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Irish Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

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A well-travelled Cover from Ireland to Tristan da Cunha to England via Australia and Ireland

A collaborative study inspired by the IPC weekly Skype Chats -- see page 38

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From the Editor Robert Benninghoff email: robertmb.editor@gmail.com

This year has proven most challenging for the **Body Philatelic**. We are a hobby of social gatherers who enjoy a good pint with each other as much as the unique item found at our favorite dealers table.

The hobby is adapting, with many associations having online **webinars** featuring most interesting guest speakers. Several societies are having their AGMs via the internet using *Zoom* or *Team*. The Irish Philatelic Circle has successfully risen to the challenge via the weekly **Skype Chats** hosted by Karl Winkelmann and discussed in the following article.

This will be my first effort as your editor and hopefully the August issue meets with your approval. Please let me have your thoughts and comments and criticisms and suggestions at robertmb.editor@gmail.com. Moving forward there will only be three **IPs** a year due to cost cutting measures (August, December and April). However, we will be exploring an **email only newsletter** to fill the void. Therefore, make sure Philip Kane and Brian Warren have your current email address.

I must offer many thanks to my wife Jean who has tolerated my multi-weeks of work while we both have full time jobs. Jean has also proof read the articles and corrected my grammar.

Many thanks to the authors featured in the journal and as you can see, many articles are collaborative efforts. We are most interested in receiving material from all members. Why not put together a few sentences or paragraphs on **Your Favorite Items** – see Joachim Schaaf's article.

This issue has a new section on **Philatelic Exhibiting**. Several members have put together one to ten frame exhibits which have been shown at STAMPA and STAMPEX and several shows around the USA.

Several stamp shows have gone on line (virtual) including this summer's SAVPEX in South Africa. 80 diverse, one frame exhibits can be viewed on line at www.sapa.africa > publications > SAVPEX 2020, including three from Brian Callan and six of my exhibits.

For those interested in exhibiting there is a great organization written by and for exhibitors. The *American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors* (AAPE) has many members from around the world including many from the IPC. The association offers a free critique of your exhibit title page and synopsis page. For a modest fee they will review your complete exhibit. For information about membership go to www.aape.org I will sponsor a year's new membership for the first 10 members who email me. I am also willing to sponsor members with their exhibits at USA shows and take them to the shows and back to my home.

Several members have availed of my offer in the past.

Congratulations to Brian Callan who received the AAPE Diamond award for winning **10 Gold medals** for one of his exhibits at 10 **different** North American shows. Brian also received the AAPE Sapphire award for exhibiting in **twenty different** North American Shows. Brian is our first IPC member to win either of these awards.

I will close my ramblings by hoping everyone stays *Safe and Happy and Young and Well*.

From the Associate Editor Philip Kane email: mr.philipkane@outlook.com

In 2008, I imagined what would happen if I could make available every issue of the IPC for readers to look up historic articles by key word or author. I had worked with the FAI in scanning their magazine, Die Harfe, and that was a success so the idea of doing the same with every issue of The Irish Philatelic Circle as conceived. I was lucky at that time to get old and weathered pages that had yellowed with age and had these scanned and then indexed for distribution on a DVD to members. The same principle was then applied to the Eire Philatelic Association for all of their issues as well as the Revealer Supplement's 1-47. Both organisations won a Vermeil medal at Stampa in 2010 in the literature category.

A decade later and with technology and software getting smarter and better, I revisited these projects and over the last 18 months have rescanned, corrected all of the pages for both organizations. No longer will you see pen strokes, yellow, green, crooked pages as these have all been looked at edited, pen marks erased, typos corrected and images enhanced.

After that was completed, I set my sights on the what next, so I approached David Feldman and Ian Whyte and got permission to scan The Dave Feldmann Newsletter Vol. 2 and The Irish Stamp news Vol.1 and Vol.2 which were published in the 70's and 80's.

The biggest project which I am working with now with Brian Warren in getting all of the TWTYTW from 1973 to 2006 which were predominantly printed in black and white and to get all of the stamps, cachets, Postmarks, Postcards, envelopes, FDC's replaced with colour illustrations. In addition, we will with your help illustrate all pictorial postmarks – see Brian's article in this issue. This has been and is a painstaking job and in the coming months it will be available. Keep an eye on the Irish philatelic Website www.irishphil.com and the IPC Journal for further updates on ordering details and availability.

Next on the horizon will be Fred Dixon's Random Notes as they were originally published from 1957 to the mid 70's, the Gerl Definitives by Brian Warren and Eddie Fitzgerald. These again were published in black and white and with colour images replacing the original you can only envision the clarity and detail that the authors were trying at the time to get to the readers. The Irish times First Day Cover service which will illustrate every Irish Times covers, The Paul Singer Shanahan publications, Dave Feldman Shamrock publications, Details from the stamp auctions in the 80's and 90's. We have a huge history spanning nearly a century of Irish Philatelic History just waiting to get scanned and ready for all. It's like the old black and white films or even the technicolour films been upgraded to UHD and Blu ray clarity.

The only problem we have now is time. Material is getting more difficult to obtain as the collectors are getting rid of old material to make way for retirement or space and they want to clear out "old" stuff. I have heard of people getting skips to get rid of material. If anyone is thinking of doing that. DON'T. Contact me and I will arrange to get it collected or I will drive out and collect it myself.

This brings me to my next point. There are three major organisations that deal specifically with Ireland. The Irish Philatelic Circle. (www.irishphil.com) , The Eire Philatelic Association. (<https://eirephilatelicassoc.org/>) and the FAI (<http://www.fai-germany.de/engl/index.html>) .All three organisations have volumes of literature and history but what if all of the material that all three organisations produced were to be combined and make available on one website. The majority of the publications that ALL of these organisations have been sold out and are no longer available. In another 10 years or less there will be an acute shortage of material for Philatelists to research but not if we act now.

Let me have your thoughts and suggestions. Remember don't throw it out. Let us know what you have so we can advise and collect those old dusty publications from you.

Philip

Philately in a Pandemic – Weekly Irish Philately SKYPE Chat

Last March it was becoming evident that stamp show's and philatelic meetings were going to be cancelled or postponed into the summertime. Unfortunately, it now appears to be the case for the rest of 2020. In late March, Karl Winkelmann touted the idea of a weekly Online chat using Skype Chat. By late August we will have had more than 20 weekly meetings. Between 6 and 10 people from all around the world join in each week. My knowledge of Irish Philately has increased greatly

The meeting time is Friday at 20.00 (8:00 pm) BST /21:00 hours CET 15:00 hour (3:00 pm) Eastern Time in the USA. To join in, download the free Skype software to your computer, tablet or phone and register an account, (unless you already have an account). You can search for Irish Philately on Skype or email Karl for an invitation at ww2censor@postalcensorship.com

The Skype program has gallery allowing participants to upload philatelic materials that we all can view and Chat About during our meeting. The program also allows us to see each other (you will need a camera in your devise). However, there is no requirement to show any materials or comment on the items being displayed.

The participants generosity in sharing some of their material has been fantastic and even though we have been a small group the range of material shown has been superb.

We have seen quite a bit of postal history, postal rates, post office services few of us knew anything about and details of seldom mentioned topics. Old material, new stamps, both old and new postmarks, and explanations for various postmarks and sorting machine marks, just to name a few of the topics that we have discussed.



A red manuscript AV2 marking on a triple censored cover from Lebanon to Ireland cover dated October 1942. AV2 was used in the same way as the OAT mark for Onward Air Transmission for airmail letters. To date only two there AV2 marks are recorded on Irish mail.

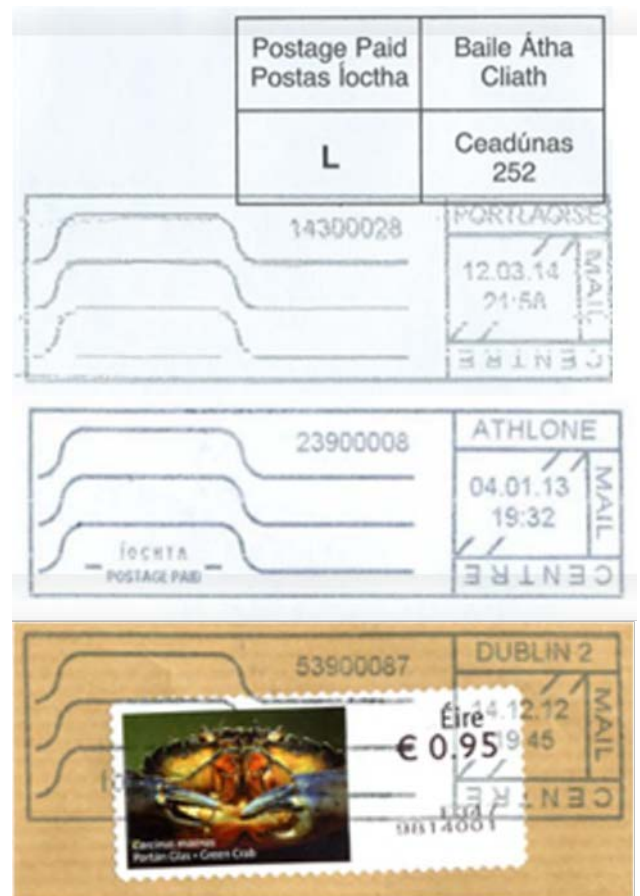


This 1930 airmail cover from Dublin to Buenos Aires franked 5/5 being made up of 3d postage and 5/2 airmail fee (both per half-ounce) via London. Carried by mail boat and train to London for flight to Paris, then via Toulouse to Dakar and by boat from there to Natal and then by air to Buenos Aires.

