



JOURNAL OF IRISH PHILATELY



Vol. 1 No. 3 — JANUARY 1973

INCORPORATING "THE REVEALER" AND "IRISH PHILATELY"
ISSUED JOINTLY BY
EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION and IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

EDITORIAL

It is my sad duty to record in this issue the deaths of two great men of Irish Philately, namely John B. Sherman, and Frank Hopson. Both of these men have done so much for our hobby in their respective ways. They will be sadly missed.

I wish to put on record my thanks to readers who have taken the trouble to write to me, expressing their opinions on the content and format of J.O.I.P. I am pleased to say that from over 50 such letters I only got two complaints. I fully realise that E.P.A. members must miss their "REVEALER" which was such an excellent publication, and in like manner I.P.C. members miss their "IRISH PHILATELY" also a fine edition. Those members who have not as yet written to me, please drop me a postcard and tell me your views on the new journal. It is my aim to please the majority, I rely on you to help me do so.

I wish all readers the compliments of the season—
Good Health, and Prosperity in the coming 1973.

W. KANE

The following poem was submitted by E.P.A.
member H. O. Molitor of Amherst, Mass. U.S.A.

LAMENTATION

In the bog and the heather, the dale and the fen,
Dwell a perverse race of mischievous men,
The stalwarts of Éire, the clerks of the post,
Who wield cancellations like a leprechaun's ghost,
If the background is white, the design small or
pale,
They bang down their cancels 'til it looks like a
jail,
But let it be cluttered or complex or dark,
And, like artists, they daintily waft on their mark,
The "emblem and globe," the five penny flame,
Whether used or unused, look much the same,
And the hand is deft on the grey and blue Dail—
But the Mathews is cancelled by lovers of ale,
And the temperance black makes even Guinness
look pale,
While the maple leaves and Canadian white
Disappear beneath dark Hibernian spite,
Ah, the elfish hand of the E.P.O.
Is a puzzle and wonder to collectors below.

E.P.A. NOTES

Acknowledgments: The E.P.A. is deeply grateful to Mrs. Cora Gommo, widow of the late Fred J. Gommo, for her donation of a large quantity of used Irish stamps and miscellaneous philatelic material. The Irish stamps have been sent to James Etherton, 222 No. Madison Street, Grand Island, Nebraska, 68801, U.S.A. As previously mentioned in an earlier issue, Jim has initiated a programme whereby surplus Irish material is being donated, in packets, to various Veterans' Hospitals with the compliments of the E.P.A. This is a most worthwhile project, and again, all members are urged to send any surplus Irish stamps to Jim at the above address to aid in this programme. This programme is not limited to North America and members elsewhere are asked to participate by donating and suggesting possible recipients. Material other than Irish has been sent to Veterans' Hospitals in the New York area in accordance with Mrs. Gommo's wishes. Mrs. Gommo has also donated Fred's superb slide programme to the E.P.A. which will be made available to members for use at group meetings adding to our present library of such programmes. It will be named "The Fred J. Gommo Memorial Slide Programme" and will be available as soon as a member can be recruited to handle the various slides, a task formerly managed by Fred. Further details will follow in the next "Notes". Again, our most sincere appreciation to Mrs. Gommo for her generosity.

Dues: The 1972-73 dues were due on September 1st, 1972. Those who have not done so are urged to send their remittance without further delay in order to avoid "follow-up" printing and mailing costs. North American members should send \$4.00 to John J. Blessington, 4302 St. Clair Ave., Studio City, Calif., 91604. Those residing in the Sterling area should forward £1.70 to Michael P. Giffney, Site 19, Grace Park Estates, Drumcondra, Dublin, 9, Ireland. Your prompt co-operation will be appreciated.

Amendments: Both of the proposed amendments to the Constitution were approved by the membership. Junior members will now be admitted if the application is accompanied by a guarantee by a person over age 21 that all debts incurred by the Junior members will be paid. The other amendment provides for a second Vice President to relieve some of the workload which has become increasingly heavy on the President and the Vice President. That position will be filled shortly on an interim basis until August 31, 1973.

Appointments: Garvin F. Lohman, 1541 Sacramento St., San Francisco, California, 94109, who chaired the highly successful meeting as SESCAL has accepted the appointment as Alternate Director of Western United States and Canada replacing the late John B. Sherman.

Award Certificates: A reminder that the E.P.A. has Award Certificates available for use at exhibitions which have Irish entries. Those members who intend to exhibit in any show should have the Chairman of the exhibition contact Henry Bright, 799 Bayard Street, Teaneck, N.J. 07666, U.S.A. for details.

In order to keep the E.P.A. "Notes" international in character, may I ask that any news items concerning our members and the association's activities throughout the world be sent along to me for future publication. Any information that can be provided will be most welcome.

In closing, may I wish all members of both the I.P.C. and the E.P.A. my best wishes for the New Year.

