

The Revealers

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THE REVEALER

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Deceased: G.J. Newlinger, J.E. O'Keeffe, W.G. Meredith, J.P. Morris

DONATIONS

Listed below are the members who graciously included a donation with their annual dues. The first list was published in the Winter **Revealer** and this supplement includes donations received from Nov. 21, 1980 through March 6, 1981. The officers of the E.P.A. express their sincere thanks to these members. If anyone has been overlooked in this and the previous list, please contact the treasurer.

B.P. Wright, N.T. Riggs, T.P. McNulty, F.W. Colby, E.J. Daly, L.R. Hilyard, T.B. Moore, D. Shannon, T.P. McCabe, R.F. Cochrane, J.P. McKeown, G. Pojer, R.G. Chaiet, R.A. Flynn, T.C. Fitzgerald, J. Lyall, T. McLaughlan, H.C. Hilliday, H. Frank, P.G. Murphy, V.N.M. Rao, E.J. Neary R.L. Slater, M.L. McMullen, T.A.J. Carr, P.J. McBride, P.J. Hynes, F. Collins, H.F. Ressmeyer, W.C. McCaw, J.G. Faulkner, J.F. Hearn, G.F. Allan, H.A. Close, M.P. Giffney, A. Finn

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MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Members as of November 30, 1980		668
New Members	41	
Re-instatements	4	
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(128)	
Resignations	(18)	
Deceased	(5)	
Records adjustment	(25)	(131)
Members as of March 9, 1981		537

HELP WANTED

In case you haven't noticed, the mailing label on the envelope containing the last issue of the **Revealer** that you received was produced by computer. We were fortunate to get the work done quite inexpensively and couldn't pass up the opportunity.

Now for the **HELP WANTED**....In putting the information on computer cards we are limited to 20 characters on each of four lines. We want everyone to check his address label carefully to be sure that we have all the information correct. It has all been cross checked with the old cards, but in the change of format it is very easy to make some errors.

We especially need help from our Irish and English members as well as those in other countries where some of the addresses are quite long. We have shortened many addresses to fit the cards and have used our best guess on where to cut. Please correct us if wrong.

We also ask anyone whose postal code does not appear in the address to send this information along as many postal services will not deliver mail without it or at best, it will be delayed.

Please send all corrections to me, Bob Corless, 1826 W. Indianola Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85015 U.S.A.

PRESIDENT NOTES

Ed Sullivan is making good recovery and is keeping me on my toes and the right track. Ed's new address, if you care to write him is on page 50.

I am sorry to have to note that we had to drop a large number of members for non-payment of dues. All of us dislike the idea, but postage rates have gone so high that it was no longer possible to carry these delinquent members.

Another reminder regarding nominations as stated in earlier **REVEALERS**, Garvin Lohman, Apt. #3, 1651 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA 94109 is Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Ed Ryahn, 4A Churchwood, Riverview Road, Niantic, Conn. 06357 is a member of the committee, as is Bill Kane, 7 O'Connell Gardens, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland. Joe Foley, as Secretary/Treasurer is an Ex-Officio member. European members can submit their nominations to Bill. The nominations and ballots for the election will appear in the Summer **Revealer**. Therefore, they must be in the hands of the committee so they can meet the issue deadline of June 1, 1981.

We are also aiming to have the membership list and the dealers directory go out with the Summer Issue.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll read of the great time had by all who attended ARIPEX '81 in Phoenix, January 16-18. Fourteen members signed in at the association table which was easily identified with our new green and white felt banner. A very productive business meeting was held. Special thanks go to Bob Corless for his efforts in behalf of the E.P.A. and his generous hospitality.

On a more serious note, most collectors do not leave instructions as to the possible disposition of their philatelic holdings after their demise. Heirs may have no stamp knowledge or know any way of selling collections, much less arrive at a fair evaluation for sale. Plan ahead. Leave written instructions for your survivors to contact the E.P.A. Your association will offer advice as to the possible disposition of your philatelic holdings. This is sage counsel for members in all age groups. Gruesome thought but one never knows when the Grim Reaper will strike.

The Board of Directors has voted in favor of establishing another award to be presented by E.P.A. This one, yet to be named, is to be given annually to a person or persons who have been of great service to the Association itself. If you have suggestions after who we might name this award, or someone deserving to whom it should be presented, please let me know.

The Directors and Officers have also decided to honor two of our founders by naming them Governors Emeritus. William Hickey, E.P.A. #1 and Neil Stack E.P.A. #2 will do us great credit by accepting these honorary titles.

Some time ago I announced the 1980 Thomas Field Award recipient, Michael Giffney, would chair the Field Award Selection Committee for 1981. Now I am able to tell you that Judge J.J. Walsh and Vincent Linnell will also be on the committee.

B.B. Zellers
Acting President

ERRATA

The "Publication Gremlins" have been at work again. In the Article, "Irish Postal Rates, 1973-1980" "Ms." got changed to "Mr."

our sincere apologies. As Eddie FitzGerald pointed out "Decimalisation" for the 25 July 1977 rates was the wrong term to use. What this rate actually did was change the system of weighing the postal sendings from the Troy to the Metric System. There was no actual change in the rates themselves. Why the post office decided to identify this as "Decimalisation" is a mystery. The change to decimals took place in 1971.

DUBLIN NEWSLETTER

by Eddie FitzGerald

May I start by extending a sincere "hands across the sea" greeting to collectors of Irish stamps who live outside Ireland. The E.P.A. officers have identified the need of having a regular correspondent living in Ireland who is in a position to inform the general membership of the finer points of recent issues, collectable varieties, colour changes and other items of interest. For better or worse, the officers think that I am the person for this assignment. The only promise I can make is that I will do my best to make this column as interesting and informative as possible.

My major intention is to cater for the needs of collectors new to the field of Irish Philately who find Postal History, Overprints, & early definitives too complex and too expensive. For this reason I intend to confine myself to definitives from 1968 onwards and to commemoratives from 1971 onwards (change to decimal currency). These are logical "cut-off" dates to use and a worthwhile near-complete specialised collection of these issues can still be formed without incurring heavy expenditure. Apart from the past, look ahead to the future. A new definitive series is in the pipeline and some of the new designs may be issued later this year or early next year. Going on past experience, we can anticipate startling changes in this new series during the progression of years - papers, adhesives, colours, who knows, maybe even phosphor impregnation. The benefit to you is that you will be in on the ground floor and you can decide in advance the standard of specialization you wish to obtain. We live in an interesting time.

On 17th June 1975 a £1 stamp was issued for the first time - the eagle on an ultramine background. From Day One, collectors noticed that this stamp was printed on unusually thin paper and that the design was visible from the back. For a short time in late Autumn 1977 some post offices had supplies of £1 printed on normal thicker paper. These supplies were quickly exhausted and we were back to the old thin paper. In both cases the U.V. Lamp effect was brilliant fluorescence when viewed from the front, and the P.V.A. gum was colourless/off-white: in other words a specialist rating of Type B. While this scarce "thick paper" Type B stamp was in demand by specialist collectors in Ireland, it appears that major catalogue editors were unaware of its existence or decided to omit this item from their listings for their own reasons.

Last summer, supplies of £1 stamps in post offices were exhausted and the only source of supply was the limited quantity in the Philatelic Bureau to meet the needs of collectors. It was obvious that a new printing of £1 stamps was in course of preparation and, as expected, a new printing of £1 stamps appeared in late September. This new printing of £1 stamps is very different from

the earlier printing: the paper is "thick" (i.e. normal) and the P.V.A. gum has a pale blue-green tinge with a slightly mottled appearance - specialist rating Type D.

Catalogue editors will now find it hard to ignore the existence of "thin" and "thick" papers and my advice to all collectors, specialist or non-specialist, is to make sure you have both these papers in your collection, irrespective of the gum difference.

During December, a new printing of 5p dog stamps appeared on sale, Type D as expected. The shade of this new printing is olive-green which should be of interest to collectors, as most stamps from earlier printings were yellow-green in colour.

In the Winter 1980 issue of *The Revealer*, our Editor made very kind references to the handbook "The Gerl Definitives", co-authored by my close friend Brian Warren and myself. It has occurred to me that some new collectors may be disheartened to learn that eight different series exist of sheet stamps and that it would seem to be too difficult a task for a collector living far from source to readily identify one series from another. This is not so, and this apparent problem can be readily overcome by keeping aside certain key stamps for comparison purpose. The pre-decimal stamps are readily identifiable by the "p" after the value figure or the symbols 1/-, 1/9, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-. On these pre-decimal stamps two types of adhesive are known to exist, natural gum arabic which is shiny white in colour and has a tacky appearance and P.V.A. the other type which is dull, flat and even textured. . . . two series accounted for.

