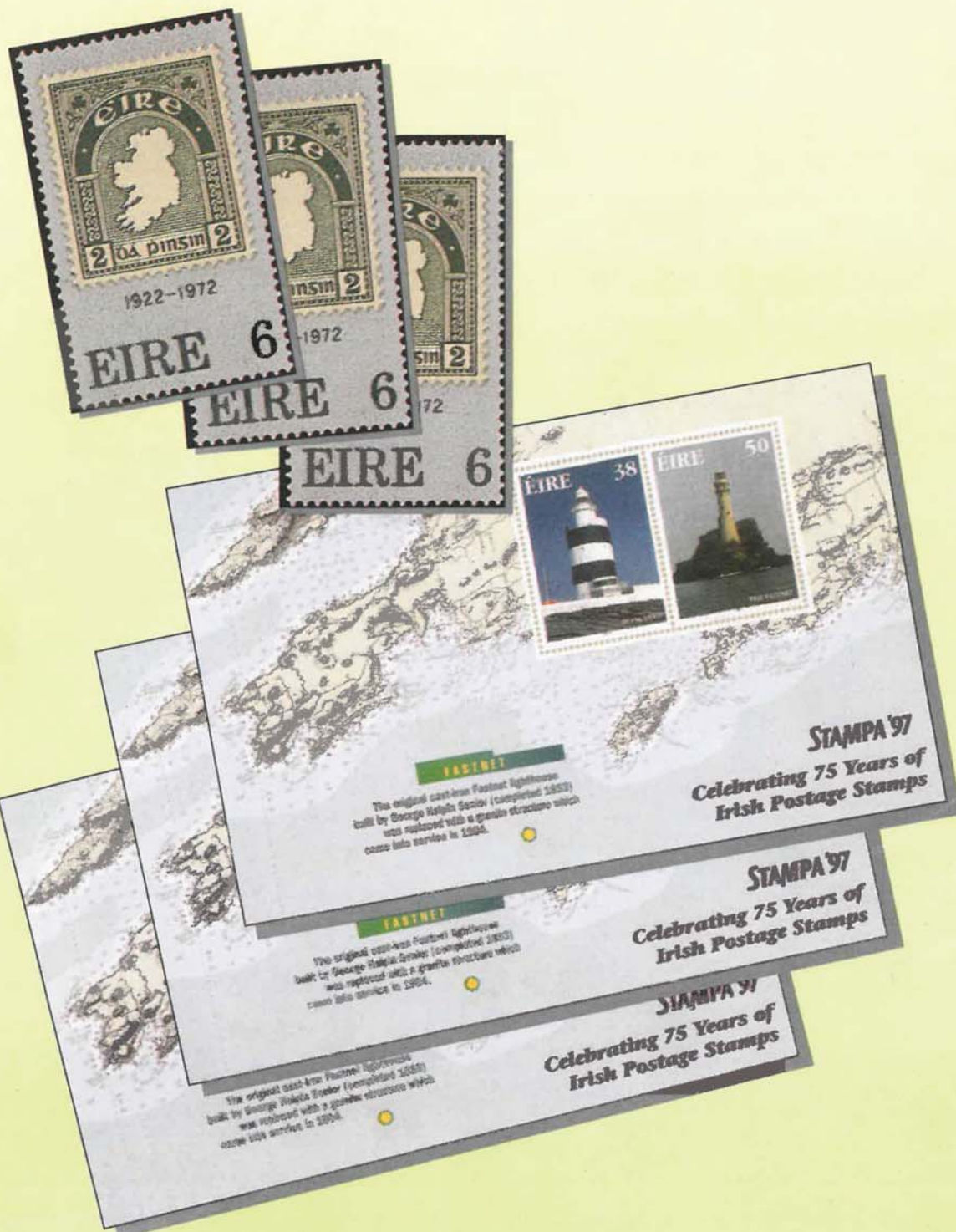


STAMPA '97

SILVER JUBILEE 1972-1997



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The 26th National Stamp Exhibition

7-9 November 1997, RDS Concert Hall, Dublin 4

This event is organised by The Irish National Stamp Exhibition Ltd., a company limited by guarantee and set up by collectors to promote philately in Ireland by means of an annual exhibition. It is run on a voluntary basis by an elected council comprising Con Buckley, Mike Burrington, Kevin Drury (Vice-Chairman), Anthony Hughes, Michael Kelly (catalogue co-editor), Geoffrey McAuley, Heloise Mitchell (catalogue co-editor), Finbar O'Mahony, Padraig O'Shea, Jim Ryan (Treasurer), Ian Whyte (Chairman).

EXHIBITS JURY: Charles Verge, Canada (Chairman); Geoffrey McAuley, Ireland; Patrick Williams FRPSL, United Kingdom. Apprentice Jurors: H. Mitchell, F. O'Mahony.

WELCOME TO STAMPA 97

As one of the founder members of the first stampa, I am particularly honoured to chair the Council organising this silver jubilee exhibition. I am delighted to welcome you all to what promises to be a magnificent exhibition. I especially welcome David Feldman, who was our founding chairman, and who brings one of the gems of worldwide philately for display at Stampa 97.

We also commemorate seventy-five years of Irish postage stamps, and it is in great part thanks to An Post that we do so in such style. An Post's commitment to Stampa has continued to strengthen over the years, and we could not stage such a show without that organisation's enthusiastic and generous help.

Our Council has been a really great team and while paying tribute to them I would add our gratitude to all those who have served Stampa over the past twenty five years including those who, sadly, cannot be with us for this celebration.

Enjoy this exceptional birthday party!

Ian Whyte, Chairman, Stampa 97.

MESSAGES FROM STAMPA CHAIRMEN 1972-1996

David Feldman 1972 to 1974	<i>"I am looking forward to participating in the celebration of 25 years of great work in promoting philately in Ireland."</i>
Richard Stein 1975	<i>"Congratulations to the Stampa members and councils of 25 years. Their dedication to the promotion of philately is justly commendable."</i>
David Rose 1976	<i>"No year would be complete without Stampa. Best wishes for 1997 and the coming millennium."</i>
Seamus Kearns 1977, 1978, 1989 Dr. J.A. Quigley 1979 to 1988	<i>"A special thought must go at this time to a distinguished philatelist and past Chairman, Dr. Joe Quigley who, sadly, will not be with us to celebrate this special event."</i>
Michael Giffney 1990 to 1992	<i>"My years as Chairman were most memorable and enjoyable. It was a pleasure and honour to present old and new friends with their well deserved awards for their contributions to Stampa."</i>
John Fitzsimons 1993, 1994	<i>"It is very satisfying, after a quarter century of Stampa, to see its expanding membership and its influence within Irish and international philately."</i>
Finbar O'Mahony 1995, 1996	<i>"Without Stampa and the fellowship provided by the philatelic societies, collecting can be a solitary experience. So don't just attend.....join, get involved and find real fulfilment. Ni neart go cur le cheile."</i>

