

The Revealers

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



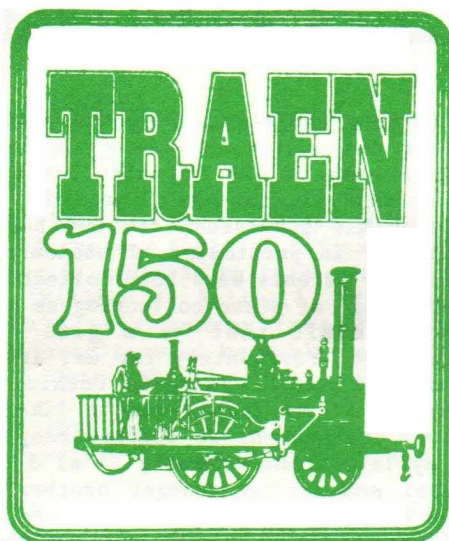
Vol. 35 No. 1

Whole No. 159

Summer 1985



Córas Iompair Éireann



I. W. Whyte Esq.,
Parcel Office,
DUN LAOGHAIRE STATION.
(To be called for).



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THE REVEALER

Whole No. 159

Summer 1985

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

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

#2013 Kele Zidana, Private Bag A43, Maseru, Lesotha
#2014 The Rev. Milton A. Rohane, 3952 Jewell St., P-3-2, San Diego, CA 92109
#2015 John J. McGill, 230 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90402
#2016 Joseph N. Tygett, 1945 Robin Hood Circle, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
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#2019 Dennis E. Lynch, 3108 Pebble Drive, SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
#2020 Michael Brouman, 1237 22nd Street, No. 3, Santa Monica, CA 90404
#2021 Klaus Stange, Wittekindsweg 59A, D-4513, Helm, Rep. West Germany
#2022 Paul W. Brich, 2474 41st Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116
#2023 John F. Mulligan, 11 Lee Avenue, East Williston, NY 11596
#2024 Keith R. Colman, 6572 Ashurst Way, Cypress, CA 90630
#2025 Charles G. Fuller, Jr., 4966 Leafhill Place, Riverside, CA 92507
#2026 James Alan McDonagh, 79 Hillcrest Park, Ballygall Rd East, Dublin 11, Eire
#2027 Maureen P. Cross, 10918 67 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 2A4, Canada

REINSTATED

#1242 James Hamill, Main Street, Forbane, Offaly, Ireland

DECEASED

#488 William S. Stilwell

RECRUITING HONOR ROLL

Michael Giffney, Belinda Kemper, Bill Zellers, Bob Corless, Jim Saganiec, Bob Jones, Joe Foley

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Membership as of July 1, 1985: 744

New members	15
Reinstatements	1
Deceased	2

Membership as of October 1, 1985: 788

From the Editor's Desk

My father, the stamp collector... Late this July my father died very suddenly of a heart attack, less than a week before his 68th birthday. Most of you never knew him, but all of you know of his influence. Without his enthusiasm for our hobby and for Irish philately in particular, I wouldn't be writing this today. My parents were both collectors and growing up I was aware of stamp collecting as a potential hobby. I must admit that as a girl I wasn't at all interested. Fortunately for me, it never got pushed down my throat. I suppose nothing else might have happened if my father hadn't liked to go to stamp shows. One weekend in October many years ago (I was in my late teens or early 20's) I was visiting from school and for my younger brother's birthday treat they were all going to SEPAD (the national show in Philadelphia). My brother in contrast to me took to stamp collecting at a very young age and is still at it (though not Ireland unfortunately!). That SEPAD changed my whole attitude towards the hobby. I discovered postal history! I can vividly remember an exhibit of Civil War mail and another of Great Barrier Reef pidgeongrammes. I couldn't believe what I'd been missing. Although I didn't start collecting then, I did start to go to the shows whenever I could to read the exhibits.

Then in 1976 INTERPHIL was held in my parents "back yard". I took time off from work and came home to visit, just to go to the show. My father said to me "If you're coming all this way just to go and look, isn't it time you started your own collection?" Made sense to me, but what to collect? I did know that I wanted something English language, and probably British Empire, but hadn't got further than that. Dad suggested Ireland; it was one of his favorites. He was member #488 of the EPA. Although he collected only single used stamps, he knew where to find the reference books, and who the dealers were for postal history. The rest is, as the saying goes, history. I bought my first reference book and my first cover at INTERPHIL. I also joined the EPA that year.

In 1978 I put what was most of my collection in a local exhibit and won the Grand Award! (The next local show I entered didn't treat my exhibit so kindly, I got 2nd place in "Rest of the World"! However, I met Bill MacCaw there.) In NOJEX (Newark, NJ) in 1979 I met my future husband, Dan, as we were taking down our exhibits. Since I lived in upstate New York and Dan lived in Washington DC, if it weren't for organized philately our paths would never have crossed. Dan encouraged me to participate actively in the EPA; thus I have served as a Director, your President, and now your editor.

My father got a great deal of pleasure from my participation in the hobby as well as from his own. He was already planning his trip to Chicago and AMERIPEX next year... I'll be there, and I'll miss him very much. So much has happened in 10 years, so much of it directly due to Dad's influence.

Thanks, Dad, I love you.

Patricia Stilwell Walker

P.S. Don't forget to send your votes for best article in Volume 34 to me soon.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last column as your President. While I am writing this the ballots are being tallied that will make the election of the new slate of officers valid and legal. My mother is undertaking this task in the USA as my father (William S. Stilwell, EPA member #488) died suddenly this summer (see **From the Editor's Desk**). The results will be published in the Fall **Revealer** with Gene Labiuk's first message as your new President.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped me during my two years as President.

Our association is in good shape. We have an active and enthusiastic membership which is doing a lot on the local "grass roots" level. We have just incorporated the EPA in California (thanks to the efforts of Bill Zellers). Our finances are in good shape in terms of reserve funds, though our new treasurer, Bill O'Connor, is still analyzing the operating expenses in relation to income. Back Issues are in the capable hands of Patrick McNally. And hopefully I can manage to get the **Revealer** back on schedule in the next couple of issues.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life Memberships in the Association have been authorized by the Board Of Directors. The fees are:

Members in the U.S.A.	\$140.00
Members in Canada and Mexico	\$170.00
Members in the rest of the world	\$200.00

Any member who has already paid his dues for the current year may take credit against the life membership fee for the amount of dues paid. Payment may be made in 3 monthly installments. Application for life membership should be made by letter to the Secretary accompanied by the appropriate fee.



RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

£1 FORGERY

An anonymous informer enables me to give details of the dangerous forgery which caused the withdrawal of the £1 stamp depicting Cahir Castle. The details are perfect, even to the weak bottom line at left, but the colours are not quite right, especially the sky blue which is too pale. However, the forgery is readily detectable by the perforations which gauge 11½ instead of 15, and the perforation holes are of irregular size.

