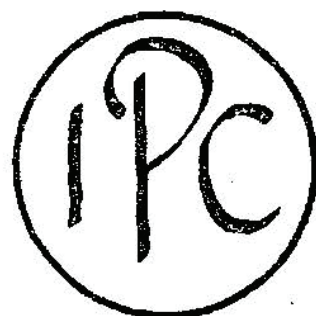


1965

*IRISH
PHILATELY*

The Journal of the
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE



"Irish Philately"

VOLUME 1965 - February issue

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Apology is made for certain pages which have not printed too well, owing to inexperience of our 'printers'.

If Members feel they require a better copy of such pages an application should be forwarded to the Hon. Sec. and an endeavour will be made to supply a replacement.

* * * * *

THOMAS E. FIELD: It is with deep regret that we learn of the sudden death of our President. An "Appreciation" is included with this issue of the Journal in the form of an insert page. His article, "Ireland's Philatelic Links Abroad" is currently appearing, and the concluding part will be published in the next issue of our Journal.

EDITORIAL: This is the first of a new volume, and we hope for progressive improvement. Certainly, everything will be done from the production side of the affair, but, the interest of the matter published must come mainly from the I.P.C. members themselves.

Articles and Letters to the Editor are essential.

Even a short letter on a point of interest to members is more than welcome, and the Editor might, if the letter comes soon enough, be able to get information on the point, so that the letter and any additional information could be published in the same issue of our Journal. This would make the Journal a very valuable source of information to our members and would help to consolidate and unify our scattered membership, as our late President desired.

Write over a pseudonym, if you prefer to remain anonymous, and your wish will be respected, but give your real name and address to the Editor as a guarantee of good faith.

Please, therefore, let us have your active co-operation in producing a live and interesting journal that is worthy of its title - IRISH PHILATELY.

At the recent British Philatelic Exhibition, our publications, "Random Notes" and "Irish Philately" were on view together with many other specialist journals. Certainly, we have room for some improvement, particularly with regard to illustrations, but it gave us much satisfaction that our publications compare favourably, and in fact, were better than some. On the points of duplication, quality of paper, and presentation in order to facilitate binding or filing, we have little of which to be ashamed and we shall maintain and improve these in the forthcoming year.

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IMPORTANT

Your attention is drawn to the important Notice of Meeting which appears on page (19) of this issue and to the other pages giving a Statement of I.P.C. Accounts and Reports of some of the Honorary Officers for the year 1964.

THOMAS E. FIELD, F.R.P.S.L.

An Appreciation

* * * * *

It is with very great sorrow that we have to record the sudden death of our President, Thomas E. Field, on Wednesday, 27th January, 1965.

Tom Field, as Stamp Collectors knew him, has held high office and respect in a number of societies besides our own Irish Philatelic Circle. Elected a Member in 1932, he became a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society, London in 1937. His willingness to serve others led to his election as President of the Postal History Society and, as a popular member of some Local societies, he was the founder President of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association. In 1957, at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain held at Harrogate, he was a most capable Chairman. Abroad, his interest in Irish Stamps led to his holding the office of President of the Eire Philatelic Association of America for a time.



His interests ranged over other countries besides Ireland, and he formed notable Collections of Australia, the pioneer British and Commonwealth Air Mails, and the King George V issues of G.B., and in Exhibitions he received major awards. But his great interest and collection of Ireland, covering every aspect from the earliest postal history to the latest commemorative made Tom Field a recognised authority. Yet, he humbly preferred to call himself a student, always ready to assist others, and the willingness with which he loaned items to anyone making a study of Irish Philately was unique.

Many of our members found cause to write and to work with him and, though they never met, were honoured and privileged to look upon him as a true friend, most kind and generous with support and advice. Those of us who took up office under his leadership mourn the loss of a beloved colleague and are indeed proud that we have known him. To everyone in the Irish Philatelic Circle, a great friend has been lost and perhaps the most fitting memorial we can make is to ensure that the Irish Philatelic Circle continues to grow in the way that he would have wished and wanted.

Thomas Edwin Field was born in 1905 and, from 1923, rose to become the Chairman of the famous Family Business of Edwin Field and Sons Ltd., manufacturing textiles in Skelmanthorpe, Yorkshire for more than a century before 1862. He was proud of his Family background and to his wife Mary, whom some of us know, and to his mother, and son and close family circle, our deepest and heartfelt sympathies are extended.

We share with them the tragic loss of such a fine gentleman.

POSTAGE STAMP PAPER AND WATERMARKS

This short essay will not deal with watermarks in hand-made paper, which is quite a different subject, but will try in as few words as possible, to describe how the paper used today for the printing of postage stamps carrying a watermark is manufactured.

We may define a watermark as any translucent distinguishing device or design indelibly formed in the substance of a sheet of paper while yet in a pulpy condition.

Machine made papers for stamp printing may vary widely in their percentage composition, but nearly all will contain certain proportions of the various vegetable fibres, as listed hereunder, plus some Kaolin (China Clay) to give brightness to, and improve the finish of the paper.

- (1) Linen (Flax) fibres. (from rags and trimmings)
- (2) Cotton fibres (from rags and trimmings)
- (3) Esparto Grass fibres (bleached)
- (4) Cellulose fibres from Spruce or Fir Wood (bleached)

The maximum length of a single fibre from any of the above materials would be from two to three millimetres.

Probably (4) is the chief ingredient in the majority of stamp papers, but in any case, all fibres have to undergo a hard beating process in water to broom or fibrillate them so that they will intermingle and interlock together, and so give greater tenacity and strength to the paper than it would otherwise possess.

After beating at about 5% consistency, the mass of fibres is dosed with the appropriate quantity of China Clay for brightening, and also with enough rosin size to make it slightly resistant to water, and the necessary dye solution if a tinted paper is required.

The pulp, before passing on to the paper-making machine proper, is further diluted down to a consistency of something like 0.5%, at which stage it looks not unlike skimmed milk.

The word "consistency" in this article is a term used by Papermakers to express the density or concentration of the fibres in water at any fluid or pulpy stage of the process. Thus, a consistency of 5% means that the pulp contains 5 tons of fibres to 95 tons of water, and such a mixture looks rather like porridge; similarly, 0.5% consistency means half a ton of fibre to 99½ tons of water which, as remarked above, looks like skimmed milk.

