

IRISH STAMP NEWS

No. 9 1981



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FRONT COVER: Recent releases.
(See article inside).

EDITORIAL

In this issue I welcome John Gilmore as the new Editor of IRISH STAMP NEWS. I regret that pressure of business has forced me to give up this pleasurable albeit time-consuming occupation. However I am very pleased to have such a worthy successor as John Gilmore.

John Gilmore has recently returned to his native Ireland from Switzerland where he had been working for the International Labour Office. He is very experienced in specialist journalism, having edited magazines for such diverse bodies as the R.A.F. in Germany, Ottawa Municipal Art Centre, Canadian Art magazine, and the Great Britain and Commonwealth Philatelic Society of Geneva. He is a proficient Irish postal historian, having won two Silver medals for his exhibits at STAMPA '81 and is keenly interested in all aspects of Irish philately.

Under John's editorship IRISH STAMP NEWS will not only appear on time, it will appear more often. As from early in 1982 IRISH STAMP NEWS will be published every 2 months instead of every quarter as heretofore.

Because of the increased frequency of publication we will need more contributions from our readers in the form of articles, notes, letters, comments, views, or even philatelic gossip. Please keep the flow up — without it IRISH STAMP NEWS cannot exist.

Finally I would like to thank all those who have helped me establish this magazine, and those who have encouraged its success. I will of course continue my association with IRISH STAMP NEWS through writing regular features and articles and will play an active part in its future development.

IAN W. WHYTE
MacDonnell Whyte Ltd./Publishers

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Department of Posts and Telegraphs

NEWSBEAT

STAMPA '81

The tenth STAMPA has come and gone, and by all reports was as successful as previous exhibitions. Attendance figures exceeded 2000 compared with a similar attendance at STAMPA '80, and 1800 for STAMPA '79. A number of dealers had reached their "target" in good time to profit from the excellent attendance on the Bank holiday Monday.

Minister of State Paddy Harte, T.D., opened the exhibition at a joint reception given by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs; Bord na gCapall as well as the STAMPA Committee. The Minister of State's opening speech is reported elsewhere in this issue.

During the reception, Mr Harte presented Norah Wright of Dublin with the Stamping Branch Trophy for the Best Exhibit of Irish Postage Stamps, 1922 to Date, for her exhibit of The First Definitive Stamp Designs, 1922. Ms Wright was also awarded a STAMPA Silver Medal for her entry. He also presented special presentation packs to Dr J. A. Quigley, Chairman of the STAMPA Committee, and to Professor James Meenan, M.A., B.L., LL.D., President of the Council of the Royal Dublin Society.

**ADDRESS BY MR PADDY HARTE, T.D.,
MINISTER OF STATE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, AT
THE OPENING OF STAMPA 1981 IN THE
R.D.S. ON 22nd OCTOBER, 1981.**

It is my privilege to welcome you to this reception and formally to open Stamp '81. I particularly welcome members and patrons of the equestrian sport. My main function tonight is to launch the 1981 Fauna and Flora stamps which feature some of Ireland's famous horses which have become household names: Arkle, Boomerang and Ballymoss and, to add variety, King of Diamonds, an Irish draught horse, and Coosheen Finn, a Connemara pony.

This is the tenth consecutive annual exhibition and its obvious popular support and success over the years are probably the best tributes that can be paid to the efforts of the organising committee. The Department is pleased to be able to give continuous support to

the organisers of Stamp and we look forward to this annual event. Collectors like to gather over the days of the exhibition to discuss the many aspects of this fascinating hobby and we on the operational side of producing stamps are interested in meeting collectors. We naturally welcome their views on philatelic matters, which we generally find to be most constructive.

I express my indebtedness to the members of the Philatelic Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr W. H. Walsh, for their continuing advice and judgement.

An indication of our success is the level of response to our stamps from the collector. The Department's revenue from philately will be of the order of £1½m. this year. I would like to thank Mr Michael Scott and the Stamp Design Advisory Committee for their expert advice and guidance.

Appreciable progress has been made in fostering stamp collecting both at home and abroad: at home by a successful pilot schools programme in co-operation with the Federation of Philatelic Societies — the response to our efforts is shown by the increasing number of young collectors who visit our Philatelic Sales Shop — and abroad by the impact made by our agents in our main markets.

And now I come to a particularly pleasant part of the evening's proceedings: the presentation of the annual trophy donated by the Stamping Branch, Office of the Revenue Commissioners. It is my pleasure to present this trophy to Ms Nora Wright whose specialised display of early definitive issues has been adjudged the Irish exhibit of highest merit.

I would also like to present a special album containing the 1981 Fauna and Flora stamps to Mr Peter Needham, Chairman of Bord na gCapall, as a token of this Department's appreciation of the work they have done for Irish bloodstock in general.

I also have the pleasure to present a similar album to Mr James Meenan, Chairman, Executive Committee, Royal Dublin Society, in recognition of the Society's contribution to the popularity of the Irish horse. The Society's 250th anniversary will, of course, be honoured with a special stamp on 10th December.



● **HIBERNIAN SPECIALISED CATALOGUE, 1982 EDITION**

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Saturday 10.30—1.30

AWARDS

Once again standards were high, and this was exemplified by the quantity of awards. These awards were presented at the Awards Banquet which was held in the Burlington Hotel on Saturday the 25th of October, and which proved to be a convivial and social highlight. All three members of the jury presented comments, both subjective and objective, which were well received for their fairness and forthrightness. Awards were made as follows:-

GOLD MEDAL
and **DAVID FELDMAN TROPHY:**
Dr B. de Burca.

SILVER MEDAL WITH
FELICITATIONS OF THE JURY:
John D. Gilmore; A. H. MacCoy; Brian Warren.

SILVER MEDAL:
Norah Wright (awarded the Stamping Branch Trophy); Rev. John Brennan; J. Fletcher; John D. Gilmore; Fred E. Dixon; Dr P. F. Smith-Keary (Papua exhibit); Dr P. F. Smith-Keary (Australia exhibit); Padraig O Mathuna; James Brophy; Wil Coense.

BRONZE MEDAL:
John Hickey; W. Sibley.

COURT OF HONOUR

The three members of the Jury, Dr R. P. Towers, William Kane and Peter Fitzgerald, were featured in the Court of Honour. Dr Robert Towers illustrated the printing history of the first issues of Grenada, an in-depth study which included many rarities which would grace a National Collection, of which the 1d bisect on cover, used to make up the 1/1½d rate to France, was a superb example. Coming nearer to home, Peter Fitzgerald displayed the classic varieties of plate faults on the stamps of Great Britain which were overprinted for use in Ireland, 1922/23. Bill Kane's exhibit of "The Irish at War and Peace" illustrated three facets of exhibiting, economy of words in the 'write-up'; development of a thematic exhibit as well as a star quality collection of postal history items from the Seven Years War of 1758 to the Irish Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon in 1979. The exhibit included an 1835 cover signed by the Irish born Duke of Wellington.

JUNIOR EXHIBITS

Standards this year were again higher than last year, and it was encouraging to note that the increasing popularity of this competition is resulting in individual exhibits of 'adult' calibre. It was interesting to see that Postal History is beginning to interest younger collectors, which augurs well for the future preservation of our postal heritage. There were still some weaknesses in the "thematics" where one got the impression that the individual concerned, possessing some stamps that had a degree of commonality, had written an essay to pull them together, rather than writing an essay on a topic of personal interest and illustrating it philatelically. Nevertheless the standard was very satisfyingly high.

TRADE STANDHOLDERS

There were no fewer than eighteen trade stands. All standholders reported that business was good and that representation at STAMPA was well worth while.

THE EXHIBITS

The display prepared by the Revenue Stamping Branch this year was particularly interesting to specialist and lay people alike. Proofs showing how the individual colour printings progressively develop into the complete stamp were displayed in respect of three of the current year's stamps: An Oige, James Hoban and Fauna and Flora. Other panels showed all the stamps issued to date in respect of EUROPA, CHRISTMAS, CONTEMPORARY IRISH ART and FAUNA AND FLORA. Also on view were tables and display stands showing the stamps and samples of the printing plates of the four printing processes used in the printing of Irish stamps:

LETTERPRESS

This process, known in some circles as the TYPOGRAPHIC process, was used to print all the earlier stamps. The full collection was shown together with the printing plate used to print the stamp issued in 1931 to commemorate the bi-centennial of the R.D.S.

RECESS

This process is the opposite to letterpress in the sense that the image to be printed is carried, as the name implies, in recesses in the printing

plate. On the printing machine the entire face of the plate is first covered with ink of a viscous type; the plate is then wiped clean but ink remains in the recesses and is transferred from there to the paper.

The printing plates displayed were used to print the stamps issued in 1968 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. Also shown were the dies used to make the printing plates.

The Irish stamps printed by this process have been widely acclaimed and the collection was displayed in full. The last Irish stamps printed by recess were the 1974 stamps commemorating the centenary of the Irish Rugby Football Union. The 3½p rate was printed in single colour but the multicolour 12p rate used the photogravure process for the additional colours.

