

STAMPA 98

November 6-8 1998
RDS Concert Hall, Ballsbridge

Official Handbook

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The 27th National Stamp Exhibition

6-8 November 1998, RDS Concert Hall, Dublin 4

Organised by The Irish National Stamp Exhibition Limited

The Irish National Stamp Exhibition Limited is a non-profit making company limited by guarantee, set up by collectors to promote philately in Ireland by means of an annual exhibition, run on a voluntary basis by an elected Council:

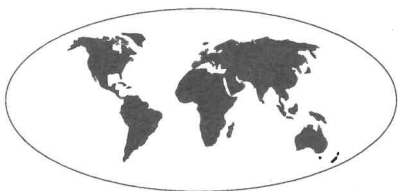
Chairman: Ian Whyte; Vice-Chairman: Kevin Drury; Treasurer: Jim Ryan; Secretary: Heloïse Mitchell; Exhibits Secretary: Mike Burrington; Council Members: Con Buckley, Michael Kelly, Tom Kelly, Liam O'Neachtain, Finbar O'Mahony, Pdraig O'Shea.

P.R.O. Team: Evelyn Vaughan, Vivienne Bushell.

Stampa 98 Jury: Dr Peter McCann, FRPSL, USA (Chairman); John Lennon, Ireland; Heloise Mitchell, Ireland.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

	Friday November 6	Saturday November 7	Sunday November 8
Stampa Open	11am- 6pm	11am- 6pm	11am- 6pm
Children's activities	in the Wildlife Area (backstage)		
Irish Airmail Society Meeting	—	11.15am	—
Seminar on Philately by Dr Peter McCann & Mr Charles Verge	—	12.30pm	—
EPA/FAI/IPC Meeting	—	2pm	—
Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland AGM (delegates only)	—	—	2pm
Seminar on Thematic Collecting by Dr Peter McCann & Mr Charles Verge	—	—	3.30pm
Seminar on Postal History by Dr Peter McCann & Mr Charles Verge	—	4pm	—
Stampa Awards Dinner at Snipes Restaurant, Ely Place	—	8pm	—



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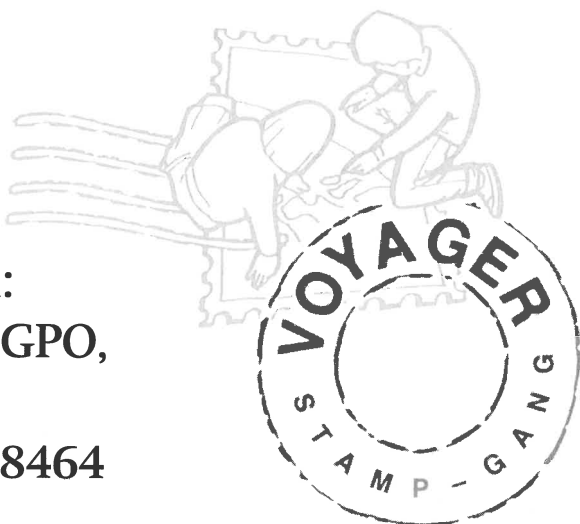
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WELCOME TO STAMPA 98

As we approach the Millenium, a number of important philatelic anniversaries occur. Last year we celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first Stampa and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the first Irish postage stamp. This year we mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Dublin Stamp Society. In two years' time the Éire Philatelic Association will mark its golden jubilee and in 2001 the Irish Philatelic Society will be a hundred years old.

It is good to see that these associations are still thriving and that, despite the many technologically thrilling diversions on offer, stamp collecting is still such a popular hobby. A reflection of this popularity is to be found in Stampa 98, where collectors will find plenty to interest them.

I would like to thank the exhibitors for providing such an interesting and diverse display of philately and postal history. Financing an exhibition of this type can be a nightmare, but our nightmare has become a dream thanks to the generous support of An Post and of the standholders.

Once again Stampa has been organised by an enthusiastic team of volunteers, giving very generously of their time to ensure that you enjoy the show. I cannot pay a high enough tribute to my colleagues on the Council and to the many helpers at the exhibition.

I sincerely hope you have an enjoyable time at Stampa 98 and that we may have the pleasure of your company at Stampa 99, and at many more after that.

Ian Whyte, Chairman

Irish National Stamp Exhibition Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chairman and Council are very grateful to the following for their help: An Post (especially Pat Carolan and Gerry Mooney); The Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street (Francis Xavier Carty); The Dublin Stamp Society; The Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland; David Feldman SA; The Irish Philatelic Society; The Irish Philatelic Traders Association; Derek Martin and the RDS staff ; Whyte's staff ; the Exhibition Jury ; contributors to the children's day activities; those who mounted the exhibits; the stewards; the exhibitors; the standholders and the advertisers. Also Dr Peter McCann and Mr Charles Verge for the seminars; John Fitzsimons; Johan Jansen; Seamus Kearns; Brother Kehoe; Pauline Kelly; John Lennon; Michael Freyer; David Rose; Fredy Thoma; Brian Warren and all Stampa members.

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Irish Postboxes

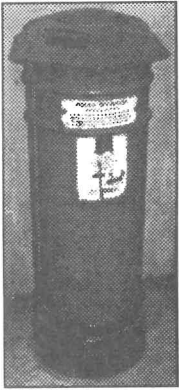
by Brian Warren



Fig. 1 – Se-tenant strip of four postbox stamps

It will come as a surprise to most collectors that Anthony Trollope (later to achieve fame as a novelist), as Post Office Surveyor of the Northern Counties of Ireland, was responsible for the introduction of roadside postboxes in Ireland. In 1852, he introduced the first boxes to the Channel Islands following the French example and, in the following years, the scheme was extended to Britain and Ireland. Initially, each district was responsible for ordering its own designs and, as a result, there are various non-standard designs from this period. The earliest box recorded in Ireland is a rectangular shaped box made by Mr. Ashworth of Burnley (c. 1856). The lone survivor of this type is currently located in the entrance foyer of the National Museum premises in Kildare St., Dublin 2 and is the first stamp depicted on the strip of four stamps recently issued by An Post (*fig.1*).