For the sake of brevity, we shall be concerned here with only one section of the paper machine, the wire part or Fourdrinier - so called from the name of its principle developer; this part is where the paper is formed and given most of its characteristics, as well as the watermark, if such is required.

Postage Stamp Paper and Watermarks (cont'd)

Turn now to page (7) and the Diagram, at M, the pond and Q the slice. The pond - sides, back, front and bottom - may be compared in general shape to the shallow box in which a gardener sows his seeds. One of the long sides of this box (Q, the slice) is adjustable vertically, so that the width of the gap at the bottom can be regulated as desired. This gap is normally something less than half an inch.

A delicate adjustment of the gap or orifice is essential, because the velocity of the "skimmed milk like" paper stock, squirting through the orifice and on to the wire cloth or gauze, must correspond precisely with the speed at which the wire part of the paper machine is running, in order that the liquid may pass on to the running wire without disturbance, shock or over-running.

By the way, the wire gauze is referred to by a papermaker simply as "the wire".

So from this long, narrow slot at the bottom of the slice Q, the stock is squirted on to the travelling endless wire L, and the water immediately starts to drain through the wire away from the stock, leaving the fibres settling on top.

This wire gauze is woven on a loom from phosphor-bronze wire, and would be, for stamp paper, of what is known as No. 70 mesh. (For cigarette paper a finer mesh, and for newsprint a slightly coarser mesh would be required). A 70 mesh wire has almost invariably a warp wire of 0.0076 inch diameter, and there are 70 of these per inch of width. The weft wires are rather thinner than the warp wires, and there are usually 45 of these per inch of length.

Note: The "Warp" wires are the wires which are fixed in the loom, and through which the shuttle carrying the cross (weft) wires is thrown. The warp wires always extend lengthwise in a wire for a Fourdrinier machine.

The "Weft" or "shute" wires as they are called in America, called so because they are "shot" through the warp in a shuttle. The shute or weft wires always extend across a Fourdrinier wire.

Looking at our warp wires at 70 per inch, and multiplying that number by the diameter (70×0.0076) roughly 0.53 inch, and with our 45 weft wires crossing the 70 warp wires, we gett over 3,000 holes per square inch for the water to drain or be sucked through, holes which, in their totality, amount to only about 30% of the area of the wire. So much, then, for the wire.

As it issues from the slice orifice on to the wire the paper stock immediately comes under the influence of the table rolls H, of which there may be thirty or more. Their function is to keep the wire on a plane surface, and to take some of the water from the under side of the wire and throw it downwards in a deluge, received normally into a large receptacle for re-use. The paper stock, when it reaches the last table roll, will have lost some 10% of its water.

Postage Stamp paper and Watermarks (Cont'd)

Deckle The word 'Deckle' to a papermaker means the widest sheet which any given machine can make, whether the 'machine' is a mould for hand-made paper or a machine in the usual sense of the word. Thus, he may speak of a 'hundred inch deckle machine'. Paper machines vary enormously in width; two extremes within the writer's knowledge being a machine (for experiments) of about 12 inches deckle at McGill University, Montreal, and another of 320 inches deckle at Kemsley in Kent. The second being over 26 times as wide as the first mentioned.

Speeds may vary from 100 feet per minute or less, to 1,500 feet per minute or even more.

The width of the paper being made is determined and regulated by means of the deckle straps R, one running along each edge of the machine wire. These are quite heavy india-rubber bands, endless and up to two inches square in section. They are carried on wide-faced brass pulleys S, but rest their weight on, and are driven by the wire itself. Despite their weight a small fringe of fibres usually manages to insinuate itself under the inner edges of these straps, forming that somewhat ragged edge to the sheet which, in hand-made paper is termed a deckle edge. In machine-made paper this deckle edge is trimmed or squirted off by a fine jet of water at high pressure just before it reaches the couch rolls A & B. The deckle edge is trimmed off because its continued presence would be a nuisance in subsequent operations.

After the table rolls come the suction boxes K, usually six or eight in number, with maybe four before the dandy-roll is reached and two or four after. These suction boxes are of brass with renewable wooden tops perforated with closely spaced half-inch diameter holes, which tops may be of mahogany, but are now more frequently of hard rock maple. The suction boxes are connected at one end to a powerful air pump, which maintains a high vacuum inside the boxes, so that the pressure of the atmosphere outside forces air and water through the layer of pulp on top of the wire, reducing the amount of water down to about 80% or something like that.

The dandy-roll is a very light skeleton roller of brass, of which the weight is kept to a minimum consistent with sufficient stiffness to conserve its shape. It is jacketed with a cover of rather coarser wire gauze than the machine wire I, and to this outer cover are secured by brazing the very light brass stampings, or 'bits' which make the thinnings in the paper which are known as watermarks.

The actual formation of the watermark is quite simple, but not very easy to describe. The 'bits' standing out in low relief from the surface of the dandy-roll, of course sink to their whole depth into the mass of pulp (still more than 80% water) which is passing under the roll, and in sinking in, displace some of the fibres by pushing them out of the way on to the area not being impressed by the 'bits'. Before these thinned places can fill themselves up

Postage Stamp Paper and Watermarks (Cont'd)

again, the whole sheet comes under the influence of the second series of suction boxes and being thinner, the watermarks have more air drawn through them than the areas outside the marks, and the marks themselves are therefore not quite so saturated as the main surface of the sheet. This slight difference appears to be quite sufficient to save the watermark from complete obliteration as it passes through the heavy squeeze which it gets between the couch-rolls A and B, which are both very heavy bronze rollers, the top one of which, B, is jacketed with a closely adhering and very thick seamless felt covering; this roll may also, if desired, be heavily weighted through a system of levers and weights to increase the pressure between A and B.

It should, perhaps, be noted here that the watermarks made in machine made paper by a dandy-roll, are not usually quite as clear as those made in hand-made paper formed sheet by sheet in a mould.

As it leaves the couch, the paper contains anything up to 80% of water, and a small piece of it (cigarette paper size) is just about able to support its own weight.

