

D.F. Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 30 Summer 1978

House Journal of
DAVID FELDMAN LTD. DUBLIN



NEWSPAPER STAMPS OF IRELAND



BY SUBSCRIPTION

D.F. Newsletter

EDITORIAL

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We wonder if readers would like to make use of a query page in the newsletter. This would be included to answer questions of all kinds, simple and complicated. We think it would be very helpful to readers who are not regularly in touch with other collectors and would like some puzzles solved. Let us know what you think or better still send your questions for answering.

Collectors of popular European countries (Switzerland, Austria, Germany etc.) will have noticed how investment and speculation have artificially affected market prices over the past five years. In America, similar trends are beginning to affect U.S. and Canadian stamps. The European investment boom did not directly affect Irish stamps at the time, but now that more U.K. firms are pushing British Commonwealth material as "Blue Chip" buys there is clear evidence of a marked upward swing in the prices of Irish stamps, particularly the high values of 1922-35. It becomes difficult to say whether this trend is caused more by increased collector interests or by investors grabbing the lion's share of the market supply. Stamps have long been put forward as a steady and safe means of securing a high return of capital invested. But when it becomes big business feeding off a collector market with a reasonably limited pocket (i.e. collectors won't buy expensive stamps if they become too expensive) the dangers of undermining collecting interest become very apparent. We don't like the look of this investment business at all and continue to advocate that it is the serious collector who will reap the rewards in the end, both financially and with the real bonus of having enjoyed collecting.

Bill Kane, rumour has it, will be listed in the next Guinness Book of Records for having the most friends in the world. On a serious note, however, Bill has retired from Stamp dealing and is no longer working with us. He says that he really appreciates the last few years and sends his best wishes to the friends he has made through the Newsletter.

TL

Walter Morley's catalogue of the Newspaper Tax Stamps of Great Britain and Ireland, has been the only book of its kind since 1912, and so it is with delight I welcome the above handbook by C.P. O'Neill. In addition to the Irish Newspaper Stamps, the book includes a chapter on Irish Almanacks and Directories.

Most General collection of stamps formed towards the end of the 19th Century contained a small selection of Newspaper Stamps, hence there must be quite a few collectors who have these stamps still in their possession awaiting information regarding same. Perhaps the fact that literature on this subject not being readily available, is the explanation as to the lack of interest in these most absorbing stamps. However, Mr. O'Neill has now put matters right. His excellent book describes the reasons for printing the stamps which bedecked the pages of every Irish Newspaper from 1774 to 1870. The book also tells how it is possible to make a facinating collection of stamps of a rather different kind, and at a reasonable cost. Since the research quoted in the book is based on the collections of Dr. Stafford-Johnson, and Fred Dixon, there could be no higher form of recommendation. Charlie O'Neill has compiled a comprehensive and well illustrated work, which should stimulate serious collectors to study their possessions, and also encourage others to take an interest in the stamps which have been neglected for some years.

Chapter Seven deals with that very vexed question of valuations, to quote the author,

"the subject of values is an invidious one and nothing dates a publication more quickly than a list of prices which modern inflationary trends make redundant, even before publication".

I think everyone will agree with this viewpoint.

The book is available from David Feldman Ltd. at £3.50 (postage extra), it is a limited edition and can be ordered immediately if required.

BILL KANE.

THE BELFAST "PEOPLES POST" OF CHRISTMAS 1977 by N.J.

I shall keep this simple, and state the facts, as I know them, simply. I believe that a milestone in Irish Postal History was passed, relatively unnoticed, in the two weeks before Christmas 1977. I noticed for one reason, I began a stamp collection at the age of 12 in 1935, and kept at it, on an irregular basis, ever since. I am not an expert, but over the years something is retained, and about 15 years ago I developed an interest in Postal History (Irish) I write this because I believe I should bring "the event" to the notice of those with established expertise, and for the information of the thousands of Irish enthusiasts all over the world who may yet succeed in finding one of the covers concerned. I would further point out once again that philately has no regard for (a) Political Philosophies or events, and (b) that it ignores frontiers. The story of the "Independent Rhodesia" material will spring to mind.

