

IRISH CHRISTMAS SEALS 1909 - 1959

by F. E. Dixon, E.P.A. # 312



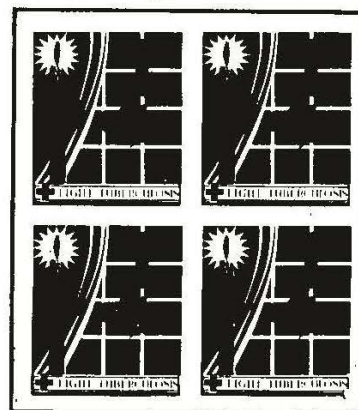
The story of Ireland's first attempts to raise money for the anti-tuberculosis campaign by the sale of Christmas Seals is fully told in the pages of SLAINTE, the monthly journal of the Women's National Health Association of Ireland, for 1909 and 1910. They make it clear that the idea reached Ireland from America, two articles being devoted to accounts of the American organisations and how the methods could be applied in Ireland.

Three designs were produced, printed by Messrs Baird of Belfast and sold in books and envelopes. The three designs were:

1909 1: Irish cottages, with shamrock surround. Inscribed "CHRISTMAS 1909", printed in pale blue. Designed by Miss E.C. Yeats.

2: Double-barred cross in oval. Inscribed "A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR", printed in blue. Designed by Miss Ross.

3: Double-barred cross surmounting shamrock, with Celtic scroll surround. Inscribed SLAINTE, printed in green and blue. Designed by Miss Yeats.



A poster advertising the seals was printed by Messrs Dollards: it bore the SLAINTE design and some snappy slogans:

"THEY WILL NOT CARRY ANY KIND OF MAIL: BUT ANY KIND OF MAIL WILL CARRY THEM"

"Stick this stamp with message bright on every Christmas letter."

Help the Tuberculosis fight and make the New Year better."

Orders were to be sent to Lady Aberdeen at the Vice-Regal Lodge. Later a Central Christmas Stamp Bureau was opened at 18B Nassau Street, Dublin, where shoppers could tie up their parcels, address their cards, and drink tea, coffee or chocolate!

All three designs were available for Christmas 1909, and in 1910 the two undated types were again on (please turn to page 433)

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SECRETARY'S MONTHLY REPORT

New Members:

- # 323 Charles J. McDonough
170 East 78th Street
New York 21, New York
- # 324 Loman Gallagher,
9 Temple Street,
Sligo, Ireland
(All countries)

Deceased Members:

- # 92 George W. Riley
613 Irving Avenue
Syracuse, N.Y.
(Died July 28, 1959. Mr.
Riley was a member of the
Syracuse, New York Stamp Club)
- # 261 Mr. W.G. Ludlow
176 Newbridge Road,
Bath, Somerset, England

Change of Address:

- # 117 Michael F. Wadden, C 4, N.Y.
Athletic Club, 180 Central
Park, So., New York 19, N.Y.
- # 189 Henry W. Blumenberg, 1419
45th Street, Orlando, Florida
- # 218 Charles J. Byrne, Box #8024,
7 Highland Ave., Albany 3, NY
- # 287 V.A. Linnell Apt # 443, 6151,
Cote St. Luc Road, Montreal 29,
Canada.

Resignations as of Sept. 15, 1959.

- # 25 Charles L. Roser, M.D.
- # 237 John H. Dufty

SINN FEIN LABELS

By F.E. Dixon, E.P.A. # 312

May I offer a few comments on Mr. O'Reilly's note about the Sinn Fein labels introduced about 50 years ago? (Revealer, May-June, 1959, page 413).



I have not seen the Sinn Fein labels he describes with designs of the Four Provinces Shield and Sword of Light, but am familiar with the other two and believe the story to have been as follows:

Sir Thomas Esmond suggested the sale of the labels to raise funds, and to encourage their use proposed that the Sinn Fein headquarters should ignore correspondence not bearing the labels. Arthur Griffith welcomed the idea and Miss Lily Williams was commissioned to design them. Although intended for affixing to the envelope flap it became a popular practice to stick them alongside the postage stamp, and the Post Office found it necessary (in July 1908) to forbid the use of any private label on the front of an envelope. Sorters were instructed to return to the sender any letter offending after 31st July.

