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Stephen Reinhold
Stephen Reinhold, President



John B. Sharkey
John B. Sharkey, Secretary

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Plan to attend the Annual Meeting at Chicagopex 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Richard Kelly

With summer now behind us the stamp collection season moves into high gear. The pace of auctions and shows picks up. The EPA is no different as it is time to be making plans to attend our Annual General Meeting during the Chicagopex show. Details of the show and the meeting are in this issue.

Why should you plan to attend the AGM? Attending the AGM offers you not only the opportunity to meet fellow collectors interested in Irish Philately but a chance to connect with some fellow members who have a vast knowledge regarding specific items of Irish philately that you may have an interest in. I look forward to seeing you at our table!

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,
3803 Foxglove Lane,
Fallbrook, CA 92028

John McCormack Chapter

Members reside in Greater Boston
Coordinator: Paul Bento, 107 Old
Common Rd., Auburn, MA 01501

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Winter: Dec. 12; Spring: Mar 7; Summer: June 7; Fall: Sep 7

Each Issue published about a 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 continued:

Congratulations are in order for the EPA regarding our new website. We received a Gold Medal from The APS, only one of three awarded. Tim O'Shea was able to attend the StampShow in Grand Rapids to accept our award. Details are in this issue. Congratulations are also in order for Roy Hamilton-Bowen, Roy's Hibernian Handbook and Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland, won a Large Vermeil at International Europhilex 2015 in London. This is the first FIP award for the Hibernian Catalog

In this issue you will find the annual dues notice and remittance envelope. We ask that you send in your dues promptly to help our Treasurer with recordkeeping. We appreciate your continued support of the EPA.

We are continuing to strengthen the editorial content of the REVEALER. In the future we will not be printing the special offers page in every issue, but will use this space for more articles. The special offers page will be printed at least once a year and is also on our web site. We would like to thank the APS for permission to reprint John Sharkey's article in this issue.

It is with deep regret that I must tell you on the passing of Bill Zeller. Bill was the Honorary chairman of the Board for the EPA since 1987. Prior to that he was President in addition to many other roles for the EPA. Bill was a pleasure to know and we will miss him. On page 20 of the Summer issue is Bill's obituary.

SECRETARY'S REPORT**New Members**

2885 Ganske, Gary L., 12568 Beaverton St, Nampa, ID 83686-8029
 2886 Cullen, Terry, 70 Woodside Dr, Lakeland, FL 33813
 2887 Collins, Michael

Deceased

2419 Watkins, Philip J., PO Box 159, East Olympia, WA

Change of Address

2729 Duggan, CSSP, Fr. E. Brendan, Rockwell College (St. Josephs) Cashel, Co. Tippeary, Ireland
 1690 Brennan, David J., 173 Victoria Drive Four Seasons Bldg 1, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Member Information Correction

2882 Barnes, Bill, 350 Victoria Road, Dun Vegan, NS, B0E 1N0, Canada

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
 2887 Collins, Michael, mcollins@vernier.com
 2886 Cullen, Terry, consulttvc@aol.com
 2885 Ganske, Gary L, ganskes@yahoo.com
 2500 Stewart, Robert W, bobstew617@gmail.com

Membership Status

Membership as of October 1, 2015	378
Life members of unknown status	12
Membership as of July 1, 2015	389
Complimentary mailings	23
Total Mailings	423

Science and Technology in Irish Philately

BY JOHN B. SHARKEY

When one thinks of Ireland, many things come to mind, including its rich literary and theatrical heritage, the beautiful green countryside and picturesque villages, its welcoming inhabitants, ancient manuscripts such as the *Book of Kells*, ruins of castles and monasteries, and perhaps its fine beer and whiskey.

Ireland, though, also has a rich scientific heritage, much of which is depicted on postage stamps. This is not a history of science and technology in Ireland, as many fine scientists have never appeared on an Irish postage stamp. In the interest of brevity, I have omitted numerous topics, including energy and resource conservation, natural gas, fauna and flora, archeology, and space travel, all of which have appeared on Irish postage stamps. Many of these could serve as the content of a full article. I have not included noted scientists who have appeared on Irish stamps, but have no known connection with Ireland; for example, Madame Curie, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, and Galileo Galilei. Instead this article focuses on what are commonly known as the physical sciences, namely chemistry, physics, astronomy, and earth science.

