

IRISH PHILATELY

The Journal of the

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

OFFICERS 1967

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EDITORIAL

There would appear to be only one possible, perennial subject for an editorial in "Irish Philately". That is an exposé of the editor's despair of being able to obtain anything whatever to put into the next number, and the fact that unless some members do write something for their journal, there will be no next number!

Promises there are, but they mostly remain mere promises, and the 'contents' page for the next number looks quite as bare and empty as Mother Hubbard's cupboard.

Of all our more recently joined members, few indeed have been keen enough to help the editor produce a sizable and interesting journal, and to that few he does indeed feel very grateful.

This editorial task is no pleasure and no sinecure, it takes up an enormous amount of time which could be more pleasantly and profitably employed; and one is sorely tempted at times to throw up the sponge.

What is wrong?, is there nothing in Irish Philately for you to write about?, nothing that you would like to ask a question about?, or are you content just to go on hoarding like a miser, or accumulating anything you can grab, like a human caddis worm.

Surely the subject is big enough, Irish Postal History covers the whole country as far back in time as you care to take it, and all the other related interests are really only parts of this one grand topic. About that part of it which attracts your closest attention you must have some thoughts which would interest others similarly interested.

From all those who have promised, then, I beg fulfilment, and to all that larger group who have not yet tried to help, please see what you can do about it.

Let me, to finish, remind you of what Dr: Johnson said in 1750:-
"A man may write any time, if he will set himself doggedly to it."

F.H.H.

All Lithographed by the Eagle Printing Co: Works of Cork City.

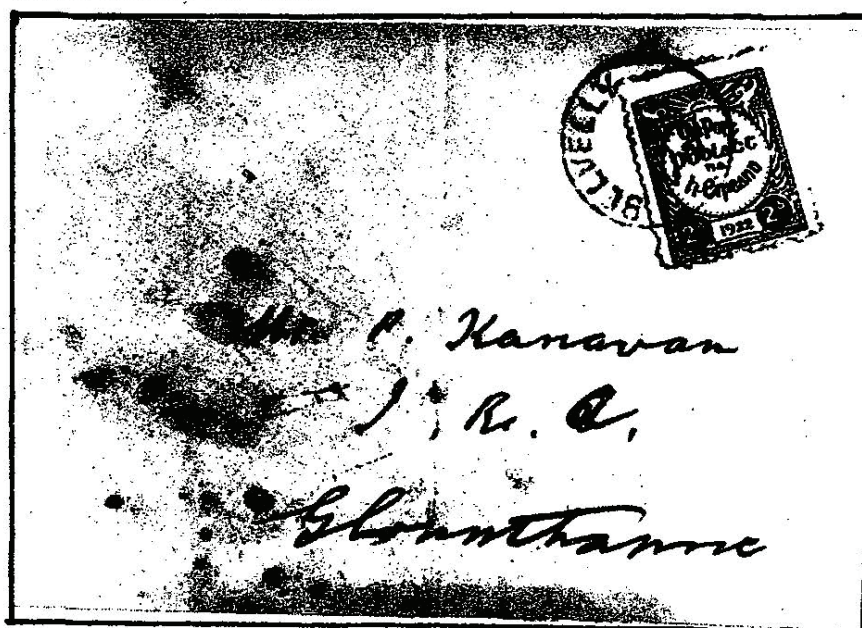
Below and on the three following pages will be found the illustrations of the above stamps and cover with particulars kindly furnished by Mr: H.G.L.Fletcher, which together supplement and amplify the details contained in the transcript of the 30 year old notice from the Dublin National Museum which accompanied the letter from Mr: Wm Mathews. Both of which were published in our March issue.

Mr: Fletcher's cover bears the 2d stamp cancelled at Belvelly 23 July 1922. Belvelly is a small village just outside Cork, and was then an I.R.A. stronghold. At this time, which was after the withdrawal of the English troops in accordance with the Treaty, the whole of the S. and S.W. part of Ireland on a line roughly from Waterford to Limerick was for some months controlled and administered by the I.R.A. forces.

Stocks of postage stamps ran out and no supplies could be obtained from Dublin. In these circumstances the I.R.A. had to ensure an emergency supply. As a design, they wished to incorporate the head of one of their leaders, supposedly Pearse, but the printing works at Cork were unable to undertake this and a simpler design was agreed on. This design, similar for all three values, was printed and delivered in quantity to the I.R.A. at their H.Q. at Union Quay some time in July 1922; but it would seem that no general distribution to Post Offices was made, though it is said that small supplies were sent to West Cork and some few used on letters.

Others may have been presented as souvenirs to I.R.A. officials and their friends. The attacking Free State troops landed at Passage in Cork harbour and fought their way into the City, the I.R.A. headquarters being set on fire and almost all of the stock of stamps destroyed.

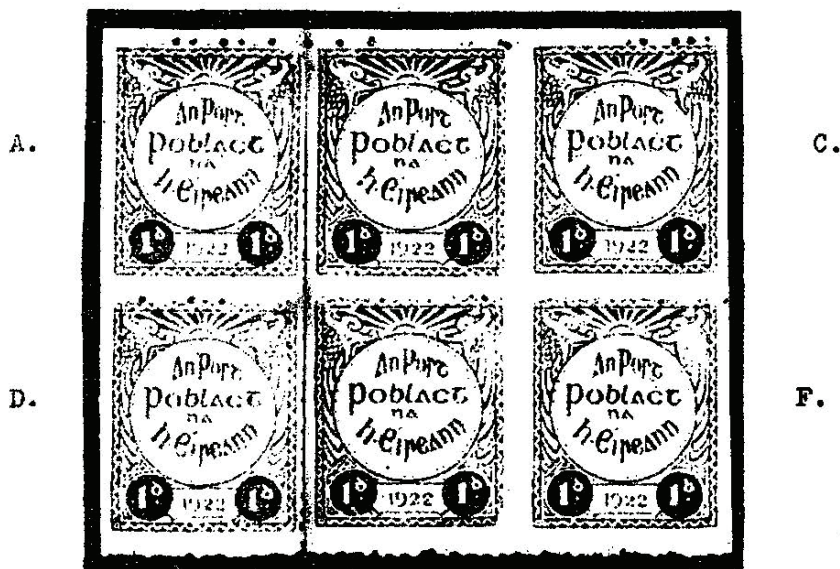
The whole story of these stamps or labels seems to be enveloped in a fog so far as precise dates are concerned, and the same comment applies even to purely historical events, such as the date of landing of the Free State forces at Cork.



