



Volume
2024

Irish Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
www.irishphil.com

Issue No: 3
December



Dollard Overprint on Great Britain Seahorse 5S Rose Red cancelled with a Cork CDS on 14th November 1922. IPC member Thomas Nestor collects perfectly centered overprinted stamps with perfectly centered Postmarks. Thomas frequently shares his collection with members of the Irish Philately, Friday evening Skype group.

IN THIS ISSUE

Presidents Message - Stan Challis	86	Irish Politics in Postcards by Declan Martin	112
From The Editor - Robert Benninghoff	87	- Reviewed by Brian Callan	
From the Associate & Digital Editor - Philip Kane	88	Thoughts on Collecting and Exhibiting Political Labels - Robert Benninghoff	114
Second Edition of "Irish Post Offices and their Postmarks since 1600" - FAI	89		
The History of Blarney Castle - Tabitha Fox	90	A Couple of my Favourite Covers - Karl Winkelmann	116
Postal History of a Triangular Folded Letter - Anders Jorgensen	96	A Report from Hafnia 24 - Brian Callan	119
The Irish Brigade and STAMPA 2024 - Robert Benninghoff	100	Interesting Items - From IPC members	120
Enhancing your collection through Varieties and Errors - Michael O'Reilly	106	Michael McNamara - An Appreciation Brian Warren, Karl Winkelmann & Robert Benninghoff	122
Cork Postal History - Part 5 - Brian Callan	109	Around the World in Eighty Covers Part XIII - Bandon to Sudan - Stan Challis	124

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – WINTER 2024

'The art of Good Governance comes from the Sagacity of Long Experience'; 'the art of Enjoyable Philately comes from the Permanence of Backlog' – Discuss. I cannot exactly recall the words of my history master some sixty plus years ago but for the first part I am close enough. Peter Garwood certainly wasn't talking about philately but I do recall that the subject he was trying to drill into us was the Empress Maria Theresa who ruled Austria for much of the eighteenth century – she need concern us no further now beyond encouraging us to realise that the longer one does something, the better one hopes that one understands the subject.

It was in the Winter 2023 issue that I extolled the need to get one's collection written up; so, what have I done this past twelve months – answer: get all too little written up and have I sorted out all those boxes of material that I promised myself that I would deal withI leave you to guess the answer to that one and have I acquired more new material, including a few mixed lots in 2024 yes, I have to plead guilty and admit it is neither sorted nor written up as it should be. And so I have failed to manage my Backlog in 2024 just when I exhort all others to reduce theirs.

But what would I do if I was perchance to be up to date with every stamp/ cover carefully mounted in its final resting place. Would I be happy with nothing to do? In truth I think the last time that happened was as a schoolboy proudly looking at my small album and solemnly counting the 167 stamps (or whatever the number was) that I had acquired to date wondering if I would be able to get any more. No! I would not be comfortable if I were up to date. In what is perhaps a contrarian way, I enjoy my permanent backlog. I can move from heap to heap, pile to pile, mount a few sheets here, rumble through the odd box there and then despair that I will never in my lifetime have everything in place. Good! It means that I will never be bored even if the Poor Longsuffering Nicky can never have the home in the state of tidiness she might hope for. Vivat the Permanent Backlog.

Now, to matters more serious than my personal philatelic mess. Our auction. You will find attached the December Euro currency auction list, which auction Paddy Smithers has kindly agreed to manage and I hope you will find some goodies on the list. However, as you will be aware, long term member Paul Baines had agreed to take up the reigns as UK auctioneer but sadly his health presently precludes

him from taking on the task. I have had a long chat with Paul. He feels it is unlikely that he would be able to deal with an auction in the short term and in consequence if any UK member does feel able to step into the breach either short or longer term, I would be delighted if they would come forward. In the meantime, I know we all wish Paul a speedy and full recovery. The auction is a key strand in our life blood and we cannot let it go. If you have the slightest inclination to take on what is potentially a fun task, do please drop me an email and I would be more than happy to discuss the matter with you. We cannot exist without an auctioneer! Please tell me that you can do it! Thank you.

In the short term, I have been asked by a non member, although a well known figure in UK Philatelic circles, to dispose of the Irish section of his Philatelic Library. Hence, in the April 2025 issue of Irish Philately, you will find enclosed a list for a small literature auction containing some good items, which I will run from London on behalf of the Circle, ending in late May.

I should add a few lines of thanks to all those concerned with Stampa in Dublin last October for all their hard work. I certainly enjoyed the Show and I hope all our Members were able to come away with a few goodies. My gratitude to Brian Warren and his army of helpers.

Meanwhile we look forward to 2025. We all have our personal ambitions whether it be in the home, within the family or in connection with one's hobbies. As you have gathered, my domestic task is tidiness but above that I want to get out and meet people and see a little more of our planet starting with a visit to India in January. Stampa will be in its usual place in the calendar next October but May will see the main UK Philatelic Event of the year - Europhilex at the 'NEC' Birmingham in early May. Do ensure you have the dates in your diary (7-11 May). The Circle has a table on 8 May (Societies Day) and I look forward to meeting as many of our Members as possible then. You will enjoy the extra space available over and above the Business Design Centre in London and I suspect the 50 or so dealers present will do likewise. There will be over 3,000 frames of material to examine; surely something there to whet everyone's appetite. See you there! In the meantime, a very Happy New Year to you all.
Stan

Jean and I wish all our friends in the Irish Philatelic Circle a most Bodacious Holiday Season and a Safe and Prosperous 2025.

We were both at STAMPA this year with two of our Granddaughters who were exhibiting at the show. Laurelei and Tabitha are doing their bit to lower the average age of STAMPA attendees and we very much hope that our members with grandchildren would consider bringing them along for the next STAMPA. Many Congratulations to Héloïse Mitchell for winning a Large Gold and the multi-frame Grand award, **The David Feldman Trophy** at STAMPA 2024. Karen McShane won a Large Gold and the Reserve Grand, **The Jonathan Hanvey Memorial Trophy**. A full report on the exhibits at STAMPA 2024 and Hafnia (Copenhagen) can be found on pages 100 and 119 respectively.

The Irish Brigade did extremely well at the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) in August (USA National Stamp Show). Laurelei won the Youth Champion of Champion for 2023, Tabitha won the GASS Youth Grand award for 2024 and The Most Popular Exhibit Champion of Champions. Héloïse received a Large Gold and the Reserve Grand award in the Thematic competition. Mark Schwartz received a Large Gold and the Reserve Grand in the First Day Cover competition. Mark also won the Most Popular award in this competition. Tony Dewey won a Large Gold and special prize.

Karl Winkelmann won a Large Gold and the American Philatelic Association Research Medal (his second in 2024) in the open competition. Karl also won the open competition's Most Popular exhibit award. Brain Callan also received a Large Gold.

The Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland gave a virtual Power Point Presentation to the Collectors Club (New York) on 18 Sept. Over 200 people joined from around the world to hear us present **"An Introduction to Irish Philately"**. The Power Point is available to IPC members on request.

We have 40 page of interesting articles in December **Irish Philately**. This is *YOUR* Journal and we all look forward to *your* articles, comments and thoughts. Please email me your materials in Microsoft Word, with images as .jpgs (200 dpi or better). I can also work with articles in .pdf format. However, I will work in any format that you send to me. **One Page to Six Pages are very welcome and appreciated.** Now looking for April 2025 articles .

Sadly, we lost our good IPC friend, Michael McNamara in November 2024. Michael was a regular member of our Friday evening Skype meetings and a frequent contributor to IP (Page 122).

There are two major Stamp Shows in the Spring of 2025 with a large number of IPC exhibits. EurophilEx 2025 is being held in Birmingham, England 7 to 12 May 2025. Brian Warren is the Irish Commissioner and thanks to his diligent solicitation, Ireland has over 60 frames of exhibits. The Éire Philatelic Association is celebrating its 75th Anniversary 21 to 23 March at St. Louis and several IPC members will be going to the show and the Irish Brigade will have over 50 frames of exhibits.



EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025

Britain's next major international stamp exhibition

Wednesday 7 – Sunday 11 May 2025

Hall 9, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham B40 1NT
11am-6pm Wednesday, 10am-6pm Thursday to Saturday and 10am-4pm Sunday

2,000 frames of exhibits and over 60 dealers' stands

FREE SOUVENIR SHEETS FOR ALL

Restaurant and bar. Plenty of seating in the exhibition hall. Court of Honour including the famous 1856 British Guiana 1 cent magenta, courtesy of Stanley Gibbons
Society meetings every day. Meeting rooms available from £150. Society Showcase Day Thurs 8 May
Philatelic Congress of GB on Saturday 10 May. Cavendish Philatelic Auction on Sunday 11 May

EVERYONE WELCOME

£10 admission on first day from 11am,
Early bird first day admission 10am – 11am £20

FREE ADMISSION all other days

More information and discount hotel deal on EuroPhilEx website
www.europhilEx2025.co.uk Tel: 01279 870488



FROM THE ASSOCIATE & DIGITAL EDITOR

Philip Kane: email mr.philipkane@outlook.com

COMPETITION FOR A FREE ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS AND VIEWS PLEASE

Due to a recent increase in postal rates effective from 1st February 2024, the national ('N') rate has risen by 5c to €1.40. Coupled with the additional costs of printing, we are surveying all our members to determine the most effective method of delivering your IPC. We are considering three different subscription options:

1. **Digital Subscription**
2. **Hard Copy Delivery via Post**
3. **Both Digital and Hard Copy**

Our initiative seeks to harmonize our services with those provided by our affiliates, the EPA and the FAI. Your feedback is crucial to us, and we would like to understand your preferences to move forward.

Please email mr.philipkane@outlook.com with a simple 1, 2, or 3 in the subject line. Every respondent by 28th February 2025 will be entered into a free draw for a 2026 annual subscription to the Irish Philatelic Circle (Hard Copy). Membership prices for the various types will be announced in 2025 after the IPC AGM and the winner will be notified via email.

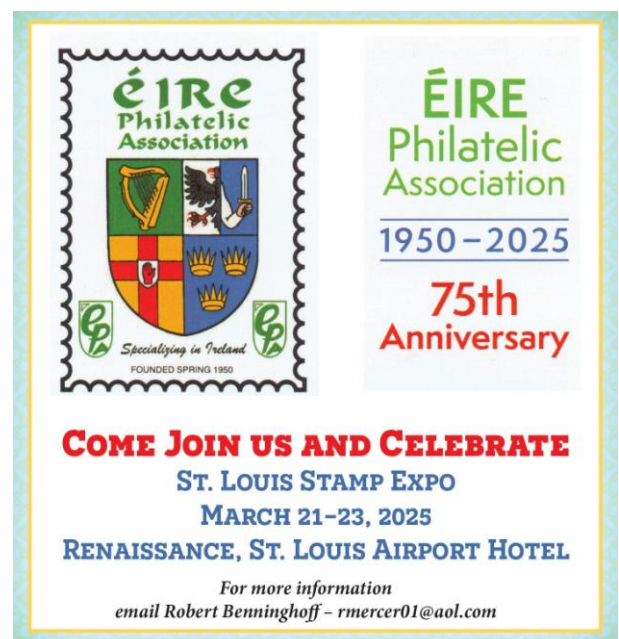
Additionally, we seek your feedback on the IPC webpage at www.irishphil.com. All paid-up members have access to all sections of the site, including the largest Irish Philatelic publications library. We are interested in how often you visit the site, your favourite pages, what you would like to see more of and areas for improvement. Your feedback is crucial as it helps us tailor the site to better serve your needs and interests.

We are also in discussions with global award winners to have their displays scanned and showcased on a dedicated page for other members both to see why the awards were given as well as an insight in how to frame an award-winning exhibit.

Furthermore, we plan to feature the latest auction results from Dave Feldmann in 2025. The Spring Auction Series will be held in Geneva from May 19 to 25, 2025, and will include a wide range of philatelic interests, from classic to modern collections

This auction is renowned for its high-quality rarities and unique items, making it a must-attend event for collectors worldwide. Participating in this auction provides an excellent opportunity to acquire rare and valuable pieces, as well as to stay updated on the latest trends and prices in the philatelic market. The collections from both Des Quail and Barry Cousins have featured extensively in the last three major Dave Feldman Auctions in which 1000 of items were sold worldwide to form another part of collections Irish Philatelic collectables worldwide. Details of all of the lots sold/unsold can be found as well as high-quality images at www.davefeldman.com

Your participation and feedback are invaluable in helping us enhance our offerings and continue to provide a comprehensive portal into Irish postal history. We have the membership and the readers, but we want to hear from you. What would you like to see more of on our website? What articles would you like us to publish in 2025?



Second edition of “*Irish Post Offices and Their Postmarks since 1600*”

by Hans-Jürgen Goebelbecker and the FAI. May 2024

The German Research and Study Group on Irish Philately “Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland” (FAI) published in May 2024, a second, extensively revised version of the catalogue: *Irish Post Offices and Their Postmarks since 1600*

This classic, well-known among friends of Irish philately – originally by Harald Frank and Klaus Stange (1990) – has now been digitized, revised and expanded. It is now available in two digital versions (English and German). Each of them with approximately 460 pages can be downloaded free of charge from the FAI website (<http://fai-germany.de>) - divided into six modules. The files are updated at regular intervals depending on the receipt of new information.

This publication thus joins the great movement of our time for free access to information media such as Wikipedia and many public media (German public media institutions, BBC etc.). In order to give the generally open content of the publication a copyright framework, a corresponding Creative Commons license was issued: "CC BY-NC-SA" means that the originator (in this case the FAI) must always be named when the work is shared. In addition, the work or only parts of it – even after modifications – may only be shared under the same license conditions; in our case, this means in a non-commercial context with the "CC BY-NC-SA" license. Further information on Creative Commons licenses can be found at creativecommons.org and at Wikipedia under "Creative Commons".

