

IRISH (STAMP) NEWS

No.21 Autumn 1985



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ISSN 0332-317X

No. 21 Autumn 1985

Published by MacDonnell Whyte Ltd.,

102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6.

Telephone: 01-977449.

*Member: Association Internationale
de Journalistes Philateliques.*

Printed by Cahill Printers Ltd.

Typeset by Fingerprint

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Subscription Rates: (per 4 issues post paid)

Ireland & Britain: IR£4.90

Elsewhere (surface mail): IR£5.20

Elsewhere (airmail): IR£7.00

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IRISH STAMP NEWS
102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6.

EDITORIAL

We are surprised and disappointed at An Post's decision to issue a special set of St. Patrick's Day pre-paid postcards *exclusively* for sale to American customers — see report in "Newsbeat".

This was a major faux pas which will result in Ireland's first 'black blot' in the philatelic world. Both the Federation Internationale de Philatelic and the Association of Stamp Catalogue Publishers take a very strong line on such limited issues by a Postal administration.

It is to our knowledge the first time that the Irish Post Office has produced stamped postal stationery that has not been made available to the general public in this country. It is extraordinary on that count alone.

Even more extraordinary was the decision to cancel such cards with a special postmark again *exclusively* for the purchasers of the sets.

We understand An Post's desire to run a profitable and commercial enterprise. However cheap gimmickry like this does enormous damage to An Post's reputation in the international philatelic community.

We have been told that this affair was *exclusively* the preserve of the general postal marketing department of An Post and that the philatelic staff had nothing to do with it. It is amazing that An Post should release an issue of stamped stationery in this manner without first checking the philatelic implications.

We strongly object to issues such as this and we hope it will never happen again. In the meantime we advise readers who wish to obtain sets of these items to write to An Post in the hope that they will re-release them to collectors.

Ian W. Whyte/Editor.

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International Reply Coupon (New)	50p

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Post Office Guide Part I — includes translations from Irish into English of all Post Offices in Ireland.	£1.00
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NEWSBEAT

THE OTHER ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARDS

In mid January thousands of Americans received in their mail a four page printed letter from Gerard P. Harvey, Chief Executive of An Post along with a colour brochure offering a set of 10 different St. Patrick's Day Cards. The cards were offered at \$7.75 per pack of 5 (i.e. 1 set of 10 cost \$15.50) reducing to \$5.00 (\$10.00 per set of 10) for orders of more than two.

According to the letter, the price included the set of cards, "transfer of the cards to Dublin", "postmarking in Dublin with the unique and official St Patrick's Day postmark", mailing of the cards anywhere in the world from Dublin, delivery to their destinations by March 17 and "participation in creating a new tradition commencing for the first time ever in 1985." A free prize draw was also offered with holidays in Ireland as the main attraction.

Orders for the cards were to be sent to a Post Office box (P.O.B. CS6256) in Farmingdale, New York 11735. Part of the proceeds of the cards were to go to "selected Irish organisations concerned with the young (chosen for the Irish love of children and family)" according to Mr. Harvey's letter. A donation would also go to the Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Restoration Fund.

The cards were exclusively available to recipients of the circular letter. They were not made available in Post Offices or the Philatelic Bureau nor were they publicised in Ireland apart from a mention in the Irish Times "Saturday Miscellany" column. Some of the designs are similar to those issued in Ireland but the correspondence sides of the cards are completely different.

The "St. Patrick's Day Postmark" was applied in Sheriff Street Central Sorting Office and not in the Philatelic Bureau which normally handles such special cancels.

It would appear that this scheme was exclusively the idea of the postal marketing department of An Post with little or no involvement of the philatelic bureau.

It is believed that the sales of the cards were very disappointing. One informed source put it at less than 1,000 sets which didn't even cover the cost of marketing them, let alone the free holidays and the donations to various charities.

Very few stamp collectors were aware of the existence of the cards up to now. The offer was made to members of Irish American cultural and ethnic organisations, excluding - interestingly - the Eire Philatelic Association.

The set of cards are extraordinary in that it is the first time the post office have offered an issue of stamped items exclusively outside the State and at a price of four times their nominal face value. This is sure to raise eyebrows, if not temperatures, amongst collectors of Irish stamps.

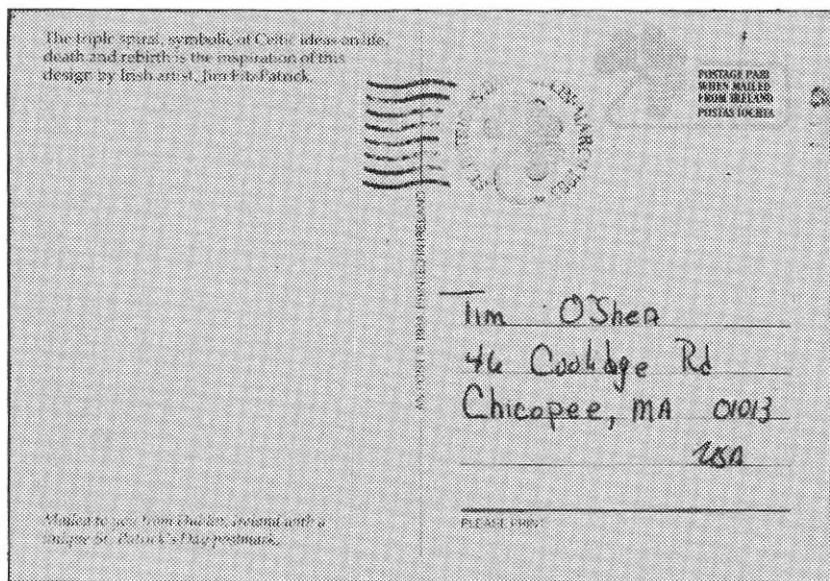
As regards their catalogue status MacDonnell Whyte Ltd., publishers of STAMPS OF IRELAND say that they cannot be listed as regular postal stationary items due to their unorthodox method of sale and an issue price far exceeding their face value. MacDonnell Whyte Ltd are members of the Association of Stamp Catalogue Publishers - ASCAT - and their rules forbid listing of such items. However they can be mentioned in a footnote.

If An Post decided to release the cards to the general public at a normal issue price they could then be listed. Some years ago the British Post Office printed a special definitive coil strip for Readers Digest to use in a mail promotion scheme. After a furore in the philatelic press they made the strip available through their philatelic bureau and the strip was duly listed.

Dealers in Ireland reckon that if the cards are not re-issued they will still command high prices even though they will be excluded from catalogue listings. One dealer put the price of a set as high as £100 provided no more are released. No dealers have any stocks of them and it is believed that most of the sold sets are widely dispersed amongst non-collectors.

Postmark collectors will also be keen to get the special cancellation used exclusively on these cards thus adding to the demand for them. All in all it looks like this issue will prove to be a major embarrassment for An Post and a cause of much discontent for their philatelic customers.

See illustrations of these St. Patrick's Day Cards overleaf.



The stamped side of the card with special cancel.

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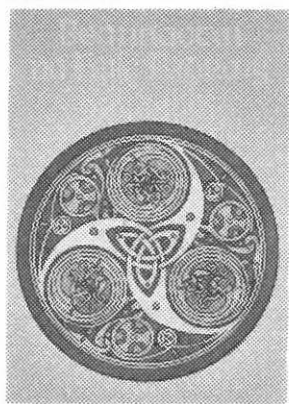
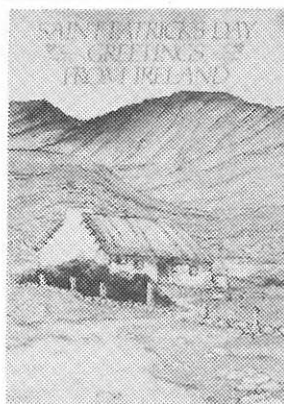
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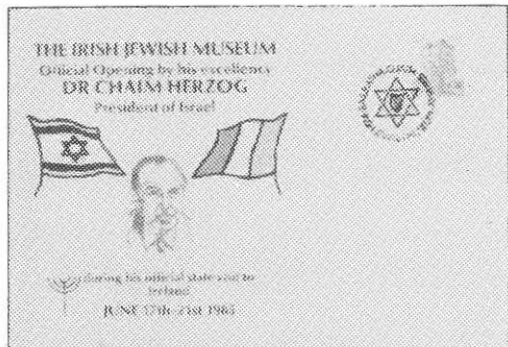
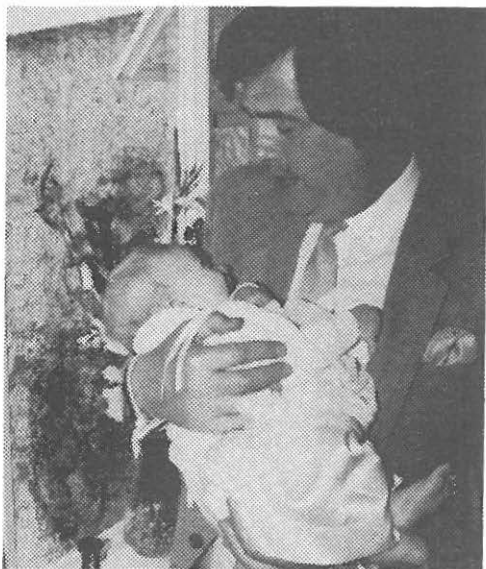
"NEW ISSUES"

We are pleased to announce the arrival of three "new issues" in recent months. We firstly congratulate Brian and Maura Warren on the birth of a daughter, Siobhan, last December. Brian omitted this important "first" from his "Recent Releases" column in the last IRISH STAMP NEWS.

