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Happy New Year!

THE REVEALER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Richard Kelly

As I write this letter for the Winter issue the temperature has not risen above 20 degrees for the last 12 days. With night time lows in the minus teens neither the dog nor me are very motivated to do much.

The post holiday lull has enabled me to spend some time at the desk looking at stamps and magazines that have piled up. Irish stamps continue to make the press with Linn's printing an article on the new Che Guevara stamp highlighted on the cover and a half page story inside the October 30, 2017 issue. A further note in the December 4, 2017 issue announced a second printing of this controversial issue.

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.

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1559 Grouse Lane,
Mountainside, NJ 07092
jsharkeyepa@me.com

James Hoban Chapter

Members reside in MD, VA, DC
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Washington, DC 20009

John McCormack Chapter

Members reside in CT & MA
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Lone Star Chapter

Members reside in Central TX
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Members reside in Northern CA
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Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)

Members reside in Southern CA
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Summer: May 1; Fall: Aug. 1; Winter: Dec. 1; Spring: Feb. 1

Each Issue published about a month after above dates.

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

CAMERA READY COPY REQUIRED

Contact Richard Kelly at kellyrd@sbcglobal.net

President's Message continued:

Our auction Manager Bob Kemper continues to expand the auction and is offering a wide variety of material. If you are buying or selling this member service needs to be on your must list.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Holiday season. With the Holidays now behind us let us not lose the spirit of the season as life returns to "normal"..

Regards, Rich

PS as always we are looking for volunteers to help out. Please think of the EPA.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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2920 Larry C Crawley, 8022 Lionel Drive SW, Bryon Center, MI 49315
 2921 Jim D Lawler, PO Box 312, Rushville, IN 46173
 2923 Tim Carey, 10858 Keller Rd, Clarence, NY 14051
 2924 Raymond F Dacey, 2260 High Point Dr, The Villages, FL 32162
 2926 Thomas P McCormick, 516 Traverse Blvd, Tonawnda, NY 14223
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 2928 Mark Gilbert, 925-D Wappoo Rd, Charleston, SC 92407
 2929 Kevin SHanley, 345 E Ohio St, Chicago, IL 60611
 2930 John Stringer, 2 Bakers Walk—Wilnecote, Tamworth Staffs, B775LP UK
 2931 John Cummins, 50 Ennafort Rd, Raheny, Co Dublin, Ireland
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 2928 Mark Gilbert, gilbertaccounting@knology.net
 2929 Kevin Shanely, kops.seminole@gmail.com
 2930 John Stringer, stringer48@btinternet.com

Membership Status

New Members	11
Members as of September 1, 2017	354
Life members of unknown status	12
Complimentary mailings	23
Members as of January 1, 2018	364
Total Mailings	399

**Members please check your address label.
 If the year is not shown as 2018, this could be
 your last issue of The Revealer.
 Send your dues to EPA Treasurer - Barney
 Clancy or send payment through Paypal
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2d Map Stamp Cancelled Feb 4 1922 A Unusual Cover -- Postmarked over 10 months before it was Issued Robert Benninghoff

Then first Irish Designed Stamp was the 2d Map Stamp which was issued on December 6 1922 to coincide with the First Day of the Irish Free State (1). The 2d Map Stamp was the first in the series of Irish designed Definitive Stamps, although it may be also argued that the stamp was also the first Irish Commemorative Stamp (see Figure 1).

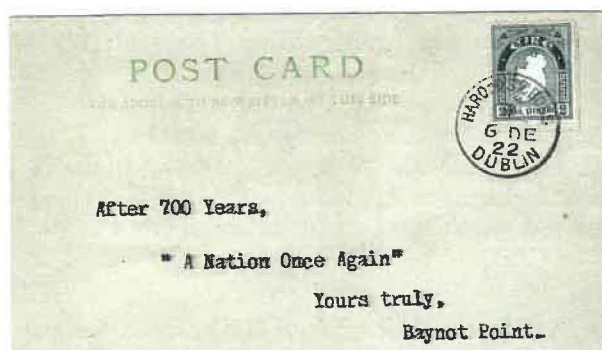
The Cover shown in Figure 2 was sent from Mrs. B Devine in Clifden Co Galway to Mr. Bernard Divine in New York. The Postmark is Dec 21, however the year is not shown. The Cover was unclaimed and returned via London. *What is unusual about the cover* is that the London Postmark of FEB 4 1922 is almost 10 months before the stamp was issued (see Figure 2)

I would be interested to hear from anyone who might have some thoughts about the London Postmark.