The screenshot shows the FAI website interface. At the top, there is a green header with the FAI logo and the text "FAI e.V. Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland e.V.". Below the header, there is a navigation bar with "HOME / Startpage". The main content area is titled "Literature" and features a link to "FAI Publication Series". The featured publication is "FAI Publication Series No. 35", "Irish Post Offices and Their Postmarks since 1600", 2nd Edition 2024, digitized, revised and extended by Hans-Jürgen Goebelbecker. The publication is available digitally in six modules, which can be freely downloaded in the latest version and used in accordance with their Creative Commons License CC BY-NC-SA. A table lists the modules, their page counts, content descriptions, last update dates, and file sizes. Below the table, there is a call to action to "Take part in the continuous updating and extension of the 2nd edition!" and a request to send relevant information directly to the co-author, Hans-Jürgen Goebelbecker, via email at haju.goe@gmx.de.

Module	Number of Pages	Content / Download	Last Update	File Size
I	17	Title, Credits and Introduction	July, 26th, 2024	0,6 MB
II	41	Postmark Illustrations	July 6th, 2024	16 MB
III	164	County Listings, Part A	July 26th, 2024	3,4 MB
IV	164	County Listings, Part B	July 26th, 2024	3,9 MB
V	40	Index of Names in Irish	July 26th, 2024	1,2 MB
VI	35	Index of Names in English	June 25th, 2024	1,1 MB

Screenshot of the web page under <http://fai-germany.de> for downloading the publication.

The History of Blarney Castle by Tabitha Fox

This is the first in my series of articles based on my first exhibit “The History of Blarney Castle” (1). Images with a green background are important and interesting items in my exhibit.

This article looks at the history of one of the most famous castles in Ireland and the world (Figure 1), the legend behind the “Gift of Gab” and how one goes about the “Kissing of the Stone” (Figure 2).

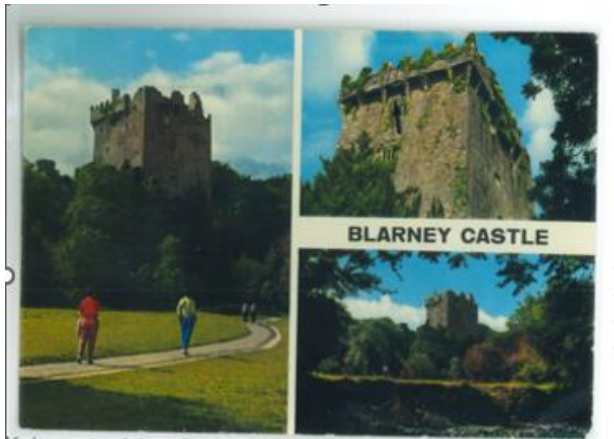


Fig 1 Modern postcard shows Blarney Castle and the Location of the Blarney Stone



Fig 2 Humorous Postcard from 1909 Postmarked at Blarney.

The card is from Irish Tourist Postcard series. Published by Lawrence Ltd., Dublin Ireland.

The History of Blarney Castle

In the 10th century, there was a wooden house that later became a stone castle. The castle that now exists was built by a man named McCarthy in 1446, in typical Norman Castle style (Figures 3 and 4). The McCarthy family owned the Blarney Castle land from 1314, when Cormac McCarthy (Figure 5) was given a piece of the Stone of Scone from Robert the Bruce of Scotland. But in 1646, they lost it because of Cromwell's cannons. King Charles II gave it back to the McCarthys in 1661, but they lost it again to England in 1690 after the Battle of Boyne (Figure 6). The castle was built to protect the land around the River Martin. Blarney means "little field" in Gaelic.

Over 400 stone castles built in Ireland from 1169 to Cromwell's invasion of 1641

Some of the oldest and largest castles are shown below

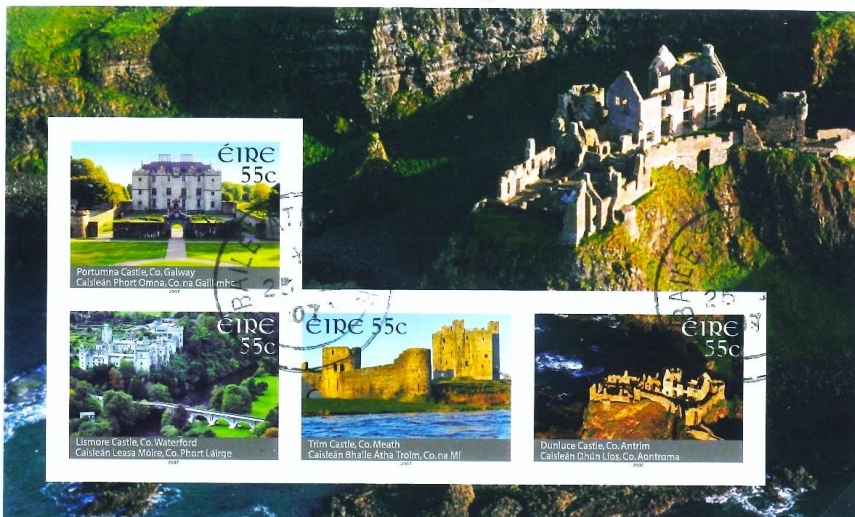


Fig. 3

Some of the oldest Norman Castles in Ireland.

*Irish Miniature sheet-Irish Castles with Dublin First Day cancel 9 March 2007
Designed by Q Design; printed by Irish Security Stamp; Perf 14.75 x 14.25*

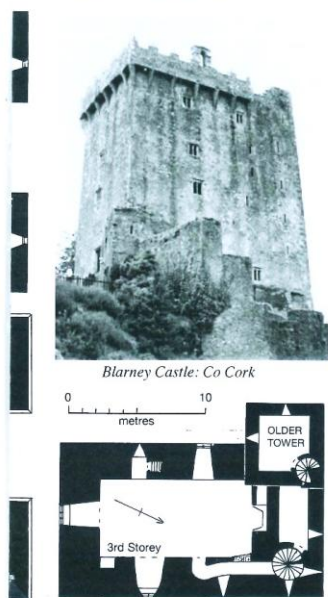
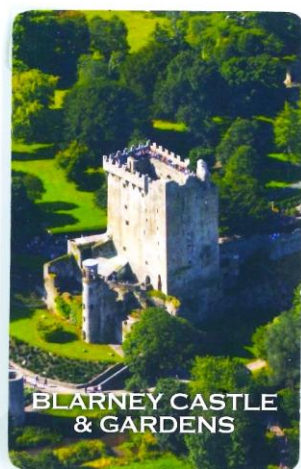


Fig 4 Blarney Castle brochure. The current stone Castle was built in 1446.



*Blarney Castle Brochure
Presented to visitors of
the Estate and Gardens
From my recent trip to
Ireland*

*Postcard shows McCarthy Family Crest
Signed by my Uncle Cornelius McCarthy
Blarney postmark 12 April 2024*



Cornelius A.O. McCarthy

*Postcard designed by Cathal Devin
Printed by Redbubble March 2024*

Fig. 5 Postcard shows McCarthy Family Crest. **Signed by my Uncle, Cornelius McCarthy.**

Irish Legend says that the Stag always defends its own Lands.
McCarthy Clan goes back to Roman Times, ruling over the lands in southwest Ireland, now known as the Province of Munster.



*Cover Shows the Ruins of
Blarney Castle*

*Cover prepared by Brian Warren,
1 of 12 covers. Postmarked at
Blarney Post Office (An Bhlarna)
on 3 May 2024*

*Special Blarney Cachet in Black.
The numbers 0713 on the bottom
of the Stamp shows it was printed
at Blarney.
(see Irish Philatelic Circle website
for list of Irish Post Office codes)*

*Cromell was given Title of Lord
Protector of England, Scotland
and Ireland by British Parliament
in 1651. He used heavy Cannons to
destroy many Castles in Ireland
including Blarney. He ended the era
of Castles started by the Normans.*

Fig.6 Cover and Cachet prepared by Brian Warren shows the current Blarney Castle.

The Legends Behind The “Gift of the Gab”

The castle has a neat legend to go with the history. Queen Elizabeth I (Figure 7) wanted Cormac Teige McCarthy, Lord Blarney, to own his land by her royal order. But Lord Blarney kept giving her excuses and promises without really agreeing to her demands (Figure 8). Queen Elizabeth said he was full of "a lot of Blarney." Another part of the legend says that on his way to talk to the Queen, McCarthy met Cliodhna, the Queen of the Irish fairies (Figure 9). She told him that if he kissed a special stone that she placed high in the castle, he would get the gift of “Eloquent speech”. These two legends combined to make the story we know today as the “Gift of the Gab”.



Fig. 7 Cover shows a young Red Hair Queen Elizabeth.

The Queen was so frustrated with her land ownership negotiations with Cormac McCarthy that she added a new word to the Language.

“Blarney”

Pleasant talk designed to deceive without insulting.

Cover from Somaliland Republic shows a Red Hair Queen Elizabeth
Postmarked Jan 1 2001. 200 Shillings paid international mail rate



Postcard shows Red Head Queen Cliodhna,
Queen of the Irish Fairies.

She is also patron fairy of County Cork & Blarney Cast

Postcard mailed 3 May 2024 from Blarney to Maple Shade NJ. Cancelled with special Blarney Castle Cachew stamp pays international postage rate

Cliodhna told Lord Blarney that he would keep his Land if he kissed the Stone that she placed high in the castle : an Honour to Cliodhna



Map of Ireland shows McCarthy Clan Lands during Elizabeth I Reign

Only Irish Clan to succeed in holding their lands. Due to Cormac McCarthy's *Eloquent* negotiations referred to as a “*Load of Blarney*” by the Queen

Map from Ireland In Review Magazine June 1910

Fig. 8 Map shows the lands held by the McCarthy Clan during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. The other principal Irish families surrendered their lands to Elizabeth.

Fig. 9 Postcard shows a Red Hair Cliodhna, Queen of the Irish Fairies.

The Castle and the Stone

Blarney Castle is one of the few is privately owned castles in Ireland. The Colthurst family has owned it for over 300 years. Probably, since it's privately owned, no official Irish stamp showing Blarney Castle has been issued by An Post (Irish Post office). Therefore, thanks to help from my many friends in Europe, I made my own stamps at the German and Austrian Post Offices (2) (Figures 10 and 11).

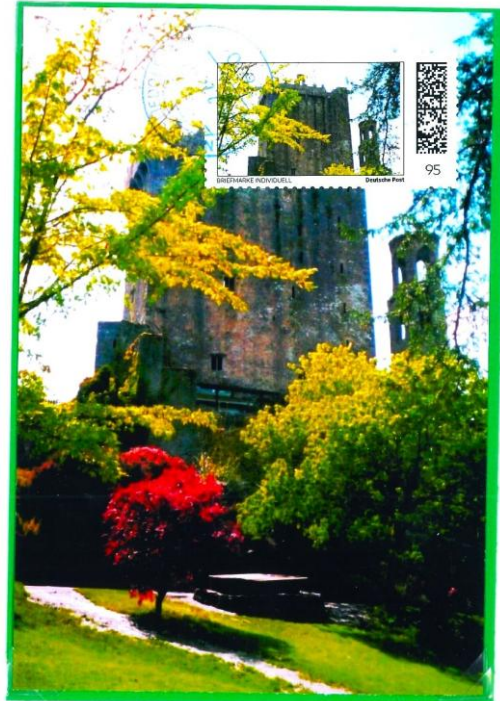
Tabitha Created Blarney Castle Stamps from German Post

Link to ordering my own Blarney Castle stamps from German Post
<https://shop.deutschepost.de/shop/individuell/bmi.jsp?productType=type1dmc>
 You can choose the number of self-adhesive stamps on a sheet, either 10, 18 or 20.
 The value on the bottom right corner can be changed for different domestic & international postage rates. I selected 0.95 euros to pay the international postcard rate.
 One of Three sheets created



Fig.10 Tabitha Fox created Blarney Castle Stamps from German Post Office 1 of 3 Sheets.

Blarney Castle Stamp from Deutsche Post & Matching Postcard Cancelled in Dettenheim, Germany 22 II 2024



There were no Known Blarney Castle Postage Stamps until 2024.
 Deutsche Post allows people to make their own stamps.

Fig. 11 Blarney Castle Stamp & Matching Postcard made by Brian Warren. Card Posted from Germany by Hans-Jurgen Goebelbecker (3).

In 1314, Robert the Bruce of Scotland gave the Blarney Stone (Figure 12) to the McCarthy family as a thank you for sending 5000 soldiers to help fight the English. The Blarney Stone is a piece of the Stone of Scone where the Kings of Scotland are crowned. In 1446, the McCarthys put the stone high up in the walls of their castle when they were rebuilding it.

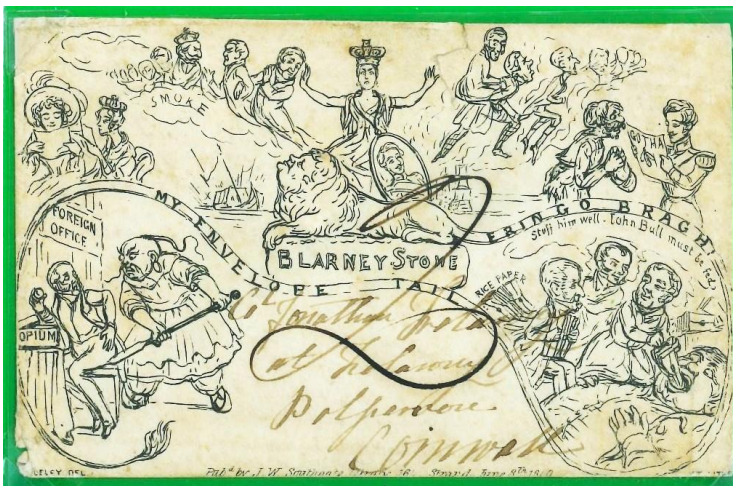


Fig 12

1840 Mulready Caricature envelope by J.W. Southgate showing the Blarney Stone.

The design is No. 4 is the Southgate series and shows Daniel O'Connell's head on the British Lion on top of the Blarney Stone.

