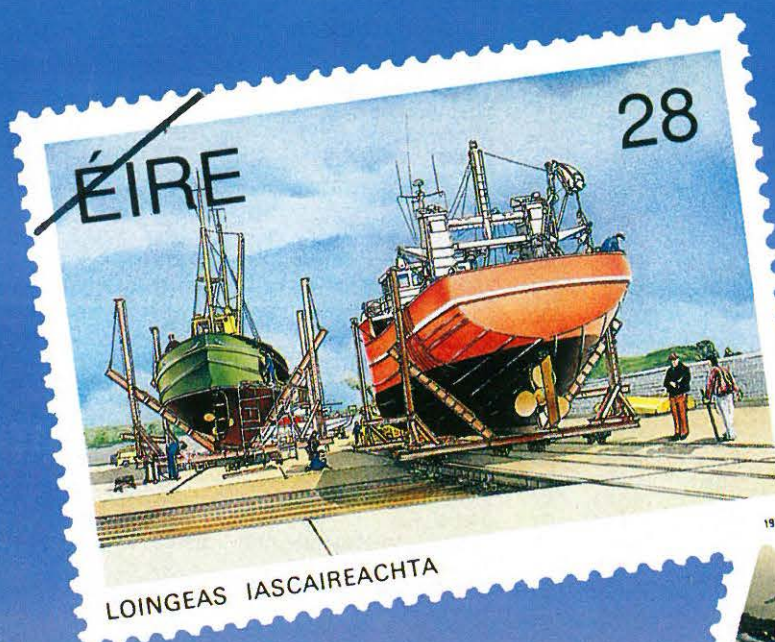


STAMP NEWS

Vol.2 No.2

PUBLISHED
AUTUMN
1991
QUARTERLY



IRELAND: DEFINITIVE STAMPS 1922-1988

Prices are in IRE for unmounted never-hinged mint (UM), lightly-hinged mint (LHM) and very fine used - light circular datestamp (VFU).
MW = MacDonnell Whyte STAMPS OF IRELAND Specialised Catalogue numbers; SG = Stanley Gibbons Catalogue numbers.

MW	SG	Description	UM £	LHM £	VFU £	MW	SG	Description	UM £	LHM £	VFU £
1D	71/82	1922-37 1st series (wmk. 'se') 1/2d-1s (12)	£140	29.50	45.00	D63	297	7 1/2p brown and lilac	.30		.60
D1	71	1/2d bright green	.40	.30	.30	D64	298	9p black/turquoise	1.50		.80
D2	72	1d carmine	.50	.30	.30	D65	299	10p multicol, type I	14.50		3.95
D3	73	1 1/2d claret	2.95	.70	1.50	D66	299a	10p multicol, type II	13.50		.95
D4	74	2d pearl green	.45	.30	.30	D67	299b	12p multicoloured	.50		.60
D5	75	2 1/2d red brown	2.95	.95	1.95	D68	300	20p multicoloured	3.50		.60
D6	76	3d blue	2.95	.95	.95	D69	301	50p multicoloured	7.95		.95
D7	77	4d slate blue	4.95	1.50	1.95	6D	339/59	1974-80 Gerl no wmk 1/2p-£1 (29)	18.50		13.00
D8	78	5d bright violet	29.50	6.50	7.50	D70	339	1/2p bright green	.30		.30
D9	79	6d claret	5.95	1.95	2.95	D71	340	1p blue	.30		.30
D10	80	9d bright violet	39.50	6.50	12.50	D72	341	2p deep green	.30		.30
D11	81	10d brown	19.50	4.50	15.00	D73	342	3p cinnamon	.30		.30
D12	82	1s light blue	49.50	12.50	8.50	D74	343	3 1/2p orange-brown	1.95		2.50
1DA	102/4	1922-37 1st series (wmk. 'se') 2/6-10s (3)	£275	£120	£125	D75	344	5p yellow-olive	.30		.30
D13	102	2/6 emerald green	95.00	38.00	32.00	D76	345	6p brown/slate blue	.95		1.20
D14	103	5s maroon	£125	58.00	65.00	D77	346	6p deep slate	.30		.30
D15	104	10s blue	95.00	38.00	38.00	D78	347	7p olive green/blue	1.50		.50
2D	111/25a	1940-68 2nd series (wmk. 'e') 1/2d-10s (17)	115.00	39.50	18.00	D79	348	7p olive	.30		.30
D16	111	1/2d bright green	.75	.40	.40	D80	349	8p black & red-brown	.60		.60
D17	112	1d carmine	.35	.30	.30	D81	350	8p chestnut	.30		.30
D18	113	1 1/2d claret	9.50	1.95	.50	D82	351	9p black & turquoise	.90		.40
D19	114	2d pearl green	.35	.30	.30	D83	352	9p turquoise green	.30		.30
D20	115	2 1/2d red brown	8.50	1.95	.50	D84	352a	9 1/2p scarlet	.40		.40
D21	116	3d blue	.35	.30	.30	D85	353	10p multicol, type II	.95		.50
D22	117	4d slate-blue	.35	.30	.30	D86	354	10p lavender & black	.50		.30
D23	118	5d bright violet	.35	.30	.30	D87	354a	10p purple	.30		.30
D24B	119aa	6d claret	.50	.30	.30	D88	355	11p red and black	.60		.60
D25	119a	8d bright red	.50	.30	.50	D89	355a	12p emerald & black	.60		.30
D26	120	9d bright violet	.50	.35	.60	D90	355b	12p Leaf green	.35		.30
D27	121	10d brown	.50	.35	.60	D91	355c	13p chocolate/brown	.65		.95
D28	121a	11d rose	.60	.50	.95	D92	356	15p multicoloured	.75		.50
D29	122	1s light blue	85.00	32.00	12.50	D93	356a	15p deep blue	.65		.30
D30C	123a	2/6 emerald green	2.95	1.50	.95	D94	356b	16p yellow-green/black	.70		.80
D31C	124a	5s maroon	5.50	2.95	1.95	D95	356c	17p multicoloured	.70		.80
D32C	125a	10s blue	9.50	5.95	2.95	D96	357	20p multicoloured	.70		.40
3D	227/8	1966-7 Photogravure (2)	.50		.40	D97	358	50p multicoloured	1.20		.60
D33	227	3d blue	.30		.30	D98	359	£1 multicoloured	2.20		.70
D34	228	5d violet type I	.30		.30	7D	478/83	1981-82 Gerl Litho. Ptg. (6)	4.80		4.40
D34B	-	5d type II (ex bklt)	1.95		3.95	D99	478	18p dull claret	.70		.40
4D	247/64	1968-9 Gerl 1/2d-10s (16)	19.50		11.00	D100	479	19p light blue	.80		.95
D35	247	1/2d orange	.30		.40	D101	480	22p turquoise blue	.80		.40
D36	248	1d light green	.30		.30	D102	481	24p drab	.90		.95
D37	249	2d light ochre	.30		.30	D103	482	26p blue-green	.95		.40
D38	250	3d blue	.30		.30	D104	483	29p purple	1.20		1.30
D39	251	4d red	.30		.30	8D	532/51	1982-86 Architecture (28)	29.50		17.50
D40	252	5d dark green	.30		.90	D105	532	1p violet-blue	.30		.30
D41	253	6d dark brown	.30		.30	D106	533	2p yellow-green	.30		.30
D42	254	7d yellow and brown	.40		1.95	D107	534	3p black	.30		.30
D43	255	8d brown and orange	.40		.95	D108	535	4p maroon	.30		.30
D44	256	9d green and blue	.40		.30	D109	536	5p brown	.30		.30
D45	257	10d violet and brown	.50		1.50	D110	537	6p grey blue	.30		.30
D46	258	1s light/dark brown	.50		.50	D111	538	7p yellow-green	.30		.40
D47	259	1/9 turquoise/black	1.95		1.50	D112	539	10p black	.30		.30
D48	260	2/6 multicoloured	2.95		.60	D113	540	12p maroon	.35		.40
D49	261	5s multicoloured	3.95		.95	D114	541	15p yellow-green	.45		.45
D50	262	10s multicoloured	7.95		1.50	D115	542	20p brown-purple	.50		.40
5D	287/301	1971-4 Gerl 1/2p-50p watermark 'e' (19)	45.00		14.00	D116	543	22p grey-blue	.50		.30
D51	287	1/2p bright green	.30		.30	D117	544	23p yellow-green	.55		.70
D52	288	1p blue	.50		.30	D118	544a	24p brown	.55		.30
D53	289	1 1/2p lake brown	.30		.40	D119	545	26p black	.60		.30
D54	290	2p deep green	.30		.30	D120	545b	28p maroon	.60		.30
D55	291	2 1/2p sepia	.30		.30	D121	546	29p yellow-green	.65		.75
D56	292	3p cinnamon	.30		.30	D122	547	30p black	.65		.30
D57	293	3 1/2p orange-brown	.30		.30	D123	547b	32p brown	.70		.50
D58	294	4p bluish-violet	.30		.30	D124	547c	37p grey-blue	.85		.95
D59	295	5p brown/yellow-green	.50		.40	D125	547d	39p mauve	.90		.95
D60	295a	5p yellow-olive	.95		.50	D126	548	44p black and grey	.95		1.05
D61	296	6p brown/slate blue	.95		.60	D127	548b	46p green and grey	.95		1.05
D62	296a	7p olive/green-blue	2.95		3.95	D128	549	50p ultramarine/grey	1.10		.50
						D129	550	£1 dark brown & grey	3.95		2.95
						D130	550b	£1 blue and grey	2.25		.50
						D131	550c	£2 olive-green/black	3.95		3.95
						D132	551	£5 maroon and grey	9.50		3.95

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IRISH STAMP NEWS

ISSN 0332-317X

Published by Ian Whyte (Ireland) Ltd
27 Mount Street Upper, Dublin 2.

Telephone: (International + 353-1) 01-767228.

Telefax: (International + 353-1) 01-767229

Member: Association Internationale de Journalistes
Philateliques

Cover Design: Des Kiely & Associates.

Typeset in house.

Printed by Betaprint Ltd, Dublin 17.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(per 5 issues post paid):

Ireland & Great Britain

£7.50

Rest of the world (surface mail)

£9.50

Rest of the world (airmail)

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BACK NUMBERS:

The following are available, subject unsold: Volume 1,
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Postage extra on all orders: Ireland & GB: 1-2 copies 60p; 3-4,
80p; 5-8, £1; 9-16, £2. Elsewhere surface mail: 1-2, 70p; 3-4, £1;
5-8, £1.90; 9-16, £2.80; Elsewhere airmail: £1 for 1, 90p each
additional copy.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Full details on request from the Advertisement Manager,
IRISH STAMP NEWS, 27 Mount Street Upper, Dublin 2.
Telephone: 01-767228. Telefax: 01-767229.

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FRONT COVER: The four special stamps in this year's
"Ireland" Series on the theme "The Maritime Fishing Fleet"

IRISH STAMP NEWS

Vol. 2 No 2 Autumn 1991

Publication Date: December 16 1991.

Final copy date: November 15 1991.

The Editor's Letter

It may come as a surprise to some but the hobby of stamp collecting has really grown apace in Ireland over the past few years. I often hear members of the general public and collectors bemoaning the fact that so few children collect stamps these days. This is undoubtedly true: children have a lot of other distractions in the form of a much more varied range of sports, as well as television, video and home computers. However what has really taken off in the last, say, ten, years is stamp collecting amongst adults.



All around us we see the signs of this renewed interest in our hobby. The biggest promoter of stamp collecting in Ireland is of course An Post, and their excellent efforts have repaid them justly and they now have several thousand philatelic customers in this country alone, not to mention tens of thousands overseas.

I haven't seen any figures for memberships of clubs in the country but certainly, from reports I have heard, attendance at the Dublin meetings are well up on recent years. *Stampa*, the Irish National Stamp Exhibition continues to draw about three thousand visitors annually.

Perhaps the most telling sign of the revival in stamp collecting is the number of stamp dealers in Ireland. I well remember over twenty-five years ago hunting around Dublin for places that sold stamps. At that time there was only one proper stamp shop - the Mint Stamp Company of Fownes' Street; a few antique shops had some stamps, including old Houghton's shop run by George Popp, and then there was the Hibernian Bible Society which sold first day covers as well as the usual kiloware. Today there are three proper stamp shops in Dublin as well as three other philatelic businesses, and one can find a few more stamp traders at the weekend markets. In the country as a whole there are over two dozen stamp dealers, mostly part-time, but all obviously deeming it worthwhile to carry on some form of stamp business.