The oldest postbox in everyday use in Ireland is an “economy” pillar box situated in Kent Railway Station, Cork which dates from 1857-9 (*fig 2*). The term “economy” refers to the lack of ornamentation as compared to the preceding “ornate” type erected in London. This box is also unique and was featured on the An Post first day cover for the stamp issue.



*Fig 2 - Economy version
of Ornate Box, Cork*

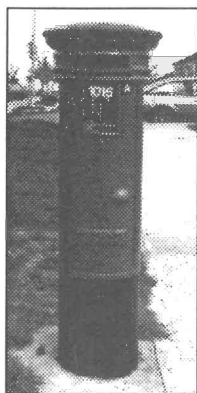


*Fig 3 – Replica Penfold,
Hillsborough, Co. Down*

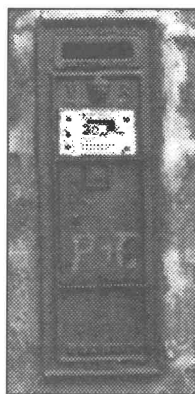
A new “National Standard” box was introduced in 1859 and an example of this type can be found in Portarlinton, Co. Laois. The next type is probably the most famous of all due to its hexagonal shape and classical Victorian design. The boxes are named after the designer, J.W. Penfold. During the 13 years that the “Penfolds” were being produced, there were several minor changes to the design. An example of the earliest type of 1866 is located in Skibbereen, Co. Cork and is featured on the fourth stamp in the An Post set; another example is situated in the Bunratty Folk Park, painted red to tie in with the turn of the century theme of the park. However, when these boxes were introduced, all boxes in Britain and Ireland were painted bronze-green! The familiar pillar box red was not introduced until 1874. In 1988, the British Post Office started to install replica Penfolds at historic and tourist locations. The first to be installed in Northern Ireland was at Hillsborough, Co. Down in 1990 (*fig 3*).

The Penfold was expensive to manufacture and maintain and the Post Office reverted to the cylindrical shape in 1879. This basic shape and design has remained in use to the present day. Double pillar boxes were introduced in London in 1899. The P₇T example depicted on the An Post set is a modern example introduced in Dublin to facilitate the separation of Dublin District postings from other mail. An Post took over the operation of the postal services on January 1st, 1984 and new

pillar boxes first appeared with their insignia/logo the following year (*fig 4*).



*Fig. 4 – An Post box by
Tonge & Taggart*



*Fig. 5 – First Wall
Box by H&C Smith*

The first wall boxes were installed in 1857 and were manufactured by Smith & Hawkes of Birmingham. Although boxes cast by this firm exist in Ireland, in addition, the Irish Surveyor had the boxes copied in Ireland by H & C Smith of Cork. The box shown is located at Johnstown Bridge, Co. Kildare and is the only recorded example of the First Standard Wall Box manufactured by the Irish firm (*fig 5*). There are a large number of different types of wall boxes as the design was gradually improved, primarily to ensure that rainwater did not enter the box via the posting aperture.

Following the establishment of the separate Irish Post Office in 1922, a number of wall boxes were introduced which incorporated both the P₇T logo and an SE (Saorstát Éireann) monogram. An example of the larger type of this box manufactured by Jessop Davis, Enniscorthy is featured on the An Post set. The SE monogram is very attractive but was soon dropped as all later boxes only incorporated the P₇T logo. The SE monogram can also be seen on the smaller “lamp boxes”. Such smaller street letter boxes attached to lamp posts were introduced in 1896. Today, the majority of such boxes are located in rural areas and are often used as wall boxes but the term “lamp box” remains.

The author is a member of the Letter Box Study Group, which publishes a quarterly newsletter and various listings. For further details send a SAE with 30p GB stamp or an International Reply Coupon to the Membership Secretary, Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES, England.

The originals of the photographs in this article are included in a display in the Open Class exhibits.

JOINT MEETING

**Irish Philatelic Circle - Eire Philatelic Association -
Forschungs- Und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland e.V.**

Presentations and Discussion

**Saturday 7th November at 2.00 p.m.
in Meeting Room behind Stand 3**



Irish Airmail Society

Collectors of Irish material related to aerophilately are invited to attend a meeting of the Society to be held in the Exhibition Meeting Room at 11.15 a.m. on Saturday 7th November - All are welcome.

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Irish Philately - The Early Years

by Seamus Kearns

First in a series of personal glimpses and remembrances by contemporary collectors, this article is written by Seamus Kearns, who is a founder member of Stampa; a former Chairman of Stampa, the D.S.S. and the Guild of St. Gabriel; current Chairman of the Irish Picture Postcard Society; President of the Old Dublin Society; Council Member of Irish Theatre Archive; prominent stamp, postcard and theatrical material collector; historical researcher and author of "Dublin - In Old Picture Postcards".

Sixty years ago I was already a schoolboy stamp collector, with several years of collecting behind me. However, sixty years is a nice round figure and my earliest collecting years can be disregarded as being of little importance.

To set the scene for 1938, a few basic facts would not be out of place. The start of the Second World War was still a year away; Ireland was issuing stamps with an SE watermark and one could buy (at face value) all Irish issues, except the overprints, by calling to the philatelic counter in the GPO. Even the overprints could be bought from dealers in England at a small premium over face. In fact, some of the senior collectors at that time often bought lots of overprints at auction, under face value. For a schoolboy, however, seventeen shillings and sixpence for a set of three high values represented the sort of outlay that only the very rich could afford. Most of my spending on stamps at that time could be measured in pennies, rather than shillings.

