

The Revealer

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Whole No. 158

Spring 1985



John J. Blessington

July 8, 1921 — June 9, 1985

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THE REVEALER

Whole No. 158

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Secretary's Report

NEW MEMBERS

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

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- #1963 Gary W. Libby, 22 Monument Sq., Portland, ME 04101
- #1964 Morgan T. Williams, 918 Sommer Dr., San Antonio, TX 78218
- #1965 Anthony C. DeMarco, 815 Gilmores Island Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753
- #1966 R.P.M. Tebarts, P.O. Box 2177, 2301 CD, Leiden, The Netherlands
- #1967 Richard Clever, Box 1607, San Jose, CA 95109
- #1968 Dennis Brady, 509 Licia Lane, Webster, NY 14580
- #1969 Mary T. Prado, 37 McKinley Ave., Farmingdale, NY 11735
- #1970 Ronny Vogt, Berninstr 76, CH-8057, Zurich, Switzerland
- #1971 Jay Tanney, Box 34, Demerest, NJ 07627
- #1972 John M. Bigley, 4157 Portland St., Burnaby, B.C. Canada 45J 2N3
- #1973 Milton C. Thompson, 2310 Branham Lane, San Jose, CA 95124
- #1974 Donna J. O'Keefe, 280 W. Ross St., Troy, OH 45373
- #1975 Robert E. Turcot, Jr., 4 Grant St., Burlington, VT 05401
- #1976 Paul D. Sullivan, 6 Acorn St., Boston, MA 02108
- #1977 Robert J. Joyce, 14302 Oak Shadows, San Antonio, TX 78232
- #1978 W.J. Ambrose, Box 26513, Austin, TX 78755
- #1979 Mrs. Emily K. Zufelt, 2416 Graydon Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803
- #1980 Paul Feniello, 645 Bittersweet Tr., Dunwoody, GA 30338
- #1981 John J. Fahey, 3124 Essex Dr., St. Charles, MO 63301
- #1982 Michael Hancher, 2023 Barfoot St., Falls Church, VA 22043
- #1983 Charles W. Herren, 54 Hillshire Dr., Lake Oswego, OR 97034
- #1984 Martin Peterson, C.M., Vincentian Res., St. Johns University, Jamaica, NY 11439
- #1985 Howard J. Wunderlich, 1430 Campanelli Dr. W., Plantation, FL 33322
- #1986 Richard E. Bedford, Box 776, Lewiston, ME 04240
- #1987 Vincent L. Sardelli, 70 Hemlock Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02910
- #1988 Evelyn N. Gleason, 425 4th St., Orland, CA 95963
- #1989 Daniel F. Hayes, 8 Jackson Lane, Millbury, MA 01527
- #1990 Harold Hayward, 35 Adriane Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

- #1991 Carolyn Condon, #1109, 4604 - 106A St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6H 5J4
- #1992 Herbert I. Reibach, 6327 Echo Canyon, San Antonio, TX 78249
- #1993 Daniel F. Sullivan, 424 Funston Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118
- #1994 W. William Woytowich, 4312 Riverside Dr., Juneau, AK 99801
- #1995 Dennis Jaffe, 3502 Geary St., San Francisco, CA 94118
- #1996 Otto Hellwig, Kesselhutweg 4A, 6100 Dormstadt, West Germany
- #1997 Patrick J. Dillon, 308 Seabury St., Fall River, MA 02720
- #1998 Not assigned
- #1999 Vincent J. Prendergast, Jr., 2208 Celia Dr., Cedar Park, TX 78613
- #2000 Ned M. Wells, Jr., 1000 Alamo National Bldg., San Antonio, TX 78205
- #2001 G. Lewis Baldwin, 14442 Howland Way, Tustin, CA 92680
- #2002 James P. McAllister, 35 Goff Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02860
- #2003 Carol Cole Quigley, 5701 SW 72 Ave., Miami, FL 33143
- #2004 Patrick O'Tierney, 9802 Parkfield Dr., Austin, TX 78758
- #2005 William R. Gieseke, Box 530, Silsbee, TX 77656
- #2006 William G. Boiko, 8552 N-Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753
- #2007 William P. McNally, Jr., 5034 Casa Oro, San Antonio, TX 78233
- #2008 Lawrence T. Connolly, Rt. 9, Box 315C, Mountain Home, AR 72653
- #2009 Dr. Michael J. O'Neill, Box 66, Birch Dr., Pine Plains, NY 12567
- #2010 Stanley Polchinski, 816 E. 223rd St., Bronx, NY 10466
- #2011 Robert M. Hammell, 293 W. 14th St., Salem, OH 44460
- #2012 Dennis J. Mullins, 221 W. Oak St., Ramsey, NJ 07446

REINSTATED

- #1113 Edward J. Irvine, 890 Arnold Way, San Jose, CA 95128

RESIGNATIONS

- #512 Mrs. Florence M. Johns, #1869 Dennen Reiley, #1564 Johann A. Norstedt, #1396 Rosemary H. Stewart, #1711 Daniel G. Sherman, #1854 Don Kabel, #1613 Edward V. Higgins, #1617 Klaus-Dieter Weinacht

DECEASED

- #1033 William McLaughlin, #652 Bennet J. Riley, M.D.

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| #1301 Archer, Thomas J. | #1532 Merchant, G.B. |
| #1831 Babcock, Donald W. | #1792 Mills, M. |
| #1253 Bailey, F.W.J. | #1659 Moriarty, F. |
| #83 Bannigan, T.F. | #758 Nelson, W.J. |
| #1859 Bento, P. | #1703 O'Keefe, J.J. |
| #1493 Branick, R.I. | #1890 O'Neil, P.D. |
| #1629 Busack, J. | #1860 Poetzel, C.E. |
| #1573 Carney, P.J. | #1821 Rome, J.O. |
| #1836 Cassidy, W.J. | #1595 Ruddle, F.J. |
| #614 Conley, F.F. | #1796 Ryan, F.T. |
| #1673 Coscia, J.A. | #1325 Ryan, J.W. |
| #1526 Clybourn, R.B. | #793 Schmitz, A.J. |
| #520 Dempsey, J.E. | #1031 Scribner, D.A. |
| #1450 Dixon, T.J. | #1672 Shanahan, P.E. |
| #1892 Feroli, J. | #1143 Slater, R.L. |
| #1853 Flynn, D.T. | #496 Smith, M. |
| #1697 Foligno, J.A. | #910 Spalding, K.G. |
| #1538 Foures, R.G. | #1698 Stroud, W.M. |
| #1524 Frear, H.J. | #1618 Stuart, J.H. |
| #829 Friedman, K.T. | #1576 Tobin, M.G. |
| #1610 Gerety, J.H. | #1896 Webb, G.T. |
| #1599 Grayham, G.G. | #470 Wilson, J.C. |
| #1879 Harrington, T. | #809 Wright, G.E. |
| #1809 Hartling, F.T. | #1308 Allan, G.F. |
| #1534 Hauptly, Dennis | #1815 Dower, P. |
| #1738 Haynes, W.A. | #692 Frieling, N. |
| #1500 Hennessey, T. | #1242 Hamill, J. |
| #1752 Imeson, P.J. | #1632 Linington, F. |
| #1752 Iverson, J. | #1559 Murphy, P. |
| #1528 Kubik, F.R. | #1867 O'Leary, J.A. |
| #1341 Lacasse, R.P. | #514 Quigley, J.A. |
| #1648 Le Roy, S.C. | #1886 Quail, D. |
| #1448 Levison, M.E. | #1489 Rehnberg, J. |
| #1814 Levinson, R.A. | #754 Teuke, E. |
| #1662 Linkletter, W. | #786 Whyte, I. |
| #1230 McNulty, T.P. | #1687 Williams, G. |
| #1765 Mack, W.E. | #619 Phelan, M. |

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

- #1958 Michael K. Moore, 833 S. Dimond St., Palmer, AK 99645 (As of May 31st)

Mail for John R. Anderson, #1442 at 125 N. 7th St., Minneapolis, MN 55403, has been returned - "no forwarding address"

Mail for Donald A. Lux, USS Patrick Henry, FPO, Seattle, WA 98299, has been returned - "Decommissioned"

Mail for Joanne E. Swarsbrick, 250 Haledon Ave., Prospect Park, NJ 07508, has been returned - "no forwarding address"

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Membership as of Nov. 1, 1984

791

New Members	71
Reinstatements	1
Deceased	3
Resignations	8
Dropped	78

Membership as of July 1, 1985

774

John J. Blessington

John J. Blessington, aged 63, passed away on June 9th in North Hollywood, California after a brief illness. Born on July 8, 1921 in Massachusetts, he had his initial schooling in the Boston area. He moved to southern California in the early 1940s, from where he joined the U.S. Army, serving in Germany and Austria during World War II. His military decorations included the Bronze Star.