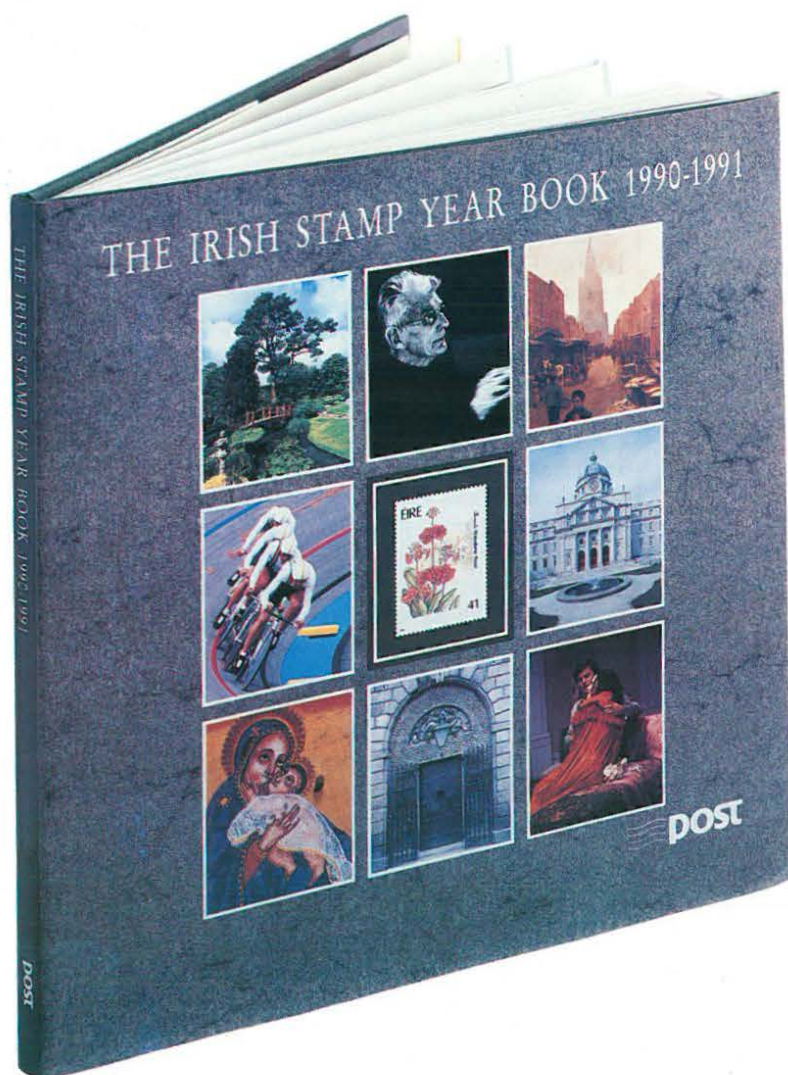
Stamp collecting has, of recent years, grown up into a more widely acceptable adult pursuit, a pleasant, absorbing and stimulating pastime, ever rewarding - sometimes financially, always intellectually. The clichéd images of the elderly gent in a smoking cap wielding a huge magnifier and huddled over an album or the snotty nosed boys swapping stamps for marbles in the schoolyard, are only nostalgic memories. The image today is of men and - increasingly - women, often affluent professional (dare one say upwardly mobile?) types in the 35+ age group who are finding in philately a sophisticated and intelligent challenge that few, if any, other hobbies can offer.

What all this indicates is that one hundred and fifty years on stamp collecting is alive and well and looks set to continue well into the next century at the very least. *IRISH STAMP NEWS* has, hopefully, made some contribution to the development of philately in this country and we aim to continue to promote stamp collecting - and especially the collection and study of Irish stamps and postal history - as a worthwhile and enjoyable pursuit for people of all ages and classes (even the upwardly mobile!)

IAN WHYTE
Editor.

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1990 – 1991



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20TH STAMPA OPENS OCTOBER 17

The twentieth national stamp exhibition, *Stampa '91*, will be held in Dublin's Riverside Centre on October 17 to 20 next. The exhibition will be opened by its patron, Mr. Vivien Murray, Chairman of An Post, on Thursday October 17 at 11am. The exhibition will be open from 11am to 6pm each day.

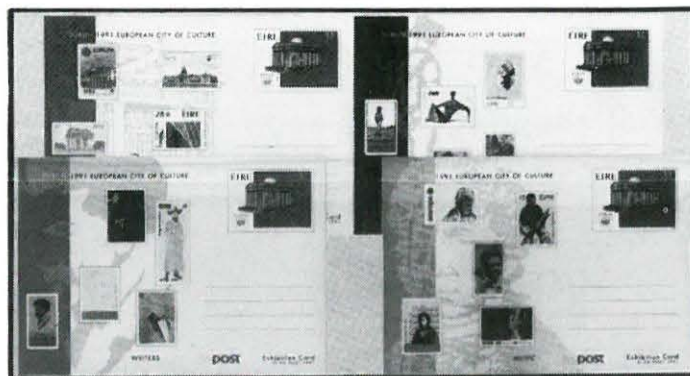
Stampa '91 will encompass a fine range of private collections of stamps and postal history as well as a superb array of material on offer on the twenty or so dealers stands. An Post will have a Philatelic Bureau in operation throughout the exhibition; this will offer the complete range of philatelic products and services as well as all the commemorative and definitive stamps currently on sale. In addition An Post are hoping to provide a special stand exclusively for junior collectors where they would receive advice and encouragement in starting a stamp collection.

Four special postmarks will be used on mail posted at *Stampa '91*. The designs feature logos

associated with Dublin's year as European City of Culture. A set of four very colourful and attractive cards bearing 32p imprinted *Dublin 1991 European City of Culture* will be launched at the show.

A special first day of issue postmark for the Maritime Fishing Fleet issue will be used only at *Stampa '91*. The Cycles miniature sheet, issued earlier this year, will appear at *Stampa '91* with a commemorative overprint, in a limited printing of only five hundred. The miniature sheets will be on sale exclusively at *Stampa '91* on a first come first served basis.

The collectors exhibits will compete for medals to be awarded by the national stamp exhibition jury. In addition a number of special trophies will be awarded including the David Feldman Trophy for the best overall exhibit, the Irish Security Stamp Printing Trophy for the best exhibit of Irish postage stamps issued since 1922, the F E Dixon Memorial Trophy for the best exhibit of postal history, the Charles O'Neill Memorial Shield for the best Thematic exhibit, and the Gwyn Bennett



The four Exhibition Cards which will be launched at *Stampa '91* on October 17 next

Stamps Trophy for the best novice exhibit.

The collectors awards will be announced at the exhibition and will be presented at a special dinner in the Clarence Hotel on Saturday October 19 at 8pm for 8.30pm. Tickets will cost £14 each and are available by post up to October 15 from the Secretary *Stampa '91* PO Box 2073, Dublin 1; they will also be available at the exhibition from the Secretary up to Friday evening October 18.

Stampa '91 will be open from 11am to 6pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday October 17-20. Admission is £2.50 for adults, and £1 for senior citizens, students, and children. A family ticket (two adults plus four children) is available at £4.

A free bus service is available between Tara Street DART Station and the exhibition centre; the bus will run continuously from 1pm to 6pm.

STAMPA '91 EXHIBITS

The following is a list of the exhibits to be found at *Stampa '91*.

POSTAL HISTORY

- Carlow Postal History* by Jim Brophy.
- Postal History of County Meath* by Marie Smith.
- Dublin Postal Markings 1818-1916* by Charles Verge Canada.
- Official Mail Through 100 years* by G E R Ithell, England.
- 1916 Rising* by Sean Brennan, England.
- French Postal History* by William Moore, Dublin.
- Free Franks* by Finbarr O'Mahony, Dublin.
- Saxony Postal History* by John Mackey, Co. Dublin.
- Irish Slogan Postmarks 1922-1949* by Antóin O Broin, Dublin.

SPECIALISED

- Revenue Stamps of Ireland and Great Britain* by Perkins Bacon by Richard Payne, England.
- Architecture Definitives 1982-1990* by Brian Warren, Dublin.
- Irish Overprint Varieties on Great Britain Stamps* by Peter Fitzgerald, Dublin.
- From German South West Africa to Namibia* by Oliver Macdonald, Co. Kildare.
- Wurtemberg Postal Stationery* by Antóin O Broin.

THEMATIC

- Freemasonry* by C. Payne, England.
- Mozart* by John Fitzsimons, Dublin.
- The Grandmother of Europe* by Pat Casey, Dublin.

NOVICE COMPETITION

- Captain Cook* by John Mullen, Dublin.
- Dublin, European City of Culture* by Brian O'Sullivan.
- Last Year of the DDR* by Pat Carey, Dublin.

LITERATURE

- Mid Western Philatelic Society Newsletter* edited by Michael Hartnett.
- Irish Stamp News* edited by Ian Whyte.
- Stamps of Ireland 1991* edited by David MacDonnell and Ian Whyte.

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1. George Allan, Cork.
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1940-68 'e' wmk
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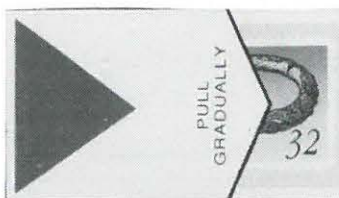
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SELF ADHESIVE STAMP TO BE ISSUED IN OCTOBER.



Ireland's first self-adhesive postage stamp will be issued on October 31. The stamp will be a 32p value in the same design and colour as the present 32p definitive. The stamps will be sold in rolls of 100 from major post offices and in strips of 3 from the Philatelic Bureau. The stamp is a slightly larger format than the current definitives.

The self-adhesive stamps have been produced in association with Australia Post. Pemara Labels, Victoria, are suppliers of similar stamps to Australia Post, but it is not confirmed that they printed the Irish issue. Perforations are 11½, the perforations die-cut rather than produced by pins; the perforations are a security device as they are not necessary for separation of the stamps. Due to the type of adhesive employed used examples of these stamps should be retained on piece, and collectors are warned not to soak them off with other stamps.

An Post will provide the usual first day of issue facilities for this stamp. Similar stamps have been produced by Australia, New Zealand, and the USA.

Incidentally An Post have decided to give the contract for Automatic Postage Labels to Frama, of Switzerland. Three different machines had been on trial from October 1990 to May 1991 and on the basis of these trials the Swiss made machine was deemed the most reliable.

It is expected that the new machines will be in use either by the end of this year or towards

the beginning of next year. In addition to being placed inside and outside post offices, the machines will eventually be installed in other buildings such as railway stations, airports and shopping centres.

The Frama stamps are, as illustrated here, rather similar to the Australian design, with a background comprising of a multiple impression of a Celtic brooch. The interesting - albeit disconcerting - part of the design is the bottom line which consists of a number and town name - in the case of the illustration released by An Post this reads "100 Dublin Ath Cliath". It is not the erroneous lack of an accent on "Ath Cliath" that makes it disconcerting but the inclusion of the city or town name - presumably every location will have its own Frama labels; this could make up to a couple of dozen if only head offices are issued them, but one can buy them at for as little as 1p each so it won't really hurt the collector too much!



The Irish Frama (top) with the Australian version of similar format

NEW RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS

The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland has announced a new series of Railway Letter Stamps. The Society, which restores and maintains old locomotives, rolling stock and other railway artefacts, runs various excursions during the summer, and as a Post Office

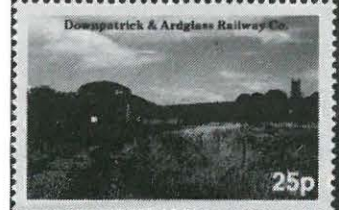
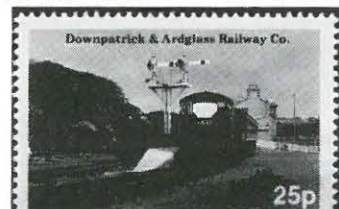
approved mail carrier in both the Republic and Northern Ireland - under the Railway Letter Act - it operates a Railway Letter Service on these trips.

The Society has issued a total of eight stamps, all featuring engines it owns, produced in four sheetlets of six, each incorporating three se-tenant pairs of two designs. The four stamps for use in the Republic of Ireland - all denominated 55p (two are needed to pay the fee of £1.10 per letter) - show the following three engines: two different views of Northern Counties Committee of the London Midland & Scottish Railway Company locomotive No. 4, a 2-6-4 tank engine built in 1947 in Derby and in use up to 1970; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) - GNR(I) - locomotive No. 171, built in 1913, a 4-4-0 engine used on the *Enterprise Express* between Dublin and Belfast; and Great Southern & Western Railway (GS&WR) No. 184 0-6-0 locomotive built in 1879 and in use up to 1962.

