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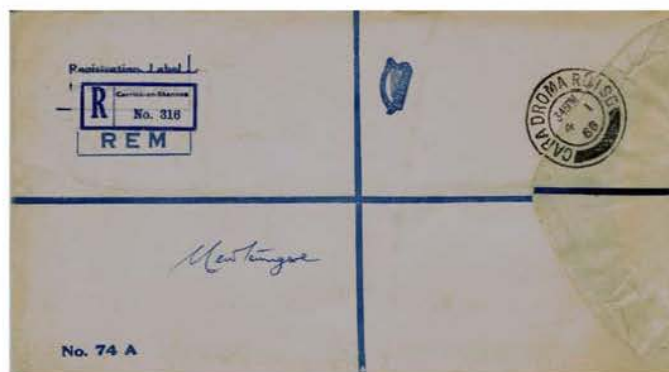


County Clare

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The GPO after the Rising



Remittance Mail

Plan to attend STAMPA, October 14-16, 2016 in Dublin.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Richard Kelly

I am sure there are some questions about the changes in this REVEALER issue and I will get to them shortly. But first I have some sad news to share with the passing of our former President Paul Bento. Paul passed away on August 12 after a short illness. His contributions to the EPA where many and an obituary is in this issue. Personally I got to know Paul as his Vice President and his kindness in showing me the ropes was much appreciated. Paul was a kind and considerate person and always willing to help the EPA. He finished his last project in early spring transitioning the library to a permanent home, see his report in the Spring issue. Please keep Paul's family in your thoughts and prayers.

In this issue are two important items that we need your help on. The first is the general election of officers.

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: John B. Sharkey,
1559 Grouse Lane, Mountainside, NJ
07902

James Hoban Chapter

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

John McCormack Chapter

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Coordinator: Timothy O'Shea, 58
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9516

Lone Star Chapter

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Coordinator: Robert J. Joyce,
14302 Oak Shadow,
San Antonio, TX 78232

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San Carlos, CA 94070
cpalermo@h35g.com

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

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](mailto:kellyrd@sbcglobal.net)

President's Message continued:

No, I am not referring to the US Presidential election but of the EPA officers and Board! Please send your ballots to our secretary, John Sharkey.

Also in this issue is the annual dues renewal. Please send in you renewal promptly to help make the process efficient. The dues have increased from the last annual meeting and we hope this does not represent a burden to any one. Assistance is available to help cover the increase for those who need assistance.

After many complaints regarding the condition of the REVEALERS being delivered, the Board has decided to go to a poly overwrap mailer. This overwrap replaces the tinted color wrap previously used and hopefully will minimize the damage from post office machinery. The change will also allow us to start making other changes to increase the editorial content while maintaining the overall cost per issue. Please e-mail me with any feedback you may have.

In addition, the auction is now on a separate sheet of paper that can be used independently. In the future, the membership application and special offers will not appear in every issue as they are on our website. They will appear in print at least once per year.

The passing of a friend like Paul Bento is always a cause for reflection. When I spoke to Paul a week before his death, we discussed an upcoming auction and some items he had an interest in. Paul loved stamp collecting and the joy he received from it. We have a wonderful hobby. Please make the most of it.

Dear EPA Members.

It is time for 2017 dues to be remitted. Check your mailing label. If the Expiration date shown is 2016 or earlier, please use the enclosed envelope to bring your account current.

**You may also pay your dues through the EPA web site - www.eirephilatelicassoc.org Log in and go to EPA Resources: From the drop down menu, select Membership Renewal. Select your area of residence and make payment.
Dues rates are: \$20.00 USA; \$25.00 Canada; \$30.00 Rest of the World**

Checks may be sent to: Eire Philatelic Association; PO Box 3036; Seminole, FL 33775

If you wish to make a direct deposit to the EPA Bank of Ireland account, please send me an email at bclanz@aol.com and I will send you the instructions.

If you feel my records are in error, please contact me at bclanz@aol.com

SECRETARY'S REPORT**New Members**

2902 Richard W Powers, 749 Crab Thicket Lane, Des Peres, MO 63131

Deceased

2328 Paul Bento, 107 Old Common Rd, Auburn, MA 01501

Resignations

430 Richard A Sullivan, PO Box 1253, Stockton, CA

Change of Address

1956 Heinz-Jurgen Kumpf, Schützengasse 6/3, A-1030 Wien, Austria
2716 Barton R Holcomb, Tokkerodparken 26, 5462 Morud, Denmark
Gus Winters, 205 East 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

Richard W Powers, rwp11891@aol.com
Barton R Holcomb, colirish@gmail.com

Membership Status

Membership as of September 5, 2016	381
Life members of unknown status	12
Complimentary mailings	23
Total Mailings	416

Ireland 1916 – 1924: Milestones on the Road to Independence

By Hans Bergdolt (Translation: Ronny Vogt; Edited by Liam Malone)

Ireland, the Emerald Isle, had been ruled by England since the 12th century. It was the property of the British crown and formed part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. After repeated uprisings, property was mainly passed on to English immigrants since the 16th century. The Irish-born population lived mostly in poverty. Because of the increasing anglicization the Irish Irish/Gaelic language fell into disuse in many parts to a large extent. It survived only in small areas along the Atlantic coast in the south-west.