The facts are as follows:-

About 9.30 on 15th December 1977 a friend, knowing I would be interested, showed me a poster which he had obtained in North Belfast somewhere. I read it and was spurred into activity. Inside an hour and a half I had prepared five Test Covers and sent these via my friend, to the collection centre for his area. I then endured for five nail-chewing days, wondering, first, would the service announced actually operate; or second, would it be suppressed by the authorities. You can imagine my delight when at a mean datum time of 7.45 p.m. on 20th December 1977 the five test covers, each sealed and containing a stiffener card and a short dated note for 9.30 p.m. about 15th December, were delivered; to 2 addresses chosen; by "Junior Postmen", age about 12 to 14 years. On five covers were named 4 people, including one extra to self (more might have been done, but this was "Xmas Post Season" and time and shortage of material was against me). I heard my own test covers land on the hall mat and was in time to observe the "Junior Postmen" (two off, one on each side of the street), made two additional deliveries before they moved on from the vicinity of my house to another street in this West Belfast area. By 8.00 p.m. I had obtained all five test covers and endorsed each on the back, in black pen, as follows:

"Test cover 1/5 or 2/5 or 3/5 etc up to 5/5. Delivered at 7.45 p.m. on 20th December 1977 by Junior Postmen".

I signed each after checking it to see if there was any sign of any kind of interference with it. There was not, each was exactly as I sent it to the "Reception Centre". Each still contained the Stiffener Card, and the sealed "note" on a part sheet of plain (unlined) paper, waste from the office xerox machine some of which I had grabbed for memo use, earlier the same day. The only new feature of each test cover was the addition desired and hoped for, a rubber stamped "endorsement" at the "Reception Centre". I shall describe this below.

Throughout the 5 day wait I had to try to work "normally", but soon I realised that one set of test covers might not be enough for the purpose of validating "the service". I prepared a second set of three covers, in roughly the same fashion, with a stiffcard and sealed in note, and asked two friends from other city areas to insert these into the system for me. As with the earlier set, I gave each 2 new pence per cover to pay the cost of handling the cover.

The third cover I chose to try to post myself. One friend succeeded, and posted a single cover in the Markets area of the city in the mid-day period of Monday 19th December 1977. This cover was delivered on 23/12/77. Fortunately, I was at home to note the time, 3 p.m. I again saw the person who delivered the cover to my home in pouring rain. He was a 17 to 20 year old chap with black hair and a beard, and he was carrying about 15 to 20 covers in one hand, in the rain. As far as I could see through the window he was not carrying a newsboy's type cloth sack, as were the earlier, younger boys, but this may have been hidden under his duffel coat.

The second friend attempted to locate the Andersonstown Centre in the far West of "West Belfast", but no one he spoke to was aware of the service, the Reception Centre was not where he had supposed it to be, and after a further few fruitless enquiries, he gave up the attempt. I told him later to destroy the cover. My own experience in another area of the city is parallel to that one. I twice, on different days, explored, very circum-spectly, the area I thought a reception centre to be in. I could see no trace of it, or any signs of the poster, and I was not going to be a nuisance, and ask too many questions, as on neither occasion could I see anyone I was acquainted with. I gave up, though on the second day I knew the sixth cover had entered the system. I felt I had made a fair effort in our local conditions, and the area was Ballymurphy! I also destroyed this, the eighth cover, later. I now return to the very wet cover from the markets centre. It was dried very carefully and very slowly. The "Reception Centre" stamp, a fainter than on the others, survived in a readable condition, but the entire both sides, is warped by rain, and in a crinkled condition, and I have attempted no more work on it. Somewhere on its journey the reverse face was placed on a dusty shelf, and these dirt and stain marks I have made no attempt to remove yet. Lastly, when finally completely dry I endorsed it also on the back:

"Posted by a friend on Monday 19th December pre lunch time at the Markets Collection Centre".

Delivered at 3 p.m. in pouring rain, by a 17/20 year old on 23/12/77 and signed it.

