

50th Anniversary

The Reveal

Quarterly Journal
of the
Éire Philatelic Association

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Samhradh - Summer 2000



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Affiliate No. 21 -- The American Philatelic Society
Affiliate -- Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by David J. Brennan



Our 50th celebration at Boxborough was a huge success. Many of our members traveled long distances to attend our AGM. Peter Bugg, Show Chairman, outdid himself with the society table and arrangements both for our entertainment and for the ladies accompanying our members. The exhibits were outstanding and I overheard one member comment that this was a greater celebration than the 25th at Westpex. Well, the committee for the 75th will have a standard set for their goal for that anniversary.

The only matter of importance that was brought up at the AGM was by myself, and that was to form a committee to study the feasibility of continuing the present practice of having AGM's around the United States. The reason for this decision is that going back to the last three years, there has been poor attendance by the membership. My major concern is: Are we serving the membership or just accommodating a few persons in each geographical area? Or should we select one location where the majority of the membership resides and have that as the formal site for future meetings? Hopefully, the committee will give the board some insight as to how we should proceed. Now, here is where I need your views. If you would like to serve on this committee, please advise me accordingly

(continued on next page)

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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

and I'll arrange for either an on-line dialogue or use the USPS for communications. I would like to complete the findings of this committee in 90 days so the board can act accordingly. Next year we will be meeting in Dallas, Texas, at TEXPEX2001, followed by BALPEX2002 in Baltimore, Maryland. No site has been proposed for 2003.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

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Membership as of March 1, 2000 523

New Members +11

Resignations -1

Membership as of June 1, 2000 533 ♣

A Few Words About Our Auctions

by Joe Foley, Auction Manager

RESERVES

When there is a reserve given for a lot, this is the minimum bid we can accept. Some may have confused this with "estimated value," which it is not. Bidding below this amount serves no useful purpose, and in reality, wastes time. Many lots do not have a reserve, i.e., there is no dollar amount specified in the right-hand column under "RESERVE". In these cases, bids less than 25% of catalog value for material free of defects are usually unacceptable. Please bear this in mind when bidding.

DESCRIPTIONS

Auction regulation #2 states: "Descriptions: Vendors will be responsible for the accuracy of descriptions. Neither the ÉPA nor the auction manager are liable in any way for faulty descriptions ...". The implication should be reasonably clear that the owner is responsible for describing and listing each lot. Being your auction manager is a volunteer effort and I just don't have the time to sort through material, organize it into lots, and develop descriptions and reserves. In the future, there will be a fee for this level of service to be mutually agreed upon between myself and the owner, but I'd just as soon skip the fee and have the material described and lotted by the owner. I am however, more than willing to work with estates of former members. I usually do check the material against the descriptions and, if necessary, adjust. Owners are also requested to bear in mind the bidding increments: \$1.98 may be good pricing strategy for your local store, but make a choice: \$1.75 or \$2.00.

PAYMENTS

Just about every auction there are one or two buyers who are a bit slow in paying for their lots. This slows up my settling with the owners and can push that activity to the point where I am simultaneously setting up one auction and trying to close out the previous one.

A "Thank You"

The overwhelming majority of our members are a pleasure to deal with, and in the main, it continues to be great fun to manage the auction. ♣

CORRECTION

That Was The Year That Was – 1999

A caption error occurred in the above article which appeared on page 68 of the Spring 2000 issue of *The Revealer*. The captions underneath the illustrations of the two 45p stamps should read as follows:

45p on left: ISSP (phos) - steep accent 45p on right: Walsall (phos) - flat accent

West Clare Railway Co.

by William S. Shields



The County of Clare in the west of Ireland is surrounded by sea on three sides. In the north, it borders on Galway Bay; in the south, it forms the northern shore of the Shannon Estuary; in the west, its coastline has to take what the mighty Atlantic throws at it. In the 1840s in Clare, as in other parts of

Ireland, railways began to be looked on as an engine for growth and regeneration. The first railway in the country was the Limerick and Ennis broad gauge line which opened in 1859.

In 1871, the Ennis and West Clare Railway was authorized by Parliament. The West Clare Railway was incorporated in 1884 to build a line 27 miles long, from Ennis to Miltown Malbay. This extension was followed the same year by the South Clare Railway, which was to extend the WCR line to the southwest of the country, with lines to Kilrush and Kilkee. Strictly speaking, the two concerns were separate companies, but as the SCR was, in effect, an extension of the WCR and was worked by the latter from the outset, the whole system is usually referred as the WCR. The WCR was in a sufficiently advanced state in June 1887 for an inspection to be made, and the line was passed for public service. Trains began running between Ennis and Miltown Malbay on the 2nd of July. The first part of the SCR to open was between Kilrush and Kilkee on the 13th of August, 1892. The system was completed on the 23rd of December, 1892.

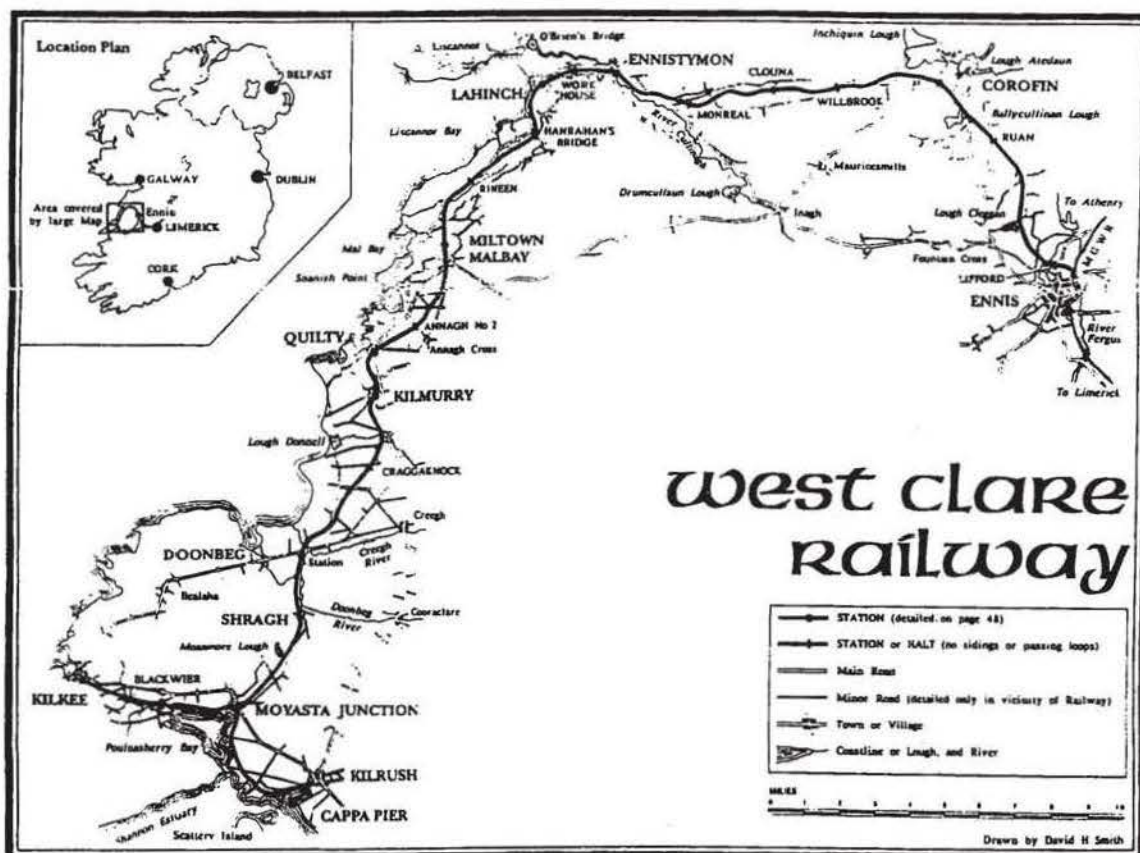
The WCR acquired sixteen steam locomotives over the years.

The first locos were four 0-6-0Ts supplied by Bagnalls in 1887. Services on the WCR commenced with four trains on weekdays and one on Sundays. By the Summer of 1922, Bradshaw was showing that this had been reduced to two trains daily with no Sunday service. It is impossible when writing about the WCR not to mention one of the most amusing songs ever written about a railway which this line inspired. William Percy French was a gentler Irish contemporary of W.S. Gilbert and was famed for his songs and ballads. On one occasion, he was forced to cancel a concert he was due to give in Kilkee owing to the lateness of the WCR train which was to take him there. He retaliated in the only way he knew, with a comic song entitled "Are Ye Right There Michael Are Ye Right". This contained such gems as "Kilkee! Oh, you, never get near it! You're in luck if the train brings you back. For the permanent way is so queer. It spends most of its time off the track."



When CIE took over from the GSR in the 1940s, a report into the long-term future of Ireland's railways was commissioned and this cast doubt on the long-term prospects for the WCR. In the 1950s, in spite of this report, the line embarked on a new era when complete dieselization was decided upon.

