

ISSN 0791-3834

Mid Western Philatelic Society



Newsletter

AUTUMN 1990

CONTENTS:

Cover (Limerick Head Office).....	1.
News, Views & Comment.....	3 & 4.
Limerick Postmarks/Office/P-Box.....	5.
Casement Study (Sean Moore).....	6 & 7.
T.P.O.'s (Desmond O'Donoghue).....	8 & 9.
Deltiology (Sean Moore).....	10 & 11.
Athenry P.H. (Michael Hartnett).....	12 & 13.
J.F.K. Issue of 1964 (Henry Morris).	11.
Caption Competition.....	14 & 15.
The G.P.O.....	16.
Varieties (Sean Moore).....	17.
Letters Page.....	18.
Beginers Page (Sean Moore).....	19.
Members Profile (John Mitchell).....	20.
American NL.....	21 & 22.
Acknowledgements.....	23.
Rare Irish Stamps.....	24.
Contacts.....	11 & 15.

EDITORIAL:

This is the fourth issue of The Newsletter, and is the issue which completes it's first year of existance. I find myself a little suprised that we have managed to keep it going for this length of time, but I do hope that it will continue, and flurish for a long time to come.

I must thank all those who have so generously contributed in one way or another to the survival of The NL, by way of articles, suggestions, ideas, and (not unimportant) encouragement. But don't stop - if we are to keep it going we need many more articles etc. Please let me have lots and lots of contributions, and as soon as possible for the next issue.

With this issue there is a supplement on Galway Post Offices (Well, commercial Stamp magazines give free gifts, don't they?). While this is my own area of particular interest, I hope that it will be of some interest to at least some of our readers. Also, it may serve as a 'pilot' for anyone who would like to write something longer than the conventional article. We would be happy to include other long items in this form, if required.

The only consolation for the ending of Summer, is the start of another Collecting year; I hope it will be a good year for our readers, with many good 'finds'.

Incidentally, the piece on Athenry is more or less duplicated in the "Galway" Supplement - the NL was copied before the supplement, and it was too late to take this piece out.

M.H.

News, Views, Comment:

Our last meeting of the season was held on Friday 18th. May. Our next meeting coincides with the publication date of the next "Newsletter" on 21st. September 1990. The "quiz night" being organised by Joe McCarthy has been postponed to the September meeting. The May meeting was a lively one with much discussion on a wide variety of topics. Desmond O'Donoghue gave a short talk entitled "Smoking and the Philatelist", and Sean Moore reported on the position regarding a venue for our exhibition in 1991. The proposed closure of Cruises Hotel poses a problem in this regard, and our Hon. Gen. Sec. is to investigate the availability of alternative venues.

A vote of gratitude to John Mitchell of Shannon Stamps was proposed by President Sean Moore for his extreme generosity in bearing the expense of distributing the "Newsletter".

Our hon. Treas. confirmed that a draw will be held at the end of the year amongst contributors to the "Newsletter", and a single prize of £10.00 will go to the winner.

This has been a busy year to date for those of us who collect modern Irish Material; in April we had the World cup issue - two designs at 30p. each issued in sheetlets of eight. On the same date the se-tenant pair commemorating the Williamite Wars was issued. Special handstamps were available from each of the following towns for this issue: Dublin, Drogheda, Sligo, Cork, Limerick, Ballyneety, Athlone, Aughrim and Kinsale. The greetings booklet (mentioned in the Summer NL) was also issued in April at a discount price of £1.98, as well as two T-Shirts at £4.99 each. I had great difficulty getting the T-Shirts into my commemorative album, and it is to be hoped that An Post will issue a special album to house these items.

In May we had the issues commemorating the 150th. Anniversary of the first Postage Stamp and the Annual Europa issues, which this year depicted Post Office Buildings. The 150th. Anniversary stamps were issued in two values of 30p. and 50p. and were accompanied by a "Prestige Booklet" at £6.00. The Europa stamps were issued in sheetlets of ten at 30p. and 41p. A basic one each of the items issued in these two months would have cost the collector almost £18.00, which in my opinion, is just too much. While all the items are prepared to the very high standard that we have come to expect from An Post, we are simply issuing too much material which is aimed only at the collector and which bears little relationship to this Country's postal needs. I have no doubt that unless we "cop ourselves on" the law of diminishing returns will take over, and we will be relegated to the philatelic standing equivalent of, for example, some of the Pacific Islands.

Having got that grouse out of the way, I am compelled to say that the "Prestige Booklet" is a beautiful item, though it will provide some headaches for definitive collectors on account of the mixing of the different series.

Our monthly "Mini-Mart" drew a larger attendance for May than for the past few months. The organisers have been encouraged to continue with this venture for another period. The Mini-Mart provides a rare, if not unique in this country, opportunity for collectors to meet, swap, gossip, buy and sell - it would be a great shame if the venture fails due to lack of support. Sean and Joe have carried the Mart almost on their own since it started, and unless support from other members is forthcoming, the venture will fail. So do come along and help or even just give a word of support each month.

The improvement in attendance is attributed to the fact that all of the local papers gave space to advertising the Mart this month - our thanks to the Limerick Post, The Limerick Tribune and The Limerick Leader.

NVC (Cont'd):

The MacDonnell Whyte catalogue, "Stamps of Ireland", which was due for publication last May, will now be published in October, or November. The next MacDonnell Whyte Auction is scheduled for 4th. October.

