

# The Revealers

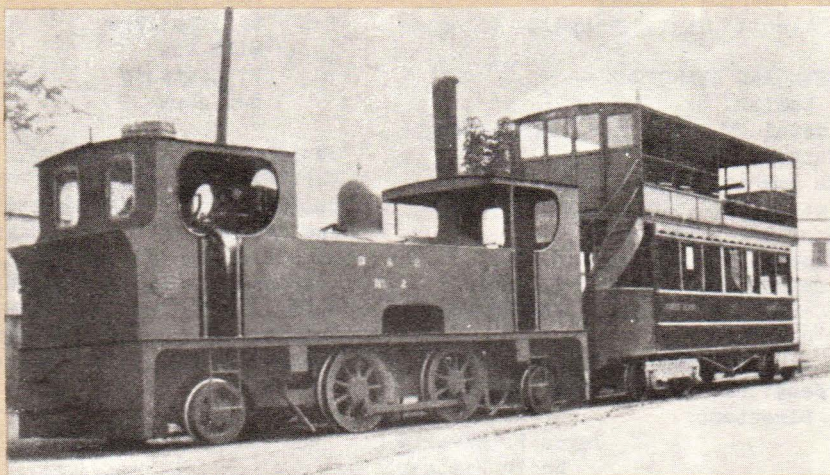
QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



Vol. 35 No. 2

Whole No. 160

Fall 1985



DUBLIN & BLESSINGTON

## Table of Contents

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Doing The Numbers, Again .....    | page 21 |
| Red Hand of Ulster .....          | page 24 |
| Dublin & Blessington Tramway..... | page 26 |

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Irish Precancel?..... | page 27 |
| Random Notes .....    | page 28 |

## THE REVEALER

Whole No. 160

Fall 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.

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#2032 Val Ward, 1952 Wolfenare Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23454 USA  
#2033 Robert A. Sutter, 2427 Fontana Drive, Glenview, IL 60025 USA  
#2034 James A. Dolan, 7 Rich Hill Woods, Lisnagry, Limerick, Ireland  
#2035 Brian Flood, 531 Fire Island Ave. S., Babylon, NY 11702 USA  
#2036 Gerald C. Griffin, 2449 14th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116 USA  
#2037 Donald J. Croarkin, 40 W. 15th Street, Chicago Heights, IL 60411 USA  
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#2042 John J. Connaughton, 10 Sawyer Terrace, Allston, MA 02134 USA  
#2043 Robert I. Smyth, 78 G'ennariff Road, Navan Road, Dublin 7, Ireland

### REINSTATED:

#802 John L. McManus, 100 Pamela Park, Millinocket, ME 04462 USA  
#809 George E. Wright, 2 Jesse Court, Scotia, NY 12302 USA

### MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Membership as of October 1, 1985: 788

New Members 16  
Reinstatements 2

Membership as of December 31, 1985: 806

Results of the Election of Officers for 1985-1987 is as follows:

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| President, Gene Labiuk               | 76 |
| Vice-president, NA, Jim Lawless      | 78 |
| Vice-president, Europe, Brian Warren | 77 |
| Board of Directors                   |    |
| Peter Bugg                           | 76 |
| Edith Hillman                        | 76 |
| George Ithell                        | 76 |
| Jim Lavelle                          | 75 |
| Bill Murphey                         | 74 |
| Bill Zellers                         | 75 |
| Bill Doe                             | 1  |
| P. Costello                          | 1  |
| Bob Jones                            | 1  |

Four ballots invalidated.

Certified by Caroline S. Stilwell (APS No.131371) and Declan O'Kelly (EPA No.1417).

The by-laws allow 60 days notice of the election, thus, as the ballots were late, the new officers are confirmed in their new posts as of the end of October 1985. All ballots cast in September and October were tallied, including those which were sent, **contrary to instructions**, to the Treasurer with dues payments.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Eire Philatelic Association  
Income and Expense Statement  
September 1, 1984 to August 31, 1985

#### Income

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Contributions    | \$ 825  |
| Dues/Memberships | \$ 7188 |
| Directory Ads    | \$ 295  |
| Special Offers   | \$ 200  |
| Auction Income   | \$ 341  |
| Interest         | \$ 1207 |

Total Income \$10056

#### Expenses

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Printing, Mailing    |         |
| Publishing Revealer  | \$ 3509 |
| Secretary's expenses | \$ 585  |
| Typesetting          | \$ 900  |
| Misc, PO Box, etc    | \$ 171  |
| Ameripex Pledge      | \$ 250  |
| WESTPEX Loan         | \$ 800  |
| Awards, Flowers, etc | \$ 86   |
| Interest             | \$ 6    |

Total Expenses \$ 6307

**NOTES:** Only three (3) issues of **The Revealer** are included in these expenses; normally four (4) would be included. Also the cost of printing the directory is not included.

Submitted by William A. O'Connor, Treasurer.

#### DONATIONS:

Donations received with dues payments from the following members, many thanks:

Carl D. Arnott, Henry J. Baird, Lawrence J. Barrett, James F. Barry, Richard H. Barry, Coman V. Brady, James J. Brady, David J. Brennan, Daniel Brown, John J. Butler, Peter E. Bugg, Kevin C. Carroll, Ralph G. Chiet, H. A. Close, Robert F. Cochrane Jr., Harriet W. Colby, Lawrence T. Connolly, Lawrence E. Corr, Merrill G. Culver Jr., Anne M. Crowe, Joseph F. Crowley, Edward J. Daly, Fred H. Daucher, Paul E. Daugherty, A. E. Dijkgraaf, Patrick J. Dillon, Mrs. Ellen Dilorio, E. T. Divecchio, James J. Doheny, William V. Donlon, Joseph D. Duffin, Patrick Duggan, Charles T. Dunn, Thomas J. Durkin, John L. Earl, Mrs. Kathleen Eism, Thomas D. Ellsworth, James W. Farrell, Arthur Faucon, Richard C. Fitzpatrick, Thomas J. Flynn, A. L. Garfield, Warren C. Gifford, George J. & Mary Ginovsky, George E. Gillespie, Edward Gleven, John S. Greenwood, Dr. E. B. Green, Margaret Gurtshaw, Edward G. Haggerty, James L. Hall, Hugh C. Halliday, Michael C. Hartnett, Patrick J. Holmes, Gordon E. Hott, Donald P. Houghtalin, James T. Howley, John P. Huffman, Harold Hurlbutt, Dr. R.F. Jackson, John J. Kane, John P. Kelly, Patrick E. Kennedy, Donald E. King, Ralph H. King, Eugene M. Labiak, W. G. Landelles, James V. Larkin, R. C. Larkin Jr., Rev. Robert M. Legnani, William Luther Jr., Fredric C. Lynch, John C. Lynch, Patrick Lynch, Gerard M. McArdy, Jimmy McAuley, Richard J. McBride, William T. McCaw, John McCormack, C. Doug McCurdy, John J. McDewitt, Francis J. McGuire, John J. McGuire, Charles E. McMahon, James R. McNamara, Benjamin "Rusty" Magee, James Maher, Emmett G. Marsh, James J. Meehan, Devarona Miller, Frank Mirabella, Michael C. Mitchell, Arthur R. Monahan, Charles E. Murphy, Jerome E. Murphy, John P. M. Murphy, Paul G. Murphy, Howard L. Murray, James H. Napier, Donald F. Neville, George Nicholson, Albert Novak III, Russell L. Noyes Jr., William J. O'Brien, William J. O'Donnell, Declan O'Kelly, Malcolm A. Pacey, William J. Pavey, Alan F. Pearce, Havelock E. Phillips, George Pojer, Walter R. Potts, William F. Powers, Mary T. Prado, V. M. M. Rao, James F. Reardon, James J. Rodgers, Leon Rose, Edward J. Ryan, Patrick J. Ryan, Bernard F. Ryder, Edward J. Schiller, Michael W. Schudrowitz, Edward C. Shanley, John B. Sharkey, Daniel R. Shea, William S. Shields, William C. Slattery, Jerome D. Snyder, Neil Stack, A. B. Swadley, Charles B. Uber, C. J. Verge, T. Vrijdag, Dwight A. Wahr, Brian S. Wallas, Patricia S. Walker, Brian Warren, Richard J. Wholey, Ian Whyte, J. P. Woods, George W. Workman, William G. Workman, Howard J. Wunderlich, Joseph P. Wynne, James E. York.