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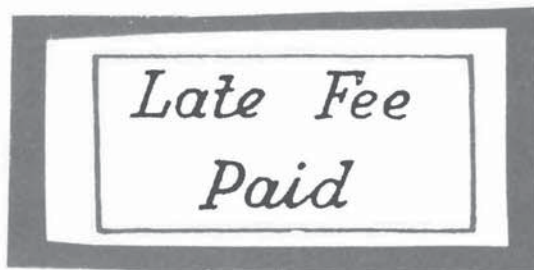
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council are very grateful to the following for their contribution to the organisation of this event: An Post (especially Norman Newcombe, Pat Carolan, Gerry Mooney and Anna McHugh), The Cork Philatelic Society, Jim Derwin, The Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street (Francis Xavier Carthy, Bryan Rankin and Annabel O'Keeffe), The Dublin Stamp Society, The Éire Philatelic Association, FAI - The Irish Study Group of the German Philatelic Federation, The Federation of Philatelic Societies in Ireland, David Feldman, John Fitzsimons, The Irish Philatelic Circle, The Irish Philatelic Society, The Irish Philatelic Traders Association, Johan Jansen, Rev. Brother William Kehoe, Pauline Kelly, John Lennon, Paddy Macken, Derek Martin and the staff of the Royal Dublin Society, George Mitchell, John Mullen, The National Museum (especially Máiréad Donlevy), Fredy Thoma; Brian Warren, Whyte's staff (especially Peter Geoffroy, Bríd Lowry and Marianne Newman), the Exhibition Jury (listed separately), those who helped mount the exhibits, set up the stands, and who will steward the exhibition, all the exhibitors and standholders, the advertisers in this catalogue, the sponsors of our new frames (see separate list), and the membership of Stampa, whose subscriptions have made such a huge contribution to the show's success. We are also very grateful to all those who contributed so generously to the Children's Day Activities.

FRAME SPONSORS

We are very grateful to the following for generously sponsoring our new frames: Anonymous; An Post; Cork Philatelic Society; Kevin Drury; Éire Philatelic Association; FAI (Irish Study Group of German Philatelic Federation); Anthony Hughes; Irish Airmail Society; Irish Philatelic Society; Irish Philatelic Traders Association; Hugh McGoldrick; Finbar O'Mahony, Monica O'Neill; Whyte's.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Friday November 7	Stampa Open	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
	Children's activities in Dracula's Den	
	EPA/FAI/IPC Meeting	2 p.m.
	Irish Airmail Society Meeting	4 p.m.
Saturday November 8	Stampa Open	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
	Children's activities in Dracula's Den	
	Stampa Awards Dinner Snipes Restaurant, Ely Place (Reservations at front desk)	8 p.m.
Sunday November 9	Stampa Open	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
	Children's activities in Dracula's Den	
	Federation of Philatelic Societies in Ireland AGM (delegates only)	2 p.m.
	Seminar on exhibiting by Geoffrey McAuley	3.30 p.m.

PHILATE-LISTERIA AND ITS SYMPTOMS

by Doctor Mark Post

Philate-listeria is a highly contagious disease which can be transmitted by exposure to stamps, postal history, thematics, postcards and ephemera. Stamp shops and auction rooms are a notorious breeding ground for these germs and exhibitions can cause severe relapses. So that you may be on your guard, here are details of its most serious symptoms.

The earliest sign of malaise is HOARDING-ITIS, often followed by years of NOT-GETTING-ROUND-TO-MOUNTING-IT-ITIS. PLAN-ITIS, which can strike at any hour and last for up to fifty years, is the sure sign that exhibition fever is setting in. A lot of thought, time and paper are needed to cure it.

LIST-ITIS stems from the endless compiling and amending of plans and wants lists. One night can bring on major activity, and REVISE-LIST-ITIS then becomes hard to control. Undones are carried forward and new do's inserted. REMOUNT-ITIS and CHECK-REFERENCE-ITIS are side-effects, and their incidence is directly proportional to the length of the lists and the square on the hypotenuse of the bifocals.

TEXT-ITIS is much more serious than PLAN-ITIS, as it involves every page in the collection - not just the introductory or plan page. Getting the text right is not easy. The patient has to go over it many times and, no matter how often he does so, there will be changes, not only to the text but to the material as well. If several pages have to be redone, minor fits of RE-NUMBERING-ITIS can occur, but these are easily remedied. Some patients are very prone to STARTING-BUT-NOT-FINISHING-ITIS, but the dreaded TOTAL-REDO-IT-ITIS is far more severe, and most prevalent in Irish collectors during September and October.

PENFRIEND-ITIS results from being unable to obtain particular stamps for many years. When suitable donors are found, material can be transplanted. This symptom is spreading worldwide, despite all attempts at occupational therapy.

READING-ITIS is the symptom whereby reading becomes more and more restricted to philately. None of the lists handed out in school so long ago have been dealt

with because of BUSY-ITIS absorbing books and articles on various collecting interests. The patients' forte in Pub-quizzes, Mastermind and Trivial Pursuit is restricted to those questions relating to their philatelic knowledge.

CUTTINGS-ITIS is a serious, though very common, problem. Cupboards gradually become more and more stacked with literature, despite bouts of SORT-THEM-OUT-ITIS. Since the many sources are ongoing, vandalization of magazines is regarded as normal behaviour. The only effective treatment is amputation.

BOX-ITIS occurs when large and small containers are not available when instantly needed. Remedial part-time work in a shoe-shop controls this symptom, but failure to obtain boxes of the correct dimensions is apt to cause some dementia.

MAKE-MORE-SPACE-ITIS is closely related to GET-RID-OF-IT-ITIS, symptoms normally only suffered by spouses and others living in the same establishment. The former possibly affects postmark and postal history collectors to a greater extent, those whose main interest is postage stamps tending to suffer from STOCKBOOK-ITIS. MAKE-MORE-SPACE-ITIS consists of examining all the equipment stored in shoe-boxes, stockbooks, envelopes, etc., and separating it into *WANTS* and *MUST DO WITHOUTS*, and then trying to keep these two germs as far apart as possible. It is most important not to impose a stricter diet at this stage because two things may happen, though I cannot diagnose exactly how soon afterwards.

Firstly, a postmark, meter mark, stationery item or booklet showing, for example, the fiddler on the roof in 353BC will be urgently required for a major operation. It was seen recently in the *WANTS* isolation ward ... or was it in the *MUST DO WITHOUTS* ward? A long search through the files eventually reveals a possible "Fiddler-ostomy" candidate.

Secondly, epidemics of conscience and guilt, usually a consequence of dealing with the first outbreak, can cause the transfer of one shoe-boxful to the *WANTS* ward. The disposal of any item is, therefore, not recommended as it can lead to severe withdrawal symptoms.

HOLIDAY-ITIS means the only type of holiday that can be undertaken is the philatelic or thematic break. Places visited must reveal at least one gem of philatelic information. Towns must have a post office and a stamp shop and, if possible, a postal museum. Social visits are restricted to fellow sufferers and public auctions. A trip to an exhibition is guaranteed to aggravate the symptoms, or cause major trauma in those who thought they were cured.

For your guidance, I should mention other indicators of the disease: SCRAP-PAPER-ITIS, ENVELOPES-FOR-STORAGE-ITIS, BIRO and PENCIL-ITIS, HUNT-THE-TWEEZERS-ITIS and HUNT-THE-GLASSES-ITIS (distance, reading, bifocal and magnifying). Even more contagious are EXHIBITION-ITIS and SOCIETY-ITIS, as they bring on ailments such as CHAIRMAN-ITIS, SECRETARY-ITIS, TREASURER-ITIS, COMMITTEE-MEMBER-ITIS, JUDGE-ITIS, LIBRARIAN-ITIS and last, but not least, DESERTED-SPOUSE-AND-FAMILY-ITIS.