Irish Republican Army Stamps (1922) (Cork Labels)

All Lithographed by the Eagle Printing Co. Works of Cork City.

B.



E.

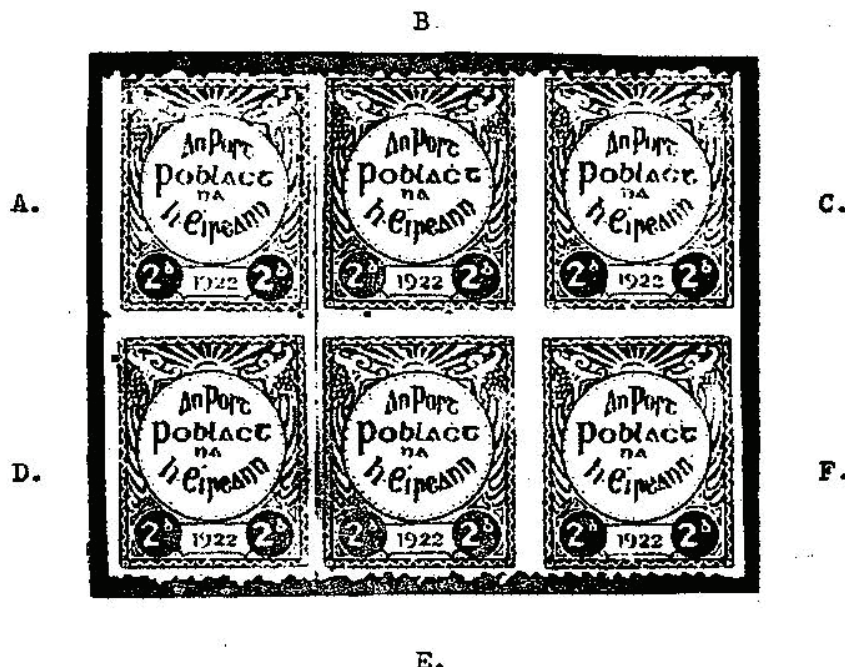
The 1d. Chestnut. Perf: 11 and Imperforate (Proof)

Six transfer types.

- Stamp A. The 1 of 1d. on the left has a club foot.
Double dot on circle below the h of hEireann.
- Stamp B. Bottom of the left 1 of 1d. is concave.
- Stamp C. Break in circle at 2 o'clock with two dots missing.
- Stamp D. Wedge shaped break in circle at 11 o'clock, top left of An.
- Stamp E. Break in top inner frame with attached sun-ray, 4mm from left.
- Stamp F. Curved coloured flaw below T of Post.

Irish Republican Army Stamps (1922) (Cork Labels)

All Lithographed by the Eagle Printing Co. Works of Cork City.



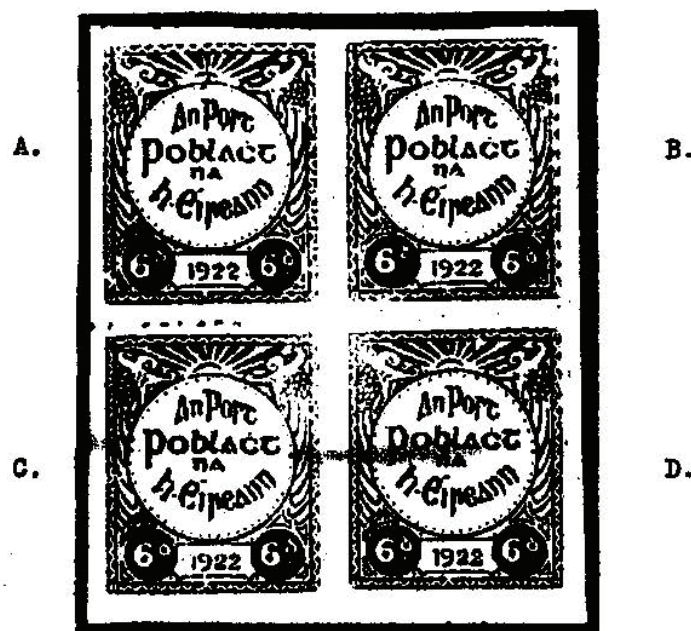
The 2d. Green. Perf: 11 and Imperforate (Proof)

Six Transfer types

- Stamp A. Break in top outer frame, 4mm from left.
Break in right outer frame, 16mm from bottom.
Break in right inner frame, 12mm from bottom.
- Stamp B. Top centre sun-ray broken at top right corner.
Nick in bottom right of sun-ray left of centre.
- Stamp C. On left 2d. dot at bottom right is attached to solid circle.
Triangle in S.E. corner is broken.
White spot below the right hand 2
- Stamp D. Left of 1 of 1922, dot attached to solid colour of 2d. circle.
Break in top outer frame, 1mm from right hand corner.
Break in right outer frame, 6mm from bottom.
- Stamp E. White flaw on left of sun-ray left of centre.
Break in circle at 2 o'clock.
- Stamp F. Top of 2nd. E of hÉireann is broken by a white flaw.

Irish Republican Army Stamps (1922) (Cork Labels)

All Lithographed by the Eagle Printing Co. Works of Cork City.



The 6d. Blue. Perf: 11, on white wove and laid paper
Lithographed in panes of 40, 10 x 4, each pane identical.
Four transfer types.

- Stamp A. Coloured flaw cutting top of circle.
Second 2 of 1922 is imperfect; dot after to right.
The O of Post has a tail like a Q.
- Stamp B. Dot 1mm below the 1st E of hEireann.
- Stamp C. Dot to the left of the 1 of 1922.
- Stamp D. The S of Post has a white flaw at top of vertical limb.
Break in 2nd. sun-ray right of centre at top.
Dot just below top serif of 1 of 1922.

