

D.F. Newsletter

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BY SUBSCRIPTION

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Editorial

THE IRISH STAMP COLLECTORS' SOCIETIES - THE EPA AND THE IPC.

It is certainly about time we gave due acknowledgement to the enthusiastic societies catering specifically for Irish stamp collectors.

The EPA (Eire Philatelic Association) is based in the U.S.A. and through its journal, The Revealer, it reflects the strength of enthusiasm and interest amongst collectors mostly in America. We have written many lines regarding this society in the past which we need not repeat other than to praise its efforts and its work in furtherance of the study of Irish philately. The wealth of knowledge and information in the pages of its quarterly journal are a must for all serious collectors anywhere in the world. The general secretary of the EPA is John Blessington, 4302 St. Clair Ave., Studio City, Calif. 91604, U.S.A.

The IPC (Irish Philatelic Circle) is based in Britain and Ireland and it also publishes its quarterly journal on Irish Philately which is usually quite full of interesting articles and useful information. It also supplements this journal with a news sheet giving many up-to-date details. Further details can be obtained from Area Secretary, K. Jamieson, 3 Cleves Way, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2PL.

Both Societies are very active at present and not only worthy of the support of Irish collectors but no doubt it will be the members who benefit. I should not end these comments without complimenting both societies and thanking them for all their mutual assistance and support during the past years.

CHANGES

As most of you know I am resident in Geneva, Switzerland where we are in very close co-operation with Robson Lowe - probably the largest and most important stamp auction house in the world. So our expansions are into different fields of philately as well as different activities such as auction and private treaty.

However Leinster Road and all the team at Dublin under the direction of Richard Stein continues to be mostly concerned with the philately of Ireland and British Europe (G.B., Cyprus, Gibraltar and Malta). This journal also remains, as always, the house journal of the Dublin team.

There have been important changes within the team too. David Mac Dornell becomes the first person to join the directors since the original founding of the company. Eventhough with us only since 1969, when he 'began his philatelic career', his knowledge and ability has proved to be invaluable. It is a position he duly deserves.

Let these lines not pass without extending a warm welcome to Mary Curran who has come to take Geraldine's place, now that she has her hands full "elsewise". However, she's still the one typing out these pages in her spare time.

I look forward to seeing as many of you that can make it to Stampa.

D.F.

IRELAND

DIE PROOFS OF EMBOSSED STAMP DIES

Unappropriated and Appropriated types

It is our privilege to offer a collection of die impressions struck in red wax. Those described as mounted are so treated on a counter-sunk card, some having details written in the margins. Many are dated, nearly all are over a hundred years old. Nearly every impression is superb and we believe the collection to be unique. Full details as per the list enclosed in this issue.

For those who have not as yet taken an interest in Revenue Stamps, here is a wonderful opportunity to start at the very beginning with some Die Proofs. The Engraver having completed his die, impressions are taken for record purposes, and for submission to the stamp issuing authorities for final approval.

Many people do not understand the terms - Appropriated and Unappropriated dies. With impressed Duty Stamps there is an arbitrary distinction, namely General Duty, and Special Duty. The division is based on the fact whether a die carries a particular inscription or not. Dies with inscriptions such as "Estate Duty", "Law Fund", "Receipt" etc. are called "appropriate" or Special Duty dies and the Dies without inscriptions are referred to as "unappropriated" or General Duty dies.

Embossing or Die Stamping -

A method of stamping in relief. The relief or raised impression is obtained by placing the paper between two matching dies, one (Male) bearing the design image in relief, and the other having the (Female) counterpart of the image in recess. The usual form of embossing is clear as opposed to coloured.

It is beyond the scope of this article to explain the significance of each stamp style, but for general interest the following should be noted: colourless semi-adhesives were used until 1875 for parchment and to a small extent also for paper. Blue base paper was used for general documents and Pink paper was used for "Duplicates", Brown paper for writs. Simple paper documents were plainly stamped until 1882. Coloured die impressions were introduced in Ireland in 1875 and are still in use. Vermillion was the colour in general use. Special uses call for pink, black or blue impressions. The Irish Republic introduced green as the basic colour but vermillion, blue and mauve are also used. Here is a fascinating sideline for any philatelist.



STAMPS WITH AN IRISH STORY

BY Rev. John Brennan

A direct link exists between Irish postal history and the use of stamps for Irish propaganda purposes. This fact was well known to Padraig H. Pearse and his companions when they occupied the G.P.O. and made it their Headquarters, at the time of the Rising in 1916. It is ironical, however, that although such a premises could normally be used for propaganda distribution, yet on this occasion it was used to check efforts to convey news to the authorities, to disrupt postal administration and to play for time.

