

50th Anniversary

The Revealer

Quarterly Journal
of the
Éire Philatelic Association

Volume 50, Number 3

Whole Number 221

Geimhreach - Winter 2000

**STAMPA
2000
Award
Winners****Rare Irish
"Limited
Pair"**

1950-2000

ÉIRE PHILATELIC
ASSOCIATION
50th ANNIVERSARY**Castletown
Geoghegan
Post
Office****New
O.A.T.
Discovery**

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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



We're back from Dublin and STAMPA. Like the Olympics in Australia, the U.S. exhibitors brought back the gold. A list of the recipients will be featured in another article in this issue of The Revealer. Mike Burrington and Heloise Mitchell did a grand job in organizing the events for the ÉPA. Gerry Mooney, of An Post Philatelic Section of the GPO held a reception for the ÉPA on Friday evening at the GPO on O'Connell

St. and this was well attended by all of our members and friends from the FAI, IAS, IPC and their guests. Looking back, I can say

that under the direction of Joe Foley, general chairman of our 50th celebration, and his committee, this past year will be a most memorable one in the annals of our society. Some of our pioneer members commented that this was by far the best effort put forth by the ÉPA in spreading our message. We even signed up eight members at the society table and probably would have had more if we didn't run out of applications. We passed out about one hundred applications. However, we did tell those persons that they can download an application on our new website.

Due to a conflict in scheduling, we will not be having our AGM in conjunction with TEXPEX this year. I am presently looking for an alternate site for a fall meeting; any suggestions are certainly welcomed.

(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

Now for serious side of my message, 2001 will mark the end of my four years as your president, and Charles J. G. Verge, nominating committee chairman, will be looking for new officers and board members. If anyone is interested in serving our association, now is the time to speak up and drop Charles a note. Don't be hesitant in considering giving your time and energy. I was when approached to be on the board, but with good people giving guidance, it's not quite that overwhelming a task. Good people working alongside you make it not a chore but a pleasant experience, not alone to mention all of the new friendships you develop while serving our society. ♣

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

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

- #2597 Gregory J Stokesberry, PO Box 442, Cedar Rapids IA 52406.
- #2598 David Langan, 388 Malahide, Marina Village, Malahide, Co. Dublin Ireland, dlangan@iol.ie.
- #2599 John B Farley, 25 Benton St, Manchester CT 06040, jfarley@snet.net.
- #2600 Phelin O'Neill, 336 St. James Road, Greenhills, Dublin 12 Ireland, poneill@1name.com.
- #2601 Alfred Allshire, Nirvana, Myrtleville, Co. Cork Ireland.
- #2602 Heloise Mitchell, 98 Ballinclea Heights, Killiney, Co. Dublin Ireland, heloise@gofree.indigo.ie.
- #2603 Austin Stafford & Family, 4c Beggars Bush Court, Shelbourne Court, Dublin 4, Ireland.
- #2604 I Saffran, 35 Cleveleys Road, London E5 9JW England.
- #2605 Bob Aldwell, 15 Newtownpark Ave, Blackrock, Co. Dublin Ireland.
- #2606 Kevin Drury, 27 Dawson House, Patrick Street, Dublin 8, Ireland, kdrury@revenue.ie.

Deceased

- #2342 Ronald P. Lindner, Florida
- #2384 Andres Estrada, Texas

Resigned

- #2251 Cole, Michael J.
- #1510 Marshall, Michael P., Pennsylvania
- #2070 O'Brien, Edward, Wisconsin
- #2301 O'Connor, Kevin J., Minnesota
- #0585 McNamara, James R., California
- #2270 Brennan, Dr. Monica A., New York

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- #1365 Woods, James P., 3105 Carling Ave, Apt 204, Nepean, Ontario K2H 5A6 Canada.
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Membership Status

Membership as of August 31, 2000 540

New Members +10

Deceased -2

Resigned -6

Membership as of December 1, 2000 542 ♣

Auction Report

Apex Philatelic Auctions (UK),
"Postbid Sale Number 33" 9/28/00

Two Queen Victoria £5 orange stamps with Belfast cancellations. The first, lot 364, defined as "well centered, crisp 'Belfast' cds and traces of two other postmarks. Fresh colour. Lovely piece. Cat £1800 (+75%)" and with an estimate of £950 sold for £875. The other, lot 366, was described as "fine used, 'Belfast' double circle cancel trace of blue crayon, excellent example. Cat £1800." The estimate was £650 and it sold for £550. Both lots were illustrated in color. ♣

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My article "My Favorite Censor Cover" in the last *Revealer* has generated an interesting reply. I enclose a copy of a letter received from Mr. Konrad Morenweiser of Kosel, Germany, and a copy of an article he has written for the January 2001 issue of the *Bulletin of the Civil Censorship Study Group* (see below).

It appears that my assumption that the British resealing label

was applied in Bermuda was incorrect. Instead, censor #1616 was a Deputy Assistant Censor in Liverpool. We must now conclude that both labels were applied in Liverpool and that 6161 was carrying out his duties as a supervisor when he re-examined the cover that was sent from Nenagh to Wilmington.

Best regards,
William J. Murphy

WWII U.K. – Deputy Assistant Censor 6161

by K. Morenweiser

(Reprinted with permission of the author. This article appeared in the *Civil Censor Study Group Bulletin*. Information on this organization can be obtained from Charles J. LaBlonde, 2940 Underwood Point #5, Colorado Springs, CO 80920.)

In the magazine of the Ireland philatelists, *The Revealer*, Bill Murphy showed a cover. Mr. Murphy writes: "The airmail cover ... was posted on April 26, 1941, in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. It was censored by the Irish and twice by the British. There is an Examiner 5299 label under the Examiner 6161 label. Why was this censored twice by the British?" Further down in his article, Mr. Murphy

writes: "I feel that the most obvious reason is that the cover was censored in Bermuda as well as in England."

To see whether this assumption is right, I opened my database on "U.K., Gibraltar and B.W.I. Censor Numbers" and found 8 lines with the numbers in question (5299 and 6161) dated 26 Apr 41 from the cover in question:

#	Type PC90	Date	From	Surface/ Air	To	Censor Station	Informant	Remarks
5299	1V1	17 Aug 40	Port Talbot / UK		Chicago	Liverpool	ART	
5299	1G	10 Jan 41	Harrow	S 2.5d	Denver	Liverpool	Jak	
5299	1?	26 Apr 41	Nenagh / Éire	A	Wilmington	Liverpool	W.Murphy	under PC90 #6161
5299	1B2	Mar 42	Wales	S 2.5d	Cleveland	Liverpool	ART	
5299	1V1	24 Apr 43	Devon		Chicago	Liverpool	ART	
5299	1?	May 45	London		USA	Liverpool	B/Mor	
6161	1D	02 Jan 41	Middx.	S 2.5d	Michigan	Liverpool	Brod	
6161	1B2	26 Apr 41	Nenagh / Éire	A	Wilmington	Liverpool	W.Murphy	over PC90 #5299
6161	1B2	21 Aug 41	Saint John / NB	S 3c	Bonnybridge / UK	Liverpool	Rogers	over PC90 #7181
6161	1B2	06 Nov 41	London	S 2.5d	Cleveland	Liverpool	ART	over PC90 #5377

In "Instructions to the Postal Censorship Staff" (The War Office, June 1939), we can read under "Duties of Deputy Assistant Censors" on page 9: "The D.A.C. is to exercise a general supervision over the Examiners at his table. He should not concern himself with opening letters."

The above information and details lead to the clear result:

1) 5299 was Examiner in Liverpool from August 1940 to May 1945 (at least). Liverpool was responsible for the examination of Transatlantic surface mail and for transit

mail (Éire-USA).

