



The Revealer



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EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

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John J. Walsh, Editor

The New Irish Commemoratives

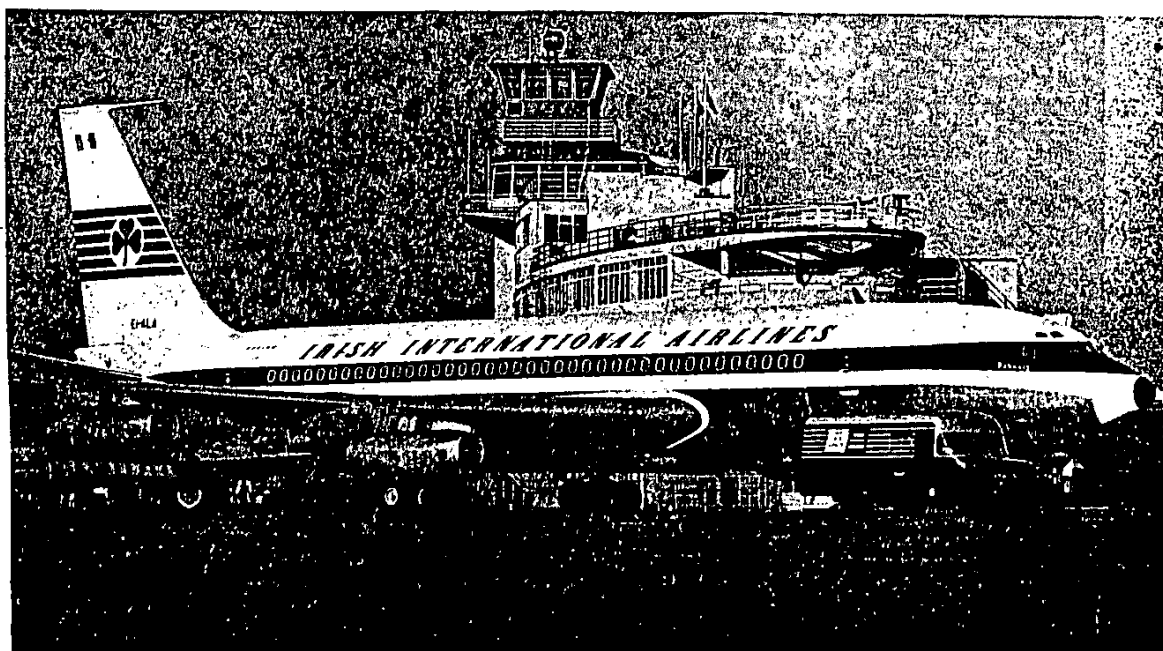


The special Irish postage stamp to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Aer Lingus (Irish International Airlines) was issued on 26th June 1961.

The stamp, which appears in two denominations 6d. colour blue ($1\frac{1}{2}$ million stamps) and 1s.3d. colour green ($1\frac{1}{2}$ million stamps) was issued in sheets of 120 stamps. The design features the original and the latest type of aircraft used by the Company - a De Havilland Dragon and a Boeing Jet - as well as a portion of the terminal building at Dublin Airport. The stamp bears the name of the country - Eire and of Aer Lingus in Gaelic, together with the denomination and the dates "1936-1961". The stamp is recess-printed on paper watermarked with the letter "E". Perforations are 15 x 15.

First Day covers were serviced by the Controller, Philatelic Section at the General Post Office in Dublin, and the Postmasters of Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Galway, Dún Laoghaire and Wexford. A special first day of issue mark was impressed on all first day covers posted at the mentioned offices.

The event commemorated is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the airline. In 1936, Aer Lingus began operations with a De Havilland Dragon, a small five-seater plane (a picture of this original plane is reproduced on the back page of this issue). In the design for the new stamp, this original plane is



Above: One of the new Aer Lingus-Irish International Airlines Boeing jets which have been making new records in recent months on the transatlantic run.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On my retirement from office, after serving E.P.A. for four years, I wish to thank all of my fellow members who have helped me and given so unstintingly of their time and effort to the betterment of E. P. A. I desire to thank all of the members who have effected closer relations of the I.P.S.G. and E. P. A. To Mr. Thomas E. Field, Frederick E. Dixon and Michael Leonard, I commend them for helping to bring the two organizations into closer harmony and complement.

