

WHEAT IS GOING ON? - E.S.

a deep breath, nes may be told
Post closures: revise proposals
Call to remove
Voluntarily only board of An Pos
Farewell to a rural nerve c
for commit

[illegible]

Dr. J. Q. Adams of the
Philadelphia Society

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Editorial:

I'll start with the bad news: the cost of producing the Newsletter is proving to be quite a drain on our small resources. Consequently, it has been decided to ask our subscribers to make a small annual contribution to the cost of producing the NL. A sub. of £4.00 p.a. (for four issues) is being requested. This request is made with great reluctance, and as an alternative to stopping production altogether. Paid-up members will continue to receive the NL free of charge, and provision has been made for "free subs." to anyone who wants to avail of this facility. I would mention that the £4.00 which is requested does not in fact, cover the cost of production, but will enable us to continue producing it.

I am grateful to those who have provided articles and items for inclusion in this issue - thank you one and all. However, articles are still badly needed if we are to keep the effort going. Please help with some contribution - from a 'one-liner' for the NVC section, to an essay for the supplement. Contributions to me at - 1, Clifton Close, Ennis Road, Limerick ('Phone: 061/51228), or to John Mitchell, at M-Sign Products, 29, Mallow Street.

The closures/redundancies saga at An Post continues. I doubt if any other company in the history of the state has had as much publicity generated by it's organisational plans. The situation is at last becoming clearer, which is a relief; it would seem that the campaign has a clear cut objective and it will certainly be interesting to see how the matter ends. I would hazard a guess that An Post, under the leadership of John Hynes, will develop into a most successful company.

Michael Hartnett.

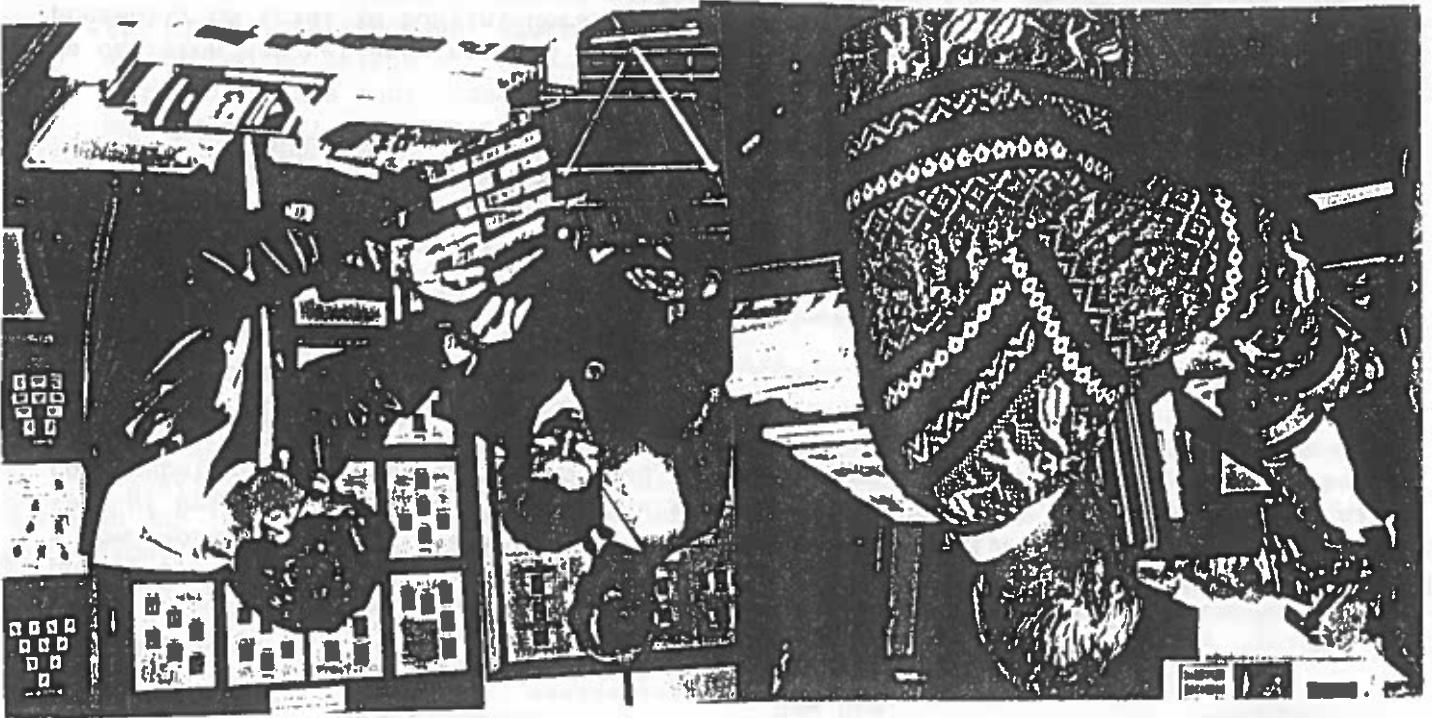
March 1991.

The 1991 Checklist of Scout, Guide & Brigade Stamps of the World became available in December last. This is a very comprehensive list and a 'must' for anyone interested in this theme. It is available for IR£5.00 (post inclusive) from: J.D. McKee, 3, South Park Drive, Foxrock, Dublin, 18.

The British P.O. issued a new Greetings Booklet in February. It consists of ten designs, based on good luck symbols, and, when looked at together, they form one overall design. I regard it as one of the ugliest stamp designs I have seen in a long time. But then, I did not like their "smiles" design on the previous greetings booklet either, and I understand that it was very successful.

Continuing a tradition started in its first year of operation, An Post again sent Christmas Cards to its customers. For the second year running The National Lottery also sent cards for Christmas. Neither of the cards which I have seen had any philatelic connection. An Post also uses two other designs - one for the exclusive use of their C/E, John Hynes, and the other used by senior executives; while I have not seen either of these it is possible that one or both may have some philatelic connotation.

A number of our members attended Stampex '90, which was again held at the Riverside Exhibition Centre, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin. Comments were generally favourable. The only criticism I heard - that of overcrowding of dealer's stands - was described by one member as "probably psychological rather than real". An Post issued another set of cards in its "Postal History" series for the event. The subject was "150th anniversary of the issue of the first Postage Stamp", and the set of four cards was available for £1.20 mint, and £2.32 cancelled. Additionally, a souvenir sheet, consisting of a suitably overprinted pane from the prestige booklet which was issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black was available to visitors at £3.00 per copy. A second sheetlet, overprinted in red was available to Stampex members.



Bargain-Hunting: Joe McCarthy & John Grace at Stampex.

Despite the time of year, and the demands of families, nine of our members turned out for our December Meeting. Those who came to the meeting, found the trip well worth the effort as we had the privilege of being addressed by Tony Cassidy, Philatelic Author, and well-known student of Postal History. Despite his being at the end of an arduous journey, and also not having slept for over two days, Tony delivered a most interesting address on Postal History, with an emphasis on County Clare, his own particular area of interest. He also displayed copies of items from his collection, (including a rare S/L "Clarecastle"), and he succeeded in making this one of the most enjoyable meetings we have had for a very long time. We all hope that Tony will be able to visit us again in the future.

An Post published the results of its latest Survey of Next Day Deliveries in January. It covered the three months to December, and showed a 2% drop in next day deliveries when compared with the previous three month period - down from 94% to 92%. The drop is attributed to the increased volume of mail over the Christmas period. The survey was carried out by MRBI.

A new Official Paid Die was introduced in Charleville in November. It was used in conjunction with the old die during December. The new die has the word "Iochta" inserted between the "wavy lines" in the now familiar manner.



Irish Stamp Collectors are not the only ones to suffer from an over-generous issuing policy by their national Postal Company. I note that the British Post Office has issued a commemorative set of five stamps - these cover three anniversaries, and feature paintings of Dogs. I recall that some three years ago the British P.O. announced that all commemorative issues would be confined to four stamps. This change of policy can be motivated only by profit expectation. The lesson to be learnt from other Stamp issuing territories who have taken the path of over-generosity in new issues is so obvious that I simply cannot understand why it has not been learnt by the "respectable" countries.

Diary Date:

At our January Meeting, it was decided to hold our Annual Exhibition on SATURDAY 23rd. MARCH next, in Halla Ida. Please tell your friends. Volunteers are needed to help out with the arrangements - please don't hang back, volunteer NOW.

