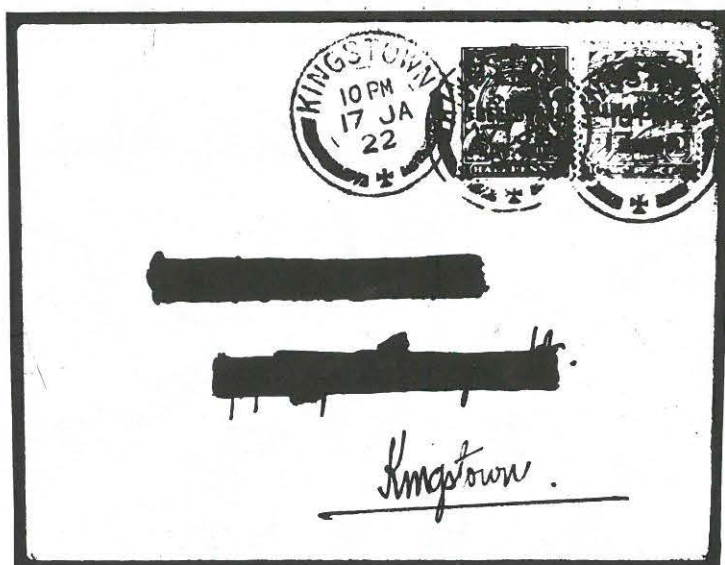


D.F. Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 34 Spring 1979
HOUSE JOURNAL OF
DAVID FELDMAN LTD. DUBLIN



Before the appearance of the distinctive Irish Provisional Government overprint on February 17th, 1922 a few patriotic minded people attempted to "jump the gun" by producing their own unofficial overprints. This envelope shows a local usage of those overprints in Kingstown exactly a month before the Government overprints were issued. This cover was probably made by a philatelist judging by the inverted overprint on the 2d value.

BY SUBSCRIPTION

D.F. Newsletter

EDITORIAL

Another new year is upon us and we all live in expectation to see what the next twelve months will bring. Philately becomes more and more a true comfort against the horribly consistent news bulletins and front pages of newspapers that are the carriers of bad news.

We see a lot of new faces in our hobby this year. It seems that the bug is still a strong one and the converts are numerous. Patterns emerge. The collecting of modern stamps is no longer frowned upon (it should never have been in the first place). Fascinating studies of decimal issues have been formed, equally as interesting as the numerous variants of the overprints. There are probably two clear reasons. Firstly availability — it is hardly so difficult to find good supplies of modern issues as classic stamps. Secondly moderns (for the collector) offer a considerable price advantage over their early predecessors. Another point we notice is that second class earlies, without glaring defects, are in demand. The feeling is that, if the supply of early and expensive issues is limited, the only hope of acquisition will be to accept slightly sub standard. At least one will have a real example.

Philatelic literature has enjoyed an unprecedented surge of interest in this decade. The desire for knowledge to base research on has led to a scramble for the limited supply of older tomes available. In days past the collector would shun the thought of paying money for printed paper, arguing that the cash was always best kept for stamps alone. Now we also see the specialist wishing to have his findings recorded for future generations. More books, the more the better, we feel. To be informed is to be armed. A word of advice — try to amass as much printed knowledge of your subject quickly — recent prices being asked are double or more of last year and we see no reason why there should not be further escalation.

Continuing on this, we are always looking for articles on new discoveries, "uncharted" areas, different aspects, new ideas, etc. We have a wide and receptive audience and we would be grateful to hear from you should you be considering putting your thoughts or notes into print.

DMacD.

STAMPEX 1979

Our congratulations go to the following who gained awards:

Dr. C. I. Dulin "Silver," Ireland 1922 - 23
The Saorstát overprints. May M. H. Priestley
"Bronze-Silver," Harrison 5 line coils.
C. P. O'Neill, Literature "Bronze" Newspaper
Stamps of Ireland.



This article endeavours to set out the various printing details and resultant collectable items which occurred on the Irish Rugby Football Union Centenary issue of 1974 and the Saint Oliver Plunkett issue of 1976. Both these issues were printed by Harrison & Sons Limited of England on their Jumelle Press (also known as Gemini).

