

IRISH PHILATELY

JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Edited by

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Volume 1984

March 1984

No 1

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EDITORIAL

Two new contributors this issue, our Hon Gen Secretary Keith Jamieson and a new member, John Mooney. My thanks to you both for your contributions.

I must say a big thank you to Brian Warren for the annual 'That Was The Year That Was', it has ensured a full Journal of twenty pages this quarter.

My letter in the December 1983 issue has resulted in the receipt of one or two articles but more are still needed in order to establish a situation of having items in hand for the next Journal when the current issue goes to print.

Please make an effort and put pen to paper; all contributions gratefully received.

OM Richards

"Irish Philately"

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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

by B. Warren

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 1983 programme comprising twenty-four stamps and one miniature sheet was issued over eight release dates commencing 23 February and ending 30 November. The eight releases have a total face value of IR£8.12 compared with 1982 statistics of IR£5.70 for twenty-three stamps. All stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. Perforations $14 \times 14\frac{3}{4}$ (vertical format) or $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14$ (horizontal format). All stamps printed in the normal 10 x 10 format with no perforation variations. All issues have the usual two sets of plate numbers plus colour check squares and printers' imprint.

Date of Issue	Description	Designer/Details	Value	Plate Numbers
23 Feb	Dublin Chamber of Commerce Bi-centenary	Peter Wildbur featuring the Ouzel Galley Goblet.	22p	1111
	Bank of Ireland Bi-centenary	Colin Harrison featuring a drawing of the Bank of Ireland building (the old Irish Parliament House) at College Green, Dublin.	26p	1111
Special first day covers produced by both organisations for their respective issues.				
7 Apr	Padraig O'Siochfhradha Birth Centenary	Colin Harrison featuring a drawing of the author based on a photograph first published in Bealoideas.	26p	111
	The Boys' Brigade Centenary	Robert Ballagh featuring a drawing of a boy in uniform.	29p	1111
Special first day cover produced by The Boys Brigade (Dublin Battalion) in conjunction with a sponsored handstamp - see note under first day postmarks.				
4 May	Europa (23rd Issue)	Louis le Brocquy featuring a drawing showing neolithic patterns incised on stone at Newgrange. Layout and graphics by Peter Wildbur.	26p	11

4 May	Great Works of The Human Genius	Peter Wildbur depicting the key formulae involved in the multiplication of quaternions as first recorded by Sir William Rowan Hamilton.	29p	111
23 Jun	Fauna and Flora (6th Issue)	Original drawings by Wendy Walsh with graphics and layout by Liam Miller showing the following breeds:-		
	Dogs	The Kerry Blue Terrier	22p	1111
		The Irish Wolfhound	26p	1111
		The Irish Water Spaniel	26p	1111
		The Irish Terrier	29p	1111
		Irish Setters	44p	1111
		Miniature Sheet containing all five stamps plus a label	IR£1.47	
11 Aug	Notable Persons and Institutions	The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals - Drawing by W. Walsh.	22p	1111
		Sean Mac Diarmada Birth Centenary - Painting by Robert Ballagh based on a photograph from the Keogh Collection.	22p	1111
		The Industrial Credit Company - 50th Anniversary - Abstract design by Bill Murphy.	26p	1111
		Society of St Vincent de Paul (founded in 1833) - Designed by Karl Uhlemann based on an oleograph featuring Vincent de Paul among children in the streets of Paris.	26p	1111
		Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) - Painting by Robert Ballagh based on a portrait (pencil drawing) by Frank McKelvey.	44p	11

Special first day covers produced by The Industrial Credit Company Limited and the Society of St Vincent de Paul for their respective issues. The illustrated leaflet for this issue, as distributed by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, is a somewhat scarce item; as a result of the Department's cost cutting programme, the print order was well below normal and supplies ran out at the Philatelic Bureau prior to the issue.

15 Sep	World Communications Year	Robert Ballagh depicting a postman with bicycle (22p) and an earth dish antenna which is directed at the Orbital Test Satellite, the forerunner of the European Communications Satellite System (29p).	22p 29p	1111 1111
13 Oct	Irish Handicrafts	Robert Mercer featuring original drawings of the following handicrafts in progress:-		
		Weaving	22p	1111
		Basketmaking	26p	1111
		Irish Crochet	29p	1111
		Harpmaking	44p	1111
30 Nov	Christmas (13th Issue)	"La Natividad" by Roger van der Weyden - Flemish artist of the 15th century. Side panel of the altar-piece in the Chapel Royal of the Cathedral at Granada, Spain.	22p 26p	1111 1111 1111

DEFINITIVES

The remaining fourteen values of the new definitive series: "Irish Architecture Down Through The Ages" were issued on two release dates, 16 March and 6 July. Printed in a similar manner as the initial first phase issued in 1982, all sheets were double pane printings (A and B). The 50p value is printed in two sheets of 200 and then guillotined into two post office sheets of 100 (10 x 10). All the remaining values in the smaller format are printed in sheets of 400 and then guillotined into two post office sheets of 200 stamps; each post office sheet is divided into two panes of 100 (10 x 10) separated by a gutter. Vertical format values (15p 20p and 23p) are perforated $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14$. The remaining values are of horizontal format and are perforated $14 \times 14\frac{3}{4}$. Plate numbers appear only once on each sheet. Imprint in a different corner. No colour checks. There are a number of perforation format variations which are outside the scope of this article and I would refer readers to the more detailed articles by Eddie FitzGerald and myself published in Irish Stamp News.

