

Vol. XII No. 3

ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

January-February, 1962

Whole No. 66

(International)
Issued Bi-Monthly

John J. Walsh, Editor

WORLD'S SURGEONS MEET IN DUBLIN



Over twelve hundred surgeons from more than fifty countries attended the 1961 Congress of the International Society of Surgery, held in Dublin under the patronage of the President of Ireland, Mr. Eamon de Valera, from September 2nd to September 9th. The Congress meets every two years to discuss advances of world interest in surgery. From September 7th it was joined by the International Cardio-Vascular Society, at whose meetings matters of interest in cardiac and vascular surgery were discussed.

Welcoming the delegates, Mr. Sean Lemass, the Prime Minister stated that the Irish were proud of those of their fellow-countrymen who had shared in the important work of conducting research into surgical problems and disseminating as widely as possible the results obtained.

The Congress had graciously acknowledged that contribution by featuring in the Congress

insignia two Irishmen who had carried out pioneering work in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Dr. Abraham Colles and Sir Dominic Corrigan.

Abraham Colles (1773-1845) was born in Kilkenny. Following qualification in Dublin and Edinburgh in 1797 he was appointed as surgeon to Dr. Steeven's Hospital in the same year. He became President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1802 while still only 29 years of age. A wonderful teacher and accurate observer, he described "Colles fracture" of the lower end of the radius, "Colles Law" of inheritance and "Colles fascia" of the abdomen. He represents the finest figure in Irish surgery in the early years of the last century.

Sir Dominic Corrigan (1802-1880), a native of Dublin, was appointed Physician to Jervis Street Hospital and the Richmond Hospital following qualification in Edinburgh, London and Dublin. He was elected President of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland for five successive years. A popular lecturer and brilliant teacher he is perhaps best known for his description of the "Water Hammer Pulse" of aortic regurgitation. He described the sign in 1832. It had been previously described by Vieussens of Montpellier in 1715 but Corrigan's graphic description has ensured that to this day even in France, aortic stenosis is known as "La Maladie de Corrigan."

The insignia was designed by an Irish sculptor, Gabriel Hayes. The inscription which it bears is in the Irish language and means "International Congress of Surgeons, Dublin, 1961."

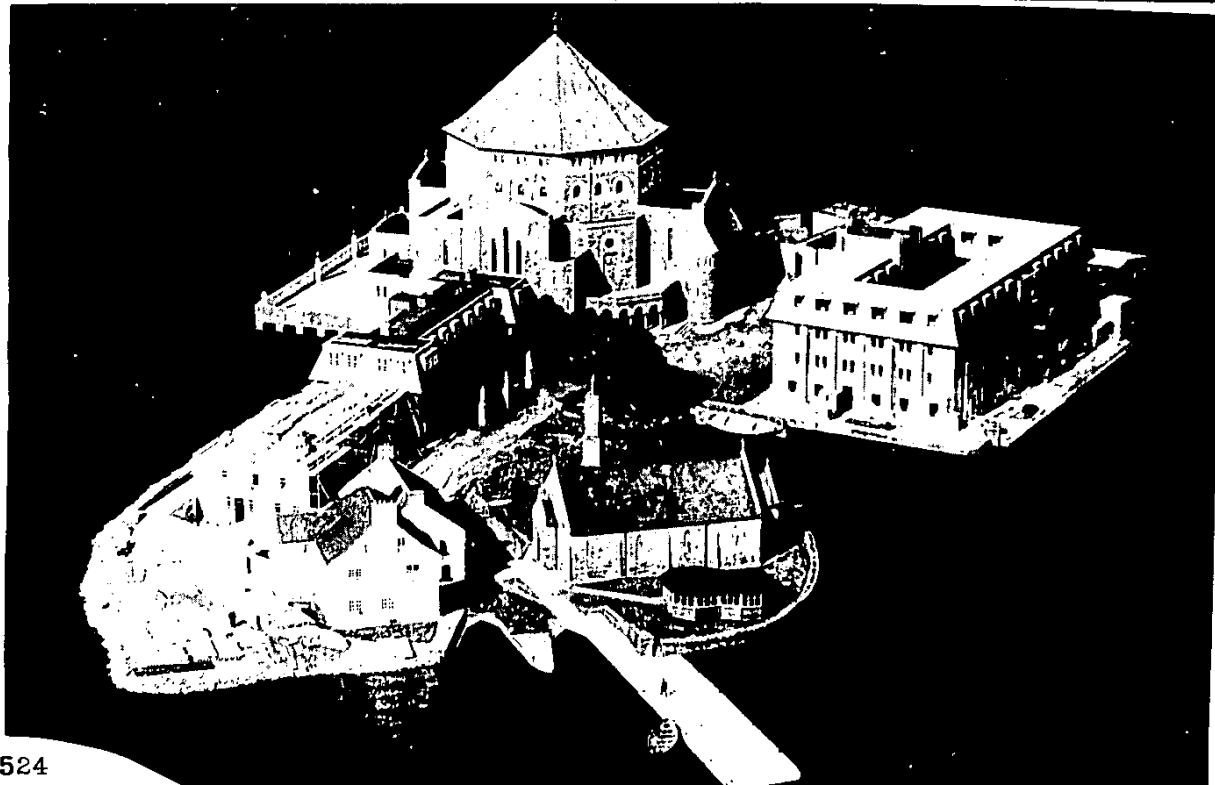
A rectangular cachet featuring this insignia to the left and the words, "SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE DE CHIRURGIE DUBLIN 2-9 SEPT. 1961" at the right was applied to covers from Dublin during the Congress.

