

IRISH STAMP NEWS

No.2 Winter 1978/9



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Irish Stamp News

No. 2 WINTER 1978/9

Edited and Published

by

IAN WHYTE

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Dublin 2.

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Member: Association International de Journalistes Philatéliques.

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Printed by
REPRINT LTD.,
22 South Cumberland Street,
Dublin 2.

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Front Cover: Ireland's rarest postage stamp - the 1d 'Saorstat' overprint with no accent over the 'a' of 'Saorstat'. See article elsewhere in this issue.

IRISH STAMP NEWS

Editorial

SELL-OUT

Our No. 1 edition was a sell-out so our hope that it might turn out to be a collectors item may well be fulfilled. If you missed our first edition why not try advertising in the "wanted" column of our Classified Advertisements page?

We received a lot of praise and little, if any, criticism so we must presume you like the mix and we shall try and continue in the vein we started, i.e. to cover as wide a field as possible within the realm of Irish philately. This quarter we cover cancellations the overprint issues and the modern definitives, along with our regular news features and reviews.

Articles are still required and we will carefully consider all contributions no matter the size or content. News items, letters, advice or illustrations are also most welcome.

TELEVISED PHILATELY

The news that BBC 2 are to broadcast entire series of programmes on philately is very encouraging, and perhaps RTE might follow suit, if they were prodded in the right direction by, say the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and the Federation of Philatelic Societies in Ireland.

Certainly philately has been to the forefront of the press lately with hardly a week passing that there isn't a report or article on the investment potential of stamps. One suspects that this is a result of pressure by the public relations officers of the bigger philatelic corporations. This publicity, while welcome, is a little bit unhealthy as it only stresses the financial aspect of stamp collecting while ignoring the much more important aspects of pleasure and study.

RTE did broadcast an excellent radio programme on philately in 1978. Produced by Cathal O'Gríofa, who is a keen collector, it presented a very good overall image of the hobby. Translated to the screen it surely would have made good television as philately is a visual art, and the variety of illustrative material is boundless. And now that Ireland has a second television channel, there should be room for such special interest programmes.

winter offers

EXHIBITION BOOKLETS

Four of these booklets have been issued and it is already clear that they are very popular despite the limited numbers available and consequent expensive price of some. This is the complete list of them:

EB 1.	CORK PHILATELIC EXHIBITION — containing four marginal panes of six watermarked ½p stamps taken from normal sheets. Only 50 (fifty) numbered books issued.	£25	\$50
EB 2.	COLLECTOREX '78 — containing panes of 2p and 1p stamps extracted from P.O. Booklet Panes. 500 numbered booklets were issued	£6	\$12
EB 3.	CORK PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1978 — This booklet contained a strip of the 'Mother McAuley' stamp and was produced in a numbered edition of 200.	£10	\$20
EB 4.	STAMPA '78 — containing panes of 5p, 2p and 1p stamps, interleaved with advertisements from the standholders at the show (including the Post Office). Numbered edition of 1,000	£5	\$10

'FOREIGN' IRISH FDC's

As reported in IRISH STAMP NEWS the Irish Post Office are making a policy of trying to tie in a stamp issue with their participation in overseas exhibitions. A special first day of issue handstamp is used on First Day Covers sold at their sales stand at such shows, and a different version of official cover is provided. These FDC's are becoming much sought-after, and the following is the complete list so far.

EFD 1.	CAPEX '78 , Toronto. First Day Cover of the FLORA issue cancelled by Irish P.O.'s 'CAPEX' handstamp.	£7	\$14
EFD 2.	BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1978 , London. First Day Cover of the Natural Gas issue cancelled by Irish P.O.'s 'B.P.E.' handstamp. . .	90p	\$1.80
EFD 3.	U.S. NATIONAL POSTAGE STAMP SHOW 1978 , New York. First Day Cover of the CHRISTMAS issue cancelled by Irish P.O.'s ASDA handstamp.	£2	\$4

SPECIAL POSTMARKS

1978 has seen a remarkable drop in the number of special postmarks employed. This is the complete list so far:

SP 781.	WOODSTOCK '78 one day cancel on official cover for Scout Jamboree (Scouting stamp franking)	40p	\$0.80
SP 782	CARROLLS IRISH OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP , Special cancellation (same design as 1977 and 1976 tournaments) used on plain cover.	30p	\$0.80
SP 783.	CORK PHILATELIC EXHIBITION '78 — cancel commemorates the founding of the Mercy Order of Nuns — on official cover franked with the stamp issued on the same subject.	40p	\$0.80
SP 784.	STAMPA '78 . Set of 4 cancels used on official covers franked with the most appropriate stamps.	£1.75	\$3.50

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IRISH STAMP NEWS

NEWSBEAT

'79 PROGRAMME DETAILS

Ireland's first special issue of the year will be on sale from March 12th. Three stamps will mark the UNICEF-sponsored 'Year of the Child', and all three have been designed by Irish schoolchildren. On the same date a stamp will publicise the 1979 World Cross Country Championships which are being held in Ireland for the first time, the venue being Limerick racecourse. Incidentally, a report in the "Irish Independent" credited Ian Whyte with having suggested the latter issue. Apparently Ian suggested that the B.L.E. (the Irish Amateur Athletics Body) ask for the stamp issue last February when he met Larry Ryder, a stamp collector, who is involved in B.L.E. The B.L.E. put in the suggestion which was then adopted. The design of the stamp will be based on an action photograph of cross-country running.

May 9th is "Schuman Day" in honour of Robert Schuman, the famous French Statesman who did so much for the unity of post-war Europe. It is thus fitting that Ireland's 1979 Europa stamps and the stamp to mark the Direct Elections to the European Parliament will be issued on that date. This year's theme for the CEPT Europa issue is "History of the Postal and Telecommunications Service". A print showing a Bianconi mailcoach, and an artist's impression (from the "Illustrated London News") of the landing of the first successful cable at Valentia in 1864, will represent this theme.

The second issue in the "Flora and Fauna" series will feature birds found in Ireland. The birds were chosen in consultation with the Forestry and Wildlife Service of the Department of Fisheries and will be the Wren, Peregrine Falcon, White Fronted Goose and Great Crested Grebe. The designs are the work of Wendy Walsh who was responsible for the much acclaimed 'Flora' set last year. The four stamps are scheduled for release on July 5th.

Four issues are planned for October, and they will probably be released on the same date. The centenary of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God's arrival in Ireland is commemorated by one stamp. Another publicises the international campaign for Energy Conservation. Stamps on the same theme will be issued by other member-states of the European Economic Community.

IRISH STAMP NEWS

The third stamp commemorates the centenary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill, whose postal reforms led to the introduction of adhesive postage stamps and uniform postal rates. This year's stamp in the Contemporary Irish Art series — the tenth issue, in fact — will feature a sculpture by F. E. McWilliam.

A single stamp will commemorate the centenary of Padraig Pearse, one of the leaders of the 1916 uprising and one of the most important influences in Irish republicanism up to, and after, his execution. The stamp is scheduled for release on November 10th, which was Pearse's birthday. However, this date is a Saturday, which considering that the philatelic office is closed and sub-offices close at 1 p.m. on Saturday, is a most unusual day for a new issue.

Finally, the Department will issue the usual trio of Christmas stamps, this year's subject being a panel depicting the Madonna and Child from the bookshrine "Domhanch Airigid" in the National Museum. The stamps will be out on November 15th.

It is likely that postal charges will be increased this year so extra definitives are likely, and the possibility of a new booklet cannot be ruled out. It is understood that the issue of a new series of definitives has been delayed by the death of the artist commissioned and the 'Gerls' are likely to be with us for at least another year and a half.

TOM BELL

It is with regret that we announce the death of Tom Bell on December 14th, aged 89. Tom was a well known figure in Dublin philatelic circles for longer than most people can remember. He was a stalwart member of the Dublin Stamp Society from its inception, his main love being the stamps of Australia and Ireland.

Tom had a hawk's eye for flaws and was often the first to spot a variety on a new issue. His many displays were always entertaining for this reason. Unfortunately he lost his sight a few years ago thus ending his philatelic pursuits. Tom was a kindly and generous man and he will be sadly missed by his former philatelic acquaintances.

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STAMPA '79

The provisional dates of Stampa '79 are Thursday 4th October, to Sunday 7th October. The reason for the early dates is that the RDS had prior bookings for November and late October.

A prospectus for exhibitors is in the course of preparation and will be available about mid-March from the Stampa '79 Secretariat, 3 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. (Please send 10p or foreign equivalent in mint postage stamps).

DF (DUBLIN) BECOMES D Mac D

David Feldman Ltd., has been purchased by its managing director David MacDonnell. This change does not affect David Feldman S.A. of Geneva which David Feldman has established as one of the world's leading philatelic auctioneers.

According to a spokesman for David Feldman Ltd., the company's name would be changed but it would continue to trade as it had for the past twelve years. "Stamps of Ireland" and the company's "Newsletter" will continue to be published and work is in progress on the second volume of Irish Postal History.

David MacDonnell will continue to act as Irish and British agent for David Feldman S.A. in which capacity he and his company will accept properties, execute bids and take payment for purchases in connection with future Feldman auctions.

David MacDonnell joined David Feldman Ltd., in 1970, since when he has gained an outstanding expertise in professional philately and a wide knowledge of the stamps and postal history of most countries, his specialty being Ireland, Britain and British Europe. In 1976 he was appointed managing director of the Dublin company.

T. E. FIELD AWARD

In 1967, the Eire Philatelic Association established the Thomas Edwin Field Award. This year, the recipient is H. G. Leslie Fletcher.