However, another example, illustrated in **Irish Stamp News** has perforations of almost the right gauge, but line perforated, identifiable by the irregular corners.

Unused examples are reported on sale in Germany at about £20 each.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY POSTCARDS

The repetition of the 1984 bargain offer is very popular, and the cards sold well, especially Jim Fitzpatrick's Eriu and the crozier. At the other extreme few wanted the overfed white pigeon or the young St. Patrick clutching his sandwich box.

ANNIVERSARIES STAMPS

The varied designs of the stamps issued on 14 March are of uneven merit. The Dunsink one is good, with the building and night sky. So is the Ranelagh balloon ascent, colourful and easily understood. The Academy building facade is too stiff and gives no indication of what goes on inside: I would have preferred the original premises in Grafton Street. And the Cork picture is a mess. What was not publicised was a special envelope for the Cork stamp featuring a colour photograph of modern Cork.

MISSING YEARS

This year the only case I have seen of a cancellation without the 1985 is that of the Fermoy machine, its replacement not having arrived up to the end of February.

REGISTRATION LABELS, ETC.

I notice a new style of registration label, the printed area being only 31x15mm and overall size 37½x17½ mm. My example is of Baile Atha Cliath (DN63) which is Marino. Incidentally the cancellation reads MUIRINE although the Irish name was amended to Marino in the sweeping changes of 1977.

SLOGANS

The Slogan cancellation advertising 17-24 March as National Tree Week was still in use in Dublin on 28th March.

OBITUARY

Many philatelists will be sorry to hear of the death of Noel Langton, at one time a zealous collector, and who will long be remembered for his pioneer study of the "Baile Atha Cliath" datestamps 1922-1962, published by Michael Richards for what was then the I.P.S.G.

ENGLISH "IRISH BULL"

An envelope posted in Dublin with an Irish stamp arrived in September 1984 with an English cancellation and a handwritten endorsement FOUND IN EMPTY BAG ST HELENS MERSEYSIDE ENGLAND. If the envelope was in the bag, the bag was not empty! The proper wording, which I have seen on an American cover, is "Found in supposedly empty equipment".

BUTTERFLY STAMPS

Although nicely depicted, the butterfly designs have the same defect as others in the Fauna and Flora series: the backgrounds should have more colour, probably green grass. The recent British insects set was much more satisfying to the eye.

HORSE POST

The Bulletin of the Postal History Society No. 233 reproduces an Irish handbill of 1840 inviting tenders for conveying the mails by Saddle Horse between Kells and Athboy, to proceed at five Irish miles per hour including stops. (The distance is only 6½ Irish miles.) An interesting point is that it shows that Alex. Thom was already established as printer to H.S.M.G.

POSTAL CHARGES

In 1970 I attempted to extrapolate the increase in postal charges, and my formula predicted that they would be infinite by 1976. Happily, that forecast proved wrong. I have now tried a different formula:

$$\log \log(100P) = A + BY$$

Where P is a postal rate, and Y the date: A and B are coefficients and differ for different rates. The factor of 100 is necessary to avoid the confusion of logarithms of negative quantities. Quite a good fit is found to the data of the last 25 years. If the trend continues unchanged, the predicted future values are:

	1990	2000
Postcard	95p	£13
50g letter	£1.54	£23
100g printed	£1.60	£32
Parcel (min)	£3.3	£29
Registration	£2.90	£34

MIS-SORTED

I recently (IP March 1985, *Revealer* No. 157) reported a cover proving the normal use of the Belfast hexagon on late fee items. I now have a postcard demonstrating its use as "mis-sorted". The card is from Canada, addressed to Dublin, where it was sorted into the wrong bag and has this Belfast marking for the following day.

**CANCELLED**

This large marking was used in Dublin in May 1983 on some large blocks of postage due labels. The most likely explanation is that the addressee refused to pay, and the items were returned to the sender with fresh postage due labels.

CANCELLED

NEW BOOK

The fifth booklet published by the German students of Irish Philately and Postal History is an updated listing of the mileage marks by Hans G. Moxter, with the explanatory text in German and English. There is a good map and excellently drawn illustrations. Strongly recommended.

"SLOGAN CANCELLATION"

The wording of the cancellation introduced 1st May is what one might expect as publicity with a metering machine:

COUNCIL FOR STATUS OF WOMEN

End of UN Women's Decade

FORUM-NAIROBI-JULY

Enquiries 01-6-7731

Another unscheduled slogan was in use at Dun Laoghaire in June:

Visit

MARITIME MUSEUM

Dun Laoghaire

Open May - Sept.

And yet another:
SAVE MONEY - BE WISE
USE THE P.O.P. SIZE

MUSICIANS STAMPS

Five more stamps, face value £1.33, is too much, and the designs are weak. Bach, Handel, and Scarlatti all have the same face but different wigs!

FIRST DAY CANCELLATIONS

There were separate special cancellers for the two sets of musicians, but an envelope bearing both sets received neither of them, only a normal datestamp.

DISTRICT NUMBERS

In the 1960s handstamps were in use reminding us of our postal district numbers. I had not seen any for a long time until I recently met a new design, unframed, applied in district 16 in December 1983. The peculiar feature is that the envelope to which it was added already had the full address!

SAVING POSTAGE

It is still illegal to smuggle items into UK for posting to avoid the excessive An Post charges, and I was surprised to see a wrapper for sending European Parliament News posted in Slough with the return address 43 Molesworth Street, Dublin!

OFFICIAL METERS

I have seen two more incorporating the name and address of the departments - PB T 2168M Health, and PB T 2186M Agriculture.

AN POST

There is still confusion in the practices within An Post. Although using the An Post headed notepaper, the Television Licence Section does not use the An Post prepaid envelopes but has a licence number Gen. 2.

ENVELOPE STICKERS

The Dun Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce has sponsored a circular label in black and orange, urging Please help keep Dun Laoghaire Borough TIDY".

JUNE 1985 COMMEMORATIVES

I do not usually recommend special envelopes for first-day postings. An exception is the special printing for the stamp commemorating the 25 years if Irish troops serving with UN. The profits will go to the Army Benevolent Fund.

MISUSED DATESTAMPS

In May, Loughrea was using its Telegraph Office single-circle datestamp to cancel registered mail.



JOHN CLARK MEMORIAL AWARD

The 1985 recipient of the John J. Clark Memorial Award for service to the Association in the preceding year is Robert D. Corless. President Pat Walker presented the award to Bob at STaMpsSHOW '85 in San Diego.