THE "JUMELLE" PRESS

The "Jumelle" press (derived from the French for "twin") is so called because it can print stamps in a combination of the intaglio and photogravure processes. It can print up to seven colours by photogravure and three colours by intaglio and was installed by Harrisons in 1972. The printing operations can however be split enabling intaglio only or photogravure only stamps to be printed. Another feature of the press is its capability of perforating at the same time and at the same speed as the printing operation. The "Kampf" perforator, a German unit, is an integral part of the press. The perforating pins are affixed to the circumference of a large cylinder which punches out the holes as the paper passes under tension through the unit immediately following the printing of the stamps.

The Oliver Plunkett issue involved the use of the intaglio process in a one colour design, common to both values, and for reasons which will later become apparent, I set out in the first part of this article the printing details in respect of this issue before referring to the earlier Rugby stamps.

OLIVER PLUNKETT – 7p AND 15p

The intaglio (see below) cylinder comprises of seven panes of fifty stamps (5 x 10) i.e. one revolution printed 350 stamps. A gutter margin separated each pane. The original printer's sheet was 200 which was later guillotined into Post Office sheets of 100.

Intaglio process: Examination of the lettering and pane numbers under high magnification reveals a photo screen grid characteristic of a litho or photogravure process. Enquiries by my good friend Padraig O'Mathuna elicited the following information from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. Translating from the Irish – "We now know that the lettering was etched on the die used to prepare the printing plates. The lettering was not engraved as was the main design. This etching process gives a comb like effect to the letters resembling but not to be confused with the results achieved by screen grid and photogravure. It is a common practice today to etch the script on recess dies". – In the etching process a recess or canal is eaten into metal by acid. In engraving the recess is cut by hand using a chisel type instrument. Engraving is a line process where tones are obtained by extra criss-crossing lines. Etching is also a line process but not as sharp and can be extended by washes of acid to produce overall tones of colour in addition to the line.



Gutter strips of the 7p value showing two of the seven combinations (1 + 7) and (4 + 3). Note the reversed number on pane 7.

PANE NUMBERS

Each pane was numbered 1 through to 7. The 7 on the 7p pane was etched incorrectly and appears back to front on printed sheets. Post office sheets contained two panes of 50 stamps; this results, due to the odd number of seven, in seven possible combinations of panes within post office counter sheets. This can be best explained by the following table: —

Sheet	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Panes	7 6	5 4	3 2	1 7	6 5	4 3	2 1	7 6	5 4	3 2	1 7	6 5	4 3	2 1

If you write down the sheet numbers (each sheet of 100 stamps was numbered) together with the pane numbers as they came off the printing press, it highlights the seven possible combinations. The pane number appears in the bottom margin under stamp three of each pane i.e. the middle stamp. Cylinder block collectors therefore require corner blocks of six stamps for each pane number; giving a total of fourteen blocks, seven for each value. Assuming that all two million of the high value (15p) were issued for sale the maximum number of sets available would be 5,714 (2,000,000/350 i.e. 7 panes of 50). The number of complete sets is probably low. Furthermore if the collector requires each of the seven combinations in a gutter strip or block or corner blocks of each pane with left and right margin the maximum number would be halved yet again i.e. 2,857 (5,714/2).



Corner blocks of the 7p value from pane 5 with left and right margins. The block of six with left margin is from sheet number 060079.

SHEET NUMBERS

As mentioned above each post office sheet of 100 was serially numbered. This number usually appeared twice on each sheet (top and bottom margins). Its position can vary and in many instances they were lost due to trimming.



Gutter pairs of the 7p and 15p values with the autotron marks.

AUTOTRON MARK

A vertical bar appeared in the gutter margin and at left and right margins in horizontal row six. These autotron marks were for adjusting the registration accuracy of the printing unit. The marks in the left and right margins were halves of a full bar, (usually lost due to trimming).

PERFORATION

The perforation drum was of the same size as the printing cylinder and therefore perforated seven panes in a revolution. It is a characteristic of this perforator that one of the rows of pins has an extra pin top and bottom which produces an extra extension hole i.e. two instead of one in the margins of printed sheets. The purpose of this extra hole is to enable easier location of faulty pins and is therefore commonly referred to as a marker perforation hole. As both the perforating drum and printing cylinder are of the same diameter the extra holes appear on both values on Pane 2 throughout the printing. The respective positions are as illustrated below: -



Top Margin: Above R1/1



Bottom Margin: Below R10/1

In addition, note the bent perforation pin (arrowed) on the top left corner block from pane 2.

