



The Revealer



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John J. Walsh, Editor



ST. PATRICK

AND

THE IRISH

On the 17th of March, Irishmen, wherever they may be, at home or abroad, meet to celebrate with all the love in their hearts, the feast of St. Patrick.

Every country has its Patron Saint. France has St. Denis; England - St. George; Spain - St. James; Scotland - St. Andrew; Hungary - St. Stephen and on and on, but with this striking difference. No patron Saint is so ardently loved and so generously honored as is St. Patrick. Every patron Saint is given a position of prominence in his own country but St. Patrick is loved and honored in every part of the world.

The greatest Irishmen of them all was not an Irishman, at least not by birth. To this day it is not certain where Patrick was born and thus almost every nation can and many do claim him for their own. The strongest claim seems to be that he was born at Kilpatrick, Scotland in the year 387 and died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland on March 17, 461 or 493.

It is certain, however, that his father, Calpornius, was a Roman of high rank and held the office of decurio in Gaul and Britain, both countries invaded and conquered by the legions of Rome. His mother, Conchessa, was a near relative of St. Martin of Tours, the great patron of Gaul. In his boyhood, Patrick was carried off from his homeland by an Irish marauding chief and sold as a slave in Ireland.

For six years he tended the herds of his master before he was able to escape to Britain where he determined to become a priest. After a visit to St. Martin at Tours, he went to the famous sanctuary of Lerius and finally to St. Germain, Bishop of Auxerre who, having instructed him, consecrated him a bishop in the year 432.

Returning to Ireland, he began the immense task of converting a nation which had a highly organized religion dominated by the Druids or High priests, to Christianity. How this was accomplished is symbolically shown on the high values of the definitive series of Irish postage stamps.

The design for the 2/6 emerald green, 5/- maroon and 10/- deep ultramarine is by the famous artist, R.J. King and shows St. Patrick invoking a blessing over the Pascal Fire, the picture being framed by an outline of St. Patrick's Bell Shrine.

(please turn to page 451)

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

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Seattle 3, Washington
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stationery; Canada, Dutch
Indies, Indonesia, Dutch
New Guinea, German New
Guinea, and Australia)
- # 331 Michael Cream
415 East 85th Street
Apt. 8 J, New York, N.Y.
(U.S. and United Nations)
- # 332 Hugh C. Rotchford
1648 Rodney Drive,
Hollywood, 27, Calif.
(General Collector)
- # 333 Robert D. Corless,
1826 W. Indianola,
Phoenix, Arizona
(U.S., Canada, Newfound-
land, Australia, New Zee-
land, & Geo. V. Silver
Jubilees. Used Vatican)
- # 334 John D. O'Connor
95 New Street,
Killarney, County Kerry
Ireland
(Vatican City and stamps
of a religious or them-
atic nature from every
country.)

SPECIALIST MATERIAL

The trials and tribulations of an editor are many and varied. He tears his hair when he observes the errors which creep into the publication as it comes off the press. How he could have made the mistake of leaving out a portion of an article he wonders. The blank spaces where illustrations were intended to be placed speak eloquently of the pressure of approaching dead-
lines.

But even more frightening to an editor is the prospect too often faced of finding his file of unpublished materials and articles empty. Unless he has a steady and sufficient supply of material fashioned to the particular interests of his members, he is forced to reprint material from other sources or of scant philatelic interest. His ulcers increase and the membership be-
comes dis-satisfied.

So, how about taking your pen or typewriter in hand and sending on an article or note. We all have something to contribute to our hobby. There are very few experts in this field and no one will criticize your efforts. How about helping your poor editor?

ADDENDA AND CORRECTION ! !

It is regretable that the very fine article by Miss Wright in the last issue (page 443) was incomplete by the omission of the illustrations. This may be corrected in pencil or ink by the following:

(a) Third paragraph should read:
"Also there is no aspirate on the "p"
of

Pingiv

(b) Fourth paragraph should read:
"the "O" of "Postage" appears

O

(c) Fifth paragraph should read:
"I have it

ids with *O*

intact and stroke giving sheet position."

