

D.F. Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 8 Autumn 1972

HOUSE JOURNAL OF
DAVID FELDMAN LTD., DUBLIN



MALTA: 1893 4d. Brown, Watermark Crown CA.

ERROR: IMPERFORATE

*Horizontal pair, unused with original
gum. S.G. 27a.*

BY SUBSCRIPTION

D.F. Newsletter

Editorial

JOURNAL OF IRISH PHILATELY

What a pleasure it is to write these lines wishing every success to the new "Journal of Irish Philately". This quarterly magazine incorporates both "The Revealer" - the organ of the Eire Philatelic Association and "Irish Philately" - the organ of the Irish Philatelic Circle. The editor, Bill Kane, deserves all our hearty congratulations for his task has been no small one. He has laboured many long hours to finalise this journal production. As he says himself he is like a man who has just learned to swim and is going to take his first dive into the swimming pool - at the deep end. Will he hit his head at the bottom? or, when he does come up, will he swim to the other side?

The venture of this journal is historic. It is the first major step of union between the two major societies of Irish stamp collectors throughout the world. For those who genuinely feel this is a good thing let us not just send good wishes and blessings but our honest support. The editor has asked for help from all his readers. It rests with us to give him what we can.

STAMPA 72

Belgica 72 - this year's major international stamp exhibition is over and our path is clear for Stampa 72. It is unfortunate that details could not be finalised in time to allow the organisation of competitive displays. For this first major national exhibition in this country since 1944 just a number of invited exhibits from distinguished collections will be shown. However, this should prove interesting for all as it is hoped that these will reflect a fairly comprehensive view of Irish philately and include some spectacular and revealing items, in particular those of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

REVENUE STAMPS OF IRELAND

Finally let me end on a rather interesting new feature. We are presently in the course of preparing a new catalogue culminating a short listing and pricing of the Revenue Stamps of Ireland. Mr. F. E. Dixon's article in this issue is the result of a fascinating study of one aspect - the OVERPRINTS. Did you know there are probably fourteen different types?

While we are at this preparation stage we would obviously be most grateful for any useful information or help you can send us. I am currently working on this project which is by no means complete and I shall be happy to correspond with anyone who can lend me any assistance. I would also, of course, like to hear from anyone with an interest in this subject to whom we shall be happy to send a free copy of the eventual catalogue.

D.F.

BELGICA '72



Winners at the International Stamp exhibition, Brussels.

KARL HEMMER	SILVER award
JOHN B. SHERMAN	BRONZE-SILVER
GERARD BRADY	BRONZE-SILVER
L. J. SICKING	BRONZE
BILL KANE	BRONZE

Our congratulations would not be complete without special mention of the fine exhibit displayed by our Department of Posts and Telegraphs. It included the full range of currently available definitives and commemoratives with a short note on each. The whole was mounted on eye-catching marigold boards in a very artistic layout.



Malta

by A.F. Moyles



'..... and when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita ' Acts 28, 1

From Homeric times Malta has been known as 'the navel of the inland sea'. This aptly describes the strategic position the Maltese archipelago occupies in the centre of the Mediterranean. 1000 miles from Gibraltar in the west and also from Alexandria in the east, south of Tunis and yet close to Sicily.

It is possible that Malta, occupying as it does, such an important position in the Mediterranean, has had some form of 'mail service' albeit only official from Phoenician times. During Roman occupation it is highly probable that the postal system extended both to Malta and Gozo (the other major inhabited island composing the Maltese archipelago).

The first known mail services of which we have definite knowledge were established under the Knights of Malta, dealing with correspondence between the 'Langues' (i.e. the ethnical divisions of the Order), the members of the Order and the Grand Master. Letters are extant almost from the time the Knights occupied the island in 1530. By the middle of the eighteenth century this had reached large proportions and by 1779 a system of postal charges had been established. During the period of occupation by the Knights no handstamps were applied in Malta, but, presumably due to the large amount of correspondence emanating from Malta, handstamps were applied at Marseilles bearing the words MARSEILLE / DE MALTHE. Initially two separate stamps were used but later a two line single handstamp was used.

