

The Revealers



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Whole No. 149

Winter 1982

GUTTER PAIRS OF IRELAND



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THE REVEALER

Whole No. 148

Fall 1982

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STAFF

Editor:

John J. Blessington, 4302 St. Clair Ave., Studio City, CA 91604 USA

Associate Editor:

E. FitzGerald, 1 Willow Park Drive, Dublin 11, Ireland

Publisher/Distributor

Robert D. Corless, 1826 W. Indianola Ave. Phoenix Arizona 85015 USA

Advertising Manager:

Robert E. Moskowitz, 3313 Southern Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21214 USA

Revealer Back Issues:

William E. Greeley, P.O. Box 1091, Dearborn, Michigan 48121 USA

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President:

Bill Zellers, P.O. Box 1381, Riverside, California 92502 USA

Vice Presidents:

John R. Smallman, Box 130, Naramata, B.C., Canada VOH1N0
Padraig O'Mathuna, 98-99 Main St., Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

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Auction & Trading Post Manager:

See President's Message

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

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Quarter Page	25.00	75.00
Eighth Page	15.00	45.00

SECRETARY'S REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons have been accepted into membership subject to no objections received within a 45 day period after this publication.

- #1689 PRESLEY P. GOODWYN, 2407 Greendale Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810
 - #1690 DAVID J. BRENNAN, 221 Claremont Rd., Bernardsville, N.J. 0724
 - #1691 PAUL I. OESTERLY, 400 W. 61st Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64113
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 - #1694 EDWARD J. DAVIS, 1049 Elmwood Ave., Sharon Hill, PA 19079
 - #1695 T. MURATA, Box 271, Sta R., Toronto, Ont. Canada M4G 3Z9
 - #1696 A.H. GOLDBERG, MD, 742 King St.
W., Suite 7, Kitchener, Ont., Canada N2G 1E7
 - #1697 JOSEPH A. FOLIGONO, Jr., 80 Boland Ave., S. Orange, N.J. 07079
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 - #1699 DR. MICHAEL H. CORN, 3624 Valley Dr., Alexandria, VA 22302
 - #1700 JOHN E. GAUGHRAN, 91-28 218th Pl., Queens Village, N.Y. 11428
 - #1701 THOMAS E. ELLSWORTH, 301 Holmdene Blvd., N.E.,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 - #1702 BILL CARRITE, 4054 Midland Rd., Riverside, CA 92505
 - #1703 JAMES J. O'KEEFE, 911 Lenz Dr., Anaheim, CA 92805
 - #1704 JOHN J. McGEOUGH, 12858 Saraha Lane, Houston, TX 77015
- Members 1635 through 1688 published in the Summer issue have been admitted to full membership.

REINSTATEMENT: John E. McLaughlin #794.

DONATIONS:

J.D. Allen, J.H. Baird, L.J. Barrett, M.A. Bentzien, H.E. Bright, M.D. Buchalter, C.K. Carroll, R.C. Chalet, N. Cobert, F.W. Colby, F. Collins, J.E. Collins, E.J. Daly, E.T. DiVecchio, T.J. Dixon, J.J. Doheny, W.V. Donlon, A.R. Gillespie, J.S. Greenwood, W.J. Hallahan, J.P. Haughey, P.J. Holmes, F.M. Johns, W.C. Kemp, R.H. King.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Members as of June 11, 1982	613
New members	16
Reinstatements	1
Members as of September 15, 1982	630

DO YOU WANT AN EPA CHAPTER?

The Eire Philatelic Association is a living tribute to those who created it by their excessive and unintermittent vision and loyalty. Today, we can only speculate about their motives and compulsions for such dedication to Ireland's philatelic material.

What is this siren's song, so sweetly sung, that so many surrender themselves to it's philatelic enslavement? Perhaps, it is Ireland herself that sings and we are its philatelic antiphon. Perhaps, we recapture our Celtic past and externalize our racial memories with Ireland's stamps. By them, we go back through the corridors of time to our youth or beyond them to the dimmed remembering of history.

Collecting Ireland is a passion ... it is not a hobby ... its an infection. The deliberate activity and purpose of the Eire Philatelic Association is to spread that infection. The Association is most successful at this joyful task when its members congregate. Why organize E.P.A. chapters? ... to spread the infection.

The potential is there. Geographically, many members are clustered around the larger metropolitan areas such as: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, etc. Some of these already have chapters. Others can be organized easily. There is the potential for chapters in other places: Toronto, Texas, New Jersey, Upper New York State, The Connecticut River Valley are.

