



THE REVEALER

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**Address and email changes should be sent to the
Treasurer Robert Benninghoff at eparmb@gmail.com**

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

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

Commodore John Barry Chapter

Members reside in NJ, NY, PA Coordinator: John B. Sharkey, 1559 Grouse Lane, Mountainside, NJ 07092
jsharkeyepa@me.com

James Hoban Chapter

Members reside in MD, VA, DC Coordinator: Liam Malone
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58 Porter St, Granby, MA 01033- 9516
toshea1@comcast.net

Lone Star Chapter

Members reside in Central TX Chapter is currently inactive, please contact the Secretary if you wish to volunteer for this position.

Northern California Chapter (NORCAL)

Members reside in Northern CA. Chapter Coordinator:
Needed

Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)

Members reside in Southern CA Coordinator: William A. O'Connor, 3803 Foxglove Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028
waoconnor@aol.com

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Winter: November 15; Spring: March 7;

Summer: June 7; Fall: September 15

Each Issue published about a month after above dates

The Revealer ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

Dues in the Association with Quarterly Journal delivered as follows:

	Annual Sep - Aug	Life Membership
Electronic version only - worldwide	\$20.-	\$400.-
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

From The President:

Jean and I wish everyone a healthy, safe and prosperous summertime and I hope that we can see some of our members at upcoming stamp shows. Jean and I will be at the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) in Hartford, Connecticut at the Convention Center in August (15 to 18). The autumn brings INDYPEX (Indiana) and NOJEX in New Jersey in late September and the new BALPEX in late October at the Baltimore-Washington Airport. Let me know if you are attending any of these shows and, perhaps, we can get together for a pint or two.

The Irish Brigade of 8 to 10 Irish and American exhibitors will have 30 frames of material on display at GASS this year. The Brigade typically shows 20 to 25 frames of Irish material at every Stamp Show that I attend in the USA. This is material seldom seen outside of Ireland and changes every year. Most of the Brigade members are EPA members.

My single frame exhibit on the 2d Map Stamp of Ireland won the single frame Grand Award at COLOPEX in early June. Two of my Granddaughters will have exhibits at GASS this year. Tabitha will be showing her single frame *The History of Blarney Castle* and Laurelei will be competing in the youth Champion of Champions with her single frame *The Life of Saint Patrick*. I mention this because exhibiting, like stamp collecting, is **SOMETHING** that Grandparents have time to do with their grandchildren. Youth exhibiting is much easier than adult exhibiting. Extra points are given to younger exhibitors and therefore an 8-year-old does not compete directly with a 14-year-old or a 20-year-old. Please email if you would like additional information.

I draw our members attention to two Key articles (requests from members) in this Issue:

- (a) We are in Urgent Need of a Webmaster to keep our website current and relevant;
- (b) We need articles and illustrations for our 2025 75th Anniversary Celebrations.

Once again, I thank our editor Steven for our four Revealers per year, John for holding the Association together as our long serving Secretary and Jean, our Treasurer who keeps our finances in order and chases members who have not paid their dues.

Finally, and speaking of Dues, Membership Dues envelopes will go into the mail in late July. Please pay quickly and help us to avoid sending out email reminders. The Dues will remain the same for 2025 as this year, thanks to our Auction Manager Michael O'Reilly who has managed several successful Auctions.

The Annual General Meeting is set for the afternoon of Saturday October 5. The meeting will be by Zoom and the time will be emailed to our members once the details are fixed.

Robert Benninghoff – rmerc01@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Summer 2024

New Members

3038 Aileen Mooney, Dublin, Ireland
 3039 Anne O'Neill, Dublin, Ireland
 3040 Jean Benninghoff, Maple Shade, N.J.
 3041 Charles A. Phibbs, Ann Arbor, MI
 3042 Matthew Flynn, Dublin, Ireland
 3043 Brenden Snedker, Dublin, Ireland
 3044 F. X. O'Brien, Galway, Ireland

Change of Address

2703 John Fogerty, Webster, NY
 2721 Roy R. Thompson, Olympia, WA
 2863 Jack E. Kiley, Portland, OR
 3023 Michael J. Hennessy, Chicago, IL

New Email Address

1257 Brian.warren1952@outlook.com
 3038 Aileen Mooney, aileen.mooney@anpost.ie
 3039 Anne O'Neill, O'Neill@anpost.ie
 3040 Jean Benninghoff, eparmb@gmail.com
 3041 Charles A. Phibbs, orvis50@yahoo.com
 3043 Brenden Snedker, bpsnedker@hotmail.com
 3044 F. X. O'Brien, fxob@toothtime.IE

Reinstatements

2543 Ann P. Cormody, Baltimore, MD

Resignations

1623 Peter Wood, London, UK
 1776 Patrick Madden, Long Beach, CA
 2816 Pat Lynch, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland
 2911 Jeff Lough, Lawrence, KS
 2949 Pablo Massari, Cordoba, Argentina
 3009 Timothy McGinnis, Springfield OR

Deaths

2749 Gus Winters, Windsor, ON, Canada

Unable to Locate (please contact Secretary at isharkeyepa@me.com)

0814 Ralph G. Chalet, Houston, TX
 2218 John Lorenzen, United Kingdom
 2864 Tom Vanden Bosch, Red Wood City, CA
 2883 James Woodward, Green Cove Springs, FL
 3004 Ronan O'Laoi, Co. Clare, Ireland
 3025 William Brafford Jr., Winchester, VA

Membership Status

Membership as of November 25, 2023	262
New members	7
Reinstatements	1
Resignations	6
Deaths	1
Unable to locate	6
Life members	29
Complimentary mailings	10
Membership as of May 27, 2024	263

Our Upcoming 75th Anniversary Year – 2025

Robert Benninghoff

Hello Members of The Eire Philatelic Association. Next year we will be 75 years old and young.

