

the Revealer

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
VOL. 67 NO. 1
WHOLE NUMBER 286

EARRACH
SPRING 2017



ISSN 0484-6125



IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2 President's Message
Page 4 Book Review
Page 5 Exhibit Winners
Page 6 Irish Odyssey continued
Page 10 TWTYTW 2016
Page 18 Book Review
Page 21 Irish Butterflies
Page 23 Postage Due Varieties



Plan to attend and exhibit at
MILCOPEX 2017 in
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
September 15-17, 2017



THE REVEALER

www.eirephilatelicassoc.org ISSN 0484-6125

Published quarterly by the Eire Philatelic Association:
Membership dues are as follows: U.S. (\$20.00); Canada / Mexico (\$25.00); all other countries (\$30.00).

Address and e-mail changes to:

Barney Clancy, P.O. Box 3036, Seminole FL
33775-3036, BCLANZ@aol.com.

STAFF

Editor: LIAM MALONE

PO Box 73037 Washington, DC 20056
eparevealer@gmail.com

Advertising Manager: RICHARD KELLY

P.O. Box 627, Naperville, IL, USA 60566-0627
kellyrd@sbcglobal.net

OFFICERS

President: RICHARD KELLY *address above*

Vice President, North America: William A. O'Connor, 3803 Foxglove Lane, Fallbrook CA, 92028-8764; conocon@aol.com

Vice President, Europe: BRIAN WARREN
brian.warren2@upcmail.ie

Secretary / Chapter Coordinator:

JOHN B. SHARKEY; 1559 Grouse Lane, Mountainside, NJ 07092-1340; jsharkeyepa@me.com

Treasurer: BARNEY CLANCY *address above*

Auction/Trading Post Manager: BOB KEMPER

1301 Willow Bud Dr, Walnut CA 91789
rkemper@roadrunner.com

Historian & Librarian: TIMOTHY O'SHEA 58

Porter Street, Granby, MA, USA 01033-9516
tosheal@comcast.net

Special Offers: TIMOTHY O'SHEA *address above*

Youth / School Program Managers:**IRELAND:** PHELM O'NEILL

336 St. James Rd. Greenhills, Dublin 12, Ireland
poneill@iname.com

USA: RICHARD KELLY *address above*

APS Representative: JOHN B. SHARKEY *address above*

DIRECTORS

ROBERT BENNINGHOFF OTTO JUNG
MICHAEL S. CANAVAN DAVE BRENNAN
RAYMOND MURPHY TIMOTHY O'SHEA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Richard Kelly

By the time you read this REVEALER, spring will have sprung for most of our members. Although the warmer weather may entice us outside, don't put your stamps away yet. Late spring always brings some interesting shows and auctions, and no one wants to miss the opportunity to acquire that elusive piece.

It is not too early to make your plans to attend our annual meeting at Milcopex in Milwaukee. Some of you may remember that we were going to have our AGM at Milcopex in 2001. The events of 9/11 caused the show to be cancelled and the show organizers handled everything in a most professional and generous way. The Board has felt ever since then a moral obligation to return. I ask everyone to help support our showing with exhibits and attendance.

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 07092
jsharkeyepa@me.com

James Hoban Chapter

Members reside in MD, VA, DC
Coordinator: Liam Malone
PO Box 73037 Washington DC
20056
eparevealer@gmail.com

John McCormack Chapter

Members reside in CT & MA
Coordinator: Timothy O'Shea
58 Porter St, Granby, MA 01033-
9516
tosheal@comcast.net

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: Christopher Palermo
230 Alberta Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070
chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com

Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)

Members reside in Southern CA
Coordinator: William A. O'Connor,
3803 Foxglove Lane,
Fallbrook, CA 92028
conocon@aol.com

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.

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:

To assist the members who cannot make the show we will organize a group to receive, mount and return your exhibit. We need to make a grand showing!

In the Winter issue, I jumped the gun by announcing the new book by our member, Heinz-Jurgen Kumpf. In this issue are the details about this wonderful new book. The Sinn Fein Christmas Postal Service is an excellent reference to the specialists in this area and also a great addition to any one's library. The book can be ordered from Tim O'Shea.

Irish stamps continue to make the news in Linn's. The March 6, 2017 issue has a full page story on the new definitive issue. The new series was inspired by the book, A History of Ireland in 100 Objects by Fintan O'Toole. The series began on Jan. 12 and is expected to last 5 years. If you would like a copy of the article please send me a SASE and I will mail back a copy.

I hope everyone had a blessed St. Patrick's day. As usual in Chicago the river was dyed green and the weather was cold and damp. The weather did not affect our prayers and remembrance for all those who did so much for Ireland.

All the best, Rich

ÉPA to meet at Milcopex 2017

The Éire Philatelic Association will have its Annual General Meeting in conjunction with MILCOPEX 2017. The dates of the meeting are September 15, 16, and 17, 2017. The AGM will take place on Saturday, September 16 at 2:00 pm, and will include a guest speaker who will speak on some aspect of Irish philately. The location of MILCOPEX 2017 is the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 So. 13th St. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Members are encouraged to enter an exhibit for MILCOPEX.

The exhibit deadline is July 15, 2017 (or when all frames are filled).

Check the ÉPA web site for updates and also the show web site at <http://www.milwaukeephilatelic.org/>

SECRETARY'S REPORT**New Members**

2911 Jeff Lough, 2612 Redbud Lane Apt. C., Lawrence, KS 66046
2912 Thomas C. Nestor, 5 Norwood Grove, Cobh, Co. Cork, Ireland

Resignations

2734 Robert L. Johnson

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
2911 Jeff Lough, jeffydplough@gmail.com
2912 Tomas C. Nestor, Thomas69.nestor@outlook.com

Change of Address

2791 James L. Higgins, PO Box 8159, Duck, NC 27949
2719 John W. Huffinan, PO Box 2481, Cullowhee, NC 28723

Membership Status

Members as of December 1, 2016	349
Resignations	1
New Members	2
Members as of March 20, 2017	350
Life members of unknown status	12
Complimentary mailings	23
Total Mailings	385

**Review of a New Publication by Heinz-Jürgen Kumpf, President of FAI
 "Sinn Féin Christmas Postal Service in Derry and other parts of Northern Ireland" (SFCPS)
 (Sinn Féin Christmas mail in Derry and other parts of Northern Ireland)**

The book deals with the private Christmas mail of the Republican Party Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland, in particular in Derry and Belfast and tolerated by the British Post. The book comprises 66 pages and is divided into 2 parts: In the first part, all 87 Christmas stamps known so far are cataloged and depicted. They are still being used as self-adhesive labels up to now. In the second part, all known 44 cachets are shown that have been used for the cancellation of Christmas mail in Derry and Belfast.

All 87 labels are gathered also partly with sub-numbers; in addition 7 Sinn Féin propaganda labels are registered, which were also used for the SFCPS, but not separately issued for this purpose. Additionally Christmas cards from Sinn Féin and other associated political organizations are also included in an Appendix.

Nevertheless not only the individual labels are shown, they are also illustrated with complete sheets, official commemorative documents, commercial letters, which partly have been planted into the international mail traffic for propaganda purposes. Even rare early advertising posters for the announcement of the SFCPS and Christmas labels are shown. In addition, designs and accompanying posters with reference to the individual editions are also displayed.