In March Andrew and Kate Ballard's first child, Christopher, came into the world. Andy is in charge of Royale's Ireland department and is a regular advertiser in IRISH STAMP NEWS and a regular standholder at STAMPA.

Finally, Ian and Joan Whyte's first child, William, was born on April 23 last.

William John Philip Whyte, newly arrived son of Joan and Ian, with his godfather, Phil Wilde — the well known Cardiff based philatelic auctioneer (Western Auctions). —>



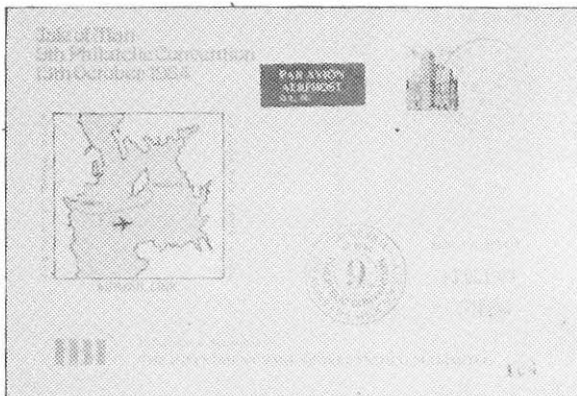
The Irish Jewish Museum cover.

DUBLIN-DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN) AIRMAIL LINK

A special cover was carried by air from Dublin to Douglas, Isle of Man, in connection with celebrations marking the silver jubilee of the Manx Philatelic Society.

The covers were postmarked at Dublin Airport on 13 Oct. 1984, and franked on arrival at Ronaldsway Airport. The cover design includes a map featuring the Dublin-Douglas Airmail link, and it was sponsored by the Isle of Man subsidiary of the Investment Bank of Ireland, IBI (IOM) Ltd.

Some covers may still be available, and interested collectors should drop a line to Kevin Doyle, IBI (IOM) Ltd., 20 Finch Rd. Isle of Man, mentioning "Irish Stamp News".



Dublin-Douglas Airmail (courtesy of Tony Finn).



AUTUMN AUCTIONS

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GENEVA: Mail Auction 5 — 29 November 1985

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CORK 800



Foreword Of Charles Courtenay By Prince John To Citizens Of Cork In 1185.

John, the Son of the King of England, Lord of Ireland, &c. Greeting.

I have granted and given, and by this my Charter confirm to the citizens of Cork, all the fields held of my city of Cork, and the ground on which the city is now, for my benefit, to increase the strength of the citizens. This is to them and to their heirs. To Hold of me and my heirs, and to remain in frank burgage by such customs and rent, as the Burgesses of Bristol in England pay yearly for their burgage; and to secure my city of Cork, I grant this to the same my citizens of Cork, all the Laws, Franchises, and Customs of freight on whatsoever sails. And firmly commanding that the aforesaid my citizens of Cork, and their heirs and successors have the aforesaid city of Cork of me and my successors as in aforesaid, and have all the laws and franchises, and frank customs of Bristol. And as those were wont to be used and written in my Court and in my Hundred of Cork, and in all business. And I forbid that any wrong or hindrance be given to the aforesaid laws and franchises, which gifts from us are given and granted in testimony, &c.

The Cork 800 Souvenir.

EPA OFFERS SPECIAL 35th ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

The Eire Philatelic Association (International) celebrated its 35th Anniversary in conjunction with the recently concluded RIPEX '85 in Providence, Rhode Island, and WESTPEX '85 in San Francisco, California.

The highlight at both shows was the unveiling of a special souvenir booklet designed by the late John J. Blessington. This attractive booklet contains three (3) gutter blocks, one each of 1p, 2p and 3p current Irish architectural definite series.

The cost is \$2.50 per booklet *postpaid*. Booklets may be ordered from E.P.A. Special Offers, E. J. Ryan, 4A Churchwood, Niantic, Connecticut 06357.

E.P.A. membership information may be obtained from E.P.A. Secretary, R. C. Jones, 8 Beach Street, Brockton, Mass. 02402.

CORK 800 SPECIAL SOUVENIR

The Cork Philatelic Society have produced a most attractive souvenir of the Cork 800 celebration. It is a card containing the preamble of the charter granted by Prince John to the citizens of Cork in 1185 with the commemorative postage stamp tied to it by the first day cancel of Cork.

Priced at £1.50 it is available from the Cork Philatelic Society, c/o Mr. Paul Murphy, 'Hogmanay', Ardfallen Road, Cork. Please add appropriate postage.

The Cork P.S. will hold their Annual Exhibition & Fair on Saturday October 12 at the Imperial Hotel, Cork from 10am to 6pm. A special postmark and cover will be available at the show, as well as a souvenir booklet.

PORTADOWN STAMPEX

Portadown Stampex and Collectors Fair will be held in the Town Hall, Portadown on September 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tables will cost UK£8 to UK£10. There will be a display of exhibits entered for the Portadown P.S.'s competitions. Southern visitors can get cheap day returns from CIE railway stations.

Meetings of the Portadown and District Philatelic Society take place on the first Friday of each month at the Watson Fellowship Centre, Killicomaine Road, Portadown, and consist of a display, auction, and informal get-together with refreshments. Details of membership and of the exhibition can be obtained from Des Quail, Red Meadows, Lurgan Road, Banbridge, Co. Down, BT32 4NL.

SLOGAN CANCELS

An Post have announced the following schedule of slogan cancellations: August: "National Kidney Campaign August 1985"; September: "Conserve Energy" (also running into October); October: "9th October - World Post Day"; November: "Let Your Fingers do the Walking"; December: "Post Early for Christmas", and "Are You on the Draft of Electors".

These will be run in Dublin, Cork, Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Limerick and Waterford. There will also be other slogan cancellations run at many other post offices but An Post have not released details of them.



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CZYL'S PENNY POST

We illustrate here a 'philatelic phantasy' produced by an American collector to 'commemorate' his recent trip to Ireland. Jim Czyl, well known in the United States for his 'Cinderella' column in LINN'S STAMP NEWS, was accompanying a group of collectors from his native Illinois to Ireland and Great Britain. The group included Duane Larsen of the Rosemoor Stamp and Coin Company, George Fabian, Jeanette Macdonald, and Austin Dulin, all of whom collect Ireland and/or Lundy Island on which they stayed for a week during their trip.

Jim Czyl has produced several other 'philatelic phantasies' and we hope to feature an article on them in a future edition of Irish Stamp News, if only to put on record what to beware of!

Incidentally at the recent Parforex 25th Anniversary philatelic exhibition held in Park Forest, Illinois George Fabian, Duane Larsen, Jim Czyl and Jack Madigan all won Gold medals for their Irish exhibits.



Czyl's Penny Post Label



Four Irish Golds: (left to right) George Fabian, Duane Larsen, Jim Czyl and Jack Madigan who all took Gold awards at PARFOREX for their exhibits of Ireland.

FAI AGM AT SCHIFFERSTADT

The FAI – the Irish Philatelic study group of the German Federation of Philatelic Societies – held their AGM in Schifferstadt, near Heidelberg, Germany. Four FAI members participated in the Federation's exhibition which was on at the time and all four won medals from bronze to gold.

Mr. Harold Frank was the recipient of the FAI Award for Philatelic literature for his article on censored mail from prisons and internment camps in Northern Ireland.

The latest FAI publication, "Mileage Marks of Ireland" by Hans G. Moxter (see Book Review) was launched at the AGM. A special St. Patrick's Day card was the philatelic souvenir of the meeting and all members received a copy, whether present or not.

The FAI now has more than 170 members in six countries. It publishes an excellent magazine, "Die Harfe" every 3 months, holds auctions of members material and an exchange packet. Membership costs DM48 (£15.50) per annum. Details from: Frank Holzmüller, Auenstrasse 21a, D-8000 München 5, West Germany.

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President Hillery accepting a special album of the stamp commemorating the Defence Forces' 25 years of service with the United Nations from An Post's Chairman, Feargal Quinn, as the Minister of Defence, Mr. Paddy Cooney T.D. looks on at a ceremony in Collins Barracks, Dublin, in June.

STAMPA '85 FOR NOVEMBER

STAMPA '85, The 14th National Stamp Exhibition, will take place on November 8, 9 and 10 next, at its usual venue, the Royal Dublin Society's premises at Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

The prospectus is now available and intending exhibitors should note that there are two fundamental changes for them. Firstly exhibitors may now apply for the number of frames they feel necessary to display their exhibit to full advantage. The minimum number of frames is one and it is unlikely that more than five will be allocated to any one exhibitor. Each frame holds 12 standard size album pages (i.e. 8 inches x 12 inches).

