

Mid-Western Philatelic Society.

Newsletter.

Welcome to the first issue of the MWPSNL. Your "new" committee hopes that it will not also be the last issue. Each member is invited to contribute to the continued existence of the Newsletter, by submitting some small observation on any philatelic matter or on any matter relating to the MWPS, and if you, the members, play your part in this way, we are confident that we can produce an occasional Newsletter which will be of interest to all our members, and of real benefit to the Society.

It is hoped, with your help, to produce four issues over the next year. Topics proposed to be covered are:

1. Society news, and reports on meetings;
2. Individual members interests;
3. Items of general philatelic interest;
4. Anything else which the members want included.

Don't let the Newsletter die - get out your pens and send in some item for inclusion. And remember, there is no need to be shy - we are all amateurs.

Finally, any complaints about spelling and typing errors, should be addressed to the typewriter, not the typist.

Winter 89 } NO I
Autumn 1989.

News Items:

At our meeting in St. Munchin's on 20th. October last, an election for a new committee was held, and the following officers were elected:

President -	Sean Moore,
Secretary -	John Grace,
Treasurer -	Sean O'Halloran,
P.R.O. -	Michael Hartnett.

Joe McCarthy, our secretary since the Society was founded in Feb. 1978, did not present himself for re-election, and his resignation was accepted with reluctance by the membership. Joe has worked very hard for the past eleven years on behalf of the members, and we owe him a big vote of thanks for the work he has done during those years, and the huge contribution which he has made.

Pierre Coustineau joined the Society three years ago following his secondment from Canada to Ireland. He has been an active member who has made a worthwhile contribution to the activities of the Society and will be missed after his return to Canada in December. We wish Pierre and his wife every success and happiness in the future.

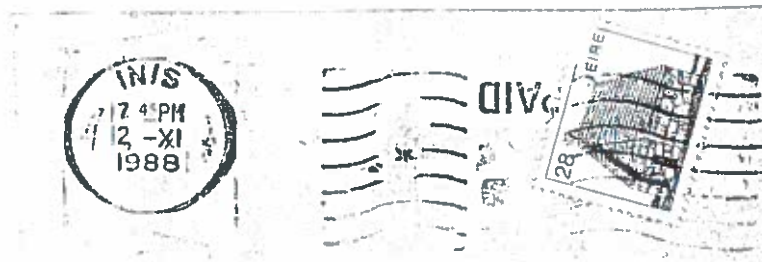
We hear that the Year Book produced by An Post for release in November at a cost of £20.00 is a complete sell out. In fact the limited edition of 7,500 copies were fully subscribed before the closing date for application (31st. August last). There is a feeling abroad that An Post is "killing the Golden Goose" and it will be interesting to see how this latest item fares over the coming years.

The Collectors Mini-Mart continues in Halla Ida on the first Saturday of each month. So far, it has been only moderately successful and would benefit from a little help. If you have any duplicates or spare postcards, coins cigarette cards or any other small collectables that you would like to turn into cash, why not come along and take a table? The cost of a table is only £2.00, and you would be giving yourself an opportunity to meet other collectors and have some fun at the same time. The Mart is held on the first Saturday of each month from 10.30 a.m to 1.00 p.m.

News (continued):

Stampa will be held in November - from 23rd. to 26th. at a new venue - The Riverside Exhibition Centre, 8, Sir John Rogersons Quay, Dublin, 2. This years souvenir is a "Birds" miniature sheet, suitably overprinted.

Ennis H.O. continues to use the inverted paid die on official paid mail. This error has now been in use for many months.



McDonnell Whyte are holding their next Auction on 2nd. December next in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. As usual, the Auction will include a wealth of material, with particular emphasis on Irish items; catalogues are available from 102, Leinster Rd., Dublin, 6.

Treasurer Sean O'Halloran presented his annual report at the October meeting. Again, the Society is in a healthy financial position, and the Annual Exhibition continued to show a small surplus.

A small quantity of Booklet were unsold at the 1989 Exhibition. It has been agreed to make these available to the members at a basic cost price of 0.48p. per booklet. If you would like to avail of this members only offer, contact Joe McCarthy.

In an effort to make our monthly meeting more interesting, it has been suggested that members should bring along some items from their collections to show to the other members. The opportunity to see material from others collections should help to increase our knowledge of our hobby, as well as giving a somewhat more "stampish" flavour to our meetings. To start the ball rolling, Joe McCarthy has agreed to bring in some covers from his F.D.C. collection to our November meeting.

There is no obligation on any member to bring material to the meetings, but anyone who would like to do so is most welcome, and the gesture will be appreciated. Just a few pages from an album will do - there is no need to give a talk on the material, just show it around, to give members an idea of how different people approach the hobby in different ways.

