

The Revealer



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SUMMER 1981

WORLD WAR I

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(See page 15 for story)

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THE REVEALER

Whole No. 143

Summer 1981

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REVEALER ADVERTISING

All advertising should be sent to the Advertising Manger along with a check payable to the Eire Philatelic Association at least 6 weeks prior to the next issue.

ADVERTISING RATES

Size of Ad	One Insertion	Yearly Rate (4)
Full Page	\$80.00	\$240.00
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Eighth Page	15.00	45.00

SECRETARY'S REPORT

DUES ARE DUE . . . It's that time of year again, enclosed with this issue of **The Revealer** is a combination statement-envelope for your payment. In spite of increasing costs we will be able to hold the present rate of \$7.00. As noted below, postage rates have forced us to increase charges for members outside the United States. Your dues are due September 1, 1981. Prompt payment to the Secretary/Treasurer greatly simplifies his job. Also, for the financial health of the Association, we have to drop, with regrets, those members who do not pay within a reasonable length of time.

NEW MEMBERS . . . If you joined the EPA prior to July 1, 1981 you are required to pay dues for the Sept. 1, 1981 to Aug. 31, 1982 fiscal year. Members joining after that date are considered paid for the coming year.

LIFE MEMBERS . . . Since we also use the dues notice return as an address check, please return the envelope if there is any change in your address.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE U.S. . . .

Since its inception in 1950, the Eire Philatelic Association has maintained the same rate of charges for members outside the U.S.A. as domestic members. However, continuing escalation of postage rates makes this no longer possible. Domestic mail is by third class bulk rate, by permit, and costs approximately \$.43 per member, per year. This service is not available to Canada and since the rate for "printed matter" is the same as 1st class mail for the weight of **The Revealer**, Canadian members received their journals by 1st class mail, on some occasions sooner than U.S. distribution, at an annual cost of \$2.08 per member. Overseas mail is quite expensive. For members in Europe, **The Revealer** is mailed in bulk by air (A.O. rate) to Dublin and Edinburgh and remailed individually by surface. Total postage cost for this method is \$3.93 per year per member. Other overseas mailings are by individual surface mail and the annual cost per member is \$3.24. In addition, the postal service is proposing other increases.

Therefore, with considerable reluctance, it has been necessary to add a postal charge for members outside the United States. Effective September 1, 1981 the rates, including dues and postage are:

United States	\$ 7.00 per year
Canada & Mexico	8.50 per year
All other countries	10.00 per year

Last year we began a policy of requiring all dues to be paid in U.S. dollars, by check drawn on US banks. This was to avoid the delay and high costs of bank clearing charges (which ran between \$3.00 & 5.00 per foreign check). However, this shifted the bank fees to the other members as the cost of obtaining such a check is about the same as the clearing charges for a foreign bank draft. We are pleased to announce that we have entered into banking arrangements that will allow us to accept checks in Irish pounds or pounds Sterling drawn on Irish or British banks. We will still be exposed to some bank fees, but not as great as before. Members using this method of payment should first check with their local bank and determine the current exchange rate. Remit a check at that rate in pounds, plus 50p to cover the bank fees.

Other members outside the U.S. are still required to pay their dues in U.S. dollars, either in checks drawn on U.S. banks, or in U.S. currency (usually available at major banks or American Express offices).

Payment in any form other than outlined above will only be accepted if an additional \$6.00, or equivalent, is included, otherwise we will have to return it, with regret.

We hope our members will understand the circumstances that

have forced us to take these steps. However, for the Eire Philatelic Association to continue to be of service to all its members its financial health must be reasonably viable.

REVISED METHOD OF PROCESSING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS . . . In the past different secretaries have used various methods of securing approval for applications for membership in the EPA. The methods ran the gamut from immediate approval by the secretary to the submission of all applications to all of our members of the Board of Directors. With the present size of our organization, the first method is not prudent and the latter not viable. Starting Sept. 1, 1981 the following procedure will be adopted. The secretary will make a review of the application, and if everything is in order, notify the applicant that he or she has been accepted into membership subject to no objections being received, by the secretary, following publication of the applicant's name and address in the official journal of the EPA, **The Revealer**. If no objections are received within a 45 day period following publication, this conditional status is removed and the individual is automatically admitted to full membership with an appropriate note in the subsequent **Revealer**. During the interim period between application and admission to full membership, the individual shall be extended all the privileges of membership, unless objections are received. Should there be an objection, the secretary will forward copies of the objection to the individual concerned and the President, who in consultation with the Board of Directors, will make final determination of the application.

To date, the Eire Philatelic Association has been most fortunate in the high character of its members. However, other stamp organizations, judging by expulsions, have had some problems in this area and it is hoped that this procedure will serve to protect our membership.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1569 Peter J. Cussen, 31 Park Drive, Kings Park, NY 11754
- 1570 James Hamill, Main St., Ferbane, Offaly, Ireland
- 1571 Richard J. Fennessy, 2 Middle Road, Levittown, PA 19056
- 1572 Robert C. Jones, 8 Beach St., Brockton, Mass. 02402
- 1573 Patrick J. Carney, 2601 Park Center Dr., C-1505, Alexandria, VA 22302
- 1574 Col. John J. Kennaley, 3618 N. Peary St., Arlington, VA 22207
- 1575 Stephen D. Serilla, 4018 S. McKemy St., Tempe, AZ 85282
- 1576 Michael G. Tobin, 2130 Lord Baranof Dr., Anchorage, Alaska 99503
- 1577 John G. Branca, Jr., 3550 S. Hopkins Ave., Titusville, FL 32780
- 1578 Karen Fraser, 531 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014
- 1579 Michael Kenny, 1512 W. Columbia Terr., Peoria, IL 61606
- 1580 Terry Yarnell, Box 4445, Modesto, CA 95352
- 1581 Patricia A. Ethridge, Box 6008, San Rafael, CA 94903
- 1582 James J. Mulholland, 1605 Taraval St., San Francisco, CA 94116
- 1583 Carl L. Mickelson, 508 Barrymore Dr., Oxon Hill, MD 20021
- 1584 I. O'Brien, 7 Vernon Walk, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5QP, U.K.
- 1585 Mathew A. Hartman, 6120 E. Monterey Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
- 1586 Frank Gillespie, 42 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2, Ireland
- 1587 Wolfgang Grohn, Offenbacher Landstrasse 114, D-6450, Hanau 7, West Germany
- 1588 Glenn K. Richards, Box 62, Sewanee, Tenn. 37375
- 1589 James J. Campbell, 370 Hamilton St., Albany, NY 12210
- 1590 Luis Manzoni, 18845 Lanark St., Reseda, CA 91335
- 1591 Fred Sasaki, 3000 Broadway, Chicago, IL 60657
- 1592 Larry Brennan, 648 E. 105 th St., Brooklyn, NY 11236

RESIGNED . . . #1009 L. M. Golden

REINSTATED . . . Charles P. O'Neill, George E. Wright, Joe McBrien, David Adam, Paul D. Frank.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

New Members as of March 9, 1981	537
New Members	24
Re-instatements	5
Resignations (1)	28
	565

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It's election time again for the Association officers and Directors! Your ballot is enclosed with the **Revealer** issue. Please mark it at once and return it to the Scrutineer in your area. The participation of a significant number of members in the election is important in maintaining a viable, on-going organization and gives those elected confidence to carry on the business and affairs of the EPA.

I want to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their labors and time in putting together this slate of nominees for your consideration. Please give them your thanks, too, in writing.

We had a great time in San Francisco, April 24-26, at WESTPEX. The NorCal chapter are always good hosts and hostesses. The EPA chapter meeting on Sunday, April 26, was well attended, enjoyable and interesting. Once again the green and white EPA banner was raised. If you'd like to use it, let me know. Unfortunately there were no exhibits of Irish material in the show so no awards to report.

Looking far, far into the future, but it's not too far ahead to begin thinking about and planning for . . . the EPA NorCal chapter certainly is, the EPA will be featured at WESTPEX '85 as we were in 1975. This will be our 35th anniversary year, an event that will need special recognition and celebration. Those of you who were at WESTPEX '75 remember the great exhibits and the rewarding meetings held at that time. WESTPEX '85, they hope, will be bigger and better . . . so make your plans to attend and/or exhibit. WESTPEX is near the end of April and that's 1985.

Also looking ahead, but not quite so far, the EPA is planning a major Mid-West area-wide meeting in October 1982 in conjunction with the Chicago Philatelic Society Show. More details on this at a later date but we will be making an effort to have many exhibits of Irish material entered and it is planned to have a special EPA Award as well as the EPA certificates.

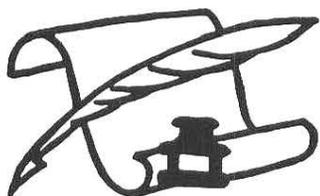
Now for your immediate attention, especially for those in the Indiana, Illinois, Michigan areas, Ed Sullivan wants to have a big EPA get-together at INDYPEX in September '81. You'll be hearing more from him if you live in the above areas. Plan to be there! You'll want to see his material which has received many awards and specifically an SPA Research Award of which he is justly proud. If you haven't received a notice, contact Ed at his address on the inside front cover of this issue.

You will see an addition to the list of Officers and Directors of the Association. Garvin Lohman is assuming the duties of Historian. Members are being asked to send him Show catalogues which refer to the EPA, clippings of EPA news in the press, EPA members news, anything that has to do with the Association. Let every member be a clipping service! Don't assume someone else has already sent something you see. Garvin can eliminate duplicates. Too, anyone who has anything that might be of historical value to the Association and cares to donate it, may send that to Garvin at the address shown.

