



The Revealer



Vol. XIV No. 3

ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
(International)
Issued Quarterly

January-March, 1964

Whole No. 77

John J. Walsh, Editor



ST. PATRICK Ireland's National Patron

March 17th is to every Irishman, wherever he may be throughout the world, the day on which his thoughts turn home to Ireland - the land of his birth or ancestry.

Among the traditions observed is the wearing of the shamrock, a trefoil enshrined in the memory of the Irish from the days of the faith of their fathers - a faith established in 432 when St. Patrick planted its roots on the hill of Tara.

By pointing to the shamrock, St. Patrick convinced the people of the beauty of the Faith by demonstrating in it the mystery of the supernatural Christian doctrine of the Trinity. The name Shamrock is anglicized from "Seamrog" which means tréfoíl (three-leaved), a plant found in the moist woodlands of Éire.

St. Patrick and the shamrock have long been prominent in the postage stamps of Ireland. The high values depict St. Patrick extending his blessing over the Pascal fire which he enkindled in defiance of the pagan laws.

Our own President, Mr. F. E. Dixon in Stamp Collecting for March 17th, 1961 wrote an excellent article on the "Shamrocks of Ireland" pointing out the widespread use of the shamrock on the fiscal stamps of Ireland and said that the shamrock was "prominent on the Fenian essays of the 1860s for the 'Republic of Ireland' and on all the stock designs used by 'Éire' from 1922 to date."

The shamrock was also used by the Irish International Airlines in 1960 in a cachet used in connection with the establishment of their transatlantic Shamrock Jet service and on May 27th, 1961 for the 25th anniversary flight.

The harp was the favorite instrument of the old Irish poets and it has become one of the emblems of Ireland, like the shamrock. It has often been used in connection with Irish coinage and fiscal stamps and was the subject of an interesting article by F. W. Meredith, entitled, "The Harp, the Spirit of Song, and the Governor-General's Frank", in Philatelic Magazine for December 15th, 1923.



Shamrock Jet Service cachets



(INTERNATIONAL)



FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BACK COPIES OF THE REVEALER. Write to Mr. William P. Hickey, at the above address. Price of back copies 35¢ each.

The revival of interest has also been largely assisted by the efforts of the E.P.A. to bring together the collectors of Irish stamps and exchange their stocks of knowledge. Work on similar lines by other groups in Eire and the United Kingdom began 576

"I find that the Irish White Cross, founded in 1920 to relieve distress caused by the 'Black & Tans', had a subsidiary which survived until 1935. It was the Children's Relief Association and it distributed over £ 150,000 to assist in the maintenance and welfare of over 1100 children. There is no evidence that the 'stamps' were sold after the initial period 1920-1922."

NEW ISSUE



The special Irish postage stamp to commemorate the centenary of the founding of the Red Cross was issued on Monday, 2nd December, 1963.

The stamp which was in two denominations, 4d. colours grey and red (25 million), and 1s.3d. colours green, grey and red (1 & 3/4 million) was made up in sheets of 120 stamps. The design by Peter Wildbur features the Red Cross Centenary Emblem; a lighted lamp and a red cross. The stamp also includes the words An Chrois Dhearg and the dates 1863-1963, the denomination and the name of the State. It was printed by the photogravure process on paper watermarked with the letter "E". Perforations 15 x 15.

First Day covers, serviced by the Controller, Philatelic Section, general Post Office, Dublin 1 and by the Postmasters of Cork, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Limerick, Waterford and Wexford were impressed by a special first day of issue mark.

The real founder of the Red Cross was Jean Henri Dunant, a Swiss citizen. Touring Italy in 1859, he witnessed the bloody battle of Solferino between France and Austria where 40,000 dead and wounded soldiers dotted the battlefield. He organized local residents to help him in his work of mercy.

In 1862, he voiced the plea that societies of volunteers be formed in all civilized countries, "who in time of war would give help to the wounded without regard for their nationality."

On October 26, 1863, at a meeting in Geneva, the symbol of a red cross on a white background was chosen and in August 1864, the International Red Cross Treaty was drafted at Geneva.



RANDOM NOTES by F. E. Dixon

HELICOPTER MAIL. The new number of the Cinderella Philatelist illustrated a 1d Irish overprinted "FIRST HELICOPTER MAIL 1957" seen also on other low values. Does anyone know the culprit, or whether there was any corresponding helicopter flight?

