

IRISH STAMP NEWS

No.5 Spring 1980



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Irish Stamp News

No. 5 SPRING 1980

Edited and Published
by
IAN WHYTE
3 Fitzwilliam Place,
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Telephone: 761383



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Philatéliques.

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FRONT COVER

A selection of recent issues including Europa '79, Christmas and P. H. Pearse, full details of which may be found in RECENT RELEASES on pages 23 to 25.

IRISH STAMP NEWS

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THE PRICE OF IRISH STAMP NEWS

The price of Irish Stamp News is 45p including V.A.T., and there is no extra charge. Some readers have complained that their news-agent has charged them not only V.A.T. which is already incorporated in the cover price, but also a sterling surcharge as if the magazine was printed in Britain!

Readers who have been charged more than the cover price are asked to contact us so we may investigate such complaints.

COLLECTOREX

1980

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Editorial

V.A.T. ON STAMPS

Although many dealers and collectors seem unaware of it, the current rates of V.A.T. on sales of stamps in this country are 10% on used stamps and 20% on mint. This is according to rulings recently emanating from Dublin Castle.

The 10% rate is applied to used stamps as they are considered second-hand goods which are defined by legislation as having been subjected to substantial usage. This is a concessionary rate, as the standard rate of V.A.T. in this country is 20%, which is applied to all goods except those singled out for concessionary treatment.

Up to March 1st 1979 it would appear that 'The sale of Irish unused postal, fiscal, or insurance stamps' was an exempt activity. However on the aforesaid date V.A.T. legislation was amended and the section dealing with these articles was dropped. Thus it would appear that these items are since then subject to V.A.T. at 20%. This rate would appear to apply even to sales by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs as there is no exclusion in the existing legislation for their philatelic sales. However the Department are not charging V.A.T. nor are they issuing V.A.T. invoices to registered traders. It would seem from current legislation that the Department is breaking the law.

Up to now most registered traders had regarded all stamps as second-hand goods and had charged only 10% V.A.T. on sales. However the V.A.T. Inspectors are currently assessing dealers for back-payment of the difference between the 10% and 20% rates. The dealers may appeal against these assessments on the grounds that the definition of second-hand is open to various interpretations. After all second-hand antiques which if new would attract the 20% rate, are rated at 10% whether they have seen substantial use or not. Coins and medals are similarly treated, although coins which can still be used as currency are exempt.

It seems unfair, if not impractical, to levy 20% on unused stamps while similar collectibles are rated at 10%. It creates a lot of extra work for the trader who has to separate mixed lots, accumulations, and collections into mint and used. If the trader sells a mixed lot of mint and used the lot would be subject to the 20% rate, whereas if he separates it into two lots of mint and used, the 10% rate applies to the used.

Here it seems is a case for the Federation of

Philatelic Societies in Ireland and the registered philatelic dealers to take to the Minister for Finance. If V.A.T. is to be applied to stamps at all — and the revenue gained at present is less than £20,000 — then it should be at 10% on all philatelic material. Registered dealers charging 20% on their sales will quickly lose their customers to non-registered dealers — who are in the majority in this country — or to overseas dealers who can easily send valuable stamps into this country in anonymous small postal packets. Thus the Exchequer will lose rather than gain from the application of this exorbitant rate. A 10% rate is far less of a deterrent to business than the 20%, and can in fact be absorbed easier by the larger dealers who export (V.A.T. free) most of their material and can subsidise sales to home based customers to the tune of 10%.

In present financial circumstances it would be improbable that V.A.T. could be lifted from sales of stamps even though the revenue gained from it is probably not much more than the cost of collecting it. However in Great Britain recently the V.A.T. on the sale of cigarette cards was abolished, the revenue from which was greater than the revenue from sales of stamps in this country.

There are moves afoot in the E.E.C. to harmonise taxation relating to collectibles, but these are only at draft memorandum stages at present and it will be some years before they come to fruition. At the moment there is urgent need to review this situation in Ireland and concerted action from collectors, dealers, and societies is needed.

Ian W. Whyte,
Editor.

CONTRIBUTIONS
(Articles etc.)
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VISIT OUR STAND AT LONDON 1980.

NEWSBEAT

COLLECTOREX '80 FOR DUN LAOGHAIRE

COLLECTOREX '80, the Fifth Irish International Collectors Exhibition will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29 next. This year the exhibition will be part of the Dun Laoghaire Summer Festival, and will take place in the Mezzanine of the Royal Marine Hotel's Conference Centre.

There will be special exhibits of postal history, picture postcards, and numismatic material associated with the Borough of Dun Laoghaire (formerly Kingstown) which takes in a wide area of South Co. Dublin including Dalkey, Killiney, Monkstown and Blackrock. It is hoped to have a special exhibit from the local Post Office. Leading dealers from Ireland and Britain will be in attendance.

There will be two special cancels in use at the show to commemorate the centenaries of the Town Hall and Post Office buildings, and a commemorative cover will be produced. Serviced sets of envelopes will be available at £1 per set, including posting under separate protective cover, from the Secretary, Collectorex '80, c/o 3 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

The show will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day and admission will be only 30p for adults or 15p for children, students and pensioners. There is a huge car park in the Dun Laoghaire shopping centre beside the Hotel, and the exhibition is well served by public transport in the form of buses 7, 7a and 8 from Dublin city centre, as well as a quick train service from Connolly, Pearse or Tara Street stations.

IRISH AWARDS AT STAMPEX

Congratulations go to Dr Brian de Burca for winning a Silver medal for his exhibit "GB used in Ireland 1840-1850", Bill Kane who won a Bronze-Silver with the felicitations of the Jury for his thematic exhibit of war on philately called "The Pen and the Sword", George and Heloise Mitchell for their joint thematic exhibit entitled "Animals in Transport" awarded a Bronze-Silver medal, and Brian Warren who received a Bronze medal for his exhibit "The Gerl Definitives from Decimal Watermarked Issue". Brian Warren also shared a Bronze medal with his co-author Edward Fitzgerald for their book "The Gerl Definitives".

IRISH STAMP NEWS

STAMPA NEWS

The Annual General Meeting was held in January, and an unchanged organising committee was elected: Dr J. A. Quigley (Chairman); S. Kearns (Vice-Chairman); B. Warren (Treasurer); I. W. Whyte (Secretary); G. Bennett, A. J. Byrne, C. Buckley, F. E. Dixon, A. F. Finn, J. Lennon, D. MacDonnell, Dr R. P. Towers.

STAMPA 1980 will take place during the October Bank Holiday Weekend - Friday, October 24 to Monday October 27. The prospectus for exhibitors and standholders will be available shortly from the Honorary Secretary, Ian Whyte, 3 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

JETFOIL POSTMARKS

On April 25 the B+I Line will inaugurate its Jetfoil service between Dublin and Liverpool. The new service, operating a Boeing named in Gaelic 'Cu na Mara' ('Greyhound of the Sea'), will cut the present journey time of nearly eight hours down to only three.

To mark the event the Irish Post Office will use a special commemorative cancel on mail posted on board the Jetfoil on its maiden



crossings. The cancel is a 'Paquebot' postmark and will include an illustration of the vessel.

The B+I Line have produced a commemorative postcard for use in conjunction with the cancel and these will be made available to collectors. Serviced sets of two cards, franked with appropriate commemorative stamps, and postmarked with the Dublin special cancel and a Liverpool 'Paquebot/Posted at Sea' cancel, as well as the special marking of the Jetfoil, will be available at £1.75 including postage (U.S. \$4.00) from the B+I Line's official agent: Ian Whyte, 3 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2, Ireland.

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BIG IRISH CONTINGENT FOR LONDON 1980

LONDON 1980 opens in Earls Court on May 6 next, and a large number of Irish dealers and collectors will attend what will be the biggest ever stamp exhibition in these islands.

Amongst the standholders will be the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Ian Whyte, The Belfast Stamp Shop, and Bill O'Connell. David Feldman Ltd. will be represented by their Swiss associate firm David Feldman S.A. of Geneva. This is probably the largest ever Irish trade representation at an international exhibition, despite the fact that Coras Trachtala, the Irish Export Board had refused any financial assistance to those attending.

Unfortunately there will not be many Irish exhibitors. Leading philatelists Dr R. P. Towers and Dr J. Mackey were both turned down due to the enormous demand for exhibition frames. Both are Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society and both have achieved at least Silver standard with their exhibits at previous international exhibitions.

It has been suggested that the lack of space for Irish philatelists could be because the Federation of Philatelic Societies in Ireland is not yet a member of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (F.I.P.) under whose auspices LONDON 1980 is held. Unfortunately the F.P.S.I. cannot afford the annual subscription (which incidentally bears no relation to the size or wealth of individual Federations), to the international body.

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs hopes to release its Europa stamps during the exhibition and will probably employ a special cancel for First Day Covers posted at its stand, though this would appear to be forbidden according to the copy of the standholders' contract which IRISH STAMP NEWS has seen.

