

The Revealer

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



ISSN 0484-6125

Vol. 47, No. 4

Whole Number 210

SAMHRADH - Spring 1998



Zeppelins in Ireland ?

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Affiliate No. 21 -- The American Philatelic Society • Affiliate -- Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by David J. Brennan



supporting member of the Junior Philatelists of America, and has spoken at local stamp club meetings. He is an accounting manager

One of the goals of my term in office was to get the youth program active and this is off to a good start. I'm happy to report that besides enlisting Philip Quigley to coordinate youth activities in Ireland, we now have a very qualified person to do the same in the United States. Bob Stewart, who resides in Orlando, Florida, has agreed to take on this responsibility for the ÉPA. Bob is a

for a foreign mission organization in Orlando. His main interests besides Ireland are: Switzerland, Finland, Western Europe and the Pacific Rim. Bob has requested that if you have stamps and/or supplies you might want to send them to him for future distribution. His address can be found in your ÉPA directory. Also, you can reach him by e-mail: bobstew@ix.netcom.com

Patrick McNally, our Back Issues Manager, has accumulated approximately twenty-five cartons of back issues of *The Revealer*. This summer he will have sorted out the copies and we will offer them to our members at a special "Fire Sale" this coming Fall. This will be once in a lifetime opportunity for those people who do not have a library to acquire same at a very reasonable cost. A word of caution, some of the earliest issues will not be available but can be

(Continued on next page)

THE REVEALER

ISSN 0484-6125

Published quarterly by the Éire Philatelic Association: Membership dues are as follows: U.S. (\$12.00); Canada/Mexico (\$15.00); all other countries (\$20.00).

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The Association Secretary will write the appropriate coordinator when a new member joins the Association and provide the coordinator with the name and address of the new member. The role of the coordinator is to contact the new member, welcome the member to the Association and invite the member to join the local chapter.

ISSUE DEADLINES Summer - 1 June • Fall - 1 September • Winter - 1 December • Spring - 1 March

xeroxed at a modest cost either through our library or from Pat if he has them available. Be on the lookout in the Fall issue of *The Revealer* for details.

The Board of Directors has not chosen a meeting site for the year 2001. We held up on making this decision to afford the members in a particular area where the AGM has not been held to step forward and offer to host the annual meeting. The primary requirements are: accessibility to a major airline, and held in conjunction with a World Series of Philately show (WSP), at which there will be philatelic exhibits and dealers. The main requirement is that the members will help maintain an ÉPA society table during the show. Material to be given out and sold will be furnished by the Special Offers Manager. Needless to say, members attending the meeting will help out in staffing the table during the show. Let me hear from you if you are interested in this endeavour.

Speaking of AGM's, we need to know how many frames to reserve at the next meeting to be held in Chicago this fall at Chicagopex'98. We would like to have a good representation at our AGM meetings, not only for our members to view and appreciate, but for others who may not have considered Ireland and her rich postal history and stamps. This is a unique opportunity to show off Ireland and her rich heritage.

Last item I have to mention, but far from the least, is your support in writing to AnPost 2000 Programme of Special and Commemorative Stamps, requesting a special stamp commemorating our ÉPA 50th anniversary. Send your letters today in care of the GPO in Dublin. Also, ask your friends and family in Ireland to write, as their input should carry more weight with the selection. ♣

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

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

- #2526 Kevin Dromgoole, 19381 Hwy 47, Yamhill, OR 97148.
- #2527 Carmine Santaniello, 426 Saturn Ln NE, Bremerton, WA 98311.
- #2528 Nathan Dorfman, 4764 Elder Ave, Seal Beach, CA 90740.
- #2529 Marilyn M. Stokes, 260 Vineland St, Pittsburg, PA 15234.
- #2530 Frank C. Hills, 5255 Oxford Ct, Wildwood, FL 34785.
- #2531 Charles W. Herren, Jr., 1825 NW 173rd Ave., Apt 1104, Beaverton, OR 97006.
- #2532 John F. Gallagher, Rt. 1, Box 508-A, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805.
- #2533 Francis E. Davern, 101 Leisure World Apt 1, Mesa, AZ 85206.
- #2534 John T. McDermott, 3540 Oxford Cir., LaVerne, CA 91750.

Lost Members

- #2199 Wallace A. Craig, Fullerton, CA.
- #2495 Valerie Binkley, PO COA incorrect.

Reinstatements

- #1466 John Beirne, 43-20 Judge St., Elmhurst, NY 11373.

Deceased

- #1691 Paul Osterly, Missouri.

Resignations

- #2427 Dorothy Paces, New York.
- #1489 Johan Rehnberg, Sweden.

Dropped – Non-Payment of Dues

- #2415 Cabbage; #2024 Colman; #2199 Craig; #2095 Drozd; #1717 Hess; #2406 Johnson, G.; #2268 Keenan; #2422 Kennedy, H.; #2371 Kent; #2155 Martino; #2228 McFarrell; #2193 McGarrigle; #1611McNamara, R.; #2018 Monday; #2233 Mooney; #2458 Pawlucky; #1693 Schiwek; #2387 Shannon; #2386 Sharon; #2358 Vigo; #2309 Young; #1218 Allen; #0728 Dziubnay; #2472 Egan; #1305 McBride; #2143 Nixon; #2145 O'Maonaigh; #0472 O'Mathuna.

Changes of Address

- #2399 David Laraway, PO Box 990923, Redding, CA 96099-0923.
- #2119 Thomas G. Greaney, 251 Seaman Ave., #3H, New York, NY 10034-1272.
- #1296 Norman T. Riggs, 717 West Manchester Ave., #604, Los Angeles, CA 90045-2359.
- #1407 Harry Dinginthal, 2309 Northumberland Dr., Garland, TX 70415-1324.
- #1210 Nicholzen, Postal Code only L2R 2E4.
- #2502 J.P. Maybury, 23 St. Annes Ct., Grasscroft, Oldham, England OL4 4JH.
- #2392 J. Jordan, 335 Lonsdale Rd., #407, Toronto, ON, Canada M5P 1R4.
- #L0530 Col B.B. Zellers, 17050 Arnold Dr., Apt. G313, Riverside, CA 92518-2854.
- #1183 Tom R. Laughery, 1661 Pine St., #531, San Francisco, CA 94109-4524.
- #2064 Raymond Buse, Jr., PO Box 709, Covenington, KY 41012-0709.
- #1876 Francis Rudden, 35 Julio Dr., #210, Shrewsbury, MA 01455-3049.

