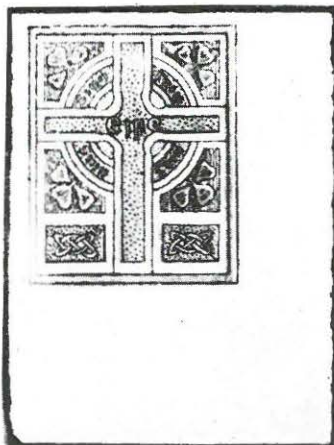


D.F. Newsletter

VOL. 2 NO. 37 WINTER 1979
HOUSE JOURNAL OF
DAVID FELDMAN LTD., DUBLIN



THE SINN FEIN CELTIC CROSS
LABELS 1907-1916



See article page 3.

By Subscription

D.F. Newsletter

EDITORIAL

Perhaps it is with a little trepidation that some of us view the new decade. Industrial and political unrest are becoming the main items of interest for the daily newspapers. This uncertainty about future events has apparently led to a renewed interest in more relaxing activities. The world of philately at present is experiencing a strong influx of new adherents. So much so, that in our island we can see the hobby as becoming much more of a social activity than in past times. A good thing too, as collective interest can be quite stimulating.

A new set of Definitives is planned for either 1980 or 1981 as yet no details have been announced. We recommend that the Collectors make sure they fill any gaps they have on the Gerl definitives including sheet stamps, coils, booklet panes and booklets, these are sure to increase in value once demand hardens.

1980 STAMP PROGRAMME

Centenary of De La Salle Order

Europa

Fauna and Flora (3rd Series)

Irish Music and Dance

Centenary of birth of Sean O'Casey

Irish Art

Christmas

The one-time demand for G.B. gutter pairs seems to have passed, whereas the demand for Irish gutter pairs has increased tremendously in the last year.

Another section in Irish Philately showing good potential is cylinder and plate blocks which in time a collector has a good possibility of completing, some of the older issues are now proving hard to acquire.

We are planning to visit the Sydpex '80 exhibition in Sydney (Sept 29 — Oct 6) and look forward to meeting new friends and renewing old acquaintances.

It is our pleasure in wishing all our customers a very Happy New Year.

D. O'K.

Date of Issue

Denomination

Mar 19

12p

May 7

12p, 13p

July 3

10p, 12p
13p, 20p

Aug 21

9½p, 12p,
20p

Oct 23

12p

Oct 23

20p

Nov 13

9½p, 12p,
20p

BOTH DATES AND DENOMINATIONS ARE STILL PROVISIONAL

THE SINN FEIN CELTIC CROSS LABELS 1907-1916

The Sinn Fein movement was started in Ireland by Arthur Griffiths in October 1902, as a successor to the Irish Republican Brotherhood. This new organisation was more active than the previous, and fought for an independent parliament for Ireland.

To promote ideals of the movement, propaganda labels were prepared and issued with the intention of being used on members' correspondence. Members were urged not to answer letters which did not bear the "stamps". The "Stamps" were printed in two designs — one motif showing a Celtic Cross with the legend "Eire", the other showing a female figure and harp over a wolfhound with the legend "Sinn Fein/Eire". Both designs are thought to have been printed by Messrs. Alex Thom. Mr. Seamus Whelan of 17 Ormond Quay, Dublin, was a distributor of the labels. The Celtic Cross type was designed by Lily Williams.

There are two distinct types of the female and harp design:

I: Tall face, broad crown at NW, hound sitting up, clear lettering.

II: Short face, narrow crown, squat hound, unclear lettering.

However, some mystery surrounds the types and dates of the Celtic Cross design. This exists in two colours: Blue and Black; and Green and Black. Furthermore two types are noted:

I: Narrow cross, small "Eire".

II: Broad Cross, large "Eire", lower ornaments modified.



Type I: Narrow Cross

Type II: Broad Cross

Type I: NARROW CROSS

Two colours have been seen.

