

The Revealers

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



VOL. XXVII, NO. 1

WHOLE NO. 127

JULY, 1977



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THE REVEALER

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Affiliated member — The British Philatelic Federation

WHOLE NO. 127

JULY, 1977

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REVEALER ADVERTISING

All advertising should be sent to the Editor along with a check payable to the Eire Philatelic Association at least 6 weeks prior to the next issue.

ADVERTISING RATES

Size of Ad	One Insertion	Yearly Rate (4)
Full Page	\$40.00	\$140.00
Half Page	30.00	100.00
Quarter Page	20.00	70.00
Eighth Page	10.00	35.00

President's Notes

ELECTIONS — The term of those officers and directors now in office will expire on August 31, 1977, and enclosed you will find a ballot with the slate selected by the Nominating Committee to serve for the next two years. The Committee has spent considerable time and effort on this task, and has presented a fine list of candidates who represent a good cross section of our membership on both sides of the Atlantic. I do urge that ALL members will participate in the voting and return the ballots as soon as possible.

+ + +

A. T. SEDGLEY — I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate 'Sedge' upon his election to the Presidency of the Irish Philatelic Circle, wish him a most successful term in office, and trust that our two societies will continue to cooperate, as in the past, in the interest of Irish Philately.

+ + +

CAPEX '78 — Plans are now being formulated for an EPA meeting to be held in conjunction with CAPEX '78. This International Exhibition will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, from June 8 through June 18, 1978. Plan now to attend as many Irish exhibits will be in the competition. You will be kept informed as our plans develop.

+ + +

EPA SPECIAL OFFERS — Commencing with this issue of *The Revealer* you will notice that all items in the 'EPA Special Offers' column have been increased by twenty-five cents. This was necessary due to the continuing increase of Postage and handling costs. This nominal increase will not completely compensate our costs, but will help defray them.

+ + +

We are most hopeful that within the very near future, we will once again be able to offer the 'Overprint Identifier' to our membership. We are now in the process of making a few minor modifications, locating an appropriate printer, having the envelopes (for mailing) printed, etc. As soon as all this has been finalized, we will inform the membership.

+ + +

SLIDE LIBRARY — We are attempting to set up a 'Slide Program Library.' These slide programs could then be made available to EPA members for special programs and/or events. Bill McCaw has graciously consented to be the 'Slide Librarian,' however, before this can be accomplished we will need more slides. If any member knows of the whereabouts of slides which would be of interest to EPA or of slides which may belong to EPA, I shall appreciate your contacting Bill McCaw.

Preston A. Pope

Secretary's Report May 30, 1977

NEW MEMBERS

1252 JOSEPH A. NAHRA, JR., 4548 N. Dover, Chicago, IL 60640
1253 FREDERICK BAILEY, 1448 W. Rosewood Court, Ontario, CA 91762
1254 MICHAEL McGINN, 2010 Somerset St., W. Hyattsville, MD 20782
1255 MICHAEL B. CASSERLY, 7 St. Peter's Crescent, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, Ire.
1256 REV. PATRICK J. GROMLEY, Pallotine College, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ire.
1257 BRIAN WARREN, 15 Granite Hall, Rosmeen Gardens, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, Ire.
1258 T. D. ROSE, 158 Riverside Drive, Dublin 14, Ireland
1259 MICHAEL McNAMARA, 125 Dooley Road, Dublin 12, Ireland
1260 DORIS R. BRADLEY, 11510 E. Riverside Dr. No. 36, Bothell, WA 98011
1261 THEODORE P. HASENSTAUB, 1275 Cove Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107
J1262 PHILLIP R. PECK, 1228 Walter Ave., Newbury Park, CA 91320
1263 LAURENCE E. CORR, 154 Grand Blvd., Elgin, IL 60120

1264 ELIZABETH N. LAKE, 878 Brodie Ave., Kingston, Ont., Canada K7M 4P7
 1265 CHARLES R. TRAHAN, 6017 Roosevelt Blvd., No. 41, Jacksonville, FL 32210
 1266 IRWIN PEARL, 359 Lloyd Rd., Matawan, N.J. 07747
 1267 JOHN D. MELANIFF, 32 Phoenix Road, N. Babylon, NY 11704
 1268 NEIL F. JOHNSON, 832 Ninth Ave., Brockway, PA 15824
 1269 ALAN K. HANNA, 88 Rathgar Road, Dublin 6, Ireland
 1270 PATRICK COYLE, 38 Avondale, Dale Farm Ext., Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ire.
 1271 FR. FRANK DUGGAN, St. Lawrence O'Toole's, Dublin 1, Ireland
 1272 DAVID M. HANLEY, 27 Stanford Green, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, Ireland
 1273 DR. AIDAN KEHOE, Dun Muire, Tullow, Co. Carlow, Ireland
 1274 PATRICK MACKEN, 10 Villa Park Rd., Navan Rd., Dublin, Ireland
 1275 JAMES GARRY, 26 Maple Dr., Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth, Ireland

REINSTATED

935 STEFAN J. KLINCIEWICZ, Hibernian Stamp Co., Ltd., 11 Harrington St., Dublin 8, Ireland
 595 JOHN J. MEEHAN, 44 Walcott Valley Dr., Hopkinton, MA 07148
 959 REV. GEORGE L. O'BRIEN, 23 Eastern Ave., Worcester, MA 01605
 984 MARIE RIORDAN, 899 Delmar Ave., Alameda, CA 94501
 632 DR. FRED J. ROBERTSON, 54 Dunholme Rd., Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 6XE, U.K.
 554 THOMAS M. RYDER, 524 S. Lincoln Park Dr., Evansville, IN 47714

DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS

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 GERARD BRADY
 MRS. MARY FIELD
 NORBERT FRIELING
 JOHN KEENAN
 ROBSON LOWE
 WILLIAM O'CONNELL
 MICHAEL O'RIORDAN
 AAGE RASMUSSEN
 HANNES ROLLER
 CLAUS SEELEMAN
 J. TELLER
 JAMES A. RAFTER
 M. L. MOSS

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

MEMBERS AS OF FEB. 28, 1977	545
New Members	22
Reinstated	6
Dropped	14
MEMBERS AS OF MAY 30, 1977	559

Editorial

COLLECTING IRELAND

In the last several years the membership of the E.P.A. has changed considerably. It used to be that the average member was a veteran collector of Ireland . . . but no more! We still have the veteran collectors, with the great knowledge of Irish Philately, but we have had an infusion of new blood — new members who are collecting Ireland for the first time.

As Secretary I was in a position to evaluate the comments in the letters received from all applicants for membership in our association. I think that it is fair to say that 60 per cent to 70 per cent of those joining the EPA in the last few years are new to collecting Ireland. Many are collectors who are adding a new country to their other interests, but many more are brand new collectors or collectors who are making their first attempt at single country collecting.

THIS IS GOOD!! This is what we need — this is what we strive for with our publicity and membership drives. But the story doesn't end there. Each year we drop forty to fifty members who fail to renew their membership — **THIS IS BAD!!** Most who drop are people who tried us for a year or two and found us lacking. Somehow or other we failed to provide the spark to keep these collectors in the fold of Irish Philately.

Your officers and Board of Directors have been aware of this problem and have been seeking a solution. If we could cut

our "drop outs" in half each year EPA growth would be phenomenal.

So what are we going to do about the problem? We are going to take a look at the many facets of Irish Philately, to broaden our philatelic horizons, to try to show new collectors the joys of collecting Ireland, to answer the question of one member . . . "what is there besides the overprints?" No, we are NOT going to stop articles on the overprints, we just plan to expand our field of interest. The Overprints are the "Big Leagues" of Irish collecting and will continue to be of prime importance. We want to cover the "Minor Leagues" too because that's where the experts of tomorrow are to be found and we must foster their interests to keep them in the fold.

I would hazard a guess that if we were to take a survey we would find that the average EPA member today has two to five years experience in collecting Ireland . . . probably closer to two.

Listed below are various fields of Irish collecting (I'm sure I've missed some).