After many years of fighting philate-listeria, families have had to become resigned to the fact that there is no cure and that their lives must revolve around the illness.

OBITUARY NOTICE

Black, Penny (Album ward, Stamp Room Hospital), 22 October 1997, beloved wife of Stampout Philately, a victim of philate-listeria, in her 158th year. Deeply regretted by her twin sisters Penny Red and Twopenny Blue, her Maltese Cross cancel, tweezers, magnifying glass, stockbook, album page and numerous other relatives and friends.

Removal to WHYTE'S morgue, Marlborough St., Dublin. Funeral on Saturday 25 October 1997 to somewhere in the world after Public Auction at 12.30 p.m.





**150th Anniversary
Bram Stoker's
Birth**
8th November 1997



**25th Anniversary
of the First Stamp
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STAMPA - 1986 to 1989

by "Marius"



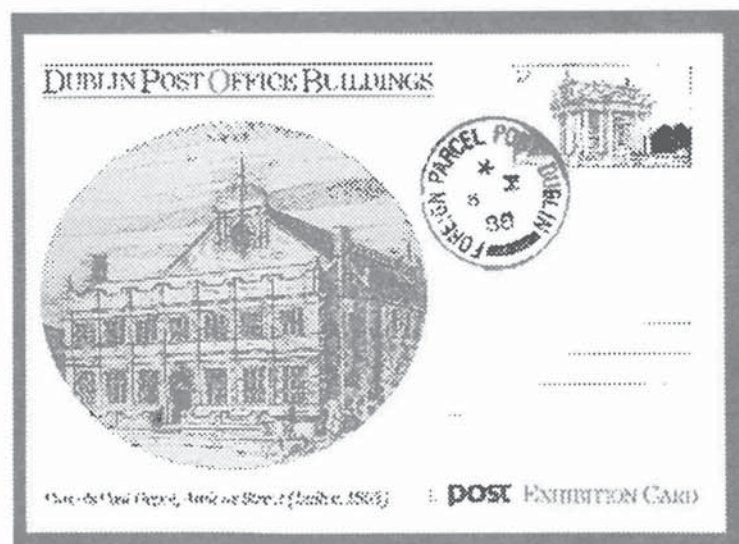
The theme of the 1986 exhibition (RDS - 7 to 9 November) was the "Centenary of the Motor Car". An Post issued three postcards on this theme on the opening day of the show. The three 24p postcards referred specifically to "Stampa '86" and featured an Austin 7, a Model T Ford and a Benz Comfortable. The 24p printed stamp with An Post insignia was the same as that used on ordinary postcards available at the time. The cards, which cost 40p each, were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited and designed by Charles Rycraft. Three circular postmarks, one for each day of the exhibition, were applied on mail posted at the exhibition post office in the RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. The cancellations were on the same theme and featured Post Office vehicles - Austin P&T van (7 November); Renault 4 P&T van (8 November); and An Post Renault Traffic van (9 November). The skeleton CDS was once again in use and read "RDS Ballsbridge" as per 1985, except that the spacing of "RDS" was closer compared to the previous year. The three cards were overprinted the following year for Capex '87 (Toronto - 13 to 21 June).

Stampa members (subscription - IR£10) received two replicas to commemorate the birth bicentenary of William Mulready (b. Ennis). The first souvenir reproduced an actual Mulready wrapper, and the other showed one of the few Mulready caricatures with an Irish connection. This caricature depicted Daniel O'Connell, the Pope, Lord Melbourne and the Duke of Wellington. Total printing of 300 pairs. Both souvenirs were franked with the Mulready stamp issued by An Post and cancelled with the Ennis first day cancel of 2 October. There was no general souvenir apart from the An Post cards. The German based FAI study group issued a special cover which was postmarked with the opening day cancel - a copy was sent to each member. The Awards Banquet was held in Powers Hotel, Dublin 2, on 8 November. Each diner received one of the 28p Bianconi maximum cards with the matching stamp affixed to the reverse side and cancelled with the Stampa postmark of the same day. The menu and the venue were also printed on the reverse of the card. Total printing of 70 cards.



The 1987 exhibition reverted to a four-day show (RDS - 15 to 18 October). An Post launched the first of a new annual series of postcards under the theme "Postal History". The four cards featured "Postal Uniforms" and were designed to be subsequently used as exhibition cards at overseas shows during the twelve-month period following the date of issue. The cards cost 30p each and were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. The four matching postmarks featured various "Hats" associated with postal messengers. The third card in the set (Uniform of 1940) was overprinted by the Stampa Council with the menu for the Awards Dinner held at the Shelbourne Hotel on 17 October. The cards bear the exhibition cancel of the same date. One card was distributed to each diner. The cards were subsequently overprinted for ASDA '87 (New York - 22 to 25 October), Philatelia '87 (Cologne - 6 to 8 November), and Spring Stampex (London - 1 to 6 March 1988). The "RDS Ballsbridge" skeleton cancel was also available.

Stampa members (subscription - IR£10) received the "Trams" miniature sheet (issued earlier in the year) overprinted "Stampa '87 National Stamp Exhibition". The total printing was 350 numbered copies. There was no general souvenir on sale at the show. The FAI study group issued an overprinted "Discover Ireland" postcard with a greeting from the show and postmarked with the opening day cancel. The card was only distributed to members of the FAI.



Parcels Post Depot card with Foreign Parcel Post CDS, then in use at the Amiens Street office

The second set of "Postal History" exhibition cards released at Stampa '88 (RDS - 6 to 9 October) featured Dublin Post Office buildings, in line with the Dublin Millennium theme of 1988. The four buildings were - General Post Office, Dublin (built 1818), Ballsbridge District Office (built c. 1890), Parcels Post Depot, Amiens Street (built c. 1892) and Rathmines District Office (built 1934). The design work for the cards was by Brendan Donegan. The illustrations were based on archive prints of the relevant period, with the exception of the modern Rathmines office, which was based on a drawing by Stephen Conlin who was responsible for the Dublin Millennium stamp. The cards (cost 30p each) were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited and bear a 24p printed stamp in green of the Casino, Marino definitive design. This was the first time that a definitive stamp design was used as a stationery stamp - a welcome change at the time from the An Post insignia design. However, there was one omission - the name of the country !



The four matching postmarks feature various Dublin cancellations as follows:-

- 6 October: The first handstruck mark took the form of a letter enclosed in a circle. The 'D' probably stands for Mr. Dowling, who managed the Dublin Post Office at the time (circa 1669);
- 7 October: Circular Dublin Penny Post postmark introduced in 1837;
- 8 October: Dublin circle Free Frank which first appeared in 1832 and remained in use until 1834. As far as is known, Dublin is the only place where the name of the city or town was incorporated into a Free Frank; and
- 9 October: Unframed Register'D/Dublin mark, introduced in connection with a new registered post system in 1841. The registration number was inserted in manuscript in the centre of the mark.

As usual, a registration service was available, and it was thus possible to obtain the special handstamp of 9 October on a registered cover, a most attractive combination. The skeleton "RDS Ballsbridge" CDS was once again available.

