

The Circuit

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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Jewel of the Irish Sea

by Terence Lyons (# 820)

The Isle of Man or Ellan Vannin in Manx Gaelic, has been described as the jewel in the middle of the Irish Sea. It is mainly known for its motor sport, especially the annual TT motorcycle races, which attract thousands of visitors; as a tourist area, with its magnificent scenery, Victorian railways, tail-less cats, kippers (smoked herrings); and as an off-shore financial center.

Although the Isle of Man is located within the British Isles, it is not and never has been part of the United Kingdom. It is an independent country and controls its own affairs. Tynwald - the Manx Parliament is over one thousand years old and dates back to the time of the Vikings. It has the longest continuous history of any legislature in the world. Douglas is the capital and seat of government.

It does, however, maintain very close links with the United Kingdom, which is responsible for the island's defense and foreign policy. There is also a customs agreement between the two countries. It recognizes Queen Elizabeth II as Sovereign and Lord of Man. The island is also an Associate Member of the European Economic Community through its association with the United Kingdom.

The island which is 30 miles (48 km) in length from the Point of Ayr in the north, to Spanish Head in the south and 11 miles (18 km) in width, across the center, between Douglas and Peel, supports a population of approximately 70,000 people. Manx Gaelic is the native language and although once universally spoken on the island, there was a rapid decline in the 18th and 19th centuries, when it began to be replaced by English. Today, there are very few Manx speakers, but strenuous efforts are being made to revive the language. It is taught in the schools, at evening classes and in study groups promoted by Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh - the Manx Language Society.

The island issues its own bank notes and coins, the

currency having the same value as the Sterling Pound. English, Scottish, and Northern Ireland bank notes are readily accepted everywhere, as are English coins. Other freely convertible currencies can be exchanged at the island's banks.

Until 1973 the postage stamps of Great Britain were used on the Island. The British Post Office did issue some regional definitive stamps for use on the island's mails, as it did for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Since becoming an independent postal authority, the Isle of Man Post Office has adopted a very conservative issuing policy. During 1992, a total of eight sets of commemorative stamps, together with two mini-sheets, one commemorative booklet, two definitive stamps and two definitive booklets were issued.

The Manx stamps not only reflect our culture, history and way of life, but also commemorate events worldwide, in which our own and other distinguished people have participated.

It is still possible to build up a collection of Manx stamps from the first issues of 1973 at a cost which is still fairly reasonable. The 1992 issues can be obtained from the Philatelic Bureau as a year

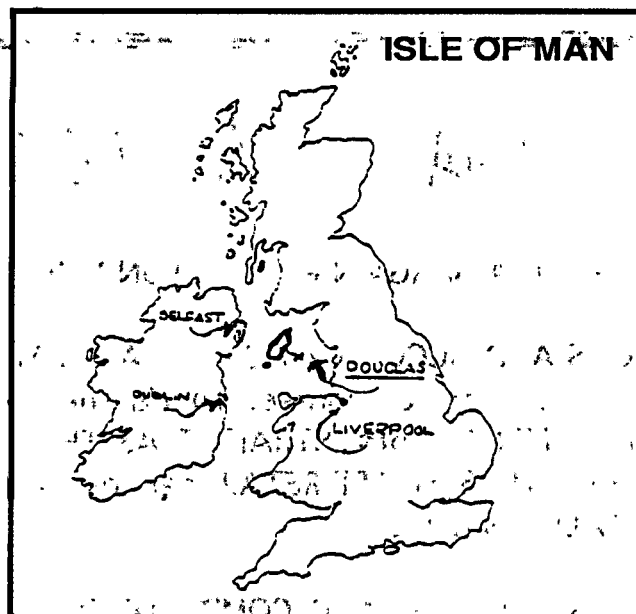
pack for 12.50 pounds or approximately \$18.75 at the present rates of exchange.

The current set of "railway" definitive stamps, which were originally issued in 1988 are due to be repalced by a set depicting ships, commencing in 1993. The first of these are the low values and are planned to be issued in January 1993.

There are currently seven philatelic societies on the island, which form the Isle of Man Philatelic Federation. The individual societies, some of which are specialized, cover all of the aspects of our hobby.

Each year, usually on the first Saturday in October, the Federation holds their annual convention, which is hosted by one of the individual societies. Each club

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Jewel (Continued from Page 1)

submits the top three winning entries from their own competitions and three overall winners are chosen, whose entries are then put on display.

A special cover is produced for the occasion, with the Isle of Man Post Office providing a handstamp.

An auction is also held and members can also exchange and buy material, which they may need. The event is concluded by a dinner in the evening.

The event cannot be staged without sponsorship and we are fortunate that it is usually possible to find a company or institution on the island to provide the necessary funding. The 1993 convention takes place on October 2nd and is to be hosted by the Douglas Stamp and Postcard Club, with sponsorship



from one of our building societies (savings and loan associations).

If any members are contemplating visiting either Great Britain or Ireland, please come across and see us. There are regular air services and a daily ferry. All visitors are made most welcome at any meetings.

