



VOLUME
2009

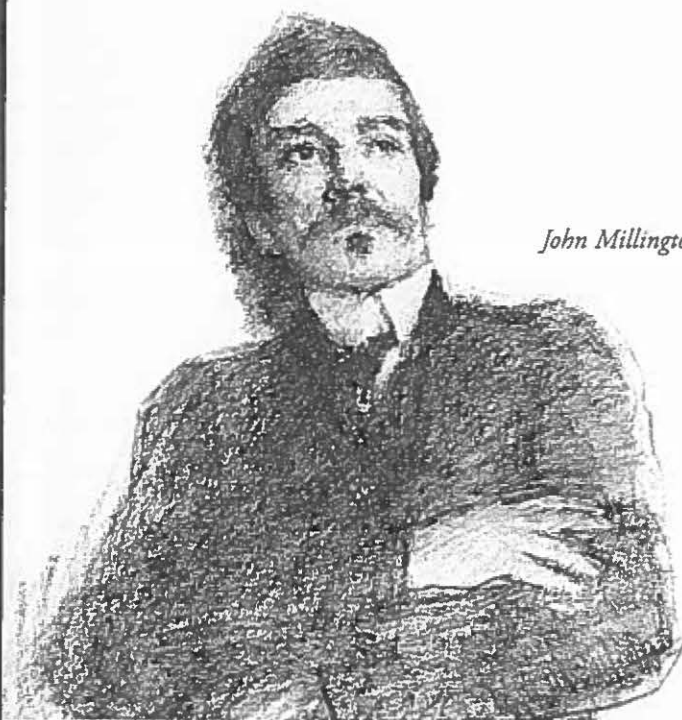
CUMANN SIGHNEACHAIR NA HÉIREANN
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i.p.s. news

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

In this issue News, Displays, Dublin Stamp Society Diamond Jubilee, Roker Park Fantasies, Copper-Mining in West Cork, Annual General Meeting, Joint Issue between the Irish Post Office and the Spanish Post Office - "Popular Dancing", Philately and Christmas.



John Millington Synge

J.M. SYNGE 1871-1909



irishstamps.ie

Clúdach Chéad Lae



Dear Member,

Herewith the first journal of 2009 and again late due to work and other commitments. No new members have so far been elected in 2009 but, hopefully we will gain some new members during the year. We have had a successful first quarter to the year with some interesting displays and good attendances. A successful Annual General Meeting was held on 5 March and Officer Reports are reproduced in the journal for your information. No change in the Officers but, two new Committee members were elected. No increase in subscriptions was recommended so in these recessionary times this is some good news for a change.

NEWS

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

No new members have been elected since the last journal issue. No resignations or bereavements have been notified in the same period.

Automatic Postage Label Machines

A new automatic postage label machine has since the beginning of the year been in operation in Greystones, Co. Wicklow. There is also one in operation in Merrion Shopping Centre.

General Post Office, Dublin

The former telephone room at the Henry Street end of the building is now under the control of the Office of Public Works and some work has in recent times taken place there. It is envisaged that it will be turned into a museum possible a postal one. We will keep you up to date on developments as they emerge. It should be noted that a number of items previously thought to have been lost are still held by An Post including complete sheets of the 3d and 1s 'Se' definitives.

Displays

Europa - A further selection

- 8 January 2009

This display was given by Brian Warren. It covered a number of years and a diversity of material was shown. Countries from which material was shown included Great Britain with the 1980 Famous Authoresses 12p value (Charlotte Bronte) showing the missing 'P' in the value in a block of 4, Germany, Isle of Man, Greece, Vatican and many more. Detailed information about the subjects depicted was given on each sheet.

Personal Choice

- 22 January

This display was given by Brian Pollard and was his first to the Society. It was on the subject of the 'Life of Sir Winston Churchill'. It concentrated on various aspects including Irish connections, his offices, wartime, early years, artistic prowess and of course his death. Included in the display were miniature sheets, stamps both perf and imperf and a die proof.

Personal Choice

- 5 February

This display was given by John Greer and was on the subject of 'Cacti and Succulents'. Due to the bad weather conditions prevailing on the night the display was curtailed to about 30 sheets to comply with an Ely House request for an early completion of the meeting. There was no write up on the sheets but it didn't need one. It included stamps, min sheets, postcards showing the various species. Countries included Monaco, USA, Fujeira, Paraguay. The various George V definitive

issues from Turks & Caicos Islands showing small cacti plants in the bottom corners were also included and in some cases with specimen overprints.

