

the Revealer

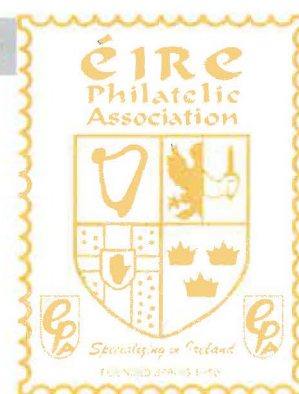
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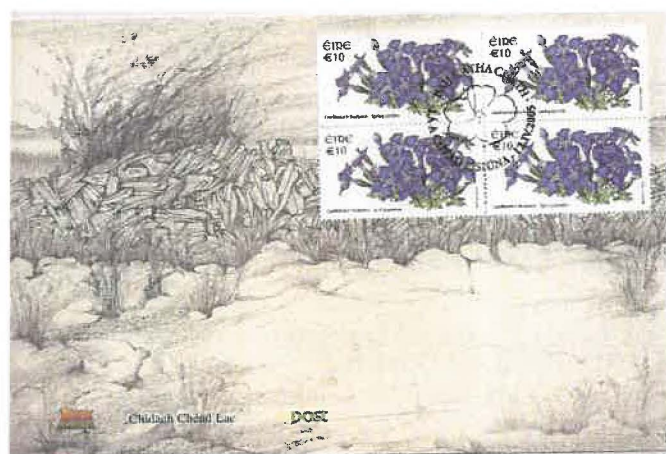
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Plan to attend STAMPA, October 6-8, 2017 in Dublin.

THE REVEALER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Richard Kelly

We have just completed this year's Annual General Meeting held during Milcopex in Milwaukee. You will find all of the reports and results in this issue. Congratulations to all of the exhibiting and service award winners.

We shared the Crown Plaza Milwaukee with the Houdini Club of Wisconsin, who were having their 79th Annual Convention. Unfortunately their magic did not extend to the bourse as no great treasures were found in the dollar boxes.

Unfortunately our Treasurer, Barney Clancy and Board Member, Ray Murphy were unable to attend due to the impact of hurricane Irma in Florida. The

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

Members reside in Central TX
Chapter is currently inactive, please
contact the Secretary if you wish to
volunteer for this position.

Northern California Chapter (NORCAL)

Members reside in Northern CA
Coordinator: Christopher Palermo
230 Alberta Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070
chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com

James Hoban Chapter

Members reside in MD, VA, DC
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Washington DC 20009
eparevealer@gmail.com

John McCormack Chapter

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tosheal@comcast.net
Lone Star Chapter

Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)

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DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION

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

Each Issue published about a month after above dates.

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Quarter Page	3.625 X 4.875	\$50	\$180
Eighth Page	3.625 X 2.50	\$30	\$105

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CONTACT RICHARD KELLY AT [KELLYRD@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:kellyrd@sbcglobal.net)

President's Message continued:

good news is that their families and they are safe and the recovery has begun. Our prayers go out to all of our members who have been impacted by the two hurricanes and violent weather this year.

We continue to work on improving the services we offer and are always looking for feedback. Our auction continues to grow and auction manager, Bob Kemper has done a great job. The types of material continues to expand and warrants a new look if you haven't been there in a while. By using the internet, Bob has increased and sped up communications with both bidders and consignors. Bob is always looking for new material.

The board has begun discussion on publishing a new book and will have details in the next issue.

The Fall has traditionally been the highlight of the stamp collecting season. I have seen this effect demised in the last few years. The Fall show season is still upon us and supplies of past REVEALERS are available for literature tables and support. Contact John Sharkey if you need them. The best tool we have for recruiting new members is YOU! Share your enthusiasm!

Dear EPA Members.

It is time for 2018 dues to be remitted. Check your mailing label. If the Expiration date shown is 2017 or earlier, please use the envelope enclosed in the Summer Issue of The Revealer to bring your account current

You may also pay your dues through the EPA web site - www.eirephilatelicassoc.org

Log in and go to EPA Resources: From the drop down menu, select Membership Renewal. Select your area of residence and make payment.

Dues rates are: \$20.00 USA; \$25.00 Canada; \$30.00 Rest of the World

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

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT**New Members**

2917 Carey L Walker, PO Box 54966, Tulsa, OK 74155-4986
 2918 Kenneth R Fowler 10208 Ravenscourt Drive, #206, Spotsylvania, VA 22553
 2919 Patrick Morgan, 11085 21st NE, St Michael, MN 55376

Resignations

1624 De clan O'Connor, 35 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co Kildare, Ireland
 2634 Ernest E Fricks 25 Murray Way, Blackwood, NJ 08012

Change of Address

2795 Barry SB Cousins, Unit 7.16 Sutramas Luxury Condominium, No 3Jalan
 Dutamas Melati, Segambut, 51200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 2383 Brian C Roach, 13421 W Baker Drive, Peoria, AZ 85383
 2765 William T Malone, 2101 16th St NW, #527, Washington, DC 20009

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

2918 Kenneth R Fowler, fxpd614@gmail.com
 2908 Michael P Linthicum Sr, csastamp@gmail.com
 2919 Patrick Morgan, pmacmorgan@gmail.com
 2917 Carey L Walker, cawalker@yahoo.com

Bad Email Addresses—

No longer Operational
 2902 Richard W Powers, rwp11891@aol.com

Membership Status

Membership as of August 1, 2017	350
Resignations	-2
New Members	3
Membership as of September 1, 2017	351
Life members of unknown status	12
Complimentary mailings	23
Total Mailings	386

2017 Annual General Meeting of the Éire Philatelic Association

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of the ÉPA was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in conjunction with the Milwaukee Philatelic Society's MILCOPEX 2017, on September 15-17.

Our AGM was brought to order by President Rich Kelly with a moment of silence for two deceased members, Brian O'Loane (0872), and Paul Bento (2328). Rich reminisced about the many contributions and collecting interests of our past ÉPA President Paul Bento.