Dues are due before another **Revealer** is published so a dues envelope is enclosed with this summer issue for your convenience. The dues year begins September 1, 1981. Why not take care of this matter at once and then you won't have to wonder whether or not you are a member in good standing.

The rising postal rates worldwide have finally caught up with the EPA. Some of you will find we have had to add a postage charge to your annual dues but the cold, hard financial facts are that, in some areas of the world, **The Revealer** costs more to publish and distribute than the dues payment. For some time, therefore, these areas have been subsidized by other members. We have tried to make this surcharge equitable and based it on actual postage charges at the moment. From some of the postage charge notices I have received, the EPA rates are a bargain.

Another reminder . . . fill out that ballot and send it on!
VOTE . . . PAY DUES!! *Acting President Bill Zellers*



RANDOM NOTES

By F. E. Dixon

ANOTHER SLOGAN

On 16 December the POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS was superseded in Dublin by a clumsy "ARE YOU ON THE DRAFT REGISTER OF ELECTORS? CHECK NOW AT YOUR POST OFFICE."

REGISTRATION ENVELOPE

The K size with the 55p stamp was available from 18 December. The inscription agrees with that on the 55p size H. The 44p size G can be added to the long list with errors. It appears on scrim-lined paper with the reverse inscription stating the minimum registration fee to be 12p!

AND ANOTHER

Dundalk jumped the gun with a new slogan on 31 December 1980, a slogan used elsewhere from 5th and 6th January. At left it has a symbol and initials of the International Year of Disabled Persons: to the right in three lines IRISH WHEELCHAIR ASSOCIATION 1960-1981.

MISSING YEARS

As always there were not enough "1981" dies to supply all the cancelling machines. The first evidence I saw was from Galway.

COLOURED CANCELLATIONS

In October-November 1980 Puckane (Pocan) Co. Tipperary, was applying its double / circle canceller in purple ink.

FISCAL OVERPRINTS

A Dutch friend has sent two additions to my collection of Irish postage stamps converted to Receipt stamps by adding "Received etc." with the initials or name of the firm. Both are 2d se watermark. One overprinted in red, is of the Cork Consumers Gas Co.: the other, in black, has J.J.M. & Co. whom I have not yet identified. From another source I can add a similar but earlier item. U.K. 1d George V overprinted "RECEIVED JAMES MOORE LIMITED, 17 DONEGALL PLACE BELFAST, used 1914.

THE POSTAL MUSEUM

One of the interesting people on the Irish Philatelic Advisory Committee is journalist Maeve Binchy. In her column in the Irish Times on 31 January she appealed to readers for help in locating material for the museum, for which 4,000 sq. ft. have been allocated in the Irish Life Mall. Offers and suggestions should be sent to Maurice Kelleher, Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Dublin 1.

POSTAL HISTORY

There is a new edition of Willcocks (now assisted by B. Jay) catalogue of Postal History of Great Britain & Ireland, £7.50 (75p P&P) from Vale Stamps, 21 Tranquil Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 OBU. It has been carefully revised and prices are well ahead of the rate of inflation. The Dublin Dockwra type now £3,000; pre-1700 Bishopmark £150; Mermaid PAID £150; Dublin handstruck 4 £300; provincial ditto £750. An essential reference work for the serious collector.

IRIS AN PHUIST

This is a weekly circular to all postmasters with details in both Irish and English of all the miscellaneous information relating to their work. Few philatelists have opportunities of seeing it. Bound volumes of the 1943 and 1945 issues recently came my way. The contents are disappointing in that they add nothing to philatelic information, and omit some things. For example, the only reference to the 1945 Military Tatoo is an instruction that posters are to be displayed in Post Offices.

SPECIAL TREATMENT

Letters with Air Mail etiquettes but not fully prepaid with the airmail rate are normally forwarded by surface mail. However, if the sender is known to the Post Office he may be sent a circular (O.E. 182) stating that the letter has been forwarded by air, and that the amount of the deficiency should be sent, in postage stamps attached to the form, to the Controller of the Dublin Postal District.

MILEAGE MARKS

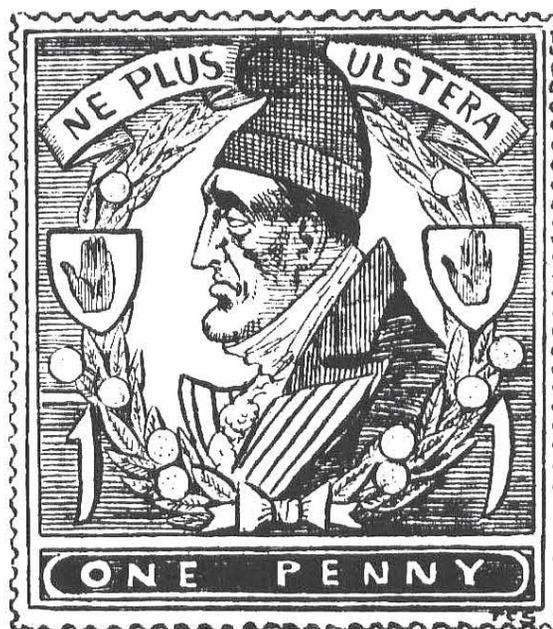
An addition to our lists CUSHENDALL / 109 in red dated 1825.

MILEAGES

In Dr. Stafford Johnson's library I have found a fascinating list of the Irish roads, with mileages, published in 1690 to help people to understand the reports of the War in progress. Towns already captured by King William are specially marked.

STAMP CARICATURES

Fairly well known is the design for a 1d stamp, drawn by Bernard Partridge for PUNCH, depicting John Redmon as King of Ireland. This seems to have been a counter blast to the design for a Carson penny stamp, as suggested by T.P. O'Connor, M.P. and published in the WESTMINSTER GAZETTE. What I have seen is a reproduction in the issue of the "Review of Reviews" for January 1912. The initials of the artist are F.C.S.



IPS

Congratulations to the Irish Philatelic Society which is celebrating its 80th birthday. And congratulations to Fr. Brennan for carrying off both the Society's cups - that for the best entry overall, and that for the best Postal History entry. His exhibit was one of three dealing with the Holyhead & Kingston Packet.

DUBLIN NEWSLETTER

by Brian Warren

The 18p and 19p definitive stamps released for sale on 27 April last have certainly had an impact with specialist collectors of modern Irish issues, at least here at home. The definitives are unique for two reasons: they are printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited and also they are lithographic printings. Thus, for the first time, we have a private commercial firm printing definitives and also, for the first time, we have litho definitives.

The sheet lay-out of these litho definitives is the same as earlier photogravure low value definitives, viz. a total of 200 stamps per sheet arranged in two vertical panes of 100 stamps, separated by a gutter margin. The sheet markings are entirely different. On these litho sheets there is the printers imprint located in the lower right hand corner and the plate number in the lower left hand corner, repeated in the upper right hand corner. There are no markings whatever in the top left hand corner.

Now to the complications. While the only plate number known to date on either value is 1, the letter A or B follows the digit and, accordingly, we have the markings 1A or 1B for both values. To compound matters, two distinctive perforators were used on the 18p value; one perforator type is top margin imperforate, lower margin perforated and, the other perforator is the exact opposite, top margin perforated, lower margin imperforate. So far, only one perforation type is known to exist on the 19p value, viz. top margin imperforate lower margin perforated. In order to avoid confusion, I will refer to the perforation state of the top margin only in the future as the lower margin is always the reverse.

The following table summarises the situation in late May 1981 and explains why specialist plate block collectors already require eight different blocks of the 18p value and four different blocks of the 19p value. Remember that there are two positional plate blocks on each sheet in diagonally opposite corners.

Plate Markings:	Top Margin Perforated:	Top Margin Imperforate:
1A	18p and 19p	18p only
1B	18p and 19p	18p only

Even though the authorities have not volunteered an explanation of the A and B markings on sheets, collectors in Ireland are satisfied that they know the reason. The Primary Sheet produced by the printer contains 400 stamps divided evenly into two sub-divisions of 200 stamps and separated from each other by a broad gutter margin. The letters A and B is the printer's code to distinguish one sub-division from the other. After printing, the Primary Sheet is guillotined into post office sheets of 200 stamps and stocked for delivery to Central Stores. It is interesting to note that in any post office, which I visited in my search for a complete set, all had stocks of one plate and perforation type only and this fact may be a clue to the stacking and distribution systems of the Printers and Stores.

Collectors who wish to specialise in a new chapter in Irish philately now have an opportunity to concentrate their efforts on these litho printed definitives – plate blocks in particular – and watch their collections increase in numbers in a few short years. It is the nature of litho printings that plates wear out quickly and already collectors in Ireland are anticipating a Plate 2 18p definitive. Furthermore, it is no secret that the new definitive series is expected to be lithographic printings, so the potential should be obvious to all collectors. Irrespective of plate blocks which are difficult to find in good condition, I would recommend all collectors at least to get these two values with selvedge attached from upper and lower margins so as to show the two perforation types.

The days of major discoveries are not yet over as evidenced by an incident which happened in Dublin last April. A collector searching for particular paper types paid a casual visit to one of the larger post offices that have coil vending machines. While he was chatting to the counter clerk he noticed what appeared to be a long strip of coil stamps on a table behind the counter and he asked the clerk if he could examine the strip. To his astonishment he noticed that the coil strip was entirely blank but was perforated, E watermark and shiny gum. He then learned from the clerk that after coil vending machines had been sent to the Post Office Engineers, for repair and servicing, blank coil strips were often to be found in the machines when they were returned in working order. Post Offices attached no importance to these blank coil strips and discarded them into wastepaper baskets! The collector had no difficulty in getting this blank strip from the clerk for nothing. This was the first indication that collectors had of the existence of Testing Coils, and on reflection, I am annoyed with myself that I had not reasoned beforehand that some form of Testing Coil must exist to ensure that repaired vending machines are working properly.

