

The Revealer

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



Volume 34 No. 1

Whole No. 155

Summer 1984

The Chronological History of SC 68b SG 74b



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Affiliate No. 21 – The American Philatelic Society • Affiliated Member – The British Philatelic Federation
Affiliate – Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland • Member – Council of Philatelic Organizations

THE REVEALER

Whole No. 155

Summer 1984

Published quarterly by the Eire Philatelic Association at \$7.00 U.S., \$8.50 Canada & Mexico, and \$10.00 all other countries per year, which includes membership and all privileges of the association. Information from Secretary.

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RECRUITING HONOR ROLL

Again we are pleased to list known members who have proposed new members: Edward A. Coyne, Wil Coense, William H. Doe, Richard J. McBride, Joseph E. Foley, James P. Lavelle, Walter Potts, John Blessington and Michael Priestley.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Membership as of March 15, 1984	757
New members	28
Reinstatements	2
Dropped	49
Record adjustment	18
	756

Secretary's Report

New members accepted subject to no objections received within a 45 day period after this publication.

- #1881 John T. Desmond, 56 Hartford Ave., Wethersfield, CT. 06109
- #1882 Daniel C. Murphy, 1085 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114
- #1883 Frank G. Soeder, Jr., 1183 Ramblewood Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401
- #1884 Padraig F. O'Shea, 16 Bridge St., Cork Ireland
- #1885 Joseph H. Walsh, Martin Luther H.S. 60-02 Maspeth Ave., Maspeth, N.Y. 11378
- #1886 Des Quail, Red Meadows, Lurgan Rd., Bankridge, Co. Down, N. Ireland BT32 4NL
- #1887 Michael E. Curtin, 2296 Ellington Rd., S. Windsor, CT 06074
- #1888 Brendan C. Murphy, 7309 W. Hampden Ave., #604, Lakewood, CO 80227
- #1889 Gordon E. Hott, Box 292, Deerfield, IL 60015
- #1890 Paul D. O'Neil, 5 Haskell Rd., E. Pepperell, MA 01734
- #1891 Daniel J. Gillen, 25 Willard Rd., Duluth, MN 55803
- #1892 Jane Feroli, 181 Elm St., Raynham, MA 02767
- #1893 James E. Van Fossen, 5409 Carjan Way, Hilliard, OH 43026
- #1894 Jess Schuster, Box 198 Sta 1 UTMB, Galveston, TX 77550
- #1895 Alan A. Mac Gregor, Box 35026, Tucson, AZ 85740
- #1896 Gerald T. Webb, 25 Willard Rd., Duluth, MN 55803
- #1897 Patrick Collins, 1134 Elm Creek Rd., New Braunfels, TX 78130
- #1898 Joseph J. Devlin, 2832 Reynolds St., Philadelphia, PA 19137
- #1899 Richard J. Wholey, 520 W. Evergreen St., Wheaton, IL 60187
- #1900 Thomas I. Crimando, 8143 Mill Rd., Bergen, N.Y. 14416
- #1901 William R. Stumpf, 342 E. Plymouth, Inglewood, CA 90320
- #1902 Bart Ball, 6025 Bay Rd., Conover, WI 54519
- #1903 William Peter Fletcher, 22 Chatsworth Heights, Camberley, Surrey, England
- #1904 Rene C. Martinez, 3150 Peachtree #215, Corpus Cristi, TX 78410
- #1905 Mrs. Ellen Di Iorio, 521 Cumberland St., Westfield, N.J. 07090
- #1906 Thomas M. Naughten, Box 543, Dawson City, Y.T. Canada Y0B 1G0
- #1907 William Campbell, 53 Mountain View Dr., Kensington, CT 05037
- #1908 Lawrence D. Flynn, 4865 Santiago Way, Colorado Springs, CA 80917

CHAPTER REPORT

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTERS

The North and South Shore E.P.A. Chapter members will have a booth at the Philatelic Show '84 in Boston, October 12-14, 1984. This is the 5th Boston show in which the Association members have participated in the Boston area. This is indicative of the increased activity by the EPA in New England. Peter E. Bugg, North Shore Chapter Chairman will be in charge of this event.

On June 6th a number of EPA members were present at the First Day of Issue of the U.S.A. and Irish John McCormack stamps. It was a well attended event and some nice momentos of the occasion were obtained.

In 1985 the Rhode Island Philatelic Society will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. It is the oldest philatelic society in the U.S. To celebrate our own 35th Anniversary the Eire Philatelic Association will participate in this singular event which is scheduled for April 19-21, 1985. This will be the EPA's anniversary celebration of the East Coast.

NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

The New York City EPA Chapter met June 5th along with members from the Long Island and North New Jersey area at the Collector's Club. Joe Foley gave a slide program of the Irish Railway Stamps which was greatly appreciated by those present. Chapter officers were elected at this organizational meeting.

Chairman - John E. McLaughlin
Co-Chairman, New Jersey - Henry E. Bright
Co-Chairman, Long Island - John E. Gaughan
Secretary/Treasurer - Anne M. Crow

Starting in September the chapter will hold monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the Collector's Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York City, at 7:30 P.M. The first such meeting will be on September 13, 1984.

Questions regarding the New York chapter should be directed to John E. McLaughlin, Box 408, McAfee, N.J. 07428.

PHILADELPHIA MEETING

The EPA will have a table and meeting for members of the Delaware Valley area at the Forty-fourth National Stamp Exhibit under the sponsorship of SEPAD in Philadelphia at the Adam's Mark Hotel, City Line Ave. and Monument Road. Show dates are 21-23 September.

President Pat Walker will attend the meeting and will give a program in Irish Postal History at the meeting. Details as to time and place can be had at the EPA table or by writing Frank Ruddle, 922 Maple Ave., Glenolden, PA 19036.

Swords Wins First Vincent Linnell Award



In 1983 the EPA officers and directors approved the establishment of a new association award to honor the late Vincent Linnell, a past president and Field Award winner. The award is to be given each year to the author of The Revealer article chosen as best by a vote of the members.

The 1983 recipient of the award was Richard Swords of Vallejo, California, USA, for his series on Official Stationary of Ireland. The award, a desk pen set suitably inscribed, was presented at the Nor Cal Chapter meeting at Westpex, '84 in Oakland, Ca on May 13, 1984.

You are asked to now vote for your selection for the 1984 award. You are reminded of the Rules:

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 33, Whole Numbers 151-154, send your votes to:

Bill Zellers
5530 Via Dos Cerros
Riverside, CA 92507 U.S.A.

President's Notes

I am writing this at ROMPEX, in Denver where the EPA had a very enjoyable regional meeting. It was a small but congenial gathering. During the week Ed O'Donoghue, Pat Murphy and Pat McNally, all from Colorado either attended the meeting or stopped by the table. Bob Corless came up from Arizona and Tom Current from Oregon. Joe Foley, newly from New Jersey was also there. Tom Current's exhibit of the British registration system won a Vermeil medal.

Regional meetings are being planned at a number of shows in the coming months: NAPES (D.C.) in June, SEPAD (Philadelphia) in September, Philatelic Show (Boston) in October, SESCAL (Los Angeles) in October and ASDA (New York City) in November.

Good news, the EPA medal is now available. Besides being awarded to exhibitors of Irish material, a medal will be given for the Vince Linnell Award, for author of the best Revealer article. You can read elsewhere in this issue about the first recipient of this award and also for the rules for giving the medal at shows.

Our Association continues to gain members at a steady rate. Even so, we also lose a few members each year. Due to our size and growth, some administrative changes are needed to streamline membership processing. These changes will not affect current members (as long as you pay your dues on time!), they will affect new members. We are making the changes for two reasons. First, they will save the EPA money (This is the benefit to you, the current membership) both in postage costs and publishing costs. Under the old system, many extra issues of the magazine are sent to people who do not choose to renew their membership. Second, the changes will make things easier for the Secretary and Treasurer.

The EPA will offer pro-rated dues; for applications joining in the months of March through August, dues will be for the next 18 months and they will receive the corresponding issues of The Revealer.

The four issues of The Revealer that correspond to a year's dues will be the Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall issues. In the past the four issues have started with the Fall issue. For currently enrolled members, this will make no difference.

Patricia Stilwell Walker, President

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Presidential Appointments

I have confirmed the appointments of the members listed below to the positions noted. Please continue to give them your support. Preston, in particular, cannot provide publicity for the Association without input from you! You can contact him at P.O. Box 5626, San Mateo, CA 94402.

Secretary	- Bob Jones
Treasurer	- Emery Nagel
Publicity	- Preston Pope
Slide Chairman	- Bill McCaw
Historian	- Garvin Lohman
Auction Manager	- Tim O'Shea
Special Offers	- Ed Ryan
Chapter Coordinator	- Bob Jones

I apologize for the lateness of the committee appointments shown below; it is my fault they were not published sooner. Please make up for my tardiness by promptly contacting the appropriate committee members with your suggestions for award recipients or candidates.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bill Zellers, Chairman; George Ithell, Preston Pope, Joe Foley

FIELD AWARD COMMITTEE

John Blessington, Chairman; Neil Stack, Eddie FitzGerald

CLARK AWARD COMMITTEE

Bob Jones, Chairman; Bill McCaw, Brian Warren

Patricia Stilwell Walker
President



RANDOM NOTES

By F. E. Dixon

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARDS

More than 500,000 were sold on the day of issue but many were bought by the general public for use nearer 17 March and I predict that sets with 29 Feb. cancellation will be quite rare. Even rarer are examples sold and posted on 28th February. Also collectable are the cards with the green cachet of the Philatelic Bureau featuring a ring of shamrocks and the dates 29.2.82 - 16.2.84. The machine cancellation HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY does not look well on the cards as it impinges on the printed heading at left. Future issues could revive an American idea of 70 years ago - having a large space labelled "for postmark only."

TREES STAMPS

Although pleasant artistically, they are poor stamp designs. Each tree should have been shown as large as possible, in full leaf, in a natural setting, with blue sky background. A complete write-up of the issue will have to include the press photograph of the artist, Wendy Walsh, planting a tree in O'Connell Street, opposite the G.P.O. to celebrate the occasion.

REGISTRATION LABELS

No. 288 = Bayside Shopping Centre, Sutton in Irish COIS BA. Most labels have the name in one line unless it is very long. An exception is CASTLE-. No. 162 has been seen on an envelope KNOCK

notifying a motorist of the result of his breathalyser test (no it wasn't me) without any office datestamp, only a weak impression of a certifying stamp with the name of the unit in Irish. I hope to get another example with a better impression.

OFFICIAL FRANKS

Towards the end of 1983 the Department of the Taoiseach was using an unusual, simple style of frank or certifying stamp, unframed and with a harp rather larger than seemed necessary. In 1984 it has been superseded by having the name printed on the envelope as "Oifig an Taoisigh/Office of the Taoiseach." It is using a Pitney Bowes metering machine with number T 1901K.

BELFAST LATE MAIL

A remarkable feature of Belfast postmarks is the large number of different handstamps used for TOO LATE, LATE MAIL, etc. One type, I think peculiar to Belfast, is a duplex found during the period 1869-71. Can anyone add earlier or later dates?



ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN USA

My mail included two covers posted on St. Patrick's Day, both with specially designed cancellations in bright green, one from Dublin, Ohio, and the other from St. Patrick's Missouri. The later cover has an extra cachet alleging that it is the only one in the world. It is not even the only one in the USA, there being another in Louisiana. Elsewhere, there is St. Patrick Head in Tasmania, St. Patrick's Isle off the Isle of Man and St. Patrickswell in Co. Limerick.

TELEVISION LICENSE SAVINGS STAMPS

John Lennon found examples of a £1 stamp postally used which he had not seen before. Investigation found it to be available in post offices for affixing in special savings books, which can be used in paying one's television license fee (now £27 for a black and white or £45 for color). There is a 50p value which I have not seen yet.

DUBLIN DATESTAMPS

No. 61 of the single-circle series with thin arcs on either side of the number has been in use for about 25 years and the rim is almost completely worn away. The latest I have seen has only slight traces, near the I of CLIAH and just left of the 61.