The EPA meeting there was quite well attended with 12 members and guests from California, plus Charles Herren from Oregon, John Madigan from Illinois, Jim Maher from Wisconsin, and Joe Foley from New Jersey. Bill Zellers presented an enjoyable program of Irish Railway mail.

RANDOM NOTES I by Bob Joyce

I W C I L E T A L I H P E
N E S E N I H C A M J L I
K I W D P N I L B U D J S
R V E E R R E L A E V E R
A E N A Y A A E R I M E A
M R F T P I C E A A G M E
T A U S C M B T N I O E Y
S D L I N M A S S D I E R
O C F T U A D T N O S C E
P F E N H A R A S K P I E
O S I H Y A R T C C R F P
S E V I T A N I F E D F H
S T N I I E R O T S C O D
O O O A R T I N T U C N O
N N I L A R O E R O A G S
S A T P V X L R I L I T L
S G C I I K A Y S L D A E
A O U D O G N I S S I M B
C L A O H S I R I S A L A
I S B O O K S N O A P I L

An	Day	Duty	Books	Dixon
News	Ink	St	The	Paid
Irish	Years	Assn	Eire	Notes
Names	Sligo	Dublin	Island	Labels
Office	Random	Review	Stampa	Slogan
Postcards	Definitive	Auction	Curragh	Variety
Missing	Stationery	Booklets	Machines	Numbered
Official	Philatelic	Postmark	Patricks	Revealer
Transfer	Registration			

Based on article RANDOM NOTES by F.E. Dixon,
The Revealer, Spring 1984, pages 52-53.

That Was the Year that Was - 1984

by Brian Warren

On 1 January 1984 two new State-sponsored companies took over from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs the operation of the postal and telecommunications services. The company operating the postal services is called "An Post" (translated as "The Post") or "The Post Office". The insignia of the company is derived from a combination of the wavy lines part of a machine cancellation and classic Gaelic uncial lettering for the word 'Post'. The new company adopted an outward commercial approach from day one with a special Penny Post Day on 3 January followed during the course of the year with St. Patrick's Day postcards, Discount Stamp Booklet, Discount Christmas Stamp and the introduction of new services such as PostPhoto and PostAim Discount Direct Mail. Unfortunately for the collector, An Post's policy has been to launch such items with no prior notice to philatelists. In order to ensure maximum impact they are kept secret until 2/3 days beforehand and then launched with great publicity in the National Media. This has made it difficult for collectors to prepare

first day covers and other collectible items. The other difficulty is that the media usually ignores vital information which is of interest to the collector. The slogan postmark used in connection with the Penny Post is a particular example which comes to mind.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 1984 programme comprising twenty-five stamps and one miniature sheet was issued over ten release dates and had a total face value of IR £8.24. This compares with the 1983 statistics of twenty-four stamps and one miniature sheet with a total face value of IR £8.12. All stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. Perforations 14 x 14 3/4 (vertical format) or 14 3/4 x 14 (horizontal format). Unless otherwise stated all stamps were printed in the normal 10 x 10 format with no perforation type variations. All issues have the usual two sets of plate numbers plus colour check squares and printers' imprint. Any variations in the normal layout are noted. The year of issue is now included at the foot of each stamp in line with UPU policy.

Date of Issue	Description	Designer/Details	Value	Plate Numbers
30 Jan	Irish Railways	Charles Rycraft based on technical material and photographs supplied by John Kennedy of The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland and the Irish Railway Record Society.		
		Princess	23p	1111
		Macha	26p	1111
		Kestrel	29p	1111
		Link-Hoffman Railcar	44p	1111
		Miniature Sheet	£1.22	
1984 was the 150th Anniversary of the first Irish Railway, the Dublin and Kingstown Railway as featured on the 23p value. The 29p and 44p were perforated through top and bottom margins.				
1 Mar	Fauna and Flora (7th Issue) Trees	Drawings by Wendy Walsh with graphics by Peter Wildbur. Irish Whitebeam Irish Yew Irish Willow Birch	22p 26p 29p 44p	11111 11111 11111 11111
12 Apr	St. Vincent's Hospital - 150th Anniversary Royal College of Surgeons - 200th Anniversary	Brendan Donegan and illustrated by Christiaan Vis. Bill Murphey - original drawing by Dr. Fergal Nally.	26p 44p	1111 1111
10 May	Europa (24th Issue)	Original design by M.J. Larrviere of Monaco and adapted for Ireland by Peter Byrne - 25th Anniversary of CEPT featuring common design of bridge over water.	26p 29p	111 121 131 111
	European Parliament Elections	Robert Ballagh featuring the flags of the ten member countries.	26p	1111

Date of Issue	Description	Designer/Details	Value	Plate Numbers
6 Jun	John McCormack - Birth Centenary	Jointly by Ron Mercer (Ireland) and Jim Sharp (USA). Featuring a portrait of McCormack as a concert singer with a smaller superimposed portrait in operatic costume as Edgardo in Lucia di Lammermoor.	22p	1A1A1A1A 1B1B1B1B
The McCormack stamp was in the smaller 24mm x 41mm format and was printed in sheets of 200, guillotined and then distributed in post office sheets of 100 (1A and 1B sheets); each post office sheet of 100 (10 x 10) is divided into two panes of 50 separated by a gutter. This was a joint issue with the US Post Office who issued a similar 22c stamp on the same day - see notes under first day postmarks below. The issue date coincided with President Reagan's visit to Ireland. McCormack was born in Athlone but became a US citizen in 1919. The US stamp was sold by the Philatelic Bureau in Dublin at 18p each. The Irish stamp was also sold by the US Philatelic Sales Division.				
21 Jun	Olympic Games	Designed by Louis le Brocquy with graphics by Peter Wildbur. Three designs featuring the three athletic disciplines in which Ireland gained gold medals - Dr. Pat O'Callaghan Olympic Hammer Thrower 1928 and 1932; Bob Tisdall, Olympic 400 meters Hurdles Champion 1932; Ronnie Delany, Olympic 1500 meters Champion 1956.		
	Irish Gold Medal Achievements	Hammer	22p	111,211
		Hurdles	26p	111
		Running	29p	111
23 Aug	Gaelic Athletic Association Centenary	Design by Colin Harrison. 22p stamp features Cork and Kilkenny hurlers. 26 p value features Dublin and Kerry footballers.	22p 26p	1111 1111
The 26p value gave rise to altered positions for the imprint and colour checks. Usually on vertical designs, the imprint is in the bottom left position below row 10 and the colour checks are in the top margin above row 1. On 26p sheets the imprint is positioned in the bottom right block to the right of R10/S10 i.e. within the plate block and the colour checks are in the imprint position below R10/S1 & 2. In addition the sheets are perforated right to left rather than left to right. i.e. perforated left margin.				
18 Sept	Galway Mayoralty 500th Anniversary	Designed by Peter Wildbur and features the the Galway Mayoral Chain.	26p	1111 2111
	St. Brendan 1500th Birth	Designed by Peter Wildbur and featuring a representation of St. Brendan from a 15th century manuscript supplied by the Bodleian Library, Oxford.	44p	11111
19 Oct	Irish Post Office 200th Anniversary	Designed by Brendan Donegan and illustrated by Christiaan Vis. The Bishopmark included in the design bears the date May 14 which was the date in 1784 when the Act of Parliament establishing the separate Irish Post Office was passed.	26p	1111
26 Nov	Christmas (14th Issue)	The two regular values (22p and 26p) feature a painting of the Virgin and Child by Sassoferrato; design by Peter Wildbur. The 17p discount stamp features the Star of Bethlehem and was designed by O'Connor O'Sullivan Limited.	17p 22p	1111 2121 2131 11111 1211 1311

