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THE EUROPA, 1992 &
IMPACT OF THE IRISH
ABROAD (The Americas)
issues; May 14th.



EDITORIAL; The postal strike in Ireland almost ensured a delay in the production of the June issue; the JOURNAL escaped from this real probability of not making its early Summer appearance and so arrives at the usual time! My thanks to all authors who provided the very necessary material which appears in this issue. However a special mention of Brian Warren; no article by him as is evident! His annual review (this time for 1991) of the activities of An Post and others was actually ready for this Journal but postal inactivity ensured his efforts will have now to be placed in the September issue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

SHRULE TUAM

With reference to Jan Kershaw's letter in the last Journal of the IPC (March 1992, Volume 1992, Number 1) regarding the handstamp SHRULE TUAM, the following may be of interest -

1. SHRULE P.O. opened between 1845 and 1847. The Postal Directories of 1847 and 1852 list it as "SHRUEL, Headford".
2. In the Post Office Guide of 1857 it is listed as "SHRULE, TUAM"; this spelling continues in subsequent Guides until 1860 inclusive. In the Guide of July 1861 it is once again referred to as "SHRUEL, TUAM".
3. From the 1863 Guide it is continuously referred to as "SHRULE, TUAM", that is until the 1901 Guide.
4. The serving office must have changed to Head Office, Galway about 1910; unfortunately I do not have a Guide of this particular era in my possession. However the 1914 Guide lists SHRULE as being under GALWAY.
5. Geographically, Shrule is in County Mayo, close to County Galway. Thus the serving Post Offices have always been and are in County Galway itself.
There are and were some other offices in County Mayo attached to County Galway - AASLEAGH, GALWAY (closed by 1893) - CLOGHAN'S HILL, TUAM - GLENNCORRIB, HEADFORD (closed by 1862) - INISHTURK, INISBOFIN.

It is recommended to keep SHRULE under County Mayo because of its geographical location. (We did so in our "IRISH POST OFFICES", published 1990/91 by the F.A.I.)

I trust this will assist Jan Kershaw in her studies and be of interest to other members.

I am disposing of a number, some fifteen or so, Post Office Directories from the nineteenth century; should any member be interested please contact me,

Harald Frank,
Donauwoerth,
Germany.

Dear Sir,

HENRY ARCHER

I am writing regarding James Geraghty's letter in the last issue of The Journal (March 1992, Volume 1992, Number 1)

requesting information on one Henry Archer.

Henry Archer was an Irish man of letters and a classicist who, in the nineteenth century, invented the first officially adopted machine for the perforation of sheets of stamps.

Archer left Ireland in 1829. In October 1847 he explained his invention (the stamp perforator) to the then Postmaster General - the Marquis of Clanricarde - and the following year the Treasury authorised a trial of Archer's plan. He was granted a provisional patent in England on November 23rd, 1848.

Archer's machine operated on the comb-stroke principle. The specification was dated May 23rd, 1849. After several abortive tests and setbacks, including a Parliamentary enquiry, the Treasury paid Archer £4,000 for his invention.

Stamps perforated by Archer's method were first put on sale in February, 1854. He died nine years later in Pau, aged about fifty.

A.F.Finn,
Templeogue, Dublin.

the following, also from Tony Finn, are notes concerning Archer, relating to his own (Tony's!) display at the Dublin Millenium Exhibition of 1988 and are published herewith with Tony's regards. These of course supplement the information in the above letter.

HENRY ARCHER (ENTREPRENEUR) 1799-1863

HENRY ARCHER came from Dublin, and was to become known as a man of letters, classicist, entrepreneur and an inventor.

He was the main driving force in the foundation of the Festiniog Railway Company in Wales. With family and associates he contributed all the original capital to create the company, which opened on April 20th, 1836.

Archer was associated with the Prince Consort stamp essay of 1850 as promoter, which subsequently lead to the first surface printed Victorian stamp - the 4d. carmine, issued in 1855.

However his major contribution to stamp production was the scheme contained in his patent, Number 12340 of 1848/9 -

"to enable persons when using the postage stamps, tickets or other small labels to separate one or more from a sheet without the employment of a cutting instrument".

This lead to the issue on January 28th, 1854 of the first Penny Red perforated stamp.

note; The Festiniog Railway Co. is a preserved steam railway and still exists at Porthmadog, Wales. No portrait of Archer is said to exist, but as a stamp pioneer he was marked by a special post office handstamp as well as a pair of stamps from the Festiniog Railway in September, 1987, with the accompanying first day cover reproducing his signature.

THE DENDY MARSHALL COLLECTION

C.I.Dulin

Recently, in the course of a conversation with Michael Goodman - the well known postal historian and dealer - it was mentioned that a collection of material had been left to the National Postal Museum by Brumell.

Since, as most readers are aware, there is an active program going on to find 'missing' diamond numbers, a project started by Tom Current some years ago. Needless to say this was quite an exciting piece of information.

Actually, it transpired that the collection was not that of Brumell, but that of C.F. Dendy Marshall, one of the pioneering figures in the study of British postal history. The collection consists entirely of pieces alone and spans the period 1840 to the turn of the present century. Predominantly the examples are of diamond duplexes, although there are some other type cancellations as well.

Apparently no-one had ever asked to examine the Irish section and, in fact, at the time only three small volumes could be unearthed. These covered, in diamond numbers, offices 1 to 275. It was fairly certain that at least three other Irish volumes exist and an appointment has been made to view these - if found! - in two months or so hence.

In general, the collection is a little above average, but not quite the gold-mine expected, although there was a #41 Ashford (error) and also a #190 Dublin and Belfast R.P.O. - the first I had seen. The few annotations did not reveal anything startling and, since time was limited, it was felt that it would be more useful to concentrate on finding dated "missing" diamond numerals, although a list was made of all numbers present. No attempt was made to list bar structure for not all examples had crisp cancellations.