End Notes:

The Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed on December 6 1921 in London which granted Home Rule to the 26 Counties of Southern Ireland. The 6 Counties of Northern Ireland would remain part of Great Britain. The Treaty stated that A Provisional Government would govern Southern Ireland for the first 12 months with the Irish Free State coming into existence on December 6 1922.

Research by Barry Cousins has shown that the 2d Map Stamp was printed in London. Barry Cousins Ireland's Permanent Definitive Stamps and Essays 1922 – 1937 Published by Barry Cousins 2015 contact Barry at bsb_cousin@yahoo.com



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 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.

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Post between Ireland and the Ionian Isles in the 1850s

Von/by Hans Bergdolt, translated by Dr. Harald Lützenkirchen

When the author intended to describe his letter from Cork to Corfu from the year 1857, he became aware, that his knowledge about the postal regulations of the Ionian Isles was limited. So he contacted Mr. Simmermacher. Now these three letters featured in this article can be described better:

Fig. 1, 1855. Provenance: Jere Hess-Barr, René Simmermacher

Fig. 2, 1857. Hans Bergdolt

Fig. 3, 1859. David Feldman, René Simmermacher

The Ionian Isles are located in the Mediterranean Sea, often called the Ionian Sea, and are offshore from the Western coast of Greece. They belonged until 1797 to the Republic of Venice. After various occupations, Great Britain, after the second French occupation, took over the Ionian Isles and founded in 1816 the United States of Ionian. In 1864 the Ionian Isles were given back to Greece. Corfu (or Kerkyra) is the most northern of the Ionian Isles.

Letters from and to Ireland could be forwarded in different ways and with different fees to the Ionian Isles. Mostly via Belgium, Germany, Austria and Trieste, but also via France and Trieste. Mail from Ireland to the Ionian Isles is a very rare destination.

1855, Dublin to Corfu, moving on to Naples

From DUBLIN (NO 29/55) via London and CALAIS (30 NOV.) through France, Bavaria and Austria to Trieste and from there to CORFU. After the poste restante letter was not called for, it has been forwarded from CORFU (30 DIC) to **NAPLES (10 GEN 1856; GEN=January)** in the „Kingdom of both Sicilies“. See Fig. 1a and 1b.

From Ireland via France to Corfu the fee for ¼ Ounce (ca. 7,5g) was from 01. April 1855 till 31. Dec. 1856 1 Shilling (s) and 1 Penny (d) = 1/1s (13d). Moubry explains the letters ACL: A = Secondary Route (if wanted; mostly quicker, but more expensive). Therefore the sender noted **Via France**. C = Payment compulsory, i.e. voluntarily paid in advance. L = Not fully paid to Destination.

The 13 Pence (d) were paid in advance by stamps at 1s (=12d) and at 1d. Thereof the United Kingdom (UK) received 4d, the rest going to France for the whole distance, but thereof was also paid 4d for delivery by the ship of the Austrian Lloyd from Trieste to Corfu. These 4d were converted to 9 (Kreuzer Austrian Convention-coin – CM) at Trieste.

Actually the letter was paid till the recipient, see **PD** – Paid to Destination. But at Corfu a domestic fee also was cleared with shipping or entry. From 1845 till 1857 it was **3** Pence. See the red figure on the left of the green 1 Shilling stamp.

The recipient of the poste restante letter had been delivered to Naples. Therefore the letter was delivered from CORFU on 30. DIC. by a ship of the Austrian Lloyd back to Trieste for 9 Kr. From there it has been delivered to Naples by ship or overland. The fee for this distance including the ship to Trieste of 9 Kr (canceled in Naples), was converted in Naples, noted and imposed: **48** (Grana).

1857, Cork to Corfu

From Cork (AP 17/1857) via Dublin, LONDON (**20AP20/1857**), Ostend (Belgium), AACHEN (**FROM ENGLAND VIA AACHEN/Franco 21/4**), within the DÖPV (German-Austrian Postal Union) via Vienna to Trieste and then to CORFU (27. APR). The fast transport within 6 days from Aachen to the isle of Corfu is a surprise to the author. Fig. 2a and 2b.

Via Belgium the ½ Ounce (ca. 14g) cost from 1. August 1852 till 31. Dec. 1859 (with interruptions) 1s, i.e. 12d, paid by a stamp of 1s.

