

D.F. Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 12 Autumn 1973

HOUSE JOURNAL OF
DAVID FELDMAN LTD., DUBLIN



1828 - July 19. Cover from Dublin to "Capt. Jones R.N." in Wales, signed at bottom left by Daniel O'Connell, M.P. at that time for Co. Clare.

The postal system granted M.P.'s at that time to free delivery of mail once they authorised each item by their signature.

This Cover however bears a strike of the special red "Above / NUMBER / Privileged" handstamp and the charge of '3/9' is raised in manuscript. O'Connell had seemingly gone above his privileged number !

BY SUBSCRIPTION

D.F. Newsletter

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DITORIAL

HERMAN SALE

Having just returned from the specialised Ireland auction in New York, made up of the late John B. Sherman's collection, I am a much happier man. Ireland has no doubt established itself on the world philatelic market. Some items never before offered for public sale secured unexpectedly high prices.

The Postal History (though little) was particularly popular and the first lot, a 1662 letter sheet from Dublin to London with a Bishop Mark of Oct. 3, fetched \$145. Most of the other postal history items were "hidden away" in a collection offered at the end of the sale, estimated at \$150-\$200. It realised \$800 !

The Controls were also popular, lotted mostly in collections. These tended to realise about two-thirds full catalogue. The plate and overprint errors all sold well and included a price of \$320 realised for DF T19a in positional block of 18. The I.R.A. 6p, 2 rows of the sheet showing two copies of the tête-bêche error, realised \$160.

The main conclusion is that there is now a firm market for Irish stamps and, as in the past, demand often exceeds supply, but now in our more desperate inflationary times, collectors are willing to pay "over the odds".

AN IRISH VISIT

New York, however, was hot and sticky and it was relieving and peaceful to return to my desk here in the capital of our pleasant island. Many of our usual end-Summer visitors have now realised that the problems and troubles in the North of our island are not apparent in the Republic. It has

remained as peaceful and as pleasant as ever for the foreign visitor. Quite a number of our old friends have returned to holiday here this year and of course never forget to call at 102. Some habitually write to us and we pleasurably arrange a suitable itinerary.

If you have it in mind to take a restful, lazy, "away from it all" holiday so popular amongst the stamp collecting kind, drop me a line and I'll be happy to assist. We might even be able to arrange a local stamp club meeting or suchlike.

I know this is not philatelic news but it is a few lines I have been meaning to write for some time. So many of our readers have expressed uncertainty about the situation here and I hope this settles your minds. We continue to welcome you all more than ever with our "cead mile failte".....

D.F.

INTERNABA

Next Year's big International-



INTERNABA '74 will be held at the Swiss Industries Fair, Basle, from June 7-16, 1974. This promises to be one of the most successful internationals yet. Details and entry forms for prospective exhibitors may be had from David Feldman, Commissioner for Ireland, at 102 Leinster Road.



IBRA REPORT

Congratulations to all award winners especially to MR. HORST SCHUBERT of Wicklow on the excellent success of the first-ever exhibit showing of a section of his Irish collection. The exhibit won a Gold-Silver award at the International Stamp Exhibition at Munich held under the patronage of the F.I.P. Other results of Irish entrants were as follows:

Mr. Gerard Brady (Irish Rarities) -
Bronze

Mr. William Kane (War & Philately) -
Bronze

Junior Section:

Mr. Michael Phelan Silver - Bronze

Literature Section:

Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd.
(Specialised Catalogue) Silver

Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd.
(Simplified Catalogue) Silver

David Feldman Ltd.
(Handbook) Silver Diploma

David Feldman Ltd.
(Newsletter) Bronze Diploma

Cork Coin & Stamp Centre
(Price List) Bronze Diploma

We are always very pleased to report exhibition results, especially successes such as these. We did notice a marked decrease in Irish exhibition entries since Philypia, but the situation seems to be improving now. Perhaps we shall see a heartening string of successes next year - it would be a sure indication of the growing popularity of Irish Philately.

