



CUMANN SIGHNEACHAIR NA hÉIREANN
THE IRISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1901

VOLUME
2017

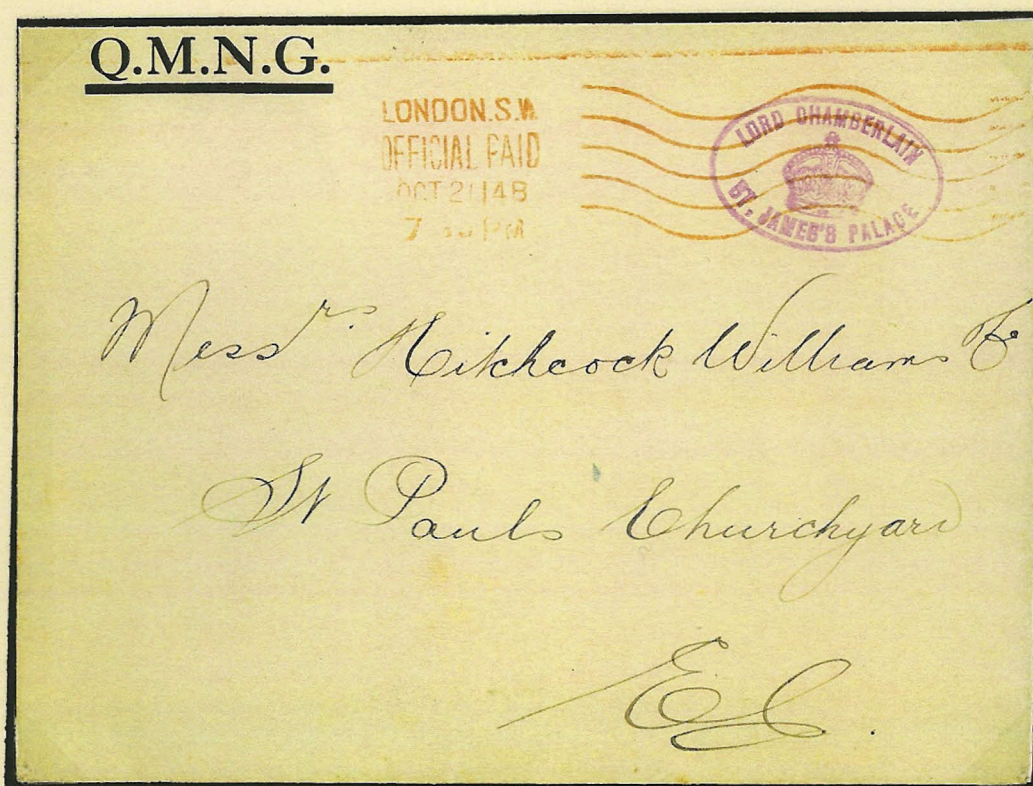
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i.p.s. news

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

In this issue : News, Displays, President's Page , Annual General Meeting Reports.

West London a Thematic Series - Royal Dwellings concluded.



1914 London cover from Queen Mary's Needlework Guild cancelled LONDON S.W/ OFFICIAL PAID Columbia machine and Lord Chamberlain's cachet. (see article inside)

Dear Member.

Herewith the first Newsletter/Journal of 2017. No new members have been elected so far this year and no resignations or bereavements notified. We have seen some very interesting displays so far this year, details of which are contained under "Displays". Average attendance at meetings in the period January to March 2017 have kept pace with the same period in 2016 at 20 per meeting. In 2015 the average attendance during this period was 19.

We had a good Annual General Meeting on 9 March and reports are also included in this issue. The Society had a large deficit in 2016 in its financial expenses but, steps are in train to reduce this in the future. These were outside our control. In April 2017 there are some Fairs and Shows - 1 in Dublin and 1 in Belfast (see News) and hopefully some of you will be able to attend one or other of them.

From this issue a new feature - "The President's Page" will form part of the Newsletter. In the meantime enjoy your collecting.

NEWS

Membership Changes

Since the last issue no new members have been elected. In the same period there were no notified resignations or bereavements.

Fairs and Shows

The Spring Stamp & Coin Fair will be held on Sunday 23 April at the RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 (Anglesea Road) entrance from 11am to 6 pm. A special postmark featuring "Mercury", one of the three statues above the GPO Dublin, will be provided by An Post at the Show. A special cover produced by Dublin Stamp Society will also be available,

The Northern Ireland Postcard and Stamp Fair will be held on Saturday 29 April from 10am to 4pm at St Nicholas' Church Hall, Cadogan Park, Lisburn Road, Belfast.