It can be said, truly, that almost from the time when postage stamps came into general use in the world the Irish Fenians in America saw in them a possible source of propaganda and revenue for their cause.

By the time the American Civil War had ended many Irishmen who had fought in that war were fully trained and experienced soldiers. Many of these joined the Fenian Brotherhood and were organised into an army in the United States. In Canada efforts were made to enlist the sympathy and help of the Canadian Irish. In June 1866 a force of eight hundred of these men, led by John O'Neill, crossed from United States territory into Canada; they advanced on Fort Erie on the Niagara river, and captured it. Soon, however, many of O'Neill men deserted him and his depleted force was defeated at Ridgeway, about eight miles from Fort Erie. The remainder of the Fenian army surrendered to the American warship "Michigan", there the short-lived campaign ended.

Some idea of the far-reaching hope for success with which this venture was organised can be gauged from the fact that Republic of Ireland stamps were prepared for it in the U.S.A. by the Fenians. Although the idea was quite novel at the time, it is possible that these stamps could have been used successfully for propaganda purposes and to provide revenue for the organizers of the campaign. The Universal Postal Union had not yet been established to curb unorthodox postal use. Designs were selected and preparatory essays for these stamps were printed, bearing values of one cent, three cents and twenty four cents. The one cent stamp is often known as the New Brunswick Essay. The design for both the one cent and the three cents shows an Irish harp adorned with shamrock as central theme in a central circle. The wording is as follows: "Republic of Ireland 1 Cent" and "REPUBLIC. HIBER. Postage Three Cents" respectively.



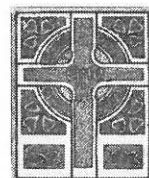
The 24 cent stamp has also got a central circle but in this case it is adorned with a winged female figure in the form of a harp. This circle is surrounded by a wide buckled belt bearing the motto "LIBERTAS ET NATALE SOLUM". The words "Republic of Ireland, Postage 24 Cents" form the outer frame.

From examples seen we learn that the the three cent and the twenty four cent stamps were typographed from a woodblock. At this time also (1865-66) yet another Fenian Essay was prepared. Once again the central circle was adorned with a harp in the form of a winged female. The circle is enclosed in a buckled belt bearing the words: "ERIN GO BRAGH", in the outer frame the word "Postage" is at top, and "One Penny" at bottom. This is a peculiar bi-lingual stamp, and it is thought that because the value is in pence rather than in cents, it was intended for use in Ireland for the Rebellion of 1867.



A twenty-four cent stamp, similar to the one described above, appeared again in 1893. It is a poor copy of the original. One reason given for its appearance at this time was as a preparation for the anticipated success of Gladstone's Second Home Rule Bill. It is difficult to see any connection between these. A more likely explanation for its appearance was to obtain money from gullible philatelists! Forgeries, too, are known to exist.

There is no doubt as to the purpose for which the Sinn Fein stamps were issued in 1908, or possibly 1907. There is clear evidence that they aimed at propaganda, recruitment, and the fostering of the Home Rule policy. There were two designs; one design has a central oval rather than the central circle used by the Fenians. In this oval



Hibernia, as a young lady, holds a harp. The word "EIRE", is at top the Irish Wolfhound sits at the bottom. "SINN FEIN" is at both sides, while the arms of the four provinces occupy the four corners of the stamp. The second Sinn Fein stamp breaks new ground. It was designed by Miss Lily Williams, A.R.H.A. from an idea suggested by Arthur Griffith. A Celtic Cross is the central theme with the word "EIRE" written at the juncture of the arms of the cross. Some Celtic scrolls, and four large shamrocks, fill the remainder of the design in a simple frame.

Although no value is given on these stamps, yet it is certain they were used to collect revenue. According to the Sinn Fein Handbook they cost 2/6 per gross, and were sold at one penny each. These stamps were not given out indiscriminately to all and sundry, they were distributed by the Secretary of the Sinn Fein movement, Mr. Seamus Whelan, 17 Ormond Quay, Dublin. They were extensively advertised in the Irish press of the day giving the names of the agents in the various towns such as the Kilkenny People office. Dublin had as many as twenty-eight agents; these included Tom Clarke's shop at Parnell Street. These labels were gummed for fastening to envelopes and post cards to be sent through the post. They could not replace the legal postage stamp, but it was intended that they be used in conjunction with them on the address side. The legal stamps in use in Ireland at the time, bore the portrait of

the reigning British monarch, Edward VII. From correspondence dealing with the Sinn Fein stamps we learn that "the Sinn Feiners made it a rule not to answer letters they get unless they have one of these stamps on them".

