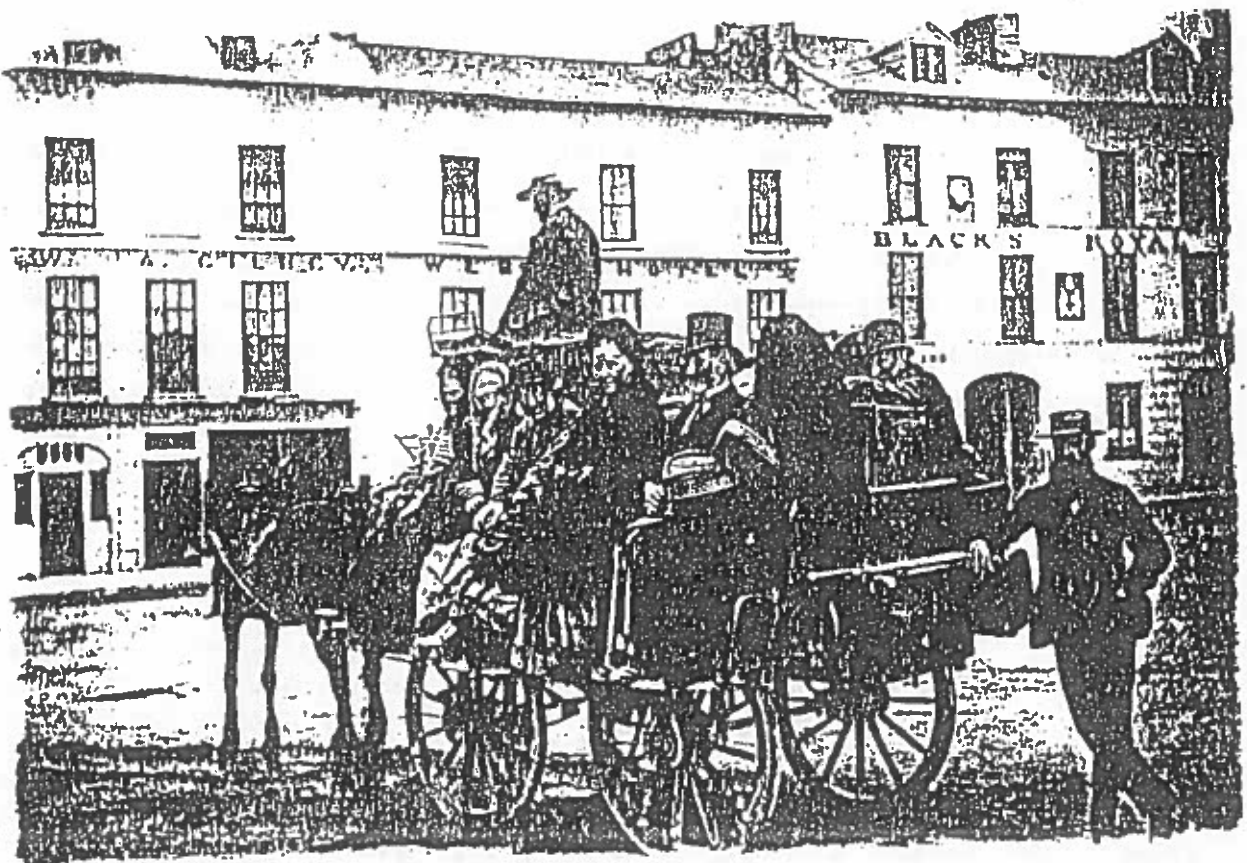


Mid Western Philatelic Society

Galway-Clifden Mail Car c. 1895.
(National Library).



A Brief History of the Post - p.13.

Newsletter

No.11 ■ SUMMER 1992

Contents:

Editorial.....	2
News, Views & Comment.....	4 - 6
From The Archives (Tony Cassidy).....	7 - 9
Letter to the Editor.....	9
Annual Exhibition & Fair - Report.....	10 - 11
USA - Birds & Flowers of 1982 (Henry Morris).....	12
Varieties (William Ryan).....	12
A Brief History of the Post(Michael Freyer).....	13 - 17
TPO & Railway Postmarks from the DDR (Desmond O'Donoghue).....	18 - 21
Collectors Adverts.....	21
The Pony Express (James P. McAllister).....	22 - 27
Meter Marks (Tony Cassidy).....	28 - 29
TE Callcard Catalogue - update.....	Supplement No.8
Galway Post Offices.....	Supplement No.9

Editorial:

Our hobby is one which has always been changing - that is one of it's great attractions. However, we are now in a period of change which is unprecedented in the history of stamp collecting, and it is not an exaggeration to suggest that the hobby as we know it could well disappear over the next few decades. Basically, our hobby consists of collecting labels which pre-pay postage, and, as suggested in previous issues of the NL, it appears that the humble postage stamp is now obsolete or nearly so. It is being replaced by Meter Marks, Frama labels and electronic mail (in which An Post is quite heavily involved). In fact, it would be fair to say that without the collector market, the postage stamp would have died out already. The now inevitable disappearance of the Rural Post Office, and the crippling strike in which An Post is currently embroiled are also part of the pattern of change which will radically alter the nature of the hobby over the coming years. I am reminded of the old Chinese curse - "May it be your fate to live in interesting times" - there is no doubt that we live in very interesting times indeed.

My very sincere thanks go to those of our members who have "come up trumps" with articles for this issue; the response to the plea for articles has really been excellent, as you will see from the contents list above. However, we are in a precarious position and need your continuing contributions if the NL is to continue. Please keep up the effort.

Michael Hartnett.
June 1992.



Probably the best Ireland Album available..... LINDNER..... of course!

LINDNER are Germany's leading manufacturer of quality stamp albums and have been designing albums for collectors for over forty years. The LINDNER-T albums protect your stamps in a crystal clear film sheeting material which will never scratch or dull...even with continued use. Your stamps will be completely protected - inside a pocket - not on top of the page. You will never have to buy stamp mounts again!

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T152/1120. As above but "De Luxe" quality binder hand finished with gold embossing and luxurious leather look quality, with matching slip case (available in wine red, blue, olive green, brown or black). £59.50

T152/1121. For the connoisseur - as above but with a quality handfinished binder made from the best real leather available, with matching imitation leather slip case.. £79.50.

2. 1972-90 printed pages - 50 pages in all:

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T152a/1121. As above but with handfinished padded best quality real leather binder, and matching imitation leather slip case £110.00

Supplementary pages are published annually at modest cost: 1990 supplement now available (4 pages). Price £5.60

You can also add specialist material to your collection without changing binders. LINDNER provide a choice of over one hundred different pages to suit all manners of material - covers, booklets, colls, plate blocks, miniature sheets, sheetlets, complete sheets, gutter pairs, postcards, documents, ephemera etc. No matter what it is we can find a LINDNER page for it!