Moubry explains the abbreviations NVD: N = Normal Route. That means: if not otherwise stated by the sender, letters to the Ionian Isles were delivered via Belgium, DÖPV, Trieste. The note of the sender – Via Trieste – was superfluous. V = Payment optional/Voluntary. D = Paid to Post Town of Destination (not to the recipient). See also the red **P** in circle.

Of the 12d UK received 3d and Belgium 1d. For further transportation 8d were noted handwritten: for the whole area of the DÖPV from Aachen to Trieste 4d, for the ship of the Austrian Lloyd within DÖPV the remaining 4d. The latter 4d are noted as **Fr**(anco) **3¼** (Silver Groschen) and converted to 9 Austrian Kreuzer (see reverse). The recipient in Corfu paid as usual the domestic fee of 3 Pence (see on the left besides Cork cancellation).

1859, Corfu to Londonderry; moving on to Moville

From CORFU (20 OTT) via Trieste, to DÖPV (Aachen), Belgium and then from London (**29 OC 59**) to DUBLIN (OC 30). In Ireland transmitted via (London-) DERRY (OC 31 59) and MOVILLE (NO 1 1859) to a small receiving post office nearby, a so-called „Receiving House" (cancellation unfortunately not legible and as always without date). Fig. 3a and 3b.

The letter was forwarded unpaid. This was permissible. In Corfu the domestic fee of now 1d (after the postal regulations of 27. July 1857) had to be paid.

The Austrian Lloyd cleared for the ship from Corfu to Trieste 9 Kr (CM), which were converted in Austria to 15 Neukreuzer; see the first figure **15** by carbon pencil. In Trieste there was no postmark „15", so the old postmark continued to be used. The DÖPV also received 15 Kr (below). Both 15 Kr for ship and DÖPV, respectively ca. 4 Brit. Pence, were noted in Ireland as 8d (in black, because unpaid). Additionally the UK and Belgium received 2d. The total fee therefore would have been 10d: ship 4d + DÖPV 4d + UK (with Belgium) 2d. But the letter was unpaid! For an unpaid letter from DÖPV to the UK were imposed in the UK 8d instead of 6d. Hence 2d had to be added. The total fee hence was 12d, which were noted as 1/- (Shilling) and imposed from the recipient. This Shilling is located handwritten in the center of the letter. It was written at that time in such and similar swinging characters.

I like to thank cordially Mr. Simmermacher for the supply of the letters Fig. 1 and 3 and for information on the postal regulations on the Ionian Isles.

Literature:

Moubray: British Letter mail to Overseas Destinations 1840-1875

Tabcart, United Letter Rates Inland and Overseas 1635 to 1900

Zaphiriou, Postal History of the Ionian Islands, 1836 – 1864

Für den Redakteur: Notizen zu den Abb.

Fig. 1a, 1855. Dublin to Corfu, forwarded to Naples. Obverse

Fig. 1b, 1855. Dublin to Corfu, forwarded to Naples. Excerpt of reverse

Fig. 2a, 1857. Cork to Corfu. Obverse

Fig. 2b, 1857. Cork to Corfu. Reverse

Fig. 3a, 1859. Corfu to Londonderry, forwarded to Moville. Obverse

Fig. 3b, 1859. Corfu to Londonderry, forwarded to Moville. Excerpt from reverse





Above 1b

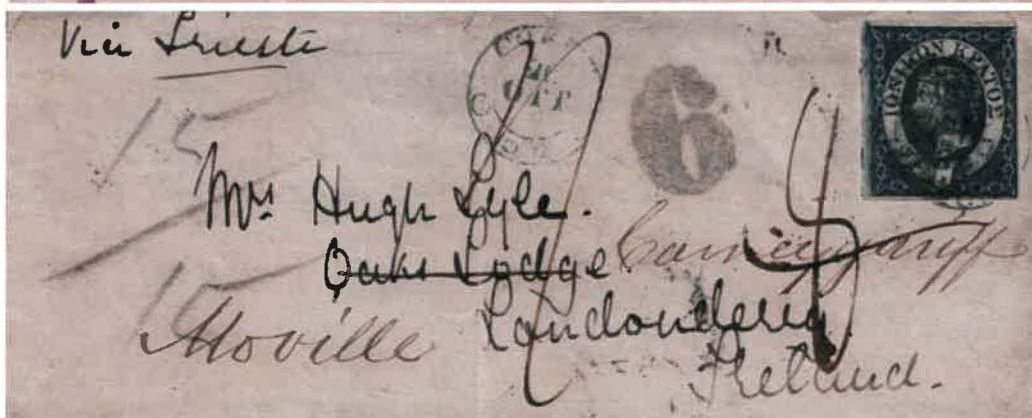


Above 2b

To right 2a



To right 3a



To right 3b



The 1 € Ché Guevara Stamp issued by An Post on 5 October 2017

The Story behind the story: by Heinz-Jürgen Kumpf, AIJP



The background

Actually Ireland is again the focus of the philatelic and political world and is at the center of a discussion of what kind of people should be given philatelic attention and publicity by being depicted on a stamp.