His postwar activities included experience in drafting, graphics and printing and publication. He was employed for many years at Litton Industries as a design supervisor. After his retirement from Litton he joined the Halder Company where he worked until two days before his death.

John was widely known in philately for his work in the fields of postal stationery and Irish philately. The latter was perhaps his first love, along with the folk tales and songs, people, and history of the Emerald Isle. He had several outstanding exhibits of Irish stamps, tax stamps, and postal stationery and he often gave talks on these subjects. For the past many years John served as our journal's Editor. Under his stewardship *The Revealer* has won many awards in literature competitions. In 1983 John was given the Thomas E. Field award. At the time of his death John was the Vice President for North America of the EPA. He had also been selected by the Nominating Committee to serve as our next President. Sadly, now he will not be able to serve the association in this role.

John was also very active with the United Postal Stationery Society, editing the "Catalog of the Postal Stationery of the Philippines" and was in the process of completing work on the "Catalog of the Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone".

Other of John's collecting interests included the stamps and postal stationery of the Vatican, revenue stamps of Austria and Hungary, and Christmas aerogrammes. He belonged to a number of philatelic societies in addition to the EPA and UPSS. They included the Irish Philatelic Circle, the American Philatelic Society, APS Writers Unit No. 30, American Philatelic Research Library, Canal Zone Study Group, the Collector's Club of Southern California and the Philatelic Society of Los Angeles.

John was also a long-time active member of the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California and its SESCAL committee, serving in many ways, including seeing to the preparation and printing of its annual program. He was the finance chairman for SESCAL

1985. This year's exhibition will be dedicated to his memory.

John Blessington is survived by his sisters, Mrs. Mary Fera and Mrs. Alicia White, a cousin, Joseph D. Moynihan, several nieces and nephews and many many friends throughout the United States and overseas who will miss his good friendship.

Ave atque vale.

From the Editor's Desk

As all of you can tell from the content of this issue of *The Revealer* — John Blessington was a gifted author as well as an outstanding editor who served our association long and well. He will be sorely missed.

I would like to take this opportunity, on John's behalf, to thank each and every one of you who has contributed your time and effort over the years in providing the articles that make *The Revealer* the magazine that it is. Without our authors, it wouldn't exist.

John and I had several discussions during WESTPEX; he wished to serve the EPA as President and yet knew he could not also carry on as Editor. I was willing to take a crack at editing *The Revealer*. Thus we agreed that the changeover should come at the end of the Summer issue. I was looking forward to John's assistance in my new venture. Sadly, now, this is not to be.

We have chosen to fill this issue with John's work as an author for two reasons. Firstly, many of the articles are of general interest, especially to our newer members who do not have copies of the back issues. Secondly, we are attempting to "catch up" with our publishing schedule which has fallen way behind, partly due to John's illness.

A PLEA: I have no material from John to start to fill the next issue. All of his papers are inaccessible for an unknown period. Any of you who have sent articles to John recently — please re-send them to me. Also new articles are obviously needed.

FORMAT: I will be producing the final "camera ready" copy for Bob Corless on my personal computer, and for a few issues I will be experimenting with format and printer styles. Expect your *Revealer* to look a bit different from time to time. Comments will be welcomed.

Pat Walker

RECRUITING HONOR ROLL

Listing of known members who have proposed new members.

James, Farrell, Bill Doe, James Van Fossen, James P. Lavelle, Preston A. Pope, William McCan, E.T. DiVecchio, Bill Zellers, Carl D. Arnott, Bob Jones.

President's Notes

This spring the EPA celebrated its 35th Anniversary with meetings at two major stamp shows: RIPEX in Providence, Rhode Island and WESTPEX in San Francisco, California. I was fortunate enough to attend both (and also enjoyed the week in between by playing tourist in SF).

RIPEX, also the American Philatelic Society annual Spring Meeting, was a special show celebrating the 100th year of the Rhode Island Philatelic Society. The EPA presence and programs were arranged under the leadership of Peter Bugg of Franklin, MA. Peter is president of the McCormich Chapter of the EPA (centered in Boston). A special cacheted envelope was available using McCormich stamps and the RIPEX show cancel. Through cooperating with the WESTPEX planning committee, RIPEX also had on sale the commemorative 35th anniversary booklets (see below).

Due to the unusual (for RIPEX) size of the show the exhibits, society tables and meeting rooms were on the mezzanine level and the bourse was on the 17th floor of the hotel. This was unfortunate because normally the EPA table is a point of congregation for the members in attendance. Because of the separation, this did not happen. However, the EPA table was in a prime location and did get a lot of traffic.

EPA programs at RIPEX were held on all three days and were very well attended. Bill Hickey received a momento as Member #1. I especially enjoyed seeing Joe Foley's slides of his Railroad stamps. Due to an early sellout of exhibit frames, there was only one Irish exhibit at RIPEX. Peter Bugg received a Silver medal for his display of "55 years of Irish Coils".

For those not familiar with the WESTPEX format — this show annually has one society featured. This year it was the privilege of the EPA to be that society. There were over 100 frames of competitive exhibits of Irish material and my own postal history exhibit made up the Court of Honor. (Since my husband was a judge, I could not participate in the open competition.) EPA member Jim Lawless served as an apprentice judge on the WESTPEX panel. The Irish exhibits were an excellent cross section of the various fields of collecting. There were postal history, revenues, GB used in Ireland, overprints, stationery, air mails and railroads. I was especially pleased that some of our overseas members had sent exhibits so far from home! One I very much enjoyed reading was Mike Priestly's definitive study of the overprint coils.

A vote of appreciation belongs to Garvin Lohman and Bill Zellers who did a lot in the exhibits area.

The three top awards were given to: Joe Foley's exhibit of high value overprints, Ed Sullivan's postal history, and Jim Maher's overprints. Joe won the EPA Medal and a Waterford crystal bowl provided by the NORCAL Chapter as Grand Award. Ed also won the "Reserve Grand" Gil Roberts Memorial Award. All three won WESTPEX Gold medals. The complete list of WESTPEX winners appears elsewhere in this issue.

As the EPA was the featured society, the WESTPEX show cachet reflected an EPA design. Also the menu for the banquet (provided courtesy of Aer Lingus) used the EPA design. These were patterned after the EPA Medal whose design was done by member Padraig O'Mathuna. I was especially pleased to see the minor touches — the 3 day admission tickets and the banquet tickets were green. So was the ribbon I was asked to cut to open the show!!

Of special note was the souvenir booklet that the EPA had prepared for sale at WESTPEX and RIPEX. It features a cover with the EPA design and notes the 35th Anniversary as well as the names of the two shows. It contains a selection of gutter pairs of the current Eire definitives. Special thanks to John Blessington for the design of the booklet and to Bill and Peg Zellers for the labor in assembling them!! They were very well received at both shows. Though this type of booklet is normal at STAMPA and COLLECTOREX it is something of a novelty this side of the Atlantic. If you would like to purchase one of the booklets, they are available through EPA Special Offers for \$2 each.

EPA meetings were held all three days at WESTPEX. I gave an update on the "state of the association" and also gave my postal history slide show. John Blessington gave a slide show that provided an excellent overview of all the aspects of Irish collecting. This was specially interesting to the new or non-Irish collector. An auction was also held. Although not planned as such, the auction consisted almost entirely of lots donated to benefit the NORCAL treasury. Since the NORCAL chapter had gone to considerable time and expense to prepare so well for WESTPEX, I thought this was most fitting. Besides the meetings during the show hours, the EPA held a banquet on Friday night of the show. Held at the Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco, it was well attended by members and by guests. A good time was had by all.



Pat Walker cutting ribbon at WESTPEX. Blessington, Pope, Lohman, in background. Sullivan on right.

Many members from the west coast of the US attended one or more days of WESTPEX, but I was impressed the Gene Labiuk from Toronto, Canada and Ed Sullivan from Chicago, Illinois had made the effort to attend.

Many, many people contributed to the success of the EPA's presence at these two stamp shows. I don't think I could do justice to them all. However, I would like to name two of them who deserve special recognition. These are Peter Bugg for RIPEX and Preston Pope for WESTPEX. Without them this celebration of our 35th Anniversary would not have been the success it was. Let me thank you both on behalf of the Association.

Pat Walker



SESCAL 1969: l to r: John Blessington, Vince Linnell, Robert Gray, John Sherman, Gil Roberts.



WESTPEX EPA booth, L to R: Standing: Pat Walker, Bill Zellers, Ed Sullivan, Peg Zellers. Sitting: John Blessington, Garvin Lohman, Gene Labiuk, Preston Pope.