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"The Newsletter"

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

Address: 1, Clifton Close,
Ennis Road,
Limerick.

'Phone: 061-51228.

Advertising:

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

Commercial ads: £5.00 per quarter page, and pro rata.

Meetings: 3rd. Friday of each month
(September to June).

Mini-Mart: 1st. Saturday of each month
(including summer months).

Annual Exhibition: March.

Venue for club activities:

Halla Ide,
18, Thomas Street,
Limerick.

Annual Subscription: £4.00 (payable in September).

Juniors: £1.00 p.a.

Under 12: Free.

Hon. Editor: Michael Hartnett.

Hon. Printer: John Mitchell.

Hon. Proof Reader: Fergus Murrihy.

Hon. Asst. Proof Reader: Agnes Hartnett.

Hon. Artistic Adviser: Tim O'Connor.

Hon. Distribution Manager: Joe McCarthy.

Hon. Contributors: Sean Moore, Jim McAllister, Michael Freyer, Desmond O'Donoghue, Henry Morris, Bill Ryan, Tony Cassidy, John Mitchell.

Singapore issued a set of stamps and a miniature sheet last January; this is the first issue of a series of five for their first International Stamp Exhibition, scheduled for 1995. This sort of activity lends completely new meaning to the phrase 'over issuing'.

Royal Mail issued the latest in it's "Greetings" series last February. This one is a booklet of ten undenominated stamps, entitled "Memories", and features lockets, keys, picture cards, 'with love' labels and more of that ilk. As stamps, they are even uglier than their predecessors, and one would hope that they have an even shorter life-span. I used to collect modern G.B. - I can only sympathise with those unfortunate collectors who still do so.

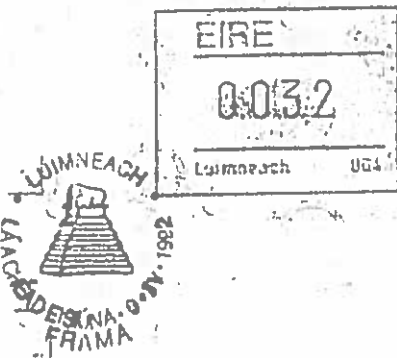
The Michel Rundschau review of stamp issues for 1991 was published earlier this year, and as usual, it made very interesting reading. The top stamp issuing territory was Guyana with a total of 382 stamps and 37 miniature sheets, with a total face value of £150.58. In second place with 192 stamps and 53 miniature sheets comes Grenada & Grenadines; joint third spot was shared by Antigua & Barbuda and Great Britain. Antigua & Barbuda issued 180 stamps and 33 miniature sheets; GB issued 208 stamps and 5 miniature sheets, giving each a total of 213 units. That GB should occupy a position between Antigua & Barbuda and St. Vincent & Grenadines is nothing less than disgraceful for a reputable stamp issuing territory. Ireland with 66 stamps and one miniature sheet does not look so bad by comparison. But the writing is on the wall for An Post - we are slowly moving towards the edge of respectability, and if the pace of new issues is not slowed down we will go over that edge. Once the line is crossed, it is very difficult indeed to revert to respectability, as many countries have found to their cost. There is still time for An Post to heed the warnings, and it is to be hoped that they will do so before it is too late.

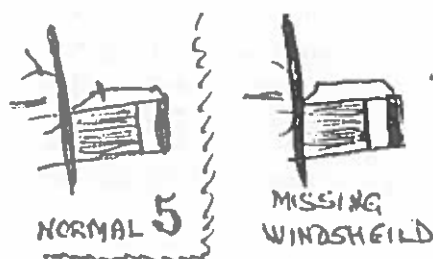
Our March meeting was greatly enlivened by two factors: a. we had the pleasure of welcoming two new members, Paul Karney and Derek Russell, both of whom brought their collections to the meeting and displayed them for the members present, who greatly enjoyed the display; b. Mr. Earnest Hollywood entertained the meeting by displaying some of his vast collection to the members. Concentrating on the Pacific region, Mr. Hollywood's display was of a range and variety which would be almost impossible to assemble nowadays - the cost of such an assembly would be prohibitive for most people. The material shown represented only a small portion of the complete collection, and we all hope that Mr. Hollywood will entertain us again at some future time with further displays from his almost unique collection. Our thanks to Earnest, Paul and Derek for a very entertaining evening.

It has been announced that Hungary is to cease issuing imperforate stamps from May of this year. They have already announced that they will cease their practice of 'cancelling to order'. While one must applaud the Hungarian Post Office for it's endeavours to rejoin the 'respectable' issuing territories, one feels that it is probably too late, and that the only people clamouring for Hungarian stamps for many years to come will be those who make up packs for children.

Diary Note: Next Meeting will be on September 18th., 1992. There will be no meetings during the Summer months - June, July and August. The Mini-Mart will continue, as usual, during the Summer, and will be held on 6th. June, 4th. July, 1st. August and 5th. September (i.e. first Saturday of each month). The venue is Halla Ide, 18, Thomas Street.

Frama Labels were issued on 8th. April last. ATM labels are very popular with collectors internationally, and the issue of Irish 'Framas' was welcomed by collectors not just in Ireland but in other countries as well, notably in the US and Germany. As far as I can judge reaction has been mixed - Irish collectors are more incensed than their overseas counterparts by the decision to issue labels specific to the location of each machine. So far, four distinct labels have been issued, specific to Dublin, Limerick, Galway and Cork. Whilst the rumour that labels are to be issued for each and every town, village and hamlet in Ireland is probably exaggerated, we can certainly expect to see a growth in the number of Frama locations over the years ahead.





The 1969 GB 'Anniversaries' issue has produced a rather interesting, though relatively obscure variety on the 5p value. SG 791, depicting a page from the 'Daily Mail', Vickers 'Vimy' aircraft, and the heads of Aviators Alcock and Brown. This has a good 'Irish Connection' as, of course, the Aircraft landed at Clifden. The illustration shows the variety - "Missing Windshield".

Our April meeting was a disaster, with only four members turning up. Normally, the non-appearance of a 'guest speaker' causes consternation and chaos, but on this occasion, we were very pleased that our speaker did not arrive. While attendance at the May meeting was an improvement, the small attendances do indicate that the MWPS is not providing what the members want of their stamp club. More than any other single factor, small attendance at our meetings, heralds the death of the club; lack of funds is a problem, but one which can be overcome; the Newsletter can be dropped, if articles are not forthcoming; the annual Exhibition can be abandoned if needs be, but if the monthly meeting goes, then the club is gone. The solution to this lies with the members: if your committee does not provide the sort of activities which you want, then sack them, and install a better committee. Drifting away from the meetings is no solution to anything - come along, make your voice heard, ensure that you get what you want from your stamp club. If you don't get what you want, complain loudly; your voice will be heard, but only if you use it.



