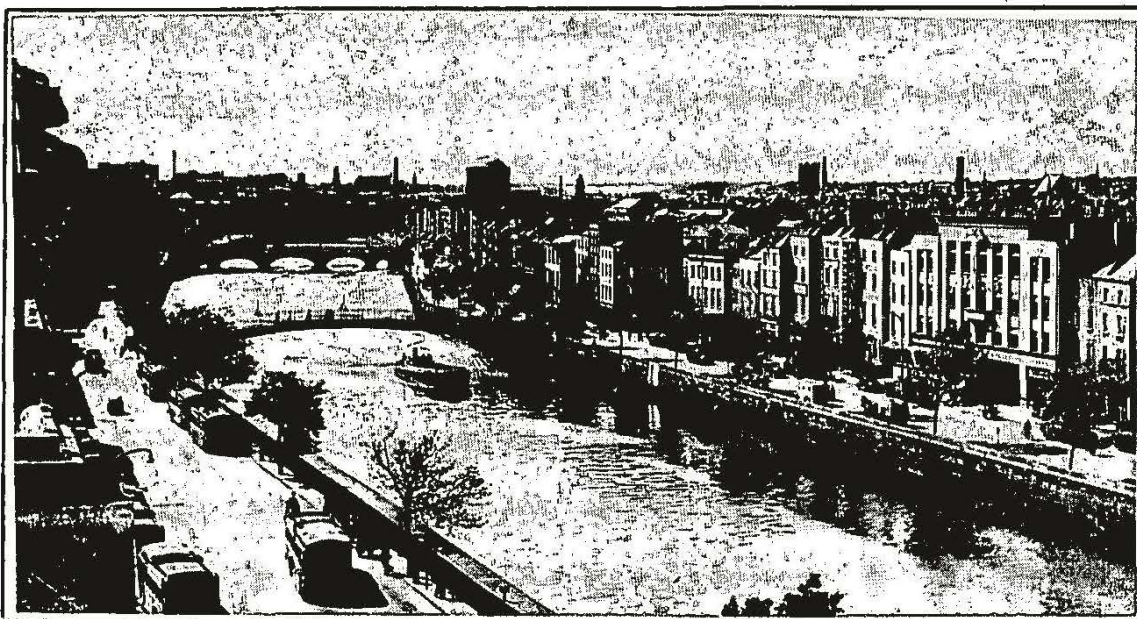


THE BATTLE OF THE FOUR COURTS 1922 Its Effect on the Postal History of Ireland



When the Provisional Government of Ireland came into existence as a result of the ratification of the Treaty it was faced not only with the problem of establishing governmental service including the post office but with an Irish Republican Army whose members in large part opposed the treaty.

As barracks after barracks was taken over from the British forces by local units of the I.R.A. the garrison was sometimes pro and often anti-treaty. In Dublin, the Dublin Brigade under Commandant Oscar Traynor and the South Dublin Brigade under Commandant Andrew macDonnell were both opposed to the treaty. Since Dublin was the seat of the Provisional Government an explosive situation resulted.

On March 2nd 1922, a large shipment of arms was received by the I.R.A. and was used to arm the Dublin brigades. In late March, Rory O'Connor who said that he was speaking for 80 percent of the I.R.A. stated publicly that the I.R.A. would not obey the officials of the Provisional Government.

The anti-treaty divisions of the I.R.A. held an Army Convention on April 9th, 1922 and on April 13th decided to set up Military Headquarters in Dublin. It ordered the Dublin Brigade to occupy the Four Courts, the seat of the law courts of the city. That night they quietly entered the building and after barricading the windows with legal records, proceeded to fortify their position. Rory O'Connor commanded the detachment which seized and occupied the building.

(please turn to Page 379)

Above is a view of the River Liffey with the dome of the Four Courts center

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

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THE STAMP OF THE IRISH

ST. DYMUNA, (9th Cent.) was the daughter of a pagan king of Ireland. When Dymna became a Christian she could not profess her faith openly for fear of the king.

She fled in fear from her father and landed in Belgium, where she established herself near an oratory of St. Martin near Gheel, not far from Antwerp and close by a large forest.