As the strip from the Testing Coil is Watermarked, Shiny Gum it would appear to date from 1972-1974 so we now have to find out the type of Testing Coil in use before 1972. We also have to find out the types of coil leader used on Testing Coils. In my opinion this has been the most important discovery made in recent years and no collection of coil stamps can now be considered complete unless it contains an example from a Testing Coil.

Since my last Newsletter, a new printing of 9p dog stamps appeared on sale in early April. This new printing is different in shade from earlier printings and should be of interest to specialists. The Science and Technology set and the Europa set of special stamps contain nothing out of the ordinary with regard to varieties and, thankfully, no plate number changes.

I had intended to continue my notes on how to identify the various types of Gerl Definitives. I have covered the pre-decimal and the watermarked series, leaving the four series of unwatermarked stamps for explanation, but I was knocked off course this time due to the new definitives and the Testing Coil news. These four series are now identified as Types A, B, C, and D respectively. Type A is Original Coated Paper of the same quality and appearance as earlier issues except that the paper is unwatermarked. The paper is relatively heavy / thick and the adhesive is dull P.V.A. gum containing traces of a brown dye. If you have a 3½p unwatermarked dog stamp, use this as a reference as it is unique to Type A. The remaining three types are all Fluorescent Coated Paper which is relatively light / thin and the face of the stamp has a brilliant fluorescent effect under a U.V. lamp. The adhesive on Type B is P.V.A. with a colourless / off-white appearance and the 8p stag stamp is unique to this series. The adhesive on the Type C is easily recognisable – P.V.A. with a ribbed effect and blue-green in colour. Use the 6p stag stamp as your reference for this series as it must be Type C. The remaining Type D differs from the last Type C by having a slight mottled appearance instead of ribbing and also a paler blue-green colour P.V.A. gum. The ½p dog is Type D and ideal for reference purposes.

Following recent developments, Brian Warren and I will be expanding our notes on the unwatermarked series when we have completed our homework. I hope that readers find these news items etc. both interesting and useful.

IRISH PHILATELY IN WORLD WAR I

by John J. Blessington

Students of Irish Philately have brought to light much information about the postal history of the 1916 Uprising and the 1922 Civil War. Enough philatelic material has been found so that some of the facts have been put together and articles written to record them. From 1914 to 1918 the "Great War", World War I, as it is known today in the U.S., was fought but almost nothing has been recorded about this period of Irish philately. Is it possible, at this late date, to find philatelic material covering that time? Is it still possible to assemble a collection that will show the involvement of Ireland?

Yes, Ireland and the Irish were involved even though, strictly speaking, they didn't have to be. Unlike England there was no conscription in Ireland... Irishmen weren't forced to join the British Armed Forces but many did. How many? I don't know, but I have seen figures stating that 50,000 Irishmen lost their lives during the War. Assuming 25% casualties, the total projects as 200,000 Irish who were involved. What has happened to all the mail that must have been written home by these men in the service? How many covers still exist? They are candidates for our collection.

Illustrated is the front of a piece of British Postal Stationery issued for use by the troops in the War Zones to expedite delivery of mail. The back of the card is preprinted with selected phrases which were to be deleted, if not applicable, or completed by the insertion of dates. Nothing else could be added, except for the sender's name. By the use of this card (Army Form A2042) censorship (a slow process) was eliminated. This card, dated 12th April 1918, addressed to Drumcondra, Dublin is struck with the Field Post Office date stamp "C.2" dated AP15, 18. According to the "Postal History of the British Army in W.W. I", Alistair Kennedy & George Crabb, authors, the probable allocation of the "C.2" date-stamp on this date was to the "2nd Canadian Brigade" of the "1st Canadian Division." The use of these cards was very heavy (by 1917 almost 300,000 daily) so there should be some of these around with an Irish connection waiting to be added to our collection.

As the war progressed more and more men were reported missing or captured. On the home front efforts were made to try to re-establish communications with these men. Organizations were formed to systematically search for missing Irishmen by canvassing all known German Prisoner of War camps. Pictured below is a card from one of these organizations.



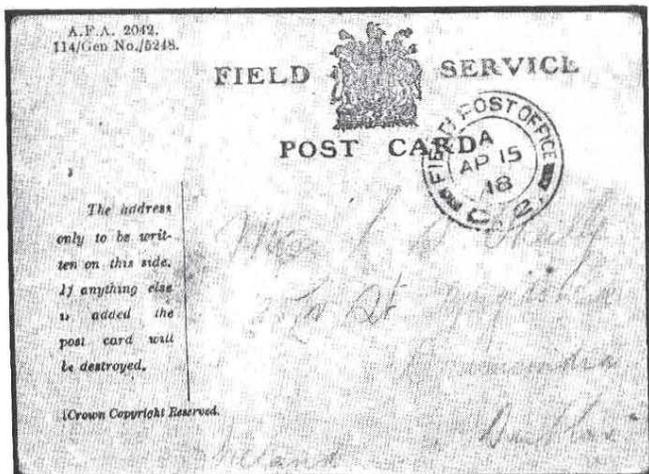
I have a group of covers all addressed as the one shown to a lady at Beakstown Mills, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. She apparently corresponded with a number of service men, possibly men from the same town or ex-employees of the mills. The covers bear a wide range of military postal markings, 9 different Field Post Offices, 2 Base Army Post Offices and 2 Army Post Offices. One even from a member of the 3rd Royal Marines Brigade at the Dardenelles. This type of cover surely belongs in our collection. Covers from members of the "Irish Guards" or the "16th (Irish) Division (NA)" should be the most likely to be found. Who can report some of these covers?

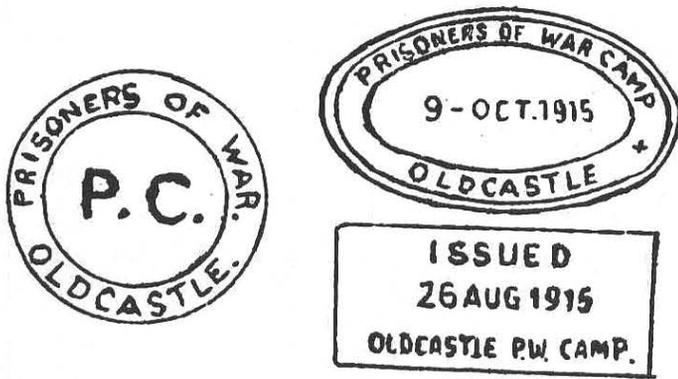


This card is addressed to a German P.O.W. Camp inside France soliciting names of any Co. Mayo prisoners interred in that camp. It is undated (date has been removed) but it bears the Parcel cancel used in Dublin in 1916 because of the Easter Rising. Also present is the circular cachet, in red, "Posted Free / P.P. / Prisoners of War." This is a typical British marking of the time. Does anyone know if it was applied in Dublin?... I suspect it was added in London. The card has the return address, on the back of "Relief Fund Co. Mayo Prisoners of War in Germany", 35 Molesworth Street, Dublin. I have seen three or four of these cards all addressed to different camps. It would be interesting to know if they ever published the results of their search. A list of P.O.W. camps which had Irish P.O.W.'s would be worth finding.

Since many Irishmen ended up in German P.O.W. camps mail to and from them would certainly fit into our collection. Elsewhere in this issue is an article about a cover addressed to an Irish P.O.W. as well as one describing a cover from an Irish P.O.W. Can anyone add further information?

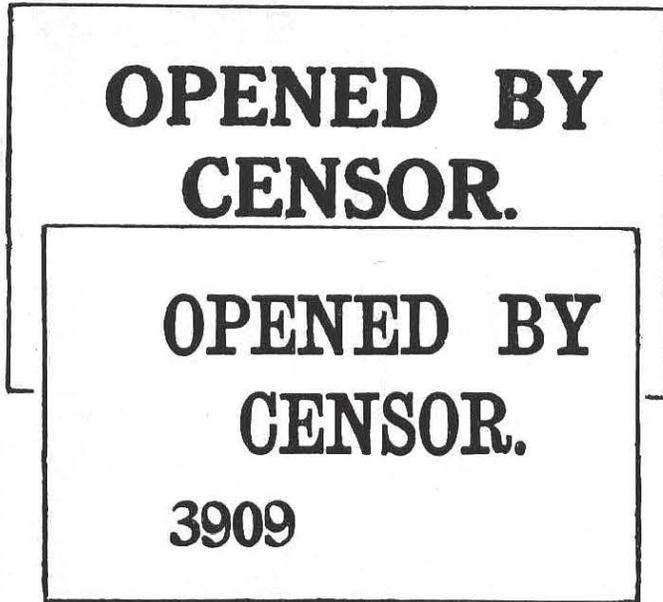
There is yet another area of Irish involvement in W.W. I that should be documented in our collection but I suspect that material is scarcer than the rest. Many thousands of German prisoners of war were held in camps in the British Isles. It is known that there were camps located in Ireland.