Regarding this cover, one point is very noteworthy. It was a rubber stamped NOT at the Markets Collection Centre, but at the Falls Centre, from which it was delivered to my address. The obvious assumption from this is that those who organised this Christmas Service had not yet totally standardised their handling operation at all centres. Perhaps, in the troubled Belfast conditions this was not always possible, and some form of local initiative is retained at each centre. I have no idea what the damp has done to the note enclosed in the cover No. 6, as it is still sealed, but I hope it has come through unsmudged, and it is listed as cover 1/3 in the table below. While on the topic of "Damp", test cover 5/5 somewhere was hit by a raindrop, and a small smudging of the word "Post" resulted and about one inch of the circular perimeter ring was also affected, but the damage is not too bad, and the mark is clear and in good condition despite this accident. 8 covers prepared, six entered the system, and were delivered, I am happy! I have not yet seen any other covers from this Christmas Service, and the few people I have known well enough to ask either did not receive cards or mail through it, or did not even know such a service was available.

The Circular Frank

On all six covers the Circles enclose a 3 line inscription thus:-



COLOUR BLUE
NOT TO SCALE

The sixth cover, nol/3, in grey black has "FALLS" in place of New Lodge. I made a series of measurements using the following tools: The S.G. "Instanta" perforation Gauge - the Guide Line end with millimeter scale; a standard clear plastic 12 inch school ruler; my 3½ inch diameter hand magnifier/reading glass; and through weakening eye resolution, my reading spectacles, along with 3½ inch glass. These are the results I obtained.

TEST COVER	OUTER EAST WEST	CIRCLE NORTH SOUTH	INNER E-W	CIRCLE N-S	WIDTH PEOPLES	WIDTH POST	WIDTH New Lodge	WIDTH Falls	HEIGHT OF		
									"P"	"N"	"F"
1/5	5 cm.	5 cm.	4.65cm.	4.7cm.	2.35cm.	11.5mm	2.45cm	-	3.5	2.5	-
2/5	5 cm.	5.1cm	4.7cm	4.7cm	2.35cm	11.5mm	2.45cm	-	3.5	2.5	-
3/5	5 cm	5.15cm	4.65cm	4.7cm	2.4*cm	11.0mm	2.45cm	-	3.5	2.5	-
4/5	5 cm	5.1cm	4.7cm	4.75cm	2.35cm	11.5mm	2.45cm	-	3.5	2.5	-
5/5	5 cm	5.1cm	4.7cm	4.75cm	2.35cm	11.5mm	2.45cm	-	3.5	2.5	-
1/3	5 cm	5 cm 5 mm	4.7cm	4.7cm	2.35cm or 2.4?	11.5mm	-	11 mm	3.5	-	2.5mm

* this measurement may have been 2.35. It was hard to be certain. Ditto for same cover 1/3.

The thick outer circle, in all cases appears to be 75m.m. thick.

The space between circles is 1 m.m. wide.

The width of the inner circle line appears to be 25 m.m. generally.

In leading "N" of "NEW LODGE", part of the leading upright of the "N" is missing, as shown here



covers 1/5. 2/5

and 5/5

TO BE CONTINUED

stampa'78

Irish national stamp exhibition 1978



"Stampa '78" the Seventh National Stamp Exhibition, will take place in Dublin on October 26, 27, 28, 29, 1978. This year's exhibition will once again be held in the Royal Dublin Society's International Exhibition Centre, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

"Stampa '78" will include a competitive exhibition of individual collections of leading philatelists and postal historians, and, as usual, a special exhibit from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. It is also hoped to display some of the great rarities from the National Museum's Collection, which includes the unique mint block of four of the 1904 Edward VII 'I.R. Official' 6d (ex 'Duke of Leinster').

Leading dealers from Ireland and Britain will occupy trade stands, and there will be philatelic sales bureaux from both the Irish and Isle of Man Post Offices. Four special postmarks will be used at the show.

Film shows, lectures, and conventions are being organised, as well as an auction and various social events. Full details will be available in due course.

