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IRISH (STAMP) NEWS

No. 31. Spring 1989



90p

Joint Irish-German New Issue

On the 15th June 1989, the Irish and German Post Offices will jointly issue a new stamp commemorating the 1300th anniversary of the deaths of the Franconian Apostles St. Kilian, St. Colman and St. Totnan.

The stamp, of German design, will be issued by both administrations.

A set of four maximum cards featuring different aspects of the Franconian tradition and costing IR16p each will also be issued.



NEW PRODUCT

This issue will also feature the first Irish Prestige Booklet. This unique item costing IR£4.48 will detail the fascinating story behind Ireland's early Missionary tradition leading to the martyrdom of the Franconian Apostles and will contain 16 x 28p stamps.

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FRONT COVER: *The German issue for the Francian Martyrs released jointly with An Post — see page 7.*

EDITORIAL

We very much regret the delay in producing this edition which is now being published simultaneously with the Summer issue. We have encountered a few hiccups over the past few months including the illness of our major contributor Brian Warren who is now thankfully fully recovered — his *Recent Releases* article appears in the Summer issue. We also suffered from a postal strike and the re-scheduling of our auction but we hope we are now back on course again.

These two issues have cleared our stock of articles and we would welcome further contributions, especially on stamps, though we will publish articles on any facet of Irish Philately or Postal History.

Subscribers should note that if they receive a renewal notice it may be for either 31 or 32; we will renew their subscription for whichever our trusty computer says it is (the number is printed on the address label).

As we are coming into the holiday season — or vacation time as our American cousins would have it — may we wish you all good weather and a refreshing break.

Ian Whyte/Editor



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*A message to our Irish friends from the Australian
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NEWSBEAT

ALL CHANGE AT STAMPA

Several of the leading lights in the organisation of STAMPA, the Irish National Stamp Exhibition have retired this year and a new team of collectors and dealers have been elected to continue the annual exhibition held since 1972.

Dr J. A. "Joe" Quigley was one of the founders of the organisation which first met in 1971. He served as Hon. Treasurer up to 1977 when he became Chairman. Under his leadership STAMPA went from strength to strength and he leaves the organisation in fine fettle to face the future. After eighteen years service he felt it was time to allow younger talent to be given a chance to give STAMPA a fresh impetus. Dr Quigley is one of Ireland's most distinguished philatelists, having served as president of most of Ireland's collecting organisations, including the Irish Philatelic Society, the Federation of Philatelic Societies in Ireland, and he is a member of An Post's Philatelic Advisory Committee and Stamp Design Advisory Committee. Dr Quigley is a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Ian Whyte has also decided, after 18 years on the organising committee to retire, due to increasing business and family commitments. Ian was also one of the founders of STAMPA. He is currently chairman of the Irish Philatelic Traders Association and is a member of An Post's Philatelic Advisory Committee. Brian Warren, Treasurer of STAMPA since 1977 and architect of its financial stability following the early years of near bankruptcy, is forced to retire also due to his career and family commitments. He will continue to be a prolific philatelic journalist however with regular columns in *IRISH STAMP NEWS*, *GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY*, *IRISH PHILATELY* and the *REVEALER*.

At the Annual General Meeting of Irish National Stamp Exhibition Ltd, held on May 16 last, the following Council was elected: Seamus Kearns (Chairman), Peter FitzGerald (vice-Chairman), Frank McDonald (Secretary), Finbarr O'Mahony (Treasurer), Tony Byrne, Tony

Finn, John Lennon, Michael Murphy, Antoin O Broin, Kevin Healy, Peter McBride and an An Post representative to be nominated.

The new Council are currently considering dates and venue for STAMPA 89 and details are expected shortly.



The 'Ford' stamp that was never issued.

FORD DROPPED FROM CARS SET

In an unprecedented move one of the designs of the "Irish Motoring Classics" set, issued by An Post on April 11 last, was changed at the last minute at the insistence of the Government. The 39p value was to have depicted a Ford Model T and advertisements placed by An Post in philatelic magazines, some in full colour, showed the Charles Rycraft designed stamp. However Government displeasure at Ford's decision to close down their factory in Cork a few years ago resulted in a request to An Post to have the car dropped from the series.

The 39p value as issued depicts the Thomond car, an exotic vehicle produced by J. A. Jones of Dublin between 1925 and 1929. Collectors can obtain colour reproductions of the 39p Ford Model T unissued stamp in the February and March issues of *STAMP MAGAZINE* and *GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY*. The Ford stamp never progressed beyond final artwork stages and no actual stamps were printed, so these colour reproductions should prove to be interesting additions to Irish Stamp collections.

IRELAND

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

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Q.E. II 1952 to date. Commemoratives, Definitives Sets or Singles — Mint, Used or FDC's — Also available Regionals. Price list available.

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POST

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— Single rarities especially on cover.

— Postal History of Rathfarnham and Rathmines.

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DUBLIN POST OFFICE BUILDINGS



General Post Office (built 1818)



STAMPEX ULSTER
BELFAST

11th & 12th FEBRUARY '89

POST EXHIBITION CARD

One of the STAMPEX ULSTER souvenir postcards.

AN POST ATTENDS STAMPEX ULSTER

A philatelic promotion display and a postal artefacts exhibit from An Post were some of the highlights of STAMPEX ULSTER held in the Europa Hotel, Belfast, on February 11 and 12 last. The full range of An Post stamps were also on sale at the exhibition which was attended by over a dozen dealers from Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. Over 1,000 people visited the show.

The An Post presence was very warmly received as was a stop-off at a primary school in Lurgan to donate a few historical items to their post office exhibit.

The exhibition souvenir was a set of the An Post Exhibition Cards (Dublin Post Office Buildings) overprinted "ULSTER STAMPEX/BELFAST/11th & 12th FEBRUARY 1989".

NEW ISSUE PROGRAMME CHANGES

An Post has decided not to issue a stamp to mark the bi-centenary of the French Revolution, although one has to have been issued on June 15 in 24p denomination. No reason is known for this change in the new issue schedule.

An extra commemorative is expected to publicise "Sail Ireland" the Irish entry in the forthcoming Round the World yacht race. Details are not available as yet.

On July 15 the stamp marking the 1300th Anniversary of the Franconian Apostles — Saints Killian, Colman, and Totnan — will be issued. The stamp, a 28p is the same design as the German issue released on the same date. It will be issued in sheets of 50 and a "prestige booklet" — as it is described by An Post — containing four panes of four for £4.48. There will also be four maximum cards featuring different aspects of the Franconian tradition, priced at 16p each.

The booklet is similar in type to the British 'prestige' booklets such as the Wedgwood, Gibbons and Royal Mint issues. These additional items are expected to sell very well in Germany where the stamp has already attracted much media attention as the first Irish-German joint issue. Both An Post and The German Post Office will be selling each other's products for this issue including the booklet, first day covers and maximum cards.

Incidentally, the date of issue is also polling day for the Irish General Election and the European Parliamentary Elections.

A selection from our stocks

Dublin Postal History



Bishop

1719 entire to Clogher (rated 4d) backstamped very clear two part DE/27 oval bishopmark, an exceptional strike but entire soiled.

Order G3 £40

Circular Year

1804 entire to Aberdeen with good MR/29/1804 third type circular year cds.

Order G5 £15

Circular Year/Kildare

1804 entire letter to Ballymote, rate of 3d upped to 9d (Kilcullen to Dublin 3d at 15 to 30 mile rate plus Dublin to Ballymote 6d at over 80 mile rate), weak red KILCULLEN town-stamp on face, backstamped over flap superb JU/1/1804 Dublin Circular Year cds FK21.

Order G6 £38

Mermaid

1808 entire letter to Ballymote at 7d (over 80 mile 1805 rate) showing bright orange double ring Dublin "Mermaid" 3 JU 3/1808, a nice strike.

