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IRISH STAMP NEWS

No. 27 January – March 1988



90p

1988 SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE STAMP PROGRAMME

The Philatelic Service of An Post is pleased to announce its issue programme for 1988.

SUBJECTS	ISSUE DATE	DENOMIN.
1. Love Stamps	20 January	24p, 28p
2. Dublin Millennium Impact of the Irish Abroad (Australian Bicentenary)	1 March	28p 24p, 46p
3. Olympic Games Statesmen of Ireland L. T. MacCoscair (W. T. Cosgrave) Centenary of Birth of Barry Fitzgerald 25th Anniversary of the Death of President John F. Kennedy	8 April	Se-tenant pair 28p 24p 50p 30p
4. Europa (Transport and Communications) 150th Anniversary of the 1st Scheduled Steam Trans-Atlantic Crossing (SIRIUS)	12 May	28p, 39p 24p
5. Fauna and Flora (Endangered Species of Vegetation)	21 June	24p, 28p, 46p
6. Ireland Series (Security Forces)	23 August	4 x 28p
7. 50th Anniversary of the Order of Malta Corps Centenary of Chartered Accountants in Ireland 400th Anniversary of the Spanish Armada	6 October	28p 24p 50p
8. Christmas	15 November	24p, 28p

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FRONT COVER: *The 'Love' stamps to be issued on January 20 next.*

EDITORIAL

Firstly we take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a happy and peaceful New Year in which their collecting interests will give them much pleasure.

The portents for collectors of Irish material in 1988 are good. Those who collect new issues will be pleased to see that An Post have a very interesting programme prepared at a modest cost of less than £8 for one of each. There will be some interesting variants too: watch out for a 'Dublin Millennium' booklet which we fancy will be a sought after item.

There will be a number of events during the year both in Ireland and overseas where collectors can gather to discuss their mutual interests, to see each others' collections and to buy and sell with dealers. The high point here in Ireland will of course be STAMPA '88 in October which will have a Dublin Millennium theme.

There is one portent that could be regarded as good or bad, depending on your own point of view. Demand for Irish material is increasing and the market prices of many stamps and covers are rising. This will result in the value of what one has already being increased but will also mean one has to pay more for new acquisitions. A restoration of confidence in the value of Irish philatelic material is however, generally regarded as a good thing.

In 1988 there will be a major promotion, sponsored jointly by An Post and a major breakfast cereal manufacturer to encourage Irish children to collect stamps. Over 100,000 starter kits will be distributed free in this promotion and this is an encouraging sign for the future.

Another good sign is that this is the tenth year of publication of IRISH STAMP NEWS; intermittent as it has been it is still here thanks to its readers, contributors, advertisers and the generous financial support of its sponsors.

Let us hope 1988 lives up to our expectations.

I. W. Whyte/Editor.

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NEWSBEAT

1988 SPECIAL STAMPS PROGRAMME ALTERED

An Post has announced two changes in its original 1988 Special Stamps programme. One new subject has been added — the 400th Anniversary of the Spanish Armada — but the total face value is twopence less than originally announced and 26p less than last year's total (excluding miniature sheets and Christmas sheetlets.)

The programme now runs as follows: January 20, "Love" 24p and 28p; March 1, Dublin Millennium 28p (and special booklet) and "Impact of the Irish Abroad" series (Australia) 24p and 46p; April 8, Olympic Games 28p pair se-tenant, "Statesman of Ireland" series (W. T. Cosgrave) 24p, Centenary of birth of Barry Fitzgerald, actor, 30p, and 25th Anniversary of death of John F. Kennedy 30p; May 12 Europa (Transport and Communications) 28p and 39p, 150th Anniversary of the First Scheduled Transatlantic Crossing by Steamship (the 'Sirius') 24p, and 50th Anniversary of the First Commercial Transatlantic Flight 30p; June 28, "Flora and Fauna" series (endangered species of vegetation) 24p and 28p; August 23 "Ireland" series (Security Forces), four 28p values; October 6, 50th Anniversary of Order of Malta Corps in Ireland 28p, Centenary of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, 24p, and 400th Anniversary of the Spanish Armada, 50p; November 15, Christmas 24p and 28p.

STAMPEX ULSTER 1988

STAMPEX ULSTER 1988 will take place on Saturday and Sunday February 13 and 14 next at the Belfast Europa Hotel. Dealers stands have been sold out and the attendance will include over 12 leading dealers from Great Britain. Special displays will be provided by the British Post Office, An Post, and the Crown Agents.

A special rate of £26 Sterling per person for bed and full breakfast at the Europa has been negotiated by the organisers for overnight visitors. Bookings must be made through STAMPEX ULSTER, 11 Victoria Street, Belfast BT1 3GA (telephone 084- from the Republic, or 0232- from the UK, 231954).

"102" SEARCHED BY POLICE IN ARMS HUNT

102 Leinster Road, offices of MacDonnell Whyte Ltd. and secretariat of the Irish National Stamp Exhibition and the Irish Philatelic Traders Association was visited by the security forces in the State-wide search for terrorist arms and explosives. On answering the door early on Monday morning November 30 last, Ian Whyte was startled to find not the postman he expected but a twelve strong force of Gardai (Irish police) including members of the Anti-Terrorist Task Force armed with Uzi sub-machine guns with a warrant to search the premises. The building had been surrounded by police and troops and a road-block was set up outside while the search was carried out.

Half-way through the search the officer in charge realised that the building contained nothing more lethal than a few dozen stamp tweezers and the police left with profuse apologies for any inconvenience caused.

The well known Irish overprints specialist, John Pedneault of New York, who was visiting the office at the time was highly amused at the entire episode which he reckoned would be the highlight of his week's holiday in Dublin. His only regret was that he hadn't got his camera with him to take a few snaps "for the folks back home."

Ian Whyte, who was rather anxious that the Gardai didn't take too close an interest in some 1920's covers — which included a "Censored by IRA" envelope — on his desk, was regretting that he didn't have advance warning of the raid so he could produce some commemorative covers to mark the event and have them autographed by the police officers!

Overseas readers may be interested to know that since November 23 there has been a nationwide search carried on by over 7,000 members of the Army and Gardai for illegally held armaments and explosives believed to have been supplied by Libya to subversive organisations in Ireland.

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RATES ON PAGE 3**

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*A message to our Irish friends from the Australian
stamp magazine that's read in more than sixty countries . . .*

Stamp News

Since 1954, "Stamp News" has built up a worldwide reputation for delivering hard philatelic news and for providing its readers with the best in writing about stamps and stamp collecting.

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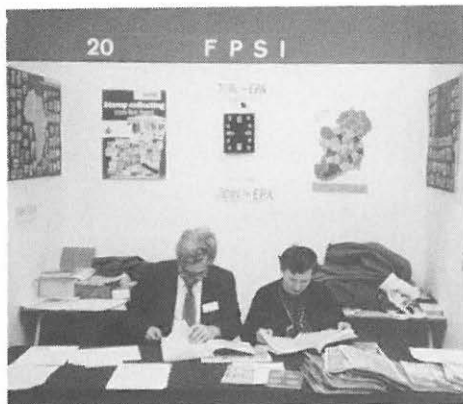
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STAMPA '87

In much brighter surroundings than usual — thanks to the Royal Dublin Society's long awaited re-decoration of its premises and the provision of professionally designed and built dealers' stands — over 2,500 visitors enjoyed the Sixteenth National Stamp Exhibition held on October 22-25 last.



