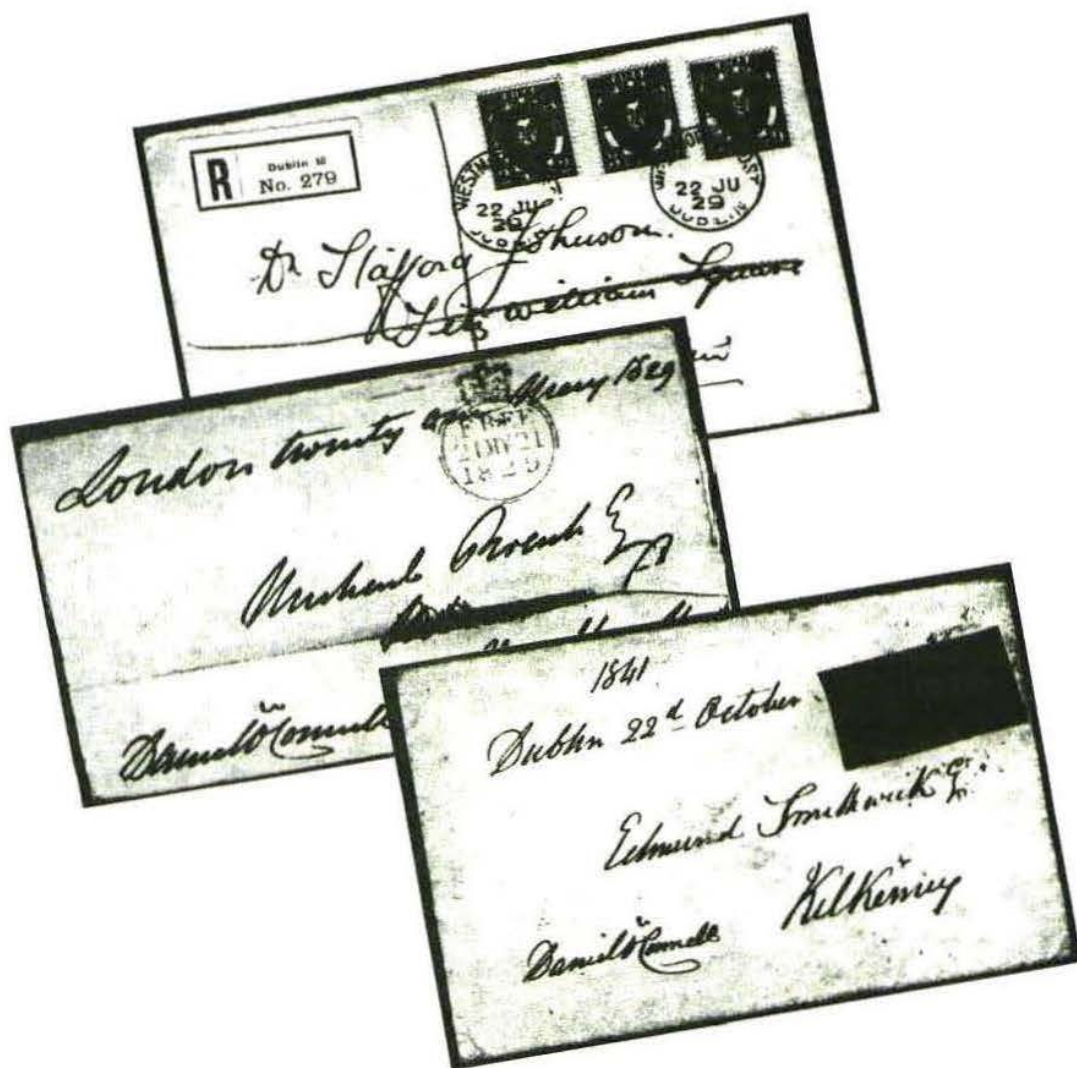


the Revealer

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IRISH FIRST DAY COVERS

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President's Message

by William O'Connor

I have just returned home from WESTPEX, which presented its first show at the new venue at the Marriott, located at the San Francisco International Airport. The NORCAL Chapter of the EPA hosted a very delightful meeting Sunday, May 9. Garvin Lohman presented an informal but most interesting presentation of Irish Official mail. The changes from the British to the Irish postal system were very interesting and at times confusing. Although the number of members present was small, all appreciated the open discussions and good camaraderie.

Edward Wynne Jr. offered a great suggestion that the EPA organize an Oral History Project so we can gather the collective wisdom of all of our many long time members to give us their insights, and wisdom concerning our roots and development as an organization, as well as having a great archive of Irish stamp collecting stories. This can be done individually, but it might be possible at the upcoming AGM in Chicago to expand the possibilities. If you have any suggestions, please send me a note or e-mail.

As you know, our AGM this year will be held at the Chicago Philatelic Society Show, November 19-21. Please begin to think about organizing an exhibit this year at the show. I will be putting together a single frame exhibit for the first time. If I can do one, any of us can do it. The

(continued on page 3)

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

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I regularly post letters from South Anne Street Post Office in Dublin. For those who are not aware of the exact location, it is just off Grafton Street, very close to HMV. It is normally very busy with approximately 8-10 counters, and would service a lot of offices in the area, including Stephens Green and around Dail Eireann.

I was in there last Tuesday, and Thursday. There were several notices up on Thursday, advising that the post office is due to close this week, I understand on Thursday.

On speaking briefly to one of the staff, I was advised that this was a permanent closure and that they are transferring the service to other local post offices. Andrews Street Post Office will have a number of additional hatches and some of the staff are being transferred there. The member of the staff I spoke to also advised that she understood the pillar boxes outside were also going to be closed and removed.

Phelim ♣

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 2)

entries will close August 15, 2004.

One other note on organizing meetings is the location for our annual general meeting in 2005. The AGM will be held at SESCAL in Los Angeles in early October 2005. Richard Sullivan, Edward Wynne, Garvin Lohman, and I will be members of the organizing committee. A report will be presented at our meeting this November in Chicago.

At the town meeting at WESTPEX, hosted by Janet Klug, the President of the American Philatelic Society, a main part of the discussion concerned the problems with declining membership in all areas of our hobby. If you have any ideas for the Eire Philatelic Society specifically, or the hobby in general, get your thoughts on paper and let everyone know.