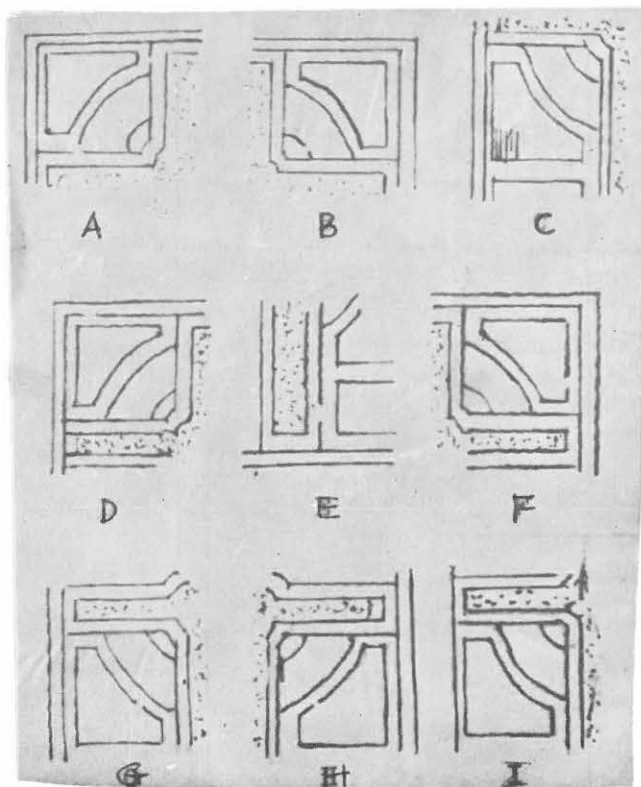
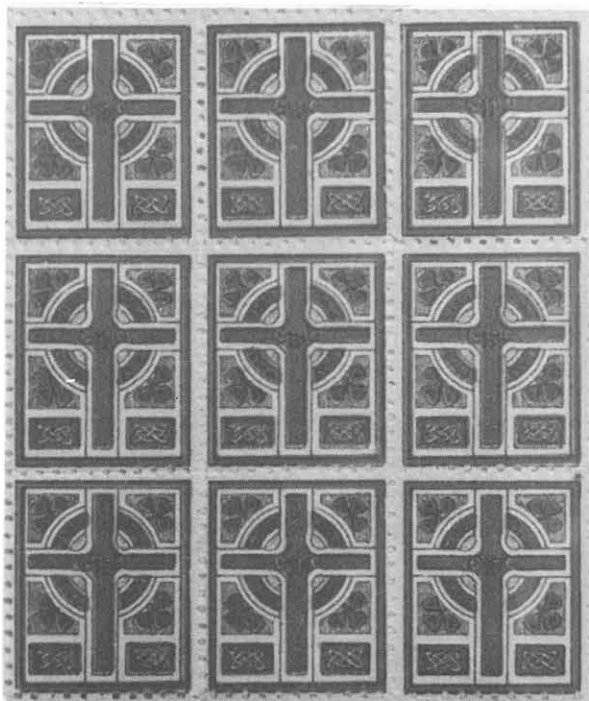
- a. Black and Green. Recorded perf 11 and rouletted. Sheets of 50 (10x5). There are 9 Transfer types, printed from a lithographic plate entirely different to the broad cross. The printing is quite clear. Gummed paper.

A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	C
D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F	F
G	H	I	G	H	I	G	H	I	I
A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	D
D	E	F?	D	E	F	D	E	F	G

The setting of the nine transfers in the sheet of 50. Stamp 43 appears to be a repaired Type F.

Compiled from the examination of reconstructed complete well overlapping sheet, blocks and singles.

It is evident that there was an earlier printing, clear sharp impressions in light blue green from the same transfer. Transfers in virgin condition. Insufficient material so far prevents the determination of this setting.



The nine transfer types are:

- A — In NW, central curved line does not join with horizontal, break in vertical 2mm from top.
- B — In NE, short central curved line is broken near bottom.
- C -- In SW shamrock segment, break in vertical at bottom 1mm from left.
- D -- Top inner frame has break 2mm from left.
- E — Outer right lower outline of cross has small break 2mm from bottom.
- F — NE Shamrock segment has break in right vertical 1mm from bottom.
- G — Break in curved outline, 1mm from bottom in SW shamrock segment.
- H — Break in curved outline, 2mm from bottom in SE shamrock segment.
- I — Dot in left lower white margin of cross 1mm from centre.

Stamp 43 apparently has been repaired and so does not show all the typical transfer flaws of Type F.

