

the Revealer

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

VOL. 71 NO. 1
WHOLE NUMBER 302

EARRACH
SPRING 2021



ISSN 0484-6125

Affiliate No. 21—The American Philatelic Society • Affiliate—Federations of Philatelic Societies of Ireland



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THE REVEALER

www.eirephilatelicassoc.org ISSN 0484-6125
Published quarterly by the Eire Philatelic Association: Membership dues are as follows: U.S. (\$20.00); Canada/Mexico (\$25.00); all other countries (\$30.00) by cheque or money order to EPA, PO Box 116 Maple Shade NJ 08052. **Dues may also be paid by Paypal to EPADUES@aol.com**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Richard Kelly

March, 2021

I remember seeing a cartoon where it shows a little fellow in front of a graph that is climbing increasingly. The caption was "Everything is going up, except my income!" The EPA is like the little fellow. The price of postage increased in January for mailing The Revealer. The cost of printing also went up. Our membership has increased only slightly. The net result is

(Continued on page 3)

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

The Association Secretary provides Coordinators with names and addresses of new members. Coordinators welcome new members and invite them to join the local Chapter

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Summer: June 7; Fall: Sep 7; Winter Dec 15; Spring March 7

Each Issue published about a month after above dates

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	Size (inches) Approx.	Single issue	4 issues (contract rate)
Full Page	7.4 X 9.7	\$160	\$550
Half Page Horizontal	7.4 X 4.9	\$90	\$320
Half Page Vertical	3.6 X 9.7	\$90	\$320
Quarter Page	3.6 X 4.8	\$50	\$180
Eighth Page	3.6 X 2.5	\$30	\$105

Camera ready copy required – Contact Richard Kelly at kellyrd@sbeglobal.net



Due to continuing delays in postal deliveries, increases in postal rates and printing costs, and the need to upgrade our web site, the Board of the ÉPA will be offering members two options in their membership rates and the delivery of our quarterly journal, *The Revealer*.

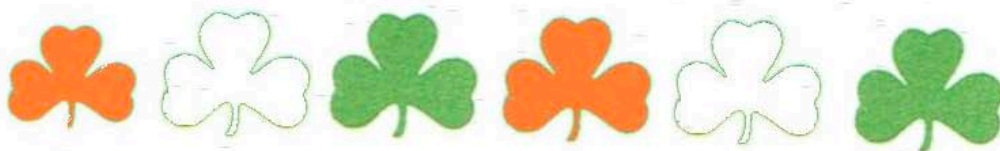
Starting with the Winter 2021-22 issue of *The Revealer*, members can have *The Revealer* delivered by two different methods, a hard copy or an electronic copy. Those that choose the hard copy option will continue to receive *The Revealer* as they do now, through the U.S. Postal Service. You will also receive the electronic version at no extra cost. Members who choose the electronic-only version will receive *The Revealer* on their computer via WeTransfer. On your computer, WeTransfer will provide a link (or a file folder) that will allow you to access *The Revealer*, and allow you to read it, save it or print out a hard copy. You must have a registered email address to receive the electronic version for either option. **This does not affect life members.**

The new dues structure will be:

- Electronic version World-wide.....\$20**
- Printed copy with electronic (US Only).....\$30**
- Printed copy with electronic (Outside US).....\$35**

You may change your membership option when you pay your annual dues which are due on September 1. Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful association.

Please be on the lookout for your dues envelope in early August.



Member Want Ads

Wanted: Ireland Slogan Cancels before 1938. Please provide scans and prices wanted to Steve Friedenthal: stevefr1@telus.net

"Want to acquire, either by direct purchase, or trade, the following mint overprints in GUTTER PAIRS. Contact, bhkimw@gmail.com, Bart EPA #2716

Hibernian/Scott's/Gibbons

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T5	5	6	4 PENCE,DOLLARD OVERPRINT
T9	9	4a	2 ½ PENCE,DOLLARD OVERPRINT
T10A	10A	6b	4 PENCE, DOLLARD OVERPRINT, IN CARMINE
PR8			½ PENCE,DOLLARD OVERPRINT IN RED
T16	16b	12	2 PENCE, DIE II, THOM OVERPRINT IN BLACK
T27	25	32	1 ½ PENCE,THOM OVERPRINT IN BLUE BLACK"

Congratulations to Ray Murphy for his Large Vermeil medal at the Sarasota Virtual Competition for the “Why Foynes?” article in the Autumn 2020 issue of The Revealer

President’s Message (continued from page 2)

higher cost than we are collecting dues. Some said, let’s reduce the number of issues. That is clearly a “no-brainer”. We have a top-quality magazine with what I hope you find, are interesting and useful articles.

You’ve probably also noticed that delivery time on mail has increased. Regardless of cause, pandemic or not, it is a reality. Not only that, but mail delivery is erratic. Mail to California may arrive weeks earlier than mail to Chicago - both mailed at the same time from Ohio. Overseas deliveries take far longer.

We’ve had a several meetings to discuss what we can do about these issues. In this issue of The Revealer, please note we are offering a new option for receiving the magazine. We will continue to offer the hard copy of The Revealer for dinosaurs like me who prefer reading it in bed, or other non-computer friendly locations. You will also receive the issue by “We Transfer” so you can read it on line, or, if you wish, save it to your computer and print off those parts you want. A second option is to receive the “WeTransfer” option without the printed copy at a reduced cost. This will cost us some to establish the system, but the advantage is everyone gets The Revealer through the computer system. No computer? Not a problem, if you choose this option, the printed copy will still come by mail. You can make your choice of options when you receive your dues notice in early August. The new system of delivery will go into effect with the Winter 2020-21 Revealer. See the article in this issue.

Since I’m talking about The Revealer, why don’t you write an article for it. You may have spotted something that has gone un-noticed for years. Last year, I happened to spot that the 1997 advertisement postal card for Pacific’97 had a smaller owl indicium - about 9% smaller than the sheet stamp or the 1997 advertising card for the New York Mega-Show (“The Shrinking Owl”, Fall 2019 The Revealer). Darned if I can tell you why, but it exists. You, too, can find things if you look. Who knows what else is out there?

I thank you for your continued support of this fine association.

Stay safe, and get vaccinated when available,

Regards,
Ray Murphy,

President, Eire Philatelic Association

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paddy **A**chill

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County Mayo

By Mike Doherty



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806

85

218

320

1923

C-3

903

Our first stop in County Mayo, (Scott 690) is just across the County Galway border. On the stamp is the text “Modern Architecture.” It is described in the Scott catalog as St. Mary’s Church and the ruins of Romanesque Monastery at Cong.” I looked at the stamp for a long time, and I could sort of see abstract representations of a church on the left edge of the image and a part of a ruin, but neither of these made sense given the phrase “Modern Architecture” on the right. There is an unidentified area filling the middle of the image.

The American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) to the rescue! My email to APRL describing my bafflement was answered by Scott Tiffney, who replied that the stamp featured a “Michael Lunt design featuring the Bord na Mona headquarters, Cong. He went on to explain that what I saw as the blank space in the middle of the stamp was a building. It was a building that had been occupied by Bord na Mona, but had been taken over by a mobile telecommunications company. The left side was in fact a stylized image of a church steeple. The right is a

stylized image of the abbey ruin. His email concluded with the comment that “The stamp combines the ‘old with the new’ as a homage of sorts to early Irish architecture and modern (at least in 1987) architecture.”