Named in honour of the late Thomas E. Field of Skelmanthorpe, England, this award is the highest honor given by the Eire Philatelic Association. Mr. Field had done extensive research in Irish Philately which contributed greatly to the advancement of this field. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Irish Philately in the tradition established by T. E. Field.

Mr. Fletcher has exemplified the tradition of the Thomas E. Field Award with his contributions through the many articles published in philatelic journals relating to the essays for the 1922 definitive issue and also Irish forgeries. As a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, he has served on their expert committee, particularly relating to the "Seahorse" overprints of 1922. His willingness to assist and guide collectors in the assembly and study of the overprints has spread the knowledge of Irish Philately throughout the world.

SPECIAL POSTMARK FOR NEW IRISH SHIP



Special postmark for new ship.

A special 'Paquebot' cancel will be employed in Cork to mark the maiden voyage of the B & I Line's new car ferry, the m.v. "CONNACHT". The "CONNACHT" will sail from Cork to Swansea on January 24 and return on January 25th. The handstamp will be used to cancel mail posted on board the ship on its return journey.

A commemorative cover has been prepared by the B & I Line and 500 will be posted on board the ship on each journey. Those posted on the Cork-Swansea leg will bear an Irish stamp and will be 'Paquebot' cancelled in Swansea. Those posted on the Swansea-Cork leg will bear a Welsh stamp and will be cancelled by the special Cork 'Paquebot' handstamp.

The set of covers is available at 80p (US £1.60) plus 10p (US 60c airmail) postage from the B & I Line's official agent, Ian Whyte, 3 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

QUALITY BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

MALTA

SG 123-139 fine mint one or two with hinge remainders	£78
SG 88 5/- V.F. mint.	£42
SG 193-207 and 209 fine mint.	£75
SG 157-172 fine mint.	£70
SG 266-282 unmounted	£50
SG 266-282 lightly mounted	£37
SG 217-231 lightly mounted	£17
SG 234-248 lightly mounted	£ 8
SG 542-543 good used	£37

CANADA

1938	SG 363-367 fine mint and well centered . . .	£100
1937	SG 357-367 fine mint.	£105
	SG 341-351 fine mint.	£ 80
	SG 401-406 mint.	£ 45
1942	SG 375-388 V.F. mint	£ 70

NEW ZEALAND	Auckland Exhibition ½d Green SG 470 fine mint	£ 20
	Dunedin Exhibition SG 536-538 good mint	£ 37
	Smiling Boys 1931 Health SG 546-547 fine mint with hinge remainders	£120
	7336-736 1953 High Values mounted mint	£ 24

AUSTRALIA

1928	M/S very fine mint — slight thin on one stamp	£80
1935	Silver Jubilee unmounted	£50
1931	Airmail OS SG 139a VF mint	£30
	SG 135 VF used	£20
	SG 06 VF used	£24

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STAMPA '78

STAMPA '78 was officially opened by the Minister of State for Posts and Telegraphs Mr. Fitzpatrick T.D., at a reception on Wednesday, 25th October. Mr. Fitzpatrick praised the quality of the exhibits and the work that had gone into making the Exhibition so successful. He thanked STAMPA for the benefits brought to his Department, such as increased philatelic sales and the valuable exchange of views on philatelic services and policies. The Minister then outlined his Department's 1979 Stamp Issuing Programme, details of which appear elsewhere.

STAMPA '78 had a mixed reception. Publicity in the national media was noticeably lacking this year, a direct result was a reduced attendance figure of about 2,200 as opposed to 3,000 in 1977 and 3,800 in 1976. Paid advertising was as good as last year but perhaps the lack of a 'star item' – such as 1977's 'inverted swan' – was the reason for not attracting the attention of the newspapers and television.

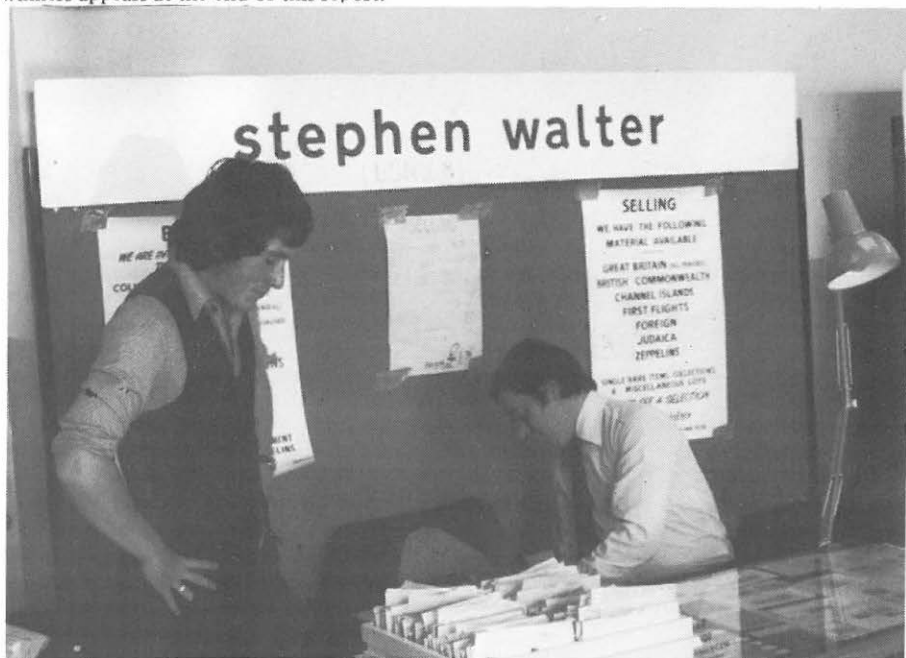
The standard of the exhibits was generally felt to be excellent and the Jury, composed of Dr. J. Mackey FRPSL, Seamus Kearns and A. L. Stokes had a difficult task in distributing the medals, which are limited to a specific number. A full list of the award winners appears at the end of this report.

In addition to the competitive exhibits Mr. Stokes and Dr. Mackey provided Hors Concours exhibits of Irish Postal History 1916–1925 and Saxony respectively.

The Post Office put on a fine display as usual, with the co-operation of the Revenue Stamping Branch. This exhibit included progressive colour proofs and original artwork of the Flora issue and a complete uncut sheet of the 7p booklet panes. Peter Fitzgerald photographed the latter, and Brian Warren and Eddie Fitzgerald are currently working on the plating of the panes, a task Eddie has been working on for nearly a year now. The fruits of their collective labours is expected to be published in a future issue of IRISH STAMP NEWS.

For the second year running the National Museum exhibited from its collection. Of special interest were the complete uncut printers' sheets of booklet panes of GB. Edward VII ½d and 1d. These show that the panes were printed tete-beche thus providing equal quantities of inverted and upright watermarked panes. Also on show were plates used to print Victorian issues of Dominica and Antigua.

Albert McWalter and Peter Kay of Stephen Walter (S. W. Braham Ltd.) from London at STAMPA '78.



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105/6	Constitution (2v.)	1.35
107/8	Father Mathew (2v.)	2.70
109/10	U.S. Constitution (2v.)	2.50
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129/30	Gaelic League (2v.)	.35
131/2	Rowan Hamilton (2v.)	1.30
133/4	Michael O'Cleary (2v.)	.23
135	Br. Ignatius Rice (1v.)	.18
136/7	Thomas Davis (2v.)	1.20
138/9	Parnell & Davitt (2v.)	1.15
144/5	1798 Insurrection (2v.)	2.30
146/7	Republic (2v.)	1.10
148	Mangan (1v.)	1.00
149/51	Holy Year 1950 (3v.)	5.75
152/3	Thomas Moore (2v.)	1.10
154/5	An Tostal (2v.)	4.20
156/7	Robert Emmet (2v.)	9.50
158/9	Marian Year (2v.)	3.20
160/1	Catholic University (2v.)	4.35
162/3	John Barry (2v.)	3.25
164/5	John Redmond (2v.)	3.40
166/7	Thomas O'Críothain (2v.)	2.75
168/9	Admiral Brown (2v.)	9.50
170/1	Fr. Luke Wadding (2v.)	3.80
172/3	Thomas Clarke (2v.)	3.30
174/5	Mother Aikenhead (2v.)	4.30
176/7	Constitution (2v.)	1.65
178/9	Arthur Guinness (2v.)	3.30
180/1	World Refugee Year (2v.)	.50
182/3	Europa '60 (2v.)	4.45
184/5	Aer Lingus (2v.)	1.30

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The Central Bank showed examples of the coins commemorated in the 'Irish Currency' stamp issue released on the opening day of STAMPA '78. They also showed the superbly engraved series of Irish banknotes issued in 1928, and many collectors regretted their omission from the set of stamps.

A full complement of dealers was present, including three from England and one from Northern Ireland. Most dealers reported good business both buying and selling, and in fact some said they did better business because of the lack of crowds, as they were able to give more time to individual customers. The fall in attendance was mostly composed of non-collectors who just came to look at the exhibits or to get stamps valued, and whilst their loss is significant and worrying it did not affect the business done.

As usual four special postmarks were used at the show and a special stamp issue was released on the opening day — this year it was the 50th Anniversary of Irish Currency of 1928 set. A special commemorative booklet was issued, the contents being the same as the current Irish 40p booklet but the pages being interleaved with advertising from Stampa standholders. Only 1000 booklets were produced and they were quickly sold out.

TWO AUCTIONS IN DUBLIN

Ian Whyte will be holding his first public auction on February 24th in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin. The sale will consist mostly of Ireland, Great Britain and Commonwealth material, with several mixed lots and collections. Lots are estimated from about £5 to £1500 and pre-sale estimates should total about £20,000.

Hibernian Stamp Company will be holding an important sale in March, including several rarities from a British collection as well as a good range of Commonwealth and Foreign lots.