The above items from the German P.O.W. camp at Oldcastle were first reported by Fred Dixon in his "Random Notes" in the May-June 1962 issue of *The Revealer*. The first marking appears on both inwards and outwards mail. The second is on an inward bound cover, which also has the third. Each is accompanied by the double circle, double arc, datestamp of the Oldcastle, County Meath post office. In a Robson Lowe sale of 15th May 1975 (Lot 630) were a 1915 post card from Dublin and a 1916 post card from New York to a German prisoner at Oldcastle. They showed dated cachets of the Oldcastle P.O.W. camp. Can someone tell us if the cachets were the same as above? Padraig O'Mathuna reports a camp at Templemore, Co. Tipperary. Did this camp use cachets? Were there other camps?

Another candidate to be included in our collection is "Censored" mail. Civil censorship of all civil mail was instituted throughout the British Isles for the duration of the war.



Illustrated are two types of censor labels of World War I used in Ireland. These are shown courtesy of Past President Preston Pope who is (among other things) a collector of world wide censor covers. The upper label is on a cover dated at Dublin on 13 June 1919. The other is on a cover date at Londonderry on 22 Feb 1916 which shows that they were in use for at least four years. I have been unable to locate a listing of the numbers and types used in Ireland. Can someone help?

In searching for further evidence of Irish involvement in W.W. I it is appropriate that we explore the American Expedi-

tionary Force and its disposition. Was there a connection with Ireland? At the very least one would think that since over a million members of the A.E.F. passed through England on the way to France some of them must have reached Ireland.



Pictured above is a cover from a Lieutenant in the A.E.F. bearing the datestamp of Tallaght, Co. Dublin of Oct. 21, 1918. It was carried "free" and bears the usual A.E.F. censor cachet in purple. The return address is London SW1.

There is quite a bit of information that can be gleaned from this cover. First, in examining the return address, note that there is no A.P.O. number for Lt. Wolf. The reason for this is that an American Army Post Office was never established in the British Isles during World War I. American units stationed therein used the British Civil Post or the British Field Post. This cover was correctly handled by the civil post as shown by the Tallaght date stamp. The designation "2nd Lt A.S." is interesting for it indicates Lt. Wolf was in the Air Service (part of the Army). Covers from Air Service personnel are not common and less so from the British Isles. About 500 American Air Service personnel trained in Britain.

The purple censor cachet was added in London or Liverpool. Up to just a couple of months before this letter was written all mail from American personnell in Britain was censored by British Civil Censors. However, around the end of August 1918 American Officers, with A.E.F. censor stamps, arrived in Britain to take over the task.

The cover's most notable feature, of course, is the Irish datestamp. It is not a common combination . . . the A.E.F. & Ireland. What was Lt. Wolf doing in Ireland? Was he a tourist? Was he stationed there? The cover can't tell us, we can only speculate, unless some one can add to our information. There exists an interesting reference to American service men and Ireland in an article by A.C. Yeates entitled "70 Years of Irish Mail" published in the 1961 Vol. 32 issue of the magazine *Sea Breezes*. Writing about the mail boats of the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company and the German submarine campaign in the Irish Sea the author speaks of the lack of British Navy escort vessels . . . "except on odd occasions such as when the Lord Lieutenant or American troops were on board." What American troops were being transported between Kingstown & Holyhead?

While we have been unable to prove or disprove that Lt. Wolf and his American Army comrades were stationed in Ireland there is ample record to show that there was a considerable presence of American Naval Forces. The very first overseas base of American Naval Forces was established at Queenstown (Cobh) in 1917 when the first American fighting unit in Europe, six destroyers, steamed into the harbor on May 4th. This force was soon increased to 34 destroyers. When the fleet of 235 "submarine chasers" arrived in European waters scores of them were stationed at Queenstown. One of the two groups of American submarines in European waters was stationed at Berehaven,

Bantry Bay, as was a division of 3 American battleships. There were a total of six naval Air Stations in Ireland: Berehaven, Castletown Bere, Lough Foyle, Wexford, Queenstown & Whiddy Island. All this adds up to a few thousand American Naval personell based in Ireland largely in Bantry Bay. How much of their mail has survived?



Pictured above is a cover to one of these American Naval men. The cover is from a G.E. Hosler, stationed in France, to his brother, Clarence, stationed at Whitty (sic) Island. The censor mark is the Unit censor mark of the sender. Note that there are no transit or receiving marks. The only indication this went through the mail is the manuscript "G.P.O. London." All mail to Americans based in Ireland had to be so noted. The civilian post didn't process this mail so no civil post markings would appear. It didn't go through the British Field Post system for it has no such markings. We do know that it eventually reached the British Naval Mail Facility which interfaced with the Americans in Ireland. The letter is still enclosed in the Hosler envelope and there is a passage concerning mail . . . "I have been getting mail direct from you every week and have been writing at least once a week." So it would appear that there was a regular mail service between France and Ireland apparently via London. How the mail reached London is not known. We also know the outgoing mail went through the British Naval Mail Facility and must have been turned over to the Americans for transmittal home but nothing is known of the details. The author would appreciate any further information. There must be more of these covers waiting to be discovered. The only means of identification is the address for incoming and the return address for outgoing covers. Since they have no postal markings they would appear to be undesirable except to a knowledgeable collector.

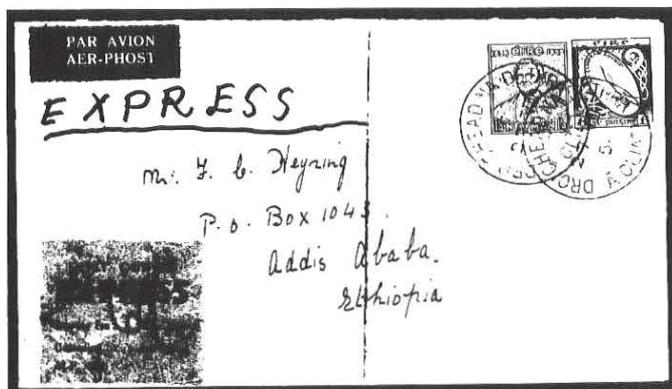
This completes what I have been able to discover about the Irish involvement in World War I. I think you can agree with me that there is material enough to put together a worthwhile and fairly comprehensive collection of this neglected portion of Ireland's postal history.

Researching for this article has been rewarding, but also frustrating. Frustrating because there has been little or nothing written of a philatelic nature over the years. The recent publication of "The Postal History of the AEF, 1919-1923", edited by Theo Van Dam and published by The American Philatelic Society, 1980 added a few missing links and filled in some of the gaps in the understanding of both the "Wolf" cover and the "Hosler" cover. Perhaps some of our members with access to British writings may be able to add further insight. Having exhausted my sources I decided to publish what I've learned hoping that further informaton will be forthcoming from you.

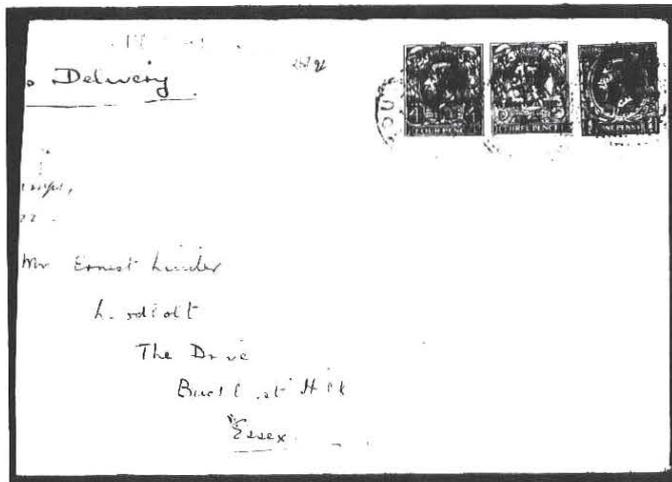
An unexpected benefit was becoming reacquainted with the history of W.W. I . . . much of which had been forgotten since my school days of many years ago. It was a pleasant surprise to come across the name Capt. Vesey in "Irish Guards in the Great War" compiled and edited by Rudyard Kipling. If I'm not mistaken this is the same Capt. Vesey who did the pioneering work in identifying the ten overprint plates used by Thom.

AN INTERESTING COVER

Our interesting cover turns out to be two covers, submitted by Eugene Labiuk of Canada.



The first cover is dated July 27, 1954 and is from Droichead na Dotara (Ballsbridge) to Ethiopia. There is a Receiving mark on the back of 2/9/54. The stamps are the 1/3 Newman and the 6d Sword of Light. In the lower left corner is a pink "EXPRESS" label with a pencil 6d added. (The handstamp EXPRESS was in blue and didn't photograph so was added). The question being asked is, was the rate correct and what was gained by "Express Mail" to a P.O. Box?



The second item is a part cover with the word "Delivery" in ink in the upper left corner. Someone has written "Special Delivery" in pencil on the top of the cover, probably at a later date. Assuming the word "Special" was on the missing part of the cover was this rate, 8d, correct. The cover is postmarked DUBLIN / 25 or 26 FE / 22 and the stamps are the Dollard 1d, 3d, and 4d.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the first "Item of Interest" that has been submitted for quite a long time. We urge you to share with the members your favorite pieces. They don't have to be covers, anything of interest will do. Gene furnished photographs of these two covers but a good reproducible copy will work or, if you prefer, send the items to the Editor and he will arrange the photography.

A COVER FROM A W.W.I P.O.W.

by V. A. Linnell



The illustrated W.W. I Prisoner of War Cover is among the earlier sendings, being dated 1.12.14, less than four months after war was declared between Great Britain and Germany.

