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The Irish Brigade at STAMPA 2023

The Irish Brigade of Irish and USA exhibitors have been very successful at several shows in the USA, Europe and Thailand this year

Left to right: Brain Harmon, Brian Callan and Robert Benninghoff (front) Philip Kane, Karl Winkelmann and Brian Warren.

Clem Hegarty and Laurelei Fox have recently joined the Brigade

See STAMPA review on page 102

IN THIS ISSUE

4

Thoughts from Our President - Stan Challis	86	Irish Philately and STAMPA 2023	102
From the Editor - Robert Benninghoff	87	– Robert Benninghoff	
Selling Your Stamp Collections, Stamp Exhibits and Philatelic Literature - Andrew Kupersmit	88	Letters to the Editor	104
		From Our Friday Evening Skype Meeting – Delgany penny post query – Philip Quigley	107
		Cork and County Postal History – Part 2	108
		Ship Letters – Brian Callan	
From The Associate Editor – <i>Tribal Knowledge</i> – Philip Kane	91	An Interesting Item – From Our Readers	116
The Composite High Value Overprints of 1927 – Part III – Dik Bakker	92	History on a Stamp: <i>An Post and the Decade of Centenaries</i> – Reviewed by Brian Callan	121
How Did This Get to Ireland - Karl Winkelmann	97	From Our Friday Evening Skype Meeting – What were airmail rates up to 1951 - Karl Winkelmann	122
The One of Each - Collection – Stan Challis	98	Focus on Exhibiting – Developing a Postal History Exhibit – Peter McCann	124
The Universal Postal Union Membership A Bypassed Centenary – Michael McNamara	101	Around the world in 80 Covers – Part X -Turkey – Stan Challis	128

I was delighted to meet so many old friends at Stampa when in Dublin in October and must begin by congratulating the Stampa Committee on a well run and as ever, friendly, show. I understand that attendance was a little down on 2022 but in line with the more recent pre-Covid years. I hope the dealers all felt it was worth their while being there; it was certainly good to see them.

Stampa was some five weeks ago as I write these lines, yet it seems like only yesterday, for I have yet to put away at least a half of the goodies I was able to buy, let alone get them written up.

I always try to find at least one significant item that materially improves the collection when I go to a show and hope that you are able to do the same. This year, I was able to achieve that target to my satisfaction, returning to base with an item that will fit very nicely into a future exhibit that I have in the planning. I look forward to doing the necessary write up and showing it you at a later date – at a future Stampa, I hope.

I suspect that very question of 'write up' haunts many of us, unless we choose to collect on a basis of filling spaces in printed albums when what we actually include is effectively determined for us, firstly by greedy Post Offices producing many unnecessary and now little used issues and secondly by the album manufacturers who will sometimes include varieties of shade, perforation and watermark and sometimes not, let alone spaces for various panes, miniature sheets etc. For me as a Postal History collector, I can, of course, collect whatever I like, if I can actually find it. But no sooner than one gets a few pages written up to one's reasonable satisfaction, all too often better examples come along and better still, completely new items widening the scope of the study appear. My own target in recent years has been to empty those 'pending action' shoe boxes, get the material mounted onto sheets and shed the obvious duplicates. At least, by having the items mounted, one has a chance of seeing what one actually has (and has not) got.

So much for my ramble! The Circle currently has one most IMPORTANT TASK. Following Rod Greer's decision to stand down as our auctioneer after some ten years of magnificent service which have seen the auction develop, we need to find a replacement auctioneer. Surely, it is an interesting

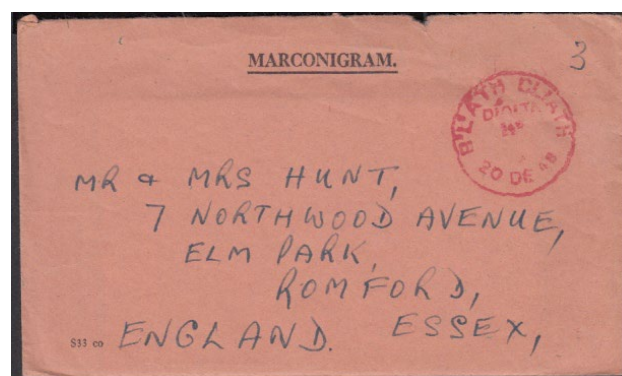
task. During Rod's time, he tells me that he has learnt a lot not only about the material he has been asked to sell but also, significantly, what does sell and what does not. I do hope a member can step forward and pick up the reins. Do not worry about finding the material; that should be provided by some of our more senior members. What will take time is firstly ensuring the auction list is consistent, readily understood and priced sensibly with the better items scanned for the website and then, after the auction closing date, sending the invoices and packing up Members' winnings.

Meanwhile, I have made far less progress than I would have wished on taking the Postmark Database forward. The fault is mine, getting involved with too many other things (but it was a very nice trip on the narrow gauge railways in Switzerland!!). I was, however, somewhat disappointed that more members have not come forward with the wish to sort out their 'own' counties, becoming the Expert in residence: I still do not have an agreed Irish word for 'Expert' and do, therefore, ask all our Irish speakers for their further suggestions. That said we have 'Experts' in situ for Cork City, Cork County, Galway, Wexford and Armagh. For my part, I hope to get Longford on our website within the next few weeks. Who is going to take on Dublin, Limerick, Roscommon etc?? Do please revert to me if you would wish to become involved – we need you!

I continue to enjoy our Friday evening 'Fireside Chats' (8pm Irish time). We usually have 6 to 8 present and I hope that more members will join us. The Skype link is:

<https://join.skype.com/eGm8vsA0T8w9>

Anything and everything are always open for discussion and with a little space to spare (thank you editor!), I show an item from 1948 that occupied us for a few minutes earlier in the year.



Jean and I hope that this *Festive Season* finds all our members in *Grand Form* and *Great Spirits*.

We were both at STAMPA this year with our Granddaughter Laurelei Fox, who was the youngest exhibitor at STAMPA for at least the past 10 years. A two page report on STAMPA can be found on Page 102. Many Thanks from all of the Irish Philatelic community to Brian Warren (Chairman), Philip Kane (Vice-Chairman) Brian Harmon (Secretary), Brian Callan and the STAMPA Battalion of extremely hard workers. STAMPA has become the only international stamp show dedicated to Irish Philately and at 51 years old, still looks very spectacular.

The *Irish Brigade* is featured on the front cover. The Brigade is an enthusiastic band of 8 to 10 exhibitors from Ireland and the USA. We have had great success this year at numerous shows around the USA, Europe and the rest of the world. Brian Callan this month received a Gold, 92 points, and a special prize for his 20th century Irish Postal Stationery exhibit at Thailand. Brian has also received Large Gold medals at the York Stamp Show and at several USA shows. Brian Harmon has received several Gold medals at USA shows and at York. Laurelei has received Large Gold medals and the Youth Grand award at *The Great American Stamp Show* (USA National Show) last August. Karl Winkelmann has consistently received Gold medals for his single frame exhibit. I managed three Single Frame Grand Awards in the USA during the last year. The 2024 Brigade has already signed up for shows in the USA and Europe.

David Feldman is auctioning part one of Barry Cousins Irish Overprint and forerunner material in their early December 2023 auction. Part one of Des Quail's International Large Gold (Three Large Golds) exhibit is also in the David Feldman Auction. I hope to have an auction report for the April 2024 issue.

We have another 44 Page *Irish Philately* issue, with many thanks to all our readers. This is *YOUR* Journal, and we all look forward to your articles, comments and thoughts. Please email me your materials in Microsoft Word, with images as .jpegs (200 dpi or better). I can also work with articles in .pdf format. However, I will work in any format that you send to me. **One Page to Six Pages are very welcome and appreciated.** Now looking for April 2024 articles.

We are starting a new section in this issue on ***What to Consider*** when selling your stamp collections, stamp exhibits and Philatelic Literature (Page 88). I met Andrew Kupersmit at our local stamp club and Andrew has generously offered his presentation to be reprinted in this issue. Philip Kane again asks members to take great care of their Philatelic Literature, and to contact him or any other member of the IPC committee before throwing ***ANYTHING*** out (page 91). I hope to have future suggestions from Auctioneers and Stamp Dealers on their thoughts and recommendations.

We have a very interesting article by Peter McCann on his thoughts on how to layout a Postal History exhibit. Peter is a much sought after USA and International Philatelic Judge and Chief Judge, who wears many other ***Philatelic Hats***. In his spare time, Peter has managed to prepare several Gold, Large Gold and Grand Award winning Postal History Exhibits (Page 124).

We have another expanded ***Letter to the Editor*** Section (4 pages) with several interesting comments and observations from our readers. ***PLEASE*** keep the comments, criticisms and suggestions coming, Email me at: robertmb.editor@gmail.com. We also have a 5 page section on ***An Interesting Item***. This has become a popular opportunity to have your questions about a stamp or stamps, cover or documents commented on by your peers. Please send me a .jpeg scan of your materials and a note on why you find them ***Interesting***.

Jean and I will close the year by hoping for *Health* and *Success* to all our Irish Philatelic Circle Friends and wishing a *Prosperous* 2024 to all.

Selling our Stamp Collections, Stamp Exhibits and Philatelic Literature

This article starts a new series on what we should consider when selling our Stamp Collections.

WE start with the sage thoughts and advice from Andrew Kupersmit, who recently gave a talk at our local Merchantville Stamp club. Andrew generously agreed to let me reprint his talk in the following article. Andrew also said that he would be most happy to hear from people with their thoughts, concerns and suggestions. His email follows on the next page.

Future articles will be suggestions from Stamp Dealers and Auction Houses and hopefully from one or two Stamp Collectors who have had success or failures at selling materials.

I have asked Philip Kane to give his thoughts on how to deal with your Philatelic Literature



Photograph of a Typical Stamp Room

The material may be stored in albums, filing cabinets, photo boxes and / or in piles waiting for sorting.

Typically, family members have to deal with this detritus after our passing and with little or no sense of value or where to send the material for sale. In *Many Cases*, the material is sorted into one or two large containers and taken to the nearest stamp dealer.

Photograph showing several Stamp Exhibits being packed for a Stamp Show

The advantage of stamp exhibiting is your Material is **Organised** into a Story and is being shown to many other collectors and Stamp Dealers around the country and the world (if you show internationally)

This can be a major consideration for an auction house when deciding if they sell your material.

You have already done the publicity and you may even find a buyer yourself at one of the shows.





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Selling a Stamp Collection

Westfield Stamp Club – Sept. 28, 2023

Introduction

A stamp collection is not an investment -- because stamp collecting is a hobby.

An investment is something that should give you a guaranteed rate of return.

Everything else is speculation. Real Estate, Stocks, Collectibles. All speculation.

The Business of Stamp Collecting

To Sell your material Outright or To send for Auctioning

SELL OUTRIGHT TO A DEALER

- Dealers are in business to make money for themselves. They are not running a charity.
- Dealers are not always knowledgeable or honest in what they sell or in what they buy – in market prices and in authenticity and condition – especially on internet marketplaces
- Dealers can purchase outright or take on consignments. Most take the first option.
- Dealers buy based upon their inventory needs. If they need your stamps for immediate resale to customers, then they will pay more. If they have enough depth in their inventory or do not have customers for your stamps, they will make you a very low offer to resell to a dealer who has active customers for your stamps.

AUCTIONEERS

- Auctioneers are in business to make money for themselves. They are not running a charity.
- Auctioneers can purchase outright or take on consignment. Most take the second option.
- Auctioneers will look at your collection as like any other. They will determine its value at X dollars in auction market value, figure that generates Y dollars in Commissions and therefore have Z hours to spend on your collection. They also have to have a high average-lot value of approximately \$1,000 and will divide your collection into lots accordingly.
- Auctioneers can give you a cash advance if the collection has enough value to warrant the advance. ***Always ask for a Cash Advance, at least 15 to 20% of the estimated total.***
- Auctioneers commission is negotiable in some circumstances, but consignors must understand that they get what they pay for (see above)
- When selling at auction, you take the risk. Your collection could sell for more or it could sell for less. ***Always as for a Minimum return or payment for your material***
- By the time the collection is consigned to the time you are paid usually takes 4-5 months.

You cannot expect to get full retail for any or all of your stamps. **You can only put them in a position where they are more likely to achieve maximum value.** If your collection is mostly common stamps purchased from dealers, then you are likely to achieve wholesale prices. If your collection is more specialized and contains rarer stamps and postal history that collectors will want to own, then auction is generally the best choice. But experienced auction consignors will tell you that there are some items they think are great and have a high value that sell poorly, while other items they hate and think have a low value end up selling well.

Helping Yourself to Maximize the Value of Your Stamp Collection

DO's and DON'Ts

DO's

- **GET YOUR COLLECTION ORGANIZED** (if you are the collector) and consult a professional before attempting to organize a collection (if you are the family of a collector who did not organize his collection). **The more organized, the more money the collector and his/her family get.**
- Get honest with your family about the value of your stamp collection so that they have realistic expectations. Some people overvalue their collections and others undervalue their collections.
- Get your family fully informed of where all of your stamps are located.
- Consider selling outright or consigning different parts of your collection to different professionals.
- Make the arrangements yourself and put them in your will and testament; This is your stamp collection and your responsibility. Most likely, your family has no idea what your collection is worth and where to take it to give it the best chance to achieve the greatest financial return. -- Consider naming a **COMPETENT** philatelic executor. If you plan to consign your collection to auction, once you sign a contract, the auction house will do what is in its best interest, not yours. Because there is no future business, an auctioneer has no incentive to act in the consignor's best interests. A philatelic executor, especially an experienced one, who could represent future business, provides value by giving the auctioneer incentive to do the job correctly and can help resolve any issues that arise.
- Get professional philatelic advice before you prepare your collection for sale.

DON'Ts

- **Assume** your stamp collection has increased in value over time. In most cases, buying stamps for your collections transpires at retail prices and selling stamps from your collection transpires at wholesale prices.
- **Assume** the value of your stamps is high because your stamps are rare. Stamps, like all collectibles, are subject to the laws of supply and demand. Supply can mean rarities by quantities and rarities by condition. Demand means if there are three of an item and only two people care then there is not much value.
- **Assume** you know the best way to organize or display a stamp collection,
- **Assume** you know the value of your stamp collection.
- **Assume** that your family members will figure out how to maximize the value on their own. Most people call three dealers and take the best offer. That amounts to them conducting an auction among the three. They may not be the best choices. Leave clear instructions on who to call.
- **Assume** that the dealer from whom you have bought most of your stamps will make a strong offer.
- **Leave Vague Instructions** like "Call the APS", or someone at the IPC or "You guys are smart, and you will figure it out". Since there are no stamp stores anymore and the shows are getting smaller and it is a hassle to bring a stamp collection to a show, this often results the family going online and finding two or three people and then conducting an auction among the two or three people. These may or may not be the "right" people to maximize the value of the stamp collection.
- **Leave your collection unorganized.** Pretty please, with sugar on top, **GET ORGANIZED.** You will cost your family money if you do not get organized.

From The Associate Editor and Digital Editor

Philip Kane (mr.philipkane@outlook.com)

Tribal knowledge – Sharing and Achieving for future Philatelists

Within the last 24 months, we have said goodbye to a huge number of our philatelic colleagues and with that, an irreplaceable font of tribal knowledge.

This knowledge came from decades of studying the foundation of what we enjoy doing and documenting this over the last 100 years. Regrettably and unfortunately, these notes, journals as well as printed editions, will never be seen again.