HORSE SHOW. The cancellation is similar to that of 1961 & 62, the 31mm diameter "skeleton" with "HORSE SHOW" at top and "DUBLIN" at foot. There are minor differences: 63 is from a very small fount and the B and N in DUBLIN are smaller than last year. Registration label is again inscribed by pen.

OVERPRINTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. Lists of known overprinted non-postal stamps (notably that by J.J. Walsh) include 8d Unemployment Insurance. Now I find that there are two. The earlier is a provisional, the value being in black on red printing of the ship design with corner panels void. On this the overprint differs from that on other stamps. It reads RIALTAS SEALADAC NA HEIREANN in four lines but the wide space (6mm) is between the 2nd and 3rd instead of 1st and 2nd as is normal in this fiscal overprint. The later 2d is the definitive design in orange with value in figures at centre and in words at foot. My example of this has the three line SAORSTAT EIREANN 1922. 1935 HIGH VALUES. "Fynden" has tipped the overprints on the Waterlow 2/6, 5/- and 10/-, asserting that they are now wanted in Ireland. I am sceptical and would advise speculators to prefer the Air Mail set, Thomas Moore, Marian Year and St. Patricks.

1963 EUROPA. The quality of engraving is not as good as it ought to be, the lines being much coarser than in the artist's drawing depicted in the publicity photo. On the 6d there is a serious weakness of the top frame line at right whereas on 1/3 top guide line projects very slightly to the left. Guide dots are lower than usual. The first plate variety seen is an apparent re-entry of 1/3, pane 1B, Row 9, No.2. It shows best in the doubling of the background mesh, especially at upper left.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER. These stamps are no longer on sale, the last sales from the philatelic counter being on 21st September. For some weeks the only 4d sheets on sale there were from Pane 2.

(continued next page)

DESIGN COMMITTEE. On 3rd October it was announced that the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs has set up a committee to advise him regarding new designs for definitive stamp series and special commemoratives. Most of the members are distinguished artists, but there are two representatives of the world of philately. One is Mr. Robson Lowe and the other is Mr. J.A.Scannell Assistant Secretary of the Department, and an enthusiastic collector of Portugal and of Australia George V. He has long been a member of the Irish Philatelic Society.

CORRECTIONS TO LAST SUPPLEMENT

Your editor has noted a very definite error in listing the envelope flaps and Mr. Dixon has noted a few additional matters which should be corrected before we forget the matter. The following are the changes as suggested:

"1. Designs 2 and 3 on page 50 should be interchanged. (flap designs)

"2. a footnote is desirable to explain that designs 7 & 9 differ only in the dot at the corner of the latter

"3. I am not happy about some of the dating of the registration envelopes. I think that RE-4 is definitely 1924, RE-5 probably 1926 & RE-7 1927 RE-10 is 1945, RE 13a 1946 and I feel that the rest of the 1945-47 group should be split, but am a little doubtful.

"4. Remarks on LC-6 and LC-8 should include hyphen in LITIR-CARTA.

"5. The remarks at the foot of p. 55 are not quite fair to the printers suggesting that they made a mistake between s and r. The facts are that the S is upper-case and the r the lower-case of the same Gaelic fount.

Mr. Dixon also suggests that we should include mention of Postal Stationery Stamped to Order and we do so herewith:

POSTAL STATIONERY STAMPED*TO*ORDER

All types of postal stationery can be stamped for payment of a small fee, under certain conditions, and this has been arranged by many Irish firms. The printing has always been done in the same colour as the post office issues of the time, but not always by the same process. Our knowledge of what has been issued is scanty, and the list below does not claim to be complete and no attempt is made to assign dates.

1. Envelopes. 1/2d (I), 1d (VII), 1 1/2d (VI), 2d. (II) all embossed.
578

2. Postcards. Including those for printed Paper rate.

1/2d (I) embossed and (IV) typographed.

1d (VII) and 1 1/2d (VI) both embossed and typographed.

2d. (II) embossed.

4d (II) blue-green embossed.

1/2d (I) + 1 1/2d (VI) reply paid, both embossed.

1 1/2d (VI) + 2d (II) reply paid, both embossed.

3. Wrappers.

1/2d (I) embossed and (IV) typographed.

1d (VII) embossed.

1 1/2d (VI) typographed.

4. Parcels Labels for parcels of literature for the blind.

1d (VII) embossed.

