

The Revealer

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



Vol. 33 No. 4

Whole No. 154

Spring 1984

"THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS"



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THE REVEALER

Whole No. 154

Spring 1984

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MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Members as of..... 738
New Members..... 19
Members as of March 15, 1984..... 757

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sept. 1, 1982 thru Aug. 31, 1983

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSES

Balance Forwarded \$1,929.58

INCOME

Dues & donations	3,113.17	
New members & special offers	1,306.89	
Life members	310.00	
Advertising	640.95	
Auctions	652.42	
Fund transfers		
Bank of Ireland	151.59	
Merrill Lynch	1,200.00	
Miscellaneous	15.06	7,390.08
TOTAL INCOME		9,319.66

EXPENSES

Revealer	3,162.91	
Fund transfers		
Merrill Lynch	4,000.00	
Bank of Ireland	25.00	
Secretary Expense	289.97	
Bank Service charges	29.98	
Printing	662.12	
President's expense	282.94	
APRL building fund	100.00	
Advertising	45.00	
Miscellaneous	186.25	
TOTAL EXPENSES		8,784.17

BALANCE FORWARDED 8/31/83

\$535.49

STATUS OF ACCOUNTS

Merrill Lynch...\$10,204.32; Barclays Bank...60.55; Bank of Ireland...47.94.

Note: Barclays Bank is in Pounds Sterling, Bank of Ireland in Irish pounds.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As you will notice, for the first time in a long time there is no "Dublin Newsletter". Author Eddie FitzGerald has had some health problems necessitating a trip to the hospital. He is recovering now and needs much rest. I hope many of you will join with me in writing to Eddie wishing him a speedy recovery. His address is above.

For some time now we have been considering expanding the number of articles in each issue of The Revealer. The first plan that came to mind was to take all the EPA news and business out of The Revealer and put it into a newsletter which would be a supplement to each issue. This would make approximately two additional pages available for articles. Recently the NORCAL and SOCAL Chapters held a joint meeting at FRESPEX in Fresno, California. This proposal was presented at the meeting. The consensus of opinion was against such a move. It was recommended that all EPA news & business be retained within The Revealer and that four additional pages be added to each issue. Such a move would, of course, create a need for additional articles. The Editor would like to hear from members as to their thoughts on the matter.

Superior Stamp & Coin in Los Angeles recently held an auction which had some 35 lots of Irish material, mostly overprints, and including some nice varieties. Although the auction was well attended there were no floor bids on the Irish material. As a result everything went to "the book" at extremely low prices. The mail bids must have been slim as well. A couple of examples will

demonstrate, Sc36-8, SG 44-6, Hinged, Catalog \$2,350.00 went for \$700.00 and a block of four Sc 50a SG 58a, one stamp with missing accent, brought \$90.00 against an estimate of \$300.00+. Some people got some good buys. The moral is that it pays to bid if you need an item... you may get a bargain!

January 1st saw the separation of the Irish Post Office and Telegram Office into separate entities. An Post, the new name of the post office, has come up with a couple of promotions that were winners. The first was "Penny Post" Day which is reported on elsewhere in this issue. The second was the issuance of a set of St. Patrick's Day cards. These cards sold for 25p each and could be mailed anywhere in the world for that price. We hope that An Post continues in this vein but also hope that in the future they remember that there are thousands of us in the U.S. and elsewhere who would like to participate if given the opportunity.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Boston area Chapter on behalf of the EPA had a booth at the Boston Show Oct. 21 to 23, 1983. Peter Bugg was Chairman for this event assisted by many members who manned the booth all three days.

The Chapter was honored by the presence of Pat and Dan Walker on Saturday and Sunday with Pat showing slides on The Postal History of Ireland at 12 noon on Sunday.

At least 30 area EPA members visited the booth along with Dick McBride and Ray Coyne from the Connecticut River Valley Chapter. Eddie Hillman and Jim Meehan came up from the Rhode Island Chapter.

Bob Jones, this year's winner of The Clark Award, was present all three days and in his usual form recruited a number of new members from as far away as Brattleboro, Vermont.

Pat Walker's reaction to the activity around the EPA booth was that she had never seen so much activity around one of the EPA booths at anytime or any place.

During 1984 the New England Chapter plans to have booths at the Spring and Fall Boston shows and at local stamp shows. The Connecticut Chapter will also participate in several shows in their area.

The Boston area Chapter met at the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum in December and plans meetings for February, March and April. For any information concerning meetings write to Peter Bugg, 5 Forest St., Franklin, MA 02038.



Standing, left to right — Tim Harrington, a new member, Bob Marciel, Charlie West, John Greenwood, Dwight Wahr, Tom Mitchell, Bill Doe, Alan Berkovitz, Jim Meehan. Seated, left to right — Peter Bugg, Pat Walker, Edie Hillman, Bob Jones.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Last November the EPA was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of COPO. For those of you who don't know, COPO is the Council of Philatelic Organizations, an association here in the United States whose members are organizations, not individuals. [the EPA is also a member of the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland and the British Philatelic Federation.] COPO's purpose is to promote the hobby of stamp collecting. Thus one of their primary goals is encouraging [and "creating"] new collectors. In the past, Ann Crowe in New York has represented the EPA at the general membership meetings of COPO. I attended my first Board meeting in January, here in Washington, D.C. We met with directors of the USPS to discuss plans for their "Stamp Collecting Month" campaign, which is each October. I'd be happy to hear from any of our membership, especially those who are involved with the youth in our hobby, who would like additional information or who want to offer help.

Bob Jones writes encouraging news about our membership growth. Not only is the EPA gaining members steadily, but also his records show that in the last 18 months, 110 new members have joined the EPA as a direct result of recruiting efforts on the part of EPA members themselves. Keep it up!

A further note on encouraging and recognizing the efforts of exhibitors of Irish material at stamp shows. The EPA has [finally] commissioned a medal. Pádraig O'Mathuna graciously donated the design, the costs have been investigated, the board approved, and the die and medals are finally ordered. I haven't got definite word from our supplier as to availability, but hopefully by early summer. The criteria for when the EPA Medal will be awarded are being formulated now, and will be published when agreed upon by the Board. If you are associated with a stamp show that expects to attract Irish material [3 or more exhibits], let me know and I'll forward information about the medal.

Some personal notes... Dan has left his job with the U.S. Department of Transportation and, in December, he took over the APS Stamp Insurance Program from Horace Harrison who is retiring. On New Year's Eve, I fell down the stairs in my own home and tore a ligament in my left ankle. I was in a cast for four weeks. Hopefully by the time you read this, all that will be a thing of the past.

Patricia Stilwell Walker, President

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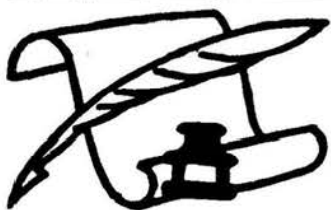
RECENT ISSUES

CHRISTMAS 1983



The Irish Post Office issued the thirteenth in the Christmas series on 30 November. The stamps were issued in two denominations, 22p and 26p (4,000,000 of each).

The stamp design is based on "La Natividad" by Roger van der Weyden, Flemish artist of the 15th century. "La Natividad" is the side panel of the altar-piece in the Chapel of the Cathedral at Granada, Spain. Printing was in lithography by Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd and perforated 14 x 15.



RANDOM NOTES

By F. E. Dixon

£1 NUMBERED BOOKLETS

A number of enthusiasts are trying to complete the set with all numbers from 1 to 40, and are disappointed at how many they have to buy. Assuming that you buy at random the chance that you have all 40 in the first N is $(1 - 975/N)^{40}$ and this means that even with 150 the odds are 3 to 2 against. However, the odds are in your favour once N exceeds 161 and if N = 200 the odds are more than 3 to 1 on.

STAMPA '83

As usual there were some splendid entries, but the standard was not as high as in some other years. However, the judges were very severe and should have awarded more silver medals.

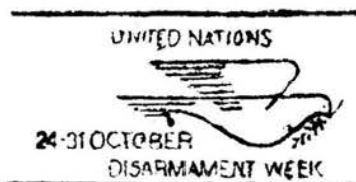
The most exciting thing to appear during the weekend was another example of the DUBLIN FREE of 1706-10 with shamrocks, [some say fluer-de-lis] above and below. It may be offered for auction, a rarity on the MacDonnell Whyte stand was an 1806 cover with a hitherto unrecorded Dublin Paid stamp, with sloping letters.

