

The Revealers

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



Vol. 39, No. 4

Whole Number 178

EARRACH-Spring 1990

IRISH FIRST DAY COVERS

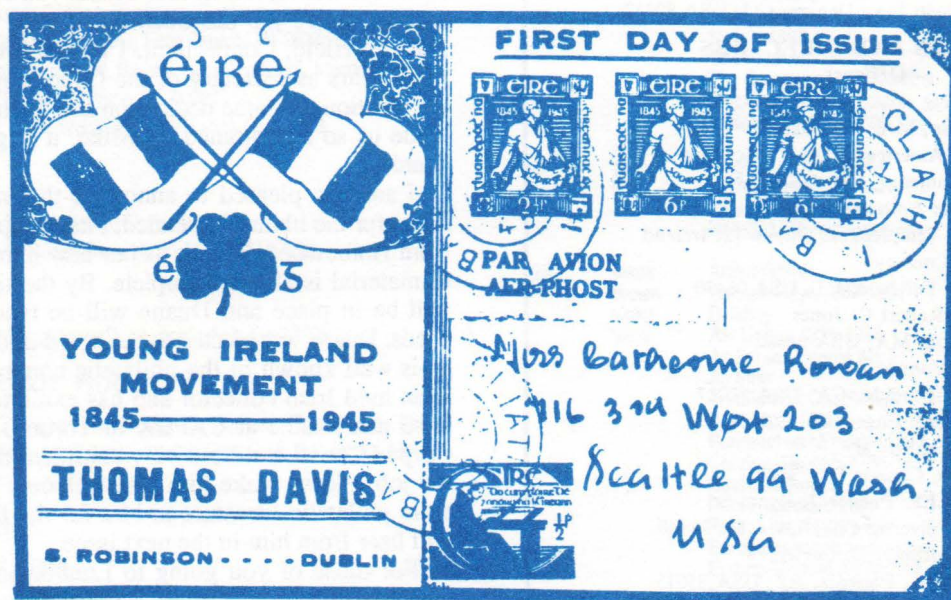


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Affiliate No. 21 -- The American Philatelic Society • Affiliated Member -- The British Philatelic Federation
Affiliate -- Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland • Member -- Council of Philatelic Organizations

THE REVEALER

ISSN 0484-6125

Published quarterly by the Eire Philatelic Association.
Membership dues are as follows: U.S. (\$10.00);
Canada/Mexico (\$11.50); all other countries (\$13.00).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Decade of the 80's closes for the EPA with the retirement of our long time secretary Bob Jones. Bob took over as secretary from Joe Foley on July 1st, 1982. One can only guess at the number of people Bob has corresponded with and the thousands of pages he has written to people far and near. Bob once wrote, "Collecting Ireland is a passion — it is not a hobby — its an infection," if this is true then Bob has spawned an epidemic during his tenure. Thank you Robert, my friend and mentor. Bob's job has been taken over by Michael Conway from Fairfield, Connecticut. I have known Mike for the past three years as secretary of the Conn. chapter and he brings to the position the same dedication and commitment that Bob has made us so accustomed to. Mike, it is good to have you on board.

I am also pleased to announce that my search for a new home for the library has ended. I have appointed Duane Larson from Homewood, Illinois as our new librarian and the transfer of material is almost complete. By the time you read this all will be in place and Duane will be ready to attend to your needs. Duane was elected to the board of directors last year and he is well known in the philatelic community in the US. He is an avid Irish collector and has exhibited at many shows. I have met Duane at CAPEX in Toronto and at TEXPEX in Corpus Christi and I am very confident that he is the man for the job. Please make him feel welcome by sending all your extra philatelic literature to him for the library. I am sure we will hear from him in the next issue.

For those of you going to London in May, have a great time and if the fates allow I may see you there. Until next time, Happy Hunting!!

**From the Desk of the Editor**

We have arrived at the end of another volume and another year for THE REVEALER. I can only characterize this volume as one of great transition. I have tried to implement many ideas and changes that have affected the overall appearance of the issues as a whole. Some have been easy for me and others have been more difficult. I have discovered, for example, that it is easy to discuss an index and somewhat more difficult to actually put one together. This single item has disrupted the end of issue flow that I had developed and has thus significantly delayed the production of the last issue from those that went before. But again I must confess that I was the cause of the delay as I am the one who delayed the decision on what articles would appear in this issue.

I generally work ahead so that when I actually put an issue together I have several articles that miss the last minute cut

(Continued on page 71)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

New members are accepted subject to no objections received within 45 days of publication.

#2217 John T. McInerney, 10001 Creekwood Circle, Plymouth, MI 48170

#2218 John Lorenzen, Bakkesvinget 18, Krusaa, 6340, Denmark

#2219 Christene L. Ostrom, 704 Milwaukee St., Menasha, WI 54952

#2220 Cornelius J. McKown, 460 Orlando Ave., State College, PA 16803

#2221 John H. Carton, 700 Washington Place, Baltimore, MD 21201

#2222 Hamilton Barrett, P.O. Box 4357, San Francisco, CA 94101

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#2224 Frank L. Busell, 1130 West Pleasant St., Portage, WI 53901

#2225 Philip W. Blackmore, 49 Woodbine St., Coram, NY 11727

#2226 John E. Gallagher, 84 Mt. Hope Ave., Dover, NJ 07801

#2227 Linda West, 10427 McClellmont Ave., Tujunga, CA 91042

#2228 Donald W. McFarrell, 32 Gatling Place, Brooklyn, NY 11209

#2229 William J. Kekoe, Blackrock College, Blackrock, Dublin, Ireland

#2230 Stephen W. Dreslin, 1206 Seaton Lane, Falls Church, VA 22046

#2231 Patrick Murphy, 192 Ballyburn Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, Ireland

#2232 Bill Tatham, 5734 Pickering, Whittier, CA 90601

#2233 Dr. J. William Mooney, 4206 Wright Park, Whitehall OH 43213

Reinstatements

#1560 Brian O'Shea, 12 Slip, Bantry, County Cork, Ireland

#1866 Joanne E. Swarsbrick, 17 Petlee Ave., No. Haledon, NJ 07508

Resignations

#849 James P. Gough, 9741 Rangerview Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92705

New Members Honor Roll

Thomas Ellsworth, William O'Connor, Robert Jones, Anthony Finn, Walter Potts, William Zellers, Richard Lauster, Ian Whyte, Joseph Foley and the James Hoban Chapter; one new member each.

Membership Status

Membership as of June 1, 1989 680

New Members	17
Reinstatements	2
Resignations	1

Membership Status as of March 1, 1990 698



GETTING YOUR IRISH UP

by
Mary Lou Foster
and
Caxton Foster

Editor's Note: This article updates an earlier one in Vol. 39 No. 1 Whole No. 175 page 10-13. The author brings his index of Irish stamps up to Scott #733. The author is also offering an integrated list to any interested party for \$2.00 US. Write to him at P.O. Box 488, East Orleans, MA 02643.

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COLLECTING IRISH FIRST DAY COVERS FROM 1929

By Bob Hammell, EPA 2011

I have only belonged to the EPA for a few years. Early in my membership, before I had more than a small number of used Irish stamps I saw an ad in the Irish News for about 80 Irish FDC's, all cacheted and VF, all different. It even included some earlier FDC's like the 1954 Marian Year (Sc 151-52).

This offering was by the largest stamp Co. in Ireland but I knew very little about them. This ad was already a little old and said that lots were quite limited. I immediately wrote them via airmail asking that if any lots remained to save one for me and I'd send my check by return airmail.

I was fortunate and got one of the few remaining lots. When they arrived I was excited to discover that all, except one FDC were truly VF. I was hooked and decided I'd collect Irish FDC's.

Over the years I had admired and collected a large variety of foreign FDC's. I consider FDC's preferable to plain used stamps for these reasons:

(1) The stamp or stamps on FDC's are usually the best available, well-centered and usually affixed to the covers with care.

(2) An FDC will contain a full set; long sets come on 2 or 3 similar FDC's.

(3) Nearly all FDC's (those for past 40 or 50 yrs) will usually be cacheted (in Ireland the term used is "Illustrated") and this will give important information about the stamps.

(4) The stamps will be carefully tied to the cover with a clear cancellation that usually will cover only a small portion of the stamps and may be a special cancellation, perhaps partly pictorial.

(5) Stamps will be f-vf: no tears, thins, missing perfs or any of those faults that cause great anguish. If covers are handled and kept with only reasonable care prize stamps will never get accidentally damaged in any way.

Then, I got the latest Ireland specialized Catalogue (1983 Ed.) and noted that the 3 stamps of the first commemorative issue, June 22, 1929 on FDC, catalog value was IR£425 (about \$625 US).

I decided, I need not search for these expensive early FDC's since there were well over 100 others (commemorative issues) I could go after. So I started to look at dealer's ads in Linn's and other sources and wrote asking for price-lists on FDC's.

I found that very few dealers have extensive lists of FDC's (US dealers). I began writing one dealer at a time asking quotes on about a dozen different FDC's. As in nearly all stamp collecting, buying in quantity is less expensive.

Now, my collection had grown considerably but I was aware that nearly all were in the \$1 to \$3 price range.

My EPA membership helped at this point. A few veteran members, one in particular, all Irish collectors for many years, gave me information not found elsewhere. Such as names of independent dealers who didn't advertise generally and veteran EPA members who might have some duplicate FDC's for sale. Also, the English name of Gaelic cancels (towns, cities).

One fellow knew all about the Staehle cacheted FDC's and sent me mimeograph copy with full information.