COMMENTS ON COMMEMORATIVES

The St. Vincet's Hospital design is stupid, the hospital has no open-air beds, and the view of the buildings looks more like an airport terminal than a hospital. Color drab. Lack of color is the main deficiency of the Royal College for Surgeons design: the trees and the grass in the foreground should have been green. Europa designs have more color but the design is fatuous. We are told that the bridge symbolizes co-operation, but there is no sign of traffic on the bridge. European election design is good and has adequate color, but would have conveyed the idea better if there had been a hand placing the voting paper in the box. And it was ridiculous to issue two 26p stamps the same day. Why not a 22p or the 16p for sending greeting cards to overseas? There is a bad slip in the publicity handout which alleges Europa stamp issues originated in 1960 after the establishment of the CEPT. What about the series from Belgium, Luxembourg, etc, begun in 1956.

SLOGAN BOOK

James Mackay has done it again - a complete updating of all the Irish slogan cancellations from 1918 to 1983, with an informative introduction and, what many collectors want, a price for each item. I do not agree with his presentation which repeats each slogan in each year of its use and it can be tedious to have to hunt back in the earlier pages to check which die is referred to. It would be more concise to list each slogan die only once and add a note there as to which later years it was continued or revived. However, the information is all there and many of you will want to buy it at £3.45 sterling in UK or £4.35 overseas (post paid) from the author at 11 Newhall Terrace, DUMFRIES DG11LN, Scotland.

DAY OF ISSUE CANCELLATIONS

An unexpected complication with the 10 May issues was that there were three different special cancellations, one for the Europa, another for the European Elections stamp, and a third including both emblems, applied to covers bearing all the stamps.

1840 PENNY GENERAL POST

Hitherto the highest number seen in the Dublin series of handstruck ones was 28, and the range of dates was February to November 1840. David MacDonnell reports No. 40 used in 1844!. And it is the first example which can be definitely allocated - to Rathmines. There were 33 city receiving plus eleven in the suburbs: so it now seems that all numbers up to 44 may exist.

D MacD also reports Ballymoney as one of the towns using Feldman & Kane type 384, i.e. PAID AT BALLYMONEY 1d

NEW SLOGAN

An Post is as remiss as its predecessor in failing to advise us of new slogan cancellations. I reported in the Spring of 1984 Revealer that there was a competition for designing a slogan to publicize the new museum commemorating Michael Davitt. This duly appeared at Castlebar early in May, with no pictorial effort - just a reminder that the museum is at Straide, Co. Mayo and will open from June to September.

(Continued on page 9)

Dublin Newsletter

By: Eddie Fitzgerald

My sincere regrets for failing to meet the deadline for the last issue of *The Revealer*. If I miss out on the next issue also, I crave your indulgence in advance. I hope (and expect) to be back in A1 physical condition in some months time.

A recent letter from our Editor was just the trip switch needed to get this particular roadshow rolling again. The envelope containing the letter was the new U.S. offset printed envelope "Small Business A.S.A. 20¢." In the course of his letter, John Blessington described to me how security is achieved by the "wrap around" features of the envelope and he developed this point to some extent. Whether it is the U.S.A. or any other country in the world, security is a matter of prime importance to all postal administrations. In this part of the world, security in stamp printing has been very strict since the time of the first postage stamp printed in Great Britain in 1840. This strictness is evidenced in the various security devices known to have been used, and it is beyond dispute that the principal device (up to recent decades) in stamp printing was the use of watermarked paper.

This writer is not familiar with the Scott Catalog, but in the Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogue - the Fiji Islands section - there is a very interesting footnote relating to the 2d value of the 1922-27 definitive series as follows, "The 2d imperforate with T10 of Ireland came from a trial printing and was not issued." The T10 in question is Gibbons classification for the SE monogram watermark of Ireland. Considering the near reverence of the watermark as a security device, the existence of this Fiji stamp would appear to be a proof of a serious breach in security. Unless it was not a breach of security at all but was printed for a special purpose, and the facts now known indicates that this is the case.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed on December 6, 1921 and early in 1922 a Provisional Government of the Irish Free State was formed, pending elections later on. Thanks to the efforts of this and of successive Irish Governments, there is now plenty of technical expertise available at all levels in the country and the country now has a sound industrial base as well. However, the early governments had to contend with many problems including, a) a predominantly agricultural economy and b) lack of technical know-how and skills at managerial level. It is no wonder that the Provisional Government called on the British Government for assistance in setting up a Stamping Branch regarding the printing of stamps, training of specialist printers etc. This point can be confirmed by reference to the words of the first Postmaster General of the I.F.A. In the course of newspaper article in 1923, he (J.J. Walsh) stated, "In making arrangements for overprinting and new issues, we had, it will be readily understood, to lean on the assistance of the London officials who gave their help and advice in these matters in the most praiseworthy and unstinting manner."

The first step from a philatelist's point of view in these matters was the appointment of A.S. Roberts as Director of the Stamping Branch which was being set up within the confines of Dublin Castle in early 1922. A.S. Roberts was a Scotsman who had held senior position in the Edinburgh branch of the British Inland Revenue. He was an excellent choice for this responsible position and was held in high regard by the staff. He brought over to Ireland a printer named Thurlow (this spelling may be incorrect) who was an expert in stamp production and also three men who were experts in the use of perforating equipment. These men were to train Irish printers working in this new Stamping Branch in the intricacies of stamp printing and perforating, as well as carrying out their normal duties.

The next jigsaw piece from our (the philatelist's) point of view is a photocopy of an album page from the collection of the late T.F. Field. This photocopy relates to the first Irish stamp issued, via, the 2d Map stamp and the text states, "The dies were engraved and the plates made by the Royal Mint, London. The stamps were printed and

perforated by a special Establishment set up in Dublin Castle, the work being directed by a skilled staff from the Stamping Department, Somerset House, London. The paper was supplied by Messrs Joynson & Son of St. Mary Cray, Kent and the sheets gummed by Messrs De La Rue & Co, London." Another piece of valuable information is a very erudite article on Irish Philately which appeared in the April 1947 issue of the *Philatelic Magazine*. The author named A.H.K. Roberts states, "The paper used was for a short time made in England and was watermarked multiple SE standing for Saorstát Éireann or the Irish Free State. This was soon replaced by a similar Irish paper with the same watermark, made at Saggart, a mill near Dublin. It is not possible to distinguish between these papers."

Returning again to the newspaper article by the Postmaster General, another important comment by him was, "Printing of postage stamps is not as easy a process as it may seem. It is first of all necessary in the making of the paper to impress watermarks on each division that is afterwards to be used as a stamp. This is an operation which calls for considerable skill." It is known that the 2d and 1½d stamps were printed during October 1922, even though the 2d was issued on December 6, 1922 (the day the Treaty was ratified) and the 1½d was released on February 2, 1923.

Bearing in mind all the pertinent facts, it is abundantly clear that trials relating to the principal security safeguard - the watermark had to be carried out in England to see if the SE monogram was a satisfactory security device. In the absence of Irish plates for printing and knowing of the generous assistance given by Somerset House the use of Fiji plates (a remote British Colony with a small population) for this paper trial is a valid, reasonable conclusion to draw on the indirect evidence available.

It may be asked how copies of this Fiji-SE monogram have become available to the public in recent years. This writer has been unable to confirm the following (so far) but understands that some 15 years ago, Messrs De La Rue sold off part of their reference archives, including a sheet of the Fiji-SE monogram. This belief is reinforced by the presence of a neat ruled line on most copies seen by the writer, indicating an official precancel on the stamps.

Specialist collectors in Ireland now view this "Fiji" stamp as part and parcel of Irish Philately. The 1984 edition of the "Stamps of Ireland" catalogue (MacDonnell Whyte Ltd) will list this item, not as a forerunner, but as a Paper Trial. This will be the first recognition accorded by a major catalogue to what this item really is, a paper trial for the Irish Free State.

In further Newsletters I hope to develop this subject and show that we may be able to distinguish between English made and Irish made SE papers by using this Fiji item as a model. A.H.K. Roberts might be wrong after all.

I have not been around the post offices for some time now but Brian Warren and other friends tell me that the 26p definitive is now out on sheets perforated on three sides. (G.3.) This is the third perforation type known on 26p sheets to date - not bad for a definitive first issued in 1982.



E.P.A. AUCTION

Bid early to insure getting those lots you want. Overseas members use Air Mail. Remember, all checks for all lots are to be made payable to the auction manager. Now's the time to send in your lots for the next auction.

A Chronological History of SC #68b, SG 74b

by John J. Blessington

INTRODUCTION

The 2d Map stamp of Ireland, perf. 15 x imperf (SC68b, SG74b) has become the highest catalog value stamp of Ireland...but it wasn't always so.

It is probable that the stamp was issued in 1934 and it is apparent that a few collectors acquired it for their collections in the 1930's and 1940's but it wasn't until the 1950's that knowledge of the existence of this stamp became generally available to Irish Philatelists. Michael Leonard of England was among the first, if not the first to "discover" this stamp. Bill Hayes of California is credited with "discovering" this stamp in the U.S.

In the late 1970's Bill Hayes disposed of his Irish collection. He offered his file of correspondence on the stamp to the author. An article has been on the "back burner" for some time for it was felt that the information contained in the files should be put "on the record". The article hasn't been written before because only half of the story was available. In the June 1982 issue of Irish Philately Editor O.M. Richards published a letter written by Michael Leonard to T.E. Fields in April 1957 documenting his experiences with this stamp, and the other half of the story was known. With his permission, the letter is printed here followed by a re-cap of the facts gleaned from the Hayes correspondence.

THE BRITISH STORY

(April 1957 letter from Michael Leonard to T.E. Field)

During the 1930's most Cigarette Manufacturers in Ireland had Free Gift schemes whereby they exchanged the coupons or cards for gifts. I noticed one Firm, Wills, were in the habit of using coil stamps on correspondence from their Free Gift department and, naturally, I kept a sharp look out for correspondence from this quarter. My acquisitions consisted mostly of the commoner 2d coil stamp, i.e. imperf by perf. To my surprise, I noticed that one of these envelopes bore a 2d stamp in the same perf arrangement as the earlier 1d issues, i.e. perf by imperf. I watched the New Issue reports for some weeks and, since the variety was not recorded, I decided to report my discovery to Messrs Gibbons. Their reply was that this item was already catalogued. A report to the Philatelic Magazine brought forth a similar reply. As I was a member of the JPS I decided to submit the variety to the Stamp Lover for their opinion. They were the first to recognize it and give it a paragraph in their New Issue news.

EXTRACT FROM THE "NEW ISSUE" COLUMNS OF THE STAMP LOVER-MARCH 1937

IRISH FREE STATE.

(Vol. XXVII, page 294.)

An uncatalogued and possibly unique variety of the current 2d. stamp is shown to us by Mr. Michael Leonard (J.P.S. 9433). It was presumably issued in coil form and is perf. 14½ x imperf. (without the single perf. at each top corner)—like the 1d. coil stamp of 1934 (S.G. No. 72b). The width of the stamp from imperf. edge to imperf. edge is a good 20 mm., the margin on each side being 1 mm. wide. Used on original cover, it is postmarked "BAILE ATHA CLIATH 8.30 P.M. 9 JULY. 1936"—the addressee being resident in Sligo.

1936. Coils. Perf. 14½ x imperf.

2d., grey-green.

Note.—The 2d. coil stamp of 1934 was imperf. x perf. 14.

I have never found a reference to this variety anywhere again and from various enquiries put forward the reply was the same - "Does such a thing really exist."

When World War II ended I happened to be in contact with Webber, the dealer, who handled Irish stamps and he plainly stated that such did not exist, although it was listed in Gibbons. Webber introduced me to a keen collector of Irish stamps and postmarks in Greenock - the late C.E. Edridge - and after we had exchanged a few letters it came about that he possessed a copy of SG 74b postmarked at NAAS. Edridge sent his copy to Webber to convince him that the variety really did exist. It appears from this that Webber valued the variety at £10 but Edridge was not a seller.

About this time (1950), I wrote to Miss I.M. Clifford of Dublin to see if she could throw any light on this elusive item and her reply was that she had about twelve mint copies and had just parted with her last one to a collector in Canada in an exchange transaction.

