

IRISH STAMP NEWS

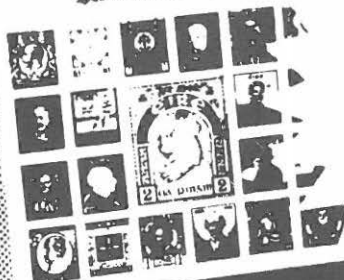
No.8 Summer 1981



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of the stamps of ireland



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MACDONNELL WHYTE LTD.,
102 LEINSTER ROAD,
DUBLIN 6. Tel: (01) 977449.

Irish Stamp News

Published by
MacDonnell Whyte Ltd.,
102 Leinster Road,
Dublin 6.

Telephone: 01-977449.

Member: Association International de Journalistes Philatéliques.

Printed by
Reprint Ltd.,
22 South Cumberland St.,
Dublin 2.
Typesetting by Fingerprint
45 Lr Baggot Street, Dublin 2.
Tel: 766443/766152.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per 4 issues, post paid	
Ireland & Britain	IR£2.60
Elsewhere (surface mail)	IR£3.00
Elsewhere (airmail)	IR£3.50

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FRONT COVER: *A mint example of the rare 1935 2d perf. 15 x imperf. coil, see G. Brady's article on page 17.*

EDITORIAL

The Irish Post Office are to be congratulated on the enormous strides they have made in the development of Irish philately over the past five or six years. Stamp design has improved tremendously, subjects are more interesting and varied, and the services provided to collectors are excellent. The Post Office's assistance to the National Stamp Exhibition and the Federation of Philatelic Societies in Ireland is also to be welcomed, as is their participation in local fairs and overseas exhibitions.

However it would now appear that having been successfully persuaded that it can make money from the sale of what were previously thought of as labels for the pre-payment of postage, the Post Office is out to milk every last penny from the collector. This year's new issue programme would seem to testify to this view, with a total of 23 commemorative stamps. It is not so much the quantity of stamps as the price of them — a total of £4.46 compared to £2.46 last year, an increase in face value of 81%, over four times the current inflation rate of 20%!

For the collector of single copies of Irish stamps this increase is bad enough but for the more specialised collector it is now ludicrously expensive to collect plate blocks of Irish issues. A plate block collector will have to spend at least £36 this year, and by the time extra numbers, shades and the like are added his bill could easily be of the order of £70 or so. Many collectors have told me they are giving up collecting new issues in blocks as they simply cannot afford them any more.

Dealers too are hit by this massive increase in Post Office output. They usually have to keep stocks of these issues for future years. However their funds are limited, particularly in a recession like the one we are going through at the moment. Therefore they are cutting back on what they usually put by.

The Post Office will not notice the cutting back in the short term as the increase in face value will make up for the cut in volume sales, but it will become more and more difficult to attract new customers if this policy of excessive stamps and exorbitant face values continues. This has happened time and time again with other countries who have followed this slippery path to philatelic oblivion. As volume sales decline the face value is consistently increased to make up for the smaller number of collectors buying these overpriced labels, until it gets to the point where only the most gullible of collectors are subscribing to them. Do we want to go the same way as Grenada, Equatorial Guinea, Cook Islands, and the like?

IAN WHYTE/Editor

BUYING IRELAND

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BUYING SUBJECT TO STOCK REQUIREMENTS

OVERPRINTS — UNMOUNTED MINT

SG 1	1/2d Dollard	.03
SG 2/3	1d Dollard	.05
SG 4	2 1/2d Dollard	.30
SG 5	3d Dollard	.80
SG 6	4d Dollard	1.50
SG 8	9d Dollard	6.00
SG 9	10d Dollard	4.50
SG 10	1 1/2d Thom Grey-blk	.18
SG 12	2d Die 1 Thom	.35
SG 13	2d Die 2 Thom	.30
SG 14	6d Thom	3.00
SG 15	1/- Thom	4.00
SG 24	4d Carmine o/pt	12.00
SG 25a	9d Carmine o/pt	20.00
SG 30	1/2d Thom Blue-blk	.15
SG 43	1/- Thom Blue-blk	10.00
SG 48	1d 'Wide'	.50
SG 49	1 1/2d 'Wide'	1.00
SG 50	2d 'Wide'	6.00
SG 54	1 1/2d 'Saorstat'	1.00
SG 56	2 1/2d 'Saorstat'	1.00
SG 58	4d 'Saorstat'	1.50
SG 68	1d 3-line coil	1.50

ILLUSTRATED FIRST DAY COVERS

* 1929	O'Connell	125.00
* 1930	Shannon	130.00
* 1931	R.D.S.	35.00
* 1932	Eucharistic	35.00
* 1933	Holy Year	80.00
1934	G.A.A.	35.00
1937	Constitution	3.50
1938	Matthew	10.00
1939	U.S. Constitution	6.00
1941	Rising (2v)	12.00
1941	Volunteer	6.00
1943	Hyde	8.00
1943	Hamilton	9.00
* 1944	O'Clery	35.00
1950	Holy Year	12.00
1953	An Tostal	12.00
1966	Casement	.35
1966	Abbey	.30
1972	Minisheet	4.00
1978	Flora CAPEX cancel	1.50

* = Prices for plain FDC's. Premium paid for illustrated.

ALSO BUYING ALL OVERPRINTS FINE USED — PLEASE OFFER

DEFINITIVES — UNMOUNTED MINT

SG 73	1922	1 1/2d 'SE' wmk.	.70
SG 75	1922	2 1/2d 'SE' wmk	.70
SG 77	1922	4d 'SE' wmk	1.75
SG 78	1922	5d 'SE' wmk	12.00
SG 79	1922	6d 'SE' wmk	3.00
SG 81	1922	10d 'SE' wmk	10.00
SG 72c		1d 'SE' coil	10.00
SG 102	1937	2/6 St. Patrick	40.00
SG 104	1937	10/- St. Patrick	30.00
SG 112a	1940	1dcoil perf. 14	9.00
SG 122	1940	1/- 'E' wmk	40.00
SG 142a	1954	8d Airmail	.40
SG 143a	1954	1/3 Airmail	.50
SG 296	1971	6p Stag DULL PVA	.40
SG 299	1971	10p Ox TYPE 1	2.50
SG 299a	1971	10p Ox TYPE 2	2.00
SG 300	1971	20p Ox	1.00
SG 343	1974	3 1/2p NO. WMK.	.70
SG 351	1974	9p Stag NO WMK	.25

BOOKLETS

Sg B8	1964 3/- Red/Yellow cover	8.00
SG B9	1966 2/6 Red cover	2.00
SG B10	1966 2/6 Blue cover	2.00
SG B11	1966 5/- Green cover	4.00
SG B12	1969 6/-	4.00
SG B13	1971 30p	9.00

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NEWSBEAT

STAMPA '81

STAMPA '81 will take place from Friday October 23 to Bank Holiday Monday, October 26, and not as previously announced October 10-18. Originally it was hoped to stage STAMPA '81 as part of the Royal Dublin Society's 250th Anniversary Exhibition but as this has been cancelled STAMPA has reverted to its normal dates. The venue, as usual, will be the Royal Dublin Society's Concourse and Lawn Restaurant at Anglesea Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

The exhibition will be opened by its Patron, the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs at 12 noon on Friday October 23. On the opening day STAMPA will close at 9 pm and the hours for the other three days are 11 am to 6 pm. Admission will be 70p for adults and 40p for children, students, and old age pensioners.

A special cancellation will be used on each of the four days of STAMPA '81 and a souvenir cover will also be available. Fully serviced sets of the four cancels on cover will be available at IR£2 plus 20p postage (50p overseas) from the Secretariat.

A special souvenir will also be available exclusively to visitors to the show or members of the Stamp Society. Membership of the Stamp Society costs IR£5 and the benefits include a free season ticket to the exhibition, mention in the catalogue, and a special souvenir exclusive to members. Last year members received the miniature sheet overprinted in red, of which only 150 exist. The subscription of £5 helps keep STAMPA running smoothly, and with the benefits outlined above no Irish philatelist can afford not to join. An application form is available on request or just send IR£5 with your name and address to the STAMPA Secretariat.

The prospectus for Exhibitors is available and as the closing date for the provisional entry form is August 31. Intending exhibitors are advised to apply for a form immediately. Exhibits don't have to be sent in until September 30.

All enquiries, orders for covers, subscriptions, requests for forms should be sent to Ian Whyte, Hon. Secretary, STAMPA '81, 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6, Ireland. (Telephone (01) 977449).

NEW ISSUE PROGRAMME

This year's new issue programme has been altered again. On August 31 two stamps will be issued: an 18p for the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, and a 30p in the Irish Art series. In mid September, on a date to be announced later, both the United States and Ireland will issue a stamp of the same design depicting the White House, Washington D.C., and a portrait of its Irish-born architect, James Hoban. The face value of the Irish stamp will be 18p and the U.S. version is expected to be 18 cents.

The next issue will coincide with STAMPA 81 and will be released on October 23. Five stamps will depict Irish Horses in denominations of 15p, 18p (two se-tenant), 19p, and 30p. On November 2 three Christmas stamps — 15p, 18p and 30p — will be issued. Finally two 18p stamps will commemorate respectively the 250th Anniversary of the Royal Dublin Society and the centenary of the Land Law (Ireland) Act 1881.

There will be no further definitive issues this year.

RPSI ISSUES ITS OWN STAMPS

The Railway Preservation Society has released a sheetlet of nine railway letter stamps. The sheetlet contains three different designs with a face value of 20p per stamp. The designs feature steam engines used by the Society on its special rail excursions and tours. As the Society is based in Northern Ireland the denominations are in Sterling.

The stamps were issued on May 16 and were due to be used on mail carried on the "Ben Bulbin Railtour" but the tour was terminated in Belfast due to engine failure. Some covers were posted on the initial stages however.

Format International of London were responsible for the design and printing of the 4,200 sheetlets produced.

The Philatelic Bureau

Revised 1981 Stamp Programme

150th Anniversary of the birth of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa	15p	31st August
Contemporary Irish Art	30p	31st August
James Hoban (Joint Irish/American Issue)		September
Fauna and Flora	15p, 18p & 18p, 19p, 30p	23rd October
Christmas	15p, 18p, 30p	12th November
Royal Dublin Society	18p	10th December
Centenary of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881	18p	10th December

1982 Stamp Programme

Europa (historic events)
Centenary of the birth of Eamon de Valera
Tercentenary of the ordination of Francis Makemie
Centenary of the birth of James Joyce
50th Anniversary of the establishment of Killarney National Park.
Centenary of the birth of Padraic O'Conaire.
Fauna and Flora (fish)
800th Anniversary of the birth of St. Francis of Assisi.
Centenary of the birth of Charles Kickham
Irish Boats
Bicentenary of Grattan's Parliament
Bicentenary of the birth of John Field.
Christmas

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SUCCESSFUL WATERFORD SHOW

The largest collectors' exhibition in the South-East and the second largest in Ireland was officially opened by the Life President of the Literary and Historical Society, Mr. J. J. Walsh who welcomed guests and related how closely aligned his particular Society was with the aims and objects of the organisers of the Waterford Exhibition.

