



# The REVEALER



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Eire Philatelic Association

Jan. - Feb. 1951  
Editor, N. Stack

## ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY PLANS UNDER WAY FOR '51

Your Association has a number of activities planned for this year. One of the first is to be an exhibit of stamps of Ireland by members of the Association under the auspices of the Irish Consul's office of New York. This exhibit will be in windows of one of the banks or department stores in New York City. It will be held prior to May. An announcement will be made after details are worked out between the Consul's office and the Association.

Later in the year we hope to bring to the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia, an All-Irish Exhibit which will have the sponsorship of the Irish government. Mr. Davis of the museum, the Irish Consul and your vice president are making the necessary arrangements for this occasion.

### PROJECTS

Some time during the year we are planning to issue a catalog on the Irish revenue stamps. This is going to be quite an undertaking and will require considerable time.

Also, another idea that will receive our consideration is the breaking down of Eire by countries and isolating the current canceling post offices. The list would give both the Gaelic and English equivalents in names. Our good friend, Mr. McCormick began this project with marked success just before his illness.

Slogan post marks of Ireland will also be given attention.

We have set an ambitious program for this year and hope we will be able to carry it out in its entirety. With sufficient help of the members I am sure it can be accomplished.

### OPINIONS ON SCOTT LISTING

The opinions of the Board of Directors concerning a separate listing for Eire, by Scott, seem to be

equally divided. A scholarly approach on the matter by Director Ben Parnell, is worth repeating here for the benefit of our members.

Baton Rouge, La.--Jan. 10, 1951

Thank you for your viewpoints on the matter regarding the emancipation of Eire in the Scott catalog. While your statements indeed bear sufficient weight to be worthy of cogitation, nevertheless I am not convinced that the reasons that you present in opposition offer by any means insuperable odds against the success of our proposal. Therefore I ask you to consider:

(1) that the majority of true philatelists, and here I exclude completely those financial speculators to whom a stamp is of interest in direct ratio to its cash value (a society such as EPA can give only passing consideration to such a group) I repeat, the majority of true philatelists find maximum appeal in philately as presented by the postal history of a nation or nations in all the ramifications attached thereto, as compared to the more limited and less important aspects of the postal services of colonies and/or dependencies which, at the best, offer but a portion of the central system developed by the mother country. One who studies philately by beginning with dependencies may be compared to one judges a meal by the appetizers which precede it. There may be a bearing, indicative of the whole, true; yet one has not savored of the more important and more satisfying portion of the whole. The postal history, and issues, of a dependency can seldom compare in interest (other than financial) with that of a free nation, as in a dependency all initiative is stifled and discouraged, if not completely prohibited, the generally approved course being for the dependency in question to stereotype its course and its emissions as closely as possible and practicable to that of the mother country. Deviations, while they occasionally exist, are generally unpopular with and discouraged by the

\* EPA OFFICERS \*

PRESIDENT & SECRETARY—Wm.P. Hickey  
94 Georgia Avenue, Providence 5, RI.  
VICE PRESIDENT—TREASURER—Neil Stack  
9281 Shore Road, Brooklyn 9, N. Y.  
ADVERTISING—Patrick J. Clancy—N. Stack  
P.J. Clancy—304 Swan St., Prov. 5, RI  
PUBLICITY—C.J. Carmody  
3346 Canton Ave., Baltimore 29, Md.  
ASSOCIATION ATTORNEY—Lorin L. Kay  
P.O. Box 489, Richland Center, Wisc.

PARNELL'S LETTER CONTINUED

central postal administration. Personally, I could never bring myself to consider the issues of a dependency of interest as other than as an integral part of the entire administration, and even then of secondary and lesser interest as compared to the central administration itself.

(3) as far as I know, Scott is the only major catalog in the world which today lists Eire as a part of the British Empire. Catalogs which specialists, have passed the general collecting stage, will choose nine times out of ten in preference to Scott, lists Eire independently and unassociated with the British Empire. I speak of such noted European catalogs as Gibbons, Zumstein, Borek etc. If Scott needs precedent, it can throw caution to the winds. In the European philatelic world, at least, Eire is emancipated, as in the political world; let Scott 'drag its feet' if (as usual) it will, it will sooner or later be forced to give way to reality.