Let’s look at the church and abbey themselves. In the centre of the village of Cong one finds the ruins of the 13th century Augustinian abbey, one that has been repeatedly sacked and rebuilt. The abbey represented medieval Irish ecclesiastical architecture at its finest. St. Mary’s church was originally built opposite the abbey in the early 18th century. It has since been expanded, in part due to the largesse of the Guinness family, and is an active parish today.

Descriptions of Cong typically note that it was the main location at which the Quiet Man was filmed. Also mentioned is one of the great treasures of Ireland, the 12th century Cross of Cong (Scott 85). The cross of Cong exemplifies elements of the period 850-1150, including Scandinavian culture, Celtic metalwork art and Irish monastic traditions. The Cross of Cong was made for the Cathedral church of Tuam, County Galway, but was later moved to Cong Abbey in Mayo. Its function was to hold a fragment of the true cross, which no doubt accounts for its elaborate construction.

We go a bit northwest to see Black Lake (Scott 320), about 5 miles south of the town of Louisburgh and a couple of miles north of the area known as Delphi. Black Lake, or in Irish, Doo Lough, is a site associated with a specific event during *an Gorta Mor*, or “the great hunger,” the famine that ravaged Ireland in the latter part of the 1840s. Inspectors had been sent to determine who qualified for a 3 pound allowance of grain to be distributed at Louisburgh, but the decision about eligibility was to be made at Delphi. The people from Louisburgh who were starving had to walk the 11 miles from Louisburgh to Delphi. But no grain was distributed and the people had to walk back home. Nobody knows how many died during the windy night of March 30, 1849, but estimates are as high as 400. Local lore says that people were so weak that some were blown into the lake. There is an annual charity walk that commemorates that 1849 tragedy at Black Lake. One of the people who have made that walk was Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Another was the little girl, Kim Phuc, whose widely distributed photo showed her running naked in terror from her napalmed village in Vietnam.

On the road near Doo Lough is a rough cross, erected to the memory of those who died in the famine of 1841-1845. This monument was a gift from the third world people of Africa in recognition of the Irish famine relief efforts in Africa. Another famine monument asks, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi: *"How can men feel themselves honoured by the humiliation of their fellow beings?"*

A few miles from Louisburgh is Ireland’s holy mountain, Croagh Patrick (Scott C-3), a mountain that is claimed to have had a 5,000-year history of pilgrimage, from pagan times to Patrick’s times. According to Irish lore, St. Patrick fasted on this mountain for 40 days in the 5th century. It is climbed by thousands of pilgrims, some in bare feet, every year on the last Sunday in July. A small church was built on the summit in 1905. Croagh Patrick’s centrality as a sacred place is reflected in the fact that it was selected to represent the province of Connacht in the *Vox Hiberniae* series, as it shows St. Patrick’s messenger Victor flying over the mountain.

We move on to our next destination, Westport, a bit over 5 miles away from Croagh Patrick. There we can mail the postcards we have accumulated so far at the Westport Post Office (Scott 806). The Westport Post Office does not have the historical significance of the General Post Office in Dublin, but it was Ireland’s entry in the 1990 Europa series. We’ll explore this town a little, as it is one of the very few planned towns in Ireland. Its plan dates to 1780. It was planned according to the medieval principles for the design of a community brought to Ireland by the Normans in the 1200s. The River Carrow Beg flows through the village, which has tree-lined streets and promenades along the river. The beauty of the town is enhanced by a magnificent view of Croagh Patrick and by the adjacent Clew Bay.

In his 1842 *Irish Sketchbook*, William Makepeace Thackeray described Westport as:

"The most beautiful view I ever saw in the World. It forms an event in one's life to have seen that place so beautiful that is it, and so unlike other beauties that I know of. Were such beauties lying on English shores it would be a World's wonder perhaps, if it were on the Mediterranean or Baltic, English travellers would flock to it by hundreds, why not come and see it in Ireland."

The main house in Westport is the 18th century Westport House, built on the foundations of the 15th century O'Malley castle, home to the famous pirate queen, Grace O'Malley. If you're interested in pirates or have some young ones traveling with you, the grounds of the house now boast a "Pirate Adventure Park."

Now we make our way northeast a short way to the village of Ballintubber, just south of the county town of Castlebar. The major attraction in, or rather near, the village is Ballintubber Abbey (Scott 218), originally built in 1216 by King Cathal O'Connor. The abbey, on the shore of Lough Carra, is the last active church in Ireland that was built by an Irish king, and it has operated almost continuously for centuries, including the penal times. As you might suspect by now, it has seen much destruction and rebuilding over the eight centuries of its existence. It was burnt as early as 1265, according to the Annals of the Four Masters. It suffered the same fate at the hands of Cromwell's army in 1653. Restoration began in the fateful year of 1846, the first year of the famine, but was suspended for the four years of the national disaster.

Ballintubber takes its name from the Gaelic "Baile an Tobair," which translates as "the village of the well," because St. Patrick is said to have built a church there near a well at which he baptized converts to Christianity. At this point it might be useful to point out that wells have a great significance among Irish Catholics. Years ago a cousin showed me a holy well in Tipperary that was believed to have healing powers. He explained that devout people would come and leave something associated with a sick loved one, often a child, in the hope that the saint associated with the well would intervene and bring about healing. The bushes were, in fact, dotted with small pictures, little children's socklets, pieces of cloth and small religious icons. As we stood there, a woman approached, filled a small bottle and drank the water. My cousin shuddered at the idea, as there was no reason to think that the water was at all pure.

While on the topic of beliefs of a religious/pagan nature, I'll take a little more time for an aside on the topic, dealing with another personal experience in this island of myth and legend. An Irish acquaintance took my wife and me to a very old cemetery, one still in use, to explain some ancient practices. It was almost as if he had arranged a performance. He explained that people visiting a family grave used to walk exactly nine circles clockwise around the gravesite. As he went on to explain something else an elderly man came in, stopped at a gravesite, and respectfully walked clockwise around it nine times! Another practice he described involved an attempt to enhance one's fertility. It was touching the vulva of a sheela na gig (You'll have to google it!). The church had aggressively removed these icons from around Ireland, but the ruined chapel in this old cemetery had one adorning a lintel atop a space that once had held a window. As we stood in the cemetery a woman came in and slowly walked around the ruined chapel. When she thought we weren't looking she went quickly up to that window and hopped up (she was short) to reach up and touch the appropriate place in the sheela na gig!

Back to nature now as we go northwest in Mayo to Ballycroy National Park (Scott 1923), established in 1998 and covering almost 30,000 acres. In the park is one of the largest blanket bogs in Europe. Hence, the park is habitat to great biodiversity. Being, for example, the roosting, feeding and breeding ground for several migratory species, it is covered by conservation directives of the European Union. In the midst of this beautiful wild country is a modern building with exhibitions of what the park has to offer. One of the sources I checked raved about the café in the building!

Our last stop in Mayo again takes us back thousands of years to the stone age. That stop is the céide fields (Scott 903), twenty-four square miles of the remains of a highly skilled and organized agrarian society that had been covered for millennia by a blanket bog. The site is near Ballycastle in the north of County Mayo. The first

inkling that such a field existed was in 1937 when a schoolteacher was cutting peat for fuel. When he got deep enough he discovered orderly stacks of stones. Radiocarbon dating and comparison with other antiquities have led archaeologists to date the stones to about 3,000 B.C. Most of the site is still covered by bog. The field has been partially mapped and is known to have a network of parallel stone enclosures with stone walls a mile and a quarter long. It is difficult to imagine the social organization that enabled those people of 5 millennia ago to clear the forests and move the millions of stones necessary to build miles of walls.