There were at least three printings of the cross design and two of the Hibernia & dog (wolfhound?), but some may be forgeries produced about 1916 when copies of the Sinn Fein stamps were selling at £1 each after the offices in 17 Fownes Street had been seized.

Genuine labels exist postmarked with a DUBLIN handstamp of 5.45 AM 25 AP 16, a handstamp found in the debris of the G.P.O. and fraudulently used in this way before it was eventually returned to the authorities.

- # 273 Rev. Herbert A. Phinney
- # 301 Mrs. Mary Carlin

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offer. It seems likely that the demand was disappointing as no Irish Christmas seals were on sale from 1911 to 1924 inclusive. Then the W.N.H.A. tried again with a beautiful design prepared and printed by the Dundalgan Press of Dundalk.

1925 4. Leprachaun holding the badge of the W.N.H.A. Inscribed "XMAS 1925. "Health is Wealth". Red, yellow, green and blue.

The next year the same society produced a non-Christmas design:

1926 5. The badge of the W.N.H.A. Blue and green, circular.

Another ten years elapsed. Then the seals campaign was reopened by the Tipperary After-Care Association in collaboration with the Irish Red Cross Society. But the start of World War II ended these efforts.

1937 6. The Rock of Cashel. Inscribed "1937 Beanactai na Nodlag". Black and red.

1938 7. Armoured knight with castle behind and double-barred cross at right. Inscribed "1938 Beanactai". Red, yellow and black.

Before the war was over the anti-tuberculosis section of the Irish Red Cross Society began its seal sales and issued one design each year from 1944 to 1949. It also introduced the practice of selling sets of the alleged "progressive colour proofs", beginning with the 1948 issue. In 1949 the Society abandoned its hitherto successful methods of distribution by circulating large quantities of the books of 120 seals, asking recipients to send in 5/- for the book. In return it was promised that there would be ten £ 10 cash prizes awarded by lot to the subscribers. Many people accepted the present of the seals: others threw them into the waste-paper-basket: and few sent in any money.

1944. 8. Hand holding double-barred cross. "NODLAIG 1944. ISSUED BY THE ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS SECTION". Red, yellow and black.

1945. 9. Night sky, star shining on double-barred cross. "1945 BEANACTAI"

Red, yellow, blue and black.

1946 10. Double-barred cross lit by searchlight beams. "NODLAIG 1946". Red, yellow and blue. Triangular.



1947. 11. Snow-covered landscape. "NODLAIG 1947. HELP TO FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS. IRISH RED CROSS SOCIETY". Black and red.

1948 12. Window and lighted candle. "NODLAIG 1948. FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS". Red, yellow and blue.

1949 13. Treestump and cottage. "Christmas Greeting. NODLAIG 1949". Red, orange and black.

A new organisation, formed to help recover from TB, and to assist victims of the scourge to make a living, has issued Christmas seals each year from 1954 onwards. It is The Rehabilitation Institution Limited, and has produced a variety of designs each year, all printed by the Mercury Press, Dublin, with a wide range of colours.

1954. Five designs, each bearing at foot "TB REHABILITATION IRELAND 1954".

14. The Holy Family. "Christmas Greeting".

15. The Three Wise Men. "Season's Greetings".

16. Angel and Shepherds. "Christmas Greetings".

17. Double-barred cross and holly leaf. "NODLAIG 1954" Red, green, yellow.

18. As # 17, but Red, green, and blue.

1955. Four new designs, plus four as 1954 except that inscription at foot omit 1954, and date on holly leaf is changed to 1955. The four new designs all have the word IRELAND, and the double-barred cross.

19. Choriboy. "Merry Christmas"
20. Candle on branch of Christmas Tree. "Happy Christmas".

21. Shamrock and holly. "HAPPY
(continued on page 434) 433

CHRISTMAS".