At this point, then, very wet and very weak, it leaves the couch and wire and is immediately transferred to an endless woollen blanket, to receive further pressing between heavy rollers to take out more water and to diminish the mark of the wire gauze on the underside of the sheet. The paper undergoes two or perhaps three of these pressings, passes thence between a long series of steam heated cylinders for drying down to about 12% moisture and then between smooth steel calender rolls for further smoothing and surfacing.

While the paper is passing over the machine and being transformed from a milky locking fluid into paper, it stretches slightly in length and shrinks to a lesser extent in width, and this explains why stamp watermarks are now nearly all of the 'multiple' type. To get a watermark fairly accurately in the centre of each individual stamp, allowance had to be made for this stretch lengthwise and shrinkage sideways in the spacing of the 'bits' attached to the dandy-roll. This could not be calculated with mathematical precision, so that the watermarks sometimes appeared in the wrong position relative to the stamp. With the 'multiple' type of mark, however, which consists of a small device spaced evenly all over the sheet, there can be no 'wrong' position, for each stamp is bound to get one complete mark and parts of several others impressed into it anyway.

Another point of interest may perhaps be noted here. Fibres, as well as tree-trunks, always tend to float lengthwise in any current of water in which they happen to be immersed. Thus, as the fibres-in-water suspension flows out on to the wire from the orifice under the slice Q, the fibres tend to lie lengthwise in their direction of travel. This gives all machine-made paper a definite direction of tear and a greater longitudinal strength. That is why your newspaper will tear fairly straight up or down the columns, but not across the page. It explains also why, with certain reasoned exceptions, ordinary sized

Postage Stamp Paper and its Manufacture (Cont'd)

Irish and British stamps are perforated 15 across the top and 14 down the sides, for, if you examine the top and side perforations closely with a glass, say Magn X 10, you will notice that the holes in both top and sides are identical in diameter, (0.035 inch) but that the narrow bits of paper remaining between the holes are slightly narrower across the top and bottom than down the sides, which means that the paper at top and bottom has been weakened to a greater extent than that at the sides, and this because the tensile strength of the paper was greatest lengthwise of the sheet.

By the way, you may not be aware that your newspaper, as you read it at breakfast time, contains 7 or 8% water, and possibly more if it happens to be raining, for ordinary paper is more or less hygroscopic.

The thickness of ordinary newsprint is about 0.003 inch, and that of normal uncoated stamp paper about 0.002 inch.

Finally, as to Irish made paper for postage stamps, little seems to have become known. According to the "World Paper Trade Directory for 1964" there are seven papermills operating in Eire but of these, four seem to be devoted to Wallboard, Paperboard, Boxboard, Straw and Wrapping papers, etc. One does not specify its products; The remaining two being:-

- (1) Clondalkin Papermills, Ltd; Clondalkin, Co. Dublin.
This mill has three machines respectively 120", 110" and 90" wide, and a production of 800 tons per week of all kinds of paper.
- (2) Swift Brook Paper Mills, Ltd., Saggart, Co. Dublin.
This mill makes Bond papers, Writings, Banks, Envelope and Account-book paper, but gives no particulars of machines or production.

In Northern Ireland three mills are mentioned in the Directory. These are:-

North of Ireland Paper Mills, Ltd Inver Mill, Larne, Co. Antrim.

Another at Belfast, and the third at Ballyclarg. No particulars are given of either of these three.

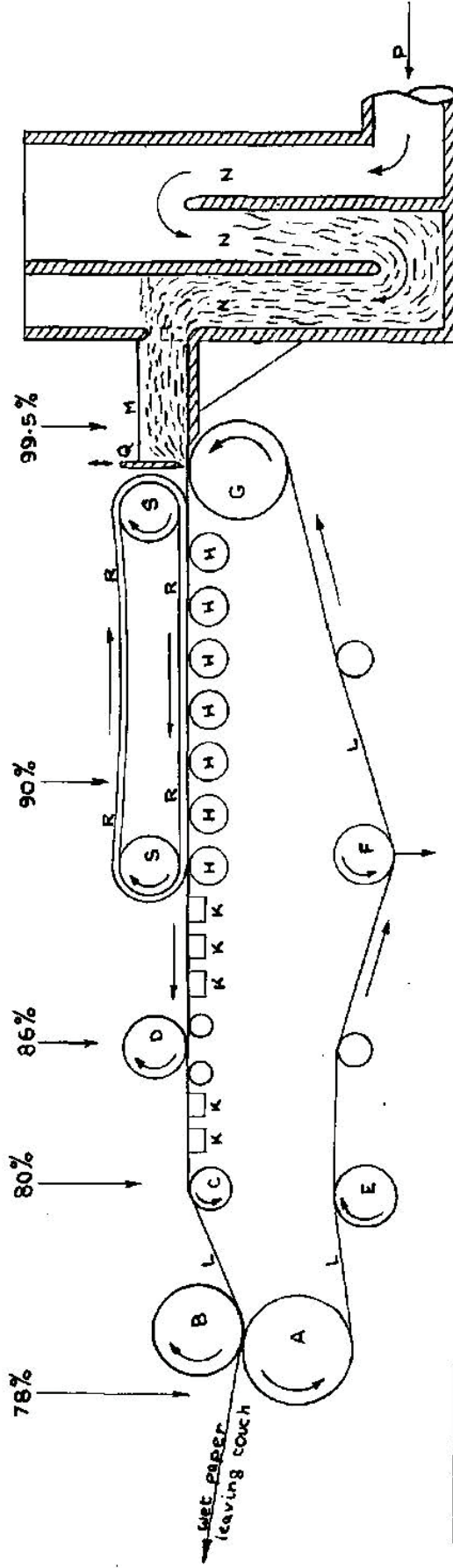
The writer hopes that this paper will be of some interest to our members, and offers his thanks to Mr. T.L. Field and Mr. F.E. Dixon for suggestions, and to Mr. K. Jamieson for making the diagram.

Frank H. Hopson
Staplehurst, Kent.
October 2nd, 1964

SECTIONAL DIAGRAM

Not to scale

Approximate percentage of water at various points.