The stamps for use in Northern Ireland - all 25p denominations (two are needed to pay the fee of 50p) - feature the following engines: GS&WR No. 186, built in 1880, 0-6-0 engine in use up to 1963; GNR(I) No. 171, as featured on one of the 55p stamps, detailed above; GNRI(I) No. 85, built in 1932, 4-4-0 engine used on express passenger services, in use up to 1963; Dublin & South Eastern Railway No. 461, built in 1922 and in service up to 1963.

All the stamps were designed and litho printed by the well-known British security stamp printers, House of Questa, London, on unwatermarked paper, PVA gum, perforated 13. The photographs are from the archives of the RPSI.

The Downpatrick & Ardglass Railway Company, a privately owned narrow gauge railway, has also issued its own railway letter stamps. The two 25p stamps, printed se-tenant in sheetlets of six, feature two of the engines employed on the railway: diesel shunter 0-4-0 formerly owned by the Irish Sugar Company, and, in a scene alongside a CIE diesel, a saddle tank 0-4-0 engine, No. 38G, formerly owned by Arthur Guinness & Co. Printing details are as for the RPSI issues detailed above.



(from top) RPSI Republic issues, N. Ireland issues, D&AR and Joint issue

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RAILWAY STAMPS continued.

A further two "Joint Railway Operation" stamps, denominated 50p each, are intended for use on trains operated jointly by the RPSI and the Downpatrick & Ardglass Railway. The stamps are printed by the House of Questa in the same format and to the same specifications as the other issues detailed above.

The RPSI stamps for use in the Republic of Ireland were issued on September 7 and were first used on the Dublin-Greystones excursions of September 8 last. The other issues were released on August 17.

Railway Letters can be carried by the railway from station to station, and can be either collected at the station or, if the appropriate postage is paid, may be posted on arrival.

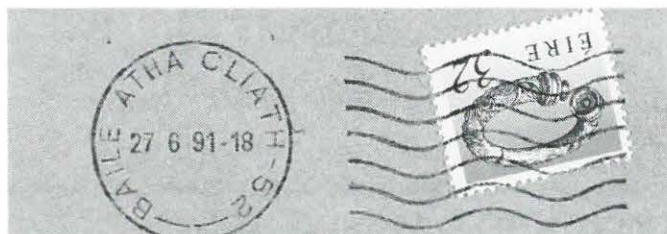
SUBSCRIBERS PRIZE DRAW

The winner of the first prize in *IRISH STAMP NEWS*'s free draw for subscribers, as advertised in the Spring edition, was Mr. J C Wilson of Boston, Lincolnshire, England. Mr. Wilson wins the superb new limited edition "Early Ireland Culture Treasures" philatelic presentation book recently published by An Post.

Ten other lucky subscribers win Lindner stockbooks. They are as follows: Reverend Noel Spring, Co. Kerry; Mr Joseph Nolan, Belfast; Mr R C Payne, Banbury, Oxfordshire, England; Mr Finbarr Hegarty, Sligo; Mr A. Fordham, Lancashire, England; Mr Eamonn Murray, Dublin 7; Mr W C F Coleman, Newcastle Upon Tyne, England; Mr Arnold Talbot, Dublin 13; Mr Leif Nilsson, Sweden, Mr. Joseph Carey, Dublin.

NEW DUBLIN POSTMARK

A new type of machine cancel has been seen emanating from offices in the Dublin area. The postmark would appear to be an experimental type applied by a portable machine and is used in the event of a breakdown of one of the major machines, or, as has been the case in one or two offices, where there was insufficient workload for the larger



The new Dublin machine cancel

apparatus. The postmark is as illustrated and shows a code 52. The machine has also been used in Bray with an inscription reading "Bré".

So far very few examples have been seen by collectors, and the Bray marking is especially scarce, with so far only one recorded. It is believed that this is a trial of a new machine which may come into operation next year.



The "Bag Opening" datestamp

Another interesting postmark, brought to our attention by Mr. Santifort, of County Cork, is an oval shaped date stamp reading "BAG OPENING / DUBLIN / 10.5.91". The marking is applied to a thirty pence commemorative stamp on a letter to Cork. It was presumably applied in haste and is not taken to be a regular canceller. This is an internal postmark used on the waybill by one of the clerks who opens mailbags. Apparently sometimes there may be only a very few letters in the bag and to save time the clerk cancels them there and then using this datestamp.

SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL COIN AND STAMP FAIR

The Irish International Coin and Stamp Fair which took place in the Mansion House,

Dublin on June 15 and 16 last was a great success, attracting nearly two thousand visitors. Exhibits were provided by the Irish Numismatic Society and the Federation of Philatelic Societies in Ireland.

Over three dozen dealers from Ireland and Great Britain took part and a wide variety of collectables were on show to the many visitors. The fair was opened by Mr. Gerard Brady T.D., the well known Dublin philatelist and numismatist, who commented on the fine range of exhibits both from collectors and dealers and who applauded Mr Peter Sheen for organising the event.

The next Irish International Coin and Stamp Fair will take place in March 1992. The exact date will be announced in the next edition of *IRISH STAMP NEWS*.

Two special post marks were used at the exhibition: the one used on June 15 showed the logo of the European City of Culture and that used on Sunday June 16, "Bloomsday", featured an outline drawing of James Joyce. The latter was particularly popular as 1991 is the 50th anniversary of the death of the famous Dublin writer. There was a good demand for the 26p stamp issued to commemorate the Joyce's birth centenary in 1982 with the small stocks held by dealers present rapidly selling out.

POSTAL STATIONERY CIRCLE

A Postal Stationery Circle has been launched in the UK by Mr. D. Taylor-Smith, of Norwich, England. The Circle is open to collectors of the postal stationery of any country and membership is world wide. Further details may be obtained from D. Taylor-Smith, 23 Britannia Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 4HP, England.

STAMPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Irish National Stamp Exhibition Limited, the company that organises STAMPA, was held in the Clarence Hotel on June 24 last.

The following were elected to serve on the council: Michael Giffney (Chairman), Peter Fitzgerald (Vice Chairman), Frank McDonald (Secretary), Finbarr O'Mahony (Treasurer), Tony Byrne, John Hickey, John Fitzimons, William Moore, Michael Murphy, James Kelly, Gary Bermingham, and Gerry Mooney.

There was an, at times, heated discussion over the proposal to increase the membership subscription. Some members were incensed at the idea of increasing the subscription to £12.50 from the previous level of £10.00 which had remained unchanged for several years. However the new rate was adopted on a majority vote. The financial report of the company was particularly good as it showed a return to profitability with a surplus for the year of £422.00 after taxation. It should be pointed out that the company, which is limited by guarantee, is prohibited from distributing dividends to its members or from paying any form of remuneration to the members of the council. Any profits made are used for the development of the exhibition.

In 1990 the exhibition made a loss of £1,670, despite a grant of £3,000 from An Post. In 1991 STAMPA had a surplus of £422 with a grant of only £1,000 from An Post; thus the organisers managed to increase revenue by over £3,600 compared with the previous year. The annual general meeting passed a vote of thanks to the outgoing council especially the chairman, secretary and treasurer who were responsible for this magnificent turnaround. The company has a total membership of 294, of whom 55 were resident outside Ireland as compared to a total 243 members in the previous year of whom 47 were resident outside the country. Membership is open to anyone paying the annual subscription (£12.50 for 1991) which is due before September 1 each year.

STAMPA

Phillips are delighted to be, once again, represented at **STAMPA '91**, from Thursday 17th until Sunday 20th October, at the Riverside Exhibition Centre in Dublin. Andrew Claridge will be joined by Stuart Billington who will have a full range of Phillips' stamp auction catalogues available to show to prospective buyers. They will also be able to advise on selling in London and on the other services offered by Phillips. In addition they will be travelling to meet clients in Dublin who may not be able to get to the Exhibition or have bulky or valuable properties they are considering selling.



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14th November	Postage Stamps of the World
21st October	Fine British Commonwealth
28th October	Postal History and Covers of the World
5th December	Specialised Great Britain
12th December	Postage Stamps of the World

ANDREW CLARIDGE

Associate Director of Phillips, will represent the Company at Stampa in Dublin and elsewhere in Ireland in October. Andrew who has been a professional philatelist all his working life has been responsible for the growth of Phillips' Specialised Great Britain auctions which are acknowledged by many as the best in the World. He looks forward to meeting old and new friends on his travels in Ireland.



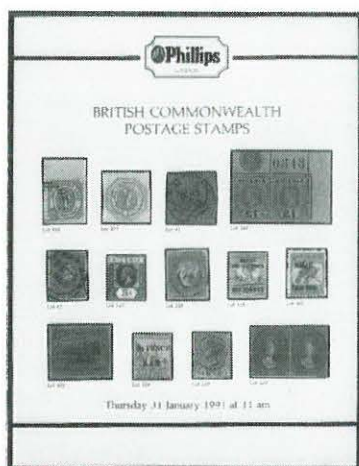
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For the convenience of collectors who would like advice on selling at auction, Andrew Claridge will be visiting: -
Talbot Hotel, Wexford on Monday 21st October between 10am and 12 noon.
Granville Hotel, Waterford on Monday 21st October between 5pm and 8pm.
Jury's Hotel, Cork on Tuesday 22nd October between 2pm and 5pm.
Jury's Hotel, Limerick on Wednesday 23rd October between 2pm and 5pm.
Appointments and more information from Ava Soe on 03-71 629 1877.



CATALOGUE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Because Phillips are solely consignment auctioneers, we make a charge for our auction catalogues. An annual subscription for one year (approximately 40 catalogues) costs £50 (sterling). The following categories can be purchased separately: Great Britain £15, British Commonwealth including Ireland £15, Stamps of the World £25 and Postal History and Covers £10 (all prices in sterling). Please write or ask for an explanatory leaflet.



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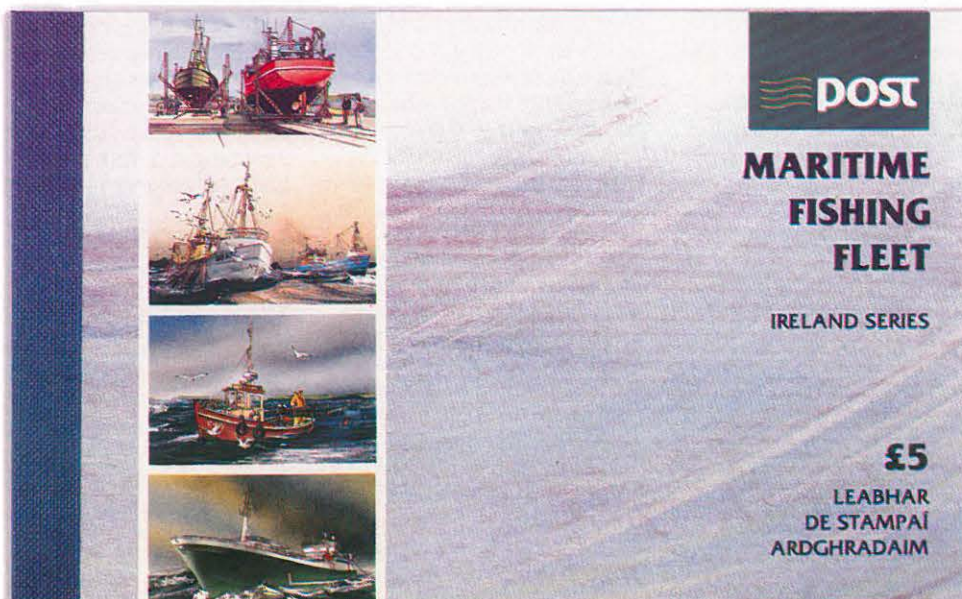
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Ian Whyte (Ireland) Limited are seeking the anonymous sender of an order totaling £11.70 paid for with three postal orders, two purchased in Athy Co. Kildare on October 10 1990 and one purchased in Kilkenny on October 12 of 1990. If the customer would please contact Ian Whyte Ireland Limited they will be happy to send out his stamps.

POSTAL SCAM EXPOSED



When we first came across the cover illustrated above we were to say the least puzzled as to why the stamp had been cancelled - nay obliterated - by three heavy impressions of a circular date stamp. At first we thought that the postal worker hated stamp collectors and then we thought perhaps he was anti-Protestant as the stamp is the 44p commemorating the 800th anniversary of St. Patrick's Cathedral, the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland. In reflecting on the last piece of conjecture it suddenly dawned on us that here was a 44p stamp used on a letter that should have been prepaid by 32p. Closer inspection of the stamp showed that it had been used before on a parcel. The anxiety of the postal clerk to completely obliterate it was now fully understood as it was he or she who had affixed a previously used stamp to the envelope.