With the changeover to decimal currency, the letter "p" and stroke symbols were dropped and we now have to account for six series. Up to June 1974 watermarked paper was used and thereafter unwatermarked paper. The initial watermarked decimals had the dull, flat, even textured P.V.A. gum as before. If you have 1/2 or .5 watermarked stamps, use these as reference as they are unique to this series.

This adhesive was proving to be unpopular with the public in general due to the difficulty in seeing the gum. Following complaints, the authorities in 1972 started to phase into the system an improved P.V.A. gum containing an additive giving a shiny appearance to the gum. If you have a 7 stag watermarked stamp, use this as a reference as it is unique to this series.

Thus you can identify another two series, Watermarked Dull Gum and Watermarked Shiny Gum. You now have a total of four out of eight series. The remaining four series relate to unwatermarked paper and in the next "Dublin Newsletter" I will tell you how to readily identify the remaining four series.

1981 STAMP PROGRAM

In the last issue of *The Revealer* the stamp program for 1981 was listed as announced by the Post Office. Conspicuous by its absence was any mention of a stamp to commemorate the year of the Disabled which has been proclaimed by the U.N. There has been some speculation as to why Ireland was not planning such a stamp. Below is an extract from the *Dublin Independent* for Sunday 8th February forwarded by Bill Kane and presented without comment:

MARK'S £STAMP COUP

MINISTER of State Mark Killilea pulled off a neat coup in Washington recently which is expected to yield £8m to Ireland in the next twelve months.

With US Postmaster General, Wexford-born William Bolgers, Mark agreed in principle for a joint Irish American stamp issue. This is the first joint issue of a stamp

from any two nations in the world and it will mark the links, historical and cultural, between the two countries.

Philatelic revenue is at present running at £1m a year, but this unique development is expected to yield £8m for this country.

The stamps are expected to feature the year of the disabled and the designer of the White House and Capitol buildings Kilkenny-born John Bohan.

The new stamps will be featured in the postal museum which will be opened before the end of the year by the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Albert Reynolds. He has already selected a premises in Dublin and is planning the layout for a permanent exhibition. He intends it to be an encouragement to the postal staff to be proud of their tradition.

STILWELL "BEST IRISH"



Photo courtesy Joe Crosby

Patricia W. Stilwell was awarded the Waterford crystal lamp presented to the Best Irish Exhibit at ARIPEX '81. In addition she won a show vermeil with her ten frame exhibit entitled "An Overview of Irish Postal History prior to 1922." Pat showed a full range of markings on some fine covers in a well planned and executed exhibit. Garvin Lohman received the "Gil Roberts Memorial Award" plaque presented by the NOR-CAL Chapter of the E.P.A. and a vermeil for his 7 frame exhibit of "Irish Revenue Stamps". Garvin's fine presentation of exceptional material was deserving of its awards. Bill Zellers was our third Vermeil winner with a four frame exhibit of "Irish Coils & Booklets". This was a new exhibit for Bill. It was well received and included some rare material. I expect we'll hear more from this exhibit.

Five members came away with Silver Awards; James Lawless for three frames of "Ireland Postal History", Bill Murphy with six frames of the "History of AirMail in Ireland", Preston Pope, three frames of "Great Britain used in Ireland, 1840-1922"; Thomas Currant, 4 frames, "Early British Registered Mail" and John Blessington, four frames, "Irish Postal Cards." Richards Swords received a Bronze Award for "Official Stationery of Ireland, 1922 to date. This was a very interesting exhibit of material not often exhibited.

It would seem that the EPA can be justifiably proud of the members who exhibited. It speaks well of the caliber of our exhibitors, all nine who entered received awards: Fourteen members from around the country attended the show. The E.P.A. meeting, chaired by Bill Zellers, proved interesting. A weekend of philately and good fellowship was enjoyed by all.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Response to my pleas for support in the last *Revealer* was very gratifying. . . not overwhelming but reassuring. . . there are people out there. Two new authors appear in this issue describing their collections and two or three articles are in hand for future use. This doesn't mean that the crisis is over, your article is still needed. The *Revealer* has a voracious appetite. Our 16 page issue is the equivalent of thirty to forty typewritten pages so we must have your support.

I wish to welcome Eddie FitzGerald of Dublin, Ireland, as Associate Editor. He will be writing his "Dublin Newsletter" on a regular basis in addition to his other contributions. Drop him a line of welcome.

FAMILY HERITAGE PROMPTS INTEREST IN STAMPS

BY Bill Powers

In 1976 I dusted off the old beginner's Scott world stamp album that I had put away some twenty-five years before. Something had moved me to resume the hobby which I had enjoyed so much in childhood.

At a local stamps show I was bewildered by the range of material. Stamp collecting was far from the simple "stick-em-in-an-album" routine I had remembered. I expressed my confusion to one of the dealers and he suggested that I specialize. He mentioned that some people concentrated on the country with which they had some ethnic link. Ireland, of course!! Both of my parents had come from Ireland as immigrants many years ago. It seemed fitting to go back, as it were, to my ancestral home via stamps. The dealer had a used White Ace Ireland. I bought it and was on my way.

At the same show I discovered *Linn's Stamp News*. An ad by Hibernian Stamp Co. of Dublin offered a complete used collection in superb condition in a hingeless Lighthouse album. The price was about \$1,500.00 I don't know that prompted me to start off so big, but I wrote to Hibernian and offered \$100.00 less than asked.

Stefan Klinecicz, Managing Director, wrote back accepting my offer, but insisting that I was getting an unusual bargain. He said he was coming to INTERPHIL in Philadelphia.

We met on June 2, 1976 in front of the Ireland Department of Posts and Telegraphs booth. Mr. Klinecicz showed me the collection. It was complete except for Sc 68b, the rare 2d coil.

How naive I was. I looked at all those overprints without really understanding what Mr. Klinecicz was saying in his effort to impress on me just what a beautiful collection I was getting. Here were all the sea horses, including 77a-79a, joined wide and narrow pairs, which must be extremely rare in used condition. He pointed out the Harrison coils with the tall "1" variety, the Thom high denomination set (36-38) set off on a page by itself, and every other stamp ever issued right through 1975.

Going through my mind was the thought, "Am I crazy giving this stranger \$1500 for something I don't really understand?"

Mr. Klinecicz said that the collection was that of a Mr. Freemant, and elderly Dublin stamp dealer who had carefully, lovingly assembled it for himself, and was now retiring and selling his holdings.

That one empty space bothered me. Mr. Klinecicz said that a copy of 68b was going to be available for about \$400, but that the price was inflated. He advised that I wait until I could get it more reasonably. Well I did wait, and finally got a copy in October 1979 through a David Feldman auction in Switzerland. The reasonable price was now \$1300.

While that now complete used collection is my pride and joy, I have been working on compiling a matched mint collection also in a Lighthouse album. The prices seem so high, but then I think back to 1976 and take the risk.

I have a number of errors, like inverted overprints and missing accents, and 392b, the 15p Bi-Centennial issue with the silver missing. But I know very little about postal history or revenues or any of the more exotic aspects of Irish philately. There's much to learn ahead of me!

Belonging to EPA has been important to me. It gives me a sense of relatedness to others who share my interest in Irish philately. Unfortunately, I have met other members in person on only two occasions. Once was at a Northern New Jersey show where an EPA meeting was held. The other time was the only time that I have shown my collection to people who could really understand it.

I wish that there were an EPA directory. I'm sure that I could contact people. Nothing can enliven a hobby more than exchanging treasures and experiences with others.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 1980

by E. FitzGerald and B. Warren

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 1980 programme comprising fifteen stamps and one miniature sheet were issued over six release dates commencing 19 March and ending 4 December. The six releases have a total face value of IRE3.14 compared with the 1979 statistics of IRE2.49 for eight releases consisting of twenty stamps. The practice of placing two sets of plate (litho) or cylinder (photogravure) numbers on the sheet margins continued. All litho issues have in addition the usual colour-check squares and printer's imprint.

All litho (L) issues were printed by the Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited: The Christmas issue was printed by the Revenue Stamping Branch using the photogravure process (P).

No significant constant varieties were noted on the litho issues. The cylinders for the Christmas issue were obviously of a poor standard which resulted in a large number of insignificant varieties.