Sources for adding to one's collection were quite plentiful then. Friends and relatives, with relations abroad, were pestered to hand over all foreign stamps received. Since most schoolboys (and some schoolgirls) collected, a busy exchange system operated for duplicates. There were also several places in the city where stamps could be bought.

The Mint Stamp Co. in Grafton Street (later in Fownes Street) was the principal philatelic shop at that time. It was run by P.G. Freeman, whose brother ran a rather more plebeian establishment in Fownes Street. Price & Co. in Kilmacud ran a mail order business and Woolworths in Henry Street and in Grafton Street had a good range of stamps in packets.

Almost beside Woolworths in Henry Street, Lionel Jackson sold stamps, as a sideline, in his father's antique furniture shop. Lionel's business premises

subsequently moved to quite a few locations around central Dublin, finally settling on Ormond Quay. In Liffey Street, stamps could be bought in two shops - Hill's Photographers and Naylor's Antiques. Other premises with stamps for sale included Keogh's Furniture Shops in Gardiner's Row and North Frederick Street, Collie's Watchmakers in South Anne Street and Mr. Morris in Westmoreland Street. On Wellington Quay, Mr. Haughton sold stamps among other things. The stamps were actually supplied by George Popp. When Mr. Haughton died, George took over the shop and remained there for many years.

John Keenan, who is still with us, had a premises on Burgh Quay. At that time I was living in Marlborough Street, so most of these outlets were within easy walking distance. I became quite friendly with some of the dealers, especially Lionel Jackson and Frank Mooney (who looked after the stamp end of Keogh's Shop). The latter's brother, Gerard, also operated a mail order business from the Old Cabra Road, trading as Gerald Moore (no connection with the pianist of the same name).

The only lady dealer I can recall from that period had a stamp business in Parnell Street for a short time. I cannot remember her name, but I know she had previously worked in The Mint Stamp Co. Around that time a cousin of mine, who worked on the railways, saw a gentleman examining stamps in one of the compartments of a train bound for Cork. They got into conversation and, as a result, a philatelic correspondence and exchange started between Professor Louis Renouf and myself. Another notable collector of that time was Martin Walton, whose acquaintance I made in Keogh's which was next door to his own musical galleries.

The Irish Philatelic Society (founded in 1901) was then the only Society in Ireland for philatelists, but it projected an air of exclusivity that was rather daunting for junior collectors. Most I.P.S. members, at that time, collected Ireland, Great Britain or British Colonial stamps and some of the members could be quite dismissive of collectors of "foreign" material. This attitude resulted in the Dublin Stamp Society being set up in 1948 to cater for a more broadly based approach to stamp collecting. I was told of the impending first meeting of the D.S.S. by the late George Tackaberry, who was always very keen to encourage younger collectors. As far as I am aware, I am one of just four survivors from the first meetings of D.S.S., the others being Eddie Fagan, Michael Giffney and Barry Threlfall. In later years, Dublin branches of the Guild of St. Gabriel, The Eire Philatelic Association and The Irish Philatelic Circle were set up.

I have had the privilege of being Chairman of the D.S.S. and of the Guild of St. Gabriel in the past. Among the eminent collectors whose friendship I have enjoyed, and who have gone to their eternal reward, are Fred Dixon, Bill Sibley, Jack O'Neill, Tommy Dixon and Dr. Joe Quigley and, on the distaff side, Mrs. Purser, Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Richardson. With Fred Dixon I also shared interests in picture postcards and in the Old Dublin Society.

In 1938, the I.P.S. held a stamp exhibition in the original Jury's Hotel, located in College Green. In fact, they had previously held an exhibition at the same location in 1936, but I don't remember that first Dublin stamp exhibition. Although not a philatelic exhibition, one must also mention an exhibition illustrating Dublin's history, held in the Municipal Gallery on Parnell Square in 1937. This exhibition, which ran for two weeks, was organized by the Old Dublin Society and included six frames illustrating the Dublin Penny Post from the collection of Dr. J. Stafford Johnson.

In 1944 the I.P.S. held its third exhibition - a very splendid affair, which ran for a fortnight in the National Museum in Kildare Street. In later years, the D.S.S. mounted an exhibition in the little theatre in Brown Thomas & Co's store in Grafton Street. The Guild of St. Gabriel held an exhibition in the Methodist Hall in Lower Abbey Street and David Feldman Ltd. went back to Jury's for their exhibition in 1970. In 1967 the first Irish Philatelic Exhibition souvenir was issued in conjunction with the British Philatelic Exhibition in London. These various exhibitions set the scene for the establishment of "Stampa" the Irish National Stamp Exhibition, which was held in Ireland House, St. Stephen's Green in 1972.

During the latter part of the period under review, some momentous events happened. The most extraordinary of these was, of course, the rise and fall of Shanahan's Stamp Auctions. A good account of this saga can be found in the book "Doctor of Millions" by Seamus Brady. One of the saddest episodes of that time concerned a collector who had invested a large sum in Shanahan's. When several of his fellow collectors became suspicious of the security of his investment, they persuaded him, with some considerable difficulty, to withdraw his money. This he eventually did, less than two weeks before the crash. He then looked around for another investment opportunity and, largely because the name "Mission Stamps" sounded very respectable, invested the lot with them. In due course this enterprise also crashed, so our collector ended by losing heavily. Clearly a case of "once (nearly) bitten, twice (not so) shy."

Soon after these two spectacular failures, we saw the beginning of a much more successful enterprise. Starting as the Shamrock Stamp Service in Rathfarnham Park, what was to become David Feldman Ltd. issued their first comprehensive Irish price list in June 1966. This list sent shock waves through collectors of Irish stamps. Prior to this, prices for Irish stamps had remained steady and low (with one or two exceptions).

