

The Revealers

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



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Meters Move Irish Mail

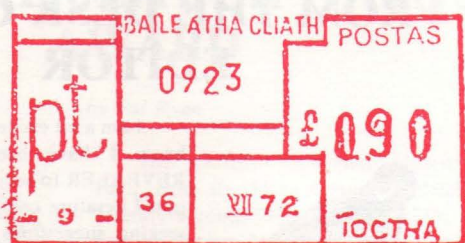


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THE REVEALER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Usually this would be the presidents farewell letter but guess what! you are stuck with me for another two years. Thanks to all of you who voted, I am honored to do the job through our 40th anniversary. I would also like to thank all the outgoing directors and welcome our new ones on board. I look forward to the next two years and hope that together we can build a larger, stronger and even more productive EPA. You can be a part of this effort by writing more articles for The

Revealer, by donating more books, slide shows or exhibit photocopies to our library or by developing new material for publication.

As in any association there are positions that need to be filled this fall. Over the past three years Jim Lavelle has done a terrific job in reorganizing the library. Jim has resigned and therefore we need someone with experience in this field to replace him. There is a large amount of material that will need careful storage so this should be taken into consideration. If you feel you could be the one for the job write to me for complete job description.

At this point I would like to congratulate Joe Foley, on behalf of the entire membership of the EPA, on his election as president of the APS. We all feel a special pride when one of our own achieves such a prestigious position. Because of this we will need someone to take over the position of auction manager. As you all know we hold 4 auctions per year and there is a lot of paperwork involved. If you feel qualified for this position write to me for a complete job description.

One final item for now. I am trying to put together a complete list of winners of the EPA medal. I need all winners to send me complete details of their award. Until next time good health and good collecting.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR



I am a bit excited this time for as you know I have been submitting THE REVEALER to various shows entering it into Literature competition. I have been seeking suggestions on improving it. I already know that we have a solid Silver medal product and unless I can get suggestions to make it better it will always stay that way.

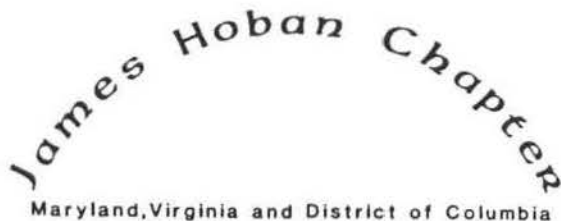
I am pleased to announce that through the good offices of Peg Zellers at STaMpsHOW '89, I have received my first positive, constructive comments and suggestions for improvement. (I have asked Jim Lavelle if I might borrow one of his warm fuzzies and would like to present it to Peg - thanks). Some of the changes suggested at the judges critique were as follows: (1) an annual index of published articles; (2) larger type, in general throughout the publication; (3) use 'ding bats' to indicate the end of articles. I am to receive an official judges' critique later. I intend to integrate many of these suggestions over the next few issues.

Now I am looking forward to SESCAL '89 with a new set of judges and more suggestions for improvement. I will keep you informed in the next issue - which deadlines on 1 December 1989.



CHAPTER REPORTS

John Hoban Chapter



by Bob Moskowitz

The John Hoban Chapter now proudly boasts of a membership of 41.

At recent meetings the JHC has held three workshops, designed to improve the collector's knowledge of a particular area in which he does not wish to specialize. To date we have covered Overprints, Irish Postal Stationery and Airmail/First Flight Covers. A fourth workshop has been scheduled for our meeting at BALPEX '89 in September. It will cover Great Britain Used In Ireland. All those interested are invited to attend.

The JHC has held its annual auction at SPRINGPEX 89 meeting. The proceeds were divided between the Owners, JHC and the EPA.

At the request of the World Stamp Exposition '89 to be held in November the JHC has prepared an exhibit of Irish Stamps to be used to create interest in stamp collecting and to further interest in Irish Philately. If you attend the Exposition don't miss it. We are currently working on a card of a philatelic nature to be released in conjunction with the show.



THE REVEALER WINS AWARD

by Pat Ryan



The Cardinal Spellman Museum, Inc., held its 13th Annual Philatelic Literature competition in April 1989. A very impressive 245 entries were submitted. The awards fell as follows: 18 Gold, 68 Vermeil, 97 Silver, 42 Silver-bronze and 20 Bronze awards. The Revealer was included in the competition and was awarded a silver certificate. Your editor received no judges report so I have no idea what criteria was used in judging or

what improvements can be made technically to better our publication. However, with that many entries I can certainly appreciate the job performed by the judges.

The main reason I place THE REVEALER in competitions of this nature is first for EPA exposure to the collecting public. Second, I feel it is just as important, that is, to hope that the judges will provide me with an objective constructive criticism which I may use to improve my product for the membership. If any chapter or Group would like to have THE REVEALER participate in their local shows that have literature competitions, please send me a prospectus. I am limited on the amount of copies I have available for competitions at any given time. However, I shall endeavor to provide an entry at least within a two year period.



OBITUARY

Samuel B. Frank, M.D.

by Bill Zellers

It is with great regret we record the death, on May 4, 1989, of Dr. Samuel B. Frank of San Diego, California, formerly of Mamaroneck, New York. Dr. Frank is best known for his collaborated work with Josef Schonfeld in an exhaustive study of the embossed revenue stamps of the United Kingdom and Ireland. Their early research was published in The Revealer. A three volume authoritative work "The Stamp Duty of Great Britain and Ireland" was the culmination of their studies. Volume Three is the definitive publication on the Irish issues.

Dr. Frank and Josef Schonfeld were jointly presented the EPA's prestigious Thomas Edwin Field Award in 1975. It was the first time the award was given jointly. The Field Award is to be given annually to persons who have made an outstanding contribution to Irish philately, in the tradition established by T. E. Field.

Dr. Frank, Josef Schonfeld, with the additional assistance of William A. Barber, in 1981, brought out a priced catalog of embossed non-adhesive fiscal stamps (1694 to date) entitled, "The Impressed Duty Stamps of Great Britain."

A philatelist of Dr. Frank's caliber is sorely missed. 

LETTER TO EDITOR

27 July 1989

Dear Editor:

This is to let you and the members of the EPA know that Dr. Samuel B. Frank died on 4th May 1989 from a massive heart attack, four months before reaching age 80.

Dr. Frank became an EPA life member in 1975 in connection of having received the Thomas Edwin Field Award as co-author of the Frank/Schonfeld catalogue of Irish embossed duty stamps (1974). He had an extensive collection of this material, most of which he donated to the American Philatelic Library three years ago.

Dr. Frank was Professor of Clinical Dermatology at the New York University School of Medicine. He was a well-known authority on Acne, wrote several textbooks on this disease, and lectured across the U.S.A. and Europe about this subject. He retired from his position at NYU in 1975 but continued his private practice for several more years.

I have collaborated with Sam for over 35 years in the pursuit of our common interest, British and Irish embossed duty stamps. We were constantly exchanging information and ideas relating to this little-known branch of fiscal philately. Sam maintained also a large correspondence with other collectors and researchers in this field and his devotion to it was outstanding.

We all shall miss him sadly.

Josef Schonfeld LM16

Best Regards 

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary, on behalf of the Officers, Directors and Members of the E.P.A., expresses appreciation for the work of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Eugene M. Labiuk, Chairman, and the Election Records, Mrs. Edith B. Hillman and Mr. Brian Warren for their work and service.

The E.P.A. By-Laws require that the out-going President be Chairman of the Nominating Committee with the re-election of Peter E. Bugg for a second term, Mr. Labiuk will therefore be Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the 1991 election. 

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

27 June, 1989

Dear Editor:

I enclose an official notice from the stamps branch of the Revenue Commissioners together with an example of the new stamp.

DUPLICATE OR COUNTERPART STAMPING

The Revenue Commissioners have decided that, with effect from 1 June, 1989, the present system of stamping duplicates or counterparts which require to be denoted under Section 72 of the Stamp Act, 1891, will be discontinued and replaced by a single - die denoting system.

Under the present system, these duplicate or counterpart instruments are stamped with:

- (i) a green £5 stamp,
- (ii) a blue stamp bearing the words "Duplicate or Counterpart - original stamped with", followed by
- (iii) blue stamps to the value of the duty paid on the original instrument.

As from 1 June, 1989, only two stamps will be impressed on these duplicate or counterpart instruments:

- (i) a green £5 stamp, and
- (ii) a single blue stamp bearing the words "Duplicate or Counterpart - original fully and properly stamped".

As from the same date, instruments for duplicate or counterpart denoting in the Stamping Branch, Dublin Castle may be lodged at the Stamping Branch, Lower Castle Yard, Dublin Castle or at the Stamp Office, Government Buildings, Sullivan's Quay, Cork.



Yours sincerely,

Declan O'Connor, E.P.A. 1624.

EPA at STaMpsHOW 89

by Peg Zellers

STaMpsHOW 89



The Eire Philatelic Association had one member's entry of Irish material in the Open Philatelic Competition. That was a Junior, Christine Jolly. Her fine exhibit, "Postal Markings of Ireland to the Reforms of 1857," received a Vermeil Award and several Special Awards, including the Best Exhibit by a Junior.

In the Literature Competition there were two entries by EPA members. "The Irish S.P. Censor Labels, 1939-1945" by Charles J. G. Verge, received a Silver Award, with felicitations of the jury. "The Revealer" Patrick J. Ryan, Sr., Editor, was also awarded a Silver. Congratulations to both.

