

IRISH PHILATELY

JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Edited by

O.M. RICHARDS

"Llys Awel", 6 Cloverdale Road, Lambeg, Lisburn, Co. Antrim

Volume 1974

March 1974

No. 1

CONTENTS

Editorial	1
Letters to the Editor	2 & 3
The Cancellling Machines of Ireland	4 - 10
It Pays to Talk About your Hobby.	11
1973 World Ploughing Championships	13 & 14
Part Four of a Series for Beginners	15 & 16
Postmarks of Leitrim	18 - 20

"Irish Philately"

Published by the Editor for the Irish Philatelic Circle. Articles are the copyright of the authors and cannot be reproduced without permission.

EDITORIAL

This, the first issue of our Journal for 1974, is an effort to improve the presentation and to improve its appearance. The Circle has purchased an electric typewriter and the pages are now being produced by the off-set litho process. We are sure it is an acceptable step forward.

As promised, we have also produced a new title page to Dr de Burca's work on the Post Offices of Leitrim, the final three pages of which have been duplicated in order to conform with previous pages.

We wish to thank those members who supported us in 1973 with articles and comments; we would ask for increased support in 1974.

O.M. Richards

N.J. Langton

Letter to the Editor:-

The Editor
Irish Philately

11th March 1974

Dear Sir,

I purchased recently the book "The Maltese Cross Cancellations of the United Kingdom" by Alcock and Holland. On looking through it, there seemed to be something familiar about five of the covers shown to illustrate various Irish Maltese Crosses. These were the ones addressed to "Messrs. Samuel Parker & Son, Back Lane, Dublin".

On looking through a small quantity of covers which, I believe, I acquired through an I.P.C., auction, I found two addressed to the same firm, one of October 1846 and one of September 1848.

From one of the covers illustrated in the book I see that the firm were Leather Merchants. The number in Back Lane is given as 34 in four of the illustrations, whilst the later of my two covers gives it as 38.

It would seem that at some time in the past a philatelic "Treasure Trove" has been found amongst the records of this firm. I wonder what the story is behind this; whether or not the firm is still in existence; whether or not there is still a Back Lane in Dublin?

Perhaps the story is known to some of our members. If so, it might be of general interest to learn about it.

Yours sincerely,

Signed: J.P.R. HOLT

Letter to the Editor:-

The Editor
Irish Philately

13th March 1974

Dear Editor,

You asked for contributions to Irish Philately, so here goes!

I wonder if any Overprint collector has noticed a variety brought to my attention by Bruce Weinman of the EPA? In the Thom 5 line narrow setting on the 4th Stamp, 12th Row, Setting 2 the **hEipeann** is $\frac{3}{4}$ mm longer than normal. As this is one of the R/Se varieties, examples are not hard to find; I had four examples myself without realising it! The **e** in **hEipeann** is noticeably further away from its adjacent letters than in the normal stamp. The variety is associated in most cases with a type flaw - the **i** of **hEipeann** is damaged. In my opinion the variety is as interesting as the wide **AC** variety found in the second overprint line.

Yours ever,

Signed: Michael Priestly

- - - - -

Letters to the Editor are always acceptable on any aspect of Irish Philately, and will be published.

Whilst members are at liberty to answer any queries direct to the person who poses the question, we would appreciate a copy of the reply for publication in the Journal. We feel that the membership will be interested both in the questions and answers.

THE CANCELLING MACHINES OF IRELAND

PROVINCES

by O.M. Richards

The history of the cancelling machines of Dublin from 1906 to 1922 appeared in the combined journal for October 1972 and will be continued at a later date. This article will trace the history of the cancelling machines in the Provinces and will be confined to what is now the Republic of Ireland. Those in Northern Ireland will be the subject of a separate study in due course.

CORK

KRAG. A Krag type cancelling machine was issued to Cork in the first general issue of this type of machine which began in 1909, the earliest date seen is 22nd March 1911. As was usual at that time, the cancelling bars were straight lines, Fig. 1. The change to wavy or undulating lines was made during the second half of 1915, this was some time after most of the other machines in use were altered. No PAID or OFFICIAL PAID have been seen from this machine. It is probable that the machine was returned to Dublin in 1921 when the Universal machine was issued to Cork.