Donations in memory of John Blessington: John G. Fluck, Collectors Club of Southern California.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A letter with corrections:

Editor:

Regarding two of John Blessington's articles in the Spring **Revealer**: I dislike both "perpins" or "spifs" and have for many years urged that a better word would be PUNSTS for punctured stamps. To Philatelists the perforations are the holes around the stamp. Also not all the punctured stamps have initials. One finds also crowns or other devices including the three castles design for Dublin Corporation.

A serious slip in the article on crash covers (p.65) is allocating the SALVED FROM/FIRE GPO DUBLIN to 1916. It should be November 1922. I drew John's attention to this when the article first appeared. [Apologies from the Editor, if we missed a previous correction.]

Fred. E. Dixon

A letter of concern:

November 22, 1985

Dear Mrs. Walker,

I am writing you at this time to express my very deep concern over the future of **The Revealer**. I am aware of its past history as I have been an EPA member since 1976, but this is the first year that its publication has been so very erratic. I am aware of most of your problems in assuming the duties of Editor with nothing to work with.

I was deeply concerned to see the number of members in the Spring issue (received in September) being dropped for "non-payment" of dues. I hope this is not due to lack of notices.

I am deeply involved in recruiting new members in the southwest. What do I tell prospective members about the journal? Will the Auction continue to be mailed with the magazine?

Sincerely,  
Patrick J. Ryan, Sr.  
EPA No.1197

EDITOR'S REPLY:

December 2, 1985

Dear Mr. Ryan,

Thank you very much for your letter expressing concern about **The Revealer**. You made several points that I would like to address individually.

1. Here is what has happened and the future schedule. The late John Blessington produced the Fall 1984 issue on time, as I recall, in October. The Winter issue was late because of his illness. We got it about April. He had done no work on the Spring issue when I took over. Even worse, I have been unable to obtain any of his papers to date. The Spring issue was delayed slightly due to printing problems caused by new techniques, but was mailed in August, less than a month later than the Summer issue normally would be mailed. It included the dues envelopes and the ballots for that reason.

We are essentially one issue behind, but I hope will be producing a magazine regularly. I have consciously avoided combining an issue to get us back on track, but instead I am hoping to shorten the publication cycle and "catch up".

2. Members are not dropped from the rolls without two, sometimes three reminders from Bob Jones, our Secretary. This past spring he wrote to a sampling (as a third reminder) asking for the reasons for leaving the EPA. Some of the reasons given: poor eyesight, giving up stamp collecting; sold my collection.

3. What you need to tell new members is that the journal is about one issue behind schedule but is being published regularly again. The Auction will continue to be mailed with **The Revealer**.

Sincerely,

Pat Walker

[Editor's note: By the time you read this you will have received the Summer issue (in December or early January, I hope!) and this one. As things are going now, I will be "scraping the bottom of the barrel" while working on the next one, Winter 1986. This is one more, not even thinly disguised, plea for material to publish. You won't get much of a journal if you don't help out! And that's not a plea that's a threat.]

## President's Message



I would like to thank the membership for having me as their new president for the next two years. I will try to carry on in the same way as my predecessors. It seems like it is going to be a very interesting and enjoyable (I hope) experience.

I might as well divulge a bit about myself so you, the members, will know who this guy Gene is. I am 37 years old, married to a lovely lady whose name is Ester, who accompanies me on most of my philatelic travels.

My main collecting interest of Ireland is Irish postal history, in particular G.B. used in Ireland - Queen Victoria era, but I also collect all phases of Irish material.

Other areas of collecting include Canada (specializing in the postal history of Lincoln County), Dominica and Australia - King George V issue. I use the Dominica and Australia as a filler when I have nothing else to do.

Other societies to which I belong are the Irish Philatelic Circle, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, British North American Philatelic Society (also the Golden Horseshoe Regional Group of BNAPS), East Toronto Stamp Club, Postal History Society of Canada and the Town of York Historical Society.

During the next two years I hope to meet and communicate with many members whom I haven't met. If you have any questions, thoughts or complaints in regards to the E.P.A. kindly let me know.

There will be two major philatelic events taking place in North America during the next two years; those being AMERIPEX in Chicago, May 22 to June 1, 1986 and CAPEX in Toronto, June 13 to 21, 1987. We will be in Chicago and I will be organizing a meeting in Toronto. So if at all possible come on out and make a holiday of it and at the same time meet some of the other members. More information will be appearing in future editions of **The Revealer** concerning these two events.

Ed Ryan has stepped down as Special Offers Manager and Dick McBride will replace him.

I would like to thank Ed, on behalf of the EPA for doing a fantastic job in establishing the Special Offers as to where it is today. Ed has been doing this job, well let's just say a long time (in excess of 10 years). Thank you very much, Ed.

Dick McBride was one of the founders and the first President of the Connecticut Chapter of the EPA. Now if we can only keep Dick doing this job for over 10 years... We wish Dick all the best in his new job.

We were very much saddened by the death of John Blessington. John was a hard working and a true philatelist. Those of us who knew him have lost a great friend who will be dearly missed.

Thank you and happy collecting.

## Booklet News

### NEW BOOKLET VARIETY

The Irish Post Office has produced two types of the green cover £2 booklet, the first in this denomination. Two of our EPA members who reside in Ireland, Eddie Fitzgerald and Tony Quigley have reported finding two types of the £2 booklet. This booklet was issued June 27, 1985 along with a £1 booklet. Booklet collectors, look at your new issues. The difference is in the selvedge, where the pane is attached to the cover. One is imperforate above the top two 2p stamps. The other has perforations continuing through the selvedge that divides the pane.

The £1 booklet was for use in machines and the £2 was for over the counter sales. It has been reported that the booklets have not been popular with the every day user of stamps.

## Thomas E. Field Award

O. Michael Richards of Wrexham, Clywd, U.K. is the 1985 recipient of the Thomas Edwin Field Award.

The award was established in 1967. The late T.E. Field of Yorkshire, England, was one of the foremost Irish philatelists. He compiled a truly remarkable collection of Ireland and contributed greatly to the knowledge of Irish Philately. The award is presented annually to a philatelist who has made an outstanding contribution to Irish Philately in the tradition established by T.E. Field.

Upon the recommendation of the Award Committee, which consisted of Michael Priestly, Norah Wright and Joe Foley, all previous recipients, and the approval of the President, the EPA this year honors O. M. Richards who has contributed over many years both as Editor and as a contributor to "Irish Philately", the Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle.

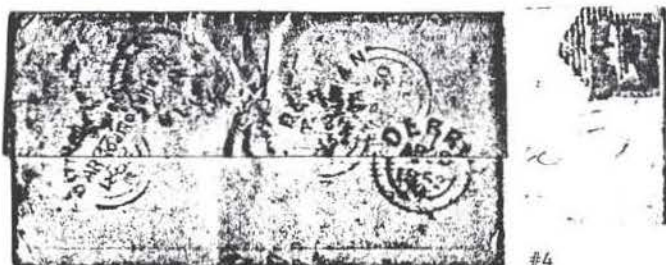
## DOING THE NUMBERS, AGAIN BY TOM CURRENT

It seems like years ago that we started this project — my goodness, it was! The last report was printed in the summer of '84 (written October '83). It was to be a final report, so this is another in the series of final reports.

We've had a number of exciting contributions to our knowledge of numerals actually used, not just assigned to POs in Ireland (1844-1906). We are reducing the list of numerals we have inadequate evidence about (or none at all). We are faced with an imposing list of numerals, however, that we can't conclusively say were used at the PO in a period assigned by the GB PO authorities.

You may want to drag out The Revealer, Summer 1984, ppl8-19, and strike off of or annotate the list. Numerals we are only now striking from the list are probably of significant scarcity. Here are the reports we have received in the past year or so.

Frank McGuire of Sacramento, CA, has found on nice entire, #4 on Penny Stars dated April 27, 1852 in a faint Ardara CDS, along with such backstamps as Donegal Apr 27, Derry Apr 28, and Annan in Scotland, Apr 30. There's a faint two line Burton Port over Ardara. We can strike 4 "a" Andara.



Ken Magee of Clinton, Ont, Canada, made a good contribution, although we are chary of counting his #14 on loose 1d penny red. The number was assigned to Ashford, County Wicklow, throughout the period (a - PO lists 1844-57; b - 1874; c - 1887; and d - 1892-1902) but there is always a chance it was used in error someplace else (unless we can see the duplex or other origination postmark). Are we being too picky? We like to see a date, too, especially if the numeral was known to have been used in more than one place.