I will be happy to send anyone a programme of events for all the clubs on receipt of a one dollar bill (\$1.00) to cover postage costs.

Useful addresses for anyone who may wish to obtain more information about the Isle of Man.

1. Isle of Man Post Office; Philatelic Bureau, P. O. Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man
2. Isle of Man Tourist Board, Harris Promenade, Douglas, Isle of Man •••

**ISWSC Meeting
Planned for ROPEX**

The ISWSC will be hosting a meeting for members and interested collectors on Sunday afternoon, March 28, 1993, in conjunction with the ROPEX national stamp show in Rochester, New York. This is also the site of the American Philatelic Society's spring meeting. All events will be held at the Genesee Plaza-Holiday Inn located in downtown Rochester at 120 East Main Street. Our meeting is scheduled for 2 P.M. Further details and hotel/budget lodging information are available from Tom Fortunato, 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615-2022. Include a SASE with all inquiries. For last minute inquiry call Tom at (716) 621-1670. All worldwide collectors are invited to attend the ISWSC meeting. •••



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Canadian Secretary Appears on Christmas Stamp, Or Does He?

by Irving C. Whynot (# 490)

I've finally reached the pinnacle for a Canadian stamp collector. I've gotten my name and likeness on one of my country's stamps. Well, almost.

My name appears on the 84-cent value of Canada's 1992 Christmas issue, although it is spelled a bit differently. The likeness? Well, most of my friends won't recognize me with that beard and all. Or could it be that I'm wrong and it isn't me, just a long-ago ancestor?

The four Christmas stamps feature "gift givers" from around the world. With four daughters and three grandchildren, I certainly qualify on that count.

The stamp for international use, other than to the U.S., shows Germany's Weihnachtsmann. That's my ancestral name: "Most of the Whynots in North America today - including me - can trace their roots to Johann Adam Weinacht, his wife and four children, who arrived in Nova Scotia in 1752 from what is now Germany as part of the so-called Protestant Migration.

The name has undergone spelling changes over the years and today you will find Whynot, Whycott, Whynotts, Winach, Winot, Wynot, Whynacht, Whynock, and many other variations.



Canada Post says Weihnachtsmann is a "thin, stooped, heavily laden, white-bearded old man." That's me to a letter, except for the beard which I agree would probably be white if I had one. This German gift-giver emerged as a version of Saint Nicholas, or Old St. Nick, as we now call him.

The popular story is that the Whynot name derives from Christmas. Certainly you will find a variation as part of the greeting on many German yuletide stamps, such as Scott # 537 issued in 1976 and one of my favorites.

A German genealogy reference work says the first known Winach lived around 1384. It gives the derivation of the name Weihnacht or Weihnachter as "like Easter or Pentecost; not named after the day of birth, but after the term of a duty or obligation (of service or rent)."

••• Irving C. Whynot (# 490)

Editor's Note: The writer would welcome hearing from members in Germany who might be able to provide some history of the area around Kleinheubach, on the Main River, where many of the Nova Scotia settlers originated. Address: P. O. Box 371, Don Mills, Ont. M3C 2S7 Canada •••

No Shortage of Countries for Worldwide Collectors

by Irving C. Whynot (# 490)

One thing we apparently don't have to worry about as worldwide collectors is running out of countries. National Geographic Society produced a new world atlas late in 1992 with 193 countries - 20 more than two years ago.

In addition, there were many place name changes. For instance, Ukraine and many other former Soviet states reverted to their historic names. "There is nothing less permanent in the world than a map," remarked one of the editors.

As 1993 arrived, so did Aland as a new postal authority. A small island off the southwest coast of Finland, the province of Aland had been served previously with stamps published by Finnish authorities.

The new post office is a commercial enterprise of the province under a program of self-government. Stamps can be ordered from: Philately Centre, Box 100, SF-22101, Mariehamn, Aland, Finland.

Correspondence to Canada can use the standard two-letter symbols for the provinces and territories. They are similar to those in use in the U.S. and based on an international postal standards agreement. The complete list for Canada:

Alberta - AB; British Columbia - BC; Manitoba - MB; New Brunswick - NB; Newfoundland - NF; Northwest Territory - NT; Nova Scotia - NS; Ontario - ON; Prince Edward Island - PE; Quebec - PQ or QC; Saskatchewan - SK; Yukon Territory - YT. •••

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Stamp Market Thrives In PR China

Mark O. Bakker (#507) sent an interesting Associated Press article that appeared in a local Philippine paper. Author Kathy Chenault writes that stamps are big business in the P.R. of China. Officials estimate there are approximately ten million stamp collectors among China's one billion population.

The government tightly controls the stock market, but there appears to be a thriving deal-making stamp market in Beijing. Similar markets operate in Shanghai, Canton, and Chengdu. The stamp market is the only free-market game in town and the popularity reflects the growing interest in capitalism in the last Communist power.

This reflects the growing desire for higher returns on personal savings, which have risen during ten years of market-style reforms. By the end of 1991, Chinese citizens had \$165 billion in savings deposits, up nearly 30-percent from 1990.