The king pursued his daughter and arrived at Antwerp. He still could not find his daughter until one day his search party stopped at a local hostelry for refreshments and paid the innkeeper with Irish money. The innkeeper recognized the money as similar to that received from a foreign lady living in a forest nearby. He said that she sent him such money to buy provisions. The king, at once, knew that he was on the trail of his fugitive daughter.

So, in the ninth century, a king traced his daughter through the medium of Irish coins. The Royal Princess had the stamp of the Irish. The coins, which led to her discovery, were minted in Ireland.

Gerald O'Reilly, EPA # 264

***** CORRECTIONS *****

The July-August issue of THE REVEALER (page 374) under First Eastward Flight states: "Contrary to the general belief of philatelists - no First Day covers were serviced at Limerick, Ireland on either the westward or eastward flights." THIS SHOULD HAVE READ: "Contrary to the general belief of philatelists - no First Day covers were serviced at Limerick, Ireland on either the westward or eastward flights of Aerlinne Eireann. Both the United States Post Office and the Irish Post Office accepted First Flight Covers to and from Limerick. The First Flight cover from New York to Limerick bears a back-stamp 1 May 1958, Luimneach, 2.

The reference to a Shanahan (Dublin) auction catalogue in connection with the article by Perry Adams on "The 1932 Mollison Flight Stamp" in July-August issue of THE REVEALER (page 372) should have read "March 15th, 1958" rather than "1938"

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES ?

The annual dues of E.P.A. are now payable. Secretary Mitchell will be happy to receive them promptly. It will make his work much easier if you think to do it now.

POSTAL STATIONERY OF IRELAND TO 1958

The Registered Envelopes

Registered envelopes (apart from the stamps) are printed by outside contractors: i.e., Messrs. McCorquodale, of Wolverton, Bucks, England; Messrs. A. Armstrong, of Amiens St., Dublin, Ireland.

As indicated previously, a somewhat different situation pertained to registered envelopes than to other postal stationery during the period of transition in 1922-23. Whereas, British entires were used without overprint until 1924-25, the 5 pence George V circular embossed "Registration Three Pence-Postage Two Pence" with the figure "5" at the bottom were specially printed in olive or emerald green for use in Ireland. The printing of the envelopes was done by Messrs. McCorquodale & Co. Ltd. These were in use during 1922-23 and appear in four sizes: Size F (3 1/4" x 5 1/4"), Size G (3 3/4" x 6"), Size H (5" x 8") and Size K (6" x 11 1/2").

Issue of 1922-1923

- #1. 5 pence emerald green F, G, H, K (without size letter in space for registration label)
- #2. 5 pence olive green (1923) F, G (similar to the above)
- #3. 5 pence olive green (1923) F, G, H, K (with size letter in space for registration label, "Foreign and Colonial" on back)

Sizes G, H and K were invalidated, according to McLoughlin, after 20 August 1924 and the small size F sometime after 20 August and prior to the 27th December 1924.

DEFINITIVE REGISTERED ENVELOPES

The definitive registered envelopes like their British counterpart are cotton-lined envelopes with end flap on which is embossed the combined registration-postage stamp. The basic design, which has continued to date with the exception of the change in value and color as postal rates increased, consists of an oval stamp with relief harp in white in the center. Between the harp and the inner border the background is shaded in light horizontal relief lines in white. Between the center piece and the outer scroll, is the Irish equivalent of "Registration Three Pence: Postage

Two-Pence; the word "Eire at the top and the figure of value at the bottom --all in white.



Type V Embossed Stamp

Issue of July 1924- 1927

The first issue of registered envelopes with the harp design stamp appeared in 1924. The Irish text on all four sizes (F, G, H, K) was in mixed upper and lower case type. The difference between upper-case Irish type and lower-case type is best exemplified by certain words on the envelope. The Irish character 'r' is the lower-case of the upper-case "s". Thus the words, "reo" and "agur" are in lower case, while "seo" and "agus" are the upper. While the various issues can probably be distinguished without reference to the case type, it does help to know the distinction.

