

# The Revealers

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



Volume 36 No. 2

Whole Number 164

Fall 1986

leictir & CÁRTA



Čun an leictir-čárta d'oscailt scrac de an ciumas as na poill.  
Go open the letter card tear off the edge at the perforation.

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Affiliate No. 21 – The American Philatelic Society • Affiliated Member – The British Philatelic Federation

Affiliate – Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland • Member – Council of Philatelic Organizations

## The REVEALER

Published quarterly by the Eire Philatelic Association.  
Membership dues are as follows: U.S. - \$7.00; Canada and Mexico - \$8.50; all other countries - \$10.00.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems that every time I write my President's Message, I have to announce that someone is resigning a position and someone else is taking over for them.

Patricia Stilwell Walker has resigned as Editor of The REVEALER.

Pat Ryan will be the new Editor and will commence his duties with the winter issue. This is a monumental task which he is undertaking and I ask for your understanding, assistance and co-operation. To undertake the job as Editor is not an easy project. A lot of planning, editing articles, arranging for typesetting, doing layouts, maintaining a schedule and working with other departments, is by no means a small job. Articles and items of interest will be needed. If you can assist him by contributing an article or two, please feel free to do so, as I'm sure he would appreciate it. Pat Ryan's address is: 1232 Cibola Trail, Universal City, Texas, U.S.A. 78148

To assist Pat in this transition and to help us get back on schedule, Peter Bugg and Bob Jones have put this issue of The REVEALER together.

I would like to thank Patricia for her assistance in the E.P.A. Also, my thanks to Peter Bugg and Bob Jones for coming to the rescue. And a big thank you to Pat Ryan for undertaking this job.

There is a rather large concern among specialist philatelic organizations in regards to the declining membership. Our membership has declined greatly, due to the lack of The REVEALER. Hopefully, by the end of the summer we will be back on track and can produce a product that everyone will be proud of.

Other reasons for the decline may be; the loss of interest in philately, the younger generation has no desire to get into collecting feeling, collectors may feel that we are too specialized and are going beyond their interests, also, perhaps the price of philatelic material has far exceeded their budget. Somethings we have no control over, but others we can do something about. If you feel that the E.P.A. should give you more, then why not write me and state your likes or dislikes. (Please don't complain to me about The REVEALER, it's being worked on).

I do know that within the next few issues to follow there will be a Library list published of Irish philatelic literature and the procedure for which to loan books:

The Handbook and Slide Committees have been formed and it will be a short time before they begin to produce.

We have several active chapters which hold meetings at various philatelic events across the country. Later this year, the Boston Chapter will be hosting meetings and seminars at the APS show in Boston. If you're in the area why not drop in.

Sincerely,  
Gene Labiuk  
President

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## IRISH COMMEMORATIVE FIRST DAY COVERS

Almost immediately after joining the E.P.A., I decided to concentrate on Irish First Day Covers. Having started to collect used Irish stamps I had noticed that it was quite usual to get them with minor faults such as tiny thins, missing perfs or creases.

For many years I had collected foreign F.D.C.s and had specialized in Stamp Centenary issues. The transition from these to Irish F.D.C.s was easy because of my basic knowledge of them in general. I knew that on F.D.C.s the stamps are almost always F-VF in all respects.

In my first issue of "Irish Stamp News" there was a large ad offering a "magnificent collection of Irish First Day Covers." Buying such a large lot is one way to start. The Irish stamp company had made a recent purchase of these. Later, I learned that this was the stock of a Mr. John J. Clarke who, almost on his own operated an Irish Cachet Cover Service from 1952 through 1960 with each issue using a cachet by the noted designer L.W. Staehle.

A check was sent to the Irish dealer with the hope they were not already sold out. When the lot came it was all that it claimed to be. There were 83 different covers, including a few "earlies." The 1962 to 1974 issues were practically complete and the definitive issues were represented. Some 14 F.D.C.s had Staehle cachets. The price was about one-half of normal retail.

The first Staehle cachet was the Thomas Moore issue, Sc. 145-46. This cachet, entirely in green was truly beautiful.

It was soon discovered that information in depth about Irish F.D.C.s was not readily available. Feldman's and Hibernian's gave only the barest information. Neither had any data about cachets or cachet makers. Mr. Clarke, I learned had died in 1977. I was referred to Mr. William McCaw, reputed to be most knowledgeable about Irish F.D.C.s. With his help I was able to add 36 more covers to my collection and got some additional data.

By this time I was really hooked on Irish F.D.C.s. I found them to be of great interest and a challenge. How much of a challenge I was soon to discover.

From two American dealers it was possible to greatly expand my collection by mostly those issues after 1960. Next came a price list from a reputable dealer in England offering a 20% discount to new customers making a substantial purchase. Their F.D.C. price list offered everything beginning with the 1929 Daniel O'Connell issue. It seemed "a piece of cake" and that I would soon complete my collection. Knowing that early F.D.C.s are not always in collectable condition I sent off a large order requesting it be sent on approval. They cooperated fully and in four shipments I bought many of the early covers. Early Irish covers are not the slick, pristine items one gets today, and I soon learned that this company nor any company could supply everything on their price list.

The search began. I followed every lead trying to complete all the commemorative issues on F.D.C.s. What I thought

would be easy became difficult. Often disappointed and even frustrated, I have persisted and have slowly closed in on the completion of this collection.

The statistics are that since 1929 through 1986, there have been 194 commemorative issues, totalling 432 stamps and 5 miniature sheets. On some new issue dates there has been more than one item released. Thus, in actual F.D.C.s there are about 220 different.

For anyone including F.D.C.s of the definitives and airmails I can say this from experience, the definitive issues of 1968-69 to the present were not too difficult to obtain nor were they very expensive. Of the 7 airmail issues, and of four different covers, two were easy and two required some searching.

I am told that of the 800 E.P.A. members possibly 40 may be serious F.D.C. collectors. Two possible reasons for this occur to me. Early Irish F.D.C.s are very scarce and they are expensive. They are appreciating in value every year. The demand far exceeds the supply.

It is reported that among the E.P.A. members in New England it was not possible to pull together a complete collection of F.D.C.s of the Commems from 1929 to 1975 for a Club Exhibit at a show in Boston. Pre-1960 F.D.C.s appear to have been made in small quantities. Some guesses are, in some cases, as few as 100. A few dealers did prepare covers but not in large quantities. Reasonably, they would not prepare more than they thought could be sold. It is obvious that a few collectors did prepare covers for the First Day of Issue but these are minimal.

As for cachets, there does not seem to be any known on the first six commemorative issues. I am told that cachets on these early issues increases their value. But, no one seems to know how many may have been made for these early issues or who made them. How many of the commemorative issues from 1929 to 1960 had cachets and who made them?

Certainly an illustrated listing of these early issues would be useful and contribute to our knowledge of this area of Irish philately. If any member would like to help with such a project they can do so by sending me clear and reproducible photographs or photocopies of the F.D.C.s in their collection to the 1929-60 period. Any data about the cachet makers would be most welcome. Such an illustrated list would be of interest to those as fascinated with Irish F.D.C.s as I am.