Thankfully though and through the Irish Philatelic Circles digital library we are able to preserve a lot of material that was printed back in the day. There are thousands of pages available for review and research and over time more will be added. We are looking at uploading all of Fred Dixon's random notes that have been restored as well as the foundation years of the IPC. However, there are gaps, and a lot of material has not weathered the storm gracefully with barely legible transcripts fading away as time passes by so fast.

If you are a collector and have printed matter of Irish Philatelic Interest, please let others know what and how to ensure that it is not accidentally thrown into the skip. One man's waste is another man's treasure and finding journals that were printed between 1922 and 1980 can be a missing piece of the bigger picture.

The software and hardware out there can and are being used to our advantage now. Take for example the revised TWYTW compendium that was published last year and the work of transforming the original issues from the 70's and 80's into legible text and full colour. This is what we could do with the first issues that came out in the 60's and 70's. The first scanning of Die Harfe occurred nearly 12 years ago but since then, they have been rescanned again eliminating all of the blemishes and errors that were acceptable then. The same with the first Scanning of the Revealer. The new scans have totally cleaned up all of the editions from the 50's, right through to the 90's.

If you feel that you have material from the Irish Study Group, The Irish Philatelic Circle from the foundation years in the 60s to the late 90's let us know. The same applies to any printed material you have to do with Irish Philately. Do not let it go into the bin. Pass it on, let us house it for future projects and let's keep the enthusiasm going.

Please let your family know about Philip Kane's offer

The composite high-value overprints of 1927 – Part III

Dik Bakker

Introduction

In parts I and II of this article, which appeared in *Irish Philately* of December 2022 and August 2023, I discussed a computer supported method to estimate the numbers of composite pairs that might have been isolated from the corresponding 1927 Seahorses overprint sheets. It was established that the current catalogue prices for the six pairs seem to give support to these numbers. In this third part, I will try and make an educated guess at the number of collectors that might have been interested in buying these stamps when they were still available. Eventually, this could lead us to a more or less realistic estimate of the composite pairs still available today.

Factors determining the extant numbers of pairs

In order to arrive at an estimate of the existing number of pairs, I will have a look at some factors that make the situation of the stamps under discussion comparable to, or different from, other high value issues from the same period. The British £5 orange and Seahorses issues from 1913-1934 themselves are a case in point.

If we further ignore the two ‘Rialtas’ overprints and concentrate on the ‘Saorstát’ ones only, we are dealing with the numbers of sheets that were delivered by the Post Office to be overprinted as shown in the graph in figure 12.

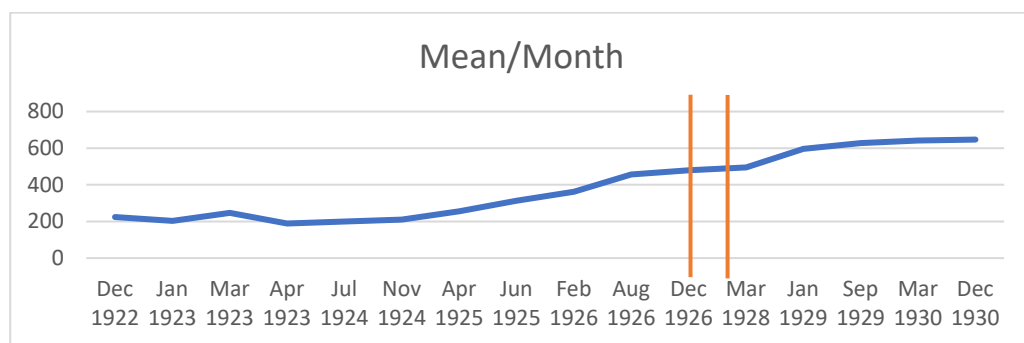


Figure 12. Seahorse sheets delivered for ‘Saorstát’ overprint

Between January 1922 and November 1934, a total of 24 shipments of the Seahorses arrived in Ireland. Until February 1926 these were overprinted subsequently at Dublin Castle; after that date the overprinting had already taken place at Somerset House in London. The shipments occurred at irregular intervals, in widely varying numbers, and not in lockstep with the dates on which the overprinting of the in total eight issues was initiated.[14] However, if we concentrate on the period up to May 1927, and we subtract the production of overprints from the supply of Seahorses so far, then there must have been at least 6,840 sheets made available around that time, definitively enough for the production of the 4,830 composite sheets. The large number of intermediate deliveries over time suggests that orders for new sheets were placed as soon as the stock in Ireland was close to depletion.

When we calculate the mean number of sheets necessary per month at the post offices, we see the output of overprinted sheets going up from the initial 200 to around 600 per month at the end of the decade. A letter accompanying the 2nd February 1926 supply of 4.000 sheets states that this should be enough for nine months, i.e., some 450 sheets per month. Indeed, the demand was gradually increasing, and was close to 500 by December 1926, as shown in the graph.

Globally, the production of the composite sheets seems to have been meeting the demand quite well. When we look at the dates provided by the Hibernian with respect to the sales of the three individual values, however, we get a somewhat more diverse picture.

This is shown in table 6.

VALUE	DATE FIRST USE COMPOSITE SHEETS	DATE RELEASE WIDE SHEETS	MONTHS IN USE
2/6	?? May 1927	Dec. 9 1927	7
5/	?? June 1927	Feb. 7 1928	8
10/	?? May 1927	Feb. 15 1928	9

Table 6. Relevant dates of the composite and wide sheets

For the wide date sheets of 1928, which followed the composites, we know the exact dates of release. I will assume that these sheets were ordered timely, and that the corresponding composite sheets were sold out shortly before or not too long after those dates. This may differ, of course, for the respective post offices. Maybe some of them still had remainders, while others may have been out of stock earlier on and had to resort to lower value stamps for a while. However, for the composite sheets, the dates of release are apparently not known; only the months for which their first use was documented are. It is not clear to me what the source of that imprecise information is. Both Kearsley (2005) and the *Hibernian* give the same dates. If ‘use’ would mean attested examples of cancels on these stamps, then it is somewhat strange that we would have nothing more than the month for all three. Of course, only stamps with a wide date would qualify for the precise information, since the narrow examples had been for sale ever since August 1925.

Nevertheless, although they may be quite rare, it should be possible to find used wide date examples of all three values from the period May 1927 to early February 1928. It would be remarkable if there would have been a sudden drop in the actual use of the high values after a long period of their increased use. On the other hand, one expects that the interest from the philatelists for the high values must have been relatively modest towards the end of the two-year exclusive ‘narrow’ period. This makes it unlikely that a very large number of stamps from the composite sheets were sold to collectors rather than to regular users. For the time being, and in lack of more precise information, I will assume that the dates of first use are in fact based on their availability at the post office. It seems to be safest to replace the ?? by the 15th of the month. The maximum error would then be two weeks in each case. That gives us the number of months of use in column four of table 6.

The numbers of composite sheets for the three values are not known. These figures are only available for the period until June 1925. This includes less than half of the 32,585 sheets delivered until May 1927. One may assume that later productions were increasingly adjusted to the actual demand for the three values. Therefore, I took the proportions of the first large shipment after the composites for which a precise breakdown is known, i.e., April 1931. For the number of pairs per sheet, the mean numbers from table 4 in part II were used. This gives us the tentative numbers of composite sheets and the six types of pairs in table 7.

VALUE	PROPORTION APRIL 1931	NUMBER OF SHEETS	TOTAL PAIRS	HORIZONTAL PAIRS	VERTICAL PAIRS
2/6	0.48	2,318	27,352	18,080	9,272
5/	0.31	1,497	14,670	6,437	8,233
10/	0.21	1,015	9,947	4,365	5,582
TOTAL		4,830	51,969	28,882	23,087

Table 7. Tentative total numbers of composite sheets and pairs

Obviously, the numbers of pairs mentioned here are a theoretical maximum. Only a fraction of these will have been preserved as such, and not necessarily in the same proportions. Most stamps of these sheets will have been simply used for their original purpose anyway. As for the time the composite sheets lasted, the dates in table 6 suggest that only those of 10/ covered the nine months they were expected to. This would have included the sales to philatelists. The 5/ sheets were sold out somewhat faster. And the stock of the 2/6 seems to have been exhausted around two months earlier than possibly expected. This might indicate that there was indeed some extra demand

from collectors for this most affordable of the three values. However, as we observed earlier on, the narrow date stamps had been for sale for almost two years already. The three stamps of this August 1925 issue, with Hibernian number 11T, have the lowest catalogue value for the mint varieties of all Seahorses overprints. This strongly suggests that this issue had the largest sales numbers to the philatelists of all high value overprints from 1922 to 1935. Any extra philatelic interest in the composite sheets will therefore have been for the pairs in the first place since stamps with the wide date had formed part of the 1923 'Saorstát' issue as well.

But it was only when the mixed character of the sheets became public that collectors might have been eager to acquire one or more of the composite pairs in the first place. And note that this 'misprint' was a novelty within the realm of British and Irish philately and could not have been foreseen. One wonders at what stage this peculiarity was discovered. Some of the personnel at Somerset House must have known about the differences, but whether this fact transpired to the Irish philatelists while they were still for sale remains to be seen: the 1-millimetre difference is hardly visible to the naked eye. If the knowledge spread relatively early on, then there will most certainly have been a certain demand for the mixed pairs, and possibly also for the wide date stamps separately. If the distinction was discovered relatively shortly after the sheets became available at the post office, the shorter periods for the 2/6 and the 5/ could have been caused by extra sales of composite pairs and also larger fragments. This would then have a positive effect on the number of pairs in existence today.

Of course, there may have been perfectly normal postal explanations for the higher sales numbers as well. As shown in the graph in figure 12 above, the demand for the high values had been going up consistently from 1922 onwards and had reached 500 sheets per month at the end of 1927. Furthermore, the estimates for the relative numbers of the three values were getting more accurate over time as well. The proportion of the 2/6 sheets was going from 42% in 1925 to 48% in 1931. So, the stock of the lowest value may have been depleted quicker than expected simply because of the underestimation of the postal demand.

Estimating the number of Ireland collectors

Which of these explanations might be true, it would be of great help to know how many collectors of Irish stamps and dealers serving them there were around 1927, and how many of them would have bought the high values while these were available at the post office. 'Ireland' will not have been a widely collected area before 1922, especially abroad. Apart from the railway stamps, and the rare forerunners and political labels, the only other stamps that could be labelled 'Irish' were the British stamps from the period 1840-1922, cancelled in Ireland. The Provisional Government and Free State overprints were the very first issues of the young Republic itself. The last penny values of these that were issued were the coils of March 1923. Already in December 1922 the 2d of the first proper Irish series appeared, soon to be followed by the rest of the values. Only the Seahorses overprints served for fourteen more years. Until February 1926, the overprinting took place in Ireland. But it seems very likely that all sheets overprinted in Britain after that date ended up in Ireland as well, and none were made available to collectors directly in Britain. Indeed, the data shown earlier suggest that the sheets produced seem to have been necessary to cover the increasing postal need. That will not have left too much room for large scale philatelic sales during the availability at the post offices, let alone for sizeable numbers to be exported afterwards. Possibly, dealers in the UK and some more important ones abroad could have bought them from Irish dealers. But given the relatively short time of their postal availability, and the rather difficult times in the young Republic, that will probably have been later on. We may assume, therefore, that most if not all of the direct sales by the post offices were to collectors and dealers in Ireland itself, and that will have put a considerable restriction on the pairs available today.

With respect to the type of collectors prepared to buy the pairs, we already observed in part II that the total face value of all three, at £1 15 shillings, was more than the weekly allowance of a labourer. And the complete set of six pairs amounted to a staggering £3 10 shillings, 3% of the yearly wages of a teacher or an engineer in those days. So, apart from stamp dealers, who might have invested in larger entities and even complete sheets of 40 stamps, only the more affluent collectors could have afforded them. Even the least expensive pair must have been beyond many a collector's pocket money, and more so when bought from a dealer. Even today, the composite pairs are missing from many of the Ireland collectors' albums.

Earlier on we discussed the survival rate of the famous British £5 orange, estimated by Horsey (2013) at 3,25% of the original number of stamps issued, which comes down to 8,000 examples. What is known of this iconic stamp, of which a used example sold for around £1 when it was still available at the post office, might help us find the figures for the composite pairs. It is tempting to assume that the interest for the pairs would have come from the same category of collectors that were in the position to buy the £5, and for which we have quite reliable information with respect to the extant numbers.



Figure 13. Great Britain £5 Orange

Arguably a much better source for comparison would have been the original Seahorses themselves, which have so much more in common with the composites. Unfortunately, we lack the kind of study on these that Horsey completed for the £5. If we take only the Bradbury Wilkinson issue of 1918 into consideration, and restrict ourselves to the relevant period 1925-1928, we find the following numbers of sheets sold (from Kearsley 2005:252). For comparison, the corresponding numbers of the composite sheets are added to the right.

VALUE	BRADBURY WILKINSON 1925-1928			COMPOSITES MAY 1927-FEB 1928		
	TOTAL	AVERAGE PER MONTH	PROPORTION	TOTAL (EST)	AVERAGE PER MONTH	PROPORTION
2/6	285,375	5,945	0.6	2,318	331	0.48
5/	142,500	2,969	0.3	1,497	187	0.31
10/	41,025	855	0.1	1,015	113	0.21
TOTAL	468,900	9,769		4,830	531	

Table 8. Bradbury Wilkinson vs. composite sheets sold

Thus, the average sales per month for the British Bradbury issue amounted to 18 times that of the composite sheets over roughly the same period. Of course, the latter were used in the Irish Republic, with a population of around a seventh of that of Great Britain at the time. So, weighted for population size, this would still mean 2.5 times as many.[15] But it makes sense that, given Britain's international position in trade and banking, there would have been a greater need for the high value stamps there than in the Ireland of 1927. The only striking difference then seems to be the relatively low contribution of the 2/6 and the relatively high one of the 10/ on the Irish side. But note that these proportions are inferred on the basis of incomplete data about the numbers of sheets per value. Looking at the overall number of sheets, though, these figures seem to indicate that the vast majority of the sales of the composites must have been for regular franking purposes, and that there were no significant extra sales to collectors.

Apart from the original post office sales, another potential indicator of the extant numbers are the catalogue values. These are mainly based on the supply and demand for a stamp or a series on the current market. Comparing the two most affordable series, the current catalogue price for a set of three British Seahorses in mounted mint condition is less than half of that of the three vertical composite pairs: €960 vs. €2,200. This suggests that the latter must be rarer than the former, but how much remains unclear. There seems to exist no reliable research with respect to the relation between catalogue prices and total numbers in existence, not even within one catalogue, let alone between those for different countries. We may expect that, population wise and worldwide, the demand for British stamps would be many times higher than for Irish ones. So, we will refrain from drawing any numerical conclusions from this kind of data.

Furthermore, the number of unused stamps available today is not equivalent to the number that was initially bought by collectors and dealers. Inevitably, a certain percentage will have gone lost over time. The last century has seen quite some turmoil indeed, notably around the time the overprints appeared, what may have caused even the most cherished possessions to have gone lost. On the other hand, we are dealing with relatively expensive stamps, that will have been part of serious collections, not of a boy's stamp book. They will have been handled with much care, and one might expect that only a relatively small part has indeed gone lost. Still, when going from an estimate of the original sales to collectors to an estimate of the current remainder thereof, a certain reduction should be taken into consideration.