- 2) 6161 was Examiner in Liverpool in January 1941 (see cover dated 02 Jan 41, bearing his label only).
- 3) 6161 was Deputy Assistant Censor from April to August 1941 (at least). From this period, we know of his label applied over PC90 of Examiners at his table 5299, 5377 and 7181.
- 4) After 06 November 1941 we don't know of a PC90 #6161. Very likely that D.A.C. 6161 was promoted to Assistant Censor and did not use resealing labels any longer. ♣

Editor's Note

This issue is late for several reasons. First, the articles concerning the 50th Anniversary celebration in Dublin during STAMPEX 2000 did not arrive for processing until well after the 1 December deadline. The two week Holiday Season was then in full swing and limited access to typesetting support was encountered. These, coupled with the update of the printer's computer system, held this issue up until mid January. I apologize for any inconvenience to the membership. ♣

Ulysses in 2000 at STAMPA

by Dave Brennan

Barney Clancy and myself arrived on Tuesday morning and were welcomed by the customary soft rain. I guess it is Dublin's way of letting you know you are in its fair city. After checking into our lodgings, The Mount Herbert Hotel and Barney at the Elgin house in Ballsbridge, and a short nap, we started off with a pint of Guinness at Paddy Cullens. What a grand way to start a holiday. Since the weather had not cleared, we thought it best to wait out the rain in the warmth of the pub. Needless to say, we did not get down to see Ian Whyte's auction lots until the next day. I ran into Ray Lambrecht and his charming wife, Sherry, at breakfast. Mike Conway showed up to say hello, but being an early riser had finished eating one of those Irish low-cholesterol breakfasts, consisting of eggs, bacon, sausage, with brown bread heaped up with butter. It doesn't get any better than that is all I can say. Another trip on the DART took us to city centre and a short walk to Whyte's offices. Well, there was not even a space near the viewing room, so Barney, in his infinite wisdom, suggested we stop at Madigan's for a quick lunch. By the time we returned, the crowd had thinned out slightly so we marked our catalogs with all of the choice lots we would hopefully acquire on Friday evening.

Thursday morning, Joe Foley came roaring into my shared quarters with enough clothes for the entire season. Not to let all of the good lots slip by him, he went to Whyte's while Barney and I went by taxi into town. A visit to city centre without a stop at the GPO is unheard of so why break tradition. Mounting of the exhibits came later that afternoon and the STAMPA committee had everything in place by the time we arrived. Thursday evening, a reception was held at the Royal Dublin Society Building hosted by Gerry Mooney and the An Post staff. An excellent turnout with many members whom we only see once a year at STAMPA. I believe that one of the major benefits I look forward to is renewing acquaintances at this show. So many of friends I have made over the years seem to come together on this occasion. It's strange, but none of us ever seem to grow older; maybe I'll forget your name but not your face and personality. A great evening was had by all.

Friday, the show opened at 11 A.M. and we scurried around to the stands where we knew material was just waiting for us. I must say, I don't think any of us were disappointed with the vast inventories that the dealers brought to the show. Again, that evening, Gerry Mooney and his staff at An Post gave a reception at the GPO in honor of the 50th anniversary of the ÉPA. It was a top drawer affair and, on behalf of the association, I accepted from Gerry, a replica of the statue that graces the lobby of the GPO, Chu Chulainn, which was a limited edition, manufactured by Genesis Fine Arts in Mullingar.

Following this grand affair, we were now primed for Ian Whyte's auction which was only a block away. The auction bidding was brisk and all went well even considering that Ian was dying with a bad cold. Many lots went well above the estimates, but some bargains were had. Retiring to the Gresham Hotel after the auction, one person came in with several large cartons he acquired at the auction. Needless to say, he protected his possessions so no Guinness spilled on its contents.

Saturday was another busy day at the society table with Peter Foote, Mike Conway, Ray Lambrecht, Joe Foley, Barney Clancy and myself giving out literature and applications. We signed up eight new members at the show. If I missed anyone who helped out at the table, I'm sorry, chalk it up to another senior moment. That evening, the awards banquet was held at the Lansdowne Hotel with entertainment by the barbershop group including the chairman of STAMPA, Kevin Drury, himself. A grand time was had by all in attendance.

Sunday, another day at the show and last minute buying spree with the few quid we had left over from the previous show days was left with the dealers. The show closed on an upbeat tone and our exhibits packed away for another day, we headed off for mass and a few pints at the Dubliner in Jury's hotel. We will be looking forward to next November and yet another stay in the fair city of Dublin. Oh yes, we did see the statue of James Joyce both outside Madigan's and again before mass in Sandymount Park. ♣

Ian Whyte Auction

Ian Whyte held an auction of Stamps & Postal History at their salesrooms in Dublin on November 10, 2000. The auction coincided with Stamp 2000, the annual national stamp show.

There were 557 lots, 217 of non-Irish material and 340 lots of Irish. Some 157 lots (28%), proportionately divided between Irish and non-Irish, were either withdrawn or went unsold.

Of the 156 foreign lots sold, 53% (83 lots) sold above the valuation range. Almost all of the lots sold were collections or accumulations. Lot 73, a large collection of locals, fakes and forgeries, was valued at Irish £60 to £80, but there must have been some hidden treasures in the lot since it was finally hammered down at Irish £440, more than 5 times the high valuation. Seven other lots sold for more than 3 times the high valuations for them, including one lot of philatelic literature. An altogether respectable showing.

On the Irish side of things, there were 340 lots, ranging from 65 postal history lots and 31 overprint lots and finishing with 2 revenue lots. 95 lots were unsold (28%) and 255 went under the hammer. Here, 86 lots (34%) sold above the valuation range.

The first lots were postal history items and things started off rather modestly. Of the 44 lots, only 8 sold above the valuation range. Lot 234, an 1805 "Map of ... Post Roads of Ireland with Arrival of Mails from and towards Dublin", valued at Irish £150 to £200, sold for a respectable Irish £600.

This was followed by 15 postal history collections and accumulations. The first of these, lot 280, some 230 covers and cards, mainly Irish or to Ireland from abroad, was valued at £200 to £250 and sold for a handsome £900. Four other lots sold above valuation.

The overprints seemed to sell well. Of 39 lots offered, only 8 (21%) were either withdrawn or went unsold. Of the remaining 31, 14 (45%) sold above the valuation range. These higher prices included 4 of the 5 overprint collections or accumulations.

There were 16 lots of the "SE" watermark definitives. Only one lot (6%), a comprehensive collection with a reserve of £450, was unsold and 11 of the remaining 15 (73%) sold above the valuation range. The last 8 lots, with 4d through 1s definitives, all sold above valuation. A very good showing.

Postal stationery appeared to be rather weak. Of the 36 lots offered, 6 did not sell (17%) and 21 of the remaining 30 sold below valuation (70%).

The last two lots were, as mentioned earlier, revenue/fiscal accumulations. Both sold for more than twice the high valuations. ♣

Social Philately Captures Public Interest

by David J. Brennan

I just received a copy of *The Beverly Review*, a local newspaper published in Chicago, Illinois, which featured an article about an exhibit created by one of our members, Peter J. Foote. The exhibit, arranged by Beverly resident and stamp collector Peter J. Foote, is a collection of stamps honoring James Hoban (1762-1830), the world-renowned Irish architect who designed the White House. The exhibit is on display at the Beverly branch library for an indefinite period of time. Peter was inspired to put this exhibit together noting that this was the 200th anniversary of the White House, and the United States Postal Service has issued a commemorative stamp. The exhibit takes a look at the history of the famous house, its Irish architect and the anniversary of a presidential palace. In addition to the stamps, the exhibit features postcards, first day covers, newspaper clippings and an old advertisement for the stamp.

