

Irish Philately

The Journal of the
Irish Philatelic Circle

Volume 1973

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

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IRISH PHILATELY

Journal of the
Irish Philatelic Circle

Volume 1973 No. 2

Edited by O.M. Richards,
Keswick, 38 High Street,
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Denbighshire.

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"Irish Philately"

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EDITORIAL

In this issue we complete Bill Mathews' study of Irish Erinophilia and present the second part of Dr. de Burca's opus on the postmarks of the County of Leitrim. We are not happy about the cover page to this work and shall be producing a new cover page in due course. A surprising number of letters of congratulations were received after the last issue and it is gratifying to know that we are pleasing some of the membership. "Points of View" resulted in a letter from Major Thornton which we are glad to publish; more letters would be welcome, we appreciate your views.

A page on cancellations is included in this issue, material for this page would be welcome as it seems virtually impossible to arrange for each and every special cancellation or new slogan to be sent as and when they appear. We would comment adversely on the special slogans used in towns for a short period to commemorate or advertise a local event etc. Examples sent by friends are not worth mounting and one can only guess at what the printed word is; Dept. of Posts and Telegraphs please note.

The quarterly request for more articles is repeated, illustrations of cancellations etc., for articles will be gladly done by the Editors, if necessary, providing an example of the cancellation etc., is provided.

O.M. Richards

N.J. Langton

Editors

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

From: Major T.C. Thornton RCT
MPIO
Headquarters United Nations in Cyprus
BFPO 567

Dear Sir,

I must confess that after reading many of the Editorials in the past which have asked for support in the way of articles for the Journal I have had a twinge of conscience. At last I am inspired by Mr. Langton to leap into print. If I cannot further very much, if at all, the extent of anyone's knowledge of Irish stamps, at least I can set out my motives for joining the Club. I am sure there must be others of my kind who also may be inspired to write and thus give the Editors some guidance on the sort of information some of us are seeking.

My reasons for joining are many:-

1. I am a beginner and so am seeking after knowledge. This especially applies to the intricacies of the overprints. In fact, until very recently, I have fought shy of these issues on the flimsy excuse that they are really English stamps and the overprint is incidental.
2. I knew that clubs had an exchange packet system and that I would be able to increase my collection that way and also to pass on my own duplicates. The fact that I have been overseas for nearly five years and have the prospect of three more ahead of me is beside the point.
3. Or is it? Through the Journal I am able to keep in touch with the stamp scene as well as learning all the time.
4. Like most beginners my original net was cast far too wide and I soon found that I could not keep up with even several countries. For an Irishman the decision was not too difficult. My collection is very far from complete but I am getting to the stage when additions tend to be the more expensive stamps or to be varieties about which I had previously known little. Again the Circle membership is invaluable in pointing me in the right direction.

Unlike Mr. Langton I do not mind the label of "beginner". Even the more experienced must at some stage break into a new phase of philately if they are to keep their interest alive and so become beginners again. I am certainly most grateful for his second article which has at least given me the method and therefore the incentive to tackle those, until now, rather frightening overprints.

And so, Sir, whilst still exploring the fascinating by-ways of Irish philately, keep returning to the "broad high way" as there is at least one member of the Circle still wearing "L" plates,

that is,

yours sincerely,

signed:-

TERRY THORNTON.

NUMBER TWO OF A SERIES FOR BEGINNERS

by

Noel J. Langton

I've had a letter! Somewhat on the style of "If you were stranded on a desert island what six records/books or whatever would you wish to have with you". Only this time it was "What books would you recommend for a collector of Irish?".

Well, to tell the truth, I dislike giving advice unless I'm in a position to enforce its acceptance. I think it was the Duke of Wellington who thought the same. However, all I can say is that if I were building a small library of reference books I'd go something like this.

1. The Post Office Guide Volume One. A must for anyone hoping to collect Irish postal history - or even stamps - intelligently. The words "postal history" have a rather frightening effect on many people, who imagine it concerns only pre stamp covers, "Paid Ats", "Spoons" and mileage marks. Dear Pupil, postal history is all around us - mostly in the waste paper basket! Modern postmarks are the antiques of 2073. Not that you'll appreciate that fact in 2073 or even 2072. But the point is that way back in 1809, or 1853, or whenever, someone preserved a modern up-to-date envelope or cover. One hundred and fifty years later a collector back at the ranch gloats over his prize antique. The gent who preserved it in 1853 didn't pay a fortune for it. He picked it from the W.P.B., or else didn't throw it in, in the first place. So why should you not be as wise as he was. Collect postmarks, 1973 vintage. The Post Office Guide is a must if you wish to sort them into anything other than date order.
2. Sooner or later the overprints will exert a fascination. Especially after you have discovered a block of four Thom 10/- in a mission mixture. Creased, unfortunately. So a copy of Meredith's book "The Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922 - 1927" which is a treasure house of flaw and variety details, should be on your shelf. If you can get a copy, that is. It has been out of print for 45 years but copies do turn up in the philatelic literature auctions.
3. & 4. This is a combination item. David Feldman's "Handbook of Irish Philately" and Don Buchalter's "Hibernian Specialised Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922 - 1972", will fill you in on stamps and varieties, and also special postmarks, slogans etc. These books are currently available, though I understand that the "Handbook" is, in fact, sold out. But it is so recent as to be fairly easy to obtain.