No decision has yet been reached as to which of the Auto Stamp Label Vending Machines, presently on trial in Dublin, Cork and Limerick will be selected for general use. If the reaction from Limerick users is reliable, it will not be the Klussendorf - from what I hear, there is general annoyance at the fact that this machine does not give change in cash - only in odd value labels.

what is going on in An Post? For the past two months or so, huge publicity has been accorded to An Post's plans to close 550 offices, and make 1500 of its staff redundant. Is this to do with Finance, as stated or is it some form of politics? I do not know the answer, but the whole business seems very strange to me. Some years ago, An Post announced that it was seeking to close about 1000 offices throughout the country, and that it was pursuing a policy of voluntary redundancy. This policy has been pursued, and not less than 400 offices have, in fact already been closed. The policy of voluntary redundancy has been followed successfully. The original notice of 1000 closures drew little attention, the recent notice of 550 closures has drawn massive attention. The publicity afforded to this plan would be a Marketing executives dream, with daily headlines and cover in every news bulletin. Ireland was suddenly forced to discover her "rural heart" - the village P.O.

One could speculate endlessly as to the reasons for all the hype, but such speculation is probably fruitless. We will most likely never know the full story, though parts of it will no doubt become clear over the coming months. The end result, for the moment has been to postpone further closures until after the local elections - sorry, I mean until the NESG has studied the matter and made its report. Whatever the truth of the matter it has been a fascinating saga, and one that is far from over.

Discussion at our February Meeting, naturally enough, centered on our forthcoming Annual Exhibition. Reports from the various 'task-leaders' indicate that preparations are well in hand for what looks set to be one of our best ever Exhibitions. But please remember that help is needed - please volunteer either for the preparation stage, or for the day.

Auto Stamp Label Vending Machines: Results of the three experimental trials have proven to be inconclusive, so it has been decided to continue the experiment for a further period, but with the machines placed outside the relevant Head Offices. Each machine was felt to have inherent disadvantages - e.g. Frama is of an unpleasant design, Amiel is too big (the label, that is, not the machine), Klussendorf does not give change. On the showing to date the Frama could be said to be slightly in the lead, but not far enough ahead to get the contract.

Michel Rundschau have published their annual review of stamp issues, covering 1989. The worst offenders for 1989 are St. Vincent & Grenadines (397 stamps + 47 min. sheets) Grenada & Grenadines (223 stamps + 36 m/s); Sierra Leone (188 stamps + 31 m/s). Interesting inclusions are South Africa - not so long ago regarded as a "respectable" country - with 138 stamps + 7 m/s, and Japan with 108 stamps and 43 m/s. Our nearest neighbour, England, if you include The Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Scotland, Wales and the Six Counties comes out at 238 stamps and 3 m/s, which puts her in clear third place. Ireland does not seem too bad by comparison with 35 stamps and 1 m/s.

The Limerick Tribune, in its edition of 9th. February last carried a half-page feature on our Mini-Mart. Anyone who missed it, and would like to get a copy can do so from the Tribune Offices at 5, Upper Mallow Street.

A new product aimed at Philatelists is being advertised in the Philatelic Press. Called 'Stampkleen' it claims to remove ingrained dirt from the face and backs of stamps, and to restore colour and natural brightness, thus enhancing the value of the stamp so treated. It is hardly necessary to advise collectors to use extreme care if tempted to try out such products. Personally, I would like to see 'Stampkleen' exhaustively tested before trying it myself.

Next Meeting: Friday 19th. April 1991, in Halla Ida, 18, Thomas St., Limerick.

I will not comment on the Leader, beyond saying that I feel it is very sad that a local newspaper cannot find some space to support a local club.

We certainly owe a great debt of gratitude to the Post, and also to the Tribune who have both treated us very well indeed.

Limerick Post: 35 col. inches (6 insertions);
Limerick Tribune: 16.75 col. inches (8 insertions);
Limerick Leader: 5 col. inches (3 insertions).

asked, and support from the other papers breaks down as follows:

During 1990, we made thirty-six requests for advertising support to the local Limerick Newspapers, and one to the Clare Champion. We received eighteen positive responses, and a total of almost sixty column inches were devoted to mention of your club's activities. The Clare Champion responded positively on the one occasion they were

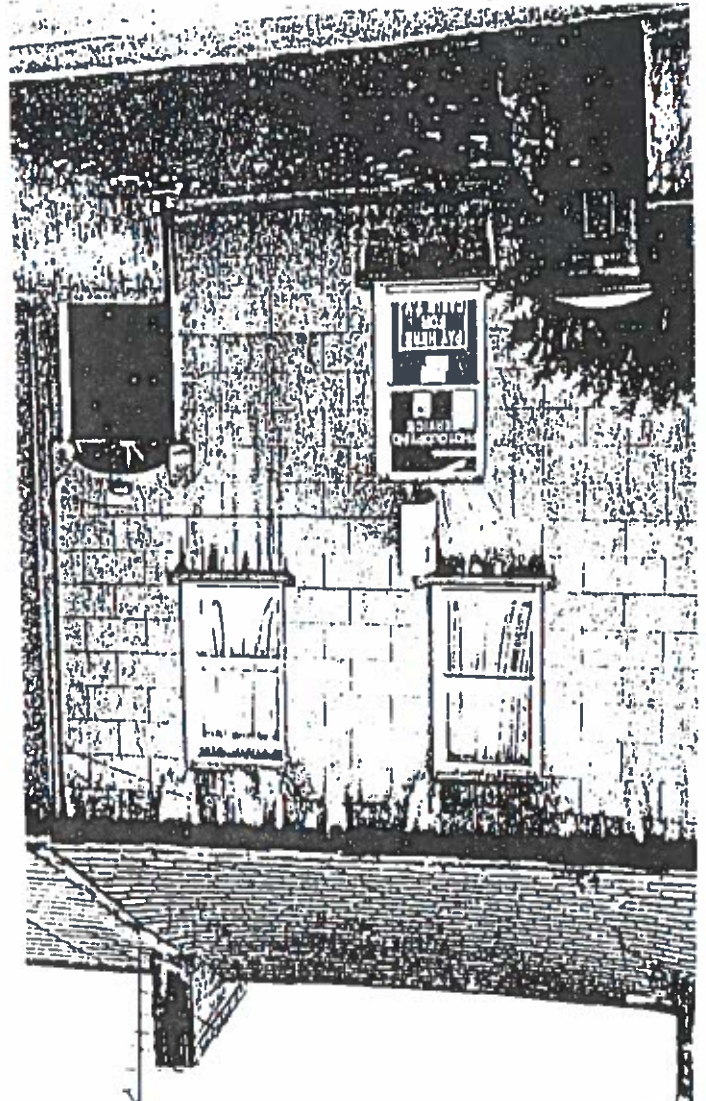
Local Papers Support The MWPS.

(As a footnote to the postal history of Thomondgate P.O., it should be noted that the office was closed from 31st. Dec. 1990, to 25th. Jan. '91. The reason given was "to allow operational and administrative streamlining" to take place. During the period of closure, the office was opened each Thursday and Friday for the payment of pensions).

1. The office actually opened in 1891.
2. Robert Moorehead was appointed Receiver (not Postmaster) on 27th. August 1891, and was installed on 20th. October 1891 at a salary of £6.00.
3. The Office was then described as Thomondgate, Co. Clare.
4. Robert Moorehead resigned on 27th. April 1892. By this time the office was designated as being in Co. Limerick.
5. Miss Emily Hurley's appointment as P.M. was approved on 30th. May 1892. (Miss Hurley's tenure would appear to have been short as she was appointed to William Street only six months later on 14th. December 1892).
6. Miss E. Cashin's appointment as sub-P.M. was approved in 1912 (probably July of that year).

Following on the profile of Thomondgate Office which appeared in the Winter 1990 issue of the NL, I can add some additional information on the office, which may be of interest to your readers:

By: A. Cassidy.



Post Boxes at Shannon Airport.

By: R. O'Donoghue.

For a great many years there have been three post boxes at Shannon Airport; these are located as follows:

1. In Departure area, outside restaurant;
2. In Arrivals lounge, outside Aer Lingus Baggage-office;
3. In Duty-free area.

All the boxes were removed on the night of 18th. January last, and replaced by 1.30p.m. of the following day, by a conventional type of pillar box. The three new pillar boxes are identical in size and type, though so far, I have been unable to ascertain the manufacturer's name.

The reason given for the change, is that many passengers did not recognize the old boxes as post boxes, and it was felt that a more conventional type of box would be more easily recognized.