Nine million of the 17p stamps were printed with a limit of 100 per customer. The stamps were withdrawn from general sale on 8 December and were not valid after 15 December. The stamp was restricted for use with greeting cards in unsealed envelopes

to addressees in Ireland, Britain, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The 17p rate could not be made-up by use of definitive stamps. However, the use of the special stamp to make-up a higher rate was not referred to in the notice distributed to post offices. On all three values the positioning of the imprint was slightly altered. It remains in the bottom left margin but is now spread across two columns (1 and 2). All sheets perforated through both top and bottom margins.

DEFINITIVE ISSUES

No new sheet values were issued during 1984. There were several printings which gave rise to paper/gum and perforator type changes. However, in this article I will confine the listing to new plate changes which were as follows:

1p, plate 2A/2B (December); 4p, plate 2A/2B (June); 50p, plate 2A1A/2B1B (December)

The £1 value was withdrawn from both general and philatelic use on 14 November 1984. Forgeries of the stamp had been circulating for several months in connection with the Telephone and TV Licence Savings Books Schemes. To facilitate the easy payment of telephone bills and annual television licence fees, special savings books were available from post offices. £1 stamps (telephone) or 50p and/or £1 stamps (television) could be stuck in the books. In recent years special 50p and £1 savings stamps were also available for these books but ordinary 50p and £1 definitive stamps were acceptable. It was the use of forged £1 definitive stamps for this fiscal purpose which prompted the Post Office to suspend the schemes and withdraw the stamps. Completed or partially completed savings cards had to be handed in by 1 December for checking. No postal use of the £1 forgery has been seen. Many collectors are anxious to

obtain the forgery but it should be noted that in Ireland it is illegal to purchase, sell or possess them. A new £1 stamp featuring the Killarney Cathedral design was issued in 27 June 1985. The old £1 (Cahir Castle) was available in the high value presentation pack until May 1985. The pack was then withdrawn and re-issued in July 1985 with the new £1 design. However the text was not altered, as presumably, large stocks of the pack were to hand; instead a supplementary card insert referred to the change in the design. The separate supplementary card is also available free of charge to callers at the bureau counter.

A £2.26 discount booklet costing £2 was released on 9 July. Similar to the format of British booklets the pane of twelve stamps is made-up of 5 x 22p, 4 x 26p and 3 x 4p of the current definitives. 400,000 booklets were printed but the discount of 11.5% did not attract the average customer to invest in a small stock for future needs. Most people only purchase their current requirements and by the end of July only 200,000 were sold. The stamp booklets were to be withdrawn at the end of the month but the sales period was extended to 31 August when they were withdrawn from both general and philatelic sale.

The words "Booklet Stamp" in a non-toxic green ink appear, over the gum, on the reverse of each stamp. All outer edges of the pane are imperforate. The master sheet of 30 booklets was set out in three columns of ten. Booklets were not numbered and no sheet markings exist on issued panes.

A special trial variation of the low value definitive presentation pack went on sale at the philatelic bureau counter in Dublin in April 1984. The inscription "Gutter Pairs" was overprinted on the cover. The complete gutter pair set was contained therein and was sold at £4.80 (50p over face value). The sale if the pack does not appear to have been continued and it has never been included in the official stock list.

FIRST DAY COVERS/ CANCELLATIONS

GB USED IN IRELAND

Numerals Used in Ireland, 1844-1906

By County, with Period of Use,
Population (1881) & Notes on Places
...\$9 postpaid

Concordance & I.D. Tips, Stamps of Great Britain

Cross Reference Catalog Numbers: Scott, SGib Catalog
+ SG Specialized Catalogs, 3 more Incl. varieties
...\$8.50 postpaid

Tom Current, EPA #888, GB Correspondence Club,
POB 4586, Portland, OR 97208





Special pictorial covers (price 14p) were available for all but two issues; the Notable Irish Medical Institutions issue and the stamps relating to Galway and St. Brendan were the exceptions. A new standard first day cover featuring a map of Ireland was introduced for these issues. The previous standard cover referred to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs so a change of some kind was necessary. Initially priced at 12p, it was increased to 14p for the second of the two general issues. A second extra large cover, in similar design as the cover for the single set, was available for the Railways miniature sheet (also 14p). The special pictorial first day postmark (Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway) was extended to Dun Laoghaire for all issues since the Notable Irish Medical Institutions issue of 12 April. In addition for the GAA issue the pictorial postmark was available in Thurles (first meeting held in the town) and for the John McCormack issue the special postmark was also available in Athlone (his birthplace). The Europa/European Elections issue saw the use of three first day postmarks - one featuring the CEPT symbol for the Europa stamps, one for the European Parliament stamp and a third postmark combining both designs. Returning to the McCormack issue dual cancellation facilities were available in Athlone and Dublin. Both administrations sold the Irish first day cover with both stamps and their respective postmark. The US first day postmark was Boston. In order to accommodate the two stamps and cancels the cover was of the large business envelope size as used for the miniature sheets.

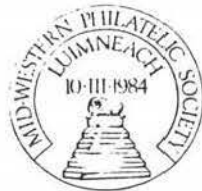
SPECIAL EVENT CANCELLATIONS

LUIMNEACH 10.III.1984 MID-WESTERN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Used in connection with the 5th Annual Fair and Stamp Exhibition organized by the Mid-Western Philatelic Society at Cruise's Hotel, Limerick.

Circular postmark in black which features a representation of the Treaty Stone of Limerick.

Special covers were available and philatelic facilities were provided.



SIONAINN 16.IV.84 SYMBOL OF SUCCESS

Used to mark the opening of a new post office in Shannon Town, Co. Clare on Monday 16 April.

This was only the second occasion that a new post office (as distinct from a sub-post office) had been opened outside Dublin since the establishment of the State in 1922.

Circular postmark in green.

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION SLIGEACH FPSI 28.IV.1984



Used at an exhibition organized by the Sligo and District Philatelic Society with the help of the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland (FPSI) held at the Silver Swan Hotel, Sligo.