DEFINITIVE VARIETY

One visitor to STAMPA had two used 26p of the current buildings series, both incompletely printed at left. And the first batch of material I sorted when I got home has yielded another example. It seems to be a case of defective inking.

SLOGAN NEWS

With no advance warning, two new slogans appeared in October. The first was at Galway, JOIN GALWAY'S 500 CELEBRATIONS IN 1984.



The second new slogan should have had full press publicity, as it commemorated 24-31 October as the United Nations Disarmament week. It was used in Dublin, Cork, Dundalk, Limerick and Waterford. Dundalk continued to use the slogan into November.

SLIGO INK

From the 2nd to 24th November, possibly longer, the Sligo machine cancellations were in red. This occasionally happens when the machine has been used for official mail or items prepaid in cash, but such prolonged use suggests that the supply of black ink had run out.

REVIEW

Hibernian Stamp Co. has issued a 1984 edition of their catalogue, at £3.50. The foreword is reassuring to most collectors of Ireland, commenting that there is a healthy upward movement in prices. There are fresh sections for Essays, Overprint proofs and the pages devoted to Gerl definitives are expanded. There is discussion of the changes of paper since 1922 — but no mention of the variations in size of "e" watermark. There are more varieties of commemoratives, but none of definitives or air stamps. There are few significant misprints, but interchanging pages 4 and 5 is confusing. The misleading N/C for Not Constant is retained from last year: a variety found throughout the printing from one plate is constant — and a useful identifier of the plate.

A 1984 SLOGAN

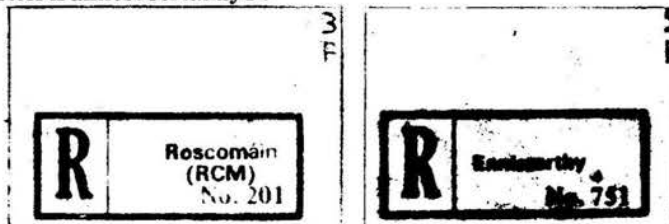
The Michael Davitt Memorial Committee has organized a competition for the design of a slogan cancellation to publicize the Museum being planned for Straide, Co. Mayo.

TRANSFER DUTY

In Revealers 152 and I.P. Sept. 1983, I mentioned a Transfer Duty stamp of the Dublin Transways Co. I later found that a similar stamp, also 2/6 red, of the Waterford & Limerick [later Waterford, Limerick & Western] Railway is illustrated in Ewen's 1906 catalogue of Newspaper and Parcel stamps issued by railway companies. A third has now been reported — for the Great Northern Railway, Ireland.

REGISTRATION LABELS

Most Irish registration labels are printed in sheets of 50, numbering beginning at top right. The imprint is normally lost in guillotining but I have three showing some identifier. Two have figure 5 above a letter which may be P or R. The third has 3 and the letter is almost certainly P.



OFFICIAL STATIONERY

There is a new style of envelope, with the usual harp at top centre of the obverse, flanked by the words GARDA SIOCHANA [without the customary accent].

IRISH OFFICE NAMES

The datestamps on an interesting cover of September 1983 include one of BREINLEAC which does not appear in the current Eloi an Phoist. Investigation revealed the place to be Brinlack under Letterkenny, which has been officially BUN NA LEACA since before the 1977 changes.

DUBLIN PAID MACHINES

The dies used with Dublin PAID machines include those which included the amount of postage paid, and in November I saw examples from machine J with traces of 3d and 4d. Another curio was a machine paid of Athlone in black.

BOOKS

James Mackay's energy and efficiency continue unabated. The new thick volume devoted to OFFICIAL MAIL OF THE BRITISH ISLES, with 2,499 illustrations, is another superb compilation, covering every aspect of the regulations, forms, postmarks, etc., etc. The thorough treatment is exemplified by the circular Official Paid with harp at centre, 24 distinct types being illustrated! From the same man comes the 1984 Annual, updating earlier books, including much fresh Irish material. One discovery by the author while in Dublin was that the GPO Parcels Office was using the "bus-ticket" Plessey machines of Bray and Wexford, the Dublin machines being unserviceable! And the maximum amount on a label is 99p although the minimum parcel rate is now £1.05.

AUCTION

The MacDonnell Whyte sale on 3rd December had some bursts of spirited bidding, especially during the section of American locals. One notable Irish price was £430 for a Shannon Scheme FDC but the most remarkable feature was the Irish Postal Stationery. 44 of the 52 lots realized above the estimates, some more than catalogue prices.

My main purchase was a lot of second grade covers which included unrecorded items GARVA/119 and KISH/90 mileage marks and GLENAVY straight line. My assessment of the rarity of Dublin G datestamps must be revised as nine covers from Belfast, 1826-29, all had G datestamps, confirming Mrs. Stilwell Walker's findings. However, neither of us has yet seen a G PAID datestamp with double frame.

MISSING YEARS

The only case noted so far of an absent year was from Dundalk on Penny Post Day. The error was rectified within a few days and the 1984 is much larger than usual. Similar varieties have been seen from Drogheda and Kilarney.

OVERPRINTS IN MY IRISH COLLECTION

by: Dr. M. Harrow

My Ireland collection consists of mint stamps representing the first fifty years of issues made specifically for Ireland's use. This consists of Scott #1 through the commemorative miniature sheet #326a. As an initial study I soon found that no single catalog adequately covers this field. Some don't list major items that are found in others, and some go into such fine detail of minor varieties that it would take a lifetime of microscopic examination to accumulate all those listed. My final decision was to use Scott, Stanley Gibbons and Bridger and Kaye (a little known, at least in the U.S., catalog published in England) as guides and to find varieties on my own with the help of members of the EPA and published articles in *The Revealer*. I must, at this point, state my gratitude to Bob Jones for his extreme patience and non-stinting aid in ironing out some difficulties.

It became obvious early on, that the overprints were listed in different order depending on the catalog. I have tried to adhere to strict chronology based on the date of issue of the first stamp in a set. Thus my album does not follow any of the catalogs and I am forced to indicate SG and Sc numbers at the head of each set. This sometimes leads to confusion by those viewers familiar with a single catalog. But it is the only way I can make sense out of the overprints.

It is these overprints, especially the major and minor varieties in my collection, that I wish to indicate here. My collection is far from complete for the basic stamps and will probably always be so, particularly when I have a minor variety. I tend to use it as a basic stamp and place a penciled notation under it to indicate the variety. This is a generality...there are no exceptions.

The first page is for the Dollard blacks, Sc 1-8, 12-14. The number 1 is in a strip of four showing horizontal shift of the entire clichés relative to each other. There is nothing unusual about this, but it is a nice introduction to the varieties of these overprints. The 1d stamp shows R over SE. The 10d is in two shades: an interesting bright blue which is also R over SE, and a more greyish blue. I cannot tell if the latter is a fading copy of the former, but think not as this stamp is known in shades under Great Britain. The 10/- is an R over SE variety. It is best seen by noting that whereas the vertical stroke of the S in RIALTAS

usually lies slightly to the left of the apex of the A below it, in this stamp it is slightly to the right of the apex.

In the Thom printing of February, in the 2d Die 1, the final 2 in the date has a tip missing in the upper curve. I doubt this is a broken die as there is indication of irregular inking.

The Dollard reds are interesting. I think I have a carmine overprint of the 4d but am not expert enough to know. But I also have a block of four of this stamp which shows an R over E in the upper left and lower right stamps, a "normal" on the lower left stamp, and an intermediate position on the upper right stamp. Again, the position of the vertical stroke of the S relative to the apex of the A below is very helpful in finding these varieties. The 9d looks to me like a raised C variety, but I am not sure. I find the EPA overprint identifier can be made to overlay the blacks exactly; it does not match the reds! I cannot account for this. Either none of my reds are "normal" or the blacks and reds were overprinted by different clichés!

In the first Harrison coils the 1½d has both 2's of the date underlined by individual short lines. The 9d has a short line to the left parallel to the two strokes of the H, and the 2d Die 1 has an R over E. Here again if one compares the vertical stroke of the S over the A, one can find intermediate positions in this entire series.

Moving to the December Thom SAORSTAT issue, there are a few interesting items. My 2½d has the accent missing over the A (Sc 48a). I also have a block of four of this stamp which has an offset of the overprint on the back. The 1's in the date are all different and one of the accents over the A touches the A. The 10/- shows SAORSTAT to the right of the other lines. It is not an S over E, far from it, but is a definite shift of about ½ mm.