<u>Value</u>	<u>Colours</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Plate No</u>	
1p	Blue	Central Pavilion, Botanic Gardens	6 Jul 1983	1A	1B
2p	Green	Central Pavilion, Botanic Gardens	6 Jul 1983	1A	1B
3p	Black	Central Pavilion, Botanic Gardens	6 Jul 1983	1A	1B
4p	Ruby	Central Pavilion, Botanic Gardens	16 Mar 1983	1A	1B
5p	Brown	Central Pavilion, Botanic Gardens	6 Jul 1983	1A	1B
6p	Blue	Dr Steeven's Hospital	16 Mar 1983	1A	1B
7p	Green	Dr Steeven's Hospital	16 Mar 1983	1A	1B
10p	Black	Dr Steeven's Hospital	6 Jul 1983	1A	1B
12p	Ruby	Dr Steeven's Hospital	6 Jul 1983	1A	1B
15p	Green	Aughnanure Castle	6 Jul 1983	1A	1B

20p	Ruby	Aughnanure Castle	16 Mar 1983	1A	1B
23p	Green	Cormac's Chapel	16 Mar 1983	1A	1B
30p	Black	St Mac Dara's Church	16 Mar 1983	1A	1B
50p	Blue & Grey	Casino, Marino	16 Mar 1983	1A1A/1B1B	

New definitive presentation packs were released on the opening day of Stampa '83 (28 October). The much improved design features the Rock of Cashel on the face of the low value pack and Ballybunion Castle on the high value pack. The low value pack containing sixteen stamps (1p to 30p) retails at IR£2.75 (face value IR£2.15); high value pack containing four stamps (44p to £5) retails at IR£7.25 (face value IR£6.94).

A new IR£1.00 experimental booklet was released on 15 August. Initially the booklet was only available from two machines located at the GPO Dublin and from the Philatelic Bureau. Two different machines are in use at the GPO - one of British origin similar to the type used by the British Post Office and one of Swedish design - both operate on the insertion of two x 50p coins. At the time of writing machines have also been installed at Rathmines Branch Office, Dublin 6 and Galway Head Post Office. I understand that machines will also be installed at Head Post Offices in Cork, Limerick and Waterford. The booklet contains 4 x 22p and 3 x 4p of the new definitives plus a label in a neat se-tenant pane affixed by the selvedge into a thin card cover featuring a drawing of the Four Courts, Dublin by Michael Craig. The master printers sheet contains 40 panes in four columns of 10. Each of the card covers are number 1 through to 40. The top pane in each column viz. 1, 11, 21 and 31 have small traffic lights, in the same ruby colour as the 4p stamps, printed in the outer margin. Pane 1 has one circle, pane 11 two circles, 21 three and 31 four. The outer margins of the panes are imperforate and the panes are affixed to the inside of the booklet cover by the selvedge and then folded over to fit the size of the cover. A large number of collectors are collecting all 40 numbered booklets. I understand that the Philatelic Bureau is presently supplying complete sets of 40 to interested collectors.

WITHDRAWAL OF GERL DEFINITIVES

The 22p 26p 29p and IR£1.00 values were withdrawn from general sale on 14 December 1982 and from philatelic sale on 15 March 1983. The ~~4p 6p 7p 20p and 50p~~ values were withdrawn from general sale on 15 March 1983 and from philatelic sale on 16 June 1983. The $\frac{1}{2}$ p 1p 2p 3p 5p 8p 9p 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ p 10p 11p 12p 13p 15p 16p 17p 18p 19p and 24p values were withdrawn from general sale on 5 July 1983 and from philatelic sale on 6 October 1983. The 40p and 70p booklets were also withdrawn from philatelic sale on 6 October as was the 10p watermarked coil. The 10p coil is still available from coil machines still operating including GPO Dublin.

* The 4p was unavailable from the bureau from late '82 but was still on sale at many sub post offices.

50p GERL DEFINITIVE

On 23 February 1983, supplies of a new printing of the 50p Eagle on cylinders 2222 became available at the Philatelic Bureau, Dublin. Although collectors were aware that the old cylinders were showing signs of wear and tear, the introduction of new cylinders at such a late stage was unexpected. Under magnification the fine screen of square shaped cells can be clearly seen on stamps ex. cylinders 2222 compared to the clogged appearance of previous

printings. The colour sequence of the cylinder numbers and autotron marks was altered - yellow, red, olive and lake-brown compared to yellow, olive, red and lake-brown. The type fount also changed as the cylinders were from a different manufacturer. No major varieties noted. As all 50p Eagle stamps were withdrawn from sale on March 15 due to the release of the 50p Casino stamp on the following day, the commercial life of the 50p ex. cylinders 2222 can be measured in days. I understand that a post office in Crumlin, Dublin received supplies of this late printing in early March but I have had no reports of any other offices receiving supplies; I do know that supplies ex. cylinders 1111 were distributed in March. The only other points of sale known were the Cork Philatelic Counter and at the stamp exhibitions held in Limerick, Sligo and Dundalk during 1983.

FIRST DAY COVERS AND CANCELLATIONS

Special pictorial covers (price 14p) were available for all but two issues; the Padraig O' Siochfhradha/Boys' Brigade and Notable Persons and Institutions were the exceptions. The standard FDC (price 12p) was used for these two releases. Special pictorial postmarks were available for all releases at Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway. In connection with the Boys' Brigade stamp a privately sponsored first day postmark was used on mail posted at the Dublin Battalion's Headquarters in Dawson Street, Dublin. This is the first occasion that "La a Chead Eisiuna" (First Day of Issue) has been included in a privately sponsored first day postmark. A first day of issue service was available at Kiltyclogher Sub Post Office, Co Leitrim in connection with the 22p Sean Mac Diarmada stamp. Sean Mac Diarmada was born in the town. The normal counter date stamp (in poor condition) plus the old style "La a Chead Eisiuna/First Day of Issue" cachet was used on FDCs. To accomodate the Dogs miniature sheet a special extra large cover (14p) was made available by the Post Office in similar design to that used for the ordinary sized cover for the single stamps.