Our thanks to Peter for helping to promote philately and spread the word on the influence of the Irish in America. ♣



Dr. Joachim Schaaf, Member of the EPA Board of Directors, presents the Vincent A. Linnell Award for the best article appearing in *The Revealer* for Vol. 48 to Hans G. Moxter. This award was presented during a local chapter meeting of the FAI on November 18th, 2000.

STAMPA 2000 Award Winners

TRADITIONAL PHILATELY

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Ireland - The Overprinted Stamps of Great Britain 1922-1937 | James Maher (ÉPA)
Vermeil |
| 2. The Gerl Definitives: The Unwatermarked Issues | Brian Warren (ÉPA)
Vermeil |
| 3. Irish Postal Stationery 1922-1942 | Barney Clancy (ÉPA)
Gold |
| 4. Irish Coils: 1922-1970 | Robert Benninghoff (ÉPA)
Gold; ISSP Trophy; David Feldman Trophy (Best of Show) |
| 5. Railway Letter Stamps of Ireland | David Brennan (ÉPA)
Gold; EPA Medal |
| 6. Forgeries of the British Commonwealth 1840-1950 | "Forger"
Silver-Bronze |
| 7. Development of the Stamps of the Swiss Federation from the 1850s to 1950s | Hans Neumann
Silver; Whyte's Trophy |

THEMATIC PHILATELY

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 8. Philatelic Blunders | Kurt Fuchsbaauer
Certificate |
| 9. Lighthouses | Jon Perrott
Silver; C. O'Neill Memorial Trophy |

OPEN CLASS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 10. Vignettes of the French Red Cross | Alan Piggott
Second; Open Class |
| 11. The American Bald Eagle | "G. E."
Certificate |

12. Queen of the Century

Pat Casey
First; Open Class
Robert Benninghoff (ÉPA)
Certificate

13. Gerl Definitive Coils

"Dublinia"
Certificate

14. A Philatelic Tour of Dublin

Fred Thoma
Certificate

15. Did you know?

Charles Verge (ÉPA)
Third; Open Class

16. Brown Bros. Nurseries

NOVICE

17. Safety at Sea

Rosemary Perrott
Silver; Gwyn Bennett Trophy

POSTAL HISTORY

18. Journal, Printed Matter, Precancels of France 1868-1968
19. The Postman Knocks (Postage Dues in Ireland)
20. Postal History of Cork

Alan Piggott
Gold; F.E. Dixon Shield
Stan Challis (ÉPA)
Vermeil
Finbar O'Mahony (ÉPA)
Vermeil

21. Westmeath

Anthony Hughes (ÉPA)
Vermeil

22. Channel Islands Postal History (Postage Dues in Ireland)

Mike Burrington (ÉPA)
Silver

AEROPHILATELY

23. SCADTA - A Complete Postal Service

Colin Ross
Gold; W. Kane Trophy

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

- A. Annals of the Postage Stamp

David Rose
Silver

- B. Irish Heritage and Treasures

Brian Warren & Otto Jung (ÉPA)
Silver

- C. Republic of Ireland Letter Box Listing

Brian Warren & Chris Williams (ÉPA)
Silver

My Favorite St. Patrick's Day Cover

by Bill Murphy

I have 80 St. Patrick's Day covers in my collection of Irish philatelic material. These covers were all posted on March 17th and without exception have quite colorful cachets or are on specially printed envelopes. I have them divided into three types:

1. Those posted in Ireland.
2. Those posted in the United States at cities or towns having Irish names.
3. Those posted on U.S. naval vessels.

The earliest covers in my collection were posted on March 17, 1935, one in Waterford, Ireland, and three that were posted on naval ships – the U.S.S. Relief, the U.S.S. Brant and the U.S.S. Ranger.

Starting in the early 1950's and continuing for approximately 20 years, a St. Patrick's Day cover was issued each year by John J. Clark of the ÉPA. Each of these covers depicted a different Irish castle and was posted at the post office nearest the castle. The cachets on these covers were done by L.W. Staehle and are very attractive.



My favorite St. Patrick's Day cover is the one shown here, which was prepared by three members of the Northern California Chapter of the Éire Philatelic Association in celebration of St. Patrick's Day 1978. It was posted in Dublin, California. There are many cities and villages in the United States with the name Dublin. Some of the larger are Dublin, California; Dublin, Georgia; Dublin, Indiana; Dublin, Michigan; Dublin, Mississippi; Dublin, Ohio; Dublin, Pennsylvania; and Dublin, Texas. Fewer than 10 of these covers were posted that day in 1978 and this one with the hand painted cachet is unique.

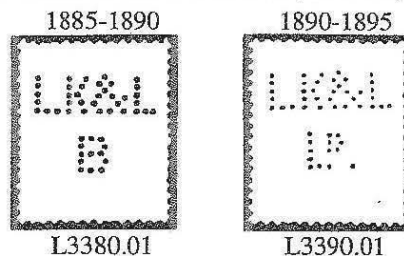
I also have covers which were posted on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Indiana; Ireland, West Virginia; Erin, New York; Shamrock, Missouri; and Saint Patrick, Missouri.

Rare Irish "Limited Pair"

by Roy Gault

The "Irish Study Group" is a small band of just 23 perfin collectors pooling information from which to prepare a new Irish Catalogue. As a direct result of this study, a number of new dies and identities have come to light, amongst them is the new (rare?) perfin "LK&L/Ld" – allocated L3390.01. It was reported on an identified cover dated May 1892, the user being:

Leahy, Kelly & Leahy Ltd,
The Castle Tobacco Warehouse, 2 & 4 ..., Belfast.



The existing perfin "LK&L/B" (L3380.01) is strikingly similar, and may well be equally rare, so much so that I currently have no details to hand! However, of far more importance is the fact that, on closer inspection, the two patterns were found to completely line up, showing that one die must have been modified to produce the other. Some of the pins of the "B" in the original die, "LK&L/B", have been used to form a large part of the "d" and a portion of the foot to the "L", with new pins added to complete the "Ld" bit. The final stop has been added (presumably) for balance.

The "B" in the original die would have stood for Belfast, but can anyone provide any stamp details (for either die, please!) to help determine accurate periods of use? Another useful line of research would be to establish the precise trade and full address, as well as discovering quite when the company took up "Limited" liability.

(Editor's note: Printed with permission of the author.)

New O.A.T. Discovery

by Bill Murphy

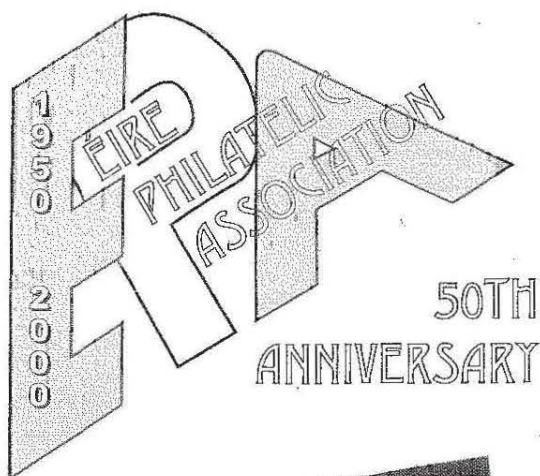
In the booklet "O.A.T. and A.V.2. Markings on Irish Airmail," I identified 168 covers sent to or from Ireland that had O.A.T. markings. Since this booklet was completed in July 1998, several additional Irish O.A.T. covers have been found. One of these new covers significantly adds to the information in the booklet.

The latest posting date for any cover included in the booklet was November 29, 1945. A cover has now been found which was posted on January 24, 1946 in Sligo. The cover is franked with 1/3 postage, which was the correct amount for an overseas airmail letter at that time. It is addressed to Geelong, Victoria, Australia.