22. People going to Church. "Merry Christmas".

23. Similar to No.14

24. Similar to No.15

25. Similar to No.17

26. Similar to No.18

1956. Six new designs, each bearing IRELAND and cross. None dated.

27. Shepherd and lamb viewing Star. "CHRISTMAS GREETINGS".

28. Father Christmas. "Merry Christmas."

29. Christmas tree lantern(?). "Happy Christmas."

30. Christmas Tree. "Merry Christmas."

31. Shamrock & Christmas tree branch. "CHRISTMAS GREETINGS."

32. Snow crystals. "Happy Christmas."

1957. Six new designs, each bearing IRELAND and cross. None dated.

33. Father Christmas & parcels. "Christmas Greetings."

34. Angel and Star. "Christmas GREETINGS"

35. Bells. "Merry Christmas."

36. Holly leaves. "Season's Greetings."

37. Three Kings on camels. "Christmas GREETINGS"

38. Two shepherds and Star. "Christmas Greetings."

1958. Six new designs, each bearing IRELAND and cross. None dated.

39. Cherubs over city. "Christmas Greetings."

40. Shamrock & holly. "NODLAIG SONA DUIT".

41. Arms of four provinces and holly. "Season's Greetings".

42. Three Kings and Star. "SEASON'S GREETINGS."

43. Harp and shamrock. "Christmas Greetings."

44. Country scene. "Merry Christmas."

Mention must be made of one attempt to sell "Spastics" seals. In 1954 there were on sale in Ireland sheets bearing six different designs, the same as had been sold the previous year in England, but without any inscriptions on the reverse.

A purely advertising Christmas Seal was used in 1953 by the promoters of the Irish Hospitals Sweepstakes. It was circular and showed Father Christmas holding a sack inscribed £ 50,000, with the legend "And a Merry Christmas too."

Finally I have seen one Christmas Seal from the North of Ireland, but do not know its date. It bears a Christmas tree design in red on yellow, and is inscribed "Greetings. HOPEDENE HOSTEL BELFAST."

DIRECTOR MICHAEL GIFFNEY FIRST BUYER OF NEW GUINNESS STAMP AT POST OFFICE

"First man to purchase the new Guinness commemoration stamp at the G.P.O. this morning was Mr. Michael Giffney, of 22 East Road, East Wall, Dublin. Mr. Giffney was waiting when the G.P.O. opened its doors at 8 a.m. to buy 4,000 of the newly-issued 3d. and 1/3 postage stamps.

"His purchase cost £156, but Mr. Giffney wasn't preparing to spend the next few weeks letter-writing. He is the European representative of the Eire Philatelic Association, an American organisation based in New York..."
(E.P. 20/7/59)



Mr. Michael Giffney, European representative of an American society known as the Eire Philatelic Association, checking over the 4,000 Guinness stamps which he purchased at the G.P.O.

THE IRISH STUDY GROUP

The Editor of The Revealer has very kindly offered space for a brief account of the above.

The Group is in its third year, and has a membership of 35. Roughly one third of the members reside in the Republic, roughly one third in the south eastern quarter of England, within reach of London; and roughly one third in the north western part of England, within a reasonable distance of Manchester and Liverpool.

It has not yet been found possible to hold a Convention to enable members from all these areas to meet together, but members have foregathered by arrangement in Dublin, London and at Blackpool on the Lancashire coast. These have been regarded as Regional Meetings, and it is hoped to hold further similar meetings, even though, for the present, a meeting which could be attended by members residing in the Republic and those in the United Kingdom, may be a little too ambitious.

19 Exchange Packets have been circulated amongst the members, and sales have averaged about 50%. Material circulated in these packets is exclusively Irish, but has embraced many aspects of the Irish postal story, from pre-stamp material through the period of G.B. used in Ireland (1840 to 1922) and the overprints of 1922 and subsequently on the G.B. stamps of George V, to the Irish issues proper.

12 Circulars have completed their rounds of members. In these members submit problems and queries of many kinds, and others contribute what information they can. The Hon. Sec. Mr. Michael Leonard has classified the resulting information under suitable headings, and it is hoped that it will eventually be possible to publish the information accumulated on the various subjects, in suitable form.

Member F. E. Dixon of Dublin and Rosslare Harbour compiles at irregular intervals as information becomes available a Bulletin "Dixon's Irish Philatelic News". Facilities for duplication are available and members receive copies from the Hon. Sec. from time to time. Up to date more than 20 D.I.P.N.s have been distributed in this way, covering an immense range of subjects.

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(The following article is reprinted by courtesy of the De La Rue Journal and with the kind permission of Mr. G.L. Newman, Archivist of Thomas De La Rue & Company Limited. The article first appeared in the De La Rue Journal issue of November 1954)

The security printing factory at Clonskeagh, which was opened in July, 1951, can look back to a record of much fine work achieved during the past three years. In addition to a number of bank-note issues for Pakistan, Portugal, Siam and Burma it has been entrusted with the printing of three special commemorative stamps for the Republic of Ireland. It is natural that the staff, numbering some 120 men and women, the greater proportion of whom are Irish born and bred, should take especial pride in the printing of these Irish stamps using the medium of the engraved process which gave results which have excited admiration amongst philatelists all over the world.