There is also a bent perforation pin on the same pane between stamps 1 and 2 on Row 1 i.e. same block. The bent pin results in the tenth pin down from the top margin appearing out of line (to the right) in relation to the other pins in the same vertical line. This bent pin also appears on both values thus proving that the same perforation unit was utilised for both values.

PAPER/GUM

The stamps were printed on unwatermarked fluorescent coated paper with PVA gum. Perforations 14 x 14%.

TO BE CONTINUED

—LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Further to Bill Kane's recent series of articles on registered envelopes I would like to make the following comments re the decimal issues (1971 - 78).

14p — Size G: This envelope also exists with fee of 1/3 in the reverse text i.e. pre-decimal stock.

17p: The first series of 17p envelopes with 10p fee in the reverse text only exists on sizes G and H. The K sized envelope was the last to appear (28 March 1974) and only exists with the correct 12p fee in the reverse text.

25p: Referring to the second entry under this value (pg. 11) there was no issue of scrim lined envelopes correcting the fee of 12p to 18p in the reverse text.

37p: The missing "FOR" error occurs on the Size H envelope (not G).

Since the completion of Bill Kane's excellent article two further items have been released. The current 37p envelopes on duplex manilla have been reprinted. The new envelopes have corrected the foreign compensation amount in the reverse text to £7.20. At present this only applies to Sizes G and H. No doubt Size K will be reprinted in due course. The maximum foreign compensation amount was increased from £6.35 to £7.20 on 1st April 1977 i.e. date of last increase in postal charges.

I wish to express my thanks to both Dr. Colin Ross and Fred Dixon for confirming the above information.

Yours sincerely,
Brian Warren,
Co. Dublin.



CORRECTION'S TO STAMPS OF IRELAND, 1979

- P2 Para 3 line 5 substitute fine for five
P21 9T notes, line 5 substitute low for row
P28 Substitute T75 for T15
P39 Dates of issue D60, D62 and D67 29.1.74.
P40 Date of issue Coil Strip 10 11 29.1.74
P42 Insert Original Coated Paper for Uncoated Paper.
P56 World Refugee Year Plate blocks of four
3d 1A 90p 1/3 1A £7.50
1B 90p 1B £7.50
P59 Tone Plate blocks of four
4d 1A £3 1/3 1A £16.00
1B £3 1B £16.00
P63 C105a Line Flaw (R18/6) not (R19/6)
C107a Line Flaw (R18/6) not (R19/6)
P67 Swift 3d Cyl. blocks of 6
3d 1111 80p
2111 £4
Var illustrated Insert
C125a for C124b
C125b for C125a
P71 Vars. C140a Short "1" in 1894 not 1844
P85 I.R.F.U. Gutter Pairs 4x not 3x Perf 14½ x 14
P89 Architecture 6p Colour check block 1.50 not 1.90
Plunkett Perf 14 x 14½
P105 Heading 1940 - 70 not 1940 - 65
P110 Insert PSE 11a 1978 5p yellow, stamp inverted
P112 Delete PSPC 10a
P113 PSLC 9 price 50p not 5.00
P114 PSAL 5 Insert 1970 for 1971

Nearly every philatelic collection contains a few postage due labels, but rarely one finds a specialised collection of postage dues. So, for those who wish to create a study off the beaten track, here is a theme worthy of consideration.

There are several philatelic interpretations of the words "Postage Due." The one I chose for this article is as follows.

"The amount of money the recipient has to pay the Post Office, before that person can have delivery of the letter or packet on which a charge has been raised."

"Postage Due" is as old as the Post Office itself, in the early days, the sender of a letter had the option of prepaying the postage, or sending the item unpaid. The postage in the latter instance being paid by the addressee. Many people chose the latter, as they thought it ensured safe delivery. An early form of registration as it were.

While some countries used postage due labels, as far back as 1889, these labels were not introduced into the United Kingdom until 1914. Prior to that date, handstamps were used to denote the amount of charge to be collected on delivery. It was not until 1925 that the Irish Post Office issued their first postage dues labels. The English labels were used in Ireland from 1914 to 1925.