Cratloe Post Office was burgled on 21st. March last, and the counter date stamp was stolen, along with a sum of money, and sundry other items. Pending the manufacture of a new date stamp, a 'skeleton' is in use at Cratloe office - illustrated on left.

Break-ins at post offices, especially in rural areas is an increasing phenomenon which cause great distress to all concerned. One wonders what security precautions if any, An Post are implementing to assist sub. PM's to cope with this unfortunate aspect of life in to-day's world.

Next Meeting: 18th. September 1992. (Note that there are no meetings during the Summer months).

This month's prize for innovative marketing must go to a salesman of Maltese National lottery tickets who also happens to be a stamp dealer. He is offering a packet of 25 different Maltese stamps or 50 Commonwealth stamps or 100 World stamps at only 50c per pack with every lottery ticket sold. The offer is post free, and if you would like to buy a ticket in Malta's National Lottery, and also avail of these special offers, contact John Bonnici, Primavera, Weid il-Ghain Street, Zabbar, Malta.

The relatively new hobby of Callcard collecting continues to grow at a very rapid rate. In response to collector demand, Raven Stamps, of 16, Bridge Street, Cork, are now supplying these items. Details of prices and special offers may be obtained from Pdraig O'Shea at the above address.

Details of a large scale 'scam' to defraud collectors have come to light recently. Apparently, a number of individuals, involved in the production of stamps for British Commonwealth countries allegedly conspired together to deliberately produce varieties of a kind designed to appeal to collectors - missing perforations, missing colours and inverted inscriptions. Thousands of these "varieties" were produced on the stamps issued to commemorate the wedding of Andrew and Fergie, and these have been gradually released onto the market over the years since their issue and the present time. A number of people have been arrested and charged with fraud as a result of police investigations. It is believed that the issues to commemorate the Queen's 60th. birthday, and the Queen Mother's 80th. birthday are also involved.

An Post is now firmly in the greeting card business. Following the success of St. Patrick's Day cards over the years, they experimented with Christmas cards, and, most recently issued Easter Greetings Cards, in three designs at 60p. each which included a post paid envelope (world wide). Happily, I do not see these items becoming 'collectable'.

Both the 2p. and 28p. definitives have been found in yellow instead of the issued colour (red). On checking this apparently striking variety with An Post, we have been advised that the colour changes on exposure to light, due to a fault in the ink. You have been warned - do not pay 'over the odds' for these 'varieties'.

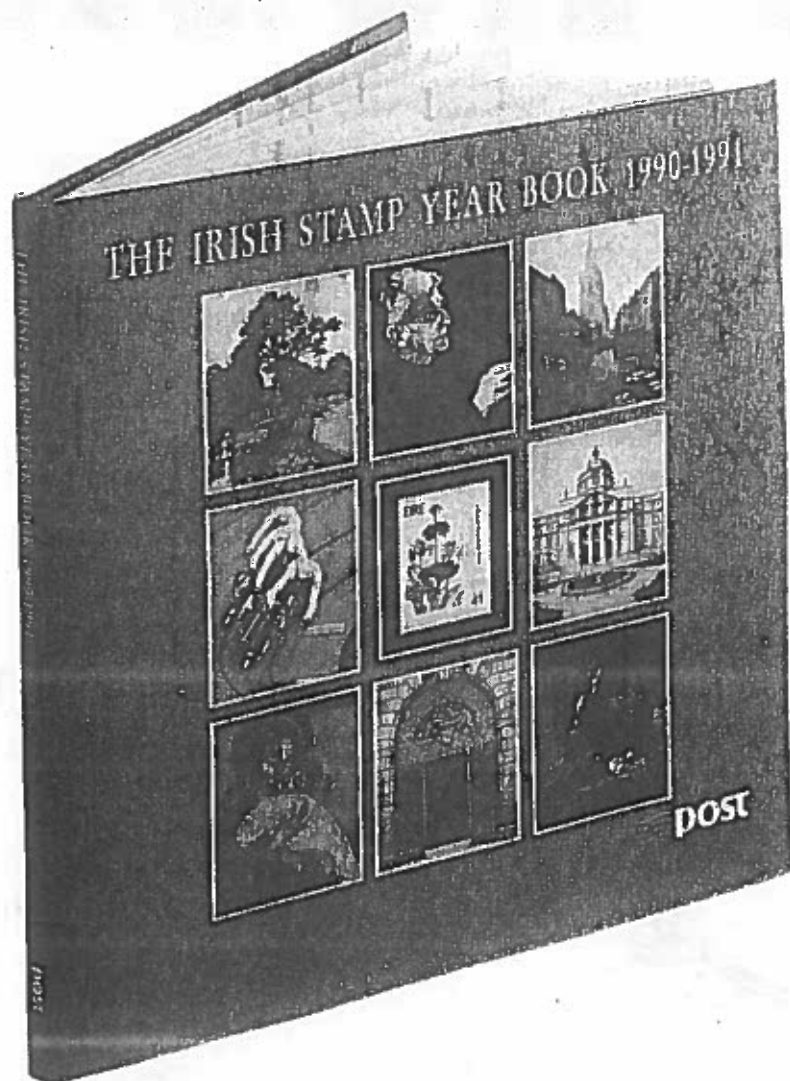
Two 'Thematic' books have appeared on the market in recent months - "Cops Check List", available from R. Holdeman, 21 Nelson Road Bognor Regis, Sussex, PO21 2RY, England. This is the second edition of this checklist of stamps with a Police theme, and is arranged by country. It gives date of issue, value and SG numbers. It is a good listing of the theme and would be of use to anyone involved with Police as a collecting area. The second is perhaps of more general interest - entitled "Christmas Stamps of the World" this is produced by the American Topical Association and is written by E. Foster. It lists all the Christmas stamps issued from 1898 to 1992 and is arranged alphabetically. Details from ATS, PO 630, Johnstown, PA 15907, USA.

An Post has produced another book, "Ireland's Maritime Heritage" by John de Courcy Ireland. Beautifully produced and extremely well illustrated, it sells for £20.00. The book comes with five stamps on the maritime theme. The real beauty of these 'extramural' items is that the collector can choose to ignore them.

An Post has invited collectors to offer suggestions for their 1995 programme. I suppose that they would not be disposed to accept the suggestion that they issue less stamps.