Essays
 Political & Propaganda Labels
 Overprints
 Definitive Stamps
 Definitive Coils
 Definitive Booklets and Booklet Panes
 Postage Dues
 Airmails
 Commemoratives
 Flaws and Varieties
 Postal Stationery
 FDC's and Maxim Cards
 Revenues
 Perfins
 Northern Ireland Regionals
 Postal History Prior to 1922
 Postal History since 1922
 Early Markings
 G.B. Used in Ireland
 Numeral Cancels
 Town Cancels
 Ship Letters, Paquebot and Seapost
 Airmail Flights
 Slogan and Other Markings
 Meter Marks
 Censorship Markings
 Special Handstamps
 Registered Post

We'll take a look at each one of them over the next several issues, not necessarily in depth, but enough to whet your appetite and get you started in a new (or additional) direction. To the old timers, we solicit your indulgence and your help. You all have knowledge that should be passed on to the newcomers. Drop me a line and let's discuss an article or, if you don't want to write an article, send me some notes and I'll incorporate them with others to make an article. Everyone will get credit. To you newcomers, let me know what interests you have, what you feel you would like some information on, to improve your collection. Send along your questions concerning Irish Philately, we'll find an expert within the Association to answer them. So far three members have been asked for articles (and agreed) on collecting fields that are interesting and available to everyone. We hope to have them in print in the not too distant future.

I don't want to imply that there have been no articles on these subjects in the past for that would not be true. Jay Brady has done an outstanding job of producing a well balanced Revealer. What I am doing is reminding you that **The Revealer** is an open forum, available to all members, to expound on any

and all phases of Irish Philately. I welcome, in fact, solicit, your contributions, not just lengthy articles but shorter pieces as well, if you feel they are worth sharing with fellow members. So, if you want to get on a soap box or just pass on some bit of information, drop me a line.

John J. Blessington



Random Notes by F. E. Dixon

A FISCAL STAMP VARIETY

One of the commonest of modern "revenue" series is that labelled CONTRACT NOTE in Irish and English. A small batch recently sorted included a broken-type variety, the same on both 6d and 1s values. Can anyone else find it on other values? It affects the CO of CONTRACT.



THE DUBLIN PHILATELIC SECTION

One of my spies (not a P & T employee) has supplied the 1976 Nov-Dec issue of the POSTAL WORKER from which I quote: "An area of serious complaint at the present time is the Philatelic section of the G.P.O. Working conditions in this important section are primitive. The section is overcrowded, toilet and washing facilities inadequate. Furniture is of the variety rejected from the other sections in the G.P.O. or recovered from the forgotten regions of the basement. These conditions allied with what appears to be lack of official concern lead to frustration and loss of job satisfaction. It is difficult to understand why a section capable of making substantial profits should be so neglected. Until recently it was usual to receive letters of appreciation from satisfied customers: today the situation is reversed. Complaints about the lack of service are received regularly and, in addition, we have complaints about complaints not being replied to."

"We regularly receive complaints from the Department about the lack of staff cooperation in overcoming the worsening of the postal service. Here is a situation where staff cooperation is guaranteed and all that is necessary is the official good will and enterprise to provide a good service to our customers and make a substantial profit in the process."

THE MISSING YEARS

At the beginning of February the machine cancellations to lack their "1977" included those of Ballinasloe, Carlow, Ennis, Mullingar and Youghal. I'm not sure about Galway. The batch I inspected included several envelopes from Galway but the cancellation was poorly inked and identifiable only by an expert.

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE

Add to the list: License No. DLY 10 — Dalkey School Project, 20 Burdett Avenue, Dun Laoghaire.

E.S.B. METER-READERS' POSTCARD

Although the Electricity Supply Board is now issuing Business Rep Service cards to its meter-readers, some stocks of stamped cards are still being used up and there are at least two more additions to our list: (1976) 2½p brown + 1½p claret; (1976) 7p grey.

DUBLIN SHIP LETTER DISCOVERY

A cover of 1774, sold at a Robson Lowe auction on 4 March and ex-T. E. Field, is more interesting than earlier owners realized. The rates charged make it clear that the letter was put ashore in Dublin, to which one can therefore attribute the

hanstruck "SHIP" which differs from any recorded by Robertson and is 20 years earlier than any Ship Letter marking he had found for Dublin. The SHIP is 27½ x 7 mm, the H being very wide, and more so below than above.

THE ALBUM

Is the title of a new journal, the first issue being dated Spring 1977, produced by the Cork Philatelic Society. It has a bad article on the Duke of Leinster's famous inverted swan, an analysis of the modern definitive gums and papers and colours, a prediction of stamp changes resulting from the new postal rates, an excellent introduction to Postal Stationery, a mercenary outlook "Making Stamp Collecting Pay," current price trends and a list of the Cork sub-offices with their registration label numbers.

RATE OF INFLATION

The latest increase in Irish postal rates are appreciably less than would be consistent with the general rate of inflation and show a deceleration in the rate of increase. No longer can I find any formula which fits the changes for 50 years back. The most recent changes expressed as percentage increase per year are: (inland letter rate) July, 1971, to October, 1974, 11 per cent; October, 1974, to January, 1976, 22 per cent; January, 1976, to April, 1977, 8¾ per cent. My prediction is that this is too good to last and that there will be a further, and savage, increase quite soon.

THOMOND

A cutting from AN POBLACHT 21 May 1932 has reached me. It is another variant of the story of the stamps and is illustrated by good reproductions of blocks of four of the 1d and 2d values. It reads:

"HISTORIC STAMPS OF I.R.A."

In 1922 several of the barracks handed over in the south by the departing British were in possession of the I.R.A. Thus during some months of the summer of that year the Irish Republican Army was the sole governing authority, its power extending over a wide area. Lines of communication with Dublin and other places were cut, so that after a time the local supply of stamps ran out, and several temporary devices were used to make up for the deficiency. Postmasters used to initial packages and letters, and often stamps were cut across and made to do double service. The Eagle Printing Works, Cork, were then asked to print stamps in three sets (1d, 2d and 6d). The original idea was to put on these the head of Padraic Pearse, but this design had to be abandoned owing to technical difficulties of reproduction. Accordingly, stamps with An Post, Poblacht na hEireann in a framed circle, were issued. These were in three colours, chestnut brown for 1d, green for 2d and blue for 6d stamps. The stamps were duly delivered at the Army Headquarters in Union Quay, Cork, ready for distribution. While arrangements for distribution and despatch were in hands, however, the Free State soldiers arrived at Passage and marched to Cork. Only a few stamps, therefore, ever circulated, and there is no proof that any ever passed through the mail — probably not. When the main body of the I.R.A. evacuated the city they set fire to the barracks and the stamps awaiting distribution at Union Quay were therefore all destroyed. A few separate sheets that escaped, however, came into the possession of Professor Renouf of University College, Cork. These have been presented by him to the Dublin Museum, where they will be shortly displayed."

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?
+ + +

Enough Is Enough - A Rebuttal

With reference to the article "Enough is Enough" by J. Foley in the April edition of *The Revealer*, I wish, on behalf of the Irish National Stamp Exhibition Committee, to respond to the criticisms made therein.

The following are the relevant facts:

1. A total of 2,966 sheets were overprinted by Irish Printers Limited who have issued a certificate guaranteeing that figure to be the exact number printed.

2. Each visitor to "Stampa '76" was allowed to buy only one sheet, with the following exceptions:

(a) The 14 standholders who were allowed to purchase up to 50 each at THE FULL ISSUE PRICE — 700 were sold to standholders.

(b) Committee members, stewards, helpers, subscribers, and donors, who were allowed to purchase varying amounts up to 10 each — 220 were sold to these people.

1,985 were sold to individual members of the public, and 61 sheets were left over which the Committee have retained for sale at a future date, at whatever is the then current market price.

3. Dealers and collectors, could, and to our knowledge, did, purchase quantities of the sheet at prices in excess of the issue price from those who purchased their legitimate allocation. This is normal dealing practice, and, if any one person managed to purchase 20 per cent, 50 per cent or 100 per cent of the sheets in this manner, it is not the business of this Committee to prevent him or her from doing so. The fact that such dealings went on encouraged visitors to buy the sheets when issued.

4. The main reason for issuing the overprint was to raise funds for the exhibition, which for the past five years had been incurring heavy losses. This it did, to the tune of over £1,000, which paid off long-standing debts, helped to purchase new equipment for the exhibition, and put the entire exhibition enterprise on a much sounder financial footing, thus ensuring its future for at least another year. Without this money STAMPA '76 would have incurred a heavy loss and plans for future exhibitions would have been put in jeopardy.

5. Apart from the above-mentioned article, we have received neither verbal nor written criticism of the sheet. Presumably those collectors who didn't like it didn't buy it — that is their choice. We considered several alternative souvenirs, such as souvenir cards, sheets, etc., which would not have been postally valid, but decided on this form as we felt it to be the most acceptable to collectors in that it could actually be used on covers, etc. Perhaps Mr. Foley and the Eire Philatelic Association can come up with a better idea for raising revenue?

