



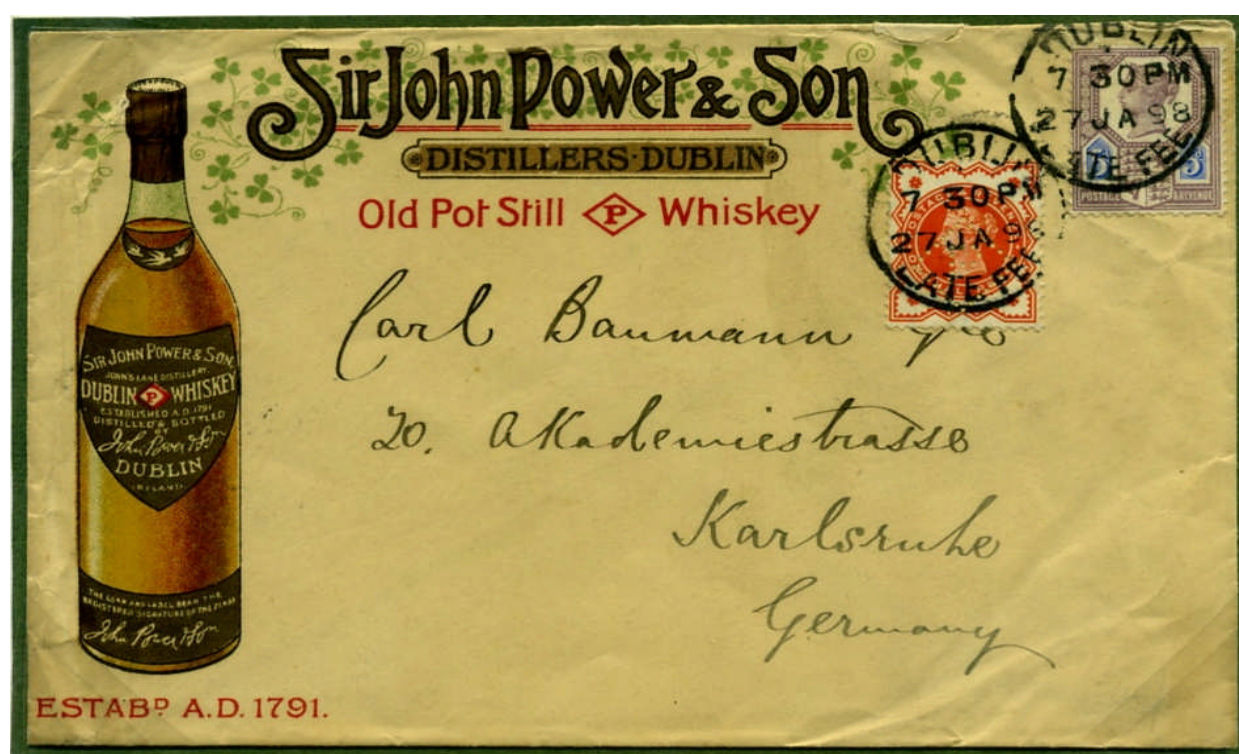
Volume 2009

Irish Philately

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THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE



A fine advertising cover to Germany - 1898

(article by P Wood on page 77)

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EDITORIAL

One of the joys of the Editor's job is that one never knows what is going to happen next. To be truthful, I was struggling a little bit for material for this issue and then it all happened in a couple of days, at a time when I was also hard pushed at work (I'll revert to that in a moment). In the space of three days Barry Cousins, who I knew was going to prepare an article for us, announced he would like six pages rather than the three he had first suggested, our former secretary Peter Wood produced the magnificent cover shown on the front page and I was to receive the telephone call leading to my challenge for this issue (page 83).

Thanks go to Peter, Barry and all our other contributors, but needless to say, I always need more. I do urge you, whatever your literary prowess, to resolve that, as soon as the Christmas festivities are past, you make it your New Year resolution to dig something out for inclusion in Irish Philately.

I mentioned work. I think most of you know I am trying to wind down my personal work involvement so that I have more time to 'play stamps'. To achieve this is proving remarkably difficult. I keep thinking I am nearly there and then something else happens. That 'something else' has meant I have not done as much as I would have wished with the website, but good news is on the horizon and may have even happened by the time you read this.

Thanks to a lot of hard work from Philip Kane in Dublin and the generosity of the donation made to the Circle some years ago by Bill Zellers, it has been possible to scan all past issues of Irish Philately so as to put these onto the members' section of the website (a very good reason for becoming a member). Michael Priestley's 'Master Index' is also available in the members' section and I do really believe that when researching almost any Irish Philatelic related subject you will find a valuable hoard of information available to you....that is once

we have it all there. We are working hard on the project and you should see the result soon.

My wife, Nicky, once again accompanied me to Stampa this year. It was good to see so many old friends. Dublin is certainly home from home for us; but I came away slightly disappointed. No criticism of the Stampa Council who do an excellent job every year often under trying circumstances. Was it the weather? Was it the incredibly expensive Euro? Was it that I found very little to buy? Was it that the exhibits perhaps lacked the class of earlier years? Or, am I getting stale; after all, I had not got round to exhibiting this year and I know from what was there that 95% or more of you had likewise failed. Just as this journal needs contributions from all quarters, Stampa does likewise.... so there is another New Year resolution for us all! Even, Nicky has threatened to exhibit next year. I do wonder what she may find to show!

After Stampa we drove down to Kilkenny to catch up with cousins (Nicky has them dotted over most parts of Ireland). Needless to say, I called in at a Post Office, to buy a few stamps for postcards (Thurles Head Office to be precise). Were any commemorative stamps readily available? NO – NOT ONE. I do hope that An Post read these words. I do seriously believe you are shooting yourselves in the foot. Unless the great Irish public and those from further afield actually see the commemorative stamps they will never collect them (and there is nothing wrong with the majority of the designs – Royal Mail in the UK please note). If the stamps are not seen, they will not be saved and ultimately philatelic revenue will trickle to nothing. That cannot be in the best interests of An Post, our dealer friends and ultimately ourselves as collectors. AN POST – from what I see you are running good postal service with a dedicated team but do please WAKE UP to the opportunity you are missing.

Stan – 22 November 2009

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The aim of this article is twofold, firstly to be informative to the intermediate collector and secondly to be thought provoking to the experts amongst our membership. In the case of the second category, the writer seeks input on certain topics, which are highlighted, later in this study.

In essence the article attempts to correlate the plates and controls in use by the printers of the typographed British stamps, together with the settings in use by the overprinters.

The low value stamps were printed by Harrison & Sons, with the exception of the 6d. value, which was printed by Somerset House.

The overprint contracts were undertaken by the Dollard Printing House, Dublin Ltd. and by Alex. Thom & Co. Ltd. Dollard undertook overprints for stamps T1 to T11, from issues 1T and 2T, whilst Thom produced overprints for stamps T9A to T11A, from issue 2T, following the termination of Dollard's contract in June 1922 and for all subsequent overprinted stamps, from issues 4T, 6T, 8T and 9T.

In this article overprinted stamps are identified by a 'T' prefix, this system of referencing, being adopted by Feldman, MacDonnell Whyte and Hibernian.

As background, overprints were commissioned by the postal authority, with the approval of the 'British Government', as an interim measure, to cover the transition period, 'Provisional Government'. These overprints are commonly referred to as the 'Rialtas' 5 line issues.

With delays in releasing dedicated definitive stamps by the Irish Postal Authorities, following the recognition of the 'Irish Free State', on the 5th December 1922, it was necessary to issue new overprints, acknowledging this change of status. This latter issue is referred to by philatelists as the 'Saorstat' 3 line issue, which remained in circulation, until divers dates in 1923.

To study the subject of plates, controls and settings, with any degree of accuracy, collectors must be in possession of corner control blocks of six stamps.

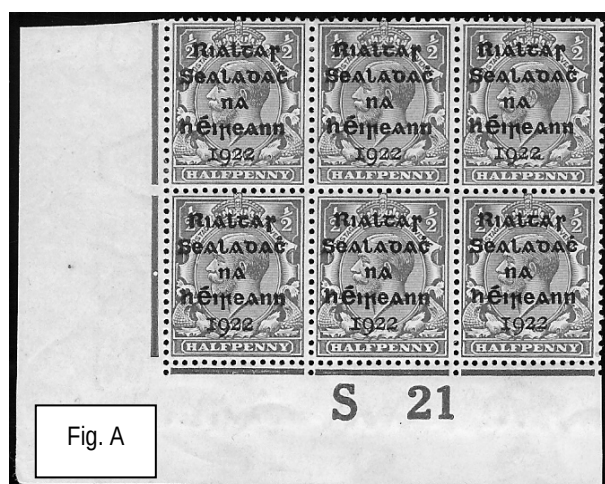


Figure A, displays a typical Dollard sample control block, reference CL3.

The defining features, in terms of plate, control and setting, being as follows.

Printers plate 68, displays a dot in row 20, inner of the left side rule (jubilee line), at 11.5mm. As to the control, the 'S' of 'S21' is perfect, with the vertical of the '1' in '21' slightly to the right of the adjacent jubilee line.

Control characteristics are as a result of Dulin's research. However as a point of caution, whilst the characteristics highlighted by Dulin are useful as a guide, they are not necessarily consistent.

Overprint is from Dollard's stereo setting 2, the characteristics being: Row19/2- 'R' over 'Se'. Row19/3- 'R' over 'Se', 'l' over 'nA' and 'ei' over '1'. Row 20/1- 'ei' over '1'. Row 20/2- 'l' over left shank of 'n' in 'nA' and 'ei' over '1'. Row 20/3- 'R' over 'Se' and 'l' over right shank of 'n' in 'nA'.

Source of data.

For the printer's plate characteristics, reference is made to Stanley Gibbons 'Four Kings' catalogue.

For correlation between the printer's plate and the control in use, reference can be made to a book by MacDonnell/Williams, published as a tribute to the late Cyril Dulin, title 'Ireland: The Overprints 1922-1935'.

With regard to the characteristics of the Dollard stereo settings, reference can be made to the author's article in the IPC journal of March 2009.

For the Thom issues the Hibernian 2009 catalogue details the overprint setting characteristics for all values and in the case of the 1d. value setting measurements, are also highlighted.

However as a comprehensive overview of all aspects in one publication, readers with interests in this subject matter, are recommended to acquire the latest edition of the author's 2010 Compendium of reference data, title 'Overprinted Stamps of Ireland 1922-1935'.

This said there remain several cases where the identification of the printer's plate is not possible, even with corner blocks, from rows 19 & 20, stamps 1,2 & 3. Even more complicated is the identification of plates and their associated controls, for the 1d. value. This difficulty arising as the control for this value occurs under the stamp from R20/11 and in most cases, the relative plate characteristics, occur outside the spectrum of stamps 10, 11 & 12 from rows 19 & 20.

Listings

In order to avoid confusion and misinterpretation, the following points are explained in more detail, in relation to the listings, which follow.

Column (1) tables the 'Control Reference' numbering system adopted by the author. The CL, nomenclature used is generally as promulgated by Feldman and MacDonnell Whyte.

However, where deemed necessary additions have been made, together with the inclusion of 'GB' and 'DB' suffixes, which highlight examples known with grey-black or dull black inks. Thom examples with dull black ink are referred to, as proof/trial overprints.

Column (2) highlights the controls in use by the printers. The suffix (I) refers to sheets with imperforate bottom margins, whereas (P) identifies sheets with a perforated bottom margin.

The control letters in use identify the sequence of printing and the numerals the year of production.

For overprints, the earliest control in use was Q20. This indicates that the sheet was printed as the last batch in 1920. The last control recorded with overprints arose from control W23, which was from the last batch printing in 1923.

However it is not beyond the realms of probability that some sheets, with earlier controls were inadvertently assigned to the overprinters. The rationale behind this assumption being that some stamp errors have been recorded, which from all intents and purposes, only occurred with pre Q20 controls.

The most commonly found controls are S21, S22 and T22, these being in line with the time frame, when sheets were regularly released to Dollard and Thom for overprinting.

Column (3) lists the printer's plates in use, during the period when sheets were assigned for overprinting. However in many cases plates listed were not supplied to the overprinters, in connection with the various issues, hence the reference in the table heading to "Possible Plates".

Any reference to printer's plates is generally the philatelic plate numbers, as allocated by Stanley Gibbons. The exception to this rule, being where plates have been identified, as a result of studies by Dulin and others, which are not recorded by Gibbons. In such cases arbitrary letters (T to Z) have been allocated.

The author has been in contact with the Curator of Philately at the British Postal Museum, who states that the numbering system was "concocted by philatelists some time ago".

However he also stated that examples in the museum were "printer's proof sheets, with no control numbers". With this situation in mind, we have little choice, but to use the so called concocted philatelic numbering/identification process.

Column (4) lists the overprint settings in use, for each issue. In the case of Sets 1T & 2T by Dollard, settings were made from three stereo types, together with a combination setting made up from stereos 1 and 3.

The Dollard stereos were taken from 3 x 5 formes, as a result of which sixteen stereos were required to make up a full sheet setting, eight stereos being required for each pane of 120 stamps.

With regard to the Thom overprints arising from Set

2T, Thom on assuming the contract, utilised Dollard's stereo setting 2 configuration.

For Set 4T, Thom used five settings, for Set 6T nine settings and for Set 8T two settings.

Sets 4T and 6T adopted 4 x 4 stereo patterns for each pane, as a result of which six stereos per pane had to be cut into 4 x 3 segments, in order to accommodate a pane of stamps.

An exception to this pattern format was in relation to setting 1, where a 12 x 10 stereo was deployed, thus requiring no adjustment to fit a pane.

For Set 8T, Thom employed an electrotyped, 240 cliché master setting, as a result of which the requirement to arrange stereos was eliminated.

The 'Saorstat' issue Set 9T utilised five, 3 line settings. For this issue the make up of the stereos varied from setting to setting. With setting 1 a 12 x 10 stereo for each pane was in use. For setting 2, the 4 x 4 arrangements as used for sets 4T & 6T was deployed and for settings 3, 4, 5 a basic 10 x 6 stereo was in use.

This format required the basic stereo to be subdivided, in order to fit the pane requirements. The normal pane layout being made up of one full 10 x 6 stereo, a 10 x 4 part stereo, together with one 2 x 6 and one 2 x 4 part stereos.

In the cases of overprints from Sets 4T, 6T, 8T and 9T, the settings can be identified by the variations in measurement between the overprints from adjacent stamps 1, 2 & 3 from rows 19 & 20, or in the case of the 1d. value, from stamps 10, 11 & 12.

Furthermore as an aid to identification, overprint characteristics, which arise with the various settings, also play an important role, when establishing the settings in use.

CONTROL CL REF.	CONTROL NUMBER	POSSIBLE PRINTER'S PLATES	OVERPRINT SETTINGS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
DOLLARD OVERPRINT. SET 1T. BLACK INK FEBRUARY 1922			
OVERPRINTED STAMP T1 - VALUE ½d. N14 GREEN			
CL1	R21(I)	68,70,71 72,76	1
CL1GB	R21(I)		1
CL2	R21(P)		1
CL2GB	R21(P)		1
CL3	S21(I)	68,70,71 72,76 Y	1,2,3
CL3GB	S21(I)		1,2,3
CL4	S21(P)		2,3
CL4GB	S21(P)		2,3
CL5	S22(I)	68,70 71,72	1,2,3
CL5GB	S22(I)		1,2,3
CL6	S22(P)		1,2,3
CL6GB	S22(P)		1,2,3
			Cont.

CONTROL CL REF.	CONTROL NUMBER	POSSIBLE PRINTER'S PLATES	OVERPRINT SETTINGS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
OVERPRINTED STAMP T2 - VALUE 1d. N16 SCARLET/CARMINE			
CL7	S21(I)	75b,87b 96,106	1
CL7GB	S21(I)		1
CL8	S21(P)		1
CL8GB	S21(P)		1
CL9	S22(I)	83,86,87b 91a,94,96 97b,114a	1,2,3
CL9GB	S21(I)		1,2,3
CL10	S22(P)		1,2,3
CL10GB	S22(P)		1,2,3
CL11	T22(I)	86,87b,91a 92,93,94 96,106	2
CL11GB	T22(I)		2
CL12	T22(P)		2
CL12GB	T22(P)		2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T3 - VALUE 2½d. N21 BLUE			
CL13	S21(I)	10,11b	1
CL14	S21(I)		1
CL14a	S22(I)		2
CL14b	S22(P)		2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T4 - VALUE 3d. N22 VIOLET			
CL15	S21(I)	8a,11	1
CL15GB	S21(I)		1
CL16	S21(P)		1
CL16GB	S21(P)		1
CL17	S22(I)		2,3
CL17GB	S22(I)		2,3
CL18	S22(P)		1,2
CL18GB	S22(P)		1,2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T5 - VALUE 4d. N23 GREY-GREEN			
CL19	R21(I)	1e,2d,3b	1
CL20	S21(I)	1e,2d,3b	1
CL21	S21(P)		1
CL22	S22(I)	1e or 2d	1
CL23	S22(P)	1e,2d	1
OVERPRINTED STAMP T6 - VALUE 5d. N25 BROWN			
CL24	S21(I)	2c,3	1
CL24GB	S21(I)		1
CL25	S21(P)		1
CL25GB	S21(P)		1
CL26	S22(I)	2c,4	1,2
CL26GB	S22(I)		1,2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T7 - VALUE 9d. N29 AGATE			
CL27	S21(I)	1f,2b,3b	1,2
CL27GB	S21(I)		1,2
CL28	S21(P)		1
CL28GB	S21(P)		1
CL29	S22(P)	2b,3b	2
CL29GB	S22(P)		2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T8 - VALUE 10d. N31			
CL30	Q21(P)	1c,2b	1
CL30GB	Q21(P)		1
CL31	S21(I)	1c,2b	1
CL31GB	S21(I)		1

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
CL32	S21(P)	1c,2b	1
CL32GB	S21(P)		1
CL33	S22(P)	1c,2b	2
CL33GB	S22(P)		2
DOLLARD OVERPRINT. SET 2T. RED INK APRIL - JUNE 1922			
OVERPRINTED STAMP T 9 - VALUE 2½d. N21 BLUE			
CL34	S21(I)	10,11b	1 + 3
CL35	S21(P)		1 + 3
CL36	S22(I)	8b,10,11b	1 + 3,2
CL37	S22(P)		1 + 3,2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T10 - VALUE 4d. N23 GREY-GREEN			
CL38	R21(I)	1e,2d,3b	1 + 3
CL39	R21(P)		1 + 3
CL40	S21(I)	1e,2d,3b	2
CL40a	S22(I)	1e or 2d	1 + 3
CL40b	S22(P)		1 + 3
OVERPRINTED STAMP T11 - VALUE 9d. N29 AGATE			
CL43	S21(I)	1f,2b,3b	1+3
CL44	S21(P)		1+3
CL45	S22(I)	2b,3b	2
CL46	S22(P)		2
Overprint setting 1+ 3 refers to the 'Combination Setting'			
THOM OVERPRINT, USING DOLLARD STEREOS SET 2T. CARMINE INK JULY 1922			
OVERPRINTED STAMP T9A - VALUE 2½d. N21 BLUE (Overprint with carmine ink difficult to detect)			
CL37a	S22(I)	8b,10,11b	2
CL37b	S22(P)		2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T10A - VALUE 4d. N23 GREY-GREEN			
CL41	S22(I)	1e,2d	2
CL42	S22(P)		2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T11A - VALUE 9d. N29 AGATE			
CL47	S22(P)	2b,3b	2
CL47a	S22(I)	2b or 3b	2



T9. CL37 S22 Perforated
Overprint Setting 2
Printer's Plate 10

CONTROL CL REF.	CONTROL NUMBER	POSSIBLE PRINTER'S PLATES	OVERPRINT SETTINGS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
THOM OVERPRINT. SET 4T. BLACK INK, NARROW SETTING FEBRUARY 1922			
OVERPRINTED STAMP T15 - VALUE 1½d. N18 RED-BROWN			
CL48	Q20(I)	20a,21,25,40	2,3
CL49	Q20(P)	X	1,1A,2,3
CL50	Q21n(I)	12b,18,19,20a	1,2
CL51	Q21n(P)	21,24a,24b 29,Y,Z	1,1A,2
CL50a	Q21w(I)	12b,20a,21	1,2
CL51a	Q21w(P)	26,29	1,1A,2
CL52	T22(I)	8b,12b,17,18	9
CL52DB	T22(I)	20a,22,24b,25	9
CL53	T22(P)	26,27,29,31,32	9
CL53DB	T22(P)	33,34,35,36 T,V,W	9
OVERPRINTED STAMP T16 - VALUE 2d. Die 1. N19 ORANGE			
CL54	S21(I)	2c,7b,8b,12	1,2
CL55	S21(P)	16,17a,18b,19b	2
CL56	S22(I)	6,9b,12,16	1,1A,2,3
CL57	S22(P)	17a,18b,19b	1,2,3
CL58	T22(I)	8b,9b,12	2,5
CL58DB	T22(I)	15,16,17b,	5
CL59	T22(P)	18b,19b	2,5
CL59DB	T22(P)		5
OVERPRINTED STAMP T17 - VALUE 2d. Die 2. N20 ORANGE			
CL60	S22(I)	1,2,3,6	1,1A,2,3
CL61	S22(P)		1,2,3
CL62	T22(I)	1,2,3,4	2,5
CL62DB	T22(I)	5,6, X	5
OVERPRINTED STAMP T18 - VALUE 6d. N26 PURPLE			
CL63	S21(I)	4,6,7	1,1A,2
CL64	T22(I)	6,7	2,3
OVERPRINTED STAMP T19 - VALUE 1s. N32 BISTRE-BROWN			
CL65	R21(I)	3,4,5c,7	1,1A,2
CL66	R21(P)		1,2
CL67	S21(I)	3,4	2
CL68	S21(P)		2
CL69	S22(I)	3,4	1,2,3
CL70	S22(P)		2,3
THOM OVERPRINT. SET 6T. BLUE- BLACK & RED INKS, NARROW SETTING JULY - NOVEMBER 1922			
OVERPRINTED STAMP T25 - VALUE ½d. N14 GREEN			
CL71	T22(I)	48,66b,68	5,6,7,8,9,10
CL71DB	T22(I)	70,71,72,(73)	10
CL72	T22(P)	74,75,76	5,6,7,8,9
OVERPRINTED STAMP T26 - VALUE 1d. N16 SCARLET			
CL73	S22(I)	83,86,87b,91a	4,5,6,7,10
CL74	S22(P)	94,96,97b,114a	4,5,6,7,9
			Cont.



T15. CL50 Q21n Imperforated
Overprint Setting 2
Printer's Plate 12b

Q21n represents the narrow setting, between the control letter 'Q' and the '2' in '21', whereas Q21w represents the wider setting.

Q21w is some 1.5mm wider spaced compared to examples from Q21n.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
CL75	T22(I)	86,87b,91a	4,5,6,7,9,10
CL75DB	T22(I)	92,93,94	10
CL76	T22(P)	96,106	4,5,6,7,9,10
OVERPRINTED STAMP T27 - VALUE 1½d. N18 RED-BROWN			
CL77	T22(I)	8b,12b,17,18 20a,22,24b,25,	2,3,4,5,6,8,9
CL78	T22(P)	26,27,29,31,34 35,36,T,V,W	2,3,4,5,6,9
OVERPRINTED STAMP T28 - VALUE 2d. Die 1. N19 ORANGE			
CL79	S22(I)	6,9b,12,16	2,3,4,5
CL80	S22(P)	17a,18b,19b	2,3,4,5
CL81	T22(I)	8b,9b,12,15	2,3,4,5,7
CL82	T22(P)	16,17b,18b,19b	2,3,4,5
OVERPRINTED STAMP T29 - VALUE 2d. Die 2. N20 ORANGE			
CL83	S22(I)	1,2,3,6	2,3,4
CL84	S22(P)		2,4
CL85	T22(I)	1,2,3	2,3,4,5,6,7
CL86	T22(P)	4,5,6,X	8,9,10
OVERPRINTED STAMP T30 - VALUE 2½d. N21 BLUE			
CL87	T22(I)	8b,10,11b	8
CL88	T22(P)		9
OVERPRINTED STAMP T31 - VALUE 3d. N22 VIOLET			
CL89	T22(I)	5,8a,11	2,3,4,5,6,9
CL89DB	T22(I)	X	5
CL90	T22(P)		3,5,6,8,9,10
OVERPRINTED STAMP T32 - VALUE 4d. N23 GREY-GREEN			
CL91	S22(P)	1e,2d	9
CL92	T22(I)		9
CL93	T22(P)		8
			Cont.



T29. CL86 T22 Perforated
Overprint Setting 5
Printer's Plate 3 (Printing B)
R20/2 displays break in the frame below 'N' of 'PENCE'

CONTROL CL REF.	CONTROL NUMBER	POSSIBLE PRINTER'S PLATES	OVERPRINT SETTINGS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
OVERPRINTED STAMP T33 - VALUE 5d. N25 BROWN			
CL94	T22(I)	3,4	5,6,7,8,10
CL94DB	T22(I)	X	5
OVERPRINTED STAMP T34 - VALUE 6d. N26 PURPLE			
CL95	T22(I)	6,7	2,3,4
CL96	U22(I)		5,6,8,9,10
OVERPRINTED STAMP T35 - VALUE 9d. N29 AGATE			
CL97	S22(I)	2b,3b	4,8
CL98	S22(P)		4
OVERPRINTED STAMP T36 - VALUE 9d. N30 OLIVE-GREEN			
CL99	T22(I)	1f,2b,3b	9
CL100	T22(P)		9
OVERPRINTED STAMP T37 - VALUE 10d. N31 TURQUOISE			
CL101	S22(I)	1c,2b	7,9
CL102	S22(P)		5,7
CL103	T22(I)	2b	Setting not known & status of control with ovpt. to be validated
CL103DB	T22(I)		
CL104	T22(P)		
OVERPRINTED STAMP T38 - VALUE 1s. N32 BISTRE-BROWN			
CL105	S22(I)	3,4	2
CL106	S22(P)		2
CL107	T22(I)	3,4	5,6,8,9
CL108	T22(P)	Z	5,6,8,9
THOM OVERPRINT SET 8T. BLUE-BLACK INK, WIDE SETTING NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1922			
OVERPRINTED STAMP T42 - VALUE ½d. N14 GREEN			
CL109	U22(I)	48,58,66b,68	1,2
CL110	U22(P)	70,71,72,(73)	1,2
CL110DB	U22(P)	74,75,77,X	1 or 2

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
OVERPRINTED STAMP T43 - VALUE 1d. N16 SCARLET			
CL111	T22(I)	86,87b,91a,92 93,94,96,106	1,2
CL112	U22(I)	87b,91b,92	1,2
CL113	U22(P)	93,97b,106	1 or 2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T44 - VALUE 1½d. N18 RED-BROWN			
CL114	T22(I)	8b,12b,17,18 20a,22,24b,25	1,2
CL115	T22(P)	26,27,29,31,32 33,34,35,36 T,V,W	1,2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T45 - VALUE 2d. N20 ORANGE			
CL116	T22(I)	1,2,3,4,5,6	1
CL117	T22(P)	X	1,2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T46 - VALUE 1s. N32 BISTRE-BROWN			
CL118	T22(I)	3,4	1,2
CL119	T22(P)	Z	2



T43. CL111 T22 Imperforated
Overprint Setting 2
Printer's Plate 87b

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
THOM 'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SET 9T. BLUE-BLACK & RED INKS DECEMBER 1922 - JANUARY 1923			
OVERPRINTED STAMP T47 - VALUE ½d. N14 GREEN			
CL120	T22(I)	48,66b,68	3,4,5
CL120DB	T22(I)	70,71,72,(73)	4
CL121	T22(P)	74,75,76	3,4,5
CL122	U22(I)	48,58,66b,68	1,2
CL122DB	U22(I)	70,71,72,(73)	1
CL123	U22(P)	74,75,77,X	1,2
CL124	U23(I)	48,64,66b,68	3,4
CL125	U23(P)	71,72,(73),74	3,4,5
CL125DB	U23(P)	75,76,77, X, Z	4

CONTROL CL REF.	CONTROL NUMBER	POSSIBLE PRINTER'S PLATES	OVERPRINT SETTINGS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
OVERPRINTED STAMP T48 - VALUE 1d. N16 SCARLET			
CL126	T22(I)	86,87b,91a	1,2
CL126DB	T22(I)	92,93,94	1
CL127	T22(P)	96,106	1,2,3
CL127DB	T22(P)		3
CL128	U22(I)	87b,91b,92	1,2,3
CL129	U22(P)	93,97b,116	1,2,3
CL130	U23(I)	91b,92,	2
CL131	U23(P)	93,97b	2,3
CL131DB	U23(P)		3
OVERPRINTED STAMP T49 - VALUE 1½d. N18 RED-BROWN			
CL132	T22(I)	8b,12b,17,18	1
CL133	T22(P)	20a,22,24b,25	1
CL133DB	T22(P)	26,27,29,31,32 33,34,35,36 T,V,W	1
CL134	U22(I)	20a,25,27,31	2
CL135	U22(P)	32,33,34	2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T50 - VALUE 2d. Die 2. N20 ORANGE			
CL136	T22(I)	1,2,3	1,2
CL136DB	T22(I)	4,5,6	2
CL137	T22(P)	X	1,2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T51 - VALUE 2½d. N21 BLUE			
CL138	T22(I)	8b,10,11b	1,3
CL139	T22(P)		3
CL140	U23(I)	10,11b	3
CL141	U23(P)		3
OVERPRINTED STAMP T52 - VALUE 3d. N22 VIOLET			
CL142	U22(I)	8b,11	1,2
CL142DB	U22(I)		2
CL143	U22(P)		1,2
OVERPRINTED STAMP T53 - VALUE 4d. N23 GREY-GREEN			
CL144	T22(P)	1e or 2d	1 or 3
CL145	U22(I)	1e,2d	1,3
CL146	U23(I)	2d,3b	3
CL147	V23(P)	2d,3b	3
OVERPRINTED STAMP T54 - VALUE 5d. N25 BROWN			
CL148	T22(I)	3,4	3,5
CL149	T22(P)	X	2,3,5
CL149DB	T22(P)		2
CL150	U23(I)	3,4	3
OVERPRINTED STAMP T55 - VALUE 6d. N26 PURPLE			
CL151	U22(I)	6,7	1,2,3,4,5
CL151DB	U22(I)		1,2,4
CL152	V23(I)	6,7	3,4
CL152DB	V23(I)		4
CL153	V23(P)	6 or 7	4
CL154	W23(I)	6	3,4
			Cont.



T47. CL122DB U22 Imperforated. Dull Black Ink Overprint
Overprint Setting 1

Printer's Plate 73. Plate not assigned by S.G with U22 Control

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
OVERPRINTED STAMP T56 - VALUE 9d. N30 OLIVE-GREEN			
CL155	T22(I)	1f,2b,3b	3
CL156	T22(P)		1,2,3
CL157	U23(I)	1f,2b,3b	3
CL158	U23(P)		3
OVERPRINTED STAMP T57 - VALUE 10d. N31 TURQUOISE			
CL159	T22(I)	2b	3
CL160	T22(P)	2b	1,2,3
CL160DB	T22(P)	2b	(1,2 ?) 3
OVERPRINTED STAMP T58 - VALUE 1s. N32 BISTRE-BROWN			
CL161	T22(I)	3,4,Z	2
CL162	U22(I)	3,4	1,2
CL163	U22(P)		1,2
CL164	U23(I)	3,4	3,4
CL165	U23(P)		3,4

From the writer's standpoint, this may be the first time that a correlation between Controls, Printer's Plates and Overprint Settings has been attempted. As such, glitches are bound to prevail, however it is hoped that with input from readers, we can work towards fine tuning the reference data.

For intermediate collectors, it is hoped that the subject will fuel their interest in this intriguing aspect of philately and secondly make them review more closely the control blocks in their collections.

With the invaluable support and help from Tony Best, a fellow member of the IPC, the writer is committed to continue work on this topic.

We both request help on two fronts. The first being to receive readers' input, listing items in their collections, giving the CL reference, together with the attributable plates and overprint settings. This will help us work towards a more definitive allocation of plates in use with overprints. Secondly to join us in forming a study group, to tackle the problem area, relating to the 1d. value, where much research has to be done to link the controls with the printer's plates.

A FAVOURITE ITEM – THE WHISKEY COVER – Peter Wood

A favourite item is the illustrated envelope shown on the front cover. Advertising Powers Irish Whiskey it is in my Thematic collection showing distilling as an Irish industry. The halfpenny stamp has the security perfin of the company, a letter “P” within a diamond which is the company trademark as shown on the cover. This gives the item a true philatelic significance as a proving cover for that perfin.

Also it is bright and colourful and if one thinks that philately is primarily a visual hobby perhaps that is the most important factor of all. A further feature is the use of that halfpenny stamp to pay the Late Fee.

Perhaps my next philatelic project should be to mount alongside it a label soaked off an empty bottle of the product !

LATE FEES - SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS - Editor

Peter’s item, described above, set me thinking on the subject of ‘Late Fees’. It did not take me long to realise that I knew relatively little about them.

A quick check of Michael Priestley’s ‘Master Index’ to Irish Philately has revealed that no specialized article on the subject has ever appeared in Irish Philately. A search through Fred Dixon’s Random Notes (see also page 91 in this issue) revealed only one piece on the subject, written in March 1961, which I shall repeat in full here –

‘When did the “Late Fee” system start in Ireland? The query is one of the many inspired by my recent attempts to analyse the postal charges on some of the 19th century letters. One letter from Belfast to Edinburgh in 1831 and charged 3/6½d fits with the then current rates only if an extra 6d can be found. It bears the Belfast “LATE” in red but only one Belfast date-stamp whereas most Late letters of the period were “Too Late” and were datestamped again on the following morning. So I suggest that the “Late” in this case signified “Late Fee” although its normal use in Belfast was certainly “Too Late”.’

Thus Fred Dixon dates the system back to at least 1831. When did it finish? No doubt some of our Dublin members have the knowledge. Certainly the system lasted until the withdrawal of the Travelling Post Offices in 1995 by which time the charge had gone up to 15p. I cannot imagine it still exists in this age of automated mail sorting and with mobile ‘phones, e-mails and the like is it still needed?

Then, what did one get for the Late Fee charge? I believe all it achieved was that the item was sent with the evening’s mail dispatch having been posted in special boxes which were emptied after the final collection had been made from the ‘normal’ post boxes. It did not guarantee any special treatment at the office of delivery – that was only achieved by using the Express service.

By way of example, the 1953 PO Guide of which I

do have a copy states ‘A letter which is too late for local posting can be taken by express messenger to the principal Post Office in Dublin, or in the larger Provincial Towns, or to a Railway Station where there is a Late-Fee Box either in the Station or in the Train’ and goes on ‘At many offices letters for dispatch may, on payment of a Special late fee of ½d, be posted after the ordinary hours of Collection. Such letters should be superscribed “Late-Fee”. Letter Boxes for the receipt of late letters bearing an extra half-penny stamp are affixed to all Mail Trains to which Sorting Carriages are attached and to certain other trains.’ (the Capitals are as shown in the Guide)

The service obviously changed over the years. I do not think anyone has summarized all the various changes that have taken place. If there has been a definitive article on the subject I would welcome being pointed to it.

I suspect that none of us has a great deal of Late Fee material (or for that matter Express material) and I would like to suggest a collective effort. I would like to make a request to our collective membership (and that means YOU please) to let me know what they have in the way of Late Fee and Express mail (especially pre 1945 and to quote an old Sussex expression ‘more betterer still’ pre 1925) and perhaps that detail could then be consolidated so that we can run a definitive article on the subject, perhaps over a series of issues if sufficient material comes to hand.

If there is a volunteer co-ordinator, I would be delighted to hear from them..... please! Perhaps we could extend this to include Express mail in Ireland, another topic which I believe to be comparatively under-researched.

I take the opportunity to show a few Late Fee items from my own collection on the next page.



Above: the FROM 7. to 8. P.M. diamond mark at lower right is understood to be a Late Fee mark. Several of these timed marks are known from this period but I have yet to see a full list. Ironically this 1841 item, paid at 2d (including, it is assumed, a 1d Late Fee), was misdirected and travelled to Hillsborough, Co Down via Hilltown, Co Down thereby taking two days to reach its destination.



Above: Posatage (2d), Express (6d fee) plus Late Fee (½d), College Green to London in March 1939.



Above: May 1855 from Dublin to Adamstown, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, stamped at 7d. This item would have been sent on the Wexford Mail Coach which left the GPO at 9pm arriving at Enniscorthy at 7.15am the following morning. This mark has also been seen for 1859.

Next column (top): Extra ½d stamp pays the Late Fee on this 1883 from Dublin to Lady Gregory at her home near Gort in Co Galway.

At right: 1936 philatelic cover posted on to the Dublin and Galway TPO without the Late Fee paid leading to a 1d postage due charge on delivery at Croydon.



POST OFFICE PAGE - ANNALORE, CO MONAGHAN

Hugh McGoldrick/ Editor

The Post Office at Annalore, a small hamlet situate on the R183 Clones to Newbliss road was established in 1848 under the control of Newbliss when a local man, a Mr Foster, guaranteed the full expenses of the office and Receiver of Letters, one James Foster, was appointed and paid £4 a year. We do not know if the Fosters were related. By 1850 the numbers of letters exceeded 100 per week and in consequence there was no longer a need for the guarantee but the yearly salary was reduced from £4 to £3 when Elizabeth (Bessie) Rush was appointed sub-postmistress.

Another James Foster was appointed a Letter Carrier in 1848. Soon after that appointment, control passed to Clones and the letter carrier was responsible for walking to Clones and back daily.

1892 saw the appointment of Mrs Elizabeth Elliott as Postmistress. She remained in situ until 1916 when she was succeeded by her daughter Miss Margaret Elliott who was to remain in office until the end of 1958. Joseph Lee became acting postmaster on 1 January 1959 and his appointment was confirmed on 26 June 1966. He remained in charge until the closure of the office on 30 June 1966.

A century ago, Annalore had foot posts or horse posts to Newbliss, Glenbrook and Stonebridge. Between 1915 and 1919 Thomas Farrell carried letters by foot post from Annalore to Clones, his salary commencing at 18/- a week later increasing to 29/- when he also had responsibility for the cross post to Glenbrook.

The hamlet was the birthplace of James Connolly's father who subsequently emigrated to Edinburgh where his famous son was born. The Connolly homestead was on the Clones Road just 20 yards beyond the bridge. James Connolly was to return to Ireland, join Pádraig Pearse taking a major role in the 1916 rising when he was severely injured and subsequently executed. He is, of course, featured on a 1968 stamp issue.

The Post Office was for many years immediately adjacent to the bridge (building at right in fig 1) at the Elliott home, later moving to the store (fig 2 – taken by Dr de Burca immediately prior to closure).

Although an undated namestamp must have existed in the 1850s no example has been traced. A rubber datestamp was issue in 1903 and no less than 11 different rubber postmarks were used in the years to 1952, a steel datestamp which is believed to have

remained in use until closure being issued on 22 October in that year. Of the rubber postmarks, the first five were inscribed in English (believed in use until 1931) and the remainder in Irish (Áth an Lobhair). These included a temporary skeleton mark in use for two weeks in March 1944.



fig 1 – office at right; assumed c1905



fig 2 – taken by Dr Brian de Burca in 1965



fig 3 – a selection of the postmarks, rubber cancellations used in 1914, 1928 (still in English), 1935 and 1948.

ILLUSTRATED ENVELOPES BY CHARLES E. McCLINTOCK

James M Rankin

In May 2005 a small collection of hand illustrated envelopes addressed to the Lyster family came onto the market. The correspondence dated from August 1859 until October 1863. The majority of the envelopes were posted in Randalstown, County Antrim to various addresses in London and Brighton. None of the envelopes had their original contents and the seller did not provide any background information. It is usually very difficult to establish identity of the artist of illustrated envelopes due to the fact that very few were ever signed or initialled. However, as luck would have it, the first envelope I acquired was a pen and ink drawing of a medicine bottle which had the name of the sender "Charles E. McClintock" pasted onto the drawing of the bottle, and another envelope had the initials "C McC".

As a keen local historian and native of Randalstown I already had some details about this branch of the McClintock family, so it was a relatively simple task to carry out further research. With the help of the message boards section of the genealogy website [`ancestry.co.uk`](http://ancestry.co.uk) I managed to make contact with Charles McClintock's great grandson – Andrew McClintock. Andrew had five illustrated envelopes by his great grandfather in his family album. Four were addressed to Charles McClintock's brothers and sisters and one was sent to his future wife – Miss Blanche Louisa Dunlop.

The McClintocks were a Scottish family from the Luss and Balloch area of Loch Lomond in Argyll. They left Scotland c1597 and settled in the Rathdonnell area of County Donegal, 4 miles north west of Letterkenny. The McClintock family lived the life of Anglo-Irish gentry, and by the 1750s, Alexander McClintock had made a sufficient fortune as a barrister in Dublin to acquire the family demesne at Drumcar, County Louth.

Charles Edward McClintock was born in Drumcar in 1844. He was the second son of Major Henry Stanley McClintock, who was a land agent to Lord O'Neill of Shanes Castle, Randalstown. The McClintock family lived in the Land Agent's house at 'Millmount' in Randalstown from 1851 until 1869. Charles had two brothers, Frederick and Francis and twin sisters, Emily and Gertrude. In 1869 Major McClintock ended his service with Lord O'Neill and moved to Kilwarlin House, Hillsborough where he became agent to the Downshire Estate at Hillsborough. At the same time Charles had followed in his father's footsteps and at the age of 25, was appointed land agent to the Pakenham Estate at Langford Lodge near Crumlin, County Antrim.

Irish Philately

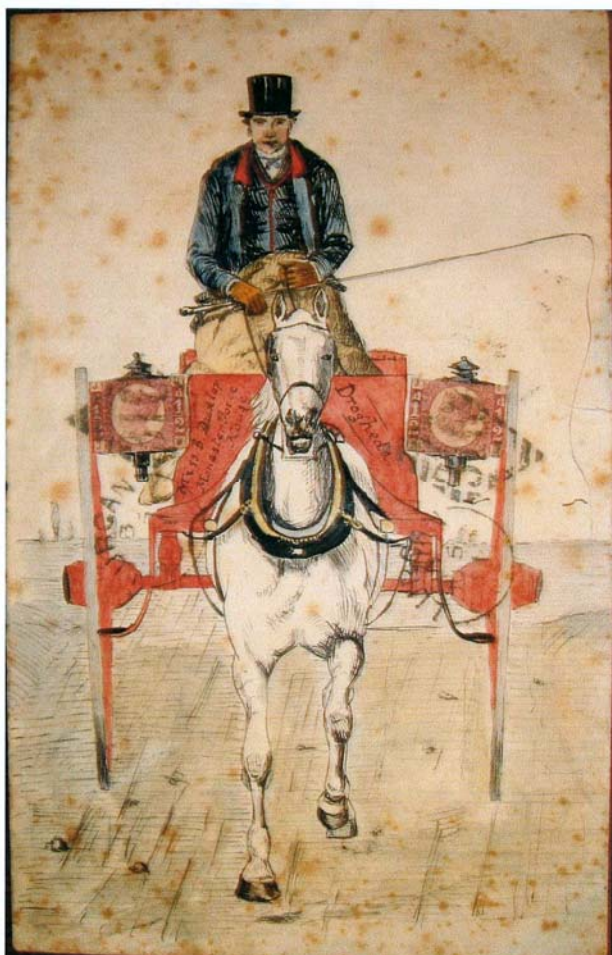


Charles McClintock

Charles served with the 6th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles - the old Louth Militia and retired from the service with the rank of Lieut. Colonel. In 1881 he married Blanche Louisa Dunlop of Monasterboice House near Drogheda, County Louth. They had a family of three sons and lived at Glendaragh House near Crumlin, County Antrim. Charles died at his residence in Crumlin on 13th February 1921 and was interred in the old Parish Church family burying ground at Drumcar.

Charles McClintock's mother was a member of the La Touche family whose country seat was Harristown House, Brannockstown, County Kildare. Two of the earliest illustrated envelopes were posted in Brannockstown, obviously while Charles was visiting his grandparents. Charles was only aged 15 when he started to correspond with Miss Augusta Lyster, who was 4 years his senior. He sent 15 illustrated envelopes to her over a 4 year period. Subject matter seemed to reflect individual family events which were of significance only to the McClintock and Lyster families. One fine example was a coloured scene of a distinguished looking group of gentlemen and ladies standing on a railway platform, presumably Randalstown, waiting to board the train. (illustrated on the next page). Their luggage formed the address panel and the embossed portion of the postal stationery envelope formed the front of the engine.

The majority of the illustrations on the envelopes were pen and ink sketches. Five were painted in watercolour, and two were painted with a grey tonal wash. Stamps used were penny red stars, which in most cases had their perforations trimmed to fit into the design of the drawing. The embossed portion of penny pink postal stationery envelopes were also incorporated into the drawings on three examples.



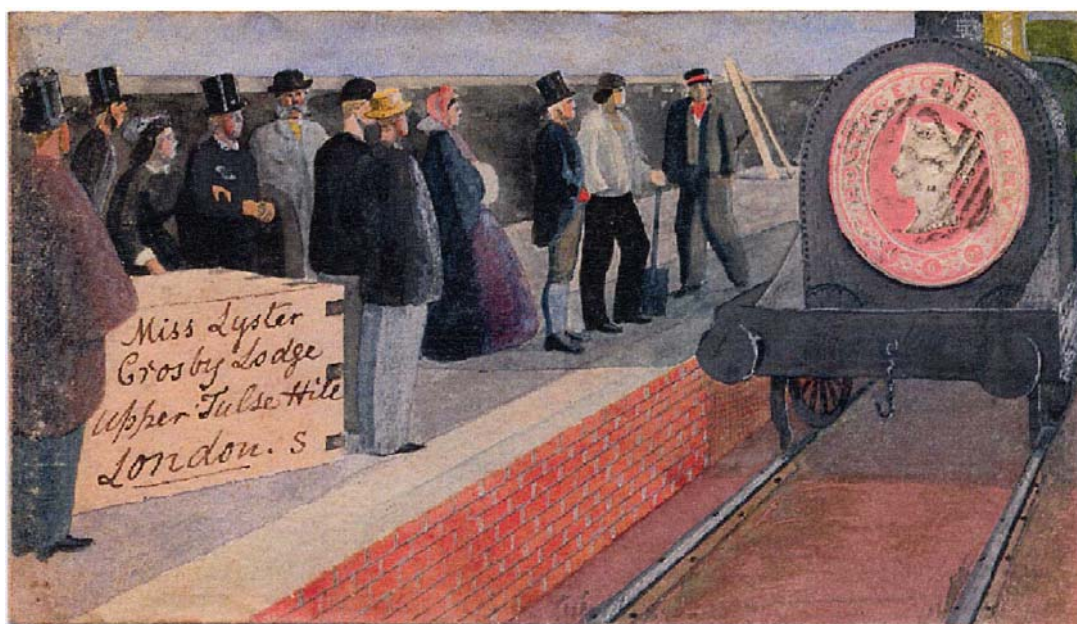
The last illustrated envelope sent to Augusta Lyster was in October 1863. Charles also sent an illustrated envelope to Augusta's married sister - Gertrude Leighton - in 1866. This envelope had a self portrait of Charles smoking a pipe, wearing an eye-patch and looking rather forlorn. Perhaps he knew that Augusta Lyster was about to marry a stockbroker by the name of James Parlett Hornby Halls - their marriage took place in London on 8th June 1867.

The latest recorded envelope, illustrated by Charles McClintock, was posted in Crumlin on 5th June 1881 and addressed to Miss Blanche Louisa Dunlop, Monasterboice House, Drogheda. The envelope (alongside) was slightly larger than the rest, and had a well executed coloured drawing of a frontal view of Charles seated on a single horse drawn carriage. Single halfpenny bantam stamps were placed on each carriage lamp and each one cancelled by a Lurgan duplex. The couple were married two months later.

Illustrated envelopes emanating from Ireland can be found as single isolated examples, but it is rare to find a complete series of correspondence. The only other large correspondence containing illustrated envelopes, that I am aware of, is the Earl of Mayo's letters which he sent to his mother, Lady Bourke, in 1858.

Miss Lyster was born in Paris in 1841, the youngest daughter of Robert and Mary Ann Lyster. It is not known how long the Lyster family lived in France but they were certainly living in a very affluent area of Brighton during the 1850's and 1860's. Robert Lyster was born in Clones, County Monaghan, in 1799 and according to the 1861 census, his occupation was given as "a proprietor of bonds & annuity shares".

In total Charles McClintock is believed to have produced 23 illustrated envelopes; these include one addressed to Viscount Dunlo and another addressed to a Miss Kennedy in Dublin. There may well be many more examples of his illustrated envelopes in existence, either addressed to other members of his family or girlfriends!



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We have no answers to questions 4.09 and 5.09 posed in our last issue. Does nobody know anything?

6.09 Dot under FP of 1st

In her article on overprints in the September issue (p48), Jan Kershaw raised a question with regard to this. Tony Best has responded 'I have the same dot under U23 but also under T22. I noted all the plates listed either in Patrick's (Williams) book or Barry Cousins' Compendium against T22, U22 and U23, eliminating those identifiable in blocks of 6. Those that remain were T22 plates 64, 70 and 76, U22 plates 70 and 76 and U23 plates 64 and 70 (plate 64 only being used on T22 and U23, plate 70 only on U22 and U23 and plate 76 only on T22 and U22. Therefore the only common plate is Plate 70 of the three examples but as Jan has a block of 48 it would be identifiable on stamp 20/4. So it must be assumed that the only plate remaining is plate 73, she I think she has guessed correctly. Earlier versions of the SG specialised quoted 'Minute dot under FP 20/1 for plate 13a but later editions quote 'Added dot under FP, 201/1 for the same plate number'.

7.09 Those 1872 postmarks

In Ronny Vogt's article in the September issue, he expresses surprise that so many stamps on which the Shelbourne Hotel postmark is found are dated 1872. As editor, I

do have an inkling as to why this may be. However, rather than expounding myself and possibly getting it wrong, may I ask that some member who has the definitive knowledge be good enough to 'write in' please. Thank you.

8.09 495 postmark

Tony Best has sent what I consider to be a fascinating item (but your editor would do so as a collector of the numeral cancellations!). He has found diamond numeral postmark 495 on a single stamp. This is undoubtedly Irish. Examination of 'Brumell' (the bible for numeral collectors) tells us that 495 was issued to a TPO – by the sound of it a very nice item. However, that allocation is from the 1887 list. His example is on a '1d stars' in use between 1857 and 1864 and 495 is not shown on the 1874 list – an error perhaps. Your editor thinks it unlikely and more likely 495 had been issued to an office between 1857 and 1874 and had been withdrawn by 1874. Much thought is required here and members are invited to provide their explanation.



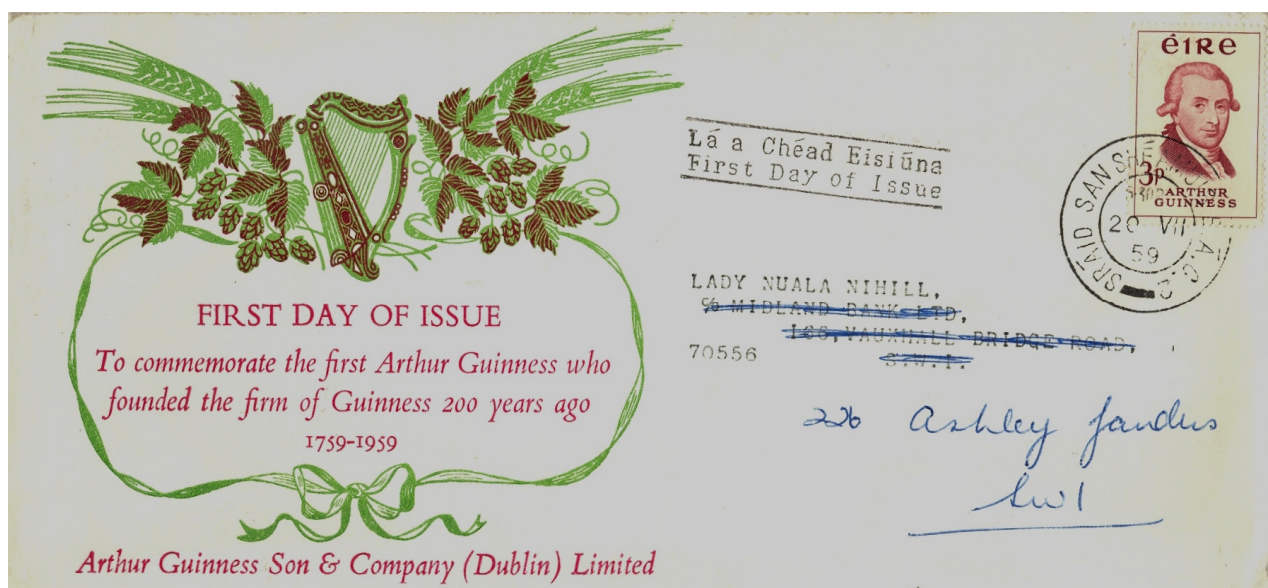
The mystery 495

A DUBLIN MYSTERY - from Tony Best



Tony Best has let me have sight of the attached first day piece (17.2.22) and has enquired 'To what do the letters O.O. after Ballsbridge in the postmark?' The answer is simple. The letters are actually 'DO' standing for District Office. Other DOs in Dublin at this time were James' Street, Phibsborough, Rathgar, Fairview and Rathmines

THE EDITOR'S CHALLENGE – PHILATELIC GUINNESSIANA



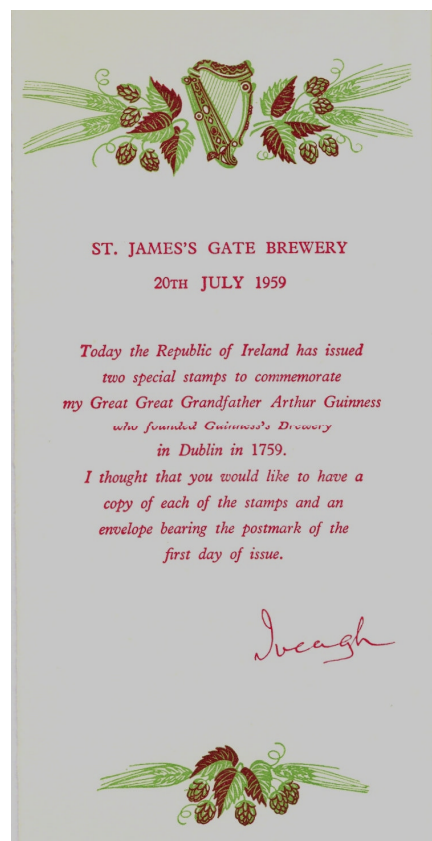
Sitting at my desk recently, I received a call from a client. Nothing unusual about that, save the content of the call; he had heard that Ireland had recently issued a Guinness stamp – could I get him a ‘special’ cover. It turns out that he is a collector of ‘Guinnessiana’. He has advertising material, mugs, tea towels and much more. I daresay most of us have some Guinness related material in our collections and suddenly, I find a have a topic for an article – or rather an opportunity to issue a challenge to our membership!

The 2009 stamp to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the famous brewery at St James’s Gate in Dublin is of course not the first Guinness stamp Ireland has issued. In 1959 two stamps were issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary. At that time the company sent a commemorative cover to each shareholder with a mint set of the stamps. This made me look to see what other related material I might have. Perhaps the nicest ‘snippet’ is a 1/- stamp with perfin ‘G’ used on a parcel sent from Sráid San Seamus (St James’s Street District Office) in c1930 (below).



My challenge is simply for you to locate your most unusual piece of ‘Philatelic Guinnessiana’ and let me have a copy for inclusion in our next journal. Closing date is 31 January 2009 and scans are, of course, quite acceptable. The prize will be at the Editor’s discretion but will I hope be a worthwhile addition to your collection, but not necessarily Guinness related.

Above: The cover sent to shareholders in 1959 and **Below:** the commemorative card which was enclosed. Inside was a set of the mint stamps.



NORTHERN IRELAND REGISTERED MAIL TO THE REPUBLIC – PART 3

In the last issue of Irish Philately, I brought the story up to the time of the system changes which took place on 1 November 2002. On that date the International Recorded and International Registered (Valeur Déclarée) services were discontinued and replaced by two new services 'Airsure' and 'International Signed For'. Both were (and still are) available to the Republic.

Airsure replaced the previous International Registered and the 'Signed for' service replaced the 'recorded' service. Both these services had in fact been first introduced on 4 July 2002. Most confusingly the two groups of services would appear to have operated side by side for a four month period to 31 October 2002. Fig 1 shows use of the 'old' International Recorded service at Lisnaskea on 7 July 2002, fig 2 shows the International Registered service used from Donaghmore on 6 September 2002, whilst fig 3 is an example of the 'new' Signed For service used at Rosetta, Belfast on 31 October 2002. I do not have an example of the Airsure service used from Northern Ireland to the Republic in this short period. One reason for the overlap might have been that the new labels were not immediately ready. In fact it would seem that very little use of this service is made for cross-border mail as my hoard of covers (600+) has yielded just three Airsure items, all dated between March and July 2003 one of which is shown at fig 4 (Bellaghy 27 July 2003).

Confusing a further international premium service was available at this time – Swiftair. This was an Express service which had been introduced in 1991 (replacing Express and Special Delivery services for overseas mail). Swiftair was withdrawn on 9 October 2003 as the International Signed For service was apparently no slower and provided a partial tracking service. The 'hoard' has yielded just one

example of that service used from Northern Ireland to the Republic dated November 1998 at a time when the Swiftair fee was £2.70 and postage 30p. (fig 5)

One might well ask what the difference is between the International Signed For and Airsure services? The answer is 'tracking'. Whilst most European countries could provide tracking services by 2002, few outside of Europe were able to do so at that time. Thus the Airsure service was initially available to a relative small range of countries with full on-line tracking to destination. The list has grown and as of November 2009 it is available to some 30 countries which treat Airsure items as 'express'. Those 30 countries do, of course, include the Republic. International Signed For only tracks the item within the UK. Both require signature on delivery and both provide insurance, initially in 2002 to £30, that had risen by 2009 to £39. Higher insurance to £250/£500 dependant on the destination is available but at an extra fee, initially £1. The higher insurance limit is available to the Republic.

The table below provides details of the regular changes which have taken place in the years since 2002. Although I have no covers to illustrate after early 2004, I have in fact sought to include information right up to date as, changing each year, I suspect it may be hard to find elsewhere. I do use the word 'sought' with caution as I do not have a full set of the necessary Royal Mail leaflets and if any member spots any errors I would be pleased to be corrected. Specifically I lack detail of the limit of basic compensation for most years between 2003 and 2008.

Date of introduction	Basic postage	International Signed For		Airsure		Extra fee
		Fee	Total cost	Fee	Total cost	
1.11.02	.37	2.85	3.22	4.00	4.37	£1.00 (over £30)
8.5.03	.38	2.85	3.23	4.00	4.38	
9.10.03	.38	3.30	3.68	4.00	4.38	
1.4.04	.40	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.40	
7.4.05	.42	3.30	3.72	4.00	4.42	
3.4.06	.44	3.50	3.94	4.20	4.64	£1.50 (over ?)
2.4.07	.48	3.50	3.98	4.20	4.68	£2.00 (over ?)
7.4.08	.50	3.50	4.00	4.20	4.70	£2.20 (over £39)
6.4.09	.56	3.70	4.26	4.50	5.06	

Fig 6 shows an example of the use of the 'Signed For' service with the extra fee being paid – stamped at £4.22 (.37 plus £2.85 plus £1) from Grosvenor Street, Belfast in March 2003. Finally fig 7 shows an example of the labels introduced by Royal Mail at this period and in, I believe, almost universal use at all counters by c2005. Sadly this means that stamped Ainsure and Signed For items are all but a thing of the past as business firms tend to use their meters on this type of mail.

I must conclude by thanking those who have made information on rates available to me, particularly George King, Brian Warren and Colin Peachey. A good web site on which I have relied on heavily and have no hesitation in recommending is that of the GB Collectors Club in the USA – www.gbstamps.com.

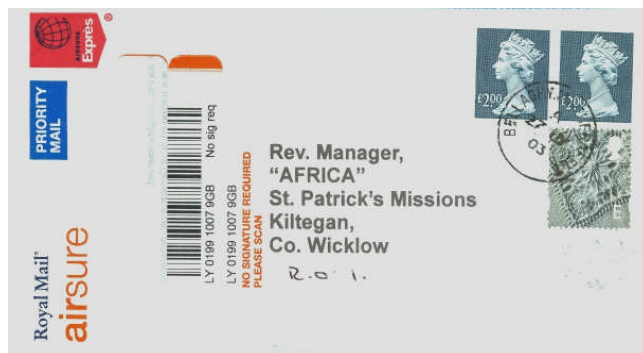


fig 4

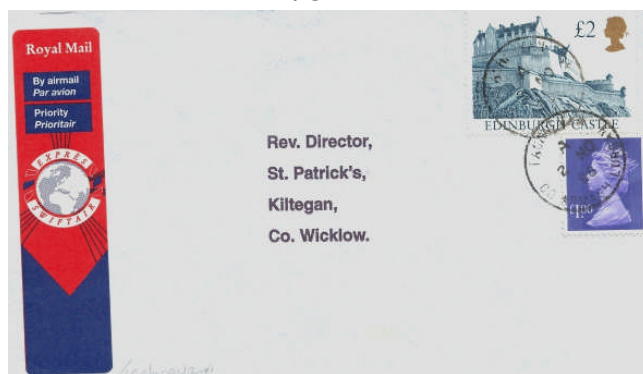


fig 5



fig 1



fig 6



fig 2



fig 7



fig 3

AUCTION WATCH - Erinman

Four significant lots of Irish material were offered at the Grosvenor Sale on 23rd September 2009.

Described as “1925-28 Wide and Narrow Date 2s.6d. 5s. and 10s. (few split perfs.) in horizontal pairs mint, 10s. with a few short perfs. at top and some perf. splitting, otherwise fine. S.G. 83a-85a, cat. £1,925. MW T 69-71” made £400 against a pre sale lower estimate of £500.

A “1945 2s. booklet edition 27-45, 2d. pane inverted wmk., others upright, panes trimmed at right and front cover with a little creasing otherwise fine and fresh. S.G. SB5, cat. £1,300 Sold for £650 against the upper estimate of £600.

“A collection in five albums and loose in a carton with postal history incl. 1766 Bishop Mark and 'FREE/D' (Dublin) in circle, 1808 ðMermaidí cancel, Mileage Marks, Paid, 1837 'PAID/AT/BELFAST' and 'BELFAST/LATE' c.d.s., Penny Posts, 1840 1d. with four margins on 1840 (Dec. 26th) cover from Newry to Moy cancelled red Maltese Cross, 1840 1d. on Feb. 1841 piece, 1d. Mulready envelope used Lismore to Dublin, h/s 2ís, H&K packets, TPOs, stamps from 1841 incl. 1841 1d. with Dublin Cross, mint incl. 1922 (17 Feb.) 2s.6d. to 10s., 1922 (Dec.)-23 2s.6d. to 10s., Harrison coil pairs with long '1' varieties, 1925-28 narrow date 2s.6d. block of four, 5s., 10s., wide date 2s.6d. to 10s., 1937 St. Patrick 2s.6d. to 10s., commemoratives to 1972, booklets incl. 1958-61 4s. edition 40-59, 1962-63 3s. edition 44-63, airmail covers from 1924, 1925, revenues, postal stationery, f.d.cs, etc., varied condition. (many 100s) made £1600. Pre sale estimate £1300 to £1500. Some useful material here and the realisation goes to show that a good collection will always find a buyer.

Fine mint examples of 1922 (17 Feb.-July) overprinted by Dollard 1/2d. green and 1d. scarlet, both with variety overprint inverted, the 1/2d. with R.P.S. certificate (1923). S.G. 1a, 2a, cat. £725, MW T1a, T2b. went under the hammer for £230 against the pre sale estimate of £220 to £250.

All the above lots are subject to the usual buyer premiums.

The quality of items offered for sale on eBay has been very mixed recently and often it has been poor use of one's time to go through the mass of relative dross that finds its way onto the site. This is a great pity as many prospective buyers are surely turned off.

However, one of the better lots was an example on piece with first day of issue machine cancel posted at Cork 17th February 1922 of the 2d with overprint inverted. SG 12A.



The item sold for £440.

One must be careful with 'inverted overprints' as forgeries are known, but this was undoubtedly genuine, it being known that one sheet at least of the 2d with inverted overprint was placed on sale at Cork on the first day.

Early illustrated FDC's always find a buyer. A Mangan cover attracted strong bidding and eventually sold for £78 whilst a 1950 Holy Year FDC with typed address made £55.

OAT covers usually sell well. One dated from 1940 on a 1d stationery card with additional 5d and 1d definitives postmarked Dublin and with GB censor handstamp to USA did exceptionally, selling for £106.

A couple of other items which caught my attention include a 1972 1/- Postage due on cover which sold for £31 and a postcard with from 1935 with a decent strike of the boxed three line slogan "Buy at Saorstat Fair/Ball's Bridge Dublin/May 7-11" Netzsch 44. More interestingly this was on the front of a printed Summer Thunderstorm Census station registration card. The item sold for £16.

Irish spoons in good condition have also been finding regular buyers but caution is required when buying on eBay. A nice entire of a "PAID" Dublin Diamond Spoon, Arundel 76, and dated 4/12/55 sold for £71.

By the time this reaches you David MacDonnell's December auction will have taken place and I am hopeful that it will lead to some interesting results to note in the next edition. The last quarter has certainly been a quiet period and we must hope for more interesting renditions in the New Year.

INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY – RAY HOW

During Stampa in October, I caught up with our UK based Secretary, Ray How who had plenty to tell me.



SC *Why Ireland?*

RH I came on holiday with parents in 1957 and liked the place. I had a schoolboy collection at that time, some British Commonwealth and GB. The Irish stamps had only started in 1922 – it looked easier to collect. I developed an interest in Postal History in my 20s, another holiday to Waterford and the interest blossomed.

Your other interests?

Alderney and Police related material. Alderney is easy, this is just a one of each collection since issues began in 1983, really basic collecting, just like we all did when we were at school! The Police material is more of a social history, all tied up with the job. I joined Essex Constabulary at the age of 15, and after going through the ranks, I ultimately moved into the CID and then the Fraud Squad. I love going through 'old paper' and some of my greatest satisfaction has been when I have found material related to cases I had been involved with.

Did you ever get involved with Philatelic Fraud?

Twice. One case involved a dealer who had material stolen. The other matter was a burglary. My expertise was called on by other officers but sadly neither case resulted in the recovery of material. For professional reasons, I cannot give more detail but the one thing it has taught me is that one must take copies/ scans of your collection and document it well. It will give a better chance of recovery.

I see you mainly as an aerophilatelist?

Just the Irish, plus anything I find from Southend Airport and the Railway Air Services. The Irish interest led me to join the IPC in 1978. I bought all available back issues of Irish Philately at that time and still have them bound. It is very valuable as a source of reference when used in connection with

the index. Please don't do what has been suggested by some and send out Irish Philately by e-mail (*noted. Ed.*) – I can take it on holiday as it is. I've done Waterford Postal History for a number of years and that brings in the study of the Milford Haven packet mails. I've spent too much time on the airmails in recent years and see myself moving more into the traditional postal history area. I'll always pay a reasonable price for something fits into my collection but try to take a sensible view – I can only spend it once! I enjoy doing displays (*including a fine exhibit at Stampa, Ed.*); one needs a fair amount of material to do a decent display. I have been asked to show my material at Kircudbrightshire in Scotland next year but also at various locations in south east England. I am always happy to travel and meet other collectors. Those displays will be of Irish airmails and other general Irish material. One needs variety for showing to a local society and surely the whole reason for collecting is to share what you have with others.

Any new interests?

Kuwait.....perhaps. My daughter has been living there the last three years. I've got very little as yet. The early stuff is seriously scarce but if the right collection were to come along, I might well go for it. Buying one cover at a club auction got me started.

Ray, that brings me to your family and home life.

Lynn and I have been married for 39 years; our daughter is 33, our son 31 – he's an electrician. Neither have any interest in stamps. For my part I left the Essex police some 4 years ago and now work with Rochford Borough Council as Fraud Manager. It's time consuming but interesting and because my police background has given the experience I do the prosecuting and it is largely up to me to we determine what action we need to take. I enjoy the garden, plus an allotment, holidays have generally been caravanning but we are now able to take more exotic holidays – Alaska is in mind – no stamps there!

Finally, how do you see the Secretary's rôle.

It is all about co-ordination; events and linking members. I'd specifically like to see a register of member's interests set up to enable them to talk together more. Generally I am hopeful that the Circle can become more active and in that connection I am especially disappointed by the lack of English members at Stampa this year.

Thank you Ray and good luck in this key role.

THE PATRIOTS' LABEL – WHEN DID IT APPEAR? - Peter Wood

Many members will be aware of the “Patriots maintain the Union!” orange label produced as part of the Anti- Home Rule campaign. It is listed as L25 in the MacDonnell Whyte catalogue of 1991 and confusingly as L26 in the recent Hibernian. As is well known it was printed by Harrison & Sons while a similar design in various other colours and the wording changed to “Harrison & Sons, stamp engravers & printers, London” was used for labels involved in trials for postage stamp coils. My question is this; in which order did these different designs appear? Illustrated below are the label itself and one of the colour trials (fig 2).



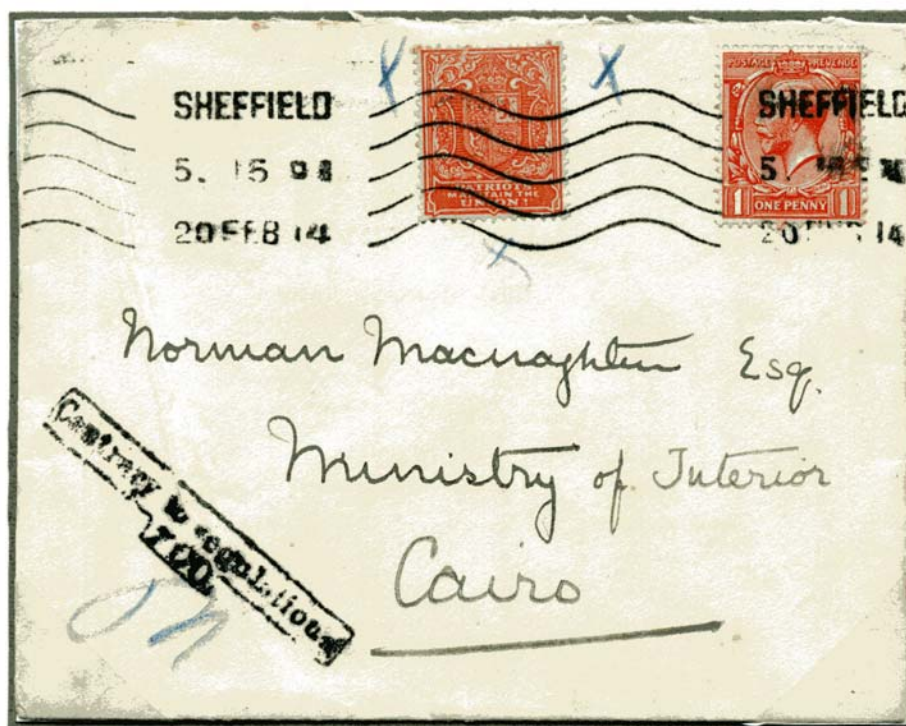
One might expect that for the coil trials Harrison & Sons would have adapted and used a design which already existed and that they had been paid to create.

A collector friend of the coil trials has raised the question of whether this has ever been proved. I understand that the relevant records of the printers were destroyed, but this does not mean that there are no records existing from those who commissioned the label - does anyone know which individual or organisation that actually was?

A hard task is to find dated uses of the label. I believe some copies of the coil trial labels exist with dated postmarks and I have a cover with a tied label used “contrary to regulations” on 20th February 1914 (*and to a rather unusual destination – Ed*), does anyone have records of other such usages with dates?

In the David Feldman handbook published in 1968 (reference here is L14) it is said to have “appeared in 1914 after the Parliamentary passing of the Home Rule Bill for Ireland.” As the Parliamentary passing was 25th May this statement is incorrect as proven by the dated use.

Any information would be gratefully received including references to relevant literature and potential library or archive sources.



A word of explanation from the Editor

At first glance Members will rightly ask why I have had to split Graeme Murray's piece which follows on pages 89, 90 and 92. There is a simple answer. Our printer does not like illustrations on either the second or penultimate pages of Irish Philately; apparently it interferes with the colour printing – far too technical for me – Ed.

1932 EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Co-ordinated by Graeme Murray

Graeme Murray continues the 'Beyond the Catalogues' series with a look back to the Eucharistic Congress set of 1932 originally featured in the June 2009 issue of Irish Philately.

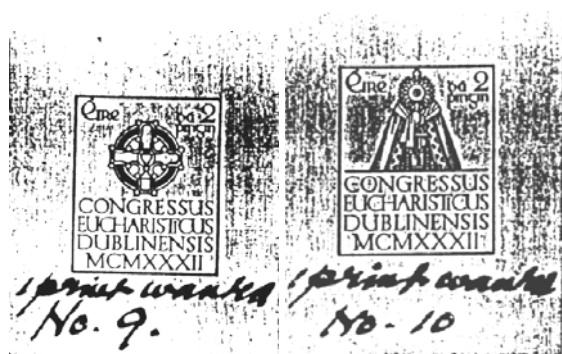
When I submitted the draft of the June article to the editor, I was aware that further information was possibly going to be made available to me. This is one of the problems of meeting publication deadlines! Since that time considerable additional information has come to me and I am especially grateful to David MacDonnell for his input. I consider it important that this be provided now so as to provide as immediate as possible a follow up.



Fig 1 Specimens of the two values.

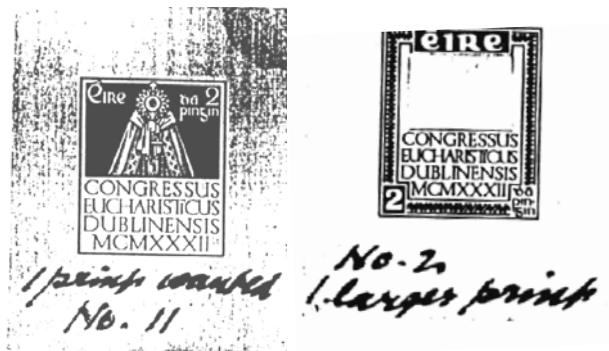
The specimens (fig 1 above) were distributed to all UPU members as was the requirement at that time.

Fig 2 (split over the next two columns) show some as Atkinson's suggested designs at various stages of 'production'. Sadly these are only available to us as black and white photocopies but will serve to give an indication of what we might have had. The final design (No 11) is very close the final design; in some respects the inscription is better balanced, however the Congress was 'Internationalis' rather than 'Dublinensis'.



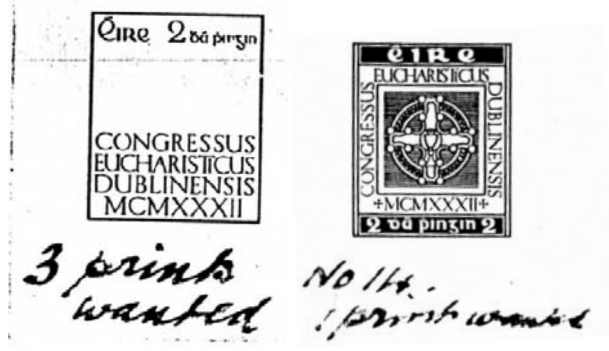
1 print wanted / No. 9.

1 print wanted / No. 10



1 print wanted / No. 11

No. 2 / 1 larger print



3 prints / wanted

No 14. / 1 print wanted

Fig 2 Proofs of some of Atkinson's suggested designs

Fig 3 (below) shows further proofs, now very close to the adopted designs.

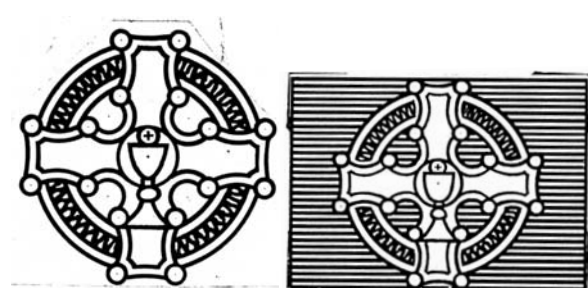
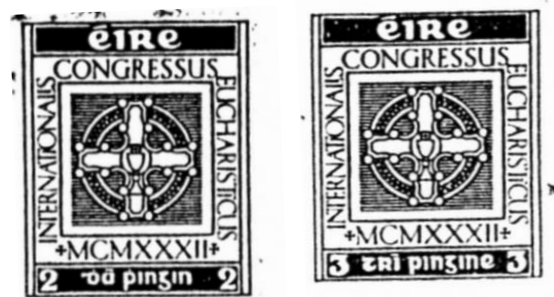


Fig 3 Further Atkinson proofs together with original drawings

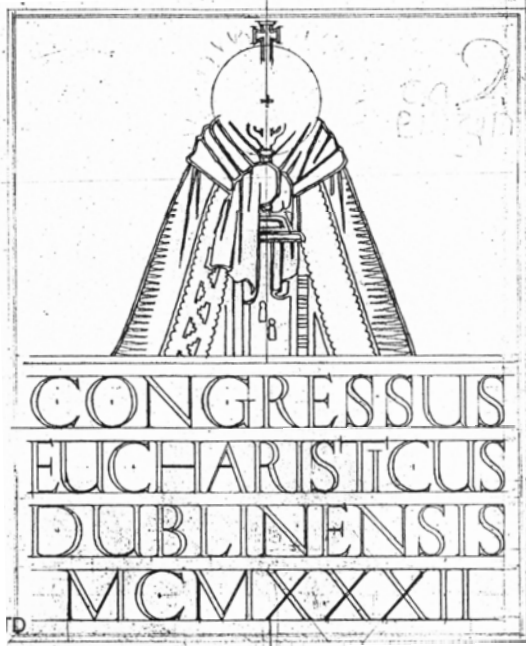


Fig 4 Tracing of a design (by Atkinson)

Fig 5 (shown on the back page to take advantage of the colour printing which is available to us) show a number of the colour trials. These designs were of course at an early stage and bear no resemblance to the end result and the colours may well strike one as unexpected.

The actual final colours were set to come as close as possible to the definitive stamps in use at the time. This in turn begs the question as to whether or not the 'official' UPU colours of the time should have been employed, red being the standard colour for 'internal letter post' and blue for 'foreign ' mail. The 3d did of course comply; it is believed the use of green for the 2d stamp implied a wish to return to the pre-war 1d internal rate, a hope that was of course never achieved (think also of the British 'internal' 1½d brown stamp, never changed for the same reason).

A couple of bromides are known to exist. One, by George Atkinson, is of the frame and lettering, on thin card with the centre cut out to allow for experimentation with different motifs.

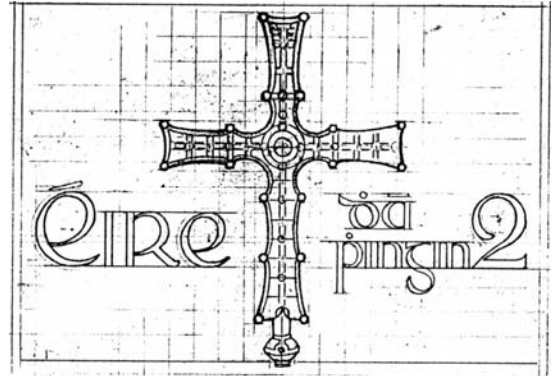


Fig 6 Tracing of a suggested design of the Cross of Cong (by Atkinson). The original design was commended by the selection committee and was retained in their files.



Fig 7 Proof of unaccepted design

By this time, the design was extremely close to that actually used; it is perhaps hard for us today in this age of new stamps every few weeks (*days almost – Ed*) to appreciate the amount of effort that was put into obtaining the end result. At this time the issue of a new stamp was a significant event – the stamp serving in general use for a period of several months and seen by the substantial majority of the population.

There is just one consistent flaw listed in the Hibernian catalogue (numbered as C6a). This is shown as fig 8 below. The flaw can clearly be seen at the right end of the horizontal arm of the cross.



Fig8 Positional piece showing the 'dot in cross' flaw 1/9 (the left-hand stamp).

Continued on the back page (page 92)

RANDOM JOTTINGS - more from 'FED'

I am finding it fascinating reading through the compilation of Fred Dixon's Random Notes which has been passed to me (see September issue). In this issue, I append a few truly random jottings which may, some 50 years on, be of interest to our present membership –Ed.

November 1953 - Validity of Unoverprinted Stamps.

Mr Eugene Nolan tells me (FED) the following story of his experience. Shortly after the demonetising of the unoverprinted stamps, the office where he worked was charged double postage on a large quantity of correspondence, all stamped envelopes issued for return to that office. Mr Nolan, who had stamped the envelopes, was reprimanded for his carelessness in using invalid stamps but he undertook to secure a refund. He took the bundle of envelopes to the temporary GPO and insisted on seeing the supervisor to whom he explained that the offending stamps had been purchased at a Dublin Post Office after the published date for their withdrawal and that such stamps were still on sale. The Supervisor expressed his disbelief until Mr Nolan pointed out that the stamps were those supplied in rolls! The Supervisor almost collapsed on the discovery and orders were immediately rushed out to withdraw all rolls and it was presumably then that Harrisons were instructed to prepare the rolls of overprinted stamps which appeared in June. Naturally Mr Nolan was refunded all the 'Postage Due' and was further given an apologetic letter to show to his superiors. He has promised to look for some of the letters in question which he thinks have been preserved. (Later: Alas he did not succeed in locating them).

December 1956 – Christmas posting

I telephoned the Rathmines Office to complain of difficulty in posting, the local pillar box being packed tight. They had already been informed but had found the lock to be defective and did not know when a locksmith could be found to work.

January 1957 – What use is the halfpenny stamp?

In our mourning for the passing of the Penny Post and the 1½d post we have overlooked that there is still one case in which even a halfpenny stamp is enough – on literature for the blind, an interesting survival of the Charity Letter concessions of the early 19th century.

December 1958 – Dr Stafford Johnson material

I am happy to report that another volume of Dr S.J.'s notes and cuttings have been secured. (The Dr was FED's father in law – Ed). The contents are varied from the PO Rates Act of 1805 to a modern day parody beginning 'The postman sighs: "That ends another day" And calmly that he'll do after tea And smartly homeward strides his carefree way And leaves behind him parcels left for me'. Among miscellanea tucked into the volume is a cover, postmarked 1941, bearing, inter alia, forgeries of the ½d and 1d Dollard inverted overprint and a bogus 6d three line inverted. When were they perpetuated?

June 1960 – Dublin districts

It is announced that the Irish PO is to reintroduce the system of dividing Dublin into numbered areas (like London, Liverpool etc) and will ask the public to co-operate by including the numbers with the addresses they write. As a persistent pessimist I predict the scheme will fail like the last one. If a sorter saw a district number at the end of the address on an envelope he automatically flung it into the London bag! That explains such a case as one I have from Lisduff (Co Meath) to Dublin censored by a British Censor in 1942. (*Interesting comments as I understand that postal codes are shortly coming to Ireland – Ed*)

February 1961 – Postal Charges (1826)

An oddity I had not realised before is that the new rates of 1826 included a 1d charge (up to 7 miles), abolished, I think in the following year (*see FED's later publication with J Schaaf on postal rates - Ed*). I don't think I have ever seen a cover of the period showing this rate which was ridiculous. Thus a letter from Swords to Dublin would be 1d, whereas one from Drumcondra (a third of the distance) was charged the Dublin 2d post.

June 1961 – V.I.P.s

I can now be nice to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and congratulate them most sincerely for having purchased portraits of the Lees family. Every student of Irish Postal History knows that the Lees clan dominated the Post Office for two generations and made fortunes out of it but at the same time were introducing many good things. By buying the portraits the Lees' successors have shown a breadth of outlook so often lacking in public departments and the realisation that the Dublin GPO has a history worth commemoration even before 1916. (*Where are the portraits now – Ed*)

The Eucharistic issue – additional information –
continued from page 90



Fig 5 Atkinson colour trials.

Two distinct shades of the 2d value are reported. An attempt is made to reproduce these in fig 9 (next column), one being almost 'grey-green'



Fig 9 Two different shades of the 2d, probably caused by a variation in the thickness of paper or a difference in the ink mix.



Fig 10 The 'dot after S' flaw on 3d position 1/3

The above flaw (fig 10) is not listed in the Hibernian catalogue and may not be consistent.



Fig 11 Break in the frame line above the first n of pingine. ?/9 (top left stamp in block).

Fig 11 reflects shows what may be a consistent flaw on the 3d value. Members with large blocks may care to check. I have also been sent a substantial block of the 2d showing a number of flaws (possibly for inclusion in a future issue – Ed); in the meantime I would welcome members' feedback.