

The Revealer



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SAMHRADH - Spring 2001

The Postal Strike of 1922

Post Office Strike

MILITARY FIRE ON WOMEN STRIKERS

Heroic Telephone Operators Undismayed

When the fight against a

REDUCTION IN WAGES

was forced on the Post Office Staffs by the Government, the vanguard was led by the

Gallant Ladies in the Telephones

who voluntarily undertook the duties of

PEACEFUL PICKETING

and were saluted with Rifle Volleys from the Military.

Do the women of Dublin approve of this treatment of Irish women who are legitimately fighting against

STARVATION WAGES

POST OFFICE STRIKE

No Blacklegs Available!

OVER 100 MEMBERS

of the Superintending and Supervising Staff in the Dublin Telegraph and Sorting Departments have been suspended

BY DIRECTION OF THE

Postmaster - General

BECAUSE

They Refused to Blackleg on their Fellow-workers

WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR

A LIVING WAGE

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL DENIED THAT HE APPLIED TO ENGLAND FOR STRIKE-BREAKERS IN MARCH LAST. NOW HE SUSPENDS THE IRISH CONTROLLING OFFICERS FOR THEIR REFUSAL TO STRIKE-BREAK.

A Scrapping of Every Principal of Individual Liberty

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by David J. Brennan*



I mentioned in my last column that we had canceled our AGM at Texpex in Dallas, Texas, due to a scheduling conflict, but I'm happy to report that we have a new site. The board approved the AGM to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in conjunction with the MILCOPEX Show. Jim Maher, one of our members in the Milwaukee area, has agreed to be the chairman for our activities and has been busy setting up reservations and meetings for our group. He is also on the MILCOPEX committee, so we should be well taken care of during the show. I have asked

the committee to reserve 60 frames for Irish exhibits and I am now asking you to help make this another successful AGM by entering an exhibit in this show. We have been creating good PR recently with the number and quality of Irish material shown at our AGM's; let's keep it up. It is a good recruiting tool to increase our membership.

Last spring I reported to you that I was forming a committee to study the feasibility of continuing to hold AGM's. Well, there were no volunteers stepping forward to serve on this committee, but I did get quite a few replies stating that we should continue having AGM's, as this is the one and only opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of our members and to keep this association viable. I can't help but agree, so, no committee is needed but only your continued support. Thank you for your input. ♣

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CHAPTER COORDINATORS

Commodore John Barry Chapter

Members reside in NJ, NY, PA
Coordinator: David J. Brennan,
PO Box 704, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Connecticut Chapter

Members reside in CT and Western MA
Coordinator: Michael J. Conway,
239 Judd Rd., Easton, CT 06612

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14302 Oak Shadow, San Antonio, TX 78232

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Members reside in Northern CA
Coordinator: David Laraway,
2070 N. Bechelli, #30, Redding, CA 96002

Rhode Island Chapter

No Coordinator, write to Mr. Hill

Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)

Members reside in Southern CA
Coordinator: William A. O'Connor,
3803 Foxglove Lane, Fallsbrook, CA 92028

Philadelphia Area Chapter

Members reside in Greater Philadelphia area
Coordinator: Richard O'Brien,
26 Nine Gates Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

The Association Secretary will write the appropriate coordinator when a new member joins the Association and provide the coordinator with the name and address of the new member. The role of the coordinator is to contact the new member, welcome the member to the Association and invite the member to join the local chapter.

ISSUE DEADLINES Summer - 1 June • Fall - 1 September • Winter - 1 December • Spring - 1 March

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

New members are accepted subject to no objections received within 45 days of publication.

- 2607 McFarland, Thomas P, PO Box 756, Princeton NJ 08550
<tmcfarland@home.com>.
- 2608 Allen, Peter N, 7519 S Frog Hollow Ln, Evergreen CO 80437
<allenpetern@cs.com>.
- 2609 Norstedt, Johann A, 412 Patrick Henry Dr, Blacksburg VA 24060.
<jnorstedt@vt.edu>.
- 2610 Byrnes, Thomas P, 1137 Asquith Dr, Arnold MD 21012-2153
<tbyrnes@mac.com>.

Reinstated

- 2270 Monica D Brennan, 15 Round Pond Lane, Sag Harbor NY 11963.
(Dropped in error)
- 2518 Sirianni, Steve, 701 - 5th Ave #3410, Seattle WA 98104.

Resigned

- 0955 McCullagh, Robert P, California
- 2494 Hickens CSC, Rev William, Indiana

Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues

2524 Antonelli, 1391 Bacon, 2134 Benjamin 2562 Carrajat, 2579 Conklin, 2573 Convery, 2236 Daly, 2508 Davis Jr, 1407, Dingenthal, 2544 Fauth, 2585 Fitzgerald, 2252 Hanrahan, 1798 Holl, 2152 Jolly, 2576 Kelly, 1608 Kennedy, 2371 Kent, 2187 Klimeck, 2588 Lizotte, 2394 Luther, 2312 McInnes, 0573 Murphy, 2569 O'Brien, 2038 O'Connor, 2286 Plumley, 2529 Stokes, 2348 Wasserman, 2565 Weir, 1899 Wholey, 2539 Wiley

Changes of Address

- 1487 Walter R Potts, 406 Orleans Circle SW, Vienna VA 22180-6470.
- 2217 John P McInerney, 17020 Lochmoor Cir E, Northville MI 48167
- 2603 Austin Stafford, 4c Beggars Bush Ct, Shelbourne Rd, Dublin 4, Ireland
- 2561 William E McNiff, 73 Church St, Damariscotta ME 04543
- 1063 William E Brewer, 7035 Pentz Rd #8, Paradise CA 95969
- 1167 Theresa C Fitzgerald, 112 Woodford Village Dr, Versailles KY 40383
- 2589 Lt Robert Maguire, CMR 407, Box 524, APO AE 09098
- 2322 Joseph C Godfrey, 435 First St, Hearldsburg CA 95448
- 2567 M Burton Hopkins Jr, 20 Scottie Ln, Newcastle DE 19720-3923
- 2181 Udo Jarczyński, Watzmannsdorfer Ring 19, D-94136 Thymau, Germany
- 1956 Heinz Jurgen Kumpf, Bauberstr 14B, D-80992 Munich, Germany
- 1036 James Maher, 150 Terrace Ln, Hartland WI 53029-2242
- 1649 Austin O'Leary, 44 Glenealy Rd, Crumlin, Dublin 12, Ireland
- 2466 Joseph Schechter, 12808 Serpentine Way, Silver Spring MD 20904-5333
- 2275 LTC William P Shea, 50 Goodman Dr, Middletown CT 06457-1954
- 0850 John R Smallman, 1705 Evergreen Dr, Agassiz, BC V0M 1A2, Canada
- 0800 Bruce C Weinman, P O Box 17, Sparta NJ 07871

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- 2501 Boyle, Eoin F sales@irelandstamps.com
- 1383 Burns, Robert J rburns@sitestar.net
- 2078 Boyle, Richard rboyle@dellnet.com
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- 2556 Coll, Robert bobdot8@juno.com
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- 2456 Holland, H Morgan bholland@sitestar.net
- 2567 Hopkins, Jr, M Burton bhop@earthlink.net
- 1670 Jung, Otto Jung.FAI@t-online.de

- 2093 Kean, John jackm805@aol.com
- 2589 Maguire, Lt. Robert rem8@yahoo.com
- 1036 Maher, James westiejim@voyager.net
- 1046 Menez, Wayne waam@pacbell.net
- 1626 Morris, Dana Morrisdana@cs.com
- 2435 O'Bannon, Patricia piggyob@aol.com
- 2009 O'Neill, Dr Michael oneill@taconic.net
- 2600 O'Neill, Phelin poneill@iname.com
- 2580 O'Reardon, James jnreardon@goes.com
- 2315 Power, Phillip pppower@ucdavis.edu
- 1051 Rascati, Wayne M wrascati@home.com
- 2400 Ross, Edward J ejr82@columbia.edu
- 2280 Rugg, George George.K.Rugg1@nd.edu
- 2466 Schechter, Joseph A schechter.joe@epa.gov
- 2275 Shea, LTC William P wmpshea@aol.com
- 2597 Stokesberry, Gregory J wizzardscastle@juno.com
- 2523 Tjarks, Edward A edward.tjarks@verizon.net
- 2595 Ware, Roy rcware@netzero.net

Bad E-mail Addresses

In a test of Email addresses in mid-February, the following members' addresses did not work. If you have changed your email address or if I made a typographical error in recording your address, please send a message to Barney Clancy at bclanz@aol.com so that your record can be corrected.