Steam traction was dispensed with, and the WCR became the best-equipped of the surviving Irish narrow gauge lines. In the end, dieselization prolonged the life of the railway, but did not ultimately save it. The end came on the 31st of January, 1961, when the last train ran.

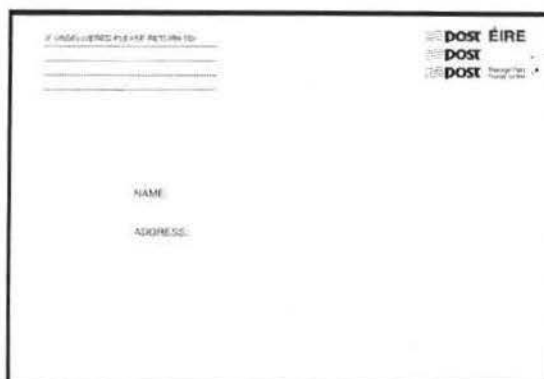


THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 1999

(continued from last issue)

by Brian Warren

POSTAL STATIONERY



Date Of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes
19 Feb	St. Patrick's Day		
	- set of four prepaid postcards	60p	per card
	- set of four greetings cards	90p	per card including prepaid envelope
	- CD plus card	IR£4.95	including prepaid padded envelope
Oct	Postcard – reprint with revised layout	IR£1.40	pack of five postcards
Nov	Registered envelope (C5 size) – new printing	IR£2.50	includes IR£2.00 inland registration fee and 35p postage

St. Patrick's Day Cards: Four postcards were available featuring (1) Tara Brooch; (2) Fairy; (3) Dove of Peace; and (4) Landscape. The Postage Paid imprint has the usual R.J. King design but the lettering of "Postas Iochta/Postage Paid" differs as compared to prior years. The St. Patrick's Festival logo introduced last year was replaced by an Ireland's Millennium Festivals logo ("The Party Starts Here"). The price of individual cards at 40p was unchanged. The postcards are known to have been on sale as early as 14 February (i.e. 5 days in advance of the official release date).

Four greetings cards complete with prepaid envelope bearing the same R.J. King stamp design were also available. The stamp imprint on the envelope matches the postcard imprint and thus differs from last year. In addition, a return address inscription ("In the event of non-delivery return to") is included at the top left corner. The cards feature (1) Celtic Greetings; (2) Balloon; (3) Stained Glass Window of St. Patrick; (4) Peace. The price of individual cards was increased by 10p to 90p.

A new product, the Compact Disc ("CD") card was introduced this year. The card includes a CD of a lively traditional music session recorded live in Dublin's

"Ferryman" pub by Cleasaí (a group of professional musicians who came together just for this recording). The CD card was sold complete with a padded envelope (225mm x 170mm) which incorporates the R.J. King Postage Paid imprint; the imprint matches that used on the greetings card envelope of 1998 but in slightly smaller lettering/format. The reverse of the envelope can sometimes be found with either of three different codes 321 3.99 A613, 276 3.99 A613 or 321 3.99 B613. Partial codes also noted.



Both postcards and envelopes (including the padded envelope) incorporate a pre-printed "Priority/Aerphost" logo but they differ in style/layout. A green "first day of issue" cancel was available from the bureau for use on postcards and

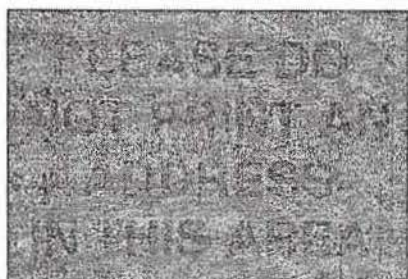
use for the first time in Limerick this year. I presume that cancels were also provided to other cities/towns that normally obtain pictorial postmarks for stamp issues. Can any member confirm use of the cancel at other locations?

A special promotion was undertaken, prior to the issue of the cards, by the Letter Post division of An Post to business users with meter licences. The promotion did not offer a discount but free overprinting was available for orders of more than 1,000 cards. The outer white envelope (230mm x 162mm) containing details of the promotion was similar to the envelope used for an equivalent offer last year. The R.J. King Postage Paid stamp printed on this special envelope matches the lettering/format used on the padded envelope. Unlike last year, An Post did not enclose any free postcards with details of the promotion.

An Post staff received one of the cards with a special message printed on the card to thank staff for their efforts since their introduction in 1984. Up to 1998, a cumulative total 19.5 million cards were sold. All four cards were also overprinted by the Stampa Council with a combined greetings and thank you message. One card was sent to each member cancelled with a Dublin Mail Centre IMP slogan ("Always Include/Return Address/On Your Envelopes/Post) of 12.03.99. Total of cards 1,200 (300 of each card) produced.



Finally, a special pair of "Happy St. Patrick's Day" postmarks for 16 and 17 March, similar in design to the first day postmark, were provided by the philatelic bureau – see illustrations. I'm unsure as to why these cancels were made available but they may have been used in connection with a special promotion in New York at the time of the annual St. Patrick's Day parade.



Postage Paid Postcards: The postcard now incorporates a space for the sender's name and address at top left. The

reverse side of the card (at mid right position) incorporates a faint four line message which reads "PLEASE DO/NOT PRINT AN/ADDRESS/IN THIS AREA". A large number of these cards are used for various television and radio postal competitions which require the sender to include his name, address and phone number. The inclusion of effectively two addresses on the right hand side of the card (albeit on different sides) probably resulted in a number of cards being incorrectly sorted by the Dublin Mail Centre OCR/IMP machinery. The five cards are included in a clear cellophane wrapper (not shrinkwrapped) together with an information slip with the Letter Post/An Post logo which states that the postcards are Postage Paid to Ireland and Britain.



New printing (1999)

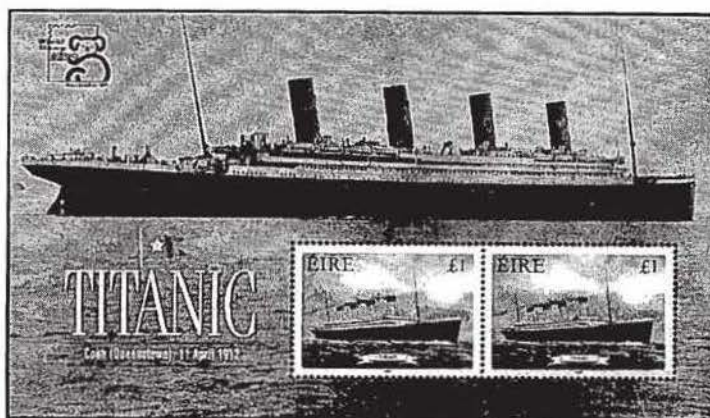
Registered Envelope: A reprint of the envelope was first noted in November. The Postage Paid/Minimum Registration Fee Paid indicator has been repositioned closer to the An Post logo and the lettering has been reset in a heavier typeface (see illustration). It should be noted that registration rates were increased on 5 July 1999 from IR£1.70 (inland and foreign) to IR£2.00 (inland) and IR£2.50 (foreign), hence the increase in the price of the envelope by 30p to IR£2.50. Although the wording on the reverse of the envelope has not been altered, the basic envelope cost only covers the inland fee and postage up to 50grms (35p).

Bureau de Change Postcards: There was no Bureau de Change promotion this year.

Oireachtas Postcard: There was no postcard issue for Oireachtas '99 which is now split over two public holiday weekends. During 1999, An tOireachtas was held in Dublin (30 April to 2 May) and in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford (29 to 31 October).

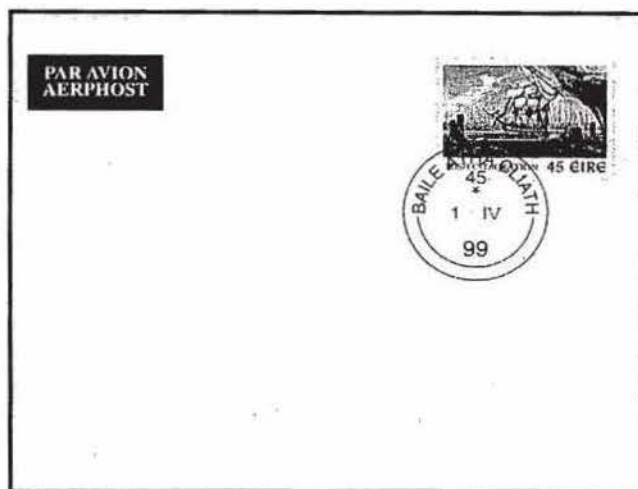
Other Items: There was also a "stamped to order" postcard issued during the year and this is referred to under *Miscellaneous Items* at the end of the article.

