

The Revealer

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IRISH ARMED FORCES IN UNITED NATION'S SERVICE

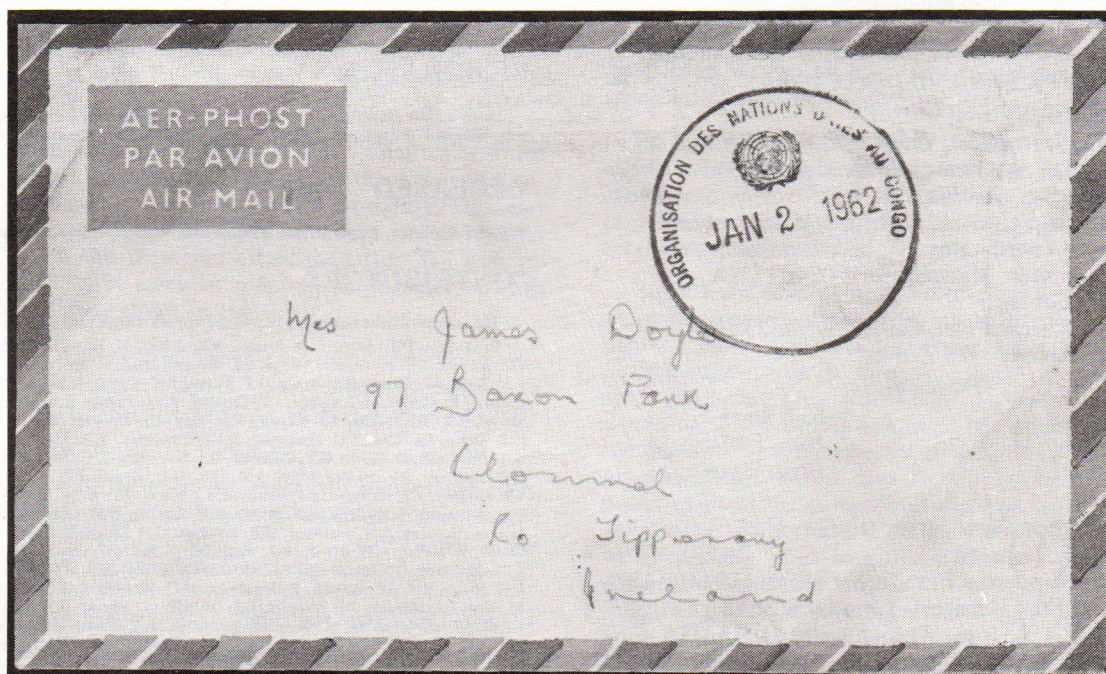


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MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Members as of August 15, 1983	702
New members	42
Reinstatements	1
Record adjustment	7
Resignation	10
Deceased	4
Total members as of November 15, 1983	738

RECRUITING HONOR ROLL

Those listed below are the known persons who have proposed new members for the EPA. There are many more 'out there' who collect Ireland than there are EPA members. Let's go for them! If you know of an Irish collector send name and address to the Secretary. You will be credited with such a new recruit.

James T. Howley, George B. McKillip, Roy Flewelling, John Laughlin, Joseph E. Foley, Richard McBride, John Blessington, Francis T. Ryan, Brian Warren, Peter Bugg.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

CHAPTER REPORT

The EPA membership is spread over half of the globe. It just isn't physically possible to have meetings so that all our members can get together. To overcome the strictures of geography, local groups have been holding meetings at stamp shows and sponsoring "Irish Sections" in exhibits almost from the start of the EPA. Many of our members can remember the great meetings at the ASDA Show, BALPEX and others on the East Coast in past years. Many fine meetings were held in Ireland under the aegis of Mike Giffney, EPA Representative. All of these helped make the EPA a cohesive unit.

The first, I think, to formalize their meetings and form an EPA Chapter was the Michigan group in the late 60's. For the last 13 years they have exhibited at STAMP-O-RAMA in Detroit. In 1970 they established "The Graydon Hicks Award" which is given to the "Best Irish Exhibit" each year. This year's winner was Mike Lenane.

The second oldest Chapter is the "NORCAL Chapter" formed in Northern California in the mid 70's. They meet two or three times a year at various stamp shows. EPA Secretary/Treasurer Gil Roberts was one of the founding members of this chapter and after his death the members established the "Gil Roberts Memorial Award" to be given at a stamp show, selected each year, to the best Irish exhibit in the show.

The SOCAL Chapter was formed in Southern California shortly after the NORCAL chapter. They meet at least twice a year at stamp shows, usually SESCO in October and ORCOPEX in July.

Local chapters have become an important part of the EPA, so much so, that the post of Chapter Coordinator was created and Robert C. Jones became our first coordinator. Under his able direction many new chapters have been formed.

Last January, Washington D.C. members met and officially adopted the name "James Hoban Chapter of the EPA". Information about the chapter and future meetings can be obtained from Bob Moskowitz, 3313 Southern Ave., Baltimore, MD 2124. Bob is Secretary/Treasurer and Pat Walker is in charge of publicity. So far they have 21 members.

In April a meeting was held in Meriden, Conn. to organize the "Connecticut Valley Chapter of the EPA". An excellent response was received and chapter members attending were Jeanne Parziale, Bill Fitzpatrick, Ed. Shanley, Mike Conway, Jim Reardon, George Ryan, Ray Coyne, Tim O'Shea and chapter organizer Dick McBride. Business discussed included collecting interests, meeting dates, programs etc. An auction of donated items was held. At their September meeting Richard J. McBride was elected President, Michael J. Crowley, Secretary and Jeanne Parziale Treasurer.

The New England Chapter now boasts 53 members and President Pat Walker reports on her visit to them in her President's Notes. Pat also writes of her interest in encouraging members to exhibit. The local chapters can certainly help her in this area by urging their members to exhibit, by sponsoring an "Irish Section" at their local show, and perhaps, by following the lead of the Michigan and NORCAL chapters and creating an award to be given at that show.

HELP THE E.P.A. - SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY!

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Recently I visited Boston for PHILATELIC SHOW and a regional meeting of the EPA. What a great trip! I was especially impressed by the gregarious nature of the EPA members in attendance. Some part of the group seemed to be continuously gathered around the EPA table, exchanging information, looking at each others collections or just visiting. I was very encouraged to see tangible evidence of the success a chapter organization can aim for. My own James Hoban chapter is changing its meeting schedule for next year to try to coincide with some area shows. I hope we can achieve the same success.

I was most appreciative of the generous hospitality that Dan and I received in Boston. I'd be happy to hear from EPA members (from Boston or anywhere else) who are visiting in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prior to going to Boston, I was one of the fortunate few to meet Brian Warren on his recent trip to the States, and to enjoy a fascinating informative evening looking at his slides.

Ed Sullivan continues in his publishing endeavors. He had an article titled "Beginnings of the British and Irish Posts" in a recent *Postal History Journal*. I encourage more of our members to promote Irish philately by writing general articles - for their local club newsletters, for instance.

Since I am advocating a continuing (and hopefully growing) presence at stamp shows, I feel something should be done to encourage more members to exhibit their collections. I've had several suggestions of how this might be accomplished. The most promising idea is to create a "review committee". This would offer the novice exhibitor the opportunity to get a written critique from members with exhibiting experience. The embryo exhibitor would have to supply photo-copies of the proposed exhibit; the committee members would supply their time and advice. Other interested members, please contact me. We will especially need someone in Europe who can provide the perspective necessary due to differing exhibition rules. Here in the States exhibits can be much longer. Hoping to hear from you . . . we have several big shows coming in 1985, and sooner. I hope to meet many more EPA members there.

Pat Walker, President

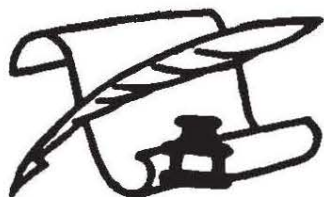
CONNECTICUT VALLEY CHAPTER



GEORGE RYAN

TIM O'SHEA

DICK McBRIDE



RANDOM NOTES

By F. E. Dixon

IRISH P.O. IN THE 1920s

I have been given an Irish Times Supplement summarizing the progress of the Irish Free State 1921-1931. One page concerns the Department of Posts & Telegraphs, which by 1931 employed over 12,000. Even then, the telegraph was a declining and losing service, to be continued only as a luxury and emergency one. In spite of declining population the volume of postal traffic had increased:

	1923	1930
Letters	110,781,385	116,954,400
Printed Papers	26,481,730	37,473,895
Postcards	7,684,470	8,011,950
Parcels	4,481,510	5,215,155

One paragraph is worth quoting verbatim:

"In order to give later facilities for posting, letter boxes have been fitted experimentally to trams and buses, so as to benefit the public in towns and villages along the routes. For the present the scheme is confined to a limited number of services, but if it proves a success the facilities will be afforded throughout the Saorstát generally."