The absolute cream of the cream of the world's collections will be on show in London and this is a rare opportunity for Irish collectors to see such magnificent material so near to home. There are several package tours available from Dublin, Cork, Shannon, or Belfast ranging in basic price from £50 to £125, and in length from a weekend to a week. Any reputable travel agent will have full details, but early booking is advisable as already most of the hotels close to Earls Court (where the exhibition will be) are fully booked.

The exhibition runs from Tuesday May 6 until Wednesday May 14, at Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London.

IRISH STAMP NEWS



ASDA, New York: Declan O'Kelly, Frank Stagnaro and George Gati discuss the merits of Jameson whiskey, a bottle of which can be seen in the background.



ASDA, New York: Irish P.O. stand with Con Buckley (in the foreground) and Sean Cronin.



ASDA, New York: Ian Whyte, watched by David Rose, makes a sale.

AUCTION

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NEW HQ FOR PHILATELIC BUREAU?

According to informed sources the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has acquired a large building on the corner of Merrion Square and Fitzwilliam Street Lower, and there is speculation that the Philatelic Section, at present based in the GPO Arcade, will eventually take up residence there.

Despite the huge increase in turnover and the consequent increase in staff during the past five years or so the Philatelic Section has been confined to its present offices which are rather overcrowded, especially during busy periods such as the months of October through to December last year.

At one stage it was suggested the Section should move to St. Andrew's Street Post Office which is under-utilised at present but the space available there would appear to be inadequate. It is unlikely that the public section of the bureau, known as the 'shop' will move from its very central and convenient position in the Arcade.

LIMERICK STAMP FAIR

The Mid-Western Philatelic Society sponsored a Stamp Fair as part of Limerick Civic Week recently. The Fair took place on March 22 in Cruise's Hotel.

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs put on a display and Mr Gay O'Brien of the Revenue Stamping Branch gave a lecture on

stamp printing that evening in St. Munchin's College. About a half dozen stamp dealers attended including Gwyn Bennett, Tony Byrne, Mike Giffney, and John Fitzsimons all from Dublin, George Allan from Cork, Ann Lane from Kilcock, and the Limerick Stamp Shop. The Post Office had a sales stand but there was no special cancel.

A commemorative booklet was issued containing three 12p Papal Visit stamps. Three hundred were put on sale but it is believed that only half that number was sold. About 250 people attended but business was reported as being from 'slack' to 'fair'. Be that as it may the Mid-Western P.S. and its energetic secretary Joe McCarthy are to be congratulated on initiating this event which it is hoped will be an annual feature of Limerick Civic Week. Incidentally if you are a collector living in Clare, Limerick or Tipperary, why not join the Mid-Western P.S. Details from Joe McCarthy, 92 Mayorstone Drive, Limerick.

CARLOW SOCIETY RE-FORMED

A number of collectors in the Carlow area have grouped themselves together as the CARLOW STAMP CLUB and would welcome new members.

Details are available from Dr Aidan Kehoe, Dun Muire, Tullow, Co. Carlow, who is acting secretary.

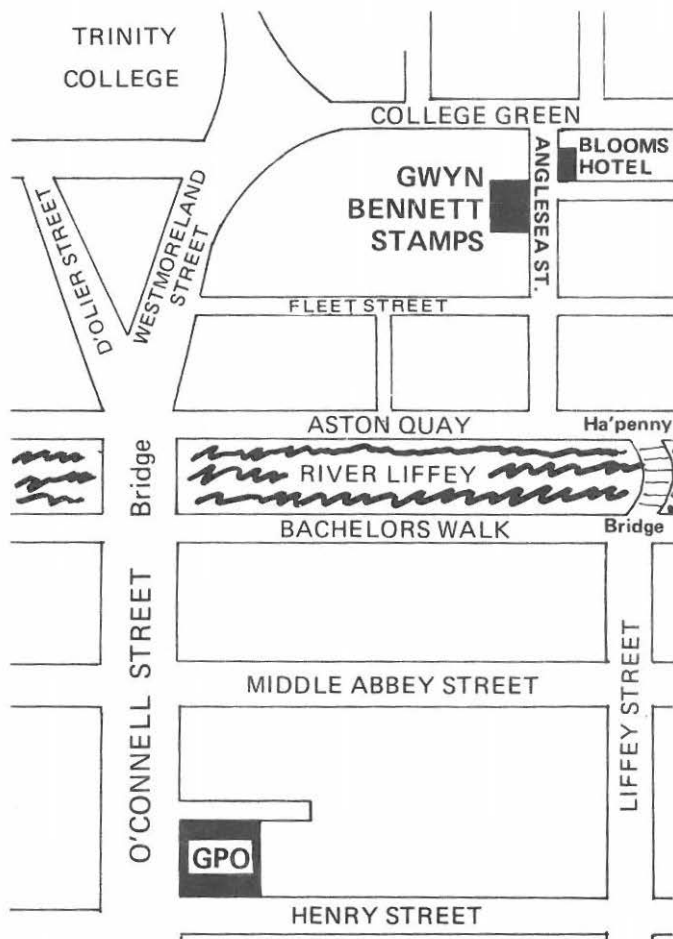
STAMPEX ULSTER



ULSTER STAMPEX, Belfast: Alderman Billy Bell, Lord Mayor of Belfast, presents the trophy for best overall exhibit to Noel Willis, watched by exhibition committee chairman Oswald Bailie (left) and Peter McBride, secretary (behind Mr Bell).

ULSTER STAMPEX, Belfast: A general view of the exhibition.





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OVERPRINT DATES

We recently had the pleasure of looking through the collection of John Pedneault of Long Island, New York, during a visit there. Amongst the many interesting items we came across a few covers postmarked before the dates of issue of the stamps affixed.

There were four such covers in all — all registered and all cancelled by GRANBY ROW c.d.s. of December 23, 1922 with a Birmingham backstamped oval registered date stamp of December 25 1922. The covers bore respectively the Saorstat Eireann overprints on the 5d, 6d, 9d, and 10d respectively. According to the Feldman catalogue the dates of issue for these stamps were 5d, December 29, 6d and 9d, December 28, 10d, January 13.

At first we thought the postmark may have been pre-dated by favour but the Birmingham backstamp could hardly have been pre-dated as well. All the covers are addressed to W. T. Wilson whose address is found on many Irish covers of this period.

It looks therefore as if the records must be altered once more. Sixty years on, and discoveries are still being made!

HIBERNIAN CHANGES

In the further development of his rapidly expanding company Stefan Klincewicz announces that John Keenan has been appointed managing director of Hibernian Stamp Company Limited which handles the retail side of the business. John has had a long career in the business although in recent years he has been more involved in the antique trade. He used to operate a well-known stamp business from offices in Burgh Quay, having previously been a manager with the ill-fated Mission Stamp Exports firm. John was managing director of the Hibernian before, from its establishment in 1967 until 1972.

Stefan is presently concentrating on auctions which are run by the company he formed with Sidney Glass — Hibernian Stamp Auctions Ltd. Sidney, a leading Dublin estate agent and auctioneer, is also an expert philatelic professional, having previously organised several auctions through Auction International Ltd., and with a long career in the stamp trade dating as far back as the famous firm of Shanahans where he was a leading describer of their mammoth auctions.

Hibernian Stamp Auctions recently held its biggest ever sale with over 2,500 lots fetching well over £100,000 at the Berkeley Court Hotel. Their next major sale will be in September.