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS AND CACHETS - OVERSEAS



Australia Post cancel

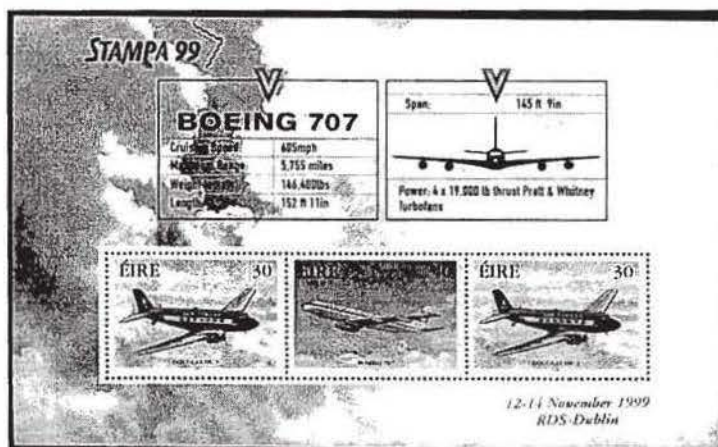
As referred to under *Special and Commemorative Issues*, the Titanic miniature sheet was overprinted with the show logo for Australia '99 (19-23 March) and a special Melbourne version of the Polly Woodside cancel was available. In addition, there was an ordinary show cachet which incorporated the exhibition logo of a kuala bear. Australia Post also provided a "Ships" cancel for 19 March for use on Australian stamp issues.



In advance of the New York Mega Show (22-25 April), the philatelic bureau posted out a specially printed card to collectors on their mailing list resident in the New York/New Jersey area inviting them to the show. The imprinted stamp on the card featured the 45p Emigration issue complete with simulated perforations and cancelled with a pre-printed bureau CDS of 1 IV 99. The old style air mail etiquette design was also included on the card. There was no special cachet at the show. The bureau posted out a similar card in 1997 for this show which incorporated the 52p Barn Owl definitive.

Cachets were also available from the An Post agent at Stamp '99 in London (15-18 April), IBRA '99 in Nuremberg (27 April-4 May) and PhilexFrance in Paris (2-11 July). At IBRA '99 the cachet was sold applied to an Olympic Games aerogramme. All cachets were available from the bureau in Dublin.

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS, POSTMARKS AND CACHETS – REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Numbers Printed	Paper	Perf.	Printer
7 Mar	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Limerick - Birds of Ireland sheetlet with o/p in black	IRE£5.00	500 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14 x 14½	Mahons
17 Apr	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Dublin ("Stampania '99") - Titanic miniature sheet with o/p in dark blue	IRE£3.00	500 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14 x 14½	Mahons
22 May	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Cork - Birds of Ireland sheetlet with o/p in red	IRE£5.00	500 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14 x 14½	Mahons
25 July	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Killarney - Birds of Ireland sheetlet with o/p in green	IRE£5.00	500 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14 x 14½	Mahons
19 Sept	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Sligo - Birds of Ireland sheetlet with o/p in dark blue	IRE£5.00	500 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14 x 14½	Mahons
2 Nov	Stampa '99 - Titanic miniature sheet with o/p in red - Aviation booklet pane 4 with o/p in red - £3 Definitive booklet (non-phos.) with o/p in red - GAA Millennium sheetlet with o/p in black	IRE£15 IRE£5	1,500 printed 1,500 printed 1,500 printed 3,000 printed	CCP3 CCP3 CCP3 CCP3	13¼ x 14 14¼ x 14 14¼ x 14 14¼ x 14	Mahons Mahons Mahons Mahons
12 Nov	Stampa '99 - Christmas card - A4 card for GAA Millennium sheetlet	50p 40p	Custom House, Dublin 1 (5,000 printed)			
21 Nov	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Galway - Birds of Ireland sheetlet with o/p in maroon	IRE£5.00	500 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14¼ x 14	Mahons
4 Dec	Cork Philatelic Society – Annual Exhibition - Booklet - Special cover for postmark	IRE£2.50 30p	2 x 45p Emigration stamp (200 copies numbered) per envelope			



IPTA/Collectors' Road Shows – Limerick, Dublin, Cork, Killarney, Sligo and Galway: The one day shows were held in Jury's Hotel (Limerick), Riverside Centre (Dublin – two days), Jury's Hotel, Western Road (Cork), Great Southern Hotel (Killarney), the Silver Swan Hotel (Sligo), and Great Southern Hotel, Eyre Square (Galway). A special postmark for each event was available as well as the souvenir listed. All of the postmarks are repeats of prior year designs. The only one day show held on a Saturday was Cork; the remainder were held on a Sunday. The Dublin show was a two day event but the same postmark was used on both days.

The three postmarks in use at the show were as follows:-



Cork Philatelic Exhibition 1999

Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition: A numbered booklet containing 2 x 45p Emigration stamps was available. The interleaving features various Cobh and Cork paquebot cancels and the back cover reproduces the show cancel. The souvenir cover features a silhouette of two of the figures from the *Annie Moore* memorial at Cobh.

Stampa '99: The souvenirs were distributed to members in advance of the show. The overprinted GAA Team of the Millennium sheetlet was the public souvenir available at the show. A special Christmas card was also available which features an attractive full colour photograph of the Customs House building in Dublin. A black and white illustration of the 52p stamp issued in 1991 featuring this building is reproduced inside the card.

12 November:	Year 2000 (Celebrating the Millennium);
13 November:	Lifebelt (Titanic); and
14 November:	Aer Lingus tailfin (Commercial Aviation)

Originally, the 12 November postmark was to be used with the initial Millennium issue of An Post, which was to be released prior to the show, but was subsequently deferred to the end of the year. Note that contrary to An Post's own regulations, the postmarks provided by the philatelic bureau did not refer to "Baile Átha Cliath", the place of posting. No postcard or envelope was provided this year by either Stampa or An Post. A large white A4 card was available from the organisers for use with the overprinted GAA sheetlet.

There were no other postmarks/cachets available as no overseas postal administration attended the 1999 exhibition.

A John Hinde postcard featuring a map of Ireland was overprinted for the Stampa Awards Dinner, which was held in the Lansdowne Hotel, Pembroke Road, Dublin 4 on 13 November. Each of the cards had one of the Titanic stamps (ex miniature sheet) cancelled with the Lifebelt postmark of the same date.

PRIVATE CACHETS



CILL CHOMHGHAILL

01 JUL 1999

CO. CHILL MHANTAIN

Irish Open: The Irish Open Golf Championship (1 to 4 July with Pro-Am on 30 June) was once again held at Druids Glen, Co. Wicklow. In similar manner as in 1997 and 1998, post office facilities were provided but there was no special postmark. This year there was no datestamping of mail at the venue. Any mail posted at the venue was put into the mail system at Bray Post Office and on request received a Bray SID postmark. A private cachet in black (similar to that used in 1997 and 1998) was provided by one enterprising collector. The tournament was won by 19 year old Sergio Garcia (Spain).



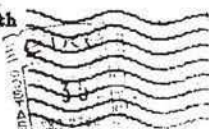
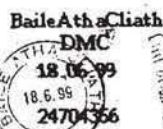
St. Brigid's cachet and Callan SID (Illustration reduced)

St. Brigid's College, Callan: The Convent of Mercy school in Callan, Co. Kilkenny which has a thriving junior stamp club marked its golden jubilee with a special cachet which was applied to postcards featuring an aerial view of the school. The stamp was cancelled with the counter SID of Callan P.O. It should be noted that this was a private cachet and not a commemorative postmark.

SLOGAN (IMP) POSTMARKS

(all illustrations of IMP postmarks reduced)

All slogans are only in use at the Dublin Mails Centre. It is likely that similar IMP machines will be introduced at other locations in the future.



IMP 7 - ALWAYS INCLUDE A / RETURN ADDRESS / ON YOUR ENVELOPE/=POST: First used, for both machines 1 and 2, from January 1999 and continued in use until 31 March 1999. It was then replaced by the "Eurvote....." slogan noted below. It was used intermittently thereafter and was last seen used on 31 October 1999. See also *Year 2000 Testing* note below.

**EURVOTE
11 JUNE
EURFUTURE**

Baile Atha Cliath
DMC
04.06.99
22500554



IMP 8 - EURVOTE / 11 JUNE / EURFUTURE: First seen, for both machines 1 and 2, on 1 April 1999. The European Parliament elections took place in Ireland on 11 June 1999. The slogan was last used on 10 June 1999.

**National Heritage
Week
5-12 September**

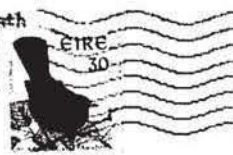
Baile Atha Cliath
DMC
01.08.99
12:00 pm
22401883



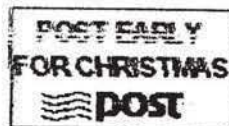
IMP 9 - National Heritage / Week / 5 - 12 September: First used on 1 August 1999 on both machines 1 and 2. The slogan continued in use on both machines up to and including 1 September 1999.