"Missing" numbers found were:

diamond	office	date
40	Ballybrittas	Dec 5, 1851
78	Beaufort	Apr 21, 1899
85	Burton Port	Oct 30, 1891
89	Camp	Feb 8, 1892
92	Caragh R.S.O.	Jan 8, 1892
123	Castletown Geoghegan	Apr 15, 1897
140	Clonelly	Apr 4, 1894
151	Coachford	Oct 3, 1894
160	Craughwell	Jun 7, 1898
167	Cullybackey	Jul 18, 1898
228	Foynes	Aug 26, 1891
229	Frankford	Jan 4, 1846
234	Glasslough	Aug 3, 1900

235	Glencolumbkille	Oct 31, 1895
267	Kilcar	Jun 20, 1894
274	Kilfenora	Sep 13, 1895

note; the #92 CARAGH postmark reads as given above.

A further report will be made when the remainder of the collection is examined.

Michael Goodman has also kindly provided the following - on cover and on piece - from his own reference collection;

51	Ballymurry	1904
137	Clogher	1847
145	Cloyne	1850
175	Donaghmore	1876
235	Glasnevin	1869
266	Kildorrery	1847
332	Moirá	1901
344	Moynalty	1851
359	Newtownforbes	1883
405	Saggart	1893
419	Summerhill	1850
461	Ballinhassig	1892
508	Timoleague	1894
513	Glenanne	1890
516	Moyculen	1898
518	Oughterard	1890

Additionally he reports four other offices on stamp, but as per the basic ground rules for establishing the lists, these have not been included.

After a number of years in which he not only started the 'Numbers' Game', but was also the focal point for the receipt of data, collating it and issuing periodic reports, Tom Current has decided that perhaps the time has come for someone else to take a more active role. Not that he has given up interest - far from it, for he will still be available in a consultancy role.

At Tom's suggestion, a group of us have formed a committee with the aim of eventually publishing a volume devoted to the Irish numerals. This will not be simply the listing of what has been seen and reported, but an altogether more comprehensive examination of what each office used in the way of different numeral hand-stamps, as killers or duplexes, and for what periods.

Stan Challis will be the chairman and co-ordinator and it is hoped that when some of the details regarding the format of the data to be presented - and gathered - are resolved, he will be issuing the guide-lines of the study itself.

'ROBBERY OF THE DERRY MAIL, MURDER OF THE GUARD'.

(extract from 'Bell's Weekly Messenger', Sunday, April 13th, 1823: published in London.)

Rev. E W Davey

'The Derry Mail Coach which left (Dublin) last evening (Tuesday, 8th inst.) was attacked within six miles of Drogheda, on the Balbriggan road, at a place called Green Hills, and robbed of the mail and all the arms. The coach was interrupted in its progress by two drays and a ladder, placed nearly across the road. Nugent, the coachman, however, perceiving that the passage was not completely impeded, dashed the horses at the opening, close to the ditch. A volley of 14 or 15 shots was immediately fired, by which one of the leaders was killed, and the object which the coachman had in view was thus frustrated. Mackay, the guard, discharged his arms, but the villains having been sheltered by the hedge, it is feared without effect; several shots were subsequently fired by the banditti, one of which took effect upon the guard, who expired in a few minutes. An outside passenger, we hear, was wounded in the hand, and a ball passed through his hat. As soon as the guard had fallen, the villains showed themselves, and commenced rifling the coach. The lockers were broken open, and property to a considerable amount has, we understand, fallen into their possession. A lady who was an inside passenger, was robbed of everything she possessed.

The robbers continued for nearly an hour examining the luggage &c. and at length departed, taking with them the mail bags and arms. At three o'clock this morning, when the Derry coach was returning to town, the luggage of the passengers, their papers, &c. were found strewn along the road. Information of the above facts were this day sworn before the Police Magistrates. -- (Dublin Evening Mail).

1993 AN POST STAMP PROGRAMME

Members may be interested to know that An Post recently advised that the Irish Government had approved the subjects for the 1993 Stamp Programme. These are as follows -

1. Centenary of Conradh na Gaeilge (2)
2. Irish Amateur Swimming Association, centenary (2)
3. St Patrick's College, Carlow, founding anniv. (1)
4. Edward Bunting, death anniversary (1 stamp)
5. Royal Hospital, Donnybrook, founding anniv. (1)
6. Ceide Fields, Co. Mayo - the largest Stone Age Settlement site in the World (1)
7. Love Stamps (2)
8. Europa - Contemporary Art (2)
9. Fauna & Flora - Orchids (4)
10. Transport - Buses (4)
11. Ireland Series - Impressionist Painters (4)
12. Christmas (4)

numbers in brackets indicate the number of stamps.

IRISH SINN FEIN PROPAGANDA LABELS OF 1908 AND 1916

William P Fletcher, FRPSL

(an update of the research compiled by my father H G Leslie Fletcher, TD FRPSL (see notes 1 & 2))

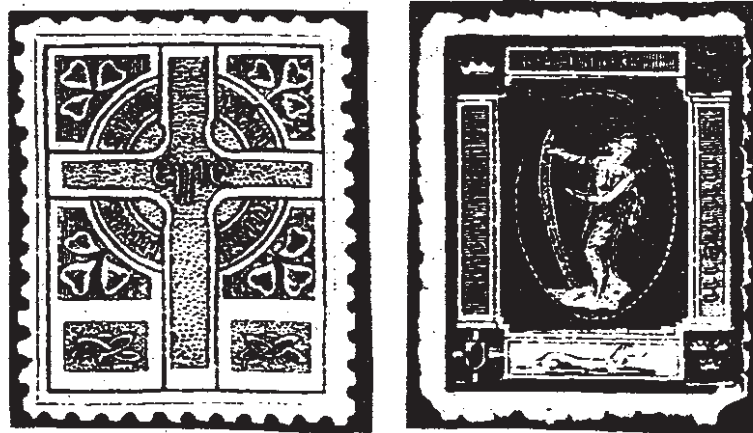
Arthur Griffith (1872- 1922) founded the newspaper the "United Irishman" in 1899 to spread the ideals of an independent Ireland and also to put forward the principles which came to be known by the Irish expression 'Sinn Fein' (Ourselves Alone). His paper changed its name to "Sinn Fein" in 1905 when damages for libel were awarded against the "United Irishman". "Sinn Fein" was published as a weekly newspaper from May 1905 until it was suppressed by the military authorities in November, 1914.