Antiquities

From 1990 to 1995, Ireland issued its seventh definitive series, Irish Heritage and Treasures, celebrating its rich tradition in metalworking, which dates to 2000 B.C.

When deposits of copper, an essential component of bronze, were found in Ireland, the island became an important port of call for traders from Europe and the Near East. Gold, another native element, helped to make Ireland a wealthy center of manufacturing, and the people displayed their prosperity with splendid gold jewelry.

The gold dress fastener shown [Figure 1] was discovered in 1820 at Clones, County Monaghan, and dates from 700 B.C. the late Bronze Age. The goldsmiths who made this and other personal ornaments were among the most skilled in Europe in their day.

In the fifth century A.D., Saint Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland. As religious communities grew, the church developed the need for decorated metalwork for its sacred vessels. The Ardagh chalice [Figure 2] displays the full ornamental repertoire of the eighth century Irish artist: the spirals are accompanied by knotted animals in the Germanic Saxon tradition, interlaced or knotted threads, and geometric patterns which have Near Eastern ancestors. Scott 791.



Figure 1. A gold dress fastener dates from 700 B.C., the late Bronze Age. Scott 777.



Figure 2. The Ardagh chalice displays the full ornamental repertoire of the eighth century Irish artist: the spirals are accompanied by knotted animals in the Germanic Saxon tradition, interlaced or knotted threads, and geometric patterns which have Near Eastern ancestors. Scott 791.



Figure 3. The Scandinavian tendency to use bold rhythmic interlacing curves is evident on the shrine of Saint Patrick's bell. Scott 793.

Ua Lochlainn, king of Ireland for more than 25 years before his death in 1121.¹

Scientists

Robert Boyle (1627–1691). In 1981, Anglo-Irish chemist and natural philosopher Robert Boyle, born in County Waterford, was depicted on one of four stamps [Figure 4] honoring scientists and their historic inventions in science and technology. Boyle was noted for his pioneering experiments on the properties of gases and his espousal of a corpuscular view of matter that was a forerunner of the modern theory of chemical elements.

In *The Sceptical Chymist* in 1661, Boyle attacked the Aristotelian theory of the four elements: earth, air, fire, and water. He spent much of his time at the University of Oxford where, with the help of Robert Hooke, he constructed an air pump. Boyle conducted pioneering experiments in which he demonstrated the physical characteristics of air



Figure 4. Robert Boyle with a drawing of his air pump. Scott 492.



Figure 5. Robert Boyle was honored again as part of the Significant Science Milestones set. One stamp commemorates Dublin City of Science 2012, and the other the 350th anniversary of Boyle's Law. Scott 1974 and 1975.

that have Near Eastern ancestors.

At the end of the eighth century, the first Viking expeditions raided the Irish coast. The Vikings introduced several ornamental styles that added a new dimension to the existing forms. The Scandinavian tendency to use bold rhythmic interlacing curves is evident on the shrine of Saint Patrick's bell [Figure 3]. The shrine is a reliquary made to preserve an ancient bronze-coated iron bell, which tradition associated with St. Patrick. An inscription on the back of the shrine records that it was made under the patronage of Domhnall (sometimes, Domnall)

and the necessary role of air in combustion, respiration, and the transmission of sound. Boyle's law, formulated in 1662, states that the pressure of a given quantity of gas varies inversely with its volume at constant temperature.² Boyle was honored again in 2012, as part of the Dublin City of Science set of stamps [Figure 5].

Arthur Guinness (1725–1803). [Figure 6] Science might not come to mind in the brewing of beer, but it is one of the oldest examples of applied biochemistry. The first step is to "malt" a grain, usually barley, by germinating it. This develops enzymes that convert starch into fermentable sugar. The Guinness Brewery was established in 1759 and today is a major tourist attraction in Dublin.

Nicholas Callan (1799–1864). Discoveries were the focus of the 2000 Millennium Issue III, which included Nicholas Callan [Figure 7], who pioneered electrical science. An Irish priest and scientist from County Louth, Callan was professor of natural philosophy (now called physics) in Maynooth University near Dublin. He was the inventor of the induction coil, which led to the modern transformer. He constructed a giant battery of 577 cells, producing enormous currents of electricity to the delight, astonishment and danger of his students.³ The National Science Museum at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, contains a collection of Callan's scientific apparatus and other scientific instruments. The museum now has the largest collection of scientific instruments on public display in Ireland.⁴

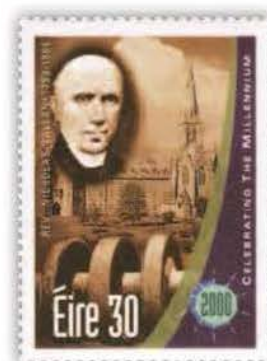


Figure 6. A portrait of Arthur Guinness on the bicentenary of the founding of the Guinness Brewery. Scott 172. Guinness also appears in 2009 for the 250th anniversary.