As of now I have only 5 covers to find. The "Missing 5" are: the O'Connell, the Shannon, the Royal Dublin Society, the Eucharistic Congress, the Gaelic League.

I know the reason for the Blue Lines on the early registered F.D.C.s but at what time was it no longer required? Does anyone have information about the numbers made of covers 1929-60? This and any other data would be welcome. And finally, where can I find the 'Missing 5'?

Robert M. Hammell, 293 West 14th St., Salem, OH 44460.  
E.P.A. #2011.



## RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

### £2 Booklet

One feature of the new booklet introduced in September is the inclusion of the current minimum postal charges -24, 28, 30, 39, 40, and 46p. However, the contents of one booklet does not supply suitable values for either 39 or 46p. A better make-up would comprise 30@28, 4@24, 1@10, 2@4 and 2@1p. To make booklets popular with the general public there should be something extra, not necessarily as generous as the 26p of the 1984 issue: a pair of 2p would probably suffice.

### Postage Rates

From the foundation of the Irish Free State there has been a gentlemen's agreement that the UK and Irish Republic would regard each other's mail as internal. Last year An Post decided that Ireland was losing money on the arrangement and billed the UK £3,000,000. Now, in reprisal the UK has decided that from 20th October it will treat the Irish Republic as a foreign country within the EEC. So correspondents in Great Britain and Northern Ireland will have to pay more on their letters to us, but still less than it costs to reply.

### Letter Writing

Understandably, postal administrations encourage letter writing, and the UPU offers an annual prize for the best letter. This year the prize was won by an Irish youth, Richard Nash, age 15, attending Castleknock College, with his home in Co. Limerick. The winning letter is quite remarkable and I hope the editor will find space for it on another page.

### STAMPA Souvenirs

The new prices of souvenirs of earlier STAMPAs, and especially the limited editions for subscribers, should encourage more to enroll as members of the organization. This year's attractive reproductions of a Mulready wrapper and a caricature are probably already worth more than the annual subscription (£10). On the other hand, the An Post souvenir postcards with motor cars have only very limited appeal and the initial selling price (40p each) was high enough to deter many prospective buyers.

### Mackay Annual

James A. Mackay's "Postal History Annual" for 1987, the ninth of the series, devotes nearly half of the 14 pages to Irish items, the most important being a thorough study (31 pages) of the Code Time system by John A B Moy, illustrating and explaining many examples of the cancellations so little appreciated by most of the collectors. The Annual also has a fascinating story of an improvised cancellation at Wexford, used when the regular date-stamp had been left in a time-locked safe! And there are more caustic comments on the lack of knowledge of the Irish language displayed on registration labels etc.

### Mileage Marks

One reported but not seen has been CROOM/102. David MacDonnell has shown me an example of 1834 in yellow.

### Receiving Houses

Two more BALLINATER, blue, 1851 and KINGWILLIAMSTOWN, circular, sans-serif, in blue as cancellation, 1860. It is a small village in Co. Cork, near Kerry border, now Ballydesmond. Surprisingly, the change of name did not occur until about 1950. And Jim Madeley reports another sans-serif DUANT SQUARE CORK.

### H & K

Several more covers with the sideways "H" Dublin datestamp, with the date range October 1860 to July 1861. A later H & K cover was posted in Blackrock, no Dublin datestamp, but the cancellation is a small 186 in diamond, possibly the killer part of the double stamp occasionally used on board.

### Dublin Roller

The same material includes the elusive rhomboid with 186 repeated, an example date May 1857, the earliest I know of.

### Dublin "Penny Post"

It is well known that even the outlying sub-offices, in the 2d post area had "Penny Post" handstamps - with one exception, Enniskerry, 10 Irish miles from Dublin, which did have a TWOPENNY POST stamp, recorded from 1827 to 1840. Now there has turned up an envelope of 1843 with italic "Enniskerry/Penny Post". The stamp is cancelled by a Dublin Maltese Cross.

### Hibernian Auction

I did not attend the sale on 13th December, disgusted by the gross misdescriptions and the poor quality of many of the lots on offer.

### Inverted Year

The only abnormality noted during the pre-Christmas season was a date inversion - 9861 - on Dublin F machine 12th-14th December. This occurred also at Baile Locha Riach (Loughrea) on 28 November.

### Missing Years

This year Ballinasloe failed to receive its 1987 for its cancelling machine. The "1982" was substituted, clumsily chipped to make it resemble 1987. Bantry also has no 1987 and is leaving the space blank.

### Review

The Dolmen Book of Irish Stamps (Dolmen Press £7.95) is a well produced introduction, lavishly illustrated with enlargements of the stamp designs, but the information is more suited to a thematicist than a normal philatelist. Errors include 1769 for the Dublin Penny Post and 1937 for the first Foynes-Botwood Airmail. And it is alleged that the 1922 coils for stamp-vending machines. The author is Liam Miller, and there is preface by Feargal Quinn, Chairman of AN POST.

### Official Mail 1840-47

In spite of James Mackay's researches there is still doubt as to the treatment of official correspondence in the 1840's, there being no distinctive markings before 1847. I recently found a form from the Stamp Office, 1841, with the standard Dublin square PAID datestamp but without any indication of the amount paid. Has anyone similar covers of the period? Incidentally, although sent by post, the form specified that the reply must not be posted but delivered by hand!

### Cancelling Machines

1986 was an exceptional year for the number of new machines installed, and I now know of 79, compared with 6 in the 1920's excluding Dublin. Some of the names are confusing: Arklow has INBHEAR MOR in the cancellation although in the Post Office Guide is AN INBHEAR MOR. And Castleblayney, which used to be CAISLAN MATHGHAMHNACH now has BAILE NA LORGEN. I append a list of the 79 and expect that John Lennon will be able to add a few. I have listed them in alphabetical order of the popular names of the places.

### Ban The Meters

Sorting a batch of envelopes addressed to a business firm, mostly meter-marked, I found a printed slip in an envelope from a London Bank reading "We would be very grateful to receive normal stamps on your envelopes, instead of using the posting machine, for philatelic reasons. Thanks and best Regards." The envelope in which it had been enclosed had been through the posting machine!