Changes of E-Mail Address

(correction to the Winter Issue)

- #2479 Dr Joachim Schaaf, schaaf@tzd.telecom.de
- #2248 John E. Southard, Leothewise@aol.com
- #2194 M.J. Connolly, aranman@compuserve.com

Membership Status

Membership as of November 25, 1997 582

- New Members 9
- Reinstated 1
- Resignations 2
- Deceased 1
- Dropped NPD 28

Membership as of February 25, 1998 561 ♣

Limited (?) Edition

by Joe Foley

Ireland celebrated the 75th anniversary of the state in a grand and glorious manner. Those of us that were fortunate enough to attend STAMPA certainly got caught up in the spirit of things. All along, An Post told us and reminded us that the special souvenir sheetlet commemorating this event would be a limited edition.

Quoting from An Post's *Irish Stamps/Collectors News*, the January 1997 issue stated: "... the issue of a special Limited Edition State Anniversary Souvenir Sheetlet containing all twelve stamps in the set. This item, whose quantities are strictly limited, will be available until 31 December 1997 only, when it will be withdrawn from sale forever ..." on page 3, a similar message on page 5 and repeated on the outside back cover. The same basic account was repeated throughout the year.

I was taken Aback when I received the United States Postal

(see "Edition" on page 61)

The Revealer ... Our Past

by Ralph Chalet

35 Years Ago

Editor: John J. Walsh / Volume XIII No. 3 / Jan-Feb 1963

Cover Article: "The Irish Slogan Cancellations of 1962" by F.E. Dixon listing the slogan cancels, revivals (of past slogans) and Machine Canceling news, including an observation that the position of the slogan and the name-date circle position has been randomly reversed.

New issues column reports a special stamp to be issued on March 21, 1963, noting Freedom From Hunger issued simultaneously with stamps of a similar design by other countries. The editor reports a new 4d envelope and two new postage dues, 6d plum and 8d orange. A new 1/1 embossed registration envelope and a 3/- booklet with 6 x 4d and 6 x 2d panes have been noted.

ÉPA Director Neil Stack comments on the issue raised by the membership during BALPEX 62. (Comments at the meeting criticized the quality of *The Revealer*, which was interpreted as a criticism of the editor that resulted in his temporary resignation.

Supplement No. 9 includes technical details and varieties found on the 1937 New Constitution Commemorative; the 1938 Centenary of the Temperance Crusade; 1939 150th Anniversary of the U.S. Constitution; 1941 Commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising, showing out of alignment pairs on the overprint sheets; the 1941 25th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising showing details of the broken statue and broken pillar; the 1943 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Gaelic League; the 1943 Centenary of Announcement of Discovery of Quaternions (Hamilton); and the Tercentenary of the Death of Michael O'Leary. The varieties are shown in considerable detail.

The membership is up to #390.

30 Years Ago

Editor: John J. Walsh / Volume XVIII No. 2 / Jan-March 1968

Cover Article: New Definitives for Ireland detailing the 1968 proposed new series designed by Munich artist Heinrich Gerl. The four designs are shown along with the proposed values for each design.

A biographical article on Mr. Fred Dixon, retiring president of the ÉPA, occupies a full page.

H.G. Leslie Fletcher presents in an extensively detailed article, "The 'Double Overprint on the 10/- Waterlow", including enlarged photographs of the double overprint. The author's conclusion based on his research is: "I am submitting new photographs and notes that I hope will be able to be reproduced satisfactorily and then I am sure that everybody will be convinced that the 'Double' overprints that I have seen are forgeries." ... "meanwhile I am still doubtful whether such a variety really exists."

In supplement No. 34 titled "Postage Meter Machine" is an introduction to the subject and a two-page article "Check List of the Postage Meter Franks of Ireland" presented by the editor Walsh, including the history of the machines manufactured by both Neopost and Pitney-Bowes. The article is extensively supported by reproduced examples of the types during the Irish Free State period from 1926-1938 and the following Republic of Ireland-Éire.

F.E. Dixon presented a one-page article on machine "Parcel Stamps" supported by reproductions.

Membership dues are \$3.00 and the membership is up to #541.

25 Years Ago

Journal of Irish Philately - incorporating *The Revealer* and *Irish Philately*, issued jointly by Éire Philatelic Association and Irish Philatelic Circle.

Editor: W. Kane / Volume 1 No. 3 / January 1973

An editorial on the cover page notes the death of two great men of Irish Philately, John B. Sherman and Frank Hopkins. Also, the editor comments that of the 50 letters received expressing opinions on the joint publication, there were only two complaints.

Padraig O. Mathuna presents the details of the printing varieties on the Fourth Definitive Series, Decimal Currency, 15th Feb 1971 for the 10p, 20p and 50p.

Bill Mathews and F.E. Dixon present CINDERELLA(S) OF IRISH ERINNOPHILIA.

An article presented by John B. Sherman over a year ago is reproduced and the subject matter is EXHIBITIONS. Sherman's exhibits of Irish Philately won many top awards at major philatelic exhibitions.

20 Years Ago

Editor: John J. Blessington / Volume XXVII No. 3 / January 1978

Cover Article: "The Harrison 5-Line Overprint Coil Issue" written by M.H. Priestley shows, using enlarged photos, the re-occurring stereo flaws found in the 3 x 10 overprint stereo.

J.E. Foley in his article "Is It Genuine?", provides a step-by-step approach for checking out the genuineness of your overprints.

Dr. C.L. Dulin provides photos of two Irish Definitives from the first definitive series with a diagonal overprint "SPECIMEN".

A primer on "Controls and the Overprint Plate" by Richard J. Swords, highlighted by photos and illustrations, enables the reader to determine which plate was used to print the underlying stamps, which were then overprinted.