**Christmas Gift
Dúchas Yearly Ticket
For 62 Heritage
Sites
CALL SAVE 1850 600 601**

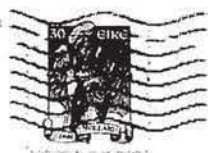
Baile Atha Cliath
DMC
10.11.99
08:30 pm
24103701



IMP 10 - Christmas Gift / Dúchas Yearly Ticket / For 62 Heritage / Sites / CALL SAVE 1850 600 601. First seen on machine 2 dated 1 November 1999 and on machine 1 dated 2 November 1999. Dúchas is the state owned body with responsibility for national heritage sites such as old castles, monastic sites, and interpretative centres. Last noted on 15 November 1999.



Baile Atha Cliath
DMC
13.12.99
02:30 pm
22906627



IMP 11 - POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / =POST: First noted on 16 November and was last noted on 23 December 1999. See also *Year 2000 testing* note below.



Baile Atha Cliath
DMC
04.01.00
01:00 am
20204455



IMP 12 - MILLENNIUM / GREETINGS / FROM / AN POST: In use from 28 December on both machines and continued in use until 3 February 2000.

Introduction of Time Portion of Postmark

ALWAYS INCLUDE A
RETURN ADDRESS
ON YOUR ENVELOPE
POST

BaileAthaCliath
DMC
03.07.99
12:30 pm
12507415



On 2 July 1999, the time portion of the IMP postmark was first put into general use. (This was also used, on test mail only, on 5 November 1998) The time format appears below the date and above the code number.

The earliest time noted on 2 July 1999 was 12:30pm (i.e. half an hour past midday) equivalent to code "25". However, it may well have been used earlier in the day. No IMPs from 2 July 1999 onwards have been seen without the time included (except for Year 2000 testing – see notes below).

Year 2000 Testing

**Be Aware
of Depression**

BaileAthaCliath
DMC
20-06-99
20103232



IMP 3 – BE AWARE OF DEPRESSION (with "-" in date)

On Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 June 1999, the date format on the IMP slogans was changed for a short time. The normal date format is, for example 18.06.99 with full stops between the day / month and the month / year. On both 19 and 20 June 1999, the format changed to read 19-06-99 / 20-06-99 with a dash between the day / month and the month / year. The "Return Address....." slogan (IMP7) was used on 19 June but, on 20 June 1999, this slogan was replaced on both machines by the **BE AWARE / OF DEPRESSION** slogan (IMP3).

From 21 June 1999, the date format reverted to the full stops version and the slogans reverted to the ".....Return address....." slogan (IMP 7).

It has now been determined that over this weekend, An Post carried out "Year 2000" testing at the DMC. This necessitated changing the computer's internal clock to dates beyond 2000. The date in the IMP cancellation is normally printed from a reading of the computer clock. However, to avoid the danger of printing dates beyond 2000, the set-up of the cancellation was changed that weekend so that rather than being read from the computer clock, it was manually input as a string of text, either 19-06-99 or 20-06-99 as appropriate. It is not clear if the use of a dash rather than full stops between the numerals was deliberate or an oversight. The indent date on the back of the covers for both days read "01" (instead of 19 or 20) which presumably indicates the test date of 1 January.

**POST EARLY
FOR CHRISTMAS**
POST

BaileAthaCliath
DMC
20-11-1999
22605080



A further test appears to have been undertaken commencing during the weekend of 20 and 21 November. The **POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / =POST** slogan (IMP 11) was in use but the date format reverted to the "Year 2000" format of 20-11-1999 or 21-11-1999. Note the year format was "1999" as compared the usual "99" used for the June "Year 2000" tests. The time (which was introduced in July) was omitted on both days.

This format of the "-" and no time continued during the following week, up to and including 26 November 1999. The indent dates on the reverse ran from 01 (20th) to 07 (26th) indicating that they were testing for dates between 1st and 7th January 2000. On and from 27 November 1999 the date had returned to the usual format and the timer was in use again.

Partial Printing (or omission) of Slogans

ALWAYS INCLUDE A
RETURN ADDRESS

BaileAthaCliath
DMC
11.06.99
23504437



Occasionally, the complete slogan is not printed. The illustration above shows IMP 8 used in June 1999 with the lower half omitted. This is due to the fact that the postmark plus slogan is printed by two ink heads and in this instance one head failed to print the slogan element of the postmark.

BaileAthaCliath
DMC
02.11.99
03:30 pm
131119



Members should note that, if programmed to do so, for identified foreign destinations (i.e. non Irish or G.B. mail), only the "wavy" lines, and town, time, date and number are applied but the slogan is omitted (as illustrated above). If, however, the OCR does not recognise the address as being foreign, the full slogan will be applied. Therefore, IMP cancellations on foreign outbound mail may or may not have a full slogan.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

June - Lapel Badges: During 1999 An Post re-launched the small badge featuring the 2d Map of Ireland stamp. At the same time, two new badges were put on sale featuring the Ashworth postbox as included on the Postbox set issued in 1998 and the Cuchulainn statue which stands in the window of the G.P.O. in Dublin. Unfortunately, the mounting card for the Ashworth box states that the box is situated at Kent Railway station in Cork. This is incorrect as the box is held by the National Museum at their new premises at Collins Barracks, Dublin 7. The box in Kent Station is the Ornate box as featured on the An Post FDC for the Postbox set. Each badge costs IR£3.50.

June - Model Van: As well as the lapel badges, the first model van was also released by An Post. The van is a Ford Model A Van of which 60 were purchased by the Department of Posts & Telegraphs between 1928 and 1933. The same vehicle is featured on one of the 30p U.P.U. stamps issued on 15 June. Produced by Lledo plc. Cost: IR£10.00.



6 December - Christmas Postcard (Philatelic Bureau):

The philatelic bureau sent out a large postcard with Christmas and Millennium greetings to all deposit account holders. The card reproduces the 30p sheet Christmas stamp and incorporates the stamp as a postage paid indicator (with the figure "30" retained within the design). The stamp was cancelled with a printed first day cancel which matches that used for the Christmas issues but with the different date of 6 December and in a smaller format.

December - An Post Christmas Cards: The general fold out card used by An Post incorporated the 30p self-adhesive Christmas stamp design.

December - Santa Christmas Envelope: The 1999 envelope seen by me was a repeat of the 1997 and 1998 design with Santa pulling a sleigh together with the usual postage paid indicator cancelled with a pre-printed "North Pole 12⁰⁰ PM Dec Christmas" postmark.

December - Millennium Candle Postcard: All households in the Republic of Ireland received a special Millennium Candle which was delivered by An Post. If it was not possible to deliver the candle, a postcard was left requesting the

addressee to collect the candle from their local delivery office. Each card was preprinted with the relevant household address and had the usual postage paid imprint. It was not possible to purchase a card or obtain a card of another address.



Economy (Surface) Label: As noted last year, these labels were introduced in April 1998 in sheet format. Thanks to Heinz Grunz, I can confirm that they were also made available in roll format although I have found that most offices can only supply the Economy labels in sheet format.

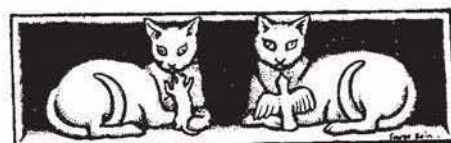
Valentine's Day Label: There was no repeat issue of such labels in 1999. Regular readers will recall that special labels were provided in 1998 and 1997.

That Was The Year That Was - 1997: In connection with the Famine issue released on 14 May 1997, first day facilities were available at Strokestown, Co. Roscommon which is the location of a Famine Museum. The ordinary CDS was used together with the two line "Lá a Chéad Eisiúna/First Day of Issue" cachet.

CONCLUSION

Once again, I wish to thank An Post and my many philatelic friends for their help in producing this article. Particular thanks to Maurice Barrett and John Lennon for keeping track of all the new IMP slogan postmarks and John Mullen for his unstinting work in relation to the definitives. Thanks also to Bernard Donoghue, Tony Finn, Heinz Grunz, John Holman, Otto Jung, Jimmy Kelly, Michael Kelly, Declan O'Kelly, Pádraig O'Shea, Jim Ryan, David Turner, Ronny Vogt and Ian Whyte for providing much valuable assistance and information.

Any further information relating to items referred to in this article is always appreciated. A particular plea to members who might be attending any of the international exhibitions attended by An Post or their agents. Details of cachets are not always announced by An Post in Dublin. Information from members who attend any of the overseas shows as regards the availability of souvenirs and cachets is particularly welcome. I can be contacted by post at 2 Dargle Valley, Marley Grange, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, Ireland or by e-mail at the following brian.warren@ie.pwcglobal.com



The Celtic Version of "The Wolf shall also dwell with the Lambs."
Isaiah, Chap. II, 6-9. Chap. 65-25.