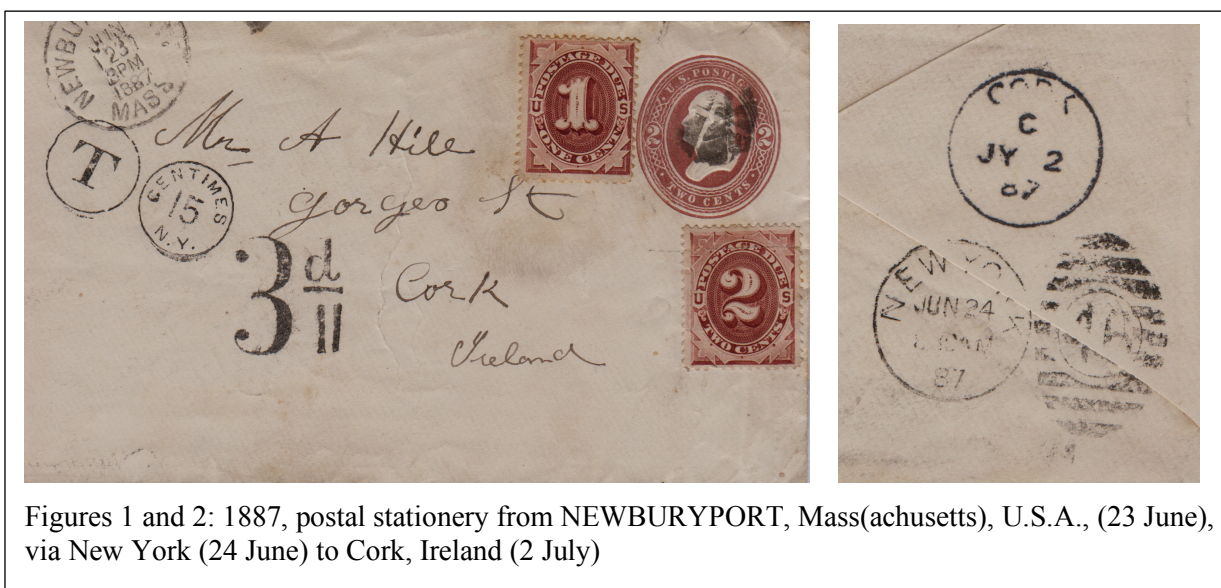
Postage Due Stamps Used as Franking

By Hans Bergdolt

On the two covers shown in this article, postage due stamps were used for franking. Were the senders unaware that this was not permissible or did they simply hope that the letters would go through? In any case, the affixed postage due stamps were considered invalid for pre-payment of postage and postage due was charged accordingly.

Where did these postage due stamps come from? Were they sold to collectors? I am not aware of the policy in the U.S.A. at the end of the 19th century with regard to postage due stamps, but in 1935 philatelists started collecting postage due stamps and the Irish Post Office sold them to collectors.

I show here letters from different time periods, namely 1887 and 1935. Does any collector know of letters to or from Ireland for which franking with postage due stamps was accepted and therefore, no extra fee was charged?



Figures 1 and 2: 1887, postal stationery from NEWBURYPORT, Mass(achusetts), U.S.A., (23 June), via New York (24 June) to Cork, Ireland (2 July)

In Figure 1, the sender used a postal stationery envelope of U.S. two cents for domestic postage. The sender also added 3 cents for the foreign postal rate of 5 cents, but used postage due stamps for that purpose. The U.S. Post Office only accepted the 2 cents of the postal stationery. So, there was a deficit of 3 cents.

The U.P.U. treaty of 1 April 1879 (Paris) said that the country of dispatch was to indicate a T for tax and the simple deficit equivalent in French centimes. The recipient country was to double the amount, convert it into national currency and collect it from the recipient. That was the case here.

The U.S. Postal Service used the then standard stamp with a **T** and the often-charged amount of **15 CENTIMES**, **N.(ew)Y.(ork)** for this letter. Doubled the amount in Dublin and converted, the amount was now **3d** (three British pence). This was charged to the recipient.

The due postmark used is relatively rare. The two "dashes" below the "d" are actually supposed to be triangles. They are only found in Ireland and have mutated over the years into strokes.

The calculation of the 3d in both directions was actually quite simple back then. The U.P.U. had fixed the postal tariffs for international traffic. Since the currency parities remained unchanged until after World War I, the parity of charges also remained until then. In the United Kingdom (U.K.), of which Ireland was then a part, the charge for domestic mail was 1d (one penny), for international mail 2½d. The difference between domestic and cross-border letters, as shown in the letter from the U.S.A., was therefore 1½d in Ireland. Doubled this amounted to the postage of 3d, which was also the result of the conversion of the doubled 15 French Centimes, i.e. 30 Fr. C. (for interesting information on Newbury, Massachusetts, see end note).



Figure 3: 1935. from Dublin (BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH; 8 May) via New York to Baltimore

This letter, Figure 3, with postage due stamps ran through the cancelling machine in Dublin like any other letter, and given the slogan cancel **BUY AT SOARSTAT FAIR BALLS BRIDGE DUBLIN, MAY 7 – 11**. The slogan advertises a fair in Ballsbridge (usually at the RDS), a district of Dublin (well known to former STAMPA visitors).

At the receiving New York G.P.O. the postage due stamps were recognized as invalid and surrounded with small circles as specified by the UPU. The letter was thus marked as unstamped.

The U.P.U. Treaty of Madrid (rates from 1 January 1922 to 31 January 1966) stated that the country of dispatch was to indicate a T and double the deficit in gold centimes. Although the sender had provided 3 pence in total, but in postage due stamps. This amount provided for foreign postage to most destinations; but until the 1940s there was a special charge for letters to the U.S.A. and some other countries at 2d instead of 3d per ½ ounce. The shortfall of 2d in the foreign postage to the U.S.A. was now doubled and converted into 40 gold centimes.

I know of many postmarks from the foreign department of the GPO Dublin with the T and the fee to be charged in the hexagon. The amounts in the postmarks of my letters range from 5 to 30 gold centimes (figure 4). For higher amounts, hand-stamps without denominations were used and the amount was inserted by hand (figure 5) as in the letter described here, the amount was written in by hand, i.e. T 40 (centimes).



Figure 4: Hexagonal T16 marking with 6 cents postage due stamps



Figure 5: Hexagonal T marking with manuscript 40 (centimes)

In New York, the GPO noted the amount to be collected also in handwriting with **8 (U.S.) C(ent) DUE** and then stamped it: **NEW YORK N.Y./G.P.O./DUE 8 CENTS** (not shown). But only 2c were affixed in Baltimore. Why? In all my other letters with US postage due stamps the missing amounts were completely covered by adding the necessary postage due stamps. Other stamps with a total of 6c, like the 2c stamp, must have covered the postage due somehow. Or they were affixed someplace else on the front or back?

But there are no traces of removed stamps. The paper on the entire cover is even, overall smooth and without any traces of stamps that might have been removed. Nothing is visible near the oval part of the postmark above the postage due either.

