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Affiliate No. 21 – The American Philatelic Society * Affiliate – Federations of Philatelic Societies of Ireland



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

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Members reside in MD, VA, DC Coordinator: Liam Malone liammalonedc@gmail.com

John McCormack Chapter

Members reside in CT & MA Coordinator: Timothy O'Shea 58 Porter St, Granby, MA 01033- 9516 tosheal1@comcast.net

Lone Star Chapter

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Northern California Chapter (NORCAL)

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Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)

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Summer: June 7; Fall: September 15

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

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	Annual Sep - Aug	Life Membership
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Printed copy with electronic – U.S. only	\$30.-	\$600.-
Printed copy with electronic – Outside U.S.	\$35.-	\$700.-
Family memberships are the same as a single membership		

Membership Report – Winter 2023-24

New Members

3037 Richard Gaughan, Scituate, MA

Change of Address

2749 Gus Winters, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

2923 Tim Carey, Irving, NY

3021 Paul Von Gottfried, Santa Rosa, CA

New Email Address

3037 Richard Gaughan, richgaughan@verizon.net

Unable to Locate

0114 William Scheetz, Newark, NY

2815 Frank J. Martin, West Valley, UT

2864 Tom Vanden Bosch, Red Wood City, CA

Membership Status

Membership as of September 5, 2023	262
New members	1
Unable to locate	3
Life members	30
Complimentary mailings	10
Membership as of September 5, 2023	263

JBS, 112523

2023 APS Star Route Awards



In 2022 the American Philatelic Society re-launched the chapter newsletter and website competitions, named the Star Route Awards. As noted on the APS website:

“Since the mid-1800s, the Star Routes were the most challenging routes in the country to deliver U.S. mail. Legislation was established by Congress in 1845 calling for contractors to deliver U.S. mail with “clarity, certainty, and security”, but postal clerks weary of repeatedly writing these words in ledgers substituted three asterisks - *** - and the phrase “Star Route” was born. Star Routes were renamed “Highway Contract Routes” in 1970, though they are still commonly known by their original name today.”

I submitted our website for the 2023 awards and am pleased to mention that we were awarded a Gold. The email accompanying the digital medal from the APS stated:

“Thank you to you and the Éire Philatelic Association for participating in the 2023 APS Star Awards; we hope it was a rewarding experience for you and the association.”

Please check out our web site at <https://eirephilatelicassoc.org/>

J. B. Sharkey, Secretary

From the President --

Robert Benninghoff



Welcome to Holiday Season Time. Jean and I wish all members and their families a most Bodacious of Winters as we look forward to Festive Season and a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous New Year.

I would like to congratulate and thank both Mike Canavan and John Sharkey for organizing and hosting the Virtual Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting in October, and Brian Warren for his most interesting presentation on Irish Post Boxes – I did not know that there are still post boxes in Ireland dating back to Queen Victoria. Your EPA board created a new award, known as the Richard Kelly Presidents Award in honor of our former long serving President. The award is at the discretion of the EPA President and is given to a person or person who have shown outstanding service to EPA in the past 12 months. The 2023 awards were given to Bob Kemper and Dave Brennan.



Many additional Thanks to Steve Friedenthal for putting together the four 2023 Revealers, an extremely difficult task. We appreciate Steve's successful efforts. HOWEVER! The Revealer and the EPA are only successful if members send in articles for publication. The articles can be a single page discussing a cover or stamp and why you find them interesting – perhaps a family connection or part of your Holidays. I did a two-frame exhibit and article on the History of Portugal using postcards mailed to myself during our Portuguese family vacation in 2018. We need your input and ideas and comments and articles now that we are becoming more of a Virtual Association.

We had a very Successful STAMPA this year with several EPA members from Europe and the USA spending much quality time in Dublin, October 6 to 8. The awards banquet and awards are shown later in this issue. Dublin in October has been grand weather-wise for the past 6 + years. Why not plan a trip in 2024 to meet old and new friends? STAMPA 2024 will be held Oct 11 to 14 at Griffith College in Dublin. This Irish National Stamp show has become the ONLY Irish Stamp Show in Europe and the USA.

Finally, I would like to congratulate EPA member Dr. Joseph L. Kelly on his appointment as Chairman of the USA Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. The CSAC was created in 1957 and is responsible for selecting subjects for recommendation as future stamp issues. Joseph says his wife suggested that he became a stamp collector as a way to relax from his work as a gynecologic oncologist. Dr. Kelly is an accomplished, surgeon, educator, researcher and administrator and has recently retire from medicine. We wish Joseph much and continued success in his philatelic endeavours and his pursuit of Irish Philately.

The Éire Philatelic Association at STAMPA 2023 and The Irish Brigade

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 6 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 Reserve Grand awards at the banquet on Saturday night, Oct 7th (Fig. 2). STAMPA is an international qualifying show and Irish exhibitors receiving at least a Vermeil level award 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 (Figs. 3 and 4). 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 5) 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 (Figs 6 and 7). The Joseph Foley Medal for the best multi frame exhibit went to Karl Winkelman for his exhibit *The Dublin Censor Office*. Laurelei Fox, at 13 years old, became the youngest exhibitor at STAMPA and likely lowered the average age of attendees by 40 years (Fig 8).

The Irish Brigade of 7 plus, Irish and American philatelists, have been very successful at many USA shows during the past several years (Fig 9). 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. Upcoming Shows include CHICAGOPEX, FLOREX and the SESE (Atlanta, GA). The Irish Brigade has also exhibited successfully at several international Shows including London 2022 and York, England.

There are Three Principal organizations focused on Irish Philately.

The Éire Philatelic Association, based mostly in North America, publishes *The Revealer* four times a year. The ÉPA has a recently upgraded website www.eirephilatelicsociety.org. Membership is \$20 per year digital only for *The Revealer* and \$30 (USA) \$35 (Worldwide) per year for print and digital copies of the journal. Contact John Sharkey, Secretary, at jsharkeyepa@me.com.

The Irish Philatelic Circle, based mostly in the USA, Ireland and United Kingdom, publishes the Irish Philatelist three times a year and also has a recently upgraded website www.irishphil.com. Membership is 35 Euros in Ireland and the UK and \$45 for North America and the rest of the world. In North America contact Robert Benninghoff at robertmb.editor@gmail.com.