IRISH STAMP NEWS

IRISH STAMP NEWS BACK NUMBERS WANTED URGENTLY

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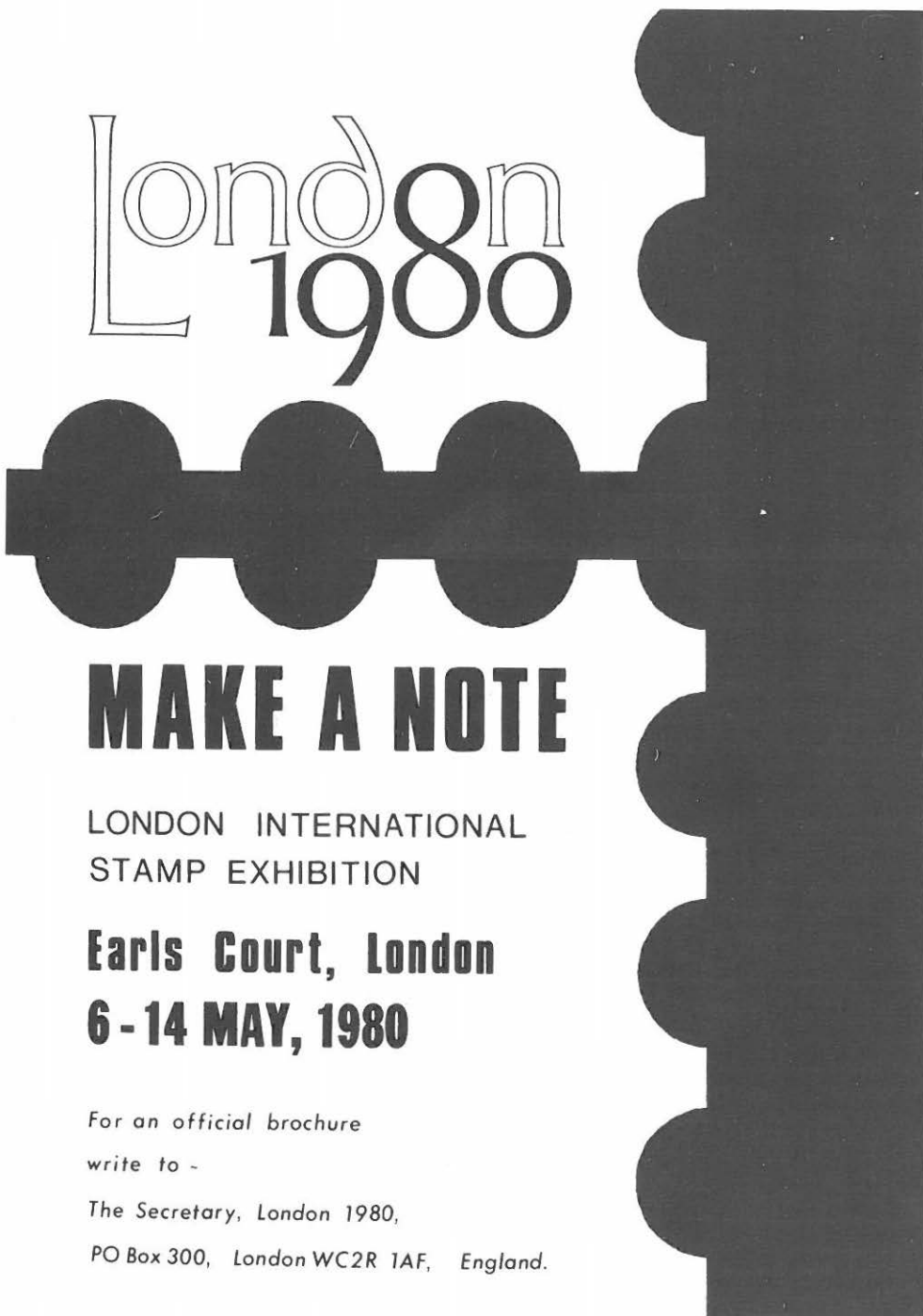
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REGISTERED MAIL

By WILLIAM KANE



PART ONE

May I say, that this is but a brief outline of what is a fascinating subject. Regrettably the documentation for the earlier period of usage is difficult to find, hence the coverage is, of necessity, sketchy.

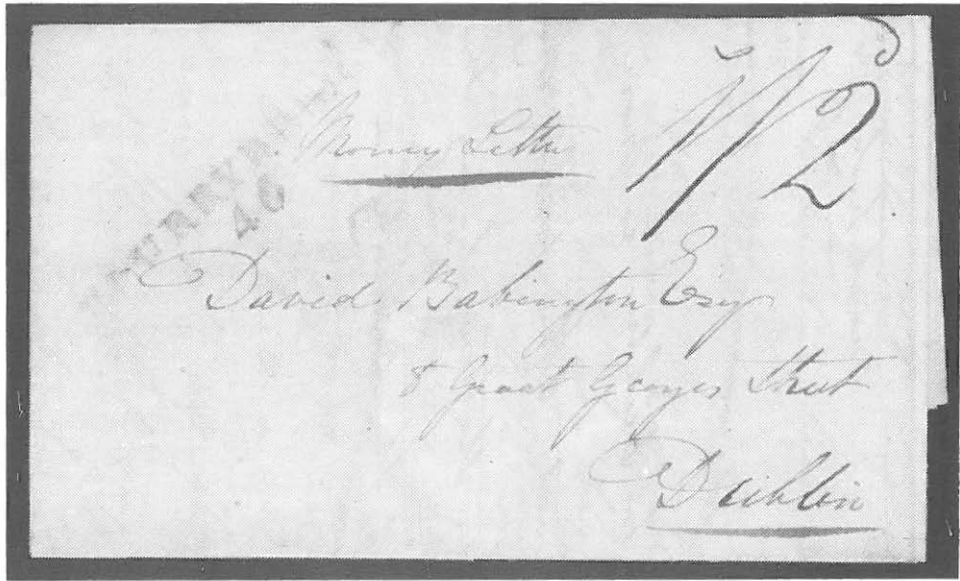
When one thinks of registered mail, the recording of each individual letter, as happens today, comes to mind. Such a practice was in existence as far back as the 16th Century. It is recorded, in London, that an Order in Council dated July 1556, required that all letters between London and the "North" should be recorded, and signed for by both the sender and the recipient.

Again in London, Dockwra in the year 1680, provided for the recording of letters, and guaranteed compensation without an extra fee. This insurance was included in the single penny paid and was a definite improvement on the Post Office system of that time. Here we have the roots of registered mail, as we know it today.

A form of registration on foreign letters existed from 1787 till 1836. The foreign fee was twenty-one shillings. This service probably applied only as far as the Ship as I cannot find any evidence to prove that the fee covered the full journey of the letter. At the same time there was an inland registration of letters. The fee was five shillings, which only applied between the London Office and the destination of the letter.

MONEY LETTERS – 1792

With the public demanding that they should be able to send coins and other valuables through the post with some degree of safety the Post Office made provision for this type of mail in 1792. Such letters were called "MONEY LETTERS" which were handled in a special manner, with much the same care as is now given to registered mail.



An order to the public was issued in 1792:

"That all persons sending money in letters are to deliver their packet to the Clerk at the Window, or the Postmaster in the country, by way of giving additional security to its conveyance."

It was the postmaster who wrote "MONEY LETTER" in red ink on the front of the letter. The packet was then entered on the waybill as a money letter, and upon dispatch was wrapped in that bill. On delivery, the postmaster received a receipt, though it was not returned to the sender. No charge was made for this service, save that of double postage, as required for a letter with an enclosure.

The care such letters received led to the instance of people enclosing a farthing, in order that their letters would be treated as money letters, thus guaranteeing safe delivery of an important letter.

Prior to the introduction of the "Money Letter" the Solicitor to the Post Office was overburdened with investigations and prosecutions relating to the theft of valuables in the mail. In 1791, the Postmaster General, sought to dissuade the public from sending money by ordinary post, and issued the following instruction:

"If banknotes are sent through the post it is advised that they be sent in two halves, the second only to be sent after the first had been acknowledged by the recipient."

It is of interest to note this practice caused the printing of the serial number on both ends of the banknote. The introduction of post office Money Orders in 1792 also provided a safe way of sending money through the post.



GENERAL-POST-OFFICE,

SEPTEMBER 22d, 1792.

TO prevent the Loss of entire Notes or Drafts payable to Bearer in Letters put into any Post Office or Receiving House, the Postmaster General repeat the Recommendation so often inserted in the London Gazette, and circulated by Hand-Bills throughout the Kingdom; namely To cut all such Notes or Drafts in half in the following Form, to send them at two different Times and to wait for the Return of the Post till the Receipt of one Half is acknowledged before the other is sent.

And when any Cash, in Gold or Silver, or when any Rings, or Locketts, &c. are sent per Post from London, particular Care should be taken to deliver the same to the Clerk at the Window, or to the Clerk of the Money Book, at the General Post Office; and when any such Letter is to be sent from a Country Post Office it should be delivered into the Hands of the Postmaster.

By Command of the Postmaster General,

ANTHONY TODD, Secy.

N^o 108

N^o 108

February 9th, 1782.

I Promise to pay to John Doe, - - - - or Bearer, on Demand the Sum of **Ten** Pounds.

London, the 9th Day of February, 1782.

£ Ten

For the Governor and Company
of the Bank of England.

Ent^d. Thomas Styles.

Richard Roe.

N.B. The Note is to be cut exactly where it is marked with a black Line, first writing the Date and Year at one End of the Note, and the Number at the other End, by which Means each Part will contain a sufficient Specification of the Whole.

This Specimen will be put up at every Post-Office in the Kingdom

The low pay of postal staff and constant opportunities for dishonesty caused temptation, which often proved irresistible, for both postmasters and letter carriers. As time passed, and the service grew, so did the degree of safety to the mails. All too much of the Surveyor's time had to be spent in investigating thefts, and tracing the culprit. After the culprit proved to be an underpaid and ill clad boy of 14 to 16 years of age, working in all weathers, and covering distances far beyond his strength.

REGISTRATION RATES. 1787-1878

Date	Fee	Details
1787-1836	£1. 1s. 0d.	Foreign letters limited to port of dispatch.
1787-1836	5s. 0d.	Inland fee — London to destination.
1836-1840	2s. 6d.	Both foreign and inland rates reduced.
1840.	Service discontinued with the introduction of the Penny Post. (Bankers parcels had a special rate.)	
1841. January.		
Re-introduced.	1s. 0d.	New prepaid rate.
1848.	6d.	Reduced rate.
1856.	6d.	Special concession: an unpaid letter posted in the letter box with the normal postage rate would be delivered if it contained coins, but would be charged at twice the normal registration fee, i.e. 1s. 0d.
1862. August.	4d.	Reduction in fee. Letters passing through the normal post but obviously containing coin was compulsorily registered and charged 8d.
1863. January	4d.	The unpaid fee of 1856 was reduced to 8d.
1878. January.	2d.	Further reduction in registration fee. Introduction of compensation up to £2 in case of loss. Also the first issue of Post Office Registered Envelopes.