- 1355 Barry, Rev James fb@delanet.com
- 2078 Boyle, Richard rboyle@dellnet.com
- 1968 Brady, Dennis patbrady@ix.netcom.com
- 1537 Case, Randolph Randolph.case@gtri.gatech.edu
- 1069 Curran, Jr, Henry hwca@chorus.net
- 2563 Hafey, Richard rhafey@telegram.infi.net
- 2200 Hee, Christopher mth.hee@online.emich.edu
- 2093 Kean, John jackm805@aol.com
- 2592 McGrath, Joseph jmjmg@aol.com
- 2250 Mulcahy, Tom tmul278@aol.com
- 1847 Nickmann, Rudy Deleted bad Address
- 1030 Raftery, MD, Michael ypetfap@aol.com
- 2383 Roach, Brian remi@netwiz.net
- 1350 Schmidt, Robert aschmidt@hmd.com
- 2486 Silverstein, Russel N rsilver326@earthlin.net
- 2518 Sirianni, Steve steve@s4law.com
- 0850 Smallman, John john_smallman@telus.net
- 2468 White, Eugene darienphil@aol.com
- 2583 Wohlfrom, Jr., Arthur awohlfrom@vianet.net

Membership Status

Membership as of December 1, 2000	542
New Members	+4
Reinstatements	+2
Resigned	-2
Dropped NPJ	-30
Membership as of March 1, 2001	516 ♣

Two Irish Exhibits at the Sarasota Show

Raymond Murphy of Sarasota – (ÉPA #2548)

Exhibit: Irish Railway Stamps
Awards: Silver & AAPE Award of Honor (2 Frames)

Barney Clancy of Seminole, Florida

Exhibit: Ireland Postal Stationery 1922-1942
Awards: Gold & UPSS Marcus White Award (6 Frames) ♣

Éire Philatelic Association Balance Sheet

September 1, 1999 to August 31, 2000

ASSETS:	<u>08/31/99</u>	<u>08/31/99</u>	<u>08/31/00</u>	<u>08/31/00</u>
Merrill Lynch Account	\$32,507.24		\$34,540.01	
Crestar Money Market & Checking	9,585.27		8,657.44	
Bank of Ireland (£660.12 @ \$1.32) - 08/31/99***	871.36			
Bank of Ireland (£897.87 @ \$1.13) - 08/31/00***			1,014.59	
Auction Account*	341.80		744.95	
Back Issues	1.00		1.00	
Library (estimated replacement value)	5,000.00		5,000.00	
Special Offers Inventory (at retail)**	8,500.12		7,800.00	
Library/Special Offers Bank Account**	2,158.92		2,584.99	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$58,965.71		\$60,342.98
LIABILITIES:				
Reserve Funds (Merrill Lynch Account)				
Trust for Life Members - USA - 41 x \$12 x 20 years	\$9,600.00		\$9,840.00	
Canada - 3 x \$15 x 20 years	900.00		900.00	
Foreign - 15 x \$20 x 20 years	5,600.00		6,000.00	
Reserve for Revealer (4 issues)	8,000.00		8,000.00	
Reserve for Book Publishing	2,500.00		2,500.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$26,600.00		\$27,240.00
NET WORTH				
		\$32,365.71		\$33,102.98

* See Auction Manager's Report for Details.

** See Library/Special Offers Manager's Report for Details.

*** These figures are Irish Pounds converted at the prevailing rate at the time.

Treasurer's Report

INCOME AND EXPENSES

September 1, 1999 to August 31, 2000

INCOME:	<u>9/1/99 - 8/31/00</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Dues	\$5,914.00	
Donations	887.90	
Auction Transfers	400.00	
Book Receipts	80.00	
Advertising Receipts	670.00	
Back Issues Closeout	634.80	
Misc.	52.00	
Crestar Account Interest	243.99	
Merrill Lynch Account Interest	2,031.21	
Foreign Dues (£370.41 @ \$1.13*)	418.56	
TOTAL INCOME		\$11,332.46

EXPENSES:

Revealer Printing & Typesetting (4 issues)	\$4,057.00
Auction Printing (4 issues)	330.00
Revealer Supplies & Expenses	755.56
Revealer USA Mailing (4 issues)	1,081.58
Dues Notice Mailings	180.58
Awards	401.63
Misc. Expenses (Advertising, Insurance, P.O. Boxes, etc.)	330.59
1999 AGM Expense (Ft. Washington, PA)	620.15
2000 AGM Expense (Boxborough, MA)	911.40

Notes on the 1999-2000 Balance Sheet and Treasurer's Report

- The ÉPA fiscal year is from September 1, 1999 to August 31, 2000.
- The Balance Sheet and Treasurer's Report covers the full fiscal year.
- Although the annual dues receipts do not cover the yearly expenses, member contributions, auction receipts, advertising and account interest continue to make up for the shortage. Close out of the Back Issues account also increased the annual income figure.
- It should be noted that there were a number of one-time expenses associated with celebration of the ÉPA 50th Anniversary. Additionally, expenses for two AGMs occurred within this year.
- The ÉPA remains in a healthy cash position.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernard C. Clancy, Treasurer

50th Anniversary Expense (SS, Magnifier, etc.)	1,125.03
Revealer Foreign Mailing (Ireland) - - IR£67.50 @ 1.25*	84.38
Foreign Account Fees - IR£19.99 @ 1.25*	24.99
Library Book Purchases - IR£50.32 @ 1.25*	62.90
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,965.79

NET INCOME **\$1,366.67**

* These figures are Irish Pounds converted at the prevailing rate at the time.

** Auction Manager's Account not included. See separate report.

*** Library/Special Offers Manager's Account not included. See separate report.

Cathedral Stamps

8 Cathedral Street (off O'Connell Street) Dublin 1 Tel / Fax 01 878 6384

100 yards from the GPO, Turn into Cathedral Street at Burger King and we are 20 yards down on the right above SPORTSMITH. Entrance through the Sports Shop.

As you can see from our address we have moved around the corner from our old shop at Marlborough Street to New Larger Premises at 8 Cathedral Street (off O'Connell Street) Dublin 1. The New Premises is approx 5 times the size of our old shop, and we have the space to display the Full Range of Lindner Albums and accessories for Stamps, Coins, Postcards, Banknotes, Photographs, etc. You Have the Collection LINDNER have the system.

Also available for perusal is our Large Stocks of IRELAND, Great Britain, Channel Islands, European, World and British Commonwealth of Mint, Used, Covers both Commercial and FIRST DAY, Booklets, Year Books, Presentation Packs, Postal History, Postcards, we also have a limited stock of Coins.

ACCESSORIES

We hold a fairly good Range of STOCKBOOKS, ALBUMS, PRINZ, Stock pages single sided, Stockcards, 2 and 3 strip cards, Stamp Hinges, Tweezers, Magnifiers, Perforation Gauges, UV Lamps (both Long and Short waves), Catalogues Stanley Gibbons World and British Commonwealth for 2001. Also S. Gibbons Collect British Stamps in full Colour as well as the comprehensive Concise GB catalogue. Michel Europe West in 2 parts, Michel Europe Oost, Philex Pocket sized various Countries available. Other Catalogues can be ordered for you. We also can offer the full range of Prinz Stamp Mounts in both Black and Clear in various sizes cut to size, strips or for Blocks. A Comprehensive Accessory List is in the process of being prepared and a copy of this can be forwarded in due course, please request a copy.

NEWLY ARRIVED

We have just broken down a very Large Modern Collection of USA which we now have a comprehensive stock of Commemorative singles, Blocks, Sheets and Sheetlets, Year Packs, Year Books, also First Day Cancel Sheets, and Silk First Day Covers. WELL WORTH A GOOD BROWSE.

*Our New Premises are Open MONDAY to FRIDAY
10:00 to 17:00, SATURDAYS 10:00 to 13:30.*

We are Open during Lunch to facilitate our many customers who wish to drop in for a browse during their break.

Welcome to this our new In-house single Sheet Newsletter, detailing New Issues, New Printings etc. We hope to be able to have new copy every Two Months, so if you have any information available please let us know. Many thanks to Brian Warren for his wonderful assistance in the help in this new News.

COMMEMORATIVES

31.12.00 Millennium 5th Phase World Events

01.01.01 Millennium 6th Phase Epic Journeys

No Official First Day Covers were available.

Cathedral Stamps have a few Plain First Day Covers available at £ 4.75 each, with only a couple complete sets still available at £35 on a first come first served basis.

24.01.01 Love Stamp Adhesive First Day Cover £1.25

24.01.01 Greeting Booklet 5 Self Adhesive Stamps First Day Cover £3.75

24.01.1 Year of the Snake Miniature Sheet First Day Cover £2.50

DEFINITIVES

BIRDS SERIES

New Printings reported and Found are 1p CCP1 10p CCP1

NO FIRST DAY COVERS ARE KNOWN TO EXIST

SELF ADHESIVE 30p PHOSPHORS ISSP Printing with NO SELVEDGE around Stamps

PERF 9 with Colour labels throughout, the same as the Aviation Self Adhesive Issue, This Issue has not been readily available as far as we can gather and NO ISSUE DATE IS AVAILABLE AT PRESENT.

BOOKLETS

2001 Greetings has changed to Self adhesive

2001 Definitive £3 HOLIDAY CCP3 PHOSPHOR New Printing Found Right Margin has a Missing Perforation in the Margin, 4 Perfs only on the one seen and reported.

Declan O Kelly

Cathedral Stamps

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I have just received *The Revealer Winter 2000* edition and read it with interest. If I may say so, the number of interesting and informative articles appears to have increased in recent times. Excellent!

Firstly, I must deny all rumors that I spent all of Friday and Saturday, 10 and 11 November in a pub across the road from the STAMPA 2000 show at the RDS Dublin with Barney Clancy and/or Stan Challis. As I put in an appearance, however brief, at the show on each day, I qualify, as EPA member #2439, for inclusion in Michael J. Conway's report on the Eire Philatelic 50th Anniversary (*The Revealer* pages 44 & 45) complete with Honor Roll. For proof, FAI members will see me lurking directly behind Brian Warren and Dave Brennan in the photograph on page 12 of *Die Harfe No. 73*. I'll leave fellow EPA member Stan Challis, #2323, to plead his own case for inclusion in the Honor Roll.

What that does mean is that there were at least 37 (35 listed +2) members of the EPA there to celebrate a major landmark in Irish Philately. Congratulations to Dave Brennan, Joe Foley and the Officers and Directors of the EPA. Congratulations also to Gerry Mooney and his colleagues in An Post for the vibrant and most enjoyable Friday night reception at the GPO in O'Connell Street. Here's to the next 50 years!