We are looking for copious numbers of articles, thoughts, and remembrances from our members about your Irish philatelic collecting, exhibiting, writing and research. It is not too early to start writing!

Please send our editor, Steven Friedenthal a short note about what you would be interested in writing for our Revealer. Email Steven at eparevealer@gmail.com or stevefr1@telus.net.

I know that he is looking for articles for the Autumn and Winter 2024 issues as well as the four issues in 2025. Some thoughts for articles from our 75th Anniversary Committee

- EPA souvenirs and early meetings of the EPA. This idea is currently being worked on by John Sharkey. Please send any information that you would like to contribute to John at johnbsharkey@me.com.
- History of the EPA.

- The role of the EPA (promoting Irish philately, education, exhibitions, auctions etc.).
- People who have received EPA awards. Please mention the award and the year received.
- Publications produced by the EPA and how you use them for Irish Philately.
- Synopsis and Title Pages from members highlighting their exhibits.
- Travels to stamp shows and meeting with other EPA Members.
- My Favorite Cover, Postcard, Stamp, set of Stamps – a scan or scans of the item and a brief discussion,
- And more - the list is endless.

The article can be one or two paragraphs or one or two pages (or longer). Steven will tell you what format is best for the Revealer.

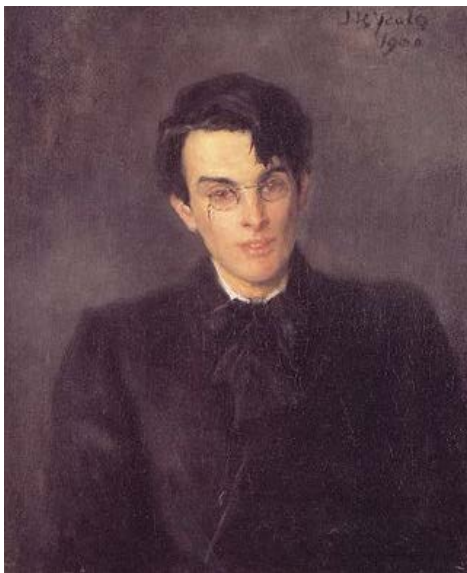
Many Thanks,



Philatelic Yeats

Michael Hennessy

Irish Yeats. When I think of William Butler Yeats (1865-1939), the first thing that comes to mind is his Irishness. He is undoubtedly Ireland's greatest poet. And he was Irish to the bone. He helped establish the Irish National Theater; he was appointed as senator for the Irish Free State in 1922 and served two terms; and throughout his career, he wrote about the history and people of Ireland. He adapted Irish legends in his plays and poems, was a leader in the Irish literary revival, and used his voice to address his country's violent political history, including its struggle for independence after 300 years of British oppression.

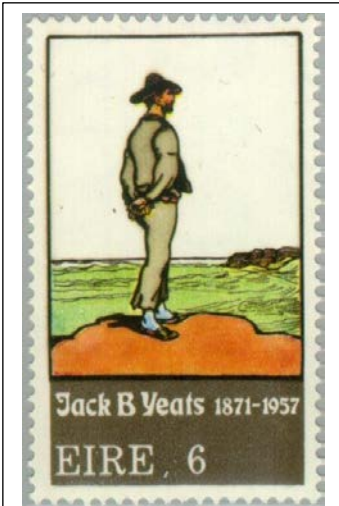


Portrait of Yeats (1900), by his father, John Butler Yeats

Yeats came from an artistic family. Several paintings by his father, John Butler Yeats (1839-1922), hang in the National Gallery of Ireland, including a 1900 portrait of his son William. Yeats' younger brother, Jack B. Yeats (1871-1957), a distinguished modernist painter, was honored in 1971 with an Irish stamp depicting his work "An Island Man." And both of Yeats' sisters were artists: Susan "Lilly" Yeats (1866-1949), an embroidery painter, and Elizabeth "Lolly" Yeats (1868-1940), a writer, illustrator, and printmaker.

In many of poems, W. B. Yeats explicitly addresses "Irishness." These lines, for example, adapt an anonymous 14th-century Irish lyric as the refrain:

*"I am of Ireland,
And the Holy Land of Ireland,
And time runs on," cried she.
"Come out of charity,
Come dance with me in Ireland."*



Jack B. Yeats, "An Island Man." Sc# 309. 1971.

Yeats also wrote powerfully about Irish history and politics. His widely quoted "Easter 1916" honors those who died in the Easter Rising, led by a group of men who occupied the Dublin Post Office in the fight for Irish independence. The poem ends by naming four of the leaders executed by British authorities in the wake of the failed rebellion:

I write it out in a verse—

MacDonagh and McBride
And Connolly and Pearse
Now and in time to be,
Wherever green is worn
Are changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

And near the end of his life, Yeats wrote "The Municipal Gallery Revisited," which records his visit to Dublin's National Art Gallery, where he views portraits of his many friends and nostalgically recalls their contributions to Irish culture. In the last section of the poem, Yeats asks his readers to "come to this hallowed place / Where

my friends' portraits hang and look thereon; / Ireland's history in their lineaments trace." The poem ends with one of Yeats' best-known couplets:

Think where man's glory most begins and ends
And say my glory was I had such friends.

Tomás Q. Morín, a poet friend of mine, once said, "many poets would give their left arm to have written a couplet that perfect."

Another mark of Yeats' "Irishness" is perhaps his wry sense of humor. As a person of Irish heritage with a sometimes-gloomy outlook life, I keep a refrigerator magnet in the kitchen that contains this Yeats quotation: "Being Irish, he had an abiding sense of tragedy, which sustained him through temporary periods of joy."