The policy of Sinn Fein was first publicly announced at a meeting in Dublin in October 1902. As the name implied, its policy was 'Ireland for the Irish', and Griffith aimed at winning over the separatists to work for a parliament in Ireland united to that of England by a link to the Crown only. He proposed passive resistance in that payment of taxes was to be refused and that members elected to Parliament were to absent themselves from Westminster, sitting in Ireland instead as a council.

Griffith's dream was to publish "Sinn Fein" as a daily newspaper. To help finance this and indeed to spread general "Sinn Fein" propaganda, details of the "Sinn Fein" stamps were published in the newspaper of January 4th, 1908 -

"with the New Year is born the Sinn Fein stamp. The Sinn Fein stamp is intended to be affixed to all correspondence of Sinn Feiners as a visible sign that this is Ireland".

The paper goes on to state that the stamps were the idea of Sir Thomas Gratten Esmonde. They were to be placed on the top left hand corner of envelopes. All profits were to go to the "Sinn Fein" daily fund. The stamps (figs 1 & 2) were to be in -



figs 1 & 2 - the "Sinn Fein" stamps/labels

"two designs in four colours, blue and white, orange and green" and were "designed and drawn by one of the foremost Irish artists, and engraved in Dublin by the first Irish engraver".

The stamps were printed by Mr James Walker and Co. Ltd. of Jones Road, Dublin. Mr James Whelan of 17 Upper Ormond Quay was appointed chief agent for the sale of the stamps which retailed at four for a penny. Those who desired agencies were to apply to Whelan.

In "Sinn Fein" dated January 11th, 1908, it is stated that 20,000 stamps had so far, to then been issued. Sir Thomas Esmonde wrote -

"now that we have our own postage stamps, will you allow me to inform my correspondents, through the medium of your column, that if they desire replies to their letters, they will please to put an Irish stamp on their envelope as well as an English one, when writing to me".

It was later suggested that as -

"we now have Irish stamps, letters should be addressed in Irish".

A list of agents (fig. 3) appeared regularly throughout 1908 and included several well known names. Among them was the old 'Fenian', Tom Clarke. He had served some fifteen years in jail and was now set up as a tobacconist. He later was of course among the signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic in 1916. The list of agents for the stamps ceased to appear after 1908.

After many false starts, "Sinn Fein" eventually appeared as a daily, costing one halfpenny on August 23rd, 1909. The paper had now moved to larger premises at 10 Sackville Street from the former smaller accommodation at 17 Fownes Street. The weekly edition, price 1d., continued to be published as well as the daily which was rather short lived and continued in fact only until June 21st, 1910.

It was not long before the Post Office took action against the use of labels on the front of letters and they in fact issued a notice to that effect in July 1908 (fig. 4).

"Sinn Fein" reported on August 1st, 1908

Comapta na héireann

(THE IRISH STAMP.)

The following Agents have been appointed for the sale of the Irish Stamps.

Dublin.

Miss Maher, George's-quay.
Mr. John Flood, Grattan Crescent, Inchicore.
Byrne's, 86 Upper O'Connell-street.
Whelan's, Lower Dorset-street.
O'Toole and Co., Charlemont-street.
MacDonnell's, Camden-street.
Fitzpatrick's, Westford-street.
Kusnell's (Hairdresser), South King-street.
Kusnell's, 119 Cork-street.
"The Elm," 17 Elm Grove, Ranelagh.
Rooney's and Co., Rathmines-road.
Martin's, Clanbrassil-street.
O'Toole and Co., South Richmond-street.
Power's, Werburgh-street.
Tierney's, Lombard-street (Westland-row).
O'Toole's, Harcourt-row.
Tom Clarke, 46 Armines-street.
Kelly, 27 Thomas-street.
W. B. Coleman, Henry-street.
The Irish Art Companions, Clare-street.
J. Lacy, 1 Berkeley-road.
Emerald House, 26 Talbot-street.
O'Gorman, 78 Fleet-street.
Woodcock's Newsagency, Finsboro'.
Doyle's, Charlemont-street.
C. Holohan (Printer), 176 James's-street.
P. Foley, 139 Capel-street.

Outside Dublin.