Irish Philatelic Circle Annual Convention

The above convention will be held on Sunday 30 April at the Malone Lodge Hotel, Eglantine Avenue, Lisburn Road, Belfast commencing at 11.30 am. This is the first time that the convention has been held in Belfast.

STAMPA 2017

Stampa 2017 will take place from 6 to 8 October again at its new venue of Griffith Conference Centre, part of the Griffith College campus. This is beside the National Boxing Stadium on the South Circular Road, Dublin 8. The 2017 exhibition will include a new competitive class for postcards. Prospectus and entry forms are available from STAMPA, PO Box 12624, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16 and details are available on www.stampa.ie. Closing date for competition entry forms is Monday 18 September.

DISPLAYS

The Coaching Era (12 January)

This display was given by Heloise Mitchell. Included was a 1978 cover carried on the Sheffield Telegraph Mail Coach cachet, 1977/1983 Sweepstake tickets featuring horse drawn coaches, 1984 Post Office card showing 'A London Mail and Stagecoach at an Inn', colour print of GPO St Martin's le Grand (2016 British Postal Museum postcard), The London GPO 1829 (Post Office Records), the Rown Hotel Roscrea receipts and entire with 1839

Roscrea open arcs datestamp. It also included beer mats for The Coach House Brewing Co., 1883 GWR Ilfracombe Service Guard Report, booklets for David Copperfield and the Golden Cross Inn, Bell Inn, Preston receipt, print of the York Mail, Louth-London Mail Coach 1843, T.P Charing Cross step type mark of the Two-penny Post, 1807 Derry straight line mark on entire to Weymouth (carried on the Derry Mail), The Blenheim Coach, Royal Mail Parcel Post Coach London-Brighton last journey on 1 June 1905.

Post from the Far East (26 January)

This display was given by Brian O' Connell, Included was Brunei : 1895 cover to London with combination of Brunei 1st issue values and Labuan issues, 1922 cover to Penang with River Scene definitives overprinted Malay Borneo Exhibition. Sarawak : 1946 cover with BMA overprint set, 1939 postcard MIRI to Blackrock with Sir Charles Vyner Brooke values, 1951 cover to Belfast with Last Day of Trusan postmark, North Borneo : 1894 cover with first Waterlow definitive issue, 1913 cover Jesselton to Birmingham with 1904 surcharges, 1919 cover and postcard with Red Cross overprints on definitives, Hong Kong : 1893 reg cover to Surrey with 4c and 10c definitives perfined H & SBC (Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation), 1899 cover to New York with Q Vict 20c on 30c surch, Singapore : 1892 reg cover to Leipzig, 1895 reg cover to Germany with 5c, 1c on 8c and 50c Q Vict values, 1934 airmail cover Singapore to South India via Calcutta.

A Belgian Selection (9 February)

This display was given by Caroline Barlow and was wide ranging in its content. Included was Fairs and Exhibitions : Brussels Exhibition 1910 card to London, 1924 Brussels Official International Fair Card to St Gall with the slogan in English and Spanish, 1926 Industrial Chemistry Congress Brussels to Hove. Tourist Publicity : 1924 card Ostend to Paris with "Visit Ostend the Queen of Seaside Resorts" slogan, Brussels cover to St Gall with "Tours in Belgium Season Tickets" slogan, 1921 card Antwerp to Denmark with "Dover-Ostend the Quickest Route to the Continent 2 Services Daily" slogan in English. Public Announcements: 1938 cover from Brussels with "Watch out for Colorado Beetle" slogan, 1947 cover Brussels to London with "The Law Punishes Cruelty Towards Animals" slogan. Also included was 1910 Charity surchs, 1912 Pre Cancels by Roller, Typographed pre cancels including Ghent, Liege and Antwerp. 1914 and 1915 Red Cross issues 1915-20 definitives with varieties, 1919 pre cancels by roller including Antwerp, 1922-26 pre cancels including Liege, Ghent and Antwerp, 1918 Red Cross surchs, 1919 Post Dues with "T" overprints on definitives, 1914 German (Germania Head) definitives overprinted BELGIEN (German Occupation), 2 March 1918 (Belgian Military Post) card to Burton on Trent from Belgian Army at St Lo (Normandy), 1920 Eupen and Malmady overprints, 1919-20 Albert 1 (Tin Hat) definitives issue.