From conversations with collectors who have access to large amounts of mail we have discovered that this is not a new occurrence, the heavy obliteration inevitably leading the sharp eyed philatelist to find a previously cancelled stamp underneath the postmarks.

This example is post marked CROIMGHLENN/5.15PM /26.VI/91 ie Crumlin, Dublin 12.

AN POST ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report of An Post, the state company which runs Ireland's postal service, makes gloomy reading for its share holders i.e. the people of Ireland, but it makes even gloomier reading for those who collect used Irish postage stamps. The report shows a loss of just under £9m which is bad news for the tax payer. Of more interest to the collector is the fact that An Post sold £53m worth of adhesive postage stamps; of this figure £2m were sold to collectors leaving £51m to be affixed to letters. On reading further in the report however we find that the total revenue from letters and parcels was £159.9m. Thus we find that less than 32% of all mail is pre-paid by the traditional postage stamp. Even more worrying is that this decline is gradually worsening: in 1989 the proportion was nearly 34%. At this rate hardly anyone will be using traditional postage stamps by the end of the century.

The only direct mention of philately in the report consisted of two rather bland paragraphs in which it was stated that the philatelic services continued to perform strongly but no details were given of the profits or turnover engendered by this activity. However it is believed that revenue from the sale of stamps to collectors is in excess of £2m. Over half of this revenue comes from what are known as added value products, i.e. year books, presentation packs, maximum cards, miniature sheets, sheetlets and booklets. Over half the total sales are handled by An Post's overseas agents, who receive commissions of about 15% of sales. With high operating costs in the GPO in Dublin it is much more efficient and profitable for An Post to get its overseas agents to deal directly with its customers.

A viability scheme to return the company to profit has been rejected by the Government - the scheme involved the closure of hundreds of post offices throughout the country and the laying off of thousands of staff. An Post is now trying to work out a new scheme which will be acceptable to the politicians. There is not much hope of such a scheme being agreed to in the

short term by the post office workers and the sub post masters.

As IRISH STAMP NEWS goes to press a postal strike is threatened. The Communications Workers Union is seeking payment of a 6% increase in wages due under an agreement of 1989. An Post is pleading inability to pay - unless the increase is related to productivity, changes in work practices and a redundancy programme.

UNRECORDED SPECIAL POSTMARKS

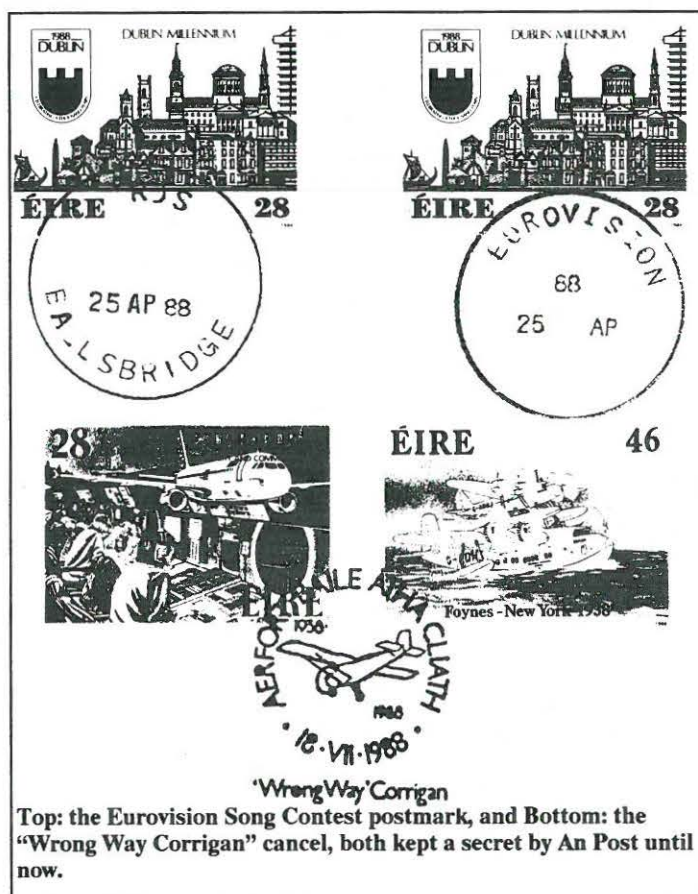
Three hitherto unknown special cancels have recently been shown to us by a regular reader. The first cancel, as illustrated, marks the 50th anniversary in 1988 of the flight by Douglas Corrigan from New York to Dublin. The cancel was used at Dublin Airport on 18 July 1988. Douglas "Wrongway" Corrigan failed to obtain permission to fly to Dublin in his 165hp Curtiss Robin and filed instead a flight plan to Los Angeles. On July 18, 1938, after flying for just over twenty-one hours he "mistakenly landed" in Dublin. He said his compass needle must

have reversed and he flew the wrong way. He was immediately given honorary membership of the Chicago Liars Club, and was fêted by Dublin's Lord Mayor and other dignitaries. He returned to commemorate the anniversary in 1988.

We also illustrate postmarks used at the Royal Dublin Society's premises during the Eurovision Song Contest which was held there in 1988. These comprise two skeleton cancels - RDS/BALLSBRIDGE 25AP88 and EUROVISION/88/25AP.

None of these postmarks were publicised by An Post and it is only now that they have come to light. Apparently An Post can no longer guarantee to give advance information of all special postmarks or slogan cancels so it is up to collectors and dealers to keep their ears to the ground.

Unfortunately many of the special postmarks used these days are only discovered after the event by which time it is too late to get examples; this appears to be a very satisfactory state of affairs for the collector. We would welcome reports of any other special postmarks of recent years not reported in "Recent Releases".



Top: the Eurovision Song Contest postmark, and Bottom: the "Wrong Way Corrigan" cancel, both kept a secret by An Post until now.



An Post recently held a conference of its overseas agents at Kilkea Castle, Co. Kildare where this photo shows (from left): Gerard Mooney (An Post), Jean Varga (France), Erling Dugaard (Denmark), Pierre Schittecatte (Belgium), Pauline Cummins (Great Britain), Michael Butler (USA), Dorte Koch Hansen (Denmark), Jürgen Schneider (Germany), Jean Marc Ferrier (Switzerland), Norman Newcombe, Patrick Whelan, Tom Coleman and John Barrington (latter four from An Post)

COLLECTORS SHOWS FOR WATERFORD AND GALWAY

The Irish Philatelic Traders Association is continuing its series of provincial shows with return visits to Galway and Waterford during November. During the past year the IPTA has organised shows in Wexford and Birr and next year hopes to run shows in Dundalk and Mullin-

gar as well as making the Galway, Waterford and Wexford fairs annual events

The Waterford show will take place in the Tower Hotel on Saturday, November 16, and the Galway event is in the Galway Ryan Hotel two weeks later on Saturday, November 30. Both shows run from 11am to 6pm.

Leading dealers in stamps, postal history, postcards, coins, medals and banknotes will be in attendance to value, buy or sell. There will be exhibits of picture

postcards, stamps and postal markings of Galway and Waterford respectively.

An Post will provide a Philatelic Bureau for both shows and a special postmark will be used on mail posted at each event.

For each show there will be a special limited edition postcard - with an imprinted An Post stamp (so it will be a postal stationery item) - incorporating a reproduction of a turn of the century picture postcard.



At the inaugural competition in the Sligo Philatelic Society for the Kelly/Hamilton/West Memorial Shield the prizewinners were (from left): John Martin (second prize), Tony Benson (third prize) and Aoife Hegarty (first) with Ian Whyte, editor of *IRISH STAMP NEWS*, who judged the competition. (Photo courtesy of *The Sligo Champion*)

Admission to both the Galway and Waterford shows is free of charge. The souvenir postcards are only available at the shows; the postmarks will be applied to stamped mail received by the postmaster of either city before the events take place.

EXPRESS POST TO BE REPLACED BY SWIFTPOST

A new priority letter service will be introduced by An Post on October 21 next. The service is billed by An Post to be a distinct improvement on the so-called "Express" service which it replaces.

Swiftpost guarantees next day delivery in Ireland, and delivery within two days in Western Europe; it is claimed to be faster than regular airmail for overseas mail.

To avail of the service customers will need to purchase a *Swiftpost* label or envelope. A total of six items will be issued in connection with the service. For the internal service there is a label costing £1.50 which covers the *Swiftpost* service fee only, the postage must be prepaid in stamps; two different sized envelopes - C5 and C4 - will be on sale at £2 and £2.50 (including service fee and postage) respectively. There is no weight limit for contents of the two envelopes for the internal service.

The international service label costs £2.50 (service fee only); the envelopes are £3.50 for C5 (including postage up to 100g) and £5.00 for C4 (including postage up to 250g).

The end of the Express Service will see the end of the plethora of different handstamps which replaced the old red labels some years ago.

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May 14	Definitive booklet	£1.00
May 18	Collectorex '91	£2.00 *
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June 1	Donegal Philatelic Society Exhibition	£1.00 *
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July 2	Charles Stewart Parnell Death Centenary	32p
July 2	Bicentenary of the United Irishmen	52p
July 4	Limerick Treaty 30 - prepaid postcard	35p
July	Heritage & Treasures Definitives	£12.54
Aug 18	Collectors' Road Show, Birr	£2.00*
Sept 3	Fauna & Flora (14th Issue - Sheep)	- Wicklow Cheviot 32p - Donegal Blackface 38p - Galway Breed 52p - set of three maximum cards 17p each
Sept 3	Walker Cup (Portmarnock)	28p
	Golfing Union of Ireland Centenary	32p
	- set of two maximum cards 17p each	
Sept 7	Railway Preservation Society of Ireland Railway Letter Stamps (2)	4 x 55p *
Sept 8	Collectors' Road Show, Wexford	£1.00 *

*: Items marked with an asterisk were privately produced items and are not available from An Post.



Plate Numbers/Notes

Sheetlets of ten
No plate numbers

1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
Se-tenant

Cycles miniature
sheet overprinted

Set of eight

Booklet

see below

1A/1B

1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B

1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B

Presentation Pack

Cycles miniature
sheet overprinted

1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B

1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B

1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B

1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B

1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B

Two sheetlets of six

Postcard



Special and Commemorative Issues

All stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. The Europa stamps were printed in the usual sheetlet format comprising of ten stamps plus side panels featuring space launches. Sheetlets had both an imprint and colour controls but no plate numbers. All other stamps were issued in the usual format of fifty stamps per sheet. The 28p Williamite Wars issue, the John A. Costelloe stamp, the Irish Sheep set and the Golfing Union of Ireland stamp were all printed on CCP3 paper; all other stamps were printed on CCP1 paper. Note also that only one plate was used to print the grey/black Costello stamp. Previous Statesmen of Ireland stamps in similar design and colours required two plates. Separate pictorial postmarks were available for the Williamite Wars issue in Athlone (Castle) and Limerick (Treaty Stone). The Crossed Swords design was used in Dublin and other usual locations.



Statesmen of Ireland colour control block

Definitives

Heritage & Treasures Series: The £1 machine and counter booklet with revised contents to take account of the new postal rates introduced on 2 April contains 2 x 4p, 1 x 28p and 2 x 32p. The pane is the same format as the previous issue but was photogravure printed in the Netherlands by Joh. Enschedé en Zonen (Enschede). The cover features the Ardagh Chalice and was printed by the offset litho process. They are the first Irish stamps to be printed outside of Ireland and Britain. The booklet cover appears to have been printed after the insertion of the pane as an impression of the front cover or part thereof can sometimes be seen by tilting the gummed side of the pane to the light. The paper is a brilliant white fluorescent



Basic Postage Rates for Standard (POP) effective from 1 April 1991			
SERVICE	IRELAND AND EC	REST OF WORLD SURFACE	REST OF WORLD AIRMAIL
Postcards	28P	37P	38P
Letters	32P	44P	52P
Printed Papers	28P	37P	38P
Aerogrammes	45P		45P

POST

£1

Stampai



The latest £1 booklet printed in the Netherlands

coated paper with PVA gum (FCP/PVA); The UV reaction is much stronger than the white CCP1 litho paper. Perforations are as for the previous litho pane with a small imperforate margin at left. I have seen one pane on a Dublin FDC with a centre row of perforations in this left margin but, as yet, have been unable to ascertain if this occurs with any regularity in issued booklets. All five stamps are new singles as follows:-

Photogravure Stamps
 4p imperf. left
 4p imperf. right
 28p imperf. bottom and left
 32p imperf. top
 32p imperf. top and right

The panel on the back cover is incorrectly worded as it refers to the rates being effective from April 1 instead of April 2 - an April Fool joke from An Post! Another April Fool joke would appear to be FDC's bearing this pane - issued on May 14 - with Cork definitive first day cancels of April 3!