REGISTRATION IN IRELAND

Alcock and Holland in their excellent book on British Postmarks, (1960) state that:

"In Ireland from 1824 there was a system of free registration for inland letters, until the Irish Post Office came under the control of the British Post Office in 1831 when the "Money Letter" system was adopted. Registered marks in red were used from 1824 to 1831."



It is of interest to note that an Act of 1784 put the Irish Post Office under the control of the Irish Parliament. Special Irish Postmasters General were appointed, and the whole postal system was separated from the Central Control of London. In 1831 the Irish Post Office ceased to be an entity and was again taken under the control of London. While Ireland enjoyed free registration during the period 1824 until 1831 the British G.P.O. was charging five shillings from London to destination on registered letters. I cannot establish the rate charged on registered mail from Ireland to Britain

with any certainty. I quote two examples of 1829, which illustrate this point.

Firstly there is an entire from Fermoy to Bannockburn, Scotland. The charge was 2s 10d prepaid. Broken down:—

Fermoy — Dublin by Midday Mail (108 miles)	10d
Dublin — Liverpool.	8d
Liverpool — Sterling. (257 miles)	1s 0d
Sterling Penny Post.	1d
	2s 7d

This leaves 3d to be accounted for. Could this be the registration fee? An alternative route could have been used.

Fermoy — Dublin.	10d
Dublin — Sterling.	1s 4d
Donaghadee to Port Patrick. (Single letter)	4d
Sterling Penny Post.	1d
	2s 7d

Still with 3d unaccounted for.



Then again there is another entire of the same year, this time from Kilkenny to Bannockburn, which also had a charge of 2s 10d raised in manuscript. In this case the postage rate to Dublin was cheaper by a couple of pence, as the mileage was only 57 to 58 miles. Thus we cannot find a definite rate as there is an excess of 3d unaccounted for in this example.

The Post Office Directory of 1839, printed for the Irish Letter Carriers of the G.P.O., gives some information relative to registered letters to foreign countries:

"The practice adopted by the post office in France, of charging double the rate of postage to which letters are liable, as the price of registering them, will hereafter be substituted in this country for the present regulation of requiring half a crown as a fee, in addition to the postage on such letters, provided the extra postage to be charged shall not exceed half a crown, which is still to be the highest sum demanded for the registry of any foreign letter in this country. For example, a single registered letter from London to Paris will be charged two British and two French rates, making the total sum in the two countries 3s 4d, instead of the present charge of 5s; a double letter will be liable to 6s 8d instead of 7s 6d; and a treble letter to 10s being the present amount; and for letters above that class the half crown will continue in operation in this country, instead of the double postage, which then becomes the most expensive. As the optional payment does not apply to registered letters, the whole amount of postage chargeable in England and France upon such letters must be paid at the time they are put into the post in either country.

In consequence of this concession with regard to registered letters, the practice of taking charge of foreign letters containing coin, jewels &c. as "Money Letters" will be discontinued, and in future can only be received under the same regulations that apply to other registered letters.

It must be distinctly understood that the registry of letters will not make the Postmaster General responsible for the loss that may be sustained in consequence of the failure of any letter with which precaution may have been adopted.

By command,

*AUG. GODBY,
Secretary."*

In 1841 — the registration fee was one shilling in addition to the normal letter rate, for which a receipt was given to the sender. Despite this no compensation for loss was allowed. The fee was usually paid in cash, hence we can find registered letters of this period with one shilling marked in manuscript in red ink, and the normal letter postage rate paid by adhesive postage stamps. Also letters can be found with both the letter rate and the registration fee paid either in cash, or by adhesive stamps, for the entire amount. If paid entirely in cash then the full amount would be marked in red ink on the front of the letter.

On the 1st January 1878, with the reduced fee of 2d and compensation limited to £2, came an instruction that this compensation would only be paid if the money was enclosed in one of the Registered Letter Envelopes sold by the Post Office for this purpose. These envelopes were especially made, with extra strength in the form of a linen lining to the envelope, officially called 'Scrim'.

Post Office registered envelopes were printed with crossed blue lines, this practice continues to date. It might be of interest to outline the evolution of the blue lines, sometimes called "String lines".

When the new prepaid rate was introduced in 1841, the Postmaster, when he dispatched the registered letters, enclosed them in a large sheet of green paper, which was addressed to the Postmaster of the place where the addressee lived. This sheet of green paper acted as a receipt, and was in due course returned to the office of origin. On July 1st 1858, the green paper was replaced by green silk ribbon, which was later superseded by green linen tape, and in 1870 by green string. In 1878 with the introduction of the Post Office Registered Envelope, the green string was represented by the crossed blue lines printed on the envelopes. It is interesting to note that even today in Ireland, all registered mail is dispatched from town to town in green bags, especially made for that purpose.

THE GERL DEFINITIVES – SUPPLEMENT NO. 2

By Brian Warren and Eddie Fitzgerald



A new 9½p dog definitive was issued on 3 December last to meet the present inland printed paper rate. The paper/gum type is D. Since the settlement of the postal dispute the 1p, 2p and 12p values have also appeared on type D. Initially the 12p stag sheets were from cylinders II but in November a new green cylinder was introduced giving the combination 12. A revised 8th series listing incorporating all new type D additions is set out below:—

Value	Colours and Dates of Issue	Cylinder Numbers
½p dog	Light green 5/6/78	I
1p dog	Blue 8/79	I
2p dog	Dark green 10/79	I
8p dog	Chestnut 8/79	I
9½p dog	Vermilion 3/12/79	I
10p dog	Purple 8/78	2
12p stag	Emerald-green and black 8/79	II
12p stag	Emerald-green and black 11/79	12
20p ox	Yellow, mustard, lavender and deep blue 9/78	IIII
50p eagle	Yellow, dark olive, orange and lake-brown 12/78	IIII



9½p Dog – Gutter Block.



12p Stag – Cylinder Block 12.

Booklets: Stocks of the 50p booklets containing the 7p pane were found to be exhausted in late August at the Philatelic Bureau to the surprise of many dealers and collectors. At the last Stampa exhibition the complete make-up of the 40p booklet was on display. Two of the forty-four booklets are not released due to varieties on two of the 2p panes which are considered unacceptable for release. After printing, the re-

IRISH STAMP NEWS

vant panes and corresponding cover are manually marked/defaced with two purple lines. After make-up and guillotining the two unacceptable booklets can then be visually detected and withdrawn. However at the recent A.S.D.A. exhibition in New York a small number of these booklets were inadvertently sold within packets of ten to collectors by the Irish Philatelic Section who were attending the exhibition. Some of these booklets are expected to be offered at auction in the near future.

Recognition of Type D: Due to the continued difficulty in differentiating between types B and D, we offer the following advice to collectors. In addition to the fluorescent effect on the face of the stamp an ultra-violet lamp can be used to observe the reaction on the uncoated paper on the back of the stamp. The presence of the gum has no material U.V. effect. Taking the table published on page 28 of our handbook the four paper/gum types for the unwatermarked issues can be summarised as follows:—

	TYPE A	TYPE B	TYPE C	TYPE D
PAPER	OCP Heavy/Thick	FCP Light/Thin		
U.V. LAMP EFFECT				
— face of stamp	Medium fluorescence	Brilliant fluorescence		
— back of stamp	Dark grey	White	Light grey	Light grey to Dark grey
PVA GUM	Dull with brown dye	Colourless/ off-white	Blue-green with ribbed effect	Pale blue-green with slight mottled appearance

U.V. Effect — Back of Stamp: The one exception, noted to date, to the above is the 20p ox on type A which has a white U.V. effect on the back. However there is no difficulty in recognising type A and this does not present any problems. As can be seen from the above table, type D can vary from light grey to a dark grey with no appreciable fluorescent effect; this can occur even on different sheets of the same value. The important factor is that type B, to date, has always shown up as white on the reverse.

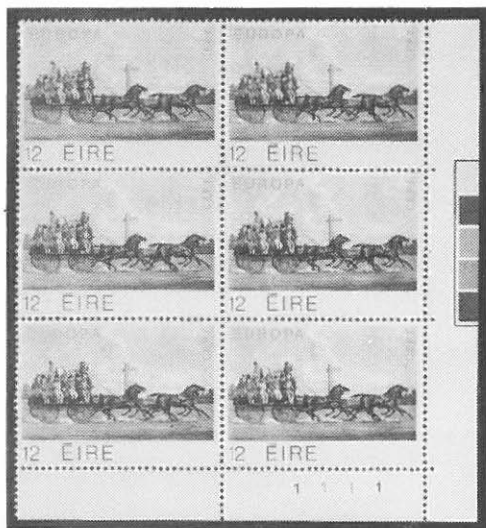
Other Factors: As stated above type A is easily identifiable as it's the only type printed on original coated paper. Type B can be differentiated from type D as explained; comparison with a block of ½p dog is recommended as this value only exists in the unwatermarked series on type D. Type C is best recognised by the ribbed gum effect to differentiate it from either types B or D. We hope the above information is useful and would be interested to learn of readers' views and experiences in this regard.