Each issue is described with its historical political background and much more. As far as is known, also the number of copies, the respective "postage fees" charged by Sinn Féin are also mentioned for this Christmas service. Each label is described, as well as its size, number per sheet and color.

Furthermore, in a further appendix, very early correspondence between the author and the organizers of SFCPS from the mid-eighties is published for the first time with a detailed description of the organization of the SFCPS. A so-called Quickfinder at the end of the publication contains again a summary of all Christmas and propaganda labels and the list of cachets in numbered sequence. The book presents a series of hitherto unknown documents relating to the SFCPS and is even only for this reason a cultural-political and philatelic contribution to the postal-history of Northern Ireland. It is therefore not only interesting for philatelists, collectors of Cinderella stamps, and private mail collectors, but also for those interested in the political history of Ireland and in particular Northern Ireland. The book is written in English and distributed outside Europe by the Eire Philatelic Association (EPA) in the USA, within Europe by the FAI Librarian Wolfgang Fiedler.

Data:

Author: Heinz-Jürgen Kumpf, AIJP

Title : "Sinn Féin Christmas Postal Service in Derry and Other parts of Northern Ireland"

Text : English

66 pages, high gloss paper, illustrations in colour, A 4-size, approx. 220 illustrations

Prices:

Shipping within Germany 17,50 € incl. postage and packing

Shipping worldwide: 19,90 € incl. postage and packing

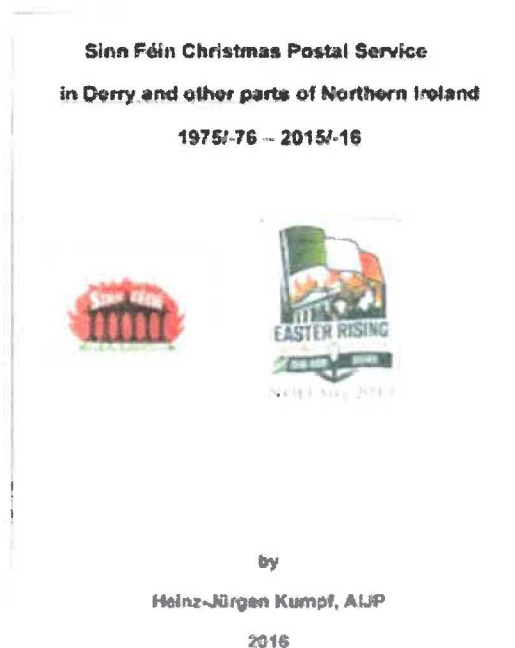
Shipping within USA : **tbd**

To be ordered from:

Wolfgang Fiedler
 Am Mesterwinkel 12
 D-30952 Ronneberg
 Germany / Germany
 +49 (0) 511-436996;
 E-Mail: w.w.fiedler@web.de

To be ordered from EPA from:

Tim O'Shea
 58 Porter St.
 Granby, MA 01033-9516
 USA



Board Member Robert Benninghoff reports that exhibits featuring Irish philately did very well at the 2017 Me-
sa Arizona show.

The Irish Coil Stamps 1922 to 1940 (6 frames) won the Multi-Frame Grand award >> onward to the Champi-
on of Champions show in Richmond in August.

Brian Harmon won a Large Vermeil for His Multi Frame Exhibit
Andrew Restall Stamp designer.

Robert Benninghoff won a Large Vermeil for my single Frame
The Struggle for Irish Independence May 1916 to December 1921.
He also had 3 exhibits in the APS single Frame Champion of Champion show at Reno.
"The Collection of Postage Due Fees in Ireland 1914 to 1926",
"The Provisional Government of Ireland December 1921 to December 1922"
"Irish definitive Coils 1940 to 1970"

Anthony Hughes won a large silver for how County West Meath reflects on 1916.

Regular Public Auctions in Dublin

Please write or call for a copy of the next catalog

Want lists serviced. Expertization service.

Literature list sent on request.

MacDonnell Whyte Ltd.

102 Leinster Road Dublin 6 Ireland

Tel: +353 1 4977449 Fax: +353 1 4977440

Email: mdwltd@eircom.net

Please support our dealers
advertising with us. Their
ads help to defray printing
costs.

Raven Stamps

12C Washington St. West, Cork, Ireland

For all your Irish Stamp requirements.

Tel + 353 21 4271750,

Fax + 353 21 4271779

Website www.ravenstamps.com

e-mail sales@ravenstamps.com

Ask for catalogues of our mail sales.

IF YOU COLLECT IRELAND

Send for your

FREE 2017 PRICE LIST covering all issues
from 1922-2016

For **SPECIALISED MATERIAL**

including Postal History,

request my next

MAIL SALE LIST

A.R.BALLARD

PO BOX 780, LONDON SE13 5QA, UK

Email: arballard@hotmail.co.uk

Northern Ireland: An Irish Odyssey by Michael Doherty

County Down



NI 27h

GB 2196

GB 1770

Strangford Lough (NI 27h) is a large body of water, the largest inlet from the sea in Europe and covering over 37,000 acres. Designated as a marine conservation zone, it has numerous islands, bays, mudflats etc. and is a popular place for fishing and hunting. Those of you who may be familiar with the *Irish Country Doctor* novels may recognize Strangford Lough as where Dr. O'Reilly would spend some of his time away from his surgery hunting there with his dog, Arthur Guinness. The Viking influence on Ireland is evident in the name, Strangford, as the ford part of the name comes from the word *fjord*. Strangford Lough was home to the world's first tidal power station.

Slieve Binnian (NI 27e) and Banns Rd (British journey 2196) are in the Mourne mountains. I think that they may have been singled out by Royal Mail because of the beauty of the Mournes. Slieve Binnian is the third highest of the Mournes and it is in an area noted for mountain walking. One of the ways that hikers like to follow is along the Mourne wall, erected in the early part of the 20th century. The wall is 5 feet high and 22 miles long, and was built to keep animals away from the reservoir. A 2.5 mile long tunnel was cut through Slieve Binnian to carry water from the reservoir to where it was needed.

There are two castles in Down, the Narrow Water Castle (Scott NI 32f) and Killyleagh Castle (Scott NI 32d). The Narrow Water Castle was built over the course of 20 years, 1816 to 1836. It is on the bank of the Clanrye River at Warrenpoint where the river meets Strangford Lough. It replaced a keep on the same site that had been built in the 13th century by Hugh de Lacy, a name prominent in Irish history. That keep was destroyed in the 1641 rebellion. The Narrow Water Castle is currently a private residence.

On behalf of the Association, the Editor gratefully appreciates Mr. Doherty's wonderful series of articles about stamps and his travels throughout Ireland.

Killyleagh Castle is on the southwestern edge of Strangford Lough, in the village of Killyleagh. It is believed to date all the way back to 1180, and it is in the style of a French chateau, built by a famous Norman knight, John de Courcy. The original castle would have been a high mound surrounded by a ditch with and raised courtyard with an archery tower. It is now a private residence, but it affords self-catering holiday accommodations in its gate lodges.