"Stampa '78" is organised by the Irish National Stamp Exhibition Committee, under the patronage of the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs. The organising Committee is as follows:

Chairman: S. Kearns; Secretary: I. W. Whyte; Treasurer: Dr. J. A. Quigley; Members: A. Byrne, C. Buckley, F. E. Dixon, A. F. Finn, J. Lennon, D. MacDonnell, D. O'Kelly, Dr. R. P. Towers F.R.P.S.L., B. Warren.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

Mr. Ian Whyte, Secretary,
STAMPA '78,
3 Fitzwilliam Place,
Dublin 2.
Ireland. Telephone: 761383.

POSTAL STATIONERY

used in Ireland 1840 - 1976

BILL KANE

REGISTERED ENVELOPES

IRISH PRINTINGS. - EMBOSSED STAMP.

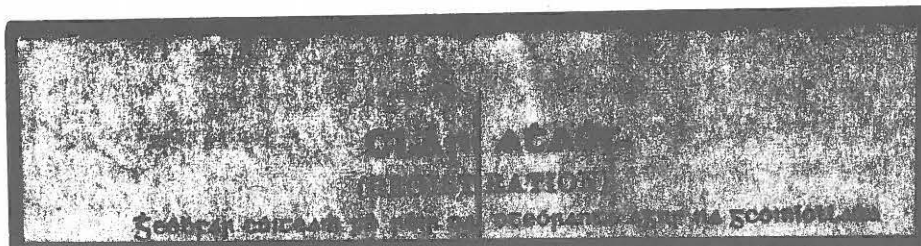
In this article I will not specify the variations in the sizes and shades of the embossed stamps.



1924

5p dark violet. Sizes F.G.K.

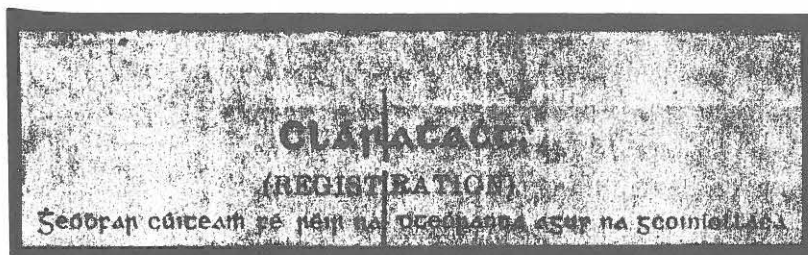
On reverse wide space between the letters R and A of Claratacht.



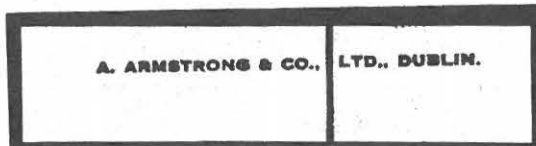
1926

5p dark violet. Sizes F.G.H.K.

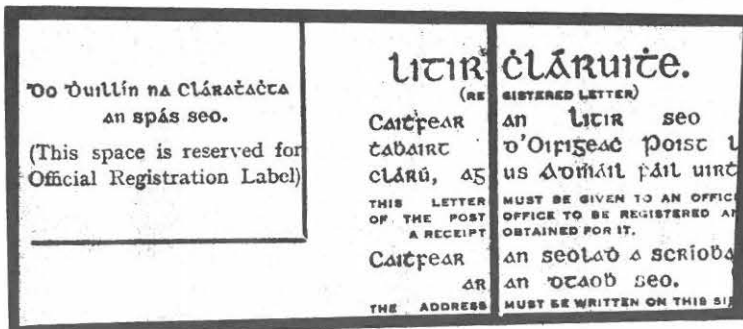
Closed space between the letters R and A of Claratacht.



- 1926 5p Violet. Sizes F.G.H.K.
Printers name under flap, A. Armstrong & Co. Ltd Dublin.



