

IRISH PHILATELY

The Journal of the

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Officers & Committee 1969 - 1970

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I R I S H P H I L A T E L Y

VOLUME 1969

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EDITORIAL

This is the second issue of "Irish Philately" for 1969 and, as I hope it will be circulating early in July, we should be able to produce a third issue later this year. At this point I would like, on behalf of all members of the I.P.C., to pay a warm tribute to Keith Jamieson, who undertakes the duplicating, production and distribution of the journal - all spare time work.

It was decided, at the Annual General Meeting in Dublin in May, to edit and reprint some of the discussions and studies of the Irish Study Group (the immediate predecessor of the I.P.C.) and also some of the articles that have appeared in early numbers of "Irish Philately". Many of our newer members will not have seen these, now out of print. Any suggestions for articles or subjects, to be reprinted in this way, would be welcome as would offers of help in revising them in the light of up to date knowledge. The first of such articles appears in this issue, under the title "The Tail of the O", and, although the subject is based on discussions over ten years ago, there are still some unresolved points, on which new members may have their views.

It was also decided to accept, in future issues of "Irish Philately", advertisements from collector members of I.P.C., at a charge of 6d. per line (average 10 words). Copy, with remittance, should be sent to me at the address below. Further, we are prepared to circulate insets, supplied by dealers, of a suitable size, at a charge of £5. per issue. There is a membership list, at present, of about 220. The Editor reserves the right to refuse advertisements, without giving any reason.

W.G. Meredith,
Abingdon,
16, Gallwey Avenue,
Birchington, Kent.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Postmarks

Q.12. I have a postmark which I cannot identify nor find it in the "Eolai an Phoist". It appears to be - CLOCHNARÓN 1 CO NA GAILLIMHE -. Do you know it and its English equivalent ?

A.12. The Place is ROUNDSTONE, in Co. Galway.

The full title in the P.O. Guide is -
- Baile Cloch na Rón - but oddly it is only mentioned in the English listing and not in the Gaelic. The Place is situated about 38 miles W.N.W. of Galway City. The "1" would indicate that the local P.O. has recently been issued with a new canceller and perhaps the opportunity has been taken to make a correction to the spelling of the Gaelic Place Name. Doubtless when the new P.O. Guide is published (it is due this year) the Place may be stated correctly in both the English and the Gaelic listings. For some years now there have been changes in the spelling of some of the Gaelic Place Names such that the old postmark quoted in the P.O. Guide does not now conform to the modern version.



Q.13. The postmark for BLACKROCK, Co. Dublin - CARRAIG DHUBH 2 - CO. BH. A. C. - has a "3" instead of a "year".

Do you know the significance of this "3" ?

A.13. We are sorry but we don't.

It is suggested, however, that a digit may be missing from the handstamp on 8th April in the year 1953 or 1963 since it cancels two 1d. "Fourmasters". The cut-out also suggests that it was a LATE FEE on mail posted at Blackrock, perhaps to catch a mail boat from Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead.

Examples of postmarks with the "year" missing are known from other Places besides Blackrock.



Overprints 1922

Q.14. To my surprise I find in my collection a new major variety listed in Feldman's latest Price List as T.34 b, "Joined Perfs." I would like to dispose of this "gem" but am unsure as to the best way of doing so and should be obliged if you could advise me. Perhaps one of the members of your Circle might be interested in purchasing it ?

A.14. One or two Members of the Circle would certainly be interested in purchasing this item, but, NOT at Feldman's price !

In our opinion, the price is much too high @ £110 each stamp which makes your block x 4

a 'small fortune' with which you could buy almost a complete collection of Irish. For a variety of this nature the price should in any case be for a vertical pair.

It has been stated by Feldman that when he priced this item, he had seen only one-off and that, since publishing his List, a number of similar items have been offered to him. As a result, therefore, the next Price List should show a reduction from that now quoted.

The best way to sell any item is to offer it to the highest bidder in public or private auction sale. We cannot do better than recommend you to our IPC Auctions Sec., Mr. W. Kane, 7 O'Connell Gardens, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, whose Auction Lists reach a number of discerning Collectors.



Irish Philatelic Circle

N E W S

NEW MEMBERS We extend a welcome to those who have joined us recently:

Mr. J. Ross, 56 Colwyn Rd., Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2JQ,
who is re-joining I.P.C. after a lapse of two years.

Mrs. J. Garlette, 99 Stradella Rd., Herne Hill, LONDON, S.E.24.