A. Couch Roll.

B. Top Couch Roll (covered in thickfelt jacket).

C. Guide Roll.

D. Dandy Roll.

E. Wash Roll.

F. Stretch Roll.

G. Breast Roll.

H. Table Roll.

K. Suction Boxes.

L. Endless Wire Gauze.

M. Pond (of fibre suspension).

N. 3 Compartment Breast-box (for eliminating cross currents).

P. Stock Supply Pipe.

Q. Slice.

R. Deckle Strap (one each side).

S. Deckle Pulley (two each side).

Collecting: Postmarks

by Noel S. Langton. Part 1

In model engineering and model railway circles - in which hobbies I have some little interest - there is an expression in common use, which, to my mind, has a moral for philatelists.

It is "improving the breed", and by it is meant, in part at least, the use of new materials such as plastics, the development of new techniques, and the adaptation of old methods to meet changing conditions.

These things tend to upgrade standards, so that today models are being produced, almost as a matter of course, by enthusiasts, which are truly to scale, and a great improvement on what was regarded as "Exhibition Standard" a decade or two ago.

The relevance of this phrase comes sharply into focus when I see the average club exchange packet. First bundle out of the box is "100 postmarks at 1d each". True, there are a hundred, but they are most certainly not collectable postmarks. Quite obviously, they are a random sample of mission mixture, cut close and usually leaving only half or three-quarters of the postmark intact. How the owner hopes to sell them at 1d each mystifies me, but to our eternal shame, he does. The greater shame is that so many of us are prepared to give a place in our collections to such rubbish.

I collect contemporary Irish postmarks and make a point of refusing anything not up to a certain standard. Aside from the paramount factor of legibility, I insist on the "Picco" being 2" x 2" for circular postmarks, and 2" x 4" for machine cancellations.

I achieve this by having a piece of stiff card exactly 2" x 4" which I place over the postmark and stamp under treatment. I mark lightly around the card with a pencil, and cut the envelope or postcard carefully with scissors or a razor-blade. This ensures uniformity in the album, and my postmarks have a pleasing appearance. Of course, exceptionally, this standard size cannot be expected in every case, as, for instance, when the postmark falls so far off the stamp that the overall dimensions exceed the standard 2 x 4 inches.

My next step is to collect my postmarks on commemoratives rather than on definitives. Whenever opportunity offers I replace the one with the other, so that all the while the standard of my postmark collection is being raised. Also, because the colours of the commemoratives are usually brighter than the definitives, the postmarks show up to better advantage and if they happen to be of the higher values - 1s.3d. or 1s. 5d. so much the better.

(cont'd overleaf - Page 9)

Stamping the Envelope (cont'd)

If all collectors refused to accept inferior material, vendors would soon see to it that greater care was taken over tearing the stamps off envelopes.

I realise that those rules of mine cannot be applied in retrospect, and that we must accept from past generations of collectors, the material at their standard. But when you think how often you remark to yourself on seeing some 1880 or 1930 butchering, "What a mess. Pity he didn't leave good margins", you will realise how necessary it is to have an urge to "improve the breed" so that future generations of collectors will not have the same to say of you.

Anyway, the postmarks cost only $\frac{1}{2}$ d or 1d. each, and it seems ridiculous to make do with less than perfect copies. Someone, somewhere, is at this moment ignorantly tearing a stamp off an envelope and hoping you will buy the resulting jagged piece of waste paper for 1d. Why not insist that he take care, by using a 2 x 4 inch template, that the end product is worthy of a place in your collection. After all, he probably got his raw material free (out of the W.P.B.) and infinity per cent profit isn't bad.

(End of Part 1)

NEWFOUNDLAND (cont'd)

Various years The 15c. "Seals" of 1897, overprinted "Trans-Atlantic AIR POST 1919 One Dollar" to mark Alcock and Brown's flight from St: John's, can be associated with Ireland because they "landed tail up in an Irish bog on the 14th June, 1919"; and, for similar reasons, the 15c. of 1928/29, of 1929/31, and of 1931, all showing Alcock and Brown's departure from St: John's, can be similarly associated.

In this section of 'sundries' in my collection, I also include the 9c. and 14c. of 1928/29, because the Cabot Tower on Signal Hill, St: John's, was in wireless communication with Ireland.

RUMANIA

1956: George Bernard Shaw, portrayed on the 40 Bani, was, of course, an Irishman.

RUSSIA

1956: George Bernard Shaw was again "commemorated" on a stamp of 1956 - the centenary of his birth in Dublin.

SWITZERLAND

1923: One value in the Pro Juventute issue of 1923 includes the figure of Fridolin, a missionary from Ireland who became Abbot of Poitiers in the 6th Century, and ultimately Patron Saint of the Swiss Canton of Glarus.

1925/38/49: The Monastery of St: Gall has close associations with Irish Monks and with the Abbey of Bangor, in Co: Down. A stamp of 1925 shows the Arms of St: Gall, one of 1938 "a typical girl of St: Gall", and another of 1949, "Sitter Viaducts" which are near St: Gall.

TRINIDAD and TOBAGO

1935/37: The 6c. illustrates the discovery of Lake Asphalt by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1595.

1938: A somewhat similar design, again 6c., but with a portrait of King George VI, commemorates the same event.

1953: A similar stamp, but with a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, replacing King George VI.

UNITED STATES of AMERICA

The following points should perhaps be noted, in respect of USA stamps with Irish associations.

(i) The listed stamps are arranged in alphabetical order of person or subject commemorated, and no chronological sequence has been attempted. A case could be made, however, for separating the Presidents from the remainder.

(ii) It is very noticeable that a high proportion of U.S.A. Presidents have had some Irish ancestry, however remote; also, that in the "Presidents" series of 1938, the face value in cents, corresponded with a President's 'numerical position' in the list.

e.g. James Polk, the 11th President, is on the 11c. stamp.