EPA's Southern California Chapter sponsored a meeting for all show attendees interested, on Saturday, August 26, 1989, 1:00-3:00PM. The featured speaker was Patricia Stilwell-Walker who talked about and showed slides on the topic "Irish Postal History - From Postal Reform Through 1900." The group present enjoyed the talk very much, commenting and asking stimulating questions.

In addition, the meeting was pleased to listen to a witty taped message from EPA President, Peter Bugg.

A new member, Linda West of Tujunga, California was signed-up.

The last part of the meeting was a social hour, allowing the opportunity to meet, talk, with fellow Irish philatelic collectors, to sip wine and nibble cheese.

A photo of those in attendance is included here. Except the photographer Peg Zellers, Chapter Chairman.

The next EPA SoCal Chapter meeting will be at SESCAL in October 1989.



Left to Right:
(Front Row) Garvin Lohman, Preston Pope, Patricia Stilwell-Walker, Linda West, a new member at the show. (Middle) Mike Jolly - Father of Christine Jolly, Junior Member. (Back Row) Tom Current, Bill Zellers, Joe Foley, Bill O'Connor, Bob Kemper.

WHY DID THE IRISH CENSOR CIVIL MAIL DURING WW2?

by Hans G. Moxter

Repeatedly I have been asked that question. Eire kept strict neutrality from the first to the last day of WW2. Fifty years have passed since the so far most devastating war of mankind broke out in 1939. During six years to follow it spread like a contagious disease all over the globe killing many millions wherever it flared up.

People with a political feeling had watched the upsurge of certain kinds of governments after the first world war with uneasiness. The treaty of Versailles and the creation of some new multinational states had contributed to a climate in which political adventurers could prosper.

All this was of course observed in Dublin, where - after a few hundred years of foreign rule - an independent government had finally been established for 26 of the 32 counties after a treaty with Great Britain signed in London on the 6th of December 1921. The Irish Free State had thus been created and its aim was complete independence from Great Britain and of course the peaceful annexation of the still occupied six counties in the north.

A further thorn in the flesh of Ireland were three British military bases on Irish ground at Cobh, Berehaven and Lough Swilly. Ireland's most influential and politically farsighted leader in those days was Eamon de Valera. He had been one of the officers in the Easter Rising and was saved from execution by the fact that he had a US passport due to his birth in the USA. Christian faith and his love for Ireland influenced every action in his life. In the late 1930s de Valera had reached a position where the British government was willing to cede the military bases in Ireland to the Irish. When in July 1938 the Union Jack went down and the Irish tricolour flew over these military installations, other happenings on the European continent completely occupied public interest:

Hitler had entered Austria in March. England accepted Ethiopia's occupation by Italy in April. Tensions between Germany and Czechoslovakia occupied the diplomats all over Europe during the summer and induced Chamberlain to visit Germany in September. De Valera's success went almost unobserved. The Kettle of war started boiling, while de Valera faced his next aim: How to get back the six northern counties into a free Ireland. He never reached this in his life. But he tried every day of it. And it was de Valera who showed the way for the Irish nation in case of war in Europe: Absolute neutrality.

Nobody could expect the Irish to join Great Britain in a coming war. Irishmen had paid a high contribution with their lives all the time when the British empire was built. They came as volunteers into the army and navy of the British. Poverty and hunger made them volunteer. The very moment they became independent they wanted to taste their freedom. Let the English have their war, we will stay out of it. But there was of course a price for which even de Valera might have considered joining the British: The northern six counties still waited to return to Eire. This price in mind de Valera never even played with the idea of joining England's enemies, who not only had nothing to offer to Ireland, but who also were on rather bad terms with the Vatican and the Roman Catholic church of their own country. Strict neutrality therefore was the course the Irish government intended to steer.

After this historical introduction, let us look around Europe at those countries who also wished to stay out of the war and who by luck succeeded in doing so. Sweden in the north was neutral all the time and did never open civil mail. Only a fiscal inspection of mail (Valutakontroll) and censorship for the mail of interned military personnel from warring countries were practised. Turkey stayed neutral until it was forced by Churchill to declare war on Germany in mid-February 1945. It never censored mail in WW2. Switzerland had a common border with Germany and at some stages of the war was completely encircled by the axis powers who controlled all its foreign mail. Nevertheless the Swiss only did censor letters of military personnel interned in Switzerland (over 40,000 men in 1944!). Spain ended its bloody civil war in 1939 and continued censoring foreign

civil mail up till 1945. This was an inner-Spanish safety measure after a three years civil war. Portugal kept its neutrality as long as possible, but in October 1943 had to open the Azores to the allies who needed the air and sea bases on the islands. A certain censorship resulted from this action, but seems to have been restricted to the Azores mostly.

Ireland was different. In September 1938, de Valera had drawn up a list of "twelve matters requiring immediate attention" in the event of war. Censorship was number three on that list. For censorship in all its different aspects was responsible the Minister for the Coordination of Defensive Measures.

Censorship in Ireland had the primary purpose of suppressing "propaganda" that came from within Ireland and which might compromise the Republic's neutrality in the eyes of the warring nations.

This is reflected by the organisation of censorship in Eire. Three different kinds of censorship existed:

1. Press Censorship, which controlled everything printed, newspapers, periodicals, books, leaflets, and also films and photographic material.
2. Postal Censorship, inspecting all mail entering or leaving the country.
3. Telegraphic Censorship, controlling all communications by wire or wireless, entering or leaving the country, also written news referring to this matter.

Eire was well prepared for any emergency, as the war was frequently circumscribed, in 1939. When on September 1st, at 4:45 a.m. German troops entered Poland, it seems that postal censorship was immediately introduced in Dublin. A letter to New York, postmarked at Dublin 2 SEP 1939 5:45 p.m., is so far the earliest proof of censored mail (Censor 31) in Eire.

Since October 1940 there were military persons from Germany and the UK interned in Eire at Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, and their number kept growing until the camp was closed late in 1945. Their mail was strictly a military matter and censorship was effected by Irish military censors, even though this mail sometimes passed through the civil mail censorship office in addition, especially in the early phase.

Already in 1940 the Coordinator of Defensive Measures, Minister Frank Aiken, wrote "neutrality is a condition of limited warfare". Eamon de Valera kept Eire out of the war, but he did not reach his ultimate aim. The six counties were not returned.

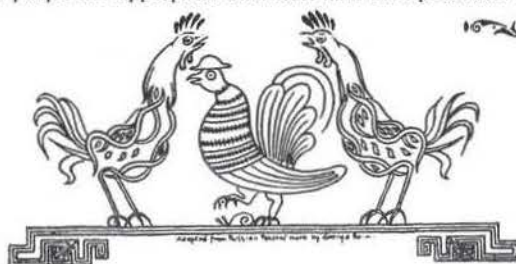
JOHN CLARK AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

by Peg Zellers

The selection committee takes great pleasure in announcing that the 1988 John J. Clark Award is being presented to Patrick J. Ryan, Sr., editor of The Revealer. The committee was composed of Peg Zellers, Bob Corless and Ed Ryan, all former recipients of the Clark Award.

Pat Ryan was chosen because of his efforts to revive The Revealer, get it back on a schedule and keep it there. Also, The Revealer, edited by Pat Ryan has been recognized as an authoritative journal and resource for information on Irish philately. It has won awards in national and international philatelic literature competitions.

The John J. Clark Award is presented annually to the EPA member who has been of outstanding service to the association during the past year. A plaque and appropriate certificate have been presented.





EPA Election Results

Office	Name	Votes
President	Peter E. Bugg	98
VP, Europe	Anthony Finn	92
VP, N. Amer.	Frank J. McGuire	99
Directors	Richard J. McBride	93
	Declan O'Kelly	90
	Robert E. Moskowitz	88
	Findley R. Higgins	82
	James T. Howley	78
	Duane A. Larson	68



The above elected officers have been certified to the President by Edith B. Hillman #1544 and Brian Warren, LM #1257 as of 1 September 1989 for a period of two years.

Ralph G. Chalet

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GPO/AN POST - ATTENDANCE IN PHILATELIC EVENTS ABROAD (1976 -1988)

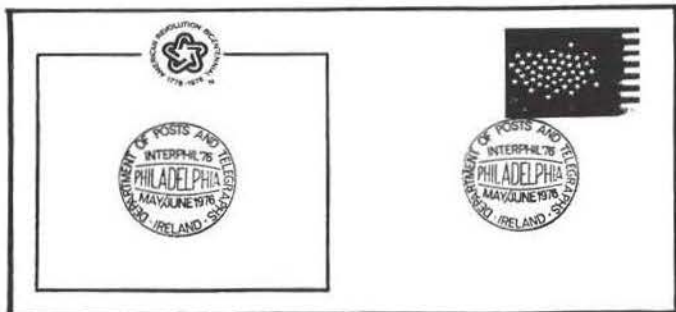
by Otto Jung

More and more it has become the custom of departments of post or their agencies to attend major philatelic exhibitions and fairs. Organizers are proud to have them as their guests, collectors enjoy the opportunity to get information and recent issues at face value and the agents are glad to sell additional material and to find new customers; the publicity and advertising effect benefits philately in common and particularly the countries participating. To document attendance special cancellations and cachets are designed, stamps, mini - sheets and postal stationery were overprinted, souvenirs were produced to celebrate the event.