Revenue Stamps

C. BANKRUPTCY, IRELAND (1873)

Overprinted at base on the unappropriated dies, "BANKRUPTCY, IRELAND" in colored block letters. Typographed in color on white wove paper; perf. 14. Watermark - V.R. in block letters.

1. 5/- green, value in mauve

2. 10/- green, value in carmine

Watermark - balances

3. L 1 lilac, value in black

4. L 2 lilac, value in dull blue

5. L 5 lilac, value in green

(1882) Same as above. Perf. 14. Watermark - V.R. in script letters

6. 5/- green, value in mauve

7. 10/- green, value in carmine

Watermark - two orbs

8. L 1 lilac, value in black

9. L 2 lilac, value in dull blue

10. L 5 lilac, value in green

D. CHANCERY FEE FUND, IRELAND (1867)

Embossed designs, differing for each value, but bearing the title, "Chancery Fee Fund, Ireland".

Embossed in color on white wove paper; imperforate. Watermark: V.R. double lined.

1. 1p. rose

2. 6/2 rose

3. L 3 rose

4. L 5 rose

On azure tinted paper: 5. 1p. rose

(1867) Same designs on white wove paper; perf. 12 1/2. Wmk. as above

6. 1p. rose

7. 6/2 rose

(To be continued)

**AER
LINGUS**

IRISH CACHET COVERS
947 East 32nd Street
Brooklyn 10, N.Y.

Irish Inverted Overprints.

SUPPLEMENT No. 14

EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION January-February, 1964

The inverted overprints which appeared in the year 1922 have been the subject of much discussion and debate in the philatelic press. With the exception of the 2d Thom (Die I and II) inverted overprints in blue-black, the genuineness of the inverted overprints which appeared is generally accepted.

Unfortunately, numerous forgeries early appeared which confused many collectors and placed the whole series under suspicion for some time. Considering the pressure under which both the printers and the Provisional Government worked to issue the first overprints, it is remarkable that only a few errors actually appeared.

The desire of the Postmaster-General, Mr. J. J. Walsh to prevent any exploitation of the new stamps is no better illustrated than by his promptness in ordering removed and destroyed any imperfect stamps found in stock.

It is the purpose of this compilation to gather together in one place all of the material on the inverted overprints which appeared at the time in the philatelic press and leave to the reader the task of deciding for himself the genuineness of these inverts, especially the Thom blue-blacks.

2d THOM BLACK (Die I)



The first inverted error reported was the 2d Thom (Die I) in black which originated in Cork. (See illustration to the left, #311, Bedford Sale, 1948)

Mrs. Charlotte J. Cooke, in her "The Irish Inverted Overprints" mentions that its discovery was first noted in Stamp Collecting, March 4, 1922, and in The Philatelic Magazine, of March 11, 1922.

Mr. J. Stafford Johnson, the well-known Irish philatelist gave the most complete history of this find in the December, 1922 issue of Stanley Gibbons Monthly Circular (pp.114-115):

"A friend of mine, Mr. McCathy Morragh, having occasion to post two letters on 17th February, (day of issue of the overprints - ed.) bought two stamps at the Grand Parade Post Office, Cork. Noticing that the stamps tendered him were 'upside down', he asked if there were any more. He was given a few more, including the control number (S 22 Imperforate). The assistant further said she had another complete sheet 'upside down' and of this he bought the whole lower pane of one hundred and twenty stamps (Control S 22 Imperf.). On one of these sheets, apparently, many of the stamps showed the overprint very definitely misplaced towards the left." + + +

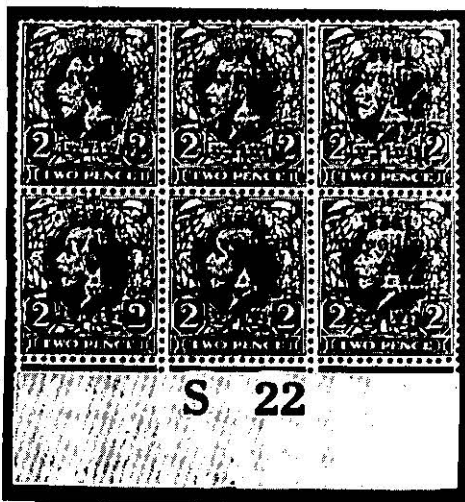
"On the 18th February, a well-known philatelist, Mr. W.E. Stears, while going through the correspondence in his office noticed a letter from Cork bearing a 2d. (Die I) stamp with inverted overprint. This stamp had the overprint much displaced as in some of Mr. Morragh's copies. Mr. Stears at once wrote down to the Cork firm to get him as many copies as they could.