(d) Eighth paragraph should read:
"but none so faithful as our old friend
the *O* who after 25 years is still
with us."

- # 335 Noel J. Langton,
49 Sycamore Road, Finglas
Dublin, Ireland
(Luzembourg, Monaco, Vatican, France,
G.B., U.S., Poland (to 1946), Italy, Belgium
Barbados)

Irish Varieties.

By William Kane, E.P.A. # 214

1929 Catholic Emancipation Centenary
(Daniel O'Connell) S.G. 89
2d. Grey Green.

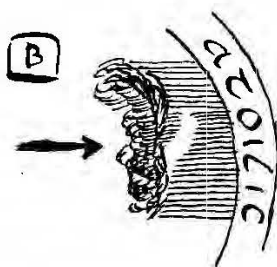
Where to look:



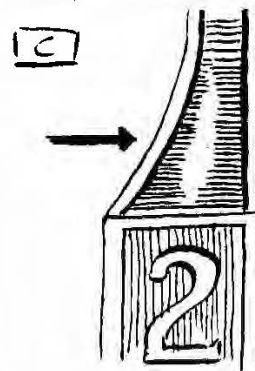
What to look for:



"Bullet Hole"



"Pen behind the ear"



"Re-touch"

(A) "Bullet hole" This variety was due to some foreign body being on the plate during the time of printing, which produced a colourless circle above the left eye. On all copies I have examined, there were minute differences in the circle itself, but all were approximate, as to position and sinze of the flaw. Strange to say that while all the copies of the variety I have seen, have been in mint blocks of 4, I have never been able to determine its position on the sheet, other than I know it was the 11th stamp in the row.

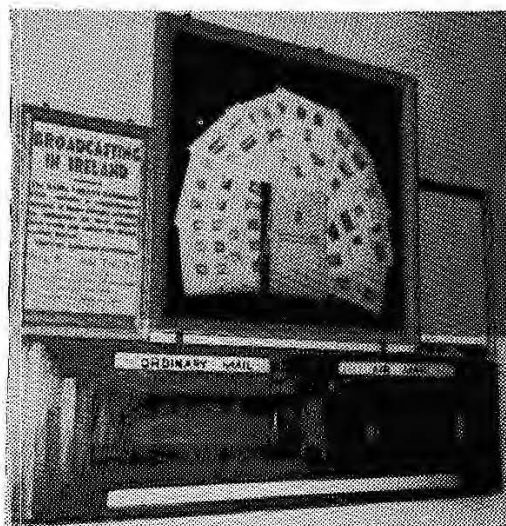
(B) "Pen behind the ear" This flaw was found on the 12th stamp on the 4th row. The horizontal lines of shading between the curved frame lines and the left ear are broken, giving the appearance of a pen behind the ear.

(C) "Re-touch" It was on the 12th stamp on the 15th row that this flaw was found. Due to the fact that during the preparation for the printing of the stamp, a workman dropped a tool on the plate, which necessitated the plate being re-touched, since there was not sufficient time to remove the cliché and have a new one made. It was observed at the time (1929) when this first printing was sold, that the next issue to the Post Offices (with which stocks were replaced) did not have this variety, which seems to point to the fact that the cliché must have been replaced after the initial printing.

While all three varieties are hard to find, I consider "B" and "C" the better items. There are three distinct shades of this stamp.

Note: This is the first of a series.

MAIL DROP AT THE SHANNON AIRPORT



**CENSORSHIP MARKINGS IN EIRE
DURING WORLD WAR II**

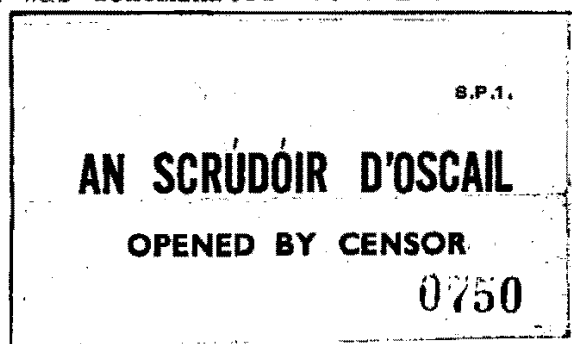
By John J. Walsh, E.P.A.