In 2015 the Department of Communications received Cabinet approval to design and issue a stamp on the 50th anniversary of the death of Ché Guevara. A spokesperson for An Post said the image chosen was part of a stamp programme which is signed off by the Government, which also has approval on the final individual images chosen.

In the An Post Philatelic magazine "The Collector" volume 4/17 scant information was published that in October and November (2017) new stamps will be issued which, "as usual, celebrate and commemorate a variety of Irish and international events. These range from the 50th anniversary of the death of Ché Guevara to the Centenary of the apparitions at Fatima etc....

Following that announcement on October 5, 2017 An Post then finally issued the "Ché Guevara stamp" with a number of 122,000 copies at a value of 1 €. The stamp was designed by Red&Grey based on Dublin artist Jim Fitzpatrick's instantly-recognizable black and red famous image of "Ché" (how he was called by his sympathizers). The iconic image appears on T-shirts, posters, bumper stickers, badges and clothing and on student walls everywhere. It has since become one of the world's top 10 most iconic images (the no. 1 icon is that of Mona Lisa).

Who was Ché Guevara and which roots and connections were related to Ireland?

Ernesto "Ché" Guevara de la Serna was born in Rosario, Argentina in 1928. His family was very prosperous and had aristocratic roots but also left-wing sympathies and socialist ideals. His father was Ernesto Guevara-Lynch, a civil engineer of Irish descent while his mother, Celia de la Serna, had Spanish ancestry. Ché's ancestor Patrick Lynch was born in County Galway. Another Irish connection says that his ancestors actually hailed from the Kilkee area of West Clare.

There is a quote from Ernesto Guevara-Lynch known where he says that: "...in my son's veins flowed the blood of Irish rebels." This quote is printed on the respective FDC. When Ché was a medical student he travelled throughout South America and was deeply moved by the poverty, hunger and disease he witnessed. So it was only a short step for him to follow the Marxist ideology. In the late 1950s he supported Fidel Castro in his uprising to overturn the regime of the US supported Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. When Castro took over power in 1959, Guevara was put in charge of La Cabaña Fortress prison. It is estimated that between 156 and 550 people were executed on Guevara's extra-judicial orders during this time.

Ché later also held a number of key positions in the new government such as Minister of Industry. He also became the leader of the campaign to educate, in particular, the rural population in order to free them from illiteracy. Guevara left this post in 1965 to export the ideas of Cuba's revolution to other parts of the world. In 1966 he began to incite the people of Bolivia to rebel against their government. Guevara was captured and executed in La Higuera by the Bolivian Army on October 9, 1967.

Since his death, Guevara has become a legendary political figure and has since been regarded as a martyred hero by generations of leftists worldwide. Others, however, still remember that he could be ruthless and ordered prisoners executed without trial in Cuba.

Who is the image designer Jim Fitzpatrick?

The image most associated with Ché was designed by Jim Fitzpatrick of Dublin based on a photograph taken by the Cuban photographer Alberto Korda (1928-2001). His real achievement for which he will always be remembered was his messianic image which Korda entitled "Guerillero Heroica" ("Heroic Guerilla Fighter").



Korda's photograph of Ché



A part of this photograph was used by Jim Fitzpatrick to create his poster design of Ché in 1968. Jim Fitzpatrick, an Irish artist and best known for his work inspired by the Celtic tradition, is a full supporter of Ché and "he considered the Cuban revolutionary a martyr. He remains a hero to me. When asked about the hundreds of people who died at Ché's command, Fitzpatrick compared it to acts during the Irish Civil war" (RTE's Six One news on 9 Oct. 2017).

Both artists have in common the fact that they both had problems protecting their copyrights to the photograph and poster, and up to now, Korda only received some compensation, which he donated to Cuban children, whereas Fitzpatrick is still fighting for his rights, except from those who use this image as a symbol of resistance against oppression (www.jimfitzpatrick.com).