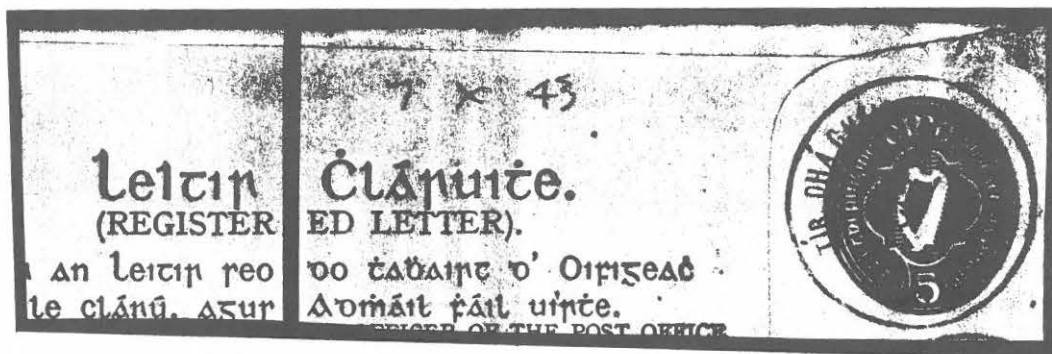
- 1938 5p violet. Sizes F.G.
Space for senders name and address on reverse of envelope.



- 1941 5p violet. Sizes F.G.
Text re-set, FEE PAID 17m.m. in length.

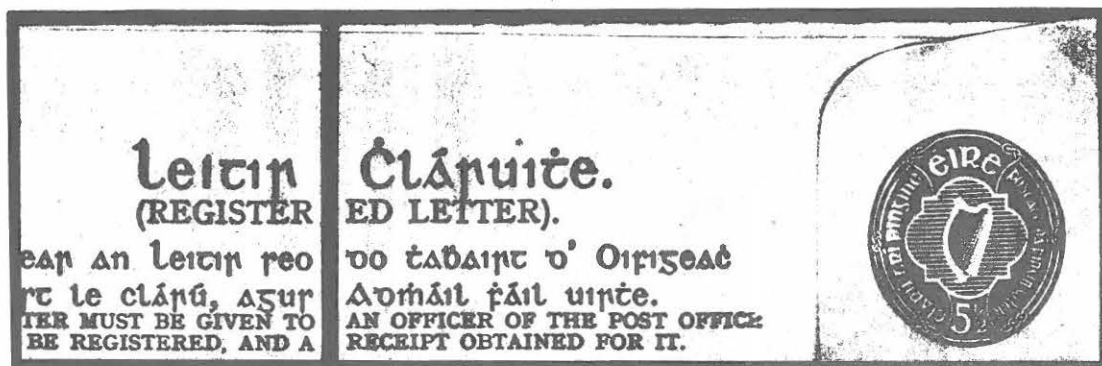


- 1942 5p violet. Sizes H.K.
Large first I in Leitir.

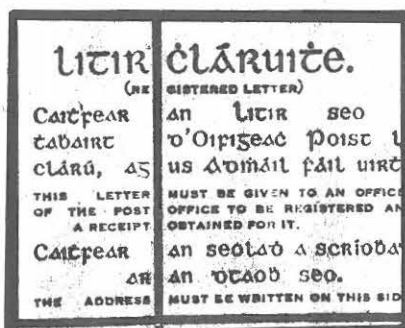


- 1942 5½p bright green. Sizes F.G.H.K.
1943 5½p bright green. Sizes F.G.
Grey buff manila paper, without scrim lining.
1945 5½p bright green. Size G.
With scrim lining. FEE PAID measures 14.5m.m.
1945 5½p bright green. Sizes F.G.
Armstrong imprint 44 m.m. in length.

- 1947 5½p bright green. Sizes F.G.
Armstrong imprint 50 m.m. long.
- 1947 5½p bright green. Sizes H.K.
First I in Leitir is broken.



- 1948 5½p bright green. Sizes F.G.H.
Revised spelling of the word "LITIR".