5. "Meter Stamps of GB and Ireland" by J. C. Mann. There's a practical limit to what you can do in the straight stamp field, unless you own a goldmine, have an expense account which doesn't distinguish between sets of re-engraved GB overprints and lunch for two executives at a sales meeting, or rob big banks. So, it is back to what is easy to get and I know of no better merchandise than meter marks. You know, mostly you can't even give them away! Which is not to say that they aren't loaded with interest. And to do an intelligent job on them the Meters Stamps book is a prerequisite. Only 75p.

6. The last one is so difficult because it means leaving out all the others. My choice is "British Postmarks" a Short History and Guide by Alcock and Holland. It sketches in the background sufficiently to enable you to cope with any earlier material you may get. Later, as you fill page after page with Maltese Crosses used in Ireland, you'll need something more sophisticated. But by then you'll be an expert, wont you, and will know your own mind.

Well, there it is. My selection. Of course, all the while the crafty collector is compiling a scrapbook of magazine articles on Irish philatelics; none too plentiful, actually. Also, he pastes up the dealers adverts, snipped from the same magazines, especially those offering postal history material. Over a period it can be seen just what type of material cost shillings, which costs pounds. Incidentally, more than once I've spotted what appeared to be the same item offered at different times. Could be that the first buyer's collection had been disposed of and was being broken up and sold by another dealer.

Please spoil me by continuing to write to me.

IRISH ERINNOPHILIA

by

Bill Mathews

with help and advice from F.E. Dixon

T.B. REHABILITATION cont'd.

1956 Six designs, all H.F. 30 x 22 mm Roul 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. All with D - b cross and "Ireland". All multi-coloured.

- 3a. Shepherd, sheep and star, "Christmas Greetings" with blue background.
 - 3b. Head of Father Christmas on black ground with "Merry Christmas".
 - 3c. "Happy Christmas" on red tree ornament, brown, (red on blue) and yellow background.
 - 3d. Green Christmas Tree on red, yellow and blue background with "Merry Christmas".
 - 3e. Shamrock on yellow ground, "Christmas Greetings" at bottom.
 - 3f. Three snowflakes on blue ground with "Happy Christmas" at bottom.
 - 3x. Sheets of 8 x 6, odd rows abc abc, even rows def def.
 - 3pcp. (i)
 - a. Yellow.
 - b. Red.
 - c. Yellow and red.
 - d. Blue.
 - e. Yellow, red and blue.
 - f. Black.
 - g. Yellow, red, blue and black.
- All Imperf.
- 3pcp. (ii) As 3pcp (i) a - g but all roul.

1957 Six designs all multi-coloured with D - b cross and "Ireland"
H.F. 33 x 23 mm Roul 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

- 4a. Father Christmas with three packages. "Christmas Greetings" on packages.
- 4b. Angel, star and "Christmas Greetings" on black background.
- 4c. Black and red bells on orange ground. "Merry Christmas" on bells.
- 4d. Three white holly leaves on red, green and blue ground. "Seasons Greetings".
- 4e. Three kings on camels; a crown behind each and on a yellow ground, with "Christmas Greetings".
- 4f. Two shepherds looking at star in sky, with "Christmas Greetings".

T.B. REHABILITATION cont'd.

4x. Sheet of 48. 8 x 6, odd rows abc abc, even rows def def.
Imprint "Mercury Press Ltd., Dublin".

4pcp.	a.	Yellow.	}	All Roul.
	b.	Red.		
	c.	Yellow and red.		
	d.	Blue.		
	e.	Yellow, red and blue.		
	f.	Black.		
	g.	Yellow, red, blue and black.		