Mr. F. Dunn, 10 Oldfield Cresc., off Lache Lane, CHESTER CH4 7PD.

Miss Carol Potter, 25 Park Lane, Colney Heath, ST. ALBANS, Herts.

Mr. H. Cox, 46 Hornby St., Oswaldtwistle, ACCRINGTON BB5 3AG

Mr. R. Sleight, 25 Clumber St., Princes Ave., HULL, Yorks.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Mr. Wm. P. Hickey has informed us that he is now at :
60 Georgia Ave., Providence, Rhode Island 02905, U.S.A.

DELETIONS Due to death, resignation and non-payment of subscriptions
we regret to have to delete the undernoted Names from
the List of I.P.C. Members :

T. Allan	B. Cowley	S. McGavigan	H. Zervas
D. Bloomfield	P. Harradine	V.J.A. Nevard	N. Offield, who is in Govt. Service
Mrs. J. Collins	S. K. Hunter	J. W. Sewell	but where unknown ?

I. P. C. This year, 1969, we seem to be getting more than the usual
from number of IPC Members from Overseas visiting Ireland & G.B.
OVERSEAS It is nice to know that they come armed with the IPC Members
List and to make contact with their fellow members and
to exchange matters of interest.

Mr. Hickey from the USA advises that he is planning a trip from the
first week of August until September 10 and hopes to meet IPC Members
in both London and Dublin and perhaps elsewhere.

P. C. G. B. This is the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Philatelic
at Congress of Great Britain and the 51st Congress is
B R I S T O L to be held at Bristol from Tuesday, June 24 until
Friday, June 27, 1969, in the Grand Hotel.

A very full programme has been arranged with an Exhibition at the
City Museum, Tours and Visits, Business Sessions, Meetings of Study
Circles, Papers to be read, a Reception, Banquet and Ball.

Members of the I.P.C. are at liberty to attend any or all of the
functions - by payment of the appropriate cost price, we should add -
as Visitors and to make contact with the IPC Delegates, Mr. Leslie
Fletcher, Mr. Jack O'Neill from Dublin, and Mr. Morley E. Wright
of 44 Downs Cote Drive, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3TR who,
being on the spot, will be very pleased to meet them and to help
in any way he can to make their visit enjoyable.

DISABLED We once broke our right arm, and, still managed to drive
a car ! But, could we collect stamps ?

One of our members has a disability down his left hand side and
manages to collect stamps. Could you, if you were similarly placed ?

Spare an hour; put your left hand into your trouser pocket and
let us know how you get on, soaking stamps off paper, drying off,
mounting them on a sheet with hinges or what-have-you, writing up
your page and placing it with others in the album cover with spring-
back rings or screw pegs ?

I. P. C. NEWS

IPC MEETING Mesdames Peile and Green, Messrs. Fletcher, Meredith,
in LONDON Barnsdale, Dalton, Munro, Jamieson, Wilks, Carty,
Luasa and Lundwall attended an IPC meeting at the

Reform Club, London, on April 19, 1969. It was gratifying to get the best attendance to date at the Reform Club and to see new faces, particularly Mr. Lundwall, one of our Members in Sweden, who was on holiday in Britain to visit the Royal Philatelic Society Exhibition.

Mr. Barnsdale gave a display of pre-adhesive Waterford postmarks and Dublin Diamond & Duplex cancellations. Miss Peile exhibited a small collection of the major varieties on the 'Overprints 1922' and Mr. Dalton some Varieties on the Definitives and the Commemoratives. A most informative talk and display of Ballon Monte, Pigeon Post, Zinc Ball Post and other such material was given by Mr. Fletcher.

The next meeting of the 'London' Area is on June 14, 1969 at the Reform Club, Pall Mall, London at 2.00 p.m. when, among other Displays, Mr. A. T. Sedgley will show Irish "United Nations" Forces Postal History from the Congo and Cyprus.

IRELAND We are indeed pleased to hear that Mr. Keith Jamieson has
CUP won the Kingston-upon-Thames P.S. Cup and Silver Medal
WINNERS with a 9-sheet Exhibit of his "H. & K. Packet".

Could it be that he prepared his exhibit in accord with the article, "Displays and Exhibits" published in "Irish Philately" Vol. 1969, No. 1 issue? Or, did we base our article on his exhibit?

DISPLAYS From general talk at the recent A.G.M. in Dublin, the
and article on "Displays and Exhibits" seems to have been
EXHIBITS well received and prospective exhibitors are taking
note of the advice given.