Order G7 £65

Mermaid

1809 entire letter to Ballymote at 7d for over 80 miles single (1805 scale) showing double ring "Mermaid" 9.JA.9/1809 no code in red.

Order G8 £50

Midday Mail

1815 entire letter from Dublin to Cahir at the 65 to 95 mile rate of 9d, showing on front, orange octagonal MID-OUT/4 MY 4/1815 of the Cashel mail.

Order G9 £22

Midday Mail

1825 entire to Dublin, uprated 1/6d to 1/7d (9d x 2 + 1d local) with boxed red CASHEL/79 and clear red scalloped oval MID DAY MAIL/NO 16/1825.

Order G10 £45

Midday Mail Paid

1830 entire letter to Papal States prepaid 3/2d, showing CORK/1830* cds, scalloped circular POST PAID/11 NO 11/1830/MIDDAY MAIL in red, and various transit strikes. Scarce and attractive.

Order G11 £135

Dublin

1735 entire letter to the Horse Guards in London, with, over flap a clear strike of the small 25mm DUBLIN in black FK 54, rated D), and AU/19 Dublin bishop. The original rating of "1/-" (one shilling) appears to have been reduced to 6d.

Order G12 £90

Dublin

1787 entire letter to London at 1/- (double 6d rate) showing 25mm DUBLIN, a weak strike but unusual on the front and an unlisted reuse of the smaller type after the 1784 independent Irish Post Office.

Order G13 £50

Ireland

1786 entire Dublin to Edinburgh at 11d backstamped scarce Scots IRELAND in black, a clear strike.

Order G14 £75

Ireland

1795 entire letter to Tenterden uprated 6d (to London) to 10d, showing red IRELAND.

Order G15 £40

Free/Co. Cork

1792 entire to Dublin franked Free at lower left, showing black YOUGHAL townstamp and a good strike of the circular Dublin FREE in red.

Order G19 £50

Clare/Free Mermaid

1812 entire to London with ENNIS/114 in black and clear FREE MERMAID in red for 25 JY 25/1812. A rare marking on entire.

Order G20 £350

Free

1824 entire to Belfast, sent free on the business of the Hibernian Bible Society, showing red FREE/20 AU 20/ 1824 tablet type, a nice clear strike.

Order G21 £12

Paid/Offaly

1797 entire letter from Birr to Dublin "Paid 4" with partial black PARSONSTOWN and clear strike of the Dublin POST/PAID/D (25mm circle) in brownish.

Order G23 £48



G26

Paid **Order G25 £45**
1831 long entire letter written on Christmas Day, to HMS Druid, Rio de Janeiro prepaid 3/11d "Pr January Packet 1832" with red Dublin **PAID/30 DE 30/1837** ds.

Paid **Order G26 £60**
1858 entire letter to Spain prepaid 8d, showing scarce red **PAID AT/DUBLIN** cds for AU.26.1858 (Kane type 83, used 1858-60 only), red circular **PP** (Postage Paid) and blue **4R** Spanish accounting hs.

Penny Post **Order G29 £45**
1816 entire to Capel St with a fine hs "1" in black, weak blue **DIGGES ST/PENNY POST**, backstamped red **6 O'CLOCK AFN** ribbon ds.

Penny Post **Order G30 £65**
1817 entire to Capel St with black hs "1", blue **HAR-COURT ST/PENNY POST**, on reverse red ribbon ds.

Penny Post **Order G33 £25**
1825 entire letter to Jameson's Distillery, Bow Street, with a clear Penny Post hs **1**, backstamped black oval **8 O'CLOCK/1825 MN** timestamp.

Penny Post **Order G36 £20**
1837 entire letter to Rutland Square showing a clear black **1d** handstamp of the Dublin Penny Post.

City RH **Order G38 £35**
1845 unusually folded wrapper to Killucan with 1d red tied Dublin **186** obliterator, showing a clear black **DORSET ST** receiver Kane 1A.

City RH **Order G39 £28**
1845 cover to Belfast, 1d red cancelled Dublin **186** showing black **SUMMERHILL** city receiver Kane 1A recorded 1846 to 1848.

City RH **Order G40 £30**
1845 cover to London, showing black **QUEEN ST** city receiver Kane 1A, recorded 1845 only.

Late/Galway **Order G47 £25**
1869 cover to Ballinasloe with 1d red tied by **DUBLIN/TOO LATE** duplex, ms "Not for Kiltormer" and "not known" + **Ballinasloe/No 23 69** cds.

Late **Order G48 £45**
1870 cover to Dublin with 1d red tied New Ross **398** duplex, backstamped hooded **LATE MAIL/DUBLIN** cds Kane type 101.

Late **Order G49 £65**
1888, 1895, 1897, three covers with 1/2d vermilion frankings to Westmeath, first two with different types of the **DUBLIN/TOO LATE/186** duplex, last with **DUBLIN/2/TOO LATE** cds. Scarce trio.

Late **Order G50 £20**
1890 1d UPU postcard to Brussels with 1/2d Jubilee cancelled by **DUBLIN/LATE FEE/186** duplex.

Late **Order G52 £16**
1897 cover to Belfast with 1d lilac tied **DUBLIN/3/TOO LATE** 25mm cds, Kane 115/6.

Uniform Penny **Order G54 £35**
1840 (FE.18-pre adhesive Uniform Penny Period) small envelope to Carlow with red **10/PAID/1d** unframed UPP hs of Dublin, plus boxed **PAID** ds.

Uniform Penny **Order G56 £60**
1840 entire to Limerick with Dublin **PAID** ds for AU.22.1840 and scarce Dublin Uniform Penny handstamp **22/PAID/1d** in red, unusually fine.

Uniform Penny **Order G57 £20**
1840 (October) entire to Limerick with a clear strike of the Dublin Uniform Penny collect rate hs "2" in black.

Continued overleaf

Dublin Postal History continued

Uniform Penny Order G58 £25
1843 Consignee's letter with a box of tin plates "p. Shamrock" Bristol to Dublin with a clear handstruck Dublin 2 of the Uniform Penny collect rate.

Uniform Penny Order G59 £22
1848 wrapper to Tandreege prepaid the UPP 1d rate showing the Dublin Uniform Penny hs 1d in red and 4/PAID/G cds. Clean.

Instructional/Cork Order G61 £100
1819 entire letter to London with black BANTRY/164 mileage and red Treasurer's Office oval T.OFF/POSTAGE to DUBLIN/NOT PAID.

Additional Halfpenny Order G62 £75
1837 entire letter from Tullamore to Scotland at 1/6½d to include the Scottish Additional Halfpenny Wheel Tax, showing black Addl/½ hs of Dublin.

Frank Order G65 £30
1856 cover Dublin to Cork with 1d red tied by Dublin No. 2 "spoon" duplex, backstamped oval black frank of ENCUMBERED ESTATES/NOTICE OFFICE/COMMISSION.

Signet ring Order G66 £65
1857 cover Cork to Dublin with 1d red tied Cork Spoon, backstamped clear strike of the experimental Dublin Signet Ring datestamp JY.17.1857 in green. Kane 45.

Missent Order G67 £15
1858 cover from Market Harborough to Nottingham misrouted into the Irish bag and sent to Dublin with clear DUBLIN cds.

CDS Order G68 £5
1860 cover from Waterford with 1d red, backstamped Dublin XA cds in a curious shade of red brown.

Official Order G71 £12
1872 GPO OHMS printed wrapper to Ballybay, Co. Monaghan with red cds DUBLIN/OFFICIAL PAID with dots Mackay 943, black handstruck frank W S Thomson and Ballybay cds backstamp.

Official Order G74 £45
1883 OHMS RETURNED PAID LETTER printed envelope of the R.L.B., G.P.O., Dublin for the return of two letters to Dublin, with red DUBLIN/OFFICIAL PAID cds. Small part missing at top.

