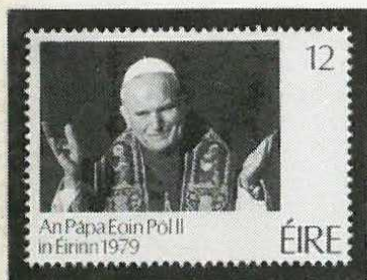


IRISH STAMP NEWS

No.4 Nov.-Dec.1979



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Irish Stamp News

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Telephone: 761383

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ional de Journalistes
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IRISH STAMP NEWS Altered publication schedule and advertising/subscription rates.

Due to the postal strike our publishing schedule has had to be altered. Thus the No. 4 issue is being published in November. The No. 5 issue will appear in January, the No. 6 issue in April, and the No. 7 issue (Summer) in July. Due to the lack of response to our appeal for articles and other publishable material IRISH STAMP NEWS will not be issued bi-monthly in the foreseeable future.

We regret that due to increased postal and printing costs the cover price of IRISH STAMP NEWS will be 45p (including V.A.T.) and the subscription rates will be as follows: G.B. and Ireland — £2.20; Overseas by surface mail (4/6 weeks delivery) — £2.50 or U.S. \$5.50; Overseas by Air mail — £3.50 or U.S. \$7.50. These increases take effect from No. 5 on but do not affect existing subscriptions (taken out before October 31).

The new advertising rates are: Double page — £60; Full page — £35; Half page — £18; Quarter page — £10; 10% discount for 4 consecutive insertions provided payment for total is received in advance of publication of the first advertisement. V.A.T. at 10% is charged on all display advertising. Overseas advertisers may apply for a refund from the V.A.T. Repayments Section, Castle House, South Great George's Street, Dublin 2. The new Classified rates will be 6p per word or 12p for bold type. Box number service will be charged at 50p per number used. These rates include V.A.T..

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Editorial

Irish postage stamp issues have, since they first were issued in 1922, been listed in the British Commonwealth sections of the Gibbons, Scott (U.S.A.) catalogues. They are also included in the Minkus "British Europe" catalogues of publishers in Europe such as Michel.

In all cases this has not been a political decision but as Stanley Gibbons puts it: "All the issues of Ireland are listed together here, in this section of the Gibbons Catalogue, purely as a matter of convenience to collectors". Technically the Irish Free State was a British Dominion up to 1937, and as 'Eire' a member of the Commonwealth up to 1949 when the 26 counties became the Irish Republic.

Ireland is not the only country to be listed as a 'matter of convenience'. In the Gibbons Catalogue the post-independence issues of Pakistan, Rhodesia, and South Africa are also listed, as they are in the Scott Catalogue which also includes Iraq. The Scott Catalogue does not give any explanation for Ireland's inclusion though it does for Iraq, nor does Michel indicate why Ireland is included, with Great Britain, Malta, Gibraltar, and Cyprus in its "Grossbritannien" catalogue.

Now, we understand, moves are afoot to have Ireland removed from the 'Commonwealth' catalogues of these publishers. The Irish Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs, have been asked to exert diplomatic pressure to have the Irish listings removed. Where they are to be removed to is uncertain. In the case of Gibbons it is difficult to know what volume they would be put in unless they published a separate Irish Catalogue which is highly unlikely. Gibbons have split Europe into separate countries such as France or Germany or groups such as Benelux, Portugal and Spain, Balkans and Scandinavia. Surely Ireland has more affinity with the British group than with these countries?

In the case of Scott and Minkus Ireland could possibly be moved to the European

volume. However most American collectors of European stamps have little or no interest in the issues of Ireland. Michel include Ireland in the Europa-West volume along with Great Britain, as well as including it in the 'British Europe' group catalogue. Many collectors in Germany, and in other Western European countries collect the issues of this group, and to remove Ireland from their catalogue would be a major inconvenience to them to say the least.

Ireland has traditionally been included in collections of British Commonwealth. To verify this one only has to look at the collections offered every week in auctions throughout the world. The main reason for this has been their listing in the Commonwealth sections of the major catalogues. The circulation of these volumes in the United Kingdom and the United States far exceeds the circulation of the volumes dealing with other areas, and it stands to reason that countries listed therein will be much more popular.

It is obvious that this foolish move is politically inspired, and politics should never enter into the world of philately which embraces collectors of every creed, colour and political persuasion. We hope that the Department of Foreign Affairs will not pursue this nonsense, and if it does, that the publishers will treat this request with the derision it deserves.

IAN WHYTE
Editor & Publisher

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NEWSBEAT



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STAMPEX ULSTER

The first International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in Northern Ireland to be known as STAMPEX ULSTER, will open in Belfast on Thursday, 6th December in The Maysfield Leisure Centre, and will run for three days until Saturday, 8th December, 1979. It will be officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman William Bell.

The Exhibition will feature displays by leading international philatelists and competitive entrants, a Post Office display and sales point, a special commemorative postmark, and dealers stands.

Collectors will compete for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals as well as a Trophy for the best overall exhibit, and a Post Office Trophy for the best exhibit of Northern Ireland stamps or postal history. All exhibits accepted will receive a certificate of participation.

The prospectus for intending exhibitors and dealer application forms are now available from The Secretary, Stampex Ulster, 19 Skipper Street, Belfast BT1 2DZ, Northern Ireland.

NEW ISSUE PROGRAMME 1979/80

On November 10 the 12p stamp marking the Centenary of the Birth of Patrick Pearse will be released. This date is a Saturday so presumably the Philatelic Section will be closed but covers can be handed in over the counter at the G.P.O., Andrews Street P.O., and any Head Office. There will be a special cancel in use at the Philatelic Section's stand at the American National Stamp Show which takes place in New York from November 8 to 11.

IRISH STAMP NEWS

The stamp will feature a profile of Pearse with the General Post Office in the background, and a symbolical figure of Liberty which is adapted from a painting by the French painter Delacroix. The designer is Robert Ballagh and 10 million will be printed.

The Christmas issue will be released on November 15, 1979 in 9½p (10 million) and 20p (2 million) denominations. The design, by Ewa Gargulinska, features the Madonna and Child panel from a shrine known as the Domhnach Aigrid, which is in the National Museum.

The Europa stamps will be issued in 12p and 13p denominations on December 6. This year's themes for the issue is "History of Postal and Telecommunications Service". A print showing a Bianconi mailcoach, and an artist's impression (from the "Illustrated London News") of the landing of the first successful cable at Valentia in 1864, will represent this theme.

The Stamp Programme for 1980 is: Centenary of the birth of Sean O'Casey; Centenary of the Arrival of the De La Salle Order in Ireland; Irish Fauna and Flora (Animals will be featured this year); Irish Music and Dance; Europa; Contemporary Irish Art; Christmas. Dates and denominations are to be announced later.

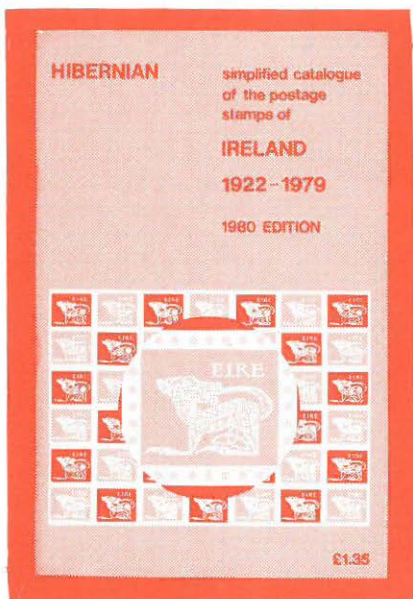
NEW POSTAL RATES

On August 1, barely four weeks after the postal service was resumed, the Department of Posts and Telegraphs increased charges came into effect.

The principal charges (with previous charges in brackets are as follows): First class Mail to Ireland and Britain — 60grams, 12p (10p) for letters and 10p (8p) for postcards; Second class Mail to Ireland and Britain — 120grams, 9½p (8p); First class Surface Mail to other countries (incl. Airmail to Western Europe) — 20grams, 13p (11p); Second class Surface Mail to other countries — 20grams, 7p (6p); Airmail to other countries outside Europe — 20grams, 20p (17p); Second class Airmail — 20grams, 13p (11p); Airletters and

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postcards by air — 12p (10p). The inland minimum registration fee is now 32p (27p).

The changes will mean an increase in the cost of new issues to the collector. The usual four-stamp set will now be in 9½p, 12p, 13p, and 20p denominations. New definitive values will probably appear early next year: 9½p and 12p with the 'dog' design in monochrome, 13p and 20p 'stag' design in two colours, and possibly a £2 'eagle' design in multi-colour. New booklets, coils and stationery will appear over the next six months.

Most of the commemoratives that have come out so far have not been very useful, and consequently have seen little service. This is due to the fact that they are in denominations relating to the old rates. Most of them had been printed or in an advanced state of preparation before the increases had been decided. Collectors are advised to hoard any fine used they can get from the mail as they will be scarcer than mint.

COLLECTOREX '79

COLLECTOREX '79 — the fourth Irish International Collectors Exhibition was held under extremely unfavourable circumstances, in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, on Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10, 1979. The unfavourable circumstances were the postal strike, a petrol shortage and unusually fine weather which deterred visitors from the sweltering conditions of the exhibition room.