Geoffrey McAuley and Heloise Mitchell on the FPSI stand.

The attendance was a little lower than had been hoped for: it was practically the same as for STAMPA '86 which had taken place over only 3 days. The organisers put this down to lack of media coverage which in turn was due to the attention given to the Government's announce-

ment of half a billion pounds worth of cuts in expenditure and the calamitous storms in Great Britain. However the dealers all expressed satisfaction with the business done and the halls never seemed to be empty as there was a constant flow of people.

The outstanding success of the show was the 'Design a Stamp' competition for children. Blank stamp frames — A4 size with 'EIRE' and '28' printed in black — were provided with crayons for the children to fill in and thousands of attractive entries were produced. An Post sponsored the competition and many of the standholders gave prizes as well.

The highlight for serious philatelists was Dr John Mackey's superb exhibit of Saxony which was awarded the David Feldman Trophy for best overall exhibit of STAMPA '87. Coincidentally Dr Mackey was this year's signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Gerard Brady TD was awarded the Revenue Stamping Branch Trophy for the best exhibit of Irish stamps since 1922 for his display of "The Irish Free State 1922-37".

Other award winners were: Dr. R. P. Towers "Grenada 1902-52", Vermeil; Selwyn Deacon "Irish Transitional Postal Stationery", Silver with Felicitation of the Jury; Peter Geoffroy "Victorian Cancellations of Canada", Bronze; F. E. Dixon "Irish Railway Letter Stamps", Bronze; M. Schollmayer "Study of Errors of British Stamps and Overprints of The Irish Free State", Silver; B. B. Zellers "Ireland — Railway Philately", Vermeil; F. E. Dixon "Irish 'Spoon' Cancellations", Bronze; N. K. Wright "Hand-struck Stamps of Ireland", Vermeil; F. G. McDonald "Postage Due Handstamps and



STAMPA '87: The dealers' hall was always busy.

STAMPA '87 (continued)

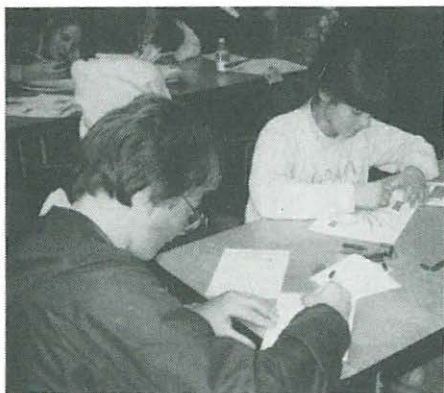
Labels on British Mail to 1970", Bronze; M. Dittmann "Dublin Penny Post and Marks of Receiving Houses", Bronze; W. A. Moore "Irish Postal History to mid 19th Century", Silver; Dr C. A. Ross "The Early Postal History of Cork", Silver; R. J. Smyth "Duplex Cancellations of Dublin and District", Silver; A. Maccoy "Great Britain used in Ireland 1840-1922", Bronze; P. Kay "Inverness Postal History", Silver; H. Mitchell "The Coaching Era", Silver; R. A. Perkins "Stamp Motifs on Banknotes", Certificate; FAI "5 Jahre FAI" (literature), Certificate; O. Jung "Postal Stationery of Ireland" (literature), Silver with Felicitations of the Jury; MacDonnell Whyte Ltd "Stamps of Ireland 1987" (literature), Bronze; A. O Broin "Australia" (novice), Certificate; M. Smith "Irish Postal History", Gwyn Bennett Trophy for best Novice exhibit.



Dr John Mackey signs the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists watched by Ian Whyte, Secretary of STAMPA '87 (left) and Paul Murphy, President of FPSI (right).

The Eire Philatelic Association medal was awarded to B. B. Zellers and EPA Certificates were awarded to N. K. Wright and Dr C. A. Ross.

The An Post "Young Philatelist of the Year" trophy went to Aoife O'Gorman who also won the Under-13 section of that competition. The Under-16 winner was Joan Tobin and Under-21 winner was Cherie Deed. The Windsor Motors Trophy for the best school entry went to St Brigid's College, Callan.



TOP: Scores of children beaver away on their stamp designs.

BOTTOM: Some of the best designs submitted.

Barry Hurley, Head of Projects at An Post put on a most interesting display of material from the "Post go Bragh" exhibition which had been shown earlier in the year at the Royal Hospital, Kilmahnam. There was also a display of photographs of interesting Irish postboxes, mounted by Brian Warren and Tony Finn and an exhibit of the famous "Madeleine Smith" postmark of Glasgow by Peter Kay which was the subject of the STAMPA 87 publicity poster.

An Post showed artwork relating to recent stamp issues and Irish Security Stamp Printing showed some of its archive material including stamps printed in Ireland for overseas countries.

Four Exhibition Postcards were launched at STAMPA '87 by An Post and four special cancellations were used in conjunction with these. Full details are given in *Recent Releases* elsewhere in this issue.

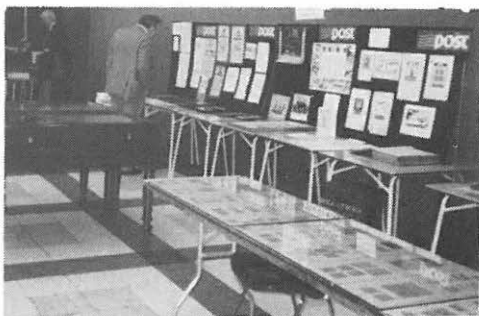
STAMPA '87 (continued)



Gerard Harvey, Chief Executive of An Post, presents the Windsor Motors Trophy to Cherie Deed, Avril Smith and Joan Tobin of St. Brigid's College, Callan, Co. Kilkenny. Their teacher, Clodagh Holohan is on the extreme left of picture.

The FAI, the Germany study group devoted to Irish Philately and Postal History, organised their usual special tour to Ireland to include STAMPA 87 and they were made very welcome as were all visitors, including Wolfgang de Souza, STAMPA's longest attending English dealer.

All told it was a varied and exciting exhibition that proved that philately is alive and well in Ireland and that the efforts being put into promoting the hobby amongst the young are proving successful. At the awards banquet Gerard Brady TD made a speech in which he asked for a determined effort to be made to make STAMPA a more international affair and he expressed the hope that someday Dublin would host a fully fledged World Exhibition.



Part of the "Post go Bragh" exhibit at STAMPA 87.



Stephen Roche, winner of the Tour de France, will no doubt someday be the subject of a special stamp; in the meantime we show his first philatelic commemoration in Ireland, a meter post marking from a battery manufacturer.

PORTADOWN STAMPEX '87

Portadown Stampex '87 organised by the Portadown & District Philatelic Society was again a great success with about 1000 visitors passing through the doors. The highlight of this year's displays was that presented by Bob Teeney of his Victorian Stamp Boxes, but there were many displays of stamps, postal history and postcards given by members. A booklet was also produced with the cover having an Ulster Travelling Post Office Skeleton postmark on the reverse. This had a limited edition of 200 and was sold out. There were 21 dealers in attendance selling everything from stamps to militaria. Although there were an increased number of visitors from the south the organisers are still disappointed that there were not more. Parking facilities are extensive to the rear of the town hall and Portadown Stampex is now established as one of the leading fairs north of the border. Next year's fair will be on September 24, 1988 and celebrates ten years of Portadown Stampex.