One last thought on participation in stamp activities concerns the San Diego County Fair, formally the Del Mar Fair. Our local stamp clubs are back in the hobby area this year. This is a great chance to meet many people, and share the love of our hobby. Wishing all a safe and happy summer. ♣

FROM THE GUTTER – Irish Commemoratives

by Patrick J. Ryan, Sr.

We shall continue our discussion with three Irish commemoratives: the New Irish Constitution; the 150th Anniversary of the U.S. Constitution; and the large 25th Anniversary of the Easter Rising. The varieties are both Jubilee lines and columns in the gutter. In the case of the U.S. Constitution, please note that the variety includes a printer's circle in both figures 2 and 3, but they occur in two different positions. Since records are sparse or non-existent for this period, we can surmise that the reason for the varieties could be different printings, but this is only a

guess. Also, I would like to point out that figures 1 and 3 include a seven column (instead of the normal eight column) gutter pair. I think that from other examples I have, I can state with a certain degree of certainty that the two U.S. Constitution pairs are, in fact, right margin pairs with the selvage torn off. The Irish Constitution (figure 1) was issued on 29 December 1937, while the U.S. Constitution followed on 1 July 1938.

In the case of the 2-1/2 p Easter Rising large Commemorative issued on April 12, 1941, we have a left margin gutter block of four, which has the left gutter pair with a seven column. This computes to position 1/10 and 1/11 in the sheet. The 1/10 position stamp is also a variety in its own right, as it has the Broken Window. This is very much like the Irish Constitution which also has seven columns in the same position.

I have included a small chart that contains all of the varieties that I have found where the Jubilee Lines and Columns design is contained in the gutter.

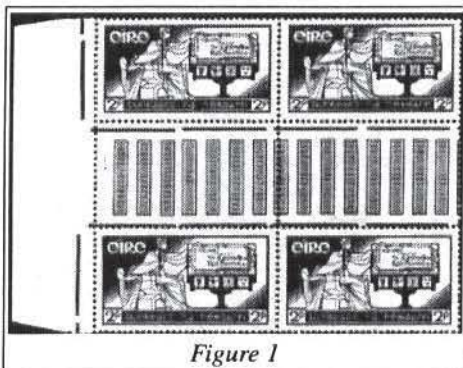


Figure 1

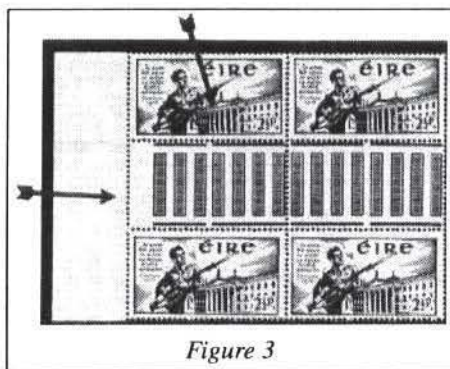


Figure 3



Figure 2

Sc #	Date	Stamp	Reg Gutter	Varieties	Remarks
80	22Jun29	2d Daniel O'Connell	JL&4C		
81		3d			
82		9d			
83	15Oct30	2d Shannon Power Scheme	JL&8C		
84	12Jun31	2d RDS	JL&4C		
85	12May32	2d Eucharistic Congress	JL&4C		
86		3d			
88	18Sep33	2d Holy Year	JL&4C		
89		3d			
90	27Jul34	2d GAA	JL&4C		
99	29Dec37	2d Irish Constitution	JL&8C	SL7C	
100		3d			
101	1Jul38	2d Fr Matthews	JL&8C		
102		3d			
103	1Mar39	2d US Constitution	JL&8C	JL&7CwCir	Also JL&8CwCirC8
104		3d		JL&7CwCir	JL&8CwCirC1
118	12Apr41	2d Easter Rising	JL&4C		
119		3d			
120	27Oct41	2 d	JL&8C		
124	31Jul43	d Gaelic League	JL&4C		
125		2 d			
126	13Nov43	d Hamilton	JL&4C		
127		2 d			
128	30Jun44	d Michael O'Leary	JL&4C		
129		2 d			
130	29Aug44	2 d Br Rice	JL&4C		
131	15Sep45	2 d Thomas Davis	JL&4C		
132		6d			
133	16Sep46	2 d Parnell & Davitt	JL&8C		
134		3d			
135	19Nov46	2 d Wolfe Tone	JL&8C		
136		3d Wolfe Tone	JL&8C		
139	21Nov49	2 d Republic of Ireland	JL&8C		
140		3d			
141	5Dec49	1d Mangan	JL&4C		
147	9Feb53	2 d An Tostal	JL&8C		SB
148		1s 4d			ST
153	19Jul54	2d Newman	JL&4C		
154		1s 3d			
161	23Sep57	3d Brown	JL&4C		
162		1s 3d			
169	20Oct58	3d Irish Constitution	JL&8C		
170		5d			SL

1. Legend:

JL&8C = Jubilee Lines & 8 Columns: JL&4C/7C = Jubilee Lines & 4 or 7 Columns
 SB/ST/SL/SR = Selvage Bottom/Top/Left/Right (eg SL7C is Selvage Left 7 Column)
 CwpCirC1-8 = Column with Circle in Col 1 thru 8.

2. Note: Missing stamps have gutters with other than Jubilee Lines and Columns and will appear in later articles.

STAMPA 2004

October 1-3, 2004

32nd Irish National Stamp Exposition

More information as it becomes available.