Has anyone covers identifiable as posted in these travelling boxes? And does one of the travelling boxes survive to be an exhibit in the Postal Museum?

NECROLOGY

Dr. John Stafford Johnson, long the doyen of Irish philatelists, whose pioneer research, especially in Postal History, has inspired many of us, died on 12th August, soon after his 95th birthday. He was one of the collectors who sold his collections while he was still able to make good use of the proceeds, and many of us cherish items which we can label "ex Stafford Johnson".

RETURN TO SENDER

At one time Dublin used a series of RETURN TO SENDER handstamps each showing a different reason for return, e.g. "Gone Away". The present practice is to have only a single such handstamp combined with the multi-purpose indication, in English and French, with the applicable line marked by an 'x'.

POSTAGE DUE

There are variations in the rectangular marking with the alternative reasons for their being more to pay. The first line can be POSTAGE UNPAID or POSTED UNPAID and an interesting error is GRNS. for GRMS. in the third line.

AN OIGE STAMPS 1981

Mike Giffney had discovered the identities of some people silhouetted-18p David Marlowe, 19p Ressa McGrane (wife of An Oige PRO) and 30p p. McKellette.

£ BOOKLETS

The new booklets demonstrate a collection of stupidities. It is absurd to print vertical and horizontal designs se-tenant. How is one meant to stick them on the envelope? The numbering is a stupid device to lure collectors to obtain the whole set. And the 50p slot machines are supersensitive in rejecting coins with no visible evidence of wear. At my first visit the machine accepted my first 50p but rejected each of the others I had with me. A 50p booklet with 26+22+2 would be more sensible. Postpone £1 booklets until Ireland has a £1 coin.

MILEAGE MARKS PROBLEMS

Among the problems of the mileage marks period is why some towns dropped the mileage in the 1830s and reverted to simple one-line stamps, when other places were adopting the circular dated stamps. I have long sought for a case where the mileage figures were removed and the name portion continued by itself. At last I think I have found it? A letter of 1834 has AHASCRAUGH. One of 1839 has AHASCRAUGH only and it

seems to be otherwise identical. In other examples where I thought this had happened closer inspection revealed traces of the figures.

DUBLIN PENNY GENERAL POST

I have added one more to the numbers recorded for the elusive markings introduced in Dublin early in 1840. The latest find is 21/PAID/1^d in red, October 1, 1840.

ANOTHER SLOGAN

Yet again a new slogan has appeared without notification to collectors. MOSNEY / TRADE SHOW. / CONFERENCES. / EXHIBITIONS. earliest seen so far, 3 Sept, used at Drogheda.

R S O

Enthusiasts for RSO cancellations should add to their lists of Irish examples MOUNTCHARLES R.S.O. Co. DONEGAL, double circle, used March 1907.

DUBLIN OFFICES REGISTRATION NUMBERS

Two more noted: 99 = Offic luachala (Valuations Office?)

151 = Office of Paymaster General

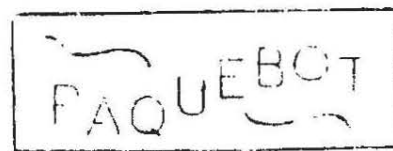
I also note that No. 5 is used at what still calls itself Portobello Bridge although each move has taken it further South, now into the Rathmines Shopping Centre.

POST OFFICE FORMS

M.P.1009 identifies the docket issued with each batch of Business Reply Packets delivered. It specified the number incurring each postage rate and has a printed reminder that a fee of ½p is chargeable in respect of each packer in addition to the postage. The dockets I have seen are dated stamped with BAILE ATHA CLIATH single-ring handstamps, with number at foot.

HIBERNIAN AUCTION 15 Oct.

What I thought most interesting were a series of covers posted on board the Holyhead & Kingstown Packet, or in the associated late Fee box, in 1922 to 1923. The markings included the second recorded example of the skeleton H & DL PKT, and the fourth recorded example of LONG PUIST/DHIUIN LAOGHAIRE! Their respective valuations were £60 and £35 sterling but the realizations £210 and £260 Irish +23% VAT? A cover with the less rare DAY BOAT cancellation also fetched £210 (+23%). My only purchase was a postcard of Cunarder "Scythia" with the matching PAQUETBOT marking 27 SEP 1937, I think the first occasion of



its use as illustrated by Studd and by Robertson. Mackay illustrates 15 MAR 1939 and I have a cover of 28 AUG 1939, almost certainly the last use. Has any of you any other date to add?

NEW BOOKS

Postal History is often interpreted as meaning postmarks, but the postal markings are only tangible evidence of the changes and development of the postal services. Two recent books demonstrate how much other information can be found. Firstly, C.P. & S.P. O'Neill have done a specialized study of the Armagh Post Office. It does record the postmarks, but the major portion concerns the successive locations of the Armagh Post Office and its staffs. Well illustrated and an excellent example of what can be done in local postal history. The second book is one we have been hoping for for some time, Mrs. Mairead Reynolds' History of the Irish Post Office, now published by MacDonnell Whyte Ltd. It brings together much important information from obscure sources, and the numerous illustrations include many we have not seen before such as a portrait of Dublin Postmaster Isaac Manley. There are very few slips, but one bad one is a gross misdrawing of a FREE mark on p. 29. Particularly important are the depictions of items in the National Museum which should be in a specifically Postal Museum, from a postman's lamp to the Accountant-General's candlesticks.

DUBLIN NEWSLETTER

by Eddie Fitzgerald

STAMPA 83 has come and gone and no doubt this Exhibition will be commented on by other scribes in this journal. I want to refer to just one particular aspect of this Exhibition and that is the display exhibited by the Philatelic Bureau. Once again, the Bureau came up with trumps with three frames in particular, featuring an uncut sheet of the 44p Killarney Cathedral definitive (200 stamps); an uncut sheet of the 26p Cashel definitive (200 stamps) and an uncut sheet of the new booklet panes and covers (40 panes). The display of the 44p and 26p values confirms our earlier conceptions of the layout of these sheets and reinforces our earlier recommendation to readers that the plate block is always lower left corner irrespective of design format.

Mention of the Philatelic Bureau leads me to the recent publication by the Philatelic Section, Department of Posts and Telegraphs of, "Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1982". Compiled by Liam Miller, this publication is essentially a check list of the stamps issued in this period with data on the designs, designers and (where available) numbers issued. Every issue (but not every value) is illustrated in full colour: apart from the (German language) Borek catalogue that is the only (English language) reference book with full colour reproductions of Irish stamps for the 1922-82 period. This publication is not aimed at the experienced or specialist but is designed to cater to the needs of the beginner and to attract newcomers to the hobby of Irish philately. To say that the Philatelic Section has succeeded in this aim is now beyond dispute because for the last five weeks this publication has been No. 1 or No. 2 on the list of bestsellers (non-fiction) as published in the National papers. And this list does not include sales by the Philatelic Bureau or Stamp Dealers. The cost is IR £10 hardback and IR£3.95 softback.

The experimental Booklets issued on August 15 merit a special commentary now. To date, the only true commercial outlets for these booklets are external vending machines installed at the G.P.O. Dublin. A postmaster in a suburban sub-postoffice ordered some booklets but was informed by Central Stores that the booklets were not available. Booklets could be purchased over the counter at the Philatelic Bureau Dublin but no booklets were available at the Philatelic Bureau, Cork until the day of the Cork Philatelic Exhibition on October 8. As explained in the last issue of *The Revealer*, these booklets are printed 4 across by 10 down, a total of 40 booklets. Having studied the STAMPA exhibit, the following information completes the picture. Each pane as printed faces in the same direction as other 39 panes. The panes are printed "sideways" i.e. in the printer's sheet there are 16 stamp spaces across by 20 spaces down. Between columns 1 and 2, columns 2 and 3, and columns 3 and 4 there are wide (1 stamp width) blank spaces so as to cater for an eventual binding selvedge. Each column consists of 10 panes and for every column there is a printed column color. Each column consists of 10 panes and for every column there is a printed column cover. These column covers (subsequently divided into 10 finished booklet covers) are numbered 1 to 10, 11 to 20, 21 to 30 and 31 to 40 respectively for use with columns 1, 2, 3 and 4 in that order. Coming back to the actual panes, in the selvedge of each pane at the top of each column there is a brown colour control check square (i.e. "traffic lights"); one for column 1, two for column 2 and so on. These check squares appear in the finished booklets as sold and readers can follow that Booklet No. 1 has 1 check square, Booklet No. 11 has 2 check squares, Booklet No. 21 had 3 check squares and Booklet No. 31 has 4 check squares. After the printing of the sheets and covers, the sheets are trimmed into columns of 10 sheets, affixed to the matching printed column cover and finally cut into finished single booklets.