AN POST, too, has discovered this market and is, increasingly, busy in this field. It was in 1976 when the first cachet was designed for the Philadelphia exhibition; this has become a valuable item by now. From 1977 we see the GPO regularly attending the "National Postage Stamp Show" in New York, from 1978 London exhibitions as well. But it has only been from 1981 that the Irish post went to major European exhibitions as "WIPA", "PHILEXFRANCE" etc; from 1984 Germany has been included. 1986 at "STOCKHOLMIA" it first became expensive for collectors to buy these souvenirs when special cards were printed at limited numbers and high selling prices. From that time AN POST offered souvenirs at exhibitions all over the world, in Europe, America and Australia. More items were issued in 1987/88 than all the years before. What has just been developing into a collecting field of its own is now in danger of suffocation by the lot of souvenirs and the amount of money needed to get them all. Just in time good news is to be heard: AN POST has decided to stop the flood of souvenirs and to return to its former decent expenditure policy; collectors will be grateful.

Many items presented in this article were issued by agencies, but as they are by permission of AN POST no difference was made from issues of the Irish post itself.

Now a chronological listing follows.



1976,1

cachet for "INTERPHIL '76" in Philadelphia

1976

1) May/June 1976: Cachet at "INTERPHIL '76" in Philadelphia

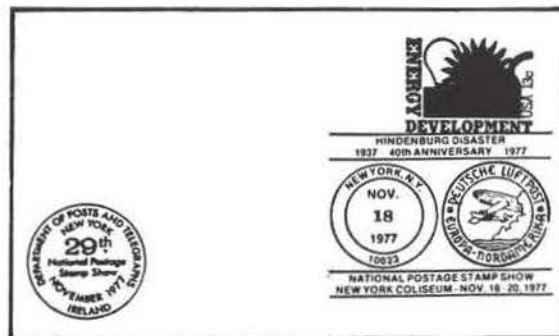
1977

1) October 19-22, 1977: Two cachets at "BPE '77" in London

2) November 16-20, 1977: Cachet at "National Postage Stamp Show" in New York



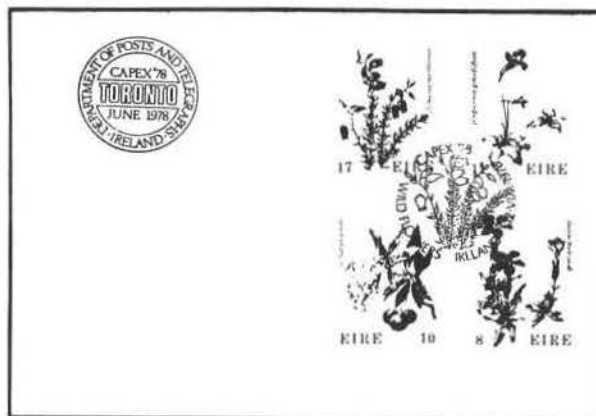
1977,1 two cachets



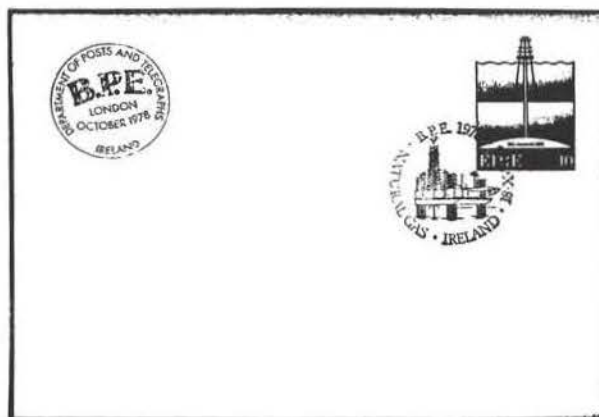
1977,2

1978

- 1) June 12, 1978: Cachet and special cancellation (mainly on cover with Flora & Fauna set) at "CAPEX '78" in Toronto
- 2) October 18, 1978: Cachet and special cancellation (mainly on cover with natural gas stamp) at "BPE '78" in London

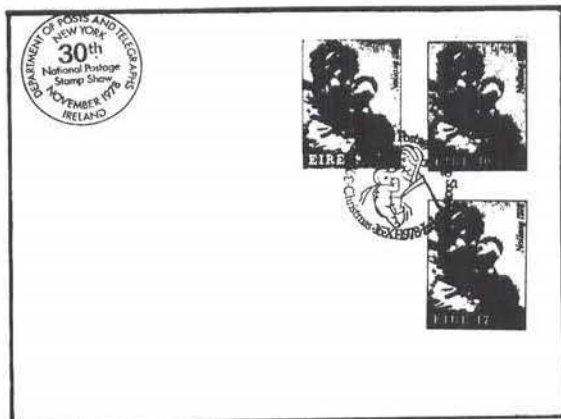


1978,1 cachet and special cancellation



1978,2 cachet and special cancellation

- 3) November 16, 1978: Cachet and special cancellation (mainly on cover with Christmas set 1978) at "National Postage Stamp Show" in New York



1978,3 cachet and special cancellation



1980,2 cachet and British cachet

1979

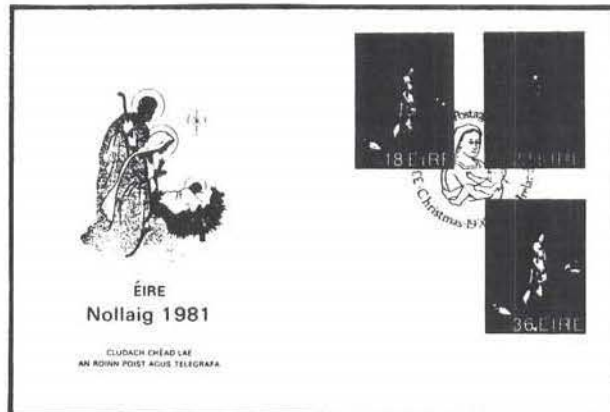
- 1) November 10, 1979: Cachet and special cancellation (mainly on cover with Patrick Pearse stamp) at "National Postage Stamp Show" in New York



1979,1 cachet and special cancellation

1981

- 1) February 24-28, 1981: Cachet at "STAMPEX '81" in London
- 2) May 22-31, 1981: Cachet at "WIPA '81" in Vienna
- 3) November 19, 1981: Cachet and special cancellation (mainly on cover with Christmas '81 set) at "National Postage Stamp Show" in New York



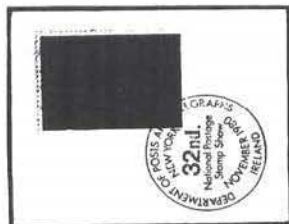
1981,3 special cancellation

1980

- 1) February 5-9, 1980: Cachet at "STAMPEX '80" in London
- 2) May 6-14, 1980: Cachet (mainly on FDC with Europe 1980 set, often with additional British exhibition cachet) at "International Stamp Exhibition '80" in London
- 3) November 20-23, 1980: Cachet at "National Postage Stamp Show" in New York



1980,1 cachet



1980,3 cachet



1981,1

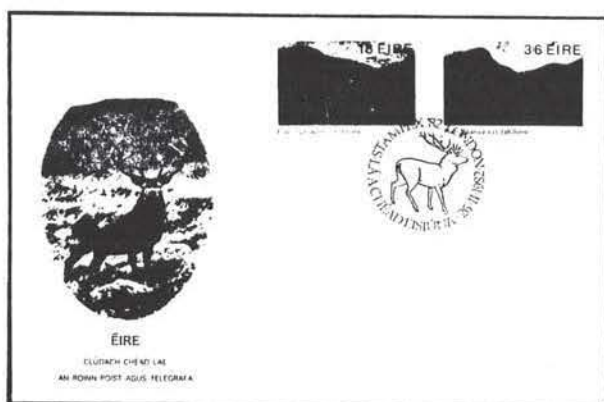


1981,2

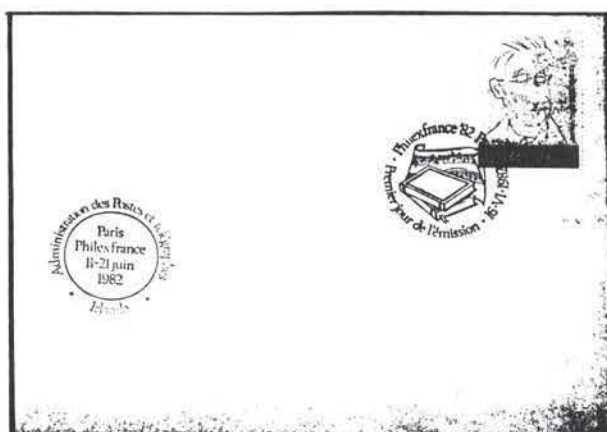
1981,3 cachet

1982

- 1) February 23-28, 1982: Cachet and special cancellation (mainly on FDC of Killarney National Park set) at "STAMPEX '82" in London
- 2) June 11-21, 1982: Cachet and special cancellation (mainly on FDC of James Joyce stamp) at "PHILEXFRANCE '82" in Paris
- 3) November 18-21, 1982: Cachet at "National Postage Stamp Show" in New York
- 1) November 13-17, 1982: Small private commemorative sheet reproducing the "Asgard II" stamp, 1000 printed, at "PHILATELIA '82" in Hannover (Germany)



1982,1 special cancellation



1982,2

1982,1 cachet



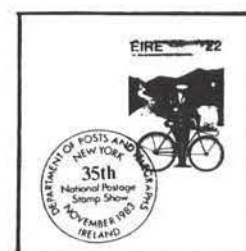
1982,1 front & reverse

1983

- 1) February 15-20, 1983: Cachet at "STAMPEX '83" in London
- 2) November 17-20, 1983: Cachet at "National Postage Stamp Show" in New York