To John J. Clark, as usual, all of us owe a debt of gratitude for his time and diligence in seeing that each of us receives The Revealer on time.

Least we forget, Mr. Frank M. Schorn has ably served out the unexpired term of Dan Luby. We regret that Frank will be unable to continue as secretary due to the pressure of his duties in Uncle Sam's Post Office.

Last, but not least, I congratulate Editor Walsh, on his splendid copy and high standards he has maintained in publishing The Revealer. Also, I am most appreciative of the wonderful help extended by Mr. Frederick Dixon and William Kane. Through their effort and research The Revealer always has something worth while to offer its readers. Your new officers will not be new names to E. P.A. members. All have served in some capacity over the years since its organization. In retiring, I do so with the thought that E.P.A.'s interests and future will be assured.

Neil Stack, President
July 1, 1961 E.P.A. International

R. J. SWORDS WINS ANOTHER AWARD

We are happy to report that our member, Mr. R. J. Swords of Vallejo, California won the God Medal at San Francisco in 1960 and a Silver Medal recently in Yountville, California for his Irish collection. Congratulations.

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93,94 \$ 3.00; 96,97,98 \$ 3.00; 118, 119 \$ 1.00; 151 Reentry \$ 3.00. Other Items.

CLEARY BROTHERS BOX 69, NEW YORK 69

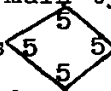
THE FIRST NUMERICAL CANCELLATIONS OF IRELAND

by B. de Burca, M.B.E., B.Sc., M.B.

The recent article by Mr. W. Kane on the numerical cancellations prompted me to look into their issue in more detail. I soon realised that we were both making mistakes, due to the fact that a multiple of issues were taken under a single heading. However, I must thank him for the very kind way in which he has taken my criticism.

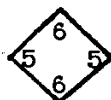
In September 1884 there was a general issue of Numeral Cancellors to the Irish Post Office, and it is with this issue only that we are now dealing. The numbers ran from 1 to 452, with the exception of 9, 19, and 189 for obvious reasons, though why 66 and 99 were included is difficult to explain if ambiguous numbers were to be omitted. The whole series was made in London.

A single hand-stamp was issued to each post office with additions for large towns. Dublin was issued with six, and the following towns had two each: - Athlone, Ballina, Ballinasloe, Belfast, Boyle, Clonmel, Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick, Newry, and Waterford.

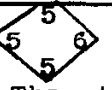
Two main types were issued, (1) with bars  numbers 1 to 380, 401 to 420 and 438 to 450, with twenty-one exceptions.

(2) With bars  numbers 381 to 400, 421 to 437, and 451, 452.

The exceptions in Group I are divided into three subgroups :-

(A)  as follows: 4 Ardara, 15 Athboy, 112 Castlesomer, 130 Clane S.O., 135 Cloghan, 150 Collon S.O., 158 Carrigart S.O., 160 Creeslough S.O., 164 Crossmolina, 166 Crumlin, 186 Dublin I of 6, 198 Dungloe S.O., 227 Foxford, 288 Kings Court, and 341 Mount Talbot S.O.

(B) With bars  as follows:- 7 Ardahan, 44 Ballyjamesduff, 110 Castleblakeney, 131 Clara, 232 Galway (1 of 2). A curious point about this subgroup is that three of them are in Galway.

(C) With bars  for Fethard S.O. Co. Wexford. The strike is clear and full, leaving no doubt about the six bars on the right.

This finishes our survey of the first type. We have not as yet had time to go through all the books, but will be done in the near future. The interesting point about this find is that it is generally thought that all the Irish hand-stamps were made in Dublin. It, however, seems to have been a joint effort. For instance there is no record in London of the early Dublin duplex stamps, but there are examples of the later types. On the other hand the London types have never been recorded on mail.

I have to thank Mr. E.C. Baker, Chief Archivist to the G.P.O., London for allowing me to have free access to the records.

COMPLETION OF THE SHANNON HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME.

By William Kane

According to both Stanley Gibbons and Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, the date of issue of the Shannon Scheme stamp was the 15th October 1930. King in his handbook of Ireland (published in 1931) gives the date of issue as the 16th October 1930.

