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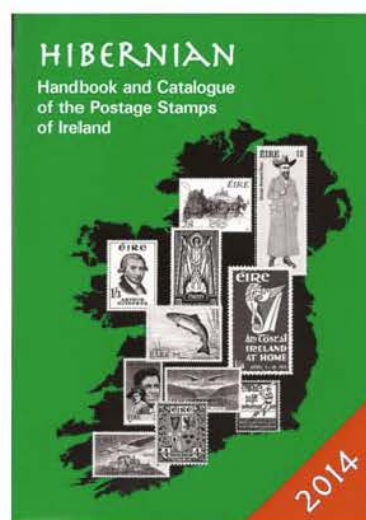


The Rare Coil Revisited

IN THIS ISSUE

- 51 President's Message
- 53 An Interesting Cover
- 54 Father Bodkin & the Rare Coil
- 59 PO Numbers & Duplex Cancels
- 60 Two Short Notes
- 61 Father Bodkin & the Rare Coil
- 64 Introducing Barton Holcomb
- 65 Embossed Envelopes
- 66 Meeting Pádraig Ó Mathúna
- 67 Special Offers

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USA: RICHARD KELLY *address above***APS Representative: JOHN B. SHARKEY** *address above***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE****By Richard Kelly**

The holiday season is in full swing with Thanksgiving and Christmas just finished and the New Year starting. For EPA members in the Mid West, though, the holiday season starts with Chicagopex. With my recent back surgery, I was worried that I would not be able to attend but was able to visit for a half day. It is always nice to see our dealer members and see what's new and discuss the hobby. Unfortunately, I was unable to see some of the regulars and want to wish them well.

Inside you will see an announcement from Tim O'Shea offering the New Hibernian catalog for sale. The Hibernian, produced by Roy Hamilton-Bowen, is a must for the Irish collector. It recently won a Gold medal at Stampa.

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

The Association Secretary provides Coordinators with names and addresses of new members. Coordinators welcome new members and invite them to join the local Chapter.

Commodore John Barry Chapter

Members reside in NJ, NY, PA
 Coordinator: David J. Brennan,
 PO Box 704, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Lone Star Chapter

Members reside in Central TX
 Coordinator: Robert J. Joyce,
 14302 Oak Shadow,
 San Antonio, TX 78232

Connecticut Chapter

Members in CT & Western MA
 Coordinator: Michael J. Conway,
 239 Judd Rd., Easton, CT 06612

Northern California Chapter (NORCAL)

Members reside in Northern CA
 Coordinator: TBD

James Hoban Chapter

Members reside in MD, VA, DC
 Coordinator: Liam Malone
 PO Box 73037 Washington DC
 20056

Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)

Members reside in Southern CA
 Coordinator: William A. O'Connor,
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 Fallbrook, CA 92028

John McCormack Chapter

Members reside in Greater Boston
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 Common Rd., Auburn, MA 01501

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION**Summer: May 1; Fall: Aug. 1; Winter: Nov. 1; Spring: Feb. 1****Each Issue published about a month after above dates.****The Revealer ADVERTISING RATES**

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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 continued:

The 2014 edition has grown by 32 pages from 2009 with some thanks to An Post for the continuing issues of commemoratives. The new edition has a significant increase in illustrations, a new section for SOARS, updates on Coils and a much more expansive postage due variety listing.

I would like to end this year's letter by thanking all of our members for their support. Our organization is only as strong as our membership. We look to your feedback and ideas. Please thank our advertisers with your patronage.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All. May your New Year be a Healthy and Successful One.

As I am writing this the New Hibernian catalog is on its way to me from Germany. It takes a few weeks because I have it sent sea mail to save on postage.

The new edition is 270 pages (2009 edition has 230 pages) with about 4,000 color illustrations with about 18,000 individual values. New issues are up to September 2013 with the SOARS completely integrated. The coil section has been completely revised. The coil section has been updated with a lot of previously unpublished information. Varieties and errors for overprints, definitive, commemoratives, and postage dues all have been greatly expanded with the addition of hundreds of illustrations. The catalog received a Gold medal at Stampa in October.

The price for EPA members is \$50.00 and non-members is \$62.50. To obtain a copy email me, Tim O'Shea, at tosheal@comcast.net or call me at (413) 467-9158. If you live outside of North America it will be cheaper to order it directly through Hibernian website see their ad on page 68.

Several members of local EPA chapters are meeting and exhibiting at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition Friday April 4 through Sunday April 6, 2014. Please consider joining us and visit www.pnse.org for more information.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

2857 McGarrity, Raymond B; 11034 North 28th Drive #109, Phoenix AZ 85029

Resignations

1764 Doe, William H; 3611 Main St, Barnstable MA 02630

2819 Schmidt, Richard E; 3744 E 3rd Ave Apt 21, Post Falls ID 83854-7484

2848 Jensen, Bjarne B; Laerkevej 4, 4581 Rorvig Denmark

Deceased

2691 Berzitss, Alfs T; 300 Fox Chapel Rd #408, Pittsburgh PA 15238

Change of Address

1371 Stagnaro, Frank R; PO Box 21, Agawam MA 01001

2351 Hendricks, Charles S; 3123 W Tumbleweed Dr, Tucson AZ 85746-5022

2749 Winters, Gus; 205 E. Tall Oaks Circle, Palm Beach Gardens FL 33410

New Email Addresses

If you changed your email address or if the address shown below is not correct, please contact Barney Clancy, EPA Treasurer at: bclanz@aol.com

