

# The Revealers

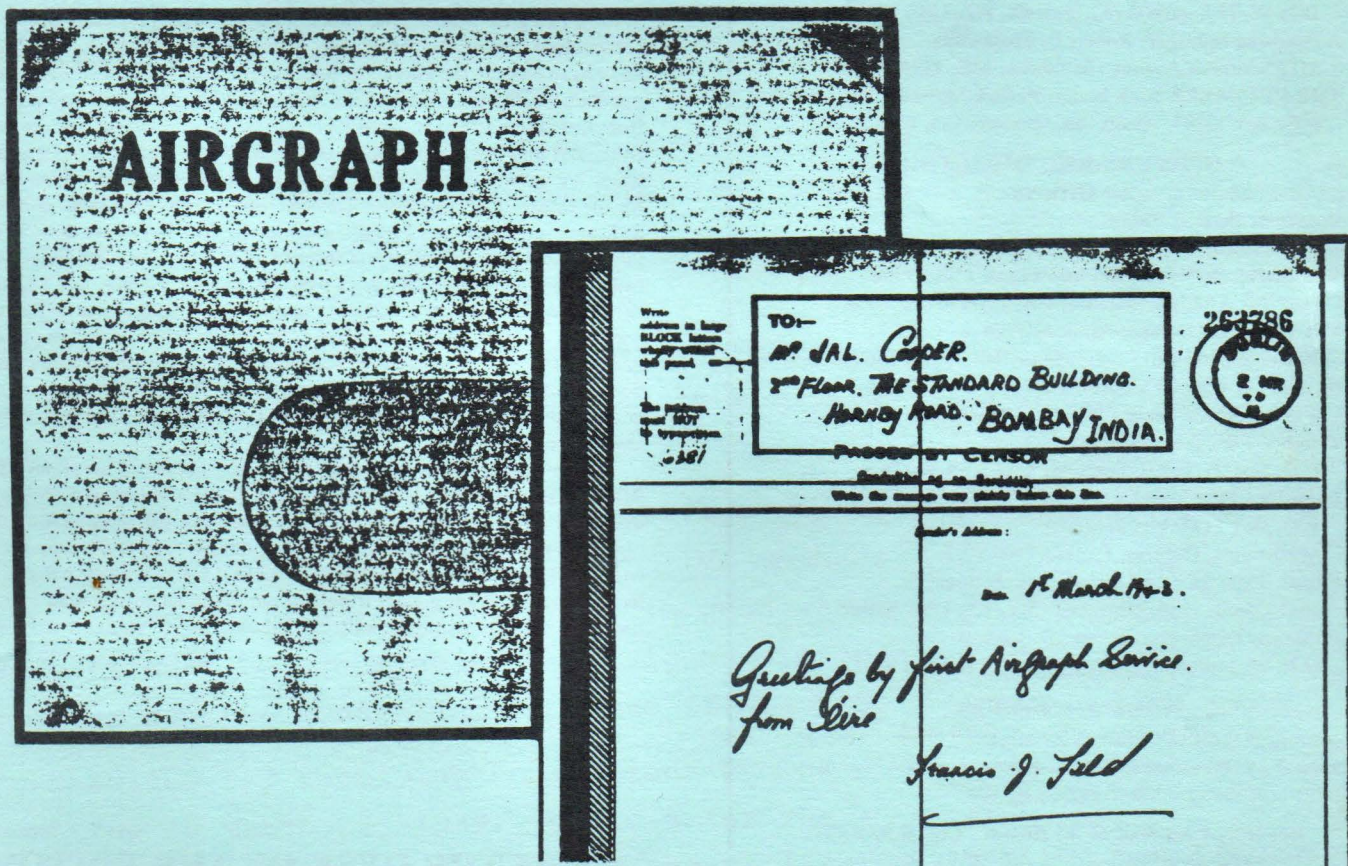
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## THE REVEALER

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a sad Fall for Irish philately. First the passing of Fred Dixon in Ireland, and then the passing of O.M. Richards in England. These two men have left a legacy to all of us for which we will always be grateful. I will not attempt to eulogize these men here as they will be eulogized by far greater authorities than me, but as president of the EPA I want to say a simple Thank You, we will not forget either of you.

As with every passing, a gap is left which needs to be filled. In honor of these two great individuals, I am sending out a plea for more people to get involved in our association. It is ironic that Gene Labiuk, Bob Jones and I have been on the phone for hours over the last few weeks discussing nominations for the election next Summer. I have also received a letter from our editor telling me that he is almost out of material for the next issue, and that if he had to put it out right now he would have a 12-page issue. We have to do something about this situation now so we can build for the future. The association has been run basically by a small group of dedicated members since I joined in the early '80s. They have done a fine job, but how long can we expect them to go on? We need new blood with new fire and new ideas. We have over 700 members again, and I find it hard to believe that Pat has to go to press with a 12-page issue or that the nominating committee has to plead with the old faithfuls to hang in for just one more term. I know you are out there, aspiring directors, auctioneers, secretaries, chapter coordinators, etc. Don't put it off anymore. If you have ideas, get involved and put them to work. The first step is always the toughest.

I don't know about all of you, but I feel good about us: about THE REVEALER, our new directory, our new publication of Jim Howley's book and our new slide program. Let's make this list twice as long this time next year. Let's have a bigger Board of Directors and a long list of back-ups for all departments. Write to me and volunteer now before you let it slip again. What greater tribute to our deceased friends than to continue the work they so diligently carried out.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR



I apologize to the membership for the late distribution of our Fall issue. Once again, costs, and your staff's attempt to contain them, have reared their ugly heads. Our tireless publisher, Bob Corless, ran into some computer problems in producing the EPA Directory. He wanted to include it with the Fall mailing to save money. Thus, he held THE REVEALER to include this informative publication.

We are all saddened over the loss to Irish philately this year — the death of our Past President and tireless author, Fred Dixon, on September 4, 1988. But if this was not enough, we also mourn the loss of our fellow life member and 20-year editor of the IPC Journal, O. Michael Richards. The passing of both Fred and Michael presents a void in Irish philately that cries out to you — the membership. These events highlight

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 48)

## That Was The Year That Was

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE)

by B. Warren

### 16-18 October - Sescal '87, Los Angeles, U.S.A.

A three coloured card illustrating a cylinder block of the 1p Gerl definitive was produced by the local Southern California Chapter of the E.P.A. in connection with their annual participation in this show. Numbered on reverse. Cost plus total printing not known. Cachet similar to that used at Capex available at the E.P.A. booth.

### 16-25 October - Hafnia '87, Copenhagen, Denmark

Nordfrim, the Scandinavian agents for An Post, obtained permission to produce two souvenirs. The Trams miniature sheet was overprinted with the Hafnia logo and was sold for D. Kr. 16.50 (IR £1.60). In addition they produced a card with the 1985 Love FDC design with the two 1987 Love stamps affixed and cancelled by their special exhibition cachet. Sold for D. Kr. 12.60 (IR £1.25). The yellow coloured card is similar to the 1986 card they produced for Stockholmia '86.

### 22-25 October - ASDA '87, New York, U.S.A.

The Postal Uniforms set of postcards was overprinted for the show and sold for the equivalent of IR £1.20. I understand a cachet was available. Can any North American reader please confirm?

### 6-8 November - Philatelic '87, Cologne, West Germany

The Postal Uniforms set was overprinted with the Philatelic '87 logo, etc. and sold for DM 3.50 (IR £1.35). Cachet also available.

## EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS AND POSTMARKS — IRELAND

### 14 March - Mid-Western Philatelic Society, Limerick

The 8th annual exhibition and fair was held at Cruises Hotel. Philatelic facilities, special cover and postmark available featuring the Treaty Stone of Limerick. Numbered edition of 400 booklets containing 2x24p Mulready stamps. Cost IR £1.00.

### 26 April - 5th Collectors Festival, Dublin

Held at the Shelbourne Hotel. Numbered edition of 350 booklets containing the 1979 Fauna and Flora set featuring birds mounted in Hawid type strips. Cost an average of IR £5.00. No postmark of philatelic facilities.

### 31 May - Louth Philatelic Society Exhibition, Dundalk

Held at the Imperial Hotel. Numbered edition of 200 booklets containing the 1987 Europa set mounted in plastic strips. Cost IR £1.50. The cover features a drawing of the Proleek Dolmen, Dundalk by the late C. P. O'Neill who sadly died in January 1988. No postmark. Philatelic facilities available.

### 13 September - 6th Collectors Festival, Dublin

Held at the Shelbourne Hotel. Numbered edition of 250 booklets containing the 1968 James Connolly and Countess Markievicz sets mounted in Hawid type strips. Average cost IR £5.00. No postmark or philatelic facilities.

### 3 October - Sligo Philatelic Society Exhibition

Held at the Silver Swan Hotel. Numbered edition of 250 booklets containing the left hand block of six ex. the current IR £2 definitive booklet (2x2p, 3x4p and 1x28p). Special cover and postmark available. The postmark refers to Yeats International Stampex and is similar to previous years. Philatelic facilities available. The booklet cost IR £1.50.

### 10 October - Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition

Held at the Imperial Hotel. Numbered edition of 600 booklets containing 2x24p Cork Electric Tram stamps. Special cover and postmark available. The cover illustrates some tram tickets and the postmark also features a Cork tram. Philatelic facilities available. The booklet cost IR £1.00.



### 15-18 October - Stampa '87, Dublin (RDS)

Members of the Stampa Society received the 'Trams' miniature sheet overprinted "Stampa '87 National Stamp Exhibition". The total printing was 350 numbered copies. Membership subscription IR £10.00. The sheets were posted out to members together with their season tickets on 3 October in advance of the exhibition, which took place 15 to 18 October. The Post Office exhibition cards released at the show plus matching postmarks are referred to above under postal stationery. A Skeleton CD5 was in use as per 1985 and 1986. The German based FAI study group once again visited Stampa and issued an overprinted 'Discover Ireland' card with a greeting from the show and postmarked with the opening day exhibition cancel. The cards were distributed without charge to each member. The third card in the Postal Uniforms set (1940) was overprinted by Stampa with the menu for the awards dinner at the Shelbourne Hotel on 17 October. The cards bear the exhibition cancel of the same date. One card distributed to each diner. A small number of the 1986 E.P.A. had the 28p Trams stamp affixed and cancelled with the exhibition cancel of 17 October. Philatelic facilities available.