Less than 40 of this series are known used.

Charges 2d Postage Due because the cover was not prepaid (Black Manuscript 2) when mailed.

The Tradition of Kissing the Stone –

In the 18th century, people started the funny tradition of **Kissing The Blarney Stone**. They had to be super brave because they had to climb a series of tall wooden ladders to the top of the castle. Then, they were held upside down by their ankles over a hole and kissed the stone, hoping they would be pulled back up safely (Figures 13 and 14).

Postcard showing visitor hung by their ankles in order to Kiss the Stone

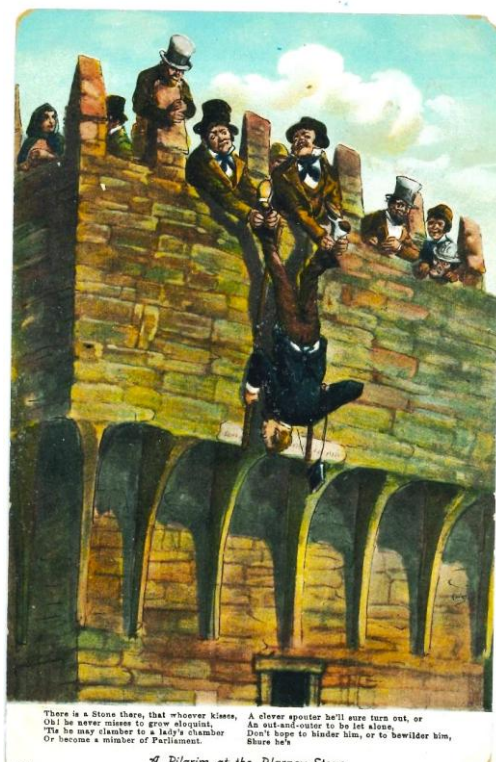


Fig.13: Kissing The Stone – The traditional Way.



Postcard shows the lady's method

Climbing ladders in front of the Castle to kiss the stone.

Postcard Mailed to Windhem, PA. USA

Postcard published by Valentines, Printed in Germany

Fig. 14 Kissing the Stone – The Ladies Way.

In the late 19th century, the castle owners wanted more visitors without anyone falling and getting hurt. So, they made it safer. They put handrails around the ramparts above the stone and covered the hole with a crossbar (Figures 15 and 16). Now, castle workers held the visitors, and people gave them good tips to make sure they didn't get dropped by accident. I drummed up the courage and kissed the stone in April of 2024 (Figure 17).

End Notes

The Images shown in this article were taken from my exhibit pages.

Link to ordering my own Blarney Castle stamps from German Post

[ht tps://shop.deutschepost.de/shop/individuell/bmi.jsp?productType=type1dmc](https://shop.deutschepost.de/shop/individuell/bmi.jsp?productType=type1dmc)

It looks like you can choose the number of stamps on a sheet 10, 15 or 20 The value on bottom right corner can be changed for different domestic and international mail postage rates.

Link to Ordering my own Blarney Castle stamps from Austrian Post.

https://onlineshop.post.at/onlineshop/meine-marke/meine-marke-48_375. The two links just above the stamp outline, that tell you what images cannot be used. Castles photos can be used.

I would like to thank my Mother, Anne Fox, Grandmother, Jean Benninghoff, Dr Hal Vogel and friends in Ireland and France and Germany: Dr Brian Callan, Hans-Juerger Goebelbecker, Brian Harman, Con McCarthy, Pádraig O'Shea, Karl Winkelmann and Brian Warren.

They helped me with their time and material and information.

Kissing the Stone- the Old & New Way.
 Postcard mailed from Dublin to Glasgow 19 July 1912
Published by O'Conner, Dublin in 1910
 Card also shows the gift eloquence helps Court
 young Colleens



Fig. 15 Transition from the Old to the Modern way of Kissing the Stones.

Fig. 17

Tabitha Kisses the Blaney Stone
 April 2024.

Tabitha asks – *Are you willing to kiss
 the stone for a Gift of Eloquent Speech?*

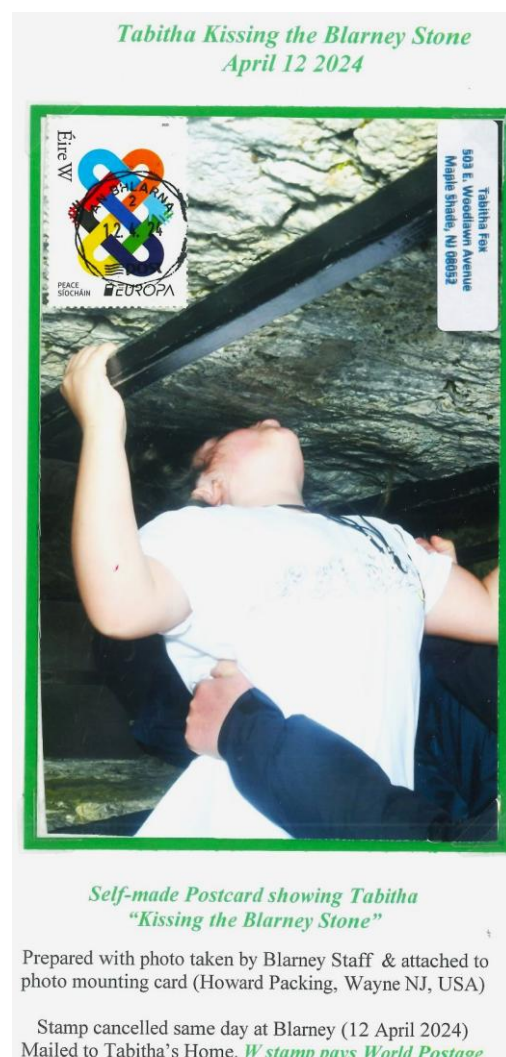
*Tabitha is an enthusiastic and talented
 9 year old who has been to Ireland several
 times with her mother and sisters.
 Tabitha is Homeschooled and did this
 exhibit as a school project.
 She was inspired by the success of her
 older Sister, Laurelei's exhibit.
 The Life of Saint Patrick.*

*A similar article by Tabitha appeared in
 the October 2024 issue of The American
 Philatelist, journal of American Philatelic
 Society – The Editor*

Postcard shows Victorian Ladies Kissing the Stone
 Card from Cork to Limerick 24 Sept 1904. The current method began in 1890
Published by Lawrence, Dublin in 1896, Printed in Germany



Fig.16 The owners of the Castle opened a hole in the top of the ramparts and added handrails for a safer means of *Kissing the Stone*.



The Postal History of A Triangular Folded Letter

By Anders Jørgensen, Frederikshavn

Introduction: A few months ago, my stamp collector friend Iben Olsen, sent me some photographs of a Triangular Folded Letter (Figure 1). Iben challenged me to write this Postal-History article.

In the pre-stamp period, it was common for all letters to be folded - and sealed with wax - before mailing. Folding letters before sending also continued after the introduction of stamps, i.e. to save postage. Addition of an outer envelope might result in a higher weight class.

Generally, letters were folded into a rectangle. It was unusual to fold a letter into a triangle.

Folding a letter into a triangle, if otherwise done correctly, results in a much more secure letter, as the final fold is hidden deep within the letter. The need a wax to seal to hold it together is almost unnecessary. Rectangular folding is simpler, but it results in a somewhat less secure letter that can be unfolded more easily if it is not sealed.



Fig. 1: *The Triangular Folded letter.*

The used postage stamp: 1 d. Great Britain No. 3, 1841-1854. The postage stamp is cancelled numeral 303, showing Limerick Post Office was the post office where the letter was mailed. The addressee was Mr. A.W. Gamble, Killooly Hall, Blue Ball. Killooly Hall was a manor house near Blue Ball in County Offaly.

Andrew W. Gamble was a notable figure in the 1850s, associated with the area of Killooly in Blue Ball, Ireland. He served as a land agent for the estate of the Earl of Rosse. His role involved managing land and overseeing agricultural activities during a challenging period in Irish history, particularly following the Great Famine.

Gamble was known for his involvement in local affairs, contributing to the community's agricultural development and managing tenant relations. His efforts in improving farming practices and addressing tenant issues were significant in a time when many were struggling economically.

Further readings: Ciarán Josph Reilly: Land agents and estate management in King's County during The Great Famine 1838-53.



Fig. 2: Close-up of the used postage stamp

Based on my first impression, the postage stamp can be catalogued according to Michel's special catalogue Great Britain 2012/13: No. 3, 1 p. reddish brown, alphabet type 1, type f: dark brown carmine, evenly bluish paper (print: 1851/52). The catalogue value for an ordinary letter with this stamp is set at €1,500 (Michel special catalogue 2012/13). NB. The postage stamp should be compared with other No. 3 to qualify the type of paper and colour.



Fig. 3: Back of the Triangular folded letter. with wax seal. the sender wanted to be sure the letter was not read in route to the addressee.

Postmarks on the back Undated name-postmarks type UD1A (GEASHILL and BLUE BALL). After approx. 1840 this type of postmark was used by Receiving Houses only. In the days before postmen in the countryside, you had to pick up your own mail at a Receiving House. Two postmarks: KILBEGGAN / MR 15 1852 and TULLAMORE / MR 16 1852 – both the 1831 British-style date stamp of the large-diameter double-arc variety in use in Ireland from 1840.

My Analysis

Since the letter was sent in 1852, it was not sent by rail, but by diligence along the old postal routes in Ireland.

The first mail diligence ran on the route Limerick-Nenagh-Birr-Kilbeggan (and on to Dublin).

The letter received an arrival postmark KILBEGGAN / MR 15 1852.

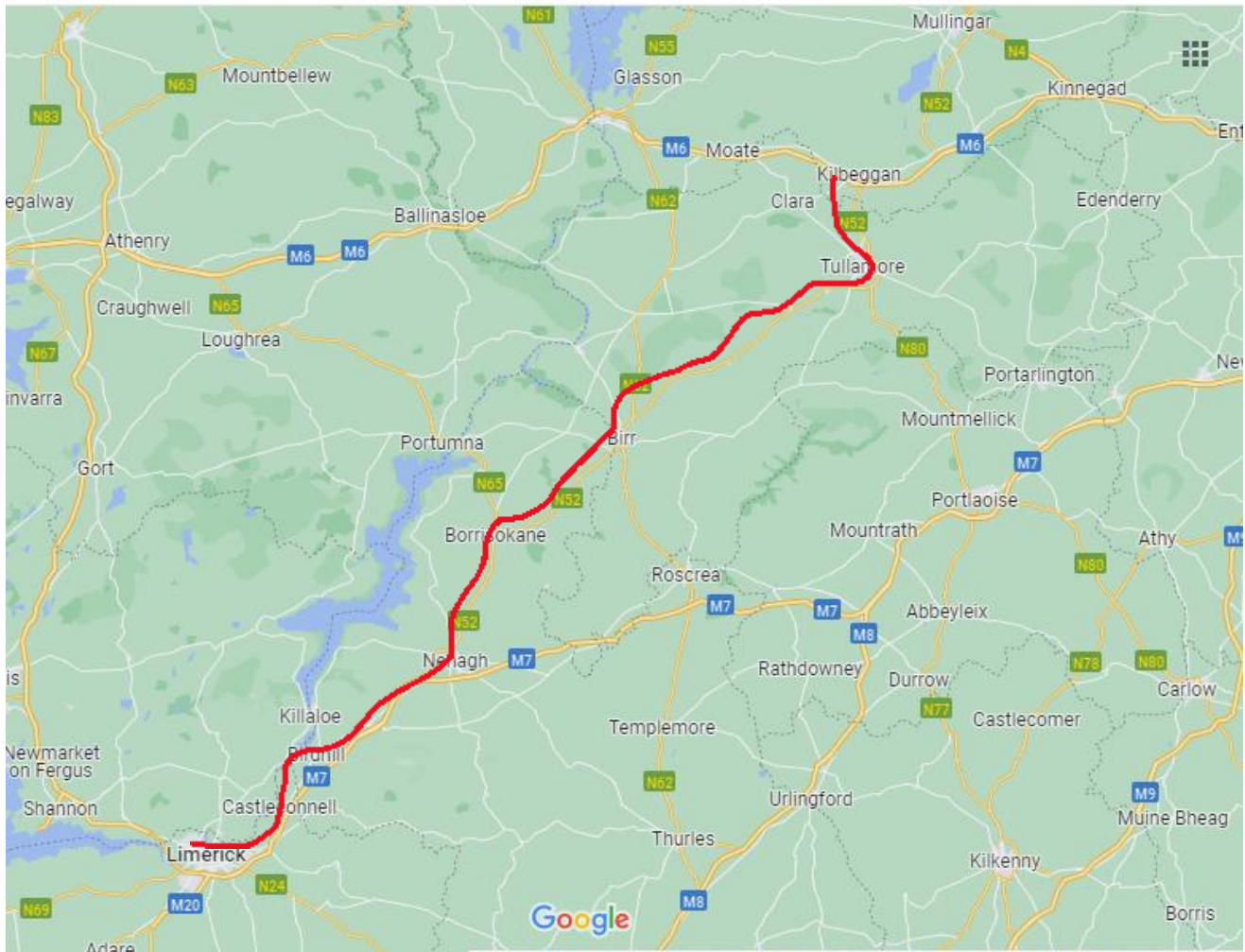
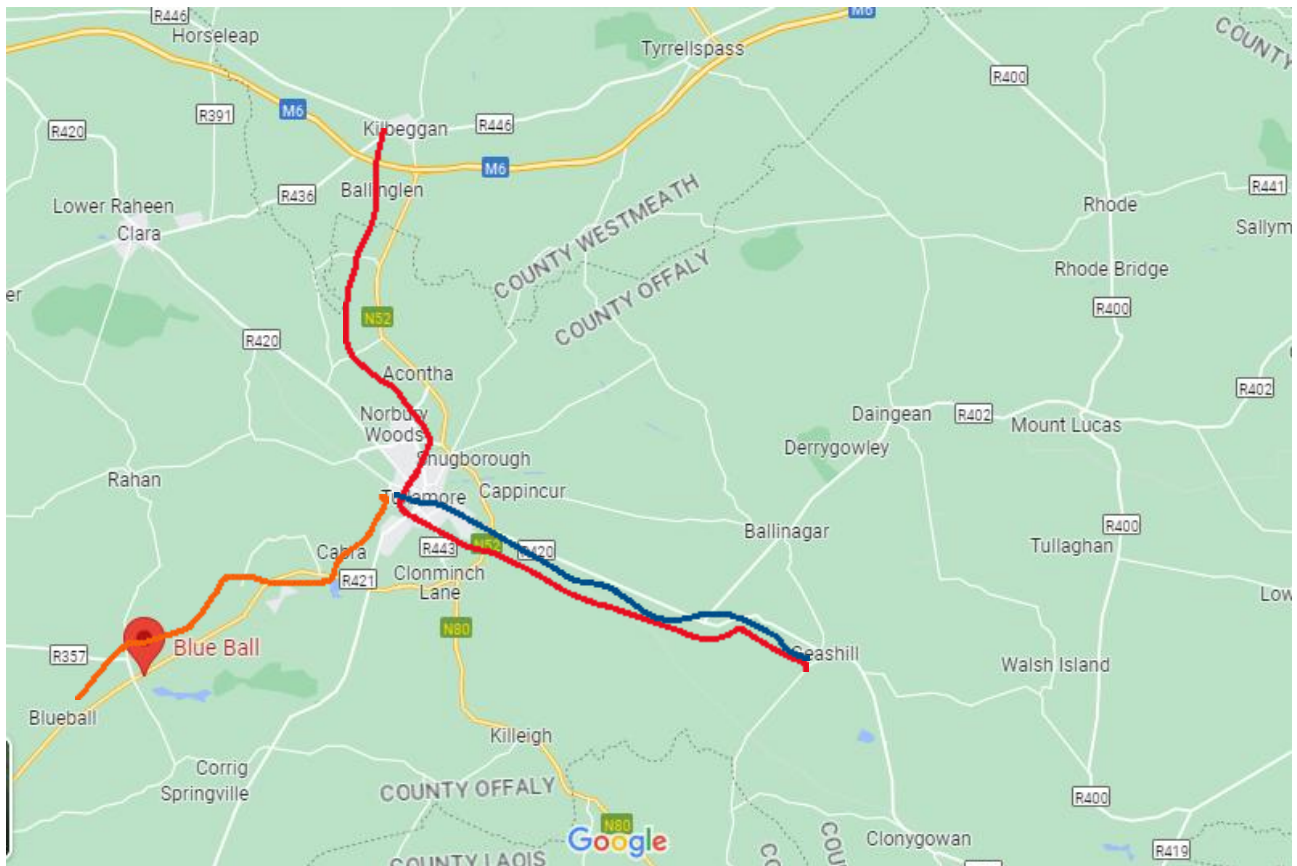