Portadown Stampex: Left to right Miles Gaythwaite, Chairman, Portadown PS, Bob Teeney with his exhibit, and Des Quail, Secretary Portadown PS.

CHICAGOPEX 87

At CHICAGOPEX 87 held on November 6 to 8 last, two Irish exhibits, both from Chicago-based collectors won major awards. Jean L. Macdonald won a gold medal for "The Provisional Overprinted Stamps of Ireland" as well as the AAPE award and Chicago Philatelic Society Award. Duane Larsen won a Vermeil medal for "Irish Postal History 1696-1896".



From left Dr Arthur Salm and Les Winick with Duane Larsen and his Vermeil medal winning exhibit of Irish postal history (Photo and report by George Fabian).

IRELAND

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HAFNIA '87

The second World Philatelic Exhibition of the year, HAFNIA 87, took place in Copenhagen in October last. There were four exhibits of Irish material as follows.

In "Traditional Philately" class, 5 frames from Johan Rehnberg (Sweden) — "Ireland 1908-35" which was awarded a Vermeil Medal; in the "Postal History" class, 5 frames from Michael Roepstorff (Denmark) "1764-1874, 110 Years of Irish Philately", awarded a large silver; 5 frames from Cyril Dulin (Switzerland), "Ireland — The Period of Transition", awarded a large silver; 6 frames from Patricia Stillwell-Walker, "Ireland: Postal History 1661-1899" awarded a large vermeil.

According to reports the HAFNIA Jury had lowered the medals one step since STOCKHOLMIA '86. In the latter exhibition there were 90 large gold medals but at HAFNIA only 30 were awarded.



The An Post cancel at HAFNIA '87.

An Post were represented by Nordfyns Frimaerhandel, their Scandinavian agents who had a full range of current material. A special cancel was used at their stand and the "Trams" miniature sheet overprinted with a HAFNIA '87 logo was also sold there at DDK 16, 50. There was also a special card see *Recent Releases* elsewhere in this issue.

(Our thanks to correspondents Steen Zachariasen and Johan Rehnberg for this report).

RESEARCH INTO 'BLUE-BLACK' AND 'BLACK' OVERPRINTS

John Pedneault, the Long Island-based specialist in the Irish overprints is carrying out research into the existence of the variety listed in *Stamps of Ireland* as T28a — the Thom 'blue-

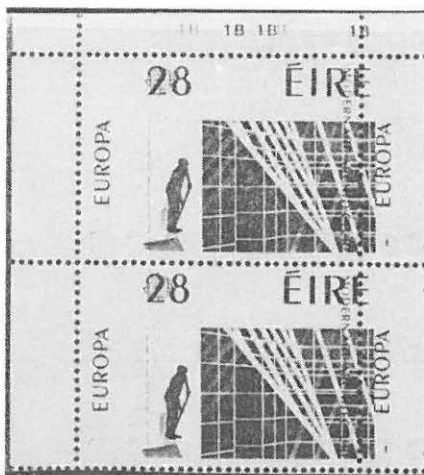
black' overprint on 2d die I. John owns the largest testing laboratory in New York and with the very sophisticated microscopic equipment at his disposal can easily check as to whether an overprint definitely is black or blue-black. He is prepared to issue free certificates of opinion from his company — Pedneault Testing Laboratories Inc. — for any examples collectors may think they have of this error. Return postage (registered) would be appreciated, and John's address is P.O. Box 205, Bohemia, NY 11718, USA.

Another item he is investigating is the 2d die I control T22 with black overprint and he would welcome sight of any examples as he suspects this only exists with blue-black overprint.

COLOUR SHIFT ON EUROPA 87 ISSUE

A major colour shift on the Europa 87 28p has been found. All the design bar the "Europa" and "Modern Architecture" inscriptions as well as the CEPT logo has shifted 7mm to the right.

One sheet of 50, plate 1B was purchased by Dublin dealer Mike Giffney and was on display at his stand at STAMPA 87. No other examples have been seen so far.



Part of the plate block of the 28p Europa '87 showing the colour shift.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

With reference to the article "Ireland Treated as 'Foreign' by UK PO" in issue No. 26 of Irish Stamp News I enclose a photostat of a cover from my own collection showing the 30p surcharge raised in Northern Ireland collected by means of an Irish Postage Due label in Dun Laoghaire. Since the North of Ireland is regarded as part of the British Post Office I think this qualifies as an example as referred to in the article.

I further enclose a photostat of a recently acquired cover under the same subject from Liverpool posted unpaid and handstamped with blue boxed BRITISH POST OFFICE/DEFICIENT POSTAGE/SURCHARGE TO BE COLLECTED showing only the unpaid 18p for collection and no additional surcharge or handling fee to be raised or collected.

Yours etc.,

F.G. McDonald, Dublin 12.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for issue 26 of Irish Stamp News received today, as always a fine production with much interesting reading matter.

Regards the paragraph on page 12 concerning Ireland being treated as 'foreign' by the UK Post Office, this came into effect from 20 October 1986 not 'earlier in the year' as you state. Please see attached postal rate leaflet which gives the 1986 date. A special leaflet outlining the reasons was produced by the UK Post Office at the time.

Mail posted within the UK unstamped or understamped is surcharged 10p in addition to the deficiency. Similar understamped mail sent to the UK from foreign countries (now including Ireland) is subject to a 25p surcharge plus deficiency. However in the case of Ireland there seems confusion amongst postal staff and the only example I have seen where any surcharge was levied was still charged 10p not 25p! This was for a letter entirely unstamped, the British PO do not seem these days to bother collecting on understamped mail. With most people out at work, I suppose there is no one at home to pay



The two covers referred to in Frank McDonald's letter q.v.

LETTERS (continued)

the money when the postman calls.

Finally re registered mail, the service is still available to Ireland, indeed to all 'foreign' countries. The recorded delivery service is not available to Ireland.

Yours etc.,

John Holman,
Editor, Gibbons Stamp Monthly,
Ringwood, Hampshire.



Another example of a surcharge on second class mail to Ireland.

Dear Sir,

I refer to C.T. Hinneburg-Murphy's letter in Irish Stamp News No. 26. He is correct in stating that the economy version of the London type pillar box situated in the concourse of Cork railway station was manufactured by Cochrane & Company of Dudley. This information is confirmed in "The Letter Box" by Jean Young Farrugia (Centaure Press, 1969), the standard reference book on the subject. The author is Post Office Archivist in London. Unfortunately it is not possible to confirm the name on the box itself as it is positioned on the back of the box which as you can see from the photograph is located against the wall of the concourse. Apologies for the error.

Yours etc.,

Brian Warren.

Re: District Court/Circuit Court/High Court
Stamps/Excise Duty Stamps/Land Registry
Stamps.

Dear Sir,

The method of payment has now been changed from adhesive stamps to cash/cheques as from the 1st of January, 1988.

Adhesive Court Fee stamps will not be accepted on Court documents that originate on or after the 1st of January, 1988, and it is expected that adhesive Court Fee stamps will be withdrawn from sale in Post Offices on the 31st of December, 1987.

The revised method of payment of Court Fees and related Excise Duty shall be by cash or Bankers Order, Money Order, Postal Order, or cheque, and on payment of the fee the Court document will be impressed with the Fee Amount. Fee payments may be made in person or by post in all District Court Offices, The Stamping Office, Four Courts and in the Circuit Court Offices at Lifford and Wicklow, (fifty locations in all).