A special cover was available and philatelic facilities were provided.

Circular postmark in black.

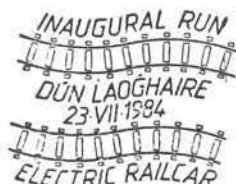
INTERNATIONAL ASSOC. OF LIONS CLUBS BAILE ATHA CLIATH BERT MASON INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 1984-1985 7.VII.1984



To commemorate the first occasion that an Irishman has gained the Presidency of the International Association of Lions Clubs a special postmark was available from the philatelic bureau on Saturday 7 July.

No special posting box was available therefore, as the bureau is not open on Saturdays, covers had to be handed in in advance. Circular postmark in black.

A similar plain postmark was available on the same day from the British Post Office in Belfast. Again circular in black. I believe that this is a 'first' in Irish Philately. Mr. Mason comes from Northern Ireland.

INAUGURAL RUN 23.VII.1984 ELECTRIC RAILCAR

Special postmark to mark the inaugural run of the new Dublin Area Rapid Transit (DART) electric railcar service from Howth to Bray.

An industrial dispute delayed the commencement of the service which began on 23 July.

The same postmark was available for Howth, Dublin, Dun Laoghaire and Bray. The Post Office promoted their first special event cover in connection with this postmark - see note on page 11. Postmarks rectangular in black. Bray postmark also seen in purple.

CARROLLS IRISH OPEN BAILE ATHA CLIATH

Used at the Royal Dublin Golf Club, Dublin from 2 to 5 August during the Irish Open Golf Championship. Not used on 1 August, the Pro-Am day.

Post Office facilities provided. Rectangular in purple. Same design as previous years.

IX EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF PERINATAL MEDICINE DUBLIN, IRELAND SEPT 3-5 1984 BAILE ATHA CLIATH

Used at the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 in conjunction with post office facilities provided for the above congress.

The handstamp includes the logo of the Irish Perinatal Society and is taken from a lithograph executed by Cliodna Cussen depicting Mother and Child. Used only on 4 and 5 September.

XII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DUBLIN IRELAND 9-14 SEPT 1984 BAILE ATHA CLIATH

Used at the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 in conjunction with post office facilities provided for the above congress.

The logo represents the staff of Aesculapius (the God of Medicine) with the serpent (and emblem of Wisdom) coiled around it, circumscribed by the Wheel of Industry. Used on 11, 12, 13 September only.

CORCAIGH 13.X.1984 CORK STAMP EXHIBITION IRISH POST OFFICE 200 YEARS

Used on mail posted at the Imperial Hotel, Cork during the annual Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition which was held on the above date.

The handstamp commemorates the 200th Anniversary of the Irish Post Office and illustrates a posthorn.

Circular in black. Philatelic services provided. Special cover available.

BAILE ATHA CLIATH STAMPA '84

Three circular postmarks in black, one for each day of the exhibition, were applied on mail posted at the Exhibition Post Office in the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. All three postmarks were based on the theme of the Bicentenary of the Irish Post Office and incorporate the following designs:

19 October: Bishop mark which was a postmark used in Dublin from 1670 to 1797. It was the first dated handstamp to be applied to letters passing through the post and was introduced by Colonel Henry Bishop, Postmaster General 1660-1663.

20 October: Post Boy on horseback, which was the common way of delivering mail in the rural areas in the late 18th century.

21 October: Seal used by the General Post Office of Ireland in 1784.



The special cover provided by the Post Office was in addition to the first day cover available for the bicentenary stamp issued on the same day. (See note below).

All postmarks were circular in black.

GAA CENTENARY CELEBRATION THURLES 1.XI.1984 DURLAS

The special handstamp was applied to mail posted in the special posting box situated in Hays Hotel, Thurles.

The handstamp features a line drawing of the hotel which was the venue for the first meeting of the Association on 1 November 1884.

The first day cover for the GAA issue remained on sale after the issue date and was available for use with this postmark. Postmark circular in black.



STAMP EXHIBITION GAILLIMH 8.XII 1984

Used on mail posted at the annual exhibition organized by the Galway Philatelic Society, held at the Imperial Hotel, Galway on 8th December.

Circular in black featuring the Galway Coat of Arms which was also used for the first day postmark design for the Galway St. Breandan stamps issued in September. Note no full stop between XII and 1984. Special covers available.

OVERSEAS EXHIBITION CACHETS

The Irish Post Office or their agents attended five exhibitions during 1984. Stampex, London (6-11 March); IMPA '84, Hamburg (19-26 June). Ausipex, Melbourne (21-30 September); Philatelia '84, Stuttgart (5-7 October); and ASDA, New York (15-18 November). The IMPA '84 exhibition coincided with the Olympic Achievements issue and first day covers with the Dublin postmark exist with the added cachet. The wording of the cachets were as follows:

1. An Post - The Irish Post Office - Philatelic Service - STAMPEX - 6-11 Mar 1984 London.

2. Zum XIX Weltpost Kongress Salon Der - Philatelie Irland Hamburg 1984.



3. An Post - The Irish Post Office - Philatelic Service - AUSIPEX 84 - 21-30 Sept 1984 Melbourne.

4. An Post - The Irish Post Office - Philatelic Service - POST - Philatelia '84 - 5-7 Oct. 1984 Stuttgart.

5. An Post - The Irish Post Office - Philatelic Service - 36th National Postage Stamp Show New York November 1984.



Unusually the Stuttgart postmark is in English. Usually at overseas exhibitions the language of the home nation is used.

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR ENVELOPES

Special souvenir envelopes were introduced for the first time by the Post Office in 1984. The first envelope was used in conjunction with the inauguration of the DART electric railcar service postmark on 23 July. The envelopes (220mm x 110mm) were only sold complete with either the 44p Railway stamp (which features the railcar) at 58p or the Railway's miniature sheet at £1.36. The envelopes were not sold at railway stations as referred to in the official philatelic information sheet issued in April. The second envelope was for Stampex '84 and cost 14p. The cover was printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited and designed by Valerie Pickerill and features a line drawing by F.E. Dixon of the GPO in College Green (1784-1818). The drawing was an enlargement of a small engraving which appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine for October 1787. The building to the left, with a separate entrance, is the house provided for Secretary John Lees.

YEAR PACK

The Year pack went on sale on 6 December and costs IRC7.25. The pack contains the 17p special Christmas stamp but not the Railway miniature sheet. Seen in two versions - one with punched holes in both card and cover and the insert which holds the stamps and secondly with punched holes only in the insert. Known with error blue and gold omitted on front sides. This has resulted in stamp reproductions with missing colours including 17p Christmas and 29p Olympics.