## IRISH POST OFFICES WITH MACHINE CANCELLATIONS

Arklow (Inbhear Mor)  
 Athenry (Baile Atha Ri)  
 Athlone (Ath Luain)  
 Athy (Baile Atha -I)  
 Ballina (Beal an Atha)  
 Ballinasloe (Beal Atha na Sluaighe)  
 Ballinrobe (Baile an Roba)  
 Ballymote (Baile an Mhota)  
 Bandon (Droichead na Bandan)  
 Bantry (Beanntraí)  
 Birr (Biorra)  
 Blackrock (Carraig Dhubh-A Cliath)  
 Boyle (Mainistir na Buille)  
 Bray (Bro)  
 Cahirciveen (Cathair Saidhbhin)  
 Carlow (Ceatharlach)  
 Carrickmacross (Carraig Mhachaire Rois)  
 Carrick on Shannon (Cara Droma Ruisc)

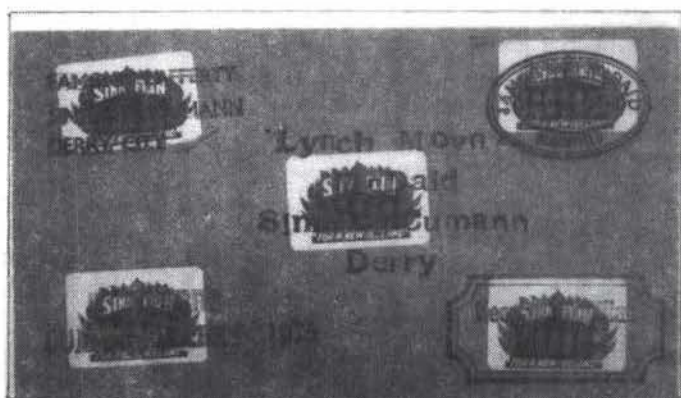
Carrick on Suir (Carraig na Siuire)  
 Castlebar (Caislean an Bharraigh)  
 Castle Blayney (Baile na Lorgen)  
 Castlerea (Caislean Riabhach)  
 Cavan (Cabhan)  
 Charleville (An Rath)  
 Claremorris (Clar Clainne Muiris)  
 Clifden (An Clochan)  
 Clonakilty (Cloich na Coillte)  
 Clonmel (Cluain Meala)  
 Cootehill (Muinchile)  
 Cork (Corcaigh)  
 Cove (Cobh)  
 Donegal (Dun na nGall)  
 Drogheda (Droichead Atha)  
 Dundalk (Dealgain)  
 Dungarvan (Dun Garbhan) (Dun Laoghaire)  
 Ennis (Inis)  
 Enniscorthy (Inis Corthe)  
 Fermoy (Mainistir Fhearmaai)  
 Galwaay (Gaillimh)  
 Gorey (Guaire)  
 Greystones (Na Cloch Liatha)  
 Kells (Ceanannas)  
 Kildare (Cill Dara)  
 Kilkenny (Cill Choinnigh)  
 Killarney (Cill Airne)  
 Kilmallock (Cill Mocheallog)  
 Kilrush (Cill Rois)  
 Kinsale (Cionn tSaile)  
 Letterkenny (Leitir Ceanainn)  
 Limerick (Luimneach)  
 Listowel (Lios Tuathail)  
 Longford (An Longfort)  
 Loughrea (Baile Locha Riach)  
 Macroom (Maigh Chromtha)  
 Mallow (Mala)  
 Middleton (Mainistir na Corann)  
 Monaghan (Muineachain)  
 Muine Bheagh  
 Mullingar (Muileann Cearn)  
 Navan (An Uaimh)  
 Nenagh (Aonach)  
 Newbridge (Droichead Nua Co Chillardara)  
 New Ross (Ros Mhic Thriuin)  
 Port Laoise  
 Roscommon (Ros Comain)  
 Roscrea (Ros Cre)  
 Shannon (Sionainn)  
 Skibbereen (Sciobairin)  
 Sligo (Sligeach)  
 Thurles (Durlas Eile)  
 Tipperary (Tiobraid Arann)  
 Tuam (Tuaim)  
 Tullamore (Tucach Mhor)  
 Waterford (Port Lairge)  
 Westport (Cathair na Mart)  
 Wexford (Loch Garman)  
 Wicklow (Cill Mhantain)  
 Youghal (Eochaill)

## THE PRIVATE CITY ISSUES OF THE SINN FEIN IN DERRY AND OTHER PARTS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

This article is an attempt to describe the relatively unknown Private City Post of the Republican Party (Sinn Fein) which was initiated in 1975 in Londonderry.

In 1975 a special Christmas Postal Service was offered to the people of Londonderry which provided the transportation of Christmas cards and letters for a reduced fee compared to the regular British postal rates. The service was announced in each Sinn Fein Center in Derry with posters in the windows and in a press release in the local papers and An Phoblacht/Republican News.

Since 1975 this service runs for ten days before Christmas and ends on December 23rd at 5:00 p.m.

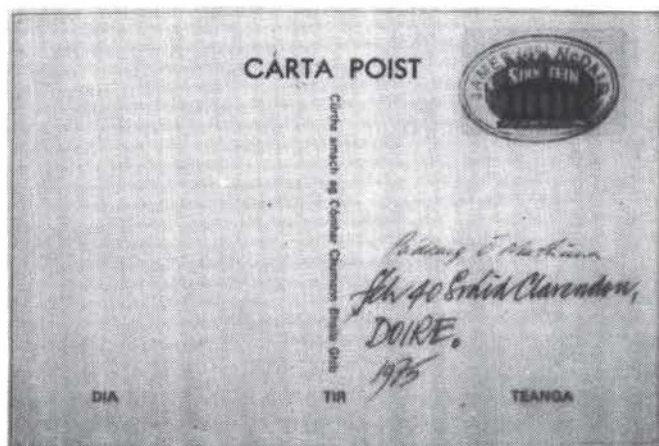


During the first Christmas Postal Service in 1975 there existed five collection offices, each with its own handstamp. This letter has been prepared for documentation purposes and bears all five stamps.

Although first operated in Derry, in the last four years the Sinn Fein offices in Belfast, Dublin and reportedly Newry agreed to run a limited and similar service in or between these cities. In Derry, some outlying districts of Waterside, Co. Derry, the posts of the Sinn Fein Headquarters in Strabane, 17 miles away have been included. In Derry community advice centers in Bogarde, Creggan, some grocery shops and others service these private posts.

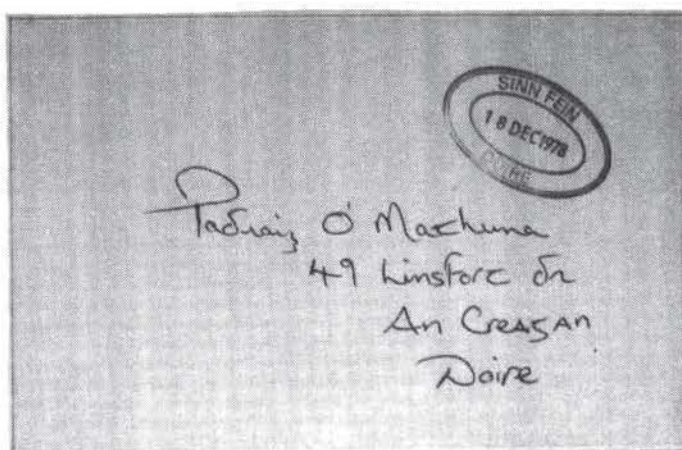
Reportedly, each year a minimum of 20,000 Christmas cards are delivered. In 1984 an increase to 60,000 was reported during the 10 days of operation. In 1985 only 6,000 cards were delivered, a considerable decrease from the year before. This is attributed to the generally extremely tight economic situation which resulted in everyone having less money and cutting back on non-essentials such as Christmas greeting cards.

