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President's Message

By Paul Bento

Congratulations to EPA member Patricia Walker on her receipt of the American Philatelic Society's Luff Award for "Exceptional Contributions to Philately". The award was presented at the 2011 STAMPSHOW Awards banquet on Saturday, August 13, in Columbus, Ohio and is considered the most prestigious award given by the APS. The award was established in 1940 in honor of philatelist John N. Luff, APS President from 1907 to 1909, and is presented each year at APS STAMPSHOW for "meritorious contributions by living philatelists".

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.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Summer: May 1; Fall: Aug. 1; Winter: Nov. 1; Spring: Feb. 1
Each Issue published one month after above dates.

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Quarter Page	3.625 X 4.875	\$50	\$180
Eighth Page	3.625 X 2.50	\$30	\$105

CAMERA READY COPY REQUIRED

Contact Richard Kelly at kellyrd@sbcglobal.net

President's Message (contd)

Patricia Walker was EPA President from 1983 to 1985, served as a Director, and represented the EPA on the board of the Council of Philatelic Organizations (COPO) from 1985 to 1993. In addition, she received the EPA's Thomas E. Field Award for outstanding contributions to Irish Philately in 2003. She has received many other philatelic awards from other organizations and is currently Vice President of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, an organization of which she was a founding member.

Pat is best known to EPA members for her wonderful award winning exhibits of Irish postal history. She has always been willing to offer her expertise as a postal historian, exhibitor and philatelic judge to assist other philatelists. We are proud to count her as an EPA member.

Although I do not closely follow auction realizations, it seemed to me that the results of the June MacDonnell Whyte auction were quite positive, particularly when the state of the European economy, including Ireland, is taken into account. Only 10% of the lots were unsold and many sold lots significantly exceeded estimates. While this resulted in only seven successful bids out of twenty three submitted for me, overall it is probably a good sign of the strength of Irish philately.

Auction lot #667 pictured on the front cover of the catalog was a Scott #68b "rare coil" with a small previously unlisted "bullet hole" variety at the upper left used by a postcard to Vienna and tied by a Naas CDS June 16, 1936 and noted as being the only known example sent abroad. Estimated at 12,000 euros, it sold for 21,000 euros exclusive of the 15% buyer's commission.

Other interesting auction lots included dog license revenues including stamps, proofs, artist sketches etc., many of which exceeded estimates. A dog license collection on exhibit pages was estimated at 800 euros and realized 975 euros. As EPA Librarian, it is difficult to maintain an extensive collection of auction catalogs, but I am maintaining my own collection of MacDonnell Whyte catalogs with prices realized and these are available for loan.

If you have not obtained your copy of The Revealer DVD produced by Philip Kane, I strongly recommend you consider doing so. It is a wonderful source of information on Irish Philately, a great research tool, and easy to use. Ordering information from Special Offers Manager Tim O'Shea is available on the back page of this issue. You will not be disappointed!

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

- 2841 Mead, Michael E.
PO Box 2114
Orleans MA 02653
- 2842 Juten, Christopher R.
PO Box 1676
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
- 2843 Bath, Dr. Alan H.
2502 Watts Street
Houston, TX 77030

Reinstatements

- 0336 Barrett, Lawrence J.
201 Brooksby Village Dr—CC120
Peabody, MA 01960
- 1476 Bulver, Mrs. Majorie M.
6749 Vermar Terrace
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
- 2633 Craig, Wallace A.
PO Box 3391
Fullerton, CA 92834
- 1451 Mitchell, Thomas C.
PO Box 2291
San Francisco, CA 94126-2291
- 2609 Norstedt, Johann A.
412 Patrick Henry Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060
- 2551 Roche, Robert P.
36 South Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12207
- 2789 Saucedo-Sullivan, Paul
1401 El Norte Parkway #35
San Marcos, CA 92069-2211
- 1371 Stagnaro, Frank R.
PO Box 3942
Springfield, MA 01101-3942

Resignations

- 2610 Byrnes, Thomas P.
5408 Rapidan Ct.
Lothian, MD 20711-9673

Dropped for Nonpayment of Dues

- 2822 Cavanaugh, Michael
- 2809 Clark, Anne
- 1967 Clever, Richard
- 2811 Dennany, Mike
- 2089 Donohue, Denis
- 1953 Kelly, James
- 2810 Michelson, Dietrich
- 1882 Murphy, Daniel
- 2768 Quail, Des
- 2766 Rhatican, Cyril
- 2813 Waterous, Edward
- 2824 Wheeler, Frank