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Doing the Numbers

Milltown Revisited by Fred E. Dixon

William Kane's note (Revealer No. 157, pp. 50,51) provides a classic example of the confusion that results when a mistake is copied ad nauseum by successive experts, each believing their source to be reliable. My presentation of the facts is:

- 1) Of the many Milltowns, only one was ever a post town, that in Co. Kerry. Although downgraded in 1831 it is the most likely to have been allotted a number.
- 2) In the January 1857 list of numbers (and probably other editions), 328 is assigned to Milltown (one l) with no indication of county.
- 3) Daniels rashly assumed it to be Co. Dublin, and the others sheepishly followed.
- 4) Mr. Kane's covers prove the 1858-59 use in Co. Kerry, and I have not seen any covers of that period supporting 328 for Milltown, Co. Dublin.
- 5) On the other hand I have an envelope (illustrated) and a piece of 1860, posted in Milltown, Co. Dublin, but cancelled in Dublin. The more interesting is the letter, posted 31 March 1860. The Milltown namestamp is the little used undated circular type with the name within the circle. What is exceptional is that the postmaster has added in red ink "Posted in A.M." and the date.
- 6) At some time 328 was withdrawn from Milltown, Co. Kerry and, before 1872, reissued to Milltown, Co. Dublin.

I do not think that the variant spellings are of consequence.

Field Award 1984

The EPA's Thomas E. Field Award for 1984 has been given to Norah K. Wright. Norah Wright is a pioneer among Irish collectors. She did the basic research on the Perfin of Ireland and the Censor Label SP1, to name just two of her many interests. She has published her findings in *The Revealer* and *The Journal of Irish Philately*. She is one of the original signers of "The Roll of Distinguished Irish Philatelists."

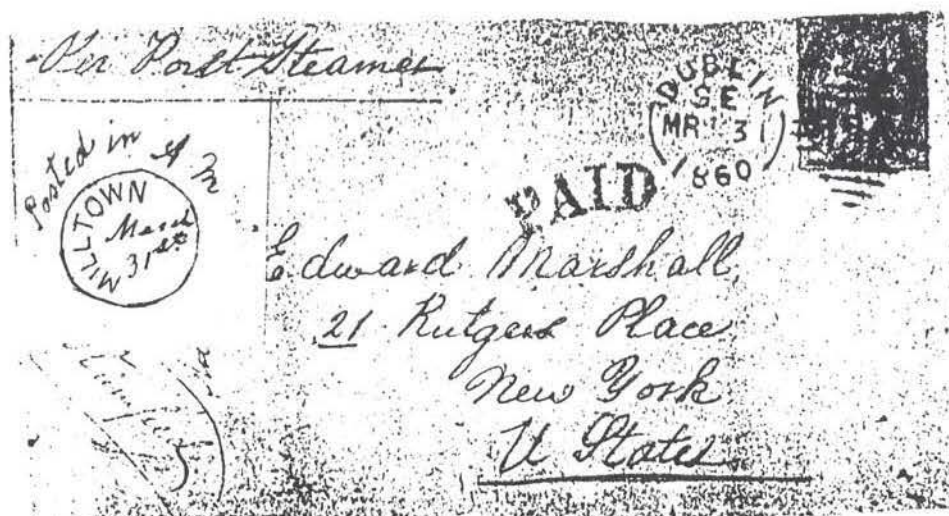
The Field Award was announced at STAMPA last fall and the plaque presented to Norah Wright in December at a meeting of the Irish Philatelic Society. The selection committee consisted of John Blessington, chairman, Neil Stack and Eddie Fitzgerald.

Please send suggestions for the 1985 Field Award to Michael Priestly, Joseph Foley, or Norah Wright.

Vince Linnell Award 1984

The Vince Linnell Memorial Award is given for the "best article" in a single volume of *The Revealer* as determined by membership vote. The winning article for Volume 33 was "Provincial PAID Handstamps of Ireland" by Patricia Stilwell Walker. (Thank you, all who voted for it, Ed.) The award, a very handsome pen desk set with the EPA medal attached, was presented by Bill Zellers at the EPA banquet at WESTPEX.

Votes for the best article of Volume 34 (Whole Nos. 155, 156, 157, 158) which ends with this Spring issue should be sent to the Editor immediately.



HISTORY OF PERFINS

By John J. Blessington

Perfins have been around for a long time...from 1868 in fact...but very little has been written about them in *The Revealer*. For many years collectors considered stamps with perforations in them as damaged stamps. In more recent years such stamps have been recognized as collectable, a legitimate part of philatelic history. The Spring 1972 issue of *The Revealer* (pp818-822) published an article by the late Fred J. Gomm entitled "Irish Perfins or Spifs" which was a preliminary listing of Irish perfins. The publication of Norah K. Wright's latest "Catalogue of the Perfins of Ireland" in this issue makes this an appropriate time to review the history of perfins and perfin collecting.

WHAT ARE PERFINS? The word PERFINS was formed from the phrase "PERForated INitialS" and was coined in the U.S. In the U.K. the designation SPIFS was in general use for many years coming from the phrase "Stamps Perforated with Initials of Firms and Societies." The use of this latter term has died out to a great extent and PERFINS seems to be most generally used today. PERFINS, then, are stamps perforated with the initials (or other designs) representing the using firm.

WHY PERFINS? In the 1860's, prior to the start of the Money Order System in England, postage stamps were a form of negotiable currency and were used for small payments through the mail. Postal regulations were such that stamps could be redeemed for cash on presentation at the Post Office. There were only two conditions; they had to be in multiple (2 or more) and the transaction was subject to the deduction of a 2½% commission by the Post Office. Firms having large quantities of stamps on hand found themselves the victims of thefts by their poorly paid junior clerks or dishonest employees who had only to present stolen stamps to the Post Office to augment their salaries. Although much of the loss was petty, the firms soon found it necessary to seek some means of putting an end to the thievery.

The first method put into effect was to have the firm's name printed on the backs of the stamps, either before the gum was applied or on top of the gum. One of the firms using the underprinting method was Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co. The underprinting took care of the postage they bought for their mail but they also received a large quantity of stamps from their customers in the country. To protect these stamps they suggested to the post office that such stamps be perforated, by the firm, with the initials S.C., those of the senior partner, Sampson Copestake. They furnished to the post office as specimens stamps

so perforated. In due time the Post Office refused to grant permission for their use.

These stamps had been furnished to Copestake's by a Mr. Joseph Sloper who was the inventor of the machine which had perforated them. Joseph Sloper held the exclusive patent rights to the equipment for defacing or marking documents by perforation. His main business was cancelling bankers checks and drafts. Mr. Sloper entered into negotiations with the Post Office. After a time, he was successful in obtaining a letter, dated 13 March 1868, from the Post Office which allowed him to perforate stamps.

Mr. Sloper, by this letter, was given a monopoly for the production of perfins, for his patents still had a little over three years to run. He availed himself of this opportunity and during that three years added many of the London firms to his list of clients as well as many clients on the continent. Perforating became the accepted method of safe guarding stamps from pilferage. When his patents ran out in 1872 other firms entered the business, but competition didn't phase him. The successor to Joseph Sloper, the J. Sloper & Co. Ltd. is still in business well over a hundred years later. Interestingly enough, their charges are less than those of 1870.

From this beginning the use of perfins spread around the world. A few years ago "The Perfins Club", a U.S. based society of perfin collectors, took a survey of their member's collections...they found perfins from 215 different countries.

LITERATURE ABOUT PERFINS Thanks to Hugh Vallancey, the noted British philatelist, the early history of Sloper was recorded. His book "British Stamps Perforated with Firms' Initials", published in England in 1933, is a compilation of the facts he was able to gather from his personal contact with the Sloper & Co. Ltd., firm. In 1937 John S. Nelson published, also in England, "The Handbook of British Perfins." In this he recorded his personal research at the British Patent Office, Post Office, and other public offices. He was able to verify and add to the history of perfins brought to light by Mr. Vallancey. These two books well document the birth of perfins. In addition there have been a number of articles published over the years in various philatelic publications as well as listings of the perfins of many countries. The above mentioned "Perfins Club" maintains a comprehensive library of publications on perfins. Members of the "Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of Great Britain" are currently compiling a bibliography of perfin literature.