As an aside, the sender was staying at the **SHELBOURNE HOTEL, DUBLIN** (figure 6). This hotel is well known to most visitors to Dublin. For a collector of hotel covers this would have been a nice item. But no one else noticed it.

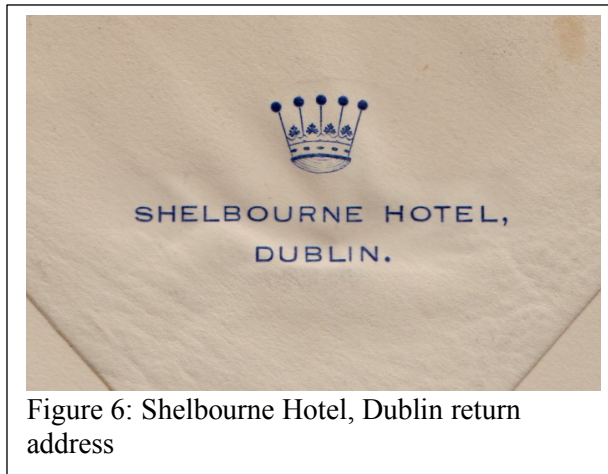


Figure 6: Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin return address

Figure 7 is a 1938 British postcard with slogan cancel Ballsbridge Spring Show and postage due. Apparently, slogan cancels for the Ballsbridge Fair were in use for many years. Here, a postcard dated April 7, 1938. The slogan reads **VISIT THE SPRING SHOW BALLSBRIDGE DUBLIN MAY 3 - 7.**



Figure 7: U.K. postcard mailed from Dublin and taxed 2d

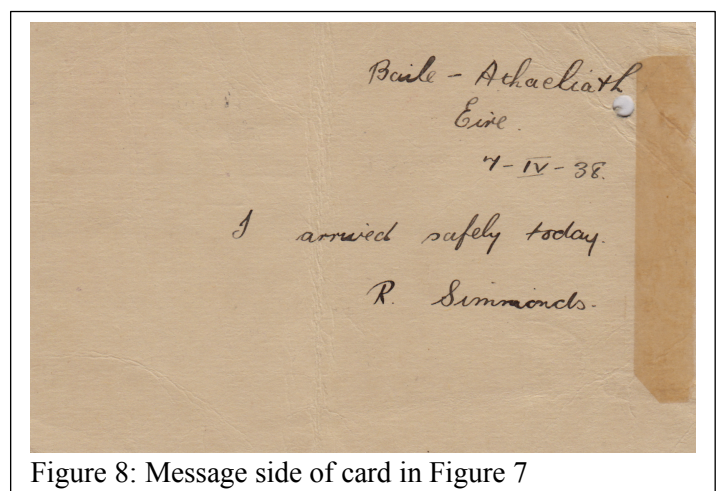


Figure 8: Message side of card in Figure 7

The British postcard with an imprint of King George V was of course not valid for postage in Ireland. But the reverse shows why the sender used it (figure 8). The sender told the recipient in Norfolk of their safe arrival in Dublin and used the British postcard which had brought with them. In Dublin, the postage due was denoted, the stamp imprint was framed and the double postage of 1d was noted as postage due with the postmark **2^d TO PAY 186**. 186 is the post office numeral for Dublin. The postage was probably not charged in Norfolk. The post office there seems to have accepted that the postage was actually paid with the British franking.

End note

English place names dominate the region around Newburyport at the east coast of the USA, such as Londonderry, Manchester, Gloucester and Portsmouth.

Newburyport

It is always interesting to take a closer look at the places where our covers are sent to or where they are from. I do not need to say anything about Cork in Ireland. But it is interesting to note the place of dispatch of the letter of 1887: Newburyport.

Wikipedia tells us that the city of Newbury in the US state of Massachusetts was founded in 1635. The associated port split off in 1764 as Newburyport. If you have a look at a map of the region, you will find many place names that sound as if they could be in England. See

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newburyport,_Massachusetts Perhaps the first immigrants came from Newbury in the south of England. It is interesting to note which ancestry the inhabitants stated in the 2010 census (according to Wikipedia) 25% stated Irish, only 16% English.

Translated by Richard Lütticken with much assistance from DeepL/Translator (free version)



From Ireland to Switzerland Before the UPU

By Hans Bergdolt

Postal relations within the territory of present-day Switzerland were difficult until 1849. Each canton was sovereign, had its own currency and its own postal system. It was not until October 1, 1949, that a postal administration for the whole of Switzerland was established, headquartered in Bern.

The dispatch of letters from the United Kingdom (U.K.), including Ireland, to Switzerland was not easy even well after 1949. Until the end of 1868, the U.K. postal treaties with France, Prussia and other administrations were applied to letters from Ireland to Switzerland. On January 1, 1969, a separate postal treaty between Switzerland and the U.K. came into force.

Private and business relations between Ireland and Switzerland in the 19th century, were not frequent and therefore, postal traffic was not large. Nevertheless, the author was able to collect some covers over the years. The most interesting ones are presented here. These all went via Calais and Paris through France which offered the cheapest rate; other routes via Belgium, Prussia and others were much more expensive.

Information for the descriptions comes partly from the philatelic literature, however, this is often insufficient. I often have to interview collectors and/or the respective philatelic societies to acquire more complete information.

The legible postmarks etc. are shown in text in bold letters and the corresponding colour.

1845. from Kinsale, County Cork, to Bern; forwarded to Lucerne –

This letter was posted in **KINSALE SE 2 1845** (Figure 1). Via Dublin **PAID SE 30 1845**, London, Calais and **Delle 9 Sept. 1845** it reached the **BRIEF-DISTRIBUTION Bern 10? 45** (letter distribution centre; Figure 2a). Delle (Franche-Comte) was at that time an important French border crossing point for letters to Switzerland (Figure 2b).



Figure 1: 1845 pre-stamp letter from Kindale to Bern



Figure 2a: Reverse of letter



Figure 2b: Shows Delle in relation to Switzerland

The sender paid the entire postage to Bern in advance (Moubray says “To destination”), therefore **pre-paid** is handwritten in the upper left-hand corner. This was possible as of June 1, 1843. The postage for up to ¼ ounce (about 7.5 grams) was 5d (pence) for Ireland and Great Britain and 9d for France (and Switzerland) from June 1, 1843 to 1945, a total of 14d, i.e., 1 shilling (sh) and 2d. this was noted and hand written by the local postman: **5B**(ritish) for Ireland and England, 9 F(oreign) for the other countries, here France and Switzerland, together **½** (sh). France and Switzerland charged the fees among themselves.

Mr. Wood Ryder, who was to receive the letter in Bern poste restante, had already travelled onwards. The letter was therefore forwarded to **LUZERN 11 9 45**. The recipient paid **6** Kreuzer, noted in red ink (faded) at bottom besides ‘Bern’, for the passage from Bern to Lucerne. These consist of 2 Kreuzer for the Bern to Lucerne portion (see rust-red 2 at the top right of the letter) plus 4 Kreuzer for delivery in Lucerne. The letter consists of 4 pages, the address page and 3 pages with very tightly written text (the first text page is shown in Figure 3). Unfortunately, I cannot decipher the writing. The recipient has cut out half a line at the bottom. Did it contain something secret?