Orthodox Europe (23 February)

This display was given by Shane Mc Auley and was his first display to the Society. Included was Byzantine Studies 10th International Congress in Istanbul issue, Byzantine Studies 23rd International Congress Belgrade sheet, 1953 Turkish Post Office issue for 500 Anniv of Fall of Constantinople, Bulgaria 1996 issue for 2,500 Years of National Art, St John of Rila (Ivan) card and sheet, Romania Angels and Maximaphila, Serbia St George's Church maxi cards, Yugoslavia first and second Battles of Kosovo maxi card, Great Migration of the Serbs cards, Maxi cards for St Sava, Patron Saint of Serbia, maxi cards for St Sava Church or Temple, Millenium issue for Macedonia, Millenium issue for Russia Joint issue with Ukraine and Belarus, Macedonia-Asnom min sheet and card, definitives 1992-93, 1993 first Easter stamp. Cyprus Archbishop Makarios issue and 1978 sheetlet, Saints Cyril and Methodius issues and min sheets, St Zenon, Patron Saint of Postal Workers min sheet.

The Irish Abroad (23 March)

This display was given by Brian Warren. It included issues made over the years by the British Post Office which featured an Irish connection as a whole or in part. The British issues shown featured 1971 "Ulster 1971" paintings set in blocks of 6, Giants Causeway, Bram Stoker "Dracula", 1998 C S Lewis "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe". 2,000 Millenium Projects (11th series) 45p St Patrick's Centre, Downpatrick value. Cover and special cancel for SS Canberra built at Harland & Wolfe Shipyard, Belfast in 1961. 2005 50p PHQ card and affixed stamp for Carrickfergus Castle, Celebrating Northern Ireland sheetlet, 2011 UK A-Z 1st Carrick-A-Rede Rope Bridge, Co Antrim value card and cover with stamps and Giants Causeway cancel. Duke of Wellington card and stamp, Bicent of Battle of Waterloo (2015) Prestige booklet featuring the Duke and Napoleon on the cover. Isle of Man 2015 cover for Cent of Sinking of Lusitania, 1998 and 1999 booklets

including 4p value showing Shamrocks.

There were also issues from foreign countries including Sierra Leona sheetlet featuring Nobel Peace Prize winners Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams, Falkland Islands Ernest Shackleton card and min sheet, South Georgia Tom Crean issue, Australia Eurovision Song Contest - Fionnuala Sherry set and maxi card, Gibraltar Lord Kitchener min sheet, 1995 Card and stamp for Abstract painting by S. Scully from the Franch Post Office, stamps from North Korea and Dominican Republic featuring Ronnie Delaney. Canada 2012 booklet for Cent of Sinking of the Titanic.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in our usual meeting place of Ely House on Thursday 9 March. It was reasonably well attended. The officer (Secretary and Treasurer) Reports were presented in typed form to the meeting and are reproduced here. They follow the new President's Page. The treasurer's report showed a deficit of 1548 euro for the year. This is largely due to a bill for medals and engraving in respect of 2015 only presented for payment in 2016 along with a further bill at the end of 2016 in respect of engraving of trophies awarded at the annual dinner. Also contributing to the large deficit was the cost of printing IPS News, Auction Catalogues and postage in 2016, previously covered by sponsorship and an increase in Public Liability Insurance.

It was decided in committee and endorsed at the AGM that a new medal would be introduced in 2019 when the present stock is exhausted. This would have the effect of reducing this cost annually. It was also agreed to change already in train Public Liability Insurance providers which would also reduce costs. The 9 sheet Open Class Competition will from 2018 move forward to the Spring instead of the present Autumn setting. Therefore, no 9 sheet competition will be held in 2017 and instead will be held on 1 February 2018. Further savings of 150 euro can be made by having only 1 meeting in both September and January from 2017.

On the matter of the election of officers and committee a new President Mike Burrington was elected. He was also re-elected as Bourse Secretary. The outgoing President Gerry Byrne did not for personal and family reasons seek re-election. I wish to thank Gerry as did our new President for the way he handled the office of President over the past two and a bit years. Frank Mc Donald was re-elected as Hon. Treasurer. There were two ordinary vacancies on the committee and these were filled by Heloise Mitchell and Mary Carroll. Brian Warren was re-appointed as Hon. Auditor.