It was not long before the postal authorities took action. An official order appeared on 2nd July, 1908 forbidding this practice it declared that these stamps were "used for advertising and other purposes", and that "when they are placed on the address side they cause embarrassment to the officers of the Post Office". The practice had to cease, but it could be concluded that, in future, these stamps could be used on the reverse side.

Nationalists in Ireland were not the only ones to use propaganda labels at this time; the Northern Imperialists followed suit. They produced the Imperial Union labels of 1912. In preparation for the Home Rule Bill of 1912 Asquith declared that Ireland should have her own postal system. This was supported by the Post Master General of the day. In anticipation of the passing of this Bill the Unionists of Belfast threatened that they would set up their own government in the North and issue their own stamps. The Bill was once again rejected by the House of Lords. Nevertheless the labels were printed. It is strange that like the Fenian stamps these have a female harpist in centre of the design. There the resemblance ends, however, for the wording is "Provisional Government of Ireland", at top, with "IMPERIAL UNION" at bottom ! It is not clear what use was made of these labels after publication.



By the time it became a foregone conclusion that the Home Rule Bill would become law when it was next brought before Parliament certain elements in Ulster had prepared to resist. The Ulster Volunteer Force was set up, and propaganda labels were issued once more. These are known as the South Belfast labels of 1914. Their purpose was, obviously, to raise funds, for they were priced at 1/- each. The design has as central theme the Red Hand of Ulster with the words "FOR GOD AND ULSTER" in a circle, the whole surmounted by a crown. There are also the words "SOUTH BELFAST" with, at bottom, "ONE SHILLING".

At the actual time of the rising in Dublin in 1916, three Nationalist propaganda labels appeared. Two of these were re-issues of the 1908 Sinn Fein Celtic Cross and Hibernia with Wolfhound types, as described above. A third was called the Manchester Martyrs label of 1916. This consisted of portraits of Allen, Larkin and O'Brien with their names, one for each leaf of a large Shamrock, with harp at centre. The words "GOD SAVE IRELAND" were underneath. The design was printed on paper coloured in tricolour of green, white and orange. These were printed in unsevered pairs with the double green colour at centre. Thus they could be doubled around a pin and used as

a small flag with full design showing on both sides. Some were used as stamps and, no doubt, some were used as flags; but the majority of them were seized and destroyed.



The Rising was, in some ways, a gesture; it was symbolic of things to come. In this, the leaders were prophetic. Did any of them foresee that fifty years later the same G.P.O. would handle letters bearing new stamps? These would no longer be unofficial propaganda labels stuck on envelopes beside stamps bearing the portrait of the reigning British monarch, but rather officially recognised portraits of themselves the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation. Times have changed in Irish Postal history since the days of the Fenians and Sinn Féin; in philatelic matters they have gone full circle.

Padraig H. Pearse and his companions were, therefore, well acquainted with the use of stamps or labels for propaganda purposes. Did this knowledge influence them in their selection of the G.P.O. as headquarters for the Rising?

With kind acknowledgement to the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs for permission to illustrate the postage stamps, and to Messrs. F. E. Dixon and H. G. L. Fletcher of the Irish Philatelic Circle for assistance with others.

Special Issue commemorating 50th Anniversary of 1916 Rising



DUBLIN BISHOP MARKS

BY BILL KANE



- 1741 E - Kells to Dublin, dated 20th Feby.
B.M. FE. 22.
D. 14.5 mm. H. 16 mm. LS. 8.5 mm. US 7.5 mm.



- 1744 E - Dublin to Kilkenny, undated.
B.M. JA. 15. With a division of 1 mm. between lower and upper semi-circles, the upper diameter is 14.5 mm. and the lower 15 mm. in diameter.
H. 14.5 mm. LS. 6.5 mm. US. 7 mm.



- 1744 E - Cashel to Dublin, dated 23rd March.
Redirected to Dunleer. This item is most interesting in that it bears two Bishop Marks of different types struck on alternative days.
Due to the redirection of the letter.
B.M. MR. 25. With a division of 1 mm. between the two semi-circles.
D. 15 mm. H. 15 mm. LS. 7 mm. US. 7 mm.



B.M. Mr. 26.
D. 14.5 mm. H. 15 mm. LS. 7 mm. US. 8 mm.



- 1744 E - Armagh to Dublin, dated 5th June.
B.M. JU. 7.
D. 14 mm. H. 13.5 mm. LS. 7 mm. US. 6.5 mm.



- 1744 E - Dublin to Kilkenny, dated 24th July.
B.M. JY. 24.
D. 14 mm. H. 13.5 mm. LS. 7 mm. US 6.5 mm.