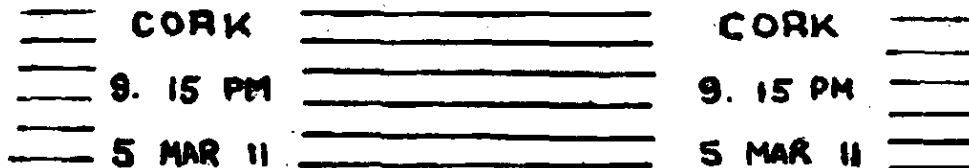


Fig. 1

UNIVERSAL. The earliest date seen for the Universal machine issued to Cork is 25th May 1921, Fig. 2. This machine, which was a No. 3 Model, was in constant use until 10th October 1948 when it was replaced by a GG (Fast) machine. On 30th June 1955 an additional DD (Slow) machine was issued to Cork, this continued in use until 28th November 1964 when it was, in turn, replaced by a GG (Fast) machine, thus the office was, and still is, using two GG (Fast) machines.



Fig. 2

The change from the English CORK to the Irish CORCAIGH occurred between 21st and 30th May 1922. Fig. 3 shows some examples of dies used in Cork machines. PAID dies were the normal circular type, Fig. 4, (Red), specially made for the early machines in which the cancelling bars were continuous. They had three lines of moveable type, day and month, year and amount paid. The continuous lines had no moveable central segment which would allow the insertion of PAID and OFFICIAL PAID slugs. In the later machines, which had such a facility, the first type of circular die still continued but gradually its use ceased and the normal indication of PAID and OFFICIAL PAID in the wavy lines commenced. The early Triangle die for bulk PAID postings is distinctive in having the corners clipped, Fig. 5. No OFFICIAL PAID examples have been seen, but they probably exist.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

SLOGANS. Until quite recently it was thought that slogans had not been used in the Krag machine however, member Michael Leonard discovered an example FEED THE GUNS WITH WAR BONDS slogan used on 12th November 1918. The earliest known date of the use of a slogan for Cork after the creation of the new Irish Free State is the "LEARN IRISH TAILTEANN GAMES AUGUST" on 30th May 1922. Thereafter most of the general slogans and those peculiar to Cork have been used regularly.

LIMERICK

KRAG. Limerick was another city issued with a Krag machine in the 1909 programme, Fig. 6. The earliest date seen is for 24th December 1910.

Again we have a machine fitted with straight cancelling bars and this continued in use until December 1917, and probably later. We have not seen examples from this machine with wavy lines and would welcome any information on this. No PAID or OFFICIAL PAID dies have been seen but it is possible that such dies were supplied.



Fig. 6

UNIVERSAL. A Universal machine was issued to Limerick in 1921, the first date seen is for 13th August 1921. This machine had been in use in Dublin for some two years before being transferred, Fig. 7.



Fig. 7

The change from Limerick to the Irish LUIMNEACH took place between 27th March and 25th April 1922, later dies give the spelling as LUIMNEAC. It is possible that the original machine is still in use, it is a DD (Slow) machine, Serial No. 2130. On 19th December 1963 an additional Pitney Bowes (successors to Universal) machine was issued. This is a GG (Fast) machine, Serial No. 1279. Fig. 8.

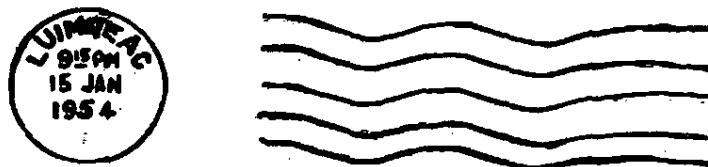


Fig. 8

In Fig. 8 it will be noticed that the distance between the two bottom lines is less than those above, examples may be found with the two close lines on top.

As with the Universal machine at Cork, special dies were provided PAID mail. Fig. 9, only the $\frac{1}{2}$ d value has been seen in this type. Later a square die was used for PAID mail, Fig. 10. Belfast is the only other user of a square die in Ireland. The only value seen in this type is 2d but it is probable that other values exist. No OFFICIAL PAID dies have been seen in either circular or square dies.



Fig. 9 (Red)

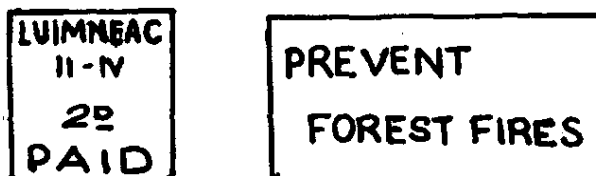


Fig. 10 (Red)

The second machine at Limerick is designated "A", this has been seen cancelling mail in red, this is the result of the inking pad not being changed after the machine had been used to cancel PAID mail. Fig. 11 shows a selection of machine dies used at Limerick.