The second half of the 19th century saw a strengthening of national consciousness. This was also spurred on by the high number of emigrants, especially so after the Great Famine 1845/49. It is said that in those years at least one million Irish died of starvation and another one and a half million Irish emigrated. Important milestones on the way to Ireland's independence were the Easter Rising 1916, the Anglo-Irish War 1919 – 1921 and the Civil War 1922 – 1923. They all have shaped the political landscape in Ireland. Their impact on the postal system is shown herein by the author, based on documents in his collection.

Patriotism before 1916

The emigrated Irish, especially the ones in the US, preserved the love for their home country even in later generations. Several Irish-national movements were established in the second half of the 19th century, followed by formations in Ireland such as the "Land League" and "Home Rule". One of these Irish movements, the "Gaelic League" (or "Conrad na Gaedilge" in Gaelic), was founded 1893 in Dublin. It advocated Irish national consciousness and acted already in public.

The card from Argentine (**Fig. 01a and 1b**) was addressed to „Conrad na Gaedilge“ in „At Cliath“, i.e. „(Baile) at(ha) Cliath“, the Irish name for Dublin. The post office in Dublin was not able to decipher this address in 1900. It was therefore postmarked at the General Post Office (GPO) with the "Insufficiently Address/186" stamp (186 was the numeral postmark for Dublin since 1844). It was only in the "R(eturned) L(etter) O(ffice), Dublin" (upper right) that the address was correctly translated. Lower left "The Gaelic League, Dublin" in red. Also very aesthetic patriotic postcards were used. **Fig. 02**, used in 1911, shows the personification of Ireland, the "Irlanda" with the harp, an emigrant ship and the Irish Wolfhound. The text praises the Irish singer: "Thy Harp-striking bards sing aloud with emotion: Erin Mavourneen! Sweet Erin Go Bragh!"

Easter Rising 1916

The patriotic movements were very much in vogue. They did not, however, always reach the majority of the Irish population. Nonetheless some of them, including the "Irish Volunteers" and the small "Irish Citizen Army", initialised a general uprising on Easter Monday, 24 April 1916. Some 1000 men (more?) occupied the most important public buildings from 24 April until 30 April, and proclaimed the independence and autonomy of Ireland. The GPO on Sackville Street served as their headquarters.

But the Easter Rising was doomed to fail. Great Britain intervened with overwhelming military force. Gunboats on the Liffey, the river running through Dublin, and English artillery shattered the GPO to ruins along with other notable buildings. The GPO burnt down and was destroyed; only the outer walls were still standing (**Fig. 03 and 04**). Many of the insurrectionists were killed, and the survivors were executed or interned. Today, Some parcel roller postmarks were also used as emergency postmarks. **Fig. 09** (left) shows an example with the inscription DUBLIN. The large-format postage due letter in **Fig. 10** was postmarked with a single line circular skeleton postmark no. 6, normally used only internally. Some of these postmarks are known to having been used externally during this time.

The picture postcard shown in **Fig. 03** (showing the destroyed GPO on the front) was postmarked on the back with the internal postmark no. 10. The sender wrote on 9 May, 1916 (**Fig. 11**): "Dear Liz, this is to let you know that I arrived without accident after a long but uneventful journey. On the way I caught a glimpse of some of the damage done, and it is terrible. Hope to be able to have a look round to-morrow. Love to all, Peter".

For the efficient handling of telegram forms, the post and telegraph offices were using acceptance certificates, and payment was confirmed with stamps. After forwarding the telegrams, the acceptance certificates were sent from the local post offices to the GPO where they were very reliably destroyed. The acceptance certificate shown in **Fig. 12** is for a telegram that was posted on 22 April 1916, at the Four Courts post office in Dublin. The acceptance certificate was then sent to the GPO for destruction.

The impact of the Easter Rising

The majority of the Irish did not support an insurrection before and during the Easter Rising. Additionally, the Rising was not coordinated with other nationalist groups. The rebels were considered muddle-heads or mad-men and were, at least partially, treated with hostility. But that quickly changed. Witnesses stated (and this was confirmed by the large number of victims) that the British Army exercised extreme brutality, killing many casual bystanders as well. The Army not only arrested participating rebels but also significant Irish civilians. After the uprising, the rebels were brought before a court martial, and many of them were shot execution style. These tough measures together with the executions, like so often in history, aroused a defiance and national pride. Soon the Irish were looking at the dead of the rebellion as martyrs.

The surviving insurrectionists were interned in Great Britain, together with other "enemies of the state". In their camps they formed discussion groups – today they would be called "cells" – and created there the theoretical basis for what became the Irish constitution. They also planned the next steps on the road to independence. In 1917 and 1918 they were released. But the desire for internal autonomy had grown into something different: the desire for complete independence.

Fig. 01a: 1900. The special cover from Argentina was not valid for foreign countries, therefore, as required, a "0" was added to the value and a "T" for tax. The deficit was fixed at 0,5 French francs (the currency unit within the UPU). The "F(oreign) B(ranch), L(ondon)" re-calculated the tax and doubled it to 1D. This amount was collected in Dublin from the recipient. D and d are abbreviations for pence and penny.