This year the exhibits will be judged at the exhibition in their frames. This is in line with most overseas national and international shows. The results of the judging should be known by the evening of the first day of the exhibition, and the awards will as usual be presented at a dinner to be held on the second evening, in this case Saturday, November 9.

The awards available are The Stamping Branch Trophy for the best exhibit of Irish postage stamps issued since 1922, The David Feldman Trophy for the best overall exhibit, and Gold, Vermeil, Silver, and Bronze medals, as well as Diplomas of merit. All exhibits will receive Certificates of Participation.

There are also Philatelic Literature, Novice and Junior competitions. Full details are given in the prospectus.

The subscription for membership of the STAMPA Society is £9 this year. Members benefits include a free season ticket to the show, worth £3, reduced exhibitors' fees, and free souvenirs of the exhibition. The latter will include the souvenir issued at STAMPA '85 as well as a special souvenir exclusively issued to members. If you wish to join complete the form in the prospectus or just send your name and address and £9 (UK£7.50; US\$11 to include airmail) to: Secretary, STAMPA '85, 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6, from whom copies of the prospectus can also be obtained.

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IRELAND AIRMAILS RAILWAY COVERS PAQUEBOTS

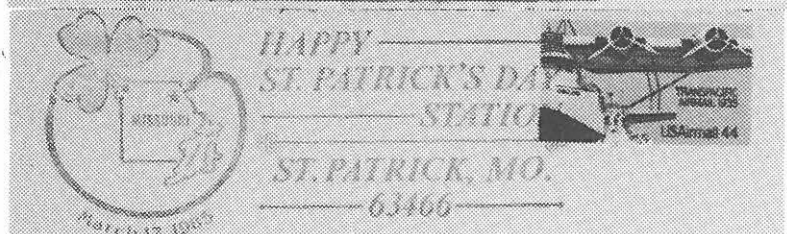
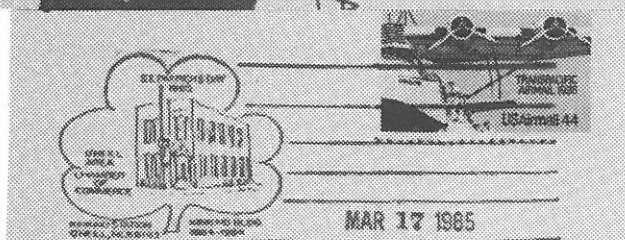
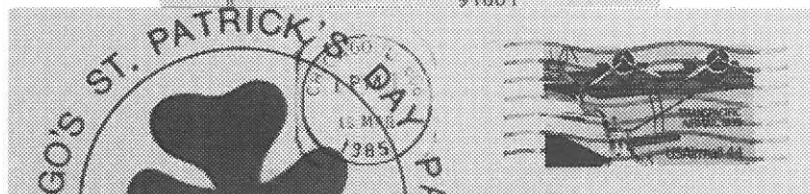
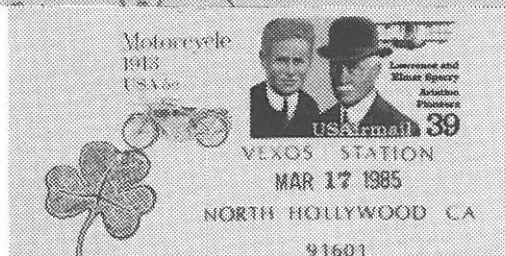
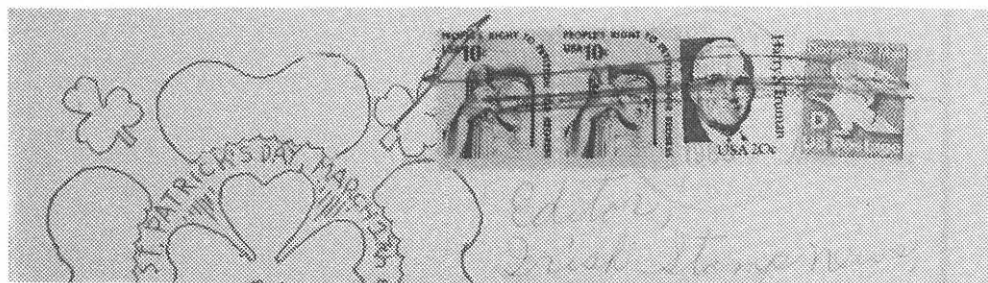
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A selection of St. Patrick's Day cancels from the U.S.A., including: Erin, New York; Vexos, California; Chicago; O'Neill, Nebraska; Shamrock, Ireland, West Virginia; and St. Patrick, Missouri.
(Courtesy, Richard Crowe)

PAPAL VISIT TO IRELAND

**Papal Flight
SHANNON BOSTON
October 1st. 1979**



**The Visit to Ireland
of His Holiness
Pope John Paul II**

Carried on
Flight No. EI-1
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Captain: A. Quigley



12



ÉIRE

A private investor has for sale a small quantity of the LIMITED EDITION ALBUM containing the complete collection of covers, stamps and postmarks issued to commemorate H.H. Pope John Paul II's visit to Ireland, including the scarce Papal Flight covers carried on his 'plane Rome to Dublin and Shannon to Boston.

PRICE: £26

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102 LEINSTER ROAD, DUBLIN 6.**

RPSI ISSUES NEW RAILWAY STAMPS

On May 10 1985 the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland issued a miniature sheet of eight different designs arranged in two blocks of four. The total face value is £1.60 sterling (20p each for use in Northern Ireland). On May 11 they issued a further miniature sheet of four different designs arranged in a block of four, with a face value of IR£1.12 (£1 plus 23% VAT) each, (total IR£4.92) for use in the Republic of Ireland.

The stamps feature full colour illustrations of various steam trains run by the RPSI and were printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company. They are for use on railway letters posted on trains run by the RPSI.



SLIGO EXHIBITION

The Sligo Philatelic Society will host an exhibition in Sligo on August 17. The exhibition coincides with the Yeats International Week which draws hundreds of tourists to the area.

The Sligo PS have organised a special postmark and a number of unusual covers and maximum cards as well as a souvenir booklet. Details of how to obtain these may be had from Finbarr Hegarty, Sligo and District Philatelic Society, 3 Stephens Street, Sligo.

IPC AGM NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Philatelic Circle was held at the Victory Services Club in London during the weekend of the 4/5 May, 1985.

Officers and Committee elected for 1985/86 were:—

President: Col. B. B. Zellers.

Vice Presidents: Rev. W. E. Davey,

Mr. M. Freyer, Mr. P. H. Williams.

General Secretary: H. K. Jamieson, 3 Cleves Way, Hampton, Middx., TW12 2PL.

Area Secretaries: A. V. Cassidy, O. M. Richards, J. G. Lennon.

Hon. Treasurer: W. Stevens.

Hon. Auditor: B. Warren.

Hon. Auctioneer: M. Leonard.

Committee Members: J. F. Hearn, G. E. R.

Ithell, J. Madeley, Dr. V. W. D. Hale,

W. Kane, J. O'Neill.

During the proceedings adjudication for the Thomas E. Field Awards were made with the following results:—

General Philately:

1st W. Stevens; 2nd W. Stevens.

Postal History:

1st O. M. Richards; 2nd G. E. R. Ithell

Thematic:

1st W. Stevens; 2nd G. E. R. Ithell.

Literature:

1st J. T. Howley; 2nd Otto Jung.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we report the recent deaths of Noel Langton, John J. Blessington, and William 'Wil' Bennett.

Noel Langton was a well-known collector of Irish Airmails and postmarks. About 30 years ago he published privately a booklet on Dublin postmarks which was remarkable in that each copy included hand drawn tracings of several cancellations. The booklet is a collectors item of much rarity. In the last few years Noel was seen regularly helping out a leading Dublin dealer at auctions. He was a very friendly person with a dry sense of humour and much liked by many of his fellow collectors.

John J. Blessington, editor of the Eire Philatelic Association's journal, "The Revealer", died on June 9, aged 63. A U.S. Army veteran — he served in Europe during World War II — he was one of those people whose name was synonymous with Irish philately in North America. He exhibited and lectured throughout the U.S.A. and his contribution to the popularity of Irish stamps there was enormous. He will be missed by all his friends in the Eire Philatelic Association and the many other philatelic organisations of which he was a member or officer.

'Wil' Bennett was a long standing member of the Dublin Stamp Society at whose meetings he often entertained his fellow members with his collection of Ireland and "Fishing on Stamps".

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND NEW ISSUES



The RPSI Railway Letter Stamps for use in Northern Ireland.