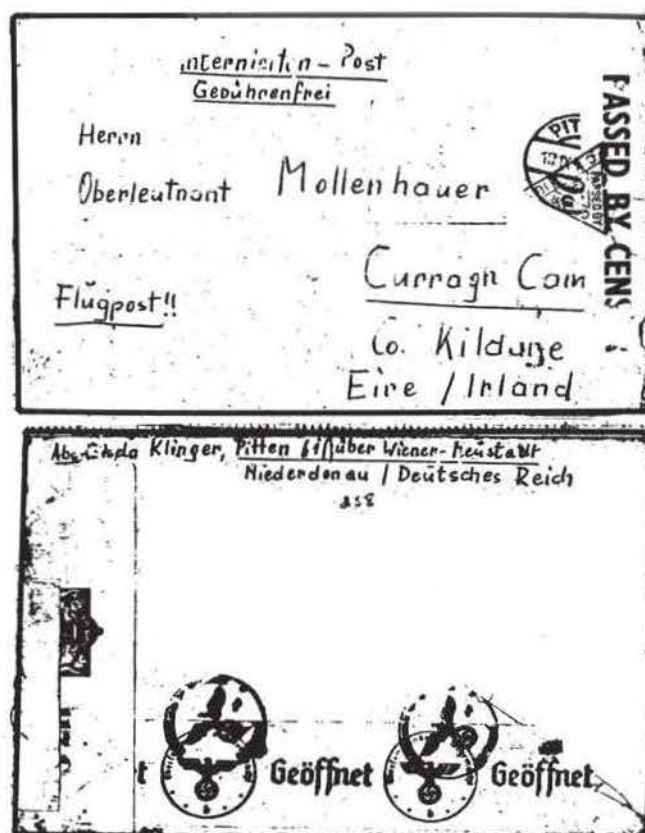
Military Internees in Éire 1940-1945

by Hans G. Moxter

On 10th September 1941, a letter was mailed at Pitten, a small village near Wiener Neustadt in Austria (in those days, part of Germany), to a German Luftwaffe officer interned at Curragh Camp in Éire. The addressee was Oberleutnant (Kurt Heinz), MOLLENHAUER, who had been in command of the first German warplane to make an emergency landing in Ireland during World War II, a four-engined Fw 200 of KG 40. The crew of six survived a spectacular crash on top of 3127-foot-high Mount Brandon in Co. Kerry, only due to the skill of pilot Oberfeldwebel Robert BEUMER, a former Lufthansa pilot. This landing happened on August 20th, 1940. Now back to our letter from Austria. It had been posted in a small village and the cover bore, as prescribed for such mail, the remark "Interniertenpost/Gebührenfrei", indicating that as mail to an internee, no postage was charged. Another remark – "Flugpost!" – was not applicable as no additional airmail charges had been prepaid. The first stage on its way was at Berlin, as is shown by the sealing tape of the censorship office there, and by the corresponding handstamp (Riemer B-55 and B-3a).

Then followed a long trip by surface mail via France, Spain

(continued on next page)



U.K. Civil Censorship WW II

Chapter 1

Page 34

LETTER FITTING—SORTING PLAN.

Form indicating arrangement of selections on 48 Box Sorting Fittings.

*Small Letters		*Outward Inward		Primary		Great Britain.		*Road Office		Walk, &c.		19	
Army	Navy	R.A.F.				Circulars	White List	Black List Senders	Black List Addressees				
46 [Number of items]	47 [Number of items]	48 [Number of items]	49 [Number of items]	50 [Number of items]	51 [Number of items]	52 [Number of items]	53 [Number of items]	54 [Number of items]	55 [Number of items]	56 [Number of items]	57 [Number of items]	58 [Number of items]	59 [Number of items]
Picture Postcards	Press Photos	Red X & Refugees	Mis-Sorts										
60 [Number of items]	61 [Number of items]	62 [Number of items]	63 [Number of items]	64 [Number of items]	65 [Number of items]	66 [Number of items]	67 [Number of items]	68 [Number of items]	69 [Number of items]	70 [Number of items]	71 [Number of items]	72 [Number of items]	73 [Number of items]
Birmingham	Glasgow	Liverpool	Manchester	Towns A	Towns B	Towns C	Towns D						
74 [Number of items]	75 [Number of items]	76 [Number of items]	77 [Number of items]	78 [Number of items]	79 [Number of items]	80 [Number of items]	81 [Number of items]	82 [Number of items]	83 [Number of items]	84 [Number of items]	85 [Number of items]	86 [Number of items]	87 [Number of items]
Towns E/F	Towns G	Towns H/I	Towns J/K	Towns L	Towns M/N	Towns O/Q	Towns R						
88 [Number of items]	89 [Number of items]	90 [Number of items]	91 [Number of items]	92 [Number of items]	93 [Number of items]	94 [Number of items]	95 [Number of items]	96 [Number of items]	97 [Number of items]	98 [Number of items]	99 [Number of items]	100 [Number of items]	101 [Number of items]
London W.C.	London E.	London N.	London N.W.	London S.E.	Towns S.	Towns T/U	Towns V/Z						
102 [Number of items]	103 [Number of items]	104 [Number of items]	105 [Number of items]	106 [Number of items]	107 [Number of items]	108 [Number of items]	109 [Number of items]	110 [Number of items]	111 [Number of items]	112 [Number of items]	113 [Number of items]	114 [Number of items]	115 [Number of items]
London W. A/E	London W. F/M	London W. N/Z	London S.W. A/E	London S.W. F/O	London S.W. P/Z	London E.C. A/F	London E.C. G/Z						
116 [Number of items]	117 [Number of items]	118 [Number of items]	119 [Number of items]	120 [Number of items]	121 [Number of items]	122 [Number of items]	123 [Number of items]	124 [Number of items]	125 [Number of items]	126 [Number of items]	127 [Number of items]	128 [Number of items]	129 [Number of items]

and Portugal to the UK, probably London. When the mail from the continent was re-sorted, a mistake must have happened. Instead of landing in the bag for IRELAND, the letter went into the bag for INDIA and made its way to Bombay, probably in a bag for field post. This explains why it showed up at the censorship office for field post in British India at Bombay. There, the letter was opened, examined, resealed with a label of Morenweiser type 5 and stamped with a type 3 triangular handstamp, involving censors 117C and C18 (the C indicating Bombay). After this treatment, it went into the bag for Ireland via GB and was not opened again by British homeland censorship. A third censorship followed, however, by the Irish military censor at the camp before delivery to the addressee.

The mistake that caused an extra trip via India can be explained by the British custom of sorting mail into 48 box sorting-fittings, as illustrated on page 34 in British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II, United Kingdom, by A.R. Torrance and Morenweiser, ISBN 0-9517444-1-0. Thus INDIA may have been just left of IRELAND, causing a wrong sorting. Of interest is also that between July and October 1999, this cover passed through the hands of three stamp dealers/auctioneers, all experts on Irish material, without its escapade being detected. In his "Guests of the State", T. Ryle Dwyer mentions that Oberleutnant MOLLENHAUER "never seemed to tire of complaining" and "that German mail frequently suffered delays that never had to be endured by the British internees in Éire." It seems that MOLLENHAUER sometimes had a reason to complain. ♣

50th Anniversary Souvenir Sheets

With this issue of *The Revealer*, each member will receive a complimentary souvenir sheet, here illustrated, issued to celebrate the ÉPA's Golden Anniversary. For those wanting additional sheets, we have produced some extras. They are available at \$2.00 for seven sheets, one of which will be a proof-like example on thin card, the rest on gummed paper as the one with this *Revealer*. They should accompany orders with a stamped, self-addressed envelope large enough to accept these sheets. Postage outside the United States will probably run \$1.00. They should make checks payable to the ÉPA and they may send orders to Joe Foley, Box 183, Riva, Maryland, 21140, USA. ♣

Dues are Due

I am afraid that it is that time of year when we must think about the financial well-being of our organization. Some time between July 15th and Aug 15th you will be receiving a dues notice in the mail. Dues for our association are due and payable by 31 August 2000 for the fiscal year 1 Sept 2000 to 31 August 2001. By paying your dues on time and by correcting your addresses and vital information such as E-mail addresses, you can save many nights of worry and consternation for our esteemed Treasurer and Secretary, not to mention your Editor and distributor. You can assure your uninterrupted receipt of *The Revealer* and your presence on our rolls for the balance of the 50th Anniversary year of our existence. We still have many exciting plans for special events and publications to come this year, and it would be a shame for you to miss out on any of them.

(continued on page 15)

The ÉPA Honor Roll

by Joseph E. Foley

One of the most pleasant duties of the Vice President, North America, is to coordinate the efforts of the Awards Committees. The Awards were announced at the Annual General Meeting and 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Philatelic Show in Boxborough, Massachusetts.

