

the Revealer

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

VOL. 66 NO. 4

WHOLE NUMBER 285

GEIMHREADH

WINTER 2016-17



ISSN 0484-6125



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Happy New Year!

THE REVEALER**www.eirephilatelicassoc.org** ISSN 0484-6125Published quarterly by the Éire Philatelic Association:
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RAYMOND MURPHY **TIMOTHY O'SHEA****PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE****By Richard Kelly**

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and blessed Christmas. Best Wishes for a Healthy and Prosperous New Year. The philatelic season has restarted and activity will start. A good place to look is our quarterly auctions.

In our last issue we introduced our new packaging format and asked for feedback. Based on that feedback we have made some minor changes to this issue. Again, we appreciate any feedback you have.

Ireland is in the news with the introduction of Dog license stamps noted in the October 24, 2016 issue of Linn's. In addition our secretary, John Sharkey reports that December 23, 2016 issue of Coin World has an article on a 1866 Fenian Medal.

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 ChapterMembers reside in NJ, NY, PA
Coordinator: David J. Brennan,
PO Box 704, Bernardsville, NJ 07924**Connecticut Chapter**Members in CT & Western MA
Coordinator: Michael J. Conway,
239 Judd Rd., Easton, CT 06612**James Hoban Chapter**Members reside in MD, VA, DC
Coordinator: Liam Malone
PO Box 73037 Washington DC 20056**John McCormack Chapter**Members reside in Greater Boston
Coordinator:**Lone Star Chapter**Members reside in Central TX
Coordinator: Robert J. Joyce,
14302 Oak Shadow,
San Antonio, TX 78232**Northern California Chapter (NORCAL)**Members reside in Northern CA
Coordinator: TBD**Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)**Members reside in Southern CA
Coordinator: William A. O'Connor,
3803 Foxglove Lane,
Fallbrook, CA 92028**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION****Summer: May 1; Fall: Aug. 1; Winter: Dec. 1; Spring: Feb. 1****Each Issue published about a month after above dates.****The Revealer ADVERTISING RATES**

	size (inches)	per issue	4 issues (contract rate)
Full Page	7.375 X 9.75	\$160	\$550
Half Page Horizontal	7.375 X 4.875	\$90	\$320
Half Page Vertical	3.625 X 9.75	\$90	\$320
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 EPA has just published a new book by Heinz-Jurgen Kumpf, Sinn Fein Christmas Postal Service. Details regarding the book are in this issue and a copy can be obtained from Tim O'Shea our publications manager. Special thanks to Bob Benninghoff, who helped underwrite the publication.

I enjoyed very much the article regarding county Clare in the last *Revealer*. When visiting The Burren, a great place to visit is the Clare Heritage Center in Corofin. They have a nice museum and have many resources for historical and genealogical research.

If you have not yet renewed your EPA membership, please do so now. Thank you.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

2904 Adrian Healy, Postmaster—An Post, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Éire
 2905 John N. Cotter, 215 E 84th St 3-C, NY, NY, 10028
 2906 George Cvejanovich, 460 NE 105th St, Miami Shores, FL 33138-2046
 2907 Robert Brandt, 17436 Berwick Tpk, Gillet, PA 16925
 2908 Michael P Linthicum, Sr, 1421 Hampstead Terrace, Oviedo, FL 32765
 2909 David P Belesky, 1012 St Andrews Dr, Morgantown, WV 26508
 2910 Brian J Gallagher, 725 Reas Ford Rd, Earlysville, VA 22936-2306

Resignations

2805 Peter L Bergh, 11165 Howells Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80908
 1487 Walter R Potts, 406 Orleans Circle SW, Vienna, VA 22180-6470

Deceased

0872 Brian O'Loane, 3795 Bush Gardens Lane, Holt, MI 48842

Change of Address

1263 Laurence E Corr, 2004 Audubon Ave MC-213, Naperville, IL 60563-5306
 1069 Henry W Curran, Jr, 2700 Bayshore Blvd #583, Dunedin, FL 34698
 2729 Fr E Brendan Duggan CSSP, Parochial House, Athea, Co Limerick, Éire
 2861 Christopher J Palermo, 230 Alberta Ave, San Carlos, CA 94070
 2710 William J Regan, 3980 Deer Crossing Ct Apt 102, Naples, FL 34114-6407
 2806 John W Van Buskirk, 5771 Carriage Dr, Sarasota, FL 34243

New Email Addresses

2909 David P Belesky david.belesky@mail.wvu.edu
 1929 Robert Benninghoff mercer01@aol.com
 2330 Collectors Club of Chicago librarian@collectorsclubchicago.org
 2837 John J Curran jcurran1944@yahoo.com
 2729 Fr E Brendan Duggan CSSP ebduggan@vimmagemanor.ie
 2910 Brian J Gallagher brian.j.gallagher@comcast.net
 2904 Adrian Healy adrian.healy@hotmail.com
 2404 Anthony J Hughes anthony.j.hughes@mumail.ie
 2879 Michael J Morgan michael1179@centurytel.net
 2861 Christopher J Palermo chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com
 2710 William J Regan billregan17@gmail.com
 2806 John W Van Buskirk jvan73@verizon.net

Membership Status

New Members	7
Members as of January 1, 2017	349
Life members of unknown status	12
Complimentary mailings	23
Total Mailings	384