International Yeats. But Yeats was not just an "Irish poet." He is also one of the major 20th-century poets writing in English. The musicality of his verse is unrivaled. As M. L. Rosenthal writes, "Early and late he has the simple, indispensable gift of enchanting the ear." And the themes and emotions explored in his work transcend "Irishness." He wrote of love and hate, human strife and suffering, and joy and sorrow. His poems are often allusive, sometimes difficult, but they can also be simple and direct, with an appeal to ordinary readers, a quality found in the little poems I quote below.

Yeats' poetry brought him international recognition, and his stature was confirmed by his winning the 1923 Nobel Prize in literature. Even before then, he was well known as a poet and performer. His larger-than-life personality and his dramatic readings charmed audiences. He visited the United States several times as a celebrity poet-lecturer, just as Charles Dickens had in the 19th century.

In 1920, he toured the U.S. for several weeks with his wife Georgie Hyde-Lees, whom he had married in 1917 when he was 52 and she was 25. On the Texas leg of the tour, Yeats read his work to college audiences in Sherman, Georgetown, Waco, and Austin—and at public venues in San Antonio and Dallas. In Dallas, according to a local paper, he spoke to a capacity crowd in the city's municipal auditorium.

In our own day, Yeats' reputation as a poet remains undiminished. His work is found in virtually every anthology of modern poetry, and many of his poems are considered classics, including "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," "The Second Coming," and "Sailing to Byzantium."

Yeats' work has also engaged contemporary musicians. Folk, pop, and rock performers have set his poems to music. Some of the best-known recordings are by Christy Moore ("The Song of Wandering Aengus"), Judy Collins ("The Lake Isle of Innisfree"), Loreena McKennitt ("The Stolen Child"), Joni Mitchell ("The Second Coming"), and Van Morrison ("Before the World Was Made"). Many of these songs are accessible online, and a compilation called *Now and in Time to Be: A Musical Celebration of W. B. Yeats* was issued in 1997 by Grapevine Records. My favorite cut is a version of Yeats' World War I poem "An Irish Airman Foresees His Death," performed by Shane McGowan & Café Orchestra.

Two Little Poems. Many of Yeats' poems are short, direct, and simple—qualities that appealed to my poetry-wary students when I taught English. In this one, the poet tells his beloved that she is a lovely sight as he toasts her with a glass of wine.

A DRINKING SONG

Wine comes in at the mouth
And love comes in at the eye;
That's all we shall know for truth
Before we grow old and die.
I lift the glass to my mouth
I look at you, and I sigh.

And here is a second poem that is rarely anthologized, probably because it's considered slight or best suited for children. But I like it a great deal, not just for its directness and simplicity but for its subtle, unforced rhymes:

TO A SQUIRREL AT KYLE-NA-NO

Come play with me;
Why should you run
Through the shaking tree
As though I'd a gun
To strike you dead?
When all I would do
Is to scratch your head
And let you go.

Kyle-na-no is one of the "seven woods" at Coole Park, in County Galway, the estate of Yeats' friend and fellow poet Lady Augusta Gregory (it is now a national park). For a time, Yeats and his wife lived near Coole Park.

Philatelic Yeats. Yeats once said, "Designs in connection with postage stamps . . . may be described . . . as the silent ambassadors of national taste." So, I imagine he would have been pleased that An Post considered him worthy to represent the "national taste." The postal service has honored him more often than any other writer, first issuing two stamps for the 100th anniversary of his birth in 1965. The stamps differ in color and value but share a design: a sketch of Yeats as he looked in middle age, with a thick shock of hair and his characteristic round-framed glasses.

The next Yeats stamp, issued in 1994, honored the poet for his 1923 Nobel Prize in Literature. The design features an impression of Yeats on a gold medal. To the right is an image of his tombstone in Drumcliffe Churchyard, County Sligo, inscribed with the famous epitaph he wrote for himself: “Cast a cold eye / On life, on death. / Horseman, pass by!” Though tourists visiting the gravesite nowadays are apt to arrive by car, bus, or bike rather than horseback, Yeats’ words still resonate.



W B. Yeats. Sc# 200-201. 1965.

Twenty years later, Yeats was recognized again for his Nobel Prize, along with three other Irish writers who’d received the same honor: playwright George Bernard Shaw (1925), novelist and playwright Samuel Beckett (1969), and poet Seamus Heaney (1995). The block of four stamps was issued simultaneously, with the same design, in Sweden, where the Nobel Prize is awarded. The building on the Yeats stamp is the home of the Abbey Theatre, the National Theater of Ireland, which Yeats helped found.



Yeats as Nobel Laureate. Sc# 947. 1994.

In June 2015, An Post again issued a Yeats stamp, this time recognizing the 150th anniversary of his birth. The stamp depicts a younger Yeats, based on a photograph by George C. Beresford, when his hair was still coal black.



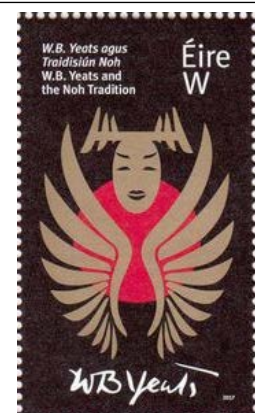
Irish winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature. Sc# 1576-1579. 2004.

The most recent Yeats stamp appeared in 2017 to celebrate the Japanese Noh theater tradition, which Yeats adapted for Ireland. The stamp depicts a Noh mask, along with Yeats’ signature at the bottom of the stamp. According to the *Hibernian Handbook*, the image is “based on Yeats’ play *At the Hawk’s Well*.” In the upper left corner, the phrase “W. B. Yeats agus Tradidishun Noh” appears, with an English translation. A miniature sheet containing two of the stamps was also issued in 2017.