The final stamp I wish to point out is a CASTLE overprint Sc 79 in which the right half of the accent over A is broken away. It seems to have slipped down the right leg of the A to just below the apex where it slants to the right slightly more steeply angled than the normal accent.

If anyone has observed similar abnormalities and can explain some of them, particularly if it can be located on a sheet position, I would be pleased for the information.

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RANDOM NOTES *continued*

AUCTION Jan 28th

The MacDonnell Whyte auction was well attended but not many lots inspired vigorous bidding. Prices I noted included £1300 and £2100 for complete sheets of the 2/6 and 5/- SAORSTAT; 1934 GAA FDC £98; 1945 2/- booklet £370. The most exciting lot was 1013, over 600 registered envelopes with different office labels, with some of the scarcer postal stationery envelopes: valuation £250 realisation £875.

1982 CURRAGH STAMP

M. Giffney had done more detective work: the curragh shown on the 22p of the 1982 Irish Boats series featured in the film "Ryan's Daughter" and its crew were Sean Johnson and his father Michael, who runs the Post Office at Ballydavid, Dingle.

AN ISLAND "POSTMARK"

I have seen an official envelope of the Department of Defense with the franking handstamp of the Naval Detachment of Fort Mitchell, Spike Island [in Cork Harbour]. The post office datestamp is the machine marking of Cobh. A peculiar feature is that the franking stamps has the misspelling DETACHMENT!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY POSTCARDS

The set of colourful postcards prepaid to any part of the world, were shown on television during the prestigious Late, Late Show. They are aimed at the general public, rather than philatelists, who would have preferred a printed stamp design to the An Post emblem.

BETTER IRELAND

Some Sample Prices:

12-14 F-VF LH.....	150.00
14 VF LH.....	120.00
58 VF LH.....	115.00
118-9 VF NH.....	35.00
326a VF NH.....	7.95

(Please add one dollar for postage and insurance.)

Write for our free list of British Commonwealth.

Want lists of Irish varieties and Pre-1960 British Commonwealth welcome.

ARON R. HALBERSTAM PHILATELISTS LTD.

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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

BY Brian Warren

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 1983 programme comprising twenty-four stamps and one miniature sheet was issued over eight release dates commencing 23 February and ending 30 November. The eight releases have a total face value of IRL8.12 compared with the 1982 statistics of IRL5.70 for twenty-three stamps. All stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. Perforations 14x14½ [vertical format] or 14¼x14 [horizontal format]. All stamps printed in the normal 10x10 format with no perforation variations. All issues have the usual two sets of plate numbers plus colour check squares and printers' imprint.

Date of Issue	Description	Designer/Details	Value	Plate Numbers
23 Feb.	Dublin Chamber of Commerce Bi-Centenary	Peter Wildbur featuring the Ouzel Galley Goblet	22p	1111
	Bank of Ireland Bi-Centenary	Colin Harrison featuring a drawing of the Bank of Ireland building (the old Irish Parliament House) at College Green, Dublin	26p	1111

Special first day covers produced by both organizations for their respective issues.

7 Apr.	Padraig O'Siochfhradha Birth Centenary	Colin Harrison featuring a drawing of the author based on a photograph first published in Bealoideas	26p	111
	The Boys' Brigade Centenary	Robert Ballagh featuring a drawing of a boy in uniform	29p	1111

Special first day cover produced by The Boys Brigade (Dublin Battalion) in conjunction with a sponsored handstamp - see note under first day postmarks.

4 May	Europa (23rd Issue)	Louis le Brocq featuring a drawing showing neolithic patterns incised on stone at Newgrange. Layout and graphics by Peter Wildbur	26p	11
	Great Works of The Human Genius	Peter Wildbur depicting the key formulae involved in the multiplication of quaternions as first recorded by Sir William Rowan Hamilton	29p	111

23 June	Fauna and Flora (6th Issue)	Original drawings by Wendy Walsh with graphics and layout by Liam Miller showing the following breeds:		
	Dogs	-The Kerry Blue Terrier	22p	1111
		-The Irish Wolfhound	26p	1111
		-The Irish Water Spaniel	26p	1111
		-The Irish Terrier	29p	1111
		-Irish Setters	44p	1111
		Miniature Sheet containing all five stamps plus a label	IR£1.47	

11 Aug.	Notable Persons and Institutions	The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals - Drawing by W. Walsh	22p	1111
		Sean Mac Diarmada Birth Centenary - Painting by Robert Ballagh based on a photograph from the Keogh Collection	22p	1111
		The Industrial Credit Company - 50th Anniversary - Abstract design by Bill Murphy	26p	1111
		Society of St. Vincent de Paul (founded in 1833) - Designed by Karl Uhlemann based on an oleograph featuring Vincent de Paul among children in the streets of Paris	26p	1111

Date of Issue	Description	Designer/Details	Value	Plate Numbers
		Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) - Painting by Robert Ballagh based on a portrait (pencil drawing) by Frank McKelvey	44p	11

Special first day covers produced by The Industrial Credit Company Limited and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for their respective issues. The illustrated leaflet for this issue, as distributed by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs is a somewhat scarce item; as a result of the Department's cost cutting programme, the print order was well below normal and supplies ran out at the Philatelic Bureau prior to the issue.

15 Sept.	World Communications Year	Robert Ballagh depicting a postman with bicycle (22p) and an earth dish antenna which is directed at the Orbital Test Satellite, the forerunner of the European Communications Satellite System (29p)	22p 29p	1111 1111
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13 Oct.	Irish Handicrafts	Robert Mercer featuring original drawings of the following handicrafts in progress:		
		-Weaving	22p	1111
		-Basketmaking	26p	1111
		-Irish Crochet	29p	1111
		-Harpmaking	44p	1111

30 Nov.	Christmas (13th Issue)	"La Natividad" by Roger van der Weyden Flemish artist of the 15th century. Side panel of the altar-piece in the Chapel Royal of the Cathedral at Granada, Spain	22p 26p	1111, 1112 1111
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DEFINITIVES

The remaining fourteen values of the new definitive series "Irish Architecture Down Through the Ages", were issued on two release dates, 16 March and 6 July. Printed in a similar manner as the initial first phase issued in 1982, all sheets were double pane printings [A and B]. The 50p value is printed in two sheets of 200 and then guillotined into two post office sheets of 100 [10x10]. All the remaining values in the smaller format are printed in sheets of 400 and then guillotined into two post office sheets of 200 stamps; each post office sheet is divided into two panes of 100 [10x10] separated by a gutter. Vertical format values [15p, 20p and 23p] are perforated 14¼x14. The remaining values are of horizontal format and are perforated 14x14½. Plate numbers appear only once on each sheet. Imprint in a different corner. No colour checks. There are a number of perforation format variations which are outside the scope of this article and I would refer readers to the more detailed articles by Eddie FitzGerald and myself published in Irish Stamp News.

Value	Colours	Design	Date of Issue	Plate	Nos.
1p	Blue	Central Pavilion, Botanic Gardens	6/7/83	1A,	1B
2p	Green	Central Pavilion, Botanic Gardens	6/7/83	1A,	1B
3p	Black	Central Pavilion, Botanic Gardens	6/7/83	1A,	1B
4p	Ruby	Central Pavilion, Botanic Gardens	16/3/83	1A,	1B
5p	Brown	Central Pavilion, Botanic Gardens	6/7/83	1A,	1B
6p	Blue	Dr. Steevens' Hospital	16/3/83	1A,	1B
7p	Green	Dr. Steevens' Hospital	16/3/83	1A,	1B
10p	Black	Dr. Steevens' Hospital	6/7/83	1A,	1B
12p	Ruby	Dr. Steevens' Hospital	6/7/83	1A,	1B
15p	Green	Aughnanure Castle	6/7/83	1A,	1B
20p	Ruby	Aughnanure Castle	16/3/83	1A,	1B
23p	Green	Cormac's Chapel	16/3/83	1A,	1B
30p	Black	St. Mac Dara's Church	16/3/83	1A,	1B
50p	Blue and grey	Casino, Marino	16/3/83	1A1A, 1B1B	



New definitive presentation packs were released on the opening day of Stamps '83 [28 October]. The much improved design features the Rock of Cashel on the face of the low value pack and Ballyunion Castle on the high value pack. The low value pack containing sixteen stamps [1p to 30p] retails at IR£ 2.75 [face value IR£2.15]; the high value pack containing four stamps [44p to L5] retails at IR£7.25 [face value IR£6.94].