O.A.T. cover posted January 24, 1946

(continued on page 46)



Plaque for Hans Moxter, winner of the Linnell Award. Joachim Schaaf accepting the award from Dave. The award will be presented to Hans at a later date.

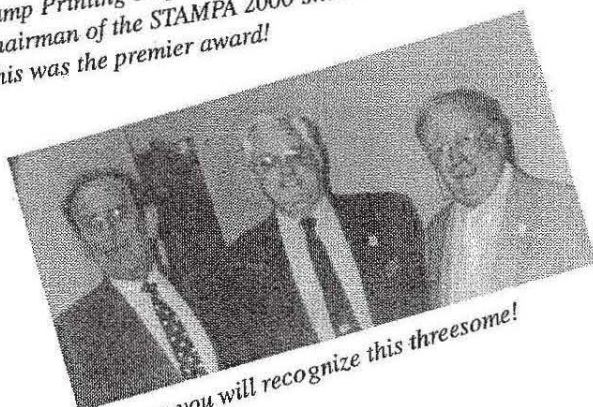
Information contained on pages 44 & 45 courtesy of Michael J. Conway.



Bob Benninghoff accepting Irish Security Stamp Printing Trophy from Kevin Drury, Chairman of the STAMPA 2000 show. This was the premier award!



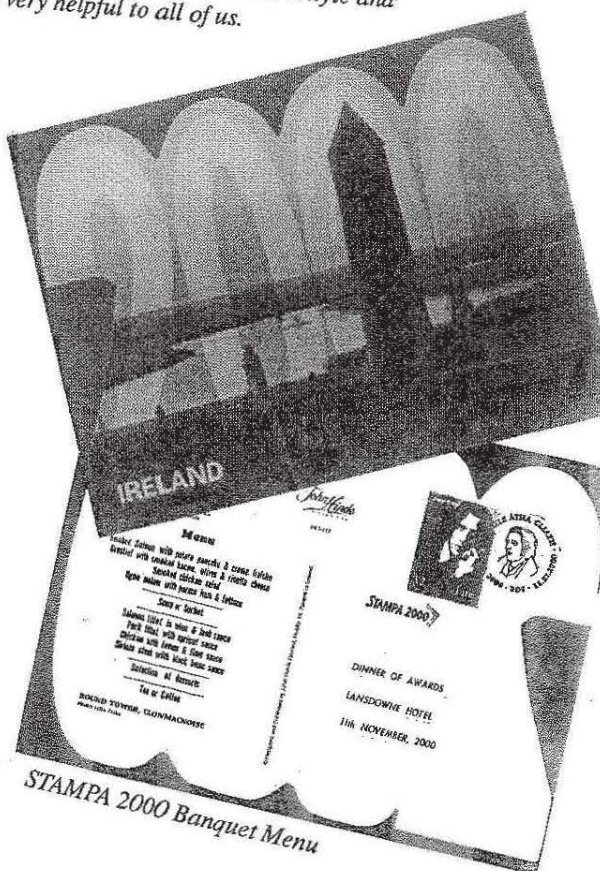
Alan Piggott and wife and Jim Kelly. Jim is not a member; he works for Ian Whyte and was very helpful to all of us.



I believe you will recognize this threesome!



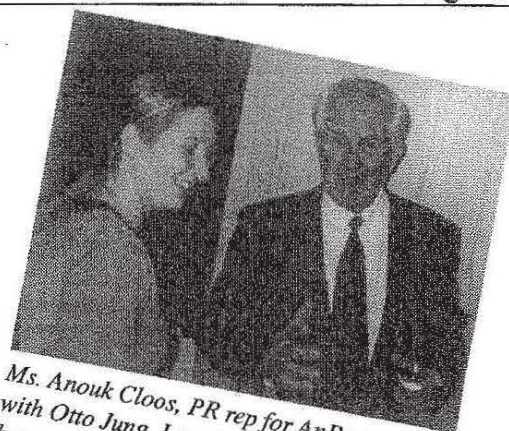
Tony Finn, Brian Warren, Mike Barrington



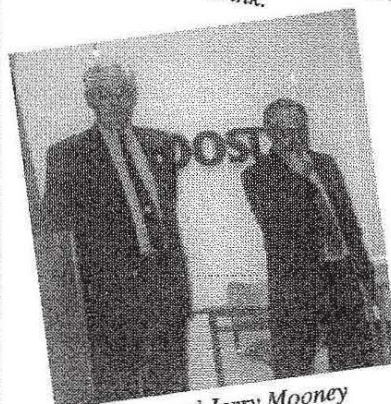
HONOR ROLL

The following ÉPA members attended STAMPA 2000 in Dublin.

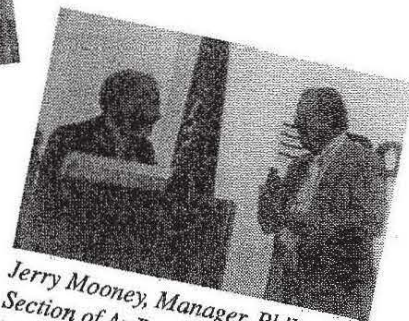
Bob Benninghoff	David McDonnell
Dave Brennan	Frank Mitchell
Michael Burrington	Heloise Mitchell
Barney Clancy	Uve Netschi
Michael Conway	Finbar O'Mahony
Brian Donohoe	Padraig O'Mathuna
Tony Finn	Padraig O'Shea
Joe Foley	Alan Piggott
Peter Foote	Philip Quigley
Michael Freyer	Jim Rankin
Mike Giffney	Joachin Schaaf
Ray How	Paddy Smithers
Otto Jung	Klaus Stange
Bill Kane	Charles Verge
Mike Kelly	Pat Walker
Ray Lambrecht	Brian Warren
John Lennon	Ian Whyte
Jim Maher	



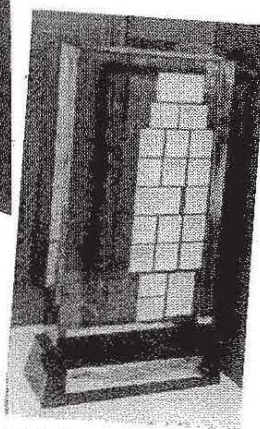
Ms. Anouk Cloos, PR rep for AnPost, talking with Otto Jung. I can't say enough about how well AnPost treated us. They hosted two receptions, one on Thursday night, which was good, and then on Friday night they pulled out all the stops - plenty to eat and drink.



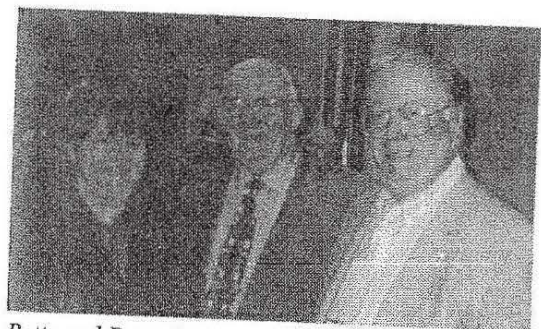
Joe Foley and Jerry Mooney



Jerry Mooney, Manager, Philatelic Section of AnPost, presenting Dave with statue of Chu Chulann (Old Celtic Warrior) in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the ÉPA.



Irish Security Stamp Printing Trophy



Betty and Peter Foote and Dave B. I had an opportunity to spend several hours with Peter Foote and I was impressed with his interest in being the Librarian and the plans he has to reorganize the library. He appears to be an excellent choice to take over from Peter Bugg.



ÉPA 50th Anniversary Souvenir Sheet overprinted for STAMPA 2000.

New O.A.T. Discovery

(continued from page 43)

What is even more exciting about this cover is that the O.A.T. marking is a new type not seen before on mail posted in Ireland. In his article "Onward Air Transmission Markings" published in the December 1991 issue of *The Airpost Journal*, Murray Heifetz listed and described 19 different types of O.A.T. markings. Only eight of these types were found on the 168 covers enumerated in my booklet.