John J. Clark (now deceased) who lived in the eastern US and had lived in Ireland was fascinated with covers and was at one time secretary of the EPA. In the early 1950's Clark learned that L. W. Staehle, the well known cachet designer lived in Brooklyn (NY) not too far from Clark's own home. Clark made an appointment, met Staehle, and persuaded him to design cachets for Ireland's commemorative issues FDC's. Beginning with the Thomas Moore issue (Nov 10, 1952, Sc 145-6) and for the next 15 issues (commems) plus the 8ds 1/3 airmail issues of 1954, Staehle designed impressive cachets for each issue, ending with the EUROPA issue (Sept 19, 1960, Sc 175-6). Mr. Clark thought he could get others to share expenses, but was unsuccessful, so only 1000 of each first day cover was produced.

How many of the Staehle cacheted FDC's still exist? Some probably have been lost or damaged. When cacheted FDC's for the above issues are offered they are usually Staehles (my experience) which makes me conclude that other kinds of cacheted covers are not plentiful, in these earlier issues.

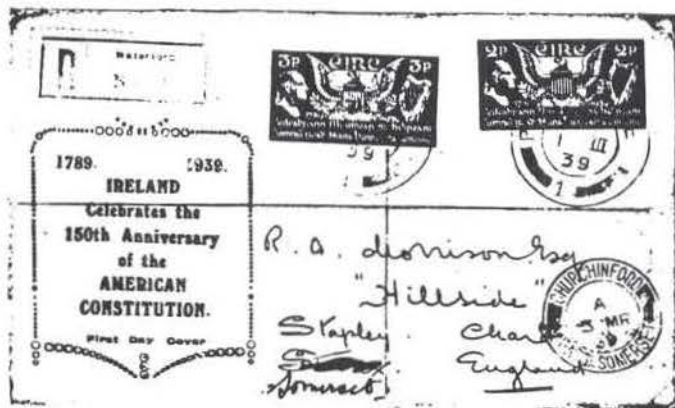
2nd Commemorative issue, Scott 83



1930(16 Oct) Shannon 2d in a right marginal strip of three on clean registered cover to Lisburn, the second day of issue. (At the time the 16th was thought to be the official first day of issue).



A specially nice early FDC, Multi colored cachet, pair of 6p stamps plus 1/2p O'Clery for airmail rate to US-SCARCE, a premium FDC, Scott 131-2



An early cacheted cover, Scott 103-4. Est value \$65, Plain FDC only \$26

I received the current price list (Winter 1987-88) from the Royale Stamp Co. in London. They listed and priced most all FDC's, commemoratives, definitives, airmails, some booklets.

They offered to send on approval and gave generous discounts on orders in the over \$100 totals. So I decided to go for some of the better early FDC's and sent them an order for about 6 FDC's. They sent about 4 of my order and said they'd send photocopies of others as they became available. This pattern continued throughout my collecting, that is, I never found a single dealer, large or small, who had stock on hand of the first six commemorative issue FDC's. I also became aware after several months that dealers with requests for these FDC's had probable long waiting lists and chances were not too bright that you'd receive definite offers in the very near future.

I did eventually obtain from Royale Stamp Co. quite complete FDC's for the years 1938-1970 (commems). Also some of the better definitives (Sc 225, 226 and a few booklet panes FDC's).

From 2 or 3 American dealers I began to buy in groups various years and after about 2 years of extensive collecting, many, many letters including some to Ireland and England, I had a complete collection of all commemorative issues thru 1986 except Sc 80-82 Daniel O'Connell, Sc 84 Royal Dublin Society, Sc 85-86 Eucharistic Congress and Sc 124-125 Gaelic League. I also had the 7 airmails (complete on 4 FDC's), all the Gerl and Architecture definitive FDC's.

I had had to settle for a very nice 2nd day cover of Sc 83 Shannon Scheme, it being a right margin strip of 3 on a registered cover. I still have never had an offer for a nice Oct 15, 1930 Shannon FDC. I have read of 2 of these selling in Irish auctions, neither in very good condition (not what I'd consider collectible), one at \$160 and the other I think \$250.

Just recently I have the latest price lists (May 1989) of the largest Co. in Ireland and 2 large English dealers. The first lists Shannon POR (meaning not in stock or mortgage your home) and the latter 2 at — and £400 (\$600 US). My conclusion, a nice FDC is exceedingly rare.

I was on several "want-lists" with a number of dealers so after several months I received an offer for the 4 commemorative FDC's I still needed. They were priced separately but with a generous discounted price if I'd take all 4.

Although it may have been the largest single purchase I'd ever made in stamps or FDC's, I accepted and MY COLLECTION WAS COMPLETE.

There still seems to be quite a lack of information regarding Irish First Day Covers.

There are correct first dates of issue in the Stamps of Ireland Specialized Catalogue. Price lists of many dealers give price for mint, NH: mint hinged: used and FDC. But I've never seen any figures, even educated guesses for how many FDC's of various issues exist. *The Revealer* seldom has an article concerning FDC's except those pertaining to current issues, even then I think numbers of FDC's (by AN POST) are never mentioned.

As to cachets, except for the L.W. Staehle designs, nothing seems to be generally known.

Here is some factual information from current price lists — 1929 O'Connell \$504, 1938 Mathew \$37, 1941 Rising \$50, 1944 O'Cleary \$118, 1953 An Tostal \$50. Prices for FDC's pre 1953 are for plain envelopes.

I don't know what premium is asked for early cacheted covers. Don't even look for cachets on FDC's of the 1st 6 issues, (illustrated) 1929-1933. I have never heard of one. If any exist they are probably handmade and in some veteran's collector's albums.

From a June 6, 1989 Irish auction catalog here is a comparison of a 1939 US Constitution FDC plain cover and illustrated (cacheted) cover: Plain \$26, Illustrated \$65. These are estimated values and realizations are nearly always 80% or more of estimates.

I don't know if Irish Commemorative FDC's are a neglected field or not. When EPA officials tried to get together a complete collection for exhibit at the 1986 Boston Show they were unable to do so.

I'm sure a few complete collections, besides mine, exist. Probably they belong to veteran collectors, and rarely come into market for sale.

I firmly believe collecting Irish FDC's is a fascinating field and certainly a proven investment. Cost is not excessive. Certainly easily affordable for many EPA collectors.

It is a most challenging field. Any collector beginning now should concentrate on the 1929-1960 issues. These are becoming scarcer and more expensive almost daily, certainly monthly.

I'd love to hear from any collector who owns a nice genuine Oct 15th 1930 Shannon Scheme FDC. If he (or she) could send me a photocopy of it, it would make my day.

I'll be very glad to answer letters and questions from any EPA member IF YOU ENCLOSE AN SASE. While I'm no Herman Herst I do know, after 2½ years of intensive FDC collecting, a good bit as to prices, names and addresses of dealers (US, Ireland, England) and believe I can give an opinion on many facets of collecting FDC's of Ireland, definitives, commemoratives and airmails.

Bob Hammell, 293 West 14th St., Salem, Ohio, 444460.

15 Best Commemorative FDC's — Average of Several May 1989 Price Lists*

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. 1930 Shannon, Scott 83, \$700 | 9. 1950 Holy Year 142-44, \$53 |
| 2. 1929 O'Connell, 80-82, \$460 | 10. 1941 Rising, 118-9, \$50 |
| 3. 1933 Holy Year, 88-89, \$300 | 11. 1943 Hamilton, 126-7, \$42 |
| 4. 1932 Eucharist, 85-86, \$280 | 12. 1945 Davis, 131-2, \$36 |
| 5. 1931 RDS, 84, \$190 | 13. 1938 Mathew, 101-2, \$35 |
| 6. 1934 GAA, 90, \$150 | 14. 1943 Hyde, 124-5, \$35 |
| 7. 1944 O'Cleary, 128-9, \$115 | 15. 1966 Rising, Sc-Tennant Pavs, 206-13, \$33 |
| 8. 1953 An Tostal, 147-8, \$56 | |

*Pre 1953 An Tostal are for PLAIN COVERS, Illustrated (cacheted) command premiums

One example: In a June 1959 Irish Auction A US Constitution (Sc 103-4) Plain FDC is estimated at \$26, Illustrated \$65.