I illustrate two of the old boxes on the left, and the new type on the right.

Post Points.

By: R. O'Donoghue

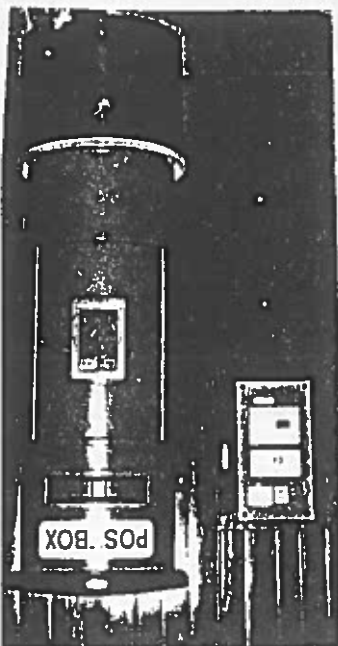
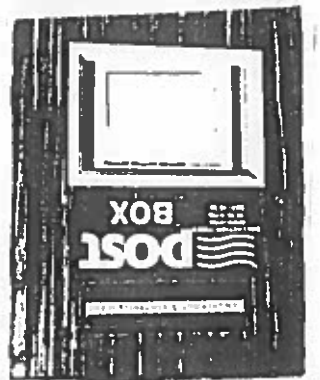
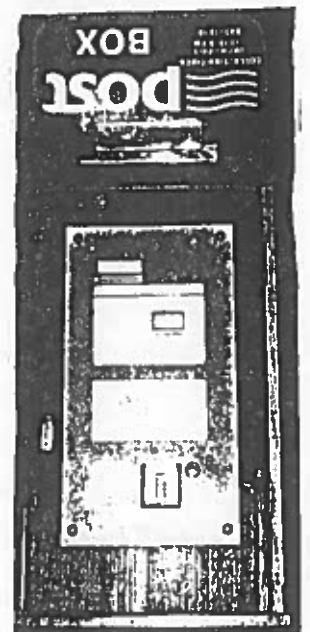
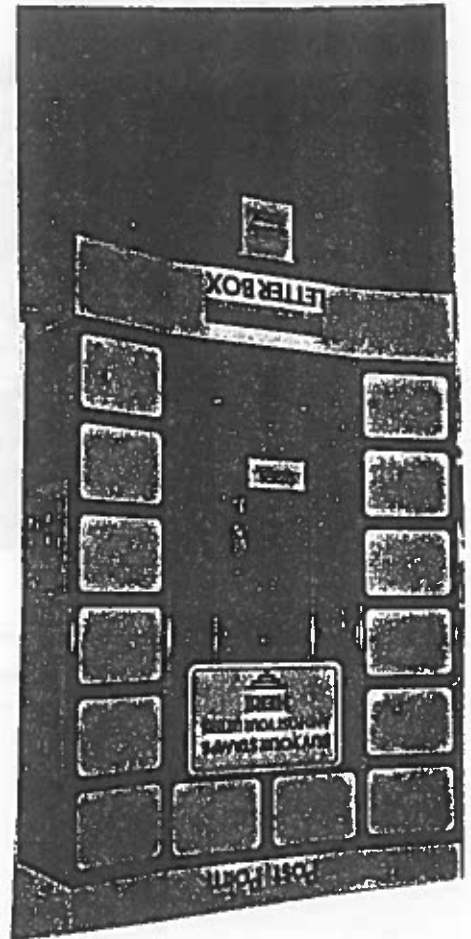
A new type of Stamp Vending Machine/Letter Box is being installed at Shopping Centres Nationwide. It consists of a tall, rectangular box like structure painted green, with information/advertising printed in black on a yellow field.

The words "Post Point" are printed at the top, front, and the message "Buy Your Stamps and Post Your Letters Here" is noted in the centre, front and this is repeated on the sides of the structure.

The vending machine is sited in the centre of the top half and the letter box at about the middle of the structure. The collection box is fitted in the lower part, with a plate for collection times in the door.

The Post Points are being installed in co-operation with Quinsworth, and in the Mid-West region, they have been installed in Ennis, Dooradoyle and Tralee Shopping Centres.

I also hear that some minor I.R. problems associated with their instalation were resolved quite quickly.



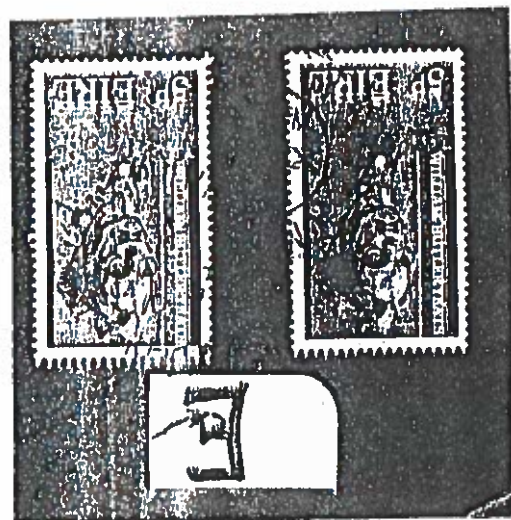
By: Sean Moore.

(Note: We have still not found a method of copying stamps so as to enable the variety to be clearly seen. However, in the following examples, most - though, not all unfortunately, can be seen with the aid of a magnifying glass. We do hope that there is enough information for the reader to identify the varieties on his/her own stamps. As ever, Sean will be happy to help anyone who requests assistance).

1. First 'E' of Eire;
2. Last 'E' of Eire;
3. 'I' of Eire;
4. at tail of '5' in 5p;
5. 'R' of Eire;
6. First 'E' of Eire;
7. Last 'E' of Eire;
8. First 'E' of Eire;
9. at Vertical Bar of '5' in 5p.



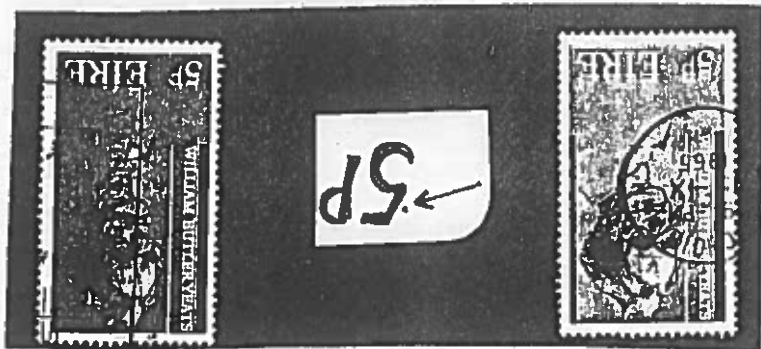
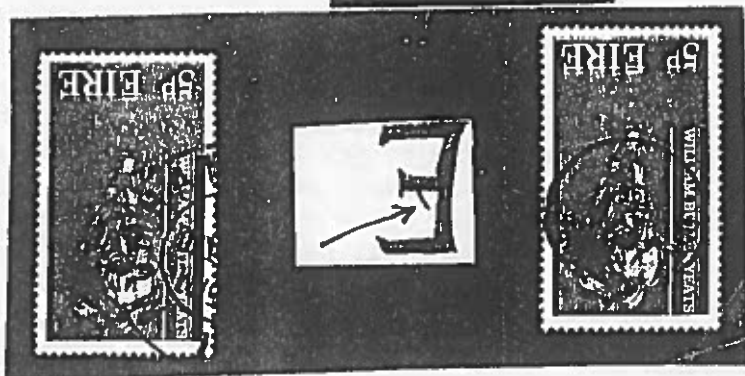
2 + 7.
5.
3.
1 + 6 + 8.
4 + 9.



1.

2.





Hereunder is a list of the stamps issued by An Post during 1990, together with the cost of each item, and a note of some of the "special items" issued.