Pan Am Airmails

-

19 February

This display was given by Gerry Byrne. It covered the history of Pan Am from the 1940s to the 1970s. It included first flights outward and inwards with in some cases maps showing the destination locations and routes. Included were Vienna to Limerick, Vienna to Brussels, flights to Wake Island, Basra, Limerick to Prague, internal USA flights and much more. Some postcards including an early one of Shannon Airport were also included.

Joint IPS / DSS Bourse Thursday 19 March

This catalogued sale was held at 6.30pm on Thursday 19 March in Ely House and was attended by some 20 members. It offered a wide range of material in some 280 lots from a variety of countries from Algeria to USA as well as general lots, exhibition protectors and an Irish Album. Material offered included sets, country ranges, postal history official stamps and mail as well as first flight covers. It was a successful sale with 189 lots selling for a total of €1,724. The resulting commission of €172.40 was split equally between the Society and Dublin Stamp.

The catalogue for the next such sale to be held on Thursday 23 July is currently in preparation. It will include First Flight covers from 1920s onwards, Railway cancellations QV to Geo VI mostly Great Britain, European material from Austria (including Colour Trials), Germany, Berlin, Danzig, early Latvia, Saar, Commonwealth from Australia (including FDCs), Africa (including Nigeria, Rhodesia (all areas), South Africa, Cook Is (early), Gibraltar, Cyprus. USA includes a printed album with ranges of stamps and some sheets to 1970s or later. Great Britain includes 1955 type Castles set, 1929 UPU Congress set, QE II 1960s commem values including high vals, Ireland includes Holy Year, 1937 Constitution, 1948 Tone sets all mint and a few used sets of the 1950s.

If you would like a copy of the catalogue when it is ready then please write to Hon.Secretary, Mr. Frank Mc Donald , 63 Rafter's Road, Drimmagh, Dublin 12.

**Dublin Stamp Society
Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

By John Mullen

Dublin Stamp Society recently celebrated its 60th anniversary "Diamond Jubilee" and, as part of the celebrations, a Banquet was held on the 19th November 2008 in the Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square West, the location of their meetings every alternative Wednesday night.

The President Mr. Jim Kelly got proceedings under way by welcoming our special guests Mr. Aidan Murphy, Manager, An Post Philatelic Marketing, and two of our Founding members Mr. Edmund Fagan and Mr. Michael Giffney.

An Post has supported the Society through out the year with a sponsored pre-paid Post card and special post marks commemorating events which the Society attended during the year. Mr Aidan presented the Society with a beautiful Statue of Cuchulain a replica of the memorial by Oliver Sheppard Rha in the G.P.O.



Mr. Aidan Murphy presenting Mr Jim Kelly with the Cuchulain Statue



Founding members Mr. Michael Giffney & Mr Edmund Fagan

Roker Park Fantasies

By John Mullen

Dear collectors I write this article asking for your **HELP**, a number of years ago I purchased the illustrated stamps below, not for very much money I might say. However I have tried to research them and the only information I could get was from David Mc Donald.

David suggests that they were produced by a Mr. Bill Mathews of Roker Park in the seventies, and a quantity were released with the dispersal of his collection.

Unfortunately we know very little about these stamps.

Mr. Bill Murphy of the EPA who was in contact with Bill Mathews and received a lot of the items that were created by him suggests that the ovps were not produced by Bill Mathews.

Maybe one of our members might be able to shine some light on them and what they were used for, if anything.

The four stamps I possess are of the first Irish definitive issue SE wmk, I would be grateful for any information regarding these overprints, personally I like these overprints and I feel a great deal of effort went into overprinting them so please help.