1922 HELY ESSAYS



A very interesting variety has recently been discovered on the 1922 Hely Essays, D.F. Set 6E - the Lithographed Bi-Coloured series. These are normally found Perforated 12 all round, but the strip of five 2d. illustrated at left is completely imperforate horizontally. A few perforation errors have appeared on some of the other sets of essays, but so far as we know, this is the first to be discovered on this particular set.



SOUVENIR SHEETS

1967 Centenary of Fenian Rising (Philart)	75p
1967 Swift B.P.E. Official Souvenir	£2
1972 St. Patrick A.S.D.A. Engraving Souvenir (Limited: only 500 issued!)	£4
1973 Irish Art Anniversary Souvenir (Limited: only 1,000 issued)	£1.75
1972 50th Anniversary Miniature Sheet- from repurchased stock!	65p
SPECIAL PRICE - All above 5 at only	£7.50

IRELAND

LOW VALUE IRISH OVERPRINT PLATES AND VARIETIES

(Final part of a series of articles by Major M.H.Priestley)

SAORSTÁT ← 15.0 m.m. wide
Éireann ← 12.5 m.m. wide
1922 ← 6.0 m.m. wide

THOM 3 LINE ISSUE

Five plates are recorded of the Thom 3 line issue; like the Thom 5 line the difference between the plates lies in the variation of spacing between the overprints. There are also certain obvious type flaws in the control block which simplify plate identification; details are given in Fig. 16.

Thom 3 Line Plates

Plate	Measurements		Distinguishing Varieties	
	1	2	20x1	20x2
1	20.1	40.8	Second 2 low	
2	20.1	40.7	Second 2 high	
3	20.1	42.5	2 ₂	
4	20	42		⌚
5	20	42.8		⌚

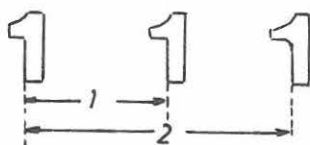


Fig 16

Thom 3 Line Plate 5 Stereo Layout

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1							A			B		C
2		D		D	E	F		G	H	J		K
3	L	M	L	M		N	O		P			
4	Q		Q			R						
5					S					T		
6	U	V	U	V		W						
7	P		L	M		N	O		P			
8			Q			R						
9		T			S					T		
10			U	V		W						
11							A			B		C
12	E	F		D	E	F		G	H	J		K
13		N	L	M		N	O		P			
14		R	Q			R						
15	S				S							
16		W	U	V		W						
17	A						A			B		C
18		G		D	E	F		G	H	J		K
19	O		L	M		N	O		P			
20			Q			R						

Letters indicate recurrent flaws

Fig 17

STEREO LAYOUT

Once again no information was available but the information in Fig. 16 gives a clue that in Plates 3, 4 and 5 there is an unusually large gap between stamps two and three in the Control block. I was lucky to be able to examine a complete sheet of Plate 5 and found that this gap extended from top to bottom. This plate contains the Sacstat variety at the tenth stamp second row and I soon saw it was also present at the tenth stamp twelfth row. At first I thought this was a case where the stereo was the same size as the pane, as in the narrow 5 line setting Plate 1. However I had to revise my opinion when I saw Sacstat in the tenth stamp eighteenth row but not in tenth stamp eighth row. Gradually the flaw pattern shown in Fig. 17 emerged, each letter indicating a recurrent variety. The varieties themselves are shown in Fig 18.

Thom 3 Line Plate 5 Recurrent Stereo Flaws.

		Vertical Row.									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
H o r i z o n t a l R o w	1					A 2 ₁			B 1		C 2 ₂
	2		D A ₂ high	E 1	F 2 ₁ high		G 7	H 9 high	J C		K 2 ₁ high
	3	L A ₁	M S		N 9	O 9		P S			
	4	Q A ₁			R 7						
	5			S n					T R		
	6	U 2 ₁	V S		W 2 ₁						

Fig 18

This shows that in Plate 5 the stereo was 10 x 6 an awkward size to fit into a 12 x 10 pane. One can visualise the printer taking five of these stereos and thinking how to fit them into the sheet. Two could be fitted in complete, the other three had to be broken into smaller pieces. The reason for the missing Sacstat in tenth stamp eighth row is now clear; in the upper pane the printer broke off the top two rows (which contained Sacstat) to make the stereo fit rows seven to ten, but for the lower pane he broke off the bottom two rows. The fifth stereo was broken up to complete the two left hand vertical rows of the sheet. This was a very satisfying insight into the detail of overprint preparation.