OVERSEAS EXHIBITION CACHETS

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs attended two exhibitions during 1983. Stampex, London (15-20 February) and ASDA New York (17 -20 November). At each exhibition a plain cachet was available for use on covers as a souvenir of the occasion. The wording of the cachets were as follows:-

1. Department of Posts and Telegraphs Ireland London Stampex
15-20 Feb. 1983.
2. Department of Posts and Telegraphs Ireland 35th National Postage
Stamp Show New York November 1983.

The above wordings which have been in use for several years should alter in 1984 with the Post Office coming under the control of An Post rather than the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

SPECIAL EVENT CANCELLATIONS

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION SLIGEACH FPSI 5.III.1983

Used at an exhibition organised by the local society with the help of the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland held at Swan Hotel, Sligo. Circular in black. The unusual cover sold by the organisers was an adaptation of the official first



FIRST DAY COVER CANCELLATIONS

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES



DEFINITIVES



EXHIBITION CACHETS



day cover issued by the Bank of Ireland for their own stamp. The cover has an added inscription in green "Philatelic Exhibition Sligo 5 March 1983". Philatelic facilities provided.

LUIMNEACH 19.III.1983 MID-WESTERN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Used in connection with the 4th Annual Fair and Stamp Exhibition organised by the Mid-Western Philatelic Society at Cruise's Hotel, Limerick.

Circular postmark in black which features a representation of the Treaty Stone of Limerick (as per prior years). Special cover available. Philatelic facilities provided.



STANDING CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION BAILE ATHA CLIATH
13th SESSION DUBLIN 10-12 MAY 1983

Used on the above dates in connection with the conference held at Dublin Castle.

Special posting box provided. Post office facilities provided. Rectangular in purple.



BAILE ATHA CLIATH XI WORLD CONGRESS OF FERTILITY AND STERILITY
JUNE 26-JULY 1 1983

Used on the above dates in conjunction with the post office facilities provided at the Congress which was held at the Royal Dublin Society premises, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

The logo in the handstamp encompasses the important features associated with the Congress. In the centre the Shamrock is surrounded by the symbols of Male and Female entwined in partnership set into a diagrammatic representation of the World. Oval in purple.



CARROLS IRISH OPEN BAILE ATHA CLIATH

Used at The Royal Dublin Golf Club, Dublin 3 from 11 August through to 14 August during the Irish Open Golf Championship. Not used on 10 August, the Pro-Am day.

Post office facilities provided. Rectangular in black.



SIXTH WORLD CONGRESS OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BAILE ATHA CLIATH

Used at University College, Belfield, Dublin 4 in conjunction with post office facilities from 19 September to 22 September.

The handstamp features an ear of wheat as a symbol of the fruits of the earth.

This is framed within a hexagon, universally recognised as signifying scientific knowledge, stylised into enfolding hands carrying the import of service in the interest of mankind.

Oval in purple.



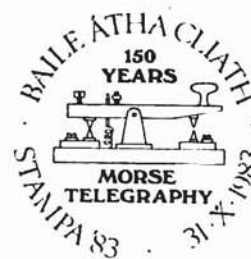
CORCAIGH 8.X.1983 CORK STAMP EXHIBITION

Used on mail posted at the Imperial Hotel, Cork during the annual Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition which was held on the above date.

Circular in black featuring the well known Cork landmark, Shandon Steeple. Philatelic facilities provided. Special cover also available.



BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH STAMPA '83



Four circular pictorial postmarks in black, one for each day of the exhibition, were applied on mail posted at the Exhibition Post Office in the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. The events commemorated were:-

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 28 October: | 50th anniversary of the Mass Formation Transatlantic Flight led by Italian aviator General Italo Balbo. The outward flight from Orbetello, Italy in July 1933 stopped en route at Derry, N Ireland. The cancel features seaplanes. |
| 29 October: | Centenary of the Parcel Post. The Post Office Parcel Post Service was introduced in Britain and Ireland in 1883. The postmark feature a Dublin parcel post cancel of the late 19th century. |
| 30 October: | 200 Years of Manned Flight. 200th anniversary of the Montgolfier Balloon ascent over Paris on November 21, 1783. The postmark features a balloon. |
| 31 October: | 150 Years of Morse Telegraphy. Samuel Finley Breese Morse produced what is known as "Morse Code" in 1833. An early morse key is shown in the postmark. Special cover available. Philatelic facilities provided. |

STAMP EXHIBITION GAILLIMH 3.XII.1983

Used on mail posted at the annual stamp exhibition organised by the Galway Philatelic Society. Held at the Imperial Hotel, Galway on 3 December.

Circular in black featuring the logo of the Society. Same design as previous years. Special cover available (sponsored by Allied Irish Banks Limited). Philatelic sales stand provided.



NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

There were ten new slogans introduced during 1983. As usual, there was an absence of prior notice to collectors with the exception of 1 and 4 below:-

1. "ARTS FESTIVAL GALWAY April 22 - May 1"

Used in Galway from February to April. Very poor impression.

2. "MOSNEY HOLIDAYS - BOOK NOW"

Used at Drogheda from April to August. The holiday camp near Drogheda was formerly owned by the British firm Butlins and has recently changed ownership.

3. "LOVELY LEITRIM FOR HOLIDAYS"

Used at Carrick-on-Shannon from May to November.

4. "THINK TIDY"

Used during June in Cavan (?), Cork, Donegal, Dublin (5 dies), Dundalk (July also) and Limerick.

5. "TIPPERARY IT'S NOT A LONG WAY"

Used in Tipperary from June to September.