Fig. 01b: 1900. The text of this letter ends with "Viva el Brasil! Viva la Argentina! Viva la Irlanda!"

Fig. 02: 1911. From Binghamton/N. Y. to Co. Limerick. The producer of this embossed card was Raphael Truck & Sons, London. Their postcards were printed in Europe but sold in the US.

Fig. 04: 1916. 'Sinn Fein Rebellion 1916. Inside the General Post Office, Dublin'. The postcard shows British military inside the destroyed GPO after April 30.

Fig. 05: 10 July, 1916. This postcard was thrown into a letterbox without stamps. Despite the rebellion postal services were continued. In the relocated GPO the missing postage was doubled from ½d, postage due fixed and marked at 1D, and the tax was collected from the recipient in England.

Fig. 06: 1916. Parcel postmarks are mute, therefore undated. The receiving post office in Clifden, Co. Galway, applied an arrival postmark of May 18.

Fig. 08a and 8b: 1916. Telegram with accompanying envelope (right) addressed to Mr. Kenny, A V C.

Fig. 09: 1916. Parcel emergency postmark to London.

Fig. 10: August 15, 1916. This cover was franked for the first weight step. Inland rate 1d up to 1 oz). The weight was determined to be 2 oz, requiring 2d. The missing postage was doubled and a postage due of 2d was fixed: 2D/186. A further check resulted in a weight of 2 to 4 oz, requiring a postage of 2½d. The missing 1½d was doubled to make 3D.

Fig. 11: 1916. Internal emergency postmark with a report on the devastations in Dublin.

Fig. 12: 22 April, 1916. Telegram acceptance certificate, paid 9d for 18 words. Shortly after the insurrection a previous owner noted on a piece of paper: "A wad of telegraph forms, understood to have been picked up in Sackville Street after Rebellion and the destruction of the G.P.O. All forms are dated 'April 22nd 1916, Four Courts Dublin' and were obviously government property."

Fig. 13: Contemporary picture postcard of the Four Courts building in Dublin. A handful of telegram acceptance certificates from the Four Courts post office survived.

The Easter Rising had roused Irish society. After 1916, the Irish boycotted all possible British institutions and created parallel structures: Jurisdiction took place in the Irish Arbitration Commissions; at local levels the Irish managed on their own; the elected Members of Parliament boycotted the London Parliament. Everywhere people discussed how to get on.

During WWI and afterwards England realized that they could not control Ireland any longer. The permanent number of troops was too expensive. Attempts to solve the conflicts were made at a conference from July 1917 to March 1918, in Dublin, which was initiated by the British Government. Here an attempt would be



Fig. 1



Fig. 1a



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

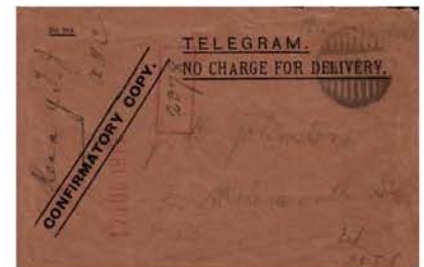


Fig. 8a



Fig. 8b



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

made to solve the "Irish Question" and to bring the inner Irish and the British points of view closer. The conferences broke up in April 1918, because the groups centered around Sinn Féin and Unionists from Ulster each insisted on their own demands. Sinn Féin wanted independence for the entire island, whereas the delegates from Ulster still wanted their county to be part of Great Britain. For this conference the first special cancellation was produced: IRISH CONVENTION/DUBLIN. The philatelists in Ireland used this conference to get a lot of beautiful covers. One of these is shown as **Fig. 14**.

Anglo-Irish War: 1919 to 1921

Those elected Members of Parliament of the later Republic of Ireland met in 1919 in Dublin as "Dáil Éireann". At the same time the Irish Republican Army (IRA) as the military wing of the political parties was established. At that time the IRA was a liberation movement. The conflicts with Great Britain escalated, and it turned into an underground war. Basically the IRA and the British Army fought against one another. At that point the Irish population had sympathy for and supported their fighters. In the meantime the IRA controlled a major part of the country. They captured post mailings, robbed these and in some cases stamped these with CENSORED BY IRA, **Fig. 15**.

Great Britain finally had to accept freedom for Ireland. The two countries signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921. This treaty included a restricted sovereignty for the future "Free State of Ireland", and membership in the Commonwealth and Great Britain as sovereign head of state. Keeping six counties in Ulster as part of Great Britain were especially highly controversial. These ultimate demands from British side had the following consequences. In the northeastern part of the island, some counties in the Province of Ulster were "British", i.e. the inhabitants of the island felt themselves as British as opposed to the "Irish", who were in the majority. They were descendants of immigrants from the 17th and 18th Century, who did not assimilate as the former immigrants did. A major reason was caused by the different religions. Great Britain was Anglican, and the immigrants stayed with this, whereas the Irish remained Catholic. Nevertheless this partition was not a pro-Irish or pro-British religious borderline.

A British-initiated plebiscite had already taken place in 1920, and in the province of Ulster it had shown that six counties wanted to stay with Great Britain, whereas the rest wanted to be part of the new Irish Free State. This led to the British demand that these six counties stay with her. This is the origin of today's Northern Ireland with her six counties; Antrim, Armagh, Londonderry (Derry), Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone.