The first issue appeared in three different forms:

- #4. 5d violet. Size F. No imprint of printer underneath flap. On the back of the envelope there is a wide space between 'r' and 'a' of "Clárataíct" and the paragraphs are headed jointly.
- #5. 5d. violet. Sizes F, G, H, K. No imprint of printer. The word, "Clárataíct" is closely spaced with the paragraphs headed jointly.
- #6. 5d. violet. Sizes F, G, H, K. Imprint: "A. Armstrong & Co. Ltd. Dublin". On back, "Clárataíct" is closely spaced and the paragraphs are headed jointly.

A. ARMSTRONG & CO. LTD. DUBLIN.

In none of these issues was there a space on the back of the envelope for the address of the sender as in later issues.

Issue of 1939

In 1939, sizes F and G were issued in (please turn to page 378)

POSTAL STATIONERY OF IRELAND (con't)

5d violet on a new printed envelope in which the Irish text appeared in upper-case type only. The envelopes contain the imprint of "A. Armstrong & Co. Ltd" and "FEE PAID" is 14 1/2 mm long. On the back there is a space for the Address of Sender; two dotted lines in Address-space, and paragraphs are headed separately, not jointly.

#7. 5d violet. Sizes F,G. "Fee Paid" 14 1/2 mm long.

Issues of 1942

Sometime in 1942, sizes H and K were issued in mixed upper and lower-case type with "Armstrong" imprint. There is a space on the back for the address of sender and the paragraphs are headed separately, not jointly.

#8 5d violet. Size H. This issue has a large first "I" in "LeItir"

#8a 5d violet. Size K.

Between August and December, 1942, sizes F and G were issued in 5d violet in upper-case type similar to Issue #7 (above) but letterpress entirely re-set. "FEE PAID" is 17 mm long rather than 14 1/2 mm. These issues of 1942 in 5d violet are somewhat strange because the postal rate on registration was increased to 5 1/2 d as of 1 June 1941. The answer perhaps is that these were on hand at the time the new 5 1/2 d bright green envelopes were being first printed since the 5 1/2 d first appeared in November of 1942.

#9. 5d violet. (Aug-Dec. 1942) Sizes F,G. "FEE PAID" 17 mm long.

Issue of November 1942 - 1944

The new issue of registered envelopes bearing the 5 1/2d stamp embossed in bright green made its appearance in November of 1942. The issue was in all four sizes, F & G bearing letter-press as Issue #9 above ("FEE PAID" 17 mm long, upper-case type, two dotted lines in address-space); Size H (similar to Issue #8 above) and Size K (similar to Issue #8a above).

In addition, size G appeared with letterpress similar to Issue #7 above, "Fee Paid" 14 1/2 mm long).

- #10. 5 1/2d bright green, Size G ("Fee Paid" 14 1/2 mm long)
- #11. 5 1/2d bright green, Sizes F,G ("Fee Paid" 17 mm long).
- #11a 5 1/2d bright green, Size H (Large first "I" in "LeItir")
- #11b 5 1/2d bright green, Size K

In the late war years, a rather complicated series of re-issues appeared for the more extensively used smaller sizes F and G.

Issue of December of 1943

A rather rare issue appeared, 5 1/2d bright green in 1943. This was on stout manila buff paper without the usual Cotton Scrim Lining. The letterpress on the front is similar to Issue #9 above; on the reverse, there are three dotted lines and smaller type in the address-space.

#12. 5 1/2d bright green. Sizes F,G (without cotton lining)

Issues of February, 1945-December, 1947

From 1945 to 1947, the two smaller sizes were re-issued on envelopes again with cotton scrim lining and letterpress similar to Issue #12 above, but apparently in two different settings of type. While these two settings differ in numerous respects, the length of the imprint is the criterion for distinguishing between them. Setting I has the imprint 44 mm long while Setting II is 50 mm long.

- #13. 5 1/2d bright green. Sizes F,G Setting I on pale buff paper.
- #13a 5 1/2d bright green. Size G Setting I on buff granite paper.
- #13b 5 1/2d bright green. Sizes F,G. Setting I on white paper.
- #14 5 1/2d bright green. Sizes F,G. Setting II on pale buff paper.
- #14a 5 1/2d bright green. Size G Setting II on buff granite paper.