The Stampa Auction was held on Friday evening, October 27, and there was brisk bidding, though the overall realisation was not as high as last year. Once again Fred Dixon and Peter Fitzgerald gave very interesting film lectures.

STAMPA '78 AWARDS

THE DAVID FELDMAN TROPHY FOR THE BEST OVERALL EXHIBIT: William Kane's 'Postage Due'. Also awarded a Silver Medal.

SILVER BRONZE: Oswald Baillie's '1929 P.U.C. Issue'; Fred E. Dixon's 'Irish Postal History'; G. F. Gillespie's 'The Irish Coil Issues'.

BRONZE: Dr. C. I. Dulin's 'The Saorstát Overprints' (with Felicitations); Geoffrey McAuley's 'The Liberation of Czechoslovakia' (with Felicitations); P. D. Fitzgerald's 'Varieties on British Stamps'; Michael B. Phelan's 'Irish Coils'; Norah K. Wright's 'Perfins'.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT: G. Brady, J. J. Buckloe, 'T. L.', J. Fletcher, J. B. R. Murray, G. K. Powers, J. G. Lennon.

IRISH CONTINGENT IN NEW YORK

Ireland was well represented at the U.S. National Postage Stamp Show held in the New York Coliseum on November 15 to 19 last. David MacDonnell and Declan O'Kelly manned David Feldman's stand, whilst the Irish Post Office Stand was staffed by Colm Brennan, Con Buckley, and Eamonn Dowling, Ian Whyte and Peter McBride (Belfast Stamp Shop) also had a stand.

We were very pleased to meet old and new friends in the U.S. such as Bill McCann, Bruce Weinman, Ray Kelly, George Losco, George and Mary Ginovsky, Dr. Charles Fitz, David Minars and many others.

Business was good though the attendance at the show was down on last year. The Show ran for very long hours — from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. the first three days, and there was much argument over these hours at the American Stamp Dealers Association Meeting during the show.

The exhibits were disappointing — STAMPA would put them to shame. Apparently they don't seem to bother with exhibits as much as booths (stands) — a typical American businesslike attitude. The total attendance was believed to be about 11,000.

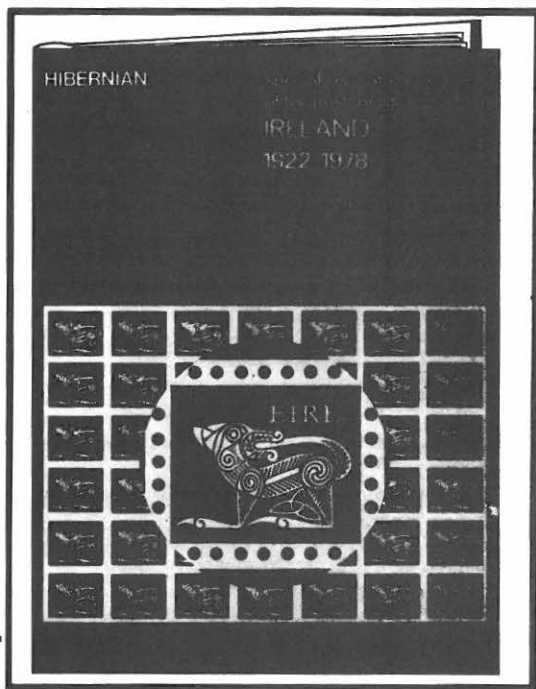
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Auction Report

Hibernian Stamp Company held an extensive sale in Dublin on 25th November. Consisting mostly of Great Britain and British Commonwealth material, there was a small Irish section which included a few 'better' items. A selection of 50 pre-adhesive entires, with little of note other than two Treasurer's Office ('T.OFF') marks and 'Postage to Dublin not paid', made £325, which illustrates the demand for any type of postal history material.

In the overprints the Dollard high value trio fine used on three separate covers realised £260, the Thom high values (SG 44/6) mint went for £550 while a 10s. (SG 46) with a couple of pulled perforations sold at £250. A mint Composite set (SG 83a/85a) made £550 and unmounted mint blocks of four of the 1937 5s and 10s 'St. Patrick' realised £240. An almost complete collection of blocks of four from the four corners of each sheet of every commemorative issue from 1961 to 1978, including positional blocks of all the major varieties, such as the 'Tower Flaw' on the 1965 World Fair Issue, made a staggering £1,325 which shows that modern issues are as much in demand as older stamps.

Robson Lowe Ltd. had a good selection of Ireland in their "Great Britain Overprints" sale on December 7th, and there was fierce competition in the room to secure the better quality items. The ½d inverted overprint sold for £180 mint and after a 'duel' in the room the same variety used on cover with 2d and 2½d normals fetched £1,400 (estimated at only £125). Covers are obviously 'in' at the moment as a pair of 1d

inverted overprint used on cover, estimated at £175, realised £650. The 2d Thom black overprint, die I, which is catalogued by Feldman at £50 mint, was knocked down to the book for £150. The Dollard High Values fine used on three registered covers made £400 (compared to a similar set at the Hibernian sale which went for £260 a fortnight before).

A mint 10 shilling Thom 'Rialtas' overprint (SG 46) with one short perforation made £325, whereas a used copy, slightly soiled, went for £475. The very scarce 6d 'Saorstát' overprint with 'accent inserted' variety realised £340, and the one shilling with the same error went for £375. The Thom 'Saorstát' high values (SG 64/6) used on cover fetched £400.

An interesting variety which is not listed in the catalogues turned up in the sale. This is the 2d Harrison 'Saorstát' coil with inverted watermark. A nice used strip of three with perforations trimmed at top (as is normal with coil issues) realised £160, which is reasonable considering it is the only known example.

The scarce Composite setting on the Seahorses was also in demand. A lightly hinged set was sold for £575 and a combination of a lightly hinged 2/6, and unmounted 5/- and 10/-, all sold separately to the same buyer, made a total of £750, with the 10/- alone going for £500.

Corner blocks of four of the 'Wide date' 2/6, 5/- and 10/-, each showing the 'circumflex accent' flaw and each being mounted on two stamps, realised an amazing £780, and a mint hinged set of the 'Re-engraved' (SG 99/101) 1935 High Values made an even more amazing £325.

All in all, these two sales clearly demonstrate that there is no end to the spiralling increase in the prices of Irish 'Seahorses', and overprints used on cover, especially errors and high values, are so much in demand that they are almost priceless.



Robson Lowe (Dec. 7): ½d overprint inverted on cover for £1400, and pair of 1d with same variety on cover for £650.

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Book Review

HIBERNIAN SPECIALISED CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND 1922 to 1978. 129pp Crown Quarto. Buckram Bound. Published by Hibernian Stamp Company Ltd., 11 Harrington St., Dublin 8 at £4.80 plus postage and packing.

After six years here it is – the long and eagerly awaited second edition of the Hibernian Specialised Catalogue. Unfortunately the wait was in vain as the 1979 edition is only the shell of it's brilliant predecessor. Rather than develop the listings and information contained in the original volume the current editors have reduced the contents considerably, and have removed much of the valuable data contained in the first edition.

All the 'new' sections which were so boldly and imaginatively introduced in the first edition have been axed i.e. First Flight Covers, Special Handstamps, Slogan Postmarks, Maximum Cards and Northern Ireland Handstamps. Whilst it could be said that these sections took up an inordinate amount of space in the first edition by virtue of their profuse illustrations, their complete dismissal is rather discouraging to those who collect and study these items. 'Supplements' incorporating some of these listings are however promised in the introduction.

The most disappointing feature of this catalogue is the almost complete absence of evidence of pure philatelic research. In fact, the listings have been shorn of any such evidence shown in the first edition. The plating of the overprints is abandoned as are the listing of the minor varieties of these issues. There is no development in the separation and listings of the many printings of the 1928 to 1968 definitives other than by watermark, with the notable exception of the St. Patrick high values. The listing of the modern definitives is confusing and inaccurate – the very marked differences in

papers on the current series are ignored whilst only some of the differences in gum are listed.

The Booklets and Postal Stationery sections have been savagely edited and bear no comparison with the original versions. The Commemoratives appear to have withstood much of this purge but shades and some flaws have been axed, and the listing of issues since the first edition is rather skimpy. Again little or no philatelic research is evident – the insertion of, say, the plating of the 1972 miniature sheet, would have been an obvious inclusion in this book but sadly the editors thought otherwise.

So far I have compared this volume with its predecessor. Perhaps it would be fairer to compare it with its contemporary rival, the David Feldman "Stamps of Ireland" 1978 edition. On this score it has some advantages – it is bigger, on better quality paper, better illustrated, more detailed in background information and includes Zumstein cross referenced catalogue numbers as well as Gibbons, Scott, Michel and Yvert which Feldman uses. On the other hand Feldman lists "GB used in Ireland" and "First Flight Covers" which Hibernian does not. All the other listings in Hibernian may be found in "Stamps of Ireland" with these two additions. The biggest advantage "Stamps in Ireland" has over the "Hibernian" is price – at £1.50 as opposed to £4.80 it is a third cheaper.

It would appear to this writer that this book is an example of a trend in Ireland away from serious philatelic research and study towards speculative acquisition of a given list of material. This is an unhealthy trend which, if it goes unchecked, will end in the destruction of philately entirely.

Dealers should, when publishing catalogues such as this, take into consideration the responsible role they should play in the development of philately. They should attempt to make these books of lasting value and not just mere publishers price-lists.

J.B.

EDITORS NOTE: It should be pointed out that the Hibernian Stamp Company had a lot of trouble with their printers over the production of this book and were forced by these circumstances to reduce the contents of the book in order to effect its publication at all. I think due praise should go to Stefan Klincicz and his staff for their efforts in producing the book and hope that the next edition will be less troublesome and more rewarding for them.