The prestigious Thomas Edwin Field Memorial Award is presented to the individual who has made an outstanding philatelic contribution to Irish Philately. This year, the committee, chaired by William J. Murphy along with Colonel B.B. Zellers and Major Michael H. Priestley, selected Patrick J. Ryan, Sr. as the recipient in recognition of his fourteen years of service to Irish philately as Editor of *The Revealer*. During this time, he consistently produced a high quality journal, always meeting the publication date. He contributed many articles of his own on a wide range of Irish philatelic subjects, winning the Linnell Award for one of them. Pat, a native of upstate New York, has made his home in southern Texas since retiring from the Air Force in 1982. He has been a stamp collector since grammar school days. Before becoming Editor of *The Revealer*, he was active in the Lone Star Chapter of the ÉPA. His collecting interests are wide. Besides specializing in Ireland, he has collected the United States, Canada, the United Nations and the Soviet Republics.

Outstanding service to the ÉPA is the criterion for the John J. Clark Award. The committee, consisting of William O'Connor as chairman along with Robert J. Joyce and Dr. Michael Burrington, chose Michael P. Giffney to be honored with this award. A mere lad of twenty-one when he joined the ÉPA in 1951, he soon became our European Representative. Subsequently, he served as Assistant Treasurer and Vice President. He has been responsible for introducing countless collectors to the Association. After retiring from the beverage trade, he became a full-time dealer, for many years operating a shop at the Ha' Penny Bridge in Dublin, where a gracious welcome awaited visitors from near and far. Michael was also a founder of the Dublin Stamp Society, and has served as president of our sister organization, the Irish Philatelic Circle, and as chairman of STAMPA. Michael and his wife, Mary, traveled to the AGM and the presentation was made in person.

This year is the first time that the Vincent A. Linnell Memorial Award for the best article published in *The Revealer* was adjudicated by a panel rather than popular vote. Charles J.G. Verge chaired the group and was joined by Barth Healy, a *New York Times* editor and noted philatelic writer and editor, and Walter R. Potts. The Award went to Hans Moxter of Niedemhausen, Germany, for his article "Mulreadys Used In Ireland", which appeared in the Fall 1999 issue. The announcement was made at the AGM, with the presentation to follow. With this award, Hans becomes the first person to receive the Linnell Award twice.

Congratulations to one and all. Your work has made the Éire Philatelic Association what it is today and inspires the rest of us to follow your lead. ♣

John Barry 1956; John Barry 2003?

by Dr. Monica A. Brennan

It is interesting that persons in both Ireland and the United States have launched a campaign for the joint issuance of a commemorative stamp honoring the bicentennial of Commodore John Barry's death. Barry was honored by the United States on a 1936 design and 20 years later by Irish postal authorities. The latter, it should be noted, was issued against the wishes of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. The year 1956 was neither a noteworthy anniversary of Barry's birth or death – the usual criteria commemorating significant persons in Irish history. It was, in fact, the year in which a statue of Commodore John Barry, "Father of the American Navy," presented by the United States Battle Monuments Commission, was unveiled in Wexford.

The controversy began with a Dail debate on 19 November 1953. Mr. O'Leary (TD, Wexford?) asked the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Erskine Childers, if a stamp was to be issued in honor of John Barry. The Minister responded that doing so had been considered, but the idea had been rejected. He argued that since so few special stamps were issued, to do so would be inappropriate. He continued to say that "If we were to start on famous Wexford men, we could practically have a prominent stamp issue every year." Mr. O'Leary exclaimed in response: "What about the Americans! They want to erect a statue of Barry in Wexford." The issuance of a stamp in conjunction with the presentation of the statue would be good for Irish-American relations.

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs continued to oppose a Barry stamp. They argued that Barry had little connection to Ireland once he left. The Department of External Affairs was not to be convinced. They petitioned the Department of Posts and Telegraphs to change its mind: Barry was the most distinguished Irishman to play a part in early American history. Not only would such a gesture be good for Irish-American relations, but it would also "be a most effective means of refuting Partionist propaganda that Ireland's main contribution to America came from the 'Scotch-Irish' from 'Ulster.'"

A stamp commemorating the unveiling of Barry's statue was issued on 16 September 1956, an occasion that received considerable publicity in the United States. In New York City, Gimbel's Department Store, which had a highly regarded philatelic department, "featured the event by arranging a function at which the Irish Consul General presented a sheet of the new stamps to a high-ranking U.S. Naval Officer."

Letters to the Irish press suggest that at least some Irish postal patrons were not pleased with the country's one and only commemorative for 1956, particularly since Barry, it was claimed, "did nothing for the land of his birth" and others who had, were denied recognition. "Why," a letter to the *Irish Independent* continues, "does a foreigner take precedence?" Not only was Barry undeserving of such an honor, but, claims a letter to the *Irish Times*, the stamp in question "is silly; it is too big for regular envelopes and must be affixed sideways."

The question remains: should Barry be honored by the issue of a stamp (2003) commemorating the 200th anniversary of his

death? If so, is he to be recognized as a famous Wexford man? A famous American naval hero who happened to have been born in Ireland? Or as a Catholic Irishman from Wexford who founded the American Navy? Considering the number of stamps now issued by AnPost each year, and the subjects of some of the designs, I would argue that it hardly matters.

(All quotations are from the files of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, National Archives of Ireland.) ♣

Joseph E. Foley Receives FAI Award 2000

FAI (Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland) takes pleasure in electing Joseph E. Foley of Riva, Maryland, USA, as recipient of the FAI Award 2000.

Joseph E. Foley has promoted the knowledge of Irish Postal History and Philately over various decades in the United States of America as well as in Europe.

In summer 1960, he joined the Éire Philatelic Association (ÉPA) as member #340 and immediately became contributor to its journal, *The Revealer*. He introduced himself with an article about "Political Labels in Ireland".

Early in 1968, he was elected president of the ÉPA, and in 1971, he received the "Thomas Edwin Field Award", the highest honor in Irish philately. A year later, he published "The Origin of the Imperial Union Labels". Since 1975, Joe E. Foley has served as a member of the committee on forged and bogus material. On his initiative, a reprint of "The Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922 - 1927" by W.G. Meredith was arranged. ÉPA founding member Thomas O'Neil Stack called him in 1981 "ÉPA's Guiding Light".

In spring 1992, Joe Foley joined FAI after many years of earlier intensive contacts with European philatelists.

His devotion to Irish philately and literature convinced us he is the best choice for our award. ♣

Dues are Due (Yes, they are!)

(continued from page 14)

We hope you have enjoyed this year's celebration so far and hope you will show your approval by quickly paying your dues

to continue your membership and indicate your approval of the actions your officers have planned, both in the past and the future.

We also have a great auction coming up with the Lenane Estate, which includes many rare and elusive items. If you are a committed Irish collector, you will want to be there for this one. So please, put your dues notice at the top of your list to pay in July/August to remain eligible for all of the ÉPA benefits. ♣

50th Anniversary of the ÉPA

by David J. Brennan

The golden jubilee of the Éire Philatelic Association at Boxborough, Massachusetts was an outstanding event. Three years of preparation by General Chairman Joseph Foley and Show Chairman Peter Bugg really was in evidence throughout the weekend. Peter expedited the mounting of the frames and left us a few minutes to relax in our hospitality suite which was well-stocked by association members. By 7:30 p.m., we were off to a local restaurant whose motif was postal history on every wall, with some examples even hung from the ceiling.

After a great meal, we returned for socializing with the members as they arrived from the West Coast and across the pond. The board meeting was rescheduled to Friday due to time restraints the night before. Friday morning we were totally impressed by the turrets surrounding our society table. Peter Bugg, a skilled woodworker, built two turrets out of plywood with our ÉPA banner suspended on a bar over the table. It wasn't long before one of the volunteers at the table, *Revealer* editor Pat Ryan, corralled a visitor who was only looking for information and signed him up as a new member before he knew what happened to him. This was repeated again at our AGM by another Texan, Bob Joyce, who lassoed a chap who happened to stray into our meeting.

At 11:00 a.m., the show opened, and over 114 frames of Irish exhibits plus 15 youth exhibits by members of the Voyageurs Club, sent over from Dublin, were presented in the court of honor. This was the largest Irish exhibit in my memory. A special thanks to Charles J.G. Verge, who critiqued the youth exhibits and sent them back to Heloise Mitchell in Dublin. Also, one member of the local youth stamp club had an Irish exhibit. John Broderick, Sr. was General Chairman for The Northeastern Federation, so needless to say, Irish tunes could be heard throughout the weekend.

Friday evening, Peter Bugg had arranged for a private dinner in the hotel, where we had a chance to break bread with the many ÉPA members whom we had not seen for quite awhile and with many whom we had never met. Major Michael Priestly and his wife had traveled the longest distance, from Edinburgh, Scotland. Also, a close second in distance was Michael Giffney and his wife who came from Dublin, Ireland, and Padraig O'Shea from Cork. Canada was represented by past president Charles J.G. Verge and George Nicholson, and an exhibit by Kenneth Magee. I might mention, the exhibit which traveled the greatest distance was by John Lorenzen from Denmark.