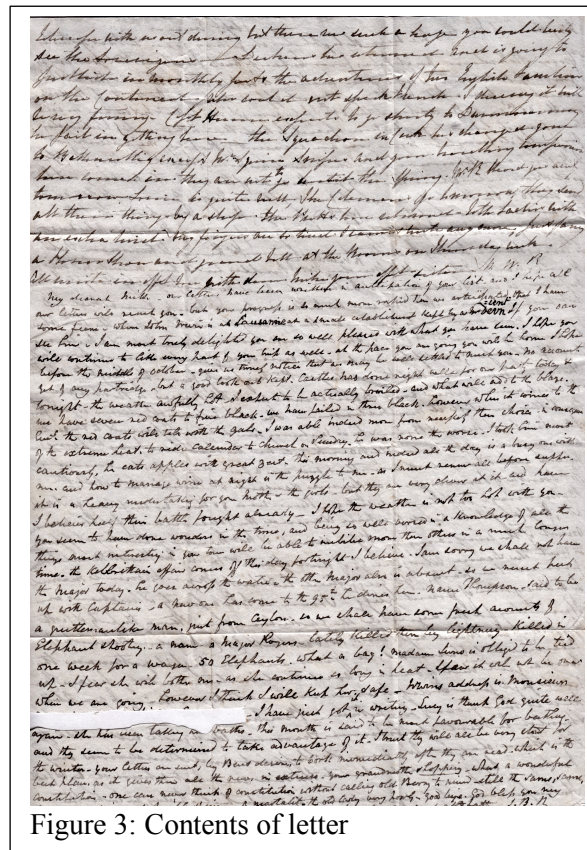


Figure 3: Contents of letter

1854. from Colooney, Co. Sligo, to Geneva –

A small folded letter (Figures 4 and 5), posted on October 31. From **COLOONEY OC 31 1854** via Dublin **NO 1 1854/A** and **London 2 NO 2 1854**. Unfortunately the postmark of Calais to the left of the 10d stamp is hardly legible: **Angl**(eterre) – **NO**(vember)--. The postage was 11d from December 1, 1845 to November 31, 1854 and for up to ¼ ounce to the final destination; paid with 10d and 1d stamps.



Figure 4: Letter from Colooney Oct. 31 1854.



Figure 5: Reverse of letter in Figure 3

Therefore, **franco** stands for prepayment in the upper left corner. This can also be seen on the postmark **P-D** = Payee a Destination – paid to destination. This postmark has been struck on all letters presented here (until 1872).

Arrival postmark **GENEVE 4 VOVE 54**, indicates very rapid transport of this letter. It was then forwarded within Switzerland. In Geneva the: **a Epeisses sur Pully/grand** was added by hand. On present day maps we found the small village of Epeisses, i.e. without the 'I', which is now in the canton of Vaud. Epeisses probably belonged to the canton of Geneva at that time. The postal route went via Pully in the canton of Vaud. For the forwarding **15** Rappen was raised (centre in large red letters, hardly visible).

The franking is very pretty. The imperforated 10d stamp is very well cut. Although the postal-historical significance is more important to me than the stamp it was certainly the fine 10d stamp, that determined the price I paid for the cover. Figure 6, shows the message of the letter. It was common practice to write additional lines in the opposite direction to save paper, which would have increased the postal charge.

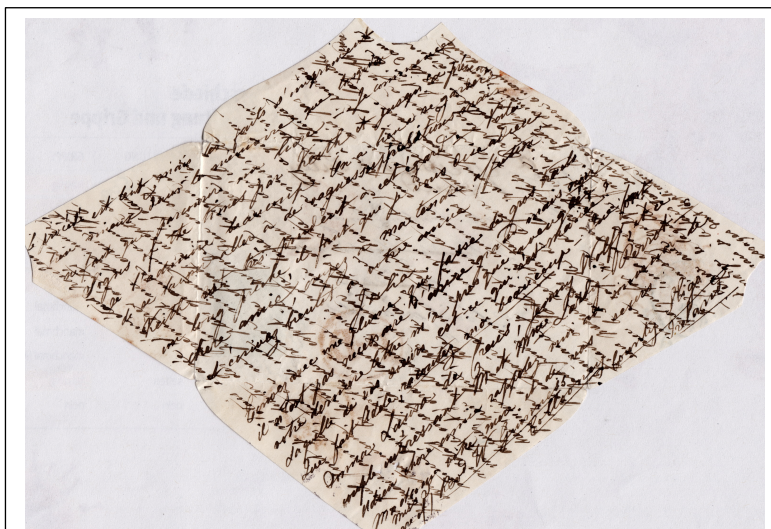


Figure 6: Message inside cover

1859. from Drogheda, Co. Louth, to Trelex near Nyon in the canton of Vaud (Waadt) –

The envelope was posted in Drogheda and marked there with **DROGHEDA J(ul)Y 30 1859** spoon, number of the PA: 179 (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Letter from Drogheda

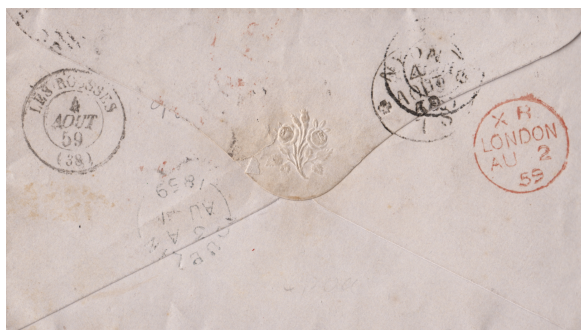


Figure 8: Reverse of letter

It was stamped **DUBLIN 3A AU(gust) 1 1859** (lightly applied on reverse) and **LONDON 2 AU 59**. The first postmark in France was of course the **Angl(eterre) Amb(bulant) Calais 2 AOUT 59**. It reached Switzerland via the French border post office **LES ROUSSES/4 AOUT 59** near Lake Geneva. The postmark of the main post office in Switzerland **NYON 4 AOUT 59** (Figure 8) is also seen. The postal rate appears to be quite reasonable for those times, 6d for $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce from January 1, 1857 to November 12, 1865.

1868. from Moate, Co. Down, to Geneva –

Posted in **Moate AU 16 68**. Via **London Au 17 68** the letter arrived in Geneve 19 VIII 68 (Figures 9 and 10).



Figure 9: Letter from Moate to Geneva



Figure 10: Reverse of letter

Again, the postage rate has been reduced: 5d per $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce from November 13 1865 to June 30 1875. On July 1 1875, the Universal Postal Union Treaty came into force.

1872. from Queenstown, Co. Cork, to Basel –

Posted at **Queenstown JU(ne) 7 72**, marked with Post Office numeral 157. Carried as usual through France by rail: **ANGL.AMD. Calais A/8 JUN 72** (Figure 10). Marked in Switzerland: **?ETRANGER (foreign) 9 JUN 72** and in **Basel 10 VI 72 XI** (Figure 11).