After determining that a quorum was present, members approved the Minutes of our last AGM, held at Garfield Perry in March 2016. The Secretary reported that the membership is 348, and that prospective members may now join the ÉPA online and pay through PayPal.

Two ÉPA Chapter meetings were held in conjunction with Sescal and Westpex, both in California. At the latter meeting, member Barry Cousins gave an illustrated talk on the early issues of the Irish Republic. Our Vice-President for Europe, Brian Warren, was elected President of the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland. Congratulations Brian. We are considering several locations for our next AGM, and the details will be announced soon. Finally, the ÉPA is celebrating its 50-year affiliation with the American Philatelic Society, being charted as Unit 21 of the APS on April 30, 1967.

President Kelly reported on the September 14th meeting of the ÉPA Board. We have a new printer for our quarterly journal *The Revealer*, now in full color and in a new mailing wrapper. To save space, our list of available publications has been moved to our website (see under ÉPA Resources, then Publications). Our finances are stable but our journal could use more ads. A new ÉPA book, *Sinn Féin Christmas Postal Service*, by Heinz-Juergen Kumpf, is now available through the ÉPA. Another ÉPA-sponsored book on official Irish mail will be published next year. We are considering a number of improvements to our website, including access by tablet and mobile devices, as well as the posting of Irish stamp exhibits. In addition, our auction, under Bob Kemper, continues to show more member involvement. Many improvements have been made and the lots are very reasonable. Donation lots are always welcome. The ÉPA is a bargain compared with many organizations, with annual dues only \$20 (for U.S. members). Please help us recruit new members. Finally, President Kelly thanked the members of the Board and many volunteers for their service and dedication. However, he stressed that our membership is aging and we need more volunteers, especially those with computer skills. ***Please help the ÉPA and volunteer!***

Vice-President William O'Connor presented two ÉPA (non-exhibit) awards:
Liam Malone - the **Vincent A. Linnell Award** for the best article in a single volume of *The Revealer on Se Watermark Postage Due Varieties*.
Barry Cousins – the **Thomas E. Field Memorial Award** for outstanding contributions to Irish philately, such as his publications on the early issues of the Irish Republic.

Director Robert Benninghoff gave an interesting and well-illustrated presentation entitled *Ireland in the Great War and the Struggle for Independence*. Thanks Bob.

John B. Sharkey
ÉPA Secretary
September 18, 2017

ÉPA Exhibits at MILCOPEX 2017

The EPA was well represented in the exhibits at MILCOPEX 2017, with seven exhibits representing 19 frames of material. Below is a brief summary of the exhibits.

The Provisional Government of Ireland December 1921 to December 1922. (Robert Benninghoff). The exhibit shows the social and political history of Southern Ireland during the first year of Irish independence from Great Britain on December 6, 1921 to the beginning of Saorstát Éireann (Irish Free State) on December 6, 1922. Key events include the evolution of the Irish government, the transfer of the Post Office to Irish control, the start of the Civil War and the impact on mail service. This single frame exhibit was awarded a Large Gold.

Irish Coil Stamps 1922 to 1940 (Robert Benninghoff). The exhibit shows the importance of coil stamps in the development of commercial mail in Ireland from independence in 1922 until 1940 when the only change was in the watermark from **SE** for Saorstát Éireann to **e** for Éire. This exhibit is currently the only one to show all of the coil stamps on cover, including the very scarce 2d Vertical Experimental Coil and two of the known covers with these stamps. This six-frame exhibit won a Large Gold and the APS 1900-1940 Medal & Collectors Club of Chicago Exhibitor's Award.

The e Watermark definitive Coil Stamps of Ireland 1940 to 1970. (Robert Benninghoff). The exhibit shows the principal use of the **e** watermarked coil stamps and receipts from their introduction in 1940 until replaced by the Gerl definitive coils in 1970. The exhibit includes the production of the 1d vertical experimental coils after 7seven years delay due to World War II; the importance of the 1/2d coils to make up the new letter rate in 1941; the use of coils to pay the document receipt fee and the evolution and production of the Gerls. This single frame exhibit was awarded a Gold.

The Irish International Exhibition Dublin, 1907; a Postcard Presentation. (William O'Connor). The Exhibition was located at a site next to the Royal Dublin Society grounds, home to the Dublin Horse Show. The exhibit shows exterior and interior views of the Exhibition, Royalty and its trappings, the Irish section and Irish peat cards as well as cards showing the international sections, including Canada, Somaliland, France and Indian. This single frame exhibit was awarded a Silver Bronze, the Women's Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award, and the Mercer R. Bowers for New and Improved Exhibits.

Éire – Ireland. Eleventh Definitive Series 2004-2010 Wild Flowers. (Liam Malone). An Post featured native wild flowers on this colorful definitive series. This exhibit is important because it was the last traditional gummed Series issued before the self-adhesives and stamps on a roll (SOAR) Series were released. The exhibit shows the stamps in singles, first day covers, stamps on a roll (SOAR), official newsletters, printing varieties, coils, booklets varieties, complete sets in blocks and sheets, and covers showing uses for this series. This four-frame exhibit received a MILCOPEX Certificate.

A Short History of Science in Ireland. (John Sharkey). A one-frame thematic exhibit showing how Irish scientists and organizations contributed to science from ancient times to the present. Stamps and covers showing individuals who contributed to science include Robert Boyle, Arthur Guinness, William Rowan Hamilton, Nicholas Callan, Éamon de Valera, and Ernest Walton. This single frame exhibit received a MILCOPEX Certificate, the AAPE Novice Award, and the ÉPA Award for the Novice Exhibitor of Irish Material.