6. Finally, we would point out that the past five exhibitions have cost a total of over £12,000 (U.S. \$25,000), and the E.P.A.'s total contribution was U.S. \$200. We are not asking for money, but we do ask that in future the E.P.A. consider carefully before they publish such ill-informed criticisms on STAMPA, an exhibition which has done so much to promote philately in Ireland and Irish philately abroad (and even encouraged collectors to join the E.P.A.)

We trust that you will publish this letter in the next edition of *The Revealer* and that your readers may judge for themselves the morals of this issue.

Yours faithfully,
S. Kearns, Chairman
The Irish National Stamp Exhibition Committee

EPA AUCTION NO. 40

CLOSING DATE AUGUST 31, 1977

Sale No. 40 is small, however, most of the lots are donation lots. My thanks to the two members who generously gave their material to our society. Perhaps other members might be willing to help the EPA by submitting a few donation lots.

We urgently need material for our auctions. Send lots and bids to: Bruce C. Weinman, P.O. Box 274, Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009.

Lot	Description	Reserve
1. Feb. 17, Dollard, 1/2(x17), 1(x6), 2 1/2, 3, all with broken letters, mint og-nh, F-VF		3.00
2. Feb. 17, Dollard, 1/2(x11), 1(x19), 2 1/2, 3(x2), 4d all with broken letters, used, most fine		2.75
3. Sc 2, 1d Dollard, 2 singles with short tail "9", used, Fine		0.50
4. Sc 1(x4), 2, 11, showing misplaced overprint, HH-Nh, VF		6.50
5. Sc 2, 1d Dollard, pair with overprint misplaced left, used, Fine		2.00
6. Sc 1, 2, 1/2d & 1d Dollards, op misplaced to the right, used prs, Fine		4.00
7. Feb. - Nov. 1922, lot of 5 line Thoms with broken and defective letters 1/2, 1d(x18), 1 1/2d(x6), 2d(x68), 3d(x10), 6d(x2), used, Fine		10.00
8. Feb. - Nov. 1922, lot of 5 line Thoms all with misplaced op, four items show some letters on both sides of stamp, 1/2d, 1 1/2d, 2d(x8), 3d, 6d, 9d, 1sh, Fine used		6.00
9. Sc 44, 45(x6), 46(x3), 47, 52, Saorstats with broken letters, og, F		2.00
10. Sc 47, 2d Saorstat in a Jubilee strip of three, stamp 3 with broken "S", VF - NH		1.00
11. Sc 44(x2), 45, 47, 52, 55 Saorstats with broken letters, gd-F, used		2.00
12. Sc 48, 50, 53 mint & 47, 51 used, Saorstats with misplaced overprints Sc 48 with thin others fine		2.00
Lots 13 - 43 are Donation Lots. The Postal Stationery is in mint F-VF condition. Nos. refer to David Feldman's Handbook.		
13. Sc 101-02 in blks of four on reg FDC, cv is addressed, Fine		10.00
14. Sc 103-04 on reg FDC, Fine		3.00
15. Sc 130, Rice, on censor cv with English censor label, Fine		1.00
16. 2 diff PAQUEBOT COBH canc on postcards, both Fine		5.00
17. FFC, Galway - London, 1929, Fine		1.50
18. Postcard, PSPC 9, 1951, 2d green		0.75
19. as above		0.75
20. as above		0.75
21. as above		0.75
22. Postcard, PSPC10, 1966, 3d blue		0.50
23. Postcard, PSPC11, 1969, 4d green		0.50
24. Lettercard, PSLC 9, 1958, 3d blue		3.00
25. as above		3.00
26. Lettercard, PSLC 11, 1965, 5d violet		0.75
27. as above		0.75
28. Lettercard, PSLC 12, 1969, 6d brown		0.50
29. as above		0.50
30. Envelope, PSE 17, 1954, 3d blue		1.50
31. as above		1.50
32. Envelope, PSE 20, 1969, 6d brown		0.50
33. Reg Env, PSRE 5, size G, 5d violet, used		3.50
34. Reg Env, PSRE 39, 1966, size F, 1/5 green		2.50
35. Reg Env, PSRE 39, 1966, size G, 1/5 green		2.50
36. Reg Env, PSRE 39, 1966, size H 1/5 green		2.50
37. Reg Env, PSRE 39, 1966, size K, 1/5 green		2.50
38. as above		2.50
39. Reg Env, PSRE 40, 1969, size G, 1/9 brown		2.00
40. as above but size H		2.00
41. as above but size K		2.00
42. Reg Env, PSRE 41, 1970, size H, 2/9 blue		1.75
43. as above but size K		1.75

Send all bids to: Bruce C. Weinman, P.O. Box 274, Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009.

A BIT EARLY

Member Alex Gillespie has reported a copy of the 5d Roger Casement commemorative postmarked on September 30, 1965. The stamp was issued on August 3, 1966. We've heard of date slugs not always being changed near the first of the year but this is extreme. Probably just an error when for some reason the date slug was re-inserted, but an interesting item nonetheless.

E.P.A. SPECIAL OFFERS

The following items may be ordered from Edward J. Ryan, 4A Churchwood, 91 Riverview Rd., Niantic, CT 06357, U.S.A. All prices include postage and handling. Make all checks and money orders payable to E. J. Ryan.

THE "TAYLOR-MADE" FENIAN ESSAYS — J. E. Foley's study of the origin of the Fenian labels that appeared in *The American Philatelist*, has been reprinted as a booklet through a joint venture of the E.P.A. and the A.P.S. The 24-page booklet contains 25 illustrations and 80 footnotes. The origin is traced not to the Fenian Brotherhood, but to the notorious 19th century producer of bogus philatelic material, S. Allan Taylor. Price \$1.50 each.

E.P.A. SEAL RUBBER STAMP — The official seal of the Eire Philatelic Association, as seen on the front cover and all official E.P.A. letterheads, has been reproduced into a rubber stamp available to our members. Dress up your envelopes and letters by using the official seal. Price \$3.00 each.

THE ADHESIVE REVENUE STAMPS OF IRELAND: 1858-1925 — James J. Brady's detailed study of Irish revenue stamps as reprinted from *The American Philatelist*. All the revenues from this period have been placed into easy-to-follow catalog form with many interesting details related to these issues. The booklet begins with the pre-Victorian revenues and ends with the Provisional Government Overprints of 1925. The 20-page booklet contains over 85 illustrations and is a must for the Irish collector. Price \$2.00 each to members and \$2.25 each to non-members.

Literature Notes

by J. E. Foley

A Catalogue of the Adhesive Revenue Stamps of the U.K., Isle of Man and Channel Islands (Including pre-1922 Ireland and Free State Overprints), by R. G. Booth. (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1976, J. M. Booth, 177 pp., soft cover.) Available from David Feldman, Ltd., at \$11.70 postpaid.

Irish revenues have certainly received their fair share of attention in philatelic publications over the past few years. This catalog is well illustrated. In most cases, the key types are fully illustrated, with the duty overprints noted in the text. There are 33 pages specifically devoted to Ireland. While most of the material is priced in sterling, in some instances a rarity guide is used instead. The coverage is well detailed giving considerable attention to paper variations, shades and other distinctions. Yet even with the depth of coverage, the presentation is well done and easy to follow. To the best of our knowledge, this is the only priced guide available. The catalog is extremely useful and any member interested at all in the revenue issues should have it in his library.

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Irish Philately, U.K., Irish Philatelic Circle, Volume 1976, Dec. 1976, No. 4, and Volume 1977, March 1977, No. 1

As usual, the letters to the editor prove again interesting in the December issue. O. M. Richards has the lead article, "The Datestamps of Ireland from 1894." It's an excellent, well illustrated, nine page outline of the subject with a bibliography at the end. E. Fitzgerald in "Varieties Since Decimal Day" provides further information on an earlier article by P. J. Smithers. Brian de Burca has an item on the numbered Penny Post Collecting Sub-Offices. Fred Dixon's "Random Notes" and a check list on gum varieties by E. Fitzgerald conclude the issue.

The March issue contains a comprehensive article on Irish Perfins by Norah K. Wright. O. M. Richards continues his series on the Irish datestamps, this time concentrating on the double ring series. R. French describes his method in making his own cachets. Bill Kane provides further information on Brian de

Burca's article on the numbered penny post collecting sub-offices that was in the previous issue. And, of course, "Random Notes" are also included.

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Checklist of Irish Stamps, by J. D. F. McKee. 30 pp., soft cover. (Available from the author at 3 South Park Drive, Foxrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland, at 60p postpaid.)