2410 Bodt, Charles D; CharlesDBodt@gmail.com

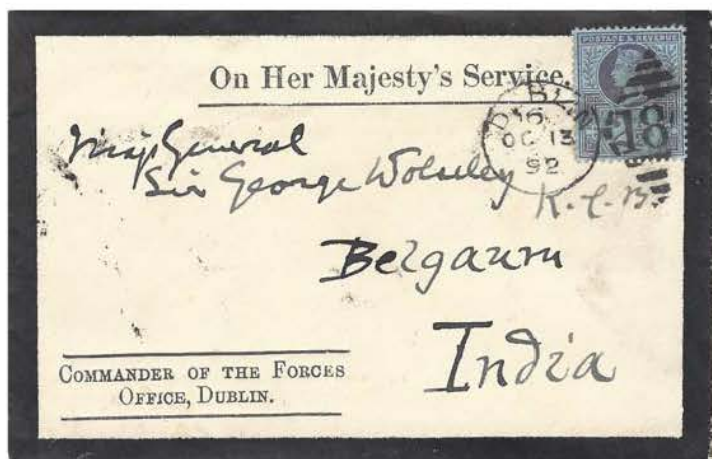
1641 Frommer, Saul; saul@ucr.edu

0857 Rao, V N Mallikarjuna; vnmallirao@gmail.com

2857 McGarrity, Raymond B; nantes@earthlink.net

Membership Status

Members as of September 1, 2013	364
New Members	1
Reinstatements	0
Deceased	1
Resignations	3
Drop for Non Payment	0
Adjustment	0
Membership as of December 1, 2013	361
Life members of unknown status	12
Complimentary mailings	22
Total Mailings	395



I found this cover in a dealer's box at the most recent BALPEX Show where I attended my first meeting of the EPA. It caught my attention because it was a mourning cover and I thought it worth the asking price in addition to a nice discount for cash. It sat on my desk for some time before I got around to looking at it more closely.

The addressee was intriguing but with a quick Wikipedia search it is even more interesting. The addressee Major General Wolseley was the young brother of Major General Garnet Wolseley then Commander of the Forces, Dublin. But who died? The Commander's wife lived until 1920 and no search has revealed any information referencing the younger brother's personal life.

I have always collected mint stamps but in the last couple of years I have added postmarks and mourning covers from Ireland to my collecting interests. The mourning cover and their destinations around the world are a history of the Irish emigrant.

Submitted by Dennis Maguire who can be contacted at pomfretmd@verizon.net

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Father Mattie Bodkin and the rare 1935 2d. vertical coil

by David MacDonnell

Most collectors of Ireland will be aware of the rare 1935 vertical coil printing of the otherwise common twopence Map stamp – perf 15 x imperf versus the ordinary sheet stamp perf 15 x 14. It is listed in all the major catalogues (D4cii, SG 74b, Scott 68b, Michel 43C, etc.) and has been the subject of arguably more column inches of print than any other single Irish stamp.

The earliest official recognition of the rare coil was given in a letter from The Department of Posts and Telegraphs to Stanley Gibbons (An Post archives B. N. O’Keeffe to F. S. Wall) in August 1956, confirming that the 2d. vertical coil was issued in 1935.

Subsequent authors have commented on the preponderance of known examples of the 2d. vertical coil used at Naas, Co. Kildare, from where over 60 examples are recorded used. It has been previously postulated that the 2d. coil stamps were sold through vending machines at Naas and Wexford, but there is no evidence that such machines were in use at either town in the 1930s.

However, proprietary stamp dispensing machines for private firms and organisations had been on sale in Ireland since the first world war. They were intended for use with specially prepared rolls of stamps provided by the Post Office, and Post Office stock lists carried details of rolls available for purchase specifically for these machines.

German produced and the front runner was MULTIPOST, an American machine marketed by the Merkham Trading Company.