Now to the start of the headache. On the day of issue, Booklet No. 31 was found with three check squares as well as the normal four check squares. This variety was found, not once, not twice but at least twenty times. This would imply that the

sheet columns and the cover columns were married out of sequence, but if this was the case, it would mean that Booklets 1, 11, and 21 have the wrong order of check squares also. So far, nothing out of order has been found on 1, 11 and 21 but there is a slight possibility that the wrong order for these columns, (if they exist) ended in North America. Would readers and dealers please note carefully the order of the colour checks and let me know if there is anything out of the ordinary. Another possible explanation (slight) lies in the fixing adhesive between pane and cover. The grip of the adhesive is not strong and many booklets have been found with loose panes. It could be said that this variety on 31 was a reaffixed pane after the booklets were cut into single booklets; this explanation is not good enough to account for the twenty odd booklets which exist with the variety.

The sheet stamps of the new definitive series are keeping us all on our toes. In the third week of October, an eagle eyed collector in Cork discovered the current £1 definitive on White Paper. Following this discovery, a quick search revealed that supplies of this £1 white paper are being distributed presently to offices around the country. This white paper is a new printing altogether as the perforations of sheets differ in the same way as the 1st and 2nd printings of the 44p differ . . . please see my notes and sketch in the Summer issue of *The Revealer*. A prediction for readers; when a further reprinting of £1 stamps comes to pass, it will not be on white paper but on the now standard blue green/off white adhesive paper. Then we will have at least three types of £ definitives to consider, between perforation and paper changes. The message to specialist collectors of plate, imprint and corner blocks is quite clear. Get your corner blocks of these £ definitive on white paper as soon as possible . . . if you can.

Just as I was re-reading this Newsletter prior to sending it to the Editor, I had a phone call from Padraig O Mathuna to say that the 30p definitive has been found in the perforation type as reported for the reprinting of the 44p. My own task now is not just to locate all 8 corner blocks of A and B sheets with the new perforation type but to complete my corner block collection of the 30p original perforation type. Such are the joys of collecting.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A HISTORY OF THE IRISH POST OFFICE, by Mairead Reynolds, Published by, MacDonnell Whyte Ltd, 102 Leinster Street, Dublin, Ireland, Oct 1983, 91pp approx. 5"x8", Price, Paperback - IR £4.50, Case-bound - IR£7.95 (each plus postage)

Mairead Reynolds from Mountcharles, Co. Donegal, a worker in the Art and Industrial Division of the National Museum of Ireland, has performed a task that has long needed doing . . . she had written a well researched, readable history of the Irish post office.

From Chapter 1, "Early Irish Postal Systems", through Chapter 17, "Oifig an Phoist", Ms Reynolds not only records the growth of the Irish post from 1482 up to the creation of the system in place today but also writes of the times and the people and their impact on the evolving system. Her research has led her to sources not previously tapped by Irish postal historians resulting in much new information, and many previously unknown postal artifacts, being discovered.

The book is well edited, the illustrations complement the text and the bibliography thorough.

"A History of the Irish Post Office" is highly recommended to all collectors of Irish philately regardless of collecting interests. Even those with no interest in postal history will find this book worthwhile for besides imparting much knowledge it is also a "good read."

j.j.b.

THE RAILWAY PERFINS OF IRELAND

By Norah K. Wright

There is always a fascination about railways which arouses one's philatelic instinct to collect postmarks, T.P.O.s, R.P.O.s and covers. When collecting perfins it seems the natural thing to make a study of this branch of perfin collecting.

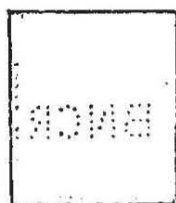
The Irish railways are particularly interesting as one has many years of collecting Irish perfins, first on U.K. stamps used in Ireland. In 1916 the turbulence of the country during the rebellion period can be seen as one finds the skeleton handstamp of the rebellion period on King George V stamps with the GS/WR perfin. History takes us to another interesting period, that is the Irish overprinted stamps bearing the railway companies perfins. We pass on then to railway perfins on the first Irish definitive issue and all the commemoratives that followed. Here again history raises her head as during the World War II years the G.S.R. Railway used what can only be termed as a provisional die.

Not all our railways used perfins. The following is a list of all the railways known to have used them.

Belfast & Northern Counties Railway
Cork Bandon & South Coast Railway
Cork Blackrock & Passage Railway
Great Southern Railway
Great Western Railway
Great Southern & Western Railway
Great Northern Railway (Ireland)
Midland Great Western Railway
Waterford Limerick & Western Railway
Coras Iompair Eireann
Railway Executive Western Region

THE BELFAST & NORTHERN COUNTIES RAILWAY

The Belfast & Ballymena Railway was incorporated in the mid-1840's and renamed Belfast & Northern Counties Railway in 1860. In 1903 the B.N.C.R. was acquired by the Midland Railway and became part of the London Midland & Scottish in 1923.

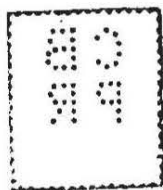


DIES NO. OF HOLES HEIGHT
BNCR 14,13,8,11 4

Found on: 1d Red plate numbers

THE CORK BLACKROCK & PASSAGE RAILWAY

Incorporated in 1846. Extended to Crosshaven in 1896. Opened to Monkstown in 1902, became a part of the GSR in 1925. Closed in 1932.



CB/PR 8,14/10,12 4

Found on: King George V 1/2d
King George V 1912-22
1/2d, 1 1/2d

THE CORK BANDON & SOUTH COAST RAILWAY

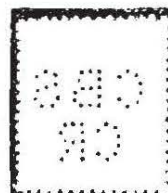
Constituents were the Bandon Railway, The Cork Kinsale Junction Railway and the West Cork Railway. All were amalgamated in 1888 as the Cork Bandon & South Coast Railway and eventually became a part of the GSR.



CBS/CR 8,14,10/8,11 5

Found on: Queen Victoria 1d
lilac, 1/2d Jubilee
King Edward VII 1/2d, 1d
King George V 1/2d, 1d

DIE 1



CBS/CR 8,14,10/8,12 5

Found on: Queen Victoria 1d lilac
King Edward VII 1/2d, 1d
King George V 1/2d, 1d

DIE 2

THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY

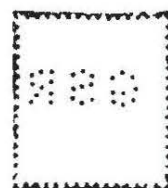
The GSR was the result of the amalgamation of all the railways operating in the Irish Free State in 1925.



GSR 10,11,12 4 1/2

Found on: Irish 1922 definitives
commemoratives 1922-1937.

DIE 1



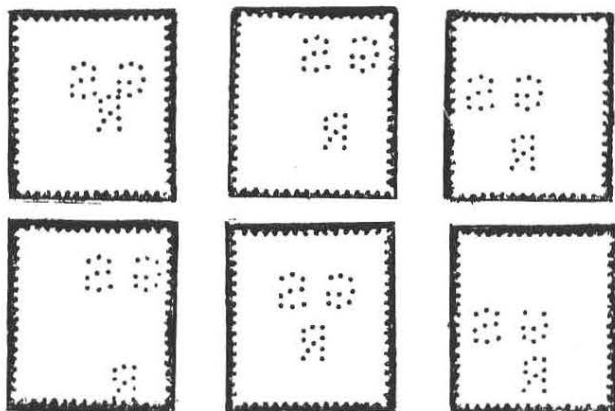
GSR 9,9,10 4 1/2

Found on: Irish definitives &
commemoratives to 1941

DIE 2

THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY PROVISIONALS

During the second world war Sloper's works were destroyed by enemy action and the dies lost. However, very quickly and with ingenuity, Sloper produced replacements. These took the form of single letters or pairs with the result that in the GSR the single letter 'r' was unevenly spaced and appeared anywhere on the stamp.