Sir William Rowan Hamilton (1805–1865). Hamilton was a mathematician and astronomer who developed the theory of quaternions, a landmark in the development of algebra, and discerned the phenomenon of conical refraction. His unification of dynamics and optics,



Figure 8. Sir William Rowan Hamilton is shown on a 1943 stamp honoring the centenary of his discovery of Quaternions. Scott 127.

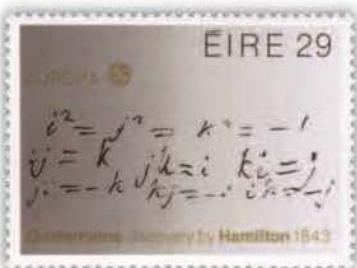


Figure 9. Hamilton was honored again in a 1983 Europa set; the 29p stamp showing the Hamiltonian equations. Scott 562.

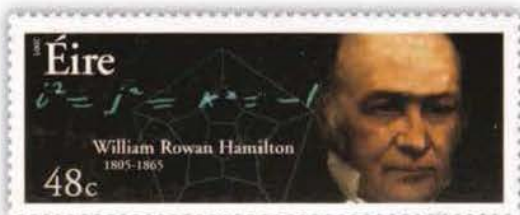


Figure 10. Hamilton was honored again in 2005, on the 200th anniversary of his birthday. The stamp was one of three stamps issued by Ireland to commemorate the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Year of Physics. Scott 1599.

moreover, has had a lasting influence on mathematical physics, even though the full significance of his work was not fully appreciated until after the rise of quantum mechanics.⁵

Hamilton appeared on postage stamps three times: in 1943 [Figure 8] on the centenary of his discovery of Quaternions, in 1983 as part of Europa [Figure 9], and in 2005 on the 200th anniversary of his birthday [Figure 10].



Figure 11. The centenary of radio is celebrated in a 1995 se-tenant pair showing Marconi and his laboratory apparatus, as well as a radio dial. Scott 973 and 974.

Guglielmo Marconi (1874–1937). [Figure 11] You might be surprised to see Marconi listed under Irish scientists but there was enough of an Irish connection between Marconi and Ireland to have a book written on the subject.⁶ The pioneer of radio communication had an Irish mother, Annie Jameson, granddaughter of John Jameson, founder of whiskey distillers Jameson and Sons. His first wife, Beatrice O'Brien, was daughter of Lord Inchiquin of Dromoland Castle, County Clare. Marconi's work in Ireland included the installations of his radio signaling stations at Crookhaven, Ballybunion, and Clifden, which in 1907 were the most advanced stations of their kind in the world.⁶ The first transatlantic commercial service was established between Glace Bay, Nova Scotia and Clifden.⁷

In 1909, Marconi and Karl Ferdinand Braun won the Nobel Prize in physics "in recognition of their contributions to the development of wireless telegraphy."⁸ Marconi was commemorated in 1995 on the centenary of radio. The story of Marconi and his radio may be found at the Cork City Gaol (a former jail) Radio

under Ernest Rutherford and received his Ph.D. in 1931. Working with John Cockcroft, he devised an apparatus by which, in 1932, they achieved the transmutation of atomic nuclei by splitting the nucleus of a lithium atom.⁹ Their successful apparatus helped to usher in the era of particle-accelerator-based experimental nuclear physics.¹⁰

Walton and Cockcroft won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1951 "for their pioneer work on the transmutation of atomic nuclei by artificially accelerated atomic particles."¹¹ In the mid-1930s, he



Figure 12. The centenary of the birth of Nobel laureate in physics Ernest Walton. Scott 1501.



Figure 13. Arms and Artifacts are depicted in celebration of the 350th anniversary of the Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin. Scott 700.

returned to Trinity College as Fellow and later as professor of natural and experimental philosophy.