Figure 11: Letter Queenstown to Basel

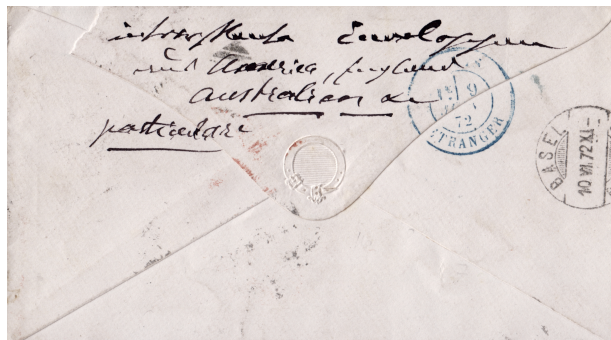


Figure 12: Reverse of letter

The postage remained the same as for the letter from 1868, i.e. 5d per $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce. But why did the sender affix a pair of 3d (=6d) stamps? Had he franked it for the route via Belgium because of a possible higher weight? There, from January 1 1869 on, 6d would have covered a letter of up to a weight of 1 ounce (approximately 28 grams). And, the $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce would have cost only 3d. At that time the post office transported letters via France or via Belgium, depending on the franking. Was the route through France more sensible here?

On the reverse of the cover, (Figure 12), there is some handwritten information. However, these remarks appear to have nothing to do with the route of the letter. Nevertheless, I asked some philatelists to decipher them. The

interpretation of David MacDonnell seems to me to make the most sense: “Interesting envelopes of South America, England and Australia in particular.”

My thanks to Robert Büuml, who helped me the places and stamps in Switzerland, and to Mr. Roth of the Swiss Postal History Association for the tariff explanation of the letter of 1845. Translated by Richard Lütticken with much assistance from DeepL.com/Translator (free version).



The Irish Famine Label of 1998 and the 1999 Irish – U.S. Joint Emigration-Immigration Stamps Issues

By Heinz-Jürgen Kumpf, AIJP

In 1996, the Eire Philatelic Association asked the US Stamp Advisory Committee, who were at a stamp issue ceremony in New York City, to consider a stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Irish Famine. Some designs were proposed by the Irish Community in the US for a stamp remembering the saddest chapter in Irish history: The Great Famine – An Gorta Mor.

Even protests by the “Ancient Order of Hibernians in America” were not successful despite their letter of January 20, 1998, and the involvement of US Congressmen who were in favor of such an issue.

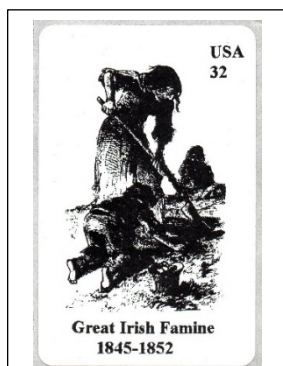


Figure 1: Great Irish Famine essay

The position of the United States Postal Service (USPS) for such an issue was not very supportive because political and historical objections in particular of the USPS were against such a sensitive issue. The official justification for this decision was given in a letter to Mr. Gallagher (an EPA contact person) on September 4, 1998 as follows: "Due to the demands of stamp designs and reproduction requirements, it is our policy not to review or accept unsolicited artwork."

In disagreement with this rejection a Mr. Jim Mullin prepared his own "Famine stamp sticker" aimed at the intransigent position taken by the USPS in not selecting this historical event for a commemorative postage stamp. His label was then used for political and propaganda purposes on letters within the US and abroad on its front or on reverse.

The label shows in black and white a starving mother poking around with a long shovel on a field for single potatoes which are then collected by a kneeling boy and then put into a bucket. A sitting young girl in the background is observing the scene. The design bears on the right upper part the letters USA and thereunder the value of 32 (cents). The lower part bears the inscription: Great Irish Famine 1845-1852.

One of the four paintings selected from the National Gallery in Dublin, it shows Irish Immigrants on the underdeck of a so called "coffin ship". None were selected

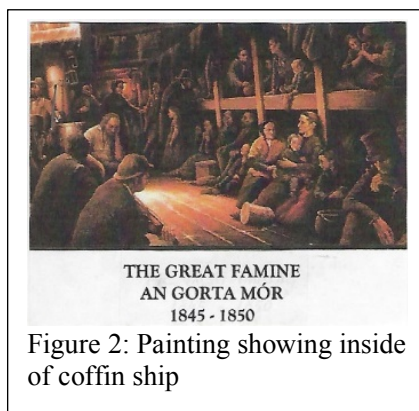


Figure 2: Painting showing inside of coffin ship

In the above-mentioned USPS letter, Dated September 4, 1998, Mr. Gallagher was also told that a stamp would now be issued "to honor the

Irish Immigrants who came to this country (the US) between 1845 and 1850, to escape the "Irish Potato Famine". In other words, USPS had officially changed the emphasis of the issue from "Irish Famine" to "Irish Immigration." The reason for this change of focus, being a compromise, so as not to offend "our British cousins"; and secondly to take on board the viewpoint of the Stamp Advisory Committee's members being that to portray famine could be an embarrassment.

However, the rejection of a proposed stamp design for "ethical" reasons is not unique in the philatelic world. Germany, for instance, had a similar problem in 1961 when the German Postal authorities prepared the issue of a stamp to advertise fund-raising for hungry people worldwide, under the heading "Brot für die Welt" (Bread for the world) depicting a starving child with and eating bowl. The stamp was withdrawn a few days before its issue because the design was seen to be inappropriate for a stamp.



Figure 3: Brot für Die Welt withdrawn stamp

The withdrawn stamp was then replaced by an alternative stamp a year later on November 23, 1962, with a revised design showing only the words "BROT FÜR DIE WELT".

The final joint issues by An Post "Irish EMIGRATION" and by USPS "IRISH IMMIGRATION," both show symbolic sailing ships on their way from Ireland to the USA. Without a doubt, the designs now convey a more positive and friendly impression.



Figure 4: Re-issued stamp



Figure 5: Irish Emigration/Immigration U.S. and Ireland joint issues

On February 26, 1999, several ceremonies “celebrating the issuance of the Irish Immigration Stamp by the United States Postal Service and the Emigration Stamp by An Post” took place at three different locations in the US. In Boston, Massachusetts at Smith Hall of the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum at Columbia Point – see also the invitation below. The event in Boston also marked the 150th anniversary of the arrival of

Kennedy (and of the late President John Kennedy), from Ireland in 1849 – this was the (real) reason to select this date for the joint issuance of the Irish – US stamps 150 years later.



Figure 6: Invitation folder for stamp release in Boston

The Boston official invitation folder for the commemorative stamp ceremony on February 26, 1999 contains inter alia the stamps of the joint issue with the respective commemorative postmarks. It also includes a short story about when the first wave of emigrants from Ireland came to the New World” until their descendants reached a population of about 40 million in 1990. The grey-green facsimile of an old Irish passport includes the program of the commemorative stamp ceremony.

A special invitation “to a ceremony celebrating the issuance of the Irish Immigration Stamp...and the Irish Emigration Stamp...” was

also produced by the USPS. All the information was part of an

illustrated A4-size folder for the participants attending the Stamp Ceremony. The other locations of the ceremony were in Chicago, Illinois; and the West Caldwell Post Office, New Jersey.

In Ireland the ceremony of the stamp issue took place in Cobh, the place where the majority of emigration ships departed for ports in America, Canada and Australia.

Different First Day Covers were produced in the US and Ireland with the single US and Irish stamp each and together with different First Day cancellations.