**MARSEILLE
DE MALTHE**



The occupation by the Knights came to an abrupt end when Napoleon captured Malta in 1798. This occupation was short lived and French correspondence of this period is extremely scarce. This is not surprising since for a large part of the time the French - under the command of General Vaubois were themselves besieged in Valletta, the Capital of Malta, the Maltese having revolted against them. The British under the command of Capt. Alexander Ball, R.N. very quickly went to the aid of the besiegers. After the capitulation of the French in 1800 the British stayed on in Malta at the request of the inhabitants and eventually in 1815 the Congress of Vienna set its seal on the Treaty of Paris which stipulated "The island of Malta and its dependencies shall belong in full right and sovereignty to His Britannic Majesty". I have knowledge of four letters of the occupation period one of which bears the handstamp "MALTE" surrounded by a fishlike outline.

Under the Governor-Generalship of Rear-Admiral Alexander Ball Bart (1802-1809), an island Post Office was established in 1804 with Domenico Monteraro as local Postmaster. This office dealt only with inland mail but the system was so haphazard that important local letters were generally delivered by hand. Collection and delivery charges in the island up to 1825 were in the Maltese currency of this period -

20 Grani = 1 Tari; 12 Tari = 1 Scudo = 1/8d (British currency).

Straight line handstruck arrival date (without the year) and charge marks have been recorded from December 1823 for the values T2, T2.10, T4 and T4.10. A tariff of charges in British currency was issued in 1825 and similar handstamps to the above with values ranging from 1d to 1/3d are recorded during the period 1828-47.

15 Mar 1 d

26 Mar Free

In 1806 a British Packet Agency was established at Malta by the Postmaster General (of London) to deal with external mail. The first Packet Agent was a Mr. James Chabot a merchant resident in Malta. Unlike the local Post Office the Packet Agency produced a surplus revenue, which went to Imperial funds. In the same year as the setting up of the Packet Agency the Postmaster General was empowered by an Act of Parliament to set up a Packet service to and from Falmouth with Malta and Gibraltar, this service being extended in 1819 to include Corfu. With the inauguration of the overland mail service to India by the British Post Office in 1837, Malta became an important place of call in the Mediterranean for packets which at first were controlled by the Admiralty.

By 1849 the Crown Post Office had advanced from a small Packet Agency to a proper mail office and at the suggestion of Mr. Bouchier, Her Majesties Packet Agent, the local Post Office was allied and began to work under the same roof.

The earliest handstruck stamps were used from 1807 and consisted of the word "MALTA" in script capitals within a framed arc. Two similar stamps are known both of which are found struck in either red or black. 1809 saw the introduction of two further handstamps similar to the above but surmounted by the word PAID in large block capitals outside the frame. Once again these are found in either black or red.



In 1828 a series of straight line handstamps worded "Malta Post Office" began to appear. These can be found in a variety of sizes either all in capitals or as a combination of upper and lower case. Over the same period a series of post paid handstamps was used, the first of these, which is rare, was worded "Malta + P Paid" this was followed by a series worded "Malta Post Paid".

MALTA POST OFFICE

Malta Post Office



A series of circular datestamps began to be used in 1837, the first of these was 28 mm. in diameter, "MALTA" being in serifed capitals and forming the upper part of the circle, the remainder of the circle being completed by two parallel lines. The date was shown in the centre of the circle in two lines. A similar stamp appeared in 1838 with "MALTA" in larger letters and with the addition of a cross below the date. This was 29 mm in diameter and is extremely rare. The commonest datestamp of this series appeared in 1842 in two varieties. It was 30 mm in diameter and almost identical in design to the first of the series. These were followed but not displaced by a c.d.s. 25.5 mm in diameter with sans serif lettering in 1856. The 30 mm c.d.s. is found cancelling British adhesives during the period 1854-58 i.e. before they were on sale in the island. Similarly a wavy line cancellation was used for this purpose. Both are of considerable rarity used in this capacity.

Two circular datestamps of 30 mm diameter inscribed MALTA PAID were sent to the island in December 1841 and are known in black from 1842. They have also been seen in red from 1844, their usage with black ink ceased in 1857 with the introduction of British adhesives with which they are occasionally seen in combination, struck in red. However their use extended at least until 1875 both with and without adhesives.



MALTA SHIP LETTER

During periods of plague Malta was used as a quarantine station, owing partly to its convenient geographical location. All mail from the east was subjected to fumigation at such times. The first such mails were opened and disinfected, then re-sealed with a wax seal inscribed with the words "opened and resealed - lazaretto of Malta". Other procedures included the slitting of the letter "to let out the pestilential air" followed by baking treatment with vinegar etc. Fumigated letters are found with several different marks all with the words "Purifie au Lazaret / Malta. The lazaret was situated on Monael Island in Mariamxett Harbour which is between Valetta and Sliema.