E. J. RYAN.

Late News

E.P.A. report the following new members, we extend a welcome to them:

Mrs. Jean Talmam, Thomas P. McCabe, William H. Purnell, Kenneth G. Spalding, Mrs. Charles J. Casper, Miss Lenore McLaughlin, John J. Bonang, Jnr., Michael McHugh, F. Bonnie Ryan, Theodore T. Foley II, Dr. Ralph E. Green, Alfred Moore.

Reinstated: Mrs. Maura D. Drechsler. Addresses will be published in next issue.

I.P.C. NOTES

The following meetings have been arranged in the London Area for the remainder of the 1972/73 season:

January 13, 1973	Postal History, all members.	Mini-auction.
March 10, 1973	General varieties, all members.	
May 12, 1973	Displays by Lady Members.	Mini-auction.

All meetings take place at the Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, London S.W.1, commencing at 2.00 p.m. Anyone from outside the London area who may be in town on these dates will be sure of a welcome at these meetings.

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

A report from Mr. H. G. L. Fletcher, the leader of the Irish Study Circle at the 1972 Congress, held at Llandudno in May, states that 21 people were in attendance at the Circle and saw five interesting displays of Irish stamps and postal history.

The 1973 Congress is to be held in London from May 1 to 3, the organising society being the Civil Service P.S. Mr. Fletcher has again been invited to lead the Irish Study Circle and it is hoped to announce details of times and date in due course when the necessary arrangements have been completed.

I.P.C. Meeting in London

A "London Area" meeting was held at the Reform Club under the Chairmanship of Mr. W. G. Meredith on September 9th when some 11 members attended.

The theme of the meeting was the initial letters A, B, or C, and this resulted in the members bringing along displays on Airmails, Bogus Labels, Controls, Cork Postal History and Censor Labels. An interesting thematic show was "An Irish Alphabet," given by Mrs. Garlette, in which each letter was represented by an Irish stamp and its description given in verse.

Membership Changes

We extend a welcome to the following members who have joined us:—

G. Mc. Flack 2, Farnham Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex BN6 8NS.
Dr. G. A. Tanner 34, Thurston Avenue, Southen-on-Sea, Essex.

Change of Address

Fr. R. Maher is now at 104, Larkhill Road, Dublin 11.

Resigned

W. O. Bush of Liverpool.

The following have not renewed their subscriptions for 1971 and 1972 and are therefore considered to have lapsed membership:

R. M. Anglim	J. B. Askins	L. J. Austin	Mrs. F. Boyd
S. S. Brennan	G. Etoe	H. T. Field	D. E. Godin
J. Keenan	E. Murphy	W. J. Murphy	G. B. McInnes
Rev. G. S. Odell	D. J. K. Orsmond	R. G. Peyton	R. M. Robotham
M. J. Wall	D. Warren		

Annual Subscription

Members are reminded that the annual subscription of £1.50 or the equivalent in other currencies becomes due on January 1, 1973 and these should be sent promptly to the Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Wilks.

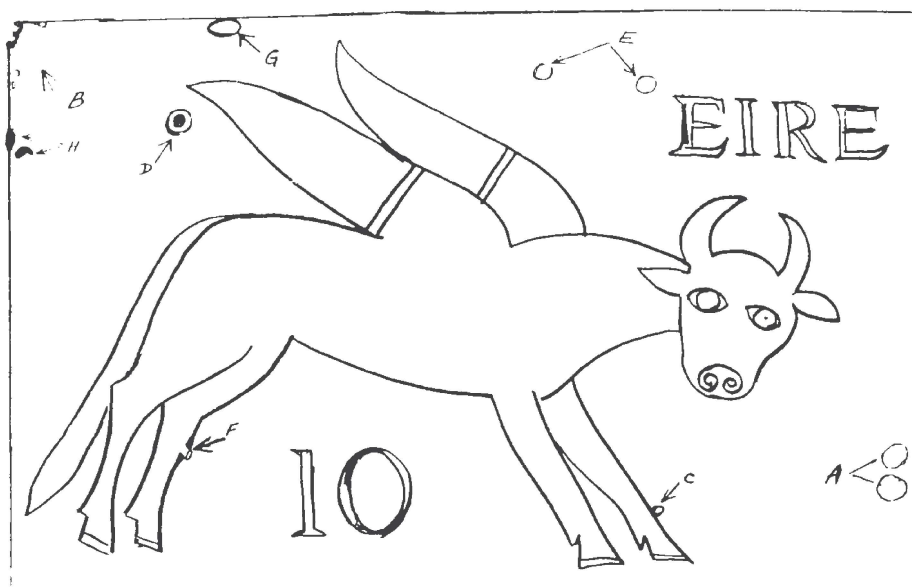
In spite of him writing letters to those concerned, there is still a considerable number of subscriptions outstanding for 1972, and these, where applicable, should be included with those now due.

DEFINITIVES VARIETIES

PÁDRAIG Ó MATHÚNA

FOURTH DEFINITIVE SERIES
DECIMAL CURRENCY

15th FEBRUARY 1971.