1. January: EC Presidency/Tourism - 30p. + 50p.	80p.
2. " : Love stamps - 26p. + 30p.	56p.
3. March: Greetings Stamps (Booklet)	1.98p.
4. March: St. Patrick's day Cards - 5 x 33p.	1.65p.
5. " - Letter card	43p.
6. " Definitives - 26p., 30p., 32p., 41p., 50p., + £1.00	2.79p.
7. April: Williamite Wars - 2 x 30p.	60p.
8. " World Cup - 2 x 30p.	60p.
9. " - Min. Sheet -	2.40p.
10. May: 150th. Anniversary of 1st. Stamp. 30p. + 50p.	80p.
11. " Europa - 28p. + 41p.	69p.
12. " Europa Sheetlets - 10 x 41p. + 10 x 30p.	7.10p.
13. " Prestige Booklet - £6	6.00p.
14. June: Missionaries - 26p. + 50p.	76p.
15. " Collins - 30p.	30p.
16. August: Garden Flowers - 26p., 30p., 41p., 50p.	1.47p.
17. " " - Maximum Cards - 4 x 16p.	64p.
18. " " - Booklet	2.59p.
19. Sept.: Basic Year Book - £23; Special Ed. - £100.	23.00p.
20. October: Theatre - 4x 30p.	1.20p.
21. " Auto Stamp Labels (pick a price - Trial set.)	5.58p.
22. November: Christmas Stamps - 26p., 26p., 30p., 50p.	1.32p.
23. " Christmas Sheetlet -	2.86p.
24. " Year Pack	9.30p.
25. " Definitive Year Pack -	13.95p.
26. " Machine/Counter Booklet -	1.00p.

£90.37

I have ignored stationery and other items for reasons of space, so the above is not a complete listing. The above does indicate, that for a collector to buy one each of the major items issued by An Post during 1990, would have cost a whopping £90.37p. It is to be expected that collectors will be selective, and that very few would buy one of every item. However, many collect various items, either singly or in combination with other items, control blocks or gutters for example. Extracting single items gives the following break down:

One of each Stamp: £11.69
One of each Booklet: £11.57
One of each Sheetlet: £12.36

As you can see, ours is an expensive hobby. You pay your money, and you takes your chances!



MacDonnell "Whyte's long-awaited catalogue, "Stamps of Ireland" finally arrived in the dealers' premises last January. John Mitchell got his supply on 25th. January, a Friday evening, and he reports steady sales ever since. Reaction to the new layout of the catalogue has been somewhat mixed, but, in general, comment has been favourable. In fact, it appears that collectors in the Mid-West region have been delighted by the new edition, and tend to the opinion that the wait was well worth while.

There are a number of changes in the new model, though in general it follows the established formula. It is now called a "specialised handbook" rather than the previous designation - "specialised catalogue", though in the introduction it is referred to as a catalogue. The possible reasons for this change elude me. The biggest change is the lay out of the pages; each page is now split into two half-pages, which allows much more information to be contained in a smaller space, but does, unfortunately, give a cramped appearance to the pages. It is probably fair to say that this disadvantage is offset by a cost saving which must be reflected in the cover price, which at £6.95 must represent very good value for money.

Another obvious change is the dropping of Gibbons' and Yverlt catalogue numbers. Most collectors are aware of the long running saga which has led to the dropping of the Gibbons numbers, so I will not dwell on it except to say that this is an inconvenience for those of us who need to cross reference from time to time. For the first time, Automatic Postage Labels and Overseas Exhibition Souvenirs are included. All Commemoratives issues up to Christmas 1990, and Definitives up to January 1991 are included.

It is difficult to establish a "trend" in price changes, of which there are a great many, though very few that appear in any way dramatic. To risk a generalisation, to which there are many exceptions, I would hazard a guess that overall, um/m are slightly down, and FV slightly up (when I say slightly, the variations are in fact, in the range of approx. 5% to 20%. This latter is not really a slight variation, but is not very large in money terms). Of the few 'dramatic' changes, I notice that the first definitive series LV have moved from £12 to £50 used, and HV have gone down from £260 used to £200. The second definitives have gone from £170 to £150. um/m, and from £25 to £22 u.

In the Commemorative section, I regret that the "mounted mint" category has been dropped, as I felt that the inclusion of this category helped to control some of the insanity which centres on the "unmounted" craze. However, I suppose that there is a reflection of the market involved which probably justifies it's being dropped. There are no great price shocks in this section either - again risking a generalisation, I'd say there is an overall drop in um/m whilst FV tend to remain unaltered, or to rise slightly. The First Day Covers follow much the same pattern, though not the early ones - for example the O'Connell FDC is up from £460 to £675.

Many collectors had been expecting large scale price reductions, based on their own observations of the market. This has certainly not happened, and indeed, the prices quoted would indicate a strong buoyancy in the market for Irish Philatelic Material. Certainly, the prediction that Exhibition Souvenirs would show a collapse, is quite unfounded - prices in this section remain strong, as also do prices for modern commemoratives. A few months ago, some observers were predicting price drops of as high as 50% in this area.

Drawing conclusions from a publication such as this is nearly as dangerous as using generalisations, but I'll risk two: Definitives and FV remain strong; and UM/M has started to drop to more realistic levels.

Whatever your particular interest, if you collect Irish material, this handbook is an essential tool of your hobby, irrespective of what level of collecting you have reached. It is very well researched, and beautifully produced. Don't be without it.

An occasional column about the world of stamps.

Discount Stamps.

In 1986 An Post issued its first Christmas Bonus Sheetlet. Priced at £2.50 the sheetlet contained twelve 21p stamps. The design for the stamp is based on "The Adoration of the Shepherds", a painting from the hand of Gírlamo Tropa, adapted by Charles O'Neill. The selvedge contains the name of the printers, Nollag Shona 1986 and the drawing of a church with a background of fir trees and a star overhead. O'Connor, O'Sullivan Advertising were the designers.

Another European country which produced discount stamps is Sweden. These were definitives available for general use rather than for the Christmas card season. In 1979 the Postal Authorities put on sale booklets priced at 1kr and which contained twenty stamps for use on material for delivery within the country. The total value of the stamps was 1.20kr. The booklet, unlike the sheetlet, could not be purchased freely. Only two booklets could be bought by each household. The demand was high. As a result a new booklet was put on sale in 1980. Over 3,000,000 booklets were sold (the population of Sweden is 8,000,000).



Idmerick Post Offices.

In 1935 the Department of Posts and Telegraphs had offices in Idmerick in Athlunkard Street, Broad Street, Edward Street, New Street, Rutland Street, The Crescent (Quinlan Street), The Docks (Alphonsus Street), Thomondgate, Upper Clare Street, Upper William Street and Idmerick Railway Station. The G.P.O. was in Lower Cecil Street.

Since then Athlunkard Street, Broad Street, Edward Street, New Street, The Crescent, Docks, Upper Clare Street and Idmerick Station have been closed. An office was opened in Ballinaacura (Garvey's Shop) and the Crescent office was moved across the street to O'Neill's shop. Both these offices have since been closed. Political influence, it is said, brought about the closure of the Crescent. A new office was opened at Brian Boru Place. Other new offices include Cathedral Place (Garryowen), Crescent Shopping Centre, Bonis Road, Caherdavin, Ridsa Street, Ballymannybeg and Hyde Road.

Incidentally, the New Street office was given as Corcach Ffraoch in Irish. The area off the street now known as Ardan Bride (St. Bridget's Terrace) was once a quarry and was known as Reckenham. Corcach Ffraoch invites investigation as none of the long-time residents can ever remember it being so called.

Storing Stamps in Damp Places.

If one has occasion to store a stamp collection in a damp place, e.g. bank vaults, it is recommended to put it into a strong metal box. Place silica gel in muslin (not plastic) bags, one in each corner. Silica gel looks like coarse white sand. It is very absorbent. It can normally be purchased in large chemical shops etc.

The bags must be taken out every few months and dried out by putting them into a moderately heated oven or the hot press.

Architectural Definitions.

The architectural series now being phased out has many interesting features. One which interests me is the (apparently) arbitrary division of papers for most values. GCP1 and GCP3 only is listed but it seems to me GCP2 is much more common than is thought. Any comments?

Incidentally, I have some duplicates in corner blocks in this series. I need the following: 2p 1A ccept, 2p ccept, 4p 3A ccept, 3p ccept and ccept; 7p 1A & 1B ccept; 20p 1A ccept, 2A & 2B ccept per. 2; 21p 3A ccept per. 2, 3p ccept per. 2 and 5A & 5B ccept.

For exchange blocks must be in excellent condition, i.e. uncreased, clean and with unstubbed corners.

Tuile as an ale - more at another time (Editor willing).

MID-WESTERN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND FAIR.

23rd. MARCH 1991.

In: HALLA 1DA, 18, THOMAS STREET, LIMERICK.

Coin Collecting is probably the most popular collecting hobby, after philately. Certainly, it is a hobby which enjoys a very large following. As a brief introduction, I illustrate below some of the mis-strikes to be found on the old Irish Penny of 1968. The first two show the correct relationship between obverse and reverse; the others show how the position of the harp varies in relation to the hen. These mis-strikes are intended to be melted down and re-struck, though as with stamp varieties, some escape through the checking process, and get into circulation.



