

the Revealers

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International Reply Coupon

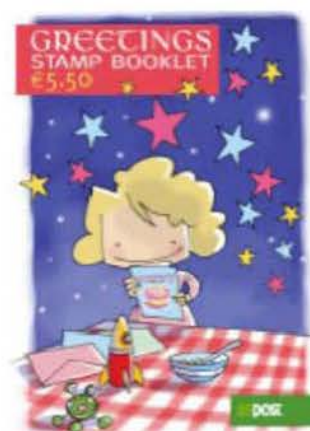
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2815 Martin, Frank, Texas

midnight757@windstream.net

Resignations

2760 Fillion, Lawrence D.

2640 Lawrence, Linda L.

2787 Meadows, Brian D.

1030 Raftery MD, Michael

Change of Address

1884 O'Shea, Pdraig F.

Cork, Co. Cork, Ireland

2781 Kane, Philip

Navan, Co. Meath, Ireland

1296 Riggs, Norman T. California

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Contact belanz@aol.com if your email address below isn't correct

2672 Dwyer, Thomas F.

yazdwyer@comcast.net

1210 Nicholson, Wynne

cwnicholson@cogeco.co

2732 Rodgers, Kathy

Kathy.rodgers47@gmail.com

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Membership -

December 1, 2009

389

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+2

Resignations

-4

387

Membership -

February 10, 2010

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eparevealer@gmail.com

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Summer: May 1; Fall: Aug. 1; Winter: Nov. 1; Spring: Feb. 1

Each Issue published about a month after above dates.

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Eighth Page	3.625 X 2.50	\$30	\$105

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Contact Richard Kelly at kellyrd@sbcglobal.net

President's Message

By Paul Bento

In my last message I mentioned the lack of Irish exhibits at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at CHICAGOPEX. I received an email from EPA member Des Quail indicating that he was most interested in exhibiting his postal history exhibit titled "Irish Postal History 1591-1891" in the United States. Des will have his eight frame exhibit at London 2010 and all EPA members attending the May show are encouraged to view his work.

I have informed Des that the next AGM will occur at SESCAL which will be held in Los Angeles October 1-3, 2010. I have encouraged him and urge all of you to exhibit at that very respected show. Our summer issue of The Revealer will contain more specific information about the EPA presence at SESCAL including lodging and hospitality arrangements. We do know that The host hotel will be a Hilton adjacent to the Los Angeles International Airport.

I would like to use some of this issue's message space to promote another service of the EPA for which I am responsible, namely the John Blessington Memorial Library of the EPA. Assuming the responsibilities of EPA Librarian was a little overwhelming at first, particularly when sixteen large cartons of print material arrived at my home. I shelved all the reference collection according to the scheme developed by Peter Bugg when he was EPA Librarian. This is the listing you will see when you look at the library description you will find on our website or in The Golden Book. I must admit to being quite slow to organize other print materials such as old AGM minutes, correspondence, etc. but I am gradually gaining ground with that endeavor.

The small volume of library activity has been somewhat disappointing, but I must admit to feeling very satisfied when I have been able to assist a member with his or her research project. Sometimes that assistance has been as minimal as directing a member to Tim O'Shea's Special Offers as the material requested is still in print and less expensive than paying for mailing it to and from the library. At other times I have devoted considerable time using Michael Priestley's Index to search back issues of The Revealer to respond to an inquiry with some photocopies.

Now let's put the two main thoughts of this column together. If you choose to prepare an exhibit for SESCAL or any other philatelic venue, please let me assist in your research by providing the appropriate library material to you. Perhaps the work on your exhibit may even result in further additions to the EPA Library. For information and tips on exhibiting please contact me or another member of the EPA Board who will be happy to help you out.

Membership

We thank all those who continue their membership in the Association. We also realize how easily you can forget to pay your membership dues by the New Year. If you cannot remember paying your 2010 dues, then please look at the mailing label on your *Revealer*. If it says **"EXPIRES 2009"** your membership expired. Renew immediately so you don't miss an issue! Please forward your dues to Treasurer Barney Clancy.