His Worship the Mayor of Waterford, Cllr. Tom Brennan was also present and he in the company of Mr. J. J. Walsh welcomed all the standholders to Waterford.



WATERFORD: Bill O'Connell (left), Cllr. Tom Brennan, Lord Mayor (centre) and Tommy O'Neill.

The organisers had prepared for a crowd of about 500 attending, this figure being consistent with attendances at other similar exhibitions in Ireland; even those organised in Dublin and Cork. However the huge crowd of 1500 left no one in doubt that an exhibition of this nature was very popular in the South-East. Traffic jams became the order of the day as many visitors waited for half-an-hour or more to gain entry to the Exhibition. The special booklet of 400 copies was expected to last throughout Saturday but was sold out within two hours of opening. The Special Cover had a limited printing of 800 and thus considered more than ample for two days. These were sold out by 5 p.m. on the Saturday and the organisers were left in the embarrassing position of having to provide an emergency cover to see the day out. Accordingly at about 7 p.m. on the Saturday the Newtown School Stamp was affixed to 100 covers and placed on sale. Sixty-four of these emergency covers sold before the exhibition closed at 8 p.m. on the Saturday and those who were lucky enough to obtain this scarce cover will have a very worthwhile item for their collection as only 64



WATERFORD: View of the crowded hall. Wil Coense of Shamrock Stamps at right.

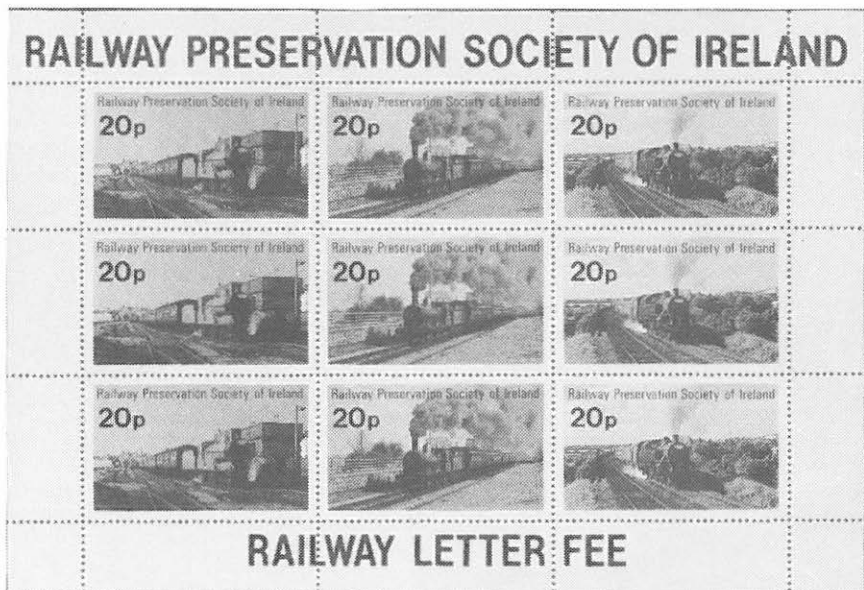
exist. The date stamp was used also on the 26th April (Sunday). Dealers were paying £3 for the £1 booklets before the exhibition closed. In all, the Post office counter took in £1200 which was more than at any other Irish Exhibition outside of "Stampa".

The magnificent Bishop Foy Hall at Newtown School, where the Exhibition was held was ideal and the lighting outstanding, an essential requirement for a display of this quality. The hall has a floor space of over 3,000 square feet and is a credit to the school and suitable for dances, shows and exhibitions. Meals were provided by the Newtown School catering staff under the supervision of Miss S. Porter. All in all this first Waterford Stamp, Antique and Coin Exhibition was a resounding successful first for Waterford. All profits were distributed to Dogs for the Blind in Waterford, the S.P.C.A. and the Philatelic Federation of Ireland.

NEW POSTAL RATES

As of April 1 the following new basic rates were applied by the Irish Post office (old rates in brackets): Ireland and Britain — Letters, first 60g, 18p (15p); Postcards, 15p (12p); Printed Papers not over 120g, 15p (12p); Newspapers, 10p (8p). Other Countries (Surface Mail, or Airmail to Europe) — Letters not over 20g, 19p (16p); Postcards 15p (12p); Printed Papers not over 20g, 11p (9p). Other Countries (Air Mail) — Letters not over 20g, 30p (25p); Postcards, 18p (15p); Airlitters, 20p (16p). The minimum registration fee to Ireland and Britain is 48p (40p) and for foreign 55p (44p).

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND



Railway Letter Stamps

A set of three 20p Railway Letter Stamps has been produced for use on mail carried on our special steam train services. The stamps are printed in sheetlets of nine (3 x 3), and depict engines owned by the Society — 'Slieve Gullion' (GNR), 'No. 164' (S & GWRI) and 'No. 4' (UTA).

The stamps are available as follows:

Complete Sheetlet of Nine (as illustrated):

U.K.£1.80 (IR£2.35)

Complete set of three on three FDC's:

U.K.£2.10 (IR£2.75)

Please add 20p postage and packing to all orders.

Orders to:

**Philatelic Office,
Railway Preservation Society of Ireland,
19 Skipper Street,
Belfast BT1 2DZ.**

LEADING IRISH STAMP COMPANIES MERGE

Ian Whyte and David MacDonnell have announced the formation of a new company **MacDONNELL WHYTE LIMITED**. This company will take over the businesses carried on by Ian Whyte Ltd., and David MacDonnell (Philatelists) Ltd. (formerly David Feldman Ltd.).

The new company will be the largest firm of stamp dealers in Ireland and the proprietor of the most comprehensive stock of Irish stamps and postal history in the world. MacDonnell Whyte Ltd. will continue and develop all the activities carried on by the previous firms including regular general auctions in Dublin and London, publication of the annual specialised Irish catalogue "Stamps of Ireland", and the quarterly national stamp magazine "Irish Stamp News".



David MacDonnell (left) and Ian Whyte.

Ian Whyte began dealing in stamps in 1967 while still at school when he launched the Ian Whyte Stamp Company, afterwards Irish Philatelic Enterprises. In 1970 his company was taken over by Hibernian Stamp Company Ltd. and he was appointed managing director of Hibernian in 1972. In 1975 he sold his interest in Hibernian and set up on his own again, with an emphasis on mail-bid sales and special promotions such as the American Bi-Centennial and the Papal Visit to Ireland. He was granted an auctioneer's Licence in 1979 and has since held regular auctions of Irish and general philatelic material in Dublin and London.

Whyte is founder member and Secretary of the Irish National Stamp Exhibition, STAMPA, which has been held annually since 1972 and has been a primary factor in the growing popularity of philately in Ireland. He has also organised the annual Irish International Collectors Exhibition, COLLECTOREX since its inception in 1976. In 1979 he launched the highly successful **IRISH STAMP NEWS**, Ireland's first commercial stamp magazine.

David MacDonnell commenced his philatelic career in 1970 at the age of 15 when he joined David Feldman Ltd. In 1974 he was appointed

a director of the company which established itself as the leading Irish stamp dealers.

When David Feldman moved to Geneva to set up his international auctioneering firm MacDonnell continued to manage the Dublin company while commuting to Switzerland where he was chief describer for the multi-million Swiss franc auctions held annually in Zurich.

In 1980 MacDonnell took the controlling interest in David Feldman Ltd. and re-named the company David MacDonnell (Philatelists) Ltd. The new company took over all the activities of the Irish-based Feldman stamp dealing firm and MacDonnell continues to act as an agent and consultant to David Feldman S.A. of Geneva.

MacDonnell has edited and published the standard reference work on Irish stamps – the "Stamps of Ireland Specialised Catalogue" – in association with David Feldman for the past five years. MacDonnell Whyte Ltd. will continue to publish this internationally recognised catalogue which has won awards at most of the major international exhibitions. David MacDonnell is a member of A.S.C.A.T. – the International Association of Stamp Catalogue Publishers – and both Whyte and MacDonnell are members of l'Association Internationale de Journalistes Philatéliques. The new company will continue to publish books and journals of a high standard to further the promotion of Irish philately.

MacDonnell is also actively involved in the organisation of the Irish National Stamp Exhibition and is a member of the STAMPA Committee. He is currently planning the formation of an Irish stamp dealers association.

MacDonnell Whyte Ltd. will retain both existing premises in Dublin. All postal business will be carried on from 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6, while over-the-counter trade will continue at 3 Fitzwilliam Place.

With David MacDonnell aged 26 and Ian Whyte 29 they are relative youngsters in the stamp trade but with a combined experience of twenty five years that spans every aspect of the stamp trade from kiloware to major international rarity auctions they can offer a range of services unrivalled in Ireland. Both are much-travelled and well-known in international stamp dealing circles having attended most major exhibitions in Western Europe, North America, Australia and Asia during the last ten years. They are long-standing members of all the leading trade organisations – the P.T.S., London, A.S.D.A., New York and A.P.H.V., Germany.

SUMMER OFFERS

PRICE IR£ p

1967	B.P.E. Souvenir Card Cat. £17 - 50	12 - 50
1975	Stampa Souvenir Card Cat. £15 - 00	8 - 00
1977	Stampa Souvenir Card Cat. £1 - 75	- 95
1978	Stampa Booklet Cat. £7 - 00	4 - 75
1979	Collectorex Souvenir Sheet	1 - 20
1979	Stampa Booklet Cat. £6 - 00	4 - 50
1979	Stampex Ulster Booklet	2 - 50
1980	Collectorex Booklet Cat. £5 - 00	3 - 00
1980	Stampa Ovpt. Sheet Cat. £10 - 00	6 - 00
1981	Collectorex Booklet	2 - 75
1971	Postage Dues (7v) Blocks of 4 **	9 - 50
1978	Postage Dues (3v) Blocks of 4 **	7 - 00

Exhibition Covers

1978	Cork Philatelic Exhibition Cover	1 - 50
1979	Cork Philatelic Exhibition Cover	- 75
1980	Cork Philatelic Exhibition Cover	- 50
1979	Stampex Ulster (3 Covers)	1 - 20
1980	Galway Exhibition (2 Covers)	1 - 00
1981	Mid-Western Exhibition Cover	- 50
1980	Collectorex (2 Covers)	- 90
1981	Collectorex Postcard	- 65
1981	Waterford Exhibition (2 Covers)	1 - 00
1978	B.P.E. London Cover	1 - 20
1978	A.S.D.A. New York Cover	2 - 50
1979	A.S.D.A. New York Cover	1 - 00
1980	A.S.D.A. New York Cover	1 - 00
1981	Stampex, London (Plain Cover)	1 - 00
1981	Vienna, Austria (Plain Cover)	1 - 00

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NEW MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Following the General Election the Dail met on June 30 and elected Dr. Garrett FitzGerald as Taoiseach (Prime Minister). Dr. FitzGerald announced his Coalition Government Ministers on the same date and Mr. Paddy Cooney was appointed Minister for Transport, Posts and Telegraphs. Mr. Cooney, Minister for Justice in the Coalition Government of 1973-77, will oversee the transfer of responsibility for posts and telecommunications from the Civil Service to two new semi-state bodies, An Bord Poist and An Bord Telecom.