Glangevlin Post Office

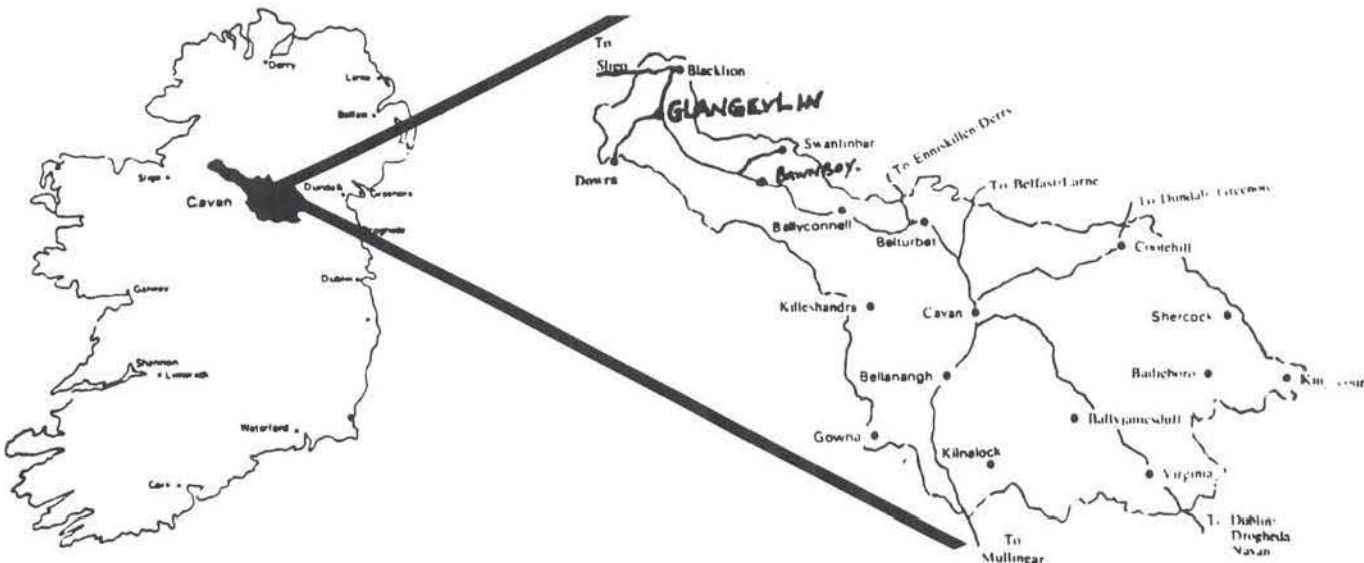
by H.P. McGoldrick, EPA 2133

Glangevlin is a small Village or Hamlet in West Cavan. The nearest towns are Dowra 6 miles, Swadlinbar 7 miles and Blacklion about 12 miles, it is mentioned in the Book of The Four Masters AD 1390 as "GALVA" - "GLEANN GAIBHLE" the glen of the river or Road Forks; it is also mentioned on page 528, 'Irish Names of Places', by P W Joyce in 1875 as Glengavlin, entry reads "there is a remarkable Valley between the mountains of Sleive-An-Ierann and Quilcagh, near the source of the river Shannon. (Shannon rises in this Village) now called Glengavlin," it was given Independent Status as a Parish in 1750, and had a Church and Priests from that date with a school built in 1820 and called Glangevlin School.

So it is then surprising to learn that the Post Office called this village "Glangoolin" from 1858 to 1896. They then changed it to its proper name of Glangevlin. The above is well recorded in the Postmaster Generals' Minutes which are kept in the Post Office Archives in London. They are referred to on 19 occasions between 1858 and 1907. Until 100 yrs ago, most of this village spoke Irish. So when the Post Office Inspector or Surveyor translated "Glenn-Gaibhle" - this may be the reason for it being called Glangoolin. The Post Office Guide of 1894 gives it as Glangoolin Dowra 6 miles. But the Post Office Guide of 1896 gives it as Glangevlin Dowra 6 miles. Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim has always been its Main Sorting Office from 1860. Most people who emigrated from this village went to America. Some notable exiles were Joe Tomulty, Secretary to President Woodrow Wilson; Sir P. McGovern, builder of the 6 mile tunnel under New York City; General Phil Shedidan, US Civil War Cavalry Officer; and Senator McGovern. It is in America that I think we should find postmarks of the two names used:

4. Glangoolin Sub-Office Closed.

In reply to a question addressed to you in the House of Commons on 25th August last, you informed Mr Biggar MP that the cost of the present service to Glangoolin 4 days a week already largely exceeds the available revenue, and that you regretted the circumstances did not warrant a more frequent delivery, you will observe from the further report of the Surveyor upon this letter from Mr Biggar MP. that the question of improving the Post referred to was again considered in June last when it was found that the correspondence for the Branch Post from Dowra to Glangoolin had increased to the extent of 50 letters a week, leaving a deficiency of revenue as compared with expenditure of the rate of £3.12s/8d a year to increase the



frequency of the post from 4 to 6 days a week would entail an additional expenditure of £6.10s/4d a year and would bring the present deficiency up to £10.3s/- a year, I shall be glad to receive your instructions in the matter.

Reply - I think as the letters are increasing a six-day Post may be sanctioned - H.C.R. Aug 2 1888.

Minute 1115. Vol 53. 1889.

9. Dowra-Glangoolin Rural Post.

Mr Biggar MP. for Sunday Service.

With reference to the enclosed application of Mr Biggar MP. for a Sunday delivery to Glangoolin a small Village served by Dowra (CK-on-Shannon S.O) it appears on inquiry that the Post is now conducted at a loss to the revenue of £10.3s/- a year, which would be increased if the service were made more frequent, even therefore were the requirements of the department complied with as regards the proportion of the correspondence received by the persons decisions of the change, the circumstances would not admit on financial grounds of the compliance with the application with your approval I propose a reply to Mr Biggar to this report. AJ 22 Aug 1889.

Reply - What would be the cost of Sunday delivery? H.C.R. Sept 1889.

1239. Vol 54. 16 Sept 1889.

10. "The Postmaster General". Further to Sunday Post.

The cost of a Sunday Post to Glangoolin would be 1s/5d a week and if a Sunday Post be given the deficit on the whole would be increased from £10.3s/- to £13/16s.10d a year - H.J.

Reply - I think the Sunday Post may be granted if a gaurantor can be obtained, but before conciding this, it would be necessary to ascertain the local wishes in the usual manner H.C.R Sept 1889.

Min 326. Vol 57. 1891.

11. "As to Connecting with Blacklion"

The Postmaster General.

With reference to the question put to you in the House of Commons on the 5th ultimo by Mr Knox MP. I submit the preceding report from the Secretary in Dublin fully explaining the result of the inquiry into the case, the arrangements desired would injuriously effect the Postal Service and entail a very large additional expenditure which there is not revenue to meet this is the first of four subjects, which Mr Knox is to bring under your notice at his interview tomorrow - S.A.B. 4 March 1891.

Min 439. Vol 57. 1891.

12. Dowra - Glangoolin Post re-arranged further S.A.B. (No details).

Min 706. Vol 58, 19 June 1891.

13. The Postmaster General.

The representations last made to you by Mr. Knox MP. in support of the suggested Post to Dowra and Glangoolin from Blacklion under Enniskillen instead of Carrick-on-Shannon, were to the effect that all the interests of the persons concerned lay in the direction of Enniskillen and Belfast rather than with Dublin and the South of Ireland and careful returns have been taken with the object of testing this view, the result shows that of

606 letters for Dowra, 194 come from Ulster and 412 from other parts and that 169 letters were for Glangoolin, 61 come from Ulster and 108 from other parts. The proportion of letters which would accelerated under the change suggested would be just one third of the whole, while the remaining two thirds have would be beneficial and a good many delayed, but this is not the only drawback, to the alteration assuming that the great majority of residents, would be content with much less favorite hours of arrival and despatch, which it would involve. It has been shown that an additional expenditure of not less than £12 a year would be necessary, and towards this there is absolutely no margin of revenue whatever, indeed there is a small deficiency, even now of about £5.00 per year. Perhaps you will approve of a further letter being written to Mr Knox explaining these circumstances and expressing your regrets that the wishes he has put forward, cannot be complied with, a similar might be written to Mr Macarthey, who also interested himself in the matter. 27 May 1891. A.J.

Reply - Let Earl Morley also be informed. H.C.R June 1 1891.

Min 342. Vol 70. 20 April 1895.

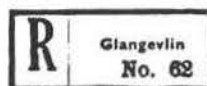
14. Drumkerrin - Glangoolin service by Mail Car in

Min 987. Vol 71.

15. Drumkerrin and Glangoolin New Car Service J McPartlin and J Keegan displaced - both Postmen refuse other employment "Situation" declared Vacant". The Postmaster General.

The 2 foot Postman to be dismissed by the establishment of the Main Car Service between Drumkerrin and Glangoolin, which you authorised in March, both decline to accept transfer to other walks, thinking that the introduction of the Car Service should not on this account be indefinitely postponed, I have caused the men to be informed that should they persist in declining employment elsewhere, their services would be of necessity be dispensed with, they still decline and I submit that their situations be declared vacant. S.W. 19/7/1895.

Reply - Give them a little longer and see if their





reasons are genuine.

Min 1515. Vol 84. 26 Oct 1899.

16. (Glangevlin) 1st time correct name of village used Glangevlin to Derrylaham, Bursan, Knockgorm and Cuppanagh More, Rural Post established. Allowances for delivery, salary refused, above all town land names in Glangevlin.

17. 17 Dec 1900, Delivery increased to Derrylaham.

Min 130. Vol 107. 17 Jan 1907.

18. Increased Mail to Cuppanaghmore.

Min 872. Vol 108. 4 April 1907.

19. Post delivered 3 days per week to Bursan, increased allowances for accommodation and delivery.

After reading the Postmaster Generals minutes, then turn to "Hansards" Parliamentary debates in the House of Commons first to August 25th 1887, when Mr Biggar MP for Cavan West asked the P.M.G Mr H C Raikes, "if he will arrange to have letters delivered 6 days a week at Glangevlin Co. Cavan", and on the second occasion on 5th February 1891, Mr Knox Mp for Cavan West, "I beg to ask the P.M.G whether he will connect the Post Offices of Glangevlin and Dowra in the County Cavan with the Post Office at Blacklion". Each M.P. used the proper name of the Village to the P.M.G. yet the Post Office issued a Glangoolin Postmark in 1894, (7 years later) did the P.M.G not write down the above questions, surely he or some of his helpers, should have noticed the

difference in the names, also the Post Office Guide of 1896, had the proper name, yet it does not appear in the P.M.G's minutes until 1899, also when Mr Biggar proposed a Sunday Post in 1889 by letter to the P.M.G he will have used the proper name! Maybe they did not want to admit that they had got it wrong, for over 38 yrs, or who cares about the name of a faraway place, when you have thousands of little Post Offices to run from London, we will never know.

August 25, 1887

Post Office (Ireland) — Delivery at Glengevlin, Co. Cavan.

Mr BIGGAR (Cavan, W.) asked the Postmaster General, if he will arrange to have letters delivered at Glengevlin, County Cavan, on six days of the week instead of four days weekly, which is the present practice?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr Raikes) (Cambridge University), reply, said, that the expenditure for the present service exceeded the available revenue, and he regretted, therefore, that he could not grant an extension.