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS

10 MARCH - MID-WESTERN PHILATELIC SOCIETY 5TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION & FAIR

In connection with this annual event the organizers issued a numbered edition of 450 booklets containing 2 x 26p Railway stamps. Sold for IRC1.

28 APRIL - PHILATELIC EXHIBITION SLIGO

500 numbered booklets containing blocks of six of the 3p and 5p definitives. Sold for IR£1.

2 JUNE - PHILATELIC EXHIBITION DUNDALK

Issued in connection with a stamp, coin and postcard fair and exhibition held at the Imperial Hotel, Dundalk on 2 and 3 June. Organized by the Louth Philatelic Society the cover of the booklet bears a drawing of the Courthouse, Dundalk and sold for IR£1.25. The numbered edition of 300 booklets contain 2 x 29p Railway stamps which feature the Kestral locomotive, which was built in Dundalk, for the Great Northern Railway.

16 SEPTEMBER - FIRST COLLECTORS FESTIVAL

Held at the Royal Dublin Hotel and organized by local stamp dealer, Michael Giffney, a booklet was available through the dealers present at the show. The booklet contained gutter pairs of the 22p John McCormack stamp. Total of 375 numbered booklets sold at between IR£3-IR£4.

13 OCTOBER - CORK PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

650 numbered booklets containing blocks of six of the 1p and 2p definitives plus a strip of three of the 22p World Communications Year stamp (issued in

1983). The exhibition postmark is reproduced on the back cover. Sold for IR£1.50.

19 OCTOBER - STAMPA '84

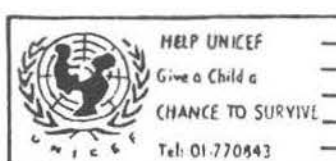
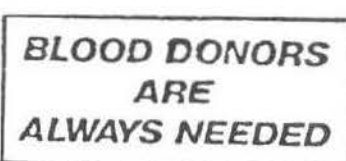
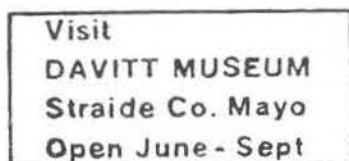
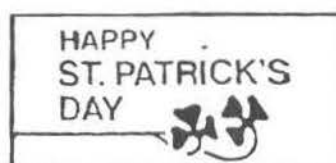
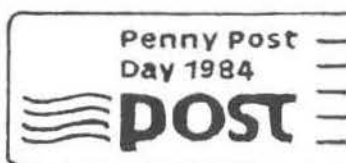
Numbered printing of 2500 full colour souvenir cards on the theme "Irish Railways". The design features the complete Listowel-Ballybunion Railway and 071 Modern Class Diesel designs, which were included as vignetted ovals, on the miniature sheet issued by the Irish Post Office earlier in the year. Printers Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited with the authority of An Post. Sold for IR£1. Members of the Stampa Society received the Railways miniature sheet with the added inscription - "Stampa '84 Irish National Stamp Exhibition October 19-21 1984". The inscription was in black. Pre-numbered and limited to the number of members (348). Membership cost IR£8.

17 NOVEMBER - LIMERICK COIN STAMP & POSTCARD FAIR

Produced by PJW Promotions (Dublin) a total of 300 numbered booklets were produced containing strips of three of the John McCormack stamp. Sold for IR£1.35. No philatelic facilities or postmark associated with this event.

8 DECEMBER - GALWAY PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Numbered edition of 300 booklets containing 2 x 26p Galway Quincentennial stamps. Sold for IR£1.20.

NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

There were ten new slogans introduced during 1984. Following the publication of "Irish Slogan Postmarks 1918-1983" by James A. Mackay during the year which numbers all slogans up to the end of that year (248 in all). I have followed on from this sequence in the listing which is set out below.

249 POST THE STAMP OF THE FUTURE

Used in Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Dublin (5 dies - ACDFG), Galway and Waterford during January. Used in Dundalk and Limerick during January and February (except 3 January).

250 PENNY POST DAY 1984 POST

Used in Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Dublin (6 dies - ACDFGX), Galway, Limerick and Waterford on 3 January. See special note about Penny Post Day below.

251 HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY

Used during the period 8-16 March at Cavan (?), Cork, Dublin (4 dies ACFG), Donegal (?), Dundalk (?), Galway, Limerick and Waterford (?).

252 VISIT DAVITT MUSEUM STRAIDE CO. MAYO OPEN JUNE-SEPT

Used at Castlebar during May/June, Westport July/August, Claremorris Sept/Nov and Ballina December.

253 BLOOD DONORS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

Used in June at Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Dublin (5 dies ACDFG), Dundalk (?), Galway, Limerick (?) and Waterford.

254 HELP UNICEF GIVE A CHILD A CHANCE TO SURVIVE TEL 01-0770843

Used in July at Cavan, Cork, Donegal (?), Dublin (5 dies ACDFG), Galway (?), Limerick, Sligo and Waterford (?).

255 BEAUTIFUL BANTRY BAY FOR HOLIDAYS

Used in Bantry during July/August.

256 ACTIVE AGE WEEK 7-14 OCTOBER 1984

Used in Dublin during the period 7-14 October. One die used in conjunction with three dater dies ACD.

257 EAST LINK USE EAST LINK

Used in Dublin during the period 22-26 October to promote the new "East Link" toll bridge across the River Liffey in Dublin which was opened on 21 October. One die used in conjunction with two dater dies - A and C.

258 CERT 21 YEARS OF HOTEL, CATERING AND TOURISM TRAINING

Used during the period 5-13 November at Cavan, Cork, Donegal (?), Dublin (2 dies with AFG), Dundalk, Galway and Limerick. Scheduled to commence on 4 November. Covers forwarded to Sheriff Street Sorting Office in Dublin by collectors asking for the cancel exist postmarked with the wrong month slug in the dater die and read 4 October (4 X 1984).

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

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS RE-USED IN 1984

The numbers are as stated in "Irish Slogan Postmarks" by James A. Mackay as referred to above.

82 "Bank Your Savings In The Savings Bank" - Cork and Galway.

90 "Post Early For Christmas" - Nenagh.

101 "Post Early For Christmas" - in general use.

120 "Prevent Forest Fires" - in general use.

130 "Buy Prize Bonds" - Longford and Thurles.

132 "When It's August Bank Holiday It's Kinsale Regatta" - Cork.

144 "Are You On The Voter's Lists? Check Now At The Post Office" - Cork and Waterford.

146 "Please Shew District Numbers In Dublin Addresses" - Ballinasloe, Dungarvan, Dun Laoghaire and Thurles.

147 "Westport For Sea Angling" - Westport.

159 "A Full Address Speeds Delivery" in general use.

166 "Build On Secure Foundations £1 Units Tax Free Savings Certificates" - Dublin (AFD), Waterford and Wexford.