Less than 300 visitors attended the show, and at times there were more people behind the twenty odd dealers' stands than in front of them. Nevertheless some dealers reported good trade, and there was a brisk demand for the exhibition's souvenir, in the form of a sheet of 'Strike Post Labels' (see article on the Postal strike elsewhere in this edition). Incidentally a number of people who posted items at the show via the 'Strike Post Service' have not yet collected their covers. They may obtain them by calling to Ian Whyte at 3 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

Mr. F. E. Dixon won the Collectorex Trophy for the best exhibit of picture postcards, his winning entry being of errors on cards. One of the many interesting cards he displayed was one depicting College Green with the inscription reading 'College Green, Belfast'!

IRISH STAMP NEWS

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

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Philatelic Circle was held at the St. Georges Hotel, Liverpool during the weekend of May 26 and 27, 1979.

Officers and Committee elected for 1979 — 1980 were: President, M. Leonard; Vice Presidents, Dr J. A. Quigley, Dr. B. de Burca, Col. B. B. Zellars; Treasurer, J. O. Marsden; Auctions, W. Stevens; Committee, A. L. Stokes, P. H. Williams, Dr. V. W. D. Hale, J. A. C. Munro, J. Hearn, M. Freyer; Secretaries, Area, W. Stevens, D. M. Richards, P. J. Smithers; General, H. K. Jamieson, 3 Cleves Way, Hampton, Middx TW12 2PL; Editor, O. M. Richards; Auditor, B. Warren.

During the proceedings adjudication for the Thomas E. Field Awards were made as follows: General Philately, Dr. C. I. Dublin, P. H. Williams, Joint 1st; Postal History, Miss N. K. Wright, O. M. Richards, Joint 1st; Thematic, Miss N. K. Wright; Literature, E. Fitzgerald & B. Warren for their Handbook on the Gerl Definitives.

The Stamp Monthly Award, donated by Stanley Gibbons Magazines Ltd., was awarded to Dr. C. I. Dulin.

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The "Thomas E. Field" award being presented to Mr. W. G. Meredith for his standard reference work on the Irish Free State overprints of 1922. The occasion being the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Philatelic Circle, London, May 1974. Present reading left to right: M. Leonard, W. Mathews (R.I.P.), J. P. Holt, W. G. Meredith (R.I.P.), A. T. Sedgley (R.I.P.), W. Kane and A. Chamberlain.

W. G. MEREDITH R.I.P.

IT IS my sad duty to record the death of W. G. Meredith, who passed away on 26th Sept. 1979. Bill, as he was known to his many philatelic friends, will be sadly missed. His name will always be remembered where there is an interest in the Irish Overprints of 1922. While still a schoolboy he wrote his first handbook on this subject in manuscript; later typewritten editions appeared, and then finally the printed books in 1923. A fourth edition was printed in 1927.

It was in October 1922, that he finished his first manuscript book; this was revised in January 1923. I am most fortunate to have this book. Only three manuscript books exist.

In 1974, Bill was presented with the "Thomas E. Field" Award for his outstanding services to Irish Philately, by the Eire Philatelic Association.

He was a life member of both the E.P.A. and the Irish Philatelic Circle, of which he was President for the years 1972-74.

To his family I wish to extend on behalf of all Irish Philatelists our sincere deepest sympathy in their great loss. The world has lost a great philatelist, but we have lost a great friend.

BILL KANE.

SOCIETY FORUM

In this column we hope to publicise societies around the country in order to acquaint collectors with clubs in their locality. If you are a Club secretary please send us details so we may publish them.

Belfast Philatelic Society

Towards the end of 1977 several philatelists in the Belfast area felt there was a need for another stamp society in their locality. They decided to revive the former Belfast Philatelic Society which had fallen into abeyance in 1971.

This revived society has attracted quite a number of stamp enthusiasts and "under new management" there has been a good response to the appeal for new members.

The high quality of displays by members, plus the lively interest in the club auctions have made the monthly meetings regular philatelic attractions for members and visitors. Arrangements are being made to start a club exchange packet.

Enquiries to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. L. S. Brown, 17 Harberton Park, Belfast BT9 6TW.

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STAMPA '79



DISAPPOINTING ATTENDANCE

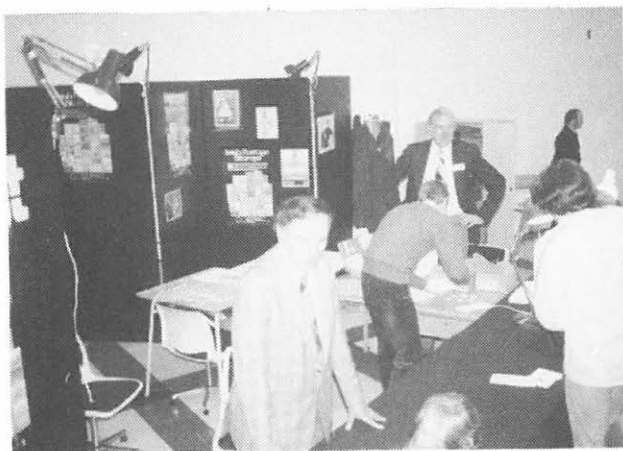
Attendances at STAMPA '79, Ireland's Eighth National Stamp Exhibition, held in the R.D.S. Dublin on October 3 to 7, were again down in number, with the total short of 2,000. Since 1976 when the paid attendance figures reached nearly 4,000, there has been a gradual decline in the number of people visiting the exhibition.

This must be extremely disappointing to the hardworking Organising Committee whose avowed aim is the 'development of philately in Ireland by means of a national exhibition'. Obviously they will be looking into the reasons for this low turnout. Various factors such as lack of sufficient publicity in the media, the early date (forced due to other bookins at the R.D.S.), the postal strike and ensuing delays in the mails, and possibly even the Papal Visit, may well have played their part.

GOOD STANDARD OF EXHIBITS

Although the postal strike prevented the proper distribution of the prospectus and entry form thus cutting down the number of exhibitors the standard was very high. Three silver and four bronze medals were awarded by the Jury -- Gerard Brady, Oswald Bailie and Dr. Peter Smith-Keary. It was interesting to note that modern material did very well for possibly the first time in the history of the exhibition, with Brian Warren winning the David Feldman Trophy for the best overall exhibit which was a study of the Gerl Definitives decimal watermarked issues, and Declan O'Kelly winning a bronze medal for his GB 'Swedish-style' booklet.

The only criticism of the awards we heard was that an excellent exhibit of Colombian airmails did not win a medal. Certainly the material displayed in this



The Department of Posts and Telegraphs stand and exhibits at STAMPA '79



1. The Complete Collection.

We have a few complete collections left due to cancellations etc. These consist of the nine special cancels, covers carried on the Papal Flight from Rome to Dublin and Shannon to Boston, covers posted in Galway and Knock on the day of the Pope's visit there, Knock Centenary cancel, and a mint block of four of the Papal Visit Stamps, all housed in a special presentation album. **PRICE: £30 incl. Post and Packing. (U.S. \$63 incl. Airmail).**

2. The Complete Set of Cancels.

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(b) Maximum Card — Dublin cancel only.	60p	\$1.25
(c) Set of 3 plate blocks, top OR bottom.	£4.00	\$8.40
(d) Commemorative postcards: 10p each, per 10:	90p	\$1.90
(e) Knock Centenary Cover with special cancel:	75p	\$1.60

Individual cancels may be available (apart from the Papal Flights and day of event covers from Galway and Knock which are exclusive to the complete collection). Wants lists invited.

Most major credit cards accepted: Access, Barclaycard, Eurocard, American Express, Mastercharge, Visa. Please quote your card number and expiry date.

IAN WHYTE



3, Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.
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exhibit seemed very interesting to this writer and the presentation could hardly be faulted.

The awards were as follows: Silver medal and David Feldman Trophy, Brian Warren (Gerl Definitives – the Decimal, Watermarked Issues); Silver Medals, Norah K. Wright (Irish Mileage Marks), Julius Fletcher (Israel: Interim Period of 1948); Bronze Medals, Fred E. Dixon (Salvaged Mail), William Kane (The Pen and the Sword), Declan O'Kelly (G.B.: Machin Swedish Style Booklet Panes), Robert Teeney (Ireland: 19th Century Postal History); Certificates of Merit, George and Heloise Mitchell (Vehicles drawn by animals throughout the Ages), and Pdraig O'Mathuna (Ireland: The typographed 3d Y Coils).

Gerard Brady, Chairman of the Jury, exhibited a dazzling array of Irish rarities including most of the 'accent' errors on the overprints, the possibly unique Rialtas proof in blue, and many other interesting and seldom-seen issues.



One of the blocks of four from the National Museum exhibit.

A MILLION POUND DISPLAY

The National Museum displayed what is probably the rarest British philatelic item – a mint block of four of the 6d Edward VII stamp overprinted "I.R. OFFICIAL". The block was part of an exhibit of the complete set of the "I.R. OFFICIALS" of Edward VII in mint blocks of four, which if put on the market would probably fetch near enough to one million pounds!

The blocks were a gift to the Museum

resulting from a visit there by the King, who was very impressed with the stamp collection which was then in a very good state under the able supervision of W. Lane-Joynt, one of the founders of the Irish Philatelic Society. Even the Royal Collection in Buckingham Palace has only a pair of the 6d value, and only two or three copies are in private hands.