Dear Sir,

My reason for writing is that I am looking for an Irish organisation which publishes a comprehensive journal on Irish Philately and to find someone to correspond with and exchange stamps. I collect only used stamps and I have had no luck in finding a source here in Canada.

Do you publish a journal? If so, what are your membership requirements? would any of your members be interested in corresponding with a Canadian collector?

Thank you for your assistance,

Blane Ryan. 10932-122 st., Edmonton, Alto, Canada, T5M 0H8.

Dear Sir,

I am a philatelist from The Soviet Union, but I am on practice in East Germany now. I am interested in the stamps of Ireland, and I would like to exchange with a member of your society. I ask you to help me with this.

My name and address are:

Valerij Solovjov,
ul. Mokovskaja, 38, kv.9,
Kursk, 305007, USSR.

Dear Sir,

Your name was given to me by an Italian collector, who suggested that you might be willing to help me find an exchange partner/correspondent in Ireland.

I would be interested in exchanging Commemoratives in fine to good used condition (I do not collect mint stamps). I can offer Australia, Papua & New Guinea and some Pacific countries. I am open to any method of exchange proposed, or I would exchange on a "stamp for stamp" basis. Better stamps, I usually exchange on a catalogue value basis. My main areas of interest are Europe and Commonwealth. I also collect along a theme of Art which is my major love.

I do hope that you can find me an exchange partner, and I would hope to become friends in the process.

Sharon Boggan, P.O. Box 2801 G.P.O., Canberra ACT 2601, Australia.

Dear Sir,

I am a stamp collector specializing in Irish Postal History and am a member of the Eire Philatelic Association. Our local Chapter, The Commodore Barry Chapter, consisting of EPA members in the New York/New Jersey Metro Area is interested in developing a relationship with an Irish Youth Stamp Club.

Our members often lend assistance and donate stamps to local American Youth Clubs, and would like to do the same for a club in Ireland. It occurs to me that you, as a fellow collector may be able to help us locate such clubs. We would appreciate hearing from you.

Michael Connolly, 15, Fordham Road, Parlin, New Jersey, USA, 08859.

DID YOU KNOW?

(Sean Moore)

That the numbering of houses was introduced to help postmen. The system was first tried in Paris in 1463.

A prize of £5 is offered to the first all correct entry received by 19th. April next.

1. Who invented letter boxes?

2. The Oldest named Mail Train in the world first ran from London to Hollyhead in 1848. What is it called?

3. The first machine Slogan Postmark was introduced to Ireland in 1917. What did it promote?

4. What country produced the first official air-mail stamp?

5. Who flew the first non-stop mail carrying flight over the Atlantic, landing near Clifden, Co. Galway in 1919?

6. On what date did Ireland issue its first commemorative stamps, and what did they commemorate?

7. Between 1944 and 1969, Ireland used two commemorative stamps in place of definitives. What did these stamps commemorate?

8. It is forbidden to send certain items through the post. Name one forbidden item.

9. Where, in 1852, were the first Pillar Boxes erected?

10. In what part of the world were clay envelopes used?

11. Which was the second country to issue postage stamps?

12. Who invented the first machine for perforating sheets of stamps?

13. The world's first datestamp - known as the "Bishop Mark" - was created in 1661. Who invented it?

14. The system of numbering houses to assist postmen commenced in 1463. In what country?

15. When did Ireland first issue Postage Due labels?

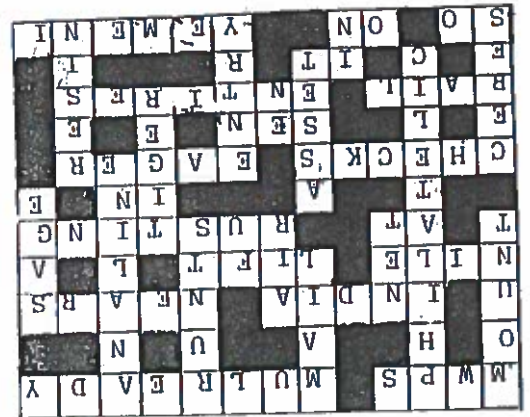
16. When did Ireland first issue Airmail stamps?

17. When was the first Auto Stamp Label Vending Machine installed in Limerick?

18. Where was Limerick's first Mail Coach Office situated?

19. What percentage of mail posted in Ireland reaches its destination on the day following posting?

20. How many definitives series has Ireland issued?



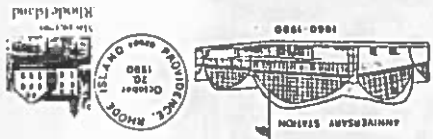
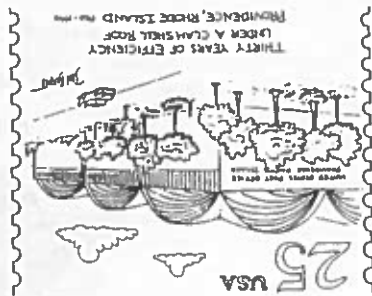
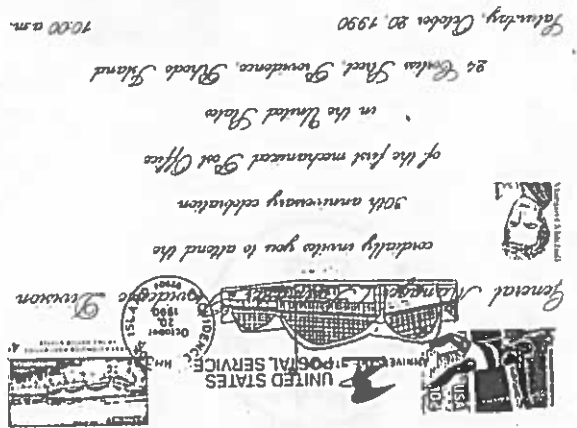
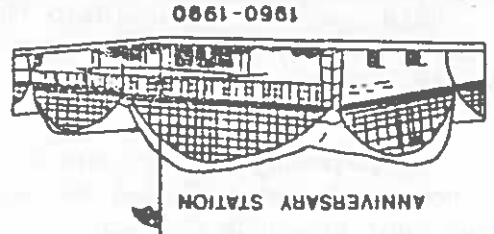
Newsletter Crossword.

The solution to the Crossword published in the Winter 1990 issue is given on the left. As no correct solution was received, the prize has been carried forward to our next competition.

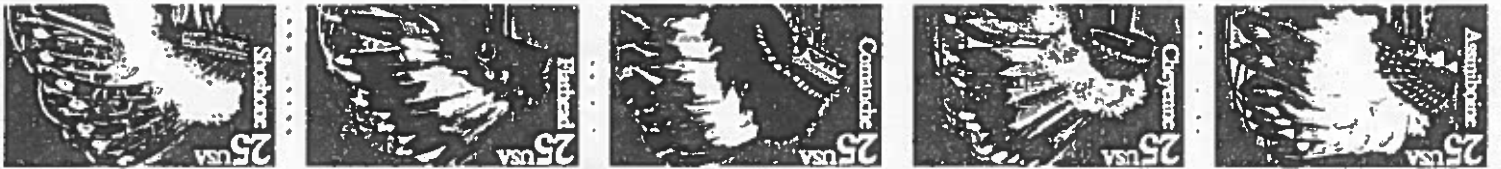
American Newsletter.
James P. McAllister.

I mentioned in the last issue of the NL that Rhode Island's Capital of Providence enjoys the distinction of having been the first automated PO in the U.S. An impressive "bash" was held in the office last October to celebrate the Thirtieth Anniversary of the opening of the office. It was attended by about 300 people under the auspices of the General Manager and Post Master of Providence.

The event brought to mind that the office did not get off to the most propitious start. Firstly, at the official ground-breaking ceremony in 1959, in the presence of Senators, Congressmen, the Governor and various other dignitaries, the workmen misjudging the amount of explosive needed to "break the ground" succeeded in causing an almighty explosion, which showered the grandstand (and all the worthies thereupon) with muck and debris. Then there was the Official Opening, in 1960. The switch to start the new and very expensive machinery was ceremoniously turned, and nothing happened. Nothing moved; the machines remained silent; the switch was thrown again and faces got redder and redder as still nothing happened. However, a few minor adjustments were made, and to everyone's relief it all happened as it was meant to. A special cover was produced to mark the 30th. anniversary, which I illustrate below, together with the invitation card sent out to the guests.