MILCOPEX exhibits continued:

Bridging the Divide. In addition to the above exhibits on Irish material there also was an exhibit of non-Irish material by ÉPA member Brian Harmon. This five-frame exhibit shows the evolution of bridges through their form, design and structural arrangement. The development of the various bridge types is arranged according to their diverse designs that serve unique purposes for different situations. Although containing primarily non-Irish material, there was one Irish stamp showing a steam train on the Boyne Viaduct, built in 1855. This exhibit received a Vermeil and an ATA Medal.

John B. Sharkey
ÉPA Secretary

ÉPA members and Mrs. Richard Kelly enjoying a fine dinner at the MILCOPEX Awards Banquet.



William O'Connor, John Sharkey and Robert Benninghoff were among the ÉPA award winners at MILCOPEX.





ÉPA Director William O'Connor explains his exhibit on the Irish Stamp Exhibition, Dublin 1907



ÉPA member and Director Robert Benninghoff next to one of his Gold-winning exhibits

The ÉPA had planned to attend MILCOPEX 2001, shown in the above cachet, but could not due to the tragedy of 911. Although it was the 50th anniversary of MILCOPEX and the Milwaukee Philatelic Society, there was no special cover issued for the 2017 meeting.



Roy Hamilton-Bowen

Auction # 97 October 28th, 2017

Mail-Bid and Live on-line!

Here are a few of the high-lights:

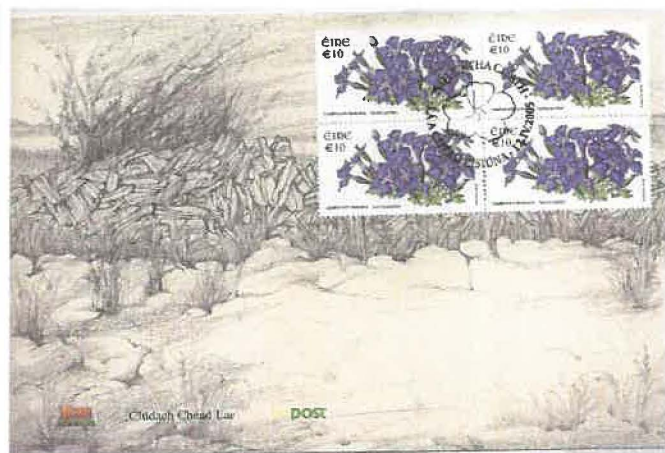
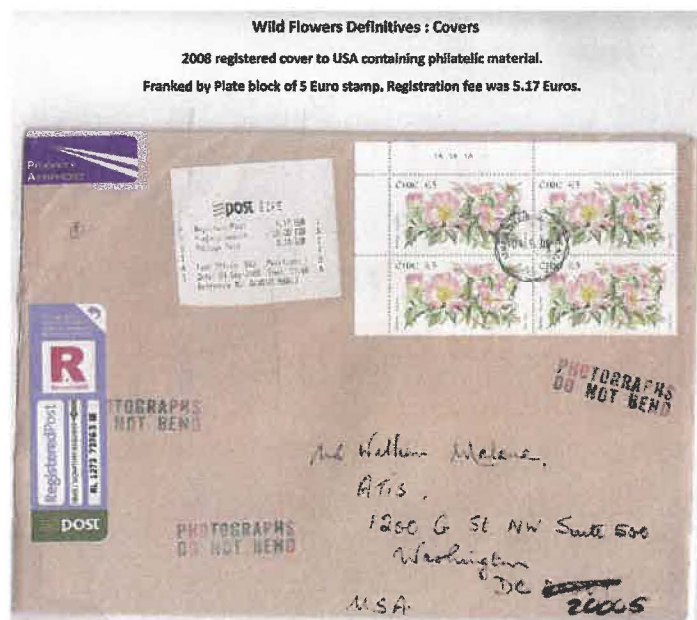


ALL of the lots can be viewed from late September at
www.liveauctioneers.com/auctioneer/harpman
and at our stand at STAMPA 2017 in Dublin

The Wild Flowers Definitives of Ireland Exhibit

Liam Malone, Editor of the *Revealer*, exhibited the Wild Flowers Definitives of Ireland at MILCOPEX 2017. For many years I obtained all new issues directly from An Post. For these definitives I purchased MNH singles, 1A and 1B plate blocks, booklets, and First Day Covers. I displayed all these in my four frame exhibit. In addition, I displayed many covers showing usages especially to destinations outside of Ireland. Some covers had incorrect postage, but no surcharge or postage due was added. Because I live in the United States it is difficult to obtain usages within Ireland. During the period when these definitives were used, I did not think about exhibiting these stamps, so it did not occur to me to obtain internal usages. I believe I have to travel to Ireland to attend a stamp show to see if any dealers still have covers showing internal usages. The lack of such covers is a setback to my exhibit. If any reader has covers with internal usages, I would be willing to purchase them.

The FDC cover with the 10 Euro block of 4 is what I call 'showy' it's clearly a philatelic item and not a commercial usage as is the registered cover. Showy items are crowd pleasers but judges don't always appreciate them.



I displayed the registered cover horizontally. Three such covers filled the bottom of the third and fourth frames.

The Editor had been specializing in Irish postage due material for years. He accumulated 6 albums of covers, sheets, blocks and multiples, varieties and a medal winning exhibit. He recently moved to smaller quarters and decided to part with his collection of postage dues and most other Irish material. His collection of new issues of the 21st century is remarkable and is also available. All will be included in a Spinks auction in December 2017. Members will receive information later about being sent a free auction catalog or they may contact the Editor at EPARevealer@gmail.com for more information.

County Kerry



1611
1073

1543
1469

555
1963

696

Near the tourist town of Killarney in County Kerry is The Killarney National Park (Scott 1611), which was the first national park established in Ireland. Created in 1932, it extends over more than 25,000 acres. It was designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1981 (see Doherty 2014b), and is one of the only two such UNESCO reserves in Ireland, the other being North Bull Island in Dublin Harbor. In the park is Muckross House and Gardens, with the little, horse-drawn jaunting carts so often shown in tourist brochures. The park includes the fabled Lakes of Killarney, McGillicuddy's Reeks (the highest mountain in Ireland), forests of indigenous oak and yew, and even the bogland that comes to mind when one thinks of rural Ireland. Deer abound, as do birds and fish.