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1990 - 1991



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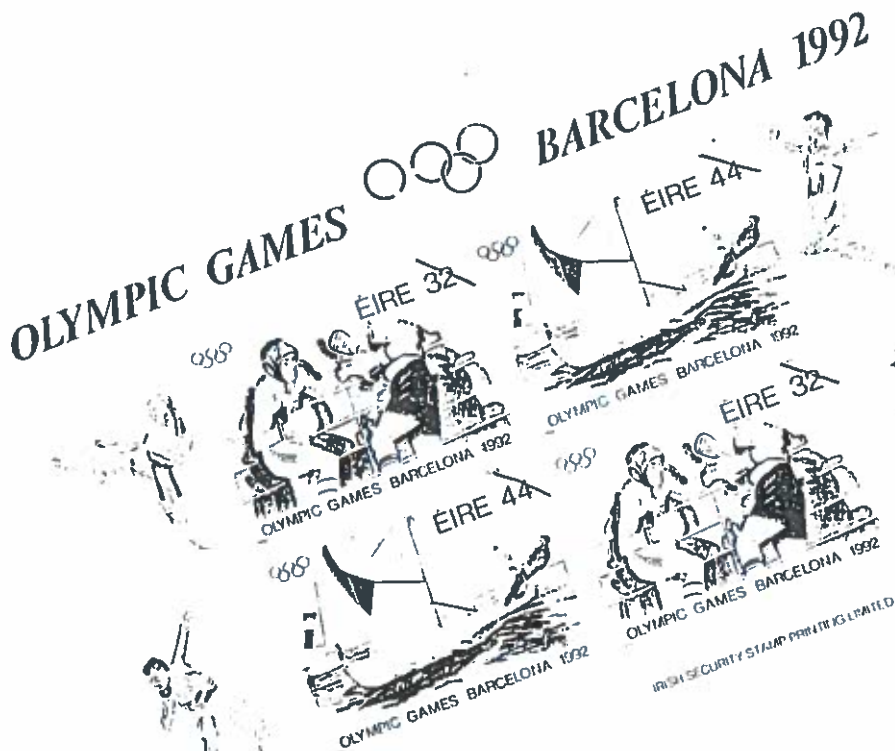
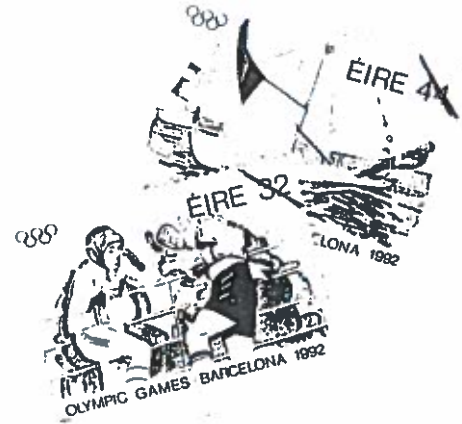
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Slí na Sláinte

To promote a healthier way of life and encourage a greater interest in exercise An Post also issues this colourful stamp.



Date of Issue:
25 February 1992

First Day Cover also available



Tony Cassidy.

CURRANROE, NEAR RALLYVAUGHAN, COUNTY CLARE.

POST 36: MINUTES AND REPORTS (IRELAND) TO THE POSTMASTER
GENERAL. VOLUME 141. NUMBER 211, 12 NOVEMBER 1916.

CURRANROE (CO. GALWAY). PROPOSED CLOSING.

"I submit for your approval a proposal to close the Sub
Office at Curranroe, Kinvara, Co. Galway.

"You will see from the attached papers that the number
of letters delivered weekly to persons who use the
Office is 16 (the number now regarded as the minimum
warranting the establishment of an Office is 300 a
week); that the reason for which the Office was
originally established, never a convincing one, has
ceased to exist; that the business done there is now a
negligible quantity, and the emoluments (£16-7-0d. a
year) are virtually a free gift to the Sub Postmaster,
who is in no way dependent on them; that the cost of the
Post on which the Sub Office is situated is more than
double the revenue from postal packets; and that the
Office could be closed without serious inconvenience to
anybody.

"It was recently decided in Minute E.14737 - not to
institute a general policy of closing small Sub Offices
without waiting for vacancies. But the present case -
which is said to be typical of many in Ireland - seems
to me to stand outside the considerations which led to
that decision. Even in normal times the Curranroe
Office would undoubtedly have been closed if attention
had happened to be drawn to the circumstances. In
present conditions its continued existence is, I think,
indefensible.

"If you approve, the closing of the Office will be
sanctioned in this case, and in any other case where the
maintenance of an Office is clearly indefensible from
every point of view. No Office (not vacant) regarding
which the least hesitation is felt on the ground of
inconvenience to the public or of hardship to the Sub
Postmaster will be closed without your express
sanction."

Curranroe Sub Office, which definitely - but only just -
lay within County Clare, closed on Wednesday 28 February
1917.

ENNISTYMON, COUNTY CLARE.

POST 36: MINUTES AND REPORTS (IRELAND) TO THE POSTMASTER
GENERAL. VOLUME 1, PAGE 127, NUMBER 121, 9 APRIL 1831

Ennistymon. Mr. O'Brien Postmaster. Arrears & Dismission.

For Sir Fras. Freeling

"I believe it to be necessary to remove every Deputy who did not pay his arrears, by the day named in a Circular written by my directions by Sir Ed. Lees - What is your opinion?"

I rather hope to go to Goodwood on Monday till
Wednesday". Richmond

For the Postmaster General

"I very much fear that if the Postmasters in Ireland once find that through the interest of Persons of Consideration they will be allowed to remain in Arrear, all hope of enforcing the punctuality of Remittance must be abandoned - This Person is called upon in January to pay by a certain time, the promises to discharge the debt in May!! "in the certainty of a "Compliance with his Request"!!

"This sort of proceeding is quite new to us, and if anything of the sort had occurred in this Country, I should at once have reported the Offender to your Grace, that you might have the opportunity of deciding whether he could be suffered to remain in his Office".

G.H.F. 10 April

"I never allow a Deputy to remain who is in Arrear. Let the Office be declared vacant."

"Richmond".

"Let Thomas McDonough of Ennistymon be appointed Deputy of that Place at the recommendation of Major Macnamara, M.P. for Clare." Richmond

approved 12 April 1831

Henry O'Brien ceased to be Deputy Postmaster April 1831. Dismissed, in Arrears, left owing £25-8-00. Thomas McDonough was appointed Deputy Postmaster (April?) 1831.

CLONLARA, COUNTY CLARE.

POST 36: MINUTES AND REPORTS (IRELAND) TO THE POSTMASTER
GENERAL. VOLUME 44, PAGE 322, NUMBER 380, 1 MAY 1857

Sub Postmaster Dismissed.