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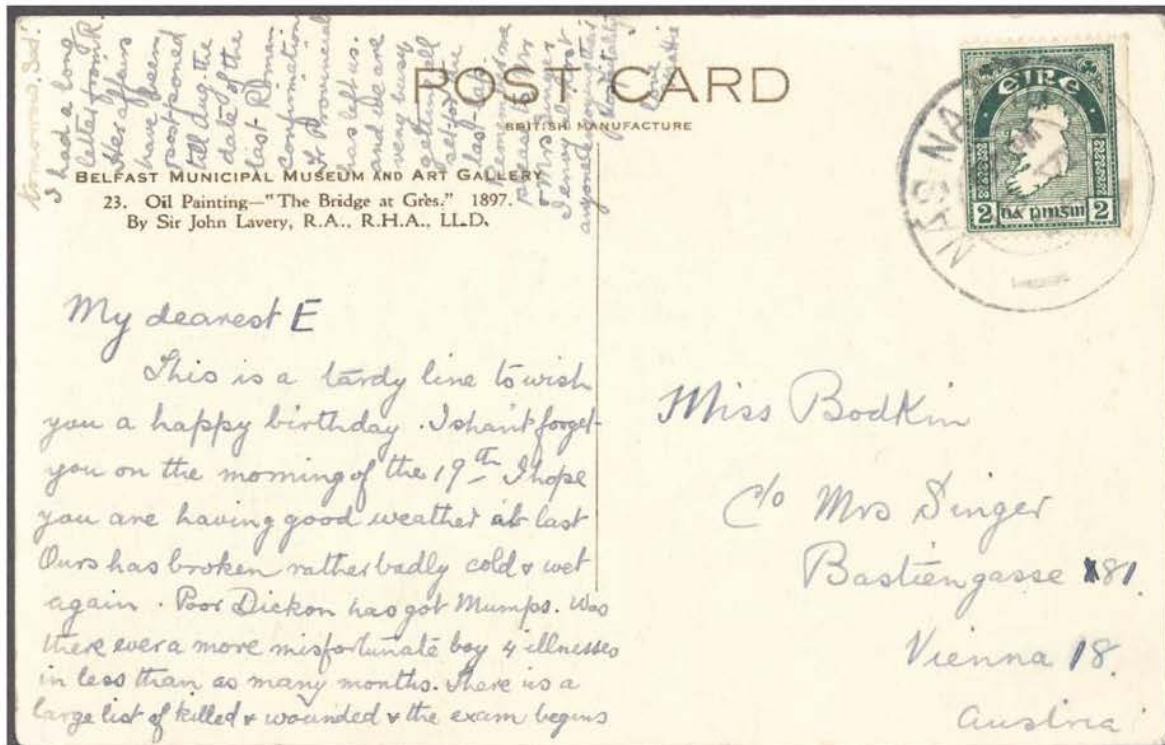
A typical hand-operated stamp dispensing and affixing machine

Comprehensive Irish collection for sale:

A comprehensive collection of Irish singles from the overprints through 1999. Virtually complete for the period, except for the Rare Coil and a few 1990s bird definitives missing.. The overprints are mint and a few mint never hinged, the definitives and commemoratives thereafter are all mint never hinged, except for a few bird definitives. The album is a Scott Ireland specialty album but the spine reads West Indies, this is how I purchased it. The Hibernian catalog value is well over \$18,000.

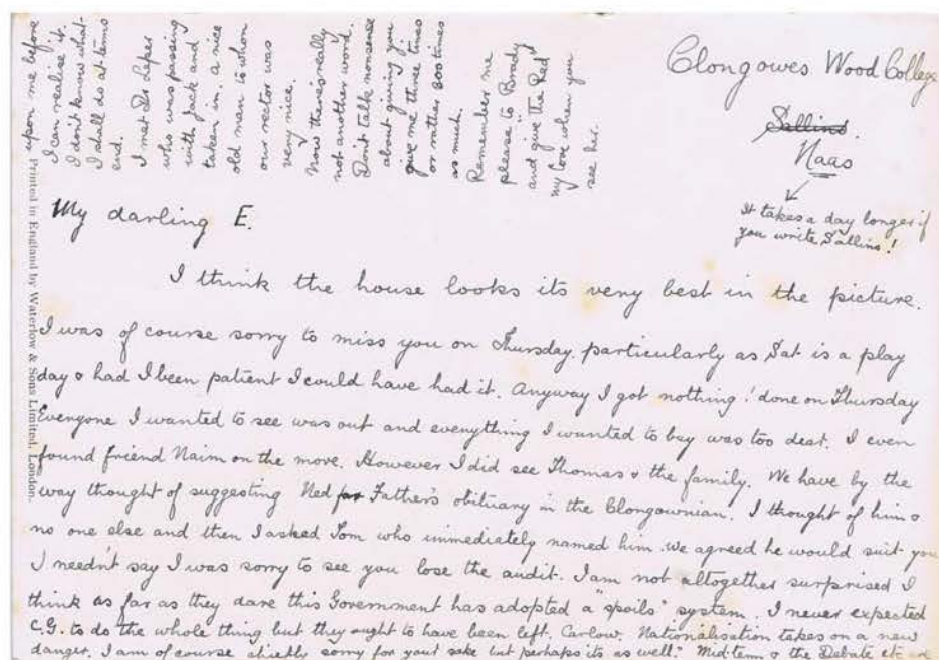
Please submit offers to Liam Malone at liammalonedc@gmail.com

Various theories regarding the usages at Naas have been put forward, none of which have been satisfactory, until the discovery of two postcards from Father Matthias Bodkin, SJ, to his sister Emma. The first card to which we will refer was offered for sale at the MacDonnell Whyte Auction of 6 June 2011. The card was addressed to Austria, and was overfranked for the threehalfpence foreign postcard rate by a halfpenny, with the 1935 2d. vertical coil, tied by a clear strike of the Naas circular datestamp NAS NA RIOGH 16 VI 36.



Naas to Vienna, Austria, 16 June 1936. MacDonnell Whyte Auction 6 June 2011 lot 667

Another card, again written by Fr. Bodkin to Emma, provides the all-important clue. The card has been sent under cover and is undated.



Instruction to address mail to Clongowes Wood College, via Naas Post Office

The address of "Clongowes Wood College" has clearly had the Post Town altered from "Sallins" to "Naas", with the notation that "It takes a day longer if you write Sallins". This is the clearest indication yet that Clongowes Wood school sent and received its mail through Naas Post Office.