Figure 4: Limerick-Kilbeggan

In Kilbeggan the letter was forwarded to Receiving House Geashill. It got a arrival postmark. Evidently at the Receiving House someone thought the addressee must be in the vicinity of Geashill.

Or it was simply a misreading/misinterpretation of Blue Ball?



In Geashill, the addressee's address was not immediately recognized, but perhaps a wrong delivery has been exposed in the past or someone knew A.W. Gamble? Or perhaps someone did look up in the Post Office Guide, where all locations connected to the postal service were mentioned? In any case, the letter is sent from Geashill to Tullamore, where it receives an arrival stamp of 16 March 1852.

At this time, Blue Ball is a Receiving House (later a sub-office) for the Tullamore Post Office. In Blue Ball, the letter got a Receiving House arrival postmark.

Rarity: It is relatively rare to see letters folded in a triangle at philatelic or estate auctions. According to Michel's special catalogue, the value (without including the various parameters in the value statement) is €1,500.

When valuing the letter, it must be considered that the postmark from Limerick requires a surcharge of 20-25% compared to if it had been from Dublin (which the catalogue's valuation is based on). In addition, the two receiving house postmarks should also be considered to have additional value

Question to the readers: Is there anyone who can tell more about the use of the triangular letters in England and Ireland? Or their use in other countries?

Email the Editor at robertmb.editor@gmail.com

The Irish Brigade, The Irish Philatelic Circle, and STAMPA 2024

By Robert Benninghoff

The Irish Brigade (1), including the following IPC members, did very well exhibiting at INDYPEX, (Indianapolis, Indiana USA); and STAMPA (Dublin, Ireland)

INDYPEX 2024, Indianapolis, Indiana USA September 20-22

Michael Ley won the KS Philatelics Grand award and a Large Gold for his exhibit ***Burma: The First Two Issues***

Robert Benninghoff received a Large Gold and the Bonnie & Rich Drews One Frame Grand award for his exhibit ***The Collection of Postage Due Fees in Ireland 1914 to 1925***. He also received a Large Gold for his one frame exhibit ***The Irish Civil War January 1922 to April 1923***.

The following awards were presented to the Irish Brigade members at the STAMPA awards banquet.

Karl Winkelmann received a Large Gold and the APS Medal of Excellence 1940 to 1980 for his exhibit ***The Dublin Censor Office 1939-1945***. Karl also won the Indiana Stamp Club 20th Century Award (Figure 1).

Brian Callan received a Gold and the INDYPEX J. David Baker Postal History Award for his exhibit ***Zeppelin on Board Mail 1929-1937*** (Figure 2).

Tabitha Fox won a Gold medal, Youth First Place and the single Frame most Popular award for her exhibit ***The History of Blarney Castle***.

STAMPA 2024, Griffith College, Dublin October 11-13

The 52nd Irish National Stamp Show was held in Dublin, Ireland. STAMPA had 24 exhibits from Ireland, England, Europe and the USA (Figure 3). The jury was made up of IPC members James Gough (Chief Judge), Brian Callan and John Lennon.

Several ***Éire Philatelic Association*** awards were given out at the STAMPA Banquet on Saturday (2)

Two **Richard Kelly President's Awards** were given this year and presented by Robert Benninghoff and Michael O'Reilly.

Stephen Ferguson (Figures 4 and 5) was recognized for his book ***"Miniature Masterpieces" and for his Philatelic Displays at the National Print Museum and the General Post Office in Dublin***. Stephen received the *Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland* medal for ***His Services to Irish Philately*** and a Gold medal for his book ***Miniature Masterpieces*** (3).

Laurelei and Tabitha Fox (Figure 6) were presented with the President's award for ***Their Exhibiting of Irish material in the USA and Europe; for winning Gold, Large Gold and Youth Grand Awards; and for their Articles in The Revealer; Irish Philately and the American Philatelist during 2024***.



Fig 3: STAMPA 2024 Souvenir Sheet.

The miniature sheet depicting Honey bees was donated to STAMPA by An Post and overprinted with STAMPA 2024 at the National Print Museum (4)



Fig. 1 Karl Winkelmann receives his INDYPEX large Gold. Karl also received two STAMPA Large Vermeil medals



Fig 2. Brian Callan presented with his INDYPEX Gold medal. Brian was one the STAMPA judges

The Irish Brigade & The Éire Philatelic Association Awards presented at the STAMPA Banquet



Fig. 6 Laurelei and Tabitha Fox receive the ÉPA President's award as the *Young Ambassadors of Irish Philately*

Figs. 4 and 5: Stephen Ferguson presented with the EPA President's Award for his book *Miniature Masterpieces* and his wife Lydia receives a Dingle Crystal jug as a token of appreciation. Stephen also received the FPSI Gold Medal





Fig 7: Héloïse Mitchell receives the David Feldman STAMPA Grand Award Trophy by Marcus Orsi (David Feldman Ltd).

Héloïse also received a Large Gold and Reserve Grand Award at the USA Great American Stamp Show in August.

Irish Brigade member, Héloïse Mitchell won the David Feldman multi frame Grand Award, a Large Gold and the Michael Giffney Salver for her exhibit *Maréchal Soult (1769-1851) my Great-great-great-grandfather*. This exhibit will be shown at the St Louis Stamp Show (USA), March 2025 (Figure 7).

Robert Benninghoff received a Large Gold and The Federation of Irish Philatelic Societies, One Frame Grand award and the ÉPA Joe Foley Medal for his exhibit *The Collection of Postage Due Fees in Ireland 1914 to 1925*. He also received a Large Gold for his one frame exhibit *Ireland 1914-Civil Unrest in Ireland Helps Cause a Great War in Europe with Germany*.

Karen McShane won the Jonathan Hanvey Memorial Trophy Reserve Grand Award, the F.E. Dixon Shield and a Large Gold for her exhibit *200 years of Irish Postal History to 1850*. Karen also received a Large Vermeil for her single frame *Handstamps of the Uniform 4d Postage* (Figure 8)

Long time Irish Brigade member, Brian Warren, received a Gold medal, the Cork Philatelic Association Trophy and ÉPA Certificate of Merit for his five frame exhibit *Kingstown-Dún Laoghaire-My Home Town*. This exhibit will start its USA tour beginning with Atlanta SESE (January 2025) (Figure 9).

Brian Harmon Received a Gold medal, The Michael Murphy Memorial Award and Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd Trophy for his exhibit *Irish Architectural Definitives* (Figure 10).

Stan Challis Received a Large Vermeil medal for his five frame exhibit *Beyond The Islands* (Figure 11).

Karl Winkelmann received two Large Vermeil medals for his exhibits *Patrick Francis English: Grandfather, Bank Manager and Irish Volunteer* and *Dublin Postal Delivery District Initials and Numbers*.

Trevor Brock won a Large Vermeil medal, The Whyte's Trophy and STAMPA *Most Popular Exhibit* award for his exhibit *German East Africa 1890-1927* (Figure 13).

Our FAI Colleagues received a Silver medal in the Literature Competition for their booklet *Irish Post Offices and Their Postmarks since 1600* (Figure 15). See also page 89.

Laurelei Fox received a large Vermeil and Youth Large Gold medal for her one frame exhibit *The Life of Saint Patrick*. This was Laurelei's second year exhibiting at STAMPA. Laurelei also received a Vermeil medal and Youth Second Place at the International show, HAFNI in Copenhagen, Denmark, which was held the following weekend. Tabitha Fox received a Vermeil and Youth Gold Medal for her one frame exhibit *The History of Blarney Castle*. The two sisters lowered the average age of STAMPA exhibitors by 50 years.



Fig. 8: Karen McShane receives the STAMPA Reserve Grand Jonathan Hanvey Mem. Trophy



Fig. 9 Brian Warren receives a Gold Medal and the Cork Philatelic Society Trophy. Brian also won a Large Vermeil at INDYPEX.



Fig 10 Brian Harmon presented with the Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. Trophy.



Lisa and Brian Harmon receive an EPA special prize for being the *Distinguished Philatelic Parents of 2024.*

The Prize is a Package of 6 Hershey Bars for their three boys.



Fig. 11 Irish Philatelic Circle President, Stan Challis receives his Large Vermeil.



Fig. 12 Newest Irish Brigade member Trevor Brock presented with the *STAMPA Most Popular Exhibit award.* The award was donated by An Post.

Irish Brigade Member Clem Hegarty won a Large Vermeil and the William Kane Trophy for his exhibit *The First 40 Years of the Airline KLM 1919 -1959*.

New Irish Brigade member Alan Farrell received a Large Silver Medal for his exhibit *Reichspost Adolf Hitler Definitives and Postal Stationary 1941-1945*.

Notes

(1) The Irish Brigade is an enthusiastic group of 12 plus Irish and American exhibitors that have been exhibiting at various shows around the USA and Europe for the past 8 years. The brigade typically brings 20 to 24 frames of material covering all aspect of philately. Two new members, Alan Farrell and Trevor Brock will begin their USA tour with the St Louis Show in March 2025.

The Irish Brigade INDYPEX awards were presented by Robert Benninghoff and Michael O'Reilly at a special ceremony during the STAMPA Awards Banquet, Saturday evening October 12. Robert and Michael also Presented the Éire Philatelic Association Presidents awards.

IPC members interested in exhibiting with the Irish Brigade in the USA should contact Robert Benninghoff at rmercer01@aol.com

(2) The Éire Philatelic Association is dedicated to promoting and expanding the Hobby of Irish Philately. Our Association is based in the USA but has members from around the world. **The ÉPA will be celebrating 75 years at The St. Louis Stamp Show (USA) in March 21 to 23 2025 with the Association's Annual General Meeting. The Irish Brigade should have over 35 frames of material at the show. The ÉPA will celebrate a second time at STAMPA 2025.**

(3) *Miniature Masterpieces* is reviewed by Micheal O'Reilly in this issue of IP starting on page ?

(4) Jacinta and Susan from the National Print Museum were on hand Friday and were overprinting the Museum's logo on STAMPA cards(Figures 14 & 15).



Fig.13 Hans-Jürgen Goebelbecker receives the FAI Silver medal



Fig. 14 Jacinta and Susan from the National Print Museum showing the EPA Souvenir cards with Museum Logo

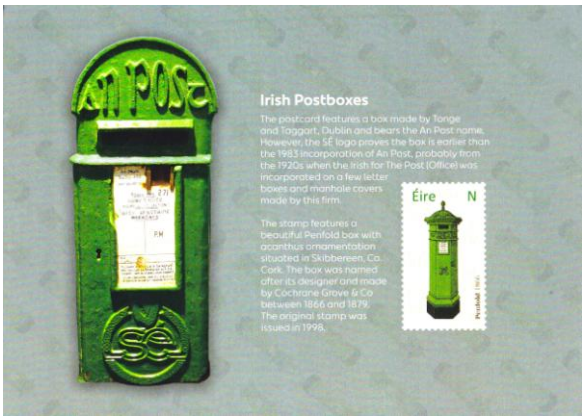
STAMPA 2024
Souvenirs



Fig. 15 STAMPA Souvenir Card with National Print Museum overprint prepared for Éire Philatelic Association Donors



Fig. 15 Front of Card



Enhancing your Collection through Varieties & Errors

Michael O'Reilly

Many collectors choose to enhance their collecting interest with stamp varieties & errors. Philatelic literature has numerous definitions for these terms, many of which overlap.