However, the big volume of such mail reflects both the community's delight in getting a reliable postal service at cheaper rates than those of the British Postal Service and its support of Sinn Fein. The money earned from this service goes to the Prisoner's Dependents' Fund which is paid to the families of political prisoners.



This card has been posted at the grocery James McDaid in 1975. It shows the first Christmas-Post-Label, the so-called "New Ireland" label.

Customers who are interested in this service buy the stamps for a set fee which has been 10p since 1982. A Sinn Fein volunteer worker applies the cancel showing the area of Derry or Belfast eg. Creggan in Derry or Anderson Town in Belfast and the date. Then this mail is sorted and delivered to the respective Sinn Fein Centre.



If the stamps had been expired then the letters had only been cancelled with the handstamp as proof of paid letter fee. This letter shows the Sinn Fein-cancel Derry of 18 Dec. 1987.

Cars driven by volunteer persons collect the mail at each Centre in the mornings and afternoons. At the same time, mail which had been sorted was taken to the other centres. The Belfast and Dublin cards from Derry are sent by couriers several times a week.

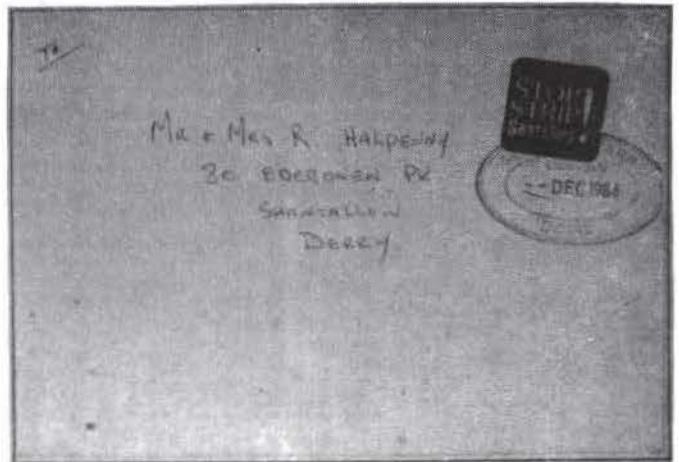
At the local centre the mail is again sorted and delivered to the recipients by volunteer letter carriers. These are Sinn Fein members and supporters who volunteer to deliver this mail to certain streets or areas.

There are no reports of any mail being late. The selection of non-Sinn Fein members as helpers is very carefully made. All Sinn Fein members are accountable to the Sinn Fein for accurate delivery of each piece of mail as are all others. Each card or letter is important to the sender indeed some mail includes money to friends in these mailings. When a family has moved or the address is incorrect every effort is made to find out where the family has moved and to deliver the card.

Other organizations which provide a private postal service exist such as Scouts, Private Courier Service. It is not clear whether the Sinn Fein Christmas Postal Service is illegal or not. As far as is known there have been no arrests of Sinn Fein "postmen" nor have deliveries been interrupted.

The stamps for this service are normally printed self-

adhesive labels in sheets of 24 and depict a political design or slogan. The 1975 label shows the front of the Dublin G.P.O. with the inscription "Sinn Fein For a New Ireland." The 1984 stamp has the slogan "Stop the Strip Searches!" This refers to the campaign to end the stripping naked the women prisoners in Armagh Jail. The 1983 stamp was issued to commemorate the 39 Lond Kesh escapes and the 1981 stamps depicted the 10 Hunger Strikers who died that year. In 1982 a stamp was issued showing the land of Ireland in green and in black letters the words "Sinn Fein" and "Nollaig 82."



Local letter of 1984 Derry with cancellation of Sinn Fein Office Pearse Stairs, Doire (=Derry)



Letter of 1981 depicting a stamp with one of the hunger strikers, Patrick O'Hara and cancellation Pearse Stairs, December 1981 (without any date).



Letter of 1982 and with cancellation of James McDaid, Bloomfield, Bloomfield is a part of Derry.

The postage fees 1975 to 1985 are as follows:

- 1975/76 - 2 pence
- 1977/78 - 3 pence
- 1979 - 5 pence
- 1980 - no Christmas Postal Service
- 1981 - 8 pence
- 1982 to date - 10 pence

It should be noted that this area of Irish philately is still very unknown. Any research is difficult for obvious reasons. The information reported in this article is probably incomplete or in error. No other literature or articles are known to exist as of now.

This article is a first attempt to report on this area of Irish philately. The author will welcome any additional information, corrections or criticism. Clear and legible photos or photocopies of this mail would be helpful.

The writer plans to issue a catalogue covering this area at the end of 1987. This catalogue will be part of the FAI's quarterly journal *Die Harte* or a new FAI handbook. Further information may be obtained by writing the author.

Heinz-Jürgen Kumpf  
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W-Germany

*Editor's Note: Mr. Kumpf is Vice President of the FAI in Germany and a member of the E.P.A. He is very active in the study and research of many areas of Irish philately.*

## SPECIALIZING IN IRISH LETTER CARDS

By Otto Jung

At first glance one might think the Irish letter cards are a really straight forward topic. But when looking at the values of 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d and 4p, issued within the time of 1953 to 1975, you can find a lot of variations which were sold at any post office and which are not scarce. There are some aspects you have to observe to find them out:

- a) the colour and quality of the cardboard;
- b) the gum;
- c) the perforation.



The varieties I am going to describe are not mentioned in the major Irish, English, or American Catalogues; they can be the topic of a specialized catalogue only as the F.A.I. catalogue of Irish postal stationery is. Let us look at the details now.



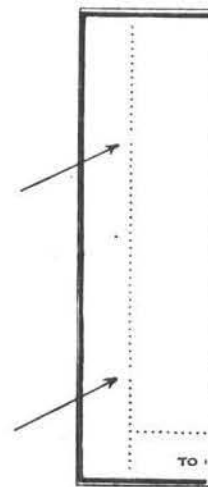
a) The colour of the cardboard: There is a broad range of colours on most editions from buff to grey, greyish-white, off-white, clean white, cream and yellow. The rule of thumb is the older, the more the cardboards tend to dark shades as buff and grey, the more recent, lighter shades are found as cream and, finally, white. The widest range is found on the letter cards of 2 1/2d.

b) The gum itself is not so various in its appearance; the more important difference is that it is to be found either on the front or the back flap. The first issues up to the 2 1/2d have gummed the front flap only; the 3d is as I know gummed more frequently on the back flap, the 4d to 4p have the gum mainly on the front flap.

c) The perforation is generally 14 1/4, but you can find large or small perforation holes. This is only found on the letter-cards of 3d to 4p, the former ones have large holes only, the more recent are roulette. Those showing small holes have, for the most part, two missing holes in the left vertical row, and perfect perforation is exceptional on them. Large perforation holes are combined with missing holes or perfect perforation at equal parts.



large perforation holes  
perfect perfor.



two holes missing

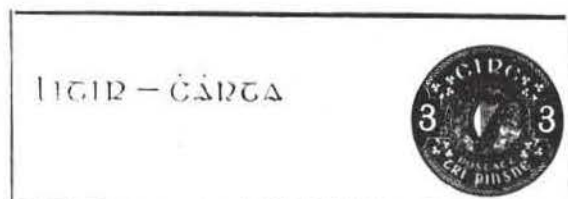


small perforation holes  
perfect perfor.