6. "FAILTE JULY & AUGUST TAIBHDHEARC NA GAILLIMHE SRAID LAR GAILLIMH"

Used in Galway during June and July. Very poor impressions.

7. "MOSNEY - TRADE SHOWS - CONFERENCES - EXHIBITIONS"

Used in Drogheda from September to December replacing slogan 2 above.

8. "JOIN GALWAY'S 500 CELEBRATIONS IN 1984"

Used in Galway during October and November. Very poor impressions.

9. "UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT WEEK, 24-31 OCTOBER"

Used the period 24-31 October at Cavan (?), Cork, Donegal (?), Dublin (5 dies), Dundalk, Limerick and Waterford (?).

10. "POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS"

New type. Differs from previous slogans - lettering smaller. Used in Donegal during December.

A question mark (?) above indicates that positive proof by actual sight of an impression from this location required. Members may be able to help in this regard.

SLOGANS RE-USED IN 1983

The SP numbers refer to the slogan postmark section of the First Edition of the Hibernian Specialised Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland issued 1972. Slogans first brought into use since 1972 are numbered by reference to previous "That Was The Year That Was" listings.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| SP 55 | "Bank Your Savings in the Savings Bank". Cork, Galway and Limerick. |
| SP 60 | "Make The Road Safe". Naas. |
| SP 62 | "Post Early For Christmas". Longford and Nenagh. |
| SP 68 | "Post Early For Christmas". In general use. |
| SP 85 | "Prevent Forest Fires". In general use. |
| SP 108 | "Make Sure You Are On The New Voters Lists". Cobh, Enniscorthy and Killarney. |
| SP 109 | "Are You On The Voters Lists? Check Now At The Post Office". In general use. |
| SP 111 | "Please Shew District Numbers in Dublin Addresses". In general use. |
| SP 112 | "Westport For Sea Angling". Westport. |
| SP 123 | "A Full Address Speeds Delivery". In general use. |
| SP 130 | "Build On Secure Foundations £1 Units Tax Free Savings Certificates". Dublin and Wexford. |
| SP 131 | "Save The Easy Way Easy Deposits Easy Withdrawal The Post Office Savings Bank". In general use. |
| SP 147 | "Ballinasloe Show and Fair 1st Week October". Ballinasloe. |
| SP 163 | "Athlone On The Shannon". Athlone. |
| 1975 No 4 | "Conserve Energy". In general use. |
| 1975 No 5 | "Let Your Fingers Do The Walking - Use The Golden Pages". Cork and Dublin. |
| 1976 No 2 | "Giving For Living". Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Dundalk, Limerick and Waterford. |
| 1977 No 2 | "Clonakilty Beach Centre West Cork". Clonakilty. |
| 1978 No 4 | "Collect Postage Stamps". Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Dundalk, Limerick and Waterford. |
| 1980 No 2 | "You've Got To Get Saving". Cavan, Dundalk and Waterford. |
| 1980 No 3 | "Are You On The Draft Register of Electors? Check Now At Your Post Office". Cork, Dublin and Dundalk. |

1981 No 3 "9 October UPU Day". Cork and Dublin.

Noticeably absent this year was the 1980 No 1 - "Please Show District Numbers In Dublin Addresses".

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS

5 MARCH - PHILATELIC EXHIBITION SLIGO

600 numbered booklets containing two panes of 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$ p Gerl definitives plus 2 x 22p Dublin Chamber of Commerce stamps. Sold for IR£1.

19 MARCH - MID WESTERN PHILATELIC SOCIETY 4TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND FAIR

In connection with this annual event, the organisers issued a numbered edition of 450 booklets containing 2 x 22p Shark stamps. Sold for IR£1.25.

28 MAY - PHILATELIC EXHIBITION DUNDALK

Issued in connection with a stamp, coin and postcard fair and exhibition held at the Imperial Hotel, Dundalk on 28 and 29 May. Organised by the Louth Philatelic Society with the help of the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland. This was the first booklet containing stamps from the new series of definitives. The booklet contained 6 x 4p Gerls plus 6 x 4p Architecture stamps. Sold for IR£1. Held during the Dundalk Maytime Festival. Numbered edition of 350 booklets. Philatelic facilities provided.

8 OCTOBER - CORK PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1983

650 numbered booklets were produced for this annual exhibition. Each booklet contains six of the 1p, 2p and 6p architecture definitives. The exhibition postmark is featured on the back cover. Sold for IR£1.

28 OCTOBER - STAMPA '83

The booklet contains blocks of four of the 1p, 2p, 3p and 6p definitives in a numbered edition of 1500 booklets. The card cover features the GPO Dublin and is based on a 19th century print. Sold for IR£1.50. Members of the Stampa Society received a Dogs miniature sheet with an added inscription in the margin which read:- "Irish National Stamp Exhibition STAMPA '83 Dublin October 28-31 1983 Taispeantas Naisiunta Stampai". Pre-numbered also and limited to the number of members viz. 448. The inscription was in blue.

19 NOVEMBER - LIMERICK COIN STAMP AND POSTCARD FAIR

Produced by PJW Promotions (Dublin), the booklet contains 3 x 22p Sean Mac Diarmada stamps - total of 300 numbered booklets. It should be noted that there was no exhibition associated with this fair and that no philatelic facilities or special postmarks were provided. Sold IR£1.

3 DECEMBER - GALWAY PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Numbered edition of 300 booklets containing blocks of four of the 2p, 4p and 5p definitives. Sold for IR£1.

