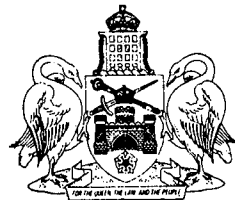




Capital Philately

Journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra



The Philatelic Society of Canberra  
(Founded 1932)

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### Editorial

What about the future of philately? The changes in the hobby in recent years, and the differences in the approach and attitude to stamp-collecting by those who take part in it, need some careful thought.

The huge area covered by stamp-collecting, which in recent years seems to be increasing in something like a geometrical progression, precludes anything like the detailed scientific methods which used to be followed by those who took their hobby seriously. To cater for this more casual approach, those who respond to the demand for our philatelic aids have come forth with items designed for the "Philately made Easy" syndrome, by way of annual collections, stamp packs, first-day covers, hingeless and other types of so-called albums, and so on, all of which require the minimum of effort and philatelic knowledge on the part of those who buy them. The motives of the purchasers (which are not for us to question in any way) may be a genuine interest or a mere hunch that this is a remunerative investment, and their numbers form a considerable part of the figures which are quoted often enough to support the view that a substantial percentage of the population are serious stamp-collectors.

Where are the genuine, serious, competent and dedicated researchers? Over the years, many famous names have left their marks in their output of philatelic literature, and their efforts form the definitive source of information about the earlier issues. But it seems that many collectors today are not interested in this kind of information, and it may be that most collectors are content with a collection of one of each stamp which comes from the printing press. This kind of collecting has come to be regarded as the norm by many, and the owner of such a collection lays claim to the title of philatelist.

There can be no suggestion of criticism of these people nor of their attitude. The basic element of philately is that it is a hobby to be entered into initially for pleasure and recreation, and, maybe later, for study.

While the numbers of collectors are undoubtedly increasing, mainly due to the commendable efforts of Australia Post and the Australian Philatelic Federation, it is also true that over a period there are large defections, mainly by those who have entered the lists for the purpose of investment. Perusal of the catalogues of any of the large auction houses will disclose the disposal of quantities of recent issues in mint full sheets, which often realise a net return of less than their original face value. The circumstances leading to this are unclear, but dealers and other large consumers of postage are continually using for their ordinary postage stamps issued up to ten years ago, which, according to the catalogues and other selling prices, are worth far more than the value they serve on current mail. In addition, it is possible to sell back mint stamps to the post office (at a discount), but the extent of this is not known. In both of these instances, there is no question of profit to the original investor.

Apart from the dispersal of investment lots, another question arises when a large collection is broken up. Valuable philatelic items in the way of panes and positional blocks and imprints, are split up into singles, purely because there is no market for the large and rare items. People merely want a single of each. Thus many of the scarcer items which have survived for many years, and which have formed the basis for much of the body of current knowledge and research, are being destroyed and lost forever.

As a result of this, the number of serious collectors who can make a substantial showing in detail of most Australian issues, is being decimated. And the same applies to collectors of countries other than Australia. This follows, or is followed by, a reduction of interest in this type of collecting, and is shown by the lessening of appeal of displays of a specialised nature, and by the lesser numbers of such entries in large exhibitions.

If this looks like a gloomy picture, it is not intended to be. On the credit side, there is a tremendous boom in other aspects of philately, notably postal history. Thematic collecting may not appeal to everyone, and it runs the risks of getting well away from the study of stamps and their production, which is of the very essence of philately. But thematic is undoubtedly increasing in popularity, and is not to be dismissed lightly, even though it may appeal to the beginner as an easier way to collect. Advanced thematicists should not forget the source from which their art came.

Philately is losing much of its serious study, and this is just one of the signs of the current times, and we must live with it. But it would be a pity if the serious research side should be dismissed entirely, as the specialist in his particular line provides the information on current material which, in its turn, becomes the basis of future literature of record.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

Western Australia: The Slogan Postmarks to 1983 by Brian Whittaker, 1984, pp 88 + viii, \$6.80

Western Australia: The Machine Date Cases to 1983 - Part I - Offices other than Perth, by Arnold Creaser, 1984, pp 42 + xxii, \$6.80

Postmarks are the lifeblood of postal history and a glance at these booklets is enough to prove that there is a whole new world awaiting most of us. The Western Australia Study Group is to be congratulated on its publications of Monographs 1 and 2, part of its tenth anniversary publication programme.