PHOTOGRAVURE

This process is akin to recess in that the ink is transferred to the paper from recesses in the printing plate or rather the printing cylinder as the plates used for Irish stamps were cylindrically shaped. The recesses, however, are not in line form like those in recess plates but are made up of a series of cells; thus the lines on a photogravure stamp do not have the clear sharpness of recess lines and, under the magnifying glass, they are seen to be made up of jointed dots, a feature most noticeable along the edges of the stamps and in the script items.

Displayed were the four printing cylinders used to print the 1980 Christmas stamp; the layout showed how the prints from the different cylinders combine to form the composite print.

The effectiveness of both processes may be judged by comparing the St. Mary's Cathedral stamp with that of the photogravure printed Ballintubber Abbey or Holy Cross stamps. The Holy Cross stamp, of course, was a multi-coloured printing and it is particularly in colour printing that photogravure scores.

LITHOGRAPHY

Lithography differs from the other processes in that the image on the plate is neither in relief nor in recess but is photochemically etched on the plate's surface.

The composition of the plate surface is such that water readily adheres to it but, because of the incompatibility between water and grease, the lithographic ink, which is a greasy substance, does not adhere. The effect of etching, however, is to make the etched areas grease receptive and, therefore, water repellent. In the printing machine the plate is first covered with a film of water but that water is repelled by all except the etched areas.

Lithography has the advantage that it can cope with very fine line work and with multi-coloured printings. The Benjamin Franklin portrait of the American Independence stamp (1976) is an example of very fine line work as also are the Irish Folklore Society stamp and the Eriugena stamp, both issued in 1977.

BELFAST SHOW MOST SUCCESSFUL TO DATE

The annual Belfast Stamp and Coin Fair was held on September 10 to 12 last at the Maysfield Leisure Centre, and attracted an attendance in excess of 2,200. There were no exhibits apart from an interesting display of unaccepted designs for the "Fishing" stamps by the Post Office, but there were plenty of interesting items to see on the dealers stands. Stamp dealers who took stands included Jim Brophy from Carlow, Gwyn Bennett and MacDonnell Whyte Ltd. from Dublin, C. O'Neill from Dundalk, Belfast Stamp Company, and Edinburgh Stamp Shop. All were very pleased with the show.

IRISH STAMP DEALERS ORGANISE

Irish stamp dealers have formed a trade body called the Irish Philatelic Traders Association (I.P.T.A.). The association will be open to stamp dealers in Ireland and overseas dealers who specialise in Irish stamps.

I.P.T.A.'s chief aims are to further Irish stamp dealing and the hobby in general, to affiliate members with the International Federation of Stamp Dealers Associations (I.F.S.D.A.) thus giving the membership international standing and access to international exhibitions, and to give members a united voice in matters concerning the trade as a whole.

The I.P.T.A. will provide a credit referral service to members, arbitration between members, and between members and the general public, advise members of thefts, and will police unlawful and unprofessional conduct in the trade. As there are now about 30 dealers in Ireland a body such as I.P.T.A. has become necessary to promote good and reputable dealership so that the trade here will have a good name internationally.

Details and application forms are available from the Irish Philatelic Traders Association, 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6.

FEDERATION GAINS IN STRENGTH

The Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland is now firmly established as the representative body of collectors' organisations in the Irish Republic and will shortly be joining the International Federation of Philately (F.I.P.) one of its longstanding aims, frustrated till now by lack of sufficient funds to pay the F.I.P. subscription. The Irish Federation will be proposed for F.I.P. membership by Iceland at the next F.I.P. meeting.

The F.P.S.I. has organised exhibitions with the co-operation of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs in Galway, Waterford and Sligo. As a direct result of the Galway show a Galway philatelic society has been formed and it now organises its own annual exhibition. This is the aim of F.P.S.I. — to establish local societies in the provinces so as to build up a network of organised collectors throughout the country.

The F.P.S.I. holds regular meetings with officials of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and mutually useful exchanges of information and views take place with help to develop philately in this country.

The Federation is always keen to hear from groups of collectors who would like assistance to set up a local stamp club or society. The person to contact is Captain Pat Casey, Joint Hon. Secretary, F.P.S.I., "D" House, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin 6.

IRISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Irish Philatelic Society meets every other Thursday at the Clarence Hotel, Wellington Quay, Dublin 2. Formal business commences at 8.00 p.m., when there is normally a display followed by a bourse of member's material.

Jan. 14: Society Bourse.

Jan. 28: G.B. from 1922 onwards; Capt. P. Casey.

Feb. 11: Express Main; F. E. Dixon.

Feb. 25: Various Postmarks; G. McNamara.

Mar. 11: Voyage of Discovery; Ms. C. Archer.

The Society hopes to produce a pamphlet to celebrate its 80th Anniversary, 1901 to 1981.

DUBLIN STAMP SOCIETY

The fortnightly meetings of the Dublin Stamp Society resumed on Wednesday 30th September, at the Ormond Hotel, Ormond Quay, when Mr Jim Cole showed his collection of "France". This was a most entertaining and complete collection which was being shown probably for the last time in Ireland. On the 14th of October the Society was addressed by Mr T. Garvey, Chief Executive Officer, An Bord Poist.

The President of the Northern Ireland Philatelic Society has agreed to attend the meeting arranged for 3rd February 1982, and an Exchange Display with the Irish Philatelic Society will take place on 3rd March 1982.

The season has been extended by two additional meetings in June 1982. The Club Bourse has been moved away from the date on which the Novice Competition and Annual Competition entries will be on display. This will enable a wider selection of entries in these competitions to be seen by the members.

The packet circulation over the past few months has been satisfactory, interest in this activity having been re-kindled.

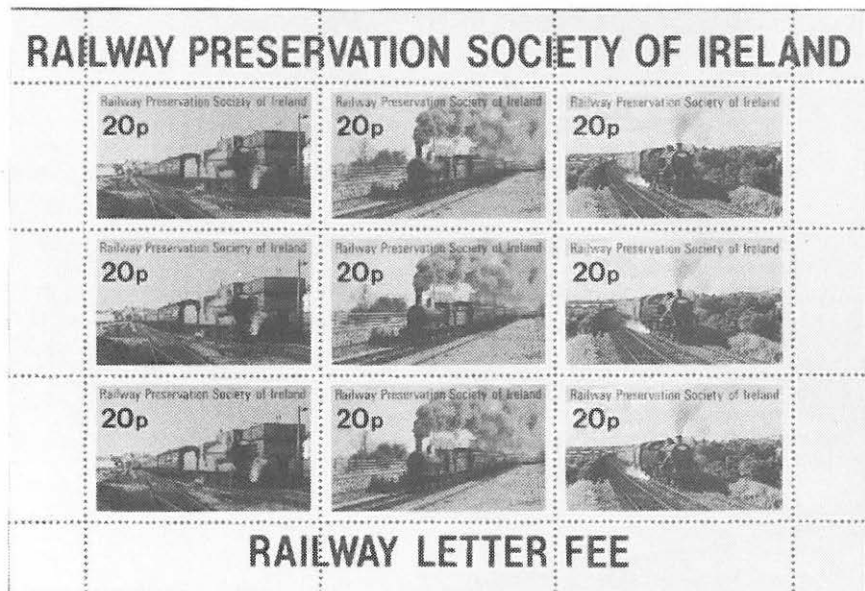
Readers wishing to have further information about the Dublin Stamp Society should contact the Hon. Secretary, Mr J. O'Neill, 21 Newlands Drive, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin.

Readers wanting information about the Irish Philatelic Society should contact the Hon. Secretary, Ms A. Fogerty, Deepark House, Sutton, Dublin 13.

DIARY

Club Secretaries throughout Ireland are urged to send IRISH STAMP NEWS full information about their activities as we are always pleased not only to publicise future plans, but to have reports on past presentations, special events, members activities, reports of juries on exhibitions, and research activities undertaken or under way. We are particularly anxious to have copies of members' presentations, preferably illustrated with slides or photographs, and of award winning displays, if they concern topics of Irish special interest.

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND



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THE JAMES HOBAN FIRST DAY OF NON-ISSUE

BY JOHN GILMORE

It all started innocently enough with a routine press release dated 13th August 1981 from the Government Information Services that the Irish Post Office and the United States Postal Service would issue jointly new postage stamps on 29th September, 1981. The joint issue would commemorate James Hoban, the Irish-born architect who designed the White House in Washington D.C.

Unique in the history of the Irish Post Office, the joint issue, featuring the same design, on which artists from the two postal administrations worked, would show a single 18p denomination for Ireland, and a single 18c denomination for the United States.