A new IR£1 experimental machine booklet was released on 15 August. Initially the booklet was only available from two machines located at the G.P.O., Dublin and from the philatelic bureau. Two different machines are in use at the G.P.O. — one of British origin similar to the type used by the British Post Office and one of Swedish design — both operated on the insertion of 2x50p coins. At the time of writing machines have also been installed at Rathmines Branch Office, Dublin 6 and Galway Head Post Office. I understand that machines will also be installed at Head Post Offices in Cork, Limerick and Waterford. The booklet contains 4x22p and 3x4p of the new definitives plus a label in a neat set-tenant pane affixed by the selvedge into a thin card cover featuring a drawing of the Four Courts, Dublin by Michael Craig. The master printers sheet contains 40 panes in four columns of 10. Each of the card covers are numbered 1 through to 40. The top pane in each column viz. 1, 11, 21 and 31 have small traffic lights, in the same ruby colour as the 4p stamps, printed in the outer margin. Pane 1 has one circle, pane 11 two circles, 21 three and 31 four. The outer margins of the panes are imperforate and the panes are affixed to the inside of the booklet cover by the selvedge and then folded over to fit the size of the cover. A large number of collectors are collecting all 40 numbered booklets. I understand that the Philatelic Bureau is presently supplying complete sets of 40 to interested collectors.

WITHDRAWAL OF GERL DEFINITIVES

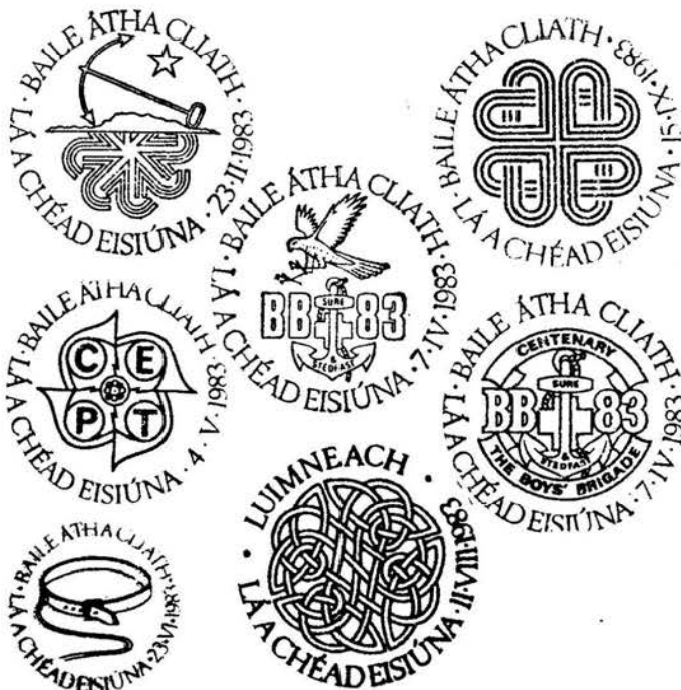
The 22p, 26p, 29p and IR£1 values were withdrawn from general sale on 14 December 1982 and from philatelic sale on 15 March 1983. The 4p*, 6p, 7p, 20p and 50p values were withdrawn from general sale on 15 March 1983 and from philatelic sale on 16 June 1983. The ½p, 1p, 2p, 3p, 5p, 8p, 9p, 9½p, 10p, 11p, 12p, 13p, 15p, 16p, 17p, 18p, 19p and 24p values were withdrawn from general sale on 5 July 1983 and from philatelic sale on 6 October 1983. The 40p and 70p booklets were also withdrawn from philatelic sale on 6 October as was the 10p watermarked coil. The 10p coil is still available from coil machines still operating including one machine at the G.P.O., Dublin.

*The 4p was unavailable from the bureau since late '82 but was still on sale at many sub post offices.

50p GERL DEFINITIVE

On February 23, 1983, supplies of a new printing of the 50p Eagle on cylinders 2222 became available at the Philatelic Bureau, Dublin. Although collectors were aware that the old cylinders were showing signs of wear and tear, the introduction of new cylinders at such a late stage was unexpected. Under magnification the fine screen of square shaped cells can be clearly seen on stamps ex. cylinders 2222 compared to the clogged appearance of previous printings. The colour sequence of the cylinder numbers and autotron marks were altered — yellow, red, olive and lake-brown compared to yellow, olive, red and lake-brown. The type fount also changed as the cylinders were from a different manufacturer. No major varieties noted. As all 50p eagle stamps were withdrawn from sale on March 15 due to the release of the 50p Casino stamp on the following day, the commercial life of the 50p ex. cylinders 2222 can be measured in days. I understand that a post office in Crumlin, Dublin received supplies of this late printing in early March but I have had no reports of any other offices receiving supplies; I do know that supplies ex. cylinders IIII were distributed in March. The only other points of sale known were the Cork Philatelic Counter and at the stamp exhibitions held in Limerick, Sligo and Dundalk during 1983.

FIRST DAY COVERS AND CANCELLATIONS



Special pictorial covers [price 14p] were available for all but two issues; the Padraig o' Siachfhradha/Boys' Brigade and Notable Persons and Institutions issues were the exceptions. The standard FDC [price 14p] was used for these two releases. Special pictorial postmarks were available for all releases at Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway. In connection with the Boys' Brigade stamp a privately sponsored first day postmark was used on mail posted at the Dublin Battalion's headquarters in Dawson Street, Dublin. This is the first occasion that "La a Chead Eisiuna" [First Day of Issue] has been included in a privately sponsored first day postmark. A first day of issue service was available at Kiltyclogher Sub Post Office Co. Leitrim in connection with the 22p Sean Mac Diarmada stamp. Sean Mac Diarmada was born in the town. The normal counter date stamp [in poor condition] plus the old style "La a Chead Eisiuna/First Day of Issue" cachet was issued on FDC's. To accommodate the Dogs miniature sheet a special extra large cover [14p] was made available by the Post Office in similar design to that used for the ordinary sized cover for the single stamps.

OVERSEAS EXHIBITION CACHETS

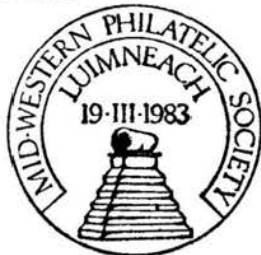


The Department of Posts and Telegraphs attended two exhibitions during 1983. Stampex, London [15-20 February] and A.S.D.A. New York [17-20 November]. At each exhibition a plain cachet was available for use on covers as a souvenir of the occasion. The wordings of the cachets were as follows: —

1. Department of Post and Telegraphs Ireland London Stampex 15-20 Feb. 1983
2. Department of Posts and Telegraphs Ireland 35th National Postage Stamp Show New York November 1983

The above wordings which have been in use for several years should alter in 1984 with the Post Office coming under the control of An Post rather than the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

SPECIAL EVENT CANCELLATIONS

**PHILATELIC EXHIBITION EPSI SLIGEACH 5.III.1983**

Used at an exhibition organized by the local society with the help of the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland held at Swan Hotel, Sligo. Circular in black. The unusual cover sold by the organizers was an adaption of the official first day cover issued by the Bank of Ireland for their own stamp. The cover has an added inscription in green "Philatelic Exhibition Sligo 5 March 1983". Philatelic facilities provided.

LUIMNEACH 19.III.1983**MID-WESTERN PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Used in connection with the 4th Annual Fair and Stamp Exhibition organized by the Mid-Western Philatelic Society at Cruise's Hotel, Limerick. Circular postmark in black which features a representation of the Treaty Stone of Limerick [as per prior years]. Special cover available. Philatelic facilities provided.


**STANDING CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS
OF EDUCATION BAILE ATHA CLIATH 13th SESSION,
DUBLIN 10-12 MAY, 1983**

Used on the above dates in connection with the conference held at Dublin Castle. Special posting box provided. Post office facilities provided. Rectangular in purple.


**BAILE ATHA CLIATH XI WORLD CONGRESS
ON FERTILITY AND STERILITY JUNE 26-JULY 1 1983**

Used on the above dates in conjunction with post office facilities provided at the Congress which was held at the Royal Dublin Society premises, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. The logo in the handstamp encompasses the important features associated with the Congress. In the centre the Shamrock is surrounded by the symbols of Male and Female entwined in partnership set into a diagrammatic representation of the World. Oval in purple.