The political significance of the stamp and its controversial discussion

During the first days after the issue of this stamp nobody could have expected that behind the "innocent" early information of An Post that such a controversial discussion about the issuance of any Irish stamp would have started since Ireland began issuing stamps (at least to my knowledge).

This stamp has immediately become subject of politically influenced discussions all around the globe. The negative voices from the USA in particular from the Cuban exile community in Miami is also very strong. The "Irish Central" the sister website to the Irish-American publications *Irish Voice* newspaper and *Irish America Magazine* even published a heading on 10 October 2017 that the Irish are <honouring a "mass murderer">. A prominent and very influential member told RTE "the stamp honouring Ché Guevara would celebrate a man who slaughtered so many people", "he was a man who went to Cuba to kill and failed in everything he did." Fine Gael Senator Neale Richmond for instance said the decision made by An Post to print the new stamp was "totally objectionable" and asked the Minister for Communications for an explanation for this terrible decision, and asked if Pol Pot, the communist Khmer Rouge leader in Cambodia, and Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu would also be acceptable subjects for special Irish stamps. Independent political Paddy Manning twittered on 6 October 2017 "An Post, the Irish Postal Service, has issued a stamp of mass murdering Argentinian Marxist, Ché Guevara. Ask your local PO not to stock it". In the Irish Daily Mail on 9 October a letter was published with the heading "Don't give this tyrant our stamp of approval" and continuing "to me to commemorate this man as a freedom fighter is akin to commemorate the Nazi criminal Dr. Mengele for his contribution to medicine".

However, beside Fitzpatrick's comments (see above) some other Irish twittered positively such as "I am singing the Soldier's Song tonight", another commented "Viva Ché !" or "To me he was a martyr who gave his life where he could have sat back happily ever after, living a life of luxury".

These are only examples of some controversial comments collected during the first three weeks following the issuance of the stamp.

In any case, the Irish should have been alerted to the sensitivity of any illustration of Ché in Miami. In the beginning of September 2017 Aer Lingus had to remove advertisements at Miami International Airport featuring Ché Guevara among figures of Irish descent because of objections from families. In this connection Joe Kelsall twittered on 5 Sep 2017 "I am not ashamed of Che Guevara Lynch. The CIA killed him and cut off his hands in Bolivia. Opposing USA hegemony is not a crime." So different are the opinions about Ché !!!



Miami International Airport

The Aftermath

Following this public interest only a week after the issuance of this stamp the Philatelic Department announced that it was already completely out of stock. There is actually no evidence for the reasons for this quick sell-off. Some rumors say that the complete stock has been bought by an investor or an international stamp dealer, other rumors assume that the stamp has been purchased by a left wing political association possibly via Internet (?!?!).

Anyhow, for the philatelic world the sudden sale off of this stamp caused a philatelic earth quake. Actually the prices had soared for FDCs up 95 € and for single stamps up to 30 € each (mint or used).

Internally there are discussions ongoing whether or not the stamp should be reprinted. As it appears that An Post did not put aside any stock for standing orders, year packs and year books, a reprint would alleviate the situation with the possibility that any supplies left over will go on general sale. Therefore the hype could possibly be over soon unless the political pressure on the Irish Government will become so strong that there will be no reprint at all as this stamp should not appear on any Irish cover anymore.

Editor's Note: The first printing sold out and to fulfill standing orders and for year sets a second printing occurred with some stock available at certain post offices.

Letters to the Editor on publishing philatelic information on the Guevara stamp.

It is wrong to not highlight the Che Guevara stamp. This is the biggest thing for Irish philately since the Irish Citizen Army Stamp. This is nothing less than censorship. About 60 years ago a book by JFK was put out by the name of "Profiles in Courage". In the book, a chapter had to do with John Adams, a patriot to the American cause, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, first Vice President and second President of the United States. As a lawyer he represented the British troops that opened fire & killed unarmed American colonists on a day which became known as "The Boston Massacre". The reason he represented the British Troops was because he believed everyone is entitled to assistance of counsel. This is now the sixth amendment, in the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution. Just as in the book 'Profiles in Courage' we should highlight the Che Guevara stamp despite any political pressure. What we are doing now is censoring a philatelic happening because of the person on the stamp. Freedom of the press is guaranteed in the first Amendment whether we like the news or not. Could we be starting a precedent?

Guevara had people murdered in Cuba and was a Communist. Is this why it is not getting the press it should? Was his murderous rampage an emotional response to Batista murdering over 20,000 Cubans while he was in power? Is it emotion that is taking over on this issue, where philatelic logic should prevail?

