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THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

In this issue : News, Thematic and Open Philately Seminar, Displays
Ecclesiastical Westminster Part 1 - Westminster Abbey



From the display of 16 April.

Dear Member

Herewith the June/July issue the second of the year. The last quarter has been good for the Society with one new country member elected, a successful seminar in May and an award at London 2015. With this issue a new series of articles dealing with West London from a thematic aspect but in some cases adding more information that is not possible to illustrate philately wise. The first of these deals with Ecclesiastical Westminster and in particular the Abbey from which the City of Westminster takes its name. These articles will hopefully give an insight into the City of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, the main tourist areas of London. This series will for the moment replace further Literary London articles which are now patchy in content.

NEWS

Membership Changes

Since the last journal one new country member has been elected :

Paul Gerety.

In the same period no resignations have been notified and there were no bereavements.

Postal Museum

The Postal Museum in the GPO has closed for refurbishment. When this is complete it may not return to its present location in the GPO for some considerable time.

London 2015

Ireland had a team of 4 at the above exhibition held in the Business Design Centre in Islington from 13 to 16 May and the following awards were gained :

Large Gold	-	Des Quail
Large Vermeil	-	Brian Callan
Vermeil	-	Pat Casey and Barry Cousins

The Commissioner was Pat Casey. Well done to all.

Thematic and Open Philately Seminar

The above seminar was held on Saturday 9th May in the Mespil Hotel, Mespil Road, Dublin 4. It was well supported with 26 attendees from the Society, Dublin Stamp Society, Portadown Society and non members.

The seminar opened with a briefing on the FIP Rules and Regulations for these classes explaining what could and could not be used. Following this a talk with slides followed on Thematic Philately which explained in detail the concept of the Title the Plan and its relevance to the Title, the Development of the subject in relation to the Plan and Innovation. It also dealt with Condition and Rarity, and the Organisation of the

exhibit. The slides showed a Title and Plan Page as two pages, A title and plan as one page and a not so good Plan Page. They also demonstrated cluttered pages and the effect of de-cluttering on them as well as how to separate out and define thematic text from philatelic text.

Following the thematic talk those present were shown how to mount different types of items on pages, how to window items and mount larger items which could not fit on standard A4 sheets. Materials which can be used such as Hawid strips, corner mounts etc were shown and demonstrated. Again slides were used as an aid to show larger items mounted on A3 sheets and the effect it could have on an exhibit.

After lunch the main focus was on Open Philately and like the thematic section demonstrated the marking system. It also through slides showed how to mount items on pages and items for specific subjects that were highly desirable in Open Philately exhibits. The Plan Page concept was explained as this differed from thematic in that a bibliography had to be included. It showed good and bad pages and cross referenced aspects of and rules of thematic philately with open philately stressing that in the latter up to 50% of items may be of a non philatelic nature. It was also pointed out that in open philately there may be a mix of philatelic and non philatelic items on each page, a page with all philatelic and a page with all non philatelic material along side each other so long as non philatelic material did not exceed 50% of the entire exhibit.

The rest of the seminar was given over to computer aspects and how to use the computer as an aid to writing up a competition entry. It was shown how to lay out a page using the computer to define the spaces for stamps etc. How to buy philatelic items on the net and open an account concluded the seminar.

Displays

Canadian Flight Covers; Austria 1945-49

16 April

This display was given by Frank Mc Donald and replaced the advertised display which was unavailable. It was in two sections - Canadian Flight covers 1932-36 formed the first section and included 1932 Prince Albert to Montreal Lake, Siscoe to Pascalis, 1933 Great Falls to Bissett, 1934 Prince Albert to Beauval, 1935 Norway House to Cross Lake, Sydney to Halifax Experimental Service, Christmas Day 1936 Rimouski to Port Menier. The second section was Austria 1945-49 and covered the first few years of the Austrian Second Republic. Included was Hitler Heads overprinted including cover usage, Cover to Vienna with blue circular Military Censorship/Civil Mail cachet, 1946 Renner sheets (all four which were postally valid for only 3 weeks), "Anti-Fascist" Exhibition issue, 1947 Vienna Fair Fund set of 8, Air Mail set of 7 and maxi card for 10s value, Prisoners of War Relief Fund set and registered cover usage, 1948 Re Construction Fund set, 80th Anniv of Association of Creative Artists set, 30th Anniv of Republic with reg cover to New York cancelled WIEN-PARLAMENT, 1949 Child Welfare Fund set and reg cover to Czech Republic with set of 4, 75 Anniv UPU set.