**CARROLLS IRISH OPEN BAILE ATHA CLIATH**

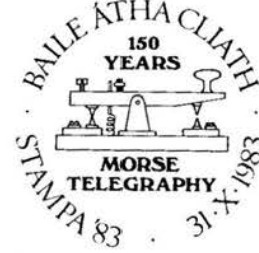
Used at The Royal Dublin Golf Club, Dublin 3 from 11 August through to 14 August during the Irish Open Golf Championship. Not used on 10 August, the Pro-Am day. Post office facilities provided. Rectangular in black.


**SIXTH WORLD CONGRESS OF FOOD SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY BAILE ATHA CLIATH**

Used at University College, Belfield, Dublin 4 in conjunction with post office facilities from 19 September to 22 September. The handstamp features an ear of wheat as a symbol of the fruits of the earth. This is framed within a hexagon, universally recognized as signifying scientific knowledge, stylized into enfolding hands carrying the import of service in the interest of mankind. Oval in purple.

CORCAIGH 8.X.1983 CORK STAMP EXHIBITION

Used on mail posted at the Imperial Hotel, Cork during the annual Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition which was held on the above date. Circular in black featuring the well known Cork landmark, Shandon Steeple. Special cover available. Philatelic facilities provided.

**BAILE ATHA CLIATH STAMPA '83**

Four circular pictorial postmarks in black, 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 events commemorated were:—

—28 October: 50th anniversary of the Mass Formation Transatlantic Flight led by Italian aviator General Italo Balbo. The outward flight from Orbetello, Italy in July 1933 stopped en route at Derry, N. Ireland. The cancel features seaplanes.

—29 October: Centenary of the Parcel Post. The Post Office Parcel Post Service was introduced in Britain and Ireland in 1883. The postmark features a Dublin parcel post cancel of the late 19th century.

—30 October: 200 Years of Manned Flight. 200th anniversary of the Montgolfier Balloon ascent over Paris on November 21, 1783. The postmark features a balloon.

—31 October: 150 Years of Morse Telegraphy. Samuel Finley Breese Morse produced what is now known as "Morse Code" in 1833. An early morse key is shown in the postmark. Special cover available. Philatelic facilities provided.



STAMP EXHIBITION GAILLIMH 3.XII.1983

Used on mail posted at the annual stamp exhibition organized by the Galway Philatelic Society. Held at the Imperial Hotel, Galway on 3rd December. Circular in black featuring the logo of the Society. Same design as previous years. Special cover available [by Allied Irish Banks Limited]. Philatelic sales stand provided.

NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

There were ten new slogans introduced during 1983. As usual, there was an absence of prior notice to collectors with the exceptions of 1 and 4 below:

1. "ARTS FESTIVAL GALWAY April 22-May 1"
Used in Galway from February to April. Very poor impressions.
2. "MOSNEY HOLIDAYS — BOOK NOW"
Used at Drogheda from April to August. The holiday camp near Drogheda was formerly owned by the British firm Butlins and has recently changed ownership.
3. "LOVELY LEITRIM FOR HOLIDAYS"
Used at Carrick-on-Shannon from May to November.
4. "THINK TIDY"
Used during June in Cavan [?], Cork, Donegal, Dublin [5 dies], Dundalk [July also], and Limerick.
5. "TIPPERARY IT'S NOT A LONG WAY"
Used in Tipperary from June to September.
6. "FÁILTE JULY & AUGUST TAIBHDHEARC NA GAILLIMHE SRAID LAR GAILLIMH"
Used in Galway during June and July. Very poor impressions.
7. "MOSNEY — TRADE SHOWS — CONFERENCES — EXHIBITIONS"
Used in Drogheda from September to December replacing slogan 2. above.
8. "JOIN GALWAY'S 500 CELEBRATIONS IN 1984"
Used in Galway during October and November. Very poor impressions.
9. "UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT WEEK, 24-31 OCTOBER"
Used the period 24-31 October at Cavan [?], Cork, Donegal [?], Dublin [5 dies], Dundalk, Limerick and Waterford [?]
10. "POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS"
New type. Differs from previous slogans — lettering smaller. Used in Donegal during December.

A question mark (?) above indicates that positive proof by actual sight of an impression from this location required. Members may be able to help in this regard.

SLOGANS RE-USED IN 1983

The SP numbers refer to the slogan postmark section of the First Edition of the Hibernian Specialized 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" listings.

- SP 55 "Bank Your Savings in the Savings Bank". Cork, Galway and Limerick.
- SP 60 "Make The Road Safe". Naas.
- SP 62 "Post Early For Christmas". Longford and Nenagh.
- SP 68 "Post Early For Christmas". In general use.
- SP 85 "Prevent Forest Fires". In general use.
- SP 108 "Make Sure You Are On The New Voters Lists". Cobh, Enniscorthy and Killarney.
- SP 109 "Are You On The Voters Lists? Check Now At The Post Office". In general use.
- SP 111 "Please Show District Numbers in Dublin Addresses". In general use.

- SP 112 "Westport For Sea Angling". Westport.
- SP 123 "A Full Address Speeds Delivery". In general use.
- SP 130 "Build On Secure Foundations £1 Units Tax Free Savings Certificates". Dublin and Wexford.
- SP 131 "Save The Easy Way Easy Deposits Easy Withdrawal The Post Office Savings Bank". In general use.
- SP 147 "Ballinasloe Show and Fair 1st Week October". Ballinasloe.
- SP 163 "Athlone On The Shannon". Athlone.
- 1975 No: 4 "Conserve Energy". In general use.
- 1975 No: 5 "Let Your Fingers Do The Walking — Use The Golden Pages". Cork and Dublin.
- 1976 No: 2 "Giving For Living". Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Dundalk, Limerick and Waterford.
- 1977 No: 2 "Clonakilty Beach Centre West Cork". Clonakilty.
- 1978 No: 4 "Collect Postage Stamps". Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Dundalk, Limerick and Waterford.
- 1980 No: 2 "You've Got To Get Saving" Cavan, Dundalk and Waterford.
- 1980 No: 3 "Are You On The Draft Register Of Elector? Check Now At Your Post Office". Cork, Dublin and Dundalk.
- 1981 No: 3: "9 October UPU Day". Cork and Dublin.
- Noticeably absent this year is 1980 No: 1 — "Please Show District Numbers in Dublin Addresses".

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS

5 MARCH — PHILATELIC EXHIBITION SLIGO

600 numbered booklets containing two panes of 6x½p Gerl definitives plus 2x22p Dublin Chamber of Commerce stamps. Sold for IR£1.50.

19 MARCH — MID WESTERN PHILATELIC SOCIETY 4TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND FAIR

In connection with this annual event, the organizers issued a numbered edition of 450 booklets containing 2x22p Shark stamps. Sold for IR£1.25.

28 MAY — PHILATELIC EXHIBITION DUNDALK

Issued in connection with a stamp, coin and postcard fair and exhibition held at the Imperial Hotel, Dundalk on 28 and 29 May. Organized by the Louth Philatelic Society with the help of the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland. This was the first booklet containing stamps from the new series of definitives. The booklet contained 6x4p Gerls plus 6x4p Architecture stamps. Sold for IRL1. Held during the Dundalk Maytime Festival. Numbered edition of 350 booklets. Philatelic facilities provided.

8 OCTOBER — CORK PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1983

650 numbered booklets were produced for this annual exhibition. Each booklet contains blocks of six of the 1p, 2p and 6p architecture definitives. The exhibition postmark is featured on the back cover. Sold for IR£1.

28 OCTOBER — STAMPA '83

The booklet contains blocks of four of the 1p, 2p, 3p and 6p definitives in a numbered edition of 1,500 booklets. The card cover features the G.P.O., Dublin and is based on a 19th century print. Sold for IR£1.50.

Members of the Stamp Society received a Dogs miniature sheet with an added inscription in the margin which read "Irish National Stamp Exhibition STAMPA '83 Dublin October 28-31 1983 Taispeantais Naisiunta Stampai". Pre-numbered also and limited to the number of members viz. 448. The inscription was in blue.

19 NOVEMBER — LIMERICK COIN, STAMP AND POSTCARD FAIR

Produced by PJW Promotions [Dublin], the booklet contains 3x22p Sean Mac Diarmada stamps — total of 300 numbered booklets. It should be noted that there was no exhibition associated with this fair and that no philatelic facilities or special postmark were provided. Sold for IR£1.

3 DECEMBER — GALWAY PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Numbered edition of 300 booklets containing blocks of four of the 2p, 4p and 5p definitives. Sold for IR£1.