I had quite a bit of correspondence with Neil Stack of New York about this variety and he offered to pay all expenses if I would send my copy to New York for examination. This I did not feel inclined to do at this time because of the Import and Export restriction in force in the UK. As this was the only copy I had seen I dreaded its loss or confiscation, so I held on. I put my friend Edridge in touch with Stack and the outcome was that his copy went to New York and was used as second evidence to the copy reported as discovered by a member of EPA about 1952. Edridge's copy was returned to him with the Philatelic Foundation Certificate, Neil Stack paying all expenses.

About this time Stack reported in The Revealer that Scotts Catalogue accepted the existence of the variety and proposed listing it in the next issue of their catalogue. This they did in due course by means of a footnote. In 1953 I wrote to the Editor of Stamp Collecting saying that I would be interested if any readers of his paper could give me any information on copies of SG 74b they possessed. I had replies from four collectors in the UK who claimed that they had this variety and that was as far as that avenue led.

Early in 1956, I contacted one of four collectors claiming to have the variety and asked him if he was interested in disposing of his copy and he said "Yes". I secured this specimen which turned out to be "the Goods", in fine used condition, cancelled with a portion of the Dublin slogan cancellation "Grow More Wheat". Dr. Renouf had written to me enquiring about SG 74b and asked me to let him know what I could about it. It was his interest in the variety that prompted me to purchase this copy and I sent it along to him with the price ticket of £12. I arrived at this valuation on the strength of a report in The Revealer which claimed that a copy had changed hands in America for 45 dollars. It transpired that Dr. Renouf was more interested in trying to disprove the genuineness of such variety. As he didn't seem inclined to agree with my valuation, I had to ask him to return the variety after some weeks and offered it to S. Gibbons stating my price of £12 and their reply was that they did not require one for stock at the present time. I offered it to several people and they turned it down. I then wrote to Trevor Edwards of Harmers saying that I had a copy of SG 74b if they were interested in placing it in one of their Auctions and his reply was "Irish material is not very popular and it is difficult to express an opinion without seeing the stamp but if you send it along we will make a decision." By this time I felt disgusted with everybody in general and went along to a Liverpool Dealer and said "Here's a copy of SG 74b for £12 if you are interested". He accepted after a delay of 24 hours and paid me in exchange for a receipt stating that the transaction was subject to expertization. This dealer sent the copy to a customer in America who returned same with the remark that "They were not happy about it". It was supposed to have been submitted to the American Philatelic Foundation. The dealer told me afterwards that he got a Certificate which he showed to me and found a buyer. Putting two and two together I should think that the dealer must have doubled his purchase price.

Your own copy displayed in Liverpool in September 1956 was the next part of the story and at that time, and until your recent remarks on Sg 74b, I always had the impression that you had a copy in your collection for many years. How wrong I was! You would have been the first to have had this second copy of mine had I only known. However, it is too late now. Dr. Renouf is still unable to disprove this variety and I doubt if Irish officialdom will ever prove helpful since they are supposed to have no records of production or issue of coil stamps perf/imperf combinations.

Just before Christmas a casual call on a Liverpool dealer put me on to a man from Stockport who claimed that he had a copy of this variety for many years and he wished to sell it. Since this dealer was not interested in the stamps of this period he did not hesitate to let me view the variety and carry out the deal. This dealer, by the way, is not the one mentioned above to whom I sold my second copy.

While I was arranging this deal, which lasted some three weeks, an advertisement by Nissen in Stamp Collecting offering a used copy of SG 74b at £25 almost wrecked this transaction as I was not prepared to pay a figure as high as that if this seller quoted this advertisement to me as a basis for his price. However, luck seems to have been on my side and the advertisement was neither quoted nor was it mentioned. I offered this copy to Dr. Renouf for £15 but he was not a cash buyer. I had, as I thought, a brain wave and wrote to Shanahan's Auctions saying that I had a copy of SG 74b which I would like to auction as, to the best of my knowledge, a copy had never been sold in auction before. Their reply was - "We should be delighted to offer it at an early sale and we would estimate it at £5." (FIVE POUNDS!) Needless to say I did not reply.

I eventually sent it to Robson Lowe with a reserve of £15 on it and his reply was that my valuation was reasonable and he would offer it in an early sale in May at £18.

Note: It is of interest to report that when Dr. Renouf's collection was sold a strip of five, mint, was discovered therein. This was reported by Gerard Brady in Irish Stamp News, No. 9, Spring 1981 and No. 10 Fall 1981 in which he inventoried the known mint copies.

THE AMERICAN STORY

Late in 1951, Bill Hayes of California, then a member of the Eire Philatelic Association, wrote a letter to Perry Adams saying that he had come across a Gibbons #74b and asking why Gibbons did not price it. (Perry Adams was a dealer in Irish stamps, very active in the EPA and in writing in The Revealer). The Hayes query and the Adams reply that he had never seen a copy of the stamp and felt far from sure of its existence appeared in the Jan/Feb 1952 issue of The Revealer, Vol II, No III.

After reading the reply, Hayes sent his copy of 74b to Adams. On 21 February 1952 Adams wrote to Hayes, in part:-

"By every harsh test I know, you have....really have...a Gibbons 74b. That this one is very fine used may, under the circumstances make it even more valuable. From what you write I suppose you paid about 25 cents for it. Lucky guy."

"Whether Hatcher of Scott's would accept a USED copy as justification for listing, I do not quite know, as he has turned me down in the past, several times, when I proffered used material as critical proof."

Hayes offered to let Adams retain the stamp and show it to others but Perry was so afraid something might happen to this one-of-a-kind coil that he returned it with a letter of explanation.

On 3 March 1952 Adams forwarded to Hayes a copy of a letter he had received from James B. Hatcher, Editor of Scott's Catalogue, dated February 29, 1952 which stated:-

"Regarding Mr. Hayes' stamp which you believe to be the 2d coil, perf 15 x imperf, that Gibbons lists as No. 74b, we are reluctant to base a Scott catalogue listing on a single copy which has not been certified by the Philatelic Foundation Expert Committee, or some comparable body. If it were a pair, it would be more reassuring, too. Perhaps Mr. Hayes will seek a certificate for his stamp, and if so, we would be interested to learn whether it is given Expert Committee approval."

At this point, EPA member Mal O'Reilly, a very knowledgeable Irish collector, was approached with the story. He researched his extensive library of contemporary philatelic journals as well as handbooks such as Kohl's, etc. and could find no mention of such a stamp. He stated that he had grave doubts of its legitimacy, in fact, doubted that it should have been listed by Gibbons. He recommended that an intensive search be made to locate a second copy before approaching the Expert Committee. Adams explained all this in a letter of 16 April 1952. In this same letter he told Hayes that the stamp should be sent to O'Reilly for an opinion but again stated that he wouldn't want to be responsible for the stamp. It was in this letter that the first suggestion of a sale of the stamp took place.

"I know from what you have written that you might consider selling the stamp, and if this is so at present, I'd feel better if you sold to me and I was the one risking loss through handling."

Hayes didn't answer until late July. On 30 July 1962 Adams wrote saying nothing new had transpired and offering to go into partnership with Hayes in the ownership of the stamp. He, Adams, would advance all expenses of certification, such expenses to be deducted when the stamp was sold and the balance divided equally between them.

This arrangement was agreeable to Hayes for on 7 August 1952 Adams wrote Hayes acknowledging receipt of the 74b the previous day.

Adams forwarded the stamp to O'Reilly and on 21 August 1952 wrote Hayes enclosing a report from O'Reilly which is extracted:-

"It arrived and I've done all but commune with it and the end result of my examination is that if there is such a variety as a coil of the 2d perf 15 horiz....this is it"

.....

"The Roman date in the cancellation is of course the month of the year, the year date being absent. The cancelling office could be Nas na Riogh in Kildare.....unfortunately I am missing that cancel for comparison."

On 15 September Adams wrote that he had just received a letter from Neil Stack, Editor of The Revealer which he quoted:-

"A copy of Gibbons 74b has turned up in Scotland. I have just received a letter from Mr. Charles E. Edridge (or Eldridge) of Greencock, Scotland.

I have sent Edridge an air mail & requested him to send it to me for comparison and verification, stating EPA would reimburse for all postage and registration."

Mr Edridge had acquired a copy of The Revealer (Jan/Feb 1952) in which Hayes' original query had been published. Since it was the first copy he had heard of other than his own he wrote to the Editor to confirm its existence.

The Edridge copy arrived and went to O'Reilly along with the Hayes copy for study. O'Reilly was completely sold as shown by a quote from O'Reilly in an Adams letter of 15 October:-

"I am, to put in a capsule....convinced. The fact that they were both used in the month of March (III) from apparently the same office is conclusive."

There is a span of 14 months until the next Adams letter of 6 January 1954 in which he brought Hayes up to date on what had been happening. Both of the 74b copies had been submitted to the Philatelic Foundation for certification. After some deliberation a certificate had been issued for each copy. Scott had been approached with the two certified copies to attempt to get the variety listed in their catalogue. Scott refused, stating their policy was that at least a mint pair had to be in existence to be listed. Adams concluded that matters were now at a standoff and suggested they sell the stamp recommending a price of \$35.00.

After an exchange of letters, Hayes wrote on 24 April 1954 accepting the offer and on 29 April Adams replied enclosing his check for \$15.00 to pay for the Hayes half of the stamp. He also promised to pay Hayes half of anything over \$35.00 received from the sale. A quote from this letter is interesting because it shows that even the experts didn't understand what had been found:-

"The one fact I think we must both keep uppermost in mind, Bill is this. That every endless-roll coil Ireland had issued has been experimental; and this being recognized fact, rather than conjecture, that one more doubtful variety added can scarcely become a great rarity, even though certified "genuine."

From our vantage point of thirty years later we know just how wrong this statement was.

The final letter in the correspondence is dated 29 May 1954 and in it Adams reports that the 74b had been sold to EPA member Rudolph Mitchell for \$40.00, enclosing his check for \$2.50.

COMMENTARY

Hayes bought his copy some time in 1951 from a dealer in Northern California. The dealer had identified it as 74b. Where or when the dealer acquired it is not known although it is known that he bought mixtures and processed them for stock. (conversation with Hayes)

It is known (from his letter) that the Edridge copy came from a mixture, when, is not known. He had it long enough to have carried on a correspondence with a dealer (in England?) who specialized in Irish stamps. Eventually, he had it sent to the dealer who vouched for its genuineness and offered 5 pounds for it. So, both of these copies were "discovered" at least in 1951 and maybe sooner.

The thing that stands out most from the correspondence is the dedication and cooperation of all involved. Adams pursued the matter for over thirty months expending much time and money. I doubt if he made a "profit" from the sale. Hayes, when he gave me the correspondence, assured me he had nothing but praise for Adams in the handling of the matter. During those 30 months, the stamp had been declared genuine, the Philatelic Foundation issued it certificate #4231, but it had not been accepted for listing by the Scott catalog. That didn't come until some years later. I'm not aware when or for what reason it was eventually listed although the year can be determined without too much effort.

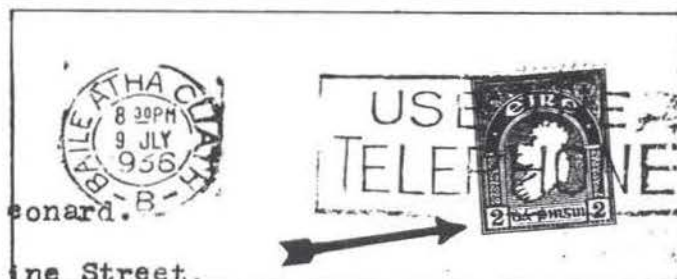
THE VALUE OF THE USED STAMP

As can be seen above, in the 1950's a used copy sold for \$40.00 in the U.S. while, in England a copy was placed in a Robson Lowe Auction with a reserve of £15. In 1965 a used copy was estimated at \$100.00 in a New York Auction while in 1965 a used copy was estimated at only £10 in a Plymouth, England auction. The Field sale took place in 1966. Following that sale estimates on used 68b's (78b) in auctions escalated, varying from £500 to £2000. It is currently cataloged in Stamps of Ireland at IR£1950.

THE USE OF THE STAMP

From a file of auction catalogs, Michael Leonard has compiled some interesting data on cancels and dates of use. Not all sales catalogs are in his file but there is a representative sample.

Five stamps are recorded with machine cancels.



The original find, on piece, USE THE TELEPHONE slogan, dated 9 July 1936 at Dublin and used by W.D. & H.O. Wells, Ltd.