It was announced that Dr. Dulin received the David Feldman Trophy for Best Overall Exhibit at the STAMPA 77.

J.E. Foley requested advice and thoughts on "Ethics and Philately."

Padraig O. Mathuna provides five enlarged photos of the varieties found on the 1/5 Irish airmail stamp.

A listing of some of the ÉPA library books available to the membership was presented by John J. Blessington.

A 197 lot ÉPA auction (No. 42) was published in the body of the issue along with prices realized for the J L Auction Co. mail sale.

Membership dues are \$5.00 and the membership is up to #1326.

15 Years Ago

Editor: John J. Blessington / Volume 33 No. 3 / Winter 1983

Cover Article: "Irish Armed Forces in United Nation's Service - Part 2 - Peace-Keeping Forces" written by Stephen Cohen. This article, with photos of nine example covers and cachets, describes the Irish presence in the Congo in 1960. There are historical notes (list of Irish Units that served in the Congo) accompanying the philatelic notes. The author states that 266

Irishmen were part of the UNEF II, U.N. Emergency Force in Egypt from October 1973 through May 22, 1974, but has not seen covers or aëros from that group. The third force was sent to Cyprus, but there was no UNEF Base Post Office. Mail to Ireland went through the Cypriot Post. The fourth is the U.N. Interim Forces in Lebanon. Irish mail is free under 10 grams through the French manned UNBPO. Mail to non-participating countries must use French stamps.

F.E. Dixon provided "Random Notes" and Eddie Fitzgerald provided "Dublin Newsletter". The president, Patricia W. Stilwell Walker, and the editor reported on everything from chapter news to a suggestion or proposal to create a "review committee", which would assist those intending to exhibit for the first time.

Norah K. Wright authored a three-page article on "The Railway Perforins of Ireland". There is a list of all the railways known to have used perforins, and over 30 examples accompany the historical text.

Brian Warren presented a philatelic bibliography of himself with insight to his introduction and further specialization in the Gerl definitives.

J.E. Foley reported on a reply containing a plausible explanation to his question about a forged overprint, which may have been the misuse of a rubber overprint stamp intended for revenues.

Member Goetz Weihmann requested assistance in tracking down a copy of the T28a inverted overprint.

Membership dues are \$7.00 and the membership is up to #1842. ♣

Letter to the Editor

January 1998

Dear Editor,

In view of your comments regarding slow delivery (in the Winter Issue), I thought you would be pleased to see how quickly I received mine. Canada Post was in the aftermath of a Postal Strike!

My issue was received on 21 December 97. (Mailed on 26 December 97.)

Jean Talman

EPA #0907

Editor's Note: She didn't say, but the Postal Workers must have been very successful to inspire such enthusiasm. Perhaps they can give ours some advice on mail delivery. ♣

Barry Chapter To Host Meeting

The Commodore Barry Chapter of the Éire Philatelic Association will be hosting a meeting at the Spring 1998 Postage Stamp Mega-Event in New York City on Saturday, March 21st, 1:00 p.m. The topic will be "Treasures of Early Irish Art", a program from The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Visitors are cordially welcomed and membership information to the Éire Philatelic Association will be available to anyone interested. Céad Míle Fáilte ("One Hundred Thousand Welcomes"). ♣

BOOK REVIEW

Tabeart, Colin. *Robertson Revisited. A study of the Maritime Postal Markings of the British Isles based on the work of Alan W Robertson*. Limassol, James Bendon, 1997. Hardbound, xvi-314pp. Available from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. £40Stg. or US\$67.50. Postage £1Stg. or US\$2 per copy. Payment by personal cheque in Sterling or US\$, Eurocheque (in Sterling), or credit card (VISA, MasterCard or Eurocard).

Do you collect the postal history of the British Isles? Maritime mail? The postmarks of Dublin, Glasgow, London? Ship letter markings? The Falmouth Packet? Then *Robertson Revisited* is for you. And there are hundreds of other reasons to buy the book. It is an excellent work in all its aspects: treatment and importance of the subject; research and clarity of writing; presentation and technical details. It is a comprehensive treatment of British postmarks relative to maritime postal activities from the earliest known mark (Waterford - 1712) to the present day. Based primarily on Alan Robertson's *A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles* published in installments between 1955 and 1964 and reprinted in 1993 and 1995 by James Bendon, it incorporates the information found in Roger Hosking's work on paquebots, Dr. Michael Gould's work on the Royal Navy and the research of many other authors and of Mr. Tabert himself. In addition to the listing of postal markings in the Catalogue of Ports, there are chapters on the maritime letter rates of the British Isles, pioneering long-distance steam communications, and an extensive bibliography. The book concludes with an Index of Ports, which could be considered redundant since the Catalogue of Ports is alphabetic, but is an added bonus for easier search.

The Catalogue of Ports has some historical and postal information when appropriate, and the endnotes to each port are most useful and make the reading and the use of the Catalogue most enjoyable. Like any catalogue, the information included is probably not complete; new discoveries are being made every day, particularly in the areas of earliest and latest known dates of uses; however, like Robertson before, Tabert's *Robertson Revisited* will be a definitive work for years to come. The book is a must for any postal historian, British Isles collector, Maritime Mail collector, and would be of major benefit to the general collecting public, as we all have, from time to time, found an entire or cover with maritime marking from, through, or to the British Isles in our area of specialization. Cruise ship passengers have also sent home postcards mailed aboard ship and this book will help locate the port where the cards were mailed.

Tabert, a pioneer in the study and publication of British rates, is to be commended for having brought us a scholarly update to Robertson's primordial work on maritime mail and ship letter. ♣

Letter to the Editor

January 27, 1998

For those who, like myself, may become bored with bickering and whose memory is limited, it may be recalled that Mr. Foley originally published a short article on what he saw as considerable errors in an account by a certain John Hotchner (*U.S. Stamp News* May-June 1996) that apparently contained references to the Irish 2d Map stamp (*The Revealer* Spring 1977).