PRINTING NOTE

10p Value

There are two printings, though cylinder numbers are still "IIII" and these are still printed in the same colours.

FIRST PRINTING

1. Jubilee line in margin in light lavender colour.
2. Spots around bright yellow patches of Ox in lavender.
3. Outline around Ox also lavender.

SECOND PRINTING

First observed during June 1971, in company with remains of earlier stock.

1. Jubilee line appears as black.
2. Spots now a rich brown.
3. Outline around Ox now rich brown.
4. Background deeper shade. Overall impression is of a strong image.

MAY 1972

Is there a third printing?

1. New stocks are in darker shades of original colours.
2. Brown body outlines read more strongly and seem to be thickened.
3. The white spot "F" in stamp 10/4 reported for the second printing no longer is to be seen in a number of positional blocks examined.

In printing II the white spot results from a peel-back of the edge of the blue background beside a weakness in the brown outline. The outline remains the same but the blue has a straight edge now.

All flaws remain as reported.

4. The second printing was on paper whiter than the first. With this the paper is again creamy in specimens examined.

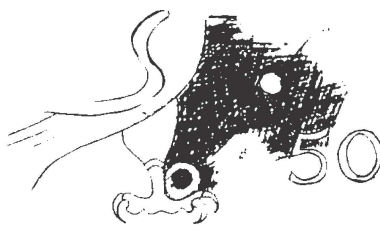
AUGUST 1972

I have now seen to my surprise F.D.C.'s cancelled in Cork City, which bear the 10p. with brown outline, described above as second printing.

F.D.C.'s seen from other areas bear the lavender outline described as first printing.

DEFINITIVES

VARIETIES Continued



10p Value

S.G. 299. S. 302. DF. D63.

- A R 1/3 Thirkell F 12/13.
Two pale areas.
- B R 3/2. Top left corner broken, with other damaged areas radiating in from it.
- C R 1/4. Thirkell F9. White spot on outer outline of leg.
- D R 6/4. Thirkell B3. Retouch to left of wing.
- E R 6/5. Thirkell A 8. and A 9.
Two bright spots.
- F R 10/4. Thirkell F 3. White spot on outline of leg, next to 10. (see Printing Note).
- G R 10/8. Thirkell A 3. Pale area on top frameline above wing tip.
- H R 10/2. Thirkell B 1.
Two dark retouch patches on left frame.
Very strong in later printings. The upper one disturbs the frame line (vertical).

20p Value

S.G. 300. S. 303. DF. D64.

Since December 1971, the bright yellow face and the patches on the body are now a darker shade, nearer to brown.

50p Value

S.G. 301. S. 304. DF. D65.

- A R 4/1. Thirkell. E 10. A bright circular patch in background.
- B R 10/3. Thirkell. FG 8. Circular retouch in outside curve of leg and claw.

N.B.:— All printing referred to above are on cylinders, I, II, and III.

There are probably flaws additional to these as I have not had opportunity of examining full sheets closely.

Pádraig Ó Mathúna.

CINDERELLA

IRISH ERINNOPHILIA by Bill Mathews — with help and advice from F. E. Dixon

Women's National Health Association of Ireland (Dublin)

- 1909 1. Double barred cross in oval with "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year"; Blue, V.F. 21 x 25mm. perf. 11.
2. Country scene, 3 farm houses with setting sun "Christmas 1909"; Blue, V.F. 20 x 26mm. perf. 11.
3. "Slainte" (Good Health) with 3-leaf shamrock and D.B. cross above; Ornate scrolls at bottom and sides; Green and blue, V.F. 21 x 24mm. perf. 11.
- 1925 4. Toadstool, gnome with shield of society, "N.W.H.A. Slainte" (Good health) "Xmas 1925 Health is Wealth"; Multi Col. V.F. 28 x 37mm. roul. 12.
- 4x (a) As 4 but sheet 4 x 2 with imprint "DUNDALGAN PRESS, DUNDALK".
(b) As above but imprint variety "Dundalgan Press, Dundalk" under 8th seal on sheet.
(c) As above but without imprint (Proof?).
- 1926 5. An all-year seal, the shield of the society with "Slainte" in centre and letters "N.W.H.A." at top, bottom and sides. Circular 30mm.

Tipperary After Care Association (working in co-operation with the Irish Red Cross Society)

- 1937 1. Picture of the Rock of Cashel; "Beanactai na Nodlag" (Christmas Greetings); Red and black, H.F. 33½ x 20mm. roul. 7.
2. Armoured Knight with sword in right hand and shield with D.B. cross in his left; Castle in background, "1938 Beanactai"; Red, yellow and black, V.F. 26 x 40½mm. roul. 7.

Irish White Cross

The Irish White Cross was established in 1920 when Griffith asked the women of Ireland to set up an organisation for the relief of victims and their dependants during the Black and Tan war. It worked in close association with the American Committee for Relief in Ireland who collected the bulk of its funds. Shiploads of food were sent over, burned houses were rebuilt and in 1920-22 over £1,000,000 was distributed to victims of the war.