But even if we take the £5 orange as a potential case for comparison, we are not looking here at the survival of a single stamp but that of six pairs and even larger units. Such entities may contain more than one composite pair, either overlapping or separate. Figure 11 in part II and figure 14 here provide examples. The latter block contains two vertical Narrow-Wide pairs on rows 2 and 3. And it represents a few other niceties, which were most probably unknown to the collector who originally bought it. The stamps on rows 1 and 2 position 4 exhibit the error 'missing base of 2', catalogued as T69aa. And the stamp on row 3 position 4 has the 'raised A on Saorstát' variety.



Figure 14. Block from the top right of a normal 2/6 sheet with two VNW pairs

Not many collectors would proceed to barbarically split up such blocks, therefore many a pair will remain hidden in these multiples. Since they are not catalogued separately, and are typically sold as such, this phenomenon will add a certain percentage to any estimate of the surviving pairs that is based on an estimate of the number of initial buyers. In the fourth and final contribution, we will try and make an attempt at estimating the number of surviving pairs, basing ourselves on the above considerations.

Notes

[14] Data from Kearsley (2005:236-8). The totals given for plain sheets and overprints for the re-engraved Waterloo issue of 1934 are identical at 21,541 sheets. For the original version of the Seahorses, the totals differ: the Post Office has supposedly delivered 78,707 sheets but 80,855 sheets are reported to have been overprinted, i.e., 2,148 more. The first 2,050 - 2,150 overprinted sheets were available on 17th February 1922; the first shipment of 100 sheets for overprinting arrived only five months later. Either Kearsley's assumption that another 2,150 sheets were sent already in December 1921 is true. Or the 2,148 'missing' sheets must have been in store in Dublin in February 1922 already. A mixed scenario is also possible.

[15] In 1890, the total population of the UK was around 38 million, of which less than 5 million people lived in Ireland.

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- Horsey, John (2013). *The £5 Orange*. London: Stanley Gibbons Ltd.
- Jefferies, Hugh & Vince Cordell (eds) (2018). *Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue*. London: Stanley Gibbons Ltd.
- Kearsley, Brian (2005). *Discovering Seahorses. King George V High Values*. Ringwood: Pardy & Son.

How did this get to Ireland?

Karl Winkelmann

My reason for detailing how this cover was routed all the way from land-locked Bolivia all the way to Ireland was just to show how much literature may be needed to determine a routing. Virtually none of this information I used is available online except for the US Postal Guides. (uspostalbulletins.com)

Back when we started collecting stamps, we could buy a catalogue to increase our knowledge but once we started to collect postal history we really needed more than one publication to figure out the what, why and wherefore of the items we acquired. So, for me, I need books on airmails and censorship during the mid-20th century from all over the place just to work out what happened to one item alone.



Above is a ordinary looking censored cover from Bolivia to Ireland that I've had for many years and never studied. Despite it's scarce origin I did not incorporate it into any of my censor exhibits nor write it up. Recently I've given it a better look.

Firstly let's look at the postmark: dated 28 August 1939 from Oruro, a town dependant on mining, has the words "CORREO AEREO" that is also on the stamps on the front of the letter "L.A.B." which stands for Lloyd Aereo Boliviano, then the main to domestic Bolivian airline. One route was via La Paz to Lima in Peru. From there it flew by PANAGRA, a joint venture airline of Pan American Airways & Grace Shipping Company, who flew it from Lima to Cristobal in the Canal Zone though in 1935 the route had been extended to La Paz. As FAM-9 the route was extended further in 1937 to Oruro but,

with the LAB postmark I doubt PANAGRA flew it from Oruro to Cristobal, the main transfer hub between central and South American cities and the USA. There it was turned over to PANAM for a flight to Miami, where Eastern Airlines CAM-19 took over for the Miami to New York leg.

Next we have a PANAM FAM-18 trans-Atlantic flight to Foynes where I suspect, based on schedules I've seen, the letter probably arrived there on one of these dates: Sept 3, 11 or 16. From there it went to Dublin for censorship, by train and south again by train towards Cork for delivery to Youghal.

This cover avoided Imperial censorship that we see on so many covers, both airmail and surface, during the 1939-45 period. Because it was delivered to the Irish post office at Foynes before it was possible for the British and American to arrange any diversion of the Irish air mail for British censorship, this cover escaped that fate.

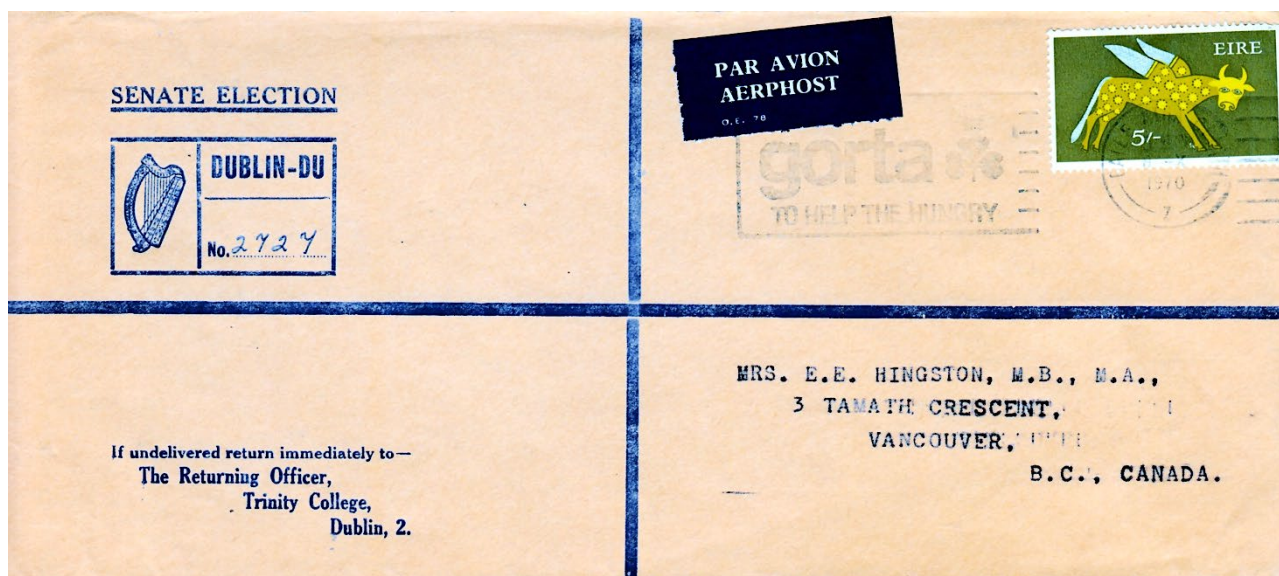
Franked 23.05 Bolivianos but no rate tables found: over double a cover to New York shown in Boyle.



Airmail Operations During World War II by Thomas Boyle (sparse Bolivian detail)

International Air Mails: as reflected in the US Postal Guides & Supplements 1921-1946 (FAM-9 flight schedule - days and times to La Paz & Oruro)
American Air Mail Catalogue: Vol 3 6th ed (some FAM-9 details to La Paz)

American Air Mail Catalogue: Vol 3 5th ed (some CAM-18 details to La Paz)



An awkward stamp to find on cover – the 5/- (sterling) Gerl – the second weight step registered (3/-+2/-)

I am sure that we have all had the conversation with the know all in the local stamp club. Out of politeness, one starts with asking what they collect to be told that they have a complete collection of XYZ with extra blocks of four, perforation varieties and special printings. One is then told about the first day covers, shades, reprints and probably how difficult it was to find the additional plates printed in Timbucktu, let alone the Miniature Sheets. One wishes that one had not asked and perhaps half an hour later the question comes 'What stamps do you actually collect?' My answer came out 'As for Stamps, Ireland - yes, really just one of each' (I dare not mention Postal History!). I was looked at quizzically 'Oh!, I understood you had a large collection – mine runs to 50 volumes'. No doubt all gilt bound, I thought as I went on 'I fear too many of them are still in shoe boxes, still unmounted'. I was looked at in horror; the thought of mounting to my interrogator was totally alien – why should anyone put a hinge on a stamp. It was own fault, I should have used the words 'awaiting write up'. I added that, up to my arbitrarily imposed 1999 deadline, I was about 50 short and was then left with the task of trying to explain that my 'stamp' collection was actually one of each face different stamp used on a commercial cover (with a few extras where I can find 'nice' additional usages). The conversation came to an end as I tried to explain what I considered to be an acceptable commercial item and the difficulty of locating some items. I should have known better; we were simply not on the same wavelength.

So, looking at Ireland, if one wants to get each stamp 'properly' used on commercial cover, what are the stumbling blocks? I do feel that the overprints are different. How often does one get the chance of

finding, let alone actually buying the Seahorses on any cover, commercial or otherwise. So, leave those aside for another day. Thereafter, the beauty of the post 1922 collection is that it should not break the bank and one rarely has to pay more for a cover than the equivalent of a pint or two of whatever one's tippie is. With a handful of exceptions, all the stamps have seen substantial commercial use, many being used in huge quantities. They should be out there waiting to be found. Finding them is the problem!

However, before one starts on the task, a number of basic decisions are required. Should one only collect single frankings – i.e.: a single stamp on the cover, paying the correct rate, just that and no more? What about multiple frankings of the same stamp to make up the correct rate, or several different stamps on the same cover? Should one accept mail addressed to collectors and/ or dealers? What about long and oversize envelopes? Or, what about perfectly commercial items but stamped at the wrong rate, sometimes through ignorance but often simply a case of using whatever stamps were to hand. Like all collecting, it is all a matter of personal choice.

My own answers would be: (*individual frankings*) Not always practical/ possible and a little variety makes for a more interesting collection: (*multiple and varied frankings*) Going on from the previous answer, these must be regarded as acceptable if the various combinations are 'reasonable' or a nice combination – i.e.: 22p x 2 or 2 x 17p + 10p (from another set) to make up a 44p rate: (*mail to collectors*) Better not, although a handful, if truly commercial, will surely not offend: (*long and large envelopes*) You probably have no choice with higher value stamps but these monsters should generally not

be needed for lower values: some trimming of larger covers being acceptable, perhaps even desirable to tidy them up when nothing is lost by so doing; (*wrong rate*) Hardly ideal but acceptable in small doses. You will have your own views but do try and get your covers sent to a good variety of addressees, with if possible, a few Registered and/or Express items thrown in to provide variety.

As ever, to find material, one needs to check the obvious sites on the internet and get to as many stamp fairs as possible. It goes without saying that if you have the chance to get abroad, spare a moment to see what the local dealers have, for their covers should be stamped at foreign rates which are not to be found at home. And finally, what every collector needs that one cannot buy, namely the odd bit of good luck.

It is time to look at specifics. The definitives, all of them, certainly up to my 1999 deadline, should be easy enough to locate. Although I used the words 'face different' above, I do suggest that an exception might be made when looking at the two watermarks of the original 1922etc etc set. With a little searching, of the 'SE' watermark low values, only one might cause a problem, namely the 10d value. The high values are indeed 'hard'. There was no real need for the 10d when issued in 1923; it probably only came about because the British set being replaced included this denomination. My example below shows an example to the USA, 10d covering 2d for postage, 5d for internal airmail in the USA and 3d for registration.



1936 Waterford to California at 10d registered airmail

Similar comments can be applied to the 11d value of the 'E' watermark series. Issued in 1949. It was, I believe, a parcel rate at the time but stamps used such are seldom kept on the large addressed pieces which are needed to prove parcel usage. My example in the next column shows the stamp used to Russia on a registered item, 11d covering 5d for European rate postage and 6d for the foreign registration rate. It goes without saying that I was delighted to find this.



1957 Dun Laoghaire to Moscow (see alongside)

The higher values are inevitably less often found on cover, the prime use before the days of universal airmail, being on parcels and especially telegrams. I show below a 5/- St Patrick 'E' watermark added to a 5½d registered envelope. That 5½d covered postage of 2½ d (the USA rate was still the same as internal) and 3d for registration fee, whilst 5/- covered four airmail weights up to 2 ounces.



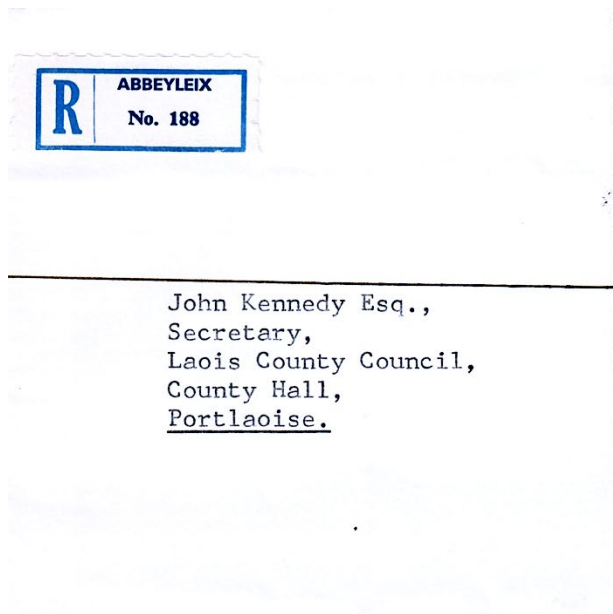
1946 although not a single franking, this use of the 5/- on a registered stationery envelope is surely a nice use of the stamp on a commercial item

The original 1922-3 definitives and their later derivatives were finally replaced in 1968-9 by the 'sterling' Gerls. Whilst the original stamps were generally used in huge quantities over many years, the £sd Gerls saw a life of just over two years. Two of my favourites, are the 5/- value used at the top of the previous page and a strip of three of the 'awkward' 7d value used on a local registered cover addressed to Millstreet, Co Cork, on the next page, an example of my being perfectly happy to have the stamp in multiple. I intentionally ignore the ½d value of this set for which there was no postal need. I had at one point thought there might have been a potential need for this value on telegrams but on examination, I do not think that was the case.



Left: August 1969; 3 x 7d: postage 6d and 1/3d fee

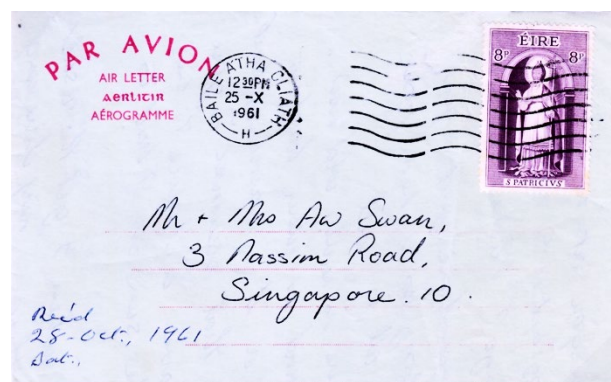
Of the decimal definitives, certain of short lived additional values are certainly not easy to find on cover. The 13p, 16p and 29p Gerls spring to mind. The 37p and 39p Architecture are worth putting by whilst of the Treasures set, my vote would perhaps lie with the 41p stamp. However, of the low values from these three sets, pride of place (if, indeed that is the right accolade) must lie with the Architecture 12p value which could only be used as a make up value or in multiples. It is a pity that my illustration has to be a long envelope!