In his diatribe against this United States State Department employee, he (Foley) quoted from an article that originally appeared in the *American Philatelist* regarding the issue of the Free State's first stamp, the 2d Map definitive. Moreover, he urged Mr. Hotchner to "check his facts" and went on to state that "he would have learned that the initial production of the 2d map was done in England by the British Government at Somerset House." This, I suggested (*The Revealer* Fall 1997) was in error—subject to Mr. Foley producing evidence for his quoted statement.

Somewhat bewilderingly, the only evidence he can apparently produce is that quoted from my book (*Ireland's Transition*), which was to the effect that it was not known with exactitude as to whether the initial printings were made in Britain or Ireland. While it is extremely flattering to see that he quotes an extract from my book, it is somewhat of a pity that he did not use it in his original criticism of John Hotchner. This extract, I would suggest, is a far cry from the apparently definitive quote contained in his original letter (i.e. production at Somerset House). Moreover, since he was kind enough to purchase my volume, he may also note that, throughout the book, I emphasized that I differentiated between opinions and proven facts. Unless a statement could be proved, I would point out that only an opinion was involved as to its correctness. Literally, I would suggest that Mr. Foley take a leaf from my book.

My book was written some eight years ago, and although at that time I was fairly sure as to the exact means by which the 2d Map stamp was produced, I did not have enough concrete evidence to support my view (that is differentiating between opinion and fact). In the intervening period, much more has come to light. Hence my assertion that:

1. The plates were made at the Royal Mint (definitively noted in my book).
2. The initial printings were made on British paper.
3. The printing was made in Dublin.

There is no need for Mr. Foley to "assume that [I am] correct." Either let him disprove my assertions or let him produce evidence in support of his own—the most profound of which would be that the production was done "by the British Government at Somerset House." There is also quite a distinct difference between the Royal Mint and Somerset House, especially with regard to their respective functions. There is an abundance of literature (verifiable) available on each, and so I will not waste your valuable space in defining them here. Perhaps the only new aspect is Mr. Foley's regard that the Royal Mint was an "arm of the British Government"—a most peculiar turn of phrase.

Finally, I do not wish become embroiled in what I regard as a political argument between Mr. Foley and Mr. Hotchner. Indeed, in my opinion, *The Revealer* is not the journal in which it should

be conducted. I am only concerned with the philatelic side of the matter.

Meanwhile, Mr. Editor, for the possible interest your readers who, rightly, expect information rather than argument in your pages, let me finish with a couple of further assertions. I am sure that while Mr. Foley may or may not concur with their correctness, perhaps, in fairness, he may wish to pass on this information for Mr. Hotchner's edification.

The first printings of the 2d Map stamp were initially made in mid-November 1922 in Dublin, on British-made paper, from plates produced at the Royal Mint. I am fairly certain as to the supplier of the paper (quite definitely British), but have not yet found irrefutable evidence as to the name of the company involved. Later, in April 1923, all printings were made on Irish-made paper. The Irish supplier involved was McDonnell (no relation, I believe, to the Dublin dealer of that name).

C.I. Dulin
Geneva



The First Zeppelin Flight in Ireland That Never Happened

by David J. Brennan

Along with my Winter issue of *The Revealer* was a copy of Bill Murphy's new publication "Irish Airmail, Balloon Posts, Rocket, Helicopter, Parachute and Glider Mail". To my surprise, on the last page, was a brief article on a planned airship



flight from Feenagh, County Carlow to Ballon in 1994. Having been a crew member of a U. S. Navy Airship Squadron many years ago, my interest was aroused when I saw this article.

(see "Zepp Flight" on page 61)

Letter to the Editor

22 December 1997

1922 1d Dollard Overprint - doubled

Dear Editor,

I thought readers of *The Revealer* might be interested in the enclosed item from The current *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (Jan. 98) Vol. 28, No. 8, p. 90, which confirms the existence of the 1d Dollard with a double overprint.

Ireland Double Confirmed

A single used example of Ireland No 2, the 1922 1d Dollard overprint, has been known for many years with an apparent double overprint. This example is postmarked in Dublin on 26 April 1922, but has previously been approached with some caution as the two impressions are almost co-incidental with one being much fainter than the other. Some specialists have always felt that this was indeed a true double overprint as some of the Dollard stamps are known with very faint impressions of the overprint.

David MacDonnell, of MacDonnell Whyte Limited, has now put the argument beyond question with the discovery of a second example of this stamp with a double overprint used in Dublin on 19 April 1922. This example has received a certificate from the RPS Expert Committee and, in consequence, this double overprint will become No 2c in next year's edition of Part 1, British Commonwealth Catalogue.

Good Hunting!!

Your Aye,
Bill Fletcher



Letter to the Editor

Regarding R.J. Swords' letter on the Dublin & South Eastern Railway stamp (4d on 3d inverted on 2d) in the Spring issue of *The Revealer*, it is somewhat surprising that as a collector of railway letter fee stamps, he feels that the stamp is a forgery.

While, indeed, the stamp he illustrates may be a forgery and, wisely, he feels that he would not buy it without a certificate of authenticity, it should be stated that the variety, as such, is known and has been recorded in the past. It is certainly not a question of "Why after all these years passed, is this now showing up?" In fact, no less an authority than Captain Jackson referred to it very many years ago.

For the record, the 3d on 2d red overprint was made on the 6th printing of the base stamp and, of course, the 4d black overprint was made on the resulting unused stock. The variety inverted 3d on 2d is not yet known and it would appear that sheets bearing the variety were not issued during their brief period of use (Jan. 1920 to Sept. 1920). It was not until the 4d on 3d on 2d was released that the variety appeared.

From the illustration that accompanied his letter, it is diffi-

What A Difference A Day Makes

by William O'Connor

I have enjoyed collecting modern Irish covers for quite some time. If a first day cover is available, particularly from the 1930's or 1940's, this simply adds to the enjoyment. The envelopes addressed to Charles F. Bourke appear occasionally here in Southern California. My last acquisition of this sort was the 1/2 penny Michael O'Cleary stamp of June 30, 1944. It has a wonderful postmark of Limerick, and addressed to Lieutenant Bourke; this particular cover was mixed with thousands of world covers at the price of one dollar.

