



The Revealer



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John J. Walsh, Editor

VARIETIES ON THE FREEDOM FROM HUNGER ISSUE 1963



The special Irish postage stamp issued on March 21st, 1963 to promote the Freedom from Hunger Campaign sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations has produced a number of interesting varieties.

While it is much too recent to be the subject of a definitive article, a number of members of both the E.P.A. and the I.P.C. have submitted comments on their findings and these are presented herewith in the hope that further research and study will produce some definite findings and conclusions and serve to distinguish the worth-while varieties from the "fly-specks".

The common design for the two denominations, 4d colour purple (25,000,000) and 1s. 3d. colour red (1,750,000) in sheets of 120 stamps is illustrated on the 1/3 value above.

Fred Dixon reported (Random Notes No. 68, April, 1963): "On the first day the stocks in Dublin were all of Plate 1 for the 1/3 and Plates 2 and 3 for the 4d. We do not yet know whether Plate 1 of the 4d was withdrawn as defective or whether the impressions from it have been used for overseas orders, etc.

"A variety not on the first sheets I bought, but reported by both Miss Wright and Father Brennan is a line through the left ear of wheat running North as far as Greenland. It is on Pane 2B, Row 6, No. 2 [4d value] and occurs on the sheets with two crosses in the left margin of the A pane, opposite the third row. All 2 B panes show at least traces of a line between the 3rd and 4th columns, starting at the SE corner of 15, eventually turning SW and crossing the S of OCRAS on 39, the 4 and C of 45, and right and centre ears of wheat on 51, and just reaching Cape Molotov on No. 57. Later, I find that this line actually starts near Novya Zemlya on stamp 3, heading SSE across the middle ear. It crosses the R of OCRAS on No. 9 and the p of 15. It is therefore detectable on or alongside all ten stamps in the column.

"Although centering is not generally good, I have so far seen only one sheet so bad that the guide dots typical of De la Rue escaped removal during perforating.

"At Easter there is still no sign of Plate 1, but Plate 4 has appeared [4d value] - and is quite interesting. The Guide Dots are not well centred (or else were not followed and are thus visible with reasonably centred sheets. There are also Guide lines and at least four () hair lines like that described above for plate 2."

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THE EDITOR'S DESK

The preparation and editing of a philatelic publication requires a great many hours of work on the part of the editor, perhaps more than any other type of journalistic effort. To insure a worthwhile journal, a large amount of material must be available from the members. Many of our members have been most generous in sharing the results of their research with us but we need even more if we are to achieve our purpose of promoting the study and popularity of Irish stamps.

After careful thought, we have decided to announced two important developments in our editorial policy.

In order to relieve the editor of some of the burden, the Rev. Eugene Doherty, 330 North Westmore Avenue, Villa Park, Illinois has kindly consented to act as Associate Editor.

THE REVEALER will be issued as a quarterly publication beginning with the October-December, 1963 issue. For this reason, this issue has been limited to four pages. With the next issue, each issue will consist of 12 pages. Each member will therefore receive the same number total of pages each year. It is to be hoped that this

NEW ISSUES

The special Europa postage stamp sponsored by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations was issued by member countries, including Ireland, on September 16th, 1963.



The Irish stamp, which is in two denominations - 6d. colour magenta (2,500,000) and 1s. 3d. colour slate blue (2,000,000) was issued in sheets of 120. The basic design is by the Norwegian artist Arne Holm. Its motif symbolises the close cooperation between the Postal and Telecommunications Administrations within CEPT by means of four intertwined lines which form four small squares in the centre of the design; each of these squares contains one of the letters C.E.P.T. The stamp includes the word "Europa" together with the denomination and the name of the State "ÉIRE". It was recess printed on paper watermarked with the letter "E". Perforations are 15 x 15.

NEW SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

Ireland in common with other countries will issue this year a special stamp to commemorate the centenary of the founding of the Red Cross. The stamp which will be issued in December will be in two denominations, 4d. and 1s. 3d. Further details will be announced later.