Ulster - Northern Ireland



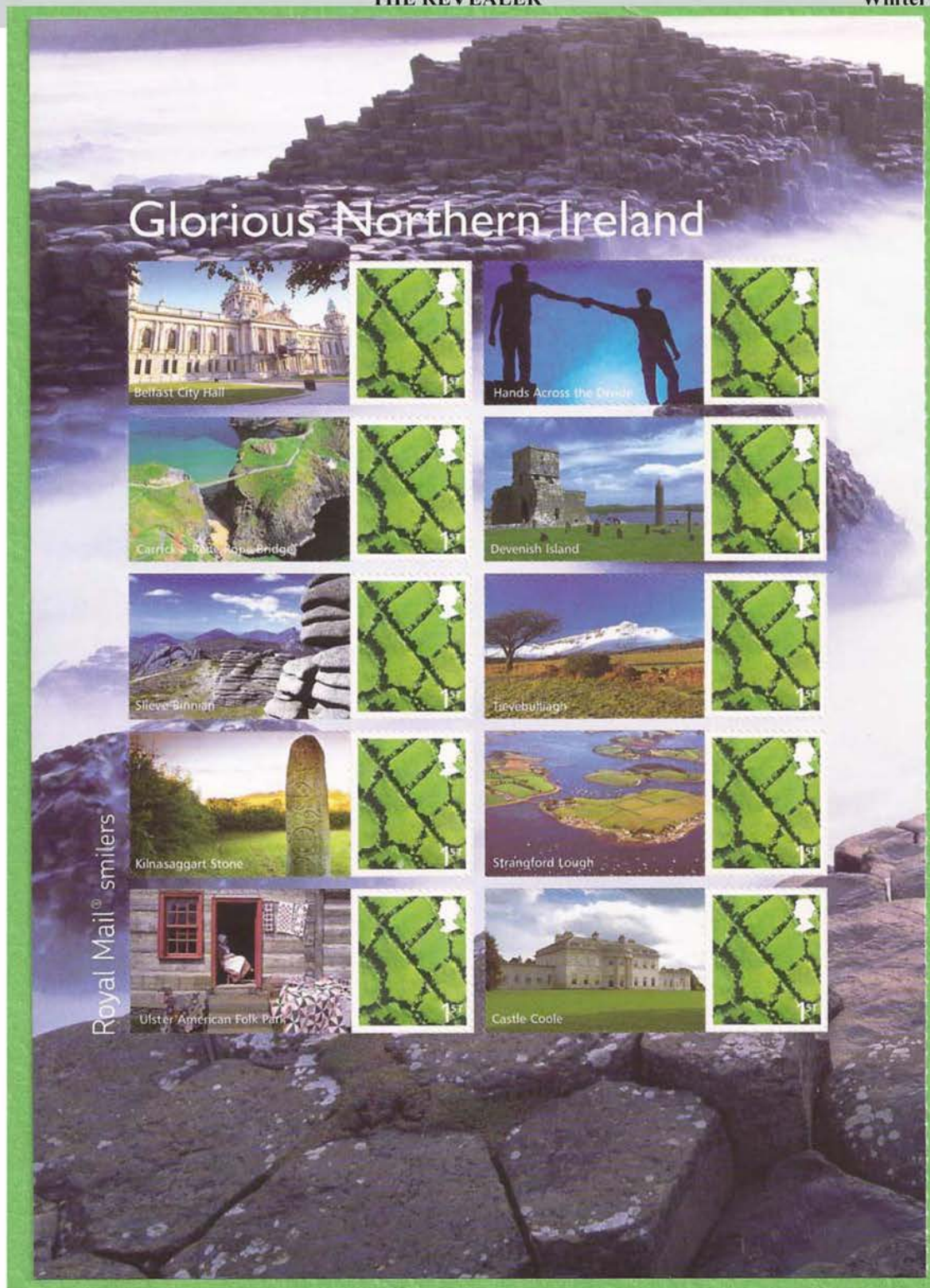
1853

1854

We now come to the six counties of the north, historically known as Ulster, though parts of the historical province of Ulster are in the Republic. A major change in the demography of Ulster came with the plantation in 1609 (Scott 1853 and 1854). This pair of stamps recognizes (I won't say "celebrates") the 400th anniversary of the 1609 plantation of Ireland, in which Irish landowners were dispossessed of approximately half a million acres of their land, which was then granted to English and Scottish settlers. Colonizing Ulster with Scottish Presbyterians and English members of the Church of England was seen in England as a way of preventing further rebellion, of civilizing and pacifying the Irish, and of converting the Gaelic Catholics to Protestantism. Roman Catholic Churches and all land owned by the church were granted to the Church of Ireland.

The wounds originally opened by the plantation have resulted in centuries of oppression and by atrocities on the parts of both Protestants and Catholics. While there is still bitterness between what is now Ulster and the Republic, much healing has occurred, symbolized powerfully by the handshake described above between the Reverend Ian Paisley and the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern.