Also in Killarney National Park is Ross Castle (Scott 1543), the ancestral home of the O'Donoghue clan. The castle is a 15th-century tower house and keep on the edge of Lough Leane. Built in the 15th century, the five story castle was among the last to surrender to Oliver Cromwell's Roundheads during the Irish Confederate Wars, being surrendered only when artillery was brought by boat via the River Laune. The Irish believed an old prophecy that Ross Castle would never be taken until a warship could

swim on the lake. The sight of the ships unnerved the onlookers and the castle soon submitted.

Ross Castle has many features typical of castles built in that era. The spiral staircase was built in a clockwise direction so that attackers coming up the stairs would have their sword in their right hand, hence be impeded by the structure of the staircase. Lower level windows were vertical thin slits preventing entrance into the structure but still allowing those inside a wide field of fire, and a murder hole above the front entrance allowed defenders to drop stones or boiling oil on attackers, etc.

There is a legend that the O'Donoghue leaped or was sucked out of the window of the grand chamber at the top of the castle and disappeared into the waters of the lake along with his horse, his table and his library. The legend lives on that O'Donoghue lives in a great palace at the bottom of the lake where he keeps a close eye on everything that he sees.

For an emotional change of pace after visiting the castle, we engage a boat to take us to Innisfallen Island about a mile offshore from Ross Castle. The island is home to a ruined monastery with truly impressive archaeological remains that go back to early Christian times. St. Finian founded the monastery in the 6th or 7th century at this bleak and desolated place, a place ideally suited to the life of solitude, prayer and reflection desired by the monks of those times. The monastery flourished for hundreds of years, during which time the monks there wrote "the Annals of Innisfallen," which detailed the early history of Ireland, from the years 433 to 1450. Innisfallen Island is yet today a peaceful spiritual place, with its stillness and mood of contemplation, and well worth a visit.

Next we make our way out of Killarney National Park to the city of Killarney, so popular with tourists. Our visit here is Killarney Cathedral (Scott 555), the foundation stone of which was laid in the summer of 1842. Construction was begun, but ceased completely for five years as the great famine wrought starvation and death in Ireland. During the most terrible years of the famine, the partially completed cathedral was used as a shelter for the dying. Construction was resumed in 1853 and progressed sufficiently by 1855 to allow the building to be used for religious services. It was completed in 1912. The interior of the cathedral was gutted in the 1970s, apparently as a consequence of Vatican II. Virtually none of the original interior remains, as the Victorian plasterwork, the original reredos, other screens and the altar were removed. Not having seen the Cathedral, I assume from the above that it now presents a starkly modern interior.

Our next stop is the nearby town of Tralee, founded in the 13th century, and noted for its annual international festival to select the Rose of

Tralee (Scott 696). The festival is perhaps especially well-known because of ballad of the same name, popular in my youth so long ago. The lyrics of this sad but sweet song are typically Irish with its juxtaposition of love and death:

*The pale moon was rising above the green mountain,
The sun was declining beneath the blue sea;
When I strayed with my love to the pure crystal fountain,
That stands in the beautiful Vale of Tralee.
She was lovely and fair as the rose of the summer,
Yet 'twas not her beauty alone that won me;
Oh no, 'twas the truth in her eyes ever dawning,
That made me love Mary, the Rose of Tralee.
The cool shades of evening their mantle were spreading,
And Mary all smiling was listening to me;
The moon through the valley her pale rays was shedding,
When I won the heart of the Rose of Tralee.
Though lovely and fair as the Rose of the summer,
Yet 'twas not her beauty alone that won me;
Oh no, 'twas the truth in her eyes ever dawning,
That made me love Mary, the Rose of Tralee.
In the far fields of India, 'mid wars dreadful thunders,
Her voice was a solace and comfort to me,
But the chill hand of death has now rent us asunder,
I'm lonely tonight for the Rose of Tralee.
She was lovely and fair as the rose of the summer,
Yet 'twas not her beauty alone that won me;
Oh no, 'twas the truth in her eyes ever dawning,
That made me love Mary, the Rose of Tralee.*

The sweetness of the song belies the history of 1920s violence that left blood on the hands of both the Black and Tans and of both opposing sides in the Civil War. If you cannot get to Tralee during the August festival, you can drop by the town park and see a life size bronze of Mary O'Connor, the original Rose of Tralee.

Now we're on to a very different site, Tarbert Lighthouse (Scott 1073). I believe that for travel to be maximally enjoyable it should have lots of changes of pace. Also, given that lighthouses are a popular subject for topical collectors, let's take a look at it on the way to one of the most popular tourist sites in Ireland, the Dingle Peninsula. The Tarbert harbor

lighthouse is built on a rock on the north side of Tarbert Island. The lighthouse came into operation in the year 1834. A cast iron bridge, almost 200 years old, connects the lighthouse rock to the shore. The lighthouse itself is a marker for ships in the Shannon estuary, and helps guide vessels into the Tarbert Roads anchorage, reputed to be one of the best anchorages on the Shannon River.

A little to the north is the Dingle Peninsula (Scott 1469), which was once cited by National Geographic as the most beautiful place on earth. Its popularity with tourists from many parts of the world attests to its beauty. You may have seen the Dingle Peninsula as the films *Ryan's Daughter* and *Far and Away* were both filmed in part here.

The very tip of the Dingle is the westernmost point in Europe. That tip is called Sleah Head, and into the face of the cliff behind the road is a carved a crucifix. (Remember, this is Ireland!) If you look westward, you're looking toward the "Americay" of 19th century Irish song. Many years ago on our first trip to the Dingle, my wife and I looked down and saw a derelict, rusted freighter rhythmically surfing in and out with the Atlantic tide, slamming into the Cliffside with each wave. It was a depressing sight.