Plate 5 is the only complete sheet of the 3 line issue I have seen; plates 3 and 4 are likely to have the same layout because they have the same wide gap, but Plates 1 and 2 are still waiting to be investigated.

SAORSTAT
ÉIREANN
1922

Accent missing

SAORSTÁT
ÉIREANN
1922

Accent inserted

SAORSTÁT
ÉIREANN
1922

S over e

SAORSTÁT
ÉIREANN
1922

Line over Saorstat

COLLECTABLE VARIETIES

This issue contains the well known and highly priced missing accent and inserted accent varieties which appear on certain sheets on the twelfth stamp of the fifteenth row - by a coincidence this is the same position as the PENCF corrected variety. The accent varieties are more desirable if they include the selvedge from the sheet showing that they are genuinely from the last vertical row. Look at the back of the stamp to see that there is no impression of the accent - it may have been removed from the front. Details of the PENCF corrected variety on this issue are shown in Fig. 12.

Thom 3 Line Meredith Varieties

<i>Meredith Number</i>	<i>Feldman Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Values</i>
V55-58		Line over Saorstat	1/2d, 1d, 2 1/2d, 9d.
V104-113a		S over e	Not 2 1/2d or 4d
V146, 148		Guide block in front of Saorstat	1/2d, 1d
V146		" " " " " Éireann "	1/2d
V148		" " " " " 1922 " "	1d
V148 149		" " after 1922	1d, 1 1/2d
V 151		" " " Saorstat	2 1/2d
V415-426		Sacrstat	All
V430-435		Dot over second a of Saorstat	1/2d, 1d, 2 1/2d, 6d, 10d, 1/-
V436-444	V19 T47-58	Raised second a of Saorstat	Not 1 1/2d, 2d, 3d
V448-459	V20 T47-58	Éircann	All
V460-471		No serif to 1 of 1922	All
V472-482	V21 T47-58	Short 1 and low second 2 in 1922	Not 5d

Fig 19

All values except the 2½d and 4d include the S over E variety, worth looking for as it occurs only twice on each sheet. The Meredith varieties of this issue are shown on Fig. 19; this list includes only the numbered type varieties other type flaws are worth collecting only in pairs to show they are recurrent.

Saorstát ← 15.0 m.m. wide
Éireann ← 12.5 m.m. wide
1922 ← 6.0 m.m. wide

HARRISON 3 LINE COILS

The differences between the Harrison and the Thom 3 line issue are not very obvious. The "e" of Eireann is slightly raised in the Harrison and close examination will show that the 9 of 1922 and the S of Saorstát are a different shape to the Thom.

The only well know type variety is the Long "1" of 1922. As in the 5 line Harrison coils the horizontal strips are twelve stamps long, and the vertical strips ten stamps long, between coil joins. Since the long "1" occurs on the fifth and eleventh stamp on some horizontal strips and the first and sixth stamps on vertical strips, the stereo layout of the original sheets is likely to be 6 x 5 as shown in Fig. 20.

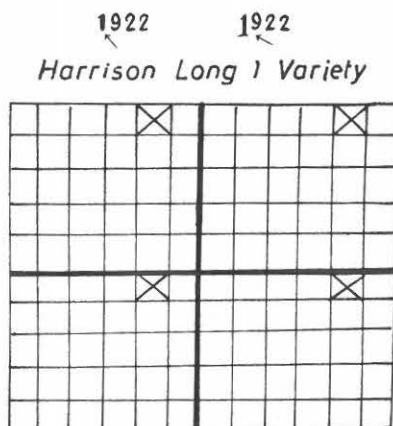


Fig 20

I have found several recurrent type flaws but have not seen sufficient coil strips which include the coil join to be sure of the flaw positions. Owners of vertical and horizontal coils have an opportunity to add to the knowledge of this issue.

