

Mid Western Philatelic Society



Newsletter

No. 9 ■ Winter 1991

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OLLAIG SHONA

Editorial:

With this issue of the Newsletter, we come to the end of another year, and in a sense, the end of an era for the MWPS. With Sean Moore's resignation from the Presidency of our club, we have indeed come to the end of an era;-from founding the MWPS, Sean has steered our club through good times and bad times for almost fourteen years, and his resignation leaves a void which will be impossible to fill. However, we are fortunate that Sean has agreed to remain a member of our committee, thus ensuring that we continue to enjoy the benefits of his experience and professionalism for the coming years.

Another milestone which this issue records is, that we are now entering on our third year of publication - a considerable feat for a small club. I must again, however, appeal to all our members and friends to keep up the supply of articles/items for publication - if you stop supplying material, the NL will die; so do your bit to keep it alive.

The third milestone which we record with this issue, is the award of a silver/bronze medal to your NL at Stampa '91. This is another big achievement for the MWPS, and one in which we can all take much pride - especially those, who, by their active help and support have turned our journal into a worthwhile endeavour, of value to the hobby both locally and in the wider world of philately.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the NL 'team' wishes all our readers a very happy Christmas, and every prosperity and successful collecting during the coming New Year.

Michael Hartnett.
December 1991.



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"The Newsletter"

is the journal of the Mid-Western Philatelic Society, and is (we hope) published quarterly in December, March, June and September.

Subscription, including membership, is £4.00 p.a., payable in September.*

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Advertising:

All collectors ads. are free (wants, swaps, contacts, etc.).

Commercial Adverts. - £5.00 per quarter page, and pro rata. Four insertions for the cost of three.

Meetings: 3rd. Friday of every month, September to June.

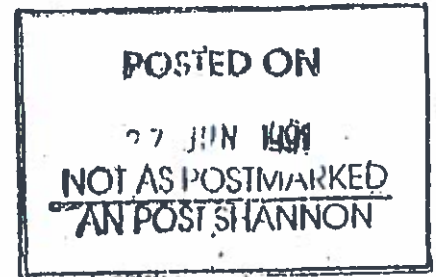
Mini- Mart: First Friday of each month (Including Summer months).

Venue for club activities: Hall Ida, 18, Thomas St., Limerick.

*Note: Subs. paid during the Summer (Listed in issue no 8) will be taken to cover the 1991/1992 season.

There is a rumour that An Post is considering transporting mail on the Limerick/Dublin route by road, rather than by rail. The link between the railway and the postal service is so long established that it is difficult to imagine that link being severed, but given that the Galway/Dublin service has been scrapped, (or shortly will be at a saving of some £2m. p.a. to An Post), it is quite conceivable that there is some truth in the rumour.

In issue No. 8, mention was made of a new frank applied to metered mail, drawing attention to the incorrect dating of such mail by An Post customers. A similar frank is now in use at Shannon, which reads "Posted on/(Date)/ Not as postmarked/An Post Shannon". I am sure that others will turn up - they make an interesting addition to a postmark collection, so keep an eye out for them.





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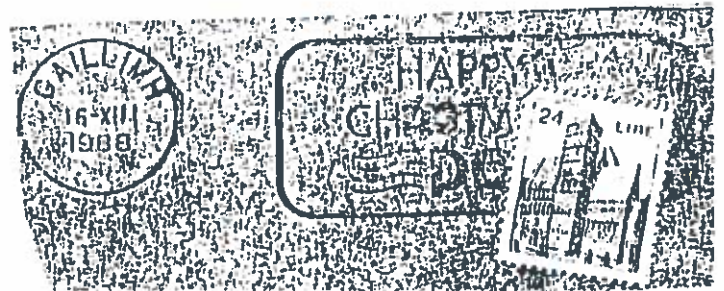
Issued by the Communications Workers' Union

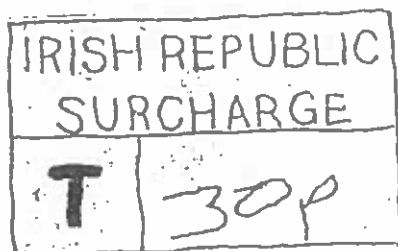
On the surface, it appears that the campaign to stop An Post implementing it's 'Viability Plan' which included a proposal to close some 550 offices nationwide, has succeeded. An Post has been instructed to drop it's plan, and to find other ways of making the savings which it so badly needs to make. However, many observers are of the opinion that the plan will proceed quietly, and with minimum publicity, despite the public attitude, and point to the closure of Dominick Street Office in Galway to prove their point.

This was a busy office in a business area of Galway city, which serviced a large population. Local Business people, T.D.'s, Councillors, and customers mounted a strong campaign to have the office retained, but to no avail - it closed on 17th. August last. There are persistent rumours of imminent closures in the Mid-West Region, notably in Co. Clare. The plan may have been suspended, but there is no doubt that rationalisation will continue, and this, being a normal part of any company's activity is difficult to attack. An Post should not be blamed for it's efforts to survive as a viable entity - the blame for disruption of a public service really lies elsewhere.

Recently, a friend looking through some postmark slogans, asked me why the one illustrated on the left was dated 16.13.88. I explained as best I could, he then asked me why An Post wanted to wish itself a happy Christmas.

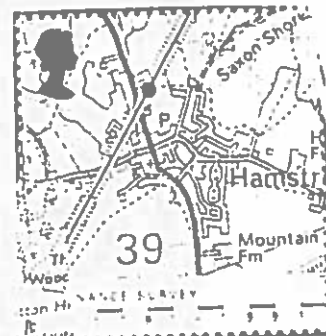
I wonder if An Post should clarify their message by perhaps adding the word 'from' to the message?





Can anybody help dept.: The cachet illustrated on the left was traced from an envelope from Darlington in England to Galway, dated 3rd. August 1991. Can any. of our readers explain it's function, I wonder?

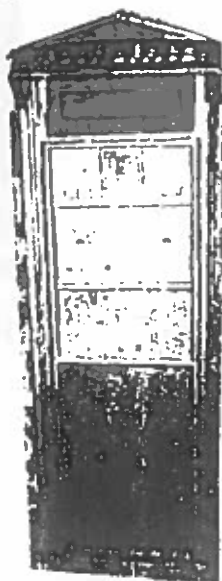
Those who share my fascination with maps will probably like the G.B. set issued on 17th. September last, to celebrate 200 years of Ordnance Survey. Much as I dislike many modern stamp designs, I really liked this one. (I think a great many modern designs look as if they are designed for computers, by computers). Rather unusually for English stamps, the set was not only designed by two different designers, but also printed by two different printers (Harrisons and House of Questa). There are four values 24p., 28p., 33p. and 39p.



Staying with GB for a minute, I noticed a new book published during the Summer which will appeal to id. Red fans: "The Cancellations of the 1841 Penny Red" written by R. Danzig and D. Goldsmith and published at £27.50 (sterling), plus £4.45 postage. It is a lavishly produced book (did someone say 'at that price it should be'), which is both handbook and catalogue. It covers a great deal of ground including Penny Posts, the Maltese Cross, unofficial cancellations, the numeral cancellations of 1844 and much more. It can be purchased direct from the publishers - Philatelic Imprint, 12, Holyoake Walk, London, N2 0JX or ask your local friendly dealer for details.



1.



2.

In the last issue of the NL, mention was made of a rare letter box in Tipperary, still in use, and painted blue (1 on left). Since this was spotted, another of our eagle-eyed members has found another rare box in the Eyrecourt region of Co. Galway (2 on left).

It appears that neither of these has been previously recorded, and if this is the case, I am glad that the NL has the honour of being first to report them.

Both are manufactured by H.C. Smith of Cork and are of types made in 1861.

The Galway box is particularly interesting as this type was manufactured before the Penfold sited at the junction of High St./Mainguard St. in Galway City, which would suggest that it was possibly installed before the Penfold. Any further information on this would be much appreciated.

It is unlikely that the non-standard blue will go un-noticed for very long. If anyone wants a photograph of it in blue, I would suggest they hurry.

Our new season got off to a lively start in Halla Ida on 20th. September last, when the first meeting of 1991/1992 was held. Discussion was light-hearted and wide ranging; the serious portion of the meeting was devoted to two items - Tim O'Connor presented his design for the Limerick Treaty 300 Stamp & Cover (regarded by those present as more suitable than that produced by An Post), and Sean Moore gave a short talk on Irish Varieties. If the standards of lively chat and serious philately - a very good mix - are maintained, we are in for an enjoyable season.