Official Order G75 £40
1885 OHMS printed envelope of the Royal University of Ireland used to Waterford with handstamped signature franks and red DUBLIN/2/NO.13.85/OFFICIAL PAID cds.

Dublin/County Order G159 £25
1847 cover to Dublin with 1d red tied by Kingstown 289 obliterator showing italic Upper Georges St/Kingstown receiver in green overstruck by green KINGSTOWN/C cds.

Dublin/County Order G161 £85
1856 cover to Australia, with a cut to shape 1847-54 Embossed 6d tied by smudged green KINGSTOWN/289 English type 'Spoon' code D for JA.15, backstamped black sans serif MONKSTOWN type 2A receiver. Red hs d1 Colonial credit on face.

Dublin Cross/K3 ☉ Order G305 £50
1841 1d red imperf, horizontal pair lettered AD-AE, good to enormous margins all round, neatly cancelled by two crisp strikes of the distinctive straight-sided Dublin Maltese Cross in black. Most attractive.

Dublin Cross ☒ Order G306 £65
1843 wrapper to Killucan with a very fine 1d red tied by a nice crisp strike of the distinctive straight sided Dublin Maltese Cross in black. Most attractive.

Dublin Spoon ☐ Order G370 £15
1856 entire to Killucan with a 1d red (1K, showing clear Gothic K variety of plates 23-31), tied by Dublin 186 'Spoon' the no. 6 stamp in black without code for DE.27.56.

Dublin Spoon ☒ Order G372 £80
1857 entire to Killucan with 1d red tied by a clear Dublin 186 'Spoon' the scarce no. 8 PAID erased stamp for JA.19, no code.

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IRELAND STRIKES GOLD AT INDIA '89

At INDIA '89 World Philatelic Exhibition held in New Delhi on January 20 to 29 there were two exhibits of Ireland. James Maher of the USA won a Vermeil medal for "Ireland — Overprinted Stamps of Great Britain 1922-1937" (7 frames) and Johan Rehnberg of Sweden won a Gold medal for "Ireland — From a British to an Irish Administration 1907 to 1935" (8 frames).

Johan Rehnberg's Gold medal is the highest award ever at a World Philatelic Exhibition for a twentieth century Irish exhibit, and is one of a handful of gold awards at this level for any Irish exhibit, the others being awarded to Patricia Stilwell Walker for her Irish Postal History exhibits.

This milestone should encourage other exhibitors of 20th century Irish material, and full credit is due to Johan for his superb exhibit which has grown over the past decade into one of the finest ever shown of the subject.

AN POST RECORDS £1.6 MILLION PROFIT

An Post's Annual Report records a £1.634 million profit before taxation with another increase in mail volume which is now nearly 18% above the level when An Post took over in 1984. Postal charges remained unchanged but letters quality of service was below target; next day delivery being 82%–84%.

A report in a Dublin tabloid newspaper, *The Star* carried out its own survey by posting 200 letters. *The Star* claimed that 32% arrived the next day, 44% on day two, 9% on day three 5% on day five and the rest had not arrived when they published the report. This contradicted the survey carried out for An Post by the Market Research Bureau of Ireland which showed an 82% next-day delivery.

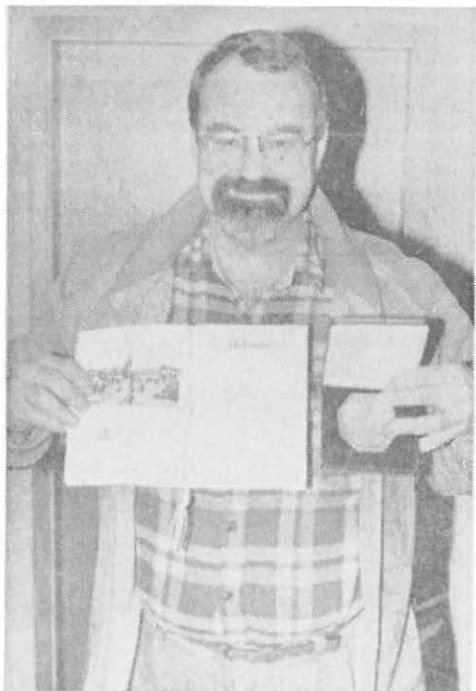
An Post however are constantly striving to improve the service. The parcels service is to undergo a radical overhaul with a new Parcels Office being located on the Naas Road, Dublin, and three new parcels depots in the provinces, all equipped with the latest state of the art technology.

The Philatelic Service achieved total revenue of nearly £1.5 million. This figure does not take into account philatelic purchases from outlets other than the Philatelic Bureau and overseas agents, which may be as much as another £500,000. According to the report overall sales

of 1.5 million St. Patrick's Day cards were sold. A total of £50 million worth of postage stamps were sold and the total postal turnover was £141 million which indicates that only one in three items of mail bears postage stamps which in turn confirms the scarcity of postally used stamps for collectors.

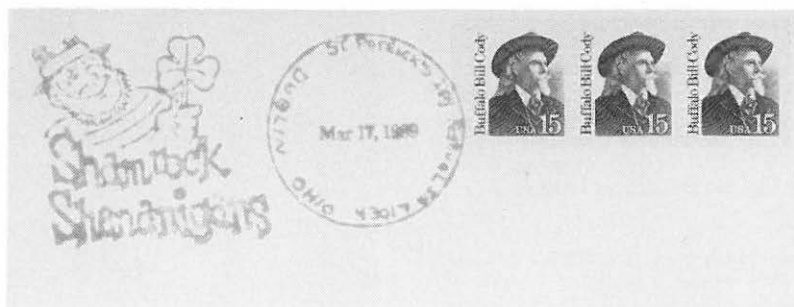
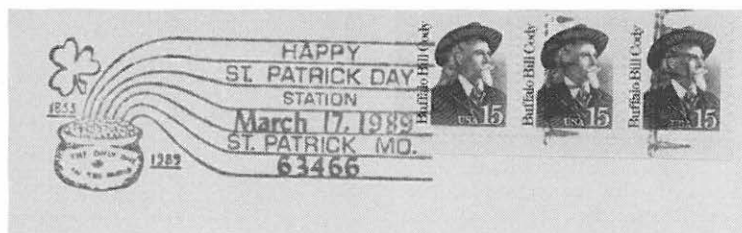
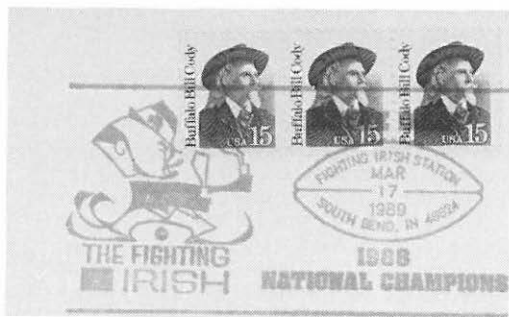
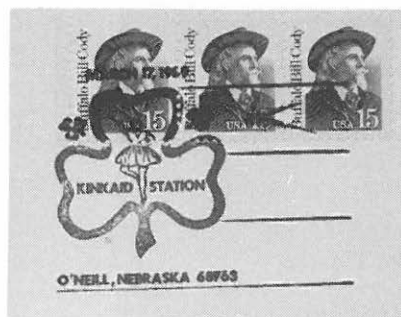
FAI SUCCESS IN BAVARIA

The Annual General Meeting of the FAI — the Irish Philatelic Study Group of the German Federation — was held in February in Munich and coincided with BAVARIA '89 the regional philatelic exhibition. Twelve members of the FAI displayed their Irish collections and they netted an impressive tally of medals: seven gold, four vermeil and one silver. Frank Holzmuller and Michael Rupp won the awards for the best exhibits of the entire show.