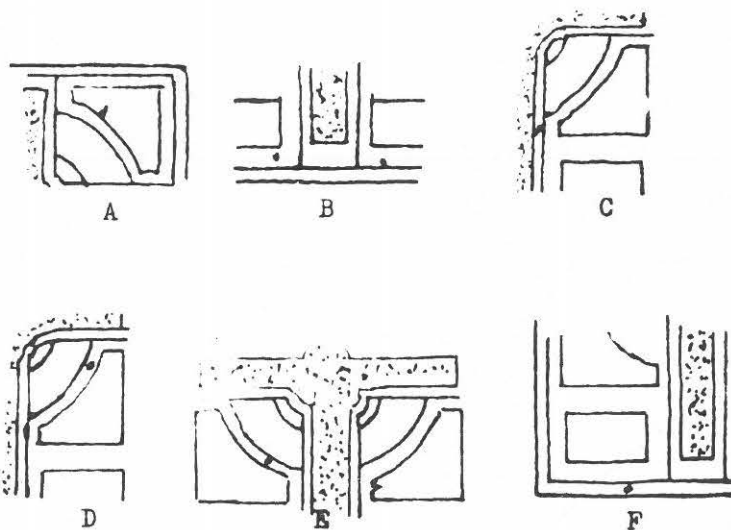
- b. Black and Blue. Only recorded imperforate and it is thought to be of proof status. Printing, transfer and setting details are similar to the aforementioned.

Type II: BROAD CROSS

1916 — Celtic Cross Propaganda Label..(Broad Cross)

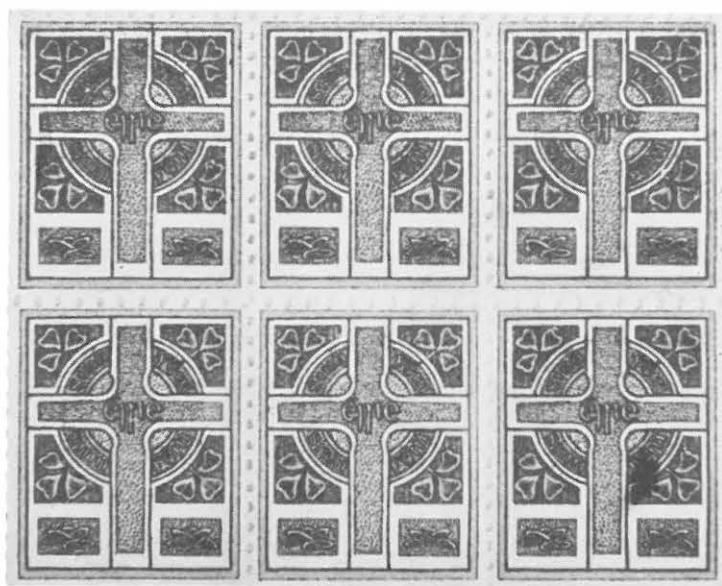
Lithographed in black and dark blue green from old worn transfers giving a heavy and blurred impression; sheets of 72 (8x9) line perf. 11.

- a. Black and Pale Blue. Recorded perf 11 and rouletted. Apparently there are six transfer types. I have not seen a complete sheet to establish size or setting. Lithographed: impression is flatter than the Narrow Cross Type. Gummed paper.



6 Transfer types:—

- A — White nick in background of NE Shamrock segment below left leaf.
- B — Dot below right lower corner of left lower oblong and dot nearly on lower inner frame 5mm from right; semicircular line at top of Cross in white margin. (not always visible).
- C — Diagonal line across lower white margin of cross on right, 6mm from bottom. Extension of curved central line in SW to touch W arm of Cross. (late).
- D — Break in right lower outline of cross where it joins curve at top; Dot in white curved margin of SE shamrock segment.
- E — Nick in top left of SE shamrock segment; dot in white curve of SW segment. Square break in background bottom right of NW shamrock segment.
- F — Small dot below lower inner frame 6mm from left.



The Six Transfer Types

- b. Black and Blue. Recorded perf. 11. Apparently using the same six transfers as the previous. Sheets of 72 (8x9) but different setting. Gummed paper.

A	B	A	B	C	A	B	C
D	E	D	E	F	D	E	F
B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F
A	B	A	B	C	A	B	C
D	E	D	E	F	D	E	F
C	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
F	F	D	E	F	D	E	F
A	B	A	B	C	D	E	F

The setting of the six transfers in the sheet of 72.