Suddenly (it seemed) relative scarcities of some stamps were highlighted, with prices up to 31 shillings for individual commemoratives. A new interest in Irish stamps soon resulted in the appearance of firms such as The Hibernian Stamp Co. in Harrington Street, John C. Fisher & Co. in Eaton Brae, Douglas Radio in Dawson Street, and in Cork, the Cork Philatelic Service and the Cork Stamp & Coin Centre.

During this period also, there were few Irish publications for philatelists. The accolade for the "First" of these, must surely go to "Handbook of the Provisional Issue of Irish Free State Stamps" published in April 1922 by the Mint Stamp Co. and written by F.F. Freeman and T.T. Stubbs. In the forties, Price & Co. produced their "Stamp Industries News" which was basically a sales list. In 1954, Shanahan's published the first issue of "Green I.S.L.E. Philately" which included articles by prominent collectors such as Elsie Purser, Eddie Gallagher and Louis Renouf. In 1959, Fred Dixon produced "Slogan Cancellations of the Republic of Ireland" for the Irish Study Group, with a roneoed supplement in 1963. Feldman's first price list has already been mentioned and it was followed up by further editions and (in 1968) by the "Handbook of Irish Philately" which is still an invaluable source of information on Irish stamps.

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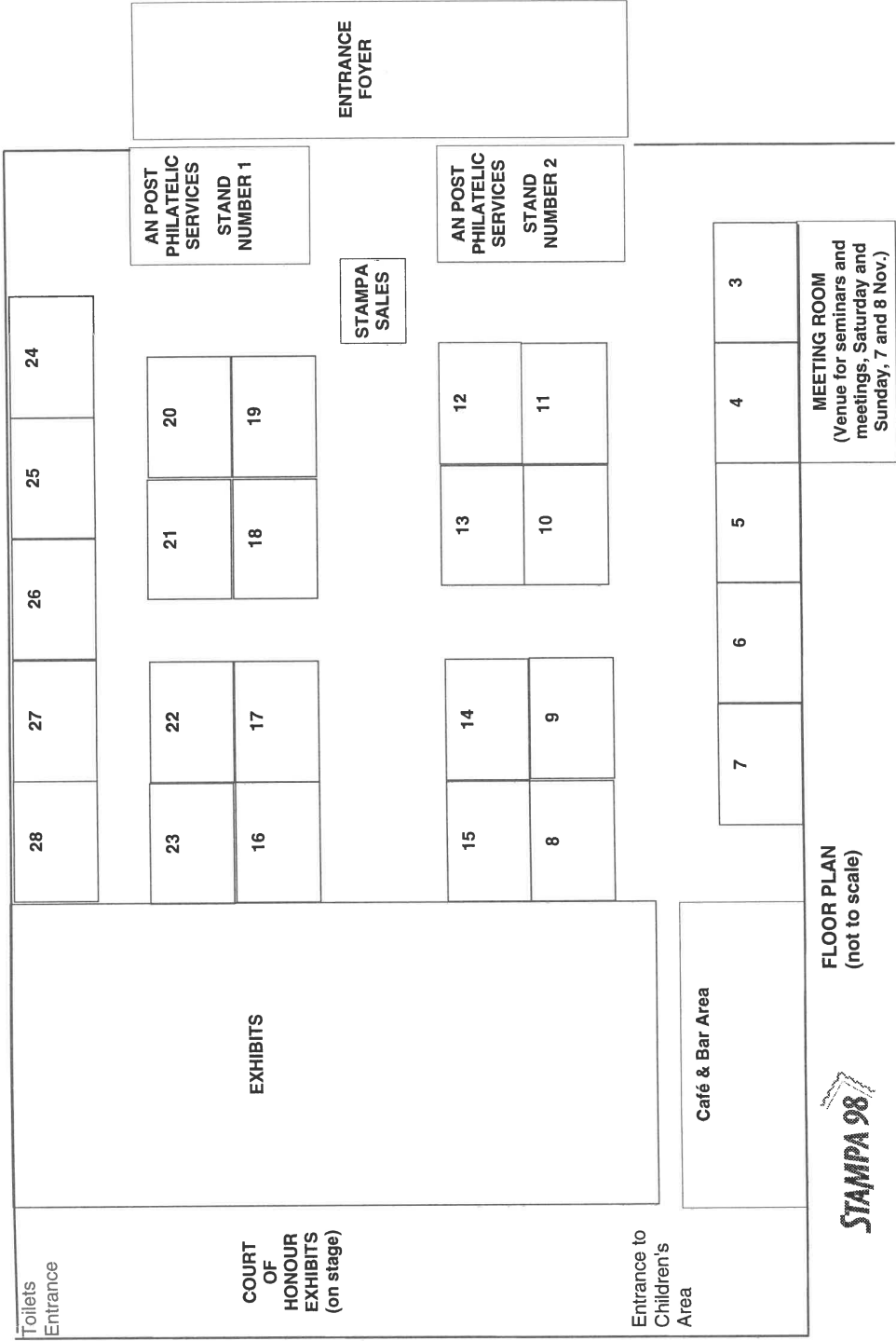
David Wrigley, The Old Presbytery, Castletownberehaven, Co. Cork. Tel: 027 70424. Tel: 027 70420. Postal only.

The IPTA, with An Post, sponsors Collectors' Shows throughout the country. The next shows will be: GALWAY (Great Southern Hotel, Eyre Square), Sunday, November 22, CORK (Jury's Hotel, Western Road), Saturday, December 5.