ENGLAND'S LEADING DEALER FOR IRISH STAMPS

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BOOK REVIEW

THE GERL DEFINITIVES

By Brian Warren and Edward Fitzgerald

ISBN 0 9506415 0 2. 68pp A5

Published by Ian Whyte,

3 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

At £1.90 plus postage and packing.

Irish enthusiasts are bound to welcome this superb, clean and concise work on the Gerl Definitives. The Gerl Definitives, more commonly known as the 'animal definitives', were first introduced in 1968 and were designed by Heinrich Gerl.

This book represents a repository of all the information known about these stamps to date. It is a must for any serious collector of the stamps in Ireland, whether or not they plan to specialize in the stamps of this issue. The authors have so structured this book that collectors at all levels, from the beginner to the advanced specialist will easily acquire specific information about this issue and modern postal history generally.

Although the book introduces another new numbering system, it is probably the only approach the authors could take to list the Sterling, Decimal Watermarked, and the Decimal Unwatermarked issues by Paper and Gum types, which this work has accomplished in an easy to follow manner. A most useful appendix is included in which the Gerl issues are cross referenced with all major catalogues.

Also included is a well illustrated two page appendix showing the constant sheet varieties on the Decimal issues, however it does not include the sheet position under the illustration. This means one has to go back to the varieties listed on preceding pages to hunt for the position reference.

This fine book pinpoints areas for discussion though it does not refer to them. This series of definitives based on 4 designs appeared at first to be easy to collect and some collectors assumed that there would be little of interest in them.

However the early appearance of some values printed on paper with PVA gum, which was not announced by the Post Office in advance of issue, awakened some collectors to the possibility of other unannounced changes. Time proved them to be correct and so far the small number of aware specialists began a most exciting

period of collecting as evidenced by the detail of this book.

It must be emphasised that the unannounced issue of printings on various papers with different gums – almost at the whim of the Post Office Authorities – shows total lack of concern for Irish Specialists throughout the world. It must have been difficult for collectors in Ireland itself and unless one had a good contact in Ireland it became almost impossible for a foreign collector to keep abreast of changes.

May I appeal to your P.O. Authorities to adopt a new policy of giving prior and timely announcements of all changes in printing, papers and gum types in future and to see that the Philatelic Bureau is properly stocked with these?

Can some official with philatelic knowledge and an understanding of our difficulties be appointed in a senior capacity to be a liaison information officer between the Printing Branch, Stores, Bureau and Collector?

This book which now unravels some of the mysteries for collectors shows clearly that such an appointment is necessary. In fact the inserted Addenda Page to Section E shows clearly the extent of the lack of communication. Section E is obviously a fine and logical piece of detective work based on deduction following a study of booklet panes. If the authors had seen an actual sheet of panes as printed there would have been no need for an Addenda Page.

Whilst the book was at press, I am told, the P.O. displayed a full sheet of the 7p panes at the Cork Philatelic Exhibition. This showed that the conclusion reached by the "detectives" was incorrect – but ONLY as regards the perforation of the panes. Thus the panes shown on p.44 should be labelled P1, P2, P2, P1.

What a pity that such a detailed work should have marred as a result of needless secrecy. Why should the perforation of the sheet have been such a secret for seven years?

Who makes and supplies the papers used by the Printing Branch? Why is it necessary again to make a secret of this?

This excellent book highlights the urgent need for the establishment of a proper information service for Philatelists. After all collectors are customers of the P.O. – substantial customers at that – and are entitled to information necessary to assist them in keeping their purchases in complete order.

PRESTON A. POPE
President ex Officio
Eire Philatelic Association

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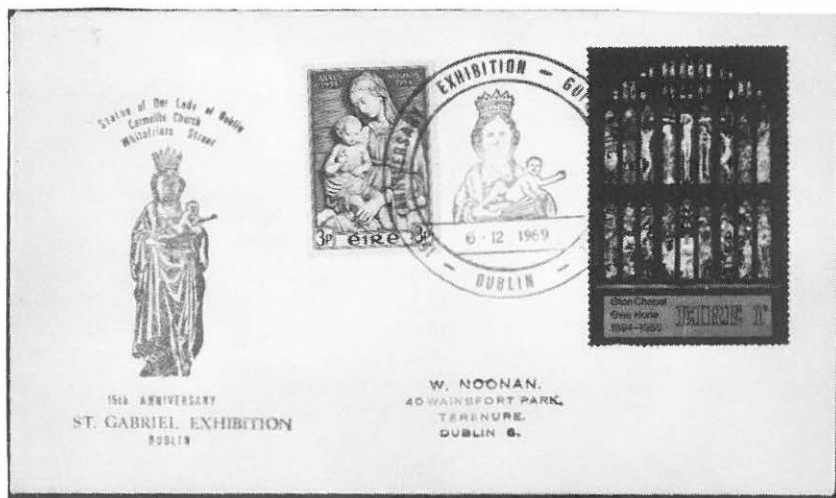
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WORLD UNION OF ST. GABRIEL



The twenty fifth anniversary of the World Union St. Gabriel was honoured by the Gabriel cancellation during STAMPA '78. The Union comprises the National Guilds of St. Gabriel, for collectors of Postal Material of Religious interest in Europe and Overseas.

Religious stamp collecting in an organized way came into being during the War Years and soon after. In 1942, in the United States and in Germany, unknown to each other, collectors interested in the religious theme, came together to form societies. In the United States "COROS", the collectors of religion on stamps, society was formed. In Germany collectors of the theme made contact with other in a clandestine way until after the war, because the Government of the day regarded this type of collecting unfavourably. In 1948 the Netherlands formed a guild of its own. In Paris, in 1949, the "CERCLE Philatelique Catholique" with the same aim was founded. In 1952 the Austrian section of the German Guild was strong enough to form its own Guild. In Australia independently the "Strambian Society" came to life. Switzerland in 1953 became independent of the German Guild. Over the years more Guilds formed in different countries. At the present time there are active Guilds in 17 countries. It may be mentioned here that the St. Gabriel Guilds are international; its membership being made up of collectors of all demominations.

Already in 1953 the representatives of the then existing Guilds gathered at Salzburg in Austria and decided on the formation of a Society on an Interntional level to act as a liaison between the National Guilds. This has been very effective by acting in an advisory capacity in the setting up of new Guilds and when necessary by helping financially in the publishing of Guild magazines and other publications of philatelic interest to its members. Every four years the World Union Congress takes place to review and to elect new officers. The next Congress will take place in 1980 in Rio de Janeiro.

The Archangel Gabriel, the patron saint of the Posts and Telecommunications, was adopted as the Patron of the World Union. At the request of the World Union St. Gabriel, Pope Paul VI in a papal Brief, named St. Gabriel the Patron Saint of Stamp Collectors.

In 1954, the English/Irish Guild of St. Gabriel, with its headquarters then in Dublin and now in London, was formed. The Guild offers a finely produced journal "Gabriel" with informative articles, check lists, details of new issues and postmarks. Postal Auctions are held from time to time. Members requiring correspondents or special requirements may have them published free in "Gabriel". Friendly exchange of material and information between members is catered for. The Dublin Group meet quarterly in Dublin, where the Hon. Secretary, Fintan Walsh, resides at 106 Whitebarn Road, Churchtown, Dublin 14.

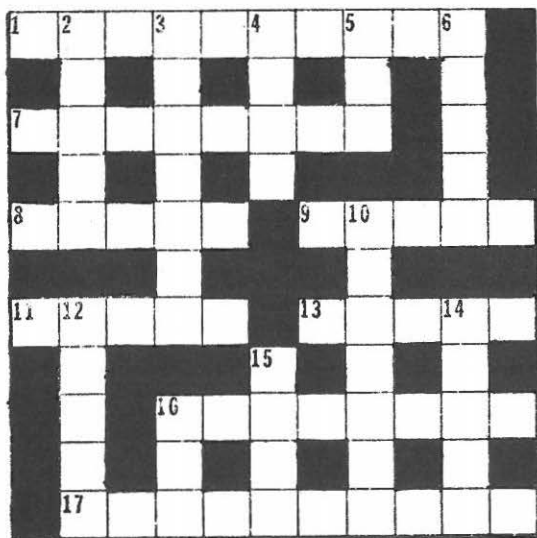
The London group meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Challoner Club, 61 Pont Street, London, S.W.1., where members of the Dublin Group will be cordially received. The membership secretary is Miss Mary Mansfield, 47 Grosvenor Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 OEN.

A.L.

PHILATELIC CROSSWORD No. 2

Compiled by W. Heidenfeld

ACROSS: 1. A first-ever performance—by a girl named Penelope? (5,5); 7. Rush for a philatelic object to start (8); 8. One of them is shown on an Australian definitive (5); 9. Notes prices as per Michel (5); 11. A country — like the USA — that has never issued stamps? (5); 13. Israeli currency unit since 1960 (5); 16. Bored with 16 down — because it's an unlikely place for keeping a stamp collection? (8); 17. The philatelist got his teeth into it, obviously (10);
DOWN: 2. Like the stamp collector, a typical member of the consumer society (5). 3. This country's stamps are — still — issued under another name (7); 4. Informed on the colour of the world's second stamp, we hear (4); 5. The type of primate that makes no appeal to collectors of religious stamps (3); 6. One percent of 14 (5); 10. A country for which France used to issue stamps — in exchange for railage? (7); 12. A form of multiple cherished by collectors of nudes? (5). 14. Where you have stamps of this denomination, you'd better be strictly within the Government regulation (5); 15. Postmark to be found on Czech stamps (4); 16. Tax raised by stamps in the reign of George V (3).