Eventually he succeeded in obtaining about twenty mint and one used-all showing the misplaced overprint. Mr. Stears has shown me the correspondence he had on the matter, which proves that his copies were procured in the ordinary way at the Cork Post Office."

Item #311 of the Bedford- Hopkins Sale of December 15th, 1948: 2d. die I, variety overprint inverted, mint unmounted block with pane margin attached. With R.P.S. certificate. Cat £20 (see Photo Plate III).

Item # 456 of the Marquess of Bute Sale (incorrectly illustrated as #451: 2d. orange Die I, error overprint inverted, a control block (3x2) with control "S22", imperf. margin. (See Photo) Valuation £20.

Item # 455 of the Marquess of Bute Sale:- 2d. orange Die I, error overprint inverted, a mint pane of 120, very slightly creased. Cat. £575. Valuation £ 150.



2d THOM BLACK (Die II)

The Thom black 2d (Die II) inverted overprint apparently originated in Enniscorthy, County Wexford.

It was reported in Stamp Collecting on June 10th, 1922 (page 248) by G. J.J. Dublin that: "Some 2d Irish Provisional stamps on pieces received by me from an Insurance Company included an inverted overprint on Die II posted at Enniscorthy (obviously not by a philatelist) on May 19th, so it is evident that at least a sheet of Die II with inverted overprint has escaped the vigilance of the P.O. officials."

Mr. W. Ward writing in the Freeman's Journal of January 2, 1923 (re-printed in Stamp Collecting of March 17th 1923, page 609) gives further interesting details of this stamp:

"Another error was discovered at Matlock, Derbyshire, England, contemporary with finds of the same stamp [the die II of the 2d value] at Dublin, all postmarked from Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. The English find was a romance and a singular coincidence that an English collector walking down a Matlock street should 'spot' an envelope bearing one of the then 'new' stamps lying in the gutter - and on examination discover that the overprint was inverted. The envelope had evidently been cast aside by some agricultural labourer who had received a letter from home in Co. Wexford. Others were found among insurance correspondence, but as at least 240 (the number of stamps in a sheet) must exist, there are many yet to be accounted for."

Mrs. Cooke reported in her pamphlet on the inverted overprints that a number of copies are known postmarked Enniscorthy including the date of February 17th, 1922.

Item #457 of the Marquess of Bute Sale lists the following: 2d. orange Die II, a similar mint pane of 120, control "S 22" (perf.). Cat. £ 840. Valuation £ 250.



1/2d DOLLARD INVERT

The 1/2d Dollard invert had a somewhat dubious origin and remained under suspicion for some time. Mrs. Cooke says that it was first reported on April 1, 1922 in Stamp Collecting by an advertisement from a Birmingham dealer who received a portion of a sheet from a Dublin agent.

Mr. W. Ward writing in Stamp Collecting for March 17th 1923 said:

"The next error we have record of is that three sheets of the 1/2d Dollard overprint were discovered in a Dublin post office. Getting to the ears of Mr. Walsh, orders were given that they had to be withdrawn from sale and destroyed, but already one sheet had been sold to a collector, who in turn sold half of it to an English dealer, kept a small corner block for his own collection, and disposed of the balance to a Dublin firm."

The Irish Philatelic Club inquired of the Postmaster General about the inverted overprints and on July 26th, 1923 received the following official reply, which established the legitimacy of the 1/2d inverted error:

"A Chara - With reference to your letter of the 2d inst., I have to inform you that the only stamps with inverted overprints which the Post Office is aware of as having been issued through the Post Office were contained in two sheets of 2d. stamps which escaped notice and appear to have been issued at the Grand Parade Sub-Office at Cork, and one sheet of 1/2d. stamps sold over the counter at the General Post Office, Dublin.

(Signed) J. J. Walsh

Item #300 of the Bedford-Hopkins Sale of 1948:- 1922 Dollard overprint, as issued, 1/2d. variety inverted, unmounted. With R.P.S. certificate. Cat. £ 8 Valuation 90/- (block of six)

Item #449 Marquess of Bute Sale (illustrated above):- A mint marginal block, variety inverted overprint [1/2d green, block of four]. Cat. £ 32 (see Photo). Valuation £ 15.