My most recent Irish cover, or more precisely a post card, came to me in a much more interesting manner. In September of 1980, I was visiting a stamp show in San Diego and had a casual conversation with a Mrs. Barbara Marsh. She indicated that in her possession was a first day cover of the 2 pence Shannon Hydro-Electric stamp. She promised to send me a photocopy of the piece, which duly arrived. I checked my venerable Hibernian catalogue and saw that the date for such a cover ought to be October 15, 1930, and not the date on the post card, which was the following day. I am sure that I sent a note thanking Mrs. Marsh for the information sent, but would not be interested at this time. Not knowing what to offer for a second-day cover was the prime reason for not being able to make an offer.

Seventeen years later, I noticed Mrs. Marsh's obituary in the local *San Diego Union*. She had maintained her keen interests in stamp collecting to the very end and was involved in many stamp organizations and clubs. I looked over her Irish collection, but nothing was of much use to me; I did not even recall the post card of so many years ago.

A few weeks later I was looking through the ubiquitous dollar cover box at a local Sunday show and came across the post card. Not realizing that I had already seen a picture of this piece before, I quickly selected it along with a few other Irish covers. It was only after I checked the MacDonnell Whyte catalogue this time that I began putting things together. After some time rummaging through my various boxes of accumulations, I found the old letter and copy of the almost first day cover.

I am extremely elated with my second day cover. With my two children getting ready for college, the Shannon cover will have to wait quite some time. A day perhaps makes a big difference in price, but in the scheme of things, the joy of collecting far outweighs a missed day.

NOTE: The MacDonnell Whyte 1991 catalogue lists the first day cover of the Shannon stamp as 850 Irish pounds. ♣

cult to be definitive as to which printing is involved. However, if Mr. Swords still has access to the stamp, then undoubtedly, if he finds that it is not from the 6th printing, then it is of dubious derivation. If it is from the 6th printing it seems very probable that the example is the genuine variety.

With regards,
Dr. C.I. Dulin



Germans in the San Patricio Battalion

*(Observations on the joint issue of a
commemorative stamp in Éire and Mexico.)*

by Hans G. Moxter



On the 12th of September 1997, Éire and Mexico issued a postage stamp to commemorate the foundation 150 years ago of the Irish Foreign Legion (St. Patrick's Battalion) in Mexico. At least this is how the German MICHEL Catalogue describes it. In this connection, some corrections are necessary. The Batallon de San Patricio was not founded on the 12th of September 1847.

The fact is that on the 13th and again on the 16th of September 1847, North American troops executed prisoners of war in Mexico City. These men were accused of being deserters and traitors of the U.S. army. They had fought on the Mexican side and, as immigrants in Texas before 1845, never had acquired US citizenship. They had joined the Batallon de San Patricio as volunteers. For a better understanding of the situation, here a timetable of developments in the region:

1820 — The following states of the United States of America at that time belonged to Mexico: California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas.

1821 — With the consent of the Mexican government, 300 families from the North settled in Texas, presuming that they would be granted Mexican citizenship. Their leader was Moses Austin from Connecticut, who for some time became a representative for Coahuila and Texas in the Mexican Parliament. They founded San Felipe.

1827 — By this time, at least 12,000 U.S. citizens had entered Texas. Mexico now issued laws to prohibit a further influx of immigrants.

Mar. 6, 1836 — Mexican troops encircle the Alamo in San Antonio, which is defended by Colonel W.B. Travis with 188 Texans. All defenders are killed when the Alamo is stormed. Six weeks later, Sam Houston defeats Santa Ana at the battle of the San Jacinto River. Six hundred Mexicans are killed there and Texas is declared a Lone Star Republic.

Mar. 1, 1845 — Texas joins the United States of America. After the declaration, Mexico declares war and mobilizes its army of 20,000 soldiers and 24,000 officers. Santa Ana becomes president.

Feb. 22, 1846 — Santa Ana withdraws his troops to the capital of Mexico after the battle of Buena Vista, Michoacan.

1846 — U.S. troops land at Veracruz and march on Mexico City.

Sept. 13, 1847 — The Americans storm the heights of Chapultepec, where nine of the defending cadets jump to their deaths to avoid being captured by the invaders. These cadets are still venerated today as the "Niños Heroes" (Heroic children) in Mexico. On the same day, American troops execute and maltreat members of the Mexican Batallon de San Patricio. After their victory at Padierna, the Americans had established their headquarters in September at the monastery San Angel, the Casa Blanca, the Casa del Risco, and

the Casa de las Diligencias, all at or nearby the Plaza de San Jacinto.

Sept. 13, 1847 — General Scott ordered the hanging of 20 Irishmen and the flogging of nine more who, afterwards, were branded with a "D" on their cheek as deserters. Mexican prisoners of war were also flogged and hanged on trees at the nearby Plaza del Carmen. After the withdrawal of the Americans the people felled the trees.

Sept. 16, 1847 — A further massacre takes place in Mixcoac when 28 POWs of the battalion "who arrived too late for the execution on 13th" are hanged.

Feb. 2, 1848 — In the peace treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the United States of America compelled Mexico to sell half its territory for 15 million dollars. In Mexican opinion, "The only friends Mexico had in this disgraceful period in the U.S.A. were Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant and (later) Robert F. Kennedy."

After this timetable for the 1845-1848 war and the facts that led to it, here are a few remarks. Since 1848, Mexico has no foreign legion. The term, as such, is disagreeable to a Mexican. They are too proud to imagine that they need foreigners to defend their country. The Batallon de San Patricio was named only indirectly after Ireland's patron saint. It had been organized in a small village named San Patricio in the Texan county of the same name, west of Corpus Christi. Place names Chapultepec, Churubusco, Mixcoac and San Angel are now all to be found within the city limits of the capital. Plaza del Carmen and Plaza San Jacinto are in the south of the Distrito Federal in the Delegacion San Angel.

The memorial for the Irish volunteers is a big stone slab with the names of 71 men, placed in 1959 into the housewall of number 15 Plaza San Jacinto. The Celtic Cross shown on the commemorative is not known to me. I have lived over twelve years (1958-1970) near the monument, and often passed it.