COPPER-MINING IN WEST CORK

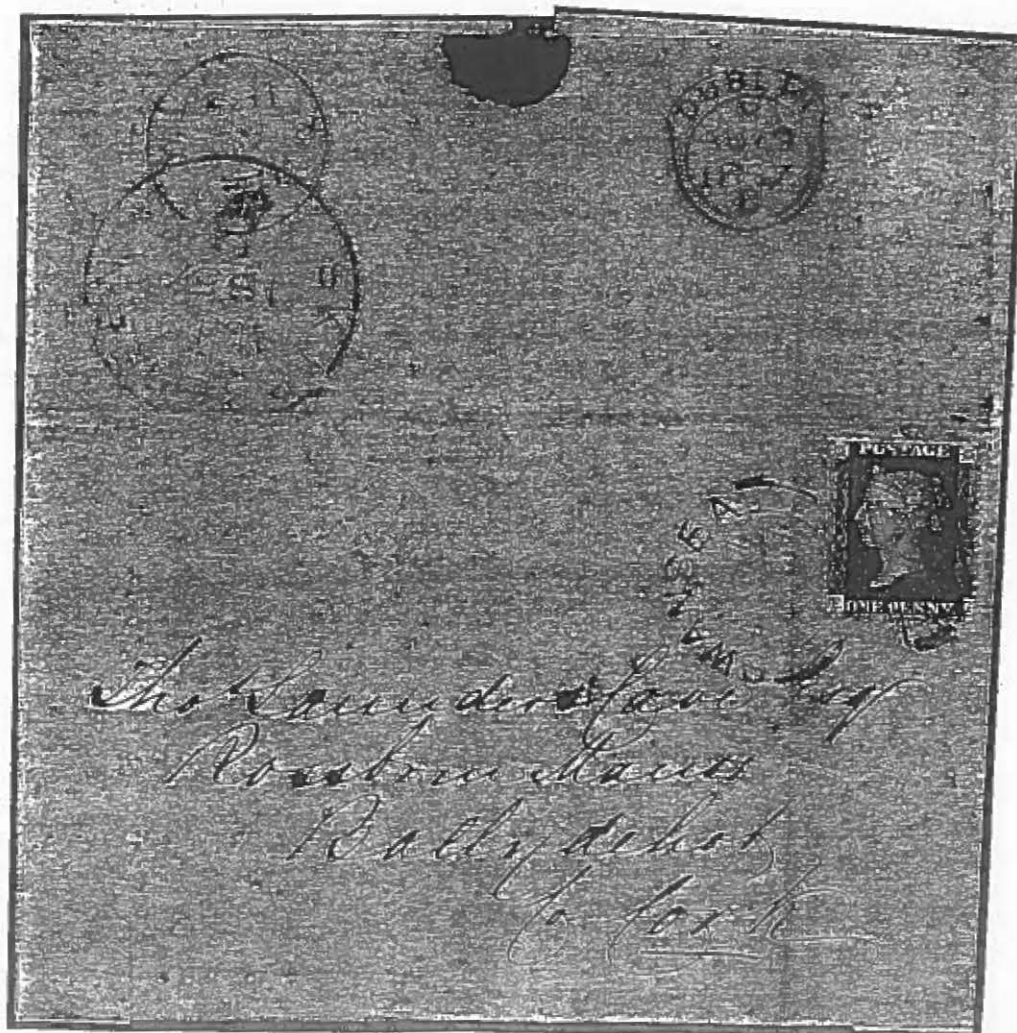
by William A. Moore

The south-west corner of Ireland is a very picturesque area of Co. Cork, with a rugged coastline from Schull and Mount Gabriel to the village of Allihies on the Beara peninsula. It is not an area that one would associate with copper mines. However, an item of postal history in my collection is a reminder of an important industry which was carried on at a particular time in the past. The item to which I refer is a letter of August 1857 from Henry Bath & Son of Swansea, addressed to Thos. Saunders Cave of Rosbrin Manor, Ballydehob, Co. Cork concerning a shipment of copper-ore from the mines in Cork to Swansea for smelting.