For many years I hunted to find a First Day of Issue cover for this particular issue, without success. Every cover I was offered all bore the cancellation of October 16th and so in my collection lay a cover addressed to one of the foremost Irish collectors of 1930, but the cover was dated 16th October 1930 and marked "First Day of Issue" and I was not happy with it.

So, in 1958 I wrote to the Philatelic Section Dublin requesting information as to the correct date of issue, and I was informed by a letter dated 18.8.58 that the "Stamp to commemorate the completion of the Shannon Hydro-Electric Power Scheme was issued on 15th October 1930". I considered this (concluded on the next page)

SHANNON HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME (con't)
the final word on the matter until a few weeks ago when I purchased a lot of Irish material from a well known Irish collector who had retired some years ago, and in this lot I found a cover addressed to Dunboyne, Co. Meath and endorsed in pencil "DAY BEFORE ISSUE." This cover was registered and bore three distinct handstamps of Sraid an Diuic A'Cliath 15. X. 30. (Duke St, Dublin) and two (2) Shannon Scheme stamps plus one penny Map stamp.

This cover has started me thinking again - what is the correct date of the issue of this particular stamp? How many members have a First Day cover dated 15.X.30. In ten years of searching this is the first cover I found so dated and then it is stated to be one day in advance of issue.

Dublin

William Kane

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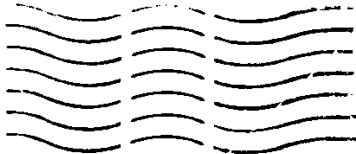
FIRST DAY COVERS. Collectors desiring first day covers of the new Irish commemorative stamps honoring the 25th anniversary of Aer Lingus (Irish International Airlines) 6d blue and 1sh.3d. green issued in June, 1961 may write to IRISH CACHET COVERS, 947 East 32 Street, Brooklyn 10, N.Y. Cost with complete set on cover specially prepared and serviced 85¢ each.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND by F. E. Dixon. Listing all slogan cancels from 1922-1959. 50¢ F.E. Dixon, Rosslare Harbour, Wexford, Ireland.

ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE. Please write to 78-53 82nd Street, Glendale 27, N.Y.



The New Irish Commemoratives (continued)



shown together with a picture of the new Boeing Jet both in front of the air terminal building at Dublin Airport. These new Boeing 707-048 jets carry 16 First Class and 101 Tourist Class passengers, flying at a higher maximum cruising speed (615 miles per hour) than any other commercial airliner. During the Summer peak season these aircraft will operate two round trips per day between Dublin and New York with stops at Shannon and Boston.

On May 27th, 1961 a special cachet in red was applied to covers which were dispatched from New York. The cachet consisted of a double circle interlocked. The one to the right reading "25th Anniversary" and the one to the left a shamrock framing a jet in flight surrounded with the words "Irish International Airlines". This appeared in red. The covers were postmarked at the Idlewild Airport Mail Facility on May 27th at 8:30 P.M. and backstamped at Baile Atha Cliath on May 28th at 5:15 a.m. machine cancel F. Those returned to America were again backstamped at Idlewild on May 28th at 7:30 P.M.

Covers postmarked at the United Nations bore the cachet in blue green



The REVEALER

Political Labels of Ireland

Supplement No. 2

September-October, 1961

There is a fascination and history in the postage stamp which goes beyond its intrinsic value. For all countries it has become a symbol of nationhood and a right to take its place among the postal systems of the world.

With the introduction of the postage stamp in the nineteenth century, it was a natural symbol to be utilized by the Society of Fenians which was formed in the United States at the close of the Civil War for the purpose of establishing an Irish Republic by force of arms. These Irish veterans of the War Between the States as early as 1865 caused to be prepared in New York City essays of postage stamps for the use of the Irish Republic they visualized.

A report of about that time is to the effect that three designs had been produced - a value of 3¢ and 10¢ in green and blue and a 24¢ in green and lilac. The evidence available as to the 10¢ value is inconclusive but there is much stronger evidence as to the 3¢ and the 24¢ values.

There is also a 1¢ in black on green or blue paper, apparently belonging to the same series. It has been claimed that it was issued in connection with an abortive Fenian Raid on St. John's, New Brunswick, in 1866, but the evidence is not convincing.