While we were enjoying the festivities during Friday and snagging several needed items for our collections from the likes of Raven Stamps himself, Padraig O'Shea, and other stand holders, there was a group who were busy judging the many excellent exhibits. A tip of the hat to the following: Jury Chairman John Lievsay, Joseph Foley, Gerhard Korn, Stephen Suffett, Patrick Walters, Matthew Kewriga, and George Norton (the last two both apprentices).

Saturday morning, another day at the show, but with an added surprise. John Broderick had arranged for some superb Irish entertainment. We had step dancing and live Irish music which was presented in the area of our society table. Also, next to our society table, was a frame of the history of our ÉPA put together by our historian, Michael Connolly. Saturday evening we were treated again to an excellent banquet accompanied by a harpist during the dinner.

The ladies were not abandoned during the show hours. Jane Bugg was the hostess for our group and provided a tour to Sturbridge Village, a reconstructed Colonial settlement on Friday. Saturday brought a trip to Boston to spend whatever money we had left after buying a few stamps and covers on Friday. Our thanks to Jane for making our ladies so welcomed.

Next, the time we were waiting for, the awards presentation.

The Irish were well represented at Stamp Show 2000 in Boxborough this year. Here is a list of the exhibits and awards.

Grand Award: Ireland Postal History: 1661 through the 1890's by Patricia Stillwell Walker also a Gold Medal, The APS Medal of Excellence Pre-1900 and Postal History Society Medal and the Best Irish Exhibit.

Gold Medal: Ireland, 1840 - 1901 by Kenneth Magee; Ireland Postal Stationery - 1922 to 1940 by Barney Clancy also, EPA Medal; Ireland: The Overprinted Stamps of Great Britain by James Maher; Irish Coils by Robert Benninghoff.

Vermeil: Ireland - The Overprints 1922 - 1937 by John Lorenzen; The Dublin Censor Office: Irish Censorship During WWII by Karl Winkelmann also the APS Research Medal; Ireland: Censored Mail During WWII by Paul Wittreich.

Silver: The ABC's of Irish Collecting by Michael O'Conghaile; An Overview of Irish History by George Nicholson also, EPA Book Award for the most creative Irish Exhibit; Irish Uniform Airmail Rate by Karl Winkelmann; Ireland's First Commemorative by Peter Bugg; Revenue Stamps of Ireland, by Peter Bugg; Studies of the Low Value Overprinted Issues of Ireland by Michael Priestly; Pioneer Airmail Flights of Ireland by David Brennan and Railway Letter Stamps of Ireland by Dave Brennan.

Silver-Bronze: Carrickmacross, A Reflection of Irish Postal History by Paul Wittreich also, the AAPE Medal of Honor; and, Irish Commemorative Varieties by Myron Hill III.

Non-Competitive Exhibits: Ireland Overprints: Cardinal Spellman Museum; Ireland: The Dublin Horse Show by E. G. Bragh; Ireland: Canceling in Dublin During the 1978 Postal Strike, by E. G. Bragh; Irish Zeppelin Flown Covers by Robert Doherty; Gerl Definitive Coil by Robert Benninghoff EPA Best Single Frame Exhibit; Overprint Errors of Ireland by Peter Bugg; Ireland: The English Language Canceling Machines, 1906-1922 by E. G. Bragh.

The EPA provided special Waterford Crystal awards for the Irish Exhibits as follows:

Grand Award, Crystal bowl went to Pat Walker for her exhibit, "Ireland Postal History: 1661 Through the 1890's"

(continued on next page)

Best exhibit for the period after 1922, Waterford Lismore Village Church went to Barney Clancy for his exhibit "Ireland Postal Stationery - 1922 - 1940"

Best exhibit for the period before 1922, Waterford Lismore Village Church went to Kenneth Magee for his exhibit "Ireland, 1840 - 1901"

2nd best exhibit, Waterford Lismore Village Cottage went to James Maher for his exhibit "Ireland: The Overprinted Stamps of Great Britain 1922 - 1937"

Best single frame award, Waterford Lismore Village Post Office went to Bob Benninghoff for his exhibit "10 Gerl Definitive Coil"

Provisional Perfins of Ireland

by William Shields

Early on in the World War II, Slopers Works were blitzed during an air raid on London, which resulted in the loss of many of their stamp perforating dies. May 1941, a date given by "Jennings" for this philatelic catastrophe, has not yet been confirmed, but it fits in well with surviving perfin material. Given the wartime shortages of manpower and materials, and the prevailing spirit of "make do and mend", the simple remedy of improvisation using single letter dies would have been an obvious short-term solution to the problem of keeping the stamp perforation business going. Patterns involving combinations of letters could still be produced by passing the sheets of stamps several times through the perforating machine using a different letter with each pass. Inevitably, due to the very nature of the process, poor alignment and uneven spacing of the letters resulted, and, on occasions, letters may be found to overlap. In extreme cases, final arrangement of the letters was not as originally intended.

In the soon-to-be-published album of the "Perfins of Ireland" by Roy Gault, the three Irish known Provisionals are listed as: GS/R (Great Southern Railroad); IS/L (Irish Shell Ltd.); and W/T (Wiggins Teape & Alex Pirie (sales) Ltd. Dublin). These three dies can be found on numerous stamps of Ireland. A late usage date of 20 February 1945 probably reflects stocks of perfined stamps being used up, as by this time the Great Southern Railroad had become part of the Coras Iompar Éireann (CIE) railroad. Stamps from these three firms were sent in bulk to Sloper's firm in London to be perforated. Since the perforators were destroyed, one perforator was used for the GS, one for the IS, and the same for the W. Sheets were then passed through a second perforator to apply the R to complete the GS/R die. Likewise, the same for the L and T to complete the IS/L and W/T. The bottom three letters of these three Irish dies are very seldom found in a constant alignment from 1941-45. Also, the three are noted in Mewhinneys "Perfins of Ireland" album, which can be purchased from the E.P.A. Special Offers. Mewhinney listed them as numbers G-19, I-10, and W-19. All will be listed in Roy Gault's new "Irish Perfin Album" with all the stamp denominations listed.

The complete Sloper's Wartime Provisionals of G.B. Perfins album can be purchased from the G.B. Perfin Society, also edited by Roy Gault. There are hundreds of these and all the provisionals are very inexpensive to collect. The cost to non-members is £11, shipped airmail.

Zeppelin Catalog Lists Irish Material

A new catalog of Zeppelin material in English lists and prices Irish acceptances. *Special Zeppelin Mail and Postcard Catalog 2000* by Frost is similar to *Sieger* but perhaps a more logical approach: the first number is the airship and the second part is the flight. There is considerable background information.

1999, 303 pages, card, available from Leonard H. Hartmann Philatelic Bibliopole, P.O. Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233 at \$29.50.

Letter to the Editor

The Spring 2000 issue of *The Revealer* contained an outstanding article on Shanes Park Camp by Jim Rankin. Extremely well-researched and illustrated, it also raised some questions that perhaps still need clarification (for me at least).

Perhaps the first question is why this particular camp used skeleton handstamps for as long as it did. As far as I am aware, there never was a "normal" handstamp at the location and the use of skeleton handstamps for a period extending to over four years is unusual, if not quite unique. (Clandeboye Camp, for example, also used a skeleton for about a four-year period.)

Again, although the single ring skeleton was apparently in good shape up to February 1919 (although the latest date I have is only late 1918), why was there a change to a double-rimmed skeleton in 1919? Incidentally, my one and only example of the double-rimmed type is dated September 22, 1919. This apparently is only the second one recorded (the first, as given in the article, is August 30, 1919). What was in use between February 1919 and August 1919?

Although I have a fairly extensive collection of postcards showing views of military camps in Ireland, none show Shanes Park (many just show the adjacent Randalstown). In my ignorance, I was convinced that none had ever been made and it was intriguing to learn that at least 10 types exist. In fact, the only mention of the camp that I have is on a comic postcard dated June 8, 1918: "I'm recruiting my health at Shane's Park". As a very minor point, note the apostrophe in "Shane's".

Finally (and again this may be attributed to my ignorance), I have never seen an example of the Shanes Park cancellation on cover as opposed to on a postcard. Since free postage was never extended to the military forces in Ireland during World War I, I imagined that the less expensive rate on postcards was the main reason, but I doubt it.

C.I. Dulin, Geneva

ÉPA to meet at STAMPSHOW

The ÉPA will meet during the American Philatelic Society's annual convention, STAMPSHOW, in Providence, Rhode Island, which will run from August 24 through 27, 2000. Our meeting will be Saturday, August 26, at 1:00 p.m. Past President Charles J.G. Verge will present the program, tentatively termed *A Gaelic Potpourri* (Irish Stew?). It should be a grand affair and all are welcome.