The cover shows,

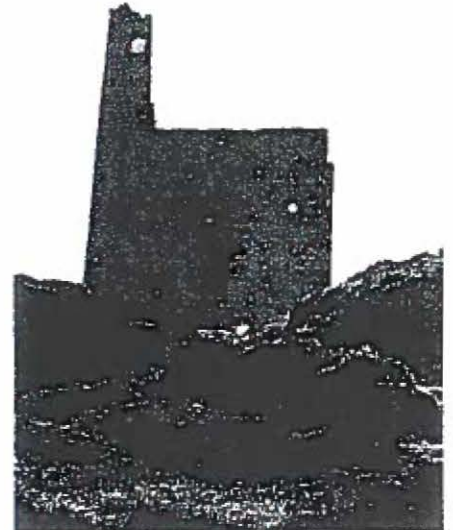
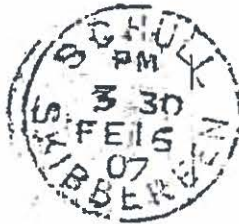
1d QV red cancelled by SWANSEA sideways duplex, in black, single-ring circular LONDON receiver, in red, DUBLIN 'signet ring' type receiver, in dark blue, a large SKIBBEREEN skeleton circular stamp, 35mm diam., struck in green and an oval handstamp Henry Bath & Son.

The letter enclosed an account for a shipment of copper-ore from Ballydehob or Schull, the value of the cargo realised £265. All the shipments were to Swansea.



Mount Gabriel area

The earliest date for mine workings in the Mt. Gabriel, Goleen and Ballydehob area is 1842, but from 1852 to 1862 is probably the period when they were producing large amounts of ore. The ore was exported by ship, directly to Swansea. There were about 30 workings on Mt. Gabriel alone. A remarkable unity existed between these mines in the exploitation technology used. These mines consisted of shallow openings rarely exceeding 10m in length.



Abandoned copper mine engine house above Allihies village

Allihies (Irish: Na hAilichí)

Allihies is located about 1km north of Ballydonegan Bay on the western end of the Béara peninsula. Around 1812 copper was discovered in the area and within a few years about 600 people of all ages and of both sexes were employed there. By 1822 between 150 and 200 tons of ore were being produced.

The ore was being exported directly, by ship, from Ballydonegan Bay, as roads in the area were generally nonexistent. By 1838 some 1000 people were reported working there and a number of families from Cornwall had settled in the area. The workers were not well paid, the miners were paid 1s per day. The young boys, who washed the ore earned 6d and the young girls 3½d. There were four 'captains' at the mines, the Manager, Captain Pascoe's salary being £300 per annum.

Wages were so poor that some miners sought relief in the Castletown workhouse in January 1868. There were miners strikes and disputes in 1835 and in 1861. The local magistrate of the county, was ordered to take a force of police to the village, 'to restrain the miners from illegal acts'- according to the 'Cork Evening Herald'.

Many of the poor families lived in miserable cabins in the village. However, further up the hill were the residences of the Cornish miners - a neat row of cottages, many of them having two stories. As well as having these houses rent-free, the Cornish miners were provided with free fuel and candles. The miners normally purchased their Indian meal and flour from their employer.