Another unusual post box has been spotted in the Tipperary region. Situated about 4½ miles from Tipperary town, on the Thurles Road at Lowery's Pub., it is a B. P. Walker, of a type manufactured between 1873 and 1879.

Whilst this would not qualify as a "rare" box, it is very unusual to find one of these in this part of the world - in fact it is the only one of this type which I have encountered. I wonder if any of our readers can indicate others in the West of Ireland?

Eagle-eyed collectors (EC for short) spot more than postboxes; a small number of small mistakes in MacDonnell Whyte's "Stamps of Ireland" have also been reported. These are quite minor in nature, and will, no doubt be corrected in the next edition. If you note any similar mistakes, it would be helpful to the publishers and to fellow collectors if you would report them.

- 1). p33 - set 8D - stated to consist of 27 stamps; in fact there are 28 in the set.
- 2). p 37 - 15p. violet & black (set 9D) - this was never issued.
- 3). p 37 - set 9D - 44p & 52p were issued, but not listed.

The EC's had a good summer as far as post boxes are concerned. A rather unusual item is illustrated on the right - certainly the first "Kangaroo Box" that I have seen. This is a large W.T. Allen, of a type manufactured between 1886 and 1901. At some stage in it's career (possibly between Jan. and July 1991), the door was removed, and a new 'Carron Type' box was inserted in the inside. Certainly, a most unusual combination, though for someone wishing to post a letter, it could be a little confusing. The box is situated in Spanish Point, at the gate of the Convent School.



Arising from an article 'Why not Join a Stamp Club', in issue no. 7, Joe McCarthy would like to advise members (and anyone who may be interested) that the Irish Philatelic Society has recommenced circulation of it's members 'packet'. Annual sub. is £4.00 p.a. - Anyone who wants details can ask Joe, who will be happy to help.

NVC (Cont'd.):

Our very best wishes to our Hon. Sec. John Grace, who is leaving Limerick on secondment for the next six months. We wish him every success in his new duties, and look forward to welcoming him back at the end of his assignment.

Another of our members, Dr. John McCarthy, has moved to Dublin recently. We wish him every success in his new career, and hope that both he and his wife will be very happy in their new abode.



By now, most of our members will know that our Newsletter has been awarded a Silver-Bronze medal at Stamp '91. This is a great honour for the Newsletter and for the MWPS, and a great tribute to all, who by their contribution and assistance have made this achievement possible. Congratulations to all who are involved.



Slicky Stamps and Frama Labels: Ireland's first self-adhesive stamps were issued last October. They replicate the 32p. definitive, and have die cut perforations. Perfs. are not necessary on this type of stamp, but have been included to enhance the 'stamp-like' appearance of the self-adhesives.



Also, soon to be released (if not already available by the time you read this) are new Frama Labels. Following the trials by An Post of three types of Auto Stamp Label Vending Machine, which concluded last May Frama of Switzerland have been awarded the contract for the supply of these machines.

Both of these items fill a need in the postal service, and cannot be regarded as collector oriented - except one version of the self-adhesive; this is being issued in strips of three for the benefit of collectors, as well as in rolls of 100 for commercial use. I would see this as a 'collector friendly' gesture by An Post.

However, what is startling (to say the least) is the fact the the sample Frama issued by An Post to publicise the Frama labels, carries the imprint "Baile Ath Cliath". One wonders if this indicates that each machine will carry the name of the city or town in which it is placed? One hopes, very sincerely, that this will not be the case, and that An Post will resist the temptation to issue distinctive labels for each location.

The next issue of the Newsletter is due out on 20th. March 1992. Please let the Hon. Editor have your articles and other items for inclusion not later than Monday, 27th. January. Your contributions are needed urgently - don't let us down.



GNOLLAIG SHONA



Twenty Years of Christmas.

It's hard to believe that it is twenty years since Christmas stamps were first issued, but that is the case - they first appeared in 1971. Two values were issued - 2½p. and 6p. in quantities of 18m. and 2m. respectively. The following year, 1972, three values were issued - 2½p., 4p. and 12p., and the quantities were 18m., 6m., and 2m. By 1973, the low rate had increased by 1p. to 3½p., but the print run was down to 12m, and this was accompanied by a 12p. value of which 2m were printed. 1984 saw the introduction of the first 'discount' stamps - the standard rate at this time was 22p.; the discount stamps sold at 17p. These discount stamps were to prove sufficiently popular to merit repetition annually ever since, though from 1985 they have been sold in sheetlets rather than being available as single stamps.

All of the Christmas stamps have had a good 'Christmassy' theme, and to borrow a phrase from Henry Morris, have proved to be a very popular collecting theme in their own right. They are not only popular with general and thematic collectors, but are also extremely popular with the public. This years designs are as pleasing as any that have been so far produced. It is possible to expand a Christmas collection by including the sheetlets, FDC's, the two different slogans which are used by An Post, The An Post Christmas Cards, and even the adverts used by An Post to promote these items. It would not be inexpensive to buy a complete set from scratch - the total from 1971 to 1990 with sheetlets catalogues at almost £80.00, - but it would make a most enjoyable and satisfying collection.



Discount Stamps: 1984-1990.



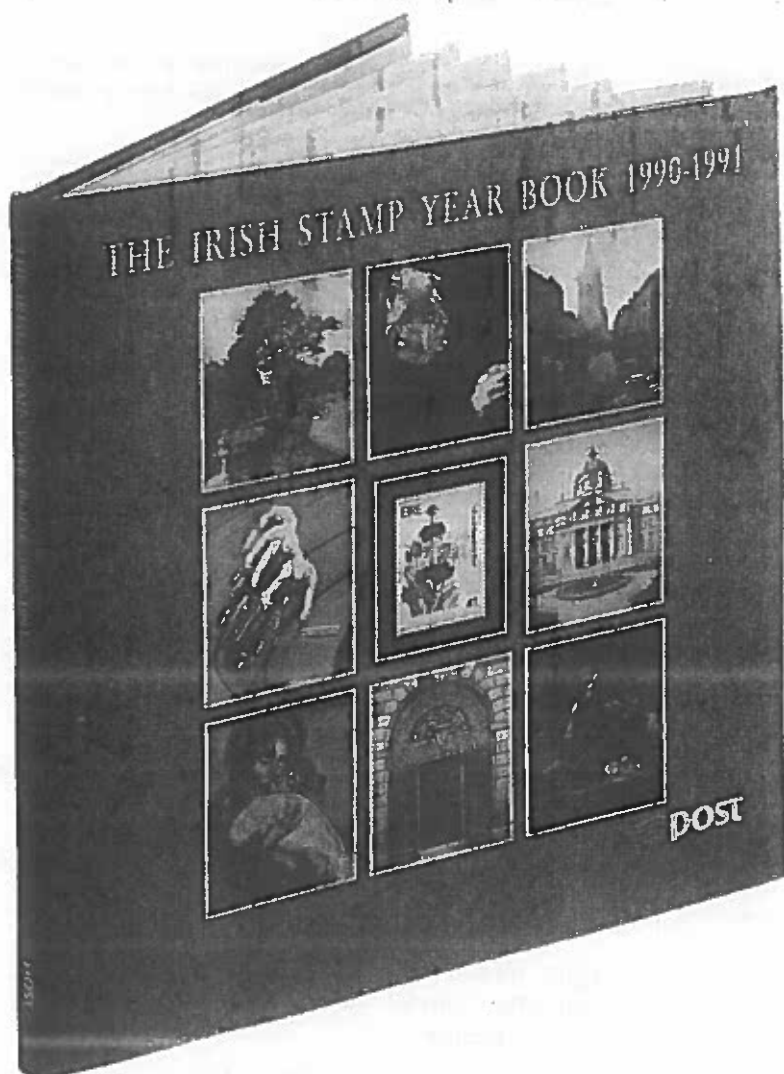
Booklet Variety.

John Mitchell.

Fr. Brendan Duggan drew my attention to a variety on the new £1.00 counter/machine booklet. On the back of the pane of stamps, an impression of the cover of the booklet appears in offset. Unfortunately, I found that the offset did not photocopy very well, so I am not able to illustrate it, but it shows quite clearly when it occurs. I have no idea how common this variety is, but I was able to pick out seven examples from a number examined in Limerick H.O.

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Alternative Collecting - Callcards.

Roger O'Donoghue & Michael Hartnett.

Phone Card collecting is the fastest growing hobby in the world at the present time. A great many stamp collectors have taken to this new hobby, but it has also attracted a large following among people who have never collected before. Telecom Eireann issue attractive cards, which have proven to be popular both with collectors in Ireland and in many countries abroad.