Commentary

These labels are of special interest as they formed the basis for the designs of 3d and 10d values of the 1922-37 definitive series. Their use on letters provoked considerable reaction, not least from the Post Office, who saw fit to issue this notice.

Official Notice regarding use of Labels.

USE OF LABELS RESEMBLING POSTAGE STAMPS

THE practice has recently been adopted by some persons of affixing to the covers of letters adhesive labels, somewhat resembling postage stamps, which are used for advertising or other purposes. Although these labels are obviously not issued with any intention of defrauding the revenue, their use on postal packets, especially when they are placed on the address side, causes embarrassment to the offices of the Post Office, and gives rise to delay in the treatment of other correspondence. In these circumstances, the Postmaster General has deemed it necessary to issue instructions that, after the 31st of July, any letter or other packet observed in the post bearing on the front a private label in any way resembling a postage stamp shall be returned to the sender.

By Command of the Postmaster General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
21st July 1908.

1908-1916 — Celtic Cross Sinn Fein Propaganda Label.

Forgery?

Lithographed in black and dark blue green on thick hard white wove paper.

Rouletted 7.

Size 19½ x 23½ mm, the same as the original in green, narrow cross.

Appears to be a mixture of the two types, narrow and broad cross.

Broad cross with extensive dotted shading.

EIRE in centre has very short IR, E's have horizontal cross strokes.

Shamrocks in corners differ from either type, more rounded.

Twisted curls in lower rectangles similar to narrow cross type.

It is not clear when either two types were issued, or for how long they were used. The broad cross type has been seen postally used in 1907, 1908, 1909, 1916 and 1922. I do not know of any of the narrow cross used on original entire. It has been suggested that the narrow cross type is a late reprint of the broad cross to meet a renewed interest in the original stamps that were unobtainable. This would not seem likely considering the spread of use of the broad cross type. Dr. Stafford-Johnson notes in 1942 that "for the present . . . it is better to consider them as being merely reproductions of the original design". What further complicates the issue is the apparent scarcity of the narrow cross, as against the broad type which is relatively common.

Another curio is a type which conforms to neither already described. It is lithographed on wove paper, perf. 7. It is unusual in that it combines a broad cross with a small Eire. The shamrocks in the angles are of a different shape to either type. The size is similar, and the printing method also. It has been suggested that this may be forgery.



A Curious type. Forgery?

In conclusion, it would appear that these stamps offer the interested student much scope for study. It would be worthwhile, I feel, to chronicle the dates of use of the various types and colours, to help establish an original issue date and period of usage. Then there is the question of the setting of the Broad Cross. I am sure that if some lucky person possesses a complete sheet of the pale blue this can be achieved without much difficulty.

Obviously, shortage of material presents a difficulty, so if any interested student has photographs, copies, notes or anything pertaining to these stamps, I would like to ask for their help in completing the picture.

M. Long.

THE JOHN REDMOND CARICATURE STAMP



The "Redmondus Rex" 1d parody stamp — an enlarged photograph.

Further to the short note on this "Redmondus Rex" label in the DFNL Summer 1977, I have had the good fortune to come across a complete copy of PUNCH for May 1st 1912. The cartoon on page 331, bears the caption: "REDMONDUS REX (Design for IRISH Penny Postage Stamp)". The artist was Bernard Partridge and the attempt was apparently a parody of the then current George V 1d, and showing Redmond in Irish costume wearing a crown and playing the harp. Alongside is a laughing Irish pig. Redmond was a member of Parliament for Waterford at the time,

and was accredited with leadership of the Home Rule Party. He had successfully amalgamated the two Irish Nationalist parties and such was the state of the parties in the House of Commons that the Irish Party could control the vote.

With the magazine, I also found a photograph of the 1d stamp. A description alongside reads—May 1912—Redmondus Rex stamp. Black on White/black on yellow/black on green/deep blue on white/deep blue on pale blue. Perf. 16 irregular). From this we can deduce that there may exist five colour variants, although I have not spoken to anyone who can verify this.

TL.

IRISH POSTAL STRIKE 1979

Apart from the obvious ill effects to the country as a whole, there are some aspects of interest to philatelists.