Postcards from Fr. Bodkin at Clongowes to his sister, all with 1d. coil stamps postmarked at Naas, 1934-40

Father Matthias Bodkin was a Jesuit priest who had joined the staff of Clongowes Wood College in 1933. The College was a Catholic boys school of about 450 pupils, including boarders. The school was run on established Jesuit lines, and boarders were required to write home to families on a regular basis. Pat Brady, a former pupil, remembers his entire class

assembling every week to write letters, which would be collected and posted by the school staff. The school appeared to have a preference for using coil stamps, and most of Fr. Bodkin's cards to his sister from 1934 to 1940 bear penny coils, including the vertically imperforate experimental. Ian Whyte remembers his uncle, also a Jesuit priest, telling him about a coil stamp affixing machine which was in use at the offices of the magazine the *Messenger*, in Parnell Square in Dublin, when Ian was still in school. This prompts a speculation that other Jesuit schools and organisations may have had such machines and/or used stamps from coil rolls. As examples of the 1935 2d. vertical coil are known used from Mungret, the nearest post office to Mungret College, a Jesuit school in County Limerick, there may be some substance in this. Any connection to Wexford, where some forty or more examples of the 2d. coil are known used, would only reinforce this supposition.

Fr. Bodkin signed up for a naval chaplainship at Derry in 1943. He subsequently transferred to HMS Anson, on duty in the Far East, and arrived in Japan to witness the aftermath of the destruction of Tokyo.

CHP212 (70)
 or put ashore about fifteen minutes in the packet
 boat - a speed boat. Caught almost at once the train
 for Tokyo, about fifty minutes journey by electric train,
 all along the route used to be continuous built up
 area & said to be very pretty. Tokyo holds four million
 or so doesn't it? Well now it is entirely waste. I think
 the most dreadful sight I've seen. The houses were
 wood and are all burnt. There are no ruins just
 tilted ground - no streets or shops but thousands
 of tiny corrugated iron shacks and markets where
 in muddy fields or rather wash mud patches thousands
 of people galled and basted for goods (I noticed little
 fish, shredded vegetables some cooking ware & oranges
 spread on bits of board on the damp ground) crowds
 which stretch as far as the eye can see. We reached
 Tokyo & saw another picture round the completely
 gutted station, ruins an affair of planks & poles
 and tin, nine tenths of the great commercial
 buildings insurance companies, shipping, banking,
 offices

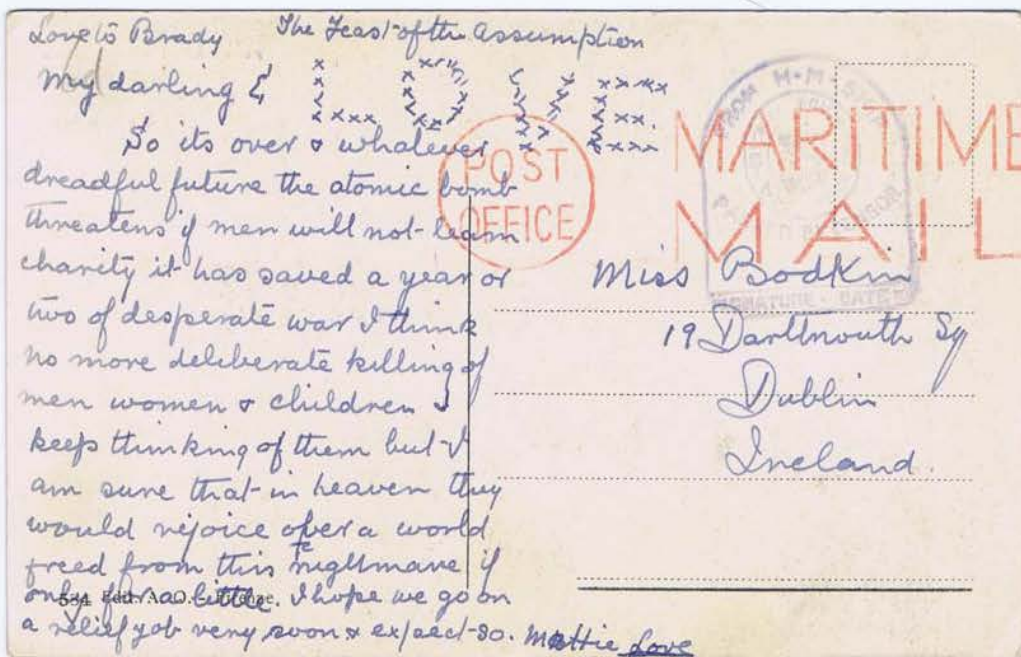
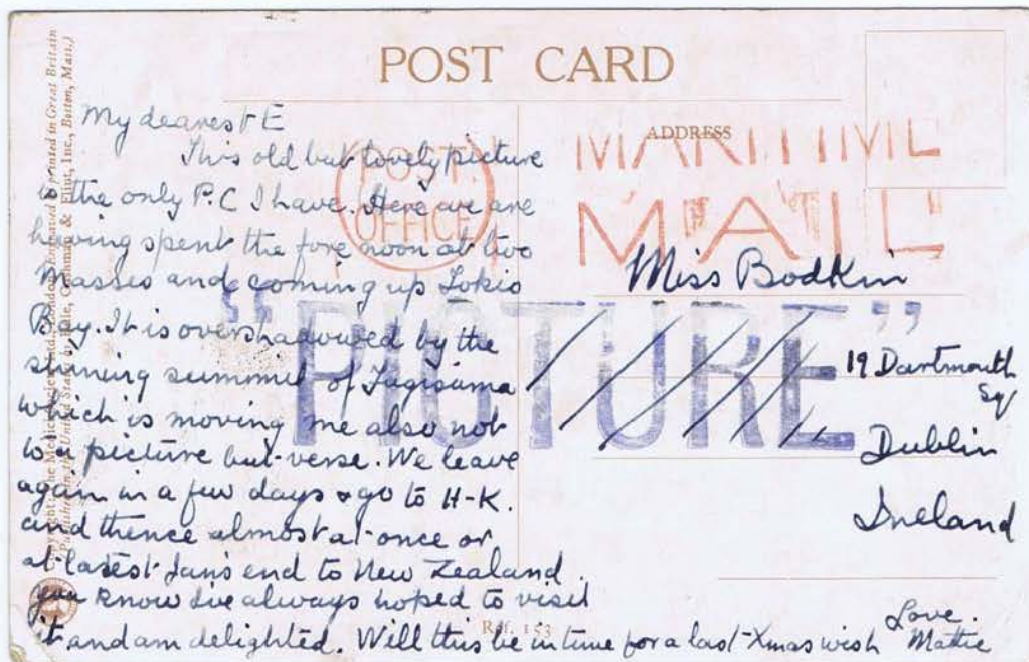
Editor's note: this article was sent in a format that seemed best to leave as is. Some of the items shown appear in the next article on this same topic. If anyone has questions or comments about this or the other article then let's begin a dialogue by sending letters to the Editor at eparevealer@gmail.com