A leading light in the White Cross was Maud Gonne Mac Bride.

- 1922 1. Black seal showing a burning house in the background, above the house a large white cross on the left of which are the words "IRISH WHITE CROSS" in green, in the foreground is a family group, the man lying on his back being nursed by his wife, one child pointing to the burning home the other, a baby sits on the ground in front of its mother. The baby's clothes and the foreground in front of the house are also green. Perforated.
1x Sheet; 4 x 5.
- 1922 2. A white cross superimposed on a yellow sun radiating to a checkered frame, above the cross the word "IRISH" in blue and below the cross the words "WHITE CROSS" in yellow outline in blue.
2x Sheet; 6 x 6.

CINDERELLA

CONTINUED

Larkin Sustentation Fund

- 1913 1. 6d.; green,
2. 1/-; red.

Anti-Tuberculosis Section of the Irish Red Cross Society

- 1944 1. Double barred cross in hand; "Nodlaig 1944"; "issued by the Anti-Tuberculosis Section" at bottom; Red, yellow and black. V.F. 18 x 22mm. perf. 10.
1x. As 1 but sheet 8 x 6.
1p. Proof, as No. 1 but imperf.
1pcp. (a) Yellow; (b) Yellow and red; (c) Complete design. All imperf.
- 1945 2. Double barred cross in beam of light from six-pointed star; "1945" in upper left, skyline and "beannacht" (blessing) at bottom. Red, blue, yellow and black. V.F. 16 x 22mm. perf. 10.
2x. As 2 but sheet 8 x 6.
2p. Proof; as 2 but imperf.
- 1946 3. Triangular shaped seal, double barred cross in centre; "Nodlaig 1946" at bottom; Sides perf. 11, bottom roul. 7; Red, blue and yellow.
3a. As 3 but red, blue and orange.
3x. As 3 or 3a but sheet 12 x 5 arranged tete-beche.
3p. Proof; as 3 but imperf.
- 1947 4. Small house at foot of mountain range; double barred cross. "Nodlaig 1947", "Irish Red Cross Society," "Help To Fight Tuberculosis". All black with red cross; H.F. 28 x 15mm. perf. 11.
4a. As 4 but roul. 7.
4x. As 4 but sheet 6 x 10.
4pa. Proof as No. 4 perf. 11. from pane of 10, 5 x 2 with wide margins.
4pb. Proof as No. 4 but imperf.
- 1948 5. Large red candle, latticed window, yellow curtain, "Nodlaig 1948", "Fight Tuberculosis" at bottom; red, yellow and blue, V.F. 22½ x 27mm. perf. 11.
5x. As 5 but sheet 10 x 6.
5v. Variety; white ring in bottom centre window pane, row 3. 4.
5p. Proof; as No. 5 but imperf.
5pcp. (a) Black; (b) Yellow; (c) Black and yellow; (d) Red; (e) Complete design. Imperf.
- 1949 6. House and trees "Christmas Greetings" at top, double barred cross, "Nodlaig 1949" at bottom; Red, orange and black, V.F. 21 x 25mm. perf. 11.
6a. As 6 but roul 7.
6x. Booklet pane of 24, 8 x 3 with margin at left.
6p. Proof as 6 but imperf.
6pcp. (a) Black; (b) Yellow; (c) Black and yellow; (d) Red; (e) Complete design. All imperf.

DO YOU KNOW ?

THAT—

At the recent '72 British Philatelic Exhibition held in London, November 1-4 the following members received awards:

Miss N. Wright	Silver
H. K. Jamieson	Silver
M. B. Phelan	Bronze Silver
A. F. Finn	Bronze

In the Literature Class, David Feldman Ltd. was awarded Bronze medals for both their house journal, and their catalogue "Stamps of Ireland".

We sincerely congratulate these members who keep the flag of Irish Philately flying so high.

THAT—

A most successful E.P.A. meeting was held at SESCAL, Los Angeles, California on October 8, 1972 with 18 members in attendance and four new members being signed up. Ireland figured most prominently in the exhibits and several of our members came home with awards. They are as follows:

Garvin F. Lohman — "Best in Ireland";
J. J. Blessington — a "Silver" and a
"Bronze";
Preston Pope — a "Silver".

Congratulations to those members and to those who also exhibited, aiding in the awareness on the part of the public of Irish Philately.

THAT—

I have information for those members who wrote me relative back issues of the "Revealer" which are very limited in supply and many issues are now out of stock. Those available may be purchased at a half dollar per copy postpaid by writing to Wm. McCaw, 368 Grand St., Newburgh, N.Y. 12550, U.S.A. If the demand is great enough, a reprint of those issues out of stock will be considered. Bill also has a very short supply of the Stamp Identifier available at \$2.50 each postpaid and it is unlikely that this item will be on the market again since the printer has closed his business. As those who have used this aid will testify, it is a most invaluable tool.