1983,1



1983,2

1984

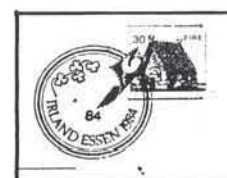
- 1) March 6-11, 1984: Cachet at "STAMPEX '84" in London
- 2) May 26-31, 1984: Rubber cancellation at "IRLAND ESSEN '84" in Essen (Germany)
- 3) June 19-26, 1984: Cachet at UPU World Congress in Hamburg (Germany)
- 4) September 21-30, 1984: Cachet at "AUSIPEX '84" in Melbourne
- 5) October 5-7, 1984: Cachet at "PHILATELIA '84" in Stuttgart (Germany)
- 6) November 15-18, 1984: Cachet at "National Postage Stamp Show" in New York



1984,1



1984,4



1984,2



1984,3



1984,5



1984,6

1986

- 1) March 4-9, 1986: Cachet grey or green (rare) at "STAMPEX '86" in London
- 2) April 10-13, 1986: Large sized (147x210 mm) commemorative card bearing love stamp 1986 22p and cachet (also applied to other cards and covers) at the Essen stamp fair in Essen (Germany)
- 3) May 22 - June 1, 1986: Cachet at "AMERIPEX '86" in Chicago
- 4) August 4-10, 1986: Commemorative cover and cachet at "STAMPEX AIDELAIDE '86" in Aidelaide (Australia)
- 5) August 28 - September 7, 1986: Commemorative card (144x105 mm) showing the love motif of the 1986 love FDC with love set 1986 and cachet at "STOCKHOLMIA '86" in Stockholm (Sweden)



1986,1



1986,3



1986,2

1985

- 1) February 26 - March 3, 1985: Cachet at "STAMPEX '85" in London
- 2) March 14-17, 1985: Cachet at "INTERPEX '85" in New York
- 3) September 26-29, 1985: Square cachet showing a postilion on horse at "NORDFRIMEX" in Copenhagen (Denmark)
- 4) October 25 - November 3, 1985: Large sized card with musician set and cachet at "ITALIA '85"
- 5) November 8-10: Cachet at "PHILATELIA '85" in Cologne (Germany)

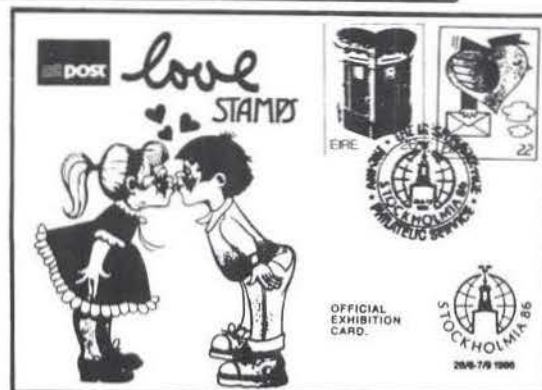


1985,1

1985,2

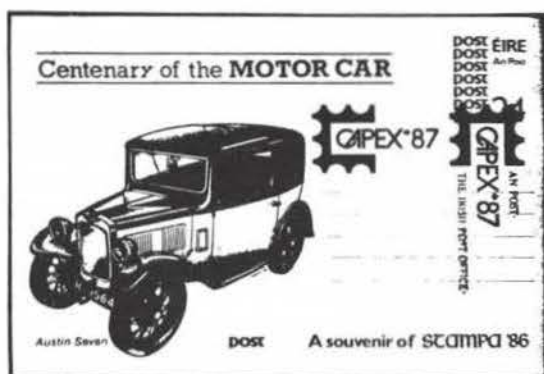


1985,5

right:
1986,5

1987

- 1) March 3-8, 1987: Cachet at "STAMPEX '87" in London
- 2) June 13-21, 1987: The three oldtimer cards of STAMPA '86 overprinted black and similar cachet at "CAPEX '87" in Toronto (Canada)
- 3) October 16-25, 1987: at "HAFNIA" in Copenhagen (Denmark)
 - a) Commemorative card (148x105 mm) as used at "STOCKHOLMIA '86" and cachet
 - b) Ireland tram mini-sheet overprinted likewise (5000 overprinted)
- 4) October 22-25, 1987: The four postal uniform cards of STAMPA '87 overprinted ASDA at "ASDA '87" in New York; there was an additional cachet.
- 5) November 6-8, 1987: The four postal uniform cards of STAMPA '87 overprinted green and a cachet at "PHILATELIA '87" in Cologne (Germany)



1987,2 overprint & cachet



1987,3a HAFNIA card



Tram mini-sheet overprinted (1987,3b)



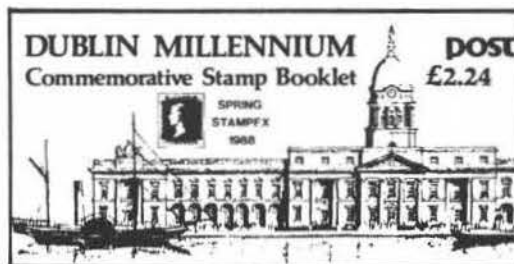
1987,4 ASDA overprint



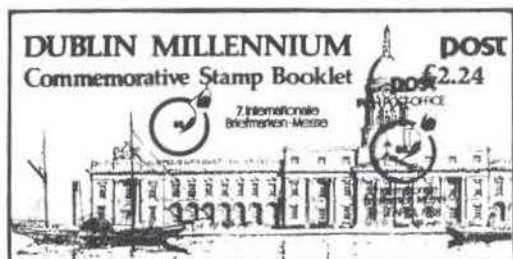
PHILATELIA '87 (1987,5)

1988

- 1) March 1-6, 1988: At "STAMPEX '88" in London a cachet as usual and
 - a) Dublin Millennium booklet overprinted (3000 printed)
 - b) The four postal uniform cards overprinted (800 sets printed)
- 2) March 17, 1988: The four postal uniform postcards overprinted at "INTERPEX '88" in New York
- 3) April 14-17, 1988: Dublin Millennium booklet overprinted and cachet; there were two prints: I) thick letters (1000 printed), II) thin letters; at Essen (Germany)
- 4) June 1-12, 1988: Cachet and overprints at "Finlandia '88"
 - a) Dublin Millennium booklet, b) commemorative card as used at "HAFNIA '87"
- 5) July 30 - August 7, 1988: The Dublin Millennium booklet and its single pages were overprinted
 - a) Green overprint on booklet front cover
 - b) Gold overprint on page 1 (Irish version)
 - c) Gold overprint on page 2 (English version)



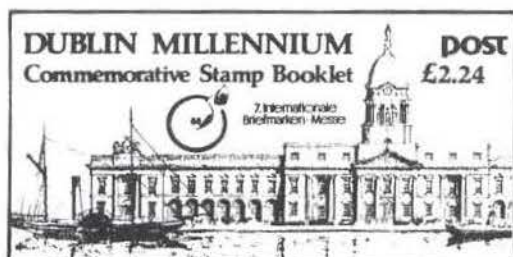
1988,1a



1988,3 (first print)



1988,4a



1988 (second print)



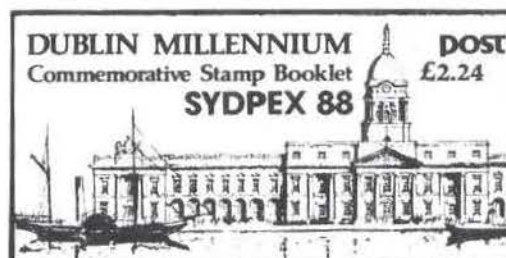
FINLANDIA cachet



Essen cachet



1988,1b



1988,5a



1988,4b



1988,5b



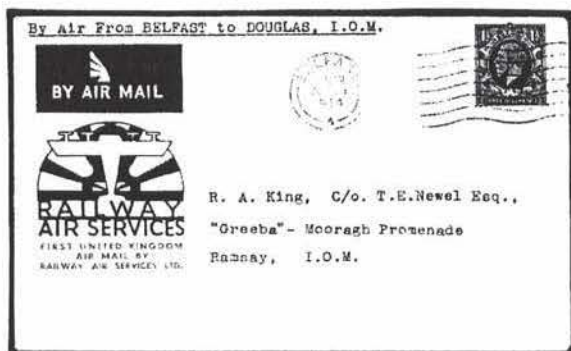
1988,5c



THE 1934 FLIGHTS OF RAILWAY AIR SERVICES, LTD.

by William J. Murphy

On August 20th, 1934, an event of great historical importance took place. The British Postal Authorities commissioned Railway Air Services to carry internal first-class mail by air. Belfast was one of the cities selected to receive this new service. First class mails between Belfast and Douglas, Manchester, Birmingham, London, Glasgow, Bristol, Southampton and Cowes were to be sent by air. This became the world's first "all-up" service for regular mail.



Aug 20 - Belfast to Douglas

No extra charge was made for this service and the sender had no option as to the method of transport. Three routes went into operation on August 20th.

1. Glasgow to London via Belfast, Manchester and Birmingham
2. Birmingham to Cowes via Bristol and Southampton
3. Liverpool to Plymouth via Birmingham, Cardiff and Teignmouth

Two shuttle services were also operated. One from Belfast to Manchester via Douglas, Isle of Man. And the other from Cardiff to Bristol.

Because of gale force winds that raged throughout the day, only the flights on the Liverpool to Plymouth route were completed as scheduled. The Glasgow to London service was abandoned upon reaching Manchester. The London to Glasgow service flew only as far as Birmingham. Mail for points on the abandoned portions of these routes were sent on by rail. The Birmingham to Cowes service operated only as far as Bristol. Only mail addressed to Birmingham was carried on the return flight to Birmingham. The flight from Cowes never left the ground. Both Cowes and Southampton held their mail till the next day when it was sent by air. A Belfast to Manchester shuttle service via Douglas, the Isle of Man, operated only in the southerly direction. There was no northbound shuttle flight from Manchester to Belfast.