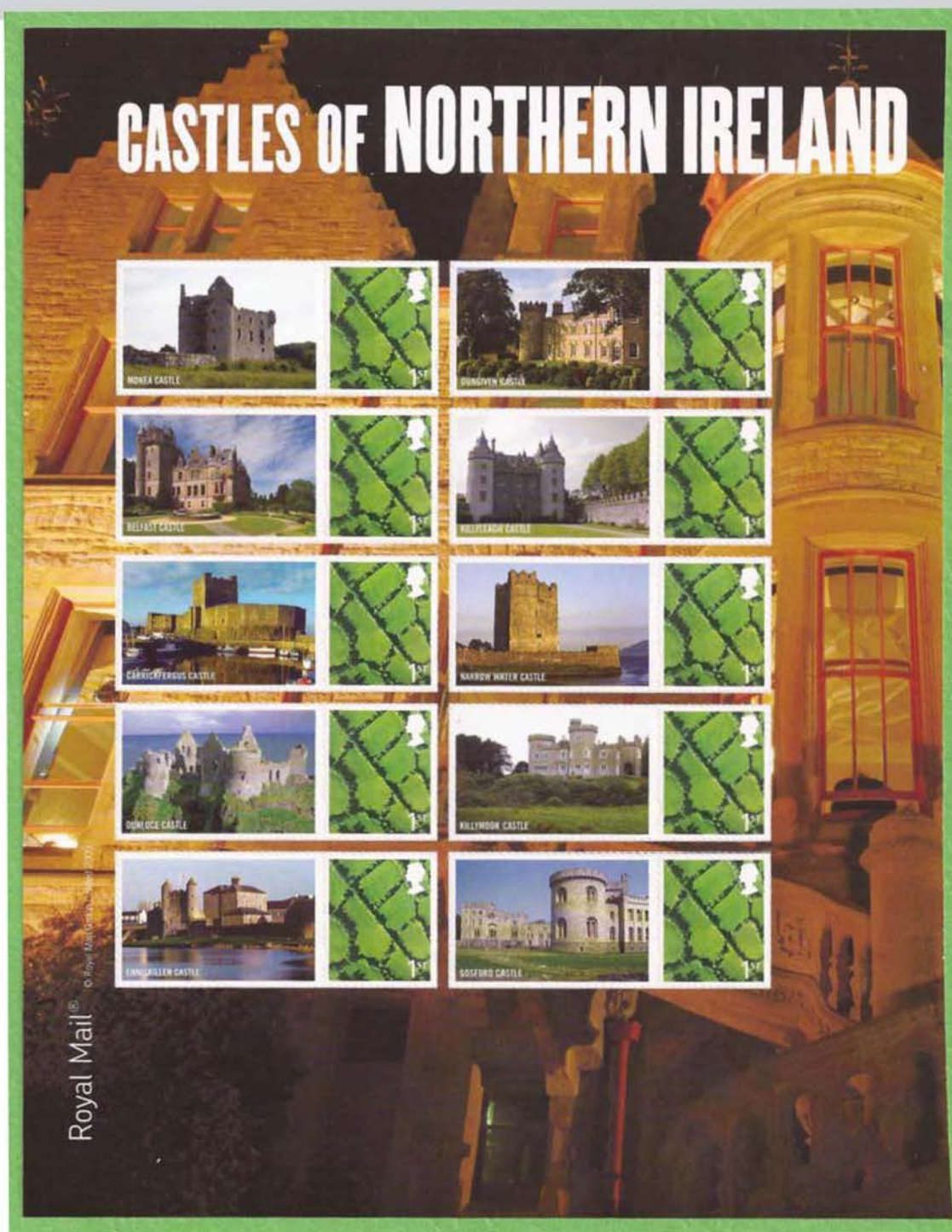
A different procedure for illustrating the stamps of Northern Ireland is called. Many of the illustrations for Ulster are from two of the magnificent Royal Mail "smilers." Each smiler has 20 peel off and self-adhesive stamps. The fact that they are self adhesive created insurmountable problems given that I used a scanner to reproduce the images. Hence, I'll show the two smilers in their entirety right up front, and refer to the individual stamps by smiler number as they arise in the text. Those stamps not on smilers will be treated in the usual way.



Glorious Northern Ireland

27a*	Belfast City Hall	27b	N/A
27c	Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge	27d	Devenish Island
27e	Slieve Binnian	27f	Tievebullagh
27g	Kilnasaggart Stone	27h	Strangford Lough
27i	Ulster American Folk Park	27j	Castle Coole

* Scott NI numbers.



Castles of Northern Ireland

32a	Monea Castle	32b	Dungiven Castle
32c	Belfast Castle	32d	Killyleagh Castle
32e	Carrickfergus Castle	32f	Narrow Water Castle
32g	Dunluce Castle	32h	Killymoon Castle
32i	Enniskillen Castle	32j	Gosford Castle

County Derry

There simply is no way to visit our destinations in the six counties without retracing some of our steps. We'll just have to do our best. We begin by crossing from Donegal into Derry. Just thinking about crossing from the republic into the north brings back unpleasant memories from 40 or so years ago when we were waiting waiting in the car 100 yards or so from the border south of Newry while border guards in a pillbox checked the license plate with binoculars. Thinking of crossing into the north and of being in the city that the Irish call Derry and the English call Londonderry calls up memories of a pedestrian telling me not to park in a "control zone" that was across the street from a building surrounded by barbed wire, of driving on a Derry street alongside a British army lorry with about a dozen very young and scared British soldiers in the back, machine guns resting in their lap but coincidentally pointed right at us. *Those days are past!*

We have just one destination in Derry, the 19th century Dungiven Castle (Scott NI 32b). There had been a manor house near the site of Dungiven Castle for a couple of hundred years when construction began on the castle in 1836. Construction was terminated before the interior was completed because of the death of the owner, and the castle was left uncompleted until it was fitted out to house American troops during the Second World War. Afterwards it became a dance hall and entertainment venue, seeing such headliners as Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck. Since then it has been completely redecorated, and is now a four star hotel, with a restaurant and elegant Victorian garden.

From the Editor:

We need articles for the Revealer for 2017. I have way too many articles and short pieces in this issue, but when I don't have material I have to produce something.

Some ideas:

If you have created an exhibit or are working on one, well that makes for a great article. I exhibit postage dues, the 1981 James Hoban stamp, and the Wild Flowers definitives. I wrote articles for the Revealer. I won medals, but no gold yet. Too me it's fun. Keeps me alert and learning.

You too can focus on your exhibit by highlighting a page or two into your story. I could assist you with the text and give you some ideas.

Some time ago, I ran one page stories featuring members and their collecting interests. I encourage you to submit such an article. You could include images of your favorite stamps or a special cover.

Unusual covers also make for a interesting short half-page and full-page articles.

If you attended a stamp show or local chapter meeting, then let us know.

James Hoban Chapter to Meet in March

The James Hoban Chapter of the EPA will meet at the James Hoban Restaurant on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 2pm. The pub has great fish & chips, excellent Guinness, & good ambiance. The Chapter Leader who is also the Editor, Liam Malone, will bring material devoted to the James Hoban 1981 Joint Issue.

Please let me know if you are attending by emailing me at eparevealer@gmail.com or calling 202.288.1813.



County Tyrone



2197

Our first destination in Tyrone, where we have three destinations, is in the mountain range called the Sperrins, which are also partly in County Derry. The Sperrins are very old mountains, hence less rugged than some other ranges in Ireland. The lower slopes and adjacent river valleys are suitable for farming, but sheep grazing is the main economic activity higher up in the mountains. In the Sperrins in Tyrone we find the long Glenelly Valley (Scott GB 2197), the longest valley in the mountain chain. The valley is the site of considerable controversy. It has been named as one of the top 101 scenic drives in the world, but there is a proposal to construct a wind farm of 60 windmills in the valley. Conservationists and people in the tourist industry deride the proposal they call "utter madness." I have not had the pleasure of seeing this scenic drive, but it would have to be a wonder of nature to beat our drive through the wilds of Donegal on a family trip to Ireland.