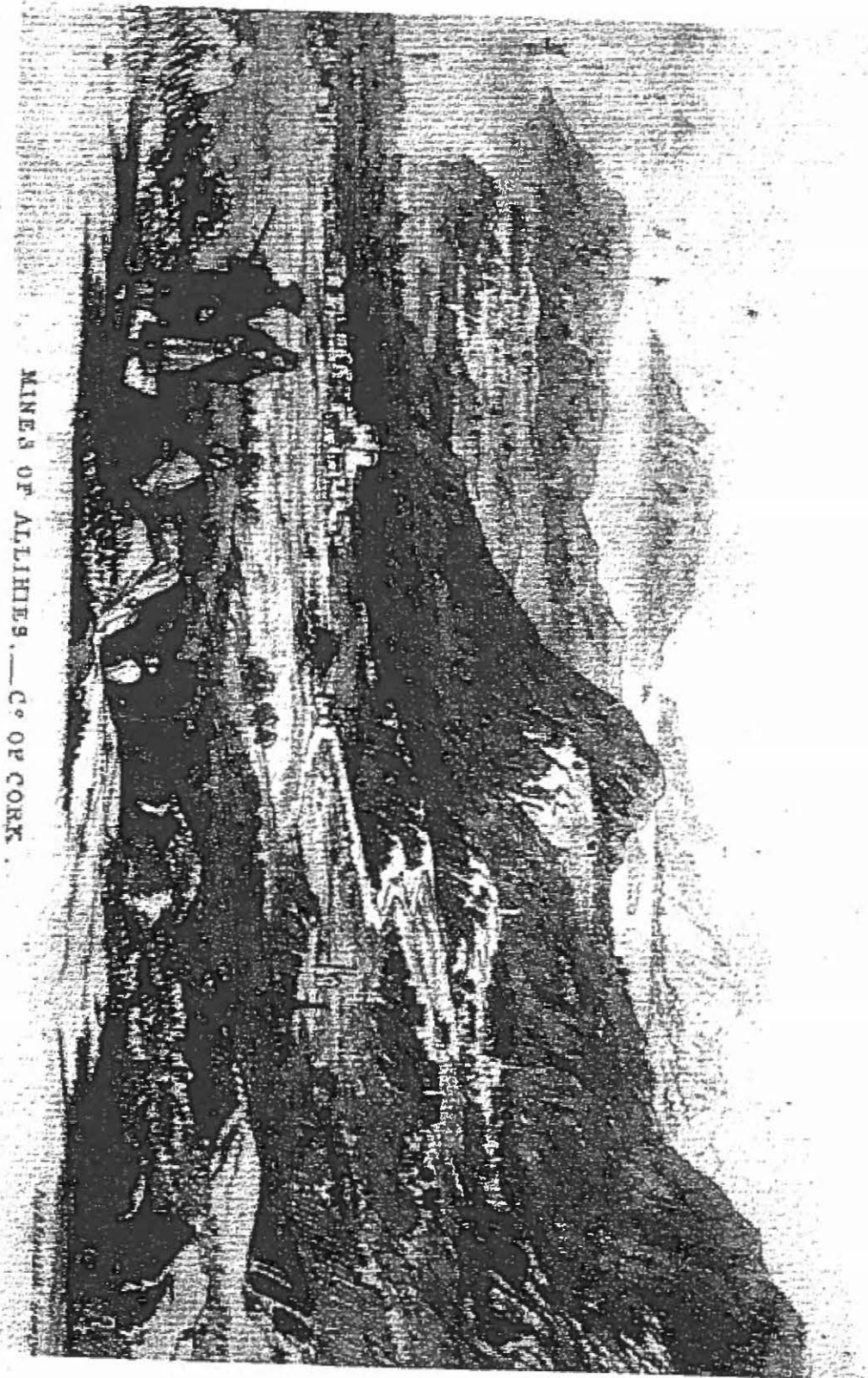
The miner had a very dangerous job. With his candle stuck in his hat, he would descend an iron ladder or ladders, down the shaft to the level in which his business lies. This would be sometimes 170, or up to 220 fathoms (1300 ft.), below the surface. While at work, he is liable to many accidents. Many mines injuries comprised maimed hands, scarred faces and even sightless eyes.

Some mines changed ownership and a number of different mining companies were set up. In 1872 Berehaven Mining Co. reported selling 4,122 tons of ore to Swansea, this had realized £29,790; the Mountain Mine had produced 2,988 tons and a third company 1,299 tons. However, by 1882, men were being laid off and the area saw large-scale emigration, with competition from Chilean ore and a fall in the price of copper. Many miners went to the USA, to Butte in Montana. Butte has many families who trace their ancestry back to Allihies

By the early 1890s, the mines were idle and in the 1950s, an attempt was made by a Canadian company to restart mining there, but this was not progressed.

An abandoned copper mine engine house on a hill above the village is a reminder of Allihies' heritage. The engine house has recently been conserved by the Mining Heritage of Ireland and a museum has been established. This project and some of the underground mine workings were featured in a TV programme 'Townlands' on RTE One.

The village is now a quiet place but the ruins of the old mine workings and the chimney of the engine house is a stark reminder of the days when Allihies was an important and thriving copper mining centre.



MINES OF ALLIHIES.—C^O OF CORK.

ALLIHIES MINES IN THE 1830s
(From Lady Chatterton's 'South of Ireland')

**Joint Issue between the Irish Post Office
and the Spanish Post Office "Popular Dancing".**

By John Mullen

On the 7th November the Irish Post Office "An Post" and the Spanish Post Office "Correos" issued two stamps depicting the theme of "Popular Dancing". The launch took place on Wednesday the 6th in the conference room at the GPO.