A stamp Variety can be described as a stamp that differs from the regular issue in some way. This could include a stamp with different perforations or watermark embossing.

A stamp Error is often defined as an unintentional mistake which occurs during the production process. Examples include printing errors such as missing colors or letters, or design errors such as the wrong person depicted on a stamp.

EFO's (Errors, Freaks & Oddities) is a common term often used to sub divide stamp errors. In this case, an Error is defined as a major mistake that is repeatable and can for example, be aligned to a particular plate position. Another example of an error might be an inverted overprint.

A Freak is often defined as an abnormal, usually nonrepetitive occurrence in the production process that then results in a variation from the normal stamp. Most paper folds, over inking and perforation shifts are regarded as Freaks. Another example might be a stamp where the overprint lettering is incomplete due to an inking flaw.

Oddities are examples that do not fit in the other two categories. Examples include stamps where the perforations were made for one format, such as coils, but then the stamps were actually used in booklets, so it looks like a mis-perforation whereas it really is not



Fig. 1(a) 1929 O'Connell 2d marginal block with Retouch error, Hib. Cat. C1a



Fig. 1(b) 1929 O'Connell 2d marginal block with Bullet Hole error, Hib. Cat. C1c

Regardless of your definition preference (and any two stamp collectors will likely have differing opinions), collecting, researching & understanding the cause of the stamp errors or varieties can add considerable enjoyment to one's collecting interest. Most of the specialist Irish Stamp catalogues (Hibernian & Stanley Gibbons for example) reference stamp varieties & errors in one section. They seldom list errors which are not repeatable. Stamp errors often command a considerable price premium compared to regular issues, based upon their scarcity & collector interest.

Examples of well documented errors from the early commemorative issues are featured in this article. Figure 1 shows two documented errors from Ireland's first commemorative issue, the 1929 O'Connell. These are described in detail in an article published in the Jan-Feb 1958 edition of "The Revealer".

From this article, the ‘retouch’ error designated as C1a in the Hibernian catalogue, occurs on the 12th stamp of the 15th row of plate 1. According to the (Revealer) author, the damage to the plate was caused a day or two prior to the first printing, by a workman dropping a hammer or screwdriver on the plate, breaking the “Jubilee” lines. Since it would take about two weeks for a fresh plate to be remade in London, repairs were made by retouching the plate and were completed by a jeweler in Dublin. This “retouched” plate was used for the first printing and was thereafter either discarded or replaced. Hence the error is listed as “N/C” or “not constant” in the catalogues. The “retouch” is visible in a thickening of the right hand inner vertical frame line, and the two oval outer lines which enclose the central portrait from above the value “2” tablet on the right-hand side to about the level of the last “c” in the word “gCatoiliceac”.

A second error designated as C1c in the Hibernian catalogue, is the so called “bullet hole.” According to the same Revealer article, this has been described as a small white circle above the left eye of O’Connell and is thought to have been caused by a foreign object on the plate during the earlier printing runs.

Examples of errors from other early commemorative issues are described in figures 2 to 6.



Fig. 2 1932 Eucharistic Congress 3d, Accent to left of 3 error, Hib. Cat. C7b



Fig. 3 1933 Holy Year 3d, Dot in “U” of Annus error, Hib. Cat. C9a

Studying, researching and collecting stamp errors can add significantly to the enjoyment of our hobby beyond the mere task of “accumulating” stamp issues. It encourages us to review the body of knowledge that has already been completed for a particular stamp – a task that is made easier by leveraging online resources, such as those produced by the specialist Irish philatelic organizations (EPA, IPC or FAI), researching auction catalogues, or examining the stock from dealers or from online auctions. We can collaborate with other collectors and perhaps as part of the research, potentially discover a new stamp variety. I have included at the end of this article, a number of the sources that I used when researching some of the errors featured in this article.



Fig. 4 1938 Fr. Matthew 2d, Flat 1st 8 of 1938 error, Hib. Cat. C13b



Fig. 5 1957 John Redmond 1/3, Crossbars in E of Eire error, Hib. Cat. C52a



Fig. 6 1948 Airmail 8d, Block of 12, "Stigmata flaw" error, Hib. Cat. A4a

Sources:

- 1958 **The Revealer**, No. 42, "Flaws & Varieties" John J Walsh, Editor
- 1959 **The Revealer**, No. 51, "8d Airmail variety – stigma on right hand", W Kane
- 2019 **Irish Philately**, Vol. 2019 Issue 2, "The 1929 O'Connell Issue - Varieties and Flaws" Iben Olsen
- 2019 **Hibernian: Handbook and Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland**, Roy Hamilton-Bowen and Lee Wolverton, Published Rogau Philatelie, 2019
- 2000 **Linn's World Stamp Almanac**, "Errors, Freaks and Oddities" John M Hotchner
- 2021 **Irish Philately**, Vol 2021 Issue 3, "Varieties, errors and flaws", Iben Olsen

EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025

Britain's next major international stamp exhibition

Wednesday 7 – Sunday 11 May 2025

Hall 9, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham B40 1NT

11am-6pm Wednesday, 10am-6pm Thursday to Saturday and 10am-4pm Sunday

2,000 frames of exhibits and over 60 dealers' stands

FREE SOUVENIR SHEETS FOR ALL

Restaurant and bar. Plenty of seating in the exhibition hall. Court of Honour including the famous 1856 British Guiana 1 cent magenta, courtesy of Stanley Gibbons

Society meetings every day. Meeting rooms available from £150. Society Showcase Day Thurs 8 May

Philatelic Congress of GB on Saturday 10 May. Cavendish Philatelic Auction on Sunday 11 May

EVERYONE WELCOME

£10 admission on first day from 11am,
Early bird first day admission 10am – 11am £20

FREE ADMISSION all other days

More information and discount hotel deal on EuroPhilEx website
www.europhillex2025.co.uk Tel: 01279 870488




Cork City and County Postal History

Part 5 – (1839-1840)

The Postal Reform Period

by Brian Callan

First Uniform Rate of Postal Reform within the United Kingdom, regardless of distance.

The next major postal reform took place on 5 December 1839 when a uniform postal rate of 4d was introduced for mail posted anywhere within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. This rate was for both prepaid and unpaid letters and the rate lasted only until 9 January 1840, when a uniform 1d rate was established.

The system of single/double/treble sheets was replaced with a weight scale. The 4d rate was for half an ounce (oz), 8d for 1 oz, and 8d per oz above 1 oz, up to a maximum of £1, or 1s4d per oz. if letter was not prepaid. The 4d rate represented the minimum rate at the time (less than 15 miles) unless a local penny post was in place, in which case the penny post charges remained valid. This significantly reduced postal rates for longer distances within Ireland and Great Britain.

Post Offices in Dublin and Belfast had a 4 handstamp but post offices in Cork used only a manuscript designation.

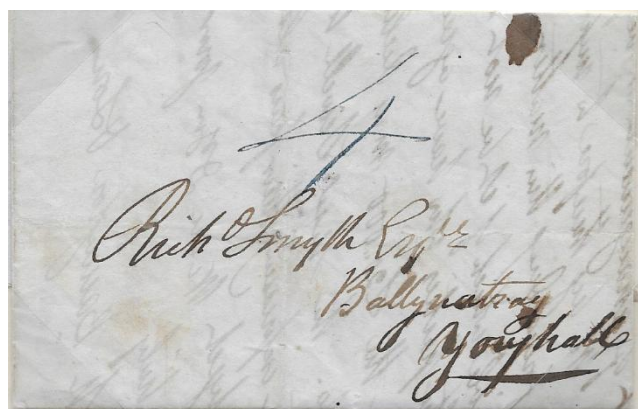


Figure 1. 1839 (December 5th) letter sent on first day of new rate, from Cappoquin, Co. Waterford to Youghal (20 miles). The previous rate for this letter would have been 6d (20 to 50 miles). Letter has black two line **CAPOQUIN/160** town stamp on reverse and Youghal double arc CDS on 5 December 1839. Letter face has blue manuscript 4.

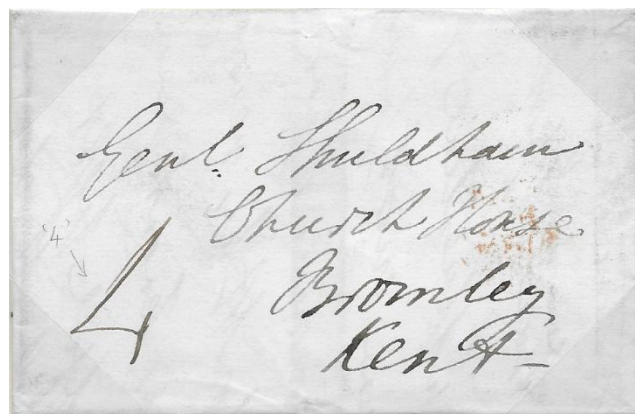


Figure 2. 1839 (December 21st) letter from Dunmanway, Co Cork to Bromley, Kent. Letter has black **DUNMANWAY / 152** mileage marker and **BANDON DE 21 1839** circular date stamp (cde) on reverse, as well as London cds on 24th December 1839.

Letter face has black manuscript 4.



Figure 3. 1839 (December 28th) letter from Cork to London, with manuscript 4 on letter face and faint Dublin transit diamond on reverse **DE 28 39** and London arrival cds **30 DE 1839**.

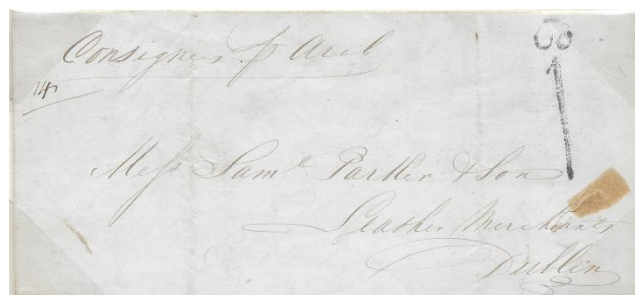


Figure 4. 1839 (March 25th) this letter accompanied a consignment of goods by the same ship and did not incur the ship rate (Consignee Letter). Sent was from Cork to Dublin, endorsed Consignees **p. Arab** (carried on ship called Arab). Letter has tall **1^d** of the Dublin Penny Post for local delivery.

New 1d Uniform Rate within the United Kingdom

The uniform postage rate within the United Kingdom was revised to 1d per ½ oz. on 10 January 1840. This rate continued to be based on weight, with 2d per oz. up to 16 oz. These rates only applied if postage was prepaid and rates were doubled if not prepaid. All charges such as Menai Bridge toll, Conway Bridge toll, Scottish wheel tax etc were discontinued after initial uniform rate on 5 December 1839.



Figure 5. 1840 (January 11th) letter from Cork to Dublin on second day of the Uniform Penny Post Rate, with manuscript *1* and claret red framed **PAID AT CORK**, back stamped **CORK E JA 11** and red **PAID JA 12 1840** applied at Dublin.

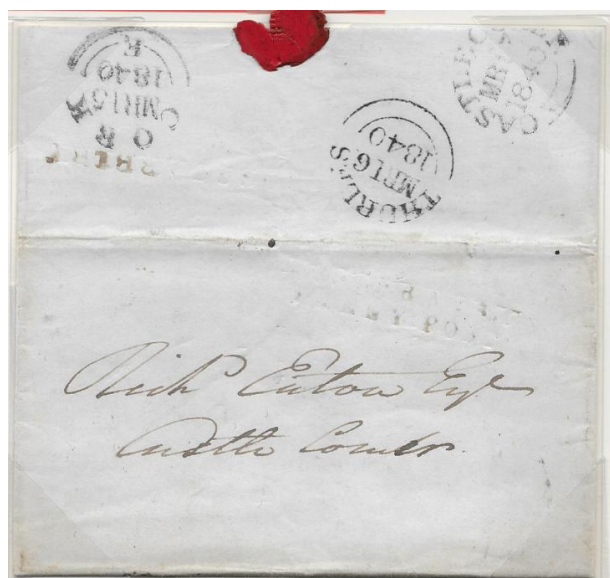


Figure 6 1840 (March 14th) letter from Union Hall, Co Cork to Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny, with faint "1" for new uniform penny post rate, faint **ROSSCARBERY** one line stamp and two line **ROSSCARBERY PENNY POST**, circular date

stamps **CORK MR 15 1840**, **THURLES MR 16 1840**, **KILLKENNY MR 16 1840** and **CASTLECOMER MR 17 1840**.



Figure 7. 1840 (April 10th) letter Cork to Birmingham, with Cork cds on **CORK AP 11 1840** and clear red boxed **PAID AP 12 1840** applied in Dublin and manuscript *1*.



Figure 8. 1847 (September 13th) letter Cork to Wolverhampton, with **LIVERPOOL SP 16 1847** in transit cds on reverse and red circular **PAID SE 14 1847** applied in Dublin. Letter has manuscript *1* on face and manuscript *prepaid* and blue double arc **CORK** cds.

If a letter was not prepaid then a double sum was charged i.e. a fee of 2d was due to be collected when the letter was delivered rather than 1d if prepaid when posting. As for the 4 marking, the 2d applied could be either a manuscript or using a special 2d handstamp, as at Dublin post offices.