The first booklet describes and illustrates the slogan postmarks used in Western Australia from their introduction in 1917 to 1983, and the dates of usage recorded for that State. A quick flip through the pages reveals a lot of our social history -- "Help Win the War .. Eligibles Enlist" (1917-18), "Finish the Job - Buy Peace Bonds" (1919), "Use the Air Mail" (1926-40), "Don't Discuss Troop Movements" (1941), "Pollution - Common Cause for Concern" (1971-83). A note says that slogan postmarks were not used from late 1941 until 1946 because their use jeopardised the delivery of mail to Australian Prisoners of War. This explains why the propaganda opportunities were foregone in favour of wavy or straight-line obliterated.

Variations between dies of the same postmark used at different places, and even between dies of the same postmark used on different machines at the same office, are all clearly described.

The Date Cases booklet deals specifically with only that part of the cancellation showing the place of posting, time and date, for all offices other than Perth itself, which will be dealt with in Part 2, due for publication in October 1985. This book deals with both the normal date cases and also the PAID date cases in some detail, and also includes notes about and illustrations of Paquebot slogans, continuous roller machine slogans and trip-operated slogans.

Long and careful study has gone into the preparation of the detailed information now available for all collectors. Thematic collectors may well discover postmarks to fit and enhance their subject, while Commonwealth of Australia and postal history collectors will find plenty of interest - you'll never feel safe throwing out any envelope after this!

The booklets are obtainable from the W.A. Study Group, PO Box 73, Claremont, Western Australia, 6010.

Elsbeth Bodley

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"The Courier" - Journal of the Philatelic Society of Tasmania, G.P.O. Box 594F, Hobart, 7001. Issue No 1, price \$2.50.

An indication of the health of philately in Australia is given by the increasing numbers of publications (apart from the major magazines and other well-established journals) which are being published by individual Societies. It is indeed something to be encouraged when collectors can be induced to try their hands at setting out the knowledge they have gained, for the benefit of others, and hopefully, to incite others to support or contradict their views. It is to the credit of a Society when it shows the enterprise to organise its own publication.

Some of these efforts may be short-lived, if they do not receive the support they hope for or deserve, and then they disappear. But their work has not been in vain, and modern students have reason to be thankful for what has been recorded in the past. Anyone who regards as important the dissemination of philatelic knowledge should consider the possibility of publication, or, at the very least, should do whatever can be done to support the work of those who have taken the plunge.

One important new journal has recently made its debut. The old-established Philatelic Society of Tasmania has produced the first number of "The Courier". The Editor asks why a new publication should be started when there are so many already, but he answers himself by saying that there is an obvious need, demonstrated by the contents of the Society's mail-box, for a forum for expressing views and setting out information.

This first issue contains articles over a wide field, such as recent finds in Tasmanian postal history, the introduction of new hand-stamps and post-codes, Tasmanian relief postmarks, New South Wales Railway and Revenue stamps, and the first instalment of a series on the development of the postage due system.

The journal is well-set-up, with clear type and illustrations, and is worthy of inclusion on the book-shelves of the individual or Society library.

A.G. Salisbury

A.R. Tippett

**QUESTION:** My persistent friend S.... observes that there must be lots of history which actually happens but never gets written down, and he raises the question of whether or not significant postal history in our region is by-passed because it is not recorded. S.... said he was speculating but I felt he was frustrated looking for something he knew ought to exist but could not find.

**REPLY:** S.... makes a very good point. I know, for example, in my Fiji research that many of the real research problems of today would have been quite straightforward issues 50 or 80 years ago. If only a note had been made at the time! What is obvious to us today will become a knotty problem maybe 50 years hence if we do not ourselves record it somehow. To pursue the point a step further, even those items that were noted in the Archives or private records, do not always get into philatelic Guide Books, and certainly not into Catalogues. Yet every good philatelic library will prove lots of fun to any researcher keen enough to explore it. Let me press these points from the case of Fiji.