ARMAGH—MacKernan's, Railway-terrace.
ARMAGH—Miss Duffy, 13 Thomas-street.
ATHLONE—T. Hogan, Church-street.
BAGINABOWN—Fraser's, High-street.
BALBRIGGAN—B. O'Hanlon Dublin-street.
BALLAGHADERREEN—O'Kelly's.
BELFAST—Liam: O'Duibne, 97 Sraid na Dubhaigh.
BELFAST—Butler's, Davis-street.
BORRISOLEIGH—Mrs. M. Gleeson, Tower-street.
BRAY—Mrs. Macmillan, 43 Main-street.
CASTLEBAR—T. A. Wynne, Main-street.
CASTLECONNELL—P. J. Mawee, Castle-st.
CASTLEISLAND—M. D. Brown.
CASTLEISLAND—P. Buckley, Main-street.
CLONES—Michael J. Kieran.
CLONMEL—Wm. MacEnery, 15 O'Connell-st.
COALISLAND—Mrs. Herron, Railway View.
CORK—MacDonnell's, Mulgrave-road.
DERRY—Messrs. O'Bradin and Co., 17 Car.isle-road.
ENNISCORTHY—W. Rorve, 6 Slanev-street.
ENNIS—J. P. Mackey, Church-street.
ENNISKILLEN—A. Hynde, 13 Townhall-st.
ENNISTYMON—Miss McCormack, The Hotel.
FERING—Mrs. Whelan.
GLASGOW—Hugh MacEvey.
GALWAY—Lodge, Williamsgate-street.
GLORY—P. Curry, Main-street.
GRAND—C. E. Cunningham.
KILKENNY—The "Kilkenny People" Office.
KILLORGLIN—Wm. Crowley, Market-street.
KILTYCLOGHER—J. D. MacIrishin.
LINERICK—S. O'Foghlaigh, 4 Rutland-street.
MANORHAMILTON—Thos. Loughlin, Main-street.
MANORHAMILTON—Doan's.
MOUNT—Corydon's.
MILLSTREET—T. O'Riordan.
MOUNTCHARLES—Geo. Dunlevy.
MULLINGAR—Jas. Brett.
NEWRY—S. Ua Morganaigh, 7 Water-street.
OMAGH—Jas. Nugent, 1 Bridge-street.
OMAGH—White Bros., 30 Market-street.
ROSCREA—Miss Butler, Rosemary-street.
SLIGO—H. Whyte, 3 John-street.
STROKESTOWN—P. Gannon, Corner House.
STRABANE—John MacDevitt, 36 Market-st.
TUBBERCURRY—M. Cooke.
TRALEE—E. O'Conchubhair.
TULLAMORE—M. F. Gorry, Harbour-street.
VIRGINIA—R. MacDonnell, Corner House.
WATERFORD—Geo. Bishop, 34 The Quay.
WEXFORD—Miss Malone, North Main-street.
WESTPORT—Thomas Mulrone, Bridge-street.
WHITEHOUSE—L. Carolan.
YOUGHAL—Rohan's, 6 South Main-street.
Cork and Kerry Agents will get their supplies from C. T. Cullinan, "Southern Star" Office, Skibbereen.
Wexford Agents can get their supplies from the "Echo" Office, Enniscorthy.
LIVERPOOL—P. Murphy, 12 Scotland-place.
MANCHESTER—J. Barrett, 7 Liverpool-road, Dean-gate.
London Agents can be supplied at Sheehan's Irish Industrial Agency, 26 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.
Chief Agent: J. WHELAN, 17 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin.

fig. 3

that correspondence had been received from the British Postmaster General that if stamps were placed on the front, letters would be returned. The newspaper therefore suggested that it was necessary to place them on the back in future. The September 26th issue contained a letter from 'Southern Cross' of Buenos Aires suggesting that as the stamps were to promote an Irish daily newspaper, the idea of the rule of July 31st of suppressing the stamps was to stop a daily Irish newspaper!.

USE OF LABELS RESEMBLING POSTAGE STAMPS

The practice has recently been adopted by some persons of affixing to the covers of letters adhesive labels, somewhat resembling postage stamps, which are used for advertising or other purposes. Although their labels are obviously not issued with any intention of defrauding the revenue, their use on postal packets, especially when they are placed on the address side, causes embarrassment to the officers of the Post Office and gives rise to delays in the treatment of other correspondence. In these circumstances, the Postmaster General has deemed it necessary to issue instructions that, after 1st of July, any letters or other packet observed in the post bearing on the front a private label in any way resembling a postage stamp shall be returned to the sender.

By Command of the Postmaster General.
GENERAL POST OFFICE
21st July 1908

fig. 4

THE LABELS

It has been stated (note 3) but not confirmed that Joseph Plunkett was the designer of the labels. The designs were engraved on wood by W.W.Kirkwood (note 4) and lithographed by Walker.

The first of the labels was a Celtic Cross design based on the famous Cross of Cong. This was surrounded by traditional Irish symbols.

The second design, usually referred to as the Hibernia and Wolfhound design shows a female allegory of Erin with a harp, said to be the Harp of Leinster, set in an oval frame. The arms

of the four provinces - Munster, Ulster, Connaught and Leinster - appear in the four corners.

In the 1908 printing, The Celtic Cross label has a broad cross and the Hibernia and Wolfhound label has a broad crown in the north west corner. The first printing is given as a quarter million (note 5).

Both designs were reissued in 1916 at the time of the Republican Rising in Easter Week. The 1916 printing of the Celtic Cross label is in a more distinctive darker blue shade and the print is clearly more blurred.

Additionally the Celtic Cross label is found with a narrow cross printed in green and black which is relatively scarce. This printing is frequently stated, incorrectly, to have been issued in 1908, although none have been seen on a dated cover and the date of this printing is unknown. There is a second type of Celtic Cross label with a narrow cross with a modified design of which very little is known and which, needless to say as a consequence, is rare.

When designs were being considered in 1922 for the definitive series, Griffith, now President of the newly established Irish Free State Government, asked that the designs of one of the labels be used. Miss Lily Williams based her design of the 3d and 10d denomination of the 1923 definitive series on the Celtic Cross label.

PROOFS

Various proofs of the 1908 issue are known. The Hibernia label exists as a die proof of the outline design with a single imperforate impression on a sheetlet. This measures approximately 80 X 112 mm. These are known in red, green and blue. A proof is known with the two designs each in a block of four, the blocks printed *tete beche* in the issued colours.

Examples of a trial printing of the Hibernia design are known printed in blue, with 5 mm separation between the cliches, both vertically and horizontally, allowing space for two rows of perforation.

CELTIC CROSS LABEL

The 1908 'Broad' Cross (fig. 1)

This is in black and pale blue green and has a clear sharp impression. The vertical arm of the cross is broad - 2.5mm - and with many dots. 'EIRE' has "IR" with long lower serifs. The twisted curls in the lower corners are flatter and the direction of twists differ from the 'Narrow Cross' issue. The sheet size and setting has not yet been confirmed. Line per-



fig. 1

foration 11 and labels are found imperforate horizontally between labels.

There are six transfer types (fig. 5) -

- A. Small void in background on north east shamrock segment below left leaf.
- B. Dot below right lower corner of left lower oblong. Dot on lower inner frame, 5mm from right.
- C. Diagonal line across lower white margin of cross on right, 6mm from bottom.
- D. Break in right lower outline of cross where it joins lower curve. Dot in white curved margin above south east shamrock segment.
- E. Break at top left of south east shamrock segment. Dot in white margin top right of south west lower rectangle.
- F. Small dot below lower inner frame, some 6mm from the left hand side.

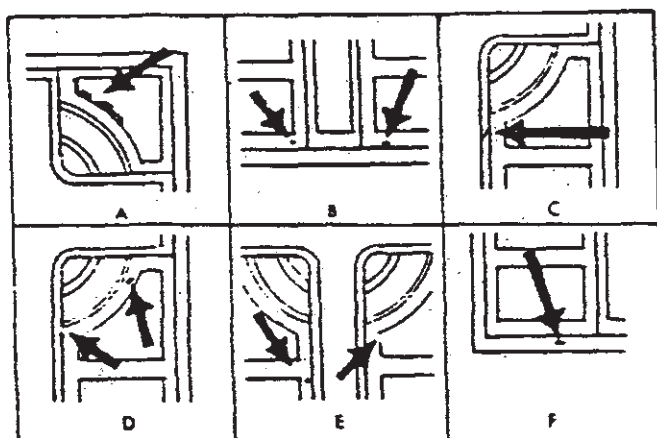


fig. 5 Transfer types, 'Broad' Cross

Partial setting of the sheet has been reported -

	C	D	E	F	D	
	C	A	B	C	A	B
margin	E	D	E	F	D	E
	C	A	B	C	A	B
	F	D	E	?	D	E
	?	A	B	C	A	B

The 1916 'Broad' Cross

This is in black and dark blue. This is a distinctive shade

with blurred print from the new stone, using the same six transfer types in a different setting. Sheet of seventy two stamps, 8 X 9 with line perforation 11.

The sheet setting is as follows -

A	B	A	B	C	A	B	C
D	E	D	E	F	D	E	F
B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F
A	B	A	B	C	A	B	C
D	E	D	E	F	D	E	F
C	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
F	F	D	E	F	D	E	F
A	B	A	B	C	A	B	C

19?? 'Narrow' Cross, type 1 (fig. 6)

This is in black and green. The vertical arm of the cross is narrower - 2mm - with fewer dots in the cross. 'EIRE' is also in smaller letters.

Line perforation of 11 and roulette 10.

The variety double horizontal roulette is recorded.

Imperforate examples in black, green and blue are possibly a trial printing.

The stamp is also found in black and blue, imperforate, which are possibly the result of a trial printing.

This issue must have been limited as examples are not very common. It is not known used on a contemporary cover.

Lithographed in sheets of fifty stamps, 10 X 5.



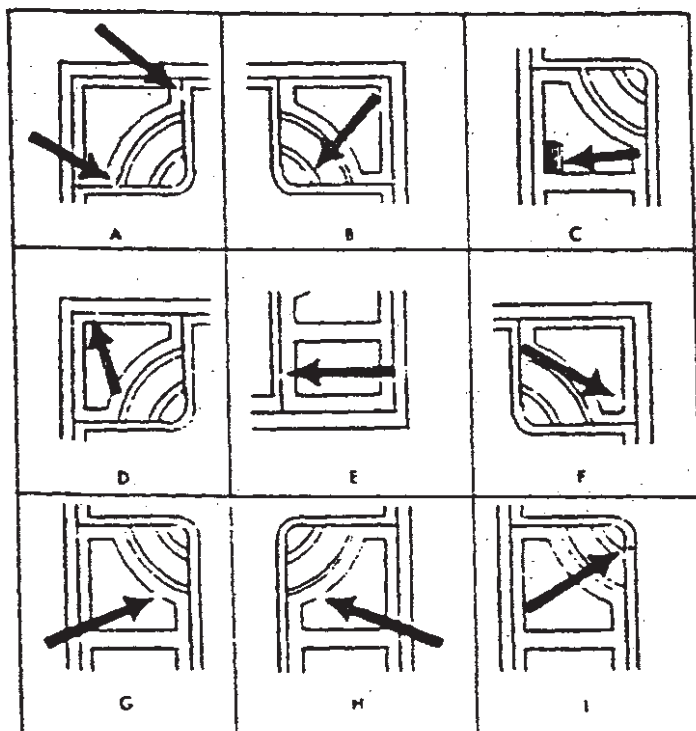
fig. 6

There are nine transfer types (fig. 7) -

- A. In the north west corner, the central curved line does not join with the horizontal. There is also a break in the outer line of the cross, 2mm from the top.
- B. In the north east corner, the short central curved line is broken near the bottom.
- C. In the south west shamrock segment, there is a break in the verticals, 1mm from the left.
- D. The top inner frame has a break, 2mm from the left.
- E. The outer right outline of the cross has a break, 2mm from the bottom.
- F. The north east shamrock segment has a break in the right vertical, 1mm from the bottom.
- G. The south west shamrock segment has a break in the curved outline, 2mm from the bottom.

- H. The south east shamrock segment has a break in the curved outline, 2mm from the bottom.
- I. There is a dot in the lower white margin of the cross, 1mm from the centre.

fig. 7 -
Transfer Types; 'Narrow'
Cross, Type 1.



The sheet setting is -

A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	C
D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F	F
G	H	I	G	H	I	G	H	I	I
A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	D
D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F	G

fig. 8;
"Narrow" Cross, type 2.