Ian Whyte, who set up a new stamp dealing business, early this year has produced a new price list. Copies of this are available from:
Ian Whyte (Ireland Ltd., 27, Mount St. Upper, Dublin, 2.
The overall price trend indicated by Ian's list appears to be down, though I did note some increases, notably for fine used and some of the specialised items. Also, the early FDC's appear to be significantly increased. It will be interesting to see if "Stamps of Ireland" indicates the same overall trend when it is published.

An interesting experiment was conducted in Belfast in the early 1930's - post boxes were placed on busses in rural areas, which were emptied on the arrival of the bus in Belfast. I do not know how widespread this practice was, nor how many busses had boxes installed on them, or even if the practice went beyond the experimental stage. Anyone have any information?

Mention was made in the Autumn '89 issue of the use in Ennis of a machine cancel with the word "PAID" inverted. It appears that the use of this cancel has been discontinued, and that it has been replaced with the conventional "wavy lines" type. Can anyone provide a withdrawal date, I wonder?

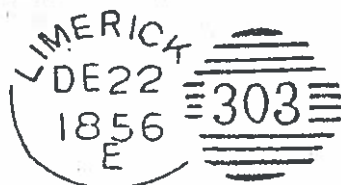
An Post staged an exhibition entitled "150 years of The Postage Stamp" in the G.P.O. which ran from 1st. May last. It was quite a good little exhibition, which, while not worth a trip to Dublin in it's own right, was worth taking a quick look at if you happen to be in the area. I could find no indication of when it is to end, but would imagine that it would be left in place till the year end. Anyone interested could 'phone first unless of course visiting the Bureau anyway.

Talking of An Post, the annual year book is due on Thursday next (27th. Sept.) at a cost of £23 or £100 for the special edition. (of course it is an annual - it's the second isn't it, and sure, didn't the first one sell out). One wonders if it will be possible in future years to complete an Irish collection without including the special "Black Print" which is a feature (selling point?) of the Annual? While we are at it, did you get your copies of the new Souvenir Coin Letter (these things used to be called Medalic Covers, when they were tried in other countries back in the sixties - I haven't seen any for a while; maybe those who issued them overdid it?). Anyway, this coin letter featured a £1 stamp, £1 coin and an illustrated cover all for only £3.50 and was issued in July. In fairness to An Post, I heard that dealers were asking £10 for this within days of issue, though I have not confirmed this. And of course there was the Flora and Fauna Issue complete with Maximum Cards and Commemorative booklet. And then.....

Ye Gods, we have still got three months of the year to go.

I have decided to end NVC section here, in case I get to mention A* P*** again.

Limerick Post Marks:



Limerick was one of over thirty Irish Provincial towns to use a duplex stamp by the late 1850's. This is a transitional type - the overall shape of the obliterator was oval, but the vertical arcs were replaced by short horizontal bars.

Limerick was one of only four towns to use the "hooded" (or Cowall) stamp. In the case of the Limerick stamp, only the Town Name and the date were shown; the others incorporated the town number and/or duty code and stampers number.



Limerick Post Boxes:



Small Ludlow type, made by ERF at 40, Clare St., Limerick; Dates from about 1887.

Limerick Post Offices:



Ballyorgan, Co. Limerick. Mrs. Lena Clancy was P.M. up to about 1979, when the office was transferred to Moynihan's Shop, further up the Main Street. The Office was closed in 1989.

1st. & 2nd. PRINTING.

11

5p "VALUE TABLET DOUBLED."

BROKEN "5"
& HAIRY.

10

2

5P

5P

HEAD
FLAW

3

EIKE ROGER 1864
CASEMENT 1916

EIKE ROGER 1864
CASEMENT 1916

BAR
BTWN
"E"
&
"R"

CHEST
FLAW 1

WHITE
SPOT 9

SPOT
BETWEEN
"O"

7

"WHITE BALL"
FOOT OF "R"

6

"WHITE
DOTS
IN 2nd
"E"
OF

5

"WHITE BALL"
FOOT OF
"R"

1st

11

2nd



PRINTING



1



9



8



7



6



5



4



3



2



10



Travelling Post Offices - A Guide.

Desmond P. O'Donoghue

This is the first of a series of occasional articles dealing with Travelling Post Offices (TPO's) in Europe. Countries to be covered include Great Britain, France, Germany (both states) and of course Ireland. Each article will be accompanied by sample postmarks from present-days routes.

For those of you that are not aware, a definition of a TPO might be appropriate. A Travelling Post Office is just that. It is a carriage(s) on a mail train wherein mail is picked up at various points along the route and sorted. All unfranked mail receives a TPO postmark.

IRELAND.

At present in Ireland there are only two routes upon which TPO's travel. The current trend is to carry ready sorted mail in container wagons which are sealed and dropped off where necessary. Mail is also carried in ordinary passenger trains as well.

Dublin (Connolly) - Cork (Kent) &

Dublin (Heuston) - Galway (Ceannt)

are the present routes with TPO's. Their timetable is appended.

The first TPO to run in Ireland was on January 1 1855 on the Dublin-Cork route. In the past TPO's ran to virtually all parts of the country in some form or other.