COLLECTOREX 81

COLLECTOREX 81 took place on June 20 and 21 at the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire. A very rare patch of hot sunny weather deterred many people from attending but the attendance for the two days exceeded 500 compared with over 700 last year.

There were several interesting displays of stamps, postal history, postcards, coins, medals, banknotes and other collectibles, and over 20 dealers participated. The Post Office had a philatelic sales stand, and a special cancellation was applied to mail posted at the show on the second day. The postmark was based on an experimental cancel used at Kingstown (now Dun Laoghaire) in 1958/60.



COLLECTOREX 81
Commemorative Postcard

A commemorative stamp booklet in a limited edition of 500 was quickly sold out as was a souvenir postcard. The latter was a reproduction of a card issued in 1900 showing 'Kingstown Harbour'. Amongst the visitors to the show was Patricia Stillwell from the USA, who has won several high awards for her postal history collection.

ULSTER COLLECTORS FAIR

The annual Ulster Collectors Fair will be held from Thursday, September 10 to Saturday, September 12 next. The venue is as last year, the Maysfield Leisure Centre beside Belfast Central Railway Station, and the exhibition will open from 1pm to 8 pm on Thursday, September 10, 10 am-8pm on Friday September 11 and 10 am-6 pm on Saturday September 12. Admission is 50p for adults and 25p for children.

Dealers from Ireland Britain will display stamps, postal history, postcards, coins, tokens, banknotes, medals and militaria. A few tables are still available, and full details of these may be had from the organiser: Peter McBride, Belfast Stamp Co. Ltd., 19 Skipper Street, Belfast BT1 2DZ. Telephone: 084-31954.

OBITUARY

ERIK KUYLENSTJERNA

It is my sad duty to record the recent death of Erik Kuylenstjerna of Boras, Sweden. Many Irish philatelists will have happy memories of meeting Erik, and his great friend Percy Lundwall, when they visited "PHILYMPIA" in London, in September 1970. Erik has been interested in Irish Philately since the late 1950's. I first started to correspond with him in 1959, and since that time had a regular letter on a monthly basis, up to the time of his death. I have never known such an enthusiastic Irish collector.

His great interests were the 1922 Overprints, and the Postal History relating to the 'Transition Period' — 1922 to 1924. Erik wrote a booklet on the Overprints, "IRLAND PROVVISORIENNA 1922" published by Sveriges Filatelist — Forbund, in 1966. This book must surely have developed great interest in this aspect of Irish Philately among Scandinavian collectors, and his article on the 'Transition Period' published in the D.F. Newsletter, Vol 2, No. 5, Winter issue, 1971, started an interest that has developed and has encouraged many philatelists to produce some fine exhibits on this subject.

Erik won many wards with his fine collections, and was a member of many Philatelic Societies. His name will be long remembered. While his many friends will mourn his passing, to me his friendship was very personal. To his family and relations, I extend on behalf of all interested in Irish Philately our sincere and deepest sympathy in their great loss. The world has lost a great philatelist, but we have lost a great friend.

Bill Kane

ULSTER COLLECTORS FAIR

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COINS. TOKENS. BANKNOTES
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(Beside Central Station)
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Friday	SEPTEMBER 11	10am-8pm
Saturday	SEPTEMBER 12	10am-6pm

Free Car Parking beside the Centre.

Admission: 50p adults 25p children.

PHILATELIC SECTION TO MOVE TO DUNDALK?

According to an informed source, the Philatelic Section is to be moved to Dundalk as part of the Post office's decentralisation policy. However this move has so far met with strong opposition from union representatives of the personnel involved.

No doubt too there would be some opposition from philatelists also, but presumably a philatelic sales counter would be kept on in Dublin so this would allay most fears of collectors, and as the rest of the business is mail order it does not really matter where that section is located. The British Post office moved their Philatelic Bureau to Edinburgh from London nearly twenty years ago.

There are some worries amongst the trade about the move. Most Irish dealers are based in Dublin and they feel that the move to Dundalk may affect the excellent service they receive at present from the Dublin Philatelic Section. For instance large quantities of material may only be available from Dundalk and similarly large quantities of first day covers may have to be sent to Dundalk for processing thus delaying delivery.

As no official statement on this move has been forthcoming it may be early days yet to speculate on the effects of the re-location.

TONY BYRNE MOVES

Tony Byrne has moved premises following the expiry of his lease in South King Street. He now has a spacious first floor office and showroom at 76 Aungier Street, Dublin 2. Personal callers will recognise the premises by the large sign outside for the Painters and Decorators Trade Union whose headquarters occupy the ground floor.

Tony's new trading name is Dublin Stamp & Coin Center and he will be dealing in stamps, coins, banknotes, medals, and postcards. His office will be open to the public from 11 am to 3 pm Monday to Saturday.

GERARD BRADY T.D. RE-ELECTED

In the General Election on June 11 Councillor Gerard Brady was re-elected as one of the four deputies for the Dublin South East constituency. Gerard Brady is one of Dublin's leading philatelists and has contributed articles to several magazines, not least to IRISH STAMP NEWS. An article by Gerard appears elsewhere in this issue.



Gerard Brady is a practising ophthalmic optician, and was elected as a Dublin City Councillor in 1974. He was elected to Dail Éireann (the Irish Parliament) in 1977 and has on several occasions asked pertinent questions of the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs on philatelic affairs. He is a strong supporter of the establishment of a National Postal Museum and his efforts in the Dail have contributed to this becoming an impending reality.

Gerard has one of the finest Irish stamp collections in the world and has won medals to Silver standard at international exhibitions. His numismatic collection is equally well-known and includes some of the earliest known Celtic money. Unfortunately due to his parliamentary and council work he has had to pack his collections away in the bank but he still finds time to write the occasional article and to attend or exhibit at STAMPA.

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PHILATELIC WEDDINGS

We are pleased to announce the engagement of Tony Finn to Marie Butcher, whose wedding will take place in the autumn. Tony is editor of the Irish Philatelic Society's Newsletter, and is a member of the organising committee of STAMPA. He has won several awards for his collection of Irish airmails.



*Andrew and Kate Ballard
at their recent wedding.*

Congratulations go also to Andy Ballard of Royale Stamp Company, London, who was recently married to Kate Beirne. Andy started an Irish department in Royale about a year ago and has developed it to the extent that Royale now have one of the finest stocks of Irish material in the U.K., and are the major wholesalers in Irish stamps over there.

STILWELL CAPTURES E. P. A. TOP AWARD AT ARIPEX '81

The Éire Philatelic Associations Grand Award, a Waterford Crystal lamp, at ARIPEX '81 went to Patricia Stilwell for her outstanding display of "An Overview of Irish Postal History — Prior to 1922." — This display also earned a *Vermeil* award. The Éire Philatelic Association NOR-CAL Chapters "Gil Roberts Annual Memorial Award" went to Garvin Lohman for his exhibit of "Revenue Stamps of Ireland — Selected Pages." Lohman's display also earned a *Vermeil* award at the recently concluded show of the Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs.

ARIPEX '81 was the scene of a gala gathering of Irish enthusiasts from across the United States who presented 40 frames of Irish material at the show with all entries capturing awards. Other

award winners were: **VERMEIL:** Col. B. B. Zellers — "Irish Coils and Booklets". **SILVER:** John J. Blessington — "Ireland for the Postal Stationery Collector". James G. Lawless — "Ireland Postal History". Preston A. Pope — "Great Britain Used In Ireland, 1840-1922". William J. Murphy — "The History of Airmail in Ireland". **BRONZE:** Richard J. Swords — "Official Stationery of Ireland, 1922 to date".

Philatelists interested in joining E. P. A. may obtain membership information from E. P. A. Secretary, Joseph E. Foley, P. O. Box 2352, Denver, Colorado, 80201, USA.

Diary

IPS: Irish Philatelic Society — meeting (usually followed by an auction) held at 7.45 pm, Clarence Hotel, Wellington Quay, Dublin 2.

JULY

Thursday 16th: IPS. 'From Here and There' by Mrs. S. Hitchcock.

Thursday 30th: IPS. 'Switzerland' by Mr. J. Barrett.

AUGUST

Thursday 13th: IPS. 'Express Carriers of Colombia' by Dr. C. A. Ross, Cork Philatelic Society.

Thursday 27th: IPS. 'Turks & Caicos Islands' by Mr. D. Scannell, and 'German Colonies' by Mr. P. Fitzgerald.

Monday 31st: New Issue: Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa and Irish Art: 18p and 30p.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 5th: Auction: Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd. (Venue to be announced).

Thursday 10th: IPS. 'Tierra del Fuego' by Mr. D. MacDonnell.

Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th: Ulster Collectors Fair, Maysfield Leisure Centre, Belfast.

Thursday 24th: IPS. Informal meeting with three Irish Stamp Designers.

Wednesday 30th: Auction. MacDonnell Whyte Ltd., London (venue to be announced).

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3. The Bigger and Better 1982 Edition of our Annual Irish Catalogue will soon be available. This year's edition has been completely Revised, Up-dated and Expanded. We will be including certain listings which will make this a Unique Reference Work on Irish Philately.

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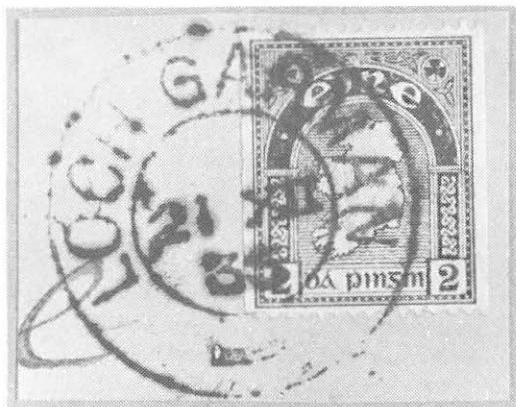
The Extant Copies of the Irish 2d Coil of 1935 Perf 15 X Imperf (S.G.74B) in unused condition — Watermark S.E.

by Gerard Brady

Since the publication of a paper by Dr Russell Jackson in the 1968 July/Sept. issue of the *Revealer* on the scarce 2d Irish coil stamp, described as Perf 15 x Imperf., little has appeared in the philatelic press on this subject. The purpose of this study is to trace the history of this stamp and to try and determine the number of unused examples that exist today. Although reference will also be made in the course of these pages to used copies of the stamp, the writer is of the opinion that this category requires a separate census study.