The other four machine cancels are loose stamps with identifiable portions of the slogan GROW MORE WHEAT. Lot 840 in a Hibernian sale of 1983 is particularly noteworthy for it carries a previously unrecorded guide line in the lower right corner of the stamp in the same color as the stamp. There is, of course, no way to identify the post office of origin of these four GROW MORE WHEAT slogans but it was most likely, Dublin.

Sixteen copies with circular date stamps with either identifiable dates or town cancels were recorded, twelve copies posted in Naas (Nas na Riogh), two in Wexford (Loch Garman) and one each in Annamoe and Daingean. The earliest date recorded was 13 July, 1935 and the latest 19 July, 1936 with the majority being used in 1935. However, Gerard Brady writing in the Irish Stamp News, No.8, Summer 1981 states "...the writer is aware of a postmarked example from Wexford dated October 3, 1934."

QUANTITY PRINTED

In a letter to the editor of Stamp Collecting, dated February 3, 1967, A.H. Roberts made the statement that 100 rolls of 480 stamps each were delivered to the Post Office in 1935. Unfortunately, like so many philatelic writers of the day, he gave no reference as to the source of his data.

We know of three commercial firms who used our coil, probably in stamp affixing machines:

W.D. & H.O. Wells, Ltd., Dublin (Tobacco)
Carton Bros. Ltd., Dublin (Food) Revealer Whole No 145)
Boileau & Boyd, Ltd., Dublin (Chemists) (Brady article)
(on receipts)

From the quantity used at Naas it is safe to say our coil was available there in stamp vending machine. Gerard Brady reports in his article that stamps were purchased in Spring 1935 from a vending machine in Tipperary although no cancelled copies from there have come to light as yet. Beyond these two towns possibly we might be safe in saying that Wexford had them but no place else. The fact that a copy is found with the town cancel doesn't mean that the stamp was sold there as Fred Dixon has pointed out, Annamoe was too small to have a vending machine.

Were 100 rolls turned over to the Post Office? It is hard to say. Where did Roberts get his data? If it was available to him in 1967 where is it now? Why do no other writers, between 1935 and 1967, quote these figures? These are questions that need answering, or more evidence has to come to light before we can say for sure.

WILLIAM E. GREELEY

William E. Greeley died June 14th in Detroit, Michigan's Henry Ford Hospital of cancer. He is survived by his sister Mrs. Peggy Currie and seven nieces and nephews. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Ancient Order of Hibernians and The Elks as well as numerous camera, aviation and Irish cultural societies. He was actively involved with stamp collecting and handled Back-issues for the EPA for many years. He will be missed by all. R.S.V.P.

A REPORT FROM GERMANY

The "Research and Working Group, Ireland" (FAI) held their annual meeting on March 17/18, 1984 in Cologne, Germany. Some 30 members, of their total membership of 135, attended from all parts of Germany.

"THE FAI AWARD" was given for the first time. This award is given for service to Irish Philately. The first winner was Mr. Otto Jung of Dueren, Germany who has done so much to publicize Irish philately, as well as the FAI, in Germany. In addition he is the author of the first Ireland Specialized Catalogue in the German language. He has become known internationally as a writer of three special catalogues of Ireland which were edited by the FAI. Franz Holzmueller, Chairman of the FAI, cited Mr. Jung for his accomplishments while making the award.

The meeting took place during the Stamp Exhibition, COLONIA '84 held in Cologne at which FAI released two new catalogues: The "GERLSTAMPS" a specialized catalogue of these popular stamps and "ARCHITECTURE" a catalogue of the new definitive stamps. In addition a second edition of POSTAL STATIONERY is in preparation which will be in English and German with the prices in IR£, DM and US\$.

FAI received only good reports on recent activities. Their journal "DIE HARFE" (The Harp) has become very popular in Germany and abroad. It is issued four times a year. Many articles have been published by the leading German philatelic magazines. The number of members continues to grow...30% increase in the last year. The old officers and board were re-elected.

Information from: Frank Holzmueller, Auenstrasse 21a, 8000 Muenchen 5, West Germany.

RANDOM NOTES (continued)

BIRR 1d

Jamie Gough, in Dublin recently, asked me about the dates of the attractive Pd 1d of Parsontown (now Birr) which Feldman & Kane list as 1845-47. It was one of the many introduced before the Penny Black, my earliest is in January 1840.

P O S B

Correspondence from the Post Office Saving Bank, now run by An Post, has the handstruck DC on the envelope as under the former regime. However, there seems to be a new handstamp with very thick letters.

DC.

OFFICIAL SLOGANS

It is reasonable that some Government Departments now forced to use meter-stamping of their mail should use the facility to have propaganda slogans. In May the Dept. of the Environment (Pitney Bowes machine T 1920 V) bore the message PLAY SAFE IN WATER.

AUCTION NEWS

The MacDonnell Whyte sale on 26 May was more successful for buyers than sellers, many good lots being sold quite cheaply. The lot which interested me most was 363, a collection of exceptional Postal History items, valued at £2000, and sold for £1700. Another was the deluxe Three Candles Press album of 1946, with the valuable sets added. Valuation £2500, sold at £2000. One exciting lot which did exceed valuation was 571, large pieces of parcel wrappings, with the successive types of Delivery Fee 6d labels with and without postage dues. Valued at £90; fetched £160. A price which surprised most of us was £60 for the set of seven Penny Post covers, valued at £25. The highest relative realizations were £240 for pane B7, creased and missing selvage, valued at £100, and the 1882 County Courts 1d Specimen with the 1d overprint. It was valued at £40 and sold for £140.00

LEIGHLINBRIDGE PENNY POST

Recent sales have included several covers with poor to moderate impressions of the Leighlinbridge (Co. Carlow) Penny Post stamp. One such was in a bundle of mixed covers which I bought at the 26

Special Railway Letter Stamp



Ireland's state-owned national transport company - Coras Iompair Éireann (CIE) - is to issue its own special stamp to commemorate 150 years of Irish Railways.

Under an agreement made in 1891 with the Post Office, railway companies in Ireland and Britain are permitted to carry letters, either to be called for at the station of address or to be transferred to the Post Office at the station designated by the sender. Such letters are called 'railway letters'.

CIE, which took over the railways in the Irish Republic in the 1940's when they were nationalized, has issued railway stamps since 1945. These 'stamps' were in the form of rather drab ticket-like labels and so provided little attraction to stamp collectors. This commemorative stamp however, is sure to provoke much interest amongst philatelists.

The special stamp, which will be on sale at major railway stations throughout the Republic, will have the same format as a postage stamp. Designed by Peter Sluis, it features in poster style an artist's impression of the locomotive used on the Dublin & Kingstown Railway of 1834 side by side with the electric railcar of the Dublin area Rapid Transport system of 1984.

The multi-colored stamp - size 48.26mm x 35.5mm perforated 15 x 14 - is printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd., who produce the Irish Post Office's stamps. The denomination is £1 - for the standard fee for a railway letter of under 70 grams. The date of issue is June 25 1984 and a first day of issue cancellation will be used at Heuston Station, Dublin.

A brochure and order form is available from C.I.E.'s philatelic agents, MacDonnell Whyte Ltd., 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6, Ireland.

May auction, and it is quite exciting! The special feature is its date, December 1831. Provincial Penny Posts were not authorized until March 1832 and I have not hitherto seen any examples before that date. However, it is recorded that several places had started them earlier without Treasury sanction and Leighlinbridge started on 26 October 1831. The earliest seems to have been Ballyshannon which opened a PP to Bundoran on 27 August. What other covers exist confirming the anticipation of the Act (2 William 4, c.15)?

McCORMACK STAMPS

I hope that all the Societies, and their Federation, will lodge protests against the handling of this issue, especially the flagrant breach of regulations in applying the Boston cancellation in Dublin. If Americans wished to exploit Irish philatelists by cancelling stamps in Dublin they should have devised a distinctive marking - as the Irish Post Office has done for its forays into foreign countries.

The stamp design is bad. It was crazy to try a montage of two heads on different scales. The plume on the hat looks like an earmuff. USA heading is much clearer than the Irish, but omits the dates. And the lower inscription on the USA is grossly overcrowded. Neither indicates what McCormack did: the background should have shown a sheet of music or a concert hall instead of dull green.

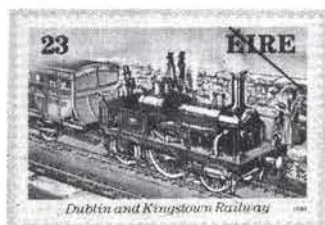
AEROGRAM

A new aerogram form appeared in Cork in April, but was not available in Dublin until June. It is ornamented by a map of Ireland without the border. It is disappointing that the description "aerlitir" is retained. The aerogram is not an air letter for which the minimum postage is 44p.

Recent Issues

IRISH RAILWAYS

The Post Office issued four stamps on 30 January 1984 with the theme of Irish Railways. This is the fifth issue in the "Ireland" series. There were four denominations and four designs. The 23p (500,000) honors "The Dublin and Kingstown Railway", the 26p (2,000,000) "The Great Southern Railways", the 29p (500,000) "The Great Northern Railway" (Ireland) and the 44p (500,000) "Coras Iompair Eireann" (C.I.E.).

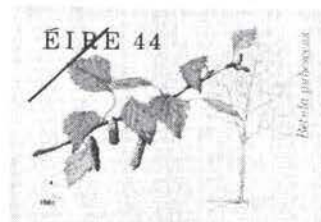
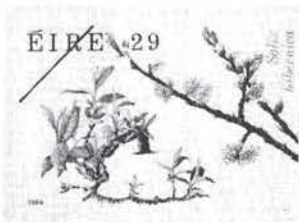
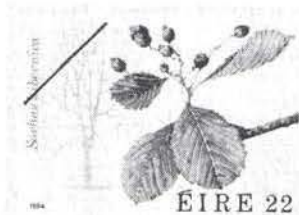


CORAS IOMPAIR EIREANN

Coras Iompair Eireann (C.I.E.) was established in the Republic of Ireland as a state-sponsored body in 1945 to take over the railways as well as the road freight and passenger service of the old railway companies which could no longer operate profitably. Under the C.I.E. the lines have been modernized. The electrification of the Dublin and Kingstown line, one of the first railway lines in the world, brings the wheel full circle in the history of the Irish Railways. The service will be run by 40 railcars built by Messrs. Link-Hoffman-Busch of Germany. The design is a well tried one of high reputation and should be trouble-free. They are basically 2 car and can work as 2, 4 or 6 car sets.

FLORA AND FAUNA 1984

The seventh set of stamps in Ireland series depicting the Fauna and Flora of Ireland was issued on 1 March 1984. The issue is devoted to trees associated with Ireland and there are four stamps with four different designs. The 22p (2,000,000) shows the Irish Whitebeam, the 26p (2,000,000) the Irish Yew, the 29p (500,000) the Irish Willow and the 44p (500,000) the Birch.



THE DUBLIN TO KINGSTOWN RAILWAY

The Dublin to Kingstown Railways (the first railway ever to build an engine for its own use in its own works) evolved with the growth and development of Dun Laoghaire Harbour - a new town started in 1817 by John Renne. The need to move goods from Dun Laoghaire to Dublin ensured the continuous development of the "Railway". The Dublin to Kingstown line started with 6 small locomotives, three from Sharp Brothers named "Hibernia", "Brittania", and "Manchester" and three from Forresters of Liverpool, named "Dublin", "Kingstown" and "Vauxhall". The D. & K.R. "Princess" was built in 1841, at Canal Street, Dublin. As the first locomotive built in Ireland this achievement was a milestone in Irish Railway History.

THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAYS

The Great Southern Railways was incorporated in 1844, connecting Dublin to Cork and, in 1901 the Waterford Limerick and Western Railway was taken over by Great Southern Western Railway. A powerful service structure was established at Inchicore and the works became famous in international railway circles; in fact many of its engineers became household names throughout the world.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (IRELAND)

The G.N.R.I. was formed by the amalgamation of various small companies in Northern Ireland in 1876 and produced a unified and improved service. The Great Northern locos and stock established a great reputation for efficiency and the coaches, built at Dundalk, were a trend-setter in their day. The locomotives, now a deep blue with brass nameplates, "Slievenamon", "Errigal", "Slieve Gullion" etc., and all Dundalk built, compared favourably with their equivalents anywhere in the world. In 1932 the "Compound" was developed. These heavier and larger express locomotives, named after great birds of prey, including "Kestrel", ensured that the Great Northern Railway remained on a par with such renowned railways as the British and French.