CORK CITY 1922 I.R.A. STAMPS

Additional notes by F.E. Dixon

The notes which Mr. Mathews quotes from the Irish National Museum appear to be a condensation of the informative article by the late A.E. Hopkins. It was first printed in the "Philatelic Magazine" of 12 July 1924, and reprinted in his catalogue of the "Postage Stamps of the Irish Free State." (successor to Ware's).

Hopkins, however, suggests that the failure to get stamps with Pearse's portrait printed in London was due to the emissary having been arrested on arrival there.

The most important details given by Hopkins relate to the quantities surviving. He suggests that there are at most 250 each of the 1d and 2d values, but a thousand or more of the 6d. This 1,000 includes the "printer's waste" which sells as double and other multiple impressions. No evidence has since been offered to throw doubt on these estimates. Even singles of the 1d and 2d are seen only occasionally and blocks are very rare.

The stamps are line-perforate in 11 gauge, and one minor variety of the 2d is double perforation down one column. Both 1d and 2d can also be found imperforate, and these are possibly proofs, judging by the extra sharpness of the impression.

Opinions are divided about the authenticity of such covers as that held by Mr. H.G.L. Fletcher. If the stamps had been available for use as early as 23rd July it is very remarkable that none exist used in Cork City, still held by the I.R.A. until more than a fortnight later. If the stamps were prepared because of the shortage they would surely have been placed on sale as soon as they were ready.

COMMIXION PHILATELIC.

by

Wm. C. Cheshire

Of all the diseases which beset mankind possibly the most virulent and mysterious is Collectomania. It's victims seldom wish to be cured, but to all appearance remain sound in body and mind; they know well that no relief can be obtained from consultations with the specialists who inhabit Harley Street, but it's onslaught might be temporarily controlled by the lack of what is reputed to emanate from the house of the 'Old Lady of Threadneedle Street.

I fell a victim to this virus early in 1920. It manifested itself firstly in an insatiable hunger for Pot-Lids. Over the years it has fluctuated between the extremes of a yearning for Chinese Snuff-bottles and a morbid interest in old Steam-rollers. My most recent attack has been a form of the complaint known as Philatephilia.

With the idea that I might get some slight relief by visiting certain well known Shrines where I could ponder on how frivolous and ineffectual were the efforts of the lowly stamp collector compared with the transcendental accomplishments of the Gods, I decided to go on a pilgrimage to their Olympian haunts.

Seeking relief from anguish, therefore, I have been, and gazed in wonder and awed humility at the Temples of Saint Gibbons the Greater; I've sat and listened to the chanting of the High Priest of Saint Robson called Lowe in Pall Mall; I've wandered in contemplative mood through the cloisters of the Basilica-of-all-stamps-in-the-Strand; and all without any assuasive effect.

Although this brought no relief it did inspire me to do something for certain of my fellow sufferers; to which end I have founded a local Philatelists Anonymous! We work quietly amongst ourselves and when a member is racked with indecision whether to buy or not to buy a stamp he can ill afford he rings up a counsellor who drops everything and flies to his friend, to whom he brings comfort and sympathy. He usually manages to talk him out of his agony and leaves him a much happier man, having persuaded him that it would be far, far better to forget this desirable stamp, and buy a block of four.

Dropping persiflage, and turning to the stamps of Eire, I have heard it said, and I think in some measure it is true, that a country's history, spirit and hopes are reflected in it's stamps, and it is interesting to apply this dictum to Irish stamps.

Taking (Saint) Gibbons as a guide, adding the current issues and guessing at the 1967's, I make the total number of issues to be seventy-five. Of these, those that may be classed as commemorating National Heroes or have religious or political implications I reckon sixty. This is not surprising in a country that has for hundreds of years been deeply involved in religious and political struggles.

The Internationals, Europa, Freedom from Hunger, etc: number eleven and reflect Ireland's growing interest in world affairs, but surely in a country that is endeavouring to increase its industry one might have expected more than three that can be classed as industrials, the Shannon Barrage, the 25th Anniversary of Aer Lingus, and the Irish Pavilion at the New York Fair. Of course an increase in this number could have been achieved only by cutting down on group one and so robbing the stamps of their 'Irishness', which I think would have been a pity; or to have indulged in a proliferation of issues which would have been deplorable.

From a country whose songs, daughters, and horses have always taken a high place in the world of sport a single stamp in this category, the Jubilee of the Gaelic Athletic Association seems a meagre recognition, but the same remarks as above apply.

I think all members of the I.P.C. should be grateful to the Irish Department of Posts and Telegraphs for remembering that a postage stamp is issued primarily for paying postal charges and for not engaging in the postal 'cheese label' racket.

I confess to a mild antipathy towards official F.D.C's, even though many are works of artistic merit, and perhaps have some slight historic interest that will grow with the years. I hope they will prove to be as profitable to the collectors as they are to the publishers. But to me they lack the intimacy of a private letter hand-stamped with those beautiful words in English or Gaelic:- "First Day of Issue".

Finally, Mr: Editor, Before some of your precise minded readers get out their slide-rules and tear my figures to shreds, I must offer my defence by saying that the above is intended to be more or less in the nature of a philosophic musing, and not in any sense a detailed analysis.

The Story Behind The Stamp

Michael Richards

A series of pen sketches of the persons, events, and organisations, commemorated by the stamps of Ireland.

No.1. 22nd June 1929. Commemorating the Catholic Emancipation Centenary.

A set of three stamps was issued for this centenary, each stamp bearing the portrait of Daniel O'Connell, 'The Liberator' in an oval, the frame of which carries in the upper portion the words:- 'Fuascailt na Catoiliceach', this being the Gaelic for 'Catholic Emancipation'.

Daniel O'Connell was born in Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry, in 1775. He died in Genoa, Italy, in 1847 at the age of 72. He began his adult life as a lawyer, being called to the Irish Bar in 1798.