From the Glenelly Valley we go a bit southwest to visit another castle in Ulster, specifically Killymoon Castle, overlooking the Ballinderry river near Cookstown. The castle dates to 1671 when it was begun by the Stewart family who came to Tyrone during the plantation. It has several towers, each different from one another. Destroyed by fire in 1801 and rebuilt in the following year, its 600 acre demesne is enclosed by a high wall. It is now a private home, and can be viewed only from afar.

Next we go to visit one of Tyrone's biggest tourist attractions, an open air museum called the Ulster American Folk Park (Scott NI 27i). The park focuses on the experiences of the flood of emigrants from Ulster to the United States in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Center for Migration Studies in the park offers courses on the Irish diaspora in conjunction with the University of Ulster and also with Queens University in Belfast. In the Old World section of the park are whole streets of original houses and business, reminiscent of places like Greenfield Village in Michigan or Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. In the New World section of the folk park one finds dwellings like those of the eastern part of the United States, several of which were dismantled in the United States and reconstructed on site in Tyrone. It has been many years since we visited the Folk Park, and then it was in its earliest stages, but it was even then a really good place to see.

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County Fermanagh



GB 2193

We begin our tour of Fermanagh with a visit to one of the many castles in the county, Monea Castle (Scott NI 32a), a bit north and west of Devenish Island. The castle, dating to the early years of the 17th century is on a site on which a Maguire castle had previously occupied. It stands on a small plateau at the foot of a steep hill. It is one of the best preserved and most complete of the plantation castles of Ulster. It has a three story rectangular tower house with massive semi-cylindrical towers on either side of the entrance to the castle. The general appearance of the castle reflects its Scottish heritage.

Our next destinations are Ely Island (Scott GB 2193) and Devenish Island (Scott NI 27d), two of the numerous islands on the scenic Lower Lough Erne. Lough Erne is a pair of lakes that are actually very wide parts of the Erne River. One speculation concerning the name of the lakes is that the name Erne derives from an ancient tribal group called the Erainn after a goddess, and that that name eventually morphed into Eire. Residents of islands on Lough Erne were largely spared the effects of the famine of the 1840s because the potato blight did not easily get across the water so potatoes were plentiful.

Navigation on the River Erne is under the control of a commission from both the Republic and Ulster, a lovely example of cooperation on this historically divided and strife-torn island. A secret agreement between the governments of England and the Republic during World War II allowed RAF seaplanes based in Lough Erne to fly to the Atlantic Ocean over the territory of the Republic, saving two hours in emergency flights or flights to protect convoys - another lovely example of cooperation.

On Devenish Island we'll find a monastic site established by St. Molaise in the 6th century. The island also has a well preserved 12th century round tower, as well as St. Mary's Augustinian Priory, dating to the 15th century. That priory sits on the hilltop on the original site of St. Molaise's oratory, along with a high cross from the same period. Some additional structures and numerous architectural fragments from the ruins of an ancient Romanesque church are under state care.

Between Upper and Lower Lough Erne is the town of Enniskillen, unfortunately well known as the site of a horrific Remembrance Day bombing by the IRA that resulted in multiple fatalities. Enniskillen is the home of two more castles represented philatelically, Castle Coole (Scott NI 27j) and Enniskillen Castle (Scott NI 32i). Castle Coole is a late 18th century mansion set in a 1,200 acre estate. The estate is in a beautiful natural area, heavily wooded by indigenous oak trees. At one time the castle employed 90 staff, both indoor and outdoor. It is now owned by the state and is open for tours.

Enniskillen Castle dates to the 16th century and currently houses the Fermanagh County Museum as well as two regimental museums, those of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. These regimental museum display uniforms, regimental flags, weapons, etc. The Fermanagh County Museum presents aspects of both the cultural history and natural history of the county. New galleries are scheduled to open in 2016. Now we backtrack a bit and make our way north to County Antrim .

County Antrim



GB 948

GB 2195

GB 2576

As we make our way eastward along the northern part of Antrim we come to the ruin of Dunluce Castle (Scott NI 32g), built on the edge of a basalt outcropping near Portrush. The description that follows is taken from a photo that I took of the information board on the pathway down to the castle:

Dunluce Castle, dramatically positioned on this sheer headland between the Giant's Causeway and Portrush, was built between the 15th and 17th centuries. At this time it was one of the finest castles in the region and served to control the land and sea routes of North Ulster.... Dunluce Castle has a history shaped by violence, intrigue and rebellion.

You are now standing on what was once the centre of the bustling early 17th-century town of Dunluce. The ruins of the houses and streets are buried beneath the ground around the castle and throughout the surrounding fields....

Part of the castle long ago collapsed into the sea, and it has since been uninhabited. The castle has been prominent in film and song, and there are some who claim that it was the inspiration for Cair Paravel in C. S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia.

A little further along we come to the Giant's Causeway (GB 948), which is my wife's favorite place in Ireland. It is a spectacular natural wonder, looking like a grand, wide staircase coming up from the Irish Sea to the northeast coast of Antrim. The stairsteps consist of over 40,000 interlocking hexagonal basalt columns, the highest one being almost 40 feet high. They are flat at the top, as stair steps ought to be. Scientists tell us that it was produced by intense volcanic and geological activity. That's what the scientists say. But we know that they were built by the giant Finn McCool, who walked across this narrow part of the Irish sea to Scotland, which can be seen on a clear day from these steps. We leave it to the reader to decide which version of the history of the Giant's causeway is more plausible.

The Giant's Causeway is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and has a new visitor's centre with a large model of the rock formations. Outdoor audio guides are provided and there are walking trails suited to all levels of ability.