	PRICES	
MAY 10, 1985 MS6 Miniature sheet of eight different designs @ .20p stg each. Mint:	UK£1.60	IR£2.00
Ditto on 4 First Day Covers, carried on the 'Cork 800' Steam Raitour. Per set:	UK£7.75	IR£9.70
MAY 11, 1985 MS7 Miniature sheet of four different designs @ IR£1.23 each. Mint:	UK£3.95	IR£4.92
Ditto on eight First Day Covers, carried on the 'Cork 800' Steam Raitour:	UK£8.20	IR£10.25

POSTAGE EXTRA: on mint orders .57p sterling or IR£0.71; for FDC's add .20p sterling (IR£0.25) per set to mint order postage rate. Cheques, postal orders and drafts should be made payable to "The Railway Letter Service".

ORDERS TO:

The Railway Letter Service Agent
RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND
Drumconvis House, Coagh, Co. Tyrone BT80 0HF

MacDonnell Whyte's auction of June 8 attracted bids from nearly 400 clients, mostly from outside the country. About one hundred bidders attended in the room and although it was a long afternoon with nearly 1500 lots to be called by the indefatigable auctioneer, Ian Whyte, bidding was spirited, especially for mixed lots, collections, and the 'Star' items.

"An Act for the Settling of the Postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland", an original act of Cromwell's Parliament published in 1656, in very fine condition, fetched £650. The last time one of these came on the philatelic market was in the "T.E. Field Collection" sale of 1965 and then it fetched £100.

The popularity of material concerning the "Troubles" continues unabated with the realisation of £250 for a 1921 cover to Carrickmines with a Post Office "Found Open or Torn" label and a handstamp "CENSORED BY IRA".

collector who bid by post, the piece was sold for £1,900.

The 'Composite Wide and Narrow Date' set-tenant pairs of 1927-28 are very rarely seen used. Such a set with circular date-stamps of Dubhfort (Dugort or Achill Island) sold for £1,650. Unfortunately the postmark did not show the year; had it been around the time of issue the realisation would have been much higher.

A lovely range of blocks of four of eighteen values of the O'Loughlin Murphy and Boland essays for a definitive series, produced in 1922, sold for £1,150. The values ranged up to ten shillings and it was one of the finest arrays of this material seen in recent years.

Modern definitives still have a good following as is evidenced by a price of £575 for a complete collection of the 1974-80 Gerl definitives of 1982 sold for 35 times its face value (£525 for those of you whose calculator



Dollard 1/2d red 'trial' overprint control block 6 showing 'date at top' variety, fetched £1,900.

Three sheets of 240 of the Dollard trial overprint in red (DF PR4) on halfpenny were produced. One was backstamped "ORIGINAL PROOF etc" and initialled "B.J.B." (B. J. Brennan of Dollards who sold them to collectors and dealers at the time) another was not, and the third sheet, which was backstamped, had the variety "date at top" due to a shift. The control block of this latter variety, by definition a 'unique' item was offered at this sale. Bidding opened at £1000 and after a fierce tussle between a room bidder and an American

batteries have run flat) due to the fact that most of the printing on four stamps in the block was missing.

In 1932 J. A. Mollison made an historic flight from Portmarnock Co. Dublin to New York via Newfoundland. He was rather miffed that the Irish Post Office would not agree to commemorating the occasion by issuing a special stamp. Undaunted he produced an overprint in red "ATLANTIC AIRMAIL 1932" on some one shilling definitives, which were intended for use on mail carried by him on the

IRELAND

Wants lists invited for sets, singles. Mint, used or FDC's. Commemoratives, Definitives (especially the Gers and Architecture) Dues, Booklets, Exhibition Souvenirs etc.

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ISLANDS

Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man new issues held in stock. List available.

AUCTION AGENT

I can act as your agent to bid at Dublin Auctions. Details on request.

DECLAN O'KELLY
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FAI



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Mr. Udo Jarczyński,
Ritter-Tuschl-Strasse 29,
D-8359 Aldersbach, West-Germany.

GEORGE F. ALLAN



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Auction Review Continued

flight. Each stamp was initialled 'J.A.M.' by the aviator on the reverse. These items which were to all intents and purposes 'bogus' are now major rarities and a mint pair returned £675 at this auction. Full details of them are given in Fred Godfrey's excellent articles in previous editions of IRISH STAMP NEWS.

MacDonnell Whyte's next auction will be on October 5 next at the Burlington Hotel. The catalogue is available on request accompanied by postage (50p Ireland and GB; £1 Europe; £1.50 overseas airmail) from the auctioneers at 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6.



Mollison overprint pair mint, fetched £675.



Spectacular error on recent £1 definitive, fetched £575.

COLLECTORS ADVERTISEMENTS

This form of advertising is available to private collectors only, not to traders. The charge is 20p per word or group of initials/numbers, minimum charge £5. VAT @ 23% is extra to residents in the Republic of Ireland. Payment must be made in advance of publication.

WANTED — exchange partners for Europa CEPT issues and Channel Islands — mint and used. F. J. M. Parren, Mergelsweg 86, NL 6419 EG Heerlen.

WANTED: International Reply Coupons of Ireland in exchange for IRC's of other countries or Swedish stamps, booklet or postal stationery, mint or used. Bengt Lindgren, Seglaregatan 4, 8 van., S-41457 Goteborg, Sweden.

EXCHANGE 100-150 Irish used stamps against 100-150 Italian and Western Europe stamps. Renato d'Incecco, via Cavdur 70, 65100 Pescara, Italy.

GERMAN collector wants to buy or exchange Irish stamps. Especially wanted: censor post, first flight covers, shippost, gutters and plate-blocks, (no overprints). I offer German stamps: Third Reich, Federal Republic, Berlin from 1949 including all rare items, West-Europe, CEPT, UNO etc. Kindly contact Otto Hellwig (member of the FAI), Kesselhutweg 4a, D-6100 Darmstadt, West Germany.

NORWEGIAN collector wants contact in Ireland. Wanted: Irish stamps in mint condition after want-list. I can give in return: mint stamps from Norway. John Hofve, Julius Middelthuns v.4, 3600 KONGSBERG, Norway.

SOVIET UNION and other socialist countries unmounted mint exchanged for Ireland unmounted mint. Vitalij Rachilskij, m. Polzunova 4 KVII, 630051 Novosibirsk, USSR.

WANTED Irish paquebot cancellations on cover for cash or exchange for American Navy cancellations. Bernt Dienelt, Lichtweg 36, D-5303 Bornheim 2, Germany.

Collectors Ads Continued

GERMAN collector seeks contacts in Ireland. Exchange fine used Ireland for West Germany, Brigitte Allgeier, Justinus-Kerner-Weg 14, D-7295 Dornstetten, West Germany.

FOR SALE: IRISH STAMP NEWS 1 to 12 complete, mint condition. Highest offer secures. M. O'Neill, Rathnacartan, Mallow, Co. Cork.

INTERNATIONAL DEALERS DIRECTORY

The International Federation of Stamp Dealers Associations — IFSDA — has published the 1985 edition of its directory. This book lists all the members of stamp trade associations affiliated to the IFSDA. It includes the names and addresses of over 4000 dealers worldwide.

Copies of the IFSDA directory are available from the Irish Philatelic Traders Association, 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6 at £6.50 postpaid (Ireland & Britain only).

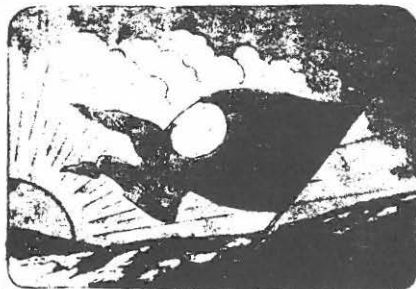
Sir,

This is a photocopy of another label, apparently from the series illustrated in ISN No. 19, printed in multicolour with the sun deep orange and the flag showing a yellow circle on dark green. At the bottom right is EIRE GO BRAG, almost identical to the style of the labels you illustrated before.

The design of the flag is evidence that the date was before tricolour came into use, and my estimate of the date is c. 1910.

Yours etc.

Fred E Dixon, Dublin 6



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

In your No. 18 issue you printed a letter from Eric Black asking if readers had come across the 1d 'Map' definitive 1922-23 (SG72) with perforations 14.5 x 14 instead of the catalogue listed 15 x 14.

Well I have a vertical coil join pair perf. 14.5 x 14 — can any of your experts make a comment on this?

Yours etc.

APH Wilkinson (Dr.)

Suffolk UK.

Sir,

I thought your readers might be interested in a discovery I made in a lot I bought at the Hibernian auction in Frankfurt last March. It is the Thomas Moore issue where the 3½p value has no plate number visible. In some catalogues it is mentioned that such a variety exists on the 2½p value but this is the first I have heard of it on the 3½p value.

Have any other collectors seen this variety?

Yours etc.

Otto Hellwig, West Germany.

BOOK REVIEW

The Mileage Marks of Ireland 1808-1839 by Hans G. Moxter 64 pp A5 paperback. Published by FAI, Munich 1985. Price £3.50 (+ 40p postage to Ireland and G.B., 50p to Europe, £1.10 airmail to overseas). Available from MacDonnell Whyte Ltd., 102 Leinster Road.