Variations of card types exist, and spotting these adds to the pleasure of collecting in much the way that stamp collectors add to the pleasure they get from their hobby by hunting for varieties.

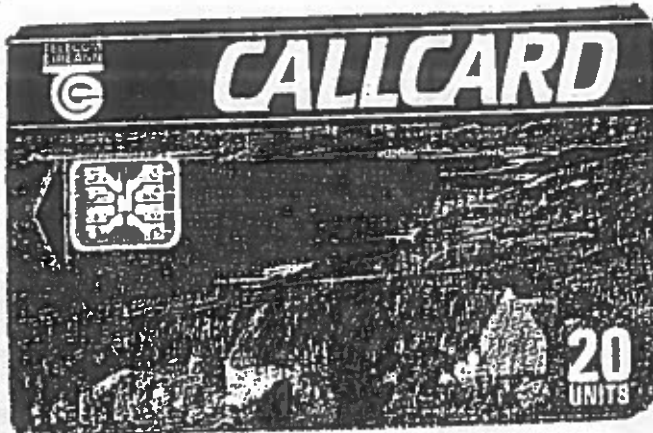
This is intended to be a simplified listing, and so we have chosen to ignore some of the less important variations, for example, minor differences in the measurements of the chips; the ID mark on the reverse of some cards (this is clearly visible at the top right hand reverse of types 1 to 6 hereunder) & minor colour varieties.

We do not suggest that this is a complete listing; other variations exist, and we would appreciate if collectors would bring these to our attention.

The principle variations noted are as follows:

1. Four types of chip exist. Three of these are Manufactured by Schlumberger Industries, and the fourth by Gemplus. Two of the Schlumberger chips are silver in colour, and differ only in the width of their horizontal bars. Accordingly, for the purpose of this article, we have ignored this minor difference, and describe both of these chips as 'type (a)'; we refer to the gold coloured Schlumberger chip as type (b), and to the (also gold coloured) Gemplus as type (c). The differences between these types of chip are readily apparent from the illustrations following.
2. The card exists in three distinguishable finishes: very shiny, shiny and matt. We do not take account of these differences here.
3. The card exists in two main colours: light and dark. In addition, two distinct varieties of colour exist on the 'dark' card, which we have designated as 'purple tinge' and 'grey tinge'.
4. On one card type, the back of the chip is exposed. We call this 'open back'. While the exposed circle exists in two sizes (6mm. & 7mm.) we have ignored this hereunder.
5. Instruction 6, on the reverse of the card comes in two versions:
(A) "On completing call replace handset",
(B) "On completing call replace handset. Do not remove the card until you have replaced the handset".
6. The legend noted in the blue triangle on reverse of card comes in two variations:
(A) "If you require any further information please/contact/The Payphone Manager Manager, Telecom Eireann/Telephone House/Malborough St./Dublin 1/ etc."
(B) "If you have a problem please/contact/The Payphone Manager/Telecom Eireann/6-8, College Green/Dublin 2/ etc."
We refer to these as 'Problem address - Malborough St.' and 'Problem Address - College Green'.

Type 1: Silver chip - type (a); Back 'open'; Problem address - College Green.

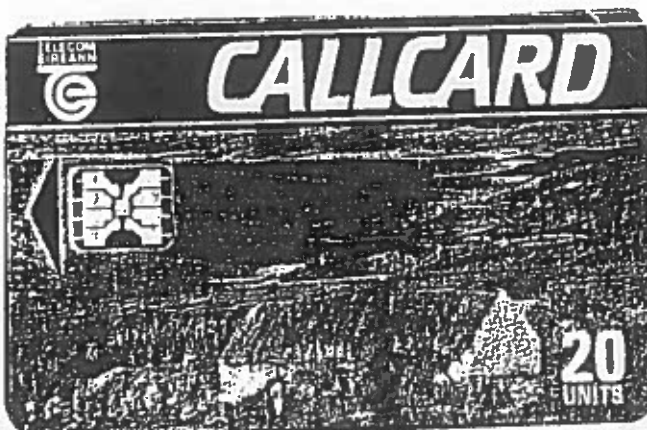


1. LIFT HANDSET Listen for dial tone
2. INSERT CARD (ARROW FIRST) The display will show how much credit is on your card
3. DIAL NUMBER REQUIRED Do not dial the STD code if the number you are calling has the same STD code as the Cardphone
4. TO EXTEND YOUR CALL When all the remaining units on your card have been used up the credit display will show "Card Replacement ?" and you will hear a warning tone before the time paid for expires. Press the change card button and remove the old card when the display shows "withdraw your card". Insert a new card immediately if you wish to continue your call.
5. TO MAKE A FOLLOW-ON CALL Leave the card in the Cardphone and momentarily press the handset cradle.
6. ON COMPLETING CALL REPLACE HANDSET
7. OPERATOR SERVICE There is no operator service other than emergency service and Telecom Eireann Service numbers available from Cardphones
8. EMERGENCY Gardaí, Fire, Ambulance, Coastal Rescue, Dial 999. Do not insert Callcard

If you have a problem please contact:
The Payphone Manager,
Telecom Eireann,
6-8 College Green,
Dublin 2.
Credit 1 800 799 039
free of charge.

(Note: This is the only 'open back' variation)

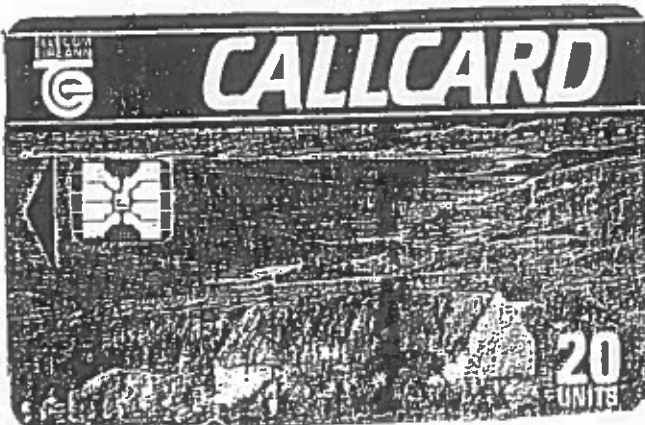
Type 2: Silver chip - type (a); back 'closed'; Problem address - Malborough St.



1. LIFT HANDSET Listen for dial tone
2. INSERT CARD (ARROW FIRST) The display will show how much credit is on your card
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Dublin 1.
Credit 1 800 799 039
free of charge.

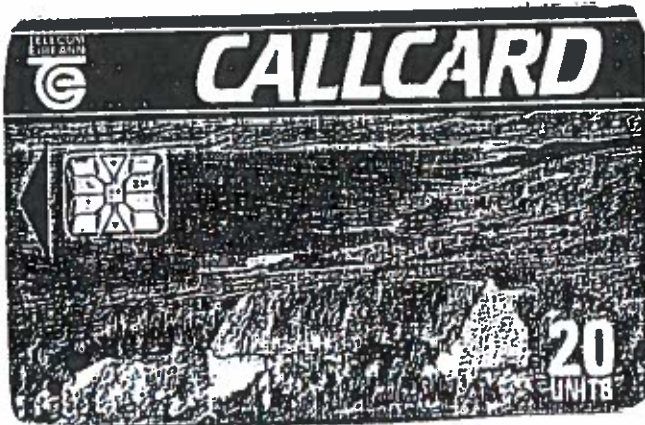
Type 3: a. Silver chip - Type (a); Back closed; c. Problem address - College Green.



1. LIFT HANDSET Listen for dial tone
2. INSERT CARD (ARROW FIRST) The display will show how much credit is on your card
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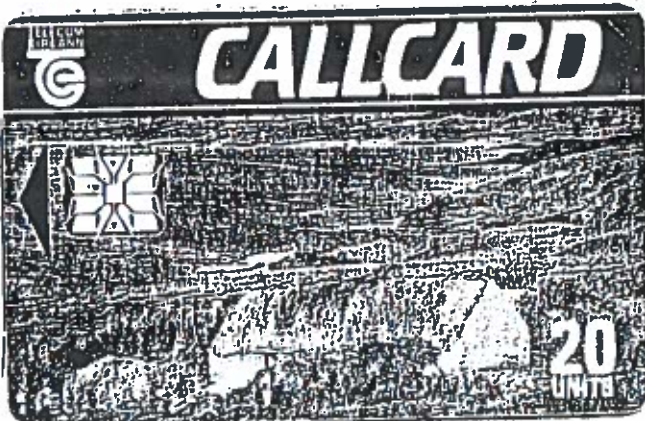
Type 4: a. Silver chip - type (b); Problem address - College Green.