A little further to the east we come upon Carrick-a-Rede Rope bridge (Scott NI 27c). The rope bridge links the mainland to the tiny island of Carrickarede. The bridge spans the 66 feet across to the island and if you look down crossing it you can see the rocks 98 feet below. The Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge attracts about a quarter of a million tourists a year. As you might guess, it was more than slightly nerve wracking to walk across the bridge, but the challenge was hard to ignore.

After recovering from walking across the swaying rope bridge we make our way into the lovely glens of Antrim to Tievebulliagh (Scott NI 27f), another result of volcanic action. The intense heat of the volcanic activity in that location produced a form of especially hard flint called porcellanite, which was quarried in Neolithic times. Porcellanite was used to form axe heads of superior quality, and archaeologists have found thousands of examples of them in various locations in the British Isles. At the summit of Tievebulliagh is a round cairn of bronze age origin. Both the cairn and the “axe factory” are designated historic monuments.

To the southwest a bit we find Slemish mountain (Scott GB 2195) of great import in Irish tradition. Irish tradition maintains that it is the mountain on which a young boy, Patrick, who had been captured abroad and brought to Ireland as a slave, tended sheep. For six years the boy tended sheep, then he had a vision that told him to escape. He did so, became a priest and returned to Ireland to spread the faith that he had found through intensive prayer on the mountain. On St. Patrick’s Day, crowds of people make pilgrimages to the summit of the mountain.

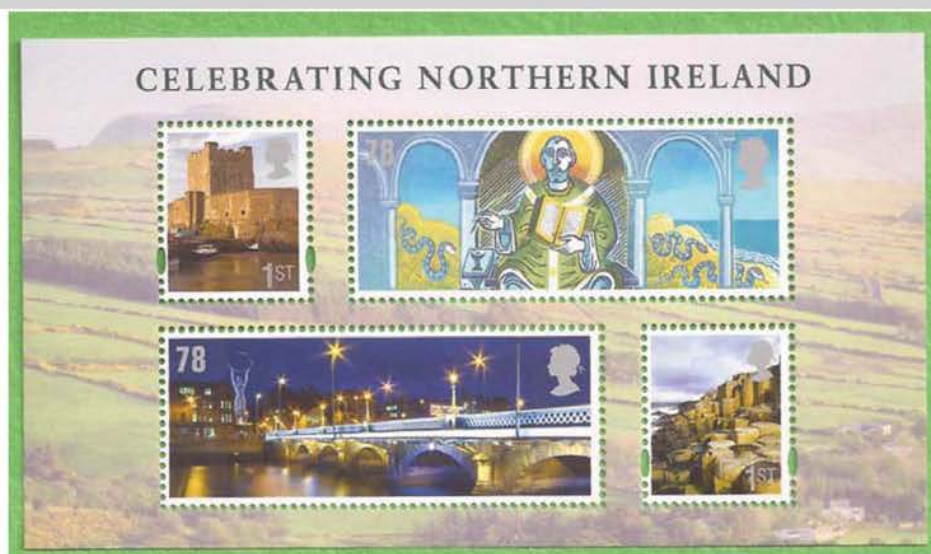
After stops in places steeped in tradition or reminding us of prehistoric times or of events involving the geological events forming the island, we come to a representative of a more modern time, the massive Carrickfergus castle (Scott NI 32e) on the north shore of Belfast Lough. Built in the 12th century, three fourths of the castle was originally surrounded by water, which made the castle a formidable one indeed. It was Carrickfergus where King William first set foot on Irish soil in 1690. In 1778 in the American war for independence, John Paul Jones lured a Royal Navy vessel out from its protection of the castle guns and won a small but symbolic naval battle! Carrickfergus castle, which had been fully garrisoned for 750 years and been the site of much conflict, is now a tourist attraction, and one of the best preserved medieval structures in Ireland

The great city of Belfast is next on our list of places to see. Belfast City Hall (Scott NI 27a) fronts on Donegal Square and the street behind it is Linen Hall Street, which is fitting in light of the fact that the City Hall building originally the Linen Exchange, so important to the history of the north. The baroque building, completed in 1906, was built largely from Portland stone and covers an acre and a half. The building is often bathed in illumination, the colors suited to the occasion.

On the grounds of the city hall are numerous remembrance gardens and memorials, which make the grounds themselves important places for people to gather and tourists to visit. There is, as you might expect a statue of Queen Victoria. There is a memorial to the American soldiers who stayed in Belfast on the way to the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, and a memorial to those who died on the RMS Titanic, which was built in the Harland and Wolff shipyards in Belfast. The Luftwaffe bombers blitzed Belfast on four occasions in the spring of 1941 in World War II, killing over 1,000 and wounding many more. Fire brigades from Dublin and other cities in the Republic were asked to help and helped fight the fires for three days. Belfast City Hall was one of the buildings damaged by the bombing.

Belfast Castle (NI 32c), that is, the original one, dates to Norman times, as it was built in the 12th century. The present castle was begun in 1870 but not completed until 1884. It is more a mansion than a castle, and it sits in Cave Hill Park with spectacular view of Belfast itself and of the surrounding areas, including Strangford Lough to the south. The castle was presented to the city in 1934 and was taken over by the Royal Navy during World War II. The grounds of Cave Hill Park were used by many citizens of Belfast as a source of refuge during the blitz. Belfast Castle is open to the public and has Visitor Centre, restaurant and an antique shop.

Belfast Cathedral (Scott GB 2576), also known as St. Anne’s Cathedral, has a website that opens with welcoming words, encouraging people to come and visit to worship, to visit as a tourist, to meet others in celebration or in commemoration of a special event – or just step in as a pilgrim. The cathedral boasts beautiful mosaics, stained glass windows and needlework. The foundation stone was laid in 1899. In 1924 the west front of the cathedral was declared a memorial to the Ulstermen who died in what was then hopefully called “the war to end all wars.” The cathedral was almost destroyed in 1941 by a Luftwaffe bomb during the blitz, and was sufficiently rebuilt to open for services in 1959, but it took another ten years to bring it to completion. The year 2007 saw a 250 foot, titanium-clad “spire of hope” installed atop the cathedral.