Mr. Moxter has done an excellent job in introducing, explaining, identifying and listing the mileage mark handstamps of Ireland. Much of the information has been published before, in articles in the "Revealer" and "Irish Philately" and in Feldman/Kane's handbook, but this book has collated all the data and added to it to make it a most useful tool to the postal historian.

The book is in both English and German, and is well illustrated. Mr Moxter gives the history of the marks and explains the different rates as well as including a map which shows the various postal routes and mileages. This tabulated listing indicates each post office that

Book Review Continued

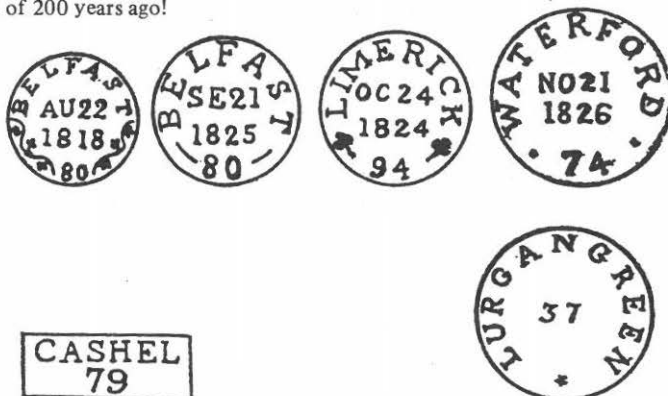
used these markings, the type used, the mileage including alterations, colours known, dates known, and where the town name was abbreviated, the full name e.g. N.T.LIMY. for Newtown Limavady.

The author includes a number of illustrations of interesting covers with explanations of their rates as examples of how the system worked. He also includes an excerpt from "The Post-Chaise Companion" published in Dublin in 1786 and which Fred Dixon republished in his "Random Notes" some years ago. This listing is fascinating. For instance did you know that it took 59 hours to travel to Dingle from Dublin by mailcoach at a cost of four pounds fourteen shillings and sixpence? Even Bray was three hours away from Dublin compared to 40 minutes today by DART though driving through rush hour traffic might take as long as the mailcoach of 200 years ago!

One omission from the book is a table of values or indicators of scarcity. Although this is a difficult undertaking it would have made the book complete in every respect. The author does include some observations on the pricing of the markings but these are very general and he might have been advised to seek the assistance of a professional in drawing up a valuation guide similar to that in the Willcocks and Feldman/Kane books.

The production of the book is very good if not lavish and the FAI is to be commended for this, the 5th volume in their series of publications. It is excellent value and I have no hesitation in recommending its immediate purchase by anyone interested in this area.

I.W.W.



EDGEWORTHTOWN 52 BALLYMENA 101

ATHY 32 NEWRY 50 COVE 134

CORK 124

CORK 124

Some of the illustrations from Hans Moxter's book "The Mileage Marks of Ireland".

IRISH RAILWAYS AND BUS STAMPS — NEWS

John Holman



CIE £1 stamp with overprint.

Railway Letter Service

Since my last notes in IRISH STAMP NEWS (No. 16 October/December 1983), CIE has issued two railway letter stamps and increased the railway letter rate again. Details of the £1 'TRAEN 150' stamp issued on 25 June 1984 have already been given in ISN (No. 18 pp. 5-6, No. 19 p. 5 and No. 20 pp. 13 and 39) and need not be repeated here. Suffice to say that the stamp saw little in the way of genuine usage as its withdrawal was ordered on the very day of issue. However I have several covers which suggest that it was not speedily withdrawn — it was still in use at Sligo Station on 8 August, at Tralee on 14 August and at Carrick-on-Shannon as late as 19 September. Following discussions with the Irish Post Office the CIE reissued the stamp overprinted 'Taille l'impair CIE' in black in November. No date of issue was announced, the earliest I have seen is on a cover from Gorey dated 13 November; I also have a cover from Carlow dated 19 November. The overprinted stamp was withdrawn from sale on 31 December. It is probably even scarcer used on cover than the original issue. The railway letter fee was increased from £1 to £1.10 (exclusive of VAT) from 1 January 1985.

In Northern Ireland the railway letter fee was increased from 48p to 50p on 19 November 1982 and to £1.15 from 25 November 1983, exclusive of VAT. The NIR does not use railway letter stamps, a rubber stamp is applied at the station of despatch to denote payment of the fee (see illustration in ISN No. 7, Spring 1981, p. 25).

The issues of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland were described in my articles in ISN No. 13 (November/December 1982) and No. 16 (October/December 1983). The figures quoted for the number of stamps overprinted in 1981 and 1982 need amending in the light of information published in ISN No. 20 (p. 38). Some 12,600 were printed of each of the three 20p stamps issued in May 1981; 4350 of these were subsequently surcharged 'IR£0.33p' (December 1981), a further 1500 surcharged 22p and overprinted 'PORTRUSH FLYER' (August 1982 and 1500 22p and 'STEAM ENTERPRISE' (September 1982). On 1 September 1984 888 of each were surcharged 'IR£1' for use on mail carried into the Republic (the fee conforming to the CIE rate). This leaves only 4362 of each of the original 20p stamps and possibly more surcharges/overprints will follow now that the CIE railway letter rate is £1.10. Covers carried on the Steam Enterprise train on 1 September 1984 have the railway stamp cancelled with a previously unrecorded oval stamp worded 'WHITEHEAD/B & N. C.R.Y' with the '-1 SEP 1984' across the centre, struck in red; the 22p Irish postage

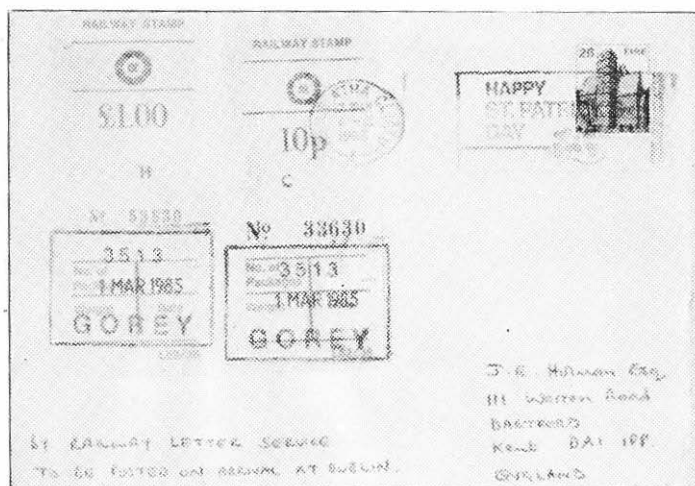
stamp was cancelled with the standard undated 'WHITEHEAD/STATION/B & N.C.R.Y' handstamp (illustrated in ISN No. 13, p. 35). The covers were endorsed To be called for at Dublin Connolly Station.

Railway Parcel Stamps

A checklist of these appeared in ISN No. 14 (March/April 1983) setting out the eleven types. Details of a twelfth type were given in ISN No. 16. Since then twelve previously unrecorded stamps have come to hand:

<i>Value</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Earliest Date Seen</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Notes</i>
50p	7	Feb. 1977	L62/39	
50p	12	ND (unused)	L62/36	
£1	6	Nov. 1975	L62/40	
£1	7	May 1976	L62/40	
£1	9	ND (unused)	L62/40	
£1.00	12	May 1984	L62/36	
£1.00	12	Mar. 1985	L62/36	Serial No. in green
£2	6	ND (unused)	L62/41	
£5	7	Aug. 1976	L62/33	
£5.00	12	ND (unused)	L62/36	Serial No. in green
£6.00	8	ND (unused)	L62/46	
£10.00	8	ND (unused)	L62/36	

Serial numbers are usually printed in black.

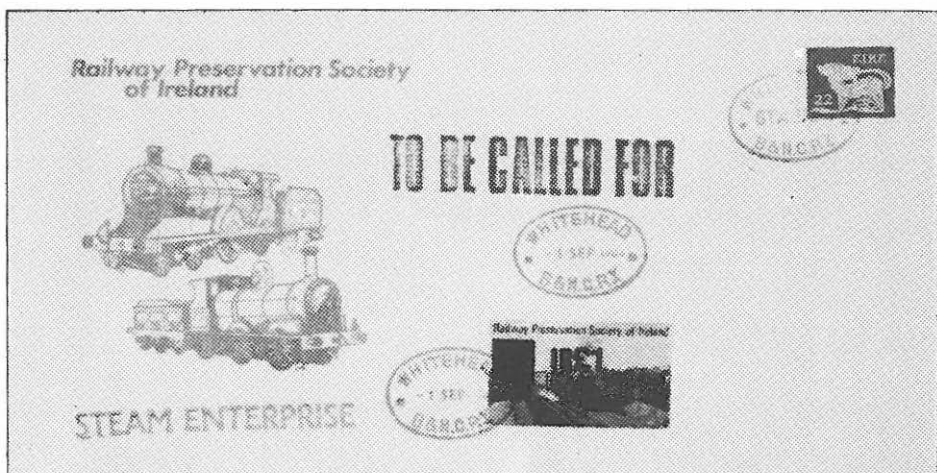


CIE railway letter at £1.10 rate despatched from Gorey on March 1, 1985.