Fr. Matthias Bodkin as a pupil at Clongowes, and part of his description of Tokyo in December 1945

Fr. Bodkin achieved some fame as an author, with among others, *Borrowed Days*, and *The Port of Tears*. He was also a qualified art lecturer and historian.



Naas datestamp on 1934 1d. vertical coil, still in use in 1937



Fr. Bodkin's postcards from Tokyo, the lower wondering whether the atomic bomb is a mixed blessing.

British Post Office Numbers and the Duplex Cancel by George McGowan

From the introduction of the postage stamp in 1840 and up to the present time, postal authorities have been concerned with preventing their re-use. Obliterating the stamp seemed to be the answer, however this process took many forms and went through many changes. Also, there emerged the need to identify where the letter originated, and sometimes transit marks and receiving marks.

In England, between 1844 and 1906 a two part canceller became the norm. One part identified the post office of origin and date, and the second part obliterated the stamp with a series of bars that also contained a number corresponding to that post office.

To avoid having a number with more than three digits, there were three basic lists, one for England and Wales, one for Scotland, and one for Ireland. In addition, the parallel bars in the obliterator formed a different shape for each list, an oval for England and Wales, a rectangle for Scotland and a diamond for Ireland. Since there were more than 999 post offices in England and Wales, after 1 - 999 was used, then 001 to 099, and then A01 to K99. Scotland had 1 - 755 and Ireland used 1 - 564. On occasion when a post office closed, its number could be reassigned, and also, a few numbers were assigned overseas. For example, in Ireland number 78 was assigned to Bunratty, County Clare in 1844 but was re-assigned to Beaufort, County Kerry in 1892.

In figure 1 we have a postal card from Rochdale, (Lanc.) England with its number 648 in oval dated 1877.

In figure 2 we picture an item of postal stationery from Ayr, (Ayr.) Scotland with number 27 in a rectangle dated 1891.

In figure 3 we see a postal card mailed in Dublin, County Dublin, in 1893, with its 186 in diamond.

In Figure 4 we see a wrapper mailed from Westport, County Mayo, 1852 or 1862, with its 477 in a diamond.

Since the obliterator was supposed to hit the stamp, those collectors who do not collect covers can amass a really nice collection of these numbers as a nice addition to their stamp collection (see figure 4).

Sources:

R.C. Alcock & F.C. Holland, British Postmarks A Short History, 1960

G. Brumell, British Post Office Numbers 1844 - 1906, 1971



< Fig 1



Fig 2 >



< Fig 3



Fig 4 >

Inquiry on SOAR Stamps:

I have been trying to identify and locate some of the SOAR stamps listed in the new 2014 Hibernian Catalogue, especially the 82c, version of the Irish Animals and Marine life as well as the Wild Flowers 82c varieties. A check with the Irish post office indicates that Dublin did not regularly produce any such stamps. I have checked with new issue dealers, and most large stamp dealers that I know of in Ireland, England, and the US. So far nobody has ever seen them. Can readers offer any insight or sources? Looking forward to some opinions on this, so far I have checked with 14 dealers and all of my club members and no one is aware of these SOAR stamps except for one club members who has one 82c used thermal print wild flowers stamp. His stamp has a different machine code other than the 0250 indicated in the catalogue.

Barton R Holcomb please contact me at colirish@gmail.com



A parcel label from a large store in Dublin called Clerys. The document is from the early 1960's. Interesting to me is that perfin's are used for this parcel. Most of the parcels that we received were opened quickly and the coverings were sent to the dustbin. Has anyone else seen such a parcel with perfin's.