County Armagh



1420

There are two more locations represented on stamps in County Down that I do not have much to say about. One is a post office. In 1997 Royal Post issued four stamps recognizing the very small sub-post offices in the land. The one representing Northern Ireland was in Ballyroney (Scott GB 1770). Ballyroney is a small parish in Down. Once an important rail hub for transporting agricultural products, its railway station closed in 1955. The other is sparsely inhabited island of Islandmore. It is the only inhabited island on Strangford Lough that has no causeway, hence is accessible only by boat. Our first stop in Armagh is near the County Down border. It is Gosford Castle (Scott NI 32j), completed in the 1850s, at which

time it had had 197 rooms. During the Second World War it was commandeered by the government and used as prisoner of war camp, then used by the army during the Troubles. Subsequently it became derelict, but the government and a private development corporation rehabilitated it and converted it into 23 private residences, with the first one being occupied in 2008. The individual residences differ very much from one another, varying from 1,000 to 4,000 square feet and with two, three or four stories.

We next make our way to see what is probably the oldest dateable stone monument in Ireland, the 9 foot high Kilnasaggart pillar stone (Scott NI 27g). The pillar stone stands in a graveyard that had been under a layer of earth and was excavated about 50 years ago. The Gaelic and Ogham inscriptions on the stone date it to the early part of the eighth century. The 13 crosses inscribed on the stone make it the oldest Christian monument in Ireland.

Our second stop will be at St. Patrick's Cathedral in the city of Armagh, where Brian Boru is believed to have been buried. In the year 1,005, Brian Boru visited and donated a considerable amount of gold to the monastery in Armagh, and decreed that that monastery was thereafter to be the religious centre of Ireland. Scott 1420, one of the series of four stamps celebrating the 1000th anniversary of his high kingship of Ireland, commemorates that decree. The four stamps in that series are in my eyes among the most beautiful of all the Irish stamps.

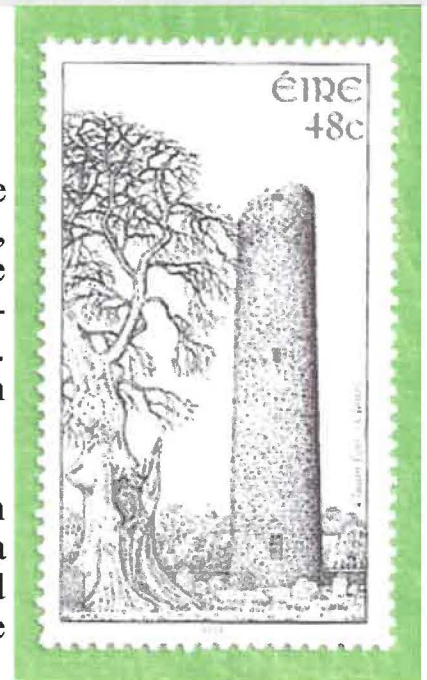
Recrossing the border we find ourselves in County Monaghan.

The *Revealer* makes a great place to trade stamps and ask for your philatelic needs. We have very good dealers advertising in each *Revealer*. Please contact them for your stamp needs. Also if you have material to sell, please contact our Auction Manager to discuss consigning material. Soon the auctions will expand by increasing the number of lots and hopefully adding some images.

Back in the Republic County Monaghan

We're still in the ancient kingdom of Ulster but we're back in the Republic. There is again but one stamp representing Monaghan, and that is Scott 1625, a 75 foot tall round tower, built around the 10th century. The tower which is constructed of a purplish sandstone, has been missing its conical cap for several hundred years. Nearby are the ruins of a monastery founded by St Tighernach in the 6th century.

In Clones, which is less than a mile from the border of Northern Ireland, there stands 10th century sandstone high cross which is a combination of two crosses consisting of the head of one cross and the shaft of another. The cross stands 15 feet high and is from the monastery founded in the 6th century by St Tighernac.



1625

The southwest face of the shaft bears iconography depicting Daniel in the Lion's Den at the top of the shaft, and below are the Sacrifice of Isaac and Adam and Eve. At the centre of the southwest of the head is another depiction of Daniel in the Lion's Den, with Cain slaying Abel to the left and Pilate washing his hands to the right. The shaft of the northwest face shows the adoration of the Magi, the wedding at Cana and the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. The east and west sides of the cross have bosses and interlaced decoration.

County Cavan

There is just one stamp celebrating a site in Cavan. We are once more on the inland waterways as we visit Belturbet Marina (Scott 1688). Belturbet is small town on the River Erne, which we can use as a base for another relaxing barge trip to explore the labyrinth of inland waters or fish the clear blue waters of Upper Lough Erne. Or perhaps we can explore the waters of two great rivers, the Shannon and the Erne. Belturbet can be explored by foot along its heritage trail. If your preference is by boat, there are numerous moorings where you can relax and soak up the peace and tranquility of these magical surroundings.



1688

There are a number of festivals in the community, including one of Ireland's oldest angling festivals. The description of the town stresses the term "tranquility," but if you happen to be there during the ginger festival that originated a few years ago in Belturbet, it will be anything but tranquil. This festival, which is aimed at getting redheaded people involved in generating income for UNICEF, features people sporting all shades of red and orange hair, red and orange skin and red and orange clothing! I'll pass on that one!



1874

939

380

County Louth

Our first stop in Louth is the monastic ruin of Monasterboice to see one of the most beautiful examples of Celtic stonework that exists, dating to the early 10th century. There are three high crosses at this site, and the one shown on Scott 1874 is known as Muirnach's Cross, from an inscription on the cross. This cross is 19 feet high, and divided into panels each intricately carved. Most of the carvings are of biblical scenes, but there are some typical Celtic interlacing motifs and geometrical figures. This is truly a spectacular work of Celtic art.

We go a bit further south to the city of Drogheda, a medieval view of which is shown in Scott 939. Drogheda, which was granted a charter in 1194, is in a region filled with Neolithic monuments. Drogheda is best known as the site of the massacre of its defenders and inhabitants by Oliver Cromwell in 1649. The arms of the town show a crescent and star, which seems strange for a historically Catholic country. In 1847, three foreign ships sailed up the Boyne and delivered food to the famine stricken country. Drogheda is also noted for its association with St. Oliver Plunkett (Scott 380), who was named Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland in 1669. In 1670 he established the first integrated (Protestant and Catholic) college in Ireland. As a result of the anti-Catholic Test Act, the college was closed and demolished just a few years later. Found guilty of promoting the Roman faith, which was classed as treason, he was hanged, drawn and quartered in 1681. In 1921 his head was put on view behind glass on the altar of St. Peter's Church on the main street of Drogheda, where it remains on view to this day.

One of the largest and most comprehensive stocks of Irish material available on the market.

Some recent offers from our ever-changing stock



2 - 3 Mail-Bid
and Internet Auctions
every year with lots
of exciting IRELAND
material. Send for
YOUR free copy of
the next catalogue
TODAY !!!

Specialising in **collection-building** for the general collector and for Exhibition: whether you collect Ireland **for pleasure**, maybe are even interested in **winning an award** for your collection, or you collect with an eye to **investment**, my business is to help you achieve **your goals**.



Roy Hamilton-Bowen

Eisenbahnstrasse 8

DE- 63110 Rodgau GERMANY

Call: (+49) 6106-3023 Fax: -3024

e-mail: roy.hb@online.de

Publisher of the award-winning Hibernian Handbook and Catalogue

Come see us
at Spring and
at Autumn
Stampex:
Stand 36

THE web-site for Irish Philately: www.hibernian-news.eu

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2016 - PART 1

by Brian Warren

Note that illustrations of single stamps, pairs (except for Love stamps) and postmarks (except inkjets - IJPs) are full size; illustrations of IJPs, blocks and strips, booklets, covers and stationery items are reproduced at between 50% and 66% of full size.