By the Catholic Relief Act of 1793, much of the penal legislation against Roman Catholics had been repealed, but they were still excluded from Parliament, from the Inner Bar and from all high civil and military offices. In 1821 King George IV paid a visit to Ireland, and as a result of this visit it had been hoped that a more liberal policy would be implemented. These hopes were soon dashed, and the issue was clear.

O'Connell detested violence and believed that emancipation could be achieved by peaceful means. He was a gifted orator, a popular leader, and a very great and clever lawyer. His popular organisation, the Catholic Committee, spread rapidly.

In 1823 O'Connell founded the 'Irish Catholic Association'; its aim was to win emancipation by legal constitutional methods. Meetings which attracted enormous audiences were held, and in 1828 O'Connell was nominated for the Clare parliamentary election. He was duly elected and presented himself in Parliament. However, he refused to take the oath, which contained clauses offensive to Roman Catholic beliefs. Because of this a critical point was reached and civil war appeared to be imminent. Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington capitulated, and in 1829 the 'Catholic Relief Act' was passed. It swept away all remaining penal laws against the Roman Catholics; becoming known as the 'Catholic Emancipation'.

Later O'Connell founded the 'Repeal Association', to campaign against the 1801 Act of Union between Ireland and Great Britain. Many great meetings were held, each attended by thousands of the population. The Government took alarm, O'Connell was arrested, convicted and imprisoned in 1844, but he successfully appealed to the House of Lords in London. The judgement was reversed, and he was set free. His health had suffered during the years of campaigning, and he went abroad, weak and ailing, to Italy, where he died on his way to Rome. His last days were saddened and overshadowed by the Irish famines of 1847.

His heart was taken to Rome, his body to his native Ireland, where it was interred in Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin.

Daniel O'Connell was the first Irishman to be commemorated on the stamps of Ireland, and his memory was further honoured when the main street of the capital of Ireland was renamed 'O'Connell Street'.

THE STORY BEHIND THE STAMP.

Michael Richards.

No:2. 15th October 1930. The Completion of the Shannon Hydro-Electric Scheme.

A single stamp which portrays the barrage or dam at O'Brien's Bridge.

Across the lower part of the stamp is printed in Gaelic:- "Forbairt Comaáit na Sionainne 1930", which may be translated as "Shannon Power Development 1930".

This production of electrical power from natural resources was one of the first large undertakings of the new Government of Ireland. Ireland is in a rather unfortunate position, in that she lacks many of the minerals, iron, etc, and these have all to be imported. Also she possesses no coal deposits.

All previous electrical generation on a public scale was by coal fired steam plants in the main towns, and a great part of the country was far from any source of electrical power.

The Shannon scheme was the fore-runner of other hydro-electric projects, such as the Liffey, Lee, and Erne. Work on the Shannon scheme was started by a German firm in 1925, and on its completion in ~~1929~~ was handed over to the Electricity Supply Board.

As to the plant itself, a dam constructed at Killaloe stores water which is diverted into a head-race about eight miles long which feeds the Ardnacrusha Power Station, where after providing the water-power for driving the turbines, the water is passed into a tail-race $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, to be discharged into the river just above Limerick.

The river Shannon is approximately 214 miles long, being the longest Irish river. It flows through Loughs Allen, Lee, and Derg on its way to the sea. The Shannon is remarkable for its low overall gradient, the only important fall occurring on the 15 mile stretch between Killaloe and Limerick.

The generating plant at Ardnacrusha consists of three vertical shaft Francis turbo-alternators installed in 1929, and one vertical shaft Kaplan turbo-alternator installed in 1934. They operate under an average head of 93 feet of water. The capacity of the plant is 85,000 K.W. the average annual output being some 310 million units.

In conclusion it may not be inappropriate to mention that another natural source is now being utilised for the generating of electrical power, these being the peat or turf fired steam stations, which may be seen at Portarlinton, Allenwood, Ferbane, with smaller units at Milltown-Malbay, Screeb, Cahirciveen and Gweedore.

Some Recollections of the 1920's

Wm.G. Meredith

I greatly appreciate the compliment of being invited to say a few words to my friends here this evening, and I propose to cast my mind back to the 1920's and to reminisce a little about myself at that period.

My interest in the Republic and the postage stamps of Ireland derives from the fact that both my parents were Irish, and at the time of which I speak, I had many relatives living there. In the natural order of things, most of them have passed away, but I still have a cousin who was last year elected chief of the Clan O'Mahony.

I was still at school in February 1922, when the first of the overprints were issued, and the first, manuscript, edition of 'the Provisional Issues of Ireland.1922' was prepared from my bedside, where I was recovering from chicken-pox in November 1922. This developed into a typewritten edition between July 1923 and January 1924; soon to be followed by the first printed edition, entitled 'The Postage Stamps of Ireland.1922-1923', which appeared in May 1924.

My stamp dealing in those days kept me pretty busy, with a mailing list of over 500 names, being done mostly between the hours of 9pm and 2am, after returning home from an office in the City.

One of my best customers was John Agnew, a director of Consolidated Goldfields, who took almost anything of interest which I could offer him. He asked me to value his collection for insurance, and it came not far short of £10,000. You can get an idea from the Auction Catalogue, which I have here, when the collection was dispersed after his death. It included the used copy of the 1d no accent, which I had sold him for £10. This stamp is now in Gerard Brady's collection. It cost me nothing except sorting time!

Other correspondents of those days included C.F. McLoughlin, who, I am sorry to learn, died earlier this year. My contacts with him ended rather abruptly (I know not why), just before we had arranged to publish his 'Specialised Stamp Studies', from which an extract is printed in my fourth edition. Also there was Captain S.P.C. Vesey, of the Royal Philatelic Society, who assisted me with a detailed revision of the proofs of the handbook, and allowed me to include his researches into the plating of the 'Rialtas' overprints. Also John R. Kerr, general manager of the Cork, Bandon & South Coast Rly: with John Dixon, who were both active in Cork at that time.

Some of my rival dealers were R.A. King, P.W. Ware, Mrs. C.J. Cooke, A.E. Hopkins, and Robson Lowe. I also did a large wholesale trade with the U.S.A.