The first nine pages are devoted to a listing of the overprints. While considerable attention is given to the shades of the basic stamp, not even the major overprint varieties are noted. The listings on the definitives notes the variation in paper thickness as well as watermark varieties. Only major shade variations are included. To those of us who haven't kept up with the "animal" definitives, the checklist is of significant value in recording the variations. Postage dues and commemoratives are also included. A worthwhile little publication at modest cost. This is the fourth edition. Perhaps a future edition could provide a couple of blank columns where the collector could check off what he has.

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D. F. Newsletter, Dublin, David Feldman, Ltd., Spring 1977, Vol. 2, No. 26.

The first article is another excerpt of R. G. Booth's catalog of the adhesive revenues, reviewed elsewhere in this column. David McKee's article on a convention for describing the varieties is continued from the last number. Letters to the editor and a few brief items conclude the issue.

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Price Lists and Auction Catalogs: Over the past several weeks several interesting price lists and auction catalogs have crossed my desk. The auctions will be reviewed in depth where prices realized are obtained, and only a few brief comments are given to the price lists to conserve space.

Price Lists:

Owl Stamp Studio, (May, 1977), some useful information on the Decimal definitives

John R. Smallman, (Feb.-March, 1977), includes some worthwhile varieties and postal history. (March-April, 1977), noticed some forerunners, revenues and postal history.

Peter Hynes, several interesting modern covers.

Auctions:

David Feldman, Zurich, June 7-9, 1977, over 200 lots of Irish material.

Hibernian Stamp Co., Dublin, June 15, 1977, 140 Irish lots.

NORCAL Chapter Notes

by James G. Lawless

WESTPEX '77 — A very successful meeting was held in conjunction with this San Francisco show. The program was the first west coast showing of the new EPA slide program with comments by our new editor, John Blessington. In addition we were pleased to see the Zellers travel from the southland for the meeting.

VALCALPEX '77 — An enthusiastic group of EPA members gathered at this show in Vallejo. The program was a presentation by the members of their favorite page of Irish stamps. Also featured was a trading session and an auction.

Don't forget, the next competition for the Gil Robert Memorial Award will be at FRESPEX (a champion of champions show) in March, 1978. We will expect to see your exhibit there.

Postal Stationery Notes

by J. E. Foley

In the October Revealer, we noted a report by Mike Lenane on the size "H" 1/9d registered envelopes (p. 1975-6). Bob Gray has made the photographs used for the illustrations given here.



Fig. 1

As mentioned in the October report, two different fonts of type were definitely used. Figure one, which we will call type 1, appears to be the earlier of the two. It's basically the same as used for the 1966 issue of the 1/5d envelope. The envelope stock is a very light cream, almost white. There are many differences in the type, perhaps the easiest to note on the obverse is the length of the fifth line of text: "THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE," which measures approximately 112 mm. The text on the reverse is about 170 mm. wide and the accents on the last two lines of the Gaelic text (all upper case) are normal.



Fig. 2

Figure two, which we will term type 2, is on a light buff envelope stock. The fifth line of the text on the obverse measures 107 mm. The text on the reverse is approximately 177 mm. wide and the accents on the last two lines of the Gaelic text are thinner, elongated, and more upright than type 1.

Type 2 continued to be used for the 2/9d issue of 1970. Incidentally, we have a used example of type 2, of the 1/9d issue dated Dec. 2, 1970. However, it's probable that it came into use considerably before then.

Both type 1 and type 2 refer to the obsolete registry rate of 1 in the text on the reverse.

While on the subject of Registered Letter Envelopes, Wayne Menz is updating that section of the Higgins & Gage catalog. A few of us have worked with Wayne on this and we should be able to publish the list in the next column. Anyone having information on varieties and dates of issues should contact him at 2854 Cherry Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95125.

The Revenue Scene

Many times I have been asked about the different applications for the Irish revenue stamps. There are so many different usages, and each one is quite complicated in itself. My investigations into this subject have barely scratched the surface. It was my good fortune to recently receive an excellent explanation of the usage of this one group of Irish revenue stamps.

STATE SERVICE STAMPS

by Michael Murphy

These stamps were used in connection with examinations held by the Civil Service Commission and the Local Appointments Commission. The inscription means "Civil Service" in Irish.

The Civil Service Commission, under its commissioners, is responsible for the recruitment for the entire public service. The Local Appointment Commission is responsible for recruitment to local authorities and other public bodies organized on a purely county basis, and financed, not from the central fund, but from monies levied on notepayers in these counties.

The stamps were used for:

A. Paying examinations fees for open competitions conducted by the Civil Service Commission. The stamps were bought by the applicant at his local Post Office, and sent with a completed application form as directed. A similar procedure was applied for examinations held by the Local Appointments Commission. The amount of the fee varied from one exam to another.

B. Paying fees in connection with medical examinations which all prospective Civil Servants had to undergo before they could be appointed to office.

C. Paying certain other specialist medical fees where a serving Civil Servant disputed the findings of the Chief Medical Officer and asked for a specialist opinion.

Fee categories A and B have been abolished completely since about 1970. The reason behind the abolishing of these fees was that it would increase the number of applications competing for jobs in the Civil Service. The fees for category C still exist.

When the completed forms with the revenue stamps affixed were received in the Civil Service Commission, they were cancelled with a rubber stamp. Later they were passed through a perforating machine which pin-holed CSS through the stamp, thus assuring that they could not be used again.

The actual stamps were obtained from the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin Castle. A certain amount of stock was maintained by the Civil Service Commission for cases where money was forwarded with the application to pay for the fee. The return of the stamps used were regularly transmitted to the Revenue Commissioners.

HELP WANTED

President Preston Pope has decided to add an Advertising Manager to The Revealer staff in order to initiate an aggressive campaign to solicit ads.

Advertising is important, in fact, necessary, to our continued growth. Important because the ads help members build their collections . . . necessary because the revenue from the ads helps defray production and mailing costs.

The qualifications needed are not extensive. The person selected must be able to write a clear and interesting letter, must truly like to write letters and must have a little time available. He or she will have to search out and develop sources. The compensation we have to offer is satisfaction of serving fellow members. Applicants, please contact the editor.

stampa '77

STAMPA '77, the Sixth Irish National Stamp Exhibition will take place in the Royal Dublin Society's International Exhibition Centre in Dublin on November 3rd to 6th inclusive, 1977. The exhibition is held under the patronage of the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, and is organized by representatives of the major Irish philatelic organizations.

Exhibits are invited from philatelists in the following classes: Specialized; Postal History; Thematic. Additional classes may be formed (e.g. for Aerophilately) if demand should warrant them. Silver, Silver-Bronze, and Bronze medals will be awarded by the Exhibition Jury. The David Feldman Trophy will be awarded to the best overall exhibit. All exhibits will receive a Certificate of Participation.

The Prospectus is now available from the Exhibition Secretary, Ian Whyte, 3 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. (Telephone 761383).

5d Photogravure Booklet Stamps

Scott 227a, Hib D34

by Padraig O Mathuna

PART I

In January 1966 Ireland issued a new booklet stamp, printed in photogravure, in two forms:

1. A booklet, costing 2/6, containing one pane of 6x5d stamps with a white card cover printed in blue: STAMPAI — 6 at 5d 2/6

2. A booklet, costing 5/-, containing two panes of 6x5d stamps with a white card cover printed in green: STAMPAI — 12 at 5d 5/-

Panes are arranged in two rows of three with a small gutter on the left. Since the special plates for printing booklets have half the clichés inverted an equal number of panes have either upright or inverted watermarks (Ref. Revealer Vol. IX, No. 11, Page 389).

Listed and illustrated are all the varieties that I have succeeded in establishing as constant. Each one observed has occurred in the same position. I shall refer to position by row and stamp as indicated below. The pane number assignment is arbitrary. Information to identify the position of these panes on the printing plate is not available.