1983 a block of eight of the difficult 12p Architecture stamp makes up the 96p combined registered rate

My experience of the Commemorative stamps is that there are two which stand out, the most obvious problem being the 9d O'Connell stamp of 1929 which was issued primarily for use on parcels. I show such a use below. I also confess to owning a single franking of this stamp on a 1929 airmail cover to India but I have some doubt as to whether this was the correct rate, as a similar cover a few weeks later from the same correspondence is stamped at 8d. No Post Office Guide being available, this demonstrates one of the potential hazards of such a collection.

My other problem commemorative is the 8d value from the 1961 St Patrick set, here shown used to Singapore, a usage (not necessarily to Singapore!) which should be quite common, particularly in the USA but nevertheless seems particularly elusive.



1961 to Singapore at 8d on an aerogramme

I will not single out any later commemorative for specific comment but I do suggest that the challenge of finding each of 1,000 or so issued before 1999 will keep you well busy but I do suspect that you may well not want to bother with such unnecessary sets as the 1999 Footballers. Good hunting!

Universal Postal Union membership: A bypassed centenary? And commemorating World Post Day

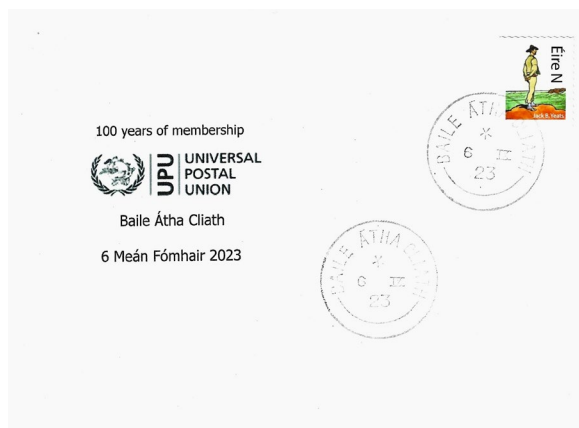
Michael McNamara.

In this Decade of Centenaries, I'm sure An Post received many suggestions for commemorative stamps. Considering the number of important events, deciding on a stamp subject was going to be difficult at the outset. With regard to Ireland's membership of the Universal Postal Union, the UPU website provides details of when members joined. However, the centenary of Ireland joining the UPU on 6 September 1923 has come and gone without a stamp or special cancellation by An Post.

Special Commemorative Cover designed and produced by Michael McNamara

Commemorates the Centenary of
Ireland's membership in the Universal
Postal Union on 6 Sept 1923

Dublin GPO Postmark 6 IX 23



Being a centenary worthy of a personal "special event" cover I "designed" and printed a few to add to my small World Post Day (WPD) collection (9 October 2022 and 2023)..

It also happens that the UPU's annual on 9 October is my Birthday. The WPD commemorates the formation of the General Postal Union, later the UPU,.

I hope readers will like to see my "special event" covers for WPD 2022 and 2023 as shown below.

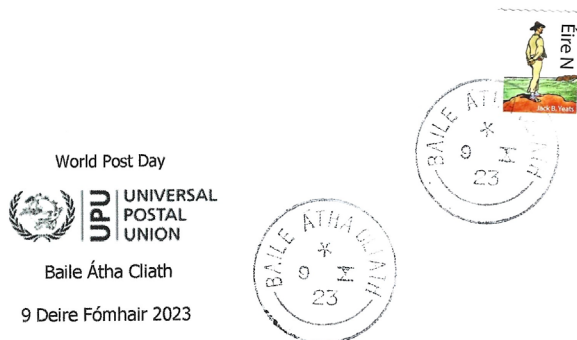


Happy Birthday Michael

Cover commemorates World
Post Day 2022 which occurred
on the last day of STAMPA

*Covers and Cachets designed
by Michael McNamara*

World Post Day 2023
Dublin GPO cancel
Again ***Happy Birthday
Michael***



Irish Philately, the Irish Philatelic Circle, The Éire Philatelic Association and The Irish Brigade at STAMPA 2023

Robert Benninghoff

Irish Philately is doing very well as demonstrated at several USA shows and in Dublin, Ireland at the recent Irish National stamp show, STAMPA, held this year from 6th to 8th of October (Fig 1).

Several APS and Éire Philatelic Association members received Large Gold Medals at STAMPA as well as the multi frame Grand and Reserved Grand awards at the banquet on Saturday night, Oct 7 (Fig. 2). STAMPA is an international qualifying show and Irish exhibitors receiving at least a Vermeil are eligible to show their material at FIP shows. STAMPA is also one of three annual shows in the British Isles that is open to people from anywhere in the world with one frame and multi frame exhibits (up to 5 frames). Medals and Trophies are given for both Irish and non-Irish material (Fig 3). There was also a Bourse with 11 dealers and organizations from around Europe. The show is now in its 51st year and looking forward to many more years.

Robert Benninghoff signed the Role of Distinguished Philatelists of Ireland at the banquet (Fig 4) and Philip Kane received the German FAI medal and The Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland medal for his distinguished service to Irish Philately in Europe and North America.

The North American based Éire Philatelic Association had a strong presence at STAMPA handing out Society awards to Brian Callan and Brian Warren. The Joseph Foley Medal for the best multi frame exhibit went to Karl Winkelmann for his exhibit *The Dublin Censor Office*. Laurelei Fox, at 13 years old, became the youngest exhibitor at STAMPA and probably lowered the average age by 40 years (Fig 5)

The Irish Brigade, of 7 plus, Irish and American philatelists have been very successful at many USA shows during the past several years (Fig 6). The Brigade received Large Gold and Gold medals and a single frame Grand award recently at BALPEX and MILCOPEX. These show medals were given out this year at STAMPA. The Irish Brigade brings 15 to 25 frames of exhibits to over 10 shows each year helping to enhance Irish Philately in the USA and Europe. Upcoming Shows include CHICAGOPEX, FLOREX and the SESE (Atlanta, GA). The Irish Brigade has also successfully exhibited at several international Shows including London 2022.



Fig. 1: STAMPA 2023 show Catalogue The Irish National Stamp Show is in its 51st year.



Fig. 2: Karl Winkelmann receives the David Feldman Trophy, the show Grand Award for his five frame exhibit: *The Dublin Censor Office*.

Karl also received a Large Gold medal and the ÉPA, Joseph E Foley medal for the best multi frame exhibit by an ÉPA Member.



Fig.3: Shows the STAMPA medals and Trophies ready for distribution. The Palmares can be found on the IPC and Stampa websites. The exhibition is open to Irish and international exhibitors who are members of STAMPA. For membership contact Brian Warren at info@stampa.ie

STAMPA 2024 will be October 11th to 13th in Dublin at Griffith College

A Note: Anyone interested in joining the Irish Brigade on the 2024 USA exhibit tour, please contact Robert Benninghoff at rmerc01@aol.com



Fig. 4: Robert Benninghoff signs The Role of Distinguished Philatelists of Ireland. This award is the highest honour given for service to Irish Philately. Robert also received the Éire Philatelic Association Thomas Edwin Field Award in 2022 for outstanding contributions to Irish Philately.



Fig5: Laurelei Fox receives her medal at STAMPA. Laurelei won the Youth Grand Award at the August 2023 Great American Stamp Show (USA) for her one frame exhibit: *The Life of Saint Patrick*

Laurelei recently joined the **Irish Brigade**



Fig. 6: The Irish Brigade. The group of Irish and American exhibitors who have been exhibiting at various shows in the USA for the past 6 years. The brigade brings between 15 and 25 frames of Irish material to over 10 shows each year. The group has received numerous Gold, Large Gold and Show Grand awards. Laurelei was recently drafted into the Brigade.

Left to right Brian Harmon, , Brain Callan and Robert Benninghoff (front), Philip Kane, Karl Winkelmann and Brian Warren.

From Iben Olsen

Dear Robert

First – thank you for the IPC Journal No. 2, August 2023 – (not because I have an article published ☺) but because it has a lot of informative articles and has given me inspiration for some follow up.

In this August IP, page 63, *An Interesting Item* I have the following additional information to add.



Cover and
Perfins from
August IP



Concerning the Cover from Henry Ford & Son Ltd. with the H.F. & S Perfins I can respond with a 1 Schilling, D12 (Hib.) stamp – Canceled 18 XI 27 – faint visible CO (likely CORCAIGH).



In the Catalog of PERFINS by Richard L. Mewhinney published by The Perfins Club 1984 the perfin is mentioned and shown as H5, but without identification of Henry Ford & Son. Norah Wright also mentions the perfin in IP, June 1977 also without mentioning Ford.

In addition to the Ford perfin, I show an envelope from Baile Atha Cliath July 25, 1922 with Thom. 2 d. Die I overprint WITHOUT Perfin – but on the back of the envelope is a Ford label with a slogan that could be used today.



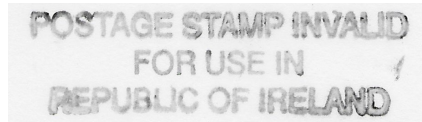
From Heinz-Jurgen Kumpf

Dear Robert,

With thanks I went through the August IP which I have received yesterday, well done again. On page 63 I found the ship letter MS Leinster and your question about the cachet regarding "**Postage invalid for Use in Republic of Ireland**"



Handstamps found by Heinz-Jurgen Kumpf the Irish Post Office Central Sorting Office



Brian Warren's cover shown in August IP



I have looked into my files and I found two similar cachets but without frame (see attached) but not used on a letter. I personally found and "stamped" them on a paper when I was visiting the Central Sorting Office in Sheriff Street in Dublin, in 1987 and then again in 1994.

In 1987 I was leading a FAI-delegation visiting the CSO and we had the opportunity to really open some "hidden" drawers where we found a lot of interesting cachets and postmarks. We obtained some sheets of papers and stamped copies for ourselves.

From David MacDonnell

Dear Robert,

You mentioned a desire to learn about Swiftbrook Mills.

They did not confine their papermaking/watermarking to only Post Office business.

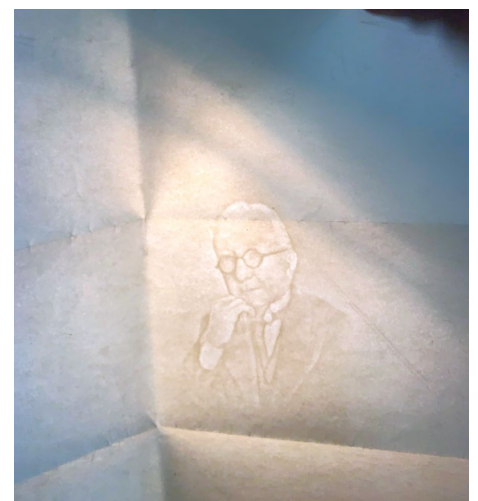
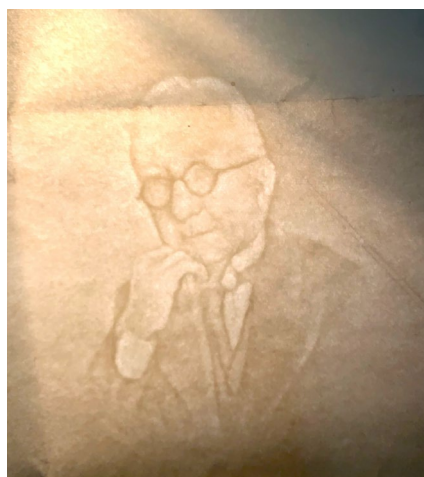
The first President of Ireland was Douglas Hyde. He had bespoke writing paper made for him by Swiftbrook. It incorporated a watermark with a portrait of himself.

See attached illustrations.

Best regards,
David MacDonnell.

Watermarked Portrait- Paper created by Swiftbrook Mills for the First President of Ireland, Douglas Hyde

Swiftbrook Mills supplied the SE and later e watermarked paper to the Irish Post Office from 1922 until the 1970s



From Peter Chadwick

Robert

An extra good issue arrived last week (*August, Irish Philatelist*).

Thank you very much.

For me, the best single thing was to read about the postmark database, Stan Challis' article page 64 et seq. This has been desperately needed for many years, well done! More power to your collective elbows.

BUT every item listed is post 1840. There is much exciting in Irish Philately before 1840, I do hope the full listing will go back to year zero, not to 1840? I am referring to Dublin Bishop marks, and 1000 other pre-1840 handstamps. Some are listed by Kane, but much has been learned in the 50 years since his listing! I do hope these will not be forgotten??

Thank you and Regards

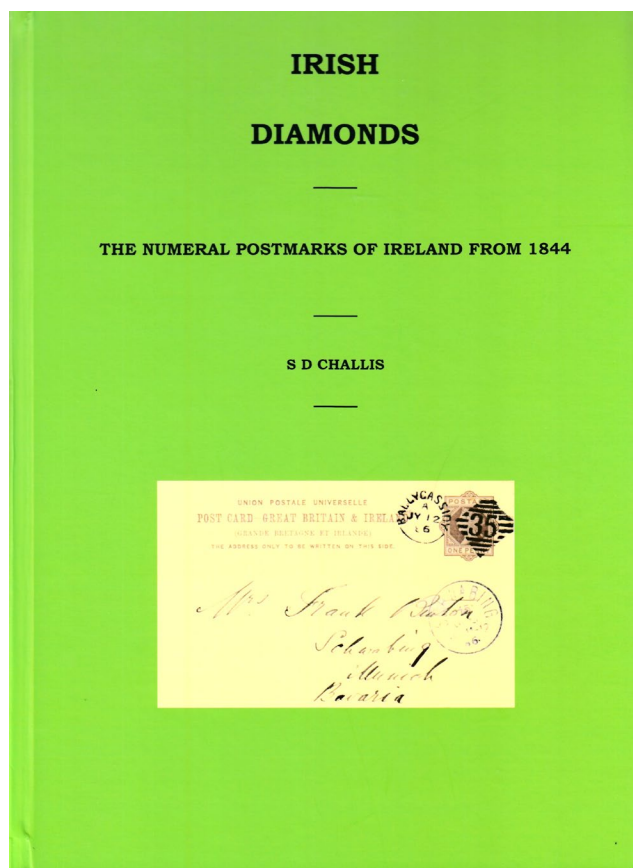
Peter Chadwick

A Reply from Stan Challis

The plan is to do all Irish postmarks from the start of time – or about 1699.

There will be an update to the project in the December IP (in my Presidents Message).

I have to find time to get the whole of Co Longford scanned - I started on the easiest and smallest county - and get the scans put on the website. (There are over 350 items on Stan's County Longford spread sheet)



Front and back covers of Stan's book on ***Irish Diamonds*** published in 2022. Stan spent a life time gathering the information for his book, which covers only one aspect of Irish Postmarks beginning in 1844.

150 copies were printed and all have sold out

From our Friday Evening Skype Chatabouts by Philip Quigley

8 pm Irish Time – 9pm European time – 3 pm USA East Coast time --- Please join Us

The cover is dated August 26th 1838 from Delgany, Co. Wicklow to Warwickshire U.K.

The cover shows a Delgany Straight Line Undated Name stamp and a Delgany

Penny Post mark. The Straight - Line mark is recorded from 1838 to 1840.

The Delgany Penny Post mark was not recorded by Dixon in his study of 1984.

The office is not included in the listing of Penny Posts appended to the Report from the Post Office Select Committee of 1838.