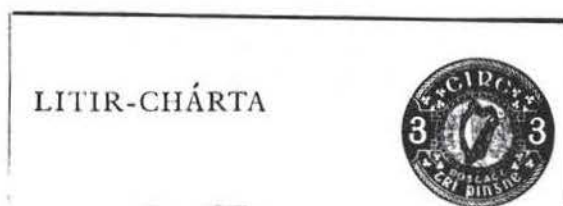


two holes missing

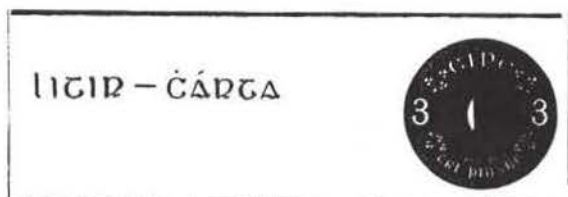
There are two types of inscription on the 3d: "LITIR-CARTA" showing either thin or thick Irish letters, and "LITIR-CHARTA" in Roman letters.



Thin Irish letters "LITIR-CARTA"



Roman letters "LITIR-CHARTA"



Thick Irish letters "LITIR-CARTA"

When combining these three features, paper, position of gum, and perforation, and adding the different types of print letters one can establish a scheme of varieties. I have done so and filled in, which types are in my collection. I am sure that more exist, and I shall be pleased to get notice if anybody can help.

There is a very exceptional variety of the 3d type II: an imperforate item was to be seen at an auction in 1985; but this is beyond the view of this article. The numbers used are taken from the F.I.A. "Catalogue of Irish Postal Stationery" 1987 edition.

| Face value | Description       | Numbers of the       | FAI catalogue     |
|------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 3d K 41ax  | LITIR CARTA       | thin lettering       |                   |
| 3d K 41bx  | LITIR CARTA       | thin lettering       |                   |
| 3d K 41by  | LITIR CARTA       | thin lettering       |                   |
| 3d K 41ay  | LITIR CARTA       | thick lettering      |                   |
| 3d K 41la  | LITIR CARTA       | light buff           |                   |
| 3d K 41lb  | LITIR CARTA       | light cream          |                   |
| 3d K 41lc  | LITIR CARTA       | yellow               |                   |
| 4d K 5     |                   |                      |                   |
| 5d K 6a    |                   |                      |                   |
| 5d K 6b    |                   |                      |                   |
| 6d K 7     |                   |                      |                   |
| 4p K 8     |                   |                      |                   |
|            | gum on front flap | complete perforation | large perf. holes |
|            | gum on front flap | complete perforation | small perf. holes |
|            | gum on front flap | missing perf. holes  | large perf. holes |
|            | gum on front flap | missing perf. holes  | small perf. holes |
|            | gum on back flap  | complete perforation | large perf. holes |
|            | gum on back flap  | complete perforation | small perf. holes |
|            | gum on back flap  | missing perf. holes  | large perf. holes |
|            | gum on back flap  | missing perf. holes  | small perf. holes |

## NEW PROPAGANDA OVERPRINTS FOUND ON GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND STAMPS

Heinz-Jurgen Kumpf

After an interruption of 14 years, in November of 1986, a number of unofficial overprints applied to Great Britain definitives and Northern Ireland Regional issues have appeared.

The overprint "Ulster Says No" refers to the Anglo-Irish Agreement of November 1985 between Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of England and Prime Minister Fitzgerald of Ireland. Even before this agreement was signed it was rejected by the extreme political groups in Northern Ireland: on one side by the Militant Catholics and on the other by the Militant Protestants.

Although these overprints were not recognized by the British postal authorities, some of the covers with these stamps did get through in the mails. There are also covers which did not get through and postage due was required.

The largest multiples of the overprinted stamps are four vertical and two horizontal which would suggest they were printed in stereos of eight. The method of printing was by letterpress and the following types are known.

- Type I wide - normal letters
- Type II thin - in italics
- Type III thin - normal letters
- Type IV wide - in italics



Type I



Type II



Type III



Type IV



Block of four 1p



Block of four 18p

Block of four 17p  
RegionalsBlock of four 12p  
RegionalsBlock of four 13p  
Regionals

The following values are known:

Great Britain (Machin Series, Elizabeth II)

1p lilac - Type I, Michel no. 562

18p black olive - Types I, II, III, IV, Michel no. 1003

Northern Ireland Regionals

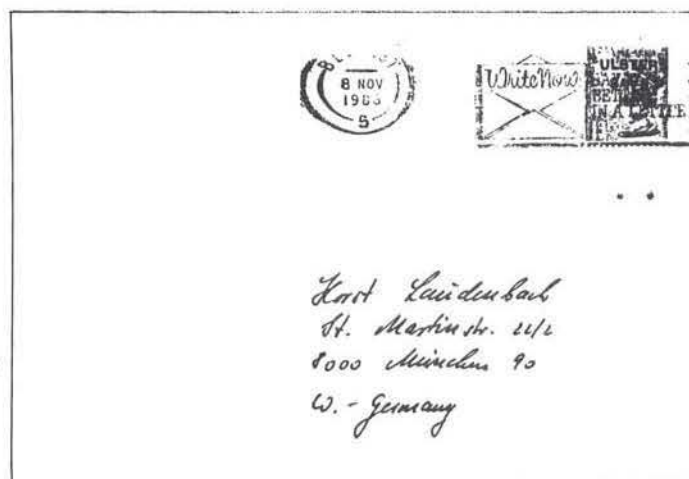
12p dark olive green - Type I Michel no. 27

13p orange brown - Types I, II, III, IV, Michel no. 41

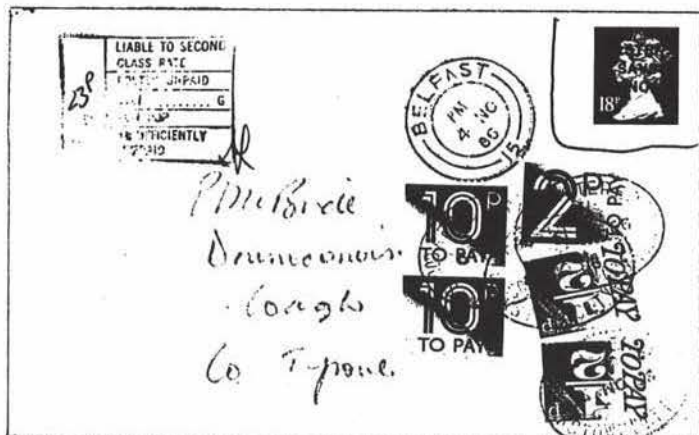
17p blue black - Type I, Michel no. 42



Letter with 12p overprinted Regional with additional 2p Postage Due.



Not sufficient paid letter to Germany with the 13 p-Regional stamp. This letter went through without postal complaint.



