

The Revealer

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Winter 1985



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THE REVEALER

Whole No. 161

Winter 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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- #2045 Nancy Curme, Airidh Bheith, Ross-shire, Scotland IV26 2SZ
- #2046 Jacques Renolland, 71 Rue de Bellevue, Boulogne, F-92100, France
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- #2050 Jack Keegan, 803 Madison Ave., Dixon IL 61021
- #2051 R.B.J. Kirkpatrick, 2440 Keele St. Apt. B-1, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- #2052 Thomas A. Polick, 1669 Apache Drive, Naperville, IL 60540
- #2053 James M. Keane, ARAMCO, Box 10216, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia 31311
- #2054 Hugh Miller III, 12010 Governor's Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192
- #2055 Thomas J. Reagan, Box 184, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
- #2056 Fredrick W. Johnson, 10905 Bay Shore Drive, Sister Bay, WI 54234
- #2057 Patrick McCauley, 4695 Atwood Blvd, Murray, Utah 84107

REINSTATED:

- #1305 Peter J. McBride, Drumconvis House, Coagh, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland

RESIGNED

- #1133 J. David McKee, M.A.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Membership as of December 31, 1985: 806

New Members	14
Reinstatements	1
Resignations	1

Membership as of March 31, 1986: 820

RECRUITING HONOR ROLL:

Belinda and Bob Kemper, Mike Giffney, Pat Ryan, Joe Foley, Bill Doe, Bob Jones

Letter to the Editor

December, 1985

Dear Editor,

I was stunned to receive, today, in the post and along with the current edition of "The Revealer", a list of members' addresses. I cannot think of a more irresponsible action, than to publish a list of names and addresses where, in all likelihood, valuable and perhaps irreplaceable stamp collections are kept.

At a time when reputable stamp dealers omit references to their business (i.e. stamp dealers) from the outside of envelopes, so as not to alert potential thieves that the addressee is worth visiting one night, the latest action by the EPA represents thoughtlessness in the highest degree. Or are American collectors blessedly free of the attention of burglars? or blasé about the possibility? [Neither, unfortunately!! That's why we rent P.O. boxes, Ed.]

Many collectors find it difficult, not to say expensive, to obtain insurance cover. Some find it impossible. [Thank you, APS!, Ed.] Those that do must take what precautions they may to protect what is often their single most valuable possession from becoming public knowledge. I can assure you that your List of Members constitutes a most unwelcome Christmas gift.

I must ask you to give me a written guarantee that you will never again publish or cause to be published my name and address. If you cannot or will not give me such an undertaking, I will be forced to resign immediately. I strongly urge you to offer all your members the option of having their addresses omitted from future lists. Otherwise, you do small good for the hobby you claim to support and advance.

On the assumption that the EPA is, as I believe it to be, a serious as well as sensible organization, I look forward to your agreement that I should have control over the publishing of my name (for none can guarantee that the List of Members will never fall into the wrong hands), and I send you my good wishes for 1986. I have no wish to resign, and will only do so if the EPA makes it necessary, to protect my collection from the ungodly.

Yours sincerely,
J. David F. McKee
[address withheld]

President's comments: Mr. McKee's letter does bring out some interesting points in today's type of society in which we live; and I cannot argue with him on that basis.

Mr. McKee's address appeared in the 1981, 1983 and present membership directory. I cannot say, that in the past he didn't make a request to have his address deleted, since we have changed officers and staff. Though I must say, the option exists in the EPA for members who wish to have their address deleted from this directory. All that is necessary is a letter to Bob Jones our Secretary, stating such a request.

Unfortunately, I cannot give Mr. McKee a guarantee in writing that this will never happen again, since we do change staff and officers and shuffle paper and as time goes on things have a tendency to get misplaced.

I must also state that I do not act or perform to demands and ultimatums, as stated in the tone of his letter. We are a group of volunteers, who give plenty of free time to participate in the EPA, with the only reward being to try and make a better Association.

Sincerely, Eugene (Gene) M. Labiuk

April 1986

Dear Editor,

Bob Moskowitz's article on "The Red Hand of Ulster" deserves some comments.

1. Partition was ordained by the UK Parliament's Government of Ireland Act, 1920, in operation from 19 April 1921. This Act established parliaments for Northern and Southern Ireland, with a Council having members of both to work towards one unified parliament. The Northern Parliament was opened by the King on 16 June 1921, but the Southern Parliament was boycotted by the Nationalists and failed to get a quorum. The Treaty signed on 6 December 1921 was between Great Britain and delegates from Ireland. It was ratified by the Dail 7 January 1922, but the Dail was illegal in British eyes. So the members were reconvened a week later as the Parliament of Southern Ireland. Its ratification was accepted and the Provisional Government of the Irish Free State could then be established.

2. A lot of nonsense has been written about the right hand and the left hand, The different depictions of the Ulster symbol could equally be interpreted as front and back views of the same hand.

3. It is noteworthy that the Ulster hand appears in the shield showing the arms of all four provinces, used on the first definitive stamps, on the front cover of the *Revealer*, and on the current issue of aerograms. It features also on at least one series of Northern Ireland revenue stamps, that for Judicature Fees, embossed dies for various values from 2d to 5£.

Yours sincerely,
Fred E. Dixon

REPLACEMENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The cost of replacing a membership card has risen to \$2.00. These can be obtained by writing the Secretary.

MYSTERY STAMP

By Pat Walker

What is this stamp?

At STaMpsHow in San Diego a west coast dealer brought these mystery stamps to the attention of Bill Zellers, who turned what information he had over to me.

Background: Stamps A and B were discovered in an "accumulation". Not being familiar with Irish stamps, at first the finder thought stamp A was the normal Scott 393 (SG 396), but later realized that both A and B were abnormal.

Stamp A can be described as: Plum (almost magenta) on light magenta, some indication of gray in shadow and lower right corner.

Stamp B can be described as deep plum; blue green intermediate background with and inverted WTWTWT, and a final background of gray.

Stamp C is the normal stamp: plum design on a gray background.

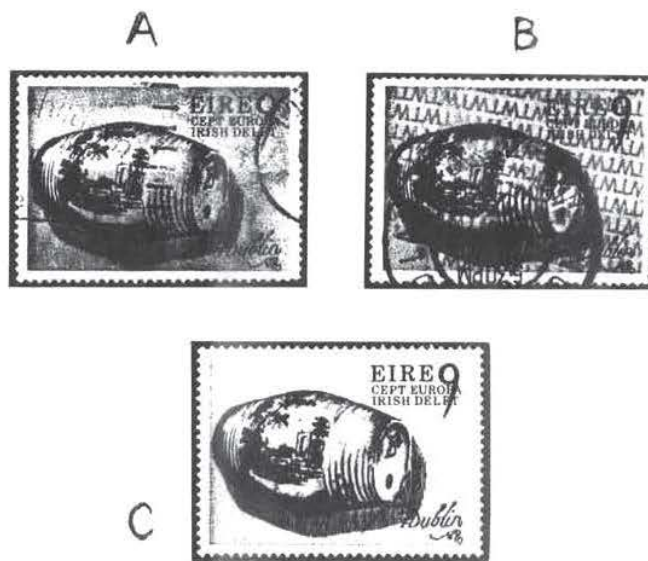
Stamp B has been submitted to the Royal; here is the pertinent part of their reply. "... I have been in correspondence with the printers, the papermakers and many other interested people, unfortunately without a clear cut reason for the "WT" background. The nearest I have got to logical thinking on this is a piece of envelope...which shows this WT as an inside printing. [This is a common security liner; I have found it in envelopes from MacDonnell Whyte among others, Ed.] If this is the cause I just do not understand how it could have been transferred to your stamp. The printers are absolutely adamant that it never left the works like this."