For most people Gibbons Part I is adequate. Fortunately in Phillips, Purves, Campbell, Rodgers & Duberal we have good Guide Books, at least for the early period. Rodgers' new postal history demonstrates the truth of my statement of the profit of the research and rediscovery of "Notes" in the Archives. However the moment we get into the Key Plate period we meet those gaps in basic information and a new set of problems begins. The George V 1912-23 issue is well listed by S.G. with all the paper colour diversification, so a collector may identify them for his album page. But the Catalogue (and there is no Guide Book for this period) does not tell us the fascinating story of how the war robbed Britain of its dyes and papers of German origin, and the chemical know-how. Nor does it tell us of the British experimentation which led to our philatelic diversity. That information is recorded but is tucked away in some obscure library corner, not necessarily under "Fiji" at all, as this affected other Colonies also. The historical quality of the 4d. and 1/- Fiji paper studies is thus virtually lost - that is, unless some collector is keen enough to search it out after feeling "it ought to be there somewhere". Truly history may be made - and lost.

Neither the Catalogue nor any Guide Book I know, however, even hints that the matter might extend into the 1922-27 multiple script



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watermarked issue of the same stamp. This shorter life issue is over-simplified in SG and fails to show any extension of the socio-economic drama into the immediately post-war years. The study of inks and printings is virtually unknown, but quite distinctive to those holding the material. In the 1d and 2d it may be reconstructed from used dated copies, but on the whole, history was made and lost, alas. Therefore this material is missing from most collections. In parenthesis the same may be said, for example, of the 3d Silver Jubilee "Ceylon Blue", the most distinctive shade of that issue, peculiar to Plate 4 and therefore properly collected in a plate number piece. Now, 50 years after the event, it is not easy to find and not described anywhere. To return to the Key Plate, I wonder sometimes if we will ever get the record totally straight with respect to the second issue. Yet one never gives up hope.

Quite by accident I discovered recently that the first appearances of this issue - not all values appeared together - were reported by collectors in Fiji (the first apparently to observe the new Die II) and printed in a now-obsolete publication, "The Australian Philatelist", of which I acquired a series at auction. These notes have given my research a new lease of life. I trust my friend, S...., will have some similar find.

In his case, however, I imagine he was asking of postal history events rather than stamp colours and printings. Again the point was well made, and again I illustrate from Fiji. Fijian troops served in the Solomons and Malaya. Their decorations were in the headlines, but their postal history was largely bypassed. They were a small company. The mail went only to Fiji and mostly to folk in the villages. Very little has survived, although it demands its place in postal history. Its quality, its postmarks and rubber stamps were all specific and for the majority of Fiji collectors remain unknown. Little is known of the special services, the rates, the flight routes utilised and the few special "one time only" mails like that of the first troops en route to Malaya on the ship "Asturias", from which mail was picked up by sea-lift off Thursday Island and flown to Brisbane and thence to Fiji (12th January 1952). Troops were supplied with British aerograms and the mail received an oval rubber stamp in purple, a ship-mail cancellation. These are scarce items now. Even at the time one had to know a friend or relative of a soldier who would part with a family letter - but they are absolutely the real stuff of genuine postal history. If they are recorded anywhere it will be in some obscure file in the Fijian Military Archives.

To move from my examples to something concrete for all of us who are members of the Society. Our Library is becoming a fine

repository of all kinds of out-of-the-way material in which the sort of information I am discussing is tucked away awaiting re-discovery. Re-discovery is an art in itself. Granted it is time-consuming, and surely so because the finding-aids are few. For this reason I always carry a note-book in which I record everything of interest on my subjects - rates, dates, names, special flights, ship contacts, and so on ad infinitum. Once in the note-book it can always be cross-referenced or indexed at leisure. In browsing or reading, I am always sifting. I suggest that if 20 or 30 of us would do this in consultation (i.e. in the same mode of note-taking) we could compile a Corporate Finding Aid of major value. We would need to use a common kind of page - loose-leaf - and a common arrangement "Topic/Country/Date" heading. Presumably in making our own copies we provide a duplicate for the Society, and thus build up a Master File. It is only by some such mechanism that we can hope to master and control the rich mine of information buried in our very fine Library. Furthermore as many of us have our own specialised philatelic libraries, our note-taking can be extended beyond the resources of the Society Library itself. In time, this may solve a good many of the frustrating problems confronted by S.... and others like him. True, much philatelic history has been made and lost. But much we think is lost is only buried and not beyond re-discovery.