GB 2556

A souvenir sheet (Scott GB 2556) shows one of eight bridges in Belfast, in addition to St. Patrick and additional views of Carrickfergus Castle and the Giant's Causeway. The bridge is the Queens Bridge and Friendship Beacon, opened in 1849 by Queen Victoria and spanning the Lagan River. It replaced a bridge known simply as the Long Bridge. The Friendship Beacon, also completed in 2007, is a 65 foot high abstract sculpture of a woman holding her arms aloft with a very large ring. It is barely visible in the stamp above, to the right and lower than the denomination of 78p. The local pundits have given the sculpture a variety of names, with "Nuala with a hula" being a prominent one.

I cannot leave the topic of Belfast without mentioning another personal and powerful recollection. It was at the height of the Troubles and I had made a wrong turn trying to find the motorway to Dublin. I wound up driving into the center of Belfast until I came to a barricade completely blocking the street and manned by soldiers and members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. There had been a bombing in the commercial center of the city, and the city center was completely blocked. Much to the consternation of the nearest policeman I drove up close to the barrier, got out of the car and approached him. He absolutely froze as I walked up to him, but as soon as he heard my American accent, the anxiety visibly drained from his body and he gave me directions to the motorway. As I said above, *Those days are past!*

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Postage Due Se Watermark Frame Varieties on the 1/2d & 1d Labels
By Liam Malone

Whenever you meet me and we talk Irish philately, early on I will mention my obsession with Irish postage due labels, especially the First Design: the Se and e watermark series from 1925–1978. I published many possible varieties in previous *Revealers*. In this article I am pointing out varieties and anomalies in the outer frame lines and corners of the Se Series 1/2d & 1d labels. After studying Se & e Series for many years, I conclude that the Irish post office didn't particularly care about the quality of printing. Indeed it seems printing is generally poor. It is actually difficult to find well-centered copies of these stamps, most seem to be off center to some degree.



Off center, left margin perfs cut into deeply.



Damaged white frame with white extending above and below the white frame line.



A fun discovery occurs when you actually find a true break in the white frame line. This copy shows a clear break of green in the white frame line.



Close inspection of the corners often reveal less than sharp, 90 degree angles. The bottom corners are sharp, but the NW corner is rounded.



The NE corner is elongated with a short appendage. I've noticed this on many labels. Hibernian lists such a variety on 1d labels.



Top perfs are cut into deeply, also off center.

Off center. NW & SE corners sharp. But SW corner has a bulge on it. NE corner slightly irregular.



Mint never hinged copies of this Series are not quite scarce, but are costly. You can usually find a set for around \$100 on ebay or for a little more in auctions. Mint hinged and used copies are much more common. I peruse the dealers holdings at stamp shows, spending quite a bit of time with a magnifying glass examining their sets of postage due labels. Dealers often ask for what am I looking and when I tell them, well they seem amused. Do the varieties and anomalies make them scarce or more valuable than labels without these? I am not sure, but without owning full sheets of all 4 labels in the Se Series I can't confirm position or determine if these are constants. I own a complete used sheet of the left pane 1d label. I also have 2 upper left corner blocks, so these 3 examples of the 1d label show the same varieties thus supporting a case for these examples as constant varieties. In future issues I will show other values in Se and e watermark Series 1940-1977, and then the unwatermarked Series.

When you consider how closely examined the Overprints are, then a close examination of postage due labels is in order. Many catalogs and handbooks point out the broken and misaligned letters on the Overprints as well as the reentries and often miniscule markings such as an inverted T or strike over a numeral.

Similar to the Overprints, the postage due labels of the first design, show many broken and malformed letters in the words *POSTAGE DUE*, less than appear in the Irish words. Another aspect of these labels of interest to me is the Celtic knot work. But because of the amount of scroll work on each label, it will be some time before I can disseminate information on varieties, which I know exist.

Are these close examinations academic? Yes, to a great degree, but many aspects of philately are and therein involves much of the fun and satisfaction for me. If anyone has examples of the varieties I have shown, I'd appreciate receiving a pic at eparevealer@gmail.com.

A single below with 3 good 90 degree corners. The NE corner is slightly elongated. But it is difficult to find 1d samples with all 4 corners showing sharp 90 degree angles.



On the next pages are 3 samples of blocks of 4 showing what appear to be constant varieties and with close ups of the varieties. So that readers can follow easier, the close ups are designated by a first numeral indicating from what block the sample comes, and then the second digit represents the variety I am examining. Thus 1.1 is from the first sample & the first variety.

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**1.1****2.1****3.1**

Red dot in NW corner of upper left label in black oval.
Extremely faint in 3.1 in top left label.

**1.2****2.2****3.2**

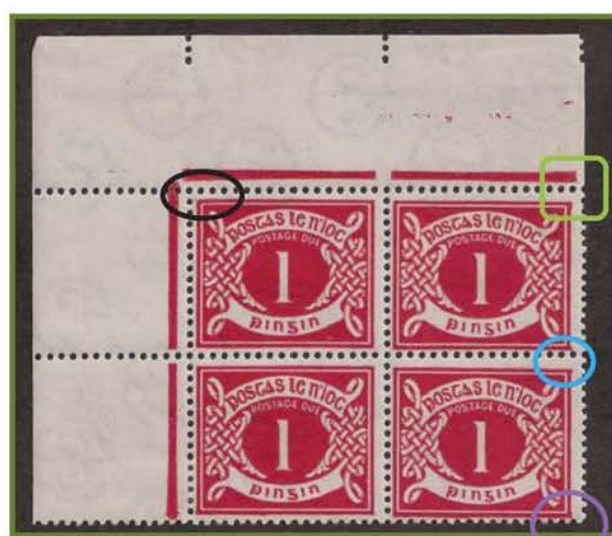
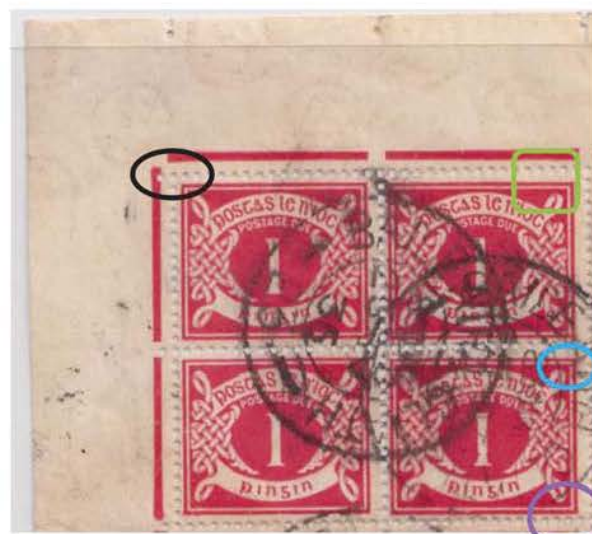
Crooked bulge in NE corner of top right label
in green box.