This letter did not pass through the postal authorities undetected and therefore has been imposed with 23p Postage Due.

While the four overprints of 1971/1972 which were alleged to have been the work of the Sinn Fein these new overprints are said to have been created by Moter Clubs of the right-wing Protestants. However, as there is no verification this is only supposition.

It is not realistic to expect these overprints will be listed in any of the standard catalogues such as Michel or Gibbons it is believed they will be incorporated in the listings of specialized catalogues of Irish stamps and collected by many specialists and generalists. These stamps which will be in a section "Propaganda Stamps" are being offered by dealers in Ireland and Great Britain.

## CHAPTER NEWS

Philatelic Show '86 was held on the 24th, 25th and 26th of October at the Sheraton Boxborough Inn & Conference Center in Boxborough, Massachusetts. The John McCormack chapter had a booth at the show all three days and as usual it was the social center for local E.P.A members. A group of members from the Connecticut Chapter visited the show on Saturday and helped out at the table. Dick McBride brought along a selection of special offers material and application forms were given to prospective members.

There were 3 Irish exhibits in the open competition and this enabled the judges to award the E.P.A. medal. Bill Zellers entered his Railway Philately exhibit and won a gold award and also the E.P.A. medal for best Irish exhibit.

Peter Bugg entered his first time exhibit of Irish Revenues and won a silver award and also a silver certificate from the American Revenue Association. Dick McBride entered his Identification of the Irish Overprints 1922-1937 and won a silver bronze. The chapter also won the North East Federation Club award for the first time with a three frame exhibit. Bob Jones entered 16 pages of first flight covers, Peter Bugg entered 16 pages of political labels and covers, Dwight Wahr entered 8 pages of definitives, air mail and postage dues from his collection and Jim O'Connell entered 7 pages of souvenir sheets of Ireland. As well as all these exhibits another two frames with many more aspects of Irish philately were set up as a backdrop to the booth. Such a display or Irish material is not often seen at one show, congratulations to all involved.

How about a challenge to the other chapters to enter as much material in their local national shows!!

A general meeting took place on Saturday afternoon and was well attended and many of the members went to the awards banquet that night. At the meeting it was decided to hold a joint meeting with the Connecticut chapter at the Cardinal Spellman Museum on December 14th.

# THE PHILATELISTS

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(201) 827-4813

MEMBER: APS, CASDA, EPA, NJSDA

## WATERMARK PAPER

by Padraig Mathuna

In November 1985 blank sheets of "e" watermark paper measuring 70mm x 107mm were observed in use as economy labels in Irish post offices. They were recognized as a prime source of the authentic security paper as used in printing the typographical stamps of Ireland prior to 1962.

The writer remembered a previous use of this obsolete paper in 1972 when Customs Declaration Forms O.E. 54 were printed on it to use up old stocks of paper. In these, no unprinted area was as large as a stamp.

These forms on old cream paper were soon replaced by the same on a more recent thicker "e" watermark paper and these were followed by a printing on the no watermark paper as used in the decimal no watermark postage due 3p, 4p & 5p labels. It was therefore, assumed that all stocks of the various obsolete papers were used up.

Therefore, the reappearance in 1985 of the old cream paper last used in 1972 came as a surprise. Obviously, a mislaid roll of paper was found and it was decided to use it in the form of labels. Fig. 1 shows the 1972 form O.E. 54 with one of the 1985 blank labels below. It is clear that a roll of the same paper was used.

Fig. 2 shows two of these labels showing minor variations in the shape of the "e":

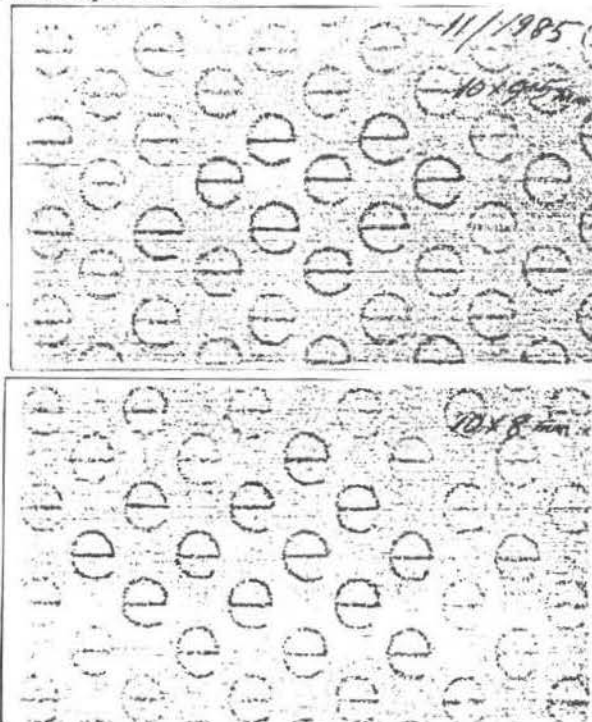


Figure 2

- a) Round, 10 x 9.5mm, measured from the outer edges  
b) Oval, vertically, 10 x 8mm

These variations in dimension of the "e" can be seen in all issues of the pre 1962 paper. Before the reference to 1962 is explained, a note on the paper making process is necessary.

From the 1920s stamp paper with "se" watermark and "e" watermark from 1940 was made by the Swiftbrook Paper Mill, Saggart Co., Dublin. It ended production of paper in the later 1960s. It is generally referred to as Saggart. The two main types of paper made for stamp use were:

- 1) "Superfine" (or Ordinary) with large "e" watermark from 1940 to 1962 which was used for all the low value definitives except the 6d.
- 2) "Substance" which was a heavier opaque paper with small "e" watermark manufactured from 1962 and used for 6d, 2/6, 5/0 and 10/0 up to 1968.

Both papers were made from rags with a bonding agent added under the strict control of officials from Dublin Castle who delivered the "Dandy Roll," stayed for all stages of manufacture and removed all finished paper, trimmings and Dandy Roll, etc. to Dublin Castle until the next batch needed to be made.

A "Dandy Roll" is a roller covered with mesh to which "bits" are fixed. These are raised metal shapes in the form of the watermark to be put in the paper. The paper being manufactured is passed in a very wet pulp form under the Dandy Roll so that the bits can impress their shape by compressing the pulp under them. This results in a thin area which is later visible as a watermark.

As the wet paper passes between heated drying rollers it is very weak and can barely support its own weight. Between this and the tension of the heated drying rollers the paper may

1972 O.E. 54

Rinn Post agus Telegrafa na hÉireann. Postal Administration of Ireland.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                |                                     |
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| If undeliverable on address, please deliver to: _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                |                                     |
| or if that is not possible return to me at my expense.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                |                                     |

Figure 1

stretch to give oval "e"s in the vertical axis, or the paper may shrink in the drying causing other contractions with variations in the shape and size of the "e."

Due to shortages during W.W. II, some papers were extremely thin and transparent (see C22-23 and early C24-25 among others). My observations show that most stamps of that period had "e" with a height varying from 9.5mm to 11mm and with a width which varied from 10mm to 8.5mm. These are the extremes of dimension but the 10mm x 10mm dimension seems to have been the actual size of the "bit."