The newly discovered Queensland Railway ten shilling value  
(see article on opposite page)

## QUEENSLAND RAILWAYS - A NEW FIND

E.C. Druce

Ausipex 84 was the source of much philatelic delight including a wide range of world-class material on display from stamps to postal stationery and the ever increasingly popular postal history. Cinderellas were scarce because generally they are excluded by FIP rules from world exhibitions, although there was a collection of Tasmanian railway parcel stamps showing the relationship of their use to the mail service. Also on display as a "filler" was a collection of much-sought-after Ottmar Zieher cards and their Australian derivatives showing stamps of the Australian States.

However, Cinderellas were not so scarce at the dealers' stands and I was lucky to pick up some scarce material including parcel stamps of the Aramac Tramway in Central Queensland. The scarcest item however was a Queensland Railways parcel stamp which had not even been considered to exist. While new finds are not rare in the Cinderella field, they are unexpected in the area of railway stamps, which have been well catalogued for a number of years. Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia has a good listing and in addition to listings in "Railway Philately" there is the catalogue of Ingles, Presgrave & Craig "The Railway Stamps of Mainland Australia" published in 1980.

The new stamp is a ten shilling value in blue-green (I would call it duck-egg blue) in the horizontal format of the 2/6d and 5/- values of the Fourth Series, issued from 1901 to 1914 (Ingles, Presgrave & Craig 4RP10). The listing is that of the 2/6d value with a large "Q" in "QUEENSLAND", the word "GOVERNMENT" in seriffed letters, the same corner spandrels and value tablets of the same design. Other details are as follows: Perforation 12; watermark locomotive.

Some of these facts are interesting - the watermark is the third watermark variety of the issue, following from no watermark and then crown over Q. Are there ten shilling values lurking from these previous issues? The perforation is 12, a perforation not recorded on any stamps of the Fourth Series before, although it should be noted that many perforations exist. Perforation 12 was used on the previous Third Series. Finally, the previously first recorded issuance of a ten shilling stamp was for the Sixth Series - was there a ten shilling value for the Fifth Series? This was the numeral design with a locomotive in the upper cartouche.

Ingles, Presgrave & Craig state that the Fourth Series came in sheets of at least 2x4 so more copies undoubtedly existed - but how many exist now?

**K. Humphreys**

Editor's Note: The author lives in Caloundra, Queensland, and is a collector of military postal history, specialising in Anzac material of the 1914-18 War. His interests range from Papua, where he served as a Patrol Officer, to Australian postal history material, such as late fee, postage due and ship mail.

It is three years since the conflict in the Falkland Islands, and, now that the philatelic scene has settled down, it is an opportune time to record some aspects.

**Literature Available.**

- (a) "The Falklands War - Postal history of the Argentine Campaign 1982" - John Davis, 1983. Published by the author, obtainable from Stanley Gibbons, Melbourne.

This is the definitive work on the Argentine postal period. Wing Commander Davis was in Port Stanley immediately after the surrender, and was able to rescue postal items and facts before the clean-up.

- (b) "The Forces Postal History of the Falkland Islands and the Task Force" - J.A. Daynes, 1983. Published by the Forces Postal History Society of Great Britain.
- (c) "War in the Falklands" - R. Spafford. A supplement to the November 1983 edition of the "Philatelic Magazine". Readers may recall AUSIPEX 84 entry No C3-820 on the Falklands, for which Major Spafford was awarded a Vermeil Medal. The entry extended to examples of occupation postal history.

**Cancellers and Stamps**

The Argentine postal code for the Malvinas was 9409, and ENCOTEL (the Argentine Post Office) was well prepared for the invasion. The Argentine forces invaded on 2nd April 1982, and on 22nd April ENCOTEL issued a 1700 peso stamp overprinted "LAS MALVINAS SON ARGENTINAS". This value was the standard airmail rate for mail to the Islands. Up until STAMPEX in March 1984, no example of this stamp had been found which showed genuine sale and use actually in the occupied Islands. It is known that the overprint was not on sale at Port Stanley on 29th April. At STAMPEX, Wing Commander Davis found a cover posted from Port Stanley, with a 9409 ISLAS MALVINAS c.d.s. of 2nd May, tying a 1700 peso overprinted stamp. For the benefit of future students, the cover was addressed to Romano Jose Nestor, of La Plata, and was sent by S/C 62 Romano Guillermo Nestor, of Companie Infanteria B, Corinal Conde, Islas Malvinas, Radio Postal 9409.