First Correct Entry drawn will receive
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THE RAREST IRISH POSTAGE STAMP – AN ENQUIRY

BY GERARD BRADY

Fifty seven years have now elapsed since Ireland first introduced its own postage stamps. During that span of time some 156 issues have been printed in many different denominations. Undoubtedly Ireland has now come of philatelic age. As in the case of postage stamps of other nations, it is not unusual to find that some Irish issues have survived better than others, either because of the number of stamps printed or for some other reason. Again, in common with most other countries, Ireland has her very rare and elusive postage stamps.

Perhaps at this point in our philatelic history it is opportune to examine, with all available evidence at our disposal, our least seldom found stamps, with a view to establishing the rarest Irish stamp.

Generally speaking, stamp rarities tend to be varieties of normal issues that show collecting appeal for the philatelist. The number of existing specimens of any variety give a direct assessment of the degree of actual rarity.

In the attempt to establish an historical analysis of our elusive stamps some ten different varieties were chosen for this investigation. By a very direct process of elimination of the actual number of extant specimens found in each case, four were then selected to represent the basis of this study.

The purpose of this enquiry is to critically examine the provenances of all recorded examples of these four stamps and them to substantiate the order of occurrence that exists between them.

At this point it is necessary to indicate that the chosen varieties had to conform to certain criteria. Firstly, they should be major varieties, and easily recognised as such, with popular collecting appeal. Secondly, they should be established varieties appearing in both international catalogues and specialised listings over many years.

Many complex and frustrating problems have arisen in an effort to complete this enquiry due to the lack of data on some of the specimens and, of course, because of the scarcity of the actual items for study. Auction Sale Catalogues that are well illustrated with thorough descriptions are of great assistance in research of this kind. Also articles in stamp magazines, and other philatelic references, all combine to build up provenances of each variety and assist in making the final decision.

Thankfully, many of the important Sales Catalogues, e.g. Agnew, Vesey, Bute, Field etc. are rich in photographic evidence of our rarest stamps. In these, and many other catalogues, one will also find comprehensive descriptions of each lot on offer. Reference is made in the final listings to photographic evidence, where it is available, in describing each of the stamps under study.

In passing, the writer would like to suggest that greater emphasis be placed on stating provenance in future Sales Catalogues by Stamp Auctioneers, for the benefit of students engaged in philatelic research.

The four stamps selected are all overprint varieties from the Thom Three Line Saorstat Issue of 1922/23.

In order of rarity they are as follows:—

1. Penny Scarlet with missing accent (SG 53aa). Four reported, two mint and two used.
2. Penny Scarlet with accent and final 'T' missing (SG 53a). Seven reported. Four mint and three used.
3. Shilling bistre brown with missing accent (SG 63a). Eight reported; seven mint and one used.
4. Ten shilling blue with accent inserted and reversed. (SG 66a). Eight reported, all mint.

Some of the early writers, Meredith, Ware, King and Munk were remarkably accurate in establishing degree of rarity, simply from average occurrence, rather than by taking an actual physical count and examination of the history of known specimens. Fifty years have passed since some of these writers put pen to paper, and it is now, with the passage of time, possible to quantify the rarity occurrence of many of our Irish Stamps.

Meredith, for example, in his fourth edition of the "Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-27", photographed and described the Penny used with Missing Accent and 'T' as the rarest Irish stamp. This stamp, incidentally, he found while sorting and sold it subsequently to John Agnew for £10. Both Ware (p16), and King (p15), in their handbooks, agreed that the Penny Missing Accent was the scarcest Irish stamp, but most accurate of all early writers was Dr. Herbert Munk, (p146) who stated the "the Penny Missing Accent and Penny Missing Accent and 'T' are reckoned the greatest rarities of the Irish series, the missing accent being even rarer than the Accent and 'T' Missing".

Many early writers were also conscious of the elusivity of the One Shilling with Missing Accent and the Ten Shilling with Accent Inserted and Reversed. Generally speaking, the price lists from the early writers and dealers are excellent guidelines as to the degree of scarcity.

Many hundreds of stamp magazines, articles and listings have been scrutinized in compiling this study and the list of acknowledgements is but a simple attempt to express gratitude to the many philatelists, dealers and auctioneers who rendered valuable assistance. Special thanks are due to Bill Kane, Fred Dixon and Fr. Brennan for giving free access to the use of valuable material from their extensive libraries.

The auction firms of Robson Lowe and H. R. Harmer have been most co-operative in allowing all of their Sales Catalogues to be examined in their London offices. Conversations with William Meredith and Robson Lowe provided a wealth of information from the early days of Irish Philately.

Hopefully this paper will provoke discussion and help encourage students to trace the provenance of many of our other rare stamps.

The writer accepts full responsibility for any inaccuracies and omissions in this study and would welcome any additions to the listings.

CHRONOLOGICAL PROVENANCE

1922/23 DEC/JAN SAORSTAT 3 line overprint (Thom)

Onepenny Scarlet

Variety: Missing Accent SG53aa

PLATE I Control T22 Imperf.

Position 1 Sheet: 12th Stamp, 15th Row, No. 180.

Four copies reported: Two mint and two used.



MINT: a) Variety shown in complete sheet of 240 (see fig. 1)

Ex J. AGNEW Collection (lot 178), described '1d, no accent, this extremely rare variety in a complete mint sheet, probably UNIQUE. Price realised £34. Purchased by ROBSON LOWE LTD. Later offered for sale (see page 6 "Special offers of recent purchases from the AGNEW IRISH COLLECTION"). Sold to T. E. FIELD and remained in that collection until the sale of May 11th 1966 (lot 762). Estimate £150. Realised £400.

b) Variety in block showing control T22

The only other mint example of this variety is recorded by Dr. Herbert Munk in Kohl's Handbook, translations of which appeared in the Collectors' Club Philatelist in 1941 by H. G. Zervas. On page 146, last paragraph, "A block of this variety with control T22 was sold at a London Auction in 1932 for £65." It has not been possible to locate this Catalogue for inspection.

USED: a) On piece with normal.

Ex BROCKLEHURST, possibly from the mixed lot 351 and later appeared for sale. Ex T. E. FIELD (lot 763) photograph 9(2) and described "penny with the same variety used on piece with normal". Estimate £80. Realised £200.

b) Single with missing corner perf.

Ex FIELD (lot 764) photograph (page 11) and described "another used copy with light cancellation, but missing corner perf. at lower left corner". Estimate £50. Realised £80.

1922/23 DEC/JAN SAORSTAT 3 line overprint (Thom)

One Penny-Scarlet

Variety: Missing Accent and Final 'T' SG53a.

Plate I, Control U22 perf.

Position on Sheet: 12th Stamp 15th Row, No. 180

Seven copies reported: Four mint and three used.



Fig (2): 1d missing accent and 't'.

MINT: a) In Block of 21

Ex CAPTAIN S. P. C. VESEY (lot 213). Described "1d Scarlet, a superb mint block of twenty one with control U22 one stamp, the extremely rare variety no accent and final T missing". Realised £67.10.0.
Ex SIR JOHN DODD (lot 105) photograph P1.I and described "1d Scarlet variety no accent and final T missing in Saorstat included in a mint block (3 x 7) with control U22 at foot, extremely rare thus". Cat. £76. Realised £72.10.0. Ex J. S. PRESTON (lot 58) photographed and realised £82.10.0 against an estimate of £50.

b) In Block of 60

Ex MARQUESS OF BUTE (lot 478). "1d Scarlet a mint block (6 x 10) U22 Perf. the last stamp on fifteenth row the rare variety missing accent and final T, omitted Cat. £75. Valuation £45. Realised £95. Ex "MISSION STAMPS" Auction (lot 162). Val. £110. Described as above.

c) In Block of six – no margin showing.

Ex HARMER ROOKE SALE (London 20th September 1951) lot 186. Described Cat. £50. Realised £65. Ex T. E. Field (lot 773) Photograph II (6) and described "No accent on Saorstat and final T missing in a mint block (2 x 3) including the variety. Valuation £100. Realised £260.

d) In marginal block of six.

Ex C. W. HELLAWELL (lot 260). Photograph in colour on back of Auction Catalogue. Valuation £200. Realised £280. Ex JOHN B. SHERMAN (lot 718) Photograph was enlarged in catalogue plate I. Valuation \$1000.00. Realised \$1000.00.

USED: a) Single

Discovered by W. G. MEREDITH. Photographed in the 4th edition of "The Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-27". (see fig. II). Sold to John A. Agnew for £10 and later appeared in the Agnew Sale (lot 178a). Photographed Plate II and described "1d No Accent and final T missing, a superb used copy of this rarity." Realised £15. Ex T. E. FIELD (lot 774) Photographed II(1). Valuation £60. Realised £260.

b) In Block of six (severed).

Ex SIR JOHN DODD 1957 (lot 106). Photo Plate I described "the same variety in a used block (2 x 3) partly severed". Valuation £50. Realised £40.

c) Single.

Ex SIR JOHN DODD 1957 (lot 107) Photo Plate II. Ex J. S. PRESTON (lot 59) Photo page 5. Valuation £50. Realised £55. Realised £55.

1922/23 DEC/JAN SAORSTAT 3 line overprint (Thom).

One Shilling Bistre Brown

Variety: Missing Accent SG63a

Plate I – Control T22

Position on sheet: 12th Stamp 15th Row No. 180.

Eight copies reported – Seven mint and one used.

MINT: a) In block of four – no margin.

Ex AGNEW (216) described "1/= no accent in mint block extremely fine piece of great rarity" (Photo Plate III) Realised £39.

b) In marginal block of four.

Ex DODD 1957 (114) Photographed. Valuation £20. Realised £20.