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Father Matthias Bodkin and the 2d Vertical Coil (Scott 68b) Used at Naas: A Second Look -- June and November 1936

By Robert Benninghoff

This is the second in a series of articles about coil stamps used in Ireland. It builds on the recent discussion by David MacDonnell in the German-Irish Philatelic Journal, *Die Harfe*. David wrote about the use of coil stamps by Father Matthias Bodkin (1). Father Bodkin was a Jesuit Priest on the staff at Clongowes Wood College in Sallins, near Naas (NAS NA RIOGH), from 1933 to 1943. Father Bodkin wrote notes to his older sister Emma on postcards almost weekly during his 10 years at Clongowes (2). Father Bodkin used 2d vertical coils (Scott 68b, SG 74b) on three of these postcards to his sister.



David suggests that Clongowes Wood College used a coil dispensing machine from 1934 to 1940. The mail was sent to Naas for postmarking and forwarding to other destinations. The postcards from Father Bodkin to Emma have 1d paste up coils beginning in 1934 and the 1d experimental coil from September 1935 (See illustration one).



Illustration one

Post card with a 1d experimental coil cancelled 18 September 1935.

Illustration two



Father Bodkin continued to use the 1d coil paste-up coils during the first half of 1936 as well as 1d booklet stamps in correspondence with Emma in Dublin. Father Bodkin is also known to have sent postcards to his sister in separate envelopes over the during the years (3)

The undated Postcard was sent to Emma by Father Bodkins under separate cover. The card asks Emma to address correspondence to him at Clongowes Wood College, Naas rather than Sallins. This card was also used by David in his article.

There are several interesting facts to note about coil stamps used in Naas during 1936 and the correspondence of Father Bodkin with Emma during June 1936.

(A) The 2d vertical coil stamp can be found with Naas Postmarks from early 1936 through November 1936. (See Illustration two to the right). David states that there are over 60 verified 2d vertical coils used from Naas (4).



Illustration three

Postcard to Emma in Germany (postmarked 2 VI 1936) with two 1d booklet stamps. The trimmed perfs. on the right side and full perfs. on the left of the stamps are typical of booklet stamps.



Illustration four

Postcard to Emma now in Austria. 2d vertical coil postmarked 10 VI 1936 with a 13 June arrival in Vienna.



The top stamp in illustration two shows the 2d vertical coil on a part envelope postmarked 13 Feb. 1936, The Middle three Stamps are postmarked with a Naas Parcel Post cancel (circa 1936) and the two lower stamps September (on part of an envelope) and November 1936. It would be interesting to see what other dates exist for Naas postmarks in 1935 and 1937 (or later).

(B) Emma was on vacation in Germany and Austria during late May and the first three weeks of June 1936 and Father Bodkin sent her weekly postcards using two 1d Booklet stamps on 2 June and the 2d vertical coil on 10 June and 16 June. (5) (see illustrations three four, and five). Emma was back in Dublin in late June as demonstrated by the postcard from Father Bodkin postmarked 27 VI 1936 with a 1d imperf. coil (see illustration five).



MacDonnell Whyte Ltd
Dublin

Illustration five

Postcard to Emma still in Austria. 2d vertical coil postmarked 16 VI 1936. This illustration is from the front cover of the 6 June 2011 MacDonnell Whyte Auction Catalog. Lot 667 sold for 21,500 Euros.



Illustration six

Postcard to Emma in Dublin. 1d imperf. coil is postmarked 27 VI 1936.

(C) The final postcard to the right to Emma with the 2d vertical coil is cancelled 26 XI 1936 --- an overpayment of 1d which is somewhat extravagant considering this was in the middle of the depression in 1936



Conclusion with questions:

- (1) No further 2d vertical coils are found on postcards to Emma after June 1936 until the postcard of 26 November. Most of the postcards sent during July 1936 to June 1937 have 1d experimental coils or 1d booklet stamps. Did the college have two coil dispensing machines, one for 1d stamps to pay for postcards and one for 2d stamps to pay for the sealed letter rate (hence the number of used 2d vertical coils found on part envelopes)?
- (2) Did the college run out of 1d imperf coil stamps in October / early November 1936. This might explain the use of the 2d vertical coil by Father Bodkin in late November. The 1d imperf coils used during 1935 through October 1936 are well centered while the 1d imperf coils used from December 1936 to June 1937 show a distinct shift to the right. This would suggest that a new 1d imperf coil was installed in the Dispensing Machine in December 1936.
- (3) Did the 1d and 2d vertical coils with Naas postmarks emanate from Clongowes Woods College in Sallins as postulated by David MacDonnell or did the Naas Post Office also have a coil dispensing machine? Or is there another explanation for the use of coils in the Naas area? (6)

Coils continued:**End Notes and Other Musings**

(1). MacDonnell, David:- Father Mattie Bodkin and the Rare Coil, Die Harfe Nr. 122 pages 6 to 11

(2). Correspondence between Father Bodkin and Emma began in the 1920s and continued into the 1970s. Emma appears to have saved most of the Postcards which now fill two shoe boxes. Father Bodkin (26 June 1896 to 2 November 1973) was the youngest son of Judge Matthias Bodkin. Father Bodkin became a Jesuit priest in 1916. He also studied history at University College Dublin and taught at Clongowes, Mungret and Belvedere. Father Bodkin wrote many articles and books on religious subjects and boys adventure stories. He was a Chaplain in The Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946 and he wrote about his impressions of the Tokyo Fire Bombings during his visit on HMS Anson in December 1945.