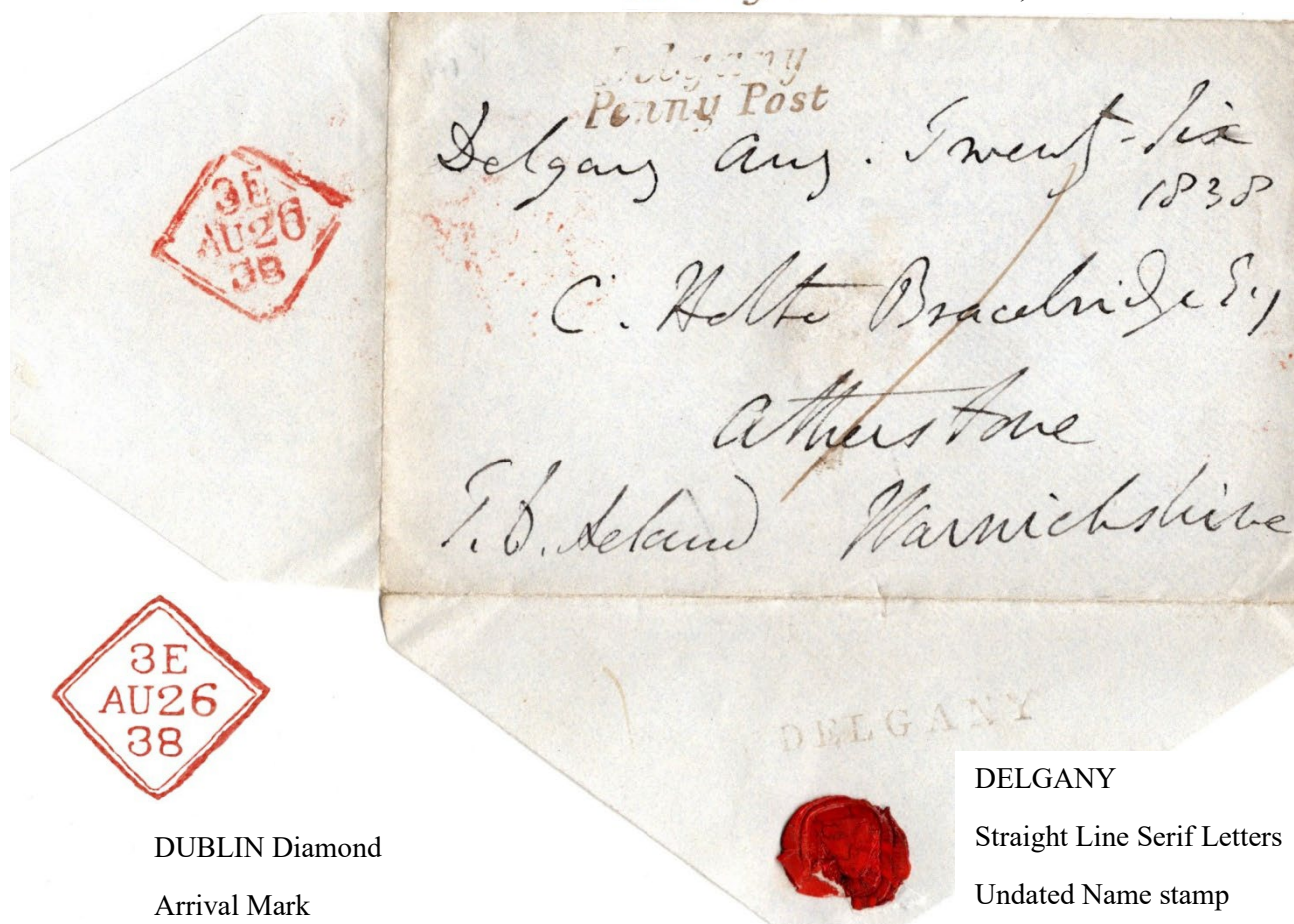
I wonder if any member has a record of the Delgany Penny Post mark and where the Penny Post went to and its period of use. Can any member decipher the senders Signature at the lower left front of the cover?

Delgany/ Penny Post

*Delgany
Penny Post*

Italic Font.

Size: 28, 34x 13 mm



DUBLIN Diamond

Arrival Mark

Double Frame in Red

3E/ AU 26/ 38

DELGANY

Straight Line Serif Letters

Undated Name stamp

Cork City and County Postal History

Part 2 - Ship Letters

Brian Callan

Prior to the 17th century, letters carried to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland were by private arrangement with a ship's master, a passenger on board the ship or using a personal courier. A scale of rates for delivery of letters was established by 1637 and all non-government controlled posts, both inland and foreign, were prohibited by law. All foreign letters were considered to be ship letters and the passing of the 1660 Act of Parliament required all mail carried on board ships to be subject to postage on arrival in the United Kingdom. Ship masters were required to hand over all letters to the Post Office official at their point of entry into the United Kingdom. From this point until 1840, the main element of the cost of receiving a ship letter was the inland charge based on the mileage between the entry port and the receiving address. However, there was only minimal adherence to the requirement to hand over letters at first point of entry, which changed significantly when the 1711 Act of Parliament determined that the ship master receive a gratuity of 1d per letter (regardless of size or number of pages) and the Act also introduced penalties for noncompliance with the hand over requirement.

Ship letters by private ship could be handed in at the ship's offices or handed directly to the ship's master. The 1711 Act of Parliament made it illegal to send letters by private ships which could be sent by regular Packet ship but private carriage of letters was permissible to places where no Post Office Packet ships existed. However, enforcement of this Act was difficult and the unofficial private arrangement for the carriage of letters by ship owners or masters continued to be the main channel by which overseas letters left the country throughout the 18th century.

There were a number of *Ship Letter Acts* of Parliament passed for England, Scotland and

Wales from 1799 to 1819, but these did not apply in Ireland until 1835 as there was a separate Irish Post Office set up in 1784. The 1d ship letter rate, introduced to cover the 1d Ship Master gratuity, plus inland postage fee, remained the same in Ireland until 22 June 1815 when it became 6d for a single sheet and one shilling for a double sheet (Irish currency) plus the inland postage charge. This continued until 1835 when both the Irish and British rates increased to 8d, as the Independent period of the Irish Post Office ceased in 1831.

By 1840 the postage rates had become uniform and it was no longer required to perform mileage calculations.

Entry Ports of County Cork

The major entry ports in the county of Cork were:

1. Cork City Port,
2. Cove (renamed Queenstown in 1849 and then Cobh in 1921),
3. Kinsale,
4. Skibbereen,
5. Youghal.

All these ports operated with ship letter handstamps for mail handed in by ship masters.

Cork City Port

The city of Cork is situated on the river Lee just before it flows into Cork Harbour. The city is 160 miles from Dublin (124 Irish miles in use up to 1827), approximately twelve miles from the Celtic Sea. The harbour has been described as one of the best natural harbours in the British Isles, the entry of this is about a mile wide but it stretches to three miles wide within the harbour and approximately ten miles long. The harbour is dominated by Cove (renamed Queenstown, then Cobh) situated on Great Island, just within the entrance to the harbour. However, the shipping volume at Merchants Quay in Cork city centre was also considerable and a regular Packet operated between Cork

and Bristol during the 18th and 19th centuries. The mail coach service between Dublin and Cork began in 1789.



Figure 1 Barbados to Bristol via Cork 1750. Entire letter from Barbados to Bristol, sent on 19 April 1750, carried per Capt. Thompson. The letter was landed in Ireland and shows usage of an early Irish **SHIPP** handstamp, with London bishop on reverse. The initial charge of 11d included 1d ship master gratuity, plus 4d inland single to Dublin and 6d combined rate to London. Letter was rerated to 1N3 (one shilling and 3d) to include 4d charge from London to Bristol (over 80 miles). The inland Irish charge of 4d indicates that the handstamp was probably in use at Cork.

Figure 2 Jamaica to London via Cork 1771

Entire letter from Jamaica to London sent on 17 September 1771 and carried per **Carrysfort M(an) of W(ar)**, with a 19 December London bishop on reverse. The cover shows a ship letter handstamp of **SHIP** and a separated unconnected handstamp for Cork city, **CORK**. Letter was rated 5d to include 1d ship master gratuity and 4d charge to Dublin (over 40 Irish miles). This was rerated to 11d when the 6d combined rate from Dublin to London was



added. This ship letter handstamp was in use from 1761 to 1776.

Figure 3 Barbados to Greenock via Cork 1789.



Entire letter from Barbados to Greenock, sent on 8 June 1789, by private ship and landed at Cork. Cover shows a black unframed **CORK/SHIP LETTER** with a manuscript *via Donaghadee*, initially rated 9d double rate (Ship letter gratuity 1d + Cork to Dublin 4d x 2, total 9d). The letter was then uprated to 1/5 in Dublin (Dublin to Donaghadee 4d x 2, total 8d + 9d = 1/5). The final rate was 2/7 (Packet 2d x 2 = 4d + Portpatrick to Greenock 5d x 2 = 10d, total 14d + 1/5 = 2/7 for double sheet letter). The letter was also backstamped with a

small black **IRELAND** (applied in Dublin). This ship letter hand stamp was used from 1782 to 1856 (a version in red ink was also used from 1828 to 1831 and a version in blue below).

Figure 4 Cape of Good Hope to London via Cork 1839.



Entire letter from Cape of Good Hope to London sent on 26 April 1839. The letter is stamped with a crowned oval **GENERAL POST OFFICE CAPE HOPE AP 27 1839** and a framed **INDIA LETTER/ CORK**. After landing at Cork, letter was sent to London on the Waterford to Milford Haven Packet. Letter has a weight notation of 1¼ oz. at top left of cover and is rated 6/9½ (Special 4d India rate plus quintuple 375 miles internal charge of 13d x 5 = 65d, plus quintuple Waterford Packet charge of 10d and quintuple Welsh additional ½d road toll charge of 2½d, total 81½d or 6/9½). Quail reports this as the only recorded use of this handstamp, introduced in 1839 (letter also illustrated by Robertson).

The new 4d India rate which applied to letters from Cape of Good Hope was introduced by the 1836 Act of Parliament and the additional ½d Welsh charge per increment was to pay for road improvements required for the Milford Haven - Waterford Packet.

Figure 5 Columbia to London via Cork 1840.

Entire letter from Columbia to London, sent on 27 January 1840 and back stamped in Cork on 21 February (FE 21 1840) and on arrival in London on 24 February 1840 (24 FE 1840).

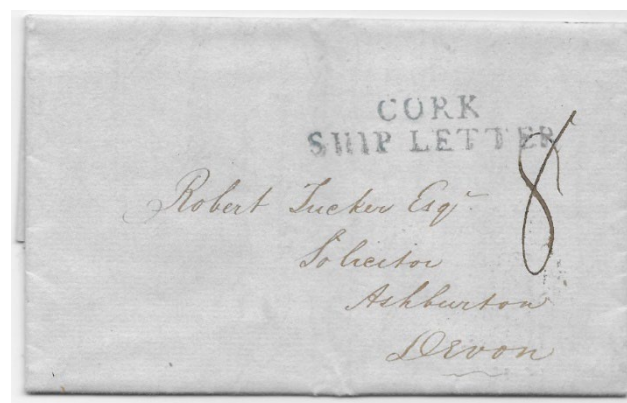
Letter has a black framed two line **CORK/ SHIP LETTER** and a manuscript 8d ship letter rate. Letter also has a red oval New York Forwarding Agent's cachet, dated 3 February 1840. This ship letter handstamp was used from 1837 to 1843.



A forwarding agent would have been retained to send the letter by the best route available at that time. Forwarding agents became popular about 1815, at the end of the Napoleonic wars, when trade started to expand significantly.

Some Cork based forwarding agents are used on several of the letters from Cork and Cove.

Figure 6 St John's to London via Cork 1846.



Entire letter from St John's, New Brunswick to Devon, sent on 28 September 1846 and back stamped with Cork CDS on 27 October (OC

27 1846) and in London on 30 October 1846 (OC 30 1846). Letter has a blue unframed two line **CORK/ SHIP LETTER** and a black manuscript 8d ship letter rate. This blue ship Letter handstamp was used in 1846, making it the earliest recorded use to date (previously reported from 1847).

Cove

Cove was renamed Queenstown after Queen Victoria's visit in 1849 and renamed Cobh in 1921 after the Irish Free State was established. Cove is situated on the south side of Great Island, at the entrance to Cork Harbour. It is eight miles from Cork City and during the American and French wars, Cove acted as a major British naval base. The deep water anchorage allowed shelter to large parts of the British navy and the harbour entrance was protected by forts on both sides of the harbour entrance.



Figure 7 Portsmouth, America to Dublin via Cove 1800.

Entire letter from Portsmouth, Virginia to Dublin, sent on 1 April 1800 and back stamped in Dublin on 27 May 1800. This cover has abbreviation **LE** for letter, with this type of abbreviation only used at Cove and at Dingle (Co. Kerry). The letter has black two line ship letter marking **COVE/ SHIP LE.** Letter also has circular Dublin arrival date stamp **MY/27/1800** on reverse. Finally, this letter is rated 7d, of which 1d was paid to the ship master and 6d was the charge between Cork and Dublin (greater than 80 Irish miles). Ship Letter handstamp is the first used at Cove, in

use from 1788 to 1812.



Figure 8 Pernambuco to London via Cove 1842.

Entire letter from Pernambuco, Brazil to London, back stamped with black Cove CDS on 4 June 1842 (**JU 4 1842**) and red Dublin diamond on 5 June 1842 (**JU 5 1842**) with a London arrival on 7 June 1842. Letter has **COVE/ SHIP• LETTER** and manuscript 8d (distinctive Cove hooked 8) which was the *all in* rate per ½ oz. Letter face is also endorsed as carried *per Prince Albert via Cork*. Ship Letter handstamp was used from 1835 to 1844 (the identical handstamp with red print was used 1814 to 1834).

Figure 9 Montevideo to London via Cove 1843



Entire letter from Montevideo, Uruguay to London, sent on 28 December 1843 and back stamped with black Cove CDS on 14 March

1843 (**MR 14 1843**) and red Dublin diamond on 15 March 1843 (**MR 15 43**) with a London arrival stamp on 17 March 1843. Letter is stamped with alternative black two line handstamp **COVE/ SHIP LETTER** and manuscript 8d (Cove hooked 8) which was the *all in* rate per ½ oz. established in the 1840 Act. Letter face is also endorsed as carried *per Hollywood* and has boxed double framed cachet in black **FORWARDED BY C & W.D. SEYMOUR & Co., COVE of CORK.** This is the most common ship handstamp used after 1843. Reference has been made by Robertson to the **COVE/ SHIP• LETTER** hand stamp (Figure 8) sometimes not having a clear centre dot when applied but this is a different handstamp, measuring 45mm rather than the 49 mm of hand stamp in Figure 8.



Figure 10 Buenos Aires to London via Cove 1845.

Entire letter from Buenos Aires, Argentina to London, sent on 1 April 1845 and back stamped with black Cove CDS on 13 May 1845 (**MY 13 1845**), a red Dublin diamond on 15 May 1845 (**MY 15 45**) and a London arrival date stamp on 17 May 1845. Letter is stamped with the alternative black handstamp **COVE SHIP LETTER** and manuscript 8d (hooked 8) which was the *all in* rate per ½ oz. Letter face is also endorsed as carried *per Elizabeth*. This letter is one of the Huth correspondence of 1820 to 1850, of which 10,000 letters are known to Fredrick Huth in London but only 320 come from Irish ports and 200 of these came via Cove.



Figure 11 Mauritius to Bordeaux via Cove 1848.