Michael Rupp proudly displays his Gold Award for his Irish exhibit at BAVARIA '89.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY USA



The 1989 American St. Patrick's Day cancellations kindly provided by Richard T. Crowe of Chicago.

CO-OPERATION NORTH OFFERS HELP TO PHILATELY

Co-operation North is a non-political, non-sectarian organisation set up ten years ago by Dr Brendan O'Regan to forge greater links in business, culture and education fields between people North and South of the border. This is done by means of exchange visits: a group from the Republic links with a group from Northern Ireland. They spend two days together in the North and two days together in the South.

Co-operation North organises these exchanges and gives a grant to each group towards their visits. All exchanges must be project-based, and Constance Short, the organisation's projects officer is particularly interested in hearing from philatelic and other collecting societies or groups interested in such exchange visits. Ms Short may be contacted at Co-operation North, 37 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2 (telephone 610582) or 7 Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1JG (telephone 321462).

AN POST PHILATELIC AGENTS CONFERENCE

The first ever Philatelic Agents Conference run by An Post was held in the Conference Centre, GPO, Dublin on January 27 last. The conference was organised to develop closer ties between An Post's Philatelic Service and its agents.

The conference gave all those present the opportunity to look at how the philatelic service has developed to date and to discuss and plan the future of Irish Philately worldwide. The Philatelic Service of An Post is an important business unit which generates close on £1.5 million annually. It's eight philatelic agents — located in Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Scandinavia, the U.K. and U.S.A. — generate about 50% of the total annual philatelic revenue.



An Post Agents Conference: Back Row L-R: Jean Marc Ferrier (Switzerland), Mike Butler (USA), Erling Daugaard (Scandinavia), Jurgen Schneider (Germany), Tom Coleman (Design and Production Manager, An Post), Jean Varga (France), Jim Davis (UK). Front Row L-R: Tony Nagle (Superintendent, Philatelic Bureau), Evelyn Ross (Philatelic Marketing), Irmgard Gerdes (Germany), Andre Schittecatte (Belgium), Gerry Mooney (Philatelic Marketing Manager, An Post), Pat Carolan (Manager, Philatelic Services, An Post), Dorte Koch-Hansen (Scandinavia).

OWEN MICHAEL RICHARDS

An Appreciation

Michael's roots were in Holyhead, and his interest in Irish philately may well have owed their origin to the sight of the Irish packet steamers in the harbour. His work took him away from his beloved Wales, in later years to Northern Ireland, to Lincolnshire and finally to Dundee. Since the early 1980's Dorothy and Michael maintained their house in Marchwiell and it was tragic that he should die on the very day of his retirement, 31st October, at the early age of 63 years.

The very large number of people who filled the church at Marchwiell — family, colleagues from all over the country who worked with Michael and many friends from the Wrexham area — were an eloquent testimony to the respect and affection in which he was held. It is as a postal historian and as a devoted servant of the Irish Philatelic Circle that we shall remember him.

His collecting interests were wide and included, for example, the Holyhead & Kings-town Packet upon which subject he was an expert, the postal history of Wales and of Wrexham and indeed he was an authority on Victorian button-hooks. When he moved to Northern Ireland he became deeply involved in contemporary postal history — access to quantities of mail was a distinct advantage. He wrote extensively in *Irish Philately*, the journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle on the machine marks of Northern Ireland on which he was the acknowledged expert. The results of his studies of Irish postal history have adorned the pages of *Irish Philately* for many years.

It was in 1973 that Michael took over the editorship of *Irish Philately* (at first jointly with the late Noel Langton, a very close friend of his) and for fifteen years the Irish Philatelic Circle has been the beneficiary of his skill and his devotion to Irish philately. He would always wish, and rightly so, that the Circle should acknowledge the ceaseless help and encouragement he received from Dorothy. They were for many years enthusiastic supporters of our Annual Meetings when we were able to share with them the pleasant hours and happy converse which is so much a part of philately.

The IPC will always remain in debt to Michael for his outstanding services and contribution to Irish philately and the pages of *Irish Philately* which he presided as Editor are a lasting memorial and a worthy tribute to him.

P.H.W.

NIPS COMMEMORATIVE POSTCARD



We illustrate here the North of Ireland Philatelic Society postcard issued at the NIPS annual fair and exhibition held on April 15 last in Belfast. Examples of the postcard are available at 15p sterling, unused, or 30p sterling used with special cancel of the Belfast Philatelic Bureau, from N. Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, Belfast BT5 7BZ. (Please add 20p sterling for postage; or 50p for overseas).

IRISH STAMP NEWS DISTRIBUTION

IRISH STAMP NEWS is now available through the Cork Philatelic Society. We can also supply other Philatelic Societies throughout the country and we are always looking for individuals who will distribute the magazine. Trade terms are offered on bulk purchases of 5 copies or more.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a photocopy of a first flight cover — Foynes to New York 1939 — presumably catalogue no. AC20. Note the date 27th June 1939, whereas the MacDonnell Whyte catalogue states it is the 30th June 1939.

Could the editor please explain this?

Yours etc.,

C. Bell
Belfast

Editor: Mail for this flight was accepted and held for a few days so one can find items postmarked up to a week or more before the flight. The cachet and backstamp confirm that the item was carried on the June 30 flight.

Dear Sir,

The history of the Post Office and of mail delivery in their own county or area is something of interest to all philatelists. But it is surprisingly difficult to come by. Sometimes it is hard to know even where to start digging.

In the course of research into something completely different I kept coming across little snippets of news that set the philatelic antennae a-weaving. For instance the *Waterford Mirror* of November 26th, 1803 has a report that the mail coach from Waterford to Carlow left in the morning with a military escort because on its way

to Waterford two days previously it had been held up at Mullinavat and robbed. A reward of £100 was offered some days later for the capture of the robbers.

And on May 29th, 1808, four of the prisoners in Waterford County Jail were Patrick Doyle, Michael Flanagan, Patrick McDaniel and James Walsh. They were accused of the robbery of a 5-guinea bank note on the Lismore-Tallow road and of "stopping the Post Boy's Horse and taking from off said horse, the King's mail on the evening of December the 23rd, 1807."

The *Waterford Mirror* had the news on Saturday June 26th, 1802, that two new Royal Mail diligences had arrived in the city from Dublin. They would go into service on the Waterford-Clonmel run the following Thursday, July 1st. "To start from the King's Arms Hotel, Waterford" the announcement read.

Three years ago when I began looking into the possibility of researching County Waterford's post offices, there were 46. Two, Annestown and Clonea, have since closed. In the meantime I have more or less despaired.

In 1579, the year of the Munster Rebellion, a postal crossing was established between Waterford and Milford Haven to enable war despatches to be sent home by the English. Tradition also has it that Cromwell established some sort of mail depot either in Passage East or Waterford city during his sojourn in our midst.

Mairead Reynolds says in her "History of the Irish Postal Service", that in the mid-1600s mail was carried twice a week from Dublin to Cork.

This road passed through Callan, Co. Kilkenny, and by 1659 a runner was meeting the post-boy at Callan and taking the Waterford mail from there to the city. It would be reasonable to infer that the first Co. Waterford post office was in the city or in Passage East. In West Waterford Tallow was another of these pick-up points where a runner intercepted the mail rider and took the mail to Youghal, Co. Cork.

By the 1730s thrice-weekly deliveries from Dublin were coming to Waterford, Lismore, and Tallow. But it was November 1790 before the Dublin-Cork road beyond Kilkenny was considered safe enough for a mail coach. Reference to other early post offices in the county include Kilmacthomas, Dunmore East, Clashmore and Dungarvan. But when were they established? And how many others have opened and closed over the years?

I wrote to the main post office in Waterford and Mr. O Dalaigh the Superintendent wrote back immediately telling me that the information I sought was not available from local records but he had forwarded my request to Headquarters in Dublin. They in turn regretted that no records of local information were available.