The 24¢ stamp shows in the centre a harp, surrounded by an oval band bearing the motto, "LIBERTAS ET NATALE SOLUM." The design is filled out to rectangular form with a frame inscribed "REPUBLIC" (at left) "OF IRELAND" (at right) "POSTAGE" (at top) "24 CENTS" (at bottom). The plan for the uprising in Ireland never matured and these essays, of course, never were legitimately used in Ireland and must rank merely as forerunners of the Irish stamps.

Sometime later in the 1890's, a curious set of impostors appeared in the stamp world. They are the 2d blue and the 4d brown. These forgeries are lithographed stamp issues of Queen Victoria's reign. These are thought to have been produced in Boston. The name IRELAND was inserted in the name tablet across the top of the design, above the Queen's head. These are definitely bogus stamps and there is no evidence they were ever intended for or that they were ever circulated in Ireland.

In 1907, the Sinn Fein party produced propaganda labels in two designs which while lacking any denominations of value were intended to symbolize "Irish nation-hood" to the world. Arthur Griffith, the founder of Sinn Fein urged the production and use of these labels both for revenue and propaganda purposes.



The first of these stamps was designed by Miss L. Williams, a prominent Dublin artist and represented the large Celtic Cross with the inscription EIRE in the center of the cross, a shamrock leaf in each corner and a Celtic Knot at either side of the foot of the Cross. This design was later employed by Miss Williams in her proposed design for the definitive issue in 1923 for the 3d and 10d values.

The other design showed a vertical oval in the center containing the symbolic female figure and harp, the four corners containing the coats of arms of the four Irish Provinces and at bottom a reclining grehound. The designs were engraved on wood by Mr. W.W. Kirkwood and were lithographed by Whelan & Co., of Upper Ormonde Quay, Dublin.



The original printings of the female and harp design was a three-color issue in green, yellow and black and was perforated 11. The gum was yellowish. The reprints of this design differed in color. The green of the original printings was blue-green whereas in the reprints it is yellow-green. The gum of the original was yellowish but in the reprints was colorless.

There seems to be some confusion as to the number of stamps in the sheets. The original report was made in 1908 that the stamps were printed in sheets 11 x 10, and that the harp design contained two stamps printed tete beche in each sheet. The Christian Science Monitor of December 6, 1917 stated: "The originals had been in sheets of ten stamps each way, the reprinted ones were in sheets of nine stamps one way and eight the other."

Although usually termed reprints the later printings were from different plates, easily recognized by the hound at the foot being too fat. Varieties found with this design include tete beche and double perforation.

A letter from Mr. W. Duffy dated January 23rd 1908 gives the purpose and use of the stamps or labels: "I enclose specimens of the two new Sinn Fein stamps which have just been issued in Ireland, and which will, no doubt, interest you as they are singularly well designed, and they are put upon correspondence by members of the Party known as 'Sinn Fein' together with the ordinary revenue stamp."

A series of postcards recently found give further information on the use of these stamps or labels on correspondence. Each postcard was posted in London and contained the 1/2p adhesive stamp in the correct location and the label on the same side at the top left corner. In no case was the label postmarked however. The first is dated "Friday 24 January 1908" and reads:

"Above is the Sinn Fein stamp. I'm disappointed with it. I'll send the other next time. It's far worse. The Sinn Feiners make it a rule not to answer letters they get unless they have one of our stamps on them. They are so cheap we think every one should use them. Please do, won't you? I must keep our rules.... Nearest place for you to get stamp is 35 Upper O'Connell St. Please explain to others. They may think me rude or autocratic but it is not my fault. The proceeds go to further the National cause & industries; to found a paper first of all, then bank."

The next interesting card is dated "Monday 3 February 1908" and reads: "I was delighted to get your note this morning. I was so afraid, as you didn't use the Irish stamp last time, that you had taken it the wrong way; and of course I couldn't be able to explain. I'm so sick of family rows that I positively dread another....The 2nd supply of stamps got here, some 1600, was almost exhausted when I went to get them 24 hours after arrival...."

These recently discovered postcards indicate that the labels were first issued either in January 1908 or perhaps at the end of 1907; that the

printer had difficulty in keeping pace with the orders and that the use of these labels was almost mandatory if the person wished a reply from a party member.