Postal rates went up on 21 July 2016, with the minimum inland and international rates increasing by 2c and 5c to 72c and €1.10 respectively. The first weight step limit remains at 100g.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES (excluding Centenary of the Easter Rising issues)

The 2016 programme, comprising 26 regular gummed sheet stamps, 4 self-adhesive stamps, 2 miniature sheets and 4 booklets, was issued over 12 release dates at a total cost of €86.25. The major cost continues to be booklets. All counter regular gummed issues and one of the self-adhesive stamps were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 13 sheetlets was €235.88.

I have included the Centenary of the Easter Rising sheetlet and miniature sheets with the similar definitive issues.

The 2015 totals of 31 regular gummed stamps, 5 self-adhesive stamps, 2 miniature sheets and 4 booklets were issued over 16 release dates at a total cost of €88.13. All counter regular gummed issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 22 sheetlets was €328.16.

The reduction in the cost, despite the increase in postal rates, was due to the fall in the number of commemoratives in favour of the issue of the special Easter Rising issue in various formats during the year (see pages 8 to 13). When these definitives are taken into account the overall cost increased from €119.43 in 2015 to a massive €162.19 in 2016.

There were 5 single stamp issues compared to 2 in 2015, 7 in 2014, 5 in 2013, 4 in 2012, 7 in 2011 and 14 in both 2009 and 2008. The Greetings and Love and Marriage stamps are excluded in these totals as they are only available in self-adhesive pairs and booklets.

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer	
							
28 Jan.	Irish Heart Foundation (50th Anniversary)	- Heart	70c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Cartor
11 Feb.	Love & Marriage - Self-adhesive booklet	- Heart	€7.00	10 x N values with single design		9 x 11	Cartor
25 Feb.	St Patrick's Day	- St Patrick as shepherd	€1.05	1A1A1A1AA/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14¼ x 14	Cartor

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
---------------	-------------	------	---------------------	-------	-------------	---------



10 Mar.	Dogs	- Irish Wolfhound	70c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¼	Cartor
		- Irish Red Setter	70c				
		- Sheepdog	70c				
		- Kerry Blue	70c				
		- Miniature sheet (designs as per sheet stamps)	€2.80	4 x 70c	CCP3	14 x 14¼	Cartor
7 Apr.	Charles Gavan Duffy (Birth Bicentenary)		70c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¼	Cartor
12 May	Europa (55th Issue - Green)	- Greener planet	70c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13½ x 13½	Cartor
		- "Forty shades of green"	€1.05	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13½ x 13½	Cartor
16 June	Wild Atlantic Way - Horse riding, Grange, Co. Sligo		72c	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1	13½ x 13½	Cartor
		- Fly fishing at Glenbeg Lough, Co. Cork	72c				
		- Cycling on the Aran Islands	€1.10	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP1	13½ x 13½	Cartor
		- Surfing at Inch, Co. Kerry	€1.10				
		- Prestige booklet (face value €14.56)	€15.00	Four panes - see below	CCP1	13½ x 13½	Cartor
23 June	Centenary of the Battle of the Somme		€1.05 (W)	1A/1B	CCP3	14 x 14¼	Cartor

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue		Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
  						
 						
 						
18 Aug.	Irish Shop Fronts	- Vibes & Scribes 72c - The Winding Stair 72c - Thomas Moran €1.10 - Clerke €1.10	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B } Se-tenant pairs 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B }	CCP3	12 x 12½	Cartor
15 Sept.	Cycling in Ireland	- Commuting 72c - Family & Leisure 72c - Sport & Charity 72c - High Performance 72c - Miniature sheet €2.88	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B } Se-tenant block of four } 4 x 72c - same designs	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Cartor
6 Oct.	Commissioners of Irish Lights	- Working on a buoy 72c - Helicopter above Fanad lighthouse, Co. Donegal 72c - Technology 72c - ILV Granuaile 72c - Prestige booklet (face value €11.52) €13.00	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B } Four panes - see below	CCP3	13¼ x 13¼	Cartor
3 Nov.	Christmas (46th Issue)	- The Holy Family 72c - The Three Wise Men €1.10 - Booklet (Christmas decorations) - self-adhesive €18.00	Se-tenant – SOAR self-adhesive 26 x 72c, i.e. one free stamp		11 x 11¼ 11¼ x 11¼	CCL Label Cartor

Printers and Sheet Format: All stamps were printed by the French based firm Cartor Security Printing ("Cartor") or the Irish firm CCL Label. Cartor used lithography to print the stamps; CCL Label Art used a HP Indigo high resolution digital printing process.



Top margin of a St Patrick "A" sheetlet showing plate numbers and colour control spots

Except for the Europa issue, all regular gummed sheet stamps were issued in 16-stamp (4 x 4) sheetlet format with both "A" and "B" sheets. The plate numbers are located in the left margin beside row 1 and the colour controls in the right margin beside row 1.

The imprint is in the bottom margin under the first stamp in the last row. The bottom right corner is blank. The subject of the issue, normally in both English and Irish, is printed across the top margin. This layout applies to both horizontal and vertical format designs. All sheetlets have an imperforate top margin, all other margins being perforated.

For the Dogs, Wild Atlantic Way, Cycling in Ireland and Irish Lights issues, each row/block was set out in the same se-tenant sequence within the sheet.

The format for the Europa stamps is referred to below and/or in the table above. All stamps have a full phosphor frame unless otherwise stated and bear the year imprint at the foot of the stamp.

Paper/Gum: As noted in my two previous articles, some issues in both 2014 and 2015 had revised paper/gum combinations.

In 2016, there was only one regular gummed issue which was not on CCP3 paper. This was the Wild Atlantic Way set, which was printed on phosphorised CCP1 paper.

First Day Covers: Unserviced FDCs cost €1 (2015: €1). Special covers and pictorial cancels were available for all issues.

A presentation folder with all 18 (2015: 18) first day covers for the special and commemorative issues (including the two miniature sheets), and also the 1916 Easter Rising definitive SOAR set, was available from early December. Normally definitive covers are not included in this annual pack.

The price of €70 (2015: €65) compares with a cost of €59.21 (2015: €54.70) if bought as individual covers. All serviced covers sold by the bureau continue to bear a "printed", and thus sharper looking, first day postmark as compared to the hand applied cancellation which is used on collectors' own covers.



Irish Heart Foundation: The Irish Heart Foundation is a charity dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. The design features an image of a heart over a cardiograph of a regular heartbeat.



Love and Marriage (11th Issue): The booklet is in self-adhesive format and incorporates ten "N" (National rate - then 70c, now 72c) stamps set out in one pane, folded twice, containing two rows of five stamps with an overlapping heart design. Surplus paper retained. The stamp measures 38mm x 26mm. The cover of the booklet features the word "LOVE" with a heart forming the "V". A pair of self-adhesives with plain backing and surplus paper intact is available from the philatelic bureau.