Where do I go next? Possibly old trade directories or street directories may hold clues but it will be a slow and painful process of elimination and not exactly accurate.

Incidentally, and I do not claim that this was unique to Co. Waterford, we had our own "airmail" here in 1921. All through the summer of that year the mail for the Royal Irish Constabulary and the "Black-and-Tans" (auxiliary troops) stationed in Dungarvan Castle was delivered by air-drop. At midday each weekday a light plane flew over the Castle and dropped the mailbag into the castle yard. This was to prevent Government correspondence falling into the hands of the IRA who had appropriated it on many occasions when it travelled by road. Unfortunately no special handstamp was used on this mail or it would have made a very good collectors' item indeed.

Now, can anyone help with suggestions for researching early provincial post offices? I believe that a situation similar to that of Co. Waterford exists all over the country although in the case of cities it is likely that more accurate information may be available due to the many street and trade directories issued. All helpful suggestions would be very welcome.

Yours etc.,

Dóirín Mhic Mhurchú,

Co. Phortláirge.

Dear Sir,

A couple of months ago I looked my old stamps over and found these two stamps, which I thought would be interesting to know if they are real varieties.

The stamps are No. C3 and C8, and have not been found in *Stamps of Ireland* catalogue.

Is it possible, that there are other stamps with the same, exact same position of flaw, and can they be positioned?

Yours etc.,

Iben Olsen,
Denmark.



Left: C3 O'Connell 9d with 'bullet hole' on coat.
Right: C8 Holy Year 2d with flaw between 'IN' and 'CRUCE'.

Dear Sir,

With reference to my letter in IRISH STAMP NEWS No. 28. I would like this letter published in the next edition of your quarterly magazine.

In connection with the bullwire, I enclose a further photocopy.

I myself have three copies. One in a positional block. other positional blocks can readily be found in North Connaught.

The interesting point here is that these were purchased in Sligo GPO, The Philatelic Section in Dublin and in London.

From what you have sent me, it is obvious that the hair-line was removed from Row 3/10. As far as I am aware, there was no second printing.

Can any of your readers throw light upon this. I myself think the error was discovered and rectified.

Yours etc.,

Thomas J. Halilton,

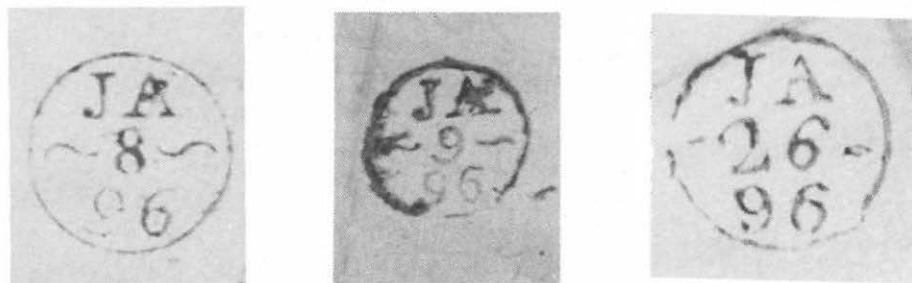
Sligo.

POSTAL HISTORY NOTES

by
David MacDonnell

Last summer I had the good fortune to examine the business and personal correspondence of an 18th century Dublin merchant in, of all places, New York. The correspondence spans circa 1760 to 1830 for the important part, and though there is much that is not of interest to the postal history student, this particular hoard repaid a little patience and turned up some valuable new information.

An important new discovery concerns the first type Dublin "circular year" cds, which replaced the bishopmark in 1796, in order that the year might be indicated in the stamp (the bishop only gave month and day). The stamps used 1796 to end 1799 showed the month and year abbreviated, being replaced in 1800 by stamps with the year in full. The first type is described by Feldman/Kane (type 19) as having dots each side of the day, and the earliest recorded date being the 25th January 1796. Examples with dashes at the side were attributed to smudging.

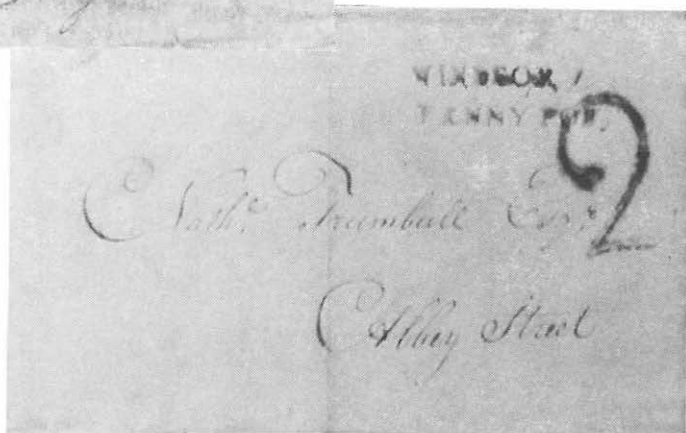
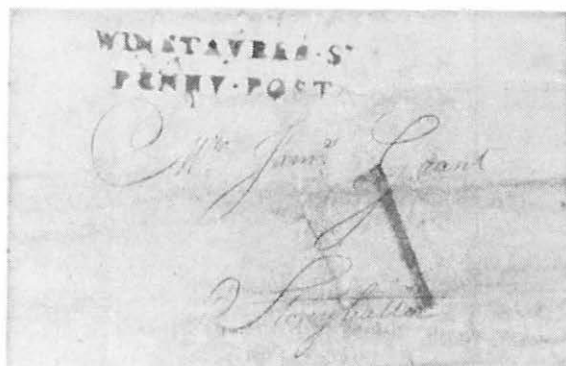


From left: sideways 'S' JA/8/96; ditto. for JA/9/96; plain dash JA/26/96.

An opportunity to examine some letters dated December 1795 and January 1796 produced a startling revelation. The 1795 letters ran to December 28 and December 30, bearing bishopmarks, so it may safely be inferred that the circular year type was intended for use from January 1, 1796. The earliest 1796 shows this type 19 for JA/4/96, but with sideways 'S's at each side of the day. Further examples were noted for JA/8/96, JA/9/96 and JA/11/96, each showing the characteristic squiggles at the sides. The next examples for JA/18/96, JA/20/96 and JA/26/96 show plain dashes in place of these squiggles. (Fig. 3).

Later letters clearly show dots at the sides, in place of the squiggles. Feldman/Kane (*Handbook of Irish Postal History*, 1975) suggest that these dots could be screw marks, but the foregoing would seem to knock any support for this theory. It is gratifying to be able to narrow this first type circular year to a definite range of 8 days use, and a possible spread of just 17 days.

Among the Dublin Penny Posts noted were WINDSOR AVE/PENNY POST



WINTAVERN ST/PENNY POST and WINDSOR AVE/PENNY POST on 1812 entire letters.

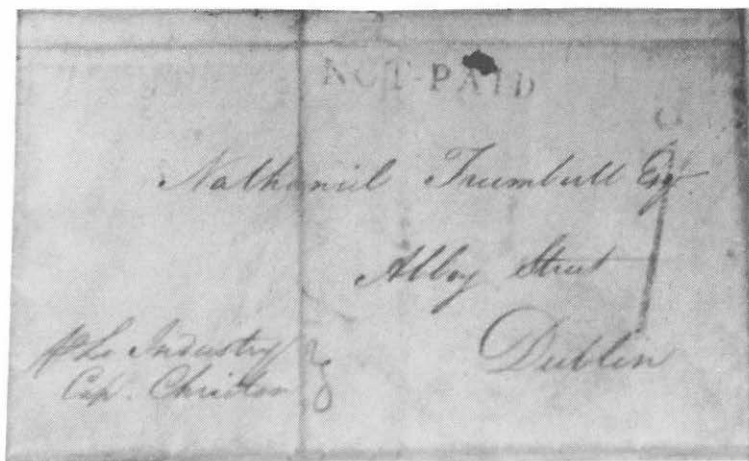
in black for '11.SE.1812' and '7.SE.1815', WINTAVERN ST/PENNY POST for '30.SE.1812' from "Sheriff's Prison", CHURCH ST/PENNY POST for '8.JY.1812'. An unclear strike on a letter of 29.JU.1816 appears to be STEPASIDE/PENNY POST, but this seems unlikely, Stepside being so far outside Dublin. The letter bears a handstruck "1".