The £6.00 and £10.00 values undoubtedly result from the recent increases in parcel rates (see below).

The existence of three stamps previously listed as 'reported but not seen' can now be confirmed, they are with earliest seen dates:

20p	Type 5 Sep. 1973
25p	Type 4 Jul. 1973
50p	Type 5 Nov. 1973



RPSI IRE1 surcharge on cover.

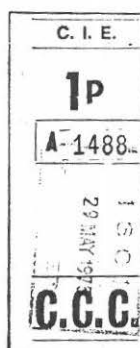
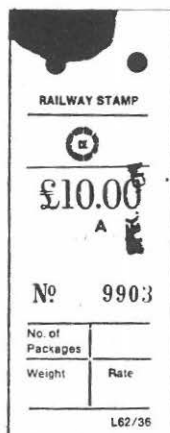
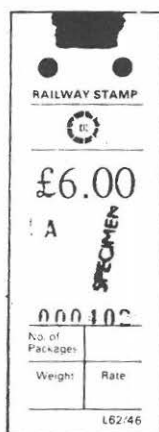
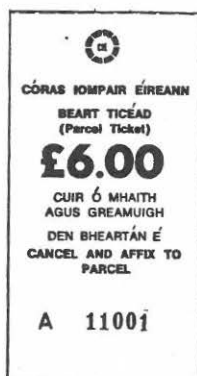
A number of stamps have now been examined with earlier dates than those reported in past articles. For those interested the revised dates are as follows (details of reference numbers and shades excluded):

5p Type 5 Mar. 1975; 5p Type 6 Jun. 1977; 10p Type 1 Mar. 1971; 10p Type 7 Jun. 1977; 20p Type 1 Jun. 1971; 20p Type 3 Apr. 1971; 20p Type 4 Jul. 1973; 20p Type 6 Sep. 1975; 25p Type 1 Apr. 1971; 25p Type 5 Dec. 1975; 25p Type 1 Apr. 1971; 25p Type 1 Apr. 1971; 25p Type 5 Dec. 1975; 50p Type 1 Apr. 1971; 50p Type 6 May 1975; 50p Type 8 Jun. 1977; £1 Type 8 Jun. 1977; £2 Type 5 Dec. 1974; £5 Type 8 Aug. 1977; £5 Type 11 Oct. 1975;

The rates of carriage of parcels by the 'Fastrack' parcel service were increased from 1 January 1985, a new simple flat rate charge of 60p per kg is now applied, minimum charge £6 per parcel. Parcels despatched from Ireland by Fastrack for transfer to British Rail's Red Star service are subject to charges ranging from £25 for a parcel of up to 1kg to £93 for a parcel of up to 100kg.

No mention of CIE Customs Clearance stamps has been made here since the first issue of ISN (Autumn 1978). Two types are known: (1) without CIE emblem and (2) with the logo. The stamps known to me are:

<i>Value</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Serial</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Earliest Seen Date</i>
1p	1	A	—	May 1975
5p	1	B	—	May 1975
10p	1	C	—	ND (unused)
25p	1	D	—	Jan. 1972
50p	1	E	—	Sep. 1972
£1.00	1	G	—	Sep. 1971
£1.00	2	G	L62/24	ND (unused)
£1.50	1	H	—	Aug. 1975
£2.00	2	K	L62/28	Jun. 1977
£2.50	2	L	L62/29	ND (unused)



New CIE bus and railway parcel stamps and 1p CCC (Customs Clearance Charge) stamp.

Bus Parcel Stamps

A listing of these was published in ISN No. 11 (May/June 1982), additions were reported in ISN Nos. 14 and 16. Rates of carriage were increased from 1 January 1985, parcels of up to 10kg are now charged £3.50, up to 25kg £6, subject to VAT. These rates apply between any two points irrespective of distance. Three new stamps – £3.50 black on blue, £5.00 and £6.00 both black on yellow – have recently been issued.

The revisions to the checklisting of railway parcel stamps results chiefly from my examination of the impressive collection of these issues formed by the Rev. Roger de Lacy Spencer to whom I record my thanks. I must also thank Mr Frank McAdam, Sales Service Manager of the CIE, for his help in keeping me up to date on revised rates and new stamps.

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RATES ARE ON PAGE 3.**

THE ARCHITECTURE DEFINITIVES

by Brian Warren and Eddie FitzGerald

THE FIRST phase of six values of the new definitive set "Irish Architecture Down Through The Ages" was issued on 15 December 1982. The remaining thirteen values of the initial set were issued during 1983 and two booklets were to follow. As we write, the issue of a further four values and two booklets has been announced and will be released on 27 June 1985. During this period there have been changes in plates, paper/gum and perforation type. The purpose of this series of articles will be to record all known information and to give a tabulated listing of all the various stamps, plate and imprint blocks, booklets etc. The pace of change has been fast and is far ahead of any similar two and half year period during the life of the Gerl definitive series. We do not intend repeating information as regards designs etc. as this is given in the various leaflets associated with each release as published by the Post Office. We would also recommend the excellent article which appeared in issue 13 of Irish Stamp News (Nov/Dec '82) which gave background details about the designer Michael Craig and the nine designs which have been used in the twenty value set.

Issue Dates

15 December 1982: 22p, 26p, 29p, 44p, £1, £5.

16 March 1983: 4p, 6p, 7p, 20p, 23p, 30p, 50p.

6 July 1983: 1p, 2p, 3p, 5p, 10p, 12p, 15p.

15 August 1983: £1 Machine Booklet.

9 July 1984: £2.26 Discount Booklet.



20p, plate 1A, perforation type G1.



20p, plate 1B, perforation type G1

Sheet Layout and Markings

All stamps were offset-litho printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. The Series may be divided into two categories – low values, i.e. up to 30p and high values, i.e. 44p to £5. The low values were printed in original printer's sheets of 400 stamps and then split into two post office sheets of 200 stamps; as a result both A and B sheets exist. Each sheet of 200 stamps is separated by a gutter into two panes of 100 (10 x 10). Another feature is the presence of marginal rules in the top and bottom margins which are repeated in the gutter. The high value stamps are exactly twice the size of the low value stamps and are printed 200 up and split into two post office sheets of 100 stamps (10 x 10) with no gutter margins or marginal rules. As the designs of the high and low values may be of a horizontal format, e.g. Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Cahir Castle or a vertical format, e.g. Aughnacore Castle, Killarney Cathedral, it is important to avoid confusion when referring to positions of markings and perforations. For the purposes of our articles, the design orientation is ignored and the plate number is always located in the lower left hand corner block towards the end of the left hand vertical margin. With this orientation in mind, the printer's imprint is always located in the lower right hand corner block towards the end of the right hand vertical margin. There are no markings whatever in either of the two upper corner blocks. The plate number(s) appear only once on each sheet and there are no colour check squares. The low values are mono-coloured and the high values are bi-coloured.

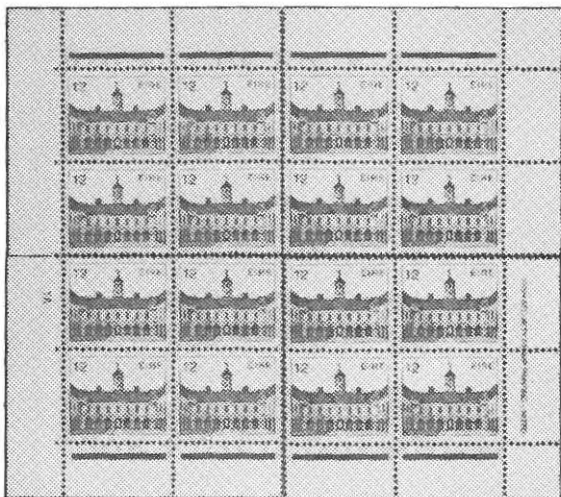
Perforation Types

Now to the really important subject of perforation types. All stamps are perforated 14 x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$. The initial two releases of sheet stamps were perforated in similar style to the Gerl litho issues on a sheet fed two row comb Grover perforator. The upper horizontal margin is imperforate and the lower horizontal margin is perforated. On the left and right hand vertical margins there is a single extension hole at each stamp row. This description holds good for all values and formats according to the aforementioned orientation system. Both A and B sheets are similar. The term G1 is given to this perforation type as sheets are only fully perforated through one margin. Due to the extra thickness of the paper used for litho printed stamps post office clerks found it difficult to tear in from the margin to the rows of stamps. As a result the perforating head was adapted and in 1983 the 26p value appeared with an altered perforation type. The upper margin is imperforate and the lower margin is perforated on both A and B sheets (as before). On A sheets the left hand vertical margin has a single extension hole while the right hand vertical margin is perforated through; on B sheets the position is reversed, the left hand vertical margin is perforated through whereas the right hand vertical margin has the single extension hole. Sheets are perforated through two margins in this case and therefore the term G2 is given to this perforation type. The G2 perforation style can be viewed as an interim measure as it has been found on the 26p value only. In May 1983, the 44p appeared with a further change in perforation type. This is known as G3 as the upper horizontal margins are now also fully perforated on both A and B sheets, i.e. sheets are now perforated through three margins. B plate blocks from the initial printings can be differentiated from later printings due to the change from G1 to G2/3. Imprints will also differ. The third phase of seven values released on 6 July 1983 were all perforated G3.