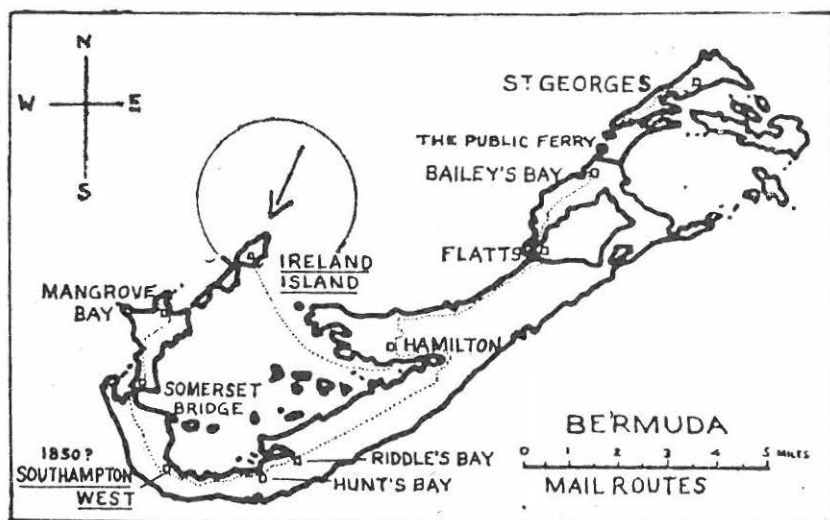
First day of issue ceremonies are on a rather grander scale in the United States than their equivalent in Dublin. With Ms Ronald Reagan as hostess, a reception was held in the "First Lady's Garden" at the White House. Postmaster General William F. Bolger was there, Ireland's Ambassador Sean Donlon was there, Ron Mercer of Ireland, the artist who painted the portrait, and the American artist, Walter Richards, who contributed the White House, were there, as were a clear blue sky, bright sunshine and a temperature just right for an outdoor reception. The only thing missing was the 18c denomination United States stamp.

Speeches were appropriate to the occasion. Postmaster General Bolger pointed out that he was second generation Irish-American; Ambassador Donlon pointed out that President Reagan's family came from County Tipperary and Ms Reagan pointed out that she was wearing a green blouse. As for the stamp, well there was a slight hitch. It would be issued "within the next two weeks", but meanwhile the Postal Service Board of Governors was meeting to consider a rate increase. If the rate were increased, then the stamp would be issued in the new rate, "to make sure we will use it and see it for a long time". Subsequently the announcement came that the letter-rate would be increased to 20c effective November the first, and that the new 20c James Hoban stamp would be issued on October 13th.

What came as a considerable surprise was the announcement that the original 18c version would also be issued on the same day. It is rumoured in Washington that the First Lady herself intervened to demand this as she wanted a stamp featuring the White House to go on the covers of her Christmas cards.

Unfortunately, or possibly fortunately for speculators, the confusion does not end there. It was also announced that for the 13th of October there would not be sufficient quantities of the 20c version for complete distribution to all Post Offices, and that such distribution would take about two weeks. How long will it be before we see a STAMPA exhibit showing, by date of cancellation, the gradual spread of this stamp across the United States from Washington? As for the 18c version, apart from its possible White House origin, this would only be available from some 300 philatelic outlets throughout the country. Genuine commercially used covers, again presumably Christmas cards, will be reasonably rare.

‘THE OTHER IRELAND’
 IRELAND ISLAND
 in
 The Bermuda Group of Islands
 by
 FRED GODFREY



NOTICE

The Public are respectfully informed that a Post Office is now established at IRELAND ISLE. Mails from St. Georges will be made up and closed for the above place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 4 p.m. to leave next Monday, weather permitting. From IRELAND ISLE for St. Georges on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. All letters not exceeding one ounce, and not over sixteen ounces, must be pre-paid at the rate of one penny per ounce, to insure delivery at each place. All letters for the Mails leaving these Islands from St. Georges, and posted at IRELAND ISLAND, must prepay 1d each in addition to Her Majesty's Postage, (Soldiers and Sailors in H.M. Service excepted), being properly Franked, and under half ounce in weight, with one penny each at the time of posting.

G.P.O. St. Georges, Bermuda.
 1st March 1845

James Taylor
 Deputy P.M. Gen.

History of the Post Office at Ireland Island

With the issue of this notice another 'IRELAND' – Ireland Island – entered into Philatelic history.

Since at least early in 1842 there had been a Post Office at Ireland Island run by and apparently exclusively for Naval personnel. By 1845 there must have been a sufficient number of civilian employees at the Dockyard on Ireland Island to warrant the establishment of a Receiving Office and in any case it was the policy of the General Post Office to take over, where possible, postal services controlled by the Admiralty, especially when these involved civilians.

The Post Office at Ireland Island was in operation until April 30th 1951, when due to an economy measure the British Government closed the Naval Dockyard at Ireland Island. A considerable number of Bermudians, who had worked for many years at the Dockyard and lived on or near Ireland Island were obliged to find other work elsewhere in Bermuda, practically all moved away from Ireland Island with the result that the Post Office was no longer considered necessary and was closed.

The control of the Post Office at Ireland Island during the years of its operation was as follows –

Under the Admiralty London	—	Feb. 1842 to Feb. 1845
Under the G.P.O. London	—	Mar. 1845 to Sep. 1859
Under Colonial Government	—	Aug. 1846 to Apr. 1951

THE HANDSTRUCK STAMPS AND CANCELLATIONS OF IRELAND ISLAND

PRE-ADHESIVE PERIOD

General Post Stamps	— Type No. P2	— Fig. 1	— Dates of use	1849 — 10.1860
Ship Letter Stamps	— Type No. S3	— Fig. 2	— Dates of use	Not recorded
Datestamps	— Type No. PM4	— Fig. 3	— Dates of use	4.2.1842—7.1845
	— Type No. PM5	— Fig. 4	— Dates of use	19.2.1846—8.1876

ADHESIVE PERIOD

Horizontal Bar	— Type No. K1	— Fig. 5	— Dates of use	25.9.1865—
Cancellations	(3 in Bars)			31.5.1879
Duplex Cancellations				
Vertical Bar	— Type No. K3	— Fig. 6	— Dates of use	11.6.1879—
Cancellations	(3 in Bars)			11.4.1888
	— Type No. K4	— Fig. 7	— Dates of use	1890—12.1894
	(3 in Bars)			
Handstamped	— Type No. H5	— Fig. 8	— Dates of use	1.1.1896—28.5.1900
Datestamps	— Type No. H7	— Fig. 9	— Dates of use	11.6.1900—13.12.1916
	— Type No. H8	— Fig. 10	— Dates of use	5.9.1905—23.12.1929
	— Type No. H11a	— Fig. 11	— Dates of use	4.12.1930—30.4.1951

NOTES: (1) Dates of use shown are for Covers etc., recorded.
(2) The letters in Datestamps are time of posting –

A – Morning Post
B – Noon or Afternoon Post
C – Evening Post

GENERAL POST STAMPS

*'PAID AT IRELAND ISLE'
'CROWNED CIRCLE'
REGISTERED AT G.P.O. 1.8.1845
DATES OF USE – 1849 to 10.1860*



TYPE NO. P2
(RED)

**IRELAND ISLE
BERMUDA
SHIP LETTER**

SHIP LETTER STAMPS

*'IRELAND ISLE/BERMUDA/SHIP LETTER
REGISTERED AT G.P.O. 18.11.1841
DATES OF USE – NOT RECORDED.*

TYPE NO. S3

DATESTAMPS

*'IRELAND ISLE X BERMUDA X'
REGISTERED AT G.P.O. 18.11.1841
DATES OF USE – 4.2.1842 to 7.1845*



TYPE NO. PM4
(BLACK)



'IRELAND ISLE = BERMUDA ='
REGISTERED AT G.P.O. 1.8.1845
DATES OF USE - 19.2.1846 to 8.1876

TYPE NO. PM5
(BLACK)

PM5 KNOWN USED IN RED.



BAR CANCELLATIONS

'IRELAND ISLAND'
BAR CANCELLATION - HORIZONTAL OVAL (3)
DATES OF USE - 25.9.1865 to 31.5.1879

TYPE NO. K1

DUPLEX CANCELLATIONS

'IRELAND ISLAND'
(INSCRIBED 'INLAND ISLAND')
DUPLEX CANCELLATION - VERTICAL OVAL
DATES OF USE - 11.6.1879 to 11.4.1888



TYPE NO. K3
(3)
(BLACK)



'IRELAND ISLAND'
DUPLEX CANCELLATION - VERTICAL OVAL
DATES OF USE - 1890 to 12.1894

TYPE NO. K4
(3)
(BLACK)

HANDSTAMPED DATESTAMPS

'IRELAND ISLAND'

(NO DOTS BETWEEN NAMES)

TWO RING CIRCULAR DATESTAMP

DATES OF USE – 1.1.1896 to 28.5.1900



TYPE NO. H5

(BLACK)

HANDSTAMPED DATESTAMPS

'IRELAND ISLAND'

(DOTS BETWEEN NAMES)

CDS DIAMETERS – 25.5 & 16.75

DATES OF USE – 11.6.1900 to 13.12.1916



TYPE NO. H7

(BLACK)

'IRELAND ISLAND'

(ONE LINE DATE)

DATES OF USE –

BLACK – 5.9.1905 to 24.4.1922

BLUE or

BLUE-BLACK 8.6.1922 to 18.6.1923

BLACK – 16.10.1923 to 23.12.1929



TYPE NO. H8

(BLACK)

'IRELAND ISLAND'

(ORNAMENTS BY DATE LINE)

DATES OF USE – 4.12.1930 to 30.4.1951



TYPE NO. H11a

(BLACK)

OFFICE CLOSED – 30.4.1951

**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**

Following the publication of my article on SG74b in the last issue of Irish Stamp News, some additional information has come to light which I think is worthy of mention.