Distances may make only one meeting a year feasible. Other areas may schedule two. The Boston area's schedule includes two chapter meetings, in the Spring and Fall and one, Regional Meeting in England gathering in the early Fall. The organizational structure of each chapter is determined by the group, as is the schedule. The same applies to the programs for each meeting. A three or four

hour meeting appears the most useful and an occasional six hour gathering has proven most enjoyable.

Anyone interested in initiating a chapter in their area may write to the Chapter Coordinating Chairman, Robert Jones, 8 Beach St., Brockton, MA 02402 for information and help.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The fall show season is with us and E.P.A. members are continuing to win their share of awards. Past president Ed Sullivan entered his exhibit entitled, "The Handstruck Date and Instructional Markings of Ireland, 1675 to the Victorian Era", six frames, at INDYPEX 1982, September 10th to 12th, in Indianapolis. Ed received a gold award as well as the "J. DAVID BAKER AWARD" for best postal history, a Seiko quartz mantel clock. In addition, Ed won the "JOHNNY APPLESEED AWARD", a golden lapel pin in the shape of a golden apple. He is the third winner of this award which goes to the Indiana Stamp Club member having the best exhibit at INDYPEX.

STAMPA '82, the eleventh National Stamp Exhibition of Ireland, was held in Dublin from October 22nd through October 25th. The David Feldman Trophy for the best overall exhibit and the Revenue Stamping Branch Trophy for the best exhibit of Irish postage stamps were awarded to the same exhibit - "Irish High Value Overprints" by Rev. John Brennan. Fr. Brennan was also awarded a gold medal.

Other gold medals were awarded to: Dr. John P. Mackey for "Saxony Adhesive Postage Stamps", Frank Gillespie for "Irish Crowns - 1922-1935 Five Shilling Stamps" and Ian Whyte for "Postal History of Kingstown and District."

Silver medals went to Brian Warren (with felicitations of the jury) for "Ireland - the Jumelle Printings", Dr. John P. Mackey for "Saxony - The English Connection", Peter D. Fitzgerald for "Accent Varieties on Thom Saorstad Overprints", Dr. Robert P. Towers for "Grenada: The Pre-Adhesive Handstamps 1784-1858", John F. Barret for "Switzerland: The Silk Threads", Aland MacCoy for "Postal History of Ireland", George E.R. Ithell for "Plating the DG Coils", Brian Warren for "Decimal Multi-Value Coils" and Desmond J. Quinn for "The Canadian Queens 1868-1893."

A bronze medal with the felicitations of the jury was awarded to William Kane for "Spoon Cancellations", and other bronze medallists were, John E.O. Hobbs for "Burma", Fred E. Dixon for "Express Mail", Patricia MacCoy for "Montenegro", Anthony F. Finn for "Ireland: The Transition Period 1922-23", Geoffrey McAuley for "Sudentenland" and Heloise Mitchell for "Parasolls and Umbrellas."

Diplomas of Merit were awarded to Captain Pat Casey, 'Louis Peters', John Hickey and Declan O'Connor. The trophy for the best exhibit in the 'Novice' Section - for first time exhibitors at STAMPA was awarded to Kieran McGovern for his Exhibit "Captain James Cook". Diplomas were awarded to other novice exhibitors Michael Farry, Francis L. Corkery and Michael Harnett.

H.G.L. FLETCHER

It is my sad duty to report the death of H.G. Leslie Fletcher long time EPA member. Leslie, as he was widely known, was a first rate philatelist. Among his areas of specialization was the Irish overprints and for his contributions in this field was awarded the EPA's Field Award in 1978. He will be missed by all who knew him.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Timothy O'Shea of Chicopee, Mass. is assuming the position of Auction Manager. He will take over with Auction #60 in the Winter 1983 **Revealer**. We would like to give Tim a good send off so please, let's all support him with good material to sell and enthusiastic bids on the lots.

Ed Ryan and George Ryan again receive the thanks of all of us for doing a great job with the auction for almost three years. I know full well how much is involved and we can never really show enough appreciation for their efforts.

I would also like to thank the members who worked on the Thomas E. Field Award Committee and John J. Clark Award Committee. Those members were, Field Award: Joseph E. Foley, Chairman, Michael Leonard, Fred Dixon, Clark Award: Bill McCaw, Chairman, Neil Stack and Bill Stilwell.

A group of philatelists in Germany who collect Ireland have banded together to form a society. If anyone is interested in joining this German language group the address is furnished elsewhere in this issue.