(4) I see no decline in the popularity of Irish issues, due to the separate catalog listing. On the contrary, many collectors, of lesser means in particular, may be encouraged to then begin that which offers possibility of completion (the goal of at least 99.9% of all collectors) but which offered no such possibilities to any except the affluent while remaining a unit of the British Empire.

It may be that even those Olympian gods, the album-makers, liberated from the effects of hide-bound tradition and the commercial necessity which require a printed album to toss such 'unimportant' items as cronology to the four winds and to follow more or less religiously the Scott catalog listings, may dare to print separate

albums, or at least album units and sections, for the Republic of Fire.

COLLECT AS YOU CHOOSE

In closing, gentlemen, let me say that I would be the first to decry the attitude of one who would deny any person the right to collect in the manner and style that he might choose, even though he choose utter folly when considered from the standpoint of achieving some definite scholarly and/or financial goal. Philately stands fully justified as a recreation pure and simple, and therefore neither philately nor philatelists, elementary or advanced, stand in need of an apologist. But Philately also stands resplendently as a science and as an art, and these are the fields wherein an organized society such as the EPA may, and should, prove its value. The individual collector needs no assistance in following his inherent desires and tastes. He does need help when and if he at least wishes to pursue philately beyond the bounds of pure and simple recreation, and we as a society are morally obligated to provide him this help, yea, and even to encourage him to invite it.

PLEA FOR INDEPENDENT COUNTRY

This then is my plea, that we work to bring Eire before the world as an independent country, that its postal administration may be regarded as truly typical of and directly influenced by its own people, and therefore worthy of the study and the regard of all earnest students of philately, great and small, as a major and all-inclusive unit in the field of philately, the challenge of a people who have for decades fought and worked for a place in the family of nations as an adult nation and not that of a step-child, and who has not deservedly been acknowledged that place.

If we are to conform philatelically, it is apparent why we must seek as the first step this change in the Scott catalog. I have no wish to offer the delusion that the fight will be easy, with or without the acquiescence of Scott. But I believe sincerely that I am right when I say that no lover of Irish philately ten years hence will look back and say that we should have done otherwise.

### Parnell's Letter Continued

If there are those of you who are not inclined to give active support in this matter there is no reason why we should make any attempt to place you under any sort of duress to do so, you are indeed welcome to your personal opinions, be they pro or con. But I here now call on the society itself, the Fire Philatelic Association, to shoulder this responsibility NOW, and be ever alert for the possibilities of a successful conclusion, fighting coolly and methodically with every justifiable means at its command, never losing sight of the goal and its reward, be the battle for a month, ten years or, for we of the present, eternity!

Respectfully,  
Ben Parnell, Director  
EPA

### Editor's Note-

The Irish Consul, in New York, on the part of the government of Eire, is also anxious to see a separate listing made for Eire by Scott. And we of the EPA will keep after Scott until the listing is granted.

The Department of External Affairs in Dublin, has co-operated with EPA to the extent of offering all EPA members a weekly bulletin on the government news of Ireland. This bulletin is well worth reading and will keep one advised of all items of national importance. Since it will entail expense on the part of the Irish government to bring you this unique information source, I desire to hear from those of you who desire to obtain it. Send me a post card with your name, address and correct postal zone number. Be sure to mention that you desire to receive Weekly Irish Bulletin.

As mentioned in the first issue of The Revealer, which may not have reached you yet, due to mimeographing trouble, we desire to give each member a map of Ireland for use in connection with his collecting of that country. These maps will be useful as a source of quick reference in locating various cities and towns. The maps are yours free. All we ask is that each of you send \$.10 to the Editor to cover mailing costs and closures. As you must realize, our funds are limited.

You will all be interested to know of our membership growth. As of Jan. 15th. we have 52 members and about 7 or 8 waiting admittance. This is remarkable progress when one considers that we are only 4 months old.