"It will be seen that the Sub Postmaster of Clonlara, under Limerick, is reported for tearing off Postage Labels from the accompanying letters and affixing them to Circulars issued by himself in his capacity of Clerk to the Petty Sessions. For this fraudulent proceeding I submit that he be dismissed, and that these papers, Your Graces minute excepted, be transmitted to the Board of Inland Revenue with a view to such further steps being taken in the matter as may seem fit to the Commissioners".

29, Mallow Street,
LIMERICK.

The Editor,
M.W.P.S. Newsletter.

1st. May, 1992

Dear Mr. Editor,

May I take a little space in your Newsletter to thank all those who, during and since my recent illness, contacted me with their Good Wishes for my Speedy Recovery.

"Get Well Soon" Cards, Telephone Calls and Visitors all helped to boost the patient. All were very welcome and I thank you, and them, for their thoughts and wishes. May I just mention one person by name, Pierre - one of our most loyal members of the society who insisted, as his surname was so difficult for us to pronounce, we just call him by his Christian name, even when ringing Aughinish Alumina (everybody knows Pierre). Well he, and his lovely Limerick wife, on a short holiday back from Canada came out to the Regional to visit me and that although they were here for only a few days.

Perhaps the most unexpected result of my spell in Dooradoyle was that I discovered new close relations; amazingly, it turns out that the Newsletter Editor is, would you believe - my brother-in-law!!! (Now, work that one out)

Sincere Best Wishes to all,
and, again, Thank You

John S. O'Sullivan

Mid Western Philatelic Society

13th ANNUAL EXHIBITION & FAIR 1992

Our 13th. Annual Exhibition & Fair was held on Saturday, 14th. March last. Attendance was well up on previous years, and in fact was estimated to be over 100 up on last years attendance.

An post contributed greatly to the success of the day, by mounting their usual lavish display, and also by providing a subvention to the cost of advertising the Exhibition. We certainly owe a considerable debt to An Post for the manner in which they have supported our activities in general and in particular our Annual Exhibition over the years. Especially, we would thank Con Buckley and Gerry Mooney (from the Philatelic Bureau) and Liam O'Brien and Eric Quin (from Limerick Head Office) who worked so hard to make the day successful. Gerry Mooney was certainly kept 'on his toes' by the many Voyager Club members who thronged the Exhibition.

Our thanks go also to the Dealers who supported us by being present - Willie Wolfe, Owen O'Boyle, Tom Kelly and - perhaps especially - to Raven stamps, who, while unable to attend in person, made sure that they had a stand. Also Sean Moore and Joe McCarthy, our own members who valiantly manned stands, and by their support contributed greatly to the success of the event. A special thank you to Desmond O'Donoghue who took such care with the Raven Stamps stand. It is perhaps a sad reflection on the relationship between collector and dealer that of the seventeen dealers notified that we were holding the exhibition only six were able to attend. Perhaps we should take a mental note of those dealers who have supported us over the years when we are contemplating making purchases for our own collections. Michael Giffney is the honourable exception - Michael was genuinely unable to attend, and was sorely missed; this was the first time he has failed to attend since we instituted our Annual Exhibition in 1978. The other ten dealers did not even take the trouble to advise us that they would not be present. We would urge our members to note the names of the seven dealers who supported us, and to support them in turn.

The society wishes also to than all those who helped in so many different ways: Roger O'Donoghue (co-ordinator); Joe McCarthy (printing); Tim O'Connor (cover design & 'on the spot' advertising); Henry Morris (doorman!); Sean Moore (booklets & Tables) Sean O'hAllmhurain (Hall and incredible bi-location on the day), and a particular 'thank you' to Jack Ormston, who, with his valiant team, again braved terrible weather conditions to put our outdoor advertising in place.

Our sincere thanks to all who helped.

Mid Western Philatelic Society

13th ANNUAL EXHIBITION & FAIR 1992



SPRING RICE MONUMENT, PEOPLES PARK.



Tim O'Connor's much acclaimed souvenir cover.

'Pictures at an Exhibition':





Henry Morris.

1. Alabama.

In NL No. 8 (Autumn 1991) I mentioned the very attractive and very popular Birds & Flowers se-tenant sheet issued by the USPO in 1992. Each of the US states has adopted both a bird and a flower as an emblem of that state, and there is a little story behind the adoption of the emblems in each case which may be of interest to NL readers. From time to time, I will tell the story of how a particular bird and flower came to be adopted by a particular state, starting in this issue with the story behind the adoption by Alabama of the Yellowhammer and the Camellia as State emblems.

The adoption of the Yellowhammer has its origin in the Civil War. Cavalrymen from a town called Huntsville, Alabama, arrived in Kentucky, wearing brand new uniforms, which were decorated with pieces of bright yellow cloth. The battle

weary Confederate troops, who watched their arrival, in their war-torn and grubby uniforms, were amused by the sight, and one of them, a humourist called Will Arnet, called after them - "Yellowhammer, Yellowhammer, flicker, flicker". The name stuck, and these men from Huntsville became known as the "Yellowhammers" throughout the Confederate Army, and eventually the name came to mean any soldier from Alabama. The Yellowhammer was formally chosen as the state emblem on 6th. September 1927.

The story of how the Camellia became the state flower is rather simpler - the Governor's wife favoured this flower as state emblem, and like most husbands, the Governor acceded to her request, on 26th. August 1959.



Normal.



'Missing Red'

Varieties.

William Ryan.

I recently acquired an interesting variety - the 1990, 30p. Christmas stamp with red completely omitted. The photocopy on left only gives a vague impression of the appearance of this variety, even when shown with the normal version for comparison.

The 'missing red' (of which I have found only a single copy) results in (a) the frame missing, (b) the dark blue colour shows as light blue (c) light green background instead of dark green and (d) part of the design shows as yellow.

I would like to 'prove' this variety, and would accordingly appreciate information from any other member who may have a copy or have seen one.

A Brief History of the Post.

Michael Freyer.

Nowadays we take it for granted that we can communicate with another person in any part of the world by posting a letter. But this form of communication is only the latest in a series of innovations which began as far back as 3800 B.C. At that time there was a regular postal system operating in Babylon; clay seals, bearing the name of King Sargon I being used to frank messages - that is to pay for them to be delivered. Seals continued to be used in one form or another in similar organisations which were developed among the Persians, the Chinese and the Greeks but it was not until the time of the Roman Empire that the first public postal service (cursus publicus) was developed as a highly efficient operation. It survived until overthrown by the Goths in the 5th century. Though they tried to continue the service on a lesser scale the disturbed conditions and insecurity of the highways led to its abandonment. Emperor Charlemagne attempted to revive the Roman mail service in 807 but it did not last long and it was not until the 13th century that a regular letter post was set up in Northern Europe and later, in 1460, a horse post between Tyrol and Italy was established.