POSTAL STATIONERY

10 JANUARY — 96p SIZE G REGISTERED ENVELOPE

Duplex manila envelope with incorrect compensation amounts of £50 inland and £6.35 foreign. The minimum compensation amounts since 1 April 1982 have been £100 and £13.50 respectively. Sold for IR£1. The 96p covers 70p registration fee plus 26p minimum inland postage. The 96p stamp is embossed in a bright green colour.

OCTOBER — 96p SIZE G REGISTERED ENVELOPE — REPRINT

The envelope was reprinted with a new typeface for certain elements of the English instructions on the face of the cover. The 96p embossed stamp is of a deeper colour than the initial January issue. The compensation amounts have been corrected to £100 and £13.50. This is the first time in several years that both compensation amounts have been correct. Sold for IR£1.

29 NOVEMBER — 26p SIZE H REGISTERED ENVELOPE

Duplex manila envelope with correct compensation amounts of £100 inland and £13.50 foreign. Sold for IR£1.02.

29 NOVEMBER — 26p SIZE A ENVELOPE

Same format as previous 22p envelope. Sold for 28p. The indigo colour of the printed stamp does not correspond to the black presently used for the 26p definitive or the bright green of the previous Gerl definitive. Usually the stamp is printed in the same colour as the current definitive.

YEAR PACK

The 1983 year pack was placed on sale at the philatelic counter, Dublin on Friday January 27, 1984. The revised layout, similar to the definitive packs, features a view of the Lakes of Killarney. The pack contains all the special and commemorative stamps issued during 1983 and retails at IR£6.95 [face value: IR£6.65]. No miniature sheet included.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members who attended the AGM held in the Clarence Hotel, Dublin 2 on 21/22 May could purchase a large card reproducing various Sligo postmarks on the reverse. Sold as a pair [numbered] at IR£1, mint and used; the used copy was stamped and postmarked in Sligo.

STAMPA '83 DINNER MENU

The awards banquet was held in the Clarence Hotel, Dublin 2 on Saturday October 29th. Each diner received 1 of 4 different postcards published by Robson Lowe Ltd., featuring philatelic rarities. The 4 cards are numbered 1 to 4 and come from a series of 16 cards produced by Robson Lowe. The menu was typed individually on the reverse of each card. Each card was stamped with the 22p World Communications Year stamp and postmarked with the Stampa postmark of that day.

COLLECTORS ITEMS —

SOME ASPECTS OF IRISH DEFINITIVE STAMP DESIGN

A colourful and informative leaflet under the above title has been available at the philatelic bureau since early 1983. Produced by well known philatelist, Bill Kane in his capacity as Philatelic Consultant [at the time], to the Postal Branch the 8 pages outline the difference between definitives and other issues and trace the history of Irish definitive designs since 1922. Not distributed, as yet, to collectors on the mailing list but available free of charge to callers at the bureau.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND 1922-1982

A new publication entitled *Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1982* was launched by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs on Sep-

tember 9th. Compiled by Liam Miller; supervisory editor Bill Kane. The first edition of this checklist, without illustrations, was published [free of charge] in 1976. This much improved and revised edition gives details of the various stamp issues since Ireland became a separate stamp issuing authority in 1922. Illustrated in full colour; however where a design is common to several denominations it is illustrated only once. It is intended to stimulate interest in Irish stamps among beginners and non-collectors at home and abroad. To this end it appears to have had a quick response in that it was available from even the smallest news agent and reached the non-fiction best seller list in Ireland within a few weeks of release. The paperback edition costs IR£3.95; hardback IR£10.00. I understand that a second edition will probably be released in 1984. Although not aimed at serious/advanced collector it is useful as design details for each issue have not been available in one listing since publication of the *Hibernian Specialized Catalogue* in 1978.

FOREIGN STAMPS WITH IRISH ASSOCIATIONS

Jersey issued a set of four stamps in their "Artists" series on 20 September. The stamps feature works by Walter William Oules. The 8p stamp features a portrait of Cardinal Newman who was born in London in 1801. A convert to Catholicism he became a Cardinal in 1879. John Henry Newman is well known in Ireland as first Rector of the Catholic University of Ireland [now University College Dublin], which opened the doors of 86 St. Stephen's Green to its first twenty students on November 3rd, 1854. The building is now named Newman House.

Italy issued an airletter on 1 July to commemorate the Balbo Transatlantic Mass Formation flight — see notes under *Stampa* postmarks above.

In my 1982 notes, I referred to the possibility of World Cup stamps associated with Northern Ireland who participated in the 1982 finals in Spain. The following items have come to my attention in the philatelic press — however, I have not seen them to verify the accuracy of the information given: —

—Bulgaria [27 November 1982]: Set of three stamps and a miniature sheet showing footballers and honouring the finalists.

—Central African Republic [February 1983]: 5f value of a long set shows Billy Hamilton [N. Ireland] and Bruno Pezzey [Austria].

—Britain issued a set of five stamps on 6 July depicting British Army Uniforms; the 28p value shows the Irish Guards. Postcard reproducing the stamp also available.

—El Salvador [26 August 1982]: From a long set a 15c shows the N. Ireland flag and a 25c the N. Ireland Coat of Arms; a miniature sheet shows the flags of competing countries.

—Guinea [Bissau], [October 1982]: Flags of competing nations appear to be included on this six value set.

—Spain [3 June 1982]: Spain issued a set of four postcards, one of which depicts flags of competing countries.

—I have also noted that Bulgaria issued a set of stamps on 27 November 1982 which commemorated the 10th anniversary of the first European Conference on Security and Co-operation. The stamps show flags of various countries. Ireland is included on a 5st. value. I'm unsure as to whether Ireland ever participated in these conferences.

CONCLUSION

Once again, I wish to thank my many philatelic friends who have helped me to compile another year's listings. In particular John Lennon for the slogan listings and to Eddie FitzGerald for his continual help and advice.

1984 should be an exciting year with the break-up of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs into two separate semi-state bodies An Post and An Bord Telecom. Under An Post it is expected that the philatelic section will become more outward looking and will improve its service to the collector at home and abroad.

IRELAND BOOKLET BINDERY VARIETIES

by: Peter Foote

Even the more common booklets produced by Ireland could become difficult to find if specialists opt to pursue errors, varieties and freaks.

Perhaps some recent varieties could become short-lived phenomena if Government Printers bindery operations at Dublin castle change. (Note: Since writing this the new £ experimental booklets have appeared indicating the demise of the stitched booklet?)

Surprisingly, there seems to be no literature on Ireland booklet 'binding', only articles about booklet 'printing'. (See *Revealer*, Summer 1983). Still, any consideration of booklets legitimately focus on the products of specifically bindery operations. Variations do occur in the multiple processes involved.

While a nice "bullet hole" has been noted on a 70p booklet cover, this variation, perhaps more properly to be considered a freak, is a peculiarity of the booklet, not the panes, because the flaw appears upon the face of the cover. "Bullet holes", being printing variations are beyond the scope of this report which concentrates on bindery varieties and errors.

As is well known, booklets consist of panes of stamps, some of which include labels, front and back covers and, in some instances, added interleaving sheets.

Covers and panes are cut or trimmed to proper selvage specifications. Comparison of separately produced and trimmed panes and covers show unevenness. For example, a trim check of the 40p booklet resulted in lengthier covers than panes in half a small sampling. In a little larger sampling of the 70p (19p in *Stamps of Ireland* catalogue), more than one-third of covers were lengthier. Though perhaps a more convenient or 'user-friendly' variety to handle, less pane projection is afforded.

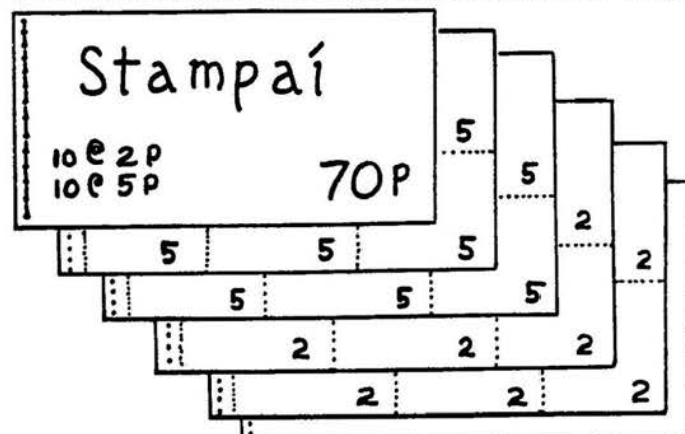
The bindery operations used to join together a multi-page booklet are pagination and stitching.