The Ballsbridge card was overprinted for the Awards banquet held in the Shelbourne Hotel on 8 October. The cards bear the exhibition cancel of the same date (total printing of 97 cards). Proofs of the menu overprint on plain white card also exist with the word "Proof" added by rubber stamp. The idea of overprinting the cards for overseas shows was abandoned by An Post and their overseas agents. However, the cards were privately overprinted the following year for Stampex Ulster (Belfast - 11/12 February 1989).

Members of the Stampa Society (subscription - IR£10) received the Dublin Millennium booklet pane (English version) with a red overprint which reads "Stampa '88". Total of 345 numbered panes. The Irish version of the pane with similar blue overprint was sold at the exhibition for IR£3. Total printing of 1,000 copies - 557 sold - remainder broken up and used for postage. The individual panes were supplied loose by An Post and therefore have a full binding margin. The German FAI group overprinted a supply of official An Post envelopes which were postmarked with the 6 October cancel. These were distributed to members only, without charge. Two commemorative stamps and a new set of postage dues were issued on the opening day of the exhibition, but no additional Stampa associated cancels were available in connection with these issues.



The exhibition transferred to a new venue in 1989 (23 to 26 November). The Riverside Exhibition Centre at Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2, was to be the location for all years up to 1996. The third and final set of cards in the "Postal History" series features prints of Bianconi coaches by Michaelangelo Hayes to tie in with the bicentenary of the Irish mail coach. The cards feature (1) Getting Ready, Hearn's Hotel, Clonmel; (2) Taking Up a Passenger; (3) Dropping a Passenger; and (4) Arriving at the End of a Stage. The designs of cards 1 and 4 were featured on two earlier stamps. The Hearn's Hotel design (in part) was featured on the 28p Bianconi issue of 1986 and the final card design was reproduced on the 12p Europa stamp of 1979. The cards were undenominated and cost 16p each and in my opinion were the best set of exhibition cards ever issued for Stampa. All four cards were overprinted for the Awards Dinner at Stokers Restaurant, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, on 25 November. Total printing of 20 sets (i.e. 80 cards in total). The cards were cancelled with the exhibition cancel of the same date but did not refer to the venue of the dinner.

The four connected postmarks featured the different postmarks used in the 19th century in connection with the Dublin-Cashel-Cork mailcoach service. Four of the six known handstamps are featured on the Stampa postmarks, including a "POSTAGE PAID" cancel which was applied to prepaid letters.

Stampa members (subscription - IR£10) received the Game Birds miniature sheet with a blue overprint which reads "STAMPA 1989 NOVEMBER 23rd to 26th". Total printing of 350 numbered sheets, 276 distributed, with remainder either destroyed or broken up and used for postage. No public souvenir was sold at the 1989 show, nor was a skeleton datestamp available for the Sir John Rogerson's Quay venue.



Irish Airmail Society

Collectors of Irish material related to aerophilately are invited to attend a meeting of the Society to be held within the exhibition complex at 4 p.m. on Friday 7th November - All are welcome.

● The Irish Philatelic Society ●

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COURT OF HONOUR EXHIBIT

The Mauritius 'Ball Invitation Envelope'

*Courtesy of
David Feldman*



In 1846 the Governor of Mauritius, Sir William Gomm, ordered the production of postage stamps for the colony. The stamps — 1d red and 2d blue were produced in September 1847. They were inscribed '*POST OFFICE POSTAGE MAURITIUS*'.

In the same month the Governor held a ball and these first stamps — mainly the penny red — were used on the invitation envelopes. This exhausted much of the first printing of the stamps, and as the second printing had a new inscription '*POST PAID*' instead of '*POST OFFICE*', the first types are very rare.

Of the couple of hundred invitation envelopes sent only three survive — one in the Royal Collection, London, one in the British Library Collection and one in private hands. The latter was addressed to a local councillor, Henry Adam, who, in 1899, sold the envelope for seventeen thousand francs (£680) to a Paris dealer.

The envelope passed through several other collectors' hands, including King Carol of Roumania, and a famous Japanese industrialist, Hiroyuki Kanai. Mr Kanai's outstanding collection of Mauritius changed hands for several million dollars a few years ago.

In 1993 a French dealer bought the envelope for about £750,000, and he has consigned it for auction on November 20 next at a start price of one million pounds. The world's leading philatelic auctioneer, Dublin born David Feldman, will preside over this record sale.

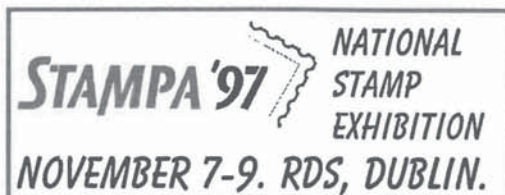
This amazingly valuable envelope is on display at *Stampa 97*, the Irish National Stamp Exhibition, through the courtesy of its owner and David Feldman. It is the greatest philatelic treasure ever shown in Ireland — definitely the 'guest of honour' at the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary celebration of Irish postage stamps and the twenty-fifth birthday of *Stampa*.

The catalogues for the auctions to be held by David Feldman on November 16-21 may be obtained for Sfr 50 (£25) from: David Feldman SA, 175 Route de Chancy, PO Box 81, CH-1213 Onex, Geneva, Switzerland. Telephone: (022) 727 0777. Fax: (022) 727 0778.

Stampa 97 Postmarks



The three special handstamps in use at Stampa 97



Slogan die used at Dublin Mails Centre October 1 to 31 1997

Stampa Banquet

to be held on

Saturday 8th November 1997

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Tickets £20

Dress Informal

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Peter McBride, Drumconvis House, Coagh, Co Tyrone, BT 80 OHF. Tel: 08 016487 37804. Postal/Shows only.

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EXHIBITS

TRADITIONAL

1. **Northern Ireland Regional Issues** *Brian Warren*
A detailed study of the regional GB "country" issues for N.I. from 1958 to 1997.
2. **Irish Automatic Postage Labels** *John Mullen*
A study of the labels, their varieties and usage.
3. **Railway Letter Stamps of Ireland** *David J. Brennan*
Irish Railway Letter Stamps and their cancellations from 1891 to 1920.
4. **Penny Red Plates Used in Ireland** *"JP"*
Plates 70 to 225 used with Irish cancels.
5. **The GB Stamps of Edward VII** *Lady Mairi Bury*
A specialised study including shades, essays, colour trials, errors, varieties and flaws, paper and watermarks, die-proofs etc.
6. **Irish Coils 1922-1977** *Robert Benninghoff*
The development and use of Irish coil stamps.
7. **Dutch Postage Dues** *John Lorenzen*
A study of the various issues and their usage.
8. **Saorstat Overprints of Ireland** *John Pedneault*
The three-line Saorstat issues of 1922/23 including errors, varieties and postal use.
9. **Fakes, Frauds and Forgeries** *Kevin Drury*
Stamps that are not genuine, or that have fake overprints or cancellations.

POSTAL HISTORY

10. **Ireland - Transition Period 1922-25** *Anthony Finn*
The effects of the change of status from a British to an Irish postal administration following the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922.