Commemorative booklets are now a feature of nearly all stamp-issuing nations, and the U.S. is no exception. A particularly dramatic Booklet, issued on 17th. August last featured Indian Head-dresses, and contained two panes of ten 25c. stamps.



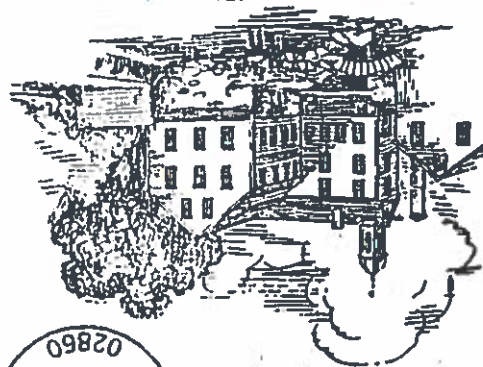
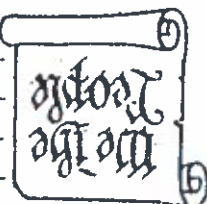
The plastic stamp - this item simply will not go away. As I mentioned in a previous piece, the sales of this stamp were very poor, and it looked as if it was going to be withdrawn. However, sales picked up considerably during December (probably it was seen as a convenience item by people who needed large numbers of stamps for their Christmas mail), and it now looks as if the issue may be a success. The initial order of 125,000 lasted from May to October; a further 2m. were ordered for the Christmas period, and following their successful sale, another 120m. were then ordered.

"The RI Bi-centennial 'bash' is now history, of course, but for the benefit of collectors of these items, I illustrate below two of the special cancels which were used to celebrate the event. On the first day of issue the special stamp was available only at Slater Mill itself, and at Pawtucket's two P.O.'s. The stamp went on general release on the following day - 1st. June. Originally, the State Governor had approved June 1st. as the FDI - a decision which led to months of controversy as the Mill had opened on 29th. May 1790, and many people felt that this anniversary should be celebrated on the correct date.

Well, in the end the "good guys" won-out, the 29th. was the day, and quite a day it was too. Starting at 9.00 p.m. on Monday with a giant fireworks display, moving on to the official issuance ceremony at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 29th, displays by the Shea High School band, a colour guard of the Kentish Guards, Daughters of the American Revolution, a dramatic presentation featuring aspects of William Slaters life, and culminating in the Statehood Dinner on Tuesday evening. Not very many stamps have as dramatic a "birthday".

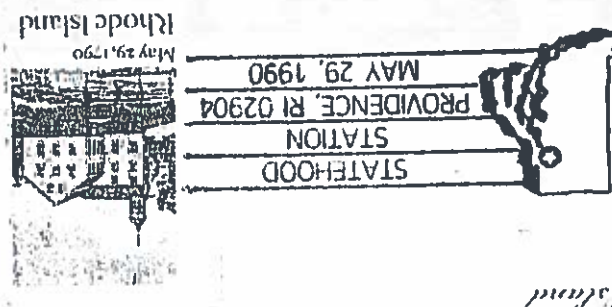


STATEHOOD
FIRST DAY
OF ISSUE
BICENTENNIAL



SLATER MILL 1790 - 1990

*Slater Stamp Club
Pawtucket, Rhode Island*



"The Postal Service Guide to U.S. Stamps" is an annual USPSO publication, now in its 17th. edition. It runs to 336 pages, and lists philatelic organisations and literature, as well as over 3000 stamps and stationery items. The latest edition, for the first time, also lists varieties to be found on U.S. stamps. It is available from the USPSO at a cost of \$5.95.

By: Joe McCarthy.

Did you notice my deliberate mistake in the last edition! - no doubt you did. It only came to my attention after publication and too late to effect a "cover up job" on it. Unfortunately, my error did not cost me my job as an occasional correspondent for our magazine; hence, I continue from where I left off in the last edition, having first made sure that I include a copy of the 1939 USA Constitution FDC as described previously:

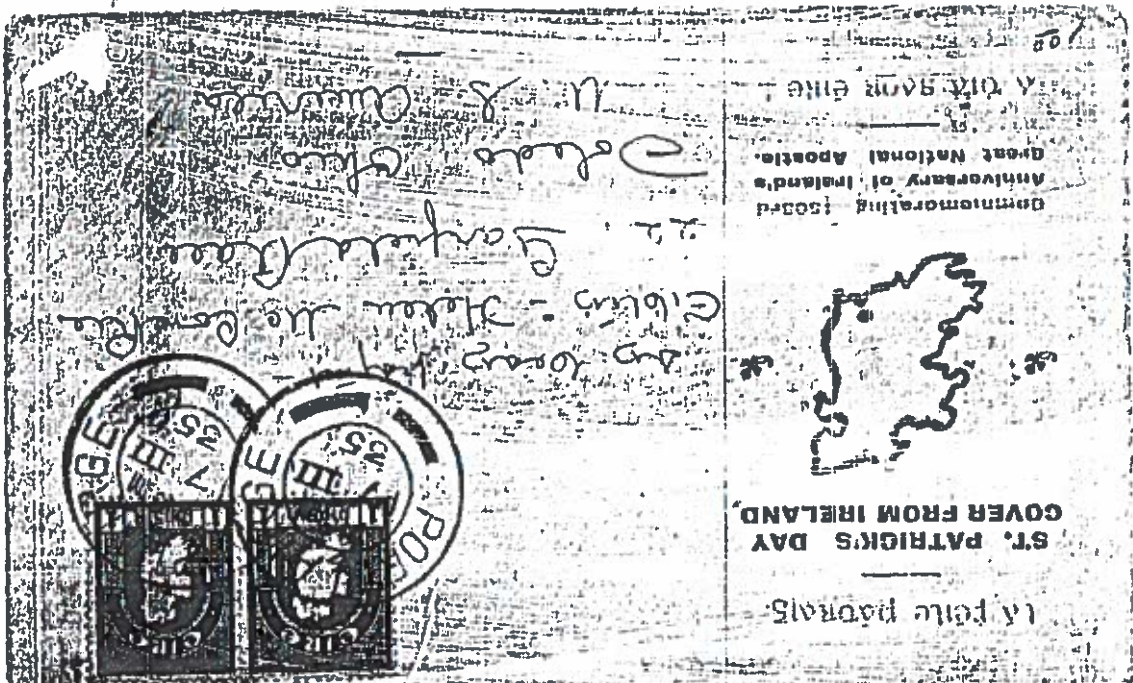
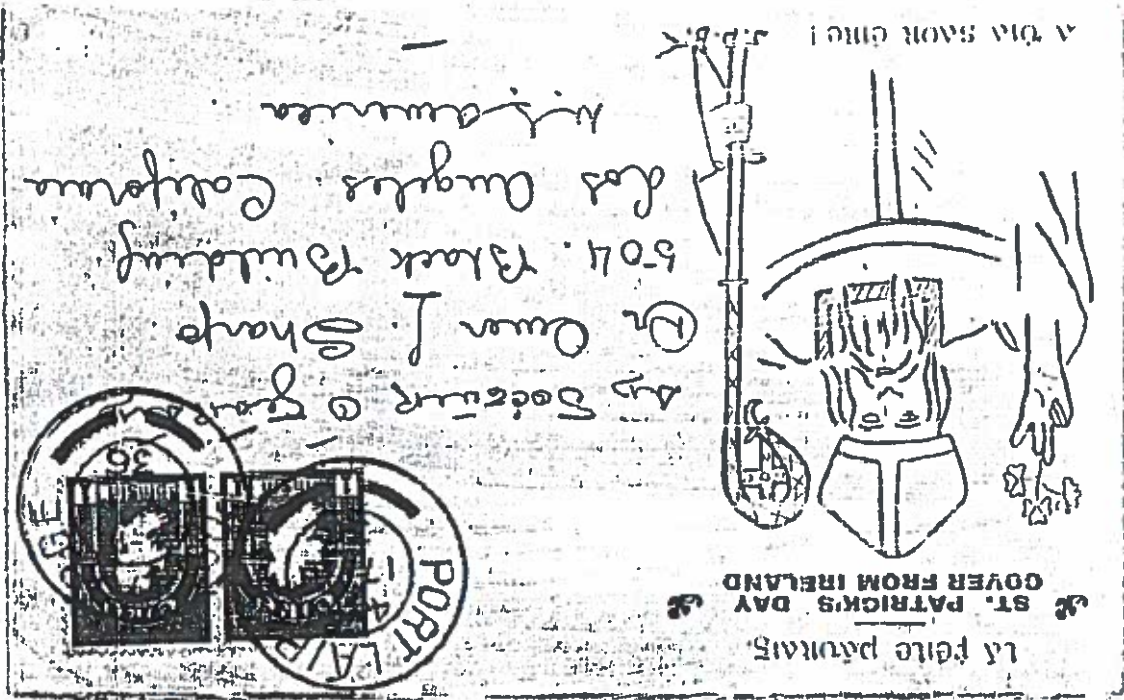
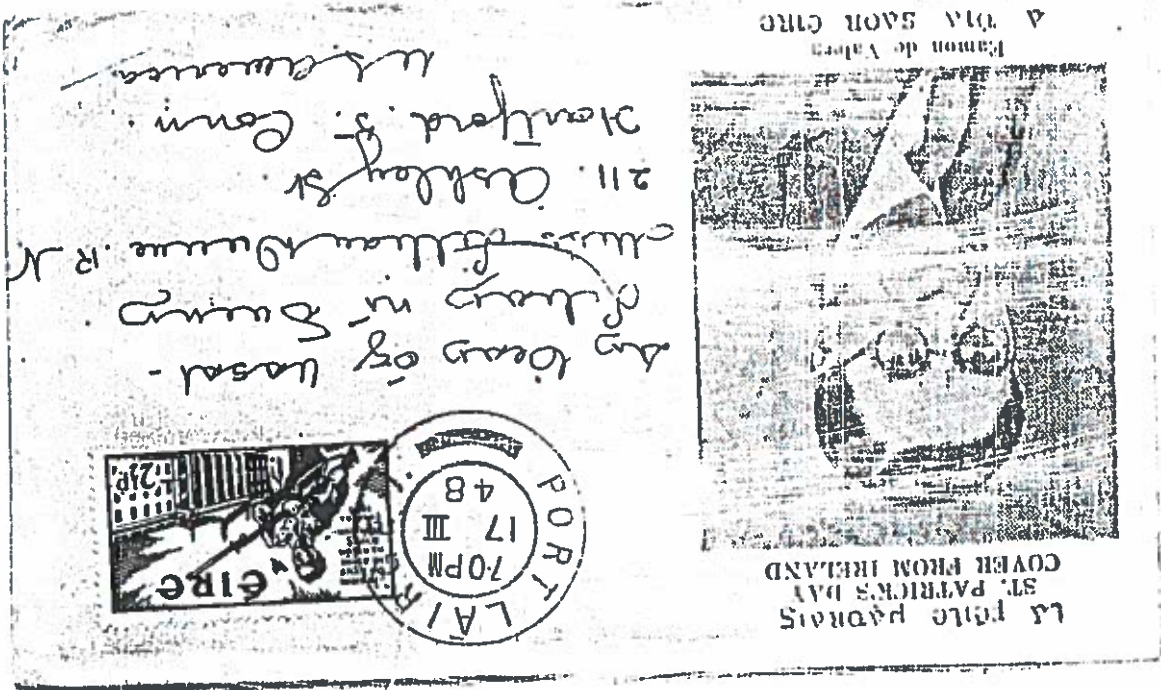