RECENT RELEASES

By Brian Warren and Eddie FitzGerald

Since the last issue of Irish Stamp News the spate of new releases continued with four releases over a period of five weeks. The Europa stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited using the offset lithography process. The remaining three issues were printed by the Revenue Commissioners at Dublin Castle. In addition to the 9½p definitive issued on 3 December the current 12p stag definitive appeared with a change in cylinder during November; the change being in the green cylinder numbered 2 giving the combination 2I. A listing of the cylinder/plate numbers follows:—

Date	Issue	Value	Plate/Cylinder Numbers
10/11/79	P. H. Pearse — Birth Centenary	12p	III
15/11/79	Christmas (9th Issue)	9½p	III
	Christmas (9th Issue)	20p	III
3/12/79	Definitive — Dog Design	9½p	I
6/12/79	Europa (19th Issue)	12p	IIII
	Europa (19th Issue)	13p	IIII



12p Europa — Plate block featuring the Bianconi Long Car.

P. H. Pearse: A large number of the sheets supplied to post offices had the right-hand vertical column of ten stamps guillotined from the sheets. Accordingly it was not possible to obtain a lower right cylinder block of six stamps from such sheets. There are a large number of minor varieties present on this issue; the most noteworthy are as follows:—

R5/10: Diagonal hair line from the eyebrow across the cheek (see note below).

R6/10: Hair line crack from top centre towards face.

R4/8: Green colour of tricolour incomplete resulting in white indent on flag.

The first variety is not present on all sheets. It may have occurred during the printing and may have deteriorated to an unacceptable level resulting in the guillotining of the tenth vertical column as mentioned above. In the opinion of the authors, this stamp in a positional block is a key stamp whether or not the flaw is visible. The spacing of the cylinder numbers differs from the majority of previous photogravure issues printed at Dublin Castle; this suggests a different manufacturer of the printing cylinders for this issue.

Christmas '79: There are a number of small flaws on both values but the only significant variety is a yellow smear located on the lower horizontal border under R1/10 — 9½p and 20p. Collectors who have the top right cylinder block will automatically have this variety. As we noted with the Pearse stamp the spacing of the cylinder numbers differs from earlier photogravure issues.

Definitive Issue — 9½p: The new definitive was introduced to meet the present Inland Printed Paper rate. The revised Inland letter and European Letter rates are now 12p and 13p respectively; as a result new 12p dog and 13p stag stamps have been issued on 26th March; details in next issue.

Europa '79: This set is particularly pleasing to the eye. The 12p value, featuring a Bianconi Long Car of 1836 is, in our opinion, the best Europa design of 1979 which saw the issue of 66 Europa stamps from 31 postal administrations. The printing warrant of 3 million for this value is unusually low although the recent flood of issues maybe the explanation for this figure. The stamp was unobtainable from most post offices within a short period of the date of issue, due to supplies having been sold out to the public at large, for use on Inland Letter rate mail.

All sheets of stamps referred to in this article, which we have seen to date (February 1980), are Grover perforated and there has been no report of the use of the Bickel perforator previously mentioned in our last article with regard to the St. John of God issue.

Year Pack: The 1979 Year Pack was due for release on 6 December but was not eventually issued until 21 January 1980. Similar to the 1977 and 1978 Packs the outer card cover is turquoise-green. Cost IR£2.70 (Face value IR£2.49).

Earlier "Recent Releases": In our previous article in "Irish Stamp News" No. 4, we noted the possibility of a fourth combination for the Papal stamp and as expected plate 2224 appeared on sale in November.

A typesetting error occurred in the listing of the varieties on the 10p value of the European Parliamentary issue and the positions as stated were incorrect/incomplete. The correct positions are as follows:—

R4/3: Long white scratch between top serifs of last E of Eire.

R5/3: White spot above figure.

Postmarks: Special pictorial first day postmarks were used in both Dublin and Cork for all new issues. With the new 9½p dog stamp a first day pictorial postmark was used in Cork for the first time for a definitive issue. The P. H. Pearse stamp coincided



with the attendance of the Philatelic Section at A.S.D.A. stamp exhibition in New York (8-11 November 1979) and a special first day postmark style cachet was used on first day covers sold at the Irish Post Office's sales stand. The cachet was similar in design to the pictorial first day postmark used in Dublin and Cork. A plain cachet was also available. A plain cachet was also in use at the Irish Post Office's stand at Stampex in London (5-9 February, 1980).

Collectors who have a special interest in the International Year of the Child theme should be aware of the existence of an unusual slogan used on metered mail from The Children's Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin 1 and used during 1979. The boxed slogan element of the meter cancel displays the crest of the Hospital and the following legend – "The Children's Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin 1. Year of the Child 1979".



Temple Street Hospital – Year of the Child meter cancel.

We are unaware of the use of any other special event cancels or slogan postmarks since our last report.

Postal Stationery: In December 1979 a small number of Size G 37p registered envelopes on the old cotton scrim type with the incorrect foreign compensation amount of £5.44 and incorrect registration fee of 10p were released. (Previously only known on cotton scrim type with £6.35 and 12p – refer to Irish Stamp News No. 3). The basic envelope would have been printed in 1973 and appears to be a late use of old stock.

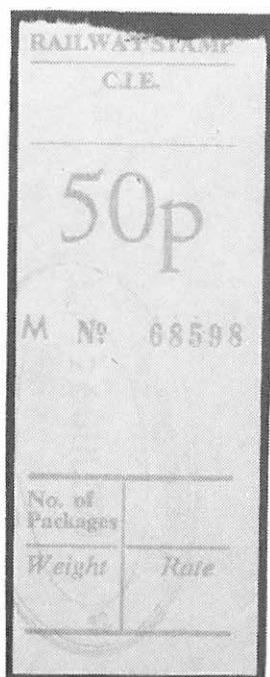
Exhibition Booklet: An unofficial limited edition of 250 numbered booklets were produced by P.J.W. Coins and Tokens and Gwyn Bennett Stamps for the Limerick Stamp and Coin Fair (24 November 1979). The booklets contain a marginal strip of 3 x 12p P. H. Pearse stamps. Sold for 95p each – limited to one per customer. We understand that only 166 were sold and the remaining booklets were destroyed. It should be noted that the booklets were not sold in sequence and therefore booklets between 166 and 250 are known to exist.

DECIMAL PARCEL STAMPS OF CORAS IOMPAIR EIREANN – FURTHER NOTES

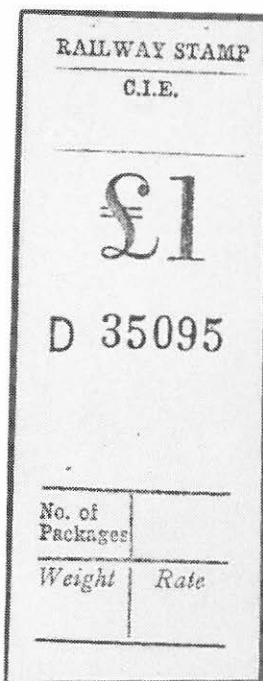
By J. R. HOLMAN

In IRISH STAMP NEWS No. 3 (Spring 1979), I produced a preliminary checklist of the railway parcel stamps issued by C.I.E. since decimalisation in February 1971. Since then I have acquired a number of new items which necessitate amendments and additions to my listing.

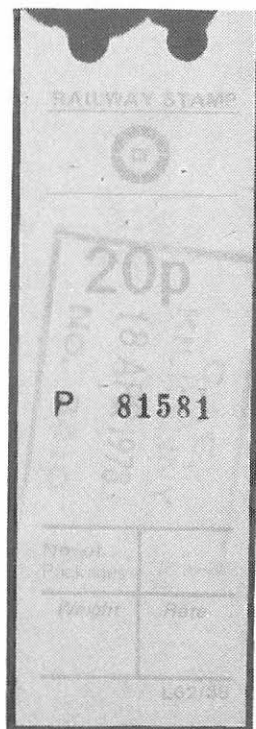
Firstly I wish to correct an inaccuracy in the description of the 5th printing (1975) on page 27 – the details should read serif printing NOT sans-serif printing. The illustrations to the article were not captioned and to help readers they were of the following printings: page 26 1p–4th; 5p–6th; 10p–9th; page 27 20p–3rd; page 38 25p–8th, £1–1st.