Scientific Organizations and Societies

Goldsmiths of Dublin. The company of Goldsmiths of Dublin [Figure 13] was established in 1637 by royal charter of Charles I. It controls the manufacture and sale of all gold and silver wares in Ireland. The original purpose was to protect the public from fraud when buying articles of gold, silver, and now platinum. They are one of the leading precious metal testing laboratories in the world.¹²

The Royal Dublin Society. The soci-

ety [Figure 14] was founded in 1731 "to promote and develop agriculture, arts, industry, and science in Ireland."¹³ In 1795, William Higgins was appointed professor of chemistry and mineralogy. Evening scientific meetings were established for the communication of scientific discoveries, and instruments and apparatus were acquired for the



Figure 14. An abstract design celebrates pioneers in agriculture, the sciences, and the arts. Scott 514.

laboratories and public instruction. The society once held the central position in the scientific activities of Ireland.¹⁴

The Boyle Medal for Scientific Excellence, named for Robert Boyle, was inaugurated in 1899 and is awarded jointly by the society and the Irish Times for scientific research of exceptional merit and remains Ireland's premier science award.¹⁵

The Royal Irish Academy. Formed in 1785, the academy [Figure 15] champions Irish academic research. One of its principal roles is to identify and recognize Ireland's world-class researchers. It supports excellent scholarship and promotes awareness of how science



Figure 15. Commemoration of the bicentenary of the founding of the Royal Irish Academy. Scott 610.

and the humanities enrich our lives and benefit society.¹⁶

The Institution of Engineers of Ireland. Founded in 1835 as the Civil Engineers Society of Ireland [Figure 16], the institution promotes the art and sci-



Figure 16. The painting "The Key Man" by Sean Keating, commemorates the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Institution of Engineers of Ireland. Scott 648.

ence of engineering and the interests of that profession in all its specialist disciplines.

Geological Survey of Ireland. The GSI [Figure 17], founded in 1845, is Ireland's National Earth Science Agency. It is responsible for providing geological



Figure 17. Issued in 1995 to note the sesquicentennial of the founding of the Geological Survey, this 52p stamp shows a geological map of Ireland. Having taken 45 years to complete, the 1-inch-to-1-mile geological map of Ireland was the most detailed national geological map of its time. Scott 978.

advice and information, and for the acquisition of data for this purpose.

World Meteorological Organization. [Figure 18] Founded in 1873 as the International Meteorological Organization, in 1951 the WMO became a specialized agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate) and operational hydrology.¹⁷



Figure 18. A weather map of Ireland and part of Europe honors the World Meteorological Organization. Scott 332.

National Libraries and Museums

In 1977, An Post issued a pair of stamps honoring the National Library [Figure 19] and the National Museum of Ireland [Figure 20]. Ireland's National Library was founded in 1877, based on collections acquired from the Royal Dublin Society. Ireland's National Museum, also founded in 1877, opened its first building in 1890. It houses important collections of archaeological material and antiquities, decorative arts, folk-life, geology and zoology re-



Figure 19. A 16th-century manuscript containing tales of the Irish language, from the National Library of Ireland. Scott 411.



Figure 20. A prehistoric stone surrounded a burial mound from the National Museum of Ireland. Scott 412.

lating mainly to Ireland's past.

Observatories

Dunsink Observatory. The Dunsink Observatory in Castlknock was commemorated on its 200th anniversary in 1985 [Figure 21.] It was founded as an astronomical institution for the study



Figure 21. Commemorating the bicentennial of the founding of the Dunsink Observatory in 1785. Scott 608

of astronomy and of mathematical and physical sciences associated with astronomy. During the 19th century, the observatory achieved international importance as William Rowan Hamilton held the chair of astronomy from for almost 40 years. Since 1940 it has been part of the School of Cosmic Physics in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.¹⁸

Birr Telescope. The "Leviathan of Parsonstown" is the unofficial name of the Rosse six-foot telescope [Figure 22], found in Parsonstown (now Birr) in



Figure 22. A drawing of the Birr telescope issued in 2000 as part of the Millennium issue III, Discoveries. Scott 1219b.