Tim O'Shea

Hello Fellow Students of Irish Philately:

I understand that there has been much controversy concerning Irelands issue of a stamp commemorating Che Guevara. However, we should take this chance to promote Irish Philately. We do not have to endorse Sr. Che, but we should discuss how this controversial stamp has **SOLD Out TWICE**. How many issues from Ireland have done this? How many stamps from Ireland have even been news worthy? Let us not confuse politics with Philately when we have a bold opportunity to showcase the EPA.

I strongly recommend that the EPA showcase this stamp on the web site as well as offering a featured article in the Revealer

Thank you, and New Years best wishes.

Robert Benninghoff "

County Limerick



That association with the 20th century is Foynes Harbor (Scott 719). Foynes Harbor was the last port of call in the 1930s on Ireland's eastern seaboard for transatlantic flights, much as Shannon Airport is today for the big jets. In the 1930s, though, the transatlantic flights landing at Foynes were seaplanes. The town of Foynes is by Irish standards new, and it is relatively small, as its population in the 2006 census was 606. In spite of its small size, it was during WW II one of the biggest civilian airports in Europe. Foynes has an aviation museum with a full-scale replica of a Boeing 314 seaplane, and has just opened a maritime museum. Its flying boat museum is the only one of its kind in the world.

We next make our way a short distance into the city of Limerick, where our first stop is St. Mary's Cathedral (Scott 244) of the Church of Ireland. St. Mary's is believed to date to 1168, having been built on the former site of a palace. The great west door, now used only for ceremonial occasions, is likely part of that original palace. The cathedral tower, shown in the stamp, was added in the 14th century. The cathedral is a short walk from King John's castle, and overlooks the Shannon River. One dark phase in the cathedral's history was Oliver Cromwell's stabling of horses within its walls, an act of contempt like those he performed elsewhere, expressing his contempt for Protestant and Catholic houses of worship alike.

Now for a brief stop that would be of special interest to educators, Mary Immaculate College, a Catholic college of education and liberal arts. Scott 1150 celebrates the 1998 centennial of the college, which has surprisingly for a relatively small college a strong international focus. It has students from a couple of dozen countries, and it has a surprising number of partner institutions, including eight from the United States.

The history of Limerick has, as have so many of the sites we are visiting, seen some profoundly bad times. Scott 801 and Scott 835, commemorate the siege of Limerick and the Treaty of Limerick, respectively. The two persons shown on Scott 835 are General Ginkel, the Commander in Chief of the English army, and Patrick Sarsfeld, the Earl of Lucan who had been one of the Irish leaders. Sarsfeld, in what is known as the flight of the earls, left for France with as many as 18,000 followers. He died fighting for France,

After the defeats in 1690 at the Battle of the Boyne and the Battle of Athlone, the Irish forces concentrated in the city of Limerick, in a last attempt to defeat the King William's army. The Irish had a substantial force of about 17,000, but the Williamites, led by William of Orange himself in the first siege of Limerick in the year 1690, had about 27,000. The first siege was unsuccessful, and William withdrew, leaving his army to besiege Limerick again in 1691 with the siege guns that reduced the city to rubble. The war was over.

WESTPEX, held annually in Burlingame, California near San Francisco International Airport, is the largest philatelic show in northern California, featuring a 75-dealer bourse, WSP exhibit competition, philatelic societies and more. As with last year, Éire Philatelic Association will hold a regional meeting at WESTPEX 2018.

A room has been reserved for Saturday, April 28 at 3:30PM.

Presentations, whether formal or show-and-tell, are respectfully solicited and anyone interested should contact Chris Palermo using the contact information shown on page 2. Computer projection capability will be available. Please consider attending and/or presenting and help us have a strong meeting at WESTPEX this year

STAMPA 2017

Several EPA members did very well this year at STAMPA 2017, the Irish National Stamp show, held in Dublin October 6 to 8. STAMPA has been held in Dublin since 1972 and brings together people interested in Irish Philately from all over the world. American Philatelic Society (APS) judge Colin Fraser was the invited guest Judge this year.