1d DOLLARD INVERTED



The 1d Dollard inverted variety had an even rougher history than the others, largely because so many bogus copies flooded the market. The officials of the Customs, Excise and other revenue departments were supplied with handstamps with which to overprint embossed and adhesive revenue stamps. These handstamps which appeared similar to the printed letters were used undoubtedly to fabricate inverted adhesives.

These bogus" inverted overprints are easily distinguished because the overprint is usually pale and appears "spread" not normal with clear cut broken letters, just as you would expect a rubber-stamp to appear.

It seems reasonably clear that at least one sheet legitimately issued in Dublin was used up without being recognized as copies have been found post-marked "Dublin" early in April, 1922. In September, the Philatelic Magazine reported a single sheet of the 1d Dollard inverted which is believed to be in a later issued carmine red shade.

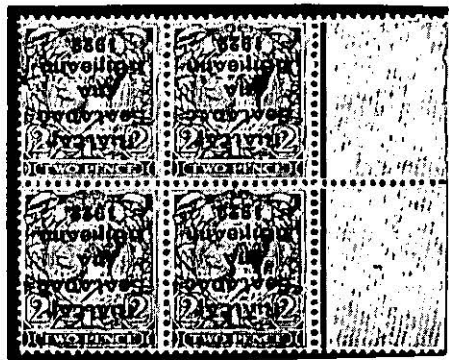
Item #301 Bedford-Hopkins Sale of 1948:- 1922 Dollard 1d superb mint pane corner block of six, variety overprint inverted. Cat. £ 36.

Item #303. Ditto, fine used but date stamp impressed slightly through to back, "11 AP 22". Valuation £ 7.

Item #450 Bute Sale of 1959:- 1922 Dollard 1d. Scarlet, a complete mint sheet ["S 22 imp.], variety with overprint inverted. Three sheets stated to have been discovered and this is said to be the only sheet now intact. Cat. £ 1140. Valuation. £ 500.

Item #451. Ditto, a mint control block of six ["S 22" perf.], two with ink marks on reverse (see Photo) Valuation £ 16.

2d THOM BLUE BLACK (Die II)



Mr. W. Ward in Stamp Collecting, March 17, 1923 (page 609) gave the following history of this stamp.

"On the morning of the first bombardment of the Four Courts, a well-known Dublin firm made a purchase of its usual supplies of stamps at the O'Connell Street Chief Office and during the stamping of the mail it was noticed that one of the sheets was inverted. The manager being a philatelist, the bulk were 'saved'. This stamp was the newly issued 2d. Die II, with the overprint in bronze-blue."

Item #314 Bedford Sale of 1948:- 1922 Thom blue-black 2d. Die II, variety overprint inverted, fine unmounted marginal block (see Photo). Valuation £ 15.

2d THOM BLUE BLACK (Die I)

In the same issue of Stamp Collecting, Mr. Ward wrote: "The 2d Die I with bronze-blue overprint was also 'discovered' in Dublin, and also has an interesting story. About the middle of November an hotel manager purchased two shillings worth of 2d stamps at a Dublin district office. It was not until he had used all except three specimens on his correspondence that he noticed that there seemed something peculiar about the stamps and he drew a customer's attention to them. It was then noticed that they were inverted. The three remaining copies were eventually distributed among friends. Thus somewhere there are 237 other specimens of Die I 2d that may be discovered."

ARE THESE LAST TWO STAMPS "PRINTER'S WASTE" ?

These last two stamps have been the subject of considerable debate over the years. The Irish Philatelic Club in 1923 recognized only the 1/2d Dollard and the 2d Thom (both Dies) in black as legitimately issued.

In 1925 and 1926, the debate broke out again with the Royal Philatelic Society declaring that the 2d bronze-blue inverts were not legitimate issues over the counter. Mr. A. E. Hopkins in Stamp Collecting, March 20th, 1926 (page 847) declared that the 2d Thom (Die I) in black and the 1/2d Dollard inverts are perfectly "authentic"; that the 2d Thom (Die II) invert in black "is probably legitimate"; that the 1d Dollard was suspicious but that one authentic sheet was "probably issued across the counter" but that the 2d Thom glossy, Dies I and II inverted were nothing "but printer's waste."

The ultimate decision must rest with the individual collector, to whose tender mercy we leave the entire subject of the inverted overprints.