1. LIFT HANDSET Listen for dial tone
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The Payphone Manager,
Telecom Eireann,
68 College Green,
Dublin 2.
or call 1800 799099
free of charge

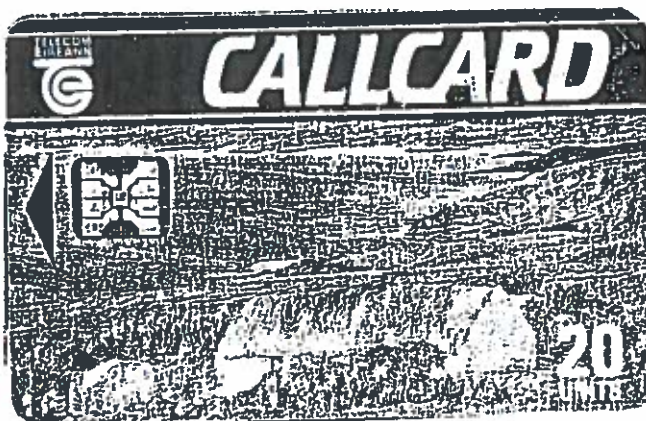
Type 5: a. Silver chip - type (b); Problem address - Malborough St.



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If you require any further information please contact:
The Payphone Manager,
Telecom Eireann,
Telecom House,
Malborough St.,
Dublin 1.
or call 1800 799099
free of charge

Type 6: Gold Chip - type (a); Problem address - College Green.



1. LIFT HANDSET Listen for dial tone
2. INSERT CARD (ARROW FIRST) The display will show how much credit is on your card
3. DIAL NUMBER REQUIRED Do not dial the STD code if the number you are calling has the same STD code as the Cardphone
4. TO EXTEND YOUR CALL When all the remaining units on your card have been used up the credit display will show "Card Replacement ?" and you will hear a warning tone before the time paid for expires. Press the change card button and remove the old card when the display shows "withdraw your card". Insert a new card immediately if you wish to continue your call.
5. TO MAKE A FOLLOW-ON CALL Leave the card in the Cardphone and momentarily press the handset cradle.
6. ON COMPLETING CALL REPLACE HANDSET
7. OPERATOR SERVICE There is no operator service other than emergency service and Telecom Eireann Service numbers available from Cardphones
8. EMERGENCY Gardaí, Fire, Ambulance, Coastal Rescue, Dial 999. Do not insert Callcard

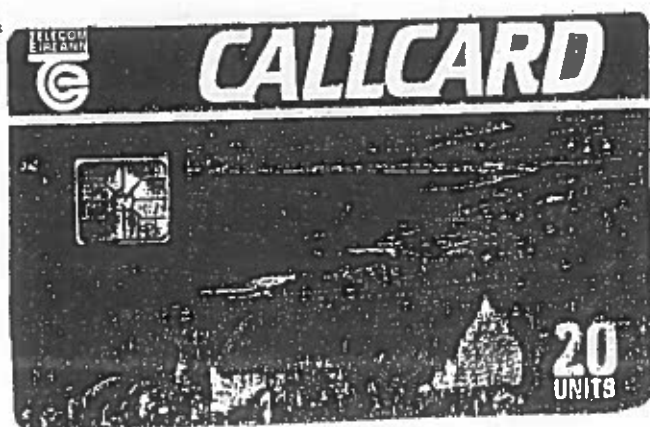
If you have a problem please contact:
The Payphone Manager,
Telecom Eireann,
68 College Green,
Dublin 2.
or call 1800 799099
free of charge

Type 7: Gold chip - type (C); Darker colour card, with purple 'tinge'; picture 'dropped'; Problem address - Malborough St.; Instruction '6' on reverse of card differs; Chip now enclosed in blue arrow; I.D. mark at top reverse, now at bottom of card.



1. LIFT HANDSET Listen for dial tone.
 2. INSERT CARD (ARROW FIRST) The display will show how much credit is on your card.
 3. DIAL NUMBER REQUIRED Do not dial the STD code if the number you are calling has the same STD code as the Cardphone.
 4. TO EXTEND YOUR CALL When all the remaining units on your card have been used up the credit display will show "Card Replacement?" and you will hear a warning tone before the time paid for expires. Press the change card button and remove the old card when the display shows "withdraw your card". Insert a new card immediately if you wish to continue your call.
 5. TO MAKE A FOLLOW-ON CALL Leave the card in the Cardphone and momentarily press the handset cradle.
 6. ON COMPLETING CALL REPLACE HANDSET Do not remove the card until you have replaced the handset.
 7. OPERATOR SERVICE There is no operator service other than emergency service and Telecom Eireann Service numbers available from Cardphones.
 8. EMERGENCY Gardaí, Fire, Ambulance, Coastal Rescue, Dial 999. Do not insert Callcard.
- If you require any further information please contact:
The Payphone Manager, Telecom Eireann,
Telephone House,
Malborough St.,
Dublin 7
or call 1800 759 099
free of charge.

Type 8: As above, but Problem address - College Green.



1. LIFT HANDSET Listen for dial tone.
 2. INSERT CARD (ARROW FIRST) The display will show how much credit is on your card.
 3. DIAL NUMBER REQUIRED Do not dial the STD code if the number you are calling has the same STD code as the Cardphone.
 4. TO EXTEND YOUR CALL When all the remaining units on your card have been used up the credit display will show "Card Replacement?" and you will hear a warning tone before the time paid for expires. Press the change card button and remove the old card when the display shows "withdraw your card". Insert a new card immediately if you wish to continue your call.
 5. TO MAKE A FOLLOW-ON CALL Leave the card in the Cardphone and momentarily press the handset cradle.
 6. ON COMPLETING CALL REPLACE HANDSET Do not remove the card until you have replaced the handset.
 7. OPERATOR SERVICE There is no operator service other than emergency service and Telecom Eireann Service numbers available from Cardphones.
 8. EMERGENCY Gardaí, Fire, Ambulance, Coastal Rescue, Dial 999. Do not insert Callcard.
- If you have a problem please contact:
The Payphone Manager,
Telecom Eireann,
6-8 College Green,
Dublin 7
or call 1800 759 099
free of charge.

Type 9: As type (7) above, but card has grey 'tinge'.

Obviously, it would be possible to extrapolate the existence of other variations from the above data. However, without visual confirmation, it would be foolhardy to assume the existence of any given variation. We are hopeful that other collectors will be able to confirm other variations which we suspect should exist.

The Shannon Hydro-Electric Scheme -- First Day
of Issue - 1930.

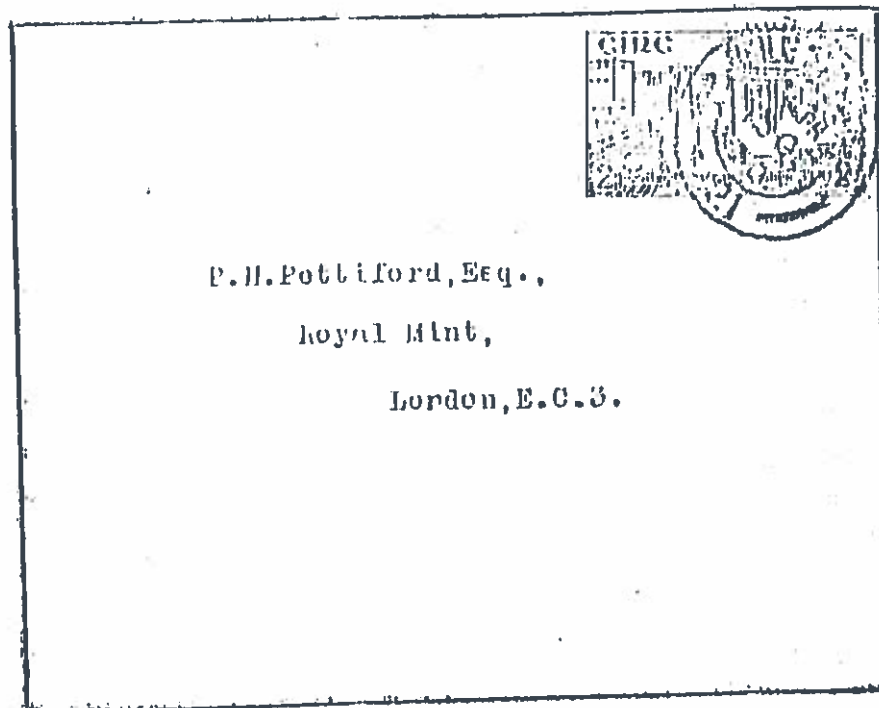
Joe McCarthy.