Change of Address

- 1069 Curran, Jr., Henry W.
84 Kessel Court, #5
Madison, WI 53711-6238
- 2765 Malone, William 'Liam' T.
PO Box 6070
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Jean.talman@utoronto.ca
- 1257 Warren, Brian
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Membership Status

Membership as of May. 1, 2011
.....389

New Members	+3
Deceased	- 0
Reinstatements	+8
Resignations	-1
Drop for non-payment	-12
Adjustment	-2
Membership as of September 1, 2011	...385
Plus life members of unknown status	12.....397

Membership dues are due!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I recently purchased a copy of the DVD: *The Revealer 1951 - 2009 A Complete Digital Archive*, produced for the EPA by Philip Kane of Dublin. I would like to compliment all involved, especially Philip, for the quality and accessibility of this production. Together with Philip's other similar production for the IPC - Irish Philatelic Circle, this provides a fabulous instant-access archive for all collectors of Irish stamps and postal history.

What is the possibility of putting the catalogues, or the relevant parts of catalogues, of the auctions that cover Irish Philately onto DVD in a similar manner? - say up to and including year 2005 as the some stamp companies / auction houses who charge for catalogues may be loathe to lose income on the sales of recent catalogues. If the proposal was acceptable should the project first go back to the days of Robson Lowe, H R Harmer, Phillips, etc?, or should the start be made with the Auction and Special Offers catalogues of the Irish based dealers MacDonnell Whyte, Ian Whyte, which became Whyte's, Raven Stamps, Irelandstamps, Hibernian, etc? A potential problem may be that 'owners' may not want to allow access to their intellectual property, and that is understandable as it is part of their business.

This would be much more complex than the Revealer-on-DVD and Philip Kane, if he were to accept the 'challenge', would no doubt require much assistance from members with the provision of check lists of all known catalogues and then the catalogues themselves to work from.

I trust that my suggestion will not upset the Stamp Dealers / Auction Houses who serve our hobby so well. Their comments and those of all members of the EPA will be interesting.

Regards to all,
Tony Cassidy
Ennis, County Clare, Ireland

DUES NOTICE

Please note that membership fees for the 2011–2012 fiscal year are due by September 1, 2011.

If the year 2011 appears next to your EPA membership number on the front cover, then you owe payment for 2011—2012 fiscal year.

A dues mailing envelope is included in this issue for your convenience. Please send your payment as soon as possible to avoid EPA sending out reminders.

Happy Collecting!
Barney Clancy, EPA Treasurer

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Hello fellow Members,

I am serving as the new Éire Philatelic Association representative to the Scott Catalog. I have been collecting Irish stamps since the 1960s, and have been a member of the EPA since the 1970s.

For many years, I have been building a concordance of Irish stamp numbers, using the Scott, Hibernian, Minkus and Stanley Gibbons catalogs. I've thought about including the Yvert and Michel catalogs, but do not have access to copies. Are there other publishers that should be included?

This concordance exists as a series of large spreadsheets, divided into commemorative, definitives and back of the book sections. They are not price lists, since I am not a dealer. They are also not illustrated. My goal is not to compete with the publishers of these catalogs, but rather to create a link between them.

The lists are useful for ordering from different countries. Also, there is a lot of satisfaction from creating such a database. While I am working on it, I am not spending any money. Then, when I go to a show, I have a ready printout of my want lists.

As I worked on these lists, I would often run across discrepancies between the descriptions: dates might be different, numberings would be inconsistent, typos might occur, and so on.

About fifteen years ago, I started making lists of these problems, with suggested changes for the Scott catalog. They were always ready to listen to my suggestions, and they would sometimes make my suggested changes. I've also done this for stamps of Egypt, Sudan and Great Britain.

I have been told that the editorial staff at Scott's is not very big. They rely on specialist collectors to help them be as accurate as possible.

I have never submitted pricing suggestions to them. I can only assume the Scott team are in contact with Irish dealers who have a better pulse on the current costs of old issues.