19?? 'Narrow' Cross, type 2 (fig. 8)

This is in black and dark blue and on thick hard wove paper. It is rouletted 7. The cross is narrow - 2mm - with extensive dotted shading.

The 'EIRE' in the centre has a short "IR" and the "E" has a horizontal cross serif.

The status of this printing is unknown. It is quite uncommon and, as insufficient material has been seen, it has not been possible to allocate transfer types or sheet size.

HIBERNIA AND WOLFHOUND

1908 'Broad' Crown (fig. 2)

'Hibernia' has a tall face with a narrow dress at bottom. The harp is fairly straight. The crown in the north west corner is broad and flat.

The issue is lithographed in black, green and orange on yellowish white paper. Perforations are line 11 and rough 11. The printing was in sheets of 100, 10 X 10. Stamps number 1 on rows 2 and 3 are inverted, giving tete-beche pairs. (fig. 9)



fig. 2 -
'Hibernia & Wolfhound'.

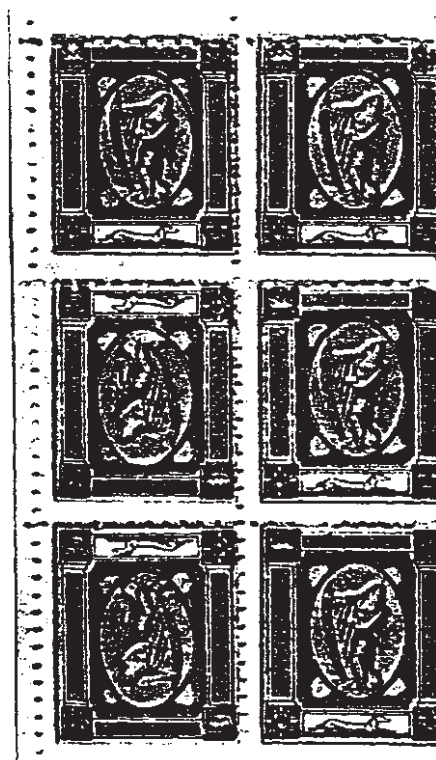


fig. 9 -
1908 'Hibernia & Wolfhound',
tete-beche, inverts from row 1.

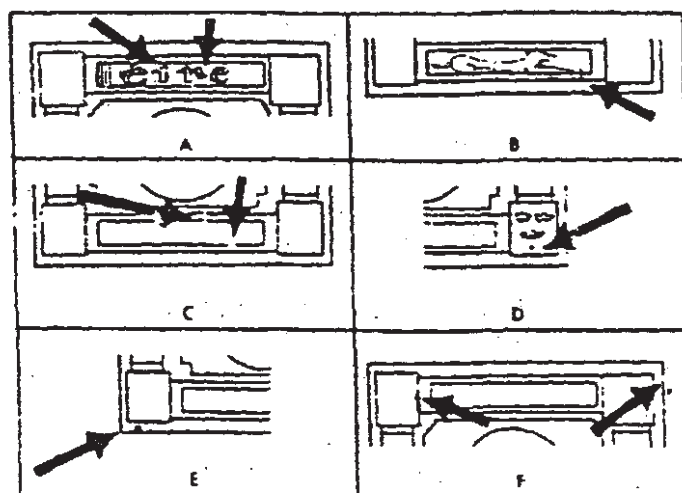


fig. 10, Transfer Types, Hibernia 'Broad' Crown

There are six transfer types (fig. 10) -

- A. There are white breaks above "I" and top left of final "E" of "EIRE".
- B. There is a double dash in front of fore paws of the hound.
- C. A break in the centre of the upper frame and the inner frame of the hound.
- D. A dot below the lower crown in the triple crown square in the south east corner.
- E. A dot in the bottom left of the south west Ulster square.
- F. A break in the right frame of the single crown square in the north west corner. There is also a dot beyond the right outer square, some 2mm from the top.

The sheet setting is -

C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<u>C</u>	D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F
<u>F</u>	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<u>F</u>	D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F
D	D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F
A	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
E	D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F
B	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
E	D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F
B	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C

- the underlined cliches are inverted.

1916 'Narrow' Crown (fig. 11)

'Hibernia' has a round face, short neck and a wide dress. The harp is curved. The crown in the north west corner is narrow

and tall.

The issue is lithographed in black, green and orange on white and toned paper.

Perforated line 11 and also known rouletted 10, being very rare. Imperforate examples are most likely to be proofs. Examples imperforate top and bottom are known. The label was printed in sheets of 50, 10 X 5.



fig. 11

There are nine transfer types (fig. 12)

- A. A break in the centre of the left vertical of the south east triple crown square.
- B. A break at the top of the stepped lines in the north west corner, above the frame.
- C. A break in the left outer frame, some 5.5mm from the top.
- D. A break in the inner frame, central above the hound.
- E. The left inner line does not join the single crown square in the north west corner.
- F. There is a break in the left inner frame, some 8.5mm from the top.
- G. There is a break in the right outer frame, 4mm from the top.
- H. A break in the bottom left corner of the triple crown square

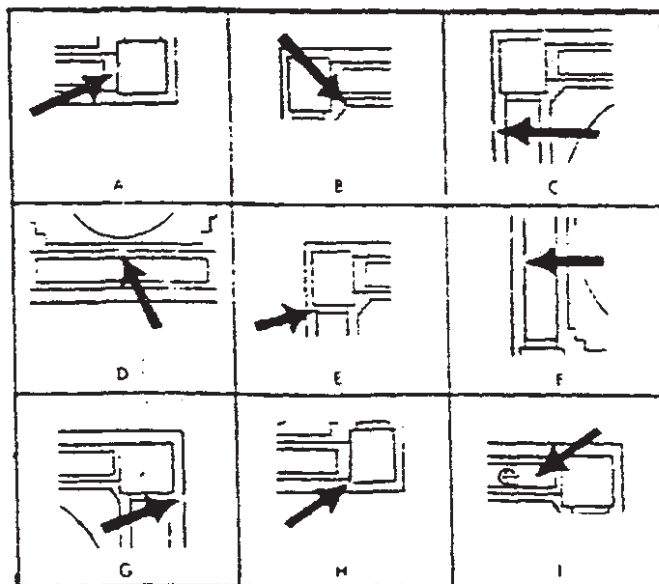


fig. 12, Transfer types, Hibernia 'Narrow' Crown

in the south east corner.