Regarding the fixing of the Annual Subscription Rate for 2017 no increase was sought and these remain 20 Euro for City members and 7 Euro for Country members.

President's Page

As the incoming president of the Society I have asked the editor for space for a column in the Newsletter. I plan to use this space to keep readers up to date with matters affecting our operations and the work of the Committee.

First of all I would like to express my thanks, and here I think I speak for all members, to Gerry Byrne for his work during his tenure as President, a position which was thrust upon him without prior warning. Well done, Gerry!

The AGM held on March 9 raised a number of issues which we would do well to keep in mind, most importantly, I think, the finances of the Society. We are fortunate to have, largely through the generosity of the late Charles Griffiths, healthy cash reserves. At the same time, these reserves are gradually being dissipated as the income of the Society is not keeping pace with our annual operating expenses. In many cases, for example rental of our meeting room in Ely House, increases are beyond our control. As well An Post will be increasing postal rates considerably in the near future. I will ask the committee to consider ways and means of both controlling expenses and supplementing income in order to close this gap. Changing suppliers of both liability insurance and competition medals, as outlined at the AGM, will help to alleviate this problem but will not close the gap completely. Any and all suggestions from all members will be most welcome in this regard and no changes will be implemented without consultation with the membership as a whole.

The membership of the Society continues to slowly decline; this seems to be a fact of life for most philatelic organisations. If the Society is to thrive over the longer term ways will need to be found to attract and retain sufficient new members to at least offset the inevitable attrition. Again, any suggestions would be very much appreciated!

At present the Society has no librarian, Terry O'Hara having stepped down at the AGM. If the library is to continue to exist a successor must be identified as soon as possible. Interested parties please contact any member of the committee. Obviously, if the position cannot be filled the library will cease to be viable.

Another matter for consideration is the future or otherwise of the Society Packet which has been dormant for a number of years but has not been officially wound up. Resurrection would require appointment of a Packet Secretary as well as an ongoing interest from both suppliers of material and enthusiastic buyers. If these criteria can be met the additional revenue generated would help to balance the Society's books.

This then is an overview of the current situation, I plan to treat these issues in more detail in future columns, including any comments, suggestions and/or criticisms received. For the moment, happy stamping and I hope to see you all soon at Ely House.

Mike Burrington

Mobile: 087-903 2120

Email: mgbdlky@gmail.com

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016 / 2017

A total of 17 meetings of the Society have taken place since the last Annual General Meeting. This is 3 less than the previous period due to St Patrick's Day and no July meetings. All of these meetings were held in Ely House. Average attendance at meetings since the last Annual General Meeting was 17.

Since the last Annual General Meeting one former member rejoined. During the same period there was 1 resignation and 1 bereavement.

PROGRAMME

The annual programme was completed in a short period of time. Two new displayers volunteered displays for the present programme while, the rest was left to the usual displayer base and other non-display items.

We were treated to some interesting nights during the year to date. These included "The President Entertains-Concorde", "ABC of Aviation", "Aland", "The Coaching Era", "A Belgian Selection", "Orthodox Europe".

SOCIETY SOCIAL EVENING

The annual Society Social Evening took place in Ely House on Thursday 17 November. It took the format of previous years and was reasonably well attended. All the trophies and medals won over the year were presented by the president following the dinner.

SOCIETY COMPETITIONS

The annual competitions attracted a total of 5 entries, 4 in the Dobbs competition and 1 in the Society Cup. In 2015 a total of 6 entries were received. The following awards were made :

Paul Gerety	: Society Cup and Medal for "Irish Philately and Freemasonry"
Brian O'Connell	: Stafford-Johnson Cup and Medal for "Overprints"
Gerry Byrne	: Fenlon Mc Donald Trophy and Medal for "Dublin, Famous Buildings, People and Places."
Mike Burrington	: F.E Dixon Cup and Medal, John Mackey Cup and Medal and Dobbs Memorial Trophy and Medal for "Notapher - The Blue Flea 1948-1956"

The Open Class competition was again held in 2016 after the annual competitions. A total of 3 entries of 9 sheets were received half the number for 2015 and 2014. The winner was Dermot Hughes for "Reach for the Skies". He was awarded the Open Class Trophy and Medal for 2016.

The award of the Charles Griffith Memorial Trophy and Medal for 2016 was made to Pat Carey for his display "Germany Calling".