The Revenue Stamping Branch and the Department of Posts and Telegraphs showed original artwork, proofs and colour separations of recent issues including the Papal Visit, the Irish Birds, and the three stamps issued on the opening day of Stamps '79. Also shown were uncut booklet and coil sheets which were minutely examined by specialists intent on 'plating' these issues.

MORE TRADE STANDS

There were five new stands at STAMPA '79 this year which due to pressure of space meant that some stands had to be placed in a second hall. Despite the low attendance business was brisk with a heavy demand for Irish material naturally and the most popular item appeared to be first day covers of the Papal Visit issue which sold at prices varying from 50p to 75p. One dealer alone reported sales of over 500 of these, the demand being probably due to the Philatelic Section being closed on the day of issue.

A Total of 20 stands were occupied by 18 dealers (5 from the U.K.) and the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and the Isle of Man Post Office Authority. Very little was offered for sale this year to the standholders, unlike in previous years when all manner of collections and single items were brought in for valuation and possible purchase.

SOUVENIR BOOKLET SOLD OUT

An attractive commemorative booklet containing panes of the 10p 'Birds' issue was issued by STAMPA in a limited edition of 1200. It was sold out by the third day of the show.

Continuing the 'Birds' theme the four special cancels depicted the birds which appeared on the 'Fauna and Flora' issue of this year. An attractive series of covers incorporating pen and ink sketches by Alice Fogerty complemented the cancellations and the serviced sets franked with the appropriate stamps certainly made the most appealing souvenir in the history of

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PRESENT

TWO EXTENSIVE AUCTIONS

To be held in Dublin during January

The first sale will consist entirely of Ireland and post cards. The Irish will be one of the most comprehensive ranges ever offered at a public sale and includes postal history, GB used in Ireland, fore-runners, essays, overprints with strength in errors, and a large wholesale section.

(Presale estimates already exceed £100,000.)

The post card part of the sale consists mainly of three of the finest collections in the British Isles, broken into suitable lots. The post cards are expected to be estimated at £10,000+.

The second sale will consist of GB, British Commonwealth and world A-Z, with many important items such as Australia, fine early 'Roos etc. Including errors, Sidney Bridge 5/- used (5), early Canada, France, German States, Gibraltar including Geo. V £5.00 'Specimen', Great Britain with 1d blacks (100+), QV £1.00 m. (2), Sea Horses to £1.00 m., 1st De La Rue £1.00 u/m, early Mauritius, South Africa with Cape and Mafeking, U.S.A. including one lot of early material imperf, perf. and 'Grills' cat. at \$10,000+ etc. . . .

Telephone or write us for a complimentary copy of the catalogue for either or both sales. You may also subscribe to our sales catalogues for £3.00 per annum.

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We are now accepting quality material for our Spring Auction.



A general view of the dealers stands

the exhibition.

All in all STAMPA '79 was a most interesting exhibition and it is a great pity that more people did not have the opportunity of enjoying it. Hopefully next year's show, which is scheduled for the Bank Holiday Weekend, October 24 to 27 (Friday to Monday), will see a reversal of the downward trend in attendance otherwise the future of STAMPA will be put in serious doubt.

STAMP & COIN FAIRS IN CORK AND DUBLIN

The Cork Philatelic Society's Annual Exhibition and Fair took place on October 13 in the Imperial Hotel, Cork. Over 500 people attended and the Revenue Stamping Branch displayed some of the exhibits shown at STAMPA '79.

Thirteen dealers, as well as the Post Office, took stands at the show, and while business was brisk very little quality material was bought or sold, although one dealer purchased a complete collection of Ireland. The main demand appeared to be for cheap covers and modern stamps.

A commemorative booklet was issued by the C.P.S. in a limited edition of only 250 and it was sold out by the early afternoon. The booklet contained a pane of The Rowland Hill commemorative, and the special cancel used on mail posted at the show also marked Hill's Centenary.

The Eighth Dublin Stamp and Coin Fair took place in the Tara Tower Hotel on September 23. About a dozen stamp dealers took part though the accent was definitely numismatic and there didn't appear to be much demand for philatelic material. Those dealers who took postcards along did well however, there being a lot of customers seeking good Dublin street scenes and cards of political or historical interest.

Visit ULSTER STAMPEX Maysfield Leisure Centre, Belfast.

6th, 7th, 8th December, 1979

PAPAL VISIT PHILATELY

The visit to Ireland by His Holiness Pope John Paul II produced a plethora of souvenirs, not least in the philatelic area. The Department of Posts and Telegraphs issued one special postage stamp (see 'Recent Releases' elsewhere in this issue) and used five different first day cancels, as well as producing an attractive official first day cover (their first specially designed one since 1977).

Ian Whyte sponsored four special cancellations used by the Department at Dublin Airport, Drogheda, Maynooth and Shannon Airport. The cancels were designed by Paul Stewart who was also responsible for the Department's first day postmarks. The Vatican Postal Administration used a special cancel to commemorate the visit (see illustration above) during the three days the Pope was in Ireland.

Through a most extensive advertising campaign Ian Whyte marketed a 'Complete collection' of covers including all the cancels mentioned above as well as covers carried on the Papal Flights, covers posted in Knock and Galway on the day of the Papal Visit to those centres, and a cover marking the Centenary of the Knock Apparition. The collection was

offered in a presentation album at a cost of £20 to advance subscribers only, and is currently selling at £30.

Hibernian Stamp Company offered an attractively designed folder containing the Irish Papal Visit Stamp in mint condition, the Polish Visit set mint, the Vatican Coronation set mint, and first day covers for £6. The Irish Times offered a mere first day cover for £1 — the current market price of which is between 60p and 75p.

The Department's Philatelic Section was inundated with orders for the Papal Visit Stamp and cover and long queues formed outside its office during the week before the date of issue. The G.P.O., including the Philatelic Section, along with Dublin post offices, was closed on the day of issue which must go down in philatelic history as a most unusual circumstance. Several hundred thousand covers were serviced, mainly for firms in the U.S.A. and Italy and at the time of writing orders were still being processed.

The Philatelic Section's job was not made any easier by the backlog of issues they had to clear due to the postal strike, and full credit must go to its staff for its strenuous efforts amid what seemed to this writer as chaos, albeit controlled chaos. So if you haven't received your orders do be



Cover carried on the Papal Flight from Rome to Dublin.



patient; they will eventually be processed.

The Pope received a gift of a presentation album containing a complete basic collection of Irish postage stamps from the Irish Polish Community which had an audience with His Holiness on Sunday September 30. The gift was organised by a leading member of the Polish Community Mr. Stefan Klineciewicz, managing director of the Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd. Stefan's two sons, Stefan Junior and Mark were amongst the children introduced to the Pope at the audience.

Diary

IPS = Irish Philatelic Society meeting usually followed by an auction. Held at 7.45 p.m. in the Clarence Hotel, Wellington Quay, Dublin 2, unless otherwise stated.
DSS = Dublin Stamp Society meeting held at 7.45 p.m. in the Ormond Hotel, Ormond Quay Upper, Dublin 2. Usually followed by an auction.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, 10th: New Issue – Padraig Pearse 12p

Thursday, 15th: New Issue – Christmas 9½p and 20p IPS – Society Cup Competition (for Novices)

Wednesday, 21st: DSS – Stamps of 1978 by Peter Corcoran

Saturday & Sunday, 23rd & 24th: Limerick Coin & Stamp Fair, Cruise's Hotel, Limerick. 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday, 29th: IPS – Franco-Prussian War & Siege of Paris, 1970–71 by Mr C. S. Holden.

DECEMBER

Wednesday, 5th: DSS – Novice Competition and Club Bourse.

Thursday, 6th: New Issue – Europa 12p and 13p.

Thursday 6th to Saturday 8th: STAMPEX ULSTER, Maysfield Leisure Centre, Belfast. (Details elsewhere in this edition).

Thursday, 13th: IPS – Slide Show by Peter Fitzgerald at 1 Leeson Park, Dublin 6.

Wednesday, 19th: DSS – India by David Rose.

Entries for this diary, which are published free of charge, are always welcome. Please send details of the event to the Editor.

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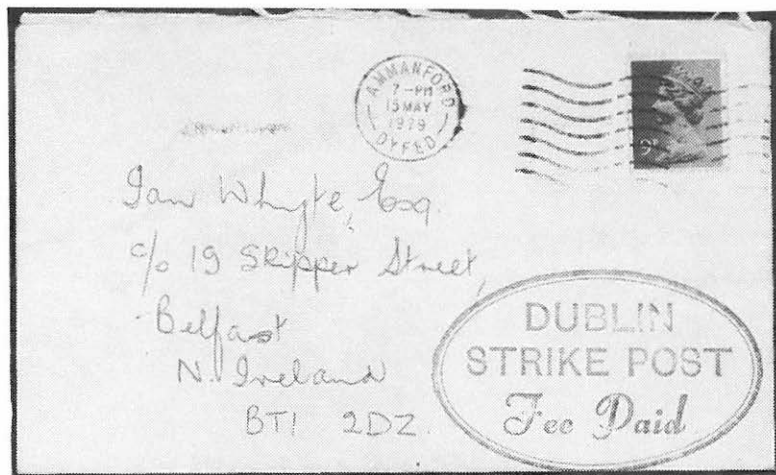
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STRIKE!

THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1979

By Ian Whyte



Commercial cover carried by Dublin Strike Post Service.

The National Post Office strike was called off after 18 weeks, on Monday June 25 1979—bringing to an end the biggest and costliest strike in the history of the State. The return to work was agreed after a deal with the Department of Posts and Telegraphs which provided for a 15% pay increase for Postmen and Telephonists with a little over 12% for Post Office Clerks who had reached the maximum of their scale. The postal workers had originally served claims ranging from 37% to 51%.

The main reason for the long delay in ending the strike was due to the Government's fear that an increase for Post Office clerks would have a spin-off effect throughout the Public Service. The 12% increase to clerks applied only to clerks who had reached the top of their scale and a lesser increase applied to lower scales. The Minister felt that this formula would not result in the rest of the Public Service clerks seeking a flat increase, and he therefore sanctioned the increase on this basis.

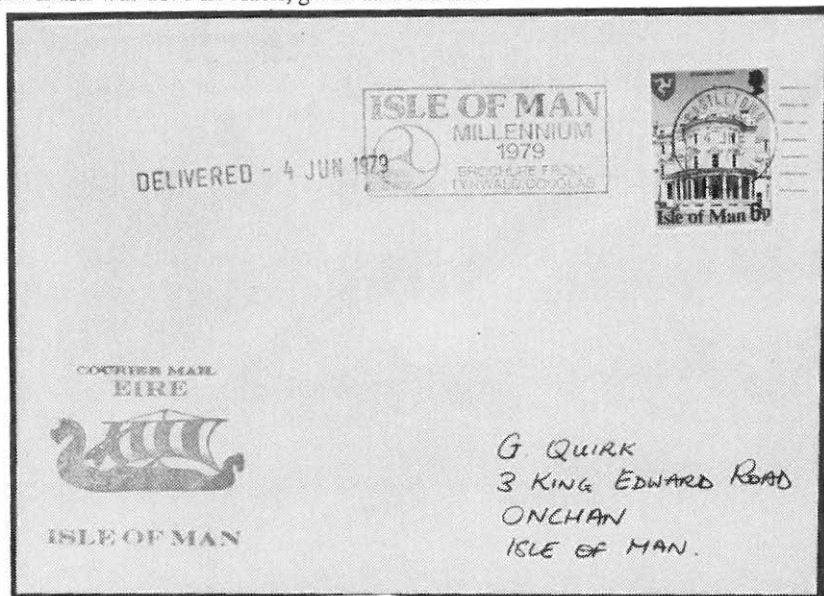
The Department of Posts and Telegraphs is understood to have lost about £1 million a week in revenue due to the action. About 50,000 telephones in the Dublin area alone were out of order and huge quantities of post dating back to the strike on February 19 were being held in Britain, Northern Ireland, Europe and North America.

Unlike the British Post Office—which during the 1971 strike in the U.K. licensed private carriers—the Irish P.O. refused to do so for fear of exacerbating the situation. However a number of 'Courier' services, either already established or set up during the strike, carried mail or other items normally sent by Post.

With a few exceptions none of these firms issued labels or used markings which would be of interest to the philatelist.

The exceptions are of course of interest to the collector and I shall here attempt to list and explain them. Also of interest are the various markings resulting from the strike and it's aftermath.

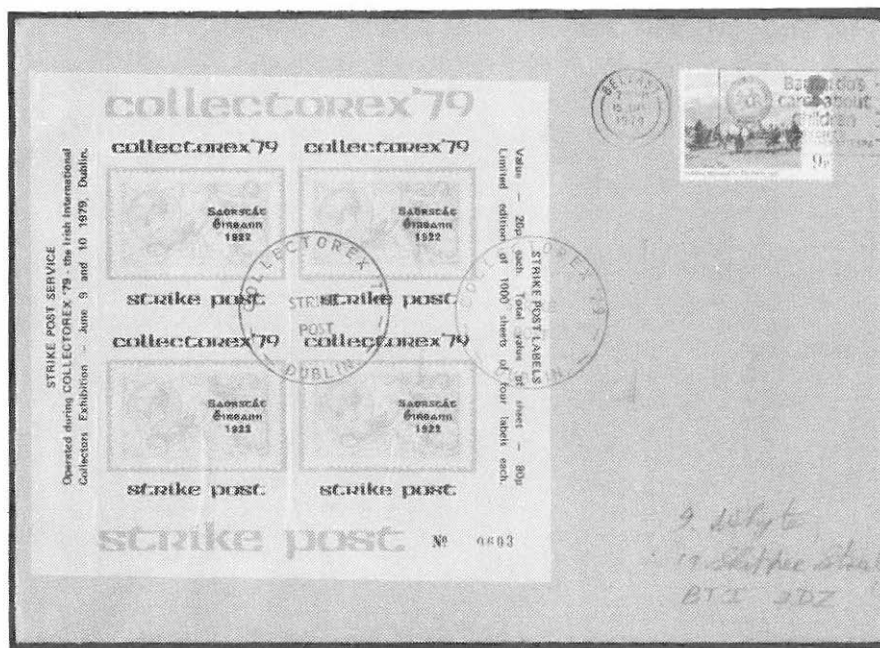
The first service to produce a marking was the 'Dublin Strike Post' set up by Peter McBride of the Belfast Stamp Shop. This service received mail for strike-bound addresses via its office in Belfast, and posted outgoing mail in Northern Ireland. At first both incoming and outgoing mail received the oval-shaped 'DUBLIN STRIKE POST/FEE PAID' stamp, but after a month or so the use of the mark was discontinued on outgoing mail for fear of 'blacking' by postal workers in the Northern Ireland Post Office. The mark continued to be used on incoming mail however, and on occasional outgoing mail by request of collectors. The mark was used in black, green and red ink.



Front of cover carried by Isle of Man Courier Service.

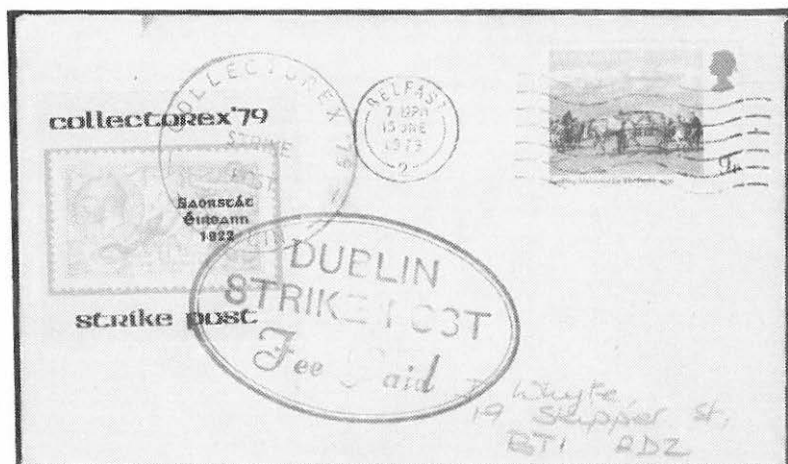
A Courier service was operated from the Isle of Man which carried about three hundred items, all of them apparently for philatelic consumption. Four labels were produced—£1 red, £2 red on yellow, £3 gold, and £5 blue and red. They were printed by letterpress on gummed unwatermarked paper by Mr. Gordon Quirk who organised the 1971 Post Manninagh service during the British strike.

The covers bear the label on reverse cancelled by a rectangular boxed 'DUBLIN/POSTAGE PAID' handstamp in green, an Isle of Man stamp on the front cancelled at Castletown, and a B.I.A. datestamp (British Island Airways who operate an Air service between Dublin and the Isle of Man). On some of the covers there is also a 'EUROPOST COURIER/JUN 2 1979/EMERGENCY MAIL' datestamp.



Collectorex 79 sheet used on cover.

COLLECTOREX '79 issued a 'Strike Post' label on unwatermarked gummed paper, rouletted, in sheetlets of four. The design incorporated an imaginary stamp—the £1 Seahorse overprinted 'Saorstát Éireann 1922' which was never issued, the top value overprint being ten shillings. The labels cost 20p each and were issued in a limited edition of 1000 sheets of four.



The COLLECTOREX labels were sold to prepay carriage of mail to Belfast where it was re-posted to addresses outside the State, having been franked with the appropriate British postage. A circular undated mark reading 'COLLECTOREX '79/STRIKE POST/DUBLIN' was used to cancel the labels and the covers also bear the Dublin Strike Post mark as the D.S.P. was responsible for the onward transmission.

The covers were cancelled by the Belfast Post Office with either a rubber c.d.s. or a machine cancel on various dates between June 11 and 17, and most were delivered though a few went 'astray'.

Of all the services the D.S.P. (Dublin Strike Post) was the only one to carry ordinary and commercial mail. In fact the D.S.P. was the 'life-line' for two leading Dublin dealers and IRISH STAMP NEWS was delivered through it. Between 100 and 2,500 items a week were carried, and the fee charged ranged from a few pence to 40p per item. A weekly delivery service operated between Dublin and Belfast to ferry mail back and forth.