The presentation pack is in the large A4 format and contains the full set of twenty values. The sale price of £12.54 equates to the face value with no premium for the pack.

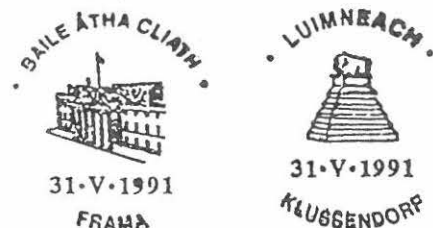
Architecture Series: One further new printing recently discovered by a reader of Irish Stamp News is of particular interest to plate/imprint block collectors. A CCP3 printing of the 5p value with plate

numbers 2A/2B which differs from the previous printing has been noted. The 2A/2B printings on both CCP1 and CCP3 papers which appeared in April 1988 have small numerals/figures as has been usual on all values for plates from 2 onwards. However this printing has slightly larger numerals/letters for 2A/2B. In addition the positioning of the imprint wording in relation to the stamps in R19 & 20/10 has altered slightly. The word "Irish" is positioned 1mm. higher in relation to the stamp design as compared to previous 5p imprints; the total length of the imprint is slightly shorter - 33mm. as against 34mm. It would appear that the printers utilised the number 2 instead of 3 and but for the use of a different size typeface the new printing would have gone unrecorded.

Checking through the rest of my collection, I have failed to note any other use of different typefaces for the same value/plate number but collectors should check any of their duplicates for similar unrecorded blocks. There could also be previously unrecorded variations in the positioning and length of the wording within imprint blocks from different plates and between 'A' and 'B' sheets. Note this 5p printing has only been recorded on the cream CCP3 paper. It probably was released in June 1990 at the same time as the 3p, 7p and 10p printings referred to in my last article.

ATM Postage Labels

Amiel/Pitney Bowes: This machine was a constant problem and was rarely in full working order. The machine was withdrawn on January 31, 1991 as already reported. A last day postmark for January 31, was available in Cork.



Last day special cancels for ATM labels - Dublin (Frama) and Limerick (Klüssendorf)

Frama: The machine was withdrawn on May 31, 1991. A special last day postmark was available in Dublin. Machines of this type will be installed in several locations throughout the country towards the end of the year following An Post's decision to give Frama the contract.

Klüssendorf: The pre-set buttons were altered to take account of the revised postal rates from April 2. The new pre-sets were 28p, 32p, 38p, 44p, 52p, 5 x 32p and 5 x 28p. The total of seven pre-set options compares to eight prior to the changeover. This machine was also withdrawn on May 31, 1991. A last day postmark was available in Limerick.

Railway Preservation Society Of Ireland

Two sheetlets were released for use in the Republic of Ireland in September. Each sheetlet of six contains three set-tenant pairs of 55p stamps featuring two locomotive designs. The RPSI railway letter rate is £1.10 i.e. a pair of stamps are required on covers. The stamps are inscribed in Irish "Cumann Caomhnaithe Iarnóid na h-Éireann". Although outside the scope of the above listing four similar sheetlets were issued for use in Northern Ireland on August 13. The sheetlets also contain two set-tenant designs, three with pairs of 25p stamps and one with 50p stamps. One of the 25p sheets is for the Downpatrick & Ardglass Railway Company and the 50p stamps are a joint issue with this newly formed preservation society.. The extra 25p is to cover the cost to the Railway of attaching first class U.K. postage to covers posted on trains on either system thus overcoming the problem whereby passengers/collectors may not have ordinary postage stamps to hand. See *Newsbeat* for further details of these and other issues.

Postal Stationery

I first noted in June a new printing of the postage paid envelope first issued in March 1990. The initial printing was on a cream paper with a brown "Glenmalure" interior lining. The latest envelope is white and the "Glenmalure" pattern is in blue. Each packet of 20 envelopes has a wrapper. The wrapper bears the pre April 2 price of £6.80 (now £7.20) without manuscript alteration, indicating that they were probably distributed prior to April 1991.

The Slógadh card was left out of my last listing; the card was in connection with the annual event, once again held in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The design is similar but not the same as the 1990 card. No stamp imprint. The Limerick card bears the usual stamp imprint and was issued in connection with the Treaty of Limerick anniversary celebrations.

Exhibition Souvenirs And Postmarks

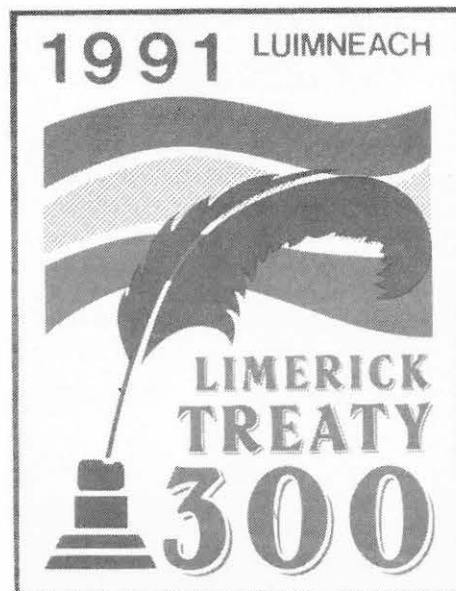
Collectorex '91 was held in the Mont Clare Hotel on May 18 & 19. The overprinted miniature sheets were numbered - total printing 500. A set of eight postcards commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Easter Rising were also sold at the show but are not a specific exhibition souvenir. Each reproduced a postcard connected with the 1916 Rising. Two postmarks were available incorporating the emergency cancels used after the Rising - Rotary "Dublin Office" (May 18) and the undated rubber type "Dublin" with vertical bars (May 19).

The annual Donegal show returned to Kees Hotel, Stranorlar this year. The numbered booklet contained 3 x 5p Architecture stamps. The one day postmark - described by An Post's *Philatelic Bulletin* as a "cachet" but used to cancel mail - features Mount Errigal as before and incorporates the post town name of the adjoining Ballybofey (Bealach Féich).

The Irish International Collectors Fair and Exhibition took place in the Mansion House, Dublin on June 15/16. No souvenir was available other than a commemorative envelope for "Bloomsday Weekend". Two postmarks were available - Dublin European City of Culture (June 15) and James Joyce/Bloomsday (June 16).

The Cycle Miniature sheet was also overprinted for the Collectors' Road Show held in Birr - total printing of 200 sheets. A special postmark featuring the local St. Brendan's Roman Catholic church was available for the one day show.

The Collectors' Road Show held in the Talbot Hotel, Wexford was also a one



Limerick Treaty 300 special postcard

day event. The organisers reproduced an old Wexford town postcard street scene on the reverse of the postage paid postcard as issued by An Post - total printing of 300 cards. The special cancel features the statue of Commodore John Barry which is situated in the town.

Other Postmarks

Irish Open: The annual Carrolls Irish Open Golf Championship was held in Killarney this year. The usual post office facilities were available at the Kileen course and the normal rectangular postmark design was in use from June 20 to 23. Covers postmarked at the course had the cancel applied in black. Covers serviced in the philatelic bureau had the cancel applied either in blue or violet.

Walker Cup: Portmarnock Golf Club hosted the two day event (5/6 September). This was the first time this amateur event was held in Ireland. Post office facilities were provided and a special circular postmark in black illustrating the trophy was available on both days.

Slogans: Three new slogans noted - "Éigse Carlow Arts Festival" - first noted in April in use in Carlow for the local Arts Festival. The second slogan was first noted in July in use in Naas, Co. Kildare and reads "Heineken Puncchestown European Championships 6-9 September A Must for all the Family". No post office facilities were available at Puncchestown (near Naas) for the event. The third slogan was noted in use in Westport and reads "Westport For Holidays".



IRISH RAILWAY & BUS STAMPS - NEWS

by John Holman



Left to right: Iarnrod Éireann (Irish Rail); Bus Éireann (Irish Bus), three different stamps; and Ulsterbus parcel stamp.

These notes update the last article under this title, published in *IRISH STAMP NEWS* No 31 (Spring 1989).

Railway Letter Service

Iarnrod Éireann (Irish Rail) increased the railway letter fee from £1.25 to £3 with effect from January 2 1991. VAT was payable at 23%, thus the amount charged was £3.69; from March 1 the rate changed to 21% and the total charge to £3.63. Normally parcel stamps to the VAT exclusive amount are affixed. This charge applies to letters up to 60 grams (2 ounces) in weight; above that weight letters are charged at a special 'per item' rate of £5, up to a maximum weight of ½ kg. Thereafter the normal Fastrack parcel rates apply. Delivery to an address within 5 miles of any Fastrack station can be arranged at a charge of £3.50 per consignment.

Letters are carried by Bus Éireann (Irish Bus) and the current charge is £1.30 plus VAT. I believe this rate was also introduced on January 2 1991.

The railway letter service was introduced on February 1 1891 and it is a pity that little was done to mark the centenary. British Rail ended the service in 1984 although a number of Britain's narrow-gauge and preserved railways still carry letters and issue stamps aimed at philatelists and tourists. Centenary stamps were

issued by the Mid-Hants and North Yorkshire Moors railways.

Railway Parcel Stamps

Two further varieties of CIE stamps can now be recorded: £1.00 Type 8 - with control letter (H) and serial number in green, in use by August 1989 (previous printings had numbers in black) and £5.00 Type 12 - with distance between heading *RAILWAY STAMP* and bottom rule measuring 72mm, also in use by August 1989 (previous printing had distance of 76mm - as the £1.00 stamp). Descriptions of types 8 and 12 of the CIE stamps were given in *IRISH STAMP NEWS* Nos. 14 & 16.

The first of the Irish Rail Stamps, headed with the 'i r' railway track logo were recorded in *IRISH STAMP NEWS* NO. 31 - three values, 5p, 20p and £5. Three further values can now be added - 10p, 50p and £1. The 10p and £1 were in use by January 1990; the 50p by October 1990.

In *IRISH STAMP NEWS* No. 26 & 27 I illustrated and described a label headed 'BEART TICEAD/PARCEL STAMP' in use at certain stations in place of the denominated parcel stamps. The printing on the label is green and to which is added in violet, by machine, the date, rate and other details. The label shown had the CIE wheel emblem and was re-

corded in use in May 1986. I can now record an earlier date of use - at Sligo, in September 1983. this type of label is now in use, reprinted with the 'i r' track logo.

Bus Éireann Parcel Stamps

The first of the bus parcel stamps headed 'Bus Éireann' - a 50p value - was recorded in *IRISH STAMP NEWS* No. 26. Two further values have since appeared - 10p black on white and £3.50 blue on white, both in use by February 1990. In addition there is a red on white non valued stamp worded 'Parcel Credit A/C', of similar design and format.

Parcel rates were increased from January 1991, general parcels of up to 10kg are now charged £4.30, up to 25kg £7.30, plus 23% VAT. Parcels of newspapers are charged 50p per kg, with a minimum charge of £1.30 per parcel.

Ulsterbus Parcel stamps

New rates for the carriage of parcels were introduced on July 2 1990: up to 5kg £2; 10kg £2.50; 20kg £3 and 25kg £3.50. These rates apply to 'Next Day' service, a premium of 50p is charged for 'Same Day' handling. Parcel stamps currently in use are: £2, £2.50, £3, £3.50 and £4, all are inscribed 'including 15% VAT'. The stamps are printed in black on white paper and are bipartite - the lower portion is affixed to the parcel; the upper section is given as a receipt to the sender.

LETTER BOXES -

No. 8 by Brian Warren

The best loved of Victorian boxes are those known as "Penfolds", which were made between 1866 and 1879. They are named after their designer, the architect J. W. Penfold and were manufactured by Cochrane, Grove and Company. The Penfold is a hexagonal box in shape with the top decorated with acanthus leaves and balls. There are five distinct types and three sizes, making fifteen possible combinations, of which twelve are known still to exist. Although over a hundred of such boxes have survived there are only nine extant in Ireland.

The box (small size) pictured at left is one of the original boxes and is situated in the Bunratty Folk Park, Co. Clare. The aperture is placed just below the top with the Coat of Arms between the words "Post Office". Originally the aperture would have been protected by an inward opening enamelled flap.

The second box (large size) is the fourth of the five types and is the most common. Note that the aperture has changed places with the Coat of Arms. There were complaints with the original design that letters could be trapped at the top of the box. The collection plate now has a moulded surround and has been moved down one inch from the top of the door; the door itself has protruding hinges. The aperture now has an upshoot instead of a flap to protect letters from the rain. This box is situated at Rocky Valley, Kilmac-



Left: original box at Bunratty Folk Park, Co Clare. Right: fourth type still in use at Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow.