And even after independence British troops stayed in the Irish Free State. It took a long time until they were withdrawn. They had their own Postal Office, the A(rmy) P(ost) O(ffice) D.41 (=Dublin). They carried their own post and this was handled according to the British Post Rules, e.g., with its own registration labels and at the British prices (Registered 5½d within UK, instead of 5d from Ireland to Great Britain).

The cover, **Fig. 16**, dated 25. Sept. 1922, shows the British Field Post Army cancellation, and a handwritten R-Label APO 4. During the period 10 to 29 September 1922, no post can be found from Ireland, as the Irish post clerks were on strike.

Civil War 1922 to 1923

The political leadership of Ireland had to accept restricted sovereignty as well as the partition of the island. On January 16, 1922, the Provisional Government of Ireland was established: RIALTAS SEALADAC NA hEIREANN. Parts of the political establishment rejected the treaty, mainly because of the partition of the island. The IRA – the Irish Republican Army ("Old-IRA") was opposed to the treaty. The conflict between the pro-treaty and anti-treaty adherents escalated at the beginning of 1922, leading to a civil war between the Provisional Government and the IRA. The General Post Office (GPO) in Sackville Street was destroyed in 1916, and services were transferred to the Rotunda-Building, also situated in Sackville Street. The building was completely destroyed during the civil war. On November 6, 1922, it burned down. However, documents were salvaged from its remains (**Fig. 17, 18a and 18b**). The Provisional Government won the civil war and put the IRA fighters under internment. In spite of the military success much sympathy for the IRA's goals was still alive. This also had an influence on the conditions in the gaols. The prisoners maintained the own law and order. It has been told that members of the prison staff even left in the evening. The IRA controlled the incoming and outgoing post to avoid betrayal. Often, as in Kilkenny Prison, post was stamped with a censorship cancel: PASSED BY I.R.A./ PRISON CENSOR (**Fig. 19**). But despite the defeat in the Free State, the IRA continued to fight for a long time in Northern Ireland (**Fig. 20a and 20b**).

Provisional Government of Ireland and the Irish Free State

From January 1922 the government in Ireland was the "Provisional Government of Ireland" – RIALTAS SEALADAC NA hEIREANN – until the IRISH FREE STATE – SAORSTAT EIREANN - was established at the end of 1922. The provisional Government established its postal authority from the beginning and British stamps were no longer valid after March 31, 1922. But in spite of this the invalid British stamps were still used. Examples with surcharge are **Fig. 21, 22a and 22b**.

After signing the treaty at the end of 1921 a great number of changes started, e.g., new stamps or British ones with a Gaelic overprint. British stamps were mainly overprinted in Dublin, but in London too as follows:
4/5-Line Overprint: RIALTAS SEALADAC NA hEIREANN 1922, Provisional Government of Ireland 1922
3-Line Overprint: SAORSTAT EIREANN 1922 – Irish Free State 1922.

A philatelic document from August 1923 shows (**Fig. 23**) all valid stamps of ½d; correctly to 2d: British Postal Stationery for Printed Matter (valid to 1924), the two types of Overprints on the British stamp: 5-Line (emission February 17, 1922) and 3-Line (emission December 11, 1922) and finally the first Irish emission: Sword of Light from April 20, 1923.

In spite of all this, Ireland remained economically and politically dependent on Great Britain for decades. By law it has been independent since 1949, when it left the Commonwealth and the Republic was finally declared. Northern Ireland remains part of the UK – since 1922 as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Fig. 14: January 17, 1918. Slogan IRISH CONVENTION, DUBLIN, on an invalid postcard (since 1901) with a portrait of Queen Victoria.

Fig. 15: 1921, Mail controlled by IRA

Fig. 16: September 22, 1922. Registered postal stationery from British Army Post Office in Dublin to London

Fig. 17, 18a and 18b: Letters damaged by water and fire from the GPO in the Rotunda. The Postal Authority stamped the reason for the delays – SALVED FROM/FIRE GPO DUBLIN – in black and blue ink. The receiving address on the water-damaged letter (Fig. 18a) was re-constructed, and on its back the salvage stamp was added again (Fig. 18b). The Post stamps are now partly in Irish, e.g. CORCAIGH (Cork), and BAILE ATHA CLIATH (Dublin)

Fig. 19: 1922: Postal censorship in the IRA-controlled gaol at Kilkenny. Handwritten R(eached) October 27.

Fig. 20a and 20b: December 26, 1922, IRA raid on the Post Office of Tynan, County Armagh, NI. As the stamps came from a raid, the cover was marked as unpaid and 3D, double postage for a letter to The Irish Free State of the British inland postage of 1½d. In Limerick, Irish Free State, was the postage due collected. But as Ireland did not get its own postage due stamps before 1925 British ones were still used.

Fig. 21: 1923: Letter sent from Dundalk – DUN DEALGAN – by using a British 1½d stamp with George V - portrait. The British stamp was not accepted and framed; the Irish inland rate of 2d was doubled and the postage due postmark 4D/TO PAY/187 was added (the numeral 187 was for the Post Office of Dundalk). The Post Office BLINDELL SANDS/ LIVERPOOL accepted the doubling, but also accepted the British stamp and reduced the postage due by this amount. For that reason the British stamp of 1½d cancelled was there and only 2½d collected from the receiver.