(3). Most of the postcards sent to Emma had a religious or art theme on the front. Father Bodkin had an older brother Thomas who was a lawyer and avid art collector and a Director of the National Gallery of Ireland (1927 to 1935) This may explain the family interest in art and hence the art theme of the postcards. It would be interesting to see if anyone can find correspondence between Father Bodkin and his brother --- maybe some additional vertical 2d coils used on postcards can be found.

(4). MacDonnell Whyte Ltd Auction Catalog, 6 June 2011 lot 667.

(5). The postcard rate to Europe was 1 1/2d in 1936 and the 2 cards to Emma were overpaid by a 1/2d. The college and Bodkin began using 1 1/2d stamps in 1940 when the postcard rate increased by a 1/2d.

(6) In recent communications with Roy Hamilton-Bowen, Roy disputes the theory of coil vending machines being used at Naas or Clongowes Wood College during the 1930s. Roy states that he has seen a large number of coils over the years with Naas postmarks, but he does not recall seeing any coils with signs of separation caused by a dispensing machine. Roy recalls that during the early 1980s, that a woman came into the Hibernian Stamp Company (where Roy worked) with a Box Full of Coil Leaders. It would appear that her father was postmaster of Naas during the 1930s and he was impressed with the wide use of coils in Sweden which he investigated while on holiday there in the early 1930s. The postmaster, it is said, regularly ordered coils from Dublin and Roy suggests that the Postmaster convinced Clongowes Wood College to buy stamps in 1d and 2d coils rather than sheets

**Illustration seven**

Postcards to Emma in Dublin with 1d imperf coils. The lower coil is postmarked 14 X 1936 and is well centered as are the 1d imperf coils from earlier in 1936. The upper two coils are postmarked 7 XII 1936 and 10 I 1937. Both show a progressive shift to the left suggesting a new 1d imperf coil was installed in December.

Editor's Note: Enlarging this image caused a blurring. The top stamp is also shown on page 57.

The 2d vertical coil Postmarked from Loch Garman (County Wexford) shows the trimmed perforations at the bottom and miscut perforations at the top, indicating that the stamp came from a dispensing machine. It would be interesting to see if anyone has 2d vertical coils (or other coils) from Naas showing the miscut perforations.

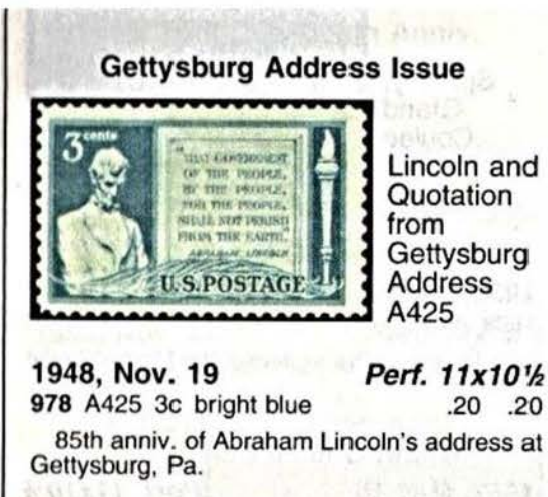
A Lifelong Labor of Love: the Education of Stamp Collecting

By Barton R P Holcomb

It all started in 1949; I was 8 years old, and confined to a small bedroom in East Los Angeles, California with severe asthma. Out of sheer boredom one day I noted an unusual stamp on a letter that arrived in the morning's mail. It was Scott Catalogue No. 978, the Gettysburg Address Issue. Of course I did not know it at the time. However having nothing better to do, and my father had just recently scammed to a fast talking door-to-door salesman, and purchased a 24 volume set of the encyclopedia of Britannica. I decided to look up the Gettysburg Address.

That's how it began; stamps became my learning tool, I started collecting stamps and looked up each one in the process learning more history, geography, math and science that year than I could have accomplished in several years at a school. In fact, to this day I can still recite the Gettysburg Address from memory. By seventeen I had an extensive commemorative collection. I did not collect the definitive US stamps because I just could not afford them. However there was one collection which I still have today which included definitive stamps with imperforated guide line pairs.

At 17 I joined the Navy and for the next 30 years I traveled the world sailing the seven seas. Still collecting stamps as I could, and keep it up through my second career, until 1999, when I realized that there wasn't much left to add to my US collection, at least anything I could afford. In 2000, I placed most of my collection at auction, and started my current collection of Irish stamps.



I am now 72 years young, and have an almost complete mint never mounted Irish collection of overprints, definitives, commemorative, and booklets, with many of the overprint errors and verities. I still research each stamp, still learning. I produce my own album pages with descriptive information for each item. I am now expanding my collection to include all the various entries listed in the Hibernian handbook and catalogue. Just ordered the 2014 edition and can't wait to see what is new. I prefer mint stamps to used as they provide an unobstructed view of the full beauty of the stamp. However used does provide the added pleasure of researching where the stamp was posted from.

The Stamp that started it all, 64 years of enjoyment and learning.

Where to from here?

I would like to help others with their collecting efforts. Currently, I provide free appraisal service and advice to other collectors through our church, but would like to do more.