Into the middle of this upbeat mood comes George Etoe's letter (*The Revealer*, page 47) on "Dirty Post Cards". Sorry, George, has the sun gone in?

I must say that I was underwhelmed by the insignificance of his whole argument, but nevertheless I will reply.

It's probably digital telephones with text-messaging, Sony Playstations, Pokemon cards or similar that are attracting youngsters and stopping them from "queuing up to join philatelic societies anymore," not boxes of "scruffy bits of paper."

A lot of postal history is unashamedly dirty and "scruffy"

AGM at MILCOPEX

The EPA will hold its AGM and Exhibition in conjunction with MILCOPEX, the Milwaukee Philatelic Society's annual show, September 14-16, 2001, at the Wisconsin State Fair Park, South 84th and West Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, Wisconsin. West Allis is a suburb on Milwaukee's west side, just off Interstate 94.

The EPA will hold its general meeting and open seminar on Saturday afternoon. Also planned for Friday is a tour of the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center at 4:00 PM, followed by a Dutch-treat dinner at either an Irish theme restaurant or one of Milwaukee's famous German restaurants.

An awards banquet will be held Saturday evening. Please contact Dona Fagan, W140N7470 Lilly Road, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-4608 for menu choices and cost.

because it has laid in the storage rooms of solicitors, government officials or similar for many, many years gathering dust, grime and possibly water stains from leaking roofs, the envelopes roughly opened and the contents with filing holes and paper clip or staple rust marks. But where would we be without those vaults?

Pristine First-Day covers have their following and who am I to say that is wrong, but is buying an envelope with a lightly-written pencil address and with stamps neatly stuck on rows and cancelled with a specially manufactured one-off handstamp, and then, after purchase, never letting it see the light of day in case it fades ever so slightly, what life is all about?

Not for me, George – give me my own rubbish tip with loads of dumped, non-degradable plastic bags filled with 100- to 200-year-old "scruffy" folded letters or envelopes complete with their postmarks and contents (or even a few 110-year-old "dirty postcards") and I'll promise never to go into that pub opposite the RDS again – well, at least not while STAMPA is open!

One other point: If a pupil can correct a master, in *The Revealer* article on page 48 "Why the Negative Response" by Dave Brennan, the form illustrated is a standard Post and Telegraphs letter heading for postal response, not a telegraph form.

Kind regards,

Tony Cassidy, Member # 2439



Tony Cassidy (EPA / IPC /FAI) would greatly appreciate any information on all used examples of the rare Irish Coil – SG74b / Scott 68b 2d perf 15 x imperf Coil – ideally by photocopy – for an article or probably a booklet. He is assisting Richard Luettiken of the German society FAI to compile this information.

Tony can be reached by e-mail at avcass@aol.com or by mail at 38 Trafalgar Avenue, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 7UP, England.



Sixty frames have been reserved for Irish exhibits, but more are available if needed. For a prospectus contact Robert Henak, P.O. Box 170832, Milwaukee, WI 53217-0832. These are standard Ameripex 16 page frames.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Midway Hotel, at 251 Mayfair Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226. Single rooms are \$84.00, five dollars for each extra person per room, plus tax. To reserve a room, write to the hotel or call 1-800-Western (1-800-937-8376). You MUST ask for the special MILCOPEX rate. A hospitality room will be available at the hotel.

Any dealers interested in attending, contact John Fagan, W140N7470 Lilly Road, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-4608.

For all other information, write to Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Roger Szymanski, P.O. Box 1980, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1980.



Remembering Irish Famines: 1822 and 1847

by George Nicholson

Famine was an ever-present worry in nineteenth century Ireland with two of the worst outbreaks being those of 1821-22 and the Great Famine of 1845-50. The latter resulted in about one million deaths and a million and a half emigrants, mostly to North America. The three postal items described below tell something of what happened during those tragic times.

The 1821-22 Famine

The 1821-22 famine was most severe in the West due to potato crop failure in Munster and Connaught. By early 1822, the situation was so bad that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the former Secretary for Ireland, Sir Robert Peel apparently formed a Committee for Distressed Districts.¹ This fund helped somewhat to moderate the harsh "laissez faire" politics of the day.

The letter shown in Figure 1 was mailed in Liverpool on 9th June 1822. It was sent to Killala "by direction of the Committee existing here for the relief of the distresses in Ireland" and included a bank note for £50. Presumably this was a branch of the Committee for Distressed Districts noted above. Killala in Co. Mayo was obviously an area hard hit by the famine.

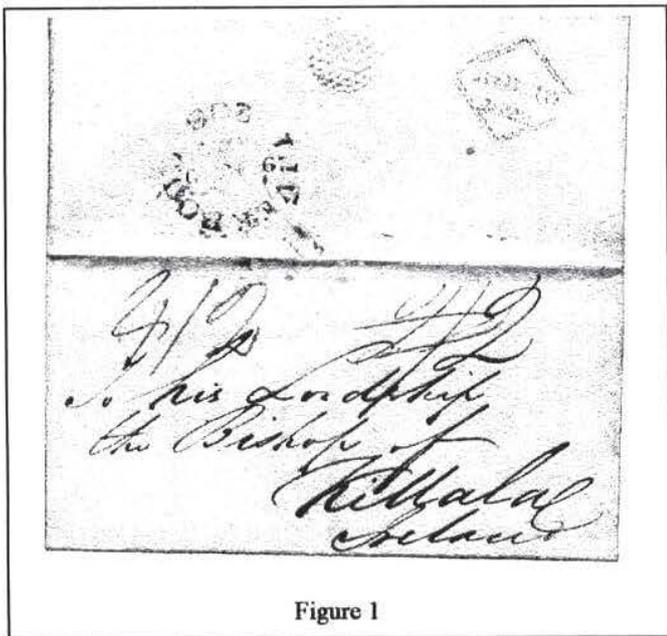


Figure 1

The cost of mailing the letter shows the high price of postage in those days. The mainland portion of the costs was crossed out in Dublin and the total postage due in Killala was added. This was a common practice. The total of 4/2 was created as follows:

Mainland Portion	
Liverpool to Holyhead (104 miles)	- 9d
Conway and Menai Bridge Crossing Charges (each 1d)	- 2d
Holyhead to Dublin Crossing	- 2d
	Total - 1/1
Charged Double Rate because of enclosure	- 2/2
Irish Portion	
Dublin to Killala (176 miles)	- 1/-
Again Charged Double Rate	- 2/-
	Total (2/2 + 2/-) - 4/2

The 1822 famine had major consequences in that the government and landlords decided that emigration would reduce the number of dependent people. Across the ocean, the Canadian colonies were looking for settlers, and so in 1823, over 500 farmers from Co. Cork were brought to Quebec and on to the Ottawa Valley in what was then Upper Canada. The emigration was organized by Peter Robinson, a brother of the Province's Attorney-General. Robinson organized another larger emigration from the same area two years later when about 2000 people were brought to an area of Upper Canada North of Rice Lake. Their settlement area of Scott's Plains was soon renamed Peterborough in honour of Robinson's first name.

The Great Famine: 1845-50

Letter from Grosse Île Quarantine Station, Quebec

The letter shown in Figure 2, was written by Captain Michael Johnstone of the ship "Avon" at Grosse Île, Quebec on 14 July 1847. Grosse Île, a small island about 50 kilometres downstream from Quebec in the St. Lawrence River, had been hastily created a Quarantine Station in 1832 to deal with the severe cholera epidemic of that year. It continued to serve that function until 1937.²

The "Avon" had left Cork on May 19 and, after a 54-day voyage, arrived at Grosse Île on July 12. The ship had 550 steerage passengers and two cabin passengers, and the letter indicates that 130 people died during the crossing. Clearly the "Avon" lived up to the "coffin ship" designation given to Famine emigrant ships. In his letter, the Captain was asking for men to be sent from Quebec to clean the ship as some of his crew were too sick to help. As it turned out, the ship was not released from quarantine until July 25, so one can imagine its condition.

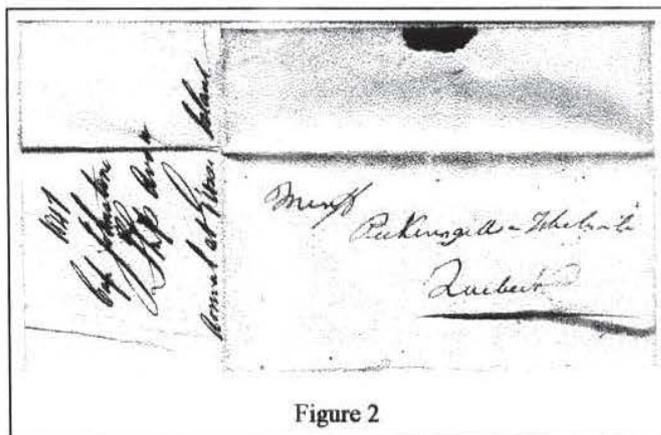


Figure 2

The "Avon" was the 227th ship to arrive at Grosse Île that summer and one of eight that came on 12 July. Another nine had arrived the day before. The passage to British North America was cheaper than to the U.S. and tended to be the destination for people who either had their way paid there or could not afford another route. Facilities on the small island were unable to handle the numbers of sick or dying, and although the medical staff did their best, somewhere between 6,000 and 10,000 Irish emigrants ended their days there and are buried in the Irish cemetery. The island became a National Historic Site in 1984 and the summer of 1847 is remembered by at least three monuments: one built about 1853 by Dr. Douglas, the medical superintendent to honour the physicians who died there; a large Irish Cross installed by

the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1909; and the Irish Famine Memorial erected in 1997 on the 150th anniversary of the tragedy and inaugurated in August 1998 in the presence of the President of Ireland, Ms. Mary McAleese.³

The company Pickersgill and Tibbits, to which the letter was addressed, was a marine-based business in Quebec. A letter to them, dated two years earlier, refers to them as having provided an undermeasure in a previous cargo for another ship.⁴ Most likely they would have loaded the ship with timber so the "Avon" seems to have been typical of the times, carrying timber Eastward and bringing back immigrants. The letter was likely brought from Grosse Île to Quebec by one of the small ships that plied regularly between the two places. Although it has no postal markings, it provides an historical record of one of the most tragic events of the Great Famine.

