

D.F. Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 35 Summer 1979
HOUSE JOURNAL OF
DAVID FELDMAN LTD. DUBLIN



In 1773 Dublin was privileged with cheap postage. Within city limits, letters up to 4 oz. could be sent for one penny. The following year the service was extended a few miles outside the city. For this extended country service an extra penny was charged. On prepaid letters the chief office used a special GENERAL PENNY POST OFFICE/2 PENNY PAID handstamp. Few examples of this handstamp have survived.

BY SUBSCRIPTION

D.F. Newsletter

EDITORIAL

Strikes are part of modern life, and most people generally view them with a pinch of salt. But, occasionally there occurs a strike which affects a whole country, putting businesses to the wall and causing widespread hardship. There was much rejoicing in this island at the news that our 19 week long Post dispute had ended.

13,000 postmen, sorters, telephonists and Post Office clerks were involved in the strike. Other Government departments refused to allow collection of letters normally sent by mail, holding this correspondence pending settlement of the dispute. The strike was for a pay raise, and while nobody disagreed that the Post delivery men were underpaid, the Government found it difficult to grant increases to the whole department for two reasons — they would be breaking their own anti-inflation pay guidelines and secondly, the rest of the Civil Service would immediately seek similar increases. This would be bad news in the face of near excessive Public Sector borrowings in the last few years.

The Strike was one of the most prolonged and disruptive in the countrys' history. Large and small businesses lost considerable sums, the tourist industry suffered a great loss, and those areas outside the STD system were virtually cut off. The Inland Revenue was unable to collect taxes. Electricity bills remained unpaid and even the national broadcasting network had to foreclose on future projects because they could not collect licence fees. Ireland was to act as host to the E.E.C. when meeting in Dublin in July. It was difficult to see how this country could cope with the influx of international officials without a postal service and a much reduced telephone system.

The dispute was finally settled on June 25th, but it was announced that it would take several weeks for systems to return to normal.

DMacD.

1979 ISSUES

	Date of Issue (Provisional)	Denomination (Provisional)
World Cross Country Championships		8p
First Direct Elections to the European Parliament	20 August	10p, 11p
Sir Rowland Hill — Centenary of death.		17p
Fauna and Flora	30 August	8p, 10p, 11p, 17p
International Year of the Child	13 September	10p, 11p, 17p
Hospitaller Order of St. John of God — Centenary of arrival in Ireland	4 October	8p
Contemporary Irish Art		10p
Energy Conservation		11p
Patrick Pearse — Centenary of birth	10 November	12p
Christmas	15 November	9½p, 20p
Europa	6 December	10p, 11p

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Philatelic Circle was held at the St. Georges Hotel, Liverpool during the weekend of May 26th and 27th, 1979.

Officers and Committee elected for 1979-1980 were: —

- President: M. Leonard.
 Vice Presidents: Dr. J. A. Quigley, Dr. B. de Burca, Col. B. B. Zellars.
 Treasurer: J. O. Marsden.
 Auctions: W. Stevens.
 Committee: A. L. Stokes, P.H. Williams, Dr. V.W.D. Hale, J.A.C. Munro, J. Hearn, M. Freyer.
 Secretaries: W. Stevens, O. M. Richards,
 Area General P.J. Smithers, H.K. Jamieson, 3 Cleves Way, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2PL.
 Editor: O.M. Richards.
 Auditor: B. Warren.

During the proceedings adjudication for the Thomas E. Field Awards were made as follows: —

- General Philately: Dr. C. I. Dulin, P.H.
 Postal History Williams. Joint 1st Miss N. K. Wright, O. M. Richards. Joint 1st.
 Thematic: Miss N. K. Wright.
 Literature: E. Fitzgerald and B. Warren for their Handbook on the Gerl Definitives.

The Stamp Monthly Award, donated by Stanley Gibbons Magazines Ltd., was awarded to Dr. C. I. Dulin.