EXHIBITS

- 11. The Channel Islands under German Occupation** *Mike Burrington*
The civilian postal service 1940-45, including local stamp issues, internee mail and Red Cross messages.
- 12. Registered Mail 1841-1904** *Charles Reid*
A study of this service including 2d Mulready envelope, distinctive hand stamps for registered items, a selection of special categories and routes and rates to places abroad.
- 13. Troubles and Transition : Ireland 1900-30** *Peter Wood*
Postal aspects of the struggle for Irish independence and the change from British to Irish postal administration.
- 14. Mullingar 1702-1922** *Anthony Hughes*
The history of Mullingar Post Office through its postmarks.
- 15. The Postal History of the French Red Cross during WW1** *Alan Piggott*
The various postal cachets used during WW1 by the French Red Cross and associated societies.
- 16. The Post Office in Limerick, City and County** *John Lennon*
The establishment and development of post offices in Limerick City and County from 1656 to the present day.
- 17. Letters to the Continent** *Dr H. J. Neumann*
The development of the mail from the United Kingdom to Europe from 1633 to UPU (approx.)
- 18. From Aden to Zanzibar** *Stan Challis*
Mail to and from Ireland over two centuries.
- 19. Ireland - Postmarks and Postal History** *J. E. Foley*
Emphasis on the interesting and unusual from the mid-17th century to the 1916 Rising.

EXHIBITS

20. Free Irish Franks

John Matthews

The Franking Privilege. Examples of some Dublin (and London) free marks, with comment on the privileged users.

THEMATIC PHILATELY

21. The Development of the Letter-box

Glenn Morgan

Letter-boxes, whether post-office or private, were designed to promote postal efficiency. This exhibit records their development.

22. The Ashes

Catherine Murphy

The regular England-Australia encounters in cricket since the 19th century

23. Man and the Whale

"Sedna"

From monster, to valuable resource, to object of pity and concern - mankind's shifting view of the whale is explored.

24. Discovering West London

Francis McDonald

A walking tour of West London, looking at the streets, buildings and famous people associated with the area.

25. Of Whales and Dolphins

Colm T. Murphy

The involvement and participation of the Irish at the modern Olympic Games from 1896 to 1996.

AEROPHILATELY

26. Mail to and from Ireland Accelerated by Air

Raymond How

The affect of aviation on the mail to and from Ireland between 1870 and 1935.

NOVICE

27. French Africa through Stamps

Patrick Biard

A journey through former French Colonies in Africa showing their various name changes.

EXHIBITS

LITERATURE

- 28. Irish Crash Airmails** *Ronny Vogt*
A detailed list of aviation accidents involving Irish mails.
- 29. Die Harfe 1996** *FAI*
The journal of the FAI.
- 30. 75 Years of Irish Stamps** *FAI & EPA*
Contributions to Irish philately and postal history. *(Joint pub.)*

OPEN

- A. St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin** *"Tipperkevin"*
Stamps, postal history and postcards on this theme.
- B. The Irish Abroad** *Brian Warren*
Irish people honoured by overseas postal administrations.
- C. Diana - the People's Princess** *Patrick Casey*
The life and times of Diana, Princess of Wales (1961 - 1997)
- D. Schubert's Legacy** *John Fitzsimons*
A brief observation of Franz Schubert's life and his influence on the world of classical music.
- E. Helvetic Variety in Brief** *Fredy Thoma*
- F. Swiss Folklore** *"Helvetia"*

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

- Misunderstanding Philately** *Anonymous*
A light-hearted look at philatelic terms.
- Postcards and the Post** *Seamus Kearns*
A display of cards relating to the article in this catalogue.

FAI

Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland e.V.



FAI, the German Study and Research Group on Irish Philately and Postal History, wishes *stampa '97* every success. And many thanks to all members in this year's *stampa* committee and all the previous ones for their invaluable honorary work in promoting Irish Philately!

FAI - We offer to our 200 members in 12 countries world-wide:

- Quarterly bulletin "Die Harfe" (The Harp) with more than 200 pages p.a., many of its articles being bi-lingual. Former authors of "Irish Stamp News" publish their knowledge here.
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- 20 books and booklets on Irish philately and postal history, all are bi-lingual German / English and were given free-of-charge to our members.
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FAI celebrates the 75th anniversary of Irish stamps in 1997 (which matches with our own 15th) in a quite special way:

- X** Membership fee has been reduced from IRE 23.-- to IRE 16.--!
- X** FAI and its members sponsored five of the new-size exhibition frames which are already in use at this *stampa*!
- X** A valuable book has been published dealing with various aspects of Irish philately and postal history, free-of-charge to FAI members, including a souvenir postcard from An Post, only available with the book!

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Contributions to Irish Philately and Postal History

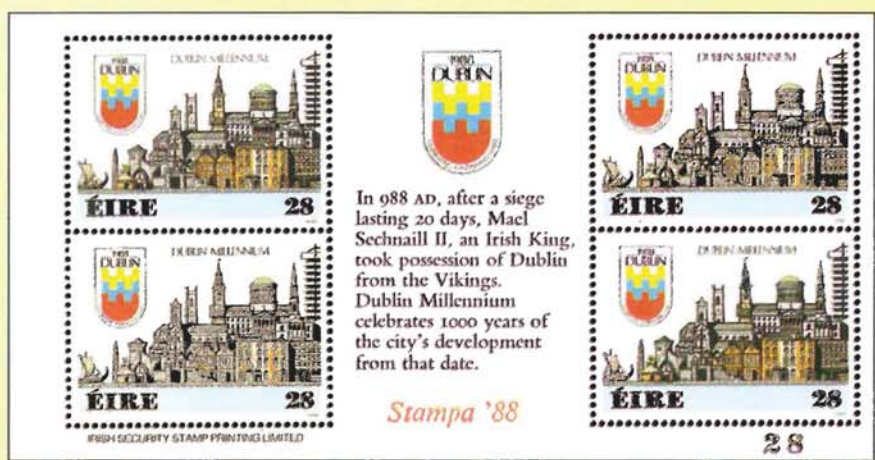
Themes: Packet Rates 1818; Cashel Mail; P.O.W. Mail 1914 + 1915;
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A selection of members' souvenirs from previous years.

COURT OF HONOUR EXHIBITS continued



2. The Western Australia "Inverted Swan".

Courtesy of the National Museum of Ireland.

Between 1854 and 1857 Western Australia issued stamps incorporating the famous "Black Swan", which is indigenous to the territory. In 1855 the printer of the stamps repaired the stone used to lithograph the stamps, and in doing so inadvertently inverted the frame of one of the impressions. Less than one hundred sheets were issued before the error was discovered. Only fifteen examples of the inverted frame error - known to collectors as the "Inverted Swan" - survived.

Mr. Morris, a teacher at the High School in Dublin, discovered one of the errors, and he sold it to a boy named Vance for £2, who exchanged it with the Duke of Leinster for several scarce stamps. The Duke bequeathed his collection to the Museum of Arts and Sciences, now known as the National Museum of Ireland, and there the rare error remains. It is presently valued at about £75,000.



3. Great Britain Edward VII "I.R. OFFICIAL" overprints.

Courtesy of the National Museum of Ireland.