American Revenues and Others

30 April

This display was given by Tom Mc Carthy. Included was Revenues for Agreement, Bank Check, Bill of Lading, Contract, Inland Revenue, Foreign Exchange all from the first issue, 1862-71. 1898 1c Documentary value used on New York and Boston Dispatch Express Co., 1898 Proprietary issue values, 1918-29 Stock Transfer, National Tea Co. Cert for less than 100 shares, Cigar Tax, Alcohol Pre-Prohibition, Playing Cards from the second issue. It also included Canada various Queen Victoria Bill stamps, overprints for Nova Scotia, 1875 Gas Inspection, Cigarettes, Manitoba Consolidated Fund overprint, Quebec Unemployment, Property Transfer issues, Spanish West Indies revenues, Philippine Islands Giro Money Transfer, Cuba Giro Money Transfer, Costa Rica Treasury, Haiti revenues and various Christmas Seals.

All About Mozart

14 May

This display was given by John Fitzsimons and included a postcard showing Mozart's birth place, Austrian 2h Marie Theresa imperf pair, fdc for Michael Haydn and 1959 Joseph Haydn fdc, 1946 Salzburg Festival card, Czechoslovakia 1956 Artists die proof, covers, stamps and min sheets showing various works including Jupiter Symphony No 41, Wallis and Futuna de luxe proof for the Marriage of Figaro Opera, France 1991 sheetlet for the Magic Flute, Belgium 1991 Mozart's 200 Death Anniv slogan meter mark, Russia 1937 Pushkin sheet, Hungary 1934 Franz Liszt min sheet.

Canada, Work in Progress

28 May

This display was given by Mike Burrington our Vice-President. It was in two sections - The 1897 Diamond Jubilee issue which included 3c plate proof pair, set of issued stamps $\frac{1}{2}$ c - \$5 as well as the plate proofs, various re-entries showing doubling of letters, 20c value with major re-entry, cover with 1c printed matter rate, 1c and 2c Carrier Drop letter rates, 2c stationery cover uprated with 1c value, 1c stationery postcard printed by the American Bank Note Co. for domestic rate. The second section was the 1927 Confederation Anniversary issue and included 1c printed matter rate covers with bi-lingual Diamond Jubilee cancels, 1927 1c wrapper uprated with 1c to pay 2c per 2 oz rate for printed paper, 4c postcard rate to Denmark, 24 Aug 1928 domestic airmail 5c for first oz rate, 1927 12c Confederation Jubilee Flight cover Montreal to Vancouver scheduled for 27 July but abandoned, A R for receipt of registered letter at 10c.

British West Indies

11 June

This display was given by Norman Finnie and was on the subject of Specimens to 1948. Included in the display was Antigua 1913 5s Geo V value, 1921-22 $\frac{1}{2}$ d - 4s values 1932 Tercent of the Colony set, Leeward Islands 1922 Specimen Barbuda overprint, $\frac{1}{2}$ d-5s values, Barbados 1897 Diamond Jubilee overprint, Bermuda 1937 Geo V pictorial definitives perfined "Specimen", Jamaica 1879 3d, 1s Telegraph stamps overprinted, Montserrat 1916-22 Geo V definitives overprinted, 1932 Tercent of the Colony issue perfined, St Kitts Nevis Geo V ~~10~~ 1920 definitives set overprinted, St Lucia 1936 pictorial definitives set perfined, St Vincent 1899 Q. Vict definitives to 5s overprinted, Trinidad 1899 unissued 3d on 5d Britannia value overprinted.

French Tourism

25 June

This display was given by Bob Cruickshank. Included in this display was stamps, postcards, maxi cards and maps of the various areas under discussion. These showed such areas as Quimper, Dinan, Forest of Paimpont (maxi card), Vitre, St Malo, Chateaubriand all in Brittany. Paris included Palais Royal, La Conciergerie, Fountain of the Innocents, The Louvre, Maxi card, Musee Carnavalet, Pompidou Centre, Notre Dame, Place de la Concorde, Opera Bastille, The Sorbonne, a postcard of the Pantheon, Eiffel Tower, Les Invalides, Arc de Triomphe, Musee de la Poste, Stade Olympique Colombe. The display also included Chateau Laval, La Mons and La Rochelle.