Fig. 22a: July, 1924: British 1½d used as payment to USA, but sent from PA SRAID SHÉ A MUIS, ÀTH CLIATH, until 1922 James's Street, Dublin. The British stamp was not valid, so a T was put on in Dublin and 6c postage due was charged by the Post Office in New York.

Fig. 22b: 1924. Picture postcard showing the O'Connell Monument on O'Connell Street, renamed from Sackville Street. In the background to the left is the GPO, damaged in 1916 and not rebuilt until 1924.

Fig. 23: 1923. All ½d valid denominations

Sources:

- Reynolds: A Brief History of the General Post Office Dublin, 1983
- Elvert: Geschichte Irlands, dtv Wissenschaft, 1993
- Die Harfe, Zeitschrift der Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland e.V. im BDPH
- Tieger: Unbekannter Nachbar Irland, 1988 - Wikipedia



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20a



Fig. 21



Fig. 22a



Fig. 22b

Fig. 20b below

I.R.A. raids in P.O.'s - No Stamps available

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Fig. 23

REMITTANCE MAIL

by Raymond H. Murphy

It is said necessity is the mother of invention: in the late 19th century, the British Isles had many post offices serving almost every town, village and hamlet. People often didn't travel far walking predominated for distances up to 10 miles, the horse was used for intermediate distances, and the train for longer ones. Banks, on the other hand, were confined to larger towns or cities. This resulted in the Post Office savings accounts serving as a bank with the Postal Savings accounts, but that is another story.. The result was that post offices accumulated money, especially coins, not only from the sale of postal services, but also that of banking. In addition, the Post Office was often the only government agency in a town, and provided many services, such as dog licenses, and revenue stamps.

The accumulation of cash created a problem - it made the isolated postal stations a target for robbers. Moving the cash overland was also a problem. The term "highway robbery" meant exactly that. The problem became "How can we safely transport money from the retail post offices into accounting offices. Also, how can we securely resupply money instruments

As a final precaution to insure money packets didn't go astray, specially marked envelopes, made of cardboard, allowed shipment of coins as well as notes. These envelopes had large lettering REMITTANCE or REM and were addressed to the Dublin accounting office or regional office. [Figure 1]

Being registered mail, the envelopes were handled by only a few trusted employees. Prepared by the local postmaster or postmistress, they were conveyed by secure means with army or police protection, if necessary, to the final destination. They were not handled by the regular post office staff, only those individuals involved with registered mail.

Fig 1: REM envelope 102A preaddressed to Dublin.

To replenish stocks of postage or revenue stamps, an order form, 2REM, was prepared by the postmaster and sent to the supporting depot or Aldboro House, the central Post Office Depot in Dublin, which shipped the order by return registered mail.[Figure 2] The example shown here is the M.P.19 "Application For Stamps, etc". This for allowed for ordering stamps by values, and also included savings certificates, tax stamps, social insurance stamps, dog licenses, and television receiving licenses. A separate form, the M.P.307, "Requisition For A Supply Of Revenue Stamps", allowed the office to order a number of different special purpose revenue stamps, such as land registry, registration of deeds, and judicature stamps. These forms include a tear-off address label to insure the contents end up at the correct post office. [Figure 3]

Figure 2. Form MP19 for ordering stamps (partial copy).

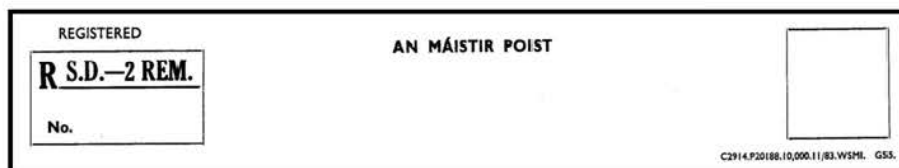


Figure 3. 2REM Address Label.

A very large example was the heavy No. 5A envelope, 12" x 17-1/3" used for shipping stamps. The portion shown in Figure 4 uses the M.P.362 address label to the Postmaster. Also of interest is the separate warning that the enclosed stamps were not to be sold until 10 October 1977.



Figure 4. Address label shipping new stamps to Gracedieu, Waterford Town Sub-office

REM envelopes exist in various sizes and designs. PO form 229 [not shown] or 229A [Figure 5], the smaller No 74A, [Figure 6], PO form 102 or 102A [shown in Figure 1], but a new PCHB38 was created in the 1980's. [Figure 7]. Since most information was pre-printed, once the money and accounting paperwork was completed, it was closed, sealed, (The post office canceller would serve as a dated sealer or wax seals could be applied.) and dispatched. Today the improvements in road, transport, the closure of many small post offices, and the expansion of banks and ATMs have mostly rendered this procedure obsolete.