Cover to Central Relief Committee - Society of Friends

The cover, shown in Figure 3, was sent from New York to Dublin in August 1847. Clearly it was part of the aid effort from the U.S. to Ireland. The envelope is addressed to Jonathan Pim and Joseph Bewley who were joint-secretaries of the Central Relief Committee that had been formed in Dublin by the Society of Friends, or Quakers. Although the Quakers were small numerically, some of their members were prosperous businessmen and they provided a great deal of relief. Jonathan Pim and his brother were drapers and textile manufacturers, while the Bewley family were tea and coffee merchants who formed Oriental cafes in Dublin and elsewhere.⁵ Bewley's has survived the test of time and is still a popular Dublin meeting-place.

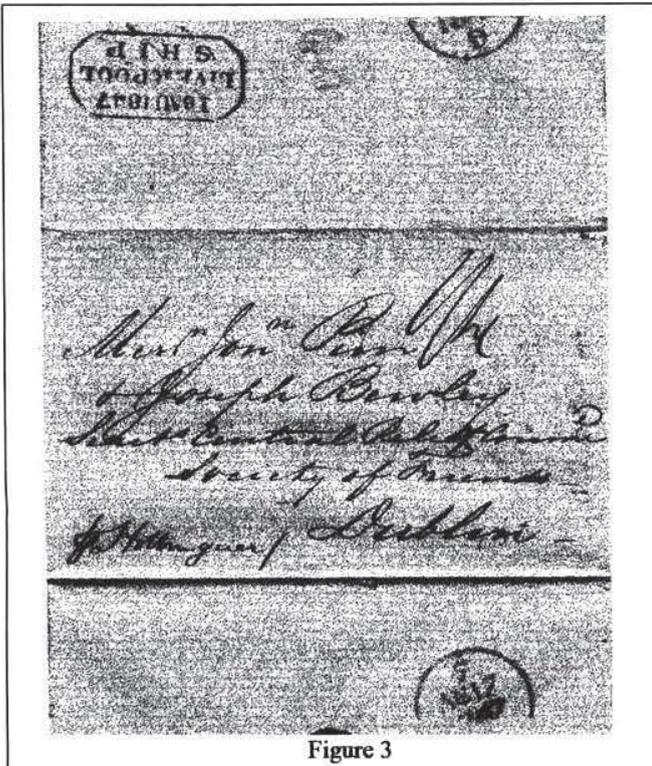


Figure 3

Earlier Irish emigrants to the U.S. maintained close ties with the homeland and made concerted efforts to help those left behind. Various American cities raised money and Tammany Hall, the headquarters of the Democratic machine, entrusted its con-

tribution to the Quakers. Individual Catholic parishes sent money; the Irish Relief Committee of Philadelphia sent three ships laden with provisions, one each to Derry, Cork and Limerick; and the citizens of New York and Boston sent shipments of grain.⁶

Although the sender of the letter is not known, it was carried by the "Hottinguer", a 993-ton American sailing ship, which from 1843 to 1849 belonged to the New Line of packets between New York and Liverpool. Life for steerage passengers on the "Hottinguer" was little better than for those on Famine ships as there is an account of a cabin passenger on an 1845 crossing not being allowed by the ship's doctor to visit below-decks because of conditions there.⁷ A packet crossing was hazardous as one in six of the ships were claimed by the Atlantic.⁷ The "Hottinguer", which in 1849 had been sold to the Blue Swallowtail Line, had an unfortunate end, being wrecked off the Irish coast on 12 January, 1850.⁸

With regard to postal costs, at Liverpool the letter was charged double the Ship Letter Rate of 8d for a total of 1/4 postage due, backstamped on 16 August and sent on to Dublin where it arrived the next day. Presumably it was charged double because of an enclosure, hopefully some form of money contribution.

Postal items, such as those above, provide important insights into the times from which they come. They are, after all, records of what really happened and tell small parts of the big story. Although we can't change history, maybe we can learn from it after all.

Footnotes

¹ Information on the 1821-22 famine was obtained from Donald MacKay, *Flight From Famine*. McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1990, pp.36-38.

² I must thank Charles J.G. Verge, the E.P.A.'s Immediate Past President, who found the letter and provided me with some research material. Marianna O'Gallagher, *Grosse Île: Gateway to Canada, 1832-1937*, Carraig Books, Quebec, 1984 is excellent, especially *The Report of Vessels Boarded at the Quarantine Station: Grosse Isle: from 11th July to 17th July 1847* (p. 153).

³ Information on Grosse Île is mostly from Parks Canada Web Site: <http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca/grosseile>.

⁴ Found in J.C. Arnell, *Transatlantic Stampless Mail To and From British North America*. Transatlantic Study Group, British North America Philatelic Society, Handbook Number Two, 1989, p.141.

⁵ Information on Pim and Bewley was obtained from S.J. Connolly (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to Irish History*. Oxford University Press, 1998.

⁶ Information on U.S. aid was taken from Thomas Keneally, *The Great Shame*. Doubleday, New York, 1998, p.129.

⁷ Melvin Haddocks, *The Atlantic Crossing*. Time-Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, pp. 117 and 159.

⁸ Frank Staff, *The Transatlantic Mail*. Adlard Coles, London, 1956, pp. 123 and 124.

A Scrapping of Every Principal of Individual Liberty The Postal Strike of 1922

by Alexis Guilbride

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in *History of Ireland*, Vol. 8, No. 4, Winter 2000 issue. Through the good offices of Maurice Barrett, it appears here with the author's permission.

The unemployment is acute. Starvation is facing thousands of people. The official Labour Movement has deserted the people for the flesh pots of the empire. The Free State Government's attitude towards striking postal workers makes clear what its attitude towards workers generally will be.

Thus wrote Liam Mellows, IRA director of purchases, from his prison cell in Mountjoy Jail in September 1922, several weeks before his execution by the provisional government of Saorstát Éireann. The significance of this seminal incident, the first trades dispute faced by an Irish government, was not lost on Liam Mellows or his contemporaries. Yet despite the fact that the strike, and the government's response to it, clearly exposed the inherent antagonisms between a nationalist bourgeoisie and an organized proletariat, it has virtually gone unrecorded in the history books, overshadowed by the national obsession with the details of the Civil War which was still raging at the time.

The story of the postal workers' strike can be pieced together, however, from the records contained in the Postal and Telecommunications Workers Union archive, held in the Irish Labour History Museum. An examination of the twenty-two union files concerning the strike and its aftermath reveals a narrative of high drama that centered around the issue of the right to strike.

The strike was provoked by the provisional government's attempt to cut the 'cost of living' bonus, which was paid on a twice-yearly basis to all civil servants, including postal workers. Throughout the Great War, civil servants in Britain and Ireland had been granted an allowance to shore up their wages against the dramatic inflation of the war years. After the war, these allowances were retained as 'cost-of-living' bonuses to offset against continuing rising prices. The government took the inflammatory step of introducing a cut in the bonus as early as March 1922, with the threat of further cuts to come. An emergency resolution issued in response by the Irish Postal Union pointed out that:

Whereas the majority of the Irish Civil Service recently gained substantial additions to their permanent remuneration, the wages of the Post Office staff are on practically the same level as those of thirty years ago. Any further reduction will bring Post Office wages to starvation level.

The union resolved to take 'the necessary steps for an immediate withdrawal of labour in the event of a reduction being enforced'.

The Douglas Commission

Consequently, the government agreed to set up an independent commission of inquiry into wages and working conditions within the postal service, chaired by J.G. Douglas. Its interim report in May 1922 concluded that the cuts could not be borne by postal staff in the lower grades without serious hardship. It recommended instead that certain levels of wages in the postal service be immediately increased, and that any further cuts should

be postponed until an Irish cost-of-living index was agreed upon, or until the commission produced its final report. The government, however, ignored the findings and drew up a cost-of-living index based on what the unions alleged were false figures. On the basis of these controversial figures, further cuts were announced to be put into effect in September 1922. 'In other and plainer terms', as an article in *Voice of Labour*, official organ of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, pointed out, 'a man who, in the opinion of the commissioners, could not reasonably bear a reduction of ten shillings in May, is deprived of fifteen shillings in September'.

The three unions representing postal workers, the Irish Postal Union, the Irish Postal Workers' Union and the Irish Post Office Engineering Union, were left with no option but to call for a strike. In anticipation of such action, the Postmaster General, James J. Walsh, issued a 'special notice to the staff' on 6 September 1922, stating:

In view of threats which have been made by sections of the staff to withdraw their labour because of the application of the Irish cost-of living figure to the civil service bonuses, all civil servants should note that:

- 1) An officer withdrawing his labour automatically forfeits his position, and
- 2) In the event of subsequent reinstatement on settlement, reinstatement would not carry with it restoration of pension rights for the previous service or of continuous service.

by command of the Postmaster General

The three Postal Unions came together on a temporary basis to form the United Postal Union, which promptly wrote to Thomas Johnson, secretary of the Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, pointing out the intimidatory nature of the special notice. This letter (7 September 1922) refers to the bullying of his workers by a member of the government into dropping legitimate trade union methods of redressing their grievances. There is, indeed, an attempt to deny the right of government workers to be members of trade unions.