The EPA enters the online universe of www.facebook.com

Revealer Editor, Liam Malone, created an EPA Facebook page. If you belong to Facebook (FB), please join the group. If you do not belong, then please consider joining FB. There is no cost to join FB. The EPA FB page will become a great tool for members to share images from their collections and thoughts about our hobby. We can also comment on content we read in the Revealer and discuss upcoming auctions and where the best places are to find good deals on Irish stamps and postal history. All EPA members who exhibit should join and post images from their award winning exhibits. FB could prove an asset in educating members on how to exhibit at local and national shows such as SESCAL in October. We will not post content from the Revealer on FB, but content posted first on FB could find its way into the Revealer. If you are hesitant about joining FB, please feel free to contact Liam to discuss how FB works.

News from FAI—Germany:

The newest issue, No. 109, of Die Harfe is now available by contacting Clemens Jesenitschnig, Editor at cj.fai@gmx.net. Its 51 pages include an interview with David MacDonnell, a story on Arthur Guinness, a report on STAMPA 2009, book reviews, and more. Why not join?

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Literature Review

by Liam Malone

While conducting an internet search of books about Irish stamps, I came across two new discoveries. If you are interested in looking at either book, they will be available through the EPA library, please contact Paul Bento at pbento@charter.net to borrow them.

Postage Stamps of Ireland

Alphascript Publishing released *Postage Stamps of Ireland: Definitive Postage Stamps of Ireland, Postal Administration, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs (Ireland), Commemorative stamps, Postal stationery, Stamp numbering system, Stamp catalog, List of people on the stamps of Ireland 2009*. Alphascript a Division of VDM Publishing House, Mauritius, www.vdm-publishing-house.com. Email info@vdm-publishing-house.com; available at www.amazon.com. The ISBN is 978-613-0-03020-9.

The 69 pages edited by Frederic P. Miller, Agnes F. Vandome, and John McBrewster provide simplistic background to forerunners, essays, British stamps used in Ireland, define a definitive, commemorative, airmail, postage due, miniature sheet, booklet, watermark, Postal stationery and then some words on collecting stamps and catalogs. For myself, I found nothing useful in this section, but it occurred to me this would make great reading for either a beginner philatelist or a close friend or family member who may have a passing interest in learning about Irish stamps.

The section the List of People on Irish Stamps takes us decade by decade through persons featured on the stamps through the year 2006. Then follows an odd section that describes Stanley Gibbons' role in the history of stamp collecting. One would imagine the editors would have focused on Irish specific catalogs and suppliers. Then follows a helpful 8 page timeline of the postal history of Ireland

beginning with Henry VIII's creating the 'master of posts.' This section is followed by an overview of the Scott Catalog and leaves the reader wondering why is the timeline between the sections on Catalogs? At no point does it mention anything about Irish stamps, but tells us Scott has a US Specialized Catalog. The book then describes what is the Universal Postal Union and follows with a listing of all member countries, the date each joined the UPU, and small images of each flag. The book ends with an odd listing of all the sources of the images used in the book, such as from what website they obtained the flag image of Brunei.

My overall summary is bafflement by this book. I am not sure what purpose it serves as all of the information could be obtained from Wikipedia, in fact they claim that is the source. Because the booklet lists for \$41.00 I anticipated the next great catalog! Imagine my disappointment when I lifted the nearly weightless brown envelope from my PO box! If for no other reason than to peruse it as a curiosity piece, borrow it from the EPA Library.



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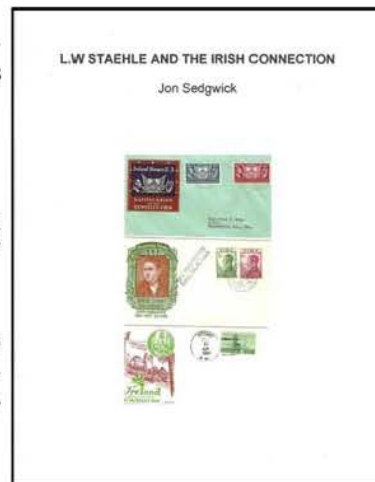
email; irishstamps@btinternet.com

L.W. Staehle and the Irish Connection

Last year Jon Sedgwick published his own research on the famous and popular Staehle cachet covers. His self published work is called *L.W. Staehle and the Irish Connection* and was limited to a printing of 100 copies. You may order one by contacting Jon directly at jsedgwick@eircom.net. He has about 30 copies left at €15+ shipping.