Irish First Day Covers

by Paddy Lineen

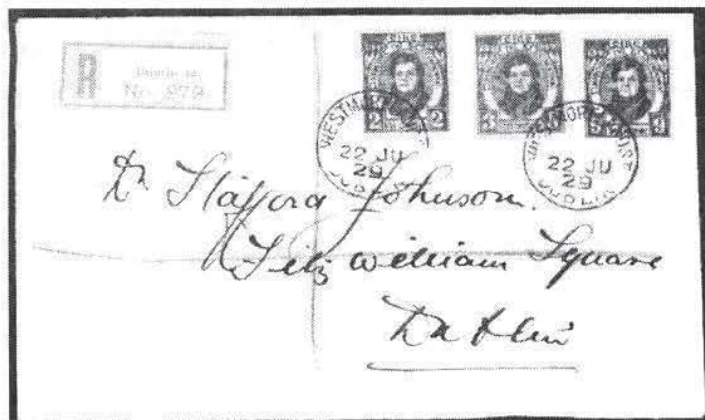


Figure 1

This series of articles proposes to deal with stamps issued by Ireland from Independence to the present, cancelled on the First Day of Issue. It will consider the different types of covers used, whether produced particularly for Philatelic use, or used in the course of ordinary mailing usage. Each article will deal with a particular "block" of covers, such as particular time, a particular series of covers or a particular set of stamps. The earlier articles will deal with the Commemoratives in various "Eras". Later, the Definitive issues will be covered, and then the Overprints.

This first article will consider the first six Commemorative issues only. Perhaps they should have been left to last as they are the more elusive and difficult covers of all the Irish FDCs, but they say that the beginning is a very good place to start. The first Irish commemorative was the O'Connell issue of 1929, followed in 1930 by the Shannon scheme; 1931 the Royal Dublin Society Bicentenary; 1932 the Eucharistic Congress; 1933 the Holy Year, and finally in 1934, the GAA.

Many of the covers discussed in later articles have been produced specifically as FDCs, but most of those for the first six have not, and indeed these can be of more interest and are in a sense more "authentic" than the former.

Collectors collect what they are interested in, and a good starting point is to decide what exactly they wish to collect, but to keep an open mind about limiting the collection to a very narrow base. As one progresses and the collection grows, many avenues will open up. This keeps the interest alive and allows more research, and new horizons. Without such an open mind the possibility of an FDC collection including these six covers would be very limited.

Some purists will contend that the perfect cover collection will contain only pristine covers, unaddressed, with full sets of stamps stuck squarely and neatly in the top right corner of the envelope, cancelled with a related datestamp just covering a small margin of each stamp, and bearing an artistic cachet related to the issue. Such covers may be beautiful and look great, but a

whole collection of such covers could appear rather sterile and uninteresting. For five of these issues, I have never seen such a cover and I doubt if they exist. So an early Irish FDC collection will consist largely of covers that might not pass muster in a collection of more modern material. But the old adage still applies and *condition* is still a very desirable quality in any collectable item.

Every collector will have his own opinions, preferences, interests, and inclinations. For some people, an old battered cover, even though torn, with a scrawled address and untidily applied stamps, may have a particular interest for them because it has a particular association. It may have been sent by or to the person depicted on the stamp; it may have been postmarked at a place of particular relevance; it could have a special slogan; it may simply have been sent to the collector several years ago by a favorite aunt or uncle. There are many criteria and many reasons for having an interest, so if a collector derives satisfaction from it, why should it not be worthy of inclusion in their collection?

Stamps cancelled on the First Day of Issue are usually collected on envelopes or "letters". As the rates for ordinary letters are fixed, and are usually the same as the price of a single value of an issue, use of two, three, or more stamps on a single cover is not a strictly legitimate use. Hence from the very beginning, collection of legitimately used stamps on FDI is nigh impossible. However, such legitimacy is ignored by most collectors, and the application of full sets to ordinary covers is quite acceptable. Never the less, there is a case to be made for identifying the strictly "legitimate" and correct use of stamps of particular value, and a collection can be formed of such covers. This would include, say, a cover mailed within the state bearing the low value of an issue, and a cover mailed abroad bearing a higher value to pay the airmail rate. The higher values could be used to pay registration or insured rates also. Lower values could be used to pay the extra postage on heavier items. An assembly of such covers would be difficult to find, but could form part of a larger collection. The scarcity of such covers makes such a collection beyond the capability of most philatelists, and so the slightly "artificial" or "contrived" FDC is the normally accepted method of FDC collecting.

From the earliest Irish FDI covers, there is an obvious philatelic use of stamps. Among the examples of such covers that are seen, the same addressees are noticed frequently: Wilson, Stafford Johnston, O'Donnell, Slack, etc. A little enquiry will show that the names of the people appearing on the covers were philatelists, or sometimes stamp dealers, so even from the beginning of Irish philately, FDCs were being collected. Here again is a field for enquiry. Who were these people? What a wealth of treasures they have left us, but, what do we know or can we find out about them? Their legacies have been dispersed through auction rooms and stamp dealers. Do we ever think about them and what they have left us?

But now to move on to the elusive "First Six". The earliest is the 1929 O'Connell commemorating the Centenary of Catho-

lic Emancipation. This was issued on 22 June in three values, 2d, 3d, and 9d. The stamp bears the portrait of Daniel O'Connell, the "Liberator". One of the finest examples of an early O'Connell cover is the one which heads this article (*Figure 1*). It is addressed to Dr. Stafford Johnson, one of the most eminent of philatelists of the time. There is a full set of stamps, neatly applied to a registered envelope. One might criticize nowadays the fact that it is addressed in a rather "copious" hand, but then the flowing copperplate is quite decorative in its own right. The cancellation is clear and dated well, and does not impede the design on the

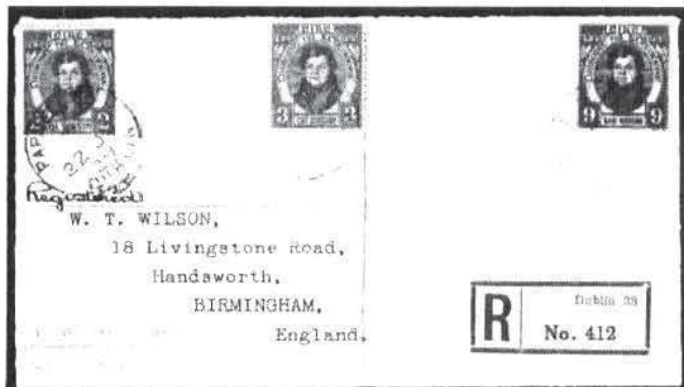


Figure 2

stamps, while at the same time it cancels them adequately. All in all, a very acceptable and presentable cover for its age.