I was fortunate enough to have been lent the stamp for a period of time in order to photograph it. I was able to create some good colored slides, but my black and white photos did not come out with a clear enough contrast. The illustrations for the article come from high quality photocopies.

The first thing that occurs when considering this, is that the WTWTW design was transferred to the stamp in a soaking process, due to some substance in the water used. This is reinforced by the presence of stamp A in which a "wash" of plum has appeared as background. However, there is no trace of the WTWT (Stamp B), or the plum wash (Stamp A), on the white border. Nor in examination using a 30X scope or the enlargement of a color slide can one tell with any certainty which color is on top of which. This opinion is shared by perhaps a dozen people who have seen the

stamp or the slides.

Unfortunately we do not have any details of the Royal's investigation and so do not know if the stamp was examined under a much higher degree of magnification, than was available to me.



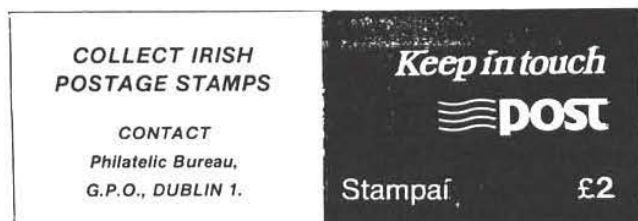
What do you think? I am especially interested in any experiences that you might have had in soaking mixtures which included Scott 393. Does the plum color "run"? Even if you have never worked with this stamp, has anybody had the WTWT from the lining of an envelope transfer to a stamp? If you examine the liners of the letters you get from Ireland, I think you will find this design; mine says "INDUS OPAQUE" in large letters on one line, "MADE IN IRELAND" in much smaller letters on a second line, printed in green on a white background. When you cut the stamps from the envelope, the lining is naturally included.

I look forward to hearing your theories and experiences.

THE BOOKLETS OF 1985

By Padraig O'Mathuna

The £2 booklets of 1985 are for sale over Post Office counters.



Cover:

Back

Front

POSTAGE RATES effective May 85			SAVE MONEY-BE WISE USE THE P.O.P. SIZE
Service	Ireland & EEC	Outside EEC	
Postcards	22p	26p	
Letters	26p	37p	
Aerogrammes	-	37p	
Airmail Letters	26p	44p	
Airmail Postcards	22p	28p	

Inside

Initial quantities were supplied in packets of 10 bound with wrappers printed identically but on pink paper and for a smaller number on blue paper. By the end of 1985 only pink wrappers were to be seen



Type A: Imperf Left Margin **Type B:** Perf Left Margin

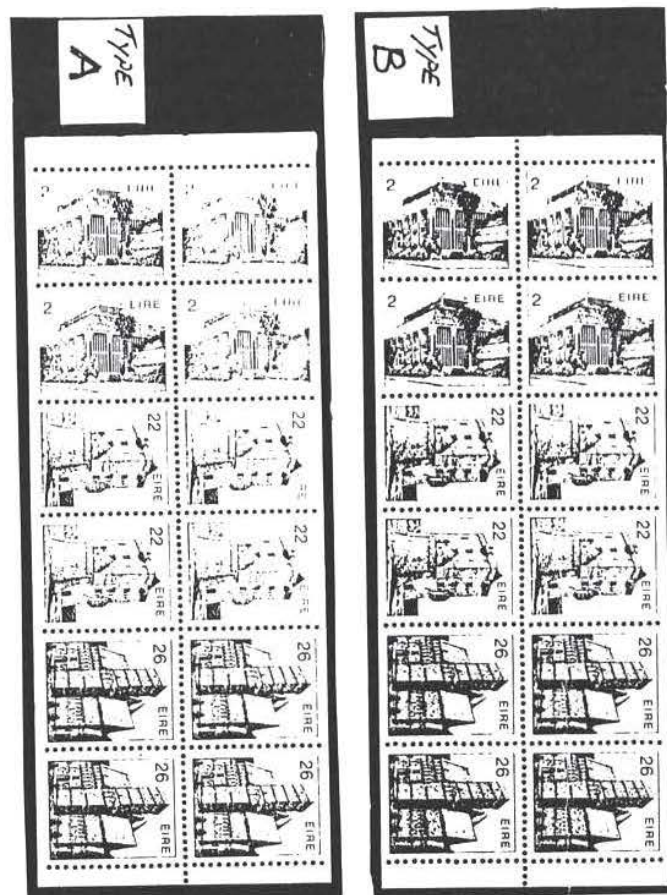
Cover length	139mm	139mm
Cover width	48mm	48mm
Pane length	132mm	132mm
Pane width	48mm	48mm