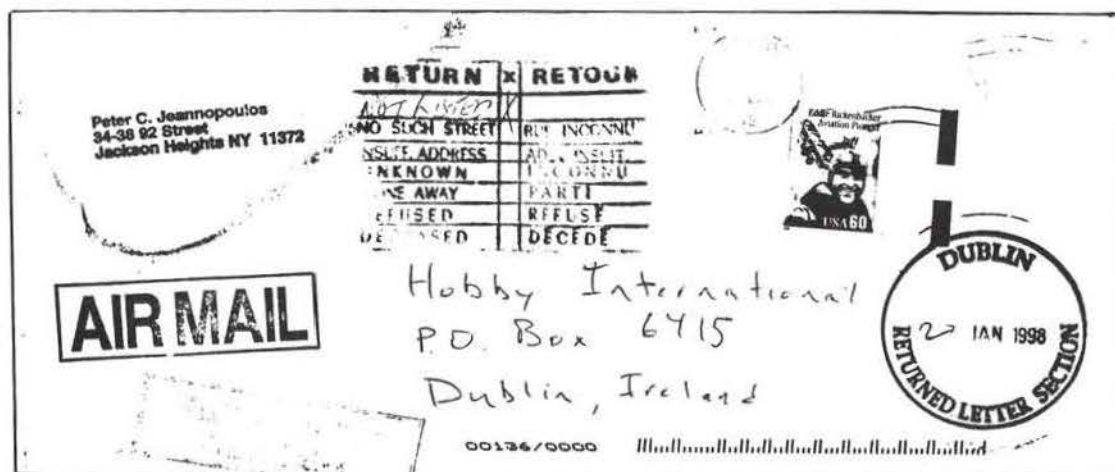
If you should have the luck to come to Mexico City as a tourist, be sure to visit San Angel on a Saturday and visit the Bazar del Sabado. You may be surprised to find a colorful market with all kinds of Artesania Mexicana (folk art) offered by the artists themselves at quite reasonable prices. This market is at the Plaza San Jacinto and the memorial for the Irish who fought for Mexico is in that very place. Look for it and ask for it. Most tourists pass it without even noting what it says. Here is the translated text:

*In memory of the Irish soldiers of the heroic
Batallon de San Patricio
who gave their lives for the sake of Mexico
during the unjust invasion by the North Americans
in 1847*

*(71 names of members of the unit)
With the gratitude of Mexico
112 years after their sacrifice.
September 1959*

Not only Herman Schmidt, but perhaps also Franz Rhode, Johann Klager, Georg Dalwig, M.T. Frantius, Heinrich Oetcker, Parian Fritz and Louis Pfeifer, give room to speculation that German immigrants may have joined the Irish in those days. ♣

An Interesting Cover



With this issue of *The Revealer* we begin a new series. We hope to bring to you each quarter an Irish cover that is in some way "interesting." We can scan your cover if you would care to send it, or you can send a good, sharp, high-contrast copy. I would prefer that you not send valuable covers, as I cannot be responsible for loss through the mails. However, all originals will be returned and cared for as if they were my own.

The purpose of this column is to stimulate interest in Irish Postal History, both old and new, and to provide a means for every member to actively participate in the journal. Please send all materials for this column to me, the Editor, at the address in the masthead, or contact me via cyberspace at Pjryan6966@aol.com (my spacey address). Simply describe the cover and why you think it is "interesting." **All entries will appear in *The Revealer*.**

pear in *The Revealer*.

Joe Foley has sent in the cover in this issue. Joe received it from a friend of his from the Collectors Club in New York. The air mail cover was mailed from Queens on December 15, 1997 to an address in Dublin. It wound up being returned to sender and has three interesting markings in light blue. In the rectangular "RETURN" mark, a manuscript "NOT LISTED" has been added to a blank space. A date stamp of the "DUBLIN RETURNED LETTER SECTION" has the first digit of the date "helped" with a manuscript "2." Note that Dublin in this instance is not in Gaelic and more than a month has elapsed since the letter was sent. The boxed "RETURN TO SENDER" completes the Irish markings except for the blue crayon calling attention to the sender's return address. There are no backstamps. ♣

Zepp Flight

(continued from page 58)

The airship "Pestalozzi" was transported on a ferry from France to Ireland. Upon arrival, the crew has deliberations and concerns about the ever-changing weather patterns. There was an excruciating five-day delay for the flight. They were hoping, from hour to hour, for a calmer and drier weather pattern. Even the accommodating postmaster at the launch site waited until late Saturday evening to see if the journey was lucky enough to start. The airship was then loaded with bags of mail. Unfortunately, this restless try for an "Up Ship" command was impossible. The attempt was aborted, but never the less recorded with a beautiful and interesting cover.

The special "Kinderdorf" postcard and ordinary envelope prepared for the flight with a special FLODHNACH/AERLONG postmark depicting a zeppelin over Kilkenny Castle and BALANA /AERLONG "arrival" postmark of 20 Aug, with a zeppelin over Johnstown Castle. Note on lower cover "START CANCELLED/UNSAFE WEATHER".

Also some of the covers had the signature of the pilot, H. Jo

Scheer.

The 20th of August, 1994 will remain a special, but sadly not yet the first, zeppelin flight in Ireland. My thanks to Bill Murphy and Ronny Vogt for their additional research on this article. ♣

Edition

(continued from page 55)

Service publication *USA Philatelic* and found that I could still buy this very same Irish sheetlet from the USPS that had been "... withdrawn from sale forever" by the Irish Post office on December 31, 1997. The sheetlet is item #808712 and the cost is \$6.00 (that's about \$1.56 per æ). You can also order the presentation pack for \$7.80 - item #808711. The USPS publication notes the date of issue as 12/10/97 (close enough for government work!?) and cautions us that it is a "limited edition. Available just this one time through *USA Philatelic*." However, it's not going off sale on this side of the pond until 4/1/98. I wonder if that's an April Fool?