STAMPA

In 2016 members of the Society were successful at Stampa and the following awards were gained :

Gold Medal	: Brian Harmon and Heloise Mitchell
Vermeil Medal	: Pat Casey and Brian Warren
Silver Medal	: Gerry Byrne, Mike Burrington, Des Norton and John Fitzsimons
Bronze Medal	: Brian O'Connell
Gwyn Bennett Trophy (Novice)	: Mary Carroll
Certificate	: Paul Gerety

In addition Brian Warren was awarded the Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd Trophy and Brian Harmon was awarded Whytes Trophy and the Waterford Glass Vase.

The special 1916 Easter Rising Centenary Competition was won by Anthony Hughes.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

The Society had two representatives at the International Exhibition in New York 2016 and the following awards were gained :

Large Silver Medal - John Fitzsimons

Silver Medal - Pat Casey

In addition in the Literature section Brian Warren was awarded a Large Silver Medal for "Journals of the Irish Philatelic Circle".

FINANCE

Collected subscriptions in 2016 were up on 2015 due to a 5 euro rise in the City rate. Only 2 catalogued bourse sales were held in 2016 due to the Society's closure in June for the summer. These produced commission of 191 euro from sales of 2,550 euro with the commission from the second sale being split between the Society and Dublin Stamp Society. Society bourse commission was up in 2016 but bourse donations were down.

The main expenses in 2016 were in respect of Public Liability Insurance which increased by 49 euro due to a large number of claims against the Company. The rent bill over the year 2016 was 1,350 euro for 18 meetings down slightly on 2015 figure.

The cost of printing the annual programme increased by 8 euro over the 2015 figure. Bank charges were very marginally up on 2015 figure. No new books were purchased for the library in 2016.

Medals and Engraving.

The Society was charged for a two year supply of medals in March 2016 (ordered in 2015) at a cost of 668 euro. In November 2016 a further invoice was received in respect of engraving of trophies for presentation at the Social Evening Dinner. This was a contributory factor to the deficit in 2016.

These were some of the main financial matters during the year in terms of Income, Expenditure and Account movement.

I now wish to outline some of the main financial outlays for the year 2017. The Public Liability Insurance may again increase if, as in 2016 a large number of claims are made against the Company. The annual rent bill will be 1,425 euro for 19 meetings. The FPSI Levy will be 42 euro.

An invoice for 608 euro in respect of medals ordered by the supplier in 2016 was received in February 2017 and has been paid. A further bill in this regard may be received in november in respect of trophy engraving for award in 2017.

SOCIETY BOURSE

The Society Bourse produced commission of 432 euro in 2016 up from 364 euro in 2015 and 325 euro in 2014. Society bourse donations of 68 euro was down on the 2015 figure. In addition commission was also received in respect of lots previously unsold in the bourse and subsequently sold. The latter commission receipts were in part lodged to the Insurance Reserve Fund Account.

LIBRARY

No new books were purchased for the library in 2016. There were no borrowings in 2016.

ROLL OF DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS OF IRELAND

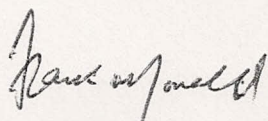
No Society nomination was made in 2016 for a candidate to sign the Roll. This was due to the fact that no nomination papers to facilitate this were received in 2016. This situation pertained during the years 2007 to 2011 inclusive. The last Society nomination to be made and accepted by the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland was Mrs Heloise Mitchell in 2012 and before that in 2005 when the Late Mr William (Bill) Moore was accepted.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Only 1 committee meeting has been held since the last Annual General Meeting. This dealt with the audited accounts of the Society in advance of the Annual General Meeting. It also dealt with the Charles Griffith Investment and the setting up of the sub-committee regarding the new Society medal.

CONCLUSION

In light of the financial outturns for 2016 which were disappointing due to billing practices prior to 2016 and loadings and the Society's successes at both New York and Stampex I commend this report and statement to the meeting.