- 1744 E - Cashel to Dublin, dated 17th Sept.
B.M. SE. 19.
D. 14.5 mm. H. 14 mm. LS. 6.5 mm. US. 7.5 mm



- 1744 E - Dublin to Ballywalter, dated 13th Nov.
B.M. NO. 13. This mark has the slight appearance of a division between the LS. and US. Such is not the case, it is a partial double strike of the lower half.
D. 15 mm. H. 14 mm. LS. 6.5 mm. US. 7.5 mm.



- 1745 E - Cashel to Dublin, dated 26th August.
B.M. AU. 28.
D. 15 mm. H. 15 mm. LS. 7.5 mm. US. 7.5 mm.

DE
16

- 1745 E - Dundalk to Dublin dated 15th Dec.
B.M. De. 16.
D. 15 mm. H. 14 mm. LS. 6.5 mm. US. 7.5 mm.

AU
9

- 1746 E - Dublin to Moneyglass, dated 9th August.
B.M. AU. 9. Dot between A and U.
D. 20 mm. H. 19 mm. LS. 9 mm. US. 10 mm.

A·U
23

- 1746 E - Dublin to Dunleer, dated 23rd August.
B.M. AU. 23. Dot between A and U.
D. 21 mm. H. 20 mm. LS. 10 mm. US. 10 mm.

I·U
4

- 1746 E - Dublin to Ballinasloe, dated 1st June.
B.M. JU. 4. No CROSSBAR (ie. diameter)
Dot between J and U.
Distance where D should be 20 mm. H 20.5 mm.

F·E
29

- 1747 E - Elphin to Dublin, dated 26th Feby.
B.M. FE. 29. Dot between F and E.
D. 19 mm. H. 19 mm. LS. 9 mm. US. 10 mm.

Leap Year - this date is scarce and worth looking for in any leap year.

I·A
27

- 1749 E - addressed to Dublin, dated 26th Jany.
B.M. JA. 27. Partial double line to diameter.
D. 20 mm. H. 20 mm. L.S. 9 mm. US. 11 mm.

M·R
15

- (1751) C - undated to Dublin - redirected to Dunleer same correspondence as item below.
B.M. MR. 15. Dot between M and R.
D 20 mm. H. 20 mm. L.S. 9.5 mm. US. 10.5 mm.
B.M. MR. 16. as above.

M·R
16

A·P
1

- 1751 E - Elphin to Dunleer, dated 29th March.
B.M. AP. 1. Dot between A and P.
D. 20 mm. H. 21 mm. L.S. 10 mm. US. 11 mm.



- 1751 E - Elphin to Dublin, dated 18th June.
B.M. JU. 21. Dot joins the J and U.
D 20 mm. H. 20 mm. L.S. 9 mm. U.S. 11 mm.



- 1751 E - Dublin to Cork, dated 17th October.
B.M. OC. 17. No diameter barline. OC joined
D. 20 mm. H. 20 mm. L.S. 10 mm. U.S. 10 mm.



- 1752 E - Dublin to Clonmel, dated 14th May.
B.M. MY. 14
D. 20 mm. H. 19.5 mm. L.S. 9.5 mm. U.S. 10 mm



- 1753 E - Navan to Dublin, dated 2nd December.
B.M. DE. 3. Dot between D and E.
Upper segment slightly wider at
diameter.
D. 20.5 mm. H. 19.5 mm. L.S. 9.5 mm. U.S. 10
mm.



- 1754 E - Navan to Dublin, dated 20th May.
B.M. MA. 20. Dot between M and A.
D. 20 mm. H. 20 mm. L.S. 9.5 mm. U.S. 10.5 mm



- 1754 E - Magilligan to Dublin, dated 2nd July.
B.M. JY. 10. Dot between J and Y.
D. 20 mm. H. 21 mm. L.S. 10 mm. U.S. 11 mm.



- 1754 E - Dublin to Ballinasloe, dated 28th December
B.M. DE. 28. Dot between D and E.
D. 20 mm. H. 20 mm. L.S. 9.5 mm. U.S. 10.5 mm



- 1755 E - Dublin to Cork, dated 10th January.
B.M. JA. 11. Segments out of alignment.
Dot between J and A. Thick letters.
D. 19 mm. H. 19.5 mm. L.S. 9.5 mm. U.S. 10 mm



- 1756 E - Dublin to Lurgan dated 10th June.
B.M. JU. 10. Dot between J and U.
Thick figures and letters.
D. 24 mm. H. 23 mm. L.S. 11 mm. U.S. 12 mm.