Issue of August, 1947

The large sizes H and K were issued again in 1947. Size H is similar to the Issue #11a above but on white paper and the distinguishable large first "I" in "LeItir" has now
(please turn to Page 380)

BATTLE OF THE FOUR COURTS 1922

(continued from page 375)

The next day the Republicans decided to extend their positions and occupied the Kilmainham Jail and subsequently other buildings in the vicinity. Dublin was in a state of unrest bordering on civil strife. The pro-treaty divisions of the Army who were stationed at Beggars Bush Barracks, as the military arm of the Provisional Government were not permitted to take any action against the seizure of the Four Courts by the I.R.A. The official position of the Government was to avoid the use of force in order not to precipitate a civil war. This uncertain situation continued for three months until the British Government began to put pressure on the Provisional Government to take some sort of action against the Republican forces.

On June 22nd, 1922, Sir Henry Wilson was shot to death on the doorstep of his home in London by two Irishmen, recently released from the Army. Although the I.R.A. was not implicated in the murder, Lloyd George demanded that the Provisional Government take prompt action against the Republicans in the Four Courts at the risk of being accused of violating the terms of the Treaty.

Meanwhile at the Four Courts a decision was made to send a section of the I.R.A. to the north. The soldiers needed some means of transportation, so a detachment was ordered to seize sixteen cars, recently received by the Dublin firm of Ferguson from Ulster in violation of the I.R.A. boycott on Ulster goods.

The raid was successful with the single exception that the officer in charge was captured by the Provisional Government forces and lodged in jail at the Beggars Bush headquarters. Negotiations between the Four Court command and the government officials failed to release the captured officer and the I.R.A. sent out a raiding party which seized General J.J. O'Connell, the pro-treaty Deputy Chief of Staff on a Dublin Street on June 27th and lodged him as a hostage at the Four Courts where he was treated with the utmost respect by his former comrades, who even played cards with him to pass the time until an exchange could be effected.

The Provisional Government apparently considered this the last straw and smarting under the loss of such a high military official, borrowed two field guns from the British force and at 3:40 a.m. on June 28th, 1922 demanded the surrender of the Four Courts by 4 A.M.

When the deadline passed at 4:07, the field guns opened up from their position on the opposite side of the River Liffey. The government forces proceeded to occupy all of the I.R.A. outposts on the south side of the river and the I.R.A. retaliated by taking over Barry's Hotel and other buildings on the north side.

The shelling continued all day without too much effect since the Provisional forces were not too familiar with the operation of the British guns and preferred for political reasons not to ask any assistance from the British officers. Their shelling improved and by Friday morning, June 30th, the Four Courts caught fire and a terrific explosion occurred which destroyed the building and many of the priceless documents stored there.

Although the garrison attempted to hold out, the fire could not be checked and by noon on Friday, the Republican force of 130 men under Rory O'Connor surrendered. O'Connor was executed for his part in the battle.

Meanwhile, the Republicans continued to hold out in the several hotels and other buildings in Sackville Street, hoping for reinforcements from the South of Ireland. After the fall of the Four Courts, the Government force turned their attention to the other buildings. After eight days of fighting in Dublin, the east side of O'Connell Street was in ruins and the last of the anti-treaty forces was captured or killed by 8 p.m. on July 5th.

FOUR COURTS ISSUES OF STAMPS

The Dollard Printing works, Dublin, at which the overprinting of the bulk of the values was being done, was on the south side of the River Liffey on Wellington Quay. Its plant had to be evacuated during the siege; Messrs Thom did their overprinting at their Glasnevin plant which was some distance from the scene of the fighting. While this fact is usually given as the reason why Messrs. Thom took over the overprinting of all of the Dollard values in July of 1922, actually the Dollard contract was terminated on June 12, 1922 without explanation (see, Kohl, Handbuch).

Collectors are acquainted with the fact that the former Dollard values of 1/2d, 1d, 3d, 10d and 5/- appear overprinted by Messrs. Thom in black ink as well as the usual blue-black (Scott Nos. 23a, 24a, 28a, 34a, and 37a; Gibbons Nos. 35a, 36a, 38a, 43a, and 45a).

(continued on page 380)

BATTLE OF THE FOUR COURTS (con't)

Both Scott and Gibbons claim that these were Thom trial printings which were sold over the counter with the regular stock.