W. B. Yeats. Sc# 2075. 2015.

Conclusion. Although the Irish have a history of alienating their writers (James Joyce lived in exile most of his life) or banning their books as “immoral” (Joyce’s *Ulysses* and Edna O’Brien’s *The Country Girls* come to mind), they eventually repent and honor their literary innovators. For the most part, the Irish liked Yeats from the start, and the artfully designed stamps in his honor give evidence that An Post—and the Irish people—see their writers as worthy subjects for stamps as “silent ambassadors of national taste.”



W. B. Yeats and the Noh Traditions. Sc# 2138. 2017.

An earlier version of this article appeared in The JAPOS Bulletin (The Newsletter of Journalists, Authors, and Poets on Stamps), Winter 2023. Many thanks to editor Cynthia Scott for permission to reprint.



Eire Philatelic Association
The Revealer
Style Sheet for Authors

- The font is Times New Roman. Size 14 for the title, 13 for name of author, 12 for text. Within illustrations 11 [example - Figure 2: Cover from Dublin to York].
- Single column wide
- Illustrations in text boxes within text.
- All flush left or even at both ends.
- Do not abbreviate
- English or American spellings may be used, but be consistent.
- Notes should be at end of article.
- References to books or articles should be in the following form
 Last name, First name, year, "Title of article," Title of book or Journal. Pages if article. Publisher, City.
- Internet references should be in the form: eirephilatelicassociation.org [http and www are not required.
- Microsoft Word is preferred.

(Some of) My Favourite Covers





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(INTERNATIONAL)

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Write –in candidate _____

Vice President North America: (Vote for one)

Michael S. Canavan, KS _____

Write-in candidate _____

Vice President Europe: (Vote for one)

Brian Warren, Ireland _____

Write-in candidate _____

Directors: (Vote for six)

Brian Callan, Ireland _____

Philip Kane, Ireland _____

Richard Kelly, IL _____

Raymond Murphy, Fl _____

Michael O'Reilly, Az _____

Timothy O'Shea, MA _____

Write- in candidate _____

**Please vote and return your vote in one of the following ways indicated below.
Please include your name and ÉPA number.**

Name _____ EPA# _____ (on Revealer mailer)

1. Return ballot by mail to: John B. Sharkey, Secretary
1559 Grouse Lane
Mountainside NJ 07092

or 2. Scan ballot and email to: jsharkeyepa@me.com

or 3. Approve entire ballot and email approval to jsharkeyepa@me.com

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paddyAchill

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Irish First Day covers

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Looking for a future in Irish Philately?

I have been dealing in Irish Stamps for over 50 years. During that time, I have accumulated a vast stock covering all aspects of Irish Philately. But with age and deteriorating health, the time has now come for me to look seriously at retirement from the stamp business.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

Here is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a person interested in starting their own stamp business or expanding an already established business. The retail value of my mail-order, internet, exhibition, wholesale and auction stock, combined with my reference material, is estimated at about €1,200,000.

The stock would be ideal for detailing over time on eBay or Delcampe, or consigning to various auctions. Included in this stock are many individual highlights including Seahorse sheets.

The price is subject to negotiation after inspection (here in Germany). Accommodation can be provided during viewing.

If you are seriously interested in acquiring this stock intact, please feel free to contact me.

Roy Hamilton-Bowen**roy.hb@online.de****Tel.: +49 6106 3023**

From our Friday Evening Skype Chats

Stamps in the Attic (or philatelic shoebox!)

Michael O'Reilly

It is many stamp enthusiasts dream to find that treasure that has been overlooked by others – perhaps when purchasing a collection, or browsing at a trade show or online at auction. Admittedly it does not happen that often, but on occasion with the proper level of diligence, some philatelic gems can be found.

Such was the case when a member consigned a collection of covers and other material for inclusion in an EPA auction. Unbeknownst to them, the collection included a FDC of the 2/6 St. Patrick's Day high value 1st definitive issue. (Hib. D13, Scott 96).



The Art Deco design was made by Richard Joseph King, for the 2/6d, 5S and 10S High Value stamps.

The image shows a stained-glass depicts Saint Patrick, Ireland's Patron Saint, lighting the paschal fire on the Hill of Slane. The image is found in an outline of the 11th century Shrine of St. Patrick's Bell.



Hib. D13, Scott: 96: 2/6 First Day of Issue 8th Sep 1936

The cover is a Registered Air Mail Express “Aer-Phost” envelope from Waterford to Oregon, US with a clear PORT LAIRGE 8 IX 37 round cancel. On the front, there is a pink post office EXPRESS label and also a US “Fee claimed at Portland, Oregon” pink cachet. The back of envelope has clear “PORT LAOIRGE 8 IX 37” cancel, with various contemporaneous New York and Portland receiving cancels.

First Day of issues for the 1937 high value definitives are extremely rare and very seldom are offered for sale.

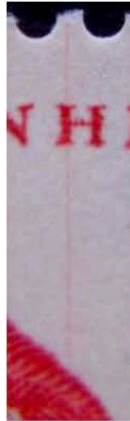
This example will be included in an upcoming Eire Philatelic Association (EPA) auction.



The Story of Mary Aikenhead and the Irish Stamps (Part 4-last part)

Liam Malone and Willie Mackle with assistance from Iben Olsen

#15a



This brings us to the 1/3 issue where we start with a mint stamp showing the C62a hair-line variety. Image #15a to the left is C62a with a Hairline through H.