The FAI, is based mostly in Germany and Europe, publishes DIE HARFE three times a year. Each Journal is printed in both German and English and is very easy to read. Membership is 50 Euros per year and can be paid by PayPal. Contact Wolfgang Fiedler at w.w.fiedler@web.de.



Fig. 1: STAMPA 2023 show Catalog, The Irish National stamp show is in its 51st year. If you would like a copy, please contact Robert Benninghoff at robertmb.editor@gmail.com. While supplies last.

Stampa Medals and Trophies



The following medals may be awarded by the judges, based on compliance with FIP rules. A Vermeil, Large Vermeil or Gold medal qualifies an exhibit for international philatelic exhibitions:

Large Gold	90+	Large Silver	70 - 74
Gold	85 - 89	Silver	65 - 69
Large Vermeil	80 - 84	Silver Bronze	60 - 64
Vermeil	75 - 79	Bronze	55 - 59

The following trophies will be awarded, subject to a sufficient standard being attained:

David Feldman Trophy (Best multi-frame exhibit)
 Jonathan Hanvey Memorial Shield (Runner-up in best multi-frame exhibit)
 Whyte's Trophy (Traditional Philately, excluding Ireland - multi-frame)
 F.E. Dixon Shield (Postal History - multi-frame)
 Charles O'Neill Memorial Trophy (Thematic Philately - multi-frame)
 William Kane Trophy (Aerophilately - multi-frame)
 Michael Giffney Salver (Open Philately - multi-frame)
 Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited Trophy (Irish stamps issued since 1922 - multi-frame)
 Michael Murphy Memorial Trophy (Modern - multi-frame)
 J.E. Foley Memorial Award (É.P.A. Medal - Best Irish exhibit - any class except Literature)
 FPSI Trophy (Best One-frame)
 Cork Philatelic Society Trophy (Picture Postcards - multi-frame)
 Gwyn Bennett Trophy (Novice - open to Irish residents only)

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Fig.3: The list of STAMPA medals and special prizes. The exhibition is open to Irish and international exhibitors who are members of STAMPA. For membership contact Brian Warren at brian.warren2@upcmail.com. STAMPA 2024 will be held October 11 to 12 in Dublin, Ireland



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.4: Shows the STAMPA medals and Trophies ready for distribution. The Palmares can be found on the ÉPA and IPC web sites.



Fig 5: Brian Warren receives the Éire Philatelic Association, 2021, John J. Clark award presented by Robert Benninghoff and Michael O'Reilly.



Fig. 6: Robert Benninghoff signs *The Role of Distinguished Philatelist of Ireland*. This award is the highest honour given for service to Irish Philately. Robert also received the Éire Philatelic Society, Thomas Edwin Field Award in 2022 for outstanding contributions to Irish Philately.



Fig 7: Dr. Brian Callan receives the Éire Philatelic Association, 2023, Thomas Edwin Field award presented by Robert Benninghoff and Michael O'Reilly.



Fig 8: Laurelei Fox receives her medal at STAMPA. Laurelei won the youth Grand Award at the Great American Stamp Show this year for her one frame exhibit: *The Life of Saint Patrick*. She also received the ÉPA special prize for the best one frame exhibit by an ÉPA member at BALPEX and The MILCOPEX show most popular award.



Fig. 9: **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.



Irish Provisional Government and Free State Overprints On UK Adhesive Fiscal Stamps* (Part 3)

John Lush FRPSL and Paul Skinner FRPSL

The Overprints

Type 1. Rialtas Sealadac nah Eireann 1922

This (dated) overprint was only applied to Excise Revenue stamps. When the overprints were applied, the 1Ss, 6d, 2s, 4s and 5s stamps were in sheets of 144, and the 8s and 10s stamps were in sheets of 20, but all of the other stamps of 3s and below were in sheets of 120 (Figure 2). There were therefore three formats of the overprint plates although the overprints themselves are all exactly the same size and the lines are regularly spaced.



19 April 1922 (144-set)



26 April 1922 (120-set)



20 April 1922 (20-set)

Figure 2. Overprint Type 1

The registration sheets in the Inland Revenue Archive indicate that these overprints were applied at Somerset House.

Type 2. Rialtas Sealadac na hEireann

The Type 2 overprint was used on all types of fiscal stamps in use in Ireland at the time, except Excise Revenue (see above), Income Tax and Land Commission Ireland., Consequently, this overprint exists in eight different types (2a-2h), which vary primarily in the space between the first and second, or second and third lines. All the Type 2 overprints were applied by Waterlow Bros. and Layton.

Types 2a, 2b, 2c

These were by far the most frequently used of the Irish Provisional overprints, and were used on the key-type stamps. They differ only in the spacing between the first two lines of the overprint, intended to avoid obscuring the monarch's portrait.



3 May 1922



6 May 1922



8 May 1922



10 May 1922



8 May 1922



10 May 1922

Figure 3. Overprint Types 2a, 2b, 2c

Although the profile head of George V is the same size on the pence and shillings stamps, the spacing between the first two lines of the overprint is slightly greater on the shillings stamps than on the pence stamps, increasing the overall height of the overprint (Figure 3). The wider spacing of the first two lines on the shillings stamps relative to the pence stamps can easily be seen with a 10X magnifier, especially when compared with the position of the lines relative to the monarch's head.

The pounds stamps are the same width as the height of the pence stamps, and twice the height of the width of the pence stamps. The greater spacing between the first two lines of the overprint is obvious.

Types 2d, 2e.

As mentioned above, a 6d green Ireland Petty Sessions stamp was used for the registration fee when obtaining a Dog Licence, and for this purpose the 6d green Ireland Petty Sessions stamps were overprinted 'For Dog Licence' in two lines. When it was desired additionally to overprint these stamps with the *Rialtas* overprint, the two overprints could only be accommodated by adjusting the settings of both overprints. The result is the *Rialtas* overprint Type 2d, where the spacing between the top two lines is clearly smaller than on the pence key-type stamps overprinted with the Type 2a overprint, so largely obscuring the king's head, and the 'For Dog Licence' overprint is in one line (Figure 4). It is clear from the registration certificate on the reverse of the registration sheet of these stamps that the *Rialtas* and 'For Dog Licence' overprints were applied at Somerset House in a single operation; the relative positioning of the two overprints is constant throughout the sheet of stamps.