SELECTION OF PROVISIONAL PERFINS

GSR 9,9,10 4½

Found on: 1940 Definitives,
Commemoratives 1941-44

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

The GWR had offices at various Irish ports in connection with their cross steamer service so that their perfins can be found on our Irish stamps.



DIE 1

GWR 10, 14, 12 4½

Found on: Queen Victoria 1d
lilac, ½d Jubilee

DIE 2

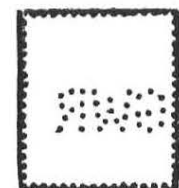
GWR 11,14,12 4½

Found on: King George V ½d



DIE 3

GWR 9,12,10 5

Found on: Irish Definitives &
commemoratives 1933-45

DIE 4

GWR 9, 12, 10 5

Found on: 1d Map

THE GREAT SOUTHERN & WESTERN RAILWAY
The GS&WR was the largest railway. It was completed in 1855. Its route ran from Dublin to Cork with many branches throughout the south and west. In 1925 it became part of the GSR.



DIE 1

G/WR 10/10,16,11 4½

Found on: Queen Victoria 1d Red
plate numbers, 1880
½d green, 1881 1d lilac

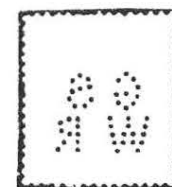
DIE 2

GS/WR 10,10/15,11 4½

Found on: Queen Victoria ½d
Jubilee, 1d lilac
King Edward VII ½d,
1d, 3d
King George V ½d, 1d
Irish o'prints 1d, 2d

DIE 3

GS/WR 10,11/14,12 5

Found on: King Edward VII ½d
1d, 3d
King George V 1911-12 ½d
King George V 1912-22 ½d
1d, 1½d, 2d
Irish o'prints ½d, 1d, 2d
Irish definitives ½d, 1d, 2d

DIE 4

GS/WR 10,10/16,11 4½

Found on: King George V 1d & 1½d
Irish o'prints 1d & 2d

DIE 5 & 6

GS/WR 10,10/15,11 4½

The discovery of this Sloper manufactured perforating machine, which was brought to light last year by Michael Richards, Editor of Irish Philately, is a most interesting discovery and had not been previously recorded. This machine originally came from the old Broadstone Station in Dublin. The machine perforates two stamps at a time and is in perfect working order, having all the pins intact. There are minor differences between DIE 5 and DIE 6. The most interesting point is that these dies have never been reported on stamps and one wonders if this machine was ever put into operation.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (IRELAND)

The company was formed by the amalgamation of several small companies in 1876.

1
GNR

I/GNR 5/10,13,13 5

MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN

The MGWR was incorporated in 1845. It ran from Dublin to Galway with numerous lines covering the centre of Ireland and the west coast. This railway retained its identity for 80 years until 1925 when it became part of GSR.



DIE 1

M/GWR 15/10,16,13 4½

Found on: Queen Victoria ½d,
1d Red plate nos, 2d
blue, 1d Venetian Red,
1d lilac (14&16 dots)
½d Jubilee
King Edward VII ½d, 1d
King George V ½d, 1d
Irish o'prints ½d, 1d, 2d



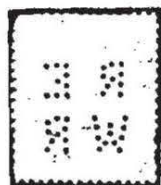
DIE 2

M/GWR 15/10,16,14 5½

Found on: known only on the 3d
Railway parcel stamp

RAILWAY EXECUTIVE WESTERN REGION

In the same way as the GWR perfin is found on Irish stamps so also the perfin RE/WR appears on them.

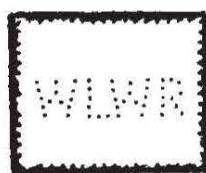


RE/WR 10,9/12,10 4

Found on: Irish 1940 definitives ½d
1d, 1½d, 2½d, 3d
Irish Commemoratives 1949,
1952, 1954

WATERFORD LIMERICK & WESTERN RAILWAY

The railway opened in 1854 from Waterford to Limerick and gradually extended its network. It was amalgamated with GSWR.

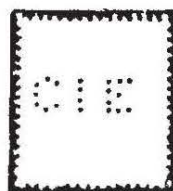


WLWR 14,7,14,11 5

Found on: Queen Victoria 1d
lilac

CORAIIS IAMPÁIR ÉIREANN

CIE, Ireland's transport company was formed in 1945 by the amalgamation of the GSR and the Dublin Transport Co.



DIE 1

CIE 7,4,9 4½

Found on: 1940 Definitives,
Commemoratives 1943-48



DIE 2

C.I.E. 7,4,9 4½

Found on: Definitive & Commemora-
tives issues 1949 to date.

This die is prolific. In the 1980's it is still in use but the die has many broken pins and the letters appear with blind holes. Such perfins are not collectible.

I would like to acknowledge all the information and help I have received from S.E.P.S. (Security Endorsement Perforators Society) and also the books on Irish Railways by H.C. Casserley.

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MY INTEREST IN "GERLS"

By Brian Warrar

My interest in stamp collecting began in 1969. My mother is Italian and during the late 60's I spent several summers in her home area in Southern Italy. A cousin of mine, who is both deaf and dumb, also resides in the same area and I spent many an evening examining his extensive collection of Ireland, G.B. and U.S.A. He grew up in Dublin and was collecting from an early age. He was primarily responsible for my early interest and I began to collect a mint set and FDC of all new Irish issues. I left school in 1970 and continued my education in University College Dublin graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1973. I have since qualified as a Chartered Accountant and work for a large practicing firm in Dublin.

I joined the local Dublin Stamp Society and soon became "hooked". I was later to join the Irish Philatelic Society, The Irish Philatelic Circle and the Eire Philatelic Association. I knew little in those early days, as illustrated by the following incident. In late 1969, prior to decimalisation, I was attempting to obtain the £.s.d. Gerl coils viz. 1d, 2d and 3d. At the time, it was not possible to purchase coils from the Post Office over the counter. I tried all the coil vending machines outside the G.P.O. in Dublin. The 1d and 2d were readily available. However, all the 3d machines contained either typographed or photogravure Cross of Cong stamps from the earlier series. I noted that a pair of the 3d typographed stamps had an inverted watermark. This was a puzzle, as my catalogue stated that such stamps came from booklet panes. I did not think further about the matter, assuming that my knowledge was incomplete. In later years I was to meet fellow member, Padraig O Mathuna, who told me all about the "booklet coils" (Refer to the April 1975 *Revealer* or *Irish Stamp News* No. 9, December 1981). It was a costly mistake. It goes to prove that collectors should always be on the lookout for the unusual. I obtained the 3d Gerl coil shortly before decimal day (February 15th, 1971) in a machine in my home town of Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. My collection interests expanded to include G.B., Italy, Vatican City, U.N., Isle of Man and Europa issues. Italy, Vatican, U.N. and most of G.B. fell by the wayside as I specialized in Modern issues.

1972 was a turning point in my philatelic pursuits; it was the year of the first STAMPA exhibition (Irish National Stamp Exhibition). The Revenue Stamping Branch produced a superb display of printing plates and cylinders, proof sheets, etc., which introduced me to the technology of stamp printing. Thus I began to assemble a collection of cylinder blocks with a start date of Decimalisation. I noted that the definitive stamps varied in that there were two distinct gums — now known as PVA dull and PVA shiny. During the same period, I was collecting G.B. decimal booklet panes; information about paper and gums (and phosphors) was readily available in the British philatelic press and this was the basis of my knowledge about OCP and FCP. I only knew one collector in Dublin with a similar interest — family and work overtook his hobby and I began to feel like a "loner" in the wilderness. The introduction of unwatermarked paper for the "Gerls" in 1974 brought further changes and by 1976, I had identified three different paper/gum types. In the same year, at a local society meeting, I overheard a collector explaining paper and gum variation to a fellow member. His explanation co-incided exactly with my thesis. It was like manna from heaven. That gentleman was Eddie FitzGerald. Although Eddie would be the first to admit that we are not exactly of the same age group, we have been firm philatelic friends since that first meeting. Eddie introduced me to Padraig O Mathuna and several other collectors with like interests in the current definitives. Collectively, we broadened our studies to include coils and booklets and published a couple of articles in *The Revealer* and *Irish Philately*. I stated above that STAMPA was a catalyst in my studies. In 1977 I became associated, through

Ian Whyte, in the organization of the National Stamp Exhibition. I'm now treasurer of that body — unfortunately the organization is left to a few and as a result it is difficult to expand and improve this annual event. Although it cannot rival, as yet, its overseas counterparts, it does provide a forum to attract new entrants to the hobby. In more recent years local societies have been aided by the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland in organizing local shows at which the Revenue Stamping Branch exhibit their display shown at the previous STAMPA: thus it is seen by collectors who are unable to attend the national exhibition.