We now hear of another point of advice that should be aimed for in an exhibit - SCARCITY - an aspect taken into account by the Judges when assessing marks. This does not mean high c.v. but could be of low price of which only one is known. If such an item is well annotated and proves its scarcity, it should rank high in the Judges' markings, for they are looking for something out of the ordinary.

2nd CLASS Why should the Irish P.O. tell us on May 13 that there
D. of P.T. is to be a HOUSING CONFERENCE DUBLIN special date stamp
in use from May 18 - 24 at the Conference of the

International Federation for Housing and Planning at the R.D.S. Showgrounds, Ballsbridge? It is almost impossible for postmark collectors outside Dublin to make the necessary arrangements in such a short time. Surely the Irish P.O. could give us much longer notice than 4-5 days of their intentions?

I.P.C. The 1969 A.G.M. in Dublin was again a most enjoyable
A.G.M. meeting - the A.G.M.'s usually are - and yet we wonder why
in they are not better attended? The Dublin Members'
DUBLIN hospitality extended to the visiting Members is positively
embarrassing and we take this opportunity to record our thanks.

Included in this issue of the IPC Journal are the Minutes of the Meeting, a reading of which will give Members a good idea of how active is the I.P.C.

REMINDER As already announced, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 3d., and 7d.
about values of the New Definitives series will be issued
DEFINITIVES on 9th June 1969. They will be in single standard
size and will be made up in sheets of 240.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Grosvenor Hotel,
Westland Row, Dublin on Saturday & Sunday, May 3 and 4, 1969.

1. In attendance during the whole or part of the proceedings were Mr. F. E. Dixon and Mr. W. G. Meredith (joint chairmen), Miss Wright and Messrs. Buckhalter, Jamieson, Finn, Kane, Stokes, Telfer, O'Neill, Pigot, Glynn, Feldman, Stein, Fr. Maher and Dr. Quigley.
2. Apologies for absence were received from the President, Mr. Fletcher, Fr. Brennan and Messrs. Laybourn, Leonard, Munro, and Woods.
3. The Minutes of the last A.G.M. held in London on May 4 & 5, 1968 were read, approved and signed.
4. Arising from the Minutes the following matters were discussed :
 - a) IPC Postal Stationery: nothing further had been reported by Mr. Rawlins, who had now left the I.P.C. and the matter was passed to the Dublin Area Sec. to pursue.
 - b) Triangular Postmarks: bulk mailing had still to be investigated.
 - c) "Overprints 1922": now that Feldman's Handbook had been published there was more scope for specialists. Could not the drafts which had been prepared be published in the Journal to allow members to continue the work of others.
 - d) The "T.P.O's" Work by Mr. Kane, was awaiting more data concerning History of the Railways. The intention was to proceed when more time was available and to have the Work published under the "Thos. E. Field Memorial" fund.
5. Reports from Officers:
 - a) The Hon. General Secretary's Report as published in the 1969 "Irish Philately" p. 24 was adopted with thanks to Mr. T.S. Telfer for the work done for the Circle.
 - b) The Hon. Auctions Secretary's Report as published in 1969 "I.P." pp. 18 & 19 was adopted, thanks being expressed to Mr. W. Kane for making such a success of this I.P.C. activity. Arising from the report the Meeting agreed that an insurance be effected to cover the Auction Lots whilst lying in Mr. Kane's possession. The Meeting also agreed to Mr. Kane's suggestion that the minimum value of Lots be raised to 10s.0d. In future, Lots under this value would be passed to the Exchange Packet or to the Junk Box to handle.
 - c) The Report on the Gestetner Duplicating machine as published in 1969 "I.P." p. 19 was adopted, Mr. H.K. Jamieson being thanked for looking after the machine and for his work in printing the I.P.C. Journal and News matters.
 - d) The Report about the Junk Boxes from Mr. J.A.C. Munro published in 1969 "I.P." p. 20 was adopted with thanks for the excellent work done in this IPC activity. It was again reiterated that more Irish Commemoratives should be inserted into the Boxes rather than the more common Definitives. By so doing, the Junk Boxes could be even better.
 - e) The Exchange Packet Secretary's Report as published in 1969 "I.P." pp. 20 & 21 was adopted and Mr. H.K. Jamieson thanked for the good work he had done in keeping this IPC activity going.
 - f) The Hon. Editor, Mr. W. G. Meredith reported to the Meeting that the IPC Journal, "Irish Philately", depended on the Members themselves submitting articles for publication. Two Numbers had been issued under his Editorship, both of reasonable size and standard but it was difficult to maintain a regular quarterly without support. He had written to certain members and one article, on "Controls" would be forthcoming.