Ex PRESTON 1959. Photographed (lot 65). Valuation £40. Realised £63.

c) In marginal block of four.

Ex FIELD (768) Photographed in colour on cover. Valuation £80. Realised £400. (see fig. III).



Fig (3): 1s missing accent

d) In Mint Marginal Pair.

Ex HELLAWEY (267) Photographed in colour. Valuation £275.
Realised £625.

e) Vertically creased single.

Ex ROBSON LOWE SALE 1971 (197). Photographed in colour.
Valuation £200. Realised £420. Ex WALLACE (748). Photographed.
Valuation £425. Realised £400.

f) In Marginal Strip of three.

Ex SHERMAN (735) Variety in centre stamp. Catalogued £850.
Valuation \$1000.00. Realised \$1350.00.

g) In Marginal Strip of three.

Ex WALLACE (747) Variety in centre stamp. Small faults. Photo-
graphed in colour. Valuation £850. Lot withdrawn.

USED: a) Single on piece.

Found in Canada in 1972 and later sold by David Feldman Ltd. to a
private collector.

1922/23 DEC SAORSTAT 3 line overprint (Thom).

Ten Shillings Blue.

Variety: Accent inserted and reversed SG66b.

Position on Sheet: 4th Stamp, 7th Row, No. 28.

Eight copies reported (All mint).

MINT: a) In Horizontal Marginal Pair.

Ex AGNEW (234) Photographed Plate III. Realised £15.

Ex FIELD (Mixed lot 775).



Fig (4): 10s reversed accent

b) In block of four – no margin showing.

Ex A. E. HOPKINS (331). Photographed and described. Catalogue £32. Valuation £20. Ex PRESTON (Mixed lot 67).

c) In Pair with Normal

Margin or not unstated horizontal or vertical? Fine O.G. Ex HARMER ROOKE SALE 20/9/51. (lot 209). Catalogue £23. Realised £9.

d) and e) Two marginal singles.

Both ex DODD 1964 (1322). Valuation £15. Realised £19. One of these listed for sale by David Feldman Ltd. for £1,200 in Gibbons Stamp Monthly September 1978.

f) Vertical Marginal Pair.

Ex DODD 1964 (1324). See fig. IV. Valuation £14. Realised £21.

g) Single.

Ex ZERVAS (855) Photographed Plate 15. Cat. £250. Valuation \$450.

Ex WALLACE (764). Photographed in colour on front cover of catalogue. Valuation £450.

h) Marginal Horizontal Pair.

Ex ZERVAS (856). Photo Plate 15. Cat. £250. Valuation \$465.

Ex SHERMAN (761) Photo Plate 8. Cat. £250. Valuation \$765. Realised \$425.

CHECK LIST OF VARITIES

	Penny Missing Accent	Penny Missing Accent and Final 'T'	Shilling Missing Accent	Ten Shilling Accent Inserted and Reversed
Gibbons	53aa	53a	63a	66b
Feldman	48b	48d	58b	61e
Scott	45a	45c	55a	58b
Meredith	V36	V37	V42	V53
Munk Kohl	45F I	45F II	55F I	58F I
Michel	26 IV	—	36 IV	39 VI
Robson Lowe	47h	47j	57h	60n

AUCTION SALES ETC. REFERRED TO IN CHRONOLOGICAL PROVENANCE

John A. Agnew (H. R. Harmer, London)	26th May 1930
Special Offers from Agnew Sale (Robson Lowe)	1930
S. P. Vesey (H. R. Harmer, London)	27th November 1933
A. E. Hopkins (Robson Lowe, London)	15th December 1948
Mixed Sale (Harmer Rooke, London)	20th September 1951
W. Brocklehurst (Robson Lowe, London)	7th December 1955
Sir John Dodd (Robson Lowe)	29th March 1957
The Marquess of Bute (Robson Lowe, London)	6th May 1959
J. S. Preston (Robson Lowe, London)	8th July 1959
Auction of Stamps & Coins (Mission Stamps, Galway)	29th August 1959
Sir John Dodd (Robson Lowe, London)	7th May 1964
T. E. Field (Robson Lowe, London)	11th May 1966
C. W. Hellawell (Robson Lowe, London)	5th March 1968
Hans Zervas (H. R. Harmer, New York)	15th October 1969
Mixed Sale (Robson Lowe, London)	13th July 1971
John Sherman (H. R. Harmer, New York)	6th June 1973
H. Wallace (Robson Lowe, London)	15th May 1975
Gibbons Stamp Monthly (advert. D. Feldman Ltd.)	September 1978

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Ireland (Eire) Provisorierna 1922 by Erik Kuylenstjerna. February 1966.

The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Stamps. Vol. I Robson Lowe 1952.

APPRECIATIONS

William Kane, Fred Dixon, Fr. John Brennan, Mrs. Joan O'Mara, Messrs. H. R. Harmer & Co., Robson Lowe Ltd., Stanley Gibbons Ltd. David Feldman Ltd. Hibernian Stamp Co., Ian Whyte.

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Diary

DSS – Dublin Stamp Society Meeting, held at the Ormond Hotel, Ormond Quay Upr., at 7.45 p.m., usually followed by a bourse.

IPS – Irish Philatelic Society Meeting, held at the Clarence Hotel, Wellington Quay, Dublin 2 at 7.45 p.m., usually followed by a bourse.

FEB 8 IPS. Exchange Meeting: display from DSS.
14 DSS. Classic Stamps by W. Heidenfeld.
22 IPS. 1978 P. O. Dispute by J. Lennon.
24 Auction: Ian Whyte 2.30 p.m., Gresham Hotel Dublin.

Letters

Many thanks for Irish Stamp News No. 1. It is an excellent production, and I would like to record my congratulations. From a purely philatelic point of view the articles meet with my approval; a very good cross section of interests and well written. The adverts do not detract from the overall appearance of the magazine, and that is something in my book. The illustrations are first class, as is the printing in general. I am sure that within one year you will be well established, and the magazine will be paying its way.

All praise to the writers of the articles, the printer and to your good self as editor. Keep up the good work.

BILL KANE, Dublin 4

Many thanks for ISN, first issue to hand yesterday. I must say that it is very well produced indeed, the articles were interesting (one told me that I had some Pension Fund material which I did not know that I had) but the crossword left me cold! My brain does not tick over as it used to.

The Irish P.O. numbers list seems to follow Brumell – I have not checked it completely – there may be some differences. However I did note a couple of slight errors. No. 25 changed to Bagenalstown (not Bagan.....) No. 183 Drumaree surely Drumcree. 123.....was it not also used at

27 STAMPEX – British National to Mar 3 Stamp Exhibition, Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoats and Elverton Streets, London.
28 DSS. Art on Stamps by Mrs. C. Archer.

MAR 8 IPS. Australia & Pacific by Dr. P. F. Smith-Keary.
12 IPS. Irish Stamp Issue: Year of the Child and World Cross-Country Championships.
14 DSS. Stamps of 1977 arranged by P. Corcoran.
22 IPS. Ireland by Dr. J. A. Quigley.
28 DSS. International Co-operation on Stamps by W. Jackson.
APR 5 IPS. Saxony by Dr. J. P. Mackey FRPSL.
11 DSS. Annual Competition & Club
19 IPS. General Display.
25 DSS. British Commonwealth by M. Threlfall.

Castletown Geoghan from 1892? 132 ClareBrumell gives it Clare, Co. Clare. Clare itself is a very small village and I wonder if it was large enough for a number. But is there evidence that it was for Claremorris? "Irish Names of Places" (Joyce, 1887) does not mention Claremorris at all. 150.....1874 Callooney should be Coll..... Dunfanaghy – not Dunt.....

The postcard article was very interesting – I have a couple of the cards illustrated.

If you can up this quality of production (excellent) and the interesting articles – you are on a winner!

REV. W.E. DAVEY, WORCESTERSHIRE

Congratulations on your new entry in the field of Irish Literature. I've read the "Irish Stamp News" from cover to cover now twice, even though the publication arrived in the morning mail. I've enjoyed the variety that the booklet offers, such as 'Book Review', 'Newsbeat' and the 'Auction Report', especially the fact that the DF 4B Booklet sold for £295 – close to \$600. I have in my collection a 28 – 46 DF 4B which I hope has also increased in value comparatively.

I was pleased to read the Classified page, which introduced me to new dealers. I hope that new dealers will get more exposure and benefit the Irish Stamp Collectors.

May I suggest that you include a comprehensive article on gutter pairs and paste up pairs of the 1st and 2nd definitives.

My only suggestion for improvement at this time is to make it a monthly publication instead of quarterly. But then again it's easy for me to say!

R. CHAIET, HOUSTON, TEXAS

LITTLE KNOWN POSTMARKS

By F. E. Dixon

J- 21 A (June 1774) M·15·M (May 1784)

J 19 A (July 1774) J 17 M (June 1780)

AU 14 M (1792)

AP 10 M (1804)

UV 18 M (1792)

The handstruck datestamps illustrated are very crude, and as late as 1938 a leading authority believed them to be only a private production. Fortunately there were other collectors who had seen the markings on a sufficient variety of covers to be satisfied that they were associated with the Dublin Penny Post. Most of those seen are on General Post Letters transferred to the Local Post for delivery, an extra penny being charged, even on "Free" letters. At first (probably from the start in 1773) there was only one letter for the month (I=January, J=June or July, M=March or May, A=April or August) but two letters were used from about 1790 until the oval framed type of datestamp came in in 1810. The letter after the date was always A or M, obviously for Afternoon or Morning. A peculiar feature is that this letter was always out of alignment until about 1800. The size of the lettering changed several times, at first 5mm, then 6mm, up to the maximum of 8mm in the 1780's and then again getting smaller, becoming uniformly 6mm from 1804 to 1809. Evidence that the stamps were assembled from detachable pieces is supplied by the existence of inversions, as shown by the last illustration.