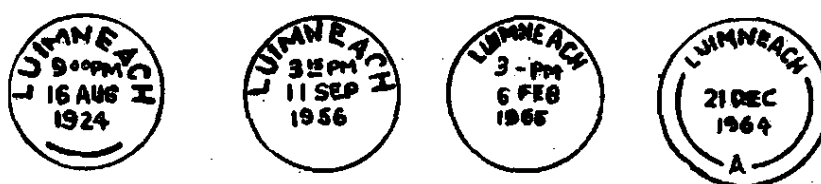


Fig. 11

GALWAY

KRAG. The Krag machine was issued to Galway in the 1912 programme and was fitted with wavy cancelling bars from the first day of use. The earliest date seen is 25 July 1912, Fig. 12 and the machine was

in continuous use until early 1935.

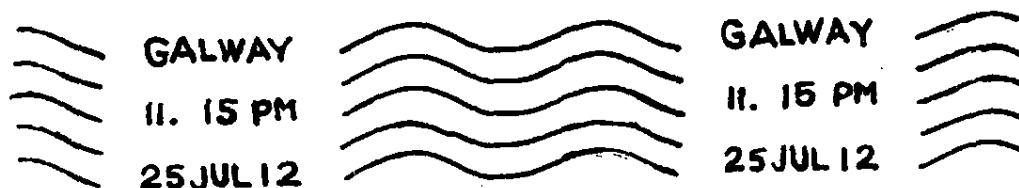


Fig. 12

The machine was apparently brought into use again in 1943, probably because of a breakdown of the Universal machine in use at that time. In the second time of using the name had already been changed to GAILLIMH and was in Irish script, Fig. 13. Only one other machine has used Irish script, that at Tralee, which was a Krag also.



Fig. 13

The change of name from GALWAY to GAILLIMH occurred between 8 June and 26 July 1922. This machine was put to a unique use in 1922 and 1923 when a slogan, "LEARN IRISH" was incorporated in the Town, Time and Date 'box', Fig. 14. Member Arthur Stokes discovered a specimen with "LEARN IRISH" in the 'box' and "INVEST IN POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK" between wavy lines, Fig. 15 which I have 'created' for illustration as this is missing from my own collection.



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

SLOGANS. (Hibernian Catalogue Numbers). Amongst the more interesting of the slogans used in Ireland were those used in the Krag machines. Whilst the wording was the same as that used in the Universal machines the layout was usually different.

The following slogans are in my collection, there may well be others:-

- SP 3 AONAC TALLTEANN AUG 5 - 14 (not in my collection unfortunately).
- SP 6 LEARN IRISH (within the die box).
- SP 9 INVEST IN POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK
- SP 12 BUY IRISH GOODS
- SP 18 BUY SECOND NATIONAL LOAN
- SP 21 BUY THIRD NATIONAL LOAN
- SP 24 IRELAND FOR HOLIDAYS
- SP 28 GROW MORE WHEAT
- SP 29 BUY FOURTH NATIONAL LOAN
- SP 31 USE THE TELEPHONE

SP 31 was probably the last slogan used in the Krag machine, the next slogan I have is SP 33 SALTHILL GALWAY FOR HOLIDAYS on the Universal machine, Fig. 16.



Fig. 16

No PAID or OFFICIAL PAID mail has been seen cancelled by the Krag machine.

UNIVERSAL. It is unfortunate that, apparently, none of the post offices in towns and cities have records of dates of issues of machines; Cork appears to be an exception. The Head Postmaster Galway informed me that they do not even know the date in 1935 when the Universal machine was issued to them. The earliest date seen is for 1 July 1935 and, as far as is known, this is the machine still in use. Fig. 17 shows some examples of dies used in the machine



Fig. 17

I have no examples of PAID or OFFICIAL PAID from the Universal machine but PAID or IOCTHA, its Irish equivalent, must exist.

To be continued.

Official information on machines issued before 1951 is virtually non-existent. Letters to Head Postmasters invariably indicate that no records exist. I must pay tribute to these gentlemen who always reply to letters and help to the best of their ability. In one case a retired member of staff was consulted.