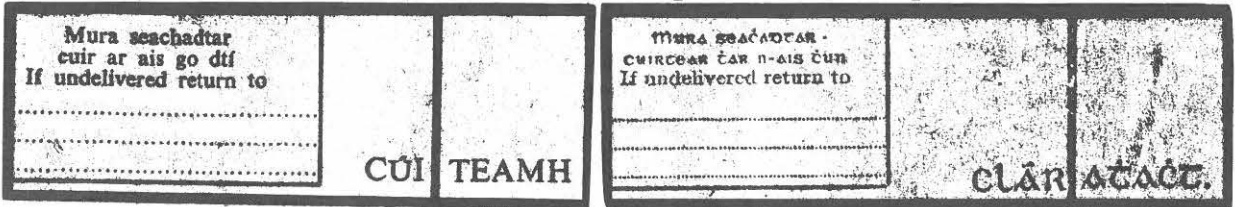
- 1949 6½p deep violet. Sizes F.G.H.



- 1953/54 9p purple. Sizes F.G.H.K.

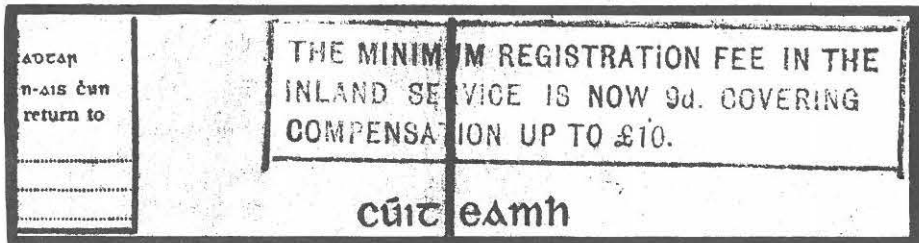
1954/56 9p purple. Sizes F.G.H.K.

Text reset on reverse of envelope. Cuiteamh replaces Claratacht.



1957 1s Orange-red. Sizes F.G.H.K.

Rubber handstamps on reverse re registration fee.



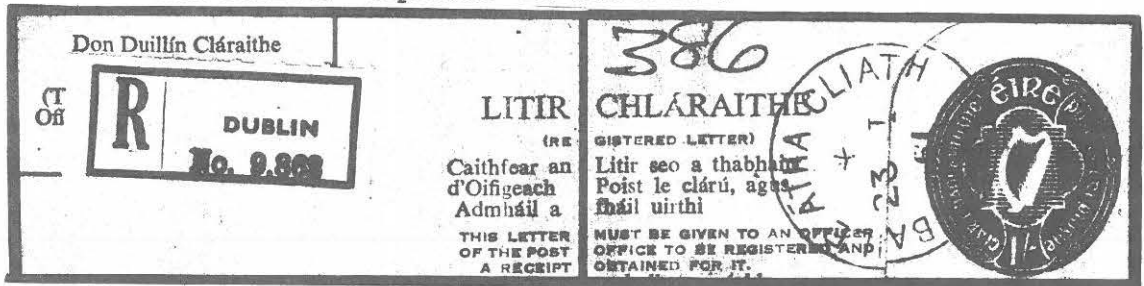
1958 1s Orange-red. Sizes F.G.H.K.

Text reset "CHLARAITHE" in Roman type.



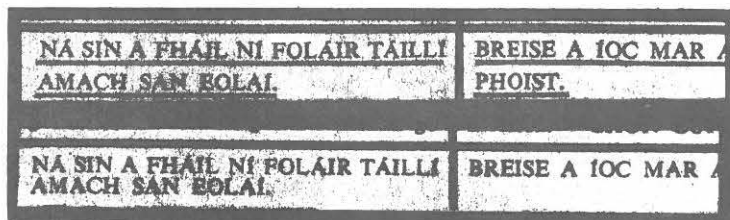
1960 1s Orange-red. Sizes F.G.H.K.

'Don Duillin' replaces 'Do Dhuillin'.



On size G the word PHOIST erroneously included in text.

1961 1s Orange-red. Size G.
The word PHOIST removed.



TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE OF THE "NEWSLETTER".

DO YOU KNOW ?