The foundation of the English post office was in 1482 when relays of mounted couriers were set up for the conveyance of royal despatches from York to Edinburgh during the Scottish war. While most of these services were for the use of royalty or the governments, the transmission of private correspondence by post horses was fixed at a penny a mile by

law in 1548. A further effort to provide better means of communication was made in 1635 by a proclamation 'for settling of the letter-office of England and Scotland'. That proclamation also recited 'that there hath been no certain or constant intercourse between the kingdoms of England and Scotland and commands His Majesty's Postmaster of England to settle a running post or two to run night and day between Edinburgh and Scotland and the City of London, to go thither and come back in six days'. At the same time similar arrangements were made between London and Ireland.

In 1660 Colonel Henry Bishop introduced the first type of dated postmark. To quote him: 'A stamp is invented that is putt upon every letter showing the day of the moneth that every letter comes to the office so that no Letter Carrier may dare to detain a letter from post to post which before was usual'. Poor post boys who could no longer tarry for summer storms or sleep till daybreak to avoid rough and dangerous cross country routes in the dark. The Bishopp Mark, as it is now known, consisted of a circle divided into two parts: a two letter abbreviation of the month above and the day in figures below. It was nearly a hundred years later that the year was added and a further few years before the name of the posting town was also included.

The earliest penny post was set up in the Metropolitan area of London and Westminster in 1680 and armed guards were employed to combat highwaymen. Later this penny post became part of the General Post Office.

In the early 1830's Rowland Hill and others realised that the letter carrier system needed revising and agitated for reforms,

3

one being to speed up delivery. At that time the carrier had to knock on the door, await its opening and wait again until the money was found to pay the postage. Hill suggested that everybody should cut a slit for letters in their front door so that the postman could put post paid letters through the door, give a friendly knock and be on his way. Many people objected to cutting slits in their good front doors but within a dozen years most had done so. In 1833 Rowland Hill issued a pamphlet POST OFFICE REFORM in which he advocated a uniform penny postage throughout the kingdom, to be paid in advance. In those days, it should be remembered, the fee for carriage of a letter could be paid in advance, the charge being marked in red on the cover, or collected on delivery - the fee due being marked in black. However many recipients were refusing to pay and were 'getting the message' by noticing the form of address on the letter - 'Sean Reilly', 'Mr Sean Reilly', 'Mr S. Reilly' etc., each form indicating a prearranged message. Apropos of this practice an anecdote attributed to Rowland Hill himself tells how, whilst touring in the Lake district, he one day encountered a young woman standing at a cottage gate and gazing, as he thought, in dismay at a letter that the rural postman had just handed to her, upon which she declared herself unable to pay the charge. Moved to compassion on learning that the letter was from her lover in London, he paid the postman his fee and told the woman to retain the letter. After the postman's departure, however, he was surprised to learn that the letter contained no writing whatever, but as they were too poor to use the post she and her sweetheart had agreed to send each other from time to time a blank sheet of paper as an indication that both were alive and well. Although the reforms advocated by Rowland Hill were

ridiculed in high places at the time public agitation resulted in the Act of 1839, which called for a competition to be held for the best plan to indicate postage had been paid and to embody the following points - (1) convenience for public use, (2) security from forgery, (3) facility for being checked and distinguished in the examination at the post office which must be rapid, and (4) the expense of production and distribution. Over 2500 entries were received and of these four were

seriously considered and eventually it was the suggestion of Rowland Hill that was accepted. His proposal was that a small adhesive label be attached to the missive and that it be obliterated when used so that it could not be used again, and in 1840 the first postage stamp, as we know it, was issued - the famous penny black. On the front was a profile of the reigning monarch, Queen Victoria, which it was felt was well known enough to make forgeries obvious and on the back 'a glutinous wash which, by applying a little moisture might enable the label to be attached to the letter'. It was not deemed necessary to put the name of the country as it was the only one producing such labels at the time and to this day the stamps of the U.K. are the only ones that do not indicate the country of origin. Gradually the idea of these labels spread - three years later

Brazil followed suit; in 1847 the United States of America issued its first stamps; France and Belgium adopted the scheme in 1849. By the end of the century over 300 countries were producing their own stamps and some people, considered crazy at the time, began collecting these small pieces of paper and so the hobby of philately began.

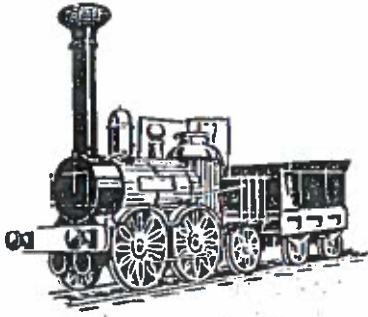
Others, definitely more crazy, began accumulating stamps and as early as 1841 the following advertisement appeared in the London TIMES:- 'A young lady, being desirous of covering her

dressings-room with cancelled postage stamps, has been so far encouraged in her wish by private friends as to have succeeded in collecting 16,000. These, however, being insufficient, she will be greatly obliged if any good-natured persons who have these (otherwise useless) little articles at their disposal, will assist her whimsical project. Address, Mr Butts, Glover, Leadenhall Street, or Mr Marshall, Jeweller, Hackney'.

Other similar advertisements from time to time appeared and PUNCH commented on the fact that 'the ladies of England have been indefatigable in their endeavours to collect old penny stamps. In fact, they betray more anxiety to treasure up queen's heads than King Henry VIII did to get rid of them'. Fortunately this craze soon died out leaving genuine collectors a clear field.

The first commemorative stamps were issued in the U.S.A. in 1893 to celebrate the discovery of America by Columbus 400 years previously. Obviously they had not heard of St. Brendan and, as Senator Robb pointed out, America was not 'discovered' - it was always there. Since that time most countries have issued commemoratives - stamps to celebrate some event and limited in numbers and period of sale. By 1894 the importance of postage stamps as advertising mediums was recognised and the Congo Free State issued a pictorial series depicting life and scenery in that country and a little later British North Borneo did the same. It is through these various illustrations that one is enabled to build up thematic collections to align with your own special interest - dancing, sport, sailing, animals, etc.

(Ed. Note: The above article is the text of a lecture delivered by Mr. Freyer to the Community School in Moyard, Co. Galway, on 27th. September 1984).



Travelling Post Offices & Railway Postmarks from the D.D.R.

Desmond P. O'Donoghue B.A.

Part 1: Traditionsbahnen (Preserved Steam Railways).

Almost alone amongst the countries of Europe, The German Democratic Republic (Deutsche Demokratische Republik - DDR), has an extensive network of narrow-gauge railways, most of which use steam traction. These networks were a considerable tourist attraction, especially for Western rail enthusiasts who visited them despite the obstacles placed in their way by the then Communist State.