St Patrick's Day: The stamp depicts a young St Patrick in slavery as a shepherd, with Slemish Mountain in Co. Antrim in the background. The stamp measures 41mm x 30mm.



Dogs: The block of four stamps features four uniquely Irish dog breeds as listed. The stamp measures 30mm x 41mm. The same four stamps are included in the miniature sheet which measures 150mm x 90mm. The miniature sheet was also overprinted for Stampa 2016 - see below.



Charles Gavan Duffy (Birth Bicentenary): Duffy was one of the founders of The Nation, a weekly journal of Irish nationalist opinion. He also formed the Tenant Right League. He was elected for New Ross, Co. Wexford in 1852. Disillusioned with Irish

politics, he emigrated to Australia in 1855 and served as Prime Minister of Victoria in 1871-72. He was knighted in 1873. The design is based on an illustration of Charles Gavan Duffy by Charles Cullen. The stamp measures 30mm x 41mm.



Europa (Think Green): The 70c value is in a common design produced by Cyprus Post. Both values were printed in the normal ten-stamp format for Europa issues (5 rows of 2 horizontal stamps with a surrounding illustrative panel). The plate numbers are included in the left margin, with the plate numbers beside stamp 1. The printer's imprint is placed under stamp 2 of row 5 and the colour controls are in the left margin beside stamp 1 of row 5. The top and left margins of both sheetlets are perforated; the other two

margins are imperforate. Each stamp measures 45mm x 28mm.



Wild Atlantic Way: The Wild Atlantic Way is a defined touring route from the Inishowen Peninsula in Donegal down the west coast of Ireland ending in Kinsale in Co. Cork. The set of four stamps captures various scenes along the route. Each stamp measures 45mm x 28mm. *The Collector* refers to the paper as TR Yellow Green phosphor with PVA gum. The paper gives a bright CCP1 reaction under a UV lamp and because this issue has no white border around the designs, the phosphor is contained in the paper. You need to be in complete darkness to note the afterglow under a UV lamp.

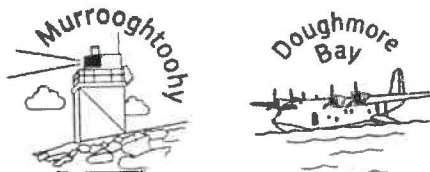


The prestige booklet contains the following four panes, all the stamps being fully perforated:-

- (1) Block of 4 x 72c - Horse riding, Grange, Co. Sligo;
- (2) Block of 4 x €1.10 - Cycling on the Aran Islands;
- (3) Block of 4 x €1.10 - Surfing at Inch, Co. Kerry; and
- (4) Block of 4 x 72c - Fly fishing at Glenbeg Lough, Co. Cork (*illustrated above*).

A faint map of the relevant region forms the backdrop on each pane. The panes are rouletted at left and stitched into the booklet covers.

Earlier in the year, An Post launched a Wild Atlantic Passport (cost €10) which can be presented at 124 post offices and a number of tourist offices along the route, at which a specific cachet(s) relating to the location(s) in the area can be obtained. There are a total of 188 cachets to collect.



I illustrate a sample of two cachets above. Further details of the locations and post offices can be obtained at www.wildatlanticway.com.



Centenary of the Battle of the Somme: The Battle of the Somme took place near the Somme River in France and lasted from 1 July to 18 November 1916. Poorly planned, poorly researched and poorly executed, what ensued was the biggest blood bath in the history of the British Army. By the time it ended, more than one million soldiers from both sides had died without making any significant alteration in the opening position. Among the dead were over 3,500 Irish soldiers, with many more wounded, all mostly on the very first day.

This was the third in a series of four sets remembering World War I. The stamp measures 44mm x 44mm and features an image of the Royal Irish Rifles from the Imperial War Museum. The W was to take account of the fact that the overseas postal rate was to change the following month. This is the first sheet stamp bearing a W (World) indicia. The only previous W stamps were in a Bird Definitive self-adhesive booklet issued prior to the change over to the Euro.



Irish Shop Fronts: The set of four shop fronts features some classical design elements that are fast disappearing in Ireland today. Each stamp measures 40mm x 26mm.

Vibes & Scribes in Cork City is an arts and hobby shop. The Winding Stair on Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin 1 is a bookshop - there is also a restaurant of the same name above the shop. Thomas Moran in Westport is a souvenir shop still in the same family, as is Clerke, a grocery shop in Skibbereen in West Cork.

I have visited the Dublin, Cork and Westport locations and can confirm that only Thomas Moran has a postcard featuring the shop. I have seen an old postcard for Clerke in Skibbereen but do not know if it is still available. Another interesting fact is that the Cork, Skibbereen and Westport shops are all located in Bridge Street.



Cycling in Ireland: The stamps feature various aspects of cycling in Ireland. Note that all the cyclists are wearing a protective helmet; but this is not the case with the cyclists shown on the €1.10 Wild Atlantic Way stamp issued earlier in the year. The colour controls take the form of cycling shirts. Note also that a bicycle is cleverly incorporated into the word "Cycling" on each stamp. Each stamp measures 36mm x 36mm. The miniature sheet contains a block of four of the same stamps.

Separate first day cover designs were available for the single set and the miniature sheet. The postmark was the same for both covers. The

miniature sheet was also overprinted for the Cork Stamp and Coin Exhibition.

Commissioners of Irish Lights: This very attractive set appears to be a popular seller at the bureau. Each stamp measures 45mm x 28mm. The ILV Granuaile (*bottom right stamp in block*) is pictured passing Valentia Lighthouse at Cromwell Point. Rathlinobeime Lighthouse in Co. Donegal is featured on the first day cover. The same lighthouse is also featured on the front of the prestige booklet which contains four panes of stamps. The colour controls take the form of miniature lighthouses



Each pane in the booklet includes a set of the four stamps shown as individual stamps (see illustration). All stamps are fully perforated.

The panes are rouletted at left and stitched into the booklet covers. Each pane has a backdrop illustration as follows:-

- (1) A view of the bridge on the ILV Granuaile;
- (2) Rockabill Lighthouse off Skerries, Co. Dublin;
- (3) Fastnet Rock Lighthouse, off the southwest coast in Co. Cork (*illustrated above*); and
- (4) ILV Granuaile alongside an East Cardinal Buoy.

Cardinal marks or buoys (North, East, South and West) are used in conjunction with the compass to indicate the direction from the mark on the buoy in which the deepest navigable water lies. This helps to draw attention to a bend, junction or fork in a channel, or to mark the end of a shoal.

Christmas: The annual Christmas counter issue was only issued in self-adhesive format. The two SOAR self-adhesives issued by the bureau are numbered 1 (72c) and 2 (€1.10), with the date code of 16308 which corresponds to 3 November 2016. Complete rolls as issued to post offices

contained 600 stamps numbered 1 to 600, i.e. 300 se-tenant pairs, and any value could be obtained.



Each stamp measures 56mm x 25mm. They replaced the Easter Rising definitive issue whilst on sale. The stamps, which each measure 56mm x 25mm, have the usual 3 phosphor bars.

The self-adhesive booklet issue, which is similar to previous Christmas booklets in layout, contains 26 x 72c stamps, giving one free stamp per booklet. The 26 stamps are set out in one pane, folded six times, containing two columns of 13 stamps, all with phosphor frames. Each stamp measures 25mm x 30mm. A pair of self-adhesives from the booklet with normal booklet backing was available from the philatelic bureau.