The January 1998 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* carried a full page ad by Harry Allen International Philatelic Distributors/

Irish Stamp Agency in Great Britain. The ad illustrated the sheetlet, again cited it as a "limited edition" and noted the issue date (correctly) as 6th December 1997. No price was given or time frame for ordering.

There's certainly room for divided opinions on limitations of either time or quantity on stamp issues. However, this seems to go past that point. In recent years, it's not all that unusual for the postal service of one country to provide stamps of another for their philatelic customers. For a longer period, postal services have employed agents in other countries. It strikes me that the ground rules for sales abroad should be consistent with domestic policy.

The situation with the sale abroad of this sheetlet seems inconsistent with An Post's year-long expositions. ♣

Letter To The Editor

February 11, 1998

Dear Editor:

Would you be kind enough to put a question in *The Revealer* or one of our members in Éire as to why the post office of Éire restricts the distribution of their Commemorative stamps.

Just for example, on the stamp issued in September 1997 in honor of 150 years relative to the San Patricios, they were not available in the post office in a city the size of Cobh, Co. Cork but required a trip to the city of Cork to obtain the stamp.

Why would they ignore these outlying Post Offices? Maybe one of our members over there can provide an explanation if the question is posed in *The Revealer*.

Thanks, Padraig, you are doing a fine job and may God bless his work.

Mise.

Patrick Pearse Costello, #0556

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

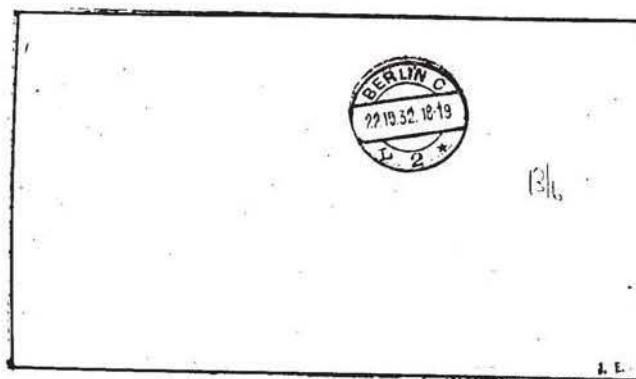
Editor's Note: I did contact An Post for a policy statement in the distribution of Irish Stamps, but got no reply as of the 1 March deadline date. Should An Post reply in the future, I'll publish that reply in a future issue. ♣

Irish First Flight Covers

by Patrick J. Ryan, Sr.

Has anyone considered collecting Irish First Flight covers? Strictly speaking, this area should be limited to those flights which originate in Ireland and go both in country and abroad, but as I found out quite early, it is very very difficult to hold to these parameters. I was always enamoured by an Irish postmark, whether it's on the front or the back of the cover, and I quickly wandered off in all directions when I considered the return flight.

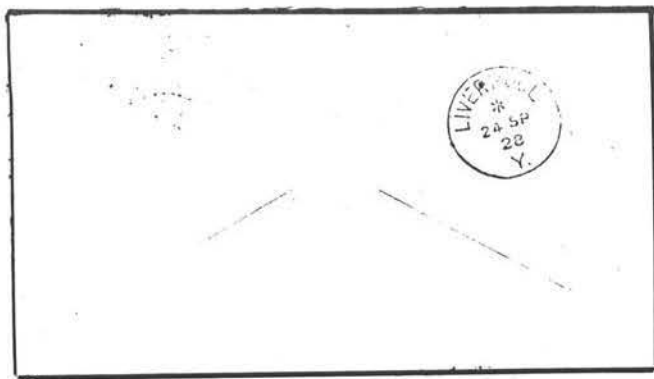
Therefore, let me acquaint you with some of the covers I have accumulated while actively pursuing the elusive First Flights. Also, let me state at the outset that this area is covered quite well in the 1991 MacDonnell Whyte Catalogue, so as to provide an adequate guide for the novice.



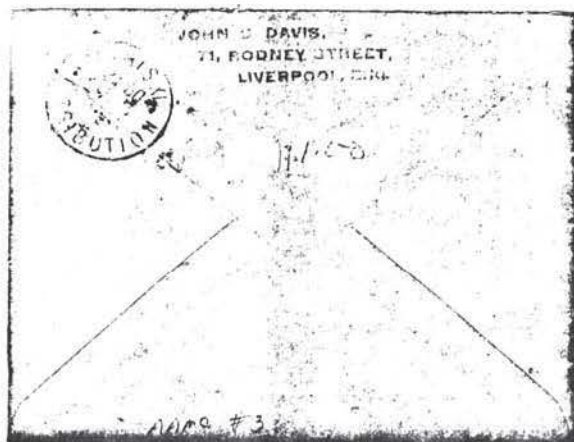
First, let me introduce you to my absolutely all-time favorite FF cover. It has the honor to hold MW AC7d dated October 22, 1932, Dublin dispatch. It is not really very expensive at £12.00, but this cover is exciting from several aspects. However, before I get into it, I must at this point acknowledge the assistance of a very dear friend from Germany, Mr. Hans Moxter, who assisted me by explaining the details to me.

First, we can see quite plainly that the Flight (Aer-Post) originated in Galway and ended in Berlin (almost) on 22 October 1932. It holds a posting date and time of Dublin 4:15 p.m., 21 October 1932. The backstamp indicates that it was received in





Berlin at 6:19 p.m. on October 22. On the front there is not one but two red Luftpost (AirMail) German confirmation of transportation; one in Berlin and one in Koln (Cologne). This is understandable when one considers the address of the city of Solingen, Germany, which is a short way from Koln near the Dusseldorf area. If you look carefully at AC 7 in the catalogue, it contains only one Berlin reception mark.



The next cover – also a favorite – is carried as AC3 in MacDonnell Whyte and takes place on 26 August 1929 from Galway to London. It carries a 2d and 3d O'Connell and was posted in Galway on the 26th of August. This cover is addressed to Paris France and carries a very light Paris reception mark on the back. While the cover is endorsed on the front as the first experimental flight from Galway to Croyden and Paris AC 4e has only recorded the Paris leg of the trip and no marks from Croyden.