No further information came my way as regards Alf or Charlie.

For this issue, I am showing some of the St. Patrick's Day Covers which were quite popular during the 1950's and 1960's. Again, Charlie Bourke was very much involved. He should have been appointed First Philatelic Ambassador to the USA as most of the FDC's which I have seen over the years, have been addressed to people in the USA.

The first five covers displayed on the following pages bear his handwriting, and I am assuming (rightly or wrongly) that he also produced the covers. Also, I show some American covers, the designs on which are quite unusual, and I finish up with some Staehle/Clarke Castles of Ireland series/St. Patrick's Day Covers. While the examples shown do not cover the whole range of covers produced to commemorate St. Patrick's Day, they do highlight the different styles in vogue on both sides of the Atlantic around the 1940's and 1950's.

In the next issue, I hope to deal with the disputed date of issue for the Shannon Scheme FDC of 1930.



St. Patrick's Day, March 17.



Mr. Claude M. Redmond,
3437 Hopkins Street,
Oakland, California.
U.S.A.



St. Vincent's Bay (Port. São Vicente). Calif. - Libanus

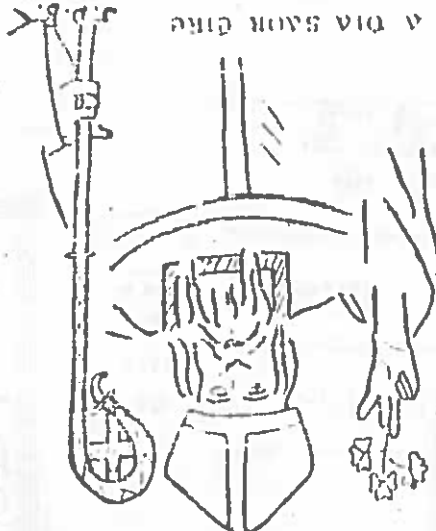
Unemployment and youth

1877. - Nov. 8

Antony Macal Cordery
der 8te Bezirk.



QYUQ HONSS VIO V

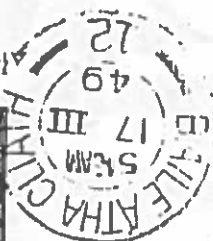


COVER FROM IRISH
AND SCOTLAND

על פי חוקרים

MR. CLYDE O. SARRIN,
856 West End Avenue,
NEW YORK, 25, N.Y.,
U.S. America.

COPIES OF THE REPORT



St. Patrick's Day
 1936
 17
 P.M.
 SAN FRANCISCO



ST. PATRICK'S DAY



V.S. Lindstrom
 77 Elindale Ave.
 Providence, R.I.



ALL HAIL SAINT



St. Patrick patron St. of Ireland was born in Scotland, of British and Roman parentage. He is credited with the conversion of the Irish race to Christianity from Paganism. The real date of birth is doubtful.



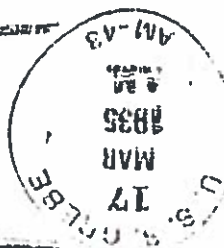
St. Patrick's Day
 17
 U.S.C.S. 678

St. Patrick Day's
 Greetings from
 U.S.S. Grebe



Mr. St. Schenck
 187 West 14th St.
 New York, N.Y.

THE GREENS

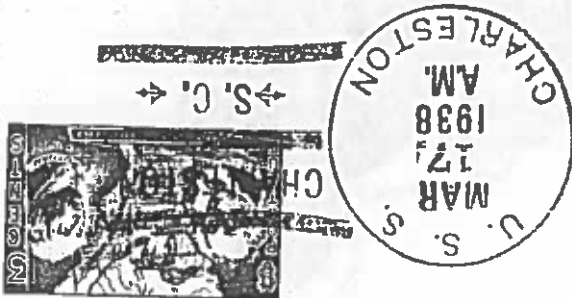


JOSEPH LEO CRONIN, T.M. I.C.
Receiving Station
WASHINGTON, D. C.