### 14 November - Galway Philatelic Society Exhibition

Held at St. Patrick's National School, Galway. Numbered edition of 300 booklets containing the 46p Galway Horse Tram stamp plus 4x1p definitives. Cost IR £1.50. Special cover and postmark available. Philatelic facilities available.

### 28-29 November - Limerick Coin, Stamp & Postcard Fair

Numbered edition of 200 booklets containing 3x24p Cathal Brugha stamps. Cost IR £1.50. No postmark or philatelic facilities.

## OTHER SPECIAL POSTMARKS AND CACHETS

I set out below details of special postmarks and cachets other than the exhibition items referred to above.

**25 February** — The German based society of Irish collectors, FAI, marked their 5th anniversary by distributing to members a specially printed envelope bearing a 24p Love stamp with Dublin CDS dated 25 February together with a cachet incorporating the An Post logo and the FAI harp together with the words "1987 - 5 Years Success in Irish Philately". The envelope contained information about the FAI's annual general meeting (see under "Miscellaneous Items" below). Total printing 220 envelopes. Unused envelopes also exist.



(CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

**1 July:** Carroll Pro-Am tournament at Portmarnock Golf Club. The postmark was not announced and is unusual in that the place name is inscribed in English.

**2-5 July:** Carrolls Irish Open Port Mearnog. This annual postmark was somewhat different from previous years as it also referred to 25 years sponsoring international golf.

**30 August (Sunday):** Special postmark used at Drogheda, Co. Louth in connection with the 12th world conference of the International Conference for Catholics in Scouting which took place at "An Grianan" (the conference centre of the Irish Countrywomen's Association) from 25th to 30th August. The postmark was only used on 30 August.



**9 September:** Mitchelstown, Co. Cork. The postmark commemorated the centenary of the Mitchelstown Massacre during the Fenian plan of campaign in 1887.

**October 4 (Sunday):** Ballynasloe, Co. Galway. Used in connection with the annual Horse Fair. Serviced maximum cards with the 46p Festivals stamp were available in connection with this cancel.

## SLOGAN POSTMARKS

**277 - "National Lottery Come Play Your Big Dream".** Introduced on 1 April nationwide to mark the introduction by An Post of the new national lottery.

**278 - "Discover Ireland in 87".** Used nationwide during the months of June, July and August. Noted in use outside the above period. I have seen the slogan used in Blackrock during January and February 1988!

## FLIGHT COVERS

**22 April -** Special cover produced by the Pembrokeshire Aviation Group to mark the 75th anniversary of the first successful aeroplane flight between Britain and Ireland. This was achieved by Denys Corbett Wilson who flew a Bleriot XI from Goodwick near Fishguard in Wales to Crane near Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. 500 covers produced bearing an 18p Welsh definitive cancelled with a Fishguard CDS then flown to Ireland and Irish stamp affixed and postmarked with Enniscorthy CDS. Cost £3.50 each sterling.

**22 December -** British Airways inaugurated a new regular service by Concorde from London to Barbados in December 1987. The first flight was to take place in late November/early December, however, the flight was delayed. Some privately produced covers were sent to Shannon for the first flight and were postmarked with a Shannon CDS on 12 December. However, the flight did not take place until 22 December, arriving in Barbados the same day. The covers bear an Airmail G.P.O. Barbados arrival CDS.

**1986:** In last year's article I referred to the Aer Lingus 50th Anniversary flight to Bristol. In addition to this special (delayed) flight, a series of covers were flown on all Aer Lingus scheduled flights operating out of Dublin (and perhaps Cork and Shannon?) on 27 May. In connection with the Delta Air Lines service, Atlanta-Shannon-Munich, E.P.A. member Ralph Chaiet kindly sent me an example of a cover originating from Atlanta. The cover is cancelled Atlanta, Ga Airmail Facility 30320 on May 8, 1986 and backstamped Shannon on May 9. The cover also bears an attractive cachet which reads "Delta Air Lines Shannon Ireland First Flight U.S. Postal Service". Heinz Gunther Grunz also informed me that covers also exist with a Stuttgart Airport backstamp of 10 May i.e. the day after arrival at Munich. I am unsure if this was the same flight or just the onward transmission of mail from Munich. Covers also exist for the inaugural return of Pan-Am to the

Shannon-New York route on 27 April 1986. Again thanks to Heinz for this information. Covers might also exist for the first Dublin-Knock (Horan International) - Lourdes flight in 1986.

Returning to 1987 there were several new routes introduced during 1987 as a result of increasing competition from the new independent Irish airline RyanAir. However no flight covers have come to my attention.

## FOREIGN STAMPS WITH IRISH ASSOCIATIONS

Several items relating to 1986 not reported last year came to my notice during 1987. I list them below together with stamps issued in 1987.

### 1986:

**Belize** World Cup miniature sheet featuring the flags of competing nations including the Northern Ireland flag. The sheet exists unoverprinted and with an overprint "Argentina - Winners 1986".

**Grenada Grenadines** A four value "Halley's Comet" set includes a 5c stamp featuring the 6" reflector telescope at Birr Castle, Co. Offaly. The stamp is incorrectly inscribed the Earl of Rossi 6" Reflector instead of the Earl of Rosse.

**Lesotho** A four value Statue of Liberty set issued on 1 May 1986 included a 1m value featuring a portrait of the composer Victor Herbert who was born in Dublin in 1859. U.S. members will be aware of the 1940 American stamp which also features Victor Herbert.

**Laos** A seven value set for Stockholmia '86 featuring dogs included a stamp featuring an Irishman (???). I have not seen the stamp and therefore I do not know if the term Irishman is an incorrect catalogue description or an incorrect inscription on the stamp.

### 1987:

**Australia** A 3/c stamped envelope (cost 44c) issued on 13 October 1987 features Deputy Judge Advocate David Collins. I suspect that this is the same David Collins who was born in Co. Laois in 1756 and became the Governor of Van Diemens Land, now Tasmania. He was featured on an Australian stamp issued in 1953 (SG 268). The envelope was one of a set of four in their bicentennial series.

**Bahamas** A four value Pirates of the Caribbean set issued on 2 June features the Cork born woman pirate Anne Bonny. The same portrait has been included in similar sets issued by Grenada (1970 - SG 368) and Jamaica (1971 - SG333).

**Hungary** One of three 2ft stamps in a six value set issued on 30 June features the explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton who was born in Kilkea, Co. Kildare in 1874. Shackleton has appeared on the stamps of six other territories - Ascension, British Antarctic Territory, Falkland Island Dependencies, Ross Dependency, South Georgia and Tristan da Cunha. The Hungarian set commemorated 75 years of Antarctic Exploration.

**Grenada** A ten value Milestones of Transportation set issued on 18 May includes a 50c stamp featuring the S.S. Sirius which completed the first scheduled steamship crossing of the Atlantic (via Queenstown, now Coleh) in 1838. (Via passage West) The same steamer will be the subject of a 24p stamp to be issued by Ireland on 12 May 1988 (SG 1628).

**Grenada** A four value set issued on 9 September 1987 includes a \$2 value featuring Robert Boyle who was born in Lismore, Co. Waterford in 1627. The first successful air-pump was designed by him and built in 1659. Boyle was the subject of an Irish stamp issue in 1981 (SG 474).

**Sierra Leone** A ten value set also entitled Milestones of Transportation issued on 28 August 1987 includes a 15Le. stamp featuring the Vickers Vimy flown by Alcock and Brown when they made their first non-stop transatlantic flight in 1919. The plane landed near Clifden, Co. Galway.

**Uganda** An eight value set also part of the Milestone of Transport-

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tation omnibus issued during August includes a 3s stamp featuring the Junkers W-33L Bremen. The Bremen was the first aircraft to make the first East-West transatlantic flight in 1928. The flight commenced from Baldonnel aerodrome in Co. Dublin. The plane was piloted by Commandant James Fitz Maurice of the Irish Air Corps and the German aviators Captain Kohl and Baron Gunther von Hunefeld. Stamps have been issued by Ireland (1978 - SG 419/420), West Germany (1979 - SG 1888), and Hungary (1978 - SG 3180) commemorating the same flight.

**Austria** A 5s stamp was issued on 11 August 1987 commemorating Erwin Schrodinger (1887-1961). Awarded the Nobel Prize for physics, he founded the Irish Institute for Advanced Studies when he worked in the country. This fact is mentioned on the first day cover kindly given to me by Tony Quigley. Well spotted!

**Great Britain** The cover of a 50p vending machine booklet issued on 29 September features the Mount Stewart Gardens in Northern Ireland. The booklet cover was the third in a series featuring Botanical Gardens. The first printing had the misspelling Stuart for Stewart. A second printing was made to correct the error and distributed during October. Both types were made available to collectors. The booklet contains 3x13p, 2x5p plus 1x1p definitives, all with one central phosphor band. This booklet together with a £1 booklet issued on the same date saw the introduction of an experiment by the British Post Office whereby the outer long edges of the booklet pane are imperforate.

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

**28 March** - The Cologne chapter of the FAI produced a souvenir for the Group's annual general meeting held in Bergisch Gladbach on 28/29 March. The souvenir is a folded A4 sheet black print on cream marbled type paper. Distributed free to all members. Total printing 200. The "4 Year Cachet" referred to a card prepared as an essay for an a.g.m. souvenir but not distributed. Total printing 10.

**December** - Children who sent letters to Santa Claus received a special message in an envelope bearing an illustration of Santa in his sleigh together with the usual 'postage paid' insignia cancelled by a pre-printed imitation North Pole postmark.