Jon opens by telling us who is Staehle and his significance to the production of cachet covers. He reminds us that Staehle was born in Württemberg, Germany in 1893 and entered a college for fine arts and architectural design. Staehle emigrated to the United States in 1927 and began designing cachets in the 1930s.

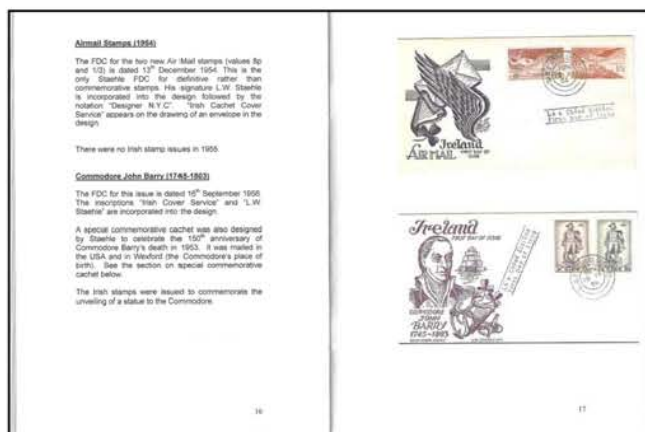
In the first section of 18 pages, Jon covers each Irish issue from the Robert Moore stamp released in 1952 through the valuable first Europa issue of 1960. The second section describes special non-first day commemorative cachets such as the use of the 1939 US Constitution stamps on a cover honoring Commodore Barry, the father of the US Navy.



For me, the third section is the one that taught me the most. The section discusses the famous Irish castle series that are often postmarked on St. Patrick's Day. Covers were created for use in both Ireland and in American cities bearing names with Irish affinities such as Shamrock, Texas. The section contains a useful chart of all the castle covers issued between 1952 and 1971.

Two particular aspects of this catalog intrigued me. The first is the inclusion of full color images of all the covers. I included a sample page below for your review. The size of each image is terrific as it allows you to see the detail within the cachets. Too often catalogs present miniscule images. The second aspect is his analysis of prices and values of Irish Staehle covers.

Overall, I recommend this very useful catalog and commend Jon's efforts for his research and putting this together for the collectors and admirers of these attractive covers. You could purchase this catalog, then begin to accumulate your own complete collection of Staehle Irish themed covers.



Left: Sample page from Sedgwick's catalog.

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The first International Reply Coupon of the Irish Free State

by Hans Bergdolt

The system of the International Reply Coupons (IRC) was introduced in 1906 at the UPU (Universal Postal Union/Union postale universelle) congress in Rome and was valid from October 1, 1907 onwards. The first design is thus called **Rome Design**. Valid IAS could and can be exchanged at all post offices for stamps equivalent to the foreign postal rate of a normal unregistered priority letter (today an airmail letter). The national postal authorities order the coupons from the International Bureau in Berne, Switzerland. This bureau places the printing orders and settles the IRC accounts with the respective national postal authorities which specify the printing details on the front of the coupon that include the name of the state (at the bottom), the selling price (in the middle), and the explanations in the national language (on top).

In 1907 Ireland was part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (UK). Therefore post offices sold British IRC. With the establishment of the Anglo-Irish treaty from January 7, 1922, Ireland became an independent free state. Naturally, she also took over the postal sovereignty.

The Irish post office ordered the first Irish IRC in 1923; according to the catalog (see references below). The first Irish coupons were sold in January 1924. The name of the Free State was printed in French (the language that appeared worldwide on all coupons) and, set from the Irish post, in English: **Etat libre d'Irlande/Irish Free State**. The instructions appeared at the top also in English. The text for the instructions did not appear in the Irish language until 1929. The selling price was 6 Irish pence (d).