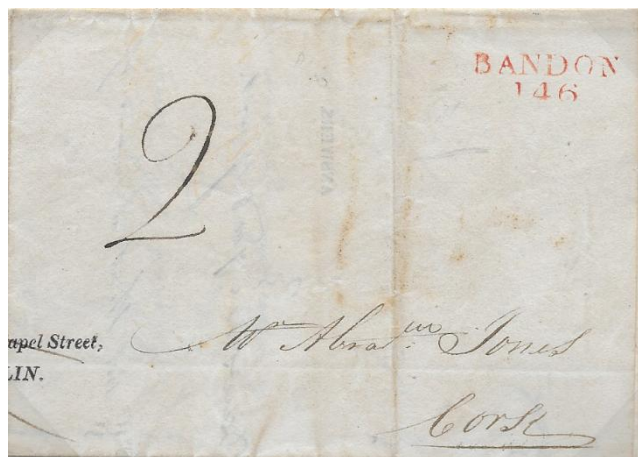


Figure 9 1840 (May) printed Norwich Union form, with two line red Bandon mileage marker and manuscript **2**. Rate was 2d as printed form was not prepaid (as might have been expected with such forms that were sent to collect information on patients health).

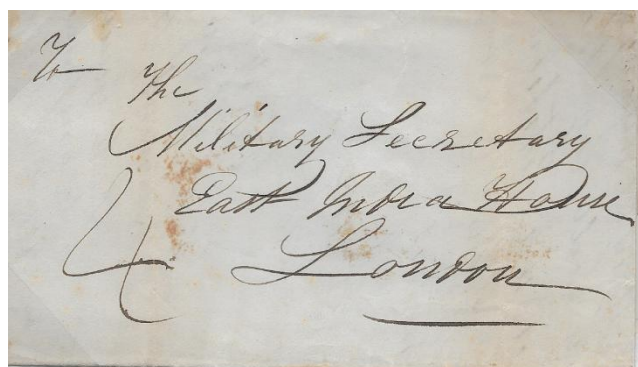


Figure 10 1840 (January 31st) letter, Cork to London, with a manuscript **4** (one oz letter unpaid), to Military Secretary East India House, referring to enclosed partition for the Honourable Court of Inspectors. Double arc **CORK JA 31 1840** on reverse and London receiving date stamp **FE 3 1840**.



Figure 11 1841 (May 17th) letter Dublin to Kanturk with distinctive fancy **2** of Dublin (hand stamp) denoting the unpaid 1d postage. Reverse has Dublin Diamond **5E MY 17 41**.

The reforms of January 10th 1840 were further enhanced by the introduction of adhesive stamps, initially one pence (penny black) and two pence (twopenny blue) in May 1840. The adhesive period and the first postal stationery items will be detailed in the next part of this series. Payment for postage could then be paid using the adhesive stamp or paid in cash, where the cover would receive a red “PAID AT CORK” handstamp.

Bibliography

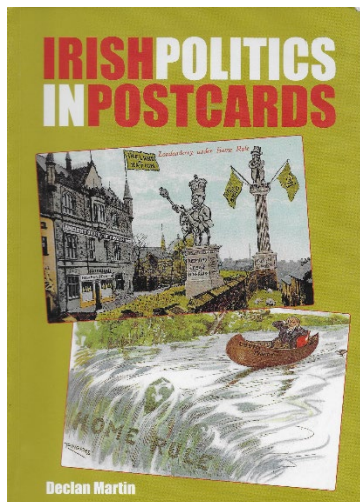
1. Dixon, F.E., and Joachim S., *Irish Postal Rates Before 1840* 2ed., Forschungs und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland c.V (FAI), 1995.
2. Feldman, D. and Kane, W., *Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840*, Dublin, David Feldman 1975.
3. Quail, D., *Ireland Postal History 1591 – 1865*, Geneva, David Feldman, 2019.
4. Robertson, A., *Ship Letters - The Maritime History of the British Isles*, Bournemouth, 1955.
5. Tabcart, C., *United Kingdom Letter Rates 1657-1900, Inland and Overseas*, Fareham, the Author, 1990.

Irish Politics in Postcards.

By Declan Martin

Published by Ulster Historical Foundation

Reviewed by Brian Callan



The years 1900 to 1925 are considered by most to be the golden age of postcards where postcards could be considered as the internet of their day. It was also a very definitive period in the history of Ireland, north and south, which is dramatically captured in postcards.

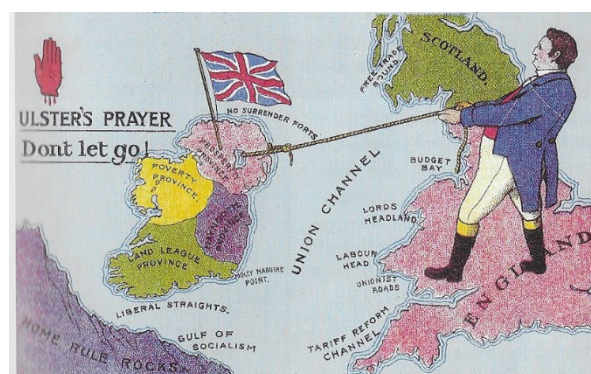
Declan Martin's book is very well illustrated by appropriate postcards, quite a number of which are humorous, but it is a very serious historical record of the time. The volume of 188 pages begins with a pre 1912 narrative and then has chapters on 1912-1914 Home Rule, Ireland and the First World War, 1916 Easter Rising, 1916-1919 Rise of Sinn Fein, 1919-1923 period of violence and independence. The book concludes with more general chapters on Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland since 1923 with a final chapter commemorating the great historical milestones between 1690 and 1916, as captured on postcards published in the early twentieth century.

While the text is an accurate historical account of the times, the postcards can often be seen as supporting one side or another of the historical context, even at times distorting

the historical facts. As well as humorous cards, there are many cards based on real photographs such as the series of seven cards depicting the Belfast Strike of 1907 discussed in chapter 1.

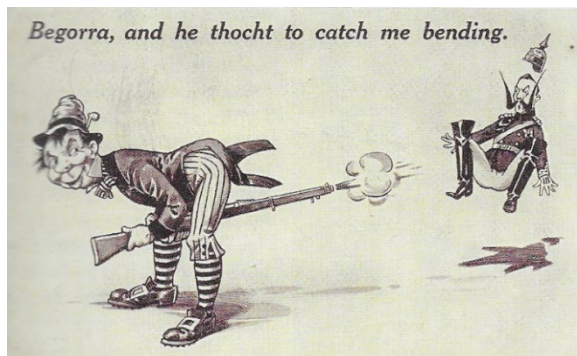


The second chapter on Home Rule contains twelve serious cards with depictions such as the marching regiments of Irish National Volunteers or Ulster Volunteer, gun running photographs or the propaganda cards of the Ulster Volunteer Forces. This chapter also contains twenty humorous cards, such as depictions of Belfast, Donegal Square or Carrickfergus Castle under Home Rule, all clearly opposed to the concept. Alongside the humour is the clear historical context.



The onset of World War I meant that the agreement on Home Rule was set aside but the key theme of chapter 3 are the postcards depicting the opposing militia united under the same flag to face a common enemy. However, the War Cartoon series of Bamforth and Co. clearly depict the frustrated German ambitions in Ireland, where they hoped to build on the growing conflict at the time in Ireland, hoping to distract British focus from

the developing war in Europe. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, Germany had supplied both the unionist and nationalist militia with guns and ammunition.

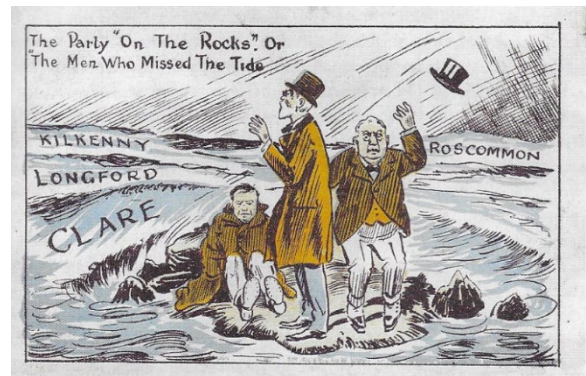


The hoped for rebellion is the subject of chapter 4 “The Easier Rising”. This chapter is based on a set of postcards produced from real photographs, included themes such as military searches, bombed buildings, the burning of Sackville Street, surrender of P.H.Pearse and execution of Cornelius Colbert (May 8th 1916).



The following chapter returns to a much more humorous theme in postcard selection as it addresses the rise of Sinn Fein as a political force between 1916 and 1919, at the expense of John Redmond’s Home Rule advocates (Irish Parliamentary Party). A series of cards depict the strong personal attack on Redmond’s leadership and support of the

British Parliament. Common messages include cartoon depictions such as “Run away home to your Foster-Mother, Johnny”. The 1917 North Roscommon election in February 1917 captures very well the anti-Redmond feeling and the support for Count Plunkett, whose son had been executed.



Chapter 5 again returns to using postcards that are based on real photographs as it deals with the Irish civil war period. This includes the peace conferences, the peace treaty and the civil unrest that resulted from this.

Chapters 7 (Northern Ireland), 8 (Southern Ireland 1913 onwards) and 9 (history 1690 to 1916) cover much wider time periods and are simply brief overviews, from times outside the golden age of postcards. The strength of the book is the power of the postcard whether this is in a photograph or a humorous message. The weakness of the book may well be the depth of historical information it contains. The story could be told with much less words, allowing the cards to tell the story of themselves. The book is written for the serious lover of history, when it perhaps loses the opportunity to engage more fully the less serious but still interested student of history, who wants an illustrated overview of the times detailed.

That said, simply looking at the cards and reading these, does give a great sense of the time and the book is a must have for any anyone preparing a postcard exhibit of this important period of Irish history. The inclusion of appendices on artists and photographers is particularly useful for those preparing exhibits, as is the excellent index.

Thoughts on Collecting & Exhibiting Irish Political Labels & Postcards

by Robert Benninghoff

This article was inspired by an Éire Philatelic Association colleague who asked my thoughts on Irish Political Labels. I have used early Twentieth Century in several of my one frame exhibits (Figure 1) and I have given some thought to developing an exhibit using Political Labels as the central theme. The only exhibits that I have seen that focused on Irish Political Labels were a one frame by Barney Clancy, ***Irish Political Labels*** (16 pages), and a five frame by Joe Foley (60 pages), ***Ireland and Her Troubles: Political Labels from the 19th Century to Modern Times*** (Figure 2). I also saw Peter Wood's five frame at London 2022, ***The Road to Independence - Ireland from the Act of Union to Irish Free State***. Peter used Political Labels throughout his exhibit.

I would love to hear from other IPC members who have exhibited or seen other exhibits using Irish Political Labels and Postcards. I would be very grateful for a scan of your exhibit Title page (1st page).

The Challenge for any exhibit is to develop a story with a clear title and purpose (storyline) with a logical conclusion that does not leave the viewer (and Judges) looking for the next section or Chapter. The exhibit must also have a convincing time range which typically is incorporated into the title (Figure 1). The use of political labels and postcards in an exhibit is acceptable in North America, European and International competitions. However, it might be helpful to clearly define the theme in the exhibit Scope.

An example:

Exhibit uses Political Labels (and Postcards) to document Civil unrest in Ireland from 1900 to 1922.

One difficulty in exhibiting political labels in European and International shows, is finding the right category in which to enter the exhibit. I find that Social Philately is one useful category, when offered. Typically, political labels would be entered into **Thematic** or **Open** classes, which have very strict rules on what material can be used. The **challenge** is not as big in North America where exhibitors are judged more on their Title, Purpose and Scope rather than on which FIP (International) category into which the material falls.

There are several good books and journals that are available for research into the origin and history of Irish Political Labels and Postcards. The front covers are shown on the following page.

Irish Politics in Postcards, by Declan Martin, published in 1916 by Ulster Historical Foundation, 188 pages. This book is reviewed by Brian Callan on page 112. I got several copies from the Celtic Book Shop in Limerick, Contact IPC member Pat O'Brien at celticbookshop.limerick@gmail.com.

The Political and Propaganda Labels Related to Ireland and Her History, by Hans-Jurgen Kumph. 167 pages. This Book was Published in 2021 by the FAI. For membership details and how to purchase the book contact FAI Secretary Wolfgang Fiedler at w.w.fiedler@web.de. This booklet is a comprehensive study of the Irish Labels and is divided into three parts: 1865 to 1922; 1922 to 1966 and the modern labels 1967 to 2016. The book has over 27 pages of appendices and references. The FAI has published over 30 journals and books related to Irish Philately since 1983.

Hibernian: Handbook and Catalog of the Postage Stamps of Ireland, by Roy Hamilton-Bowen and Lee R. Wolverton. 327 pages. This Handbook was published in 2019 by Rodgau Philatelie. Contact Roy at roy.hb@online.de. The handbook is also available from The ÉPA members' auctions. For information on the next auction, contact auction manager Michael O' Reilly at auctionManagerEPA@gmail.com. This handbook is an extensive review of post 1922 Irish Philatelic material and probably will not be updated or duplicated. There are three extensive pages on Political Labels (pages 224 to 226).

Ireland's Transition, by Dr. C.I. Dulin and published in 1992 by MacDonnell Whyte Ltd. 394 pages. I understand that the book is still available from David MacDonnell at mdwltd@eircom.net.

The book deals with Irish Postal History of the Transitional Period 1922 to 1925 and discusses several labels and political stamps issued during the early 1920s.

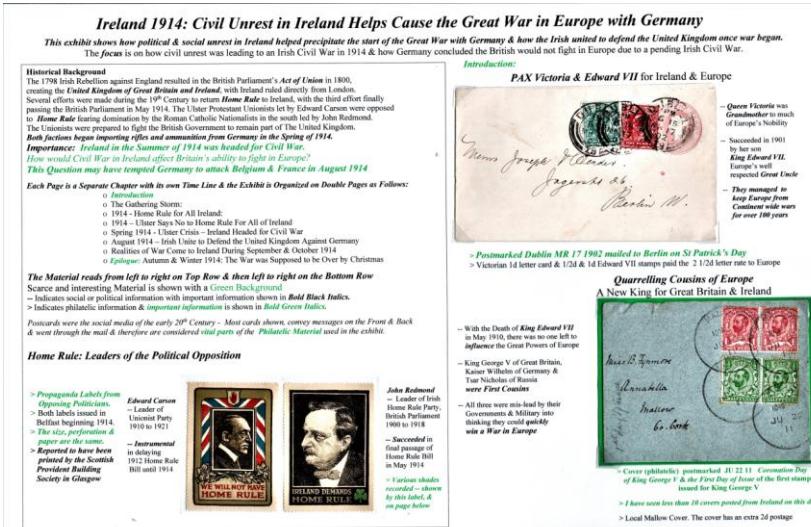


Fig. 1: Title page from my exhibit using Edward Carson (left) & John Redmond (right) political labels. Note the year 1914 in the title to define the exhibit time period. The second line is exhibit's purpose.