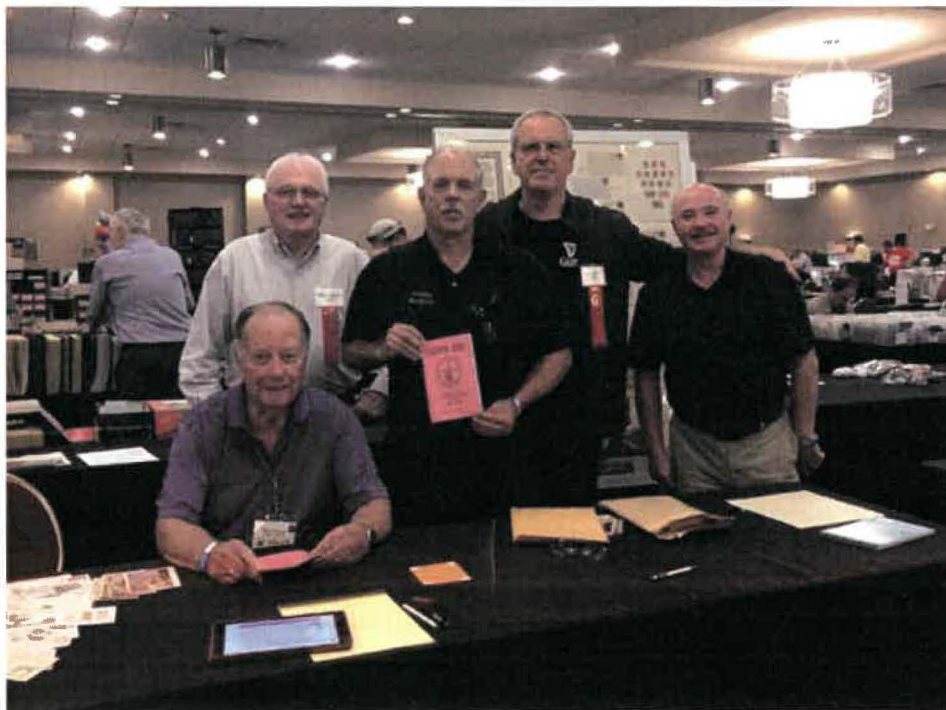
In the west of Ireland are Gaeltechts, that is, regions in which Irish is the first language for many people. The Irish government subsidizes Gaeltechts in an effort to keep the ancient Irish language alive. Among the reminders of Ireland's past on the Dingle are beehive huts (sort of stone igloos). The Gallarus Oratory is a small 1,300 year old stone church that looks like an upside-down boat. It is waterproof, and in near-perfect condition.

There are two small, uninhabited islands about 8 miles southwest of Valencia Island. Scott 1963 shows Little Skellig Island, the smaller of the two. Little Skellig is essentially a rock rising from the Atlantic, and I am baffled that it was chosen as the stamp on which to place the phrase *Visit Ireland!* It is the other island of the two, Great Skellig or Skellig Michael that was inhabited by ascetic monks as early as the 8th century that is the significant tourist attraction. It has attained that status despite the difficulties in reaching it by boat and the hardship involved in ascending the 600-step climb that is the only path to the top. And don't forget the 600 steps down. Tourists who have visited Skellig Michael rave about the experience of being at the holy site and speak of the thrill of seeing the thousands of gulls and gannets that inhabit both of the Skellig islands. In spite of the punishing Atlantic storms of centuries, several beehive huts and oratories survive.

Skellig Michael was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996. The advisory committee to UNESCO describing it in the following terms:

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (iii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being an exceptional, and in many respects unique example of an early religious settlement deliberately sited on a pyramidal rock in the ocean, preserved because of a remarkable environment. It illustrates, as no other site can, the extremes of a Christian monasticism characterizing much of North Africa, the Near East and Europe.

In line with the idea that variety is important to the best travel experiences, we move northeast from this very essence of medieval asceticism to a site that is more readily associated with the 20th century, Foynes in County Limerick.



ÉPA members David Brennen (seated), John Sharkey, Robert Benninghoff, William O'Connor and Rich Kelly staff the ÉPA table at Milcopex.

County Wexford



Proceeding south along the eastern part of the island we come to Wexford, which was settled by the Vikings in the 9th century. First we take a look at a bronze statue of John Barry (Scott 156) in Wexford's Crescent Key. This statue was presented to the people of Wexford by the American people. Barry, the "*Father of the American Navy*," was born in Wexford in 1745. He was given the rank of commodore by George Washington, and he and John Paul Jones (also called the *Father of the American navy*!) were celebrated together on a United States stamp (U. S. Scott 790, which is not depicted). Barry's reputation in Ireland is such that he was also shown on a second Irish stamp (Scott 1510, not shown), and his reputation in the United States is such that President John F. Kennedy laid a wreath at the foot of his statue during his 1963 visit to Wexford.

For a dramatic change of pace we make our way to the venue of the Wexford Festival Opera (Scott 697), which presents unusual and relatively rarely presented operas. If you're an opera fancier and you're touring in October or November, you might take advantage of the occasion and attend an opera. The festival presented its inaugural performance in 1951 in Wexford's Theatre Royale but its popularity prompted a need for a larger venue, and 2008 saw the opening of the Wexford Opera House. The web site shows an unusual and attractive walnut lined auditorium.

For another change of pace we move on to visit and explore one of the oldest lighthouses in the world, the 800 year old Hook Head lighthouse (Scott 1074). It is open to the public for tours, and guidebooks praise it as one of the best things to do in Wexford. Its visitors' centre has guided tours, a café and gift shop, as well as a 115 stair climb to the top.