Right to strike

This was, in fact, precisely the stand taken by the government. The *Voice of Labour* commented:

The government was appointed last Saturday afternoon. At the time previously appointed, namely, 6pm on Saturday, the strike began...The first act of the government was to issue on Saturday night the following proclamation:

The government does not recognize the right of civil servants to strike. In the event of a cessation of work by any section of the postal service, picketing, such as is permitted in connection with industrial strikes, will not be allowed.

The workers in general, and Trade Unionists in particular, will not be silent. The right to strike is in danger and it must be defended.

When the women and men of the postal service withdrew their labour on 10 September, the police and military were ordered to take whatever action they deemed necessary to remove

pickets from the streets. Initially, the police carried out this onerous task with restraint, and at least one officer was dismissed for refusing to arrest peaceful pickets on the grounds that he was unaware of any law they were breaking. (Despite appealing his dismissal, the officer was never reinstated.) As the strike continued and the military were called in, however, more brutal tactics were employed against the strikers.

The government's refusal on that Saturday to recognize the postal workers' right to strike was followed by a Dail debate on Monday 11 September. The majority of the supporters of the government voted against the right of government employees to strike, as did the farmers' representatives. The Labour Party deputies and some independents voted in favor of the right to strike, but they were in a minority. The *Voice of Labour* listed the deputies who voted for and against by name and declared:

POST OFFICE STRIKE

No Blacklegs Available!

OVER 100 MEMBERS
of the Superintending and Supervising Staff in the Dublin Telegraph and Sorting Departments have been suspended
 BY DIRECTION OF THE
Postmaster - General
 BECAUSE
They Refused to Blackleg on their Fellow-workers
WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR
A LIVING WAGE

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL DENIED THAT HE APPLIED TO ENGLAND FOR STRIKE-BREAKERS IN MARCH LAST. NOW HE SUSPENDS THE IRISH CONTROLLING OFFICERS FOR THEIR REFUSAL TO STRIKE-BREAK.

The government has raised the issue above an ordinary wages dispute—it has raised it to the higher level of the right to strike and the right to picket. It is an issue and a challenge which the trade union movement cannot afford to ignore.

Members of the Free State Army, dressed in civilian clothes were already acting as strike-breakers, sorting post and delivering letters, and military escorts were being provided around the country for civilian blacklegs. An undated statement issued by the joint-strike executive claimed that:

Teachers and managers of certain city schools have been asked to supply lists of applicants for Post Office employment—in other words for blacklegging. Will they do so, or will the parents consent to have their children branded by the Free State government with the stigma of juvenile slaves? We shall see. We have the most reliable information that one or two notorious ex-members of the Black and Tans are at present in the service of the PMG [Postmaster General] in Dublin. In more than one instance ex-officials of the Post Office dismissed and imprisoned for theft of correspondence have been re-employed since the strike, and have now access to all kinds of public property in the Post Office.

Early yesterday morning an armored car (no. L13) made frequent and deliberate attempts to run down the pickets at the front and rear of the Rink sorting office.

Press censorship

This kind of statement from the joint-strike executive was the forerunner to a strike bulletin which the unions began to issue on a daily basis in response to unfavorable press coverage. That a form of press censorship was in operation became clear when an advertisement favorable to the strike which was ten-

dered by the Irish Women Workers' Union was refused by the Evening Herald, although it was eventually published by the Daily Telegraph. The strike bulletin typically contained accounts, for instance, of how unemployed men around the country were being warned that they would lose their unemployment benefit if they refused to take up scab work in the Post Office. A letter published in the bulletin from a political prisoner in Mountjoy stated that the governor had offered release to any men who were prepared to blackleg.

Issues arising from the strike continued to provoke heated debates in the Dail. On Wednesday, 13 September 1922, Labour deputies Thomas Johnson and Cathal O'Shannon both expressed their concern over the infringements of civil liberties resulting from the government's handling of the situation:

We are here raising the question that we are raising, because of its effect on the general labour movement, and because of its effect upon the carpenter, the docker, the shop assistant, and every other worker at any other time. You are laying it down that military can disperse a picket, that military can fire at a picket or over the heads of a picket; that military can use terroristic methods to destroy a body of workers carrying on what I contend to be a legal operation...Is that the state of affairs to which we in Ireland have come at this day, that this government and this parliament find that the very first act of its ministry is an act of such a nature that all these things flow from it, that there is a scrapping of every principle of individual liberty?

The postal strike was rapidly becoming central to the whole question of where the Irish Revolution was going. The struggle for national independence had been, apparently inextricably, bound up with the struggle for social revolution, as embodied in the figure of James Connolly. The overthrow of the ruling classes by the Bolsheviks in Russia, had impacted hugely on the ideology of the Republican movement, while the battle against the foreign oppressor continued. In the aftermath of the achievement of the nationalist goal, however, the rift between those who supported the Treaty and those who were still holding out for the establishment of an independent republic was not the only division to manifest itself; those who had believed that they were fighting for a new order based on socialist principles were now compelled to face the bitter truth that the revolution had betrayed them. An article published in the *Voice of Labour* during the strike stated this new perception clearly when it concluded:

The peaceful evolution of the Free State will mean the triumph of the landlord, large landholding and big commercial classes. The orthodox politicians who have become the custodians of the republican principle have moved far from the policy of Connolly; they are neither qualified nor disposed to cut adrift from the environment or convention of graft and profit in which they were conceived and into which they were born as a party.

Woman shot on picket duty

On 17 September 1922 one of the most dramatic incidents of the strike occurred when Miss Olive Flood was shot at close range and wounded by a Free State soldier while she was on picket duty in Merchant's Arch, Dublin. The reporting of this event in the *Irish Independent* was rejected by the strike executive who issued a statement:

Today's newspaper account of the wounding of Miss Flood, telephone operator, is clearly that supplied by the military. The union's account of the incident was almost entirely suppressed.

The newspaper report claimed that, while shots had been fired into the air, Miss Flood's injury had been caused by a small piece of falling masonry dislodged by a bullet. The union's version of the incident was very different. According to statements from those who had been present at the scene, the soldier had ordered the pickets out of the arch at gunpoint. As they began to move away, he fired and shot Miss Flood in the back. She was rushed to Jervis Street Hospital where it was discovered that the bullet had been deflected by a suspender buckle, so that she sustained only a flesh wound. Discretion would, no doubt, have contributed to preventing a more detailed discussion of the shooting of Miss Flood in the newspapers, given the delicate nature of her injury. Nonetheless, the shooting of a woman picket by Free State troops in the course of an official trades dispute caused outrage amongst the public in general, and increased support for the strikers.

Postmaster General had once promoted 'Bolsheviki literature'

A range of methods of undermining the strike were pursued at the instigation of the Postmaster General, James J. Walsh. Walsh, a former postal worker himself, had been an active member of Sinn Fein for several years, and had been one of the men responsible for the arrangements for the inauguration of Dail Eireann. He had a reputation for radicalism, and early in 1919, as a method of provoking unrest amongst British soldiers stationed in Ireland, he had urged Sinn Fein to 'disseminate Bolsheviki literature to the military in this country'. As a minister in the new government, however, he was determined that nothing should interfere with the establishment of a successful independent Irish State, and used his power ruthlessly to crush the postal workers and make an example of them. An article in the strike bulletin commented:

Mr. J.J. Walsh was once a prominent trade unionist. He waved the Red Flag in Liberty Hall some years ago. Strikes he then regarded as a meek and mild weapon. Nothing less than revolution would satisfy him. He is now a cabinet minister with £1,700 a year [Postal workers at this time were earning, on average, approximately £200 a year].

Later in the twenties, when Walsh had become director of elections for Cumann na nGaedheal, a journalist who arrived to interview him in his office was confronted with the spectacle of Walsh distributing brass knuckle-dusters to election workers.

An incident that was typical of Walsh's methods occurred in Limerick on 28 September 1922, the penultimate day of the strike. A Free State army officer dressed as a woman, in skirt and shawl, attempted to pass the picket at the Enquiry Office. When addressed by a striker the officer, armed with a knuckle-duster, punched the man in the face. This was the signal for a general attack on the picket by about twenty soldiers. Revolvers were produced, but no shots were fired. Instead the pickets were pistol-whipped. Fifteen strikers were seriously injured in this attack, five of whom were women.

Hardship and hunger

The striking clerks, postmen, sorters, telephonists, messen-

gers, cleaners, patrolmen and engineers suffered considerable financial hardship while the dispute continued. Two cuts in the cost-of-living bonus meant that workers' salaries had been dramatically reduced, while prices continued to rise. Now, with no wages at all and a limited strike fund, the postal unions turned to Congress and the Labour Party for assistance. They were advised to approach other unions on an individual basis.

Ironically, the efforts of other unions to help the strikers were often seriously hampered by the effects of the strike. The Railway Clerks Association of Great Britain and Ireland sent their contribution to the strike fund in late October, apologizing for the delay and explaining that the appeal for financial assistance issued by the joint-postal unions had not reached their head office in London until the last day of the strike, due to the dislocation of the strike itself.