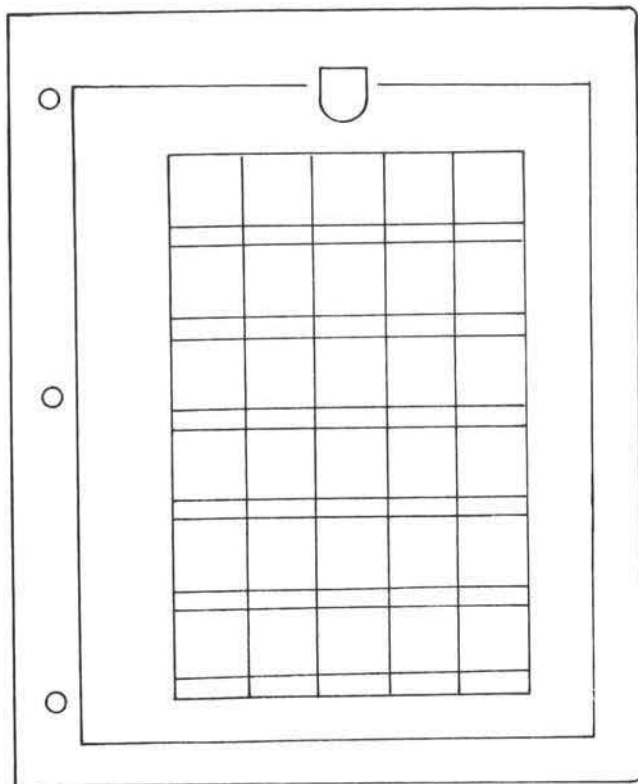
COLLECTING PERFINS

BY JOHN J. BLESSINGTON

SOURCE AND VALUE Your friendly neighborhood stamp dealer will rarely have Irish perfins for sale. Occasionally a dealer will strip perfins out of a purchased collection of used stamps feeling that the perfins detract from the saleability of the collection. If you are on the right spot at the right time, or if you have made prior arrangements, you can get these for very little money. Most collections of perfins are assembled by securing stamps from other collectors, usually by trading. I don't know what the going rate may be today for perfins, but in the past I have purchased them in the 3c to 5c range. From time to time, collectors have been willing to pay more. Not enough is yet known as to the rarity of any given Irish perfin, so they all change hands at the same value. Perfins on cover are another matter, however. In the U.S. finds are few and far between. They are doubly desirable when the return address matches the perfin. Pick up any you find.

HOUSING YOUR COLLECTION Once you have acquired some perfins you have to decide how to organize them so that you know what you have. You can mount them on pages or on stock cards or you can find a means of storing them alphabetically. Here are a few ideas your editor has found useful. First of all, there are no pre-printed pages for Irish perfins (The Perfins Club does have an all purpose page.) You will have to make your own if you decide that a mounted collection is what you want.

Pictured is a sketch of a page ruled for mounting perfins. It is a Minkus blank page for Ireland, punched to fit the standard three ring binder for 8½ x 11 inch pages. The page has been ruled to accept 30 definitive sized stamps (5 across by 6 down). Each stamp space is approximately 1/16" larger than a definitive stamp. Below each stamp space is a box. To use, mount a definitive stamp, face down, in a space and record the perfin pattern, in pencil, in the box below. Commemorative stamps will take up two spaces.



Some collectors prefer black backing so that the holes show better. Cut a piece of black paper the same size as the stamp space...mount the stamp on the black paper and then mount the assembly in the stamp space. When starting a collection it might be best to allot one line for each letter of the alphabet, at any rate, leave room to grow. Another thought, using Norah Wright's catalog in this issue, write in each pattern she has listed and then you only have to fill the appropriate space when you acquire a perfin. Other methods of ruling can be devised that will work equally as well as this one. No means of recording the identity of the perfin has been provided. If one were to mount perfins for exhibiting, provisions for such information should be included.

If you don't want to mount your collection on pages, here are a couple of ideas gleaned from the pages of "The Perfins Bulletin" journal of "The Perfins Club". Use regular no. 6 1/2 size business window envelopes (get them from a print shop). Store one pattern in each envelope. You will be able to see the perfins through the window and there is plenty of room to write information on the face of the envelope. File alphabetically in an appropriate size box. The other idea (the one the author uses) is to use file cards with glassine envelopes mounted on them. Use 3" x 5" file cards and #3 glassines (2 1/2" x 4 1/2"), or, if you prefer larger, 4" x 6" cards and #4 glassines (3 1/2" x 4 3/8"). Affix the glassine to the card so that the flap side is exposed and the bottom of the glassine is in line with the bottom of the card. This leaves ample room to add the perfin pattern and identification (when known) across the top. File alphabetically in a standard card file box. Double-sided transparent tape is a good way to affix the glassine, although any non-wrinkling paper glue can be used.

PATTERN TYPES Little or no work has been done to classify Irish perfins by pattern type, at least the author knows of none. As yet we don't know enough about the type of equipment used in Ireland nor the methods used by each firm when they punched their stamps. As a matter of interest we will record a method of classification published by "The Perfins Club", a system worked out to record the positions of official Canada perfins (OH/MS). Perhaps this might prove the impetus to start researching the subject as it might apply to Irish perfins.

In the U.S. there are six types of perfin machines. There are those having one, two, three, five, ten or 100 dies respectively. The Front Cover shows a 5 die hand operated machine manufactured by the "Cummins Perforator Co." Chicago, Ill. It isn't known how many different types of machines have been used in Ireland. Most perforating machines, at least on this side of the Atlantic, are of the five-head type. They are set up, five dies in a row, to puncture five definitive stamps. (Commemoratives usually get two patterns.) Assuming a sheet of definitives is folded into quarters and four thicknesses are punched simultaneously, it is obvious that there are a number of positions and varieties. On top of that, we are at the mercy of the clerk punching the stamps! He could care less if they are punched from the front or back or upside-down.

When a perfin reads correctly, viewed in an upright position with the face up, it is considered "normal." Because of the various folds and methods of punching there are eight different positions or types possible from each single die. Using the perfin AB/CD a uniform method of denoting these positions or types is shown below.

Normal	Reversed	Inverted	Inverted Reversed
AB	BA	CD	CD
CD	CD	AB	AB
Type 1	Type 1R	Type 2	Type 2R

Left Hand	Left Hand Reversed	Right Hand	Right Hand Reversed
AB	AC	CA	CB
AC	BA	CB	CA
Type 3	Type 3R	Type 4	Type 4R

Note: These are all shown with the stamp in a normal position, face up.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS The History of Perfins has been paraphrased from the two publications, "British Stamps Perforated with Firm's Initials", Hugh Vallancey, London, England, 1933 (there are later editions) and "The Handbook of British Perfins", John S. Nelson, Westerham, England, 1967.

Much information on perfin collecting comes from various issues of "The Perfin Bulletin" journal of "The Perfins Club", different editors and publishers over the years.

Information about "The Perfin Club" is available from Floyd A. Walker, Secretary, P.O. Box 82, Grandview, Missouri 64030. He will also furnish information concerning "The Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of Great Britain."

Reprinted from: April 1979

CRASH COVERS

by John J. Blessington

As you go through dealers' cover boxes at stamp shows, an interesting cover to be on the lookout for is an Irish "Crash" or "Wreck" cover. I don't know if anyone has ever put together a collection of such or, in fact, if it is possible. At any rate, an Irish Crash cover or two adds spice to a collection for there is always a good story that goes with one if you just do a little research.

"Crash Covers" is used here as a generic term. It is meant to include those covers which were salvaged from mail involved in catastrophes, major or minor, at sea, on land or in the air. Perhaps "Salvaged Mail" would have been a more appropriate title but "Crash Covers" seems more descriptive.

Crash covers can be subdivided into two different types. The first type is those that were created by an event, which disrupted the mails, that occurred within Ireland. These may or may not bear Irish stamps or postal markings but they will bear markings identifying the event as Irish. The second type is those covers recognizably identifiable as originating in Ireland which have been involved in an event somewhere other than Ireland.

During the First World War, the Irish mailboat "Leinster" was torpedoed after leaving Kingstown, heading for England. Some of the mail salvaged bears a handstamp reading "SALVED FROM/S S LEINSTER." This is an example of Type I. A more modern example occurred in 1954. On September 5th a Dutch airliner crashed into the river Shannon just after taking off from Shannon Airport (see Revealer, Nov., 1957, page 336). The mail was salvaged and taken to Shannon for processing. The handstamp "SALVAGED FROM KLM CRASH AT SHANNON" was added. Most letters have the stamps washed off but my Dutch air letter sheet is intact. Last year, in an auction in Florida, a portion of a 1916 cover was offered which had the handstamp "SALVED FROM/FIRE G P O DUBLIN." This, too, fits the first type as do those covers which were involved in the raids on Post Offices and mail trains throughout parts of Ireland during the period 1920-22. Many of these are identifiable by markings which were added by the Post Office, in some cases, and in others by the rebels, as reported in the philatelic press over the years (see Revealer Supplement No. 43, Jan. 1970, pp 197-200).