The well known 2d Map of Ireland definitive stamp, designed by James Ingram, was first put on sale to the public on December 6 1922. It remained in general use for some 12 years before appearing in specially printed coil form. Between the years 1933 and 1935 experimental coil stamps, as they later became known, were produced by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Stamping Branch, at Dublin Castle, for use in stamping machines. These coils were made up in three values, namely, Halfpenny, Penny and Twopence.

The 2d value coils were produced in two distinctly different forms: those with gauge 14 perforations on the vertical borders only, (S.G.74A), and those with gauge 15 perforations on the horizontal borders only, (S.G.74B). This paper is concerned with the latter type. Although the accepted description of this coil stamp is Perf 15 x Imperf, the writer would agree with the less clumsy title of simply '15 x 0' as suggested by Fred Dixon some years ago. Unfortunately it is impossible to determine the date of issue of the 2d coils due to lack of records at the Post Office Stores Department at Aldborough House. Until recently it had been generally accepted that 1935 was the year of issue. In Kohl's Handbook (P. 512) it is stated "Neuerdings, etwaim Nov. 1934, sind seitlich ganz ungezähnte endlose markenrollen zu je 960 Stuck auch von den beiden Werten zu 2P. und ½P. verausgabt worden".¹ This does not mention the perforation gauge, but in the listing of 63Z1 and 66Z1 it is specified "Gez. 15: ungez". A major problem is what happened to the ½d p.15X0? Did it ever exist? Are examples still awaiting discovery? Perhaps this paper will provoke some research in this area. E. C. Ehrmann writing in the "Philatelic Magazine" (March 14 1969) stated ". . . finally in November 1934 the ½d and 2d appeared from horizontal continuous coils, with sideways watermark both horizontal margins imperforate". Ehrmann's comment related to S.G.74A. The earliest published mention of the stamps (i.e. 2d and ½d) appears to be in Robson Lowe's "Regent Empire Stamp Encyclopaedia", published in October 1935. The entry on p. 211 lists as varieties above the 1922-23 definitives "Perf. 15x imperf. ½d. (3d.), 1d. (2d.), 2d. (4d.)". However, since these are the only coils mentioned it seems likely that the ½d and 2d should be those perf. 0 x 14. Regarding the coil stamp under study (S.G.74B) the writer is aware of a postmarked example from Wexford dated October 3 1934.² It would be interesting to know if any readers are aware of earlier dated examples.



From new evidence it is now known that between June 1934 and April 1935 two separate warrants were issued to the Stamping Branch at Dublin Castle for the delivery of the 2d coil stamp to the Post Office Stores Department.³ Each warrant was for a separate quantity of rolls. One was for 1,000 rolls and the other for 71 rolls. Rolls were collected by the P.O. usually on a weekly basis in smaller batches as they became available at the Stamping Branch. Generally the rolls were made up of 480 stamps each and were coded with the letter 'T'. Figures are not available to substantiate the separate numbers of the horizontally and the vertically perforated rolls that were made. However from survival ratios it is apparent that a very small number of the horizontally perforated variety were assembled. How many rolls in total were produced is impossible to determine. Although 1071 rolls of the 2d were commissioned by warrant to the Stamping Branch it does not follow that this amount was put on sale to the public. There are no rolls of the 2d coil stamps held in the main stock or issue stock at Aldborough House today, nor are there any in the philatelic archives of the General Post Office. Also, no examples form part of the collection in the National Museum of Ireland.

In the 1920's, before the spread of meter-marking machines, many business and industrial concerns had stamp-affixing devices. Most of the numerous varieties of coil make-up (12 in 1924) were for use with these devices, and not for vending machines.

Between 1924 and 1969 23 different coil make-ups were offered for sale. This does not necessarily include coils made for vending-machines and not otherwise on sale to the public.⁴

The Stamping Branch made up different types of rolls to suit the variety of stamping equipment that was in use at the time. As few as 4 or 5 rolls were made up on some occasions to suit a particular requirement. The regular 2d definitive was being produced at an average rate of upwards of 25,000 sheets per month at that time and given 240 stamps to the sheet this would result in approximate sales of six million stamps per month. The commissioned experimental 2d coils therefore only represented a little over a half of one per cent of the total figure. It is open to conjecture whether or not these coils were only intended to be experimental. The Stamping Branch contend that they were not merely issued on a trial basis. What is

certain however is that they were withdrawn from sale after a very short time in use. Apart from direct sales to the public certain firms, e.g., Boileau & Boyd Ltd., The Gas Co. and the National Assurance Co. were issued directly with coil rolls.⁵

Of course, it is not known which type of perforated coil was issued to these firms and in what values. Obviously this has given rise to the false assumption that S.G.74B was supplied only to the Gas Co. American (Poko) vending machines were also used for dispensing coil stamps. The equipment used in the 1930's by the Stamping Branch was British in origin and could be adapted to a variety of purposes. Further research is needed about the equipment used by the Engineering Branch of the P.O. and it is to be hoped that when the Irish Philatelic Museum is established new information will be available to philatelists in this area. Fortunately the Stamping Branch has recorded on cine film the operational techniques of the early equipment which is now dismantled. In passing the writer would like to commend the excellent article by E. C. Ehrmann, A.I.J.P. — "How the 1922 Definitives were Printed", ("Philatelic Magazine", March 14 1969). Much interesting data on the Grover equipment is contained in this article.

Correspondence published in "Stamp Collecting" in the early months of 1967 is worthy of mention. Firstly, a letter from Fred Dixon (January 13 1967) — "I note that one of your advertisers recently offered the Irish 2d coil, perf 15 x imperf., with a variant of an old story 'used at Dublin Gas Works'.⁶ My belief is that a certain dealer-journalist postulated that the scarcity of this stamp could be explained because the Alliance & Dublin Consumers Gas Co. bought most of the rolls and used them on receipts in its offices. No evidence has ever come to light in support of this theory. The rolls were sold through stamp-vending machines in various provincial towns, and the rarity of S.G.74B is due to the failure of philatelists to realise its existence until most of the limited number had been lost in waste-paper baskets"

In a later issue of the same magazine (February 3, 1967) Michael Leonard stated "I found Fred E. Dixon's explanation of the old fallacy of the use of the variety at the Dublin Gas Works most interesting. There is another variation of this 'red herring'. The claim, however, that the 1935 perf 15 x imperf stamps were sold to the public via stamp-vending machines must be incorrect as the Irish Post Office did not commence operating 2d stamp-vending machines until 1951".

Fred Dixon was correct in stating that the rolls were sold through stamp vending machines which were in use in Ireland in the 1930's. This is confirmed in a letter written to Mr. Dixon by the Information Officer, G.P.O., in February 1967.⁷ In this letter it is stated "Our early records indicate that the first purchases of stamp vending machines were made in 1925. Twelve machines, 6 vending ½d stamps and 6 vending 2d stamps were installed at Post Offices in Dublin between May 1925 and February 1926. The machines were not satisfactory and were withdrawn in 1927. The next purchases were made in 1930, and between 1930 and 1951 many machines were installed vending ½d and 1d stamps. Machines vending 2d stamps were introduced again in 1951". According to this the only 2d machines in 1934-36 were those withdrawn in 1927 as unsatisfactory. However, it is likely that the machines were given a second chance and the 15 x 0 coils were specially printed for them.

In another letter to "Stamp Collecting", A. H. K. Roberts suggested that — "The scarcity of the Eire 2d coil perf. 15 x imperf. is due primarily to the small single

printing: only 100 rolls of 480 stamps were delivered to the Post Office in 1935. A quantity was believed to have been taken by the Dublin Gas Co. for use with a receipting machine, but others certainly went to Naas and I have some copies with the Naas postmark. Robson Lowe's statement that the stamp was only used at the Dublin Gas Works is unacceptable and it is of interest that the copy he illustrated in his advertisement ("Stamp Collecting", November 25) bears neither the Dublin nor Naas postmark".

Used copies of the stamp bear post marks of different offices such as Annamoe, New Ross, Wexford (See Fig. 1) etc. The writer has evidence of a person who purchased a strip of three from a vending machine in Tipperary in the Spring of 1935.⁸ It would not have been unusual, of course, for a roll of coil stamps to remain in a vending machine for a long time before being sold. Postmarked examples are known for July 1936 and later dates could also be in existence.

A remarkable aspect of this stamp is that little attention was paid it by collectors until the early 1950's. Some specimens are known to exist in collections first assembled in the 1930's and the earliest definite recorded date of a mint example goes back to the later part of this decade.⁹ This example was purchased in a small collection of coils and is retained in a private collection to the present day.

It was not until 1942 that Gibbons included the variety but in this case without prices.¹⁰ Robson Lowe again listed the stamp in his 1952 "Encyclopaedia of British Empire Stamps", Vol. 1, Page 404: 73C at 15/- mint and 12/6 used.

Early issues of the Revealer contain references to indicate that active interest was being paid to this stamp in the early 1950's in the U.S.A.¹¹ On this side of the Atlantic members of the Irish Study Group were also engaged in researching the stamp.

Correspondent "Sagesse" in "Stamp Magazine" in May 1955 stated "The 2d perf. 15 x imperf. S.G.74B is, of course, quite a classic in its own class and even Gibbons do not put a price on this item in their catalogue". In fact in 1957 Gibbons were considering deleting this stamp from their catalogue altogether and were it not for the intervention of the late T. E. Field they would have done so. However, Gibbons priced the coil in that year at £50 mint and £25 used. It was undoubtedly these high values that encouraged collectors to search in earnest for more copies. Most early references applied to used copies which changed hands through auction sales and by private treaty and the ill fated firms of Shanahan Auctions and Mission Stamps turned up many used copies. However, there are few written records of mint examples changing hands in the 1950's and, indeed, during this decade and into the early 1960's many eminent philatelists admitted never having seen a copy. (A letter to "Stamp Collecting" 28/8/61 from Fred Dixon - "I have never seen a mint example but believe that a few do survive - very few"). Credit for discovering S.G.74B is recorded in the 1960 "Stamp Collectors' Who's Who", compiled by Robert Bateman and published by Stanley Gibbons, on Page 37 to Michael Giffney - "... main research has been assisting in the discovery and catalogue recognition of Eire S.G.74B ...". As prominent members of the Irish Philatelic Study Group, Michael Leonard, Michael Giffney, Fred Dixon, the late Thomas Field and others were involved in researching this stamp in the 1950's, but it is only fair to state that it was Michael Leonard who made the most specialised study of the stamp, (Ref. "Stamp Collecting Magazine" 28/8/61).