Many letters and covers have impressions of transit stamps used on the packet boats. From 1840 onwards initial letter stamps e.g. P, P-D, PP, PF etc. indicate that the required postal charges had been met.

The scarce "MALTA SHIPLETTER" stamp was applied to mail carried by a private ship as distinct from mail carried on mail packets, its use has been recorded between 1841 and 1876.

From the period we have been considering, a number of other interesting marks associated with forwarding agents operating in Malta have been recorded both as handstruck cachets and in manuscript.



British adhesives came into general use for all overseas mail in 1857, initially they were cancelled with an "M" in a transverse oval of horizontal bars. Post Office records show that three such cancellers were sent to the island. These were replaced in 1859 by the circular A25 duplex cancellers and A25 alone in a transverse oval of horizontal bars above and below and curved bars on either side, the latter is generally found on registered letters. In conjunction with these cancellers three circular datestamps came into use in 1867. They are usually found in black on incoming mail, but occasionally are found in red in conjunction with British adhesives.

These c.d.s.'s and the datestamp part of the duplex marks had the word "Malta" in a straight line as distinct from later marks.

Three years after the introduction of British adhesives, ½d buff stamps specially designed by De la Rue came into use in December 1860 for use on internal mail. The use of British adhesives for external mail and the local ½d. buff stamp continued until 31st December 1884, when the postal administration was handed over to the island authorities. This continuous use of the ½d. buff over a period of 24 years resulted in 29 different printings of various shades, papers, perforations and watermarks. Shades vary from brown to bright aniline yellow. Earlier printings are scarce not only because of lower numbers printed but because of collections of waste paper by fireworks manufacturers for use as wrappings for squibs and whizzbangs which were exploded at village festas throughout the islands.

POSTAL HISTORY

PHILATELY OF THE EASTER RISING 1916

The scene is the centre of Dublin City Easter Monday - April 1916. The main body of men led by James Connolly from Liberty Hall on Monday marched through the streets of Dublin in soldierly fashion and into the broad expanse of Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street). When the column reached the front of the General Post Office, upon command, it swung sharply into the G.P.O. itself. A few revolver shots gave proof of the seriousness of the action being taken and the building quickly emptied itself of the public and postal officials. It was approximately 12.07 P.M. on Easter Monday.

All the glass in the large windows was broken with rifle butts and barricades of furniture and mail bags set up. An armed guard was posted, the Proclamation of the Republic posted on the door and the tricolour flag of green, white and orange hoisted on the flagpole on the roof..

Shortly thereafter, a squadron of Lancers, which had been escorting several ammunition wagons on the quays nearby, galloped up Sackville Street only to be met with rifle fire from the G.P.O. They retired after several Lancers were killed.

The fire which broke out at the G.P.O. on Friday after three days of incessant artillery fire not only destroyed the building but also the post office equipment therein.

One of the most interesting questions about the seizure and burning of the G.P.O. is whether or not a de facto postal service was attempted during the week of the Rising by the Republican Government.

Mr. Michael F. O'Donnell in STAMP COLLECTING, June 30 1928 wrote, in part as follows:

"I understand that during the occupation of the General Post Office the Republican Headquarters Staff - to assert their independence and allegiance to the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic - received and issued through the post messages under cover bearing an affixed "Celtic Cross" design stamp which was duly franked with the late British post office cancellation datestamp. The messages were conveyed by special runners

About eight years ago I purchased two covers which are still in my possession. One of the covers is addressed to one of the signatories to the Easter Week Proclamation with the "Celtic Cross" design stamp thereon bearing a Dublin postmark cancellation dated April 24th, 1916. The other is addressed to CommandantI.R.A. Four Courts, with a similar stamp on cover bearing a Dublin postmark cancellation 5.45 A.M. April 25th, 1916"



1



8

2

The two covers are in the collection of Mr. Fred Dixon (illustrated as Figs. 1 and 2 with his kind permission). Mr. Dixon mentions that: "At least two datestamps survive and were kept as souvenirs. They have been employed to fake covers bearing the Sinn fein labels. One of these two datestamps (Fig.1) is the common double-circle type in its later and smaller form, 23 1/2 mm. diameter; the number at the foot appears to be 57. The other (Fig.2) seems to be an Express type but all of the half-dozen copies I have seen have been struck in such a way that most of the upper word is missing and in no case is more than the final ESS legible."