Frank Mc Donald

Hon. Secretary / Treasurer

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	2016	2015
	€	€
INCOME		
Subscriptions - current year - see note 1 below	618	569
Society bourse commissions	432	364
Society bourse donations	68	85
Auction commission	191	366
Interest on ESB Sure Growth share accounts – see note 5 on page 3	42	111
Donations in kind – Printing of IPS News and Postal Auction lists and related postage plus provision of auction refreshments in 2015	-	536
Cash donations	3	9
	<u>1,354</u>	<u>2,040</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Rent – 18 (2015: 21) meetings - €75 per meeting since 1 October 2015 (€60 per meeting prior to that date)	1,350	1,365
Medals and engraving (2 years charge for medals in 2016, engraving only in 2015)	668	54
I.P.S. News, Auction Lists and related postage and stationery costs	130	386
Printing of programme	23	15
P.O. Box rental together with other printing, postage and secretarial costs	100	100
Public liability insurance	430	381
Christmas social (net of receipts)	108	165
Auction refreshments	-	150
Library purchases	-	63
F.P.S.I. levy	49	47
Bank charges	44	43
	<u>2,923</u>	<u>2,769</u>
DEFICIT FOR YEAR	(1,548)	(729)
ORDINARY RESERVE FUND AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	5,569	6,298
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ORDINARY RESERVE FUND AT END OF YEAR	4,021	5,569
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

1. The total paid membership excluding life members at 31 December 2016 was 38 (27 city and 11 country members). At 31 December 2015 there was a total paid membership of 45 (32 city, and 13 country/associate members). Subscription rates for 2016 were: city - €20; country - €7 (2015: €15 and €7 respectively). In addition, there are a total of 6 life members (including 2 honorary life members).
2. There were two auctions held in 2016 and three in 2015. The auction commission is net of €65 (2015: €53) paid to the Dublin Stamp Society in respect of the joint IPS/DSS bourse.

INSURANCE RESERVE FUND ACCOUNT

	2016	2015
	€	€
Balance at beginning of year	1,491	1,461
Society Bourse Commissions from off-sales - part lodged to deposit account	20	30
Interest earned on deposit account	-	-
Balance at end of year	<u>1,511</u>	<u>1,491</u>

CHARLES GRIFFITHS MEMORIAL FUND

	2016	2015
	€	€
Balance at beginning of year	37,366	37,060
Seminar costs of €472 less receipts of €280 in 2015	-	(192)
Interest accrued on State Savings Certificates (20th Issue) – see note 4 on page 3	507	498
Balance at end of year	<u>37,873</u>	<u>37,366</u>

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

	2016	2015
	€	€
Income and Expenditure account		
- Deficit for the year	(1,548)	(729)
Insurance Reserve Fund		
- Society Bourse Commissions from off-sales	20	30
Charles Griffiths Memorial Fund		
- Interest earned during the year	507	498
	<u>(1,021)</u>	<u>(201)</u>

3. The statement of total recognised gains and losses summarises the surpluses in respect of all activities during the year as set in detail on pages 1 and 2.

BALANCE SHEET

	2016	2015
	€	€
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets – Dehumidifier – Cost €275 less accumulated depreciation of €275	-	-
State Savings Certificates (20th Issue) - see note 4 below	28,195	28,195
EBS Sure Growth Share Accounts – see note 5 below	7,654	7,654
AIB plc – Current Account	4,158	5,994
AIB plc – Insurance Fund Deposit Account	1,502	1,482
Interest accrued on State Savings Certificates (20th Issue)	1,291	783
Interest accrued on EBS Sure Growth Share Accounts	59	17
Stock of competition medals	546	315
	43,405	44,440
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		
Ordinary Reserve Fund	4,021	5,569
Insurance Reserve Fund	1,511	1,491
Charles Griffiths Memorial Fund	37,873	37,366
NET SOCIETY FUNDS	43,405	44,426
Subscriptions paid in advance	-	14
	43,405	44,440

4. The principal amount of €28,195 held in State Savings Certificates (20th Issue) is earning a cumulative rate of 10% tax free (over five years and six months) which is the equivalent of a yield of 1.445% per annum. The certificates mature on 5 November 2019.
5. The principal amount of €7,654 on the EBS Sure Growth Share Account is earning a cumulative rate of 1.85% (over two years) less Deposit Interest Retention Tax (currently 41%). This is the equivalent of a tax paid yield of 0.45% per annum.. The shares are redeemable on 7 August 2017.
6. In addition to the above assets, the Society owns a bookcase plus a library of books for use by members together with a stock of 45 (2015: 54) centenary books detailing the history of the Society. The cost of the latter stock of centenary books was €372 (2015: €446).