A selection of contemporary postmarks from Irish TPO's are illustrated:

1. "A Cliath - Gaillimh P.O.T Oiche" -
Dublin - Galway Night TPO.
2. "P.O.T A Cliath - Gaillimh Oiche" -
Dublin - Galway Night TPO.
3. "P.O.T B.A.C - Corcaigh Oiche / Sios" -
Dublin - Cork Down Night TPO.
4. "Dublin-Galway TPO Night" -
Rare example of English language TPO postmark used as a result of the Irish Language dies being destroyed in a fire on board the TPO in 198? - purple ink.
5. "P.O.T B.A.C - Corcaigh Oiche / Anios" -
Dublin - Cork Up Night TPO.
6. "P.O.T B.A.C - Corcaigh Lae / Anios" -
Dublin - Cork Up Day TPO

The following are a selection of departure/arrival times for trains containing TPO's:

Dublin/Cork:	Weekdays	Sunday
Dublin Dep:	05:50 (Heuston)	20:00 (Connolly)
Limerick Jctn Dep:	08:48 (MF), 09:15 (Sat)	23:03
Cork Dep:	15:00	-
Limerick Jctn Dep:	16:43	-
-		
Dublin/Galway:		
Dublin Dep:	07:55 (Heuston)	20:05 (Heuston)
Galway Arr:	11:05	23:30
Galway Dep:	15:10	-
Dublin Arr:	18:15	-

Notes:

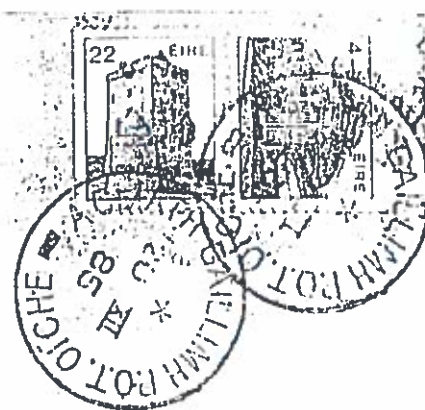
The day/night appellation is interchangeable and bears no relation to the time.

UP : Limerick/Cork/Galway -> Dublin.

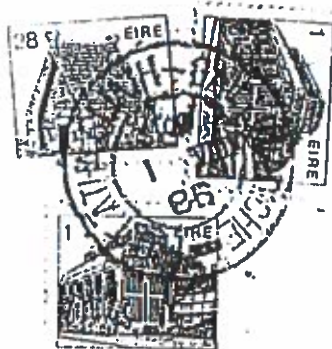
DOWN: Dublin -> Limerick/Cork/Galway.

All trains have passenger accomodation.

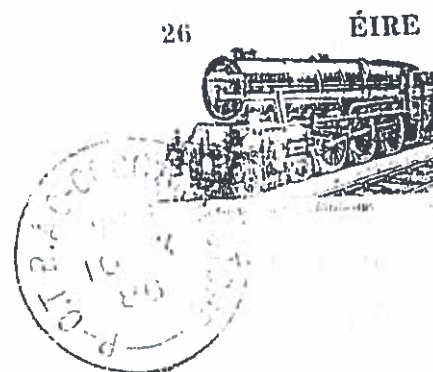
An Post staff are all willing to frank submitted covers in any way you want but they must be kept for transmission through the post:



1



2



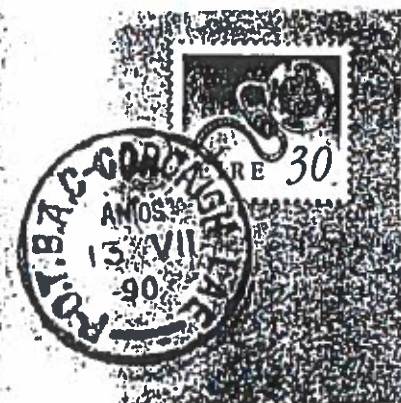
3



4



5



Why not be a Deltiologist?

By: Sean Moore.

For a variety of reasons, many stamp collectors reach a point in their collecting careers when their interest in Stamps diminishes. For this reason, it may be a good idea to have a "second string to your bow" in the hobby line. There are a great many alternatives to stamp collecting to choose from, including Beer Mats, Ashtrays, Cigarette Cards, post cards and so on - the list is almost endless. And of course, as with all hobbies, the cost can be as low or as high as the individual's tastes (or pockets) allow.

For the purpose of this article, I will concentrate on Postcard and picture postcard collecting as an alternative - or indeed additional - collecting interest.

A Postcard collector is called a "Deltiologist", and from my limited experience, I would think it would be a lot easier to be a collector in a larger city, such as Dublin, Cork, Limerick or Galway, rather than in a rural area.

There are over fifty collectors clubs scattered across Ireland and Britain, with an estimated membership in excess of 20,000. Catering for the collector, there are about 400 established dealers (mostly in G. Britain), and a large number of Auction houses (again, mostly in G.B.), operating almost every week. A monthly magazine - "Picture Postcard Monthly" is available at a cost of approx. £1.00 sterling. A limited number of books on the subject are available, both from your local public library and in the larger bookstores. Generally speaking postcards are of a standard size and can be housed easily in albums or boxes. A little ingenuity is required to solve the problem of those cards which are the exception to the 'Standard size' rule.

While Postcard production dates from an early age, it took the Paris Exhibition of 1889 to popularise the hobby and to "internationalise" it. About that time, came the idea of dividing the back of the card into two halves, one for the address, and the other for correspondence, thereby allowing the whole front to be used for picture reproduction. Most of the cards produced in that era were printed in Germany, and most of them were truly works of art, and items of beauty. When cards from this period come on the market they frequently command quite sizeable prices.

Of particular interest to collectors from that time, were cards sent by soldiers and sailors to their loved ones at home. It was the custom to postmark both the front and the back of the card, ensuring that they are sought after both by postcard collectors and also by stamp collectors.