Figure 7: Official Irish FDC with joint issue with reduced size Boston First day roller (6,8 x 2,1 cm)

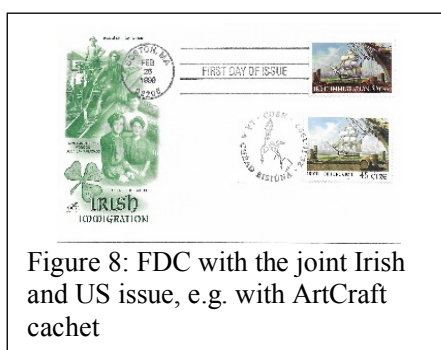


Figure 8: FDC with the joint Irish and US issue, e.g. with ArtCraft cachet

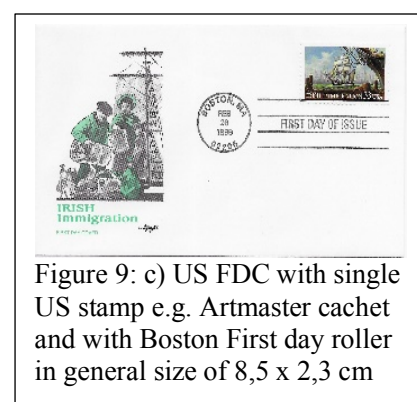


Figure 9: c) US FDC with single US stamp e.g. Artmaster cachet and with Boston First day roller in general size of 8,5 x 2,3 cm

12 different US FDCs with illustrations of the Irish Famine all with the same Boston roller cancel, dated FEB 26 1999, were also issued. Some examples are shown.

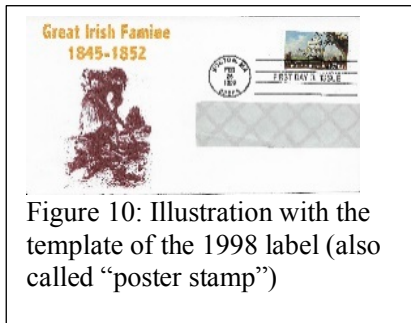


Figure 10: Illustration with the template of the 1998 label (also called "poster stamp")

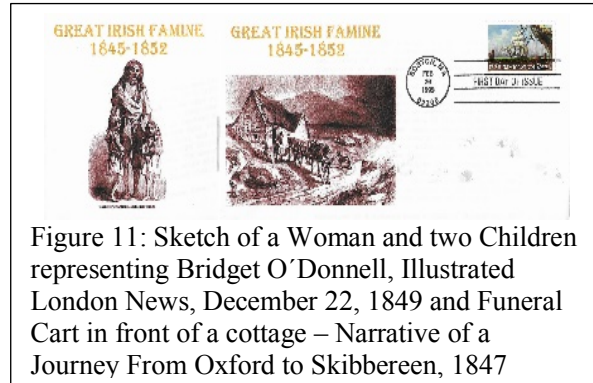


Figure 11: Sketch of a Woman and two Children representing Bridget O'Donnell, Illustrated London News, December 22, 1849 and Funeral Cart in front of a cottage – Narrative of a Journey From Oxford to Skibbereen, 1847



Figure 12: Irish Beggar Woman with her first born and "droll" boy, Illustrated London News, August 12 1843 and Famished Boy and Girl from Cahera turning up the ground to work for a potato to appease their hunger

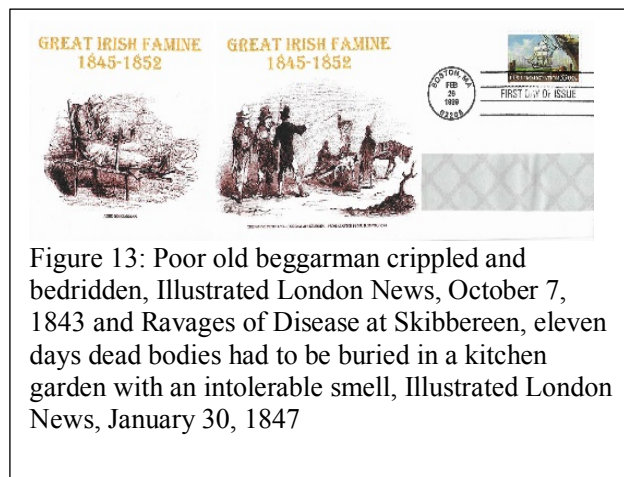


Figure 13: Poor old beggarman crippled and bedridden, Illustrated London News, October 7, 1843 and Ravages of Disease at Skibbereen, eleven days dead bodies had to be buried in a kitchen garden with an intolerable smell, Illustrated London News, January 30, 1847

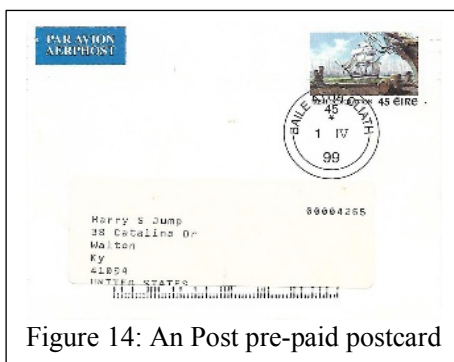


Figure 14: An Post pre-paid postcard

Later in April 1999 An Post also circulated, in the US, a special stationery postcard with the die of the Irish Emigration stamp it had a printed postmark DUBLIN 1 April 1999 and was used as an invitation to visit the ASDA New York Mega Show where the Irish post office also celebrated the joint issue of the Emigration stamps.

Here is a letter from Dave Brennan to the late Joe Foley from Bernardsville to Riva with a local red double ring cancel dated same day. As this "lable stamp" could give the impression of being an official stamp, it was not only "totally illegal" to print it, but also to have it tied on the front of the cover. Only a few covers have survived.



Figure 15: letter with tied label

My cordial thanks to Barney Clancy and Dave Brennan who supplied me with most of the material and documentation in connection with the label and respective stamps.



Uses After the First Day of Issue of the 1981 James Hoban Joint Issue

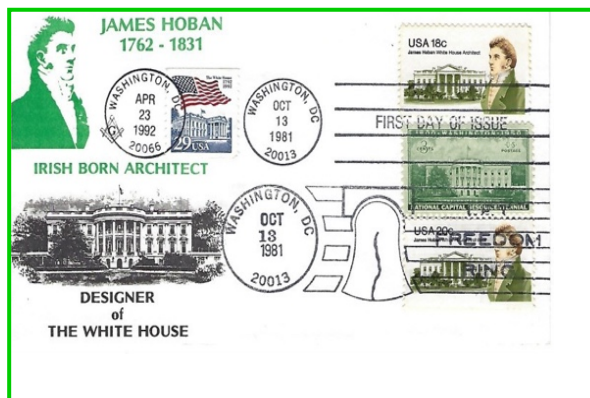
By Liam Malone

Part 2

- The 1992 US Flag over White House 29 cent Definitive



US Scott 2609, the 29-cent coil definitive was first issued April 23, 1992. Because it Celebrates the bicentennial of the White House many other US stamps including the Hoban stamp are affixed to first day covers making a wonderful study in and of itself. Here the focus is the connection to the James Hoban stamps.



This busy first day cover, left, includes both US Hoban stamps. The 20-cent is cancelled with an image of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Is this to draw attention to Hoban's years in the City of Brotherly Love? US Scott 990, the 3-cent green commemorative showing the south façade of the White House, is a common add-on to many covers honoring the White House.