The translation of "Kriegsgefangenensendung" is "Prisoner of War Sending" which is different from that used in W.W.II which was "Kriegsgefangenpost" or "Prisoner of War Post." Next to the datestamp is the word "Gepuft" meaning "Censored" and on the left is the circular cachet used to identify the camp. The wording roughly translates as "Gottingen Prisoner of War, Official Marking."

The speed of transmission is very noticeable in that the Gottingen stamp is dated 1.12.14 while the London PAID marking is dated 5 Dec. 14, just four days in transit. It is probable that the letter was sent via Holland (Amsterdam) which at that time was neutral.

There is no backstamp or indication as to time of delivery in Dublin. An interesting fact is that the envelope had to be sent unsealed for censoring purposes. It is noted that the original gum remains untouched on the envelope flap, however a heavy blue pencil mark crosses both the flap and cover.

It wasn't long after this cover that most of the Irish P.O.W.'s were relocated to the Limburg/Lahn camp where Sir Roger Casement attempted a recruiting campaign to form an "Irish Brigade" (to have green uniforms with a gold harp on the coat). The intention of the German High Command was to train, arm and transport this "Irish Brigade" to the west coast of Ireland under the possible leadership of Sir Roger Casement and German Army officers. This diversion was to force the British to defend themselves in Ireland thus diverting troops from the European front lines.

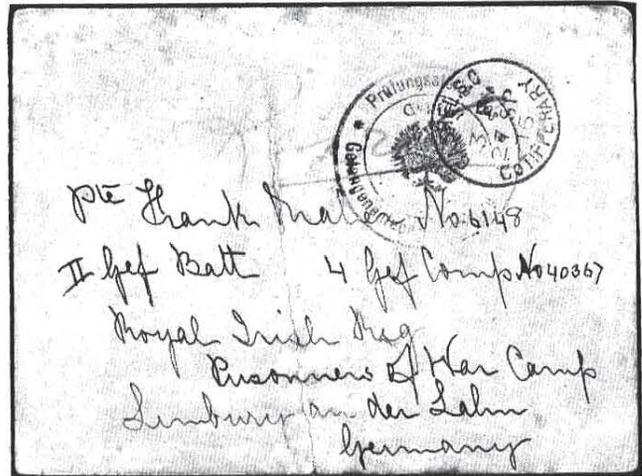
As is well known, the "Irish Brigade" never operated, while Sir Roger Casement was captured near Banna Strand close to Tralee while awaiting the arrival of arms and ammunition, by ship, for use in arming the Irish in preparation for the "Easter Rising" in 1916. Sir Roger Casement had been transported from Germany to Ireland by a German submarine. The German ship carrying the arms and ammunition was captured by ships of the British navy and escorted to Cork Harbour, where the German crew scuttled the ship and surrendered. The crew was interned for the duration of the war.

Sir Roger Casement was taken to London, tried, found guilty of treason by the courts and, later, executed in the Tower of London.

A COVER TO A W.W.I P.O.W.

by John J. Blessington

Shown below is the first cover (actually a card) that the author acquired from Ireland to a P.O.W.



Dated 27 September 1916 it carries the circular date stamp of CASHEL S.O/CO. TIPPERARY and is addressed to a private of the "Royal Irish Regiment / Prisoner of War Camp / Limburg and der Lahn / Germany." It has no postage (none was required) and bears the censor mark of the Limburg P.O.W. camp. The writer informs the P.O.W. that a parcel has been sent.

A very nice card, indeed; my interest would have stopped here except that, in researching the Limburg Prison Camp, I struck pay dirt when I acquired a book entitled "The Prisoner of War in Germany" by J. McCarthy, published in New York in 1917 by Moffat, Yard & Co. This was a contemporary account of British Prisoners in German P.O.W. Camps written by an American Doctor who was an inspector attached to the American Embassy in Germany. The United States, by agreement of both sides, was responsible to monitor the welfare of British P.O.W.'s in Germany and, conversely, German P.O.W.'s in Great Britain. The American Embassies in each country were assigned the task. Irish prisoners were covered in some depth in the book.

Limburg was described as one example "... of political, or more specifically, seduction camps." In such camps exceptional treatment was extended to the P.O.W. in an effort to induce him to abandon his unit and fight for the Central Powers. The Irish were singled out for this treatment.

During the first eighteen months of the war all British prisoners were screened and those from Ireland were segregated. The enlisted men landed up at Limburg. What happened to Officers who were Irish is not known. Of course, officers were kept in separate camps anyway. Limburg was one of the best constructed camps in Germany. The Irish were afforded special comforts and considerable liberty to prepare them for the arrival of Sir Roger Casement and his attempt to form an "Irish Brigade" to fight with the Central Powers. As we know he was unsuccessful in his attempt (it was stated that only 32 out of the 4,000 Irish P.O.W.'s signed up). The account closes with the statement that because of the failure of this scheme Irish prisoners were exposed to extremely harsh treatment from then on.

It's surprising where a cover will lead you if you spend a little time in researching it... perhaps this is why Postal History is so fascinating - it meshes with Political and Social History.

REVEALER DEADLINES

In order to insure that your material reaches the Editor in time for insertion in the next current issue of **The Revealer** be sure to submit your copy to meet the closing dates listed below:

Spring Issue March 1st
 Summer Issue June 1st
 Fall Issue September 1st
 Winter Issue December 1st

RECENT ISSUES

EUROPA 1981

On 14th May the Irish Post Office issued the 21st annual "Europa" issue. There were two denominations and separate designs. The 15p denomination (A500/000) features "The Legend of the Cock and the Pot".

The 10p denomination (L200/000) features "The Angel with the Scales of Justice".



THE COCK AND THE POT

The cock rising from the pot is among the best known and most widely distributed of Irish traditional religious legends. The legend tells how an embittered monk, Christ saying that he had no more power to free him from the dead than the fool cooking in the pot. On that the fool, a humped cock, hopped on the rim of the pot and crowed loudly. It was also a very popular and widespread motif in Irish folk art, sometimes by itself but much more often as one of several symbols of the Passion of Christ included in one composition. Its earliest dated appearance is on a tomb-slab dated 1480 and it constantly recurs, carved in wood and in stone until the last nineteenth century.

THE SCALES OF JUDGEMENT

The Judgment, in which the soul of every person, after death, is weighed in a pair of scales by an angel before the throne of God is a well-known ancient theme. The early introduction of this theme into Ireland is clearly shown on the Cross of Muiredach at Monasterharrow, County Louth, which was carved towards the end of the ninth century - about eleven hundred years ago. On one side of this cross is a Central Judgment, with Christ enthroned in glory as Judge and before him the Archangel Michael weighs a soul on a pair of scales and beside it a small demon with tines to put the soul down.

The stamps feature paintings by Mary Staunton-Gooding with graphics by Peter Byrne. They were printed in lithography by Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. Perforations are 14 x 15.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AN OIGE

On 24 June the Irish Post Office issued a set of four stamps to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of An Oige.

The 15p stamp (E200/000) features "Corking".

The 10p stamp (E300/000) features "Hill Walking".

The 10p stamp (E400/000) features "Hill Climbing".

The stamps were designed by Robert Delaigh and were printed in lithography by Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. perf. 14 x 15.



The youth hostel idea was introduced into Ireland by Mr. C.E.F. Trench in 1931 and An Oige - the Irish Youth Hostel Association - was founded in May of that year. One of its main objectives is to help all, but especially young people, to a full and appreciation of the countryside, particularly by providing simple hostel accommodations for them on their travels.

The first An Oige hostel was located in a barn by the beautiful Lough Enniscorthy Wicklow, about 24 miles south of Dublin. Such was the makeshift nature of this hostel that within a year of its opening it was abandoned and another hostel was immediately opened at Lough a few miles further north. During these formative years a number of hostels were opened in Co. Wicklow mainly to serve the urban industrial population of Dublin.

In 1934 the first An Oige hostel outside of Co. Wicklow was opened at Mullinacree, Co. Louth, followed in 1936 by a hostel at Omeath in the same county.

The early An Oige pioneers developed the hostel chain throughout Ireland on very limited resources. All work on the hostels was undertaken by the members themselves.

In 1939, the outbreak of the Second World War severely restricted expansion of the hostel chain and recruitment of new members.

However, after the war, the Association again set about expanding its chain of hostels. A public appeal in 1946-47 raised £1,000 which was used to purchase a derelict 16th century castle at Fausheen's Co. Kilkenny. This castle is today one of the showpieces of the An Oige chain.

Since its inception, An Oige membership has expanded apace with the spread of youth hostels throughout the Republic of Ireland. Membership is now in excess of 20,000 and the Association has a chain of 54 hostels which can accommodate over two thousand young people each night, and annually welcomes visitors from 50 other Youth Hostel Associations around the world.

**HELP THE EPA -
SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY**

AUCTION REPORT

On April 6-7th Superior Stamp & Coin's auction held at The Century Plaza Hotel was a highly successful sale. There were 31 lots of Ireland which sold for in excess of \$30,000.00. The specialized nature of the material drew heavy response from mail bids and several prominent Irish collectors flew into Los Angeles for the sale.

Six lots of inverted overprints did well, the 1/2d Dollard as a single went for \$600.00 while a pair brought \$875.00 the 1d (2 copies) sold for \$325.00, and a block of four brought \$700.00. Both dies (1 lot) of the Thom 2d orange (Sc 16a, 16c) reached \$575.00 as did a vertical pair.

A 10sh Thom (Sc 38), O.G. with bottom sheet margin brought \$1,200.00. The strongest lot in the Irish section was a block of six of the 1d Saorstat (Sc 45) with the variety, accent and final 't' ommitted. This brought an opening bid of \$10,500.00 from the book which discouraged any floor bidding. Since there was no competition from the floor there is no way of telling how high the book bidder was willing to go. Check the back page of the Winter issue of **The Revealer** (Whole No. 141) for a picture of this block in Superior's ad.