At the EPA club meeting at the stamp show in Chicago in 2010, I described what I have been doing, and offered my services to the Association, to be a contact point for other suggestions members might want to make. I am sure many of you have ideas for revisions, and this is a way to make sure your voice gets heard.

I have a personal reason for liking the Dracula stamps from 1997. I have long been a fan of the fantastic in the arts, collecting and reading many works in the fields of science fiction, horror and fantasy. Through work in local community theaters, I have had the opportunity to play the Count in two different plays over several years. I even got to portray the Prince of Transylvania in a production of *My Fair Lady*, which required me to learn how to waltz.

In 1994, I realized that there would be a simultaneous anniversary coming up in 1997: The centennial of the publication of the novel "Dracula", and the Sesquicentennial of the birth of its author, Abraham (Bram) Stoker. I took it upon myself to write to An Post, suggesting that this might be an appropriate subject for commemorative stamps. I soon received a letter, suggesting that it was too far in advance to approve my suggestion, and that they would take my idea under advisement. Two years later, I received another letter from An Post, pleased to announce that Dracula would be honored in 1997, and thanking me for my suggestion. I had moved up a step from just collecting Irish stamps to contributing to their output. I have subsequently heard rumors that there was an organized write in campaign for these issues, but I was unaware of it until the stamps had been released.

Let me conclude by offering my services to any members who want to make suggestions. The deadline for information submissions for the 2012 catalog is usually around the 1st of November.

Please feel free to contact me. I will look forward to hearing from you.

Dennis Lynch; 68 36th AVE SW; Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-4656 lynch.dennis@monmail.com.



New discovery of an experimental overprint or ? By Iben Olsen, Denmark

I guess we all have tried finding a stamp in our collection, at an auction - be it online or at a public auction - where we have doubts about whether it is a discovery or a forgery. Especially overprints from Ireland have been susceptible to attempted forgeries and one must be very suspicious, when seeing anything unusual.

In 2004 I noticed a stamp offered in a MacDonnell Whyte Public auction - the British ½ d Postage Due with a partial overprint of 'Rialtas Sealada' na héireann.' The stamp shows the letters TAS SEAL and below that A HEIREA. Although I placed a good bid, I did not win the lot. But I saved an image pictured to the right.



I thought it was likely that someone in those days, as quickly as possible, wanted to signal the transition from the British to Irish postal authorities with an overprint on the British stamps which had not already indicated this transition, including postage due labels. Similar to the experimental overprints known from the King George stamps used in Ireland between 1922—1935.

When a few years ago, I discovered another, similar overprint, my interest increased. (Pictured in black and white at the right). This stamp shows much more of the overprint



When I recently found and bought an intact overprint, where it clearly appears that it is a heavy press (metal stamp - not just a rubber stamp, it seemed like more than just a coincidence. (Picture 3 below)



I contacted David MacDonnell, who also found it interesting and related the following comment: *"The Postage Dues were used to 1925/26 without overprint as they did not have a crown or monarch depicted. Dublin lists the number of sheets sent to Ireland 1924/25 on page 170 of 'Ireland's Transition'. The best it can be is an abandoned trial. The overprint does not fit the stamp, and the type is too poor. The accent on 'E' of 'Eireann' is omitted, and the last 'n' is also missing. I doubt that it is a serious effort, as it is not in Gaelic type. It might have been done to show to the Post Office how they could cancel Postage Dues on letters, to show that they were somehow 'Irish'. However, as there is no date or place incorporated, it may have just been forgotten about."*

It would, therefore, be very important if there were similar overprints. Especially ones with dates. Perhaps one of our Éire Philatelic Association members or readers of *The Revealer* can help or send a comment to the Editor of the *Revealer*.

The 1922-23 UPU Specimen Distribution of the Provisional Government and Free State overprints.

by David MacDonnell and John Pedneault.

Ireland did not join the Universal Postal Union (UPU) as a formal member until 6 September 1923, by which time it was known as the Irish Free State, or "Saorstat Eireann". It was the practice among UPU members to provide other members with specimens of stamps current, and this was facilitated by supplying examples in bulk to the International Bureau of the UPU in Bern, who then distributed exact quantities to the various members, according to their stated needs. The numbers required to be supplied as specimens were established at the regular UPU conferences, and varied as new territories came into being, or were merged with existing territories.