2nd Ptg – 50p;



5th Ptg – £1



7th Ptg – 20p;

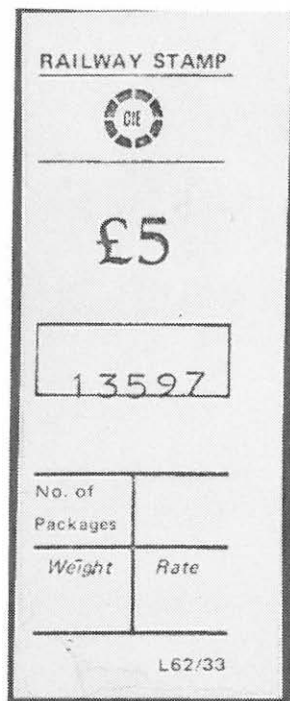
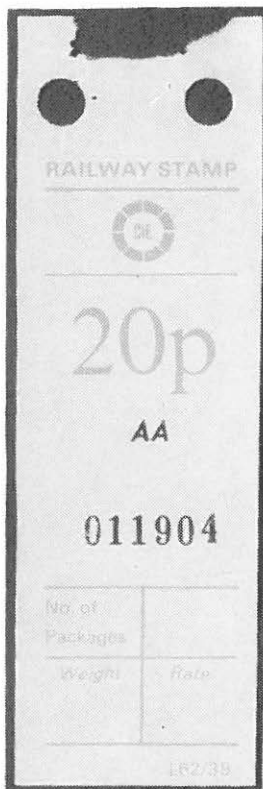
To further assist identification the other three types are illustrated here (2nd ptg–50p; 5th ptg–£1; 7th ptg–20p).

The following amendments can be made: 5p – 1 Revised date – May 71; 20p – 4 Enter date – November 75; 25p – 8 March 78 (Ref. L62/46) yellow-green shade; 50p – 4 Revised date – September 72; £1 – 1 Revised date – May 71; £2 – 4 Revised date – September 72; £2 – 5 Revised date – February 75.

Sometime, probably in 1979, two new printings were released, the main characteristics of which were:

10th Printing — as 9th printing but value in noticeably thinner lettering, serial number not prefixed by the abbreviation 'No'.

11th Printing — value in small serif printing (similar to 8th printing) with serial number in green rectangular box below value.



10th Ptg — 20p; 11th Ptg — £5

The under list below contains additional values of printings 1-9 not previously listed as well as those values so far seen for the two new printings:

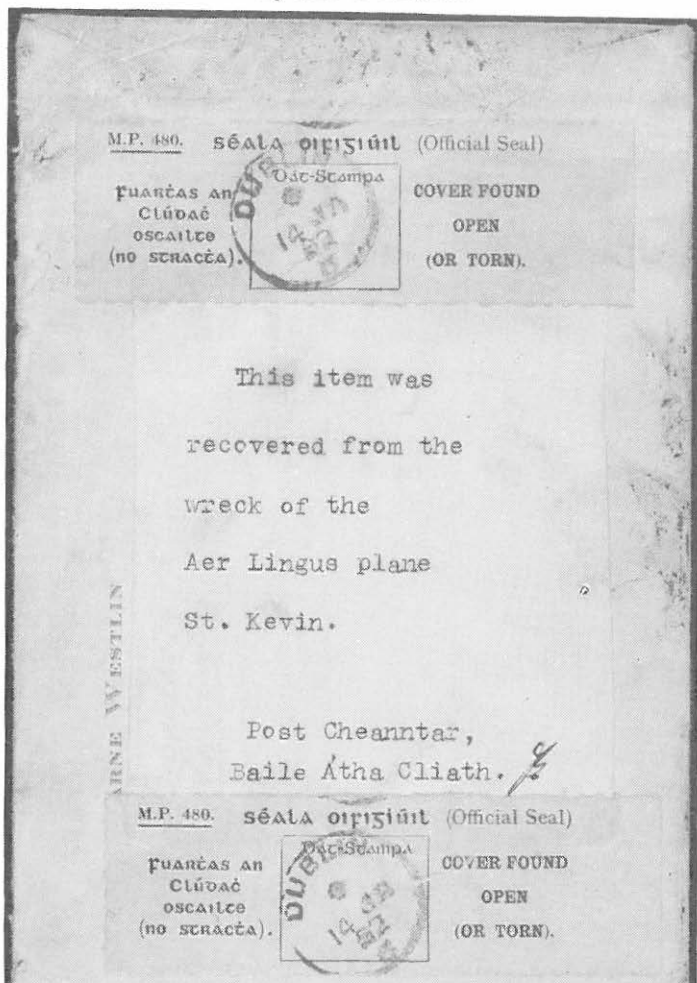
1p — 6 January 79 (Ref L62/35); 2p — 8 Undated copy seen (Ref L62/36); 5p — 8 January 79 (Ref L62/37); 10p — 8 September 79 (Ref L62/45); 20p — 8 September 79 (Ref L62/38), 10 1979? (Ref L62/39); 25p — 1 September 72, 8 — Undated copy seen (Ref L62/36) (Blue-green shade); 50p — 6 Undated copy seen (Ref L62/39), 10 — 1979? (Ref L62/39); £1.00 — 8 1979? (Ref L62/36); £2.00 — 8 Undated copy seen (Ref L62/36); £5 — 8 September 78 (Ref L62/33) (yell-grn shade, Serial A), 8 Undated copy seen (Ref L62/33) (Blue-grn shade, Serial B), 11 Undated copy seen (1979?) (Ref L62/33).

The more recent printings of C.I.E. railway stamps have been made by Iona Print Ltd., Dublin.

I am grateful to the Unit Load Marketing Manager of the C.I.E. and to the Rev. Peter Thornton for help in the preparation of these notes.

POST-1922 DUBLIN DATE-STAMPS

By IKe O'LECHT



In 1922, when "Dublin" was officially replaced by "Baile Átha Cliath", most of the old handstamps were scrapped, but not all. In 1930 Dr. Stafford Johnson was informed that the sole survivor was the 23mm single-circle type with asterisk above date and number 4 below. At the time it was reserved for the letter Bills of outward Foreign Mails. It is therefore likely that its occasional use as a canceller (e.g. 23 FE 31) was by favour.

However, it had a different use during World War II when it is found tying the Censorship Label to registered letters, and at the same period handstamp number 6 of the series was rediscovered and used in the same way, and as a cancellation. The special usage was on letters leaving Ireland, and "posted" at the Censors' Office instead of in a pillar box or post office.

No. 6 was still extant in 1952 and was then applied to the resealing labels on mail recovered from the Aer Lingus plane crash in North Wales.*

*See, e.g., item 174 offered in Whyte's Stamp News No. 4 November 1977.

Diary

I.P.S. — Irish Philatelic Society meeting held at the Clarence Hotel, Wellington Quay, Dublin 2. 7.45 p.m.

D.S.S. — Dublin Stamp Society meeting held at the Ormond Hotel, Ormond Quay, Dublin 1.

N.I.P.S. — North of Ireland Philatelic Society meeting held in the City Y.M.C.A., Wellington Place, Belfast.

APRIL

Thursday 17th: I.P.S. — East Germany by Charles Griffiths Esq.

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th: Navan Coin & Stamp Fair, Ardboyne Hotel, Dublin Road, Navan. 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Wednesday 23rd: D.S.S. — Inter Society Joint Auction.

MAY

Thursday 1st: I.P.S. — Dobbs Memorial Competition.

Tuesday 6th to Wednesday 14th: LONDON 1980 — International Stamp Exhibition, Earls Court, London.

Wednesday 7th: Irish Stamp Issue — EUROPA 12p and 13p. D.S.S. — Australia by Messrs. M. Murphy and T. McCarthy.

Friday 9th: N.I.P.S. — Gordon Cup Competition.

Thursday 15th: I.P.S. — Ireland by A. L. Stokes Esq.

Wednesday 21st: D.S.S. — Annual General Meeting.

Thursday 29th: I.P.S. — Irish Varieties by Cecil Calmonson Esq.

JUNE

Thursday 12th: I.P.S. meeting.

Friday 13th: N.I.P.S. — Informal meeting.

Thursday 26th: I.P.S. meeting.

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th: COLLECTOREX '80, Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire. 11 a.m. — 7 p.m.

JULY

Thursday 3rd: Irish Stamp Issue — Flora and Fauna (Animals) 10p, 12p, 13p and 20p.

Thursday 10th: I.P.S. meeting.

Saturday 12th: Stamp Auction — Ian Whyte, Burlington Hotel, Dublin. Viewing 10 a.m. — 1 p.m. Sale at 2.30 p.m.

Thursday 24th: I.P.S. meeting.

IRISH STAMP NEWS

NORTH OF IRELAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

We recently received details of the N.I.P.S. which meets on the second Friday of each month (except July) in the City Y.M.C.A., Wellington Place, Belfast, at 7.15 p.m.

Membership of the Society which was founded in 1907 is open to all persons over 18 years of age interested in the collection and study of stamps. The annual subscription is £1, and new members pay an entrance fee of 50p. The Honorary Secretary is R. Scott Esq., 101 Onslow Parade, Belfast BT6 0AT, from whom further details may be obtained.

I.P.C. A.G.M. IN LONDON

To coincide with LONDON 1980 the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Philatelic Circle will be held at the Victory Services Club, London on Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11.