The "PENCF" error (Sc 15a) in a block of four sold for \$575.00. Two lots of three line Harrison coils, which included composite pairs and long '1' varieties, brought \$110.00 and \$180.00 respectively.

A very nice 2sh 6d block of 12 with four "wide and narrow" date composite pairs (Sc 77, 77a, 77b) drew down \$1,200.00. A 10sh vertical composite pair with "wide and narrow" dates (Sc 79a) also reached \$1,200.00. A hinged set of Sc 93-95 brought \$850.00. A nice FDC of the Daniel O'Connell set (Sc 80-82) reached \$320.00.

An unexploded booklet, Feldman 1b, serial number 19-39, cover slightly creased sold for \$1,200.00. This has the 'SE' watermarked panes all with good perfs, including the rare slogan pane.

The closing lot of the Irish section was a Cancel Collection 1843-1979. There were approximately 1,000 items including over 230 numeral cancels, English & Irish language town cancels, slogan cancels etc., plus a reconstructed sheet (240) of Sc 33 all with Irish diamond cancels. All, except the sheet, were housed in two leather albums. The collection sold for \$2,000.00 to a floor bidder. The price fitted the estimated value of \$1,750.00 to \$2,250.00 perfectly.

Although many lots did not reach the estimated values the Irish section showed greater strength than most of the British area.

1981 STAMP PROGRAM

Thanks to Eddie Hillman we are able to report the latest changes to the 1981 schedule of release.

The Fauna & Flora issue has been changed from 5 August to 23 October. There are 5 values, 15p, 18p, 18p, 19p and 30p, for a total of £1.00. The two 18p values will be se-tenant. Subject is horses - specific horses listed by name... Steeplechasers, Flat racer, Connemora pony etc. Similar to the mammal set of last year. No date has been set for the Hoban issue but it is official for some time in September. O'Donovan Rossa and Contemporary Irish Art are now paired for release on 31 August. Christmas issue is still 12 November. The Royal Dublin Society and the Land Law issues have both been rescheduled and are paired for 10 December.

HOW MY IRISH COLLECTION HAS GROWN

BY Norman Riggs

I first saw Ireland from the deck of the Stranraer-Larne ferry. Nineteen, I was traveling alone, on less than a shoestring, over the countrysides of my distant ancestors. I didn't really know where I was headed but the people I met, shared homes with and the country I saw made me love Ireland, a love I was to carry over into my stamp collecting.

Some years later, collecting Irish stamps became serious when at my first auction, I paid what I thought was a terribly high price of \$32.00 for a M LH set of Scott 12-14. With the excitement of this acquisition, I was thereafter hooked. I traveled from shop to shop, seeking whatever Irish material I could find and, more often than not, discovering the true rarity of the early issues.

My diligence did pay off, however, and as with most collectors I have had my share of bargains and discoveries. Those items have included some very nice coils, some of the better Seahorses, many varieties and several blocks of the overprints. I have found great satisfaction in dealing with the Irish Philatelic Bureau and especially in continuing affiliation with the EPA. This membership has been most rewarding in the literature, the meetings, but most of all, in the people I have met. It has added a great deal to my collecting experience.

From my first purchase, a continuing problem I have encountered in collecting the overprints is that of telling them apart. Of course, I have acquired all the literature but the combination of a bad memory and infrequent discoveries of new material makes it hard to keep up. One very valuable addition to my group of accessories was a 50x microscope. This has made it much easier to identify the Blue-black from the black Thom's. A further addition was the EPA overprint identifier, a device which has allowed me to correctly identify several misrepresented Seahorses for sale at shows. This has saved me much money and avoided duplication which I could ill afford.

I am now at a point in my collecting that purchases are few and far between. As a more mature philatelist, I am branching out into more specialized fields - cancellations, covers, etc. But I guess those early days when it was all new were the best. I now regret that I didn't take advantage of the O'Connell Street GPO during my visit, I missed a great opportunity. My collection still suffers. I hope some day my collection will approach those of previous authors but even if it never does, stamp collecting and my affiliation with the EPA have given me hundreds of hours of great satisfaction.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Your response to Mike Priestley's suggestion for members to write articles about their collections has been good. Right after the Winter **Revealer** came out there was an influx of articles which were used in the Spring and this, Summer, issue, three appear in this issue. But now the cupboard is bare. If we are to publish similar articles in the Fall issue some more of you will have to put pen to paper. Sit down and write the article that you have been planning. All of the articles to date have been interesting and worth reading despite a diversity of collecting interests. Reading these articles should give you ideas as to what you can write about your collection.

Every once in a while some member will write asking for my advice on how to mount his collection. Perhaps some of you can write on how you solved the mounting problem. I know there is reader interest for such articles.

AEROGRAMMES (AIR LETTERS)

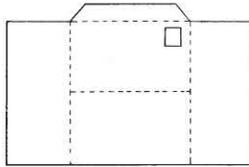
By Bill Kane

In the F.P.A. Supplement No. 13 on Postal Stationery, published with *The Revealer* (October/December 1981) Judge Walsh, Editor at that time, updated the article by Malcolm O'Reilly in Vol. VI, No. 23, dated May/June 1968. At the request of many members, I will now try to update the information available.

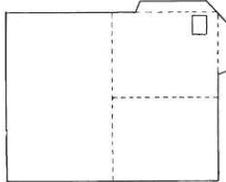
There is one aspect of Irish Philately that should be most popular as the letter sheets have always been given free to those who request same when buying the adhesive stamps necessary to repay the postage rate of the period. Since their introduction in 1946 to date only four different types are shown in the illustration. Type I when folded measures 12.5 cm x 10 cm. Type II when folded measures 14.5 x 8.5 cm. Type III when folded measures 15 x 10.5 cm. Although Type III and Type II have the same type of folding, Type III is larger and the style of text and general appearance has changed. Type IV, when folded measures 26.5 x 18 cm.

Type I was in use from 1946 to 1954. Type II was introduced in March 1955. Type III came into use in 1970. This style but a larger size, was introduced in 1976, to become Type IV. Since the forms are carried at a reduced rate of postage, no indication of any nature is permitted. The make up of the Aerogramme is such that the message sheet, when folded, ensures complete privacy.

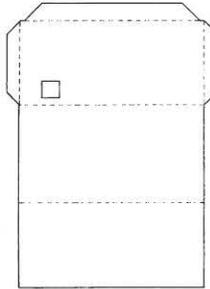
I will follow closely the numbers used by Judge Walsh in order to maintain continuity of the previous articles. The first column denotes the colour of paper on the address side of the sheet. Sometimes the colour of the message side is different, this is noted where it applies.



Type II & III



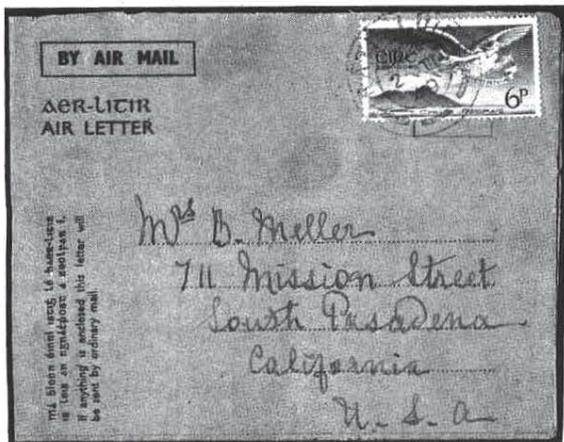
Type I



Type IV

LISTING

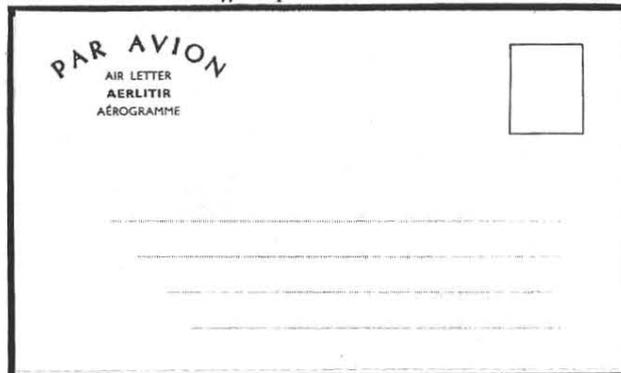
- 1946 (24 Sept) AL-1, Type I, Grey paper, Dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 215M, D.108, W.512
 "GEARR ANSO" alongside "Cut here"
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 24 x 8mm
 Dotted line for stamp, 17.5 x 22.5mm
- 1946 (16 Sept) AL-2, Type I, Dark grey on grey paper, Dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 225M, D.108, W.512
 "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here"
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 24.5 x 8mm



Type I

1953/54 AL-13. Type I. Olive grey on light grey. English text dark blue, Irish text lighter blue
 Imprint: 296. 690,000 12/53 - B. & N. Ltd.
 Boxed "PAR AVION" 34 x 8mm
 Lines stamp box 17 x 22.5mm

NOTE: The first 12 issues were printed by Messrs. Dollard Printing House, Dublin. AL-13 was printed by Browne & Nolan, Dublin. This was the first and only time a printer's name appeared on the sheets. AL-1 & 5 were emergency issues printed on a letter press, the remainder were offset printed on a two colour machine.



