

IRISH PHILATELY

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Edited by

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'Cartrefle', 4 St Simon's Drive, Cherry Willingham, Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

I regret the delay in the publication of the June issue of our Journal. As you see we are now back in England and we are still trying to settle in and to locate everything, the pile of boxes is slowly going down.

The folder of material to publish is very thin nowadays, an unusual position as I have had a fair stock of articles in hand for the past two years. Your pens to paper please!

OM Richards

"Irish Philately"

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Letter from the President:-

Dear Members;

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for electing me President of the Irish Philatelic Circle at the AGM held in Dublin last month. I feel greatly honoured.

Please be assured that it is my aim to further the collecting of Irish stamps and postmarks and to continue the high standards set by those who held this office in past years.

May I look forward to greeting you at Liverpool for our AGM in 1979?

Yours sincerely,

Michael Leonard

Letters to the Editor:-

Dear Sir,

I must draw attention to two mistakes contained in the article '25th Anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916' in the March 1978 issue of Irish Philately.

1. The colours of the Irish National Flag are not green, white and yellow but green, white and orange. The origins of the Irish tricolour date from the time of the Rising of 1848 inspired by the Young Ireland movement. The tricolour symbolises the aspiration of peace and unity (white) between the two traditions living in Ireland, namely the old Irish (green) and later settlers (orange). This tricolour flew over the GPO (and elsewhere) in 1916, hence its adoption as the National Flag.
2. There is no connection whatsoever, intentional or unintentional, between the Irish tricolour and the white and yellow flag of the temporal State of Vatican City.

Apart from these two misconceptions held by TS Telfer, may I say that I found this article informative and interesting and I look forward to the next chapter of this particular study.

Yours sincerely,

Eddie FitzGerald

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS 1977

by E. FitzGerald and B. Warren

SPECIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

Fifteen new stamps were issued over seven release dates with a total face value of £1.78; (1976 - 16 stamps plus miniature sheet with a total face value of £2.06).

All issues were printed either by the Revenue Stamping Branch, Dublin Castle, using the photogravure process or by Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd., using the lithographic process. The printer/process is indicated below by the letters P (photo) or L (litho) beneath the Date of Issue.

All litho issues have boxed colour blocks (traffic lights) as well as cylinder numbers printed in the margin; however, with the exception of the ESB and Greyhound stamps, these colour blocks were placed in a different corner to that of the cylinder numbers.

The inherent nature of the litho process results in many semi-constant varieties which only effect a small portion of the printing. Due to their abundance and tendency to wander such varieties are not listed.

Date of Issue	Description	Designer	Value	Plate/Cyl. Numbers	Perfs	Number Printed
9 May P	National Library and Museum Centenaries	Patrick Hickey	8p 10p	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	15 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 mill. 4 mill.
	Varities:	8p R3/S1 10p R5/S7 10p R7/S6	Spot under frame Spot on stone Spot on stone			
	Shade variations resulting in light and dark examples of both values are to be found.					
27 June L	Europa (Scenic Landscape)	Erik van der Grijn from Bord Failte photos	10p 12p	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	14 x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 mill. 2 mill.
	A total of six cylinders was used in printing each stamp. However, the silver ink cylinder which printed the inner frame line on both values was not inscribed with an '1' and thus only five '1s' appeared in the margin. A colour block was inscribed on the cylinder; however, it was placed to the right of the other five colours which were arranged in the normal boxed pattern. This silver frame line was not shown on advance publicity photos and appears to have been a late addition to the printed design.					
8 Aug L	Contemporary Irish Art	'Head' by Louis le Brocquy	17p	1 1 1 1	14 x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 mill.

Date of Issue	Description	Designer	Value	Plate/Cyl. Numbers	Perfs	Number Printed
22 Aug P	Scouting and Guiding	Robert Ballagh	8p 17p	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	15 x 14½	4 mill. 2 mill.
	Variety: 8p	R10/S3	Break in R of EIRE			
	Both values when placed side by side form a composite picture. In the advance publicity photos the light and dark portions of the smaller tents are interchanged from those of the final printed design.					
12 Sept L	Folklore of Ireland Society	Adapted by Liam Miller from the JB Yeats line drawing - 'The Shanachie'	10p	1	14 x 14¾	4 mill.
L	Johannes Scottus Eriugena	Adapted by Robert Ballagh from a brass rubbing based on a drawing by G Petrie	12p	1	14¾ x 14	2 mill.
10 Oct	Golden Jubilee Issues 1927-77					
L	Electricity Supply Board	Robert Ballagh (mural)	10p	1 1 1 1 1	14¾ x 14	4 mill.
P	Agricultural Credit Corporation	Patrick Hickey	12p	1 1 1 1	15 x 14½	2 mill.
L	Greyhound Track Racing	Basil Blackshaw	17p	1 1	14¾ x 14	2 mill.
	Variety: 12p	R2/S8	Malformed 7 in 1977			
	10p: In the advance publicity photo there was a white area in the lower right hand corner which was altered to green in the final printed design.					
	12p: Bronze metallic ink was used for the first time on an Irish issue.					
3 Nov P	Christmas	'The Holy Family by Giorgione - adapted by Raymond McGrath	8p 10p 17p	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	14½ x 15	10 mill. 10 mill. 2 mill.
	Variety: All values	R7/S8	Gash on Madonna's cheek			
	Minor retouches and fly specks have been noted but are not considered worthy of listing.					

ANIMAL DEFINITIVES (UNWATERMARKED SERIES)

In line with postal increases on 1 April 1977, three new definitives were issued on

8 June - 10p (dog), 12p (stag) and 17p (ox). It should be noted however that, with the metrication and revision of postal weight steps on 25 July, the 12p stag became of little use as it was primarily intended for the European letter rate which was reduced by 1p to 11p.

The first unwatermarked coil and booklet stamps were also released during the year and the definitive presentation packs were revised both in colour and content.

All definitive stamps are photogravure printed by the Revenue Stamping Branch, Dublin Castle. The 10p and 12p sheet stamps were in the usual format of 200 stamps made up of two panes of 10 x 10 with gutter margin. The 17p value was in the normal single pane format of 100 (10 x 10).