When the postal workers went back they faced a mammoth backlog. The Department continued refusing to accept first class mail for a couple of weeks, and second-class mail and parcels were not accepted until about four weeks after the strike had ended. Mail resumed within a week and collectors avidly scanned it for unusual marking.



One of the first noticeable effects was the lack of postage dues. Ordinary postage stamps were used as postage due labels in a number of cases. The time slugs were removed from most postmarks (as they were from the pillar boxes).

Very little of the delayed mail was backstamped but the few covers that were, are much sought after by collectors, particularly envelopes postmarked originally in February and then backstamped in July or August.

Some foreign postal administrations treated mail addressed to Ireland during the strike as undeliverable and returned it to senders. A few, notably the U.S. and Canada, used instructional markings such as 'Embargo: Return to Sender', 'Service temporarily suspended; Return to Sender'. There was obvious confusion as regards Northern Ireland mail as some foreign Post Offices returned mail for addresses in the province not realising it was British and unaffected by the strike in the Republic.

The strike meant of course that the new issue programme had to be altered. Details of this are given elsewhere in this edition of IRISH STAMP NEWS. Also the philatelic section extended the closing date for sales of all special issues by four months due to the stoppage.

All in all it was a costly strike whose repercussions are still being felt, but it did produce a number of interesting items for the collector and the postal historian, and no doubt many will attempt to form a collection of them which will result in the scarcer items becoming valuable pieces.



A set of four special postmarks featuring the four birds shown on the recent "Flora" and "Fauna" issue were used on mail posted at the exhibition post office. In addition, an attractive set of four covers each featuring a sketch of the bird concerned were also available. The complete set of four serviced covers are available at £2 (U.S. \$4.20) from the Secretariat, Stampa '79, 3 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. Postage is extra (15p or U.S. 90 cents airmail).

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Special Handstamps

IRISH POSTMARKS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

By Selwyn Deacon

The first major Exhibition in Ireland was in 1853, on Leinster Lawn, Dublin, and the exhibitors included De la Rue, demonstrating their new machine which folded and gummed envelopes at the rate of 60 a minute. There was also an envelope prepared showing the Exhibition Building, but no information is available of any special post office. There were post offices at three later 19th century exhibitions in Dublin: 1865 Exhibition Palace, Earlsfort Terrace; 1882 Rotunda Gardens; 1892 Royal Dublin Society premises (Masonic Female School Centenary Exhibition).

It is likely that cancelling handstamps were made for use in these temporary offices, cancelling telegrams, parcels and registered mail. Other letters (it was before the era of the picture postcard) would have been taken from the posting box for cancelling at Dublin G.P.O.

(Illus. 1) We know such a procedure to have been used at Cork in 1902 and 1903, the earliest Irish "Special Event" postmark for which examples are known to exist. The few survivors are on registered letters and a parcel receipt.

(Illus. 2) In 1903 Cork and Waterford were the Irish towns chosen to experiment with a special posting box in December. Items posted in the box were given a special cancellation "Posted in advance for delivery on Christmas Day". 800 envelopes and postcards were so treated in Cork, and 250 in Waterford, but so far no example is known for either place. From the British counterparts we can reconstruct the designs.



(Illus. 3-6) The 1907 International Exhibition on the site now Herbert Park, Dublin, was the largest ever held in Ireland. It was well attended and large quantities of colourful postcards were posted and received a double-ringed cancellation. There were three datestamps, differing mainly in the space between the twinned arcs. For counter-work there was a single-rim datestamp.

(Illus. 7) An interesting feature of the Dublin 1907 Exhibition was the method of "pre-fabricating" the buildings. Many components were re-used the next year for the Franco-British Exhibition in London, where a major attraction was the Irish village of Ballymaclinton, the name chosen because the principal organisers were the Donoughmore soapmakers McClinton. Its cancellation can be classed as Irish, and examples of the second year, 1909, are rarer than 1908.

Dr. Stafford Johnson, when researching in the 1930s, took notes from Post Office cancellation registers then extant, but which were apparently pulped during World War II. These showed that in 1911 skeleton datestamps were issued to horse-racing venues at the times of their main meetings. These must have been intended for press telegrams, and as there seem to have been no postmark enthusiasts looking for impressions, Dr. Stafford Johnson's notes are all that survive. These show the 1911 Race Meeting datestamps to have been: March 25 Mullingar G.S. (also 10.vi, 6.ix); April 28 Phoenix Park G.S. (also 16.v, 16.vi, 5.vii, 23.vii, 13.ix); May 30 Clonmel Races; July 4 Tuam Races; August 8 Galway G.S. G.S. in such cases = Grand Stand, the Press Office being usually sited in the space below the tiers of the stand.

Two other skeleton datestamps are recorded for 1911 events, although no



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surviving examples are known:

August 3: Dublin Health Congress.

August 23: Association of Chambers of Commerce, Dublin.



8

(Illus. 8) Another Special Event in 1911 was the visit to Ireland of the new King, George V, and there are two rare postmarks which may have been introduced on that occasion, one DUBLIN CASTLE and the other VICEREGAL LODGE. However, it is more likely that they were regular datestamps of the series prepared for Royal Residences.

(Illus. 9) It is probable that the racecourse postmarks were repeated annually but Dr. Stafford Johnson's notes include none until definitive ones were introduced after World

War I. So the only Irish Special Event Postmark between 1911 and 1919 recorded is that of the Irish Convention, held in Trinity College, Dublin. It has been asserted that the Irish participants refused to use the posting facilities, believing that anything posted there would be investigated by British



9

authorities. Most of the impressions seen are "philatelic" and I have not yet seen envelopes posted by delegates of either side. The range of dates is 30 July 1917 to 26 february 1918.



10



11

(Illus. 10) On 15 October 1919 four new Grand Stand single-circle datestamps were registered—Baldoye, Curragh, Leopardstown and Phoenix Park. A similar marking for Limerick Junction G.S. was registered 7th June 1920.

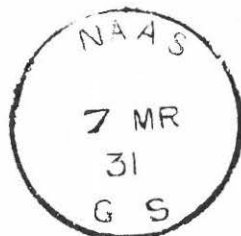
(Illus. 11) Some time in the 1920s a Show Yard, Ballsbridge, datestamp was brought into use for the annual Shows of the Royal Dublin Society. It is seen normally on registered envelopes, my earliest being 1928. It is obviously that Irish philatelists of this period were so obsessed with overprints that nothing else was recorded, and it is only recently that Michael

IRISH STAMP NEWS

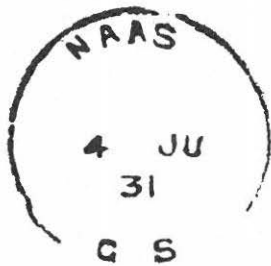


12

Leonard has discovered a skeleton datestamp of 13 July 1926 for a women's Congress in Dublin.



13



14



15



16

(Illus. 13, 14, 15, 16) Otherwise nothing is known until 1931 when there were more Grand Stand skeletons, for race meetings at Naas and Powerstown Park, and for Ladies' International Golf and Championship at Portmarnock. The first skeleton for the Mansion House, Dublin, was registered 2 June 1931: the occasion for its use is not known.



18

(Illus. 18) 1931 brought also the first postmark connected with the Irish Hospitals Trust, a skeleton datestamp, used in November during the Sweepstake draw at the Trust's temporary premises in The Plaza. It was used again for another draw in 1932.

(Illus. 19) On 16 November 1932 the Northern Ireland Parliament Buildings at Stormont were opened by the Prince of Wales. There was no special cancellation but there were printed envelopes and a cachet with



19

the geographically wrong legend "Ulster Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Opening Day 16.11.32". These were organised by Hon. James Craig (son of Lord Craigavon) and some received the dated franking stamp of the Prime Minister's Department.



17



20

(Illus. 20) In July 1933 there was again a Mansion House, Dublin, skeleton datestamp, this time for a meeting of the British Medical Association. It was similar to illustration 17. The Mansion House premises have long been used for a wide range of functions, and at some stage a definitive datestamp was issued, with Irish wording. It was normally reserved for telegrams.

Book Review

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue: Part 1: British Commonwealth
ISBN: 0 85259 086 5. 1092pp. Hardback.
Published by Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd., London.
Price: U.K. £9.50 (IR £10.25 approx. plus 10% V.A.T.).

Scott 1980 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue: Part 1: United States, United Nations and British Commonwealth of Nations
ISBN: 089487 023 8. 753pp. Soft-cover.
Published by Scott Publishing Co., New York.
Price: U.K. £9.60 (IR £10.35 approx plus 10% V.A.T.).

Michel Europa Katalog 1980 — West
ISBN: 3 87858 2277 A — Ha
Published by Schwaneberger Verlag GMBH. Munchen.
Price: U.K. £15 (IR £16.20 approx. plus 10% V.A.T.).

Autumn is the traditional time for the publication of the major stamp catalogues and I have chosen for review what I consider the three that are of most interest to those who collect Irish Stamps. Although few Irish collectors would buy them for the Irish listings alone, they are of considerable interest due to their influence on the pricing of the material they list.