In 1978, Ian Whyte suggested to Eddie and I that we should write a small handbook about the "Gerl Definitives." It was published by Ian later that year. I must state that, without his help, we would have been unable to develop interest in this area. We have continued to provide supplement updates in *Irish Stamp News* and are actively considering a second edition now that the series has come to an end. The series was replaced this year with new designs featuring Irish Architecture 'down through the Ages. In recent years, ever spiraling postal rates, an increase in the number of commemoratives, the introduction of the offset-litho process (and thus imprint and colour check blocks etc.), all have contributed to a concentration in the definitives. All definitive changes occurred due to specific postal requirements. Many of the commemoratives are rarely seen on mail. Sub-post offices often specify when ordering — No large Stamps — the smaller definitives are easier to handle. I have ceased to collect special and commemorative stamps in blocks with only some exceptions (e.g. Hoban issue). Many people think me mad to differentiate between various papers and gums. I appreciate that it's not a field that appeals to everyone but leaving aside such differences, an interesting collection of the "Gerls" can be put together by keeping to the basic sets, i.e. pre-decimal series, watermarked and unwatermarked sets together with the various coils and booklet panes.

What of the future? The National Postal Museum should eventually open in Dublin. Bill Kane has spent much time in this arduous task. It promises to be a welcome development on the home front and I hope it will provide easier access to technical information in the future. The introduction of the new definitive series provides collectors with an opportunity to be in "at the start" and thus develop an interesting collection in future years.



AUTHOR'S AWARD

E.P.A.'s Board of Directors approved the creation of an award in memory of Vince Linnell. This award is to be given each year to the author of an article appearing in *The Revealer*. Selection of this author is not being left to an appointed committee. You the members, are being asked to select your favorite article, the one you consider the best. The rules are simple:

- 1) All articles with a by-line within a Volume are eligible.
- 2) A multi-part article will be judged in the volume in which the last part appears.

You are asked to vote on articles appearing in Volume 32, Whole Numbers 147-150. This is your opportunity to support your favorite and indicate your preference in subject matter. Send your votes to Bill Zellers, 5530 Via Dos Cerros, Riverside, CA 92507. Deadline is February 15th . . . but don't wait . . . vote now!

IRISH ARMED FORCES IN UNITED NATIONS SERVICE

Part 2 Peace-keeping Forces

By Stephen Cohen

Note the term "Peace-keeping Forces for that is the mission assigned to such units. A Peace-keeping Force is a large force, or body of men (later women), up to 20,000 in all as compared to a UNMO (Truce Observers) which is very small in numbers. (See Part 1, Revealer Vol. NO. 1).

A Peace-keeping Force is armed, is made up of all ranks, is larger, and is established by the UN Security Council for a mandated period of time, up to six months, after which the mandate must be renewed or the mission dies out. The military personnel is drawn from member nations that have made their troops available. None of the major powers can serve although an exception was made for the French in UNIFIL. Each mission has UN civilians attached to do the administrative work; personnel, purchasing, transportation, finance, legal and diplomatic. Many of these are posted from UN headquarters in New York. They live outside the mission area, in a safe city, and are bussed to work each day.

An agreement is usually worked out between the countries of the troops that are serving in a mission and the host country where the mission is located to allow mail to flow freely, without censorship between the troops and their home countries. Official mail is sent via UN diplomatic sealed pouch to UNHQ in New York and, if going outside of the UN, stamps are put on and the mail is put into the civilian mail. Once agreement is reached a UN Base Post Office (UNBPO) is set up at the mission HQ area to gather, bag, and put the mail on planes. This mail is free up to 10 grams weight, anything over that weight or registered must be paid for by the force member. The UNBPOs have stamps on hand and sometimes offer registered mail service too. This is an overview of a typical system.

IRELAND'S PARTICIPATION

Ireland's first Peace-keeping Mission was the UN Forces in the Congo or, in French, "Organisation des Nations Unies au Congo" (ONUC). "ONUC was formed on July 14, 1960 in response to a request for assistance from the Republic of the Congo, now Zaire. Shortly after Congo's independence from Belgium on June 30, 1960, the Congolese Army had rebelled against its officers and Belgium had flown in troops to protect its nationals (some of whom remained). The departure of the Belgians also caused the collapse of essential services (the Belgians did not train nor allow the Congolese to take part in government and essential services). Thus the UN mission was requested to aid in restoring order, to ensure the departure of the Belgian troops and to help provide a cadre to train Congolese Civil servants (this included the Post Office). ONUC ended on June 30, 1964." (1)

The Province of Katanga seceded and established their own government. They set up their own Postal System and issued stamps and postal stationery. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) never recognized Katanga as a country so their stamps were only valid within the province. They should have been disallowed in international mail. However, such covers do exist, both from civilian and military personnel, using only Katanga stamps. They are scarce and desirable. (Note: Katanga was the heart of the Congo, most of its wealth was from the mines there, so without Katanga there could be no Congo).

Twenty countries were called upon, including Ireland, for troops. On 23 July 1960 the Irish advance party (a small group) arrived to pave the way for the main body of Irish troops. Irish troops remained in the Congo until 11 May 1964. A listing of units that served appears later in this article.

When the Irish first arrived sending mail was a problem. From 15 July to 1 August 1960 the UN pouch was used, thereafter, the UNBPO which was opened in Leopoldville, with a branch in Elizabethville, Katanga. Mail to Ireland has not been

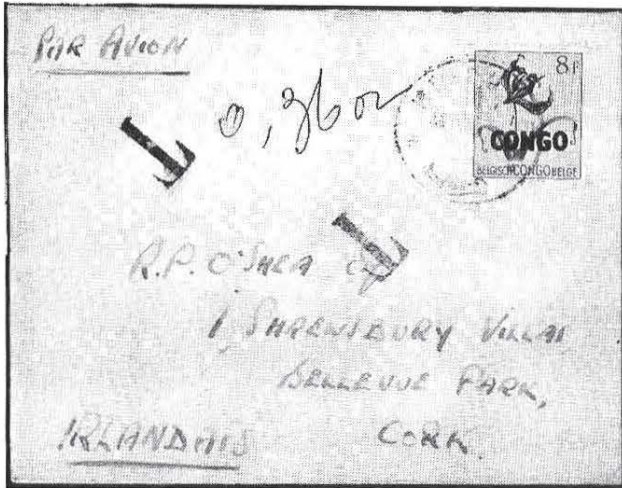
sent via pouch. Irish troops had regular Irish Post Office issue green aerogrammes with them which they used. (See Front Cover). To make this cover more interesting it was sent from the branch UNBPO in Elizabethville, Katanga with the UN free mail hand stamp cancel. There was also a machine cancel available but it was rarely used. This cover catalogs for about \$60.00 whereas if it was from the Congo would be about \$40.00. Why is Katanga mail very dear? Well, the Irish had their hands full there. On one hand they were trying to remain neutral and on the other prevent a civil war from escalating. They had little time to write and few means to send mail when they were in the bush. They had to use local posts run by the rebels.



Here is one such cover, from a small Irish Unit, a company, sent from Niamba via Albertville, Republic of the Congo with mixed franking, in this case allowed by the rebels. Note one Katanga stamp with the Congo stamps. On the Congo stamps they crossed out the word Belgium, leaving Congo (first one seen). The date of the cover is three months after the Irish arrived, October 2, 1960. To many this is something that might be found in a box of junk covers, to those who know it is a \$100.00 cover since, so far, it is the only one known.



This cover from Kamina, a large UN Airbase in the Congo to Ireland dated March 20, 1961 is docketed 24/3/61 indicating the very good service of four days from the Congo to Ireland.



This cover from Cmdr O'Shea of the 32nd Bn shows that the Congolese postal employees were not yet well trained and judging rates, (first postage due seen).



This cover shows the UN Field Service Aerogramme Type 3, which was first used on November 16, 1960. These were not always available so the Irish could use their own green aerogrammes or whatever envelopes were available. All aerogrammes should have a message inside to be considered really used (non-philatelic) and all such aerogrammes bring a premium.

One aspect of the postal service rarely discussed is Directory Mail. Thus mail from Ireland to a Force member, say in the Congo, who was killed, injured, taken POW, transferred or returned to Ireland had to be forwarded to the members new post or hospital or returned to the sender. Such mail from Irish UN missions has never been seen. I guess there should be certain markings or handwritten instructions placed on such covers. If anyone has seen one or has knowledge of one please let me know.