Aug 20 - Belfast to Cowes (flown to Manchester)

Special envelopes were prepared by Railway Air Services to celebrate this flight, and were sold in great numbers prior to the flight. These envelopes were printed in black and blue ink and exist made from two different paper thicknesses. Envelopes exist with either the black or blue ink missing and are quite rare.

A few covers posted in the Irish Free State were prepared for acceptance on these flights. Unfortunately, these covers were sent to Birmingham, to be flown from there. Most of them were not flown due to flight cancellations.

The weather on August 21st was much improved over the previous day. All of the planes were able to fly their scheduled routes. Mail posted at Belfast on the 21st for Birmingham, Bristol, London, Cowes and Glasgow was flown for the entire route. Also mail posted at London and Birmingham on the 21st was the first to be flown to Belfast. These covers are considerably more difficult to acquire than those of the 20th.

On September 29, 1934, mail carrying flights were discontinued on all routes except for the one from London to Glasgow. The shuttle service from Belfast to Douglas was one of the routes discontinued. Then on October 31, 1934, Railway Air Services made their last stops at Manchester and Birmingham.

Starting on November 1, 1934, Liverpool was made a stop on the Railway Air Services' route from London to Glasgow. This was therefore the first day of direct air service between Belfast and Liverpool. No special cachets were used for this new route. However, a few of the envelopes printed for the first R.A.S. flights on August 20, 1934 were flown.

November 30, 1934, was the last day of air mail service by Railway Air Services on the route from London to Glasgow via Liverpool and Belfast. Not all of the routes were flown on this last day of service. In landing at Liverpool, the northbound plane carrying the mail was damaged and the mail was sent on by surface. Therefore, the mail from London to Belfast was only flown as far as Liverpool, and the mail from Liverpool to Belfast was not flown at all. A substitute plane was used to carry the mail from Belfast to Glasgow.



Aug 21 - Belfast to Bristol



Oct 31 - Last Flight Belfast to Birmingham

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 34)

The following is a checklist of all collectable R.A.S. covers either to or from Belfast. For completeness, the covers of August 20th, which were sent entirely by surface, are also listed.

Mail flown on August 20th

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| a) Belfast to Douglas | c) Glasgow to Belfast |
| b) Belfast to Manchester | |

Mail held and flown on August 21st

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| a) Cowes to Belfast | b) Southampton to Belfast |
|---------------------|---------------------------|

Mail partially flown on August 20th

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) Belfast to Birmingham | e) Belfast to Cowes |
| b) Belfast to London | f) Belfast to Liverpool |
| c) Belfast to Bristol | g) London to Belfast |
| d) Belfast to Southampton | h) Cardiff to Belfast |

Mail not flown (sent via surface) on the 20th

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Belfast to Glasgow | d) Birmingham to Belfast |
| b) Douglas to Belfast | e) Bristol to Belfast |
| c) Manchester to Belfast | |

Mail posted & flown on the 21st for the first time

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Belfast to London | f) Belfast to Glasgow |
| b) Belfast to Birmingham | g) London to Belfast |
| c) Belfast to Bristol | h) Douglas to Belfast |
| d) Belfast to Cowes | i) Manchester to Belfast |
| e) Belfast to Southampton | j) Birmingham to Belfast |

Last Mail Service to Manchester & Birmingham - October 31st

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Belfast to Manchester | c) Manchester to Belfast |
| b) Belfast to Birmingham | d) Birmingham to Belfast |

First Mail Service to Liverpool - November 1st

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| a) Belfast to Liverpool | c) Belfast to London |
| b) Liverpool to Belfast | d) London to Belfast |

Last Day of R.A.S. Mail Service - November 30th

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) Belfast to Glasgow | d) Glasgow to Belfast |
| b) Belfast to Liverpool | e) Liverpool to Belfast not flown |
| c) Belfast to London | f) London to Belfast partly flown |



Nov 1 - Belfast to Liverpool



Nov 30 - Last Flight Belfast to Liverpool

The following books and articles are suggested as a source of more detailed information regarding these 1934 R.A.S. flights:

1. The Air Mails of the British Isles, H. Stanley Redgrave, 1940
2. British Air Mails 1784-1946, N.C. Baldwin, 1947
3. The R.A.S. British "Inlands" of 20th & 21st August 1934, The Aero Field, Nov. 1938, pp. 223-226
4. British Inland Air Posts - 1934, Francis J. Field, Aero Field Pamphlet

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

by Tom Polick

Regardless of the particular area of Irish philately that's captured your heart, everyone seems to appreciate what's called "postal history". This material is the result of cultural and historical change, and how it came to be part of the hobby we pursue today.

Postal history is a fascinating study and gives insights into the lives and times of the people whose correspondence is examined. The earliest examples are whole letters where a reader gets a sense of intruding into a personal conversation of people many, many years dead.

Differing and distinctive handwriting is often beautiful. The language contains a multitude of abbreviated words which the reader of today can decipher when he follows the context of the message. The formality of a society with many classes is expressed, and some emotions are described so eloquently, while other messages are cleverly implied. You can feel the writer's feelings, understand the relationships, and alarmingly discover how harshly disease and death dealt with some families.

These old letters, when we're lucky enough to get them are like snapshots of their time. Whether elegantly written or a barely literate scrawl, they enable a postal historian to confirm postal markings, times, places, people and events.

The earliest postal markings indicated that a letter was PAID, how much or if the letter was entitled to be delivered for FREE. Franking for

free postage was a privilege of certain people of rank and some in the service of the crown. And, understandably COUNTERFEIT markings quickly followed when constituents tried to take advantage by forging the local member of parliament or lord's signature.

By the time envelopes came into use, about half-way through the last century, postal markings had been standardized and applied with specific devices. More markings were added as the postal system became more sophisticated. Back stamping could trace the route of the letter and envelope features like the black borders on "mourning letters" came into fashion.

On the negative side, the contents of the letters were discarded by early stamp collectors, who might have known the details of letter's postal use but today we're at a loss if the markings on the envelope don't provide the information.

We most often tie our postal history to periods and events. Sometimes special markings used for brief periods are the fascination. Incidents of historical significance, strange destinations or exotic locations, famous people and interesting combinations make an item unusual...and collectable.

For instance, I wonder if anyone has a piece of Irish postal history dating from September, 1752? That was the month the British government imposed the Gregorian calendar on their empire. The decree was that the day following September 2, 1752 would be September 14,....a loss of eleven days. What confusion this must have caused! To get through the period, people marked dates preceding the change as O.S., for old style. The dates, references and markings on correspondence would be unique.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 38)

METER FRANKING ON IRISH MAIL.

by George E. R. Ithell

Amongst the 'junk' mail's envelopes and covers of today is the potential 'gem' in the collection of a future postal historian! As a boy of twelve years, I must have vandalised many items which were used as scrap paper for requisition notes for the schools' stores. Nowadays that sort of item is as scarce as the penny black on cover, if not more so. How many 'First Day Covers' are extant?; an easy answer, none! Meter franking is what we are considering and the more modern Postage Paid Impression items, although the latter may not yet be considered as interesting a subject as the former.

My interest is the meter franking on Irish mailings, but for the beginner let me introduce you to, what I think is a fascinating area for a collection.

Initially used in New Zealand in 1905, the first postage meter franking machines were used in Great Britain on August 16th 1922 and were the product of the American firm, Postage Meters & Machines Co., a unit company with Pitney Bowes. The machines were licenced with the Post Office and prepayment was made before the machine was set to a figure and the amount of mailings decided its use, before a re-set.

The first licence was issued to Postage Meters & Machines Co. Ltd and was numbered 1. The machine numbered 2 was used by the Prudential Assurance Company and was operational on September 5th 1922 and my earliest example is from machine number 3 easily identified as in use by John Barker of Kensington; this is dated December 22 1922 (Fig.1).

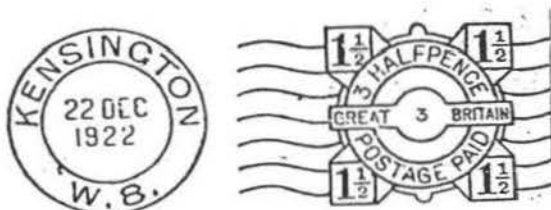


Fig.1

Mr. Jack Peach, current Editor of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle's Newsletter, has written a detailed history of this subject and which appeared in the issues of 'Stamp News', November and December of 1986. His main interest is in the franks used on mail from Great Britain.

In the early days, at the introduction of these postage meters, Dr. J. Stafford Johnson collaborated with the Editor of the 'Philatelic Magazine', Albert Harris, who published a full list and catalogued it in the issues of August 1936 and a supplement in August 1937 (Nos.551 and 557 respectively).

Ireland's first meter frankings were from a production of the Postage Meters & Machines Co. Ltd., and a machine from Neopost Ltd. Both these models were only capable of printing one value, but later, machines were fitted with changeable value dies. Five values are known used from each of these machines and are: 1/2d, 1d, 2d, 3d and 6d. The first year of use was 1926, but which machine was the earliest is not known definitely.

My example of March 8th 1927 (Fig.2) was from the Midget Model, a product of the former company, which had the prefix letter 'M' included in the frank; the numeral identified the licence holder.

Neopost's impression of May 23rd 1928 (Fig.3) shows the prefix 'N' and licence number 1, which was the Limerick Steam Ship Co. Ltd. Unfortunately, the identity of the Midget machine licence holder is not at this time known.