THE IRISH WHITEBEAM (sorbus hibernica)

The Irish Whitebeam is unique to Ireland. It grows in most of the counties in central Ireland, from Cork and Wicklow northwards into Armagh, Antrim and Sligo. It also favors rocky habitats in limestone country, but it is sometimes seen in hedgerows and woodlands. The leaves have a beautiful silver felt on the lower surface. In autumn the foliage turns yellow and gold. The flowers are creamy white, like those of the rowan, which is a relative of the whitebeam. In autumn clusters of scarlet speckled fruits mingle with the colouring leaves. The Irish whitebeam is an elegant tree, but, alas, it is not cultivated except in a few botanical gardens. In the summer, the breeze blows the oval leaves, they flutter with silver and green - a lovely sight.

THE IRISH YEW (taxus baccata 'fastigiata')

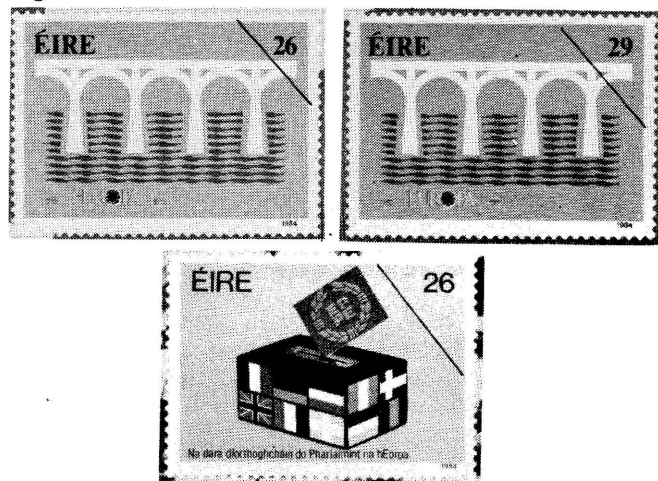
The Irish Yew is a garden variety of the yew which is known world-wide as the Irish yew because it originated on a remote hillside in the north of Ireland. It was discovered by Mr. George Willis about 1750 on Cuilcach Mountain in County Fermanagh. He dug up two original saplings and gave one to his landlord Lord Mountflorencia, who planted it in his demense at Florencecourt. That tree is still alive today in the Florencecourt Forest Park - it is the mother of all Irish yews. This variety differs from the common (or English) yew in having upright branches and an erect disciplined habit.

THE IRISH WILLOW (*salix hibernica*)

The Irish willow is the rarest uniquely Irish tree which grows in no other country. It is fully protected by law. Like the yew, it grows wild in remote, rocky places, but only in counties Sligo and Leitrim. In its natural haunts, it forms a dwarf shrub and grows flattened against the rocks. In gardens it can form a vigorous, bushy tree. In early spring this willow produces silky, white catkins - yellow anthers dangle from the catkins of the male. Later, the bright, apple-green leaves unfold.

THE DOWNY BIRCH (*betula pubescens*)

The downy birch is the common of Irish woods, glen and moorlands. They are particularly attractive in autumn when the small, pointed leaves turn yellow. The flowers of the birch are borne in catkins which develop in summer and bloom in the following spring.



On 10 May 1984 the Irish Post Office issued two different stamps.

A 26p (1,500,000) and 29p (500,000) 24th in its Europa series and depicts in abstract format, a bridge over water on the theme of European co-operation in the field of Posts and Telecommunications. Another 26p (1,000,000) celebrates and advertises the Second Direct Elections to the European parliament and features a ballot box decorated with the flags of the 10 participating states into which a vote enveloped by the emblem of the European Parliament is being cast.

EUROPA 1984

The objectives of The Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications are to encourage co-operation and the strengthening of relations between member administrations in the area of Posts and Telecommunications, thus improving services and techniques. The administrations try to share expertise in particular areas and extend the knowledge gained to each other. To celebrate their 25th anniversary, member countries agreed to revert to the policy of issuing a stamp with a common symbolic design. The design chosen by competition with each administration submitting two designs. The winning design depicts, in abstract form, a bridge over water indicating achievements of 25 years of European co-operation in the Postal/Telecommunications field.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament is run by a Bureau comprising one President and 12 Vice-Presidents. The college of Quaestors, five members having responsibility for Administrative matters concerning members, sit on the Bureau in an advisory capacity. In June, 1979, one hundred million Europeans went to the polls in the first direct elections to the European Parliament. In July 1979 the 410 newly elected members met for the first time. In March 1982 Parliament adopted proposals for a uniform system of election for the second direct European elections due in 1984. The Council, however, was not able to agree on a uniform procedure, particularly on a proportional representation, and the 1984 elections, like those in 1979 took place according to national provisions. The elections took place in Ireland on 14th June, 1984 and 15 members were elected.



On 6 June 1984 the Irish Post Office and the United States Post Office issued, jointly, stamps to commemorate the Centenary of the birth of John McCormack. The Irish stamp was 22p (1,500,000) and featured a portrait of McCormack.

JOHN COUNT McCORMACK

John McCormack was born in Athlone, in the Irish midlands, on 14 June, 1844, one of five children to survive out of a family of eleven born to a mill worker and his wife. Leaving school at the age of eighteen in 1902, he joined the Palestrina Choir of the Pro-Cathedral, in Dublin. From then until retirement his career included the opera as well as the concert stage and he appeared all over the world. He was one of the greatest tenors of this century, with a repertoire that extended from Handel and Mozart to Hugo Wolf, from Bellini and Donizette to Rachmaninoff, and included Irish folk songs and many popular ballads of the day.

He retired from the concert platform in 1938, but made a tour on behalf of the Red Cross during the Second World War and he continued to make recordings until 1942. He died at his residence "Glena" in Booterstown, Co. Dublin on 16 September 1945, age sixty-one, and was buried in Dean's Grange cemetery.

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Irish Booklet Panes, How Printed

A Final Report

by: John J. Blessington

When the interim report on the printing of the Irish booklet panes was offered in the Summer 1983 Revealer an answer to the question raised was hoped for but was never expected to appear so quickly! In Irish Stamp News No. 16, Oct-Dec 1983 Andrew Ballard published the results of his research into the files of The Royal Mint and Inland Revenue at the Public Records Office in London. In his article he reported that the size of the booklet plate was, in fact, 264 stamps as had been conjectured in The Revealer article. From subsequent correspondence with Mr. Ballard and with his kind permission the facts that he extracted from the records on booklet plates are given below.

"The information on Irish booklets is contained in file 'Mint 20/993', however, it is not extensive." It was proposed in May 1925 to print sheets of 264 stamps for use in booklets, the sheets arranged so that, "... instead of a narrow central stitching place there would be two spaces exactly stamp width." This made the plate too big for any chase at the mint. The Irish government was told that they would have to pay £47 to have the chase made and £25 for each of the plates. The project was then postponed, although fresh quotes were requested in 1927. In December 1930 the Irish government ordered plates for booklet panes:

- 1 plate ½d x 264 stamps
- 1 plate 1d x 264 stamps
- 1 plate 1d x 132 stamps + 132 blanks
- 1 plate 2d x 264 stamps

These plates, supplied in 1931, cost the Irish government £103.3s.3d. One other point is that the Mint lost £57.3s.0d by supplying at those prices. The Irish order included one plate at 132 x 1d + 132 blanks (in which, of course, the various adverts, "Learn Irish", etc were inserted) and when giving the original quotes the officials at the mint had not realized that such a plate would cost exactly the same to produce as one of 264 x 1d.

Proofs from all of these plates were sent to Dublin in the normal manner before the plates were hardened, so, hopefully, some still survive there.

On 10 October 1945 plates for the ½d Michael O'Clery booklet panes were ordered by the Irish government. Two plates, each of 264 stamps, were subsequently supplied."

So now we know that the Irish booklet pane sheet layout has been 264 stamps from the very first booklet through the Gerls. We can write this final report thanks to the research of Andrew Ballard and his permission to record his findings.

Literature Review

"Ireland, Catalog of Perfans", Richard L. Mewhinney, published by The Perfins Club, 34pp, 8½" x 11", three hole punched, unbound.

Richard Mewhinney, President of The Perfins Club, has been compiling this catalog of the perfins of Ireland for a few years and both he and the Perfins Society are to be congratulated on a job well done. The Perfins Society is working on catalogs for most countries of the world. It is hoped the rest use this format.

Following two pages of introduction are thirty catalog pages, consisting of fifteen pairs of facing pages with the illustrations on the right and descriptive catalog information on the left. The catalog is designed as an album, all illustrations being full size, so that a stamp may be mounted in the space. There are ample blank spaces for expansion.

Only perfins that Mr. Mewhinney has seen and photographed are cataloged - some 260 patterns. They cover all periods of use and many of them also appear in the catalog of British perfins. No attempt is made to show period of usage nor individual stamps on which the pattern appears.

Some Overprint Notes

by: Dr. M. Harrow

THOM 2d DIE I

I have a 2d die I Thom five line overprint (Scott 16b) in which "heireann" is shifted to the right. The long vertical stroke of the "r" of "heireann" is to the right of the "9" in the date below where as in every other stamp in any other five line Thom, it is over the "9" or to its left.

The "n" of "na" is between the "ir" below where normally it is over the "r". Also, in the normal, the "s" of "sealadac" is more or less over the "h" of "heireann". On this item it is about 1mm to the left.

The vertical stroke of the "s" in "Rialtas" is somewhat closer to the "c" of "sealadac" than normal.

Can this be verified by others? Does it appear only on 16b? Can anyone indicate its sheet position? I cannot see how this could not be a constant variety, at least for one setting.

2/6 COMPOSITE PAIR

I have at hand a neatly faked pair of Scott 77a made by attaching two stamps by the tips of their perforation teeth. It is a horizontal pair with the left stamp #77 and the right a wide date half of a #77a. The left stamp shows the overprint embossed on the back and has a double outline capital "S". The right stamp is a blurred imprint which is a combination of Meredith # V556 and V566, although it is difficult for me to be sure. The left stamp is a slightly darker impression than the right. The margins are not quite the same so that there is a slight difference in the position of the stamps in a vertical direction. At first glance it is seemingly a genuine #77a. High magnification first reveals the faked attachment and leads to discovery of the other differences. For the non-discriminating collector, this is a dangerous counterfeit.

DOLLARD SETTING 2?

Can others verify the consistency of an overprinting error on Dollard black, not listed by Meredith, in Row 1/4? I believe it to be in setting 2 but I am not sure. The "c" in "sealadac" has a break in its upper curve and has an arc instead of the usual aspirate dot over it. The arc's concave surface faces down. I have it in a corner block of ten in the ½d and also in a 1d single.

Other particulars of these two stamps are the "n" in "na" having a left leg shorter than the right and the vertical stroke of the "R" in "Rialtas" ending as a cut, slanting downward from left to right instead of horizontal. However, the break in "c" is larger in the 1d and the arc is more clearly defined in the ½d.

Beacon, N.Y. 12508
70 Sterling St.,

Editors Note:

The late Vince Linnell made a detailed study of the Dollard minor letter flaws on plates 1, 2 and 3. He recorded close to one thousand such flaws and his drawings of all of them were published in The Revealer, Volume 24, No's. 2, 3 and 4.

(continued)

The catalog is completed by two pages entitled, appropriately, as "Wish List." This is a listing of 50 perfins which appeared on lists of Irish perfins in the past but were not included in the body of the catalog because copies could not be found to be photographed. Looking at the list it is obvious that many of them must exist. It is hoped that copies will be made available to the editor so that they may be photographed and included in the Additions and Corrections (A & C) pages which will be issued periodically.

The quality of the illustrations is excellent and almost all patterns are complete. The offset printing is good and the 3 hole punch allows for inclusion in a binder of your choice. Highly recommended!

J.J.B.