The Margins

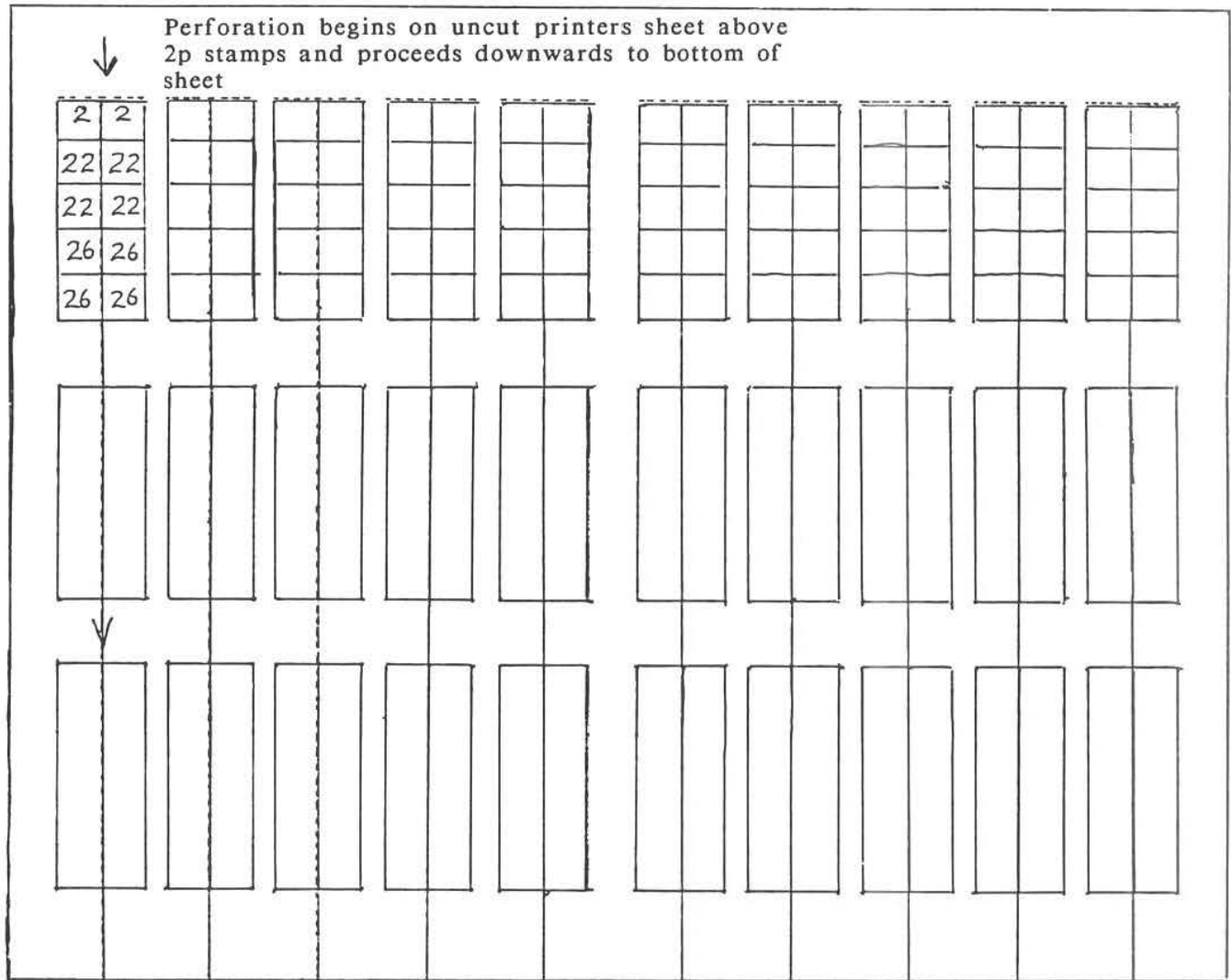
Type A: 2p left margin partly stuck to cover. Left margin- 6mm wide. Right margin- 3mm wide

Type B: 2p left margin fully stuck to cover. Left margin- 4.75mm wide. Right margin- 3.5mm wide.

The B pane is frequently seen folded 2-3mm into the second 22p stamp.

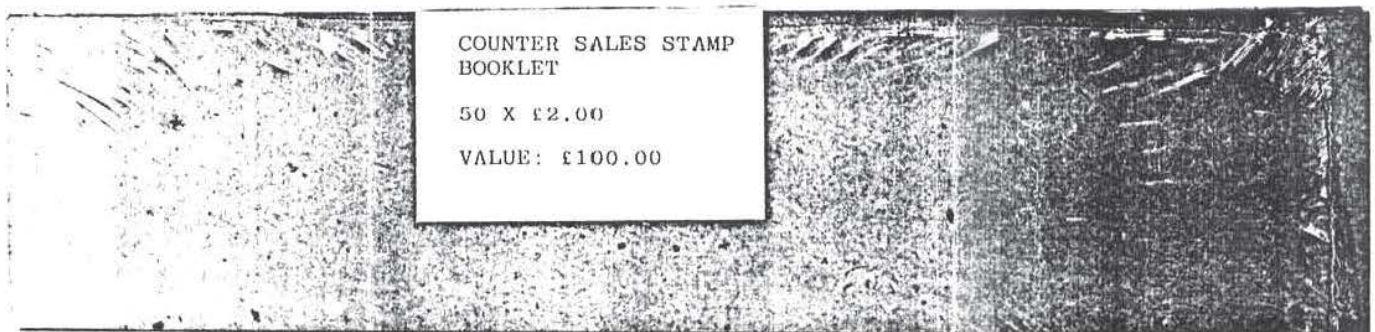


It is possible that as manufacture proceeds that the master sheets may be cut to give equal left and right margin widths.

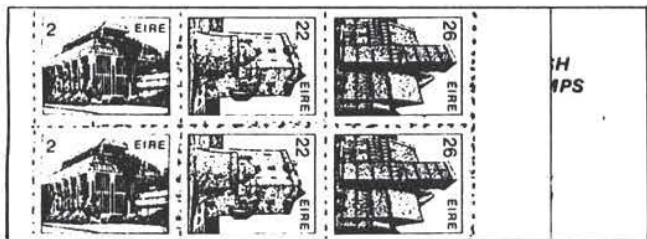


Thus the margin of top row is imperf and margins of lower two rows of pane are perf between the two columns of stamps. There are 30 panes per sheet. One third is type A imperf pane. Type B perf forms two-thirds.

Packs of 10 value £20 were again in larger heat sealed plastic packs containing 5 x 10 packs side by side having a white slip with black print between the plastic and the two cards protecting the booklets.

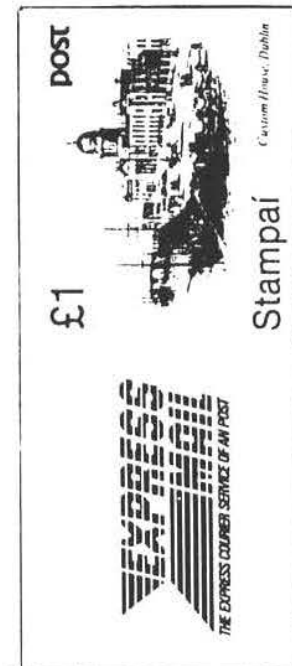


The £1 Booklets of 1985

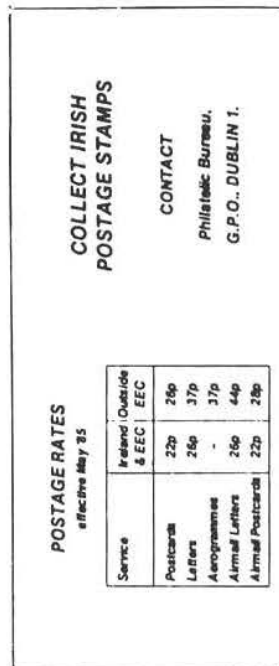


Perforation begins on uncut printers sheets between 2p, 22p, and 26p stamps and proceeds downwards.

The sheet of 50 panes (5 columns of 10 panes) is then cut. The margin to the left of 2p stamps is always imperf.