YEAR PACK AND YEAR BOOK

Year Pack: The Year Pack contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2016, including a pair of the Love and Marriage self-adhesive booklet stamp and a pair of the Christmas booklet self-adhesive stamp, together with the two Christmas SOAR stamps, but excluding all booklets and all miniature sheets; the 1916 Easter Rising sheetlet is included in the pack – a total of 48 stamps with a face value of €40.19. Cost €45.

Year Book: The bilingual book contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2016, including both regular gummed and self-adhesive stamps as included in the year pack, together with the two miniature sheets. The 1916 Easter Rising sheetlet is included but not the four Easter Rising miniature sheets – a total of 48 stamps plus 2 miniature sheets with a face value of €45.87 are pre-mounted in the year book. Total printing of 1,500 standard copies and 100 leather-bound editions. Cost €75 (leather edition: €210).

(to be continued)

Literature Review: *The Post Office in Ireland, An Illustrated History*by
Stephen Ferguson

There have been several books written on the post office and postal history of Ireland. For the postal historian there is the *Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840*, by David Feldman and William Kane (1975). Stephen Ferguson has written several works on different aspects of the Irish Post office, including *The Irish Post Box* (2009); *Business as Usual: GPO Staff in 1916* (2012); and *The GPO, 200 Years of History* (2104). Mr. Ferguson describes his latest work (2017) as “the first complete history of the Irish Post Office, an institution which has been at the heart of Irish life for over 300 years.” As the Assistant Secretary of An Post and curator of its Museum & Archive, Mr. Ferguson is in a perfect position to write such a history. In fact, the numerous illustrations from the An Post Museum & Archives are one of the strengths of this book. In addition, the author uses a variety of illustrations and photographs from the National Library of Ireland, the BT Heritage and Archives, as well as his own extensive personal collection. As the events of 1916 were commemorated last year, it is an appropriate time for this book to be written.

The book is arranged thematically, with twelve chapters, each covering a particular aspect of the Post Office. These include the creation of the Post Office, postboys and mail coaches, post barque and packet ship, railways and the post office, the telegraph and the telephone, and the creation of An Post. This is a monumental undertaking taking 403 pages to complete. The book is well researched, with numerous Endnotes for each chapter. There are also five appendices, which list the Irish postal network, postmasters general and Government Ministers. The Select Bibliography is an excellent historic reference for postal historians, listing fifty principal primary manuscript and printed sources and numerous secondary sources that were used in the book. A complete index is always a valuable addition to any book, including this one.

Mr. Ferguson is a gifted writer who is able to convey how important the Irish Post office was to the people and history of Ireland. From the Preface: “From small and rather uncertain origins some four hundred years ago, to its place in the early twentieth century as one of the greatest employers of the state, to its present incarnation as An Post, the Irish Post Office has long been intimately connected with daily life in Ireland and its influence has been both enduring and positive.”

A position, Master of the Posts, was established in 1516 in England and the colonization and conquest of Ireland during the 16th century ensured that, in times of crisis and rebellion, a sporadic postal system, serving the needs of the English sovereign and his government, operated in Ireland. The first official postmaster of Dublin was Nicholas Fitzsymonds, appointed in 1562. But for many years the postal system remained essentially a private operation to meet military and administrative requirements. It is likely that the creation of a postal network in Ireland, with a regular system of dispatches and staging posts accessible to the public, dates only to Evan Vaughan’s appointment as Postmaster of Dublin in 1638, and later, Deputy Postmaster in Ireland. By 1656, the foundation of the Irish postal network had been established with three main ‘roads’, Ulster, Munster and Connaught. The western seaboard, areas like Donegal and Kerry were poorly served and would have to wait many years before they were incorporated into regular routes.

In 1784, the Irish Post Office was established by Act of the Irish Parliament as a body separate from the British Post office, and assumed responsibility for 145 Irish post-towns. Maritime communication between Ireland and England was an important part of the history of the Post Office in Ireland. Due to important trade ties and the constant flow of Irish people, the tale of packet ships and mail boats is a vivid one dating back to the time of Elizabeth I in 1561. On 1 June 1821, a scheduled Post Office Steam service between Howth and Holyhead was initiated, cutting travel time across the Irish Sea in half compared with the earlier sailing ships. The crossing was often dangerous. The RMS *Leinster* was a vessel operated by the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company, served as the Kingstown – Holyhead mailboat until she was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine UB-123 on 10 October 1918, while bound for Holyhead. Over 500 people perished in the sinking – the greatest single loss of life in the Irish Sea. The ship was carrying soldiers in addition to crew, civilians and post office staff.

In 1780, John Anderson arrived in Cork and established mail coaches and turnpike roads, which improved the great public communications of Ireland and opened the country from one extremity to the other. This is a fascinating story related in detail by the author. The introduction of uniform penny postage in 1840 and the subsequent creation of special rates for sending newspapers and books through the post, played an important role in facilitating the extension of literacy throughout the country. Up to then the high rate of postage acted as a clear disincentive to letter writing and the exchange of news and ideas.

The development of a railway network in Ireland in the middle decades of the nineteenth century profoundly changed the nature of Irish society. In 1838, The Post Office secured in Parliament the Conveyance of Mails Railroad Act under which it might require railway companies to carry the mails. In 1835 the Dublin & Kingstown railway company brought mail from Westland Row station to and from Kingstown (name changed to Dún Laoghaire in 1921). This was the start of mail service by rail between Ireland and England. In May 1848 the Chester and Holyhead railway was opened. By 1920, the Dún Laoghaire – Holyhead became the main mail route between Ireland and England. In 1977 the British Post Office stopped sending first class items to Ireland by sea, an event that signaled the end of the mail boat as a vital component of Post Office operations. “That proud and intimate connection between the PO and the ships that sailed the Irish Sea was gone forever.”

For approximately half a century, from 1887 to the Second World War, the railways were the indispensable arteries of the postal service. The first Irish traveling post office, or TPO, with a purpose-built sorting carriage, worked on the Dublin-Cork night mail of the Great Southern & Western Railway on 1 January 1855. The railways opened up Ireland, the tracks bringing letters, parcels and newspapers to villages and isolated communities in the west of Ireland. The TPOs were gradually withdrawn from service and the last Cork TPO rolled into Kent station in January 1994. As the author relates, when the last TPOs ran in January 1994, the Post Office lost not just the historic link that had bound it to the Irish railway network since its development but also the knowledge, traditions and intangible spirit of the TPO men.

The nineteenth century witnessed wonderful technological developments - railways, the telegraph and the telephone – all of which were incorporated into the burgeoning business of the Post Office. A lasting link between Europe and America was established on 27 July 1866 when the cable laid by the *SS Great Eastern* from Valentia Island, one of Ireland’s most westerly points, to Heart’s Content in Newfoundland.

Until the creation of a new state telephone company, Telecom Éireann, in 1984, the Post Office had been involved in the provision of telephone service in Ireland for almost a century. The creation of An Post in 1984 made a break with the Civil Service of many of its employees and allowed the new company to adopt recruitment and promotion policies that reflected more fashionable market factors.

