

RESEARCHING IRISH PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Information on Irish philately may be easily found or can be vexedly hidden. Information on stamps, such a dates, and physical characteristics are usually in public catalogues - however, be aware that the best information is usually in a catalogue from the country or written specifically about it. For Ireland, at least from 1922 and forward, the *Hibernian* catalogue is a good starting point. For material prior to independence, the *Stanley Gibbon's* catalogues are usually a good starting point since Ireland was a part of the British Isles, and generally followed the same rules and procedures; however, there are some notable exceptions.

The Revealer, the publication of the **Eire Philatelic Association**, is also a good research source, with over 50 years of issues available on searchable CD ROM. The newsletter of **The Irish Philatelic Society** is also available on CD rom. **The FAI (Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland e.V. im Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V.)** Is a group of German collectors of Irish material who publish *Die Harfe*. Their newsletter is also available on CD ROM in German for older issues, and English and German for more recent issues. All three organizations have published books on various topics relating to Irish philately.



For American Philatelic Society members, many of these books are in the American Philatelic Research Library. Another possible source is the National Philatelic Museum in Washington, DC. Others may be available through inter-library loan. For those in Great Britain, The British Library has a significant holding. Major private philatelic libraries, for example, The Collector's Club of New York, the Royal of London, or the Collectors Club of Chicago may have copies available to members. In addition, a number of stamp stores stock philatelic literature.

One must remember that just because a document may not be entitled "Irish ?????" doesn't mean that Irish information is not contained therein. For example, the American Airmail society catalogues and publications contain a wealth of information on mail flows to, from, and over Ireland; however, this may be entitled FAM 18 or German Catapult Mail of 1929 (which landed in Galway to continue on to the Continent). Likewise, publications of the Civil Censorship Study Circle address how mail was handled in WWII in the British Empire, of which Irish mail was only a portion.

Another source of philatelic literature is through the Internet. There are many web sites containing useful information. For example, The American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors site (www.aape.org) contains copies of some members exhibits on-line. Unfortunately it must be noted that not all information printed, or on-line, is necessarily correct. If possible, it is always wise to confirm any information against another source.

When dealing with historical events or personages, newspapers often have searchable files, while the genealogical section of the library may have useful data. Postal manuals are always a good source of

how things are supposed to be done. Other government publications can provide data, such as The Statistical Abstracts, which contains Post Office data such as volumes of mail. Don't be afraid of trying different sources for your information.

Don't forget your local stamp club. While the desired information may not be in the library, it is possible that some member, or friend of a member may have information. One of the advantages of belonging to one or more of the Irish collecting groups, such as the Eire Philatelic Association, is to be able to seek help from fellow members through the newsletter.

There are some areas where there are no written references. These voids beg to be explored. Writing a book or monograph, or even a magazine article can be an interesting challenge for the inquisitive, and the rewards, albeit not monetary, lie in advancing the scope of philatelic knowledge. Information is where you find it, not necessarily where you think it should reside!

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

American Airmail Society, American Airmail Catalogue, Sixth Edition, AAMS, Mineola, NY 11501, 2004.

Dulin, Dr. Cyril I., Ireland's Transition, The Postal History of the Transition Period, 1922-1923, MacDonnell Whyte, Dublin, 1992.,

Dulin, Dr. Cyril I., Irish Booklets 1931-1994, Published by Author, 1998.

Feldman, David, Handbook of Irish Philately, Dolmen Press, 1968.

Netzch, Uwe, Irish Slogan Postmarks 1918-1994, FAI Volume 19, 1995.

MacKay, James, Irish Postmarks Since 1840, published by author, 1982.

Murphy, William, Irish Airmail 1919-1990, Eire Philatelic Association, 1996.

Wilson, Harold S., The Traveling Post Offices of Great Britain and Ireland, Railway Philatelic Group, Derby, UK, 1996.

PERIODICALS

The American Philatelist, www.stamps.org

America Stamp Dealer & Collector, www.AmericanStampDealer.com

The Canadian Philatelist, www.rpsc.org

Gibbons Stamp Monthly, gsm@stanleygibbons.co.uk

Linn's Stamp Weekly, linns@amosmediaonline.com

Philatelic Literature Review, www.stamplibrary.org

Stamp Magazine, (Great Britain) www.stampmagazine.co.uk