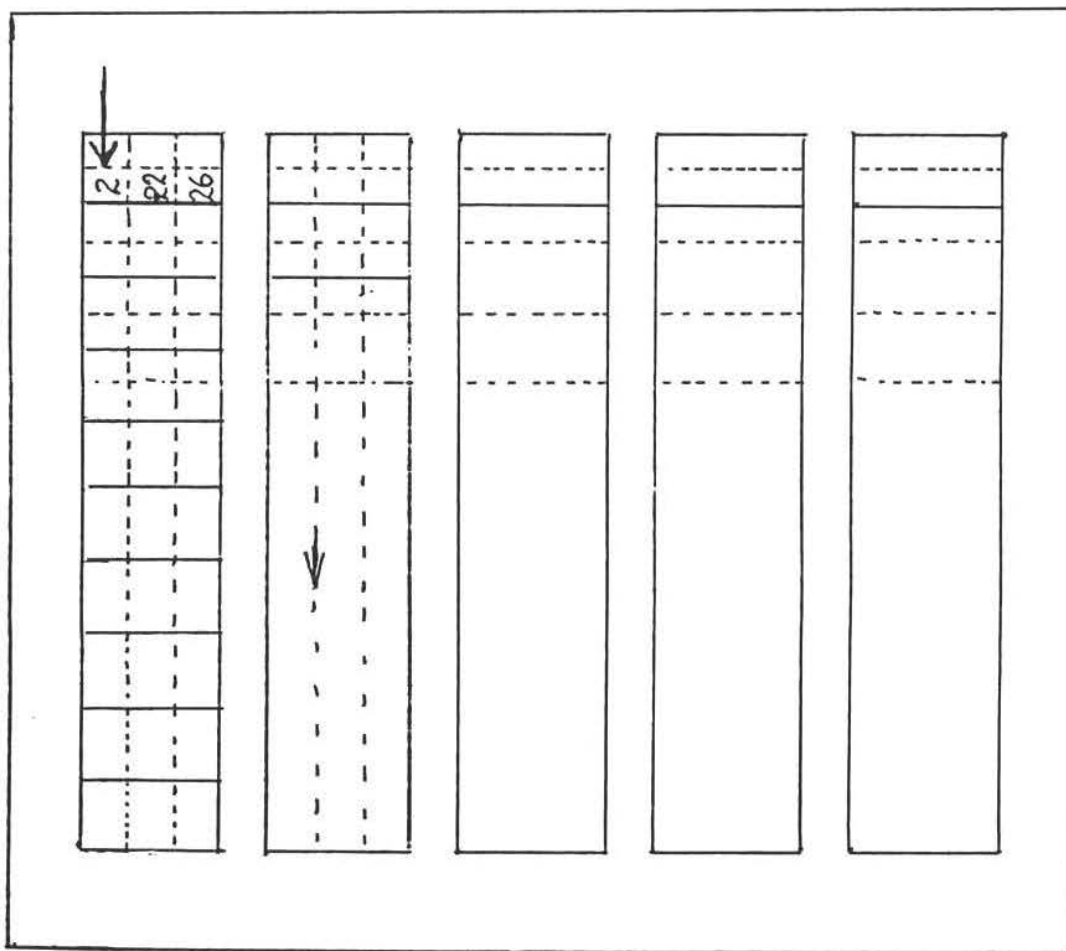
Outside



Inside

POSTAGE RATES effective May '85

Service	Ireland & EEC		Outside EEC	
	22p	26p	37p	44p
Postcards	22p	26p	37p	44p
Letters	-	-	37p	44p
Aerogrammes	-	-	37p	44p
Airmail Letters	-	-	37p	44p
Airmail Postcards	22p	26p	37p	44p



NO CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

By Bill Kane

On Christmas Day in 1935, I was working as a Postman in Phibsboro' District Office, Dublin. The Inspector in charge was a Mr. Fred Parkes, and the Assistant Inspector was a Mr. Ted Glater. My walk was Church Street, three other men were also on this walk, they were Joe Ecock, Tommy Delany, and Kevin Lawless. We had a Branch of the Post Office Workers Union in the Office; I was Chairman of this Branch, the other officers were Jack Ryan, Branch Secretary, and Paddy Kelly, Branch Treasurer.

Every inch of the Postman's Office was taken up with Sorting Benches, and in normal times every Bench was in use, so that when the extra Christmas temporary staff was employed, extra accommodation had to be acquired. This problem was solved by the Post Office renting a large corrugated iron shed in Western Square, which was situated at the rear of the District Office. Entrance to this Square was by a laneway from Phibsboro Road, some yards from the Office. During the year this shed was among other uses, used for storing cattle prior to their export. However the shed was vacant at Christmas; it was cleaned out, and fitted with Sorting Benches to accommodate three walks, Church Street, with four men, Phibsboro' Road with three men, and Prussia Street, with three men. This provided some relief regarding space in the main Office.

As there was no heating, nor were there any windows in this shed, lighting and heating was provided by overhead electric fittings. While the Branch Committee did not approve of this accommodation, they did not object to it, as there was no alternative.

Our normal hours of duty were from 6 A.M. until 10:45 A.M. and then from 2 P.M. to 5:15 P.M. During these hours of duty we performed three deliveries, an Irish, an English, and then a midday delivery. Following the Midday delivery, we made a collection from the Pillar Boxes and the Sub-Offices on the way back to the District Office. On arrival at the D.O. we faced and sorted the collected mail before 5:15 P.M. at which time it was dispatched to the Sorting Office in Pearse Street, Dublin.

On Christmas Day, we attended for duty at 4 A.M. and worked throughout the day preparing deliveries for the Temporary staff. I had two Temporary men to help me. We were due to have a final delivery around 3 P.M. At that time the Postmen were to divide the walk between themselves and the Temporary men, and go home when the delivery was completed. That was the

only time we left the office on Christmas Day, with the exception of an interval of 40 minutes for a meal and 20 minutes to attend Mass at Saint Vincents Church which was located near the District Office. We attended 8 A.M. Mass, after which we had our meal interval, and resumed duty at 9 A.M. that day. So we were looking forward to the 3 P.M. final dispatch.

On that particular 1935 Christmas Day, it was coming near to 4 P.M. and the mail for the final delivery had not arrived at the District Office. We phoned the Sorting Office, Pearse St. and asked the reason for the delay. We were told the incoming mails were late, and that they were doing their best to expedite the dispatch.

We then requested Mr. Parkes to seek permission that we have another 40 minutes interval so that we could go home and have our Christmas dinner around 4:30 P.M. as our meal would be ready for us at that time. This was refused, so we phoned Mr. William Norton, who was the General Secretary of the P.O.W. Union, at his home in Ballsbridge. His wife answered the phone and told us he was not at home. We then phoned some of the neighbor Branch Offices, James's Street District Office and Fairview District Office to see what they were doing. Both branches were in sympathy with us, but were not prepared to take any action. Then we phoned the Controller of the Dublin Postal District; following this call Mr. P.P. McMenamin came to the Office, and listened to our case, but would not consider the idea of letting the men go home for a meal. He said many of the men might drink too much, and not return to the Office to do the final delivery, but he promised to return to the Sorting Office and send up the mail that was ready. In the meantime he said we could have an interval of 20 minutes to have a meal in the Office. Our reply to that was, we had no food; then he told Mr. Parkes to knock up a local grocer, and obtain some Bread, Jam, Tea, Sugar, and Milk. We did not agree with that suggestion. So he sent instructions to have the mail that was ready sent to the District Offices.