In the March 1937 issue of a Stamp Journal (probably the "West End Philatelist") an interesting reference is recorded under the heading "Irish Free State Vol. XXVII Page 294".

It reads as follows: "An uncatalogued and possibly unique variety of the current 2d. stamp is shown to us by Mr Michael Leonard (JPS 9433). It was presumably issued in coil form and is perf. $14\frac{3}{4}$ x imperf. (without the single perf. at each top corner) — like the 1d coil stamp of 1934 (S.G. No. 72b). The width of the stamp from imperf. edge to imperf. edge is a good 20 mm., the margin on each side being 1 mm. wide. Used on original cover, it is postmarked 'BAILE ATHA CLIATH 8.30 P.M. 9 JLY. 1936' — the addressee being resident in Sligo". In fact the stamp itself is slogan cancelled "Use the Telephone".

(If this cover still exists intact it is the only known example of this stamp on an entire — Editor).

It was not until 1961 when a letter appeared in Stamp Collecting Magazine on June 9 (P.417) written by a Dr. Alan Blair (then living in Thurso, Northern Scotland) that tangible evidence was documented for the first time that a mint example of S.G.74B existed. Because of the importance of this letter and its significance it is published in full as follows:— "Sir, having tried some dozens of dealers to obtain a mint copy of the Irish coil stamp S.G.74B to complete an all-mint collection of Ireland, as well as watching the auctioneers' catalogues without success, I inserted an advertisement in your "Collectors' Mart" column in January. Nothing happened for three weeks, after which I received one reply. As a result of this I was able to buy one at the catalogue price of £50. Although used specimens turn up from time to time, the vendor of my copy suggests that this mint copy may be unique. It seems likely that only one roll of this stamp was issued. What I have still not been able to ascertain is where they were sold. If it was a country post office they would quite likely have been mostly postally-used and then thrown away. My copy is far off centre to the left, and I believe that the few used copies which have come up in recent years have been the same, which supports the one-roll-only theory. The width of my stamp is sufficient proof that it is not the 2d definitive with the side perforations trimmed off. I would be particularly interested to find out if any other genuine mint copies are known".

Some correspondence followed the Blair letter from Dr. R. Towers¹² and Fred Dixon¹³ but it was mainly concerned with used copies and little reference was made to mint examples. During the sixties and early seventies — as will be seen later in the chronological provenance — new examples of the mint coil were discovered and two pairs of the stamp and a strip of five turned up. Many more used copies were discovered and a multiple of six in used form is recorded. In fact during the preparation of this paper the writer's attention has been drawn to the existence of many previously unrecorded used examples.

Several distinctive differences may be seen between S.G.74B and the regular definitive stamp. Firstly the coil is larger in overall size and measures on average 20.75 mm in width compared with 20 mm for the normal. It is not possible to produce the coil by trimming the perforations off the normal stamp because the result would always be under 20 mm. It would also appear that the paper thickness is somewhat thinner. However, this is difficult to establish with mint copies where the gum accounts for some of the thickness. It has been suggested that thicker paper

was used in the initial manufacture of the Definitives and the later printings were on lighter paper (Kohl's Handbook, p. 501). The writer is not convinced at present that it is possible to prove that these coils are lighter in colour than the normals due to the relatively small number of unused examples in existence. As the colour of a used stamp is liable to alteration if it has undergone the normal practice of soaking it off the envelope it is difficult to establish a consistency in colour difference of such copies. Finally on physical characteristics the frame lines on the coil stamps do appear to be slightly thicker than the normal.

Out of alignment examples of Endless Coils were frequently produced caused by a lateral shifting of the stamps during the cutting process. Examples are known to vary from well centred to decentred to the left, with the margin of the stamp on the right showing. Copies are also known decentred to the right but are less common.

Seven years had elapsed since Dr Blair had reported his mint copy before Dr Jackson recorded the existence of 4 mint copies (July/Sept. 1968). Following this article more mint examples were discovered and by 1970 two mint pairs, a strip of five and two other singles were known to exist. This brought the total to 15. During the seventies another two examples were reported and last year the writer was informed of yet a further copy leaving a figure of 18. A further possible two examples have been reported earlier this year by a Dublin Stamp Dealer. In a recent letter (March 10, 1981) referring to S.G.74b, David Aggersberg, Deputy Editor of Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd., states — "This particular item was first listed in our Part 1 Catalogue as long ago as the 1942 edition but for the years 1942-56 it remained unpriced".

Following the very significant rise in catalogue values of this coil over the past ten years it has become necessary to provide updated listings to safeguard collectors and dealers from the possibility that forged examples might appear on the market.¹⁴ As was stated S.G.74B first showed a price of £50 in 1957. The listed price remained at this figure for some five years or so and it was not until after the Field sale in 1966 that its first major increase was recorded at £200 (1968). During the early 1970's the increase continued and by 1974 S.G.74B was entered at £1,200. Marked increases in values have been listed over the past five years, 1977 (£1,400); 1978 (£3,000); 1979 (£4,000); 1980 (£6,000); 1981 (£8,000 — the highest recorded valuation for any Irish postage stamp).

Another factor which contributed to this increase in value was the production of some excellent stamp albums that showed a printed space for this stamp.

S.G.74B is listed in most of the International Catalogues:-

S.G.74B	—	Stanley Gibbons (England)
D4Cii	—	David Feldman (Ireland)
Sc68B	—	Scott (U.S.A.)
M43C	—	Michel (Germany)
238B	—	Zumstein & Cie (Switzerland)
66ZI	—	Kohl's Handbook (Translations) Dr Herbert Munk

1941

Many fellow philatelists and friends have co-operated in a kind and helpful manner in the preparation of this paper and in expressing his appreciation to all

concerned, the writer is conscious that all names cannot be included in the alphabetical list that follows. However, the writer wishes to especially mention the names of Fred Dixon and Bill Kane who have been most generous and kind in their specialised assistance throughout the compilation and proof reading of this paper.

David Aggersberg
Dr Alan Blair
Don Buchalter
Peter Byrne
Veronica Crosbie
Fred Dixon
David Feldman
Tom Freeman
Michael Giffney
H. P. Hannasky
Dr Russell Jackson
Bill Kane

John Keenan
Maurice Kelleher
Stefan Klinecicz
Michael Leonard
Robson Lowe
David MacDonnell
Fr Phillip Mortell
Padraig O Mathuna
Joan O'Mara
Brian Wallas
Ian Whyte
Gilbert Wilson

The Stamping Branch, Dublin Castle
Stores Department, P.O., Aldborough House

Philatelic Section — G.P.O.
National Museum of Ireland.

Finally the writer accepts sole responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur and welcomes any comments and suggestions relating to this elusive coil stamp.

FOOTNOTES

¹“ . . . about November 1934 endless coils of 960 of the 2d and ½d, sides completely imperforate, were issued.”

²Source — Bill Kane March 1981.

³Entries in Warrant Books, The Stamping Branch.

⁴Refer to table of Coils sold by the Irish Post Office from 1924 — courtesy of Fred Dixon.

⁵Source — The Stamping Branch.

⁶Advert. — Robson Lowe Ltd. Stamp Collecting — November 25, 1966.

⁷Letter — Eilish MacCurtain — Information Officer, G.P.O. February, 1967.

⁸Source — Padraig O Mathuna, February 1981.

⁹Example No. 1 Chronological Provenance.

¹⁰Letter — David Aggersberg, March 10, 1981.

¹¹Vol. II, No. 3, Vol. III, No. 2, Vol. IV, No. 1.

¹²June 30, 1961.

¹³August 28, 1961.

¹⁴The width of a stamp suffices to detect only the forgeries made by trimming perforations. It is likely that forgeries will appear (if they do not already exist) of the correct width, the perforation holes having been filled with pulped paper of the right consistency. Such a forgery will be detected under high magnification, and probably by UV light.

CHRONOLOGICAL PROVENANCE



Example 1



Example 4



Example 3

Example 1.

This is the earliest recorded example. It was purchased in an auction lot with other coil stamps by a collector from Co. Down in the late 1930's. It remained in the same collection until it was offered for sale in an auction by Ian Whyte (23/3/1980, Lot 456). Enlarged photograph on the front cover of the catalogue and described inside as follows: – "This is probably the finest – extremely lightly hinged – very well centred – full original gum, full perforations and very fresh with Feldman Certificate". Estimate IR£9,000. Bid to IR£9,250 unsold and retained in private collection.

Example 2.

Another example of the coil which formed part of a collection assembled in the 1930's and 1940's. The collection was inherited in 1948 by a relative and remains in private hands to this date.

Example 3.

First reported in the "Revealer" (July/Sept. 1968, Page 682) as the Hamill copy in an article by Dr Russell Jackson as one of the four mint copies known to exist. This stamp was purchased by the late James Hamill, Pennsylvania in the Autumn of 1957 from a local dealer. It carries a certificate of authentication from the Philatelic Foundation, New York (10/4/61 No. 13,748). The Hamill Collection was acquired by David Feldman Ltd. in 1973 ("D. F. Newsletter," Vol. 2, No. 71, Page 2) and the mint coil was brought to the International Exhibition held in Munich in that year. It was sold to a German Collector where it is still retained. The stamp is well centred.

Example 4.

This copy is also referred to in the same issue of the "Revealer" as the previous example, and is described as the "Blair" copy. Little has been known or recorded about this stamp until the writer made contact with Dr Alan Blair in Germany earlier this year. Dr Blair originally purchased the stamp from a collector in the

Spring of 1961 when he resided in Thurso in Northern Scotland. He sold the stamp at auction in 1963 and the following year took up residence in West Germany. Through the kind assistance of an intermediary, Mr Tom Freeman, who lives in Wick it was possible to make contact with Dr Blair in West Germany who promptly furnished full details of the provenance of the stamp together with an excellent colour photograph. Dr. Blair's letter to Stamp Collecting Magazine (9th June '61) is printed in full earlier in this article. The stamp was purchased by a Dublin dealer and was sold to a private collector and is still retained in that collection. The example appeared in a Hibernian Stamp Co. auction (18/3/1978, Lot 713). This was a much publicised sale and was televised. Lot 713 was described in the catalogue — "the rare mint example of this popular coil issue — off centre as is usual with these stamps and once hinged. Grossly under-catalogued by the international catalogues (See colour photo). This is the finest mint example to be offered on the open market for a few years. Value £5,000". Bid to £5,000 but not sold.



Example 5

Example 5.

Owned by a Dublin collector who later auctioned it in a Bournemouth sale (11/1/1964, Lot 395) described "Ireland 1922/35 2d Perf. 15 x Imperf. S.G. 74B mint but previously reasonably mounted and centred to the left. Catalogued at £60 — Photo outside back cover". Realised £38. Bought by and retained in a Dublin collection. Exhibited at Philympia 1970 and other international exhibitions. Photographed on the front cover of this magazine.