..Pagination is the arranging of panes and covers into a desired sequence. Varieties may be sought in any booklet containing dissimilar pages or panes. It is possible that pagination varieties tend to escape detection because they are enclosed within a booklet.

Collating or paginating a booklet involves laying appropriate panes on a single back cover and affixing a front cover. Perhaps a bindery worker might 'jog' a booklet, tapping it on a flat surface horizontally and then vertically simultaneously applying a slight pressure to keep the book together. Quickly then the worker guides the booklet into a stitching machine.

Consequently, to check for a pagination variety observe the order stamps are listed on the booklet cover. Is that the same order to be found within?

For instance, some 70p booklets do not follow sequentially the cover order. The 19B cover prescribes that '10 at 2p' green Gerl Definitives be followed by '10 at 5p' of the apple green. But in some instances, this order is reversed, the apple green is on top.



Editor's Note: the majority of booklets are stitched in full sheet (44 booklets) size and then cut apart.

Though the pagination complexity is naturally increased as interleaving sheets are added, no reports on varieties are known.

For example, booklet 38-56 (serial number and year of issue) contain 4 advertising sheets. They are as follows:

- 3p pane, Hospital Sweepstakes ad,
- 3p pane, Biro pen ad
- 1p pane, Encyclopedia ad
- 1p pane, Postal rates ad.

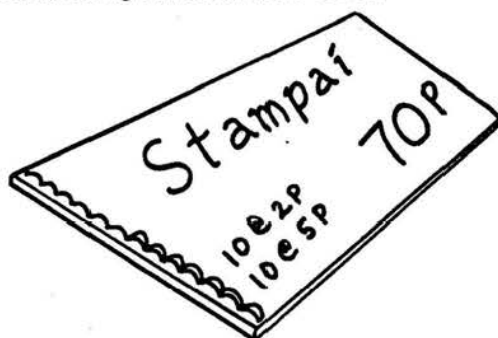
Other earlier booklets contain various different advertising panes. Perhaps some collector knows of variable pagination sequences. The advertising panes were discontinued with this 38-56 booklet.

Stitching is a bindery operation in which a front cover and backing sheet are sewn to stamp panes (possibly with interleaved advertising panes). Most often an even line of black or white vertical stitches can be viewed on a front cover. Ordinarily, a knotted line is observed on the backing sheet. Each booklet shows perforations (or holes) received in the process of stitching.

Observed frontally EIRE booklets' stitch lines are sometimes found at irregular distances from the left edge of the cover. This irregularity is caused by the cutting process.

Other stitching varieties observed include:

- variations in the number of holes
- variations in the number of sewn stitches'
- double threaded stitching,
- one half-row double threaded (see illustration)
- wrap around stitching at booklet edge, and
- knotted stitching visible on front cover.



On the 2/6 and 5/- 1966 booklets, a vacant, unstitched perforation or a vacant half perforation was noted at either top or bottom of a vertical row. Earlier booklets were stitched together with a black thread, later white thread was used.

A brief observation on the perforations required to receive the stitches may be interesting. The number of stitching holes per booklet appears to vary from fifteen to seventeen. Look for booklets which have unthreaded half-stitches at booklet edges. Following is a small sampling of bindery perforations: (MacDonnell Whyte *Stamps of Ireland* numbers used:

BOOKLET NUMBER	NUMBER OF HOLES OBSERVED			
	15	16	16½	17
8B				x
9B		x		
10B	x			
11B		x		
12B			x	
13B			x	
18B		x		x
19B				x

In *The Revealer* Summer issue, the editor of this publication noted the infrequency of reports on booklets. (See "Irish Booklets, How Printed," John J. Blessington). His appeal for more writing on the subject and the encouragement of the Chicago EPA Chapter motivated this article. Surely, it can't be the last word on booklets?

MY IRISH COLLECTION

by: Milton Levinson

My collection of Ireland is only a few years old. I think I began it in 1980. I had gone as far with Israel as I could and I was looking for new philatelic fields. Ireland began its modern independent history under circumstances a bit similar to the beginning of Israel. So I drifted into collecting Ireland.

It wasn't long before I found the overprints, the definitives, and the postage dues extremely interesting. After about a year I completed the commemoratives and laid them aside except for new issues. But the other areas seem to go on and on. While I already have all of the basic stamps of these categories except a vertical pair of the first Harrison half penny coil, the varieties, errors, etc. are quite elusive.

Covers are a real challenge. I've been looking for covers showing mixed franking, i.e., overprint and original British used together to make up the rate, or British stamps on cover used legally after February 17, 1922. Just try to find British postal stationery legally used after February 17th. Has anyone ever seen covers with British stamps used after the legal period with the appropriate postage dues? Or the same with British postal stationery.

And where are the postage dues used on cover? I've managed to find about 20, but need lots more.

Anyone know of any 1/- blocks mint of the first definitive SE watermark or the same value of the E watermark?

Make no mistake about it. Good material is really tough to find once you get beyond the basic stamps. I'd appreciate hearing from anyone with anything to offer that I need.

Incidentally when was the last day on which it was legal to use British stamps? Are there any last day covers?

ODRAN KEOGH R.I.P.

Please allow me to pay tribute to the memory of Odie Keogh who served so many stamp collectors both young and not so young in his own inimitable style. He was always anxious to encourage the hobby and made a wonderful impression with the many visitors to the Philatelic Bureau at the G.P.O. and with the philatelists he met whilst representing the Irish Post Office at New York and Vienna International Philatelic Shows, and of course Stampa Shows.

He was of course well known in the amateur musical world of which the writer is not fully competent to develop but may I say in his passing we have all lost a friend and to his dear wife Marie, daughter Rosemary, and Fergus his son we tender our heartfelt sympathy.

May he rest in peace.

M.P.G.



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PROVINCIAL PAID HANDSTAMPS OF IRELAND

Mrs. Stilwell Walker's updated listing on these handstamps (Revealer Summer and Fall 1983) was most interesting and a considerable improvement upon the listings that have appeared previously. However, it still seems possible to add to her list. Firstly, as to new types.



Shown is a cover with POST/PAID in (red) serified capitals. This is nominally similar to the listing's POST/PAID in a circle, but there is no trace of a circle and the dimensions are such to suggest that no circular rim ever enclosed it. From SAINTFIELD, it was used on December 31, 1825 and ante-dates the earliest of the other two simple PAID marks known for this town by some 3-4 years.

I would question the validity of Mrs. Walker's separating her POST/PAID types 11 and 11A (POST PAID described around the circumference of a circular handstamp) as from one distinct type. Surely 11A is simply a minor variation of Type 12 according to the image of the screws or pins holding the stamp to its handle. After all, both types 11A and 12 are of the same diameter and were both used at STEWARDSTOWN. Type 11 was used at DUNLEER and is 3mm smaller. The only other type 12 that is known is a TULLAMORE stamp that is 8mm smaller than that of STEWARDSTOWN. To support this, I have a type 11A (or 12) that is also from STEWARDSTOWN but is quite devoid of the 'stars'. Dated July 26, 1828, it is in the same greenish black ink that is peculiar to this town.

Considering the enormous amount of work that has obviously been expended to compile the listing, it would, I suppose, be churlish to have hoped that the ink colour of the handstamps could have been accorded separate date listings for each town. In general, it does seem that certain colours were used for different

periods for most of them. For example, a blue ink was used at BALLYCLARE in the 1820's followed by a black ink in the early to mid 1830's. But when was red used?

Again the colours as listed are not in alphabetical order and imply that the first colour mentioned would be the earlier used. This is certainly not the case for many of the towns listed. To illustrate this, among the extended dates of usage listed below are some of an 'unexpected' colour if considered chronologically.

DUNGINVEN	18 June 1829	Black	(Type 5)
HILLSBORO	7 January 1832	Red	(Type 14)
KELLS	21 March 1835	Red	(Type 26) = 1835
NEWRY	21 June 1832	Red	(Type 1) = 1832
NEWTOWNARDS	19 July 1825	Red	(Type 17)
NEWTOWNARDS	2 October 1843	Green	(Type 17) = 1843
PORTLENONE	28 December 1825	Red	(Type 16)

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

DR. C.I. DULIN

AUTHORS RESPONSE

I welcome such responses as Dr. Dulin's to my article. One of my hopes when I published the update was that new information would surface in this very interesting area of postal history. His information on the new type of SAINTFIELD two line POST/PAID marking is a prime illustration.