THAT—

An Area Meeting of the I.P.C. was held in the Baptist Church Hall, Wallasey on the 7th Oct. 1972. Eight members present, displays were given by P. Williams, Michael Leonard, and Michael Richards.

THAT—

On October 29th at Cranford, N.J. an E.P.A. regional meeting was held at the Coachman Inn, in conjunction with NOJEX. With a good attendance, Jim Brady, who chaired the meeting, presented a most interesting programme of slides, and several members brought sections of their collections for viewing.

Jim's exhibit was awarded a "Silver" and also the E.P.A. Award Certificate. Jim is to be congratulated on a truly fine "Saorstat" exhibit.

THAT—

The Annual General Meeting of the I.P.C. will be held in the St. George's Hotel, Lime St., Liverpool, during the weekend 12th-13th May, 1973.

THAT

Ed. Ryan, President of the E.P.A. informs me of the following meetings:

The association's North American east coast Annual Spring Meeting will be held in conjunction with INTERPEX at the Americana Hotel, New York City, on March 10, 1973 with the exact time yet to be announced by Herbert Rosen. Further details will follow by direct mail to those members residing in New York metropolitan area. As of this date a Chairman has not been selected and those requiring further information may feel free to write Ed. Ryan. Members intending to exhibit should contact Industrial Exhibitions, Inc., 251, West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019, U.S.A. Due to the cost factors involved, the scheduled Long Island Area meeting due to be held in January 1973 has been cancelled. Should the situation change, members residing in this area will be advised by mail.

DO YOU KNOW ?

THAT—

The THOMAS E. FIELD AWARD of the Eire Philatelic Association has been awarded to Gilchrist P. Roberts, Jnr.

President Ed. Ryan reports as follows:

It is with much pleasure, that the Awards Committee with the approval of the Board of Directors, announce that Gilchrist P. Roberts, Jnr. has been selected as the 1972 recipient of the Eire Philatelic Association's annual Thomas E. Field Award. The award is presented to the Irish Philatelist, who in the opinion of the Committee, has been outstanding in his contribution to our field of stamp collecting. Our sincere appreciation and congratulations go to Gil and to the Awards Committee for a job "Well done."

THAT—

Entries for the MELVILLE MEMORIAL JUNIOR COMPETITION are to be submitted during the period February 1-20, 1973 to the Organising Secretary, Miss A. Grunberg, 3, Abinger Court, Gordon Rd., Ealing, London W5 2AF. Members are reminded that if they know of any young person with a collection worthy of display they can assist an entrant in the submission of his or her entry through the affiliation of the Irish Philatelic Congress of G.B. Our Regional Secretaries are in possession of the Rules and Entry Forms giving details of the competition which is open to Juniors classed in four age groups: 17-under 21; 15-17; 12-15; and under 12 years.

THAT—

James J. Brady of Newark, N.J., U.S.A. has completed the draft of a listing of the Adhesive Stamps of Ireland, 1858 to 1925. This catalogue will initially be published in the American Philatelist in the near future. However, the E.P.A. has made arrangements with the A.P.S. to reprint the catalogue in booklet form. Further details will be announced in the Journal of Irish Philately.

THAT—

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Dublin 1, have issued details of their programme of Special Stamps for 1973, which are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1st Jan. 1973 | Ireland's accession to the E.E.C. |
| 7th May 1973 | Europa Stamp (CEPT) |
| Early July | Contemporary Irish Art. |
| 4th Sept. 1973 | Centenary of World Meteorological Organisation. |
| 5th Oct. 1973 | World Ploughing Championships in Co. Wexford. |
| 14th Nov. 1973 | Christmas. |

The G.P.O. state the above dates are provisional and are subject to change.

THAT—

The correct address of I.P.C. member, J. G. Mullett, "Nyanza", Channel Road, Rush, Co. Dublin. On page 19 of No. 2 the house was shown as "Myanza"—it should be "Nyanza". Sorry about this.

THAT—

At the 86th annual convention of the A.P.S. in New Haven, Conn., U.S.A. Joe E. Foley was awarded the Les Schriber Sr. Memorial Award for the best article appearing in a single issue.

Titled "The Taylor-Made Fenian Essays," his intriguing story attracted international attention, helping to bring into clearer focus details behind a series of three labels produced slightly over 100 years ago which were inscribed "Republic of Ireland."

THAT—

I.P.C. member John O'Beirne—Ranelagh is at the moment doing some research work on Irish History during the period 1910 to 1924. If any members have any papers, letters diaries, or newspapers of this period, please contact John at ELIOT COLLEGE, THE UNIVERSITY, CANTERBURY, KENT.