CONCLUSION

I hope I have shown that there is plenty of interesting work to be done on the low value overprints. Other enthusiasts I know have been working on aspects of these issues which I have not even mentioned, such as the GB plates used for overprinting. I am sure there is a lot more to be discovered before the centenary of the overprinted issues.

Concluded.

CORRECTIONS TO PART TWO:

Figure 7: Thom E1/1 occurs also in Plate 6 on Row 6/3, 6/4, 6/10 and 6/11.

Figure 8: The measurements of stamps 1,2,3 on plate 4 is: 19.9 19.9 50.5
 20 19.9 50.7



E.P.A. AWARD FOR REVENUE COMMISSIONERS

No doubt the exhibit attracting most attention at Stampa '72 was that mounted by the Irish Revenue Commissioners Stamping Branch. It was dominated by the 2d map design engraved in a 70 lb. block of perspex and comprised a well balanced selection of printing plates, proof impressions, essay designs and colour trials. Many philatelists were able to understand for the first time the different printing processes represented, letterpress, photogravure, recess and litho. It was the first time that it had been revealed how the stamps for booklets were printed.

Visitors from overseas, familiar with what other countries have shown on various occasions, were particularly impressed. They considered it as good as, or better than, anything of the type that they had seen elsewhere. The visitors included some from U.S.A., members of the Eire Philatelic Association. This Association was so impressed by the reports received that it decided to recognise the excellence of the exhibit by bestowing a certificate. The certificate, which mentions also the general high standard of stamp production, was presented on Wednesday 23rd May to Mr. James E. Sheehy, Director of the Stamping Branch, to whom can be credited the planning and execution of the award-winning exhibit. Three of the Association's officers were present for the occasion, Michael P. Giffney, William Kane and Fred E. Dixon. *(See photo)*



Rialtar
Sealadaí
na hÉireann
1922



NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION AND TRADE FAIR

DATE: November 1 - 4

Friday 2nd 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday 3rd - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday 4th - 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

* New Issue Thursday, November 1, commemorating CHRISTMAS 1973.

* Fully operational Post Office in the Exhibition for the full duration of the exhibition.

* *Competitive exhibits entered by private collectors*
(IF YOU HAVE NOT YET ENTERED REMEMBER FINAL DATE
IS AUGUST 31st. Entry forms obtainable from
Stampa committee c/o 11 Harrington Street,
Dublin 2).

* Award medals for appropriate entries according to individual merit. Medals are being struck in Silver-Gilt, Silver and in Bronze.

* Dealer stands offering wide range of stamps and philatelic accessories.

* Representation by major Irish philatelic societies.

SINN FEIN PROPAGANDA STAMPS OF 1908

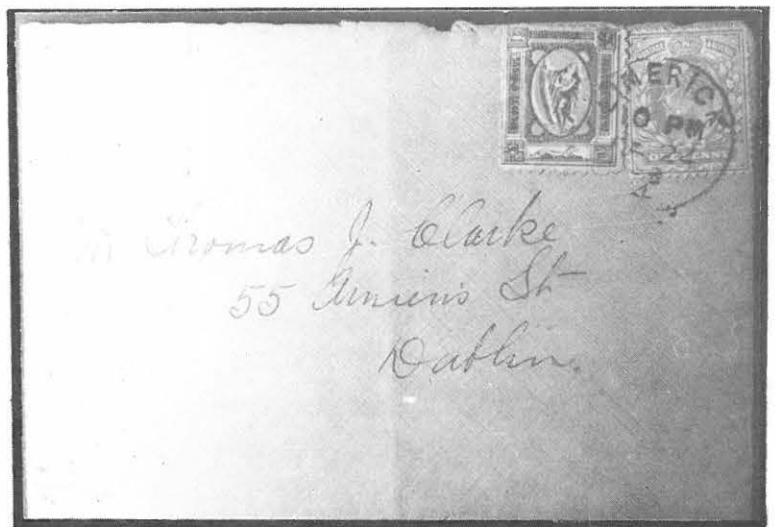
COVERS ADDRESSED TO TOM CLARKE

Tom Clarke was a member of the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, first signatory of the 1916 proclamation of the Irish Republic, and as one of the leaders of the rebellion was later court-martialled and executed.