Dr. Dulin's remarks about the two circular marks from STEWARDSTOWN (I have them types as 12 and 11A) are accurate in that for this town, the screw image is the only difference in the two marks. However, the purpose of the types was to differentiate distinct shapes or configuration, without regard to dimension or town of origin. It has been difficult to decide when to "create" a new type and when to merely note a minor variation. As an example, one of the Type 16's from KELLS has a dash in place of a dot. I chose not to make this a new type. In the case of STEWARDSTOWN 11A, I chose to label it a new type. Dr. Dulin notes a STEWARDSTOWN without screw marks (or stars) at all. If several more of these are noted, then perhaps the type vs variation decision should be re-visited.

I would have very much liked to include in the study some work on the ink colors. I agree that I should have listed the colors in alphabetical order, or stated that the order of the colors had no significance! I apologize for any confusion that arose because I did not.

To gather significant data on colors for these marks, will require research for each town; sufficient examples of the PAID marks, plus other marks from the same town will need to be analyzed to determine if the color has significance, or is random. I would be happy to make a color "census" of all the marks that I own and make this available to someone interested in this research, or to become the repository of such information from others.

SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA PATRICIA STILWELL WALKER

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MORE WORLD WAR I PHILATELY

by: Padriag O Mathuna

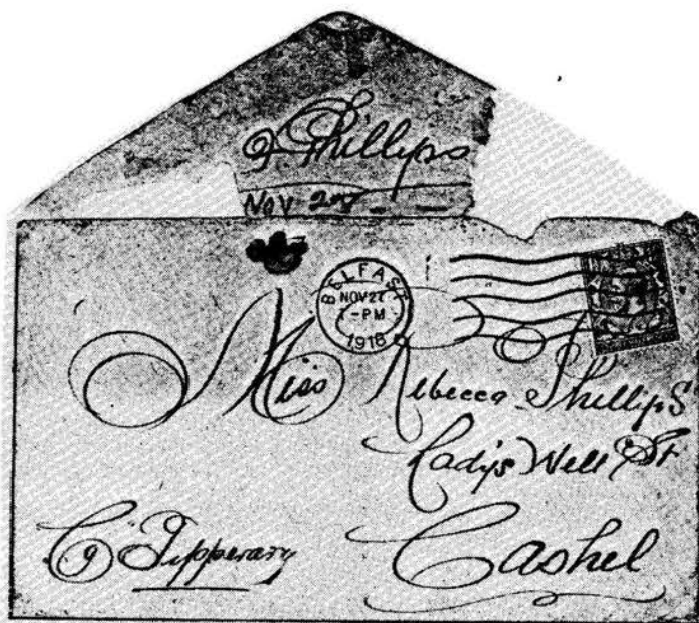
..The Revealer No. 143 featured a Field Post Card especially prepared for use by Irish P.O.W.'s of the British Army held in Limburg Camp in Germany. It was addressed in 1915 to a Francis Phillips who was then employed as a bookkeeper in a Cashel bakery.

He was Secretary of the Cashel Branch of Sinn Fein and after the 1916 Rising in Dublin he publicly read the Proclamation of The Republic in Cashel. As a result, he was dismissed from his post by his Unionist employers. His Republican activities continued and in due course he was arrested, with many others all over the

country, under "The Defense of the Realm Act" (DORA) introduced after the English published details of a spurious "German Plot" as it was called.

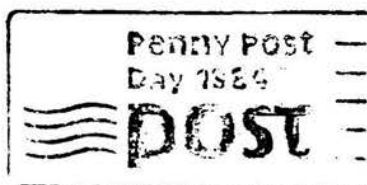
He was in the group sent to Belfast jail from which he wrote these two letters recently discovered in his home after his death. By 1918 the recipient of the P.O.W. letter from Germany had, himself, become an Irish P.O.W. held by the British in Belfast.

Both letters were censored....one (11 Nov.) initialled in blue pencil and the other (27 Nov.) by a different censor in red ink. The inside of the envelope flaps are signed as required by regulations.

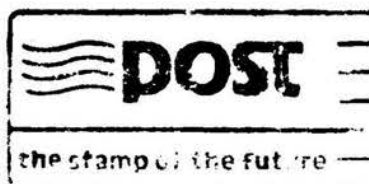


Today is Penny Post Day

by Fred Dixon



it was announced that on the first working day, 3rd January, a letter or postcard to anywhere in the Republic could be posted for 1p provided that the address was handwritten. Rumors had spread during the previous weeks and philatelists were well prepared with quantities of the 1p stamp. All post offices had received extra supplies, so there should have been no shortage. However, there was such a rush on the day that some offices sold out, giving speculators the excuse to manufacture bisects of the 2d. One cause for the shortage of 1p stamps was the activity of ignorant speculators who thought that the 1p stamp was a new issue, available only for the day. They dashed from office to office securing whole sheets, and a few days later were inquiring from the dealers how much profit they could expect!! A few postmistresses accepted cash and assured customers that their unstamped letters would go through. Many did, but there have been complaints of attempts to charge 52p postage due. It will be difficult to assemble a comprehensive collection of the PENNY POST DAY covers, which must have examples of the special cancellation from several Dublin machines and a few major towns, the most difficult to get being Donegal. On the following day there was another slogan on the machines.



On 1st January the Irish Department of Posts and Telegraphs ceased to exist, being replaced by the two new bodies, "An Post" and "Telecom". At the handing over ceremony on 31st December

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMPUTER PROGRAM

As a collector and a home computer owner I have been studying the problem of keeping a record of my collection and updating its value for insurance purposes when the new catalog prices come out each year. Doing the job by hand is such a long business that it tends not to get done, and the estimate becomes a percentage rise on the previous one, which may not be very accurate.

Having written a program in Basic Computer Language, I can list each page of the collection or value the whole collection in a few minutes while the stamps themselves are safely in the bank vault. Changing the catalog values does take time, but needs to be done once only for each type of stamp. Since my collection contains large numbers of similar stamps illustrating different philatelic aspects, this is a considerable savings in time.

If any member would like a listing of the program I would be pleased to send it. My computer is a 16K Tandy which holds the details of about 100 sheets in its memory; a 32K machine would hold more than double. Each section of 100 sheets is recorded separately on a short length of audio tape. 21 South Lymington Gardens

Edinburgh EH4 1EZ, Scotland

MIKE PRIESTLEY

"ODIE" KEOUGH

I heard today of the death of Ordan (Odie) Keough of the Irish Philatelic Bureau.

Odie's spot for many years was behind the counter when the Bureau was located in the P.O. Arcade. He bore the brunt of the dealers' and the collectors' whims, fancies, and desires. He was well suited for that job, always having a smile on his face and a joke to tell to all who came his way. He also knew his stamps.

He attended two ASDA shows in New York - in 1980 and 1981, and will be fondly remembered by collectors there.

Odie died at his breakfast table on February 25, of a massive heart attack. He was only 52. Any one who had dealings with that branch of the Philatelic Bureau will miss him.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND EDIE B. HILLMAN

IRISH FORCES

Stephen Cohen's article on the Irish contingent in the Congo was interesting (Revealer Winter 83)

The Kamina Base Group was not mentioned in the article and I enclose a photocopy of a cover sent from the Irish Contingent there. Aside from the mixed franking of Congo and Katanga stamps, the use of the cds KAMIN/MILITAIRE BASIS-2-BASE MILITAIRE is interesting.

#T28a VARIETY

Regarding Goetz Weilmann's question on the 2d I blue black invert, no T28a, I have always expressed serious doubts as to whether this existed at all. I have never been shown a satisfactory example, though I have seen some offered for sale.

DUBLIN, IRELAND

DAVID MacDONNELL

Editor's note: The photocopy mentioned above wouldn't reproduce

DOLLARD TYPE ESSAY?

Some time ago you asked for a photograph of my handstamped 5-line overprint on an Official envelope. At last I have the film processed.



It is definitely not from the same handstamp as on the stamp illustrated in **The Revealer** No. 149, e.g. the S of RIALTAS is directly over the second A of SEALADAC and the A of EIREANN over the second 2. However, I still think Paula Horiwits's stamp could have been overprinted by a worn handstamp of similar type. If it were the work of a forger it would have been done more efficiently and on a higher value stamp.

DUBLIN, IRELAND

FRED DIXON

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