Examples 6 and 7.

One of the two known vertical mint pairs (D.F. Newsletter Vol 2, No. 1, Winter 1970) Offered for sale in a London auction in the early 1960's. Purchased by John Keenan who later sold it to Don Buchalter. Resold to Shamrock Stamp Service (David Feldman) — who in turn sold it to a private collector in 1965. The present owner kindly furnished the following information:- "The pair is unhinged but I suspect the top stamp bore an old fashioned stamp hinge at one time as there are

two faint dirty lines from the top which have caused slight creases. The bottom stamp carries a large soft pencil initial and also on the bottom right corner of each stamp tiny grey initials 'S.P.' " These could indicate J. S. Preston. Both stamps are well centred and the pair carries a B.P.A. Certificate 20/7/64, 50493.



Example 6/7



Example 10

Examples 8 and 9.

David Feldman in a submitted check list of examples known to him informed the writer that he has seen this pair which is presently retained in an Irish collection. No further information is available except that of a reference made to this pair in the "D. F. Newsletter", Vol. 2, No. 1, Winter 1970: page 3 reads "the only multiples known to date in unused state are two vertical pairs".

Example 10

Purchased from a London dealer by the late T. E. Field and referred to in the "Revealer" (July/Sept 1968, P. 682) as one of the four known copies at that time. Appeared as Lot 831 in the Field Sale (Robson Lowe – May 11 1966). Photographed in the catalogue and listed as "The rare experimental coil long believed to have been only supplied to the Gas Co. Mint. Previously mounted to the left but design intact". Value £75 – realised £70. Purchased by David Feldman Ltd. and sold to a collector in West Germany. It was offered again for sale by David Feldman S.A. in an international auction in Zurich (Sept. 27, 1979, Lot 6438) described as "The very rare experimental coil stamp very fine mint centred left as usual, probably the freshest example known (about 15 mint stamps exist) ex Field (Est. IR£7,000 – realised IR£9,333) now in private collection. This stamp was used for illustration purposes in the "Hibernian Specialised Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922 – 1972" edited by Don Buchalter. Page 29.



Example 11/15

Examples 11/15

This is the largest known unused multiple and was purchased by David Feldman Ltd. from the Erin Stamp Co. in Cork in 1970 ("D.F. Newsletter", Vol. 2, No. Winter 1970). Photographed and described as follows – "an unused vertical strip of five of Ireland's rarest coil. It is also, of course, one of the highest catalogued of all her stamps in major catalogues. Recently on offer we exhibited this magnificent piece at our stand at Philypia . . . This item must achieve significant pride of place as one of Ireland's most valuable pieces". The strip was removed from a parcel wrapping by Bill Kane and David Feldman and because of this is ungummed and is somewhat creased. It was sold to a collector in West Germany where it is still retained. All five stamps are well centred.



Example 16



Example 17



Example 18

Example 16.

The fourth stamp listed in the "Revealer" July/Sept 1969, P.682, owned by the late John Sherman III, California who purchased it from David Feldman prior to 1968. This copy could have come originally from J. Keenan. Auctioned by Harmers of New York (6/7 June 1973, Lot 820) "2d deep green perf. 15 x Imperf. light hinge very fine. Extremely rare. (Enlarged photo in catalogue) Scott 68B. Cat. Value \$1,500.00" – realised \$1,100.00. Purchased by David Feldman and sold to a collector in Ireland. Later repurchased again by D.F. and sold to a collector in the U.S.A. where it is now retained. This example is well centred.

Example 17.

This single was offered for sale in an auction in West Germany: Howard G. Fraser, Briefmarkenauktionen der Stanley Gibbons, Frankfurt G.M.B.H. 4th Auction (3rd May 1974, Lot 423). Photographed on Page 480 of the catalogue and the description when translated reads "1934 2p Black-Green 15 machine made

perforations on the horizontal borders, the vertical borders unperforated and unbroken. A magnificent example of one of the rarest of Irish stamps which only appear in Jubilee years on the international market. Estimate D.m. 5,000 (=IR£1,070), realised D.M. 6,600 (=IR£1,790). The stamp is now in a German Collection.

Example 18.

This stamp is easily identified by a missing perforation (the 6th) on the upper horizontal border. Sold by David Feldman in the early 1970's. The stamp is well centred. Present whereabouts unknown.

The following two examples were reported to the writer earlier this year by a Dublin Stamp Dealer. The information is incomplete and no photographs have been seen. In the absence of tangible evidence they are listed using roman numerals and are treated as unconfirmed additions.

Example XIX.

In the early summer of last year a private collection containing two examples of S.G.74B, one mint and one used was shown to a Dublin firm of Stamp Dealers. The mint copy had £17.10.0 marked in pencil on the back of the stamp hinge. Such a value could indicate that the stamp had been purchased in the 1950's. The stamp is reported to be retained in this Dublin collection. No further details are available regarding provenance etc.

Example XX.

Much the same applies to this single which apparently is contained in an accumulation of Postage Stamps. This accumulation was started in the 1930's and continued up to the 1940's. It is said to be held by a Dublin Collector and again no further information is to hand regarding this single.

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"The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Stamps", Vol. 1 Robson Lowe 1952, Page 404.

"Stanley Gibbons Ltd., Catalogues from 1942 — 1981. (Ireland SG 74b.).

"The Revealer" —

Vol. II, No. III Jan/Feb 1952, P.8.

Vol. III, No. II, Whole No. 12 Nov/Dec 1952, P.96.

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Vol. VIII, No. 111, Whole No. 42 Jan/Feb 1958, P. 345, Item 15
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Vol. IX, No. III, Whole No. 48 Jan/Feb 1959, P. 395/397
Vol. XIV, No. IV, Whole No. 78 Apr/June 1964, P. 582
Vol. XIX, No. 3, Whole No. 97 Apr/June 1969, P. 700
Supplement No. 15, March 1964 P. 63/64

“D.F. Newsletter” —

Vol. 2, No. 1 Winter 1970, Page 3

Vol. 2, No. II Summer 1973, Page 2.

IRIS AN PHOIST (The Internal Journal of The General Post Office)

Letters to “Stamp Collecting Magazine” —

June 30th 1961 — Robert Towers

July 29th, 1961 — Fred E. Dixon

August 28th, 1961 — Fred E. Dixon

November 25th, 1966 — Robson Lowe

January 13th, 1967 — Fred E. Dixon

February 3rd, 1967 — A. H. K. Roberts

February 3rd, 1967 — Michael Leonard

“Stamp Magazine” — May 1955.

“Philatelic Magazine” — March 14th 1969.

“Stamp Collectors’ Who’s Who” compiled by Robert Bateman 1960 and published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

Examination of correspondence and various articles etc. from collectors who previously had association with the stamp.

Also Dr. Russell Jackson’s File (Data up to 1968).

AUCTION LISTINGS

Bournemouth Stamp Auctions 10/11 January, 1964

Robson Lowe Ltd., London, 11th May, 1966.

H. R. Harmer, New York, 6/7 June, 1973.

Howard O. Fraser, Briefmarkenauktionen Der Stanley Gibbons, Frankfurt
G.M.B.H., 3rd May, 1974.

Hibernian Stamp Co., Dublin, 18th March, 1978.

David Feldman S.A., Geneva, 29th September, 1979.

Ian Whyte, Dublin, 23rd February, 1980.

APPENDIX

COILS SOLD BY IRISH POST OFFICE FROM 1924

The 1924-25 issue of the Irish Post Office Guide listed no fewer than 12 different coils. A few were short-lived, but others continued, and more were added from time to time.

Value	Reeled Sideways		Reeled Lengthways	
	Number	Period Available	Number	Period Available
½d	480	1924 – 1955	500	1924 – 1929
	960	1959 – 1964	1000	1924 – 1935
			480	1953 – 1964
			960	1936 – 1940
1d	480	1924 – 1940	500	1924 – 1925
	960	1969	1000	1924 – 1940
			960	1936 – 1964
1½d	480	1924 – 1929	500	1924 – 1935
			1000	1924 – 1925
2d	480	1924 – 1964	500	1924 – 1927
	960	1969	1000	1924 – 1935
			480	1969
			960	1936 – 1964
3d	960	1969	480	1959 – 1969
			960	1934 – 1964

In the 1971 edition of the Guide there is a paragraph stating that rolls of the undermentioned values are kept in stock at certain offices, but the space for the details is blank.

In the 1977 edition the only rolls offered are the multivalued series.

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THE GERL DEFINITIVES — SUPPLEMENT NO: 4

by Eddie FitzGerald and Brian Warren

The last seven months have proved to be a busy period for collectors of the present definitive series. Most readers will be aware of the first litho "Gerls" which appeared in April. In addition, there have been several new photogravure printings of existing values including the appearance of a new paper/gum type which we will designate as type E.

Type E. Type E paper is a brilliant white paper which can easily be identified by comparing marginal blocks with previous B, C and D printings. The gum is whitish in appearance, slightly more so than type B, and there is a slight mottled appearance. Four values have been released on the new type E paper — 5p (February); 9p (April); 20p (May) and £1 (December). Ultra violet light effect on the face varies from a fluorescence similar to the FCP of types B, C and D to a highly fluorescent effect. It is difficult to ascertain, as yet, any significant trend in this regard without recourse to an examination of a quantity of sheets over an extended period. We will return to this matter in our next report.

Type D. The 5p also appeared on type D in December. At present both types D and E of the 5p and £1 are in circulation. Both types D and E of the £1 eagle are on paper of normal thickness when compared to the very thin printing on type B paper. This thick paper variation is to be listed by Stanley Gibbons in their Elizabethan catalogue as SG 359Ea Thick paper. The type B £1 also appeared for a brief period in October 1977 on the normal thicker paper and is listed in our catalogue as DS 616a. The 3p type D listed in our previous supplement is also to be catalogued by Gibbons due to the shade variation when compared with the earlier OCP printing — SG342Ea. It is interesting to note the development and extension of definitive listings in overseas catalogues.



*50p Colour Shift — Normal stamp with four lines
in tail on left compared with five lines on right.*

50p Eagle — Type D. In December 1980, supplies of the 50p type D were noted to have a colour shift on the tail feathers of the eagle due to misalignment of the olive colour. This shift of colour results in the appearance of five instead of four yellow lines in the tail feathers. Although colour shifts are usually of a transient nature, this variety occurred on a considerable proportion of the printing and although not spectacular, it makes a nice addition to our collection.

Varieties. Regular reader Tony Quigley of Co. Dublin recently informed us of a variety on the 16p stag. Details below together with three other varieties. We wish to thank eagled eyed dealer, Michael Giffney for pointing out the variety on the 7p dog.

2p dog — R17/1: Retouch to left of ear (Th.CI).

7p dog — R11/9: Retouch to left of neck above 7 (Th.CI).

16p stag — R17/2: Retouch over R of Éire (Th.A3).