1958 Six designs all multi-coloured, all with "Ireland" and D - b cross.
H.F. 33 x 22 mm Roul 4½.

- 5a. Three cherubs with "Christmas Greetings" in sky over city.
- 5b. Shamrock and two holly leaves on yellow with "Nodlaig Sona Duit".
- 5c. Arms of the four provinces with holly leaves, "Seasons Greetings" at top.
- 5d. Three wise men looking at star over Bethlehem. "Seasons Greetings" at top.
- 5e. Two shamrocks on red ground with yellow harp and "Christmas Greetings".
- 5f. Winter farm scene with star and "Merry Christmas" in sky.
- 5x. Sheet 6 x 8. Odd rows abc abc, even rows def def.

5pcp.	a.	Yellow.	}	All Roul
	b.	Red.		
	c.	Yellow and red.		
	d.	Blue.		
	e.	Yellow, red and blue.		
	f.	Black.		
	g.	Yellow, red, blue and black.		

1959 Six designs all multi-coloured, each with "Ireland" and red D - b cross.
All H.F. 37 x 23 mm Roul 4½.

- 6a. Head of Father Christmas with blue and yellow ground, "A Merry Christmas".
- 6b. "A Merry Christmas" on ribbon around a bell, all on black ground.
- 6c. Candle, holly and shamrocks on yellow ground, D - b cross on blue ground.
- 6d. Yellow light coming from church window with "Christmas Greetings" and candle with holly against black ground.
- 6e. Shepherd looking at star with "Christmas Greetings" against blue sky.

T.B. REHABILITATION cont'd.

6f. Candle in lantern on black at left, "Seasons Greetings" in panels over landscape with church.

6x. Sheet 6 x 8, odd rows abc abc, even rows def def.

6pcp.	a.	Yellow.	}	All imperf. On unsurfaced paper.
	b.	Red.		
	c.	Yellow and red.		
	d.	Blue.		
	e.	Yellow, red and blue.		
	f.	Black.		
	g.	Yellow, red, blue and black.		

6px. Proof as 6x. but imperf.

1960 In 1960 the same designs as 1959 were re-issued.

1961 7x. When the same sheet was issued in 1960 as in 1959 sales fell off and so a special effort was made in 1961. The 6 x 8 sheet has 48 different seals yet forming a single design in sheet form. The picture covering all the seals is a snowy landscape with large celtic cross in brown in the centre, a big orange red sun on its right. Dark and pale blue shadows in the snow are carefully arranged so that on breaking up the sheet into single seals each has a foreground and a sky also various activities taking place over the sheet ensure that each seal has a symbol on it, the symbols used are: Dark blue pine trees, brown snow clad churches, brown deer, St. Patrick's bell, tobagganers in red, snowman, dark blue birds, three brown camels, white deer, brown rabbit, white rabbit, brown house, brown reindeer, Father Christmas on sled, Father Christmas with brown sack, celtic cross and sun. In the top right hand corner of each seal is a white rectangle enclosing a red D - b cross. Each seal is overprinted in gold; odd rows in Irish, even rows in English. The Irish overprint: EIRE/Bliaín Daoine Martraithe/Nollaig 1961. The English overprint: IRELAND/Disabled Persons Year/Christmas 1961. The above may be arranged in various ways to suit the layout of each seal. A quarter inch brown band surrounds the sheet on which is printed in white "DISABLED PERSONS YEAR : 1961 - 1962 . BLIAIN DAOINE MARTRAITHE" (repeating). At the bottom of the sheet in large blue letters the words: "Buy and use Christmas Seals" on the left of which in small blue letters "TB REHABILITATION" "Mercury" and on the right "1st d. EACH" "2/- a sheet of 48". The sheets are rouletted. Printed by the Mercury Press Ltd. Dublin.

7x.	pcp.	a.	Pale blue.	}	Roul.
		b.	Brown.		
		c.	Pale blue and brown.		
		d.	Dark blue.		
		e.	Pale blue, brown and dark blue.		
		f.	Red.		
		g.	Gold (overprint).		
		h.	Pale blue, brown, dark blue, red and gold.		

T.B. REHABILITATION cont'd.

1962 Six designs all multi-coloured in a H.F. rouletted. All seals have "IRELAND" vertically up the left side in dark blue (except b; white on dark blue), all have a light blue sky and white and yellow foreground with a red D - b cross in white rectangle in top right corner.