POSTAL STATIONERY

10 JANUARY - 96p SIZE G REGISTERED ENVELOPE

Duplex manilla envelope with incorrect compensation amounts of £50 inland and £6.35 foreign. The minimum compensation amounts since 1 April 1982 have been £100 and £13.50 respectively. Sold for IR£1. The 96p covers 70p registration fee plus 26p minimum inland postage. The 96p stamp is embossed in a bright green colour.

OCTOBER - 96p SIZE G REGISTERED ENVELOPE - REPRINT

The envelope was reprinted with a new typeface for certain elements of the English instructions on the face of the cover. The 96p embossed stamp is of a deeper colour than the initial January issue. The compensation amounts have been corrected to £100 and £13.50. This is the first time in several years that both compensation amounts have been correct. Sold for IR£1.

29 NOVEMBER - 96p SIZE H REGISTERED ENVELOPE

Duplex manilla envelope with correct compensation amounts of £100 inland and £13.50 foreign. Sold for IR£1.02.

29 NOVEMBER - 26p SIZE A ENVELOPE

Same format as previous 22p envelope. Sold for 28p. The indigo colour of the printed stamp does not correspond to the black presently used for the 26p definitives or the bright green of the previous Gerl definitives. Usually the stamp is printed in the same colour as the current definitives.

YEAR PACK

The 1983 year pack was placed on sale at the philatelic counter, Dublin, on Friday, 27 January 1984. The revised layout, similar to the definitive packs, features a view of the Lakes of Killarney. The pack contains all the special and commemorative stamps issued during 1983 and retails at IR£6.95 (face value IR£6.65). No miniature sheet included.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members who attended the AGM held in the Clarence Hotel, Dublin 2 on 21/22 May could purchase a large card reproducing various Sligo postmarks on the reverse. Sold as a pair (numbered) at IR£1, mint and used; the used copy was stamped and postmarked in Sligo.

STAMPA '83 DINNER MENU

The awards banquet was held in the Clarence Hotel, Dublin 2, on Saturday, 29 October. Each diner received 1 of 4 different postcards published by Robson Lowe Ltd., featuring philatelic rarities. The 4 cards are numbered 1 to 4 and come from a series of 16 cards produced by Robson Lowe. The menu was typed individually on the reverse of each card. Each card was stamped with the 22p World Communications Year stamp and postmarked with the Stampa postmark of the day.

COLLECTORS ITEMS - SOME ASPECTS OF IRISH DEFINITIVE STAMP DESIGN

A colourful and informative leaflet under the above title has been available at the philatelic bureau since early 1983. Produced by well known philatelist Bill Kane in his capacity as Philatelic Consultant (at the time) to the Postal Branch. The 8 pages outline the difference between definitives and other issues and trace the history of Irish definitive designs since 1922. Not yet distributed to collectors on the mailing list but available free of charge to callers at the bureau.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND 1922-1982

A new publication entitled Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1982 was launched by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs on 9 September. Compiled by Liam Miller; supervisory editor Bill Kane. The first edition of this check list, without illustrations, was published (free of charge) in 1976. This much improved and revised edition gives details of the various stamp issues since Ireland became a separate stamp issuing authority in 1922. Illustrated in full colour; however, where a design is common to several denominations it is illustrated only once. It is intended to stimulate interest in Irish stamps among beginners and noncollectors at home and abroad. To this end it appears to have had a quick response in that it was available from even the smallest newsagent and reached the non-fiction best seller list in Ireland within a few weeks of release. The paperback edition costs IR£3.95; hardback IR£10. I understand that a second edition will probably be released in 1984. Although not aimed at serious advanced collectors, it is useful as design details for each issue have not been available in one listing since publication of the Hibernian Specialised Catalogue in 1978.

FOREIGN STAMPS WITH IRISH ASSOCIATIONS

Jersey issued a set of four stamps in their "Artists" series on 20 September. The stamps feature works by Walter William Oules. The 8p stamp features a portrait of Cardinal Newman who was born in London in 1801. A convert to Catholicism he became a Cardinal in 1879. John Henry Newman is well known in Ireland as first Rector of the Catholic University of Ireland (now University College of Dublin) which opened its doors of 86 St Stephens Green to its first twenty students on 3 November 1854. The building is now named Newman House.

Italy issued an airletter on 1 July to commemorate the Balbo Transatlantic Mass Formation flight - see notes under Stampa postmarks above.

In my 1982 notes I referred to the possibility of World Cup stamps associated with Northern Ireland who participated in the 1982 finals in Spain. The following items have come to my attention in the philatelic press - however, I have not seen them to verify the accuracy of the information given:-

Bulgaria (27 November 1982) - Set of three stamps and a miniature sheet showing footballers and honouring the finalists.

Central African Republic (February 1983) - 5f value of a long set shows Billy Hamilton (N Ireland) and Bruno Pezzey (Austria).

El Salvador (26 August 1982) - From a long set a 15c shows the N Ireland flag and a 25c the N Ireland Coat of Arms; a miniature sheet shows the flags of competing countries.

Guinea (Bissau) (October 1982) - Flags of competing nations appear to be included on this six value set.

Spain (3 June 1982) - Spain issued a set of four postcards, one of which depicts flags of competing countries.

I have also noted that Bulgaria issued a set of stamps on 27 November 1982 which commemorated the 10th Anniversary of the first European Conference on Security and Co-operation. The stamps show flags of various countries. Ireland is included on a 5st value. I am unsure as to whether Ireland ever participated in these conferences.

CONCLUSION

Once again, I wish to thank my philatelic friends who have helped me to compile another year's listings. In particular John Lennon for the slogan listings and to Eddie FitzGerald for his continual help and advice.

1984 should be an exciting year with the break-up of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs into two separate semi-state bodies - An Post and An Bord Telecom. Under An Post it is expected that the philatelic section will become more outward looking and will improve its service to the collector at home and abroad.