An important stop in Wexford awaits – especially for an American visitor. Scott (1999) shows JFK in his ancestral home in Dungarvan with his smiling cousin, Mary Ann Ryan, who is pouring tea for the even more

broadly smiling president. The original photograph is shown in Tubridy's book, *JFK in Ireland: Four Days that Changed a President*. In the original photo there were a number of onlookers, and behind them was a farm building with a corrugated tin roof, which shows up in the background of the stamp as gray area. His relatives made JFK's visit to Dungarvan a real homecoming for him.

I depart from the outline of this paper by talking about an event in Dublin, but this seems to be the ideal place to recount the tale. After his emotional Dungarvan visit, Kennedy went on to Dublin for the political phase of his trip. Scott 2000 shows JFK placing a wreath on the monument to the slain leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising, fourteen of whom were executed by the British at Kilmainham jail. The political highlight of the trip had to be his address to the Dáil Éireann, the Irish parliament at Leinster House. Kennedy's speech dealt with grand issues, but a small event communicates more fully just how important that speech was to those attending. His address melted some bitter animosities from the 1920s Irish civil war that threatened to tear the country apart after independence. Two men in the Dáil who were in their eighties had been on opposite sides in that civil war. They had not spoken to each other in decades. When they shook hands the entire chamber, 144 deputies and 60 senators, erupted in cheers. Tubridy (p. 189) commented that "*The bitterness of the civil war dissolved in this new Ireland, symbolized by John F. Kennedy's visit.*"

Tubridy might well have subtitled his book *Four Days that Changed Ireland* instead of *Four Days that Changed a President*!

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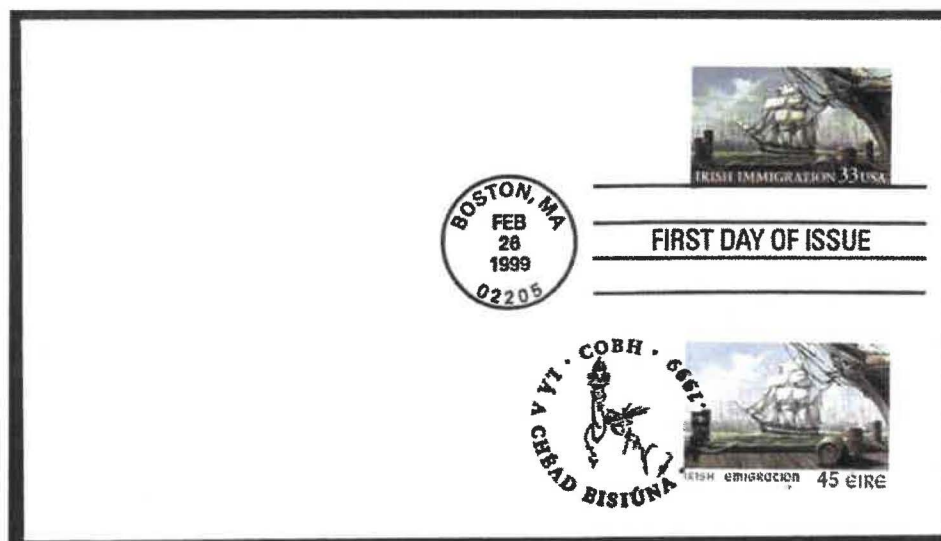
(October 5-7, 2018 at the same venue.)

Irish Emigration/Immigration Part II. Ireland – United States Joint Stamp Issue

by

John B. Sharkey and David J. Brennan

On February 26, 1999, Ireland and the United States issued a joint issue commemorating Irish Emigration and Irish Immigration. This was the third joint issue between Ireland and the U.S., the previous two issues being the James Hoban issues in 1981 and the John McCormack issues in 1984. Ireland's 45-penny Irish Emigration commemorative was issued in Cobh, where the majority of emigration ships departed for ports in America, Canada and Australia. The 33-cent U.S. Irish Immigration stamp was issued at a special first-day ceremony in Boston. The two first day cancels are shown on this commemorative envelope shown below. Both stamps are similar in design, showing a large square-rigged sailing vessel of the type that brought many early immigrants to the United States.



Senator Kennedy, who had lobbied for the stamp said, "The luck of the Irish is with us. It's gratifying that the Postal Service is using this significant anniversary to honor the many contributions that Irish immigrants and their descendants have made over the past century and a half."¹ Unfortunately, in many cases, the causes behind the emigration/immigration were nothing to celebrate. Most of the first emigrants from Ireland to come to the New World in the 17th century fled to escape severe economic social and political problems. In the 1700s and early 1800s, 250,000 to 500,000 more Irish immigrants arrived, settling chiefly in the central and southern states. Many left Ireland to avoid competition for land, depression in the linen industry and religious and political strife.² Approximately 2.6 million immigrants sailed from Ireland to America prior to and during the famine in Ireland between 1815 and 1850. During the five-year period between 1845 and 1850, a fungus destroyed the Irish potato crop, which the population depended on as a primary food. More than a million Irish died of starvation and disease. After the famine, from 1856 to 1929, more than 3 million Irish came to America to establish themselves.³

Getting a commemorative stamp approved by any country presents many difficulties and years of preparation. A joint issue presents additional complications. What event is being commemorated? What should be depicted on the stamp? Which is the appropriate city for the first-day ceremony? As

mentioned, Senator Kennedy lobbied for the stamp, as well as Senator John Kerry. Another individual who campaigned for two years for the stamp was Fr. David Dillon, a Carmelite priest and pastor of St. Matthew's, Glendale Heights, Illinois. According to Fr. Dillon, the stamp was a memorial to the 150th anniversary of the Great Hunger or *Gorta Mór* in Gaelic. Fr. Dillon stated that the bitter memory of the famine in which one million people had perished and another two million abandoned their island home had been too long repressed by Irish-Americans like himself.⁴

Fr. Dillon was part of the Ad Hoc Irish Hunger Stamp Committee, chaired by James J. Gallagher of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Committee, which included David Brennan representing the Éire Philatelic Association, had been petitioning for several years to have a United States stamp issued recognizing the impact of the Irish Famine immigrants and their contributions to America. An Post had issued three postage stamps recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the Great Famine on May 14, 1997 (see part I of this article). It was felt by the Committee that we should do no less, since the famine had a significant effect on the emigration to our country. In early April 1998, Mr. Gallagher was informed that the U.S. Stamp Advisory Committee would consider the proposal at their April 23-24 meeting.