## CONCLUSION

I once again wish to thank my many philatelic friends at home and abroad for providing me with essential information with regard to many of the items referred to in the 1987 listings. In particular I would like to thank R. Chalet, T. Finn, E. FitzGerald, H.G. Grunz, F. Holzmüller, O. Jung, E. Labiuk, J. Lennon, Tony Quigley, I. Whyte and Bill Zellers. It has become increasingly difficult to keep track of items issued overseas by overseas agents of An Post. In particular I do not have any correspondent in New York. I should be obliged if any E.P.A. member who visits the annual Interpex and ASDA shows could keep me informed of any cachet/souvenirs as the North American agent of An Post ignores my letters.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Editor,

I wish you would put a notice in THE REVEALER calling attention to our members that on our present Irish Overprint Identifier the Dollard II overprint doesn't line up with the Copenhagen, Rasmussen identifier.

It was in Los Angeles at SESCOAL 87 at BBK's booth, I noticed the difference.

Thanks,

R. A. Sullivan, EPA #430

## The Other Side

by Bob Moskowitz

(I have always wanted to use a title that had two meanings — like double entendre, except that means one "clean" meaning and one "dirty" meaning. Those who think you are going to read a piece of philatelic pornography, stop here!)

One low-budget area of my Irish collection is post cards used in Ireland. This interest developed as a result of going with my wife to a lot of antique shows and many small antique shops, some of which might better be described as junk shops. (Somewhere there is a line between antique and junk.)

My first find was a post card postmarked Galway and mailed to Maryland. (I live there!) The date, unfortunately, is not legible. The stamp is a 2p map of Ireland (Scott 108, probably). There is also a complete and fairly clear slogan cancellation, "Fly Aer Lingus." (See *Irish Slogan Postmarks 1918-1986*, James MacKay, #96, p.61.)

My second find was more exciting: Dublin to Brooklyn, N.Y. (I grew up there!); a clear date - 1952; a Scott 108; and another slogan, "Join The Defence Forces" (MacKay, #112, p.62). But there was more. On the message portion (left side) are two circular handstamps. The first reads "New York, N.Y." The second reads "Due 2 Cents." On the address portion (right side) is a red six-sided figure shaped like a coffin which contains a capital "T" with the numeral "5" below it. James MacKay identifies this as an indicator of "underpaid mail," the "T" being French *Taxe*. (See *Irish Postmarks Since 1840*, James MacKay, pp.147-148.)

One of the lessons I soon learned is that the asking price for these post cards is usually out of proportion to the value of the stamps on them. This price I discovered is usually predicated on the value of the design/picture on the front of the card. Some people collect post cards the way others collect stamps. And for that reason I usually found myself in some dimly lighted shop corner almost standing on my head trying to look at the message side of nearly one hundred post cards jammed into a shoe box picture side forward. "Why are you standing on your head?" the proprietor would ask. I explained that I was not interested in the picture but rather in the other side. (OK. There's the first meaning. Be alert now!)

I know that the study and collecting of post cards is called deltiology, but at the time I was questioned about my head standing propensity I could not state what an interest in the other side of the post card is. (No! That's still the first meaning!) About 4:00 a.m. that morning it came to me: "It's called philately, Albert Einstein."

Little by little my collection grew. I passed up many items because the price of the picture far exceeded the value of the stamp or the interest of the postmark. Then one Sunday at a large antique show in a mall in Baltimore, I came across "the prize." On a table - a large table - filled with hundreds of post cards scattered randomly and being picked over by deltiologists and philatelists I found four post cards mailed from Ireland and bearing stamps of Great Britain. (GREAT BRITAIN USED IN IRELAND! Be still, my heart!) I bought them for \$1.50 each. Each card bears a King Edward VII ½ pence stamp (Scott 127 or 143 - depending on the watermark). But it was the postmarks which created the real excitement.

The earliest was a circular date stamp postmarked Maryborough, October 27, 1904 (For a similar postmark see MacKay, *Irish Postmarks Since 1840*, p.36, #332 - hereafter *IPS*.) Two cards have circular date stamps postmarked Mount Mellick, R.S.O., Queens Co. The dates are May 17, 1905 and February 21, 1906. (For a similar datestamp see *IPS*, p.27, #240.)

The last card is a puzzle. It is a single date stamp similar in size and design to #242 (MacKay, *IPS*, p.27), but there is no S.O. designator and no inscription at the foot of the circle. But the clock time and the PM are on the same line and the month (FE) precedes the day as in the illustration. The writer has headed the card "Mt. Mellick 8-2-06," but the postmark does not fit this heading. Unfortunately, it is not a clear strike. The inner portion (time, month, day, year) is clear. But the top portion is incomplete. Only three letters show clearly: the first is "M"; the second "A"; and the last is "H". There seems to be part of an "R" or "S"

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which is followed by what seems to be a "Y". Certainly not Mt. Mellick but possibly Maryborough, which is only a few miles from Mt. Mellick.

I learned something about postmarks from these cards (with the help of James MacKay's books). I also learned that both Maryborough and Mt. Mellick are in Queens County, which is now County Laois, and that Maryborough is now Portlaoise, and that R.S.O. means Railway Sub Office. And it was a lot of fun. Not bad for a \$6.00 investment. But there's more: don't forget the second meaning!

It was only natural as I mulled over the postmarks that I would read the messages on the cards. The four cards were addressed to the same person: Miss Taylor, 16 Bloomfield Street, Paddington, London, W.; and they were written by the same person: M. Proudman. That's unusual. From Ireland in 1904, 05, 06 to London to a table in a mall in Baltimore in 1985, on the day that I'm there. Furthermore, the earliest card (1904) begins in the middle of a sentence. That puzzled me until I discovered a Roman numeral IV on the card. This card is the fourth card in a series. Somewhere there is a I, II, III, and maybe more. But why five cards? Why not one letter?

I found the answer in the messages. Each card contains some reference to sending or receiving cards. Evidently both Proudman and Miss Taylor collected post cards as a hobby. Proudman mentions sending some cards about "Irish Life" and thanks Miss Taylor for a series of cards by or about Marie Studholm. He later apologizes for being too busy to send cards at Easter and requests some cards of "Straford on Avon Coloured just for a change." In the course of the exchange between the two, some other information came to light: As of February 8, 1906, Tom had not gotten home. She turned up, however, by February 21, at her sister's house in Dublin; and in the same card, "Bob was poisoned by some person unknown before I (Proudman) went to Belfast." Well, that got my attention! I hate it when people named Bob get poisoned.

In addition, therefore, to what I learned about philately, I also had the enjoyment of learning a little about the two writers and of puzzling over who poisoned my namesake and why. Again, that's a lot of enjoyment for \$6.00. But there's more: the other meaning!

Last year, Winter 1987, my wife and I were driving through the Maryland countryside and stopped at a small antique/junk shop (many miles from the Baltimore mall). There, in a wicker basket on a counter, among fifteen or so other post cards from various countries, was a card from M. Proudman to Miss Taylor dated October 27, 1904. At the beginning of the card was a Roman numeral II.

A coincidence? Maybe. But maybe, just maybe, these cards are a message from (here it comes) THE OTHER SIDE. Am I supposed to find for some reason the remaining cards? What would happen if on my next trip to London I went to 16 Bloomfield Street, if such a place still exists, or if on my next trip to Ireland I went to Mt. Mellick and Maryborough? What would I learn about M. Proudman or Miss Taylor? Would I find out who poisoned Bob? Or would . . . Forget it! I don't believe in ghosts and souls that cannot rest, or messages from THE OTHER SIDE.

But maybe, just maybe . . .

## AUTUMN STAMPEX - London - 1988

The following awards went to Irish resident collectors:  
(section in brackets)

Bill Moore - Silver (Postal History)  
Frank McDonald - Bronze (Postal History)  
John Hickey  
John Fitzsimons  
Heloise Mitchell - Silver, Bronze (Thematic)  
Cmmdt. Pat Casey - Bronze (Thematic)  
Tony Finn - Bronze (Aerophilately)

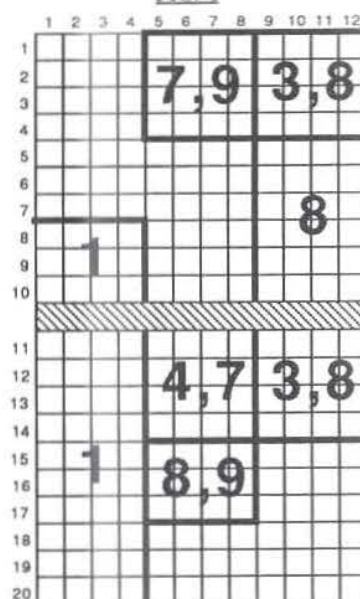
Reports from this Exhibition suggest marking/judging extremely harsh (in advance of entry requirements for London 1990), and entries also delayed by British postal dispute!

## PROVISIONAL ISSUES

by Max Harrow

As stated previously, the stereo make-up of the Dollard printings is well known and clearly indicated by repeated characteristics in each of the sixteen stereos which make up a place, regardless of the setting used. The Thom printings are not so. It seems that Thom used a variety of assemblies the positioning of which we can investigate by the position of out of alignment pairs. Where stereos are not perfectly matched at their borders, out of alignment pairs result. This does not mean that a lack of such pairs indicates no stereo border, as perfectly aligned stereos will not result in out of alignment pairs. Figure I is a plot of all such pairs that exist in all settings that have these pairs. The numbers are those of the settings involved in the stereos outlined. Although incomplete, a pattern emerges of three 4x4 stereos at the top of each pane, followed by six 3x3 stereos below. Note that settings 2, 5, 6, and 10 do not have out of alignment pairs. Kohl reports an article in *Stamp Collector*, Feb. 1922 which indicates that Thom used strips of six cliches to make up some plates and mounted forty of these in a frame. An impression was made of this setting, and a single piece plate made from the impression. The reason for the choice of strip stereos is unknown, but the use of a one piece plate seems a necessity, as a plate of forty short pieces would be internally unstable. Plate production from 1x6 stereos accounts for the major line shifts (R/E-R/S, il-ei/19, etc.) that occur in setting 2 (R12/1-6, R17/1-6), setting 3 (R17/1-6), and possibly others. However, setting 3, which has a six cliché line also has a 4x4 stereo in the top right corner of each pane. (See Fig. I.) This is, as yet, unexplained.