Alongside hardship and hunger, the postal workers had to contend with constant accusations of betraying the cause of national independence. A statement issued by the executive pointed out that:

The members of the government thought it was patriotic for the Post Office staff to go on strike on behalf of the Mountjoy hunger strikers and on the occasion of the Mountjoy executions, while the Chamber of Commerce then called us unpatriotic. Now, when we withdraw our labour for ourselves and our families, both parties call us unpatriotic.

Post Office Strike

MILITARY FIRE ON WOMEN STRIKERS

Heroic Telephone Operators Undismayed

When the fight against a

REDUCTION IN WAGES

was forced on the Post Office Staffs by the Government, the vanguard was led by the

Gallant Ladies in the Telephones

who voluntarily undertook the duties of

PEACEFUL PICKETING

and were saluted with Rifle Volleys from the Military.

Do the women of Dublin approve of this treatment of Irish women who are legitimately fighting against

STARVATION WAGES

was at least as inimical to the interests of the working people as a foreign one had ever been. A leading article published in the *Voice of Labour* on 23 September 1922 remarked:

A foreign flag generally, perhaps invariably, denotes slavery, but national independence and a national flag do not inevitably or invariably denote human freedom.

Eventually the strike came to an end on 29 September 1922, with a commitment from the government that the Douglas commission would proceed with further investigations into pay and conditions for postal workers. The United Postal Union issued a

The strike as a political weapon against a colonial administration had had the full support of the Sinn Fein party prior to independence; now that Sinn Fein was in power, the use of the strike as a means for workers to protect their standards of living was perceived by the government as an unacceptable threat to the stability of the state. It was becoming increasingly obvious to the labour movement in Ireland that a native government based on privilege

resolution on 2 October:

That with a view to presenting a common front to the Department at the final sittings of the Commission, and for the purpose of facilitating the issue of the final report before December 1st, the executives of the Irish Postal Union, the Irish Postal Workers' Union and the Irish Post Office Engineering Union, agree to provisional amalgamation; the question of permanent amalgamation to be discussed by special conferences of each union, as early as possible after the final report of the commission.

In fact, the IPU and the IPWU agreed to permanent amalgamation in 1923, when they became the Post Office Workers Union, but the IPOEU remained separate until 1989 when a merger resulted in the establishment of the Communication Workers' Union.

Victimization

In a meeting with members of the Labour Party on 25 September 1922, President Cosgrave had given assurances that no victimization of strikers would take place on settlement of the dispute. As soon as the strike was declared over, however, J.J. Walsh, the Postmaster General, dismissed the meeting with President Cosgrave as 'informal', thus invalidating any exchanges which had occurred. Walsh then proceeded to implement the most vicious methods of victimization available to him. Experienced workers who had supported the strike were withdrawn on the grounds of trumped-up charges of incompetence and replaced by untrained staff who had been drafted in as strike-breakers; these same individuals who had provided scab labour throughout the strike were given permanent appointments without having to undergo the requisite medical and educational examinations; those refugees from the pogroms in Belfast who had been offered appointments in Dublin if they took up duty in the Rink sorting office during the strike and had refused, were forced to return to Belfast.

The hardest blow, however, was the government's decision to regard the strike as a break in service affecting pension rights and incremental rates. In a letter to J.J. Walsh dated 5 May 1924, William Norton, general secretary of the POWU, wrote:

In 1920 when my union struck as a protest against the treatment of the Mountjoy hunger-strikers, its action was applauded and approved by the then leaders of the Sinn Fein party, who in many cases are now members of the government. From the point of view of the British administration the strike of its employees at that period had a grave political significance, and was, no doubt, viewed seriously. The only punishment, however, which was inflicted on my members was the stoppage of pay for the two days' absence.

My Executive desires me to contrast this decision of the then much maligned British administration with the action of the present administration on the occasion of the strike of 1922 in deferring increments, and to express regret that a native administration should be guilty of such vindictiveness and such hostility to trade union action.

Despite the constant efforts of the union, however, it took

ten years before the incremental rates were restored and two more years before the issue of pensions was resolved. The 1922 strike and its aftermath seemed to bear out the truth of James Connolly's vision of the consequences of a nationalist revolution divorced from socialist principles:

'Let us free Ireland' says the patriot who won't touch socialism. Let us all join together and cr-r-rush the br-r-rutal Saxon. Let us all join together, says he, all classes and creeds. And, say the town workers, after we have crushed the Saxon and freed Ireland, what will we do? Oh, then you can go back to your slums, same as before. Whoop it up for liberty!

After Ireland is free, says the patriot who won't touch Socialism, we will protect all classes, and if you won't pay your rent you will be evicted same as now. But the evicting party, under command of the sheriff, will wear green uniforms and the Harp without the Crown, and the warrant turning you out on the roadside will be stamped with the arms of the Irish Republic. Now, isn't that worth fighting for?

Alexis Cuilbride is a research assistant in the Irish Labour History Museum, Dublin.

Further reading:

J.G. Douglas, *Memoirs of Senator J.C Douglas 1887-1954* (Dublin 1998).

E. O'Connor, *Syndicalism in Ireland 1917-192* (Cork 1988).

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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2000

by Brian Warren

There was no revision in letter postal rates during 2000 apart from an increase in certain Swiftpost charges to a number of countries in October.

The number of special and commemorative issues exceeded 60 stamps due to the release of four Millennium sheetlets. As a result the total cost increased by a massive 25% in a period of stable postal rates.

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

The 2000 programme, comprising 67 regular gummed stamps, 6 self-adhesive coil stamps, 4 miniature sheets (including both *Oscar Wilde* sheets) and 8 booklets, was issued over 13 release dates at a total cost of IR£60.50.

The four Millennium sets and the personalised Oscar Wilde stamp could only be purchased as complete sheetlets increasing the cost by a further IR£16.70. All counter issues were in sheetlet format – the total cost of all 24 sheetlets was IR£139.64. In addition, a personalised Oscar Wilde sheetlet with own photo tabs cost a further IR£10.00.

The 1999 totals were 50 regular gummed sheet stamps, 6 self-adhesive coil stamps, 5 miniature sheets (including the overprinted *Titanic* sheet) and 7 booklets, which were issued over 11 release dates at a total cost of IR£48.44. The single Millennium set of six stamps could only be purchased as a complete sheetlet (i.e. two sets) increasing the cost by a further IR£1.80. The total cost of all 28 sheetlets was IR£164.86.

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perf.	Printer
						
1 Jan	Celebrating the Millennium (2 nd Issue)	30p	} Sheetlet of 12 containing two sets } in two separate horizontal blocks of 6 } CCP3 paper – perf. 14½ x 14 } Printed by ISSP			
	Irish Historic Events	30p				
	- Norman Invasion	30p				
	- Flight of the Earls	30p				
	- Irish Parliament 1782	30p				
	- The Land League	30p				
	- Independence	30p				
	- United Nations	30p				
26 Jan	Love Stamp (16 th Issue)	30p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14½	ISSP
	Greetings Booklet (10 th Issue)- Mythical Creatures	IR£3.00	Three panes (10 x 30p)	CCP3	14 x 14½	ISSP
	Year of the Dragon	90p	3 x 30p Greetings	CCP3	14 x 14½	ISSP
						
29 Feb	Celebrating the Millennium (3 rd Issue - Discoveries)	30p	} Sheetlet of 12 containing two sets } in two separate vertical blocks of 6 } CCP3 paper – perf. 14 x 14½ } Printed by ISSP			
	Rev. Nicholas Callan	30p				
	- Birr Telescope	30p				
	- Thomas Edison	30p				
	- Albert Einstein	30p				
	- Marie Curie	30p				
	- Galileo	30p				
						
						

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perf.	Printer	
							
							
							
							
9 March	Jeanie Jonnston		/1B1B1B1B			ISSP	
9 May	Europa (39 th Issue) Common Design	- Development of Europe - self adhesive	32p 2 x 30p	Sheetlets of 10 IR£30 per box of 100	CCP3 9½ x 9¼	ISSP ISSP	
22 May	Oscar Wilde	- Portrait photograph of 1882 - "The Happy Prince" - "The Importance of Being Earnest" - The Picture of Dorian Gray"	30p (38c) 30p (38c) 30p (38c) 30p (38c)	} Sheetlet of 16 stamps containing four sets in blocks of 4. CCP3 paper } Perf. 14 x 14¼ - printed by ISSP			
	- Miniature Sheet		IR£2.00	Single value – non phos.	CCP3 14 x 14¼	ISSP	
	- Miniature sheet with "Stamp Show 2000" logo		IR£2.00	Single value – non phos.	CCP3 14 x 14¼	ISSP	
	- Personalised sheetlet with plain tabs		IR£10.00	Sheetlet of 20 x 30p (38c)	CCP3 14 x 14¼	Ausprint	
	- Personalised sheetlet with photo tabs		IR£10.00	Sheetlet of 20 x 30p (38c)	CCP3 14 x 14¼	Ausprint	
	- Personalised sheetlet with photo tabs and with "Stamp Show 2000 logo" o/p in margin		Stg£8.50	Sheetlet of 20 x 30p (38c)	CCP3 14 x 14¼	Ausprint	
16 June	Celebrating the Millennium (4th Issue – The Arts)	- Beethoven - Dame Ninette de Valois - James Joyce - Leonardo da Vinci - Sir John Lavery - William Shakespeare	30p 30p 30p 30p 30p 30p	} Sheetlet of 12 containing two sets } in two separate vertical blocks of 6 } CCP3 paper – perf. 14 x 14¼ } Printed by ISSP			
7 July	Olympic Games	- Running - Javelin - High Jump - Long Jump	30p 30p 50p 50p	} Each pair of values were printed in se-tenant format as horizontal and vertical pairs in sheetlets of 16. } Plate Numbers 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B } CCP3 paper – perf. 13¼ x 13¼ - Printed by ISSP			
7 July	Stampin' the Future	- Space Rocket over Flowers - Tree, rocket and hands holding globe, all within '2000'	30p 32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3 CCP3	14 x 14¼ 14¼ x 14	ISSP ISSP
	- People holding hands on globe - Colony on moon		45p 45p	} Printed in se-tenant format as horizontal and vertical pairs } 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3 CCP3	14¼ x 14 14¼ x 14	ISSP ISSP