Enough obstreperousness... Ken made a good case to delist #195 d(1894), as he has a Glanmire CDS MY 16/99 on piece, and that fits quite nicely with the information that it was assigned in 1894. A clear Fivemiletown #225 on an 1889 cover takes care of another one. A 401 (period bcd) one numeral unclear but surely "1" on cover, Rush DE 17/80, eliminates 401 Rush.

Ken also supplied conclusive evidence of numerals used on cover:

|        |     |     |                    |
|--------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| [1899] | 134 | bcd | Clandeboyne (Down) |
| [1886] | 252 | bcd | Howth (Dub)        |
| [1858] | 333 | a   | Moir (Down)        |



#401

This is a game even newcomers can play. Portland EPA friend, Bill Cole, long a collector of things Irish, is a new connoisseur of elderly covers. He stands to inherit my small collection, as a matter of fact, when I part with it. If you hear him complaining about inheritance taxes, you'll know I got him. Anyway he came up with a dandy #94 on 1852 cover, a #310 on post card neatly backstamped with a Shankill CDS dated SE 19 88 [not Shankill, by the way]; and an 1849 cover of #360 Newtownforbes (Long).

Now we turn to a veteran numbers man, Preston Pope of San Mateo, CA, who sweeps a nice group off our

#310



list. #37 (a) was found on two covers, 1847 and 1852, and also Henry Bright reports one. They eliminate the "a" period Ballycastle 37 from our list. Preston also has an 1854 #96a Carlingford (Louth), and 1860 #124a Castletownroche, an 1874 #144b Clonsilla (Co. Dublin), a #287 on a 1865 Kilmacthomas cover, a #374 Piltown (Kilk) 1860 cover and #376 "a" on an 1851 Portaferry (Down).

In addition to the collaboration with Preston, Henry Bright (Teaneck, NJ) has two other numbers. #435 on Tuam (Gal) cover, and a #479 on an 1880 Knocklong (Lim) cover. Two more are keeled over!

We get help from Cincinnati's Richard Stanton, who started this **Doing the Numbers** thing, which enables us to drop from our list of unknowns the #54, Ballyragget (Kilk) which he has on piece with a May 1869 CDS.

Dave Matthews of Hamilton (Lan), Scotland adds some comment, along with his numerals information: "I did not realize there were so many outstanding that could not be accounted for. I did know that after the potato famine of the 1846-49 period a lot of smaller post offices closed down, and some of the numbers might be impossible to account for. There will always be a doubt until the list is complete (which will never be, apparently)." Dave reports:

[1852] 64 a Bellmullet (Mayo)  
[1850] 267 a Kildysart (Clare)  
[1849] 339 a Mount Nugent (Cavan)  
[1857] 368 abcd Oranmore (Gal)

Now we come to the coup de grace, the outsized contribution to our investigation by Dr. C. I. Dulin of Geneva, Switzerland. Before we list his covers we'll use this quote similar to Dave's:

"Many of the 'a' period are scarce simply because of the 1846-47 famine and, generally speaking, the smaller offices were in areas where the cost of postage (even at 1d or 2d) was still relatively substantial. Why the higher numbers are scarce is much more conjectural. If I ever have time I may try to plot the missing numbers out on a large map and correlate them with their populations. It may prove something."

If the author of this report is permitted a near commercial, for such purposes I have included the 1881 Census for each of the numeral towns in my published list of Irish Numerals Used on GB.

Dr. Dulin enclosed the most impressive list of provably numerals on cover/piece. To save space, I'll now provide, in order, the listings that can be stricken from my last list [Summer 1984 **Revealer**], and asterisk(\*) those based on Dr. Dulin's collection.

|    |      |                      |               |
|----|------|----------------------|---------------|
| 4  | a    | Ardara (Don)         | AP 27 1852    |
| 12 | bcd  | Ashbourne (Meath)    | *OC 22 1878   |
| 19 | d    | Arva (Cavan)         | *AU 16 1899   |
| 28 | abcd | Ballaghaderin (Ros)  | *JA 30 1855   |
| 31 | bcd  | Ballinamallard (Fer) | *SE 16 1873   |
| 33 | a    | Ballincollig (Cork)  | *SE 11 1852   |
| 36 | cd   | Ballybrophy (Qns)    | *AU 18 *73    |
| 37 | a    | Ballycastle (Ant)    | 1847(2), 1852 |
|    |      |                      | *AU 3 1844    |
| 44 | bcd  | Ballyhaunis (Mayo)   | *DE 20 1886   |
| 45 | a    | Ballymahon (Long)    | *JL 4 1845    |
| 49 | a    | Ballymore (Westm)    | *JU 2 1845    |
| 54 | abcd | Ballyragget (Kilk)   | MY 7 1869     |
| 60 | bcd  | Barnesmore (Don)     | *NO 3 1872    |
| 63 | bcd  | Belleek (Ferm)       | *JL 13 1875   |
| 64 | a    | Belmullet (Mayo)     | 1852          |

|     |        |                           |                  |
|-----|--------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 76  | cd     | Bangor Erris (Mayo)       | *NO 1 1901       |
| 79  | d      | Blarney (Cork)            | *DE 29 1898      |
|     | (thank | goodness we have the B--) |                  |
| 94  | abcd   | Camolin (Wex)             | *AP 6 1852       |
| 96  | a      | Carlingford (Louth)       | AP 31 1854       |
| 115 | abcd   | Castlederg (Tyr)          | *OC 26 1882      |
| 117 | abcd   | Castlefin (Don)           | *AP 1870/74      |
| 124 | a cd   | Castletownroche (Cork)    | AU 11 1860       |
| 134 | a      | Clifden (Gal)             | *NO 1850,DE 1851 |
| 134 | bcd    | Clandeboyne (Down)        | * 1899           |
| 144 | bcd    | Clonsilla (Dub)           | AU 31 1874       |
| 180 | a      | Dromod (Leit)             | *1846/1854       |
| 180 | bcd    | Dromore (Tyr)             |                  |
| 195 | 1894   | Glanmire (Cork)           | MY 16 1899       |
| 209 | abcd   | Emyvale (Mon)             | *JU 1877,OC 1878 |
| 222 | bcd    | Finglas (Dub)             | *FE 3 1873       |
| 223 | bcd    | Fintona (Tyr)             | *JA 1869,DE 1893 |
| 225 | d      | Fivemiletown (Tyr)        | JU 5 1889        |
| 233 | bcd    | Gilford (Down)            | *MY 2 1873       |
| 246 | abcd   | Granard (Long)            | *MR 13 1900      |
| 252 | bcd    | Howth (Dub)               | 1886             |
| 253 | a      | Howth (Dub)               | *MR 11 1850      |
| 253 | bcd    | Irvinestown (Ferm)        | *DE 16 1875      |
| 267 | a      | Kildysart (Clare)         | 1850             |
| 273 | bcd    | Killiney (Dub)            | *JU 2 1873       |
| 276 | bcd    | Killygordon (Don)         | *JU 5 1875       |
| 277 | abcd   | Killyleigh (Down)         | *1865/1878       |
| 287 | abcd   | Kilmacthomas (Wat)        | MR 5 1865        |
| 310 | cd     | Shankhill (Dub)           | SE 19 1888       |
| 322 | bcd    | Manorcunningham (Don)     | *DE 3 1865       |
|     |        |                           | DE 3 1878        |
| 325 | a      | Maynooth (Kild)           | *1845/1850       |
| 333 | a      | Moir (Down)               | 1858             |
| 339 | a      | Mount Nugent (Cavan)      | 1849             |
| 360 | a      | Newtownhamilton (Arm)     | *JA 1857         |
| 368 | abcd   | Oranmore (Gal)            | 1867,*1867,1875  |
|     |        |                           | *1878,1882       |
| 374 | abcd   | Piltown (Kilk)            | MR 10 1860       |
| 376 | a      | Portaferry (Down)         | DE 5 1851        |
| 383 | abcd   | Raphoe (Don)              | *JA 1866,MY 1879 |
| 385 | cd     | Portglenone (Ant)         | *JA 23 1901      |
| 401 | bcd    | Rush (Dub)                | DE 17 1880       |
| 406 | bcd    | Skerries (Dub)            | *DE 16 1879      |
| 422 | bcd    | Swords (Dub)              | *NO 20 1873      |
| 435 | abcd   | Tuam (Gal)                | NO 6 1869        |
| 446 | bcd    | Woodlawn (Gal)            | *AU 10 1874      |
| 454 | bcd    | Ovaca (Wick)              | *FE 22 1869      |
| 465 | bcd    | Clarecastle (Clare)       | *1861,1874       |
| 467 | bcd    | Clondalkin (Dub)          | *OC 5 1884       |
| 471 | bcd    | Glounthaune (Cork)        | *JU 30 1900      |