Firstly, Michael Leonard informs me that a prominent Irish collector wrote to him in December, 1950 concerning SG74b. In her letter she stated "... a coil of this stamp was traced to a firm of wholesale chemists and a mint strip of 12 was obtained from their roll. As a rule they never used these stamps for postage, but, might just do so if supplies ran out at their philatelic section, i.e., the 2D Coil Stamps were mainly used for receipt purposes ... the odd used copies did turn up on mail from this firm". The Wholesale Chemists firm referred to was undoubtedly Messrs. Boileau and Boyd Ltd. It would be an interesting exercise to conduct a search through pharmaceutical chemists' receipts to see if any more used copies of this stamp can be found.

The next letter comes from David Feldman who has had many connections with this coil stamp down through the years. He states "... example 10 as far as I know was purchased by me at the Field sale, was sold to a Swedish collector and we got it back when we purchased his collection. It was then exchanged for an example in a private collection which was not quite so fine. This collector later decided to sell the single to a client who later put it into our auction sale in 1979.

Examples 11 to 15 – the strip of 5 came originally from the Renouf collection and as was usual for most of his good stamps had been laid aside in a drawer for so many years. He had placed the majority of these stamps in that drawer inside the pages of a photograph album, and with the humidity over the years some parts of the gum began to stick to the pages of the album.

I remember this particular strip being sent in by Erin Stamp Service having already been demounted from the album page. There were still some black and brown hairs on the reverse which gave the impression of a postmark from the front. We further sweated the strip and removed the majority of the hairs but the job was done very well and the strip still has the majority of its gum. It is true there are some creases, but I am not sure if they go through the entire strip. The strip is now in a private collection in Ireland.

Example 16 was the one I believe originally in this private collection which was exchanged for the Field copy and later I sold this to an American dealer."

Finally, David MacDonnell has written to inform me that Example No. 17 of the stamp was offered "in Lange & Fialkowski's 63rd auction in Wiesbaden 30th September to 2nd October 1981, lot 4504. Start price was DM20000 and it realised 22500 + 15% = DM26315 (about IR£7,250)".

My gratitude is extended to all those who have made constructive comment on this research and I welcome any more information that may be forthcoming in the future.

THE TYPOGRAPHED 3d Y COILS OF 1969 – THE “BOOKLET COILS”

BY PADRAIG O MATHUNA

In January 1970, when posting mail at night I had to obtain stamps from an outdoor Post Office vending machine. Before obtaining the number I needed the roll reached the last stamp and so, luckily, I was able to withdraw the end paper still attached to the stamps. Upon rapid examination I noticed some unusual features:—

1. the last stamp was joined to the end paper by transparent gummed paper and
 2. between that join and the next normal tab join there were 14 stamps.
- Needless to say my letters were not posted that night! Thus began a search that led to the discovery of a most unusual and interesting issue of Irish coil stamps.

Before detailing that issue it is necessary, for the sake of clarity, to review the previous issues.

Vertical delivery coils were made up by joining strips of 10 stamps by their marginal tabs. These were obtained from standard sheets of 240 (in 2 panes of 12 across by 10 down).

The vertical Y coils of Typographed 3d (D 21, SG 116, Scott 111) over their period of use conformed to this form of manufacture. Each roll contained 960 stamps and had a sales value of £12. Therefore each roll consisted of 96 strips of 10 stamps.

In 1967 that Typographed 3d was replaced by sheets, in the same format but in the new photogravure version printed on chalky paper (D33, SG 227, Scott 225). In due course these were made into Y coils of 960 stamps, again in strips of 10. The earliest date of manufacture I have seen on a leader is 2 Sept. 1968. These D33 were on sale throughout the State from then on until my unexpected purchase of the obsolete D21 in early January 1970.

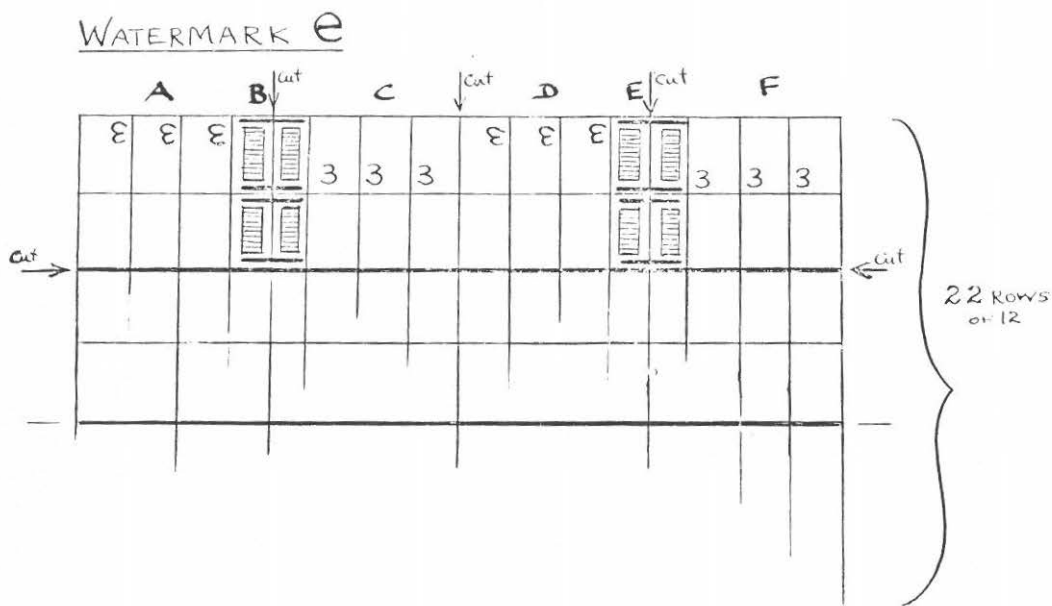
My report of this discovery was included by F. E. Dixon in his “Random Notes” No. 167 dated February 1970. He failed to locate supplies in Dublin Post Offices.

Over the next few months I obtained sufficient paper leaders and ends attached to stamps to note four important facts:—

1. The strips between margin tab joins contained 22 stamps.
2. Each roll contained ONE odd strip of 14 stamps, attached to either the leader or end paper. That join to paper was made using transparent gummed paper because one end of the strip of 14 was without a margin tab.
3. Some strips had watermark e inverted. These strips alternated with strips having watermark upright, or were in long sequences of either upright or inverted watermark.
4. The paper and ink shade compared exactly with panes of this stamp made into booklets in the final period.

The deductions to be made from these facts showed that the coils were made from sheets containing 22 stamps vertically. Since these could not come from the normal counter sheets of 240 the only possible source was sheets printed for making into booklets. Incidentally, the odd 14 is accounted for by the necessity of having 960 stamps in each roll. Therefore 960 divided by 22 gives a result of 43 strips of 22 and an odd 14 stamps.

Booklets are made up from specially printed sheets containing 264 stamps and two internal vertical gutter margins. The sheet has the format 12 stamps across by 22 stamps down. From this source watermark inverted stamps are normal because of printing requirements. The attached diagram shows the layout of these sheets.