Following the formation of the Universal Postal Union in 1874, and the settlement of International rates and regulations, it was only then that some order came to the postal agreements between countries.

Arising from those agreements, the regulations in connection with "Postage Dues" were many and varied. I now detail a few that are at the moment relevant.

Article III.: — The charge on unpaid letters shall be double the rate levied in the country of destination on prepaid letters"

This explains why we have to pay double the rate on an unpaid letter.

In the very early days, the rate of postage was applied in manuscript on letters and packets. The procedure was, if the sender paid the postage at the time of dispatch, the Post Office official endorsed the rate on the item in RED ink. This denoted the postage was paid. If the rate was applied in BLACK ink, then that amount was unpaid, and had to be collected from the addressee at the time of delivery. This also generally applied to handstamps, red ink being used for paid items, and black for unpaid. Even to date this principle is still in use.

It is of interest to note the word BLACK is quoted in an U.P.U. regulation for "Insufficient Prepayment."



Regulation V.:

1. "When an article shall be insufficiently prepaid by means of postage stamps, the despatching office shall indicate in figures, in black ink, placed by the side of the postage stamps, their total value. That value shall be expressed in francs and centimes."

The letter "T" is very common on letters on which a surcharge is raised. This comes from another U.P.U. regulation.

Regulation III. "Application of the Stamps."

2. "Unpaid or insufficiently paid correspondence shall, in addition be impressed with the stamp "T" (tax to be paid), the application of which shall devolve upon the office of the country of origin."
3. "Every postal packet which does not bear the stamp "T" shall be considered as paid to destination and treated accordingly, unless there be an obvious error."

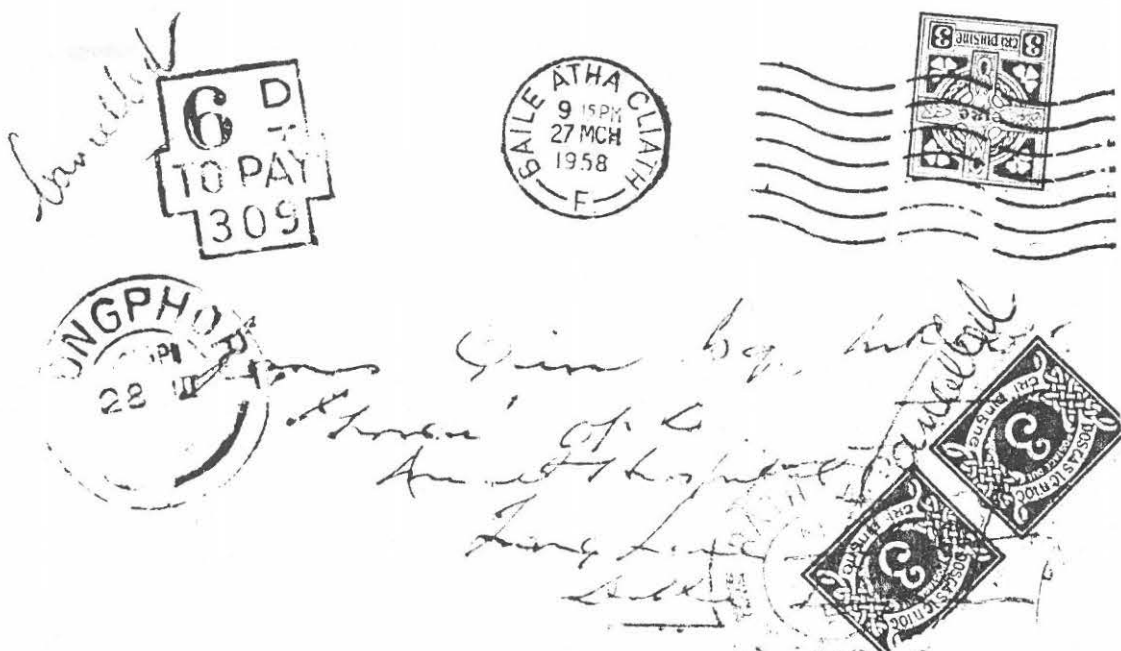
In an introductory article such as this is, it would be impossible to give detailed coverage of all aspects of the study of the Postage Due system. I can only highlight some facets, that gave me great enjoyment, both in the search and acquisition.