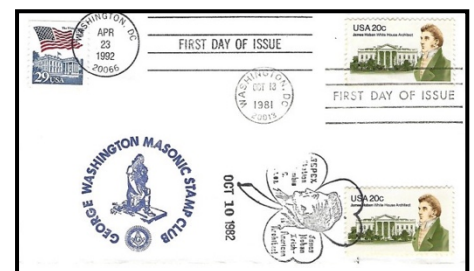
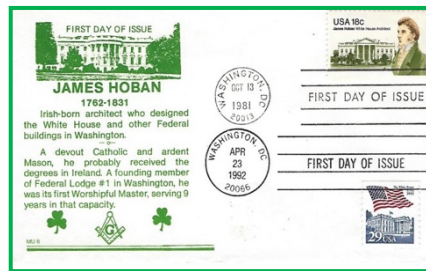
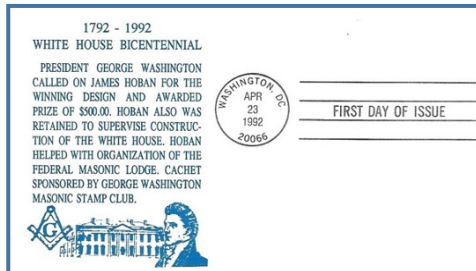
The hand-painted watercolor cachet, right, is particularly interesting because of its use of blue, generally such bust cachets are done in green. Notice the special delivery stamp along with Scott 990 cancelled on the first day in 1951 of the latter stamp. Then the cover was used again in 1992 for the coil first day of issue along with non-profit specific stamp of George Washington and his monument in Washington, D.C. This shows the creativity of cover designers and makers. They think of great combinations of stamps!



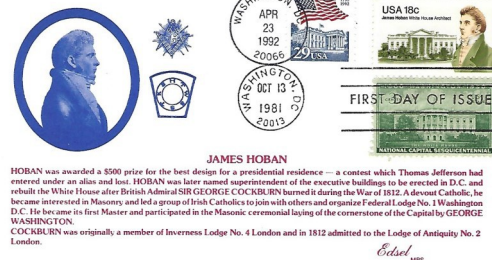
Here is a nice simple first day of issue with the 20-cent Hoban stamp. The cachet highlights the British burning of the President's Palace in 1814 during the War of 1812. Hoban was called upon to oversee renovations. President and Dolly Madison occupied the house at the time. Although it was against the social war norms of destroying public buildings, the British burned buildings in Washington, D.C. as a retaliation for US troops burning such buildings in Canada.

• The Obscure World of Free Mason Iconography and Imagery

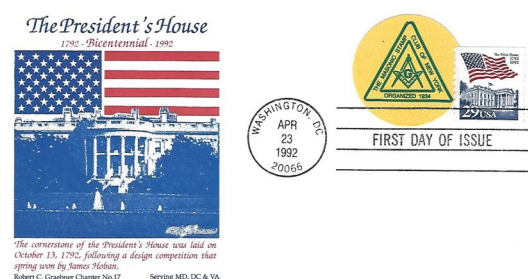
The covers below and on the following page celebrate Hoban as a Free Mason. This subject will be treated more thoroughly in another article. The Masons delight in Hoban as a Mason and Masonic stamp clubs, lodges, and chapters created many covers for both the 1981 first day of issue and the 1992 coil first day of issue.



Someone felt the first day cancellation attractive enough that no stamp was necessary! The text mentions Hoban as an organizer of the Federal Masonic Lodge. The center cover is a repurpose of the 1981 first day cover. The right cover, again a repurpose, also advertised SEPEX 1982 in South Carolina, where Hoban lived and worked before moving to Washington D.C. The cancellation includes a bust of Hoban.



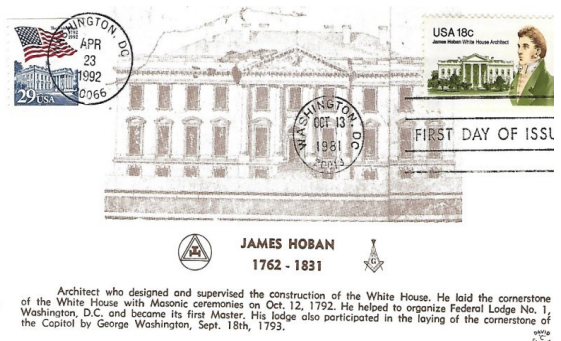
The cover on the left, includes the stamp honoring the American institute of Architects and SEPEX. The Edsel cover, to the right is found in green and red as well as the blue.



The cachet points out Hoban as White House architect and someone kept an 18-cent stamp to use. The right cover shows, by including Hoban's name, it belongs to the Hoban World.



The Artcraft cover has text that does not appear on 1981 covers. The right shows Hoban's design for the White House.
(To be continued)

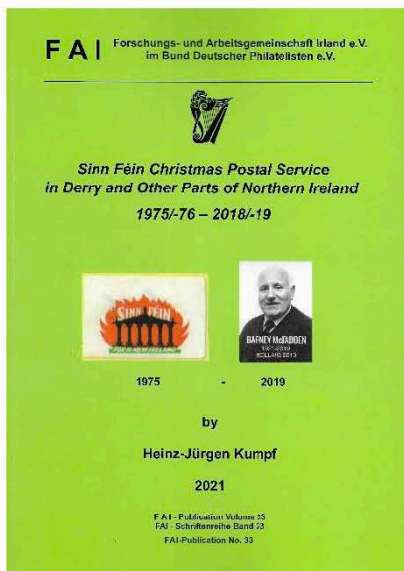


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Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland
im Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V.



The German Research and Study Group on Irish Postal History and Philately



Press Release

A new FAI-publication No. 33 has been issued in February 2021 with the title:

“Sinn Féin Christmas Postal Service in Derry and Other Parts of Northern Ireland 1975/76-2018/19”

The author is the actual FAI-President and member of AIJP
Heinz-Jürgen Kumpf (hjkumpf@t-online.de).

In this comprehensive publication, issued as a combination of handbook and catalogue, the author describes the private Christmas Postal Service operated by the Irish Republican Party Sinn Féin. It has started with the issue of labels (=private stamps) in Derry before Christmas 1975.

The so-called “Sinn Féin Christmas Postal Service” (SFCPS) stayed active until 2018/19. After almost 50 years of operation a special chapter in the Irish Postal and Political History has finally come to an end. It forms now a complete collection area.

The book is divided in two parts :

***Part 1:** Sinn Féin “Christmas” labels with an attachment showing Christmas Cards issued by Sinn Féin and other close political organisations*

***Part 2:** Cachets/postmarks used during the SFCPS following a selected correspondence with Sinn Féin in the early years regarding SFCPS as an Appendix.*

At the end there is a “Quickfinder”, i.e. a complete listing of the Labels in Part 1 and the SFCPS Cachets in Part 2

This publication is not only a simple listing of labels with printing and operational data. It also describes the historical background and purpose of the issue of those labels in the respective year. Furthermore images of cachets on blank covers and cancellations with or without these labels are shown as well as similar correspondence in the various Northern Irish locations.

Complete sheets and covers are illustrated as well as flyers, information sheets which were displayed in local public places with the announcement of new labels. Posters with similar motives and related photos etc. round up the advertisements connected with the yearly SFCPS.

Hence this book is a “Must Have” for anyone who is interested in the Irish Postal History and/or in the field of political and propaganda labels/stamps and in Private or Courier Mail in general.

Form: A 4 (29,5, x 21 cm), 72 pages, 260 most colour illustrations, paperback

Sales Price Germany: 22,00 € incl. postage and packaging (weight appr. 280 g).

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