The mission was a long and difficult one, with many deaths of Irish soldiers and some were captured. "In late September 1961, a unit of Irish soldiers were captured and detained several days by soldiers of secessionist Katanga province." (1) Mail from them could have been sent via the Red Cross but would have been subject to censorship by the rebels. Instead newspaper men smuggled POW mail out of the country and mailed it to Kolwezi, Northern Rhodesia. I have one with the letter still enclosed which explains POW conditions. They are very rare and very expensive if and when found.

Following is a list of Irish Units that served in the Congo that I have recorded. Ireland furnished two battalions with the initial shipment of troops. They were transported by the U.S. Air Force Military Air Transport Service (MATS).

The 32nd Infantry Battalion, consisting of 688 men, was the first to ship out. Late in July 1960 they moved to Baldonnel Airport for transport overseas arriving in the Congo 26/27 July. Their HQ was at Bukava, Congo. Lt. Col. Buckley was Commanding Officer (CO), Cmdt. J. Adams was second in command (XO) and J.P. Laffan was Medical Officer. Their six month tour of duty ended in January 1961 and they were rotated home.

The 33 Inf Bn, 755 men, left Ireland three weeks after the 32 Bn arriving in the Congo 15/16 August. 123 men from this battalion went to Katanga province. Lt. Col. Bunworth was CO and the Bn was rotated back to Ireland in mid January 1961.

34 Inf Bn left Curragh Camp for the Congo in mid January 1961 and returned to Ireland in July. Lt. Col. O'Neil was CO. I have a record of a Lt. Tony O'Grady of Kerry being in this unit.

1st Inf Group left Ireland June 1961 and returned in December, Lt. Col. O'Donovan commanding.

35 Inf Bn left Ireland June 19, 1961 and returned December 1st, Lt. Cols. McNamee and McNeil.

36 Inf Bn left Ireland December 5, 1961, returned May 1962, Lt. Cols. Hogan and Ryan.

37 Inf Bn left from Collins Barracks, Cork May 1962 returned November 10, 1962, Lt. Col. O'Broin.

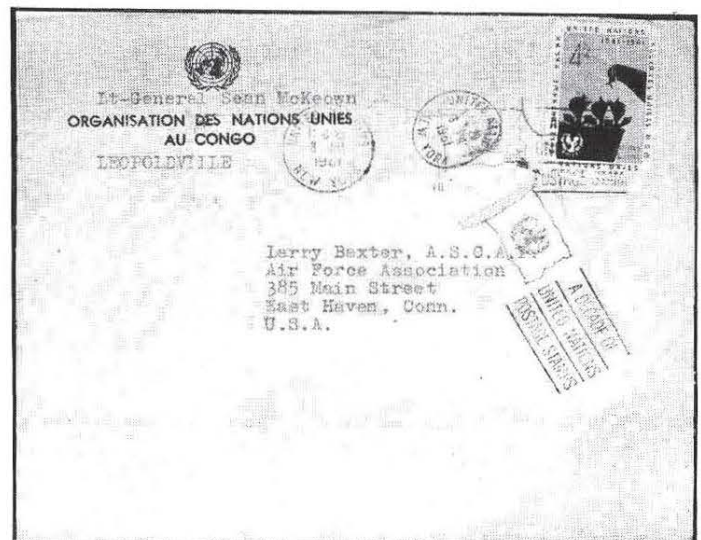
2 Armd Car Sgn Co & 38 Inf Bn left November 7, 1962, returned April 1963, Comd Foley was CO of the Sgn Co. and Lt. Col. Delaney had the 38 Inf Bn.

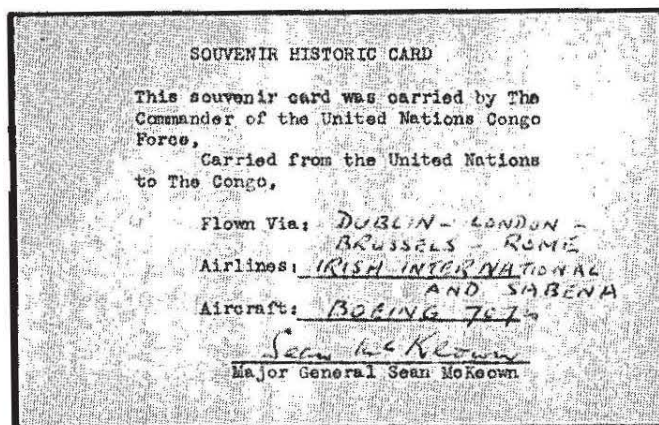
39 Inf Bn, 600 men, left from Cathal Brugha Barracks April 27, 1963 and returned October 1963, Lt. Col. Dempsey CO. They went to Kolwezi Northern Rhodesia and then to Katanga. This unit is known to have had casualties.

3 Armd Car Sqdn left April 1963 returned October 1963, Comd Cahalane was CO.

21 Inf Group left Ireland in November 1963 and returned in April 1964 Lt. Col. Sullivan commanding. This was the last Irish unit sent to the Congo.

In addition to the above personnel, Lt. General Sean McKeown served as Supreme Commander of ONUC from January 30, 1961 to March 29, 1963. Other officers with the rank of Lt. Col. and Col. were attached to HQ ONUC as well.





The second Peace-keeping Force Ireland participated in was, the UN Emergency Force in Egypt, UNEF II. "Following the Yom Kippur War (so named because Israel was attacked by Egypt on its holiest day) of October 1973 the Security Council authorized a second UN Emergency Force (UNEF II) to monitor and enforce the cease fire which had been arranged. Advance parties for this mission arrived in Cairo on October 28, 1973. It was to have a total strength of 7,000 (ONUC had 20,000) and was withdrawn in July 1979, as a result of the Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt." (1) UN Field Service Aerogrammes, Type 4 were furnished to UNEF personnel, similar to the ONUC aero shown earlier. Ireland furnished 266 men starting on October 30, 1973 who remained until May 22, 1973. They used the UNEF Base Post Office but I have never seen any covers or aers from them. I would appreciate information and covers from this mission.

The third Peace-keeping Force Ireland participated in was the UN Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Ireland contributed 523 men to HQ Nicosia including military and civilian police (CIV POL). They arrived in Cyprus on March 3, 1964 and stayed until 1973, although 8 men are still there, the last I heard. There is no UN Base Post Office nor free mailing privileges. Mail to Ireland goes through the Cypriot Post and bears stamps of Cyprus.



Great Britain, with the largest force, acts as a UN Post Office handling interforces mail. Initially the Irish had a special envelope with the following corner car: No. Rand Name /Coy Eire Batt UNIC/Cyprus. Major General Quinn was Supreme Commander from December 24, 1976 to February 24, 1981.

The fourth and current mission is UNIFIL. "UNIFIL, The UN Interim Forces in Lebanon, was created (by the Security Council) on March 19, 1978 (became operative on March 22, 1978 when the first troops, Swedish, arrived) to police an area

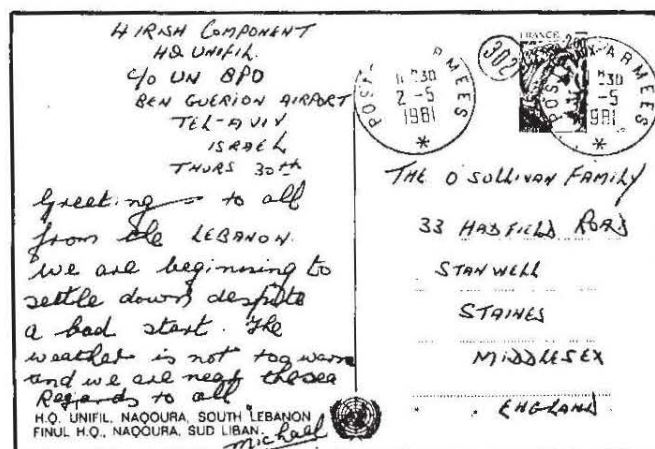
of Southern Lebanon south of the Litani River and extending to the border of Israel. One of its main goals is preventing the infiltration of armed forces and military supplies into the UN zone." (1) As of a year ago Israel attacked Southern Lebanon and went as far as Beirut. So the UN troops are now doing humanitarian deeds, its hospital takes care of the local civilian population and it guards the UN refugee camps from attack by local factions. Its mandate is up soon so its future is unknown. Starting in September Ireland is furnishing 600 men and women . . . the women consist of a Captain and some privates . . . the first Irish women to participate. The Irish troops are still in place. There is a UNBPO opened in April 1978 in Maquora manned by the French so Irish mail, under 10 grams, is free. Mail to non-participating countries must bear French stamps. There is a UN Field Forces Aerogramme, Type 4, and a special cancel.