After all the years of use from 1940 to 1962, it appears that the original Dandy Roll wore to such an extent that it could not be repaired and so a new roll had to be made. Apparently the same dimensions of the bits was not specified and the new Dandy Roll had smaller bits measuring 8mm x 8mm.

This dating of the introduction of a new Dandy Roll in 1962 with small "e" measuring 8mm x 8mm is made by observation of Postal Due and commemorative issues of the time. All Postage Dues had the large "e" watermark except the 8d and 10d issued in 1962 and 1965. For comparison of dated printings see figures 3 & 4.

Fig. 3 shows the 1/2d with a big "e" from 1944 besides the 1/- with small "e" purchased in June 1968. Fig. 4 shows a 1966 printing of the 1d with small "e" beside the big "e" 1961 Aer Lingus issue.

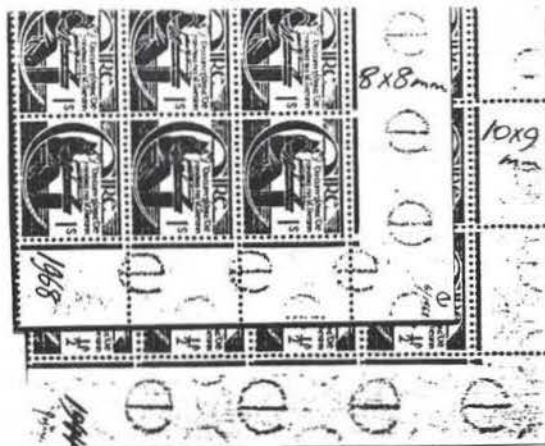


Figure 3

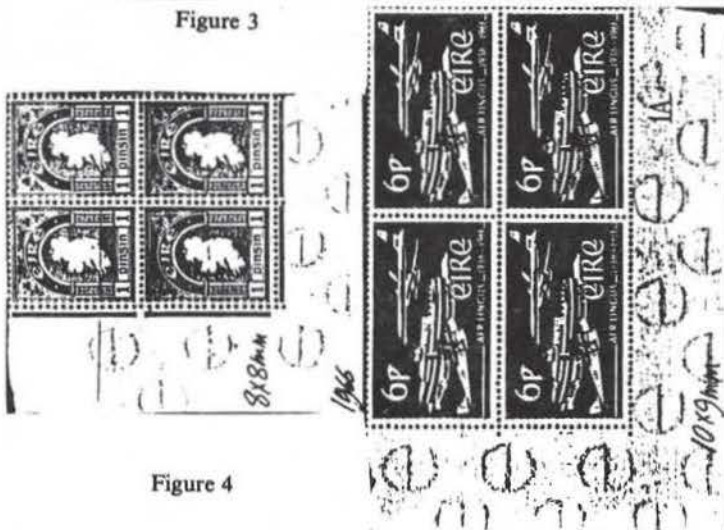


Figure 4

The above outline of a field of study as yet untouched brings the writer back to these labels of Nov. 1985. They appear to be made from Saggart "Superfine" paper made before 1962, which was assumed to have been completely used up in printing the O.E. 54 labels in 1972.

As to the manner of their use the writer was lucky enough to find some covers in mission material obtained from the Motor Tax Office in Clonmel. They had been opened for examination and were resealed using "e" watermark labels. They are not dated stamped as is normal for resealed labels but it must be assumed that the letters were officially opened because they were thought to contain coins. These are not permitted unless the letter is registered. See fig. 5 for examples dated January and November 1986.

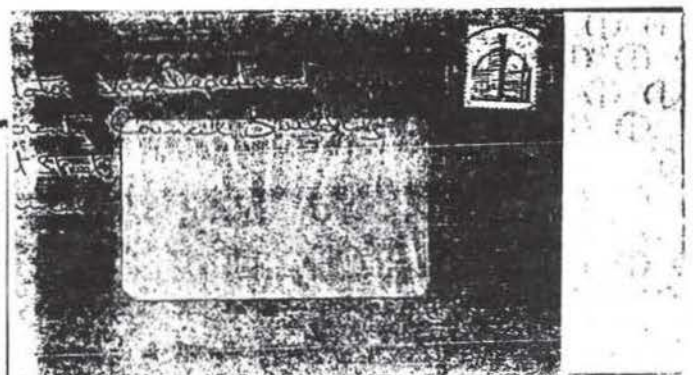


Figure 5

Fig. 6 shows an official use as an economy label used to close the flap of an envelope which has printed instructions. It also has applied the An Post logo. Until its new labels were printed all Post Offices were issued with rubber stamps of this logo for use in this manner and to overprint P & T on old envelopes. They are now withdrawn. This is dated April 1986.



Figure 6

Fig. 7 shows a January 1987 usage in similar fashion. This "e" label is tied to the cover by the official stamp of "An Ceannasai, P. Ch. B." (The director, Dublin postal district) addressed to the Postmaster in Caiseal, who later used the envelope again by putting a new style An Post printed in economy label over it to close the flap when writing an official reply to me. On enquiring he told me he could not recall when he first received the envelope from P.Ch.B. and was unaware of the "e" watermark in the label.

The writer has also seen them as labels on parcels from rural areas, where a postmaster would oblige a customer by supplying a label, and as address labels of plain envelopes which might or might not be official.

Collectors who have seen these labels question the wisdom of releasing such paper unprinted. However, they are a useful addition to the study of the pre 1962 stamp issues and as such are to be welcomed.

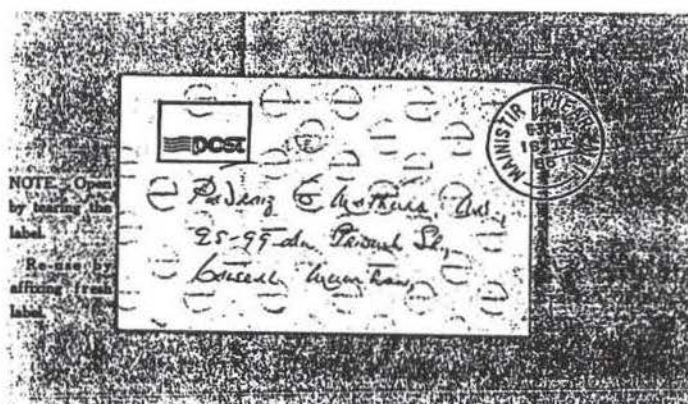


Figure 7



Pat Walker, winner of the 1986 John Blessington Award for the best Irish exhibit at Seacal '86 held at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles in October of 1986. The John Blessington Award is presented annually at SEACAL by Bob and Belinda Kemper. The Kemper, who live near Los Angeles, want to preserve the name of John Blessington for his contribution to Irish philately.