The Battle of Baltinglass, United Nations peacekeeping, postage dues of many periods and uses, censored mail, parcel post, postal orders, insured parcels, mail to seldom seen destinations, are some of the topics we have talked about. Many such topics then stimulate a follow up from another collector with associated material. It has been quite fun to see what people collect and how wide ranging people's collecting interests are.



Brian Warren's photo proves Harrison's printed at least one of the 1981 Horses issue even though they are attributed to Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd.



Michael McNamara explained all the different numerals used by the "flats" sorting machines.



Pre-independence 6d Postal Order with counterfoil overprinted "POST ÓRDÚ ÉIREANN" issued 22 May 1922 uprated with additional overprints to 9d was for sale on eBay and sold for GB£1,200 earlier this year.

Just to whet your appetite more and maybe encourage you to join in, the rest of this article illustrates a small selection of items from the many we have seen. Most weeks participants post between three to ten items, so the following pages show just a small number of the about 1,000+ items that have been displayed. Considering how the movement restrictions are progressing rather slowly it seems unlikely we will have any in-person meetings for some time, probably not before sometime in 2021.



Gerl definitives on 1976 Express mail from Dublin to USA correctly paid with 9d for the letter rate and 15d for the express fee. This rate was in effect for 15 months.



We don't often see insured mail especially with all three good condition the high value St. Patrick stamps. The white label is used for insured mail as opposed to the plus registration table on this 1960s parcel front to Norway. ^{SEP}18 shillings for up to 22 lbs. parcel. The blue handstamp indicates no customs fee: "Tollfritt".



1946 Travel Permit document for use in Ireland with GB revenue stamp.



1937 cover with GB adhesive was effectively unpaid in Ireland and compulsory registered at Athlone probably due to blue cross. 6d postage dues affixed in London but no allowance given for the British penny halfpenny stamp.



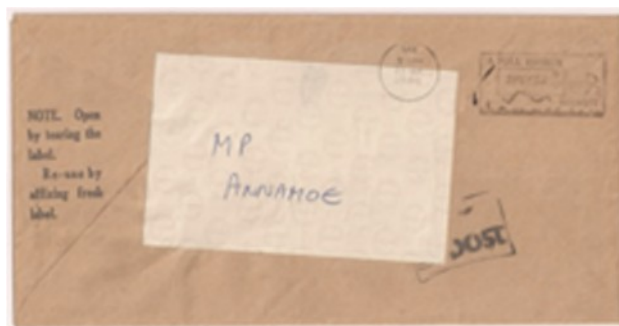
The new An Post corporate logo is now being used in both hand stamp and registration label on this February 2020 €8 registered cover.



Internal form used to record the Phonograms and the name of the person to whom it was delivered. The owner bought it based on just seeing the top section showing the seldom seen DUBLIN PHONOGRAMS handstamp in 1966. One of very few handstamps in English.



1920 parcel front showing the Parcel Post label of Brownstown whose head office was Navan. Payment was 1 shilling 2d and the stamps are pen cancelled with the town name and date. Addressed to Irish philatelist Stafford Johnson.



Internal An Post mail in 1986 from Bray to the postmaster at Annamoe (now closed) using an economy label made from e watermarked paper; the same as was used for many stamps.



This cover was address to "Dublin N.E.7" using the Dublin Postal District system that was based on individual postmen's walks. It was introduced in 1927 but allowed to fade out due to lack of uptake until a new simpler 1960s numerical system was introduced. 2d postage due for underpayment of airmail in 1937.

Tin Can Mail and the Irish Cachet.

by Brian Callan

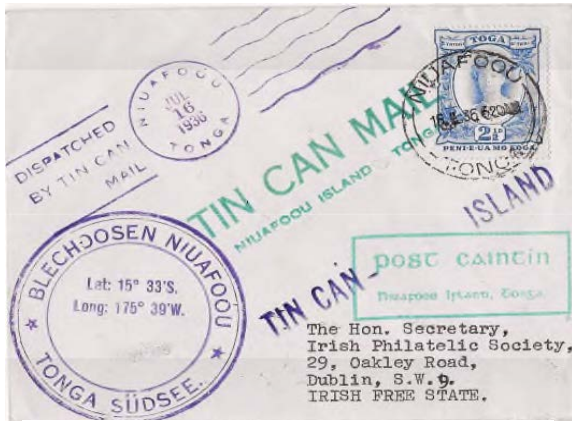


Figure 1 - Green Tin Can Mail Cachet in Irish

Tin Can Mail is associated with the delivery of mail to Niuafoou Island in the South Pacific, part of the Kingdom of Tonga. The island is about 250 miles from Fiji and 300 miles from Nukualofa, capital of the Tonga Kingdom. The island is a crater of a submarine volcano and is surrounded by deep water, with no good anchorage. The rough seas make landing of boats exceedingly difficult and there are no facilities at all for the docking of large steamers.

Mail delivery was received from passing steamers in the mid-1920s to 1946, in sealed 40-lb biscuit tins, which were then thrown overboard to be towed ashore by waiting native "postmen". This type of mail delivery gave rise to the Island becoming known as "Tin Can Island". An Irish cachet was designed by Walter Quensell and it became one of the most popular cachets on all Tin Can Mail from July 1936 (Figure 1).

History of Tin Can Mail

The delivery of mail in tin cans was the brainchild of William Travers, who was a plantation manager on the island of Niuafoou from 1882. He was frustrated by the isolation of the island when he could see passing steamers close by on a weekly basis. He wrote to the Tongan postal authorities and asked

them if they could seal the mail for the island in tins and arrange for the captain of the Union Steamship Company to throw this overboard as they sailed past on the journey between Suva and Fiji. The captain was asked to hoot the ship's horn and a swimmer would be sent to collect the mail tin.

Charles Ramsay, a 40-year-old Australian, then became the "official" mailman on Niuafoou until he retired in 1933. He arrived on the island in 1921 as a plantation manager and for eleven years he swam out to passing ships (112 times in all weathers) with their mail contained in sealed biscuit tins, tied to a buoyant stick. However, one of his assistants was attacked by a shark in 1931 and died shortly afterwards. This tragedy initiated the transfer of mail between passing ships and shore by means of canoe (by order of Queen Salote), prior to Mr. Ramsay's retirement. Walter G Quensell set himself up as a competitor to Ramsay in 1927 and he developed a more regular service rather than just waiting for passing ships. Quensell worked for the Burns Philip (South Seas) Trading Company but he has become synonymous with "Tin Can Mail". Quensell persuaded the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand to provide a regular drop off and pick up service, chiefly to accommodate the trading company he worked for. This service was later taken over by the Cruise Liners "Mariposa" and "Montorey", of the Matson Navigation Company of San Francisco. The latter cruise ships incorporated the "Tin Can novelty" into their cruise documentation and tourist attractions.

Walter Quensell is best known because he designed a selection of cachets for the "Tin Can Mail", applied to all mail dropped to or collected from Niuafoou Island. These were applied using a rubber stamp. Reverse side cachets typically identified Quensell as the Tin Can Canoe Mailman (T.C.C.M.) (Figure 2)



Figure 2 1935 Tin Can mail to Ireland, face and reverse with 9 TCM cachets.

Mail frequently contained multiple cachets (up to ten). Cachets were designed in a series of languages, most frequently used being English, German, French, Spanish and Greek. The Honorary Secretary of the Irish Philatelic Society wrote to Quensell in 1936 and requested that a cachet be made in Irish, for which he provided the translation “Post Caintin” (Tin Can Mail/Canteen Mail). Walter Quensell agreed to the request and wrote back in July 1936 with the first use of this new cachet (Figure 1). This cachet then became one of the most used cachets, appearing in a selection of colours, primarily because it was relatively unusual and was relatively small (2X5 cm). This Irish cachet can also be found on some earlier incoming mail, addressed to Walter Quensell, but it was applied with a selection of other cachets post 1936 (likely to facilitate subsequent sale of Quensell’s incoming mail.)

The Pacific Steamers discontinued their mail service to Niuafoou in 1935, and the service then became much less predictable. Mail was then routed directly through Nukualofa where it received no additional marking and had to wait for specific delivery to be organized.

Walter Quensell’s cachet Service.