All enquiries may be directed to:

irish philatelic traders association

Secretariat: PO Box 2500, Dublin 6. Telephone: 01 497 7449



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20. Cathedral Stamps, Dublin
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22. Isle of Man Post Office, Douglas, Isle of Man
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24. Michael Giffney, Dublin
25. MacDonnell Whyte Ltd, Dublin
26. Argyll Etkin Ltd, London
27. Rathgar Stamps, Dublin
28. Stamps, Albums & Accessories, Dublin.

EXHIBITS

1. **The Recess-printed Stamps of Ireland** *Ian Whyte*
A specialised study of these issues, considered by many collectors as the finest produced by Ireland.
2. **The Gerl Definitives - £sd Issues** *Brian Warren*
A chronological display of the sheet, coil and booklet issues.
3. **GB - The Stamps of George V, Watermark Royal Cypher** *Lady Mairi Bury*
A specialised study including shades, controls, colour trials, errors, varieties and flaws, paper and watermarks, die-proofs, etc.
4. **The Penny Red with letters in all four corners, used in Ireland 1864-1880** *John Pedneault*
Includes inverted watermarks, plate 225 on cover, error of watermark MA and rare cancels.
5. **Ireland, 1840-1901** *Kenneth Magee*
The postage stamps of the UK used in Ireland, from the penny black and twopenny blue to the final Victorian issues.
6. **Forgeries** *Kevin Drury*
A worldwide collection of forged stamps, overprints and surcharges, including sheets, multiples and covers.
7. **Postal Stationery of the Dutch East Indies - The Early Years** *J. E. Foley*
From the 19th century through the 1920s with attention given to varieties and usages.



POSTAL HISTORY

8. **The Mail of Irish Military Camps** *H.-J. Kumpf*
Outgoing and incoming mail from 1850 to the present day.

EXHIBITS

9. British Postal History to 1840

Mike Burrington

The development of the postal service from the 1660s to 1840, showing postal markings and rates.

10. Newry Posts 1733-1895

John Matthews

Postal markings including Bishops, mileage marks, Maltese Cross, spoons, etc.

11. Postal Markings of Dublin 1818-1916

Charles Verge

Postal markings used in Dublin from the opening of the GPO in 1818 to its destruction by fire in 1916.

12. Registered Mail 1841-1904

"Engineman"

Highlights include a plate XI black, 2d Mulready and many distinctive handstamps. Special categories are also shown.



THEMATIC PHILATELY

13. Ireland and the World Game

Catherine Murphy

Ireland's participation in the World Football Cup in the years 1958, 1982, 1986, 1990 and 1994.

14. Of Whales and Dolphins

Colm T. Murphy

The many successful Irish Olympic athletes 1896 to 1996

15. Mycological Diversity

Florian Thoma

Some of the 3,500 species of fungi found in Ireland.



NOVICE

16. GB - King George VI Controls

John Proctor

Controls on the halfpenny to threepenny values, dark and light shades.



EXHIBITS

OPEN

17. **The Letterbox**

A display of photographs of the letterboxes of Ireland

Brian Warren

18. **Following in Ellis' Footsteps**

Irish rugby in a world context.

Colm T. Murphy

19. **Similarity and Diversity - Ireland and Switzerland**

Two of Europe's smallest countries with so much in common.

Florian Thoma

20. **Fire!**

John Lennon

21. **Brigs, Barques and Brigantines**

The stamps and cachets associated with the Tall Ships' recent visit to Dublin.

Tony Finn



LITERATURE

22. **Keeping in Touch**

Communication through Co. Kildare before 1860

N.P.J. Morrin

23. **Irish Booklets**

(A Handbook of Irish Stamp Booklets 1931-1991)

Irish stamp booklets are examined in terms of booklets, panes and multi-facet make-up. The reasons for issue are correlated with postal rates.

C.I. Dulin



Young Philatelist of the Year Competition

This competition, sponsored by An Post, is open to those under the age of 21. There are three categories: under 13, under 16 and under 21. Prizes are awarded to the winner in each category and to the overall winner. A selection of the entries is on display at Stampa.



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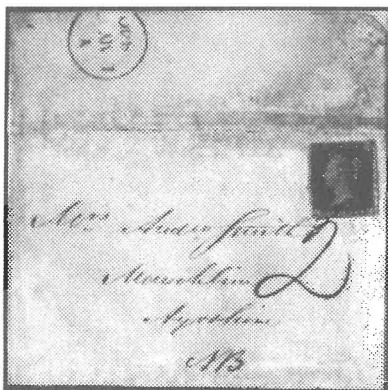
c/o Teachers' Club,
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Dublin 1.

*Meetings on alternate Wednesdays
at 7.45 p.m*

Court of Honour Exhibits

The World's Earliest Recorded Cover Bearing a Postage Stamp

Though penny blacks were available from some main post offices from 1st May 1840, they were not valid for the payment of postage until 6th May, 1840. This unique cover shows the first day of use of the adhesive postage stamp and it was taxed 2d (ms"2"). This charge represented 1d postage plus 1d fine, to be paid by the recipient. The fine was imposed as the stamp was not valid until 6th May.



Cover dated 1st May, 1840 with 1d black lettered LD plate 1a cancelled by red Maltese Cross, with 2d postage due marking

Ireland's Contribution to the World's Philatelic Rarities

Ireland's rarest stamp is an experimental 2d coil perf. 15 x imperf., issued in 1934. This mint vertical strip of four is unique, the only other multiples known being two pairs. Less than twenty five unused examples have been recorded.



These rare items are on display at Stampa 98 through the courtesy of their owners and David Feldman. The relevant catalogues may be obtained from: David Feldman S.A., 175 Route de Chancy, PO Box 81, CH-1213, Onex, Geneva, Switzerland. Telephone: (022) 727 0777 Fax: (022) 727 0778.