Date of Issue	Description	Designer	Value	Cylinder Numbers	Perfs
21 Mar	Coil Strip (5p+2p+2p+1p)	Heinrich Gerl	10p	Light blue coil leader - Code DG	14 x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$
21 Mar	5 x 7p + label Booklet Pane		35p		15
8 Jun	Sheet Stamps		10p dog 1 10p dog 2 (early August) 12p stag 1 1 17p ox 1 1 1 1		15 15 15 15
	Varieties:	10p R3/S9 10p R15/S5 17p R3/S10 17p R10/S1 17p R10/S10	Spot under front paw (Cyl 1) Spot above 0 of 10 (Cyl 2) Damage to top of 7 of 17 Spot near base of rear legs of ox Damage to foot of 7 of 17		

21 Mar 50p Booklet with green cover was issued containing the following panes:-

5 x 1p + label (watermarked 'e')
5 x 2p + label (watermarked 'e')
5 x 7p + label (unwatermarked)

The only new pane was the 5 x 7p + label as listed above. The 1p and 2p panes exist both with watermark sideways and sideways inverted.

Late Sept/Early Oct a. Low Value Presentation Pack ($\frac{1}{2}$ p - 12p) containing the following stamps:-
Dog design - $\frac{1}{2}$ p and 4p watermarked
- 1p, 2p, 3p, 5p, 6p, 7p, 8p, 9p & 10p unwatermarked
Stag design - 11p and 12p unwatermarked
Total face value - 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ p Cost - £1
A green coloured insert card giving details of the contents forms part of the pack.

Late Sept/Early Oct b. High Value Presentation Pack (15p - £1) containing the following stamps:
Ox design - 15p, 17p and 20p unwatermarked
Eagle design - 50p and £1 unwatermarked
Total face value - £2.02 Cost - £2.25

A fawn coloured insert card giving details of the contents forms part of the pack.

The alterations in the packs result from additions and deletions to the definitive series, hence the printing of new insert cards. No advance notice was given regarding these revised Presentation Packs which accounts for the uncertainty as to the actual date of first release.

FIRST DAY COVERS AND CANCELLATIONS

During 1977 the Post Office decided to cease producing a specially designed Official First Day Cover for every new issue. Beginning with the Folklore/Scottus issue a general purpose official cover was placed on sale. A special cover was available for the Christmas issue.

Special postmarks were used on all FDCs emanating from the Philatelic Section, GPO, Dublin 1 and St Andrews Street PO, Dublin 2, with the exception of the Christmas issue where a special postmark was available at the Stamp '77 Exhibition at the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

No special first day of issue facilities were available for the new coil strip and booklet pane issued on 21 March. However, it was possible to obtain covers with plain CDS.

ESB, ACC and Bord na gCon each produced special first day covers for their respective Golden Jubilee stamps. The ACC cover was an adaptation by way of an overprint on the post office general purpose FDC.

SPECIAL EVENT CANCELLATIONS AND CACHETS

'European Region Scout and Guide Conference Eurconf 77 Cill Airne'. Used on mail posted at the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney on 17 and 20 April. Pictorial in purple.

'Collectorex Dublin '77 Baile Atha Cliath'. Used on mail posted at a stamp and coin fair held in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin 1, on 11 and 12 June. The black pictorial cancel featured a magnifying glass design with slightly different formats for each day. Special matching envelope available from the organisers.

'30th IOMTR Congress Baile Atha Cliath'. Used at the temporary post office in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin 4, during the 30th Congress of the International Organisation for Motor Trades and Repairs from 20 to 24 June. Circular pictorial in purple.

'Dun Laoghaire Summer Festival Collectors Exhibition'. Used on mail posted at a general stamp, coin and antique fair held in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, on the 2 and 3 July. The rectangular pictorial postmark in black differed in design for each day as follows:-

2 July	-	Old Ship design	(Holyhead and Kingstown Packet)
3 July	-	Old Train design	(Dublin and Kingstown Railway)

A special cover was available from the organisers.

'32 Congress ITF Baile Atha Cliath'. Used at the temporary post office in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin 4, during the 32nd International Transport Federation Workers Congress from 21 to 29 July (excluding 24). Pictorial circular in purple.

'CBSI Jamborora 1977 Ceapach Chuinn'. Used at the International Scout Camp held in the grounds of Mount Melleray Abbey, Cappaquinn, Co Waterford to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland (CBSI). The postmark, rectangular pictorial in purple, was in use at the temporary post office from Tuesday 26 July to Saturday 6 August except for Sunday 31 July. Post Office facilities were provided on the same days except for Monday 1 August which was a Bank Holiday. Numerous cachets are to be found on covers in addition to the postmark. These cachets were not applied by the post office and invariably include a beehive, which was adopted as the logo for the Jamborora. This beehive logo also forms the pictorial content of the official postmark.

'Carrolls Irish Open Port Mearnog'. Used at Portmarnock Golf Links during the Carrolls Irish Open Golf Championship from 25 to 28 August. A temporary post office was provided for the duration of the event and the rectangular pictorial postmark in purple was similar to the 1976 design.

'ICSID 10 September 19 - 24 Dublin Ireland Baile Atha Cliath'. Used at the temporary post office in the College of Surgeons, Dublin 2, on the above dates (except for 22 September) during the 10th General Assembly and Congress of the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design. Rectangular in purple.

'Golden Jubilee Scouting in Ireland Cork Stamp Exhibition 15.X.1977 Corcaigh'. Used on mail posted at the Imperial Hotel, Cork, during the above exhibition. Circular pictorial in purple. Post office facilities were provided and a special cover designed and provided by the Cork Philatelic Society was also available.

- * 'Department of Posts and Telegraphs Ireland BPE London October 1977'. The Irish Post Office attended the British Philatelic Exhibition (19 - 22 October). Two different cachets, circular in black, with the above wording were applied on request to philatelic mail which could then be posted at the Exhibition. It should be noted they are not postmarks; however, covers exist with the cachet applied to Irish stamps by favour.