OVERPRINTS

THE E.P.A.'s COMMITTEE ON FORGED AND BOGUS MATERIAL

In 1969, the E.P.A. organised a committee on Forged and Bogus material composed of R. Gray, F. E. Dixon, V. A. Linnell, and J. E. Foley. It is not an expert committee, its purpose being to gather and make available to collectors information relating to forged or bogus Irish material. Reports of the committee have been published in several issues of the "Revealer" and will now be continued in the "Journal of Irish Philately". In addition reports have also been published in "Linn's" and the "Stamp Magazine". In view of the reports now being published in our joint journal, and the increasing spirit of co-operation between the E.P.A. and I.P.C. E. J. Ryan, E.P.A. President, has broadened the scope of the committee to include both organisations. Members of the E.P.A. and I.P.C. having material of a suspicious nature are urged to send it to any committee member, who will examine it and complete the necessary forms. Examination usually takes between 60 and 90 days. Mr. Gray photographs each item and Mr. Foley prepares the notes for the Journal. A slide programme has also been prepared, and may be borrowed from Mr. Linnell.

In going to the trouble of forging an overprint, it is remarkable that the forgers were frequently careless about the basic stamp to which the forged overprint was applied. In the low values, the British issue of 1924 was frequently used which can easily be identified by the block watermark. On the other hand, in the high values, we have found the earlier printings by Waterlow and De La Rue which are approximately 3/4mm. shorter than the Bradbury Wilkinson printings used for the genuine overprint. Used stamps were frequently the subject of forged and bogus overprints, and several items examined have English cancellations, often with pre-1922 dates. Points worth checking when purchasing any of the better overprints.

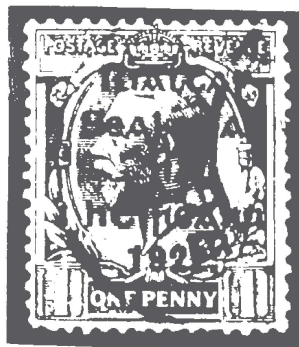


Figure 1 shows a genuine stamp altered to produce a QNE variety. However, there is a disturbance on the surface of the paper and transmitted light reveals thinning where the stamp was scraped to manufacture the variety. Moreover, the particular spur to the O of ONE resembles that found on Great Britain, Gibbons number 357a, which is not that found on the sheets used for the Irish overprints.

Illustrated in Figure 2 is a well done forgery of the Dollar 2/6d. but on the 1913 Waterlow British stamp, which was not used for the Irish overprints. Overall dimensions and alignment are extremely close to the genuine. The overprint appears to be on top of the cancellation. There are a few slight differences between the letters on this stamp and the genuine, but this would be a dangerous forgery on the proper British stamp due to the very slight nature of the differences.



COMMEMORATIVES

DISAPPOINTING — by John J. P. Cooke, E.P.A. No. 618



Disappointing, that is the only word I will use to describe the Olympic Council of Ireland issue, gold lettering on a yellow background and likewise gold lettering upon the so-called brown background. I am sure a complete amateur, and someone with a lack of colour sense, could have produced a better issue.

The equestrian figure is almost indistinguishable: I make a plea to the Stamp Advisory Committee or who ever is responsible for releasing stamps, that they ensure the name of EIRE is legible on all stamps issued—they are considered as miniature artistic ambassadors of Ireland (I do not mean little people) and not just a source of revenue—so please give a little forethought before the printing of our stamps.

The design and colour of some of the First Day Covers showed more taste and colour sense than the stamps themselves. (Phew! I feel better for that). Perhaps some of our members may be interested in some background information relative the carved slab from Clonmacnois. (CLUAIN MACU NOIS — CLONMACNOIS — The Meadow of the Sons of Nos). The stone which depicts the carved figure of the Horseman featured on the Olympic postage stamp is located at Clonmacnois in the County Offaly, situated on the banks of the River Shannon. This ancient monastic centre was founded by St. Ciaran about 548 A.D. The area became famous throughout Europe as a great cultural centre, and place of learning, in fact it could be described as a medieval university. Clonmacnois had a bloody and violent history, it was plundered in turn by the Normans, Anglo-Normans, the English and indeed by the Irish themselves.

The High King Flann (10th century) was buried there beneath a huge Celtic Cross, called the Cross of the Scriptures; also buried there is the last High King of Ireland, Roderick O'Connor. In 1552 the monastery was sacked by the English troops, who carried off all the treasures, ending a history which had lasted over one thousand years.

For anyone interested in grave slabs, there are over two hundred of them to be seen at Clonmacnois, with inscriptions dating from the eighth to the twelfth centuries. In fact the whole Celtic scene is there, round towers and Celtic crosses. Anyone visiting Ireland should make their way to this spot, and when there they should pay a visit to Clonfinlough Stone, situated a few miles from Clonmacnois. This stone is reputed to be the oldest monument in the country, there being markings on its surface which record a battle of Neolithic times.