- 8a. Two brown deer with two fir trees against red sun.
 - 8b. Holy family in stable, dark blue interior with blue sky seen through entrance.
 - 8c. Arab on camel.
 - 8d. Boy on sled with sticks.
 - 8e. Kneeling shepherd in striped gown looking towards star over stable.
 - 8f. Father Christmas on ground with parcels.
 - 8x. Sheet 4 x 3 with "HELP US TO HELP THE HANDICAPPED" (repeating) in white on brown border. First row abcd. Second row cefb. Third row fdac.
 - 8y. Booklet: sold as 2/- and 4/- booklets made up with 8x. Cover showing a wintry scene and inscription "Christmas Seals. Help us to help the Handicapped".
- 1963 9y. Booklet; seals same as 1962 but booklet cover differed, having "REHABILITATION" added, and printers imprint "The Three Candles Ltd".
- 1964 10. Four designs all multi-coloured and printed by the half screen process. Seals show family dressing Christmas tree, white ground with D - b cross on each seal. V.F. rouletted.
- 10a. Child with red pony tail putting decoration on branch of Christmas tree. "NOLLAG" in black along bottom.
 - 10b. Father on step ladder putting final decoration on tree. "CHRISTMAS" in black along bottom.
 - 10c. Mother on knees admiring branch of tree. "CHRISTMAS" in black along bottom.
 - 10d. Son putting paper chain on tree. "NOLLAG" in black along bottom.
 - 10x. Sheet 4 x 3. First row abcd, second row dcba, third row badc.
 - 10y. Booklet of sheets.

1968 White helping hands on red ground, mauve border to red box with "DISABLED PERSONS YEAR" above it and "REHABILITATION INSTITUTE" below in mauve. V.F. rouletted. This is not a Christmas seal but it was issued at an exhibition in Dublin.

- 11x. Sheet.

TOGHERMORE RE-ABLEMENT AND TRAINING CENTRE, TUAM, CO. GALWAY.

- 1960 1. Simple design of large D - b cross in yellow on a red ground, with at its base two red berries and two large green holly leaves. Inscription in green on the cross "TOGHERMORE TUAM" and along the bottom "MERRY CHRISTMAS". Rouletted.
- 1x. Sheet of ten 5 x 2, with no imprint.
- 1961 2. As 1 but background yellow and cross red.
- 2x. As 1x.
- 1962 3. As 2 but holly leaves and lettering blue.
- 3x. As 1x.

CORK SPASTICS CLINIC.

1960 All the year seals designed by Gladys Leach in sheet of twelve, all different. Also, all have "Spastics of Ireland" either top or bottom.

- 1a. Young angels looking into crib, on a yellow ground with "Greetings".
- 1b. Shopper in red hat, yellow dress with green skirt, blue background. "Greetings" at bottom.
- 1c. Cherub with red headscarf feeding two birds, "Greetings" at bottom.
- 1d. Celtic cross standing beside a lough with purple mountains in the distance. "Ireland for holidays" across the top.
- 1e. Colleen in green shawl and red skirt and shopping basket with "Ireland greets you" along bottom.
- 1f. Cherub sitting on blue cloud with red cloud in background, "Greetings".
- 1g. Country scene with cottage, "Ireland for holidays" across top.
- 1h. Cherub about to bath dirty lamb, yellow ground, H.F. with "Greetings".
- 1i. Castle with "Blarney Castle Co. Cork" at top.
- 1j. Cherub carrying red pennant with "Greetings" on it.
- 1k. Child in red dress holding gollywog and paddling in black water with "Greetings" at bottom.
- 1l. Mary and Joseph on either side of crib, green background, H.F.
- 1x. Sheet 4 x 3, no imprint, three rows abcd / efgh / ijkl.

QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF DISTRICT NURSING IN IRELAND

- 1940 1. Seal with nurse at centre in oval frame. "FAITH" at left, "HOPE" above, "CHARITY" at right, "EIRE" below: shamrocks in upper corners, 1d in lower corners. Pale green. Rouletted.
- 1x. Pane of 12, 4 x 3.
- 1y. Booklet.
- 1945 2. As 1 but dark green.
- 2x. As 1x.
- 2y. As 1y.
- 1950 3. As 1 but blue.
- 3x. As 1x.
- 3y. As 1y.

The same design was used, printed separately on ungummed paper, imperf., with extra inscription above "JUBILEE NURSES". This version was used as a flag-day emblem.

IRISH SISTERS OF CHARITY

- 1953 1. Portrait of Mother Mary Aikenhead with, at top and bottom, "Foundress of Irish Sisters of Charity". Black, rouletted.
- 1x. Sheets, 5 x 5.

MOUNT MERRION (CO. DUBLIN) CHURCH BUILDING FUND

- 1962 1. Saint Therese holding flowers and crucifix. Flowers at top, inscription below "SAINT THERESE MT. MERRION". Brown with varnish finish. Perforated.
- 1x. Sheet, 10 x 5.

PERE PIRE FUND

- 1966 1. Starving Pakistani child in crouching position, in black on orange, with inscription "BREAD FOR PEACE" "a little bread for him too. 6d stamp buys half a loaf" and at foot "PERE PIRE ISLAND OF PEACE PROJECT, PAKISTAN". Rouletted.
- 1x. Sheets, 5 x 4.