June, 1963 Department of Posts and
and Telegraphs, Dublin

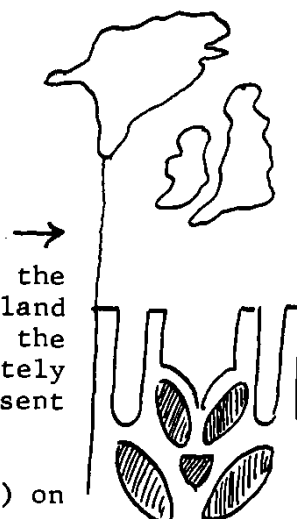
will give the editor a breathing space between issues and because of the additional pages available for each issue result in longer and somewhat more detailed articles.

(continued from front page)

A few days alter, our good friend Bill Kane sent along a drawing of the hairline variety and also called our attention to another variety reported to him by Michael O'Reardon (I.P.C.)

HAIRLINE.
EXTENDING FROM
TOE OF GREENLAND
TO THE
SHEAF OF WHEAT

This second variety took the form of a hairline in the shape of a figure 7, and runs from the tip of the second left hand sheaf of wheat, and touches Ireland in the vicinity of the Dingle Peninsula, and then runs into the Atlantic Ocean. This variety is found on the stamp immediately above the Control No. 2 B and is constant. Bill Kane kindly sent on a drawing of this variety which is reproduced herewith.



Fred Dixon then reported (Random Notes No. 69, May, 1963) on the result of further research of the Hunger stamps. His young daughter spotted the fact that his sheet of plate 4 of the 4d value is perceptibly darker than the others.

Father Brennan spotted and Mr. Dixon confirmed some prominent flaws such as:

Plate 1 Pane B, Row 7, No. 1. Dot on left edge of left wheatear (near Spain.

Plate 3 Pane A, Row 7, No. 2. Dot near S. Pole vertically above H.

Plate 3 Pane A, Row 10, No. 3. Dot in S. Pacific off Chile.

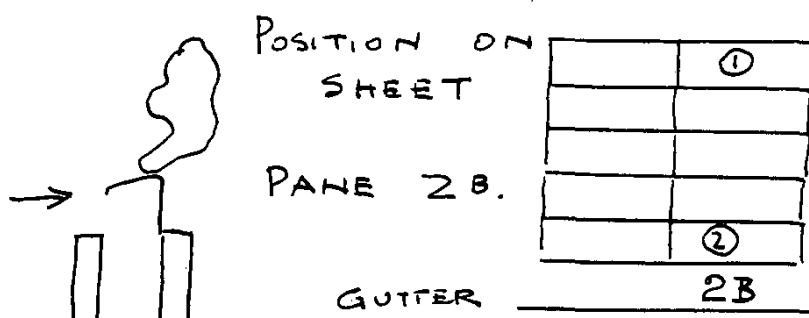
Plate 3 Pane B, Row 7, No. 3. Dot outside right side near lower corner

Plate 3 Pane B, Row 10, No. 4. Marks at base of middle ear.

Plate 4, Pane B, Row 5, No. 6. Line in Atlantic off Brazil.

FIGURE 7.

SITUATED NEAR THE
DINGLE PENINSULA
AND TOUCHING THE
SHEAF OF WHEAT.



In his Random Notes No. 70, June 1963, Fred Dixon reported on his visit to the Spring Show Post Office in search for Plate 3A: "The panes on sale at the Show were neatly guillotined down the central gutter although elsewhere the sheets supplied are complete. Unfortunately they had not the pane I was then seeking, 3A. When I found one later in the week it showed what may be one of the most interesting of the issue's numerous varieties - one which I had already found on a used copy. The lower left corner stamp shows a definite re-entry, and No. 3 of the same row has it less prominently. The place to look are the letters C A T H, which have a fuzzy outline, especially the T which looks like . There was no trace of this on the first sheets of plate 3 on sale. But another flaw on the same stamp has been present throughout: it is a small dot in the R of EIRE."

That...