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VATICAN CITY HONORS SAINT PATRICK

On October 6th, the Vatican City postal authority issued a commemorative issue of postage stamps to honor the 15th centenary of the death of St. Patrick. There were four values - 10, 15, 40 and 150 lira. The 10 and 40 lira stamps bear a statue of St. Patrick, and the wording, "S.Patrizio/Apostolo/D'Irlanda / 461-1961". The 15 and 150 lira stamps are entitled "Santuario Di/S.Patrizio / 461 1961" and depict the picture of St. Patrick's Purgatory, at Lough Derg engraved from the photograph below:



In continuation of the excellent articles on the Dollard Definitive Essays published in Vol. IV No. IV and Vol. XI. No. 3 of the Revealer may I as a new member of E.P.A., be permitted to add the following observations:

Referring first to the Bi-coloured essays listed on page 162 of the Revealer, I have in my collection, copies of all 24 listed printings with the exceptions of Nos. 4, 5 and 8. No. 5 in the Revealer list is described as Blue Centre with Olive-green border. I should like to query this description as I have an unlisted essay which consists of Black Centre with Olive-green border - perhaps the Revealer would answer my query.

My single-colour printings when matched with the Stanley Gibbons Colour Chart can be described as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Yellow-green | 9. Rose-red |
| 2. Dull-green | 10. Rose |
| 3. Grey-green | 11. Claret |
| 4. Olive-green | 12. Purple |
| 5. Light-brown | 13. Blue |
| 6. Yellow-brown | 14. Light-blue |
| 7. Orange-brown | 15. Slate |
| 8. Orange-red | 16. Grey |

I trust that this information may be of interest to you as all the shades mentioned are very clearly discernable. 11/16/61 Yours faithfully,

S. Mackey, Taikoo Professor of Engineering, University of Hong Kong.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

Among the rarities missing from most (possibly all?) of our albums are certain fantasies of which very little is known. Member H.G.L. Fletcher is seeking news of and information about:

(1) Design labelled IRELAND in the De La Rue key type used for Cyprus, Grenada, &c. described in Melville's "Phantom Philately".

(2) Design with a border copied from France, with the Ionian Islands garter, and at centre a winged harp. On the garter is "ERIN GO BRAGH" This design is probably the source of the 24 cents of the Fenian 1865 essays.

(3) Design based on the U.S.A. 1861 1 cent with "IRELAND" above the head and "AMERICA" below. Letters HG/GH in corners.

Aer Lingus 6d

Father Brennan has found that on many sheets No. 49 (1st stamp 9th row next to that mentioned in the last Random Notes) of 1B there is a smudge on the tail of the R of EIRE.