Due to the practice of putting Sinn Fein stamps alongside the normal postage stamp on July 31, 1908 the British Post Office prohibited the use of any private labels on the front of an envelope.



LIMERICK
Mar. 21 1908
D.F. L7a used with
Edward VII 1d.



LIMERICK
Feb. 22 1908
D.F. L9a, used
with Edward VII 1d.

These two covers are examples of the legitimate use of these Sinn Fein stamps before their prohibition.

Transcript of an original letter found with the two Sinn Fein covers illustrated opposite -

Colquite,
Fowey.

29/1/24

Dear Sir,

You are really rather lucky to see the enclosed, as I have told several applicants that I had none left. However, I came across these in an old wallet during "clearing up" preparatory to moving from here. I used to be a very keen general collector but have jacked it up.

Of course you will know at once that neither of these stamps received official recognition but they are philatelic curios and are of considerable historic interest, in that the envelopes are addressed to one of the executed ring-leaders of the active 1916 rebellion and prove that Irish Republic stamps were prepared for issue as early as 1908. (So it seems to me, anyhow !).

I should not have parted with them but for this move, but I have to raise the wind for it somehow as I am one of the victims of economania at the Ministry of Pensions and it's a case of "every little helps".

But don't let that influence you.

Yours faithfully,

H. M. Lee
(Capt. late 1st York & Lancs. Regt.)

Commander Fred Hodge, R.N.
Southsea.



"SE" FOURPENNY VARIETY

Mr. James Howley of Toronto, Canada has sent us an example of the 1923 4d. Definitive, wmk. SE, D.F. D7, S.G. 77 with WATERMARK INVERTED. It seems surprising that these varieties are only turning up now, even after being in circulation for almost 50 years. We would like to hear from anyone who has examples of this variety to confirm its existence as not being just "one-off".

1. In the event of the passing of the Home Rule Bill, upon the Ulster Volunteer Force falls the duty not only of repelling force with force, but also the duties of maintaining law and order in the districts from which the force is enrolled.

2. Eight thousand Volunteers have been enrolled from South Belfast Parliamentary Division.

3. A large number of the 8,000 men will require assistance towards the cost of their equipment and other expenses incidental to training for active service.

4. Proceeds of this collection will be administered by the South Belfast County Committee.

It is the duty of all Unionists who are not in a position actively to serve the cause to support this fund and thereby help the men who are fighting to maintain a United Empire

Issued by order of the South Belfast County Committee.

.....Chairman

.....Secretary

P.S. It is suggested that Unionists preserve the Stamps as a souvenir of the momentous times of 1914.

DISINFECTION OF LETTERS FROM IRELAND

Mr. Coates's interesting article (DFNL Vol.2, No.11) deals mainly with letters to Great Britain and Ireland. It is important to Irish collectors to realise that disinfected letters from Ireland exist, although they are very rare.

The cholera outbreak of the 1830s reached Europe from the East and spread westwards. It arrived in the British Isles during 1832 before France, Spain or Italy were affected. It is obvious that those countries would insist on treating letters from all the infected countries similarly.

I have one letter which had the full treatment: it was posted at Waterford on June 2, 1832, reached London on 5th, went via France to Genoa and got to its destination, Naples, on 25th. Somewhere, I think Genoa, it was pierced, fumigated and dipped.

More surprising is a letter posted at Fermoy on Christmas Day 1833, to Frankfurt, Germany via London and Rotterdam. The cholera was so widely established that one would have expected precautions to be relaxed. Perhaps they were, in that the only evidence of disinfection is the presence of some spots on the front, as if vinegar were splashed perfunctorily. This letter reports that "we have now no cholera". (See illustration on opposite page)

I agree with Mr. Coates that letters referring to disease are of special interest. One I have is from St. Croix in the Leeward Islands, to Larne, Ireland, via Falmouth. It bears disinfection slits and the letter discloses that the epidemic disease was measles, some estates having heavy losses among their negroes. This was in 1821.