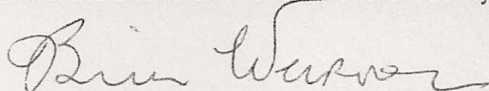


Frank McDonald - Honorary Secretary and Treasurer

9 February 2017

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR

I have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account, the Insurance Reserve Fund Account, the Charles Griffiths Memorial Fund Account and the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses of the Irish Philatelic Society for the year ended 31 December 2016 and the Balance Sheet at the said date with the books and records of the Society and find them to be in accordance therewith.



Brian Warren - Honorary Auditor

9 February 2017

ROYAL DWELLINGS - PART 2

ROYAL HOUSES CONTD

The western portion of St James's Palace is known as York House. George V lived in the House from 1892 to 1903 as both Duke of York and Prince of Wales. It was also used as a royal residence by Edward VIII from 1919 to 1930 and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.



During World War 1 York House was used by Queen Mary's Needlework Guild (illus front cover) for the dispatch of outward mail. Such mail was impressed with the Lord Chamberlain's stamp. The postage was charged to the Lord Chamberlain's Department which was merged in the Non-Paying Account of His Majesty's Household. After World War 1 it moved to apartments within St James's Palace. Following Queen Mary's death in 1953 its name changed to Queen Mary's Clothing Guild,

From 1915 to 1916 Lord Kitchener lived in the House. In 1936 the aviator Charles Lindbergh was received at York House by Edward VIII. He was at that time very interested in aviation and was the first reigning British monarch to fly. He bought a de Havilland Dragon Rapide by 1936 and created the embryo of the royal flight of the RAF.



Its registration was G-ADDD and was painted in the colours of the Brigade of Guards. On the morning of his Accession Council he flew from Sandringham to London rather than go by road to attend. Today York House is the London home of Prince Andrew, Duke of York.

Clarence House is part of that densely knit enclave of London adjoining St James's Palace. The present House is a remodelling by Nash in 1825 of the old one which faced west at right angles to St James's Palace. The Duke of Clarence (later William IV) , third son of George III had been granted apartments in the old house. The Duke continued to live there after his accession in 1830 until his death in 1837.



In 1837 Clarence House was given to Princess Augusta, George III's eldest unmarried daughter and after her death in 1840 to Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent who lived there until her death in 1861. In 1866 the House was allotted to Alfred (Affie) the second son of Queen Victoria and the first Duke of Edinburgh, who lived there until 1893 when he became Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and went to live in Germany. The House became the Red Cross Organisation Headquarters between 1942 and 1947.



It was refurbished for Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) and Prince Philip who moved in in 1949. They lived there until her accession in 1952. Princess Anne was born in Clarence House in 1950. It became the London home of the Queen Mother from 1952 until her death in 2002. Princess Margaret lived there from 1952 until her marriage in 1960.



Lady Diana Spencer (later Diana, Princess of Wales) lived in Clarence with the Queen Mother in the weeks prior to her marriage in 1981. Today it is the London home of Charles, Prince of Wales and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother
CLARENCE HOUSE

Marlborough House, built between 1709 and 1711 is on the other side of St James's Palace. It was built by Queen Anne for the First Duke of Marlborough in grateful thanks for his victory at the Battle of Blenheim.



In 1817 the House reverted to the Crown. Leopold I of Belgium lived in Marlborough House until his accession in 1831. In 1850 the House was made over as a residence for the Prince of Wales. Edward VII moved in in 1863 following his marriage to Queen Alexandria and in 1865 George V was born there. George V lived there as Prince of Wales from 1903 until his accession in 1910.



In 1852 the Victoria and Albert Museum, originally the Museum of Manufactures (later the Museum of Ornamental Art) was established by the Department of Science and Art at Marlborough House. The House was used in the 1850s by the Government Schools of Design before they moved to Somerset House in 1860.

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On His Majesty's Service

The Curator,

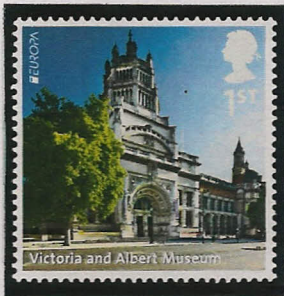
Hancock Museum,

Barras Bridge,

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, 2.



Victoria & Albert Museum,
South Kensington,
London, S.W.7.



Queen Alexandra from 1910 until her death in 1925 and Queen Mary from 1936 until her death in 1953 both lived in Marlborough House in their widowhood. In 1962 it was renovated as a Commonwealth conference and research centre which it remains today.



In the next article in this series I will begin to look at Political Westminster.