6 May 1922
Figure 4. Type 2d



11 May 1922
Figure 5. Type 2e

Only the 4s Dog License stamps received the *Rialtas* overprint (Type 2e) (Figure 5). The lines of this overprint are regularly spaced, as on the overprint Type 1 on the Excise Revenue stamps. The overprint Type 2e is essentially the same size as the overprint Type 1 but without the date.

Type 2f.

The *Rialtas* overprint was applied to eight values of National Health Insurance stamps – 4d, 7d, 8d, and 1s (clear background to the value tablet), 5s, 10d and 7s7d (patterned background to the value tablet) and 6s8d and 8s8d (solid coloured background to the value tablet) (Figure 6). Because of the size of the stamps, the overprint Type 2f is smaller and more closely spaced than on other stamps, and there was no need for a wide spacing between the top two lines because there was no monarch's portrait to consider. As can be seen on Table 1, all of these stamps were overprinted on 13 May and 15 May 1922, almost certainly from a single plate.



15 May 1922



13 May 1922



13 May 1922



15 May 1922

Figure 6. Overprint Type 2f

Type 2g.

The first Unemployment Insurance stamps to receive the *Rialtas* overprint Type 2g (applied by Waterlow Bros. and Layton) were those with the design incorporating a large figure of value against a coloured background and with the value repeated in words at the bottom of the stamp.



19 May 1922



22 May 1922



19 May 1922

Figure 7. Overprint Type 2g

These overprints are larger than those on the National Insurance stamps, and have the lines more evenly spaced (Figure 7). In that respect, they are similar to, but smaller than, the overprint Type 2e on the Dog License stamps. Unusually, the overprint on the 4½d stamp was printed in red, probably to make it more easily visible against the colour of the stamp.

Type 2h.

Unemployment Insurance stamps where a large figure of value had been printed on stamps with blank value shields did not have overprint Type 2g applied to them because it would have partly obscured the overprinted figure of value. Instead, when stamps of these values were required for use by the Irish Provisional Government, special printing plates were made by Waterlow Bros. and Layton which incorporated both the value and the *Rialtas* overprint (Type 2h) (Figure 8).

It is clear from the registration certificates on the reverse of the sheets of stamps that the overprints were applied by Waterlows in a single operation, so required five different printing plates. This can be observed on the stamps, where the figures of value are smaller than on the stamps with overprinted values as used in the United Kingdom (compare the 10d stamp with the *Saorstát* overprint Type 4a in Figure 11 below), and from the juxtaposition of the values and the *Rialtas* overprints. On the two lowest values the figure of value has been offset to the right so that the '2' of '½' is clear of the 'na' of the *Rialtas* overprint. Similarly, on the two highest values the figure of value has been offset to the left so that the oblique stroke is clear of the 'na' of the *Rialtas* overprint. Consequently, the overprints vary in size between 14.3 x 14.9 mm (10d) and 14.6 x 14.2 mm (9½d).



22 May 1922



22 May 1922



24 May 1922



26 May 1922



26 May 1922

Figure 8. Overprint Type 2h

Type 3. Saorstát Éireann

The Type 3 overprint was used on all the key-type stamps and on Excise Revenue stamps, and there are essentially no differences between the overprints on these stamps (Figure 9). The small difference in size between the Type 3 overprints on the key-type stamps and on the Excise Revenue stamps can probably be attributed to the difficulty of accurate measurement.

It will be noticed that one of the overprinted key-type stamps is from the reign of Edward VII. This may have been because of a temporary shortage of George V 3s Contract Note stamps, or a decision to use up old stock – the George V 3s Contract Note stamps had been available for the *Rialtas* overprint on 8 May 1922 (see Table 1).



8 March 1923

9 March 1923

11 April 1923

11 April 1923

12 March 1923

12 March 1923

Figure 9. Overprint Type 3

The Excise Revenue stamp illustrated below (Figure 10) is the only one held in the Inland Revenue Archive, and as explained above its printing date has been assumed from an associated note. Other values are known to have been overprinted and have been seen, as listed in Table 2. These all have the Simple GvR Cypher watermark.



10 May 1923*

Figure 10. Overprint Type 3

The 2d and 4d stamps have been reported (McClellan) with the Block GvR Cypher watermark, from a printing after 1 January 1924. All of the Excise Revenue stamps which received the *Saorstát Éireann* overprint were in sheets of 120.

Type 4. *Saorstát Éireann* 1922

According to the registration sheets in the Inland Revenue archive, the (dated) Type 4 overprint was only used on National Health Insurance and Unemployment Insurance stamps (see Table 1). However, Ireland Petty Sessions stamps exist with this overprint, so there are three types (4a-4c).

Type 4a.

Figure 11 shows all of the designs (but not all the values) of United Kingdom Unemployment Insurance stamps which received *Saorstát Éireann* 1922 overprints, applied at Somerset House. The red 10d stamp shows the overprint on the 10d stamp as used in the United Kingdom, which can be compared with the specially prepared 10d value incorporated in the *Rialtas* overprint (Figure 8 above).



16 May 1923

16 May 1923

7 July 1923

7 July 1923

28 February 1924

31 March 1925

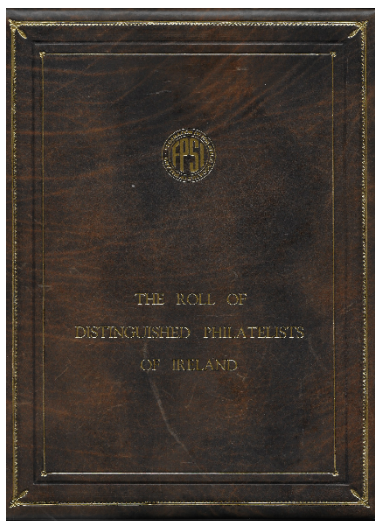
Figure 9. Overprint Type 3

As explained above, under a new contract effective from 1 January 1924, Insurance stamps were printed in sheets without a central interpane margin. The green 10d stamp was printed under this contract, so the application of the overprint on this stamp required a different printing plate from the earlier overprints. (The text of the overprint remained the same, but a new plate was required to accommodate the new sheet layout). All Unemployment Insurance stamps, under both contracts, were printed on paper with the all-over multiple UI watermark.

This article “Irish Provisional Government and Free State Overprints on UK Adhesive Fiscal Stamps” by John Lush and FRPSL and Paul Skinner FRPSL first appeared in *The London Philatelist*, Volume 132, April 2023, Number 1504. It is reproduced here in *The Revealer* with the kind permission of the Editor of The Royal Philatelic Society.