THE GERL DEFINITIVES – SUPPLEMENT NO. 1

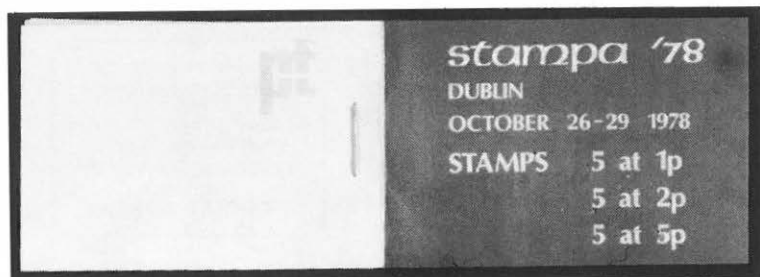
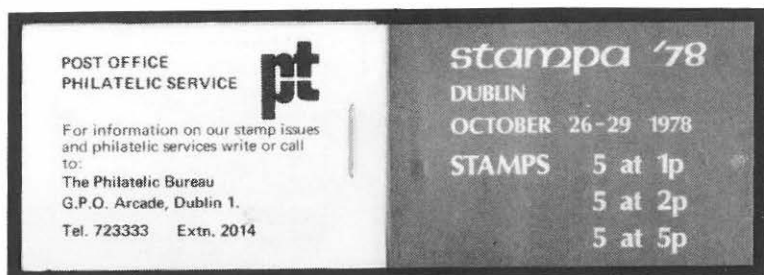
By Brian Warren and Eddie Fitzgerald

Our handbook – “The Gerl Definitives – A specialised handbook of the definitive postage stamps of Ireland 1968 – 1978” was released for sale at the Irish National Stamp Exhibition – Stampa '78. We are more than pleased with the response to date and sincerely thank all who have complimented us on our work. The purpose of this column is to record all additions to the present Gerl definitives as they occur. New information on items already issued will also be published as and when it becomes available. In order to avoid unnecessary repetition all supplements appearing in Irish Stamp News will be written on the assumption that the handbook, particularly the Introductory and General Notes have been read and understood. As often happens with first editions a few typing errors passed unnoticed at the proof reading state to our regret. The principal error is on pages 32 and 36: types B and D are printed on **Fluorescent Coated Paper** (not OCP) as correctly stated in the General Notes on page 28. A complete list of the known corrections is given at the end of this article.

Type D. The ½p, 8p dog, 10p dog and 20p values continue to be available on type D and no doubt new printings of other values will appear with this paper/gum type during 1979. There is some difficulty in differentiating between types B and D; the best advice we can give in this regard is to compare all doubtful stamps against a block of the unwatermarked ½p value which only exists on paper/gum type D. Supplies of the 50p eagle were unavailable at most post offices in recent months. The shortage of these stamps has been due to their usage on television licence savings cards. New supplies became available in early December on paper/gum type D. This is the only new addition to the sheet listings.

40p Booklet. A small number of the 40p booklet (pink cover) have appeared with the slogan (Please show district numbers etc.) missing from the inside front cover. At first it was thought that a stereo from the complete cover sheet of 44 was missing. However, examples have been seen with panes of stamps from both columns C and D thus proving that the error is a result of the complete card cover sheet (11 x 4) being printed only one side. The total number of booklets with this error which is a multiple of 44 depends on the number of error cover card sheets utilised in the production of complete booklets. Actually the total number is a multiple of 42 as two booklets out of the 44 are not released, but more about that at a later date. An example of this booklet was recently sold at auction for £25.

Stampa '78 Booklet. A third exhibition booklet containing Gerl definitives was issued at the recent Stampa exhibition. The numbered edition of 1,000 booklets contained three booklet panes taken from ordinary post office booklets – 5 x 1p + label, 5 x 2p + label and 5 x 5p + label. The panes were interleaved with advertisements from standholders attending the exhibition (including the Post Office). The panes and interleaving were stapled into an orange coloured card cover. Booklets have been found with incorrect contents e.g. missing panes, two 1p panes etc. In addition blank advertisement pages have been discovered in at least two instances – Bill O'Connell and Post Office. As the Post Office advertisement appears on the back cover the booklet (no. 197) makes a most



Stampa Booklets — The normal booklet is shown together with booklet no. 197 with missing Post Office Advertisement.

attractive display item. A faint impression of the PT symbol is all that can be seen (illustrated). The booklets were sold at 90p each — one per admission ticket, and were sold out after 3 days despite rationing.

Corrigenda to “The Gerl Definitives — A specialised handbook of the definitive postage stamps of Ireland 1968-1978”. No. 2

- Page 25: Varieties — DS 309a refers to the 5p stag while Ds 310a refers to the 5p dog.
- Page 28: In the introductory paragraph the page reference should read — “see note on page 22”.
- Page 28: In the third line of the paragraph headed Gum — for “sum” read “gum”.
- Page 32: In the heading the paper reference should be “Fluorescent Coated Paper” (not OCP).
- Page 36: As above.
- Page 55: The 2p booklet pane (DE 11) was issued on 27th January 1975.
- Page 56: The page reference in note ii should read “see note on page 23”.
- Page 68: In note ii the date of issue of the first Gerl definitives should read 14th October 1968.

IRISH POST OFFICE NUMBERS



1844-1906

PART TWO

This is the continuation of our listing of the Post Office Numbers. The third and final part will be published in the next issue of IRISH STAMP NEWS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 241 Golden Ball (Dublin) | 266 Kildorrey (Cork) |
| 242 Gort (Galway) | 1885-Killorglin (Kerry) |
| 243 Gorey (Wexford) | 267 Kildysart (Clare) |
| 244 Gowran (Kilkenny) | 1894-Kilcar (Donegal) |
| 245 Graig (Kilkenny) also known
as Graigue and Graiguenamanagh | 268 Kilkeel (Down) |
| 246 Granard (Longford) | 269 Kilkenny (Kilkenny) |
| 247 Grey Abbey (Down) | 270 Killala (Mayo) |
| 1874 Greystones (Wicklow) | 1892-Killeshandra (Cavan) |
| 248 Goresbridge (Kilkenny) | 271 Killaloe (Clare) |
| 249 Headford (Galway) | 344 Moynalty (Meath) |
| 1874 Hazelhatch (Dublin) | 272 Killarney (Kerry) |
| 250 Hillsborough (Down) | 273 Killinardrish (Cork) |
| 251 Hollymount (Mayo) | 1873-Killiney (Dublin) |
| 252 Hollywood (Wicklow) | 274 Killeagh (Cork) |
| 1874-Howth (Dublin) | 1895-Kilfenora (Clare) |
| 253 Howth (Dublin) | 275 Killucan (Westmeath) |
| 1874-Irvinestown (Fermanagh) | 276 Killybegs (Donegal) |
| 254 Inistogue (Kilkenny) | Used in error 1852-1860 at
Killucan (Westmeath) |
| 1885-Inniskeen (Monaghan) | 1874-Killygordon (Donegal) |
| 255 Innishannon (Cork) | also known spelt as Killygordan |
| 1874-Island Bridge (Dublin) | 277 Killyleigh (Down) |
| 1906-Inver (Donegal) | 278 Killynaule (Tipperary) |
| 256 Johnstown (Kilkenny) | Killybegs (Donegal) |
| 1892-Inch, Gorey (Wexford) | 279 Killeshandra (Cavan) |
| 257 Kanturk (Cork) | 1885-Killylea (Armagh) |
| 258 Keady (Armagh) | 280 Killinchy (Down) |
| 1892-Kells, Killarney (Kerry) | 281 Killough (Down) |
| 259 Kells (Meath) | 282 Kilmacrennan (Donegal) |
| 260 Kenmare (Kerry) | 283 Kilmallock (Limerick) |
| 261 Kilbeggan (Westmeath) | 284 Kilrea (Derry) |
| 1874-Kesh (Fermanagh) | 285 Kilrush (Clare) |
| 262 Kilcock (Kildare) | 286 Kilworth (Cork) |
| 263 Kilconnell (Galway) | 287 Kilmachthomas (Waterford) |
| 1869-Kilbride (Wicklow) | 288 Kingscourt (Cavan) |
| 264 Kilcullen (Kildare) | 1885-Kincasslagh (Donegal) |
| 1885-Kilbrittain (Cork) | 289 Kingstown (Dublin) |
| 265 Kildare (Kildare) | 290 Kinnegad (Westmeath) |

- 1885—Knockcloghrim (Derry)
 291 Kinnegad (Westmeath)
 1857-60—Used in error for 29
 1875—Knockcloghrim (Derry)
 292 Kinnetty (Kings)
 1874—Rathmore (Kerry)
 293 Kircubbin (Down)
 294 Kish (Fermanagh)
 1874—Knockcroghery
 (Roscommon)
 295 Knock (Mayo)
 1885—Kylemore (Galway)
 296 Knocktopher (Kilkenny)
 1885—Larne Harbour (Antrim)
 297 Kinvara (Galway)
 1874—Leixlip (Kildare)
 298 Lanesborough (Longford)
 1874—Letter (Fermanagh)
 299 Larne (Antrim)
 300 Leighlinbridge (Carlow)
 1874—Laurencetown (Down)
 301 Leixlip (Kildare)
 1874—Leggs (Fermanagh)
 302 Letterkenny (Donegal)
 303 Limerick (Limerick)
 304 Lisburn (Antrim)
 305 Lismore (Waterford)
 306 Lisnaskea (Fermanagh)
 307 Listowel (Kerry)
 308 Littleton (Tipperary)
 1885—Lixnaw (Kerry)
 309 Longford (Longford)
 310 Loughbrickland (Down)
 1870—Loughlinstown (Dublin)
 1885—Shankhill (Dublin)
 311 Loughall (Armagh)
 1873—Lough Eske (Donegal)
 312 Loughrea (Galway)
 313 Lowtherstown (Fermanagh)
 1892—Lispole (Kerry)
 314 Louth (Louth)
 1874—Lucan (Dublin)
 315 Lucan (Dublin)
 1906—Lahinch (Clare)
 316 Lurgan (Armagh)
 317 Macroom (Cork)
 1874—Lusk (Dublin)
 318 Maghera (Derry)
 1860's—used in error for 383 at
 Raphoe.
 1874—Mageney (Kildare)