Following on from previous articles on FDC's, I am now dealing, in this issue, with the Shannon Scheme FDC, and the confusion that arose as to the correct date of issue, with some people claiming 16th. October 1930 as the official release date of the stamp, while others claim that 15th. October was the correct date. Stanley Gibbons really muddled the water by giving 17th. October as the date.

I have photocopied a letter written by a "Henry" to P.W. Pettiford, Royal Mint, London which was posted on 27.10.1930, but which contained, in addition to the letter a mint stamp, and also a cover with the Shannon stamp affixed and clearly franked 15.10.1930. This would appear to copperfasten the date at 15.10.30.

Bill Kane covered the topic quite comprehensively in the 1976 issues of David Feldmans Newsletter, in which he published several letters from collectors both for and against the various dates mentioned.

At this stage, I think that there is little doubt that while 16.10.30 was officially designated as the first day of issue, some Post Offices issued the stamp the day before, thereby making the Shannon Scheme FDC the scarcest Irish FDC of all.



(Ed. Note: Both the cover shown above - dated 15th. October 1930 - and the letter in which it was posted - shown on next page- are from Joe's own collection.

The Shannon Hydro-Electric Scheme (Cont'd.):

Hereunder is a reproduction of the letter from "Henry" to P.W. Pettiford referred to in the text on the previous page:

Lynlon,
Woodland Av.,
Hornchurch.
27/10/30.

Dear Dad,

We have recently made some Stamp Plates for the new I.D.S. Stamp, and a head of mine over this has sent me two specimens — one unused from the 1st run on the 1st plate, and one printed on the 15. day of issue. Knowing that you are a keen collector I am enclosing them.

You will see that the new issue has been made to commemorate the completion of the Shannon Water Power Scheme which is to give the Irish cheap electricity. We were particularly interested in the stamps, because it is the first time we have made copper plates faced with chromium.

The design is by an Irish artist & it was from his pen & ink sketch that we engraved the steel die. Lead cubes received their impression from this steel

die, & the copper plate was deposited direct on to a group of the lead cubes assembled in a frame. After parting the copper plate from the lead cubes, we faced it with chromium to protect it from wear by the printing rollers. This method is a new departure for us — we usually make Nickel plates. The reports from I.D.S. are good. Although I don't admire the design, the stamps seem to have printed nicely. Cork & Dublin do!!

I have envied you both this glorious autumn, for Dartmoor must have looked perfect. The rips in the air would make a mantle across the moor delightful. What lucky, beggars you both are! Never mind, our week ends have been jolly good, so we must grumble.

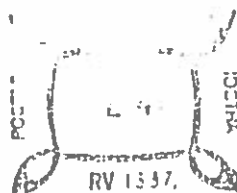
All the best to you both

Yours Henry.

Back to The Future.

Cecil Darcy.

I have read about An Post's concern at Meter Mark users putting the wrong dates on their mail in recent months. They have, apparently, become concerned that their customers, and even the public, would get the idea from an incorrectly dated cover that mail is unduly delayed within the postal system. They have gone to the trouble of issuing special handstamps to advise recipients and anyone who might see these commercial covers that they are not responsible for delaying metered mail. There is no doubt that An Post would be very proud of it's staff who delivered a letter to me in August 1987 — a full ten years earlier than the date on the meter mark. Unfortunately, such items are of passing curiosity only; by 1997, time will have caught up with this cover. In the meantime, it is an interesting talking point.





Frankly Speaking.

Desmond P.O'Donoghue B.A.

(Part One).



Continuing the theme of Railways, this series of articles will show franks and cachets with a "Railway" flavour. Part one deals with the island of Ireland.



1. Let's Go C.I.E.
(Standard Limerick Frank).

2. Have a C.I.E. Holiday.
(Standard Dublin Frank).



3. C.I.E. Limerick wishes all it's customers a merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

4. Iarnród Eireann/Irish Rail.



5. Railway Family Ticket/
available everyday to 2/
adults with up to 4/
children - Great Value!

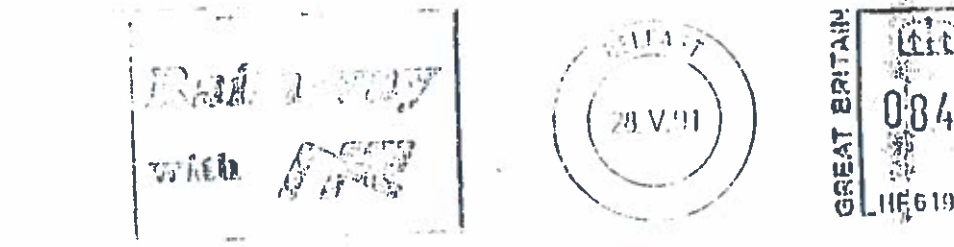


6. Take an/Iarnród/Eireann/
Irish Rail/Short Holiday
Break/Ph 363333 for info-
rmation.

7. Railway/with N.I.R.
(Northern Ireland railways
(Old Logo).

8. Railway/with N.I.R.
(New Logo).



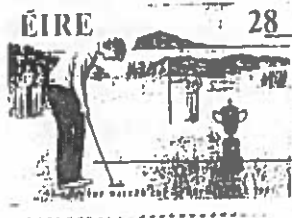


(Part two of
"Frankly Speaking"
will appear in the
next issue).

Golf Varieties.

John Mitchell.

I have examined a number of sheets of the 28p. value of the Centenary of the Golfing Union of Ireland stamp, issued on 3rd. September last. I noted nine quite good varieties, but so far only two of these have proved to be constant. I note these below, and if I succeed in proving any of the others to be constant (or, indeed, if I find any others), I will mention them in the next NL.



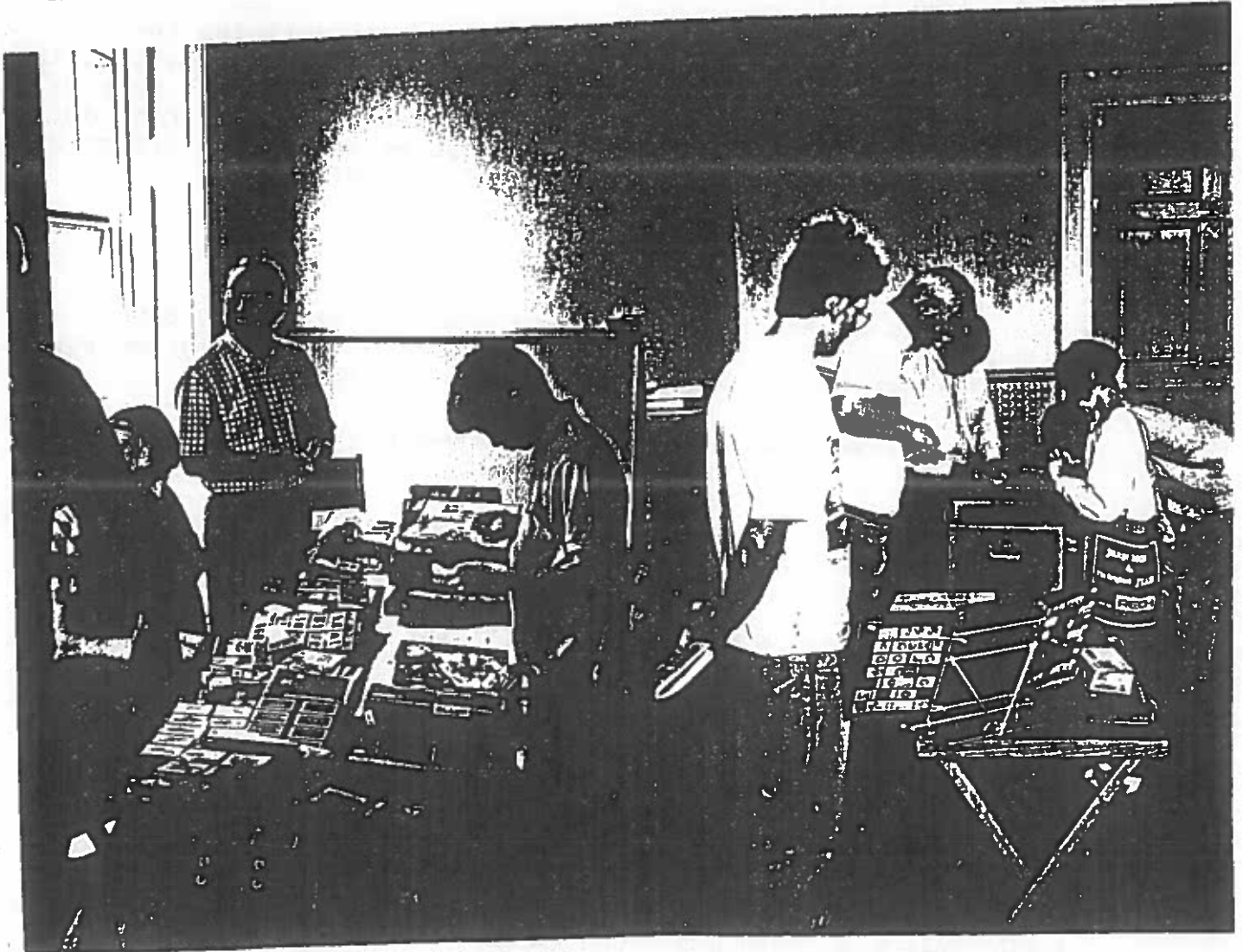
1. 'Dot' below '8' of '28'.
(R8/4).