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Ireland

The suggestion of having a Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Ireland was first raised at the 1978 AGM of The Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland. A decision was taken to form a sub-committee to look at this and to draft the rules surrounding selection and eligibility. This committee of Dr Towers, Dr Quigley and Heloise Mitchell reported back to the 1979 AGM, where the establishment of the Roll was approved. The sub-committee then became the selection committee with final nominees ratified by the Executive Committee. The first person to sign the Roll was Stafford Johnson who signed on 27th August 1980 and Dr Towers took on the task of being curator of the Roll. This task is now assigned to the secretary of the Federation (currently Dr Brian Callan). The list of signatories reads like a real *Who's Who* of Irish philately. The signatories in 1981 were Fred E. Dixon and William Kane, both of whom have Stampa Trophies established in their honour; *F.E.Dixon Shield* for best multi-frame Postal History exhibit and *William Kane Trophy* for best multi-frame aerophilately exhibit. Both gentlemen, who signed the Roll on 22nd June 1981 at the Officer's Mess in McKee Barracks, Dublin, achieved multiple philatelic honours over their lifetime including the Thomas Edwin Field Award, which Fred Dixon received in 1969 and Bill Kane in 1970.



Fred Dixon was a collector of Irish philatelic material and postal history in particular. Born in England, he graduated with a first class honours in mathematics from Cambridge in 1934 and started work in the British Meteorological Service, organising forecasts for transatlantic flights. He moved to Ireland in 1939 to join the Irish Meteorological Service right at its early stage. He quickly adopted his new country and wrote frequently for the philatelic press and the letters page of *The Irish Times* for over thirty years. He authored the long running "Random Notes" column in the *Revealer*, was President of The Irish Philatelic Society, had two terms as President of the E.P.A. and was a founding member of Stampa. His passing on 4th September 1988 was a big loss to Irish philately but he left a tremendous legacy.

Likewise, Bill Kane is remembered for numerous philatelic honours, leaving a legacy of both books and articles. He spent his early working life in various roles in the Irish Post Office, before moving to a management role in the national broadcast service, RTE. His writing covered such areas as Dublin Handstamps, Free Fronts, Uniform Fourpence Post and of course his "*Handbook of Irish Postal History*". He was awarded the Link Trophy in 1970 by Stamp Weekly and Stamp Magazine and the Vincent Linnell Award in 1989. He was also a keen musician which was also reflected in some of his thematic exhibits as was the area of war and philately. He presided over *The Irish Philatelic Society* in 1969. Bill Kane's passing in 2004 in his 95th year was another big loss to our focus on philately.

Another award routinely given out at Stampa is the J. E. Foley Memorial Award (E.P.A. medal for the best Irish exhibit in any class except literature). This award commemorated the 12th signatory of the Roll, Joe Foley. He is well remembered for his work on the overprinted issues of Ireland as well as Irish postal history and his research into the Fenian Essays. Joe Foley was also a recipient of the Thomas Edwin Field Award and he also served as E.P.A. president.

Each signatory has contributed to the story of Irish Philately, which is still being written as you read.

Brian Callan
Hon Secretary,
Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland

Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Ireland

Signatories

1. <i>Dr. Stafford Johnson</i>	27 th August 1980
2. <i>Frederick E. Dixon</i>	22 nd June 1981
3. <i>William Kane</i>	22 nd June 1981
4. <i>Dr Brian De Burca</i>	22 nd July 1982
5. <i>Rev. John Brennan</i>	24 th August 1982
6. <i>Norah K. Wright</i>	21 st June 1983
7. <i>Col. Bill Zellers</i>	29 th October 1983
8. <i>Dr. Robert Towers</i>	9 th November 1985
9. <i>Dr. Joesph A. Quigley</i>	8 th November 1986
10. <i>Dr. John P. Mackey</i>	17 th October 1987
11. <i>Rev. Edwin Davey</i>	15 th May 1988
12. <i>Joesph E. Foley</i>	19 th October 1991
13. <i>Geoffrey Mc Auley</i>	19 th October 1996
14. <i>David Feldman</i>	6 th November 1997
15. <i>Finbarr O'Mahony</i>	11 th November 2000
16. <i>Brian Warren</i>	10 th November 2001
17. <i>Dr. Cyril Dulin</i>	10 th May 2003
18. <i>John G. Lennon</i>	11 th October 2003
19. <i>David Mac Donald</i>	2 nd October 2004
20. <i>William A. Moore</i>	15 th October 2005
21. <i>Otto Jung</i>	14 th October 2006
22. <i>Commd. Patrick Casey</i>	11 th October 2008
23. <i>Michael P. Giffney</i>	16 th October 2010
24. <i>Desmond Quail</i>	22 nd October 2011
25. <i>Héloise Mitchell</i>	13 October 2012
26. <i>Stan D. Challis</i>	17 th October 2015
27. <i>Heinz Jürgen Kumpf</i>	6 th October 2018
28. <i>Dr. Brian T. Callan</i>	12 th October 2019
29. <i>Barney Clancy</i>	9 th January 2022
30. <i>Anthony Hughes</i>	8 th October 2022
31. <i>Barry Cousins</i>	17 th April 2023
32. <i>Robert M. Benninghoff</i>	7 th October 2023



Legends of Saint Patrick in Ireland

Laurelei Fox

This is the first in a series of articles that are based on my first exhibit "The Life of St Patrick".

This article looks at three of the popular Irish legends of St. Patrick: The Celtic Cross; his preaching using the Shamrock and Clover; & his banishing of all the snakes & serpents from Ireland (Figs. 1 & 2).