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES
INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON
FORCE INTERIMAIRE AU LIBAN



This is the Irish cachet and cancel from a letter to Ireland. I haven't seen any mail with the Irish return address. On February 5, 1981, Lt. General William Callaghan assumed command of UNIFIL.

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES
INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON
FORCE INTERIMAIRE AU LIBAN
Office of the Force Commander
William Callaghan
Lieut. General
Force Commander



This cover is from the Irish forces in Lebanon to England using a French stamp sent via the French run UNBPO.

UNTSO, Jerusalem, Government House is the Main HQ for all UNTSO observer groups. There are several now: OGL - Lebanon and OGB - Beirut are attached to the UN Peace-keeping Force, UNIFIL. OGG - Golan is attached to the Peace-keeping Force UNDOF. Then there is a mobile unit ready to roll to any hot spot. Ireland has officers attached to these. Their mail goes via the UNFIL BPO.

Ireland furnished the Acting Chief-of-Staff to UNTSO on three different occasions:

Col. R.W. Bunworth - October 26, 1973 to April 1974

Col. P.D. Hogan - August 20, 1975 to Sept. 3, 1975

Col. J.O. O'Callaghan - April 13, 1978 to June 4, 1979

This gives you some idea of what is known, much is still unknown. I hope that if any of the readers know people in Ireland who have served or are serving with the UN they will contact them and see if they have saved any covers or have any information. If they are serving now try to get them to save their covers and aerograms so that collectors will have them in the

future. If you know anyone serving at Irish Military HQ, or in any of the Barracks, see if they can save the covers from UNIFIL Official Mail. Also any information, magazines, badges, booklets, passports, etc would be helpful to our research i.e. What units were/are in UN Service? If you have any questions, need anything expertized (send photo of front and back) or wish to sell/trade covers or aers please contact me.

One last word, try, when collecting or exhibiting Irish UN Forces mail, to maintain high standards. Try not to collect and exhibit Canceled-to Order covers. Try to use genuinely used material that is so rich in Irish Postal History. It tells a story, is more interesting and what a joy it can be. Also, please don't write UNIFIL for CTO covers. If you have friends there have them save their covers for you. Don't bother the mail people at UNIFIL they are very busy.

Stephen Cohen,
P.O. Box 867
New York, N.Y. 10150 USA

RECENT ISSUES

IRISH HANDCRAFTS

The Irish Post Office issued four new postage stamps on 13 October 1983. These stamps were the fourth issue in the "Ireland" series and feature handcrafts. There are four denominations and four designs. The 22p (1,000,000) features Weaving, the 26p (1,000,000) features Basketmaking, the 29p (500,000) features Irish Crochet and the 44p (500,000) features Harp-making.



WEAVING

The history of weaving in Ireland is a long one. Indirect evidence of this is found in the imprint of woven material on a pottery food vessel found in Meath and dated circa 1600 B.C. Direct evidence also exists in the Armoy cloth thought to be woven sometime between 900 and 600 B.C. These objects are housed in the National Museum of Ireland. Irish woolen textiles were exported as far afield as Italy in the 14th century. In spite of many restrictions and setbacks through the centuries, weaving continues to flourish in Ireland. The crios or traditional belt of

the west of Ireland is hand weaving at its simplest. It is probably of 19th century origin. The warp, usually white wool, is anchored to the weaver's foot, the shed for the weft is made with a simple stick. The colours black, white, green, red, yellow, blue and brown are used in various combinations.

BASKETMAKING

Taken globally and apart from toolmaking, basketmaking is considered the oldest craft. Containers for holding food or fuel, fencing, shields, even boats were all woven from willow or similar pliable materials. There is evidence to suggest that coiled as distinct from woven baskets were made in Ireland in the Bronze Age. There is direct evidence of wattle walls in Iron Age Cran-nog dwellings in Ireland, and walls, fencing and walkways were found in medieval and later sites in Dublin, Cork and elsewhere. Many farmers had up to recent times, their sally (salix-Willow) gardens for providing the willow for utensils. After a period of decline basketmaking is now reviving in Ireland.

IRISH CROCHET

Irish Crochet, regarded by the couture profession in the early years of the present century as true Irish lace, was introduced to Ireland in its original form as a famine relief programme by the Ursuline Convent in Cork in 1845. In 1847 a Mrs. Roberts in Kildare promoted its use in famine relief; from there it progressed to Clones. It is made with a hook, not a needle, and the material used is white cotton thread. As Irish Crochet developed so did its distinctive Irish character and designs. The genuine Irish Crochet is largely a part time occupation; many couturiers incorporate it in their designs.

HARPMAKING

The harp is identifiable as a distinctive Irish instrument as far back as the 11th century. By 1700 only a few harps survived the proscription of harpers who being itinerant musicians were also suspected of being spies. Enough data and extant specimens, however, are available to show the original harp to have had a sound box carved from solid wood, a deeply curved neck and a curved forepillar. The strings were brass, played with the fingernails. The Belfast Harp Society began a revival of the harp in the 18th century. The 19th century harp, which is the model for most contemporary instruments, differs from the original Irish harp in its ornateness, its built sound box and gut strings. Nevertheless, harps being made in Ireland today are in much demand internationally.

The stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. by Lithography and are perforated 14x15.

STAMPA '83 AWARDS

The David Feldman Trophy for the best exhibit overall in the competitive class goes to George E.R. Ithell of Ashford for his "Free Franks of Ireland", for which he also wins a Silver medal.

Silver medals were awarded to G.K. Powers of Oxford for "Oxford and Cambridge College Stamps", Ian Edmondson of Lisburn for "Gibraltar Postal Stationery", Colin Hepper of Peterborough for "Nepal - The Postal System before 1900".

Bronze medals were awarded to F.E. Dixon of Dublin for "Meteorology", J.E.O. Hobbs of Worthing for "Postmarks of Worthing 1806-1900", G.K. Powers of Oxford for "Ireland 1907 to 1922", Johan Rehnberg of Goteborg for "Ireland - Rebellion and Transition Period", Norah K. Wright of Killiney for "It's an Irish World".

Certificates of Merit were awarded to Wil Coense of Cork for "Tallow and District Postal History", F. E. Dixon of Dublin for "Ireland 1950 Holy Year issue", John Hickey of Dublin for "Paris and it's Environs".

In the Literature Section, Andrew Ballard of London won a Silver medal for "The Preparation of New Irish High Value Definitives 1923-1937", an article published in "Irish Stamp News" and Fred Godfrey of Kent won a Bronze medal for "The Mollison 'stamp' and flight covers 1932", also an article from "Irish Stamp News".

The Gwyn Bennett Stamps Trophy for the best exhibit in the Novice Section went to John Lennon of Dublin for "Mail Routes to Kanturk" and a runner's up medal was awarded to John Fitzsimons of Dublin for "Beethoven - The Great Composer". A Certificate of Merit was awarded in this section to Dr. J.F. Durand of Glenageary for "Postal History of Waterford".

HELP NEEDED

WITH FELDMAN #T28a

By Goetz Weihmann

I have a question to all readers of **The Revealer** hoping that somebody is able to answer. There seems to wander around the ghost of a special Irish stamps. It belongs to the section of "Inverted Overprints".

All catalogues say that there exist six Irish stamps with overprint inverted. In the Old Feldman Catalogue and in the catalogue, "Stamps of Ireland", MacDonnell Whyte, you will find them listed as T1a, T2b, T16b, T17b, T28a and T29a.

There is no doubt concerning five of them, they are in my collection. The exception is T28a, Thom printing in blue-black, 2d, Die 1. The fact is that I have never seen a copy of this stamp, nor found an offer of it in any price list nor has it appeared in any auction, even the largest ones. All the 2d inverted overprint blue blacks that have come my way in the past fifteen years have been Die II (T29a).

All the catalogues show a dash instead of a price for number T28a. This indicates no recent sales and supports my suspicion that T28a does not exist at all. It is a ghost wandering around the catalogues as a spirit . . . or am I wrong?

Thus my question: Has anybody a copy of T28a in their collection or special knowledge about it? You may answer to the Editor or direct to me: Goetz Weihmann, Haydnstr. 22, D-1748 Remseck 1, West Germany.