The first order was received in 1952 for a stamp celebrating the hundredth anniversary of Thomas Moore, the Irish poet and musician. Thomas Moore is best remembered for "Irish Melodies" in which he set his lyrics to traditional Irish airs. Of these "The Meeting of the Waters" and "Last Rose of Summer" are among the many still sung to-day. The feature of the stamp was the reproduction of a portrait of Moore by Sir Martin Archer-Shee which now hangs in the National Gallery of Ireland.

There were two values of these stamps, 3½d. and 2½d., printed in green and wine respectively. The original die was engraved by W. Vacek who caught the spirit of the portrait in a remarkable manner. Great credit must be given to Mr. Vacek for this extremely creditable work. To quote the words of the official press releases which appeared when the stamps were issued: "This work depicts the mature and successful poet, and emphasises to the full the warmth, vitality and urbanity of Moore's character".

In 1953, following favourable comments on the production of such a successful stamp printed by the recess process, a contract for printing a stamp to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of the Irish patriot

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POSTAGE STAMPS BY De La RUE

Robert Emmet was received. Emmet led an unsuccessful rebellion in the early 19th century against British rule in Ireland. It is interesting to note that Moore and Emmet were intimate friends and that Moore wrote a song lamenting Emmet's tragic end.

The stamp was a reproduction of an engraving by Borcas made at Emmet's trial in 1803. The engraver (L. Downey) reproduced to a remarkable degree the unrelenting mien which characterizes the original. This issue of a 3d and 1s.3d. printed in green and red respectively was enthusiastically received.

The order for the third stamp was placed with the Company in February, 1954. This extremely important issue commemorates the Marian Year proclaimed by Pope Pius XII to commence on the 8th December, 1953, to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the proclamation of the Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The issue demanded a very special effort on the part of everyone in De La Rue and particularly calling upon the skill of our staff in Ireland to produce a stamp of the beauty and character to do justice to its subject.

Special commendation should be given to A.R. Iane for his brilliant engraving of the Irish Postal authorities' choice of the "Madonna and Child" by the great Florentine sculptor Andrea Della Robbia. The ovation received for this issue, a 3d in blue and a 5d in green, not only from Irish people but from other Catholics and philatelists the world over, has made De La Rue and the Irish staff feel that it was a task well done.

Particular credit must be given to Mr. C. Banks for his diligent and enthusiastic work in training the copper plate machine minders who have thus produced a total of 152 million Irish stamps. Mention must also be made of George Moffitt and his perforating crews who worked most conscientiously in keeping to our programme. Mrs. Peggy Conroy and her eagle-eyed stamp examiners are also to be commended for achieving an extremely high standard in examining. And, last but not least, the Irish staff wish to acknowledge the generous co-operation of Mr. Patrick Hughes, the Irish Government Representative. "Paddy" won the respect and friendship of all at Clonskeagh, who look forward to working with him in the future.



Robert Emmet



Madonna and Child

Apart from the Irish stamp issues which have taken up a few months of each year, the production of bank-notes for a number of countries has continued successfully, for which much credit must be given to Miss K. Griffin. Her effective training has produced a group of highly efficient girls who can compare favourably with the staffs in the older and longer established factories in England.

W.W.V.

PRELUDE TO FREEDOM (Part III)

Parliamentarianism and Home Rule

by John J. Walsh, E.P.A. # 216

The famine which plagued Ireland in the 1840's had a powerful impact not only upon the economic and political life of Ireland but also of the whole world.

Irish men and women in huge numbers, left Ireland to bring faith, courage, character and a deep love of freedom to newer countries of the world. America was one of the recipients of that strength and courage which helped to build a great nation.

The economic strain placed upon the Irish who remained in the Emerald Isle resulted in the eviction of many from their homes and farms because of non-payment of rent.

In 1946, Ireland honored the 100th anniversary of the birth of two other great Irish leaders of the 19th century - Michael Davitt (1846-1906) and Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891) in a joint issue of two values, 2½d red and 3d blue.