1928-29 Commemorative Covers of the Bremen Trans- Atlantic Flight of April 12/13, 1928

by William J. Murphy

Early on the morning of April 12, 1928, the German aviators Capt. Herman Koehl and Baron Guenther von Huenefeld together with Major James Fitzmaurice, Commandant of the Irish Army Air Corps, took off from Baldonnell, Dublin in an attempt to make the first east to west flight across the Atlantic. The plane used was a JUnkers W33 all metal monoplane named the "Bremen." Already several fliers had made west to east flights, but no one had been able to conquer the strong head winds and the magnetic disturbances off east coast of Canada to make a flight from Europe to America. After flying for over 36 hours, much of it in bad fog or storm, the three fliers finally landed on Greenly Island off the southern coast of Labrador. The plane received light damage when landing and then on an unsuccessful takeoff attempt was damaged even more. Finally on April 27th, the "Bremen" crew was flown in another plane to New York where they were given a hero's welcome.



Dedication Fitzmaurice Field 12 May 29

In Supplement No. 29 of The Revealer, published in January 1967, there is a picture of a cover which had been carried on this flight by one of the three crew members (probably Captain Koehl). The article accompanying the picture states that "a few covers were carried." Another author has reported that only one cover was carried. Because of the scarcity of covers flown on this flight, the average collector must look for other items related to the flight.

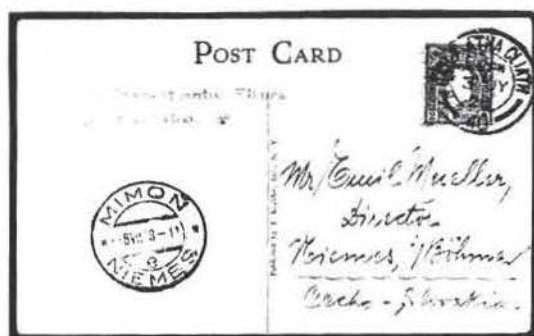


New York City Celebration - 25 May 28

During the three month period following the historic flight of the "Bremen" from Dublin, Ireland to Greenly Island, Newfoundland, receptions to honor the 3 fliers were held in many cities in the United States, in Canada and in Europe. Commemorative covers and or postcards were issued in conjunction with most of these celebrations. The following is a list of the cities known to this writer where covers or cards were posted. Where no comments are made following an entry, it means that only covers are known from that particular city. An Airport Dedication cover was issued on the opening of Fitzmaurice Flying Field in Massapequa, New York, on May 12, 1929. This field was named in honor of James Fitzmaurice, who had now become a Colonel in the Irish Army Air Corps.

New York	April 27
Philadelphia	May 9
Cleveland AMF	May 10
Chicago	May 10 & May 11
Milwaukee	May 13 (cover and 2 different postcards)
St. Louis	May 14
Detroit	May 17
Boston	May 19
Albany	May 21
Montreal	May 22 (postcard)
Quebec	May 23
New York	May 25

Bremen, Germany June 19 (3 diff. postcards)
 Dublin, Ireland July 3 (postcard)



Dublin Celebration - 3 July 28



Bremen, Germany Celebration
 Reverse Side - 19 June 28

Fitzmaurice Field May 12, 1929

Many of the above covers and cards exist having been signed by one or more of the fliers. Other cities where reception celebrations were held were Washington, D.C.; Indianapolis, Ind.; London, England; Berlin, Munich, Cologne and Dessau, Germany; and Vienna, Austria. It is not known if any souvenir postcards or covers were posted at any of these cities.

For additional study, "The Three Musketeers of the Air", written by the three fliers shortly after the flight and published in 1928 by G.P. Putnam's Sons, London & New York, is recommended. In this book, each of the fliers presents his own personal viewpoints on the flight. A complete story of the flight of the Bremen including technical data and maps is given in the book "The Bremen" by Fred W. Hotson, published 1988 by Canav Books, Toronto, Canada. An excellent account of the life of James Fitzmaurice is contained in the book "History of Aviation in Ireland" by Liam Byrne, published 1983 by The Blackwater Press, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.

THE STORY OF THE STAMPLESS FIRST DAY COVER

by Hans G. Moxter

It happened in April 1989 when I attended a national stamp exhibition in Frankfurt/Main in the Federal Republic of Germany. As usual room had been reserved for the dealers who showed up in great number with all they had to offer. I could not resist the temptation to go looking for something those dealers might be offering for my Irish collections. Perhaps a nice censored cover or a Maltese Cross from a place not already in my album.

I got my surprise. As you know, a surprise is something you did not expect. Irish material was of course not too plentiful with the dealers, but I decided to look at British covers too, because often people do not make any distinction between early Irish and British material. It all goes into the same pot. My effort was rewarded with a nice letter I discovered and here is its story.

In 1840 John William Clerke was in charge of the office of The Provincial Bank of Ireland at Skibbereen, Co. Cork, in the far southwest of Ireland. In those days he was busy establishing a branch office for his bank in Skibbereen with special emphasis on the safety of the premises. Doors and frames of iron were built into the new office and safes and iron chests were installed.

When planning he also thought of a small tea-kitchen and a water-toilet "for the use of the officers, which would be most necessary". About all these things and especially about the advance of the work at the new branch Mr. Clerke reported to the Downpatrick office of his bank. All this is written down in clean handwriting in a letter addressed to Thomas Hewat Esq. at The Provincial Bank of Ireland at Downpatrick, Co. Down, in the northeast of Ireland. It does not seem to have been a letter between friends working in the same company because Clerke addresses Hewat "Dear Sir,"



(Continued on page 71)

How A Philatelic Cover Becomes A Non-Philatelic One

by Charles J. G. Verge

From 1937 on, major efforts were underway to establish a regular Trans-Atlantic air mail service between North America and Europe. Experimental survey flights were made in July of both 1937 and 1938 from New York via Canada, Newfoundland and Ireland to Southampton in Southern England. Two airline companies vied for the contracts to carry mail: Pan-American Airways Limited, a U.S. carrier and Imperial Airways, a British one. Agreements were signed and Pan-American started its regular service out of New York on June 28, 1939 with Imperial flying out of Southampton for the first time on August 5 of the same year. Because of World War II, which started shortly thereafter, both these Trans-Atlantic services were curtailed in the Fall of 1939.

This is the story of one registered cover (fig. 1) which was destined to be carried, amongst thousands of other covers, on the Pan-American leg from Shediac, the Canadian stop, to Foynes, the Irish stop-over. The cover originated in Georgetown, Ontario and was addressed to Glasgow, Scotland. F.B. Hutt, the sender, franked the cover with the proper rate by using five (5) 6 cents airmail stamps (Scott # C6) for the 30 cents airmail rate and one 10 cents stamp (Scott # 241) for the registration rate for a total of 40 cents of postage. The cover was then sent to the Postmaster at Shediac under separate cover and he registered the letter (fig. 2), cancelled (fig. 3) and backstamped the envelope (fig. 4) and added the flight leg's cachet (fig. 5). The Postmaster then put the letter with other registered mail, destined for the United Kingdom, in a secure mail bag instead of putting it in the secure mail bag for Foynes as requested by the sender in the upper left hand corner of the cover (fig. 6). So far, in its progress, the cover remained very philatelic. From this point on, however, it now becomes a very collectable item for an airmail collection of Canada, the United Kingdom and even Ireland.

On arrival in the United Kingdom the cover was not backstamped. This is typical of the British postal service, but