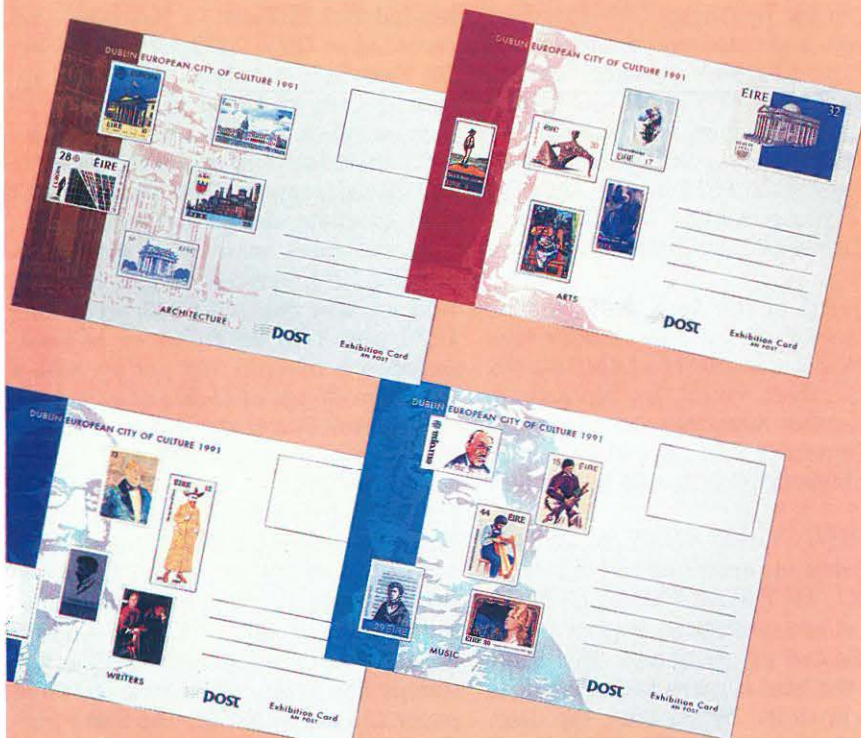
nogue, Co. Wicklow. It is complete with "Acorn" detail at top which is missing from the Bunratty box.

The Bunratty box has been painted red given that the Folk Park is set at about 1900. However it is not generally known that the first uniform colour for letter boxes was Bronze Green and was introduced in 1859. The colour now known as "Pillar Box Red"

only became the standard in 1874. The reason for the change was it was considered that the red colour made the boxes more distinguishable from a distance.

The attractive hexagonal design was abandoned in 1879 in favour of a more practical and cheaper cylindrical design. The cylindrical design with little alteration has continued in use to the present day.

STAMP '91



(Cards illustrated are artists impression)

Visit the Philatelic Service Stand at Ireland's National Stamp Exhibition at the Riverside Centre, Dublin on 17th to 20th October

Four new exhibition cards will be issued to coincide with this year's theme... *Dublin 1991*

European City of Culture.

Sets of cards available at the stand

Price: £1.28



GIBBONS PRICE BOOST REFLECTS IMPROVED MARKET IN IRISH STAMPS

A special report

The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue has been for nearly a century a standard guide to postage stamps for collectors in this part of the world. Therefore when Stanley Gibbons decides to increase the prices given for a particular country collectors of that area know that this is a serious reflection of the current market. It is nearly ten years since there has been any serious increase in the valuation of Irish stamps in the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue; this year's increases of between 5% and 100% are a very encouraging sign that Irish stamps are in demand again.



1922 Thom 'Rialtas' wide overprint is up 20% to £50 sterling

Most of the increases are in the definitives and commemoratives. However there have been a few notable increases in the overprints. The 1922 Thom "Rialtas" wide overprint set of five values 1/2d to 1s goes up by 20% from £42 to £50 for mint and to £55 from £48 for used. A few others are increased by one or two pounds, including the ever popular Harrison "Saorstát" coils of 1923 which are increased from £13 for mint and £48 for used to £14.50 and £55 respectively. The most spectacular increase in this area, of 40%, is for SG53aa the no accent in "Saorstát" variety on the 1d scarlet, which moves from £5,000 to £7,000 for mint and is unchanged for used. Another major variety on the same stamp, the no accent and final "T" missing moves from £6,000 to £8,000 for mint and again is unchanged for used. The 1s no accent variety also moves up, albeit less markedly, from £5,000 to £5,500 mint and £6,000 to £6,500 used. A number of other varieties move up by between 5% and 10% in value.

In the definitives the 1937 St Patrick high values are increased for mint from £350 to £375; Gibbons' prices for stamps from 1936 on in mint condition are for unmounted mint. The 1940-68 set is increased by 10% mint and used, though at £20 used it is rather cheap as retail prices over here tend to be double that. There are little or no changes in the 1968-70 and the 1971-75 sets apart from one or two increases for some difficult used stamps. In the 1982-88 Irish architecture series the price of the complete set goes to £27 mint and £21 used from £23 and £20 respectively. Several of the paper varieties are increased dramatically, eg: the 12p CCP3 moves from 20p to £1.50, the 24p CCP1 goes to 70p from 50p, the 28p CCP1 moves from 60p to £1.50, the 46p is up from £1.10 to £1.50 mint, the original £1 on CCP3 moves from £6 to £7 and the £5 CCP3 moves from £7.50 to £11. The listings of both the architecture and the heritage definitives now include the booklet stamps, perforated 13½, from the prestige booklet of 1990, thus making these stamps all the more desirable; one can safely predict that these awkward issues available only in booklet form, will become very pricy items indeed in the future.



Ireland's scarcest commemorative set is now priced at £53 sterling by Gibbons

Prices of commemorative and special stamps show plenty of change, all of it upwards, and the most notable change breaks the £50 barrier for a set of Irish commemoratives, the one in question being the 1953 Robert Emmet commemorative set which moves from £47.50 to £53. The prices given for Emmet are for mint unmounted and indeed most of the



1949 Declaration of the Republic goes up to £4.50 sterling

changes appear to have been for stamps in mint condition. The 1949 International Recognition of Republic 2½d and 3d has been increased to £4.50 from £3.85 for mint, and could do with a further substantial increase as it retails in Ireland at about £7. The Thomas Moore set of 1952 appears extremely cheap at £1.50 for mint; perhaps this set was overlooked in error. Gibbons' habit of increasing low values by a higher proportion than the higher value of a set appears extremely strange. For instance the 1954 Marian year 3d is increased by 33⅓% whereas the 5p high value remains unchanged at £3; this is a most curious way to increase a set price and one wonders what the thinking behind it is. The same occurs with the Wadding set which deservedly moves from £12 to £13; however the larger increase of 33⅓% is again for the lower value whereas the high value moves by less than 5%. As all dealers will tell you it is the higher value that is key stamp of the set and in many cases they would be quite happy to throw in the low value, if you need it, for the price of the single higher value.

All the scarce sets of the 1950's go up by a pound or two thus reflecting the increased demand for these issues and it does not look as if the increases will stop here. One other exception in this period is Thomas O'Crohan which is still very cheaply priced at £2.50 for the set of two; some mistake here surely?

1960 Europa not surprisingly shows an increase in unmounted mint from £8.50 to £10, and indeed this is behind the market price increases of recent months. Remarkably Aer Lingus shows no increase from the very low price of £2 for mint -

Letters to the Editor

An Post Philatelic Policy

EDITOR'S NOTE: we had a huge response to Mr Edgar Jessop's letter in Vol. 1, No. 35. The following is a representative selection; we apologise to those whose letters are not published but hope their views are represented here. We also regret the delay in publishing this correspondence.

First of all I'd like to tell you that my English is far from being perfect; but I have read Mr. Jessop's letter in your magazine (Vol.1 No. 35) and I think I should take this opportunity to explore another point of view about Irish philately, the one of an 18 year old who has been collecting for about 8 years.

I fell in love with the beautiful design of Irish stamps some years ago. Thanks to the stamps I always learn more about your wonderful country.

But this is not the main subject of my letter. Indeed, Mr Jessop does nothing but complain about the new products sold by An Post. I don't understand this narrow point of view.

Philately, like everything in the world, has to evolve. We can't continue collecting the way our grandfathers did. Concerning the new prestige booklet issued for the 150th anniversary of the postage stamp, I absolutely can't understand Mr. Jessop's disappointment. The values of the stamps (most of the time 30p) correspond perfectly to the postal costs of Ireland. If we listened to him we should not even collect commemorative stamps because they are not issued *just* for postal use! Is it not pleasant to affix these special stamps issued in the booklet on your everyday mail? And receiving letters bearing these stamps is even more pleasant. The postal purpose is evident too.

An Post pleases most of the collectors and certainly interests people who don't know anything about philately. People who consider our passion as the hobby of old men lost in the dusty pages of their stamp albums see, thanks to such issues, that they are completely wrong.

Regarding the issues of sheetlets, I might say it is not such a bad idea. Indeed collecting stamps in complete sheets has

become more and more ordinary. But every collector (like myself) can't do so because of great costs. By issuing such sheetlets, An Post allow us to dream a bit with not too much money.

I understand that my opinion is not very objective, but Mr. Jessop's is too pessimistic. Perhaps a mixture of both judgements would become something interesting.

Daniel Bernasconi
Bienne, Switzerland.

The local collectors of Ireland with whom I am acquainted have expressed total disbelief at the contents of the 1990 £6 Prestige Booklet, and feel that an Post have popped their corks! How can the inclusion of *now replaced and thus obsolete* definitives, in otherwise unavailable sizes, perforations, and paper types be justified. While the se-tenant combinations of the 30p and 50p are legitimate, the se-tenant combinations of these obsolete 4p, 26p and 30p definitives with the new Irish Heritage & Treasures are unbelievable.

I agree with your editorial that the omission of the Penny Black from the stamp anniversary design is unjustifiable, regardless of whatever political situations are at present in being. Ireland has the same status with Britain in being the first user of adhesive postage stamps. Could the recent 'gun-boat' diplomacy with the North be a result of this, I wonder?

D.B. Dewhurst
Koondoola, Western Australia.

I refer to IRISH STAMP NEWS No. 35, page 17, Mr Edgar Jessop's angry letter of complaint.

I fully underline this article. I am so dismayed with the stamp-issue policy of An Post that I have decided to stop collecting new issues, including postal stationery, from January 1 1991 on.

I am not speaking for myself alone. I have noticed that all my collector friends around here have the same opinion. An Post is killing the hen that lays the golden eggs, and has joined the ranks of the 'oil states'.

T. Vrijdag
Glengariff, Co. Cork.

With regard to Mr Jessop's letter in IRISH STAMP NEWS No. 35 I agree with him regarding the £6 booklet's contents. However as a keen collector of Europa stamps I must admit I do like the sheetlets. Ireland's issues compare very favourably with other CEPT countries who follow this practice.

My point would be that if you don't like something a Post Office produces then don't buy it. However it is often items like the £6 booklet or the sheetlets that tend to go up in value later, not of course that value has anything to do with it?

Keep up the good work. I only wish you could produce IRISH STAMP NEWS monthly.

J. J. Mullins
Dublin 6.

Ruined.....

I wandered lonely as a cloud
While searching for the catalyst
That turns a normal family man
Into a mad philatelist.

They say that wine and women
and song
Are common aberrations,
But *our* time is spent on
watermarks
And counting perforations.
Some shout "Uhu" as they sniff
glue
But that's not you or me,
We get our kicks from little licks
Of gum - CCP3.
Sports, all sorts, or a night on
the town

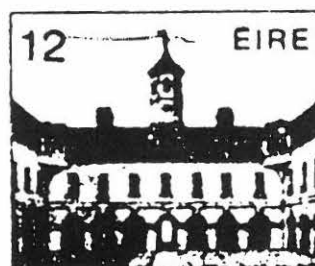
Are the stuff of normal folks,
But stamps and covers make
perfect lovers
For philatelic blokes.

Fine used or mint or are both
OK

But we get real bad cramps,
When they're ruined by silly slogans saying
"COLLECT POSTAGE
STAMPS".

Clive Jacobs
Dublin 14.