- * 'Stampa '77 Baile Atha Cliath'. Four pictorial postmarks, one for each day of the Exhibition were applied on mail posted at the Exhibition Post Office in the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. The themes of the postmarks were as follows:-

3 November	-	Christmas	
4 November	-	National Museum	
5 November	-	Scouting	All postmarks circular in black
6 November	-	Folklore	

A special Official Envelope was available showing the four postmark designs.

'Department of Posts and Telegraphs Ireland - New York 29th National Postage Stamp Show November 1977'. The Irish Post Office attended the ASDA Exhibition in New York (16 - 20 November). The above circular cachet in black was available and the notes as per 'BPE London October 1977' above also apply.

* Illustrated in Irish Philately - December 1977

NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

'Navan Trade Fair 28 Feb - 6 Mar 1977'. Used at Navan PO during February 1977.

'Clonakilty Beach Centre West Cork December 1977'.

YEAR PACKS

26 JULY 1976 YEAR PACK The presentation pack consists of an outer printed thin card cover and a thick card insert on which are affixed plastic strips to accommodate the stamps. The complete series of the previous year's special issues excluding the miniature sheet were included in the pack. (Total face value - £1.67; Cost - £2.00). Three different types of inserts have been noted as follows:-

- Type A. The first consignment of these packs has a dark blue-green insert and was unpunched. Supplies lasted for approximately three weeks.
- Type B. The next consignment has a light blue insert which was slightly longer in length and has two punched holes.
- Type C. A pink coloured insert, punched and of the same length as Type A was available for about two weeks in October. Presumably this change resulted from a temporary shortage of type B inserts, as Type B re-appeared and remained on sale until the pack was withdrawn from sale on 31 December.

In all cases the outer card cover was punched with two holes and remained unaltered. Cover and insert were folded in two to form a rectangular booklet which was placed in a plain white envelope.

3 NOVEMBER 1977 YEAR PACK The presentation pack consists of an orange coloured outer card cover and double sided 'Hagner' type card which contained the complete series of 1977 special issues. (Total face value - £1.78; Cost - £2.00). The complete pack was placed in a plain white envelope and is intended to remain on sale until 31 December 1978.

In respect of both year packs the outer card cover gave details of the stamps contained therein.

POSTAL STATIONERY - ALL REGISTERED ENVELOPES

- 30 May Size H - Embossed 37p on duplex manilla envelope with blue interior. Note: The word for has been discovered missing from the instruction 'This space is reserved for Official Registration Label' on a limited number of envelopes. Whilst this discovery was made in February 1978, it is generally believed to have occurred in the initial deliveries to post offices in 1977. Cost 38p
- 25 Jul Size G - Embossed 37p on duplex manilla envelope with blue interior. Later in the year supplies became available for a short while on the old cotton scrim type of envelope. Cost 38p
- 21 Nov Size K - Embossed 37p on duplex manilla with blue interior. Cost 39p
- The 37p represents 27p registration fee plus 10p minimum inland postage.

EXHIBITION ITEMS

- 11 Jun Collectorex '77 Exhibition - Dublin. Privately produced souvenir card incorporating the 'Seahorse' stamp design of Great Britain overprinted 'Rialtas Sealadac na hEireann 1922'. Each card numbered. Total printing of 1000. Printed by Irish Printers Ltd. Sold for 60p. No limit on purchases.

- 15 Oct Cork Stamp Exhibition. A limited edition of 50 individually numbered booklets were produced by the Cork Philatelic Society for this exhibition. Each stapled booklet has printed card covers and contains four marginal panes of six $\frac{1}{2}$ p definitive stamps taken from ordinary sheets. Each pane is interleaved and the back cover reproduced the special postmark used on mail posted at the exhibition. Each visitor, on request, could purchase ONE booklet at a cost of 50p. Due to the reproduction of the special postmark on the back cover, these booklets are considered by the writers to merit semi-official status.
- 3 Dec Stampa '77. Official Souvenir Card reproducing the design of the 'Folklore' stamp issued on 12 September in an enlarged format but without the figure of value. The card was printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd., with full permission of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and sold for 60p. Each card numbered. Total printing 5000. No limit on purchases.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- 17 Mar Two self-inking black circular date stamps were specially prepared for use on St Patrick's Day covers forwarded to the philatelic section for postmarking by a foreign producer of combined medallion/stamp covers.

The two postmarks were as follows:-

- a. Dun Laoghaire 17 III 77.
- b. Muineachan 17 III 77.

It should be understood that as the 17 March is a National Holiday, neither Dun Laoghaire or Monaghan Post Offices were open on that date and, furthermore, the datestamps have never been in use in either of these two offices. However, covers (unaddressed) exist with the set of two postmarks, presumably cancelled by favour.

- 4 Apr First flight covers for the first scheduled flights between Bristol/Cork and Cork/Bristol by Dan-Air.

Late '77 International Reply Coupon - Cost 20p.

Late '77 3p Postage Due Labels with inverted watermark were found.

CONCLUSION

The writers have been responsible for the listing of both 1976 and 1977 philatelic issues under the heading - 'That Was The Year That Was'. Readers can readily appreciate that the increasing quantity and complexity in all areas has resulted in an ever increasing length in these listings compared to previous years. Members may prefer a more simplified listing or greater coverage of certain areas. Comments would be appreciated.

Finally, to test your reading of this 1977 article:-

WHAT WAS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE 25 JULY (Clue; 3 in 1)?

The answer will appear in the next issue of the Journal.

25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE EASTER RISING OF 1916

PART TWO

by M.H. Priestley

THE 1941 PROVISIONAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE OF THE EASTER RISING

ENLARGEMENT OF THE OVERPRINT - SCALE: 10mm = 100mm



Fig 1

In later notes describing the overprint in detail, in each of the four lines the number of letters or figures are used to identify the location. Thus for example:-

- In the 1st Line, the 2nd figure is '9' - 1/2
- In the 2nd Line, the 3rd letter is 'C' - 2/3
- In the 3rd Line, the 6th letter is 'R' - 3/6
- In the 4th Line, the 1st figure is '1' - 4/1

INTRODUCTION This article on the Provisional issue has been compiled from the notes of the Irish Study Group made during 1961 and information from T Stewart Telfer, and others, and a note of the source is made where known. My thanks are also due to WG Meredith and W Kane for the loan of material for detailed study, and to Mr Telfer for arousing my interest in the issue and for lending me his own and the Irish Study Group's notes.