- 1938: The 2c. portrays John Adams (2nd President) whose mother is said to have been of Ulster descent.
- 1938: John Quincy Adams, son of the above and himself the 6th President, may be included. He played a leading part in the acquisition of Florida, and also in the promulgation of the Monroe Doctrine. He appears on the 6c. stamp.
- 1938: Chester A. Arthur was the son of a Scottish-Irish Baptist Clergyman, of the Dreen, near Ballymena. He was a noteworthy champion of the Negro Cause. The 21st President, he is seen on the 21c. stamp.
- 1958: The 4c. Atlantic Cable Centenary commemorative is included because operations began in 1857 from Valencia Island (Ireland), and Ireland is seen in the design of the stamp which was said to "commemorate a failure" because, although commercial operations started in 1858, troubles followed in subsequent years. Full success was achieved, however, in 1866.
- 1937: The 1c. shows Commodore John Barry, who was born in Ireland in 1745 and emigrated with his parents to North America when he was 15 years old. Regarded as the father of the U.S. Navy, he commanded various American Ships during the Revolution and was responsible for capturing several British Warships. He died as the "Head of the Navy" in 1803.
- 1938: James Buchanan, the 15th President, was a grandson of John and Jane Russell Buchanan, who emigrated from Co. Donegal having previously lived near Larne. It is understood that he often boasted of his Ulster ancestry. He appears on the 15c. stamp.
- 1927: The surrender of General John Burgoyne at Saratoga is shown on the 2c stamp. He was, for a time, Commander-in-Chief in Ireland.

U. S. A. (cont'd)

1923 Grover Cleveland (22nd President) appears on the 12c. of 1923 & as well as on the 22c of 1938. It is understood that his mother was the daughter of an emigrant from Ulster. He was President from 1885 - 1889, and again from 1893 - 1897.

1909: The 2c. Hudson-Fulton celebration stamp can be associated with Robert Fulton, whose father came to the U.S.A. from Co: Kilkenny. The stamp was issued on the 300th anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River and the centenary of its first navigation by steam.

Various Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th President, is portrayed on the years: 18c. of 1938, and on several other issues, including one which shows him along with Sherman and Sheridan. A maternal ancestor is believed to have emigrated from Tyrone in 1763. In 1879, after a term as President from 1869 to 1877, he visited Ireland and was made a Freeman of the City of Londonderry.

1938: Benjamin Harrison (23rd President) is portrayed on the 24c. stamp. It is understood that his mother was an Ulster woman.

1940: Victor Herbert, prominent in the musical world, is commemorated on the 3c stamp. He was born in Dublin in 1859.

Various Andrew Jackson, a son of parents who emigrated from dates: Carrickfergus, is portrayed on too many stamps of the U.S.A. to list in detail.

1938: Andrew Jackson (17th President) appears on the 17c. stamp. His grandfather emigrated from Ballyeaston, near Ballyclare, about the year 1750.

1946: The entry of General Kearney into Santa Fe in 1846 is marked by the 3c. Centenary commemorative. It is understood that ancestors emigrated from Ireland about 1730.

1964: This list was compiled during March/April 1964, and no attempt has been made to give an account of President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in November 1963. His qualifications for inclusion in the list are, of course, obvious but the details for a complete summary do not yet exist, and must therefore await a later supplementary list.

1940: Cyrus Hall McCormick (1809/1884) is regarded as the inventor of grain harvesting machinery. He appears on the 3c. stamp. His grandfather emigrated from Ulster to Virginia in 1734.

1937: Thomas Macdonough, whose portrait appears on the 2c. stamp was the grandson of an emigrant from Co: Kildare. He achieved some notable naval successes.

PERFINS or SPIFS - Formation of Group

In "Green Isle Philately", the journal published by Shanahans, an article appeared on this subject entitled "Irish SPIFS or Perfins" by a person using the nom de plume of "Hibernicus". This was in the January, 1955 issue, and was followed by a further article in May, 1955. Both were illustrated, and are in the possession of R.P. Woods. He referred to a handbook published by Hugh Vallancy entitled "British Stamps perforated with Firm's Initials" in 1933, and a second edition appeared in 1945. In addition, he also referred to an article by W. Taylor in the Philatelic Magazine, December 31st, 1954, and again in the same journal of January 14th, 1955 by T.H.J. Hocombe. Apart from Hibernicus' article, nothing further relating to Irish SPIFS appears to have been published, at least to the Editor's knowledge.

We are intrigued and delighted to learn, however, that there is a group of people, inside and outside our Membership, who are interested in the subject of - THE PERFINS OF IRELAND - and would like to make a study of them, and, in due course, prepare a Check List for publication.

Naturally, we cannot do otherwise than support this venture, which we commend to all IPC members and readers of "Irish Philately" and request them to get in touch with our I.P.C. member, as under-noted, who has indicated to us that he is keenly interested in the subject of Perfins or is it SPIFS ?

Mr. Michael J. Burrows,
20, Hillside,
Stowmarket,
Suffolk, England.

We note that there is a society existing which has the rather imposing title SECURITY ENDORSEMENT & PERFIN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN - but, in future, we shall refer to this branch of our Irish Philatelic Circle simply as - THE IRISH PERFIN GROUP, and look forward to learning more about this aspect of Irish Philately.

A.T.S./T.S.T./R.P.W.
January 26th, 1965.

Irish Philatelic Circle

Hon. Secretary's Report In the past year I have had the pleasure
for 1964 of carrying out the duty of your General
 Secretary. It has not always come easy to
keep correspondence up to date for, as some members in the Circle
know, I have a full time Government accountancy post which takes up
a full week of my time, not to say anything of additional work when
we have changes in financial policy by a new Government.

My thanks are due to so many people that I can only mention a few.
Mr. Tom Field, for helping in every way possible to iron over the
difficulties the Circle has had. He has not enjoyed the best of health
this last year and I know the members of the Circle join me in
wishing him a complete recovery during 1965.

Mr. Stewart Telfer, besides working on the financial transactions
of the Circle, stepped into the breach during the summer of last
year when our Journal was in danger of not being published. I am
pleased to say that this load is now easier as a loyal Circle member
Mr. Frank Hopson, has come to help us in the editing of our Journal
with success, assisted by Mr. Pat Woods, our Editor of some time ago.

I look forward very much to meeting our friends from Ireland again
as I did this past year on my visit to Dublin, and I hope to see at
least one from Ireland, if possible, at our Annual General Meeting on
March 20 next at The Irish Club in London. My thanks also go to our
Overseas membership, to Mr. Geo. Cleary our Vice President in the
U.S.A., and to all, I wish to send them the following thought for
this new year and session.

We are a happy body of people who are interested in all aspects
of the postage stamps of Ireland - let us keep this in mind during
1965 and forget about everything else. We on the Circle Committee
will handle other matters - that is why we are appointed - and,
let us enjoy our common interest to everybody's advantage during
the years which lie ahead.