Included in the agenda will be displays by members, discussion of Irish philatelic or postal history matters, and an auction. The meeting will be open to all paid-up members of the Irish Philatelic Circle but they must confirm their intention of attending to the Honorary General Secretary, H. K. Jamieson, 3 Cleves Way, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2PL by April 30 at the latest. This is essential as the Victory Services Club Secretary requires a list of all those who are attending.

NAVAN COIN AND STAMP FAIR

The annual Navan Coin and Stamp Fair will this year be held in the Ballroom of the Ardboyne Hotel, Dublin Road, on the outskirts of the town. The fair will take place on Saturday and Sunday April 19 and 20, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both days.

About twenty dealers will attend with a varied display of stamps, coins, medals, postcards, banknotes, etc., and valuations will be offered free of charge. This event was very successful last year although most of the business done seemed to be in coins.

ROGERSON'S QUAY POST OFFICE



Regarding Bill Kane's article in Irish Stamp News No. 3, his is the first example of the cancellation that I have seen, and I have been delving into my sourcebooks to help him in his writing up. Sir John Rogerson was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1693 and M.P. for Dublin in 1695. In 1713 he leased the bank of the Liffey from Lazy Hill (now Townsend Street) to Ringsend and built the Quay.

Confirming Dr. Stafford Johnson's reports, the first Post Office on the Quay was a Penny Post Receiving House, established at No. 77 in 1810. From 1831 it received also for the General Post and at about the same time we find that the office was in the spirit grocery run by Mrs. Ellen Cantwell. There was a drastic renumbering in 1834 whereby 77 was renumbered 6. Then Mrs Cantwell was joined in business by her son. In 1838 Denis Doyle took over from her. He dealt in wines and spirits and ships' stores in bond. In 1844 the number was altered again, to 5. The next change was in 1846 when the Post Office was transferred to John B. O'Meara, at No. 16. (Bill's date is wrong). He kept the post until 1900.

It was not until 1869 that the Post Office acquired the private telegraph systems and it was in 1872 that the Rogerson's Quay office added "Telegraph Office" to its services. The office closed in 1917.

In the early period, from 1810 to 1831, the office had a two-line handstamp SR. J. ROGERSON'S QY./PENNY POST. The few examples I have seen were on letters brought in by ships.

F. E. Dixon.

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- IRISH PACKETS

Letters

Dear Sir,

Since the publication of my article "The Rarest Irish Postage Stamp — an Enquiry" in the No. 2 issue of Irish Stamp News, I have received an encouraging number of letters which leaves me in no doubt that further research of this kind is needed in the future.

Although the paper concerned itself primarily with actual overprint varieties much of the additional information that came to light related to print varieties on the Basic British Stamp.

Perhaps some philatelists would now endeavour to establish the rarity ratio of such die varieties, or of watermark errors occurring on the actual stamps themselves.

Finally I would like to congratulate you on the very high standard of your journal and wish you continuing success with it in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Gerard Brady T.D.,
Dail Eireann.

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter from J. Frencken of the Netherlands in your issue No. 4., and his queries about two puzzling postmarks.

The second one of the two (PAQUEBOT — BAILE ATHA CLIATH) on a King George VI stamp is obviously from a letter posted at sea. I cannot quote the UPU rules on this, but broadly speaking it is possible to post a letter on board a ship with the stamps of that ship's country and then to put them ashore at the next port of call, where they will receive the PAQUEBOT cancel, and be forwarded to their destination. Perhaps it would be interesting if you or some other philatelic journal could publish the regulations governing this type of postal use.

The other stamp and postmark mentioned is a little more puzzling. I agree with Mr. Frencken that there only seems to be one Kilkee in Ireland, and that is in Co. Clare in Eire. But perhaps he has not got a complete clear impression of the postmark? If the last letter(s) are missing it could be one of several other places in Ireland: Kilkea (Kildare), Kilkeary (Tipperary), Kilkelly (Mayo), or Kilkenny! But all of these are also in Eire so I think the answer will have to be Kilkeel in Co. Down, where it would be normal to use a King George VI stamp.

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The only other possibility is that somebody used a British stamp in Eire and that it slipped through unnoticed. I have a plain buff commercial envelope, bearing an Irish 4d slate-blue (Wmk: e; SG.117) addressed to a firm in South Kensington, London and postmarked 'SOUTH KENSINGTON, S.W.7: 18/MARCH/1969'. A pity it was not one day earlier in honour of St. Patrick himself!

Yours sincerely,

R.J. Partridge,
Surrey.

Dear Sir,

On checking through various items in my collection of Irish stamps I came across some significant (in my opinion) shade variations in the commemoratives which are certainly not recorded in any of the Irish or British catalogues, nor, as far as I am aware, have they been mentioned in any of the relevant periodicals.

The main distinctions are as follows:—

1) Canadian Centennial, 1967. Both values

- a) the left hand pair of leaves — brownish yellow
- b) the left hand pair of leaves — greenish yellow.

In addition the position of the inscription varies in relation to the leaves (on the 1/5 value) in that in (a) the first "E" of "Eire" touches the point of the leaf and in (b) is approximately 1mm. to the left of the leaf.

2) Royal Cork Yacht Club, 1970

There are at least four shades best distinguished by the colour of the sea at the bottom of the painting which varies from a violet brown to a deep violet grey.

3) Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 1974

- a) Wash at the bottom of the ship — cold blue
- b) wash at the bottom of the ship — blue with pinkish overtones — giving a much warmer overall colour.

In addition, the inscription in (b) is approximately 0.5mm higher than in (a).

Unfortunately, I have not seen complete sheets, or cylinder blocks to verify if they can be tied to a particular printing or cylinder combination where more than one was used. Is it also possible that a "floating value" phenomenon similar to that occurring on the "Machin" definitives of the United Kingdom appears on these and possibly other issues? Was the inscription printed during a second run or were separate multipositives used?

Letters

Perhaps some of your correspondents could supply further information on these and other commemoratives particularly in relation to shades as there appears to be a significant lack of such information during the last ten years or so. Maybe, even Messrs Warren and Fitzgerald could provide retrospective articles similar to the ones on current issues included in your excellent periodical.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. Marshall.
Belfast.

Dear Sir,

Your Editorial of Nov-dec. in I.S.N. No. 4 surprised me in that you refer to my request to the Minister for Foreign Affairs as "foolish", "politically inspired" (I am not associated with any political party), "nonsense" and "deserving of derision" — terms which I as a person, and an occasional customer, find offensive.

It was I who, in 1975 during the Coalition Government's term of office, requested the intervention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and presented details together with many copies of lists from the English weekly and monthly philatelic magazines in which Irish stamps are listed under the heading "British Commonwealth" instead of being under "Europe". The Minister accepted my views as sensible and valid and instructed our Ambassadors in London, Paris and Washington to take the necessary steps to put an end to subtle English propaganda which informed the philatelic public by means of their international circulation that the Irish Republic was a part of the British Commonwealth.

I made my request because I am an Irish separatist following in the steps of the generations of the Irish who have endeavoured to regain the freedom of Ireland from foreign rule. My father's generation got a measure of that freedom and when, in 1922, P. S. O. Hegarty became the first Secretary of the new Dept of Posts & Telegraphs he saw that act as signifying the end of the Union, as he later detailed in his monumental "Ireland Under the Union 1801-1922". Thus the issue of postage stamps by a native government became one of the first acts of sovereignty of the new state, in spite of a technical linkage which was finally severed in 1949 with the declaration of the Republic.

From that point onwards the "convenience" of collectors or philatelic publishers should have been subject to the simple fact that the Republic is a European state, an integral part of Europe and requiring to be so listed

under the letter "I" in listings of European countries. If that poses a problem for publishers then it is up to them to solve it having regard to the fact of our independence.

I pay taxes helping to maintain a system of costly Ambassadorial establishments throughout the world staffed by equally costly public employees whose supposed function is to project the image of the new Irish state and to foster good relations and trade with the host countries for the benefit of the Irish people. Why waste all that good money by keeping public employees in fine jobs when *incorrect listings in philatelic magazines having international circulation can project an opposite image of a subject Ireland, not sovereign*. It is a question of simple logic.

I make that point, Mr Editor, because in your Editorial I can identify mentalities and the views of civil servants in our Dept of Foreign Affairs simply by comparing their letters of 1978 to me with your article.

Regarding the practical aspect of sales of Irish stamps we all know that collectors showed little interest in Irish stamps once the English king's head disappeared from them. Even though, in the main, they were well designed they were generally ignored until after the issue of the first Europa set in 1960. It is undeniable that it has been the continuation of this series every year since, with the exception of 1961, which has made foreign collectors aware of Irish stamps and Ireland. In fact, whether they like Ireland or not, collectors of the Europa theme must buy and collect our stamps. This has been the key factor in creating an interest in our stamps and that interest is growing steadily.

Honourable mention must be made of the Irish Philatelic Society at home, the Eire Philatelic Association International, based in America and the Irish Philatelic Circle based in England. They have done trojan work over many years to stimulate interest at specialist levels all over the world.