Entire letter from Mauritius to Bordeaux, sent on 6 June 1848 and back stamped with Cove CDS on 30 June (**JU 30 1848**), London CDS on 1 July (**JY 1 1848**) and Bordeaux receiving CDS on 6 July 1848 (**6 JUIL 48**). Letter face has blue two line **COVE/ SHIP LETTER** with blue manuscript 8d rate and a red framed **COLONIES & ART 13**. The latter mark was applied by the Foreign Branch of GPO in London and it relates an 1843 Anglo French Convention which applied to unpaid or in sufficiently paid mail passing through Britain to France. Art 13 in particular refers to timeline January 1846 to December 1855 and the bulk rates for mail. Letter face also has oval forwarding agent cachet for **GAY ROU FILS PORT LOUIS**. This blue ship handstamp is also not recorded by Feldman & Kane, Robertson, Tabart or Quail.

Figure 12 Mauritius to Bordeaux via Cove (now Queenstown) 1851.





 Mrs Merrill Dunn
 369 Chicago Ave
 Chicago
 U. S. A. Ill.

Cover carried from Dublin, sorted on the Dublin to Cork train and stamped with a clear Dublin & Queenstown TPO CDS on 16 July 1900. The 2½d SG 201 adhesive is tied by the one line PAGUEBOT handstamp.

Mail sorted on the Dublin to Cork travelling post office was taken directly by rail to Queenstown for dispatch by ship.

Kinsale lies 25 miles south of Cork city and it has a long maritime history. It was where the English and French fleets engaged in 1380, the town was captured by the English forces in

KINSALE,
SHIP-LETTER

2/1

N. M. Rothschild Esqr.

Bankers of the United States,

LONDON.

P. Kinsale

Cover from Guatemala to London, sent on 16 December 1836, with a red Dublin in transit diamond on 21 January and London arrival date stamp on 23 January 1837. Letter face is also endorsed as carried *per Science*. Cover has a black two line **KINSALE/ SHIP• LETTER** and a manuscript rate of 2/1. The rate is made up of 8d ship letter rate and 1/5 rate from Kinsale to London (including Holyhead Packet 2d and Menai Bridge toll of 1d). This ship hand stamp was in use from 1781 to 1846., and in colours black, red, blue and yellow.



Cover from Kingston to London, sent on 26 September 1834, with a London arrival date stamp on 28 November 1834. Letter face is

also endorsed as carried *per Rival for Liverpool*. Cover has a yellow two line **KINSALE/ SHIP• LETTER** and a manuscript rate of 1/10½, under franked by 2½d. This is the earliest recorded use of the yellow handstamp, previously only recorded as used in 1858.

Skibbereen

Skibbereen lies to the west of County Cork (south west of Ireland), 219 English miles from Dublin (167 Irish miles). It is situated on the river Ilen, which is navigable by smaller ships up to this point (three miles from estuary). While this was not a major maritime centre, it was the terminal point of the mail coach service from Dublin and was the first point of call for vessels sailing from the west. The deep water ports of Baltimore and Crookhaven provided good shelter from the weather, often the first sight of land after long Atlantic crossings. The law required letters to be delivered to the Post Office at the first port of call but Skibbereen was the Post Office where letters received their ship letter handstamp for this part of the Cork coast.

Figure 16 Buenos Aires to London via Skibbereen 1815.



Letter from Buenos Aires to London, sent on 22 December 1815, with distinctive red two line ship stamp **SKIBBEREEN/ SHIP LET^R**.

Letter was sent from Skibbereen to London on the Dublin to Holyhead Packet and is uprated to 2/6: Ship letter rate of 6d plus internal Irish rate of 10d for greater than 100 miles, plus 2d Packet charge, plus 1/- charge for Holyhead to London (230-300 miles), total of 30d or 2/6. This ship letter hand stamp was used from 1807 to 1832 (a version in black print was also used from 1791 to 1848).



Figure 17 Havana to London via Skibbereen 1842.

Entire letter from Havana, Cuba to London, sent on 15 February 1842 and back stamped in Skibbereen on 16 April (**AP 16 1842**), with a red Dublin diamond on 17 April (**AP 17 42**) and London arrival stamp on 19 April 1842 (**19 AP 19 1842**). Letter has mixed typeface **SKIBBEREEN Ship Letter** and was landed at Schull, the N°1 receiving house of the Skibbereen Penny Post and forwarded to London at quadruple rate of 2/8 (8d x 4 = 2/8). The letter rate was 8d per ½oz. and two extra rates for every oz. or part oz. over 1 oz. Letter is endorsed *per Cuba to Cork*. This ship letter handstamp was used 1840 to 1844 (a version in blue print was used in 1847).

Youghal

Youghal is on the east of Cork County, situated at the mouth of the river Blackwater, which enters Youghal Bay 25 miles east of Cork Harbour. The town boasts a royal charter from King John in 1209 and was the homeland of Sir Walter Raleigh, who had large estates in the townland, was mayor of Youghal from 1588 to 1589 and who brought the potato from Virginia to Ireland. The harbour at Youghal was deep but was obstructed by a sand bar at the entrance which prevented admission of larger ships. The relative proximity to the much more versatile Cork Harbour, makes the ship letter handstamps from Youghal very scarce.



Figure 18 Quebec to Greenock via Youghal 1801.

Entire letter from Quebec, Canada to Greenock, sent on 10 November 1801 and carried on the ship *Charlotte*. Letter has an in-transit back stamp at Dublin on 11 January 1802. Letter face has a black unframed two line **YOUGHAL/ SHIP LETTER**. The letter is rated 1/10 (ship letter rate 1d, Cork to Dublin 6d (greater than 80 miles), Dublin to Donaghadee 6d (greater than 80 Irish miles), 2d packet to Portpatrick, 7d Portpatrick to Greenock (less than 120 English miles), total 22d or 1/10. This is the only recorded Youghal ship letter stamp and it was used from 1802 to 1834.

Conclusion

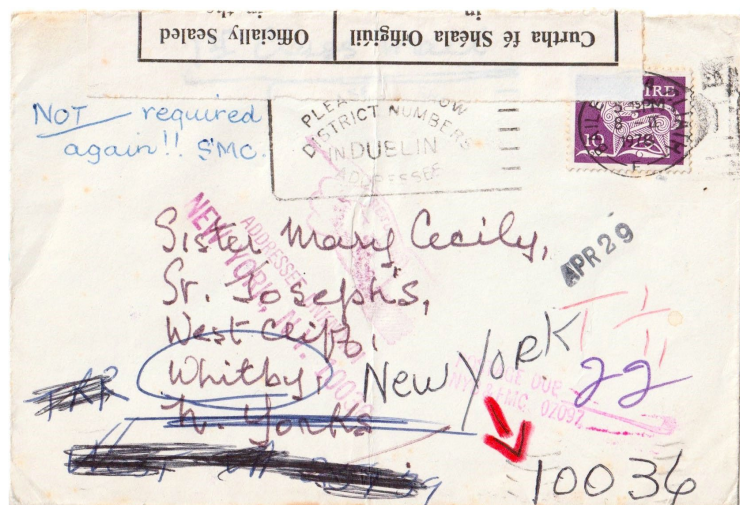
Many overseas letters to the United Kingdom were initially landed at Irish ports such as those along the County Cork coastline. The evolution of ship hand stamps is demonstrated for the major Cork ports. Bantry Bay is not included but it does have an excellent harbour and did see a significant amount of transatlantic shipping in the mid 19th century but with little maritime commerce. The only Bantry Bay port known to have a ship letter was Castletown (Bearhaven) and both Feldman and Robertson report a single unframed black two lined **CASTLETOWN/ SHIP LETTER** in use from 1834 to 1840. However, surviving examples are very scarce and have not been seen by the author. The remaining ports did not have ship letter handstamps until the 20th century when Paquebot handstamps are known for Bantry town (1960 to 1980) and Glengariff (1952 to 1968).

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An Interesting Item:

I received several comments from the August IP about the *Interesting Items* shown on page 63, as well as several new items of interest shown below and on the following pages. **Please share with us some of YOUR interesting Philatelic materials**



Cover from Dublin mailed to Whitby, N(orth) York, England. Postmarked 8 II 1978. 10p pays the correct letter rate to Ireland and England – **BUT** – The cover was missent to New York & charged 22 cents **Postage Due**. The US Postal Service tried to find a correct US address & finally returned it to Ireland in April. The Irish Post Office opened it to find the sender's address.

Intercepted Mail

Mail from Killaloe to Dromoland Castle (County Clare) postmarked 10 MR 21.

The item was intercepted by the IRA opened and inspected (censored). The cover was recovered by the Post Office & sent to Limerick in April. The PO resealed the cover with the *Stolen & Opened by Raider* Tape before it was finally delivered to Lord Inchiquin.

The cover was rubber stamped twice
"Open and Censored I.R.A."

Has anyone seen another or similar
 IRA rubber Stamp?



Railway Preservation Society of Ireland

I came across this sheet of 8 Cinderella stamps in a recent USA auction.

Designed by
 McCorkell / Kitts / McBride

TANAMA C Int'l, Dollco
 Printing. Canadian Bank Note
**Has anyone additional
 information about these
 stamps?**



An Interesting Postcard

Philip Quigley



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM AN IRISH 'SANTA'

POSTED FROM COOLGREANY, Co. WEXFORD TO DUBLIN.

COOLGREANY/ INCH RUBBER DATESTAMP- REVERSED 'R'

The postcard seen here shows an 'Irish' Santa with a sack of toys in traditional national dress, accompanied by an Irish Wolfhound.

The greeting in Irish, using stylised Gaelic lettering reads: 'Nodlaig geal duit'. Loose English translation: 'A bright Christmas to you'.

The text at the left side of the back of the card reads: FERGUS O'CONNOR, DUBLIN – Publisher to the Trade.

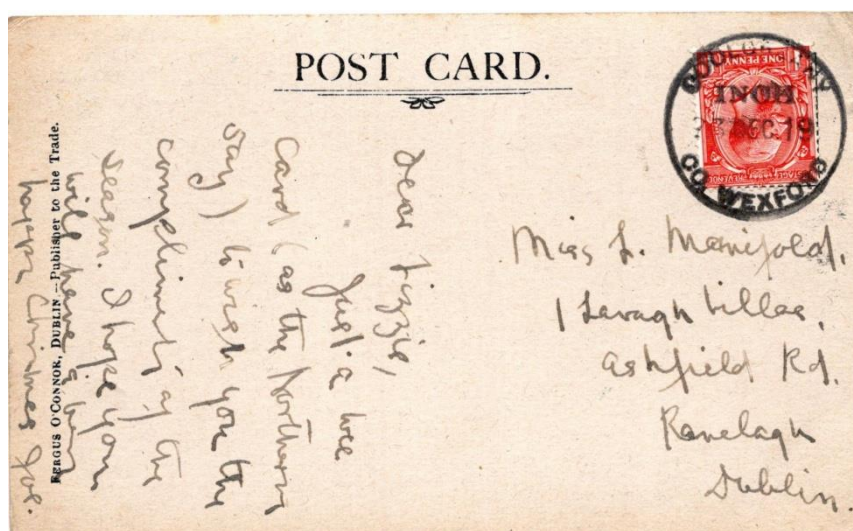
Rubber datestamp
23 DEC. 19
Dia: 30 mm
Mackay Type 683
IPS Ref 27 R1x.1



The George V1d., stamp is placed upside down on the card. This may be deliberate as the sender may have been making a Nationalist statement.

The Inland Postcard Rate was raised to one penny on 3rd June 1918.

The Coolgreany rubber datestamp shows the county name WEXFORD spelt with the letter 'R' reversed. This is the only example of this mark noted to date.



An Interesting Cover: Dublin Telegraph date-stamps 1930

By David MacDonnell

The illustrated large cover addressed to “Belguim” bears no less than six date-stamps of Dublin. Five appear to emanate from the Dublin Telegraph Office, and only one a “normal” postal cancellation.



It is unclear whether this has ever passed through the post, or is merely the result of a philatelic souvenir. The rate for a single letter to Belgium in 1930 was threepence, and the presence of Postage Dues on the piece, totalling threepence due for a deficiency of three halfpence suggests that there is much not quite normal with this item.

Chronologically, the datestamps appear to have been cancelled as follows:



1). DUBLIN PHONOGRAMS 23 AU 30, on a 1d Map definitive

(The term "phonogram" is applied to a telegram which is telephoned to a post office instead of being handed in over the counter, or is telephoned by the post office to the addressee instead of being delivered to him by a messenger.)



2). C.T.O. DUBLIN T.M.O. 23 AU 30 fully on a 1d Postage Due, and partly on a 2d Postage Due, for the same day as the previous cds. The letters may stand for “Central Telegraph Office Telegraphs and Money Order (Office)”



3). OIFIG AN TELEGRAFA Á CLIATH 34 24 VIII 30 which translates as Dublin Telegraph Office, stamping code 34, on 2d Map definitive (cds uses dot aspiration instead of Romanised h aspiration)



4). BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH FÓNOGRAMA 24 VIII 30 or Dublin Phonograms on 1/2d Sword definitive (cds uses dot aspiration instead of Romanised h aspiration)



5). P-O NA DTELEGRAF 6 Á CLIATH 24 VIII 30 or Telegraph Post Office Dublin code 6 on 2d O'Connell commemorative



6). BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 6-AM 25 AU 30 normal Dublin postal double-ring datestamp on 3d Cross definitive and 3d O'Connell commemorative.

The lack of any Belgian Postage Due stamps or tax marks suggests that this may not have travelled to Belgium. As the weekend of Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th August 1930 meant that Telegraphic Offices were open for Telegraph business, this could have been an effort by a philatelist to conjure up an interesting confection for his collection.

From our Friday Evening SKYPE Chatabouts A cover From Stan Challis

<https://join.skype.com/eGm8vsA0T8w9>



Mail from Belgium Embassy Dublin to Brussels, Belgium Postmarked 1 -X 1970

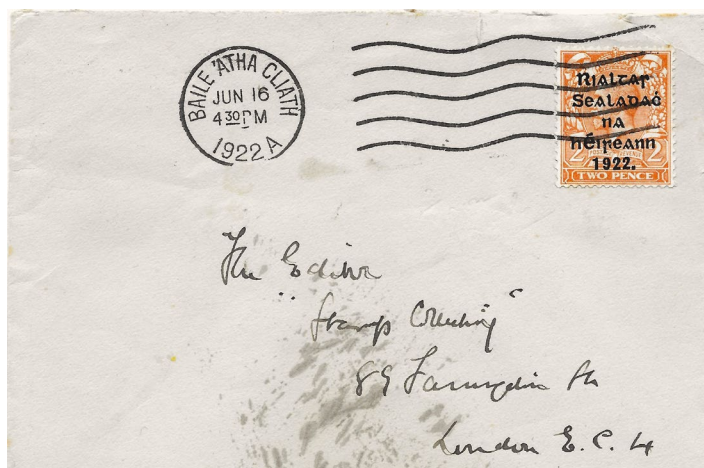
The First Day of the New Rate change to 1s 2d for Foreign Letters. The use of the Gerl Definitives also makes the cover very attractive. We would be very much like to see other mail from members posted on the day of a new rate change

Extra Crispy Mail

Cover burned in a mail Robbery on 4 Oct 1974 near Dublin Airport. Man wearing a Postman's uniform stopped a mail van. He produced a gun & searched the mail bags & afterward set the Van on Fire.