I was interested to read in 'Irish Philately' that a 1922 Republican label produced in Cork, is known on cover postmarked 'Belvelly'. This is a small P.O. near Cobh, and I feel that the then postmistress was a very obliging type, since the ½d Dollard red 'proof' is known on cover with that postmark, though I doubt if either of these two ever passed through any Post Office hands, except her own!

There seems to be some feeling that a modernised reprint of my fourth edition should be published, and I would be very pleased to give my help and co-operation with the project.

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The above is a condensation of an address given by Mr. W.G. Meredith to an assembly of the members of I.P.C., the Irish Philatelic Society, and the Dublin Stamp Society on May 6th/67, at the Grosvenor Hotel in Dublin. It contains much of permanent interest, and members who could not be present will be glad to see it. We thank Mr. Meredith for permitting publication of these notes. (Editor.)

Question and Answer

Some considerable time ago our Hon: Sec: received a list of queries from a member abroad which he circulated to members asking for replies so that he could so far as possible help the enquirer. This laudable aim has been delayed by various unforeseen circumstances, and the replies received have only recently come through to the editor of 'Irish Philately' for collation and publication. We greatly regret the delay, but offer what information we have collected to the enquirers.

Question 1, being brief, may be quoted:- "I have some stamps perforated with a 'G'. Are they official stamps, corresponding to the O.H.M.S. English stamps?" Three replies were received:- They are not official perforations in any sense. They are most probably a precaution against petty theft, and as such are used by many commercial firms. In this particular case they were most probably used by Guinness's Brewery in Dublin. There would appear to be two types of the 'G', one composed of 19 holes closely spaced and a slightly larger type of 15 more widely spaced holes. Later information indicates that the 19 holed 'G' was the earlier, in use during 1922/3, and the larger 'G' with 15 holes was used on the 1941 issues.

Question 2, concerns the colours and other characteristics of the paper used over the years for the Eire definitives when examined under U/V light, and is far too long to quote. Three long and detailed replies were received, which may be summarised as follows:- It would appear that little or no systematic work has been done. The stamps examined by the querist were all watermark E, that is 1940 onwards, and it is pointed out that shortages of material during wartime made it necessary to improvise. Another correspondent with many years of professional knowledge confirms this in detail, pointing out that every kind of usable fibre was made into paper in wartime, and stating that each variety of fibre has its own shade of colour under U/V light, explains that to examine a fibre it has to be de-inked, and isolated from any other contamination, such as non-fibrous materials used to give a brighter appearance to the natural wartime shade of printing paper, which was grey from the extensive use of old newspapers, etc, in the pulp. He points out that all this has little or nothing to do with the purely physical properties of the paper.

Question 3. What do the letters A & B mean on letters (1837/41) marked "A/Late Mail" and "B/Late Mail". Two replies. One suggests that they are hand-stamp identification letters. A very experienced and expert member states that these letters occur in various "Examiner Marks", and occur also in the octagonal Dublin date stamps of the period. He points out that it is generally accepted that the letters represent different sections of the Dublin sorting office, and that they survive to this day on the cancelling machines.

Questions 4 & 5, of purely individual concern and interest were promptly dealt with by the Hon: Sec:.

Question 6. Two members report changes in the size of the 'E' watermark. One member found the watermark in definitive bought in Ireland last summer (1966) a good $\frac{1}{2}$ mm narrower than older specimens in his possession. Another member reports finding 'E' watermarks of varying height. He has two blocks of the 2p Map (S.G.112. Oct:1940 to date) in one of which the 'E' is 9mm high, and in the other the 'E' is 11mm in height.

Question 7. A member has a Rowan Hamilton ~~sp~~ green, 1943, (S.O.131) with the Wmk: inverted and reversed, and asks if many others are known.

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The conditions under which stamps in the quantities required today are made, first stage in the papermill, and second stage in the printing works, make such variations as noted above almost inevitable, and perhaps the Editor might here usefully offer a few general remarks on the subject, about which he wrote fairly fully in 'Irish Philately' for February 1965.

It should be noted that brass 'Bits' or dies for the watermark, which are attached to the gauze covering of the 'Dandy Roll', are slightly larger in all directions than the watermark which is seen in the paper on which the stamps are printed. It should be noted, too, that the watermark in machine-made paper can never have an absolutely sharply defined outline, any more than a torn piece of paper can have a sharp edge, and so measurement can never be more than approximately accurate in any absolute sense.

When the marks are impressed in the paper pulp by the dandy roll, the pulp contains over 80% of water, and they begin immediately to be obliterated by fibres floating into these depressions or thin places caused by the 'Bits' on the dandy roll. This tendency is more or less arrested by air being drawn through the still liquid pulp in its passage over the suction boxes; and even after receiving its first pressing between the couch rolls the paper still contains nearly 80% of water. It is very, very weak indeed, and only just able to bear its own weight.

This means that it begins to stretch as it passes unsupported over the gap on to the endless woollen blanket which carries it to the next pair of pressure rollers, where more water is squeezed out. This squeezing process is repeated once or twice more, the wet paper stretching continuously; so that each successive pair of pressure rollers has to turn slightly faster than the preceding pair to allow for this stretching. This stretching also means that the paper is getting narrower, and our circular Gaelic 'e' watermarks are being slightly distorted into ovals, with the cross-bar of the 'e' forming the shorter axis, thus:-

The still very wet paper, over 70% water, then passes between a long series of steam-heated drying cylinders, where the tendency is for the paper to shrink. This contraction may go so far as to turn our watermarks into circles again, and conceivably even further, so that they become slightly ovalised in the other direction, with the bar forming the major axis, thus:-

All this, of course, is exaggerated to show my meaning clearly.

Finally, I may observe that a dandy roll does not last for ever, and has to be re-covered occasionally, and furnished with a new set of 'Bits' at the same time, the number, of course, depending on the width of the paper machine, and the diameter of the dandy roll. Can anyone feel certain that the 'Bits' on the new dandy roll are of exactly the same size and shape as the discards from the old roller?.

It is proposed to make this "Question and Answer" service a permanent but perhaps occasional feature of 'Irish Philately'. I.P.C. members are invited to submit any queries they may have, and to reply to any questions asked; through the medium of the Editor.