THE FIRST AMONG CLASSICS

PENNY BLACK AND TWOPENNY BLUE

by David Rose

The One Penny Black and the Twopenny Blue, issued respectively on the 6th May and 8th May 1840 by Great Britain & Ireland were, of course, the world's first adhesive labels printed for the prepayment of postage. In retrospect, philatelists recognize a number of other 'firsts' which derived from these famous stamps. They are, therefore, included in collections which are of Postal History, Specialist and Thematic content.

The image of Queen Victoria was originally sculptured for a medal made in 1837 by William Wyon. It was adapted for the postage stamp by Henry Courbold. Six engravers or "siderographers" who prepared the master die were led by Frederick Heath. An improved 'Rose' machine was employed for the engine turning of the frame. Thus the stamps are described as 'line engraved.' The method of printing is called 'intaglio' and this was performed by Messrs Perkins Bacon from 22nd April. It was Rowland Hill who received the credit for the concept of adhesive labels and postal reform. However, a Dundee bookseller, James Chalmers, claimed to have been the first to come up with the idea. His letter to Robert Wallace MP was proved to have been sent nine months before Rowland Hill mentioned a 'bit of paper' in his pamphlet dated 22nd February 1837.

The format for the stamp, a vertical rectangle, is still the most commonly used for definitive stamps. The size of the image on the stamp was 0.8875 inches by 0.7375 inches and this remained as normal until 1934 in Britain. There were no fewer than eleven plates made for the Penny issue and the first plate itself is recognized as having two 'states.' In fact, there was a deliberate series of plate variations. Four different alphabets were used for the corner check letters. Two dies can be identified, Die I being used until 1855. Only two plates were used for the Twopenny Blue.

The sheets of these stamps were printed in twenty rows of twelve stamps and each stamp can be identified by its check letters. Row one stamp one would always have the corner check letters A and A, while the twelfth stamp, has A and L. Likewise, the check letters on the twentieth row would always start with T and A, ending with T and L. In the margins were instructions to postmasters "Price per label, One Penny." There were also guidelines for the printers.

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The rag paper used for the world's first stamps was handmade by Stacey Wise at Rush Mills, Hardington, Northamptonshire. Although of fine quality, there was some variety in its thickness. Each stamp contains a watermark depicting a small crown. The gum on the back contained potato starch, wheat starch and acacia gum. It was described as 'cement' by the Post Office. It is not surprising that there were different intensities of colour as the stamps were used for many years. Among the most prominent varieties recognized by philatelists are the 'doubled letter' in the corner; guidelines through the letters and values; inverted watermarks and re-entries. There were no such errors as inverted heads or frames! The bleuté paper variety was caused by a chemical accident between paper and ink in the presence of potash when conditions were damp.

The Penny Black and Twopenny Blue hold pride of place in many a specialist's collection. Together with the Mulready postal stationery envelopes and letter sheets, these stamps have a revered place in Postal History.

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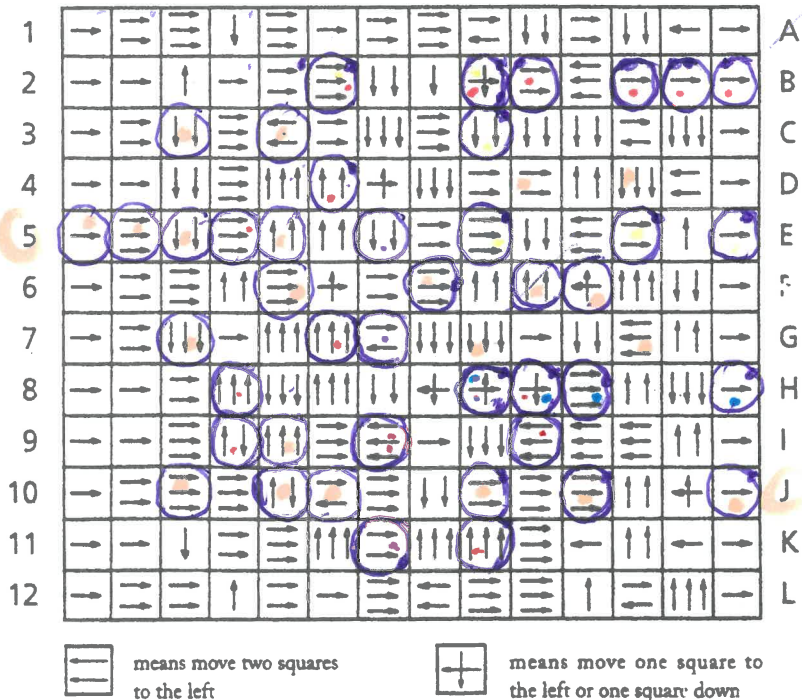
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Devised by Daniel Lehman

Matching Capital Cities

See if you can match the capital city to the country:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. Estonia | (a) Almaty |
| 2. Kazakhstan | (b) Ashkabad |
| 3. Latvia | (c) Chisinau |
| 4. Lithuania | (d) Dalap-Uliga-Darrit |

Send your answers to: The Editor, Stampa Competition, PO Box 2723, Dublin 1, Ireland. Closing date 31st January 1999. First 3 correct answers picked out receives an Architecture Definitive Pack.

FAI

Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland e.V.



FAI, the German Study and Research Group on Irish Philately, wishes *stampa* '98 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 try to help, too. Did you know that -

- our society was founded in 1982 in Munich with only 38 members?
- we now have more than 200 members in 13 countries world-wide?
- we have published 20 books and booklets on Irish philately?
- all these are bi-lingual German / English?
- all these were given free-of-charge to our members?
- we run quarterly auctions, each with 200 to 300 lots?
- we publish a quarterly bulletin with more than 200 pages p.a.?
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- ✗ Membership fee is IRE 16.--, hopefully for years to come, too!
- ✗ A new book on early Irish stamp cancelling machines is in the pipeline!
- ✗ FAI has sponsored several of the new-size exhibition frames which are in use at STAMPA exhibitions!