Minor varieties on the Flora and Fauna miniature sheet enable the plating of this issue. The Primary Sheet consisted of nine miniature sheets. An uncut Primary Sheet was on display at the Cork Philatelic Exhibition, Stamp and the Galway Stamp Exhibition. Plating guides are on sale from most dealers in Irish stamps. It was interesting to note on examination of the Primary Sheet that two black plates were used. We understand that this arose because it was necessary to print both Eire and the figures of value as separate operations because the new postal rates, which came into effect on 1st July, were not known when printing operations began. The second plate was unnumbered. Another unrecorded black plate was used in the printing of the 25p value in the Music and Dance set. This second plate was used to intensify the colour of the dancer's stockings. Again this plate was not numbered.

In our 1979 notes (in the I.P.C. Journal) we referred to the use of two perforators for the St. John of God stamp-Grover and Bickel. Both perforators were used in 1980 for the 13p Europa (Oscar Wilde) and the four animal stamps in the third Flora and Fauna set. The following table summarises the effect of the two types on the above vertical format issues:

Perforation Type	Left Margin	Right Margin	Top and Bottom Margins
Grover	Imperforate	Perforated Through	One extension Hole
Bickel	Perforated Through	Imperforate	One extension Hole

In respect of the St. John of God stamp (horizontal format) there were two extension holes: it appears that the extra pins were removed prior to using the Bickel perforator on these 1980 issues. The perforation size remained the same for both types - 14x14½. In the following listing of litho commemorative issues we indicate opposite the plate numbers the relevant perforation type as Grover (G) or Bickel (B).

Sheet issues were in the normal format of 100 stamps (10x10) with the exception of the George B. Shaw stamp which, because of the unusual size of 24x61, was issued in sheets of 72 divided into two panes of 6x6 with a vertical gutter.

Date of Issue	Description	Designer	Value	Plate/Cyl No	Perf
19 March	De La Salle Order	Peter Wildbur based on portrait of founder	12p	11111 G	14x14½
L					

7 May	Europa (20th Issue)	Peter Byrne based on portrait caricature of G.B. Shaw (12p) by Alick Ritchie and Portrait of O. Wilde (13p) by Toulouse-Lautrec	12p 13p	11111 G 11111 G 11111 B	do do do
30 July	Flora and Fauna (3rd Issue)	Original Drawings by Wendy Walsh, Graphics by Peter Wildbur	12p 15p	11111 G 11111 B 11111 G 11121 G 12121 G	14x14½
L	Wild animals				
	Stoat, Hare, Fox and Deer		11122 G 16p 25p	12111 B 11111 G 11111 B 11111 G 11111 B	
	Miniature Sheet		68p		
	A series of envelopes depicting the animals were produced by Fleetwood, Cheyenne, Wyoming, U.S.A. They were also the work of Wendy Walsh and are similar to previous issues				
25 Sept	Irish Music and Dance	Original paintings by John Dixon with Graphics by Peter Wildbur	12p 15p 25p	11111 G 11111 G 11111 G	14x14½
L					
23 Oct	Sean O'Casey featuring a	Peter Wildbur photograph by Gjon Mili	12p	11111 G 11212 G	14x14½
L					
	Contemporary Irish Art (12th)	Gold Painting No. 57 by Patrick Scott	25p	111 G	
4 Dec	Christmas (10th Issue)	Peter Wildbur from child art nativity scene by Gerladine McNulty, aged 8	12p 15p	1111 1111	14x15
P					
	Varities:-12p	- R1/1 Blue spot above marginal rule			
		-R5/10 White spot between E and I of Eire			
		15p - R1/1 Blue spot above marginal rule			
		15p - R8/2 Bullet hole under O of Nollaig			
		15p - R9/4 Bullet hole above O of Nollaig			
		15p - R10/3 & 4 Damage to value tablets			
		25p - R4/3 to 10 Irregular dare line across value tablet			
		25p - R5/2 Spot under 9 of 1980			

DEFINITIVES

Four new values were released during 1980. The 12p dog and 13p stag took cognizance of the increase in postal rates effective from 1st August 1979. However, with a further increase on 1st July 1980, a 15p dog and 16p stag were released on 10th July to meet the revised Inland and European letter rates respectively. The 15p dog known to have been pre-released as early as 8th July as post offices were short of this value. The 12p dog exists with two distinct shades (leaf green and emerald green). It should be noted that on the 16p stag cylinder block, the black 1 is superimposed over the yellow-green 1; the yellow-green 1 can just be seen with the aid of a good magnifying glass. All perf 15.

Value	Colours	Date of Issue	Cyl Numbers
12p Dog	Leaf green	26 Mar 80	
13p stag	Chocolate & brown	26 Mar 80	II
15p dog	Deep blue	10 July 80	I
16p stag	Yellow-green & black	10 July 80	II(superimposed)

A listing of the more prominent varieties, not previously included in our notes, on recent and past definitive issues follows:

- 12p stag Cyl. 11) - R5/4 : Cell damage and retouching beneath Front leg of stag (Th. F5)
- 12p stag (Cyl. 12) - R6/9 :Retouch between rear legs (Th. E)
- R9/8 :Indent in top margin (Th. A4)
- 12p dog (Cyl. 1) - R3/9 Large scratch top left corner (Th. C1- A2)
- R7to 11, stamp 4 Broken neck spiral (Th.C3)
- R11/2 Dot above dog's head (th. A3)
- R19/2 Dot in spiral near tail (Th. C6)
- R19/9 Small scratch to left corner (Th.A1)
- 13p stag (Cyl. 11) - R15/8 Retouch to left of stag's rear (Th.C1)
- 15p dog (Cyl.1) - R1/7 Large blue spot shoulder spiral (Th.C1)
- R4/2 Blue spot in ear (Th.B2)
-R6/8 Broken left vertical frame line (Th.E1)
-R14/8 Distorted & broken front leg (Th.E3)
-R12/8 White spot between neck & fig 5 (Th.D3)
- 16p stag (Cyl. 11) - R2/8 Line through 6 of figure 16 (Th.E7)

The 15p dog varieties on R/8 and R14/8 are two of the best flaws to appear on the Gerl series. The broken spiral on Rows 7 to 11, stamp 4 of the 12p dog suggests that the variety occurred during the step and repeat process in the manufacture of the multipositive for the new cylinder and a positional gutter block makes a fine display item.

Booklets Both the 40p and 70p booklets remain on sale at the Philatelic bureau. In 1979 we reported elsewhere, the existence of 70p booklets with the slogan (Please show district Numbers etc.) missing from inside the front cover. Three 70p booklets were recently discovered at the recent STAMPA exhibition with the slogan missing from inside the front cover. The booklets were among a large quantity purchased from the Exhibition Post Office. In theory, the total number of booklets with this variety is a multiple of 42 (44 less 2 not released) and depends on the number of error cover card sheets utilized in the production of complete booklets. So check your booklets! We would be interested to hear reports of similar finds. The following values remain on sale at the Philatelic Bureau as at December 1980:

Unwatermarked Series ½p,1p,2p,3p,5p,6p,7p,8p,9p,10p, 12p, 15p (all dog design; 11p, 12p, 13p, and 16p (all stag design); 15p 17p, 21p, (ox design); and 50p and £1 eagle design. The 10p stag was sold out in December.

Watermarked Series ½p, and 4p dog plus 12p ox.

Presentation Packs The packs have been altered several times during the year to take account of additions/deletions during the period. Inserts have not altered as their wording does not refer to the actual stamps enclosed. The make up of the packs at December 1980 were as follows:

Low Value Pack All the unwatermarked stamps of the dog and stag design set out above excluding the 12p stag. (Note: Watermarked the dog has been dropped from pack) Face IR1.28 sold for IR1.56.

High Value Pack 17p and 20p ox plus 50p and £1 eagle. (Note: no 15 p ox) Face IR1.87. Sold for IR2.10

POSTAGE DUE LABELS

The new series was released for sale at the Philatelic Bureau on Wednesday, June 11th. No advance notice was given and no first day cover facilities were available. The first labels were released in 1925 and during the intervening fifty-five years the basic design has been unaltered except for colour, watermark and value changes. All seven new values (1p, 2p, 4p, 6p, 18p, and 24p) are photogravure printed by the Revenue Stamping Branch in sheets of 200 with two panes of 100 separated by a horizontal gutter i.e. same layout as the low value definitives. The cylinder number is 1 on all seven values. The colours are rather drab; four of the values are in shades of green. No official information has yet been made available as to the origin of the design or even who designed the new labels. On the 2p value there are no marginal rules on the top margin or the top pane in the sheet. To date we have noted the following varieties:

- 4p - R3/8 Green lines in e of le (Th.E5)
- R7/2 Break in bottom frame line (Th.F4)
- 8p - R19/5 White spot below e of postage (Th.F4)
- 18p - R1/1 Spot above O of Postas (Th.D2)
- R4/7 Break in top frame line (Th.A4)
- R8/2 Green dot in upper right of stylised design (Th.A4)
- Gutter White scratch in lower marginal rule between R10/2 and R11/2 i.e. second label in gutter
- 24p - R1/1 Major break in top frame line (Th.A4/5)
- R11/8 Break in top frame line (Th.A4)
- R16/1 Green spot in top left of stylised design (Th.A1)
- R20/2 Break in marginal rule beneath stamp of R20/2

Readers will note that frame breaks are a predominant variety on this issue. The remaining stocks of labels from the previous design mentioned in our notes for 1979 were exhausted prior to the release of the new set. Even with the release of the new labels definitives and commemoratives continued to be used on underpaid mail and postage dues were not seen in regular use until October.