Bibliography: A Guide to the Ruins of Clonmacnois (P. C. Molloy, Athlone 1956)
The Memorial Slabs of Clonmacnois (MacAlister, R.A.S. Dublin 1909)

OBITUARY

JOHN B. SHERMAN III

It is with deep regret we inform our readers of the death, due to a coronary, of John B. Sherman. Although a dealer, John was also a knowledgeable collector of Ireland. He built one of the few truly great award winning collections of Ireland which was widely exhibited both in the United States and Europe. John was always willing to share his knowledge, and carried on an extensive correspondence with his fellow philatelists. Besides the E.P.A. and I.P.C., John was a member of the Collectors' Club of New York, American Philatelic Society, American Stamp Dealers' Association and numerous other philatelic organisations. He was an alternate director of the E.P.A. and a member of the joint E.P.A./I.P.C. Co-ordinating Committee which developed the "Journal of Irish Philately". John died on August 10, 1972 while on vacation in Hawaii. A memorial service was held on August 21, 1972 at the First Presbyterian Church of Salona Beach. John was 40 years old at the time of his death, and is survived by his wife Peggy, and their two sons, David and Robert.

The E.P.A. and I.P.C. extends their deepest sympathy to his family.

FRANK HOPSON

It is with deep sorrow we learn of the death of Honorary I.P.C. Member, Mr. Frank Hopson, on September 9, 1972. A member of the Irish Philatelic Circle since 1963, Frank undertook the Editorship of "Irish Philately" for a time with undoubted success as can be seen when reference is made to Volumes 1965, 1966 and 1967 which stand as a monument to his efforts. It was with regret that he had to give up the Office but his advancing age into the 80's and his increasing weakness in health plus his failing eyesight compelled him to take a less active part in the activities of the Circle. A collector of the 'old school' with interests mainly in G.B. and Irish philately, his knowledge of papermaking, gained from his experience in the management of mills in the U.K. and Canada, was invaluable to those of his younger colleagues. The pleasure he took in his correspondence was shared by those who received it, containing as it did much friendly advice and views on matters philatelic and otherwise.

We join with his wife and married daughter in the loss they have suffered and shall miss a kind and true friend from the membership of the Circle.

EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITIONS by John B. Sherman

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION: During the past few years the late John Sherman's formidable collection of Ireland has gained new respect for Irish philately by the many top awards it has received in major philatelic exhibitions, most recently at SEPAD in Philadelphia where John's display received the Grand Award, A.P.S. Medal, and S.P.A. Research Medal, and subsequently at BELGICA '72 in Brussels, Belgium. John was to have exhibited in the Champion of Champions competition at the American Philatelic Society.

To the great loss of Irish philately, John passed away shortly before this exhibition. The following article was first presented by John at an E.P.A. meeting at SESCAL last year and is presented here as not only useful information but as a tribute to a fine philatelist, and to many of us, a true friend.

J.E.F.

I am one of those supposedly weird and impossible things, a combination dealer-collector. Please don't worry, but as my business is strictly mail order, I have brought absolutely nothing to sell, and have left my dealer half resting peacefully in Leucadia. It was two years ago that the E.P.A. had a meeting of the local members and a section in the exhibit reserved only for Irish stamps. Of the five members in the competition: Robert Gray, Gil Roberts, John Blessington, Vince Linnell and myself, we did quite well with no less than 3 Golds, 1 Silver, and 1 Honourable Mention. Particularly remembered was the beautiful and well researched collection of Gil Roberts which won the section award, and the remarkably neatly typed and presented collection of John Blessington. Now with the 50th anniversary of the first Irish stamp coming next year, how about an effort from you all to beat that one? Several of you, I am sure, have Irish collections, which, properly prepared could win a coveted gold medal.

Now, many of you might ask, "how do I properly present my stamps?" It's really not as hard as it might seem at first. Most prospectuses outline what is required, listing the following five points of consideration: Philatelic Knowledge, Arrangement and Presentation, Condition, Degree of Completeness, and Scarcity. The last item, "Scarcity," does not mean value and generally is the least considered. Now let's discuss the first four.

1. Philatelic Knowledge and Research: This in my mind is the most important, and is probably the reason Gil Roberts won in 1969. This doesn't mean putting catalogue numbers and values under each stamp, which is never supposed to be done. In short you must show the judges you really know your subject, and what else is there but proper philatelic literature to fill you in? So consult your dealer for the necessary literature available, or pay a visit to your local library and see what they have on their shelves. I've often been asked, "what's a good investment in the stamp market," and the only sure answer I know is philatelic literature, for, not only are prices rising in a steady market, but you gain just as much from the knowledge as you gain from the books.

EXHIBITIONS

CONTINUED

2. Arrangement and Presentation: You surely need the material and the research, but with the two and a sloppy exhibit you have nothing. This is the hard part, but also one of the very important. Four good rules to remember are — First, do not overcrowd, which is one of my biggest personal faults, often times even 12 stamps on one page can be too many. Second, balance your page keeping in mind that the viewers' optical centre is at the centre of the page so try and arrange your longest row in the middle not at the top or bottom of the page. Third, don't write or describe too much, the judges get exasperated when they have to read a full page when just one line would have been sufficient. Fourth, do hand-lettering if possible. but nowadays typing neatly is also becoming more and more acceptable. Just, above all, don't have incorrect spelling or fail to correct and clean your mistakes.