Add to this the extensive activities of East German philatelists (philately being considered compatible with the Communist ideal and, of course, a lucrative source of revenue for the state - shades of An Post?), and a plethora of commemorative stamps, envelopes, cards and postmarks result.

In this article, a smidgen of the tip of the iceberg will be exposed for your edification.

1. a. Post Office-applied cancellation celebrating 100 years of the narrow-gauge railway between Hainsberg and Kipsdorf (South-West of Dresden).
- b. TPO cancellation carried on special train 14265/72.



Traditionszugfahrten vom 27.08. bis 04.09.1983

100 Jahre Schmalspurbahn
Freital-Hainsberg -
Kurort Kipsdorf

Philatelistenverband im KB
der DDR - BAG ESW Freital

Postkarte 8212

Carte postale 03.09.100 Jahre



Haus Garten

8010 DRESDEN

Bergstr. 24

2. As above, but showing route map:

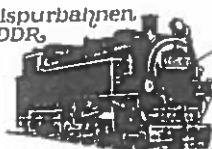
100 JAHRE SCHMALSPURBAHN



Traditionszugfahrten
vom 29. 08 bis 04. 09. 1983

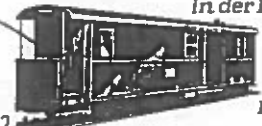
Schmalspurbahnen
in der DDR

5
DDR



Schmalspurbahnen
in der DDR

15
DDR



Hans Garten

8010 DRESDEN

3. Cover combining commemoration of the 1979 DDR National Stamp Exhibition with the special railway post on the Radebeul-Radeburg st m railway.

- Exhibition postmark;
- Special TPO postmark.

Nationale Briefmarkenausstellung



Sonderbahnpост
mit der Traditionsbahn
Radebeul-Radeburg



Herrn
Hans Garten

801 DRESDEN
Bergstr. 24

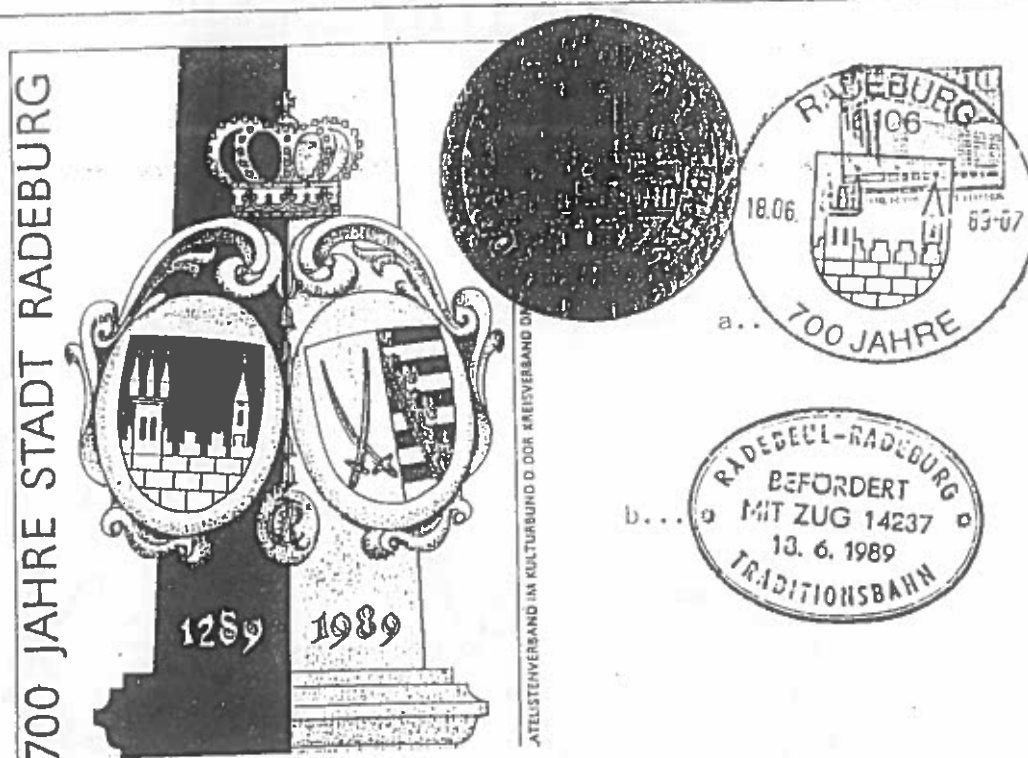
4. Cover, commemorating 100 years of the narrow-gauge railway Radebuel-Moritzburg-Radesburg, issued by the dresden area Philatelic Society.
- a. Post Office cancellation (100 years of narrow-gauge railway);
- b. TPO mark from the special train.



5. As (3) - notice the supplement stamps (10pf. & 5pf), being used to fund the Exhibition.



6. As No. 4, but cover and Post Office cancellation commemorates 700 years of the town of Radesburg.



-To be continued-

Collectors Advertisements:

Exchange partner wanted: I would like to exchange Modern Irish stamps with a collector in Ireland and can offer stamps of Netherlands, Germany, Scandinavia, England, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Australia, Luxemburg and Switzerland in exchange. Please reply to: Th. Drost, Grote Beerstraat 15, 1973 ZP Ymuiden, Nederland.
Box 11/1.

Exchange partner Wanted: Collector wishes to exchange mint Irish stamps and offers mint Czechoslovakia, USSR, Bulgaria, Romania, Cuba, Mongolia and Korea. Jan Szwej, Ul. Kubna nr 39, 42-256 Olsztyn, woj. Czestochowe, Poland.
Box 11/2.

Collector would like to swap English Stamp Booklets for same Irish. Have many scarcer types to swap including Geo. V, Prestige etc. Will use catalogue for exchange basis.
Box 11/3.

TE callcards collector has many duplicates to exchange or sell. Has many of the variations listed in MWPS catalogue; will swap one for one, or sell at half prices listed in Cat.
Box 11/4.

Kiloware wanted. Will pay £3.00 per lb. for modern/common. Can collect anywhere in Mid-West region.
Box 11/5.

THE PONY EXPRESS

by: James P. McAllister



WANTED

YOUNG, SKINNY, WIRY FELLOWS-NOT OVER 18
MUST BE EXPERT RIDERS, WILLING TO RISK DEATH DAILY
ORPHANS PREFERRED
WAGES - \$25 A WEEK

PART 4



Great White Throne
Zion Park, Utah

Soon the trail would approach South Pass, the gateway through the Rockies.
Most of the pony-riders were Mormons and upon reaching Utah they soon knew their way in this difficult terrain.