Belgium

9 July

This display, the last of the 2014/15 season was given by Tom Hassett. Included in this display was 1941 Fund for Queen Elizabeth's Concert Hall min sheet, 1942 Winter Relief Fund issue, 1943 Prisoners of War Fund, Orval Abbey Restoration Fund first day sheet, 1943/44 Winter Relief Fund, 1944 Anti T-B Fund, Prisoner of War Relief Fund, 1946 Ostend-Dover Mail Boat Service Cent maxi card for each value, 1949 Belgian Stamp Cent issue, 1950 European Athletic Games issue, 1951 UNESCO issue, Queen Elizabeth Medical Foundation Fund, 1952 13th UPU Congress issue, King Baudouin definitives, 1954 Rotary International Conf. issue, 1956 200th Birth Anniversary of Mozart issue, 1957 Cultural Relief Funds, Belgian Antarctic Expedition issue and min sheet, 1958 Cultural Relief Funds issue.

WEST LONDON - A THEMATIC SERIES

Ecclesiastical Westminster - Part 1

Westminster Abbey

The City of Westminster takes its name from the Abbey of the same name. A benedictine Abbey existed on the site and was constructed between 730 and 740 before the present building which was dedicated to St. Peter.

Between 1042 and 1065 St Edward the Confessor restored the Abbey which was consecrated on 28 December 1065. Edward's restoration of the Abbey was a condition of the pope's for freeing him from a solemn promise to go on a pilgrimage to Rome. He died on 5 January 1066 and was buried behind the High Altar.



On Christmas Day 1066 William the Conqueror was crowned in the Abbey since when it has been the Coronation Chapel. Every monarch excepting Edward V and Edward VIII have been crowned there. In 1245 Henry III decided to honour St Edward the Confessor (canonised by Pope Alexander III in 1161) by beginning the re-building of the entire church in the more magnificent style as it appears today.



For the re-building Henry III decided to base its design on the great Norman Cathedrals at Rheims and Amiens. The new church was consecrated in 1269 and from then until the reign of George III became the royal burial church. From George III's reign royal burials take place at Windsor.



In 1503 Henry VII began building work on his magnificent chapel and which was not completed until 1519. It was intended as a shrine to Henry VI who it was hoped the pope would canonise. This however did not happen and it became the tomb of Henry VII himself.



Benedictine Westminster was closed in 1540 during the Reformation by Henry VIII. However, because of its status as the Coronation and Royal Chapel it did not suffer as much damage as others did at that time. It was restored during the reign of Catholic Mary but closed again in 1560 during the reign of Protestant Elizabeth. And the church became what it is today: the Collegiate Church of St Peter in Westminster. Its Dean and Chapter are not answerable to either a bishop or the Archbishop of Canterbury but are directly answerable to the sovereign.



In 1680 Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St Paul's Cathedral was appointed the first surveyor of the Abbey. In 1725 the Chapel of Henry VII became the Chapel of the Order of the Bath reconstituted by George II. After 1812, however, no installation of Knights was held until 1913 when the ceremony was revived by George V with all the ancient pomp and the present banners placed in position.



The lower part of the West facade dates from about 1390, but was altered by Hawksmoor, the towers 225 ft high were added by the same architect about 1739. The whole of the exterior was restored by Wren and Wyatt between 1697 and 1720. Between 1875 and 1884 the facade of the North transept was entirely remodelled by Sir Gilbert Scott and J.L. Pearson.

Now that we have seen some of the history of Westminster Abbey let us now explore some aspects of this Church starting with the Nave.

Nave. Burial in the Nave took place only after the Reformation in order to raise money. A few paces from the West Door is a slab commemorating Sir Winston Churchill placed there on the wishes of the Queen and Parliament on the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Churchill is buried at Bladon, Oxfordshire. To the east is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

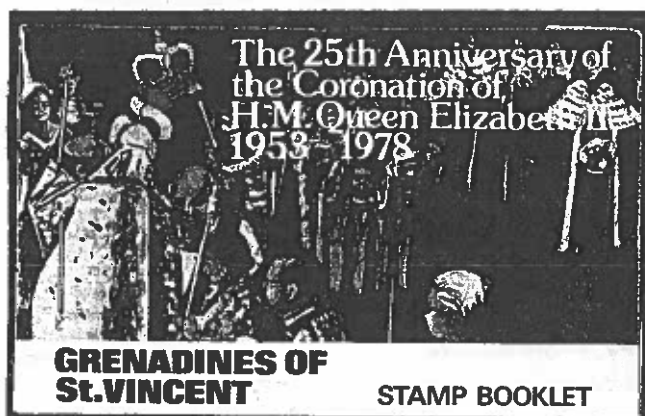
The graves of David Livingstone, Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Lord Rutherford are located there.