We can look now at some other covers which may not have



Figure 3

all the good points, but given their age and scarcity are still collectable. First, a Wilson "front" (*Figure 2*); this is the face cut from an envelope which, at the time, was often collected, as it was slightly less bulky in an album than a complete envelope. This particular front has a typed address, full set of stamps, and was registered, though the cancels are a little unclear. Again it is addressed to a well recognized name, a Birmingham stamp dealer, and was obviously a philatelic product.

The next item is more interesting in a sense. Again a "front", it bears a single 3d stamp paying the surface mail rate for a letter to South America, and so is a completely legitimate usage.

Not every collector will be able to acquire a full set of stamps on FDC for this issue, but there are occasionally single stamps on FDC to be found at auctions or in dealers' stocks. I had the good fortune recently to find a single 3d value of the O'Connell at a reasonable price as it was on its own. The dealer did not

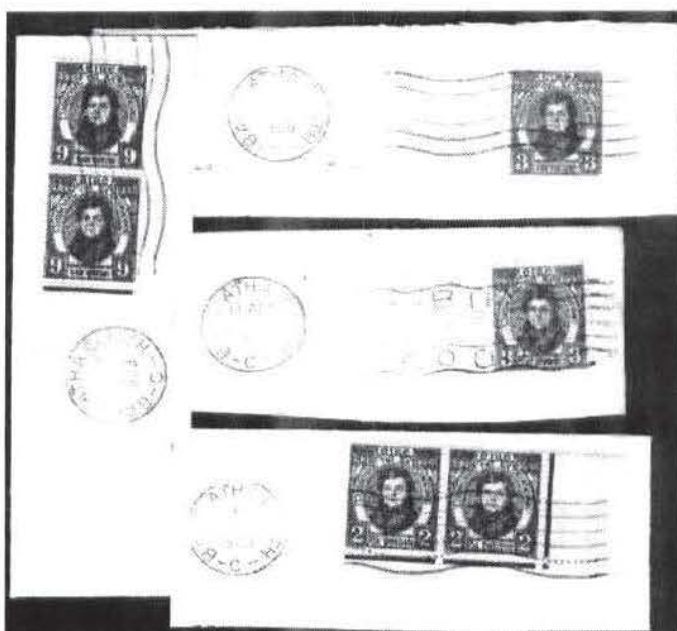


Figure 4

know that I already had the exact matching 2d and 9d values at home already (*Figure 3*). I wonder how the set got broken up in the first instance? In older sets like this, separate single covers are often the only way to get a complete set. And they are often very acceptable, as in this set.

Even if the purchase of a set of stamps on cover is not always feasible, one can sometimes find the stamps on "pieces" which have been cut from the envelopes and may have the whole of the cancel on the piece. A set of these will always fill a space in an album, and gives a collection a sense of completeness until a better alternative is found and can be afforded. Such pieces can be bought for less than 10% of a cover usually. A set on such pieces is shown below (*Figure 4*).

Added interest can be given to a collection by other philatelic items related to the subject, and in the case of Daniel O'Connell, what could be more appropriate than a cover signed

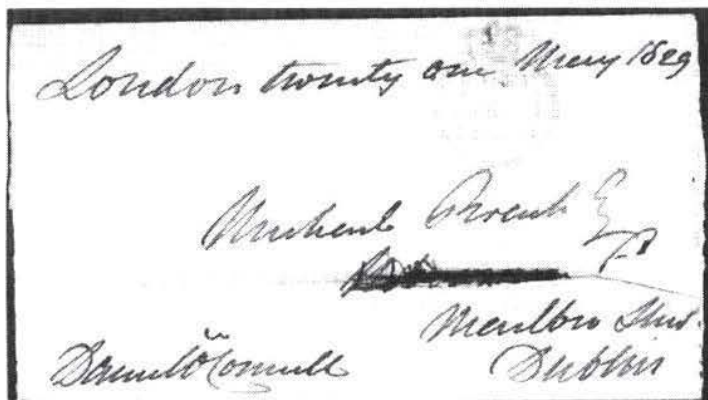


Figure 5



Figure 6

by the man himself?! And this one (Figure 5) was used in the very year of Emancipation; in fact, it was mailed only a short month after the actual event whose centenary is celebrated by the stamp issue of 1929. The cover reproduced here was posted by the recently elected MP. As a Catholic, he had not been entitled to sit in the House of Commons until the Emancipation Act was passed, and so would not have been able to use the *free* privilege for posting this letter, despite having won the election of 1828. However, after Emancipation, he only had to sign the letter to

have it conveyed free by the Post Office.

A later cover (Figure 6) posted in 1841, after the introduction of postage stamps, bears two imperf 1d reds, and is also signed by O'Connell.

So from a few covers we have already built up an interesting collection of O'Connell material. This article had set out to deal with at least a half dozen issues, but it has already extended to numerous pages! Perhaps it is time to stop and to leave the remaining issues to a second chapter. ♣

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2610 Thomas P. Byrnes	2599 John B. Farley	2399 David A. Laraway	0979 Col. Joseph F. O'Connor	2500 Robert W. Stewart
2632 James Cahalin	1167 Theresa C. Fitzgerald	1861 James V. Larkin		2444 Jackson W. Taylor
1907 William S. Campbell	2450 Rev Brendan Fleming	1183 Tom R. Laughery	1205 William A. O'Connor	1925 Joseph B. Timoney Jr.
2139 Larry A. Campbell	2409 Joseph V. Gallagher	2140 Dr. Paddy J. Lineen	0710 W.J. O'Donnell Jr.	1219 Patricia A. Stillwell-Walker
0561 Terry D. Canning	1058 Dan Galvin	0600 Garvin F. Lohman	1649 Austin O'Leary	2442 Charles R. Walkling
1369 James F. Carey	1357 James J. Gavaghan	0508 Patrick M. Lynch	1560 Brian O'Shea	2516 John M. Wiesner
2543 Ann P. Carmody	0596 David T. Gillen	0893 Emmett G. Marsh	0704 Alan F. Pearse	2391 Donald J. Wills
1501 C. Kevin Carroll	1345 George E. Gillespie	0908 Thomas P. McCabe	1400 George Pojer	0603 George W. Workman
0814 Ralph G. Chalet	2207 James M. Gorham	2373 Donal F. McCarthy	0857 V.N. Mallikarjuna Rao	1202 William T. Wynne
0484 Robert F. Cochrane Jr.	0557 Dr James L. Hall	0404 William T. McCaw	2596 Kenneth J. Ready, Jr.	
0676 Finbarr Collins	2552 Richard M. Harris	0689 John J. McDevitt	0507 James F. Reardon Jr.	2084 Arthur Zeff ♣
2194 Michael J. Connolly	1669 Michael Hartnett	1872 Frank J. McGuire	2405 Mary P. Riney	