When the Provisional Government of Ireland took control of the post office in December of 1921, the overprinting of the stamps to be used in coil machines was given to Messrs Harrison & Sons of England. They produced horizontal rolls of 480 and vertical rolls of 500 stamps of the "Rialtas" overprint in 1922 and of the "Saorstat" overprint (7th March 1923). These rolls were produced from overprinted sheets of stamps, which were severed into vertical strips of 12 or horizontal strips of 10 stamps (from sheets of 240 stamps, in two panes 12 x 10).

1. Paste-Up Coils 1925-1933.

Beginning in late 1924 and early 1925, the Irish Post Office likewise prepared rolls of the definitive stamps for use in the coil machines as the overprinted coils became exhausted. Meredith reported "The 1/2d value appeared in horizontal rolls of 480 on November 21st 1924, and the 1d and 2d values soon afterwards." Our own member, William Kane reports, "I have in my collection a leader strip of the 1/2d Sword of Light, dated (with rubber hand stamp and this method is still in use even today) '31 OCT 1924' and initialled in pencil. The leader also carries an endorsement '1st of permanent to be issued' (in pencil).

Kohl Handbuch (page 153) in the Zervas translation for the Collectors' Club says, "From about November 1924 on, besides being issued in sheets, the four lower values were also issued in coil form for use in vending and franking machines, and apparently, at first the 2d and 1/2d values. Until the beginning of 1933 all coils were manufactured in the same manner as were the British Coils, in that groups of 120 stamps, half sheets, after trimming of the margins were joined together to form either horizontal or vertical lengths and were then cut into 12 vertical or 10 horizontal strips. Accordingly the vertical coils were made up of strips of ten stamps, with join between each strip, and the horizontal coils were made up of strips of 12 stamps, with join between each strip. The joins are collected in vertical or horizontal pairs [with join]".

Our new President, Mr. Fred E. Dixon in reviewing these notes for publication writes that Dr. Stafford Johnson copied the following information from the circular, "Iris an Phuist" of 14th October 1925:

"Postage Stamps in Rolls. In consequence of the small demand for Rolls it has been decided to reduce the number of varieties from 11 to 6. The following rolls will be discontinued: Rolls of 1000 stamps [D] 1/2d, [B] 1d and [Q] 2d - Lower end first. Rolls of 500 stamps [L] 1 1/2d - Top end first. Rolls of 480 stamps [N] 1 1/2d - Left end first. All other rolls of 500 stamps will be made up contain 480 stamps in each roll. [?] Rolls of 500 and 1000 will continue until existing stocks are exhausted."

Mr. Dixon also writes: "The 1927-28 issue of the Post Office Guide mentioned as still obtainable until stocks were exhausted rolls of 1000 = 1/2d, 1000 = 2d, 500 = 1/2d, 500 = 1 1/2d, 500 = 2d and 480 = 1 1/2d. These sold very slowly and were still listed in P.O.G. for 1935. The 1935 P.O.G. lists rolls of 960 - 1d and by 1937 these were available also for 1/2d, 2d and 3d, rolled lengthwise only: the 1d was available rolled lengthwise or sideways. Information is lacking for the 1940s, but by 1954 there were only four types on sale, 480 - 1/2d lengthwise and sideways, 960 - 1d lengthwise, and 480 - 2d sideways. Since then the 1/2d has become obsolete and the 3d has appeared in rolls, of 480 sideways and 960 lengthwise."

After the experimental coils from 1933 to 1945, which we will hereinafter mention, the Post Office returned to the paste-up coils, with the 1/2d O'Clery stamp replacing the 1/2d Sword of Light. The 1959 P.O.G. lists the following paste-up coils available: Reeled sideways: 960 - 1/2d, 480 - 2d, 480 - 3d. Reeled lengthwise: 480 - 1/2d, 960 - 1d, 960 - 2d and 960 - 3d.