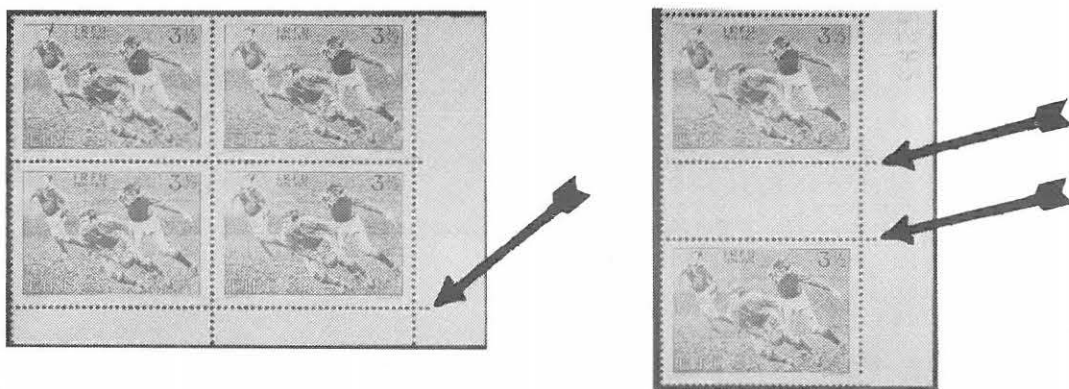
2/- Booklet Serial 26-44

The existence of this particular serial number of the 1941-48 2/- booklet was doubted recently by a leading Irish specialist. No definite report of its existing could be found.

By courtesy of Jean Duson of Belgium, we reproduce above an illustration of the 26-44 in his collection. The advertising is as follows — inside front Irish Assurance, first interleaf Kennedy's bread and National, second interleaf Postal weight and blank, inside back Paten & Co. Ltd.

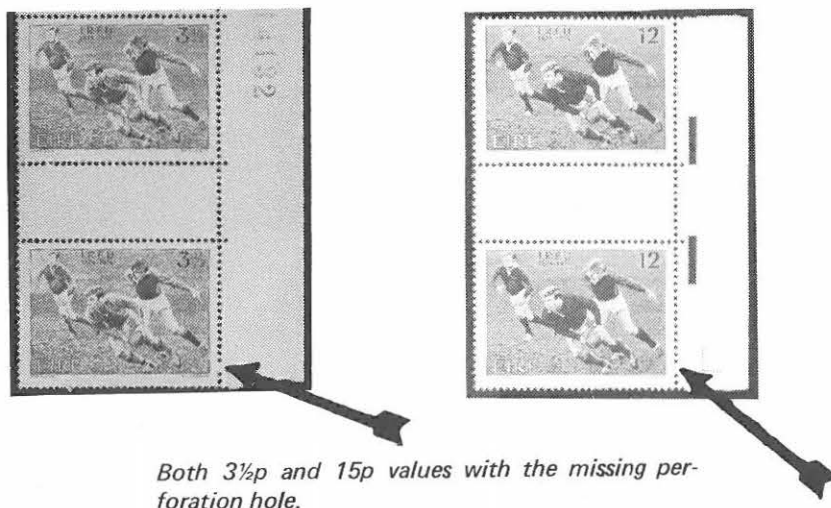
PERFORATION

In this instance the two extra extension holes appeared together on the same side of the sheet. The extra holes are placed above and below the right-hand gutter margin as illustrated. However due to the odd number of panes (i.e. 7), the extra holes can be split when the master sheet is guillotined resulting in top right or bottom right corner blocks with the extra extension hole. The positioning of both marker pins on the same side of the perforating drum is unusual for "Jumelle" printings.



Marker perforation holes at gutter (twice) and bottom right corner.

Missing Pin: A broken pin resulting in a missing perforation hole occurs on both the 3½p and 12p values. The occurrence of the missing perforation on both values proves that the same perforation drum was used in each case. The missing hole is situated in the right margin beside R1/10 of a pane of 50. Note the variety can occur at top right or just below the gutter, once again due to the odd number of seven panes.



Both 3½p and 15p values with the missing perforation hole.



Comparison of first (light) and second (dark) printings.

3½p VALUE – 2nd PRINTING

A second recess cylinder was brought into use for the low value. The deeper engraving of the second cylinder resulted in a very distinguishable darker shade. Some writers have put forward the theory that there was only one cylinder and that the two shades were a result of wearing of the cylinder causing the original deep colour to gradually become lighter. This is incorrect; apart from the absence of intermediary shades, sheets of the deeper shade have a higher serial number indicating that these sheets came at the end of the printing warrant of twelve million stamps (120,000 sheets).

The marker perforation pins and the missing perforation hole should also exist on sheets of the second printing although the author has not as yet seen examples of same.



12p VALUE

The high value was the first Irish stamp combining both the intaglio (recess) and photogravure printing methods. The intaglio cylinder comprised of seven panes of fifty stamps as explained above whilst the four photogravure cylinders (blue, red, tan and green) printed four panes of fifty stamps in one revolution (i.e. ratio of 7 : 4), giving a total of twenty-eight recess/photo combinations. The difficulty of combining both methods was evident in misalignment of the photogravure colours with the underlying recess design.