Walter Quensell always insisted that he was not a cover dealer. While he processed covers

for many philatelists, he drew the line at preparing covers. The only service he performed was the franking of mail and the addition of cachets, that were applied to all Niuafoou mail at this time. He arranged with the ships captain’s that passengers could include their mail in the tin, together with 6d to cover stamps and costs and he would apply his cachets before posting them on. Most inward bound mail to the Tin Can Island is addressed to Walter G. Quensell, much of it in his role as “Tin Can Mailman”, a title happily established with his own cachets. (see cachet and signature in Figure 2). These cachets have helped to establish the postal history of Niuafoou, in this most novel of delivery systems. While Quensell remained mailman up to the evacuation of the island in 1946, no further new cachets were issued after this time. The 1946 volcanic eruption covered half the island in lava, including Quensell’s home and his entire tin can mail collection. It was 12 years before the islanders could return to Niuafoou, by which time Quensell had died.

Biography

Lawrence S. Clarke Tin Can mail, 1983
Tonga/Tin Can Mail Study Circle (T/TCMSC).
Janet Klug, Catalog of Tin Can Mail Cachets, 1985.

THE MYSTERY OF CANADIAN CURRENCY – Joachim Schaaf and Stan Challis

The authors recently enjoyed a discussion on a cover (actually an entire letter) regarding the postage rates. Our first inclination was to shy away because it involved Canadian 'Currency'. Now by Canadian currency, we do not mean the Dollar and Cents but 'Currency' which was used as currency before the Canadian Dollar was introduced in 1858 (later in some Provinces). You will see what we mean in a moment.....



March 1825, Clifden, Co Galway to Montreal, via Dublin and Halifax at?how much/ - see below

The simple part is the Irish internal postage cost. Clifden to Dublin was 144 miles and rated at 11d, as is shown by the erased marking at top left, which at first Joachim took to be 1/- but which was, at this



time, sometimes written like an elongated 'n'. There is a Dublin marking for 17 March 1825 on the reverse. So far, all is just as expected. So surely the next stop as shown, on the cover was at

Liverpool; but there is no Liverpool marking on the reverse and the name of the Liverpool agent is erased in what appears to be the same ink as used for writing the '11' and also the 3/6 (three shillings and sixpence) at the right.

How do we explain the 3/6d and what did it pay for? We now turned to a very useful book 'For the Port & Carriage of Letters, a Practical Guide to the Inland and Foreign Postal rates of the British Isles 1570- 1840' by David Robertson and published in 1990. This confirms the Dublin to London rate at 1/3d (to include the Packet and Menai Bridge charge) plus 11d from London to Falmouth, which would have been rebated by 1d as applied to the inland charge for foreign letters. This gives 2/1d, or 3/- in all. But, there is no London marking on the reverse, which is what would be expected. So, to our next port of call - 'The Postage Rates of North American mails 1635-1950)' by Malcolm

Montgomery and published in 1991. This tells us of a 2/7d Dublin to Canada rate which included the direct route from Holyhead to Falmouth (not passing through London!), which must have involved cross posts going through Gloucester in Britain and most importantly confirmed the charge for the packet from Falmouth to Halifax as 1/3d.

So, who was it that wrote these marks. The postmaster at Clifden would have known his rate to Dublin (11d), perhaps he had information as to onward rates. He would not be asked to send many letters to Canada. Did he advise the sender that it would be better if the letter was sent another way than via Liverpool, so it was he that crossed out the 'care of C. Hughes, Liverpool' written by the sender. He would have perhaps known of the 'Canada rate' of 3/6d from his office, 11d to Dublin plus 2/7d to include all charges to Halifax.

We must then turn to what happened in Canada. In the end it is all very simple. Note the inscription at the left - 3/6d British currency converted at that time to 3/11d 'Currency' in Canada, written confusingly as 3n/ 11. The Halifax to Montreal rate, per Montgomery, was 2/1d or, as written, '2n/ 1' and those two amounts added together total 6n/- or six shillings. It all works once you understand what you are looking at but sadly covers such as this are scarce to provide the necessary practice!

Philatelic Exhibiting – The Title Page and Synopsis

This is a new section which will review various aspects of how to present and exhibit our philatelic material at both national and international stamp shows. The article will use exhibits created by IPC members and shown at STAMPA and other shows to illustrate the key points to consider when planning your exhibit. *Future IP issues will discuss various other aspects of exhibiting.*

Stamp shows typically provide frames to secure your material and each frame holds 16 pages of A4 size paper inserted into plastic sheet protectors. Stamp shows offer two principle exhibiting categories > *One Frame* and *Multi-Frame*. At STAMPA the Multi-Frame options are 3, 4 and 5 frames.

The most important consideration is that an exhibit must **tell a story** and like a good book or essay the story must have a beginning, middle and end. The exhibit story must also fit logically in the space the that you have selected (1 frame or multi frame). A one frame exhibit should be very short and *concise*, and requires less material and is a great way to start your exhibiting career.

The story can be the development and use of a particular stamp or series of stamps as demonstrated by Brian Harmons's award-winning *single frame* exhibit on the **Vox Hiberniae Airmail Stamps** shown on the following two pages. Your exhibit can show the development of airmail routes and rates; the development of postal routes for a city or county or between countries (known as postal history). Another popular area of exhibiting is *Thematic*, where you choose a theme such as *Balloons* or *Christmas Traditions* or Brian Callan's single frame exhibit **Walter Quensells Tin Can Mail Cachets**. Brian discusses this theme latter in this journal. You can exhibit the envelopes and printed post cards used to convey the mail (known as Postal Stationary). One of my favorites is a new area known as *Social and Political Philately* shown below by my Title Page on the first year of Irish Independence.

Rialtas Sealadae na hEireann THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND DECEMBER 1921 TO DECEMBER 1922

The Exhibit shows the Social and Political History of Southern Ireland during the first year of Irish Independence from Great Britain on December 6 1921 to the beginning of the Soarstat Eireann (Irish Free State) on December 6 1922. The exhibit illustrates several key events including the evolution of the Irish Government, the transfer of the Post Office from British to Irish control; the start of the Irish Civil war and the impact on mail services; and the change from English to the Gaelic Language in the Post Office as well as in the names of several Cities and Towns.

The resurgence of Irish nationalism in the early 1900s lead to the introduction in August 1922 of a Home Rule Bill in The British House of Commons for all 32 Counties of Ireland. The Unionist party in 6 of the Counties of Ulster (Northern Ireland) strongly opposed a Union with the 26 counties of Southern Ireland for Religious and Political reasons. This delayed the final reading of the bill until May 1914 and its implementation was overshadowed by the World War. The Irish Easter Rebellion of April 1916 further complicated relations between Southern Ireland and Great Britain (and Northern Ireland). A bitter armed conflict started in January 1919 between the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the British police and Military which lasted until July 1921. Negotiations for Irish Independence began in the in the Summer and culminated with the signing of the **Anglo Irish Treaty on December 6 1921**. The Treaty Created the **Southern Parliament** for the 26 counties to be administered by the **Provisional Government** for one year when the **Irish Free State** would come into existence on December 6 1922. The Southern Parliament merged with **Dail Eireann** (Irish Parliament) in September 1922.

A Northern Parliament was to govern the 6 Counties of Ulster which had the option to remain part of Great Britain at the end of 1922.

The Exhibit is Organized as Follows

- o The March to Independence, Ulster Says No to Home Rule and "A Terrible Beauty is Born"
- o A Change from Great Britain and Ireland to the Provisional Government of Southern Ireland
- o The Change from British to Irish Post Office Administration in the 26 Counties of Southern Ireland
- o The Provisional Government of Ireland and the Inland (Domestic) Postage Rates during 1922
- o The Provisional Government of Ireland and the Irish Civil War
- o IRA Raids on Post Offices and Mail Carriers and the Censorship of Mail by Both the IRA and Provisional Government
- o The Provisional Government of Ireland and the Change from English to Gaelic
- o Epilogue: The Provisional Government of Ireland Becomes the Irish Free State December 1922

This is exhibit has a narrow focus on the social, political and historical events of **Southern Ireland** and is not a study of the history of Ulster during 1922 or of the stamps issued during 1922 except as related historically. **Each page shows its own time line**

Several Rare and Interesting Items are shown in the Exhibit with a Green Background

The cover pays the 2d letter rate and shows a 1/2d stamp overprinted by Dollard Printing House (Dublin) and a 1 1/2d overprinted by Alexander Thom and Co. Ltd (Dublin). In the absence of Irish designed stamps, the Provisional Government decided to have stamps of Great Britain overprinted **Rialtas Sealadae na hEireann** using the two Dublin printing firms. Dollard lost the contract in June and Thom reprinted several values during 1922

First Day Cover (Philatelic) of the first Irish Stamps. Postmarked BALLSBRIDGE 17 Feb 22.

The March to Independence

Ulster says No to Home Rule

"A Terrible Beauty is Born" From the Poem "Easter 1916" by WB Yeats

Cover from Limerick to **Thomas J. Clarke** in Dublin Postmarked M8 17 07 (St Patrick's Day). Thomas Clarke was one of the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rebellion and the first name on **The Proclamation of Irish Independence**. He was executed with the other Leaders in May 1916. The cover shows the Political Label "Hibernia with Harp".