(Table continued on next page)

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perf.	Printer
						
						
						
						
						
2 Aug.	GAA Team of the Millennium (Hurling)	15 x 30p (38c)	plus label	CCP3	14¼ x 14	ISSP
	Booklets - Self adhesive					
	- Kilkenny Cats	IR£3.00	10 x 30p (38c) - see below		11¼ x 11½	Ausprint
	- The Rebel County	IR£3.00	10 x 30p (38c) - see below		11¼ x 11½	Ausprint
	- Premier Hurling Stars	IR£3.00	10 x 30p (38c) - see below		11¼ x 11½	Ausprint
	- The Boys of Wexford	IR£3.00	10 x 30p (38c) - see below		11¼ x 11½	Ausprint
	- Combination Booklet	IR£3.00	10 x 30p (38c) - see below		11¼ x 11½	Ausprint
	- Mint Mounted Sheetlet	IR£9.95	Mounted for framing (1,000 printed)			
	- Imperforate mint Mounted Sheetlet	IR£30.00	Mounted for framing (1,000 printed – all sold)			
6 Sept.	Fauna and Flora (Butterflies)					
	- Peacock	30p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 12¼	Walsall
	- Small Tortoiseshell	32p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 12¼	Walsall
	- Silver-washed Fritillary	45p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 12¼	Walsall
	- Orange-tip	50p	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13¼ x 12¼	Walsall
	- Miniature sheet (without year date)	IR£1.57	Contains single set	CCP3	13¼ x 12¼	Walsall
9 Oct.	Irish Aviation					
	- Hawker Hurricane MkIIc	30p (38c)	Each pair of values were printed in se-tenant format as horizontal and vertical pairs in sheetlets of 16. Plate Numbers 1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B CCP3 paper - perf. 14¼ x 14 - Printed by ISSP			
	(3 rd Issue – Military) - Bristol F.2b Fighter MkII	30p (38c)				
	- De Havilland DH115 Vampire T.55	45p (57c)				
	- Sud Se.3160 Alouette III	45p (57c)				
	- Prestige Booklet	IR£5.55	Four panes - see below	CCP3	14¼ x 14	ISSP
	- self adhesives 4 x 30p (38c)	IR£30 per box of 100 (25 x 4)			9¼ x 9½	ISSP
14 Nov.	Christmas (30th Issue)					
	- The Nativity	30p (38c)	1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¼	ISSP
	Nativity - Adoration of the Magi	32p (41c)	1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¼	ISSP
	- Adoration of the Shepherds	45p (57c)	1A1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B1B	CCP3	14 x 14¼	ISSP
	- Booklet (self-adhesive – Flight into Egypt)	IR£6.60	(24 x 30p i.e. two free stamps)		11¼ x 11½	Ausprint
14 Nov.	Department of Agriculture					
	- 50 th Anniversary	50p (63c)	1A1A1A1A/1B1B1B1B	CCP3	13½ x 13½	ISSP
31 Dec.	Celebrating the Millennium					
	(5th Issue - World Events)					
	- Berlin Wall	30p	Sheetlet of 12 containing two sets in separate horizontal and vertical blocks of 6 CCP3 paper – perf. 14¼ x 14 Printed by ISSP			
	- Peace (WW II)	30p				
	- The French Revolution	30p				
	- Women's Liberation	30p				
	- The Industrial Revolution	30p				
	- Modern Communications	30p				

Printers and Sheet Format: All stamps were litho printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited (ISSP), Walsall Security Printers (Walsall) or the Australian firm, SNP Ausprint (Ausprint).

All commemorative and special issues continue to be issued in 16 stamp (4 x 4) sheetlet format with both "A" and "B" sheets. The plate numbers are located in the left margin opposite R1/S1 and the colour controls in the right margin opposite R1/S4. The imprint is in the bottom margin under R4/S1. The bottom right corner is blank. Details about the particular stamp are included across the top margin. This layout applies to both horizontal and vertical format designs. All sheets are perforated through all four margins and all individual stamps have a 2mm phosphor frame. Any variation in the above format for any individual issue is referred to below or in the table above.

First Day Covers: Blank FDC's cost 35p (1999: 30p). Pictorial cancels were available for all issues. Special first day covers were provided for each issue other than the GAA Team of the Millennium and Celebrating the Millennium sheetlets.

Maximum Cards/Postcards: No maximum cards or postcards were issued during 2000.



Love Stamp: The sheetlet incorporates a series of love hearts instead of the usual colour spots.

Greetings Booklet: The pane booklet contains three panes/ten stamps as compared to two panes/eight stamps for all previous booklets in this series. The stamps feature various mythical creatures - (I) Pegasus; (II) Unicorn; (III) Dragon; and (IV) Frog Prince. Each stamp has two labels featuring various greetings which are attached top and bottom. The outer edges of the panes are imperforate. The make-up of each pane is as follows:-

Panes 1 and 2 (4 stamps): 30pI, 30pII, 30pIII and 30pIV (right margin imperforate); and

Pane 3 (2 stamps): 30pIII and 30pIV (right margin imperforate)

Although panes 1 and 2 have the same stamp layout/content, the labels differ on each pane. Pane 3 also contains a further ten rouletted labels. The last stamp in each pane ("Frog Prince" design) has an imperforate edge giving a total of four identifiable stamps in addition to the sheet issue. Three of the designs are included in the Year of the Dragon miniature sheet referred to below. Each pane is rouletted in the binding margin and stitched into the covers. Same cover and first day postmark as for the sheet issue.



Year of the Dragon Miniature Sheet: A special miniature sheet to mark the Chinese Lunar Year of the Dragon was issued on the same day as the Love stamp and the Greetings booklet. The sheet is similar to prior years and contains three of the Greetings stamps - 30p I, 30p II and 30p III (right margin imperforate). The imperforate at right Dragon stamp adds a further identifiable stamp to the set. The left hand panel shows a dragon and refers to the "Year of the Dragon" (in English and Chinese). The labels differ from the booklet panes and refer to "Happy New Year" (in English, Irish, Cantonese and Chinese). Same cover and first day postmark as for the sheet and booklet panes.

Millennium Issues: The Millennium sheetlets incorporate two sets of six stamps with no plate numbers or other sheet markings. They were all available in presentation packs which contained a large card with the sheetlet attached and cancelled with a pictorial first day postmark. No first day cover service was provided but collectors/dealers could prepare their own covers for cancellation with the relevant pictorial postmarks.

Jeanie Johnston: Although originally announced as a 45p value, the actual issued denomination was 30p. The first day pictorial postmark was also available in Tralee as the replica of the boat was built in nearby Blennerville.



Two stamps to commemorate the 1801 Act of Union were due to be released on the same day but were "postponed". They did not receive Government approval and are unlikely to be issued.



Europa: There was only one Europa value this year with a common design used by most countries. The sheetlet was in the usual ten stamp format but with a revised three row layout – rows 1 and 2 incorporate three stamps with one large label adjoining both rows which reproduces the Irish Europa stamps of 1960 (1st Irish issue) and 1984 (25th Anniversary issue) – row 4 contains four stamps with the ISSP imprint under stamp 4. Imperforate left margin; all other margins perforated. No plate numbers or colour controls.

As usual, the self-adhesive stamp is smaller in overall layout than the sheet stamp and measures 26mm x 37.5mm. Produced in boxed rolls of 100 stamps plus two reminder labels (10 and 20). The roll of 102 stamps/labels is split into six strips of seventeen. The rolls are reeled lengthways with delivery of the bottom of the 30p stamp first. As usual, a number is included on one of the bottom flaps (No: 1 seen to date); the matching flap has the reference 040116A. Sold in strips of two as well as complete rolls by the bureau.

Oscar Wilde: The sheetlets containing the block of four stamps have an illustrated margin and, as a result, there are no plate numbers, colour controls or imprint. The top margin is imperforate; all other margins are perforated. Each stamp also has the value inscribed in euro cents (38c).

In addition to the regular issue, An Post introduced the concept of Personalised Stamps with this issue in collaboration with Sprintpak, a subsidiary of Australia Post. Personalised sheetlets with photographic portrait tabs were available at the joint Ireland-Australia stand at "Stamp Show 2000" in London (22-8 May). Each sheetlet contained 20 x 30p (38c) stamps in a slightly smaller design (30.5mm x 30mm) incorporating the photographic portrait of the writer taken by Napoleon Sarony in New York in 1882. The cost was Stg£8.50 with a reduction for larger orders (e.g. two sheetlets cost stg£8.00 each). Each sheetlet incorporated the "Stamp Show 2000" logo in the left hand corner. A single printed cancel could be applied if required – there was a different cancel for each day of the show – none of the cancels had any connection with the Wilde issue and the same triangular cancels were used for both the Australian and Irish sheetlets. The sheetlets (with phosphor) were printed in Australia with unprinted white

tabs. The photographic portrait plus show logo and cancel were applied utilising computerised equipment similar to a colour photocopier. A plain page without stamps incorporating the latter three elements was also supplied with each sheetlet. These sheetlets incorporating the show logo were only available to collectors attending the show.