The four photogravure panes result in two different post office sheets of one hundred stamps each divided into two panes of fifty. This is akin to dot and no dot sheets of British special issues printed on the Jumelle press. In respect of the 12p rugby stamp no cylinder numbers were present on the cylinder but even in their absence the two sheets can be differentiated – Sheets A and B, by reference to the sheet markings. The relevant positions and explanations re. the sheet markings follow: –



Sheet A — Top right corner block showing colour register crosses.

Colour Register Crosses: They appear twice on each sheet and fulfill the function their name suggests.

Sheet A — opposite rows 1/2 of top pane, both margins.

Sheet B — opposite rows 1/2 of bottom pane, both margins.



Gutter block showing both traffic lights and auto-tron marks.

Autotron Marks: Horizontal bars of colour, one for each of the four colours used to print the stamp. They are intended to provide an electronic check on colour registration during printing. They appear opposite rows 2/4 of sheet B. In addition there is a blue bar in the gutter together with a black intaglio bar in vertical column 4 of both sheets. These additional bars were for adjusting the registration of the intaglio cylinder in relation to the photogravure unit. The top and bottom margin marks are halves of a full box (i.e. sheet guillotined).



Top left corner of sheet B showing the four photo-gravure autotron marks opposite rows 2 to 4.



Perforation register mark — note that the horizontal row of perforations are out of line!

Perforation Register Mark: The mark consists of a thick bar opposite rows 3/4 of the right margin of the top pane of sheet B. The bar is a means for checking the registration of the perforations.

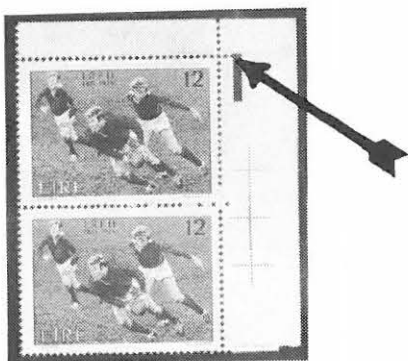


Traffic light block with quality control mark (arrowed).

Traffic Lights: This term is used to denote the coloured check squares used as a means for checking sheets for missing colours before delivery to the Post Office. The four boxed colour blocks (blue, red, tan, green) appear opposite row 4 in the right margin of both sheets. In addition they also appear in the gutter margin of both sheets in vertical column 2.

Quality Control Marks: They were introduced for checking the accuracy of the carbon tissue process before etching. These vertical bars occur opposite rows 1 and 5 in both margins of each pane and on both sheets A and B giving a total of eight marks per sheet.

The presence of the autotron marks on sheet B is the most distinguishable difference between both sheets.



Top right corner of sheet A with extra marker extension hole.

PERFORATION

The sheets were perforated in a similar manner as the low value. As indicated earlier the same perforating drum was used as the missing pin variety occurs on both values. The double marker perforations are also present but are difficult to illustrate as the extra second hole overlaps the quality control mark.

PAPER/GUM

The stamps were printed on unwatermarked fluorescent coated paper with PVA gum. Perforations $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14$.

CONCLUSION

Harrisons printing quality was poor in respect of both issues. This was best evidenced by minor varieties colour shifts and smears of colour. The author would be interested to obtain details from fellow collectors of details of sheet numbers of any sheets/blocks of the Rugby issues with the marker perforations or the missing perforation hole indicating position of same. It may then be possible to determine the appropriate pane numbers. All correspondence c/o The Editor. I also wish to express thanks to the following who assisted me in writing this article — Pádraig Ó'Mathúna for his helpful information in regard to the cylinders used for the Plunkett issue, Paddy Smithers who first identified the mathematical proof re. Rugby re-entry variety and his permission for reproducing the information published in December 1975 edition of "Irish Philately" and to Eddie FitzGerald, Declan O'Kelly, Ian Whyte, Michael Giffney and Gwyn Bennett for their continuing help and assistance.

BRIAN WARREN

INSPECTORS' CROWNS, and STARS

The postage rates specified different charges according to whether letters were made up of single or double sheets of paper. Sometimes people sent a double sheet letter, but only paid for a single sheet. Furthermore, the stringent regulations in relation to FREE FRANKS (1707 to 1840) called for continuous examination to detect fraud in any way. This gave rise for the need and usage of special marks which were applied to letters examined by the Inspectors or Officers detailed for examination of letters suspected in any way of contravening the regulations.