FIG. I



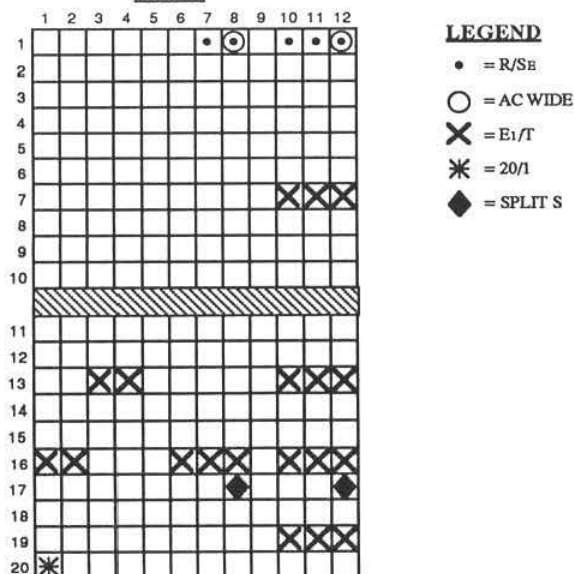
Michael Priestley in a careful study of setting 5 of the Thom 3-line overprint found a basic 6x10 stereo by studying a series of constant minor flaws. To fill in the empty spaces left by the 6x10 format, block and strip sections were cut from the 6x10 stereos as needed to fit. It is obvious that no strict, single stereo pattern was used throughout the Thom overprints. Even access to full sheets of these printings may not yield much new material on setting and platemaking as used by Thom.

One overprint axiom is that the Thom 5-line were overprinted from ten settings. Two of these, settings 7 and 8, are so similar as to raise some doubt. Figure II shows the common characteristics of both settings. The legend shows what the characteristics are. These characteristics are even so similar in shape in each setting, that it is difficult to tell them apart. The odds against two settings having so many exactly duplicated characteristics is astronomical. However, there are two differences. In position 20/1 setting 8 has a broken 9 which is not in setting 7, and out of

(CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

alignment pairs, although not breaking the  $4 \times 4$ ,  $3 \times 4$  pattern (see fig. 1) are different. Are they a single plate? It is possible that the stereotypes loosened at some point in the printing process and had to be remalleted and reslugged to retighten the assembly. The malleting could break the 9 and the reslugging could cause a shift of stereotypes. Are they two plates of the same setting? This is less likely, as the chance of assembly of six  $4 \times 4$  stereotypes and twelve  $3 \times 4$  stereotypes in exactly the same way for each plate is small. However, if these were one piece plates made from impressions, after the first impression of the setting was removed, its removal could have caused some movement of stereotypes which then appeared in a second impression. The pour of this second impression could have trapped air or some foreign substance in the 9 position 20/1 leading to the broken 9 in setting "8". This is conjecture, but if there are two plates they are from the same setting.

FIG. II



Another interesting setting is setting 2. This is a prime candidate for the impression technique as it shows two major line shifts of six stamps each, 12/1-6 and 17/1-6. There are no out of alignment pairs, and upper and lower panes show no common characteristics. Stereos are probably  $1 \times 6$ . Aside from the line shifts, there are two much mentioned characteristics: the stop in 20/2 is broken and 20/3 has a heavier imprint. Priestley, using the line shift patterns on lines 12 and 17 as characteristic identifiers of this setting, has discovered that there are two types of setting 2, one of which shows no broken stop in 20/2 and 20/3 does not show the heavier imprint as clearly. Furthermore, there is a pattern of minor letter varieties in lines 12 and 17 which differs, from another pattern found in the same lines, dependent on if one is examining a sheet with or without the broken stop. Priestley feels these represent two plates: 2A and 2B. But are they different settings?

Again we have to turn to probabilities. The chance of two settings being made in which both have two six stamp line shifts, exactly the same, is small. And when one adds colon for r(i)altas in 8/4. R/E in 9/6. and R/Se in 1/7, 2/9, 5/9, 6/2, and 9/4, the possibility is dimmer. That leaves us with a single setting. Priestley's flaws and the broken stop could occur from bubbles or foreign material being caught between the casting metal and the impression. The difference in the imprints on 20/3 is made by difference in adjusting the frisket pressure before production on two different plates. My best guess is that two different plates were made from two different impressions of the same setting. Since these impressions were made from paper (similar to papier mache) separation of the metal plate from an impression would result in destruction of that impression and a new one is required to make a second plate.

Were the pairs of plates (2A and 2B; and 7 and 8) used each pair at the same time on two printing machines to speed production? We may never know.

## Dublin Newsletter

by Eddie Fitzgerald

Just this morning I received a pleasant and welcome letter from our Editor. Amongst other things, he mentioned that to date (17 October) he had not received notification from An Post of the 1989 Stamp Program. Come to think of it, neither have I, but that is neither here nor there. What is important is that Pat Ryan's passing comment on a Stamp Program brings to my mind the story behind a particular Irish stamp issue and I am sure that you will agree that it is a story worth telling.

Anyone who has a copy of the 1975 Program issued in late 1974 will note a major difference between what was intended and what was actually issued. No reference was made to the St. Oliver Plunkett issue in the Program for the simple reason that nobody knew in late 1974 that Oliver Plunkett, a 17th century martyred Catholic Archbishop of Armagh was to be canonised in Rome on 12 October 1975.

When the news was announced in early 1975, there was understandable joy in Ireland, especially in the Archdiocese of Armagh. It is important at this stage to point out that Church Diocesan boundaries in Ireland do not follow political boundaries. In both the Catholic and Anglican (Episcopalian) traditions, the Archdiocese of Armagh extends as far south as the left bank of the river Boyne. Thus, while the city of Armagh is in Northern Ireland, the important town of Dundalk is in the Republic of Ireland, yet both are in the Archdiocese of Armagh.

As part of the celebrations, one of the early decisions made by the Church Authorities in the Archdiocese was to commission a gifted Irish artist, Imogen Stuart, to design and execute a commemorative plaque in honor of the occasion. Reproductions of this plaque in inexpensive metal, size 37mm x 56mm, contained in a plastic wallet were available to the people within the Archdiocese as a souvenir of the occasion.

At that time, the Catholic Administrator of Dundalk was Fr. Peadar Shields, a cultured man of many talents who is still alive. Amongst his many interests is philately and it occurred to him that this occasion should be commemorated by a special issue of stamps. He contacted the relevant officials in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and while they were sympathetic to his ideas they pointed out that the idea was impracticable due to the comparative short notice between his initial contact and the Canonisation date. In the eyes of the Department, the main problem was that of appointing a designer, waiting for the production of a design and then the time spent in examining, having alterations if necessary before final approval. Fr. Shields countered these genuine objections by producing the Armagh plaque referred to, stating that the ideal design was already in existence. And so it came to pass that Imogen Stuart was invited by the Department to adapt her plaque design for use as a postage stamp design. After that, it was plain sailing and on Monday, 13 October 1975, the day following the canonisation, the St. Oliver Plunkett stamps were on sale in Post Offices all over Ireland.

Elsewhere in this issue of THE REVEALER there is a picture of the Armagh plaque and I now invite readers to compare the plaque with a copy of the stamp and see if you notice a significant difference. Forget about the inscription and the corner decorations of the plaque. Test your own powers of observation before reading on.



(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 48)

## *THE REVEALER Wins a Silver at STAMPA '88*

Volume 37, Issues 1 - 4 were submitted to the Literature Section of Philatelic Competition in STAMPA '88, the Irish National Philatelic Exhibition, held in Dublin October 6 - 9, 1988. The following list of authors and advertisers significantly contributed to the winning of this award with articles and advertisements that appeared in those issues.

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Your Editor wishes to acknowledge and thank those who participated and to encourage others to participate in the future. Your Editor would also like to note that this is the first competition on record in which *THE REVEALER* has participated since TEXANEX 1971, in which it received a "Third Award".

## STAMPA 88 - Report

by Tony Finn



Pat Walker accepts her Gold Medal, EPA Certificate and David Feldman Trophy for BEST OF SHOW with her exhibit "Dublin — The Penny Post 1773-1840."



Tony Finn, EPA, VP for Europe, accepts a Silver Medal award for THE REVEALER in the Literature competition.

STAMPA 88 — the seventeenth Irish National Stamp Exhibition, took place at the RDS Ballsbridge Dublin from Thursday, October 6th to Sunday, October 9th, 1988. Opened officially on Wednesday evening by Feargal Quinn, Chairman of the Irish Postal Authority, "An Post," and Official Patron of the Exhibition, the event proved a resounding success for the hard-working Council entrusted with running of the show, and the dedicated group of helpers who assist when the Exhibition opens each year.

Fears during the first two days that the attendance from the public might be somewhat down on last year were dispelled when the weekend came, and any marginal decrease that took place could be ascribed to the uncertain weather rather than prevailing economic conditions as some had predicted.

The Exhibition itself consisted as always of two elements: the dealers trade stands, supported by representation from An Post; and the exhibition area of competitive and non-competitive displays. Although as always, the trade gave mixed reports on business achieved (although one firm of London auctioneers was "very satisfied indeed!"), in the exhibition area, the standard of displays could only be described as "sparkling."

Top award of the show — the David Feldman Trophy — together with Gold Medal and EPA Certificate went to EPA former President and past REVEALER editor, Patricia Stilwell-Walker, who, along with her husband Dan, attended the prestigious STAMPA Awards Banquet at the Shelbourne Hotel Dublin, on Saturday evening, and was presented with her awards there. Her entry was "Dublin — The Penny Post 1773-1840." Another EPA member, Dr. Cyril Dulin, received a Gold Medal and the Revenue Stamping Branch Trophy for "Ireland — Overprint Varieties 1922-1935" at the Exhibition.