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Die harfe

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You may also use our e-mail address: irlandphil@aol.com

Theme-based Collecting

by Uncle Malik

Stamp collecting may be described as the hobby of the individualist. There are so many aspects to this wonderful pastime, so many different things to collect, so many issuing countries – there must surely be something for everyone. The possibilities for self-expression are boundless, and each collection reveals the personality of the owner who has devoted time and effort to gathering it. In no other branch of stamp collecting can one express oneself better than through the medium of a thematic collection.

What, then, is thematic stamp collecting? Basically, it involves a totally different approach to that of 'traditional philately'. In the latter, the stamp collector would assemble the material of a single country such as India or Pakistan or a group of countries such as French Colonies or the reign of a monarch. The thematic collector cuts across such boundaries as period or country of issue and collects philatelic material which has something in its wording or pictorial design that relates to a specific topic or theme. This could be a straightforward theme such as birds, or transport on stamps, or a more abstract thesis such as The Role of Nurses in Society.

Collecting stamps based on themes is the most exciting and rewarding branch of the hobby of stamp collecting. There is the continuing stimulus of new stamp issues and also the thrill of digging back into the older issues and finding items that fit your theme. You have the scope to collect a wide range of philatelic material, and you will learn about far more countries than most conventional collectors. Since the theme is of your choice, you can treat it the way you like.

Let's take for example the theme or topic (as they call it in the USA), World of Transport. You can divide this theme into: Transport on Land, Transport on Water, and Transport Through Air and Space.

Transport on Land: In this section, you can collect stamps, featuring animal transport through to the early motor cars to the development of the railway. You can divide this into different sections such as: Man and His Animal, Animal-drawn Vehicles, Early Motor Cars, Bicycles and Motorcycles, Steam Locomotives, Locomotives After Steam, and the Railway System in Action.

Transport by Water: This section can feature primitive boats through the eras of sail and steam to hovercraft. These may lend themselves to the following divisions: Man-powered Boats and Primitive Sailing Craft, Great Era of Sail, Steamships and Motor Vessels, Special-function Vessels, and Warships.

Transport Through Air and Space: This section can feature the early days of flight through to the conquest of space and interplanetary travel.

Space Exploration: This theme has been very popular ever since the days of the Soyuz. While it forms a part of the theme of transport through space, one can make a separate topic out of it. One can include the following: Ground control; Building a Satellite; Tracking Stations, Blast-off; Manned Space Capsules, and Communications Satellites, which come under the title of Conquest of Space. Next, one can include: First Creatures in Space, Man in Orbit, Famous Astronauts, Space Walks, Space Docking, and US Skylab under Putting Man into Orbit.

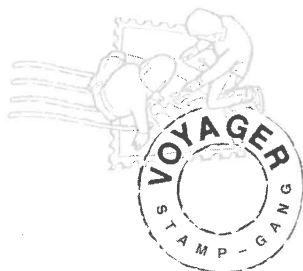
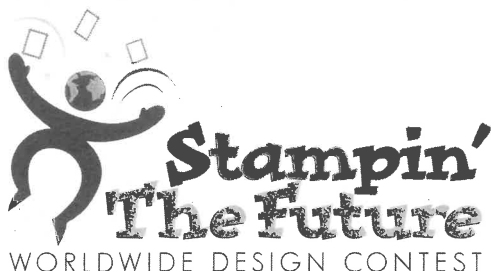
Finally, stamps showing: Unmanned Craft on the Moon; Man Sets Foot on the Moon; Space Shuttles, and Interplanetary Travel fall under To the Moon and Beyond. This was just a suggestion for a theme on Transport. Many other themes could be similarly tackled. In recent years, the following have been the top 10 topics: birds, art, space, railroads, music, flowers, sports, medicine, ships and butterflies. It depends entirely on you what topic you select. If you are fond of sports, this would be your obvious choice, or if botany interests you, then flowers would be a good theme to tackle. Some senior collectors prefer to choose a theme connected with their vocation. Take my example. As an architect, I have chosen the theme, Architecture of the Islamic World.

Once you have reached a decision on a theme, the next step is to go about collecting items related to this theme. First of all, you have to know what is available to collect. For this, you should have access to a catalogue such as Stanley Gibbons. But you do not have to restrict your collection only to stamps. The following can be used in a thematic collection: Postmarks, Postal Stationery, Artist's Drawings, Proofs, Varieties, Essays, Booklets, and other items issued by the postal authorities. So think about it! If you are not into collecting stamps and cannot make up your mind which country to collect, or think it's too late to be able to find all the stamps issued by the country, here's your chance to embark on a voyage of discovery with a theme of your choice. I'll be giving you hints on some more themes in the next few columns of STAMPAID. Till then, happy collecting!

Uncle Malik writes a regular article for younger collectors in the magazine section of the Khaleej Times in Dubai. He is an architect and a philatelist and has represented Dubai as national commissioner at international exhibitions.

COMPETITION

Why not enter the fabulous An Post/Voyager worldwide stamp design competition and win one of several wonderful prizes, including first prize, a family holiday in America.