WORLD REFUGEE FUND

- 1959 1. Circular seal, printed in blue with embossed effect on gold foil. In the centre a figure shielded by a large pair of hands, in a blue band around the edge is printed in gold "SUPPORT WORLD REFUGEE YEAR 1959 - 1960".

BLESSED OLIVER PLUNKETT

- 1947 1. Profile of Blessed Oliver Plunkett on dark green ground. Name above and below "ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH MARTYRED AT TYBURN 1681". Designed by Karl Uhleman and published by M.H. Gill & Co. Perforated.
- 1x. Sheet.
- 1p. Proof; imperforated.
- ? 2. Similar seal with a different portrait of the Martyr but the same inscription. Brown, perf.
- 2x. Sheet.

CARMELITE MISSIONS

- ? 1. St. Theresa in oval with "CARMELITE O.D.C. MISSIONS" above and "GUIDE OUR WAY" below, rouletted, dark brown.
- 1x. Sheet.

LABELS HEARD OF BUT NO INFORMATION

- c. 1930 CAPPAGH OPEN-AIR HOSPITAL, FINGLAS.
- 1944 IRISH RED CROSS PENNY-A-WEEK FUND.
- 1944 IRISH RED CROSS HEALTH FOR WEALTH FUND.

CANCELLATIONS

O.M. Richards

IRELAND'S EUROPORT

Rosslare Harbour is once more Ireland's Europort on the inauguration of a service from Rosslare to Le Havre. The new car ferry 'ST. PATRICK' replaces the summer only service run by a continental company discontinued some two years ago. Special covers were carried on the maiden crossing in both directions, from Rosslare on the 2nd/3rd June 1973 and from Le Havre on the 3rd/4th June 1973. The stamp on the cover carried from Rosslare was cancelled with a simple straight line PAQUEBOT, Fig. 1., and received the Le Havre mark, Fig. 2., on arrival. A ship's stamp, Fig. 3., was also applied to the cover. In the reverse direction, the stamp was cancelled by a special ROSSLARE PAQUEBOT, Fig. 4., plus a strike of the ship's stamp, Fig. 3.

Am I right in thinking that this is the first time a PAQUEBOT stamp of any kind has been used at Rosslare?

PAQUEBOT



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

75th ANNIVERSARY FIRST SIGNALS MARCONI / KEMP WIRELESS LINK RATHLIN ISLAND - BALLYCASTLE.

Through the kindness of an unknown friend 2 special cards popped in through our letter box some weeks ago, one card being white, the other pale grey, they measure some $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{4}$ " and the printed panel to the lefthand side is designed by Robert G. Sellar, ARJA, and printed at Display Aids Coleraine. The panel depicts a map of Rathlin Island, a morse key with the call sign GB3MKB plus photographs of Marconi and Kemp. On the reverse are details of extracts from the diary of Mr. George Kemp, 1898. The cards can be obtained from the Ballycastle Urban District Council and were issued in co-operation with the Belfast YMCA and Ballymena Radio Clubs. The proceeds go to the Corrymeela Community, Ballycastle, a cause well deserving of help in many ways. A letter to Ballycastle will bring details of prices for the two covers I'm sure.

Two different special handstamps were used, these are illustrated.



A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN

I've been in Derby Barracks,
I've been in Lichfield too,
I've soldiered up at Wallsend
(Which was none too grand it's true).
But the place I shall remember,
And remember with a frown,
Is that one-eyed, God-forsaken
Ballykinlar, County Down.

'Twas "World's End" camp they called it,
That describes it to a "T".
Had it been a few yards further,
'Twould have been right in the sea,
And the man who first discovered
This interesting spot,
Should rank as an explorer
With Shackelton and Scott.

We never saw a "Civvy",
We never saw a pub;
We never saw a paper
(We didn't see much grub).
We were so isolated
That we all agreed 'twas true,
We might have been encamping
In the wilds of Timbuctoo.

The wind was simply icy,
And all the fellows said
The only way of getting warm
Was getting into bed,
The cold was so intense there
An unusual sight we saw,
A sea-gull, from exposure,
Had "snuffed it" on the shore.

"A little bit of Heaven",
Old Ireland has been named,
The Author's p'raps not seen "World's End",
If so he can't be blamed,
But I'll make a sweeping statement,
And all the world I'll tell:
If this is a bit of Heaven,
Then give ME a bit of Hell ! ! !

1917

W.J.C.

Contributed by: "SEDGE" (A.T. Sedgley)