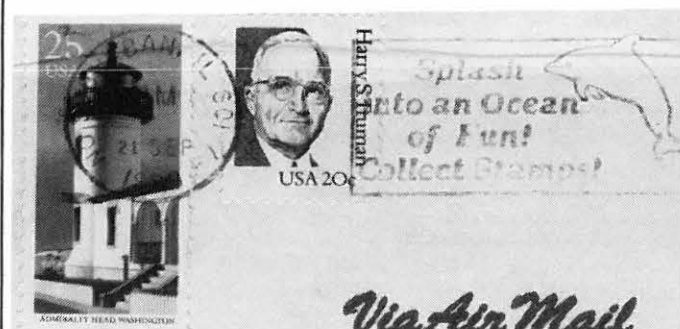
Architecture Definitive Flaw



Mr Collins' 12p flaw (enlarged)

I enclose a photostat (illustrated above) of a block of 12p definitives with a flaw on row 8, stamp 2. I would imagine this to be the result of foreign matter on the plate. Do any readers have any other examples or a confirmation of my opinion?

James E. Collins
Cypress, California



Top: Clive Jacobs' "Ruined" stamp. Below: This is how clever Americans (like Bill McCaw) avoid their stamps being obliterated: stick the stamp at the top middle of the envelope to get a cds!

COLLECTORS ADVERTISEMENTS

These advertisements are exclusively available to amateur collectors to buy or exchange philatelic material. Rates are £1.50 per line (minimum £4.50) payable with order to IRISH STAMP NEWS, 27 Mount Street Upper, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Readers are advised to establish exchange arrangements before sending stamps to advertisers in this section.

WANTED: 100/200 VFU stamps Eire last 5 years; give the same from D/NL/B. Only 1st Quality. Czapracki, Orgelsgarten 7, D-4175 Wachtendonk, Germany.

WANTED - IRISH UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES covers. J.L. Emmeneger, Box 110, CH1009 Pully, Switzerland.

POLAND, USSR offered for Ireland, GB, etc. Piotr Bonislowski, al. Mazurska 42 m 13, 70-424 Szczecin, Poland.

CANADA: please send 100 diff. mint or used stamps Ireland for same Canada. J J Tetreault, 1242 Godin, Verdun, Quebec, Canada H4H 2B8.

FRANCE for Ireland exchange offered. J M Delelis, 23 rue des Dames, F-17138 Puilboreau, France.

CO. MONAGHAN POSTMARKS wanted, all periods, on letters, pieces or stamps - buy or exchange.

Klaus Stange, Wittekindsweg 59A, D-4513 Belm-Vehrte, Germany.

SPAIN: 200 commemorative stamps offered for 100 same of Ireland. S. Tortosa, Ap 165, 46650 Canals, Spain.

IRISH SLOGAN CANCELS wanted, mainly pre 1960, to buy or exchange. Paul Hoare, 18 Fernwood Court, Dublin 24.

IRISH PHONECARDS wanted, used or mint, buy or exchange.

Klaus Stange, Wittekindsweg 59A, D-4513 Belm-Vehrte, Germany.

CANADA for Ireland exchange. VF Used. Maureen P Gross, 11147 71 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G OA3.

ITALY for Ireland exchange, used, offered. Rizman Giovanni, Via Padovan 5, 34138 Trieste, Italy.

COLLECTOR wishes to exchange Bulgaria/Eastern Europe for Irish/Western Europ, mint preferred. G P Germanov, 4400-Pazardjik, ul Lozengrad 2 ap 7, Bulgaria.

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1968 Human Rights £1.70	1966 Europa 1/5 £2.55
1969 Dail £1.30	1967 Europa 1/5 £2.15
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1969 Art £2.25	1968 Markievicz 1/5 80p
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Waterlow set to 10/- both fine mint and fine (cds) used; Dollard 1/- d to 10/- u/m + Thom u/m black to 1/- both 5/- & 10/- being 'short 3rd line'; DPD envelope tied 5d Dollard, bearing controllers stamp and scarce official paid in red, registered 28/2/22 (very early usage).

Very complete coll of the Dollard and Thom 1/5s to 1/- incl. carmines, varieties etc., controls - complete set for all singles to 1/- val (excl. carmines) - a scarce assembly; Thom blue black 10d 5 line bl 6 (3 u/m) with control; Thom 3 line 4d bl 6 showing both control and break over four; Thom 3 line bls 6 with control u/m on 2/- d, 1/- d and 2d values; Further coll of mainly u/m scarcer single controls incl. CL. 32, 33, 44 (4), 64, 65, 70, 79(2), 81(2), 82, 97, 101(2), 106, 107(3), 108(3), 155, 156, 157(2) 158, 161, 164, and 165(S) cat(1991) £31000 approx. price £13500 or nearest offer. Above list is not exhaustive - a few surprises still!

Collection 2: Fine u/m coll of commems, 1966 Casement to early 1985, practically complete many in plate bls, 4 or larger, with some duplication evenly distributed, some scarce numbers, gutters, varieties, singles of the 1980-85 period mainly 7-10 of most issues all fine u/m, cat (1991) £4250 approx, price £1750 or nearest offer.

LIST AVAILABLE: Phone (01) 282 392 or write to: Box F1, Irish Stamp News, 27 Mount Street Upper, Dublin 2.

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DIARY

Visitors and prospective members are always welcome at any of the society meetings listed below. They are usually informal affairs consisting normally of a display by a member from his or her collection, sometimes followed by a small auction of members' material or an exchange session. Society membership is open to all stamp collectors from the absolute beginner to the advanced specialist.

Clubs and societies are a great way of meeting other collectors and getting to learn more about your hobby. There is nothing "cliquey" about any of the societies in Ireland and you don't have to know anyone or be anyone special to visit or to join.

If there is no club in your locality and you would like to start one assistance will be forthcoming from Commandant Pat Casey, Honorary Joint Secretary, Federation of Philatelic Societies in Ireland, "B" House, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin 6.

Cork Philatelic Society meetings are held at the Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Cork, commencing at 8pm.

Dublin Stamp Society meetings are held on alternate Wednesdays at St. Catherine's Girls' National School, Baggot Street Lower (beside Bank of Ireland Headquarters), Dublin 2, commencing at 7.45pm.

Irish Philatelic Circle meetings are held at the YWCA, 16 Great Russell Street, London W1 (off Tottenham Court Road), commencing at 2pm.

Irish Philatelic Society meetings are held on alternate Thursdays at the Clarence Hotel, Wellington Quay, Dublin 2, commencing at 7.45pm.

Mid Western Philatelic Society meetings are held at Halla Íde, 18 Thomas street, Limerick, commencing at 8pm.

North of Ireland Philatelic Society meetings are held in the City YMCA, Wellington Place, Belfast, commencing at 7.15pm.

Picture Postcard Society of Ireland meetings are held at Cathair Books, 1 Essex Gate, off Parliament Street, Dublin 8, commencing at 8pm.

Sligo Philatelic Society meetings are held in the Silver Swan Hotel, Sligo, commencing at 8pm.

There are also societies in Belfast, Londonderry and Portadown but details of their meetings are not to hand at the time of going to press. There were also societies in Carlow, Galway, Kerry and Waterford in recent years; hopefully these will be revived in the not too distant future.

If you know of some philatelic event taking place in December to March please send details in writing for the next edition of **IRISH STAMP NEWS** by November 15 at the latest to The Editor, Irish Stamp News, 27 Mount Street Upper, Dublin 2. (Telefax: 01-767229).

OCTOBER

Thursday, 10th

Friday, 11th

Saturday, 12th

Monday, 14th

Wednesday, 16th

Thursday, 17th

Thursday, 17th to
Sunday, 20th

Friday, 18th

Sunday, October 20th

Thursday, 24th

Tuesday, 29th

Irish PS meeting, 7.45pm:

Personal Choice by M McNamara

North of Ireland PS meeting, 7.15pm:

Europa by W L S Brown

Cork PS meeting, 8pm

Sligo PS meeting, 8pm

Dublin SS meeting, 7.45pm:

Channel Islands by D Mortell

New Issue: Ireland Series

- Maritime Fishing Fleet

28p, 32p, 44p, 52p and £5 Prestige Booklet

Stampa '91, National Stamp Exhibition,
Riverside Centre,

Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

11am to 6pm daily. Special postmark each day.

Mid Western PS meeting, 8pm

Antiques & Collectables Fair

Mansion House

Dawson Street, Dublin 2, 10am to 6pm

Irish PS meeting, 7.45pm:

Merchant Mail from 1419

Picture Postcard Society meeting, 8pm

OCTOBER

Wednesday, 30th

Thursday, 31st

NOVEMBER

Thursday, 7th

Friday, 8th

Saturday, 9th

Sunday, November 10

Monday, 11th

Wednesday, 13th

Friday, 15th

Saturday, 16th

Thursday, 21st

Tuesday, 26th

Wednesday, 27th

Saturday, 30th:

Dublin SS meeting, 7.45pm:

Northern Ireland by B Warren

and Club Bourse (Books & Philatelic Material)

New Issue: Self-adhesive 32p definitive

Irish PS meeting, 7.45pm:

South Africa by J Hickey

North of Ireland PS, 7.15pm:

West Germany by R N Nuttall

Cork PS meeting, 8pm

Antiques & Collectables Fair,

Riverside Centre,

Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2,

10am to 6pm

Sligo PS meeting, 8pm

Dublin SS meeting, 7.45pm:

Miniature Sheets by A Langenbach

New Issue: Christmas

28p, 32p and 52p plus sheetlet

Mid Western PS meeting, 8pm

Collectors Show,

The Tower Hotel, Waterford, 10am to 6pm

Irish PS meeting, 7.45pm:

President's Night

Picture Postcard Society meeting, 8pm

Dublin SS meeting, 7.45pm:

Aspects of the Renaissance by F McDonald

Collectors Show,

Galway Ryan Hotel,

10am to 6pm

Irish Philatelic Circle meeting, 2pm:

Recent Acquisitions - All Members

DECEMBER

Saturday, 7th

Monday, 9th

Wednesday, 11th

Friday, 13th

Saturday, 14th

Sunday, 15th

Friday, 20th

Note: Dates and venues are subject to alteration. Please check with organisers (or **IRISH STAMP NEWS** at 01-767228) especially if making travel arrangements.

Public Auction:

Stamps, Postal History & Postcards, by Ian Whyte.

Buswell's Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

Viewing 9.30am to 1.30pm. Auction at 2pm

Sligo PS meeting, 8pm

Dublin SS meeting, 7.45pm: Members Mart

North of Ireland PS, 7.15pm:

Chairman's Display (Greer Cup entries - 12 sheets)

Cork PS meeting, 8pm

Antiques & Collectables Fair

Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin 8, 10am to 6pm.

Mid Western PS meeting, 8pm

IRISH PHILATELIC TRADERS ASSOCIATION
present

THE COLLECTORS' SHOW

Saturday November 16 1991

The Tower Hotel

WATERFORD

11am to 6pm

and

Saturday November 30 1991

The Ryan Hotel

GALWAY

11am to 6pm

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SPECIAL POSTMARK AND PHILATELIC LIMITED EDITION SOUVENIR
AN POST PHILATELIC BUREAU

IRELAND: Miniature Sheets & Postage Dues

Prices are in IR£ for unmounted never-hinged mint (UM), lightly-hinged mint (LHM) and very fine used - light circular datestamp (VFU).
MW = MacDonnell Whyte STAMPS OF IRELAND Specialised Catalogue numbers; SG = Stanley Gibbons Catalogue numbers.