I hope to continue the account of machines in the next issue of the Journal and would be grateful to members for any information they can glean from their collections of these markings, especially on the following Krag type machines.

TRALEE	(TRAIGHLI)
WATERFORD	(PORT LAIRGE)
MONAGHAN	(MUINEACHAN)
KILKENNY	(CILL CHOINNIGH)

Details of dates of Krag type machines used in Northern Ireland would also be appreciated. These are too numerous to list, it appears that most offices using machines at present used Krag machines prior to being issued with a Universal type. The exception is Belfast which had a Columbia initially, then Hey Dolphin followed by Universals. A Krag machine was in use during the 1939 - 45 war period.

IT PAYS TO TALK ABOUT YOUR HOBBY

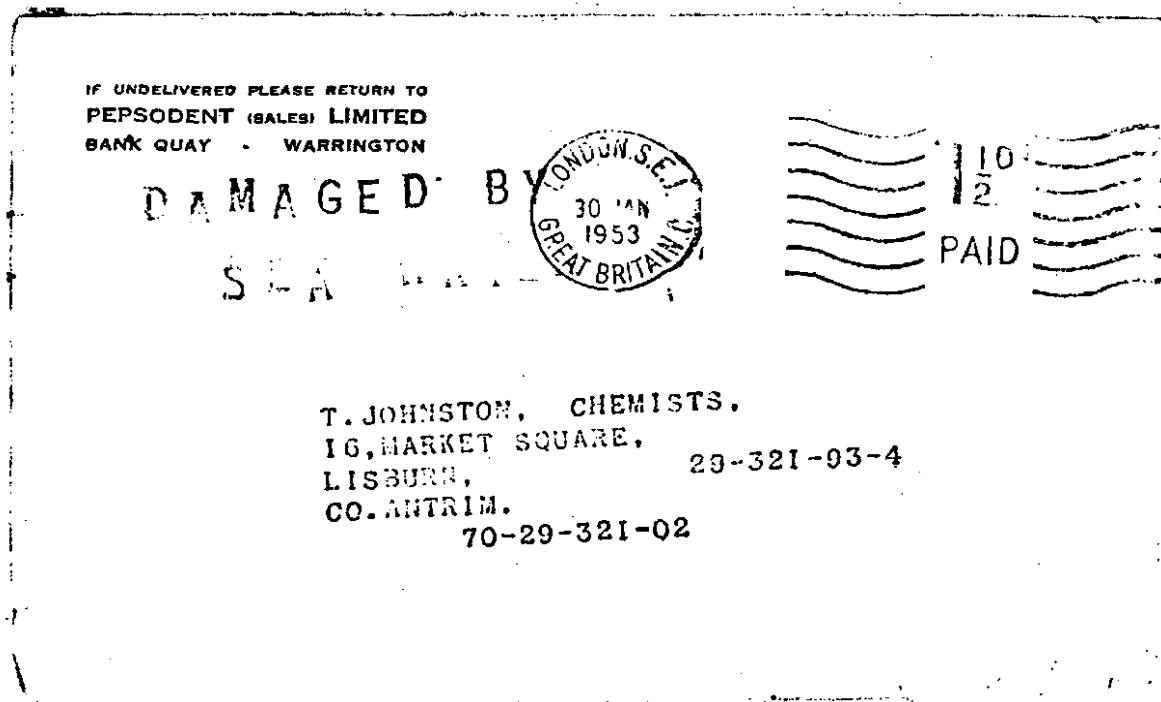
by O.M. Richards

One Thursday evening, during choir practice, I chanced to tell the man who sings next to me about my various hobbies and interests, dwelling, of course, on my interest in things Irish. After a few moments thought, he said that he had an envelope which might interest me. The following week the envelope was duly produced and presented to me.

The cover, illustrated below, was amongst mail washed ashore from the TSMV Princess Victoria which foundered on 31st January, 1953., during a storm. The vessel had left Stranraer at 7.45 am in bad weather, a full gale with driving sleet. After leaving Loch Ryan, which had afforded shelter, she was in difficulties and hove to at 9.46 am. At 10.32 am the first SOS was sent and signals continued between the ship and the outside world until she foundered.