On April 9, the Pony Express rider galloped into Salt Lake City.
News from Washington, D.C. now came in only a week instead of two months or more.



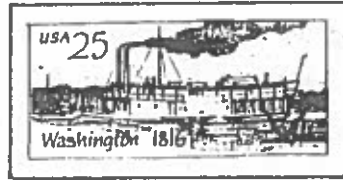
Seven hundred miles west of Salt Lake provided some of the toughest riding that the Pony Express encountered; broken, twisted mountains and canyons, shortage of water, trails through Indian country posed a serious liability — especially if the Indians were in a hostile mood.



Chief Joseph

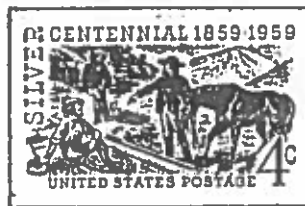
But the final arrival in Sacramento made up, in part, for all these tribulations.

A cannon sent forth it's noisy welcome along with shouting and waving of hats and ladies handkerchiefs and surrounded by 30 or so bigwigs, the rider made his entrance to deposit his mail in ten days from St. Joseph to Sacramento.



James Randall, not being a Pony Express rider but a messenger, rode three blocks to the waterfront where he boarded the steamer for Sacramento and San Francisco's part of the mail.

Boat passage on the Sacramento River was more practical for prospective miners as they could get to the diggings more conveniently than through the hardship of travel through mountainous territory.



Silver centennial

The city mushroomed near Sutter's fort and was to become headquarters for miner's equipment and gear. Because of this, Sacramento became an important mail center of the Far West.

So mail came overland to Sacramento then by steamer to San Francisco.

Going eastward, the trip was reversed.



San Francisco

Sam Hamilton was the first eastbound rider. He rode from Sacramento to Sportman's Hall—about 60 miles. Warren Upson, known also as "Boston" was the second rider. His route from Sportman's Hall to Friday's Station on the Nevada-California border took him over the treacherous Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Warren learned his horsemanship from the Mexican vaqueros and excelled as a marksman.

With these qualifications he was choice man to cross the Sierras.

At Friday's station Warren was relieved by "Pony Bob" Halsom probably the greatest Pony Express rider. He had to cross the perilous Great Basin country, terminating in Ft. Churchill, Nevada.

A hundred or more mountain ranges, rivers which served as natural guides, were hard to follow but he stayed with the Humboldt or Carson Rivers as far as possible but these often disappeared into "sinks" and were lost.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Halsom made his ride to Friday's Station on schedule and without incidence. There he turned the mochila over to Warren Upson.

Meter Marks.Tony Cassidy.

(Continued from MWPSNL No. 10).

	<u>M/M Number.</u>	<u>Town Inscription.</u>	<u>Other Inscription/s.</u>	<u>Date of Use.</u>
12.	PB L 18887	Sligeach	Sligo Park Hotel Pearse Road, Sligo.	5.2.85
13.	RV 1465	Loch Garman	Kellys Strand Hotel Roslare/In the sunny South East of Ireland.	5.2.85
14.	NV 257	Baile Atha Cliath	Adler Typewriters.	31.111.66
15.	HI	Baile Atha Cliath	BP Plus. Plus what? Plus a little something some others haven't got.	7.V.32
16.	RV 1142	Gaillimh		14.V1.82 23.6.78
16a.	PBL 0025	Baile Atha Cliath	Black & Decker.	
17.	S 83	Baile Atha Cliath	Power Tools for Industry.	24 X 60
18.	V 145	Baile Atha Cliath		18-111-65
19.	V1	Baile Atha Cliath		1 - V1 34
20.	M 225	Baile Atha Cliath		2 X11 58
21.	PB L 19027	Baile Atha Cliath	Chrstian Brothers Schools for deaf boys.	27-6-87
22.	M9	Baile Atha Cliath		18 1V 28
23.	U57	Baile Atha Cliath	'It's Faster By Gas'	4 X1 58
24.	A 51	Baile Atha Cliath	Auto Cars the Key to Better Service	19 V1 64
25.	N 437	Baile Atha Cliath (BG Bailey Gibson Ltd., Dolphin's Barn).		19 1 61
26.	M 111	Baile Atha Cliath (Munster & Leinster Bank, Dublin).		9 X1 40
27.	U17	Baile Atha Cliath (Bank of Ireland, Dublin).		11 111 42
28.	M53		Saorstat Eireann	
29.	M10		Eire	
30.	M47	Luimneach	Eire	4.V1.40
31.	N60	(Waterford?)		1945 (?)
32.	N63	Baile Atha Cliath	Eire	16.1.43
33.	N70	Corcaigh	Eire	* * 41
34.	U17	Baile Atha Cliath		4.V1.55
35.	NV 357	Baile Atha Cliath		26.111.68
36.	NV 342	Baile Atha Cliath		9.X.67

-Concluded-

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BEEN VERY KINDLY SPONSORED

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MID-WESTERN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

1992/1993 : PROGRAMME.

Saturday 6th. September: Mini-Mart. Juniors Meeting (Henry Morris i/c.).
Friday 18th. September: Monthly Meeting (Members Time - Joe McCarthy: Quiz night).
Saturday 3rd. October: Mini-Mart. Juniors Meeting.
Friday 16th. October: Monthly Meeting (Sean Moore - Varieties).
Saturday 7th. November: Mini-Mart. Juniors Meeting.
Friday 20th. November: Monthly Meeting (Tim O'Connor - Australia).
Saturday 5th. December: Mini-Mart. Juniors Meeting.
Friday 18th. December: Monthly Meeting (Earnest Hollywood - Display).
Saturday 4th. January 1993: Mini-Mart. Juniors Meeting.
Friday 17th. January: Monthly Meeting (Desmond O'Donoghue - TPO's).
Saturday 1st. February: Mini-Mart. Juniors Meeting.
Friday 21st. February: Monthly Meeting (Roger O'Donoghue entertains).
Saturday 7th. March: Mini-Mart. Juniors Meeting. [Exhibition - date open]
Friday 20th. March: Monthly Meeting (Sean O'hAllmhurain entertains).
Saturday 4th. April: Mini-Mart. Juniors Meeting.
Friday 17th. April: Monthly Meeting (Joe McCarthy entertains).
Saturday 2nd. May: Mini-Mart. Juniors Meeting.
Friday 15th. May: Monthly Meeting (John Mitchell entertains).
Saturday 6th. June: Mini-Mart. Juniors Meeting.
Saturday 4th. July: Mini-Mart.
Saturday 1st. August: Mini-Mart.

All club activities take place in:

Halla Ide,
18, Thomas Street,
Limerick.