[on **The Revealer** list there was a misprint, 471 should have been as above and 472 as "vacant".]

|     |        |                                                   |               |
|-----|--------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 476 | bcd    | Killeagh (Cork)                                   | *MR 30 1880   |
| 479 | bcd    | Knocklong (Lim)                                   | 1880,*MR 1866 |
| 484 | bcd    | Manorhamilton (Leit)                              | *AU 5 1877    |
| 488 | vacant | [Dr. Dulin has JA 26 1878 on piece, no town name] |               |
| 507 | cd     | Ballintobe (Mayo)                                 | *FE 13 1901   |
| 510 | cd     | Kingscourt (Cavan)                                | *AU 30 1895   |
| 515 | cd     | Hill of Down (Meath)                              | *N 14 1899    |
| 555 | d      | Annascaul (Kerry)                                 | *AU 31 1899   |
| 557 | d      | Woodenbridge (Wick)                               | *N 29 1900    |

Did you make a note from Bill Kane's recent article (**Revealer** #157) that 328 was used in error at Milltown (Kerry)? [Also see Fred Dixon's comment in **Revealer** #158 with additional information, Ed.]

A tiny bit of analysis indicates that the higher population places still not accounted for are almost all near quite large population centers to which mail was probably taken before a townstamp was applied, so the assigned numeral was quite infrequently needed. Otherwise, there seems to be an unsurprising high correlation between small population and lack of surviving covers.

Let's conclude with a brief summary of the list of numerals still on our wanted list. We began with 652 entries and we still have no report on 237 numerals (cover/card/piece). The summary is for 245, actually, including the 8 most recently reported but it makes a point. Here's how they spread across the spectrum of time periods and population:

CENSUS OF 1881 [NPG/NL - No population given or not listed]

| Time Periods       | NPG/NL                                                                   | 1-300                                                    | 301-500                              | 501-1000                  | 1001-1500                    | Over                            | Total      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| a only<br>1844-57  | 35                                                                       | 15                                                       | 12                                   | 18                        | 6                            | 1-Keady(Arm)<br>1-Trim(Mth)     | 88         |
| ab to 1874<br>only | 2                                                                        | 1                                                        |                                      |                           |                              |                                 | 3          |
| bc to bcd<br>only  | 32                                                                       | 7                                                        | 7                                    | 12                        | 0                            | 1-Comber(Down)                  | 53         |
| cd only            | 31                                                                       | 5                                                        | 4                                    | 6                         | 3                            | 1-Macroom(Cork)                 | 50         |
| d only             | 23                                                                       | 1                                                        | 3                                    | 2                         | 1                            | 1-Dalkey(Dub)<br>1-Bangor(Down) | 32         |
| abcd               | Ashford(Wick)<br>Cabineteely(Dub)<br>Golden Ball(Dub)<br>Mulhuddart(Dub) | Tynan(Arm)<br>Clane(Kild)<br>Clough(Down)<br>Foynes(Lim) | Camolin<br>(Wex)<br>Dungloe<br>(Don) | Saint-<br>field<br>(Down) | Newtown-<br>Stewart<br>(Tyr) | Dingle(Kerry)                   | 13         |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>127</b>                                                               | <b>33</b>                                                | <b>28</b>                            | <b>39</b>                 | <b>11</b>                    | <b>7</b>                        | <b>245</b> |

## CHAPTER REPORT

Our 35th Anniversary Year has resulted in more activity by the Association than perhaps in any previous year. More Irish material has been exhibited and won a significant number of awards.

There will be an EPA booth at AMERIPEX, and a meeting is scheduled for the first Saturday afternoon (May 24th at 3PM). We expect a considerable number of our members to be attending. It would appear to be a convenient time for many of us who have never met some members to do so.

This year has been an active one for our EPA chapters. On the West Coast our NORCAL Chapter headed up the 35th anniversary activity at WESTPEX, with over a 100 frames of Irish material on exhibit. On the East Coast the New England Chapters were active at RIPEX, but Irish exhibits were few.

The New England Chapters, John McCormack in the Boston Area, and the Connecticut River Valley serving that area meet regularly and often. The John McCormack Chapter meets in members homes, on a Saturday and from 10AM to 4PM or later. The CRV Chapter meets in a parish hall on a Sunday during a scheduled bourse in Meriden, CT.

The New York City Chapter has been meeting at the Collectors Club in Manhattan, one Thursday evening per month. The James Hoban Chapter, serving the Baltimore Washington DC area meets four times a year: once at BOPEX, NAPEX, WILSHOW and a fourth place that varies. Chapters in the Detroit and Chicago areas meet regularly or when called and have been active in the stamps shows in their areas.

This year saw the initiation of three branches of the Lone Star Chapter in Texas (see separate report). A Chapter coordinator supervises these areas and has assumed responsibility for recruiting for a five state area: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico.

Attempts have been made to organize chapters on Long Island, in North Jersey, Philadelphia, and Toronto, Canada. There are sufficient members in these areas for such groups but efforts so far have not been successful.

Chapters are useful in many ways. Our most productive areas for recruiting are the areas where we have chapters. They are also the means of organized activities on behalf of Irish philately.

The chapters sending out newsletters or reports on meetings are the Hoban, McCormack, and CRV. The Lone Star Chapters has been issuing a monthly newsletter for the last nine months. A newsletter has been started for our members in Wisconsin. This will lead to the dozen or so members there planning a trip to AMERIPEX and hopefully to the organization of a chapter.

Twenty to twenty-five members make a viable chapter possible. Where considerable distances are a factor, as in Texas or Wisconsin (and not forgetting California) the structure and program of a chapter must be adapted to that particular situation.

As Chapter Coordinator, I am looking for energetic, able, and persistent persons to help initiate chapters in their areas. I am also looking for area secretaries who will serve in their states to welcome new members and consider ways and means of promoting Irish Philately in their jurisdictions.

Robert C. Jones

## THE RED HAND OF ULSTER

by Bob

Moskowitz

Four symbols appear on the Northern Ireland Regional Issues (Scott 1-44): a flax plant, a field gate, a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, and the Red Hand of Ulster. Of the four, the Red Hand of Ulster is the most interesting.

The flax plant is an appropriate symbol; from the flax plant linen is made, and the making of linen is an important industry in Northern Ireland. Irish linen is known throughout the world.

The symbol of the field gate is noted as representing the "gateway to prosperity".

The portrait of Queen Elizabeth is of historical significance. It indicates Northern Ireland's relationship with England. A part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland consists of six counties in the province of Ulster: Londonderry, Antrim, Down, Tyrone, Fermanagh, and Armagh. This status was achieved as a result of a treaty between England and the Provisional Government of Ireland in 1922. The remaining three counties in Ulster - Donegal, Monaghan, Cavan - being predominantly Catholic became part of the Irish Free State, later the Republic of Ireland. The presence of the portrait of Queen Elizabeth is symbolic of Northern Ireland's continuing loyalty to the United Kingdom.

It should be noted here that the eventual creation of Northern Ireland had its roots in 1586 when another Queen, Elizabeth I, approved the idea of "planting" Englishmen on confiscated Irish lands. The first of these plantations, as they were called, took place in Munster. Later the plantations occurred in other provinces, including Ulster, which became a predominately Protestant province; it was this Protestant majority which resulted in the creation of Northern Ireland in the twentieth century.

The flax plant, the field gate and the portrait of Elizabeth II are appropriate symbols. The fourth symbol, the heraldic device known as the Red Hand of Ulster, is also appropriate because of its historic association with Ulster. It appears on all the Northern Ireland Regional Issues and also on four Anti-Home Rule Labels issued in Belfast between 1912 and 1914 (L19, L20, L21, L22: Specialized Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland: 1922-1972, Hibernian Stamp Company, Ltd. Listed as L22, L23, L24, L26 in Stamps of Ireland, Specialised Catalogue, MacDonnell Whyte 1983.)

There is, however, an ironic aspect to the choice of this symbol. Today we associate the Red Hand of Ulster with the determination of Northern Ireland to remain separate from Ireland. The Red Hand was, however, originally a symbol for the efforts of those who battled the forces which eventually led to the creation of Northern Ireland.