Dr. Brian deBurca furnished additional information about the datestamp. He wrote: "It was in private custody for years and then handed back to the G.P.O. at Duke Street. The donor was given two impressions on a Parcel Post label of Duke St. and they read 5.45 AM 25th April 1916 - probably the last occasion on which it was used. So far as I know no other impressions were taken from this handstamp. The label is now in my collection".



AFTER EASTER 1916

During the week of the Rebellion, it seems extremely unlikely that normal postal facilities could be carried on since the sniping was constant throughout the city and heavy artillery fire from field guns and the naval gunboat HELGA on the Liffey being centered in the area of the General Post Office.

As the British forces regained control of Dublin at the end of the week, attention was turned to the delivery of the mails. With the General Post Office burned and its cancelling devices unavailable, postal service was conducted on a makeshift basis. The postal service only really began to function again on Tuesday May 1st, 1916 with such crude cancellers as could be found.

In 1916 Dublin's chief Parcels Post office was not at the General Post Office but in Amiens Street and it is possible that some postmarking devices were available there.

Dublin "skeleton" date stamps (Fig.3) numbered from 1 to 12 were located with single or double rings. Single rings Nos. 1 to 7 with the exception of No. 6 which is not recorded, may be found. Double rings Nos. 10 to 12 are known. There is no record of Nos. 8 and 9. Recorded dates are from the 4th to the 26th of May 1916. Several types of rollers (Figs. 4,5 & 6) giving continuous impression of DUBLIN between the bars as well as a roller or rollers with the word PARCELS more or less completely deleted and the so-called Dublin barred cancel, normally used on parcels were also used during this period.(see illustrations).

Mr. Dixon reports that the only cancelling machines in Dublin in 1916 seem to have been the "Krag" (Fig.7) which gave continuous impressions of five wavy bars between successive strikes of DUBLIN with time and date. These were badly damaged in the fire but not completely destroyed.

When the replacement machines later supplied were themselves put out of action in the November 1922 fire, it was the old "Krag" which were repaired and, with BL ATHA CLIATH dies instead of DUBLIN used from December 1922 to the end of January 1923.

VARIETIES

SPECIAL OFFERS

1.	1933 1d. Wmk "SE", Perf. 15 x Imperf. (single perf) WMK INVERTED. Superb unmounted mint vertical strip of five. Very rare. DF D2cii.	£150
2.	1946 1d. Wmk. "E" (upright), perf 15 x Imperf. Vertical pair used on piece with ½d. O'Cleary. DF D17cii.	£4
3.	1929 O'Connell 2d. variety: "RETOUCH". Superb used on small piece. DF C1a.	£15
4.	- variety: "PEN BEHIND THE EAR". Very fine mint. DF C1b.	£25
5.	1941 Rising Provisionals 2d. variety: "SNUB-NOSED E". Superb mint block of six. DF C17a.	£35
6.	1949 Republic 3d. variety: "DOT OVER CHIMNEY". Superb mint with corner margins. DF C34a.	£15
7.	1944 Emmet 1/3. variety: "LINE TOUCHING T, AND DOT IN 1778". Unmounted mint corner pair. DF C44a.	£25
8.	1954 Marian Year 3d. variety: "SHADED HAND". Fine used. DF C45a.	£8
9.	1956 Barry 3d. superb mint block of four showing the 3 plate re-entries. Scarce. DF C49a,b,c.	£15
10.	1957 Redmond 1/3. variety "CROSS BARS". Unmounted mint block of six. Rare. DF C52a.	£30
11.	1958 Aikenhead 3d. variety: "DOT IN CRUCIFIX". Unmounted mint corner block of four. DF C61b.	£6
12.	1964 N.Y.W.F. 5d. variety: "TOWER FLAW". Unmounted mint block of four. DF C88a.	£10
13.	- 1/5. variety: "TOWER FLAW". Unmounted mint block of four. DF C89a.	£25
14.	1964 Europa 1/5 variety: "ACCENTED P". Unmounted mint corner strip of five. DF C91a.	£9
15.	1967 Swift 1/5 variety: "EXTRA CLOUD". Unmounted mint block of four. DF C123a.	£6
16.	1968 St. Mary's Cathedral 5d. ERROR: PAPER FOLD. Superb unmounted mint gutter pair. Very rare. DF C126 error.	£30
17.	1948-65 Ails 3d. Variety: "FRESH ENTRY". Superb mint block of four. DF A2a	£18

These varieties are only a random selection from our comprehensive stock of Irish commemorative varieties. We can supply most of the "classical" as well as the lesser known varieties from stock in mint multiples. We shall be only too pleased to quote against your wants list.