FIRST DAY COVERS AND CANCELLATIONS

1. Commencing with the Flora and Fauna issue, special pictorial first day covers (price 14p) have been re-introduced by the Post Office for stamps issued on a single theme. The standard first day cover continues in use for multiple stamp releases i.e. where stamps are issued on the same day for more than one subject. As a result special pictorial covers were available for the Flora and Fauna, Irish Music and Dance, and Christmas issues. The standard cover was also used for the two definitive releases.

2. As per previous years, special pictorial postmarks were used for all FDC's processed in the Philatelic Section, GPO, Dublin 1 and St. Andrew Street, P.O., Dublin 2. First day postmarks identical in design were also used in Cork.

OVERSEAS EXHIBITION CACHETS

The Irish Philatelic Service attended three overseas stamp exhibitions during 1980 - STAMPEX (5-9 February), LONDON'80 (6-14 May) and A.S.D.A. New York (20-23 November). At each exhibition a plain cachet was available for use on covers as a souvenir of the occasion. The second day of LONDON '80 exhibition coincided with the release of the Europa set and "First Day Covers" had the stamps cancelled with the plain cachet. A first day pictorial cachet similar to the Dublin and Cork postmarks was NOT available on this occasion. The wordings of the cachet are as follows:

1. Department of Posts and Telegraphs Ireland London Stampex 5-9 Feb 1980.
2. Department of Post and Telegraphs Ireland London 1980 LONDON 6-14 May 1980.
3. Department of Post and Telegraphs Ireland New York 32nd National Postage Stamp Show November 1980.

The cachets are similar to those used at previous exhibitions and are circular, in black. The cachets are not announced in advance by the Post Office and no special facilities were offered to collectors unable to attend the exhibition.

SPECIAL EVENT CANCELS AND CACHETS

BAILE ATHA CLIATH PAQUEBOT 25, IV 1980 INAUGURATION JETFOIL SERVICE DUBLIN LIVERPOOL

Used on mail carried on the return leg of the inaugural sailing of the B+1 Line's "Cu na Mara" Jetfoil service, pictorial, circular, in black. Mail carried on the outward trip bear the ordinary Liverpool paquebot cancellation. Special B+1 cards were produced for the crossing. The cards also bear a red cachet - "Posted at Sea B+1 Jetfoil Cu na Mara"

CALAFORT ROSLAIR PAQUEBOT 23, V. 1980 NEW CAR FERRY ROSSLARE-PEMBROKE

Used on mail carried on the outward leg to Rosslare Harbour of the B+1 Line's inaugural service on this route, pictorial, circular, in black. Mail carried on the return leg received a Pembroke Dock C.D.S. paquebot cancel in purple. Special B+1 cards were also produced for this event. The cards received a red cachet - "Posted on Board Viking III".

DUN LAOGHAIRE COLLECTOREX '80 28.vi.80 CENTENARY OF TOWN HALL

DUN LAOGHAIRE COLLECTOREX '80 29 vi.80 JUBILEE OF BOROUGH

In connection with the annual COLLECTOREX '80 exhibition and fair held in the Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire two postmarks were available to commemorate the following events:

28 June - Centenary of Dun Laoghaire Town Hall

29 June - 50th Anniversary of the founding of Dun Laoghaire Borough

The exhibition was held during the local Summer Festival & a special commemorative cover was available. Both pictorial postmarks were rectangular, in black.

SHOW R D S BALLBRIDGE

A philatelic stand and posting facilities were available at the R.D.S. Horse Show in Ballsbridge from 5 to 9 August. A skeleton datestamp was used on mail posted at the stand. It is understood that a similar facility will be available at future exhibitions at the R.D.S. - cancellation was circular, in black.

CARROLLS IRISH OPEN PORT MEARNOG

Used Portmarnock Golf Links during the Carrolls Irish Open Golf Championship from 13 to 17 August. A temporary post office was provided and the rectangular pictorial postmark in purple was similar to previous designs.

INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION SILVER JUBILEE IRISH SECTION 17th I.E.C. BAILE ATHA CLIATH 11-x-1980.

Used on mail posted during the 17th International Executive Council Meeting of the International Police Association at Trinity College, Dublin 2, during September. The logo of the Association was included in the rectangular pictorial postmark in black. A special cover was available.

CORCAIGH 11-x-80 STAMP EXHIBITION GEORGE B SHAW

Used on mail posted at the Imperial Hotel, Cork, during the Cork Philatelic Exhibition which was held on the above date, circular, pictorial, in black. Post Office facilities were provided and a special cover designed and sold by the organisers, the Cork Philatelic Society, was also available.

STAMPA '80 BAILE ATHA CLIATH

Four pictorial postmarks, one for each day of the exhibition, were applied on mail posted at the Exhibition Post Office in the R.D.S. Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. The four cancels featured the animals depicted on the Flora and Fauna issue.

24 October: The Irish Hare (15p value)

25 October: The Fox (16p value)

26 October: The Stoat (12p value)

27 October: The Red Deer (25p value)

All postmarks were circular, in black. Four separate official envelopes featuring a sketch of the appropriate animal to match each cancel were available.

DUN LAOGHAIRE BOROUGH JUBILEE 14.x.80

Used on mail posted at the town hall on the above date on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Borough of Dun Laoghaire. Oval cancel, in black, featuring the Borough's Coat of Arms.

STAMP EXHIBITION GAILLIMH 6/7.x.11.1980 FPSI

Used on mail posted at a stamp exhibition held in the Great Southern Hotel, Eyre Square, Galway on the 6th and 7th December. Post Office Facilities were available. The exhibition was organized by the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland in collaboration with the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. The datestamp features logo of the Federation. A special cover was also available.

NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

1. "Please Show District Numbers in Dublin Addresses"

Three new slogans appeared, unannounced, in 1980. The first, in fact is not a new slogan but a new die of an old slogan. The border is much thicker and the lettering neater than SP165. It was used occasionally during July and August on the Dublin "D" machine.

2. "You've Got to Get Saving National Savings Committee"

The second was used in Limerick between 18th - 30th November and it is scheduled for more general use in Summer 1981.

3. "Are You On The Draft Register Of Electors? Check Now At Your Post Office"

The third was part of a large advertising campaign which also saw the reuse of SP 108 and SP109 (see below) for the first time in several years. It was used from 16th December in Cavan, Cork, Dundalk, Dublin (5 dies) and Galway (where it was used on that date only). A slogan for the 21st Anniversary of the Irish Wheelchair Assoc. in connection with the International Year of the Disabled, meant for use in January 1981, was used in error in Dundalk at 7 p.m. on 31st December but will be listed as a 1981 slogan.

SLOGANS RE-USED IN 1980

The SP numbers refer to the slogan postmark section of the *First Edition of the Hibernian Specialised Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland* issued in 1972. Slogans first brought into use since 1972 are numbered by reference to previous "That Was The Year That Was" listing.

SP 55 "Bank Your Savings in the Savings Bank" Cork, Galway,

SP 62 "Post Early For Christmas". Nenagh Limerick

SP 68 "Post Early For Christmas". In general use

SP 85 "Prevent Forest Fires" In general use

SP 95 "Buy Prize Bonds". Longford

SP 97 "When It's August Bank Holiday It's Kinsale Regatta".