Illustr. 1: First coupon in Ireland, Rom Design, without date stamp. Selling price 6d.

The selling price does not only cover the postage for the foreign letter, but also the production and administrative costs in Berne and the respective national postal authorities. However, postage amounted to the largest portion of the cost. The UPU defined a minimum price, which from 1922 to 1925 was 50 Gold-Centimes. The national post offices, however, were allowed to add a small margin of 'profit'. The Irish post office sold the IRC for 6d at the beginning, and for 4d from 1925 onwards. It was determined that six pence was much too high a price for postage for a foreign letter. So postal authorities in Ireland stamped an overprint of the 4d selling price on the coupons. In later years the selling price was mostly changed in handwritten form rather than with a stamped overprint.

The selling post office in Cork stamped the IRC in the left area globe with the date stamp. The right area globe was left free for the postmark of the exchanging post office, as the vertical French texts next to the stamp circles indicate: *Timbre du bureau d'origine* and *Timbre to bureau d'échange*.

The IRC shown in illustration 2 was up to now the only revalued coupon recorded. But as is the way of the world, just some days ago I have received a second coupon of the same issue, also reduced from 6d to 4d (illustr. 3). It was sold in Holycross (Co. Tipperary), Irish MAINISTIR NA CROISE NAOMTA). The full wording would have been NAOMHTHA. The aspirate letter "H" was expressed by placing dots over letters "M" and "T". In newer material, like our Frank/Stange catalog and the Post Office Guide from 1982 it reads NAOFTA. The IRC was sold there on July 14, 1930 and then exchanged in the United States on August 30, 1930.



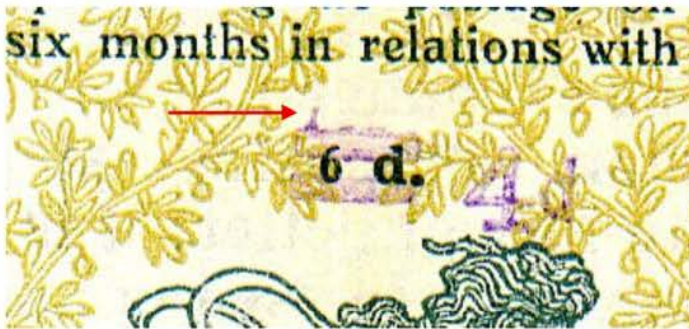
Illustr. 2: First coupon in Ireland, sold in Cork July 2, 1926. Selling price reduced to 4d.



Illustr. 3: The same coupon as in fig. 2, sold 1930 in Holycross, Thurless, Co. Tipperary.

International Reply Coupons contd.

When comparing the two devaluation stamps “= 4d” of illustr. 2 and 3, I think that the cancels are identical, so they were likely to have been cancelled with the same stamp. This is substantiated by the little “tip” of the cancel on the left upper crossbeam (see arrow). If this is correct, it means that the IRC were stamped in the GPO in Dublin before being delivered to the respective post offices. This seems logical if the IRC were delivered after the reduction of the selling price. The IRC price was probably also reduced in local post offices if delivered before the price change. The coupon from 1926 shows more ink color than the coupon from 1930.



Detail of Illustr. 2: Stamp for devaluation, sold 1926.



Detail of Illustr. 3: Stamp for devaluation, sold 1930.

During and after World War I not many coupons were sold, a fact which is not surprising because the war and postwar era showed little international mail exchange. Post offices worldwide had enough coupons in stock, so only “new countries” needed new IRC. IRC of the same type were identical. I must explain that during its life all IRC are identical with the exception of the imprints for the countries on the front of the coupons. The most important changes concern the type of regulations on the reverse. Only coupons of the type illustrated here showed the time limit for exchange valid from 1922 to 1925: ... *it is valid for two months (six months in relations with over-sea countries) exclusive of the month of issue*. Ireland was one of the “new countries”, ordered IRC and got coupons of this type (type VI according to Koch, see references). This is important for the collectors’ demand for this type. Since this type was in general produced in small numbers only (a fact of course also applicable for the Irish coupon) and was valid for only three years (1922-1925), it is not surprising that this IRC is sought after not only by collectors for Ireland, but also by general IRC collectors. So this type is not only rare, but collectors’ demands are very high, too. Explanations on the reverse side are shown in the most universal languages of that time. French was (and still is) business language of the UPU. The sequence of languages follows the French alphabet: first German (Allemand), then English (Anglais), Spanish, and Italian.