Cover with a Northern Ireland **Unionist Label** postmarked 20 IV 1914

The Label says **"Patriots Maintain the Union"**

The British Government attempted an Irish Home Rule Act in May 1914. Opposition from Ulster and the World War derailed the effort

The Postcard shows the Destruction of the General Post Office after the Rebellion

Postcard from Dublin to Co. Cork postmarked 12 May 1916 by one of the emergency cancels used after the destruction of the GPO during the Easter Rebellion. The Execution of the Rebellion leaders by the British Military inspired a Great Passion for Independence in Ireland in the years following.

This single frame exhibit is presented on double A5 paper which only requires 8 double pages

One Frame Exhibit Title Page and Synopsis

by Brian Harmon

Vox Hiberniae Air Mail Stamps

Photo Essays, Markings and Varieties

1. Introduction - Aim

This exhibit shows the stamps of the Vox Hiberniae series including, unique signed photo essays, markings, specimens and varieties. This is the first exhibit to show all known errors, varieties and photo essays together for Ireland's airmails stamps valid from 1948 until 1971.

Denominations and Designs

In 1946 the Irish Government decided to issue 'air post stamps', heralding Ireland's first and only set of stamps specifically designed as airmails. 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1/- denominations were initially specified. Further values; 8d., 1/-, 1/3d., and 1/5d. followed.

The designs for the airmail stamps feature the angel Victor in flight carrying a 'Vox Hiberniae', (Voice of Ireland) banner over four famous early Christian sites in Ireland, one from each of the four provinces.

Content

1. Introduction
2. The Designer
3. de Valera Photo Essays
4. Printers - Waterlow & Sons Ltd
5. Printers - De La Rue
6. Specimen Overprints & Printers Blocks
7. 1d.
8. 3d.
9. 6d.
10. 8d.
11. 1/-
12. 1/3d.
13. 1/5d.

Significant items boxed in **maroon**.



'Vox Hiberniae' meaning 'Voice of Ireland' Airmail Stamps
from the four provinces of Ireland to the four corners of the globe.

Title Page and Synopsis

The Title Page of your exhibit is the *business plan*, explaining the purpose and laying out the structure of the exhibit. Use a concise title with dates that bracket the time line of the material when possible. *Thou shall not confuse the show exhibit jury and public with Cute or Obscure titles.* The Title page should be ***the first and last page*** that you work on because your plan may change as you work on the material. Just as important is the ***Exhibit Synopsis***, typically one page, that goes to the jury in advance of the show and allows you ***to brag about your better items*** and explain any gaps.

Vox Hiberniae Air Mail Stamps - Photo Essays, Markings and Varieties

Introduction (Page 1)

This exhibit displays the stamps of the Vox Hiberniae series for Ireland's airmails stamps valid from 1948 until 1971. In 1946 the Irish Government decided to issue 'air post stamps', heralding Ireland's first and only set of stamps specifically designed as airmails. 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1/- denominations were initially specified. Further values; 8d., 1/-, 1/3d., and 1/5d. followed.

The exhibit includes unique signed photo essays, markings, specimens, varieties and usages. Previously unrecorded varieties are also included. This is the first exhibit to show all known errors, varieties and photo essays together.

Design (pages 2 to 6)

The designs for the airmail stamps feature the angel Victor in flight carrying a 'Vox Hiberniae', (Voice of Ireland) banner over four famous early Christian sites in Ireland, one from each of Ireland's four provinces.

The stamps were designed by Richard Joseph King (1907–1974) who was an Irish stained-glass artist, illustrator and designer of 28 stamps. His signature is included in stamp block margins.

Photo essays signed by Éamon de Valéra, Taoiseach (Prime Minister of Ireland) and Patrick J Little who was the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs during the time of inception of the 'Vox Hiberniae' airmail stamps. These are the only examples in private ownership. A letter from Patrick J Little referencing these essays is also included.

The airmail stamps were printed by two printers; Waterlow & Sons Ltd from inception until 1961 and De La Rue & Co Ltd. thereafter. The differing printer's sheet markings are displayed.

Specimen Overprints (pages 7 to 8)

The exhibit contains a complete set of specimen overprints, of which only ten full sets are known to exist.

Blocks of specimen overprints of three various denominations with printer's notes in margins are included. These are the only examples in private ownership.

Varieties and Usages (pages 9 to 16)

All known varieties are included, all are scarce and some of which are great rarities of Irish philately, such as the 1/3d. inverted watermark; 1/3d. 'extra feather', mint on one of the only two known examples on cover.

Unrecorded and un-catalogued varieties are also exhibited. These include the '1 on 1d.' and the 1/3d. 'burning bush'.

References

Harmon B, Die Harfe Spring 2016 Nr. 134 ISSN 0948-2172, Published FAI
Harmon B, Die Harfe Summer 2016 Nr. 135 ISSN 0948-2172, Published by FAI
Harmon B, Die Harfe Summer 2017 Nr. 139 ISSN 0948-2172, Published by FAI
Harmon B, Die Harfe Winter 2017 Nr. 140 /41 ISSN 0948-2172, Published by FAI

Brian Harmon's Synopsis Page



Tristan da Cunha, Percy Creaghe and a Collaborative Study on the History of this Cover

This article began as part of our weekly Skype Chats in early July with a question from Barry Cousins (1) on how this cover went from Tristan de Cunha to Devon, England by way of Australia and Ireland. The quest for information began with an email to Barry from Iben Olsen (2), who observed the following about the cover.

- (1) The cover probably entered the mail from Tristan da Cunha and not Ireland.
- (2) The stamps were put on the envelope in Tristan and the variety represented the only stamps available.
- (3) The Paquebot cancels were added in Australia when the ship arrived in Adelaide during October 1917.
- (4) The cover next made its way to Ballybrohy on 31 Dec 1917 (and possibly Rathdowney, Queens County) by way of Dublin where the registration label was affixed (Figure 2)
- (5) The cover was redirected to England arriving Dawlish on January 2 1918.

Three major questions came up during our following weeks Skype Chat.

- (1) Who mailed the Cover to Creaghe from Tristan da Cunha?
- (2) Where were the stamps put on the envelope ?
- (3) Why did the cover go to Australia and on what ship ?

I next turned to Hal Vogel (3), who has researched and written extensively about South Polar Philately and Tristan da Cunha. The following are Hal's observations

Crabb ("The History and Postal History of Tristan da Cunha, 2nd ed., 1980), says the addressee of this registered letter (Percy Creagh, Dawlish, Devon) was a frequent communicant of the islanders. I suspect he also might have been a philatelist. He also lists two ship arrival/departures in 1917: The first was on 11 September 1917 (Barq. Michelet). He gives no registration for the ship. The various transit markings seem to indicate this is the ship on which this mail left the island. The other ship arrival in 1917 was in December.



Figure 2:

Back of cover showing the various transit destinations between Tristan de Cunha and England

Tristan mail at this time normally went as a concession (I will get to this later) via Cape Town. This one did not appear to follow that route. Instead, it appeared to have gone from Tristan de Cunha aboard the sailing ship *Michelet* (Figure 3) to Adelaide, Australia, where it was paquebot serviced (since franked with UK postage stamps). Presumably, this would have meant that *Michelet* had UK registry, but this was flexible, depending upon how liberal the clerks at the dockside Post Office were.

Notice that the handwritten “Registered” appears to be in the same hand and ink as the person addressing on the envelope. Also the Tristan de Cunha Cancel is above the handwritten address (See figure 3 below).



Hence, my suspicion is that the addressee had sent a self-addressed stamped envelope to a correspondent on Tristan de Cunha. The stamps probably were *Not* applied at Tristan de Cunha. During this time, the islanders did not have postage stamps or money. Any mail they sent would have gone unfranked (normally via Cape Town, though. Most of their mail was addressed to the UK, where it was handled as compassionate mail (hence only marked for payment at the established rate, without any doubling penalty). This mail would have been unfranked with a postage due stamp applied.

This is why I think that Mr. Greagh pre-stamped his mailing to Tristan de Cunha, and wrote atop “Registered”. I don’t know why it was not given a registration label where it first was offloaded at Adelaide, possibly because it was franked with foreign stamps.

Before leaving Tristan da Cunha, it was marked with *the Type 1 (first type used) island mail cachet* (NOT a cancellation, but rather more of a mail identification stamp). This is the 3rd rarest of all the Tristan de Cunha markings, even though it was the first type employed. This particular Tristan de Cunha cachet was used from 19 Dec 1908 to 13 Dec 1919. It had been brought by the person plying a vessel named “Greyhound” between South Africa and Tristan de Cunha, hoping for some shipping business at that time. After 1919 changes in the Tristan da Cunha mail cachet was associated with the island’s missionary changeovers (who bought a replacement cachet that was of a different design from what was previously been used.