The mail duly arrived, and we were dispatched on the final delivery at 4:30 P.M. It was near 6 P.M. when we got our Christmas Dinner that day.

On resumption of normal conditions after Christmas, we arranged for a Branch Deputation to meet Mr. Morton at the P.O.W.U. Headquarters at 52 Parnell Square, Dublin, at 5:30 P.M. when we had finished our duties in the District Office. Mr. Norton received the Deputation which consisted of the following: W. Kane (Chairman), J. Ryan (Hon. Sec.) and P. Kelly (Branch Treasurer). We asked for the Abolition of work by Postmen on Christmas Day. The General Secretary gave us no satisfaction, he said we must be joking, as we

could not dispose of a tradition in that way. He also said, that Postmen looked forward to collecting their Christmas Boxes on that day. We replied that he was completely out of touch with the situation. Mr. Morton then told us that Railway, Tramway men, and Walkmen and many others worked on Christmas Day without any complaint. So we left the meeting, telling him that we intended to take the matter to the next Annual P.O.W.U. Conference, where we would submit a motion for consideration. Accordingly at the 1936 Conference, the Phibsboro District Office Branch tabled a motion for the Abolition of work in the Post Office on Christmas Day. We got great support from many of the Country Branches, and the motion was carried by a big majority when it was put to vote.

When the resolution was submitted to the Post Office, the Secretariat raised no objection, as it meant a great saving of money for them.

The mail in December 1937 carried the following slogan:

NO XMAS DAY DELIVERY - POST EARLY IN THE WEEK.

So, in 1937 for the first time, Irish Postmen could enjoy their stay at home with their family on Christmas Day.

CRASH COVER ADDENDUM

By Anthony Booth-Jones

In the re-printed article about Crash Covers by John Blessington (*Revealer*, Spring 1985 from 1977) he mentions a fire on a train in the Cape in 1925, about which he could find no information. I have now got to the bottom of this and would like to share my findings.

John Blessington's article refers to two covers with the violet cachet "Damaged by fire/ Beskadigd deur brand". One of these (not illustrated in the article) is postmarked Guernsey (Channel Islands) 30th April, 1925, with Cape town 3rd June backstamp. The other (illustrated) is postmarked Dublin 30th April 1925. Both were for Eastern Cape destinations and they very likely came in the same mail. What happened is described in the excerpt from the South African Post Office Report (to Parliament) for the 1925/26 year. The fire took place on 18th May at Kruidfontein (herb spring), a country village 50 miles from Beaufort West, and on reflection I think it probable that the mail, if not the entire damaged coach, was salvaged and hauled back to Cape Town to sort out what must have been an unholy mess. This would account for the Cape Town backstamp of 3rd June, 1925 on the Guernsey cover (and maybe on the Dublin one?).

British mail would not normally have been given a transit date stamp in Cape Town; it would cause unnecessary delay.

The curious may wonder why mail from Cape Town to the Eastern Cape Province should be sent by such an apparently circuitous route instead of what looks like a shorter run to the South. The trouble is that the map doesn't show the mountains; the northerly route is the main line and the southern one has long steep gradients and infrequent traffic.

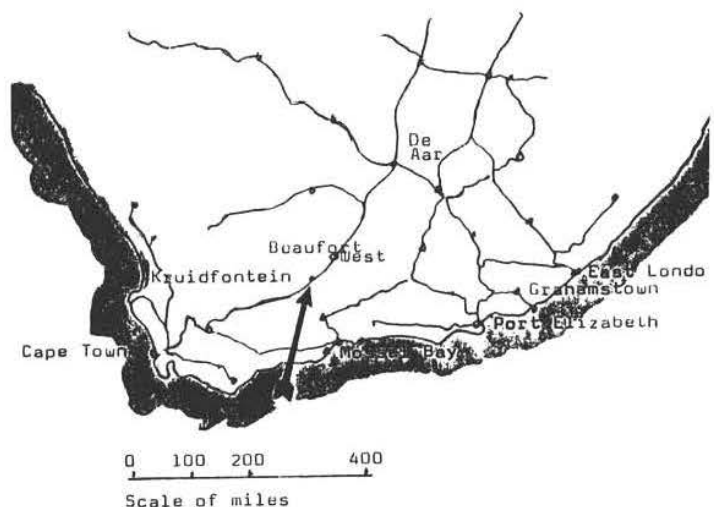
Excerpt: Union of South Africa, Annual Report of Department of Posts and Telegraphs. Year ended 31st March, 1926.

2. Interruptions of Mail Service ...

(iii) **Fire on Mail Train.** -- On arrival of the special European Mail Train at Kruidfontein on the 18th May, 1925, a truck was discovered to be on fire. Everything possible was done by the railway officials on the spot to extinguish the blaze, but by the time their efforts met with success, 197 bags of mails had been destroyed. Of these, 139 were from the United Kingdom and 58 from Cape Town, all containing correspondence and parcels for destinations in the Eastern and Midland districts of the Cape Province. An inquiry was held immediately, but the origin of the fire could not be established. However, in view of the probability that it arose from external causes, structural alterations to the trucks have been made with the object of preventing a repetition of the occurrence.

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RANDOM NOTES By Fred Dixon

CHRISTMAS STAMPS

The two 22p and the 26p reproducing classical paintings are dull in colour and repeat the mistake of using gold ink which is invisible at some angles of viewing. The special 22p candle design sold at a discount of nearly 15% is much more attractive but shows the same misuses of gold.

PICTORIAL AEROGRAM

Another disappointment, the picture being another view of Dublin GPO. If An Post wishes to attract visitors to Ireland it should publicise some of the spectacular scenery, and it is tactless to depict the building where the worst Irish "troubles" commenced. It is also tactless to have the arms of all four provinces on the reverse when An Taoiseach is trying to get co-operation from the Unionists by promising that the Republic will not attempt to incorporate the six counties until that is desired by a majority of their inhabitants.

REGISTERED ENVELOPES

The G and H size envelopes, issued on the same day as the aerogram, are badly printed and the feeble design of stamp will be very easy to forge. I bought only one of each and find that the 26+90p stamp on the G is doubly printed. One surprising feature is that although the letter-press has been completely re-set the translation of "an officer of the Post Office" is still "Oifigeach Poist".

Another surprise is that in most cases the English text is now given priority over the Irish.

MACHINE CANCELLATION NEWS

John Lennon reports that Kilrush (Co. Clare) has now received a cancelling machine, probably introduced during the Christmas rush. He has also discovered that Dundalk has a new die of the slogan ARE YOU ON THE DRAFT REGISTER OF ELECTORS...". It has a slightly larger frame, 50x23mm but the frame has thinner lines.