Yours etc.,
Declan O'Connor,
Maynooth,
Co. Kildare.

R.I.P.

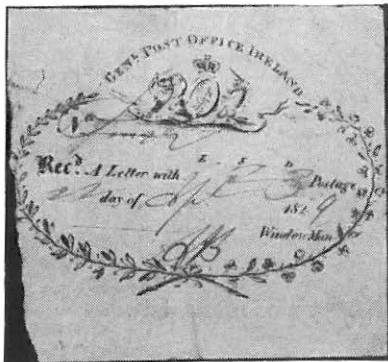
We very much regret to report the deaths of the wives of two prominent Irish philatelists. On October 14 last, the day before STAMPA '87 opened Eileen, wife of Dr T. A. J. (Joe) Quigley passed away. Dr Quigley is chairman of STAMPA '87 and was one of its founder members, as well as being past president of the Irish Philatelic Society, the Irish Philatelic Circle, the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland and a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Ireland. Mrs Quigley's funeral was attended by representatives from all the Irish philatelic organisations and An Post as well as the Garda Síochána of whom Dr Quigley was, until he retired, Surgeon General.

As we went to press we were also saddened to learn of the death, on December 8, of Kathleen, wife of J. A. (Tony) Quigley, Honorary Secretary of the Irish Philatelic Society and member of the Council of STAMPA.

Our deepest sympathy go to both the Quigley families at this sorrowful time.

AUCTION REPORT

MacDonnell Whyte's postage stamp and postal history auction held in Buswell's Hotel, Dublin on October 31 last reflected a continuing upward trend in the demand for fine and unusual philatelic material. Over 1400 lots with a total pre-sale estimate of over £100,000 were keenly contested for by about 400 bidders including about 100 in the room.



A 'Window-Man' receipt of 1829 which fetched £300.

The sale included a small section of picture postcard lots and, although values of these are comparatively low compared to stamps, they attracted the most competition. A 1905 card showing a jeweller's shopfront in Westport, with faults, sold for £11 against an estimate of £5 and a range of 37 cards of County Wexford 1905-1950 estimated at £18 went for £50 after spirited bidding in the room. A 1918 Sinn Féin election publicity postcard published in Roscommon went for £18 and a scene from the 1920 Fire Disaster in Cork sold for £13 both prices being double the pre-sale estimate.

Irish postal history material is still much in demand as is evidenced by the realisation of £300 for a "Window Man" receipt from Dublin GPO dated 1829 which was expected to fetch £125, £2,200 paid for a collection of registered mail including a good range of 'money letters' and an 1840 part cover showing the shortlived handstruck '4' of Dublin in the Uniform Fourpenny Post period.

A pair of stamps with VICEREGAL LODGE postmark of December 14 1922 — the day the lodge was handed over the Irish Free State Government — fetched £105 (estimate £50). An 1840 envelope from London with a Twopenny Blue cancelled unusually with a Drogheda

circular datestamp instead of the normal 'Maltese Cross' obliterator fetched £320 (estimate £250) and an 1884 £1 brown lilac postmarked STRAFFAN STATION realised £280.

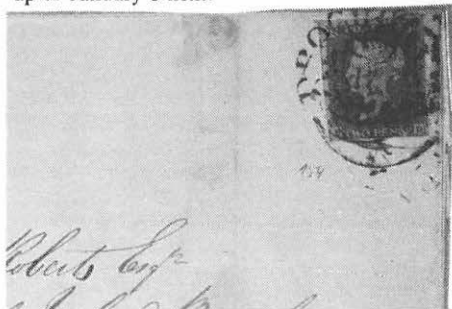


1884 £1 brown lilac with STRAFFAN STATION cds which fetched £280.

In the 'Overprints' section the more interesting realisations were: 1922 Dollard 'Rialtas' inverted overprint error on one penny mint unmounted which sold for £130 while a dated used example made £170; 1922 Thom 'Rialtas' overprint on ten shilling, a nice example at £430 and a similar stamp but with minor faults which fetched £220; 1927 "Wide and Narrow Date" overprint pairs set of three values mint, £525 with a pair of the ten shilling value only making £420.

The rare 1935 two penny perforation 15 by imperforate coil stamp used, slight faults, fetched £400 and a nice mint block of the 1940-49 one shilling definitive sold for £170. Some of the more recent definitive stamps have proved to be hard to find in cylinder blocks and a 1971 ten pence type I block made 260 times its face value when it fetched £105. Gutter pairs are very popular and most of the pre 1960 examples are proving extremely difficult to find so there was no surprise when a set of 1957 Admiral Brown gutter pairs went for £120.

MacDonnell Whyte's next major international stamp auction will be held in March and lots comprising postage or revenue stamps, old postmarks, or picture postcards will be accepted up to January 8 next.



1840 2d blue unusually cancelled on receipt with Drogheda cds, which realised £320.

DIARY

'IPS': Irish Philatelic Society meeting, usually followed by an auction of members' material, commencing at 7.45 p.m., held at the Clarence Hotel, Wellington Quay, Dublin 2.

'DSS': Dublin Stamp Society meeting, usually followed by an auction of members' material, commencing at 7.45 p.m., held at Buswell's Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

Non-members are welcome at most meetings of either the IPS or DSS.

JANUARY

- 7th: IPS. To be announced.
- 13th: DSS. Army Post — F. McDonald.
- 20th: Stamp Issue: "Love" 24p and 28p.
- 21st: IPS. To be announced.
- 27th: DSS. Pre-Victorian Monarchs — P. Casey.

FEBRUARY

- 4th: IPS. To be announced.
- 10th: DSS. Dublin Duplex — R. Smyth.
- 13th-14th: Ulster Stampex, Belfast Europa Hotel.
- 24th: DSS. Members' Mart.

MARCH

- 1st: Stamp Issue: Dublin Millennium 28p (and booklet) and "Impact of Irish Abroad" (Australia) 24p and 46p.
- 1st-6th: Spring Stampex, Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1.
- 3rd: DSS. To be announced.
- 9th: DSS. France — C O'Nullain.
- 23rd: DSS. Monaco — S. Casey.
- 26th: Stamp Auction: MacDonnell Whyte, Dublin.
- 31st: IPS. To be announced.

NOTE: Listing of philatelic societies meetings, stamp fairs, auctions etc. are free of charge, at the editor's discretion, where written details are provided at least 4 months in advance. No responsibility is accepted for errors or omissions and readers are advised to check with organisers of events for full details.

THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE
NO. 28 SPRING 1988
COPY DATE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS IS
FEBRUARY 28 1988



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DUBLIN 6

Letter Boxes — No. 2

by Brian Warren



H&C Smith VR No: 2 (small) wall box (WB80) — In 1859, the Irish Surveyor decided to have his boxes made in Ireland by H&C Smith of Cork. Copied from the equivalent British box by Smith & Hawkes the illustrated box is the third of three types of boxes manufactured by the Irish firm. Situated at Knockmaroon Gate, Chapelizod, Dublin the box is in fine condition complete with flap in posting aperture and enamel collection plate.