About the time of the fighting at the Four Courts, the 3d value was in short supply. William Ward who was in Dublin at the time claimed that Thom overprinted the 3d value in black to meet the requirements. He calls this stamp (Scott No.28a, Gibbons No.38a) the "Four Courts" issue. Mr. Ward says that subsequently in July, the 1/2d and 1d values were also in short supply and the Thom black Rialtas overprint of these values was furnished. He further claims that the 10d and 5/- black Thom's were trial proofs which got out into circulation. There is some support to this contention in the fact that neither Scott nor Gibbons prices these later values in used condition.

An interesting footnote is the intriguing article by Perry Adams in the January-February, 1958 issue of THE REVEALER (page 347) which raises the issue as to whether a shortage in the 2d value occurred about the same time and was filled with Harrison 2d overprints for coil machines delivered in sheets instead of rolls.

Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia lists the 1/2d, 1d, 3d, 5d and 10d in dull grey-black as a separate July 1922 issue by Thom but notes that these were from proof sheets.

Meredith the leading authority on Irish overprints lists the following issue dates of these low values:

1/2d black - end of July, 1922 & blue-black - August 23, 1922

1d black-&- blue-black - July 20, 1922

3d black & blue-black - July 11, 1922

Meredith further states that Thom was experimenting (in July 1922) to find a suitable ink to replace the black and tried out an experimental shade of blue-black on the 1/2d, 2d and 3d/ "It is thinner than the normal blue-black, in a medium tone between black and blue-black."

Both Mrs. Cooke ("Irish Postal History, 1935) and F.F. Freeman (Stamp Collecting, November 11, 1922) confirm that the 3d value released in July, 1922 was overprinted "quite clearly from a worn plate" and with "the thick overprint".

While Ward clings to the theory that the black Thom on the 3d was a special printing, it seems equally logical to assume that Thom supplied whatever 3d values whether in black
380

POSTAL STATIONERY OF IRELAND (con't)
been broken off to resemble a small "i". Size K appears similar to Issue #11b above but on white paper.

#15. 5 1/2 bright green. Size H on white paper.

#15a 5 1/2 bright green. Size K on white paper.

Issue of June-September Of 1948

Although the registration fee was increased to 6 1/2d on 1 July 1948, a reissue was made of the 5 1/2d value during the remainder of the year. This issue is easily distinguishable by the fact that the Irish spelling is modified throughout, with the word, "Litir" being substituted for "Leitir". No imprint underneath the flap.

#16. 5 1/2d bright green. Sizes F, G, & H (not K apparently). "Litir"

LITIR | CLÁRUÍO.

Issue of May- August, 1949

The 6 1/2d violet issue appeared in 1949 with letterpress similar to Issue #16 above.

#17. 6 1/2d violet. Sizes F, G, H, K.

Issue of 1953- 1954

With a further increase of registration fee to 9d in 1953, a new issue appeared. Sizes F, G, H and K with letter press similar to issue #16 above. This value was first issued to the Postmasters from the Stores Branch in Dublin on the following dates: Size F, 4 September 1953, Size G, 15 January 1954, Size H, 29 October 1953 and Size K, 30 November 1953.

#18. 9d purple. Sizes F, G, H, K

Issue of 1954-1955

An easily distinguishable re-issue of the 9d purple was made in 1954-55. The front of the envelope is practically identical to Issues

(Concluded on Page 381)

or experimental blue-black it had on hand in the emergency. Can any of our members resolve this intriguing question? (J. J. W.)

POSTAL STATIONERY OF IRELAND (cont.)
Nos. 16-18 above, but the Irish "r" replaces the English "R". The reverse of the envelope has been completely re-set and has a new wording, headed, "CÚITEAMH" instead of "Cláratact". Sizes F and G (1954), Size H (1956) and Size K (1955).

Size K appeared (probably sometime in 1956) in a variety similar to the above issue except that it has a lighter impression of letterpress and the label box is only 90 mm from the central thread line, instead of the usual 93 mm.

#19. 9d purple. Sizes F,G,H. Cúiteamh
#19a 9d purple. Size K. Label-box is 90mm from central thread line.