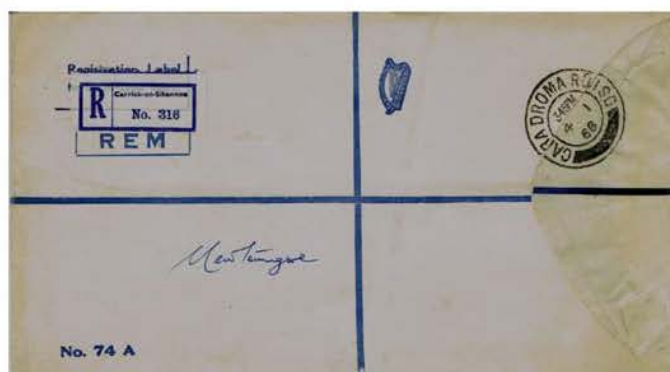


Figure 5. PO Form 229A

REM envelopes are scarce! The only reason some survived is that their construction of heavy cardboard allowed repurposing as file folders and storage containers. Covers are known from around 1900. The Dr Cyril Dulin collection had one envelope from the Provisional Government period, [Figure 8] and a few from the Free State era, (not shown) which are identical except for the lettering. Unfortunately, their heavy

paper construction led to their demise in the paper recycling drives before 1945 because Ireland did not receive regular shipments of wood pulp for paper manufacture from Canada.

The REM system was the solution to a problem facing the Post Office managers for about a century. Today, it is a problem for the postal historian because so few survived. For further information, see MacKay, James, *The Official Mail of Great Britain and Ireland*.



Fig. 6. No 74A, Carrick-on-Shannon to Newtowngore, 4/1/1966

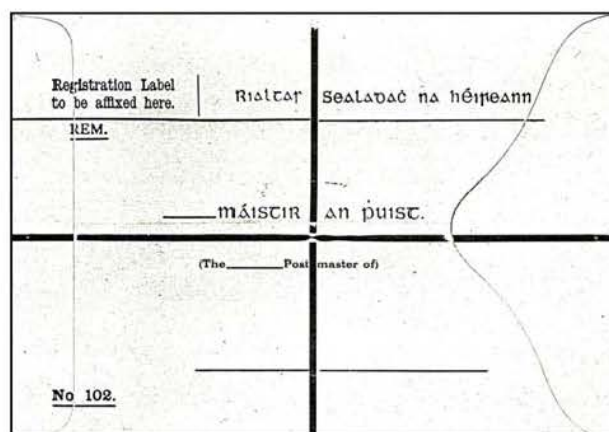


Fig. 7 REM of the Provisional Govt.

County Clare



We begin our tour of Clare by visiting what seems to me to be one of the most significant accomplishments of the then very young Republic of Ireland. The Ardnacrushna power plant (Scott 83) was completed and producing electricity just seven years after independence. Scott 83, Eire's second commemorative, is dated Oct. 15, 1930, and is a single black-brown 2p stamp marking the official completion of the Shannon Hydroelectric Scheme. The stamp image is a view of the immense dam at Ardnacrushna.

Imagine the intensity of the political opposition to a project that was consuming a *fifth* of the national budget. Although Ireland is a small country, perhaps a third in size of my home state of Ohio, Ardnacrushna was the largest hydroelectric station in the *world* until it was eclipsed by the Hoover Dam! At one time, fully 5,200 men were working on the project. Much of the needed equipment had to be imported from Bremen in Germany, and a narrow gauge railway was built to get the machinery and supplies to the construction site from the Limerick docks. In 1935, Ardnacrushna was providing 80% of the electricity used in Ireland.

Now we go to something as small as the hydroelectric power plant is big. Scott 444 shows a construction in Newmarket-on-Fergus, not far from Ardnacrushna, called the Belvedere at Dromoland. The Belvedere, which means "beautiful view," was built in 1744 on a hilltop by a wealthy individual to provide a panoramic view of the countryside. The Belvedere

allowed him to watch horses running in the countryside. Now isolated by modern roads, the Belvedere is not so much a place to visit as something to see as we drive by. From the Belvedere, one can see Ennis (Scott 695), which is our next stop.

A Fleadh Nua, or “New Festival” (Scott 695) has taken place in Ennis every May since 1974. There are more than 120 separate events over 8 days, and there is a welcome for everyone. The events include music, song and dancing workshops, and other street entertainment. If you’re not there for the fleadh, Ennis, which sits astride the Fergus River, is a pleasant town in which to stroll around. It is the county town, or what in the U.S. is called the county seat, for county Clare. Ennis was never a walled town, so when the penal laws forbade Catholics from living in walled towns, many Catholic merchants settled here.

From Ennis we make our way toward two of the high points of our visit to County Clare, indeed of our time in Ireland. One is the Burren and the other is the Cliffs of Moher. Scott 1544 shows the Cliffs of Moher which are the highest cliffs on the Atlantic coast of Europe, their maximum height being over 700 feet. The stamp shows an impressive side view, but the view from the top can be knee-buckling! The Cliffs of Moher is one of the most visited places in Ireland, attracting close to a million visitors per year. If you do get to the Cliffs, make absolutely sure you stay on marked paths, as there have been many instances of people slipping and going over to their deaths. On our first visit to the Cliffs, my wife and I had the unusual experience of looking down on a helicopter searching for someone who had slipped or jumped.