The Gibbons listing is straightforward, including all major perforation, watermark (excluding inverted) and shade differences. It also includes most of the 'accent' varieties on the overprints and the major varieties on the basic British stamps such as re-entries on the Seahorses. Gibbons only list booklet pomes when they include a se-tenant label. The only errors listed in the commemoratives are the missing silver varieties on the U.S. Bi-Centennial issue, the only priced one being the 7p silver omitted used at £70. Overprint controls are also listed and priced.

IRISH STAMP NEWS

Last year I took Gibbons to task for out of date pricing. However this year the pricing is much in line with current market trends, if and only if, one assumes that the prices for pre-1945 issues in mint condition are for hinged copies. The prices, of course will not be up-to-date for long if the present trends continue but they do reflect the massive increases in Irish stamp values during the past year.

A few examples (with last year's price in brackets) are indications of the popularity of Irish material, particularly in the higher-priced 'investment items'. SG46, The 1922 Thom 4-line overprint 10 shillings is now £750 (£500) mint and £800 used (£550). While the very scarce 10 shilling wide and narrow pair, SG85a rises from £325 to £700 mint. In the low value overprints the 1922 Thom blue-black or red ½d to 1s set SG30/43 goes up to £55 (32) mint and £48 (£27) used, and is typical of the type of increases that have been implemented in the rest of this section. It is interesting to note that used is becoming as expensive if not more so than mint and this does reflect the growing interest in fine to superb used copies of these stamps which are in many cases much more difficult to obtain than mint. Note that I say 'fine to superb'; less than fine can be had at a considerable discount.

Overprint varieties follow the basic stamps in price increases. SG2a 1d overprint inverted is now £120 (£90) mint and £200 (£150) used, while SG10a 1½d Thom with 'PENCF' is £350 (£275) mint and £275 (£200) used. The accent varieties have jumped by between 30% and 160%. In this regard Gerard Brady in his excellent article in IRISH STAMP NEWS No. 2 showed that the 1d missing accent mint was three times scarcer than the 1 shilling. Last year Gibbons list them — SG 53aa and SG 63a — at £2,500 and £2,250 respectively. This year they price the 1d at £4,000 and the 1 shilling at £6,000. Have the prices been accidentally transposed?

In the definitives the 1922—1949 sets go up by about 30%, and the 1967 3d and 5d photogravure printings are now £1.25 (85p) mint. The interest in The Gerl Definitives is seen in the hefty prices for the 1968—70 and 1971—74 sets which are now listed at £15 (£10) and £18 (£9.50) respectively in mint condition. Incidentally the 1971 set price does not include the 10p Type I which is now priced at £2.50 mint (45p) and 45p (25p) used.

The scarce commemoratives of the Fifties are all considerably increased in price with SG

156-7 Robert Emmet at £17.85 (£9.75) mint and £7.15 (£5.50) used, and SG 168-9 Admiral Brown at £16.80 (£9.60) mint and £9.40 (£6.40) used. The 1972 miniature sheet, MS 324 is now £4.25 (£2.00) mint and used while the 1976 sheet, MS 395 is priced at £2.00 mint and used as opposed to 80p last year.

The 1940-70 dues, D5-14 are now £26 (£18) mint and £25 (£23) used. The used price is too much as one can pick up this set easily for less than £10. The prices for the 1925 set are obviously for hinged mint at £19.50 (£16.50) as this set is nearing the £100 mark for unmounted mint.

The Scott Catalogue is America's standard reference work, selling over a quarter million copies every year. Its listing is similar to Gibbons. Though it doesn't list re-entries on the 'Seahorses' it does list all the booklet panes. In general Scott's pricing is lower than Gibbons as can be seen in the comparisons I make below.

The Michel Catalogue is Western Germany's standard reference work, and as Ger has one of the biggest philatelic markets in the world, and consequently its listings of the overprints and definitives seem complicated. The different overprints are identified by different Roman numerals thus Michel number 371 is the 2/6 Thom Saorstat and 37II is the 2/6

2/6 'Castle' Saorstat narrow.

Where there are a considerable number of varieties such as the 'Accent' errors, they are published in tabulated form. The Gerl definitives are listed in some detail, with the individual stamps from booklets being listed e.g. ½p with two sides imperforate, and three sides imperforate, watermark variations included, both mint and used.

Michel lists all booklet panes that contain Se-tenant labels, as well as the booklets that contain them. Thus the 1931/2-booklet is listed — at DM 1500 (£395) — and most of the decimal books. The 30p booklet is not listed as it does not contain a pane with a label in it, but the ½p stamps contained in it are. Incidentally Michel is the only major catalogue I have seen to mention the 'STAMPA '76' overprint on the U.S. Bi-centennial sheet which it says "Ist Privater Aufdruck" (privately printed). They also price commemorative and definitive First Day Covers for most issues.

It is interesting to compare prices between the three catalogues. For simplicity I have

converted the prices to £: (SG = Gibbons; Sc = Scott; Mi = Michel).

Catalogue Numbers

SG	Sc	Mi		SG	Sc	Mi
21	14	111				
		10s Dollard mint, hinged				
		£120	£70			£130
63	55	361				
		1s Thom Saorstat, mint, hinged				
		£6.50	£4.20			£6.05
104	98	64				
		10s 1937 St. Pat, used				
		£30	£28			£45
127	119	84				
		3d 1941 overprint, mint hinged				
		£13	£9.50			£12
157	150	119				
		1/3 1953 Emmet, unmounted mint				
		£17	£9.50			£28
169	162	133				
		1/3 1957 Brown, unmounted mint				
		£16	£7.80			£26
155	148	117				
		1/4 Tostal, used				
		£6	£5.20			£11.30
183	176	147				
		1/3 Europa, mint u.m.				
		£6	£5.20			£10
D14	J14	P14				
		1/- Postage due, used				
		£7	£4.70			£9.40
Total			£221.50	£144.10		£277.75

As can be seen the Scott is cheapest and Michel dearest, so the conclusion would be buy by Scott and sell by Michel!

NEW HIBERNIAN CATALOGUE

The third edition of the 'Hibernian Simplified Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland' was published on October 4. Published by the Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd., it is a straightforward listing of Irish postage stamps, fully illustrated and priced.

Priced at £1.35 it is available from most dealers or direct from the publishers (please allow for postage), Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd., 11 Harrington Street, Dublin 8. A review will appear in the next edition of IRISH STAMP NEWS.

Auction Report

David Feldman S.A. of Geneva, held their fourth annual auction in the opulent Hotel International in Zurich on September 24 to 28 inclusive. A superb catalogue — a collector's piece in itself — lavishly illustrated in colour and black-and-white heralded this magnificent sale of just under 10,000 lots, of which just over 200 were of Irish material. The total sale realisation was over eleven million Swiss Francs, i.e., three and a quarter million pounds!

As usual the Irish Section's results were a good indication of current market trends with very high prices being obtained for most lots. I have converted the realisations to Irish pounds allowing for the ten per cent buyers commission.

In the postal history section an unusual "G/9/1" circular mark in red on an 1811 entire with a mermaid 'Paid' fetched £450. The origin of this mark is unknown — in fact it may not even be a postal marking at all, though hopefully the purchaser knew what it was — he paid enough for it. The popularity of the 'transition' period of 1922–23 was emphasised by some remarkable realisations. Seven items bearing mixed frankings or interesting instructional markings, estimated at £190 to £320 fetched £832 and a 1922 postcard, bearing a G.B. ½d and Dollard 1d cancelled March 1 1922 during the legitimate period of use of British Stamps as full or part pre-payment, made £350. I recall seeing four similar items selling for £40 about six months ago in an Irish Philatelic Society auction — lucky purchaser!

Postage due covers, particularly those from the 1922 to 1925 period when the British issues were still in use are just as popular, and pricey, as is evidenced by the sale of ten covers and three pieces for £350. Another interesting lot was six 'Express' letters dated from 1896 to 1908 which also fetched £350, according to my catalogue although the company's printed prices realised says 100 francs! — better put a new battery in the computer chaps!

In the G.B. used in Ireland section a superb pair of 1840 2d blues used on an 1841 cover from Dublin to Fermoy fetched £1150 and three Army Officials used on covers realised £320. A 1903 cover with 2½d cancelled PAQUEBOT with a DUBLIN & QUEENSTOWN c.d.s. fetched an amazing £160 which in my humble opinion is about four or five times what it is worth. Mind you I purchased my first example of this cancel for twenty five shillings over ten years ago!

The Forerunners section had a number of the so-called 'Fenian Essays', the best of which, a 1c black on green, with a light crease, made £540. An interesting "In Memoriam" card bearing a 1914 Anti-Home Rule Carson label (DFL22) "rejoicing" in the crushing of the Home Rule Bill, sold for £208.

The Dollard overprints section boasted a 1d overprint inverted, "double, one albino" which sold for £320 in unmounted mint condition, the "possibly unique" control block of six of the ½d proof overprint in red which fetched £1900, as well as several mint sets of the Seahorses which made between £190 and £270, and a used set which fetched £240.

When viewing lots it pays to keep an eye (or a strong magnifier) out for flaws or re-entries. This was emphasised by the sale of lot 6343 which was the 10s Dollard with major re-entry superb used on cover cancelled in Wicklow. This very same cover was part of a trio bearing the complete Dollard Seahorse set which sold as 'normals' in Hibernian Stamp Company's auction of November 25 last year for £260. At Zurich the cover fetched £2,080 no doubt allowing the lucky vendor the luxury of a few jars in celebration.