Variations are seen of the frank with different sizes of the circle, different spacing between the dater die and the frank, also different sizes of

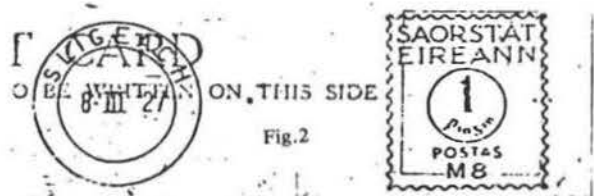


Fig.2

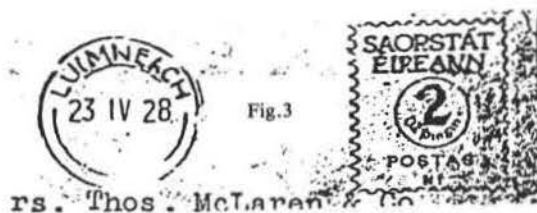


Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



the letter and number in the prefixes; (Figs.4/5) these were Fixed-Value machines. They were followed by a Limited-Value type and later the machine of today, which is multi-value.

The first Multi-Value machine was produced by the German firm, Frankotyp GmbH in 1932, but being a 'credit card' machine was not deemed suitable for mail in Great Britain. The machine was redesigned by Universal Postal Frankers to accommodate sterling currency and include a 'lock-out' meter. Two years later it was used in Ireland and there were three types of model. Type 'a' had the capacity to print values from 1/2d to 29/11 1/2d and the characteristics of the frank differs from type 'b' and 'c', in showing an 'O' before the solidus (Fig.6), whereas a dash is seen on the other two. Type 'b' printed values from 1/2d to 9/11 1/2d and type 'c'



Fig.6

had a comparatively small capacity, printing values only to 11 1/2d. This was known as the Junior Model and the franks were distinguishable with the denarius sign following the value. The Electricity Supply Board used an Original Model with the prefix 'U' and the number '1'.

A title change on all Irish Official material, including the Posts & Telegraph Department from Saorstát Eireann to Eire took place in January 1937, this change is also seen on the meter frank dies.

One of the first machines with the new title was a Limited-Value type from Roneo-Neopost, the new title of Neopost Ltd. as from 1931. Retaining the value in a circle, the prefix letter and licence number were separated and appear at the sides; also the title and 'Postas' is curved and in Gaelic script. A date of 1937 is given as their first use. (Figs. 7a, 7b, 7c). A change was made later, when the circle was removed from the value and

the denarius sign appeared in Roman and Gaelic letters. The prefix letter and number was also in different sizes.



Fig. 7a



Fig. 7b

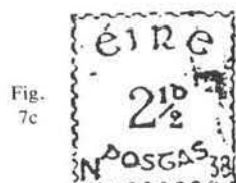


Fig. 7c



Fig. 8

Postage Meters & Machines Co. Ltd., were the forerunners of the firm now known as Pitney Bowes Ltd., as from 1960. The development began in 1902 when Arthur Pitney formed the Pitney Postal Machine Company, renamed in 1912 as the American Postage Meter Company. In 1920 Arthur Pitney and Walter Bowes formed Pitney Bowes Postage Meter Meters & Machines Company and had a Branch Office in London which used the shorter name of Postage Meters & Machine Co. The title change appeared on their Universal Midget machine with the prefix 'M' (Fig. 8) in 1937. Examples are known with the Gaelic and Roman 'D'.



Fig. 9a



Fig. 9b

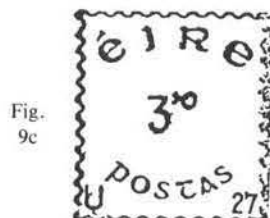


Fig. 9c



Fig. 9d

In 1938, Universal (now Frankopost) adjusted their Multi-Value machine franks to the new format and using Gaelic lettering except for the prefix 'U'. Four different types are known. Franked values are seen as 0/0½ to 29/11½ and is type 'a'; type 'b' has the equation sign (=) instead of the '0' to read = 7/0½ to 9/11½ and type 'c' has the Gaelic 'D' for the denarius when necessary, with the fourth type having the Roman 'D'. (Figs. 9a, 9b, 9c and 9d).

A Roneo-Neopost production, Model 305 with the prefix 'NV' came into use in 1957. Franks are seen with = 0/ = ½ to 99/11½ with thick and thinner letters and numbers of the prefix. (Fig. 10).

The Pitney Bowes Automax Model followed in 1958, similar in the format to the franks of the Neopost machine, but with the prefix 'A'. There were a variety of the value printings. (Fig. 11a-b).

The first machine to be produced when the War ceased was in 1951 and was a Simplex Model (Fig. 12) Frankopost (Universal Postal Franks). This was a new design of the frank in this Limited-Value type with the letter 'S' as the prefix and values of ½d to 1/0½d.

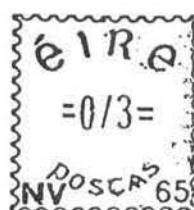


Fig. 10

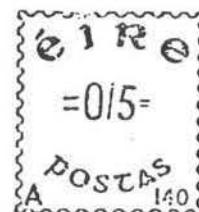


Fig. 11a



Fig. 11b



Fig. 12

A unique type of frank from the Universal (Frankopost) Multi-Value machine of 1958 and used exclusively by the Electricity Supply Board had licence machine numbers U 204, U 205 and U 206. The format of the frank measures 64m/m X 20m/m and only four values have been seen by the author, used between 1958 and 1963. (Fig. 13)



Fig. 13

Roneo-Neopost Ltd. produced their Model 205 in 1964 with the prefix letters 'NP' and which printed franks showing values as *0/½ to 9/11 with either the asterisk or dash where figures were not required. Another innovative feature of this machine was that the slogans could be printed in a second colour; the mandatory red colour had of course to be retained for the actual frank. This spartan design was in contrast to successive impressions. It is also noticed that Arabic figures were being used in the dater die. (Fig. 14)



Fig. 14

Roneo-Neopost's new production in 1965 incorporated the emblems of the four Provinces in the design of the frank, seen clockwise as Leinster, Connaught, Munster and Ulster. Four machines had this distinctive frank, but differing slightly in size and distinguishing between the Models 205, 305, 105 and 605. The former was Multi-Value to 9/11½ with the prefix letters 'NP'. The Model 305 was a similar machine, but printed values to 99/11½ with 'NV' as its prefix. A Limited - Value type of ten values, Model 105, shows the prefix letter 'N'. As with a similar frank on a 1967 Multi-Value machine, Model 605 used the letter 'J' in its prefix. The three figures are smaller in size than the letter. (Figs. 15a, 15b and 15c).



Fig. 15a



Fig. 15b



Fig. 15c

The last type of new machine produced prior to the change to decimal currency (which Ireland adopted at the same time as Great Britain on February 15 1971) was a Pitney Bowes model numbered 5400-5500 with prefix letters 'PB', followed by three figures and a suffix letter, progressing through the alphabet with each 999 figure reached. (Fig.16). Introduced in 1967, the printed values were from 0/0½ to 99/11½ and wavy lines preceded the first and last figure.



Originally introduced in 1964-65, the Roneo-Neopost models 105, 205, 305 and 605 were fitted with decimal franks in 1968 and the emblem design was retained. (Figs.15). Another new machine, Model 505 with the prefix 'RV', was capable of printing values of four figures.

European countries, notably Germany and Switzerland, had now entered the market. In fact, the Multi-Value Model 605, ascribed to Roneo-Neopost was made under licence by the German firm Postalia Freistempler GmbH, who later merged with Frankotyp GmbH.

The Swiss firm, Hasler AG of Berne had a machine in use in Ireland about 1971 for values of ½ to 999½. No prefix letter with the number is seen and although writers J.Mann and J.Mackay show examples, this is a type that I have yet to see.

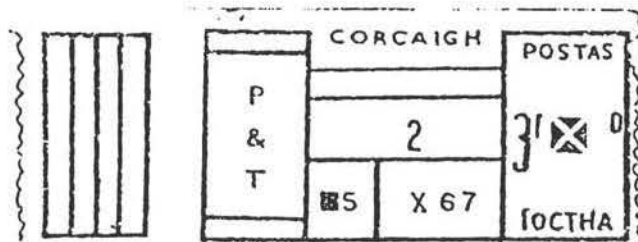
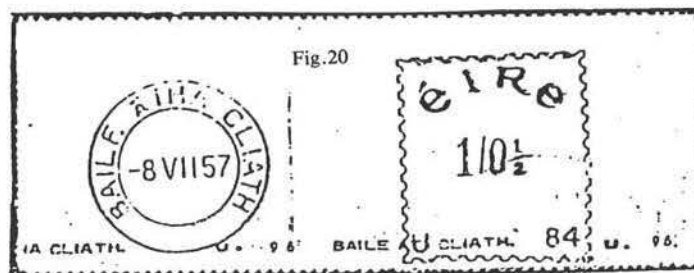


Fig.21

The change of title to Hasler GB took place in the middle 70s and many of their models in the series F1100 and F1200 are in use. Letters are known to have been franked at speeds varying from 8000 to 12000 items an hour by certain machines. Model 1204 (Fig.17) shows a prefix of five figures and a single letter 'H' following. Other models show a prefix 'HF' and a five figure number, followed later with an 'A', 'B' and 'C' suffix when the five figure numbers have been expended. (Fig.18)

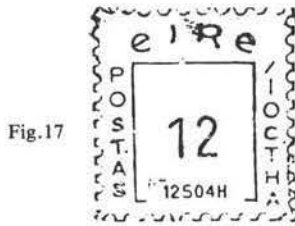


Fig.17



Fig.18



Fig.22

With the escalation of postal rates, the Limited-Value types of machines gradually became obsolete and have given way to the Multi-Value type capable of printing values of four figures. This makes the printings from the very early Fixed-Value types somewhat rare and any low denomination of value is similarly becoming scarce.