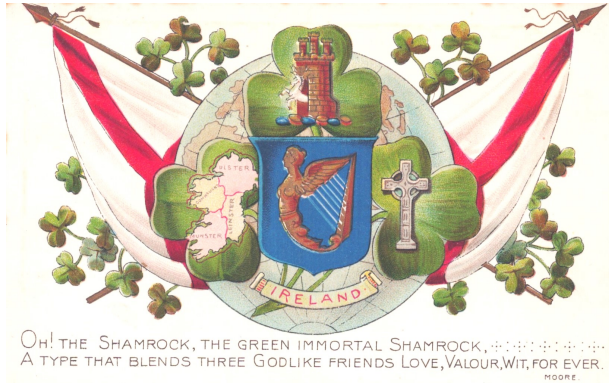


Fig 1: Postcard mailed during 1908 within England has Irish greeting & shows Celtic Cross & Shamrocks

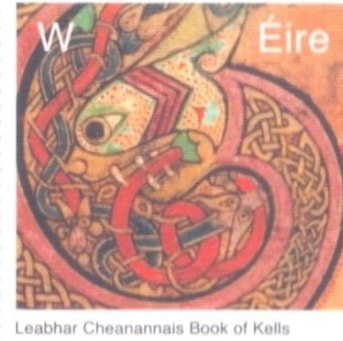


Fig 2: Recent An Post stamp issue based on the Book of Kells.

The design by Red & Grey is supposed to show a domestic cat **but looks more like a serpent with a long tongue.**

W pays Irish international letter rate

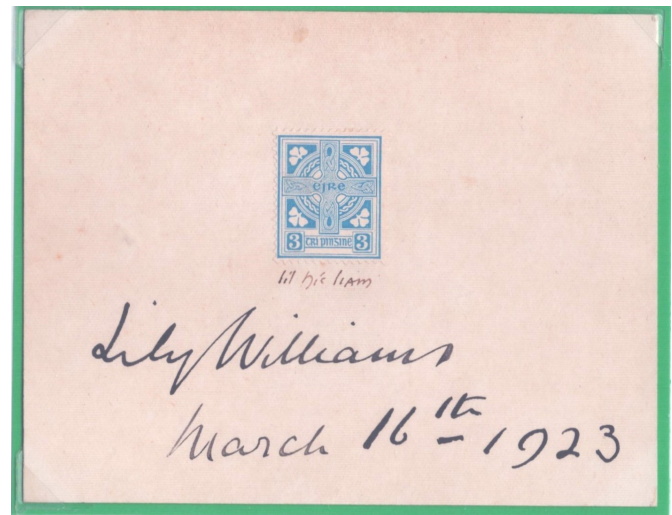
Saint Patrick was born around 389 AD into a wealthy Christian family in western Roman Britain. He died on March 17, 461. He was 16 when he was kidnapped from his family's estate, and he was taken as a slave to Ireland. He was held as a slave for 6 years along the eastern Irish coast, working as a shepherd tending sheep. At age 22 he escaped Ireland & went back to Britain. He trained in religion for 15 years in France and was raised to a Bishop Missionary by Pope Celestine in 431. He went back to Ireland in 432 where he preached for the next 29 years. Patrick was an educated man and most of what we know of him comes from his own writings in Latin – the **Declaration** and the **Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus**.

Celtic Cross: A popular Irish legend says that Patrick combined the Christian cross with the pagan Sun Cross. The Christian cross stands above the sun circle showing dominance of Christianity (Figs. 3 to 5).



Postmarked Clonsilla (near Dublin) JU 20 1908. 1/2d paid postcard rate.

Fig 3: Sinn Féin Celtic Cross Label & inverted stamp



Miss. Lily Williams previously designed Sinn Féin propaganda labels in 1907. In 1922 she was invited to design a similar stamp for first definitive series. Card above is dated March 16 1923 - The Day stamp was issued.

Fig 4: Artist signed Celtic Cross 3d stamp proof

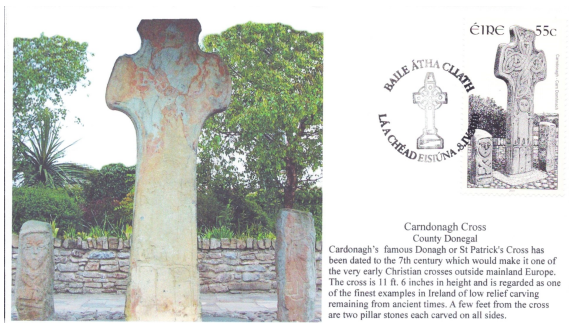


Fig 5: FDC marks the famous *St Patrick's Cross* at Cardonagh. Dated to the 7th century or older. Stamp issued 8 May 2010



Fig 7: Bison Philatelic Society souvenir sheet with *Shamrock* for St. Patrick's Day



Fig. 6: Postcard from Brussels to Clontarf with *4 Leaf Clover* design Sent 12 III 1905 for St. Patrick's Day

Banishing Snakes & Serpents. Many stories of Patrick's teachings have him fighting with & banishing Serpents. There are no snakes in Ireland, which legends state were chased into the sea when they attacked him in western Ireland. *Stories about snakes & serpents probably relate to his banishing of Pagan Gods* (Fig. 8).



Fig 8: Isle of Man Chinese New Year of the Snake £1 miniature sheet issued for St Patrick's Day 2001
Designer: *The Agency Ltd.*
Printer: *House of Questa*
Offset Lithography & embossed

Future articles will look at Saint Patrick's life in Ireland from 405 AD to March 17th 461 AD when he passed away near Downpatrick, Northern Ireland.

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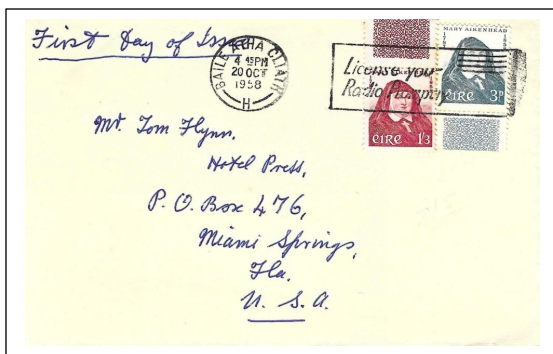
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The Story of Mary Aikenhead and the Irish Stamps (Part 2)

Liam Malone and Willie Mackle with assistance from Iben Olson

The cover to the right depicts a Celtic Cross and states to whom the issue is dedicated. The clear sighted among you will note the small error – 1787-1958, which should be 1858. This cover originated in Luimneach [Limerick], and shows two clear circular date cancels. It was sent by airmail to Philadelphia, USA. This cover is franked with 4 X 3d stamps plus 1 X 1/3s stamp. This is unusual and above the international postage rate of the time. We just recently came across this cachet and the co-author was lucky to acquire it on eBay.