What was described as the 'original' and possibly 'unique' 1d 'ONE' flaw with a Thom overprint fetched £2,400 in used condition. It should be pointed out that this is the version with the 'Q' for 'O' and not the commoner 'reversed Q'. This particular stamp was used for the illustration of the flaw in the Stanley Gibbons specialised G.B. Catalogue.

Two of the scarce Thom Rialtas Seahorse sets hinged mint sold for £1250 each. A nice, albeit philatelic, cover bearing the Thom 'wide' ½d to 1s fetched £300 and another nice cover bearing the Harrison 1½d

'Long 1' on cover made £700. The 1925 'Narrow date' set of Seahorses in used blocks of four sold at £830, while mint 'Wide date' sets made £190. The Re-engraved set mint sold for £415 having been estimated rather low at £130.



The rare 1934 2d coil which sold for nearly £9,000.

The highlight of the Irish section was of course the very rare 1934 2d coil perf. 15 X imperf. in fine mint condition which sold to a postal bidder for nearly £9,000. A very fine used copy sold for £2400 and another copy with short perfs. and stained fetched £640.

In the commemoratives early first day covers showed a revival in interest with Shannon going for £260, Eucharistic for £115, and Holy Year for £125. Twelve sets of the 1941 overprints, two sets of which were mounted, sold for £270. The 1932 Mollison unofficial overprint on the one shilling sword of light sold for £240 used on piece, and £760 used on flight cover.

The last lot of the Irish section was a seemingly innocuous lot of about 100 covers 1922-25, estimated at £30 to £60. However it contained some very rare items, including the very scarce 'Hammerhead' continental type experimental cancels of 1923 used on covers. I have only seen these on piece before and was not surprised to see the lot fetch £380.

My overall impression of this small but very interesting section of this mammoth sale was that good covers, particularly those of the transition period, those franked with high value or scarce overprints, or with postage dues or unusual cancellations, are

most precious, and it should be noted that most if not all of the ones offered in this sale were bought by collectors and not speculators.

Not only Irish covers are good as is evidenced by the sale of the star item of the sale — an 1858 cover bearing four horizontal pairs of the 1856-58 5 Kopek of Finland which sold for £176,000. Will an Irish item ever fetch a price like that?

SMALLMAN GOES WEST

John Smallman, Irish-born stamp dealer, has moved to Vancouver from his previous address in Nova Scotia. John specialises in Ireland and British North America, and publishes very detailed and interesting lists based on the American catalogues.

His new address is John R. Smallman P. Eng., P.O. Box 130, Naramata, B.C.; VOH 1N0, Canada.

IRISH STAMP NEWS BACK NUMBERS

ALREADY COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

No. 1 (1000 Printed)	£1.50 \$3.15
No. 2 (1500 Printed)	50p \$1.05
No. 3 (1200 Printed)	£1.00 \$2.10
SET OF 3	£2.50 \$5.25

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IRISH STAMP NEWS

Recent Releases

New Perforator Introduced for Saint John of God Issue

by Brian Warren and Eddie FitzGerald

The settlement of the postal strike has meant a flood of new issues with five releases over a period of less than seven weeks. The World Cross Country Championships stamp saw the introduction of a printer's imprint in the bottom margin under R10/1 for this and all subsequent litho issues. The European Parliamentary Elections issue together with the 11p Energy Conservation stamp were photogravure printed by the Revenue Commissioners at Dublin Castle. All other issues were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited using the offset-lithography process. All sheets were printed with the now customary two sets of plate/cylinder numbers. All litho issues have boxed colour blocks (traffic lights) as well as plate numbers. A listing of the plate/cylinder numbers follows:

Date	Issue	Value	Plate/Cylinder Numbers
20/8/79	World Cross Country Championships	8p	1111, 1112
	European Parliamentary Elections	10p	I
	European Parliamentary Elections	11p	I
	Sir Rowland Hill	17p	111
30/8/79	Flora and Fauna (2nd issue) – Birds	8p	11111
	Flora and Fauna (2nd Issue) – Birds	10p	11111
	Flora and Fauna (2nd Issue) – Birds	11p	11111
	Flora and Fauna (2nd Issue) – Birds	17p	11111
13/9/79	International Year of the Child	10p	11111
	International Year of the Child	11p	11111
	International Year of the Child	17p	11111
29/9/79	Papal Visit of John Paul II	12p	1111, 1112, 2223
4/10/79	Hospitaller Order of St. John of God	9½p	11, 12
	Energy Conservation	11p	III
	Contemporary Irish Art (11th Issue)	20p	1111

European Parliamentary Elections. This photogravure issue was subject to minor dots and scratches. Two noteworthy varieties are as follows:

10p value – R5/3: Long white scratch between top serifs of last E of Eire.

– R/3: White spot above figure 1.

11p value – R1/9: White spot near right hand vertical border.

Rowland Hill. There are two constant varieties on this stamp which is unusual for a litho issue:

R5/2: Black mark on lapel.

R9/9: Black spot on sleeve near cuff.

Visit of Pope John Paul II. This issue has been one of the most popular Irish stamps of all time and demand for the special post office first day cover has been heavy. We consider the simple design to be one of the best portrait issues ever to be released by the Irish Post Office. Three plate combinations have appeared to date – 1111, 1112 and 2223. The stamps are still being distributed one further combination is expected.



Papal Visit of John Paul II – Imprint Block

Hospitaller Order of St. John of God. The first 9½p commemorative saw the introduction of a new perforator for the litho issues. The Grover sheet-fed machine has been utilised for all previous litho issues. However for this issue a new German Bickle sheet-fed perforator was utilised for part of the plate 11 printing. In the latter case the sheets were fed from the bottom rather than the top of the sheet; in addition there are TWO extension holes in the left and right margins. The following table summarises the two types:



9½p – St. John of God (Plate 11) with Grover Perforation. Note imperforated top margin and left margin with one extension hole.

9½p St. John of God (Plate 11) with Bickle Perforation. Note perforated top margin and left margin with two extension holes

**Perforation
Type**
Grover
(top feed)

**Top
Margin**
Imperforate

**Bottom
Margin**
Perforated
through

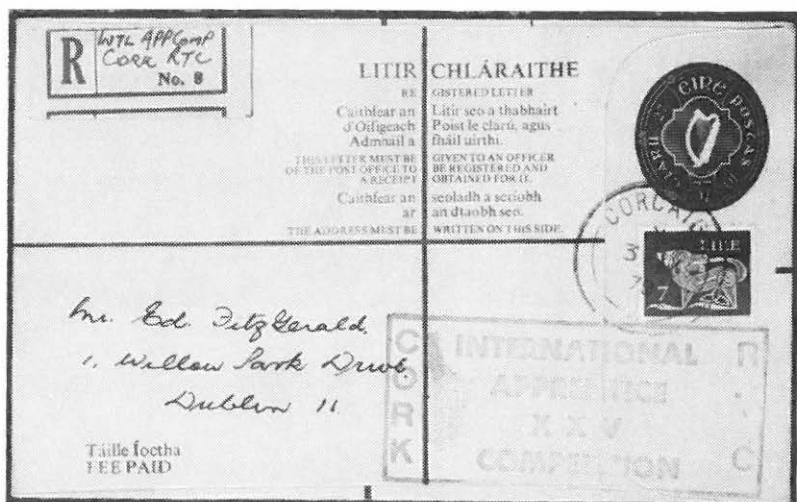
**Left
Margin & Right
Margin**
One extension hole

Bickle
(Bottom feed)

Perforated
through

Imperforate

Two extension
holes



Cork R.T.C. – International Apprentice Competition Registered envelope posted at the temporary post office.

The plate 11 sheets with the Bickle perforator have been difficult to locate and the authors obtained their blocks at the Post Office counter at the Cork Stamp Exhibition. In Dublin we could only locate half sheets (left side) guillotined between vertical columns 5 and 6 with this type of perforation. To date plate 12 has only been seen with the Grover perforation. Plate 11 with the Grover perforation also exists in half sheets (left side).

Energy Conservation. We have noted two significant varieties on this issue:

- R4/1: Weak blue area at top of stamp.
- R9/7: Break in left hand black vertical frame line.

Postmarks. Special pictorial first day postmarks were utilised in both Dublin and Cork for all new issues. In addition for the Papal Visit issue a pictorial first day cancellation was available in Limerick, Galway and Knock. A full list of the special event cancels follow:

1. 21 August: Centenary of the Knock Apparitions. Pictorial cancel at Knock.
2. 22 August to 26 August: Carrolls Irish Open Golf Championship. Similar postmark as per previous years used at Portmarnock Golf Club.
3. Four special postmarks featuring the papal coat of arms were used to cancel mail at the following venues:
29 September: Dublin Airport and Drogheda.
1 October: Maynooth and Shannon Airport.
The cancels were in addition to the five first day postmarks.
4. Four cancels featuring the birds on the recent Flora and Fauna issue were used at Stamp '79:
4 October: The Peregrin Falcon (17p).
5 October: The Wren (8p)
6 October: The Greenland White-fronted Goose (11p).
7 October: The Great Crested Grebe (10p).
5. 13 October: Cork Stamp Exhibition – This year the handstamp featured a Maltese Cross and commemorated Sir Rowland Hill and the introduction of Prepaid Penny Post.
6. A slogan postmark commemorating the International Year of the Child was brought into use soon after the postal strike in Dublin.