The cover, badly damaged, was finally delivered on Oct 22.

Do other members have mail from this Robbery ?



A Cover Presented by Dik Bakker

2d Harrison, Die I Coil Stamp used on June 16 1922

Three days before the recorded date issue.

The Stamp appears to be a coil stamp. I would like to hear comments from other members & to see if anyone else has similar coil cover used before *June 19, 1922* date of issue

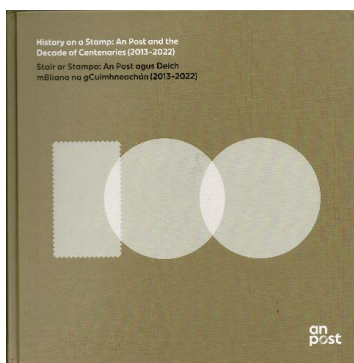


History on a Stamp: *An Post and the Decade of Centenaries.*

By Dr. Emily Mark-FitzGerald

Published by An Post, GPO, Dublin 1.

Reviewed by Brian Callan



The highlight of this book is the inclusion of all 22 philatelic issues, 54 stamps in total, that chronologically set out the major anniversaries from the 22nd August 2013 *Centenary of the General Lockout* to the 17th November 2022 *Centenary of the death of Erskine Childers*. Each issue details the date of issue, values and quantities printed, Designer, Printer, Printing process and perforation. More than this, the pages very logically set out the anniversaries as they happened and summarize very concisely the birth of the Irish State.

The book begins with a celebration of the humble stamp “*perhaps few symbols of the State hold such universal appeal and are so widely used*” or the W.B. Yeats quote “*postage stamps should be the silent ambassadors of national taste*”. W B Yeats also went on to quote a friend who described the postage stamps of Ireland in 1926 as the “*humblest and ugliest in the world*”. This could certainly not be said of the stamps included in this beautiful volume.

a modern Irish stamp is born, beginning with the work of the Philatelic Advisory Committee who advise and propose the annual stamp programme. The recommendation from this group goes to the Stamp Design Advisory Committee, made up of artists and designers, who conceive the visual image of each

See also Brian Warren's THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS for 2022 re. technical details. A number of stamps in the book differ from the original printings.

proposal. The final design is then brought to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communication which in turn may be recommended for approval by the government. The first part of the book contains a number of stamps magnified greatly to show the detail of each design, often not seen by the naked eye. An example of this is the detailed maps and place names in the background to the 22nd May 2014 stamp marking the *Centenary of Home Rule Act 1914*. This approach really does highlight the excellence of the design detail.



The book also touches on the design concept, adding excellent insight to the thought behind the image. A good example of this is the Round Tower set in the background to the 24th July 2014 issue featuring a Redmond recruitment poster for the *Centenary of World War I*. The blow up of this stamp clearly shows the poster wording “*J.E. Redmond M.P. at Waterford 23rd August 1915*”.

The book makes the bold assertion that it sets out to reflect “*common history but not common memory*” of the events of 1913 to 2023 and to “*deliver historical authenticity*”, which it appears to do very effectively. The author acknowledges that not all events are included in the philatelic programme, citing one omission as “*Partition and the border formed with the foundation of Northern Ireland*”. Of course the major omission for the philatelic community is any recognition of the 6th December 2022 as the centenary of the first Irish stamp, an issue that would have been the perfect ending for this excellent publication.

What were the airmail rates up to 1951?

Karl Winkelmann

At one of our Skype meetings Bob Benninghoff showed a 1950 cover from Dublin to Zanzibar paid at 3/- (3 shillings). He wanted to know how the rate was calculated. Fortunately I have a collection of Irish Post Office Guides which includes a 1950 edition. A quick look confirmed the rate was 1/- per half-ounce, so it must have weighed between one and one and a half ounces.



During the World War II period an airmail rate of 1/3 per half-ounce was introduced but until the introduction of the Uniform Airmail Rates on the 1st of March 1950, several different rates applied depending on the destination countries.

There were five foreign rates steps with examples of some of the destination countries:

6d to Cyprus, Egypt, Palestine

9d to Aden, Canada, Iran, Iraq, USA

1/- to Bahamas, Cylon, Gambia, Kenya, S Africa

1/3 to Australia, Burma, Hong Kong, New Zealand

1/6 to S. America, China, Brazil, Phillippines

Full details are shown on the pages from the 1950 Eolai an Phoist. Brian Warren and Joachim Schaff did a massive job with their FAI publication *Irish Postal Rates 1839-2014* but airmail rates prior to 1950 have been elusive because the airmail leaflets were mostly not integrated into the guide but issued separately and so have not been in archived guides available even in the Irish National Library.

Illustrated are the full rate pages along with covers showing other rates. These were initiated sometime after 1945 but the dates are uncertain. If you know more please let me know.

96 Foreign Post—Services [Secn. III.]

SURCHARGE AIR MAIL SERVICE TO COUNTRIES OUTSIDE EUROPE

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Destination and Observations	Rates of Postage		Destination and Observations	Rates of Postage	
	Letters per ½-oz.	Post Cards		Letters per ½-oz.	Post Cards
ADEN	s. d. 0 9	s. d. 4	CUBA	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 6
AFGHANISTAN	1 0	6	CYPRUS	0 6	3
ALGERIA	0 6	3	CYRENAICA	0 6	3
ANGOLA	1 0	6			
ANTIGUA	1 3	7	DAHOMY	1 0	6
ARUBA	1 6	9	DOMINICA	1 3	7
ARGENTINE	1 6	9	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1 0	6
AUSTRALIA	1 3	7	DUBAI	0 9	4
AZORES	0 6	3	DUTCH EAST INDIES	See Indonesia	
BAHAMAS	1 0	6	DUTCH GULANA	1 6	9
BAHRAIN	0 9	4	DUTCH WEST INDIES	See Netherlands Antilles.	
BANKS ISLANDS	1 3	7			
BARBADOS	1 3	7	ECUADOR	1 6	9
BELGIAN CONGO	1 0	6	EGYPT	0 6	3
BERMUDA	1 0	6	EL SALVADOR	1 3	7
BOLIVIA	1 6	9	ERITREA	0 9	4
BONAIRE	1 6	9	ETHIOPIA	0 9	4
BRAZIL	1 6	9	(Abyssinia)	0 9	4
BRITISH GUIANA	1 6	9			
HONDURAS	1 3	7	FALKLAND ISLANDS	1 6	9
BRITISH SOMALILAND	0 9	4	FANNING ISLAND	1 3	7
BRUNEI	1 3	7	FIJI ISLANDS	1 3	7
BURMA	1 3	7	FORMOSA	1 6	9
CAMEROONS, British	1 0	6	FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA	1 0	6
CAMEROONS, French	1 0	6	FRENCH GUIANA	1 6	9
CANADA	0 9	4	FRENCH GUINEA	1 0	6
CANARY ISLANDS	0 6	3	FRENCH INDO-CHINA	1 3	7
CAPE VERDE ISLANDS	0 6	3	FRENCH OCEANIA	1 3	7
CAYMAN ISLANDS	1 0	6	FRENCH SOMALI COAST	0 9	4
CELEBES	1 3	7	FRENCH WEST INDIES	1 3	7
CEYLON	1 0	6			
CHILE	1 6	9	GAMBIA	1 0	7
CHINA	1 6	9	GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS	1 3	7
COLOMBIA	1 6	9			
COOK ISLANDS	1 3	7			
COSTA RICA	1 3	7			

Secn. III.]			Foreign Post—Services			97		
Destination and Observations		Rates of Postage		Destination and Observations		Rates of Postage		
		Letters per ½-oz.	Post Cards			Letters per ½-oz.	Post Cards	
		s. d.	s. d.			s. d.	s. d.	
GOLD COAST	....	1 0	6	NORTHERN RHODESIA	....	1 0	6	
GRENADA	....	1 3	7	NYASALAND	....	1 0	6	
GUADELOUPE	....	1 3	7	PAKISTAN	....	1 0	6	
GUATEMALA	....	1 3	7	PALESTINE (Arab-controlled)	....	0 6	3	
HAWAII	....	1 3	7	PALESTINE (Israel-controlled)	....			
HAYTI	....	1 0	6	See Israel.				
HONDURAS	....	1 3	7	PANAMA (Republic of)	....	1 3	7	
HONG KONG	....	1 3	7	PANAMA CANAL ZONE	....	1 3	7	
INDIA	....	1 0	6	PAPUA	....	1 3	7	
INDONESIA	....	1 3	7	PARAGUAY	....	1 6	9	
IRAN (Persia)	....	0 9	4	PERU	....	1 6	9	
IRAQ	....	0 9	4	PHILIPPINES	....	1 0	6	
ISRAEL	....	0 6	3	PORTO RICO	....	1 0	6	
IVORY COAST	....	1 0	6	PORTUGUESE E. AFRICA	....	1 0	6	
JAMAICA	....	1 0	6	PORTUGUESE TIMOR	....	1 3	7	
JAPAN (No registration sec.)	....	1 6	9	PORTUGUESE W. AFRICA	....	1 0	6	
JAVA	....	1 3	7	REUNION	....	1 0	6	
JORDAN	....	0 6	3	RIO DE ORO	....	1 0	6	
KENYA and UGANDA	....	1 0	6	ST. KITTS	....	1 3	7	
KOREA	....	1 6	9	ST. LUCIA	....	1 3	7	
KUWAIT	....	0 9	4	ST. MARTIN or ST. MARTINS	....	1 3	7	
LEBANON	....	0 6	3	ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON	....	1 0	6	
LEEWARD ISLANDS	....	1 3	7	ST. VINCENT	....	1 3	7	
LIBERIA	....	1 0	6	SAMOA - BRITISH SANDWICH ISLANDS	....	1 3	7	
MACAO	....	1 3	7	SARAWAK	....	1 3	7	
MADAGASCAR	....	1 0	6	SAUDI ARABIA	....	0 9	4	
MADIRA (Madeira)	....	0 6	3	SENEGAL	....	1 0	6	
MADURA (Madoera)	....	1 3	7	SEYCHELLES	....	1 0	6	
MALAYA (Federation of)	....	1 3	7	SHARJA	....	0 9	4	
MARIAN ISLANDS (Guam)	....	1 6	9	SIAM (see THAILAND)	....	1 0	6	
MARTINIQUE	....	1 3	7	SIERRA LEONE	....	1 3	7	
MAURITANIA	....	1 0	6	SINGAPORE	....	1 3	7	
MAURITIUS	....	1 0	6	SOLOMON ISLANDS	....	1 0	6	
MEXICO	....	1 0	6	SOMALIA	....	1 0	6	
MONTSERRAT	....	1 3	7	SOUTH AFRICA	....	1 0	6	
MOROCCO, French and Tangier	....	0 6	3	SOUTHERN RHODESIA	....	1 0	6	
MUSCAT	....	0 9	4	SPANISH GUINEA STRAITS SETTLEMENTS	....	1 3	7	
NAURU	....	1 3	7	SUDAN, ANGLO-EGYPTIAN	....	0 9	4	
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES: Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao	....	1 6	9	SUDAN, FRENCH	....	1 0	6	
St. Maarten or St. Martins	....	1 3	7	SUMATRA	....	1 3	7	
NEVIS	....	1 3	7	SURINAM	....	1 6	9	
NEW CALEDONIA	....	1 3	7	SYRIA	....	0 6	3	
NEWFOUNDLAND See Canada	....			TANGANYIKA TERRITORY	....	1 0	6	
NEW GUINEA TERRITORY	....	1 3	7	THAILAND	....	1 3	7	
NEW HEBRIDES	....	1 3	7	TIBET	....	1 0	6	
NEW ZEALAND	....	1 3	7	TIMOR	....	1 3	7	
NICARAGUA	....	1 3	7	TOGO, British Sphere	....	1 0	6	
NIGER	....	1 0	6	TOGO, French Sphere	....	1 0	6	
NIGERIA	....	1 0	6	TONGA	....	1 3	7	
NORFOLK ISLAND	....	1 3	7					
NORTH BORNEO	....	1 3	7					

98 Foreign Post—Services [Secn. III.]					
Destination and Observations	Rates of Postage		Destination and Observations	Rates of Postage	
	Letters per ½-oz.	Post Cards		Letters per ½-oz.	Post Cards
TORTOLA (British Virgin Islands)	1 3	7	VIRGIN IS. OF U.S.A.	1 3	7
TRANSJORDAN (see JORDAN)			ZANZIBAR	1 0	6
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1 3	7	SECOND CLASS MAIL		
TRIPOLITANIA	0 6	3	CANADA. First oz.		9d.
TUNISIA	0 6	3	Each additional ½ oz. or portion thereof		4d.
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	1 0	6	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. First oz.		9d.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0 9	4	Each additional ½ oz. or portion thereof		4d.
URUGUAY	1 6	9	PARCEL MAIL		
VENEZUELA	1 6	9	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. First ½ lb.	6s. 0d.	
VIETNAM (see French Indo-China)			Each additional ½ lb. or portion thereof	4s. 0d.	
VIRGIN ISLANDS (British)	1 3	7			



6d foreign airmail rate: using a pair of 3d airmail stamps
Mailed 24 November 1948, Bray to Port Said, Egypt



9d foreign airmail rate:
Mailed 3 January 1948, Dublin to California



9d foreign airmail rate:
Mailed 6 December 1950, Dublin to Sydney, Australia



1/- foreign airmail rate: 1oz. double weight paid 2/-
Mailed 17 May 1949, Dublin to Nairobi



9d foreign airmail rate:
Mailed 28 February 1950, the last day before the start of the Uniform Airmail Rate, from Cork to Montreal, Canada.



1/6 foreign airmail rate:
Mailed 7 November 1949, Dublin to Rio de Janeiro
2 backstamps dated 11 November show 4 day journey

A boxed **INSUFFICIENTLY PAID FOR AIR SERVICE** cachet was normally applied in Dublin despite being paid at the correct rate for a half ounce letter. The cover does not look overweight, nor are there any other indications of that. I believe it was incorrectly applied due to the new rate of 1/4 being in force when it arrived at the Dublin Foreign Section the following day.

Focus on Exhibiting Designing a Postal History Exhibit

Peter McCann

My philosophy of designing and organizing postal history exhibits has evolved over the years from a simple direct discussion of markings, rates and routes as was the case in my early British Virgins Islands Postal History exhibit which did very well in competitive exhibitions (several Grand Awards and an International Gold Medal) to a much more nuanced discussion of the actual “postal history” of the place in question.

One of my most recent postal history exhibits is *Dominica of the Leeward Islands*, and was developed as the history of a postal system. For example, while the exhibit does look at markings, rates and routes in some detail, ***the focus is on the history of the Post Office itself***. Dominica is a small country, the entire scope of its mail system, over an almost 200-year period, is studied in my eight frame exhibit (see Title Page, *Dominica*.)

What my exhibit shows is how mail was sent before there was a formal post office, how a postal structure was developed from the introduction of the British Packet Ship lines, how the London British Colonial Government set up a formal post office for the Island using Great Britain stamps, and after this how local Island government began issuing its own stamps and postal stationery. What then also ensued was the development of an internal postal system involving a number of village post offices all around the Island. Later in the 20th Century air mail routes were set up and a system of censorship of mail was developed during World War II.