Hal’s assumption is that the paquebot markings were applied at Adelaide, from where this mail made its way to Ireland. At Ireland it was registered (presumably someone reposting this letter to its recipient in Devon) saw that the postage was adequate for this additional postal service (registration). It also could have been that the postal clerk in Ireland saw that it has been marked “Registered” and simply applied the label when confirming that it should have it and that postage adequately covered this additional cost.

Editors note: Postage in the British Isles was 1d + 2d for registration from 1906 to 1921. It appears that the cover was treated as domestic mail.

Hal's conclusion is that Iben had it mostly right. The stamps probably were **Not** affixed on Tristan de Cunha, unless Percy enclosed them for a mailing back to himself. Hal's assumption is that he sent his mailing via self-addressed stamped to his correspondent on the island.

Hal speculates that the cover is semi-philatelic with the mailing probably pre-addressed Percy and sent to his associate on the Island. Percy is said to have had a correspondence with one or more people on the island.

Mail from Tristan de Cunha to Ireland would have been unusual at this time. **The Type I Tristan de Cunha** cancel is highly desirable. It also would have been less common for mail at this time to have gone from Tristan de Cunha to other than South Africa or to Great Britain and Ireland



Figure 3:

Two photos of the Sailing ship **Michelet** that carried this cover from Tristan de Cunha to Australia in September 1917 courtesy of Iben Olsen



Percy Fitzroy Seton Creaghe **1875 to 1947**

The following information about Percy Creaghe was provided by Iben Olsen with a link to the *Creaghe Family Historical Society (CFHS)* web site (4) and adds color commentary to the story.

It appears that the Creaghe family owned several farms and estates in Counties Limerick, Tipperary, and Laois (Queens County) going back to the 1700s.

Percy was born in August 1875, the eldest of 3 children. He married Evelyn Hope Negus in Lichfield, England in August 1912 and they had two Daughters, Helen and Jean in 1913 and 1915. In 1918, Became an Estate / land agent at Home Farm on Luscombe Estate, Dawlish, Devon. A position that he held until the mid- 1930s.

The following information comes from Stephen Creaghe of the CFHS and Graeme Robertson (St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society) (5). Mr. Robertson owns several covers addressed to Percy or his wife, Evelyn from Tristan da Cunha during the period that the Creaghe's lived at Hope Farm. Mr. Robertson speculates that they were associated with the UK base charity, *The Tristan da Cunha Fund*.

Stephen Creaghe provides the following information from an article in the Creaghe Family Historical Society

“As early as 1918 they were receiving letters from the islands. One from a Susan Hagan dated July 7, 1918 speaks of the time it takes to exchange mail, the heartbreak of mothers losing sons in WWI, gives thanks for clothes sent from England as arranged by Evelyn, and requests “a little chocklet.” Another, sent by David Hagan in May 1922, was carried by the very small Norwegian ship, “Quest,” on its return leg of the

ill-fated Shackleton – Rowlett Expedition to Antarctica from 1921 -1922. These letters took remarkable journeys on their way to England. Mr. Robertson was researching Percy in order to write an article about him for the South Atlantic Chronicle. **He has found that in addition to clothes, the Creaghe's donated "a hand stamp to produce a Type II Cachet (postmark) for outgoing mail" in March 1919.** It was used for another ten years. Percy and Evelyn obviously had a significant connection to the people of the island."

Stephen goes on to write that several family members remember seeing displays of postcards and envelopes in Jean's house in the 1960s However, he continues:

"in about 1970, a con man tricked Jean out of these "items and selling them along with a large collection of other items that have a historic connection to the Creaghe family, some of which were of considerable monetary value." Perhaps, some of the covers for sale today are from this theft. Other items were destroyed in a house fire in 1988"

One final point to consider is that the Creaghe family had several members who emigrated to Australia in the mid-1800s and early 20th Century. Hence, there is the possibility that the cover was sent to a family member in Australia for forwarding to Percy.

Conclusions with Questions

- (1) The cover was mailed from Tristan da Cunha to Ireland by way of Australia. The consensus is that it was put in the mail in September 1917 on the sailing ship **Michelet**, the first ship leaving the island. But was the Cover deliberately mailed to a Creaghe family member in Australia under separate Cover?
- (2) How did the cover arrive at Tristan da Cunha, who sent it and was it one of several covers / postcards mailed at the same time?
- (3) It appears that the Creaghe family supplied the Type II cancel or cachet to the Islanders. Did they also supply the type I mark shown on this cover?
- (4) This has been a most interesting **International Philatelic Detective Story**. I hope we can all join in and start more conversations. Please send your Philatelic Items and questions to me at robertmb.editor@gmail.com. I will show them in *Letters to the Editor* and during our weekly skype chats.

End Notes:

Barry cousins is an IPC member who resides in Malaysia and has to get up at 3:00 am to Join in our skype chats. Barry is also a prolific author on several books on Irish Philately

Iben Olsen is an IPC member from Denmark and a frequently contributor to the Irish Philatelist.

Hal Vogel lives in New Jersey and was one of our visiting judges at STAMPA 209 along with Frank Walton. Hal is the Associate Editor of Ice Cap News, quarterly journal of The American Society of Polar Philatelists, www.polarphilatelists.org. The Society has published several articles on Tristan da Cunha as well as Irish Polar philately.

Creaghe Family Historical Society web site – Family History www.shatps.org

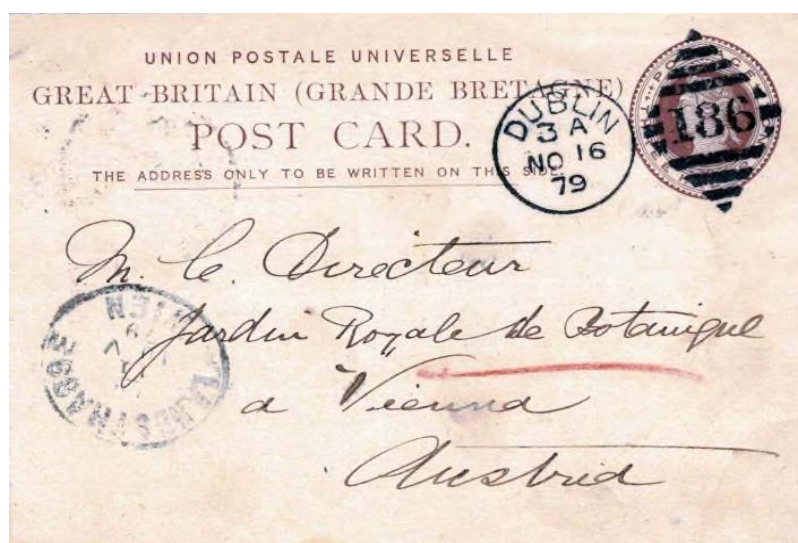
Some of My Favorite Philatelic Items

By Joachim Schaaf

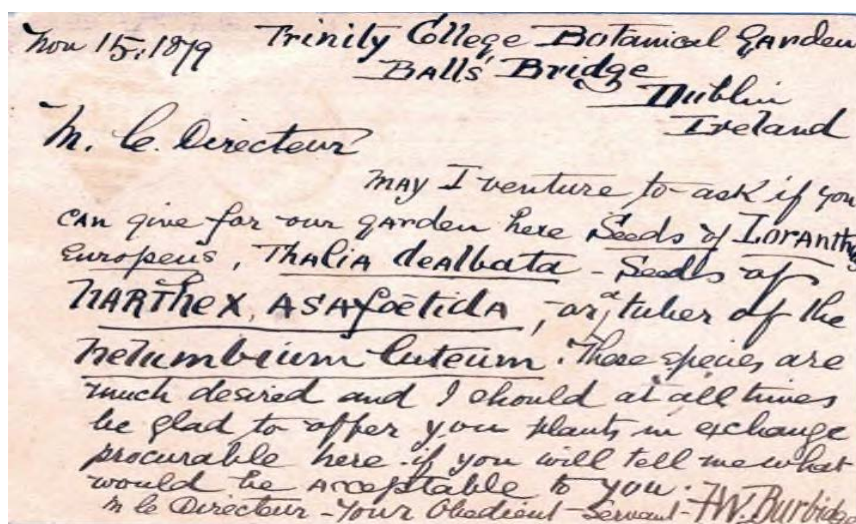
Joachim has generously taken the time to send us scans of several interesting items from his collection. His comments are nice and brief, and I hope that they allow you to muse and reflect on the vast area of Irish Philately. I have added some of my material to round out the article.

Please Consider doing the same for the Winter issue of the Irish Philately.