IRISH PERFINS One of a Kind: Imperial Tobacco Company

by William S. Shields

(continued from previous issue)

One of the founding members of the Imperial Tobacco Company was W.D. & H.O. Wills, with their huge factory in Bristol, England. As Wills was the largest of the 13 founding companies, it was natural that it would become the main offices for ITC. I do not know when the name changed to "The Imperial Tobacco Company (of Great Britain and Ireland) Ltd." or who

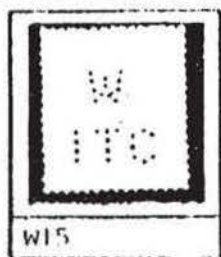


Figure 2.

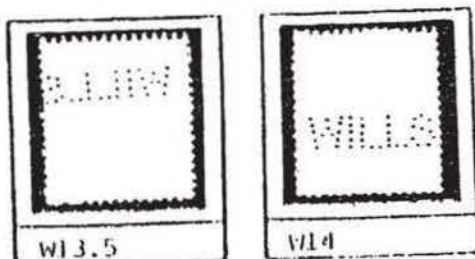
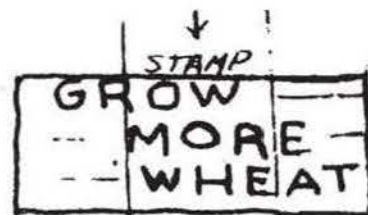


Figure 3.

the Irish tobacco company was. Mewhinney lists a pattern for Wills Imperial Tobacco Company, W/ITC (W15 - Figure 2) and two patterns that spell out the Wills name (W13.5 and W14 - Figure 3). Pattern W13.5 is listed by Mewhinney with Belfast postmarks. Mewhinney lists "W.D. & H.O. Wills & W.M. Clark & Sons" as the user of W14 (*Ireland: Catalog of Perfins*, 2nd edition, Richard L. Mewhinney, Compiler and Editor, The Perfins Club, 1994, pp. 34-5). I have seen both "WILLS" patterns on stamps of various denominations with various cancels. I know of at least one British firm that used as many as five different perfin patterns, so it is not unreasonable to think that all four patterns (i.e., ITC, W/TC, and both WILLS) were used by the same company; however, I am unable to prove this conjecture.

According to Roy Gault, the only known date cancel on an Irish stamp with the IT/C pattern is a very clean example showing 11 November 1938. *The Perfin Society's New Illustrated Catalog of Great British Perfins: Section I*, 1995, Roy Gault, lists three British and one Irish version of the IT/C perfin. The British versions are shown at Figure 1 and the Irish perfin is at Figure 6. I have never seen a date cancel on a stamp with the IT/C perfin; however, I have numerous stamps with partial slogan cancels. Through use of *Irish Slogan Postmarks 1918-1983*, James A. Mackay, it is fairly simple to match the slogan with the date of usage. Examples of matching two slogan cancels are provided as Figures 4 and 5.

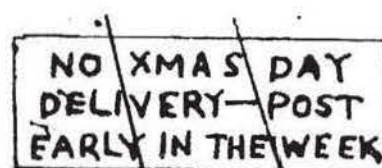


Slogan #34
First Used 1933
Dublin 'B', Cork, Limerick

Figure 4.

Figure 4, "Grow More Wheat" was first used in 1933 with Dublin B, Cork and Limerick postmarks. Figure 5, "No Xmas Day Delivery-Post Early in the Week" was first used in 1937 with a Dublin C postmark only. That is to say, the only common city of usage for these two slogan cancels was Dublin. These slogan cancels were used for a number of years before being discontinued. The "Grow More Wheat" device was used into the 1940's and the other slogan was discontinued in 1939. Given these data, we might assume that while perfin pattern IT/C may have been used on Irish stamps earlier than November 11, 1938, I have no positive proof of such usage and must rely on Gault's reported usage of 1935-40.

The IT/C pattern has not been reported on a stamp of Great Britain canceled in Ireland, meaning that the Imperial Tobacco Company did not have any offices in the six Northern Ireland Counties or the twenty-six counties of the Republic. The British POKO patterns of Figure 6 are attributed to The Imperial To-



Slogan #50
First Used 1937
Dublin 'C' Cancel

Figure 5.

bacco Company (of Great Britain and Ireland) Ltd., Bristol, England. In fact, the Irish IT/C perfin is found only on the 1/2p Sword of Light stamp; it could not have been used as a single to mail letters or parcels, except in combination with other postage. The pattern is unknown in strips or multiples. On the other hand, the British IT/C perfins are found on numerous stamps of various denominations. It would thus appear that the main shipments of letters and parcels were shipped from the company's Bristol office.

While conducting my research, I wrote to the Postal Archives in Great Britain concerning the location of an Imperial Tobacco Company in Ireland. Their response was that they had found no record of an Imperial Tobacco Company office in Ireland. I have therefore concluded that the 1/2d stamps must have been pur-

(continued on page 20)

Buying Ireland

To satisfy the demand from our shop and mail order customers Raven Stamps needs to buy Irish stamps and covers from all periods. Of special interest are the following.

Political & Propaganda: anything prior to 1950 mint or on cover.

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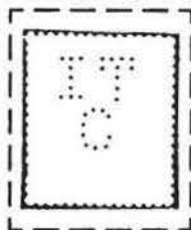
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PERFINS of Great Britain

This is the original POKO die and can be easily identified as the pins forming the foot of the 'I' are in line and *horizontal*.

Die in use 1930-1940.



Issues: I 1/2d, 1 1/2d M 1/2d, 1 1/2d, 2d
O 1/2d
Q 1d, 1 1/2d, 6d

I = KGV Typographed 1911-1934
M = KGV Photogravure 1934-1936
O = KEVIII Issue 1936
Q = KGV Dark Colors 1937-1953

A second die has the *leftmost* pin in foot of the 'I' positioned slightly low giving a lob-sided look to the base.

Die in use 1935-1945.



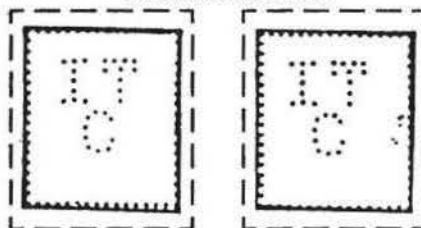
Issues: M 1/2d O 1/2d
Q 1/2d, 1 1/2d, 2 1/2d R 1/2d, 2 1/2d

M = KGV Photogravure 1934-1936
Q = KGV Dark Colors 1937-1953
R = KGV Light Colors 1941-1953
O = KEVIII Issue 1936

Postmarks/Dates: Bristol, 5 Jan 1945.

The third die has *both* outside pins in the foot of the 'I' positioned low.

Die in use 1935-1960.



Issues: M 2 1/2d Q 1 1/2d, 2 1/2d

M = KGV Photogravure 1934-1936
Q = KGV Dark Colors 1937-1953

After c1940 this third die has holes which are noticeably larger than before, and may well be the result of a machine refurbishment.

Issues: Q 2d U 2 1/2d, 3d

Q = KGV Dark Colors 1937-1953
U = QEII Wildings 1953-1968

This fourth die is only found on coil stamps from EIRE. The foot of the 'I' is different again as, although the pins are in line, they lie slightly off the horizontal.

Die in use 1935-1940.



Postmarks and dates seen so far are all from Dublin during 1938.

chased in large quantities and delivered to Imperial Tobacco's offices in Bristol, where the stamps were made-up into strips. The made-up strips were then placed in the POKO machine where the stamps were punched and cut before being applied to the trade or postal cards.

The postal or trade cards were then shipped in bulk to Dublin, where they were delivered to the G.P.O. in Dublin for posting in the Irish mails. This might have been done by mail or by rail shipment from Bristol to Holyhead, where the bulk lots could be transferred to the ferry crossing the Irish Sea to Dublin. Why go to all this trouble to mail post or trade cards as advertising? The reason was the considerable savings in postage. The rate for such material from England to Ireland was 1d. The inland Irish rate was 1/2d. Over the long period of usage, the savings would have been considerable.

Several other possible locations have been suggested for the location of the IT/C device. These include: Boundry Lane, Liverpool 6; Dingley Road EC1; 51 Islington Park Street N1; and PO Box 78A, Liverpool L69 1DT. Had the POKO machine

for the Irish perfins been located in Liverpool, it would have been a simple matter to apply the perfins and ferry the bulk mail from Liverpool to Carrickfergus. The parcel would then be put on the night train in Belfast to arrive at the G.P.O., Dublin within a day.

While the POKO machine for the Irish perfins might have been used by an agent of the company located in Dublin, I believe that the Irish perfin was placed on cards in Great Britain at one of Imperial Tobacco's many factories and then shipped in bulk to Dublin, where the cards entered the mail stream.

I find the Irish IT/C punch to be very unusual in that:

- Only one denomination was used.
- No company address is to be found in the Republic or the Northern Counties.
- No strips or multiples are known.
- No perfins are known on trade or post card.

Notes: My special thanks to Gerald E. Soutar and Roy Gault for their assistance.