All IRC are watermarked. The watermark of type VI shows “Union Postale Universelle” and the minimum price from 1922 to 1925: 50 Gold-Centimes.

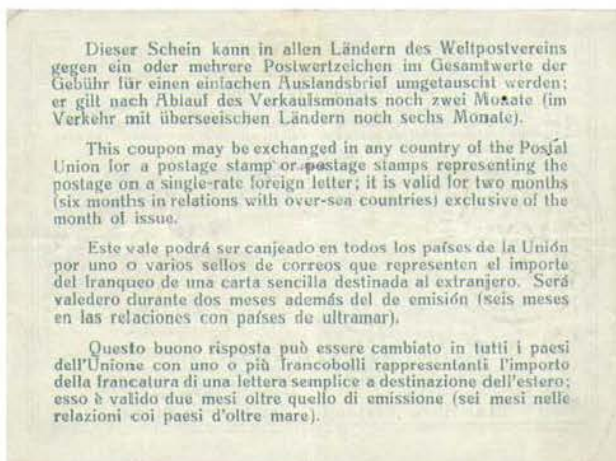
AN POST stopped selling IRC at the beginning of 2003.

References:

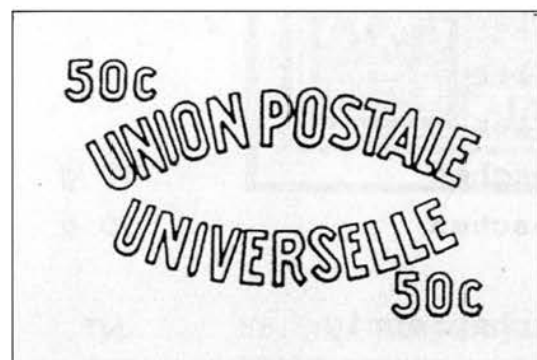
Jung, Otto: Die Internationalen Antwortscheine (IAS) von Irland/The International Reply Coupons (IRC) of Ireland (FAI Literature Series Vol. 23), 2000. (Available for € 5 minus member’s discount from the FAI Book Service.)

Koch, Paul-August: Systematik der Internationalen Antwortscheine, FIAS, 1986 (in German).

all illustrations: H. Bergdolt



Reverse of the coupon of illustr. 2.



Watermark 50c and
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New Irish Varieties?

By Iben Olsen and Liam Malone

Postage due varieties discovered by Liam Malone, Revealer Editor. Please contact him regarding your thoughts on any of these postage due 'varieties' at eparevealer@gmail.com



PD2 'Se' watermark 1 d postage due with letter 'A' of POSTAS missing white in and thus filled in. I own a block of 4 with 2 left stamps showing this same filled in 'A'. Roy Hamilton-Bowen noticed this variety too.



PD3 'Se' watermark 2 d postage due with bullet like retouch in lower right corner under 'n' of Pinsin.



PD4 'Se' watermark 6 d postage due with upper right corner broken white frame line

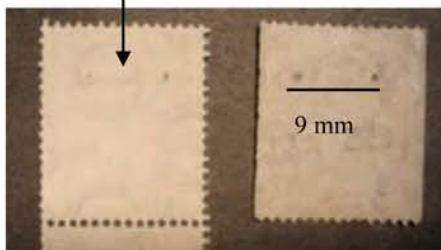


PD7 'e' watermark 1 1/2 d postage due with horizontal white scratch in orange ink under 'tri.' Sheet from my collection does not show the position of this flaw.

PD11 'e' watermark 6 d postage due with white notch within violet frameline.



On this and the next page, Iben Olsen's new varieties. He welcomes your thoughts on these, email him at lagoni@adr.dk



Stribe of 4 of D17 'e' watermark 1d map coil stamp with top stamp showing 2 pin holes 9 mm apart.