Type II

- 1946 (July) AL-3. Type I. Dark grey on grey, dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 4000M. D.48. W.5757
 "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here"
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 34.5 x 8.5mm
- 1948 (June) AL-4. Type I. Dark grey on grey, Dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 400M W4718
 "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here"
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 35 x 18mm
 Dotted box for stamp, 18 x 23mm
- 1949 (1 Sept) AL-5. Type I. Grey on light grey, dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 400M. D.44. W.3637
 "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here"
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 34.5 x 8.5mm
- 1949 (8 Sept) AL-6. Type I. Dark grey on grey, Dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 400M W. 4758 (Large 4)
 "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here"
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 35 x 8mm
- 1949 (20 Sept) AL-7. Type I. Dark grey on grey, Dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 400M W. 4758 (Large 4)
 "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here"
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 35 x 8mm
 Dotted box for stamp, 17.5 x 22.5mm
- 1950 (May) AL-8. Type I. Dark grey on grey, Dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 500M. 247. 2383.
 "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here"
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 34.5 x 8mm
 Dotted box for stamp 17.5 x 23mm
- 1951 () AL-9 Type I. Dark grey on grey paper, dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 600M. 130. 253.
 "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here"
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 34.5 x 23mm
 Dotted stamp box 17.5 x 23mm
- 1951 () AL-10. Type I. Dark grey on grey, dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 500M. 224. 2234
 "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here"
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 35 x 8mm
 Dotted stamp box 18 x 22.5mm
- 1952 () AL-11 Type I, Dark grey on light grey, dark blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 1000M. 290. 2239
 Boxed "BY AIR MAIL" 34.5 x 8.5mm
 Dotted stamp box, 17.5 x 22.5mm
- 1953 (Nov) AL-12 Type I. Dark grey on grey, blue print
 Imprint: D.P.D. 500M. 71. 3275
 Boxed "PAR AVION" 34 x 8mm
 Lines stamp box 18 x 23mm
 'AÉROGRAMME' appears for the first time

- 1955 (Mar) AL-14. Type II. Green paper, purple print. Change of colour and style, no printer's code imprint
 Address lines - dashes; folds not outlined
 "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here."
 Lines box for stamp, 18 x 22mm
 PAR AVION - 35mm from foot of 'P' to foot of 'N'.
 AIR LETTER - 18mm; AERLITIR - 15mm; AÉROGRAMME - 18mm. This had a short life.
- 1955 (Apr) AL-15. Type II. Green paper, purple print.
 Address & fold lines - dots.
 AÉROGRAMME - 18mm, heavy accent.
 "GEARR ANSO" arrow - 8mm. English 'S' in Irish text.
 Text on back - flush left.
- 1957 () AL-16. Type II. Green paper, purple print.
 AÉROGRAMME - 20mm. Small accent, not touching
 "GEARR ANSO" arrow - 7mm. Gaelic 'S' in Irish text.
 Text on back - flush left.
- 1958 () AL-17. Type II. Dark green paper, purple print
 AÉROGRAMME - 20mm. Small accent, sometimes touching
 "GEARR ANSO" arrow - 7mm. English 'S' in Irish text.
 Text on back - flush left.
- 1959 () AL-18. Type II. Green to blue green, purple print
 AÉROGRAMME - 18mm. Small accent, touching
 "GEARR ANSO" arrow 7mm. Gael 'S' except English in
 GEARR ANSO
 Text on back - flush left.
- 1960 () AL-19. Type II. Green paper, purple to violet print.
 AÉROGRAMME - 18mm. Small accent, usually touching.
 "GEARR ANSEO" arrow - 6+mm. English 'S', note spelling ANSEO
 Text on back - lines 2, 3, & 4 indented.
 Stamp box - 16.5 x 21 mm
- 1961 () AL-20. Type II. Green paper, purple print.
 AÉROGRAMME - 20mm. Small accent, not touching
 GEARR ANSEO arrow - 3mm. English 'S' in Irish text.
 Text on back - all lines vary in indentation.
 stamp box - 17.5 x 20mm
 PAR AVION - 35.5; AIR LETTER - 16mm; AERLITIR - 15mm.

- 1964 () AL-21. Type II. Green paper, purple print.
AEROGRAMME - 18.5mm Small accent, touching
GEARR ANSEO arrow - 7mm. English 'S' in Irish text
Text on back - Lines 2, 3, & 4 indented. Spelling of
'ngnatpost' changed to 'gnatpost'.
Stamp box - 16.5 x 21mm.
PAR AVION - 34.5mm; AIR LETTER - 15mm; AERLI-
TIR - 14mm
- 1967 () AL-22. Type II. Green paper, purple print.
AEROGRAMME - 18.5mm. Small accent, touching.
All Irish text now in Roman type. New spelling 'gnathpost'.
PAR AVION - 34.5mm; AIR LETTER - 14.5mm; AIRLI-
TIR - 14.5mm



Type III

- 1970 () AL-23. Type III. Gray paper, orange border, black print
Address & fold lines - solid lines
Lined stamp box 21mm square
Text on back - Irish text read "gnathpost a seolfar i"
- 1972 () AL-24. Type III. Gray paper, orange border, black print
Lined stamp box - 20.5 x 20.5mm
Text on back - Irish text reads "ngnathphost a sheolfar i".
There is a variety where "PT" on back has a double outline.
- 1976 () AL-25. Type IV. Gray paper, orange border, black print.
Text on back - same as AL-24.
Lined stamp box - 21mm square
AERLITIR - 13mm; PAR AVION - 21mm; AERO-
GRAMME - 31 mm.

AIR LETTER POSTAGE RATES

1945 to '51	..... 6d
1951 to '64	..... 8d
1964 to '69	..... 10d
1969 to '70	..... 1s 0d
1970 to '71	..... 1s 6d

Decimalisation

1971 (15 Feb)	..... 7½p
1971 (1/7) -'74	..... 7p
1974 to '77	..... 9p
1977 (1/4) -'79	..... 10p
1979 (Aug) -'80	..... 12p
1980 (July) -	..... 16p

WHAT'S IN A NAME

When a recent meeting of the Calgary Philatelic Society, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, held a discussion on "Stamps and the Criminal Mind" Irish philately held a share of the spotlight. So did the name of "Blessington" - but it wasn't the Editor of the EPA's **Revealer**.

The topic embraced the idea that, if it had not been for the skullduggery in connection with early postal services, Rowland Hill would not have started his agitation for reform that resulted in the introduction of postage stamps (and stamp collecting) back in 1840.

As examples of abuses in the pre-stamp era of postal service, a number of old Irish letters were displayed.

The time-consuming and expensive necessity of checking all letters was illustrated by an 1833 letter from Derry to Dublin. It was marked by an "Inspector's Star" and had the rate raised from 9d to 1/6 because it was found that the sender had sneaked in an extra document.

Another letter, from London to Dublin in 1820, carried a Crowned Circle free frank although it had nothing to do with the government business for which the free privilege was supposed to be reserved. It was written to a colleague by a Dublin lawyer who was visiting London and who happened to be solicitor for the Earl of Blessington whose signature was placed on the outside to gain the free privilege. Incidentally, the signature was spelled "Blesington" but still passed the inspectors.

Other letters, addressed to Lord Mountjoy in London and granted free postage, were from a Dublin contractor and grocer who were trying to collect personal accounts.

A group of ten letters in the exhibit were all sent to Ireland from England and France in the 1830's by Lady Blessington who did not, personally, have the free postal privilege. However, she seemed to have plenty of friends who did.

Each of her letters was given a Crowned Circle free mail privilege because it was signed on the outside by a man who held the privilege. There were ten different signatures of men who generously extended their own "perks" to milady.

It is no wonder that the Irish and English post offices were losing millions each year in postal revenue. Now, if the EPA's John Blessington could only put it over the U.S. Postal Service as his illustrious namesakes did in Ireland 150 years ago, **The Revealer** would have no more financial problems in connection with postage.

EDITOR'S NOTE: No, I didn't write this. The author wishes to remain anonymous.

COVER STORY

Pictured on the Cover is an extremely interesting piece of Postal Stationery from the World War I period. It is a letter sheet, a photocopy of which Padraig O'Mathuna sent me. Note that it is from Limburg (Lahn), bears the Limburg censor cachet and is addressed to Cashel, Co. Tipperary. Note that the cover is in English as well as German but particularly note that the word Ireland is preprinted on the card. On the back, also in English and German, is the printed area for the return address at Limburg (Lahn). This particular letter sheet was from a prisoner of the Royal Irish Regiment. The date is May 18, 1915 receipt in London.

This letter sheet shows the lengths to which the Germans went, how thoroughly they prepared in their attempt to proselytize for "The Irish Brigade". I doubt very much, for instance, that the Germans prepared cards for the British soldiers living in Ireland.

The Editor would be interested in any further information or examples of these types of mailings.

WHAT PRICE FOLLEY

By Joseph C. Foley

In February 1955, I had the good fortune of being appointed Curate to Msgr. Laurence B. Killian (EPA #267) of East Boston, Mass. He and Cardinal Spellman of New York had been fellow students in Rome, and remained intimate friends throughout life. Msgr. Killian had maintained an avid interest in stamp and coin collecting from very early childhood, and had superb collections of U.S. stamps and coins. It was he who influenced Cardinal Spellman to start the Spellman Collection and for years was the "Philatelist in residence".