A curious use of the NOT-PAID (F/K 152) occurs in red on a letter of January 19, 1808, along with a handstruck "1d" in the same colour. This is a consignee's entire ex. Liverpool, legally entitled to travel across the water without postage charge as long as it accompanied the cargo detailed therein.

A letter to Dublin on January 11 1802 shows a black CLARE townstamp. There is a manuscript "Ballinrobe" inside which proves that this is Clare, Co. Galway, not Co. Clare, as John Mackey has repeatedly suggested in past years.

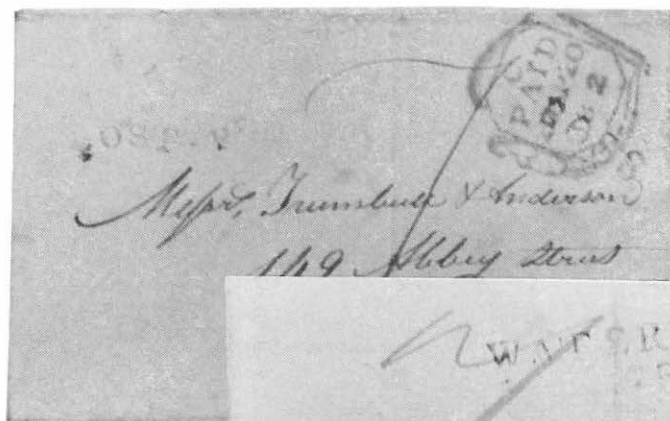
Mullingar is one of the very few towns in Ireland to have used a townstamp in two lines viz: MULLIN/GAR. There are two examples here, for January 15 1801 and April 22 1802.

Amongst the Paid stamps there are three unusual provincial examples. Wexford used a curved POST PAID in red, F/K type 286, which is recorded from 1824 to 1835. Two examples predate this by 12 years, being written on March 12, 1812 and on March 28, 1812. F/K type 302 is an italic "Post Paid" and is



1808 NOT-PAID and handstruck 'Id' both in red on consignee's letter from Liverpool.

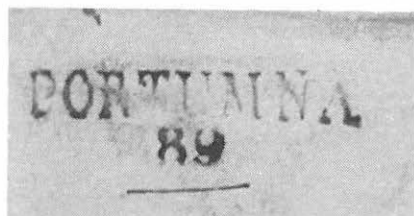
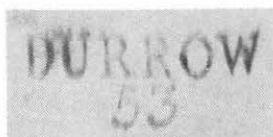
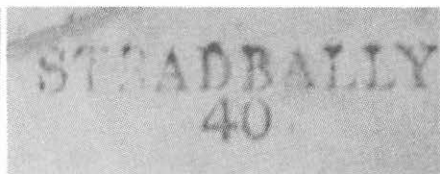
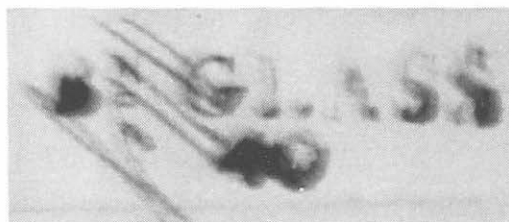
recorded for Templemore 1832 to 1835. A letter of May 18, 1813 shows a clear example in conjunction with the WATERFORD/78 mileage mark. Ross is recorded having a curved POST-PD (F/K 292) in use during 1816 only in red. There is a nice example on an April 19, 1812 letter with a ROSS/68 mileage (three years earlier than Moxter records) and a Dublin PAID mermaid.



1813 EL with Post paid italic type and WATERFORD/78 both in red and 1812 EL with ROSS/68 and curved POST-PAID in red, also Dublin PAID Mermaid.

There are a number of mileage marks either new to us, or earlier than previously seen:

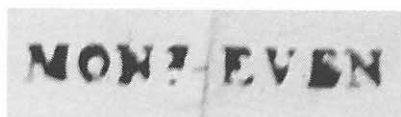
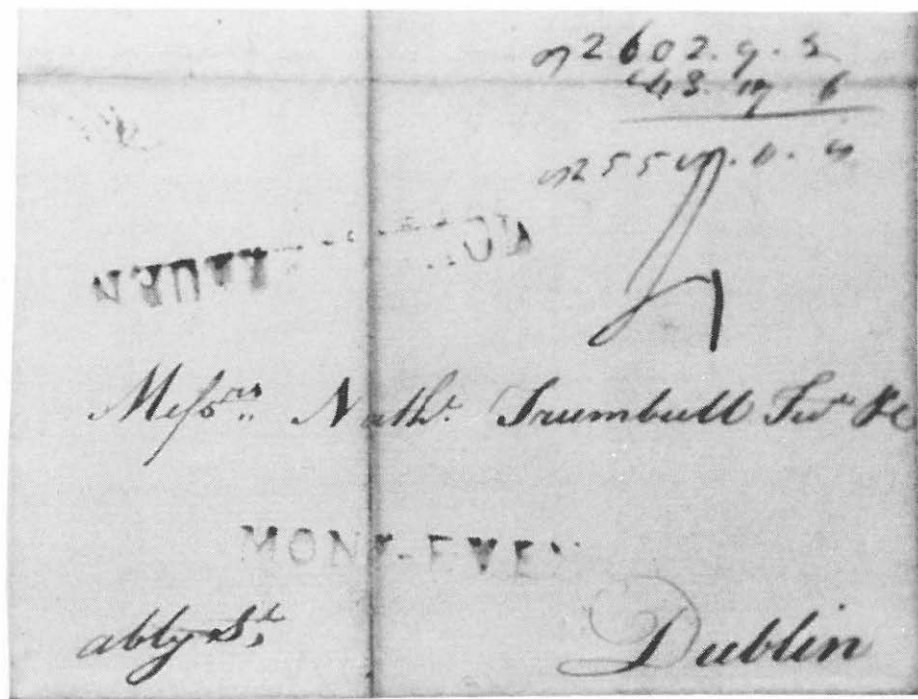
BN.GLASS/40	black	1808 (Baltinglass)
BN.AKILL/50	black	1809 (Ballinakill)
CLARA/54	black	1809
STRADBALLY/40	red	1812
JOHNSTOWN/73	red	1810 (from Urlingford)
DURROW/53	black	1810
ATHY/41	black	1808 (April 15, v. early)
KILCONNELL/78	black	1811
PORTUMNA/89	black	1809
CL.BAR/113	black	1808 (Castlebar) (June 19)
LN.BRIDGE/45	black	1808 (Leighlinbridge) (May 10)



Mileages: BN.GLASS/40, STRADBALLY/40, DURROW/53, PORTUMNA/89, LN.BRIDGE/45.

The Castlebar mark of June 19 is doubly interesting as there is a CASTLEBAR townstamp used on June 13, which seems to pin down the introduction of the mileage to a week or less. In the same vein the STROKES-TOWN divided namestamp was in use on May 18, 1798, but by 1800 the dash had been removed and the stamp made up in one word, STROKESTOWN. Monastereven had its townstamps spelt MONASTEREUEN (with a U, not a V) on July 6, 1796. An abbreviated stamp MONT-EVEN was used on July 10, 1796 on a letter also bearing the old MONASTEREUEN, struck below it. October 14, 1796 sees the name in full again, whereas January 17, 1797 sees it abbreviated; not a very consistent postmaster!