An interesting sideline to Irish philately is the collecting of World War II censored covers. Although the covers were plentiful several years ago, they are now hard to find.

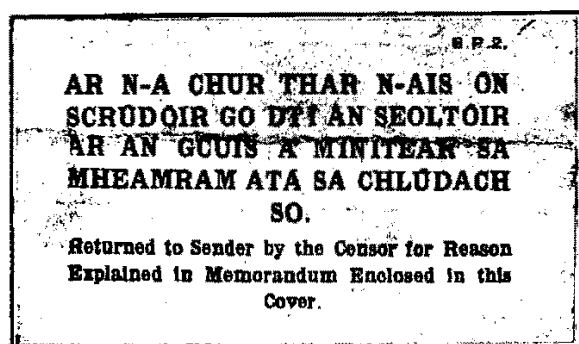
Since Éire maintained strict neutrality during the war, the censorship of mail became an important function of the government.

Most covers contain the censor label of both the Irish authorities and the British censor, one on either end of the envelope. Perhaps this is one reason why they do not appear in most collections since the stamp and often the postmark is covered with a label.

The common censor label used in Ireland was printed on pinkish paper and was denominated "S.P. 1".



When mail had to be returned to the sender because of the information contained therein, a buff colored label denominated "S.P. 2" was used.



Less common are the rubber stamps used by the censors. I have the following used on cover:

- (a) "PASSED BY CENSOR (9)
"Ceaduithe ag an Scrúdoir."

- (b) "SAORTAAGAN
SCRUDÓIR Four lines
Released By in box
Censor"

- (c) " (Emblem)
PASSED BY Three lines
MILITARY CENSOR in box
ÉIRE"

This last appears on the front of an envelope addressed from Germany to Ltnt. Georg Fleischmann, Curragh Camp, K-Lines, Co. Chilldare, Eire via Lisboa. It has on the back the usual German censor label "Obercommando der Wehrmacht Geoffnet". On the left, the British censor label (Examiner 1681) and the Irish censor label "S.P.1".

I was informed when I received this envelope from Ireland that German fliers captured in Ireland were interned at the P.O.W. camp in County Kildare.

Can anyone give us additional information about these interesting censorship covers?

DEATH OF PERRY ADAMS GREAT LOSS TO EPA

It is our sad task to report to the members of E.P.A. the death of our esteemed colleague and friend, Mr. Perry Adams, R.D. Port Murray, New Jersey.

Perry passed away on Tuesday, the 26th of January, 1960 and his passing leaves a great void in the ranks of our membership. We have all lost a dear and staunch friend. Perry was never too busy to find time to answer our inquiries and offer helpful suggestions. His contributions to Irish philatelic literature will always be remembered. It can be said that no one had a greater love for Irish stamps and everything connected with them. But not only did he love these stamps with the true affection which is part and parcel of the "philatelist" but he was anxious to share that love with others.

To his wonderful wife, Louise, who understood and appreciated his philatelic interests and his friendship for each member of E.P.A., we extend our heartfelt sympathy and our thanks to her for sharing Perry with us throughout the years.



It was the custom of the Druids at Easter each year to kindle a huge fire on the Hill of Tara to mark the beginning of a new year. Until this fire had been lighted, it was unlawful for anyone to kindle a fire in all of Ireland. The penalty for doing so was death.

When Patrick and his followers arrived on the hill of Slane, opposite Tara, he gathered material together and kindled the fire, whose flames could be seen on the Hill of Tara to the anger of the High Priests who told the High King of Ireland that

"Unless the fire that has been lighted tonight before the palace of Tara is put out tonight, it will not be put out for ever."