One of Msgr. Killian's first question was, "Do you collect stamps or coins?" In grammar school, like many kids, I had collected stamps, but had long since given it up for other interests. Msgr. Killian kept hounding me to begin again where I had left off. To stop his incessant urging, I resorted to a clever subterfuge. Gibbons listed 157 basic Irish Postage Stamps, Airmails, and Postage Dues. Who cared about errors or varieties? Best of all, Irish material was cheap. S.G. #46 (Sc 38) catalogued \$10.00. In no time at all, I could gather together a "complete" collection of 157 stamps at little or no cost, sit back and do nothing about collecting until a new Irish stamp would appear in three or four years. So I became a collector of Irish stamps.

Local dealers were no help. They had no Irish stock. No one was interested. Irish born parishioners were of some help. In 1956 I joined the EPA. A subsequent issue of *The Revealer* listed me as a new member, name "Folley"! Prophetic? In my folly I dabbled in auctions and was surprised when my ridiculously low bids were successful. In my folly I recklessly trusted dealers and their auctions. Ignorance is all too often bliss. I recklessly bid \$10.00 in one auction for Scot 12-14 and got them. Through *The Revealer* I learned to distinguish between black and blue-black overprints. Imagine my chagrin a year or so later to realize that my prized #12, 13 & 14 had been misrepresented in the auction. They were Scott 36-38!! Perry Adams introduced me to coils and booklets.

One unscrupulous dealer unloaded on my all his "treasures of the future" - badly printed overprints, dates at top instead of at bottom, R / S, Sacrats, overprints ending on the left and cut off on the right of the stamp. He has long since retired, presumably aided in that endeavor by my purchases.

In short, I put together a collection of not only the basic stamps, but many of the errors and varieties. I was on the verge of addiction. Then came the Shanahan Auctions of happy or

unhappy memory. As I write, I have before me their "Absolute guarantee" of a return "between 25% & 150% per annum of Capital invested" in their scheme of "profit from stamps without risk". In spite of the collapse of their investment business, the auctions did offer, sometimes at ridiculously low prices, many choice items: Scott #s 2a, 15a, 16a, 16c, 36, 37, 38, 44b, 45 'Q' fo 'O', 48a, 56a & b, 57a & b, 77a, b, c to 79a, b, c, coils and booklets. Many of these were mint, used, or both. In three successive auctions they offered the same copy of Scott #68b until some affluent bidder finally took it. Commenting on that stamp in the March-April 1958 copy of *The Revealer* the late Perry Adams wrote: "As the catalogue states, few of these (68b) are known. Of the four copies this writer is aware of, all are fine, used; two have New York certificates of genuineness, two London certificates. The first of the four changed hands in 1954 in the U.S. at \$40.00, the second, also in the U.S. during 1955 at \$43.50. The third was a London sale in 1956, price unknown. The fourth went in a Dublin auction late in 1957 and, with a buying commission tacked to the floor price, cost the new owner \$88.20, net . . . fair net retail in 1958 might possibly be between \$60.00 and \$70.00 . . ." What price folly!

By the mid 60's I had acquired my Irish "collection" of basic stamps, mint and used, plus new issues which were beginning to multiply, and many errors and varieties which were beginning to rise sharply in price. Since then, I have acquired little, save the new issues.

I suspect that there are many new members of the EPA who, like I was 25 years ago, are bewildered by black and blue-black overprints by Scott 36-38 and 12-14, by Harrison coils and Thom overprints. I learned to differentiate through the pages of *The Revealer*. I still refer to many of the back issues. An occasional overprint still baffles me. Is it black? Is it blue-black? To this day I cannot distinguish between red and carmine overprints!

I began collecting Irish stamps as a defense mechanism, and in complete ignorance, but as the collection grew, I grew into it. I have not become an 'expert', but I have enjoyed my collecting days. Many of the "future treasures" that were unloaded on a poor, unsuspecting neophyte have gone far beyond the 3¢ or 8¢ that I paid for them. Oh yes, I almost forgot. Perry Adams, in the quote above is not quite correct. Scott 68b cost me \$89.78, net, in that Dublin auction! On top of that there was an additional charge of \$1.10 for postage and insurance!



THE BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

For some years *The Revealer* has carried on its masthead the fact that the EPA is an Affiliated Member of The British Philatelic Federation. The European members are probably well aware of the BPF and its prestige. However, the members in North America and on the continent may not be familiar with the Federation and its benefits. This article then is for their information.

The BPF is the only body in the UK embracing all aspects of philately, with membership of collectors, societies, auctioneers and dealers. It was formed by the merger of the previous British Philatelic Association and The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Having inherited their respective members, it became operational on January 1, 1977. The individual memberships of the Societies affiliated to the Federation total well over 40,000. Society members are entitled to show the logo on their letterheads, publications, etc. Societies also have the right to send delegates to Congress to speak and vote on important matters. If

not attending, resolutions may be submitted for discussion and decision. Nominations may be made to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, for awarding of the Congress Medal and for the Award of Merit. Also, entries for the annual Melville Memorial Competition for junior collectors may be submitted. Individual members can call upon the Federation to arbitrate disputes. Once they have intervened, the BPF has been able to settle some matters quite quickly. Individual members are able to enter into international events under Federational International de Philatelic auspices through Society's membership in BPF, as it is the U.K. member of F.I.P. Members are playing a part in organized philately and support the efforts to preserve the status and integrity of the hobby in every direction including that of the trade.

Those interested in personal membership may contact the Secretary, Herbert Grimsey, MA., 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HE, England.

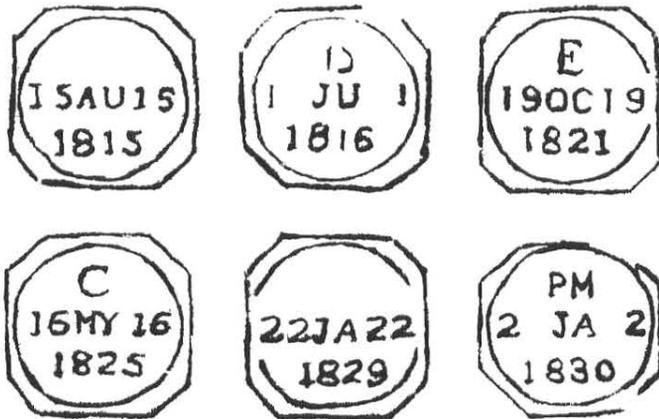


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DUBLIN DATE STAMPS

Patricia Stillwell's letter on Dublin Date Stamps caught my eye. I have specialised in Irish Postal History for some twenty years but always with too little time so that I never catch up on anything! I look forward to retiring in just three years time when, granted good health, I shall really get down to more serious study and I hope to publish booklets on PAID ATS and Provincial Penny Posts.

The trouble with Dublin Date Stamps is that they tend to be incorporated in other sections of a collection without any special note. Given the amount of mail reaching Dublin between 1815 and 1831 I would expect to find some ten different versions of the octagonals with a serious and detailed study. For example I have now identified four different types of the Dublin Crown Ship Letter stamp.



Anyway, shown are a few tracings of Dublin octagonals which may or may not be of use. Of necessity, David Feldman and Bill Kane had to concentrate on broad types as otherwise their valuable book would never have reached the print stage.

Seaford, Sussex

B. Wallas



*Have something to say?
Why not say it in The Revealer.*



PERCY FRENCH

I could not agree with you more that there should be an issue of stamps to commemorate the life and humorous dittie of Percy French who, in his 'one man shows' around Ireland early in this century gave so much pleasure to countless thousands.

When on these 'one night stands' travelling from town to town, he usually stayed at one of the 'big houses' in the neighbourhood, and the next day, as sort of payment for his hostess, he would quickly 'run-off' a sketch or water colour of the house or grounds. To my own knowledge (I was Rector of the Parish years ago) he stayed at Sion House many times and I think there were four or five of his works hanging on the walls. But sadly the house was sold and where the contents are I do not know. I could not afford to buy one!! Sion House was 3 miles from Strabane where he was sure of a full house!!

I am sure you must have heard of the story of his journey on the West Clare Railway? Now memory is a lying jade at times, and I suffer from a bad attack of Anno Domini, but my recollection is that he was travelling to Kilkee by the W. Clare railway, and normally would have been in plenty of time. But whatever happened, the train was so late in arriving that it was far too late to give the show, indeed the audience had dispersed. Fuming with rage, he sat down and wrote a song about the railway. One of the verses that sticks in my mind (I have nothing at hand to verify it) runs:

"Are you right there, Michael, are you right?
Do you think that we'll be there before the night?
... we might then, Michael ... and we might ...
But it all depends on whether the ould engine holds togeth
And it might then, Michael, and it might."

The ditty did not at all please the directors of the said railway, and they took an action in court against him for libel. Percy French took it in his stride and his wit abounded in court. But even so, the Judge, in his wisdom, found against him, and ordered him to pay the Railway, by way of damages, the sum of ½d (one half-penny) but the railway directors were ordered to pay all the costs!!

Brendan O'Dowda is superb singing some of the songs of P.F. I have a few of his records. I intend to disinter them later this evening to hear them again! When in town earlier today I went into a book-store and asked them to order a copy of his works for me. Many years ago I read a biography of him, but I cannot remember who wrote it. It is not listed in the tome of books in print under Percy French's own name, though "Percy French and His Songs" by Healy is listed as published by The Marcier Press, Bridge St., Cork. That is the book I have ordered.

My thanks for reviving memories of some wonderful songs. Strange ... I have no recollection of "Mick's Hotel". There is a delightful one of a journey in a barge in the (Grand?) Canal in which it is alleged to have "run aground on a lump of coal"!!

As Vice-President of the IPC I shall certainly support any move to pressurise the Irish P.M.G. in this matter.

Bideford, Devon

W. E. Davey