The theme of the STAMPA 88 Exhibition was the Dublin Millenium celebration, and a number of related souvenirs were available at the show. The official Exhibition souvenir was the Dublin Millenium booklet pane (with Irish text), specially produced with an additional STAMPA 88 imprint. Printing was limited to 1,000 panes, cost per pane Ir£3. (STAMPA members, incidentally, received the same pane, but with ENGLISH text, overprinted in red.)

On the opening day of the Exhibition, An Post brought out a number of new stamps, labels, and cards. Commemorative stamps marked the Institute of Chartered Accountants Centenary and the 400th Anniversary of

the Spanish Armada. An eleven value set of new postage due labels (1p -£1) also appeared, and finally four special "Stamp Exhibition" cards were placed on sale, depicting, appropriately, Dublin Post Office buildings. Competition was keen among philatelists, not only to obtain the appropriate pictorial Exhibition cancellations (featuring Dublin postal markings of the last 250 years) on the cards, but also to actually bring the post cards (franked with a 24p imprinted "stamp" design) to the respective offices actually shown around Dublin for cancellation there!

The EPA representative, Tony Finn, produced two displays with a Millenium theme which were exhibited non-competitively: "Famous Dubliners on Overseas Stamp Issues" and "A History of Dublin Letter Boxes". Promoting the Association, and recruitment for the EPA took place at their stand under the auspices of the FPSI (Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland), and a debt of acknowledgement is owed to the many colleagues and helpers manning that stand, as well as our own members John Lennon, Brian Warren, Norah Wright, and not forgetting Commdt. Pat Casey and Mrs. Heloise Mitchell of the Federation, Bro. Liam Kehoe, T.D. Rose, and many more.

Undoubtedly, the award of a "Silver" medal to THE REVEALER in the Literature section of the show also served to highlight the Association and its activities, and members who attended during the four days of the show were presented with, and showed their appreciation of the enamel EPA lapel pin now available.

Finally, of course, a report on STAMPA 88 would not be complete without a reference to the passing, just a few weeks earlier, of the incomparable Fred Dixon. He was of course a founder member of the STAMPA exhibition when it was instituted in 1972, and served on its Committee (later Council) for many years. His displays and entries of material ranging across the broad spectrum of Irish philately often presented in his own unique fashion, were always guaranteed of interest, and after many years he had gained the prestigious David Feldman Trophy at a recent Exhibition, held in just the past few years.

It was only fitting therefore that at the STAMPA Awards Dinner, and in the presence of Fred's widow, Mrs. Beatrice Dixon, it was announced that Fred's memory would be commemorated by the award at future Exhibitions of the "F. E. Dixon Postal History Trophy," and this will surely become as sought-after for its links to this doyen and indeed father figure to Irish philately as for itself.



Tony Finn expresses the theme of STAMPA '88 with his non-competitive two-frame display "Dublin Millenium."



Dr. Cyril Dulin receives a Gold Medal and The Revenue Stamping Branch Trophy for "Ireland — Overprint Varieties 1922-1935."

## STAMPA 88 AWARDS - Complete List

- "Pioneer Flights" - Dr. C. Dulin — Vermeil + EPA  
 Harrison Coils 1922-23 - B. Benninghoff — Silver  
 Ireland - Postal Stationery Transition Period 1922-25 - B. O'Keefe — Vermeil + EPA  
 Ireland - Overprint Varieties - Dr. C. Dulin — Gold + Rev. Stamp. Br. Trophy  
 Ireland 1916-22 - J. Rehnberg (Sweden) — Silver + Felicitations  
 Free State Acceptances on Pioneer Air Routes 1923-34 - A. Cutchey — Silver  
 Irish Essays - Dr. C. Dulin — Silver + Felicitations  
 West Indian Airmails - N. Finnie — Bronze  
 Saxony - Coat of Arms Issue 1863 - Dr. J.A. Mackey — Silver  
 Postal Cancellations of London 1840-1902 - Frank McDonald — Silver  
 The Free Franking Privilege - F. O'Mahony — Silver  
 Official Mailings thro' 100 years - G.E. Ithell  
 Dublin - The Penny Post - 1773-1840 - P. Stilwell-Walker — Gold + David Feldman Trophy  
 Pen and the Sword - W. Kane — Silver

### NOVICE COMPETITION

- Australian Philatelic Covers - A. O'Broin — Bronze  
 Wexford Postal History 1730-1870 - P. Quigley

### LITERATURE

- THE REVEALER - Quarterly Journal of the EPA — Silver

## CLOSED ALBUMS

DUBLIN, IRELAND — On September 4, 1988 Irish philately lost a stamp collector - Fred Dixon. As I wrote this last statement initially it seemed to me a bit restrained, even understated until I read a published article on Fred shortly after his EPA presidency expired in 1967. It said that first and foremost Fred Dixon was a true collector of Irish philatelic and postal history. There are few collectors in the world who have not heard of, benefitted from or who have known, personally, this pillar of knowledge.

Born in Northamptonshire, England, Fred moved to Dublin in 1939, shortly after graduating from Cambridge University with a degree in Mathematics. Few transplanted Englishmen would even bother to try and learn the Gaelic language, but Fred did. He worked as a meteorologist in real life. He began collecting stamps around 1922. He exchanged his boyhood collection for 20 Irish date-stamped envelopes which served as the basis for an extensive lifetime study of Irish Postal History.

But Fred was not a closet collector. He shared his philatelic knowledge with anyone who would listen and he wrote for the Philatelic Press for over thirty years. Many would refer to him affectionately in recent years as the Grand Old Man of Irish Philately. He continually tried to educate those that would listen on Irish heritage and history. Yes, to give even Irishmen a sense of their own place in the world. He, in some ways, was more Irish than some Irish.

Fred was an honored member of the Old Dublin Society, a founding member of the Irish International Postage Stamp Exposition (STAMPA). He served two terms as president of our Association (EPA) and as president of the Irish Philatelic Circle. He will be sorely missed.

The staff of THE REVEALER and indeed the membership wish to extend to his wife, Beatrice and his loved ones our deepest sympathy at their loss.

WREXHAM, ENGLAND — I regret to inform the membership of the death of Life Member O. M. Richards on 31 October 1988. For many years Michael and his wife served as editor of IRISH PHILATELY, The Journal of The Irish Philatelic Circle based in the United Kingdom. Indeed, he spent over twenty years at this task. Michael was a career military man who had just retired from the British armed forces. We know that the membership will be concerned and appreciate the vacuum this has created within our sister organization and will understand if a few future issues may be delayed in publication. When two pillars of Irish philately are taken from us like this there is a lingering sense of loss. We also hope that others will recognize our need to fill the space and will volunteer their services.

The EPA members and, particularly the staff of THE REVEALER extend to Dorothy, Michael's wife and to his family our most sincere sympathy.

## THE POSTMARKS OF CAVAN COUNTY

by George E. R. Ithell

Collecting postmarks from Ireland is easy enough, but to complete a County with a postmark from all its offices is something else! I started to collect postmarks of the Cavan offices in 1970 when I first joined the I.P.C. and mixed with the experts.

An introduction on how to collect anything in this art was helped with a sight of the wealth of material brought along to the Reform Club meetings on those Saturday afternoons years ago by our contemporaries.

Not having first-hand knowledge of Cavan, but having a friend in Ardlogher whose daughter is the postmistress there, and encouraged by the late Dr. Brian De Burca, I started to accumulate Cavan postmarks from the offices. I was also fortunate in being able to buy the Doctor's collection when he offered it to me. I was pleasantly surprised to find that only four offices were missing from our combined efforts according to the Eolai an Phoist at that time (1977). These omissions were soon added with a personal plea to the respective Master or Mistress of these offices. Now I am complete, or so I thought! Shortly afterwards, different spellings appeared, some Post Offices were shut and new ones were opened! I soon learned that completeness is virtually impossible. With this in mind, I'd like to record my findings up to the date of Eolai an Phoist 1982.

There are 72 Post Offices according to the guide, and the following offices have facilities for banking, money orders, telegraph and express letter services: Arva, Belturbet, Bawnboy, Ballyhaise, Baillieborough, Ballinagh, Stradone, Ballyconnell, Butler's Bridge, Cootehill, Crosskey, Crossdoney, Loughduff, Loch Gowna, Redhills, Killeshandra, Swanlinbar and Tullyvin.

The following Offices function with a more restricted service, with one or two of the expected facilities unavailable: Ardlogher, Tullyco, Ballyjamesduff, Cloverhill, Canningstown, Carrigallen, Carrigan, Corlough, Corlesmore, Madabawn, Kingscourt, Milltown, Mountain Lodge and Virginia.

The remaining number of Offices have only facilities for the sale of stamps, postal orders and a public telephone. Generally, these Offices are part of the shop, which in most places, is the local emporium: Aghavas, Beglieve, Ballyhugh, Carrickaboy, Clifferna, Corriga, Cornafean, Corranery, Corrawallen, Dartrey, Doogarry, Drung, Drumanespic, Derracrieve, Kill, Derrylane, Eighter, Grousehall, Gubaveeney, Kildorough, Killinkere, Losset, Kilbracken, Killegar, Lisnageer, Lisduff, Lisgrey Cross Roads, Lisboduff, Moneygashel, New Inn, Poles, Ryefield, Termon, Tunnyduff, Corravilla and a name change of Altinure from Altachullion (1982 list)!

Earlier handstamps show some interesting styles of script and in colours of blue, green and black. A 1771 entire has a Roman 'U' for 'V' in Cavan and a 1771 entire from Virginia has a similar 'U' in the unusual spelling, Uirginea, in an overall size of 51mm x 7mm. Examples of the Cavan handstamps measure from 41mm x 7mm in capital letters, serifed and with or without the mileage. Other offices have examples in similar type and instances are seen of a two-line handstamp which includes the Receiving House and Post-Town.

Unframed circular dated handstamps are known from 1841, with single and double arcs; some with a letter breaking the arc(s). The Rev. Edwin Davey has these with the letter 'M' on a Belturbet, Cavan and Cootehill cancels!