Between the two World Wars, the hobby virtually died, due, in the main to the growth in use of the telephone as a means of communication, and it was not until the 1950's that the hobby enjoyed a resurgence of interest, which has continued to the present day. So great is the interest in postcards nowadays, that it has become quite difficult to obtain some of the scarcer cards; happy is the collector who has been into "Deltiology" for some years. Having said that, a lot of pleasure can be gained by collecting the less scarce (and thus less expensive) cards. An interesting approach to the hobby, for example, is to collect cards which illustrate the way in which a city or town has changed over the years. Very often, later 'street-scapes' depict very different skylines, often hardly recognisable to locals.

Thematic collections are of particular interest, especially to beginners. These can include such themes as Flowers, Film Stars, Children, Animals, Christmas - the list is endless. By shopping around, one can come up with interesting cards at reasonable prices, and, of course, foreign postcards can be bought quite cheaply. These can be both educational and very colourful.

One of the biggest - if not the biggest - Postcard Fairs is held on the last Sunday of each month in The Royal National Hotel in London; it is estimated that at least three million Postcards are offered for sale each month. Whatever your interest, be it art, aviation, motoring or whatever, there are cards available which will allow you to indulge economically in your hobby.

Deltiology (cont'd.):

Having a chat with a dealer or collector of long standing is usually a very enjoyable experience, as most of them enjoy talking about their hobby, and will willingly pass on a lot of information to any collector who cares to listen, and can help one to miss some of the pitfalls that occur during the early days of starting a collection. This can be both helpful and educational.

So, in conclusion, take up a second hobby of your choice. I know that you will never regret doing so, and happy collecting.

The Story of the J. F. Kennedy Memorial Issue of 1964.

Henry Morris.

It often happens that when a King, a President, a Statesman or Pontif dies, that a stamp (or set of stamps) commemorating his life and work is rushed out in great haste. The John F. Kennedy memorial issue of 29th. May 1964 is a glaring exception to this practice.

A great deal of care and thought was brought to bear on this issue, in an effort to produce a stamp which would do justice to the achievements of President Kennedy, and which would be acceptable to the many millions of people, both in the U.S. and throughout the world who regretted his untimely passing. Many hundreds of photographs were studied before that which would be used was selected, and more than a hundred artists submitted designs within the chosen theme which was to include a quotation, a photo., and "the Eternal Flame".

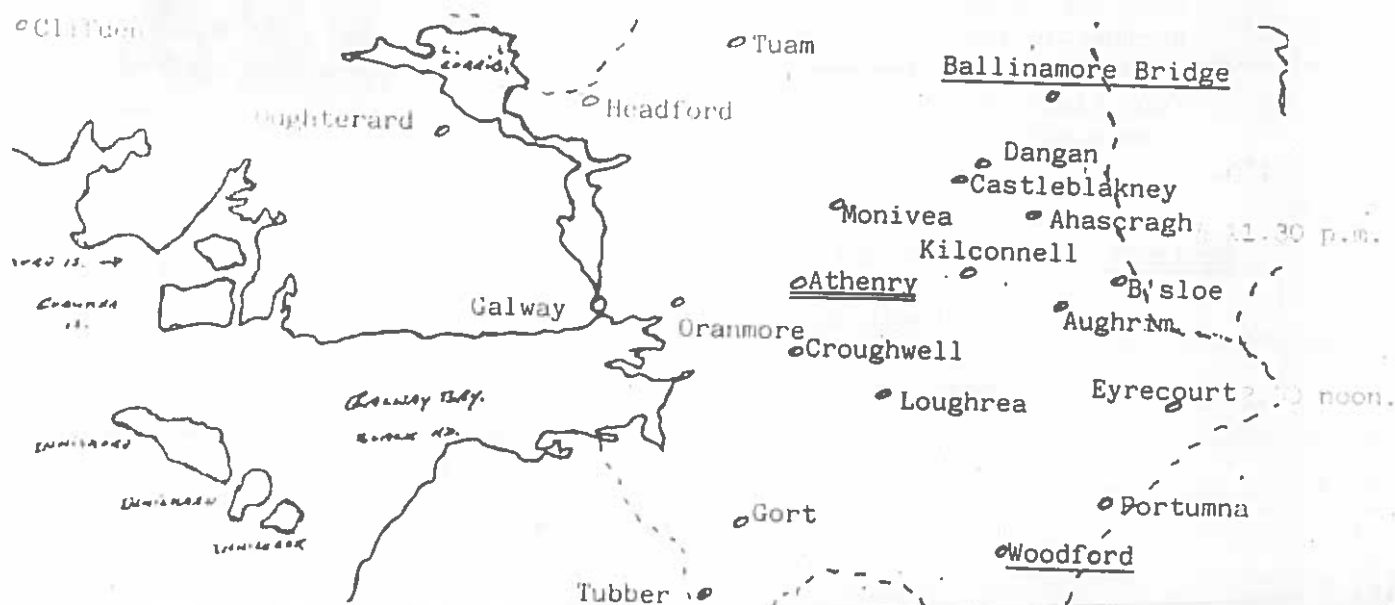
Jackie Kennedy had the honour of selecting the final design, from a short list of sixteen which were considered suitable. The process from the decision to issue the stamp to the final date of issue took almost a year. The quotation - "... and the glow from that fire can truly light the world" is taken from President Kennedy's inaugural speech, and the photograph used was taken at the home of his brother-in-law, Peter Lawford, the actor. The print run was 500 million, four times the usual number for a commemorative issue.



Contacts: Mr. Pawlowu Waleriyui,)
P/O 17, Alja 8,)
G. Staryi Oskol,)
Belgorodskaja Obl,)
USSR.)

Pawlowu collects Stamps, FDC's &
MC of Ireland and England. He
offers same from USSR in exchange.
(I do not know what MC is - Anyone
help?)
He speaks both English and Russian,
and will correspond in either.