By October 1923, the Irish Postal Administration was receiving three specimens of all current stamps of UPU members, through the British Post Office. In return, Ireland was required to supply 412 specimens of all her current issues for distribution to UPU member territories. Most countries supplied the specimens with a special protective handstamp "SPECIMEN" or the equivalent (Portuguese "ULTRAMAR", "COLONIAS", etc.). However, the Irish authorities decided to distribute their specimens without any handstamp, and thus sent unmarked, unused stamps as issued. Special pages were made up by the UPU for each distribution with very detailed information as to the administration issuing the stamps, nature of the stamps (postage, airmail, packet post, etc.), face values, whether surcharged, headed BUREAU DE BERNE (fig. 1).

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VALEURS POSTALES REÇUES PAR CIRCULAIRE DU BUREAU DE BERNE

NU- MÉRO	PUISSANCE	PAYS	NATURE	NOM- BRE	VA- LEUR	SI LA VALEUR POSTALE EST OBTENUE par une surcharge.		VALEUR POSTALE
D'OR- DRE.	QUI A ÉMIS	DANS LEQUEL	de	de	FACIALE			ORIGINALE
	la valeur postale.	sera utilisée	LA VALEUR	CHACUNE	de	Nature	Autres	ou annulée
		la valeur postale.	postale.	des	chacune	et valeur faciale	indications	par une surcharge.
				valeurs	des	de la figurine	figurant	
					valeurs			

Fig. 1. Detail from a UPU distribution page, BUREAU DE BERNE

Most countries accepted the Irish specimens in their unused state, but a few administrations were in the habit of handstamping their UPU collections with a security overprint. This was a twofold measure, to simplify audit procedures, and to guard against the ft. The collection of the French colony of Mauritania was so treated (fig. 2).



Fig. 2. The security handstamp SPECIMEN COLLECTION MAURITANIE

The situation of the colony of Mauritania was unusual in that it did not have an administrative capital city within its own borders, but was de facto administered from Saint Louis in neighbouring Senegal. Saint Louis was also the capital of Senegal. This led to the postal authorities of Senegal maintaining two full collections of UPU specimens, one for Senegal, and one for Mauritania. The initial distribution of Irish overprints comprised the Dollard 5-line halfpenny to tenpence, 4-line half-crown, five shillings and ten shillings, and Thom five-line twopence to one shilling (four values of these, as the Post Office did not recognise the two Dies of the twopence). These were in strips of three on UPU distribution pages, tied by the red-violet security overprint (fig. 3)