8

2. 'Dot' between golfer's legs &
golf stick.
(R4/2).

1

The Eye Of The Storm:



Sean and Joe 'holding court' at a recent Mini-Mart. (The next Mini-Mart will be on 4th. January 1992, in Halla Ida).

Dear Sir,

MWPS Newsletter No.7 Summer 1991

On page 3 'News, Views, Comment', of MWPS Newsletter No.7, it is stated that "new s/r date stamps went into service (apparently) in early March - one in Ennis, the other in Kilrush". While the Ennis travelling / skeleton datestamp is undoubtedly new and most interesting, the Kilrush datestamp information is a little out of date, more than 50 years in fact. My first recorded use of this datestamp is 5 December 1940, though it was probably introduced some time before that. It would appear that for the first few years it was used in the Sorting section and it is found cancelling mail. Later it was moved for use as a Counter datestamp where it was still in the 1980s. Has it now been moved back to the Sorting office? The usage over the years has worn and blunted the metal of the outer ring and the letters of 'Cill Ruis', giving it the appearance of a Rubber datestamp.

The Ennis datestamp is the first usage of a temporary / travelling / skeleton (the latter being the most commonly used name) handstamp in County Clare for 20 years according to my records, the previous one being Kildysart (unusually in English) in use from mid-1970 to mid-1971.

Congratulations are due to Roger O'Donaghue for noticing the introduction of this temporary 'Inis' datestamp and for getting the error of 'IV' (4) corrected to 'VI' (6) to produce a nice pair of datestamps for postmark collectors. A permanent single ring datestamp inscribed 'Inis 4' has been in Counter use at Ennis Post Office since 1987 hence the decision to correct the 'Inis IV'.

Tony Cassidy, Milton Keynes, England

(Ed. Note: I would ask contributors to check the accuracy of material before submitting same for publication - it is important not to mislead other collectors. Also, I would thank Mr. Cassidy for "putting the record straight").

Dear Sir,

I received a copy of your Magazine by chance, and I wonder if you would publish my letter seeking an exchange partner in your country. I am very interested in exchanging mint stamps with one of your members or with another Irish reader.

I collect in mint sets complete from the year 1970 up to date, and the future issues (one stamp by type). In exchange, I will send mint (or used at your preference) of Spain, Andorre, Portugal, Azore, Madeira, Israel, China, Australia, Morocco and Brazil. Exchange basis by value of the Yvert Catalogue, and recent issues by your financial value. I will send all stamps by registered mail.

Acacio RAIMUNDO FUE, P.O. Box 57, 21410 Isla Cristina (Huelva), Spain.

Dear Sir,

I would like to exchange Mint or used Irish for some of Bulgaria/Germany/Eastern Europe. This is my third letter to Ireland.

German P. Germanov, ul., Lozengrad 2 ap. 7, 4400-Pazardjik, Bulgaria.

THE PONY EXPRESS



by: James P. McAllister

(Part 2).

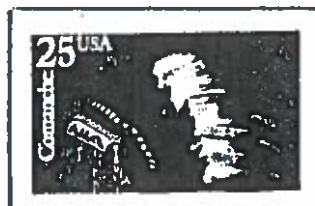
With the oncoming Civil War, Southerners favored the Southern Route so that they might seize control of it. It was heavily infested by hostile Indians but nevertheless it was finally designated by the United States Government as the official route.



Crazy Horse

Starting at Fort Smith in Arkansas the route completely ignored Salt Lake City and Sacramento causing furious resentment in these towns.

Eventually the route proved almost impossible because of the heat, the time of 50 days for a round trip and the constant marauding Apaches and Comanches.



Comanche

About this time the Pony Express was ready to make its bow. Leavenworth, Kansas was the biggest site of freighting on the frontier. Names like Russell, Majors and Waddell ran the establishment transportation.



Kansas Centennial

Firms were formed that had great coaches to sit nine comfortably and charged \$150, at first, between Missouri and Denver. Later this charge was reduced to \$100. Letters cost a quarter, packages were \$1 a pound. They ran in the red.



Mail Stagecoach



Commemorating the
EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE

PONY EXPRESS

The Pony Express System for the carrying of mail and express over the 1960 miles from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California was inaugurated April 3, 1860. The route was covered by relays of ponies in ten days.

1860 "The Mail Must Go Through" 1940



Mr. J. D. Hanley,
25 Hamilton Road,
Verona, N.J.

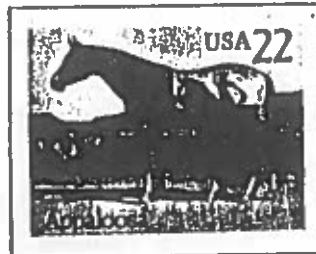
The mail for the maiden run consisted of 49 Letters, some copies of Eastern newspapers, five private telegrams.



—FIRST DAY OF ISSUE—



500 of the best blooded American horses, 190 stock stallions for changing the riding stock, 200 station tenders to care for the horses and have them saddled for the incoming rider so that he could be off like the wind; 80 of the keenest, toughest and bravest of Western youths for the riders and stations all supplied with hay, grain and other needed materials all went with \$100,000 in gold coin to establish and equip the line.



Mustangs, as the California horses are called, were small but with deep withers and broad flanks. The word Mustang is from the Spanish meaning wild and were indeed descendants of the Spanish horses brought by the Conquistadores in the 15th and 16th centuries. The average rider did about 90 to 125 miles per day on these remarkable animals.



It has been said by historians that one of the greatest post-horse systems of the ancient world was run by Darius the Great of Persia some 2500 years ago.

The Romans had a vast empire and a suitable courier system.



Kublai Khan of 13th century China did indeed have the finest post-horse system of them all.

ALL this serves as a background for great plans of efficient mail delivery of the mid nineteenth century. Originally, as planned by Russell, the Pony Express was to have 80 expert, lightweight riders, 400 fast and hardy horses and 80 relay stations.



Utah Centennial

Proceeding west from St. Joseph, the route would continue over the prairies, then up the Platte and Sweetwater rivers to South Pass, across the Rockies to Salt Lake City in mountainous Utah, into the Nevada deserts and finally across the Sierra Nevada Mountains into California.

400 men would be needed to man the stations against Indian attacks and maintain provisions and shelter for the Pony Express riders and their mounts.

Every rider had to sign the following pledge -
I do hereby swear before The Great and Living God that
during my engagement and while I am an employee of
Russell, Majors and Waddell I will under no circumstances
use profane language;
that I will drink no intoxicating liquors;
that I will not quarrel or fight with any other employee
of the firm and that in every respect I will conduct
myself honestly, be faithful to my duties and so
direct all my acts as to win the confidence of my employers,
so help me God.



Gutenberg Bible

The rider received a lightweight rifle and a Colt
revolver strictly for defense.
Each rider was given a distinctive costume, a gaudy red
shirt and blue pants. A horn to be blown on approach-
ing a station completed the outfit.

Each rider's Load was Limited to 165 pounds; twenty pounds for mail, 25 pounds for equipment and 120 pounds for rider.

John W. Richardson was one of the famous riders from St. Joseph and was on the first relay to get the Pony Express off to a fast start. He was also the last to come into St. Joseph on the homeward trip.



The mail was carried in a 'mochila'; a leather cover that fitted snugly over the saddle. It could be put on and removed very easily. Each corner of the mochila had a pouch with a lock. The keys were kept in St. Joseph, Salt Lake City and Sacramento (western terminal).

A hundred and sixty miles per day was the maximum expected and in the East, about 220 miles seemed a reasonable goal. Riders were paid over \$100 per month - a generous sum in those days.