January 18, 1965

David Warren

* * * * *

Since writing this Report, I have learnt with regret and
sorrow of the death of our President, Mr. Thos. E. Field.

Though I never met Mr. Field, I considered him to be a
friend to write to for guidance and advice which he so readily
gave to all of us.

I know it would be the wish of Members to express the
Irish Philatelic Circle's sympathy to Mrs. Mary Field and her
Family in such a tragic loss.

D. Warren
January 30, 1965.

English Area
Report for 1964

We have been very pleased to welcome three new members in the English Area during the past year - Mr. Jack Garcia; Mr. F.H.C. Hollingsworth, and Mr. J. Ross.

At the A.G.M. held on Nov. 9th, 1963 at The Irish Club, London, fourteen members were present. The reports of the Hon. Treasurer and the Exchange Packet Sec. were read and passed and local Area Officers elected. ~~A draft plan for the re-organisation of the Circle was read and passed and local Area Officers elected.~~ A draft plan for the re-organisation of the Circle was read out by Mr. Willcocks, together with some comments he had already received. Certain points were accepted, but to others there were objections. It was agreed that each Area have its own A.G.M. at which the Circle's Accounts be passed.

At other meetings held during the year there has been an average attendance of about eight, and we have to thank Mr. Leslie Fletcher for the use of his house on two occasions. At the August, 1964 meeting, we were able to welcome and meet Fr. John Brennan, who was over in London on holiday. A talk on 'Postal History' has been given by Dr. de Burea; and the study of the high value "Overprints 1922" by Mr. Fletcher has been examined with great interest. A meeting was devoted to the notes on the "Four Masters" and useful amending details resulted. Mr. Warren reported on his meeting with Mr. Dixon and Mr. Langton in Dublin, and the merging of I.P.C. with the F.P.A. was discussed, but, the members present had no wish to join F.P.A. and lose their identity though more than agreeable to co-operate. At our last meeting in Nov. a display of "Forces' Postal History" was given by Dr. de Burea and Mr. Sedgley.

Unfortunately, during the past two months our Hon. General Secretary has not been too well, and it is hoped that he is now on the way to recovery from the operation which he was due to undergo.

From enquiries, we have discovered that there is a pocket of interested people in the Birmingham area, but so far, there is no tangible result to the circulars sent them. In addition, we have distinct signs that an Irish Circle in Germany is functioning and we are making contacts to see how best we can co-operate - language does not appear to be any barrier as our published matters will be translated.

In conclusion, I myself have been very busy this last year with an increase in social and domestic duties, and this has prevented my attending some of the meetings.

(Mrs.) Margaret C. Mabborley

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Hon. Treasurer's
Report, 1964

The Accounts presented with this Report cover a 15-month period from Oct. 1963 until Dec. 1964.

The previous statement of accounts was for twelve months, three of which did not incur full working expenses. This fact should be kept in mind when comparisons are made against the 1963 figures, particularly on the Expenditure side.

Income from SUBSCRIPTIONS was received from 66 members, a slight rise on last year's strength, in spite of losses from resignations and other causes. Four members have not paid subscriptions for 1964, and their status as members of IPC should be considered by Members in General.

Sincere thanks are expressed to those Members who included a DONATION with their subscription, and also to others who, without recompense of any kind, have been put to considerable expenditure in time and money in work done in close co-operation with the principal Officers.

The EXCHANGE PACKET did not function as well as expected, due to lack of support from the members. The income shown accrued at the end of 1963. Income from SALES at Dublin and London meetings has been encouraging - small auctions, exchanges and sales - all worthwhile in showing a return of profit.

In contrast with the Exchange Packet, the POSTAL AUCTIONS, initiated in Dublin Area, has proved successful, and thanks are due to Mr. W. Kane who did, and is doing, the work entailed in this activity of IPC.

On the EXPENDITURE side of the Accounts, the figures reflect the cost of operating a society having a widely scattered membership.

Though economies have been made with combined enclosures of our various publications and other matters, total POSTAGES are high. If direct postages are to be maintained, the high rate of postage from Ireland, and possibly from G.B. must be met.

The Gestetner DUPLICATOR was purchased in late 1964 at a 'take-away price with knowledge that a repair might sooner or later be necessary. That repair has come sooner, and at a cost higher than anticipated, but some £15. has been paid and will appear in the 1965 Account. However, experience of duplicating costs elsewhere indicates that to own and to operate this machine is an asset for IPC and in no sense a liability.

I must express thanks to Mr. J. O. Marsden for his advice during the period and for the Auditing of the Accounts.

In conclusion, it has to be reported that during 1964, a minority membership has not given support to the appointed I.P.C. Treasury. For services freely given by any Honorary Officer, wholehearted support is essential and it is hoped this will be forthcoming from the entire Circle.

January 15th, 1965

T.S. TELFER

(TP)

(T.S. TELFER)

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT from Oct.1st,1963 to Dec.31st,1964

INCOME

		<u>Previous period</u>
Subscriptions (1964)	£64.19. 8.	£50. 4. 7.
Donations	2. 9. 7	2. 1. 0.
Exchange packet	1. 7.10.	
Sales at meetings	3. 7. 5.	
Postal Auctions: Refund	2. 0. 0.	
Profits	<u>32. 0. 4.</u>	
	£106. 4.10	
Subscriptions (1965/8)	9. 0. 2.	5. 0.
GROSS INCOME	£115. 5. 0.	£62.10. 7.

EXPENDITURE

Postages	£27.11. 2.	£13.10. 7.
Stationery	4. 5. 3.	2. 9.10.
Printing	1.19. 9.	16. 0.
Hire of rooms/Hospitality	10.17. 0.	8. 8. 6.
Journal production	25.12. 0.	9.18. 2.
"R.N's" production	3.11. 1.	
Gestetner Duplicator	5. 0. 0.	
Hon.Sec.(1963) Expenses	3. 3. 0.	
Sundries	3. 8.	
Purchases for sale	2. 3. 4.	
Exchange Packet subsidy	- - -	<u>3. 0. 0.</u>
GROSS EXPENDITURE	£ 84. 6. 3.	£38. 9. 7.
Surplus for period	£ 30.18. 9.	
Balance from last period	24. 1. 0.	
TOTAL BALANCE IN HAND	£ 54.19. 9.	£24. 1. 0.