From Ireland to the USA from 1849 to 1900

Examples from the Time of the Anglo-American Postal Treaties (and later)

by Hans Bergdolt

Settlement of Postal Fees from UK to USA from 1849 until 1867

1 Sh = 24c. For: UK-Post 3 Cent - Boat (UK or USA) 16 Cent - US-Post 5 Cent

Payment by	Under contract of	Parts		Settlement	Handstamp in UK
		UK	USA		
Addressee in USA (unpaid): 24 Cent	UK/BR PKT	19 Cent	5 Cent	19 Cent USA to UK	19 CENTS
	USA/AM-PKT	3 Cent	21 Cent	3 Cent USA to UK	3 CENTS
Sender in UK (Paid): 1 Sh	UK/BR PKT	19 Cent	5 Cent	5 Cent UK to USA	5 CENTS
	USA/AM-PKT	3 Cent	21 Cent	21 Cent UK to USA	21 CENTS

Part 1

In the previous issue, letters were introduced which were carried, unpaid or paid, by British Packet ships/boats to the USA. Here now the second part.

Registered prepaid



Figure 11

Fig. 11, 1862, registered letter from Dublin to Massachusetts. Posted in Dublin with the rare DUBLIN/REGISTERED/W. O. on 28th March. In the Windows Office, letters with special instructions were posted. The "W.O." was the successor of that legendary "Window Man", who in pre-stamp times actually sat behind the "window" and accepted registered letters.

The letter went the usual way: Dublin 28th March, Queenstown 30th March, to N.Y. with the "Asia" of the Cunard Line, arrival 11th April, there British Packet 12th April. The speciality, however, is the registered mark. The "REGISTERED with crown" was applied on board the Asia! Colin Tabaert gives a description of this mark in his book "Robertson Revisited". He says that "Many were issued, but none have been seen which can definitely be attributed to onboard use, since London had a practically identical marking." I am proud that I have been able to show Colin this mark.

The total fee amounted to 1/6 Sh, 1 Sh for the letter and 6d for the R-fee. The resulting 36 (Cents) (2x18d) are documented in the New-York-Packet. The US-share amounted to 5c. The Registered fee of 6d = 12c was divided; credit for the US-postal service therefore 5+6 = 11 Cents. Because no such stamp was available, the calculation was noted in the lower right handwritten: 5, 6 and, under that, 11 in red (fig. 11a).



Figure 11a



Figure 12

Fig. 12, Christmas 1859, Dunleer, Co. Louth, over London to N. Y. Postmark: Dunleer and Dublin 24th Dec., London 26th Dec. 1859, N. Y. 17th Jan. 1860. The Packet steamer "New York" of the North German Lloyd (NDL) travelled from Southampton to New York from the 27th Dec. to 17th Jan. The NDL was a contractual partner of the US-postal service (AM-Packet also in the postmark). Of the 1 Sh = 24c paid in Dunleer, 5+16 = 21 CENTS went therefore to the USA. Fee-stamp of London.



Figure 13

Fig. 13, 1865, Belfast over London and N. Y. to Boston. By contract ship of the US-postal service (AM-Packet): Belfast 30th Oct., London 31st Oct., from 02nd to N. Y. Also London stamp 21 CENTS. In the upper right copy of the trough stamp of London (on the back). The postage of 1 Sh was paid by 4 stamps of 3d. It had become usual to frank foreign letters with stamps. Parts of postage, however, were not accepted.

The postal service contracts of 1868 and 1870 and the Universal Postal Union of 1875

Fig. 14, 1869, Belfast to Andover. After the long-term contracts with the steamer lines had run out, the fees sank drastically:



Figure 14

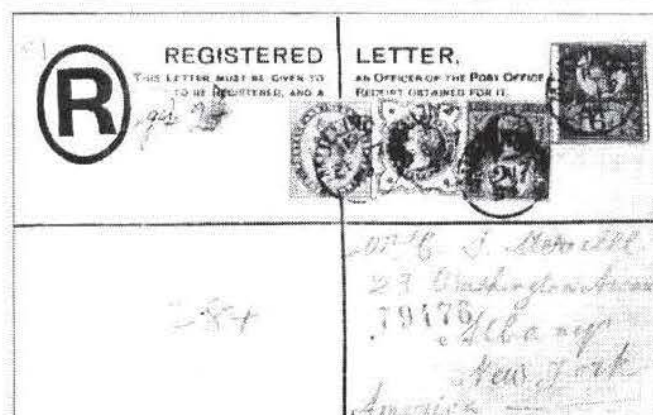


Figure 16

from 1st Jan. 1868 until 31st Dec. 1869 the first weight step cost only 6d (12c), here with 2x3d. Settlement: 2c for the UK, also 2c for the USA and only 8c for the sea journey. There are no more cent-stamps because the ship shares were retained by the postal administrations independent of the contract ships.

Depending on the weekday one of the following lines was entrusted with the transportation: Inman, Allan and Cunard Line, the North German Lloyd as well as the HAPAG.