Several vessels were involved in trying to assist the stricken ship but, owing to confusion as to her position, were unable to locate her. At about 2 pm the last message was transmitted from the ship, she was then on her beam ends. Great difficulty was experienced in getting life boats away, those on the starboard side could not be launched at all. The loss of life was great, 139 persons were drowned, the 43 survivors were all men who were physically strong, no women or children survived. The Court of Inquiry concluded that the stern doors were stoved in and that the car deck had flooded causing the vessel to become top heavy.

The cachet "DAMAGED BY SEA WATER" has been seen in at least two settings but this might be the result of two separate temporary stamps, one for each line.



1973 WORLD PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

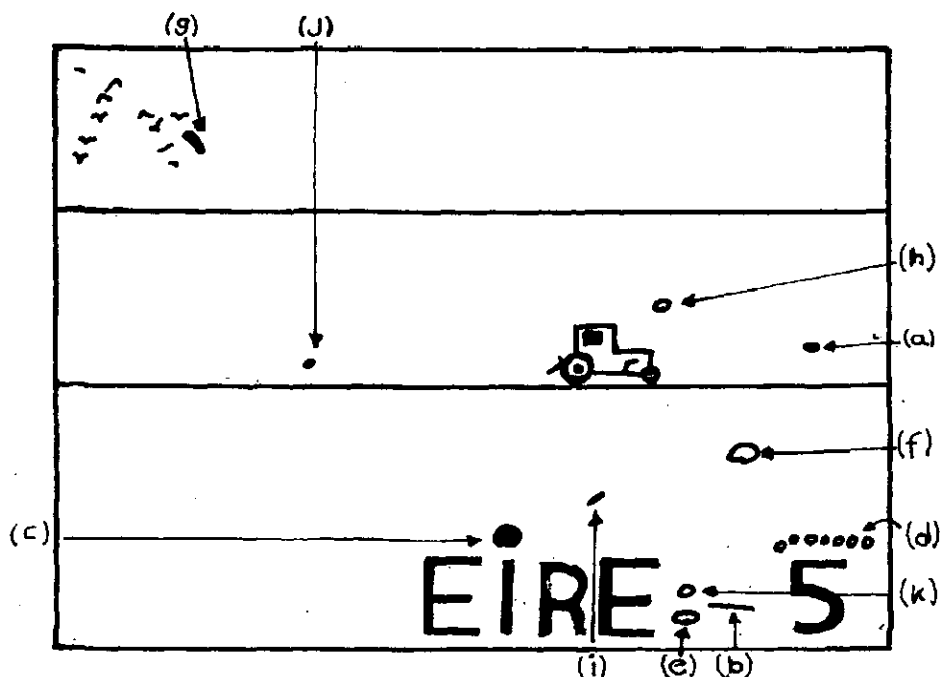
by Michael Phelan

This set was issued on 5th October, 1973 to mark the World Ploughing Championships which were held at Wellingtonbridge, Co Wexford. A special postmark was also in operation at Wellingtonbridge for the duration of the competition. It was a circular handstamp bearing "W P C Droichead Eoin" together with the date. It was also applied to covers posted at Wellingtonbridge on the 5th October which also received the First Day of Issue cachet.

The stamp was designed by Patrick Scott and was printed by the photogravure process on unwatermarked paper. The set consisted of two values, 5p and 7p, and each sheet contained Cylinder 1111.

VARIETIES

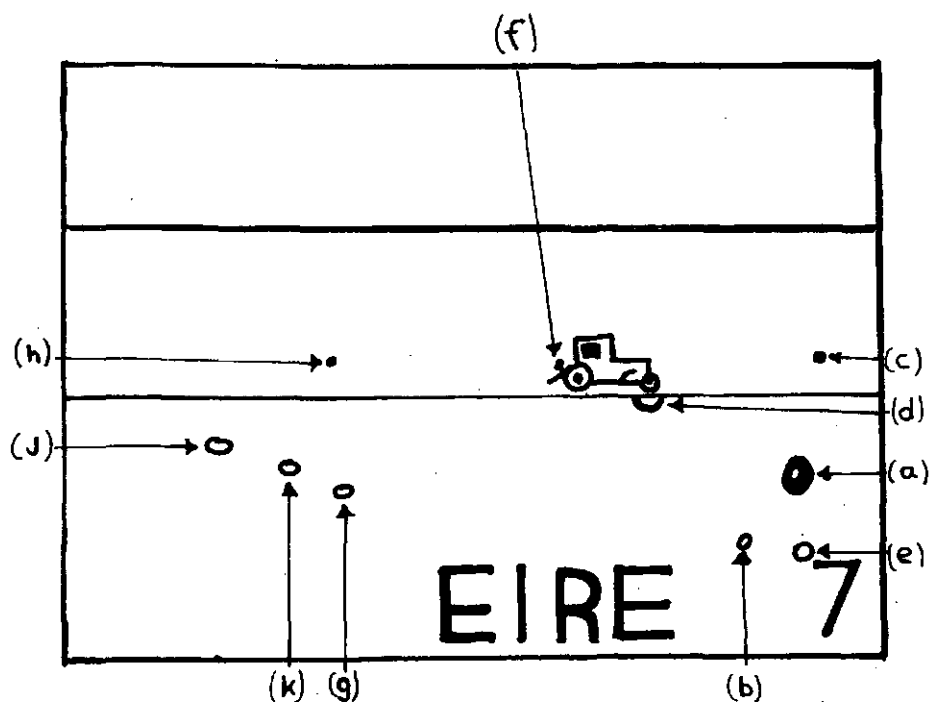
5p Value.