KILLESHANDRA  
64

BYCONNELL  
68

1830

1833

REDHILLS  
CAVAN

COOTEHILL

SWANLINBAR

1853

1828

1853

In the early 1840's with the advent of postage stamps, the diamond numeral cancels appear, but are not very common on or off cover; I can only boast of Belturbet, Cavan, Cootehill and Ballyconnell. Edwin adds Baillieborough and Kingscourt. Duplex type cancels are seen from Cavan, Cootehill and Belturbet in different sizes and in broken and unbroken circles. The small circular and dated handstamps, generally seen as backstamps, include Ballyconnell, Belturbet, Cavan, Cootehill and Kingscourt.



Collectors of Victorian Town Numbers have seventeen to look for and a changed number in the 1880's list affects six of these. The offices were: Arva No. 12 in the 1844 lists and changed to 19 in the later list. In parenthesis are noted other changes: Baillieborough 26 (509), Ballyconnell 39 (559), Ballyhaise 43, Ballyjamesduff 44, Belturbet 65, Cavan 126, Cootehill 155, Crossdoney 163, Killeshandra 279 (270), Kingscourt 288 (510), Redhills 393, Ricehill 394, Scrabby 404, Stradone 414 and Virginia 443. Bawnboy is not listed in the earlier numbers, but appears with the town number of 558 in the 1880 list.

Some time ago, valuable information was given to me by Rev. Edwin Davey, and unfortunately I have not been able to incorporate all the details in this essay. Snippets here and there are being used and hopefully the rest will be filed and used later. One of these adds to the perplexities and frustrations one meets in attempting to complete any list of historical value.

In a question to Edwin some time ago re a problem regarding Scrabby, we know that in the 1844-57 lists of Victorian Town Numbers, Scrabby was 404, but in the 1874 list the number was allocated to Scarva, Co. Down! All maps don't place the village, especially the modern type. My atlas of 1897 pinpoints it and Edwin has it on an 1825 map, but spelt Scrabbagh! Quoting from his letter: "It is right on the Cavan/Leitrim border, but in Cavan. A long time ago an annual fair was held there (dates uncertain), so it had some importance as a village, but it is merely a hamlet now. I have an old map of Ireland (1825) in which it is spelled Scrabbagh. It must have had some importance then since it is given on the map, for places like Stradone, Ballyjamesduff, Swanlinbar, Mullagh, etc. are not listed! The map gives some strange spellings: Crosdony, Ballymanaght (Ballinagh), Ballyborough, Shircock; Arvagh is also omitted from the map. Tom Current lists Scrabby as a post office 1844-57, but says that the office was there in 1811. It was not even listed in the population census of 1881. Ballinagh is sometimes spelled Bellina(gh). Hope this is of interest." Unquote. So here we have some anomalies to overcome. The earliest Post Office Guides in the archives now at Blackfriars, are dated from 1856. Before this period, dated material will determine an approximate date when offices were opened. Closures could be easier. Ardlogher had a Post Office in 1860, but my earliest item posted there is dated 1973! Although world-famous amongst the piscatorial enthusiasts for their supplies of maggots and bait and a large creamery, little mail emanates from that village. This could be true of the many smaller offices in Cavan.

(CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

UIRGINEA  
1791

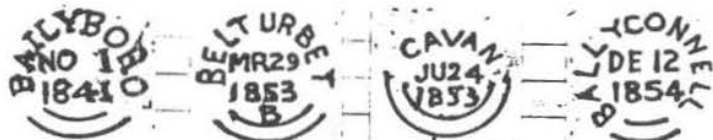
CAVAN  
1771

CAVAN  
1796

CAVAN  
54  
1823

CAVAN  
1817

## Unframed Town Handstamps



CAVAN town is served by two offices, one of which is the Head Office where all types of business is dispensed, including the sorting of mail for that area.

Many offices had their administration altered and an interesting study of this aspect can be made. For the time being however, we know that some towns outside Cavan County geographically were considered to be under Cavan's administration at some time and that certain towns and villages in Cavan County were administered from adjacent administrations. A few instances are: Kilcogy was transferred to Longford; Glassleck and Shercock to Louth; Glangevlin to Leitrim; and Kilnaleck, Mullagh, Teeworker with Ross to Meath. Except in the case of Kilcogy, when the transfer was noticed in the 1969 guide, the dates for other movements are at present unknown. Conversely, Aghavas and Carrigallen, both in Leitrim, are administered by Cavan. It is highly probable that other instances are now known since a last check some months ago.

## NOW UNDER MEATH ADMINISTRATION



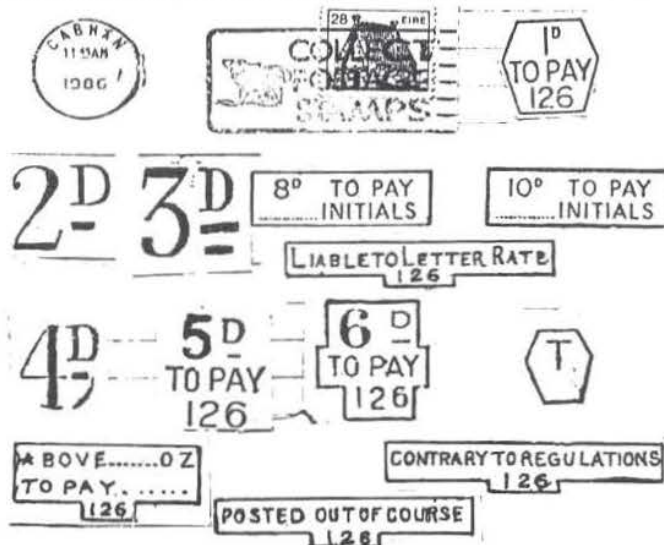
Kilnaleck.

Ross.

Teeworker.

Mullagh.

CAVAN Town appears to be the only office in the county where a machine is used for cancelling the mail and is used with various slogans. A variety of handstamps used at the Head Office exclusively are illustrated.



Special purpose handstamps, such as the 'TO PAY' and similar, are only used at the Head Office in Cavan, but the more important of the minor offices have examples of the triangular telegraph coded handstamps.



I pass over the period in the later part of the 19th century, owing to the lack of material dated in my collection, but when the new administration of 1921 was becoming effective, much can be written on that transition period. Many changes took place, offices were opened and a very important change was the adoption of the Gaelic spelling for town and village postmarks. In the Cavan area, Kingscourt appears to be one of the earliest to conform, having a CABRACH CO. AN CHABHAIN and dated October 5, 1922; another early one is from Belturbet. Surprisingly, Redhills and Blacklion, both Receiving Houses of the past, still shew the English spelling as late as 1949 and 1946 respectively. The spelling of Cavan shews many variations such as: Chabhain, Chabhan, Cabain, Cabhan and Co. An Ch'n.



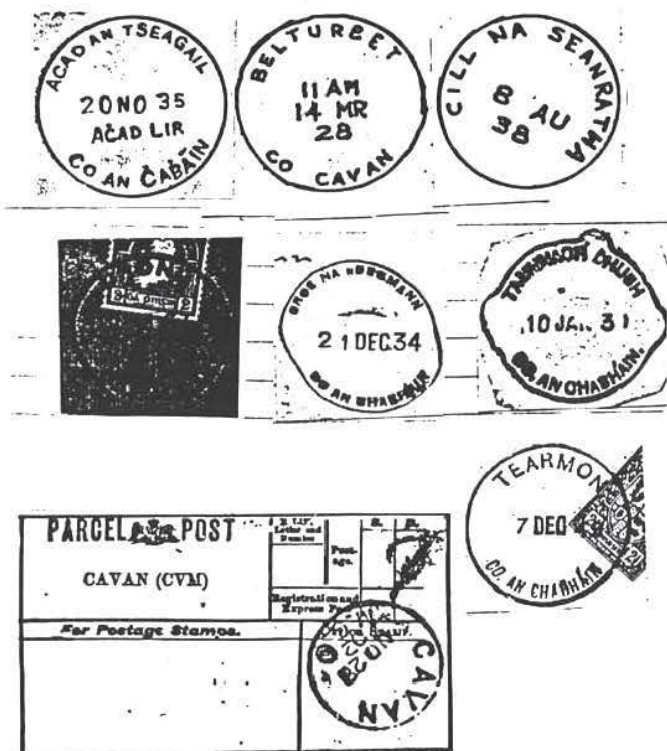
As mentioned earlier, the smaller offices will create the most problems, but I intend to list, at a later date, my known cancels with dates. Offices such as Ballynarry (closed 1969) has a date cancel of 1931 and is the earliest I have seen from that office. Other examples such as: Castleraghan (now closed) has a date in 1929, Carrickaboy 1930, Butler's Bridge 1928, Ballinagh 1927 and Cornafean 1929, but of course this is not conclusive and many hours of browsing and searching are to be experienced before a reasonable amount will be unearthed.

Re-shuffling offices into different administrations is another area for research and an instance of Kilcogy is seen administered from Longford in the 1930's. A known Cavan cancel of 1954 shews Co. Cavan and the Eolai an Phoist gives Kilcogy as Longford from 1969! Another cancel of Kilnaleck of May 4, 1953 shews Chabain, another of 1972 is seen with Co. Cavan! The Eolai an Phoist allocates this village to Meath, in the 1969, 1977 and 1982 editions! A recent find shews November 6, 1983 with Co. AN CHABAIN again. A similar story applies to Shercock with Louth as the alternative administration.

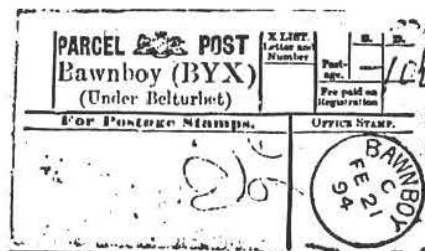


Interesting types of skeleton cancels exist with various sizes of diameters. A 40mm double ring cancel from Cavan and a similar cancel of 32mm from Bailieborough. Single rings of 38mm from Ryefield, a 37mm example from Belturbet and Killeshandra has one of 35mm amongst the more attractive types. These are to be found amongst the 1930's dates. About the 1934-5 period there seems to be a spate of rubber ring cancels becoming distorted. These are caused by the use of the wrong ink. The smaller offices shew a greater proportion of this type, possibly duplication of an ink pad, with all the other paraphernalia on the restricted area of the counter was an excuse to dispense with an extra piece of equipment.

(CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)



The telegraphic code is included on parcel post receipts.



Cross na nDrumann  
New Inn  
Ballyjamesduff



Bag  
Seals



Achadh an Mheasa  
Aghavas  
Carrigallen

The telegraphic code handstamp

Telegraphic cancel handstamp



Cootehill



This brief resume is a beginning, but reports from members and their knowledge of Cavan offices will be very much appreciated. Dates of offices opening and closing; early use of the Gaelic spelling on the handstamps and changes in spelling, will be collated and acknowledged.

## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

by Jim Lavelle



Work is progressing on an updated index to all material now available to you from your library. Down the road I am planning an index for the IRISH STAMP NEWS which will be based in part on an already completed computer index. A complete set of issues of the IRISH STAMP NEWS is now available. At this point that is 29 issues. Five issues or any part thereof counts as one book

when ordering. Another project planned is an index of major articles from IRISH PHILATELY, Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle. Work cannot start on that project until the journal file is complete.

I was just browsing through the late Fred Dixon's RANDOM NOTES. Did you know that Fred started those notes just a few years after the birth of the EPA? Our group came on the scene in 1951 and RANDOM NOTES started in 1956, albeit under a different heading, but it evolved into RANDOM NOTES. We have two copies of Dixon's notes available, virtually complete. Sometimes contradictory, sometimes made obsolete by time, but always interesting. There was some talk about compiling the material and republishing it as a book by the Irish Philately Circle, but with the sudden passing away of editor and EPA Life Member O. M. (Michael) Richards, that will be placed on hold.

I want to thank the readers who have written me expressing their views in regards to a library being available to all members and to a column in THE REVEALER. There were some excellent ideas and suggestions that will either be tried out or will be incorporated into the library and this column.

I have added an audio-cassette talk (following the script) which will accompany the 55-slide 35mm show IRISH PHILATELY FROM THE BISHOP MARK TO MODERN DAY. The written script will also be included in this excellent package. To order, please send a check in the amount of \$2.50 to the JOHN BLESSINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY to cover postage and handling. You may keep the package for up to 30 days. Don't forget to take out postal insurance in the amount of \$100.00 when returning the package to the library.

Another study worthy of your attention is the reproduced copy of Pat Walker's excellent gold medal exhibit. This 154-page, 8 x 10 1/2" size booklet is an excellent overview of Irish postal history plus the "how-to" and "what-to-do" when preparing an exhibit. Ideas and insight can be garnered from reviewing this document. The reproductions are clear and of standard size (not reproduced). The cost? A mere pittance — \$2.25 to cover postage and charges.

A repeat "CLARION CALL" (I guess the last trumpet call was not LOUD enough) for a copy of the 1981 issue No. 2 and issues No. 2, 3, and 4 of the 1987 IRISH PHILATELY, Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle. A reproduced copy would do just fine, thank you. Should you wish to donate books or pamphlets to the library, please mail them to the JOHN BLESSINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 522 Indigo Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78216. They should pertain to Irish philately or postal history and you will be given a receipt for your material.

WARM FUZZIES are in order for George Pojer for his HOW-TO books and financial donation; to Bob Benninghoff for a reproduced copy of his exhibit HARRISON COILS 1922 AND 1923; to Charles Verge for his research booklet on THE IRISH S.P.I. CENSOR LABELS; to Bob Jones for his Linn's Irish articles from the 1979 period; and to Dick McBride and his Special Offers Department for two copies of Jim Howley's excellent A LISTING OF IRISH POSTMARKS IN GAELIC FROM 1922. This last item is an 81-page booklet which is needed by any person delving into Irish postmarks. It is Handbook No. 1 in a hoped-to-be long succession of E.P.A. published documents. Special Offers Department is stocking this book which is now for sale.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 46)

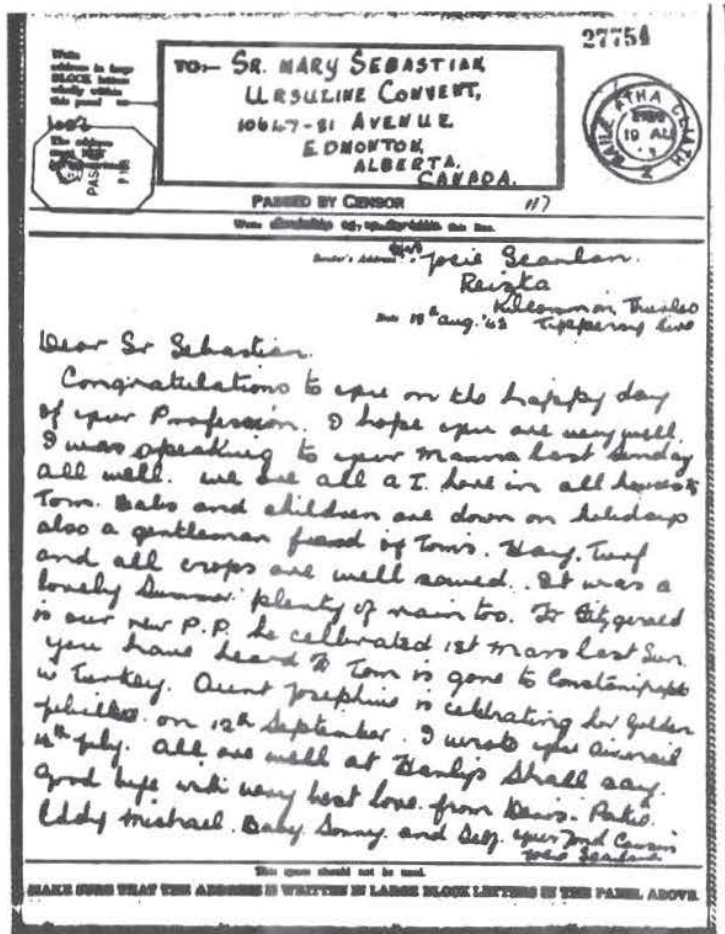
## AIRGRAPHS

by William J. Murphy

In April 1941, the British Post Office inaugurated a new method of air communication between Cairo and London. This was done for the use of military personnel stationed in the Middle East, since the war had greatly curtailed mail services between that region and the United Kingdom. A system had been developed between the British Post Office and Kodak whereby messages would be written on a special form, a large number of these forms would be reduced to microfilm and then mailed to London where they would be processed and enlarged. They would then be put in window envelopes and dispatched to the recipients. The envelopes bore the word "Airgraph" so that is what they became known as.

This service was originated with Cairo as the point of origin and London as the receiving station. In August 1941, airgraph service in the opposite direction was established. It proved to be very successful and soon processing stations were established at Nairobi, Johannesburg, Bombay, Melbourne, Wellington and Toronto. Later stations were put into operation at Algiers, Naples, Calcutta and Colombo.

Printed forms for sending the airgraph message were supplied free by the Post Office. These forms were 8 inches by 11 inches in size with a special box in which the address was written. The completed form was taken to the Post Office, where a fee of 3d. was paid for sending the airgraph. For processing, the completed message forms were grouped in lots of 1,700. This many could be photographed on a single 100 foot length of 16mm film weighing only 5½ ounces. After being photographed, the original airgraph forms were held until it was confirmed that the film reached its destination. Upon arrival at the destination processing station, the film was passed through a continuous photographic enlarger which produced a four by five inch print of each of the messages. These were folded and placed in a special window envelope and mailed to their final destination. Seventeen hundred letters would have weighed 30 to 35 pounds. During the four years that this scheme operated approximately 350 million airgraphs were transmitted.



On March 1, 1943, the British Airgraph service was expanded to include southern Ireland. The only known airgraphs sent on the first day of this service are a few that were sent from Dublin by Francis J. Field, an aerophilatelic dealer in England. On this first day, he sent airgraphs from Dublin to Bombay, India; Toronto, Canada; Cairo, Egypt and Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia.

Also shown here is an Airgraph dated 18 August 1943 at Kilcommon, Co. Tipperary and sent to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The original form on which this letter was written was sent to Dublin where it was postmarked "Baile Atha Cliath 19 AU 43". Then, it went to England where it was censored and then reduced on microfilm. The microfilm was then sent by air to Toronto, where it was enlarged and sent on to Edmonton. The size of the final airgraph message received by the addressee was approximately half the size of the original message form.

## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45)

Reproduced copies of other award-winning exhibits of Irish stamps, postal history, revenue material and railway postal material are needed for the library. There are many collectors in our group who have the correct amount and type of material for an exhibit but they don't exactly know how to put it all together to form an exhibit. C'mon folks, let's get these collectors started out on the right (write) foot.

## The 1922 Low Value Overprints Thom 5 Line Wide Setting

*Edited by M. H. Priestley*

### 1. Background to the issue.

The Thom 5 line narrow setting printings from August 1922 were made from worn plates. By early in November all the plates had been destroyed but within days of their destruction a shortage developed in the 1/2d, 1d, 1 1/2d, and 1/= values. Thom were instructed to prepare an emergency printing and having no plates they had no choice but to make up new ones using, possibly, an old master plate as a guide (1). The 1/2d, 1d, and 2d values were overprinted on November 21st and the 1 1/2d and 1/= values on December 4th, 1922. In both cases the stamps were not on sale until about a week after the overprinting was done (2).

Supplement 17 of *The Revealer* makes the point that as the 3 line overprints were being prepared for the establishment of the Irish Free State on December 6th, 1922, it appeared unnecessary to keep the old Rialtas plate (3).

### 2. The Thom 5 line wide overprint.

**OVERPRINT TYPE.** The overprint (Fig. 1) is easily distinguishable by the fact that it is wider than the previous issue, measuring 15½ × 16mm. The word Rialtas is 12.5mm in contrast to the earlier 11.5mm.

**INK.** Printing was in blue black and shiny blue black ink. A few proof sheets of the 1/2d value were printed in black and sent to the Post Office for approval. On being found satisfactory they were included in stock and went on sale to the public (1).