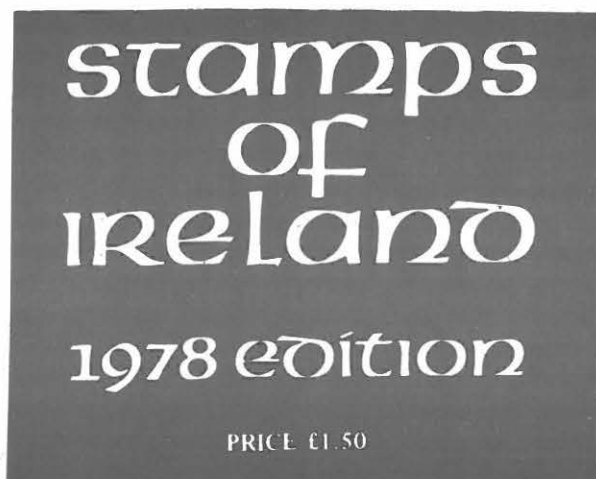
The currency issue due out in January has been postponed until October 26th.

The Europa issue due out on May 15th has been postponed due to printing difficulties. No date has been finalised.

The First Direct Election to the European Parliament issue has been postponed until 1979.



The 20p Watermark DF D67 SG 300 had two different printings. 1st Printing light brown and violet. 2nd printing Dark brown and deep violet. We can offer the 1st printing for £1.50 and 2nd printing at £4. Block pro rata.





MR. J. Gilmore of Switzerland encloses the following photograph of a 2d Die I Thom 5 line overprint used on 25th April 1923 in which the 23 is inverted used in Thurles??? He would like to establish the guilty post office and also if any other reader has a copy.



Miss Wright of Dublin has recently shown me a copy of the 1937 Constitution 2d Ruby used with inverted watermark DF C11 (SG 105). We would be glad to hear from any other reader who has this variety.

STAMPEX 1978

Our congratulations to the following on their awards:

N.A. Busby Bronze-Silver "The provisional overprints of Ireland".

Brian Stanley Silver "The Different types of shipletter marks used in Ireland between 1758 and 1873".

Dr. C.I. Dulin Silver Ireland - The Transition Period 1922-1925.

Literature R.G. Booth Silver - Gilt "A catalogue of the Adhesive Revenue stamps of U.K., C.I., Ireland and the Isle of Man."

D. Feldman Ltd. Bronze "Stamps of Ireland 1978".

D. Feldman Ltd. Bronze "D.F. Newsletter".

Our congratulations goes to Bill Irvine of Canada a double winner at the Barrie District Stamp Club's 25th Annual Exhibition recently. Bill won the "BEST OF THE SHOW" and the "ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY PLAQUE" for his exhibit of Ireland's Political History from the 1770's to the 1840's.
WELL DONE BILL.

ADDITIONS

1977 (September 12th) ANNIVERSARIES

C240	10p (Shanachie) Black and White	20p	20p
C241	12p (Eruigena) Black and White	25p	40p

SET 121C	45p	55p
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1977 (October 10th) ANNIVERSARIES

C242	10p (E.S.B.) Multicoloured	20p	20p
C243	12p (A.C.C.) Multicoloured	25p	35p
C244	17p (Greyhound) Multicoloured	35p	35p

SET 122C	80p	90p
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1977 (November 3rd) CHRISTMAS

C245	8p Multicoloured	15p	15p
C246	10p Multicoloured	20p	20p
C247	17p Multicoloured	35p	35p

SET 123C	70p	70p
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1978 (April 13th) 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST EAST TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT

C248	10p Blue and White	20p	20p
C249	17p Brown and White	35p	35p

SET 124C	55p	55p
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POSTAGE DUES

1978 Fourth issue Unwatermarked.

PD22	3p Stone	10p	15p
PD23	4p Orange	10p	15p
PD24	5p Blue	10p	15p

These numbers are provisional as additional values are expected.

The 3p (Stone) Postage Due has recently turned up with "Inverted Watermark" we can offer this variety at £1.25. Blocks pro rata.