Those New EIRE Definitives (When?)

Frank H. Hopson

The U.K. is in process of issuing a new series of definitive postage stamps. This series consists of fourteen stamps from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1/9d. Three are already issued, the 4d, 1/0d and 1/9d (5th June). Three others, the 3d, 9d and 1/6d will be on sale on the 8th August next, to be followed by the remaining eight values on dates so far unspecified, but in all probability the series will be complete and on sale before the end of the year.

There is no design, as such, for each stamp is merely a rectangle of colour carrying a large cameo portrait of the Queen and the figures of value. They are all to be printed by the photogravure process by Harrison & Sons on white coated paper without watermark. All the stamps will be phosphor lined because of the great expansion expected in the use of automatic letter-facing machines.

The obsolescent series has been in use for about fourteen years; and the new series has been in preparation for nearly two years past. An innovation is that two of the series will be bi-coloured, and will be the first two colour definitives for the U.K. since 1912. So that now, so far as definitives and special issues are concerned, the British public has 100% phosphor bands and zero % watermarks.

There has been a growing demand in Eire for a new series of definitives for at least four years past, the present series having been in use for about 44 years, and it seems not unreasonable that philatelists interested in Irish stamps should feel that they are being neglected. For Eire, too, has been expecting a change from the four designs which have done duty for such a length of time, plus one other which has already 23 years service to its credit.

Looking through a file of Mr. F.E. Dixon's 'Random Notes' recently as the above thoughts came to mind, I jotted down and reproduce here all the mentions I found on the subject, for the use of all of which I tender my thanks and acknowledgement to him.

(1) Random Notes No. 70. May/June 1963.

"Yet again there is agitation in various quarters, including the Dail, for a change in the definitive postage stamp issues to something more colourful and attractive!"

(2) Random Notes No. 74. Oct: 1963.

"On 3rd October it was announced that the Minister for Posts & Telegraphs has set up a committee to advise him regarding new designs for the definitive stamp series and special commemoratives. Most of the members are distinguished artists, but there are two representatives of the world of philately. One is Mr. Robson Lowe and the other is Mr. J.A. Scannell, Assistant Secretary of the department. ... When modern collectors deplore the long-lived Irish definitive designs they should be reminded of the part played by philatelists in 1922. The then members of the I.P.S. were invited to inspect the hundreds of essays submitted and to vote for their choice. Admittedly it is not known how much weight was given to their opinions. Some of these have never since been seen by outsiders."

(I.P.)

(47)

June 1967

(Note.) In the 'Stamp Magazine' for Feb., March & April 1964 there appeared three absorbingly interesting articles by Mr. H.G.L. Fletcher on these essays, illustrated by no fewer than 45 of these designs from ½d to 10/- in face value.

(3) Random Notes No. 75. Oct/Nov 1963.

"The Committee met for the first time on the 11th November, and the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs told the members that their primary task would be to seek and recommend new designs for the ordinary permanent series. Probably the most interesting point in his speech was the disclosure that the Stamping Branch in Dublin Castle will be acquiring 'within the next year or so' new and modern printing equipment. One can only infer that it will be one of the variants of photogravure and capable of printing in several colours."

(Note 2) One may perhaps infer from the instruction given to the Committee that their task was to 'seek and recommend new designs', that the hundreds of unaccepted designs submitted in 1922 were not to be given further consideration.

(4) Random Notes No. 76. Dec: 1963.

"Two days after the Red Crosses (2nd Dec:1963. S.G. 197/8) appeared the newspapers carried an invitation from the Committee:- They will welcome suggestions and ideas for a new series of Postage stamps. Any that you can offer should be sent to the Secretary, Room 281 G.P.O. Dublin.

(5) Random Notes No. 78. Feb: 1964.

"You"(the reader of R.N.)"will like to know that the Committee is meeting and is receiving assistance from at least one I.P.C. member. (Not the writer of these Notes.)

(6) Random Notes No. 79. March 1964.

Congratulating Mr. H.G.L. Fletcher on his 'Stamp Magazine' articles.

(7) Random Notes No. 92. April 1965.

"No news of the meetings of the Design Committee, but is generally expected that there will be a completely new series next year to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Rising."

(8) Random Notes No. 118. Dec: 1966.

"Definitives. Recommendations for new designs have now been made by the Stamp Design Advisory Committee."

This article was actually written towards the end of May 67, and so far this year there has been no news of the activities of the Stamp Design Committee. The writer did hear from a friend in Dublin that the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs stated recently that the Government had approved the designs and that he "expected to make a further statement shortly."

The writer would not wish to appear to criticize the administration of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, not having any real knowledge of the facts, but surely, once the desirability of a new set of definitive stamps is admitted, as to all appearance it is, four years is far too much time to spend on the preliminaries, and it should at least be possible to announce the probable date of issue without further equivocation.

METER STAMPS OF IRELAND (EIRE)

With kind permission of the Author, A. A. Dewey, the pages that follow are reprinted from the Work "Meter Stamps of Great Britain and Ireland (Eire)" published in 1966 by the Meter Stamp Study Group. Copies of the complete Work are available at 7s.0d. post free from :-

J. C. Mann, 19 Chartham Road, London, S.E.25.

These pages represent the section dealing with Eire; the work Contains some twelve pages of introductory matter applicable to both countries, and eighteen pages if similar catalogue lists of the meter stamps of Great Britain. For definitions of "Meter Stamps" and other explanatory notes and descriptions of makes of machines, reference should be made to the complete Work, but, it is as well to repeat here the following explanations.

ILLUSTRATIONS. The illustrations show typical examples of each main design; they correspond to the list numbers indicated alongside them. Other makes or items under the same design often vary considerably in detail, but are often recognisably similar.

DENOMINATIONS. In the F.V. (Fixed-Value) and L.V. (Limited-Value) machines, all the denominations which are known to exist are listed, but those indicated in parenthesis (..) either are known only from proofs or are extremely scarce used. In the M.V. (Multi-Value) machines, the ranges of possible denominations are indicated; it is not to be understood that every denomination in the range has actually been used.