The origins of this heraldic device go beyond history to that dim and often apocryphal area of legend. At some time two Celtic war lords, having sailed beyond their usual range, spied land on the horizon. A wager was made: whoever touched the land first would win the land for himself and his descendants. One of the war lords, named O'Neill, fell behind. Realizing he would lose the race, he waited until he got within range of the beach. Then he seized his battle-axe, struck off his left hand, and hurled it onto the beach, winning for the O'Neill clan the land we know as Ulster.

The story has no basis in history, but these two facts remain: the O'Neill clan was for many years the most powerful of the Ulster clans, tracing its history back to Niall of the Nine Hostages, who was Ard-Ri (High King) at Tara from 380 A.D. to 405 A.D.

It was, incidentally, this same Niall whose raiding parties brought back from Britain a Roman youth, Patricius, son of Calpurnius. Held as a slave for six years, the youth was set to tending sheep near Antrim in Ulster. He escaped his masters, but some years later he returned as a bishop in the Christian church. Establishing a mission in north east Ulster, he eventually converted all of Ireland to Christianity and is known today as St. Patrick.

The second fact is that the chief of the O'Neill clan, called "The O'Neill", had as his coat of arms a red left hand, upraised, palm front - the Red Hand of Ulster. Other members of the O'Neill clan used the same device with one exception; only the reigning chief showed a left hand, all others displayed a right hand. On the regional issues of Northern Ireland a right hand is displayed.

Ulster remained Irish until the invasions of the English in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The first of these was ordered by Queen Elizabeth I, who planned, for political and economic reasons, to confiscate Irish lands and redistribute them to those to whom money and favors were owed. While her plan was successful in the South, starting with Munster, the Ulster chiefs resisted fiercely. Two leaders arose to lead Ulster: Red Hugh O'Donnell of Tir-Conail (Donegal), a descendant of Niall of the Nine Hostages, and Hugh O'Neill of Tir-Eoin (Tyrone), another descendent of Niall. Between 1594 and 1603, these two chiefs led the Irish forces to a series of victories culminating at the Battle of Beal-an-athabuidhe (pronounced Bale-in-awha-bwee) or the Battle at the Yellow Ford as it is sometimes known.

This battle marked the first time that the English forces faced a fully equipped Irish army of equal strength and leadership. The defeat of the English created a sensation in Europe and a scandal in England. More important, however, was the fact that at this moment the history of Ireland might have been altered. The Irish forces stood ready to drive the weakened English forces from Ireland. Had they done so, Ireland might have developed as a free and united nation; Gaelic law, custom, and language might have prevailed.

But an incredible series of errors on the part of the Irish chieftains who had come from the South with their armies to support Ulster, on the part of the admiral sent with a fleet from Spain to take advantage of their traditional enemy's situation, and on the part of O'Donnell reversed the situation and the Irish were defeated at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601. O'Donnell rushed to Spain seeking more aid, but none was granted. Later O'Donnell died there under mysterious circumstances. It is possible, according to papers recently discovered, that he was poisoned by an English agent.

O'Neill retreated to Ulster to continue the fight, but eventually surrendered in return for a pardon and land. However, by 1607 it became clear that Ireland was no longer a safe home for O'Neill. He and several other earls fled to Rome where they spent their last days. This "Flight of the Earls" marked the end of hope for a unified Ireland. The plantation would continue and Ulster would become English and eventually Protestant.

From the early victories to the defeat at Kinsale, the flag carried by the army of O'Neill bore on it the Red Hand of Ulster. Even the war cry of his army referred to the Red Hand: "Lamb dearg Ulaídh" - The red hand for Ulster. But by the twentieth century, the Red Hand of Ulster was no longer a symbol of those fighting to preserve the Gaelic tradition. The first philatelic use of the Red Hand of Ulster in this new context in on four propaganda labels (L19-L22, Hibernian). These labels appeared during the turmoil which grew out of the question of Home Rule. The question of Ireland's relationship with England was a difficult one. As early as Cromwell's time efforts were made to create some form of union which would be acceptable to all parties. In the early years many Protestants saw some form of union with England to be to their advantage. Many Catholics agreed although many disagreed.

In 1783, through the efforts of Henry Grattan, a Protestant, George III granted Ireland its own parliament. Ireland would owe its allegiance to the Crown, but would not in any way be subordinate to the English parliament at Westminster. In effect, Ireland had been made a nation. But the creation of an autonomous parliament in Ireland resulted in a series of conflicts between the English and Irish parliaments. The situation soon became intolerable and by 1800 the Grattan Parliament had ceased to exist. In place of the idea of union with England, a new idea arose, home rule.

Twice in the last years of the nineteenth century William Gladstone, English Prime Minister, presented to Parliament home rule bills. Under home rule Ireland would create its own parliament to deal with internal affairs. In other affairs Westminster would

rule. Ireland would, of course, still owe its allegiance to the English crown. An acceptable idea to some Irish leaders, there were others who opposed it. Some insisted that home rule was not the answer but that an independent republic created by force, if necessary, was the answer. The North, which was by this time was predominantly Protestant, opposed the severing of the traditional link with the mother country and also feared a Catholic majority, which home rule would bring.

Twice, Gladstone's bills were passed in the House of Commons but defeated in the House of Lords. Outspoken in his opposition to any home rule for Ireland was Lord Randolph Churchill, father of Sir Winston Churchill. It was Lord Randolph who rallied the anti-home rule forces with the cry "Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right." And indeed, the possibility of armed opposition - civil war - was growing in Ulster.

In 1911 another prime minister, Lord Asquith, was convinced by John Redmond, leader of the Home Rule Party in Ireland, to present parliament with a new home rule bill. Because of the passage of legislation which deprived the House of Lords of some of its power and because of the presence of a strong liberal element in both houses, passage of the bill appeared to be a certainty. By 1913 the struggle to pass the bill was under way. In the meantime preparations were being made in both Ulster and the South.

Sir Edward Carson and his supporters had organized and armed a force called the Ulster Volunteers. Ulster was on the verge of insurrection. In the South the Irish Socialist Party under James Connolly, Sinn Féin, still led by Arthur Griffith, and many members of Douglas Hyde's Gaelic League formed the Irish Citizen Army and the Irish Volunteers. These two were to merge to become the Irish Republican Army.

At the last minute Carson requested that Asquith exclude Ulster from the provisions of the home rule bill. This exclusion would make Ulster a separate political state, an idea unthinkable to those in the South. With both sides poised on the brink of a civil war, Fate stepped in. War was declared between England and Germany. Asquith ordered, therefore, that the question of home rule be delayed until after the war. The home rule bomb had been defused.

But another bomb was ticking and it exploded in 1916 when republican forces stormed the General Post Office in Dublin. By 1922 Ireland was a free state and on its way to being a republic. Northern Ireland had been excluded and remained part of the United Kingdom. It was during the years of anti-home rule fervor that the four labels appeared, each bearing an anti-home rule slogan. Each displays the Red Hand of Ulster, but only one displays the traditional right hand (L22) the others display a left hand.

Whatever the reasons for the various uses of left and right hands and for the choice of the Red Hand as a symbol for Northern Ireland, one ironic fact remains: the Red Hand of Ulster, once symbolic of the struggle to preserve the Gaelic tradition, has become in modern times symbolic of the struggle to resist a return to that tradition.

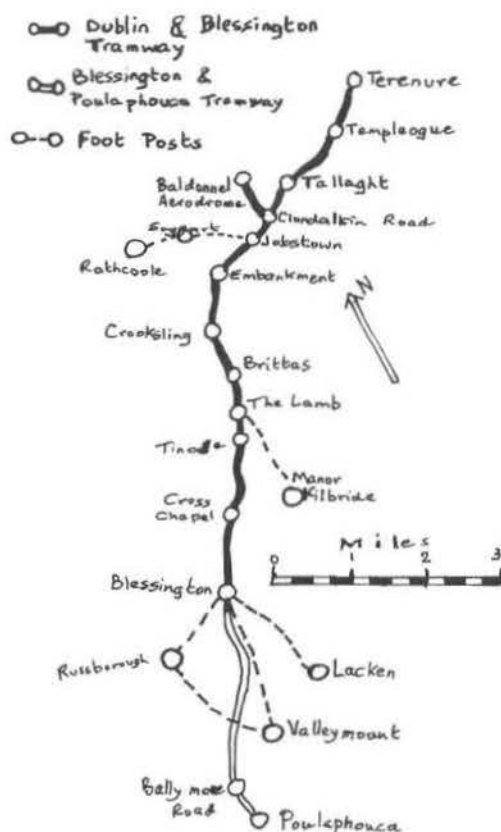


## DUBLIN & BLESSINGTON TRAMWAY

by Fred E. Dixon

The late John Blessington was proud of his Irish name and interested in the postal history of the small town of Blessington in Co. Wicklow. I am sorry that this note could not have been written earlier, but now I dedicate it to his memory.