At the stamp market, sellers display their stamps on newspapers spread on the ground. Traders indicate the bartering is highly competitive and occasionally results in fistfights. Foreigners are warned to stay away as the market is considered unsafe.

The entrepreneurial sellers fly to other cities to sell for higher prices or have shipments of stamps flown in from cheaper markets - anything for a higher profit.

The sellers are required to have a special permit to buy a limited number of newly issued stamps, but these sellers depend on "underground" connections, postal workers who illegally sell them

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Cinderellas Popular Down Under

G'day from sunny Queensland! Since September 1992 I've been the new Australasian Regional Secretary. This entails looking after existing members, recruiting and most importantly letting people know we exist in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Korea, Taiwan, and the P. R. of China. I've placed small adverts in two of our regional magazines, *Stamp News* and *The Stamp Collector*. So far, I've had eighteen inquiries of which eleven have joined.

An area of philately that is growing in Australia and New Zealand is collecting "Cinderellas," or in other words postal labels of some sort issued mainly by a private body that has philatelic value but is NOT a postage stamp and has no postal value. They can be broken down into a number of different categories:

Locals - which prepay carriage of letters, packets or parcels over specific routes.

Revenues or Fiscal stamps - issued by governments as a means of extracting money from its citizens.

Railway Stamps - including Tramways stamps.

Labels - which bear a resemblance to postage stamps:

Advertising Labels - Christmas and Easter Seals

Patriotic Labels

Charity Labels

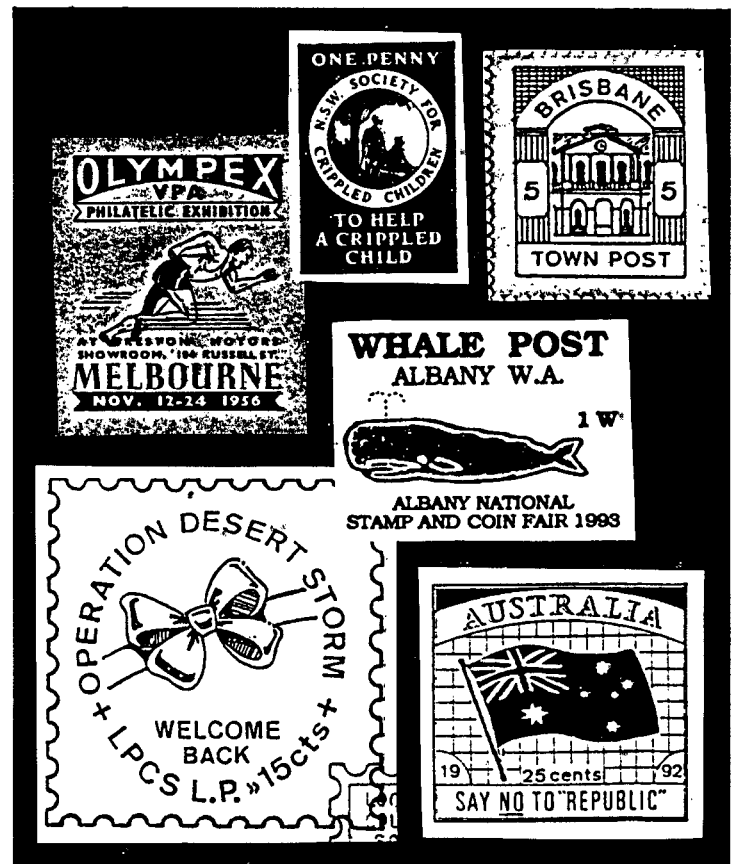
Religious Labels

Tourism & Publicity Labels

Commerative Labels

Special Event Labels

Miscellaneous - a whole range of labels which do not fit into the above categories.



What are Cinderellas worth? No definitive answer can be given for like stamps, an item is worth whatever someone else is willing to pay for it. However, some Cinderellas exist in very small quantities and there is very little known about them, but a start has been made in producing catalogues in various Cinderella fields. Gone are the days when Cinderellas, like Cinderella in the fairy tale, may be described as worthless and shunned by philatelists. Today in Australia and New Zealand they are growing in popularity and we have journals and clubs specifically catering to Cinderella collectors.

Cinderellas are fun to collect with many varieties and interesting subjects. One of the Cinderellas that may interest members is the "Whale Post" label. A small West Australia stamp club came up with a novel fund-raising idea for its 1993 stamp show. They established a "Whale Post" with its own whale theme labels (Albany was a major whaling station in the past). Three sets of these labels are being issued and the club is also making special covers to sell.

Why am I mentioning this label? Because this type of novel fund-raising could be a good way for ISWSC to raise money.

All the best from "Down Under."

... Peter Scannell (# 453), Australasian Regional Secretary

Chinese Stamp Market (From page 3)

sheets of new issues. The shady dealing haven't seemed to undermine the confidence in the value of stamps, so the market thrives. Chinese leaders abhor speculation because they fear it will undermine the Communist system. Although officials complain in the media that such speculation will eventually make it impossible for ordinary collectors to buy stamps, collectors and buyers keep pouring money into stamps. ...



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* Camera Ready means ready to paste-up and print. reductions and typesetting extra

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