Issue of 29 July 1957

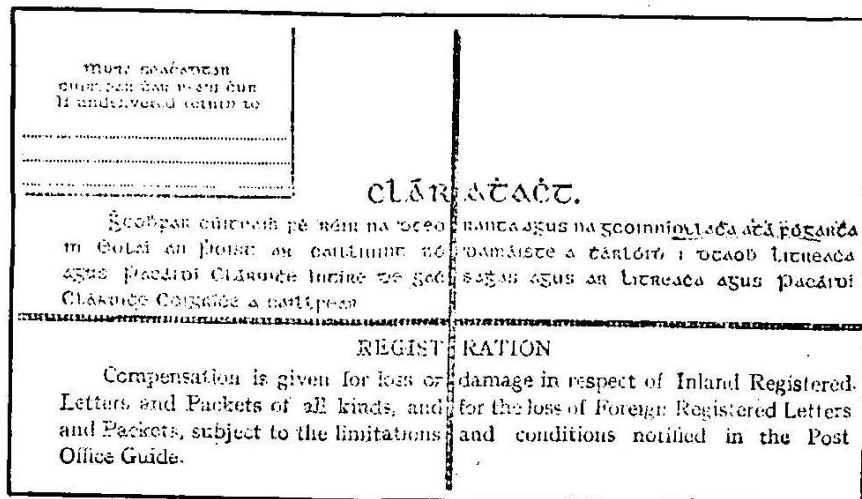
The increase in registration fee to 1/- in

June 1956 resulted in a new issue which must be classified as essentially a provisional issue. The 1/- stamp in orange red was embossed on the same stock as has been used in the last issue. Sizes F,G, and H are similar to issue #19 above and Size K to issue #19a. The provisional nature is established by the fact that the printed wording on the reverse had to be amended by a handstamped addition:

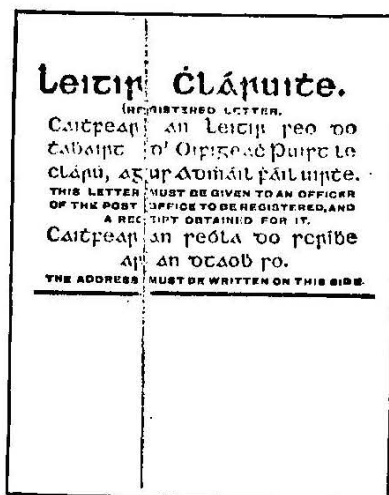
"THE MINIMUM REGISTRATION FEE IN THE INLAND SERVICE IS NOW 9d. COVERING COMPENSATION UP TO £ 10".

All sizes had first day of issue 29 July, 1957.

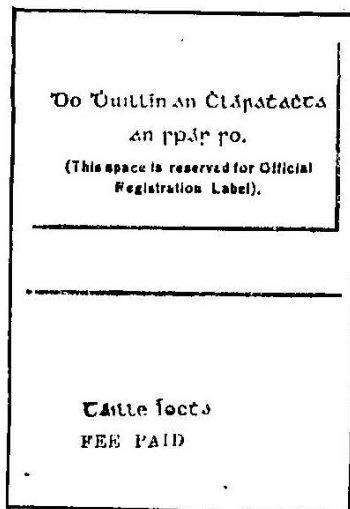
(We will continue the postal stationery articles with the postcards, letter cards and newspaper wrappers).