**THE GREAT FAMINE
AN GORTA MÓR
1845 - 1850**



**USA
32
Great Irish Famine
1845-1852**

In anticipation of this joint issue, members of the Ad Hoc Committee prepared a sticker, prepared by Committee member James Mullin, and cachet for the U.S. issue. A rough draft of this proposed cover is shown above, courtesy of David Brennan.

On June 12, 1998, Mr. Gallagher was informed by James C. Tobert, Manager of Stamp Development, the proposal for an Irish Famine stamp had not been approved, but that a St. Patrick's Day stamp was being considered issued to honor Irish heritage. Needless to say, this did not sit well with the Committee, and letters were sent to the Postmaster General, the White House Public Affairs Office, and a variety of Senators. This effort paid off because on July 30, 1998, U. S. Senators Dick Durbin and Ted Kennedy announced that Postmaster General William J. Henderson approved the recommendation of the Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) to issue a stamp "honoring the contributions of Irish-Americans and their ancestors who came to this country to escape the Potato Famine in Ireland between 1845 and

1850." The story was duly reported in Linn's Stamp News: "Irish Potato Famine will be U.S. stamp subject in 1999."⁵

However, it was soon learned from an unnamed source at Senator Ted Kennedy's office, that the stamp being issued was not the original that the Committee requested commemorating the Irish Famine but one commemorating the Irish Immigration. The reason for the change was "a compromise so as not to offend our British cousins who members of the CSAC felt that this stamp would portray."⁶

The final design for the 33-cent Irish Immigration stamp showed a tall ship in full sail, leading an armada symbolizing the so-called "coffin ships" that transported millions of starving Irish men, women and children to America and Canada a more than a century and a half ago. The U.S. stamp was issued nationwide on February 26, 1999 in Boston, Mass. The 45-penny Irish Emigration stamp from Ireland shares the same design as the U.S. stamp, showing a large ship sailing into a harbor. The first day ceremony took place on the same day in Cobh, where the majority of emigration ships departed.

It is of interest that the U.S. stamp includes microprinting in the design. Microprinting is a tiny lettering that appears only as design elements to the naked eye but can be detected with magnification. Check for the word "Ireland" in the rigging of the ship in the foreground. It is also of interest that the year 1999 did not represent any special anniversary of the Famine; the 150th anniversary was commemorated in 1997. However, in Boston, the 1999 event also marked the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Patrick Kennedy, great-grandfather of senator Ted Kennedy, from Ireland in 1849.

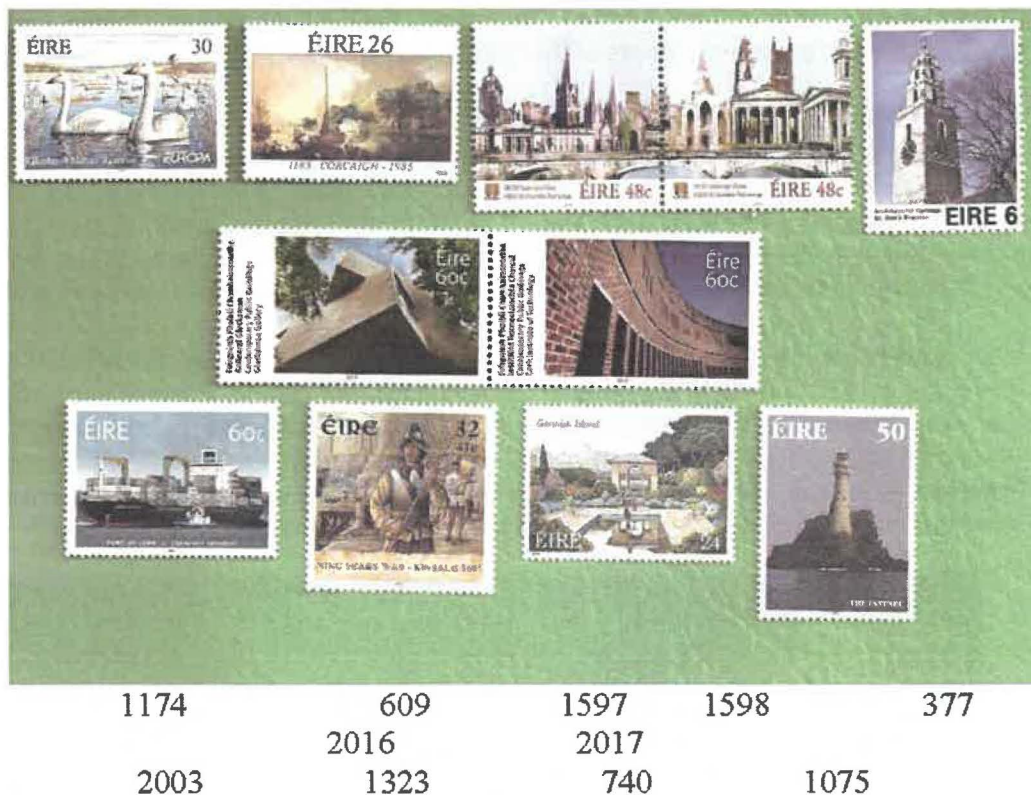


Three former ÉPA Presidents attended the first-day ceremony on Feb. 26, 1999 in Boston: (left to right) Joseph E. Foley (pres. 1967-1969 and 2001-2003), Peter E. Bugg (1987-1991), and David J. Brennan (1997-2001).