I need your material scanned as a .jpeg and the write up as a word document or just email me the text. One to four items would be grand. My Email is robertmb.editor@gmail.com

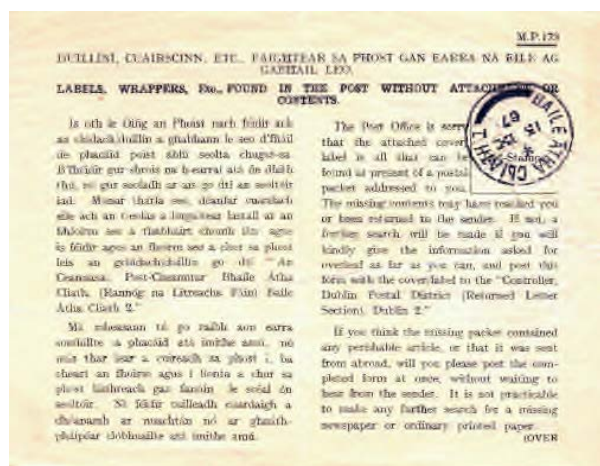


Sometimes the Message is More Interesting than the Origin or destination of the Mail



Sometimes it is the reverse which makes an item interesting. In 1879, an employee (or director) of the Trinity College Botanical Garden in Dublin wrote to several colleagues abroad, asking for seeds of certain rare plants in order to grow them in his botanic garden. One of these requests was sent to the director of the Royal Botanical Garden of Vienna. He asks for seeds of *Loranthus europaeus* (yellow mistletoe), *Thalia dealbata* (a marsh plant of the USA), *Narthex asafœtida* (devil's dung, a fennel plant) and *Nelumbium luteum* (American Lotus). I never heard of these plants! He offers an exchange for rare seeds from his institute. I wonder whether he was successful in this search. If so, the 1½ pence for the postcard were well invested.

Post Office Customer Services



This postal form is one of my favourite items because it shows the effort of the Irish Post Office to satisfy its customers in every respect. Obviously, it happened sometimes that content was lost from a poorly closed envelope or wrapper. This form, used in Dublin in 1967, informs the addressee that for a postal packet only the wrapper or label could be delivered. The Post Office offers more investigations if the contents did not find its way to the addressee or back to the sender. In this case, the Post Office asked for a detailed description of the lost contents. (see Figure 2.) In General, newspapers and printed matter items were excluded from these Post office investigations, probably because of the small value they represent and the large volume of bulk mail.

Ainm agus seoladh an tseoltóra
Name and address of sender

Ait, dáta agus am postála
Place, date and time of posting

Tuairisc iomlán ar an earra atá imithe amú
Full description of the missing article

Má fhaightear é, ar chóir an t-earra a chur chugat-sa nó chuig an seoltóir?
If found should the article be sent to you or the sender?

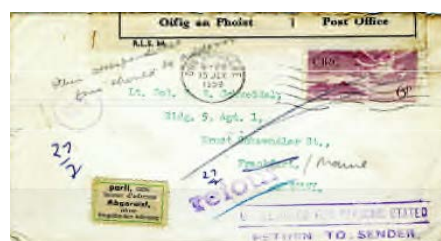
D'ainm agus seoladh
Your name and address

(7019).G40208/B.3.7500.1/84.W.P.W.Ltd.S.

Fig. 2

Editor's Note:

Another service offered by the Post office was the return first class mail to the sender when it was refused or undeliverable. This sometimes involved opening the envelope to see who mailed the item when no return address was on the envelope. The following two illustrations show the front and back of mail sent to Germany in 1959 from Shanahan's Auctions, resealed with Irish Post Office Tape after opening to find the senders address (written by the Post office in blue). The Post Office typically charged the sender 2d (in 1959) for this service using Postage Due Stamps (which did not occur in this case).



Parcel Post Registered Labels

The British and Irish Parcel Post labels are well known and popular, especially if they are legibly cancelled and even franked with stamps. Most of the time, however, the accompanying parcel is lost. A stroke of luck and therefore a favourite piece in my collection is this pendant to a registered parcel from Garryhill 1924. The postmark, label and registration are still in English. Furthermore, it seems to be the first registered letter sent from Garryhill (County Carlow) in 1924, because the Registration label bears the number 1.



Registered Parcel Post Label

The postage for the parcel is indicated as 9d plus the registration fee of 3d, adding up to 12d, which are paid by two 6d, 3-line overprint stamps.

Oswald Marsh: Philatelic Historian and Documentarian

Who has already seen such a curiosity? Mr Oswald had a few wrappers in his possession which were stamped with ½d. He cut out the values and put two of them together as the 1d franking on a letter from Belfast to England. Together with the machine cancel, they belong to my favorite items now.



Oswald Marsh had an extensive history of creating and sending covers that documented various aspect of Irish Philatelic History during the 1920s

Complex Communications Between Various International Post Offices

The advent of postage stamps in 1840 was supposed to indicate the amount of postage paid to all national and international Post Offices. However, not all Irish post offices had

sufficient stocks postage stamps even as late as 1860, particularly the higher values used for foreign mail. Other times the postage stamps would be locked up for the day when late mail arrived for posting. In both cases the payment of postage would be recorded by a handstamp, without the use of postage stamps. Unfortunately, the handstamp did not always indicate the currency or country of origin. The following cover illustrates these points.

On 1st of July, 1859, the postage for the single weight normal letter to Germany was reduced to 6d. These 6d was noted with red ink at left and



London also confirmed the transit with a "LONDON PAID" on the 17th of August and applied - also in red - a large "3d" for the postage share which was due to the UK, as well as a red "P" (Paid). The fifth red postmark was applied to the letter "AUS ENGLAND PER AACHEN FRANCO" when it was processed on the train from Ostend to Aachen/Cologne on August 18. Then it went on to Dresden, where the postmark on the reverse side of the letter - dated August 19 - confirmed that it had arrived within 3 days.

As a precaution, the 6 was crossed out in Dresden, so that the postman did not mistakenly assume this was an amount still to be collected. The 5 different red postmarks make the letter a great favourite of mine!

Letters to the editor

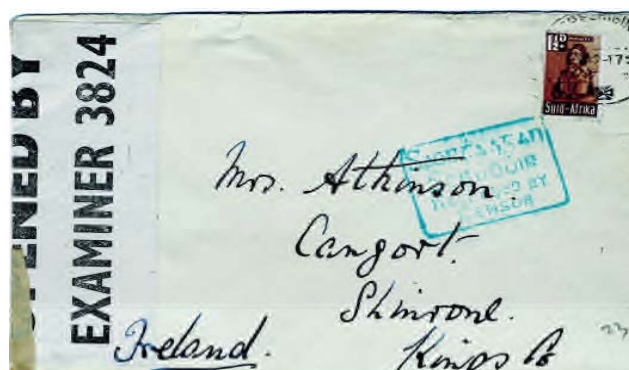
From Joachim Schaaf

I would like to comment on the Stan Challis article in the April, 2020 IP. The early Air Mail rates were published by the late Bill Murphy in O.E.78, The bulletin of the Irish Air Mail Society, in March 1999. The earliest rates given were from the 1924-1925 Post Office Guide. This Guide shows a rate of 3d per oz. for Cairo- Baghdad, and 2d per oz for London-Paris. This was partly confirmed when Brian Warren and myself took notes from several early issues of Iris an Phuist during our visits to the National Library in Dublin. The earliest entry we found was from 24.05.1922 regarding the Air Mail service from London to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. The rate of 2d per oz air mail fee was emphasized, and we have found evidence that this rate was valid in 1923.



fig 4 – November 1924, James Street, Dublin to Paris using the London - Paris air service. Miss Clancy was a 'friend' of a leading collector of the day, M Vallancey and it may well be that the 5d rate (3d postage and 2d air fee) is 'wrong'

This confirms that the rate of 5d for your 1924 Air Mail letter to Paris is correct and my postcard below shows that 3 ½ d postage paid the 1 ½ d postcard rate and 2d airmail rate on 7 Sept 1923. The date is also the First Day Issue of the 2 ½ d stamp.



From Arthur Guest

I would like to comment on the World War II censored cover from South Africa to Shinrone that you emailed me this summer.

The Atkinson family were landed gentry in Shinrone and owned property in and around the village. Up to the 1960s they lived in a substantial house at Cangort just outside Shinrone. Like many of the landlord class throughout Ireland, the loss of their lands through the Land Acts and Land Commission redistribution etc. forced them to downsize to a smaller house in the village itself. I knew the Atkinson family growing up in Shinrone. Major Atkinson trained at Sandhurst and served in WW2. He spent some time as a Japanese POW. After the war, he returned to Shinrone with his Californian wife. I was in primary school with their son, Guy, and their daughter, Antonia. As far as I know, Guy went on to St. Columbas College in Dublin and then, like his father, to Sandhurst. Subsequently he inherited a fine residence and farm at Loughton, near Moneygal, about 10 miles from Shinrone. The Atkinson house in Shinrone was sold about 1970 and Guy's parents moved to Moneygal.

Editors Note:

I have known Arthur for almost 55 years and we both went to Villiers School in Limerick for 6 years in the 1960s when I lived in Ireland.

Arthur has lived in Shinrone most of his life. Shinrone is a small village in Co. Offaly just south of Birr. Moneygal has gained fame as the ancestral home of Barack Obama.