50p eagle — R9/8: Extra yellow spot in head (Th.A8).

The 16p and 50p varieties are the more prominent; can any reader confirm that the 50p variety on R9/8 exists on earlier printings?

Lithographic Printings — 18p and 19p. The first Irish definitive stamps to be printed by offset lithography were issued on 27 April 1981. The new 18p and 19p values were required to meet the new Inland and European letter rates arising from the increase in postal charges on 1st April. Usually the European rate is in the stag design. Another innovation was the use of the dog design for both values — 18p (Brownish red) and 19p (Greenish blue).

The stamps were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printers Limited on a sheet fed press in double pane sheets of four hundred stamps. The printer's sheet of 400 stamps was guillotined, prior to issue, into two Post Office sheets of 200 stamps. The sheet layout of 200 stamps is similar to the single pane photogravure printings; i.e. each sheet is sub-divided into two further panes of 100 in 10 x 10 format with gutter margin. Sheets perforated 14 x 14¼ compared to 15 x 15 of earlier sheet releases. Marginal markings are as follows:



*18p — Plate 1B — Matching set of blocks
(Bickel).*

Plate Numbers. The litho printings also introduced the practice of placing two sets of numbers on issued sheets to the "Gerl" series. This has been a customary practice on special and commemorative issues since 1978. The two different sheets of 200 stamps are designated A and B respectively and thus both values appear with plate numbers 1A and 1B. The numbers appear in the left margin opposite row 19 and in the right margin opposite row 2.



*Imprint blocks showing 18p (Bickel) and 19p
(Grover).*

Printer's Imprint. The innovation of a printer's imprint, although new to the Gerl series, was first introduced on special and commemorative litho issues printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited in 1979. The imprint is in the right margin opposite rows 19 and 20.

Marginal Rules. In top and bottom margins and in gutter (twice), above and below each vertical column i.e. in the same position as photogravure printings. They are superfluous on lithographic plates.

Overall the litho stamps are slightly larger in vertical height by approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Comparing a large block of either value against a block from a photogravure issue, an extra amount of white area can be seen between the designs. The litho values are sharper in their detail than photogravure printings of the dog design. The Grover perforator has been used for perforating both the 18p and 19p values. It is recognisable as sheets are imperforate in the top margin whereas the bottom margin is perforated through. A second perforator, the German Bickel, has also been used in perforating 18p sheets; in the latter case the bottom margin is imperforate and the top margin is perforated through. Both 1A and 1B sheets of the 18p exist with the two types. The 19p value has only been seen with Grover perforation. The six plate block combinations can be summarised as follows:

18p Dog: Plate 1A Grover	19p Dog: Plate 1A Grover
Plate 1B Grover	Plate 1B Grover
Plate 1A Bickel	
Plate 1B Bickel	

As the plate numbers appear twice on each sheet the total number of collectable plate blocks is therefore twelve. Litho plates are cheaper to produce but are not as durable when compared to photogravure cylinders; Readers will recall that several plate combinations exist on many of the special and commemorative stamps printed by offset litho in recent years. It follows therefore that some definitive plates may have a short life and collectors should try to accumulate their own blocks without delay. The 18p Grover sheets appear to be in short supply at the time of writing (1A and 1B).

The thick and heavy litho paper is of medium fluorescence with white gum. Varieties on litho plates are usually of a transient nature; however one very good variety was noted on the 18p dog, plate 1A by our good friend, Paddy Macken; it is a clear and distinct break in the design over the eye of the dog on Row 5, stamp 1 (Th.B3).

The new Buildings definitives, as reported in Irish Stamp News No: 7, will be a welcome change after over ten years of the excellent early Irish Art designs of the Gerl series. Collectors thought that the last of the changes had come with type D but it seems that our present definitive series continues to provide surprises and intends to go out fighting!!!

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on another very interesting issue of IRISH STAMP NEWS: No. 7 (Spring 1981) was just as interesting and informative as all the earlier issues. Long may you prosper!

In this issue you published a review of the Fauna & Flora Miniature Sheet Plating Guide published by David Feldman Ltd. I agree that it is very easy to use and identifies all the nine positions accurately, but both this and the other guide published by Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd seem to have missed a very easily detected variety. If your readers would like to examine the position No. 1 sheet and look at the 25p Red Deer stamp they will see that the second E of Éire has a shortened serif at the bottom of the middle bar of the E. It is not like this on Nos. 2-8, but it was like it on the other No. 1 copies that I saw on Feldman's stand at Stampex last month. All the ordinary sheet stamps that I have seen also appear to be normal in this respect, but perhaps somebody with access to a complete sheet can confirm this?

May I also ask if any of your readers have any definite information about the closing of the Dublin & Derry T.P.O.? I recently purchased a King George V 2d. (S.G. 368) with a very clear c.d.s.

reading 'DUBLIN & DERRY T.P.O. - UP - 24. DE. 20. 'A mention in Wilson's "T.P.O. - A History of the Travelling Post offices of Great Britain" - Part 3: Scotland and Ireland' seems to hint that the last known date is in *early* 1920, but Ward's "Irish T.P.O.s - Their History and Postmarks" suggests that it stopped about December 10th 1922 because of partition. I would be grateful for any help or references to further reading.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Partridge

Sir,

There seems to be a scarcity of collectors of Irish Revenue Stamps, at least I seem to have difficulty in making their acquaintance. If any of your readers enjoy this specialised branch of philately, I would welcome the opportunity to exchange ideas.

Thanks very much for your help.

Yours etc.,

William J. McDonald,
1330 Farragut Drive S.,
Coupeville,
Washington 98239.

RECENT RELEASES

by Brian Warren and Eddie FitzGerald



Europa set in Plate Blocks — Both plate 111 Grover.

Date	Issue	Sold For	Plate/Cylinder Numbers
15/11/80	Limerick Coin, Stamp and Postcard Fair — Booklet	£1.00	
18/11/80	55p Size H Registered Envelope	58p	
	— Duplex Manilla	58p	
4/12/80	Christmas (10th Issue)	12p	IIII
		15p	IIII
		25p	IIII
6/12/80	Galway Philatelic Exhibition Booklet	80p	
9/12/80	1980 Year Pack	£2.80	
18/12/80	55p Size K Registered Envelope — Duplex Manilla	59p	
12/3/81	Irish Science & Technology	12p	11111
		15p	11111
		16p	11111
		25p	11111
14/3/81	Mid Western Philatelic Society Exhibition Booklet	£1.00	
18/3/81	12p Postcard	13p	
26/3/81	55p Size G Registered Envelope — Duplex Manilla	57p	
25/4/81	Waterford Exhibition Booklet	£1.00	
27/4/81	New Definitives	18p	1A,1B
		19p	1A,1B
4/5/81	Europa (21st Issue) — Folklore	18p	111
		19p	111
5/81	55p Size G Registered Envelope — Cotton Scrim	57p	
20/6/81	Collectorex '81 Exhibition Booklet	£1.00	
24/6/81	An Oige — 50th Anniversary	15p	11111
		18p	11111
		19p	1111
		30p	11111

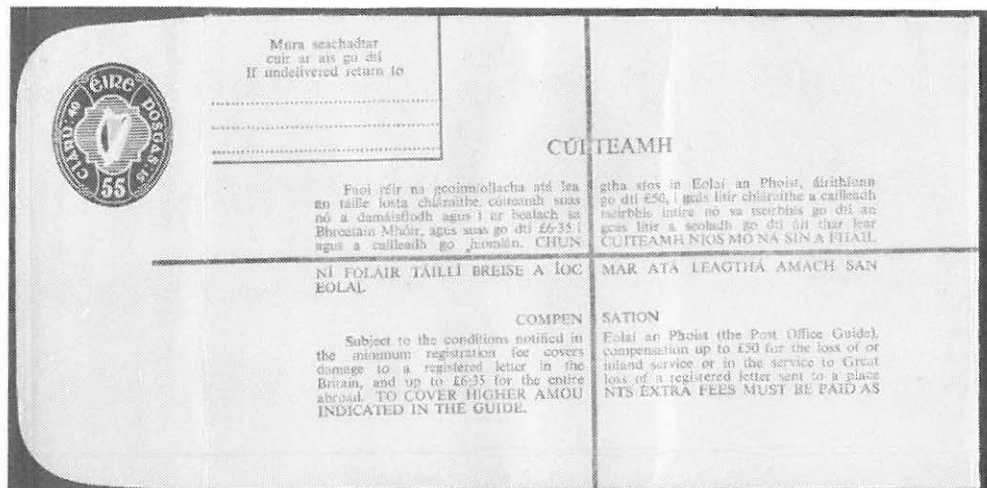
Commemorative Issues. The 10th Christmas issue was photogravure printed by the Revenue Stamping Branch and produced the inevitable minor varieties:

- 12p — R5/10: White spot between E and I of Éire
- 12p — R5/10: White spot between E and I of Éire
- 15p — R8/2: Bullet hole under O of Nollaig
- R9/4: Bullet hole above O of Nollaig
- R10/3 & 4: Damage to value tablets
- 25p — R4/3 to 10: Irregular dark line across value tablet
- R5/2: Spot under 9 of 1980

The three commemorative issues of 1981 were offset litho printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited with the usual plate numbers (twice on each sheet), imprint and colour checks. The 18p and 19p An Oige stamps are of a horizontal format and therefore the sheet colour checks are incorporated, as is usual, in the bottom right plate block. The Grover perforator was used throughout all printings. The 1980 Year Pack was in a similar format to previous years with a purple outer card cover.

Definitive Issues. The two new definitives were also litho printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited in a double pane format. Both the Grover and Bickel perforators were used for the 18p value. Further details elsewhere in this issue.

Exhibition Souvenirs. The continuing growth in exhibitions and fairs has resulted in no fewer than five booklets since our last report; numbers issued given in brackets. The Limerick Coin Stamp and Postcard Fair booklet (250) contained 3 x 12p O'Casey stamps. The Galway exhibition was the first to be organised jointly by the Federation of Irish Philatelic Societies (F.I.P.S.) and the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. Booklets (300) contained 2 x 16p Flora plus blocks of six of both the 1p and 2p dog definitives. The booklet for the 2nd annual Limerick Exhibition and Fair organised by the Mid Western Philatelic Society contained 3 x 12p Music and Dance (300). The second F.I.P.S. exhibition was held in Waterford and contained 2 x 16p Science and Technology plus the blocks of both 6 x 1p dog plus 6 x 2p dog (400). The Collectorex '81 booklet contained the three panes taken from the 40p Post office booklet with pink cover (500). A reproduction postcard (circa 1901) was also sold for 20p.



55p — Size G Registered Envelope — Duplex Manilla with incorrect compensation amounts of £50 and £6.35.