At this stage I must point out that philatelic covers abound, and that a 9409 cancellor was also used in Buenos Aires. Evidence exists that facsimiles of the c.d.s. were imprinted on covers there, and also in Madrid, of all places. There are accordingly quantities of 1700 peso overprinted stamps cancelled by a 9409 c.d.s. on neat clean covers, none of which has ever seen the Falklands. But thanks to the find at STAMPEX, we now have proof for the catalogues that an ordinary soldier was able to purchase an overprinted stamp on the Islands, and use it on a letter to a relative.

**Some Auction Estimates**

Readers may care to learn of auction estimates for genuine Argentine occupation postal history items. Unfortunately, the British advance produced only contrived covers of no real philatelic or monetary worth - in many cases, the cachets were ready and waiting before the troops landed.

In 1982, a commercial cover from Vancouver, Canada and addressed to an employee of Cable & Wireless Ltd on Ascension Island, was sent mistakenly to Port Stanley. It was caught in the War, back-stamped with a 9409 ISLAS MALVINAS cancellor on 7th April, and struck with a Falkland Islands Post Office boxed mark "ADDRESSEE UNKNOWN/RETURN TO SENDER" in black. It was estimated to realise £250, and sold for £210. In the United States of America, \$550 was the estimate in March 1984 for a British Antarctic Territory Explorer first-day cover cancelled at Faraday Base, and also caught in the invasion. It was a registered cover, and on the obverse was additionally struck with the 9409 c.d.s. of 6th April.

Both of the above covers feature the c.d.s. with the inverted date-line. It has been suggested that the date was inverted in order to feature the Argentine flag upside-down, as a protest by the Falkland Islands indigenous Post Office staff. No-one has yet confessed to the deed, and, as senior ENCOTEL staff landed virtually with the troops, I think it was just a mistake created in the panic of occupation. In any event, the date was inverted until 12th April. For the record, a collector wrote to General Mario Menendez, the Argentine Commander, requesting a first-day-of-issue c.d.s. cover, and the General forwarded same with a date-line of 6th April correctly adjusted, a few weeks later (shades of Australia Post). This gave the cover an interesting status - a unique per favour item.

The auction house of Luis Sammartino, PO Box 5317, 1000, Buenos Aires, has now become the chief source of Argentine material. Estimates are in United States dollars, and items are not cheap, ranging from \$50 to \$200. Care must be taken that genuine items are collected - one rule of thumb is that airletters and aerogrammes are common, stampless covers with the 9409 c.d.s. are choice and scarce, and the dirtier the better is the motto.



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## KAULBACH ISLAND - WHERE ARE YOU?

**K. Peter Breitkopf**

An overseas correspondent sent me a block of six "stamps" featuring my thematic interest in Chess. I intended to feature it in my Chess exhibit for the Third National Philatelic Convention held in Canberra in March 1984.

Alas, early research quickly ran up against a series of unknowns, and so the item was not exhibited. Then followed a local and international effort to pinpoint the "Kaulbach Island Set".

"Kaulbach" is not listed in the major catalogues. The "big" atlases in the libraries show a "Kaulbach" near Hawaii. This did not seem the right area, as I recalled a short note in the July/August 1979 issue of "Chesstamp Review" that Kaulbach Island was a vacation hideaway, and that the designer of the Chess set was a leading "north-eastern" artist - which I assumed to mean the north-east of the United States of America.

A quick check with the Editor of "Chesstamp Review" indicated that Kaulbach was somewhere "off the coast of Canada". Another overseas contact suggested that the place was one of the local islands near Scotland, i.e., in the same category as Eynhollow and Staffa.

Further research did not lead to conclusive facts. Then a break-through came unexpectedly in the form of a short note in the Cinderella column in the October 1984 issue of "Stamp News". It identified Kaulbach Island as located in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. I wrote to the Canadian address given, and the reply solved the mystery.