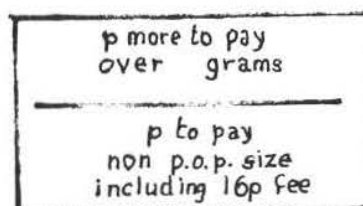
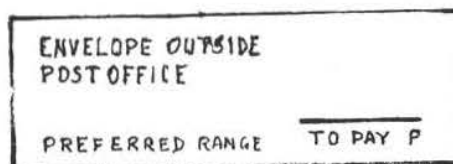
An unusual error occurred at Naas at the end of November (?) when the date was shown as 31 XI and the time as 30.15PM!

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS was still in use at Blackrock on 3rd January!!

P.O.P. SIZE

Few sorters take the trouble of charging postage due on envelopes of the wrong size, but hand

stamps are now in use at some offices. Illustrated are two that I have seen, the simpler one at Galway and the dual-purpose at Mullingar, both during November.



EXPRESS

The same batch of material included two more distinctive handstamps for Express letters, the oval one being from Phibsborough (Dublin) and the other from Moate.



LOVE STAMPS

Congratulations to Ries Hoek and Terry Monaghan for winning the design competition which attracted over 4000 entries. However, I feel that the heart symbol is being overworked. What the world needs is love in the mind, not merely in the heart.

HIBERNIAN CATALOGUE

The 1986 edition repeats the clumsy lay-out of earlier issues; the only improvement being the addition of a section of postal stationery, over simplified, but usefully having columns for mint, used, and first-day examples. The prices are realistic and higher than MacDonnell Whyte (1983). For the stamps most prices are unchanged, but there are some increases, notably in the 1/3 and 1.4 commemoratives: e.g. An Tostal now £27.50 mint, £20 used, and some of the Europas are up. Not surprisingly the withdrawn £1 Cahir Castle has jumped to £6 mint and £3.50 used.

Misprints of Brosca for Brocas (p.24) and Ghandi for Gandhi (p.106) are repeated and another bad slip is in the acknowledgements where "An Post" should have replaced "The Department of Posts and Telegraphs".

SLOGAN

Yet again An Post has introduced a slogan without advising us. This appeared in mid-January at Cavan, Cork, Galway, Dundalk, Limerick, and Waterford, but not yet Dublin. John Lennon was the first collector to find it.



An Irish language version of the RTE RADIO slogan has now appeared at Cork, Dublin, and Galway and possibly elsewhere.

AN POST

The Philatelic Bureau have been giving away large wall charts showing the Head Post Office Districts and the number of households in each, from 4100 in Wicklow to 285,000 in Dublin.

A circular issued on 22nd January announced "Redirection Postcards" available from 31st January at 25p each. These are only printed cards for notifying one's change of address, and are no bargain. A plain postcard plus 22p stamp will do the job as well.

OFFICIAL METERS

At least one of the innumerable Tax Inspectors' offices is now incorporating its name and address in English in its metermarking: Inspector of taxes, 85/93 Lr. Mount Street, Dublin 2. Meter No. P.B. T2183M.

POSTAGE RATES

From 3rd March the Irish postal charges are again the highest in Europe:

	Inland & EEC	Other Foreign	Airmail
20g P.O.P.	28p	39p	10g 46p
50g	32p	20g	55p
Postcard	24p	28p	30p

And the fine added to postage due goes up to 17p.

There is wide spread dissatisfaction, especially as the service has not improved. There was another strike in Dublin the date the new charges were announced (19th February).

MACDONNELL WHYTE AUCTION

At the auction on 22 February Irish Postal History was much in demand, many lots reaching or exceeding the estimates; top price in the section being £320 for "Missent from ...to Ballymena". In the overprints the outstanding section was the

Composite printings. I thought £80 ridiculously high for a mere photograph of an O'Reilly essay. Airmails did well as did postal stationery.

UNRECORDED MILEAGE MARK

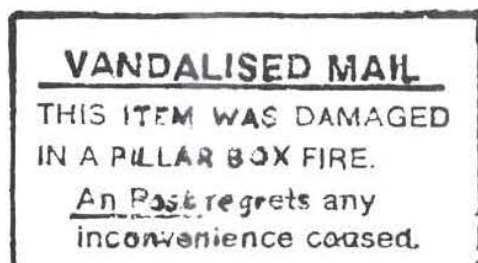
Of my purchases at the auction, the most satisfying is a rather tatty cover with BALLINAMORE/83, not recorded hitherto, and a surprising discovery. I cannot find it listed as a post town until long after the period (1831) although in 1832 it became a Penny Post sub-office to Ahascragh.

UNOFFICIAL SLOGANS

One very worthy organization assists its propaganda with handstamps applied to its correspondence. It is A.L.O.N.E. and the slogans I have seen are VISIT THE OLD/ LIVING ALONE and very appropriate during recent weather) THE OLD/FEEL THE COLD.

VANDALISM CACHET

One batch of delayed Valentines and other correspondence was delivered bearing a cachet explaining the cause of delay - the first case of a cachet incorporating "An Post". The illustration is courtesy of Tony Quigley.



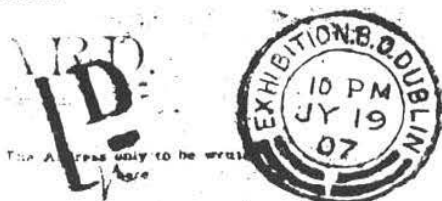
ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARDS

Many think the "Love and hisses" in bad taste: best are St. Patrick's message and the floral "Beannachtai". The description on the latter's message side, cancelled by a row of shamrocks, was meant for another of the series "St. Patrick's Day needlepoint sampler". Some cards were sold with erroneous caption uncanceled. The reproduction of the Ellen Clapsaddle design of c1910 is poor, copied from a rubbed card with damaged corners; the original has brighter colours, rosy cheeks, light brown hair, and the strip at foot is gold, not brown. Ant the original is discreetly embossed.

The three large cards, not P.O.P. size (!), are attractive, but unsound botanically: primroses are not meadow flowers, but like mossy banks, and the crocus is a plant of the meadow rather than the lakeside.

POSTAGE DUE

Cards and covers showing postage due have become very desirable. Herewith photocopy of an unusual example, on a Dublin 1907 Exhibition postcard posted unstamped and so charged 2 x 1/2d. The handstamp is of a common type and rather worn.



FISCAL STAMPS

A lawyer friend tells me that a new series of Court Stamps will replace the present sets for Circuit Court, District Court, High Court, and Land Registry. Meanwhile existing stocks are being used indiscriminantly and one can find documents of one Court bearing stamps of all four.

[Editor's note: Received a letter from EPA member Declan O'Conner, Maynooth, Co. Kildare pointing out the same information and adding the following quotation from the Department of Justice in Ireland letter that made the announcement: "Pending the printing and issue of the new Court Fee Stamps and to facilitate the disposal of the existing stocks of District Court, Circuit Court and Judicature Stamps, Court Officers are authorized to accept Court Documents with any combination of the above-mentioned stamps."]