PONY EXPRESS!

CHANGE OF
TIME!



REDUCED
RATES!

10 Days to San Francisco!

LETTERS

WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE

OFFICE, 84 BROADWAY,

NEW YORK,

Up to 4 P. M. every TUESDAY.

AND
Up to 2½ P. M. every SATURDAY,

Which will be forwarded to connect with the PONY EXPRESS leaving
ST. JOSEPH, Missouri,

Every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 11 P. M.

TELEGRAMS

Sent to Fort Kearney on the mornings of MONDAY and THURSDAY, will connect with PONY leaving St. Joseph, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS.

EXPRESS CHARGES.

LETTERS weighing half ounce or under..... \$1 00

For every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce 1 00

In all cases to be enclosed in 10 cent Government Stamped Envelopes,

And all Express CHARGES Pre-paid.

FOR PONY EXPRESS ENVELOPES For Sale at our Office.

WELLS, FARGO & CO., Ag'ts.

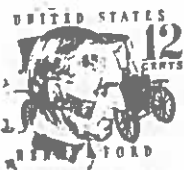
New York, July 1, 1861.

The concept of a Pony Express was born with the idea of a faster mail service between California and Missouri.

Henry Morris.

Without doubt, Transport is one of the most popular collecting themes in the world. (the fact that the now infamous "Leaders of the World" series concentrated on Transport bears testimony to this fact). However, it is a very large theme - very large indeed - and I feel that it is best approached by taking it in sections, and collecting one or more section, rather than attempting the theme as a whole. Mind you, I know people who collect on a Transport theme, and good luck to them, but most collectors would probably prefer to break the theme down into manageable parts.

Every conceivable aspect of Transport is covered on stamps - trains, cars, buses, trams, bicycles and many others, though those named would be the most popular sub-divisions. In this piece, I am going to take a quick look at some issues on the 'car' theme.



Almost every stamp-issuing territory has produced stamps which would fit a transport theme, and many of them have produced cars and related items on their stamps, so the collector can quickly produce a good collection on this theme, if he wishes.

A good place to start would be with the U.S. issue (Scott #1286A) depicting Henry Ford and his famous 'Model T', - not a very interesting stamp in itself, but certainly appropriate. You could keep your fan club guessing by including Scott #1000 - The Landing of the Cadillac. Scott #1272 (Stop Traffic Accidents) could also be included. In fact, the US have issued a good number of stamps which would fit the theme, and hunting for related items is much of the pleasure of thematic collecting.

Our own Postal Service issued a lovely set of four stamps in 1989 on the Car theme. The set included the famous "Thomond" car which is of obvious local interest, and there was also a partially imperf. booklet pane. The design was changed after full colour pictures of the proposed stamps had been released to the press; the colour illustrations could also be included in the collection.

Many countries have issued "cars on stamps" as I mentioned - Australia, Barbados, New Zealand, Monaco and many more. The Barbados issue was one I liked as it included - in a set of four - the Ford Model AA. This was the first commercially produced car which could achieve a speed of sixty miles per hour, and for this reason, it was a popular car with the Chicago gangsters of the period. It was also a car popular with the general public (ordinary people like fast getaways too), and sold a million within 16 months of its introduction.

A few years before Henry F. produced his 'AA', in 1923, an Australian firm produced a rare car called the "Chic". Only 50 of this model were produced, and it embodies all the romance and feature which one expects from Classic Vintage cars - monster headlights, long, very sleek body, running boards, and hood. This one was featured in an Australian set which also included one of the early steam cars - the Thompson, of which only ten were made.

Most stamp collections are restricted by the catalogue; a thematic collection is restricted only by the collector's own imagination, inventiveness and personally set boundaries.

Competition - Stamp Design.

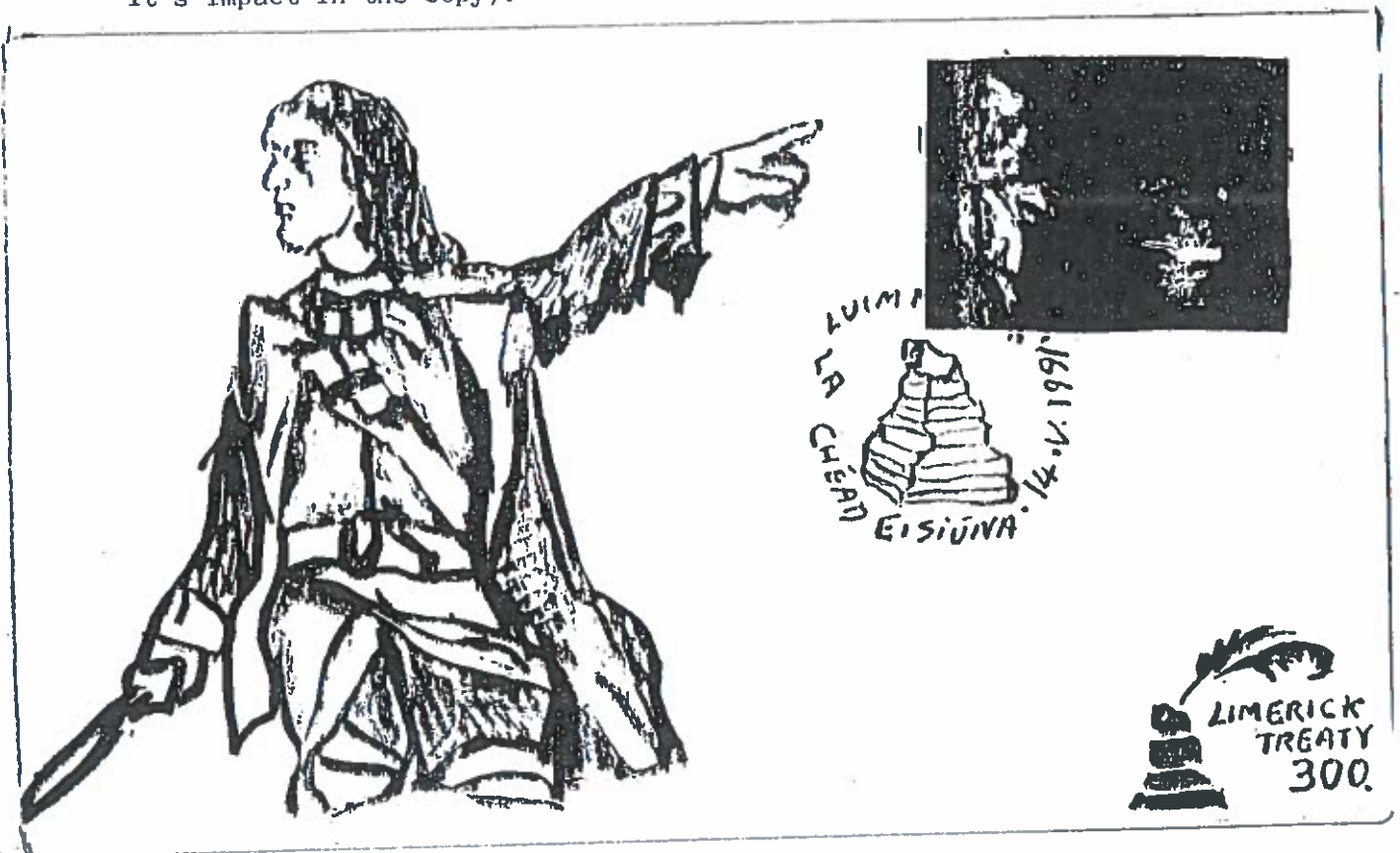
With Tim O'Connor.

Many collectors, (including myself, I must confess), are frequently highly critical of stamp design, and especially modern stamps design. I very often hear collectors bemoan the passing of "the classic" era of design, and laud the merits of the Wyon head, the Art nouveau designs of George V, the "clean simplicity" of our own early designs. Personally, I find some (and I emphasize the word 'some') of these early designs very dull, and the best that I can say about them is that they are appropriate to the time in which they were produced. Perhaps this is the key to the design controversy - designs appropriate to the 1840's, the 1920's through 1940's are suited to their time; it is possible that today's designs will be looked upon as classics in their own right in fifty or a hundred years time.

Our Hon. Artistic Adviser, Tim O'Connor has designed a cover and stamp which is eminently appropriate to Limerick in 1991. The stamp shows Sarsfield against a backdrop which captures the spirit of 1691 executed in a style that is totally modern, and the cover depicts Sarsfield in a commanding pose, with a "Treaty 300" motif at bottom right, and the effect completed by use of the conventional Treaty stone postmark. All the elements of the theme are neatly bound together, and the overall effect is that a complete story is told on a standard size envelope.