1d Variety

A new member, J.A. Williams, has sent for inspection a remarkable block of 1d (SG 72) printed with thick shiny ink so that at first sight it seems to be gummed on the face. The ink stands out from the paper as much as in a recess printing, and my diagnosis is an experimental printing. The impression is smudged, probably due to careless handling while still wet.

EUROPA C.E.P.T. 1/3

I have been officially assured that the number printed and sold was 1,250,000.

Ennis Spoon

J.D. Houston, President of the I. P.S. (without G), has found an example of the hitherto unknown Irish type spoon for Ennis with correct number 211.

Horse Show Cancellation

This year's Horse Show

RANDOM NOTES

BY F. E. DIXON



cancellation differs from its predecessors by having the sensible improvement of "Horse Show" above and "Dublin" below. Registration labels were again hand written.

International Surgery Congress

The skeleton datestamp, reading SURGERY CONGRESS above the date and DUBLIN below, was used only on parcels. The cachet, applied to ordinary letters, was bilingual. At left, around the portraits of two eminent Irish surgeons of the last century, Colles and Corrigan, "ANCHOMHDHAIL IDIRNAISIUNTA MAINLEA ATH CLIATH 1961" and at right "SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE DE CHIRURGIE DUBLIN 2-9 SEPT. 1961. The cancellations used with the cachet are the BAILE ATHA CLIATH single circle handstamp with 63 and 65 at foot.

For registered letters the temporary office had yet a fourth handstamp, one normally used I think in the main sorting office, reading "B'L'ATH CLIATH 7. DEIMHNITHE". The registration labels had "Surgery Congress Dublin" hand-written.

"Fyndem Tips"

I see that "Stamp Collecting" is tipping the current Aer Lingus commemoratives. If you've money you wish to invest in Irish stamps, I'd recommend the Patrician Year issue and especially the 8d value used. Its main usage is on aerograms.

St. Patrick Commemorative Issue

The engraving is not up to de La Rue standard and one wonders who is responsible for the printing. There are some intriguing features. Why has only the 8d any plate identifier? Why does the gutter ornamentation cross a margin on the 3d and 1/3? What is the perforation? Although usually $14\frac{1}{2}$ each way, some examples are nearer $14\frac{1}{2}$ x 15. The paper is usually white but sometimes shows a pale tint of the colour of the stamp.

(continued next page)

RANDOM NOTES (continued)

More and More Postmarks



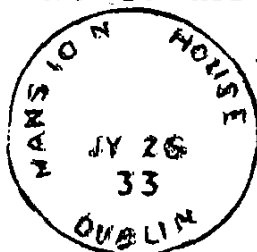
The cancellation used formerly on telegrams handed in at the railway office on the Pier - now replaced by a telephone kiosk.



A type of handstamp on mails prepaid in cash which I have never seen before. Probably a short-lived experiment. In violet ink used with the corresponding parcels post types.



This is a variant of the paid stamp illustrated above, the lettering being serif. However, the special feature of this example is that the value has been excised and the remainder used (in black) as a cancellation during the pre-Christmas rush.



Skeletons



To the left is a skeleton type used during a Dublin meeting of the British Medical Association.

To the right, another skeleton type used at Naas. The letters at the foot are "G.S." and are the initials of "Grand Stand". There used to be (possibly still is) a temporary post office at every important race meeting for the convenience of pressmen and the cancellations are rare as they occur normally only on telegrams.



In this one, an unusual Rosslare Harbour cancellation, the G.S. appears as part of the "Great Southern and Western Railway."



To the left is one of the rather surprising bilingual cancellations. Another, also under Dun Laoghaire, was Sandy-cove.



More railway relics. Two examples of the unusual abbreviation "RAIL" for "Railway Station." Neither of the stations now has a post office.



Another of the railway telegraph office handstamps. Note absence of stops after abbreviations.