OVERPRINT FLAWS

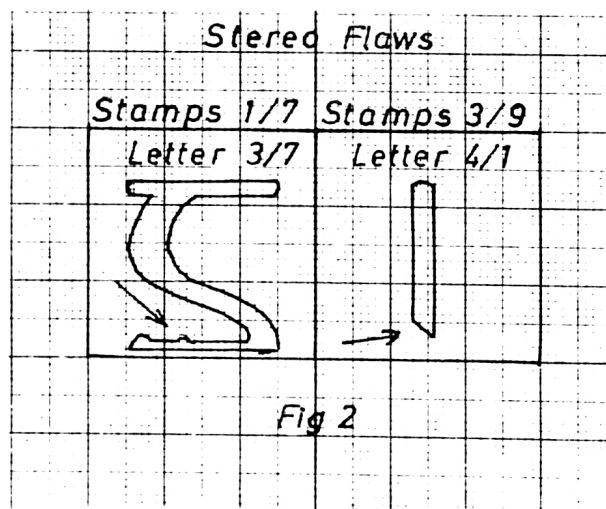
The type flaws in this issue were examined by the Irish Study Group, and a number of recurrent flaws were noted although only a few could be accurately positioned in the sheet. Details of a composite sheet (M Leonard) and a 6 x 5 block (W Kane) provided useful information, the latter being still available for study. A complete lower pane (W Meredith) is examined in detail late in the article.

The type used for overprinting was very fine and most flaws and minute breaks in lettering were probably due to faulty inking and may not be recurrent. The recurrent flaws may be of two types:-

1. Stereo flaws occurring a number of times on each sheet and showing how the overprint plate was prepared.
2. Plate flaws found once on each sheet due to damage after the overprint plate was prepared.

STEREO FLAWS

Examination of any large block shows that the first figure 1 in 1916 has a chisel point at the bottom on the 3rd and 9th stamp of each row - this occurs the complete length of the 3rd and 9th vertical row.



A much less obvious flaw occurs on the 1st and 7th stamps; this is a slight imperfection on the third line, seventh letter (3/7, as I shall identify particular letters in this article). These stereo flaws, illustrated in Figure 2 should be easy to find since they occur 40 times on each sheet.

It is clear that the basic stereo from which the plate was formed was a horizontal strip of six stamps repeated 40 times as shown in Figure 3, the two stereo flaws being shown as 1 and 2 on the diagram. Whether this basic stereo was then assembled into blocks of quarter or half pane size to form a larger stereo will be considered later.

end of the line listed in the
 0 to 10 interval, and with
 0 to 10 interval, and with

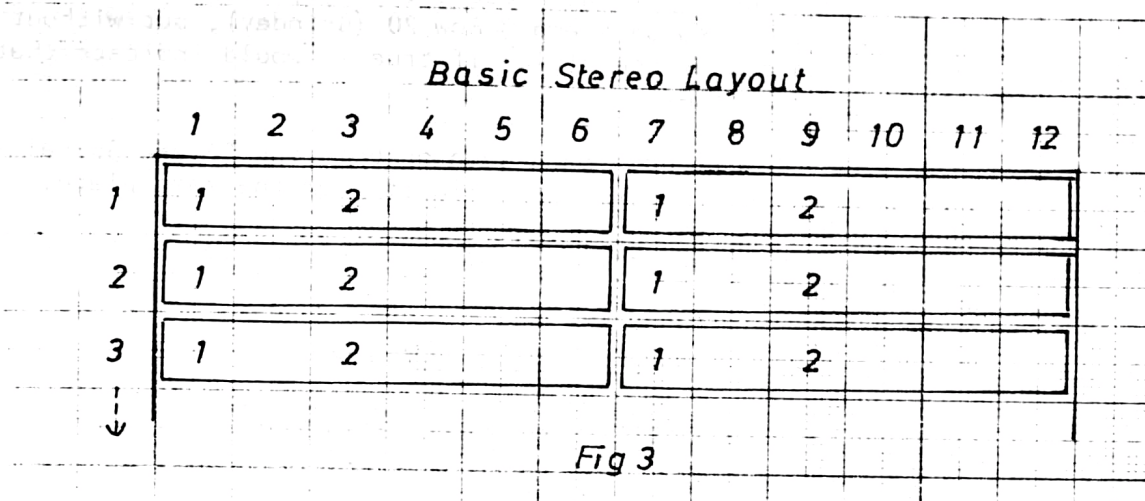
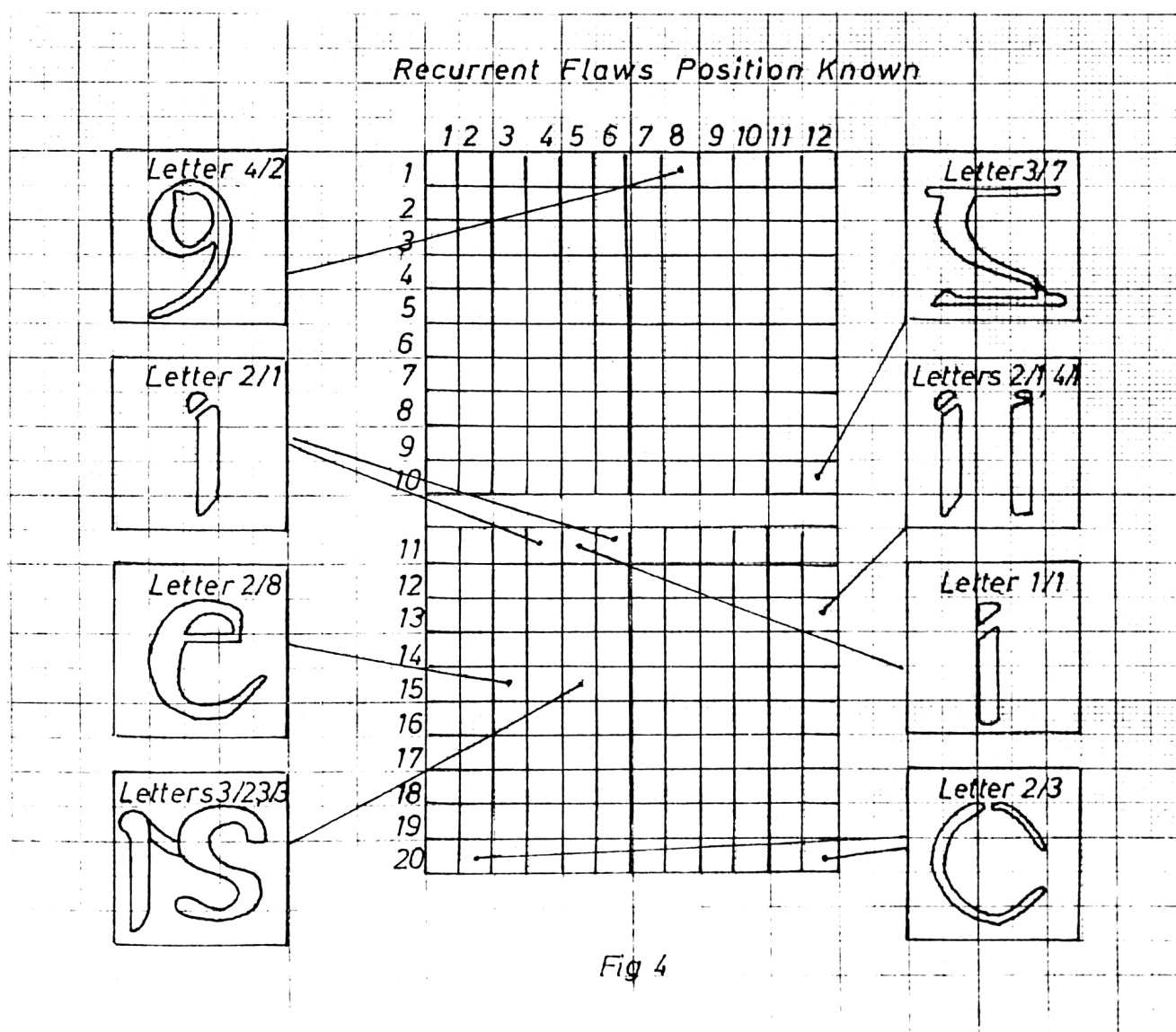