D·E
20

- 1756 E - Loughrea to Dublin, dated 17th December.
B.M. DE. 20. Dot between D and E.
D. 23 mm. H. 22 mm. L.S. 10.5 mm. U.S. 11.5 mm

F·E
24

- 1757 E - Dublin to Belfast, dated 24th February.
B.M. FE. 24. Dot between F and E. Fine
letters and figures.
D. 23 mm. H. 23 mm. L.S. 11 mm. U.S. 12 mm.

J·U
20

- 1757 E - Loughrea to Dublin, dated 17th June.
B.M. JU. 20. Dot between J and U.
D. 24 mm. H. 23.5 mm. L.S. 12 mm. U.S. 11.5 mm

A·U
27

- 1757 E - Dublin to Ballinasloe, dated 27th August.
B.M. AU. 27. Dot between A and U.
D. 24 mm. H. 23.5 mm. L.S. 11.5 mm. U.S. 12 mm

O·C
1

- 1757 E - Dublin to Ballinasloe, dated 1st October.
B.M. OC. 1. Dot between O and C.
D. 23.5 mm. H. 24 mm. L.S. 12 mm. U.S. 12 mm.

D·E
2

- 1757 E - Navan to Dublin, dated 1st December.
B.M. DE. 2. Dot between D and E.
Fine letters and figures.
D. 23 mm. H. 23.5 mm. L.S. 11.5 mm. U.S. 12 mm.
D. 23 mm. H. 23.5 mm. L.S. 11.5 mm. U.S. 12 mm.

F·E
14

- 1758 E - Dublin to Cashel, dated 14th February.
B.M. FE. 14. Dot between F and E.
D. 23 mm. H. 23 mm. L.S. 11 mm. U.S. 12 mm.

N·O
3

- 1760 E - Birr to Dublin, dated 29th October.
B.M. NO. 3. Dot between N and O.
D. 23 mm. H. 23 mm. L.S. 11.5 mm. U.S. 11.5 mm

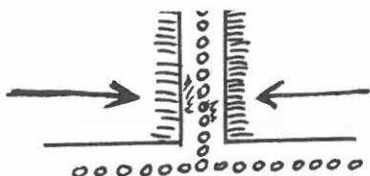
I will finalise this study in the next issue, in the meantime will be delighted to have your observations, even if they are contrary to what I have written.

VARIETIES

by HIBERNICUS

→ 1824 - 1974

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION
(5p value)



Row 1 - Stamps 1 and 2.

Splash of yellow colour between the designs of the two stamps, across the perforations.



Row 3 - Stamp 1.

Dark spot above the head of the man jumping from the ship, giving the appearance that the man was wearing a "tam-o'-shanter" instead of a beret.

Row 3 - Stamp 5.

"Short 1" The first figure one of "1824" is damaged.



Row 5 - Stamp 3.

Blob of Blue colour above the right shoulder of the figure in the forecastle.

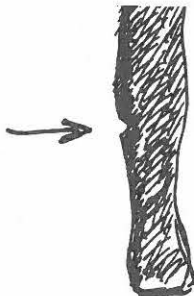
EUROPA 1974 - (7p value)

Eire

Row 6 - Stamp 1.

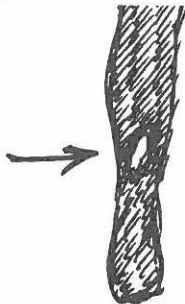
White spot at the foot of the first "E" of Eire.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH ($3\frac{1}{2}$ p value)
(C 192)



Row 7 - Stamp 1

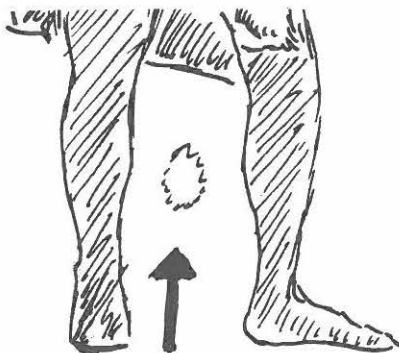
Notch right leg.



Row 7 - Stamp 10

Disturbance on the Right leg.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH (12p value)
(C 193)



Row 1 - Stamp 5

Retouch to the background
between the legs.



Normal.



Variety

Row 5 - Stamp 1 (not constant)

Missing left shoulder.

N.B. THIS VARIETY CAN ALSO BE
LOCATED IN VARIOUS POSITIONS
ON THE SHEET WITH VARYING DEGREES
OF INKING.

Row 7 - Stamp 10

Disturbance on Right leg.
(Same as on the $3\frac{1}{2}$ p value).