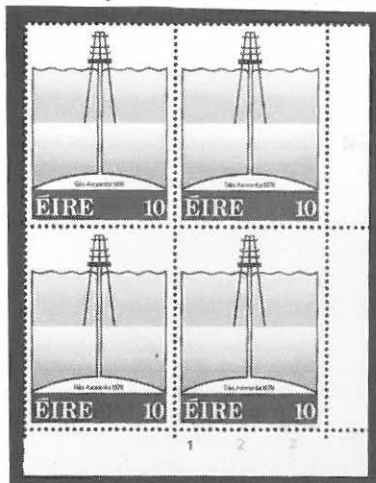
- 319 Magherafelt (Derry)
 320 Malahide (Dublin)
 321 Mallow (Cork)
 322 Manorhamilton (Leitrim)
 1874—Manorcunningham
 (Donegal)
 323 Markethill (Armagh)
 1859-1874—Magheramena
 (Fermanagh)
 324 Maryborough (Queens)
 325 Maynooth (Kildare)
 1885—Maghera (Derry)
 326 Middleton (Cork)
 1859—changed to Midleton
 327 Millstreet (Cork)
 1874—Markethill (Armagh)
 328 Miltown (Dublin)
 1892—changed to Milltown
 329 Miltown Malbay (Clare)
 330 Mitchelstown (Cork)
 331 Moate (Westmeath)
 332 Mohill (Leitrim)
 1874—Moirra (Down)
 333 Moira (Down)
 1892—Moyvore (Westmeath)
 334 Monaghan (Monaghan)
 335 Monasterevan (Kildare)
 336 Moneygall (Kings)
 1874—Monkstown (Dublin)
 337 Moneymore (Derry)
 338 Mountmellick (Queens)
 339 Mount Nugent (Cavan)
 1874—Mount Pleasant (Louth)
 340 Mountrath (Queens)
 341 Mount Talbot (Roscommon)
 1885—Multyfarnham (Westmeath)
 342 Movice (Donegal)
 1878—Muckamore (Antrim)
 343 Moy (Tyrone)
 344 Moynalty (Meath)
 1874—Mulhuddart (Dublin)
 345 Mullingar (Westmeath)
 346 Naas (Kildare)
 347 Narin (Donegal)
 348 Navan (Meath)
 349 Nenagh (Tipperary)
 350 New Birmingham (Tipperary)
 351 Newbliss (Monaghan)
 352 Newbridge (Kildare)

(To be continued)

RECENT RELEASES

By Brian Warren and Eddie Fitzgerald

Since the Autumn issue of Irish Stamp News there have been five releases of special and commemorative issues in a period of three months. The practice of placing two sets of plate or cylinder numbers on these issues continues and has now been extended to those printed by the Revenue Commissioners at Dublin Castle. The one exception is the Christmas issue (see special note below). Varieties listed are those which the authors consider worth collecting. Minor flyspeck varieties are ignored. A listing of the plate and cylinder numbers follow.



Date	Issue	Value	Plate/Cylinder Numbers
18/9/78	Catherine McAuley	10p	11111, 11112
	Smallpox Eradication	11p	11111
	Sir William Orpen/Irish Art	17p	111111
18/10/78	Natural Gas — Arrival Onshore	10p	111, 112, 122
26/10/78	Irish Currency — 50th Anniversary	8p	III
	Irish Currency — 50th Anniversary	10p	III
	Irish Currency — 50th Anniversary	11p	III
	Irish Currency — 50th Anniversary	17p	III
16/11/78	Christmas	8p	III
	Christmas	10p	III
	Christmas	17p	III
6/12/78	Europa	10p	II
	Europa	11p	II

The Currency, Christmas and Europa issues were photogravure printed by the Revenue Stamping Branch; all other stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited using the litho process. The litho issues have boxed colour blocks (traffic lights) as well as plate numbers printed in the margin; however with the exception of the 11p Smallpox Eradication stamp these colour blocks were placed in a different corner to that of the plate numbers.

Currency Issue. This was the first issue from the Castle with a double set of cylinder numbers. All normal sheet markings were present except that the marginal rules were absent from the right margin of sheets of the 17p value. A number of collectable varieties exist on the 17p value:

R4/3: Scratches between r and e of Eire.

R4/4: Long horizontal scratch to left of coin.

R10/3: Damage to first E of hEireann (top serif).

Christmas Issue. This issue was unusual in that the cylinder numbers were not applied at the time of manufacture. The cylinders were numbered at Dublin Castle prior to printing. The numbers were not applied to each cylinder of which there are five (two for portrait plus three value tablets); instead the numbers were all applied to the same cylinder (the background colour). This resulted in three faint numbers of similar colour to appear in the right hand margins opposite rows 9/10 of all values. One of the three pairs of autotron marks appears to have been belatedly added to the cylinder. (same background colour – Row 4 left and right margins). There were no colour register crosses as is usual with the photogravure issues. The only worthwhile variety appears on the 17p value.—

R1/4: Retouch to left of first E of Eire.

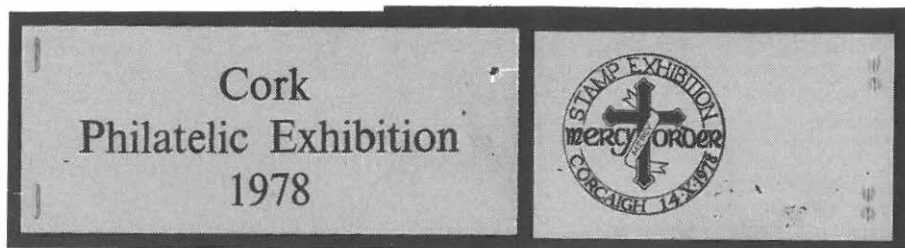
Europa. This issue was delayed due to sub-standard printing of cylinders. The eventual cylinders utilised for this issue clearly demonstrate the difficulties encountered as the majority of stamps have hair line scratches/cracks and/or minor flyspeck varieties. To detail them all would require purchase of complete sheets. As examples we detail the following:—

10p value – R2/2: Large retouch to serif at foot of last e of Eire.

11p value – R9/7: Pronounced haircracks.

– R10/6: Further pronounced haircracks.

Exhibition Booklets: The popularity of these items continue and two have been released in connection with the Cork and Stamp Exhibitions.



Cork Philatelic Exhibition 1978. This booklet contained a marginal strip of three 10p Catherine McAuley stamps (either left or right margins) and was produced in a numbered edition of 196 and sold at 75p (one per visitor). The special postmark used on mail posted at the exhibition was reproduced on the back cover. 33 were unsold and were destroyed by the organisers, the Cork Philatelic Society.

Stampa '78. This booklet contained panes of 1p, 2p and 5p stamps as detailed elsewhere in Irish Stamp News. The booklets were completely sold out by early afternoon on the last day of the exhibition (Sunday) to the disappointment of many latecomers.

Year Pack. The 1978 Year Pack was issued on 6th December 1978. Similar in style to the 1977 Pack, the cost is £2.45, (total face value £2.23) and will remain on sale until 31st December 1979 or until stocks are exhausted whichever is the earlier.

Registered Envelope. A new printing of the Size H envelope was released in October. The foreign compensation amount as detailed on the reverse of the envelope was corrected to £7.20 on this printing (previously £6.35). No doubt the other two sizes of registered envelopes (G and K) will be altered in due course. This item was first noted by the writers at the Cork Stamp Exhibition.

Cork Philatelic Exhibition 1978. (A special cancel commemorating the founding of the Mercy Order of Nuns was provided at the one day exhibition held in the Imperial Hotel, Cork on 14th October 1978. An official cover was also available from the organisers.

Stampa '78. Four cancels, one for each day of the exhibition were available as was an official cover. First day facilities were provided in connection with the Currency issue.

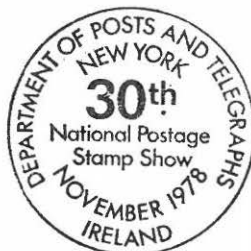
26th October: Currency Issue — 50th Anniversary.

27th October: 25th Anniversary of the Guild of St. Gabriel.

28th October: Flora.

29th October: East-West Transatlantic Flight — 50th Anniversary.

Postmarks. Special pictorial postmarks continue to be used in both Dublin and Cork in connection with all new issues. First day facilities were also provided in respect of the Gas stamp at Whitegate Post Office. The usual steel date stamp (Geata Ban, Mainistir na Coran) together with the two line first day issue cachet was used. As reported in the first issue of Irish Stamp News the Irish Post Office are continuing a policy of linking a stamp issue with their participation in overseas exhibitions. A special first day postmark/cachet is used on first day covers sold at their sales stands at such exhibitions. In addition a plain cachet is also available. In the last quarter of '78 the Post Office attended the British Philatelic Exhibition in London and the U.S. National Postage Stamp Show in New York and the following illustrated cachets/postmarks were available.



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