IRISH RAILWAY & BUS STAMPS — NEWS

By John Holman

Railway Letter Service

In the last article (ISN No. 6) details were given of the 20p and £1.23 stamps issued by the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland in May 1985. The £1.23 stamps had a relatively short life, having been re-issued surcharged 'IR£1.10' on 17 March 1986. This resulted from the reduction of the railway letter fee — no longer subject to V.A.T. Three hundred sheets of the four stamps were so surcharged. Overprints were made on the £1.10 surcharges for use on covers carried on excursion trains — '1986 WESTERN TOUR' (11 May 1986) and 'Steam Enterprise' (20 September 1986). Again 300 sets were overprinted.

The rate for the carriage of letters in Northern Ireland remains 20p so the eight 20p stamps issued on 10 May 1985 are still in use. However sheets have also been overprinted for special trains — 'RAIL TOUR/1986' (12 May 1986), 'Portrush Flyer' (19 July), 'Bangor Belle' (25 August) and 'Steam Enterprise' (6 September). Three hundred sheets were overprinted in each case.

The stamps on covers carried on the tours on 11-12 May 1986 were cancelled with a circular cancel worded 'RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND/T.P.O./date/FEE PAID' in blue: this had previously only been recorded used on the reverse of covers as a cachet. This time the reverse of covers were given the standard, undated Whitehead Station cancel (11 May) and dated Whitehead cancel (12 May), both applied in blue.

The Coras Iompair Eireann increased the railway letter fee from £1.10 to £1.16 from 3 February 1986, being subject to V.A.T. at 23% the amount charged is £1.43. Normally parcel stamps to the V.A.T. exclusive amount are affixed.

CIE Railway Parcel Stamps

The rates for the carriage of parcels on CIE (Iarnrod Eireann since February 1987) was increased from 3 February 1986, the minimum charge is now £6.30 per parcel, 63p per kg, subject to V.A.T. A charge of £7.90 is made for customs clearance on cross-border parcels (previously £7.50). No new values or types of rail parcel stamps have been reported since the last listing, in ISN No. 21. Details of the 12th type of stamps were given in ISN No. 16. The 5p stamp of this type has now been seen — earliest date reported May 1985. Other values of this type previously reported are: 10p, 50p, £1, £1.00 and £5.00. The £1.00 value exists with serial numbers in black and green.

A machine-printed parcel stamp used on a railway letter despatched from Tralee was illustrated in ISN No. 7. A new type of machine-printed stamp has recently been seen. This comprises a divided 'blank' preprinted 'BEART TICEAD/PARCEL STAMP/RAIL/VALID ONLY IF/MACHINE-PRINTED/ABOVE/NOT TRANSFERRABLE/CIE (logo)' in green. The date, rate and other details are machine-printed above in violet. This stamp has been seen used at Tralee (May 1986). It was illustrated in ISN No. 26, page 23 second stamp. A similar 'blank' is used at certain bus stations — see below.

CIE Bus Parcel Stamps

Last time I reported three values of a new printing of parcel stamps, designated Type 12 — 50p, £2.80 and £3.25. To this can be added a fourth value — 10p blue on white, first seen in April 1986. It was illustrated in ISN No. 26, page 23 fourth stamp.

No mention has been made in these articles of the machine-printed stamp used at certain bus stations: this is similar to the rail 'blank' described above but printed in red on white paper and has the rate details entered by the ticket register on the bottom half. Unlike the rail 'blank' the bus version is inscribed in both Irish and English. Two slightly differing types are known, one was illustrated in ISN No. 26, page 23 first stamp.

The first (50p) parcel stamp bearing the new company 'Bus Eireann' was recorded in the last article. At the time of writing (October 1987) no further values have been reported.

Ulsterbus Parcel Stamps

Mention was made in ISN No. 1 of the stamps used by Ulsterbus Ltd. Values from 18p to £1.25 were listed. Since then rates have increased on several occasions and new stamps issued: 70p, 80p, £1.30, £1.50, £2 and £2.10 all inscribed 'Including V.A.T.'. A £2.50 stamp may also exist but I have not seen a copy. The current rates of carriage were introduced on 1 July 1985: up to 5kg £1.40, 10kg £1.60, 20kg £2.30 and 25kg £2.70. Stamps of these denominations are probably in use, but have not been confirmed. A £2.10 Ulsterbus stamp was illustrated in ISN No. 26, page 23 third stamp.

Editor's Note: The article published in ISN No. 26 was submitted by Mr Holman in January 1986. A revised version with new illustrations was prepared six months later. In error we published the original draft but with the later illustrations, hence some of the stamps illustrated last time were not mentioned in the article. This has been put right by the above text. Our apologies for any confusion caused.

BUYING IRELAND

FOR MY COLLECTION I WOULD LIKE TO BUY

IRELAND — G.B. period covers especially rare frankings and destinations.

— Single rarities especially on cover.

— Postal History of Rathfarnham and Rathmines.

**DAVID FELDMAN, P.O. Box 81, 1213 ONEX-GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND**

James Joseph Walsh (1880-1948)

by
William Kane

I read with great interest the article on Mr Walsh in Irish Stamps News No. 25, written by C. T. Hinneburg-Murphy.

This article brought back many memories for me; I can remember the Conference held in London on 8th February 1922, when the agreement was reached, whereby the Irish Post Office of the Provisional Irish Government came into existence.

Accompanying Mr Walsh on that occasion were the following gentlemen from the Dublin Office: Mr J. J. Coonan, Mr W. Brown, Mr P. P. McMenamin, who acted as Private Secretary to Mr Walsh. Heading the English party at the Conference was Mr Kellaway, then British Postmaster General; the meeting took place at St Martins le Grand, London.

On their return to Dublin, Mr Walsh became the first Postmaster General; shortly after this Mr Brown retired and Mr H. N. Bowesman became the Accountant to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. His office was in Talbot House, Talbot Street, Dublin.

Another colourful personality of that period was Mr P. S. O'Hegarty, who was appointed as Secretary to the G.P.O. Dublin, replacing Mr S. G. Forsythe the British appointment for that post. Mr O'Hegarty was a keen cyclist, and rode his bicycle to work every day. His office was located in the top right hand corner of the upper Castle Yard, Dublin Castle. Mr P. P. McMenamin, was appointed Controller, Dublin Postal District, his office was over the College Green, Branch Office, Dublin.

Following the Conference in London, it was announced that a cut in the wages of Postal Workers was proposed by the Government, scheduled for March 1922. From this arose a problem. Mr Walsh, then P.M.G. for the Irish Free State, said in February 1922 that his cabinet did not have financial control, as this was the responsibility of the British Treasury until the 1st April 1922. For those interested, I have recorded the story of the Postal Workers Strike, 1922, in the D.F. Newsletter No. 29, Winter issue of 1977.

Another point was raised by Mr Hinneburg-Murphy regarding the Civil War, when mails were seized and censored. He says that by the Summer of 1922 a large segment of the South of Ireland was under the control of the anti-government forces. I came across a letter of that period which shows that the same forces were operating in other parts of Ireland at that time. This letter makes for interesting reading, so I will quote it in full.

The letter dated 10th July 1922, from Crossmolina, Co. Mayo, is addressed to a firm in Grafton Street, Dublin, and was delivered to that address on the 18th July 1922.

Dear Sirs,

I trust you will receive this letter via London. We have had no post of any sort for over three weeks. I have not yet received the third vest I ordered in May, what was the result of your inquiries at the Post Office? I return your bill as it shows the date of the transaction.