IRISH AIR LINES

AERLINTE EIREANN - AER LINGUS

23 West 25th Street, New York 22, N. Y. • Phone: PLaza 1-2040

*** CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING ***

RATES --- MINIMUM RATE - 10 WORDS 35¢
ADDITIONAL WORDS AT \$.04 PER WORD.
DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES ON REQUEST

FIRST DAY COVERS. Collectors desiring first day covers of the new Irish commemorative stamps honoring the 15th centenary of the death of St. Patrick, issued in September, 1961 may write to IRISH CACHET COVERS, 947 East 32nd St. Brooklyn 10, New York

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

WANTED. Postal Stationery. Entires. Please write stating material and also price. George H. Carley, 383 Main, Torrington, Connecticut.



The River Liffey near the picturesque village of Celbridge, County Kildare.



Postal Administration

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

FEBRUARY,
1922.



Supplement No. 4

EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

January-February, 1962

Postmaster-General

Born in Cork, 20th January 1880, Mr. J.J. Walsh, was employed in the Cork Post Office and was a member of the Cork Corporation.



THE IRISH POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Early in his Post Office career, he was obliged by the authorities, because of certain speeches in public, to transfer to Bradford, England. Eventually he was dismissed from the Civil Service and opened a Tobacco and Newsagents shop at the corner of Berkeley Road, Dublin.

For his activities with the Sinn Fein he was sentenced by the British authorities to ten years penal servitude.

Mr. Walsh was appointed a Minister in the First Dail, and was First Postmaster General of the Irish Republic in 1922.

One of the earliest tributes paid to the first Postmaster General was made by the philatelic writer, Mr. William Ward, who compared Mr. Walsh with Benjamin Franklin who established the United States Post Office after the American Revolution. Writing in Stamp Collecting, September 9th, 1922 (Vol. XVIII No.23, Whole

No. 465, at page 465, he wrote:

"Like Franklin, here was the first Postmaster General of the Irish Free State who had also had a price set upon his head. Indeed, Mr. Walsh was sentenced to death and then had the penalty commuted to one of penal servitude for life, but today he is foremost in the affairs of his country. How much and how little can happen to any patriot.

"Remembering other Postmaster-Generals I met, it did not take me long to be in the presence of Mr. Walsh to believe that, at least in one ministerial position Ireland had not made much mistake as to the capability of the man who was filling it.

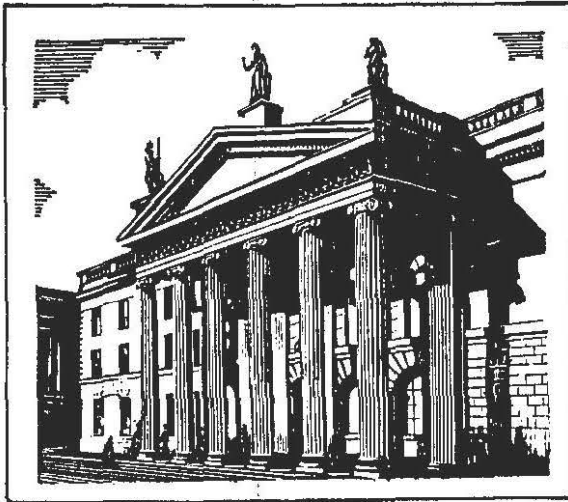
Forty years have passed since the treaty between Ireland and England was signed on December 6th 1921 establishing the Irish Free State. If the issuance of the provisionally overprinted stamps of Ireland appear confused and without planning, a brief review of the political and economic conditions in Ireland at the beginning of the year 1922 will demonstrate the remarkable administration of the first Postmaster General under adverse circumstances.

The country was in a state of affairs bordering on civil strife. The execution of the treaty was opposed by most elements of the Irish Republican Army which was the only effective military force left in Ireland as British troops began to leave. We have already seen the conditions in the southern part of Ireland particularly in the area around Cork (Supplement No.3).

In Dublin, while the so-called "Free State" troops commanded most of the government buildings and portions of the metropolitan area, there were pockets of resistance of I.R.A. troops.

DUBLIN

baile Átha Cliath



Telegraphic communications were constantly being interrupted and mails between Dublin and Cork practically ceased overland and such mail as was delivered usually went by sea between Holyhead and Fishguard.