With regard to the labels themselves, look out for items, where because of the fact that there was a shortage of certain values of the P. D. labels, normal stamps were used instead of the postage due labels. Also, watch for items, where surcharges were raised in error, and vice versa. For instance where surcharges should have been applied, but overlooked. Some funny items exist in this category.

A SERIES OF ERRORS

A 1958 cover posted in Dublin, with a local address, was missorted to LONGFORD, here for some unknown or accountable reason, a surcharge was raised.

On the 28th March the LONGFORD framed 6d. to pay with the numeral "309," also the Longford C.D.S. were applied. (The postage rate at that time being 3d. for a letter.) The letter was then returned to Dublin. When it arrived at Rathmines D. O. the office of delivery for Long Lane, Dublin, on the 29th March '58, the clerk there complied with the instruction as per the surcharge, and applied the postage due adhesives to the value of 6d. Upon delivery, the addressee questioned the reason for the surcharge, and accordingly in due course it was cancelled. Delivery was then made, several days late. The result of a series of errors, that is hard to account for.



Here is an excellent example illustrating the directive issued by the British Post Office in a document dated 26th April '22.

"BRITISH STAMPS ON POSTAL PACKETS FROM THE IRISH REPUBLIC"

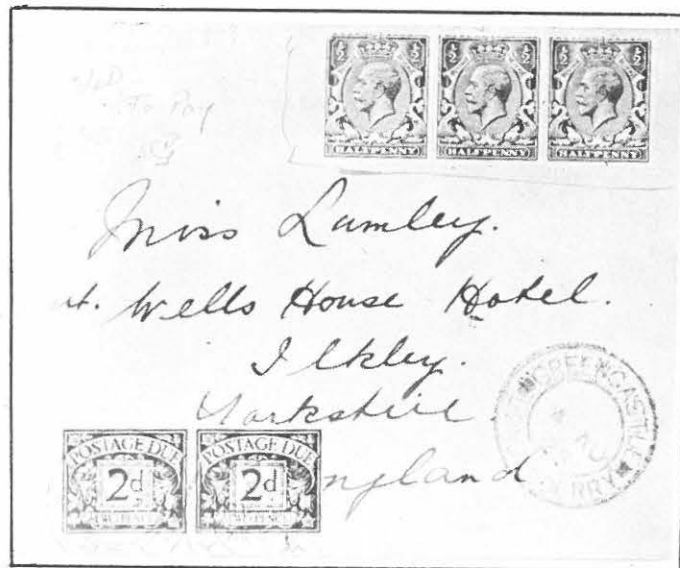
"When letters etc. from places in the Irish Free State are received marked for surcharge because they are prepaid in British stamps not overprinted for use in the Irish Free State, allowance should be made, when the charge is collected for the British stamps which they bear; and these stamps should be obliterated before delivery,"

For instance, on a letter bearing a twopenny British stamp and surcharged 4d. as unpaid, only 2d. should be collected, allowance being made for the British stamp.

No charge should be made or collected on delivery unless the letter has been marked for taxation by the Post Office of the Irish Free State.



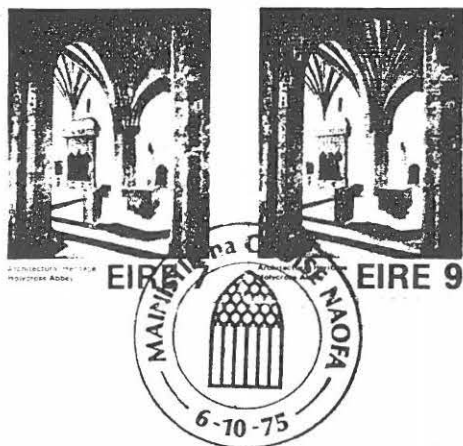
A letter posted in TRAMORE on the 17th March '23 addressed to LONDON, and franked with two British 1d. non-overprinted stamps. The postal official at Tramore would not accept same as valid prepayment and accordingly surcharged the letter. Manuscript 4d. in the top left hand corner. On arrival at the office of delivery, Paddington Post Office, London the clerk there accepted the 2d. British stamps as per the above ruling, and changed the 4 to 2d. in manuscript.