In 2007 the new Visitor’s Center was opened, having been built over a period of 17 years. It is built into a hillside and has displays covering the local geology, flora and fauna. We visited Ireland as this was being written, and we gazed up at the impressive view of the cliffs from the visitors’ center. In a scant few minutes the whole area was bathed in fog and we saw nothing but white when we looked out; An Atlantic squall had blown in. Our 13-year old grandson had already gone up to the top with his parents and sisters. What must have been a gale force wind blew him right off a path, fortunately to a safe spot! Subsequently, down in the parking lot after the wind had subsided a bit, I saw a fully grown man blown face down onto the sidewalk as people trying to get to their cars struggled to stay upright. Irish weather!

In 2011 the Cliffs and nearby Burren National Park had sufficient geological and tourist significance to be designated by UNESCO as a part of the European geoparks network, one of three in Ireland. Scott 1924 shows the Burren National Park. If you have not seen the Burren my description may sound fanciful, but it is truly a fantastic place. There is nothing like it in England or Ireland. The first time I stepped on the Burren, I felt that I was someplace other than on earth. Burren means “rocky place.” It is essentially exposed limestone in uneven slabs, with precious little soil occasionally showing in the cracks. The Burren was scraped into its present condition in the last ice age. In spite of what appears to be sheer barrenness life abounds in tiny plants and herbs. Lest you think I am exaggerating the barrenness, one of Cromwell’s officers famously lamented that on the Burren there is not water enough to drown a man, wood enough to hang one, nor earth enough to bury one.

IRISH TIME AND THE NEW MELLENNIUM

By Richard Kelly

All of us remember the advent of the year 2000 and the new millennium. Leading up to it we were bombarded by many mixed messages. The computers were going to all crash, we needed to stockpile food, stockpile cash as the ATMs will not work, and generally the world as we knew it was going to end. On the other side where new age thinkers where the world was entering a period of harmony and everlasting peace. The changing of a day with a new calendar was the answer to all of our problems. If only that was that easy.

Each night the evening news brought us reports of various groups and their theory of the future. Gold hoarders, food hoarders, survivalists, non believers and true believers. And on top of it all was the argument on when the new millennium actually was going to occur!

Well Irish Stamp collecting has finally reached the new millennium with the 2015 Scott catalog recording Ireland stamp #2000! Volume 3 of the 2015 catalog G-I was issued in June 2014 and is the first issue to have stamp 2000. #2000 is the high value of the President Kennedy State visit to Ireland in 1963 set, issued on June 6, 2013.

I think it was brilliant of An Post to wait 13 years to issue stamp 2000 so we did not have to share our millennium with the rest of the world. Of course, Scott kept the excitement up by making us wait a full year before giving us the great news.

Scott shows that it took 59 years 9 months to reach number catalog number 500. The second 500 only took 14 years and 9 months with the third 500 being done in 7 years and 3 months. Strangely the last 500 to reach 2000 took 9 years and 9 months. Two interesting events help explain this. The Birds definitive series in the third group. This set starts with Irish currency, moves to the dual currency issues and ends with Euro valued stamps. The last 500 has much shorter list of definitives with the Flowers and Animal sets. Also Scott has not cataloged SOARS at this time.

Another interesting way to look at this is that catalog # 1000-1500 stamps took 32 columns of print whereas the next 500, 1501 -2000, took 48 and 1/2 columns. Every new issue seems to come with minor numbers for booklet panes and se-tenant pairs and strips.

The old Irish saying. " No Matter how long the day, the evening will come" seems appropriate as our party for #2000 is already in the past and we must now look forward to #3000.

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For more information and availability, contact Monica at mbrennan@sjcny.edu. No access to the internet? Please write to the Editor for more contact details.

From the Editor:

Dear Members,

Now that we are in the 100 year anniversary period of numerous defining moments in modern Irish history, expect to see an increase of writing on these moments. An Post started commemorating by devoting an entire definitive series to the Easter Rising. I showed many recent items such as sheets, SOAR labels, and FDCs in last Revealers. Since then An Post issued two definitive booklets, shown below.

I anticipate that An Post will release as many stamps memorializing the moments as it ever has for any topic. Afterall, the enthusiasm for the centenary of independent nationhood grows. Writers of modern Irish stamps and of modern Irish history are faced with a daunting decision: what will I focus on in my next philatelic article?

STAMPA 2016 focuses on the Rising commemoration and wouldn't it be terrific if we could somehow scan all the exhibits on this topic and get them on websites? Who will take the lead?

As Editor I will weigh each proposed article on these moments carefully and include peer consultation as appropriate. I expect writers to focus on the philatelic nature of the moments and what they mean for collectors of Irish philately. Articles promoting any of the several political or military groups may need heavy editing and neutralizing.

Our opportunity is to write great material to increase our philatelic knowledge and share it with the world. Some exhibitors told me that Show Judges say Irish Philately does not represent one of the more important areas, let's reverse this! Let's take the lead on telling judges and the world the philatelic story up to and through Irish independence. Let's prove that because Irish Philately enjoys a fractured history thus creating a desirable motivation for collecting Irish postal history and stamps.



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Paul J. Bento, president of the ÉPA from 2007 through 2012, passed away at his home on Friday, August 12, 2016 at the age of 73.

Paul began his career in education in 1964 as a science teacher at Hopkinton High School. In 1973 he became academic coordinator at the Joseph P. Keefe Technical School. In 1986, he was appointed Superintendent-Director, and implemented major building renovations. After retirement from Keefe Tech, Paul was appointed by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges as Director of the Commission of Technical and Career Institutions, a position he held for ten years. In 2014, Paul was the proud recipient of the Dr. David F. Cronin Award from the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators for his dedication and support to improving vocational technical education.