In Dublin, the streets were patrolled by armoured cars with soldiers and machine-guns and the roofs of all prominent buildings contained armed sentries. Perched behind sand-bags at the entrances of all public buildings were the green uniforms of the Free State troops.

The Post Office was operating under difficult conditions. The G.P.O. which had been destroyed in the Easter Rising was still in ruins and the substitute G.P.O. in Sackville-O'Connor Street on the opposite side of the old "Four Apostles" G.P.O. was destroyed at the siege of the Gresham Hotel in the summer of 1922. The College Green Post Office was the G. P.O. for all general public business but it

was much too small for the volume of business. The various post office departments were housed in different parts of the City of Dublin - in the Merrion Square Government Buildings, Castle Street, Essex Street, etc. - like all other public buildings sand-bagged and strictly guarded.

The postal administration which was to be taken over by the new government was financially unsound. Although a part of the general postal system of the British Isles, the average annual loss to the British Government was over 1½ million pounds. Many forms of postal service which were profitable in thickly populated England were unprofitable in rural Ireland. It was obvious that the Free State would have to assume an unprofitable service to its people.

A complete reorganization of the whole system was imperative while at the same time, the new government would have to make arrangements for the transfer of its administration, provide accounting procedures, and arrange for the printing and distribution of new postage stamps to replace the British issues.

Howwell the first Postmaster General succeeded in resolving the many problems he faced will be seen in the efficient postal system which exists in Ireland today.

Among the first acts performed, was the issuance of a public notice inviting designs for a new series of postage stamps for Ireland.

In the interim, it was decided to overprint the British stamps. The British Government arranged to deliver a quantity of British stamps, the revenue therefrom, until April 1st 1922 to be deposited to the credit of the British Government,

The obliteration of the portrait of the British King by the new Irish government was not favorably received in England and Mr. Winston Churchill, Secretary for the Colonies was moved to answer a parliamentary inquiry in the following statement:

PUBLIC NOTICES.

A RD-OIFIG AN PHUIST, ATH-CLIAITH.
(GENERAL POST OFFICE, DUBLIN.)

The Postmaster-General of the Irish Free State invites

DESIGNS FOR STAMPS

to supersede those now issued. All designs submitted should be of symbolical character, and may not embrace any representation of a personal nature. Inscriptions must be shown in Gaelic characters. A payment of £25 will be made for each successful design. Any design so accepted will be the property of the Government, which will be free to make use of it with any firm of Contractors who may be selected to produce the stamps.

Specimens of the stamps now issued can be inspected and full information obtained from the Secretary, General Post Office, 16 Upper O'Connell, Dublin.

BY ORDER.

1st February, 1922.

K.A.A.

"The British postage stamps supplied to the Post Office in Southern Ireland have been overprinted pending the issue of stamps of an Irish design when that Administration takes over the control of its own Post Office under the terms of the Treaty. It is the usual practice in a period of transition to overprint postage stamps, and the present arrangement has been agreed to by His Majesty's Government. The revenue resulting from the sale of overprinted stamps is being brought to credit in the accounts of the Post Office in the normal way."

The Postmaster-General was determined to promote the use of the Gaelic language and among his first instructions were the following:

(1) All officials in post offices throughout the Free State are invited to acquire a working knowledge of Irish. Facilities for the study of the language is to be given in post offices wherever possible.

(2) The prohibition on the use of Irish in signing attendance books etc. was removed.

(3) Date stamps were to be altered to show the names of towns in Irish where possible.

(4) Each head post office to be supplied with a copy of "post Sheanchas" to obviate delay in the circulation of correspondence addressed in Irish.

(5) Name of office to be shown in Irish outside each post office in so far as this was possible.

(6) Letter-boxes to be repainted in green and lettered "an Post".

(7) Mail cars to be repainted and lettered "Post Saorstat Eireann".

(8) British postage stamps in temporary use to be overprinted in Irish. New Saorstat stamps to be inscribed altogether in Irish.

(9) Machine date stamp to bear an advertisement "Learn Irish".

(10) Post Office notices, forms, weekly publications, to be at least headed in Irish - all stationery issued from Postmaster-General's office to have Irish heading.

(11) Irish is used in over 75 per cent of the communications from the Postmaster-General's office.