The island in Mahone Bay is a mile off-shore from the village of Indian Point, about six miles south-west of Chester, and four miles east of Mahone Bay town. This latter place is shown in atlases, roughly 64° west longitude and 44° north latitude. (I hope I have it right for the navigators).

The island was purchased in 1967 and developed into a small-scale rural retreat for vacationers. In 1971 a Local Carriage Service was established, basically a means of having postal items transported from Kaulbach Island to the connecting point with the Canadian postal service.

A Local Carriage Service differs from the official postal system and special conditions had to be agreed with the Canadian Post Office prior to authorising the service. These stipulated that any issue of "stamps" had to be called "Local Carriage Labels", which had to be affixed to the back of the envelope. Each sheetlet of twelve labels comprised four horizontal rows of three. The perforation gauge was 14.5, and the top and bottom selvages were not perforated, but the horizontal rows of holes ran through the selvages at left and right.

The Canadian Government required that the selvedge of each sheetlet should be incised "Not valid for the carriage of mail by the Canada Post Office. To be used only in the Kaulbach Island Local Carriage Service and may be placed only on the back of envelopes. Use Canadian postal stamps on all mail for posting in Canada".

Thus it can be observed that the Kaulbach Island issues differ considerably from other "locals" such as those of the Hutt River and Rainbow Creek provinces, in that they were used to cover actual mail transmission.

The rate for carriage of any item was 9¢ in 1971, doubled to 18¢ in 1972, and raised to 25¢ in 1976 and to 35¢ in 1980. The labels on covers were "postmarked" with an undated double-circle canceller 18mm in diameter, inscribed between the circles "KAULBACH ISLAND" at the top and "N.S." (i.e. Nova Scotia) at the bottom. In the centre of the inner circle were the letters "L.C.S.".

The Kaulbach Island resort became very popular over the years. However, it became difficult to avert ecological problems if the limited resources were expected to support an annual tourist influx. Reluctantly then, and showing great environmental awareness, the owners decided that the island no longer would be available as a vacation resort after 1984. Occupation then would be restricted to persons connected with the owning company, as from 1985. With no more outside visitors, the Local Carriage Service thus was discontinued at the end of the 1984 season, and its final issue of labels would bear a red overprint "Service Ends/1984".

The Kaulbach Island Local Carriage Service issued a set of labels each year from 1971, with the intention of publicising Nova Scotia's beautiful south shore in a quiet way.

The catalogue of issues is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Subject and number of labels</u>	<u>No of sets</u>	<u>No of FDCs</u>
1971	Birds I (7)	34,197	1,500
1972	Art I, Ships I (4)	15,641	3,000
1973	Art II (4)	14,597	3,000
1974	Boston Show (1)	3,849	1,150
	Animals (4)	10,855	1,000
1975	Birds II (4)	11,070	1,000
1976	Alice (4)	10,000	1,000
1977	Trains I (5)	7,500	1,000
	Tourism (4)	2,500	650
1978	Ships II (4)	12,500	1,000
1979	Chess (6)	10,000	1,000
1980	Trains II (5)	2,500	-
	Rotary (4)	7,900	1,000
1981	Birds III (14)	3,000	500
1982	Scouts I (6)	3,000	1,000
1983	Scouts II	1,500	350
1984	Service Ends (4)	2,100	-

For thematic Chess buffs, some additional details of the 1979 issue are:

Designed by Lois Graboys. Printed by lithography in brown on blue paper in full sheets of 40 se-tenant, in five panes of eight. Each pane included the Local Carriage stipulation referred to above. The first day of issue was in July 1979.

I understand that most issues are no longer available from the owning company. However, some items from 1980 up to 1984 may still be purchased from P.K.I. Ltd., 403 S. Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903, United States of America.

My thanks to Kaulbach Island, "Stamp News" and "Chesstamp Review" for providing information on this subject.

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## STAMP NEWS

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Phil Litt

Dear Readers,

Yes, I assure you, it was singing I could hear. I was tapping rather timidly on Mr Maloney's door, wanting to ask him about useful books for Irish stamp collecting, and the only response was a vigorous if somewhat raucous baritone declaiming,

'Twas the red-lether day o' me loif,  
Whin Mollie Maloney fust married me;  
Whin I made 'er me own wedded woif...

so I knocked more firmly, and at last got the ample form of Mrs Maloney herself, plus a blast of song as the door opened.