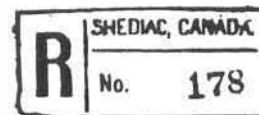


fig. 2



fig. 3

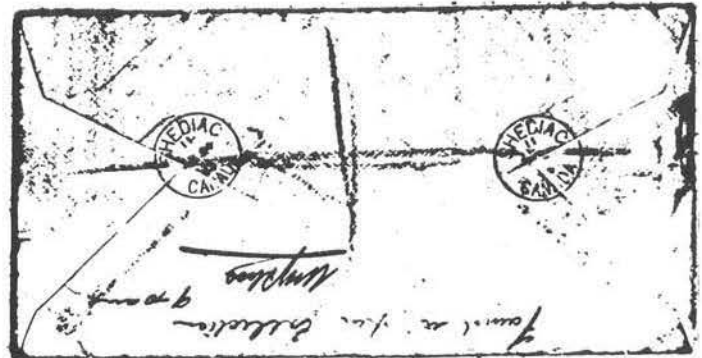


fig. 4 reverse of fig. 1



fig. 5

By Air Mail First Flight
Shediac, N.B. Canada to
Foynes, Eire

fig. 6

Found in open collection
Hutt 9-10-39

fig. 8



fig. 7

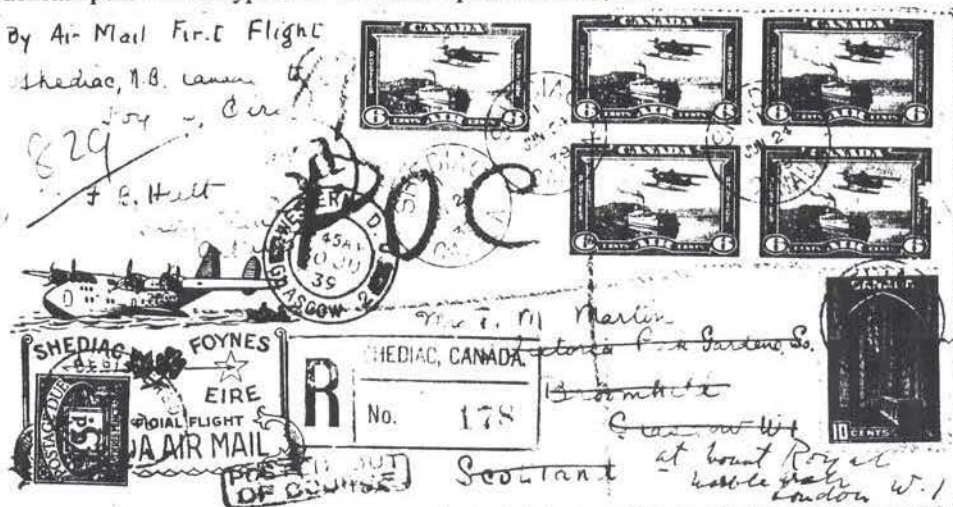


fig. 1

POC

fig. 9

it is possible that the smaller of the two blue crosses, indicating the cover's registered status, may have been applied in Southampton upon the opening of the registered mail bag. In Glasgow, however, a receiving CDS was applied (fig. 7) as well as the larger blue cross (or the smaller, if it was put on at this point) and the registration number 89 in the same blue pencil. The cover was then delivered and accepted at Mrs. Martin's address in Broomhill, Glasgow. For some reason, probably Mrs. Martin's absence, the cover was redirected to Marble Arch, London W.1. and was dropped in the local pillar box. Found there (fig. 8) at 9:10 AM on July 1, 1939 it was brought to Glasgow's Western District Office for processing by the mail carrier who probably also added the large orange POC (Posted out of course) notation (fig. 9). The postal clerk added the 3d. to pay (fig. 10) and Posted out of course (fig. 11) handstamps. At the registration desk a 3d. postage due label (Scott # J29) was applied and cancelled by a registered internal office stamp (fig. 12) on July 1, 1939. The large blue cross may have been applied at this point. Sent to London, an additional registration number (829) was added before delivery to Mrs. Martin.



fig. 10



fig. 11



fig. 12

There are two interpretations of the 3d. to pay indication. The first, subscribed to above, would indicate that the cover was re-registered in Glasgow. The Post Office figured that the original Canadian registration had ended with the delivery of the cover to Mrs. Martin's Glasgow address. Posted out of course and with no indication to the contrary, the postal clerk properly re-registered the cover. Another interpretation, using the same parameters as above, would have the clerk indicating double deficiency for the 1 1/2 d. first class rate. The first interpretation seems the more valid as the 3d. postage due label is cancelled by a registration handstamp.



EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 62)

but are already typeset for the next issue. In this issue the authors' seemed to have hibernated for the Winter as I received virtually no correspondence between December and mid February. I even wondered if Irish Philately was dead or dying.

I try and reserve at least one page for chapter reports and the like. This time I was wondering if anyone was out there. I have a very fine article from Tony Finn for the next issue - THE DUBLIN JOURNAL. But I ask you, IS IRISH PHILATELY DEAD or DYING in the USA? Where is the action. Even our President has noted a lack of activity this season. I would like to get a report from all the chapters on what they are doing. If you are not doing anything please tell me that also. Is your membership falling apart? Is there inactivity? Do you have some plans for revitalization? What will it take for you to get off dead center and start something? Believe it or not even if you personally are disinterested or if your membership has lost heart, or if you would like to get out of the job, there are others in our organization who are

THE STORY OF THE STAMPLESS FIRST DAY COVER

(Continued from page 69)

Now what is so interesting about this letter? Why do I devote so much time to tell its story? Mr. Clerke, being a bank official, had of course neatly dated his report. It clearly reads "Skibbereen, 5th May 1840". The next day Clerke went to the post office and posted his letter paying one penny for the postage of a normal letter inside Ireland. The letter now received on its front a handwritten remark "Paid 1d" and on the back a round datestamp "SKIBBEREEN MY 6 1840". When the mail coach for Dublin left Skibbereen at 8.40 a.m. that morning it carried this letter to the Dublin GPO where a red double-framed box postmark was applied reading "PAID MY 7 1840" the next day. The letter then travelled to Downpatrick in the north where it arrived to receive a round datestamp on the back "DOWN MY 8 1840".

So far this letter's story. I did not only discover it at the dealers table, I also bought it. The price was reasonable because the dealer had not looked carefully at the date of this letter. Of course it is a real fine item and one does not often see such letters from the very day that the first postage stamps of the world were sold for the first time. MacDonnell Whyte Ltd., in Dublin, have recently offered a similar letter (lot 975) in their auction on 10th June 1989 originating from Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, to Dublin.

In order to find out a little more about my letter I did approach my good friend Bill Kane in Dublin and sent him a copy. This is what he wrote:

"At this moment I could give several explanations, all based on supposition.

1. Did Skibbereen receive its supply of 1d black stamps on time?
2. It is well known that the new adhesive stamps of 1840 did not find favour with everybody, so many people continued to use the old system of the handstruck 1d.
3. Prepayment could still be made in cash, the use of the handstruck markings continued until 1851-52, when it was abolished, a period of approximately 12 years.
4. The above proves the point that the new adhesive labels had a reception that was anything but cordial.
5. It is also recorded that many people were very annoyed by the fact that they had to lick the gum of the adhesives.
6. Many philatelists believe that the supply of the 1d black stamps were not available at all the Post Offices in Ireland, on the 6th May 1840. Hence the rarity of first day covers for that date.
7. Even Dublin with the Head Office in the G.P.O. it is hard to find 1d black covers cancelled on the 6th May 1840.
8. It is established that the stamps (1 Penny Black and 2 Pence Blue) were issued on 1st May 1840, with instructions that they were not to be used until 6th May 1840.
9. I have read about some items with the 1d black adhesives used in England on the 5th May, but never so in Ireland.

No matter what you may think of the above, you have a very desirable item, which you can display with great pride.

And that is what I am doing here. I have no explanation for the fact that postmaster Daniel Crowley in Skibbereen did not use a Penny Black on this letter, early in the morning of that day. Had he done so, I would have been in a position to add a letter with a Maltese Cross from Skibbereen to my collection. Nevertheless, by keeping my eyes open I found a nice piece of Irish postal history, even if it is a first day cover without any stamp on it.



interested in how you feel about collecting Irish material. Even An Post is interested enough to send out questionnaires to their foreign subscribers to get their opinions on the Irish stamp programs. So let us know how you feel and where you stand.

Deadline for the Summer 1990 issue is 1 JUNE 1990.



Irish Civil Censorship Cancels During World War II

by Otto Hellwig

In a recent interesting research note (THE REVEALER, Spring 1989, p. 52) Paul Wittreich asserted that the different colours of the Irish four-line SAORTA AG AN/SCRUDOIR/RELEASED BY/CENSOR handstamp (Mackay No. 1837, sized 34 x 24 mm) can be assigned to exclusive periods of use. This led me to analyzing my own covers with Irish censor cancels as well as the little literature at hand. Wolter (1965) has given the following dates and colours:

- violet (1939-1945)
- green (1942-1943)
- brown (1943-1944)
- black or red (1942-1945)

In addition, Wolter said that the brown, black and red cancels are in heavier type than the other two cancels, see figures 1a and 1b. Sorting my own covers and using the Michel Colour Guide resulted in table 1:

Figure 1: Cancel Mackay no. 1837



Table 1: Use of the Irish four-line censor mark MacKay no. 1837

	dates		number
	early	late	
yellowish green	2/42	6/42	13
blue-green	6/42	6/43	65
pale purple violet	3/42	3/43	22
black	3/42	5/45	32
brick-red to dark brownish red (various shades)	7/43	12/44	46
carmine-red, brownish-carmine (various shades)	1/45	4/45	6

Thus first a yellowish green, then a blue-green, then red/brown have been used as colours. Besides these, black has always been used. I do not believe that violet has been used from 1939 to 1945 as Wolter suggested. Rather I imagine that the cancel has not been applied before 1942. The ink of my two violet examples appears to be of the same colour as the other Irish censor marks which are described below. Perhaps some censors have used this ink by error or because of shortage of other ink. I have been informed that also a few black blue copies exist. Possibly the respective handstamp was regularly applied with violet ink but by a mistake once black ink was used. This would have darkened many subsequent violet cancels especially because the handstamps were rubber-made. It could be the case that green was chosen as colour because emerald is the "Irish colour". In fact yellowish-

green has almost the same appearance as emerald. However, with increasing shortage of any type of material, because of the war, various types of brown/red have been used later as well. Beside the more common brown/red cancel described in the table above, additional shades are known. For example, I have a cover (May 1944) with a dark pink cancel and two covers (August and September 1944) with very dark cancels. Perhaps brownish red and black ink have been mixed as described above. Probably many more shades exist. However, some "new" shades may prove to be a result of different types of paper used for the covers. For example, 5 copies of the blue-green types appear as being blackish blue-green which looks distinctively different than blue-green. But these 5 cancels have been applied on brown or yellow brown covers. One cancel was partly struck on a white PC90 label, thus unmasking an apparently "new" colour.

Most of these cancels appear quite bold, see figure 1a. However, the two violet cancels, together with yellowish green cancels and many cancels which have been applied later than January 1945, are more thin, figure 1b. This holds true for black cancels as well as the carmin-red/brownish types. Perhaps new handstamps were introduced in January 1945.