In addition the Department of Posts & Telegraphs itself showed a more enlightened and businesslike approach to promoting interest in our stamps. In fact a major part was played by the quality and efficiency of P.O. men sent to staff Irish "Post Offices" at overseas philatelic Exhibitions. They have been the major ambassadors for Irish philately. I have had many glowing reports of their patience and kindness from American EPA officers and members. I assume that IPC members will report similarly.

I wonder if the Minister for Posts & Telegraphs has properly recognised their value and given them the status they have earned.

Another factor has been the introduction of

the new advance information/order form in four languages which was introduced when Irish was added as a text. This is a well designed, attractive and efficient folder. Those concerned deserve congratulations.

Of less importance, to date, has been our entry to the E.E.C. in 1973 but with time this, I feel, will amplify the effect of our Europa issues, particularly when Europeans come to realise that Ireland is not the tail of England's dog. Too many think so at present.

The philatelic trade need have no fears of losing sales because the growing interest in Ireland will ensure a rosy future for them, especially in view of the scarcity of so much of even comparatively recent material.

Too many patriotic Irishmen and women died in their efforts to remove Ireland from the English sphere of influence. There has been a measure of success and that success has made the issue of postage stamps by an Irish government possible. Our stamps are part of the continuing history of my country. I collect them with that in mind and as a pleasant hobby — a hobby which can help inform other people about my country and its contribution to world civilisation, in tandem with the efforts of our Foreign Affairs employees in the same direction, as would be normally expected. However it is no more than a hobby and its propagation should not be allowed to spread wrong information about Ireland's status whether for the benefit of dealers or the convenience of publishers.

Having said that I will finish by assuring you that I will reactivate my request to the Minister.

I regret that my reply to your Editorial has had to be so long, but the issues involved need to be aired publicly. I trust you will withdraw the intemperate language used even though you did not know that you were referring to me.

Yours sincerely
Padraig O Maithuna
Caiseal Mumhan.

STAMP SHOPS IN IRELAND

Many foreign visitors have asked us to include a list of Stamp Shops in Ireland and their times of opening. This is the complete listing as far as we are aware (additions and alterations would be welcome):

DUBLIN

GWYN BENNETT STAMPS, 23 Anglesea Street, Dublin 2. Open 9.30 to 5.30 Monday to Friday; 10am–1.30pm on Saturdays (except during Stamp Exhibitions and Fairs).

COLLECTORS CENTRE, 8 South King Street, Dublin 2. Open 10am to 5pm, Saturdays and Sundays only.

DAVID FELDMAN LTD., 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6. By appointment only.

HIBERNIAN STAMP COMPANY LTD., 11 Harrington Street, Dublin 8. Open 10am–1pm and 2pm–6pm Monday to Friday and 10am–1pm Saturdays (except during Exhibitions and Fairs).

NEARY'S MARKET, Neary's Hotel, Parnell Street, Dublin 1. Open on 1st Saturday and Sunday of each month 10am–5.30pm.

IAN WHYTE, 3 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. Open 10am–1pm and 2pm–6pm Monday to Friday.

BELFAST

BELFAST STAMP SHOP, 19 Skipper Street, Belfast 1. Open 10am–5pm Tuesday to Saturday.

CORK

Cork Coin Products Ltd., 17 Academy Street, Cork. Open 10am–1pm and 2pm–5pm Monday to Saturday.

BE WISE — ADVERTISE

For as little as £10 you can reach over 1,000 Irish collectors through display advertising. It would cost you £100 just to post a circular to them, so save money and improve your sales. Advertising rates are published on page 36.

Auction Report



1918 Irish Convention cancellation on cover, sold at Ian Whyte's auction for £71 including commission.

SPRING 1980 AUCTION COMMENTRY

This period has been especially active on the auction front as a large amount of Irish material was offered for sale. Prices generally continued to increase especially for postal history, early commemoratives, and postage dues, but it was noted that second grade seahorses were slow to sell probably due to the large amount on offer.

The season started with 78 lots in the Harmer British Europe sale on January 29th amongst which were 1/2d red overprint proof used with Thom 1 1/2d on cover – probably unique usage – (see Bridger & Kay Catalogue) for £194½, 10/- no accent in pair £1,728, 2/6 'Wide and Narrow' sheet of 40 £2,916, 5/- 'Wide and Narrow' sheet of 40 £2,700 and a half-sheet of the 10/- 'Wide and Narrow' including 6 'Wide and Narrow' pairs £5,670. An unusual item, the 4d SG 77 bisected and tied to 'front' fetched £113½. Finally the 1976 American Bicentennial miniature sheet with silver omitted realised £1,134.

The next sale was by Ian Whyte on the 23rd February and was predominantly Irish material. The postal history section in the majority of cases exceeded the estimates and included a rare 'Irish Convention Dublin 1918' cancellation on entire at £71. There were a number of nice items in the overprint section amongst which were noted 1 1/2d Thom black 'PENC' corrected' in a large block for £305, 2d Die 1 overprint inverted in an unmounted block of 4 for £515, 10d Thom blue-black 'broken frameline' in a

quarter sheet for £656 and the 2/6 'Circumflex accent' in a corner block for £152. A scarce cover with the 5/- re-engraved and showing the German 'Europe – South America' airmail cachet went for the high price of £451. There were a number of 'SE' St. Patrick 2/6 – 10/- sets which sold at an average of £240 for unmounted mint and last but not least the rare 2d coil perf. 15 X imperf. mint reached another record price at £9,712½.

The final sale was by Hibernian Stamp Auctions on the 22nd March and included in the overprints were the 2/6 – 10/- narrow in unmounted blocks at £840. An unusual philatelic cover showing the 2/6 – 10/- St. Patrick 'E watermark' cream paper appeared to be a bargain at £34. The O'Connell set in pairs on F.D.C. sold for £357. There was a large section of gutter pairs and the 1d Mangan in gutter pair went for £27 (face value 2d!!). The 1d 'SE' booklet pane with slogans and margin sold at £147 and the 1976 American Bicentennial 15p missing silver £236.

Surprisingly at neither sale was there bidding interest in the 'missing silvers' unlike the metal exchange trading in the real thing. Dealers opinions were that trading should be in the region of £500 and £75 respectively and that the above prices were as a result of bidding to keep prices up.

Overall there appeared to be a large amount of money available for the right material which augurs well for those collectors who already have a good collection.

Prices have been adjusted to Irish £ and include buyers premium.

G.G.

PHILATELIC CROSSWORD

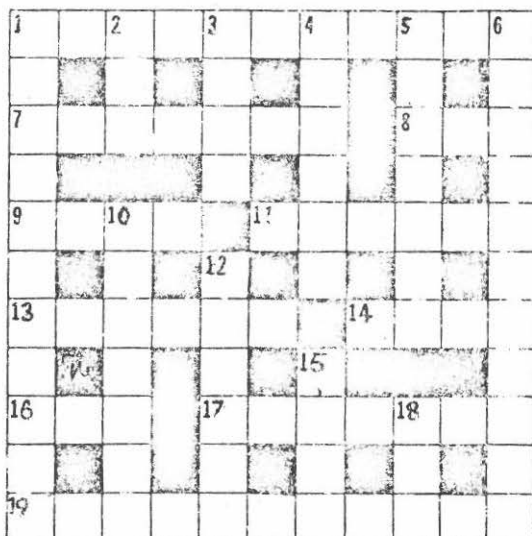
By W. Heidenfeld: No. 4.

ACROSS

1. Referring to a period in collecting that was not as sticky as the present? (11).
7. Orsino's duchy did not issue stamps (7).
8. A plodding student in this apparently easy field of philatelic knowledge (3).
9. Such French stamps carry the letters FM (4).
11. The frightening impact of an Irish overprint variety? (6).
13. Type of instrument dear to the Irish? (6).
14. A mere hovel issuing stamps? (4).
16. Wrath engendered by a fair exchange? (3).
17. A frequent postmark on Pakistan stamps (7).
19. The philatelist knows it in Bulgarian stotinki, Russian kopeks and Israeli agoroth (6-5).

DOWN:

1. The pitfall is the missing "f", according to the expert (11).
2. A slippery customer who might leave you quite shocked (3).
3. To repair a stamp this way is almost the only one that has not been tried (4).
4. Pleased with yourself in having made a find despite the late date of the transaction.
5. you should see to it that your stamps are (7).
6. He speaks hopefully - of a Swiss stamp of 1979 (11).
10. A "cross" word for the British collector? (7).
12. What German currency and French mean to the investor? (6).
15. That of 1974 provided one of the early G.B. gutter pairs (4).
18. Deception used in trying to complete Cape of Good Hope? (3).



Across: 1, Preadhesive; 7, Illiyrta; 8, Sap; 9, Army; 11, T-Error; 13, Eolian (harp); 14, A-den; 16, Ire; 17, Karachi; 19, Twenty-eight.
Down: 1, Philatelist; 2, Fel; 3, Darn; 4, Elated; 5, Insured; 6, Esperantist; 10, Maltese; 12, Mark-er; 15, Tree; 18, C-o-G(H).

SOLUTION: TO CROSSWORD No. 4.

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