NOTE: Britain issued a set of five stamps on 6 July depicting British Army Uniforms; the 28 p value shows the Irish Guards. Postcard reproducing the stamp also available.

* * * * *

NOT CALLED FOR

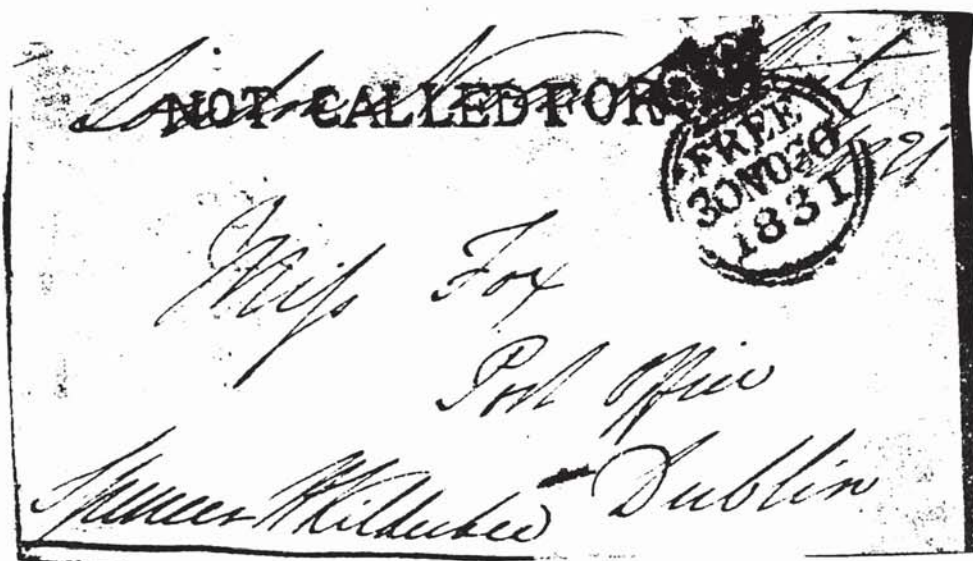
by H.K. Jamieson

Recently I received a letter from a Welsh postal historian concerning a 'Not Called For' mark on a cover in his pre-adhesive collection. The mark is struck in orange red across the top of a letter from Caernarfon on December 26th 1818 and addressed to Capt. Griffiths, Schooner Mary Ann of Bristol, George's Quay, Dublin. The cover bears the Dublin receiving mark of December 28th 1818.

I have a similar, if not identical, mark in my own collection but unfortunately it is struck on a Free front which was sent from London on November 30th 1831 by Spencer Horsey Kilderbee, Member for Orford Borough in the County of Suffolk in the Parliament of 1831.

It is addressed to a Miss Fox, Post Office, Dublin and again Not Called For is struck across the top and so merges with the mandatory address of the sender thus rendering it rather unclear.

In the following illustration I have strengthened the mark.



Presumably the Not Called For mark was a stamp employed in the Dublin GPO as an early type of Post Restant mark to denote a dead letter and from the above appears to have been in use for at least 13 years. However, I cannot find any information about it in the literature at my disposal. Perhaps other members can add further to this and maybe furnish dates which would extend the usage of the stamp. The measurements are 65mm long and the letters are 5mm high.

In conclusion, one wonders how many collectors and postal historians have lamented the Victorian passion for collecting signatures and autographs of notable and public people on cover and then cutting away the back before glueing the remaining front into a scrapbook. Apart from mutilating the cover or entire, many a fine backstamp must have been consigned to the waste paper basket.