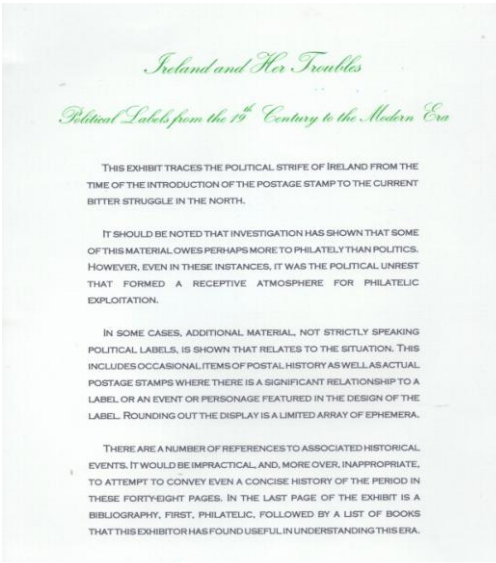
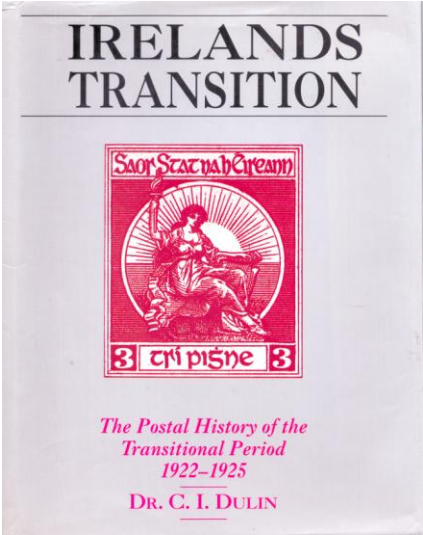
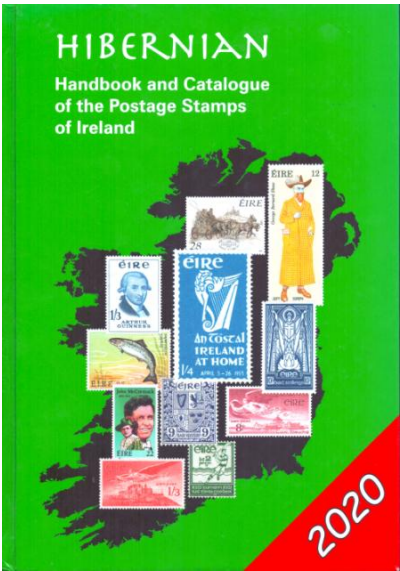
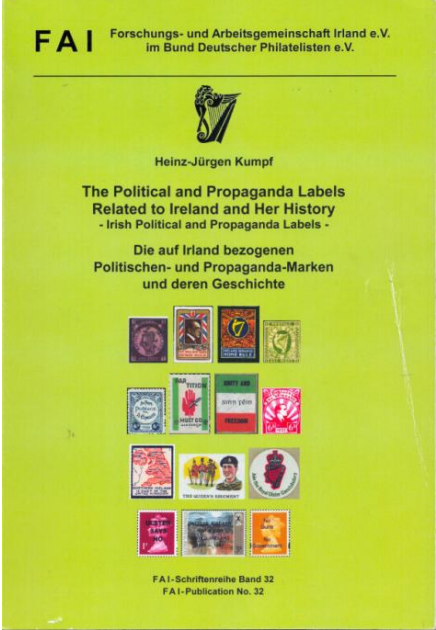
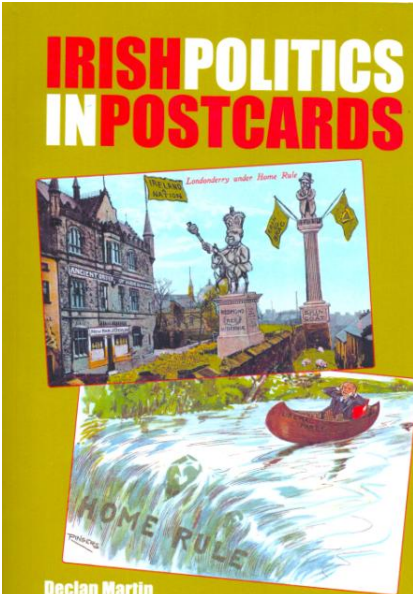


Fig. 2: Joe Foley Title Page



A Couple of my Favorite Covers

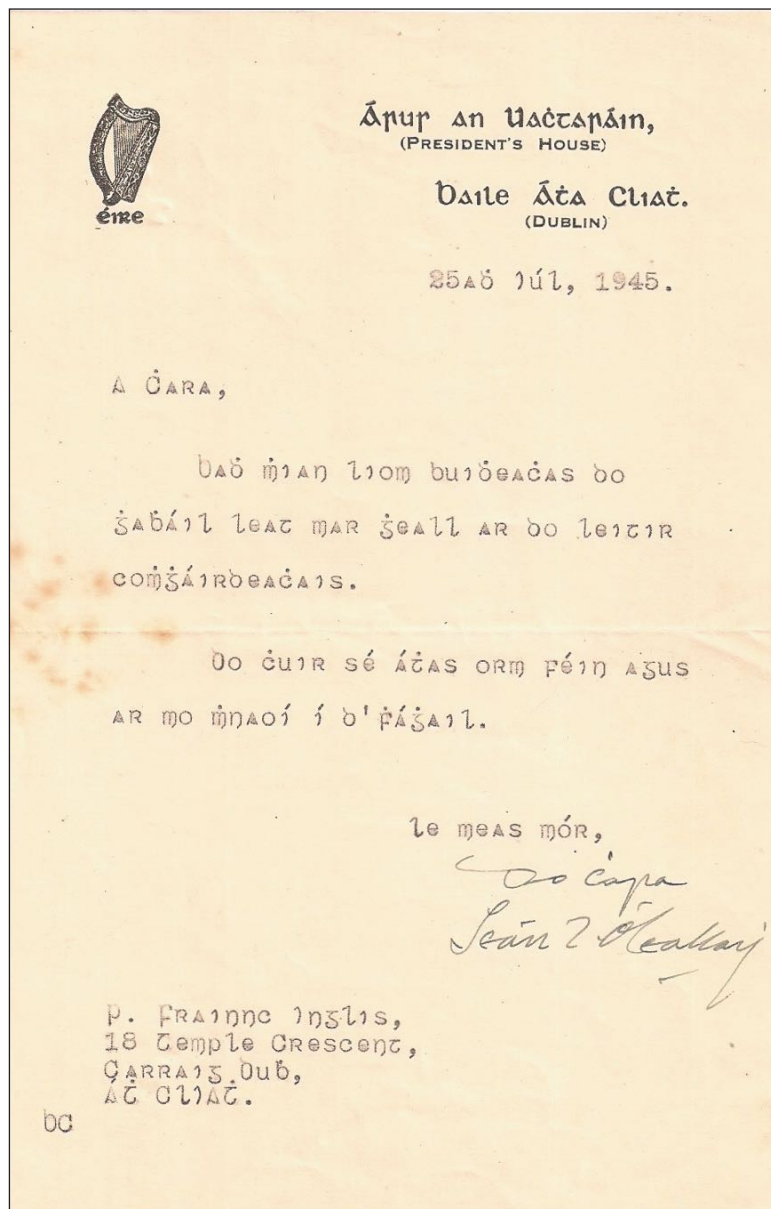
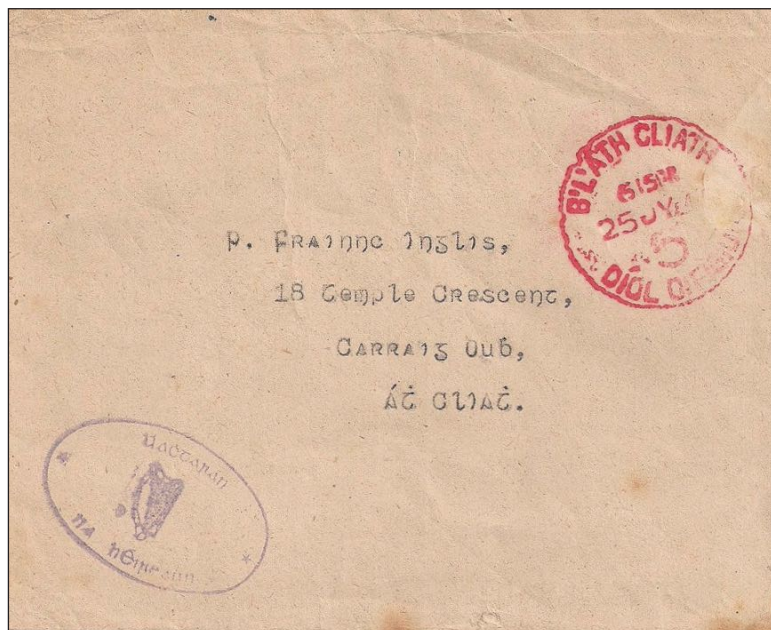
Karl Winkelmann

Amongst my accumulation of covers I have quite a few items of Irish official mail but here I am showing two of my favorite ones and both were sent from Áras an Uachtaráin. The first is from 1945 and the second in 1962. They are actually family correspondence, both of which I included in my one frame family exhibit at Stampá 2024. Sent to my grandfather and grandmother respectively.

The first cover is dated 25 July 1945, and bears an official paid handstamp in red ink and the oval official certifying cachet *Uachtaráin na Éireann* with the Irish harp. The address is written using an Irish script typewriter. Who knew such a device existed? I had never seen another example before this nor since, and anyone I've spoken to or shown this to suggests it's a rather scarce item, even rare as few such typewriters were likely made. The letter, thank my grandfather for his congratulations on being elected President of Ireland, it is signed by the president Seán T Ó Ceallaigh, using the Irish version of his name and also typed on the same Irish typewriter. The only English, in much smaller type, only translates the letter's heading.

Sometime in the late 1980s I visited my mother for a Friday lunch and on arrival she handed me the two covers saying I might like them as

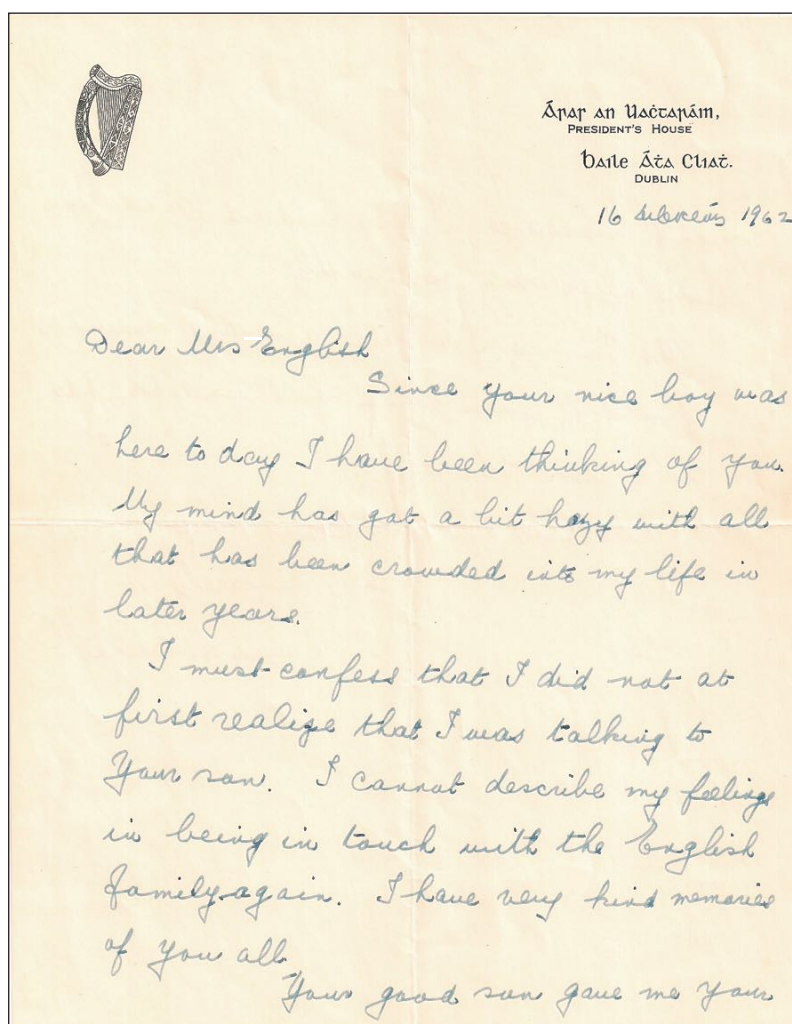
Sent by Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh, following his inauguration as President of Ireland thanking my grandfather for his congratulations. Both had been in Irish Volunteers and in O'Connell Street during the 1916 Easter Rising.





she knew of my interest in covers. At once I asked her where the letters were, to which she replied she thought they were probably not so interesting so had removed them. "Where did you put them" I asked, hoping they had not been destroyed as has happened to many covers we were never to own. "They're in the bureau", she replied. I almost swept her off her feet as I ran off to search the bureau.

As a youth and in my twenties I had spent quite a few hours rummaging in the bureau reading old letters and other family papers, some of which in later years I added to my collections, such as the first Ceadunas bills from the ESB, Electricity Supply Board, I have previously written about in this journal.