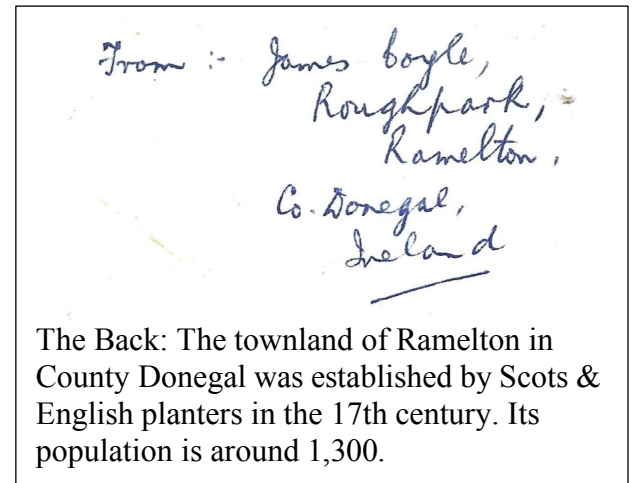
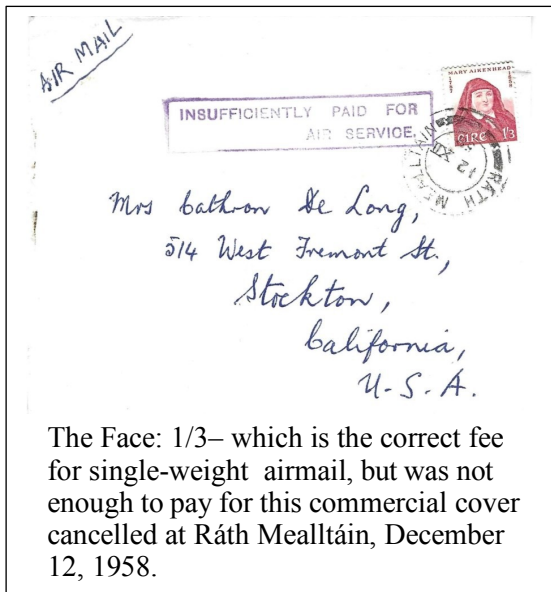


Philately is always interesting and you never know here it will take you. Our co-author was selling this cover on eBay. Malone's eye was and still is, attracted by the portions of the gutter margin on each stamp. It also has a clear, full slogan cancel "License your Radio Promptly."

The auction ended August 29, 2022. In the message area for the sale, Malone mentioned writing an article. Mackle responded in September that he had five cachet covers that Malone could use if he so wanted. It then occurred that a joint article on Mary

Aikenhead and the covers owned by both, would be possible. So the two co-authors, who have never met face-to-face, located on each side of the 49th parallel are collaborating on this article, the first by Mackle.

Interesting Covers



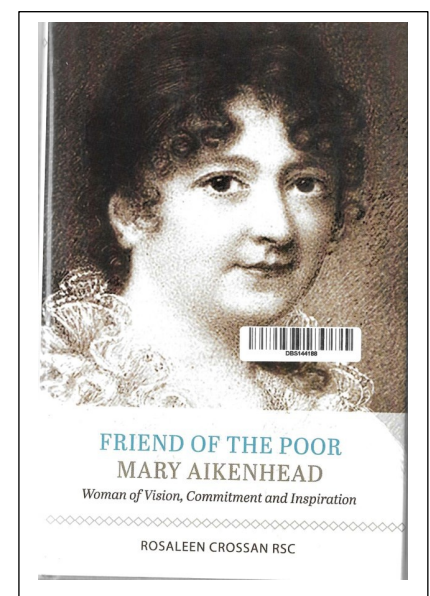
The cover to the right, from Donegal, must have weighed over ½ ounce. However, there are no postage due markings when the US still used postage due stamps and collected the fees due. The second line of the purple handstamp is complete, there is no text missing despite the white space in the beginning of this line. The Guinness commercial cover shows the purple handstamp quite clearly, and confirms no text is missing.



A Brief Biography of the Life, Work and Legacy of Mary Francis Aikenhead

Mary Francis Aikenhead was born January 19, 1787, in Cork City to a Catholic mother and Protestant father. Dr. David Aikenhead was a medical doctor who treated patients and owned and operated a chemist shop. Catholics were still treated badly by the discriminating English and mixed families were allowed only to raise their children as Protestants. So Mary was a Protestant in her early years. As an infant Mary was often sick. Her parents decided to foster her under Catholics John and Mary Rorke as they lived on a hill overlooking the city and it was semi-rural. At this time the belief was that fresh air did a body and mind wonders. Throughout her life doctors often prescribed that Mary avoid the poorer air of urban centers and live where fresh air abounds. Mary prayed the rosary every evening with her foster parents and went to Sunday mass with them.

Growing up with the Rorkes, Mary noticed that most of her playmates could not afford clothes for each change of the season. Their poverty created and indelible life-long understanding that God wanted her to



care for the poor. Her father rarely accepted payment for his medical services to the poor, and Mary noticed this as well. At age 6 the Rorkes returned Mary to the care of her parents. However, Dr. Aikenhead and his wife hired Mary Rorke to care for his daughter Mary and her two younger sisters. The good doctor also hired John Rorke as his driver. Thus, Mary was still near to Catholicism, the mainstay of her life.

When Mary was twelve her father sold the shop and moved his family to a wealthier part of Cork. At this time an aunt arrived from France to live with her sister and brother-in-law. Mrs. Rebecca Gorman was a widow and a devoted Catholic who took Mary to mass on Sundays. The first mass they attended together had Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after mass, The scenes and circumspection profoundly influenced Mary.

In December 1801, Mary's father became seriously ill and converted to Catholicism on his deathbed. What followed was remarkable for a young girl. She took over running the finances of the household. She negotiated business dealings for her mother. She participated in the social life of her peers. But attending daily mass and frequent praying turned her thoughts to becoming a nun. She wanted to care for the poor and by chance she met a nun with the same attitude towards helping the less fortunate. Mary moved to Dublin where she met a priest, Fr. David Murray, who wanted to found an Order of Nuns to administer to the poor.