During the week of 24-29 September 1928 an experimental flight from Liverpool to Belfast and return to Liverpool was conducted by the flying boat "Calcutta". This cover was posted in Belfast with a 1d and 1-1/2d George V at 10:45 a.m. on 24 September 1928. It has a clear Liverpool backstamp of the same date in Liverpool, England, indicating arrival. ♣

Raven Stamps Expands To Dublin

by Patrick J Ryan, Sr.

Padraig O'Shea of Raven Stamps, 12C Washington St., Cork, Ireland, announces that, effective April 1st, 1998, he will expand his business so that he, together with Declan O'Kelly, will have a presence in Dublin. The Whyte II, located at 28 Marlborough St., will become Cathedral Stamps and will be managed by Mr. O'Kelly. Mr. O'Kelly will assume a position as Director of Raven Stamps of Cork, Ireland. Mr. O'Kelly intends, in the coming months, to expand the range of material offered in the shop in Dublin, with an emphasis on fine Irish and foreign stamps and covers. The current mail order business will be split between Dublin and Cork in order to offer a higher level of service to their customers.

Ian White has decided to dispose of that portion of his business to enable him to concentrate on his core business of auctioning stamps and collectibles.

I am certain we will be hearing more details of this merger in ensuing issues. The staff of *The Revealer* and others of the ÉPA wish all involved the best of luck in their new businesses. ♣

From The Desk Of The Editor

There is something new in this issue of which every member should be aware. On the masthead page, the officers who have E-mail addresses now have them listed. I would like all to note that with the addition of these addresses, space on the page is becoming very limited. As our member services expands, there is a dire need to get the job done. Accordingly, decisions as to what information will appear on this page has to be correspondingly limited.

I would like to remind everyone that the deadline for the Summer issue is fast approaching and that 1 June will be here before you know it. Please send your articles in early.

Happy Collecting !!! ♣

E.P.A. SPECIAL OFFERS

The following items may be ordered from Peter Bugg, 5 Forest St., Franklin, MA 02038 U.S.A. All prices include postage and handling (except as noted below). Overseas add \$1.00 per item for air mail. Make all cheques and money orders payable to Peter Bugg.

Dublin Penny Post

— by Manfred Dittmann

Originally prepared for a lecture at the FAI meeting in 1990. Manfred Dittmann spent many hours in the postal archives and museums in Ireland and Great Britain researching this subject. Many unknown documents were discovered and are shared with the public in this fine publication. Published by the FAI. Price \$35.00.

Die Gerlmarken

— by Otto Jung

A comprehensive listing of the Gerl issues. Published by the FAI. Price \$3.50.

The Irish Architecture Definitives

— by Otto Jung

The author, our world-wide well-known FAI member Otto Jung, also the author of the catalogue of the Postal Stationery of Ireland, shows again his research work on this definitive series as a consequence of the various types of papers, perforations and other peculiarities. Published by the FAI. Price \$6.50.

The Maritime Postmarks of Ireland

— by Bernd Dienelt

The author attempts to compile as accurate a listing as possible of all the Paquebot Postmarks of Ireland. The author also asks for assistance in filling in some gaps and other possible discoveries. Published by the FAI. Price \$6.50.

The First 55 Years of Irish Coils

— by Peter Bugg

A comprehensive listing of all Irish coils with a check list of all leaders and tab ends. Published by the EPA. Price \$8.50.

75 Years of Irish Stamps

Produced by members of the FAI to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Irish Post Office. Each book includes a specially printed post card from An Post. Published by the FAI. Price \$17.50.

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.

Die Meilenstempel Der Irischen Post — (The Mileage Marks of Ireland) 1808-1839

— by Hans G. Moxter

1994 Edition. 57pp. 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 \$6.50.

Ireland—Catalogue of Perfins

— compiled and edited by Richard L. Mewhinney

Published by The Perfins Club - 1994. 38 pp. punched for 3 ring binder. The catalogue is designed for use as an album as well as catalogue. Only observed Perfins are catalogued. Price \$9.00.

The Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Ireland: 1858-1925

— by James J. Brady

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.

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 \$9.00.

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 \$7.00.

The Post Offices and Datestamps of the County of Leitrim

Original study of Dr. Brian de Burca, updated by James T. Howley. A very informative book showing 72 illustrations of handstamps, a map and descriptions of post office locations. A very useful item for postmark and postal history buffs. Published by EPA, 23 pages. Price \$6.00.

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 \$6.00.

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 and Addendum 1

— by Patrick J. Ryan, Sr.

A comprehensive index of all philatelic articles appearing in THE REVEALER from the first issue through the end of 1990. Articles are listed by subject matter. Cost: \$12.00.

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.

Introduction to The Post Offices of County Clare, Ireland

— by John Mackey & Tony Cassidy

Text in German & English. Published by FAI. A study developed from the postal archives of Dublin & London. A must for the student of Postal History. 94 pp Price \$9.00.

The Dublin Spoon - 1855-57

— by Dr. C. I. Dulin

A comprehensive study that should be in every Philatelic Library. A must for postal history students. Softbound 48 pages \$6.00 prepaid.

"Die Ganzsachen Irlands" (The Postal Stationery of Ireland)

— by Otto Jung

1994 Edition. Text in German & English. Published by FAI, the Irish Philatelic Group in Germany. This latest 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. Price \$14.00.

Irish Slogan Postmarks 1918-1994

— by Uwe Netzsch

Published by FAI of Germany. 116 pages. Text in both German and English. Over 300 illustrations by County, dies and type. Cost \$17.50.

Irish Airmail 1919-1990

— by Bill Murphy

Joint publication by the EPA and the Irish Airmail Society. This book covers all known mail-carrying flights to and from Ireland since the first successful non-stop trans-Atlantic flight of Alcock and Brown in 1919. Each listing includes information on date of flight, the itinerary, the airline, and, if available, a 50% reduced illustration. Price US \$15, plus \$1.25 postage.

The Rare Coil

— by Joe Foley

This publication brings together several articles and correspondence and documents from the archives of the Irish Post Office, pertaining to the 2d vertical coil issue of 1935. Price US \$12.