AN INTERESTING COVER

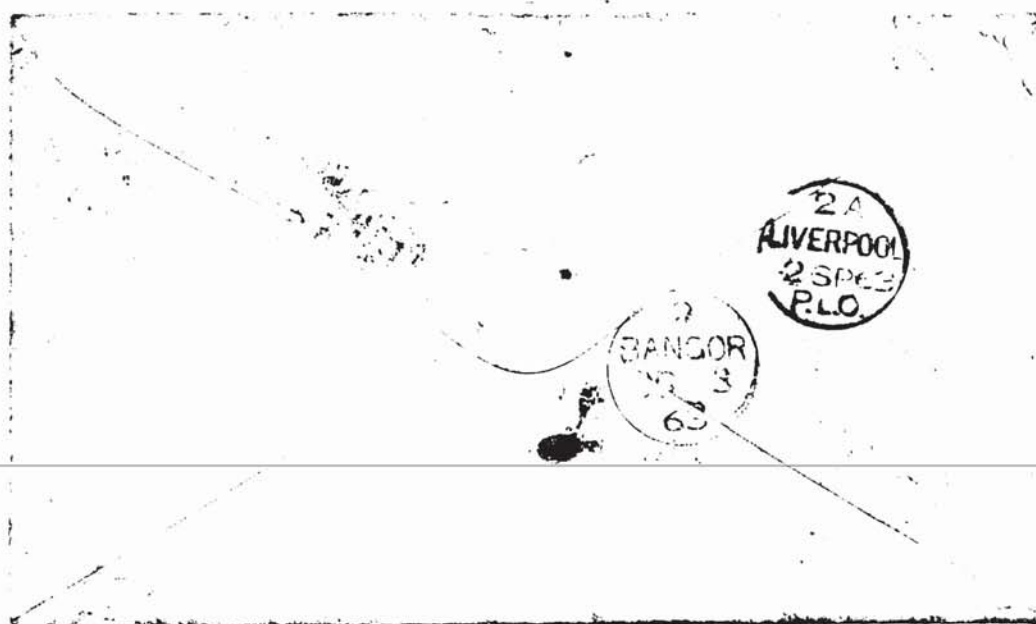
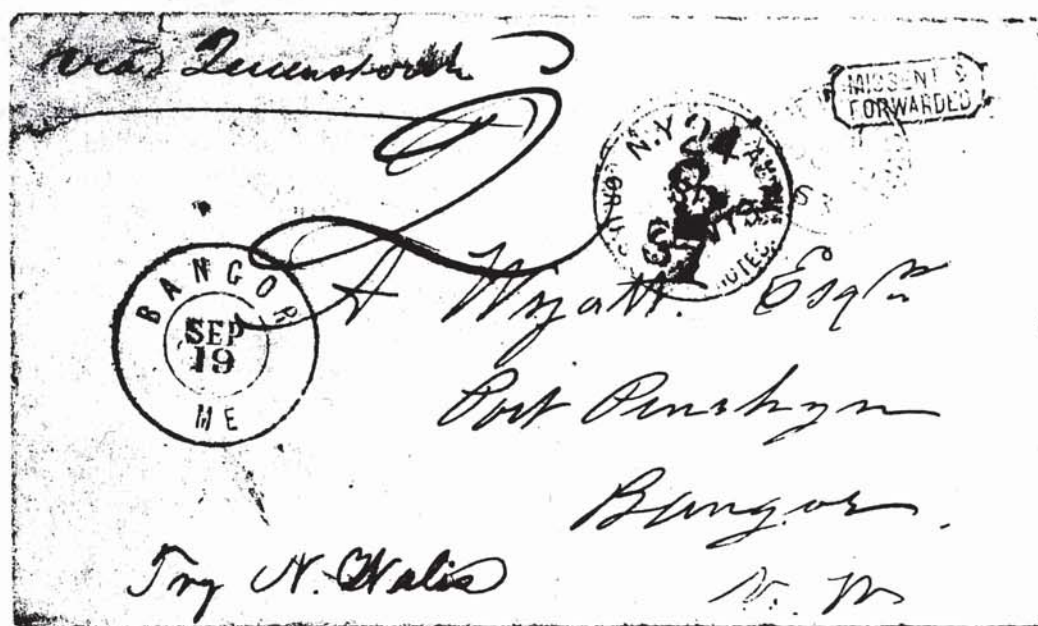
by O.M. Richards

Some time in 1983 I was fortunate enough to secure the cover illustrated in a local auction in one of the Merseyside Philatelic Societies. I must admit that I bought it for its Welsh interest.

This cover was addressed to A Wyatt Esq, Port Penrhyn, Bangor, NW (North Wales). There is no trace of an adhesive stamp whatsoever but there is a charge of 2 in manuscript

It appears to have been sorted into the Packet Office at Liverpool, see stamp on reverse, on 2 September 1863 and it arrived in Bangor, Maine USA, on 19 September 1863. Another mark is the New York transit stamp dated 24 September

1863 and also a rubber stamp MISSENT & FORWARDED applied in the United States.



The cover has also been anoted in manuscript - "Via Queenstown" and "Try N Wales". It was stamped in Queenstown on 2 October 1883 and finally reached Bangor, North Wales, on 3 October 1863.

For one month the cover had been in transit and had travelled several thousands of miles during that period before it was delivered to its destination. A simple error by a sorter resulted in the interesting cover. There is only one problem, does it go into my Welsh or Irish collection?

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

MILEAGE MARKS PROBLEMS Among the problems of the mileage marks period is why some towns dropped the mileage in the 1830s and reverted to simple one-line stamps, when other places were adopting the circular dated stamps. I have long sought for a case where the mileage figures were removed and the name portion continued by itself. At last I think I have found it? A letter of 1834 has AHASCRAUGH.

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One of 1839 has AHASCRAUGH only and it seems to be otherwise identical. In other examples where I thought that this had happened, closer inspection revealed traces of the figures.

DUBLIN PENNY GENERAL POST I have added one more to the numbers recorded for the elusive markings introduced in Dublin early in 1840. The latest find is 21/PAID/1d in red October 1 1840.

ANOTHER SLOGAN Yet again a new slogan has appeared without any notification to collectors. MOSNEY / TRADE SHOWS / CONFERENCES / EXHIBITIONS, earliest seen so far 3 September, used at Drogheda.

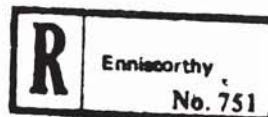
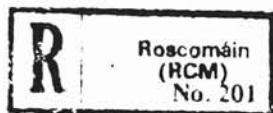
RSO Enthusiasts for RSO cancellations should add to their lists of Irish examples MOUNTCHARLES RSO Co DONEGAL, double circle, used March 1907.

DUBLIN OFFICES REGISTRATION NUMBERS Two more noted:-
99 = Oifig Luachala (Valuations Office?).
151 = Office of Paymaster General.

I also note that No 5 is used at what still calls itself Portobello Bridge although each move has taken it further South, now into the Rathmines Shopping Centre.

TRANSFER DUTY In IP September 1983, I mentioned a Transfer Duty stamp of the Dublin Tramways Co. I later found that a similar stamp, also 2/6 red, of the Waterford and Limerick (later Waterford, Limerick and Western) Railway is illustrated in Ewen's 1906 catalogue of Newspaper and Parcel stamps issued by the railway companies. A third has now been reported for the Great Northern Railway, Ireland.

REGISTRATION LABELS



Most Irish registration labels are printed in sheets of 50, numbering starting at top right. The imprint is normally lost in guillotining but I have three showing some identifier. Two have figure 5 above a letter which may be P or R. The third has 3 and the letter is almost certainly P.

IRISH OFFICE NAMES The datestamps on an interesting cover of September 1983 include one of BREINLEAC which does not appear in the current Eolai an Phoist. Investigation revealed the place to be Brinlack under Letterkenny which has been officially BUN NA LEACA since before the 1977 changes.