**QUANTITIES PRINTED.** The numbers issued were 1/2d (720,000), 1d (1.68m), 1 1/2d (600,000), 2d Die 2 (1.44m), 1/= (240,000) (4).

**PLATES.** Meredith describes two plates for this issue with differences in the measurements of the Control blocks. On Plate 1 Stamp 1 Row 20 the c of Sealadac has a flat bottom and a long pointed end. On Plate 2 the c is normal in that position (2). On the 1d value on Stamps 10 and 12 Row 20 the left of the base on the second 2 of 1922 is broken on Plate 1 but not on Plate 2. A measurement chart is given (5).

**METHOD OF PRINTING.** Freeman and Stubbs *Handbook of the*

*Provisional Issue Irish Free State Stamps* (in the Blessington library) states that the narrow setting master plate itself was used to overprint the issue, and explains the difference between the size of the overprints by saying that the type shrinks when cooling so that copies of the master (used in the narrow setting) are smaller than the master used in the wide setting. This is difficult to believe since the height of the overprints is unaffected in the narrow and wide settings.

A close examination of a complete sheet of the issue shows no pattern to indicate what size stereo was used. It is likely therefore that the plate was prepared in one piece (5).

### 3. Varieties.

**ERRORS IN THE BRITISH STAMPS.** PENCNF corrected is listed on the 1 1/2d (Stamp 12 Row 15) and ONF on the 1/= (Stamp 9 Row 8) (6).

**TYPE FLAWS.** Meredith notes a number of guide block markings - on the 1/2d value in front of Rialtas and on the 2d value in front of 1922 (no position given). A line over Rialtas is noted on the 1/2d (no position given) (6).

Kohl mentions a serious printing irregularity in which four lines of the overprint were almost entirely missing on a used copy sold at auction in 1926 (for £41) (7). A comparison of a complete sheet of Plate 1 with a part sheet showed that there were a number of recurrent flaws particularly in the figures 2 of the date (5).

### 4. Controls.

The specialized catalogue gives details of the controls used, the 2d T221 being the rarest (4).

### 5. Forgeries.

The EPA Committee on Forged and Bogus Material show an example of a forged wide overprint on a 2d Die 1 stamp, the overprint only having been recorded on Die 2 (8).

- |                                                                          |                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) <i>Irish Philately</i> Sep 69<br>p 47-48, V. Linnell                 | (5) <i>Revealer</i> Summer 71<br>p 771-774, M. Priestley                |
| (2) <i>Revealer</i> Apr 78<br>p 61-66, W. Meredith ed J. Foley           | (6) <i>Revealer</i> Jul 78<br>p 8-15, W. Meredith ed J. Foley           |
| (3) <i>Revealer Supplement</i> 17 May 64<br>p 69-72, J. Walsh            | (7) <i>Revealer</i> Jan 77, p 1127-1130<br>Kohl's Handbook tr H. Zervas |
| (4) <i>Stamps of Ireland Specialized Catalogue</i> 1987 MacDonnell Whyte | (8) <i>Revealer</i> Spring 71, p 762                                    |

| 1989 STAMP PROGRAMME - (Provisional)                                                                                       |                            |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| SUBJECT                                                                                                                    | DENOMINATIONS              | DATE OF ISSUE |
| Love Stamps                                                                                                                | 24p & 28p                  | 26 January    |
| Transport In Ireland (Motor Cars)                                                                                          | 24p, 28p, 39p & 50p        | 2 March       |
| Ireland Series (Parks and Gardens)                                                                                         | 24p, 28p, 32p & 46p        | 11 April      |
| Europa (Children's Games)                                                                                                  | 28p & 39p                  | 11 May        |
| Bicentenary of French Revolution<br>1300th Anniversary of St. Killian                                                      | 24p<br>28p                 | 15 June       |
| First Phase of New Definitive Series<br>(Irish Heritage and Treasures)                                                     | 24p, 28p, 39p, 46p<br>& £1 | 20 July       |
| Statesmen of Ireland (S.T. O'Kelly)<br>Centenary of Nehru<br>Centenary of Mgt. Burke Sheridan<br>150th Anniversary of RIAI | 24p<br>46p<br>30p<br>28p   | 29 August     |
| Fauna & Flora (Game Birds)                                                                                                 | 24p, 28p, 39p & 46p        | 5 October     |
| Christmas Stamps<br>Christmas Promotion Stamp                                                                              | 24p, 28p & 46p<br>21p      | 14 November   |

## New Postage Dues Released



An Post has released a new series of Postage Dues on October 6, 1988, the opening day of STAMPA '88. The set of 11 stamps exist in denominations of 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 17p, 20p, 24p, 30p, 50p and £1. The old Postage Due labels will remain on sale until December 31, 1988. Collectors should be alert to the dual usage of both sets on cover as this possibility exists.

The unique aspect of this issue is that each value has been printed in sheets of 20. To quote An Post, "This issue features a modern graphic design with duotone colouring using the denomination as the principle element." These labels were designed by Q Design. The printer has remained the same as of late, the Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. The process used in printing is lithography while the size of the labels are 24.13mm × 20.32mm and they are perforated 14 × 15. A very fine and attractive new issue.

# post NOTES

by Patrick J. Ryan, Sr.

**NEW £2 BOOKLET:** Issued November 24, 1988, this new dual-purpose booklet (Vending Machine/Counter Sales) consists of 5 x 28p, 2 x 24p, 4 x 2p, 1 x 4p and is available throughout the country.

**CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1988:** The new Christmas program was introduced with three regular issues priced at 24p, 28p and 46p. As in the past few years there was also a discount sheetlet configured 14 x 21p or £2.90 made available.

**1989 STAMP PROGRAM:** The entire 1989 program is listed below, but just a few comments on some of the new and exciting things being done at An Post to maintain the collector's interest. The Motor Car or Transport issue scheduled for March 2, 1989 consists of four stamps. The two minor values will appear in both sheet and booklet format. The booklet, to be issued the same day, will be configured 4 x 28p and 4 x 24p for a cost of £2.08. This will be Ireland's second commemorative booklet after the Dublin Millennium Booklet issued last year and still available.

**SHEETLETS FOR '89:** Another issue that will tickle your purse strings will be the regular EUROPA issue. Children's Games will be the theme with 28p and 39p stamps which will fill out the set. The kicker is that both will appear in sheetlet form of ten, priced at £2.80 and £3.90 respectively.

**NEW DEFINITIVE SERIES:** The Architecture Series, one of Ireland's most popular definitives, has served its purpose and run its course. Announcing its demise with a new series scheduled for July 20, 1989, Ireland will move from old buildings into the Heritage and Treasures areas with an initial issue of values 24p, 28p, 39p, 46p and £1.00. Those of you who are missing some of the buildings have fair warning now. We hope that An Post, in their wisdom, will publish advanced data on this issue such as sheet configuration, types of perforators used, etc. so that everyone can get their orders in early.

## EDITORIAL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34)

the great need we have for new authors, especially in Ireland, who will take up the banner of actively promoting interest in Irish philately by writing about it. If you are complacent and content to sit in your arm-chairs and let others look to the task of increasing the value of your holdings, I am here to announce that those "others" are gone. They no longer exist. I was listening to an Irish ballad the other day about a lad of 16 seeking enlistment in the IRA. What patriotism and sense of duty it portrayed. Alas! If I could only be as lyrical about presenting my case for authors — but I am not as gifted.

Eddie Fitzgerald has asked to be relieved of the associate editor's position. Accordingly, I am looking for an author who would be willing to write four columns a year — perhaps along the lines of Post Notes, which appears in this issue. The ideal individual would reside in Ireland — perhaps even in Dublin. Someone who would be willing to keep track of An Post. May I add your name to the Masthead?

Elsewhere in this issue please note that your journal participated in the Literature competition during STAMPA '88 in Dublin. It has won a Silver Medal. The point I am trying to make is what it takes to publish a year's worth of THE REVEALER. Check out the list of names of those involved in putting out four issues. Quite impressive, I think. Deadline for the Spring issue is March 1, 1989.



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## DUBLIN NEWSLETTER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39)

Now that you have made the comparison, I award a Grade A in observation to those who spotted the artist's Christian name on the stamp, while she did not bother to incorporate her name onto the plaque design. I do not know of any other case in the philatelic world where a stamp designer managed to get her/his name within the actual stamp design. Certainly it is unique in the annals of Irish philately and I can only conclude that somebody was nodding in the Department at the time.

In 1979, we had a similar occasion — only different if you know what I mean. In the Summer of that year there were rumors that the new Pope John Paul II intended to visit Ireland. Most Irish people, while yearning for such a visit, considered these rumors as far fetched. Not so the late Peter Byrne, a senior official in the Revenue Stamping Branch. I know for a fact that he examined hundreds of transparencies of the Pope until he found the one which conveyed to him the perfect image of the Pope and the Papacy. Around this transparency Peter designed a simple but effective stamp "just in case." The time factor between the announcement of the Pope's visit and the actual visit was about four weeks, and tribute must be paid to the Stamping Branch in particular, the Department and indeed the Government that this stamp was printed and distributed for sale to coincide with the Pope's visit.

Apart from THE REVEALER, my favorite philatelic reading is the IRISH STAMP NEWS. In my view, these journals compliment each other. The I.S.N. Autumn 1988 edition appeared at the time of STAMPA and since then I have read it again and again. What is of special importance to me is the comprehensive listing of all possible plate blocks in the current Definitive Series — perforation and paper changes. The only consolation that this listing gives me is that I know the large numbers of blocks that I am missing from my collection, and now I must set about finding what I have not got. Very few people in Ireland can say they have a complete collection of the listed blocks, and somehow I doubt if any dealer has all the items listed. But this listing can be invaluable to a collector living outside Ireland who wishes to form a collection of paper changes in this series. If one forgets about plate and imprint blocks, such a collection can be formed at a relatively inexpensive cost at present. The paper changes are obvious and the key stamps are the £1 Cahir Castle - 3 papers and no longer on sale. Form your collection around these three stamps. The I.S.N. is a labor of love and merits support from collectors of Irish stamps.