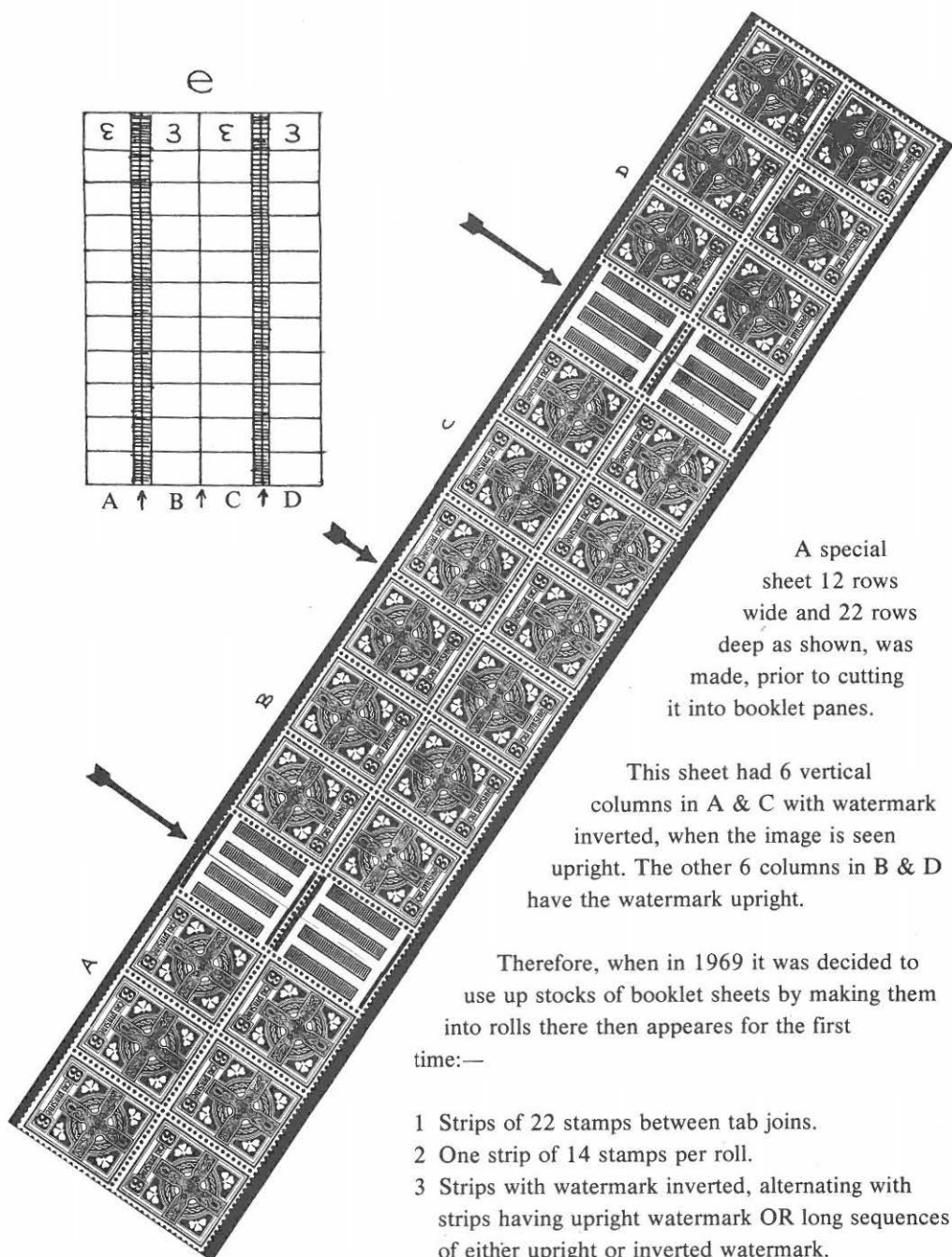


On paper with upright watermark the following is printed from left to right:—

- 3 stamps with image inverted
- gutter margin
- 3 stamps with image upright
- 3 stamps with image inverted
- gutter margin
- 3 stamps with image upright.

After cutting midway through the gutter margins and between c & d, assembly is then made by inverting section a and placing it upon c before stitching into booklet form. This action reverses the condition of a and it then has an upright image *but* acquires an inverted watermark in the process. This inversion of the watermark is not an error but the result of a deliberate process to gain maximum economy and ease of manufacture of booklets.

Arising from this it is obvious that in making Y coils from these sheets all the new variations earlier listed were inescapable.



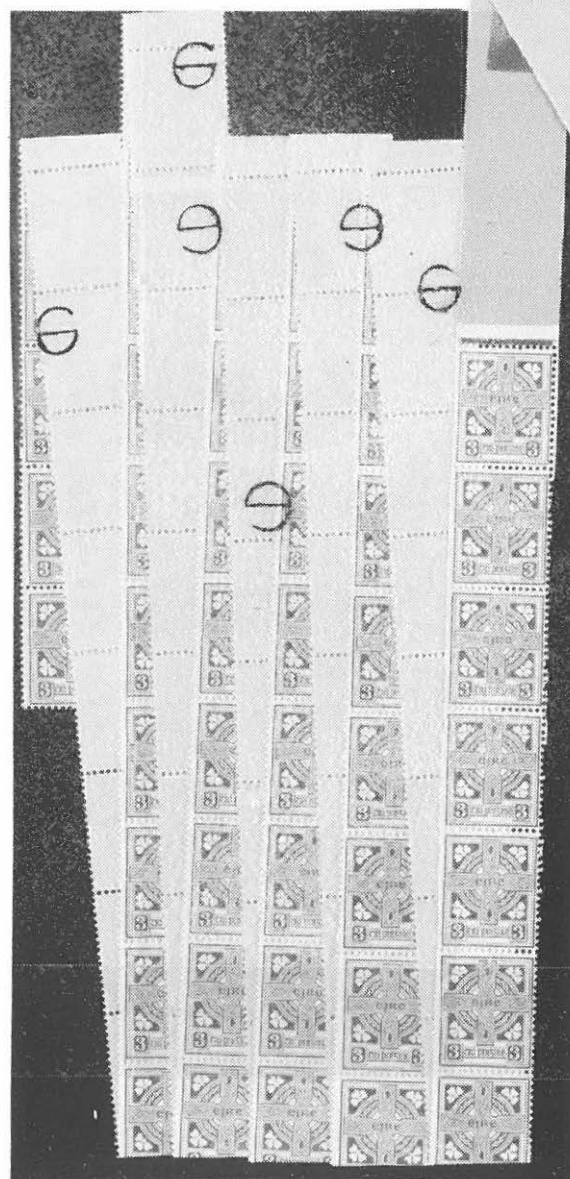
A special sheet 12 rows wide and 22 rows deep as shown, was made, prior to cutting it into booklet panes.

This sheet had 6 vertical columns in A & C with watermark inverted, when the image is seen upright. The other 6 columns in B & D have the watermark upright.

Therefore, when in 1969 it was decided to use up stocks of booklet sheets by making them into rolls there then appears for the first time:—

- 1 Strips of 22 stamps between tab joins.
- 2 One strip of 14 stamps per roll.
- 3 Strips with watermark inverted, alternating with strips having upright watermark OR long sequences of either upright or inverted watermark.

D21
 Typogravure.
 Leader dated
 Sept. 1969



Y
 960 3d STAMPS
 DELIVERY TOP END FIRST
 PRICE £12.
 Y

Y
 960 3d STAMPS
 DELIVERY TOP END FIRST
 PRICE £12.
 Y

Tab join to Leader

22 stamps with
 wmk. upright.

22 stamps with
 wmk. inverted.

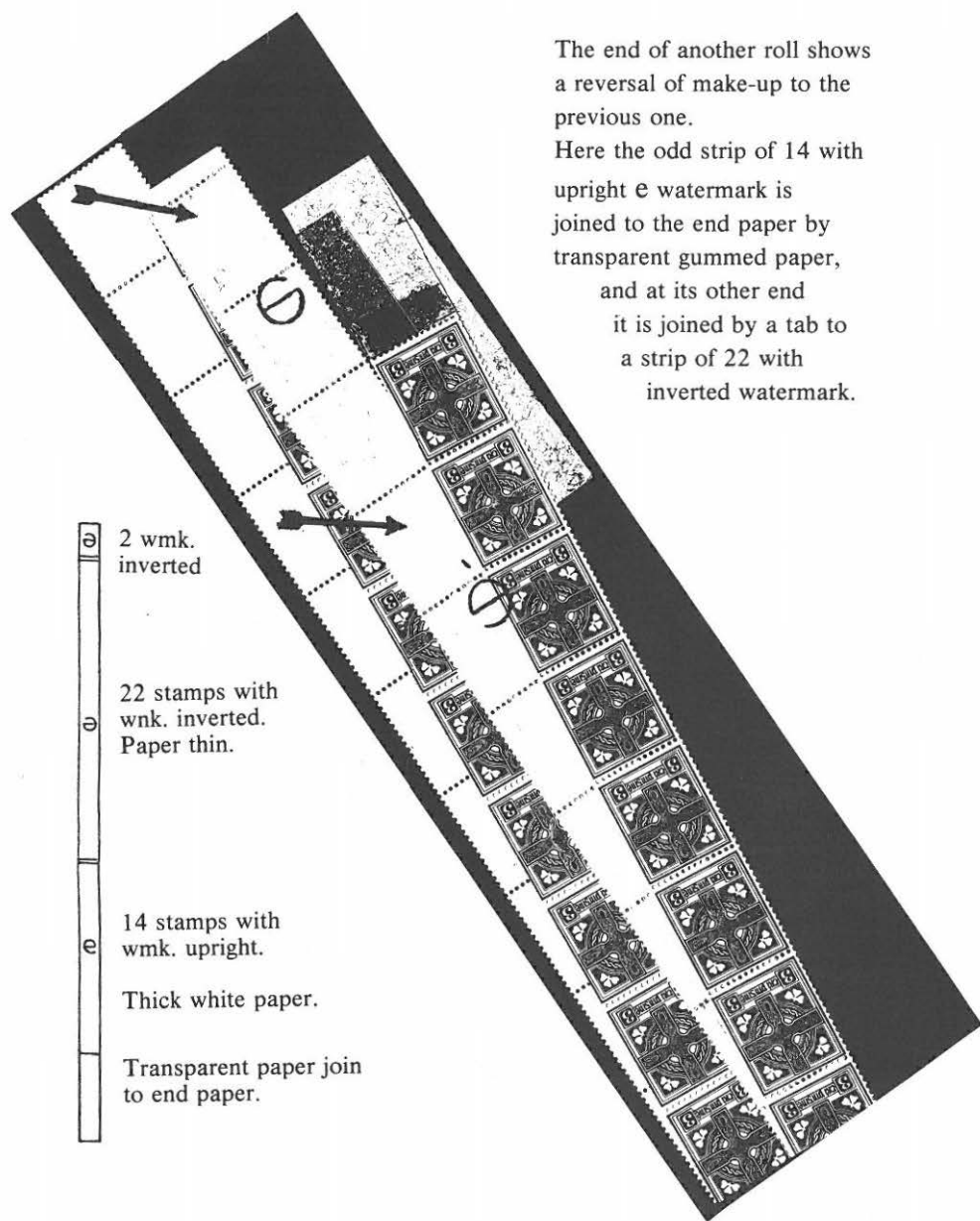
22 stamps with
 wmk. inverted.