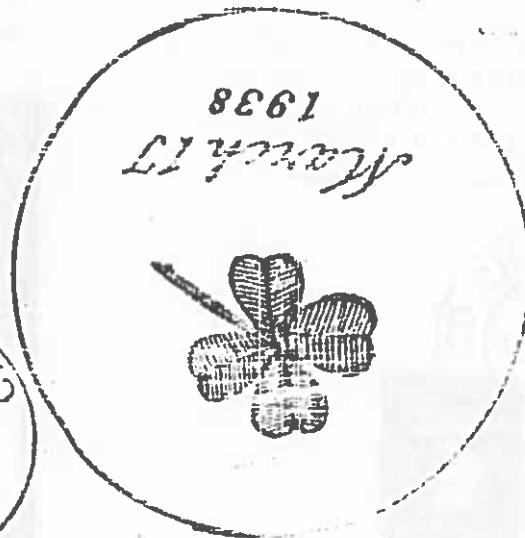
1938



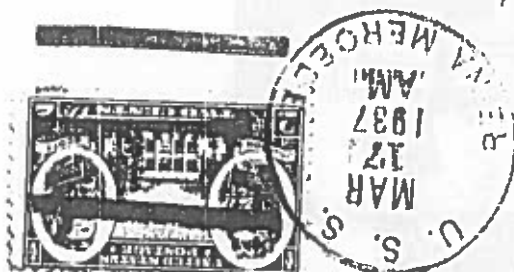
ST. PATRICK'S DAY

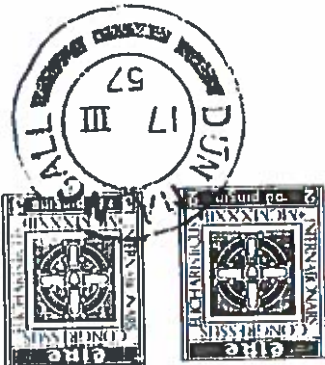
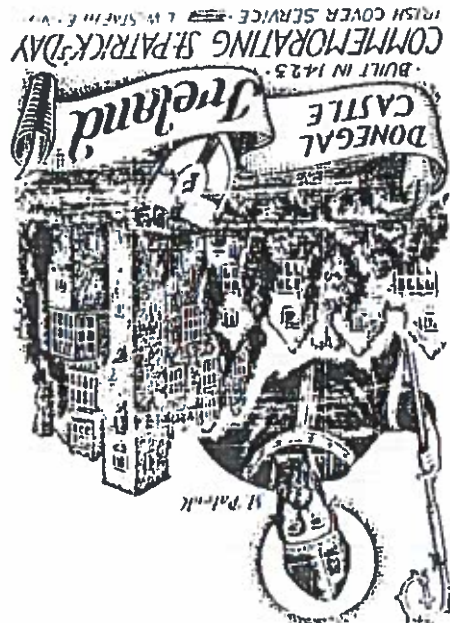


*Allen Florence Weaver
6605 Woodward Ave.
BELL, Wash. D.C.*



JOSEPH LEO CRONIN, T.M. I.C.
RECEIVING STATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.





IRISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION (IPA)
"ST. PATRICK'S DAY"
BLARNEY CASTLE
IN COMMEMORATION OF

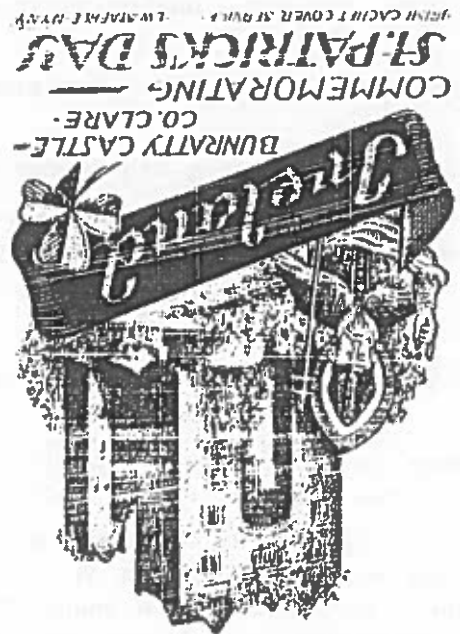
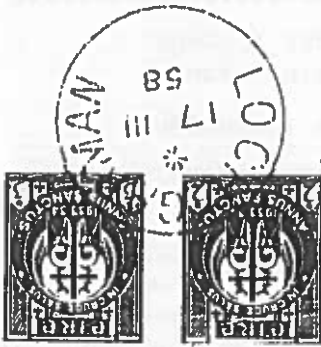


Emery M. H. H. H. H.
409 FILLMORE STREET
WELL
COLLEGE, U.S.A.



Mr. J. J. Berlin
616 E. Carson Street
Torrance,
California,
U.S.A.





Acknowledgements:

At our December meeting, MWPS President, Sean Moore, proposed a particular vote of thanks to John Mitchell, for the most generous way in which he has helped our Society over the years, culminating with the assistance he now gives in producing the NL, even to the extent of allowing his business to be interrupted for the benefit of the MWPS. His patience is astounding, and greatly appreciated.

In offering our thanks to those who have helped produce this issue, I can only echo Sean's words. It is quite true to say, that without John's help, we would not be able to produce the NL.

Our thanks also to Fergus Murrighy, who did the proof reading; a most difficult job indeed, and very time-consuming.

Our special thanks also go to:

Those who have taken the time and trouble to write for the NL, and those (un-named) who have provided snippets for the NVC section.

To Sean Moore, who, as ever, has made himself indispensable to the production of our Newsletter.

To McDonnell Whyte, and to James Mackay for permission to use their copyright material.

To Joe McCarthy, who has undertaken the task of distribution - another very time-consuming job.

And finally, to all who have helped with ideas, support and encouragement.

Annual Sub.: Our Treasurer has asked me remind all members that the annual sub. is now overdue. Please pay your sub. without delay.
He wishes to convey the Society's thanks to all who have already paid.

Advertising: All contacts, wants and swaps ads are free to any collector who wishes to avail of the facility.

Commercial Ads. are £5.00 per quarter page (or pro rata).
We are grateful to RAVEN STAMPS, 16, Bridge St., Cork, for their generous support.

Diary Dates: MID-WESTERN PHILATELIC SOCIETY ANNUAL EXHIBITION & FAIR
HALLA IDA, 18, THOMAS STREET, LIMERICK: SATURDAY 23rd. MARCH.

Support our Exhibition - come along to it;
- tell your friends about it;
- volunteer to help.

Next Meeting: 19th. April, in Halla Ida.

Next Mini-Mart: 6th. April, in Halla Ida.

(Admission to the Exhibition is free. A souvenir booklet and cover will be available)

Get more out of your hobby - support your local Stamp Club.

SPECIAL OFFERS

IRE

1. 1922 DOLLARD set with black overprint - fine unmounted mint. 40
2. 1922 DOLLARD black overprint on white paper block of 8 showing variety defaced plate. 60
3. 1922 DOLLARD overprint in red set of 3 - fine unmounted mint. 35
4. 1922 DOLLARD high-value 4-line overprint in black set of 3. Fine mint. 125
5. 1922-3 Thom Saorstait set of 12 - low values ½d to 1-shilling. Fine unmounted mint. 60
6. 1922-34 SE low value definitives - superb unmounted mint set of 12. 125
7. 1940-68 9d definitive with watermark inverted, unmounted mint. 5
8. 1968 photograph definitives set of 2 values on plain FDC. 35
9. 1969 Gerl definitive coils - set of 3 CDS used. 7
10. 1971-4 watermarked Gerl Definitives - very fine unmounted mint set of 18. 26
11. 1974-8 3½p unwatermarked Gerl Definitive unmounted mint gutter pair. 10
12. 1974-80 7p tag - superb unmounted mint cyl. block of 4. 25
13. 1929 Daniel O'Connell set of 3 - fine unmounted mint. 19.50
14. 1958 Tom Clarke set - fine unmounted mint. 9.50
15. 1959 Arthur Guinness 1-3d value. Superb CDS used. 5
16. 1938 Fr. Mathew set on plain FDC. 25
17. 1941 Easter Rising set used on 2 separate FDCs. 25
18. 1945 Thomas Davis set on FDC. 35
19. 1960 Europa set on illustrated FDC. 15
20. 1966 Easter Rising set in se-tenant pairs on illustrated FDCs. 15
21. 1968 Limerick Cathedral set in unmounted mint gutter pairs. 3.50
22. 1970 Patriot set in se-tenant gutter pairs - unmounted mint. 25
23. 1981 Hoban set in gutter pair on illustrated FDC. 3.50
24. 1981 Stamp Presentation Pack featuring Hoban issue. 3.50
25. 1983 Dogs miniature sheet superb CDS used. 4
26. 1987 Trams miniature sheet with HAF NIA overprint - scarce. 15
27. 1940-69 E watermark postage due set - fine unmounted mint. 40
28. 1978 unwatermarked postage due set of 3 on plain FDC. 10
29. 1966 2-6d red booklet - fine condition. 12
30. 1966 2-6d blue booklet - fine condition. 15
31. 1966 5-shilling green booklet - fine condition. 25
32. 1969 6-shilling blue-green booklet - fine condition. 30

The items listed are from my extensive stocks of Ireland, both basic and specialised. I welcome "wants lists" for Irish material and issue regular offers lists and postal auction catalogues. For your copy write today.

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The top row of the page contains three illustrations of hats. From left to right: a bowler hat, a top hat, and a fedora. Each hat is shown in a simple, stylized line drawing. The bowler hat is on the left, the top hat is in the center, and the fedora is on the right. The text 'HATS' is printed in large, bold, capital letters across the top of the page, centered above the illustrations.

RECENT ISSUES: