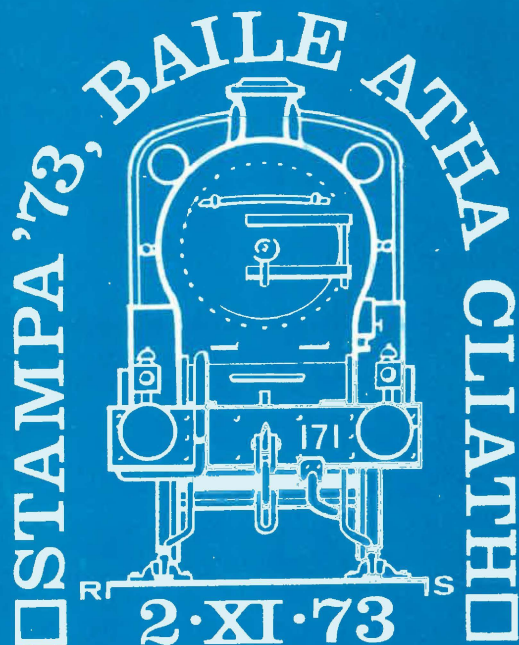




Irish National Stamp Exhibition

November 1-4, 1973



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Commemorative
Catalogue**

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Introductory Message



I am very pleased to accept the kind invitation of the Organising Committee to act as Patron of "Stampa '73".

The corresponding exhibition last year, which was the first in what I hope will be a continuing series, was a considerable and deserved success. I feel sure that the 1973 exhibition will prove of equal interest to the public and will further stimulate the growth of Irish philately.

I hope to see even closer co-operation between my Department and Irish philatelists in the coming year. Such co-operation can help in making Irish stamps more readily available to foreign philatelists, to the general benefit.

I take this opportunity of wishing "Stampa '73" every success.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Conor Cruise O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Conor" written in a larger, more prominent script.

Conor Cruise O'Brien.

Stampa'73

Irish
National Stamp
Exhibition

Official Catalogue

Edited
by
Ian W. Whyte

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Foreword

Once again it is my very great pleasure and honour to welcome you to Stampa – the Irish National Stamp Exhibition. This is Stampa '73, the second year of this exhibition.

In the Foreword of the special catalogue prepared for Stampa '72, I had intimated that the Organising Committee of that Exhibition were hoping Stampa may become an annual event. It seems our hopes are becoming realised.

Even before the results of its efforts during 1972 were known, the Stampa '72 Organising Committee proposed itself to work immediately once again for Stampa '73. It was my great honour to stand as Chairman again. It has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated and enthusiastic body, and I am sure that we all stand together in these words of the Foreword.

We are all greatly honoured to have Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, as our new patron. Let us hope that his interest in Stampa will herald a deep and continued interest in philately in Ireland. His role can be a vital one.

I would like to extend grateful thanks to the Societies, Clubs, individuals and Companies, both at home and overseas, which have once again rallied their support for us. May I make special mention of the wonderful persons who gave many hours of hard work in the organising of the pages for framing just before this exhibition opens.

This year's Stampa sees a major change from Stampa '72. The exhibits are competitive and awards in the form of medals are being presented for individual merit. We felt that it would be a worthy precedent not to limit the number of awards. The task of selecting a good and well-informed panel of judges was not easy, but I think all will agree we have been very lucky to obtain the services of very fine men – Mr. Fred Twining (Chairman), Mr. Liam Miller and Mr. James Sheehy – each an expert in his own field. Our sincere thanks to these gentlemen.

Finally I would like to thank the National Development Association for their enthusiastic and continual support. It has been wonderful to work alongside this Association these last two years.

Let us only continue to tread this same path to herald in many more Stampas the answer must come from you, the public, the visitors. We need your support, but hope it can be given through your enjoyment in the hobby of stamp collecting and our Stampa Exhibition.

November 1973

DAVID FELDMAN
Chairman, Organising Committee

Organisers of Stampa'73

Patron:

Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, T.D., Minister for Posts & Telegraphs

Organising Committee:

M. D. Buchalter

A. Byrne

F. E. Dixon

D. Feldman (*Chairman*)

M. P. Giffney

D. N. Glass

(*Committee Secretary*)

J. Lennon

Dr. J. A. Quigley (*Treasurer*)

R. Stein (*Auditor*)

I. W. Whyte (*Secretary & Catalogue Editor*)

Post Office Representatives:

M. Enright

D. Mac Mahon

National Development Association

J. Corrigan

V. Murray

Participating Societies and Representatives:

Irish Philatelic Society

— D. N. Glass

Eire Philatelic Association

— M. P. Giffney

Irish Philatelic Circle

— Dr. J. A. Quigley

Dublin Stamp Society

— S. Kearns

Guild of St. Gabriel

— W. Noonan

Editorial

We hope that we have produced a worthwhile souvenir of this, the Second National Stamp Exhibition, by publishing this Catalogue. Once again we have included a few articles which, we think, will be of interest to most philatelists, and we hope, to those non-philatelic readers also.

The Editor is very grateful to both the contributors and the advertisers who helped to make this publication feasible. Special thanks go to Mr. Cecil Calmonson, Mr. F. E. Dixon, Mr. E. Kuylenstjerna, Mr. John Lennon, Mr. A. L. Stokes, the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and Messrs. E. & T. O'Brien Limited.

It is hoped that this will be the second in a series of annual catalogues of annual Irish stamp exhibitions, as now seems likely, following the great success of last year's "Stampa".

IAN W. WHYTE,
Editor

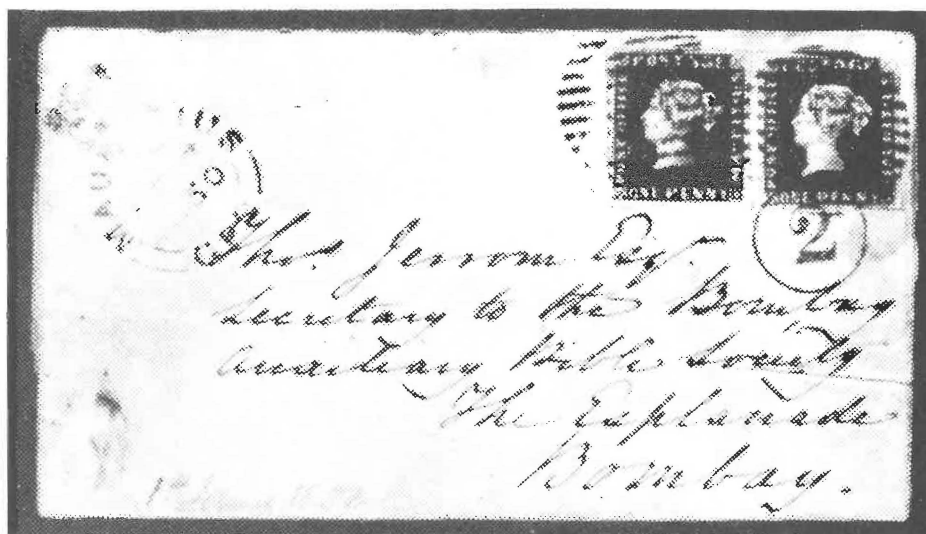
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Stampa'73

1st — 4th November, 1973

Open: 11 a.m. — 9 p.m. (November 1st and 2nd), 11 a.m. — 6 p.m. (November 3rd and 4th).

Admission Free

LOCATION

The Exhibition takes place in the National Exhibition Centre, Ireland House, 3, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, by courtesy of the National Development Association.

COMPETITION

This year's Exhibition is competitive and medals have been awarded for the best collections in terms of interest and originality of material, presentation, research, and other philatelic points. The medals are in silver-gilt, silver, and bronze, according to merit. A list of the award winners is published elsewhere in this book. The following is a list of the exhibits, arranged in alphabetical order by using the names of the exhibitors, or their pseudonyms. The initials refer to the Societies through which the exhibits are entered (I.P.S. = Irish Philatelic Society; E.P.A. = Eire Philatelic Association; I.P.C. = Irish Philatelic Circle; D.S.S. = Dublin Philatelic Society; C.P.S. = Cork Philatelic Society; G.S.G. = Guild of Saint Gabriel).

Boos, Karl. Switzerland. I.P.C.

BRITISH STAMPS USED IN IRELAND

Collection showing the postage stamps used in Ireland under the British Administration, including the well known 1d. blacks, 2d. blues and Mulready envelopes.

Brady Gerard. Dublin. E.P.A. I.P.C.

IRISH RARITIES

A collection showing the "Classics" of Irish philately including many of the rarer overprint errors, such as the 'missing accent' varieties, and the inverted overprints, on the first provisional issues of Ireland in 1922. The collection also shows some of the "forerunners", such as those prepared by the I.R.A. in Cork in 1922, and also the proofs and essays for the first Irish stamps.

"Bruno". Birkenhead. I.P.C.

SAORSTAT OVERPRINTS

Some of the overprint errors found on the Thom printings to the 1s. value, including examples of 'inserted' and 'missing' accents. The various overprintings on the high values from 1922 to 1935 showing errors of the basic stamp and of the overprints.

Calmonson, Cecil. Dublin. I.P.S.

"PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT" OVERPRINTS

A collection showing the various different types of overprint used in 1922, including the errors and varieties found in these overprints. The collection includes many scarce multiples of these stamps.

Casey, Lieutenant Patrick. Dublin. I.P.S. C.P.S.

HEALTH STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND

A short narrative outlining reasons for origin of Health stamps and the benefits derived from same, since their inception, together with a selection of New Zealand Health stamps.

Davey, Rev. W.E. Worcestershire. I.P.C. E.P.A.

THE BURNING OF WILD GOOSE LODGE

The story behind a bundle of letters, handbills, and newspaper cuttings found in an attic near Ardee, revealing arson, murder, executions, and the fate of the informers, in Co. Louth, 1816 – 1823.

Dixon, F.E. Dublin. I.P.S. E.P.A.

IRISH FISCAL STAMPS

Representative pages from a large collection. Included are Essays, Proofs and Provisional Overprints of the 1850's as well as the 1920's.

Finn, Anthony. Dublin. I.P.S. I.P.C. E.P.A.

IRELAND: AIRMAILS 1924 – 1971

A survey of the development of Irish airmails from 1924 to 1971, including a representative selection of first flight covers, together with the 1948/65 airmail definitives with the various varieties.

"Intaglio", Dublin. I.P.S.

G.B. 2d. BLUE, DIE 1, PLATES 1 – 6

This entry includes a corner marginal example, without corner letters from the miniature plate of twelve stamps prepared by Perkins, Bacon & Co. in January 1841. Each plate is represented, with multiples and single stamps showing shades, distinctive postmarks and constant varieties.

Jamieson, H.K. Middlesex I.P.C.

THE HOLYHEAD AND KINGSTOWN PACKET

A study of some of the back-stamps used on the H and K packet between 1860 and 1925, during which time the mails for Dublin City and County were sorted in the mail rooms of the ships in preparation for delivery on arrival.

Kane, William. Dublin. E.P.A. I.P.S. D.S.S. I.P.C.

50 YEARS OF IRISH COILS

A collection illustrating the various types of coils issued by the Irish Post Office over the past 50 years, showing the various joins, leaders and tabs, and varieties found in these coils.

Lennon, John G. Dublin. I.P.S. I.P.C.

THE FIRST IRISH MINIATURE SHEET

A study, involving the plating of the fourteen different varieties of miniature sheet issued in December 1972, by noting the varieties found in these sheets.

"Markus". Dublin. I.P.S. D.S.S.

UNUSUAL STAMPS OF THE WORLD

A thematic entry showing various unusual stamps, incorporating a history of their respective designs.

"Marlton", Wicklow. I.P.C.

CROATIA

A study of the production of the World War Two "Red Cross" issues of Croatia.

IRELAND: RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS

A collection of the postage stamps issued by the various railway companies to pre-pay the carriage of letters by rail.

IRELAND: REVENUE STAMPS

A representative collection of the revenue stamps of Ireland incorporating some of the rarer items in this sphere of philately.

Noonan, William. Dublin. D.S.S. G.S.G.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS OF VATICAN CITY

A thematic collection of the Christmas stamps issued by Vatican City, each of which shows Nativity scenes featured in different countries.

O'Brien, Gerard. Cork. C.P.S.

EDWARD VIII IN PHILATELY

A definitive study of postage stamps portraying the late Duke of Windsor, and of the postal history which surrounded his brief reign as King Edward VIII.

Phelan, Michael B. Waterford. I.P.C.

IRISH OVERPRINTS 1922-1935

A study of the overprints used in Ireland between 1922 and 1935 with examples of the varieties to be found on them.

Quinn, Desmond J. Dublin. I.P.S.

CANADA: GEORGE V — 1935 ISSUE

A collection incorporating mint and used in blocks of 4, air stamps, pre-cancels and covers from the North West Territories.

CANADA — 3 CENT SMALL HEADS.

A study of this particular issue including mint and used examples, shades, perforation changes, covers and cancellations.

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Ross, Dr. C. A. Cork. C.P.S.

IRISH DECIMAL POSTAL STATIONERY

A study of Irish postal stationery since February 1971, including changes in stock, printing dies, incorrect wordings subsequently corrected, increase and decrease in postal rates, and private stationery.

Sibley, William. Dublin. D.S.S.

MALTA QUARANTINE COVERS

This entry shows the history of Malta's Quarantine Station and has illustrations of the hazzaretto of San Rocco, also a number of covers having quarantine transit marks.

Sicking L. Netherlands. I.P.C.

THE DOLLARD OVERPRINTS

A selection of the Dollard overprints, including varieties, errors, and different plates.

Smithers, Patrick J. Dublin. I.P.C. D.S.S.

MODERN IRISH VARIETIES

A display of the major varieties which have appeared on the issues of the Irish Post Office since the introduction of decimalisation in 1971.

"Brian Stanley", Sussex. E.P.A.

IRISH POSTAL HISTORY

A selection of Irish Postal History illustrating the different types of pre-stamp markings, including the various "penny post" markings and "paid ats".

Stokes, Arthur L. Dublin. I.P.S. D.S.S. I.P.C. E.P.A.

IRISH POLITICAL POSTAL HISTORY 1916 – 1923

Cancellations and cachets connected with the activities of the I.R.A. during the period 1916 – 1923, with three original curfew permits (given to an official working on the Dublin – Galway T.P.O.).

"PAID" FRANKS WITH SLOGANS

Franks for "Official Paid" mail and for mail pre-paid in cash, with slogans in red, with some instances of misuse for cancelling adhesive stamps in black. Period since 1922.

Towers, Dr. Robert P. Dublin. I.P.S.

"GRENADA 1784 – 1908"

This entry gives an overall glimpse of Grenada postal history and stamps from the earliest known postal marking to the era of Edward VII. It includes pre-stamp material, British stamps used in Grenada and a representative display of the Victorian issues, the early types of which feature the classical Chalon portrait of the Queen. The variety of provisional issues made during the 1880's is noteworthy and is a reflection of official cheese-paring combined with difficulties of communication and transport.

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Wright. Norah K. Dublin. I.P.S. I.P.C. D.S.S.

IRELAND AND HER "TROUBLES"

Selected pages from a specialised study of this subject. The collection starts with an entire of 1853 addressed to the Lord Lieutenant concerning the famine. It then moves to the Fenian Movement of 1866. The early years of the 20th century are marked by covers showing the agitation of rival parties by the use of their propaganda labels on cover. The display covers the Rebellion period and tells of the Civil War and the difficult years of adjustment, ending by giving an Irish flavour to the 1925 Wembley Exhibition.

PAQUEBOTS AND CACHETS

A selection of maritime mail covering a period between 1840 and 1970. The display starts with old ship letters of the 19th century including Kinsale, Cork and Queenstown. It continues with wreck covers and salvaged mail and shows in contrast the modern paquebots and cachets of the 20th century.

LITERATURE SECTION

Foley, Joseph E. New Jersey, U.S.A. E.P.A. I.P.C.

THE "TAYLOR-MADE" FENIAN ESSAYS

Original research tracing the origin of the so-called Fenian Essays, long believed to have been produced by or for the Fenian Brotherhood, to S. Allan Taylor the pioneer of bogus philately. Co-published by the Eire Philatelic Association and The American Philatelic Society, Inc., in 1971.

Awards

SILVER-GILT MEDALS

Gerard Brady;
Cecil Calmonson;
H. K. Jamieson;

"Brian Stanley";
Arthur L. Stokes;
Robert P. Towers

SILVER MEDALS

Joseph E. Foley;
William Kane;
"Marlton";

Michael B. Phelan;
William Sibley;
Norah K. Wright.

BRONZE MEDALS

"Bruno";
F. E. Dixon;
Anthony Finn

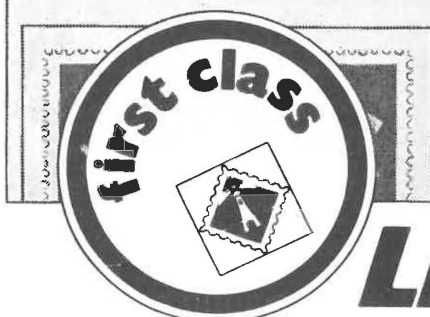
"Intaglio";
"Marlton."

All other exhibitors were awarded a Certificate of Participation.

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8	NUMMUS 2 Mary Street, Dublin 1.
9	ANGLERS CORNER (STAMPS & COINS) 1 – 2 Cathedral Street, Armagh.
10	IRISH TIMES FIRST DAY COVER SERVICE 31, Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2.
11	PHILATELIC SOCIETIES: Irish Philatelic Society Eire Philatelic Association Irish Philatelic Circle Dublin Stamp Society Guild of St. Gabriel
12 & 13	DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS Philatelic Section, G.P.O., Dublin 1.

Special Postmarks

Four special postmarks will be used on mail posted at the Exhibition. The designs of the cancellations will change for each of the four days and are as follows:-

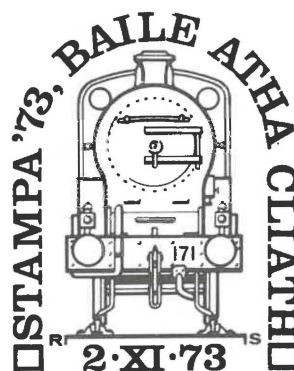
November 1st: “Christmas”, to tie in with the first day of issue of the special Irish Christmas Postage Stamps (3? p and 12p values). The design in the ancient Celtic style depicts a lighted candle symbolising the light of peace and goodwill of Christmas.

November 2nd: “Railways”, a popular thematic collector’s subject. The postmark depicts a front view of Engine No. 171 “Slieve Gullion” which was formerly used on the Dublin to Belfast line, on which it often pulled the travelling post office. The engine is at present owned by the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, based in Belfast.

**look forward
to the
future...**

with the friendly





November 3rd: “Aero Philately”. The design incorporates the Vickers Vimy used by Alcock and Brown on their famous first trans-atlantic flight from Newfoundland to Clifden (Galway) in 1919.

November 4th: “Postal History”. This postmark shows the famous “Mermaid” pre-adhesive “paid” stamp, which was a distinctive Irish mark used in this form between 1808 and 1815. The original design has been slightly modified in order to use it as a postmark.

SPECIAL POST CARDS

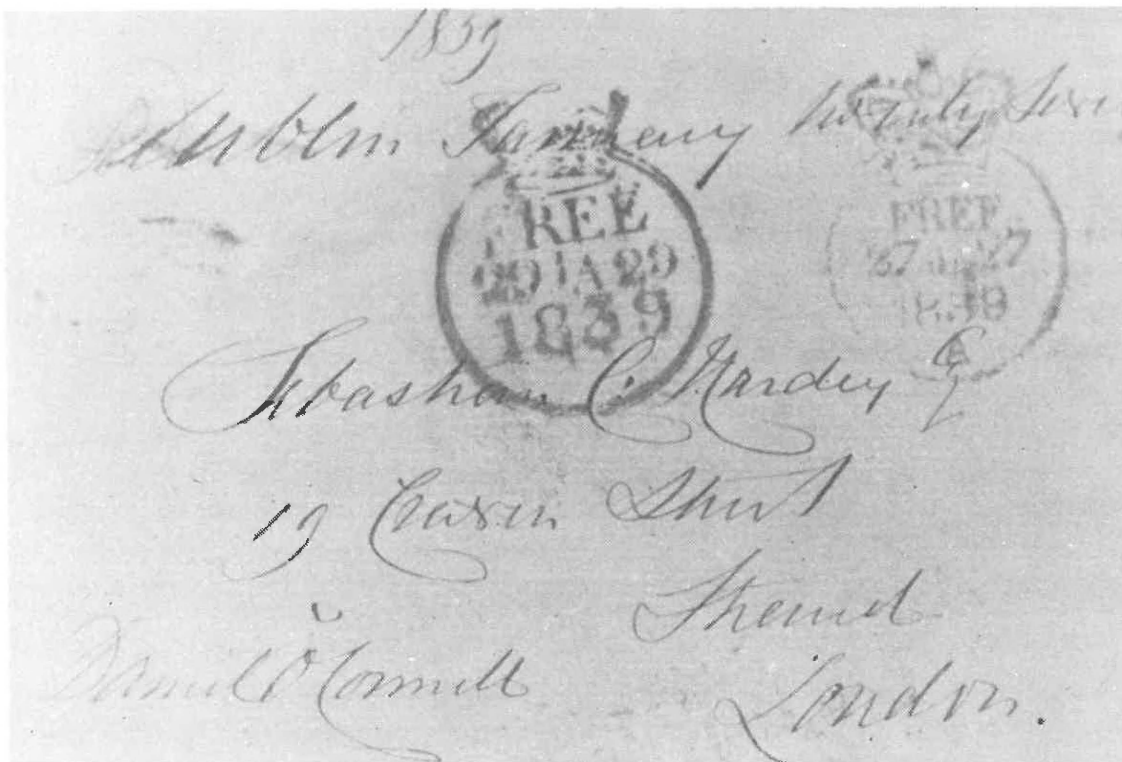
The “Stampa ’73” Committee has produced a set of four commemorative post cards, each one bearing one of the four different designs of the postmarks. The cards will be on sale at the Exhibition, but serviced post cards may be ordered by post from the following address:

*Stampa ’73 Committee (Post Card Sales)
7 Weaver Square, Cork Street,
Dublin 8. Ireland.*

A limited stock of these serviced post cards will be available after the Exhibition and is offered as follows, subject unsold, and also subject to price increase without prior notice:-

Set of four official post cards each serviced with the special postmark, and a 3½p stamp, with the exception of the “Christmas” post card which will be serviced with the 3½p and 12p Christmas Stamps on the first day of issue (November 1st) – PRICE: £1.00 per set of four, post free.

Further copies of this catalogue may also be on sale at the Exhibition, subject to stocks.



A "Free Frank" front – popular with autograph hunters in the early 1800's, autographed by Daniel O'Connell



A page from Miss Barrington's collection, showing the Penny Black and the Mulready Envelope.

Photographs by F. E. Dixon

THE HISTORY OF PHILATELY

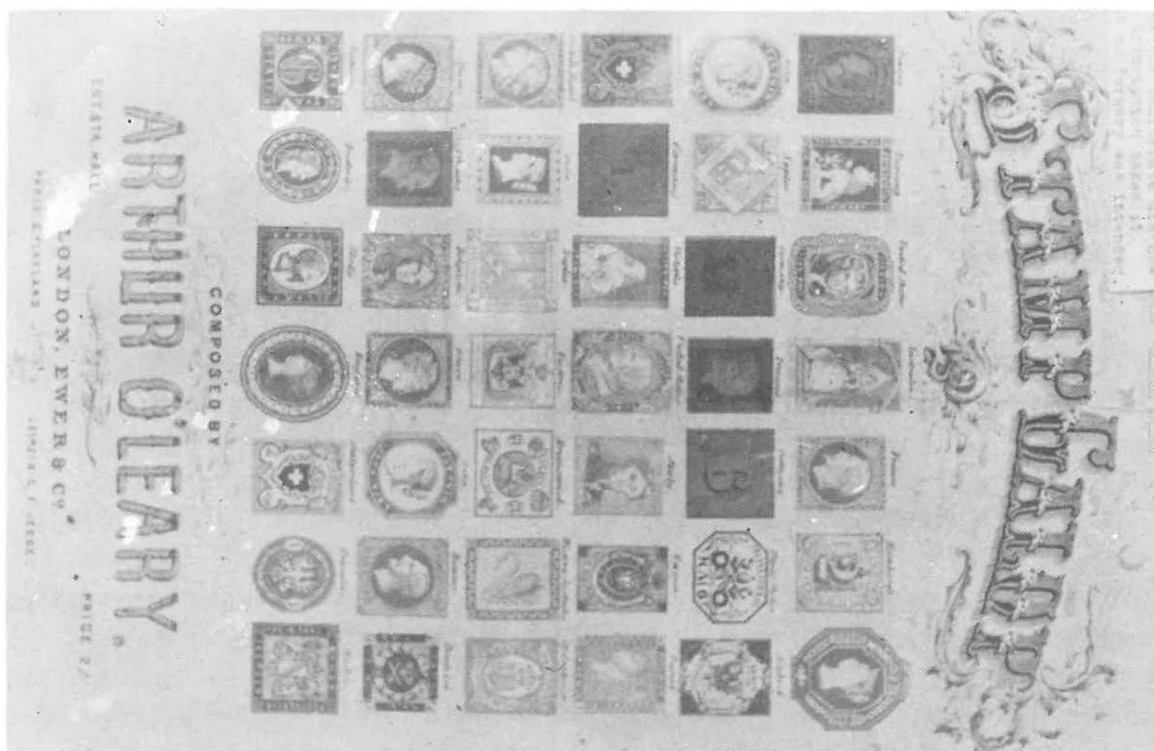
by F. E. Dixon

The best dictionary definition of philately is "the collection and study of postage and revenue stamps and labels". In recent times the term "postal history" has been increasingly used for that branch of philately which deals with handstruck stamps and postmarks, as well as the history of the postal services.

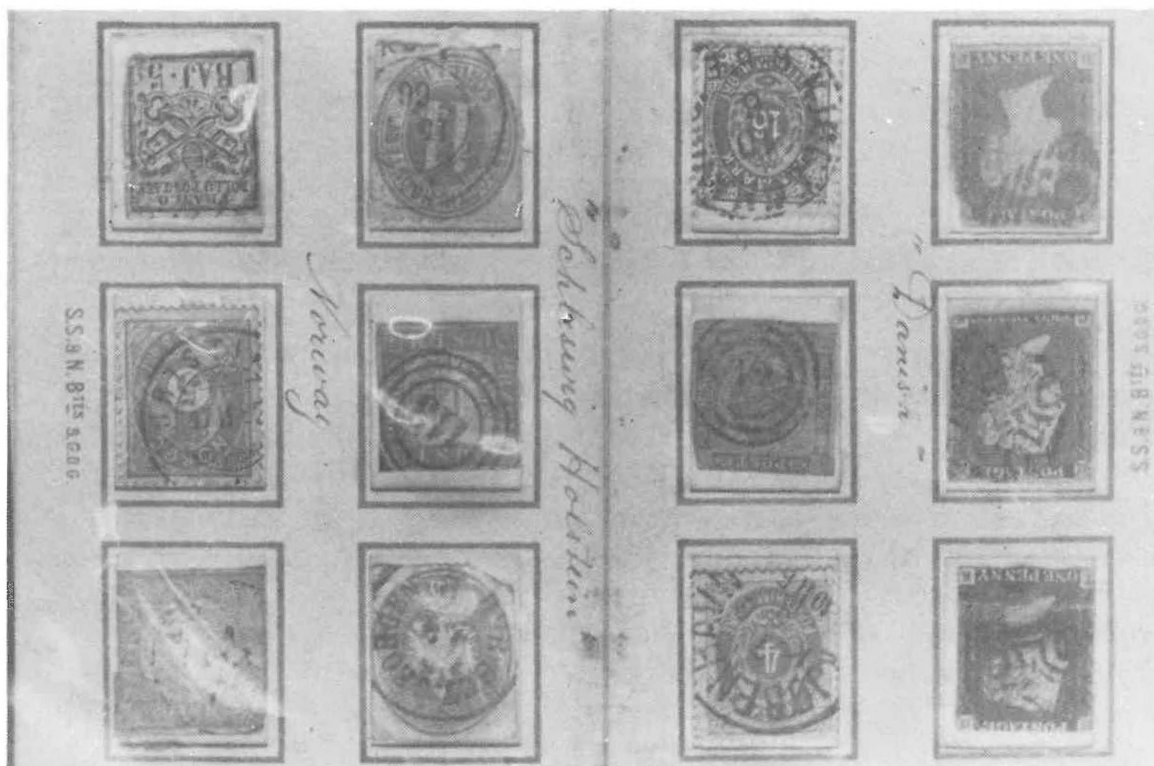
I feel that the time is ripe for establishing a further field of study — Philatelic History. Alas, it is soon realised that one of the lessons to be learned is the truism "the lesson of history is that no-one learns from history". For example every generation finds fresh examples of stamps being a bad investment, of countries becoming unpopular — and also of ugly ducklings becoming swans! However, from the collecting point of view Philatelic History comprises finding examples of early stamp albums, catalogues and accessories. Ireland has yielded some remarkable examples. It is still not widely known that the first recorded stamp collection in the world was assembled here in 1774 by John Bourke. He had impressions made of all the embossing dies used for collecting the newly introduced stamp duties. These were bound into a volume for presentation to his overlords, the Irish Revenue Commissioners. And the volume happily survives in the library of the Royal Irish Academy.

In the early 1800's it became very fashionable to cut out the addressed fronts of letters and paste them in albums. Such albums are now of interest for the postmarks, but the original collectors were not concerned with them. What they wanted were the autographs. It was the period when M.P.'s and peers had the privilege of free postage if they signed the front. One small collection of this type came to light recently, assembled we think by a Miss Barrington. On her first page were the autographs of the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel. Next was Daniel O'Connell, and many more pages followed with less prominent figures.

In 1840 the reforms which included the Penny General Post and the introduction of the adhesive postage label also ended the privilege of free franking. Most of the collectors closed their albums. Not so Miss Barrington. One page has at the top the word POSTAGE neatly cut from the back of a Mulready envelope. Below it is the front of the envelope, and below that a 2d. blue unused, and 1d. black both unused and used. As there is nothing in the album later than 1840 it seems certain that the stamps were stuck there in that year. In the 1860's when the word "philately" was coined and the first boom occurred, several people claimed to have been collecting from the start in 1840, but none of their original albums is known to have survived. So Miss Barrington's is the oldest album of adhesive postage stamps that we know of. As well as mounting the Mulready, she placed four of the caricatures of it in the album, one having been addressed to herself. We do not know why the collection was finished so soon after it started, but for us it was a happy accident.



"The Stamp Galop".



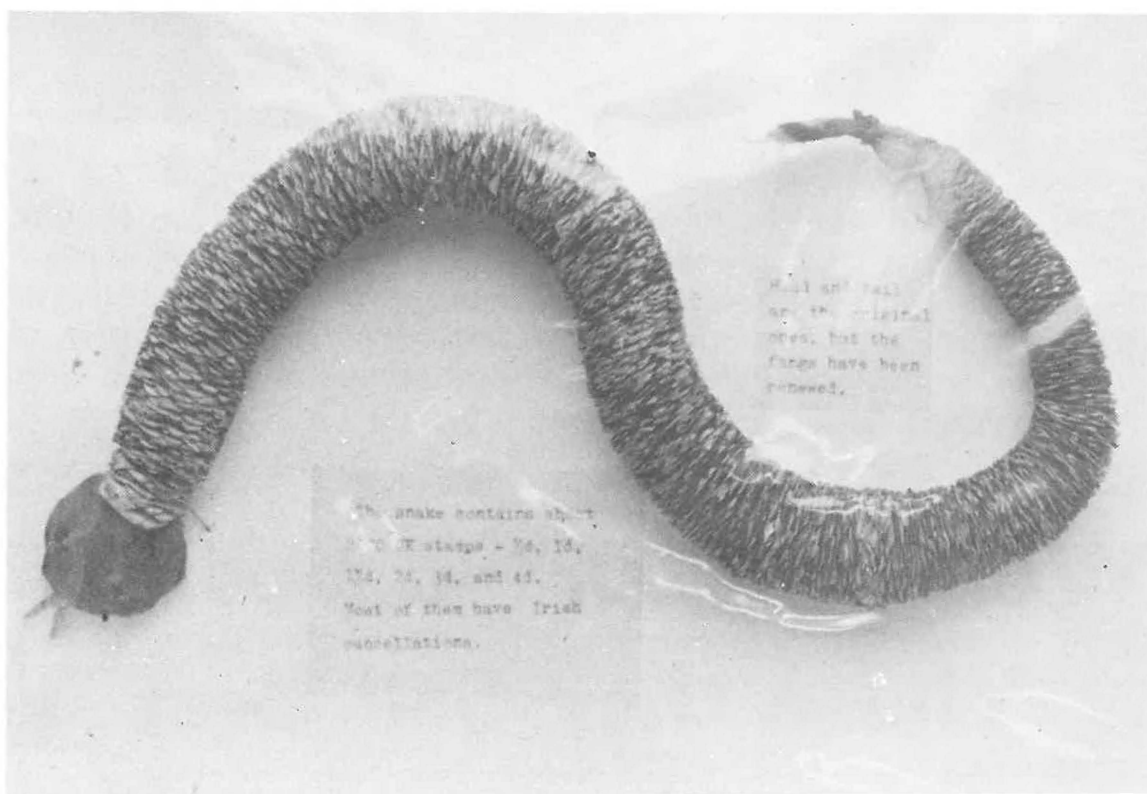
An early printed stamp album produced in Germany

Photographs by F. E. Dixon

Organised stamp collecting began on the continent and the earliest albums designed for collectors appeared in Germany. Illustrated is one of the 1850's, with sunk spaces for six stamps on each page.

There are always collectors concerned with quantity and not quality. In the 1860's, or earlier it became fashionable to decorate screens and other objects by pasting on any stamps that could be found. Rather rare now is the snake constructed by threading some hundreds of stamps together and adding head and tail. A variant was to string them together, but using glue as well until the assembly was strong enough to use as a walking stick.

Also collectable are any items illustrating how popular stamp collecting has become. For example around 1860 it was fashionable to have galops and polkas with topical titles. One of them was "The Stamp Galop" by Arthur O'Leary the title page being embellished with colourful and deliberately inaccurate reproductions of 42 different stamps. In 1870 when postcards made their appearance in Great Britain and Ireland the Dublin firm Pigott & Co. soon found it worth their while to issue "The Post Card Galop" illustrated by a good reproduction of the card.



The "Snake" constructed by threading hundreds of stamps together.

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IRISH POSTAL HISTORY : THE CHANGEOVER IN 1922

by Erik Kuylénstjerna

(Mr. Kuylénstjerna, of Borås, Sweden, an ardent collector of Irish stamps is now in his late seventies. It is quite fascinating to learn and bear in mind when reading this article by him, that he began to learn English only a few years ago!)

On the 6th December 1921 England and Southern Ireland came to an agreement. A compromise was drawn up that established Southern Ireland as the Irish Free State which was to be a self governing dominion in the United Kingdom. Among the negotiators for Ireland were Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins, who had both been appointed by the Irish parliament. Lloyd George was Prime Minister in England at the time and it was he that had called the Irish conference in London which drew up the agreement. This agreement was ratified by the Irish Parliament/DAIL EIREANN despite very strong resistance. When the final votes were taken, 64 members voted in favour of accepting the treaty while 57 voted against it. This split resulted in a desperate and bloody civil war which ravaged through the country till May 1923, when de Valera, leader of the opposition, called a ceasefire.

The treaty was ratified by the English Parliament in March 1922, but in the background of strong protest. This was the political background to the Irish Postal History of the time.

The postal organisation in Ireland had, since the earliest times, been under the control of the English post-office department, except for the period 1784-1831 when Ireland itself was responsible. The administration was at the G.P.O. in Dublin. Even when the December 1921 agreement had been drawn up the English post-office was still in control of all the Irish posts. According to the current contract, at the time this arrangement was to continue until April 1st 1922 when the financial year ended. Though the Irish Government may have had many objections, it seems they were quite aware of this arrangement for the running of postal services and approved of the transition period.

However, one preparatory task they did undertake was to consult each of the P.O. officials individually with regard to his position and the change in postal control. This was specifically important in the case of the higher officials in service.

The head of the Irish Post Office – the “Secretary of the Post Office in Ireland” – was G. S. Forsythe, who, on March 31st 1922 handed over his position to P. S. O’Hagarty. H. J. Tipping was another high official – the Controller – then head of the Post Office Stores Department, Alderborough House Depot, Dublin. This was the postal store which supplied all the materials including postage stamps to the post offices throughout the country. Tipping also stayed until March 31st, 1922, and was later (May 19th), appointed as postmaster in Cardiff.

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After the acceptance of the Treaty by the Irish Parliament on January 7th 1922 the same Parliament became responsible to appoint ministers for the Provisional Government. J. J. Walsh was appointed the Minister for Postal Works. One of his first and most important duties was to establish a new Irish postal system. This had to be arranged before April 1st 1922. This was a very short time indeed, but it is likely that he had been somewhat prepared and had drawn up some plans in advance. How well he succeeded in resolving the many problems he faced can be seen in the efficient postal system which exists in Ireland today.

An important problem facing Walsh was to arrange new special stamps for Ireland. This was quite impossible in the short time up to April 1st 1922. On February 1st a competition was announced with prize offered for the presentation of stamps which would become Ireland's first issue. However, before these stamps could be approved, prepared and printed, the problem had to be solved temporarily. One way of doing this was to use current English stamps and overprint them.

Walsh went to London to discuss this issue among other things. The proposal to overprint was accepted and by mid-February 1922 these overprinted stamps had been widely distributed throughout the post offices of Southern Ireland. They were officially issued for public sale on February 17th.

The overprint was in Gaelic characters, and in some way obliterated the portrait of the British King on the stamp. This was not favourably received in London and Winston Churchill, then Secretary for the Colonies, was moved to answer a parliamentary inquiry. He replied as follows:-

“The British postage stamps supplied to the post office in Southern Ireland have been overprinted pending the issue of stamps of an Irish design when that administration takes over the control of its own post office under the terms of the Treaty. It is the usual practice in a period of transition to overprint postage stamps, and the present arrangement has been agreed to by His Majesty's Government. The revenue resulting from the sale of overprinted stamps is being brought to credit in the accounts of the Post Office in the normal way.”

On Feb. 15th 1922 the G.P.O. in London sent out a bulletin as follows:-

“Supplies of Postage Stamps overprinted in Gaelic characters with the following inscription: ‘Rialtas Sealadach na hEireann 1922’, will shortly be issued to Postmasters in the Irish Free State. Postmasters in Great Britain and in Northern Ireland should note that such overprinted stamps are valid for payment of postage and that correspondence so prepaid should be dealt with in the normal course.”

The bulletin above was not addressed to any particular office or party and thus it seems it must have been issued to all post offices in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland, which at this time were still all under the control of the G.P.O. in London.

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On March 29th 1922 a post office circular No.2616 was sent out from the G.P.O. in London. Among its contents was the following:

“Transfer of post office services in Southern Ireland to the Irish Government: With the exception of the Savings Bank business, the Post Office services in Southern Ireland will be transferred to the control of the Irish Provisional Government as from April 1st 1922.

The following information should be noted by Postmasters and other officers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

(e) With the exception mentioned in paragraph (d), postage stamps overprinted by the Irish Provisional Government for use in Southern Ireland will not be valid for use in Great Britain or in Northern Ireland for any purposes, but surcharges should not be raised on postal packets bearing the overprinted stamps before the 3rd of April. The stamps allowed should not be cancelled. The overprinted stamps will, however, continue to be valid for the prepayment of postage on correspondence posted in Southern Ireland, and such packets should, of course, not be subject to surcharge.

(k) Stores Transaction:

As from 1st of April next, Postmasters and other officers in Northern Ireland will cease to requisition stores from, or forward stores to, the Aldborough House Depot, Dublin. In the case of postal stores, the procedure will be that laid down for Postmasters, &c, in England and Wales.....”

It is most likely that this circular was sent out to all post offices in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland because it begins as follows:

“The following information should be noted by Postmasters and other officers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....”

This direction in the beginning would obviously have been unnecessary if the order had only been sent out to these offices. For post offices in Southern Ireland the circular was hardly important but it seemed to confirm the end of authority by the G.P.O. in London over these offices on March 31st 1922. Unfortunately, we are unable to trace the documents referring to the authority of the G.P.O. in Dublin during the same period. It seems they were destroyed during the civil war.

On April 26th 1922 the G.P.O. in London sent out another information bulletin headed as follows:

**“BRITISH STAMPS ON POSTAL PACKETS FROM THE
IRISH REPUBLIC”**

“When letters etc. from places in the Irish Free State are received marked for surcharge because they are prepaid in British stamps not overprinted for use in the Irish Free State allowance should be made, when the charge is collected for the British stamps which they bear; and these stamps should be obliterated before delivery.

“For instance, on a letter bearing a twopenny British stamp and

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surcharged 4d. as unpaid, only 2d. should be collected, allowance being made for the British stamp.

No charge should be collected on delivery unless the letter has been marked for taxation by the Post Office of the Irish Free State.”

This document was, of course, sent out to all post offices in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Southern Ireland was now under the control of the G.P.O. at Dublin.

Own comments:

What conclusions can we draw from all the above information?

It seems to be generally accepted by collectors of Irish stamps that the first overprinted stamps (issued February 17th 1922) were issued by the Irish postal administration and that these stamps were only valid for postage in Southern Ireland and not in Great Britain or Northern Ireland. This being correct we can draw further conclusions.

Firstly, the English postal administration was responsible for all postal work in Ireland until April 1st 1922. Furthermore, the same administration had a postal store in Dublin – Aldborough House Depot. When it was approved to overprint current English stamps with Gaelic characters it might quite naturally have been the case that such stamps required for the overprinting were transferred from the head-store in London to the sub-store in Dublin. The Dublin store sent out those stamps received from London to the respective printers and after the overprinting the stamps were distributed to all post offices in Southern Ireland.

Northern Ireland had also been getting its stamps from Dublin but due to the change in political status it seems unlikely that post offices there received overprinted stamps. If this is so, it also seems that such overprinted stamps used in Northern Ireland were possibly applied by nationalists for propaganda purposes.

It seems that the new Irish Postal Administration did nothing more at first than approve the appearance of the overprint. The main directive was likely to have been taken in London. The Aldborough House Depot in Dublin arranged and contracted out for the production of the overprint and the distribution of same. This can be verified by the fact that the Irish stamp dealer F. F. Freeman received information with regard to the numbers printed (overprinted) for the issues of stamps up to February 21st and again up to March 23rd 1922 from Aldborough House Depot in Dublin.

It seems strange that the overprinting of the British stamps should have been carried out by two Irish printers and not done in England. Perhaps the reason may have been that the overprint was to be made in Gaelic characters and it was the Irish Post Office which had initiated the project and who should therefore bear the cost. However, this matter is still unclear.

Perhaps it may be significant to point out here that when coil stamps were to be produced, the Irish postal administration gave the English

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firm of Harrison & Son the commission for making both the overprint and the coil forms – the cutting and pasting. These coil stamps were first issued on June 19th 1922.

The next question is to examine just where those overprinted stamps first issued were valid for prepaying postage. On February 17th 1922 the post offices in Southern Ireland selling the overprinted series were still under the control of the British postal administration. Perhaps these overprinted stamps also sold in Northern Ireland but if so, in very limited quantities. According to the direction of the G.P.O. in London by the circular issued February 15th 1922 and submitted to all post offices: “overprinted stamps are valid for prepayment of postage.....”

According to the G.P.O. circular No.2616 of March 29th 1922 the overprinted stamps, which were still being used temporarily, were not valid outside Southern Ireland after March 31st 1922. Even after that day, should the Irish post office not have stamps of its own ready for use it had permission to continue with overprinted stamps. It seems to be those stamps of the Irish Post Office so overprinted and distributed that would not be acceptable as valid postage on letters and packets from places outside Southern Ireland. This again confirms that the first overprinted stamps issued under the authority of the British Post Office were quite legal and valid for postage even outside Southern Ireland. The two circulars as mentioned earlier limit the time for use outside Southern Ireland (i.e. in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) to February 17th – March 31st 1922.

Despite that, the first issue of overprinted postage stamps were sold only by post offices receiving supplies from Aldborough House in Dublin. Speculative stamp collectors and stamp dealers with foresight at the time could have sent stamps to places outside Southern Ireland in order to receive them back on letters cancelled in those places. Such letters would have been quite legal and could have had a cancellation like Fig. 1.

Fig. 1.

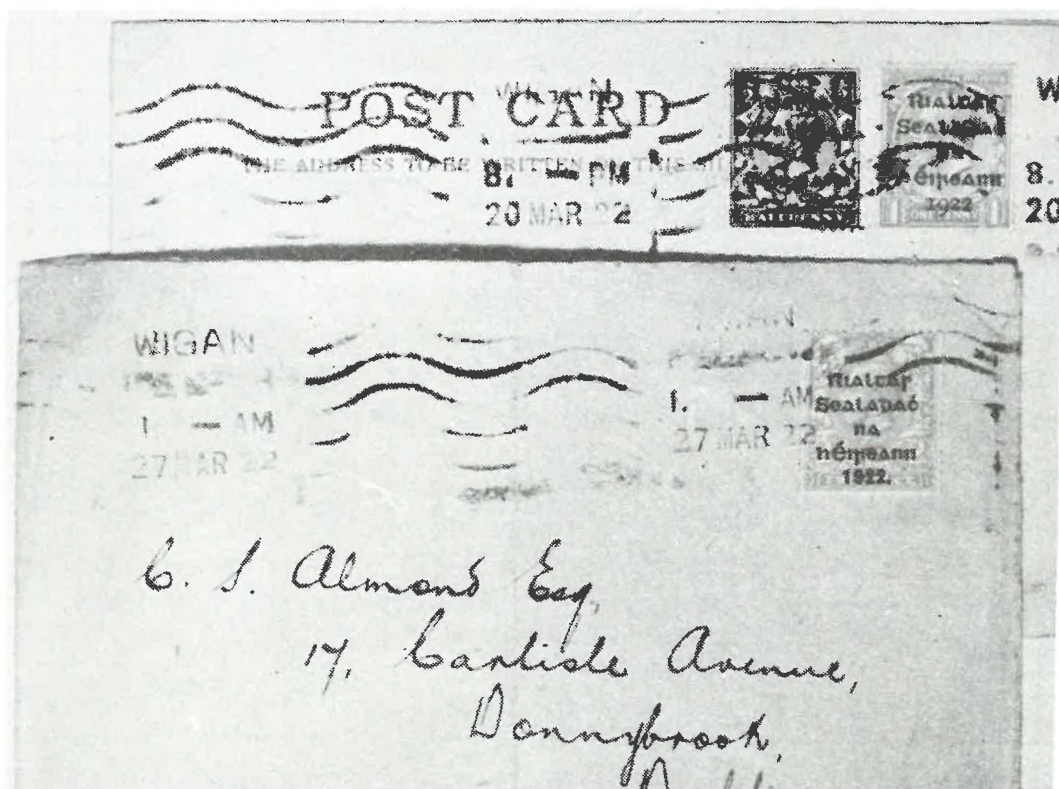


During the period February 17th – March 31st both overprinted and non-overprinted stamps were quite legal for postage use in the United Kingdom and Southern Ireland. One could use both types on the same letter – mixed prepayment. This was quite common in Southern Ireland as it was necessary to use up all those non-overprinted stamps still held in private hands.

Examples of such mixed prepayment – Fig. 2



*Overprint used in Belfast
March 15, 1922*



Overprints used in Wigan, Lancs., March 1922



S.G. No.370, ex coil machine: British stamps for coil machines bearing "Harrison" overprint were not issued until June 1922, so that it is possible that the stamp shown above was obtained at Limerick Post Office at the time of posting.

Note: The above items are from the collection of Arthur L. Stokes. Photographed by Cecil Calmonson.



Fig.2. Cancelled CORK 22/2/22. Fig.3. Cancelled CARLOW 23/3/22

After March 31st 1922 letters from places outside Southern Ireland and bearing overprinted stamps were not acceptable. Such letters were marked for surcharge (See Fig.4).

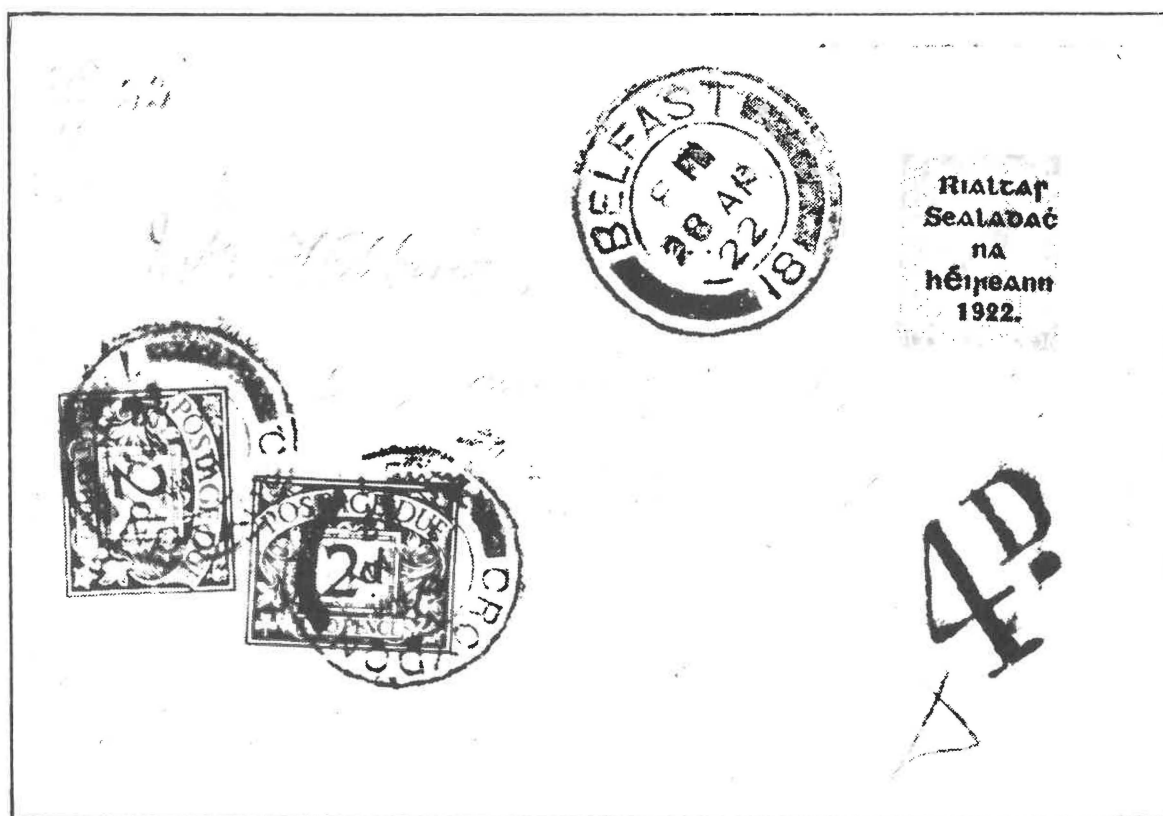


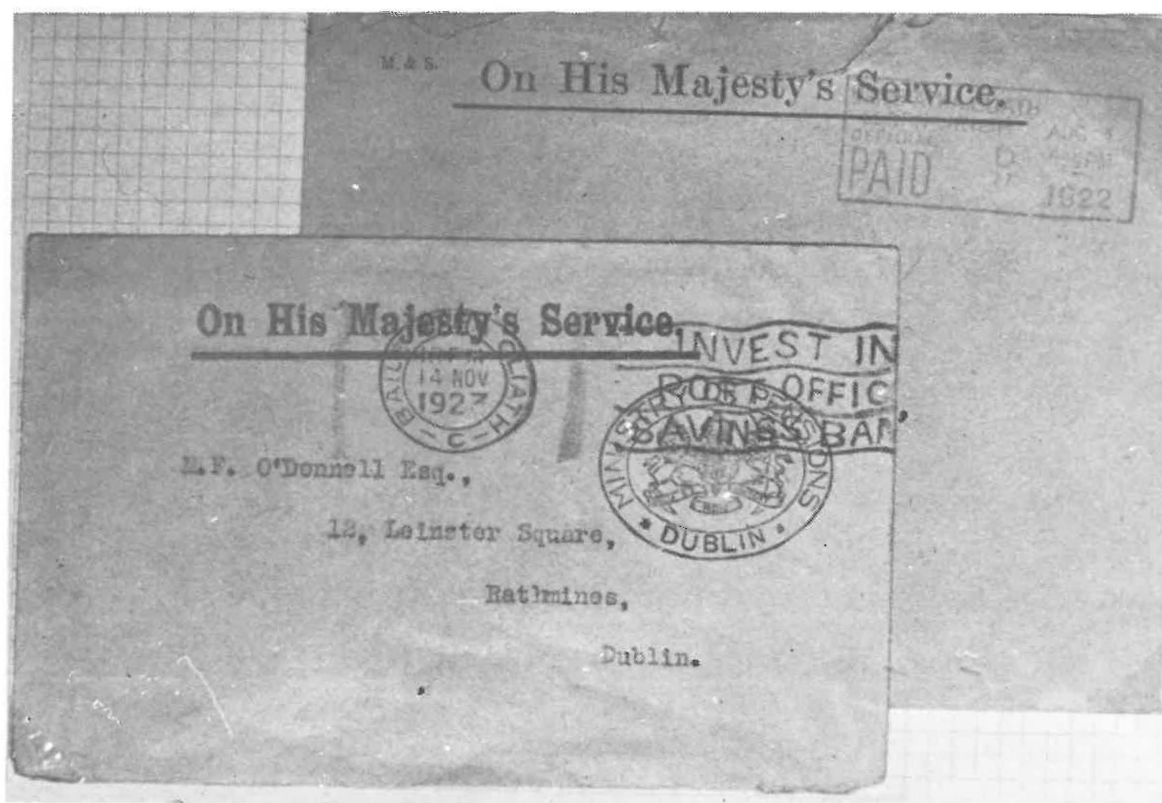
Fig. 4.

This letter is sent from BELFAST April 28th, 1922 and addressed to CROYDON. It is marked for surcharge 4d. Prepayment with overprinted stamps show also that such stamps were outside Southern Ireland at this time.

It is uncertain as to the actual date the G.P.O. in Dublin forbade the use of non-overprinted stamps, but certainly by the 10th April they would not accept a letter bearing such stamps as prepayment as can be seen from Fig.5.



Examples of Irish overprints used with British Postal Stationery in 1922 (still legal as Irish Postal Stationery was not issued until 1924). Note that the examples here are those of Edward VII's reign!



Examples of O.H.M.S. envelopes not surcharged, either by mistake or by courtesy.

A.L. Stokes Collection : Photographs by Cecil Calmonson.

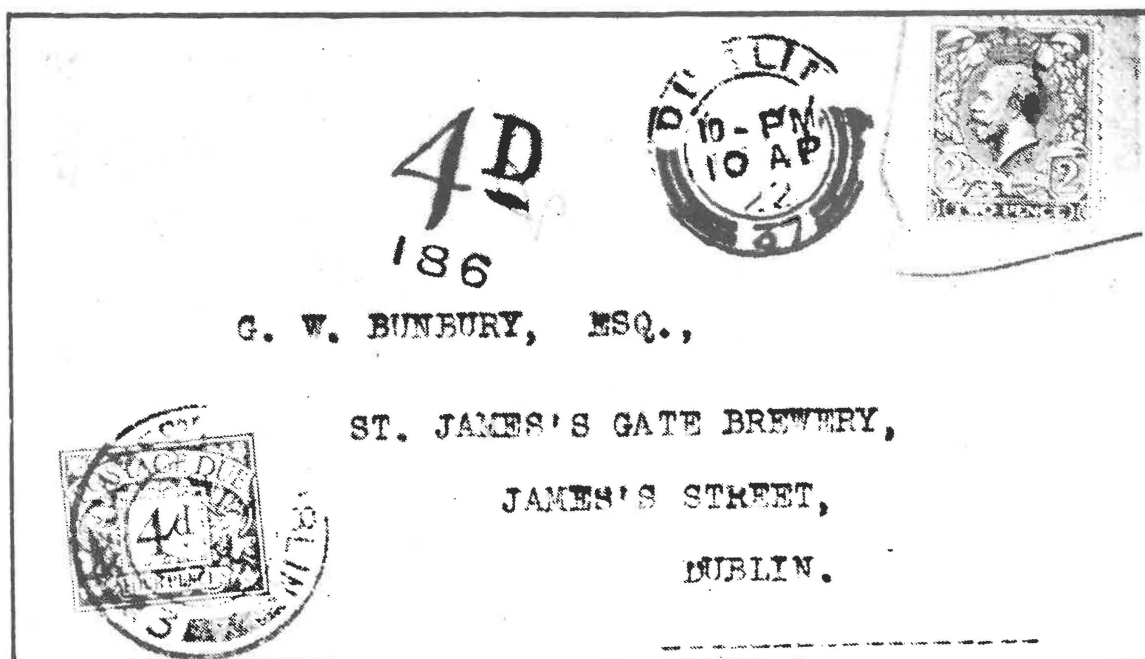


Fig.5. This letter was for DUBLIN local delivery — April 10th 1922. It is surcharged 4d. (Note also the use of the current British Postage Due stamps).

Perhaps it should also be noted just at this point that on the same day a local Drogheda letter bearing a 1d. non-overprinted stamp passed the post office in the normal way without surcharge. The cause for this could have been a simple oversight or that the written order from Dublin G.P.O. had not yet arrived in Drogheda because of the Civil War.

As regards Postal Stationery the British range of envelopes, cards etc. remained in current supply and were valid. It would have been very difficult to overprint the range of embossed stationery. Validity for legal postage prepayment remained until December 1924 by which time Ireland had introduced its own range.

When the postage rate was raised the additional fee had to be paid by affixing current postage stamps — another example of mixed prepayment (See Fig.6.).

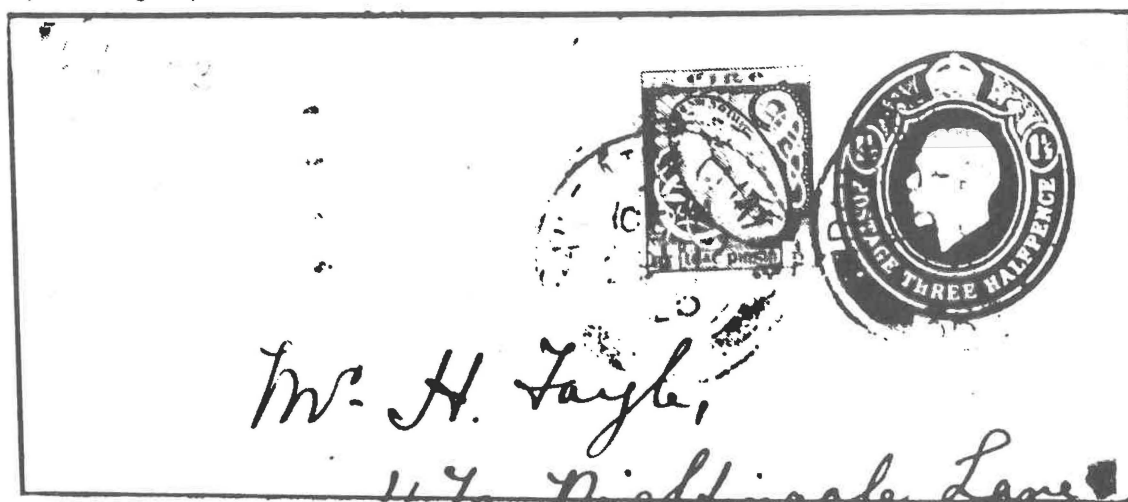


Fig.6. Card cancelled June 29th, 1923.

A good illustration of the directive ordered by the British Post Office in the document of April 26th 1922 is Fig. 7.