Held by:

Midland Bank, Ltd., Upminster	£ 30. 0. 0.
Hon.Treasurer (T.S.Telfer)	1. 7.
Area Secretary (N.J.Langton)	2.17.10.
Auction Secretary (W.Kane)	2. 0. 4.
Auction Account (Irish P.O.a/c No.B618947)	20. 0. 0.
	<u>£54.19. 9.</u>

Examined and found correct:

Signed: JOHN MARSDEN

Hon.Auditor... January, 1965.

T.STEWART TELFER

Hon.Treasurer.

Report on It was unfortunate that, during 1964, the
Journal, 1964 issues of the Journal were the subject of much
 difficulty, due to the loss of our source of
printing - the Secretary of the Association of Sussex Philatelic
Societies. We had, therefore, to resort to private and
commercial duplicating and had little control over production.

The main item published was the continuation and completion of Mr. T. S. Telfer's work on the Bibliography. This has been a monumental work, subjected to criticisms, but regardless of those, it is the first time such a list has been compiled of Irish Philatelic Literature, and as such, Mr. Telfer is to be congratulated.

In the past, a difficulty has always arisen over illustrations. It is hoped that we have now overcome this problem for the future, and, if we receive good drawings, photos or sketches then the cost can be justified to produce them as the Author wishes.

Appeals for contributions would appear to fall on deaf ears or even sightless eyes, so it is not proposed to continue in this vein, except to say that our Journal is dependent upon material being supplied by the members. It has always been felt that amongst our wide membership, somebody, somewhere must be studying or writing notes on an aspect of Irish Philately which other members would like to see.

It is pertinent to enquire what has happened to Mr. Dixon's "Dublin Postal Marks" which were to have followed the late Mr. J. S. Preston's "Paid Ads" ? Other articles, we suspect, could be written and so many questions arise which should be aired in the Journal. The "last word" will rarely be written, but surely first thoughts are worth printing, even if they are only ideas. It is hoped that 1965 will see something from members other than the usual contributors whose support in the past has been invaluable.

Remember, we have our own duplicator, under the care of Mr. Sedgley, who has willingly undertaken the onerous duty of printing; and other willing hands are assisting in the work of collating, stapling and posting the issues as they are produced. In addition we have in Mr. F. H. Hopson, an 'Editorial Reader' who renders a service to the Journal which has been found by authors to be excellent.

Is it too much to ask from members for Editorial Copy with which to go to print ?

R. P. Woods
January, 19th, 1965

I.F.O. NOTICES and NEWS

A.G.M. Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Philatelic Circle will be held in The Irish Club, London, S.W.1., on Saturday, March 20th, 1965, at 2.30.p.m.

Separate Forms covering this Notice, the Agenda, a Subscription Renewal, the Postal Ballot, and a Questionnaire, are enclosed with the February, 1965 issue of the IPC Journal to registered Members.

NEW MEMBERS We are pleased to welcome the following new members, joining in 1965 :

Rev.W.E.Davey, The Rectory, Sion Mills, Strabane,
Co.Tyrone (Sion Mills 219)

Mr.Jimmy Harris, Cranford House, 146, Merrion Road,
Dublin. (Dublin 692540)

THE DEFINITIVES We have heard, from time to time, of the official Committee sitting in Dublin to consider the question of a fresh series of Definitive Issues, but no 'definitive' news seems to have been given to the public or collectors in general.

In "Random Notes" Nos 70 (May-June, 1963) and 78 (Feb, 1964) there appeared useful information about the Committee which was set up and "... is meeting and is receiving assistance from at least one IPC member (not the writer of these notes)." If the Committee is not bound to secrecy - which we fear it must be - perhaps the above mentioned member could give us (IPC) some hint of any progress made.

After all, to the Irish Philatelic Circle, it is of more than passing interest to us to know what Printing process is to be used, what the designs are to be, in single or multi-colour, and, even the shape of stamps to come. As a Circle of 'Knowledgeable' people, we might be able to advise the Committee, IF they are in any difficulty !

As a stamp-issuing country, the Republic of Ireland has a high reputation to uphold, for it has not had any major error in printing Definitive stamps for over forty years.... minor philatelic varieties, yes ... but no real major errors of printing.

POSTAL RATES Early in 1965, a momentous meeting took place in Belfast - the first for forty years - between the Prime Ministers of the Republic and of Northern Ireland. They discussed and agreed on further co-operation in the economic fields of Trade, Industry and Tourism.

We wonder if an outcome of this meeting may bring a settlement of the anomaly of the letter post rate of 5d. in the South and 3d. in the North. Some folk in the South, it is said, are getting a little tired crossing the border to a red pillar box to secure a cheaper rate of posting letters to a friend in the next village !

I.P.C. NEWS (Cont'd)

BRITISH PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION in London
January 21 - 23, 1965

This event was attended during the course of the three days by some eight IPC members, some of whom, besides viewing the exhibits, took up a position on the Societies' Stand to answer any questions. Whether or not they were able to give satisfactory replies to the unusual enquiries is another matter, but at least they did bring the name of the Irish Philatelic Circle to the fore. Amongst the other Specialist Societies which were also represented, our publications "Random Notes" and "Irish Philately" gave us some satisfaction, besides ideas for improvement.

Fr. John Brennan, who attended on Thursday, January 21, had an entry of some of his High Value Overprints 1922 in the competition and we are pleased to report that he won a Silver Gilt Award.

G.B. in IRELAND Mention was made of our "Bibliography of Irish Philately" by the Compiler in a recent letter to "Stamp Collecting" from which has resulted a few letters of enquiry and encouragement. In addition, it seems coincidental that a number of Cumulative Indexes have just appeared, giving confirmation and supplementary information to our own Irish Bibliography.

One such, we feel justified, should be brought to the immediate notice of our members who collect G.B. in General and in Ireland, by publication of a new Bibliography page GRE, included in this issue of the I.P.C. Journal.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL The death of this Great Statesman on Sunday, 24th January, 1965, brings a gathering of Royalty, Presidents and Heads of at least eighty different Countries in London to attend the State Funeral on Saturday, January 30.