Figure 15

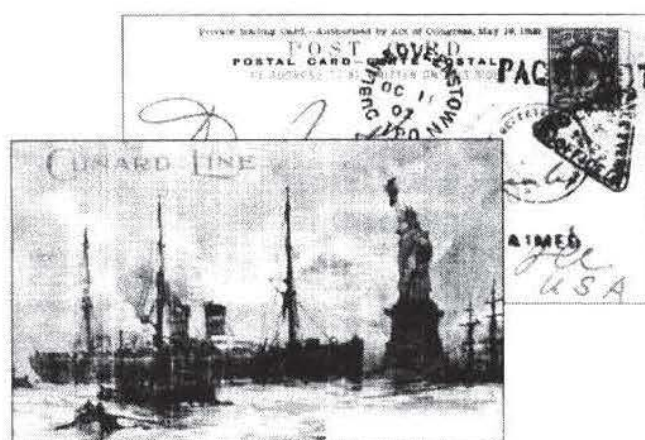


Figure 17

Fig. 15, 1870, Belfast after Andover. The last Anglo-American-postal service contract of 1 January 1870 agreed a charge of 3d for _ ounce, therefore 6c. Each country still received 2c, for the sea journey only 2c. The contract ended when both countries joined the World Postal Union on 01st July 1875.

The problems of determining a fee "on the first view" appear clearly in the three letters with one, two and four 3d stamps (fig. 15, 14 and 12). However, only the first weight step was paid.

Fig. 16, 1875, Mullingar to New York. On 01st July 1875, both countries joined the Universal Postal Union. The fee from the UK to the USA now corresponded to the fee to all other countries: 2-1/2d for 1/2 ounce. This fee remained valid until the beginning of World War I. A settlement by piece, weight or similar did not exist any more; each postal service administration retained the postage for the letters posted within. Here a registered cover, stamped with 10d for the third weight step, 1 to 2 ounce. The fee mark of the stationery (2d for the R-fee) is printed on the back.

Fig. 17, 1902, of the ship over Queenstown to Chicago. Here two postcards by passengers from America, written on ships of the Cunard Line, stamped on board with PAQUEBOT, landed in

Queenstown, then to Dublin with the DUBLIN & QUEENSTOWN railway, stamped in this train by the T(ravelling) P(ost) O(ffice), by ferry to Holyhead. To England, this was faster than with a passenger ship. From London or Liverpool with the next ship to the USA; however, not delivered in Chicago (see triangular stamp of Dead Letter Office and (not cl)aimed).

I would like to thank for the friendly support of Colin Taeber, Christoph Link for the translation and Jo-Ann Delaney for proof reading and refining of English.

Literature:

Tabcart, Robertson Revisited; Hubbard/Winter, North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-1875; Moubay: British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations 1840-1875; Beresford Montgomery, The Postage Rates of the North Atlantic Mails (1635 bis 1959); Circulars of Forschungs-Gemeinschaft Großbritannien (FgGB); Die Harfe, Journal of Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland (FAI).

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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS – 2003

by Brian Warren (continued from previous issue)

POSTAL STATIONERY

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Notes
			
			
			
	<i>Special Olympics postcard by Aileesh O'Riordan (age 15)</i>		<i>Reverse of "Stampede" postcard</i>

19 Feb	St. Patrick's Day	- set of three prepaid postcards	€1.00	per card - sold separately
		- set of three greetings cards	€1.80	per card including prepaid envelope – sold separately
19 June	Special Olympics	- set of 12 postcards	€10.00	Sold in two sealed packs of six postcards at €5.00 per pack
14 Aug	"Stampede" postcard		€1.00	per card

St. Patrick's Day Cards: Three postcards were available featuring (1) Harp and St. Patrick's Bell Shrine; (2) Sheep in Field; and (3) Shamrock superimposed on mountain and river scene. The Postage Paid imprint has the usual R.J. King design. It would have been an opportunity to use the St Patrick design as featured on the 41c stamp issued later in the month. The St. Patrick's Festival logo also appears on each card.

Three greetings cards complete with prepaid envelope bearing the same R.J. King stamp design were also available featuring (1) St. Patrick (as per 41c stamp design); (2) St. Patrick's Cathedral and Parade, New York (as per 57c stamp design); and (3) Various Irish Rural Scenes. This enabled collectors to affix the 41c and 57c stamps to the respective cards and obtain a maximum card style cancel. The envelope was similar to the type used in 2001 and 2002 with the wording "In the event....." positioned 2mm to the left of the three sender's address lines. The pre-printed "Priority/Aerphost" label is positioned 74mm to the right of the left hand side of the envelope as compared to 68mm on the envelopes used in 2001 and 2002. A green "first day of issue" cancel was available from the bureau and other large main post offices for use on both postcards and envelope. The price of both types of cards remained unchanged from 2002.

Special Olympics Postcards: In addition to the four stamps for the Special Olympics, a set of unannounced large size postcards was released by An Post on 19 June. An Post, a Games sponsor, ran a schools competition on the theme "The four corners of

Ireland welcomes the four corners of the World". 40,000 entries were submitted from children who were asked to represent the theme artistically or through the written word. Twelve of the winning entries were reproduced on postpaid postcards. The name, county of residence and age of each designer is recorded on each card but no titles were given to any of the designs. The postpaid stamp features the same poorly reproduced 2d map design used for the Sellafeld cards issued in 2002. Surely it would have been more appropriate to use one of the sheet stamp designs. The cards were sold in two separate shrink-wrapped packs of six (with paper label).

The Games Village was located at the R.D.S. premises in Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 at which An Post had a stand and a skeleton cancel. Details and an illustration are included under the section "Other Special Postmarks and Cachets". Each Special Olympics athlete received a free set of cards.

"Stampede" Postcard: During the summer months, a number of life-size model cows were on exhibit at various shopping centres in Dublin. The models were subsequently auctioned for charity. One of the model cows is covered in modern Irish stamps and was situated in the G.P.O. in Dublin. The model cow was subsequently sold for €13,000. A special postpaid postcard was issued featuring the cow. The same postpaid stamp reproducing the 2d map stamp was also used for this card.

Christmas Postcard (Philatelic Bureau): No postcard was sent to customers this year.