For details, pick up an entry form at the Voyager stand or write to Voyager Stamp Gang, Room 2-232, G.P.O., Dublin 1 (Tel: 7058464)

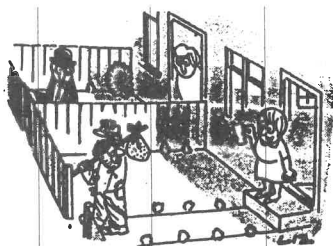
Soaking Postage Stamps

by John Fitzsimons

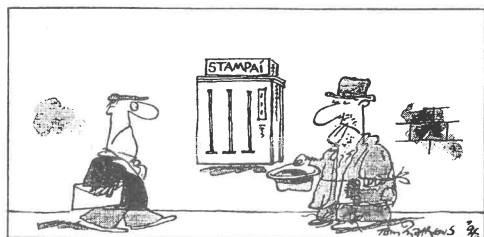
To remove modern stamps from envelopes without damaging the stamps, you must soak them in water. If you follow these simple instructions, you will end up with used (cancelled) stamps which will be clean i.e. free from gum and pieces of the envelope. These stamps will be nice and flat and ready to be placed in your album or stock book.

1. Cut stamps from the envelopes, leaving a margin of about 6mm (1/4 inch) all round.
2. Place the stamps in a container of cold water and leave for about 15-20 minutes, when the stamps will separate from the paper.
3. Remove the stamps from the water and place them, face down, on a sheet of newspaper or kitchen roll and leave to dry.
4. When the stamps are dry, you will notice that many of them have curled up. To flatten the stamps, place them between the pages of a thick book - an old catalogue, a dictionary or even a telephone directory would be ideal - and in a few days your stamps will be crisp and flat! Be sure to mark the page where you placed the stamps by leaving one stamp protruding from the top of the page.

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Dublin Stamp Society 1948-1998

1948 was a rather interesting year in many ways. In the February General Election, Fianna Fail went out of office after an unbroken run of sixteen years. In April, Sheila's Cottage won the Grand National, the first mare to do so in many years. On 14th May, the State of Israel was declared a nation, while in September the sporting world saw Waterford win their first All-Ireland Senior Hurling title and Cavan retained the All-Ireland Senior Football title which they had annexed the previous year in the Polo Grounds, New York. But the best was yet to come.

Towards the end of 1948, following an advertisement in the Evening Mail, a number of Dublin philatelists came together and decided to form the Dublin Stamp Society.

The records show that the first meeting took place at the Grosvenor Hotel, Westland Row on Wednesday 8th December 1948 at 7.30 p.m. with seventeen members present. Then followed the election of Officers and Committee.

Chairman: Mr. E. Gallagher; *Vice-Chairman:* Mr. G. Tackaberry; *Hon. Sec:* Mr. M. P. Giffney; *Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. E. Beck; *Packet Supt:* Mr. L. Morris; *Registrar:* Mr. T. G. Dixon; *Committee Members:* Mr. E. Fagan and Mr. J. O'Neill

Of the seventeen members who attended that first meeting, three of these are still hale and hearty and enjoying life to the full, in the persons of Michael Giffney, Barry Threlfall and Eddie Fagan and to them we extend our congratulations on reaching their Golden Jubilee of membership. It was decided that meetings would be held on alternate Wednesdays to the end of June 1949. The hire of the meeting room was agreed at ten shillings and sixpence (52½p). At the third meeting of the Society, held on 5th January 1949, Mrs. Elsie M. Purser was elected as the first lady member. Over the past fifty years, many renowned and distinguished philatelists have been members of the Society.

The Society meetings are held on alternate Wednesdays at the Teachers' Club, 36 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Correspondence can be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary c/o that address.

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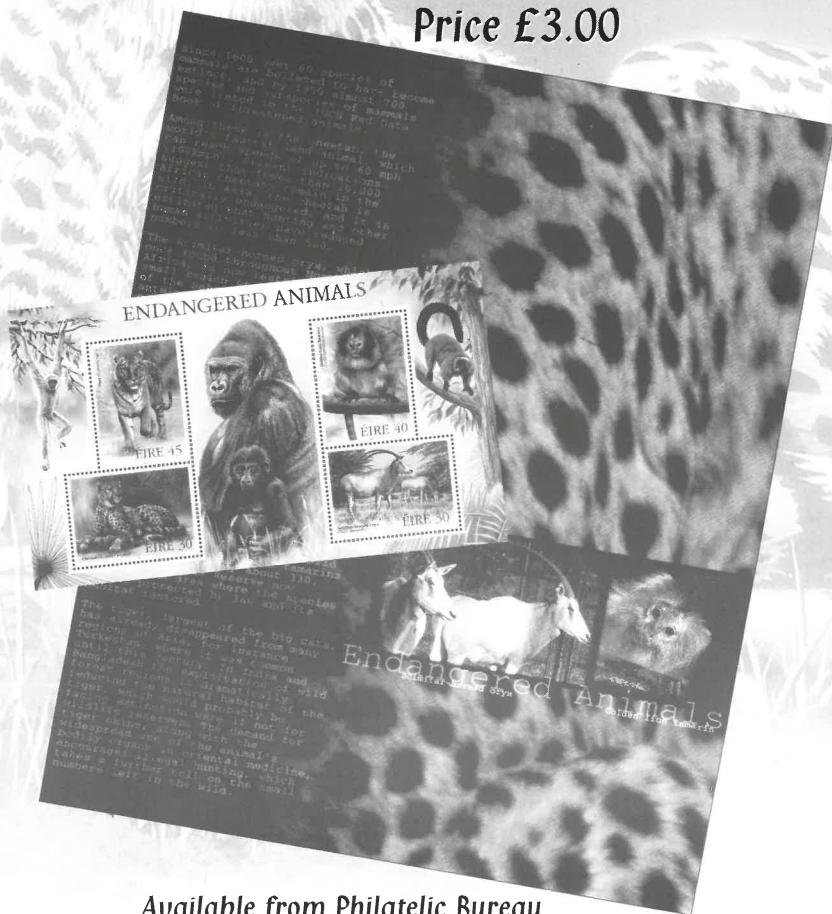
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