F. E. Dixon.



Fermoy cds for
Christmas Day, 1833



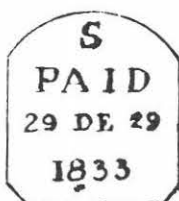
London Foreign
Office stamp



London datestamp
for December 28

*England
over Rotterdam*

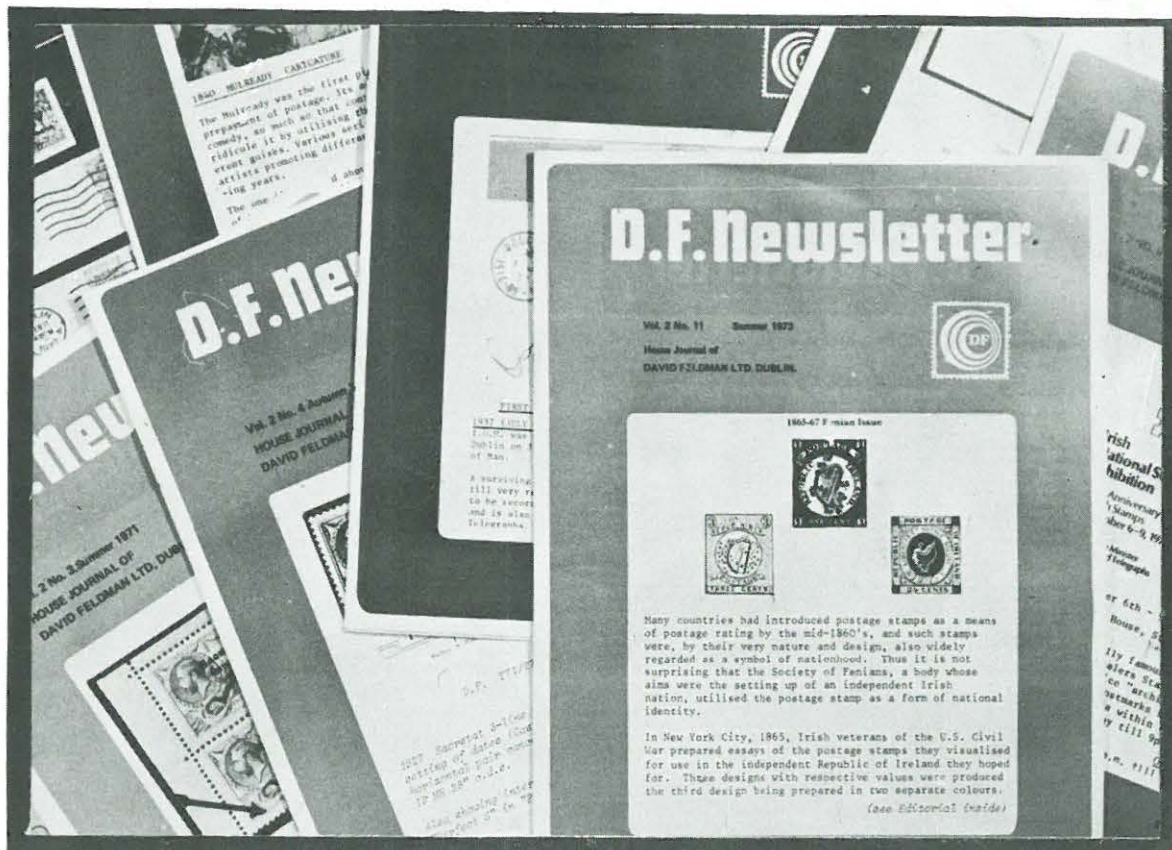
Dutch
transit
stamp



London Sunday
datestamp for
December 29



Frankfurt arrival
cds for Jan.7 1834



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