PLATE FLAWS

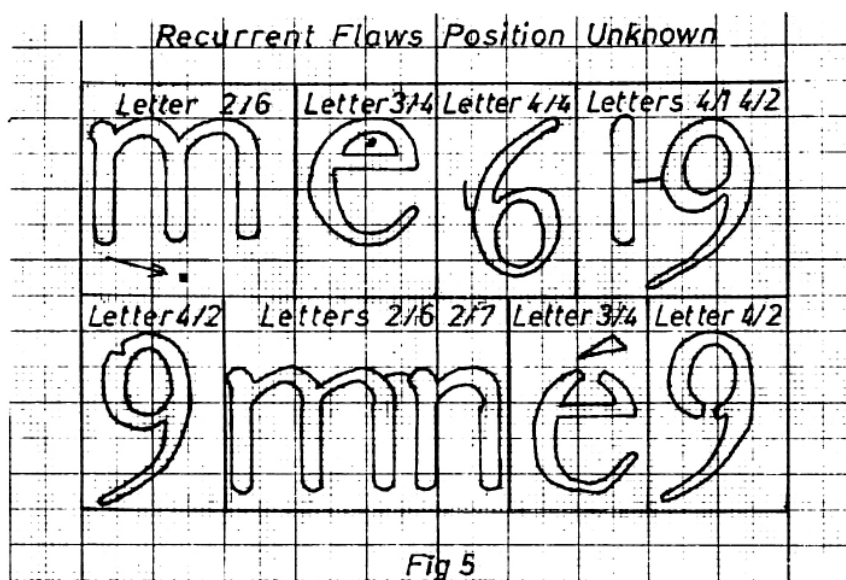
Although a large number of letters show minor flaws, only a few have definitely been identified as recurrent with their plate position known. These are illustrated at Figure 4. The damage which caused these flaws must either have occurred part way through the life of the plate, or have been repaired, because none of the flaws appear on all the sheets examined.



The snub-nosed 'e' flaw at Stamp 3 Row 15 is at present the only flaw listed in the catalogues. It has been reported also on Stamp 3 Row 20 (Grindey), but without corroboration this must be regarded as doubtful. If true it would indicate that a larger stereo, possibly 6 x 5, did exist.

The flaws on Stamps 4 and 6 of Row 11 have been seen on both the 2d and 3d value (Leonard), making it clear that both values were printed from the same plate.

A number of flaws have been recognised as recurrent but their plate positions are not known. These are illustrated at Figure 5.