Cork

- SP 108 "Make Sure You Are On the New Voters Lists." Cobh, Waterford, Westport and Wexford
- SP 109 "Are You On The Voters Lists? Check Now At The Post Office" Bray, Port Laoise and Thurles
- SP 111 "Please Shew District Numbers In Dublin Addresses". In General use
- SP 123 "Full Address Speeds Deliver". In general use
- SP 130 "Build On Secure Foundations £1 Units Tax Free Savings Certificates. In General use
- SP 131 "Save The Easy Way Easy Deposits Easy Withdrawal The Post Office Savings Bank". Cork, Drogheda, Dublin, Dun Laoghaire, Kilkenny and Mullingar.
- SP 147 "Ballinasloe Show and Fair 1st Week October." Ballinasloe
- SP 160 "Shop In The Golden Pages Classified Telephone Directory" Dun Laoghaire.
- SP 163 "Athlone On The Shannon". Athlone
- SP 165 "Please Show District Numbers in Dublin Addresses." Dublin
- 1975 No. 4 "Converse Energy". Cavan, Carr, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway, Letterkenny, Limerick and Waterford.
- 1975 No. 5 "Let Your Fingers Do The Walking - Use The Golden Pages." Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Kilkenny, Limerick, Waterford.
- 1976 No. 2 "Giving For Living." Cork, Donegal, Dundalk, Galway and Waterford.
- 1977 No. 2 "Clonakilty Beach Centre West Cork", Clonakilty.

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS

22 March - Mid Western Philatelic Society Exhibition and Fair

In connection with an exhibition and fair held by the Mid Western Philatelic Society in Limerick on 22 March, the organisers issued a limited edition of 300 numbered booklets contains a strip of three Papal stamps. The booklet was sponsored by the Limerick Savings Bank and was sold for £1. Each visitor could purchase one further booklet for IRE1.25.

28 June - Collectorex '80

The 1980 exhibition and fair in the Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire in connection with the local Summer Festival saw the release of an unusual booklet containing gutter pairs of the George Bernard Shaw stamp with an imprint in the margin "Collectorex '80." Sold at IRE1 each and limited to one per visitor; the total printing was 500 numbered booklets.

11 Oct - Cork Philatelic Exhibition

A limited edition of 300 numbered booklets was produced by the organisers, the Cork Philatelic Society for this annual exhibition. Each booklet contained the following marginal blocks of stamps: 2 2x12p Shaw, 6x1p dog, 6x 29 dog (interleaved). The back cover illustrated the exhibition postmark. Price IRE1. one per visitor.

24 Oct - Stampa '80

This year's souvenir consisted of a black imprint on the margin of the Flora and Fauna miniature sheet. Official permission was obtained for this imprint. The imprinting was the work of Irish Printers Ltd. Price IRE.50 (one per visitor) There was a total of 2,000 pre-numbered sheets. Of these 2,000 sheets, 150 were imprinted in red and each member of the Stampa Society received one of these red imprints free of charge. The imprints read "Irish National Stamp Exhibition Stampa '80 Dublin October 24-27 1980."

15 Nov. - Limerick Coin, Stamp and Postcard Fair '80

A limited edition of 250 numbered booklets were produced by P.J. W. Coins & Tokens and Gwyn Bennett Stamps. The stapled booklet contains a marginal strip of 3x12p Sean O'Casey stamps. Sold for IRE1 one per visitor.

6 Dec - Galway Philatelic Exhibition 1980

A limited edition of 300 booklets containing the following blocks of stamps: 2x 16p Flora, 6x 1p dog, 6x2p dog Sold for 80p. The

interleaving included illustrations of the logo of the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland and the Galway Coat of Arms.

POSTAL STATIONERY

25 March - 44p Size H Registered Envelope

The 44p rate (32p registration, 12p postage) was introduced on 1st August 1979. The compensation amounts as printed on the back of envelopes were also increased - inland from £50 to £60 and foreign from £7.20 to £8.80. This was the first envelope to cover this rate (sold for 47p) and was on old cotton scrim stock and therefore had incorrect compensation amounts of £50 and £6.35 and incorrect registration fee of 12p. This envelope was sold out within two weeks and appears to have been a very low printing. A further printing appeared on 28 August on duplex manilla again with incorrect compensation amounts of £50 and £6.35 respectively. The missing "for" variety (as reported elsewhere) has been noted on this second printing. This printing also appears to have been low as the envelope is no longer available from the Philatelic Bureau.

30 June - 44p Size G Registered Envelope

This envelope (sold for 46p) was released the day before the rate was increased to 55p (40p registration, 15p postage). It was duplex manilla stock with incorrect compensation amounts of £50 and £6.35. In December this envelope appeared on old cotton scrim stock with similar incorrect compensation amounts together with incorrect fee of 12p.

21 August - 8p Newspaper Wrapper

This is only the second wrapper to appear since decimalisation and covers the inland rate from 1 July 1980 (sold for 9p)

18 November - 55p Size H Registered Envelope

Duplex manilla envelope (sold for 58p) with incorrect compensation amount was altered to £75 and the foreign limit to £8.20. Note the foreign limit was actually lowered from the previous compensation amount of £8.80.

18 December - 55p Size K Registered Envelope

Duplex manilla envelope (sold for 59p) with incorrect compensation amounts of £50 and £7.20. This is the first size K envelope with a £7.20 imprint.

YEAR PACKS

The 1979 year Pack, as stated in our notes for 1979, was released on 21 January 1980, cost IRE2.70 (face value IRE2.46, The 1980 Year Pack was released on 9 December 1980, cost IRE2.80 (face value IRE2.46). Format is similar to previous years with a purple outer card cover.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Stampa '80 Dinner Menu

The awards banquet was held in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin 4 on Saturday October 25. Each diner received a copy of the menu to which was attached a 16p Flora stamp cancelled by the matching Fox postmark for that day.

Foreign Stamps with Irish Association

Vatican City issued during 1980 a set of stamps (common design of Pope John Paul II greeting with outstretched arms) to commemorate the 1979 foreign visits by His Holiness. Each stamp depicted the appropriate Coat of Arms relevant to a visited country. The L1,000 value commemorated his arrival in Ireland on 29 September 1979 and the Coat of Arms depicted a Gold Harp on a blue shield (State Coat of Arms).

CONCLUSION

We wish to thank our many philatelic friends for their assistance in compiling the above notes and listings. In particular, we are indebted to John Lennon for once again providing the slogan cancellation listings. We would welcome comments from readers as to the required content in future listings.

DIARY OF A STAMP COLLECTING NEWCOMER

by Patricia Stihwell

This January I was fortunate to win the EPA's award for "Best Ireland at ARIPEX in Phoenix. This is my tale of how the collection was formed and how the exhibit matured over time.

When I was growing up, I could have cared less about stamp collecting! My parents both have collected stamps for many years - certainly before I was born. My father even did a small amount of part time dealing. They could never really get me interested, however. For a while I dabbled with an "Animals on Stamps" topical and collected postmarks in an amateur fashion, but I never got serious. I suppose I knew too much before I started: watermarks, perforations, paper variations, plates etc. scared me off. I am not an instinctive "collector" in that I do not have an urge to acquire "things" to make up complete sets. In addition, there was no active stamp club locally to introduce me to other aspects of collecting.

One year, about 10 years ago, when I was home for the weekend, my parents and younger brother were going to SEPAD (the national show in Philadelphia, they live about 40 miles away) and I got dragged along. I can still vividly remember an exhibit of Confederate Postal History which fascinated me. Looking back, and from a purist's point of view, it was probably not a good one. There was a little bit of everything: blockade mail, battlefield mail (Robert E. Lee), provisionals, wallpaper envelopes, etc. To me, it was a revelation. This was stamp collecting!!!! In subsequent years, I looked forward to going to the show and remember enjoying exhibits of Israeli stamp designs and balloon mail during the Franco-Prussian siege of Paris. I made plans two years in advance to be home for INTERPHIL in 1976, but I still did not collect anything. I can clearly recall giving a talk on stamp collecting (as a classroom exercise for a professional school in 1974) and having my audience intrigued because I was not a collector.

My father has collected Irish stamps for years, and made the suggestion at INTERPHIL time that if I was interested in collecting then 1) postal history was my thing, and 2) if I started on Ireland he knew the organization and some of the dealers. That's when and why I joined the EPA. I bought my first cover from Argyll-Etkin; a beautiful Ballymean uniform penny post '1d'.



I also spent a lot of time enjoying the Irish exhibits at INTERPHIL and wishing there were more of them. I was especially impressed by Jamie Goff's - who was still a junior then.

The collection took off after that. I got lucky at NOJEX in November 1976, where the EPA had a meeting. (I live in upstate New York and Dad and I met half way). I became one of Bill Boggs's regular customers and Bill Fox sold me part of somebody's collection which formed the backbone of my duplex numeral section.

Since then, I have learned to read auction catalogs carefully, and have frequently attended ASDA's New York City show as well as INTERPOSTAL while it lasted. There I have patiently gone through many a box of Great Britain. I have become accustomed to expect blank stares when I ask for "Early Ireland" or even "Great Britain used in Ireland".