Have you ever pondered why we get excited about the varieties? Is philately the only discipline where faulty items are often worth more than original perfect specimens?

Below #15b another C62a has the hairline visible through the A.

Just as with the 3d issue, Iben's keen surveillance has discovered several more varieties of the 1/3 issue. Red dots, 'Vs', re-entries and retouches are all available. But you must search.



#15b



#16



Image #16 to the left, is C62 red dot in first E in EIRE (unknown)

#17



And here, image #17 is a C62 red dot in 3 of the 1/3 (unknown)

17

#18

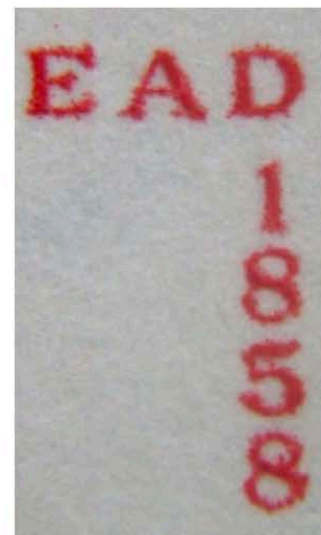


#18 C62 with a red "V" in SW corner (unknown)

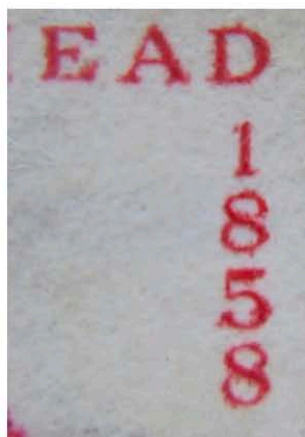
#19a



#19 C62 re-entry/retouch in EAD/1858 (unknown) is shown to the left and enlarged on the right. The gutter pair position indicate Row 11/? - See as well C61 #9 [page 15] and C62 #19b, directly below



#19b



#20



Last but not least, image #20 C62 shows a retouch/ colour bottom (unknown).

We hope you have enjoyed this review of the Mother Mary Aikenhead issue.

Liam Malone, Willie Mackle & Iben Olson



The Aerophilately of Shannon Airport (Part 1)

John B. Sharkey

Aerophilately is the branch of philately that specializes in the study of airmail. Philatelists have observed the development of mail transport by air from its beginning, and all aspects of airmail service have been extensively studied and documented by specialists. One of our past members, James J. Brady, long-time editor of *The Revealer*, was a specialist in the aerophilately of Ireland.¹ This paper will concentrate on the aerophilately of Shannon Airport in County Clare, Ireland. Given its geography, Ireland lies on the natural route across the Atlantic. Thus, many of the historic trans-oceanic flights either originated or terminated in Ireland.

My interest in Shannon Airport goes back to September 1, 1956, when my father took me with him to see his ailing mother, whom he had not seen in over thirty years. It was the only time that I would meet my grandmother. We departed from Idlewild Airport on TWA flight 968 on an L-749 Constellation. We stopped in Gander Newfoundland to refuel, and we arrived in Ireland the next morning. Attached is a photo I took of the airport shortly after we landed. We spent the night in Sligo and then up the west coast to Donegal and the town of Dungloe. It would be 56 more years before I flew into Shannon again, this time to do a bus tour of southern Ireland with my wife, and then on to Stampá 2012 with the ÉPA. Much has changed at Shannon Airport in these many years, so let's review some of the interesting aerophilately and postal history of the Airport, starting at the very beginning.



Fig.1: Photo of Shannon Airport taken by the author on September 2, 1956, after arrival from the United States.

Foynes

In 1935, Foynes, on the south side of the Shannon Estuary, was selected as the major flying boat base linking Europe with America. Transatlantic survey flights were conducted in 1937 and 1938 by Imperial Airways Ltd. and Pan American World Airways with interest in establishing regular air service.²

The first regular passenger and airmail service across the North Atlantic from New York City to Foynes, Ireland was initiated by Pan American World Airways on June 24, 1939. The flight, on the Boeing 314 flying boat *Yankee Clipper*, left Port Washington, Long Island, stopped at Shediac, Canada, where it was delayed by fog. It flew to Botwood, Newfoundland on June 27th and Foynes on June 28th, and then continued on to Southampton, England that afternoon. The return flight left Southampton on June 30, stopping at Foynes before heading west across the Atlantic. This northern route across the Atlantic, along with the southern route to Lisbon is known as F.A.M.18. A very large quantity of mail was carried both to and from Ireland on these first Pan Am flights³.

Covers were franked with a special violet cachet picturing the plane and the various stops along the route. The cachet also reads “North Atlantic Mail Service First Flight,” in both English and Irish.

Practically all the activity at Foynes took place during World War II. This meant that, though Ireland was a neutral country, most passengers coming through Foynes were top level military and diplomatic personnel with high priority on transatlantic flights. Many were on active duty with false passports. Foynes became one of the biggest civilian airports in Europe during World War II. However, it was realized that developing technology would require a permanent runway and airport. On October 22, 1945 Foynes closed as an air terminal.⁴



Fig. 2: Cover on the first transatlantic airmail flight from Ireland to America. The stamps were cancelled on June 30, 1939, with a Dublin postmark Baile Atha Cliath. The cover has a backstamp of Botwood NFLD dated Jul 1, 1939. Postage shown is 1s3d (HB D12, D6).

end of the war commercial flying resumed. On September 16, 1945, the first transatlantic proving flight by a Pan Am DC4 Skymaster landed at Shannon. It had taken less than eight hours to fly from Gander.