I have been toying with the idea of starting an Email stamp trading club, where collectors could send in a list of say 50, stamps they have for trade or sale and a list of 50, stamps they would like to acquire. I could then correlate the list and notify the parties whenever there was a match between a want list and a trade list, along with fielding questions, and providing general information about stamp collecting. I would like to keep it as strictly an Email gathering, and my involvement would be only to review the list and inform through Email the pertinent parties of a match in a list. Any actual trading, buying or selling of stamps would be a private transaction between the parties involved. I would consider publishing the list of wants and have, maybe twice a year. If we keep it strictly an Email group there would be no need for a lot of rules or dues and fees. Keeping it free and voluntary should keep it fun and enhance everyone's enjoyment of the hobby.

In my experience there are two areas of collecting where sharing with others is greatly needed: The sharing of information, especially about unusual or newly discovered material. We have the resources out there. The thing is, other than your personal circles of fellow collectors who do you go to for information. The second challenge is what do you do with the large amount of extra material collected over the years. And where do you find that odd stamp you need that never seems to be available through normal channels. The Email stamp group could fill the void in these areas. Please give me some feedback at Colirish@gmail.com.

Editor's note: On behalf of the ÉPA thank you for your service in the US Navy! GO NAVY!

Dear Liam,

I have recently found 9 envelopes in a auction lot here in Copenhagen. I spotted 2 envelopes from Borrisakane to Dublin April and October 1851 with an embossed free figure in the NE corner, which I have not have seen before.

I looked for some information on the internet and did find an article called "The history of envelopes 1840-1900" by Maynard H. Benjamin, but did not find anything about my embossed free envelopes. Using the Revealer DVD of issues 1-257, I searched for "free" and did find an article by James P. Gough in the April 1976 Revealer.

Now I know a lot more, but I would like to know if there after 37 years have been found more information about this type of envelopes e.g. the numbers "sold" - are they rare or..?

Kind Regards

Iben Olsen
Member 2441

If anyone has any information on such free envelopes, please contact the Revealer editor.



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A meeting with Pádraig Ó Mathúna during our recent visit to Ireland By Robert Benninghoff

Jean and I had the honor and privilege of visiting with long term EPA member Pádraig Ó Mathúna during our recent trip to Ireland (1). Pádraig has lived on the Dingle Peninsula for over 15 years. He retired from Cashel to be part of the Irish speaking community. The weather was fabulous for late April and Pádraig greeted us in grand style showing us around his large garden and house, decorated with his numerous paintings, ceramics and metal workings. Pádraig is a retired Chemist (Pharmacist) who has created many internationally acclaimed works in gold, silver and bronze. His ability to work in different media allows him to move his Irish history themes through metal, porcelain or onto canvas without becoming bored or suffering from artist's block.

A photograph shows the Blasket Islands and Sleat head on the Dingle Peninsula in April. The Peninsula is home to the Blasket Centre interpretive museum: a must stop for everyone interested in the Irish language, culture and postal history. (for more information visit www.heritageireland.ie). Another photo shows Pádraig in his living room, holding a silver bowl with ornate patterns, and he is surrounded by his various paintings, ceramics and metal workings.

In addition to his many other talents, Pádraig is both a collector and exhibitor of modern postal history including a detailed study of the mail into and from Northern Ireland internment camps (late 1969 to 1985); Francis Phillips a Sinn Féin member who read the Irish Independence Proclamation in Cashel on Easter Sunday 1918 and was interned by the British Government in Cork and Belfast for several years (3); and First World War German Prisoner of War correspondence from the camp at Richmond Barracks near Templemore, Co. Tipperary (4). Pádraig has promised future articles and exhibits from this material.

Pádraig and I first met at Stampa in 1986 when I was showing my Irish Overprint Harrison Coils and I learned that Pádraig had made a detailed study of the Gerl Definitive Coils as well as discovering the 3d 1968 Booklet coils. Pádraig says that his training as a chemist and an artist during the late 1940's gave him the keen sense of detail that has allowed him to spot the differences between stamps in a series including the color shades of the 28p brooch from Irish Heritage and Treasures Definitive series. The normal black and red orange stamp is shown on cover postmarked from Dublin 26 Aug 1993. The second cover is Postmarked Galway 19 Sept 1993 and shows a faded yellow orange color. Pádraig first reported this variety to *The Revealer* in 1995. Hopefully someone has some further thoughts on the cause of the yellow orange color variety.

End Notes

(1) Finding Pádraig's home required a bit of detective work, however, Jean discovered that his daughter, Niamh, owns a jewelry store, NU Goldsmith in Dingle (city), www.nugoldsmith.com. Niamh makes her Jewelry and shows several of Pádraig's gold and silver pieces.

(3) Pádraig has various letters into and out of the Cork and Belfast Jails showing that every inch of the letter and envelope was used for writing.

(4) The Richmond Barracks was used as a German POW camp during 1914 and 1915 when the prisoners were moved to England for fear that the IRA might try to free the Germans.



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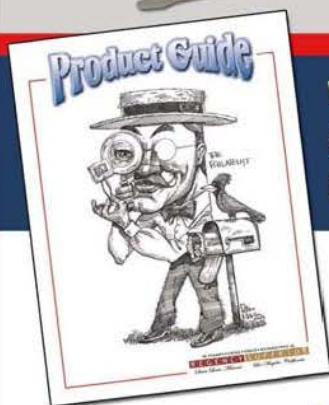


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