5.(f) continued.

Mr. Meredith was thanked by the Meeting for his Report and for the work that he had done since taking up office.

To assist with articles, it was suggested by the Meeting that there might be certain articles which had been previously published that could be reprinted for the benefit of newcomers to the Circle. Such an article as 'Triangular Cancellations' was mentioned and there could be others if previous publications were examined.

g) The Hon. Treasurer's Report and the Income & Expenditure Account as published in 1969 "I.P." pp. 23 - 24 were adopted and agreed.

The Names of those Members who had not paid a subscription for 1968 were tabled and the Meeting agreed that some ten Names should be deleted from the Members' List and about twenty to whom a letter should be sent to remind them of their oversight.

6. The election of Officers and Committee for 1969 resulted in the following being invited to continue or take up Office :

President: H. G. L. Fletcher

Vice Presidents: F.E.Dixon, J.Geo.Cleary, W.G.Meredith.

Hon. General Sec: T.S.Telfer

Hon. Treasurer: W.J.Wilks, to take over from Mr.Marsden.

Committee Members: J.A.C.Munro, Dr.J.A.Quigley, A.L.Stokes
and R.P.Woods.

Hon. Exchange Sec: H. K. Jamieson

Hon. Auctions Sec: W. Kane.

Hon. Editor (Journal); W.G.Meredith

Hon. Area (Dublin) Sec: P. Pigot, to take over from Mr. Langton
who wished to relinquish office.

i/c Duplicator: H.K.Jamieson.

Hon. Auditor: J.O.Marsden, to take over from Mr. Rawlins.

7. Any Other Business resulted in the following being discussed:

a) Addressing Envelopes: with something like 220 envelopes to be addressed 12 times a year from Dublin and the same No. 6 times from London, the task was onerous and time consuming for the secretarial officers concerned and could take up a week's spare time of an individual.

The undernoted suggestions were made which could perhaps be investigated

i) Have the work done by a firm in Dublin @ 7s.6d. p. 100

ii) Have a series of gummed labels and carbon copies prepared in readiness for use either in Dublin or in London.

iii) For Dublin mailings, long envelopes were preferred to save the treble folding of contents matter.

iv) Whenever possible, endeavour to have a combined mailing of Dublin and London matters, say at the beginning of a month.

b) Adverts in the Journal: It was generally agreed that the Hon.

Editor could accept Adverts from IPC Membership for publication in one issue at a time of the Journal. The rate of £5 p.page and £3 p. 1/2 page was suggested but to be further costed.

The Hon.Gen.Sec. stated that the IPC "News" feature of the Journal had always been open to Members to advertise their 'Sales & Wants' usually free of charge. When a member submitted a long list, however, a nominal charge of 6d. per line was requested as a donation to recover some of the cost of typing and preparation

7.(c) Exhibition in Ireland, 1972. To commemorate the 50 years' issue of EIRE stamps, it was generally felt by the Meeting that there should be some form of Special Event in 1972. The Irish Philatelic Society in Dublin had already written to the Irish P.O. to seek guidance as to what the Post Office proposed to do but as yet there was no reply and nothing to report.

Lack of a suitable Exhibition Hall or Rooms in Dublin seemed to be a difficulty to be resolved. Mr. Dixon mentioned that if Postal Staff moved to new quarters in the near future, an old building might become available and be suitable as a postal museum and exhibition hall.

The Meeting was of the opinion that the Event should be of International status, to attract world wide Collectors and Exhibitors and - Tourists. If International status could not be attained, Mr. Telfer suggested that the I.P. Society could themselves organise a 'Convention' on somewhat similar or better lines to those events now organised by Local societies and counties in G.B.

On the question of Organization and costs, naturally, there would be difficulties, but at this stage very little could be discussed by the Meeting. It was agreed, however, that the I.P. Circle would certainly co-operate with the I.P. Society in whatever venture they proposed.