On October 23, 1945, American Airlines System (American Overseas Airlines, Inc.) inaugurated passenger and mail service from New York and Boston to London, with intermediate stops at Gander, Newfoundland and Shannon, Ireland. The plane used for these flights was a Lockheed Constellation named *Flagship London* under the command of Capt. Charles C. Spencer. It was the first peacetime commercial flight of a land plane across the North Atlantic. This route is known as F.A.M. 24.⁶ Aerlinte Eireann (Air Lingus) began service from Dublin to New York vis Shannon on April 28, 1958.

On November 19, 1945, American Airlines extended its F.A.M. 24 service to London to include Chicago. The plane used on this flight was a Lockheed Constellation named the *Flagship Chicago*. The flight left Chicago on November 19, 1945 and arrived in Shannon the next day. The return flight left Shannon on November 20th and arrived in Chicago on the 21st.

Trans World Airlines began service between New York and Paris via Gander and Shannon on February 5, 1946.

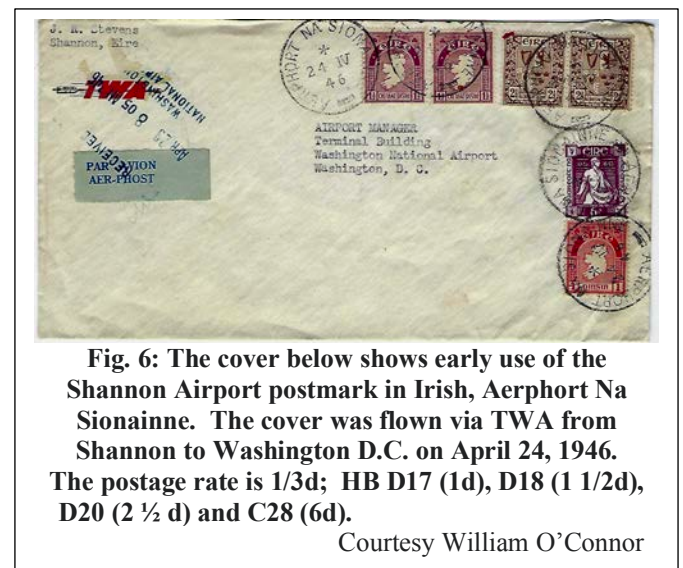
Shannon Airport

In 1936, the government of Ireland confirmed that it would develop a 1.2 square mile site at Rineanna for the country's first transatlantic airport. The onset of World War II brought a virtual halt to commercial aviation, but development work continued at Rineanna. In July 1939, a SABENA Savoia-Marchetti S.73 from Brussels was the first flight to use the Rineanna airfield. By 1942 a serviceable airport had been established and was named Shannon Airport.

By 1945 the existing runways at Shannon were extended to allow transatlantic flights to land, completely bypassing the need for Foynes.⁵ At the



Fig.3: Photo postcard of Shannon Airport, Rineanna, Ireland. Produced by Shannon Airport, this circa late 1940s. Postcard was not mailed.



First Flights from Shannon to Europe

In June of 1946, Pan Am extended their passenger and mail service to the continent of Europe. The first flight left Shannon on June 16th and after stopping in London, continued on to Brussels, Prague and Vienna.



Pan Am extended their service to Karachi with the flight that left New York on March 7, 1947. They were expected to pick up mail at Shannon on March 8. This was not done and the mail postmarked on March 8th was held and flown the following week on the 15th. It was back stamped in Karachi on the 18th.

First Irish Air Mail Stamps issued

On April 7, 1948, Ireland issued its first air mail stamps. The two values issued, 3d and 6d, made up the transatlantic air mail rate. These stamps, featuring the Flight of Angel Victor, Messenger for St. Patrick, were designed by R. J. King. In each design, the Angel Victor is depicted in flight over an historical landmark in one of the four provinces of Ireland carrying the “voice of Ireland.” These landmarks are: the Rock of Cashel, Lough Derg, Croagh Patrick, and Glendalough. The other air mail values were issued as follows: the 1d and 1/- on April 4, 1949; the 8d and 1/3 on December 13, 1954; and the 1/5 on April 1, 1965.

In January 1949, Pan Am began air service to Basra, Iraq. The first mail to be sent from Shannon was on the flight leaving on January 21, returning to Shannon on January 27th. Shown is the cover on the flight to Basra with Ireland’s first airmail stamps, the 3d and 6d stamps (HB A2, A3).

The return flight had a backstamp Aerphort Na Sionainne, Shannon Airport.



Fig. 9: Pan American World Airways first direct air mail flight Shannon to Basra, Iraq. The postmark in from Limerick. The return flight had a different cachet: First Air Mail Flight from Basra, with a backstamp Aerphort Na Sionainne



Fig. 10: This cover, from Shannon to the U.S. dated April 4, 1951, shows the second airmail stamp issues, the 1d and the 1s. The postmarks from Shannon shows the Irish Aerphort Na Sionainne. The airmail rate increased to 1/4 on March 1, 1951.

In 1947, the “Customs Free Airport Act” established Shannon as the world’s first duty-free airport, and became a model for other duty-free facilities worldwide.⁷



Fig. 11: Cover with cachet Shannon FREE AIRPORT and Irish Shannon Airport postmark. The year is not legible, but the printed matter postage of 2d was in effect from March 1, 1951 to May 31, 1964.