"Ah, Phil, lad," she says, "I suppose it's Mr Maloney you'll be wantin'. Well faith now, he's a little out o' sorts Phil, phwat wid the meetin' o' Irish fital... filalet... his stamp collectin' friends last noight, a woild bunch Phil, an' divil a move kin I git him ter make today".

"It was only to ask him about books for collectors of Irish stamps, Mrs Maloney," I says. "Do you happen to know what he uses?"

"Well now, Phil, I see him a-usin' thim all the toim, fer shure," says she. "Here now, take a look at these, as he's wid these all the toim". She thrust a handful of books at me, and I found I had:

- "Postage stamps of Ireland, 1922-1982" published by the Dublin Philatelic Section of the Dept. of Posts and Telegraphs (AMPOST) 1983" (someone had scribbled in the front "good introductory book"). I thought that for an official publication it was very well done, all stamps being illustrated in colour, and the layout clear and comprehensive.

- HIBERNIAN, "Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1983" (Hibernian Stamp Co., Dublin; published yearly). This seemed an altogether excellent handbook, going over the same period as the first book I had looked at, but dealing in depth with a wider range of philatelic interests - printing processes, paper types, varieties - quite an exciting book considering its small format and simple binding in wrappers.

-FELDMAN, David, "Handbook of Irish Philately" (to 1967); Dublin, 1968. This was a larger, sturdy hardbound book, and bore the signs of regular use. From the style of presentation I would suspect that this book would be defined as the definitive work for general collectors. The fourth book in the bundle given me was clearly intended to follow on and complement the Feldman. It was -

-MacDONELL, David (ed), "Stamps of Ireland - Specialised Catalogue 1983" (Dublin 1982; first created by David Feldman, but now printed annually).

"I say, Mrs Maloney", I piped, "What about Irish Philately before 1922? Isn't Mr Maloney interested in the earlier period at all? None of these books go back further than that".

"Whist, Phil, it's not long you are fer this wurruld if you'll be spakin' that way to Mr Maloney. Before 1922, begorra! Shure, an ye've niver heard o' home rule? Stamps afore 1922, why, they wuz them blatherin' Britishers' stamps, an' none of us, begob." She left me to my confusion, which I covered by looking again at the books. By now the singing in the next room had been replaced by sundry bumps and scrapes, indicating that Mr Maloney was essaying to rise from his bed. A loud crash was followed by a succession of vivid phrases, as the family cat sped through the door closely followed by a boot, and I wondered whether I should in fact leave. But I was forestalled by Mr Maloney himself coming out to retrieve the boot, and greeting me when he had.

"Ah Phil, ye ould spalpeen", says he. "An' pwhat wud ye be after? Books is it? Shure an' I remember you was ter come about this. Now that one", noticing a book I had picked up, "an ould 'un fer shure, from the beginning of our time". The book was W.G. MEREDITH "The Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1925", one which I recognised because I had seen a copy in our clubroom library. I pointed out the frontispiece ld provisional which was captioned "The rarest Irish stamp", but Mr Maloney says, "Not a bit of it, Phil. But as the rare one came twelve years later we can't blame Meredith - the 2d coil, perf 15 x imperf; if you iver see one on cover Phil, jist pass it my way! I see the missus has bin showin' you the books. Here's a few more ye'll need to put in - there's Billig, as covers the same ground as some of the others ye've already seen and also this one on postal stationery which though in German is still the only respectible book ter be had. Then the best periodical for the collector of Irish stamps is this "Irish Stamp News"."

So, looking at the three Mr Maloney had added to the heap, I found:

- "The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps" Vol 1 Part 2 (Billig vol 35) Southern Ireland (pp 397-410) 2nd ed.n.d.

- JUNG, Otto "Die Ganzsachen Irlands (subtitled 'Postal Stationery of Ireland'); Katalog und Handbuch". Published by the German Society for Irish Philately, 1984. Numerous subtitles in English made this a reasonably easy help for English-speaking collectors.

- "Irish Stamp News" (Dublin, published quarterly; IR £4.90p.a.). This looked a particularly worth-while journal. The copy Mr Maloney showed me was only No 18 (Summer 1984), and as one advertisement was for several of the back issues, it seemed a good thing for collectors interested in this area to get into now!