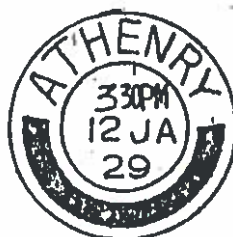
-



Athenry (continued):



D.A. 1912.



D.A. 1929 (English)



S.A. 1985



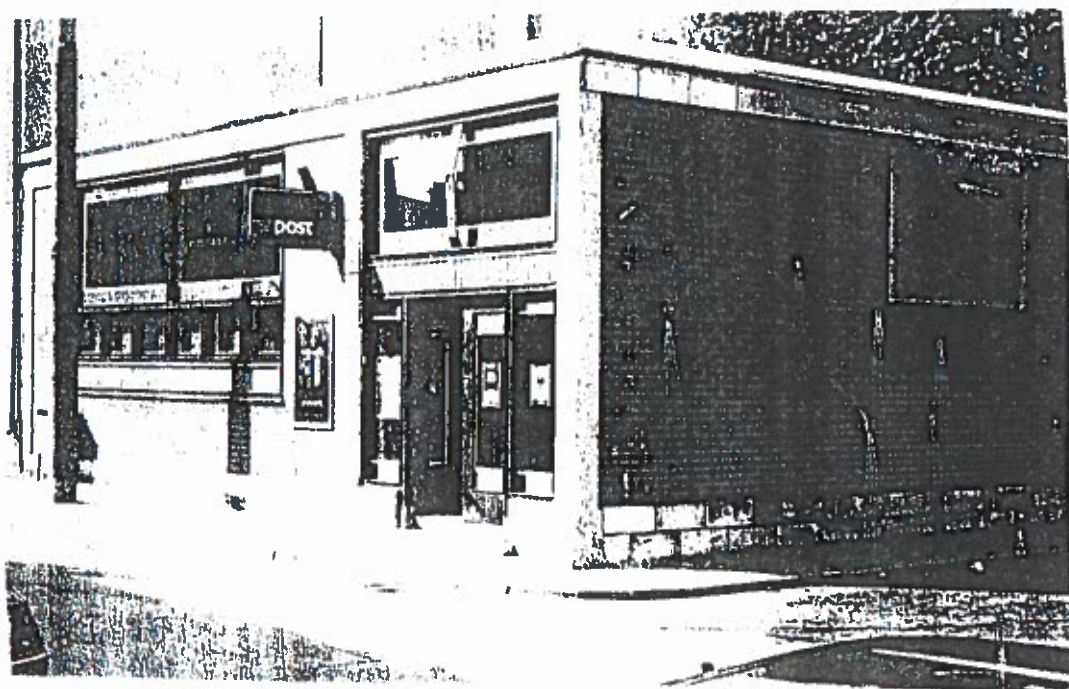
Double Stamp - 1888
16 - code D



Thimble 1859



Machine Cancel - intro. by 1987.



Post Office, Athenry.

Do You Regognise any of these Men:



(Both the photos and the photocopies were very poor - apologies to all involved. On reflection, I decided to run them anyway. I was going to 'caption' them - e.g. The Godfather; the Comedian etc. - but felt it would be more fun if you were to make up your own captions. There is a prize of £5.00 to the caption which in the editors opinion is the best. Any attempts at rudeness will be disqualified).

(Continued over)

Caption Competition (continued):



After careful thought, I feel it would be better to get entries judged by an independent arbiter, who will be seen to be beyond bribery, influence or corruption. Closing date is October Meeting (i.e. 19th. Oct.).

- Contacts(1)Ladislau Klein,) Ladislau is interested in Irish Stamps,
2900 Arad,) both mint and used. He collects in full
Str. Dobrogeanu Gherea 47,) sets and is especially keen on stamps
Block L@ SC4 AP8,) with a Thematic flavour (Animals, flowers,
Romania.) Europa, Ships, Autos.). He offers Rumanian
and Eastern Europe in exchange.
- (2) German P. Germanov,) German's request for exchange contacts
Ul. "Lozengrad" 2, apt. 7,) first appeared in the Spring 1990 issue
4400, Pazarjik,) of the Newsletter. He has written again,
Bulgaria.) to say that he was very disappointed not
to have received any replies, and asking
that we repeat his request, in the hope
that someone will write to him.
He collects mint Irish/Western Europe,
and offers Mint Bulgaria/Eastern Europe
in Exchange.

The G. P. O., Dublin.

Evan Vaughan was sent to Ireland in 1638 to set up Post Stages. He effectively set up the system which was the forerunner of to-day's postal system. He resided in Castle Street, adjacent to Dublin Castle, where the first recorded Letter Office in Dublin was situated. It was the practice in those days for the Post Master to live above the office.

As commerce improved, it became necessary to provide larger premises for the Letter office, so in 1668 it was moved to High Street. In about 1680, it transferred to Fishamble Street, and again, about 1709, it moved to Sycamore Alley. In 1755, Fownes Court was host to the Office and in 1771 it moved to College Green. It is possible that these moves were occasioned by the then necessity of keeping the office close to the business centre of the growing city.

The College Green site was to become too cramped for the Post Offices expanding business. Nearby buildings were rented, and used for sorting and distribution to provincial areas. In 1811, it was announced that a new purpose-built building was to be set up in Sackville Street, and this was opened on 6th. January 1818. This was the first building in Ireland designed and built specifically as a Post Office.

The building was constructed of Granite, with a portico of Portland Stone. The Architect was Francis Johnston, probably the most celebrated architect of his time. The figures over the Portico represent Hibernia, Mercury and Fidelity. It is a building of exceptional grace and beauty, and a fine compliment to Dublin's "main Street".