	STAMP 1	STAMP 2	STAMP 3
ROW 1			
ROW 2			

UPRIGHT WATERMARK

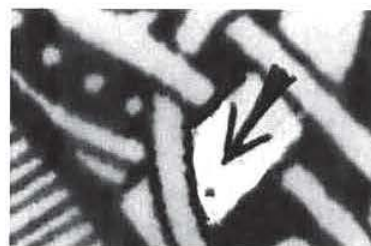
PANE 1



a) R2/2 A dot close to the bottom of the left vertical wall of "C"



b) R2/3 A dot touching the end point of the bottom inner loop of "C"

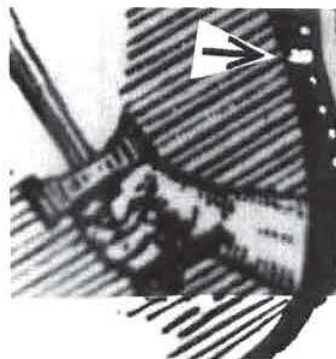


c) R2/2 A dot within the ribbon to top right of the central oval

PANE 2

R2/2 same as R2/2 in PANE 1

PANE 3



R1/2 One dot of those surrounding the oval is greatly enlarged
Break in the second line of shading under the sword haft
Line of shading at the bottom of the oval is absent

PANE 4



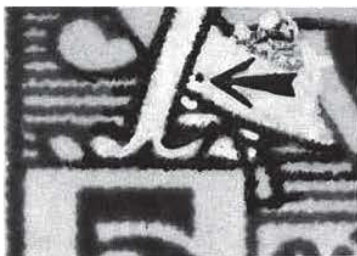
R1/1 The upper panel frame above the "U" of CUIG is notched

PANE 5

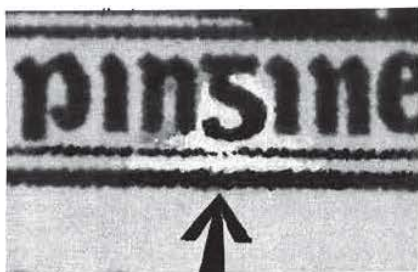


R1/1 This would appear to be a badly worn stage of the state as in PANE 4

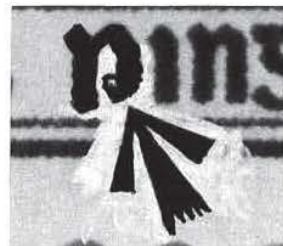
PANE 6



PANE 7

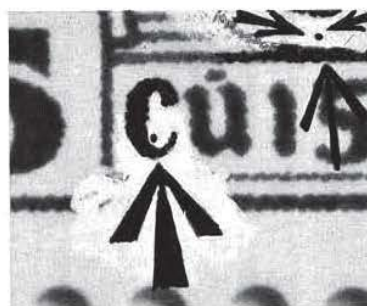


a) R1/2 A weakness, with breaks, in the frame line directly under the "G" of PINGINE



b) R1 '3 A white dot in the end of the terminal line of the "P"

PANE 8

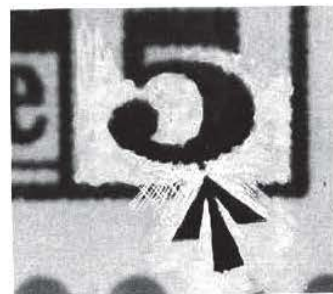


a) R2/2 Dot resembling R2/3 of PANE 1 but clear of the mid-point of the bottom inner loop of "C" and not touching it

b) A dot close to the inner bottom curve of the "C" as R2/2 of PANE 1

A smaller dot in the ribbon design above the "G" of CUIG

PANE 9



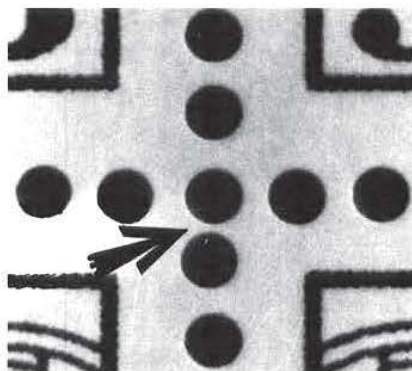
a) R1/2 A dot extending downwards from the bottom of the numeral 5 in the right corner

b) R1/3 A dot in "C" as R2/2 PANE 1

c) R2/2 A dot in "C" as R2/2 PANE 1

d) R2/3 A finer dot in "C" as R2/2 PANE 1

PANE 10 UPRIGHT WATERMARK
PANE 11 INVERTED WATERMARK



PANE 10 (illustrated) There is an uneven spacing between perfs below the horizontal row of perfs

PANE 11 The uneven spacing is above the row of horizontal perfs

NOTE: I have seen only one pane of each from the 2/6 booklet.

(To be Continued)

Editor's Note: Additional information and comments are welcomed. Send them to me and I'll pass them on to Mr. O Mathuna.

PRICES REALIZED — EPA AUCTION NO. 38

wd — withdrawn

ns — not sold

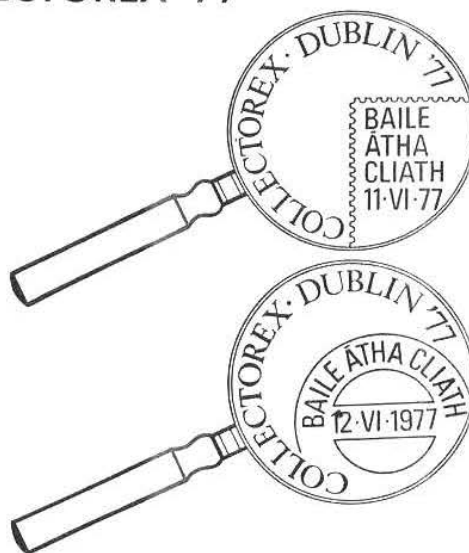
Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1.	7.25	26.	4.85	51.	4.95	76.	2.00
2.	1.00	27.	2.10	52.	ns	77.	2.00
3.	3.25	28.	12.50	53.	4.50	78.	12.50
4.	2.25	29.	9.00	54.	31.00	79.	12.50
5.	3.75	30.	14.00	55.	6.75	80.	2.50
6.	8.75	31.	41.00	56.	3.25	81.	2.50
7.	7.75	32.	6.00	57.	2.50	82.	1.75
8.	5.75	33.	ns	58.	3.50	83.	1.75
9.	7.50	34.	ns	59.	3.75	84.	2.90
10.	14.00	35.	4.25	60.	4.75	85.	2.90
11.	13.50	36.	4.75	61.	1.35	86.	5.00
12.	10.00	37.	4.50	62.	wd	87.	5.00
13.	2.50	38.	5.00	63.	2.00	88.	2.00
14.	3.50	39.	4.50	64.	12.50	89.	2.00
15.	2.75	40.	5.50	65.	12.00	90.	17.00
16.	4.25	41.	4.25	66.	8.75	91.	3.25
17.	8.25	42.	10.50	67.	8.75	92.	ns
18.	7.75	43.	4.75	68.	4.25	93.	2.50
19.	2.25	44.	1.95	69.	4.25	94.	3.50
20.	3.00	45.	2.50	70.	1.25	95.	1.50
21.	5.50	46.	26.50	71.	1.25	96.	1.40
22.	12.00	47.	26.50	72.	14.00	97.	2.25
23.	6.25	48.	6.75	73.	14.00	98.	7.25
24.	7.00	49.	2.75	74.	2.25	99.	1.10
25.	1.50	50.	4.95	75.	2.25	100.	3.25

COLLECTOREX '77

Rare Coil Missing



Joe Foley's copy of the rare coil, Scott No. 68b, is missing and possibly stolen. The loss was noticed in January of this year, and if stolen, probably was taken during the Fall or Winter of 1976. Fortunately, the stamp was photographed, and the illustration was used with the reprint of Russell Jackson's article that appeared in the April 1975 issue of *The American Philatelist*. The photo is repeated here. Joe is offering a reward for information leading to the recovery of the stamp. His address is (Box 31057, Aurora, Colo. 80011) now: P.O. Box 26, SHORT HILLS, N.J. 07078, PHONE (201) 564-9675



The Irish International Collectors Exhibition was held Saturday, June 11, and Sunday, June 12, at the Gresham Hotel on O'Connell St. in Dublin.

Many unusual and valuable items were in the exhibit which featured stamps, postal history, coins, medals, bank notes and post cards.

The cancellations illustrated were used to postmark mail posted at the show. Sets of covers (60p plus postage) may still be available from the Secretary, COLLECTOREX '77, 3 Fitzwilliams Place, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Gum and Paper Types of the Unwatermarked Definitives

by John R. Smallman, E.P.A. No. 850

Now that the watermarked decimal definitives are obsolete, and the different types well studied and classified, students of modern varieties are moving on to the unwatermarked definitives. Since the advent of the unwatermarked series in 1974, these have replaced the older watermarked series as supplies were exhausted. No dates of issue were announced.

To the time of writing (May, 1977) there have been 20 stamps issued in this series, and further additions are expected with recent changes in Irish postal rates. In addition, a 10p coil (5+2+2+1p stamps), and a booklet pane of 5x7p + label have recently appeared. Singles from both of these may be easily distinguished from sheet stamps. The coils are perforated 14x14½ whereas sheet stamps are perforated 15. Stamps ex booklets have either one, or two adjacent straight edges, whereas sheet stamps are always perforated all around.