These distinctive marks took the form of either a crown or a star, hence the terms, "Inspector's Crown" and "Inspector's Star."

The first Inspector's Crown appeared in 1703, comprising a small plain circle, this type remained in use in various sizes till about 1813.

Marks containing the letters "GR" (Georgius Rex) in the crown were introduced in 1756. Other types followed in 1813, showing the date in centre, and a code letter above. Between 1815 and 1829 two further types were in use with a single letter forming the middle of the crown, and the other without a letter.



The Inspector's Stars were in use from 1827 to 1840, the earlier types being plain, while the later types showed a code letter in centre of the stamp. The plain types used on letters, where for some reason the Frank had been disallowed, whereas the types with codes (ranging from A to H) were applied to letters which the Inspectors found incorrectly charged.



MORE TO PAY

Many varied and interesting marks were used by the Irish Post Office for instructional purposes. First introduced in 1836, these marks were used by Officials who inspected letters for underpayment, and to indicate change of charges, etc. All these marks were used at Dublin. The octagonal framed mark in various sizes, with the words "MORE/TO/PAY" in three lines, with either crosses or stars on either side of the word "TO" were the early types. A variety without stars or crosses came into use during 1839. Another type without the octagonal frame can also be found, on this top line is curved outwards.

The single ring 'MORE/TO/PAY' is recorded on a cover posted at Dublin to Uxbridge in 1848, the 1d. red stars, imperf was tied by the Dublin Numeral '186' and the surcharge 2d. in manuscript beside the handstamp.

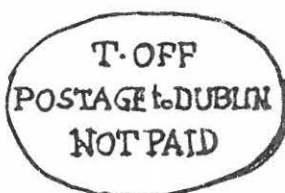
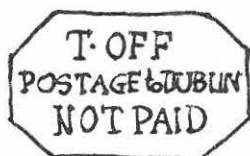


RE-CHARGED

Two rare handstamps used about 1835 are "CORRECTLY CHARGED" and "RE-CHARGED." The first was applied to letters examined and found to be correctly charged in the first instance, and the straight — line RE-CHARGED was applied to letters on which the postal charge was changed.



T-OFF



An interesting series of unpaid marks incorporating the abbreviation "T.OFF" was in use from 1813 to 1819. Over the years there have been several theories advanced regarding the interpretation of "T.OFF," but it is now generally agreed that it represents "Treasurers Office."

At the time these marks were in use, the Irish Post Office personnel list included a Treasurer. It is considered that this officer's duties would include recording money due on forwarded mail, which was then transferred from his accounts to those of other offices. The handstamps were applied to letters that had been redirected, and denoted that the addressee had to pay the postage incurred to Dublin, in addition to any other charges arising.

The earliest marks showed simply "T.OFF" with or without a frame. A dated type in a rectangular frame is recorded as being used in 1816. Two three-line undated types are found, one with an oval frame and the other with an oblong octagonal frame. The period of usage extends from 1813 to 1819.

24 NO 24
POSTAGE to DUBLIN
NOT PAID

*Postage to
Dublin
not paid*

POSTAGE
NOT PAID
TO DUBLIN



"NOT PAID"

Dublin used a number of special marks to indicate that the postage had not been paid. A three-line unframed type, showing the day and the month, but not the year, is recorded for 1820. Two styles of undated, unframed stamps, showing the wording "POSTAGE TO/DUBLIN/NOT PAID." One in Italics and the other in small capital letters, with the top and bottom lines curved. In 1828 a more simple form appeared showing POSTAGE/NOT PAID in an oval frame. A fancy type showing "POSTAGE to DUBLIN/NOT PAID" appeared in 1829 generally with a date in two lines, but sometimes without any date at all.

POST OFFICE REGULATIONS.

On and after the 10th January,
a Letter not exceeding **half an ounce**
in weight, may be sent from any part
of the United Kingdom, to any other part,
for **One Penny**, if paid when posted, or
for **Twopence** if paid when delivered.

THE SCALE OF RATES,

If paid when posted, is as follows, for all Letters, whether sent
by the General or by any Local Post,

Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ Ounce **One Penny.**

Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ Ounce, but not exceeding 1 Ounce, .. **Twopence.**

Ditto 1 Ounce **2 Ounces Fourpence.**

Ditto 2 Ounces **3 Ounces Sixpence.**

and so on; an additional Two-pence for every additional Ounce.
With but few exceptions, the Weight is limited to Sixteen Ounces.