167 "Save The Easy Way Easy Deposits Easy Withdrawal The Post Office Savings Bank" - Carlow, Dublin (AFD), Waterford and Wexford.

178 "A Full Address Speeds Delivery" (PAID erased) - Blackrock & Dublin (D).

186 "Ballinasloe Show and Fair 1st Week October" - Ballinasloe.

201 "Athlone On Shannon" - Athlone.

205 "Post Early For Christmas" (short version) - Cork - 2 machines.

220 "Conserve Energy" - Cavan, Cork, Dublin (ACFG), Dundalk, Galway, Letterkenny, Limerick and Waterford.

221 "Let Your Fingers Do The Walking - Use Golden Pages" - Cork, Dublin (ACFG) and Galway.

226 "Clonakilty Beach Centre of West Cork" - Clonakilty.

230 "Collect Postage Stamps" - Cork, Dublin (ACDFG) and Limerick.

233 "You've Got To Get Saving" - Cavan, Dundalk and Waterford.

234 "Are You On The Draft Register Of Electors? Check Now At Your Post Office" - Dublin (ACDFGX) and Limerick.

237 "9th October UPU Day" - Cavan, Cork, Dublin (C) and Dundalk.

240 "Mosney Holidays - Book Now" - Drogheda.

241 "Lovely Leitrim For Holidays" - Carrick-on-Shannon.

242 "Tipperary It's Not A Long Way" - Tipperary

243 "Fáilte July and August Taibhdhearc Na Gaillimhe Sraid Lar Gaillimh" - Galway.

245 "Mosney Trade Shows Conferences Exhibitions" - Drogheda.

246 "United Nations Disarmament Week 24-31 October" - Cavan, Cork, Dublin (AFG), Dundalk, Limerick and Waterford.

248 "Post Early For Christmas" (smaller lettering) - Donegal.

PENNY POST DAY

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Irish Post Office as an independent body, An Post operated a Penny Post Day on Tuesday 3 January 1984. For the one day all hand addressed letters and cards were delivered within the Republic of Ireland for 1p. Bulk postings were not acceptable. This was to try to

eliminate as far as possible commercial mail. During December all post offices had been instructed to order 1p stamps at five times their average combined daily sales of 22p and 26p stamps to meet the expected demand. Most offices did brisk business and while no special handstamp facilities were available a special machine slogan was in use on that day only, as referred to above. In practice, due to the volume of mail, the 3 January dies remained in use for several days. A further slogan highlighting the new logo of An Post was in use during the remainder of the month. There was criticism about the rate not applying to Northern Ireland and Britain; this was obviously noted as the 17p Christmas rate covered all Ireland, Britain, Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.

POSTAL STATIONERY

29 FEBRUARY - ST. PATRICK'S DAY POSTCARDS

A set of six cards was sold at 25p each inclusive of airmail postage anywhere overseas. There were at least two printing runs to satisfy the widespread demand. The most successful and popular card featured the word "peace" and shamrocks on a white background. The cards were printed in master sheets of 36 containing six of each card. Initial distributions were shrinkwrap packed with a printed card insert worded "Single Design Pack - Value £15" or "Multi-Design Pack - Value £15". Later distributions were in "Two Design Packs - Value £30". No special first day of issue facilities available. However a cachet with the wording "Philatelic Bureau Dublin 29.2.84 - 16.3.84" was available at the philatelic counter in Dublin from Friday 2 March.



It was not available on the initial two days of sale. The cachet was applied in green. It was also available from the Post Office stand at Stampex in London (6-11 March). The dates in the cachet refer to the general period of sale. The cards are still available at the time of writing from the philatelic bureau. A special "Happy St Patrick's Day" slogan was in use during the period 8-16 March and has already been referred to above under New Slogan Cancellations. The cards do not bear any printed stamp. The standard Post logo with the words "Postage Paid/Postas lotha" appears on the cards. This is the normal Official Paid imprint on An Post envelopes.

MAY-AIRLETTER

A new airletter sheet featuring a map of Ireland (similar to the standard FDC design) was first noticed by collectors in May. Same format and size as the previous form. No imprinted stamp. Airletter rate 30p (37p since 25 February 1985).

7 AUGUST - NEWSPAPER WRAPPER/ POSTCARD/ENVELOPE

Three new stationery items featuring a new printed stamp design bearing the An Post logo were issued on 7 August - 15p Newspaper Wrapper, 22p Postcard and 26p "A" Size Envelope. All sold at 2p over face value. The postcard features a sepia illustration of the GPO circa 1820 (per inscription on the card). However, Post News, the internal publication of An Post, gives a date of 1843 in its July/August '84 issue. F.E. Dixon has also stated that the original by J. Newman is later than 1820. The postcard has been seen recently in auction with both double and triple impressions of the text and GPO scene. Later printings were heavier sepia and green colours when compared to the original cards distributed to post offices.

1 OCTOBER - ACTIVE AGE WEEK POSTCARD

This postcard was issued in connection with Active Age Week (7-14 October). Sold at 24p the cards were on general sale until 14 October. The cards remain on philatelic sale (Lovable postcard per current stock-list). It was inscribed "Keep in Touch - Old Friends Are Lovable". Love(a) expressed by way of a red heart.

The Active Age Week was organized by the Eastern Health Board and the postcards were only on sale in the region which covers the counties of Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow. Post Offices received an unusual point of display poster in the form of a blown up version of the card which measured 290mm x 200mm with the added inscription "Sample Only". A special Active Age Week slogan was in use in Dublin - see New Slogan Cancellations above.

30 OCTOBER - 96P SIZE G REGISTERED ENVELOPE - AN POST

This was the first registered envelope to appear with an An Post embossed stamp. Originally announced for issue on 29 October, a public holiday, the envelope sold for IR£1.00. The embossed stamp is printed on the same stock as the previous 96p issue and the envelopes bear the then correct compensation amounts of IR£1.00 and IR£13.50. Envelopes also exist through use of the old stock with the incorrect rates of IR £50 and IR £6.35. Both types available on 30 October. The old stock type is scarce.

14 NOVEMBER - 96P SIZE H REGISTERED ENVELOPE - AN POST

Similar to the size G envelope referred to above with correct compensation amounts of IR£1.00 and IR £13.50. Sold for IR£1.02.

INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON - 37P

A slightly revised printing of the International Reply Coupon came to my attention during the year. Known as the Rio de Janeiro Model - Type UPU III, the earliest example seen was dated September 1983. The design changes are as follows:

1. UPU emblem at top left redrawn.
2. Dotted circle in left-hand box omitted.
3. Date facultative (date optional) removed from same box.