Pitney Bowes issued two new machines in 1971, Limited-Value types, but with extended values. The postage rates at this time were becoming victims of inflation.

The first machine was the Model 6300 with the prefix letters 'PBL', followed by three figures and a suffix letter. The second machine was

In 1948, experiments with machines made by Ticket Issuing Machines Ltd. of Cirencester (later Westinghouse and now Plessey Ltd. 1966) were used in Dublin, Cork and Waterford. The machine was small enough to be used on the counter of the Post Office and printed values of 1d to 19/11 in fourteen stages onto a gummed label. These labels were then affixed to the parcel or article for posting. (Fig.19).

The T.I.M. models were withdrawn in the early 1960s when the new machines from Plessey Ltd. printed a larger type of label from a continuous roll of white paper using a violet coloured ink. (Fig.21). Slight changes are seen to have been made when the changeover to decimal rates took place. (Fig.22).

Another type of gummed paper was produced in rolls and tapes for parcels or other items which couldn't be franked in the usual way. These rolls, generally on a yellowish paper, were specially printed with the town name or licence holder's name, and with the same prefix it was intended to be used with. However, about 1953 the postal authorities rescinded this rule and consequently some tapes show a different prefix from the used frank. Fig.20 shows a tape with the prefix 'U 95' used on a machine with the frank 'U 84', dated 1957.

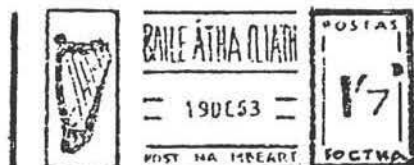


Fig.19

Model CV with prefix letters 'PBR' followed by the three figures, but only 'A' and 'F' are seen as the suffix letter. This also applied to the similar model issued in Great Britain. These machines had a similar frank to the other current Pitney Bowes models, but larger letters and numbers are used in the prefixes. (Figs. 23a and 23b).



Fig.23a

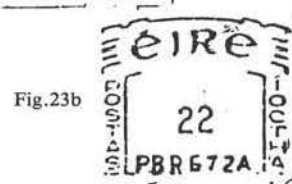


Fig.23b

Roneo-Neopost provided a new design in their franks for Models 205, 305, 605 and 505 at this time and retained the prefix as before, to identify the machine. Again, the format was similar in each case, but a variation of size is obvious in the frank. (Figs. 24a-b-c-d).



Fig. 24a



Fig. 24b

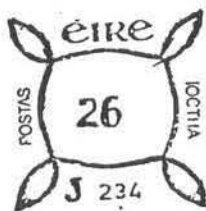


Fig. 24c

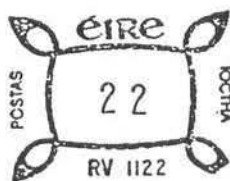


Fig. 24d

The demand for machines is evident from the increasing machine serial numbers in the franks, but one cannot assume use in Ireland from their figure. As an example, one finds that Pitney Bowes for instance, are seen to prefix their machines as 'PBA' on the Automax, 'PBS' (Simplex) and 'PBT' (Series 5000), followed by a three figure number and a suffix letter A, B and C etc. When the three figure number reaches 999, another suffix letter replaces the previous one, but this alphabetical sequence does not appear to be continuous, as only a limited number of letters are seen following the three figure series. A similar comment applies to the four figure series on franks used in Ireland. It is presumed therefore, that the missing numbers in the sequence are being used for the machines produced for Great Britain and elsewhere.

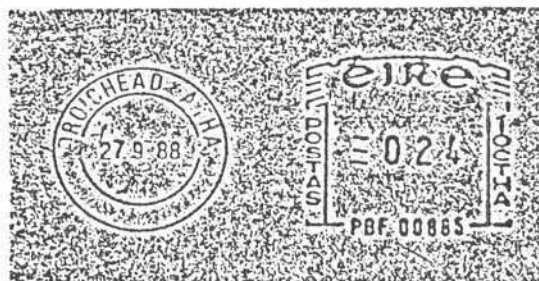


New names in the list of machine manufacturers are appearing in Great Britain and Ireland, with new prefixes to look for. Pitney Bowes prefixes are now extended to PBD and up to PBG and the new name of Envopak with prefix 'EF'. Scriptomatic (Frama) and A.S.I. are machines ready to be launched onto the Irish market and First Day Covers will be an achievement, if one can accidentally find such a thing. On reflection however, any dated item could be 'made to order', but changes in the rates of postage could be noted on genuine commercial mail and especially without the window type.

A few years ago, a reply from the Management Accounting Dept. of the Post Office, gave amongst some statistics of their Marketing Depart-

ment, a breakdown of mails income by method of payment and Postage Meter franked mail was rated 32%, with Postage Paid Impression 31% as against 32% for Postage Stamps and Stationery! The reply also stated that last figure, included 2% of sales at the Philatelic Bureau! These figures would be representative of mailings generally, including Ireland and an educated guess that there is a larger gap in favour of the Meter Frankings since that report of 1985.

A recent excursion to a business exhibition somehow instilled in me a certain respect regarding those responsible for circulating 'junk' mail. Watching and marvelling as thousands of items are dealt with at phenomenal speeds. Letters and circulars, once stacked in position, passed through an addressing machine and the name and address of a potential customer, literally squirted onto an envelope by means of a jetstream! Other mailed items were seen to be opened mechanically and their contents removed for inspection, again without human aid once the



items had been disgorged onto the moving table. Circulars appeared, as if by magic with a householder's name printed umpteen times in the advertiser's attempt to create that rapport, with which we are all so familiar.

Ponder the speed at which this kind of material is handled by this wonderful machinery, marvel at the knowhow which went into its creation, consider the possible variety of philatelic curios and savour the exciting thought of a potential gem for one's collection. All this ensures interest and study in this area of philately or postal history (whichever it is).

A little regarded area of interest in the past, but don't decry the 'junk' mail; pick it up, peruse it and maybe keep it.



Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

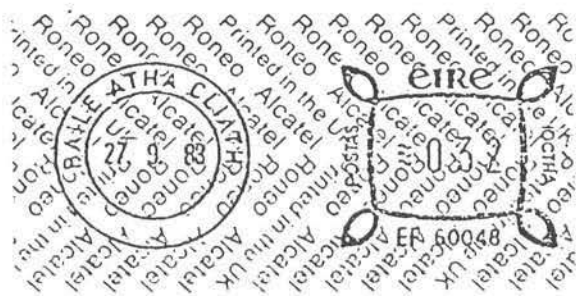
(Continued from page 34)

We would all recognize some value in the very old or obviously historical pieces of postal history. And, today there are opportunities for us to pick up items which will be sought by future postal historians. Visiting the stamp shows and trading bourses in the American mid-west, I'm happy as a clam to find any Irish pieces in the cardboard boxes of dealer's covers.

Here are some of the things that I would recognize as collectable. Naturally, as you develop your knowledge of Irish philately, you'll become attuned to what makes a cover different or special. And a quick tip; often there's no Irish material but you might find some buried in the British stuff.

- #Great Britain's George V issues were overprinted for use in the Irish Free State and the British stamps were valid for postage in Eire until April 1, 1922. Some covers exist with mixed postage and we should examine closely all covers during this period.
- #The period of transition yielded many different combinations of English language and Gaelic strikes, postmarks were changed to Gaelic and everything was done relatively quickly but not without mixed and improper markings.
- #Early first day of issue covers without identifying cancels.
- #Special postal markings; Delays, damaged... "crash covers"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 40)



IRISH 'EXPRESSIONS'

by Tom Polick

The use of political labels on envelopes and slogans overprinted illegally on stamps is near and dear to the hearts of all Irish revolutionaries. I think this is because the leaders of bygone days had to flee abroad to save their lives, and the only link they had with the other people in their movement were letters. This unique history which occurred as the postal service evolved has given labels and other expressions of opinion a special place in Irish postal culture which continues to this day.

The rising population, followed by 'The Great Famine' led to tremendous emigration to America in the 1840s and 1850s. The crushing of the 'Young Ireland' movement in 1848 and the flight of its leaders exported a revolutionary tradition to fresh seed beds of Irish nationalism.

Entering American society, as all immigrants, at the bottom rung of the economic ladder, the Irish quickly adapted their social skills to American life. The expansion of the frontier economy provided jobs which multiplied into political and financial strength.

The Fenian Brotherhood provided much of the philosophy which gave direction and leadership to the Irish community. Fenian members were involved in all activities of immigrant life. When tens of thousands of these Irish and their American born children answered the call to arms for the American Civil War, "ERIN GO BRAGH" and other Irish symbols appeared on the battle flags of fighting units with large numbers of Irish.

When the war ended, large concentrations of Irish veterans in 1865 and 1867 threatened the seizure of Canada. These 'Fenian RISINGS' were nipped in the bud by an American proclamation, gunboats and several hundred timely arrests. An invasion of Canada was poorly coordinated and failed but there was a significant potential of success which caused Canadian and British officials much anxiety.

Capitalizing on this excitement in support of independence for Ireland, "The Fenian Essays" were produced....apparently by a notorious manufacturer of bogus and forged material, S. Allen Taylor. They looked right and expressed the frustrated hopes of so many people.

These "Fenian Essays" became fairly well known and two types were reproduced on EIRE'S 1967 commemorative stamps to mark the centenary of the Fenian Risings.