Mary was delighted to become a member, but only if the Father could find a quality leader who shared this interest in helping the poor. Father, Daniel Murray, would later become Archbishop of Dublin. He soon convinced Mary to be the leader of the new order, "Mother Superior". Mary and a close friend, Alicia Walsh, started a three-year training at a convent in England. There Mary assumed the name, Sister Mary Augustine, which she used for the remainder of her life. Returning to Dublin, the pair took on forming the roots of the Sisters of Charity. On September 1, 1815, Mary and her companion took their vows and Father Murray added the vow of service to the poor. This vow became the hallmark of the Sisters of Charity and the two new Mothers began attracting novitiates. Their first tasks were running an orphanage. The order expanded as there was a never-ending need.

On the 10th of September, 1816 Mary and Sister Mary Catherine [Alicia Walsh] began visitation of the poor in their homes and for the first time in Ireland religious were seen engaged in work outside of their convents.

In 1821 the Governor of Kilmainham Gaol asked for sisters to visit two young women who had been convicted of murder and sentenced to death. The Governor was so impressed by the sisters' influence on these women, that he asked that they should continue to be involved in prison visitation. To this day, prison visitation is an important ministry for the Congregation.

In 1826 Mother Mary started a community in Cork. In 1838 Mary waved goodbye to some of her younger Nuns at Dún Laoghaire Harbour when they sailed to Australia to found a community there.

All was going well and wherever the Sisters of Charity went the poor received them openly. Mary was a prolific letter writer and wrote to her community often encouraging them to continue with God's work on behalf of the poor. Many of her sayings have been collected. A small book divided by the calendar months, has a daily thought by Mary. (I share some at the end of this section.) Though incredibly busy with managing the Community, what really kept Mary busy was the groundwork for building a hospital for the benefit of the poor. This became her dream. After many hardships and a drawn-out campaign to amass funding St. Vincent's Hospital opened on St. Stephen's Green in January 1834. Throughout her adulthood she continued as the finance officer managing money. She wrote letters pleading for any amount of monetary support. In 1836 by Christmas, she had written over 3,500 such letters. Much of this was done after Mary became very ill. The sickly child became a sickly adult who was suffering from debilitating arthritis that left her bedridden. Once again she moved away from the center of the city to get that fresh air thought to be so helpful. (Although no one mentions this, it must be the soot from burning coal and peat that befouled the air.) She was 44 years of age when arthritis and constant headaches kept her physical body down. But her spirits and devout Catholicism and fondness for the poor kept her going. In 1845 a mansion was purchased in Harold's Cross. She moved from a hospital room to this large dwelling that would also serve as a residence for new Sisters. This build later became the Our Lady's Hospice in 1879.



Despite poor health and often being confined to bed, Mother Mary kept up guiding and training new Sisters. She kept looking after the financial affairs of the flourishing community and she kept writing letters petitioning for funds.

In 1858, she succumbed to her illness and died on July 22. Her funeral was well attended by the poor and by church dignitaries. On a Celtic Cross over her tomb is inscribed "I comforted the heart of the widow. I was an eye to the blind and a foot to the lame. To the poor I was a mother" (Job 29:13-16). After the death of the foundress, the work of the Irish Sisters of Charity continued to expand. The Children's Hospital was founded in 1872 by a group of charitable people in a house at 9 Upper Buckingham Street, Dublin. In 1876, the Governing Committee invited the Religious Sisters of Charity to take over the complete running of the hospital. In 1879, the

hospital moved to its current site at 15 Upper Temple Street. Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross was opened in 1879. Newspaper reports at the time hailed the opening of the Hospice as "a unique charity" and as one "preciously unknown in these islands, or indeed in the neighboring continent."

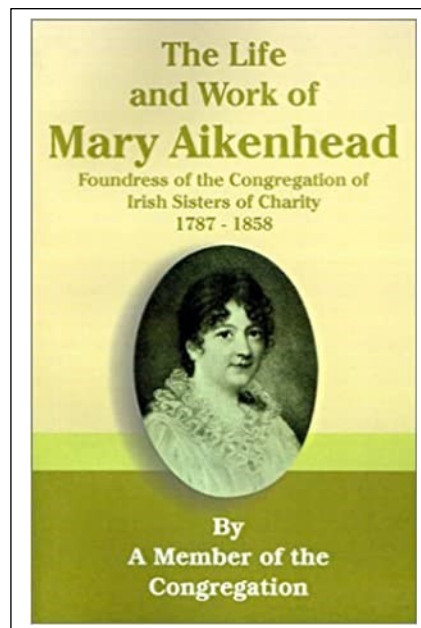
In 1894 the Sisters opened the National Maternity Hospital which became one of the largest maternity hospitals in Europe. Approximately 8,000 babies are born there each year. Due to its location, in Dublin, it is simply known as Holles Street.

Much has been written about Mary Francis Aikenhead, Mother Mary Augustine. Images of two interesting biographies are included in this article.

Today the Irish Sisters of Charity, now known as the Religious Sisters of Charity carry out Mother Mary's dream in Ireland, England, Scotland, Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, USA (California) and Australia. Each sister takes four vows: chastity, poverty, obedience and service to the poor. It is the latter that sets their congregation apart.



Mackle's mother, night matron at the Children's Hospital, on the morning of her retirement.



In addition to the Mother Mary Aikenhead 1958 issue, the Irish Sisters of Charity had another influence on Irish philately. In 1984 An Post issued a stamp to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, depicting the newer hospital at Elm Park. St Vincent's Hospital opened its doors on St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, in 1834. This was the first hospital established by Irish Sisters of Charity. Later, as the hospital expanded, it became one of the main teaching hospitals associated with university College Dublin, (part of the National University of Ireland) and it is now the largest hospital in the country. Eventually the medical services provided outgrew this site and in 1970, SVH relocated south to Elm Park, 2.7 miles away. It was there Mackle pursued his medical studies and the nurses in the 1970's.

Words of Wisdom from Mother Mary

The following selection of Mary's writing invokes Prayer, concern the poor and the constant need for patience to allow God's plan to work for all of us.