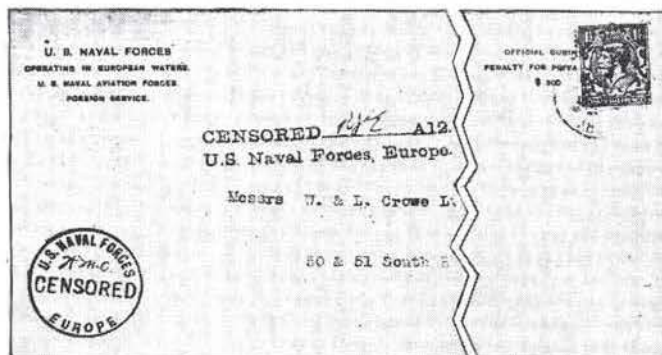
WWI Postal Censorship Who Knows More?

by: Hans G. Moxter

From a member of the German Study Group on Irish Philately (FAI) I received copies of two interesting covers and I would like to present them here to initiate some comments.



Cover No. 1. Posting town is not exactly traceable, but could be Strokestown, Co. Longford, dated May 2nd, 1916 and addressed to a company selling construction materials in Dublin. Cover sealed by a label, 100 x 38 mm and with the text "OPENED BY CENSOR/ LONGFORD No.1" with no printer's marks, as it was usually issued, but otherwise looking typically British. However, place name and No. 1 do not seem to fit into the usual scheme for British postal censors labels. Was this perhaps a "blank" label with only the first line printed and with LONGFORD No. 1 being added to it later? After all the Easter Rising had just been put down three weeks earlier and martial law and censorship must still have been effective. But, if a county seat like Longford had its own censorship, where are those other 31 county seats? Who has answers and explanations?



Cover No. 2. Contrary to the first cover, this item shows no sealing label, but two handstamps applied by censor(s). Posted at Londonberry, only the year is legible in the postmark as "18". The envelope is a penalty cover for service mail as used by U.S. offices. The sender is given as "U.S. NAVAL FORCES/OPERATING IN EUROPEAN WATERS/U.S. NAVAL AVIATION FORCES/ FOREIGN SERVICE." Being used in a foreign country the envelope was franked with a 1½d stamp. It went to the same company as the first cover. Both censorship stamps have the same violet colour and seem to have been applied at the same time, but they show differing initials. Who has an explanation?

Un-Mounted Mint

by: William Kane

"To be or not to be" is an often used quotation, but to the present day philatelist the question most often asked is, "Are the stamps mint or un-mounted mint". Today the gum on the stamp is of paramount importance. I often wonder why so many collectors spend so much money just to have their stamps with the gum in pristine condition. The majority of people only look at the face of the stamp, to them the gum is there for the reason of affixing the stamp to the envelope.

When I started to collect stamps, the only way to exhibit your collection was to hinge the stamp to the album page. I often reflect on the thousands of valuable mint stamps I have seen exhibited this way over the years. This raises the question, which were the sane people? I have been motivated to pen these lines when I recently read an advertisement in one of the British stamp journals which state "STAMP - RESTORATION." Of course, I was interested, and wrote for details, which I received in due course, which informed me that I could have my hinged mint stamps regummed for the sum of 75 pence sterling per stamp. This gentleman could also provide other services such as, repairs to tears and thins, reperforations, and the removal of stains, in other words, restore my stamps to the pristine condition that is required by present day philatelists, and all for a modest outlay.

Last year a friend of mine was in New York and one day came across a stamp dealer's shop. In the window, he saw a set of high value stamps which he required. He went into the shop and asked to inspect the stamps. On examination he found they were hinged and stated that he wanted them in un-mounted conditions. To his surprise, the dealer said that was no problem, if he was prepared to pay a few extra dollars, and wait a couple of days. The dealer told him he could remove the hinge marks and redistribute the gum. When my friend later called back for the stamps he could not believe the stamps were the same ones that he had examined a few days earlier. Here we have the case of a fairly honest dealer.

So much for the expertise of the restorer and this raises the question of the present day differential in price between hinged and never hinged stamps. Surely, there is now justification for reconsideration of this issue by dealers. Or, perhaps, the present situation is in the favor of the collector who can buy his mint hinged stamps at the lower figure and have them treated for the removal of the hinged marks and the original gum redistributed.

The fact is that there were restorers in Germany ten years ago and over the years they have become very expert in their business of removing hinge marks, regumming, and reperforating stamps, plus repairing thins and tears, also repairs to short perfs, etc. It now takes an experienced eye to detect the alterations.

In 1979 I remember reading in an Australian philatelic magazine how much they were concerned by the fact that a gentleman had set up business as a stamp restorer in Sydney.

Another thought, perhaps it will not be long before stamp auctioneers' descriptions in their auction catalogues will use such as, 'Re-gummed', 'Perfs restored', 'Restored thin on reverse', and such statements.

Here we have some food for thought, it might be interesting to have the views of readers on this topic.



NEW APPLICATION FORMS

The EPA has prepared a new brochure describing the Association which has a membership application form included. Help us recruit new members. The Secretary will send you some of these brochures on request.

The Irish Post Office In The 1820's

by: Tony Booth-Jones

Some time ago I bought, at an English postal auction, a formidable document of some 945 foolscap pages. It is entitled:

19th Report: Revenue Enquiry
Post Office Revenue: United Kingdom
Part 2 Ireland

I spent 18 months making a card index for without one it is almost unusable. The evidence published in the report (most of it verbatim) was taken in 1823 and 1826 and the report itself published in 1829. I am beginning to think that, if it is not the only copy in existence, it is the only copy that is in the hands of someone sufficiently interested to index it and write it up!

Under the general title shown above I will, from time to time, write on the various aspects of the post office of the day. Because there were many terms and job titles in use in those days which are unfamiliar to us in the present I have prepared a Glossary of those needing explanation as an aid in reading my articles.

GLOSSARY

Advances See Fishers

Alphabet A combination of the modern post boxes and delivery counter (for paid and unpaid letters).

Bagman Also Bag and Stamper Keeper. Examined, and if necessary, arranged for repair of all mailbags arriving in Dublin (1807-1827). Also had custody of handstamps and inking pads, with a personal contract to supply the latter at £15 p.a.

Bag-opener A senior function in the Dublin office. Opened sealed mail-bags coming from the country; verified that the Deputy Postmaster had charged himself with the correct amount for paid letters and money-letters on the accompanying dockets; distributed letters to taxing-clerks and sorters.

Bank Note A draft purchased from a banker, payable usually on demand and to a specified person. See also Post Bills.

Barrack-Board Also Barrack Office. Responsible for quartering troops in Ireland. Barrackmasters had franking privileges. The Treasury used the Post Office as a channel for paying barrackmasters, as it did for so many other purposes (pensions, lottery prizes, soldier's wives, etc.) which enormously complicated the P.O.'s accounting.

Bellman Senior General Post letter-carriers who had the privilege of ringing hand-bells in central Dublin to announce their evening collection of letters, for which they received Bell-money.

Blind Man See Clerk of the Blind Directions.

Bye-letters Those sent by bye-posts i.e. between two post towns on the same mail-coach route without passing through Dublin (and the Dublin accounting system). See also cross-posts

Caravan "An open four-wheeled carriage with a moveable cover" carrying passengers at low fares in competition with the mail and stage coaches.

Cash-letter A money-letter q.v.

Charge A bundle of unpaid letters to the value of £5 or other convenient round figure, so batched to simplify accounting within the P.O.

Charge Book An account book used in the Dublin Penny Post Office in which were recorded daily the value of unpaid letters handed to each Penny Post letter-carrier.

Charge Deliverer A function in the Dublin P.O. of recording the total value of "charges" of unpaid letters turned over to the alphabet and the letter-carriers' section, for accounting purposes.

Chelsea Agent A public (government) office in 1823/5, presumably administering Chelsea pensions.

Chinaman Supplier of earthenware (1824)

Clerk of the Blind Directions Also Blind Man. A function of the Dublin P.O., performed by an experienced sorter, of dealing with illegibly or incompletely addressed letters.

Clerks of the Roads Originally until about 1892, the four senior officers of the Inland (Sorting) office in charge of each of four roads or postal districts into which Ireland was divided. Later a descriptive title applied to those senior appointees of the Postmasters-General who enjoyed the official privilege of sending Irish newspapers (and until 1809 British newspapers) throughout the post free. The thinking behind this was that all newspaper sheets already bore a stamp duty taxed at source.

Cross-posts Mail routes for letters sent or re-directed between two post-towns on different mail-coach routes without passing through Dublin (and the Dublin accounting system). Often loosely referred to as bye-posts and bye-letters.

Currency Until 5th January, 1926, £200 Irish equalled £184.12 4½d British, usually approximated as £1 Irish = 18s 6d British. Thereafter the Irish currency was "assimilated". Presumably, salaries and contract prices were then converted. Reference was made in October, 1826, to "mail contracts at £7.16s.0d Irish per mile per annum." And the deputy-postmaster at Belfast had for 5 months from 5th January 1926, the additional chore of calculating his monthly loss due to change in currency, he being responsible for the packet service from Donaghadee.

Day Notes The Assistant Superintendent of the Dublin Mail Coach Office had a prerequisite "for privileges derived from sending day notes, etc. through Munster." I have not been able to discover what these were. They may have been reports of daily commodity prices, or related to Bills of Exchange, or even prisoners.

Delph Glazed earthenware, supplied by chinaman q.v.

Deputies Deputy-postmaster, i.e. those in charge of country post offices.

Districts/Divisions Dublin in 1823 was divided into 15 postal divisions or districts, and sub-divided again into a total of 40 "Walks". Each walk was served by from one to three letter carriers. This does not refer to the Penny Post, which operated differently. The whole Kingdom was also divided in "districts" to define the Surveyor's areas, and into 8 postal "division."

Dockets Internal debit-notes for postage, mainly between Dublin and the country Post Offices. Ireland generated about 1,000 dockets per day in 1823.

Double Letter Any letter with an enclosure, however minute, was charged double, treble etc. Early in 1823 the Dublin P.O. commenced an internal registration of all double letters by listing them individually on dockets to and from deputy-postmaster. There were about 700 a day at this time.

Drays Known as Scotch drays. Irish carts carrying ½ to 1 ton.

Expresses Special arrangements for an immediate delivery by messenger of urgent government letters. Also private letters paying a fee for express handling and delivery.

Express Papers British newspapers, lottery slips, etc., delivered in Dublin immediately after their arrival from England, and in the country earlier than the normal course of post. For this a quarterly subscription was charged by the P.O. clerks who ran the service for their own account, with the approval of the Postmasters-General. **Extras** Late fees charged by Deputy Postmasters - 3d in 1823 - on letters handed in after they had completed their daily accounting for Dublin.

Fire-lighters Two were on the establishment of the Dublin P.O. in 1823, to attend to 36 fires, pump water, etc.

Fishers A small group of experienced taxing-clerks whose job was to spot under-taxed letters (especially doubles) and re-charge them (make advances). One complained that "fishing letters over the candles and on the gas has a very noxious effect" on his health (1826)

General Account What we now call a statement, as distinct from an invoice.

Horse-posts These were the responsibility of country postmasters to whom an allowance of 5d per miles was paid. In the 1820's the Limerick-Cork ride and others in the South had to be accompanied by a dragoon. A deputation from the Belfast Chamber of Commerce in 1826 suggested the convenience of 'having the mails conveyed from Ballymoney to Dervock and Ballycastle in a mail-cart, in place of on the back of an old man wanting one arm, who does what is called riding-duty, and since the establishment, never crossed a horse."

Imprest Office Government department responsible for audit.

Incidents Overhead expenses of a general nature.

India Bills Instrument drawn or accepted by the British East India Company.

Jaunting-cars and Jingles The latter were covered two-wheel carts, used in the south of Ireland. Their drivers were by no means averse to the illegal carriage of letters and had to be prosecuted by the Post Office Solicitor.

Keepers Those in charge of Receiving Houses.

Labels The Post Office paid £464 in 1822/4 for "ivory labels" to one Corley an engraver, "supplies on coming to the new Post Office. Used to identify mail-bags for the different post towns. Corley also made the hand-stamps about this time.

Lamp Muffs Supplied to the Post Office by the same Mr. Jackson who supplied delph, q.v. Glass chimneys or shades? The building used gas, and the sorters and taxing-clerks, most of whose work was done in the early morning or evening, complained bitterly of the fumes.