So that brings me to the competition: Design a stamp and cover with a Limerick theme that is appropriate to 1992. Not only will the winner receive a £10.00 voucher to spend on stamps of his (or her) choice at Shannon Stamps, but also an illuminated scroll entitling the holder to criticize stamp design for life. Closing date - 21st. February 1992.

(Ed. Note: Tim's cover is illustrated below. It loses much by being a black & white reproduction - the original colour version is much more dramatic. I would also apologise for the poor quality of the copy - the stamp, in fact, is a bold and dramatic design, which, unfortunately loses a great deal of its impact in the copy).



Auction.

A number of items remain unsold from our 'Postal Bid' Auction in the last issue. These are now offered at the stated reserve prices. Apart from postage, if it applies, there are no charges to the buyer, except purchase price. These are offered on a 'first come, first served' basis', so if there is anything of interest to you, book it without delay.

<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Description.</u>	<u>Reserve.</u>
2.	1940 - 68, "E" watermark definitives, used. ½d. to 10/-. (17 stamps) (cat. £22.00).	£10
9.	Easter Rising set, 1966, in se-tenant pairs, um/m. (8) 9cat £15.00)	£6
14.	1976 Miniature Sheet -plated set of 9 (cat. £85.00)	£40
20.	1970 McSwiney/McCurtain set (9d. + 2/9) um/m, se-tenant (cat. £17.00)	£5
21.	2 x 1976 Miniature sheets + 2 x 1980 min. sheets. um/m.	£6½
25.	1978 Year Pack (cat. £16.00)	£6
30.	GB FDC - £1, £2 & £5 (cat. £22.00)	£7

Offers are open to all readers, whether members or not.

Reaction to the auction was good, so we will have another, possibly for the next issue. This is an opportunity to turn your duplicates/unwanted items into cash. Send items for inclusion in auction no. 2 to the Editor by 1st. February next.

Collectors Ads.:

Wanted:1858-1870 Penny Red plates. Any quantity, any condition. Will buy or trade. replies to Box 9/1, C/O. Editor.

Collector looking for coil stamps in perfect condition. Can't afford catalogue prices, but will meet reasonable offers. Pairs or multiples of first & second def. series. Box 9/2.

Wanted: 10d. value from 1st. def. series. Will trade to double cat. value. Box 9/3.

Wanted:1986 £2.00 numbered booklet - numbers 13, 16 & 20 required. Will swap for the numbers which you want (if I have them). Box 9/4.

Would anyone have a copy of "The Postage Stamps of Ireland; 1922 1925" by W.G.Meredith to lend or sell? Required for research. Box 9/5.

Note: Next Meeting is on 17th. January 1991; Next Mini-Mart is on 4th. January.

The Missionaries of Hawaii.

Sean Moore.

Mention of any of the Worlds great philatelic rarities invariably brings a gleam to the collectors eye. One such rarity - or, in this case set of rarities - is the Hawaiian "Missionary" issue of 1851.

The Missionaries from whom the stamps take their name arrived in Hawaii from the U.S.A. in 1820, with the object of bringing religion and education to the pagan islanders. Whether they found the climate congenial, or the work fruitful, I do not know, but in any event, they stayed and brought traders and businessmen in their wake. A trading economy quickly grew up, which in turn led to the need for a postal system. In the early days, letters were carried by travellers, ships captains, crew members and by private companies. The Government was slow to see the revenue potential of a postal system, but finally, on 18th. June 1851, they passed a law authorising the issue of postage stamps, and establishing a post office under Henry Whithree. He is responsible for the issuing of the Islands first stamps, now known as the "Missionaries". They are so called because most of the surviving examples are found on missionary correspondence of the 1850's and 1860's.

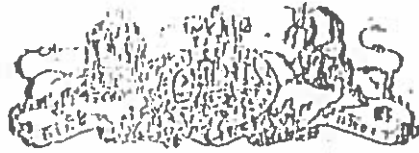
Four values were issued - 2c. for newspapers and printed material, 5c. for inland mail, and 13c. for U.S. mail. A second 13c. was issued as the U.S. postal administration did not recognise the wording on the original stamp. After several meetings between the two postal authorities, the word "Hawaiian" was deleted and the inscription "H.I. & U.S." was added, a form which was acceptable to both parties.

One of the interesting points about these stamps, is that it is not known how many were actually issued, and consequently, no one is quite sure how rare they really are. Of the four, the 2c. is certainly the rarest; having been used mainly for newspapers, most of those used were destroyed. One estimate suggests that only sixteen copies of the 2c. value have survived, and of these only one mint example is known. Of the five cent, possibly as many as 75 have survived; possibly as many as 85 of the original 13c. have survived, making this the least rare of the four, and of the second 13c. value it is unlikely that more than 60 have survived. A variation of the 13c. original exists - during a period of shortage of the 5c. value, the 13c. was altered in manuscript to 5c. until new supplies became available.

Putting a value on these stamps is difficult as they rarely come on the market, and when they do, they are usually marketed in the U.S. As a wild guess, I would say that you would pick up a set for something over £100,000.00, though if I were lucky enough to own a set, I would expect to get more than that figure for it, if I could be persuaded to sell.



(Note: Stamps shown double actual size. This article is based on information kindly supplied by fellow-limerickman, Col. Pat Hogan, USAF -retired).



By Command of the Postmaster General.

NOTICE to the PUBLIC.

AND

Instructions to all Postmasters,
Sub-Postmasters and Letter Receivers,

ISSUING AND PAYING

MONEY ORDERS.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
July, 1849.

SCARIFF, County Clare,
Ireland, having been constituted
a **POST TOWN**, the Post Office
there will be opened for the
Issue and Payment of **MONEY**
ORDERS on and after the 6th
Instant.

Our thanks to Tony Cassidy for submitting the above Post Office Notice, relating to the re-establishment of Scariff as a Post Town, and dated July 1849. We believe this to be previously unpublished.

An Post's exhibition of Postage Stamp Artwork was officially opened in the Limerick City Gallery of Art, in Perry Squire on Friday, 8th. November last, by Thomas Ryan PRHA. This exhibition was moved from Dublin to Limerick as An Post's contribution to Limerick Treaty 300, and a most worthwhile contribution it is too. The object of the exhibition is to demonstrate the range of artistic and design talent in our country, and to increase the public awareness of the contribution which our stamps make to the artist's world, to conveying a picture of Irish history and culture abroad, and to the revenue of An Post. The exhibition certainly succeeds in its objectives. As collectors, we are possibly inclined to look too closely at our stamps, and to ignore the fact that each and every stamp conveys an idea or a concept that is uniquely Irish, and transmits that idea to the four corners of the World. Our stamps are, in fact, unique and forceful ambassadors for our country.

The range of material on show is wide, and shows examples of artwork for our earliest stamps, right up to the designs of today. Also included are examples of some of the plates used to print the various definitive series, with explanatory notes. It would be very difficult to pick a "winning" design from the material on show, but the consensus among the visitors on the opening night appeared to favour the Spanish Armada issue of 1988.

The attendance at the opening was quite large and included many prominent figures from both the philatelic and artistic worlds. Amongst the guests were His Grace Dr. Newman, Bishop of Limerick, the Mayor Mr. Jim Kemmy, Mr. J. Reals (HPM - Limerick), Mr. Denis Crummy (Limerick HO), Mr. & Mrs. F. Murrihy (SPM), and many others. The MWPS was strongly represented by Sean Moore, Joe McCarthy, Sean O'Allmhurain, John Mitchell, Roger O'Donoghue, Henry Morris, Tim O'Connor and Michael Hartnett.

If you have not seen the exhibition and it is still on by the time this is published, I would strongly recommend a visit - it would be well worth your time.

New Members.

We are delighted to welcome two new members to our ranks:

Bill Shields of Pensilvania (USA),
John Lyall of Cork.

We wish them both a long and pleasant association with the MWPS.

Advertising.

We would convey our sincere thanks to An Post and to Raven Stamps for their support of our Newsletter. The continued existence of the NL is precarious (to say the least) due to the relatively high cost of production, and we are grateful to our advertisers for ensuring that our magazine continues for the time being.

Stop Boredom Campaign.

By now all our regular readers must be bored to their back teeth by my incessant pleas for publishable material. Put a stop to this boredom by contributing to the Newsletter. You can help us to survive by submitting a short item, an article of any length or even an extra long item on any philatelic subject. Do your bit for the MWPS - contribute now.

A happy Christmas to all our readers, and may the new year bring you much collecting pleasure.