LISTING. To describe a particular meter stamp, it is necessary to quote the list number (at the left) and the denomination followed where appropriate by the identification number (with prefix letters), and the name of the town as shown in the townmark.

PRICES. The market for the buying and selling of individual meter stamps is as yet only a limited one, and if the prices for "meters" were estimated on the basis of scarcity in relation to certain adhesive stamps, they would in many cases appear fantastically high, but the prices given in the right-hand columns of these lists are the result of a consensus of Great Britain meter stamp collectors in the M. S. S. G. They are for good impressions on presentable entires; cut strips of an adequate size (not less than 6 x 1½ inches, or 15 x 4 cm.) should be reckoned as of half the value of entires, though for much of the earlier material, entires are in fact relatively even scarcer. Smaller pieces and dirty or otherwise defective impressions are, as with any other philatelic material, virtually worthless - but possibly rare items should never be destroyed! In the case of F.V. and L.V. machines, the prices are for the commonest denominations; other denominations are worth substantially more, and some of the rarely used values are scarce to rare. It is not feasible in this booklet to give prices for each denomination. In the case of M.V. machines, however, all denominations should be considered alike, except that denominations of 30/- and over are notably scarcer.

The opportunity can be taken to correct two small errors in these sheets. The illustration at the bottom of page 35 is of type (6), and there should be a ":-" after "Eire" on the sixth line of page 34.

February, 1967.

J. C. Mann

"meter stamps" pages 33 - 39
following

(irish philately)

- -

(1967)

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (EIRE)

=====

[For brevity, we use the name "Eire", which strictly is applicable to the whole island, as a convenient designation for the southern part of Ireland which became independent of Great Britain at the beginning of 1922, at first under the title of the "Irish Free State" (Saorstát Eireann) and subsequently "The Republic of Ireland" (Poblacht na hEireann, or simply Eire.)]

Distinctive adhesive stamps had been introduced by Eire some six months before the authorisation of the first franking machines in Great Britain, consequently no meter stamps inscribed "Great Britain" had been used in the territory. At about the time of the introduction of the machines into Great Britain, (September 1922), the Secretary to the G.P.O., London, wrote to his equivalent in Dublin giving him particulars of the manufacturers of the machines used here; but neither of these makes were adopted in Eire, and in fact no machines were used until some four years later. Use of the machines was authorised by Statutory Instrument which came into effect on 1st January 1925, but the earliest date of use is stated to have been 17th September 1926.

TYPES OF FRANK

In contrast with Great Britain, only three general designs of frank have been employed during the ensuing forty years (with slight variations between the makes), together with two other designs used, respectively, by all the machines of one make and by a few special machines of another make. As in Great Britain, there are also special designs for post-office parcel post machines.

Each of the designs is illustrated in the catalogue listing, and they can be briefly summarised as follows:

- (A) Inscribed "SAORSTAT EIREANN" and "POSTAS" horizontally, in Roman lettering, value (a) with words or (b) without words.
- (B) Inscribed "eIRe" and "postas" in curved lines, in Gaelic lettering, value (a) with words or (b) without words; or (c) with key letter, "postas" and number in rectangular boxes at bottom.
- (C) With shields (Arms of the four Provinces) in the corners and "eIRe" at top.

The "individual" designs are

- (BX) Inscribed "eIRe" in panel at top and "postas" horizontally at bottom; value in large circle flanked by vertical lines. (Used for Simplex machines only.)
- (BY) Long transverse rectangle inscribed "EIRE POSTAS" (Roman letters), including date, town name, and value. (Used for certain Universal multi-value machines only.)

MAKES OF MACHINES

All the makes and models used in Eire have been, or are, used also in Great Britain - though the converse does not apply - so that the descriptions on pages 6 to 10 need not be repeated. The only points of difference to be noted are that

- (1) the following have not been used in Eire.

Pitney-Bowes (U.S.) Models A, B Etc. (single value); Model CV (L.V.);
Universal High-Speed;
Universal N.Z. model;

- (2) the Roneo-Neopost Model 305 (Frankmaster) uses the key-letter "NV" instead of "NA", "N+";

the Roneo-Neopost Model 205 uses the key-letter "NP" instead of "J".

These last machines are authorised in Eire to print the slogan in a colour different from the frank and townmark which have to be in red as usual.

NUMBERING OF MACHINES

Due to the much smaller number of machines used in Eire, no make has required the introduction of "continuation letters", and for the series "NV" and "NP", the V and P are to be regarded as part of the key-letter, just as for "NZ" in Great Britain. The numbering of the Neopost Model 105 continues from that of the earlier Neopost L.V. machines, without the use of any continuation letter as introduced in Great Britain.

At first, the "N" series was numbered from 1 upwards in each town, as in Great Britain, but after a short time the numbering was made consecutive throughout the country. All other makes, including the Midget, have from the outset been numbered consecutively irrespective of the town.

TOWNMARKS

All machines except those with design (BY) have circular townmarks as for the same makes in Great Britain, but all names (with one or two scarce exceptions) are in the Irish language written in Roman letters.

The English equivalents of some of those most commonly met with are as follows:

BAILE ATHA CLIATH	=	Dublin	GAILLIMH	=	Galway
CEATHARLACH	=	Carlow	LUIMNEACH	=	Limerick
CILL CHOINNIGH	=	Kilkenny	PORT LAIRGE	=	Waterford
CORCAIGH	=	Cork	SLIGEACH	=	Sligo
DUN DEALGAN	=	Dundalk			

SLOGANS

The first part of the remarks under this heading on page 12 applies equally to Eire, but attention should be invited to the remark in regard to the Roneo-Neopost Model 205 above.

SAORSTAT EIREANN

FRANK DESIGN (Aa)

(1)

GUINNESS
is good for you



(2)

TOUR
THE WORLD OF BROADCASTING
on a
HIS MASTER'S VOICE
Gramophone



1926. Midget. Key letter "M".

1) $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d.

From 1/-

* Machines Nos. 6 and 7 have the "M" omitted.

1926? Neopost. Key letter "N".

2) $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, 3d, 6d.

1/-

1929? Pitney-Bowes Model "H". Key letter "H".