- I. there is a void in the vertical lines, to the right of "EIRE".

The sheet setting is -

A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	C
D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F	D
G	H	I	G	H	I	G	H	I	I
A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	B
D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F	E

The labels are found on covers and cards "postally used" in late 1907, 1908, 1909, 1916 and 1922. In some cases these are cancelled by a dated postmark. 'Philatelic covers' are found with the labels bearing postmarks of other dates.

In 1916, large quantities of the labels are reported to have been stolen from the offices of "Sinn Fein". Shortly afterwards they were on sale throughout Great Britain at enhanced prices. These were incorrectly described as 'Republican' or 'Rebel' stamps, issued by the Republican forces during Easter Week.

Should any reader have additional information on these labels, I would be grateful to receive same.

NOTES:

1. Fletcher, HGL; 'Irish Sinn Fein Propaganda Labels of 1908 and 1916',
THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIST, 1963; 3:45 & 64.
2. Fletcher, HGL: 'Irish Sinn Fein Propaganda Labels of 1908 and 1916',
THE REVEALER, 1974; 23:889.
3. Cooke, CJ, IRISH POSTAL HISTORY, 1935.
4. Feldman, D, THE HANDBOOK OF IRISH PHILATELY, 1968
5. Lane, JW, 'Politics and Stamps',
THE LONDON PHILATELIST, 1908; 17:98.

and various issues of SINN FEIN, (1908).

CHECK LIST

CELTIC CROSS

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|---------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Broad Cross | Black & Pale Blue
(clear and sharp print) | Perf 11 | Sheet NK
1908 issue |
| 2. | Black and Blue
(blurred print) | Perf 11 | Sheet 72
(9X8)
1916 issue |
-

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 3. Narrow Cross
(type 1) | Black and Green | Perf 11 | Sheet 50
(10X5)
date unknown |
| 3a. | Black and Green | Roul 11 | uncommon |
| 3b. | Black and Green | Imperf. | rare |
| 3c. | Black and Pale Blue | Imperf. | rare |
-

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------|------------------|
| 4. Narrow Cross
(type 2) | Black and Blue | Roul 7 | Sheet NK
rare |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------|------------------|

HIBERNIA AND WOLFHOUND

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Broad Crown | Black, Green and
Orange | Perf 11 | Sheet 100
(10X10)
1908 issue |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|

1a. " " " rough perf 11

1 var. tete beche pair (cliche 1, rows 2 & 3 inverted)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 2. Narrow Crown | Black, Green and
Orange | Perf 11 | Sheet 50
(10X5)
1916 issue. |
| 2a. | " " " | Roul 10 | uncommon |
| 2b. | " " " | Imperf | rare. |

A VISIT TO GROVER & Co. Ltd.
C.I.Dulin

Last year, Dave Hill published two articles in the National Philatelic Society's journal, STAMP LOVER. These were based on visits he made to the company of Grover & Co. Ltd., London.

Grover is, of course, an old established firm, dating back to the 1880s, who specialize in equipment for all phases of post-printing stamp production. The company's particular forte was, and indeed still is, the manufacture of perforating machines. Apart from supplying these all over the world, they were also the sole supplier to the British Post Office for well over half a century. This situation subsequently pertained to Ireland on becoming a separate entity.

Contained in the articles were not only illustrations of Grover perforating machines, but also, in the August 1991 issue, an illustration of an Irish booklet. Intriguingly, the illustration of the booklet was the extremely rare 2/-, Irish code 33-4. For those who may not be too familiar with Irish booklets, there still remain three - Codes 4, 5, and 6 - for which almost nothing is known about the advertising contained within.

Thanks to Dave Hill, who wrote an introduction note to the Managing Director, Mr A.W. Fenn, I was able to follow up the above mentioned booklet. Dave told me that it was not simply a booklet, but actually the entire make-up. This of course made the expectation of the visit all the more exciting.

No-one could have been more kinder or accomodating than Mr. Fenn. Not only had he taken the booklet make-up out of the archives, but also those order books which had any reference to Ireland.

BOOKLET 33-4;

The make-up was the standard 44 type of the time, 4 across and 11 down, with the printing inverted on alternate columns and black stitching along the sides and between columns 2 and 3. This, of course, corresponded to the specially printed booklet stamp sheets of 12 X 22 rather than the 12 X 20 - with gutter - of the contemporary GV stamp sheets for counter sale. The buff covers appeared to be those of the actual issued booklet. However the contents - blank gummed sheets with advertising interleaving - were likely to have been made up for Kennys Advertising Agency, the company who handled all of he booklet advertising for the Irish Free State Post Office in the 1930s period.

The advertisements on the covers were as follows -

Front; Silensol Motor Oils ets, McMullan Bros. (fig. 1)

Inside Front; Bank of Ireland

Inside Back; Circularising No Job
Too Big
No Job
Too Small
Kenny's Advertising Agency

Back; Kenny's Advertising Agency Dublin
65/68 Middle St. Dublin, C.9.



fig. 1; 2/- booklet, front cover.

The interleaving - 3 - were all variations of Kenny's advertisements, save for the front of interleaf three which was devoted to postal rates. Most of these variations - e.g. Irish Sweeps - are known in other booklet codes.