Miniature Sheets

MW	SG	Description	UM £	VFU £	FDC £
MS1	MS324	1972 Stamp Anniversary	5.95	8.95	12.50
MS2	MS395	1976 U.S. Bicentennial	4.95	6.95	7.95
MS2b		ditto. STAMPA '76 ovpt.	6.95	7.95	8.95
MS3	MS465	1980 Animals	1.50	2.50	1.95
MS3a		ditto. STAMPA '80 ovpt.(black)	7.95		
MS3b		ditto. (red)	75.00		
MS4	MS563	1983 Dogs	5.95	6.50	5.95
MS4a		ditto. STAMPA '83 ovpt.	29.50		
MS5	MS581	1984 Railways	4.95	5.50	4.95
MS5a		ditto. STAMPA '84 ovpt	29.50		
MS6	MS662	1987 Trams	4.50	4.75	4.75
MS6a		ditto. HAFNIA ovpt.	35.00		
MS6b		ditto. STAMPA '87 ovpt.	29.50		
MS7	MS737	1989 Game Birds	3.95	4.25	4.50
MS8		1991 Cycles	2.00	2.30	2.50

Postage Dues

MW	SG	Description	UM £	LHM £	VFU £
1PD	D1/4	1925 'se' watermark 1/2d-6d (4)	120.00	39.50	34.00
PD1	D1	1/2d emerald green	45.00	15.00	19.50
PD2	D2	1d carmine	25.00	9.50	5.95
PD3	D3	2d green	48.00	15.00	6.95
PD4	D4	6d plum	15.00	4.95	4.95
2PD	D5/14	1940-69 'e' watermark 1/2d-1s (10)	39.50	-	35.00
PD5	D5	1/2d emerald green	15.00	-	15.00
PD6	D6	1d carmine	.60	-	.50
PD7	D7	1 1/2d vermilion	1.50	-	3.95
PD8	D8	2d green	1.50	-	.50
PD9	D9	3d blue	1.95	-	.95
PD10	D10	5d blue-violet	2.50	-	3.95
PD11	D11	6d plum	1.50	-	.95
PD12	D12	8d orange	3.95	-	4.50
PD13	D13	10d magenta	4.95	-	5.50
PD14	D14	1s lime green	11.50	-	4.95
3PD	D15/21	1971 'e' watermark 1p-8p (7)	.95	-	4.50
PD15	D15	1p sepia	.30	-	.40
PD16	D16	1 1/2p emerald	.30	-	.70
PD17	D17	3p stone	.30	-	.90
PD18	D18	4p orange	.30	-	.80
PD19	D19	5p blue	.50	-	.80
PD20	D20	7p yellow	.30	-	.95
PD21	D21	8p scarlet	.30	-	.50
4PD	D22/4	1978 no watermark 3p-5p (3)	3.75	-	6.75
PD22	D22	3p stone	.55	-	1.95
PD23	D23	4p orange	2.95	-	3.50
PD24	D24	5p blue	.75	-	1.95

Sheetlets

Many collectors and dealers have overlooked these interesting items. While some are purely philatelic confections the Christmas issues were produced purely for the postal consumer. There is a great demand overseas for the Europa sheetlets as well as for the Olympics and World Cup issues, and prices are beginning to escalate so complete your collection now.

MW	SG	Description	UM	VFU
C421a	626a	1985 Christmas 22p X 16	9.50	10.50
C449a	654a	1986 Christmas 21p X 12	10.50	11.00
C475a	681a	1987 Christmas 21p X 14	9.50	9.95
C484a	689a	1988 Olympics set (2) X 5	7.50	7.95
C498b	-	1988 Security Forces set X 5	14.50	14.95
C502a	708a	1988 Christmas 21p X 14	9.50	9.50
C516a	722a	1989 Europa 28p X 10	7.50	7.95
C517a	723a	1989 Europa 39p X 10	8.50	8.95
C531a	738a	1989 Christmas 21p X 14	8.50	8.95
C546a		1990 FIFA World Cup set X 4	8.50	8.95
C549a		1990 Europa 30p X 10	7.50	7.95
C550a		1990 Europa 41p X 10	8.95	9.50
C562a		1990 Christmas X 12	5.95	6.50

MW	SG	Description	UM £	LHM £	VFU £
5PD	D25/34	1980-85 new designs 1p-50p (10)	4.95	-	6.75
PD25	D25	1p apple green	.30	-	.30
PD26	D26	2p blue	.30	-	.30
PD27	D27	4p olive	.30	-	.30
PD28	D28	6p cinnamon	.30	-	.40
PD29	D29	8p violet	.30	-	.40
PD30	D30	18p green	.50	-	.60
PD31	D31	20p red	.95	-	.95
PD32	D32	24p emerald	.60	-	.70
PD33	D33	30p violet blue	1.20	-	1.50
PD34	D34	50p cerise	1.70	-	1.95
6PD	D35/45	1988 new designs 1p-£1 (11)	5.95	-	6.95
PD35	D35	1p multicoloured	.30	-	.30
PD36	D36	2p multicoloured	.30	-	.30
PD37	D37	3p multicoloured	.30	-	.30
PD38	D38	4p multicoloured	.30	-	.30
PD39	D39	5p multicoloured	.30	-	.30
PD40	D40	17p multicoloured	.40	-	.50
PD41	D41	20p multicoloured	.50	-	.55
PD42	D42	24p multicoloured	.60	-	.65
PD43	D43	30p multicoloured	.70	-	.75
PD44	D44	50p multicoloured	1.20	-	1.30
PD45	D45	£1 multicoloured	2.20	-	2.30

VARIETIES

MW	Description	UM	UM bl. of 4
PD15a	1971 1p watermark inverted	.50	1.50
PD17c	1971 3p watermark inverted	.50	1.50
PD19a	1971 5p watermark inverted	.40	.95

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BOOK REVIEWS

All books reviewed are available from Ian Whyte, 27 Mount Street Upper, Dublin 2 at the published price plus postage (approx. £1 per volume inland, £2 overseas - exact quotation on request).

Uniform Fourpenny Post in Ireland by William Kane, published by the Irish Philatelic Circle, 28 pages, A5 paperback. Price £4.50.

This very useful booklet is yet another of Bill Kane's wonderful contributions to the study of Irish postal history. In his inimitable clear and concise style he outlines the history of this shortlived but most interesting chapter in the story of the pence.

The Universal Fourpenny Post was the most important reform of the Postal Service leading as it did to the Universal Penny Post and thence to the introduction of adhesive postage stamps. Before its introduction postage charges depended on the distance a letter had to be carried. Thus a letter from Dublin to Kerry was about thirty times the price of a letter delivered within the Dublin city boundary before this innovation. Bill illustrates a most fascinating letter posted from Taghmon, Co. Wexford which dramatically emphasises the impact of the new rate: posted on December 4 1839 it was charged at eleven pence but had it been posted the next day, the first day of the new service, it would only have cost four pence!

The Fourpenny Post lasted from December 5 1839 to January 9 1840. The Uniform Penny Post commenced on January 10 1840, with adhesive postage stamps - the Penny Black and Two Penny Blue - becoming valid for postage on May 6 1840. According to statistics published in this book the Dublin Postal District handled 280,000 letters in the period of the Fourpenny Post - an increase of about 33% over the same period the previous year but for a third less revenue. By 1842 when the full impact of the reforms had filtered through the volume of mail had nearly tripled compared to the figures of 1838.

In the short period from December 5 1839 to January 9 1840 - a total of 36 days - a number of major towns in Ireland used a handstruck "4" stamp. Examples of these on cover are scarce (Dublin) to extremely rare (Derry) and are, of course, much sought after by collectors. Prices range from £200 to over £1000 each depending on scarcity and condition.

Bill gives a complete - to his knowledge - listing of all the handstruck marks, and even more interesting, a listing of all the known manuscript "4" marks. Of the 732 post offices in Ireland only 66 have been recorded as having used either a handstruck or manuscript "4". Even more surprising is the lack of an example of a handstruck "4" from cities such as Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Wexford.

The last major study of the Uniform Penny Post was by Bryant Lillywhite in 1963; he recorded 104 dates for 45 towns. Bill Kane records 104 dates for 66 towns twenty-eight years later, which emphasises the scarcity of such material. Once again Bill is owed a debt of gratitude by all Irish postal historians for an excellent piece of research carried out in his ninth decade on this earth; it will become, as have his past works, the standard reference work on the subject

I.W.

Irische Postämter/Irish Post Offices by Harald Frank and Klaus Stange, published by Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland e.V. im Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V. (Irish Study Group of the German Philatelic Federation), 477 pages A4 in looseleaf binder. Price: £30. (Postage: Ireland £2; UK £3; elsewhere on request)

This mammoth book - the result of fifteen years research by the authors - is a complete listing from 1600 to 1990 of all the postoffices of Ireland. Each office has an entry giving its name, former name or names where applicable, date opened (or first appearance in official records), date closed where it has been, official Post Office number, and details of cancellations used. The advent of the micro computer has obviously made this task possible, as is evident by the style and content of this work.

A typical entry is that for Ballynacargy, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. In two lines of abbreviated text we find that this office had two different Irish names - Baile na Carraige and Baile Cairrge; it opened in 1808; it is also known in English as Ballynacarrigy, Ballinacargy, and Balnacargy; it had an undated namestamp, two different mileage marks - 45 and 48, a Maltese Cross; its PO number, listed in 1844 was 51 which remained unchanged through the lists of 1874, 1887, and 1892; it had two different single ring datestamps and one double ring. If it had had them there are columns for rubber datestamps, skeletons, machine

cancels, slogans, parcel cancels, registered datestamps, printed paper triangular marks, telegram datestamps, paid marks, and Paquebôt postmarks. There are over three thousand such entries in this incredible work of reference!

To condense such a huge amount of information into such a small space requires much abbreviation and it does take a while to understand the authors' system. However this will prove to be a most useful book to all those interested in Irish postal markings. In one volume Frank and Stange have incorporated dozens of volumes - directories, post office guides, gazeteers, postmark handbooks, and hundreds of contributions from collectors worldwide.

There is a good, if simplified, section of illustrations of all the different types of postal marking used in Ireland. The layout and appearance may seem almost unreadable at first - it has all the appearance of Boeing's parts catalogue for a Jumbo Jet - but there is no other conceivable or practical way of producing such a mass of data in print. I am sure it will prove to be invaluable to hundreds of postmark collectors and the authors are to be congratulated on completing a most daunting task. The publishers, the FAI, are once again to the forefront of Irish philatelic publishing.

A. K.

The Post Offices and Datestamps of the County Leitrim by Dr Brian de Burca, updated by James T. Howley, published by the Éire Philatelic Association, 24 pages A5 paperback. Price £4.50.

This useful paper was first published by the Irish Philatelic Circle in 1966. It has been rearranged and comprehensively updated by James T. Howley and its new A5 format makes it much handier to use than the previous A4 roneoed sheets.

Regrettably there is no mention of any postal markings prior to the late nineteenth century - not that there were very many in this, the least populated of Irish counties. Its strength lies in the listing of twentieth century datestamps and there is an essential map with a good range of illustrations of the various types of postmark encountered. James Howley has done an excellent job in adding the latest postmarks and updating information on the post offices.

I thoroughly enjoyed the notes penned by the late Brian de Burca about each Post Office during his journeys through Leitrim in the early sixties. He described Carrick-on-Shannon as "an untidy graceless town" - it has improved tremendously since, I hasten to add before the local tourist organisation takes umbrage. He continually notes the politeness, courtesy and helpfulness of sub postmasters and postmistresses in his quest for impressions of their datestamps - one even opened her office on a Sunday for him. There was, of course, an exception, namely Ballinamore: "The PO occupies a counter in a store in High Street and looked promising, but I never met with such impoliteness, almost pathological..."

There are several other amusing asides including the answer Brian was given when enquiring why a church - between Glenade and Largydonnell - had a post office letter-box on its entrance gate: "Sure it's for the convenience of His Reverence, and why shouldn't it be?". Definitely a booklet worth having even if only for the travelogue.

I. W.

International Stamp Dealers Directory published by Philatelic Exporter Ltd., 176 pages A5 paperback, price UK£7.95 (IR£8.95).

This directory will be very useful to all dealers, and to many collectors. It lists thousands of dealers world-wide, giving details of their specialities and services. There are geographical and specialty cross references, in which we note 9 dealers listed in Ireland, and 23 dealers worldwide who specialise in Ireland. The book also lists shops, auctioneers, postal administrations, magazine and catalogue publishers and gives exchange rates. A fax directory and a six language philatelic glossary, along with hundreds of advertisements complete this comprehensive directory which is one of the most useful works of reference we have come across.

The 1992 Checklist of Scout, Guide and Brigade Stamps of the World by David McKee. 148 pages, A5 paperback, price £5.60 (Europe £6, rest of the world £9 airmail, £7 surface) from the author at 3, South Park Drive, Dublin 18.

Not about Irish stamps this book is mentioned here because it is home produced, the standard reference work and a superb piece of work.

IRISH RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVES



LMS Northern Counties Committee No. 4 2-6-4 tank engine built 1947



Great Northern Railway (Ireland) No. 171, 4-4-0, built 1913, and Great Southern & Western Railway No. 184, 0-6-0, built 1879



Great Northern Railway (Ireland) No. 171, 4-4-0 built 1913, and Great Southern & Western Railway No. 186, 0-6-0 built 1880



Great Northern Railway (Ireland) No. 85, 0-4-0, built 1932, and Dublin & South Eastern Railway No. 461, built 1922



Irish Sugar Company 0-4-0 diesel shunter, and - with Coras Iompair Éireann diesel, Arthur Guinness Brewery No. 38G 0-4-0 saddle tank engine



Railway Preservation Society's No. 85 (formerly GNRI) and Downpatrick & Ardglass Railway No. 38G (formerly Guinness Brewery)

A superb new series of Railway Letter Stamps...

Railway Letter Stamps are issued by Railway Companies authorised by the Post Office; they are used on letters carried by rail. Both the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland and the Downpatrick & Ardglass Railway Company are authorised by the Post Office to operate a Railway Letter Service in Northern Ireland; in addition the RPSI has the authority of An Post to operate a service in the Republic of Ireland

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