On the other hand here is a letter posted in GREENCASTLE/LONDONDERRY on 4th August '25 bearing three ½d. British non-overprinted stamps. At that time County Londonderry was part of Northern Ireland and one would assume that non-overprinted stamps would be the correct method for paying the postage. However, the Greencastle Post Office did not accept them and raised a surcharge of 4d. In actual fact what happened was correct. Greencastle is in County Donegal and part of the Southern Ireland administration. Prior to 1922, this office was under the authority of the Londonderry office. As the handstamp was not changed at that time, and so was a misleading postmark.

Sometimes post office clerks raised an incorrect postage rate, to overcome this, Inspectors were employed in the General Post Office, Dublin, to check letters passing through, and when under paid letters were noted, the Inspector applied a special handstamp in the shape of either a Crown or a Star, which cancelled the incorrect rate struck in the first instance, and he then applied the correct charge.

TO BE CONTINUED



ARCHITECTURE 1975

7p and 9p on official F.D.C. from Holy-cross £2.50.



CHRISTMAS 1976

We have recently acquired some copies of good shade difference on the 7p.

A Blue green, and an orange. We can offer subject unsold.

Singles (per pair) £1.50.
Blocks of four (per pair) £6.00.
Marginal blocks of four (per pair) £7.00.
Corner blocks of four (per pair) £10.00.



Mr. T. Hamilton of Sligo has kindly submitted details re the varieties he has found on the 1978 Christmas 10p value.

- A Row 1/2 L.H.S. Vertical Line.
- B 4/10 Cross Eyes (Virgin).
- C 5/2 L.H.S. Vertical Line.
- D 5/3 White Hair Spot.
- E 6/7 Black Hair and White Nose.
- F 6/9 Dot over Baby's Eye.
- G 7/6 10 Distort.
- H 8/7 Wrinkle Below Right Eye.
- I 8/8 Nose Pimple.
- J 9/8 L.H.S. Vertical Line.
- K 9/9 White Stars at Top.



1972 WORLD HEALTH

2½p variety "Joined Perforation" (this variety occurs vertically between rows 7 and 8).

Vertical pair £2.00.
Marginal block of four £5.00.
Corner block of eight £7.00.

A recent purchase enables us to offer our readers at keen prices, subject unsold.

STAMPEX 1979



The David Feldman Ltd. stand.



Illustrated here is an oddity — the yellow vignette on the envelope reads FIRST HELICOPTER MAIL 1957. The stamp is cancelled in blue — violet by an unrecognisable design. The cover did not pass through the general post. Any of you airmail buffs able to help?



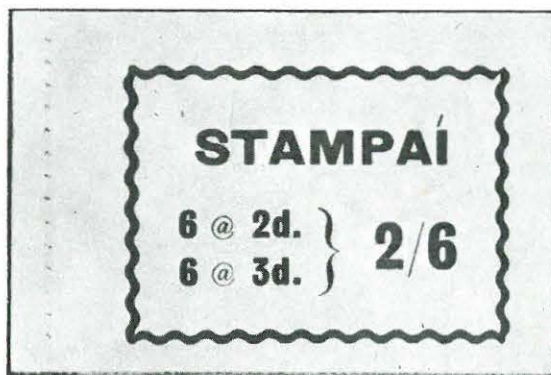
Specimen

1948-49 AIRMAIL SPECIMENS

Few instances of Irish stamps overprinted SPECIMEN have been recorded, as stamps sent to the UPU for record purposes were not marked in any way. However, on odd occasions such as an exhibition or for souvenir purposes, stamps have been known to have been overprinted thus.

About three years ago, a small number of Airmail 1d, 3d, 6d and 1/- overprinted "Specimen" in italic sans-serif type either red or black appeared on the market. It seems that about 120 of each were overprinted, ostensibly for use on commemorative cards on occasions when an event of importance to Irish aviation was held. One instance was a VIP lunch at the official opening of Shannon Airport.

It seems that about eighty of the 120 overprinted were stuck on these commemorative cards. Few of the latter have survived.



1966 2/6 BOOKLET

Recently discovered with the 2d and 3d panes reversed. Has any reader got a similar booklet or can report any other booklet with panes reversed.

THOM SAORSTAT PROOF



Illustrated is a proof on buff wove paper of the Thom 3 line blue black overprint. Few of these have been recorded and we would appreciate hearing from anyone who has examples or can supply details.



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