An interesting collection of these leader strips can be made. William Kane reports the following:

1/2d Sword of Light. SE. 31 OCT 1924 (initialled in pencil. S.G. 71a
1d Map SE F 960 1d Stamps Delivery Top End First F 18 MAY 1934 S.G. 72b
2d Map SE R 480 2d Stamps Delivery Top End First R 1 JULY 1934 S.G. 74
1/2d O'Clery E P 480 1/2d Stamps Delivery Top End First P 31 AUG 1946 SG133
2d Map E W 960 2d Stamps Delivery Top End First W 29 JUN 1955 S.G. 114
1/2d O'Clery E G 960 1/2d Stamps Delivery Left Side First G 6 OCT 1955 SG133
3d Cross E Y 960 3d Stamps Delivery Top End First Y 15 SEP 1956 S.G. 116
2d Map E T 480 2d Stamps. Delivery Left Side First T 21 SEP 1957 S.G. 114

2. THE 1d EXPERIMENTAL COIL (Scott No. 87a, SG No. 72a)

"In April 1933, the 1d value was the first issued of the so-called 'endless' coils, which were produced on special presses and from special plates, whose arrangement differed from that of the plates used for the regular stamps in counter sheets. Presumably this involved the use of presses similar to the 'reel printing' presses used, from about 1924 on, by Waterlow & Sons, for the production of the 'endless' coils of British stamps, inasmuch as they are made by Grover & Co. Ltd. London, who were also suppliers to the Irish Government's printing plant. This assumption seems further strengthened by the fact that the Irish 'endless' coils also contain 960 stamps. On the other hand these first Irish endless coils differ from the British because of a special type of perforation, in that although they are perforated 15 horizontally, vertically they are imperforate with the exception that a single perforation appears on each imperforate side just below the perforation across the top of the stamp. A total of 30 coils of 960 stamps each were issued experimentally in Dublin and Cork only. Accordingly the total issue amounted to 28,800 stamps." [Kohl Handbuch, Zervas translation, page 153].

William Kane reports an interesting re-entry of the top frame line on this stamp and that he has such a copy and also has seen many others.

3. THE SECOND 1d. EXPERIMENTAL COIL (Scott No. 87, SG No. 72b)

"New endless 1d coils were issued in July 1934 which also contained 960 stamps each, as was developed a few months later, were also only an experimental issue. This likewise was probably a comparatively small issue. These coils of July 1934 differ from the coils (of April 1933) in that they are completely unperforated on both sides, lacking the extra single perforation on each side. The width of the stamps measures 21mm, making it quite impossible to make up this coil variety by trimming stamps of the regular issue. From the late Fall of 1934 on, after using up the supply of these coils, paste up coils of the 1d are again in use." [Kohl Handbuch, Zervas translation].

Mr. A.H.K. Roberts in the Philatelic Magazine, April 4, 1937, page 134 in an excellent article entitled, "EIRE PENNY CARMINE - A Study" wrote: "Some modifications having been made to the machine, a fresh issue took place in the following year [1934] in which the guide holes disappeared. This is the form in which the stamp is most frequently found, i.e. perf. 15 x imperf. with watermark "SE", but fewer than 900,000 were issued.

"The impressions from this machine are clear and of good colour, but they

have not the depth of the sheet stamp. The engraving is evidently shallower and less ink had to be used to allow of winding to take place concurrently with the printing."

4. 1/2d and 2d COILS OF 1934 (Scott Nos. 91-92, SG Nos. 71a & 74a)

Later in the year, the 1/2d and 2d definitive coil stamps were issued, perforated 14 vertically. Kohl says, "Later, about November 1934, endless coils of 960 stamps each of the 2d and 1/2d, sides completely imperforate, were issued

5. THE THIRD 1d EXPERIMENTAL COIL STAMP (Scott No. 105, SG No. 112d)

In 1940, the 1d definitive coil stamp was issued again, this time with the "E" watermark. Mr. Roberts in his article [supra] has this to say about it:

"As a result of these experiments, a special type of printing machine was designed at the Printing Office and put into production in 1940. The result was an entirely distinct variety, for the stamp had both the new "E" watermark, and also a new perforation, (14) x imperf. The reason for the later change is not clear, but such a perforation is not suited to stamp vending machines, where easy separation is essential.

"However, various causes combined with the effects of the intensification of the war put a stop to further work and only 45 of these coils were sent to the Post Office. Handjoined coils became universal again, and this state of affairs ruled until last July [1946], when the stamp appeared again, perforated 15 x imperf. [as in 1934] but with the "E" watermark. The impressions seen so far, are clear and of full colour, and only slightly less contrasty than the best of the sheet stamps."

6. THE MYSTERIOUS 2d GREEN COIL STAMP (Scott No. 68b, SG No. 74b)

An intriguing mystery of Irish coil stamps is the 2d green Coil stamp, of which several of our members have authenticated copies in their collections. How this coil came into being is still the subject of much research. 15ximper.