CHECKLIST FOR 1974-78 UNWATERMARKED DEFINITIVES

	PAPER/GUM		SINGLE	PLATE BL (4)	GUTTER
1p Dog	OCP/PVA		15p	90p	60p
1p Dog	FCP/PVA		10p	60p	40p
1p Dog	FCP/DEX		5p	30p	o/s
2p Dog	OCP/PVA		15p	90p	60p
2p Dog	FCP/DEX		5p	30p	o/s
3p Dog	OCP/PVA		10p	60p	40p
3½p Dog	OCP/PVA		20p	o/s	o/s
5p Dog Yellow-green	OCP/PVA		50p	o/s	o/s
5p Dog Olive-green	OCP/PVA		15p	o/s	o/s
5p Dog Yellow-green	FCP/DEX		£1	o/s	o/s
6p Stag	FCP/DEX		£1.	o/s	£4.
6p Dog	FCP/PVA		15p	90p	60p
7p Stag	OCP/PVA		o/s	o/s	o/s
7p Stag	FCP/DEX		40p	£2.40	o/s
7p Dog	OCP/PVA		£2.	o/s	o/s
7p Dog	FCP/PVA		50p	£3.	£2.
7p Dog	FCP/DEX		15p	90p	o/s
8p Stag	FCP/PVA		40p	£2.40	£1.60
8p Dog	FCP/PVA		30p	o/s	o/s
8p Dog	FCP/DEX		15p	90p	60p
9p Stag	OCP/PVA		40p	o/s	£1.60
9p Stag	FCP/DEX		60p	o/s	o/s
9p Dog	FCP/PVA		50p	o/s	o/s
9p Dog	FCP/DEX		20p	£1.20	80p
10p Ox	OCP/PVA		50p	£3.	—
10p Ox	FCP/DEX		60p	o/s	—
10p Stag	FCP/PVA		o/s	o/s	o/s
10p Stag	FCP/DEX		30p	£1.80	£1.20
10p Dog	FCP/PVA		20p	£1.20	o/s
10p Dog	FCP/DEX		o/s	o/s	o/s
11p Stag	FCP/PVA		o/s	o/s	o/s
11p Stag	FCP/DEX		25p	£1.50	£1.
12p Stag	FCP/PVA		25p	£1.50	£1.
12p Stag	FCP/DEX		60p	o/s	o/s
15p Ox	FCP/PVA		40p	£2.40	—
15p Ox	FCP/DEX		30p	£1.80	—
17p Ox	FCP/PVA		35p	£2.10	—
17p Ox	FCP/DEX		o/s	o/s	—
20p Ox	OCP/PVA		£4.	o/s	—
20p Ox	FCP/PVA		£1.	o/s	—
20p Ox	FCP/DEX		40p	£2.40	—
50p Eagle	OCP/PVA		£1.	£6.	—
50p Eagle	FCP/PVA		£1.25	£7.50	—
£1 Eagle thick paper	FCP/PVA		o/s	o/s	—
£1 Eagle Thin paper	FCP/PVA		£1.75	£9.	—

SET 45 values

o/s

o/s

o/s

o/s not available at the moment.

— Does not exist.

For service communication
relating to this matter
please quote No.

Postage should be prepaid.

Post Office, Dublin Postal District
2nd Dublin
March 1923

Sir,

With reference to your communication of the
27th ulto, I have to inform you that a
complete set of Saorstát
printed stamps, ^{less the 2^d value} can
be obtained on application
to the Controller (Philatelic)
Dublin Postal District Dublin
1st 1st 1st and 2^d denomination
of the permanent issue are
also on sale.

The cost of one of each of
the above mentioned will be
£1-2-5 plus 5^d postage and
registration fee.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Morgan Smith Esq.
P. 582

Postmaster.
Controller

An interesting letter showing how the Philatelic Section operated in 1923.



DAVID FELDMAN LTD

Rare Postage Stamp Dealers and Philatelic Publishers

102 LEINSTER ROAD, DUBLIN 6, IRELAND
TELEPHONE: DUBLIN 97 7449 CABLES: 'FELDSTAMPS' DUBLIN