In 1907 the King visited the National Museum of Ireland and was shown the Duke of Leinster's stamp collection. Noticing that there were no stamps of his reign present, he ordered that the Museum be furnished with blocks of four of all of his stamps to date. His order was carried out, and included in the stamps supplied were blocks of four of the rare "I. R. OFFICIAL" overprints made for the use of the Inland Revenue on official mail. These stamps saw little use because "Official Paid" franks were introduced for the Inland Revenue shortly after they were issued in 1904. The set of blocks includes the very rare sixpenny value; it is the only block of four outside the Royal Mail archives, and even the Queen's Collection only has a single specimen. The current Stanley Gibbons catalogue value of this set of blocks is about £470,000 - a nice gift from a British monarch to the Irish people!

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Postcards and the Post

by Seamus Kearns

Postcards date almost as far back as the adhesive postage stamp. On 1 October 1869, less than thirty years after the penny black, Austria-Hungary issued the first postcard. Exactly one year later Britain and Ireland produced their first postcards. These, however, were not picture postcards but postal stationery cards. The dates of issue of the first picture postcards are not as well documented as those of early postal stationery cards. Britain and Ireland permitted the sale of picture postcards on 1 September 1894 and accepted them for postage on 1 October of that year. They had, however, appeared in various continental countries for many years before 1894. My earliest example is a card sent from Germany on 19 July 1878, which arrived in Howth three days later.

Philatelists like to include postal stationery in their collections, and it is especially popular in thematic philately. From the early years of the century, collectors abroad, especially in Europe, developed the collecting of maximum cards, where the stamp (usually on the picture side), picture and postmark have a close relationship. Such cards are very attractive and give an extra fillip to a collection. They are probably the best examples of the affinity between philately and deltiology.

The publishers of picture postcards recognized this affinity around the turn of the century, and examples of some splendid issues still turn up. Three series, in particular, are well worth acquiring, the longest being that of the firm of Ottmar Zieher of Munich. Each card features a selection of stamps from a country, sometimes with a map and/or a symbol of that country. A scenic view is sometimes shown in black. The stamps, maps and symbols are in full colour and occasionally embossed. Very early examples are not numbered, but later ones carry numbers ranging up to 95. Two similar series were issued, one by Menke-Huber and the other by H. Guggenheim, both of Zurich.

An anonymous set of twelve, illustrating the history of the postal service, was issued in very rich colours. There are also many cards featuring mail coaches, post-boxes and postmen. Two notable series are "Postmen of the British Empire" and "La Poste en ...", a set of forty-eight cards published by Kunzli Freres of Paris, which shows a stamp and postman from each country. Single cards, such as the photographic "Postman's Conference at Belfast, June 1914", were

occasionally produced. Of more obvious interest to postal historians are cards showing post offices, many of which have ceased to operate, or even to exist.

Several countries produced cards showing "The Language of Stamps". These showed how secret messages could be transmitted by the positioning of the stamp on a card or letter. It seems that there was a considerable lack of uniformity, as the messages on cards issued by different companies showed wide variations in interpretation.

Turning to modern cards, we have the St Patrick's Day sets, issued since 1984 by our own post office, and extending later to other themes. An Post have also issued several sets of maximum cards, starting with the butterflies set of 1985. Before that, cards relating to stamps as far back as the Marian Year set of 1954 were privately produced. It is quite possible that some collector may have a card portraying Daniel O'Connell and franked with the first commemorative issue of 1929. I have in my possession a card of the Shannon Scheme, franked with the Shannon Scheme stamp and posted in Ard-na-Crusha on 16 October 1930. Exhibition cards have also appeared, commencing with the BPE card of 1967 which featured the Swift stamp. The Department of Posts and Telegraphs produced Christmas greeting cards as early as 1961, or possibly earlier.

The British Post Office started issuing cards from the National Postal Museum in 1969, their regional headquarters in 1971, and their postal headquarters (PHQ) in 1973. The Guernsey, Jersey and Isle of Man Post Offices also issued PHQ-type cards. A privately produced series worthy of special mention is the set of sixteen cards issued by Robson Lowe Ltd and depicting mouth-watering philatelic gems.

Most countries have by now realized the value of issuing cards of philatelic interest, and a good representative collection can be assembled at relatively little cost. Cards from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, the Vatican and other countries often turn up in Ireland. I am sure readers can add their own favourites to this incomplete list.

Though this article only scrapes the surface of the fascinating world of the philatelist/deltiologist, it will, hopefully, encourage more people to combine both hobbies, which can only be good for these activities. A selection of the cards described above may be viewed at the exhibition.



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"IRISH" POSTMARKS

by Maurice Barrett

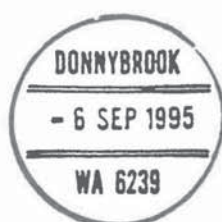
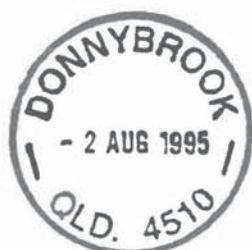
Ireland shares many of its place names with locations far away from its shores. This may be attributed to a series of factors: the propensity of its people to emigrate, its shared heritage with the British Empire, similar geographic features, sheer coincidence and sundry other explanations. A study of post-office lists from English-speaking countries will reveal many localities sharing names with somewhere in Ireland.

Three interesting examples are Donnybrook, Enfield and Killarney. **Donnybrook**, Dublin 4, has had a post office since 1774. There are three post offices named Donnybrook in Australia. The post office in **Enfield**, Co Meath, opened in 1822. The place-name Enfield abounds: in Australia there are two post offices by that name, in the United States of America at least five, and one each in Canada and the United Kingdom. **Killarney**, Co Kerry, shares its name with two post offices in Canada and with one in Australia.

Other offices sharing the same name are Avoca, Blackwater, Bridgetown, Clare, Kilkenny, Leinster, Londonderry, Longford, Newcastle, Newcastle West, Newry, Rathmines, Tara, Sutton and Tullamore.

Impressions of some of these "Irish" postmarks from overseas post offices are shown on the following page.

This article is but a brief look at "Irish" postmarks. There are many, many more: from Adamstown to Williamsport. Everywhere from Ballina in New South Wales to Sligo in Pennsylvania is covered! Vainly, I have postmarks from Maurice in Ohio and Barrett in Texas. The possibilities are endless.





ONE QUIET SUMMER'S NIGHT-SHIFT

by MIK

As a security officer I have, probably more than most folk, come across many strange and unbelievable happenings. Not one of my experiences, either before or since, has been as weird or as wonderful as the following tale. One quiet summer's night-shift, I was out on mobile patrol, checking the properties on my beat, when the church clock struck four loud chimes. It would soon be sunrise and sometimes I drive to a favourite spot on the outskirts of town where, in the peace and tranquillity of early morning, I can watch the sun slowly rise above distant hills until it lights up the surrounding landscape. This particular morning I did just that! I made my way to a farm entrance and sat watching the sky redden and the colour of the hills change gradually from dark brown to the sandy colours of day. I began to immerse myself in my own thoughts, visualising the rapid approach of the Stampa Exhibition due to be held in the RDS.

I was only stopped a short time when I saw it. Just a movement. A little black shape moving slowly through the barley field directly in front of me. I could not quite make it out at first. In fact, I thought I might have imagined it. I scanned the field, and sure enough, there it was again. A little black triangular shape floating just above the barley tops. It created a wave in the field, causing the strengthening sunshine to dance in a sea of golden flickers. Curiosity took over and I got out of the car and headed for the part of the field where the oddity was due to meet with the farm road. I waited and the object became clearer and clearer as the sun lit up the surroundings. As I waited, I began to hear a low tuneful whistle also coming from the field. I waited some more.