In 1961, a series of letters in Stamp Collecting served to renew interest in this stamp. Mr. Alan J. Blair wrote (9th June 1961) that he had been able to purchase a mint copy from a dealer and that his copy was "far off centre to the left" and invited information on the stamp. Mr. Robert P. Towers answered (30th June 1961): "I believe that this coil was used only in the offices of the Dublin Gas Company, the great majority being used on receipts. I think that more than one roll was sold, as my used copy (which has an R.P.S. certificate) is well-centred. Another used copy illustrated in the catalogue of Harmer's sale on July 10th is badly off-centre to the left. I regret that I know of no mint copies."

Mr. Fred E. Dixon replied (29th July 1961): "Like Mr. Towers, I have been hoping that someone better informed than myself would reply to Mr. Blair's inquiry regarding S.G. 74b, the most elusive of the Irish Coil issues.

"I have never seen a mint example, but believe that a few do survive - very few. Used are less rare than is sometimes believed, and the story of there being only one roll is unlikely. Used copies exist with the cancellations of various places, including Dun Laoghaire and Wexford, suggesting that they were issued through the stamp-vending machines in those towns.

"As mentioned by Mr. Towers, the variations in centring of various copies (and most are markedly off-centre) supports the belief that more than one roll was printed, but is not conclusive. Where strips of other coils exist they sometimes show a wide range of margin variation along the strip.

"The rumour that one coil was used by the Alliance and Dublin Consumers

Gas Company on receipts is widely believed, although it is surprising that so large a concern would buy so small a quantity as one coil of 960 (or 480?), and I have never yet seen a receipt bearing S.G. 74b.

, "The reason for the number of copies of the stamp offered for sale during the last year or so is possibly connected with the fact that the ill-fated firm of Mission Stamps had discovered several, which disappeared with the firm's founder. It may be that he has found channels for marketing them, although the Irish authorities have not yet located him."

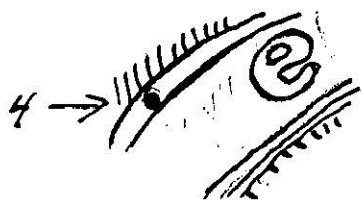
Mr. William Kane reports: "One feature of this issue was the out of alignment. I have a stamp which carries the frame line of the opposite stamp. - also carried several shades"

7. The 1d. EXPERIMENTAL COIL STAMP of 1946 (S.G. No.112b)

As stated by Mr. Roberts in his article (supra), the 1d coil stamp was issued again in July 1946 with the E watermark but perforated 15 x imperf. (This stamp is S.G. 112b. Scott lists both this stamp and the earlier 1940 coil together as No. 105.

This issue appeared on 20th March 1946. 15 x imperf. Continuous vertical strips of 480 stamps. It may well be that this issue was printed on a rotary press and consisted of two curved plates containing either a single or multiples of strips of eight stamps. Robson Lowe lists this as "Composed of alternate strips of eight stamps, each strip being out of vertical alignment with the neighboring strip; at some points of junction the space between stamps is considerably reduced." Mr. Dixon reports that the watermark was inverted on several of the rolls.

Mr. Dixon discovered certain recurring minor flaws on one roll of 960 stamps which he examined. These flaws repeated themselves 60 times in the roll and led to the thought that they might be constant in the issue. Later study showed other rolls without such flaws, thus making this variety interesting if not significant.



The numbers refer to the position or positions of the spot of color in each successive stamp of the strip of 16 which is then repeated on the next successive strip of 16 stamps.

There are no flaws appearing in the following: Nos. 1,2,7,8,9,12,13,14,15 or 16.

On the 3rd stamp, there are two flaws: in the north near County Down and in the south near Wexford.

On the 4th stamp, a single spot of color near the "E" of "EIRE".

On the 5th stamp, in two places - near Galway and Limerick.

On the 6th stamp, near Dublin.

On the 10th stamp in County Louth, and

On the 11th stamp in the Ocean off the mouth of the Shannon River.

Between the 8th and 9th stamps, the 9th stamp is out of alignment to the right and between the 16th and the 1st stamp of the next strip of 16 stamps, the 1st stamp is out of alignment to the left.

Also between some stamps of the strip, the space between the frame lines is only 1 1/2mm rather than the normal 2 mm.