Robert Benninghoff (New Jersey) won a gold medal for his single frame exhibit "***The Struggle for Irish Independence May 1916 to December 1921***". Robert was also presented with the FAI medal for excellence in exhibiting for his ***Irish Coil Stamps 1922 to 1940***. The FAI is a society based in Germany devoted to Irish philately. Robert was awarded the FPSI medal for Services to Irish Philately and promoting Irish Exhibits at APS stamp shows in the USA. The Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland (FPSI) is the organization that runs STAMPA. The attached photograph shows Brian Warren presenting Robert Benninghoff with the FPSI medal

Brian Warren won a large Vermeil for his Exhibit on ***The Architecture Definitives***. The exhibit is a study in Chronological Order of the various sheet and booklet printings of this definitive issue. Brian also won the Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd., Trophy for the best Irish exhibit showing material issued after 1922. Brian has won this Trophy several times for his creative exhibits showing material from the late 20th Century. Brian plans to show his exhibit at several APS shows during 2018

Brian Harmon (Irish member of APS) won a Gold medal for his single frame exhibit ***Vax Hiberniae Air Mail Stamps***. Brian also won the FPSI trophy for the best single frame exhibit and the Eire Philatelic Society (EPA), Joseph E. Memorial Medal for the best exhibit by an EPA Member (see attached photo). The Medal was presented to Brian by Robert Benninghoff, a Director of the EPA. Brian has shown two exhibits at various APS shows during 2017, receiving a large Gold at PIPEX for his innovative five frame exhibit ***Andrew Restal Stamp Designer***

Heinz-Jurgen Kumpf won a Large Vermeil and the F.E Dixon Trophy for the best multi frame Postal History exhibit for Irish Censor Mail, Retour or redirected mail. Heinz is President of the FAI and has shown several exhibits at STAMPA over the past several years. We hope that Heinz will show his exhibit in the USA during 2108 (See attached photo with Robert Benninghoff). Heinz-Jurgen also received the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland (FPSI) medal for his numerous contributions to Irish Philately.

The Grand award winner this year was David Sweeney for his exhibit ***Italy 1859-1863 Five Momentous Years***. The Grand award is the David Feldman, given to STAMPA by David Feldman, EPA member and Philatelic Trader from Switzerland. Recent Grand Award winners have been Kathy Johnson (2016) USA and Robert Benninghoff (2015) USA.

The photograph shows David Sweeney (left), Brian Harmon (Right) and Anthony Hughes (center). Anthony has shown his Single Frame exhibit on County West Meath (Ireland) Postal history at several APS shows in the USA during 2017



Robert Benninghoff's report on his trip to STAMPA 2017

STAMPA has been entertaining philatelists for 45 years since the original gathering in Dublin on December 6 1972. The first STAMPA was held to Commemorate the 50th anniversary the first Irish designed stamp issued on December 6 1922.

STAMPA 2017 once again brought together people from all over the world interested in Irish and other Philately. An Post and Stamp Dealers from Ireland, England and Germany had material for all collectors and price ranges from 1 euro boxes to several items commanding a King's Ransom.

There were 22 exhibits, including two literature exhibits and two post card exhibits. More than half of the exhibits were of non Irish material including the Grand Award winning, five frame exhibit **Italy 1859 - 1863, Five Momentous Years** shown by David Sweeney. David won a Gold medal, The Whyte's Trophy for the best exhibit of Traditional Philately- excluding Ireland, and the David Feldman Trophy (Grand award). The best Aerophilately exhibit was the **Graf Zeppelin 127 Mail from Uruguay 1930 -1935** shown by Brian Callan. Brian won the William Kane Trophy and a Large Vermeil medal.

The STAMPA team lead by John Lennon, Chairman are to be commended for another brilliant show with several attractive souvenir stamp sheets and postcards offered to both STAMPA members and the general public (see attached illustrations). STAMPA also produced a very attractive full color show booklet (see illustration of the front cover. The awards dinner at Wynn's was a **Grand Event** attended by most exhibitors, the STAMPA team and several Stamp Dealers. See Attached Photos --following email

STAMPA 2018 is a must stop for all EPA members considering a trip to Ireland in early October. The weather is still warm and sunny autumn time is only beginning to show. Members with non Irish material are very welcome to exhibit. Information on STAMPA 2018 will be forthcoming.



Brian Warren left author of annual TWTYTW articles. Robert Benninghoff right.