22 stamps with
 wmk. upright.

2 stamps with
 wmk. upright.

The end of another roll shows a reversal of make-up to the previous one.

Here the odd strip of 14 with upright e watermark is joined to the end paper by transparent gummed paper, and at its other end it is joined by a tab to a strip of 22 with inverted watermark.



Period of manufacture.

The dated leaders known to survive, at time of writing, show clearly that these coils were made between 18 August 1969 and 4 September 1969. This covers a period of two working weeks.

Their relation to coils of D33.

Similar inspection of coils made up from cylinder 1 and cylinder 2 printings of photogravure D33 suggest that their manufacture was completed by March 1969. If this is correct then the obsolete booklet material was made into coils five months *after* manufacture of the D33 Y coils was completed.

Period of Sale.

They were inserted into the P.O. vending machines possibly toward the end of December 1969 but certainly in early January 1970. When supplies of D21 were exhausted by the end of April 1970 they were replaced by coils of D33 in the normal strips of 10.

This indicates a sales life of four months for the "Booklet Coils".

Distribution.

These coils were on sale from vending machines in Post Offices in Cashel, Cahir and Thurles (2). These are all in Co. Tipperary though two Head Office areas are involved. I suspect that they were also in Naas in Co. Kildare but shortage of coin whilst passing through that town late at night prevented me from getting more than 3 specimens of D21 during this period. Since the watermark was upright no definite conclusion could be drawn. A leader owned by F. C. Godfrey is of unknown origin.

Location of surviving leader and end papers.

1. My own collection — 2 leaders, 3 ends — origin Cashel.
2. Donal Sammon (Thurles) — 1 leader, 1 end — origin Thurles. No other survived from here.
3. James Munro (London, England) — 1 leader — origin Cashel.
4. F. C. Godfrey (Margate, England) — 1 leader — origin unknown.
5. Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd. — one complete roll with end and leader — origin Portlaois or Portarlinton.

Since there are six leaders known to exist there is evidence for the existence of six coils. Any further information in this respect will be welcomed.

For the record, it may be of interest to describe my own collection briefly. It consists of:—

1. Leader dated 29-8-1969 joined with transparent paper to strip of 14 invert wmk.-join-3 invert wmk.
2. End joined by transp. paper to strip of 14 upright wmk-join-22 invert wmk-join-2 invert wmk.
3. End joined by margin tab to strip of 22 invert wmk-join-2 invert.



UNIQUE IRISH POSTMARKS BY IKE O'LECHT

When the Dublin Penny Post was started in 1773 prepayment was compulsory. However, the system also provided a delivery service for General Post letters coming into Dublin, and the extra penny was collected from the addressee. It is likely that the mark illustrated was intended for use in such cases. The only example yet found, however is on a local letter of June 1788. My theory is that it was posted in the GPO instead of in one of the special Receiving Houses and was inadvertently accepted as being a G.P. letter. We (except perhaps the owner of the unique cover) hope that other examples will turn up to provide further evidence of its use. The ornament at the centre is indistinct, but is probably a spray of shamrocks.

continued . . .

4. Leader dated ?-9-1969 joined by margin tab to 22 upright wmk-join-22 invert wmk-join-22 invert wmk-join-22 upright wmk-join-2 upright wmk.
5. End joined by transp. paper to strip of 14 upright wmk-join-22 upright wmk-join-3 upright wmk.

As can be seen from this article, therefore, when the decision was made to use up stocks of D21 in sheets of 12 x 22 booklet material the end result was the exciting and completely new rolls that I call the "booklet coils" which were made up in 1969 and sold in 1970. This discovery shows that modern issues of Ireland are just as exciting as any issue of the past and equally worthy of study.

RECENT RELEASES

by Brian Warren and Eddie Fitzgerald



Date	Issue	Sold for	Plate Numbers
31/8/81	Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa	15p	1111
	Contemporary Irish Art	30p	11111
1/9/81	Dog Definitive	22p	1A,1B and 2A,2B
12/9/81	Galway Philatelic Exhibition Booklet	£1.00	
29/9/81	James Hoban	18p	1A1A1A1A1A, 1B1B1B1B1B
23/10/81	Flora and Fauna (Horses)	18p	
	Arkle	18p	11111
	Boomerang +	22p	11111
	King of Diamonds	24p	11111
	Ballymoss	36p	11111
	Coosheen Finn	£1.20	
23/10/81	Stampa Presentation Pack (Hoban stamps)	24p	1A,1B
29/10/81	Dog Definitive	£1.00	
31/10/81	Cork Philatelic Society Booklet	£1.00	
14/11/81	Limerick, Coin, Stamp and Postcard Fair	18p	111111
19/11/81	Christmas	22p	111111
		36p	111111
28/11/81	Sligo Philatelic Exhibition Booklet	£1.00	

Commemorative Issues. All values were offset litho printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. Perf. 14 X 14½ (vertical format) or 14½ X 14 (horizontal format issues). In previous reports we have mentioned the use of two perforators – Grover and Bickel. We understand that most of the recent perforation variations on both commemorative and definitive issues (litho) occur by reverse feeding the sheets through the Grover perforator. The Bickel perforator is slow and is very rarely used for perforating postage stamps. We will therefore identify the perforator types as follows in future articles:

Perforation Type I

Vertical format issues	—	left margin imperforate, right margin perforated
Horizontal format issues	—	top margin imperforate, bottom margin perforated

Perforation Type P

Vertical format issues	—	left margin perforated, right margin imperforate
Horizontal format issues	—	top margin perforated, bottom margin imperforate

All the above issues are perforation type I. Sheet markings and layout as per previous issues with the exception of the James Hoban stamp.



James Hoban: Plate 1A block showing imperforate left margin together with plate 1B block showing perforated left margin.



James Hoban. The smaller 41 X 24mm format was a welcome change for commemorative issues. The printer's sheet was made up of two post office sheets of 100 stamps. The two different sheets are designated A and B respectively and thus plate block sets of both 1A and 1B exist. Each post office sheet of 100 is sub-divided into two panes of 50 (2 X 10) with gutter margin. The complete printer's sheet of 200 stamps was perforated left to right prior to guillotining into individual post office sheets of 100. As a result 1A sheets have perf. type I whereas 1B sheets are perforated through both left and right margins. Two good varieties have been noted:

1A sheets —	R18/2: line leading in N.E. direction from above the third window from the left (Th.E4).
1B sheets —	R8/3: spot on Hoban's collar (Th.E11).

Definitive Issues. Revised postal rates became operative from 1st September and a new 22p definitive was issued on the same day to meet the new inland letter rate. It was followed by a 24p stamp on the 29th October for the European letter rate. Printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited, perf. 14 X 14½. Double sheet printing (A and B) in a similar manner to the 18p and 19p issues. The 22p has appeared with two sets of plate numbers 1A,1B and 2A,2B. All perf. type I.

Exhibition Souvenirs. The Galway booklet contained 2 X 19p, 4 X 1p and 4 X 2p definitives. Total of 300 issued. The Stampa presentation pack brought something new to a collection of exhibition souvenirs. It contained one each of the three Hoban stamps i.e. 18p Irish plus 18c and 20c U.S.A. Total printing of 2,500 in blue. A further 250 were printed in maroon for distribution to members of the Stampa Society. The Cork booklet contained 3 X 15p O'Donovan Rossa plus 6 X ½p dog and 6 X 1p dog definitives. Total issue of 600. The Sligo booklet contained 2 X 10p. An Oige plus panes of 6 X ½p and one pane of 6 X 1p definitives. Total of 600 issued.



Slogan Postmark. A special and unannounced slogan commemorating U.P.U. Day – 9th October was in use in Limerick from 29 September to 13 October. It was also used on 9 October in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Dundalk and Donegal.



Horses Issue: Plate block of the se-tenant 18p values featuring Arkle and Boomerang.