An avid stamp collector for over sixty years, Paul was an active participant in the Éire Philatelic Association for many years. Paul collected Irish slogan cancels, horse show labels, perfins, postage due material, and had a wonderful collection of postcards related to the Guinness Brewery in Dublin. Among his philatelic awards were the 2008 John J. Clark Award for outstanding service to the ÉPA, and the 2014 Thomas Edwin Field Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to Irish philately.

All of his friends at the ÉPA extend our deepest sympathy to Paul's wife Susan and the rest of his family; he will be missed.



Paul in the center receiving the Thomas Edwin Field Memorial Award in 2014.

Roy Hamilton-Bowen

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Éire Philatelic Association (International)

www.eirephilatelicassoc.org

Celebrating over 65 Years of Service to Collectors of Irish Stamps & Postal History

HISTORY

The Éire Philatelic Association was founded in 1950 by William J. Hickey and Neil Stack of the United States and F.R.A. McCormick of Ireland. They were soon joined by a relatively small group of collectors from Ireland, England and the United States who shared an interest in Irish stamps and postal history. The Association has flourished in the intervening years, maintaining its international character. Today, worldwide membership exceeds 400. The Éire Philatelic Association is affiliated with the APS, American Philatelic Association, and the FPSI, Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland.

PUBLICATIONS

One of the first activities of the association was the publication of its journal *The Revealer*. Published bi-monthly from January 1951 to September 1963, and quarterly since October 1963. Back issues and a cumulative subject index are available. The ÉPA has also published handbooks on various subjects. Whenever possible, arrangements are made to obtain for the membership other publications pertaining to Irish Philately.

MEETINGS

The Association conducts meetings in conjunction with major philatelic events throughout the year, both within the United States and in Ireland. In its many activities the ÉPA caters to the interests of both the beginner and the advanced collector of all phases of Irish philately.

AWARDS

The **Thomas Edwin Field Award** is given to the individual judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the cause of Irish philately. The **John J. Clark Award** is given to an ÉPA member judged to have contributed most to the Association during the year. The **Vince A. Linnell Award** is given for the best article in a single volume of *The Revealer* as voted by the membership.

EXHIBITION AWARDS

An ÉPA medal and certificate are available for exhibits of Irish Material at philatelic exhibitions.

SLIDE PROGRAMS

The Association has a number of slide programs available on various categories of Irish philately which may be borrowed for chapter and club programs.

AUCTIONS

Mail auctions, restricted to members only, are held quarterly to coincide with their publication in *The Revealer*. The auctions also appear on the Association's website (www.eirephilatelicassoc.org). The material ranges from the more common to the rare and comes from members who wish to consign material for auction. No buyer's commission is charged. A small seller's commission (10%) is charged with commissions collected going to support Association activities.

WEBSITE

The Association maintains an up to date website with news of society activities, a list of books and other special offer items available to buy, details of previous and future meetings, a history of the society, links to other Irish philatelic related websites, the ABC's of Irish Philately web pages showing some of the material collected by our members, and much more. The Association's Mail Auction is also online. Visit us at: www.eirephilatelicassoc.org.

DUES

Dues in the Association are as follows:

	<u>Sept 1st - Aug 31st</u>	<u>Life Membership</u>
United States	\$20.00	\$400.00
Canada / Mexico	\$25.00	\$500.00
All Other Countries	\$30.00	\$600.00

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Application is reviewed by the Secretary, and if it is found to be in order, the individual is notified that he/she has been accepted into the membership, subject to no objections being received by the Secretary following publication of the application in *The Revealer*. If so objection is received within 45 days of publication, the conditional status is removed and the individual is automatically admitted to full membership. During the interim period between application and admission to full membership, the individual shall enjoy all the privileges of membership unless objections were received.

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Send completed application along with check or money order, payable to the ÉPA, to the secretary:
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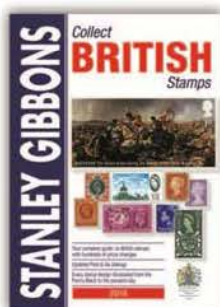
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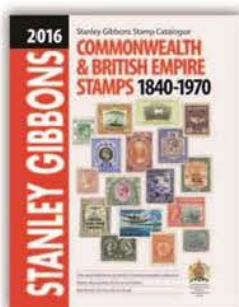
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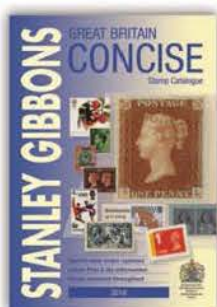
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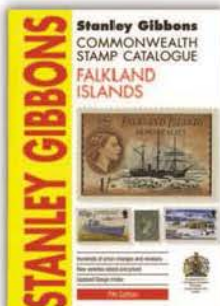
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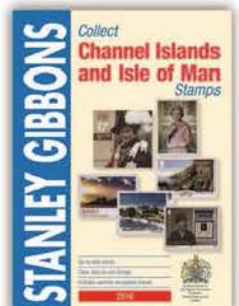
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