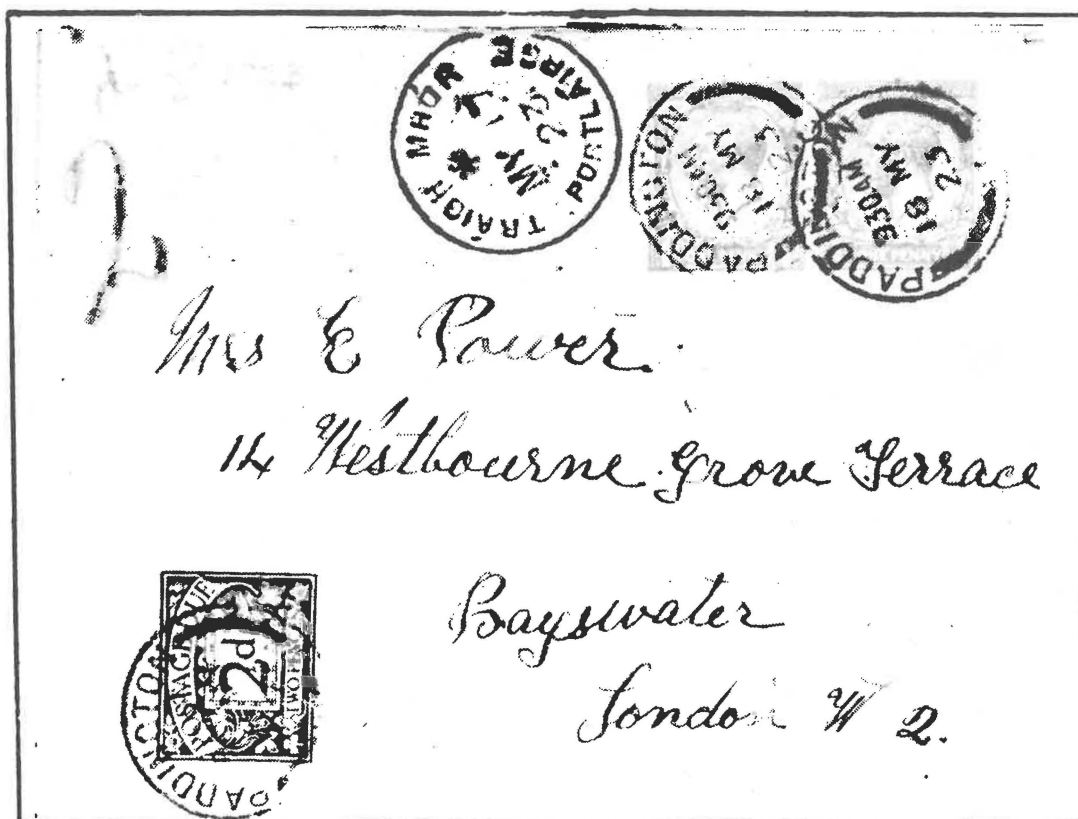


Fig. 7. This letter is sent from Tramore May 17th 1923 to London and is franked with two British 1d. non-overprinted stamps. The post office at Tramore would not accept these as valid prepayment and thus raised a surcharge of 4d. When the letter arrived in England, the Paddington Post Office (London) accepted the British stamps for England and thus changed the surcharge to 2d.

As a final item *Fig. 8* presents an interesting story:



This is a letter from Greencastle to London of August 4th, 1925, bearing three x ½d. British non-overprinted stamps. The cover is postmarked 'GREENCASTLE/LONDONDERRY'. At that time Londonderry (County) was part of Northern Ireland and one would assume that non-overprinted stamps would be the correct method for paying postage. However, the Greencastle Post Office did not accept them and raised a surcharge of 4d. In actual fact what had happened was correct. Greencastle is in County Donegal — a county lying in Ulster but part of the Southern Ireland administration. Prior to 1922 this post office was under the authority of the main Londonderry office. The handstamp had not yet changed as had the status of the town which explains the misleading postmark.

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by John Lennon

On the 50th anniversary of the first definitive Irish postage stamp the Post Office issued a special commemorative stamp. The 6p stamp depicted that first stamp — the familiar 2d. green with a map of Ireland. Besides issuing it in the usual sheets of 100, it was also issued in miniature sheets of 4 with an inscription at the foot.

As part of their excellent display at “Stampa ’72” the Revenue Stamping Branch, who printed the stamps, showed the complete cylinder sheet from which the miniature sheets were cut. Without this it would not have been possible to see how the miniatures were printed or to identify them.

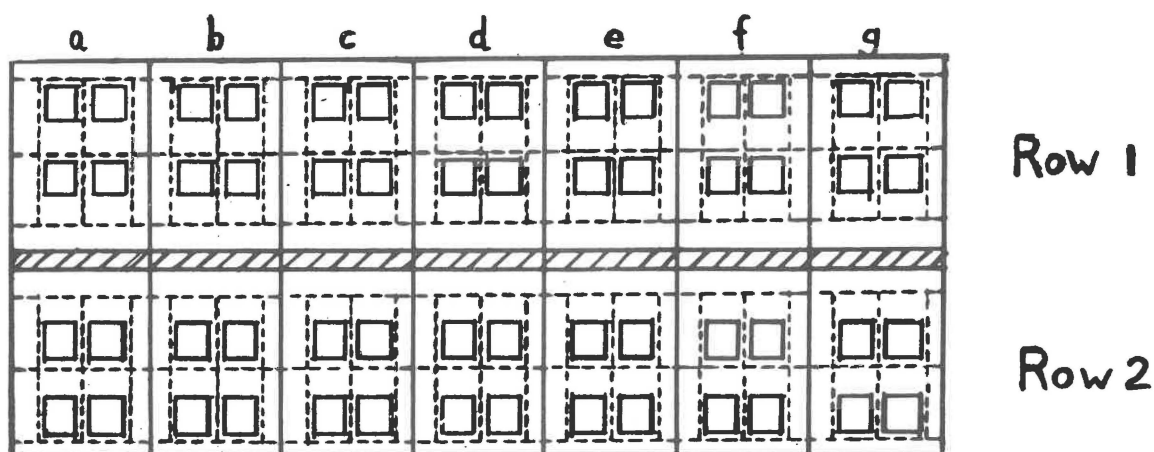


Fig.1.

The sheets were arranged in two rows of seven, the bottom row being inverted. The layout is shown in Fig. 1. During “Stampa ’72” I studied the fourteen miniature sheets for individual characteristics and succeeded in identifying each one’s position on the cylinder sheet.

The first problem was to decide which was the top row as the cylinder sheet looked just the same if turned upside-down. The answer was in the inscription at the foot of each sheet. In one row the printing of the ‘P’ and ‘1’ was weaker than the rest and in the other row the ‘S’ and ‘2’ were weaker. So I’ve called the row with the weak ‘1’ “Row 1” and that with the weak ‘2’ “Row 2”. With Row 1 on top I’ve labelled the sheets ‘a’ to ‘g’. The four stamps on each sheet are identified by their position i.e. “T.L.”: top left; “T.R.”: top right; “B.L.”: bottom left; “B.R.”: bottom right.

I will now list the fourteen sheets and the characteristics by which they can be identified. These are illustrated in Fig.2.

ROW 1

- 1a: There is a white line through the '6' and also a tiny green dot outside, and near the top right corner of the 2d. stamp. (Both B.R.).
- 1b: A small 'moon' appears above the first 'E' (T.L.). Half-way up the right of the 2d. stamp there is a green dot (B.L.).
- 1c: Between, and slightly above, the 'E' and '6' there is a 'moon' (T.L.).
- 1d: In the inscription at the foot a white dot is just visible near the top of the 'P' of '1972'.
- 1e: A small 'moon' is visible just above '6' (B.L.) and in the first 'E' (B.R.) there is a white dot below the centre stroke.
- 1f: The top bar of the first 'E' (T.L.) is faint and there is a tiny green dot above '1972' (B.L.).
- 1g: A small white dot is in the left pillar of the 2d. stamp (T.L.). See the illustration for its position.

ROW 2

- 2a: There is a small retouch behind the 'R' on the 2d. stamp and also a dark spot on the crossbar of the 'R' (Both B.L.).
- 2b: This sheet has a large retouch inside the first 'e' on the 2d. stamp (T.R.) and a green smudge near the top of the pillar (B.R.).
- 2c: A dark spot below left of '1922' (B.L.) is easily visible.
- 2d: There is a small green dot under '1922' (B.L.).
- 2e: In the 2d. stamp (B.R.) the 'P' is faint and has a light green stroke on it.
- 2f: In the margin above the top right stamp there is a grey blue smudge.
- 2g: In the left twirl at the top of the 2d. stamp (T.R.) there is a dark green dot and the shamrock beside it is slightly weak.

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