Fig.12: This cover was recovered from the KLM Super-Constellation PH-TYF “triton” on September 5, 1954 that crashed shortly after take off from Shannon Airport. The straight line cachet read “SALVAGED FROM K.L.M. CRASH AT SHANNON”. From the author’s

Airplane Disasters at Shannon

Landings and takeoffs at Shannon were difficult in the 1940s and 50s. Between the end of 1946 and beginning of 1960, there were six crashes, with a total of 200 people killed. Three of these crashes occurred on final approach and three on or shortly after takeoff. Mail was carried on all of these planes and much was recovered on some but not all of the crashes. All of these disasters were described in great detail in Ronnie Vogt’s book *Irish Crash Airmails*.⁸

From a total of 26 mail bags, 20 were recovered, and salvaged by the Irish post office. The mail was dried and each piece given a straight-line cachet. The cover here has a black cachet.⁹

Aer Lingus

In 1947, Aerlínte Éireann came into existence with the purpose of operating transatlantic flights to New York City from Ireland. The airline ordered five new Lockheed L-749

Constellations, but a change of government and a financial crisis prevented the service from starting. It was not until April 28, 1958 that Aerlínte Éireann operated its first transatlantic service from Shannon to New York. Three Lockheed L-1049 Super Constellations were used for the twice-weekly service leased from the US airline Seaboard and Western. On January 1, 1960, Aerlínte Éireann was renamed Aer Lingus – Irish International Airlines.¹⁰

The first westward flight left Dublin at 10:00 pm, stopping at Shannon Airport 50 minutes later. Christened *St. Patrick*, the Super H Lockheed Constellation departed from Shannon at 11:55 pm and arrived at Idlewild International Airport in NY at 10:50 am April 29th, where it was greeted by New York’s famous “Fighting 69th Regiment” band and color guard¹¹. Shown below is one of 800 first flight covers, serviced from Dublin by the Irish Airlines with the cancellation Baile Átha Cliath. Another 1100 covers were posted at Limerick and flown from Shannon¹².

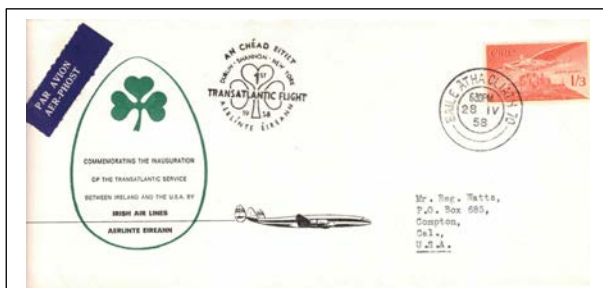


Fig. 13: This cover, postmarked April 28, 1958 in Dublin, commemorates the inauguration of the first transatlantic service between Ireland and the U.S. by Aerlínte Éireann, Irish Air Lines. Cover backstamped April 29, 1958 in New York. The rate had dropped to 1/3 on June 7, 1953.

The eastward flight to Dublin left Idlewild at 3:30 pm on April 30th arriving at Shannon at 7:70 am on May 1st, and then continuing on to Dublin. Approximately 300 first flight covers were serviced by the Irish Airlines from New York.

Another interesting cover from 1958 with the Shannon Airport cancellation is shown below, provided by ÉPA member Karl Winkleman.

The Limerick registered cds 21 Feb 58 on reverse is timed 3:15 P.M.. The cover was handled at Limerick before being returned to Shannon, where it was posted at 8:15 A.M. to connect with its flight. The postage of 3/3 ½ is explained by

Karl as follows:



Fig.14: Express mail cover mailed from Shannon Airport on Feb. 21, 1958. The cover has no backstamp in the U.S., but it appears that the handstamp VIA AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY was added in New York.
Cover scan courtesy of Karl Winkleman

Postage – First ½ oz.	1/3
Addt. ½ oz.	1/-
Express Fee	1/-
Late fee	1/2d
Total Fee	3/3

Jet Air Service Across the Atlantic

Pan American inaugurated its jet clipper service from Shannon Airport to New York on June 3, 1960. Aer Lingus began Boeing 720 jet air service across the Atlantic on the morning of December 14, 1960. Covers were flown from Dublin and Shannon to New York. They received a black oval cachet, SHAMROCK JET SERVICE, with First Flight in Gaelic and English. Covers dispatched from Shannon were postmarked at the main post office in Limerick. The return flight left New York

on the evening of the 14th and arrived in Ireland the next morning¹³.

On April 1, 1965, the last Irish airmail stamp was issued. This was the 1/5d value with the same design as the 1/3d. This new stamp was required because of an increase in rate for overseas airmail letters on June 1, 1964.
(to be continued)



Sale and Disposal of Collections

Bob Kemper

My name is Bob Kemper and I was the previous EPA Auction Manager. John Sharkey, our EPA Secretary, has indicated that you are looking for some assistance in figuring out what to do with your Irish collection. Based on what John has passed on to me, you collected Irish material during the 1960's and 1970's, but lost interest in stamp collecting around 1976 when you found love and started a family - congratulations on getting married and starting a family. I also understand that you are 76 years young (I am also 76) and do not have any family members or close friends that wish to continue your Irish collection. That is an all too common situation that many of us find ourselves in as we reach this point in life. As a long time stamp collector, a former part-time Irish and U.S. stamp dealer (1980 - 1995 period), and assisting the EPA as their Auction Manager since 2014; I have provided my insight and assistance to many former stamp collectors in a similar situation.

Here are the basic options and my thoughts on each:

Option 1: Give or sell your Irish collection to a family member or close friend who has a genuine interest in continuing the collection. Based on your input to John Sharkey, this does not appear to be an option for you,

Option 2: Sell the collection, in whole or in parts, to a local stamp dealer. Typically, a stamp dealer will try to only buy the higher value material at a low price so that he can make a large margin on his ultimate sale of the material. He will typically buy an entire collection only if he can get it for a ridiculously low price because he must hold onto much of the material for a very long time before he can find a buyer. I recommend this option only as a last resort.