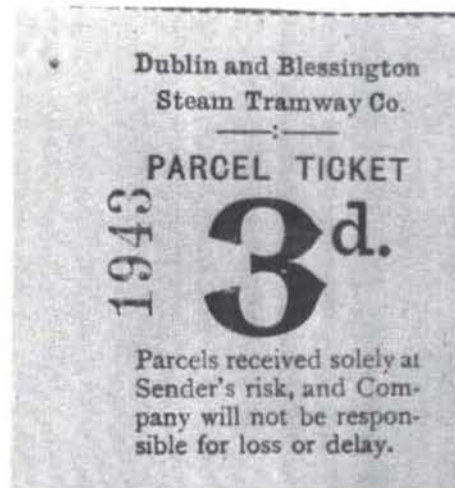
One of the most romantic of Irish small railways was the Dublin and Blessington Tramway, still remembered affectionately by some old people although it closed in 1932. For most of its existence, the trams were pulled by steam locomotives, and one locomotive could pull a train of three tramloads of passengers plus several wagons of cattle, sheep and goods. It is only recently that I realised that the trams also carried mails. When the service was inaugurated from the Terenure terminus at 8:35 AM on Wednesday 1st August 1888 it carried the mail bags to several places along the line, brought from Dublin GPO by a special horse-drawn tram of the Dublin city service. Timetables for the line designate certain schedules as "MAIL", including the last from Terenure at 8:25PM and the last from Blessington at 8:53PM. There was also an afternoon mail leaving Blessington at 4:20.



In 1895 a separate Company opened the Blessington and Poulaphuca Steam Tramway, in connection with the Dublin & Blessington but it is not clear whether it obtained a mail contract. On the other hand, the Post Office Circulation Map, published in 1907, shows only the Terenure to Blessington line, with a number of footposts fed by it.

One place on my map, but not on the 1907 original, is Baldonnel Aerodrome. That aerodrome was opened in World War I and a spur from the tramline was built to assist in the transport of men and supplies.

The company does not seem to have used Railway Letter Stamps, but parcel labels survive.



NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS  
by Bob Joyce

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

|        |               |         |              |             |
|--------|---------------|---------|--------------|-------------|
| Galway | Lovely        | Mosney  | United       | Exhibition  |
| Slogan | Leitrim       | Nations | Festival     | Philatelic  |
| Early  | Stamp         | Shows   | Revealer     | Conferences |
| Trade  | Arts          | For     | Tipperary    | Disarmament |
| Its    | Long          | New     | Christmas    | Book        |
| Now    | Week          | Not     | Holidays     | Post        |
| Join   | Eire          | Assn    | Think        | Tidy        |
| Way    | Cancellations |         | Celebrations |             |

Anybody who needs the answer to the RANDOM NOTES I puzzle in the Summer issue can write to the Editor.

## IRISH PRE-CANCEL? by Jim Lawler

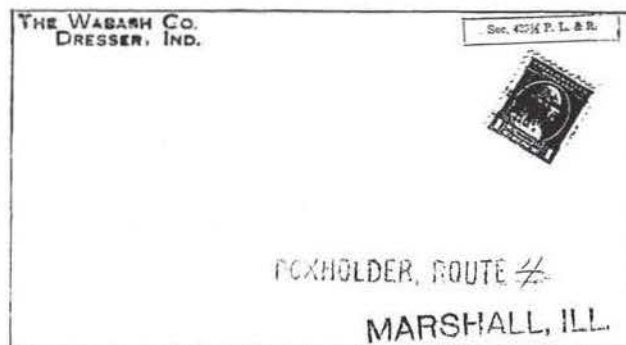
Irish pre-cancels? It cannot be! The Irish Post Office has never precanceled any stamps. But that was the program for the Indiana Stamp Club in March 1934. Andrew Dempsey, a pre-cancel collector living in Terre Haute, Indiana, had never heard of Irish precancels. Being of Irish descent and proud of it, Andy drove the 70 plus miles to be at the meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. Miller of Martinsville, Indiana was to speak and other experts from "abroad" were to be there. When the meeting was started out of town guests were introduced and Andy was presented with the stamp illustrated below.



This blue two pence Irish stamp is watermarked SE. It has a double circle date stamp reading "Baile, Phadraig Cluaim Meala, Co." - Gaelic for Baileypatrick, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. The date in the center is either the third or the eighth day of June 1931. On the top of this cancel is the printed "pre-cancel" of "Dublin, Ireland". Had the Irish Post Office done the cancelling it would probably have read "Baile Atha Cliath, Eire". Between the lower line and "Ireland" is the word "FALSOM" which indicates that the item is a fake. It is, and Andy knew he had fallen for a practical joke. Andy vowed to reciprocate.

The difficulty of obtaining information about pre-cancel devices, permit holders, and denominations pre-cancelled was immense in the 1930s. The write ins and walk-ins of section 142.3 U.S. Post Office Manual, which are available today were against the regulations then. The Post Office Bulletin did not give information about shipping precancel devices. Dates of Authorization to use precanceled stamps were not always given. The local collector was the main source of information. The raw material for that information was their own mail and the public trash can in the Post Office lobby. This typically resulted in a town being either common or very difficult to obtain with very little "in-between" material.

Andrew Dempsey went to a great deal of trouble to obtain several difficult items from the town of Dresser, Indiana, (see next column).



These mimeographed pre-cancels on the 1c 1932 Washington Bicentennial were mailed under Section 435 1/2 of the Postal Laws and Regulations, by a non-existent firm, The Wabash Company of Dresser, Indiana. All covers were addressed to "Boxholder, Route 4, Marshall, Ill.". This find from the birth place of Paul Dresser, the author of "Back Home in Indiana" was relayed to Al Vestal, editor for the State of Indiana of the Hoover Precancel Catalogue. He was unaware Andy Dempsey had set up this hoax by using a variety of rubber hand stamps. Vestal took the bait hook, line and sinker publishing the information in the Midwest Precancel News or the Precancel Bee. Later Andy got his revenge by revealing the hoax, much to Vestal's chagrin.

Many friendly jokes were played on the members of the Indiana Stamp Club in those days. Having fun with stamps and one's philatelic friends was more important than the financial or competitive aspect then. This is still true of those attending today.

Thanks to Al Gerstenburger, Manley Behrens, and Tulley Hallem for raising the question and contributing to the answer about Irish pre-cancels. Thanks to Dave Smith for allowing me to examine the Stamp and have Ray Jones photograph it. It is possible that there was a printed program passed out at that meeting of the Indiana Stamp Club when Andrew Dempsey was given the Irish precancel. Does anyone out there know about it, or the possibility that other Irish stamps were given similar treatment?



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.



## RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

### POLLING CARDS

The cards notifying voters of their registered numbers for the Local Government elections on 20th June 1985 were of a new design incorporating the bilingual POSTAS IOCHTA/POSTAGE PAID. However they were delivered in envelopes bearing no postal markings!

### DEFINITIVES

The most peculiar aspect of the new issues on 27 June 1985 was that the envelope sold with them by An Post illustrated the withdrawn £1 design.

### FAUX PAS

An attractive envelope was produced for posting at the opening of a Jewish Museum during the visit of President Herzog. Prominent are the flags of Israel and the Republic of Ireland. Unfortunately the tricolour has its colours reversed.

### TRENDS

Linn's Stamp News, 24 June 1985, analyses Irish stamp prices, and finds that the general trend of the previous seven months was down by about 20%, although a few (Thom 3-line, architectural definitives) are slightly up.

### LIVESTOCK LEVY STAMPS

Many collectors are familiar with stamps of the 1940s issued by the Exported Livestock Insurance Board, which seem to have been discontinued after World War II. Now a rather different set of stamps has come into use as a result of 1979 legislation. The issuing body is CORAS BEOSTOIC AGUS FEOLA (Cattle and Meat Export Board) and the stamps prepay a levy imposed on animals exported on the hoof. Values seen are from 5p to £10. All have the same design: a central motif of grasses in bright green, which is repeated in miniature to provide a background. Values and inscription are in black.