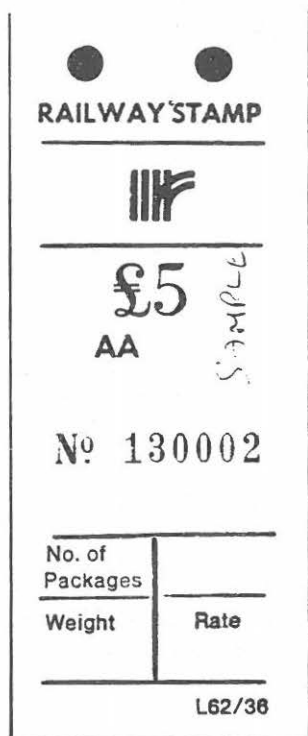
I did not have the time to inspect each piece thoroughly, as there are several thousand items. However I hope that during one of my next visits I will have the time to make a closer examination.



1796 EL with both MONT.-EVEN and MONASTEREUEN from Monastereven to Dublin, also from a 1797 letter a very clear strike of the MONT.-EVEN.

IRISH RAILWAY & BUS STAMPS — NEWS

by
John Holman



*First type of 'IR' (Irish Rail) parcel stamp; 20p
Type 9 bus parcel stamp.*

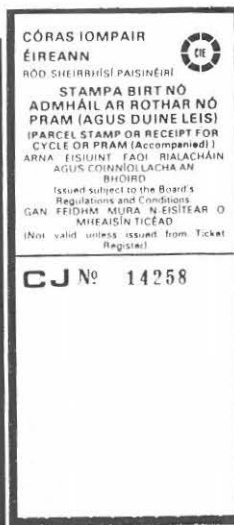
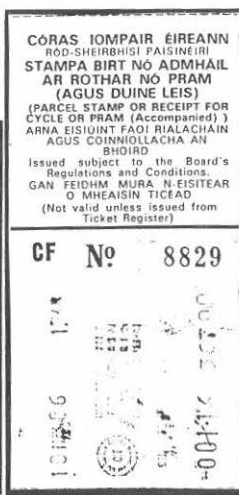
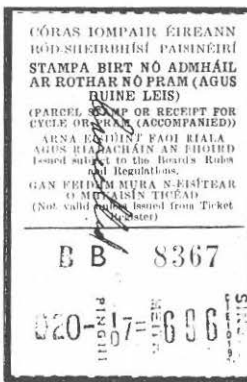
Railway Letter Service

Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) increased the railway letter fee from £1.16 to £1.25 with effect from January 4 1988. As VAT is payable (25%) the amount charged is £1.56. Normally parcel stamps to the VAT exclusive amount are affixed. Letters are also carried by Bus Éireann and the current charge is £1.20 plus VAT. I believe this rate was also introduced on January 4 1988.

No new railway letter stamps appear to have been issued by the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland since the last of the surcharged/overprint issues in September 1987.

Railway Parcel Stamps

New rates for the carriage of parcels on the 'Fastrack' service between stations in the Republic were introduced by Iarnród Éireann on 4 January 1988, the minimum charge for a parcel weighing between 1 and 10kg is now £6.60 (increased



The four types of undenominated bus parcel stamp (lower portion).

from £6.30). A special rate of £5 applied to documents of up to 500gm and A4 in size.

To date three new stamps bearing the 'IR' logo in place of the CIE badge have made their appearance — 5p, 20p and £5, all with reference code L62/36 in the bottom right-hand corner. All the printing, including the serial number, is in green. The name Iarnród Éireann was introduced in February 1987 when three new operating companies under the CIE holding company were established: IR, Bus Éireann and Dublin Bus. The first parcel stamp bearing the Bus Éireann title was issued in June 1987, recorded in *ISN* No. 26.

Bus Parcel Stamps

Three more parcel stamps bearing the now obsolete Córas Iompair Éireann title can be recorded: two of the Type 9 design — 20p black on orange and £1.85 black on deep blue and one of Type 10 — £1.30 black on sea green. Only the 20p can so far be dated — June 1988 being the earliest date seen. The £1.30 differs from the only other value of Type 10 printing (£2.20) in not having the words 'ROAD PASSENGER SERVICES' beneath 'Córas Iompair Éireann'. Details of the ten different types were given in *ISN* No. 11.

In addition to the denominated stamps, an unvalued stamp is used at some bus stations, the parcel fee being printed on by machine. Mention of these was made in *ISN* No. 27 and the bottom portion of one of these stamps illustrated in *ISN* No. 26. Only the lower half bearing the machine-printed details is affixed to the parcel (or 'railway letter'), the top portion is given to the sender as a receipt. Since I started collecting Irish bus and rail stamps in 1971 I have seen four versions of this unvalued stamp: (1) most of text on lower portion in seriffed upper case letters (1971); (2) most of text in seriffed lower case letters (1976); (3) most of text in sans-serif upper case text (1986); and (4) as (3) but with CIE logo on both portions (1988).

SPORT ON IRISH POSTAGE STAMPS

by

C. T. Hinneburg-Murphy



One of the 1988 GAA postcards issued by An Post.

In late August 1988, An Post issued the first pair of postcards relating to the all Ireland Hurling Final. These cards, depicting the protagonists — Galway and Tipperary — were made available at all post offices in these counties and at some main Dublin offices. Another pair followed prior to the Football Final between Cork and Meath. Strictly speaking these are not classified postal stationery yet nonetheless are postal emissions and of course are relevant to the sporting theme.

Disregarding politics, sport plays by far the largest and most dominated aspect in Irish life. The island has a long history of prowess in a broad number of physical activities. The country's reputation as a sporting nation is well established and the history is well known to both researcher and contemporary observer. The Gaelic Athletic Association — the G.A.A. — figures prominently in this world. The golden jubilee and centenary of its foundation were commemo-

rated with special issues; the 1934 2d value (DF C10) features a hurler in full flight. Fifty years on the more stylised monochrome pose gave way to action scenes in vivid colours with a pair of adhesives celebrating the centenary, with football joining hurling as a medium suitable for depiction. (DF C390/1)



GAA issues of 1934 and 1984.

James Joyce 1982 issue.



1974 IRFU issue.

1984 Royal College Surgeons.

The G.A.A. commands, as it has done so for the bulk of its existence, a niche all of its own in Irish life as a whole — so it is more than deserving of philatelic commemoration. To one Michael Cusack must go the credit for founding the organisation. His place in history is as secure as his place in literature; he it is whom James Joyce (26p — DF C344) immortalised as the Citizen in 'Ulysses'. In 1877 the tireless Cusack opened his own Civil Service Academy — Cusack's Academy as it was called. Rugby Football was the major sporting activity at the Academy initially, reflecting a popularity for the game which had only recently been fully organised in the country, the Irish Rugby Football Union being founded in 1874. (IRFU Centenary issue — DF C195/6) Cusack's interest in athletics was soon rekindled however and he set about reviving the amateur spirit which he saw as having been lost in the athletics world of his time. He also maintained an interest in native field games and was instrumental in the formation of the Dublin Hurling Club in 1882, the seed from which the G.A.A. would evolve. The Club was founded in a lecture room at the Royal College of Surgeons premises. (Bicentenary — DF C382).

Cusack's organisational skills led to the founding of the G.A.A. in Thurles in November 1884. The association ensured success from the beginning with three eminent patrons — Archbishop Croke, Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt (both the latter being honoured in 1948 for their efforts with the Land League — DF C31/2).



1946 Parnell/Davitt



From left: 1988 Cosgrave, 1965 Yeats, 1982 De Valera, 1984 McCormack.