Option 3: Consign the collection to a Public Auction House. Typically, they will only take the high-priced material and not the entire collection as there is not enough commission to be made by them to justify their expenses for listing and printing their auction material. Besides leaving you with the bulk of your collection after pulling out only the high price material, they take a huge commission on items sold. After considering both the Seller's and Buyer's commissions that Public Auction Houses charge, the Seller only gets something around 60-70% of what the various items are paid for by the ultimate Buyer. I do not recommend this option at all unless your collection is only extremely high-priced material. In general, there are much better alternatives.

Option 4: Utilize the EPA Auctions to sell your collection, in whole or in parts. The benefits of consigning material to the EPA Auctions are several. First and foremost is that the EPA is a non-profit association of collectors whose sole interest is in Irish collecting/exhibiting. You are placing your material before a select group of potential buyers looking for Irish material. Another benefit of selling your material through the EPA Auctions is that the commissions taken by the EPA are extremely low - 10% for lots selling above \$25.00 and 15% for lots selling under \$25.00. Unlike most other auctions, the EPA Auctions allow lots to be listed with Reserves as low as \$1.00, which permits a Consignor to list lower value material. As the EPA Auction Manager, a totally volunteer position, I stand ready to help EPA Members decide how best to lot their material for highest potential sales. While I believe that the EPA Auctions provide the highest value return on your Irish collection, it can take a significant amount of time to sell a large volume of material. The EPA holds only four Auctions per year and material unsold in any given auction typically is not placed in the next auction, but is relisted in every other auction until sold. If disposing of your collection in a short period of time is critical to you, the EPA Auctions may not be your best option.

Option 5: Donate your Irish collection to the EPA and take an Income Tax deduction for your donation. As a non-profit organization, the EPA will provide any party making such a contribution to the EPA with an executed Donation Form that the Contributor can use when filing their Income Taxes. Many senior EPA Members have chosen this option as it allows them to dispose of their entire Irish collection immediately. As a matter of fact, I have one EPA Member whose Irish collection catalogs for roughly \$10,000 who requested this option last week and has shipped his material to me this week. Material donated to the EPA gets ultimately sold through the EPA Auctions with the funds used in Irish Philately for research and education purposes. If disposing of your entire collection rapidly is important to you, this is an excellent option for you to consider.

Regardless of what option or combination of options that you might choose, I am here to help. I am attaching some material about the EPA Auctions and how I administer them for your review. Once you have had a

chance to look over the material, drop me an email (EPA-Auction @roardunner.com) or give me a call (626-826-0296) and I will try to answer any questions you may have or to help plan next steps.



Second Announcement

IRELAND'S FIRST DAY COVERS

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE 1922 - 1972

We are compiling a comprehensive guide of the first 50 years of Ireland's First Day Covers. We plan to publish a book and to create an online repository available to members. We are interested in covers of issues released by the postal service in Ireland from 1922 through 1972.

The scope of this guide will be to capture images of as many covers as possible:

Overprint first day covers, T1 to T77, where possible

Commemorative covers from C1 to C177 [Sets 1C to 88C] plain up to the GAA

Airmail first day covers A1 to A7

Definitive first day covers from D1 to D98 [Series 1, 2, 3 & 4]

All the numbers referenced above are from the Hibernian 2020 catalogue.

A few members already sent some wonderful covers, and we thank them. But we also want more participation by your scanning covers, at a minimum of **300 DPI JPEG**. If the reverse of your cover has postmarks or significant markings, please also scan and submit this to us as well letting us know what cover it is from.

Please send images of your first day covers, labelled with their Hibernian 2020 catalogue number, to:

ireland-first-day-covers@googlegroups.com.

**If you are unsure if your covers are worth submitting,
please email one of the Editors below.**

With thanks,

The Editors

Phil Kane, Ireland

Willie Mackle, Canada

Liam Malone, U.S.A.

mr.philipkane@outlook.com

wmackle751@gmail.com

liammalonedc@gmail.com

Closing date will be 2024 December 31st.



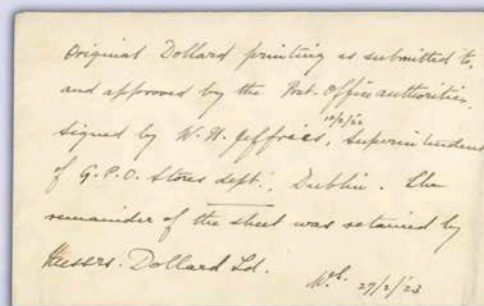
David Feldman
INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS

Ireland

Spring Auction Series – Geneva, June 22, 2024



Lot 51292 – 1827 (December 14th) Folded entire from Kilkenny to Ulverston, Lancashire. The letter was posted after the normal mail was despatched and on arriving in England was inadvertently returned to Dublin, where the clerk applied the “**Mis sent to Dublin**” handstamp. To explain the delay the word “back” was added in manuscript. The letter was then probably forwarded to the addressee in England. It was unusual for a post office clerk to tamper with or modify the nature of the handstamp used on mail, an unusual and very rare usage (DF No.234); ex “Mermaid” collection.



Lot 51357 – Proof overprint in blue for the 5-line format of the low values: Upper right corner sheet marginal block of twelve of Stereo Setting 1 from Row 1 and 2, plus handwritten note on card by B. J. Brennan of Messrs Dollard Ltd., dated 27/3/23 and validating the block, an important exhibition showpiece; ex T. E. Field, Gerard Brady.

Note: Only proofs from rows 1 & 2, hence 24 examples are recorded as being in the hands of collectors. It is thought that the 96 others from the pane of 120 were retained by Dollard.



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We proudly present the 2nd parts of the
Des Quail collection of Postal History
and the **Cousins collection of Overprints**



www.davidfeldman.com