The price of stationery items increased with effect from 25 February 1985 along with a general revision of postal rates. Postcards now sell at 3p above face; envelopes at 4p above face; size G registered

envelopes at 10p above face and size H registered envelopes at 15p above face. St. Patrick's Day cards remain at 25p each. International Reply Coupons now cost 50p. Newspaper wrappers have been discontinued as there is no longer a concessionary rate for newspapers except in the case of postings by publishers. The latest 1985 booklet produced by An Post giving details of charges and services refers to letter cards and pictorial airmailers with imprinted stamps so perhaps they will appear later in the current year. The basic registration fee has increased to 90p so new registered envelopes should also appear in 1985. However, an ordinary certificate of posting bears no charge; previously a 6p stamp had to be affixed to the certificate.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members who attended the AGM held in the Stafford Hotel, Chester on 12/13 May could purchase a large postcard reproducing one of Bianconi's 19th century mail cars. 1984 was the bi-centenary of the introduction of mail coaches in Britain in 1784. Sold as a pair (numbered) at Stg£1 per pair; total of 160 cards - 80 mint, 40 postmarked with the Chester Philatelic Counter pictorial postmark dated 4 May and 40 postmarked with the International Garden Festival '84, Liverpool dated 3 May.

STAMPA '84 DINNER MENU

The awards banquet was held in the Merrion Restaurant, Merrion Row, Dublin 2 on Saturday 20 October. Each diner received a 22p postcard (as issued on 7 August) with an additional imprint on the front "Irish National Stamp Exhibition" and the restaurant details in the address space. The menu was printed on the reverse. The cards were postmarked with the Stampa postmark of 20 October.

FAI FORSCHUNGS UND ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT IRLAND - COLONIA '84

The Irish Research and Study Group in the German Philatelic federation held their annual general meeting during the exhibition at Cologne on 17/18 March. The FAI issued a numbered edition of 250 booklets containing blocks of four of the 1p, 2p, and 3p definitives. 110 booklets were sold at DM 5.00 each; the remaining 140 were distributed to members.

FAI - STAMPA '84 AIRLETTER

A souvenir envelope with airmail markings was overprinted "Stampa - Irish National Stamp Exhibition" in the same style as used on the exhibition committee's letterhead. The words "Printed Matter" and the FAI symbol etc., also appear on the cover. Although unnumbered, a card insert stated that 200 copies were produced. A number of German members visited the exhibition and the special cover was distributed to each member. The cover bears a 5 x 3p plus a 1p, total 16p in definitives and postmarked with the Stampa cancel dated 21 October. 16p was the then minimum printed paper (full rate) for overseas mailings; however, it was a surface not airmail rate. It should be pointed out that this was an unofficial souvenir and was not organized or sanctioned by the exhibition committee.

FLIGHT COVERS

Northwest Orient Airlines inaugurated two new services from Dublin on 10 June 1984, flying to Boston and Chicago. Special first flight covers were arranged by the airline and carried on each of the new services. The airmail envelopes bear a 29p World Communications Year stamp and received the counter date-stamp of Dublin Airport. They were backstamped on arrival with the cancellations of Boston or Chicago Airports as appropriate. An enclosure gave details of the new services and therefore the full 44p rate would have been appropriate. 29p would appear to correspond with 28p printed paper airmail rate for which there was no single stamp available.

The Investment Bank of Ireland (I.O.M.) Limited sponsored a flight cover from Dublin to Douglas, Isle of Man in connection with the Isle of Man 9th Philatelic Convention held on 13 October 1984. The cover bears a 26p definitive stamp and is postmarked again at Dublin Airport on 12 October together with a cachet which reads "Silver Jubilee - The Manx Philatelic Society - 13.10.84 - 9th Philatelic Convention" and a receiving mark of Manx Airlines Limited, Ronaldsway, Isle of Man dated 13 Oct 84.

C.I.E. RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS

Coras Iompair Eireann (Irish Transport Company) issued a £1 railway letter stamp on 25 June to commemorate 150 years of Irish Railways. The stamp cost IR £1.23 (IR£1 plus 23% VAT - local sales tax). A 26p postage stamp is also required on railway letters. First day covers (with no 26p postage stamp) were prepared and sold but the stamp was withdrawn on the day of issue as An Post was unhappy with the design which did not specifically mention that the stamp was exclusively for use on railway letters. However, it seems that some stations were slow to act with regard to the notice of withdrawal as covers bearing the stamps used as late as September are known to exist. In November CIE re-issued, without prior notice, the stamp with additional overprint reading "Taille Iompair" ("Transport Fee"). Apparently An Post asked for an overprint reading "Fee for conveyance of a letter by rail" - however, the shorter and more succinct Irish inscription was accepted. Earliest known date on cover seen to date is 13 November. The stamps were issued in sheets of 20 (5 x 4) cut down from original sheets of 40, with plate numbers 1A and 1B plus imprint. The stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. 40,000 of the original issue were printed, of which approximately 5000 were sold and the remainder overprinted. The overprinted issue was withdrawn on 31 December. Numbers sold not yet known.

FOREIGN STAMPS WITH IRISH ASSOCIATIONS

San Marino - A set of three stamps depicting past and present presidents of the International Olympic Committee was released on 8 February 1984. The L.400 value shows the former Irish president Lord Killanin. Guernsey - A set of four stamps was issued on 20 November 1984 to commemorate the 150th death anniversary of Major-General Sir John Doyle who was appointed the Island's Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief on 1803. Born in Ireland he joined the army and served in the American War of Independence. Subsequently he enjoyed a brief political career in the

Irish Parliament but resigned his seat in 1789. He served in the Egyptian campaign before being promoted to major-general in 1802. (SG328-31).

Australia - 1983 issue - A set of four stamps under the title "Explorers of Australia" was issued on 26 September 1983. One of the 30c values features Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills. Born in Ireland in 1821, Robert O'Hara Burke was superintendent of police in the Castlemaine district at the time of his appointment to lead the Victorian Exploring Expedition to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Although successful in reaching the Gulf, tragedy struck on the return journey and three of the expedition party, including Burke, died (28 June 1861).

St. Patrick's Day Cancells - Three special 17 March postmarks originating in the USA came to my attention during 1984 - St. Patrick, Missouri; Dublin, Ohio and Ireland, West Virginia.

CONCLUSION

I wish to acknowledge the help of my many philatelic friends in the preparation of this article. In particular John Lennon who supplied details of slogan postmarks and to Eddie Fitzgerald who continues to be a source of information. If any member is aware of any omissions/errors I would be grateful if they would contact me.

The EPA will be meeting at AMERIPEX; we will also have a booth there. Our meeting is scheduled as follows:

Saturday, May 24, 1986 from 3-4:45PM
KLM room on the International level of
the Hyatt Regency O'Hare.

The Regency O'Hare is adjacent to the Convention Center.

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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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