The design which bears the names of Parnell and Davitt, has in the center a cottage with a ploughman in the foreground and in the background, Croagh Patrick. It bears the inscription "Tir agus Teaghlach" (Country & Homestead) with the Arms of the Four Provinces in the corners. It is designed by R.J. King.

(please turn to following page)

PRELUDE TO FREEDOM (continued)



Plowman

The purpose and design of the stamp was explained by the Irish Postmaster General: "The stamp seeks to symbolise the union of diverse interests achieved under Parnell and Davitt, by virtue of which Ireland's right to political independence was asserted in their time and the agitation for land reform brought to a completely successful issue."

Michael Davitt was born in County Mayo. As a child he saw his parents evicted from their home for non-payment of rent and the bitter experience influenced his whole life. He joined the Fenians and was sentenced to penal servitude for fifteen years in 1870 for transporting firearms. He helped to found the Irish Land League to free Ireland from the feudal system of government by landlords, but upon its suppression he was returned to jail after having been paroled in 1877. Finally released, he was again imprisoned for sedition.

Elected Member of Parliament for Meath in 1882, he was disqualified because he was an ex-convict. Re-elected he was again denied a seat. Returned to Parliament unopposed in 1895, he was finally seated. He died in Dublin on May 31st 1906. He wrote, "The Fall of Feudalism in Ireland".

Charles Stewart Parnell was born on the family estate of Avondale in County Wicklow in 1846. His father was an important landowner and his mother was the daughter of an Admiral in the U.S. Navy. He was educated at Cambridge and in 1875 entered Parliament as a Home Rule Member for Meath - the Home Rule League having been founded in 1870. His program was an autonomous National Parliament in Dublin.

In order to unite Ireland, he supported the tenant-farmers in their desire for land reform and became the first President of the Irish Land League in 1879. In 1880, he became the leader of the Home Rule Party. In 1881 he was imprisoned for six months because of his revolutionary speeches in favor of land reform.

Finding that his group held a balance of power in Parliament he formed a Parliamentary alliance with Gladstone in 1886 and was able to get the Tenants Relief Bill for Ireland passed by Parliament.

He then persuaded Gladstone to introduce a Home Rule for Ireland Bill in Parliament and came very close to

obtaining its passage but a split in the Liberal Party restored Lord Salisbury to power.

Although he continued to fight for Home Rule, a scandal which broke over a divorce action by a Captain O'Shea in 1889 so affected his reputation and influence that he lost the leadership of the Irish Party. He continued to lead a minority group until his death at Brighton in 1891.

The divided Irish Party continued the fight for Home Rule and in 1893, a Home Rule Bill passed the House of Commons but was vetoed in the House of Lords.

Some years after the death of Parnell, another Irishman honored by a commemorative issue became Chairman of the Irish Nationalist Party and took up the battle for Home Rule.

In 1957, Ireland issued two values of stamps - 3d dark blue and 1sh.3d rose lake to commemorate the birth in 1856 of John Redmond.



John Edward Redmond (1856-1918) was born in Waterford. Educated at Trinity College, Dublin, he was elected in 1881 to Parliament and led the Parnellites after the death of Parnell. Finally he welded together the factions and became Chairman of the Irish Party.

Favoring Home Rule, he tried to steer a middle course in his endeavors. A third Bill for Home Rule in 1912 was supported by the Liberal Party under Asquith. This Bill passed the House of Commons but was rejected by the House of Lords. However, since the veto power of the House of Lords had been limited by law to a mere delay of two years, Home Rule was due to become law in 1914 and Redmond was satisfied that the long fight was now at a successful conclusion.

But the outbreak of the World War in 1914 caused Commons to postpone the effective date of Home Rule until the end of hostilities and Redmond, to the dislike of many Irishmen supported England in the war effort. Redmond did not believe in violence and was shocked at the Dublin Easter Rebellion of 1916.

Redmond died in 1918 disappointed at his inability to obtain Home Rule but confident that it would come in time.

In 1920, Parliament wrote the end of Parliamentaryism by repealing the Home Rule Act of 1912. (The End).

THE IRISH STUDY GROUP (con't)

Member Dixon recently published, for the Irish Study Group, an excellent booklet "Slogan Cancellations of the Republic of Ireland". I believe that by the time these notes appear in The Revealer, this booklet will already have been reviewed. We all regard Mr. Dixon as the leading authority on these Irish slogans.