The shape was almost upon me when I realised it was a hat. A little green velvet pointed hat and then out popped a little man, attached to the hat. A strange little man with a big bulbous nose and over-large ears. He was dressed all in green with a battered looking satchel strung over his shoulder. He stopped whistling when he saw me and looked up. He was no more than two and a half feet tall. His craggy little face split into a beaming smile. "*Top o' the morning to ye,*" he said in a musical brogue.

In the ensuing conversation, the little fellow informed me he was nothing less than a leprechaun. They are, supposedly, mischievous folk that travel around the world causing upset and mayhem, but not according to the leprechaun I met. In fact, he told me it was his first time home in 100 years and he could grant me one wish. I was my usual sceptical self, but just in case I took out my road map of Ireland and showed it to the little fellow. I pointed to it all and wished that I could be King of all the land, where my decisions would be set down in law and I could begin to make it a happy and peaceful place to live.

Well, perhaps I was being a little optimistic, or maybe the leprechaun was just a little tired after 100 years whistling his way around the world, because he told me that such a wish would take some doing. It was the hardest wish he'd ever been asked to grant. He wasn't even sure that he could do it.

I thought about it a bit, and I suppose deep down I really wouldn't want to be King, with all the pressures and publicity that accompanies such a role. I told this to the leprechaun and said I would change my wish. What I would really like would be for all exhibitor entries for Stampa to arrive ahead of deadline, with all pages correctly numbered and in proper sized protectors, with correct frame fees and return instructions and postage.

The leprechaun looked at me wistfully, sighed deeply and said, "*Let's have a look at that map again!.....*"

THE 'SAN PATRICIO' BATTALION

(Joint Ireland-Mexico Issue 1997)

by Maximillian

On Friday 12 September 1997 at 11.00 a.m., An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, applied the official First Day cancellation to the first FDC of the new Ireland/Mexico 'San Patricio' or 'St. Patrick's Battalion' commemorative stamp. At Mexico City precisely six hours later, the President of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo, performed a similar action with the reciprocal Mexican stamp, and thus was launched the first joint stamp issue of the two nations.

Under consideration for some time, the issue marked the 150th Anniversary of the 'San Patricios' or members of the 'St. Patrick's Battalion' who served with the Mexican army during the Mexican-American War of 1845-7, when Mexico attempted to resist American claims to the disputed territories of California and Texas.

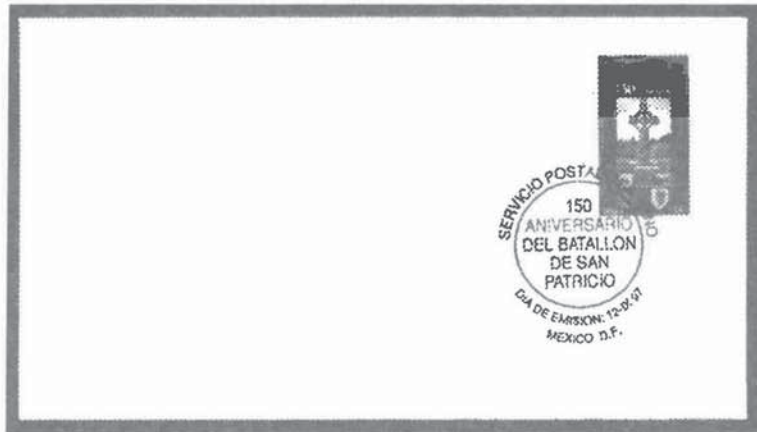
Among U.S. troops sent to patrol the border with Mexico just prior to the outbreak of war was one John Riley, a soldier of fortune destined to serve in three armies. Born, it is believed, outside Clifden, Co. Galway, Riley (or Reilly/O'Reilly) at first enlisted in the British army, later, it is thought, defecting to join the U.S. army while stationed in Canada during 1845. Some months later, in April 1846, disillusioned, like a number of others, with the perceived treatment of Irish and other overseas ranks in that army, he made his way across the Rio Grande, joined or enlisted in the Mexican forces, and was with them ultimately to achieve the rank of major.

At the Mexican town of Matamoros, just across the Rio Grande from the U.S. settlement of Fort Texas, Riley formed the first Irish regiment - the Irish Volunteers or Colorados - the "Red Guards", so called because of their many redheaded members, officially known as the San Patricio Company and serving with the Mexican army as an artillery company. Later, the unit was reassigned as an infantry battalion, and in 1847 the various San Patricio companies were merged into the newly created Foreign Legion or "Legion Extranjera." Finally, in 1848, the companies were expanded and formed into the historic "St. Patrick's Battalion".

Second in command to Riley during the early existence of the unit was another Irishman, Patrick Dalton, born at Tirawley, near Ballina, Co. Mayo, about 1824 and, who, also disillusioned with his service in the U.S. army, crossed over to the Mexican army, where he was commissioned as captain, later achieving the rank of captain in command of one of the San Patricio companies.

Although regarded as both Irish in nationality and Catholic in religion throughout its existence, the "San Patricio" Battalion in fact comprised many nationalities and varying religious backgrounds. The Irish/Catholic component was, however, substantial, as

exemplified by the flag under which the unit served. The first emerald green ensign carried an image of St. Patrick on one side, with a shamrock and harp emblazoned on the other. Later in the war, at the battle of Churubusco, the defending San Patricios carried a green silk flag showing a harp surrounded by the Mexican coat of arms, with the motto 'Erin go Bragh' and, on the other side, a representation of St. Patrick, with the company title underneath.



MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

Although controversial in its origins, and regarded today only as a footnote in American history, the war had its roots in events which had taken place years earlier, including the historic but ill-defined Louisiana purchase by the U.S. and attempts by Mexico to protect its territorial integrity following its independence from Spain in 1821. The Mexican army moved into Texas in 1835 with hostilities at the Alamo, and Texas existed as a sovereign republic between that date and 1845, when it formally sought annexation to the union. Skirmishes between U.S. and Mexican forces quickly followed, and despite opposition from figures such as the then Congressman Abraham Lincoln, President Polk seized the opportunity with which he was presented to make a formal declaration of war on 13 May 1846.

The "Irish Volunteers" or "San Patricios" had already seen action, when John Riley and other compatriots had been involved in the bombardment of American forces at Fort Texas. Following early successes, however, Mexican forces found themselves pushed back across the Rio Grande and, pursued by advancing U.S. military, forced further and further south down through Mexico itself.

The San Patricio Battalion was to distinguish itself during this campaign in at least four major battles, contributing immensely to Mexican resistance and earning a place in the annals of Mexican history.

In 1847, the legendary Mexican general and leader, Santa Anna, returned to lead the Mexican army. At the battle of La Agostina, the San Patricios were an artillery battalion, but at the last moment, as the Mexicans appeared to be gaining the edge, Santa Anna decided on a tactical withdrawal, and over one-third of the company was lost in the battle.

U.S. General Scott then landed at Vera Cruz, and after a further defeat at the battle of Buena Vista at the hands of General Taylor, the San Patricios saw their final action of the war, the battle of Churubusco, in the defence of the capital, Mexico City.