When Patrick was brought before the King, he so eloquently pleaded his cause that he persuaded the ruler to allow him to continue his mission.

While Patrick was a slave in his youth in Ireland, he had learned the Gaelic language and thus he was able to bring his message to the rulers and people with the result that in a few short years, he completely converted Ireland to the Faith to which it has clung for fifteen centuries.

It is said that when he looked about for some example to explain the mystery of the Trinity, his eyes fell on the shamrock, and plucking one he held it up before his audience, explaining that as the three leaves grew from one stem, so do the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, make one God.

But not only is the Pascal fire and Patrick himself honored by Irish postage stamps, but the air mail issue depicts many of the legends of his life.

SAINT PATRICK'S PURGATORY—LOUGH DERG

St. Patrick's Purgatory, Lough Derg, is the scene of the greatest and most important of the Irish pilgrimages. Every year over forty thousand people from every part of Ireland, and from abroad, come to perform a penitential pilgrimage which is, perhaps, the

most rigorous in Christendom; one, moreover, that was famous throughout Europe in the Middle Ages.



Lough Derg in County Donegal is represented on the 3d and 8d stamps, Scott's C-2 and C-4.

A very early legend tells that St. Patrick, by spending forty days of fasting and prayer in a mysterious cavern on an island in the lake, expelled the evil spirits who had infested the cave. Although it is definitely known, from still-surviving fragments of an oratory, cemetery and some beehive cells, that a Celtic monastery flourished there in very early times, it does not enter literary history until the 12th century.

The earliest known account of the island was written by a Cistercian monk, Henry of Saltrey, who described a descent into the cave by the Knight Owen in the year 1153. Legends must have been gathering for centuries, awaiting a narrator, for this, and other medieval accounts, describes a visit to the cave as an actual and most dangerous descent into the horrors and dangers of Purgatory itself, a privilege granted by God to Patrick to be undertaken only by the most fearless and intrepid penitent.

And so, down through the years, have come the penitents. Today the old myths have disappeared, and the veneration is one of piety rather than fear. The legendary rigours are reduced to the elements of fast and solitude, prayer and penance; the tale carried by pilgrims is no longer one of horrors, specters and demons, but of spiritual retreat and peace of soul.

Station Island is half a mile from the shore and is less than an acre in extent. Most of its area is occupied by the buildings pertaining to the pilgrimage, which include the impressive church of St. Patrick (this has been raised to the dignity of a minor Basilica, two large hospices with accommodations for pilgrims, the Prior's and assistant priests' quarters, and the slight remains of some ancient oratories or 'beehive cells'.

Season of the pilgrimage begins at the end of May or the beginning of June and ends in mid-August. Pilgrims must go barefoot from their arrival until leaving (three days in all) and a rigorous (concluded on next page)

ous fast is observed. Only one meal is allowed each day, consisting of black tea and dry bread. Penitential devotions commence with a visit to St. Patrick's Church, then visits are made to the various 'stations', specific prayers being recited at each. The first night is spent in vigil in the church. During the pilgrimage season, bona fide pilgrims only are allowed on the island.

CROAGH PATRICK, CO. MAYO

Second in importance only to Lough Derg, and in some ways more impressive and evocative of the traditional spirit of Irish piety, comes the pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick, Ireland's Holy Mountain. It is a graceful isolated cone rising above the shores of island-strewn Clew Bay in County Mayo.



This mountain is depicted on the 6d stamp, Scott's C-3 and also on the Parnell-Davitt issue.

On this lonely summit, in the year 441, St. Patrick spent the forty days of Lent in prayer and fasting for the people of Ireland. In the Book of Armagh (eighth century), we read the brief memoir of Tirechan: 'and Patrick went to Mount Egli (Croagh Patrick) to fast on it forty days and forty nights, keeping the discipline of Moses and Elias and Christ'. In the Tripartite Life there is a long and rather fanciful account of Patrick's sojourn on the peak, and the promises extracted by him from God, including the promise that none who sang his hymn from one watch to the other should suffer the pain of hell, and that Ireland should never lose the Faith which he had brought with him. And for more than 1,500 years people have come to pray on the summit.