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WHY I COLLECT IRISH STAMPS

By Patrick Pearse Costello

Collecting stamps of Ireland, in my case anyhow, can possibly best be understood by knowing I was born in Ireland and came to the states at a young age. Therefore, in time, I could relate with my parents and their friends in a common deep affection for the land of our birth. As I became older I noticed that some people saved stamps. It seemed the collectors I knew were German. It seemed everyone I knew had high regard for the Germans and their many basic talents, so stamp collecting must, therefore, be worthwhile. The Germans also shared kinship with the Irish in singing, dancing and warring with England.

So while I couldn't understand what it was in stamps that fascinated their collectors I felt a duty to collect the stamps of Ireland. No one collected stamps of Ireland. Almost all Americans said they never knew Ireland issued stamps. They said they thought England took care of that for them. But I knew there were stamps, they came on letters and papers we received from Ireland. So I assembled my cancelled stamps to look good and educated people on a little known side of Ireland.

Some asked why I didn't collect American stamps and forget the foreign stamps as I was in America now, not Ireland. They even inferred maybe I should go back there, but I persisted. The local Irish people, while they saved their stamps for me, seemed to think I was a bit odd as no Irish they knew of ever collected stamps. Only the Germans did, and no one was going to display his ignorance by asking a German why he was collecting stamps. After all, the Irish were as smart as anyone.

The collecting, however, did educate me to the many countries that issue stamps and made me appreciate all the more the effort it took to gain Ireland the right to issue her own stamps.

Since all my stamps were cancelled and I didn't know what I should look for in stamps I tried to arrange my stamps with a picture, a poem, a news article or some item related to the purpose of the stamp. Then I would give them to people or youngsters to promote interest in the land of my birth.

When I learned I could get stamps directly from Ireland I did that. I joined the Eire Philatelic Association to promote their cause because it all ties in with my original aim from the distant past.

The recent stamp with Ireland's flag issued by the United Nations also gives credence to the belief that we are drawing closer to the time referred to by Robert Emmet in his historic speech from the dock:

"When my country takes her place among the nations of the earth then, and not 'til then, let my epitaph be written".

Perhaps some of my efforts helped but in any case the above is how and why I've collected stamps of Ireland for over fifty years.

MORE

FORGED DOLLARD TYPE OVERPRINT

by J. E. Foley

Shortly after the Winter 1982 *Revealer* was published, I received the following letter from Fred Dixon:

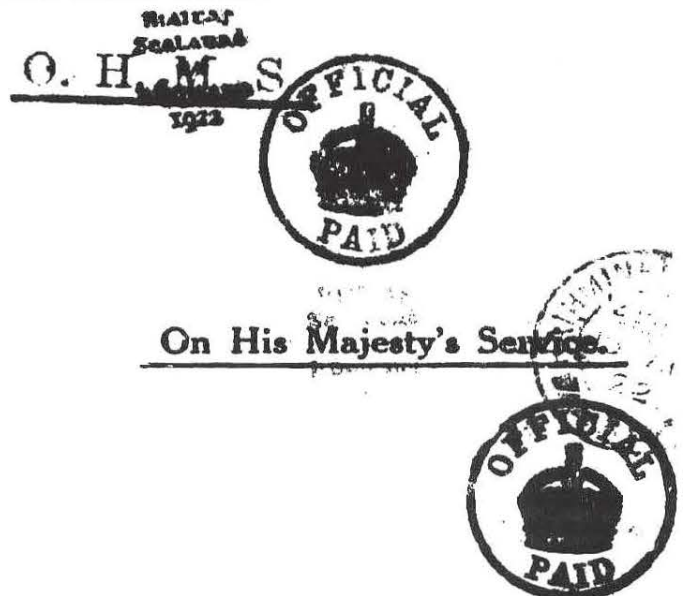
"The forged overprint illustrated in *The Revealer* p. 42 may not be merely a crude forgery.

Don't forget that there were rubber handstamps, allegedly intended for overprinting small quantities of revenue stamps. No such stamps are known but I have seen two examples, one in black, the other in purple, overprinting the O.H.M.S. heading of envelopes used in the Income Tax branch. And it is relevant that the office used inking pads with bright red ink: they were using it in April 1922 to apply the RIALTAS SEALADAC NA hEIREANN over the O.H.M.S. on other envelopes.

It is therefore possible that an employee with access to the handstamp misused it on postage stamps.

The dimension on my envelope is slightly larger than those you quote, but there is a wide range of uncertainty with rubber stamps."

The O.H.M.S. envelopes mentioned by Fred are illustrated below. I think his explanation is not only reasonable, but quite possible. The impression on the stamp shown on (p. 43 Winter '82 *Revealer*) is not as clear as those on the envelopes precluding a precise comparison. However variations in impressions from a rubber stamp are not uncommon. Further comments on similar items would be welcome.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE "ONF" VARIETY

As a student of overprint type flaws I was interested in Dr. Harrow's article on the ONF overprinted variety in the Fall 1983 issue, and in particular in the cover illustration. The type flaws on the two stamps appear identical. I do not know of another case where adjacent stamps have exactly the same flaws. Is the illustration an actual example? It looks as if the same overprint has been superimposed on two GB stamps.

Would owners of this variety like to look at their copies and confirm the type flaws are the same as the one shown?

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

M.H. PRIESTLY

Editor's Note: Mike Priestly has an eagle eye . . . the photo is in error. Since the pair in question is from the editor's collection an answer is readily available. During the process of color separation for printing, a variety that does not exist was inadvertently created. Below is a black & white photo of the stamps.



MORE "ONF" VARIETY

Regarding Dr. Harrow's note of page 23 of REVEALER 152, I have the 1s with ONF variety without overprint and it is recorded in Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia, Vol I, 2nd edition 1952, page 201.

DUBLIN, IRELAND

F.E. DIXON

BOOKLET PANES

Many thanks to Mr. Blessington for updating our current knowledge on the printing and layout of Irish booklets. The

article in the Summer 1983 issue of **The Revealer** raises a question that has puzzled me for quite some time.

The Fall 1971 **Revealer** printed information about the quantity of booklets printed. There were 250,000 booklets printed of Serial Nos. 40-22 and 40-23 both containing the booklet pane (DF) B7 or B7a (inv wmk). This pane contains 3 copies of Scott 107, with the three labels, watermarked "E".

Can anyone shed any light on the accuracy of this printing figure or the reason for its relative scarcity? Since 1972 I don't remember seeing either one of these booklets or booklet panes or parts of the B7 pane come up at auction or retail sale. (I don't receive all catalogues nor all price lists.) I have seen the earlier booklet containing the B3 (wmk SE) pane numerous times but it is stated that only 100,000 of each of these types have been printed.

RALPH CHAIET

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Editor's Note: The B3 (wmk SE) pane appeared in 21 booklets making a total of 2,100,000 printed versus 500,000 of the B7 (wmk E). A future issue of **The Revealer** will carry a detailed article on booklets and panes.

GUTTER PAIRS

Please advise the readers of a few corrections to my article "Gutter Pairs of Ireland" printed in the Winter 1982 issue.

1) The U.S. Constitution 150th Anniversary issue should show in Table 1 as follows:

103	C15	V	8V	2	1
104	C16	V	HS,T&B 8V	2,3	2

2) Note 3 in Table 1 is illustrated in Figure 4 and not Figure 16 as printed.

3) Table V, the title of the 4th column should read PVA dull and the title of the 5th column should read PVA shiny.

My thanks to the editor and printer for their excellent layout of the gutter pair article.

HOUSTON, TEXAS

RALPH CHAIET

DUPLICATE STAMPS

I have meant to write often to thank the members of the E.P.A. for their generous response to my request for stamps for the members of ST. LEO'S STAMP CLUB, an affiliate of the Ben Franklin Clubs of the United Postal Service. Not only have I received stamps but correspondents in different parts of the country who have become pen pals. Mr. Joseph F. Crowley, Ed Sullivan, E.J. Ryan, Patrick Munley, David Ihle and Gregory Graham all responded in such a gracious manner that I would like to publically acknowledge what true philatelists and warm human beings they are.

Hope E.P.A. grows and grows and grows. It is a great organization of which I am proud to be a member. I learn much from **The Revealer** and look forward to receiving the issues.

If there are new members who would like to share their duplicates, triplicates of whatever with these children (20) they would welcome Irish or any stamps for their collections. Thank you.

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