Type II, those involving Irish mail outside Ireland, isn't well documented. That is to say, although the events have been documented, the existence of an Irish cover from the events hasn't been recorded. The illustration on the front cover is an example of a Type II cover. In his book, "A History of Wreck Covers," A. E. Hopkins records this same framed cachet in violet (as is this),

"... on a letter from Guernsey addressed to Grahamstown in South Africa. The date stamps are GUERNSEY 30 APR 25, CAPETOWN 3 JUN 25 and GRAHAMSTOWN 6 JUN 25, and there is a pencil endorsement 'On Train from Capetown to Port Elizabeth.'"

My attempts to research this event further have come up against a stone wall. I will welcome any information you, the readers, can add. Another cover from my collection (ex T. E. Field coll.) is a cover from an Imperial Airways flying boat which crashed May 1st 1939 at Mozambique. The plane was the "Challenger" and was bound from England to South Africa. After the crash, the flying boat "Canopus" took on the mails and completed the flight. Damaged mail received a handstamp on arrival at its destination before delivery. My cover bears no handstamp nor is there any damage. However, both the mailing date and the receiving date are correct and the front bears the stamped insignia of the "Challenger."



But enough of examples . . . these few should convince you that a fascinating field awaits anyone who delves into it, and I've only scratched the surface. There are more type I's recorded and who knows how many Type II's there are in collections or boxes of covers just waiting to be discovered. To those of you who have some of these covers, either Type I or Type II, if you will send me the information or a xerox of the covers I'll tabulate the data. If enough covers show up I'll publish a listing. To all of you . . . good hunting.

Reprinted from: October 1977



Collecting Christmas Seals Of Ireland

by John J. Blessington

Continuing our series of articles on the "sideline" collections of Ireland, this month we cover Christmas Seal Collecting.

The idea for Christmas Seals originated in Denmark where the first seal was issued in 1904. In the United States the Maryland chapter of the American National Red Cross Association issued the first seal in Maryland in 1907. The following year the national office issued seals and has continued ever since. Based on the successful 1908 campaign in the United States the "Women's National Health Association of Ireland (Dublin)" issued the first Irish Christmas Seals in 1909. Unlike the U.S. Ireland has not issued seals each year since. However, during 25 of those years seals were issued, although those of one year (1961) are not identifiable.

"Green's Catalog of the Tuberculosis Seals of the World" originally compiled by Dick Green in 1936-38, then revised through 1965, and revised again in 1973 under the direction of Vernon Bressler with the help of various members of the "Christmas Seal & Charity Stamps Society" has helped to make collecting these seals more popular each year. The section on Ireland has been the "bible" for collectors of Irish Christmas Seals. Considering the information available the compilers did a remarkably accurate job. So much so, that with the permission of all parties concerned, we will use the Green listings as the basis for the list published herein. Green's number will be used as there seems no need to create a new numbering system... those already collecting by Green will thus have no difficulty using this list.

In the "Journal of Irish Philately", Vol. 1, No. 3 & 4 was a listing of "Irish Erinnophilia" by Bill Mathews - with help and advice from F. E. Dixon. When the JOIP ceased publication and The Revealer resumed, the article was not completed in The Revealer but was in "Irish Philately", Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle. Christmas Seals were a part of that article. Information from Bill Mathew's list which is later and/or more accurate than Green's will be added, with thanks to our new listing as will information gleaned from his own collection by the author.

Through the combined efforts of several people our list has only one item not illustrated. The first four seals are taken from a light photo copy furnished by Mike Leonard. The "Toghermore" sheet was furnished by Bill Mathews(?) & photographed by Adrien Boutrelle. The three street tags were taken from Green's... all the rest are from the author's collection. All illustrations are at 75% of original size except the sheet on the front cover, the booklet pane of 12 in 1962 and the "Toghermore" sheet of 10 which are all shown at 50% of original size.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

NUMBERS are used in Green's. The numbers skipped were left to cover the years not listed in the event more seals were discovered.

D-b CROSS designates the Lorraine cross adopted as the international symbol of tuberculosis work.

PROGRESSIVE COLOR PROOFS, "pcp" are made to show the sequence of colors in printing the seals.

QUOTATION MARKS "" enclose words that appear on the seals.

PARENTHESES () enclose dates that do not appear on the seals and words that have been translated into English.

MEASUREMENT is the size of the design, and not the size of the paper it is printed on. Horizontal measurement is always shown first, H x V.

FORMAT is indicated as "VR", vertical rectangle, or "HR", horizontal rectangle.

SEPARATION follows usual philatelic descriptions... "perf" is perforation and "roul" is roulette.

SHEET & PANE FORMS are listed under sub-numbers "x". PM means that there is a row of perf or rouls between the outer row of seals and the edge of the sheet. Sides listed as SE are straight edged. For example in No. 1.x the listing "6 2x3 SE3S, PM^{ET}" means that the pane is made up of 6 stamps arranged in 2 rows of 3, there are straight edges on 3 sides of the pane and there is a row of perfs between the design and the margin at the top. Other abbreviations used are believed to be easily understood.

THE CHRISTMAS SEALS OF IRELAND Women's National Health Association of Ireland Dublin



1. 1909 D-b cross in oval with "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year"; Blue, VR 21x25 perf 11.
x) booklet pane of 6 2x3 SE3S PM^{ET}
2. 1909 Country Scene, three farm houses with setting sun; "Christmas 1909"; Blue VR 20x26 perf 11.
x) booklet pane of 6 2x3 SE3S PM^{ET}
3. 1909 "Slainte" (Good Health) with shamrock and D-b cross above; Green and blue, VR 21x24 perf 11.
x) booklet pane of 6 2x3 SE3S PM^{ET}



4. Gnome with shield of the Society by large toad stool; "Xmas 1925" at T; "Health is Wealth" at B; Multicolor, blue margins; VR 28x37 roul 12.
1. Imprint at B; "Dundalgan Press, Dundalk" in caps & lower case, 17½mm long.
2. Imprints as above, but all in Caps, 19½mm long.
x) panes of 8 4x2 PM4S.
5. 1926 All Year Seal; Shield of Society with "NWH" at T, B & sides; Blue and green Cir 30mm dc.



Tipperary After Care Association (Working in cooperation with the Irish Red Cross Society)

11. 1937 Rocks of Cashel; "1937" in UL; D-b cross & "Beanacta na Nodlag" (Christmas Greetings) at B; Black & red HR 33½x20 roul 7.
x) sheet of 50 5x10 RM4S.
12. 1938 Armored Knight with sword; Date in UL; "Beanactai" at B; Red, black & yellow VR 26x40½ roul 7.

Anti-Tuberculosis Section of the Irish Red Cross Society



21. 1944 D-b cross in hand; Dated; Red, yellow & black VR 18x22 perf 10.
x) sheet of 48 8x6 PM4S with inscr.
.p proof, as 21., but imperf.
pcp set: 1) yellow; 2) yellow & red; 3) complete design all imperf.
22. 1945 D-b cross in beam from star, Dated; Red, yellow, blue & black VR 16x22 perf 11.
x) sheet of 48 8x6 PM4S.
.p proof as 22., but imperf.
23. 1946 Triangular shaped seal, D-b cross in center, Dated; Tri 35x35x28, sides perf 11, base roul 7.
.1 red, blue & yellow
.2 red, blue & orange
x) sheet of 60 12x5.
.p1 proof, sheet of 360 24x15 with white diamond shaped gutters running vertically through center of sheet, imperf.
.p2 sheet as p1 but perf x roul.



24. 1947 Small House at foot of range of mountains, name, Date, etc; Black & red HR 28x15.
.1 perf 11
.2 roul 6 1/2
x) sheets of 60 6x10 SE4S.
.p1 proof, as 24, perf 11 from pane of 10 5x2 wide margins four sides.
.p2 proof, as 24, but imperf pair.
25. 1948 Large candle latticed window, curtains, D-b cross, date, etc; Yellow, red & blue VR 22 1/2 x 27 perf 11.
x) sheet of 60 6x10 SE4S.
.p proof, as 25, but imperf.
pcp set: 1) yellow; 2) red; 3) 1+2; 4) red & blue; 5) yellow & blue; 6) complete design, all imperf.
26. House & trees, D-b cross & Red Crosses, date etc; Red, yellow & black VR 21x25.
.1 perf 11.
.2 roul 6 1/2.
x) booklet panes of 24 8x3 SE3S PMeL.
y) Booklet: 5 panes of 24; Cover shows large seal to left in black, orange & red; large "Save Our Seals" in black except S O S in red; "1/2d per seal, 5—per book of 120 seals" in red at bottom.
.p proof as 26, but imperf pair.
pcp set: 1) black; 2) yellow; 3) 1+2; 4) red; 5) complete design all imperf.