County Offaly. This is a historic reflecting telescope of 72-inch aperture, which was the world's largest for 70 years. The telescope was constructed from 1842 to 1845 by William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse on his estate, Birr Castle.¹⁹

Colleges and Universities

Trinity College. In 1592, Queen Elizabeth I established Trinity College, Dublin on the original grounds of an old monastery then outside the city limits. The college, commemorated with a stamp for its 400th anniversary [Figure 23], now resides on 47 acres in the middle of Dublin. Medicine was the first scientific subject that was taught, and in 1711, a medical school was founded with appointments in surgery, medicine, botany, and chemistry. The present laboratory was constructed from 1875 to 1887. In the physics department, a succession of eminent physicists held the chair, starting with



Figure 23. The 400th anniversary of founding of Trinity College was celebrated in 1992 with a pair of stamps showing the college's library and main gate. Scott 872.

Richard Helsham in 1724. The School of Engineering was founded in 1841 when Sir John Macneill was appointed professor. One of the oldest engineering schools in the British Isles, its major reputation during the 19th century was for railway engineering.²⁰

On a recent trip to Ireland, I had the pleasure of viewing the *Book of Kells* in the college library. The book, created circa 800 A.D., is a stunningly beautiful manuscript containing the Four

Gospels. It is Ireland's most precious medieval artifact, and is generally considered the finest surviving illuminated manuscript to have been produced in medieval Europe.

Trinity College Botanic Gardens. The first botanic gardens of Europe were Physic Gardens, herb gardens with medicinal plants, primarily used for medical teaching. The first such Irish garden came into being in 1687 at Trinity College in Dublin [Figure 24].



Figure 24. A flower that was developed at the Trinity College Botanic Garden, which celebrated its tercentenary in 1987. Scott 687.

The Royal College of Surgeons. [Figure 25] The Dublin Society of Surgeons was founded in 1784 "to establish a liberal and extensive system of Surgical Education." At that time, surgeons were trained separately from physicians. The earliest part of the current building, which still houses a medical



Figure 25. The Royal College of Surgeons celebrated its bicentenary in 1984 and appeared on one of two stamps honoring medical institutions. Scott 590.

school, was started in 1825. The college has a significant collection of micro-



Figure 26. In January 2015, An Post issued two stamps in celebration of Ireland's significant contribution to science. The one on the left shows a pattern version of the circle and square of the Trinity College Science Gallery's logo. The stamp design represents both the origin of the exhibition and the role in pushing the boundaries of science. Scott 2061 and 2062.

scopes and surgical instruments.²¹

Celebrating Science and Technology in Modern Times

2005 World Year of Physics. On March 14, 2005, An Post issued a set of three stamps to celebrate the UNESCO Year of Physics and scientific milestones. As mentioned earlier, one of the stamps, in Figure 10, celebrates William Rowan Hamilton on his 200th birthday. The other two stamps feature the headquarters building of UNESCO in Paris on its 60th anniversary (Scott 1600) and Albert Einstein (Scott 1601) on the 50th anniversary of his death.²²

Dublin City of Science 2012. The year 2012 was a momentous year for science in Ireland. Firstly, Dublin was selected to host the City of Science 2012 festival, a yearlong celebration featuring more than 160 events, including Euroscience Open Forum 2012, Europe's largest scientific conference. Secondly, it was the 350th anniversary of the formulation of the famous Boyle's Law.

An Post issued two stamps (Scott 1974–1975) under the title of Significant Science Milestones. One stamp depicts the Convention Centre Dublin, where the Euroscience forum was

held, and the molecular structure of DNA. The second stamp features Robert Boyle.²³

Celebrating Science, 2015. On January 7, 2015, An Post issued two stamps (Scott 2061–2062) [Figure 26] in celebration of Ireland's significant contribution to science, from Walton and to today's budding young scientists, whose school projects win international awards. The Science Gallery is a public science center at Trinity College. The stamp shows a pattern version of the circle and square of the Science Gallery's logo. The BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition is a schools science competition founded in 1965. The stamp design represents both the origin of the exhibition and the role in pushing the boundaries of science.²⁴

Endnotes

1. *Treasures of Early Irish Art 1500 B.C.–1500 A.D.* The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1977, pp. 50–51.
2. *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. 15th ed. 2007, Vol. 2, p. 447.
3. Henry Boylan, *A Dictionary of Irish Biography*, 3rd ed. 1998, Robert Rinehart Publishers, pp. 55–56.
4. www.maynoothcollege.ie/national-museum-maynooth/archives.
5. Reference 2, vol. 5, pp. 662–63.
6. Michael Sexton, *Marconi: The Irish Connection*, Four Courts Press, 2005.
7. *Nobel Lectures, Physics 1901–1921*, Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1967.