Those attending were the Spanish Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Mercedes Rico, Mr Colm Murphy Head of Strategy and Planning, An Post, Mr. José Luis Fernández Reyero Manager of Philatelic Service Correos, Ms Carolina Gomez-Zarzuela Irigoyen Director of Philatelic Correos, Mr. Adian Murphy Irish Philatelic Manager, Mr. Stephen Ferguson Ass. Company Secretary and Mr Conor Walton Artist/Designer of both stamps.

The two stamps show an Irish Dancer 55cts and a Flenenco Dancer 82cts which surprised me as I thought the higher value would be the Irish dancer which is used for Europe and America. After the introductions and speeches the two stamps were unveiled by Mr Aidan Murphy and Mr. Jose Luis Fernandez Reyero after which we were treated to a dancing spectacle by an Irish dancer Moya Hannigan age 11 from the Purcell D'Arcy Academy and then by a Flenenco dancer Maria O'Hanrahan age 10 from the Aires Flenenco Dancers.

The Spanish Ambassador was given the task of cancelling a FDC which concluded the launch. Lunch followed with all attending been presented with a FDC and a miniature sheet, at this time we were able to have the covers signed by the Artist/Designer Mr. Conor Walton.

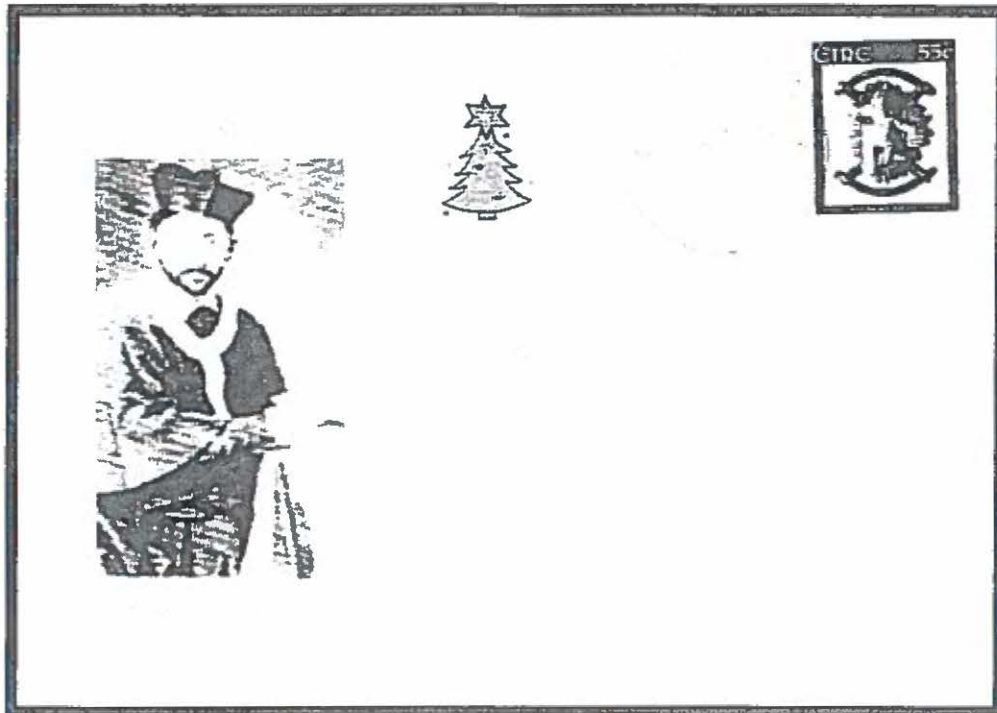


FDC signed by Mr. Jose Luis Fernandez Reyero and Conor Walton Artist

Philately & Christmas

John Mullen

Coming up to the festive season there was a number of Christmas philatelic items that came to my attention. Firstly the 400 Anniversary of Irelands first Christmas Carol by Aodh Mac Cathmhaoil (Hugh Campbell) "Dia do Bheatha, a Naoidhe Naoimh" (God's welcome to you infant saint) 1608.



Postcard date stamped Christmas day which has the Christmas carol printed in the back

On the 17th December Hamburg commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Gorch Fock which incorporated in the post mark a Christmas tree.

The Wolfsburg Philatelic Club issued a special post mark on the 30th November to celebrate Christmas which incorporated a beautiful crib in the postmark.



Postmarks Hamburg "Christmas tree"



Wolfsburg "Crib"