Postal Stationery. The new size H 55p registered envelope (sold for 58p) has incorrect compensation amounts of £50 and £7.20 printed on the reverse due to embossing of the 55p rate on old stock. From 1 July 1980 the inland compensation amount for the minimum registration fee was altered to £75 and the foreign limit to £8.20. The foreign limit was actually lowered from the previous compensation amount of £8.80 (?). A similar size K 55p registered envelope was released in December (sold for

59p). This was the first size K envelope with an incorrect foreign limit imprint of £7.20. To complete the series a size G registered envelope was issued in March. The envelopes were of an earlier printing and have incorrect compensation amounts of £50 and £6.35. All the above envelopes were on the white duplex manilla paper with blue lining. In May the 55p size G envelopes appeared with the older cotton scrim lining and thus incorrect legends of fee 12p, inland compensation £50 and foreign compensation £6.35. A new 12p postcard was also issued in March to round off an active period for the increasing number of postal stationery enthusiasts. All the above items are once again out of date, due to the further rise in postal charges on 1st April and no doubt the process will begin again in the near future.



Postmarks. Pictorial first day postmarks were used in Dublin and Cork for the definitive and commemorative issues. Special first day covers were available for the commemorative releases; the standard FDC was used for the definitive stamps. Special event cancels were used at the following events:

6/7 December: Galway Stamp Exhibition. circular in black. Special cover available. Held at the Great Southern Hotel, the postmark illustrated the logo of the Federation of Irish Philatelic Societies — F.I.P.S.

14 March: Mid Western Philatelic Society Exhibition and Fair held at Cruise's Hotel, Limerick. Circular postmark in black which featured a representation of the Treaty Stone of Limerick. Special cover available.

25/26 April: Waterford, Stamp, Antique and Coin Exhibition at Newtown School Hall. Circular in black. Special cover available.

7 May: Irish Philatelic Society. circular cancel in black used on mail posted at the Society's 80th anniversary dinner held in the Clarence Hotel, Dublin 2. Special cover available.

5-9 May: R.D.S. Spring Show. A philatelic stand at the Show offered posting facilities and a similar skeleton to that used for the 1980 Horse Show was used to cancel mail. The wording does not refer to the actual event — "Show RDS Ballsbridge".

25-29 May: Union Internationale des Transport Publics Congress, R.D.S. Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Rectangular handstamp applied in purple. Post office facilities available.

21 June: Collectorex '81, Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin in association with the Dun Laoghaire Summer Festival. Pictorial handstamp based on the experimental 'Trollope' type cancel used at Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) between 1858-1859. Note used on second day only. Special card available.

A philatelic sales stand was provided at each of the four exhibitions.

The Philatelic Service attended three overseas exhibitions since our last report. A special cachet was available for use on covers as a souvenir of the visit. The relevant exhibitions were: A.S.D.A. New York (20-23 November); Stampex London (24-28 February); and WIPA Vienna (22-31 March). The WIPA International was the first occasion that the Department attended an exhibition in a non English speaking country and thus the cachet was worded in German.

Slogan Postmarks. The Department of Posts and Telegraphs continues to introduce new slogans without advance notice. New slogans since November 1980 are as follows:

1. "You've got to get Saving — National Savings Committee". Presently in use.
2. "Are you on the Draft Register of Electors? Check Now at your Post Office".
Used in several offices in December.
3. "Irish Wheelchair Association 1960-1981". In use during January.
4. "Navan Trade Fair" — Used in Navan 21-31 May.

Book Review

Catalogue of the Postal Markings of Dublin c. 1840-1922.

By William Kane. Paperback A5 28pp.
Published by M. P. Giffney at IR£2.00.

Interest in Irish postmarks and postal history has been growing quite noticeably in recent years, due in no small way to the appearance of publications covering that area. The 'Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840' brought in a lot of new collectors and a sequel to that has been hoped for. This new publication is not a true sequel to that Handbook, nor does it claim to be. As its title says, it is a Catalogue and it is laid out in the form of an illustrated dealers list of the postmarks of Dublin, giving estimates of value rather than prices.

Starting with the Maltese Crosses it goes through the various duplexes, datestamps, machine cancellations and instructional markings

to the introduction of postmarks in Irish — all in 28 pages. Many of the markings have already been written about in greater detail but this is the first time they've all been brought together in one book.

The text is minimal with the illustrations being allowed speak for themselves and anybody using the book should have no problem finding a particular postmark. Unfortunately some illustrations have been transposed but it is obvious from the text.

The order in which the postmarks are listed is a bit disjointed and some are not where one would expect to find them. During the period covered there were two basic types of postmark — those used for cancelling and those used for datestamping, usually found on the reverse. The duplex was replaced by the double ring datestamp and so perhaps it would be expected to follow it. In the backstamps, numbers 45-49 should be in between 27 and 28 — in fact 28 and 49 are the same. Quite a few of the postmarks would have been better left out, particularly those in Irish which more rightly belong to the third era, 1922 to now.

Valuation is a hard thing to argue over as some people seem prepared to pay £100 for something others wouldn't give £5 for. Not very many would

BOOK REVIEW CONTINUED

snap up No. 16 at 'D', whereas overnight queues have formed for worse than No. 120 at 'C'. You'll have to get the book to see what that means.

There can be a tendency when studying a subject for a long time to take something for granted and assume explanations unnecessary. The number '186' in a diamond, or instructional mark, is synonymous to 'Dublin' for postal historians, but many reading the book may not realise its significance. A note referring to the numbering of Post Offices in 1844 and the choice of a diamond shape for Ireland may seem to be stating the obvious but perhaps should have been inserted for newcomers.

"If you wait until you have all the information you'll never write anything" is one of Bill's maxims and he would be the first to admit that the book isn't the final listing for the period. Following the publication of the Handbook he received a large inflow of information and it is to be hoped that a similar inflow will result from this so that a second improved edition would be feasible in the not too distant future.

Michael Giffney won the EPA's T.E. Field Award in 1980 for his contribution to and promotion of Irish philately. Not a man to rest on his laurels, he now ventures into the publishing world and, in collaboration with Bill Kane, makes another significant contribution. No doubt we'll soon see postmarks referred to by their Giffney, Kane, WK or MPG numbers. Finally:

"Dear Bill,

I still think postmark 175 (Foreign Parcel Post Dublin) should be 1976 and not 1876, but I won't tell anyone.

*Yours admirably
J.L."*

Auction Report

The return of the collector to the market — a very much saner market now that the speculators have folded their tents and gone in search of pastures new — has lived up recent auctions considerably. While prices for what were formerly regarded as 'blue chip' investment items are down on last year, specialist pieces are still attracting record prices.

Hibernian Stamp Company held an eleven hundred lot sale at Sachs Hotel, Dublin on

May 16.

There were over 250 lots of Ireland including several rare and interesting items. An 1870 ½d postcard cancelled with Dublin c.d.s. of October 1st 1870, the first day of issue fetched a record £1300. This item was previously sold at a Gibbons auction earlier this year for £160 sterling, but was only described then as a normal first day usage whereas an Irish first day of this card is very rare. An interesting cover with OHMS overprinted 'Rialtas Sealadach na hÉireann' and then overprinted 'Saorstát Éireann' with a letter with similar overprints, dated April 1923, fetched £92 against an estimate of £30-£40, showing the continued demand for 'Transition Period' material.

An unmounted mint set of the Dollard high values fetched £320 and a five shilling Dollard with a double overprint, one albino, in fine mint condition realised £680. A 1933 Irish acceptance on a Zeppelin flight to South America was knocked down for £200 and the scarce 1939 Irish Sea Airways Dublin to Isle of Man first flight sold for £90.

Ian Whyte held a twelve hundred lot sale on May 30 at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, including over 550 lots of Irish material. Postal history material continued to be in demand with an 1820 entire with a rare combination of Mermaid and 'Free' Mermaid date stamps fetching £190 and a very fine 'COVE/SHIP LE.' selling at £200. An 1839 entire from London to Wexford by the Milford Haven to Waterford route, with a Welsh Wheel Tax additional ½d, sold for £42 against an estimate of only £20. A 'magnificent strip of seven' 1841 2d blues cancelled by the Dublin '186' diamond sold for £300 and an 1842 'Spooner' Mulready caricature used from Dungannon to Clones sold for £180. Another high price was that paid for an 1846 cover with a boxed TOO LATE of Kingstown which sold for £135 against an estimate of £60.

Modern postal history is keenly competed for too as evidenced by a cover from a 1923 Civil War Prison Camp at Gormanstown fetching £47 and a 1939-45 Curragh Camp military internment camp cover selling for £58. Even more modern were 26 different covers with the various emergency cancels used during the 1978 technicians strike which sold for £54.

In the overprint section there were several rarities, all of which sold well. The 1922 Dollard 4d carmine overprint with the rare 'Breaks under FOUR' variety in a block of four sold for £390 and a block of four of the 2d Die I was knocked down to a room bidder for £950. The 9d olive-green with Thom 5-line overprint with the rare 'Q'

for 'O' in 'POSTAGE' flaw sold for £310 against an estimate of £200, and the rare 1922 Thom 4-line ten shilling sold for £900. The star item of the sale was the Thom Saorstat 1d with missing accent and final 't' in a very fine block of 6 sold for £6000 after some hectic bidding between two agents acting on behalf of private collectors.

Again modern specialist material did well with a complete collection of the cylinder blocks, including different gums, papers and shades, of the 1974-1980 Gerl Definitives sold for £330. An



Accent and final 't' omitted error in block of six sold by Ian Whyte at IR£6000.

astonishing price was paid for the 1980 Stampa special overprint in red on the Fauna miniature sheet. One thousand eight hundred of these sheets were over-printed in black and sold to visitors to Stampa and one hundred and fifty were overprinted in red for those who subscribed to Stampa funds. This example of the red overprint sold for £100 against an estimate of £40.

A collection of 21 Ministerial Presentation folders from 1966 to 1970 was estimated at £40 and sold for £105 following fierce competition between the room and the book. These folders each contain a set of commemorative stamps and are given by the Post Office to members of Government committees, Cabinet members, and high-ranking Civil Servants.

Amongst the rarest of Irish Revenue stamps are those overprinted SOUTHERN IRELAND in 1922. However the demand for revenues is nothing like that for postage stamps and consequently they

can usually be picked up quite reasonably. Three bidders in the room obviously recognised the rarity of a 5/- and £1 George V Land Registry stamps overprinted SOUTHERN IRELAND very fine used on piece, and bid them from £30 to £125 for the 5/- and £30 to £220 for the £1, which gratified the owner no end.

A large wholesale section was uneventful with most lots reaching half to two-thirds retail. Collections sold well with the most hotly contested being a collection of overprints including minor varieties, estimated at £120, which sold for £200.

Hibernian's next auction will be on September 5 in Dublin and MacDonnell Whyte Ltd. (formerly David MacDonnell and Ian Whyte) have a sale in London on September 30.

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