LETTER SHIFTS

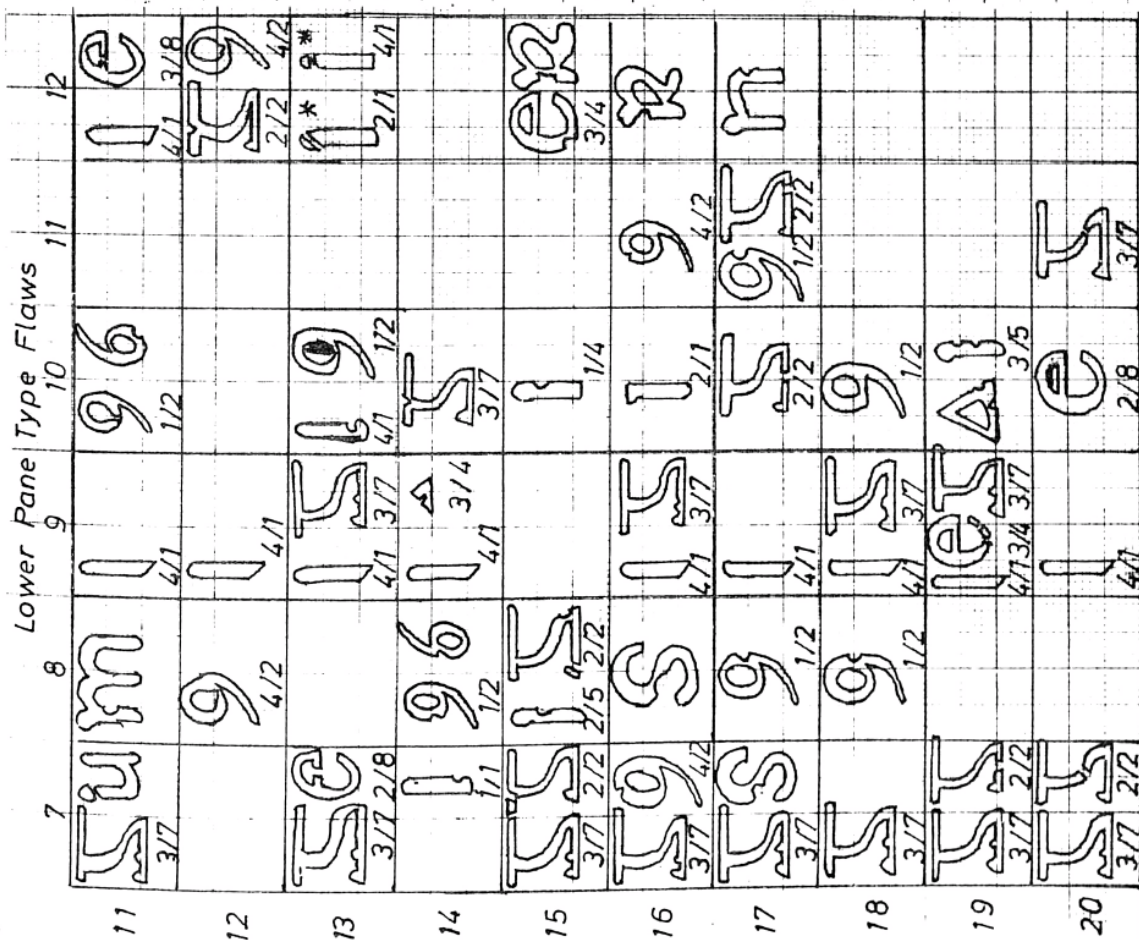
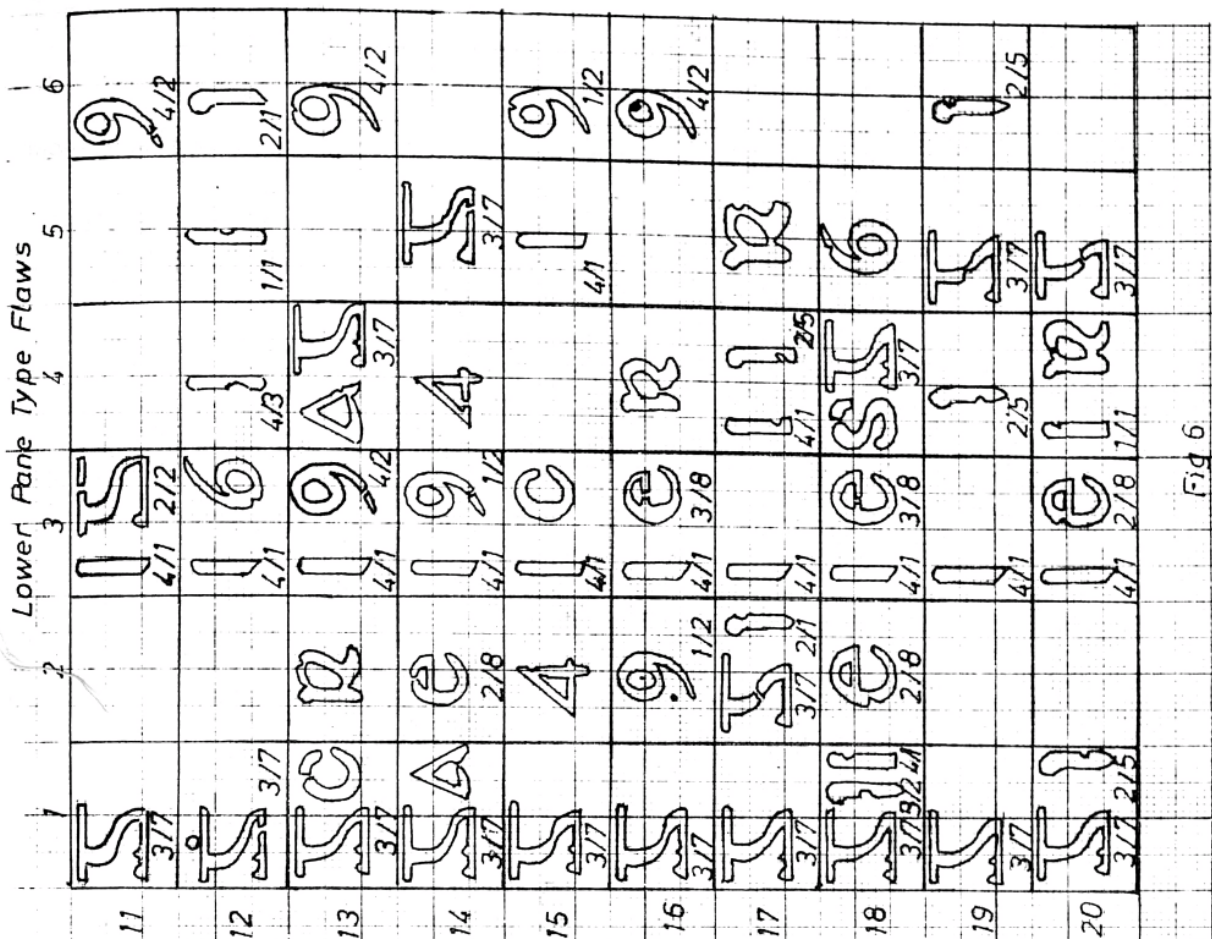
There is very little change in the relative position of the overprint letters within the overprint compared with the 1922 overprints. Since the letters are close together, a movement of 0.1 or 0.2mm is sufficient to make some letters touch each other. Those most commonly found are:-

- a. 9 and 4 touching in 1941.
- b. Letters 2/2 and 2/3 touching.
- c. Letters 2/3 and 2/4 touching.