1916-2016

An tOchtú Sraith Dheifnídeach lena gComórtar Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916
The Eighth Definitive Stamp Series Commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising
Easter Week - Seachtain na Cásca

Atala image: Republican prisoners Dick Donohue (Donoghue) and Tom Doyle with a British Army escort on route to Ypres (Ypres), Dublin 1916. Image courtesy of RTE Studio Library

Stamp 1
The Proclamation, image courtesy of
the National Library of Ireland

Stamp 2
Eoin MacNeill, image courtesy
of the National Library of Ireland

Stamp 3
Eoin MacNeill, image courtesy
of the National Library of Ireland

Stamp 4
Sir Francis Flanagan, image courtesy of the
Working Class Movement Library, Belfast. Sir
Francis Flanagan, 1916. Image is
reproduced with the kind permission of the
National Museum of Ireland

STAMPA 6th to 8th October 2017

The stamps feature augmented reality. Download the free CES App and scan stamps with a smartphone to view additional content on the stamps and the 1916 Easter Rising. The publisher gratefully acknowledges the permission granted to reproduce the copyright material in this Souvenir Sheet. Every effort has been made to make a copy, get photos and to obtain their permission for the use of copyright material. The publisher apologises for any errors or omissions and would be grateful if notified of any corrections that should be incorporated in a future report to the National Library of Ireland.

STAMPA 2017

The Irish National Stamp Exhibition

Exhibition Catalogue

Stamp Dealers - Competitive Exhibits
An Post - Valuations - Souvenirs
Special Display of Model Postboxes
6th to 8th October 2017 (Friday-Sunday)

The Griffith Conference Centre
South Circular Road, Dublin 8
(Near Leonard's Corner and
National Boxing Stadium)
11am-6pm (5pm Sunday)-Admission €5

An Odd Find

I am sure many of us have been asked to examine the odd box or small collection from a relative, friend or even stranger. The saying, hope springs eternal is always in the back of everyone's mind.

Last year my wife and I visited her aged aunt in Georgia for a visit at Easter. Visiting various relatives one night, I was presented with the "box". Being the stamp expert in the family, I was tasked with finding the golden goose. It is always heartbreaking when you must bear the bad news that Uncle so and so's box only has common items and its worth much less because of its terrible condition.

Going through this box there was an interesting item at the bottom. A small metal tin that contained stamp hinges.

As you can see from the pictures it is a small metal tin from the Stanley Gibbons company containing hinges. Also, it is still almost full of hinges, see the second picture. The address shows the old postal code of W.C.2 which should help date this item.

Being only in my early sixty's I have never seen hinges sold this way. Any help in dating this item or other info would be greatly appreciated. Please drop me an e-mail if you please.

Richard Kelly
President
kellyrd@sbcglobal.net



New Postage Due Varieties By Liam Malone

In 2013 The Editor purchased a dealer's stock-book full of postage due stamps from all Series. So far he has discovered 3 varieties not currently in catalogs. The sheet position is unknown, but if you have sheets please review them to see if you find these new varieties. If you have sheets and do not find these varieties, that would be welcome news too. Please email him at eparevealer@gmail.com



e watermark,
1940-69 Series,
Hibernian PD8,
Blue, Break in
outer blue
frameline in NW
corner.



e watermark,
1940-69 Series,
Hibernian PD8,
Blue, Plate flange-
in NW corner.



e watermark,
1970s Series,
Hibernian PD20,
7d bright yellow,
Yellow dot in NE
white corner.



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STAMPA 2018

5th - 7th OCT





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(4pm Sunday)



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Éire Philatelic Association

(International)

www.eirephilatelicassoc.org

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

HISTORY

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

PUBLICATIONS

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

MEETINGS

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

AWARDS

The Thomas Edwin Field Award is given to the individual judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the cause of Irish philately.

The John J. Clark Award is given to an ÉPA member judged to have contributed most to the Association during the year.

The Vince A. Linnell Award is given for the best article in a single volume of *The Revealer* as voted by the membership.

EXHIBITION AWARDS

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

SLIDE PROGRAMS

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

AUCTIONS

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

WEBSITE

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

DUES

Dues in the Association are as follows:

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

Please note: Family memberships are the same as a single membership

Payments are to be made in U.S. Dollars. Payment is also accepted in Euros or Pounds Sterling with checks drawn on Irish or British banks only. To use this option, determine the current exchange rate and remit a check in Euros or Pounds at that rate, plus \$0.50 to cover bank charges.

MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

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

Application for Membership

Éire Philatelic Association (ÉPA)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ (State / Prov.) _____ Postal Code _____

Country _____ E-mail Address _____

Age _____ Philatelic membership no. (ex. APS, AAMS, BPS, FAI, IPC) _____

☐ Please check if you do not wish to have your address published in our Journal

Proposed by (if one does have a sponsor) _____

Your Signature _____ Date _____

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

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

Or join online at: <http://www.eirephilatelicassoc.org/content/join-%C3%A9ire-philatelic-association>

Payment through PayPal at: EPAdues@aol.com