I have also been fortunate to make new friends who have helped me to locate both material for the collection and many reference literature sources. I met Bill McCaw at a local show in 1978, and he has been a wonderful friend and great encouragement. Another friend made a great find for me in LONDON 1980 - a two pence Mulready cancelled with the '186' Dublin single numeral. It is now one of the highlights of my



collection. Last Fall at BALPEX, I made my luckiest find to date. I bought an 1861 Limerick cover which has the rectangular framed "Missent to /Hd & Kn Packet" stamped on the front.



I am not an H & K specialist, and the basic reference books don't list it. I purchased it as an "unusual item" at a very reasonable price. I have recently learned from Keith Jamieson in England that mine is the earliest example of five known to exist of this mark!!!

Just recently I have decided to concentrate on the various "PAID" stamps, and have begun to expand my collection in that area. Throughout I have found my fellow collectors friendly and helpful in enlightening my ignorance.

Perhaps because of the way I was introduced to postal history, I have always wanted to exhibit. From the start, I acquired items for my collection which I knew would fit in an exhibit. My early "training" in exhibition technique consisted of studying exhibits in shows - INTERPHIL and CAPEX in Toronto were especially helpful. In the fall of 1977, I put together the first "Overview of Irish Postal History, prior to 1922". EVERY good item in my collection was in the exhibit. It was handwritten and mounted on paste-ups. I

entered it in VALPEX, the local show at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, sponsored by my parents stamp club. To my utter amazement, I won the grand award. Having completely re-written it for neatness, my next try was at the local show near where I live - KAPEX, which was held in Newburgh, New York in the spring of 1978. It was here that I met Bill McCaw, but the exhibit only took a 2nd place in "Rest of the World." With minor upgrading, and major expansion - from 48 to 80 pages - and a face lift - it was now typed - I entered the next stage of competition at SEPAD in 1978. Postal History was popular at the show, and the exhibit won a vermeil medal and the Ann Apfelbaum Award for the best exhibit by a woman. It later won a silver/bronze in Boston's STAmPSHOW and a large silver at NOJEX in 1979.

I spent the past year doing a major overhaul of the presentation. I also deliberately set out to acquire material to fill all the major gaps in the exhibit - some were lucky finds, others involved going to the right dealers and spending money. I redesigned the page format and used C.E. Foster's book How to Prepare Stamp Exhibits to teach me how to duplicate some of the techniques that I admired in other people's exhibits. Thus the latest version of "An Overview of Irish Postal History" was born. Ten frames were entered in ARIPEX '81 and it won a vermeil medal (against stiff competition from the U.S. classicists) and the Waterford crystal lamp given by the EPA for "Best Ireland".

The best part of ARIPEX, however, was meeting and getting to know my fellow EPA members who could appreciate what I collect, show off what THEY collect, and spend many happy hours exchanging information and cementing friendships.

Editor's Note:

I had the pleasure of attending ARIPEX where I was able to renew my acquaintance with Pat (we first met at CAPEX in Toronto). Her exhibit shows the care and planning that went into its preparation. Since Pat submitted the above article her exhibit was entered in MILCOPEX, in Milwaukee. I've just received the good news that she has received a Gold medal as well as the "Postal History Society" award. Well done, Pat!!

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The two regional meetings held recently proved successful with good attendance at each of them. The first took place during the week end of January 16th - 18th. At Phoenix, Arizona.



Among the attendees were (standing, left to right) Melvin Bentzien, Bill Zellers, Garvin Lohman, Patricia Stilwell, Joe Foley, Preston Pope and Bob Grey. In the front are Tom Current, Bob Corless and Jim Lawless.

As reported elsewhere in this issue, eight EPA members exhibited. We all had a chance to get together and tour the Irish exhibits in a group. Each exhibitor present gave a short dissertation on his or her collection. Joe Foley, who had been one of the Judges, gave a critique based on the judges comments, pointing out some of the strengths and weaknesses. It proved to be a worthwhile

endeavor and is recommended for future use.

Thanks to Bob Corless, Chairman of ARIPEX, the EPA had a table in the exhibit room.



Shown are Peg Zellers, Bill Zellers, Pat Stilwell and Joe Foley. We owe Peg a vote of appreciation for her efforts, three new members were signed up.



This new EPA banner was used for the first time and received favorable comment. If any one is holding a meeting and would like to borrow the banner contact Bill Zellers.

The second meeting took place at MILCOPEX '81 at Milwaukee the weekend of February 27th & 28th. President Ed Sullivan traveled from Skokie, Illinois to attend the show. We are all happy that he has progressed so well in recuperating from his recent illness. He was kind enough to furnish the photo of the group.



Standing in back, left to right, are Dave Karney, Jim Maher, Bob Taylor, Gene Tinsley and Joe Foley. In Front are Jack Butler, Edie Hillman, A. Visitor, Jean MacDonald and Jeannette Adams.

Edie Hillman, a new EPA member, acts as Sales Agent for the Irish Post Office at many shows. The next time you see her, introduce yourself as a fellow EPA member. Jim Maher, Exhibit Chairman for the show, made the arrangements for the meeting.

ADDITIONS TO MY PERFIN CATALOGUE

Norah K. Wright

Since I compiled my perfin catalogue I have added quite a number of new dies to my collection and also a number of dies whose identity I had not confirmed. These have turned up on old bill heads, weigh bills and covers with corner cards.

DIES	NO. OF HOLES	HEIGHT	AMP	IDENTITY
AA	8,8	4 1/2		Automobile Assuance
BANK	?,10,14,12	6 1/2		Royal Bank of Ireland
GE/C	11,10,8	5 1/2/5		General Electric Co.
HLD	17,7,7	12 1/2		
HM/L	11,15,7	5 1/2		
IWS	5,17,10	5 1/2		Irish Wholesale Agricultural Society
K/-/S	10,9,11	5 1/2		J.T. Sinclair & Co Ltd
L&S	6,12,9	4 1/2	IA	London Scottish Assurance Co.
M*Co	15,14,8,6	5	III	Musgrave Bros Ltd Belfast
M/GWR	15/10,16,13	4 1/2		Midland Great Western Railway
N&SCORK	11,12,11/7,8,11,9	10/7	III	Newson & Son Cork
NUF	11,8,7	4 1/2		Norwich Union Fire Ins. Co.
PAC	8,8,7	5 1/2		Prudential Assurance Co.
SM/DLD	9,11/9,6,6	4 1/2		
S.S	11,11	6		Stubbs
W&/GB	14,12/11,13	6	III	
Wh/MG	15,11/15,10	6		
WT/&C.º	17,9/14,8,6.	4 1/2	III	
WLWR	14,7,14,11	5		Waterford Limerick & Western Railway
WT/L	15,7/8	4 1/2		
BASS	13,10,10,10	4 1/2		Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd

The perfin BANK is a blanket die spreading over a couple of stamps. I have several covers from the Royal Bank of Ireland with corner card showing various letters but one has perfin BAN. Three letters are the most that will fit on one stamp.

Identities of perfins already listed. (Revealer, April 1979)

BT/D	Brown Thomas & Co.
McB/&Co	McBirney & Co.
C.S.	Cherry Smallridge
D.S/Cold	Dockrell & Co. Ltd
Reverse letters MH HM Huet Motors	

It is rewarding to see the catalogue growing into a comprehensive listing. Many thanks to all my friends for sending me so many items.

DOING THE NUMBERS BY Thomas Currant

Collectors of Numeral of Ireland on Stamps, despair no longer! In unity there may be answers.

Dick Stanton of Cincinnati, longtime numerals collector of GB and other countries, has launched a 'semi' organization called, "Doing the Numbers!" It is really a mutual aid project for those of us who are similarly addicted.

He says. . . "With your help, I would like to form an international association of collectors who are "Doing the Numbers." Do not confuse this with being a club; that is not the intention. There will be no dues and no meetings. The main reason for this association will be to help and inform associates. There is only one obligation to be an associate, and this is, once a year (if

need be) you must make up a want list of numeral cancellations that you need...that are found on penny reds 1844 to 1874, including the alphabet prefix numbers. I will see that these lists are passed on to other associates who may be able to help you."

One of the main purposes of this association is to ascertain by crossing the want lists if certain numbers were allocated but not used. It will be our way of knowing how many numbers exist. If all that I contact make an effort to send me their want lists, it shouldn't take long to complete and edit and as soon as the study is complete, you will have a report on it."