Single of D2ci 'Se' watermark 1d map coil showing similar 2 pin holes 9 mm apart.

Iben wonders if a special, experimental machine generated the holes and asks readers to email him with any information.



3d Dollard showing inverted watermark. Iben and David MacDonnell, MacDonnell Whyte, Ltd., Dublin corresponded over this stamp, with David agreeing it has not been recorded and other coils may show variety.

Collector's Corner

Reverend, Father James F. Barry, St. Mary Church, Salem, New Jersey



I went to Ireland in 1977 for what I thought was my first and only trip. But since that time, I have been to Ireland twenty-four times. My first visit was spent in the Parish Priest's house in Kiltyclogher, County Leitrim, on the border of Northern Ireland. I knew little about Ireland or Irish history, but a book on the coffee table, *Ireland: A Terrible Beauty*, by Jill and Leon Uris, caught my attention. It was an excellent photo book, but more importantly, a book of Irish history.

In 1977, in Ireland, I first purchased stamps, probably in one of the small gift shops. When I returned home, I found listings for local stamp shows in the South Jersey and Philadelphia area. I went to a number of those shows and with the help of small dealers like Frank Blevins and others, I started my collection, stamps at first and then First Day Covers. My first album was White Ace. I later switched to Lindner, which I am still using, along with the Irish Post Office First Day Cover albums.

In 1980, I first subscribed to the Irish Post Office standing order. Every month or two I would receive a packet, with the form "Dear Mr/Mrs/Miss crossed out and "Rev Father" written in and personally signed by Colm Brennan. I first met Colm at the National Stamp Show in New York City, along with Ian Whyte, a Dublin stamp dealer. On my trips to Ireland, I would stop in the Philatelic Center at the GPO to meet up with Colm Brennan. Once he invited me out to Arnot's for a cup of tea on his break. Alas, those days are gone. Now I am just a number like everyone else. Since that time, I have collected Irish stamps and First Day Covers and with a few exceptions, I have a fairly complete collection.

One of my first stamps featured Theobald Wolfe Tone. The only thing I knew was that the Wolfe Tones were a music group! I quickly learned the history of Ireland and in 1979 put together an exhibit and a slide show of "The History of Ireland Through Postage Stamps." Among my favorite Irish stamps are the unusual: the round International Year of the Planet (2008) and the Lenticular golf stamp of the Ryder Cup in 2006. I also like the booklets and the Miniature Sheets issued by Ireland. Among my special covers were those issued from the Guinness Brewery in 1959 and the Bank of Ireland in 1983. I am personally impressed with the Mariners Miniature sheet depicting Commodore Barry, even though he is not related since he had no descendants with his surname.

The collection of Irish stamps has led me to an appreciation of my heritage and a knowledge of the history and culture of Ireland. I am researching my own family roots. The Barrys are probably from County Cork. All the rest (Devenny, Friel, Gallagher, McDevitt, Friel) are all from Donegal. They came to Philadelphia pre-famine and I don't know the homelands. I am still working on it, though.



T62 1/2d coil with short numeral "1" of date.
Refer to Winter 2009 *Revealer* for note on 1d coil.

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The First 55 Years of Irish coins

by Peter Bugg » A comprehensive listing of all Irish coins with a check list of all leaders & tab ends, illustrated, bibliography, 40 p. \$8.50 (nm \$10.50).

Ireland, Identification of the Rialtas and Saorstát overprints

by Joseph E. Foley » Includes a clear plastic overlay with accurate reproductions of the various overprints and a reprint of an illustrated article from The American Philatelist. \$7.50 (nm \$10.00).

The Post Offices & Datestamps of the Co. Leitrim

by Dr. Brian de Burca, updated by James T. Howley 72 illustrations of handstamps, map, and descriptions of post office locations, 23 p. \$6.25 (nm \$7.80).

An Introduction to Irish Mileage Marks

by W. E. Davey » Explanation & Illustrated listing of early markings, 22 p. \$4.50 (nm \$5.65).

The Revealer Index, v 1, # 1 to v 49, # 3, Jan. 1951 to Winter 2000

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