

Book Review

THE DUBLIN FIND: The Most Important Stamp Find in GB Philately

The sub-title of this book claims a great deal and so it was with some curiosity and, dare I say, not a little doubt that it could be *the* most important British stamp find, that I started reading, for I was only vaguely familiar with the discovery. In no time at all I was hooked!

Written jointly by Don Madden and Karl Louis, both of whom are Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society London, this is a tale of intrigue and secret stamp dealing by the Post Office at the very beginning of the 20th century; and a modern investigation into where the stamps may have ended up.

So what is this 'find'? In 1899, various stamps and postal stationery dating from the 1840s were apparently found at the Dublin and Edinburgh post offices, and possibly London as well. Leading officials in the Post Office decided to try to obtain as much money for these as they could on the philatelic market, but instead of openly admitting who was actually selling the material, they arranged for Post Office employees to sell the stamps at auction under their own names.

The first part of this publication was written by Don Madden and examines the background to the Dublin Find.

Part two of the book was written by Karl Louis and investigates what has happened to the stamps since their discovery.

Douglas N Muir, Curator, Philately, British Postal Museum & Archive states in his Foreword: *'I am a great believer in documents contemporary to the events being described . . . This can be clearly seen here in Don Madden's account of the history of the 'find' . . . An excellent study based on very extensive research . . . Karl Louis's reconstructions of the material from subsequent sales of broken down sheets is a remarkable achievement.'*

This is a valuable addition to the philately of Great Britain and a truly great read, dispelling any non-collectors' doubts about the hobby being boring! I therefore heartily recommend that *Bulletin* readers purchase a copy while they are still available.

Enquiries: Available from Mike Jackson Publications, 3 Cottesmore Avenue, Melton Mowbray LE13 0HY, or visit www.mjpublications.com It is A4, has full-colour soft covers, vi+45 illustrated pages + 15 pages of relevant advertising and bears a retail price of £15 plus postage & packing: Inland £2.00; Europe (air) £3; Rest of world (air) £5, (surface) £3.