Postmarks. Special first day postmarks were in use in both Dublin and Cork for all definitive and commemorative issues. In addition a special pictorial postmark was in use in Callan, Co. Kilkenny for the James Hoban issue. The postmark design is similar to that used in Dublin and Cork and features the White House. James Hoban was born in Desart near Callan in 1762. Special official first day covers available for the Hoban, Horses and Christmas issues. The standard FDC was used for the O'Donovan Rossa/Art and definitive issues. Special cancels were also used in connection with the following events:

- 21 and 30 July: Optimist World Sailing Championships, Howth. Used on mail posted at the Howth Lodge Hotel. Rectangular in black.
- 13 to 16 August: Carroll Irish Open Golf Championship. Rectangular in purple. Used at Portmarnock Golf Club.
- 17 to 19 August: Eurotox – 22nd Congress of the European Society of Toxicology, Trinity College, Dublin. Oval in purple.
- 24 to 28 August: IFTDO – 10th International Training and Development Conference, R.D.S., Ballsbridge, Dublin. Oval in purple.
- 24 to 28 August: AIJA – The Young Lawyers International Association XIX Congress, Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin. Oval in purple.
- 12 and 13 September: Galway Philatelic Exhibition. Circular in black. Special cover available. Held at the Imperial Hotel and organised by the Galway Philatelic Society.
- 20 October: Day of the Air Traffic Controller. To commemorate the 21st anniversary of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controller Associations a special handstamp cancellation was used at Shannon Airport Post Office, Cork Head Post Office and Dublin Airport Post Office. Circular in black.
- 23 to 26 October: Stampa '81. Four cancels linked with the Horses issue which was released on the opening day of the exhibition. Circular in black.
- 23 October – 18th century post boy on horse.
- 24 October – Showjumping horse.
- 25 October – Horse and Plough.
- 26 October – Racehorse.

A special cover was also available.

- 31 October: Cork Philatelic Exhibition. Circular in black featuring the harp which was the central feature in the design of the one cent Fenian stamp essay of 1865–67.
- 3 and 4 November: Societe Les Clefs D'Or International Congress, Gresham Hotel, Dublin.
- 28 and 29 November: Sligo Philatelic Exhibition. Organised by the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland in association with the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and the Revenue Stamping Branch. Held at the Imperial Hotel. Special cover available. Circular in black featuring the FIPS logo.

Philatelic facilities were available at each of the four exhibitions. Post office facilities were available at all events with the exception of the Optimist Championships at Howth.

The skeleton postmark "Show RDS Ballsbridge" was once again used at the Horse Show (4 – 8 August) and The Good Life Exhibition (6 – 11 October).

BOOK REVIEW

Hibernian Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland 1982 Edition. A5. 88pp. Paperback. IR£2.50, published by Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd.

Hibernian have expanded their handy annual 'simplified' catalogue to include check-lists of specialist items such as coils, booklets and panes, overprint controls, cylinder, plate, and imprint blocks, gutter pairs, as well as the Gerl definitive gum and paper differences. All the Irish stamps are listed in the first part of the catalogue and priced for unmounted mint, mounted mint, fine used, and where available, first day cover. The layout is easy to follow with side by side numbering of Gibbons, Scott, Michel, and Feldman, and the introductory notes are particularly useful to beginners especially as regards the overprinted issues. Practically every stamp is illustrated including the Christmas and Anniversaries stamps which hadn't even been issued at the time of publication. The catalogue couldn't be more up to date!

The specialised listings are in part two and the tabulated check lists will be very useful to specialised collectors. It takes a bit of getting used to the various necessary abbreviations but on the whole the layout is good. Very informative introductory notes are given to most sections, a notable exception being the 'Plate and Sheet Markings' which merits some explanation to the beginner especially as regards the different perforators. Plating guides are given for the 1972, 1976, and 1980 miniature sheets.

This is a very useful book and is recommended for all those seeking a concise check-list of Irish postage stamps since 1922 including the more popular specialist items. The only major criticism this writer has is of the rather garish cover of gold and purple which one suspects has contributed to the rather high price of £2.50, but this is a matter of taste and no doubt the publication will be very successful.

NEW POSTAL RATES

Only 5 months after the last increase the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs has hiked the postal rates even higher. The following are the new rates, with the old rates in brackets: Ireland and Britain - Letters, first 60g, 22p (18p); Postcards, 18p (15p); Printed Papers not over 120g, 18p (15p); Newspapers, 12p (10p). Other countries (surface mail, or airmail to most European countries) - Letters, first 20g, 24p (19p); Postcards 19p (15p); Printed papers not over 20g, 13p (11p). Other countries (Airmail) - Letters not over 20g, 36p (30p); Postcards, 22p (18p); Airletters, 25p (20p). The minimum registration fee to Ireland and Britain is 58p (48p) and for overseas is also 58p (55p), and Express fee goes to 22p (18p) inland and 23p (19p) foreign.

The total increase in postal rates this year amounts to a staggering 46%, and has resulted in the issue of four new definitives - 18p, 19p, 22p and 24p.

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- IRISH PACKETS

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AUCTION REVIEW

David Feldman's mammoth 15,000 lot auction held in Zurich on September 18 – 26 realised a total of 18 million Swiss francs against total estimates of 11 million Swiss francs. After allowing for the 12½% buyer's premium that total comes to about six million Irish pounds, which is an amazing figure in the current recession.

There was a strong Irish section in this sale, comprising 450 lots. There were many fine and rare items including the following items (prices are given in IR£ having converted from Swiss francs and added the 12½% premium): An 1840 'House of Commons' 1d envelope with a 2d blue tied by orange Maltese Cross and signed by Daniel O'Connell fetched £3,000, and an 1840 Mulready 2d envelope cancelled by a very fine blue Maltese Cross of Letterkenny sold for £2,000. A well-written up specialised collection of Irish 'Spoon' cancels including the rare Strabane, with 58 items, mainly covers, sold for only £350 which was a bargain.

The 'Transition' period is still popular as is shown by the sale for nearly £180 of a 1923 cover from Donegal with a pair of GB 2d dues cancelled Dublin with a Derry handstamp '4d/172'. How the cover came to have a Derry handstamp is a bit of a mystery unless it came from one of Derry's former sub-offices in Donegal. 'Forerunners' included some nice pieces such as the 1912 'Redmonders Rex' satirical 'stamps' in three different colours which fetched £350 against an estimate of £200, and a complete sheet of 50 1907–16 Sinn Féin green and black Celtic Cross labels, perf. 11 of which went for £1,500.

In the Overprints record prices were paid for anything unusual or fine rarities such as the Dollard 1d overprint inverted in a fine mint block of four which sold for £600 to a room bidder. A Thom 1½d 'PENCF' used on a 1922 cover from Wexford to Skibbereen – probably unique – fetched £4,000 while the same flaw in a used block of four fetched £400, and a used single sold at £100, which shows the huge premiums paid for good covers.

The star Irish item was the 1d Thom Saorstat 'accent and t missing' error – a fine used single. This is the third example of this rarity to appear in auction this year, an example in a mint block of six having been sold by Ian Whyte in May for £6,000, and a similar block went for US \$10,000 at Superior's sale earlier in the year in California. Notwithstanding its unusual proliferation – it is unlikely to appear in auction for many years to come – this used example fetched £7,000 including the premium.

Another rare overprint error – the 1925 5 shilling mint block of five with the overprint

violently misplaced – sold for £3,500. The 'long 1' variety on the Harrison coils is not particularly rare but some examples used on cover fetched some amazing prices with the ½d fetching between £35 to £55, the 1d selling for £600, the 1½d for £900, and the 2d for £630.

An item 'not previously recorded' according to the catalogue is the 1922 – 35 2d imperf. X perf. coil leader with two stamps attached. Coincidentally one of these was on display at STAMPA '81 so now there are two examples known. The price paid, £1,100, reflected its rarity. Another "probably unique" item was the 1938 Fr. Mathew 2d "inverted comma" flaw on a first day cover, estimated at £300, which after some hectic bidding went for £2,200 including the premium. A 1931 airmail cover to India franked with the advertisement pane from the first booklet sold for £900, while a 1935 mint 2 shilling booklet sold for £1,000.

MacDonnell Whyte Ltd. held an auction in London on October 1st. The venue, a purpose designed philatelic auction room in the newly opened London International Stamp Centre, off the Strand, was very well equipped with closed circuit television, video colour monitors for displaying lots as they were sold, angle-poise magnifiers for viewers and excellent lighting. It has already become an established venue for auctions and meetings in London. Eight hundred of the 1367 lots were of Irish material and prices were good, with few unsolds amongst the single collectors items.

Two unusual cancels – 'ARMY/GHQ 3 VII 22/SIGNALS' on a block of four 4d Dollard carmine and 'HEADQUARTERS IRISH COMMAND/PARKGATE, DUBLIN/17 FEB 1922' on Thom 2d pair (first day of issue) – sold for UK£230 and UK£86 respectively. The Dollard 9d carmine is a very scarce stamp with the flaw 'POSTAGE for POSTAGE' (R3/1) in a mint

corner block of 12 not surprisingly made UK£1,700 and the control block of six, S22P, sold for UK£320. A nice clean registered cover to Canada with the 'SE' 1d coil perf. 15 X imperf. in a strip of 6 sold for £300.