"Phil, me bhoy," added Mr Maloney, "Jist wan thing now - shure, collecting the Irish is my thing, but I wouldn't want yer readers to git carried away now. Inny one not Irish be nature is going to foind Ireland a tirrible country to collect, fer shure - and while they're foindin' this out, why, they'll be making a shortage of Irish material, and we couldn't be havin' that now". He seemed ill at ease, probably imagining his championing of the cause of Irish philately would create a rush on his own resources.

I was about to go, so thought I would risk my neck - and ask about the pre-1922 period. But, dear readers, your Phil Litt is no fool; I decided to lead up to it by talking about 1922 first. "Mr Maloney," says I, "About 1922..." I could see the back of his neck change colour - oh dear. "Pwhat about it, Mr Litt?" I gulped. But blundered on. "Well that must have been a pretty exciting time, getting rid of the old stamps and making new ones. I mean, transition periods usually are interesting to the philatelist."

Ah, it worked! "Shure, Phil me bhoy!" says Mr Maloney, "Me father, indade, it was fer shure, that was in the thick of it. Old man Maloney told me how they got thim scraps o' British paper an' converted 'm to good Irish paper, by striking "Rialtas Sealadac na heireann 1922" on 'm. Bedad, Phil, a woild time it wuz an' all. Thim provisionals give us some headaches, but they're a grand study. The Billig handbook is good on these. Fer thim as wants it, Phil, there's interest even before 1922". Unexpectedly he swung right into the thing I wanted him to talk about! "G.B. used



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in Ireland, its a study of inimy occupation. Then in the pre-adhesive period, fer a toim there the Irish Post Office wuz separated and indipindint from" - he shuddered - "London. Moind you, I don't tell Mrs Maloney this - not a wurrud to her Phil, - but here's three books useful fer a study of the toim ahint 1922". With a furtive look around, he pulled them out from behind the other books on the shelf. They were:

-REYNOLDS, Mairead, "A History of the Irish Post Office (to 1922)" Dublin 1983; it was not a big book, but seemed to cover the period well, and was illustrated in a way that made it really delightful book about Ireland, as well as a postal history.

-FELDMAN, David and William Kane, "Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840" Dublin 1975. This fine work began with the postmarks of the first Postmaster of Ireland (Col. Henry Bishop, 1660-1663) (called the "Bishop's Marks") and traced the postal service history through to 1840. The third book supplemented this one -

-MACKAY, James A "Irish Postmarks since 1840". Dublin 1982, a book superbly illustrated, with fine detail on the postmarks, and following through from 1840 to the time of printing.

I said goodbye to Mr and Mrs Maloney, firmly declining offers of hospitality but thanking them for their help. Dear Readers, I hope you too find help too in this listing of a most interesting run of books.

Yours ever,

Phil Litt

**The following books have been cited above:**

DUBLIN PHILATELIC SECTION "Postage Stamps of Ireland, 1922-1982". Dept of Posts & Telegraphs (AMPOST) 1983 (Currently available)

David FELDMAN "Handbook of Irish Philately" Dublin 1968 (Currently available, IR £8.95)

FELDMAN, David & William Kane "Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840". Dublin 1975 (Currently available, IR £6.50)

HIBERNIAN "Catalogue of the Post Stamps of Ireland 1922-1983" Hibernian Stamp Co Ltd, Dublin. Published yearly.

JUNG, Otto "Die Ganzsachen Irlands (subtitled 'Postal Stationery of Ireland') Katalog und Handbuch". Published by the German Society for Irish Philately, 1984

MacDONELL, David (ed) "Stamps of Ireland - Specialised Catalogue 1983" Dublin 1982. Created by David Feldman. (Currently available, IR £1.50)

MACKAY, James A. "Irish Postmarks since 1840" Dublin 1982. (Currently available, IR £10.50)

W.G. MEREDITH "The Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1925" 3rd ed.n.d. (c 1926)

REYNOLDS, Mairead "A History of the Irish Post Office Dublin 1983" (Currently available, IR £4.50)

Periodical "Irish Stamp News" (quarterly, Dublin sub IR £4.90)

My thanks to Mr Joe Forshaw for assistance with this article. I did think of calling Mr Maloney "Joe, fer shure" but sternly resisted the temptation.



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