Shades. As with all previous definitive issues, there are quite a few shade varieties, many quite minor. I wish to bring only one of these to your attention, as the difference is quite pronounced. That is the 5p dog, which first appeared in a warm yellow shade, and later in a greenish yellow shade. These appeared on different types of paper, and so are recognized by specialists as different entities.

Papers. Unlike earlier issues, the current stamp papers are identical to those in use by other governments (most notably G.B.), therefore our studies can be supported by the observations of non-Irish specialists. It is understood that all the paper is supplied by Harrisons of England. The earlier paper type is a thick paper, always having a smooth, dull, cream coloured gum. This paper is mildly fluorescent, and is referred to as O.C.P. (for original coated paper). The later paper is a thin, fluorescent coated paper, which appears with two different types of gum. It is referred to as F.C.P.

Gums. There are three types of gum which are quite easily distinguished. The first is Type A, a smooth, matte, yellowish or cream coloured gum. This gum always appears on O.C.P. paper. With the usual inexplicable exception, this was the first type of stock used. (Unless my notes are wrong, the 5p dog first appeared on F.C.P. paper, later O.C.P.)

The second gum, Type B, occurs only on F.C.P. paper. It is colourless, flat and thin, and like Type A, has no shine.

The third type of gum, Type C, also occurs only on F.C.P. paper. It is easily distinguished as it is tinged greenish, and is visibly rippled. It also occurs only on F.C.P. paper. The visible lines created by the rippling are, as far as I have seen, consistently vertical on the small format stamps (dog and stag), and consistently horizontal on the large format stamps (Ox and Eagle).

The table which follows has been developed by observation of my own stocks, and supported by detailed observations of the apparently tireless Padraig O Mathuna, to whom I offer thanks. The analysis here may be a simplification, as some experts are classifying three paper types.

No doubt further items will appear in time, and I would be very grateful for information from any source which will expand the listing of known types.

PAPER TYPE	O.C.P.	F.C.P.	F.C.P.
GUM TYPE	A	B	C
1p Dog	X	—	X
2p Dog	X	—	—
3p Dog	X	—	—
3½p Dog●	X	—	—
5p Dog●●	—	—	X
5p Dog●●●	X	—	—
6p Stag●	—	—	X
6p Dog	—	X	—
7p Stag●	—	—	X
7p Dog	—	X	—
8p Stag●	—	X	—
8p Dog	—	—	X
9p Stag●	X	—	X
9p Dog	—	—	X
10p Ox	X	—	X
10p Stag	—	—	X
11p Stag	—	—	X
15p Ox	—	X	X
20p Ox	X	—	X
50p Eagle	X	—	—
£1 Eagle	—	X	—

Notes: (see text for description of Paper and Gum Types)

● Items marked thus are no longer available from the Post Office

●● 5p Dog warm yellow shade

●●● 5p Dog greenish yellow shade

Musings on a First Trip to Ireland

by Ed Sullivan, E.P.A. No. 522

THE PEOPLE: The friendliest ever. You don't go to them they come to you.

THE COUNTRY: Beautiful beyond words!!! . . . from the brown peat bogs to the fertile green farm lands.

DUBLIN CITY: Fantastic, as expected, and more.

GUINNESS STOUT: Excellent sleeping pill (dosage: one pint before bedtime).

BILL KANE: One of the most congenial persons I ever met.

FRED DIXON: More of the same.

These two really know their Postal History. I learned more in just an hour or two than I could find in any book, honest, you two.

IRELAND to visit? . . . Highly recommended.

Post script: As general Mac Arthur said: "I shall return."

EPA TRADING POST

All EPA members are entitled to two free 25-word ads in the Trading Post each year. For sale and priced offers are not accepted. Only want lists and exchange ads will be accepted by the Auction Manager. The editors can be contacted regarding other types of advertising.

WANTED FOR POSTMARK STUDY: Items from 1922-1950 issues either on piece, or with identifiable town cancels. Will buy, or exchange from my mint and used stock. J. T. Howley, Apt. 110, 425 - 32nd Ave., Lachine, Quebec H8T 1Y2, Canada.

WANTED: USED Scott No. 38, and un-exploded booklets No. 1, 2, and 3. Correspond to E. J. O'Donoghue, POB 31144, Aurora, CO. 80041.

Irish Definitive Varieties

By J. David McKee

PART II

(Continued from October)

3. THE 1922 AND 1940 DEFINITIVES

The 'Normal' Wmk for both these sets is (naturally) W.Up, or 

All values come in this format. WIR varieties are rare, the 1922 'SE' 2d being an example available WUp, WI and WIR. In this set, WI varieties exist for the ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d and the St. Patrick "SE" High Value 5/- . The 1940 "E" set has WI varieties for all values to the 10/-, excluding only the more modern 11d denomination.

The 'Sideways' varieties are common in more modern sets, but they do exist in some of the 'Half-perforate' coil stamps of the 1922 set, specifically in the ½d "ImperfX14", and the similar 2d Coil stamp. It is, however, necessary to define sideways Wmks more accurately for future issues, for it is obvious that a Wmk that is not bilaterally symmetrical can be shown sideways either to one side or the other. Hence we have Wmk. Sideways to Left (WSL), 

and Sideways to Right (WSR) 

again as viewed from the back.

It should also be mentioned here that there are two other formats in sideways Wmks, namely Wmk. Reversed: Side to Left (WR-SL) 

and Wmk. Reversed: Side to Right (WR-SR). 

These, however, have not appeared so far in this article.

4. THE AIRMAILS AND THE "SMALL" DEFINITIVES

In the Airmail set, now so sadly defunct, we meet the rare and expensive (a leg and half an arm) 1/3 with WI, the only Airmail Wmk variety recorded.

More varieties are discovered in the short Definitive set of 1966-7 which consisted of the 'Celtic Cross' 3d and the 'Sword of Light' 5d, both with the stamp design itself slightly smaller than the equivalent values in the 1940 set. Both are available WUp and WI, but it should be noted that the 5d WI comes from booklets, and shows an irregular density of colouring in the lines of shading behind the sword, easy to detect. So, the 5d is available WUp from sheets, and both WUp and WI from booklets.

5. THE 1968 L.S.d. 'ANIMALS' DEFINITIVES

The first "Animals" Definitives of 1968 provided the first deliberate variation from the old pattern, in that the 'Normal' Wmk was actually WSR, or 

This was a layout that was thought (perhaps) to accord better with the horizontal design of the stamp, being wider than its height, and it led to the first major Wmk confusion in the 6d value, which exists WSL as well as WSR. Now, as the 'Normal' was actually WSR for this set, most catalogues argued that the

WSL 6d variety was an 'inverted' version of the 'Normal' WSR, and so called it 'WI'. In fact, although it is an inverted version of the normal, as the normal itself is sideways, how much more simple to describe it in terms of the basic Wmk, and call it what it is, orienting the description to the stamp design itself. Hence it is WSL with regard to the WUp that was the normal for all previous Definitives, and was to become the normal once more, a few years later. Hence, this Convention states that the 1968 'Animals' were printed WSR, with the 6d also available WSL.

The large stamps in the series (2/6, 5/- and 10/-) were in fact printed with the 'normal' wmk being WUp. In catalogues they are described as WS, or Wmk, Side, but this is only in relation to the 'normal' sideways Wmk of the low values. They should be described as what they are: WUp, or 

6. THE 1971 DECIMAL "ANIMALS"

In 1971, with the advent of Decimal Currency (Hooray!!), the 'p' was dropped from the design, and the 'Normal' Wmk reverted to WUp, or 

for all the low values. Naturally (?) the large high values (10p, 12p, 20p and 50p) had to appear with sideways Wmk, and in fact WSR. 

One supposes that this was to be expected. Incidentally, it was at this time that gum varieties began to assume importance. The very fact that the Wmk in this set reverted to WUp as normal, reinforces the argument that the 1968 set should be described as WSR for normal. This Convention is consistent.

7. BOOKLETS

Generally speaking, sideways Wmks (WSR and WSL) come from booklet panes, as was the case with the 1968 6d WSR and WSL types. In booklets, quantities of the WSR and WSL varieties are usually numerically equal, but as booklets comprise a small proportion of the total printing of a stamp, one variety of sideways Wmk is usually in much shorter supply than the other. The 1971 (and later) booklets were produced in panes of 6 stamps, or 5 plus a label, and the outside edges of these panes were imperforate. Hence the WSL and WSR varieties of the 1971 set always have at least one imperforate side (left or right), or have one side and the top imperforate, depending on what part of the pane they come from. As only the top pair on a pane could have an imperforate top, the top stamps in a pane are slightly rarer than the bottom two pairs.