OK, that is Dick's proposition, although at the time he wrote it he was limiting the inquiry to England and Wales. I have offered to help with Ireland and he has decided to also get someone started on Scotland. For the moment we will work on the penny reds, 1844-74. Many numbers were re-allocated after the penny red was phased out of use, most of them to be found on the 1d lilac and other subsequent issues to 1915 or so. We'll get to them next.

So, here is our offer. You send me the list of Irish numerals that you do not have on stamp or cover (in the familiar diamond of bars). If you do not have access to the Brummell reference book, *British P.O. Number*, to my listing of the *Numeral Cancels of Ireland*, you can send the list of what you do have, . . . clearly labeled as such. I will work with Dick Stanton to compare the lists and report what we find. Further, if you will give me permission to distribute your name and address, in a list of collectors of Irish numeral cancels, I will see to it that all of you are introduced to each other with some helpful information on who wants what, or whom has what.

With the understanding that this is all an informal mutual aid association with no other trappings (maybe someday a meeting in Dublin, Chicago or New York on March 17th, I suppose), send your name, address and want list to: Tom Currant, P.O. Box 4586, Portland OR 97208.

Thanks, and let's "Do the Numbers."

OBITUARY

ERIK KUYLENSTJERNA, Boras, Sweden

It is my sad duty to record the death of Erik, who died on Monday the 19th of January 1981. Many Irish Philatelists will have happy memories of meeting Erik, and his great friend Percy Lundwall, when they visited "PHILYMPIA" in London in September 1970. Erik has been interested in Irish Philately since the late 1950's. I first started to correspond with him in 1959, and had a regular letter on a monthly basis since then up to the time of his death. I have never known such an enthusiastic Irish collector.

His great interests were the 1922 Overprints, and the Postal History relating to the "Transition Period", 1922-1924. He wrote a book on the Overprints, "*Ireland Provisorierna 1922*" published by Sveriges Filatelist - Forbund in 1966. This book must surely have developed great interest in this aspect of Irish Philately among the Scandinavian collectors, and his article on the Transition Period published in the D.F. Newsletter in Vol 2 No. 5, Winter Issue 1971, started an interest that has developed and has produced some fine exhibits on this subject.

Erik won many awards with his fine collections, and was a member of many Philatelic Societies. His name will be long remembered.

While his many friends will mourn his passing, to me his friendship was very personal. To his family and relations, I extend on behalf of all interested in Irish Philately, our sincere deepest sympathy in their great loss. The world has lost a great philatelist, but we have lost a great friend.

Bill Kane

RECENT ISSUES

On Thursday 12th March the Irish Post Office issued four stamps as the second in the "Ireland" series. The four stamps are in four separate designs.

The 12p denomination (3,000,000) features Robert Boyle's air-pump

The 15p denomination (4,000,000) features Ferguson's tractor

The 16p denomination (1,000,000) features Charles Parton's turbine.

The 25p denomination (1,000,000) features John Holland's submarine.

The Designer was Peter Wildbur. The stamps were printed by the Irish Security Printing Ltd., by lithography. . . Perf 14x15.



BOYLE'S AIR-PUMP

Robert Boyle (1627-1691), physicist and pioneer of modern chemistry, was born in Lismore, Co. Waterford.

The first successful air-pump was designed by him and built in 1659. It consisted of a spherical glass receiver, mounted on top of a cylinder, in the base of which was fitted a hand operated rack and pinion suction device. The glass receiver was fashioned so that objects could be introduced into it. Boyle devised numerous experiments which he observed the effects of pressure changes on magnets and living creatures placed inside the glass receiver.

The stamp features a line drawing of the air-pump and a portrait of the Honourable Robert Boyle.



FERGUSON'S TRACTOR

Harry Ferguson (1884-1960), engineer and innovator, was born in Growell, Co. Down. In order to increase food production during the First World War he was employed by the Irish Board of Agriculture to improve efficiency of Ireland's tractors.

In 1934 a prototype tractor was constructed in Belfast, based on engineering principles which have become known as the Ferguson system. Ferguson's system consisted of a lightweight tractor hydraulically linked to a plough which could be raised and lowered.

The stamp features a line drawing of the tractor together with a portrait of Harry Ferguson.



PARSONS' TURBINE

Charles Parsons (1854-1931), mechanical and electrical engineer, whose family seat of residence is at Birr Castle, Co. Offaly was born in London. He set out to solve the scientific problem of the inefficiency of the standard (reciprocating) steam engine and its unsuitability for the economic generation of electricity. He solved this by building a machine fitted with a successive series of fixed and moving blades which could cause the expansion of steam released from a boiler to take place in stages, rotating the turbine wheel at least half the speed of the steam acting on the blades.

The stamp features a line drawing of the 1884 Parsons turbine engine combined with an electric generator, together with a portrait of Sir Charles Parsons



HOLLAND'S SUBMARINE

John Holland (1841-1914), teacher and inventor, was born in Liscannor, Co. Clare.

Holland's first submarine was designed to be driven by flywheels rotated by foot-pedals; the fly-wheels were joined to the propeller by a single drive shaft. Air was supplied to the operator through a periscope-like air tube. The submarine was first tried out on the Passaic River, New Jersey, in May 1878. Its success enabled the Irish inventor to go on designing bigger and better underwater craft.

The stamp features an idealised line drawing of Holland's first submarine together with a portrait of John Holland.

REVEALER DEADLINES

In order to insure that your material reaches the Editor in time for insertion in the next current issue of **The Revealer** be sure to submit your copy to meet the closing dates listed below:

Spring Issue	March 1st
Summer Issue	June 1st
Fall Issue	September 1st
Winter Issue	December 1st

PHILATELIC SERVICES OF THE G.P.O., DUBLIN

Some of our newer members may not be aware of the services that are available for philatelists from the Irish Post Office. Many members have used the deposit account service and found it both convenient and worthwhile.

For each issue of stamps The Philatelic Service issues a bulletin in four languages, Gaelic, English, French, and German. These bulletins contain worthwhile background information on the issues and they are sent free of charge, prior to issue, to those requesting their name be added to the mailing list. Note that first day covers may be ordered through the deposit account service. However, it must be pointed out, the post office no longer uses cacheted

envelopes for all first day covers. With very few exceptions they use an envelope (European size) with the colorless embossed "PT" emblem of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

The Irish Post Office will accept personal checks in foreign currency. Mailings of stamps (although not the bulletins) are usually franked with current Irish stamps.

As a service to our members we are reprinting below the current information of the Philatelic Service including an order form. (Members not wishing to cut up their Revealer could use a xerox copy of the order form).

The Philatelic Service,
G.P.O.,
Dublin 1,
Ireland.

STAMPS

Most Irish Postage Stamps are now printed on unwatermarked paper. The Philatelic Service sells only current mint stamps. We do not cancel to order. We cannot guarantee to supply stamps from particular cylinders, plates, positions or cylinder blocks.

Definitive Stamps are ordinary stamps in permanent use and remain on sale indefinitely. The values range from ½p to £1. Low value (½p to 13p) are printed in sheets of 200. Higher values (15p to £1) are printed in sheets of 100. A set of low value definitive stamps (½p to 13p) is available in a special pack price £1.10. A similar pack containing high value definitives (15p to £1) costs £2.25.

Special Stamps on various themes and in commemoration of important national and international events are issued six or seven times a year.

Postage due labels are printed in sheets of 60 in values ranging from 1½p to 8p. They are available only from the Philatelic Service.

Stamp Booklets contain the more commonly used definitive stamps in a variety of values.

Coil Stamps. Some low value definitive stamps are issued se-tenant in coil form.

Postal Stationery. Registered envelopes, letter cards, post cards, stamped envelopes, newspaper wrappers, international reply coupons and aerogrammes.

Souvenir Year Pack. The pack contains one of each special stamp issued during the year. It is available from the date of issue of the last special stamp of the year and remains on sale till the end of the following calendar year.

SERVICES

Philatelic Bulletins are issued some time before each special stamp is issued, this contains information about the forthcoming stamps, in addition to general information of interest to philatelists and collectors of Irish postage stamps. The Bulletin is sent free of charge to persons on our mailing list.

Deposit Account. This is a convenient way of receiving all new issues. You may open a Standing Order Deposit Account with as little as £6. On opening an account you should indicate your requirements on the attached Deposit Account form and return it with your remittance. Sufficient funds should be deposited to cover a year's requirements. A statement of account will be sent after each transaction. The cost of postage and registration will be deducted from your account. If you do not wish to open a deposit account at present, but would like to buy some of our stamps, please state your requirements on the enclosed Stock List and Order Form and return it with your remittance.