As the letter position is determined when the overprint plate is formed, letter shifts should be recurrent on sheets printed from the same plate and they can, therefore, be a good method of determining how many plates were used.

OVERPRINT POSITIONS

By careful comparison of the position of each overprint on the sheet with those on a theoretically ideally centred overprint, it may be possible to discover information about the plate formation, particularly if patterns of overprint position appear. In this issue there are slight variations in overprint position, up to a maximum of 0.5mm from a mean position and the significance of this movement will be examined later in the article.



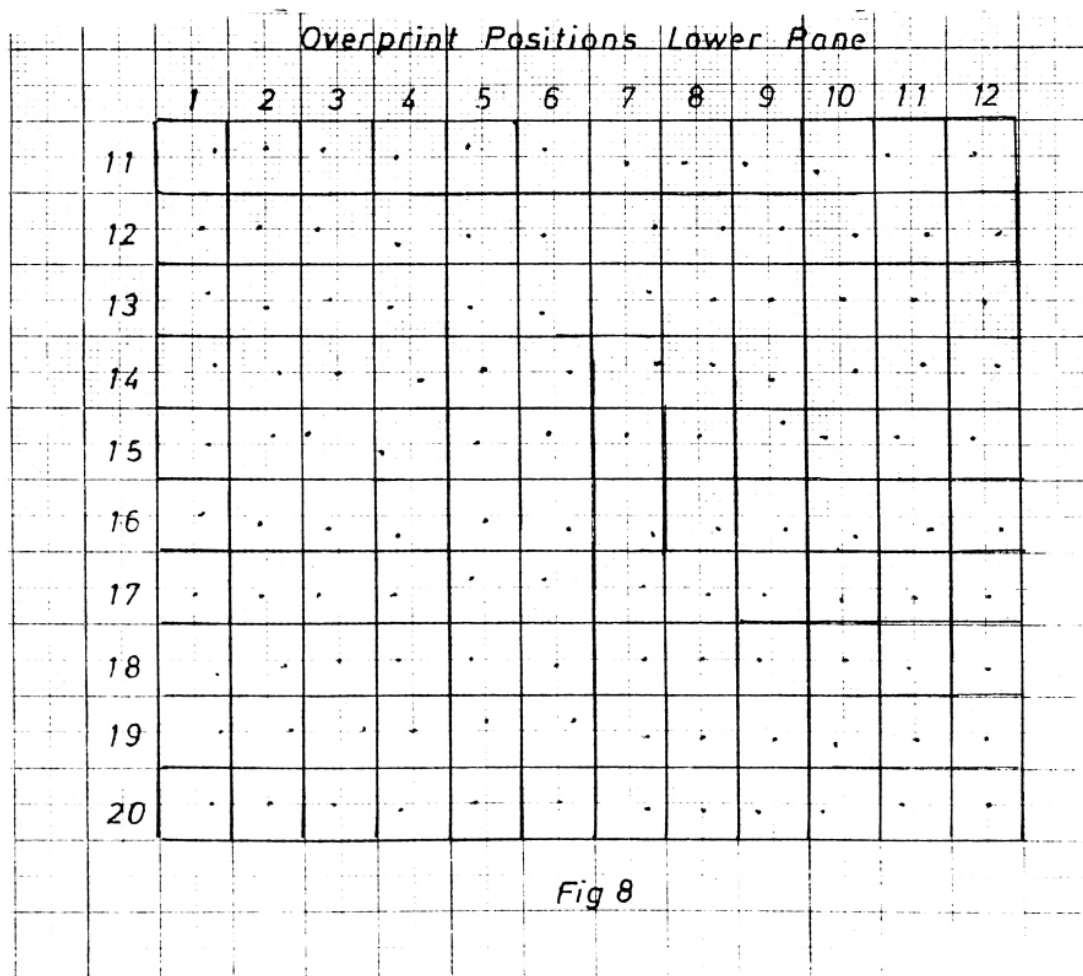
* Recurrent plate flaws

COMPLETE LOWER PANE (W Meredith)

This pane was available for detailed study and drawings of the type flaws are shown in Figures 6 and 7. The points to note are:-

1. The chisel pointed l appears on every stamp on the 3rd and 9th vertical row except Stamp 9 Row 15. This one may have been repaired but why only that stamp? The answer could be that the stamp was damaged in some way and that in repairing it the l was also repaired.
2. The other stereo flaw on letter 3/7 in vertical rows 1 and 7 is very small and its absence in two places is probably not significant.
3. The flaws on Stamp 12 Row 13 are recurrent but other recurrent flaws, particularly the damaged 'l' (letter 2/1) on Stamps 4 and 6 in Row 11, do not appear.
4. There is no sign of the snub-nosed 'e' on Stamp 3 Row 15. Although the chisel 'l' appears on that stamp it is not quite so pronounced as on the other examples.

In Figure 8 the relative positions of the overprints are shown. In Row 15 Stamps 3, 4 and 9 seem to have been moved; this could be connected with a repair to a snub-nosed e on Stamp 3 and the repair to Stamp 9 Row 15 mentioned above. The left and right halves of the pane do not seem to have similar position patterns.



The pane includes a considerable number of shifted letters, shown in Figure 9. The numbers on the chart indicate the following shifts:-

Lower Pane Type Shifts												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11					4 2				5		5	
12				1 2			1		1		4	
13									5	1 2	4	
14												
15				4 2						4	2	
16					2					1	4	
17										2	2 3	
18			5								1 5	
19			5						4			
20									4			

Fig 9

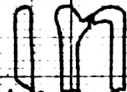
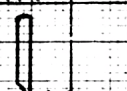
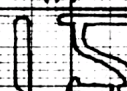
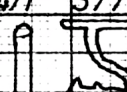
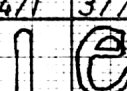
1. 9 and 4 touching.
2. Letters 2/2 and 2/3 touching.
3. Letters 2/3 and 2/4 touching.
4. 9 and 4 almost touching.
5. Letters 2/2 and 2/3 almost touching.
6. Letters 2/3 and 2/4 almost touching.