Introducing Our Members:

The Society has a membership total of about thirty people, of which only about twelve are active participants in society activities. Listed below are some of the members interests and main collecting areas. Anyone who has been missed, please advise the secretary or P.R.O. of your interests and they will be included in a future issue.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Main Interests.</u>
Sean Moore	Ireland; Varieties.
Joe McCarthy	Ireland; Irish Plate Blocks; Gold Coast; Malta; Cyprus.
Mrs. Patsy Deegan	Br. Empire; Western Europe.
Joe O'Sullivan	Commonwealth.
Peter Quinn	Malta; Ireland; Gibraltar.
Charles Burke	Germany; Ireland; Austria; Airmails.
Gwen D'Arcy	World (esp. Ireland & Europa).
Ernest Hollywood	Ireland; GB + regionals; New Zealand; Australia.
Garoid O'Sulleabhan	Ireland; NI; Irish on Foreign.
T. Cullen	Commonwealth; Ireland.
Pierre Coustineau	Canada; Ireland.
Roger O'Donaghue	Ireland; U.S.A.; Germany; Russia; Postal History (esp. Clare & Limerick).
Michael Hartnett	Ireland; G.B.; Postal History (esp. Galway).
Henry Morris	General.
Eamonn O'Toole	General.
John Canavan	Ireland; GB.

The above list indicates the collecting interests of about half the membership; As can be seen the range is very large, and in fact, includes most areas of the Globe. Hopefully the list will be completed in the next issue.

Oireachtas Card: A new Oireachtas card has been issued by An Post, and is available, free of Charge, from your local friendly G.P.O.

THE STORY OF THE STAMP:

In 1907, Sinn Fein issued propaganda lables, symbolising Irish Nationhood. The design, by Miss L. Williams, a prominent Dublin artist, was based on the Cross of Cong, a magnificent gold and silver ornament, made in the 12th. century, which is now in the National Museum. When the newly founded Irish Free State Post Office came to issue the first Definitive Series in 1923, Miss Williams adapted her original design for the 3d. & 10d. values at the express request of Arthur Griffin.



1907 Sinn Fein Lable.



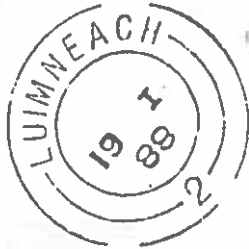
1923 Definitive Stamp.

Canada issued a 5c. stamp to commemorate the creation of British Columbia as a Crown Colony in 1858. This stamp also celebrated the Centenary of the famous "Gold Rush". The lure of gold brought the miners treaking north to the Frazer River and the gold yeilding area of the Cariboo. Some got "rich quick", but for most, it was a dead end - in some cases litterally, as many died from the gunplay of rivals who grabbed the land on which they had staked their claim.

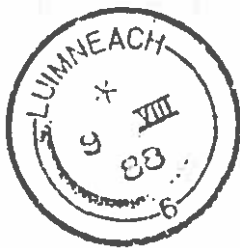
The stamp is recess printed in a grey-green colour, and is perf. 11½ x 12.



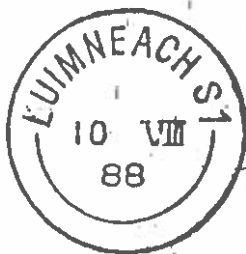
Some Limerick Postmarks:



Duty Codes: 2,3,& 6.



S1 & S2: While the G.P.O. was being renovated in 1967, these codes were used at the temporary office in Sprights Shopping Centre. Their use continued for a time after the G.P.O. was re-opened.

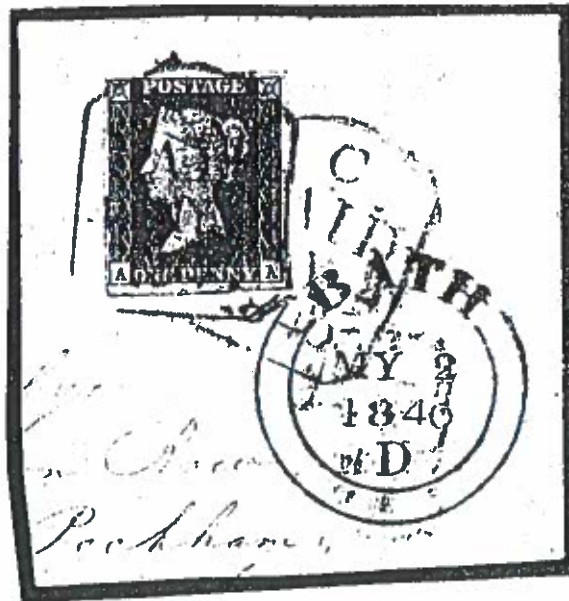


(My thanks to Roger O'Donoghue, who provided most of these franks).