8. www.nobelprize.org; the Official web Site of the Nobel Prize.

9. An Post, September 16, 2003.

10. Ref. 3, p. 439.

11. www.nobelprize.org, The official website of the Nobel prize.

12. (www.assay.ie/About-Us/Organisation-of-the-board-etc)

13. www.rds.ie

14. Mary Holbrook, *Science Preserved, A Directory of Scientific Instruments in Collections in the United Kingdom and Eire*, 1992, Trustees of the Science Museum, 1992, p. 231.

15. www.rds.ie

16. www.ria.ie

17. www.wmo.int

18. Ref. 14, p. 224.

19. *Ibid* 14, p. 222.

20. *Ibid* p. 232–233.

21. *Ibid*, p. 230.

22. An Post, March 14, 2005

23. *The Collector*, March 2012, p. 8–9, An Post, Irish Philatelic Service, www.irishstamps.ie.

24. *The Collector*, January 2015, pp. 12–13, An Post, Irish Philatelic Service, www.irishstamps.ie.

The Author

Dr. John B. Sharkey is emeritus professor of Chemistry at Pace University, and a fellow of the American Chemical Society. His philatelic interests are chemistry and physics on stamps and the stamps and postal history of Ireland. He is currently the secretary of the Éire Philatelic Association. He has been a member of the APS since 1980. This is his first submission.

ÉPA Web Site Wins Gold

The American Philatelic Association has awarded the Éire Philatelic Association's new web site a Gold in its annual web site competition. The competition judges web sites based on content and layout and provides suggestions for improvements.

The new web site, two years in the making, includes past copies of the association's quarterly journal *The Revealer*, an online auction, the ABC's of Irish Philately, publications on Irish philately, a loan library, features on current events, links to other philatelic organizations, awards, a slide show of our annual meeting and much more. Plans for addition to the web site include examples of award-winning exhibits and online articles.



Roy Hamilton-Bowen

Auction # 93 October 31st, 2015

Mail-Bid and Live on-line!

Here are a few of the high-lights:



ALL of the lots can be viewed from early October at
www.liveauctioneers.com/auctioneer/harpman
and at our stand at Stampa 2015 in Dublin

Literature Review: *The GPO 200 Years of History*

By
Stephen Ferguson

Having visited the General Post Office (GPO) and Museum in Dublin as part of the ÉPA visit to Stamp in 2012, I was greatly interested in learning more about the GPO, so I purchased Mr. Ferguson's book when it was published in 2014. Mr. Ferguson is well qualified to write such a book as he has spent many years in the GPO where he works as Assistant secretary of An Post and curator of the GPO museum.

Permit me to quote from the excellent description of the book on the cover leaf: "One of Ireland's most iconic buildings, the GPO has been witness to two centuries of Irish history. The foundation stone of the building was laid on 12 August 1814 and, as the head office of An Post, it remains one of the oldest operating postal headquarters in the world. In the course of the GPO's history, it has represented both independence and empire and is forever linked with that small band of Irish men and women who, in 1916, made it the command post of a rebellion." In fact, it is the rebellion that is the most eloquent part of this book, in my opinion; but more on that later.

The first section gives a brief history of the Post office in Ireland, relating that there was no formal arrangement for the delivery of mail until the establishment in the late 1640s, by the postmaster of Dublin, of a staging system along the three main roads out of Dublin, to Cork, Galway and Belfast. Because of high rates, the post was beyond the reach of most Irish, until, in 1840, Rowland Hill standardized penny postage throughout Britain and Ireland. The post office continued to grow and improve with contracts given to the railways to carry mail, and the development of the pillar-box by Anthony Trollope, who worked for the Post office in Ireland for several years. The addition of banking, telegraphs and telephones made the Post office the greatest department of the state.

By 1807, it had become apparent that the old postal facility on the College Green was inadequate and plans were started for the construction of a new Post Office, the GPO. The next section of the book introduces us to Francis Johnston the architect of the GPO. Not everyone liked the proposed location of the GPO on Sackville St (now O'Connell St) as it was not in the center of Dublin. The proximity to Nelson's Pillar, the massive Doric column built in 1808, would offer complementary structures and provided a symmetry, balance and harmony of style that added to the grandeur of the street. The author has high praise for Johnston, who had worked on many other buildings in Dublin: "To each building he brought an integrity of approach that sought to blend his stark architectural simplicity with the practical requirements of its function." The foundation stone for the new GPO was laid on 12 August 1814 and was open for business four years later on 6 January 1818.