### TOO MANY STAMPS

Discussion at a meeting of the Irish Philatelic Society revealed that several members had independently decided to restrict their buying of new Irish stamps, and a resolution was passed, almost unanimously, deploring An Post's current policy.

### SLOGAN NEWS

There has been a slogan cancellation, which I have not yet seen, from Youghal, I think commemorating the alleged introduction of the potato by Sir Walter Raleigh 400 years ago. The myth is now discredited except in Youghal.

Another new slogan BE A KIDNEY DONOR appeared, as scheduled, at the beginning of August, but the lettering is too small and I have not yet seen a completely legible example.

Although not scheduled, the DISARMAMENT WEEK slogan was revived for 24-31 October. On the other hand I have not seen the WORLD POST DAY slogan supposed to have appeared on 9th October.

### METER SLOGAN

In July the Regional Technical College, Dundalk, was using the logo of the International Youth Year in its metermark.

### OFFICIAL SLOGANS

In September the Department of Health changed the slogan with its metermark from PROTECT YOUR BABY/IMMUNISE to ERADICATE MEASLES/IMMUNISE YOUR BABY.

### RECUT POSTMARKS

Checking through a bundle of surplus postcards before trying to sell them, I noticed that the cancellation on one from Kenmare had an extra wide space between KENMARE and S.O. Comparison with the R.S.O. marking at Kenmare 1901-06 shows that this 1911 marking is the same, but with the R deleted. Was this done elsewhere?



### EXHIBITION

I was sorry that other commitments prevented my travelling to Belfast for the opening of an exhibition to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Royal Mail Service. The exhibition includes postal history items of many kinds, and was initially on the premises of the Northern Bank, but was scheduled to travel to other parts of Northern Ireland during the summer, and is a precursor of a permanent Postal Museum. Alas, there is still no indication that anything of the kind will happen in Dublin in the foreseeable future.

**INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR STAMPS**

The clumsy symbol for the Year ruins the designs of the stamps. If it had to be incorporated it could have been much smaller. Another blunder was having a special envelope for the Portumna Scout Camp without having a special stamp. One of the values could have depicted Scouts and Guides as representing the best of our youth. And the childish design on the Portumna envelope is ridiculous in many respects: the youth sawing is making the elementary mistake of sawing in the middle instead of at the end.

**1986 STAMPS**

Regrettably An Post shows no sign of acceding to our requests to cut down on its new issues. No fewer than 11 different designs are to be featured, but there is no indication of how many will be single stamps and how many in sets. Obviously Irish Ferns will need at least four. There were over 4000 entries in the competition for the 1986 Love stamps!

**EXPRESS**

A cachet I have only recently seen in August is a large oval (55 x 32mm) on an An Post envelope with the date across the center. Above the date is EXPRESS MAIL and below DN CONTROL. A similar letter sent also in August had a different cachet of the same size and shape, but reading BAILE ATHA CLIATH - DUBLIN/EXPRESS MAIL.

**LICENCES**

Posting licence No. 4 is used by the R.T.E. Guide. The highest number I have seen is 147, printed in Irish on a plain envelope. It has DM before CEADUNAS. What does this signify?

**DEFENCE FORCES FDC**

The cover specially printed and sold in aid of the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund for the stamp issued 20 June was not delivered to some subscribers until two months later, by which time the canceler was very worn!

**CENSORSHIP**

James Gough reports an envelope cancelled in Cork 21 Nov 1922, with a double rimmed oval cachet reading: OGLAIG NA hEIREANN, 20 NOV 1922/PASSED BY CENSOR. If genuine, it is an important discovery; I do not know of any markings of official censorship at the time, although it is reasonable that there should have been, and OGLAIG NA hEIREANN was the name for the Irish Army. Has anyone anything similar?

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

Congratulations to Bill Kane and his wife who were married on 2nd September 1935.

**AN POST CHARGES**

For the last few years when I took a holiday I

arranged that all mail addressed to my house would be delivered to next door neighbors. When I visited the District Post Office to arrange the same facility this year I learned that what was formerly done free is now charged a minimum of £12.50!

**REVIEWS**

In 1968 James A. MacKay published "The Story of Eire and Her Stamps". The book had many mistakes because the author had placed too much reliance on secondary sources. Happily he learned from the mistakes and in recent years has produced a marvelous succession of well researched reference works dealing with postal history and postal markings of Great Britain and Ireland.

His latest subject is the sub-office rubber date stamps of Ireland and his research has yielded so much material that the results need two volumes, one for the "English" names and another for the names in Irish. 1985 is chosen for these volumes because it is the centenary of the introduction of the "Climax" rubber datestamps for use on Postal Orders at sub-offices with insufficient business to justify the supply of the expensive (7s 6d each) steel stamps. Inevitably examples from many of the sub-offices are extremely rare and the lists are based mainly on the official proof books. Another complication is that some offices received frequent replacements without the new handstamps being registered.

The second volume discusses the remarkable range of styles of lettering found with the Irish names - upper and lower case, upright and sloping, with and without serifs, etc. A valuable feature is the comprehensive indexing, by English name, by Irish name, and broken down into counties.

At £6.60 postpaid (£7.90 overseas) per volume, the two volumes are strongly recommended as is the Postal History Annual 1986 (£5.10 postpaid, £6.40 overseas) in which there is a good proportion of Irish material. Order from James A. MacKay, 11 Newall Terrace, Dumfries, DG1 1LN, Scotland.

**FELDMAN AUCTIONS**

The catalogues for David Feldman's November sales in Zurich and New York are delightful to browse through and list an unprecedented assemblage of major rarities. The New York sale includes nearly 300 lots of Irish overprints, with all the major rarities, even the 1d missing accent, and also the missing accent and t. There are nine examples of the 2d coil SG74b, including a mint pair and used strip of three, and there is a tenth example in the postal auction!

**OCTOBER 3RD COMMEMORATIVES**

The 22p depiction of a Visual Display Unit is tolerable; the 26p attempt to show ancient and modern peat working is a failure. A white line separating the two would improve it. The 44p is allegedly designed by Brendan Donegan, but its merit depends on the original painting by Sean Keating.

**"CANCELLED" CORRECTION**

The CANCELLED on postage dues, reported in the Summer 1985 **Revealer** (Random Notes) is not a post office marking, but is applied by ESB accountants.

#### MacDONNELL WHYTE October AUCTION

The auction was well attended and there was little evidence of the alleged slump. The better items sold at near or above auctioneer's estimates. Notable were the COUNTERFEIT covers, curved £1050 and straight £750. The 1920-22 covers did well. The 1870 Ballon Monte to Dublin fetched £550. Possibly because so many other examples were being offered by David Feldman the 2d coil SG74b realized only £775.

#### STATE LOTTERY

It seems certain that An Post will be responsible for running the Irish State Lottery, and will be able to use some of its profits. This raises our hopes of the long promised Postal Museum.

#### PAUL SINGER

The **American Philatelist** for September 1985 has reprinted the section of Herman Herst Jr's memoirs dealing with Singer's trials. Herst had been brought to Dublin for the final trial, invited to testify about normal auctioneering practices. However, at the last minute, Singer's lawyers found that Herst thought Singer guilty and he was hurriedly sent home before the prosecution could sub-poena him.

#### DUTY STAMPS

While the Post Office was a State Department postage stamps could be used to pay the stamp duty on many types of document. Now that the revenue from the stamps goes to An Post there are problems. Postage stamps are still accepted in some cases, but there is a new series of duty stamps, inscribed DLEACHT STAMPA. Mike Giffney has discovered this, his example being a 7p value for use on simple Agreements. The background is yellow; EIRE and the harp are mauve; and the value and designation in black.



STAMPA 85

The exhibition entries showed continued improvements from other years in both quantity and quality. Several collectors who had offered two entries were allowed only one. Judging this year was done after the displays had been mounted in the frames, a system that the judges liked. The awards were generally approved. For details see **Show News** on page 31. The special cancellations and souvenirs, celebrating the 60th year of Irish Postage Due Stamps, were not popular.

#### POSTAL STATIONERY

The new envelope, lettercard, and postcard launched at STAMPA are even more feeble in design than the last batch. Features of interest are that the envelopes have printed lining repeating the word Glenmalure in the obnoxious brown ink. The lettercard is rouletted 9; the previous issue was rouletted 12 1/2 and earlier ones were perforated.