TB Rehabilitation

(Issued by the "Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Tuberculosis" later incorporated as the "Rehabilitation Institute, Ltd.")



27. 1954 Five varieties in sheet, each have "T.B. Rehabilitation Ireland 1954" in tiny blue letters at B; All are VR 23x28 roul 9 1/2. 1,500,000 printed, 300,000 sold.
.1 Nativity scene on blue disc; "Christmas Greetings" & D-b cross; multi-colored with red background.
.2 Large red D-b cross & "Nodlals 1954" on green leaf, all on yellow background.
.3 The Three Wise Men, one on a camel; "Season's Greetings" & Star in the sky.
.4 Same as .2 but white leaf and green background.
.5 Angel & shepherd; D-b cross & "Christmas Greetings in sky"
x) sheet of 60 10x6 arrange in pairs each line; .1.1; .2.2; .3.3; .4.4; .5.5.
.p proof sheet as x but on unsurfaced paper.
pcp set: 1) red; 2) yellow; 3) red & yellow; 4) green; 5) red, yellow & green; 6) blue; 7) complete design, all roul 9 1/2.



28. 1955 Eight designs all multi-colored, VR 23x28. 3,000,00 printed—1,000,000 sold.
SET NO. 1 Designs as 1954 with the date omitted at B. Roul 9 1/2.
.1 as 27.1, lighter colors
.2 as 27.2 but date on leaf changed to 1955
.3 as 27.3
.4 as 27.4 but date on leaf changed to 1955
SET NO 2. Roul 6 3/4
.5 Choir Boy & large D-b cross; "Merry Christmas" in LL; "Ireland" on boy's surplice.
.6 Candle & D-b cross on evergreen boughs; "Happy Christmas" in UL; "Ireland" at B.
.7 Shamrock, D-b cross & two holly leaves; "Ireland" in LL.
.8 Church; D-b cross & "Ireland" in LR; "Merry Christmas" at T
x) sheet of two panes, each 48 8x6, upper pane has .5; .6; .7; .8; .5; .6; .7; .8 in each row and lower pane has .1.1; .2.2; .3.3; .4.4.
pcp set: 1) yellow; 2) red; 3) yellow & red; 4) green; 5) yellow, red and green; 6) blue; 7) complete design; all roul.
(7 sets of 8)



29. 1956 Six designs, all HR 30x22, roul 4½. All multi-color with D-b cross and "Ireland."
- .1 Shepherd, sheep & star; "Christmas Greetings" in center
 - .2 Head of Santa; "Merry Christmas"
 - .3 "Happy Christmas" on tree ornament
 - .4 Christmas tree; "Merry Christmas" at bottom
 - .5 Shamrock; "Christmas Greetings" at bottom
 - .6 Three snowflakes; "Happy Christmas" at bottom
- x) sheets of 48 8x6; .1 .2 .3 .1 .2 .3 odd rows, .4 .5 .6 .4 .5 .6 even rows.
- pcp set No. 1: 1) yellow; 2) red; 3) yellow & red; 4) blue; 5) yellow, red & blue; 6) black; 7) complete design, all imperf.
- pcp set No. 2: Same as pcp set no. 1 except all are roul 4½.



30. 1957 Six designs, all HR 33x22, roul 4½. All multi-color with D-b cross and "Ireland."
- .1 Santa with three packages; "Christmas Greetings" on two packages.
 - .2 Angel, Star "Christmas Greetings" on black background
 - .3 Two bells, "Merry" on one & "Christmas" on other
 - .4 Three white holly leaves & "Seasons Greetings"
 - .5 Three kings on camels, a crown behind each & "Christmas Greetings" at the bottom
 - .6 Two shepherds looking at Star; "Christmas Greetings" at UL
- x) sheet of 48 6x8 RM4S odd rows .1 .2 .3 .1 .2 .3; even rows .4 .5 .6 .4 .5 .6; sheet imprinted "Mercury Press Ltd., Dublin"
- .7 cellophane envelope: D-b cross in LL; "Issued by Rehabilitation Institution—By Using Christmas Seals You Employ The Disabled—6d"; Red HR 63x30 (contained 12 seals)
- pcp set: 1) yellow; 2) red; 3) red & yellow; 4) blue; 5) red, yellow & blue; 6) black; 7) complete design, all roul 4½.



31. 1958 Six designs, all HR 33x22 roul 4½, all multi-color with D-b cross and "Ireland."
- .1 Three Angels, "Christmas Greetings" in sky over city
 - .2 Shamrock, 2 holly leaves & "Nodlaig Sona Duit"
 - .3 Arms of the four provinces, "Seasons Greetings" at T.
 - .4 Three Wise Men looking at Star over Bethlehem; "Seasons Greetings" at T
 - .5 2 Shamrock & Harp & "Christmas" at T & "Greetings" at B.
 - .6 Winter farm scene with star & "Merry Christmas" in sky.
- x) sheet of 48 6x8 RM4S odd rows .1 .2 .3 .1 .2 .3; even rows .4 .5 .6 .4 .5 .6. Arranged in 2 panes of 24 with white gutter in between Inscription in black; "TB Rehabilitation"; "Mercury Press Ltd., Dublin"; "Buy and use Christmas Seals"; "½d each"; "2/ a sheet of 48"
- .7 Street tag: "Rehabilitation of the Tuberculosis" enclosing D-b cross: White on violet background VR 23x35 imperf on thin cardboard.
- pcp set: 1) yellow; 2) red; 3) yellow & red; 4) blue; 5) yellow, red & blue; 6) black; 7) complete design, all roul 4½ 6 sets of 7.

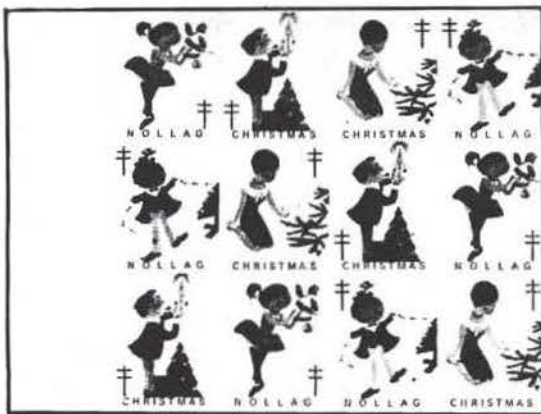


32. 1959 Six designs, all HR 37x23 roul 4½. All multi-color with D-b cross and "Ireland"
- .1 Head of Santa & "A Merry Christmas"
 - .2 "A Merry Christmas" on ribbon over bell
 - .3 Candle, holly, shamrocks & "Christmas Greetings" at L
 - .4 Church window, candle & "Christmas Greetings"
 - .5 Shepherd looking at Star & "Christmas Greetings"
 - .6 Candle in lantern & "Season's Greetings" in panels over landscape scene
- x) sheet size and arrangement same as 31.x
- p proof, as 32.1 to .6 but imperf in block of 6
- pcp set: 1) yellow; 2) red; 3) yellow & red; 4) blue; 5) yellow, red & blue; 6) black; 7) complete design, all imperf on unsurfaced paper
- .7 Street Tag: Large D-b cross & "Employ Disabled"; Red VR 31x37 imperf, on thin cardboard cut diamond shape
- In 1960 the sheets of 1959 were reissued
33. 1961 Picture sheet of 48 seals, each with "Eire" or "Ireland" D-b cross & "1961"; Multi VR 24x27 roul 4½ (see Front Cover)
- x) sheet of 48 8x6 RM4S

- .1 Cellophane envelope: "Issued by—Rehabilitation Institution by using Christmas Seals you employ the disabled" in red and white. D-b cross to left "6d" in circle to right. White holly leaves on three sides. VR 30x128 (contained 12 seals)
pcp set: 1) Pale blue; 2) Brown; 3) Pale blue & brown; 4) dark blue; 5) Pale blue, brown & dark blue; 6) red; 7) gold; 8) complete design, all roul 4½



34. 1962 Six designs in pane, each with "Ireland" at L; D-b cross in UR; Multi HR 35x22 roul 6½
a) Two Reindeer d) Boy on sled with stocks
b) Shepherd in manger e) Kneeling shepherd
c) Man riding camel f) Santa with packages
x) booklet pane of 12 4x3 RM4S. First row abed; second row cefb; third row fdae.
.1 Type I: "Ireland" in white & bottom of Shepherd's cloak solid red on 'b', positions 2 & 8
.2 Type II: Almost identical to Type I, but two vertical white line on bottom of Shepherd's cloak on 'b' positions 2 & 8
y) booklets: covers show a snow scene with "Christmas seals" to UL; Large D-b cross & outline of man to R & "Help us to help the handicapped" at B.
1/—covers with 2 panes of 12
2/—covers with 4 panes of 12
4/—covers with 8 panes of 12
35. 1963 Same designs as 1962 (No. 34) with the following changes:
.1 Type III: "Ireland" in light blue on position 2 but white on position 8; Shepherd's cloak as Type I.
.2 Type IV: Same as Type III, except white lines on bottom of Shepherd's cloak positions 2 & 8 as in Type III.
y) booklets: Same as 34.y except that "Rehabilitation" has been added to cover and printer's imprint "The Three candles Ltd., Dublin" added in the binding edge to L.