The rebels have taken over our Post Office in Ballina, and it is now shut up. I am sending this

letter (if it ever goes) by one of the crew of the boat from Ballina to Liverpool, our only means of communication with the outer world, I trust, in time it will be forwarded from London to Dublin as I suppose you have a post there any way.

Yours truly,
Name and address deleted for obvious reasons.

It is worth noting that the term Postmaster General was not retained for long. That post was changed to the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs.

A Problem Pair
by
Fred E. Dixon



The stamps illustrated were described in an English auction catalogue as an unadopted Essay. However, there was an illustration and I recognised it as the unappropriated design adapted by overprinting for the Customs Entry Duty stamps, also the Customs Late Fee and later for the supplementary payments to Old Age Pensioners.

I bid for and obtained the stamps, and when they arrived I was surprised to find, what had not been apparent in the catalogue illustration, that the pair are printed from a defaced plate, the defacement appearing as vertical white lines. The colour is also surprising, being pale purple or lavender, similar to but paler than that used for the 5s Customs Entry Duty.

There is no watermark and the perforations are 14 x imperf, the same as the 1940 1d coil issue. The 1940 date is significant because it was about then that the SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN design was replaced by a different one with ÉIRE, and it is reasonable that the obsolete plate should be defaced.

My theory is that the pair are from printers' trials which culminated in the issue of the coils of postage stamps.

Has any reader a better explanation? And how many other examples are in circulation?

THIS IS YOUR LIFE, O'CALLAGHAN'S MILLS

Notes on the Foundation of the Village and the Opening of the Receiving House.

by John Mackey and A. V. Cassidy



1851 entire showing O'Callaghans Mills/Limerick receiver.

O'Callaghan's Mills is a small village in County Clare. It stands on the road from Ennis to Killaloe, 3 miles south-east of Tulla and 3 miles north-west of Broadford. The population in 1831 was 183 and there were 25 houses. The surrounding country is generally "bleak and repulsive and enjoys partial relief only from some isolated hills and small lakes."¹

The O'Callaghan family originated in county Cork, in the barony of Kilalea, South-west of Cork city. The Anglo-Normans expelled them and they resettled on the banks of the river Blackwater, west of today's Mallow, in the barony of Duhallow.

At the time of the Cromwellian wars, the head of the family was called Donagh O'Callaghan. They were affected by the "Act for Settling Ireland" which was passed on the 12th August 1655. The first six of eight qualifications (of guilt) listed in the Act, provided for the death penalty, or for slavery in Bermuda, or in the American colonies.

Donagh was placed in the eighth class as one of the "Gentlemen of Ireland who held commissions of Colonel, Nobleman or Gentleman of Ireland, being Catholics, who had borne no part in the war . . . but remained quiet". They were considered "as not having manifested a "constant good affection . . . in

favour of Parliament and against the King” and were to be transplanted across the Shannon either to Clare or to Connaught.² Those who were slow in moving were sold as slaves in America. Worse still was the fate of one Edward Hetherington. On the 3rd April 1655 he was hanged for not transplanting to Clare or to Connaught. From around his neck there hung placards reading “For not Transplanting”.

In the event Donagh was given 2,788 profitable acres in the baronies of Bunratty and Tuylla in place of his 12,000 acres in Duhallow. These were plantation acres, larger than the standard English acre.



O'Callaghan Mills Post Office today.

In 1772, Cornelius O'Callaghan, a descendant of Donagh, leased some of his estates to a John Coonan. On this land Coonan built a mill which, in time, became known as O'Callaghan's Mills. Around the mills there grew a village which we know today as O'Callaghan's Mills.² Cornelius O'Callaghan of Lisnahane died in 1793. Cornelius was a family name which we encounter again in the following century.

In 1848, a receiving house with a guarantee was established in the village.³ This was a system common at the time. Indeed the guarantors could be called upon to make good any deficit found in the accounts of a sub-postoffice. For example in the year 1837, a Mr. B. Kennedy was found to be owing £8 3s 9¼d since 1826. The guarantors were Thomas Browne of Nutgrove Tulla and Cornelius O'Callaghan 13 Holles Street, Dublin.⁴

There was a suggestion made in 1850 that a postman should be employed to deliver the mail from the receiving house. But as there were, on an average, only 67 letters being handled each week, nothing came of it.⁵ This did show that even at this early stage, people were contemplating raising the status of the receiving-house to that of sub-postoffice. From the beginning Catherine Littleton was post-mistress. Her day was long as the post arrived at the receiving-house



Some examples of O'Callaghan Mills datestamps, including at bottom right a 'skeleton' cds.

at 5.30am and did not depart until 5.30 in the evening. In 1860, she was still in office with shorter hours as then the post did not arrive until 7.30am and departed earlier at 5.00pm.

The receiving house prospered. In 1851, after being in operation for only three years, we find in the Postmaster General's Report: "I also submit that the persons interested may be relieved from their guarantees and the cost of the receiving houses at Loughill (in Co. Limerick), Cratloe (also in County Clare) and O'Callaghan's Mills, on and from the 6th July last be borne by the revenue".⁸

It must be said for Clare that they were ahead of their time in employing women in the postal service. In 1860, one fifth of the post-masters in County Clare were women.⁷

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- (1) Parliamentary Gazette for Ireland (1846) 2, 298.
- (2) R. O'Donovan. To Hell or to Clare. In "The Other Clare" (1985), 9, 68-74.
- (3) Postmaster General's report: Ireland. (1848) 26, No. 165.
- (4) F. E. Dixon (1986). Personal Communication.
- (5) Postmaster General's Report: Ireland (1850) 30: No. 135, 5th Feb.
- (6) Thom's Directory (1849) compiled in 1848.
- (7) Almanack for Clare (1860).
- (8) Postmaster General's Report: Ireland (1851) 32: 205: No 982, 19th July.

SOME NOTES ON THE IRISH POST OFFICE IN THE 1820's

by Tony Booth-Jones

THE MONEY-LETTER SYSTEM

This system in Ireland was similar to that in Britain except that the British Post Office would only accept letters as money-letters if they contained coins, whereas in Ireland it applied to letters containing notes as well. The sender, instead of putting his letter in a receiver or giving it to a collecting letter-carrier, had to deliver it at the paid window in the Dublin office or, in the country, hand it to the deputy-Postmaster who wrote "Money-letter" on the obverse. The sender was not given a receipt – that was firm policy until 1841. As in England there was no redress in the event of non-delivery.

These money-letters on being transmitted from one post-town to another, or to Dublin, were listed on and attached to a separate letter-bill (a "money-bill") and checked on arrival. After sorting in Dublin for each post-town they were again listed on money-bills for transmission to the country post towns or for turning over to the Dublin alphabet or letter-carriers' office. Here the procedure was repeated until finally a receipt was obtained from the addressee and filed. The system was not available for free-franked letters (all ranks in the Post Office detested frees), but one suspects there were exceptions made.

LETTERS CONTAINING PROPERTY

There are some references to these in Ireland in the 1820's, and they seem to have been dealt with on separate letter-bills like money-letters were. But I suspect that this service was only available to big-wigs like those at Dublin Castle. They would therefore be free-franked and there is a reference to game being sent through the post under frank (one hopes it was fresh).