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## LINE SHIFTS IN THOM 5 LINE OVERPRINTS

by Dr. Max Harrow

From the beginning of the issue date of the Thom Five Line Overprints it has been noted that, as in the Dollard Overprints, the relationship of each line of the single cliché to the other four lines can change. This change can occur in sheets of a single setting, or can be a characteristic which may serve to differentiate settings. For some reason, the resulting changes of relationship between the R of Rialtas and the S and E of Sealadac has gained prominence over other line shifts. The relationships are usually designated as R over E (normal) R over Se, and R over S. Unfortunately, these are highly subjective descriptions open to much interpretation. An objective criterion for each position is needed.

It has become the practice to use the relationship of the long down stroke of the S or Rialtas and the last A of Sealadac below it as the determinant for differentiating between R over E and R over Se. When this down stroke lies even slightly to the right of the apex of the A, the item is R over E. If the down stroke is directly over the apex of the A, or to its left it is R/Se, and further movement in the same direction eventually yields an R over S. But at what point does an R over Se become an R over S? To find a criterion it is best to turn to Meredith's original work on varieties.

Meredith states that R over S occurs only in setting 2, R17/4-6 and setting 3, R17/5,6. It occurs in no other setting. This is, of course, his subjective observation. But we must start somewhere, and what better authority can we use than the originator of these observations? Examination of horizontal strips of seven stamps (Row 17, 1-7) of settings 2 and 3, reveals two things: the two settings are not the same, and we cannot use the position of the down stroke of the Rialtas and the last A of Sealadac as a criterion. What will be used is the first A of Rialtas and the first A of Sealadac. These A's have each two apices: the usual apex at the top, and the apex (or in this case, the lowest point) of the cross bar of the A.

The strip for setting 2 shows that the word Sealadac is shifting to the right causing a change from R over E, through R over Se, to R over S. If the last three right stamps are, as Meredith states, R over S, then the criterion for R over S, in setting 2, is that the top apex of the first A in Sealadac must be, at least, slightly to the right of the cross bar apex of the first A in Rialtas. In this setting the Ei of hEireann is over the 1 of the date below.

The same strip for setting 3 starts with R over Se and, according to Meredith, ends with two R over S. Here the relationship of the A's allows the apices one directly under the other to be the minimum criterion for R over S. In this setting both Sealadac and hEireann shift to the right so that the R over S are also first E of hEireann over 1 of date. So there are two types of R over S, each from identifiable and different settings, the criterion for each being slightly different.

Meredith states that these different relationships occur from a shift of Rialtas in one direction of Sealadac in the opposite direction. Examination of a great many stamps has shown no shift in Rialtas. Most shifts occur in either Sealadac to the right or Sealadac and hEireann to the right. There are a few indicating a slight shift of hEireann to the left. One item shows a very definite shift of hEireann alone to the right.

Identification of setting and position of this item is not known, and any information on this would be appreciated. There is no indication that the NA of date shifts. Movement seems to be confined to the second and fourth lines. These easily account for the R/Se, L/NA, an Ei/1 varieties.

What peculiarity in the overprinting process would lead to these line shifts is not known. Any theories by individuals better acquainted with the printing process would be most helpful.

## OVERPRINTING QUESTIONS

by Max Harrow

I have a vertical pair of Thom Saorstat 1d which include two peculiar clearcut markings in front of the first "S" of Saorstat. If this were not a pair, but a single stamp, I would conjecture that the markings might be remnants of a guide block in front of Saorstat. But this would be difficult to fit in with the fact that the same markings would appear in each stamp of a vertical pair. Any suggestions?

**S**

A block of four of Thom Saorstat 1½ indicates the inaccuracy of dependence on the rounded base on the 1 of date and the raised second "E" of Eireann as characteristic of the Harrison 3 line coil stamps. The vertical right hand pair of this block shows both of these characteristics. As Joe Foley points out in the EPA identifier, it is better to use the shape of the loop enclosed by the "g". The loop is oval in the Thom and round in the Harrison. All four stamps in the block have oval loops.

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## THE NEW EDITOR

With the announcement of the appointment of Patrick J. Ryan Jr. as the new editor of the Revealer, we would like to introduce him to the E.P.A. members.

A native of Rochester, New York, he graduated from McQuaid Jesuit High School in 1958. He received a BA in History from St. Bonaventure University in 1962 and an MS in Management from Troy State University in 1979. He is married and has six children ranging in age from 5 to 22. He entered the United States Air Force in 1962 and retired therefrom in 1982. He has been collecting stamps for the past 40 years concentrating on United States, Ireland, Canada, the United Nations and the Soviet Republics (pre-'58). In his Irish collection he has specialized in the Gutter pairs, Booklet Panes and booklets, Watermark varieties and postal stationery including Registered Covers. He is a member of the American Philatelic Society, The Eire Philatelic Association and the San Antonio Philatelic Association. For the past 2 years he has been active in recruiting in the Texas area for the E.P.A., as a member of the Lone Star Chapter.

Pat Ryan will be greatly helped if E.P.A. members will provide him with articles for publication. With such help the sooner Pat will be able to get the Revealer back on schedule.

## Income and Expense Statement Sept. 1, 1985-Aug. 31, 1986

### INCOME

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Contributions           | \$845.00 |
| Dues/Membership         | 5323.37  |
| Advertisement/Directory | 163.00   |
| Special Offers          | 400.00   |
| Auction Income          | 500.65   |
| Back Issues             | 225.50   |
| Interest/Dividends      | 1829.02  |
| Miscellaneous           | 44.00    |

Total Income \$9331.79

### EXPENSES

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Printing/Mailing/Publishing   |           |
| Revealer/Reprints/Stationery  | \$4334.32 |
| Secretary's Expenses          | 488.22    |
| Editor's Costs                | 86.52     |
| Special Projects              | 887.62    |
| Librarian/Chapter Expenses    | 302.20    |
| Awards/Associations, etc.     | 101.36    |
| Misc./Advertisement/Treasurer | 137.12    |

Total Expenses \$6337.06

## E.P.A. SPECIAL OFFERS

The following items may be ordered from Richard J. McBride, 153 Orchid Road, Meriden, CT 06450 U.S.A. All prices include postage and handling. Overseas add 50¢ for air mail. Make all cheques 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. Price to 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. Price to members \$3.50, non-members \$4.50.

**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. Supplement \$1.00.

**"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\$. Price to members \$4.50, non-members \$5.50.

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**E.P.A. – AMERIPEX Souvenir Cards** – Souvenir cards sold at the International Exhibition in Chicago in 1986. These handsome cards are slightly different than those distributed with The REVEALER. These cards have an E.P.A. logo centered in black with Eire Philatelic Association printed in green on the top and Ameripex with dates in blue at the bottom. Cards are numbered, with a total printing of 390. Cards available from No. 230. Price \$1.00.

**Undated Namestamps of Ireland 1823-1860** – by Bill Kane. This booklet has been produced by FAI of West Germany. In English and German and records the colours, periods of usage on the various types of the undated namestamps. Price to members \$3.75, non-members \$4.00.

**Post Office Guide of 1923** – Available in the near future. Printed by the FAI of West Germany. Price to members \$5.00, non-members \$5.25. Advanced orders will be accepted and shipped upon receipt of your order.