36. 1964 Four designs in pane showing family dressing Xmas tree, Multi VR 19x24 roul 9½
.1 Girl; D-b cross in LR; "Nollag" at bottom
.2 Father; D-b cross in LL; "Christmas" at bottom
.3 Mother; D-b cross in UR; "Christmas" at bottom
.4 Son; D-b cross in UL; "Nollag" bottom
x) booklet pane of 12 4x3SE3S RM@L. First row .1 .2 .3 .4; second row .4 .3 .2 .1; third row .2 .1 .4 .3
y) booklets: cover reproduces rows 1 & 2 of pane, third row is solid black with "Rehabilitation" in yellow, D-b cross in red & cost in blue. Printers imprint "Printed at The Three Candles Ltd., Dublin" in binding edge to left. Back cover white D-b cross on red background
1/—covers with 2 panes
2/—covers with 4 panes
4/—covers with 8 panes

Cork Anti-Tuberculosis Association



45

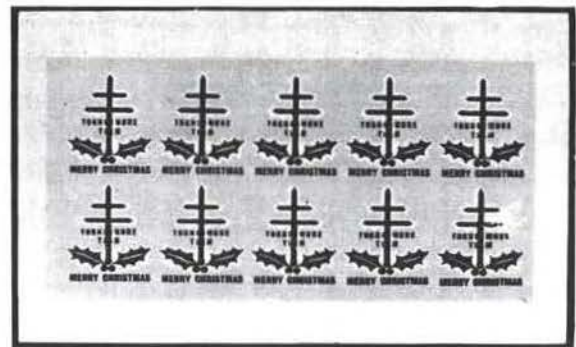


31.7



32.7

45. (?) Street Tag: "Help Fight T.B." superimposed on D-b cross, all enclosed by name; Red & black; circle 35mm, die cut

Toghermore Re-Ablement and Training Center
Tuam, Co. Galway

51. 1960 D-b cross in white on red background & two green holly leaves; "Toghermore Tuam" across center and "Merry Christmas" at bottom in green; VR 27x33 roul 4½
x) sheet of 10 5x2
52. 1961 same as 51. except background yellow and cross in red
x) sheet of 10 5x2
53. 1962 same as 52. except holly leaves and lettering in blue
x) sheet of 10 5x2

The Versatile 1d Map Stamp

by John J. Blessington

Designed by Mr. James Ingram of Glasnevin, Dublin and issued on February 23, 1923 the 1d carmine rose definitive remained in use for over 45 years. During that time it appeared in more forms than any other Irish stamp. So many, in fact, that a specialized collection can be made of this one stamp that will prove both interesting and rewarding. Although some of the material needed for such a collection is in the rare category a very representative collection can be made with material still in reach financially.

Like the other definitives, the 1d first appeared on "SE" watermarked paper and is found with the watermark normal as well as inverted. It was printed in sheets of 240 impressions in panes of 120 with a gutter between panes. Gutter pairs therefore belong in our collection. When the Irish constitution of 1937 came in force the country's name was changed to Eire which necessitated, three years later, the issuance of stamp paper watermarked "E". Our one penny map soon appeared on the new paper, again both watermark normal and watermark inverted. Unlike the "SE" version the date of issue is not known so no FDC's are available. In the Revealer (Jan. 1958, p344) Judge John Walsh wrote that the earliest reported postmark (ERP) was October 26th, 1940. No reference to an earlier date has been found. The author would be interested in hearing from anyone having an earlier cover.

Although not listed by Scott the coil stamps of both the "SE" and "E" watermark should be in our collection. The Harrison overprinted coils remained in use in stamp vending machines until late in 1924 when the low value definitive rolls replaced them. William Kane reported a leader of a 1/2d with a pencil date of 31 October 1924 (Revealer Supp. No. 15; March 1964, p61). Our penny map coil was issued shortly thereafter. Since these coil rolls were made from regular issue sheets they are perforated on all four sides but are identifiable by the fact that two opposite sides have been trimmed through the perforations. (See Illustration.)



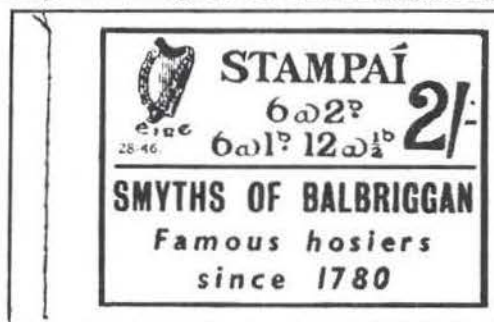
Panels of 120 were furnished to operators who separated them into strips...10 high for vertical coils and 12 wide for horizontal. These strips were then joined together by a portion of the end paper beyond the perforations resulting in what are known as "paste-ups." Strips were joined together until the coil reached the desired length...480 stamps for horizontal and 500 for vertical roles. A tab (strip of paper) was pasted to each end of the coil. The inside (end tab) was blank and the starting tab (leader) carried the information as to the contents and cost. The coil stamps are collected in singles and or pairs or strips. The coil joins or "paste-ups" are collected in pairs or longer strips. Stamps with either the leader or end tabs attached are desirable and add to the collection.

Booklets and booklet panes are two more collectable usages of our 1d map. Scott lists booklet panes but does not list booklets. Single stamps from booklet panes are not identifiable unless they have the selva attached so the booklet panes should be collected as full panes with the selva attached.



Collecting the booklets that the panes come from increases the scope of our collection.

The first Irish stamp booklet went on sale August 31, 1931. Among its four panes was one with six 1d map stamps, 3 x 2 (Sc #67A) and one with three 1d map stamps with three labels attached (Sc #67B). All booklet panes were printed from special printing plates which caused both normal and inverted watermarks to exist. From 1931 to 1940 twenty-one different booklets were produced with these two panes in them. In #22-1940 the pane with the 3 stamps and 3 labels, only, appeared on the paper watermarked "E" (Sc #107B) and in #23-40 the two one penny panes were on the "E" watermarked paper (Sc #107A & B) as were all other panes. Starting with #24-41 and running through #36-53,



After 1953 our 1d map was no longer in booklets. The later booklets show up from time to time in auctions or on specialist dealers lists but the early ones with the half pane are rarely seen. It is doubtful if a full collection of booklets exist. The "Field" collection wasn't complete in booklets.

Because of the costs involved in the joining and trimming of the hand-joined coils, experiments were made by the Irish Post Office in the production and issue of continuous coil rolls...all were vertical. In April 1933 the 1d map was the first issued of these so-called 'endless coils'. (Sc #87A). The top and bottom are perforated 15 and the sides are imperforate except for one hole on each side just below the top horizontal perforations. These two perforations were to act as guide holes in a new vending machine. The machine proved to be unsuccessful but the continuous printing process was considered successful enough so that a second experimental printing was made sometime in July 1934, again perf 15 x imperf but this time without the two perfs on the sides (Sc #87).

Note in the illustration that the Sc 87A is off center to the left so that there is a whole perf on the left and none on the right. This seems to indicate that the stamps were trimmed after perforating.



As a result of these two experiments a special type of printing press was developed and a printing from this new machine appeared sometime in 1940. By this time the watermark paper "E" was in use. For some reason or other the perforations were 14 x imperf (Sc #105A). These perforations didn't separate well in the vending machines. Problems relating to World War II caused work on the machine to be discontinued. After the war, on March 20th, 1946, another printing was made, this time perf 15 x imperf (Sc #105).



Part of this issue may have been printed on a press made up of curved plates containing single or multiple strips of eight stamps. Each strip of eight is out of alignment with the neighboring strip as reported by Fred Dixon. He found this condition on some rolls but not on all. It is not known how many of these 'endless coil' rolls were issued but the hand-joined coils were soon in use again and remained in use until the "Animal" definitives were issued.