To give specific examples of this the formal Chapters of the exhibit are:

Forerunner Ship Mail Mid to Late 1700's

Packet Mail Systems and Markings 1792-1850

Dominica Post Office and Mail System 1850-1860

Postage Stamps and Stationery 1860-1898

Leeward Islands Post Office Issues 1890-1903

Resumption of Dominica Stamps and Stationery 1903-1919

Village Post Office System 1920's-1930's

Postal Operations in the Pre-War Era 1920's – 1940

World War II and Censored Mail 1941-1945

A great deal of research and personal study has gone into identifying material appropriate for the framework of the exhibit and also understanding the very complex markings, routes and rates involved, particularly for the 18th and 19th Century material.

However, what makes collecting postal history from a small island such as Dominica extremely difficult is the basic point that there just was not very much mail that was sent and then survived.

DOMINICA
of the Leeward Islands

Development and Study of the Postal System and Island Post Office
from the Mid 1700's through World War II

This is a postal history exhibit developed as the history of a postal system. It looks at routes, rates, and markings, but with a focus on the history of the Post Office itself.

Dominica is a small country in the British West Indies, and the scope of most aspects of its mail system over an almost 200-year period can be studied in this eight frame exhibit.

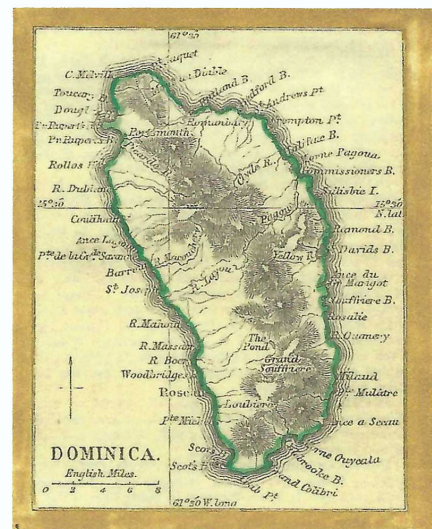
Shown is how mail was sent before there was a formal post office, how a postal structure was developed from the introduction of the British Packet Ship lines, how the London British Colonial Government set up a formal post office for the Island initially using Great Britain stamps, and after this how local Colonial government began issuing its own stamps and postal stationery.

What then followed was the development of an internal postal system involving a number of village post offices all around the Island.

Later in the 20th Century air mail routes were set up and a system of censorship of mail was developed during World War II.

Chapters of the exhibit are:

- I Forerunner Ship Mail Mid to Late 1700's**
- II Packet Mail System and Markings 1787-1850**
- III Dominica Post Office and Mail System 1850-1860**
- IV Postage Stamps and Stationery 1860-1898**
- V Leeward Islands Post Office Issues 1890-1903**
- VI Resumption of Dominica Stamps and Stationery 1903-1919**
- VII Village Post Office System 1920's-1930's**
- VIII Postal Operations in the Pre-War Era 1920's – 1940**
- IX World War II and Censored Mail 1941-1945**



Postal history from a small island such as Dominica is extremely difficult to acquire as there was not very much mail that was sent and then survived.

Special items are denoted in a box with outstanding pieces described in red.

The broad scope of this study of the Dominica postal system allows it to be an important model for the overall postal development of other islands of the British Caribbean area.

Title Page of Peter McCann's Large Gold Medal Exhibit.

Each Chapter starts with an **Introduction** to explain the significance of the subject and material to be shown (see **Figure 1**). The Treatment or story line is more or less chronological within each Chapter although the topics of some chapters do overlap to some extent. Important items are highlighted with **Red Text** (See **Figure 2**)

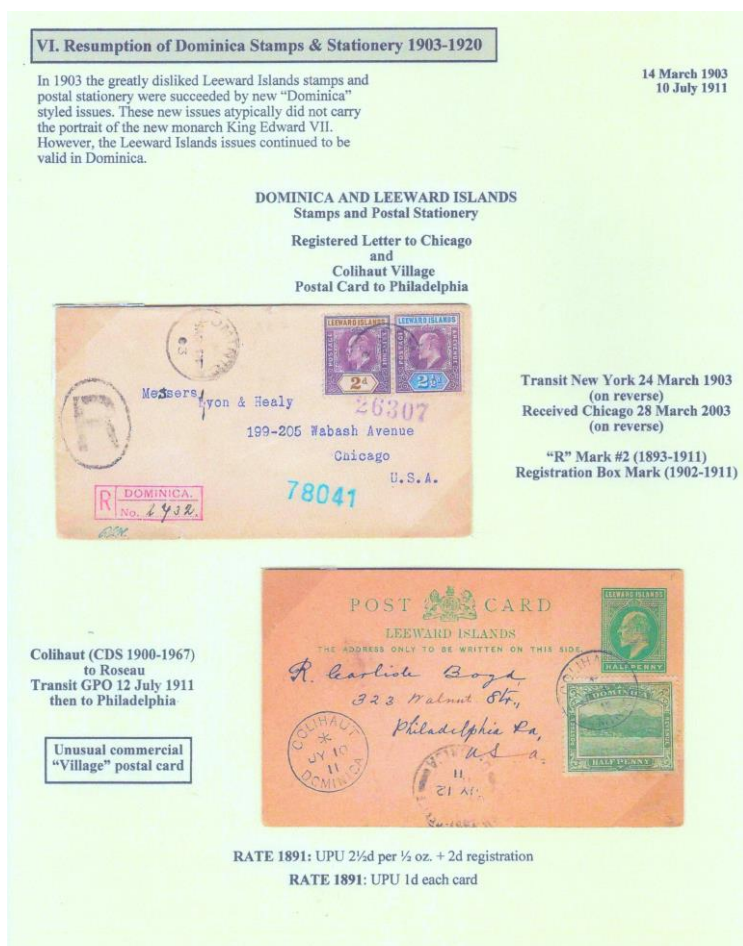


Figure 1: A New Chapter Page with the introduction shown in a shade Box

Each cover or card in the exhibit is described with regard to its postal markings, routes and manner of transport, and the postal rates for the transport.

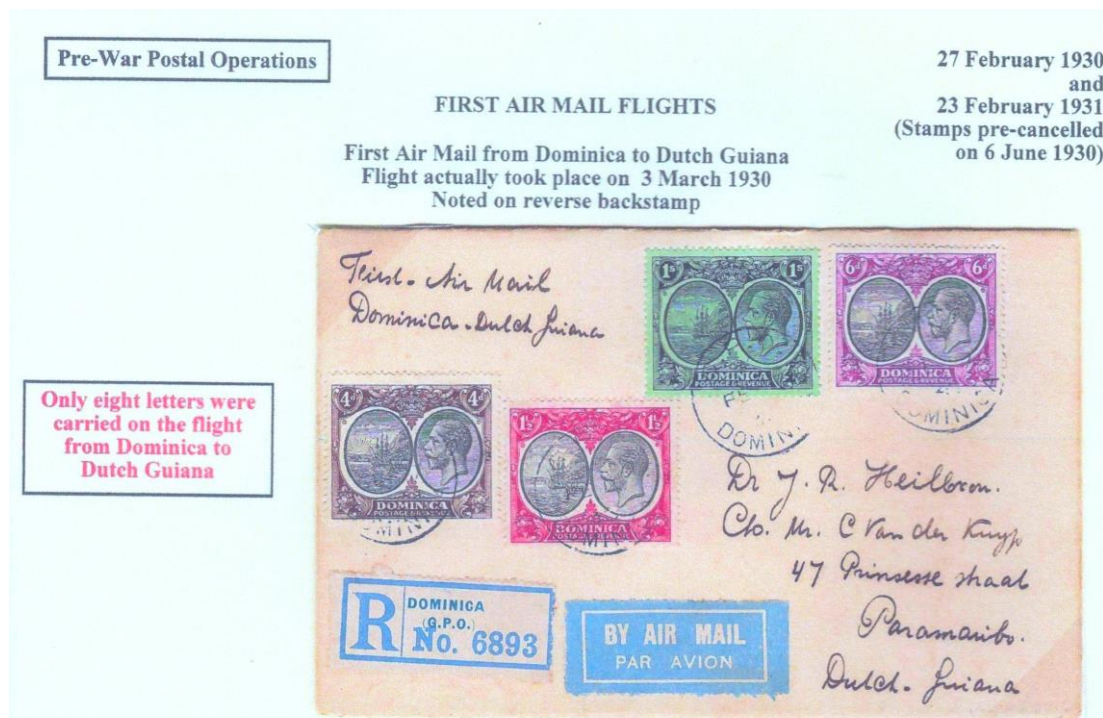
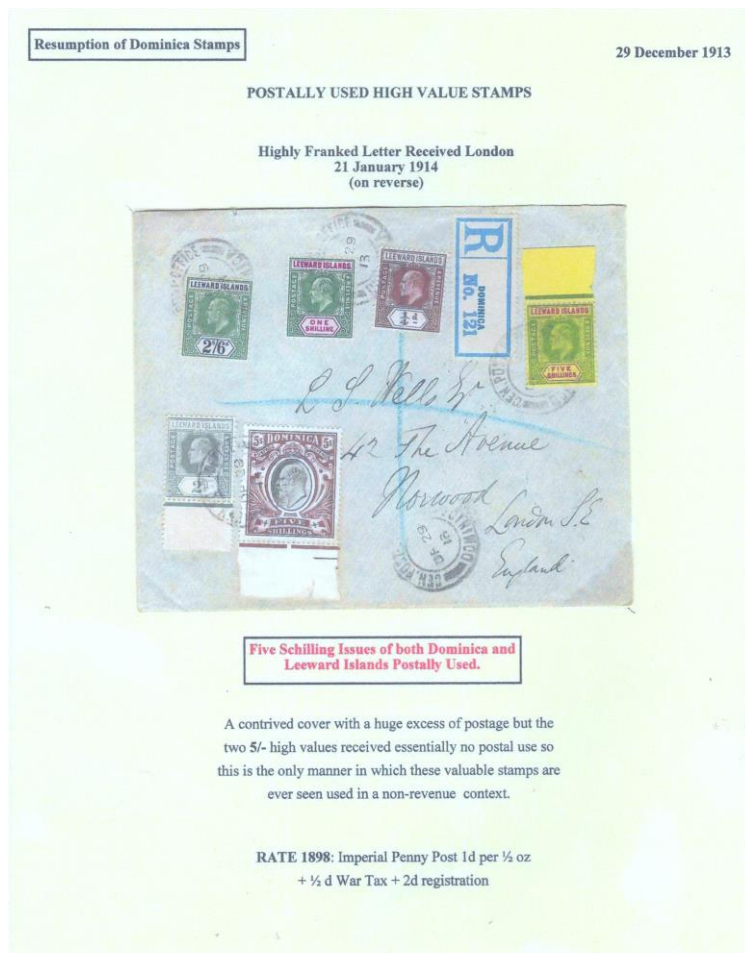


Figure 2: Special items, rarity or unusual aspects, are denoted in a box with the especially outstanding pieces described in red.

The exhibit has a significant number of the major Dominica rarities that have been identified over the years, and it would not be possible to duplicate the exhibit today.



Several “philatelic” items are shown in the exhibit simply because the material/stamps could not be found otherwise. The high values of the early stamp issues were used almost 100% of the time for Revenue purposes and the only way non-revenue copies now exist is because collectors like ourselves wanted postally used examples. Putting a few such items in this exhibit is to show them as part of the history of the Post Office.

Philatelic Items can be an important aspect of any exhibit if they highlight a vital part of the story which may not be available on commercial mail -The editor

The broad scope of this study of the Dominica postal system allows it to be a useful and important model for the overall development of similar systems of the numerous islands of the British Caribbean area.

I am not advocating that this model can be developed for any postal history subject, but that simply adding some aspects to what we describe as postal history can make for a much more interesting and inviting exhibit. Such “social” aspects are clearly encouraged in modern national and international regulations for postal history.

From The Editor: *I have known Peter for over twenty years and he is an avid mentor to the Philatelic Community around the world. Peter’s collecting interests are the postal history of several British Caribbean islands, currently Dominica. In recent years, he has even begun to appreciate the finer aspects of Irish Philately as a member of the Irish Philatelic Circle. Peter exhibits nationally and internationally, and has published more than 50 articles and three books.*

Peter is both a North American Judge and Chief Judge, and a much sought after International Judge. and his comments on the Exhibit Evaluation Forms are always very helpful.

Peter is Past President of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and current APS Board Secretary. He is the Current Chairman of APS Awards Committee, Chairman of the Luff Awards Committee, and Member of the APS Committee for the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges (CANEJ).

Peter has received the John N. Luff Award for Outstanding Service to the APS, the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for Service to Philately, the Bernard A. Hennig AAPE Award for Excellence and Improvement in Philatelic Judging, and he received the Philatelic Foundation Neinken Medal for Distinguished Service to Philately.

Peter signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDP) in 2007.

AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY COVERS - X

Stan Challis



10 ITALIAN MILITARY POST IN THE TURKISH EMPIRE to Blackrock in 1920

On leaving Crimea, we will take an imaginary swim across the Black Sea to the city of Trabzon, as it is called today but perhaps better known at Trebizond(e), once a Greek Colony, later an outpost of the Roman Empire and as Wikipedia puts it 'a successor rump state of the Byzantine Empire'.

So, we are in modern day Turkey and indeed the card above looks very Turkish, as indeed it was, until one inspects the stamp. Not only is that stamp Italian but the postmark reads 'Posta Militaria'. The card is dated 15 June 1920. So, what was going on?

A quick look at the map is useful. Trebizond is at the south east of the Black Sea, today just over 100 miles from the border with Georgia and 120 miles from the town of Batum(i) – collectors of British Commonwealth stamps will no doubt have seen and probably passed quickly over the page in the SG Catalogue headed 'Batum – British Occupation'. That occupation lasted from late 1918 to July 1920.

So that was Batum but why were the Italians in Trebizond? In truth, the whole area was a boiling pot in the aftermath of World War 1. In 1915 a major battle had taken place in the area between Russia and the Ottomans, in whose territory the town had been prior to the outbreak of hostilities. This led to the Armenian genocide. Armenians had made up a large part of the population. Hostilities smoldered on; by 1919 it had become clear to the Allied Powers that the whole area was a powder keg. Hence the British went to Batum and the Italians to Trebizond as 'peace keepers'.

The Treaty of Sevres in 1920 put Trebizond into a new Armenian State, which basically never happened. That Treaty was accepted by neither Turkey, who had established a new National Army under Kamal Atatürk, which was in the process of ejecting the Greeks from Smyrna, or the Soviets who had their eyes on the Caucasus, subsequently establishing puppet states in Armenia and Georgia. The Allies were tired and wanted the whole affair to be put to bed so by late 1920 the Italian force had gone home, leaving behind, inter alia, so Wikipedia tells us a small 'colony' of Greek speaking Muslims, perhaps the last throw of the Byzantine Empire. All very messy but at least the Italian postal service appears to have worked!

So much for the history, now a quick word about the card. It is the standard Turkish issue of the day, priced at 20para (about 1¼d). As I do not read Arabic, I can add nothing more, while the Italian stamp is the standard overseas rate of the day showing the portrait of King Victor Emmanuel III.

And what of Blackrock Hosiery Co Ltd? The company appears to have been established at Carysfort Avenue c1905. The main product was its 'Rock Underwear' and I have found a reference to the company sponsoring a programme 'Rock Revellers' on RTE radio in the 1930s. It was clearly a substantial operation for a number of years. The company traded through at least two generations of the Crawford family finally going into voluntary liquidation in 1958.