While railways quickly revolutionized Post Office operations in the nineteenth century, the impact of air travel was more gradual in its effects. John Alcock and Whitten Brown landed outside Clifden on 15 June 1919 crossing the Atlantic from St. John Newfoundland carrying 196 letters and 1 letter packet. Another important day for Irish airmail was 26 August 1929, when a dispatch was made by air from Galway to London. When airship travel ended with the crash of the Hindenburg in 1937, attention turned to flying boats with a base in Foynes in County Limerick.

For two hundred years now, the GPO has stood in the capital’s O’Connell Street, an ever-present and impartial witness to the dramas, great and small, that unfold before it day by day. It is important not only as the long-standing principal office of the Irish Post Office but as a building of considerable architectural significance in Dublin’s city center and the center, on Easter 1916, of events that would lead to an independent Ireland. Under the direction of architect Francis Johnston, a County Armagh man, the foundation stone was laid on August 12, 1814, and the GPO opened for service on Jan 6, 1818. It remains one of the oldest continuously functioning GPOs in the world.

The events of Easter Week are covered only briefly, in the chapter Labour and Representation. The author relates that their (the rebels) appreciation of the GPO as the communication hub of the country and their choice of the building as the headquarters of the Rising showed a strategic awareness of the importance of controlling channels of communication, but their efforts were frustrated in large part through the courageous work of Post Office staff. The Rising was at first condemned by many in the Association of Irish Post office Clerks, due to much death and destruction. But the public mood turned to one of sympathy for the idealistic heroism of the rebels. In April 1920 there was a general strike in support of Republican prisoners. Supported by many Irish postal workers, it was the first occasion on which Irish PO staff had taken part in strike action.

During the years after the destruction of the GPO in 1916 the building remained vacant, its windows boarded up while political developments and war continued to dominate Irish affairs. Additional damage was done to the sorting office by anti-Treaty forces on 5 November 1922. However, by August 1928, enough work had been completed on the GPO that staff began to return and in 1933, the reconstruction of the GPO was finally completed.

The book is filled with interesting tidbits of information. The origin of the post horn was the need to warn other road users and tollgate operators that the mail coach was coming through. The use in stamp production of a machine to perforate the stamps on a sheet is attributed to an Irishman, Henry Archer, around 1842. Anthony Trollope, the novelist who spent thirty-three years in Ireland working for the Survey Branch of the Department, is credited with the introduction of the pillar (letter) box in Ireland in 1855. The earliest surviving pillar box still in daily use is the unusual little one in Cork's Kent station. Uniforms were first provided to postmen in September 1845. The idea for a distinctive uniform arose, it is said, in an effort to prevent them from slipping into alehouses on their rounds. On Irish independence in 1922, the red piping on the jackets were replaced with green and the royal cypher on the brass buttons with a harp.

The Post Office and its staff have long occupied a special place in Irish life. Retaining, in the modern world, its unique mix of trust, public service and affection does pose challenges for the future. The author concludes that rapid technological advances have threatened to render most of what the Post Office has traditionally done entirely obsolete. With the Internet, e-mail and mobile phone, private correspondence has virtually disappeared and money transmission has been steadily moving to electronic platforms. This no doubt will offer many challenges to the Irish Post Office, as it does to postal systems around the world.

In conclusion, part of the title of this book, ...*an Illustrated History*, is an apt description. The book is profusely illustrated with photographs and illustrations of letter boxes, post offices, milestone markers, railway equipment, postal workers, post cards, documents and forms. The author did extensive research and documents his research with extensive Endnotes and a select bibliography. There is something here for the historian, the stamp collector and the postal historian of Ireland. I count illustrations for eleven stamps and sixteen postal covers. I wish that there were more coverage of the stamps printed during the transition. The addition of a few railway and early airmail covers would have added greatly to the text. These are among the most costly and sought after covers for postal history collectors. However, this is a history of the Post Office in Ireland, and not intended for philatelists in general. In this regard, this work will no doubt be the definitive history of the Post Office of Ireland. In this context, the book is a very enjoyable and informative read. (*This book may be ordered through An Post, item 16B1, for 24.99 Euros plus postage.*)

Reviewed by John B. Sharkey

Special Offers of publications available for sale will now appear in one *Revealer* per year. This year it will appear in the *Autumn Revealer*. The full list can be found on our award winning website: <http://www.eirephilatelicassoc.org> If you have an inquiry please contact: Timothy O'Shea at 58 Porter Street, Granby, MA, USA 01033

IRISH BUTTERFLIES, INTERESTING FACTS

Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

Butterflies are the most beautiful creations of nature, the top of its artistic mastery, undoubted masterpieces of evolution. There is known more than 170 thousand species of butterflies spread all over the world except the Antarctic. Their sizes vary from 2-3 millimeters to 20-30 centimeters. There are many relic and endemic species among butterflies, which are the adornment of nature, have great scientific and cognitive significance, and bring real joy and boundless aesthetic delight. The hundreds of different species of butterflies and moths surprise us with their beauty and a creative peak of perfection. The coloring of butterflies has a heat regulating purpose. The butterflies with light coloring keep in well-lit places: in the crowns of the trees, on the edge of forests, or on the sand at river banks. Butterflies with dark coloring (brown or black) in most cases fly in the shade. The biological purpose of bright, motley colors of the upper side of the wings of butterflies is the distinguishing of individuals of their species from long distances (males and females attract each other by their colorings).

In Ireland one finds 34 species of butterflies and about 1400 species of moths. Some of them are depicted on postage stamps and have an interesting history. The Peacock (**photo 1** - Ireland stamp 2000) is probably the most beautiful of all the Irish species and fortunately is widespread throughout most of Ireland. The Peacock is a familiar sight in gardens of Ireland and is unmistakable, with quite spectacular eyes on the upper side of the hindwings that give this butterfly its name. These eyes must appear very threatening to predators, such as mice, that confront this butterfly head-on, where the body with outstretched wings forming a "beak". The underside is a different matter altogether, being almost black, providing perfect camouflage when the butterfly is at rest on a tree trunk, or when hibernating. In addition to camouflage and large eyes, the butterfly is able to make a hissing sound by rubbing its wings together that is audible to human ears. All in all, this butterfly must appear very threatening to any predator that might come across it.

The Red Admiral (**photo 2** - Ireland stamp 1985) is probably Ireland's best-known butterfly, and certainly one of the most beautiful, with its almost perfect pattern of red bands and white spots on a black background. It was first named as "the Admirable" by Moses Harris in 1766. This Red Admiral occurs in Ireland as a migrant originating from north Africa and southern Europe, and being a highly mobile species, it can turn up in any habitat including woodlands, grasslands, meadows, heathlands and moors, coastal habitats, riverbanks, low montane habitats, gardens, parks, allotments and town centres. Migrants arriving in the early spring oviposit on stinging nettles growing alongside hedgerows or in woodland glades, producing a summer brood in Ireland which typically emerges from mid July to early August. In early autumn these butterflies migrate south, arriving in southern woodlands where they congregate to nectar at ivy blossom.