**1.3****2.3****3.3**

Extended NE corner in bottom right label in sky blue oval.
Hibernian handbook includes this, but doesn't list a position.

**1.4****2.4****3.4**

Bulge in SE corner of bottom right label
in purple oval.

**Block sample 1****Block sample 2**

Block sample 3
left pane right margin flags



A small red dot appears in the white margin of the SE corner. The red frame line is slightly indented at the actual corner.



An appendage on the red frame line in the NW corner.



Another example with 3 90 degree corners, but the SE corner is slightly rounded.



In this strip of 3 are elongated corners, a white scratch in the middle label, an appendage in the SE corner of the middle label, and the bottom label has some of the best 90 degree corners I've noticed. Se wmk.



This is the well-documented broken white frame line in the SW corner at position 4/4 in sheets. The NE corner is elongated, shown below. Se wmk.



Irish Literature Donation to the ÉPA

Prolific author, researcher and ÉPA member Barry Cousins has made a generous donation of four of his books to the ÉPA. The books are as follows:

- *Propaganda Overprints on Great Britain and Northern Ireland Stamps*, 2015 edition (first published in 2013).
- *Ireland's Permanent Definitive Stamps and Essays, 1922 – 1937*, 2015 edition, Issue 2.
- *Overprinted Stamps of Ireland, 1922 – 1935*. 2016 edition, (first published in 2002).
- *Irish Free State Plates, Controls and Overprint Settings*. December 2015, revised May 2016.

In the words of Mr. Cousins, these books are publications for research, reference and feedback by fellow philatelists. The Board and members of the ÉPA thank Mr. Cousins for his generosity and for making these books available to his fellow members. Members may borrow any of these books for a reasonable period of time. We do ask that you pay for the round trip postage. Requests and an estimate of the postage can be made through the Secretary at jsharkeyepa@me.com

2017 Stamp Programme from An Post

Stamp Topics	Number of Stamps
Love & Marriage	1
St. Patrick's Day	1
Europa (Castles)	2
Centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge	1
150 th Anniversary of the death of Thomas Meagher	1
Centenary of the death of Francis Ledwidge	1
Centenary of the birth of Jack Lynch	1
50 th Anniversary of the death of Che Guevara	1
Royal Sites of Ireland	4
Urban Street Art	4
Emoji's "Don't Worry...." "Be Happy...."	2
Postcrossing	1
Centenary of the apparitions of Fatima	1
50 th Anniversary of Free Secondary School Education	1
Irish Railway Stations	4
Centenary of the founding of the Lions Club International	1
Ploughing Championships	2
Christmas	3
Total	32

Plus Women's Rugby World Cup (held in Belfast & Dublin in 2017) - Number of stamp(s) ?

Editor's Note: An Post encourages suggestions for their stamp program . For more information visit <http://www.anpost.ie/AnPost/IrishStamps/Home/>

An Post Issues Ninth Definitive Series

On 12 January 2017, An Post will introduce the ninth definitive series – A History of Ireland in 100 Objects, a selection. As part of this venture, An Post will collaborate with the Royal Irish Academy to redevelop the website www.100objects.ie and enrich it with new material sourced from the original app. The first phase of the series will include different objects on eight SOAR stamps, and a range of philatelic material including coils, booklets and, of course, first day covers. The objects featured on the SOAR stamps are a Mesolithic Fist Trap, a Ceremonial Axehead, a Neolithic Bowl, a Gold Hoard, a Flint Macehead, Bronze Age Funerary Urns, the Tara Torcs, and the Brougher Boat. Further information is available at irishstamps.ie.*

While on the subject of the Irish definitive series, I have wondered why the *Hibernian Postage Stamps of Ireland*, 2014 edition, lists twelve definitive series as of 2014 (two more series have been added since then). Our esteemed Treasurer Barney Clancy, provided the explanation. Hibernian considers each new major printing as a separate series, whereas An Post considers the major theme as the series. To clarify, below find the listing for the nine definitive series of An Post. The middle column corresponds to the series listed in the Hibernian catalog.

Series (An Post)	Dates Issued**	Description
1 st	1922-23	Watermark Gaelic "Se"
	1940-49	Watermark Gaelic "e"
2 nd	1968-69	Early Irish Art, Wmk. Gaelic "e"
	1971-74	Early Irish Art, Decimal Currency, Wmk "e"
	1974-80	Early Irish Art, no Wmk.
3 rd	1982-90	Irish Architecture Down the Ages
4 th	1990-95	Irish Heritage and Treasures
5 th	1997-99	Birds, Irish Currency
	2001	Birds, Dual Currency
	2002-4	Birds, Euro Currency
6 th	2004-10	Wild Flowers
7 th	2010	Irish Animals and Marine Life
8 th	2016	1916-2016 Centenary of the Easter Rising
9 th	2017	A History of Ireland in 100 Objects, A Selection