The above cover bears a ninth type. It is Murray Heifetz's Type XI and is shown below:

This type is identified by its shape and size, and has a rectan-



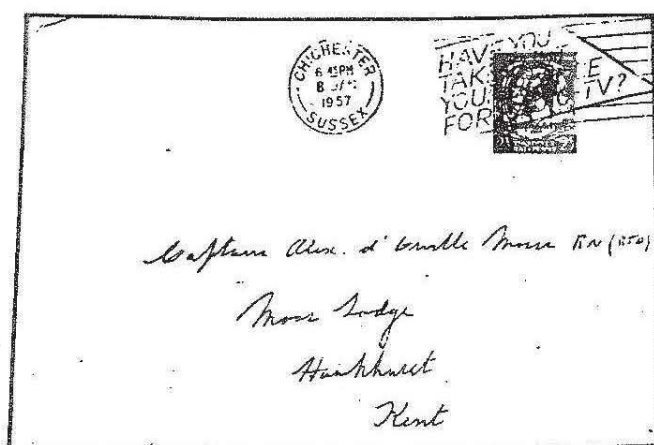
gular frame with narrow rectangular stops after the letters. The frame is approximately 32mm x 19mm and the letters are 26mm x 10mm. This O.A.T. marking was used in London. Its earliest recorded use was November 3, 1945, and its latest recorded use was November 21, 1946.

Protest Covers? Maybe, and Maybe Not!

by George Nicholson

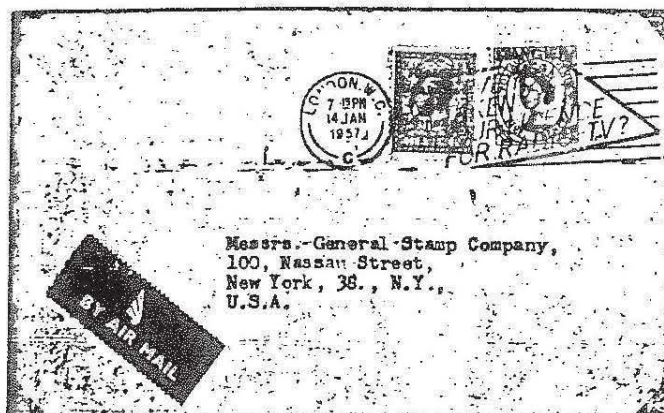
The two covers shown below were both mailed in South Eastern England in 1957. The interesting aspect is that they are franked with Irish overprint stamps.

The first cover, dated 8 January 1957, was addressed to a Retired Captain in the Royal Navy and was sent from Chichester, Sussex to Hawkhurst, Kent.



The second cover, dated 14 January 1957, was addressed to a New York stamp company and was mailed in London. It was franked with a combination of Irish and Tangier overprinted stamps. The Irish is a 10d 1922 issue and the Tangier overprint is a 1953 issue.

A third rather similar type of cover was shown in the Spring



1988 issue of *The Revealer*. It was dated 14 April 1960 and was mailed locally at Bromley and Beckenham, Kent. The cover, addressed to a Brigadier G. Hickie, was franked with six 1/2d stamps.

The two covers shown, mailed only a week apart, suggest that there was some organized pattern and that they originate from the same source. The third one, however, indicates that whatever was going on lasted, perhaps intermittently, for at least three years. The question is why were these produced? The following are a few possibilities.

The first thought was that they were Protest Covers, produced to publicize British involvement in Ireland. However, although there was an Independence campaign during the late 1950's, this was before the start of the most severe "Troubles". Also, the covers don't seem to have any obvious political type markings or messages on them which would have been easy to add with an unidentified sender. And lastly, it is not likely that a retired Royal Navy Captain or a Brigadier would have been the most receptive audience for a protest item.

A second thought was that someone simply wished to create interesting covers and deliberately used improper stamps to see if the letters would get through and maybe receive some special markings.

A third possibility was that the sender simply had the wrong stamps and stuck on whatever was available. Maybe someone just had a lot of unused old Irish stamps hanging around and decided to give them a try as postage. This sounds very unlikely especially as the U.S. stamp company destination would suggest a dealer or hobbyist connection.

And a final option was that there is some military connection. Perhaps the Navy and Army addressees are accidental coincidences, but the fact that Kent is featured prominently suggests that may be a key.

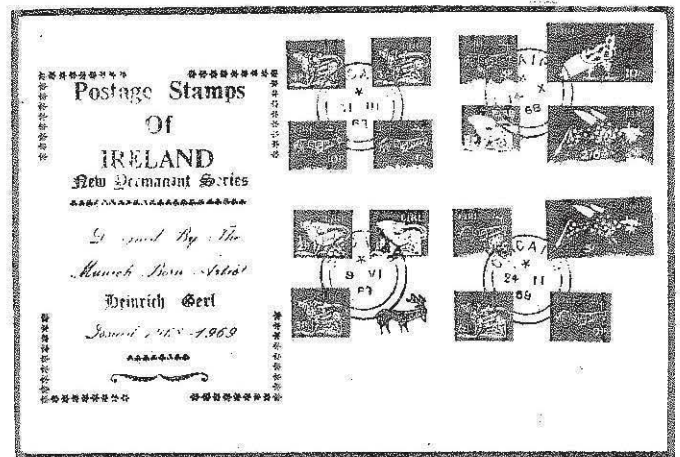
Perhaps some of the U.K. or Irish members can throw some light on these. The 1988 article solicited responses, but as far as I can see from subsequent issues, none was reported. Perhaps a decade later, something has been written up in another philatelic journal. Also, does anyone have any ideas on this correspondence or do you have more of this type of cover in your collection? If so, please forward your thoughts and the date, source and destination of the items you have to the Editor or by E-Mail to myself at nich@vaxxine.com. I will volunteer to compile whatever arrives and report back in a later edition. Together, let's solve this philatelic puzzle!

My Favorite First Day Cover

by Bill Murphy

Most of you know me as a collector of Irish flight covers. However, for many years I was a general collector, and as such, I collected anything and everything related to Irish philately. Included in this is a fairly complete collection of first day covers through 1982.

My favorite Irish first day cover is one having the complete set of pre-decimal Gerl definitives which were issued in 1968 and 69. This cover was prepared by a part-time dealer in Cork. There were 16 stamps in this series and they were issued on four different dates. The first four stamps, 2d., 8d., 2/6 and 10/- were issued on October 14, 1968 and are cancelled with a CDS dated "CORCAIGH 14 X 68." As the remaining stamps in the series were issued on February 24, 1969, March 31, 1969 and June 9, 1969, the new stamps were affixed to the envelope and cancelled with a Cork CDS.



The cachet is in light green. The size of the cover is 6 inches by 9 inches. It is estimated that less than three dozen of these covers exist.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Revealer Editor:

I AM SICK OF LOOKING AT
"DIRTY" POST CARDS AND COVERS!

Well, that should have grabbed your attention!

However, you must have known that in writing to a respected journal like yours, I am not referring to those nudge, nudge, wink, types one can buy in the alleys of Marrakesh!

No sir, I am referring to the grubby, tatty and downright rubbish which purport to be "Postal History" exhibits at our various stamp exhibitions.

I believe we should have a new category called "Dirty, Scruffy Bits of Paper, which just because they are over a hundred years old, must be awash with Postal History!"

Now, before you get a bout of apoplexy, please hear me out.

Just look at it this way. If you had a hundred-year-old threadbare and faded carpet, and every time you stepped on it you tripped over it, what would your wife say?

"Get rid of that old thing and buy me a nice new one!"