EXHIBITION AND SOCIETY SOUVENIRS, POSTMARKS AND CACHETS – REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
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Ladybird miniature sheet with incorrect date of 14 April instead of 13 April as per cachet



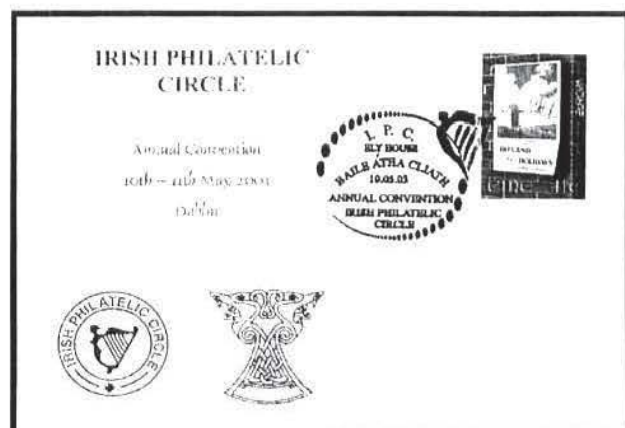
13 April	Stampania 2003 (R.D.S., Dublin)					
	- Seven-spotted lady-bird Miniature Sheet with "Stampania 2003" and date overprint in red	€4.00	600 copies (numbered)	CCP3	13¼ x 14¼	Mahons
10 May	Irish Philatelic Circle					
	- Postcard	€2.00	Featuring Dublin postmarks (€2.50 cancelled)			
	- Envelope	€2.00	Illustrated with IPC logo			
18 Sept	Stampa 2003 (Members' Souvenirs)					
	- St. Patrick's Prestige Booklet with o/p		1,000 overprinted in black	CCP3	14¼ x 14¼	Mahons
	- Seven-spotted Ladybird miniature sheet with o/p	€25.00	1,000 overprinted in black	CCP3	13¼ x 14¼	Mahons
	- Centenary of Aviation miniature sheet with o/p		1,000 overprinted in black	CCP3	14¼ x 14¼	Mahons
18 Sept	Stampa 2003 (Public Souvenir)					
	- Phil Lynott miniature sheet with o/p	€5.00	1,500 overprinted in black	CCP3	12¼ x 13¼	Mahons
27 Sept	Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition					
	- Booklet	€3.50	250 printed (contains 2 x 48c Ford stamps)			
	- Illustrated cover (old Ford's Works, Cork)	€0.50	with 41c Ford stamp – 110 printed.			
8 Nov	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Limerick					
	- National Gallery sheetlet (2nd issue) with o/p	€9.50	600 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14¼ x 14	Mahons
9 Nov	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Waterford					
	- National Gallery sheetlet (2nd issue) with o/p	€9.50	600 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14¼ x 14	Mahons

All sheetlets/miniature sheets/booklets/postcards as listed above were privately produced/overprinted by the organisers.
Overprinting (if applicable) was with the permission of An Post.



Stampania 2003: No postmark was available this year but a cachet was provided by the organisers which was applied to the overprinted miniature sheet.

Covers exist with bureau CDS plus cachet. There was an error in the overprint on the miniature sheet which refers to 14 April instead of 13 April.



Obverse of IPC postcard

Stampa 2003 (10 to 12 October): The various souvenirs were posted in advance to members with certain members receiving them as early as 18 September. The three special cancels available and the related stamp issues were as follows:-

- 10 October: Beetle (Fauna and Flora – Beetles)
- 11 October: Propeller (Centenary of Powered Flight)
- 12 October: Shamrock (St. Patrick)

The designs are based on the equivalent first day cancels for stamps on the same theme issued during 2003. Note the inclusion of "Dublin" instead of Baile Átha Cliath". No official cover was available.

The Awards Dinner was held in the Lansdowne Hotel, Pembroke Road, Dublin 4 on 11 October. The Awards Dinner Menu was printed on the reverse of an An Post gold edged invitation style card. The obverse side reproduced the three postmarks. In addition, each card was cancelled with the Propeller postmark of the same date. Total of 50 cards produced.

IPTA Roadshows: The Irish Philatelic Traders Association organised two shows on succeeding days in November. The first show was held in Jurys Hotel, Limerick (8 November) followed by a new venue the Granville Hotel, Waterford (9 November). The Association produced a souvenir as listed for each event. An Post was not present and no special postmark (or cachet) was available.

OVERSEAS EXHIBITIONS



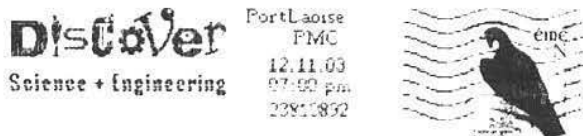
No souvenirs were issued by An Post in connection with any international exhibitions in 2003. I'm only aware of two exhibition cachets. Cachets were available for **Philatelia Cologne (21 – 23 March)** and for **Bangkok 2003 (4 to 13 October)**. An Post attended the latter exhibition in Thailand. Ireland was represented at the show by Irish Commissioner, Frank McDonald. Neither cachet was advertised by An Post in *Collectors News*.



Cork Philatelic Exhibition: The annual show was held in Jurys Hotel, Cork. A booklet containing 2 x 41c Ford stamps plus a special postmark and cover was available. The former Ford assembly plant was based in Cork and is illustrated on the cover.



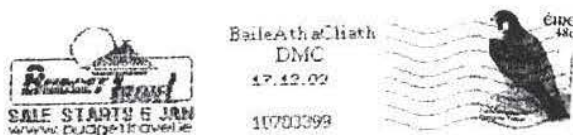
IMP 58 was last seen used at DMC on machine 3 used at 2:00 p.m. on 7 October. By 5:30 p.m. that day, the slogan portion had been replaced by four dots. This use of the four dots is common on foreign addressed mail where the optical character recognition technology reads a non-Irish address; however it is very unusual for Irish addressed mail. The four dots were used on all mails, including Irish addressed mail, until 30 October 2003.



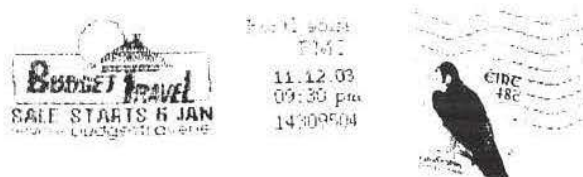
IMP 59, used 12 November 2003 on PMC machine 2

IMP 59 - Discover / Science + Engineering

In use from 30 October. This slogan had the "Discover" portion in a typeface utilising cogs, and similar engineering, Nutty Professor type characters. IMP 59 was replaced by the usual POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / - POST slogan on 26 November. It was also re-used on DMC machine 4 on 3 December.