Through the remainder of the nineteenth century, Irish emigration continued to America and expanded to other parts of the British empire. 'Rack-renting' and evictions were fought by Michael Davitt's Land League while Charles Stewart Parnell led the Irish parliamentary group agitating for 'Home Rule'. The mails were THE connection to each other and home. William Gladstone's Liberal Party Coalition governments gave hope of social and legal reform....ultimately promising Home Rule. Always just out of reach, every opportunity was frustrated by some political maneuver. Emotions rode a roller coaster that needed an avenue of expression which in many instances must have been the mails.

Entering the twentieth century, Ireland continued to be a land of turmoil, with Home Rule the big issue. Arthur Griffith founded the Sinn Fein movement in 1902. To publicize their activities 'propaganda labels' were produced. It was suggested that labels be used in conjunction with regular postage stamps, particularly from the United States to show widespread and powerful support. It was further proposed that unless Sinn Fein labels were affixed, no reply should be made. The impact of sending or receiving labels on mail provided some psychological pleasure in tweeking the tail of the mighty British Lion by blatantly moving what some people considered treasonous opinions through the British Postal Service.

The postal authorities reacted and forbid the use of inflammatory labels on the front of envelopes. The anti-Home Rule followers of Sir Edward Carson produced an assortment of labels to counter the propaganda of Sinn Fein and demonstrate their strength. So the mails became a way an ordinary person could express emotion and support in a visible but relatively safe manner. The postal system had grown in use by all classes of society. This new found familiarity was becoming universal and labels, such as Christmas seals made their first appearance.

Organizations, ever in need of money recognized an opportunity to raise funds by selling labels to help the faithful express the hope in their hearts. And the group received advertising benefits with the possibilities of many new adherents to spread the gospel of their particular group.

The events of 1916 led to another flurry of label activity which ran up to the creation of the Irish Free State.

Labels were being produced by groups that were IN and groups that were OUT. Today's postal historian might find some issues that were small printings and their use might have been quite rare.

One series of labels were put out by the White Cross which was an organization founded in 1920 to help I.R.A. members that had been wounded. White Cross support was extended to victims of distress caused by the British Paramilitary force, the 'Black & Tans'. The black portion of their uniform was the type worn by policemen. The tan portion was British Army issue, hence the nickname black & tans. They were used in Ireland in 1920 and 1921.

The propaganda value of postage had taken on a special significance that's difficult for us to understand today. The leaders of the new Irish Free State took a personal interest in the selection of the first design essays.

RIALTAR SEALADAC NA HEIRANN and SAORSTAT EIREANN are familiar as the overprints of British George V stamps until the new government could issue its own postage stamps. While the new Free State were working on the first Eire essays, the I.R.A. had a series of values in one design printed up in Cork. Some are around today but most were seized when the Free State Army moved into Cork.

So labels were accepted and used. The early Irish stamp booklets utilized the open frames on the booklet sheet to promote ideas; "GET A TELEPHONE", "BUY SAVINGS CERTIFICATES" and "LEARN IRISH". Support of these goals led people to use these labels on their letters and today they're considered uniquely collectable.

The mail continues to be used in the battle for peoples' hearts and minds. In the 1970s the Irish Republican Philatelic Office was overprinting British stamps with, "SUPPORT SINN FEIN" and "DAIL ULADH 1971". With Eire becoming more involved with the difficulties in Northern Ireland, "ULSTER SAYS NO" appeared on other British postage stamps....in keeping with the propaganda tradition. These are defaced stamps and will not be allowed for postage however some make it through the system without detection.

During Christmas season in some cities in Northern Ireland, Sinn Fein operates a bootleg mail system in violation of postal laws, complete with adhesive stamps and rubberstamp postmarks.

And, AN POST and its predecessor had distributed labels in cooperation with Bord Failte. The first I know of was when An Tostal was scheduled, (why was the time period so short?). The commemorative stamp was issued in two values and a multi-colored label was available through the post office especially for use on letters to Irish born emigrants to encourage them to come home and visit.

The most recent was the DISCOVER IRELAND IN '87 program which used both a slogan cancellation and an AN POST distributed label.

The 'expressions' of opinion and feeling on postal covers are not uncommon in any country but are a tradition in Ireland that enriches the postal historians' field of interest and understanding.

POST NOTES

by Patrick J. Ryan, Sr.

New Definitive Series — Postponement

An Post regrets to announce that the proposed issue of the above series featuring Irish Heritage and Treasures has been further delayed as a result of unforeseen operational problems. It is now hoped to issue the first phase of the new series later this year or in early 1990.

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Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

(Continued from page 38)

- #Propaganda labels or messages overprinted on stamps. Many laws apply here. Postage that is defaced, will be circled and disallowed with postage due charged. Also, labels have had such potency, that Irish postal regulations forbid their use on the face of an envelope...however they may be affixed to the back.
- #Slogan cancellations in both Gaelic and English.
- #Censored covers. During World War II, it seems all of the mail headed out of Ireland went through a British post and was censored there. Then Irish censors were added...and American censors, and everybody left there specially marked reclosing tape with identifying number. Recently I was able to pick up a couple of covers which were censored enroute to inmates of the Long Kesh prison which show rubber stamped censor information.
- #Eire and the United Kingdom both changed their currencies to a decimal system on February 15, 1971. In Eire the old currency postage was valid for postal use until, I believe December 31, 1971. After that time, old postage...the pence, shilling and pound should have been exchanged for the new values, but some was mixed and used after the deadline.

- #The Gaelic language underwent some spelling reforms. Many names on postmarks were changed. Old names, interim names and new names with the different dates make these covers interesting.
- #When An Post was created on January 3, 1984, the date was celebrated with Penny Post Day. On that day only, all hand addressed letters would be delivered anywhere in the country for just one penny. The event was announced one day in advance and a special slogan cancellation was used.
- #So, the next time you get an opportunity to dig through a box of old covers view them as one of tomorrow's postal historians. And - GOOD HUNTING.

post NOTES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39)

Gold Medal for Irish Olympic Stamp

A 28p stamp featuring the equestrian event, issued in April 1988, for the Seoul Games has been awarded the gold medal by the International Olympic Committee in its Prix Olympia stamp competition. The stamp one of two designs — the other features the cycling event, was designed by Anne Flynn. This award recognises the high design standard achieved by Irish stamps and is worthy praise for the Stamp Design Advisory Committee and the artist.

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 \$4.50

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 \$3.00

Die Meilenstempel Der Irischen Post — (The Mileage Marks of Ireland) 1808-1839 by Hans G. Moxter. 1985 Edition. 64pp. 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 \$3.50

Ireland - Catalogue of Perfrins — compiled and edited by Richard L. Mewhinney. Published by The Perfrins Club - 1984. 34 pp. punched for 3 ring binder. The catalogue is designed for use as an album as well as catalogue. Only observed Perfrins are catalogued. Also, 2 pages of suspected or previously reported designs. Price \$6.50

The Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Ireland: 1858-1925 — James J. Brady's detailed study of the Irish Revenue Stamps. All are in easy-to-follow catalog form with many details. A must for the Auction. Price to members \$2.25

E.P.A. Rubber Stamp — The Official Seal of the Association as seen on the front of all official Society papers has been made into a rubber stamp available to our members. Dress up your envelopes and correspondence. Sold only to members at \$6.00

E.P.A. CAPEX Souvenir Card — The counterpart to the AMERIPEX card. Produced for sale at the CAPEX show in Toronto. Price \$1.00

James Hoban Chapter Booklet — Produced to commemorate AMERIPEX, STAMPEX and VAPEX '86. Buff cover with the EPA seal on the front and the White House on the back in green. Contains a pair of the Eire 1985 Love stamps. Production Limit 300. Price \$2.25

The Maltese Cross in Ireland — by Hans G. Moxter 1988 Edition. Published by FAI, text of the 80 page book is in both German and English. This is probably the most comprehensive review of this postmark to date. Price \$7.50.

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 William 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 undated namestamps. Price to members \$3.75

"Die Ganzsachen Irlands" — (The Postal Stationery of Ireland) by Otto Jung. 1987 Edition, Text in German & English. Published by FAI, the Irish Philatelic Group in Germany. This new edition is by far the most specialized and authoritative and gives a very complete listing of Irish postal stationery available. Well illustrated. Prices for mint and used in DM, IR4 & US\$. Price \$8.50

The Post Office Guide of 1923 — This is a reprint by FAI of the Irish Free States first guide. A must for postmark students. Price \$5.00

Irish Postal Rates Before 1840 — by F.E. Dixon. Produced by FAI it is in German and English. This publication lists the Irish Postal Rates from 1657 to 1840. A superb guide for Postal Historians. Price \$4.00

The Maritime Postmarks of Ireland — by Bernt Dienelt. Published by FAI it is the first of three booklets on the subject. An excellent reference for collectors of Paquebot and Maritime Postmarks. Printed in German and English. Price \$4.50

E.P.A. Official Pin — A handsome metal pin replica of the E.P.A. logo. Available to members only at \$1.25 each.

A Listing of Irish Postmarks in Gaelic from 1922 — by James T. Howley. Produced by the E.P.A., Irish Postmarks are listed alphabetically in Gaelic with their English translations. It is a most comprehensive Guide to postmarks available. 82pps \$6.00.

THE REVEALER INDEX — by Patrick J. Ryan, Sr. A comprehensive index of all philatelic articles appearing in THE REVEALER from the first issue through the end of 1985. Articles are listed by subject matter. Cost: US & Canada \$8.75 others: \$10.00.