At least two "strike posts" were in operation to carry Irish mail to the United Kingdom for posting. The "Dublin Strike Post" operated on a regular basis, charging 40p to collect a letter in Dublin and have it posted from Belfast within a few days. About 800 items per week were handled thus, with up to 2,500 one week. The service was operated through the Belfast Stamp Shop and letters were franked with an oval handstamp showing the fee paid. Receipt and delivery dates were shown on straight line handstamps. At the Dublin "Collectorex" Exhibition in May, labels were on sale for franking mail posted at the exhibitions in conjunction with the Dublin Strike post, which would forward the items from Belfast. It was a two way service, mail also being accepted at Belfast for delivery in Dublin.

We have seen covers from a second "strike post" bearing the legend "Courier Mail — Eire/Isle of Man" with the covers posted in Castletown on June 4th. The amazingly high face value of the labels used — £1, £2, £3, £5 (£11 in all) show this to be an obviously philatelic enterprise.

Private mail services (mostly air couriers) also existed, but show no evidence of origin. Because of strong local union feeling it was impossible to put into effect any service on a wide scale.

A number of Dublin local delivery companies also undertook to carry mail, classing matter as "documents". Dublin Document Express used small labels showing the "box number" of the sender. Mail was carried within city limits at fees of £1.50 and upwards. We have also received reports of local letter delivery services in Wexford and Cork, but as yet are unable to confirm this.

The U.S. Postal Administration returned to sender mail addressed to Ireland during the strike, and the West German Post Office included a note, when returning similarly, to explain that the postal services to the "Irish Free State" (someone should tell them it has been a Republic for 30 years) had been suspended and it was not known when they would be resumed.

ZURÜCK AN DEN ABSENDER!

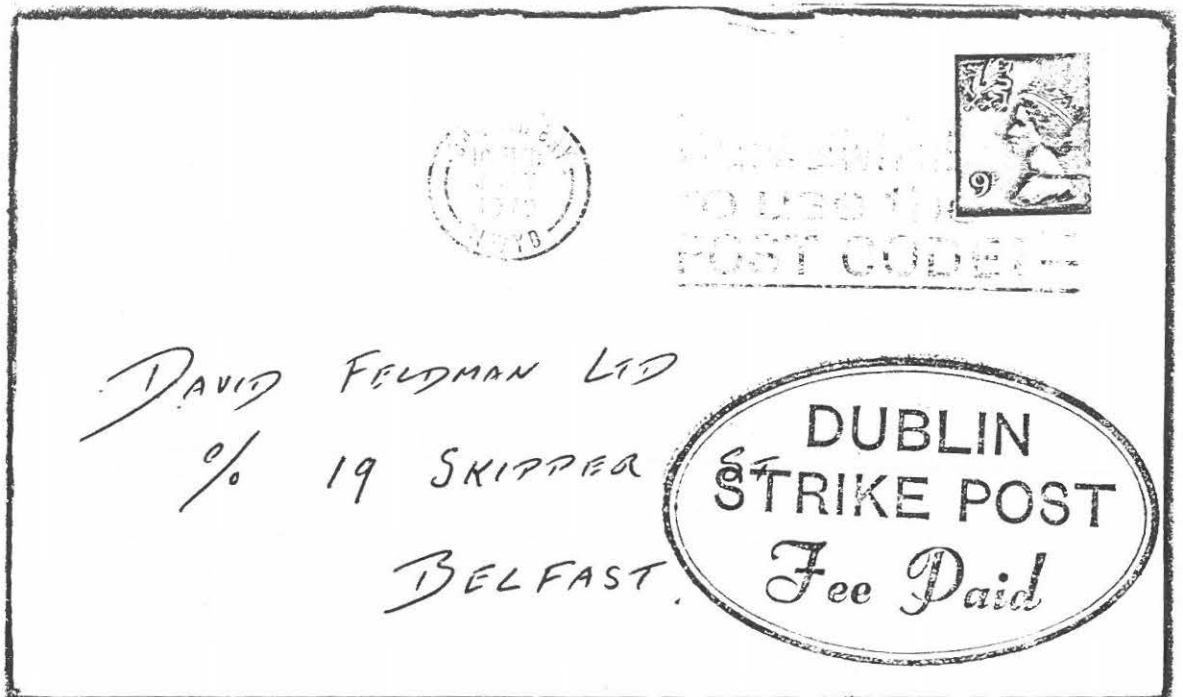
Es bestehen zur Zeit keine Möglichkeiten, Postsendungen auf dem Luft- oder Erdbweg nach dem Freistaat Irland abzuleiten.