*If not paid when posted, double the above Rates are charged on
Inland Letters.*

COLONIAL LETTERS.

If sent by Packet Twelve Times, if by Private Ship Eight Times, the
above Rates.

FOREIGN LETTERS.

The Packet Rates which vary, will be seen at the Post Office. The
Ship Rates are the same as the Ship Rates for Colonial Letters.

As regards Foreign and Colonial Letters, there is no limitation as to
weight. All sent outwards, with a few exceptions, which may be learnt at
the Post Office, must be paid when posted as heretofore.

Letters intended to go by Private Ship must be marked "*Ship Letter.*"

Some arrangements of minor importance, which are omitted in this
Notice, may be seen in that placarded at the Post Office.

No Articles should be transmitted by Post, which are liable to injury,
by being stamped, or by being crushed in the Bags.

It is particularly requested that all Letters may be *fully and legibly*
addressed, and *posted as early as convenient.*

January 7th, 1810.

By Authority, — J. Barnes, London.

1840 Post Office regulations

A large, stylized, hand-drawn number '2' with a decorative swirl at the top.

Handstruck 2

1840, UNIFORM PENNY POST

The regulations in connection with the Uniform Penny Post rate in 1840 stated that "on and after the 10th January a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight may be sent from any part of the United Kingdom, to any other part, for One Penny, if paid when posted, or from Twopence if paid when delivered." Many people still preferred to pay for letters on receipt, even though it cost twice as much. Dublin used a handstruck "2" in connection with this service. This is another instance of Postage Due.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

On May 24th of this year The Irish Philatelic Circle were honoured to be the guests of the Royal Philatelic Society of London at a special Irish display put on by the I.P.C. This was one of the finest assemblies of Irish material ever on show in the world with fifty-two full frames covering all aspects of Irish Philately. The quality, knowledge and coverage displayed was of particularly high order and was thoroughly appreciated by all who were present.

On show was G.B. (more correctly U.K.) used in Ireland with Mulreadies, Penny Blacks and a fine variety of Irish cancellations including the famous Mullingar Cross. There were essays with some of the better known designs and indeed some which had not been seen for many years. Revenues included essays and die proofs and considerable interest was aroused by the deep study of the Dog Licence Stamps. Newspaper stamps were also represented in great detail. The fine display of registered mail, postage dues and travelling post offices, included many interesting cover and pieces showing a fine range of usages.

The lover of overprints was not disappointed as there was an extensive display of both low values and Seahorses. Many major varieties were shown including a Runnals re-entry used, one of the few known. A study of the plating of the low values was illustrated superbly. Amongst the very unusual items were a unique block of the red proof on the ½d – a gutter block of eight; a postally used cover of the same proof tied with a 1½d Thom; and a control block of thirty of the Thom 2d Die II with inverted overprint. Another unusual display was a marvellous study of the development and disappearance of the circumflex accent on the wide date 2/6.

An attractive range of commemoratives was shown with varieties illustrated by means of water colour enlargements. The study of the Holy head and Kingstown packet was particularly interesting with what appeared to be a complete range of the handstamps used between 1860 and 1925.

Depth and detail was indeed not lacking in the special display of the 3d Photogravures with coil leaders and cylinders I and II of the sheet printings etc. Definitives showed the various designs, watermarks, gums and shades from 1922 to 1970.

The story of the Irish troubles showed a variety of covers highlighting the Irish stamps used during the Post Office Strike of 1922 and there was also a variety of Prisoner of War, Field Post Office and Censor covers.

A good variety of Airmail covers were on show with special emphasis on the Liverpool/Belfast special flights.

The display of the Ballymacclinton Exhibition provoked great interest with a superb range of postmarks and postcards used from the exhibition and many viewers were amazed with the detail in the displays. For the Historian there was a lovely display of historical letters including some letters from A.E. Balfour, Sir Edward Carson and many more. Concluding the exhibition decorated envelopes included printed company stationery to private hand-drawn covers with an ocean penny post envelope and a cover that came from the Dublin Exhibition of 1853.

Special thanks should go to Dr. B. DeBurca, H.K. Jamieson and Bill Kane whose long hours of preparation helped to make this an enjoyable occasion.

D. O'Kelly.



Waterford Stamp and Coin Fair 1979



Collectorex 1979

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