6 x 5 BLOCK (W Kane)

This block was described in the Irish Study Group Notes and, being still in Mr Kane's possession, was kindly lent for study.

The type flaws are shown in Figure 10 and the overprint positions in Figure 11.

Type Flaws (Kane)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	 3/7		 4/1	 2/1	 1/1	 1/1
2	 3/7		 4/1		 3/7	 1/4
3	 3/7		 4/1	 3/7		
4	 3/7	 4/2	 4/1	 3/7	 1/4	
5	 3/7		 4/1	 2/8		

*Recurrent plate flaws

Fig 10

Since no margins are attached, the problem was to decide the sheet position of the block. Although there are no similar plate flaws to the Meredith pane, the Stamp 4 Row 11 recurrent flaw occurs in the 4th Stamp 1st Row in this block and since the snub-nosed 'e' also appears in the 3rd Stamp 5th Row, in my opinion the block comes from the top left corner of the lower pane.

Overprint Positions (Kane)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	.	.	.	.	.	.
4	.	.	.	.	.	.
5	.	.	.	.	.	.

Fig 11

If this is so the overprint positions of Figure 11 bear only a general resemblance to the block in the Meredith pane. None of the type shifts of the Meredith pane are found on this block.

CONCLUSIONS

The questions to be answered about this overprinted issue are:-

1. What was the size of the overprint stereo?
2. How many overprint plates were used?

The basic stereo of six overprints is clear but whether these were combined into larger stereos is not so certain. If the repair to Stamp 9 Row 15 in the Meredith pane indicates a snub-nosed 'e' repair then a 6 x 10 stereo is indicated. If Mr Grindey was correct and the snub-nosed 'e' also appeared at Stamp 3 Row 20, a 6 x 5 stereo is indicated.

All the blocks examined had the same basic stereo flaws and it is, therefore, difficult to visualise more than one plate being used. On the other hand, the difference in touching letters and the absence of common recurrent plate flaws between the Kane block and the Meredith pane is difficult to understand unless more than one plate was involved.

I hope that this article will bring further blocks or sheets of the provisional issue to light so that a more complete judgement can be made.

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RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

FELDMAN The '1978' edition, ready in good time for STAMPA '77, is a very
CATALOGUE handsome volume. a major addition is the section of UK (miscalled
 'GB') stamps used in Ireland, rather simplified and omitting Geo V
issues and Officials. The section of fore-runners is extended and every item is
given a price. Another notable addition is a section of flown covers, beginning
with 1870-71 'Ballon Monte' covers from Paris addressed to Ireland. The price of
£500 is too high. I have two! Most prices are up again and in most of the earlier
sections there are separate prices for unmounted mint and other unused.

THE IRISH A recent find is part of an envelope with rubber-stamped cachet on
IN WORLD the flap showing a cross and 'HOPITAL de la CROIX ROUGE IRLANDAISE
WAR II à St. LÔ. Normandie'. When was this hospital established and what
 range of patients did it succour?

POST OFFICE Last year's Christmas surprise was the publication without any advance
GUIDE notification of both parts of 'Eolai an Phoist, 1977' and the
 ridiculously low price of 10p per volume. Most philatelists will be
content with Volume I (Inland Services and General Information) with its complete
listing of the English and Irish names of the post offices in all 32 Irish counties.
The Irish forms seem to be the newest modifications.

BROADCAST On 1 February Radio Eireann released a 45 minute radio documentary 'Stamp Collecting in Ireland', produced by Cathal O Griofa, an active enthusiast, and compiled from recorded interviews with several philatelists, Ian Whyte, Seamus Kearns, Alice Fogarty, David Rose etc and myself. I was unable to hear it but received favourable reports from those who did.

MISSING YEARS As usual, several post offices began the year with no new year plug for their cancelling machines. Those noted so far are:- Enniscorthy, Navan, Galway, Killarney, Mullingar, Thurles, Tralee and Youghal.

MILEAGE MARKS Ian Whyte has allowed me to inspect a quantity of covers of the Georgian period which yielded a remarkable number of unrecorded mileage marks:-

ARDGLASS	80	1826	red
BYBORO	43	1816	black
BANTRY	176	1823	red
BELTURBET	61	1817	black
CASHCARRIGAN	90	1813	black (now Keshcarrigan)
C ^L BAR	122	1813	black
CLARE	117	1814-15	black (later Claremorris)
CLONEGAL	51	1813	black
KILMALLOCK	110	1832	red
LOUGHBRICKLAND	58	1815	red
MARKETHILL	61	1822	red
OLD C ^L	46	1814	black
RATHFRILAND	57	1813	black
TRALEE	151	1813	black

PENNY POSTS There were no unrecorded Penny Posts but three letters were headed from Maguiresbridge and had LISNASKEA PENNY POST with sub-office number 1, confirming that attribution.

MID.DAY.OUT This is a handstruck mark not listed by Robson Lowe, Willcocks or Feldman and Kane, although it was reported in 1943 in the fourth supplement to the Alcock and Holland Handbook. Several examples have come to light (but will not be on sale) recently. All on letters of 1812 and the rarity of this mark can be explained by its very short period of use.

FORGED OVERPRINTS I was sorry to see forged inverted overprints auctioned in Dublin with valuations such as £25 for a block of 4. That is enough to encourage forgers to print off a few more. Obviously major collections should include examples of forgeries but they should change hands at their true value - pence not pounds.

BOOK REVIEW 'Newspaper Stamps of Ireland' by CP O'Neill, 5 Coastguards, Point Road, Dundalk. Price £3.50 plus VAT. A comprehensive hardbound book, much superior to anything that has appeared in print heretofore, and with fascinating evidence that the newspaper stamps were postage stamps.

'BREMEN' FLIGHT COMMEMORATIVE A few of us were privileged to receive first-day covers in the form of reproductions of the menu of the Banquet in Limerick to the returned flyers, with their autographs.