3) $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, (6d, 9d.)

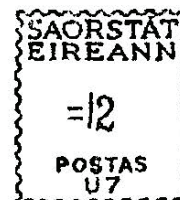
5/-

* One machine (H 1) only; the 6d and 9d values are not known used.

FRANK DESIGN (Ab)

(5)

Use **IRISHELL**
BENZOLE MIXTURE



1934. Universal (Frankopost) Multi-value. Key letter "U".

4) 0/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 29/11 $\frac{1}{2}$

1/-

5) $\frac{1}{2}$ D to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ D (with "D" for pence and no "/")

2/6

6) $\frac{1}{2}$ 0 to 9/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ (= instead of 0 before "/")

2/6

eIRE

FRANK DESIGN (Ba)

1938. Neopost. Key letter "N".
 7) $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, (9d, 1/-) 2/6

FRANK DESIGN (Bb)

(8)



1938. Midget. Key letter "M".
 8) $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 4d, (5d), 6d, ($6\frac{1}{2}$ d), 9d, 1s/-. 3d

1941. Neopost. Key letter "N". Gaelic letter "d" for "pence".
 9) $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 11d, 1s/-, 1/1 6d

Ditto, but Roman letter "D" for "pence".
 10) $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, ($3\frac{1}{2}$ d), 4d, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 6d, $6\frac{1}{2}$ d, 7d, 8d, 9d, 10d, (11d), 1/-, 1/3, (1/7), (1/10). 3d

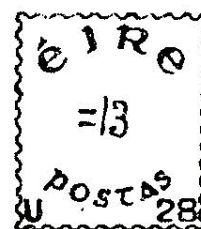
1947. Pitney-Bowes Model "H". Key letter "H".
 11) $\frac{1}{2}$ d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. 5/-
 * One machine only (H 1); no other values known.

1938. Universal (Frankopost) Multi-value. Key letter "U".
 12) 0/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 29/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3d
 13) $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d ("d" in Gaelic lettering) 1/-
 14) $\frac{1}{2}$ D to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ D ("D" in Roman lettering) 6d
 15) =/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ (= instead of 0 before "/") 3d

(15)



TWEEDS
 HOSIERY
 &
 KNITTING
 WOOLS



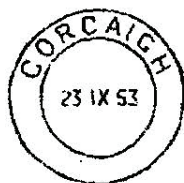
FRANK DESIGN (Bb) - continued.

1957. Roneo-Neopost "Frankmaster" (Model 301). Key letters "NV" 3d
 16) =0/= $\frac{1}{2}$ to 29/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 99/11 $\frac{1}{2}$
1958. Frankopost (Pitney-Bowes) Automax. Key letter "A". 3d
 17) =0/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 99/11 $\frac{1}{2}$

FRANK DESIGN (Bc) - see below Design (BY)

FRANK DESIGN (BX)

(18)



1951. Frankepost (Pitney-Bowes) Simplex. Key letter "S".
 18) $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d or 1/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ (value figures thick and curled, with "D") 3d
 19) $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ (value figures thinner, sans-serif; "D" above.) 6d
 * The earlier machines running to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and the later machines running to 1/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ are not distinguishable except for values over 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

FRANK DESIGN (BY)

1958. Universal (Frankopost) Multi-value. Key letter "U".
 20) 0/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 29/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1/-
 21) =/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2/-
 * Only two machines (U 204 and U 206) are known in the type of No. 20, and only one (U 214) in the type of No. 21.

(20)



FRANK DESIGN (Bc)

(22)



1964. Roneo-Neopost Model 205. Key letters "NP". Date has month shown in Arabic figures.

22) $\ast/0\frac{1}{2}$ to $4/11\frac{1}{2}$ or $9/11\frac{1}{2}$

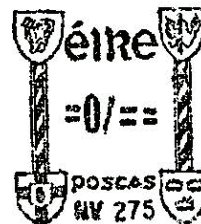
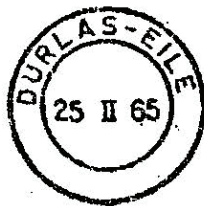
6d

* Some of these machines print the slogan in a different colour, such as black or green.

(1/-)

FRANK DESIGN (C)

(24)



1964. Roneo-Neopost Model 205. Key letters "NP". Date has month shown in Arabic figures.

23) $\ast/0\frac{1}{2}$ to $4/11\frac{1}{2}$ or $9/11\frac{1}{2}$

3d

* The note after No. 22 applies also to No. 23.

1965. Roneo-Neopost "Frankmaster" (Model 305). Key letters "NV".

24) $=0/\frac{1}{2}$ to $29/11\frac{1}{2}$ or $99/11\frac{1}{2}$

3d

1965. Roneo-Neopost Model 105. (L.V., 10-value model.) Key letter "N", continuing previous L.V. series.

25) 3d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 10d, 1/1, 1/3, 1/5, 1/9, 2/-

3d

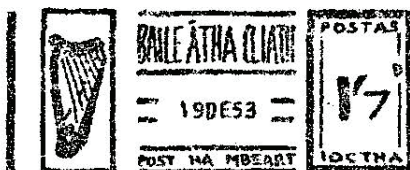
P. O. PARCEL POST MACHINES

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The following meter stamps are all printed on white "tape" and are supplied as required by machines installed on post-office counters.

The denominations indicated are those fitted to the machines; not all of them are known used.

(PP.1)



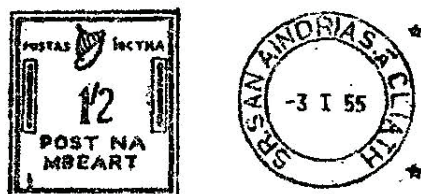
1949. "T.I.M." As illustrated. No machine number.

PP.1) 8d (most values, by 1d steps) to 3/-

From 2/6

* Each machine can print only 12 values, but the range was changed several times.

(PP.2)



1953. Frankopost Simplex. As illustrated. Machine number shown as small Roman figure in bottom left corner of frank.

PP.2) Values (?) 1d (by 1d steps) to 2/1

From 2/6

* The precise range of values is not known.