1



2



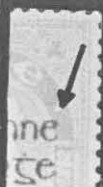
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4

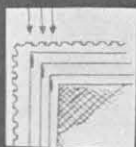


5



7

EMMET ←
1778
↑



9

JOHN
↑ ↑ ↑



8





10



11



13



12



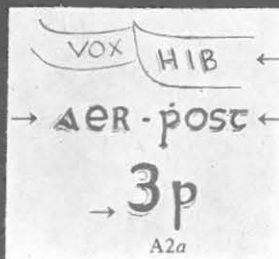
15



14



17



16

VARIETIES

NEW ISSUE SERVICE

We also provide a *VARIETY NEW ISSUE SERVICE* for those enthusiasts who prefer to be bang up-to-date. We usually dispatch positional blocks of all new varieties of note on approval a few days after they appear. Please fill in the form below if you would like to subscribe to this service.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....

*I should like to receive on approval, selections of
New Irish varieties as they appear, to the following
specifications:*

Commemoratives All Others

Mint positional blocks

Mint blocks of four

Used

*I should like to purchase single items up to a value
of:*

£1..... £2.50..... £5..... over £5.....

I enclose a deposit of £.....

*I should like to receive, on approval, older varieties
up to a value of*

£5..... £10..... over £10..... each.

STAMPA NEWS

DISPLAYS

Healthy progress is being made by the working committee completing all details. The exhibit sub-committee are finalising plans for the actual displays from famous private collections and of course a selective and interesting showing from the Department of Posts & Telegraphs. We do anticipate that the Post Office display will include many new items, rarely if ever seen before revealing "new" facts relating to our past issues of the 1922 period.

CATALOGUE

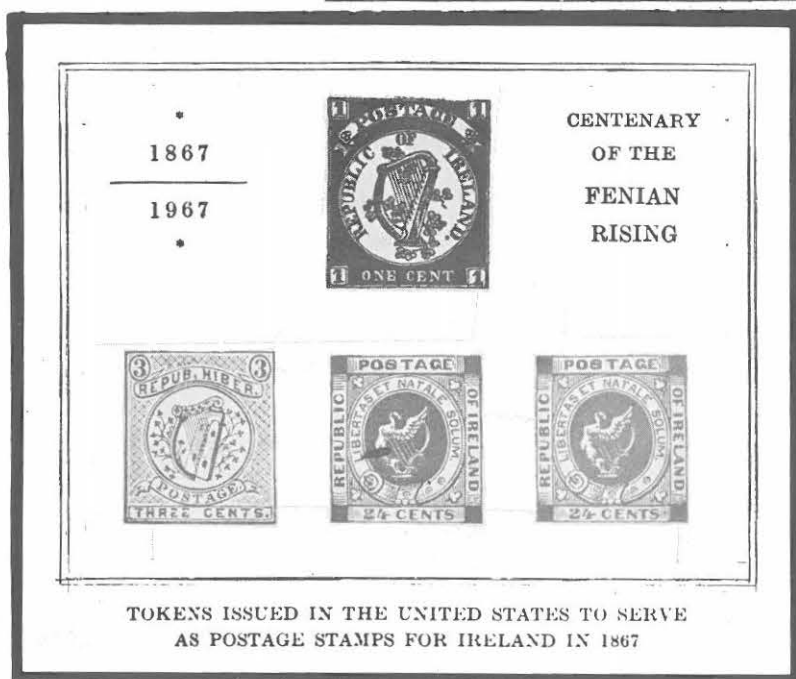
The exhibition catalogue has now been prepared and should be available shortly, reports editor Mr. I.W. Whyte. This will be a lavish publication with full colour illustrations and will contain excellent articles by leading Irish Philatelists. It should not only be an exhibition catalogue but also a Yearbook of Irish Philately. The price has not yet been fixed but should be around the 25p mark. More details in the next Newsletter.