Late Letter Fees In Dublin, up to 1822, these were 2s 6d on letters handed in after closure at 7:30 p.m. of the receivers q.v. In the case of the public offices (customs, stamps, etc.) the fee was 6½d after 6 p.m. For 1824/6 it was 6½d on letters received at the paid window between 7:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. and 6d for letters for England forwarded after the close of the British Mail receiver. All these fees were shared by the staff. Dublin Penny Post Office Late Fees were paid into a Messengers' Fund, as in London, and distributed at the discretion of the Secretary. Deputies seem to have charged what they thought the traffic would bear. In Belfast in 1826 it was 6d between 4:30 p.m. and 4:40 p.m., after which it was 10d or 1s.

Letter-bills The docket summaries which constituted the principal accounting documents in the Dublin P.O.

Lock-splitting The method adopted by surveyors of laying out the lines of roads by turning up sods with a spade. The first element of the word had nothing to do with canal-building; it is a much older word meaning furrow or slit and is connected with ploughing and mining. It was the dispute about the cost of lock-splitting certain new mail-coach roads in 1816 that led to the refusal of the Commissioners of Accounts to audit the Irish Post Office's books for so many years.

Mail-guards Armed guards who accompanied Mail Coaches at night.

Money-bills A letter-bill on which were listed money letters.

Money-letter One so marked by a post office official on request, recorded on a money-bill (q.v.) and subject thereafter to a form of internal registration for a few years after 1824.

Money-orders An official in the Dublin Mail Coach Office had a fee averaging £160 p.a. "arising from the privilege of issuing money-

orders through the Kingdom" (1823). Deputies used money-orders paid out by them, but there are no further references, probably because at this time, as in England, the system was operated privately.

Paid Window An adjunct of the Alphabet, at which letters could be prepaid.

Pay Book One of the numerous accounting registers kept in the Dublin P.O., in this case, that which debits against the letter-carriers and the Alphabet were made daily for unpaid letters to be delivered by them.

Penny Letters Those from soldiers and sailors.

Pigeon House An island in Dublin Bay later incorporated into the South Wall of the entrance to the port of Dublin. In Napoleonic times packets called there with urgent Government correspondence.

Portmanteaux Saddle-bags in which the cross-post letters were carried.

Post Bill A draft purchased from a bank, usually the Bank of Ireland payable at a future date and much used for remitting money through the post by merchants and Deputy Postmasters.

Postboys Those who rode the horse-posts q.v.

Post Paid Postage Pre-paid

Prize Draft Government drafts for lottery prizes encashable at post offices.

Propatria Paper In use in the Post Office and distinguished from "letter paper." Cheaper quality.

Reading Rooms There was said to be a considerable number of these in Ireland in the 1820's. I have not been able to discover how they were organized or financed. A group of senior p.o. men had the officially-sanctioned privilege of getting periodicals and newspapers from Holyhead to Dublin and on into the country free of postal charges and did regular trade with reading-rooms.

Rebates Cash refunds to the public for over-charged postage.

Receiver Also Receiving Box. A pillar-box. At the G.P.O. in Dublin there was a separate receiver for British Mail. The Irish receiver was closed between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. and late fees had to be paid.

Receiver-general The chief cashier of the Irish P.O., a post of the greatest responsibility and difficulty. As a small example, he had to realize about £200 worth of silver coins every day as the Bank of Ireland (who appear to have been a law unto themselves) refused to accept it for credit of the P.O. account.

Receiving-houses In 1822 there were 15 G.P.O. receiving-houses in Dublin which were cleared by messengers at 5 p.m. daily. The Dublin Penny P.O. had 83 receiving-houses whose keepers' remuneration was between £ and £11 per annum. They were first appointed in 1810. The oldest G.P.O. receiving-house keeper was Amy Douglas appointed in 1793.

Registration See Double Letters. There was also a more sophisticated system for what are described as "letters containing property".

Re-taxing See Fishers

Riding-post, Riging-work See Horse Posts

Road-bags Mailbags. Mentioned in connection with the annual purchase of chains for them.

Road Slip Internal debit note in the P.O.

Stamp-setter As distinct from the Stamp Keeper (see Bagman). Not an employee of the P.O. His salary, £50 per annum, was treated as a general overhead. Responsible for changing the date slugs?

States Government letters

Stations Receiving Houses

Surcharges Advances q.v.

Surveyors Travelling inspectors, with various duties.

Suspension Fund A semi-official fund under the control of the Secretary of the Irish P.O. fed by fines for non-attendance, and used for various more or less proper incidental expenses.

Takings-off Credit adjustment to dockets or other internal debit notes.

Taxing Clerks Men in the Dublin P.O. who assessed the postage on unpaid letters and marked them accordingly.

Tick Clerk A function in the Dublin P.O. of ticking off on a printed list, on the arrival of each mail-coach, the bags from all the Post Towns connected with that mail route.

Time-bills Daily reports of times of arrival and departure of mail coaches, hores-posts, packet ships, etc. In 1823 160 time-bills a day were received and processed in Dublin.

Treasurer From about 1808 known as Receiver-General q.v. But in 1823 his establishment was still referred to as the Treasurer's Office.

Turnpikes Grants to private persons in consideration of keeping roads, bridges and embankments in repair. The Irish Mail coaches had been paying tolls since 1789, except (from 1821) on the Cork-Skibbereen road. But two-wheel mail carts and horse-post were exempt.

Waybill a) A route schedule for mail coaches or horse-posts.

b) a Time-bill (q.v.)

c) A receipt for mail-bags given by the captain or a packet-ship.

The T. Off Dublin Handstamp

THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

From about 1808 the Treasurer of the Irish Post Office, i.e. the chief cashier, G.C. Swan, was known as the Receiver-General, although his section of the establishment (which consisted of 2 clerks) was referred to as the Treasurer's office for more than 20 years after that date. He had franking privileges. There is no doubt that his office never handled letters - it was completely outside that part of the system.

THE SYSTEM

It must be understood that in those pre-adhesive days, the Post Office treated every letter as an invoice, to be debited, in the case of a pre-paid or partly pre-paid letter, to the officer who took it from the sender (typically a country postmaster or the keeper of the Dublin Paid Window); and in the case of an unpaid letter, to the officer responsible for delivery to the addressee (typically a country postmaster, the Dublin Letter-carriers' Office or the Dublin Alphabet). The Alphabet was a poste restant used mainly by merchants and public officers to get early delivery. Over 100 of them had weekly or monthly accounts with the Alphabet keeper, Anthony Lyster, for which he charged a fee of from 3 to 10 guineas per annum. About one-third of all letters for Dublin were delivered via the Alphabet. The sorters knew who subscribed to the Alphabet.

Each of the interfaces between the sorting/taxing operation and the delivery officers was an accounting point where the postage value of the unpaid letters was debited from the batch docket in a day-book. It was up to the receiver to check the docket to see that he was not being overcharged.

The dockets were returned daily to the Accountant's department and there were frequent claims for credits for which a column was provided. These claims would be for various reasons including the value of undeliverable or re-addressed unpaid letters, and they were known as "takings off". My own view is that the T.OFF handstamps was used to identify these items, especially as it is usually accompanied by POSTAGE TO DUBLIN NOT PAID. A cover with this

handstamp will, I think, be re-addressed or show some reason why it went back into the sorting/taxing operation for credit. And if there are any of these covers merely addressed to Dublin it is almost certain the Alphabet who used the handstamp. If they all bear street addresses then it could be the Alphabet or the Letter-carriers' Office or possibly the Dublin Penny Post. The total of these takings-off for 1824 was £686.

I quote below part of the verbal evidence given by Anthony Lyster, the Superintendent of the Dublin Alphabet, to the Revenue Commissions of Inquiry on 13th October 1826:

Q. What is that process? (of re-directing letters in the evening)

A. The letters we receive from different persons who have received them from us, who return them, and we forward them on that evening, and we enter them and take credit for the postage. All the letters which have been delivered by us must go back through us.

Q. If they have not been opened?

A. Yes; for instance, suppose a letter directed to Mr. Sneyd's house, for any individual there, that it is sent back to us, stating that the party is gone to Elphin or Roscommon, or wherever it may be, that letter goes forward that night again.

Q. Then the postage is taxed on?

A. Yes, the full amount of postage. We stamp this letter with the takings off stamp, then the words POSTAGE TO DUBLIN NOT PAID, the letter then goes forward with original charge, and the additional charge to its destination.

Q. Who puts on the additional charge?

A. The inland office

Q. You put on the stamp, POSTAGE TO DUBLIN NOT PAID?

A. Yes

Q. You get credit for the amount of postage?

A. Yes, then we send in those letters to the inland-office, to go on that evening.

This seems to me fairly conclusive as to the significance of the handstamp.



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Yeats Country

by: J.T. Howley

A visit to Ireland is a rewarding experience. The scenery is lovely; the people are very friendly; the accommodation is cheap and good (avoid the big hotels); and the climate, most of the time, can be very pleasant.

For anyone with an Irish background, there are plenty of historical places to explore, and memories to re-awaken. Even without such background, one will almost certainly stumble into some fascinating circumstances.

During a recent visit, I was meandering about with no particular objectives, other than my usual philatelic aim of seeking out small post offices and amassing a representative selection of postmarks. Leitrim is the most sparsely populated of the 26 counties of Eire, yet it has over 60 post offices. This intrigued me. But I quickly found something of even greater interest. All this area - counties Leitrim and Sligo - is filled with associations with the poet Yeats: it is known as "Yeats Country".

William Butler Yeats, and his brother Jack Yeats, the artist, were born in Drumcliffe, Sligo. Yeats claims he grew up among the Quays of Sligo town. His "Lake Isle of Innisfree" is one of the many islands of Lough Gill, just a few miles from Sligo. He always loved this territory, and by his own wish is buried on the slopes of Ben Bulbin, Ireland's "Table Mountain". He was a friend of the Gore-Booth family and often visited them at Lissadel near Sligo. After Constance Markiewicz's death, he wrote the eulogy "In Memory of Eva Gore-Booth and Con Markiewicz".

The ancient areas of Leitrim were also familiar to him. "The Man Who Dreamed of Fairyland" begins: "He stood among a crowd at Dromohair." This is also the village where Father Gilligan of "The Ballad of Father Gilligan" resided. There are numerous references in Yeats' poems to nearby places and to peoples whom he knew there.

County Galway also has associations with Yeats. In his later years he and Lady Gregory were great friends; he often visited her at her Coole estate near Gort, and wrote fondly about it. And he himself bought an old stone tower nearby, "Thoor Ballylee", restored it and lived in it for his last years.

In his early years Yeats was not noticeably politically oriented. But the "Easter Rising" in 1916 and in particular, its aftermath, affected him deeply. In a resurgent patriotic mood he wrote some of his most resounding works: "Easter 1916" with its refrain "a terrible beauty", "Sixteen Dead Men", and several others.

On the 100th anniversary of his birth, in 1965, Eire issued two stamps commemorating Yeats; Scott Nos. 200-201.



From The Editor's Desk

My thanks to those who took the time to write concerning a larger Revealer. It was the consensus of opinion that all material, both association news and philatelic articles should be kept in one publication. Therefore, this issue was expanded to twenty pages. We will continue at twenty pages per issue just as long as there is material available to print. So send in your articles. I haven't received any articles describing members' collection for some time.

We are pleased to welcome a new author to The Revealer, Tony Booth-Jones. He has some fascinating information on the Irish Post Office in the 1820's. We look forward to more articles from him in future issues.

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Doing The Numbers

by: Tom Current

It has been a year since I last reported on the project undertaken through the EPA, and I've kept a lot of people waiting who deserved better. Unfortunately, in the battle for time priorities, this project kept losing out to phasing out my government career, running Pan Pacific Expo '83, or trying to get my little stamp business up and running (jogging, at least). I apologize to all concerned as I submit what I look upon as my final report, but not closing the subject to further work and scrutiny.

You will recall that a few of us compared notes and listed the numerals that none of us had in our collection, taking into consideration time period of use and conclusiveness of evidence (on cover, on piece with cds, on stamp, etc.). Several interim reports were rendered

as we added information volunteered by collectors, in each case reducing the number of numerals still missing.

For this final report I have gone back to the beginning of the process, rechecking data and reliability of data. Shown in the list are Post Offices in Ireland for which we do NOT have a numeral cancel on cover (or on piece with comparable information).