The highlight of the G.P.O.'s long and distinguished career, is undoubtedly its use as the focal point of the Easter Rising. The Insurgents entered the building on Easter Monday, 24th. April 1916, under the command of James Connolly, took possession of it and proclaimed the Irish Republic from the steps in front of the main doorway. All the handstamps in use at the G.P.O. were destroyed when the building was fired by the British army. While new stamps were being prepared, the "Dublin Emergency Handstamp" was used. This essentially was a parcel post canceller, and there were four distinct types used. Each of these types have several sub-types, so collecting all of the different varieties would be quite an arduous task.

After the insurrection, the G.P.O. was rebuilt and quickly went back into service. It stands to-day as a monument, both to our (generally) excellent postal service, and to the Nation's Republican tradition.



(Based on material supplied by Sean Moore; Reference - "A History of the Irish Post Office" by Mairead Reynolds).

Varieties. (An addendum to Sean Moore's Article in Summer 1990 Issue)

Following some muted complaints that some of the varieties in Sean's articles on that topic in the last issue were not as clear as would be desirable, Sean has provided enlargements of two of the more dramatic of the varieties. These are shown hereunder, with normal for comparison. Despite the startling nature of these, neither is listed in McDonnell Whyte's "Stamps of Ireland", which emphasises the point made in one of Sean's articles, that a lot of the "fun of the hunt" is in searching for uncatalogued varieties.

- *
1. Royal National Lifeboat Institution issue of 28th. March 1974, showing Gold colour completely missing. This results in the omission of Country name, value table and inscription:



Normal.

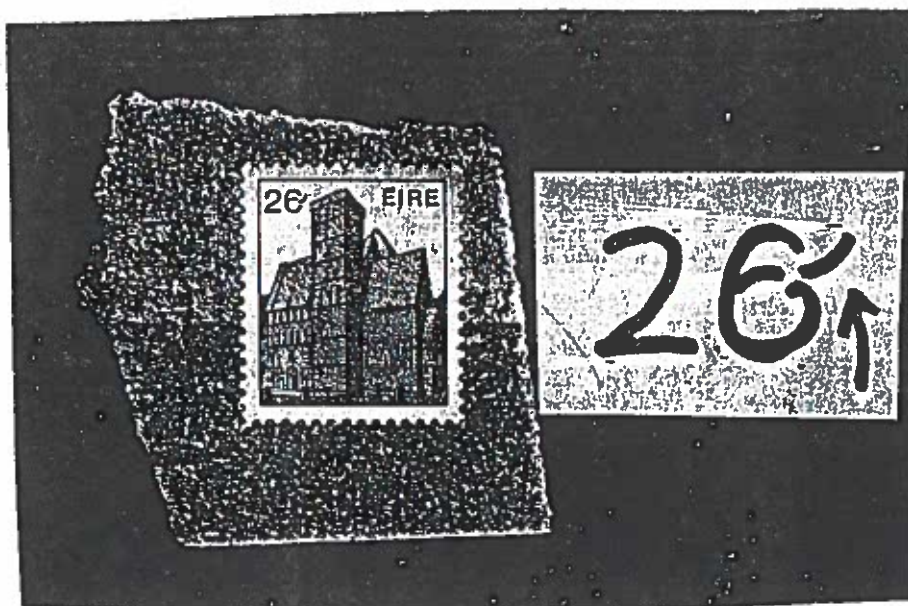


Missing Gold.

2. Architecture Definitive (1982-1990):
Damaged "6" Of "26" -



Normal.



Variety.

Letters Page:

Dear Michael,

Many thanks for the Summer issue of the Newsletter. It is nice to be able to keep in touch even if one is unable to attend meetings.

With regard to your problem regarding Thomond, I hope the attached will be of use.

Keep up the good work!

Kind regards,

Kieran Kerr.

Michael,

Thank you for latest Edition of the Newsletter, which is full of good articles and most informative to the Novice Collector.

You ask two questions -

- (1) Does THOMOND (now CLARE) touch Limerick ?.
See the attached copy MAP, which clearly shows that it does.
- (2) Request for information on Principality of Thomond Stamps P.14 ?.
Perhaps I can shed a little light on this one !.

A colleague and school friend of mine who attended the Veterinary College in UCD in the late 50's (up to '60, I believe) once recounted to me that he was staying in a 'Digs' with this most unusual Landlord - it was a small house in Charlemont Street, surrounded, at the time, by a high hedge !.

He said that this Landlord's name was O'Brien (I think) who referred to himself as 'Prince Earl of Thomond'.

He never worked, but wrote to the various Royalties, Presidents of Nations, Embassys etc. awarding individuals the 'Freedom of the Principality of Thomond' (or so I'm led to believe !) and charged for his services as well as sending 'begging' letters at the same time !.

He apparently had quite a 'Fan Club' and it is quite possible that one of his ploys may have been to print and 'sell' his own stamps.

I'm guessing on this last one, but it does seem to fit in with your own article.

I don't know how the 1981 date comes about or whether he survived at his 'profession' all those years !.

The overprint 'Europa 1961' would seem to fit in more readily with my dates

Regards,
Pat McCoole.

(I am very grateful to both Kieran and Pat for taking the trouble to write to the Newsletter. My thanks for the maps which they enclosed; I am not reproducing these as it appears that I am about the only one in the world who does not know precisely where Thomond was. O.K. - I'll go to night classes. I would also thank Pat & Kieran for their kind remarks, which are greatly appreciated.).

Beginners Section.