- | | | |
|-------|----------|---|
| Row 1 | Stamp 10 | A dark coloured spot is present in the "ploughed fields" in the centre right of the stamp. Dia 1(a) Thirk E 12 |
| Row 2 | Stamp 3 | A horizontal scratch is present between "EIRE" and "5" in the bottom right hand corner. Dia 1(b) Thirk I 10/11 |
| Row 3 | Stamp 1 | Just above the "I" of "EIRE" a large retouch is present. Dia 1(c) Thirk G/H 7 |
| Row 3 | Stamp 2 | There is a series of light coloured spots present in the bottom right hand side of the stamp just above "5". Dia 1(d) Thirk G/H 11/12 |

- Row 4 Stamp 2 Just to the right of the second "E" of "EIRE" a small horizontal light coloured mark is present. Dia 1(e) Thirk I 10
- Row 6 Stamp 1 There is a light coloured spot in the centre right portion of the stamp above "5". Dia 1(f) Thirk G 11
- Row 6 Stamp 4 A white diagonal mark is present in the "sky" in the middle of the flock of "seagulls". Dia 1(g) Thirk B 3
- Row 6 Stamp 8 There is a dark coloured spot in the "ploughed" portion of the field in the centre of the stamp. Dia 1(h) Thirk D 10/11
- Row 6 Stamp 9 A light coloured mark appears above the "RE" of "EIRE". Dia 1(i) Thirk G 8/9
- Row 8 Stamp 1 A white spot is present in the "sky" in the top right part of the stamp. Dia 1(j) Thirk B 12
- Row 8 Stamp 3 There is a circular mark between the second "E" of "EIRE" and "5". Dia 1(k) Thirk I 10

7p Value



- Row 1 Stamp 4 A large retouch is present above the figure "7" on the right of the stamp. Dia 2(a) Thirk F/G 12
- Row 1 Stamp 5 A light coloured spot is present between the second "E" of "EIRE" and "7". Dia 2(b) Thirk H 10
- Row 1 Stamp 10 In the right side of the "ploughed field" there is a dark coloured spot. Dia 2(c) Thirk D/E 12

Row 2	Stamp 5	There is a light coloured spot directly below the wheel of the tractor. Dia 2(d) Thirk E 9
Row 3	Stamp 1	There is a large light coloured spot just to the left of the figure "7". Dia 2(e) Thirk G/H 11
Row 6	Stamp 6	There is a small white spot next to the wheel of the tractor. Dia 2(f) Thirk D7
Row 7	Stamp 2	A light coloured spot appears in the centre of the stamp in the "unploughed field". Dia 2(g) Thirk G 4
Row 8	Stamp 1	A white spot appears in the centre of the stamp towards the bottom of the "ploughed field". Dia 2(h) Thirk E 5
Row 8	Stamp 5	On the bottom of the "I" of "EIRE" there is a dark spot. Dia 3 Thirk I 7
Row 9	Stamp 7	A light coloured spot is present in the left side of the "unploughed field". Dia 2(j) Thirk F 3
Row 10	Stamp 7	A light coloured spot is present in the centre of the "unploughed field". Dia 2(k) Thirk F 5

On both values there are differences in the number of white spots (seeds?) on the ploughed field. Some of the stamps are spot free whilst others contain several dozen spots.