I remind you that we are using the Brummell research into the PO lists and we are using the following symbols to represent time periods: "a" - PO lists of 1844-57; "b" - PO lists of 1874; "c" - PO lists of 1887 & "d" - PO lists of 1892-1902 (British Post Office Numbers 1844-1906, George Brummell, 1971, Alcock). Two additional symbols are used in the list: § - no example known to this investigation; ° - evidence inadequate in our judgment.

No.	Period	Town (County)	Status
3	bcd	Bunratty (Clare)	°
4	a	Ardara (Don)	°
11	a	Arthurstown (Wex)	°
12	bcd	Ashbourne (Meath)	°
14	abcd	Ashford (Wick)	°
17	a*	Athleague (Ros)	°
22	a*	Aughrim (Gal)	°
31	bcd	Ballinamallard (Ferm)	°
33	a	Ballincollig (Cork)	°
36	cd	Ballybrophy (Queens)	°
37	a	Ballycastle (Ant)	°
39	c	Ballylongford (Kerry)	°
40	a	Ballybrittas (Queens)	°
42	cd	Balla (Mayo)	°
45	a*	Ballymahon (Long)	°
49	a*	Ballymore (Westm)	°
51	bcd	Ballymurry (Ros)	°
53	a*	Ballynamore (Leit)	°
54	abcd	Ballyragget (Kilk)	°
63	a*	Bellaghy (Derry)	°
63	bcd	Belleek (Ferm)	°
67	a*	Blackwatertown (Arm)	°
76	a	Bruff (Lim)	°
76	cd	Bangor Erris (Mayo)	°
77	d	Belmont (Kings)	°
78	a	Bunratty (Clare)	°
78	d	Beaufort (Kerry)	°
81	a	Borrisoleigh (Tip)	°
85	b	Athy (Kild)	°
85	cd	Burton Port (Don)	°
86	abcd*	Cabineteely (Dub)	°
89	d	Camp (Kerry)	°
92	d	Caragh (Kerry)	°
	vacant in periods "b" & "c"		°
94	abcd	Camolin (Wex)	°
96	a	Carlingford (Louth)	°
96	cd	Carbury (Kild)	°
100	cd	Carrickmore (Tyr)	°
109	d	Castlegregory (Kerry)	°
115	abcd	Castlederg (Tyr)	°
117	abcd	Castlefin (Don)	°
119		vacant	°
122	a	Castletown (Cork)	°
123	d	Castletown Geoghegan (Westm)	°
124	a cd	Castletownroche (Cork)	°
129	a	Church Hill (Don)	°
129	cd	Clifden (Gal)	°
131	bcd	Clanabogan (Tyr)	°
133	cd	Clara (Kings)	°
137	a	Clogher (Tyr)	°
137	bcd	Clonee (Meath)	°

No.	Period	Town (County)	Status
139	cd	Cleggan (Gal)	°
140	bcd	Clonelly (Ferm)	°
144	bcd	Clonsilla (Dub)	°
145	a	Cloyne (Cork)	°
146	cd	Clonbur (Gal)	°
151	d	Coachford (Cork)	°
152	bcd	Comber (Down) R?	°
158	cd	Courtmacsherry (Cork)	°
160	a*	Creelough (Don)	°
160	bcd	Craughwell (Gal)	°
161	1893	Crossgar (Down)	°
162	a*	Crossakiel (Meath)	°
164	a*	Crossmolina (Mayo)	°
167	cd	Cullybackey (Ant)	°
175	bcd	Donaghmore (Tyr)	°
180	bcd	Dromore (Tyr)	°
182	a	Dromore West (Sligo)	°
190	1906	Dunkineely (Don)	°
192	a*	Dromara (Down)	°
192	c	Dungloe (Don)	°
195	a	Dungiven (Derry)	°
195	1894	Glanmire (Cork)	°
201	bcd	Dunrymond (Mon)	°
221	a	Fethard (Wex)	°
224	a	Florence Court (Ferm)	°
	cd	Fintown (Don)	°
225	d	Fivemiletown (Tyr)	°
226	a*	Forkhill (Arm)	°
228	a cd	Foynes (Lim)	°
229	a*	Frankford (Kings)	°
234	bcd	Glasslough (Mon)	°
235	bc	Glasnevin (Dub)	°
235	1906	Glencolumbkille (Don)	°
238	cd	Glenties (Don)	°
240	a	Golden (Tip)	°
240	cd	Glenhull (Tyr)	°
241	abcd*	Golden Ball (Dub)	°
246	abcd*	Granard (Long)	°
247	a	Grey Abbey (Down)	°
253	bcd	Irvinestown (Ferm)	°
254	cd	Inniskeen (Mon)	°
255	bc	Island Bridge (Dub)	°
255	1906	Inver (Don)	°
256	d	Inch, Gorey (Wex)	°
258	d	Kells, Killarney (Kerry)	°
263	bcd	Kilbride (Wick)	°
266	a	Kildorrery (Cork)	°
267	1906	Kilcar (Don)	°
274	a	Killeagh (Cork)	°
274	1906	Kilfenora (Clare)	°
278	a	Killynaule (Tip)	°

No.	Period	Town (County)	Status	No.	Period	Town (County)	Status
281	a	Killough (Down)	§	456	a*	Templeogue (Dub)	°
286	a	Kilworth (Cork)	§	458	a*	Stillorgan (Dub)	°
287	abcd	Kilmacthomas (Wat)	§	459	bcd	Baldoye (Dub)	§
291	cd	Knockcloghrim (Derry)	§	461	bcd	Ballinhassig (Cork)	§
293	a	Kircubbin (Down)	§	465	bcd	Clarecastle (Clare)	§
294	bcd	Knockcroghery (Ros)	§	466	b	Clashmore (Wat)	§
296	a	Knocktopher (Kilk)	°	467	bcd	Clondalkin (Dub)	§
297	a*	Kinvara	§	469	cd	Drumree (Meath)	§
298	a*	Lanesborough (Long)	§	471		vacant	
301	a*	Leixlip (Kild)	§	473	bcd	Innishannon (Cork)	§
308	a	Littleton (Tip)	§	474		vacant	
308	cd	Lixnaw (Kerry)	§	476	bcd	Killeagh (Cork)	§
310	cd	Shankhill (Dub)	°	477		vacant	
311	a	Loughgall (Arm)	°	478		vacant	
313	d	Lispole (Kerry)	§	480		vacant	
314	bcd	Lucan (Dub)	§	481		vacant	
315	a*	Lucan (Dub)	§	484	bcd	Manorhamilton (Leit)	§
315	1906	Lahinch (Clare)	§	485		vacant	
317	bcd	Lusk (Dub)	§	488		vacant	
323	bcd	Magheramena (Ferm)	°	489		vacant	
325	a*	Maynooth (Kild)	°	492	bcd	Templeogue (Dub)	§
327	a	Millstreet (Cork)	§	493-98	assigned	to traveling POs	°
332	bcd	Moirra (Down)	§	496		Lilac (Bravo!) where?	°
339	a	Mount Nugent (Cavan)	§	499	cd	Welchtown (Don)	§
341	cd	Multyfarnham (Westm)	§	502	cd	Ballinamore (Leit)	§
344	a*	Moynalty (Meath)	§	503	cd	Doochary (Don)	§
344	abcd	Mulhuddart (Dub)	§	504		vacant	
350	a	New Birmingham (Tip)	§	505	cd	Upperlands (Derry)	§
356	a c	Newport (Tip)	§	508	cd	Timoleague (Cork)	§
359	bcd	Newtownforbes (Long)	°	511	cd	Macroom (Cork)	§
360	a*	Newtownforbes (Long)	°	513	cd	Glennane (Arm)	§
361	a	Newtownhamilton (Arm)	§	516	cd	Moycullen (Gal)	§
364	abcd	Newtown Stewart (Tyr)	§	518	cd	Oughterard (Gal)	§
372	a	Passage West (Cork)	§	522	cd	Rusmuck (Gal)	§
372	cd	Philipstown (Kings)	§	526	cd	Ballycroy (Mayo)	§
373	bcd	Pettigo (Don)	§	546		vacant	
374	abcd	Piltown (Kilk)	°	551	d	Glenbeigh (Kerry)	§
376	a	Portaferry (Down)	°	555	d	Annascual (Kerry)	§
378	cd	Patrickswell (Lim)	§	556	d	Blennerville (Kerry)	§
381	bcd	Portstewart (Derry)	§	558	d	Bawnboy (Cavan)	§
385	cd	Portglennone (Ant)	°	559	d	Ballyconnell (Cavan)	§
386	bcd	Rathcoole (Dub)	°	560	d	Bushmills (Ant)	§
389	a*	Rathfarnham (Dub)	§	561	1906	Ardara (Don)	§
395	cd	Roundstone (Gal)	§	562	1906	Bruckless (Don)	§
401	a*	Ruskey (Ros)	§	563	1906	Carrick (Don)	°
401	bcd	Rush (Dub)	§	Footnotes:			
402	abcd	Saintfield (Down)	§	42 Eugene Labiuk of Mississauga, Canada, reports Balla was recvg			
404	a*	Scrabby (Cavan)	§	house for Ballyglass & has cover mailed from Balla 1856 w/str line			
404	bcd	Scarva (Down)	§	BALLA in blue on bk to Ballyglass where it rec'd diamond			
405	bcd	Saggart (Dub)	§	numeral 42. Balla was assign num 42 about 1885 but we don't have			
406	bcd	Skerries (Dub)	§	example to date.			
409	a*	Slane (Meath)	§	295 Fred Dixon of Dublin has piece, Kylemore T.O., 1887			
411	c	Scarriff (Clare)	§	442 R M (Dick) Kitchingman, of Woking, Surrey, has piece with			
415	a	Strangford (Down)	§	442 & WICKLOW, 31 Ja95, not Valentia nor Toombridge			
417	c	Shanagolden (Lim)	§	563 He also has on piece numeral 563 at WATERVILLE, 21 au95,			
419	a*	Summerhill (Meath)	§	not Carrick			
421	a	Swords (Dub)	§	EDITOR'S NOTE: Brumell lists numbers through 563 as being			
421	cd	Stranocum (Ant)	§	assigned to Ireland. An extensive search has failed to find firm			
422	a	Taghmon (Wex)	§	evidence of the town used of 201 of these numbers! Do they exist?			
430	bcd	Tinode (Wick)	°	Perhaps so, but will they ever be reported?			
434	a	Trim (Meath)	°	For those attempting to assemble a complete collection it is,			
434	bcd	Trillick (Tyr)	°	perhaps, reassuring to know that at least 19 collections, some			
436	a	Tubbermore (Derry)	§	extensive, don't contain them.			
437	a c	Tulla (Clare)	§	Tom Current will send copies of his final report, to those who			
442	a	Valentia Island (Kerry)	§	furnish an SASE to him at P.O. Box 4586, Portland, OR 97208. The			
446	bcd	Woodlawn (Gal)	§	report is quite a bit longer than the list above since numbers are			
451	cd	Ward (Dub)	§	included which were found on loose stamps without confirmation of			
452	a*	Dunamanagh (Tyr)	§	town of origin.			
452	cd	Tubbermore (Derry)	§				



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IRISH FORCES IN THE U.N.

Stephen Cohen's article in the Winter issue of The Revealer was of great interest.

I enclose, for your attention, a photocopy of an envelope (somewhat grubby) from the Irish Contingent (IRCON) with the UN in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The G.B. stamps of the front was issued on the 17th January 1984 but as the cancel is very poor it does not show where the letter was posted. It may have been the British Forces UN Post Office. It proves that some Irish Army or Navy (as Navy personnel are attached to the Army in Lebanon, as well as manning the supply ships which go to maintain the Irish forces there) are still in Cyprus.

IRCON



UNFICYP

I also enclose a copy of a card which is sent to members of the armed forces, when they are required to vote. It is stapled to the return envelope which contains the voting paper(s). When the selections have been made, the voting paper is returned in this envelope. This card was used in connection with the recent elections to the E.E.C. Assembly, and the vote to change the Irish Constitution, to give voting rights to non-Irish citizens.

LONDON, ENGLAND

J.A. Kingleton

Editor's Note:

The card couldn't be reproduced but the IRCON insignia shown above hadn't been reported previously.

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