First Day Covers. Official first day covers are available some four weeks before the date of issue of special stamps. The cover costs 10p. Covers may be purchased at the Philatelic Sales Office, General Post Office, Dublin 1, and at all Head Post Offices.

Servicing of First Day Covers. If you do not have a standing order Account, individual orders for stamped official first day covers may be sent to the Philatelic Service, General Post Office, Dublin 1. The orders should be accompanied by a remittance for the value of the covers and stamps required. **Covers will be serviced by the Philatelic Service and by the Postmasters at Head Offices.**

Unaddressed covers will only be serviced by the Philatelic Service, General Post Office, Dublin 1.

Orders by post for the servicing of unaddressed First Day Covers must be accompanied by a remittance for return postage. **Orders for unaddressed First Day Covers handed in at the Philatelic Sales Office should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.** Cancelled covers will not be handed back to customers at the Sales Office.

Covers should be forwarded to arrive not later than one week before date of issue.

Remittances may be made by Bank Draft, International Money Order or Postal Order. Stamps or coins are not accepted in payment.

Covers handed over the counter on the first day of issue at all Head Post offices or at St. Andrew's Street Post Office, Dublin 2, should be fully stamped and addressed.

Bulk Purchasing of Stamps. Stamps may be purchased from any Head Office. The cost of postage, registration and insurance on packets of stamps will be deducted from the remittance received for Mail Orders. Orders are not sent cash on delivery.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT STANDING ORDER FORM

To Controller
Philatelic Service
G.P.O.
Dublin 1

Account No.

I enclose the sum of £..... to open a deposit account for the regular supply of the items listed below (N.B. minimum subscription £6).

The sum enclosed is by:

Bankers ☐ International ☐ Postal
Draft ☐ Money Order ☐ Order ☐

Orders should be sent by

☐ Airmail ☐ Ordinary Mail

Signature..... Date.....

Special Stamps

No. of Sets ☐

Special Instructions (blocks, strips, etc.)

First Day Covers

No. of Covers ☐

Forwarded in outer cover:

Yes ☐ No ☐

Definitive Stamps

No. of Sets ☐

Postage Due Labels

No. of Sets ☐

Special Instructions (blocks, strips, etc.)

Souvenir Year Pack

No. of Packs ☐

Other Items

No. of Sets required:

☐ Stamp ☐ Stamp ☐ International
Booklets Coils Reply Coupon
☐ Registered Envelopes ☐ Postal Stationery

Other Instructions

Name (Capitals)

Address (Capitals)

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THIRKELL GAUGE

In the article "That Was The Year That Was" certain letters and numbers appear in parenthesis (i.e. Th F5) after some varieties (see Definitive varieties on P55). These letters and numbers are known as the "Thirkell" position or location. The Thirkell (Th) gauge is a piece of clear plastic on which a grid has been etched. The horizontal lines are labeled with a letter and the verticals with a number. The gauge is placed over a stamp with the top left corner of the gauge aligned with the top left corner of the stamp. The letters read downward starting with "A" and the numbers read from left to right starting with 1. Thus our example (ThF5) locates a variety at the intersection of the F and 5 lines.

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

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Letters to the Editor

2 1 2d, WOLFE TONE

I have read with interest the letter in the Fall 1980 issue wherein Dr. Hurly describes his 2d Cardinal Newman stamp with inverted watermark. I am inspired by this letter to mention one of my own treasures.

It is a copy of SG 144 - The 2½d Wolfe Tone of 1948. Also with *Inverted watermark*, used at Claremorris, Co. May. I can't remember where I got it; probably in an accumulation I bought some time. In 1974 I sent this along to David Feldman, Ltd. and received a letter from David McDonnell authenticating it. Subsequently, in 1977, I submitted it to J.D.F. McKee - the authority on varieties of Irish stamps and he wrote me, similarly authenticating it and promised to include it in his Checklist. Since I have not seen this, I do not know whether my variety has achieved catalogue status - certainly Feldman has not listed it (up to the 1979 Edition of "Stamps of Ireland" which is the latest Edition I have).

I have heard of no other discovery of this variety, but would be delighted to learn someone else has found a copy - sort of to verify that it exists.

Toronto, Canada

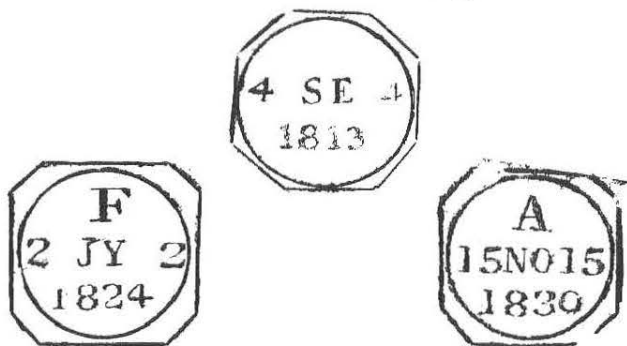
J.T. Howley

DUBLIN DATE STAMPS

In attempting to classify the octagonal date stamps of Dublin that I have in my collection, I have had difficulty fitting them into the three types as identified by the Feldman/Kane book - numbers F/K 32, 33, and 34.

It seems to me that a fourth type exists which has flat sides, somewhat shorter on the corners than type F/K 32. It was used in the 1820's.

I would be interested to discover if other members who have some of these marks could confirm my hypothesis, and also help establish a range of dates. Shown below are photostats of three octagonals. The one on top is definitely type F/K 32. . .the two below are those which I think are the new type.



I have octagonals with the following dates:

FK: June 18, 1813 and September 14, 1813

New type or possibly F/K33 as the corners are blurred a little:

August 30, 1821, July 5, 1823, January 19 and April 27, 1829

New Type: July 2, 1824 (photo),

March 2, 1829

November 15, 1830 (photo)

None of these listed could possibly be type F/K 34 - concave sides.

WOODSTOCK, NEW YORK

Patricia Stilwell

PERCY FRENCH

I am sure that most of us, in our "Salad Days", heard that famous verse of the celebrated fighting men, "ABDULLA BULBUL AMEER" and "IVAN SKAVINSKY SKIDAR" and the story of their fight to the death. Another song, perhaps not so well known is "SLATHERY'S MOUNTED FUT", with his "four an' twinty fightin' min an' a couple of stout gossons." Then perhaps your memory brings up "MICK'S HOTEL" by the salt sea water, where. . . "If you were an osteridge ye might contrive to get away from the place alive. . . Oh yes, I've been there, Yes I was seen there, but never again for me."

I am sure that on more than one occasion you have jiggered (or tried to) and sang to the rhythm of "PHIL THE FLUTERS BALL", or on occasion, you have quietly listened to "EILEEN OGE" and possibly a tear drop has fallen to the lovely ballad "THE MOUNTAINS OF MOURNE". These songs and many others all originated in the mind of Percy French (May 1854-Jan 1920).

His family, in Queen Elizabeth I's time, settled in Galway, but moved in the 17th century to Cloonyquin House near Roscommon which remained the family home until the time of its destruction in this century. When Percy was a boy they resided in England for a short period, later returning to Ireland to Trinity College. It was at Trinity that he first showed signs of musical talent. Poems, musical study and bango playing formed part of his activities also painting and charcoal sketching. He became a popular entertainer at college concerts, for which (in 1877) he wrote Abdulla Bulbul Ameer.

Percy French finally graduated as a C.E. from Trinity College but did not practice to any marked extent. His first real professional part was as a Christy Minstrel. In 1891 he became associated with Houston Collisson a young Dublin musician. They became a team and composed an Irish musical comedy called, "The Knight of the Road". This sealed his interest in show business which he followed the rest of his life. Until his death he toured the United Kingdom and Ireland. It was during this period that he wrote most of his songs, setting them to his own music. Shortly after his last performance in Glasgow he became ill so went to his cousin's home at Formby Lincs, where he died from heart failure. His remains are still interred there. This is a short description of his life. He was a writer of poems and ballads, a musician, artist and entertainer who gave us many musical memories of Ireland.

The Irish Stamp Selection Committee has given us stamps of statesmen, poets, artists and art forming a picture of Ireland, its people and their talents and abilities. It seems that Percy French deserves recognition by the issuing of a commemorative stamp honoring him.

I would like to propose that our President and Directors consider this, and if approved, forward a recommendation to the Irish Stamp Selection Committee for the inclusion of a commemorative stamp to honor the memory of Percy French. I would also suggest that we forward copies of our recommendation to the Irish Philatelic Circle, The Dublin Stamp Club and The Irish Philatelic Club asking for their support. The more support we obtain, the greater the possibility of a Percy French stamp.

MONTREAL CANADA

V.A. Linnell