

Irish Philately Publications by Barry Cousins.

Barry Cousins passed in 2023 after a long illness and is survived by his wife, Noel and three adult children, Lucinda, Stuart and Grace.

Barry's philatelic collection includes his extensive research into Great Britain stamps overprinted for use in Ireland - including errors and varieties; Essays of Ireland; the production of Irish Definitive Stamps from the 1968 to 2004 including notes on plate blocks and booklets; Irish Commemorative Stamps as well as his insights into the realms of Republican and Unionist Political Labels, overprinted on stamps of GB and Northern Ireland.

Barry's research endeavours have taken him into the archives of the British Postal Museum, Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. and An Post to find little nuggets of information that have provided extensive details (sometimes politically sensitive) on various aspects of Irish stamp production since 1922. MOST Important, Barry has generously donated these publications to the IPC website, the American Philatelic Society Research Library and the Royal Philatelic Society London. His most recent compendium "Overprinted Stamps of Ireland 1922-1935, 2022 Edition" has been entered in the Literature competition at the Essen (Germany) International Stamp Expo this May.

Barry's compendiums have won several gold medals at STAMPA and other International Stamp Exhibitions, and he has written many articles for Irish Philately, The Revealer, Gibbons Stamp Monthly etc. He is a past President of the Irish Philatelic Circle and Barry is one most ***Bodacious Good Friend***. Following the nomination of the Éire Philatelic Association, Barry was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Ireland.

Lucy wrote that our late father, Barry Cousins always enjoyed precision and detail throughout his life, and it seems fitting that Philately allowed him to use his organizational skills and keen eye for detail during his 70 years of collecting. His hobby grew at pace with his ability to be able to afford more time during his retirement, in the pursuit of continually searching for 'the one you want', against the backdrop of always knowing 'what you already had'. His enviable collection was later supported by his nine self-published books. These books were of great pride as they not only evidenced his deep understanding of his chosen topic and passion but highlighted his skill of always committing 100% to his chosen subject.



Below was an introduction from Barry for his nine publications.

I have now written nine books, which track the development of my collecting interests in connection with Irish Philately. It is now my wish that these publications be made freely available to Members, of the Irish Philatelic Circle.

At the outset the reasoning for compiling my first publication is set out in the 'Preface' to Book 1 titled Overprinted Stamps of Ireland, parts of which read :

The objective of this Compendium is to set out the extensive range of basic issue types, errors, varieties and flaws which occur with stamps issued for use during Ireland's 'Transitional' period. These variants being in relation to both the printing of the GB definitive stamps and as a result of the overprinting process. It is as a result of the extensive range of variants arising from these overprinted stamps, that interest remains high amongst specialist collectors.

At the outset in 2002, the author's aim with his first Compendium, was to gather information on GB definitive stamps, overprinted for use in Ireland with the objective of developing a framework to support his own collecting interests. More recently, as a secondary consideration, the author felt that by making such data available to other collectors in the form of Compendiums or Studies, that they would likewise find the information useful. In recent years the author's publications have expanded to cover a wider range topics connected with Irish philately.

It should be acknowledged, that by the nature and complexity of the subject matter covered in the author's publications, anomalies will prevail, as records are not always available to support some entries.

Reference is made above to 'to support his collecting interests'. This is considered to be a topic of key importance, the reason being - if one decides to specialise and acquire material from auctions and the like, then it is very important to know 'What You Have' and 'What You Want'.

LISTING of PUBLICATIONS

BOOK	TITLE	EDITION		PAGES
		FIRST	LATEST	
1	Overprinted Stamps of Ireland 1922 - 1935	2002	2022	245
	Valuation Guide	2002	2022	31
2	Irish Free State - Plates, Controls & Overprint Settings	2015	2018	319
3	Republican & Unionist Political Labels on GB & NI Stamps	2013	2018	77
4	Ireland's Permanent Definitive Stamps & Essays 1922 - 1937	2014	2018	123
5	Commemorative Stamps of Ireland 1929 - 1937	2018	-	227
6	'PENCF' Error on Overprinted Stamps of Ireland	2018	-	16
7	Definitive Stamps of Ireland 'BIRDS' 1997 - 2004	2019	-	102
8	High Value 'Seahorse' Stamps Overprinted for use in Ireland 1922 - 1935	2021	-	20
9	Ireland Overprint Proofs & Trial Printings	2022	-	66

Author's Philatelic Background

I have been collecting postage stamps for some 70 years. In the late 80's I decided to specialize on GB stamps overprinted for use in British Agencies & Protectorates from Bahrain to Zululand. As a result, my awareness and subsequent interest developed in stamps overprinted for use in Ireland, during the 'transitional period'. In the late 90's I took the decision to concentrate on Irish overprints, which has now developed into a broader spectrum of Irish stamps, which are featured in the publications listed above.

In closing I mention in connection with my first book, some 21 years ago that I met up with the late Col. Bill Fletcher. I recall Bill's comment - "not bad, in 10 years you may have something worth publishing".

Dare I say he was right, as a later edition was awarded a Vermeil, at Stampa 2010".

Barry Cousins