(12) Telegraph forms to include instructions in Irish only.

As a result of these orders, Gaelic names began to appear in postmarks and post office forms contained instructions in Gaelic:



Do Dúiltín na Clárataíochta
an spás seo.

(This space is reserved for
Official Registration Label)



M.P. 486 (Official Seal)

Fuaireadh
Cúrsaí
Oreallas
(no rep. etc.)

COVER FOUND
OPEN
(OR TORN)



OFFIS An Aire Poist & Telegraafa,
(OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS)
Baile Áta Chait
(DUBLIN).

On January 28, 1922, the Irish Postmaster General requested Messrs Dollard Printing House, Dublin to submit bids for overprinting the name of the Provisional Government upon the values $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10d and the higher values 2/6, 5/- and 10/- of British stamps.

On February 2nd, 1922, this firm submitted their bid with proofs. The proofs were said to have had a hyphen between the "h" and the "E" of "hEireann". This was eventually removed from the overprint. On the same day, the overprinting of these values was awarded to Messrs. Dollard.

Very little is known about the awarding of the contract for the overprinting of the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2 and 6d and the 1/- values to Messrs Alex Thom & Co. of Dublin. Perhaps the fact that these values being more commonly used and therefore had to be overprinted in greater quantities might be the reason for the division of the contract between the two firms.

The Postmaster-General went to London and made arrangements for the furnishing by the British Government of sufficient quantities of the stamps for overprinting. A six weeks' supply of all values to a total of L 215,000 was consigned to Dublin and these stamps were received at Aldborough House on the morning of February 10th, 1922. These stamps were checked and placed in the vault. First supplies were then transported to both Messrs Dollard and Alex Thom, and on Saturday, February 11th, the work of actually overprinting the stamps began. The first printings were delivered as soon as ready—the Post Office Department actually began to receive the overprinted stamps the same day that the printing began. It is remarkable and a tribute to the printers that there weren't more errors or varieties than the few that actually resulted.

On Tuesday, February 14th, the Post Office Department began distribution of a two weeks' supply to all the Head Post Offices and in turn, these began to supply their Sub-Offices. On Friday, February 17th, 1922, the first overprinted stamps went on sale at all offices.

Prof. Louis Renouf has reported that the Post Office supplied him with the following information relative to the issuance of the first overprinted stamps:

Value of Stamps received from London (estimated at six-weeks' supply)	£ 215,000
Value issued to printers for Overprinting.....	£ 196,250
Postmasters' two week' supply as issued.....	£ 92,582
Value of stock in hand.....	£ 122,418
Number of separate Stamps Overprinted.....	21,972,000

Your editor has studied the contemporary evidence contained in the Freeman & Stubbs Handbook and has constructed the following chart which compares favorably with the official information given above:

Value	Printer	Overprint	Color	# Sheets	# Stamps	Face Per Sheet	Total
$\frac{1}{2}$ d	Dollard	Black		10,000	2,400,000	10/-	£ 5,000
1d	Dollard	Black		30,000	7,200,000	£ 1	£ 30,000
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	Thom	Black		4,000	960,000	£ 1/10/-	£ 6,000
2d	Thom	Black		40,000	9,600,000	£ 2	£ 80,000
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	Dollard	Black		1,000	240,000	£ 2/10/-	£ 2,500
3d	Dollard	Black		2,000	480,000	£ 3	£ 6,000
4d	Dollard	Black		1,000	240,000	£ 4	£ 4,000
5d	Dollard	Black		1,000	240,000	£ 5	£ 5,000
6d	Thom	Black		2,000	480,000	£ 6	£ 12,000
9d	Dollard	Black		2,000	480,000	£ 9	£ 18,000
10d	Dollard	Black		500	120,000	£ 10	£ 5,000
1/-	Thom	Black		2,000	480,000	£ 12	£ 24,000
2/6	Dollard	Black		500	20,000	£ 5	£ 2,500
5/-	Dollard	Black		500	20,000	£ 10	£ 5,000
10/-	Dollard	Black		500	20,000	£ 20	£ 10,000
				97,000	23,040,000		£ 215,000