These stamps attained an unprecedented popularity and the British Government considered it necessary to intervene and suppress their use on correspondence. The regulations forbade the use of these labels on the front of the envelopes in conjunction with the English stamps. These labels do exist attached next to the ordinary King Edward ½d and 1d stamps and cancelled along with them. These escaped the notice of the postal authorities. These labels reappeared during the Easter Rising in 1916 in conjunction with other propaganda labels.



A larger stamp or label, depicting a female figure playing a harp with the inscription "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IRELAND" at the top and "IMPERIAL UNION" at the bottom flanked either side by a figure I and perforated 11 was believed to have been produced in Manchester in 1912. The stamp appeared in either emerald green, dull yellow green or dull orange, ungummed. In addition, it is found in dull yellow green imperforate on thick card. This stamp is not known with postmarks and there is no evidence that it ever did or could have had any real postal significance or use.

The "IMPERIAL UNION" design was not the only one issued as propaganda for the anti-Home-Rulers. Another had the inscription "PATRIOTS MAINTAIN THE UNION !" with the arms of the United Kingdom, on unwatermarked paper, perf. 15x14, and sold at 1d each. A third cost 1s. each and had the red hand of Ulster as the symbol with the date 1914 and the legend "FOR GOD AND ULSTER" together with the name of one of the districts, e.g. "South Belfast".

In May 1912 the English magazine Punch had a full-page cartoon - parodying the then current 1d postage stamp, with Redmond standing on the lion in place of the King's head. A Dublin photographer reduced this to stamp size and toned his prints in various shades of blue on varied papers, then perforating and gumming them!



One item which has been sold as a rebels' stamp seems to have been only a flag-day emblem. It is known as the Manchester Martyrs "stamp" but has none of the characteristics of a postage stamp. It was produced by Messrs James Walker (Dublin) Ltd., a week before the Easter Rising in 1916. It depicts the tricolour Irish flag in green, white and orange, whereon, in a shamrock frame, are three slight portraits of the Irish patriots, Markin, Allen and O'Brien, in the three branches of the emblem, between which branches is a harp. Below is the inscription "God Save Ireland." The labels are not perforated and appear on both gummed and ungummed paper.

It is claimed that prior to the Easter Rebellion, the Sinn Fein party maintained an "underground postal system" which conveyed letters between sympathizers at a charge of 1d prepaid in cash but without the use of stamps. Branches were said to have been maintained at the party headquarters in Dawson Street, at J.J. Walsh's shop in Berkley Street and at the home of Tom Clarke. Confirmation of these reports is lacking, but envelopes survive with handstruck markings of the "Irish Republican Post".

There is also a claim that at the outbreak of the Easter Rebel
Page 7 (E)

lion, it was decided to utilize the Celtic Cross label as the 1d postage stamp of the Republic and the tricolour label of the Manchester Martyrs, Allen, Larkin and O'Brien as the 1d value. It is also reported that a limited number of letters franked with these stamps were actually conveyed by the Republican Post during this Easter Week and were duly postmarked at the G.P.O. Dublin while it was in the hands of the rebels. These reports are presumably based on the existence of envelopes bearing these labels "cancelled" with genuine post office cancellers. The more likely explanation is that these were perpetrated after the event with the aid of handstamps looted during the rising.

These labels and events have profoundly influenced the subsequent philatelic history of Ireland. The Celtic Cross design was incorporated into the definitive series of stamps; the Arms of the Provinces became an accepted design; and the Easter Rebellion was commemorated by the significant and attractive "Gunman" issue of 1941.

Tom Clarke, who gave his life for the Republic in 1916 was recently honored with a commemorative issue. Mr. J. J. Walsh whose name has been mentioned above was destined to become the first Postmaster - General of Ireland under the Provisional Government. He did much to establish the new postal system of Ireland and is known in America - as the "Benjamin Franklin" of the Irish Post Office.



1916—The General Post Office, Dublin, headquarters of the men of Easter Week, after the surrender. The flagstaff which had carried the Tricolour sags from a corner of the guttered building.

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- Extensive correspondence with and suggested revisions by Mr. Fred E. Dixon of Rosslare, County Wexford, Ireland.