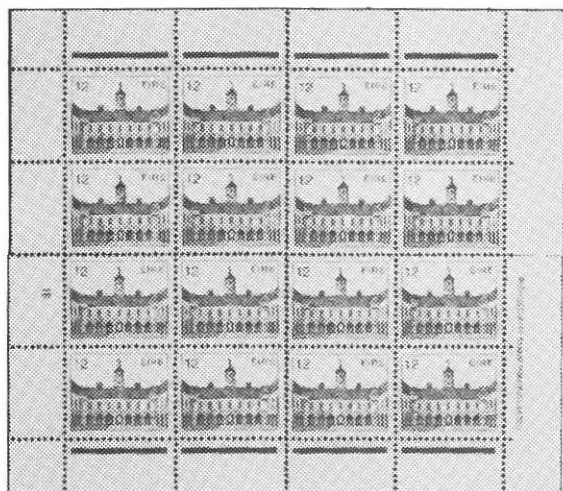
Paper

The paper used for the initial printings of all twenty values was similar to that used for previous litho printings by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. The papers used in printing litho definitives (both Gerl and Architecture series) are different from the papers used for printing the Gerl photogravure definitives. Chalk is the primary

ingredient in the coating applied to all papers destined to have stamps printed upon them by photogravure. The paper used for lithography requires a coating with a filler which is more compatible with the oil based inks which are used in this process. Purified clays are used in this case which, because of their chemical structures, give an ideal ink receptive surface for this printing process. In order to differentiate papers used for the litho process compared to papers used for photogravure (known as OCP and FCP) we are assigning the provisional terminology of Clay Coated Paper (CCP) for litho issues. In the case of all initial printings the paper is white in colour when viewed from the front and when viewed from the back the gum can be described as having an inconsistent blue-green hue. Extremes of this blue-green hue vary between off-white and pronounced blue-green. We have established that these variations have been noted by the printers but as these variations do not affect the printing quality or production operations, they are ignored; these variations are at random in any ream of paper, i.e. the paper is from the one source. We have designated this paper CCP1. It has been used on the majority of litho printed commemorative and special stamp issues during the period 1976-81. Viewed under a U.V. lamp the paper on the front resembles FCP of the earlier photogravure issues (types B, C and D). In October 1983, the £1 value appeared on a different paper with a brilliant white gum (designated CCP2) as compared to the blue-green/off-white colour of the earlier printing. Collectors of the Gerl series will recall the use of this paper for certain values in the litho series. It was also used for a number of special and commemorative issues during the period 1981-84. When viewed from the front the difference is marginal but under a U.V. lamp it resembles OCP of the photogravure issues. The use of this paper on the £1 was to utilise residual stocks and has not been seen on any other values. The perforation type also changed from G1 to G3.



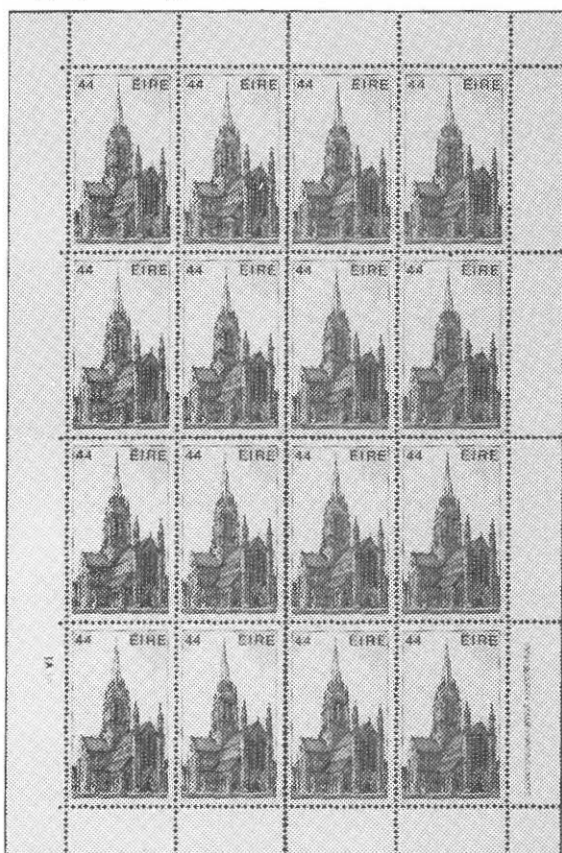
12p, plate 1A, perforation type G3.



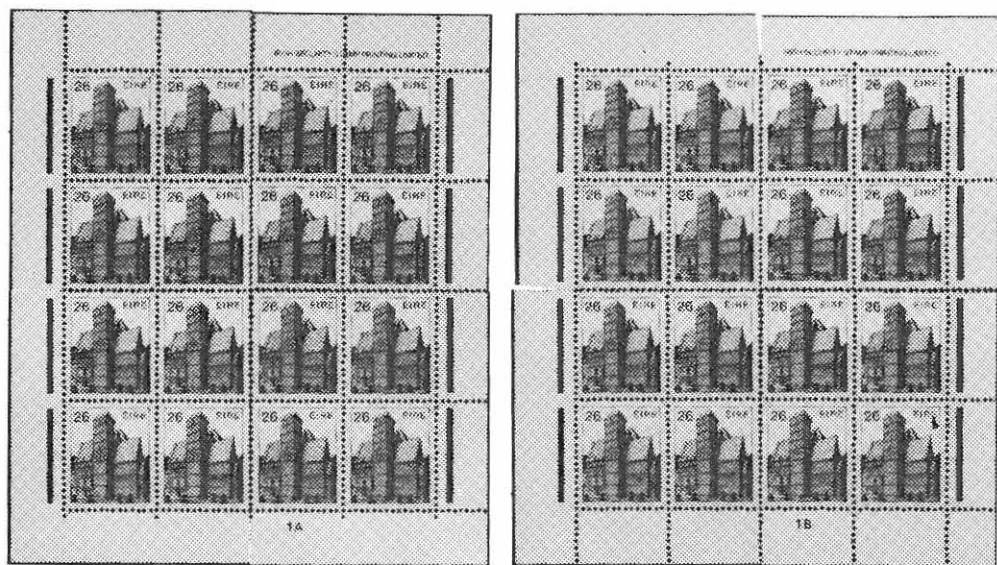
12p, plate 1B, perforation type G3.



4p, plate 2A, perforation type G3E with missing extension hole.



44p, plate 1A1A, perforation type G3.



26p, plate 1A, perforation type G2.

Later Printings

The issue of a £1 booklet on 15 August 1983 saw the introduction of a further new paper. The paper is very creamy in colour; the gum is also an off-white cream colour (CCP3). The difference is very noticeable even on used stamps. There is hardly any U.V. effect on the face of the stamp. This paper was used on several of the subsequent printings of the definitives and no doubt, in time, most values will be issued on this paper. The change in perforator type to G3 coupled with the use of different papers and the introduction of new plates has resulted in numerous collectable printings as set out in the accompanying table.

Revised G3 Perforator

At this point we should mention a variation noted in respect of the G3 perforator. The 4p definitive appeared in September 1984 on plate 2A/2B. As well as the normal G3 perforation type, an unusual variation was also noted on certain sheets. The variety concerns the extension holes on the left hand vertical margin of 2A sheets. On every alternate row, the extension hole is missing. It might be expected that the right hand vertical margin of 2B sheets would have a similar variation but to date no such sheets have been found. We have designated this sub-type G3E. It has also occurred on the 29p and 30p values (all CCP1 paper). In the case of the 4p and 29p the normal G3 perforation type has appeared at the same time indicating that two different perforation boxes were in use at the same time.

Listing

Specialist collectors try and collect all four corners in order to illustrate the various perforation types. If the collection is limited to the different plate and imprint blocks, there is a considerable financial saving; however we would advise obtaining one complete set of each perforation type by way of introduction to your collection. As

stated earlier a change from the G1 to the G3 perforator does not alter the A block provided the paper type and plate remains unchanged. The earliest known date is given for non first day releases in the listing which follows. We would welcome any details of earlier dates.