It is conceivable, but at this conjectural, that these interleaves were the ones actually used for 33-4. It is known that at the time, in the Depression years of the early 1930s, it was very difficult for Kenny's to obtain clients who would pay to sponsor advertisements in Irish booklets. Rather than have a blank page, Kenny's would insert some form of self promotion of their own! The postal rate page - which was a feature of most early booklets - may give some support to this particular thesis.

Perforators

Mr. Fenn discovered that Grover had manufactured two machines - numbers 1230 and 1236 - intended for delivery to Ireland. Both of these were Type 1 as illustrated in fig. 2. However, the date of manufacture was around the 1917 period. Since it is known that the Irish Free State did not start perforating their own stamps until November 1922 and that all overprinted stamps were supplied by the British Post Office in perforated sheets, this 1917 date is quite mysterious. There is no question that

the unoverprinted GV stamps used in Ireland between 1917 and 1922 were supplied in perforated form by the British Post Office. Unfortunately, there was no record of an actual delivery date, as opposed to manufacturing date, in Grover's records.

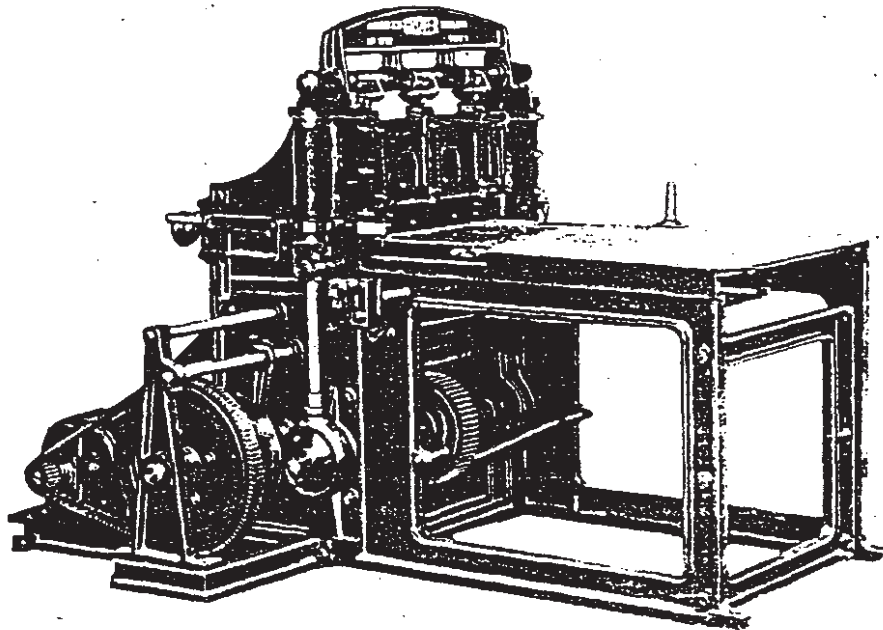


fig. 2; The Grover Type 1 Perforator, for belt or motor drive.

What then to make of the "missing" five years? It is scarcely likely that the machines were lying idle until 1922. Perhaps they were delivered to the British Post Office who, in turn, either used them or kept them in stock for eventual shipment to Ireland. It seems inconceivable that imperforate postage stamp sheets would have been sent to Dublin for local perforating before 1922. In discussing this with Patrick Williams, he made the suggestion that perhaps the machines were intended not for postage stamps, but for Revenue stamps! This is nominally an attractive suggestion, but in turn, raises some other problems.

The output of the Type 1 machine was comparatively prodigious. At top speed it could handle seven sheets at a time and was capable of eighty "beats" or "strokes" a minute. Translated into sheets of postage stamps, this would be the equivalent to about two thousand sheets per hour. When it is realised that these two machines alone were used for all Irish postage stamp perforating until well into the 1950s, then it can be seen that two machines for non-postage application might well be a little excessive. However, the possibility still remains, for the non-postage adhesive stamps did not come in the same one size sheets as postage stamps. Thus there would have been, inevitably, a much greater degree of non-productive down-time.

There was no indication of delivery to Ireland - at that period - of the various perforating combs that would have been needed to accomodate all the very different non-adhesive stamp types. In any case, it would have been likely that these would have been supplied to the British Post Office - as indeed were the



Portion of single "comb", full size
(above)

(below)
Illustrating "comb" at second "beat" of
the machine.

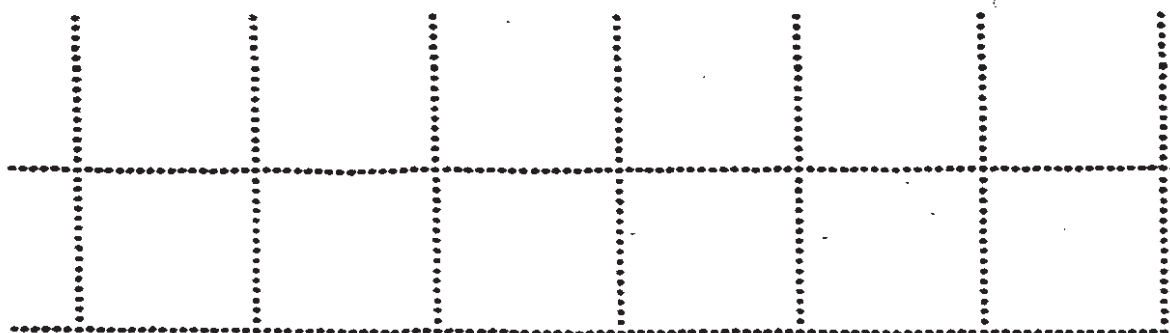


fig. 2; Grover Type 1 Perforating Machine
& Comb Die

two machines for Ireland. It was only after the Free State came into being that there are records of perforating combs sent there directly.

All in all, a fascinating problem!

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