The cancel is almost exclusively used on ingoing mail. In addition, I have never seen it used on mail from Europe. It seems as if the cancel was used on mail from overseas and from OAS (On Active Service) mail from British troops only. However, recently I acquired covers from Ireland to the USA, UK and Switzerland with brown/red cancels applied between 3.44 and 3.45. Perhaps this cancel was used alternatively (or by error?) to the two-line SAORTA AG/AN SCRUDOIR which was used since 1943 almost exclusively on outgoing mail (see below). There seems to be no relation between colour and country of origin. Finally it should be noted that the cancel has also been found on 2 postcards (from Nigeria and India, 2.43 respectively 5.43) and on air-graphs. I have, not observed it on registered covers. However, I have been told that this cancel has been seen on registered cover, in combination with currency censorship. In addition, the informant told me that the cancel was applied on "in transit" mail, e.g. on a diplomatic cover from Paris to USA via Ireland, approximately in 1942. Finally very few cancels of type 1 are known with two colours e.g. red and green. I have been told that the upper and lower half of the cancel are of different colour. The presumption has been uttered that this is an experimental type.

This cancel is certainly the most common of the 6 known Irish civil censorship cancels (but scarcer than the SP1 labels are). The earliest censor cancel is the two-line PASSED BY CENSOR ("No. xxx)/Ceaduithe ag an scrudoir", Mackay number 1838, see figure 2a to 2af. This cancel is the only Irish cancel for the release of mail which contains the censor's number.

This cancel was used from September or October 1939. The earliest cover in my collection was received October 3, 1939 and has been sent from the USA September 16. Another cover, also a registered cover from the USA has been cancelled September 14 but no arrival postmarks were applied.

The cancel was used mainly in the early years of censorship. From my 24 copies 7 have been applied in 1939 and 13 in 1940, 2 in 1941 and 2 in 1944. Moxter (1984) reported January 1945 as the latest known usage.

Figure 2: Various types of cancel Mackay no. 1838

PASSED BY CENSOR (65)

2a:

Ceadulthe ag an Scrúdaí.

2b:

PASSED BY CENSOR

Ceadulthe ag an Scrúdaí.

PASSED BY CENSOR 69

2c:

Ceadulthe ag an Scrúdaí

2aa:

PASSED BY CENSOR (148)

Ceadulthe ag an Scrúdaí.

2ab:

PASSED BY CENSOR (139)

Ceadulthe ag an Scrúdaí.

PASSED BY CENSOR (4)

2ac:

Ceadulthe ag an Scrúdaí.

PASSED BY CENSOR (2)

2ad:

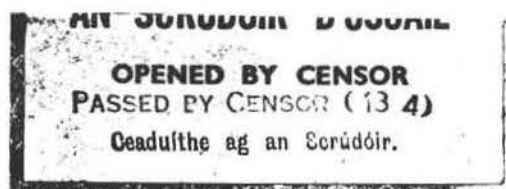
Ceadulthe ag an Scrúdaí.

PASSED BY CENSOR (5)

2ae:

Ceadulthe ag an Scrúdaí.

2af:



Three types of this handstamp are known, all having a height of 10 mm. The most common one is the one depicted in Mackay, see figure 2a. The censor number can have one, two or three digits, numbers are known from 2 to 156. A second type, figure 2b, does not contain the censor's number and its first line PASSED BY CENSOR has a length of 58 to 60 mm compared with 44 mm (without number) for the common type, figure 2a. Only two items of this type are known. In one case the censor's number has been added in ink, see figure 2b, in the other case no number is given. A third type of the cancel is reported by Moxter (1983), see figure 2c. This cancel is framed and the censor's number is not put in parentheses. For this type only censor number 69 is known. However, Moxter does not possess a copy of this cancel. He told me that the cancel has been reported elsewhere in the literature, but Moxter believes, as I do, that this cancel does not really exist.

Quite a couple of varieties of type a are known. Baeten (1989) reported one copy of this cancel without number. The number 148 has been added in manuscript, see figure 2aa. In other cases the censor's numbers have been changed, see figure 2ab. In this example number 139 was replaced by number 150. The "37" shown in figure 2ab forms part of "K237" and was not applied by the censor. In some cases more place than that

required by the censor's number had been reserved between the parentheses. Then the censor's number appears between the parentheses either left, see figure 2ac, or right, see figure 2ad. Figure 2ae shows one example where a one digit censor's number fits exactly the parentheses. These varieties as well as a sometimes irregular appearance of the number, see figure 2af, suggest that the cancel has been fixed by the censors themselves, comparable to the way the censor's number has been applied to the early SP1 labels, cf. Moxter (1989). Either a blue-violet or a bright purple-violet ink has been used. In the last case the colour is often somewhat weak.

Out of the 24 copies in my collection 10 examples are on postcards, 5 are registered covers, 7 are ordinary letters and 2 are printed papers. In addition, in a very few cases this cancel was applied on early SP1 labels, instead of the usual handstamp giving the censor's number, see figure 2af. 14 copies are on ingoing mail and 10 copies were applied on outgoing mail.

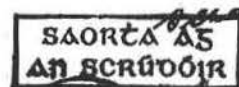
Chronologically the next cancel is SAORTA AG AN SCRUDÓIR/RELEASED BY CENSOR, sized 91 x 15 mm, see figure 3. The earliest known use is November 1941, the latest cover, April 1945. The cancel has been applied on ordinary covers, registered covers and on postcards. 11 out of the 12 covers in my collection are ingoing, the only outgoing cover is a registered letter to the U.S. (April 1945). Another collection of 13 items consists of 11 incoming covers and postcards and only one outgoing cover being registered, and one outgoing postcard. However, McManus (1976) reports a non-registered outgoing cover. In addition Jos Baeten sent me photocopies of a printed matter and an ordinary cover from Dublin to UK, postmarked 1943, which show the censor cancel. The same violet types of ink as for the cancel described above, figures 2a to 2g, have been used.

Figure 3:



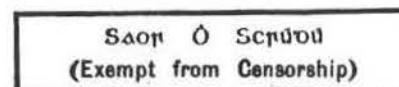
The next cancel to describe is the purely gaelic SAORTA AG AN SCRUDÓIR, sized 39 x 13 mm, Mackay no. 1839, see figure 4. It is known from 1942 to November 1944. The cancel has been applied on registered covers, covers, postcards and printed mail. It has been used on incoming and outgoing mail. In my collection there are about 20 items of which 18 are registered covers. But I would not like to draw any conclusions from this as all registered covers are of the same correspondence to the School of Accountancy in Glasgow. As with cancel types 2 to 5 the ink used is either blue-violet or bright purple-violet.

Figure 4: Cancel Mackay no. 1839



Quite scarce is the SAOR Ó SCRUDÓIR/Exempt from Censorship cancel, sized 63 x 15 mm, which has been applied on diplomatic and on ecclesiastical mail as well as on mail to official departments such as the Irish Land Commission, see figure 5. However, this handstamp was not struck on all covers of such a source or destination. This cancel is known from November 1940 to 1944. Again an ink of blue-violet or a bright purple-violet colour has been used.

Figure 5:



Finally, Moxter (1983) and Baeten (1989) report a cancel OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TELEGRAPH CENSOR/Oifig Ard Scrúdoir Telegrafo, see figure 6. This cancel is only known as of 1939 in violet to Radio stations in Germany. A cover to a radio station in Germany without any censorship is also known. Baeten assumes that these covers were not forwarded to the addressee but rather retained in Irish official archives. I understand that Mr. Baeten is preparing an article on this cancel to appear in "Die Harfe", the journal of the German Ireland study group FAI.

Figure 6: OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TELEGRAPH CENSOR/
Oifig Ard Scrúdoir Telegrafo

In most cases the cancels of the Irish civil censorship were applied below the stamps on the right hand side of the cover, see figure 7. If, however, there was no place, any other free part of the cover was chosen. Interestingly, very often the cancels were rotated towards the right, see figure 7. Finally we summarize the main findings of this paper in table 2.

Figure 7: Two covers showing respectively cancel 1 and cancel 5

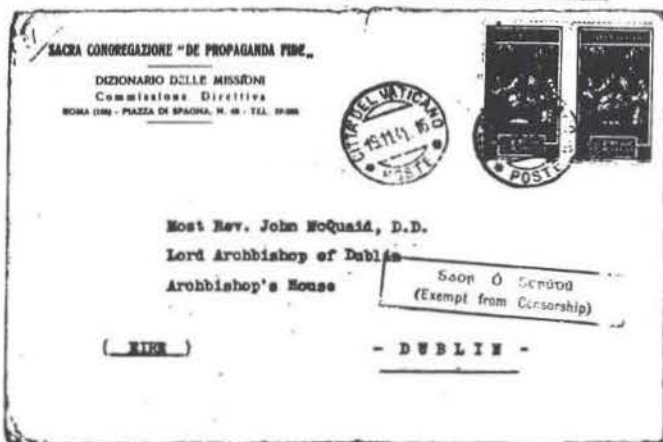


Table 2: Summary of Irish civil censorship cancels in WW II.

Cancel	Period of use	Colour	Remarks
PASSED BY CENSOR (xxx)/ Ceaduithe ag an Scrudoir	9.39 -11.41 (-1.45)	violet, purple- violet	Ingoing + outgoing, used mainly 1939 to 1941, several sub-types

SAORTA AG AN SCRUDOIR/ RELEASED BY CENSOR	11.41 -4.45	violet, purple- violet	Almost exclusively for ingoing mail or outgoing registered covers
SAORTA AG AN/ SCRUDOIR/ RELEASED BY/ CENSOR	2.42 -5.45	green, black, brown-red violet	Almost exclusively for ingoing mail from overseas and OAS. Very rarely seen on registered covers.
SAORTA AG/ AN SCRUDOIR	1942 -11.44	violet, purple- violet	Ingoing + outgoing.
SAOR O SCRUDU/ Exempt from Censorship	11.40 -1944	violet, purple- violet	Ingoing + outgoing. Exclusively for diplomatic, ecclesiastical or official mail.