8. During the A.G.M. proceedings, the following Members gave Displays:

- a) F.E. Dixon, "A Few Miscellany", exhibiting some unusual material and items not often thought about or seen.
- b) Dr. J.A. Quigley, "Overprints 1922", an interesting exhibit of the Inverted Overprints and some of the Forgeries, and the 'Castle', Composite and Government High Value Issues.
- c) D. Feldman, "Some Unusual Varieties", being a selection of sheets prepared for a Trade Display at a recent German Exhibition.
- d) W. Kane, showing some of his award winning exhibits such as "War & Philately", "Irish Mileage Marks", "Overprints 1922" and some varieties on the Commemoratives
- e) A. Finn, "Covers not recognised by the Post Office".
- f) M. St. J. Glynn, "Some Overprints 1922", showing some of the major varieties and items on which he sought advice.
- g) Fr. R. Maher gave a display and a well informed talk on "Biafra", a country from which he had just returned home on leave. It was an outstanding display of almost 50 sheets, annotated with authentic philatelic and other data, covering practically all the philatelic aspects of a new country such as Postal History and Postal Markings, Provisionals, Overprints, Definitives, Commemoratives and Stamps not available in Country of Origin. It was a privilege for the Meeting to see a complete philatelic survey of what had been happening in Biafra and to be present at what was considered to be the First - Ever Display of that Country.

9. During the A.G.M. proceedings some 20 Lots were sold by means of Auction and Bid Boards.

10. It was suggested that the Next A. G. M. take place about May 2 & 3, 1970, a venue to be arranged in, or nearby to Chester by the Hon. General Secretary.

11. The 1969 Annual General Meeting closed at 5.30 p.m. on the Sunday with thanks to those who had given Displays and had made the various sessions so interesting and enjoyable.

THE TAIL OF THE O. ONE and ONE PENNY

The following is a précis of a long discussion and study of the above variety, in which the participants included many well known Irish specialists, not least the late Messrs. T.E. Field and J.S. Preston, during the years 1957-1959. Comments and confirmation from members of the I.P.C. will be very welcome on every aspect raised, including the interpolations by the present editor of the Journal.

Stanley Gibbons listed this variety for the first time in their 1958 catalogue, on the 1d Thom SAORSTAT as 53e. In doing so, they cross-reference it with Great Britain 357a, which seems a clear indication that the variety is the same on both stamps. For reasons set out hereafter, it is not possible to accept this comparison in its entirety.

Early in 1957, the "Revealer" published a short article on this variety, illustrating the one which can be found on the 1922 overprinted stamps of Ireland, that is with the tail of the O in the south-west corner. The article, however, continues "This is not to be confused with the variety Q for O in "ONE", /E.D. i.e. with the tail in the south-east corner which is much better known and which does exist both overprinted and unoverprinted". The Study Group writer, not being a G.B. collector, had never particularly noted that any other variety, other than that known under Ireland, was on record, but the reference is, of course, to G.B. 357a. In spite of the remark that this variety can be found on the overprinted stamps, the writer was unable to find anyone who actually possessed a copy.

THE IRISH VARIETY

Patrick Hamilton, in his "British Stamps", when listing the eighth one Penny, issued in October 1912, and in use up to 1924, states that stamp No. 177, from sheets with control T22 /ED. no mention of Perf. or Imperf., had a flaw, Q for O in ONE PENNY. He does not refer to any other variety of this flaw, but states that this Control can be found in the Dollard, Thom narrow and wide and Thom three line overprints.

W.G. Meredith's "Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1927" refers to this variety, with the tail to the south-west, as being the ninth stamp in the fifteenth row, with control T22 Imperf. /ED. Incorrect. The reference is to T22 Perf., which ties with stamp no. 177, referred to in the last paragraph. He prices it for the Thom blue black RIALTAS and Thom SAORSTAT overprints, but does not mention either the Dollard or Thom wide issues, /ED. The wide overprint does not occur on T22 Perf. although there is every reason to think that it must have occurred among these /ED. Maybe the Dollard, but it could not be the wide overprint. The writer goes on to say he has "used copies of both the printings referred to," /ED. I think here he means to refer to the first two above. "and also a right hand marginal block of 42 stamps, control T22 Perf. on which this variety occurs in the correct position referred to above". He adds that this is sufficient evidence to show that the variety occurs on both T22 Imperf and Perf. /ED. He is clearly still under the impression that W.G.M. lists T22 Imperf. He suggests, too, that the variety may occur on 1d Thom RIALTAS in black, since a copy of the 1d Thom black control T22 Perf appeared as Lot 358 in Robson Lowe's sale of 7th December 1955. Gibbons,

however, say this control does not exist. ED. The 1d. Thom RIALTAS in black is always a difficult item to be sure about but I have seen it in the Agnew collection, T22 Perf, from Plate 4.7

To finish off the possibilities, there is a fair chance that it exists with the Harrison overprint. A joined pair of the 1½d. Harrison has been found with traces of the T22 control.