A cross section of our membership gives the following statistics: Ages range from 25 to 73 years, the average age being 40 2/5 years. There are 32 occupations listed covering the Arts, Sciences, and business, including various trades.

### EPA BOOSTERS

The following members have made additional contributions to the Association to help with our expenses: Mr. Lorin L. Kay and Mr. William J. Hayes, members # 7 and 47 respectively. EPA wishes to thank both of these members for their thoughtful and unexpected help.

### Send Wants to Secretary

Members desiring elusive overprints and varieties should make their wants known to the Secretary so that he can be on the alert for them at various auction sales and private treaty sales. Please remember to enclose stamps for return reply as soon as your interests are located.

### Dept. of External Affairs Bulletins

The Photographic Exhibition, which is to tour the United States of America is at present on view in Dublin in the National College of Art. The exhibition, which was prepared by the Cultural Relations Committee of Ireland, was opened the last week of December.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Seán Mac Bride, said that the Exhibition formed part of a series of Photographic Exhibitions which were to be shown in America, Australia and Europe. It was intended to make known in the most effective and the cheapest way possible the different phases of Irish life. Mr. MacBride reviewed in a general way the tasks which had been undertaken by the Cultural Relations Committee, and pointed out the importance of their work.

This particular Exhibition is des-

tined for the U.S.A., with whose people we have so many close bonds of blood, condition, friendship and history. We hope that many of the twenty million people of Irish origin in the U.S. whose forefathers found shelter there in unhappier days will thus be given an opportunity of seeing what their Motherland now looks like. We also intend this Exhibition to be a slight tribute to that great nation in the West which has always held out the hand of friendship to our people and which has, in very recent times, made such important contributions through the ECA for our economic recovery and development."

The Exhibition consists of over 200 photographs, and reflects every aspect of Irish life and culture. A special feature is the Irish-American section which portrays Ireland's contribution to American Independence as well as the links which bind the two nations today. Other screens illustrate Ireland's heritage from the past, its cities, towns and countryside, the progress achieved in agriculture, industry, housing and hospitalisation and personalities in the country's political and cultural life. There is also a screen devoted to specimen pages from the new Swiss reproduction of the Book of Kells.

#### Noted Poet Dies

Mr. James Stephens, Irish poet and story-teller, died the last week of Dec. at his London home. He was one of the best known and best-loved writers of the day. He did much to make Ireland known to the world and who, in 1916 and the period that followed, courageously stood for the ideals of the Irish people.

#### History of The National Flag

There does not appear to be any record of the tricolor as an Irish national flag prior to 1848. In this year, on the return of Mr. William Smith O'Brien and others who had formed a deputation to France, a public entertainment was organized for them.

"Thomas Francis Meagher, in reply to the Toast 'Messrs. Meagher, O'Gorman and Hollywood and the remainder of the deputation to France, referred to the freedom enjoyed by Republican France, and formally presented to the Chairman the

flag surmounted by the Irish pike. The material was of the richest French silk, which was most gorgeously trimmed and embroidered; the colors were orange, white and green. As the Chairman took the flag, the whole company stood up and cheered most enthusiastically. Mr. Meagher resumed - 'From Paris, the gay and gallant city of the tricolor and the barricade, this flag has been proudly borne. I present it to my native land, and I trust that the old country will not refuse this symbol of a new life from one of her youngest children. I need not explain its meaning. The quick and passionate intellect of the generation now springing into arms will catch it at a glance. The white in the center signified a lasting truce between the "Orange" and the "Green", and I trust that beneath its folds the hands of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped in generous and heroic brotherhood. If this flag be destined to fan the flame of war, let England behold once more, upon that white center, the Red Hand that struck her down from the hills of Ulster, and I pray that Heaven may bless the vengeance it is sure to kindle.'

Following Meagher came Mitchel, who delivered his famous 'plain as a pike staff' speech, in which he concluded with 'Ah, the gleaming pikehead rises through our darkness like a morning star. This magnificent Irish tricolor with its Orange, White and Green, dawns upon us more gloriously than ever sunburst flashed over the field of Benburb, or blazed through the battle haze of Clontarf. My friends, I hope to see that flag one day waving as our national banner over a forest of Irish pikes.'