A proportion of I.S.G. members are of course also members of E.P.A., and several have already contributed to The Revealer from time to time. As I.S.G. has, as yet, no periodical journal of its own, it is hoped that The Revealer Editor will continue to regard contributions from the pens of I.S.G. members, as worthy of publication.

It is thought impracticable, for the present at any rate for Exchange Packets of Circulars to cross the Atlantic, and as the Group has no "organ" it is recognized that it has little to offer to E.P.A. members other than friendship and goodwill, and occasional contributions to The Revealer. But, as a member of both organizations, I like to regard them as complementary, rather than in any sense rivals.

The address of the Hon. Sec., Mr. Michael Leonard (see above) is 2, Alvanley Road, West Derby, Liverpool, 12. Mr. F.E. Dixon and Dr. L.P. Renouf of Cork, with myself, comprise a somewhat unofficial committee; but many others have in effect been co-opted - from time to time, for various purposes.

In conclusion I would like to send warmest greetings on behalf of I.S.G., to all officers and members of E.P.A.

Thomas E. Field (Skelmanthorpe)

Your editor wishes to take this opportunity to express to Mr. Field and the members of I.S.G. the deepest appreciation of the members of the E.P.A. for the wonderful spirit of co-operation which you have shown to the editor and for the excellent material which you have made available to our membership. We congratulate you on your fine organization and wish you success and promise you our cooperation & continued friendship.

IRISH AIR LINES

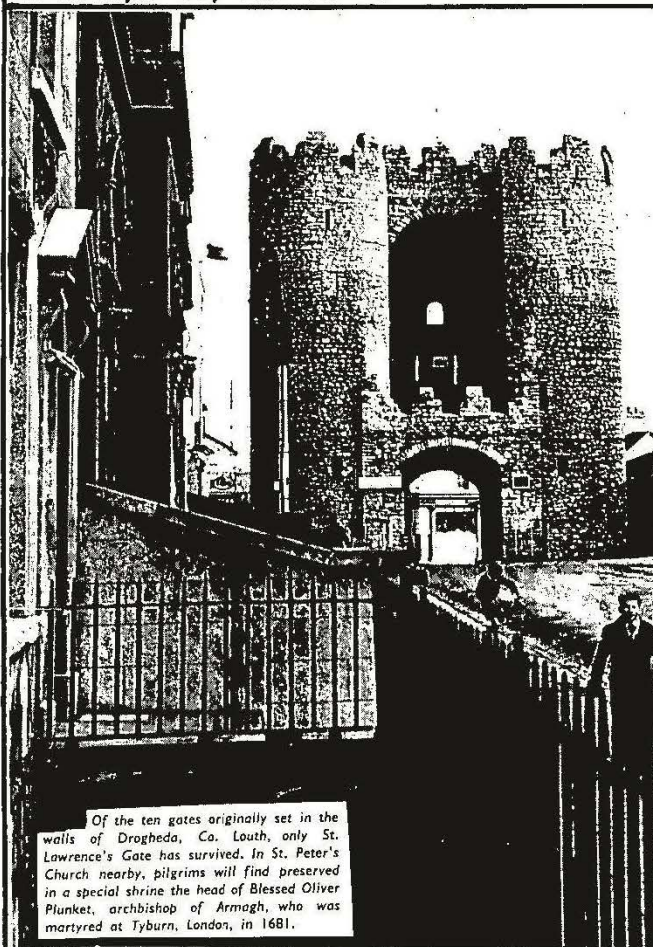
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Of the ten gates originally set in the walls of Drogheda, Co. Louth, only St. Lawrence's Gate has survived. In St. Peter's Church nearby, pilgrims will find preserved in a special shrine the head of Blessed Oliver Plunket, archbishop of Armagh, who was martyred at Tyburn, London, in 1681.

AER LINGUS REPORT

Irish Air Service continues to increase---AER LINGUS---for the first time carried more than half-million people, in the financial year ended March 31st, 1958. Irish Air companies carried 513,355 passengers, 7334 tons of cargo, and 1743 tons of mail. On European services the air line carried 500,355 passengers, 7277 tons of cargo, and 1688 tons of mail.

Transatlantic service started in April, 1959 with service now to New York City and Boston--passengers carried numbered 1481 up to March 31st.