THE FIRST OF THE FIRST.

One of the worlds most famous philatelic items goes for auction on 7th. November, in London. This is the first accepeted use of an adhesive postage stamp - the penny black used at Bath on 2nd. May 1840.



The Penny Black was prepared for use, and issued to Post Offices from 1st. May 1840, so that Offices would have supplies by the official "First Day" on 6th. May. A letter written by the wife of the Postmaster of Bath, a Mr. T. Musgrave - was stamped with the 1d. and presented to the Mr. Musgrave for posting to Peckinham. The letter was accepted, and duly postmarked with a neat Bath C.D.S. On it's arrival in London, the stamp was cancelled by the application of two London "Tombstone" P.M.'s.

The item is estimated to fetch £15,000 at auction, but could well exceed this figure.

UNUSUAL POST OFFICE:

Clonakilty, Co. Cork: Built in 1861 as a Presbyterian Church, it had a small congregation - probably never more that twenty-six. In 1924, it was bought by P7T, and converted to use as a post office. While the interior was renovated, no change was made to the exterior until this year, when the windows were replaced.

Prior to 1924, the P.O. was at Rosses St.

Letter Boxes:

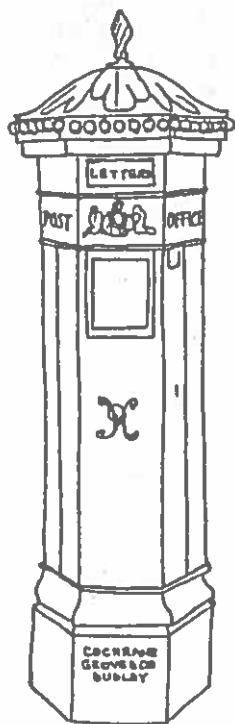
Does anyone collect letter-boxes? Although intimately connected with the hobby of stamp collecting, letter-boxes are ignored by most collectors. I can think of several reason for this, for example, they seldom come on the market, and are expensive when they do appear for sale. Also, of course, they are a bit bulky for the average album.

However, they have some interest to offer, and in fact make a facinating study for anyone who has reached a stage of collecting where most of the blanks in the album have been filled, or indeed for anyone who is looking for an area that is different, and not "overstudied".

Post Boxes were first used in the Chanel Islands in 1852, and since then many hundreds of different types have been installed around the world. There are three basic kinds - a. Pillar Boxes; b. Wall boxes & c. Lamp boxes. The terms are largely self explanatory.

We are lucky in Limerick that we have several rare types within easy driving distance, and I list those below. The next time you use a post box, take a look at it - it might be of a type never before recorded!

- Rare Types:
1. Clare St. (Ludlow type; wall box).
 2. St. Alphonsus St. (Ludlow type; wall box).
 3. Parteen (Smith; wall)
 4. Broadford Rd. (at X-Roads - Ardnacrusha/Killaloe) (wall; Smith).
 5. Bunratty folk Park (Smith; wall).
 6. Bunratty folk Park (Penfold; pillar).



Probably the best known (and perhaps most easily recognised) of the Victorian Pillars is the Penfold, so called after it's designer, architect J. W. Penfold. They were made during the years 1866 / 1879, and about 100 survive, mostly in British Museums. Those in Ireland which still exist, are mostly still in service.

That at Bunratty Folk Park is a beautiful example, though, unfortunately, the "acorn" on top has been broken off.

The next nearest is at the top of Mainguard St., in Galway; other examples are at Skibbereen, Co. Kerry; Bray, Co. Wicklow (which town boasts two examples); Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow; New Ross, Co. Wexford; and two in Dublin.

These Boxes are distinguished by their hexagonal shape, the pattern of nine or ten balls along the top rim, and their acorn crown.



Last Word:

My thanks go to Roger, John and Joe for their practical help & advice.

Thank you for bearing with spelling, typing and typesetting errors (for which Sean Moore, if asked, will deny all responsibility).

Remember, your help is needed if we are to achieve the aim of four issues over the next year. Any contribution, however small, will be most gratefully received.

Your support for the monthly mini-mart is badly needed.

Bring something philatelic to the next meeting.

The MWPS is your society; make the most of it.

Contributions to the Secretary, John Grace at any meeting, or to Michael Hartnett at 1, Clifton Close, Ennis Road - phone : 51228. (i.e. written contributions).

Correction: (p.3) - McDonnell Whyte Auction on 2nd. Dec. is to be held in Buswell's Hotel (not Burlington as stated).

Rare Irish Stamps.



S.G. 74b: 1935, Experimental Coil Stamp, perf. 15 x imperf.
Watermark - mult. SE. Above example is Postmarked at Dangan,
Co. Offaly, 19.VIII.36. S.G. (1980) cat. £6,000.00, um or
£800.00 u.