- "Memoirs of General Thomas Francis Meagher", by Michael Cavanagh.

It is evident that the tricolor, although the idea of Meagher, was, in fact, a scheme of Mitchell, O'Gorman and the remaining members of the Paris deputation.

We find no further instance of the tricolor being introduced into any national emblem until we meet the orange, white and green in the now familiar Sinn Fein postage stamp

## IRISH HOLY YEAR STAMPS

(about 1908). This stamp had no license as such and was used solely as a means of Sinn Fein Propaganda. It is of importance, however, as Griffith, as early as 1908, had accepted Meagher's colors.

In an article published in the "Irish Volunteer" (May 1914), O'Rahilly advocated the adoption of Company flags in conjunction with the adoption of a general national flag, the national flag being the old green one with the golden harp in the center. In this connection, Pearse adopted the tricolor as the Company flag of "E" Company, 4th. Battalion, Dublin, and, when this Company entered the G.P.O., on April 24th. 1916, they hoisted the green, white and orange tri-color on the flagstaff.

During the period 1914-1916, it was fashionable to wear favors, such as rosettes, ribbons, buttons, etc., on every public occasion, and the tri-color was adopted by the followers of Sinn Fein; hence they came to be popularly known as the Sinn Fein colors. Indeed, the colors were publicly displayed for the first time on the occasion of the lying-in-state and burial of O'Donovan Rossa in Aug. 1914.

At this time, little was known as to the origin and subsequent history of the Sinn Fein flag, for we find in "Nationality" (May 26, 1917) a notice (probably written by Griffith): "The Green, White and Orange flag, which is variously described as the Sinn Fein or 'Republican' flag, is the flag of the Young Irelanders, adopted 70 years ago, and by them avowed as a symbol of the Union of Ireland against enforced union with England.

In conclusion, it is worthy of mention that the tri-color was not adopted by the extreme left wing of the labor movement before April 1916, since Connolly, shortly before the Rising, at a parade of the Citizen Army, publicly unfurled the green flag, bearing the harp without a crown, from the flagstaff of Liberty Hall on Sunday, April 16th., (Irish Times 4-17-16).

The color scheme adopted by Meagher, according to Michael Cavanagh's Memoirs of General Meagher, was orange, white and green, whereas the present arrangement is green, white and orange.

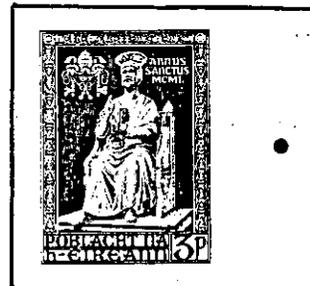
On September 11, 1950, the government of Ireland released the special Irish Holy Year issue of three values. They are composed of the 2½ p. purple, 3 p. light blue, and 9 p. sepia or light brown.

The stamps are printed on coated paper by the recess printing method, known to us engraving-printed from engraved plates). They are watermarked with a large "e" and perforated 12½ x 12½ mm.

The artist who designed these stamps is Mr. R.J. King, who had been responsible for the design of many of the newer issues.



2½ pence  
(purple)



3 pence  
(light blue)



9 pence  
(sepia)

## HISTORY OF HOLY YEAR STAMPS

The stamps picture the bronze statue of St. Peter, in St. Peter's Basilica, in Rome, which is known to every pilgrim as the Eternal City.

The statue was placed there by St. Leo in 445 A.D., and down through the centuries countless millions of pilgrims have kissed the right foot of St. Peter's statue, having now completely worn it away.

On the top left hand corner of the design is shown the Papal Arms. On the right of the design in Latin, is inscribed, "Holy Year 1950". In Gaelic at the bottom of the stamp is the inscription "Poblacht na h-Eireann", which is translated to mean-Republic of Ireland.

Since St. Patrick brought the faith to Ireland, the Irish Nation has proudly and steadfastly held aloft the torch of Christ in the long dark night of blood oppression. In commemorating the Holy Year, the government pays homage to the See of Saint Peter and joins The Church in celebration.