Butterfly Painted Lady (**photo 3** - Ireland souvenir sheet 2005) is noted for swift flight and lengthy migration. It is a cosmopolitan butterfly and may be found almost everywhere in the world except Australia and New Zealand. It is called "La Belle Dame" in French, "Bella Dama" in Spanish, "Distelfalter" in German, "Tistelfjaril" in Swedish and "Hime a katate ha" in Japanese. It was discovered by early entomologists that in the autumn, great flocks of the butterflies move from Europe to the south, laying eggs in various areas as they go and reaching as far as the Sahara. In the spring, the process is reversed as new generations move to the north. In 1948 a mass invasion of the butterfly into the British Isles was recorded and there was a case in the Mediterranean Sea where a motor vessel had an accident because of the Painted Lady! The clouds of migrating butterflies covered the wheelhouse and the helmsman lost his bearings and put the ship on an underwater rock formation. Butterfly Painted Lady is also very useful in agriculture, as the larvae feed on thistles, nettles and wormwood.

The Common Blue butterfly (**photo 4** - Ireland stamp 1985) is the most colourful of the Blues found in Ireland. The male is a very attractive shiny blue. This unusual butterfly has iridescent coloration of wings connected with the presence of optical scales. This butterfly forms reasonably discrete colonies measured in tens or hundreds, with individuals occasionally wandering some distance.

The Green Hairstreak (**photo 5** - Ireland stamp 2005) has a very attractive metallic green underside. The upperside is brown but at rest the butterfly always keeps its wings closed. The iridescent green colour of the undersides is a structural colour caused by diffraction and interference of light by microscopic repeating structures in the wing scales. It is quite small and difficult to see as it is well camouflaged among the green

of gorse and other shrubs.

Brimstone butterfly (**photo 6** – Ireland stamp 1985) is not very common in Ireland. It is a very attractive light lemon or yellow butterfly that has a rather pointed wing shape. Some say that this butter coloured insect was responsible for the name 'butterfly'. It hibernates during the winter. Many butterflies suck nectar and live several weeks or months. However, Brimstone butterfly can be entered in the book of records on the duration of life among the butterflies of the world. The period of life of the butterfly, taking into account the hibernation, can last for eleven months.

The variety and coloring of wings refer butterflies to the most beautiful creatures on Earth. They create positive emotions, improve the mood and so heal by their beauty. Collect postage stamps with butterflies!

Author always glad to help philatelists in creation or improvement of philatelic exhibit on butterflies and moths. My address for letters is: Vladimir Kachan, Street Kulibina 9-49, Minsk-52, BY-220052, Republic of Belarus, e-mail: vladimirkachan@mail.ru



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 4



Photo 3 Souvenir Sheet



Photo 5 60c stamp middle right

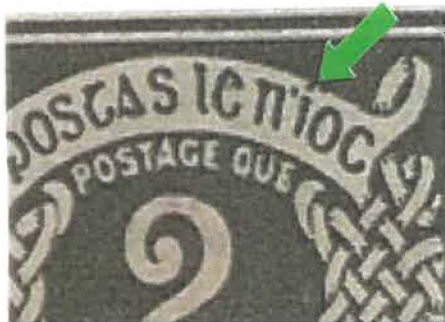


Photo 6 28p stamp lower right

Postage Due Varieties: 2d Se wmk By Liam Malone



This short article highlights some new varieties of the 2d Se watermark issued February 20, 1925. Miss Ruby McConnell designed this series, which is the same design for the 1940s, 1970s, and 1978 series.. I've mentioned before that the sloppy printing of these labels, especially the series before 1978 produces all kinds of varieties. Now are the varieties I am discovering worth much? That's a tough question. It seems we would need to record at least a few more copies of each newly discovered variety before we can truly announce a new variety has been found.



My postage due collection is what I consider a research collection. It is housed in Linder binders with Vario pages. I use the clear pages when I want to show the back of the stamp such as a watermark variety and for covers with markings on front and back. My collection includes an album of hundreds of singles, pairs, short strips, and blocks of various sizes. Next is an album of full sheets of the 1940 issue, the 1970s issue, 1978 issue and the 1988 series, which was issued in what I think are very attractive sheetlets. I do not have any full sheets of the 1980 issue and I have never seen any in an auction. If any of you have full sheets of this issue please let me know. I then have 3 albums of commercial and philatelic covers. I own a dealer's stock book loaded with issues from all the series. Finally, an album of my exhibit which has won a Vermeil so far.



Featured on this page are three 2d Se watermark varieties I have not seen before and don't appear in any catalogs I've used. The top stamp shows a small horizontal line in the upper frame between perfs 4 and 5 denoted by the green arrow. The middle picture shows an indentation in the white banner to the right of the accent mark above letter 'i'. The bottom stamp shows a very narrow notch in the lower frameline. The first edition of the Hibernian catalog from 1972, lists a similar but wider notch in the same frameline. So my stamp appears to be a variety of this cataloged variety. If any reader has these, please send an image of them to me at eparevealer@gmail.com.

For Association members living in Ireland or the United Kingdom, Board Member Robert Benninghoff is willing at his expense to pay the exhibit fees and shipping for any Irish stamp exhibit shown in the United States, especially one at our Annual General Meeting.

ÉPA Auction Update!

by Bob Kemper, ÉPA Auction Manager

Many changes have taken place with the ÉPA Auctions since I volunteered to replace your long time Auction Manager, Bill O'Connor, at the end of 2013. What previously had only appeared on the inside sleeves of *the Revealer*, now can be found both as an insert within *the Revealer* and on the ÉPA website at www.eirephilatelicassoc.org. However, the biggest change has been how I communicate with our members throughout the auction cycle.

For all ÉPA Members with an active email address on file, direct email communications take place throughout the auction cycle. Once a new auction is ready for publication, but well before you receive your latest issue of *the Revealer*, a copy of the new auction is emailed to all Members. From that point forward, periodic updates about the current auction are emailed to highlight special items or to remind Members of approaching deadlines. For those Members submitting their bids via email (the fastest and easiest way to bid), communications have just begin. First, all email submitted bids are acknowledged along with a status on those bids - current winning bid or outbid by another bidder. As other bids are submitted throughout the bidding cycle, Outbid Notices are emailed to bidders whose previous bid has been beaten so that they can consider increasing their bid for lots greatly desired.

Another change has been that once an auction closes, those Members with an active email address are given an exclusive opportunity to purchase any unsold lots at the lot's "Reserve" price. This Last Chance Opportunity (LCO) to purchase unsold lots lasts for roughly one week and all lots are sold on a first come, first served basis. Typically, 20 to 30 lots are picked up by Members during this LCO.

Finally, once the LCO period has ended, all Members with Winning Bids are sent Invoices for Lots Won - emailed for those with email addresses. The use of email, throughout the auction cycle, has greatly expanded communications about the auctions and reduces Member and Association costs. If you have an email address, but are not receiving emails about our auctions from me, then I am missing that email address. If you would like to receive the auction information outlined in this article, please send me your current email address to EPA-Auction@roadrunner.com.

While I have tried to find ways to cost effectively expand the quality and effectiveness of our auctions, I am sure that there are other changes that could improve the auction experience for you. Please send me your thoughts on other changes desired and we'll see if we can't make things even better.

If your mailing label does not show 2017 or later, kindly send your payment to EPA Treasurer - Barney Clancy or this could be your last issue of *The Revealer*.

Also, a deposit was made to the BOI account on 8 March 2017. No information accompanied the payment. If this was you, please advise the treasurer at bclanz@aol.com and provide the amount of the deposit so that I can update your record