I feel like that every time I see some of these so-called postal history items and the sanctimonious people who explain that some illiterate postal clerk in the year dot wrote that faded mark!

I personally do not care if it is worth a thousand dollars, and looking around at the yawning onlookers, I know I am not alone!

Now I am not saying that Ronnie Voght's crash covers come into this category. A cover fished out of the sea or rescued from a blazing plane must have suffered in some way, but there I stop.

What I am saying is that most of the other material has been handled a thousand times, and shows it!

There are more fingerprints on them than the police crime department has ever seen, and they should have been consigned to the waste paper basket years ago!

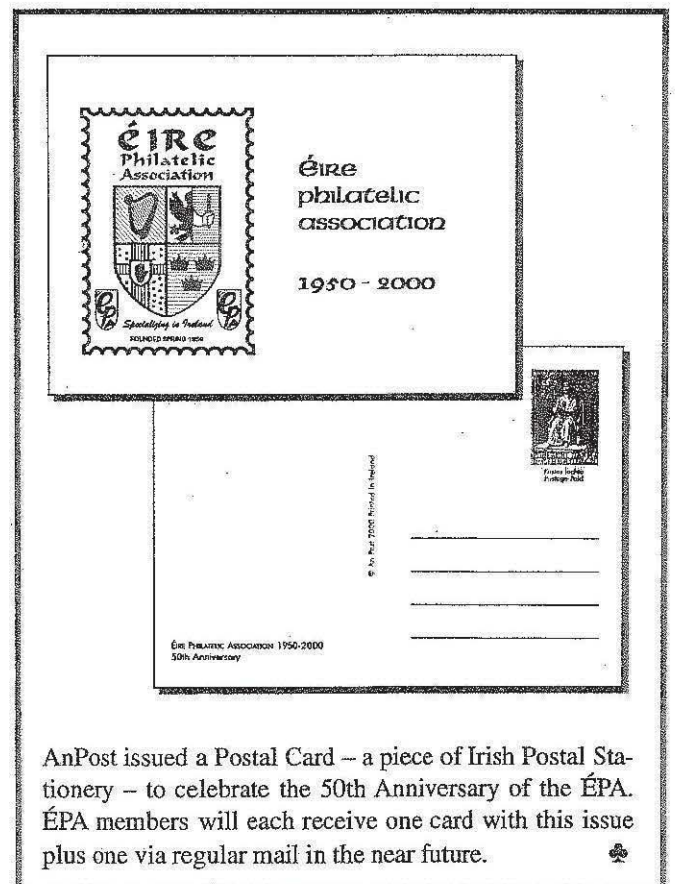
Is there any wonder that youngsters are not queuing up to join philatelic societies anymore?

In my opinion, those die-hards who look down their noses at

some beautiful new issues are missing something, and we all will be the losers in the long run.

Okay! I am willing to be shot at!

Yours sincerely,
George Etoe



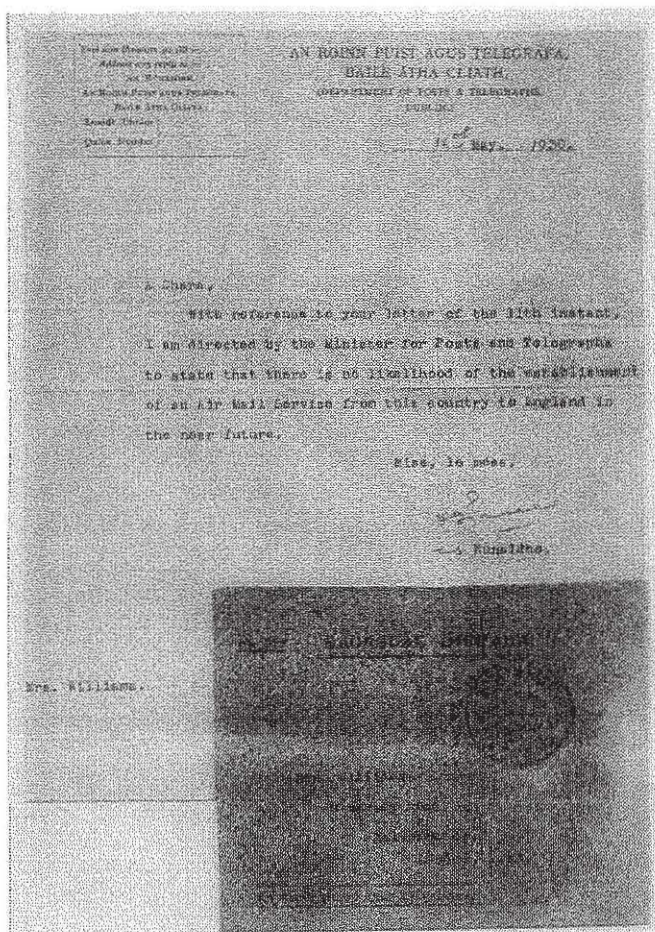
AnPost issued a Postal Card — a piece of Irish Postal Stationery — to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the ÉPA. ÉPA members will each receive one card with this issue plus one via regular mail in the near future.

Why the Negative Response?

by David J. Brennan

Recently at a stamp show, while picking through an unsorted box of Irish material, I found the following telegraph sent to a Mrs. Williams in London, obviously in response to an inquiry as to when airmail service would be established between Ireland and Great Britain. What struck me as odd was the fact that only on August 26, 1929, an experimental flight carrying mail from Galway to London was highly successful. Now, to back up a little. The North German Lloyd liner "Karlsruhe" docked at Galway from America with about 3,000 letters to be forwarded to London. The Irish Free State postal authorities had made arrangements to send on mail posted in Galway. This flight was sponsored by Irish Airways, Ltd., and no air fees were charged for any of the mail carried on this flight. On a stopover in Dublin, some Irish Independent newspapers were loaded on the plane to be forwarded on to London. Originally, a return flight carrying mail from London to Galway was planned, but since no mail boat was scheduled to leave for America at this time, the plan was abandoned.

Not until October 1932 were any other experimental flights made from Galway to London. Why? Was it not profitable, or were Ireland and Great Britain not comfortable in establishing an airmail service at this time? ♣



The Emmet Rebellion – An Interesting Letter

by C.I. Dulin

On July 23, 1803, Robert Emmet led an insurrection in Ireland. The plan was to seize Dublin Castle, the seat of power, and hold the Lord Lieutenant hostage. As with most Irish uprisings, it was well planned and poorly executed. The crimes of violence of his small band of followers sickened Emmet and, disillusioned, he fled. Later he was captured, tried and hanged.

A contemporary letter dated July 25, 1803, by a F. Freeman to a friend (only identified as Willy, but possibly William Hutchison) throws some graphic light on the attempted insurrection. It reads:

"Dublin July 25th 1803

Dear Willy,

I suppose you have heard all the news about the situation of this Place. I will let you know every Particular concerning it. About three o'clock Government got Information of an attempt that would be made on the City on Saturday night last which they did not give Credit to. About the Hour of Eight o'clock they began. When there were an Express sent off for Lord Kilwarden to come into town to attend the Privy Council. He was at his Country House when he received his order. On his coming through James Street he was stopped and Dragged out of his Carriage by the Rebels and Pyked to death in a Shocking Manner. Also his nephew a clergyman by the name of Woolfe. His Daughter was in the Carriage with him she escaped unhurt. Military then came up a Battle ensued. There were a good many lives lost on Both sides but a great number of Rebels were taken Prisoners and some Principles. There was a fellow of the name of Costigan a Distiller has made off who was a Principle in the B....(?) he is a Queens County Man from Upperwoods. There was arms, Pikes, ammunition for Sixty Thousand men Taken in a House in the Drury Lane also Provision for one Month for that number of men. Bread, Biscuit and Cheese. There (sic) Intention was to have not stirred until the 25th instant but finding there (sic) was discovered they could not withstand. There were Rebels from all parts of the Country a great number from County Kildare. Nothing to be seen in the streets at Present but Red Coats. Dublin was Distracted all Day yesterday the Bridges all made up. There is a Principle of the Rebels to be tryed this day - one Mickebe a Grocer from Back Lane. He was taken at the Head of Them. It is thought that he will be Hanged instantly. I hope in God our Country is quiet. You have no army in Roscrea at Present. I wish you have me Proposed a Member of the Roscrea Infantry. I will be a Private. If you have no Arms let me know and I will see and Procure some. I think if your Country is Disturbed you would get an addition to your Corps. There has been a Manifesto Taken up it is Thought it has been Rote (sic) by Emmet in Paris. It is Remarkably well done if was in a good cause. If I can Procure one of them I will send it to you. The mail from Belfast brought bad

news from that Part of the Country this day that to yourself as Government don't wish to let it be known that the North is Disturbed. I am Greatly afraid our Government is too lenient to the Damned Villains. I would not make a Prisoner of one of them. Put them to the Bayonet at once. If anything Particular occurs I will let you hear from me. I will expect to get a letter from you by Return of Post. I hope in God the People are all Quiet. I expect I will see you in a few days. Give my Best Compliments to Mrs. Hutchison and Family. Believe me ever

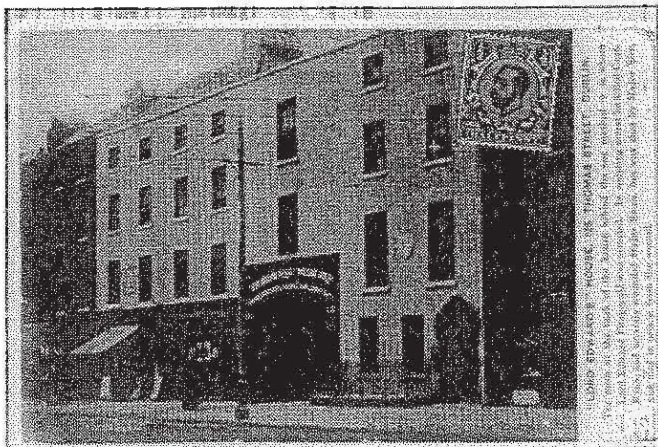
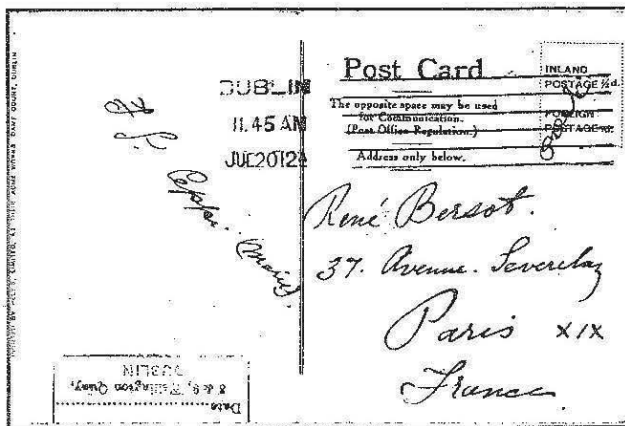
Yours Sincerely
F. Freeman"

Although I have not had enough time to research all the characters mentioned in the letter, the Costigan mentioned was indeed a distiller in Dublin, the distillery lasting for the next couple of hundred years. ♣

Lord Edward Fitzgerald

by Hans G. Moxter

Some months ago I found a picture post card mailed from Dublin to Paris and bearing a Columbia machine cancel of 20th July 1912, code letter A. The printer of this coloured post card is given as HELY'S LIMITED, AT THEIR ACME WORKS, DAME COURT, DUBLIN. Apart from a row of houses, the following text appears in front of this post card: "LORD EDWARD'S" HOUSE, 125 THOMAS STREET, DUBLIN. The



room at the back of the house behind the one marked + is where Lord Edward Fitzgerald was arrested. In resisting arrest he killed Capt. Ryan, and severely wounded Major Swan, but was shot by Major Sirr, and died in Prison from the wound.

Curious as I am, I wanted to know more about what had happened in Thomas Street. Lord Edward Fitzgerald was chief organizer of the United Irishmen's military efforts. By February 1798, his secret returns showed him that theoretically he had some 280,000 men he could call on – 170,000 of them from counties outside Ulster. A French invasion in Ireland was planned for the middle of May at the latest, and the British Government received news of extensive preparations at four ports on the continent. The British were not willing to condone a landing in Ireland, and on March 12 of 1798 arrested the entire Leinster Provincial Committee of the United Irishmen in the house of woolen merchant Oliver Bond.

Out of last-minute personal loyalty, the British informer, a certain Mr. Ryenolds, seems to have warned Fitzgerald to keep away. Nevertheless, 15 members of the Directory were arrested that day, including Thomas Addis Emmet, Oliver Bond and W.J. MacNeven.

Fitzgerald remained at large, but only for another few weeks. He spent this time in feverish last-minute organization of a military revolt. But before it could break out, he was caught at the house of a rich Dublin leather merchant, betrayed by yet another informer named Magan. Lying on a bed at the moment the police entered the room, he fought furiously, stabbing fatally Captain Ryan and severely wounding Major Swan. Fitzgerald was shot through the shoulder by Major Sirr and he died six weeks later in prison from the wound received when he was arrested.

We all know that the revolt failed despite French intervention, and that it took Éire another 124 years before the first 26 counties became an independent nation.

P.S. The post card mentioned above gives "Lord Edward's" House as 125 Thomas Street. The picture itself shows house number 151, which is the correct direction. Between 1980 and 2000, AnPost issued 73 Christmas Stamps, 20 Love Stamps, and 32 Greetings Stamps, plus 4 Greetings sheetlets; all stamps with the intention to squeeze the last penny out of collectors. Lord Edward Fitzgerald was at the same time not remembered by a single commemorative. ♣

The 2001 AGM of the ÉPA will be held at MILCOPEX, hosted by the Milwaukee Philatelic Society in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the third weekend of September 2001. More details in the spring issue of THE REVEALER.

M.P.460: Official Enquiry Label

by C.I. Dulin

Examining some material from a recent purchase, I came across a Post Office label that, while new to me (but undoubtedly known to others), may interest some readers.

Essentially, the label (buff in colour) requests the return of the "cover of this letter for the purpose of an Official Enquiry".

After a while, the reason for this apparently strange request finally dawned on me. The 2-1/2d Gaelic League stamp had an official day of issue on July 31, 1943, but the letter posted from Caorthannan (Castlehill, Co. Mayo) was clearly postmarked 30 JULY 1943; that is one day before the official release date. Hence, one can only conclude, the request of the Postmaster at Ballina Co. Mayo for the request to return the cover. Presumably, the Mother Superior at Gortuor Abbey, Crossmolina failed to do so.