#### ALBUMS

Also launched at STAMPA was An Post's series of stock-books and albums, chief being a colourful printed album for Irish stamps, with the stamps printed in colour with spaces alongside or below for mounting the stamps when you acquire them. It sold well at £8.50, but I don't like it. I prefer the old illustrated albums in which one delighted in sticking the stamp on top of its illustration! And any serious collector soon finds the need for spaces to show cylinder blocks or gutter-pairs and varieties and shades of printing.

## LONE STAR CHAPTER REPORT

Howdy and a Texas size greeting to all EPA members from Here in South Texas. This is the initial Report of the LONE STAR CHAPTER of Texas. Our Chapter has three active branches at present. The Chapter Coordinator is Jim Lavelle of San Antonio. The Dallas-Ft. Worth Branch is headed by Bill O'Donnell of Dallas and consists of 8 members. The Houston Branch is chaired by Ralph Chaiet and has 6 members. The South Texas Branch is the San Antonio-Austin group, co-chaired by Bill McNally and Bob Joyce, both of San Antonio and the branch has 17 very active members.

Our chapter from east to west, Silsbee on the Louisiana border to San Antonio in the central region covers 385 straight line miles and from north to south, Rowlett near the Oklahoma border to beautiful Corpus Christi on the Gulf is just at 400 straight line miles.

We have just published and distributed our 9th monthly newsletter. The purpose of the letter is to let all know what is philatelically happening within our state and keep all members posted on Irish Philately. The newsletter also contains tidbits of Irish Postal History and every now and then some gems of Irish wisdom and culture, but mainly it insures that nothing falls through the cracks to the floor. A copy is yours for the asking and a SASE to Jim Lavelle.

In the past several months that we have been showing the flag and banging the drum here in our State, we have noticed an increase both in quality and quantity of Irish material ranging from stampless covers through British material cancelled in Ireland up to the modern mint sets and booklets. Irish philately is alive in Texas and flourishing.

We are presently planning and working toward the TEXANEX/TEXPEX '86 show which will be held in San Antonio during the period 28-30 March 1986 which will also be part of the Texas Sesquicentennial celebration. This particular period of March is the most beautiful time of year in South Texas when all the flowers are in bloom and the weather is just perfect between 70-75 degrees. At this point we have three EPA exhibitors planning to show their material and we are looking for more! If you are interested in showing at TEXANEX/TEXPEX, please drop a line to Jim Lavelle, 582 Indigo Drive, San Antonio, TX 78216 and I will get a Show Prospectus back to you by return mail. We need your help. We will be having an Irish table at the show and an Irish oriented show cachet is being planned.

Jim Lavelle

## SHOW NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

From various sources, your Editor has collected the following reports of Exhibitions in which Irish Philately was represented. They are presented in no particular order; also we've lost the note Ed Sullivan sent noting that his Postal History exhibit won a gold at a mid-western show this fall.

### STAMPA 85 - NOVEMBER 8-10TH

Show attendance reported as 2,700. See Fred Dixon's **Random Notes** for other details about the show. Awards were as follows:

**GOLD:** F.E. Dixon, "Irish Postal History to 1784", also The DAVID FELDMAN TROPHY for the best overall exhibit, and the EPA Medal for the Best Irish exhibit.

**VERMEIL:** B. Warren, "Ireland - The Architecture Definitives", also the REVENUE STAMPING BRANCH TROPHY awarded to an exhibit of outstanding merit consisting primarily of Irish postage stamps issued since 1922; Dr. C.I. Dulin, "Ireland - The Transitional Period 1922-1925", also EPA Certificate.

**SILVER:** R.I. Draper, "Irish Railway Letter Stamps 1891-1920"; Dr. J. Mackey, "Postal History of County Clare", also EPA Certificate; R.F. Smythe, "One Hundred Years of Registration in Ireland".

**BRONZE:** B. O'Keeffe, "Ireland - Postal Stationery Stamped to Order"; Comdt. P. Casey, "Air Mail Through the Years"; A. F. Finn, "Irish Railways & TPO's".

In the Literature Competition: Silver to *Die Harfe*, quarterly publication of the Irish philatelic study group in W. Germany. Bronze to *The Mileage Marks of Ireland 1808-1839* by H. G. Moxter.

In the Novice Competition: The GWYN BENNET TROPHY for best novice exhibit to W. A. Moore for "Handstruck Stamps of Ireland"

### PHILATELIC SHOW 85 - BOSTON - OCTOBER 25-27

The John McCormack Chapter had a table at the show for the recruiting of new members and as a meeting place. Peter Bugg's "55 Years of Irish Coins" received a Vermeil medal and the EPA Medal for Best Irish Exhibit. Other winners were Bob Jones, Silver-Bronze, for "Irish Postal Markings, 1669-1840" and James Meehan, Certificate, for "Ireland-Printed Pages".

### SESCAL 85 - LOS ANGELES - OCTOBER 25-27

Held at the Ambassador Hotel, SESCOAL was dedicated to the late John J. Blessington who had been affiliated with SESCOAL for many years and who had contributed greatly to its success. John's two surviving sisters, Alicia White and Mary Fera, opened the show on Friday, October 25. The SOCAL EPA Chapter had a table in the entry area to serve as a lounge for members attending the show and to distribute membership brochures and applications. A Chapter meeting was held on Saturday at which the featured speaker was Garvin Lohman of San Francisco who presented two very interesting areas of Irish Philately: Meter Marks and Newspaper Stamps. It was very enlightening. Eighteen members and guests were present.

Among the exhibitors at SESCOAL, Bill Zellers received a vermeil for his "Railway Stamps of Ireland" and Richard Sullivan a Silver for his "Dollard High Value Overprints". In the Literature Competition, Otto Jung's *Irish Postal Stationery Catalog* was awarded a Silver-Bronze. Zellers was also awarded the John Blessington Memorial Award for the Best Exhibit of Irish material. This Waterford crystal bowl, mounted in an attractive wood frame, was given by Belinda and Bob Kemper who instituted the award in John's memory and will continue to make it available to SESCOAL.

### CHICAGOPEX 85 - NOVEMBER 8-10

Jean MacDonald's "The Overprinted Provisional Stamps of Ireland" won a vermeil and the APS 1900-40 Medal of Excellence.



Eire Philatelic Association Medal

1. The EPA Medal is available to any show that has three or more exhibits of Irish Philately.
2. The EPA Medal is to be awarded to the best exhibit, in the opinion of the judges panel, of Irish material, provided it is of at least show silver-bronze quality.
3. The winner does not need to be a member of the EPA.
4. If four or more exhibits, a certificate may be awarded for second place.
5. If five or more exhibits, a certificate may be awarded for third place.
6. Past winners of the Medal are not eligible to win the Medal a second time for a period of two years, with the same exhibit unless it has been substantially changed (50%). A list of previous winners will be provided.
7. If the EPA has made a special trophy available to the show for the best exhibit of Irish material, it is awarded in place of the medal. If such a trophy is provided by the show, the EPA medal is still awarded.
8. The show committee may have the medal engraved.

**ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE****EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION**

Annual Meeting for 1986

To the members of the Eire Philatelic Association:

Please take note that the Annual Meeting of the Eire Philatelic Association for the year 1986 will be held in conjunction with the AMERIPEX show in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Our meeting is scheduled for:

Saturday, May 24, 1986 from 3-4:45PM

KLM room on the International level of the Hyatt Regency O'Hare.

All members are urged to attend if possible.

Dated this 11th day of December 1985.

Eugene M. Labiuk  
President

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

**E.P.A. SPECIAL OFFERS**

The following items may be ordered from Richard J. McBride, 153 Orchid Rd., Meriden, CT 06450 U.S.A. All prices include postage and handling. Make all checks and money orders payable to Richard J. McBride.

**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.

**DIE MEILENSTEMPEL DER IRISCHEN POST** - (The Mileage Marks of Ireland) 1808-1839 by Hans G. Moxter, 1985 Edition, 64 pp. Text in German and English. Published by FAI, the Irish Philatelic Group in Germany. Most informative and well illustrated. A complete listing of all known Irish mileage marks. Members \$3.50, Non-members \$4.50 by surface mail.

**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.

ALL PRICES POSTPAID - Overseas add 50¢ for air mail.

**THE ADHESIVE REVENUE STAMPS OF IRELAND : 1858-1925** James J. Brady's detailed study of Irish Revenue Stamps. All are in easy-to-follow catalog form with many details. A must for the Auction. Members \$2.25, Non-members \$2.50.

**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.