President's Message

Since my last writing I was rather fortunate that I made two trips. One to Baltimore on business and the other to California for our vacation. Both of which enabled me to spend an evening with a few members of the EPA staff. The meetings with these people has given me a better understanding of the job which they do for us; but also made me think of the amount of free time which is put into the EPA by volunteers who in return are not compensated. The only reward which they receive is the enjoyment of participating in something they really love - PHILATELY! So, if you ever have a need to write me, or any member of the board, or a member of the staff and have not received your reply in two weeks, be patient. Remember that, we all have jobs, we have families and we are entitled to holidays.

I would also like to thank all the members of the staff who will be working with me for the next two years. I promise that it won't be a trying time, but rather an enjoyable one.

PHIL-EX has come and gone in Toronto, an must say that it was rather nice seeing Peter

McBride from the other side of the ocean peddling his Irish wares. We had a nice little chat in regards to the Irish post office and the Irish stamp trade in general. While occupying a bit of space at his table I was able to meet a few of the scarcer Canadian members of the EPA who seemed surprised that their new President was sitting next to them.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Nominating Committee: Patricia Walker (Chairman), Garvin Lohman, Ken Grant, and Brian Warren

Clark Award Committee: Bob Corless (Chairman), Bob Jones, and Ed Ryan.

Field Award Committee: Mike Richards (Chairman), Eddie Fitzgerald, Norah Wright.

And last but not least, I would like to congratulate Eddie Fitzgerald for winning the Vince Linnell Award for his "Dublin Newsletter", voted best article in Revealer Volume 34.

Till next time, all the best,
Eugene (Gene) M. Labiuk

Raven Stamps

SPECIAL OFFERS		\$
1.	1933 1d Coil Perf. 15 x Imperf. (Single Perf.) Fine Used Sc 82	175.00
2.	1934 2d " 1 Imperf. x Perf. 14 Slogan Used.	40.00
3.	1937 St. Patrick High Values, Fine Used Sc 96-98	145.00
4.	1941 Rising Set, Fine Used Sc 118-9	13.00
5.	1960 Refugee Year Gutter Pair set unfolded Sc 173-4	15.00
6.	1966 Rising Set in se-tenant pairs, Fine Used Sc 206-13	20.00
7.	1968 St. Patrick High Values MNH Sc 121-3	37.50
8.	1968 Gerl Definitive Set MNH Sc 250-65	33.75
9.	1970 Patriots se-tenant pairs on FDC Sc 284-7	15.00
10.	1971-80 Commemorative complete MNH	149.50
11.	1974-80 Unwatermarked Definitives set MNH Sc 343-59	28.75
12.	1977 37p Reg. Envelope with error missing "for" Unused	14.75
13.	1977 Year Pack complete	12.95
14.	1978 " " "	11.95
15.	1979 " " "	11.45
16.	1978 17p Coinage Flaw corner block of 6 MNH Sc 439	10.00
17.	1979 12p Pearse Flaw marginal strip of 3 MNH Sc 460	5.50
18.	1980 Wildlife Mini Sheet Plated set of 9 MNH Sc 485A	14.95
19.	1982 Architecture 61 x 10 Fine Used (Cahir Castle) Sc 555	15.75
20.	1978 Postage Due Set on FDC Sc J25-27	17.95

16, Bridge Street,
Cork,
Ireland.

MY IRISH COLLECTION

By Frank McGuire

In the last edition he edited, the late John Blesington requested articles and suggested that "My Irish Collection" would be a logical topic to start with for first-time contributors. Subsequently, Gar Lohman asked me to give a presentation at the NORCAL chapter's meeting held at SACAPEX in Sacramento, California in November, 1985, on my recent travels through Ireland and my Irish collection. So as I gathered my thoughts for my presentation I decided to concurrently prepare an article for "My Irish Collection".

I have been collecting stamps on and off since I was about twelve years old. My Irish collection has its roots in a 1962 Europa 2d commemorative (Scott 184) my grandmother gave me. The perforations on two sides have been clipped and it is at best only a space filler; however, this stamp is the cornerstone of my Irish collection.

I continued to collect odd bits and pieces until I received a Scott's Ireland Specialty Album for Christmas four years ago. I then began dutifully filling in as many blanks as possible until I only needed the stamps I could not afford, and my collecting came to a standstill. However, about that time I learned about the E.P.A. from Norma Hawthorne, a Sacramento stamp dealer and E.P.A. member. I enthusiastically sent in my application for membership and a short time later my first issue of the *Revealer* (Winter 1983) arrived.

In retrospect, this was not a particularly esoteric issue of the *Revealer*, but when I read through it for the first time I was convinced a mistake had been made and I had not received an English language copy! References to Gerls, RSO cancellations, Stampa, Railway Perfins and postal history, among others, all merged together into an indecipherable blur. After a second and third reading things cleared up a bit, but it was obvious that I still had a great deal to learn about Irish philately. Since that initial experience, I have attempted to obtain as much reference material as possible to aid my understanding of this sometimes obscure and confusing hobby.

As my standard collection (one each of every definitive and commemorative) neared completion, I had to decide in which specialized direction I should proceed. I have always had an interest in history and was therefore drawn to postal history. Through auctions and specialty dealers I have obtained a variety of covers which have led me on a scavenger hunt of sorts through my reference material, checking rates, mail routes from place of posting to place of receipt, obliterator numbers, and so forth. I have found that every cover has a story to tell if one only has the key to

unlock its secrets. Furthermore, when legible, the contents of these early covers give added perspective to the history of Ireland.

In postal history, as in other facets of my collecting, I find that my interests have evolved from the general to the specific. When I began collecting postal history I used a shotgun approach, buying as many reasonably priced covers as I could afford. However, more recently I have begun to concentrate on Co. Sligo, the county from which my ancestors emigrated. Although, I still have a ways to go, I hope to obtain enough show-quality material to begin exhibiting in the not-too-distant future, and perhaps even exhibit at STAMPA some day, now that I know what that is.

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NEWS UPDATE

Stefan Klineciewicz, managing director of Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd, was expelled from the Irish Philatelic Traders Association on October 14 last. The reason given for the expulsion was alleged violations of the IPTA code of ethics. Allegations of unethical behaviour in the conduct of its auctions had been made by LINN'S STAMP NEWS - the leading US journal - against Hibernian last summer. An article by Les Winick detailed the sale of a lot to two different bidders at different prices - one was invoiced at \$1100 and another at \$900. It is believed the article prompted an investigation by the IPTA into Hibernian's activities.

It is believed that the IPTA also took into consideration a number of other complaints against the company. IRISH STAMP NEWS had also received complaints about Hibernian which were forwarded to the IPTA.