Value	Plate Numbers	Perforation Type	Paper Type	Issue Date
1p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	6 July 1983
1p	2A/2B	G3	CCP1	December 1984
2p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	6 July 1983
3p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	6 July 1983
4p	1A/1B	G1	CCP1	16 March 1983
4p	2A/2B	G3	CCP1	September 1984
4p	2A/2B	G3E	CCP1	September 1984
5p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	6 July 1983
6p	1A/1B	G1	CCP1	16 March 1983
7p	1A/1B	G1	CCP1	16 March 1983
10p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	6 July 1983
12p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	6 July 1983
15p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	6 July 1983
20p	1A/1B	G1	CCP1	16 March 1983
20p	1A/1B	G3	CCP3	December 1984
22p	1A/1B	G1	CCP1	15 December 1982
22p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	February 1984
22p	1A/1B	G3	CCP3	October 1984
23p	1A/1B	G1	CCP1	16 March 1983
23p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	August 1984
26p	1A/1B	G1	CCP1	15 December 1982
26p	1A/1B	G2	CCP1	June 1983
26p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	Mid 1984
26p	2A/2B	G3	CCP3	January 1985
29p	1A/1B	G1	CCP1	15 December 1982
29p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	September 1984
29p	1A/1B	G3E	CCP1	September 1984
30p	1A/1B	G1	CCP1	16 March 1983
30p	1A/1B	G3	CCP1	Late 1983
30p	1A/1B	G3E	CCP1	February 1985
44p	1A1A/1B1B	G1	CCP1	15 December 1982
44p	1A1A/1B1B	G3	CCP1	May 1983
44p	1A1A/1B1B	G3	CCP3	April 1985
44p	2A1A/2B1B	G3	CCP3	April 1985
50p	1A1A/1B1B	G1	CCP1	16 March 1983
50p	2A1A/2B1B	G3	CCP3	December 1984
50p	2A1A/2B1B	G3	CCP3	April 1985
£1	1A1A/1B1B	G1	CCP1	15 December 1982
£1	1A1A/1B1B	G3	CCP2	October 1983
£1	1A1A/1B1B	G3	CCP3	September 1984
£5	1A1A/1B1B	G1	CCP1	15 December 1982

Next Issue

In our next article we will give details of the four additional values to be issued on 27 June together with information about booklets, postmarks and presentation packs.

RECENT RELEASES

by Brian Warren and Eddie FitzGerald



Date of Issue	Issue	Description	Sold For	Plate Numbers
31/1/85	Love Stamps		22p	111
			26p	111111
			25p per card	
25/2/85	St. Patrick's Day Postcards	— Set of six	£1	
9/3/85	Mid-Western Philatelic Society	— Booklet		
14/3/85	Anniversaries	— Dunsink Observatory	22p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
		— Cork 800	26p	1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B
		— Royal Irish Academy	37p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
		— First Flight by an Irishman	44p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
11/4/85	Butterflies	— Common Blue	22p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
		— Red Admiral	26p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
		— Brimstone	28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
		— Marsh Fritillary	44p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
11/4/85	Butterflies	— Set of four Maximum Cards	15p per card	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
16/5/85	Europa '85	— Charles Villiers Stanford	26p	1A1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B1B
		— Turlough Carolan	37p	1A1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B1B
16/5/85	European Music Year	— Scarlatti and Handel	22p + 22p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
		— JS Bach	26p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B

Commemorative and Special Issues:

All stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. Although the Christmas 1984 stamps were to be the last set to be issued in sheets of 100, the Love Stamps were also in the similar 10 x 10 format (Perforation type G2). The Anniversaries issue saw the changeover to Post Office sheets of 50 (10 x 5). Stamps are printed 100 up, split into two sheets of 50 — A and B. All sheets are perforated through four extra large margins (G4). Although the plate numbers are only printed once on each sheet, the total number of collectable blocks has increased from a maximum of four to a maximum of six. The positioning of the various sheet markings are as follows:—

Vertical Format Values — A Sheets:

Plate Numbers: Top margin above R1/1 Colour Checks: Bottom margin below R5/10
Imprint: Bottom Margin below R5/1 & 2

Vertical Format Values — B Sheets:

Plate Numbers: Top margin above R1/1 Colour Checks: Top margin above R1/10
Imprint: Bottom margin below R5/1 & 2

If there are more than four colours, the colour checks will extend across columns 9 and 10. As the colour checks are in different positions there are five collectable corner blocks.

Horizontal Format Values – A Sheets:

Plate Numbers: Top margin above R1/5 Colour Checks: Left Margin beside R10/1
Imprint: Bottom margin below R10/5

Horizontal Format Values – B Sheets:

Plate Numbers: Top margin above R1/1 Colour Checks: Right margin beside R10/5
Imprint: Bottom margin below R10/1

Again if there are more than four colours, the colour checks will extend up into row 9. In this case both the colour checks and the imprints change positions giving a total of six collectable corner blocks. The subsequent issues have been in the same format etc.



22p Dunsink Observatory, Imprint block.



37p Royal Irish Academy, Plate block 1A1A1A1A.

As well as a change in sheet layout the anniversaries issue saw the introduction of a new large size first day cover. In addition to the normal pictorial postmark, a special Cork 800 cancel was available in Cork. The Butterflies issue was the eighth set in the Fauna and Flora series. All previous stamps in this series depicted drawings by Wendy Walsh; however the butterfly drawings were the work of Ian Loe. A set of four maximum cards (30,000 sets printed) were also issued in connection with this issue. Although far better than the GB PHQ cards, to be true maximum cards, 'Eire' and the figures of value should have been removed; in addition no white space should have been retained for the postmark, the design should cover the total card area. Many post offices pre-released the butterflies set a week early on 4 April. Separate covers and postmarks were available for the Europa and European Music Year sets. The two 22p values were printed se-tenant both vertically and horizontally within the sheet.



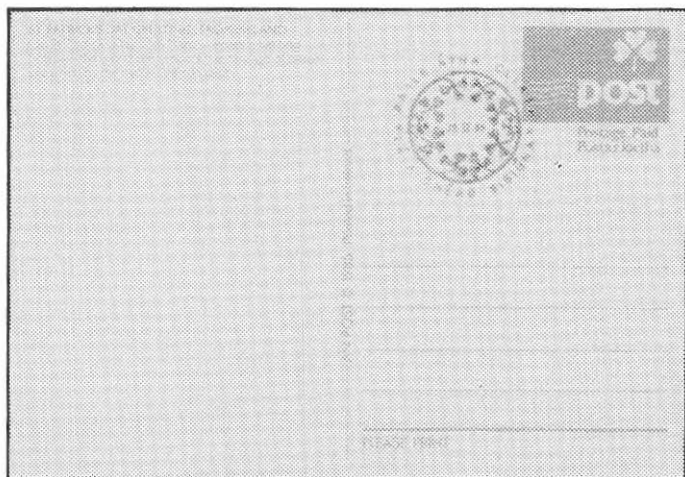
26p Butterfly (Red Admiral), Maximum card.

St. Patrick's Day Postcards:

The second set of cards featured five new designs; the Peace design of 1984 was repeated. However as the 1985 cards have an imprint date plus the addition of a shamrock to the "Postage Paid" undenominated stamp the card can be distinguished from the previous issue. A green coloured first day of issue postmark similar to the cachet used in 1984 was available this year. As in 1984 the inclusive cost of 25p included airmail postage world wide. Present postcard rates are 22p inland and EEC, 26p overseas and 28p airmail. The cards were also sold at Stampex with the usual cachet normally available from the Irish Post Office stand. The "Happy St. Patrick's Day" slogan postmark was in use from March 1st-16th although we have also seen examples dated March 19th. A separate set of cards was issued without notice for the U.S. market – see Newsbeat.

Special Postmarks and Slogans:

The Mid-Western Philatelic Society had the usual postmark featuring the Treaty Stone of Limerick in connection with their annual exhibition and fair held at Cruise's Hotel, Limerick on March 9th. 300 envelopes featuring St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick were sold at 20p each. An Taisce sponsored a slogan which read "National Tree Week 17-24 March 85 Plant Trees for Tomorrow" which was in use during the period stated. The Council for the Status of Women which as well as their title included the wording "End of UN Women's Decade Forum – Nairobi – July Enquiries 01-607731". An unannounced slogan used in Galway marked the 10th anniversary of the Druid Theatre and read "Druid Theatre Company 1975-1985".



St. Patrick's Day Card with first day of issue postmark.

Definitives:

Recent new printings in the Architecture series are as follows:—

26p, plate 2A/2B, paper type CCP3, perforation type G3 (January).

44p, plate 2A1A/2B1B, paper type CCP3, perforation type G3 (April).

50p, plate 2A2A/2B2B, paper type CCP3, perforation type G3 (April).

This is the third plate change for the 50p and probably reflects the increase in usage with the withdrawal of £1 value.

Other Items:

The Mid-Western Philatelic Society Booklet contained 2x 22p GAA stamps. Total printing of 400 booklets. The Cork Philatelic Society have produced an unusual and attractive card which sets out the Preamble of the Charter granted by Prince John to the Citizens of Cork in 1185. Each card which measures 245mm x 173mm has the 26p Cork 800 stamp affixed and is cancelled with the special Cork first day postmark referred to above. Numbered edition of 500 cards which cost IR£1.50 each, and are still available from the Cork Philatelic Society, C/o Paul Murphy, 'Hogmany', Ardfallen Road, Cork.

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