The graves of musicians Henry Purcell and Handel are located in the North Choir Aisle often called Musicians Aisle. Others commemorated here include Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Dr Burney, historian of Music.



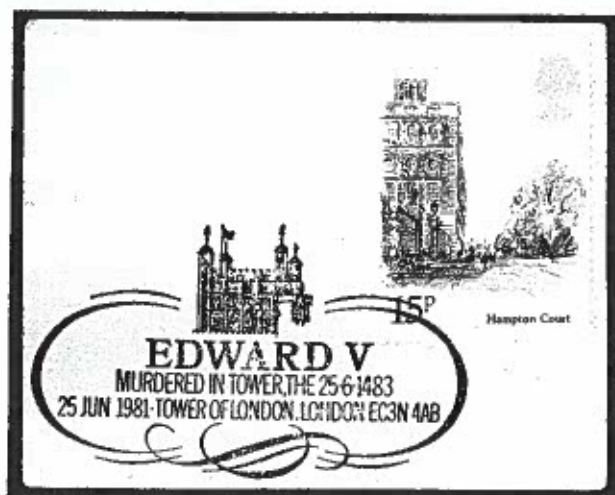
The Sanctuary or raised space within the altar-rails is where Coronations take place. The crowning itself takes place on the Coronation Chair known as St Edward's Chair. However, Edward III insisted on being crowned in the Chapel of Edward the Confessor and is the only crowned sovereign not to be crowned in the Sanctuary.



The North Transept is the burial place of several eminent statesmen. These include Henry Grattan, the Irish patriot and orator, William Gladstone and Clement (Earl) Attlee. William Pitt, Lord Palmerston and Lord Castlereagh, Benjamin Disraeli and Sir Robert Peel are all commemorated there.



Henry VII's Chapel is the resting place for many sovereigns such as Elizabeth I, Mary I (both buried in the same grave), Edward V and his brother Richard, Duke of York. George II is buried beneath the pavement between the door and the altar (the last sovereign buried in the Abbey). Edward VI is buried below the altar.



The South Aisle of Henry VII's Chapel contains a memorial to Cecil Rhodes and the graves of Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond mother of Henry VII, Charles II, Mary II, William III, Queen Anne and her husband Prince George of Denmark.





The last royal tomb to be erected in the Abbey was that of Mary, Queen of Scots. Her remains were removed to the South Aisle of Henry VII's Chapel in 1612 from Peterborough Cathedral.

QUATERCENTENARY OF THE DEATH
OF MARY STUART + QUEEN OF SCOTS



By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme
Troimh'n phost-adhair/Litir-adhair



SECOND FOLD HERE/AN DARA FILLEADH AN SEO

Poets Corner contains the graves of Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy as well as the ashes of T.S. Eliot. It takes its name from the graves of Chaucer and Spenser.



Others commemorated here include John Dryden, William Blake, Henry Longfellow, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Lord Byron and Oscar Wilde .



The East Chapel is now the Royal Air Force Chapel. It was dedicated in 1947 to those of the flying forces who lost their life in the Battle of Britain. The graves of Lords Trenchard and Dowding are located there.



Today royal weddings take place in the Abbey at the behest of the sovereign. This has only occurred since 1921 with the marriage of Princess Mary and Viscount Lascelles. Since then the marriages of George VI and the Queen Mother (1923), Princess Elizabeth (Elizabeth II) and the Duke of Edinburgh (1947), Princess Margaret and the Earl of Snowden (1960), Princess Anne and Capt Mark Philipps (1973), the Duke and Duchess of York (1986).

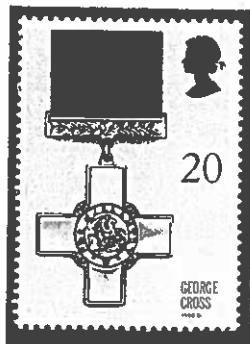


The most recent royal wedding to be held in Westminster Abbey was that of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in 2011.



Funeral services before burial at Windsor take place in the Abbey. However, the Duke of Windsor was not granted a funeral service there but at St George's Chapel, Windsor instead.

Westminster Abbey is still a place of special National Commemoration. In 2006 a service was held there to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Victoria Cross and the 50th Anniversary of the Charitable Status of the George Cross and was attended by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.



In the next issue I will continue with Ecclesiastical Westminster and deal with some Churches and the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace.