IRELAND AND HER VARIOUS WARS – Part II

Robert Benninghoff

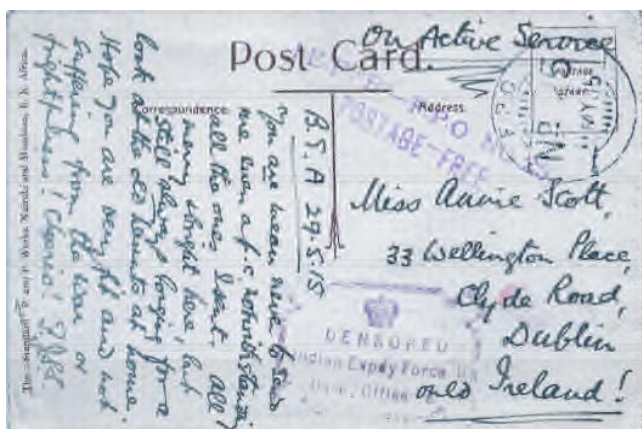
The past few months have been busy organizing material for various exhibits. I hope that you find the following items of interest.

The Great War and the Challenges of Maintaining Relationships.

The following postcard was mailed on 11 May, 1915 by a soldier serving in the Indian Expeditionary forces (IEF) (Figure 1). The front of the card shows a view of Nairobi, British East Africa (Kenya) (Figure 2) and the card was printed in Nairobi. The card is postmarked FPO No. 25 11 MY 15 and hand stamped in purple.

I.F.P. “B” – F.P.O. NO 25 POSTAGE FREE

I have not seen this handstamp before and I would be grateful if members could send me additional examples. The card also has a purple Base censor mark.



Figs. 1 and 2: Post Card from soldier in the Indian Expeditionary Forces, Kenya to a Lady Friend in Dublin



Figure 3 shows the very sad note to the soldier's lady friend asking her why she is not

writing to him. Perhaps the mail had challenges finding him in east Africa particularly if his unit was on the move in 1915

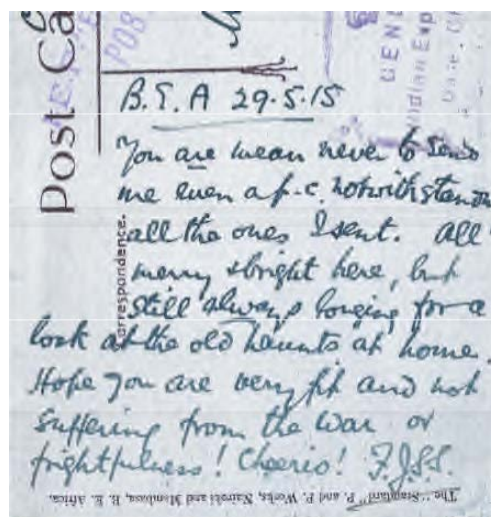


Fig. 3: Soldiers note to his Lady Friend showing the challenges of Long-Distance War time relationships

It was not uncommon for Irish soldiers and officers to serve in the Indian armies in WW I. In early August 1914, the Governor of British East Africa requested assistance from London to deal with the German forces in German East Africa. The Task was handed to the India Office, which assembled two forces (IEF “B” and “C”) and sent them to his aid. Indian Expeditionary Force B consisted of the 27th (Bangalore) Brigade from the 9th (Secunderabad) Division and an Imperial Service Infantry Brigade, were sent to Tanganyika with the task of invading German East Africa (1).

The Plan was to attack Longido, a town under German control northwest of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The force, under the command of Major General Arthur Aitken landed at Tanga on the Indian Ocean coast on 2 November 1914. In the following Battle of Tanga, Aitken's 9,000 men were badly beaten by the 1,000 men under their German commander Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck. IEF “B”, suffered 4,240 casualties and was sent to Nairobi on November 5 to merge with IEF “C”.

Witnesses to the Irish Civil War

I am always interested in mail that provides an eyewitness account of historical events.

The following two postcards were written by a British soldier based in the Phoenix Park to his Aunt (we can assume she lived in England). The two cards offer his comments on the destruction of the Four Courts by the Irish National Army while they were dislodging the IRA in June 1922. The notes were written over several sessions during July 1922 and must have been mailed in a separate envelope.



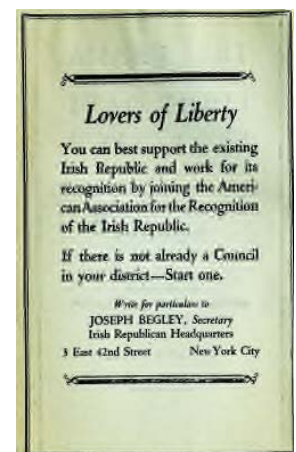
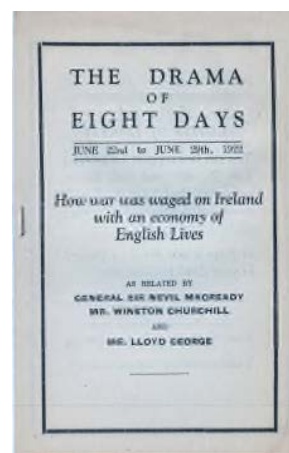
Dear Aunt (1)
Just a few lines hoping you are all alright. I hope you like the photos of the four courts where the smoke is going up that's what the smoke blue the free state took it you can see the old dome where I mark it, the top all glass, the cover cost nearly a million and now its ruins. I've been up the lost streets a few times well dear aunt I'll write me to the poor old mother tell I shall

be with her soon (2)
tell Aunt
Johnson that I will write to him as soon as I have time
Well Dear Aunt
Remember me to the two Dicks and very very soon
Not words before has been so long well good by and God bless you
1/2 202
5478098 Pte J Smallman
6 Company
1st Northhamptons
Phoenix Park
Southern Ireland
31/7/22

The Anglo-Irish Treaty of December 6, 1921 allowed the British Government to maintain troops in Ireland during the first year of Irish Independence. The Provisional Government was told by the British Prime Minister, Lloyd George in June 1922 to deal with the IRA in the Four Courts or he would have the British Army assume the task. The British Military provided the National Government with the munitions and artillery to attack the IRA at the end of June 1922, considered to be the official beginning of the *Irish Civil War*.(2)

The Irish Civil War: Comments from The British Government

The following is a booklet that appears to summarize the beginning of the Irish Civil War from key members of the British Government



Cover Page and Inside first page:

The booklet is eight pages long and appear to have been printed by an Irish Republican organization in New York (no date given) Joseph Begley, Irish Republican Headquarters 3 East 42nd Street New York (3).

Ireland at the Start of World War II

The cover shown in Figure 4 shows an Irish Censored, registered envelope from Dublin to Akron Ohio mailed on 8 December 1939, with an arrival back stamp of Jan 15, 1940. The cover contains a Currency Export Certificate allowing mailing of \$15 to Mrs. J.R. Bell (Figure 5). There was no letter or card explaining the purpose of the mailing. The 5d postage paid the 2d letter rate and the 3d registration fee which provided only £2.00 in compensation for the contents. An additional 6d postage would be required to insure all of the \$15 (4). Considering that the mail was opened by the censor, I wonder if Mrs. Bell received the money.



Fig. 4 Registered cover to Mrs. Bell

The cover also illustrates two aspects of the (Irish) Emergency Powers Act (EPA). The Act was passed on 3 September 1939 in response to the start of World War II (5). The EPA granted the government control over all foreign currencies and securities in Ireland, allowing the government to purchase or confiscate them and requiring a special permit to send anything abroad of negotiable value. The EPA also granted the Government the power to “authorize and provide for the censorship, restriction, control or partial or complete suspension” of the mail leaving Ireland. The censorship of mail leaving Ireland began in September 1939.

Fig. 5: Currency export certificate authorizing the export of \$15 from Ireland to the USA

The Six Day 1967 Mid-East War and The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

On 5 June, 1967, Israel launched a series of preemptive airstrikes on Egyptian airfields. Syria and Jordan also entered the war. The Israeli army invaded the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula pushing all the way to the Suez Canal.

A cease fire was signed between the Arab Countries and Israel on June 11. Consequently, the Canal became the new border between Egypt and Israel until 1978. Ships in the Canal were trapped until 1975.

The bulk mail cover shown in Figure 6 was mailed from Lahore Pakistan 8 May 1967 and addressed to the Commandant, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (misspelled by sender) in Omagh Northern Ireland. The contents are an advertising brochure from a Bag Pipe manufacturer in Pakistan (Figure 7). The mail was stranded on the MV Nordwind for the 8 years.



Fig. 6 Bulk mail cover to Ireland trapped for 8 years on the Suez Canal during the Mid-East War

What is interesting about this item is that although, the Regiment's HQ was in St. Lucia Barracks, Omagh, it was stationed in England in 1967 and In 1968 it was amalgamated with three other Northern Ireland regiments to form the Royal Irish Rangers (6). The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers no longer existed by the time the mail reached the United Kingdom. The cover has a London receiving handstamp 6 June 1975 and someone (London Post Office?) added the white note, which is glued to the cover

I wonder if the cover ever found its way to Northern Ireland or wound up in the unclaimed mail in London and then into the hands of various philatelists during the past 45 years.