Sean Moore.

(This is the first of an occasional series of articles by MWPS President Sean Moore aimed at the younger or less experienced collector. While you may not be a novice collector, at least some of our readers are in that category, and will, hopefully benefit and maybe even learn from Sean's almost sixty years experience as a collector).

There are no distinctions in Stamp Collecting. Be you King, Prince or just plain "man-in-the-street", this is a hobby which can be enjoyed by everybody, irrespective of their standing in life. It is a hobby which you can enjoy whether you are a "fun" collector or a connoisseur of the classics. The best advice that one can give, is to collect those stamps which give you the most pleasure and enjoyment. The cost of compiling a collection is up to each individual depending on that individual's tastes and circumstances.

For those of us living in Ireland, to collect the stamps of our own country is almost a necessity, and should certainly be a priority. Irish stamps are readily available, and we tend to issue less stamps than many stamp issuing countries. In addition, we do not indulge in some of the more dubious practices, such as cancelling to Order, which other countries do. Having said that, the choice of countries to collect is very wide and also the type of stamps to collect, be it Airmail, Mint, Used, F.D.C.'s or whatever. We will be examining the different areas of collecting in more detail in future articles.

A few Philatelic Facts would be of interest:

1. The first known stamps collector was a M. Legras, who was collecting as early as 1850.
2. The first recognised printed stamp catalogue was that of Alfred Potiquet, a French Civil Servant and stamp collector, which appeared on 21st. December 1861. A second edition appeared in March 1862. Potiquet's catalogue was in fact, an adaptation of an earlier listing of every known stamp, produced by a German bookseller, F. Berger-Levrault, who circulated his list to his friends and correspondents.
3. The first British catalogue was called "Aids to Stamp Collectors" which was compiled by F. W. Booty in April 1862.
4. The first Stamp Album was also produced by a Frenchman, Justin Lallier, and it appeared in December 1862.
5. The first Public Auction of stamps was held in Paris, in the Hotel Drouot, on 19th. December 1865.
6. The term "Philatelist" was used for the first time by Frenchman, Arthur Maury, in 1864, and has since gained worldwide acceptance.
7. The first Philatelic Journal was the Monthly Intelligencer, published in Birmingham, England.
8. The world's first Postage stamps were the Penny Black and the Twopenny blue, issued on 6th. May 1840.
9. Switzerland was the second country to issue stamps in March 1843; they were followed by Brazil with the famous "Bull's eye" stamps issued in August 1843.

One can now ask the question - What is Philately? Simply, it is the collection and study of Postage stamps. What is a Postage Stamp? A Stamp is an adhesive label, which indicates that the transport of a letter has been paid for in advance.

There are four basic categories of stamp issued -

1. Definitive Stamps;
2. Commemorative stamps;
3. "Dubious" issues - e.g. stamps issued purely for profit;
4. Charity stamps.

I will define each of these categories in the next article.

Members Profile.

John Mitchell.

John's interest in collecting dates from a very early age - when he was only eight years of age, his father, a specialist collector of the "Sower" stamps of France gave him a large world packet and an album. His interest has continued unabated ever since, though his areas of collecting have changed over the years. He discovered, in 1943, that his next-door neighbour was a stamp dealer. Amongst other small gifts from this neighbour, John received a dealers wholesale price list. A fortuitous gift, which led to a lifelong interest in dealing in stamps, and to his pre-eminent position as such in the Mid-Western region.

After studying the price list, John was attracted to the New Zealand Health issue of 1943, which featured the "Two Princesses" - even more importantly, it was a triangular issue (or triangelly, they were called when I was a child). He sent off an order for twelve sets, took them to his boarding school in Waterford, and sold them all to his schoolfellows in a matter of a few days. He was so encouraged by this success, that he approached a local printer to print up stationery for his new company, all headed "John S. Mitchell, Specialist in Irish, Commonwealth and Foreign Stamps", and cost £11.00 to print. Blithely John instructed the printer to put the amount on his school bill. One can only imagine the scene in the Mitchell household when his father got the bill! Anyway, he survived, and his dealership flourished.

Shortly after the War, in 1947, he spent some time in Germany where he bought a large number of stamps using the currency of the day - cigarettes, chocolate, coffee and soap. Returning home in 1953, he sold many of these stamps en route, buying a Hillman Husky with the proceeds. The purchases in Germany included a good number of the Hitler issues, which had very poor resale value, and even to-day are of little value. During his time in Germany, John also purchased a half-hundredweight sack of Kiloware, all post-War material. Before sorting more than a few pounds of this, the sack disappeared, and, to this day, John has no idea where it went to. Nobody could possibly loose a sack of this size, but John managed it!

John continued trading in stamps as a sideline to his main business in England during the 50's, and on his return to Ireland in 1963 to set up his business in Limerick, this sideline continued, and indeed, continues to this day. At this stage he made a serious effort to establish a mail order stamp accessory business; However, the Irish market was not ready for this concept at the time, so unfortunately, the venture failed.

Despite the emphasis on dealing, John is also, of course, a collector, and in his time developed an enviable collection of varieties; his main interests now are used Europa and definitive issues. He also has a growing interest in Post Marks, which he sees as becoming more important to him as time passes.

Interestingly, one of his first customers for the "Two Princesses" issue was Rory Childers, son of our late President. This probably makes the point well that politics plays no part in this hobby of ours.

