April 25th.,
an excellent series of articles with considerable data.Refers to
IRISH SPOONS,

The SPOON EXPERIMENT (Willcocks and Bentley)pub.1960.London.

The authors have made a special study of Spoons and the work must be
considered a standard work of reference.

STACK W.

Labels,political,pub.SPAJ.vol 14,p.87.

I.R.A.issues,pub.LSH.1956.vol.29,no.16,p.2.

Contributor of other articles in the "Revealer" and Press (U.S.A.).

STAFF.Frank W.

The Transatlantic Mail. pub.1956 London,Harrap.

Author and contributor of other articles in the Press,mainly on the
subject of Postmarks.

STAMP COLLECTING.(SC).

Separate index prepared:see page Stamp C.1....to be issued later

STAMP COLLECTOR.pub by (Armstrong,Editor of SC?)U.K.

1926 Jan. 12s.Plating the Thom Opts by W.G.Herodith.

Oct. Current High Value Irish Opts by C.F.Mc Laughlin.

Nov. A British Re-entry & other Irish Varieties by C.F.

McLoughlin.

STAMP COLLECTOR'S ANNUAL.

Published annually,(Dec.) by Hamric Publications Ltd.London.

1923 A 6 page article by W.Ward.Contents and value unknown.

STAMP COLLECTOR'S FORTNIGHTLY.(SCF).

Published fortnightly by Stamp Collector's Fortnightly Ltd.London.

First issued 1894.

1911.Dec.25. The stamps and tokens of Dublin(Edwards):an article
on the subject of revenues.

1922.Mch.4. The Irish Free State,(Melville),Forerunners of Irish
Stamps.

1934.Feb.3. Where Irish Stamps are Made.

1946. The permanent issues of Eire.

1948.Jan 31. The story of Eire,(Cohen).

Eire-U.S.A.Airmail Abandoned?

STAMP COLLECTORS MAGAZINE.

Possibly the earliest of all stamp publications,first issued in 1863
by Stafford Smith and Alfred Smith of Bath.

1866.Feb.1. Brief comment and query about Fenian Essay.

STAMP LOVER(SL).

Separate index to be issued:see page stamp L.1.(prepared).

STAMP MAGAZINE & MONTHLY REVIEW. pub.U.S.A.

1952.Apl. Political labels of Ireland.(Stack).

STAMP MIRROR.pub.-for a short period only-U.K.

1949.Oct.8th. Distinguishing Overprints.(McGornick).

1950.Jan 7th. 1/2d."Sword of Light"Varieties.(Sutton).

N.B. There is doubt about where this article was published,

but believed to be in magazine of which Edgar Levy was Ed.

STAMP REVIEW. pub.....?

1938.Apl. Anglo-Irish Airmails by H.S.Redgrove.