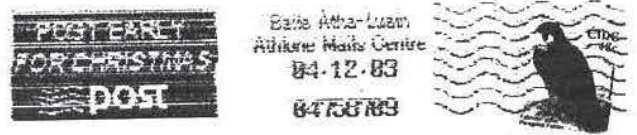
IMP 60, used 17 December 2003 on DMC machine 1



IMP 60, used 11 December 2003 on PMC machine 1

IMP 60 – BUDGET TRAVEL / SALE STARTS 6 JAN / www.budgettravel.ie

First noted in use on 8 December. This slogan was also in use at the Athlone Mail Centre from 9 December. Last used on 5 January 2004.

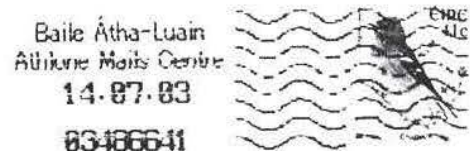


IMP 61, used on 4 December 2003 at AMC

IMP 61 – POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / = POST (white lettering on black background)

This was only in use on one of the machines at the Athlone Mail Centre (with tag code 3980) and was the first slogan to be used at the AMC. Only used on 4, 5 and 8 December (no IMP use at AMC on weekend of 6 & 7 December). Presumably the negative image was an error although it was not replaced by the regular positive image (IMP 11). It was replaced by IMP 60 on 9 December.

Athlone Mails Centre

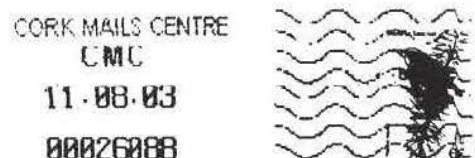


AMC IMP cancellation with town in Irish

From 11 February 2003, the IMP impressions from AMC changed to incorporate the town name in Irish – note also "Mail" became "Mails".

Cork Mails Centre

Test mail from Cork Mails Centre ("CMC") was noted in use with **CORK MAILS CENTRE / CMC / 24.05.03** which had Athlone Mails Centre / 25.05.03 (machine 2) superimposed on them. The tag code was Athlone only.



CMC IMP cancellation of 11 August 2003 - centred format

It is believed that CMC became operational on 11 August 2003. An IMP "wavy lines" cancellation, similar to that originally used at Athlone, was used on and from that date. The IMP impression is worded **CORK MAILS CENTRE / CMC / 11.08.03** / (plus a number which does not match the indent on reverse). Note all English wording.

CORK MAILS CENTRE
CMC
18.09.03
00127315



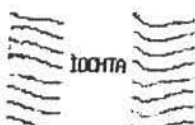
CMC IMP cancellation of 10 September 2003 - left aligned format

The CMC IMP cancellation initially used shows the CMC, date and number in a centred format. Sometime in September 2003, this format was changed and the CMC, date and number are now left aligned for one of the four CMC machines in use. The first slogan to be seen used at the CMC was IMP 56 ("Argos") on 29 January 2004. There was no use of IMP slogans in Cork during 2003. The wording has not yet been altered to include the town name in Irish.

Postage Paid IMPs



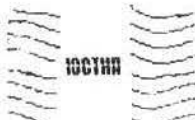
Baile Átha Cliath
DMC
14.01.03
4320811



IMP P1 – incorrect lochta spelling
used 14 January 2003 on DMC machine 4



Baile Átha Cliath
DMC
22.06.03
22504436



IMP P2 – correct lochta spelling
used 22 June 2003 on DMC machine 2

IMP P2 (PAID 2) – Letterpost / Postage Paid / = POST with IOCHTA

The incorrect spelling of IOCHTA per IMP P1 was last seen on 2 March 2003. The corrected spelling of IOCHTHA as per IMP P2 was first seen on 5 March 2003. IMP slogan P2 is frequently used at the DMC, mainly on DMC machine 4. It was first seen used in Port Laoise, on machine 2, on 13 October 2003.

IMP cancels with "IOCHTHA" have been used at both AMC and CMC but without any Letterpost slogan at left.

Repeated Slogans

IMP 11 - POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / =POST (in use from late November to 7 December) was used at all DMC and both PMC machines but not at AMC or CMC.

IMP 7 - ALWAYS INCLUDE A / RETURN ADDRESS / ON YOUR ENVELOPE/=POST which is the usual default slogan used on all machines in the absence of a sponsored or An Post slogan was noted in use in late July.

SP 340 LUCOZADE / SPORT / GOOD LUCK / IRELAND appeared occasionally in Galway up to June.

Other Slogan News

(illustrations are full size)



Pass on your / Postcode slogan
used at Dublin on 27 May 2003

In May 2003, a Universal machine with a Baile Átha Cliath die (H) was recorded in use to obliterate adhesive stamps primarily on large (A4 size) letters. The cancellation used the UK *Pass on your Postcode* slogan. Presumably, this machine was purchased from Royal Mail and the UK slogan was used in error. Also noted with the town die inverted (20 May).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

December – An Post Christmas Card: I did not see any An Post Christmas card this year.

December – Santa Christmas Envelope: The 2003 envelope was a repeat of the design used since 1997 but in a larger format (240 mm x 163 mm).

June – Enamel Pins: An Post produced two enamel pins for the Special Olympics – one featured the Special Olympics and An Post logos (as featured on each card) – the second reproduced the 41c stamp design.

Model Vehicles: A Model T Ford post office van was available in connection with the Ford stamp issue (cost: €15). In addition, a boxed set of five different vehicles was sold from 14 November (cost: €60).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Once again, I wish to thank my many philatelic friends for their help in producing this annual supplement. Particular thanks to Maurice Barrett, Brian Donoghue, Tony Finn, Heinz Grunz, John Holman, John Lennon, Otto Jung, Jimmy Kelly, Michael Kelly, Frank McDonald, Declan O'Kelly, Pádraig O'Shea and David Turner for providing much valuable assistance and information.