Summing up, there is quite clear evidence as to the existence of this variety on two of the issues of overprints, and as S.G. list the SAORSTAT one as 53e, I can see no justification for the omission of the Thom blue black one as 36a. Not being a G.B. collector, I am unable to say that it is known on the normal British stamp with tail to the south-west, but I can think of no reason why it should not exist. If it does, it must be placed under G.B. 357a, which is, as now explained, intended for a slightly different variety, of the same nature.

THE BRITISH VARIETY

Going back to the extract from the "Revealer" in paragraph three above, to what does this refer, for it indicates another variety on overprinted stamps which is completely unknown to the writer.

Alcock and C.W. Meredith, in "British Postage Stamp varieties," illustrates a top left hand marginal strip of four of the 1912-1922 1d. variety QNE, and clearly state that this is S.G./G.B. 357a. The fourth stamp shows the variety with the tail pointing south-east (a correct Q) and in a totally different direction from the Irish variety described above. Further, they state that the variety was first discovered about 1914 and that the plate was presumably withdrawn as a result of the discovery, although it is known that it was on control E.14. If the plate was destroyed, it is difficult to believe that the same variety can be expected on the Irish overprinted stamps of 1922, eight years later, and, in connection with which, no control earlier than Q20 has been recorded - in the case of the 1d value, none earlier than S21. The only theory, which would cover the issue of an E14 control with Irish overprint, is that the disparity in dates could be accounted for by the fact that, when P.O. Stores receive a new supply, they do not necessarily empty the shelves, which are to receive the newcomers, putting the old stock in the front. There were, of course, reserved of G.B. stamps in the Irish Post Office Stores when overprinting began. Overprinted controls include Q 20 - 1½d, Q 21 - 1½d and 10d, R 21 - ½d, 4d and 1/-, S 21 - all values except 1½d. It again seems hard to believe that any earlier controls could have been overprinted.

Further evidence as to the existence of these two separate varieties is to be found among the Proceedings of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, under the heading K.G. V Study Circle, March 1958. Summary of this study would be fairly put as follows:-

- 1) Q for O in ONE (S.G. 357a). The line runs from North West to South East on the fourth stamp of the top row. Control E 14. Plate not known.

- 2) A similar flaw to 1), but the line runs from north east to south west, and it occurred on the ninth stamp of the fifteenth row, Control T22. Plate not known.

It has been made abundantly clear that there are at least two entirely different varieties, both recorded by S.G. as 357a. It may well be, that as their catalogue covers such a vast field, they have deliberately lumped the two varieties under the one heading, for the sake of brevity, but this hardly applies to Ireland, where they include 53e, but omit its twin companion, which would be 36a.

Our Vice President, Mr. F.E. Dixon, has added his own comments and additions to the above, viz:-

S.G.53e.

Although it is possible that there were some very old stock in the sheets overprinted (overprinted fiscals even include an Edward VII stamp!) it is improbable that the QNE flaw listed by Gibbons as occurring with Irish overprints is the same as is recorded with control E14

It seems to me that the flaws reported as Q flaws are not all constant flaws due to plate damage, but include the results of foreign matter. Sketched herewith are my two copies of what I have mounted as S.G.53e. They are very similar but not identical - as if the foreign body causing them had moved between the printing of the sheets.



The problem then arises of how a white flaw could move. The only solution I can think of is that there was a blemish on an inking roller, but I don't like the idea: it is unlikely that the boundary of the flaw would be so clear cut.



Another possibility is that one (or both) is faked!

Finally one has the possibility that there are a large number of similar flaws in different positions on the plate. The objection to that is the improbability of all the flaws gathering round the O of ONE. Why are there no copies of Renny, Remny etc.?

ULTRA VIOLET LAMP EXPERIMENTS

I have been experimenting with an Ultra-Violet light source (home-made!) in an endeavour to sort out the various inks used on the overprints. So far, I have not been successful, so back to the drawing board. I did, however, notice that the following stamps "glowed" quite plainly in a darkened room:-

1960 World Refugee Year 1963 Red Cross Centenary
All issues from 1964 World Fair to end 1968, excluding
Limerick Cathedral.

Some copies of the obsolescent definitives - 3d, 4d,
5d, 6d, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-.

I do not know very much about ultra-violet light, but, in all the above cases, the whole stamp lights up.

I wonder if any other members can confirm my findings, which imply that the type of paper has been changed at some time since the early 1960's.

Ed. Mr. F.E. Dixon confirms that both the paper and the gum have, in fact, been changed.7