The pilgrimage takes place annually on the last Sunday of July. The ascent is made from dusk onwards on the Saturday evening. For all its beauty at a distance, close up Croagh Patrick proves to be a bare, stony, inhospitable mountain. The ascent is steep and tiring and made more difficult during the last section by the loose flinty shale, which slides from under the feet with every step upwards—yet, despite this, many make the ascent barefoot. It is indeed inspiring to watch the vast assemblage of devout pilgrims performing this most gruelling of penitential journeys.

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The historical Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary is depicted on the 1d and 1/3 airmail stamps. The summit of Cashel is occupied by the remains of St. Patrick's Cathedral, a round tower, Cormac's chapel and the ancient Cross of Cashel. Legends tell us that the vision of an angel blessing the Rock, seen by two swineherds in the latter half of the 4th century, led Corc Mac Luighdheach, king of Munster, to establish a stronghold there and the kings of Munster were crowned on the pedestal of the ancient Cross.

Glendalough, County Wicklow is shown on the 1/- airmail stamp and it too has a connection with St. Patrick. Saint Coemgen (498-618) known more commonly as St. Kevin lived in Gleand de (The Valley of God) as a hermit for four years and later founded a monastery whose school was one of the most famous in Irish history. St. Kevin had a great devotion to the memory of St. Patrick and ordered that the Hymn of St. Sechnall in praise of St. Patrick be recited in his monastery three times, once each day of the festival of St. Patrick.

As another St. Patrick's Day approaches, the thoughts of every Irishman (by birth or desire) will turn to Ireland and her famous Saint.

IRISHMEN, IRISH HISTORY, ETC.ON STAMPS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

By Daniel Luby, E.P.A. 156

The Air Mail stamps of Venezuela issued in 1956-1957 in values of 5¢, 10¢, 15¢, and 70¢ (C 613, C 614, C 615, C 624), show the O'Leary School of Barinas Venezuela. This school was named in honor of General Florence O'Leary who was born in Ireland in 1801. A personal friend of Liberator Simon Bolivar, General O'Leary arrived in Venezuela in 1818. He held the rank of Second Lieutenant as a member of the English expedition organized in London by General Wilson. O'Leary lived in Venezuela for many years and was a great colaborator of Simon Bolivar during the struggle for the Independence of that country. Later O'Leary dedicated himself to writing, and published, among many other books his famous "Memories".

Information on these stamps has been supplied by Col(r) Jorge Marciano, Consul General, Republic Venezuela, New York City.



Post Office Window at Shannon Airport

(Kehr Photo by Permission)

SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP IN THE E.P.A.

LEINSTER HOUSE SEAT OF THE IRISH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.



Leinster House, Dublin

To commemorate the international recognition of the Republic of Ireland which took place on Easter Monday, 1949, the Republic of Ireland issued a series of two commemorative postage stamps, 2½d. red brown and 3d. violet blue, depicting Leinster House, the seat of the Irish Parliament, and flanked with the Arms of the Four Provinces. The stamps are inscribed bilingually "Poblacht na h Eireann" and "Republic of Ireland".

The seat of the two houses of the Oireachtas or Irish Parliament, An Dail (House of Representatives), and An Seanad (Senate of the Republic) is in Leinster House, one of the most elaborate and stately of Dublin Mansions. The approach to Leinster House, from the ornamental entrance gate on Kildare Street, is through a courtyard flanked on the left by the National Library and the National College of Art. The history of these buildings is linked with that of Leinster House. The greater part of Leinster House is of native stone, but the west front and all the ornamental parts are of Portland. The building was designed by Richard Cassels, a distinguished architect who originally came from Saxony and settled in Ireland in 1727.