3. Condition of your stamps should always be as presentable as possible, well centred with no damage showing. The judges will ignore the gum on the back of your exhibit stamps, but proudly marking your unused stamps as never hinged is liable to lose you points with the more conservative judges.

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4. Finally, the degree of completeness of a collection doesn't mean one stamp and variety of every issue, which would certainly overcrowd an Irish collection. It does mean completeness in the story you are trying to tell. A collection of the common two pence Irish stamp with a socked-on-the-nose town cancellation of every town in a county of Ireland would be fairly inexpensive, although difficult to find, but certainly complete. One or two of the town cancels might be inexpensive, but also scarce taking care of scarcity.

Unfortunately, there is only one publication now available, which attempts to tell all about exhibition preparation. That is "How To Prepare Stamp Exhibits" by C. E. Foster. It isn't yet complete, being issued once every two months in the "New Mexico Philatelist", put out by the New Mexico Philatelic Association. When completed it is hoped to be available as a reprint. Another book still available though written some time ago is "How To Arrange and Write-up a Stamp Collection" by Phillips and Rang. David Feldman's "Handbook of Irish Philately" is also quite good for philatelic research, along with issues of the "Revealer" and "Irish Philately." For the student of general philately "Fundamentals of Philately" by L. N. and M. Williams brothers is available from the literature dealers.

I sincerely hope that I've gotten a few of you to thinking of exhibiting your Irish stamps in the coming year's exhibitions to celebrate Ireland's 50th philatelic year.

RANDOM NOTES — F.E. DIXON

STAMPA '72

An interesting advertisement in the newspapers of 24th August asked designers of 1922 essays, or their representatives, to contact the Department of Post and Telegraphs. Obviously it has been realised that for many of the essays the copyright still rests with the designers.

REGISTRATION LABELS

My latest onerous distinction, interfering with philatelic activities, is being elected chairman of my local Residents' Association. However, there are perquisites. One is a registered envelope from the Department of Local Government bearing a label with number 95, hitherto unallocated in our lists.

OLYMPIC GAMES STAMPS

More stupidities. Very few people see the official explanations of the stamp designs. Without such explanations such a design as that of 28th August issue is a puzzle. Is it an advertisement for a five-ring circus? The official hand-out does not explain why a 1000-year-old carving of a horseman can symbolise international sports.

On the technical side it is time that the designers learned that metallic inks should be used only on a white background. From most angles of viewing it is invisible on yellow and black designs.

P or T?

An "Irish Times" letter reports that a postman successfully delivered an enquiry from the P. & T. engineers as to the precise location of the address, the engineers being unable to find the house.

PIGEON POST

A Co. Kerry hotelier is planning to link two hotels, Aghadoe Heights and Looscanagh, 14 miles apart, by pigeon post. He finds that the cost of installing a telephone at Looscanagh is prohibitive, and needs a system of getting messages quickly from one hotel to the other.

SKELETON REGISTERED

An unusual use for a skeleton date stamp was at Lifford in July 1971. The wording inserted in the frame was LEITHBHEARR CLARUITHE, and this is surprising as the official name had been changed to LEIFEAR before 1971!

NEW SLOGAN DIE

Early in October a new version of the DUBLIN ADDRESSES slogan appeared, using smaller lettering, correcting the spelling of SHOW, and framed with, horizontal bars at right.

COILS

5p Coil strips bought in mid-October differed from earlier ones. The 1p is deeper blue, 1½p brighter claret. Both spacing and alignment are erratic.

1922 POST OFFICE STRIKE

The September issue of the "Postal Worker" has a good article on the strike of 50 years ago, against a cut of wages, and which led to amalgamation of three trade unions into the Post Office Workers' Union.

HANDSTAMPED SLOGAN

In September (probably August too) envelopes mailed from the Irish National Gallery had a hand-stamped advertisement for their special display of the Armand Hammer Collection, 10th August to 1st October.

SPECIAL CANCELLATION

One respect in which Northern Ireland is still more civilised than the Republic is in the design of cancellations. For a Flower Festival at St. John's Church, Helen's Bay, Co. Down there was a well designed special cancellation for 14th October, relying for its appeal on slightly embellished lettering. The associated envelope was less successful.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS

The Irish Post Office and its associated Design Committee still fail to realise the importance of lettering. If they go to the Book of Kells for a picture why not for lettering? The stamps are colourful and the reproduction of the colours very successful. But what designing can be credited to Patrick Scott? All he has done is to cut out the central portion from a good colour photograph of a celebrated page. I'm not sure whether it is desecration or vandalism, but it is not good design, especially when he leaves in such distracting details as angel's hands in both upper corners.

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