BLIND AND INSOLVENT LETTERS

These were dealt with by a small section in Dublin, after passing through an accounting process which gave credit to those offices which had been charged with them originally (they were nearly 100% unpaid letters). Any that appeared to contain property were opened and recorded in a Property Book. The senders were sent an official notification and at their option the letters were returned or re-addressed, and a receipt obtained in either case from the person to whom they were delivered. Blind letters not containing property were destroyed as were newspapers. The Secretary stated in 1823 that "they come in their thousands". In 1826 the lost postage on blind and insolvent letters was estimated at £12,000 to £14,000 per annum.

INTERNAL REGISTRATION

In 1822 Freeling (Secretary of the English P.O.) was complaining to Lees about the loss of British letters to Ireland, and in May, 1823, after some experimenting, Lees instituted an internal registry. The British Mail Office section in Dublin, like the Foreign Branch in London, was separate from the main part (because their hours of attendance were tied to the packet sailing schedules). Lees arranged that on the arrival of the packet mail from Holyhead all double, treble or quadruple weight letters were put aside and treated the same way as money-letters. This system appears (from evidence given by Lees to the Revenue Commission in 1823) to have been

confined at the outset to British mail for Dublin only. By August, 1823, he was stating: "I do not believe that any delay has been occasioned to be compared with the security of the property; we have not, since that, which is about three months ago, lost a single letter, but he had lost twenty-five in the month before, one containing above £1,000."

By 1826 the Windowman in Dublin was giving receipts to the sender for every double letter which was prepaid. And all double letters from the country, not franked, whether prepaid or not, addressed to Dublin were subject to internal registration on arrival in Dublin like money-letters. The system did not apply to letters going to England or passing through Dublin from one post-town to another. What is not clear from the 1826 evidence is whether the system applied to letters from Dublin to the country. However, thanks to Mr. F. E. Dixon's vigilance (*Irish Stamp News* No. 15) we now know that by August, 1828, Dublin was operating a registry of double letters to the country in the manner described. I would hazard a guess that the reason for not amalgamating the two systems of money-letters (by definition double letters) and internal registry was that the former applied throughout the Kingdom, whereas registry was confined to Dublin. Perhaps Dublin thought it was too cumbersome for country postmasters, or perhaps too sophisticated.

I have a free-franked cover of 1828 from London which bears the Dublin internal registration handstamp but this may have been an error; it was redirected to Cork, and being franked there is no evidence from the rate whether it was a double letter or not.

The principal source for the above is the 945-page 19th Report: Revenue Enquiry: Post Office Revenue, United Kingdom: Part 2: Ireland.

** The internal registry was said to be applied to double letters to Britain from or passing through Dublin, but only as far as the Dublin P.O. British Mail Office. From there on it was ignored by the British Post Offices, who thoroughly disapproved of the whole thing. It would be interesting to hear from any collector who has a cover from Ireland to England or Scotland with the Dublin registration handstamp.*

THE PORTPATRICK – DONAGHADEE MAILS

The following evidence, given by Sir Edward Lees to The Revenue Enquiry on October 18, 1826, should be of interest to students of postal rates of the time.

Q. What letters coming from Scotland to the inland parts of Ireland come through Dublin via Donaghadee?

A. All south of Dublin itself.

Q. If they are going to Sligo, how do they go?

A. Those go by the north, and, I think, all as far as Galway. I think those to Galway go through Dublin.

Q. How is the postage rated?

A. According to the scale of rates, by distance, from Donaghadee.

Q. Are they re-taxed, in Donaghadee?

A. They are re-taxed, and all brought into charge at Donaghadee, and the postmaster furnishes a quarterly account to the accountant General of the amounts.

Q. Suppose a letter dispatched from Edinburgh to Galway, what does the Edinburgh postmaster tax?

A. He taxes to Donaghadee, including the water-carriage; then it is re-taxed on to the town to which it is going, at Donaghadee.

Q. Is it taxed by the route through Dublin?

A. No, not unless it goes through Dublin.

Q. Take Cork, for instance, would it be taxed according to the whole distance that letter travels?

A. Yes, according to the whole distance from Donaghadee to its destination, that formerly was not the practice; it was charged a new letter to Dublin, and there from Dublin to the point.

Q. There were then three taxations for short distances?

A. Yes.

Q. Now there is one in Scotland and one at Donaghadee, which carries it through?

A. Yes.

Q. But still it is taxed according to the road it goes, supposing that to be a circuitous route?

A. Yes, there are certain towns with which the postmaster at Donaghadee keeps an account of letters passed immediately to those towns.

Q. Do you recollect the names of the towns?

A. There are 150 of them; there are printed lists of them in the office here, and the postage marked against them.

Source: 19th Report: Revenue Enquiry: Post Office Revenue, United Kingdom: Part 2: Ireland. Above is an extract from Lees's evidence.

COURIER POSTS IN IRELAND 1981/1983: A POSTSCRIPT

Among the displays mounted by local collectors in the Galway exhibition in December 1985, a number of sheets by Michael Hartnett were devoted to Courier Posts in Galway. These shed some further light on the labels used in Galway, as reported in this journal (No. 17). Mint copies of the Galway Delivery Service label (the only label in vertical format) revealed that these were printed in sheets (size of sheet unknown), were rouletted and used gum arabic. All other known labels were self adhesive. It was also noted that this label was in fact cancelled, contrary to the previous report. The cancellation used was a rubber two-circle stamp. The letters G D S appeared within the inner circle. This label is scarce, scarcer still on cover and positively rare with this cancellation!

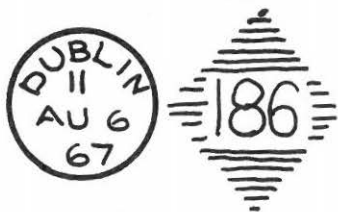
Tony Quigley.

Dublin Duplex, Type VI *by* *Bill Kane*

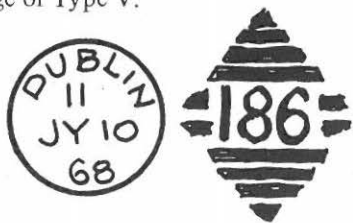
It was in the late 1940's that I first became interested in the study of Irish Postal History, and in the intervening years I have been very lucky to have seen and examined most of the known rarities of this field of study. When I started, I was inspired by the writings of Dr. Stafford Johnson and Mr. F. E. Dixon, two names that will always be associated with the study of Irish Postal History.

Strange to say, there are many items which seem insignificant in themselves, and do not have a great monetary value, yet they are really elusive.

One such item is the simple cancellation that is not much discussed today, the Dublin Duplex, Type VI, which was in use from 1868 to 1870, and was a temporary introduction of a new type during the period of usage of Type V.



Type V – 1865 to 71



Type VI 1868 to 70

Type V Had a single ring circular date stamp of approximately 20 mm diameter, and the diamond was composed of thin bars, seven above and seven below the numeral 186, with six bars on each side of the numeral. The diamond is approximately 26 mm in height, and 23 mm at its widest point. The codes used were 1-15, also some had the letters A, D, or E following the figure.

Type VI The diamond had thick bars in a new formation of four bars above and below the 186, and two bars on each side of the numeral. The single ring C.D.S. was 20.5 mm in diameter, and carried the code II, also seen with code IIA. Can we assume that there was only two such handstamps in use at that time? The diamond was 27 mm in height, and the width is 22.5 mm. It is of interest to note that type V had a code II, so that the type VI was not issued to replace a missing code.

It is remarkable that in the approx. 40 years of my collecting, I have only seen about twenty examples of the type VI cancellation, the earliest being 10th July 1868, and the latest date being 9th May 1870; all the cancellations seen had the code II or IIA.