7. In September, the 25th International Apprentice Competition was held at the Cork Regional Technical College. Postal facilities were provided and a boxed cachet was used on mail posted at the RTC in addition to the normal Corcaigh C.D.S. The Post Office provided a special F.D.C. for the Papal issue. Official Souvenir envelopes were available at both the Stampa and Cork exhibitions. There were four Stampa envelopes each featuring a sketch of the appropriate bird to match each day's cancellation.

Postal Stationery. The G size registered envelope appeared prior to the postal strike with the corrected foreign compensation amount of £7.20 (previously £6.35). Note with the revision of postal rates on 1 August 79 the foreign compensation amount has altered; it has been increased to £8.80. In August the Philatelic Information Service announced that a new newspaper wrapper (5½p) would be issued on 15th August 79. The issue of this notice was in error as the wrapper was neither issued or printed. The rate had increased to 6½p on the 1st August and thus a 5½p wrapper was of no practical use.



Stampa '79 Booklet – front cover.

Exhibition Booklets. At Stampa '79, a limited edition of 1,200 booklets containing 4 X 10p stamps from the Flora and Fauna issue were sold at £1 each. The booklet was interleaved with advertisements from standholders including the Post Office. The Cork Philatelic Exhibition booklet contained 3 X 17p Rowland Hill stamps and was issued in a limited edition of 250. Price 75p. The back cover illustrated the exhibition postmark.

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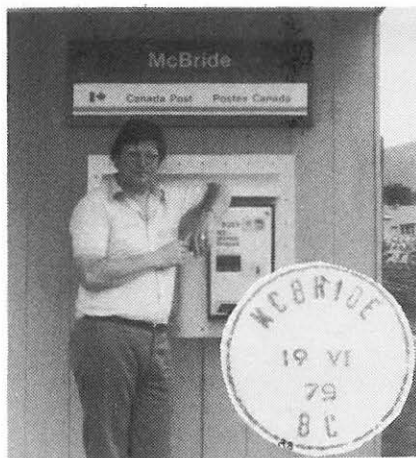
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McBride with (inset) McBride c.d.s.

Mc CANCELLED

That intrepid Ulster stamp dealer, who, at six feet five inches in height and an incalculable number of stones in weight, claims to be Ireland's largest dealer (a fact which has yet to be disputed), Peter McBride, went on a business-cum-pleasure trip to Canada recently. Peter who owns the Belfast Stamp Shop, was delighted to find his own Post Office complete with 'McBride' c.d.s. (see photograph above).

The small town in British Columbia which bears his name was apparently founded by another McBride about a hundred years ago.

IRISH PHILATELIC BUREAU 1944-STYLE

A recent acquisition by our office included a list of stamps 'available for sale' by the Philatelic Section, G.P.O. Dublin. Included in the list are 'Permanent Issues (Watermarked "E")' ½d to 10s including both "Sword of Light" and "Four Masters" designs. This is very interesting as the list was published in 1944, the year the "Four Masters" or "O'Clery" ½d and 1s were issued, and it is obvious that the Post Office regarded them as 'permanent' or 'definitive' issues and not, as regarded generally by collectors, as commemoratives.

This is re-inforced by the fact that all the commemorative issues are listed up to 1944 Brother Rice Centenary and the O'Clery stamps are not included in this listing.

Incidentally the only commemorative not offered is the 3d 1941 25th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising, which was sold out shortly after it was issued. The list also offers ½d, 1d, 2d, 5d, and 6d postage due labels.

British purchasers are advised to obtain their requirements through the British Philatelic Association. This was due to the wartime restrictions on mail between 'Eire' and the U.K.

As regards 'New Issues' the list says that 'Particulars of impending issues are announced through the principal Irish newspapers about 10 days before the date of issue. Information in advance thereof cannot be given to applicants'. So much for philatelic marketing in those days!

REJECTS

In recent years the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has been advertising for suggestions for future stamp issues. This was designed to avoid embarrassing omissions of important commemorations, and to find ideas for more interesting special issues.

The Department sift the suggestions and having excluded the sublime and the ridiculous (though some would contest this) it submits a list to the Minister who in turn submits the suggested programme to the Cabinet for approval or amendment. For instance it is believed to be a Cabinet decision to issue the Padraig Pearse commemorative stamp on the actual centenary date which happens to be a Saturday, which will, as with the Papal visit issue, raise difficulties for the Post Office, collectors and dealers.

To give some idea of what is not accepted we give here a list of the rejected ideas for 1978 which we recently came across: Death Centenary of William Stokes, Medical Scientist, and Sir Richard Griffith, Geologist; birth centenaries of Sinead Bean de Valera (wife of Eamon), Daniel Corkery, Author and Playwright, Oliver St. John Gogarty, Poet and Playwright, Thomas MacDonagh, 1916 Rebellion leader, Francis Sheehy Skeffington, patriot; Centenary of foundation of Mount St. Joseph's Abbey, Roscrea; Bi-centenary of the Birth of Robert Emmet, and the death of Thomas Roberts, Artist; 250th Anniversary of the birth of Oliver Goldsmith; 150th Anniversary of the foundation of O'Connell Schools, Dublin, 70th Anniversary of the Irish Universities Act, and if all that lot had been issued the final suggestion would be most appropriate for all the overworked collectors and dealers—World Hypertension month—April 1978!

Letters

Dear Sir,

I refer to Mr. Brady's interesting article "Ireland's Rarest Stamp — an Enquiry" in issue 2 of Irish Stamp News, and would like to add to the information he gives.

A mint vertical marginal pair of the 10/- Thom Saorstát with accent reversed and inserted was sold in the Cramer auction by Sotheby's in London on 23rd November, 1978. It was lot 575 (plate 33) estimated at £900/1000, realized £850 + 10% premium (no V.A.T.) = £935. The item has BPA certificate 39424 dated 9th March, 1960. It is not item F in Mr. Brady's article, which, to judge from the photograph, shows that the variety is the upper one in the pair i.e. R 7/4 and R 8/4. The pair in the Cramer sale is R 6/4 and R 7/4, the variety being on the lower stamp. Additionally, part of the marginal marking between rows 5 and 6 is visible thus positioning the variety. It would appear that there are at least nine examples of the variety known.

May I enter a plea for the Runnai's re entry on the 10/- to be elected to Mr. Brady's Hall of Fame? I appreciate that he is primarily concerned with varieties which are distinctively Irish, but perhaps he would alter the rules! I believe only one example in the unoverprinted state is known: overprinted for use in Ireland it is certainly very rare. I know of one used example overprinted with the Thom Saorstát and with a clear Dublin CDS of 2 JN 25. It is a marginal copy with the guide cross positioning it as R 6/1.

Yours etc.

"Bruno", Liverpool.

Sir,

In your first issue I contributed a note on the "elusive postmarks" of the American Mail arriving in Dublin.

Walter Hubbard has discovered why these postmarks are so rare. They were used only when the mails reached Liverpool so near to the time of the next Dublin despatch that the Liverpool office could not check them and record the amounts due to the UK and US offices.

The new procedure came into use in February 1856, the Liverpool office notifying Dublin by telegram whenever an untreated batch of mail was being forwarded.

The system ended in 1859 when the Irish mails from New York and Boston were put ashore at Queenstown instead of making the detour via Liverpool.

Mr Hubbard's article appears in CHRONICLE 101 published by the U.S. Classics Society.

Yours
Selwyn Deacon, Dublin.

Dear Sir,

Every issue of IRISH STAMP NEWS makes very enjoyable reading. I find the quarterly Auction Report on market movements of Irish stamps particularly interesting. Perhaps the next paragraph can be of interest to your next Auction Report.

Although I don't pretend to be complete for all of Holland, the following lots were auctioned in The Hague this year.

At De Munnik's auction on February 9th, the 2½d. Saorstát overprint with missing accent, u.m. fetched f195 (£45). The Castle overprint, wide date (S.G. 86/88) o.g. made f220 (£51), whilst the narrow date set (S.G. 83/85) fetched the same price, o.g. At Rietdijk's auction on June 11th, a number of overprint sets were up for sale, all o.g. The Rialtas overprint by Dollard (½d. — 10/-) fetched f500 (£116), the scarce Thom set (S.G. 64/66) went for f360 (£83) and the narrow date set for f400 (£93). Finally the re-engraved overprints were knocked down for f900 (£209).

To all the above mentioned prices one should add 15% buyers' premium.

Always being on the lookout for anything to do with Irish Philately, but living in a country with relatively few experts in this field, perhaps you or one of your readers could enlighten me on two apparently Irish postmarks found on British George VI stamps.

The first example is S.G. 466 with the postmark KILKEE/5.15 PM/21 MR/52. The only Kilkee known to me is in Co. Clare, but perhaps my geography is lacking.

The second copy is possibly very common, but hitherto not encountered by me. It concerns a copy of S.G. 464 postmarked: PAQUEBOT/6.30 PM/29 VIII/37/BAILE ATHA CLIATH.

Yours etc.,

J. Frencken, Netherlands.

IRISH STAMP NEWS

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