From the forgoing we see that we can have the ½p value with WUp and perforated on all 4 sides (P4) from sheets: and WSL P3 or P2; and WSR P3 or P2. Similarly we have the same versions of the 1p, 2p, 2½p and 5p Dog (but not 5p Stag). Some of these versions are catalogued as "WS", or "Wmk. Side Inverted" which is really far too confusing to be worth accepting as a convention.

Coil stamps are WUp. Incidentally, the 2½p Booklet pane came in two varieties, with a slight shade difference, and just possibly with a difference in the overall pane dimensions. Gum types varied on the two varieties as well. Hence it seems that both types are available WSL P3: WSL P2: WSR P3: WSR P2: include the basic WUp, the coil stamp with its different perforation gauge, the sheet stamp with gum additive (see later), and you have no less than 11 identifiable versions of the still-valid 2½p stamp, which has not been issued on unwatermarked paper, and perhaps will not be so issued. Happily, it is still possible to obtain most of the WSL and WSR varieties by being sweet in person to the Phil. Bur. in their enchanted grotto in the

GPO Arcade off Henry Street, and checking through their stocks of the 1974 and subsequent booklets.

8. THE POSTAGE DUES

The 1925 Postage Due set exists with normal WUp, as indeed do all Postage Dues, and with WI and WS versions of the 1d and 2d. The 1940 "E" set provides WI versions of the ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 5d, 8d and 1/-, and with a 6d with both WSR and WSL varieties.

The 1971 Decimal Postage Due set (with changed colours) has confused the matter. It is generally much more satisfying to collect varieties in a set no longer in production, so that one can say with some confidence that all varieties are already in existence, and no more are likely to occur. With the Definitives now unwatermarked, we are rapidly approaching the time when this will be the case, but the Postage Dues continue to be printed on watermarked paper, and so all is not yet clear. Until a month ago, the writer could have said that all 1971 values are available WUp, and that there were WI varieties of the 1p, 5p and 7p. Now it seems that the 1p is available WSL. (Hurry to the Phil. Bur.!) Presumably as printing continues on watermarked paper (to use up stocks?) other varieties may arise and a careful look out must be kept, certainly for the WSR analogue of the WSL 1p. How helpful it would be if the Phil Bur. were to offer a Wmk variety service.

9. COMMEMORATIVES

The number of Wmk varieties affecting Commemorative stamps is very limited. Apart from the WUp version, we find WI varieties on the 1932 Eucharistic Congress 2d, a very rare stamp; the 1949 Mangan 1d; the 1954 Newman 2d; the 1961 Aer Lingus 1/3d; and the 1968 Markiewicz 1/5d. Not all these varieties have been seen by the writer, but all are listed in one catalogue or another.

10. THE 1944 O'CLEARY COMMEMORATIVE DEFINITIVE SET

One other issue deserves special mention; the 1944 "Annals of the Four Masters," more commonly called the O'Cleary set, a ½d and 1/- 'horizontal' format set that was eventually adopted as Definitives, replacing the 1940 ½d and 1/- 'Sword of Light', until they were themselves superseded by the Lsd 'Animals' set around 1969. The basic 'Normal' Wmk is WSL, or 

on both values. Furthermore, both values are to be found WSR or 

(usually called WI as an 'Inverted' version of the normal WSL, but far better described as here, WSR). In addition, the ½d also comes from booklet panes in a version described, confusingly, as WR. Now, by our Convention, WR would be 

or a reversed WUp. But this implies WUp to be the 'Normal' for the set, which it ain't! The 'Normal' is in fact WSL or 

and a reversed version of this would be 

We would define this as Wmk. Reversed-Sideways Right or WR-SR. This variety is in fact missing from the writer's collection and so this is an assumption, albeit logical.

11. SUMMARY ON WATERMARK VARIETIES

Little remains to be said about Wmks. However, no article on Wmks would be complete without at least a reference to that most odd of "Irish" stamps, the Fiji 2d grey of 1922-1927 which

exists imperforate (presumably catalogued SG233a) which was printed as a trial on paper watermarked "SE" as used in the Irish 1922 definitives, but was never officially issued.

Some modern Irish stamps are difficult to define as the Wmks are not easily seen. Such stamps should be examined in subdued lighting, face down on (e.g.) black plastic. The addition of some proprietary 'watermark fluid' or of petroleum ether (with a low boiling point) (and very flammable and risky: Warning from some Government; it may be hazardous to your health), the use of coloured filters to screen out, as it were, the colour of the stamp to 'highlight' the Wmk, examining the back in bright oblique light, using the new 'pressure method' involving special paper and apparatus; all are methods that can be used. With a cancelled stamp, wetting it on the aforesaid black plastic surface often reveals an elusive Wmk. In fact, the best (or rather, safest) methods are those which do not involve the addition of chemicals to a possibly valuable stamp.

In some cases, the bottom curve of the 

at its open end approaches the cross-bar so closely that the Wmk appears as 

Here, examination of a margin often helps. Again, the actual dimensions of the Wmk may vary from time to time, due in part, and in some cases, to stretching of the paper during manufacture. The writer has rigidly avoided involvement in size varieties.

12. THE CONVENTION

The Wmk varieties listed above are summarized here again for convenience. Remember, all illustrations are shown as seen from the BACK of the stamp, with the stamp upright (although face-down).

WUp		Watermark Upright
WI		Watermark Inverted
WSL		Watermark Sideways to Left
WSR		Watermark Sideways to Right
WR		Watermark Reversed
WIR		Watermark Inverted AND Reversed
WR-SL . . .		Watermark Reversed-Sideways to Left
WR-SR . . .		Watermark Reversed-Sideways to Right

(To Be Continued)

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Irish Stamps and Inflation

by J. E. Foley

Several years ago a dealer published a small brochure regarding an investment in Irish stamps. The graph noted in Fig. 1 was included. As noted in the caption, it traced the price "trend" for a complete collection of the stamps of Ireland from about £40 in 1964 to approximately £650 in 1968. We won't quibble with the accuracy of the chart and assume that the dealer's data are accurate. The thought struck us at the time that extrapolation of trend charts for investment purposes does have a few inherent hazards. (Remember the trends for the stock market in 1928?)

More recently we've noted other dealers remarking on the investment possibilities of Irish stamps. The effect of inflation on the value of such an investment has not, to the best of our knowledge, been addressed. We decided to make such a study using the consumer Price Index (CPI)¹ as a modifier for the Scott catalogue values of a group of Irish stamps from the 1932 catalogue to 1976. The Scott catalogue usually reflects relative values of the year prior to the year designated. As we recall, the 1977 catalogue was available in June, 1976. Therefore, in Table 1 and Fig. 2 the year given is one year prior to the catalogue used. It does, however, agree with the copyright year. The CPI is for the actual year shown on the chart and table (except for 1931 and 1938 as noted). For a study of this nature, precise retail prices are not required. There is general agreement that Scott adequately reflects the relative value of stamps provided an allowance such as we have made, adjusts the time back to the actual publication.

We decided not to attempt the calculations for all Irish stamps for two reasons: over the years there have been changes in the listings, some have been dropped while others added and unpriced items have in subsequent years been priced and vice versa. The Scott catalogues chosen were simply those contained in our library. While the data are not exhaustive, we consider them suitably representative.

Simply stated, the CPI is a measure of the purchasing power of the dollar and thus of inflation. It's compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor and is a calculation of the average price changes of consumer goods and services. Currently 1967 is considered the base year (i.e. 1967 CPI equals 100). Thus goods and services that cost on the average \$1.00 in 1967 cost \$1.61 in 1975 or 39 cents in 1933. By dividing the sum of

the catalogue values of the stamps selected by the CPI we obtain a number that is indicative of the value of the stamps over the years without the effect of inflation. (Actually if the number were multiplied by 100 it would be the catalogue value of the specific stamps selected in terms of constant 1967 dollars.)

Now let's take a look at the table and graph. Note that from the early 30's to the late 40's the catalogue value of Irish stamps declined. During the same period there was what we would now probably term "modest" inflation which caused an even greater decline in their value. The picture is basically flat from the early 50's through the mid 60's. Increases in catalogue value were offset by inflation.

Then in a very brief period there was a remarkable increase, in the late 60's. Several reasons have been put forward for this, my own views being that Irish stamps tend to follow to a degree the market for the British area which experienced a measure of "catch-up" in the mid 60's. Also, when first issued, the overprints were extremely popular, much publicized in the philatelic press, and to a certain extent, over specialized. Large quantities were put away of these issues and the supply for awhile exceeded the demand. (We can recall Irish dealers using mid value overprints for postage in the early 60's.) The Irish Post Office continued to make available practically all commemorative issues from the first issued in 1929 up until about this period. We believe that the oversupply of the overprints had dried up by the mid 60's.