### MEMBERS ADMITTED SINCE NOV.1, 1950

- No. 13 Malchom G. O'Reilly  
48 Walnut Crescent  
Montclair, N.J.
- 18 T. John Butt  
115 Grand Ave.  
London, Ont., Canada
- 23 Edward F. Kelley  
P.O. Box 306  
Hubbard, Oregon
- 30 Thomas H. O'Neill  
P.O. Box 56  
Liverpool, N.Y.
- 31 Margaret O. Mageoch  
8 East Turnbull Road  
Haverstown, N.Y.
- 32 Patrick J. Hunt  
6330 Greenway Ave.  
Philadelphia 42, Pa.
- 33 Neil J. Browne  
27 Guest St. Anderson  
Glasgow, Scotland
- 34 G.P. Roberts, Jr.  
145 Sperry Ave.  
Stockton, Cal.
- 35 William H. Sailors  
3656 Nevada Ave.  
Fresno 2, Cal.
- 36 Michael T. Harrington  
2195 57th St.  
Sacramento 17, Cal.
- 37 Alfred Bernadine  
1434 South 58th. St.  
Philadelphia 43, Pa.

- No. 38 Patrick M. Cross  
654 East 224th. St.  
Bronx 66, N.Y.
- 39 John J. Clark  
947 East 32nd. St.  
Brooklyn 10, N.Y.
- 40 Mrs. Martha Kelley  
5129 Vine St.  
St. Bernard 17, Ohio
- 41 John W. Travers  
16 Kenridge Ave.  
Toronto 13, Ont., -Canada
- 42 Alfred O. Pihl  
100 Fern Drive  
Pasadena, Cal.
- 43 William G. Landells  
422 Beech St.  
Lansing, Mich.
- 44 Henry O. Nouss  
405 North Elizabeth Ave.  
Ferguson 21, Mo.
- 45 Mrs. Ethel M. Bedell  
48 Perkins Street  
New Haven, Conn.
- 46 Matthew J. Kelleher  
7200 South Perry Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.
- 47 William J. Hayes  
5961 Zinn Drive  
Oakland 11, Cal.
- 48 John Haddock  
10441 19th. Ave.  
Seattle 88, Wash.
- 49 Edward M. Stout  
9746 South Longwood Drive  
Chicago, Ill.
- 50 The. Rev. John Leahy  
St. Peters Rectory  
Wilboux, Montana
- 51 John A. Ullman  
2303 Putnam St.  
Toledo 10, Ohio
- 52 James M. Roberts  
531 Huron Ave.  
Sheboygan, Wisc.

If any names, addresses or postal zone numbers are incorrect, members are requested to inform the Secretary so that they may be corrected on our books.

The March-April issue of The Revealer will carry a list of our Irish Philatelic Library articles.

### St. Patrick's Day Covers

Any member desiring a St. Patrick's Day Cover to be canceled on March 17th. with a shamrock cachet, at St. Patrick, Mo.,

please follow these instructions: Prepare a stamped, self-addressed envelope with enclosed stuffer (a thin piece of carboard) then insert this envelope in a larger one with the request that it be posted and cached on March 17th. Mail to: Rev. Francis O'Duignan, Shrine of St. Patrick, Erin Ave., St. Patrick, Mo. Since Father O'Duignan makes no charge for this service, it is customary to enclose a small donation to the Shrine building fund. This will be a nice cover to add to your collection since it is distinctive and the only place in this country by that name.

#### Penn Edits Commemoratives

Mr. William S. Penn, Jr. to most of you needs no introduction. At one time or another you have read his articles that have appeared in MeKeel's, Weekly Philatelic Gossip, Stamp Trading Post and other stamp journals. He is well qualified as a writer and student of Eire's commemoratives to undertake this assignment of giving you Ireland's history on stamps.

Mr. Penn is an E.P.A. member, #4. And as a member, he will tell the stories of the commemoratives in a way most interesting to us as collectors.

Ed.