OFFICE OF THE 1939 violet
CHIEF TELEGRAPH
CENSOR./
Oifig Ard Scrudoir
Telegrafo

I would like to acknowledge the active support of many collectors and friends, especially helpful have been the comments of Jos Baeten, Roy Hamilton-Bowen, and Konrad Morenweiser on an earlier draft of this paper.

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CENSORSHIP IN IRELAND DURING WORLD WAR II, 1939 - 1945

by Charles J. G. Verge

Introduction

I read with interest Mr. Moxter's article, entitled "Why did the Irish Censor Civil Mail During WW2?". The subject of Neutrality in Ireland during the Second World War and its reasons is of relevance to the research that I have undertaken to prepare my handbook entitled "The Irish S.P.I. Censor Labels, 1939-1945". The political reasons behind neutrality, the return of the Six Counties, was new to me but did not surprise me. It stands to reason that Mr. De Valera would have used this opportunity to attain a political goal. But there are more pragmatic reasons for the maintenance of neutrality, albeit they also are mostly political in nature.

In the following few paragraphs, I would like to quickly outline some of the reasons I have found while perusing the Archives and to give some additional details on Censorship in Ireland during WWII.

1.0 Historical Background

Censorship in Ireland has existed since the time of Elizabeth I. Throughout the 16th to 19th century it took the form of political and diplomatic censorship as it was practiced in many other European states. In the 20th Century, the British Government and the governments of the Irish Free State and the Republic of Ireland continued to censor communications of all kinds, including letters, packets, press and telegraph, in both times of peace and war.

Great Britain's censorship was particularly prevalent during the First World War and the troubles leading first to the Easter Rebellion in 1916 and to the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922. The Free State also used censorship during the Civil War and there are indications in the State Papers, at Dublin Castle, that the Irish government wished to establish a censorship office as early as 1925. The subject was brought up by the Cabinet again at least twice before World War II: in 1928 and in 1935.

2.0 World War II Censorship in Ireland

With tension rising in Europe in 1939, the government of Prime Minister Eamon De Valera started earnestly looking into the establishment of censorship in the Spring of 1939. On June 16, 1939 things were far enough advanced for the Secretary to the Minister of Defence to write to The Controller of the Stationery Office a secret memorandum which starts as follows:

"I am directed by the Minister for Defence to refer to the conversation which Mr. Coyne (1) had with Mr. Coveney some months ago upon the subject of the provision of a supply of labels, slips, etc., for use by the Censorship in time of war or emergency (2), and transmit to you a copy of a minute, from the Department of Finance, dated 22nd April last, sanctioning the provision immediately of a fortnight's supply of certain of the labels, etc., in question. Attached you will find drafts of two labels and five slips

(numbered in the right hand top corner S.P.I. to S.P.7.),..." (3)

3.0 Censorship versus Neutrality

As Mr. Moxter, in his article, asks, why did Ireland censor communications during WWII so did the Irish people. They could not see the reason behind censorship as they felt that Ireland was a neutral country. The issue is still quite controversial, with many articles, giving varying explanations, being written on the subject. This is not the forum for such a discussion, but suffice it to say that it existed. As indicated in notes (4), prepared by Mr. Connolly, for a discussion between himself and An Taoiseach (the Prime Minister), Eamon De Valera, on September 19, 1939 it was felt at the time that efforts should be directed to "preventing publication of anything that would (,) in the slightest degree (,) impair our neutrality" (4). He goes on to say that he feels that both government and nationalist supporters

"will be quick to criticise anything that may seem to favour the British or British tendencies and that will seem to 'cut across' our avowed neutrality" (4).

- (1) T. J. Coyne, Secretary, Department of Justice at the time this document was written. The signature block to this document is probably his. Coyne became Deputy Controller of Censorship on September 3, 1939 and Controller in replacement of J.J. Connolly on September 15, 1941.
- (2) The Irish Government, in all its documents refers to World War II as The Emergency.
- (3) Censorship Archives, Ministry of National Defence, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin. File 5/86. A complete transcript of the memorandum will be found in Appendix 'A' to this article.
- (4) State Papers, Dublin Castle, Dublin. File S11-306

By January 1940, it became evident, to the government, that information had to be given to the public in response to the question, censorship vs neutrality. To reassure the Irish of the need for censorship a three page pamphlet was printed. Entitled Postal Censorship Memorandum it addressed two main issues: the necessity for censorship and what type of restrictions were necessary and the reasons they were implemented (5).

4.0 Periods of Censorship

Censorship of the mails followed many different patterns and time frames. The mails from some countries were censored throughout WWII. Others such as mails from Britain and Northern Ireland apparently were not looked at systematically until in 1942 in retaliation for the Britain insisting that all mails from North America be routed through the United Kingdom and not directly to Ireland.

Overall, though, censorship was officially proclaimed by the Irish Cabinet on September 3, 1939 (6). The meeting of the Government, held in the Council Chamber between 8:00 and 9:30 PM on that Sunday, issued an Emergency Power Order, one of the almost 400 Emergency Power Order the Government was to issue during the 'Emergency'. The Order gives the Minister of Post and Telegraphs (Oscar Traynor, at the time) the right to intercept "postal packets" (7), as defined in the Post Office Act of 1908, for censorship purposes.

In fact, as Mr. Moxter indicates, postal censorship may have begun before September 3, possibly as early as two days before. Figure 1 shows a cover that was posted at Longphort on August 31, 1939. It is now the earliest known outgoing Irish WWII censored cover. It was censored in Dublin at the Censorship Office on Exchequer Street probably on September 1 but possibly on the 2nd.

- (5) Office of the Controller of Censorship, Exchequer Street, Dublin. Ref. #: B.6172.Wt.4280/4-R.8285.500.1/40. A.T.&Co., Ltd. G9. A complete transcript of this memorandum will be found in 'Appendix B' to this article.
- (6) State Papers, Dublin Castle, Dublin. Minutes 2nd Government, Vol. 2, 9 MAY 39 / 2 JAN 40
- (7) State Papers, Dublin Castle, Dublin. File S10-845, Emergency Powers September 1939 Order, 1939, Schedule A, Part IV.

Censorship was revoked by abolishing the order noted above and a subsequent order of 1942 (8) with effect May 15, 1945 (9). However, there are indications that censorship continued well into the Summer of 1945 and possibly until September of that year.

- (8) State Papers, Dublin Castle, Dublin. File S11-306, Emergency Powers 1942 Order No. 151, 1942.
- (9) State Papers, Dublin Castle, Dublin. File S13-673, Emergency Order No. 359, 1945.

APPENDIX 'A'
MEMORANDUM
16TH JUNE 1939
DIRECTING
THE PRINTING OF S.P.
LABELS AND INSERTS
FOR
POSTAL CENSORSHIP PURPOSES

S/86. Éire. 16th June, 1939.

SECRET.

The Controller,
Stationery Office.

I am directed by the Minister for Defence to refer to the conversation which Mr. Coyne had with Mr. Coveney some months ago upon the subject of the provision of a supply of labels, slips, etc., for use by the Censorship in time of war or emergency, and transmit to you a copy of a minute from the Department of Finance, dated 22nd April last, sanctioning the provision immediately of a fortnight's supply of certain of the labels, etc., in question (at an estimated cost of about £40). Attached you will find drafts of two labels and five slips (numbered in the right hand top corner S.P.1 to S.P.7), together with a specimen slip and label as used by the British Censorship during the War 1914-18, showing the size and general lay-out which is required, and I am to request that you will arrange for the printing of the following quantities:

<u>Reference Number.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>
S.P.1 (Gummed)	800,000
S.P.2 (Gummed)	8,000
S.P.3	8,000
S.P.4	800
S.P.5	800
S.P.6	8,000
S.P.7	800.

It will be observed that it is proposed to have bi-lingual labels and slips and this may occasion certain difficulties in the lay-out, as it is desired that the size of the enclosed specimens should be adhered to, if possible. In the case of one of the gummed labels (S.P.2) it will clearly be necessary to reduce the size of the print, as both the Irish and English versions must appear on the same side and it is not practicable for technical reasons, to employ a larger label. As regards the non-gummed slips (S.P.3 to 7), there would be no objection to having the Irish version on one side and the English on the other if this does not give rise to undue expense or difficulty in printing. In fact, however, it is only in the case of S.P.4 that it would not be feasible to print both versions on the same side without increasing the size of the slip. As regards the colour of the paper and type, it is desired that the printing on the two gummed labels should be in bright and contrasting colours, i.e., one red and the other yellow or any similar contrast and the colour of the paper used in each of the slips should, if possible, be different. This is to facilitate picking out and checking the use of the various slips. Obviously as the variety of different slips, forms, etc., increases it will cease to be possible to differentiate by colour and changes of form will have to be considered, but to begin with, it is desired to have as many separate colours as possible.

I am to add that as the Censorship is not yet in being it would be a great convenience to the Department of Defence if the Stationery Office could see their way to store the labels, etc., which are now being ordered as it is understood that gummed labels are particularly perishable.

APPENDIX 'B'
POSTAL CENSORSHIP
MEMORANDUM
DESTINED FOR
PUBLIC CONSUMPTION
JANUARY 1940
POSTAL CENSORSHIP

MEMORANDUM

NECESSITY FOR CENSORSHIP.

The question most commonly asked by persons who resent, perhaps naturally, the censorship of their private correspondence with their relatives and friends in neutral countries is "why is there any need for censorship at all in Ireland which is itself a neutral country?"

The answer to the question is, quite briefly, that censorship is necessary in order to safeguard our national interests and to prevent this country from becoming a centre of espionage in the interests of or to the detriment of any of the States which are actually involved in the war and thus to ensure that our neutrality will not be compromised. In time of war, direct communication between one belligerent country and another is frequently interrupted and the usual and, often, the only

possible way for the intelligence services of the belligerents to communicate with their agents abroad is through the neutral countries. It is, in fact, precisely because a country is neutral that, in certain circumstances, it is likely to be made use of in this way, particularly if its territory happens to adjoin that of one of the belligerents. In our case the existence of the Border does not make this any less likely: on the contrary, it makes the control of our communications a task of extreme difficulty.