Der Zeitpunkt der Wiederaufnahme des Postdienstes mit Irland ist völlig ungewiß.

Die gesamten vorauslagten Gebühren werden vom Einlieferungspostamt erstattet.

Postamt/Luftpostleitstelle
7000 Stuttgart 23 Flughafen

"Returned to Sender" — German P.O. notice about the Irish postal strike



Some of the mail carried on the "Dublin Strike Post"

RECEIVED 13 MAR 1979



DELIVERED 13 MAR 1979

THE BELFAST STAMP CO. LTD.,
 19 SKIPPER STREET,
 BELFAST, BT1 2DZ.

Handstamps used on the "Dublin Strike Post"

10 GEORGE IV

C 89
 C A P. LXXXIX.

P359

An Act for imposing additional Rates and Duties on the Conveyance of Letters
 between *Port Patrick* in *Scotland* and *Donaghadee* in *Ireland*.

[24th July 1820.]

‘ WHEREAS it is expedient that additional Duties of Sea Postage should be imposed
 ‘ on Letters and Packets passing between *Great Britain* and *Ireland* by the Way of
 ‘ *Port Patrick* in *Scotland* and *Donaghadee* in *Ireland*;’ be it therefore enacted by the King’s
 most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and
 Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the
 same, That from and after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for His Majesty’s Post-
 master General, and his Deputy and Deputies by him thereunto sufficiently authorized, to
 demand, have, receive, and take, for the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the Post from
Great Britain to *Ireland* and from *Ireland* to *Great Britain*, passing between the Ports of
Port Patrick in *Scotland* and *Donaghadee* in *Ireland*, the following Rates of Sea Postage, in
 addition to the Amount of the Rate of Postage now chargeable upon all Letters; (that is to
 say,) for every Single Letter, Two-pence; for every Double Letter, Four-pence; for every
 Treble Letter, or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, Sixpence; and for every Ounce
 in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, Eight-pence; and so
 in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce.

Additional Rate
 of Postage for
 Conveyance of
 Letters between
 Port Patrick and
 Donaghadee, viz.
 Single, 2d.;
 Double, 4d.;
 Treble, 6d.;
 and for every
 oz. 8d.

For the student of rates and routes we illustrate above an act of 1820 imposing supplementary postage rates for letters passing between Great Britain and Ireland by the Northern route.

NEW PERFORATION

The Hospitaller order of St. John of God, 9½p appears in two different perforations.

Grover — one extension hole in margin.

Bickle — two extension holes in margin.



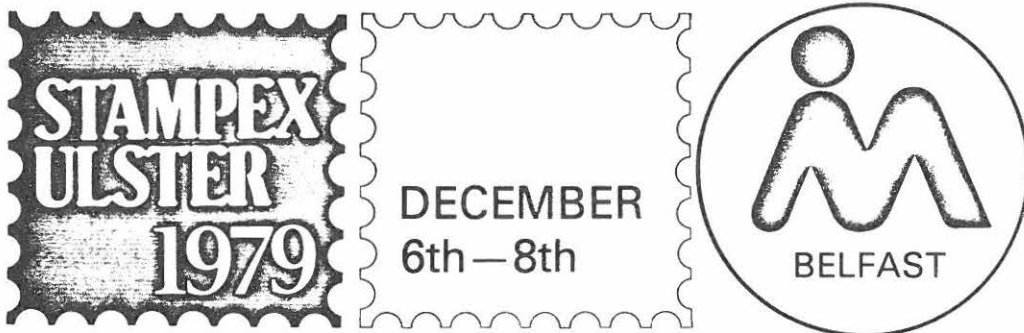
Grover



Bickle

Characteristics of the two perforations are as follows:

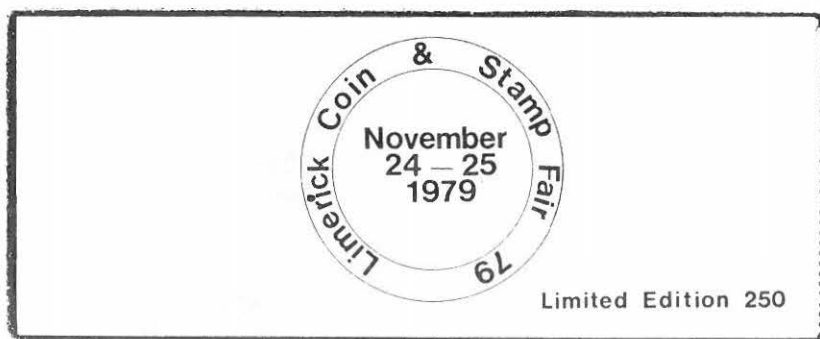
	Top Margin	Bottom Margin	Left and right Margins
Grover	imperforate	perforated	one extension hole
Bickle	perforated	imperforate	two extension holes.



STAMPEX ULSTER BOOKLET

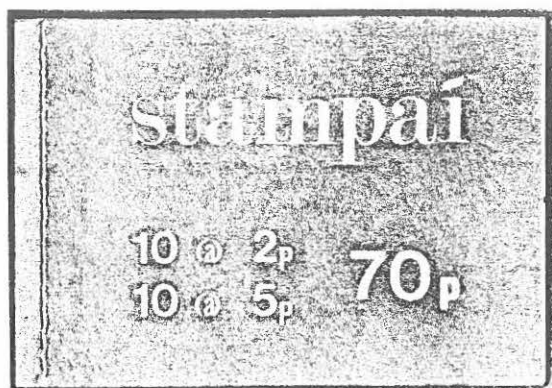
At the recent Stampex Ulster exhibition a souvenir booklet was produced containing G.B. stamps.

We can offer these booklets at £3 each. Please order early as supply is limited.



LIMERICK STAMP AND COIN FAIR

At the recent show in Limerick, a souvenir booklet was produced. We can offer this booklet at £5 each. (offered subject unsold).

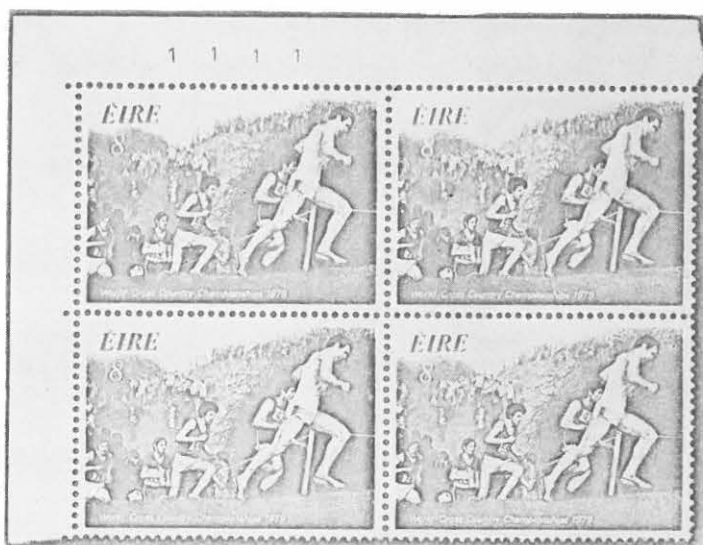


1975 70p BOOKLET

Recently acquired with the 2p and 5p Reversed. We can offer at £5 each.

CYLINDER BLOCKS

The following are the different cylinders
No's.



Cross Country 8p Cyls.

1111, 1112.



Papal Visit 12p Cyls. 1111, 1112, 2223
2224

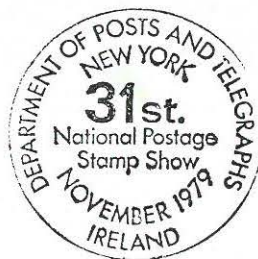
John of God 9½p Cyls.

11 Grover,
12 Grover,
11 Bickle.

Centenary of the birth of P.H. Pearse



First Day Cover



At the recent ASDA Show in New York where the Irish Post Office were attending, a special postmark and cachet were used on First Day Covers which were only available at the Exhibition.

A limited number of these covers are available at £1. each.



STAMPEX 1980

We shall be at our usual Stand No. 58.
We look forward to seeing everybody.



DAVID FELDMAN LTD

Rare Postage Stamp Dealers and Philatelic Publishers

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