#### COMMEMORATIVES OF EIRE

By Wm. S. Penn, Jr.

The history of a country's growth and development is ever present in the commemorative stamps which it issues, far more than the regular of definitive issues. My own collection of stamps of Eire was begun with the commemoratives for this reason primarily but also for the reason that the hope of "completeness" was not beyond the modest financial resources which I had. Excluding the 3p. and 6p. air-mail stamps issued in 1948 (which might be said to have been issued to mark the inauguration of the Aerlinte Eirann Trans-Atlantic air service) these special issues number only 38 through the 3 stamps issued Sept. 11, 1950, to mark the Holy Year. So the numbers are in no sense formidable; of far more importance is the fact that the stamps as commemoratives honor some of the most fascinating history ever run across. With this as an introduction, let's consider the stamps themselves. It is planned to cover one or two emissions in each issue of The Revealer. Ample time between editions will allow you to help out

by expanding the notes here, or correcting them as the case may warrant

Address all communications to:  
William S. Penn, Jr.  
8001 Laurel Grove,  
North Hollywood, Cal.

Daniel O'Connell

Eire's first commemoratives were the three issued June 22, 1929, honoring Daniel O'Connell, the Liberator, who was responsible for the passage of the Catholic Emancipation Act in Parliament. The three stamps all depict O'Connell as he was in 1844, and the set comprises the 2p. dark green, 3p. dark blue, and 9p. dark violet.

All are watermarked with the "s-inside-e"(Se), perforated 15 x 14.

Under English rule, the practice of Catholicism was forbidden by law, and it was to the removal of this restriction that O'Connell devoted his talents. He was born Aug. 6, 1775, and received his early education in his native land, later completing his formal education in England and France. At the age of 23 he began his remarkable public career in the field of law. It is said that his oratory was in no small part responsible for his being acclaimed by his fellow countrymen and which led directly to his being elected to Parliament in 1828. Success crowned his efforts when in 1829, the Catholic Emancipation Act was passed. But a patriot born was our man and so he was equally outspoken for home rule for Ireland, and this led to his imprisonment by the English in 1843. After 11 months he was set free but his health had been broken and in 1847, he died.

Thomas Carrick did the original portrait which William Holl used for the basis of his engraving which in turn became the source for the design by Leo Whelan.

The stamp was typographed at the Government Printing Works at Dublin Castle.

One interesting variety of this issue is known and was first reported to my knowledge by Rex Glenny. It occurs on the 2p. value of the set. Mr. Glenny says that on the night before the first printing was to have been made, a workman dropped a screwdriver on the plate, damaging the 12th. stamp in the 15th. row, and necessitating hasty repairs.

The result is visible to the naked eye in a thickening of the right-hand inner verticle frame line and the two curved outer lines of the oval head frame above the value tablet. The short horizontal lines of shading have a broken and irregular appearance. The plate was properly repaired for subsequent printings so this variety is of considerable rarity, and worth looking for among your duplicates.

**SHANNON RIVER  
HYDROELECTRIC STATION**

Eire's second commemorative issue is dated Oct. 15, 1930, and is a single black-brown 2p. stamp marking the official completion of the "Shannon Hydroelectric Scheme".

On the stamp is a view of the immense dam at Ardnacrusha in County Limerick about 59 Miles from Cork. The plant represents about 5 million Pounds Sterling and was erected

by German technicians under the supervision of an Irish engineer named McLaughlin. Five years were required for its completion. The Gaelic inscription on the stamp, "Forbairt Comacht na Sionainne, 1930" means Completion of the Shannon Plan, 1930.

As in the case of the first set, the watermark is the s-in-e (Se), for Saorstát Eirann, meaning Irish Free State.

The perforation is 15 x 14 on this typographes stamp.

The color is called agate by our British friends, and no varieties are known. It is surely a unique stamp in appearance. The narrow margins between impressions makes superbly centered stamps the rarities of this issue.

**Shannon  
Hydro-Electric Station**



2p

Black-Brown

O'Connell Stamps



2p

Dark  
Green

3p

Dark  
Blue

9p

Dark  
Violet