The Post office secretary, in charge of the day-to-day operations of the GPO and other staff lived in the GPO. It is not surprising that business and pleasure, personal and private lives were inevitably intertwined. The author relates that the result was an institution that lacked a system of corporate governance. Errors in accounts, frequent embezzlement of private property, and irregular mail delivery led to loud complaints from the Public. It was the aforementioned Anthony Trollope who came to the rescue and converted the Post Office, run on the basis of friends and influence, to an institution of national importance organized on adherence to systematic procedures and detailed rules.

By far the most fascinating part of this book covers perhaps the shortest piece of the history, the six day period from April 24 to April 29, 1916; the Easter Rising. As Ferguson states: "As our country prepares to mark the centenary of that event, many historians, through the study of new evidence and accounts that continue to emerge, are hoping to open fresh perspectives on a week that left a legacy of division as well as a fire of inspiration." The author, through his role at the GPO has on occasion met descendants of people who took part in the rebellion. "The memories and stories passed down to them reflect, to a great extent, the broad range of aspirations, qualities and emotions that possessed the small band of men and women who occupied the GPO

Literature review contd.

The author relates why the GPO was chosen as the site of the Rising; the men and women involved, and the devastation to the building, reminders which can still be seen to this day.

This reviewer will not attempt to summarize the thirty-four pages of the book that deal with the Rising, as it is must reading for anyone interested in the history of Ireland.

The book is well researched, using primary sources of information from the British and Irish military and architectural archives. More than ninety official publications were used as background material. The book is filled with numerous photographs, official documents and architectural plans, which greatly assists the reader in visualizing this history. Finally, for the philatelist, there are several stamps and covers that document and commemorate this important time in Irish history. I highly recommend this book to the student of Irish history.

Reviewed by John B. Sharkey

April 24, 2015



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*AGM will be held on Saturday, November 21, at 2:00 pm
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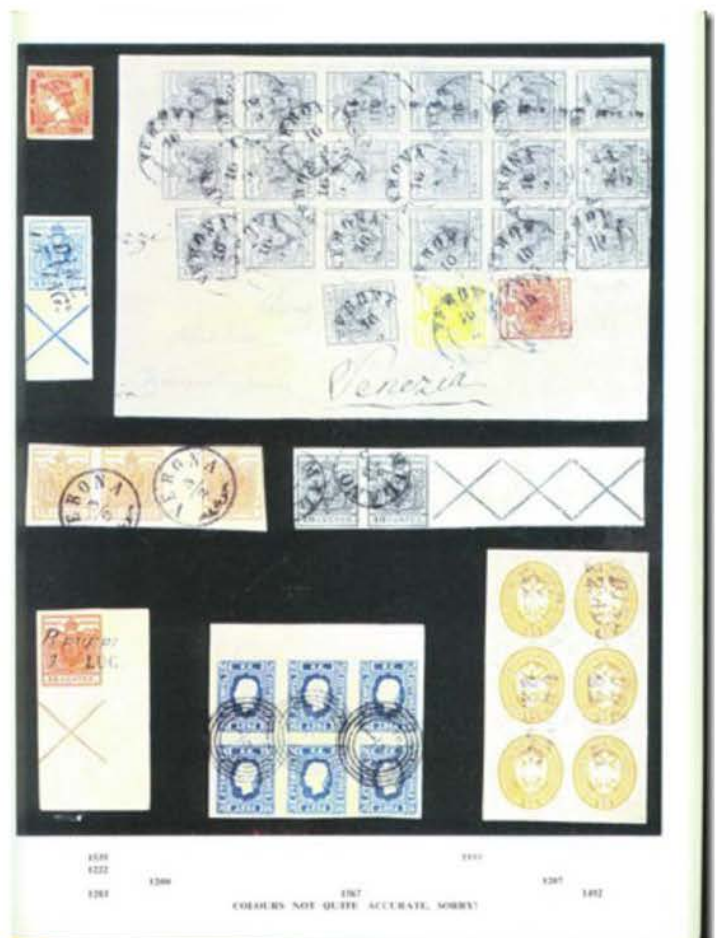
Shanahan's Stamp Auction Catalogues with Colour Plates

By Mervyn Wood FRPSL

An article published in the Summer 2014 issue of "The Revealer" recalled the Shanahan's stamp auction catalogues and the colour plates previously recorded by Edith Hillman many years ago. I had come across Edith Hillman's article in the Fall 1987 "The Revealer". She regarded these colour images as a novelty and added that there may not have been permitted previously, certainly not in the USA.