In 1966 Robson Lowe held the first auction of a portion of the Thomas Edwin Field collection. The realizations greatly exceeded the estimates and a chain reaction set in resulting in prices increasing by a factor of almost five in a two year period. Again there was some speculation in Irish stamps and perhaps the prices became somewhat artificial. In more recent years there have been modest increases in prices as reflected by catalogue values but these increases have not kept pace with rather immodest increases in inflation. As shown in the chart, the real value in constant dollars has actually declined about 17.5 per cent during this period.

The obvious question, for which we don't have an answer, is what will the future bring? There can be just as much of a hazard in extrapolating a trend line with a negative slope as there is with a positive one. We will say that we don't expect a repeat of the dramatic increase we had in 1966-68. Beyond that, your guess is as good as ours.

¹ Economic Report of the President, 1976, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., Table B-42, p. 220.

TABLE 1												
• 1933 (1931 C.P.I. not in reference) •• 1939 (1938 C.P.I. not in reference)												
Scot Nos.	1931	1938	1940	1946	1948	1956	1962	1963	1966	1968	1970	1975
1a	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 200.00
2a	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	60.00	80.00	100.00
10A	1.00	1.25	1.00	.90	.90	2.50	2.00	2.00	2.25	10.00	11.00	12.50
12-14	46.00	32.50	32.50	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	20.75	105.00	125.00	125.00
19-22a	1.07	1.22	1.07	1.22	1.22	3.50	3.25	3.25	3.25	7.35	8.85	12.45
36-38	100.00	100.00	90.00	90.00	63.00	80.00	87.50	87.50	100.00	570.00	580.00	605.00
45b	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	11.00	45.00	65.00	80.00
56-58	22.50	22.50	22.50	19.50	19.50	21.00	21.25	22.50	23.75	90.00	95.00	97.00
77a-79a	40.00	31.00	31.00	38.00	30.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	44.50	330.00	330.00	410.00
80-82	.70	1.00	.75	.55	.55	.84	.84	.85	.85	3.55	3.30	3.50
J1-4	.56	.39	.39	.53	.53	1.22	1.05	1.05	1.05	6.65	9.15	21.50
Total	301.83	279.86	254.21	244.70	209.70	240.60	246.89	248.15	277.40	1,307.55	1,402.30	1,669.85
C.P.I.	38.89	41.69	42.0	58.5	72.1	81.4	90.6	91.7	97.2	104.2	116.3	161.2
Total — C.P.I.	7.78	6.73	6.05	4.18	2.91	2.96	2.73	2.71	2.85	12.55	12.06	10.36

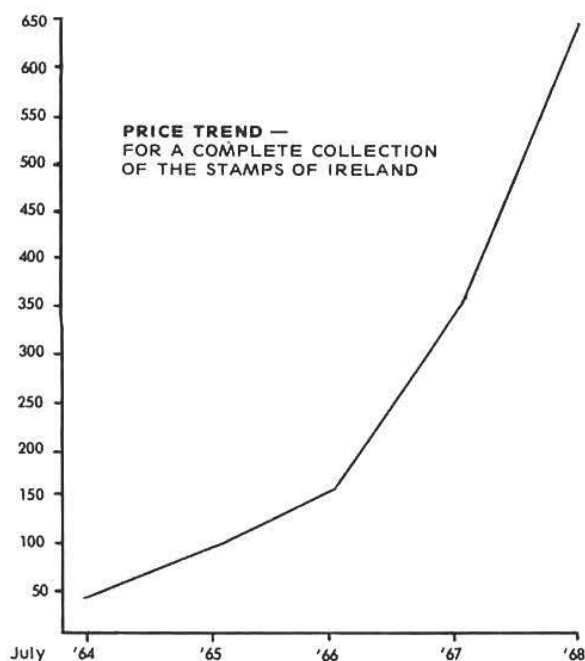


FIG. 1

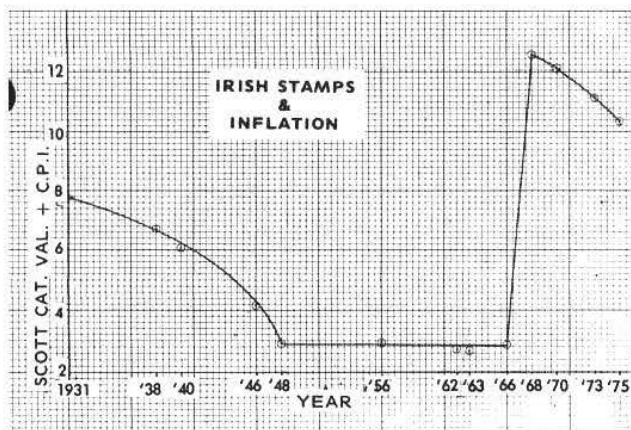


FIG. 2

Kohl Handbook

In the April, 1977 *Revealer*, we concluded our reprint of Hans Zervas' translation of the *Kohl's Handbook*. The translation first appeared in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* over 35 years ago. While the prices had to be completely revised and some footnotes added, not much else had to be changed. For the benefit of our newer members we are listing the various segments that appeared in *The Revealer* and the number of pages. As noted elsewhere, these back issues can be obtained from the P.A.

Part 1, January, 1976: Forward and comments on postal history. (3 pages)

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Part 2, April, 1976: Introduction to the overprints and the Dollards. (5 pages)

Part 3, July, 1976: Dollard varieties and Thom 5 line printing. (4 pages)

Part 4, October, 1976: Harrison & Thom 5 line printing. (3 pages)

Part 5, January, 1977: IRA issue, Wide Thom 5 line and Thom 3 line overprints. (4 pages)

Part 6, April, 1977: Thom 3 line varieties, Harrison 3 line coils, and 3 line high values. (5 pages)

The reprints are well illustrated and this work is of significant importance to anyone interested in these issues.

Questions on the Dollard Proofs

by M. H. Priestley

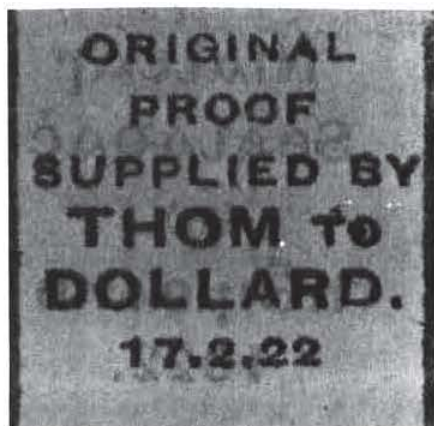


Fig. 1

Recently reading through the early issues of *The Revealer*, my interest in the Dollard proofs was aroused by an article in the March-April 1955 issue by Perry Adams on a possible link between Thom and Dollard. This theory was supported by a backstamp on the Thom proof shown in Fig. 1, which uses similar type to the normal Dollard backstamps seen in Fig. 2 and 3.



Fig. 2

I wondered if any members have an example of a handwritten proof described in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia — "Original/Proof/Received/from Thom/by Dollard/B.J.B."? B. J. Brennan (B.J.B.), the Dollard manager, seems to have played a key role, initialing large numbers of proofs, all dated with the first date of issue of the stamps themselves. Can Irish members with any access to newspaper archives throw any light on him? E.P.A. member Les Graham, who has a fine collection of Thom and Dollard Proofs and lent me the specimens to photograph for this article, mentioned a theory that the initials were not B.J.B. at all, but rather B.N.S. and could have belonged to a Mr. B. N. Sullivan who worked in the GPO Dublin at the time. Certainly the initials could be B.N.S. or B.J.B. judged by the handwriting.

It has been some time since more information has been received on the subject, at least in *The Revealer*. I would ap-



Fig. 3

preciate hearing from any members who might have something to add to this question.

BULLET HOLE VARIETY

Another variety reported by the founder of the EPA (and member No. 1), Bill Hickey, is a flaw on the ½d Harrison 5 line overprint similar in some respects to the "bullet hole" variety on the O'Connell commemorative. In the case of the Harrison the variety is slightly to the rear of the King's ear. Also submitted by Hickey is a slightly larger version of the variety on an unoverprinted British stamp.



ACCENT VARIETY ON ½d DOLLARD

William P. Hickey has uncovered an unusual variety of the accent on the third line on the ½d Dollard overprint. As illustrated, the mark over the 'e' in "heireann" almost has the appearance of a breve accent instead of an acute accent.