Davitt himself had been in consultation with Cusack over the founding of the G.A.A. and both enthused over another idea, the revival of the Tailteann Games. The idea floundered due to financial constraints, yet would be revived, albeit briefly, some forty years later. These games, now largely forgotten, were among the early successes of the fledgling Irish Free State. The government under William Cosgrave, (1988 28p), ensured there were few problems. The twin aims, that of stressing the native cultural identity and indigenous sporting activities, were attained. Among the organisers of the various cultural and sporting events were two eminent Irishmen — William Butler Yeats (1965 DF C94/5) and John McCormack (1984 DF C386). The sole discordant note to national unity was the boycott organised by Sinn Féin under the leadership of Eamonn De Valera. (1982 — DF C346).

De Valera himself was a noted sportsman himself. At the turn of the century he played rugby for Blackrock College as either a full back or centre of some calibre. An unfortunate and grim quirk of history followed some years later when outposts from De Valera's garrison at Boland's Mills opened fire on a unit of Veteran's Corps on Easter Monday 1916. Among the casualties in that fateful encounter was one Frederick Browning, president of the IRFU who was fatally

shot. Another rugby player of note — indeed he is portrayed on the set of stamps in a rugby shirt — was one Kevin Barry, who played his game with the U.C.D. club. (1970 — DE C154/5)

The G.A.A. emphasis on the indigenous field games was a practical application of the theories advocated by Douglas Hyde (1943 — DF C20/21) and Arthur Griffith (1986 — DF C443). Unfortunately for the former his role as patron of the association would lead to political controversy in 1938. As President of the Irish Free State he attended an international football match; his actions unwittingly lead to a resolution by the G.A.A. that Hyde “ceased to be a patron by not fulfilling the fundamental rules of the association”. This link with politics has always been evident and the G.A.A. has rarely been absent from any large political gathering. At the funeral of Thomas Ashe (1985 — DF C414) in 1917 a large body of mourners attended with hurleys! Ashe of course had been a prominent figure in the Dublin association before his death. What Cusack would have thought of it all is uncertain; he was however equally adept at the indigenous field games as he was with rugby, cricket and athletics!



1986 Griffith



1970 Kevin Barry



1943 Hyde



1985 Ashe



1971 Jack Yeats



1984 Olympics

sociation; the activities portrayed include cycling, hill walking, mountaineering and rock climbing. (DF C310/3) Cycling is also shown on another stamp, one a pair celebrating the 1988 Olympic Games.



1975 European Golf Championship.



1981 An Oige



1986 Waterways: Fishing and Cruising



1982 Howth Yacht

Continuing the outdoor activities theme the 1986 'Waterways' set includes two stamps featuring water sports. The 28p depicts fishing on the River Moy with the 30p reflecting cruising on Lough Derg (DF C435/6). Salmon fishing remains a popular pursuit; the legendary Fish of Ireland is shown on several adhesives; the 10p value of the 1978 'Currency' issue (DF C261), the 26p of the 1982 Fauna and Flora set (DF C339) and finally on the 28p Europa adhesive of 1986. (DF C430).

Yachting and sailing in general is popular in Ireland and the country boasts the oldest surviving Yacht Club. The Bicentenary of the Royal Cork Yacht Club was commemorated in 1970. The painting by Peter Monany depicts yachts under full sail. (DF C148) Currach racing is popular along the west coast and the boat is shown on the 22p value of the 1982 Boats issue.



1970 Royal Cork Yacht Club



1982 Currach



Salmon: 1978, 1982, 1986.



1987 Christmas

Overall Ireland boasts quite a formidable list of sport and associated issues. It is all the more noteworthy that the emphasis lies with *Irish* sport, sportsmen and animals; no depiction of 'overseas' personalities or events. The interest that underlies theme collecting lies not so much with the issues actually commemorating to the theme but with those so called related or associated stamps. Background knowledge of the topic is of course paramount. Thus the partridge, a game bird, depicted on the 1987 Christmas 21p value has to be included in our survey. A rather unusual inclusion even if it does seem incongruous — one does not readily associate game shooting with this particular partridge 'in a pear tree'!!!

Railway Postal History

Limerick ☒ **Order G939 £40**
1845 printed envelope LIMERICK ENNIS AND KILLALOE JUNCTION RAILWAY to Sixmilebridge with 1d red TA (corner of sheet) tied by Limerick 303 obliterator.

Railway ☒ **Order G940 £10**
1848 Midland Great Western Railway printed share callup, posted locally in Dublin 1848.

Limerick ☒ **Order G941 £40**
1857 printed envelope of the Limerick & Foynes Railway to Bagenalstown, two 1d reds tied Limerick 303 obliterator.

Railway ☒ **Order G942 £45**
Circa 1860 Post Office mailbag seal "Proof" impression of the BALLYCARRY/RAILY/CROWN/STATION device in black on white paper. Highly unusual.

Railway ☒ **Order G943 £35**
1861 printed envelope of the Portadown, Dungannon and Omagh/Junction Railway, Solicitor's office used Dungannon to Omagh with 1d red 1861. Very clean.

TPO ☒ **Order G945 £12**
1870 cover to Belfast with 1d red tied by 186 duplex, backstamped code A DUBLIN & BELFAST/RPO cds.

Perfin ☒ **Order G946 £55**
1877 envelope of the Midland and Great Western Railway with 1d red plate 202 (cat £7 off cover) Perfin M/GWR tied neat Dublin 186 duplex.

Railway ☒ **Order G949 £40**
1885 mourning env. to Dublin with 1d lilac tied BALLYRAGGETT cds, backstamped very fine GT.SN.+ WN./R.P.O. single ring cds, scarce.

Railway ☒ **Order G950 £30**
1888 cover to Bedford with 1d lilac tied Limerick 303 duplex, showing on front (unusually) a clear strike of the larger type DUBLIN & BELFAST/A/R.P.O. Railway Post Office cds. Wilson type 1027.

TPO ☒ **Order G951 £18**
1893 cover to Redcastle showing small single ring cds PORTADOWN+DERRY RPO.

TPO ☒ **Order G952 £20**
1893 Swiss 25c stationery envelope from Geneva to Belfast, showing on reverse a clear strike of the large DUBLIN & BELFAST/DOWN/R.P.O. Railway Post Office cds.

TPO ☒ **Order G954 £12**
1902 cover to Moville, on reverse two fine strikes of the cds ULSTER/DOWN/TPO.

TPO ☒ **Order G955 £20**
1902 Pallas River (Tipperary) Drainage Circular Birr to Blackrock, backstamped clear G.S.+W. DAY/UP/T.P.O. cds. Wilson 884.

TPO ☒ **Order G956 £35**
1906 cover from British Columbia to Dublin backstamped very clear DUBLIN & QUEENSTOWN/TPO cds. The exact example illustrated in Wilson, Figure 915.

TPO ☒ **Order G958 £15**
1938 cover to Glasgow with Mathew 2½d tied by P.O.T. ACLIATH & CORCAIGH/SIOS/OICHE cds of the Dublin to Cork down night 1P.O., with another, clearer, strike alongside. Early.

TPO ☒ **Order G960 £35**
1978 CIE envelope to Dungarvan at the registered letter rate of 37p, sent back to CIE at Broadstone, showing blank registration label with manuscript D+C TPO of the Dublin and Cork Travelling Post Office.

Railway Letter Stamps

Cavan and Leitrim** **Order G963 £48**
1920 3d red, a complete sheet of 24 (4 x 6) with margins and sheet number, mint, Cat. £192.

Londonderry+Lough Swilly/*** **Order G970 £30**
1891 2d scarlet, original issue, a mint corner block of six.

Londonderry+Lough Swilly ☉ **Order G971 £30**
1898 2d red with hairline, cancelled by crayon stroke on piece of 1d pink envelope cancelled Norwood cds MR.26.01.

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6d, 9d unused, 6d, 1/6, 2/- cancelled parcel stamps for any station, also 4d and 9d Dublin circular road stamps unused.

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1891 2d green from top of pane, with central script handstamp in black of Bennetts' Bridge (Co. Kil-kenny). A scarce stamp and cancellation.

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