This was not a subject of wide philatelic interest. Not a single reader responded to my appeal to anyone with copies of the early Shanahan's catalogues to check for colour plates and advise me – or better still to let me have the issue if no longer replied. Many of these old catalogues are still available on-line but at high prices. Eventually a helpful dealer I contacted agreed to look at a few he had on offer. He produced two relevant issue dates – 2nd and 9th May 1959 – but he was not prepared to follow up with any scans. Once I had these two dates, I was able to obtain the scans required with the help of a very obliging librarian at The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Colour plates are shown below. These were early days for economical high quality colour printing so the publisher added on the 9th May page under the Lot #'s -
"COLOURS NOT QUITE ACCURATE. SORRY !



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Auction Watch

As of this issue a withdrawn Captain Jack White stamp sold on ebay for \$708. The sale prices seem to be getting lower than in the first few months after being issued and withdrawn.

An imprint block from Frank Geiger's World of Stamps sold for over \$3,000.

A block of 4 of the 1976 US Bicentennial 15p Franklin stamp without the silver was listed at

From the Editor's Vault:

6D to pay delivery fee postage due railway parcel stamp dated 2/31. Affixed to a piece bearing a block of six 1 1/2D George V with Altrincham Cheshire parcel post handstamp.

The Editor encourages members to submit items from your collections with brief write ups.



Reynolds' 1938 Cover
by Georg Mehl

One of the best-known generals in the prewar Italian Fascist government was Italo Balbo. General Balbo made a number of flights in the 1930s to various countries, trying to demonstrate the renaissance of Mussolini's Italy as a world military power. Some of Balbo's flights were well-known and publicized, such as his trip to the World's Fair in New York in 1938. Italy issued a number of air mail stamps that commemorated Balbo's adventures.

In 1938, Balbo flew off from New York to the Irish island of Dairbhre (Valentia in English), which lay off the coast of County Kerry, on a brief stopover before flying on to Rome. To commemorate his stopover, a well-known American airmail postage collector, George Reynolds, had postage covers prepared. The cover, illustrated below, consists of a strip of three 1 schilling stamps (Scott #76) from, the one pence stamp from the same series (Scott #66, and a 5 shilling overprint 'Saorstas Eireann 1922' (Scott #77). The stamps are post-marked in English, Valentia Island, with the date August 5, 1933. The cover is addressed to George Reynolds, Rome, Italy, but the letter itself was forwarded to Reynold's U.S. address in Howard Beach, New York. Two Italian postmarks (Rome) can be found on the back of the letter.



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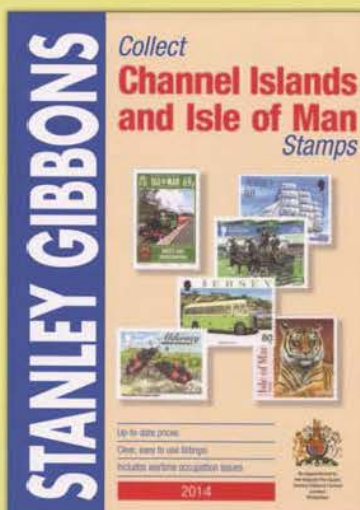
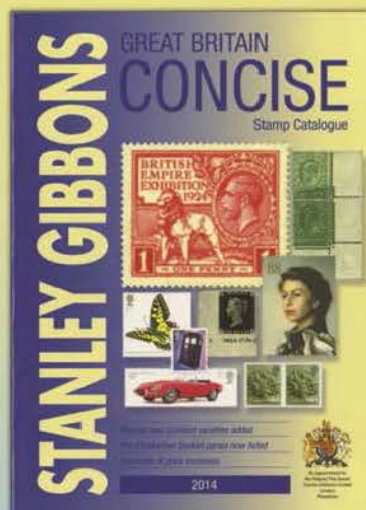
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