The Fitzgeralds

Leinster House, or Kildare House it was then called, was built in 1745 by James Fitzgerald, 20th Earl of Kildare, later created 1st Duke of Leinster. The fortunes of the Fitzgerald family had long been linked with Irish history. Maurice Fitzgerald arrived in 1169 with the first Norman invaders. His son, Gerald, who died in 1204, was the ancestor of the Kildare branch of the Fitzgeralds. The Kildare family, on common with other Norman lords, after long residence, adopted the language, laws and customs of the Irish. They became the most popular and powerful family in Ireland and were the real rulers of the country for many years, but their power was broken when, in 1537, Lord Thomas Fitzgerald (called Silken Thomas because of his fine clothes) was executed with his

five uncles in London after an unsuccessful rising. Only one scion of the house of Kildare was left, Gerald, half-brother of Silken Thomas, a boy of ten who was rescued and later sent to Florence where he was educated. When Gerald returned to Ireland during the reign of Queen Mary, he had been reared as a foreigner and never went back to Irish ways. The Fitzgeralds of Leinster had been subdued. Not until the 18th century did they again produce a name remembered by the Irish people as that of a patriot - Lord Edward Fitzgerald, fifth son of the 1st Duke of Leinster.

James, the 20th Earl, became Duke of Leinster in 1766 and Kildare House became Leinster House. It was a centre of Dublin social life in the time of the first Duke, who died in 1773, and while his son William, the 2nd Duke, lived there. It was from Leinster Lawn, in 1785, that Ireland's first airman, Richard Crosbie, ascended in a balloon, and here the Irish Volunteers, organized for local defence in the absence in America of the greater part of the British garrison, held parades and demonstrations.

The member of the Fitzgerald family associated with Leinster House, who earned for himself a lasting place in the memory and affections of the Irish people, was Lord Edward Fitzgerald, a leader of the 1798 Rising, who, when sought by the authorities, refused to desert his followers in spite of many opportunities of escape. When he was finally arrested, he received wounds from which he died in prison.

The Fitzgeralds severed their connection with Leinster House in 1815 when the 3rd Duke sold it to the Royal Dublin Society, which had at that time been established for over 80 years. The Society altered parts of the premises from time to time to provide laboratories and theatres. A new theatre was opened in 1897 with seating accommodations for 700 persons, and contained many amenities far in advance of the times; a false ceiling to exclude daylight was designed by Sir Howard Grubb and a large organ was also installed. The theatre is now the Dail Chamber. The chemical laboratory adjoined the theatre and included, at a later period, apparatus for dealing with radium emanation, under the supervision of the

Radium Institute.

Under the Science and Art Museum Act, 1877, portion of Leinster House was taken over from the Society and also the greater part of the Society's Library, Museum and Art School to form the nucleus of the present National Library of Ireland, the National Museum of Ireland and the National Gallery of Ireland.

The first Dublin Horse Show of the Society was held in the courtyard of Leinster House in 1868. The last show at Leinster House was held in 1877. The rapid growth of the Society's shows quickly proved that more ample premises would have to be obtained. The necessary site, covering more than fifty acres of ground, was secured at Ballsbridge in 1879.

In June 1922, the new Irish Government approached the Royal Dublin Society and were given permission to use the Lecture Theatre and adjoining rooms for Parliamentary purposes. In 1924, as the Government required the use of the whole building, the Royal Dublin Society severed its connection with Leinster House after an occupation of 110 years.

The pattern of society which built such mansions as Leinster House has disappeared but with each new phase of history Leinster House has acquired a more important place in the life of the country. Today, as the seat of the two Houses of a sovereign Irish Parliament, it plays in the life of the nation a role of which its designer could never have dreamed, and the fate which he foretold for it in the inscription on the foundation stone still seems to be very far off: "The house of which this stone is the foundation, James, twentieth Earl of Kildare, caused to be erected in Molesworth's Fields in the year of Our Lord 1745. Hence learn whenever, in some unhappy day, you light on the ruins of so great a mansion, of what worth he was who built it, and how frail all things are, when such memorials of such men cannot outlive misfortune."

(This article was furnished by the Department of External Affairs of the Republic of Ireland to which we express our appreciation.)