NUMBER FOUR IN A SERIES FOR BEGINNERS

by Noel J. Langton

Sometimes it is difficult to know what to include in this series. The problem is to decide, in the first place, just how to define the word "beginner" - a word I don't particularly like, yet one I'm stuck with. Should the reader be judged as completely ignorant of matters philatelic, or merely of Irish philately. There is a second problem and that is one of inspiration. To explain - each time I sit down to do another article I'm lost for ideas.

This time I'm fortunate in that I had a letter a few weeks ago, from a member who was confused about Irish postal rates. He lives in Great Britain, as do the majority of our members, and his problem was that he couldn't understand the use of a 3½p stamp on a Christmas card he had received from Southern Ireland last Christmas. It was obvious to me that he was under the impression that the postage rates here in Southern Ireland were the same as in Great Britain (and Northern Ireland, of course). I wrote to him explaining the difference and then the thought crossed my mind that a word or two on postage rates, published in the Journal, would not go amiss.

I must confess that I know little about them. I have three editions of the Post Office Guide Volume I - 1959, 1964 and 1971. This book quotes the inland rates for letters as 3d (1959), 5d (1964) and 4p (1971), which latter equals the old 9d. As increases in the rates don't always (in fact never) coincide with the publication of a new edition, obviously the Guide doesn't furnish the complete picture. For instance, in the above tabulation the 4d and 6d rates are missing, not to mention the current 5p (1/-) rate introduced last year. So, if you are thinking of compiling a rates list from the Guide, be sure you have the supplements, issued free, at intervals, to update the information in the Guide. This is sent automatically to registered subscribers.

Which brings me to the point. So many collectors tread the old worn paths - mint singles, mint blocks, plate blocks, often not quite knowing why they buy plate blocks except that it's the "done thing" and they'll be worth something in the future. Did you ever stop to think that, in the scramble for plate blocks collectors miss the flaws on other parts of the sheet? Not all flaws occur in the bottom left (right) hand corners!!! However, I digress. The path I advocate is not the one described above but one that will probably never be worth a fortune, but, by the same token, shouldn't cost a fortune. It is to compile a listing of the minimum postage rates, both inland and foreign from 1922 to date and the try to get a first day cover of each one! I doubt if you could collect anything other than minimum rate covers because once the contents of the envelope have been taken out how do you prove the postage paid was the correct one for the weight. Just think of all the locally addressed commemorative first day covers with full sets (usually inland low value and overseas airmail high value) to realise the absurdity and futility of the thing.

Eventually your collection would have an inland postcard and open letter, preferably with flap gum in mint condition, a ditto closed letter, a foreign surface mail postcard and open and closed letters, foreign airmail postcard and open letter which are regarded as 2nd class airmail and a 1st class airmail envelope plus an airletter form. You can think up other combinations, doubtless, and I think you'll have your hands full chasing after completeness.

A good clue to the postal rates is the face values of the commemorative issues. You will find out approximately when rates were "upped" though you'll need more accurate "gen" for your collection. Also, the registered postal stationery will help. I hope I have signposted the way to a new and intriguing by-way and, whilst admitting that I cannot help much with the compilation of a rates table, I would appeal to any member who has the requisite information to let me know, so that it can be published in this column and we can all share in the fun.

As a tailpiece, let me tell two stories. The first relates to 1939 when I was a very young collector and a member of a stamp club based in London. I received approval selections from time to time. When returning them, I earned a bonus if I used $1\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps in part payment of the postage. Apparently, the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp was very scarce because it didn't cover any particular rate. More recently, in 1971, one of my daughters was on holiday in Co. Donegal. I gave her a supply of $3\frac{1}{2}$ p and $\frac{1}{2}$ p stamps to use on letters home and, in turn, I used $3\frac{1}{2}$ p and $\frac{1}{2}$ p stamps on my letters to her. At that time the printed paper rate was $2\frac{1}{2}$ p and letters were 4p. So used $3\frac{1}{2}$ p stamps were hard to come by, to say the least. Last year the rates were increased to $3\frac{1}{2}$ p and 5p. Now $3\frac{1}{2}$ p stamps are as common as $2\frac{1}{2}$ p and 4p were. I should have used 3p and 1p stamps in 1971. They were scarce then and have been bypassed in the jump from $2\frac{1}{2}$ p and $3\frac{1}{2}$ p and so remain scarce. That's not a market tip by the way. I am satisfied with a nice used copy - off cover.