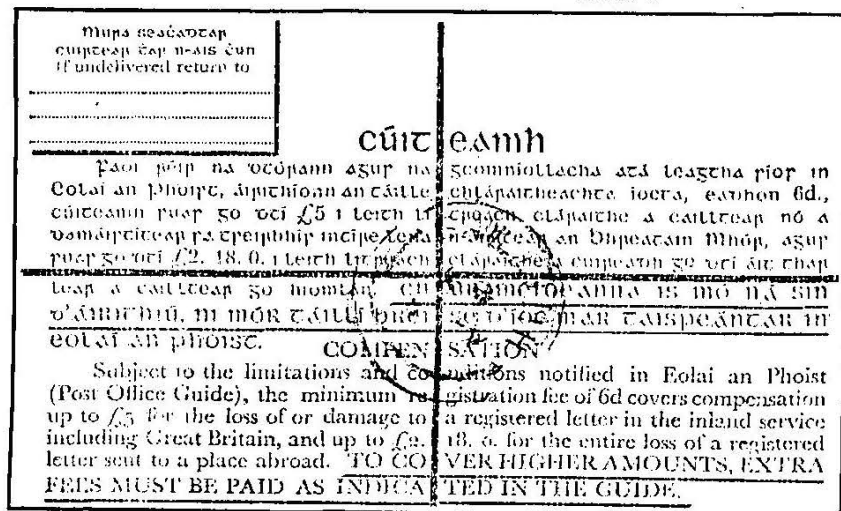
Reverse side of Issue #18



Front Center Issue #6
Size F



Front Issue #6
Size F

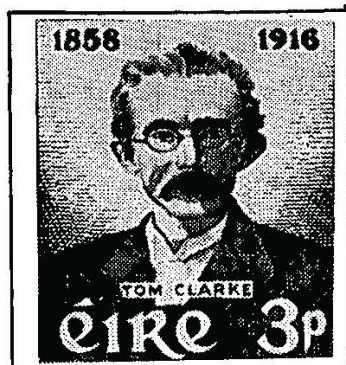


Reverse side of Issue #19

THE TOM CLARKE COMMEMORATIVE

By Neil Stack

A commemorative stamp honoring the birth of Thomas J. Clarke, was released by the Irish Post Office on July 28th, 1958.



The stamp of singular design was issued in two denominations: a 3d. green and a 1 Sh. 3d. brown. It shows the portrait of Clarke with "Tom Clarke" beneath it. The upper left and right corners of the adhesive show the dates 1858 and 1916, while the lower left corner of the stamp shows the name of the State, Éire. The lower right corner of the stamp shows the imprint of the denomination.

Printing of this issue was done by Messrs De La Rue & Co. at their plant in Clonskeagh, Dublin. Printing was done by the recess-process method on paper watermarked "E". Perforations measure 15 x 15.

First Day of Issue Covers were accepted at the following Irish post offices: Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Galway, Dun Laoghaire and Wexford.

TOM CLARKE

Born in 1858, Thomas J. Clarke's birth coincided with the founding of the Irish Republican Brotherhood -- known as the Fenian Brotherhood -- of which he was destined to become one of its most famous members. At the age of 20 he was sworn into the organization. Shortly thereafter he emigrated from Dungannon, County Tyrone, to America where he became identified with Clanna Gael, a society allied to the Irish Republican Brotherhood. At that time Clanna Gael was trying to draw world-wide attention to Irish injustices by sending crews to dynamite selected spots in England. Clarke volunteered for one of these missions in 1883. On his arrival in England he and his colleagues were

arrested and sentenced to prison. Though subjected to the harsh penal system of the day, Clarke emerged 15 year later from prison undaunted in spirit and mind. His book, "Glimpses of an Irish Felon's Prison Life," gives a vivid account of his ordeal.

On his release from prison Clarke returned to America. In 1908 he returned to Ireland where he was made a member of the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He became one of the leaders of the revolutionary activity which culminated in the 1916 Rising and the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. Since Clarke was the oldest of the leaders and had the longest service in the revolutionary cause, he was given the honor of becoming the first signatory of the Proclamation.

After a week of fighting the insurgents surrendered to the British Forces and most of the Irish leaders, including Clarke, were court-martialed and executed.

MOTHER MARY AIKENHEAD STAMP

A special stamp to mark the centenary of the death of Mother Mary Aikenhead, foundress of the Irish Sisters of Charity, will be issued later this year, probably in October.

Mary Aikenhead was born in Cork on 19th January 1787 and died in Dublin on 22nd July 1858.

Feeling called to the religious life, she was chosen by Archbishop Murray, Coadjutor of Dublin to found a congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Ireland. To prepare herself, she made a novitiate (1812-1815) in the Convent of the institute of the Blessed Virgin at Micklegate Bar, York. She there assumed the name she kept till death, Sister Mary Augustine, though she was always known in the world as Mrs. Aikenhead.

On Sept. 1st, 1815, she was appointed the Superior - General of the new Order devoted to charitable work, chiefly hospital and rescue work. In 1831 overexertion and disease shattered her health, leaving her an invalid. She continued her work and directed her Sisters in their heroic work during the plague of 1832.

After a long period of trial and suffering, she passed away in her 72nd year, leaving a flourishing Order and a wonderful example of Christian charity.