The expulsion resulted in Hibernian Stamp Company not having a stand at STAMPA for the first time since 1972 when the show began. STAMPA rules insist that standholders be a member of the IPTA or other IPSDA organisation. However, a STAMPA spokesperson said that no formal application had been received by STAMPA from Hibernian before the closing date of September 30. In fact, the spokesperson went on, no reply had been received to a letter sent by STAMPA inviting Hibernian to take a stand.

The whole affair was reported on the front page of Dublin's *EVENING PRESS* on October 17. In the Press story mention was made of the withdrawal of IPTA membership benefits from Rodgau Philatelic Service GmbH. However a statement issued to IRISH STAMP NEWS by Roy

Hamilton-Bowen, a former employee of Hibernian Stamp Company and currently managing director of Rodgau Philatelic Service GmbH, stated that this was not so. The statement went on to say that "the fact that Mr. S.J. Klineciewicz...may have been a majority shareholder in the company does not have any bearing on the ethical (or otherwise) conduct of the executive staff of Rodgau Philatelic Service GmbH, as Mr. Klineciewicz simply provided financial backing for the foundation of this company and is in no way connected with the administration or day-to-day running of Rodgau Philatelic Service GmbH."

Rodgau Philatelic Service GmbH was formed in Germany early last year following the collapse of Wolfgang Grohn's company WG Philatelic Service, which specialised in Irish stamps. Grohn was declared bankrupt and debts exceeding DM200,000 were declared including over DM60,000 to An Post's agent in Germany, Georg Roll. Other creditors included Hibernian Stamp Co., Royale Stamp Co., and MacDonnell Whyte Ltd. According to the APHVeV - the German trade organisation - there were no assets left in the company and therefore no payment was made to the creditors.

Rodgau Philatelic Service GmbH trades from the same address as the bankrupt WG Philatelic Service GmbH and uses the same logo - an Irish harp similar to the one used by the Irish Government.

Klineciewicz took over Hibernian Stamp Company Limited in 1974, having previously traded in Cork as Cork Philatelic Service and Cork Philatelics Limited. He was expelled from the the Philatelic Traders Society, London in 1975. In 1982 he was expelled from the IPTA even though he had just been elected to its council. He was subsequently re-admitted to membership of the association but was defeated in the re-election for his council seat.

Hibernian has rarely been out of the the national media since Klineciewicz took over. A story in the EVENING HERALD on July 23 called him the "the driving force behind a creative worldwide enterprise" whose company "has developed from a mundane Irish stamp wholesalers to an international business that has made inroads into commercial philately that were previously unconsidered." The HERALD went on to say that Klineciewicz had "strengthened his hold on the world market by opening a shop in Germany."

Despite all the trauma of the last few months Klineciewicz is undaunted and intends to shortly launch a major enterprise in the United States to promote the Hibernian Stamp Company.

[Reprinted, with permission, from *Irish Stamp News*, No. 22, Summer 1986]

LONE STAR CHAPTER REPORT

The TEXANEX-TEXPEX '86 Show is gone but it will be long remembered by those who attended it. The show, which was also the annual convention of the Texas Philatelic Association (TPA), was sponsored by the San Antonio Philatelic Association (SAPA) during the period 28-30 March. According to the president of the TPA this was the first time in the 90 year history of the society that an Irish exhibit was entered. And like the comet streaking across the southern skies, the LONE STAR CHAPTER and Irish philately made a distinct and important mark on the show. As a matter of fact there were four Irish exhibits entered in this year's show. Look what was accomplished:

The Overprinted Stamps of Great Britain, 1922-1937. (Jim Maher): Gold Medal, EPA Medal

Ireland's Railway Philately. (Bill Zellers): Vermeil Medal, APS Medal of Excellence, 1900-1940.

Early Overprints of Ireland. (John J. Brinckloe): Silver Medal

Irish Nationalist Censored Prison Mail. (Jim Lavelle): Silver-Bronze Medal, APS Medal of Excellence, Post 1940, Novice Award.

The Irish deluge of exhibits (for Texas) were the talk of the show, from the spectators on the floor to the different board meetings and around the dealer tables. As I have said before and will continue to say it - so much is owed to the LONE STAR CHAPTER members and so much of the credit for a successful show has to go to the three out-of-state exhibitors who trusted us to the extent that their exhibits were in our hands for almost two weeks. A strong and hearty THANK YOU goes to Jim Maher of Hartland, Wisconsin, Bill Zellers of Riverside, California, and John Brinckloe of Hyde Park, New York. We owe you one lads.

LONE STAR CHAPTER members came from near and far to meet, to view, to buy, and to trade. LONE STAR CHAPTER members of the SAPA, led by the hard working Bob Joyce who was the very capable Show Chairman, were Bill McNally, Morgan Williams, Herb Reibach, and Jim McAuley. Gentlemen, our hats are off to ya'all. It was truly a wonderful, entertaining and a very successful show. LONE STAR CHAPTER visitors included Ralph Chalet, who heads the Houston Branch; Coit Yancy of Ft. Worth who is co-ordinator for the Dallas-Ft. Worth Branch; Harry Dingenthal of Dallas; Bill Boiko and his

brother from Austin; Pat Collins of New Braunfels; Rene Martinez, Corpus Christi; along with fellow San Antonians Ned wells and Jim Lavelle and Pat Ryan of Universal City.

The LONE STAR CHAPTER EPA table, resplendent with the national flags was ably manned by Pat Ryan and Jim Lavelle for the duration of the show. Many packages of Irish stamps were given to kiddoe and adult alike and the remainder were donated to the local Junior Club. The "table hands" also recruited new members Jack L. Trammell of Dallas and Vince Williams of San Antonio. Thanks to Bob Joyce, our table was at the entrance inside the exhibit hall.

The LONE STAR CHAPTER First Annual Meeting was held on the 29th of March and covered different aspects of Irish philately as it affects us here in Texas. The meeting was enjoyable and the humor was spontaneous.



Front Row: L to R, Morgan Williams, Bob Joyce, Bill McNally, Pat Collins
Standing: L to R, Bill Boiko, Coit Yancey, Pat Ryan, Jim Lavelle, Ralph Chalet

PROOF BOOK INDEX NOTE

By Joe Foley

Through the courtesy of Martin Stempien, Executive Secretary of the Collectors Club (NY), I have obtained a copy of an index of the proof books in the archives of the London G.P.O. These proof books contain specimen impressions of steel and rubber hand struck stamps from 1825 to modern times. The index notes the type of mark (steel/rubber), the volume number, chronological period covered, number of pages in the book and a very cryptic description of the contents.

Any EPA member who would like a copy of the index can have one by sending me a SASE at Box 26, Short Hills, NJ 07078.

BACK ISSUES - PRICE INCREASES

The price of back issues is \$1.75 for members and \$2.25 for non-members. If 10 or more are ordered at one time then the price will be \$1.50 per issue for members. No discount for non-members. Complete sets for \$180.00. All prices include postage.

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 Perfins 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 Perfins 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.