Can anyone extend the above dates of usage? Also can anyone report codes, other than the II and IIA? I would be most interested to know if any collectors have this type VI Dublin Duplex on cover. In the years this handstamp was in use, it must have cancelled thousands of adhesives on cover; how many have survived?

RECENT RELEASES

by Brian Warren



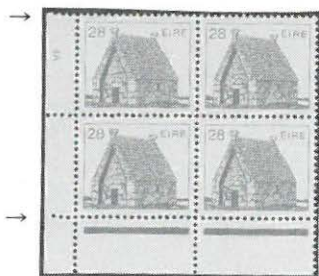
<i>Date of Issue</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Sold For</i>	<i>Plate Numbers</i>
1/10/87	Anniversaries —Cathal Brugha	24p	1A1A/1B1B
	—Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin	24p	1A1A1A1A1A/1A1B1B1B1B, 2A2A2A2A2A/2B2B2B2B2B
	—Women in Society	46p	1A1A1A1A1A1A/ 1B1B1B1B1B1B
3/10/87	Sligo Philatelic Society Exhibition —Booklet	£1.50	
3/10/87	Trams Miniature Sheet overprinted for Stampa '87	see below	
5/10/87	Kiddy Colour Cards (2) — Halloween	15p	each
10/10/87	Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition — Booklet	£1.00	
15/10/87	Postal History (1) Exhibition Cards —Uniforms	£1.20	per set of four
16/10/87	Hafnia '87 Copenhagen —Exhibition Card	D.Kr.12.60 (£1.25)	
16/10/87	Trams Miniature Sheet overprinted for Hafnia '87	D.Kr.16.50 (£1.60)	
22/10/87	ASDA '87 New York —Postal History Exhibition Cards overprinted with ASDA logo	£1.20	per set of four
23/10/87	Oireachtas prepaid postcard	30p	
6/11/87	Philatelia '87 Cologne —Postal History Exhibition Cards overprinted Philatelia '87	DM3.50	(£1.35)
14/11/87	Galway Philatelic Society Exhibition —Booklet	£1.20	
17/11/87	Christmas —Waterford Vestments	24p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
	—Neapolitan Crib	28p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B
	—Sheetlet	£2.90	(14 x 21p + label)
17/11/87	Cassette Post prepaid envelope	£2.00	
17/11/87	Kiddy Colour Cards (2) —Christmas	15p	each



A 'gutter pair' to be found in the Christmas Sheetlet.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

Both issues were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited on cream CCP3 paper with the exception of the 46p 'Women in Society' stamp which was printed by Harrisons on white CCP1 paper. The 24p 'Goldsmiths' stamp which was a late addition to the 1987 releases provided the first plate alteration on a special issue this year. The Christmas stamp designs were a welcome change from the reproductions of paintings of previous years. The Christmas sheetlet contains fourteen 21p stamps plus a non value centre piece with a Christmas motif set out in five rows of three stamps/label. The printers' imprint plus the colour traffic lights appear on all sheets. There are two versions of the sheetlet: (1) all margins perforated and (2) three margins perforated with top margin imperforate.



At left: Plate 2A of 28p Constitution Anniversary. At top: 28p 4A perforation variety (only 3 hole in left margin every alternate row).

DEFINITIVE STAMPS

Since my last report, plate 1A of the 5p CCP3 printing has been seen (October '87). One further CCP1 printing has been seen — 28p, plate 5A/5B, perforation type G4 (October '87). In addition an unusual perforation type has been seen on the 28p, CCP3 printing, plate 4A/4B. The left hand margin of the 4A sheets is very narrow (6 mm.) with the plate number just visible. There are only three perforation holes in the left margin of every alternate row of the sheet. Two of the three holes are at a slight angle in comparison to the third hole (see illustration).



Hafnia '87 Exhibition Card.

EXHIBITION ITEMS

The Sligo booklet (250) contains part of the current £2 definitive booklet — 2 x 2p, 3 x 4p and 1 x 28p i.e. the left hand block of six. A cover and postmark similar to previous years was also available. The Cork booklet was an attractive item containing 2 x 24p 'Cork Electric Tram' stamps. The cover for the show depicted tram tickets and the postmark also featured a Cork tram. Members of the Stampa Society received the 'Trams' miniature sheet overprinted "Stampa '87 Irish National Stamp Exhibition". The total printing was 350 numbered sheets. An Post launched the first of a series of cards under the title "Postal History" at Stampa '87. The first set of four cards features Uniforms and will be utilised as exhibition cards at overseas shows during the following year after issue (see below). A matching set of four cancels featuring hats was available at Stampa in conjunction with the cards. The Galway booklet contained 46p "Galway Horse Tram" stamp plus four 1p definitives in an edition of 300. A special cover and postmark was also available.

Two other private items worthy of mention not listed above — The German based Irish study group once again visited Stampa and arranged for the overprinting of the Discover Ireland postcard with a greeting from the show. The third card in the Postal Uniforms set (1940) was overprinted by Stampa with the menu for their awards dinner at the Shelbourne Hotel.

Overseas agents of An Post issued various items in connection with their attendance at certain exhibitions. Two items were available at Hafnia in Copenhagen — a yellow card with the 1987 Love stamps and cachet plus the 'Trams' miniature sheet with the Hafnia logo. The Postal Uniforms cards were overprinted at both ASDA '87 in New York and Philatelia '87 in Cologne. Exhibition cachets were also available. Three private issues were released by the Eire Philatelic Association. In connection with Capex '87 in Toronto, a card

bearing the E.P.A. crest was sold for CDN\$1.35 — see illustration in ISN No. 26. A similar card with the Capex logo was distributed to members of the Association. A card reproducing a cylinder block of the 1p Gerl definitive was available at the Sescal '87 show in Los Angeles (16-18 October). An E.P.A. cachet was also available at both exhibitions.

OTHER ITEMS

Further Kiddy Colour cards were issued for both Halloween and Christmas. I have noted variations in colour of the 15p stamp when compared with the earlier set. An attractive prepaid postcard was issued in connection with the annual Oireachtas which was held in Dingle, Co. Kerry this year (23 October – 1 November). The card features a photograph of "An Marbhan" one of the Blasket Islands, Co. Kerry. The photograph was taken by Michael Diggin and the design work was the responsibility of Barry Hurley, Head of Projects at An Post. Mr. Hurley is in charge of the current Postal Museum project and organised the recent exhibitions of material at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham and Stampá '87. Sheets of green labels (5 x 5) bearing the Oireachtas logo/crest were also made available in conjunction with the issue of the card.

A Cassette Post envelope complete with a 15 minute cassette was launched on November 17. The padded envelope complete with cassette costs £2 which includes airmail postage worldwide. The usual postage paid imprint is on the envelope giving it the status of a stationery item. As a bonus, collectors will find inside the envelope a variation of the 24p "Keep in Touch Discount Postcard" issued last July. A questionnaire has been printed on the message side of the card. Purchasers are asked to complete it and return the card to An Post. Their G.P.O. address is pre-printed on the front of the card.

Apart from the usual first day cancels and the exhibition cancels/cachets referred to above there was a special cancel used on Sunday October 4 at Ballinasloe in connection with the annual Horse Fair. Serviced maximum cards of the Ballinasloe stamp were available in connection with this cancel.



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