IRELAND

FIRST DAY COVERS

SPECIAL OFFERS

DF NOS.		PRICE		
Set 7C	Constitution	£2.00	39C	St. Patrick 1.25
8C	Fr. Mathew	2.50	40C	O'Donovan & O'Curry 75p
9C	US Constitution	2.25	41C	Europa 1962 75p
11C	Rising (Def.)	6.00	42C	FFH 75p
15C	Rice	1.75	43C	Europa 1963 75p
16C	Davis	2.00	44C	Red Cross 75p
17C	Davitt & Parnell	2.00	D33	3d.Photo 1.00
18C	Tone	2.00	D52ci /	
19C	Republic	1.75	55ci	5p Coil 65p
20C	Mangan	1.75	A1	Airs 1d. 75p
21C	Holy Year	4.25	A2	" 3d. 1.25
22C	Moore	1.75	A7	" 1/5 50p
23C	An Tostal	2.50	A1 + A5	
25C	Marian Year	2.00	"	1d. + 1s. 1.75
26C	Newman	1.75	A2 + A3	
27C	Barry	1.50	"	3d. + 6d. 2.00
28C	Redmond	1.50	A4 + A6	
29C	O'Crohan	1.50	"	8d. + 1/3 1.75
31C	Wadding	1.50		
32C	Clarke	1.50		
34C	Constitution	1.50		
35C	Guinness	1.75		
36C	Refugee	75p		
37C	Europa 1960	3.50		



1967 Fenian Souvenir Sheet

Souvenir Sheet issued to commemorate the centenary of the Fenian Rising and depicting the set of four Fenian labels, 1c, 3c, 24c in original colours imperforate.

Special price 50p.

ADDITIONS



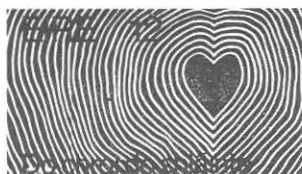
UNMTD. USED

1971-2 SET 5D

Multivalue strip of 4

D53ci	1 1/2p	3p	4p
D54ci	2p	3p	4p
D55ci	2 1/2p	4p	5p
D58ci	4p	6p	7p

(se-tenant strip) 14p 18p



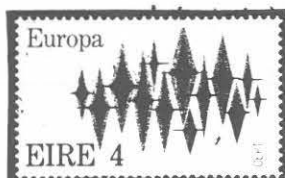
SET 82C

1972 (APRIL 7) W.H.O.

C165	2 1/2p	4p	4p
C166	12p	16p	16p

(F.D.C. 30p)

SET 82C 20p 20p



SET 83C

1972 (MAY 1) EUROPA

C167	4p	6p	6p
C168	6p	9p	9p

(F.D.C. 25p)

SET 83C 14p 14p



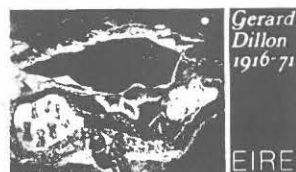
SET 84C

1972 (JUNE 1) PATRIOT DEAD

C169	4p	6p	9p
C170	6p	6p	9p

(F.D.C. 23p)

SET 84C 14p 14p



SET 85C

1972 (JULY 10) CONTEMPORARY IRISH ART

C171	3p
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(F.D.C. 12p)

SET 85C 5p 5p

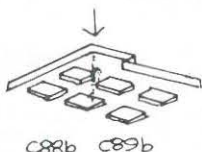
Further issues for 1972:

August 28th, 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Olympic Council of Ireland.

October 16th, Christmas.

December 6th, 50th Anniversary of the issue of the first Irish Postage Stamp.

VARIETIES



SET 46C N.Y.W.F.

(Delete C89a Blue Spot)

Add:

C88	5d. b.	Retouch (P16/4)	£5
C89	1/5. b.	Retouch (P16/4)	£7



C90c



C91b

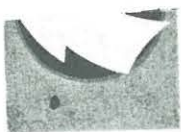
SET 47C Europa 1964

C90	8d. c.	Stroke on P (R6/16)	£5
C91	1/5 b.	Retouch over P (R6/18)	£5

SET 84C Patriot Dead

C169	4p. a.	Spot flaw (R1/2)	75p
	b.	Spot over "E" (R1/7)	75p

Eire



1916-71

C171a

C171b

SET 85C C.I.A.

C171	3p. a.	Flaw below "1916" (R5/9)	75p
	b.	Scratch under "71" (R6/10)	75p

IRELAND

IS OUR SPECIALITY

Fenian • Sinn Fein • I.R.A. labels • etc.
essays • proofs • artists • designs
early first day covers
rare postmarks
overprints — high and low values
fine used/mint multiples etc.
flight covers • railway covers • T.P.O.'s
control blocks and strips
errors and varieties
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complete collections
postal stationery • fiscals • revenues
military and maritime items
paquebot and ship letters
postal history • early and modern

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Railway Stamps of Ireland (illustrated)	only 8p (p & p 3p)
D.F. Newsletter (by subscription)	£1.25 p.a.

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