WHAT RESTRICTIONS ARE NECESSARY AND WHY?

It is not practicable to make censorship effective without making some requirements of the public, all of which must necessarily interfere to a greater or less degree with the freedom hitherto enjoyed by the individual letter writer. These requirements fall, chiefly, under three heads: —

- (1) Restrictions as to the class of matter which may be despatched.
- (2) Restrictions on destination.
- (3) Restrictions as to the form of correspondence or its manner of despatch.

As regards (1) and (2) little need be said in this memorandum as *up to the present* no formal restrictions have been imposed under either of these heads. Accordingly, the letter writing public is free, so far as our censorship is concerned, to despatch any class of matter allowed by the Post Office Regulations and to despatch it to any destination. Two observations are called for. Firstly, it may be found necessary later on to prohibit the despatch to places outside the State, except under permit, of certain classes of matter, *e.g.*, printed matter, which cannot be effectively examined and which lends itself to secret writing and code or cipher communications. Secondly, although there are no restrictions of the kind in question in this country such restrictions are in force in other countries, and correspondents would do well before posting picture postcards, newspaper cuttings and printed matter of any kind to any particular destination to bear in mind that such matter is liable to be detained in transit through certain foreign countries.

As regards (3) there is only one restriction that is absolute, namely, that code or cipher or invisible ink must not be used. Correspondents who ignore this restriction may be sure that their letters will not be forwarded and they will be liable to prosecution for an offence under the Emergency Powers Order, 1939. The reason for this restriction is obvious.

Of the other restrictions imposed the following are the principal requirements: —

Name and address of the sender to be shown.

A letter which shows the name and address of the sender bears *prima facie* evidence of honesty. Note, however, that expressions such as "your affectionate mother," even in letters to sons, are inadequate for this purpose, as mothers do not always have the same names as their children.

Letters should be brief and legible.

Letters of excessive length and illegibility are bound to be delayed. Accordingly, correspondents should make every effort to comply with this requirement in their own interests. Moreover, failure to do so causes a lot of unnecessary trouble and expense. Correspondents should remember that the number of letters with which the censorship has to deal runs into millions a year.

Letters should be written on one side of the paper only and NOT on flimsy paper.

The purpose of this requirement is to make it easier to

detect invisible writing. Further, where letters are written on both sides of flimsy paper they are often illegible.

Letters should be in Irish or English, so far as possible.

Obviously this requirement cannot be complied with unless the correspondents know either of those languages and letters are not detained merely because they are written in foreign languages. Letters in uncommon languages, however, are liable to considerable delay and much time and expense is saved if letters are written in Irish or English.

EXEMPTIONS.

After the question "what is the necessity for censorship at all?" the question most commonly asked by persons from whom protests have been received is "why was my correspondence opened?" or, alternatively, "of what am I suspected?" The fact is that many persons of integrity feel that their correspondence, at any rate, should be exempted from censorship and they imagine that the fact that their letters are being opened is a slur on their character or means that they are under suspicion. Nothing, of course, could be further from the truth. A censor's label on an envelope does not mean that the sender or addressee is under suspicion and everyone should realise that censorship is general, that it applies to everybody, and that, since this is so there is no implied reflection on his character or integrity.

There is a number of sound reasons why the letters of persons of undoubted integrity cannot be allowed to pass free of examination. Two of these may be specially mentioned. In the case of outgoing letters the censor cannot be sure that a letter bearing an external indication that it was despatched by a particular person was in fact written or despatched by that person. In the case of incoming letters a letter may be addressed to a well-known person at premises which are not occupied by the nominal addressee or a letter may be intended to be intercepted by an agent of the sender in the employment of the addressee.

OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF CENSORSHIP, DUBLIN.

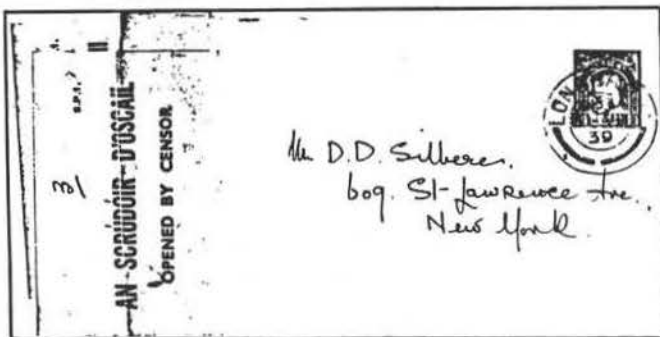


FIGURE 1. The cover above is the earliest known outgoing Irish WWII censored cover. Mailed at Longphort on August 31, 1939 it bears a TYPE IAC label and was probably censored on September 1, 1939 in Dublin. It was franked with a surface rate postage of 2 pence. This was three days before the German invasion of Poland. Earlier foreign postmarked covers exist but they are all coming into Ireland. Therefore there is no certainty as to the date the letters were censored and the labels applied to the covers.



Ireland's Portrait Gallery

by Tom Polick

My good friend Tom Burns was a small child when one of his older sisters passed away. She had been fifteen years older than Tom and he had several faint recollections of her but was disturbed that he couldn't clearly remember her face.

This information was shared with me when a relative found an old photograph showing Tom's older sisters in a group. When he saw the old picture, he immediately recognized the 'missing' face which triggered a flood of memories and emotion. Bits and pieces of remembrance came together with the stories told of her in the family. In her face he could see the features and expression which showed the wonderful qualities she had possessed.

It's a shame when old photographs get lost or when nobody can remember who the person was standing between Grandpa and his brother Joe. We have that human need to know who we are and where we come from.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "A man finds room in the few square inches of his face for the traits of all his ancestors, the expression of all his history, and all of his wants."

While we have nothing to do with the looks we're born with, our character and conduct do shape our facial expressions. And, we all subconsciously look for that imprint of personality and a confirmation of our understanding when we look into the faces of people.



Ireland's portrait gallery of postage stamps does a fine job of featuring the faces of people who have made significant contributions to Irish life. I think the artists have captured their distinctive individuality, strength and dedication in the poses and facial expressions.

Look at the current STATESMEN OF IRELAND series. From all the material available, the most representative examples of the statesmen's expressions have been accurately produced in a pencil drawn format. I think they're extremely well done.

Another outstanding and beautifully captivating set used the posthumous portraits of the leaders of the 1916 Rising. The artist, Sean O'Sullivan had a remarkable ability to give a sense of personality to all of his drawings. They were used in the 1966 commemoratives to mark the fiftieth anniversary of that Easter Rising. And the work of this gifted artist was used in several other postal commemoratives.

The photographs which have been reproduced on stamps also provide us with this quality of intimate knowledge of the depth and character to let us know how these people truly were.

For instance, look at the 1980 Sean O'Casey commemorative. With some knowledge, a sensitive observer could make dozens of observations. The 1976 James Larkin commemorative shows "Big Jim" was as big and tough as they said he was but you'll see he was a deeply committed and emotionally warm individual. The 1966 issues depicting Roger Casement are another story. I don't know but would guess that this picture of a deeply saddened man with a far away look in his eyes, was taken sometime during his trial for treason against the British Crown. The eyes have been referred to as the windows of the soul and you can see where his feelings were with the thoughts of what he believed at that time...Ireland's struggle for freedom had suffered another setback.

Yes, thumbing through your album take a moment to study the faces. And with some understanding of what occurred, you'll find a new familiarity and enjoyment.



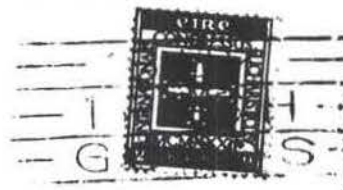
Mr. Hooper's Eucharistic Congress Philatelic Order

by Charles J. G. Verge

The illustrations of form T.S.8a. and the cover in which it was enclosed show the Department of Posts and Telegraph's Philatelic Section in action. Mr. A. Hooper of Walkerville, Ontario, had ordered some Eucharistic Congress stamps (DF: C6-7) issued on May 12, 1932. The clerk prepared an invoice, dated August 27, 1932, for eight 2d. and four 3d. stamps for a total cost of 2/6.

The purchase was mailed with the 2d. (DF: C6) of the issue to pay the surface rate postage to Canada (The clerk who prepared the envelope wanted to make sure it reached the addressee. He/she wrote the word Canada twice). There is no corner card, return address or indication of the cover's origin or of its contents.

Note the initials NS on the left hand side of the invoice. Are these an indication of quality control on the part of the Controller or are they the initial of J. Robinson's supervisor or is NS the clerk and J. Robinson the supervisor?



Philatelic Section,
Dublin Postal District,
DUBLIN.

...27 August 1982

.....
Sir.....

In compliance with your order I beg to enclose
stamps as requested:-

Number	Denomination	£	s	d
8	2d		1	✓
4	3d		1	✓
Postage				2
TOTAL			2	6

T.S.8a.

for Controller.



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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 Perfins — compiled and edited by Richard L. Mewhinney. Published by The Perfins Club - 1984. 34 pp. punched for 3 ring binder. The catalogue is designed for use as an album as well as catalogue. Only observed Perfins 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 \$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

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.

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 \$3.75

"Die Ganssachen 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.

An Introduction of Irish Mileage Marks — by W. E. Davey. Published by the EPA, 1989 Edition, 22 pages. An excellent book for the beginning collector of Irish Mileage Marks. Price \$5.00.