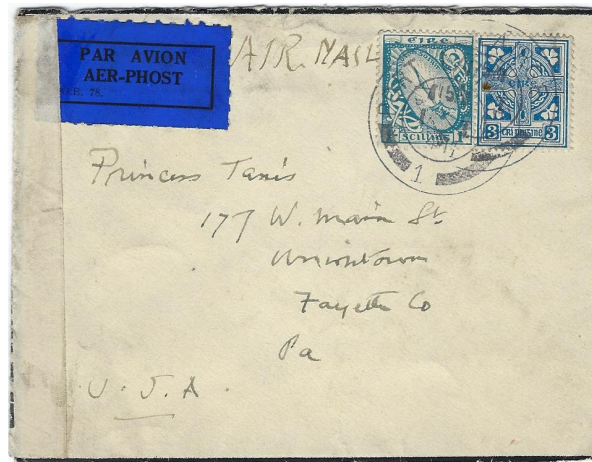
- ◆ The clatter of tongues is painful.
- ◆ May you enter deeply into the secrets of that fervent love which redeemed you.
- ◆ Prayer is in very truth miraculously powerful – we must be faithful in employing it.
- ◆ Under every difficulty try to Pray fervently.
- ◆ Prayer from a tired heart will be very powerful.
- ◆ Pray that our Amen may be sincere.
- ◆ Pray and practice patience – even towards yourself.
- ◆ May every blessing be with you and yours all round you and elsewhere.
- ◆ For myself, I have been trying to consider infirmity a blessing.
- ◆ We have every reason to depend on God alone
- ◆ May the Lord relieve the suffering poor.
- ◆ May the Lord relieve the suffering poor.
- ◆ We must have patience with others as He has patience with us.
- ◆ If it be the divine will I shall rejoice at fine weather.
- ◆ Let us try to deserve the divine blessing and then our Purity of intention and devotedness to God's most holy will, will help us to bear painful results.
- ◆ The editor concludes the month of May with Mary writing: May our ever Blessed and glorious Queen and Mother assist us to be faithful in every duty. Amen.
- ◆ Let us with the devout shepherds adore our Infant Saviour with simplicity and jubilation. Did she include much of the same text such as this one about the Nativity of our Lord in the 3,500 letters, she wrote by Christmas one year?

Irish Censor Covers of World War II, part 2

Bill O'Connor

I have selected twelve more covers to tell the story of Irish censor covers of our period of interest. Most of the covers were sent to individuals for various personal reasons, and others were obviously sent due to business reasons. Four of the covers were sent to Ireland from various parts of the British Empire of the time, including posting from one of his majesties' ships.

1. Mourning cover sent via airmail from Waterford with both Irish and English censor labels.



The first cover is sent to a princess residing in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The lady in particular, Lida Eleanor Nicoles, Princess Victor of Thurn and Taxis, was born in Uniontown in 1875, and was the daughter of a wealthy industrialist. Her first husband from Ireland, General Gerald Purcell Fitzgerald, a nephew of Edward Fitzgerald, the famous Victorian poet.

Her second husband, Prince Victor of Thurn Taxis, seemed to have worked out far better than the first marriage, but he unfortunately died in 1928. She lived well into her 90s, and is known today primarily due to the many lawsuits concerning her fortune.

This censor cover is obviously a mourning cover, airmail usage, and is post marked from Waterford.

2. Regular postage to San Diego, California with censor labels from Ireland and England.

This cover I purchased from the original owner, a famous collector from our region of California. The cover originated in Galtrey, Tipperary and used a current commemorative stamp to pay the correct postage. I did purchase from Marie's estate a post card depicting the Shannon Hydro-Electric power plant, sent October 16, 1930. Unfortunately, that date seems to be the second day of usage, so the most expensive Irish first day cover still eludes me.

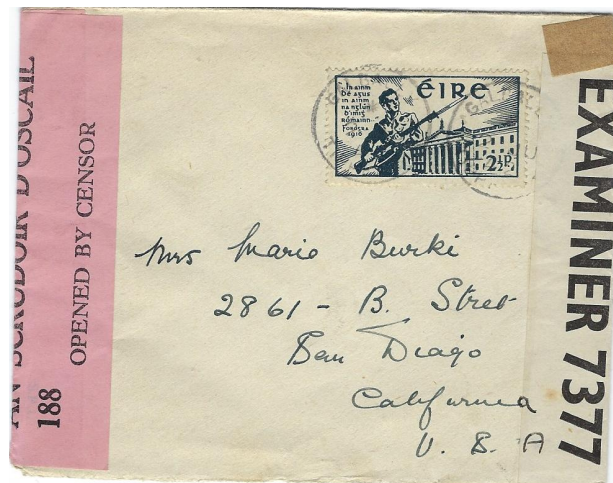
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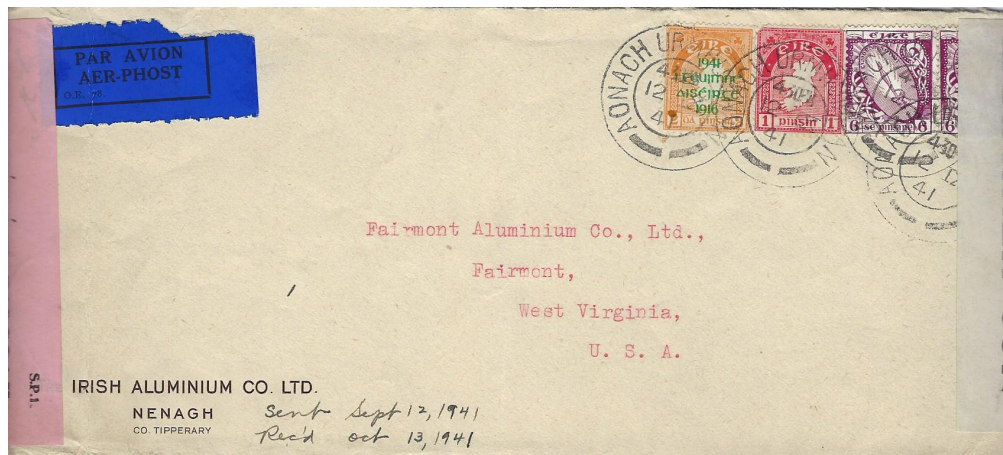
This censor cover is obviously a mourning cover, airmail usage, and is post marked from Waterford.

2. *Regular postage to San Diego, California with censor labels from Ireland and England.*

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3. *Business envelope from Nenagh, Tipperary, September 12, 1941. An airmail rated letter with the normal Irish and British censor labels.*



I purchased this cover at WESTPEX, held in San Francisco, due to the pre-printed business address on the front of the envelope. Most of the envelopes that I acquire may have a printed address on the rear of the cover, but few seemed at this time to print the address on the front. Aluminum was a fairly new product at the time so it might prove interesting to find out what kinds of products were being manufactured in this plant during the war.

To be continued

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