Following is a check list of the many items which could appear in a specialized collection of the 1 penny carmine rose map stamp. The basic Scott number is used for unlisted items.

ON PAPER WATERMARKED "SE"	
SCOTT NO.	DESCRIPTION
66	1d carmine rose
66	" wmk inv
66	" coil
66	" coil paste-up pair
66	" gutter pair
66A	" booklet pane of 6
66A	" wmk inv
66A	" 3 & 3 labels
66B	" wmk inv
66A & B	" booklets #31-1 to #21-40
87A	" coil 15ximperf 2 vert. perfs
87	" coil 15ximperf no vert. perfs

ON PAPER WATERMARKED "E"	
SCOTT NO.	DESCRIPTION
107	1d carmine rose
107	" wmk inv
107	" coil
107	" coil paste-up pair
107	" gutter pair
107A	" booklet pane of 6
107A	" wmk inv
107B	" 3 & 3 labels
107B	" wmk inv
107A & B	" booklet #23-40
107A	" booklets #211-41 to 36-53
105A	" coil perf 14ximperf
105	" coil perf 15ximperf
105	" wmk inv
66A & 107B	" booklet #22-40

Only the major varieties have been listed. There are some minor varieties and shades as well. Of course, the collection could contain mint as well as used stamps and examples of usage on cover and F.D.C.

All in all I think you will agree that this is, indeed, a most versatile stamp.

Reprinted from: July 1979

Collecting First Day Covers

By John J. Blessington

Collecting First Day Covers has become more and more popular of late, particularly United States First Day covers. More and more research is being done on cachet artists and books are being published on the findings. So, perhaps this is a good time to take a look at collecting Irish First Day Covers.

It is comparatively easy to acquire cacheted First Day Covers for each new issue as it comes out. You can get them from Irish specialist dealers or you can get the "Official" F.D.C. from the Post Office in Dublin. But it hasn't always been this easy. For many years the Post Office had no interest in "First Days" or philatelists, either, for that matter. Try to put together a complete collection of Irish stamps on F.D.C. and you'll have a real hunt on your hands.

17 February 1922 saw the issue of the first set of Irish overprints. First Day cover collecting hadn't started then, but there were some collectors who made covers and secured the first day cancels. We owe them a debt of gratitude. These pioneer collectors also prepared covers for subsequent overprints when the issue dates were known soon enough. On some of the issues for which we have no issue dates, the "Earliest Reported Postmark" (ERP) has been recorded, but there are a few issues for which there is no first day or ERP known.

These early first day covers don't look much like the FDC's we know today, for there were no special cancels and, of course, no cachets. They are not inexpensive, it's true, but they are available from time to time (note an advertisement elsewhere in this issue). Stamps on piece with first day cancels are somewhat less expensive. It's worth checking all overprint covers — you never know when you'll make a find. All in all, the overprints offer much for the FDC collector, but it will take some work to put together a representative collection.

Starting with the first definitives (SE watermark) and working up to date, a complete collection of covers bearing first day cancels can be assembled. Again, some of the early ones will be expensive, but dates of issue are known and finds can still be made. Illustrated on the front cover of this issue is such a find. A few months ago this cover was found in a dealer's box for \$1.50!!! But you have to know your dates, for these early issues weren't always identified as First Day of Issue. The Post Office didn't introduce the familiar cachet:

La a Chead Eisiuna
First Day of Issue

until 1949. It first showed up on the "Republic of Ireland" issue (Sc 139-40), although one earlier issue (Sc 99-100), the "New Constitution Issue" used a special cancel for day of issue. Incidentally, FDC's from this issue, (Sc 99-100) to date seem to be readily available, with one or two exceptions.

During the 1930's some collectors identified covers by adding the words "First Day" by typing, printing or some other means. On the example shown on the front cover, it looks as though a rubber stamp was used. This period also saw the beginning of the printed cachet on covers. One of the first, if not the first, to provide printed cachets was Charles F. Bourke of Waterford, Ireland. A dealer, he produced covers for his customers. Although there is no identification in the cachets, his distinctive handwriting is easily identifiable. The earliest cover of his that I have in my collection is for the "New Constitution" issue of 29 December 1937, although I have an earlier printed cachet of his on a St. Patrick's Day cover of 1935. Mr. Bourke continued for many years making both FDC's and St. Patrick's Day covers. Another Irish pioneer First Day cover producer was Alf. G. McGann of Limerick, an "Irish Stamp Specialist." The earliest cover of his I have is for the U.S. Constitution issue of March, 1939.

In the United States, the first and, I think, only cachet producer was the late John J. Clark, at least until recent times. Starting with the Thomas Moore issue in 1952, he produced a cacheted cover for every issue until his recent death. Also, in 1952 he started a series of St. Patrick's Day covers which ran until 1971 (?). For many years, the well-known designer of American cachets, L. W. Staehle, designed cachets for John Clark's "Irish Cachet Covers" service.

The Air Mails are relatively easy to complete . . . only four covers. But pick them up soon, if you don't already have them. They are going up in price. I was surprised to see what they are selling for on the latest lists. As to Postage Dues, I've never heard of any recorded as used on the first day of issue but, who knows, perhaps they exist.

Postal Stationery collectors really have a difficult task if they want FDC's. Very little is known about issue dates for a lot of the earlier issues. Often the Post Office didn't announce the new issues, they were just added to stock and used as needed. Many of the dates in catalogs are approximations and much is needed to be done to pin point dates of issue. Even today the Post Office doesn't do much better. They seem to treat Postal Stationery collectors as second-class citizens. First Day cachets are not available from the Philatelic Section and notice is usually short when a new issue is coming out. There aren't too many FDC's around of the many new Registered Envelopes that have had to be introduced in recent years.

Ireland, unlike America, doesn't designate one city as place of issue for each stamp. More than one city is authorized to apply the First Day cachet. Prior to 1966, seven towns were authorized to use the cachet. Starting in 1966, this was expanded to thirty-eight towns. This number has varied from time to time. At present, besides the Philatelic Section in Dublin, all Head Offices will service First Day covers. Most of the FDC's in our collections bear Dublin cancels. Most of us are satisfied with that one cancel, but it pays to look for other towns . . . many of them are scarce. In the past, *The Revealer* published lists for each stamp issue, showing the numbers of covers receiving the first day cancel at each office. There are towns recorded as cancelling only one or two covers. These lists were prepared by EPA member Michael Leonard, working with the Philatelic Section of the Post Office.

If you are looking for a new collecting field, why not try First Day Covers?

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WESTPEX Awards

GOLD: Joe Foley (High Value Overprints), Ed Sullivan (Postal History), James Maher (Overprints)

VERMEIL: Gene Labiuk (GB Used in Ireland), Garvin Lohman (Postal History), John Blessington (Revenues) and Mike Priestly (Harrison Coils).

SILVER: Bill Zellers (Railway Stamps, also Impressed Duty Stamps), John Brinckloe (Overprints), George Ithell (Free Franks), John Blessington (GB Postal Stationery used in Ireland), Jean MacDonald (Overprints), Peter Bugg (Coils), and William Murphey (Air Mails).

SILVER-BRONZE: Henry Bright (Postal Stationery) and William Murphey (Air Mail Acceptances).

BRONZE: Bolinda Kemper (Provisional Control Letters).



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IRISH OVERPRINT IDENTIFIER - A clear plastic overlay to help sort out your overprint issues. With it is a chart giving Scott and Gibbons numbers and an article on identifying the overprints. Price to members \$4.50, Non-members \$5.50.

CATALOG OF THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF DUBLIN C. 1840-1922 - Soft cover booklet by William Kane. A most informative and detailed publication for the collector of this phase of Irish Philately. A must! Members \$3.00, Non-members \$4.00.

IRELAND - CATALOGUE OF PERFINs - compiled and edited by Richard L. Mewhinney. Published by The Perfin Club - 1984. 34 pp. punched for 3 ring binder. The Catalogue is designed for use as an album as well as a catalogue. Only observed Perfin are catalogued. Also, 2 pages of suspected or previously reported designs. Price to Members \$5.50, Non-members \$6.50

"DIE GANZSACHEN IRLANDS" (The Postal Stationery of Ireland) by Otto Jung. 1984 Edition, 64 pp. Text in German & English. Published by FAI, the Irish Philatelic Group in Germany. The most specialized and complete listing of Irish postal stationery available. Well illustrated. Prices for mint and used in DM, Ir £ & US \$. Members \$4.50, Non-members \$5.50 by surface mail.

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E.P.A. RUBBER STAMP - The Official Seal of the Association as seen on the front and all official Society papers has been made into a rubber stamp available to our members. Dress up your envelopes & correspondence. Price \$5.00 to members only.