DUBLIN PAID MACHINES The dies used with Dublin PAID machines include those which included the amount of postage paid and in November I saw examples from machine J with traces of 3d and 4d. Another curio was a machine paid of Athlone in black.

BOOKS James Mackay's energy and efficiency continue unabated. The new thick volume devoted to OFFICIAL MAIL OF THE BRITISH ISLES, with 2499 illustrations, is another superb compilation covering every aspect of the regulations, forms, postmarks etc., etc. The thorough treatment is exemplified by the circular Official Paid with harp at centre, 24 distinct types being illustrated! From the same man comes the 1984 Annual, updating earlier books, including much fresh Irish material.

One discovery by the author while in Dublin was that the GPO Parcels Office was using the "bus-ticket" Plessey machines of Bray and Wexford, the Dublin machines being unserviceable!

AUCTION The MacDonnell Whyte sale on 3 November had some bursts of spirited bidding, especially during the section of American locals. One notable Irish price was £430 for a Shannon Scheme FDC but the most remarkable feature was the Irish Postal Stationery. 44 of the 52 lots realised above the estimates, some more than the catalogue price.

My main purchase was a lot of second grade covers which included 3 unrecorded items GARVA/119 and KISH/90 mileage marks and GLENAVY straight-line. My assessment of the rarity of Dublin G datestamps must be revised as 9 covers from Belfast, 1826-29, all had G datestamps confirming Mrs Stilwell Walker's findings. However, neither of us has yet seen a G PAID datestamp with double frame.

MISSING YEARS The only case noted so far of an absent year was from Dundalk on Penny Post Day. The error was rectified within a few days and the 1984 is larger than normal. Similar varieties have been seen from Drogheda and Killarney

AUCTION 28 JAN The MacDonnell Whyte auction was well attended but not many lots inspired vigorous bidding. Prices I noted included £1300 and £2100 for complete sheets of the 2/6 and 5/- SAORSTAT; 1934 GAA FDC £98; 1945 2/- booklet £370. The most exciting lot was 1013, over 600 registered envelopes with different office labels - with some of the scarcer postal stationery envelopes: valuation £250: realisation £875.

1982 CURRAGH STAMP M Giffney has done more detective work: the curragh shown on the 22p of the 1982 Irish Boats series featured in the film "Ryan's Daughter" and its crew were Sean Johnson and his father Michael, who runs the Post Office at Ballydavid, Dingle

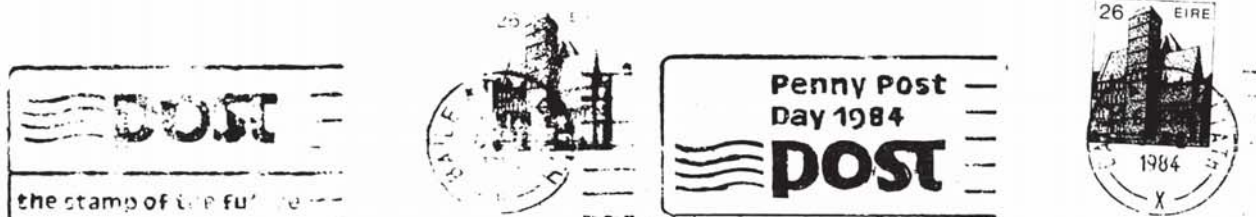
AN ISLAND "POSTMARK" I have seen an official envelope of the Department of Defence, with the franking handstamp of the Naval Detachment of Fort Mitchell, Spike Island (in Cork Harbour). The Post Office

datestamp is the machine marking of Cobh. A peculiar feature is that the franking stamp has the misspelling DETATCHMENT!

PENNY POST DAY On 1 January the Irish Department of Posts and Telegraphs ceased to exist, being replaced by the two new bodies "An Post" and "Telecom". At the handover ceremony on 31 December it was announced that on the first working day, 3 January, a letter or postcard to anywhere in the Republic could be posted for 1p provided that the address was handwritten. Rumours had spread during the previous weeks and philatelists were well prepared with stocks of 1d stamps. All offices had received extra supplies, so there should have been no shortage. However, there was such a rush on the day that some offices sold out, giving some speculators the excuse to use bisected 2p.

One cause for the shortage of 1p stamps was the activity of ignorant speculators who thought that the 1p stamp was a new issue, available only for the day. They dashed from office to office securing whole sheets and a few days later were enquiring from the dealers how much profit they could expect!

A few postmistresses accepted cash and the items were put in the post unstamped. Most of these were delivered without comment but there have been complaints of attempts to collect 52p postage due. It will be difficult to assemble a comprehensive collection of the PENNY POST DAY covers, which must have examples of the special machine cancellation from several Dublin machines and a few major towns, the most difficult to get being Donegal. On the following day there was another slogan on the machines.



ST PATRICK'S DAY POSTCARDS The set of colourful postcards, prepaid to any part of the world, were shown on television during the prestigious Late Show. They are aimed at the general public, rather than philatelists, who would have preferred a printed stamp design to the An Post emblem.

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ST PATRICK'S DAY POSTCARDS

Further to Mr FE Dixon's comments above, Mr J Mooney has submitted the following:-

On 29 February 1984, there was a further indication of the higher profile adopted by An Post. On this day An Post launched the sale of special Saint Patrick's Day greetings cards. The price of each being 25p. 500,000 cards went on sale and many rural post offices sold out on the first day. It would be interesting to know the reaction of the greetings cards manufacturers and High Street Newsagents to this departure and whether or not An Post intends to broaden the idea - eg Christmas, Birthday and Valentine Cards!!