References

1. *Linn's Stamp News*, p.2, February 22, 1999.
2. *Linn's Stamp News*, p.68, February 15, 1999
3. *Linn's Stamp News*, p.2, February 22, 1999
4. *The COROS Chronicle*, p. 37, April 1999
5. *Linn's Stamp news*, p.8, August 17, 1998
6. Personal communication

County Cork



Cork is the largest county in Ireland and it is rich in philatelic representations, and we make our way south to the city of Cork, but first we stop en route to pay a brief visit to Kilcolman Nature Reserve (Scott 1174), a few kilometers northeast of the town of Buttevant. It is a prime site for birdwatchers, hosting numbers of swans, geese and ducks. The name Kilcolman means the church of St. Colman, which is believed to have been established in the 6th century. The nature reserve is of great ornithological and botanical interest, and portions of it that are privately owned can be visited by permission.

The city of Cork, chartered in the year 1185 (Scott 609), was declared the European Cultural Capital for the year 2005 (Scott 1597 and 1598). These latter two stamps represent Cork as it stands today, from left right can be seen the statue of Father Mathew, City Hall, St Finbarr's Cathedral, the Red Abbey, University College Cork, Holy Trinity Church, St Mary's Church, Popes Quay, St. Ann's Church, Shandon, the Cathedral of St Mary and St. Ann, St. Patrick's Church, and the Bridge in foreground is

St. Patrick's Bridge.

Our next destination in Cork is a Church of Ireland church celebrated in one of the Architectural Heritage stamps issued in 1975. The stamp (Scott 377) shows the clock tower of St. Ann's Church Shandon which is also visible in Scott 1598. In the past, the clock's four sides showed different times so often that it became known as "the four faced liar." St. Anne's is best known outside of Cork for its bells, which visitors can actually ring, and about which a poem and song, *The Bells of Shandon*, were written.

St. Ann's, which is on a hill overlooking the river Lee, was destroyed in the Williamite wars in 1690, as was much of Cork. The church was rebuilt in 1726. As is true of many other churches in Ireland, St. Ann's was built on the site of a much older church that was mentioned in papal documents in the year 1199. It is not known how old that church was!

Our next stop provides a very different experience in just about every way imaginable. We make our way the University College Cork to see the Glucksman gallery (Scott 2016). After mentioning so many structures that are hundreds or thousands of years old, it is a bit jarring to say that the Glucksman Gallery dates to 2004! The Glucksman is a starkly modern building, one that would be fascinating to explore and one that reflects the profound architectural changes in Ireland wrought over the millennia. I saw the exterior on our recent trip to Ireland, but the gallery itself was closed.

For another taste of more modern structures, we'll check in at Cork Institute of Technology (Scott 2017), located on an 80 acre campus in Bishopstown, a southwestern suburb of the city. It is one of the newer institutions of higher education in Ireland, as it was founded in the early 1970s. In addition to the education in science and engineering that come to mind when we see the term "technology," CIT offers degrees in business, music, art and the humanities.

We have not paid much attention to philatelic celebrations of commerce so far, so let's remedy that somewhat by visiting the port of Cork (Scott 2003). The port of Cork is the most important seaport in the south of Ireland, and has been improved at a cost of about \$100,000,000 since the beginning of this century. Up to 200,000 tons of goods pass through it annually and, as it welcomes large tourist liners as well as freighters, it also accommodates about 100,000 passengers annually. Part of a day just observing the activity in the great port would be for many tourists part of a day well spent.

From the modern active port with its massive machines moving what seem to be mountains of goods we go a bit further to the west and see the beautiful and relatively quiet seaside town of Kinsale (Scott 1323). The

stamp represents the disastrous battle of Kinsale, but our discussion is of the town, per se. It is a beautiful town, with brightly colored shops and restaurants. In high season, it is a tourist mecca with a harbor dotted with fishing boats and a marina populated by yachts. Nearby is Charles Fort, shaped like a star so that cannonballs are likely to be deflected and do less damage than direct hits when they strike the angled walls. As hinted at above, the name Kinsale looms large in Irish history. The defeat of the Irish in the battle of Kinsale in the year 1601 resulted in the flight of the earls and ultimately to the end of the old Gaelic order.

From Kinsale we travel west to Glengariff for a short ferry ride to the serenity of the gardens of Garinish Island (Scott 740), where George Bernard Shaw worked on *Saint Joan*. The island, also known as *Ilmacullin*, is in a sheltered bay warmed by the gulf stream. It was owned by a family from Belfast who bequeathed it to the state in 1953. In addition to trees and shrubs that make the garden known to horticulturalists around the world, Garinish Island has a Martello tower, one of those small, squat towers built by the English mainly along the coast of the Irish Sea to repel a Napoleonic invasion that never came. The Garinish Martello tower was built long before the island was transformed into the garden island that it is today. Cahill describes Garinish Island as having an “*orgy of flora in a Mediterranean climate*,” and fleshes out the description with a long list of examples.

One last stop in County Cork would be for only the most adventurous of tourists. It takes tourists to Ireland’s Teardrop, the southernmost place in Cork and in all of Ireland. It is an outcropping from the Atlantic now known as Fastnet Rock, once known by its Irish name of *Carraig Aonair*, or “lonely rock.” It is called Ireland’s Teardrop because for many thousands of emigrants it would be the last they would ever see of their homeland as they set out across the Atlantic for America. In November of 1847 an American ship went down nearby with a loss of 92 lives, prompting the construction of the lighthouse on Fastnet (Scott 1075).

The current structure began its lifesaving service in 1904, flashing a brief, powerful light every five seconds that can be seen over 30 miles away. The light source is 159 feet above high water to maximize the distance at which it would be visible. Tours to Fastnet and the Fastnet Rock Heritage Center on Cape Clear Island are available in good weather. Whale and dolphin sightings are common as the boat circumnavigates the rock. Those of you who may have heard weather forecasts on BBC will recognize the term Fastnet, as it is one of the places where weather-related measurements are made.

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