The Round Towers, an unique feature of ancient Irish architecture, date mainly from the 9th century. Originally used as belfries and watch towers, they also provided a place of refuge from attackers. About 70 towers now remain.

DO YOU KNOW?

the most noteworthy being those at Ardmore, Kildare, Monasterboice and Glendalough.

That...

No snakes are found in any part of

Ireland, except for the imported specimens in the Dublin Zoo. Legend explains that St. Patrick (Ireland's Patron Saint), after a period of prayer and fasting on the summit of Croagh Patrick (Co. Mayo), banished all the snakes of Ireland into the sea. A great annual Pilgrimage takes place to the summit of the mountain on the last Sunday of July.

One of the tragedies of Irish philately is that so much was printed in 1922 and 1923, before genuine research had been accomplished, and before prices had stabilised. One article I have in mind is "The Ten Rarest Irish Stamps" written by W. Ward for the Dublin Freeman's Journal in 1923, when he thought it possible to give a safe prediction of what would be listed in the standard catalogues. His descriptions and values of the then most valuable overprints are quoted below and in brackets I have given - (where possible) - the SG number, the Scott number and 1963 valuation [U.S. equivalent supplied by editor]

1. 1d stamp overprinted RIALTAS SEALADACH by Dollards, surcharge inverted £ 15= \$75. [SG 2a, Scott 2a, 95/- mint = \$13.30]
2. 2d stamp overprinted by Thoms, in black, die II, inverted, L10=\$50. [SG 13a, Scott 16a, £ 7 mint= \$19.60; £ 8 used= \$22.40]
3. 2d stamp overprinted by Thoms, in bronze-blue, die II, inverted £ 6 = \$30. [Now classed as unissued]
4. 1/2d stamp overprinted by Dollards, L 5 = \$25. (Probably the inverted) [SG 1a, Scott 1a, £ 9 mint and used = \$25.20]
5. 2d stamp by Thoms, in bronze-blue, die I, £ 5= \$25. [SG 31, Scott 15/- mint = \$ 2.10 ; 10/- used = \$ 1.40]
6. 9d stamp overprinted SAORSTAT with line over first word, £ 5=\$25. [Now dismissed as a minor flaw]
7. 1 1/2d stamp overprinted RIALTAS SEALADACH, error "half-pence" £ 4=\$20. [SG 10a, Scott 15a, 95/- mint=\$ 13.30 ; £ 6 used = \$ 16.80]
8. 2d stamp overprinted in black, die I, inverted, £ 4 = \$20. [SG 12a, Scott 16c, 95/- mint = \$ 13.30; £ 8 used = \$22.40]
9. 5d stamp overprinted by Thoms in black £ 3 = \$15. [No longer recognized as existing].
10. 1/2 or 1d stamps overprinted SAORSTAT with line over first word, £3 = \$ 15.00 [Now dismissed as a minor flaw].

Thus collectors who had bought these items as investments would have done much better by putting their money in the Post Office Savings Bank, where it would nearly have trebled itself by now.

Mr. Ward's concluding paragraph is particularly unfortunate, and probably induced other speculators to buy up the overprints. It read

"A FINE INVESTMENT"

"The writer knows of over six collections of the Irish Provisionals that total already, on practically face value alone, well into four figures, and their owners are amongst the keenest business men in Great Britain and Ireland, who are not likely to place their money on an 'also ran'.

It must be remembered that the present day quotations must by no means be considered as the relative value of their worth. The stamps are practically 'new'. They will settle down, and the repeated demand for various items that will have more or less vanished from the market will in time send these items up many times in price. As in everything else that possesses a monetary value, stamp prices are fixed by the law of supply and demand.

"A collection of Irish stamps made now will in a very few years represent a finer investment than in any other hobby."

The fallacy here is the assumption that the buyers were genuine collectors content to gloat over their possessions. Instead many were speculators who eventually wanted to sell and take their profit - with disappointing results.

One wonders how many of the "over-six" four-figure collections have since been dispersed, and how many continue to be stored in bank vaults awaiting the day when a handsome profit can be gained.