For Rhode Islanders the philatelic highlight of the year was the issue of a special stamp to commemorate the Bi-Centennial of R.I.'s ratification of the U.S. Constitution. R.I. was the first state to declare its independence from British rule, and the last to ratify the constitution. Consequently, this issue is the last stamp in the U.S. Constitution series. The stamp, which was issued on 29th. May last, depicts Slater Mill in Pawtucket. This mill was the first in the U.S. to produce cotton yarn, and is generally regarded as the birthplace of American Industry.

The Mill was 'taken over' by the Slater Stamp Club, on the 29th. May, when they hosted a very successful exhibition and bourse. A special FDC, produced for the event was completely sold out.

The occasion was not without controversy; a rival ceremony was held in the State Capital, Providence, on 1st. June. Perhaps more about this in a future article.



The USPO issued a spectacular Hologram Cover earlier this year. The cover, imprinted "USA 25", bears a hologram "stamp" depicting a space station in orbit over the surface of the Moon, with a shuttle about to enter the station. I am not aware of the advantage of this item in a postal sense, but it is a most dramatic item to look at, and is (as far as I know) the first attempt to produce a stamp in this way. (Disregarding the 3-D stamps from Bhutan, and elsewhere, of course, which were not holograms).

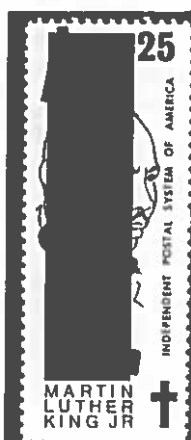
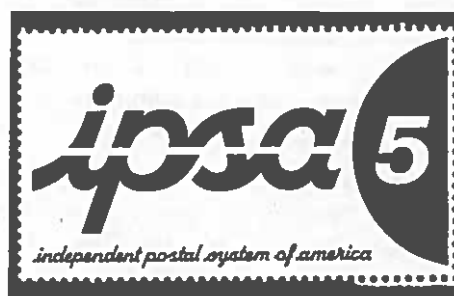
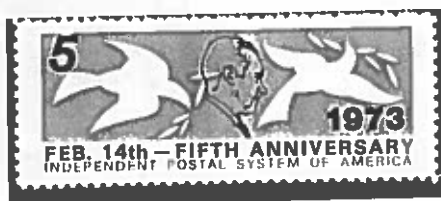


In the Spring issue of the newsletter, an item headed "It Had to Happen", incorrectly described the Self-Adhesive stamps issued by the USPO as being the new plastic stamps promised by the USPO. In fact, the plastic stamps were not issued until May, and I hear that they have not been well received, and may well be withdrawn.

American NL (continued):

Private Mail carrying is a growth industry over here. In general, these do not compete "head-on" with the USPO, though there is overlap. Overnight delivery services is an area dominated by the private sector and has a huge turnover, in the region of well over \$6 Billion per annum. The private companies are a lot more expensive than the old PO, but they guarantee a service which the PO just cannot provide - even providing a parcel wrapping service!

A variety of labels are issued by the private carriers, and I illustrate a few of these for the benefit of "Cinderella" collectors.



What's the funny Number? - What do you mean, you didn't see it? It's on the front page! This is our International Standard Serial Number, assigned to your Newsletter under the UNESCO sponsored International Serials Data System, an international computer-based system for the identification and bibliographic control of serials. Now you know!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

In acknowledging the considerable help given to the NL by a number of people in various ways, pride of place must go to Society President, Sean Moore, who has become the 'backbone' of the effort. It is fair to say that without Sean's constant help, and steady stream of articles, our little magazine would not have survived thus far. The support that Sean has given to the NL is a reflection of the wholehearted, enthusiastic manner in which he supports all our societies' endeavours, and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude.

*

Thanks also to:

Roger O'Donoghue for photo of P/B at 40, Clare St. Limerick;

Desmond O'Donoghue for the fine piece on T.P.O.'s - this is a good illustration of how collectors can help each other by sharing the results of their research with other collectors; a most generous attitude which could well be copied!

Henry Morris for the article on the late J.F.K.;

Kieran Kerr and Pat McCooole for taking the trouble to write to The NL;

John Mitchell for allowing himself to be subjected to interrogation;

Jim McAllister for the stream of interesting material from across the Atlantic;

McDonnell Whyte for kind permission to reproduce the illustration on p.24 (Rare Irish Stamps);

James Mackay for kind permission to use material from his many publications; (v. "Limerick Post Marks" p. 5; Athenry P.H., p. 13).

All who allowed their (generally terrible) photographs to be taken and used in evidence!

A very special "thank you" to John Mitchell, who as well as allowing himself be subjected to 'profiling', also did the bulk of the photocopying (the old machine finally gave up), and remained good-humoured and affable despite the

gross intrusion on his time and business over a period of many days. Also, a sincere thank you to Doreen O'Reilly who did a great deal of the work.

Regarding my own sketch on Athenry, I am glad of the opportunity to thank both Jim McAllister and Roger O'Donoghue for the help and very large contribution which both have made to my study of Galway P.H. over the past years. This piece owes a great deal to both these gentlemen.

I would express my gratitude to all of you who helped with advice, ideas and moral support.

Last Word: Support your local stamp club -

- attend meetings; next on October 19th.
- support Mini-Mart; next on October 6th.
- contribute to your Newsletter - send a letter, an article, a book or a (relevant) sentence to: Michael Hartnett, 1, Clifton Close, Ennis Road, ('phone 061/51228) or drop it into M-Sign Products at 29, Mallow St.
- bring something from your collection to show to other members.

Venue for meetings and Mini-Mart is: halla Ida, 18, Thomas Street, Limerick.

RARE IRISH STAMPS:



Dollard O/P, on 10/- blue, with variety -"short third line",
cat. (1987) £1,000,

[illegible]