The second cover, is written by hand by Sinead de Valera while her husband was president. It is dated 16 April 1962 and again has a red official paid handstamp (of a different type) and the oval official certifying cachet of the president. The letter was prompted by a visit to Áras an Uachtaráin by my uncle. It is very personal and recollects the two elderly ladies connections. She also refers to Dr Ada English, my grandfather's sister and sends good wishes to my mother too.

Perhaps such personal material is not so interesting to others but a family connection always elevates its importance to a higher level. I've been fortunate that neither grandmother threw away such unexciting looking correspondence. Hopefully some of your families did likewise.

The second page of this letter from Sinead de Valera to my maternal grandmother is on the next page.

kind message. I am indeed glad you
remember me so kindly

As for me I shall always remember
yourself, your loved husband Dr. Ada
and Mrs Blaney.

Best wishes to Frank and all.

Very sincerely

Suzanne de Valera



ÉIRE
Philatelic
Association

1950-2025
75th
Anniversary

COME JOIN US AND CELEBRATE
ST. LOUIS STAMP EXPO
MARCH 21-23, 2025
RENAISSANCE, ST. LOUIS AIRPORT HOTEL

For more information
email Robert Benninghoff - rmerc01@aol.com

The Irish Brigade will be showing over 48 Frames at the St. Louis Show

Hafnia 24 - European Philatelic Exhibition Copenhagen, Denmark

Brian Callan - Irish Commissioner

The Hafnia 2024 Philatelic Exhibition was held in Copenhagen from 17 to 20 October 2024 in the heart of the city Copenhagen. The show was very well organised and was under the patronage of the European philatelic organisation FEPA. The venue was very spacious, in a beautiful old converted warehouse, allowing lots of room to view exhibits and meet with vendors and fellow philatelists. The location also made it easy to stroll in the beautiful city, being very close to such tourist attractions as the renowned Tivoli Gardens. There were ten Irish submissions to the show, of which six were accepted, as the show capacity of 1,800 frames was very much oversubscribed. The results for the Irish exhibits are shown on the attached table, almost all of which dropped a medal level from previous exhibitions. This in general speaks to the very high standard of competition at the show. As always, judges were available on the last day of the show to advise exhibitors as to how their exhibits could be improved. IPC member James Gough was a Team Leader on the Jury. James was also the Chief Judge the week earlier at STAMPA

Exhibition	Exhibit	Exhibitor	Result
Hafnia 2024 Copenhagen FEPA Show October 2024	British and Irish Telegraph Stamp Development 1851 -1901 Traditional Exhibit	Brian Callan	Large Vermeil
	Postal History of Cork 1696 to 1875 Postal History Exhibit	Brian Callan	Large Vermeil
	HMAV Bounty and its Legacy Open Exhibit	Alan Farrell	Vermeil
	Northern Ireland Regionals 1958-2001 Traditional Exhibit	Brian Warren	Large Silver
	Ireland 1914: Civil Unrest in Ireland Helps Cause a Great war in Europe with Germany Open Exhibit	Robert Benninghoff	Vermeil
	The Life of St Patrick Youth Exhibit	Laurelei Fox	Vermeil

An Interesting Item:

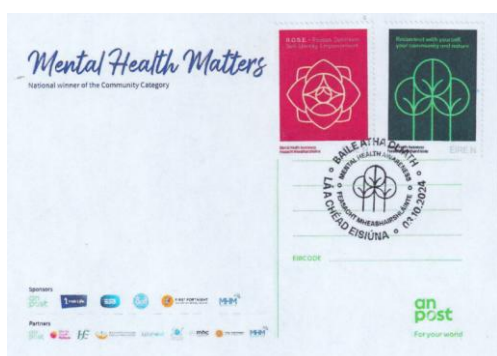
Please share you interesting items with our members at robertmb.editor@gmail.com

John L Fraser asks members for any information they can share on the following Cover which he purchased from Cavendish Auctions. The folded letter was canceled 23 Ju 18 1825 and has a Masonic connection. Francis Graham was the Deputy Secretary of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Ireland. The number 476 is written on the back refiring to Lodge 476 in Omagh, County Tyrone. The Dungannon 76 indicates the Irish Milage from Dublin and the letter was charged 9d postage.



Mental Heath Awareness Stamp Issue 3 October 2024 – Brian Warren & Robert Benninghoff

An Post recently issued two N stamps marking World Mental Health Day. What is interesting is the four commemorative cards and packet of Green Ribbons that Brian Warren and I found in the lobbies of Dublin GPO and St Andrew Street Post Office (shown below).



Card on left shows the common address side, with An Post Logo. Card on right has the See Change Organ Green ribbon taped to the Card. Both cards have the An Post FD Cancel requested by Brian.



The images above show the front of the four postcards found to date. Brian and I asked our colleagues at An Post for additional information and we were told to check with the **See Change Organization**. I hope to have additional information for April IP. I would be very interested in Members who have seen these or any additional cards at other Post Offices in Ireland. Please email me at robertmb.editor@gmail.com

An Interesting Item from Karl Winkelmann and our Friday evening Skype meetings.

This is a surface rated cover dated 14 October 1939 from Brisbane in Australia to Bayonne in France, which is near the Spanish-French border. How did it come to be censored in Ireland by censor 88? Unfortunately, there are no Irish marks to show when it arrived in Dublin but clearly it was censored before it was sent on to France because the Bayonne receiving mark dated 9 December, on the back, is on top of the Irish censor label. After that it was redirected to a town to the north, Rouillé where a receiving backstamp was applied, dated 10 or 11 December 1939.

Why did this ever get to Ireland? The only possible reason was that it was a mis-sort, but why is the question. The address has no words that seem Irish or Ireland related and the Royal Mail in the UK should have noticed it was going in the wrong direction and rebagged it for France. It is a censor curiosity that I have never seen before.



EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025

Britain's next major international stamp exhibition

Wednesday 7 – Sunday 11 May 2025

Hall 9, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham B40 1NT

11am-6pm Wednesday, 10am-6pm Thursday to Saturday and 10am-4pm Sunday

2,000 frames of exhibits and over 60 dealers' stands

FREE SOUVENIR SHEETS FOR ALL

Restaurant and bar. Plenty of seating in the exhibition hall. Court of Honour

including the famous 1856 British Guiana 1 cent magenta, courtesy of Stanley Gibbons

Society meetings every day. Meeting rooms available from £150. Society Showcase Day Thurs 8 May

Philatelic Congress of GB on Saturday 10 May. Cavendish Philatelic Auction on Sunday 11 May

EVERYONE WELCOME

£10 admission on first day from 11am,

Early bird first day admission 10am – 11am £20

FREE ADMISSION all other days

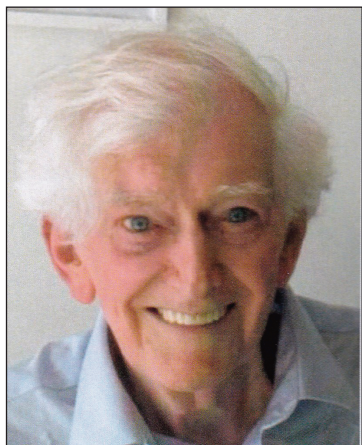
More information and discount hotel deal on EuroPhilEx website

www.europhilex2025.co.uk Tel: 01279 870488



Michael McNamara, R.I.P - 9 October 1941-16 November 2024

Brian Warren, Karl Winkelmann & Bob Benninghoff



Michael McNamara died in hospital on 16 November 2024, aged 83 years. He is survived by widow Joan, daughter Siobhán and sons, Eoin, Niall and Cathal. I first met up with Michael when I joined the DSS, Dublin Stamp Society in 1972. We hit it off from the start.

His interests were mainly in modern Irish postmarks and instructional cachets together with related ephemera such as bag labels, express labels and labels related to special services. He was always proud of the fact that his birth date was on 9 October being UPU

day and was always on the lookout for postmarks, cards and slogans that publicised this day.

He was also a collector of anything off-beat that expanded his knowledge of the operation of the postal services. This latter knowledge was put to good use when for his last presentation to the DSS he was quizmaster in 2023 of a Quiz Night. He was also a member of the UK based Postal Mechanisation Study Circle and the knowledge he gained from this group was useful when An Post entered the world of postal mechanisation. Another of his interests was Amateur Radio and he was a keen collector of QSL cards (mostly amateur radio signal reception cards).

In later years, he also took an interest in keeping an eye out for new or unusual postboxes in the Dublin Area given my interest in the subject from the mid 80s. Never one to say a lot but always willing to help and lend an ear. He was one my longest philatelic friends and will be sadly missed at DSS meetings and from the weekly Friday night Skype calls.

May he Rest in Peace.

B.W.



An envelope uprated with Frama labels sent by Michael to Czechoslovakia in 1991. He was surprised to see Karl now owned his cover after 30 years.



Two of Michael's photos of a disused pillar box in Ramelton that had been wrapped and advertising the *John Sheridan Post Office*.



Personally I didn't know Michael very well but knew him since the 1980s. Besides my interest in post boxes of Ireland I used to ask him about those dots and spots we see on many modern covers. While postal mechanisation machine marks are now quite common. He was our expert and had a great interest in the topic going back even to the first Transorma sorting marks used by the Brighton sorting machines from 1935 and occasionally seen on Irish mail. He wrote articles for the British based Postal Mechanisation Study Circle that Brian mentioned he was a member of.

Four and a half years ago, when I initiated the weekly Irish Philately Skype chat, Michael was a great and interesting contributor. His working knowledge of the Irish government departments was invaluable in explaining many of the items that were uploaded. His knowledge of the Irish language was a joy to help us pronounce Irish post town names correctly.

We all appreciated when Michael occasionally shared interesting items in our Skype chats.

K.W.



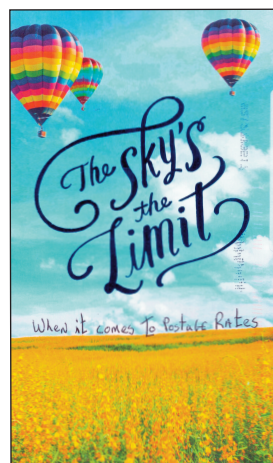
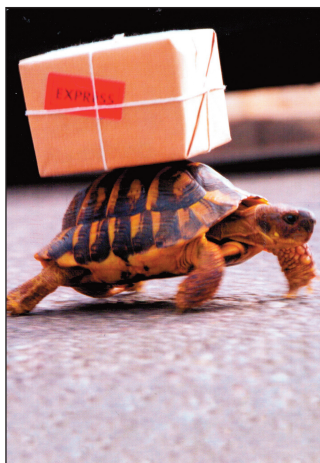
Alongside is a 1945 incoming Maritime Mail censored cover from Bulgaria (as identified by the sender's address on the reverse) written in Irish script to a Dublin address using the correct Dublin Postal District Initial and Number (M.18) that was different for addresses in Irish than those in English. I have only recorded two such covers.

from:- Commander J. Maureaux RN.
British Delegation, Allied Control Commission
BULGARIA
Central Mediterranean Force.

Here are some scans of cards I sent Michael during Covid Home Shut Down. Michael was not able to leave his home during much of the Covid Years because of Health issues with his wife and himself. The cards humorously challenge getting mail from the USA to Ireland during 2020 to 2022.

Shown here are five of those I sent to Michael during that period. Most have some philately association.

Bob



AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY COVERS - XIII

Stan Challis



13 Bantry to SUDAN in 1880

Rather than passing through the Suez Canal, our route south will take us down the River Nile into what we usually refer to as 'The Sudan', right into the office of H(is) Ex(cellency), the Deputy Governor and Postmaster in Khartoum, Carl Geigler, or Geigler Pasha, to give him his correct Sudanese title.

Geigler was a German who had joined the Sudan Telegraph Service in 1873 becoming its Director-General in 1878. He was acting Governor of Sudan for a period in 1882-83 ultimately returning to Germany in 1893 after a spell with the Suez Canal Company, undoubtedly after an interesting career.

But of far greater historical interest, is the sender who was writing from Bantry House. It is worth quoting from the enclosed letter .. 'As long as the Cairo Govt is kept is kept up to the mark for they need your help. I have no doubt that our Govt will appoint a Consul at Kartoum ere long and another at Massawa I question much, indeed I am nearly convinced, that the people of Sudan are better off than the Irish peasantry here.'

The writer was none other than General Charles Gordon who was on a short stay at Bantry House. He writes assuming that his days in Sudan were over; far from it.

Gordon, born in 1833, came from a military family. He joined the Royal Engineers, saw service in the trenches in Crimea (1855-56), then in early 1860s in China, being promoted by the Emperor to the rank of Tidu, Chief Commander of Jiangsu province.

The British, meanwhile, raised him to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He returned to Britain but by 1874 found himself in the service of the Egyptian Khedive who had a vision of building an empire in Africa. Gordon was soon in Sudan and was sent to 'Equatoria' province, more or less corresponding to South Sudan today. He clearly developed a good understanding of the local people before resigning early in 1880. Much detail of his adventures can be found in Wikipedia and elsewhere on the net.

Gordon's travels next took him to Belgium, where he was invited by the King to administer the Congo Free State but declined and thence to China again before he visited Ireland in the autumn of 1880. As a result of that visit he sent Gladstone a six page memo deploring the condition of the 'peasantry' in the west of Ireland urging the much needed land reforms that were to be introduced by Gladstone's government. He went on to a position in Mauritius which he found boring and was then promoted to Major General. With trouble brewing in the Sudan and Egypt having become, in effect, a British Protectorate after 1882, Gordon was sent to Sudan, to 'sort it out' in early 1884. We all, surely, know the story of what happened next, the siege of Khartoum and Gordon's assassination by the Mahdi in December of that year.

As for the cover, it serves to show the effect of the advent of the UPU, a 2½d rate applying to this far flung area of 'British Interest', that 'Interest' being primarily to protect the Red Sea coast, forming a key part of the Passage to India.