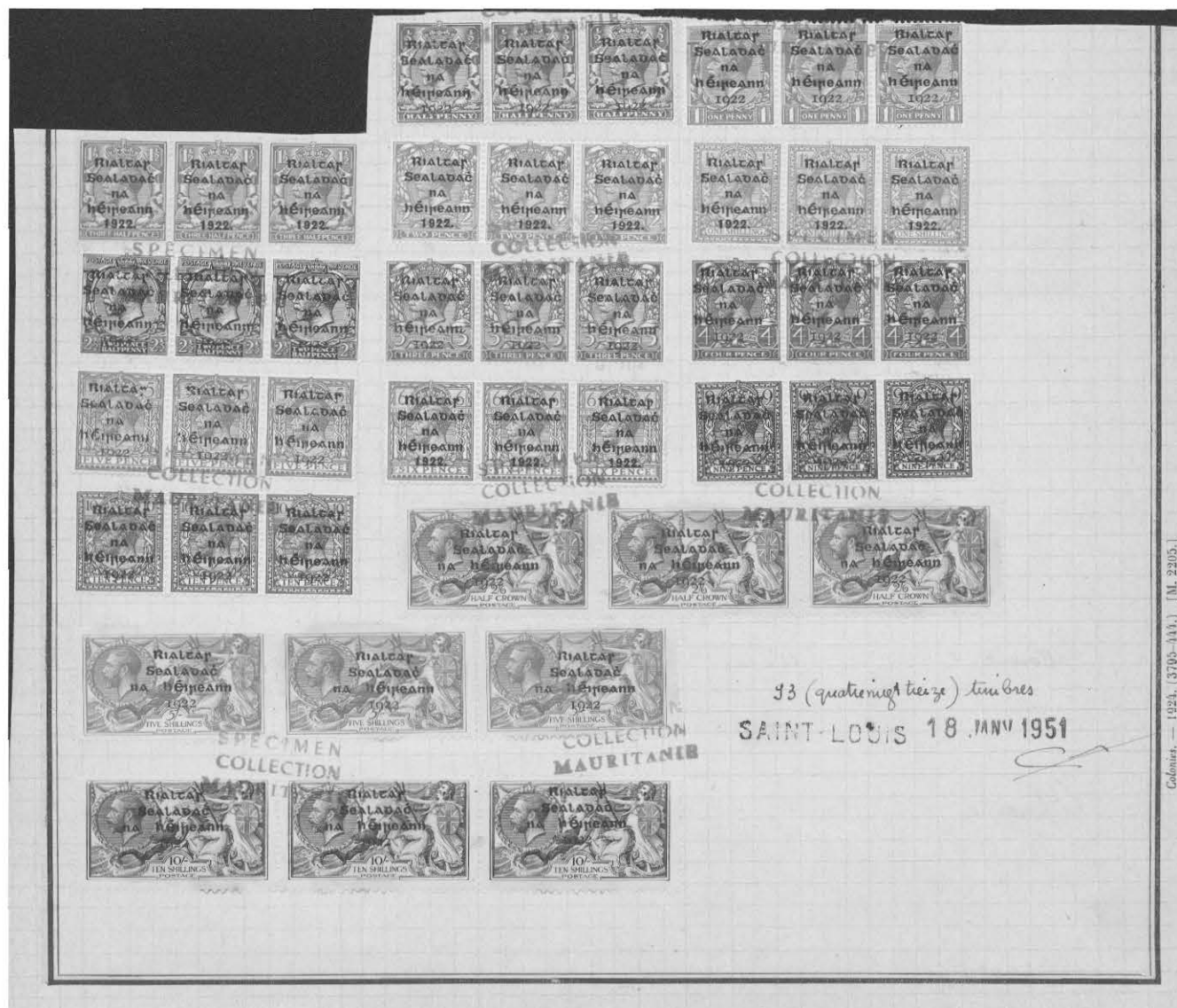


Fig. 3. Dollard and Thom Rialtas halfpenny to ten shillings



Fig. 4. Thom Saorstát halfpenny to ten shillings

By a remarkable coincidence, both the high value ten shillings strips are from exactly the same positions in the sheet, and both display the plate variety "Strokes over TEN", which is found at Row 4, Stamp 2, of Plate 5A (Figs. 5, 6)



Fig 5. Dollard Strokes over TEN



Fig. 6. Thom Saorstát Strokes over TEN

The Free State "Saorstát" overprints were also supplied in strips of three, again tied by the SPECIMEN COLLECTION MAURITANIE security overprint (fig. 4)

An audit of the collection was taken at the capital in January 1951, and the count of 93 stamps (90 overprints plus three two-pence Map definitives) was attested by an official stamp reading SAINT-LOUIS 18 JANV 1951, which can be seen in fig. 4. Mauritania gained independence from France in 1960, and a new capital was built at Nouakchott.



Fig. 7. The
Madagascan security handstamp *COLLECTION DE BERNE*

There was another UPU specimen collection with the same overprints in strips for the then French colony of Madagascar which surfaced in the 1990s. The stamps are again tied to archive pages, but in this case the security handstamp reads *POSTES ET TELEGRAPHES/COLLECTION DE BERNE/MADAGASCAR* (fig. 7). This collection was sold by MacDonnell Whyte Ltd., at their Auction of December 5, 1998. One other collection on pages, in singles only, is known for the Portuguese colony of Goa, and 1922-23 definitives handstamped *SPECIMEN* in seriffed letters are known to emanate from the collection of Bechuanaland, which applied its own overprint as a receiving authority (fig. 8). The overprinted series should exist with the latter handstamp, but have not yet been seen.



Fig. 8. The Bechuanaland security handstamp *SPECIMEN*

ÉPA SPECIAL OFFERS

The following may be ordered from Timothy O'Shea, 58 Porter St. Granby MA 01033-9516 USA. tosheal@comcast.net. Except where noted, prices include postage & handling within U.S. Outside the US write or email me for postage costs. Payment in US \$. Checks, payable to Tim O'Shea, must be on US banks. (nm—Non-member)

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