Among the many suggestions about a National Memorial to Sir Winston, none seem to have mentioned a Postage Stamp, the design of which, we believe, has been on the drawing board. As we draft these notes (January 27) it has just been announced in the Evening Press that the British Post Office will make a 'Churchill Issue' later this year - a most praiseworthy tribute, in our opinion, to the memory of Sir Winston Churchill.

COMING EVENTS, 1965

Feb.	17 - 20	 Stanley Gibbons' Exhibition, Festival Hall, London (IPC members may care to meet at this venue)
Feb.	27	 Closing date for bids to IPC Postal Auction No.5
March	19 - 27	 STAMPEX, Central Hall, London.
March	20	 Irish Philatelic Circle, Annual General Meeting, The Irish Club, London, at 2.30 p.m.
Mid-May		 Next issue of the IPC Journal to be published.
May	18 - 21	 Philatelic Congress of G.B. at Harrogate, Yorkshire.

GREAT BRITAIN

A list of books on the Postal History, Postmarks and Adhesive Postage and Revenue Stamps of Great Britain Compiled by Arnold M.Strange, F.R.P.S.L.
Pub: 1964, The Great Britain Philatelic Society.
32 pp. interleaved, 8.5 x 5.5 ins., price 10s. 6d.
Available - P.J.D'Arcy, 67 Cissbury Ring South, London,N.12.

This is a printed handbook, giving a list of Authors and the titles of their Works on the main subject of G.B., subdivided into groups as follows:

General
Air Mails
Line-Engraved
Embossed
Surface Printed
Edwardian, Georgian and Queen Elizabeth II
Penny Postage
The Posts and Post Office
Handstamps and Postmarks
Officials, Fiscals, Controls,Telegraphs,etc.
Railway Stamps
College Stamps
Channel Islands
Miscellaneous

To collectors of G.B. in general and particularly in Ireland pre-1922 and afterwards in Northern Ireland, the list of Works should prove a useful reference and guide to the major publications. It has not been possible to record every single reference made to the subject of G.B. It is proposed that supplementary lists will be published in the "G.B.Journal" when any new publications become available.

(noted by T.S.T. Jan.26,1965)

Postmarks: Slogans

IRISH SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS of 1964 by F. E. Dixon

The use of machine cancelling, and hence of slogans, continues to extend, the additional towns for 1964 being Athy, Bandon, Bantry, Birr, Charleville and Gorey. Dublin acquired two new machines, with letters U and V, while Limerick got its second, letter A.

The year began with an odd error, Ballinasloe having the slogan POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS on 1st January ! Otherwise, most places started with the new or old road safety appeals, which were later revived in November and December. The campaign for the use of Dublin District Numbers was continued sporadically, the main use of this slogan being in October. The fancy type with FULL ADDRESS SPEEDS DELIVERY also appeared here and there at odd times, and it was general for June, July and after Christmas. PREVENT FOREST FIRES was current in April, with local extensions. Places with the die JUNE FOR YOUR IRISH HOLIDAY applied it in March and May. The only other general issues were the two varieties concerning Voters' Lists in September and October and the inevitable POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS.

There were four new slogans during the year, all localised..

In February, Bray introduced an attractive scenic BRAY, IRELAND, FOR HOLIDAYS and, in April and May, Kilkenny had KILKENNY BEER FESTIVAL MAY 10 - 17 1964. Wexford, from 7th September, used WEXFORD FESTIVAL OCT 24th TO NOV 1st with a general view of the town. The fourth newcomer was SHANNON AIRPORT - IRELAND - SILVER JUBILEE 1939 - 1964. It was applied in Dublin on 8th August but not again until 4th September, when Ennis also had it. Limerick followed next day, but the first appearance at Galway was delayed until 23rd October. The Dublin dies were used occasionally until Christmas, but the manufacture was defective and they wore badly.

Other local publicity slogans were revived at various times, such as those of Killarney, Westport, Limerick Opera Festival, and Tralee Festival of Kerry. Cork announced its Choral Festival and the Bandon Carnival, but not Kinsale Regatta..

I have not seen as much material for 1964 as I used to see in other years and it is possible that some slogans have been missed. If so, I'm sorry, and will be grateful for details of the omissions.

Letter to the Editor, "Irish Philately" .

My dear Editor,

Thomas E. Field has passed suddenly from amongst us. It is difficult to express adequately the loss one feels at his passing. His many friends knew for some time that he was very unwell, and that any set back could prove fatal. Yet when the sad news did come it came as a surprise and a shock. To the very end he had kept up his prompt and cheerful correspondence with his wide circle of friends. It was significant that he passed away sitting at his desk.

It is well known that he always gave to Irish philatelic organizations both in U.S.A. and these parts his unsparing help and encouragement. It may be truly said that were it not for Mr. Field's patience and enthusiasm, these organizations would not have reached their present degrees of success. He was President of the Irish Philatelic Circle, and it is only those who are closely involved in the running of this organization who can fully assess his loss.

Thomas E. Field was a real philatelist. His grasp of intricate problems and his notes and comments merited deserved consideration and respect. He was most generous with his knowledge and his stamps. He placed all his higher value Overprints, and his notes on these, at my disposal for as long as I wished; this gesture was typical of the man. The information provided in his descriptions was always accurate and helpful. His stamps were beautifully mounted and written-up. I wish to acknowledge that the study of his Irish Overprints and of his notes have helped me very considerably in my research on these stamps, and, in any knowledge of them I may have acquired.

I feel a great personal loss in Mr. Field's passing. From the time I first joined an Irish philatelic organization, about ten years ago, I have enjoyed a constant and pleasant correspondence with him. I had the pleasure of visiting him and Mrs. Field at 'Willand Close', Skelmanthorpe, on two occasions. Their kindness and courtesy to me is something I will always preserve as a very happy memory. It is sad that Mrs. Field was herself very unwell at the time of his passing.

" We shall not see his like again " - words such as these are used by those who wish to pay a special tribute to the passing of a great person and great friend; in the case of Thomas E. Field, I can say with complete sincerity that such words are literally true. His many friends have lost a true friend, and, Irish Philately has lost a great benefactor.

Yours sincerely,

sgd/ John Brennan
The Rower, Thomastown,
Co. Kilkenny

February 11, 1965