The same service was available at the bureau in Dublin on 1st and 2nd June to personal callers. The same Australian personnel who attended the exhibition in London were responsible for producing the personalised sheetlets in Dublin. The Dublin sheetlets did not bear any show logo but two different printed cancels were available if required – 1st June featured the Campanile, Trinity College; 2nd June featured the Halfpenny Bridge, Dublin. The service was also available by post (up to 30 June) by providing a 6" x 4" portrait photograph. There was a similar service offered at Stamp Expo 2000 (Anaheim, California – 7 to 16 July) – see further notes under "Exhibition Souvenirs and Cachets – Overseas".

Sheetlets of 20 non-personalised stamps with plain tab (featuring "Oscar" signature) were also available for purchase at IR£10.00. The stamps could only be purchased in complete sheetlets. As far as I can recall, this is the first time that An Post have sold a regular stamp in excess of face value.

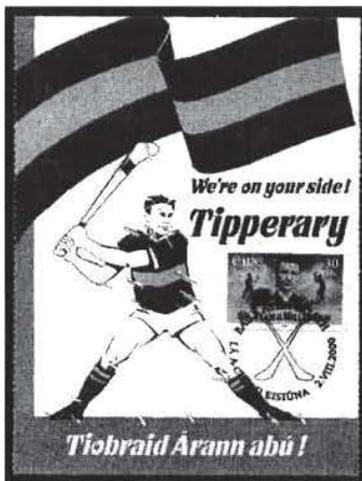
A first day service was not available for any of these special 20 stamp sheetlets (basic or personalised) but collectors could service their own covers until 31 July to allow time for the return of Personalised Sheetlets. Special cachets were available at the London show which are also referred to under *Exhibition Souvenirs and Cachets – Overseas*.



Olympic Games: The stamps are in a square format and measure 36mm x 36mm. The top margin of the sheetlets is imperforate. This set of uninspired designs was probably one of the poorest Olympic issues ever released by An Post. Is it really necessary to issue a set for every Olympics? The designers have run out of ideas. For the record, Ireland's only medal was a silver in athletics which was won by Sonia O'Sullivan in the 5,000 metres. Sonia O'Sullivan has been one of Ireland's most successful athletes of recent years with several medal awards at European and World Championships. This was her first Olympic medal.



Stampin the Future: The colour controls for this issue were in the form of a series of children's crayons.



GAA Self-Adhesive showing Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary) used on the 1988 Hurling card with first day cancellation

GAA Team of the Millennium (Hurling): The sheetlet features a team of fifteen "Best of the Millennium" players (one for each team position) as selected by a panel of GAA officials and journalists. Each stamp features a watercolour illustration of each player and the layout of the sheetlet of fifteen stamps plus one label matches their position on the field of play. The label reproduces the GAA crest and has a phosphor box similar to the stamps. There are no plate numbers, imprints or colour controls on the sheetlet. A similar sheetlet for Football was issued last year. A souvenir folder containing a sheetlet attached by the left-hand margin and tied by a first day cancel was also available. This was the only first day service offered by the bureau for the sheetlet. This issue also saw the release of a second imperforate sheetlet by An Post which sold out.

In addition to the sheetlet, five booklets containing self-adhesive versions (38mm x 27mm) of the same stamps were issued. The contents of each booklet were:-

Kilkenny Cats: Lory Meagher x 3, Eddie Keher x 3, Paddy Phelan x 2 and Jim Langton x 2. The cover of the booklet features Martin Storey (Wexford) and Pat O'Neill (Kilkenny).

The Rebel County (Cork): Christy Ring x 4, Jack Lynch x 3 and Ray Cummins x 3. The cover of the booklet features Ben O'Connor (Cork) and Sean McGrath (Clare).

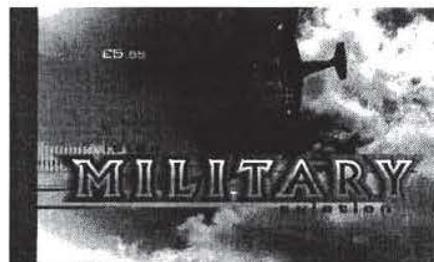
Premier Hurling Stars: John Doyle x 4, Tony Reddin x 3 and Jimmy Doyle x 3. All three players were from Tipperary. The cover of the booklet features Conal Bonner (Tipperary) and Niall Gilligan (Clare).

The Boys of Wexford: Bobby Rackard x 5 and Nick O'Donnell x 5. The cover of the booklet features Martin Storey (Wexford) and Joe Errity (Offaly).

Combination Booklet: Mick Makey (Limerick) x 4, Brian Whelahan (Offaly) x 3 and John Keane (Waterford) x 3. The cover of the booklet features Ken McGrath (Wexford), Brian Whelahan (Offaly) and Tommy Dunne (Limerick).

Complete booklets with the pictorial first day cancel were also available from the bureau. No pictorial first day cover was available. Collectors/dealers could prepare their own covers with any combination of the sheetlet or booklet stamps for cancellation with the pictorial postmark.

Fauna and Flora – Butterflies: The stamps are in a square format and measure 36mm x 36mm. The top margin of the sheetlets are imperforate. The stamps within the miniature sheet incorporate a phosphor box as per the sheet stamps. This is the first miniature sheet to contain phosphor stamps apart from the recent Lunar New Year sheets (since 1999). The individual stamps in the miniature sheet differ from the sheet stamps in that the year imprint "2000" at the foot of each stamp is omitted. I understand that the inclusion of the year of issue on each stamp is no longer a U.P.U. requirement.



Military Aviation – Sheet Issue and Prestige Booklet:

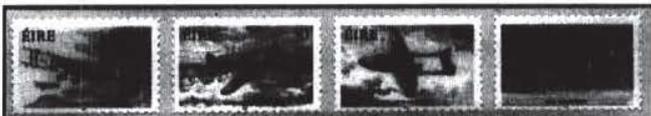
A side-on view of each plane/helicopter is shown in the top margin of each sheetlet. The booklet contains four illustrated panes of stamps and eight pages of bilingual text and/or photographs; the text/photographs also extend to inside the front and back covers. The booklet contain a total of fifteen stamps as follows:-

- Pane 1 : Block of 4 x 30p stamps – two horizontal set-tenant pairs;
- Pane 2 : Block of 4 x 45p stamps – two horizontal set-tenant pairs;

Pane 3: Block of 2 x 30p plus 2 x 45p – horizontal se-tenant pairs of each value;

Pane 4: Three stamps in a se-tenant strip – 30p Hawker Hurricane, 45p Alouette and 30p Bristol Fighter.

As all stamps are of horizontal format and are perforated on all four sides, there are no additional singles ex. this booklet. The panes are rouletted at left and stitched into the booklet covers.

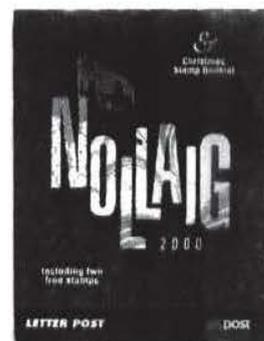


Military Aviation - Self-Adhesives: The self-adhesive stamps incorporate the same designs as the sheet stamps in the order – De Havilland Vampire, Alouette, Bristol Fighter and Hawker Hurricane. As usual, they are smaller in overall layout than the sheet stamps and measure 37.5mm x 26mm but unlike previous ISSP issues, the surrounding paper has been removed. Produced in boxed rolls of 100 stamps plus ten labels as detailed below. The roll of 110 stamps/labels is split into ten strips of eleven with the labels positioned before the first stamp in each strip and after the coil join. The rolls are reeled sideways with left hand delivery commencing with the “De Havilland Vampire” design. The Dakota logo plus number (Nos: 5 & 7 seen to date) appears on one of the bottom flaps; the matching flap has the reference 042651. Sold in strips of four as well as complete rolls by the bureau. There are four different labels as follows:-



Before Stamp Number	Wording (Colours – Text/Background)
1, 21, 41, and 61	Always/Include A Return/ Address On Your/Envelope (Green on Yellow)
11, 31, 51, and 71	Remember/To Seal Your/Envelope (Green on Orange)
81	Only 20/Stamps Left ! (Yellow on Green)
91	Only 10/Stamps Left/Order Now ! (Yellow on Green)

All labels are stamp size. As stated above, the four stamp sequence up to stamp 89 is De Havilland Vampire/Alouette/Bristol Fighter/Hawker Hurricane. Stamp 89 features the Hurricane design and thus stamp 90 should feature the Vampire but instead features the Bristol Fighter (i.e. skips 2). I inspected two rolls and both had this sequence with the missing two designs at the end of the roll. The introduction of labels throughout the roll is also a feature of a new ISSP definitive printing – see below.



Christmas Issues: Five plates instead of the usual four were used to print the regular sheet issue due to the use of metallic ink for the frame and part of the inscription on each stamp. The Christmas booklet contains 24 x 30p stamps giving two free stamps per booklet. This compares with 20 stamps in previous Christmas booklets. The twenty-four stamps are set out on one pane, folded five times, containing two columns of twelve stamps. Each stamp measures 25mm x 30mm.



Department of Agriculture: The stamp is in a square format and measures 36mm x 36mm. In similar manner as the Butterflies issue, the top margin of the sheetlet is imperforate. This was a late addition to the schedule of 2000 issues and marks the centenary of the setting up of the Department of Agriculture.

(continued in next issue)