Having fought fiercely, the San Patricios suffered casualties of more than fifty per cent. As General Scott's forces finally overran the city, eighty-five members were captured and seventy-two, including John Riley, were ordered to be court-martialled by the American authorities. Riley's sentence, and that of fifteen others, was to be flogged and branded as deserters. Riley escaped with his life as he had crossed to the Mexican forces before war had been formally declared.

Others, however, were not so fortunate and as the U.S. flag was finally raised over the citadel at Mexico City in September 1847 and, despite representations made internationally on their behalf, fifty members of the San Patricio Battalion were hanged in what was one of the most controversial incidents of the war. Forty-eight of the fifty were Irish born.

The military activity of the San Patricios was now over, and although they may have become involved in taking sides during internal upheavals in Mexico during the following years, their real purpose was at an end, and the San Patricio Battalion was finally disbanded in 1850. John Riley, it is believed, returned to his native country, having achieved the highest rank of any foreigner serving with the Mexican forces at that time.

COMMEMORATIONS

Those who served and gave their lives in the San Patricio companies are, to this day, regarded as heroes and martyrs for the cause of Mexican freedom and are annually commemorated in many Mexican cities where they fought and, particularly, at the ceremony in San Jacinto Square in the suburbs of Mexico City. There, where sixteen of the Irish were hanged, a plaque gives the names of seventy-one members of the battalion, led by John Riley. This year's annual ceremony, held on 12 September, the same date on which the commemorative stamp was issued, was attended by the President and Foreign Minister of Mexico, as well as by the Irish Ambassador.

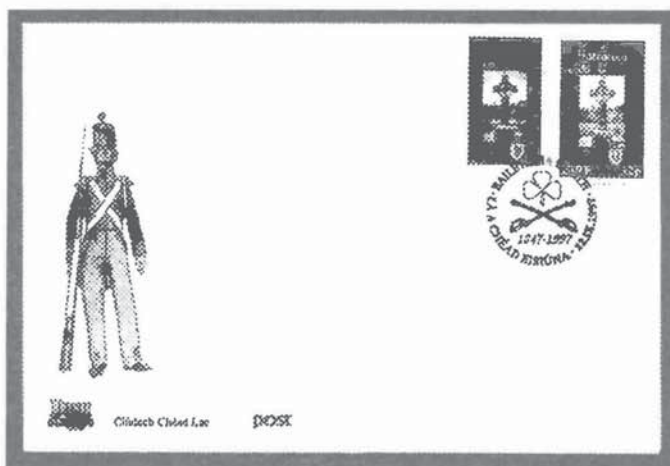
In Ireland, John Riley is commemorated by a plaque unveiled at Clifden, Co. Galway, in 1993.

STAMP DESIGN

The central motif of the common design shows the Cross of the Scriptures (East side) at Clonmacnois and reflects the design of the medal struck by the Mexican Government to honour the heroic "San Patricio" Battalion in 1847. Originally, imitating the medal design by showing the Mexican state emblem of eagle and laurel wreath superimposed over the cross, the stamp design was modified by the designer, Lorenzo Rafael and, in the version issued by both countries, shows the national emblems of both states below the main design.

The Mexican \$3.40 value was printed in sheets of 50 (10 x 5) and produced in lithography by Grupo Grafico Romo in Mexico City. No imprint or plate numbers appear on the sheets, except for guideline bars which may be found in the bottom sheet selvedge, but traces of the printer's sheet serial numbers may be found on the reverse of some sheets.

The Irish 32p stamp was printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. in sheets of 50 (2 panes 5 x 5 separated by a gutter). First Day Covers bearing an example of the Mexican and Irish issues and cancelled at Dublin on 12 September 1997 were available from the Irish Philatelic Bureau for seven days after the date of issue, and subsequently a plain envelope featuring the Mexican stamp on its own with the cancellation of Mexico City for the same date was also available from the Bureau.



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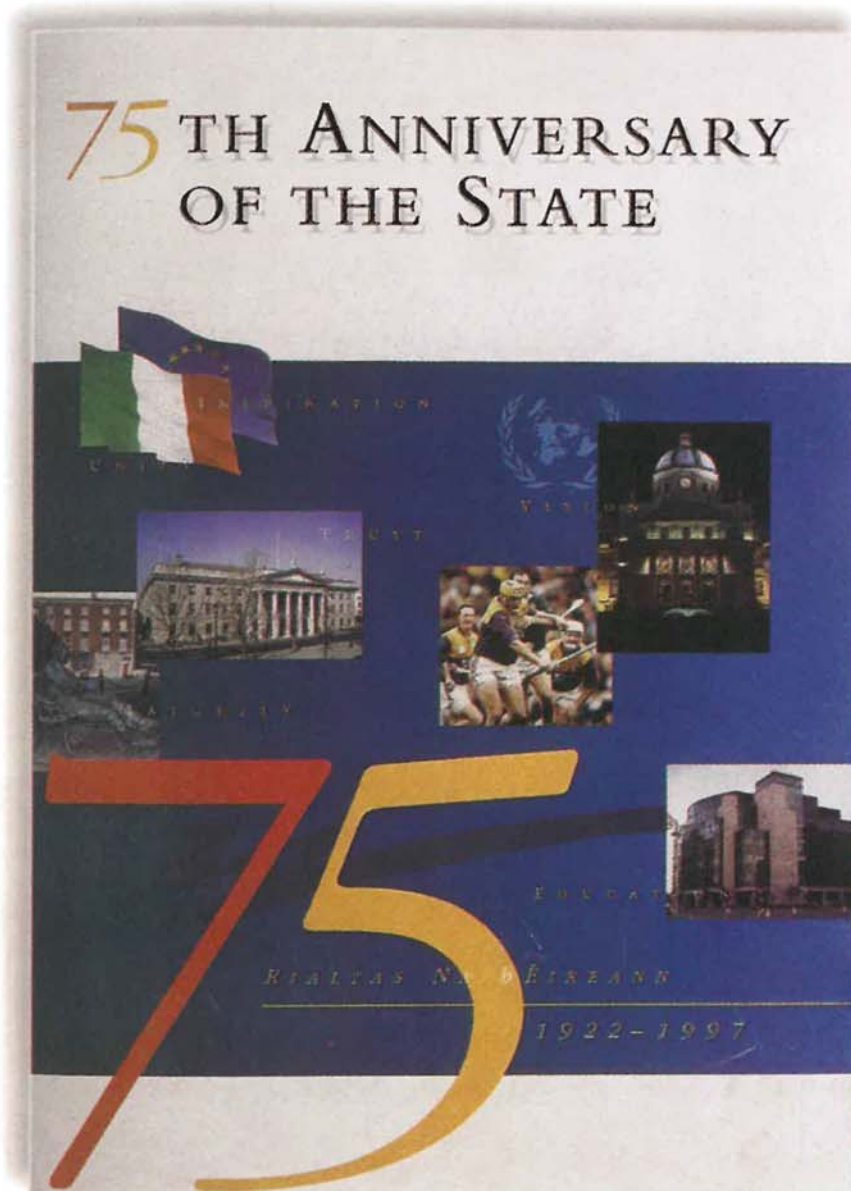
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