End Notes

- (1) Chappell Mike (2005) *The British Army in World War I: The Eastern Fronts Volume 3* Osprey Publishing. Page 11
- (2) The Irish Civil War was a very hidden subject in class rooms in Ireland during the 1960s when I was in Secondary School. Too many families and neighbors were still divided after the Civil War. Most of the history of the period was written after 1980 as Government Documents were released. I find one Book from the 1960s most interesting. *The Irish Struggle 1916-1926* is compilation of 15 essays by both Irish and British historians.



Williams, Desm
Published by
Routledge &
Keagan Paul
Broadway Ho
London 1966.
Copy came fro



Fig 7. Bulk Mail advertisement insert

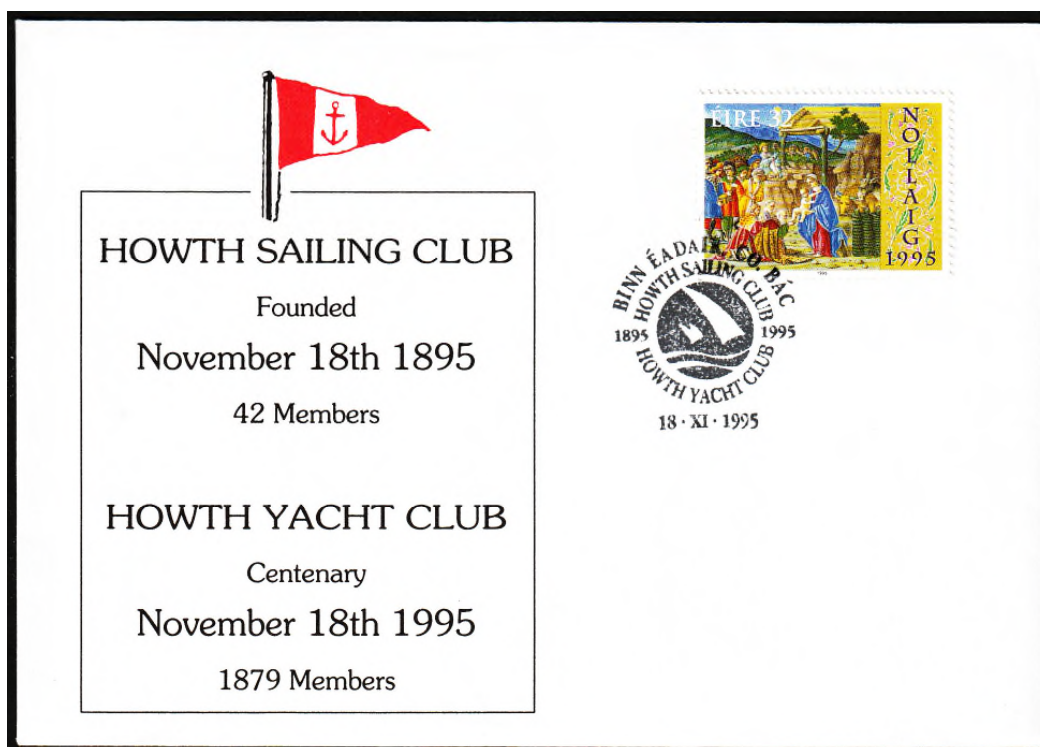
- (3) Page 3 from the booklet



- (4) Schaaf, Joachim and Warren, Brian *Irish Postal Rates 1839 to 2014*. The FAI Germany 2014, page 28.
- (5) Crowe, Catriona et al, Editors *Documents on Irish Foreign Policy Volume VI 1939-1941*. The Royal Irish Academy, Dublin Ireland. Pages 1 to 5. *The Academy has published a detailed series of Volumes on Irish Foreign Policy Communications beginning with the years 1919 to 1922*
- (6) Internet research: *The History of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 1881 to 1968*. Wikipedia, December 2019.

SPECIAL EVENT POSTMARKS – A CONTINUING STORY

Brian Warren



In the IPC NEWS which accompanied the April 2020 issue of Irish Philately, I announced my latest project whereby with the help of Philip Kane, I am compiling a combined publication of all past issues of *That Was The Year That Was 1973 to 2019*. This will be available on a USB stick and we also hope to produce a limited number of printed copies which will be split over two volumes. The total page total will be circa 950-1,000.

As the majority of the older issues were produced in the pre-computer era with a limited number of monochrome images we have endeavoured to re-scan in colour all original images and also add a large number of new images as space permits. Philip has also re-scanned the older pages of text on more modern equipment which greatly improves the readability of earlier pages which were reproduced by way of a duplicator or photocopier process.

The new volumes will now include illustrations of all pictorial first day postmarks which began in 1974 and more importantly all special event postmarks. There has never been a listing of special event postmarks since the first Hibernian catalogue issued in 1972. A series of articles on the earlier pre 1971 special event cancels written by the late F.E. Dixon expanded on the subject and was published in Irish Stamp News.

This has proven to be a challenge as my collection of special event postmarks is incomplete. In addition, over the years since writing the original articles the odd postmark has turned up that was never publicised at the time by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs/An Post. Since the establishment of An Post in 1984 rarely does the philatelic bureau advertise special event postmarks in *The Collector* other than for the stamp shows in Dublin and Cork. Previously unrecorded special event postmarks will be included in the new publication.



In the following pages, I illustrate some of these unrecorded postmarks. The first one as shown above marked the centenary of Howth Yacht Club in 1995.

I only came across this cancel last year! The yacht club produced a special cover and the reverse of the covers bear the local Howth P.O. counter SID of the same date.



Going a little further back in time, a pair of se-tenant stamps was issued on 5 April 1990 to mark the tercentenary of the Williamite Wars. Nine different first day postmarks across sixteen locations were recorded at the time.

However, I noted in recent years a further set of nine postmarks similar in format to the first day cancellations were available at the time on the actual anniversary date of the Battle of the Boyne i.e.12th July 1990. The postmarks were promoted at the time by the late Peter McBride (Belfast based stamp dealer) by way of a set of 11 printed covers mounted on printed album pages. Although An Post in their promotional leaflet at the

time referred to special postmarks at each location, there was no specific reference to the 12th July set. I illustrate two of the nine postmarks including one cover.



In the following year, an unannounced postmark was available to mark the Last Day of Use (31 January 1991) of the Amiel/Pitney Bowes stamp machine in Cork. The machine was only in use since the previous 8 October 1990. Although I became aware of the postmark following the event, it is only in recent years that I have been able to see sight of and secure a copy as illustrated complete with miscut labels. Similar postmarks were used for the last day of the Frama (Dublin) and Klussendorf (Limerick) machines on 31 May 1991 but these postmarks were known in advance and illustrated at the time.



The next cancellation I illustrate marked the 50th anniversary of the 1938 flight of "Wrong Way Corrigan". At the time, the pilot Douglas Corrigan intended a solo flight from New York to Los Angeles, but due to a "malfunctioning compass" (or so the story goes) proceeded eastwards and landed at Dublin instead.

A special cover and postmark as illustrated above was produced in 1988 but was only seen by collectors some years later.



The philatelic bureau has attended various overseas exhibitions commencing with Interphil '76 in Philadelphia. One of their overseas cancellations never seen at the time was a recent purchase by me on e-bay was for Genova '88. Thanks to Philip for spotting that one.



Thanks to John Mullen, I illustrate a postmark only seen in recent weeks. It was used in Thurles to mark the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the Gaelic Football Association. Surely somebody also produced a special cover at the time???



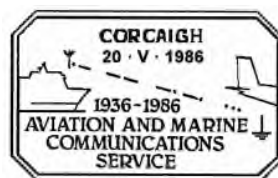
Finally, I include a postmark for 2019 that I omitted to include in my recent 2019 article. It was for An Post's attendance at Spring Stampex 2019.

NOBODY NOTICED! This was the first London show attended by An Post since the International held in Earls Court in May 2000. They were also due to attend the

postponed International that was due to be held in London last May (2020). This exhibition is now due to be held in February 2022.

Now it is over to you. I am sure there are members reading this that have special event postmarks in their collections that I have not illustrated over the years. Please get in touch and e-mail me at brian.warren2@upcmail.ie if you have such gems.

I am also short of the following which I need to complete my illustrations. Again, surely somebody out there can oblige. The scans required are listed below.



- 20 May 1986 - 50th Anniversary of Aviation and Marine Officers - Shannon
- 20 May 1986 - 50th Anniversary of Aviation and Marine Officers - Limerick
- 1991 - Spring Stampex, London;

In the case of the 50th anniversary of the Aviation and Marine Officers postmark, it was used at 5 locations. As illustrated above, I have Cork, Dublin and Ennis (why Ennis?) but would like to complete the set.

The following overseas cachets **MAY** exist but have never been seen:-

- 1987: Philadelphia
- 1987: ASDA New York
- 1991: Philanippon, Japan¹
- 1997: Delhi, India

¹ A souvenir was produced for this show by An Post.