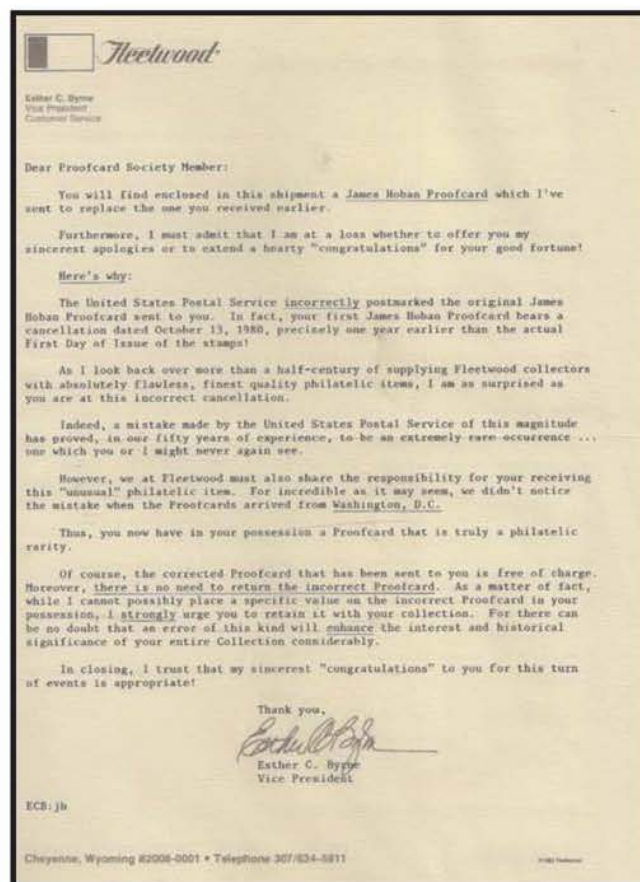
In many of these series there were additional printings, for example booklets, coil, phosphors etc. The collection of Irish definitives makes for a challenging but rewarding part of Irish philately.

*Irish Stamps, *The Collector*, 01/17

** *Hibernian Handbook and Catalog of the Postage Stamps of Ireland*, 2014.

John B. Sharkey, Secretary

More on the 1981 Joint Issue Infamous James Hoban Stamp



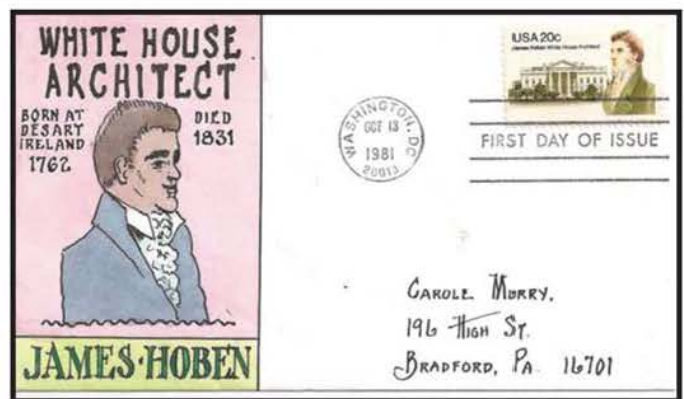
Over the past decade, I have published several articles on the 1981 James Hoban commemorative issued jointly by the US and Ireland. One article discussed the machinations and issues surrounding the US release of the both an 18c and then 20c values. The postal rate was changing and First Lady Nancy Reagan insisted on using this stamp on White House Christmas card mail, so the 20c was also issued to accommodate her request. The first day of issue was October 13, 1981 in Washington, DC. But cancels from around the nation are found from such places as Reagan, Texas and Whitehouse, NJ. Pictured above is the Fleetwood Proofcard for the issue. If you look carefully you will notice the date of cancellation: 1980! Not 1981. Fleetwood sent the above letter to its members apologizing for the error while tongue-in-cheek informing holders of this error that it may become a valuable collectible and also sent a Proofcard with the correct year. Some sellers have no idea of this error and have sold them for mere dollars on Ebay while others realized the mistake and sold them for over \$600 also on Ebay.



Because my collection of first day covers is so large, I can only find material I don't already own about 3-4 times per year. Two years ago I obtained this FDC with all 3 stamps in an Ebay auction. The bidding took on a life of its own as it seemed others like me never saw it before either. The final price of this particular cover surpassed \$100. I don't think it worth that much. The cachet is an adhesive label commemorating a visit of the philatelic truck to the White House and was canceled in Washington, DC.



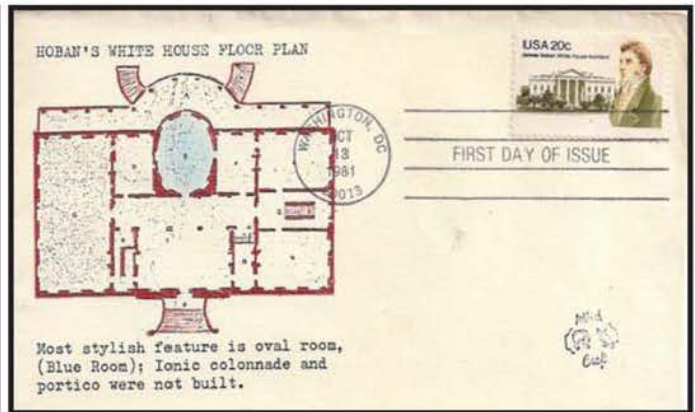
This hand-made & hand-painted water color cachet was produced by Carrie 777. The two ribbons to the right say VMC Artcover, Collectors. The cachet shows a youthful Hoban.



Maul cachet with Hoban looking right, most cachets portray him looking left.



AWD hand-painted tools & White House from Homer, GA.



Which Craft cachet from WDC showing a schematic drawing.



The upper left is a hand-painted Powell cachet with an almost Elvis-like drawing to resemble the actual stamp design. This is #5 of 5 produced. Above is another hand-painted and drawn by Sandra Haimel #2 of 4. Many hand-painted occur in very limited quantities. To the left is another example of a hand-painted cachet attempting to mirror the stamp. This cachet tries to show the foliage as best a possible. This is produced by E. Beck and is #4 or 5. As you can see some covers show all 3 stamps, while many show the 20c stamp because that was the new and then current first class postage rate. I have found most of my hand-painted at stamp shows as the dealers don't have time to list such covers on sites like Ebay or Delcampe or even in the APS store. Always fun visiting stamp shows to see what I can find.