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LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I wish to refer to your editorial in the Summer 1981 issue of Irish Stamp News on the Philatelic Policy of the Post Office.

We are grateful for your complimentary comments on our stamps, our services to collectors and our promotional efforts.

You find fault, however, with the increasing cost of collecting new issues. We are acutely aware of this problem for both collectors and dealers, and it is our aim to keep the outlay necessary to purchase Irish stamps at as reasonable a level as possible. The face value of our stamps is determined, however, by the cost of postage rather than by philatelic considerations. Philately is but a by-product of the postal service, the cost of which has grown sharply in recent years.

You made comparison in your article between the cost of new issues in 1980 and 1981. This was not comparing like with like — more stamps are being issued this year because more worthy subjects suggested themselves for this year's stamp programme than for 1980. Our aim is to issue about 20 special stamps a year on average and we do not intend to increase this number.

Collectors may be assured that our plans for further development lie in increasing the number of people interested in Irish stamps rather than in placing a burden on our existing customers.

Yours faithfully,
S. Dorgan.

EDITOR'S REPLY: Mr Dorgan's letter raises two interesting points. He says that "more worthy subjects suggested themselves" in 1981 than 1980 and while I do not argue with that I fail to understand why four stamps have to be issued for certain subjects. For instance An Oige was commemorated by four stamps whereas the Royal Dublin Society issue consists of one. Is this a measure of the importance of An Oige compared to the R.D.S.?

It is not so much the number of stamps that are issued that worries collectors however as the face value. The U.S.A. issues for 1980 totalled 37 stamps including definitives but the total face value was only \$7.07, that is an average of only 16 cents per stamp. The average cost per

Irish stamp in the same period was 16 pence, about 60% more. This year the total U.S. output will total about \$7.50 (IR£4 approx.) for about 40 stamps whereas Ireland will total £5.67 for 27 stamps.

Surely Ireland doesn't need so many 24p and 36p commemoratives — if the U.S.A. can survive without so many high value stamps can we not do the same? One or two commemorative high values on sale for 12 months should satisfy the tourists' demands for attractive stamps to put on their mail.

Ian Whyte.

Dear Sir,

I read with interest your Editorial (ISN 8) on the costly stamp issuing policy of your PO.

Almost four years ago, I complained to the Minister for P+T, as he was then titled, about this madness and got a nice reply (from the PO) that they were "aware of the danger of too frequent issues of stamps" and that they "expect the number to stabilise at 20 stamps per year".

At the time, I did not consider the price of the issues.

Having just received the programme for 1982 with no values stated, I realise that any

PO people who might wish to be "aware of the danger of too frequent issues" apparently cannot bring their influence to bear.

I am much for imposing a collectors' boycott on the Irish PO. How do you think they'd like it if every customer closed down his deposit account?

Yours etc.

Jens-Ivar Mørch
Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dear Sir,

Could you please confirm that there is a constant variety on the 50p definitive, R 10/3. There appears to be a 'bullet hole' just above the front claw. This appears on the latest printings of the stamps. I do not know about the past printings.

Yours etc.

Philip Grimes,
Clontarf, Dublin 3.

Letters Contd.

Dear Sir,

When I read the article on the 2p coil stamp of 1935 by Gerard Brady in the Irish Stamp News No. 8 I remembered some meetings I had with this stamp. During a trip in Ireland 1973, I bought a copy on piece with the slogan postmark "Use the Telephone" from David Feldman at a price of £65. The stamp is a little centred to the left. In 1975 I had a correspondence with Feldman again, Mr Richard Stein was the assistant I negotiated with. I was offered a mint hinged copy, which he was going to fetch from a Swedish collector who had bought the stamp from Feldman in 1968. The price I had to pay was DM15000, but this amount was beyond me and I had to renounce. In 1976 I got another used item from Mr Garfield, London at £150, a very nice copy with c.d.s. 3 Ju 36. It is an unusually dark stamp, in opposite to the general opinion that this coil stamp is lighter in colour than the sheet stamps.

In 1976 Mr Russell Jackson wrote an article on this stamp; he had discovered 4 mint and about 25 used copies. Now 20 mint stamps are known, and how many used ones? Probably the tenfold number. We see which impulse a mysterious stamp with a strongly rising price can be for collectors to examine their own collections and to have an open eye to everything that is green, looks like a map and has a face value of 2d.

Yours etc.

Otto Jung,

Dueren, Germany.

Dear Sir,

I refer to the article "Irish R.S.O.'s - Railway Sub Offices" in the D.F. NEWSLETTER Vol. 2 No. 36 Autumn 1979, which I recently acquired.

I have a copy of the KILKENNY RSO/Co. TYRONE single-ring datestamp worth reporting. It is set up with three lines of slugs 6 PM/8MR/14 and is of 24mm external diameter. This pre-dates by 15 years the period of use listed in the article, stated as 1929. The cancellation is also an early example, after February 1914, of the date and month reversed, thus 8MR rather than MR8.

Yours etc.

Frank Corkery,

Castleknock, Co. Dublin.

Dear Sir,

Help! I wonder if you can assist in a small matter for me. A friend of mine looks after the journals in the Royal Philatelic Society and has only recently become aware of the Irish Stamp News. The publishers have agreed to send future issues, and have provided back ones with the exception of two - No. 1 and No. 7.

As he says it would be a pity to bind incomplete volumes and so I wonder if any reader might have these two numbers and perchange not want to keep them.

K. H. Beales,

Belfast BT4 2HG.

N. Ireland.

Can anyone help with an offer of a full set of IRISH STAMP NEWS, or at least issue No. 1?

Irish Stamp News No. 8/1981

Page 33, "Letters"

Dublin & Derry T.P.O.

Dear Sir,

I hope I can help you to answer the question of Mr Roger Pettridge about the closing of the Dublin & Derry T.P.O.

The last day the T.P.O. was on duty was the 15th August 1922 Up and Down. These were suspended from August 16th, 1922. From December 11th, 1922 the T.P.O. has been placed under the control of the Postmaster Surveyor in Belfast, but this service was later not restored again.

I hope this answer will help to reduce the confusion with the dates.

Claus Seelemann

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Some Postmarks to Look For
 Special Events
 Special Handstamps
 Strike

The 1935 Coil

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	249	2d dog	0.10	0.15
	250	3d dog	0.20	0.40
	251	4d dog	0.15	0.40
	252	5d dog	0.15	0.40
	253	6d dog	0.20	0.40
	254	7d stag	0.40	1.00
	255	8d stag	0.40	1.00
	256	9d stag	1.20	2.00
	257	10d stag	0.60	1.20
	258	1/- stag	0.60	1.20
	259	1/9 stag	1.50	3.00
	260	2/6 ox	7.00	12.00
	261	5/- ox	12.00	20.00
	262	10/- ox	25.00	40.00
1970		GERLS: PVA		
	—	1d dog	25.00	40.00
	—	2d dog	100.00	—
	—	5d dog	20.00	35.00
	—	2/6 ox	25.00	35.00
1971		DECIMALS 'E' WMK.		
	287	½d dog	0.20	0.30
	288	1p dog	0.80	1.20
	289	1½p dog	0.40	0.60
	290	2p dog	0.40	0.60
	291	2½p dog	0.40	0.60
	292	3p dog	0.40	0.60
	293	3½p dog	0.40	0.60
	294	4p dog	0.40	0.60
	295	5p stag	1.50	2.00
	295a	5p dog	2.75	4.00
	296	6p stag	2.00	4.00
	296a	7p stag	—	10.00
	297	7½p stag	0.60	1.00
	298	9p stag	2.75	4.00
	299	10p ox type I	—	30.00
	299a	10p ox type II	—	22.00
	299b	12p ox	—	1.00
	300	20p ox	—	10.00
	301	50p eagle	—	20.00

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339	½p dog	0.10	0.15
340	1p dog	0.10	0.15
341	2p dog	0.10	0.15
342	3p dog	0.10	0.15
343	3½p dog	4.00	10.00
344	5p dog	0.20	0.30
345	6p stag	1.50	2.00
346	6p dog	0.40	0.60
347	7p stag	2.00	3.00
348	7p dog	0.20	0.30
349	8p stag	1.00	2.00
350	8p dog	0.20	0.30
351	9p stag	1.50	2.00
352	9p dog	0.20	0.30
352a	9½p dog	0.20	0.30
353	10p ox	—	4.00
354	10p stag	0.80	1.00
354a	10p dog	0.25	0.40
355	11p stag	0.25	0.45
355a	12p dog	0.25	0.50
355b	12p stag	0.25	0.50
355c	13p stag	0.30	0.60
356	15p ox	—	0.70
—	15p dog	0.35	0.70
—	16p stag	0.35	0.70
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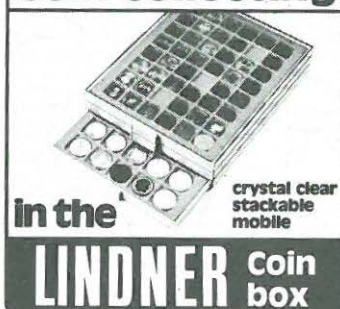
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