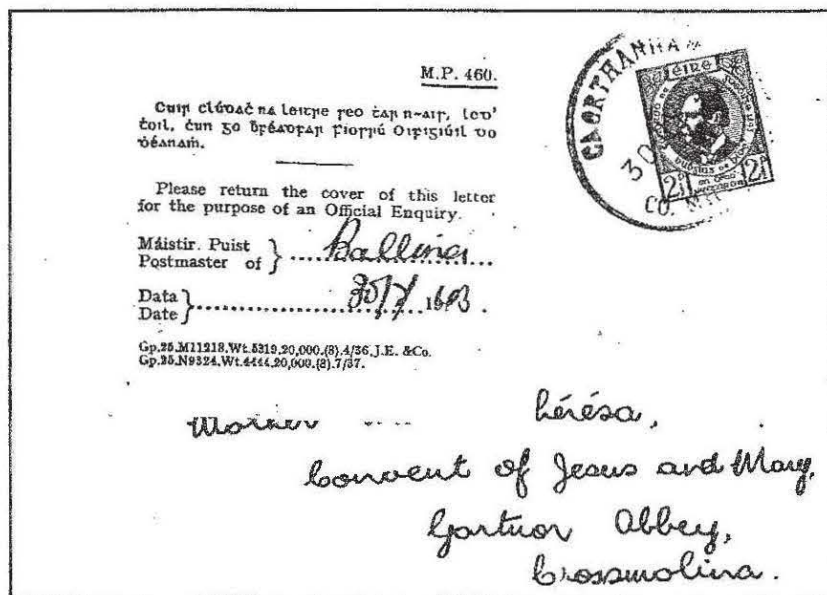
For the record, there are two warrant numbers at the base of the label. These read:

Gp.25.M11218.Wt5319.20,000.(8).4/36.J.E.&Co.

and

Gp.25.N9324.Wt4444.20,000.(8).7/37.

The quantities printed (20,000) suggest that there must have been some modest demand for the labels. It is difficult to guess what other reasons or circumstances may exist for the use of such a label, but it would be of great interest if any member has a similar type of envelope. I can find no reference to the label in my (somewhat antiquated) copy of "Instructions for Postmasters and Supervising Officers" or, indeed, any other reference works that I possess.



Castletown Geoghegan Post Office

by Anthony Hughes

The first post office in Castletown opened on the 23rd of April 1836 as a receiving house for the Kilbeggan Penny Post. In Ireland at that time, the cost of sending a letter was decided by the distance it travelled, the number of pages it contained, or its weight. In 1836, a single page letter from Kilbeggan to Dublin cost 6d per sheet. The person who received the letter usually paid the cost. The writer of a letter in Castletown had to go to Kilbeggan in order to post it. When the Penny Post started, for a penny the trip to Kilbeggan was spared. Letters carried on the Penny Post had a special mark applied (fig. 1), and the circular date stamp of its head office (fig. 2). Castletown was a loss-making Penny Post; we know this from the 1838 Parliamentary report on the Post Office. The following are some figures returned by Jos. McLoughlin, Kilbeggan's postmaster at this time.

Number of letters sent through Kilbeggan Post Office, including Penny Post, on two weeks in January 1836:

Week commencing	General Post Letters		Penny Post Letters		Privileged Letters and Packets	Newspapers
	PAID	UNPAID	PAID	UNPAID		
15 Jan 1836	28	138	—	1	1	37
29 Jan 1836	30	144	—	1	13	50

In 1840, the uniform penny post was introduced. It now cost just a penny to send a letter anywhere within the United Kingdom and Ireland, making the Penny Post redundant. Castletown was now a sub office of Kilbeggan, though the penny post postmark continued in use until at least 1851. When the Penny Black, the first postage stamps, appeared in May 1840, new handstamps were introduced to cancel them. This new postmark was called a Maltese cross (fig. 3) because of its shape. At first, red ink was used for this postmark. After February 1841, when the colour of the stamp changed to red, then black ink was used. After May 1840, when a letter was handed in at Castletown, no markings were applied. It went to Kilbeggan for sorting where at least two

Kilbeggan / Castletown Penny Post

Date of Establishment	Distance from each other		Gross Revenue	Annual Expense	Net Revenue
	Miles	Fur.	£ s d	£ s d	
23 Apr 1836	6	0	2 7 —	4 14 3	—

Kilbeggan
Penny Post

Figure 1



Figure 2

marks were applied, a Kilbeggan Penny Post postmark and a Kilbeggan circular date stamp. If a postage stamp was used on the letter, a Maltese cross cancelled it. In 1844, a diamond number replaced the Maltese cross. These diamond numbers were issued to main post offices country wide in alphabetical order, 1 was Abbyeix Co. Offaly up to 450 Youghal in Cork. Some of these would be withdrawn or reassigned over to different offices. Kilbeggan was issued with the number 261 (fig 4); any letter sent from Castletown up to 1851 had its stamps cancelled with the number 261.

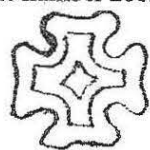


Figure 3



Figure 4

In 1851, the railway arrived and by-passed Kilbeggan, leading to the downgrading of that office. For a while, letters from Castletown were sent to Moate where they were sorted and the stamps cancelled by the diamond number 331 and a Moate circular date stamp applied. At this time, the Penny Post postmark went out of use and was replaced by a handstamp known as an undated namestamp (fig 5). Sometime in 1852, Castletown became a sub-office of Mullingar and its stamps were now cancelled in Mullingar and with its 345 diamond number.

We know from Thoms directory that one John Allen was sub-postmaster in Castletown at this time and that the post from Dublin arrived at 9:25 a.m. and left at 5:05 p.m. In 1861, the undated namestamps were withdrawn from use. This left most sub-offices without handstamps, including Castletown.

CASTLETOWN



Figure 6

Figure 5

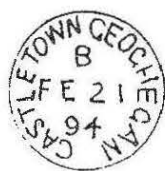


Figure 7

In 1844, 14 Westmeath Post offices were issued with diamond numbered handstamps. By the mid 1850s, only four towns were still using them: Athlone 18, Killucan 275, Moate 331 and Mullingar 345. In 1875, the Post Office issued a new list of town numbered diamond cancels; added to the list was Castletown Mullingar allocated the number 123 (fig 6). This number had originally been allocated to Castletown Delvin in 1844 and withdrawn when Delvin became a sub of Killucan in 1852.

Why Castletown was issued with a numbered diamond is not known, for it was unusual for a sub-office to use one. Possibly Mullingar was not able to handle the amount of mail it was getting. As Castletown was on the railway, it made sense that it should handle letters from Mullingar's sub-offices in that

part of the county. Evidence shows that Kilbeggans mail went to Castletown for sorting at this time. When Castletown was issued with its diamond number, a transit mark was also issued (Fig 7). These marks had a code slug in them to tell when the mail was sorted. In fact, Castletown was using two such handstamps, one of 21mm and one of 23mm in diameter. The codes A, B and C were used in Castletown.

Around 1900, the diamond numbers were replaced in the sub-offices with a new postmark called a single ring date stamp (fig 8). These postmarks were larger than the smaller transit marks and used to cancel the stamps and tell the date and time a letter was processed at the office. These used clock time instead of a code letter. This handstamp was in use until at least 1910. In 1814, a new mark was in use (fig 9) which was smaller than the previous one but included the counties name Westmeath. This mark remained in use until 1922 when what replaced it is known as a skeleton handstamp (fig. 10). This was an emergency handstamp, one in which the letters could be inserted around the side; it was used when the normal handstamp was broken or lost. These were normally kept at head-office and sent out to the sub-office as required. It was the last handstamp to use the English version of the name Castletown Geoghegan.



Figure 8



Figure 9

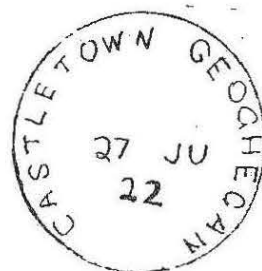


Figure 10

The next handstamps (fig. 11 /13) all used the Irish version of the name B'L CHAISL'N MHIG ECHAGAIN. Three different versions of this hand stamp were used. These are known as double ring date stamps. It is interesting to note that in the second one (fig. 12) the time slug was never used. This handstamp was used in Castletown from 1934 until at least 1986, over 50 years, a long time for one handstamp.



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

Sources:

1838 Parliamentary Papers.

Report from select committees 1837-8 vol. XX part II (Post)

Watsons Directories 1838 / 1842

Thoms Directories 1851 / 1858

Westmeath postmark collection of Anthony Hughes



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