Secretary Bob Jones says he has issued member number 1700 (John E. Gaughran of Queens Village, N.Y.) and wonders if we will make 2,000. We will, if each member signs up one new member.

It is hoped that a new membership list will be distributed with the 1983 Summer **Revealer**. If you do **not** want your name and/or address to be published, please contact me.

FIELD AWARD

Edward FitzGerald and Brian Warren of Dublin, Ireland, are the joint recipients of the 1982 Eire Philatelic Association's Thomas Edwin Field Award for outstanding contributions to Irish philately.

FitzGerald and Warren are the authors of **The Gerl Definitives**, A Specialized Handbook of the Definitive Postage Stamps of Ireland, 1968 to 1978. The Field Award selection committee considered the work as remarkable for its clear presentation, accurate illustrations, and extremely thorough treatment of every aspect of the subject. The sharing of their research and philatelic knowledge with their fellow collectors continues the Thomas Edwin Field tradition.

The award certificates and the EPA Life Memberships, given as part of the award, were presented at STAMPA '82 in Dublin, Ireland in October 1982.

Bill Zellers, President



JOHN J. CLARK AWARD

As previously announced, the Eire Philatelic Association, this year, established the John J. Clark Award for meritorious service to the Association. It is only fitting that Bill Zellers should be the first recipient of this award. His service has extended over many years and many different tasks, including Auction Chairman, Director, Vice-President and President. At all of these tasks his performance has exhibited a high caliber of dedication and professionalism.

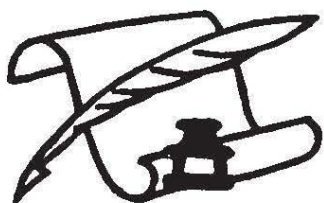
I am sure all the members join me in offering our congratulations to Bill on receiving this award. The committee made a wise choice.

John J. Blessington, Editor



NEW APPLICATION FORMS

The EPA has prepared a new brochure describing the Association which has a membership application form included. Help us recruit new members. The Secretary will send you some of these brochures on request.



RANDOM NOTES

By F. E. Dixon

MACDONNELL WHYTE AUCTION

Some good prices were realized at the auction of 26th June, some I noted being, 1743 entire with COUNTERFEIT, £440; 1839 4d General Post, Belfast hand struck 4, £440; 1929 O'Connell FDC £315; 1931 Shannon FDC, £320; 1932 Eucharistic Congress FDC, £165; Penny Blacks on Irish covers, £180 and £190 and Ship's postcards used from Tory Island 1907, £41.

NEW BOOK

Everyone interested in postmarks will want it: "Irish Postmarks since 1840" by James A. Mackay, price (post paid) £8.70 in GB and Ireland; £10.65 elsewhere, obtainable from the author at 11 Newhall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LN, Scotland. Far more thorough than any previous work, over 2000 postmarks are illustrated and there is a very informative commentary on them with shrewd discussion of the Irish language types and concise historical notes. There is an excellent bibliography and full acknowledgement of the use made of IRISH PHILATELY, THE REVEALER, etc.



LITERATURE REVIEW

by John J. Blessington

Irish Postmarks Since 1840, James A. Mackay. Published by the author at 11 Newhall Terrace, Dumfries, DG1 1LN, Scotland, U.K. Price U.K. £8.70, overseas £10.60 postage paid, soft cover, 222 pages, A4 size (8 1/4" x 11 3/4"), velo bound, 2085 illustrations.

In his introduction Mr. Mackay writes of "... the mammoth task of compiling this survey of Irish Postmarks" which is evident when one leafs through the book for the first time, the scope is vast. That Mr. Mackay has succeeded so well is a tribute to his research skill to say nothing of his writing and production skills. This book can well take its place alongside his previous volumes on Scottish and English marking.

Although the book has been reproduced by duplicating rather than off-set printing this, in no way, detracts from the book. One or two illustrations suffer but overall the quality is high. The method of binding allows the book to lay flat when opened and the clear plastic front and back over covers are a nice touch and will save soiling for this is a book that will get much use.

The period covered is roughly 1840 to the present time and markings of Northern Ireland as well as the Republic are included. The book picks up where the Feldman/Kane book "Handbook of Irish Postal History" left off.

There are twenty three chapters, each covering a particular area of Irish postal markings. Within each chapter chronological sequence is used up until 1922, after that date the English language markings are discussed first followed by those in Gaelic. The illustrations are keyed to the text and are placed in conjunction with the text in which they are referenced. The illustrations, many of which are photocopies with the rest being tracings, are of higher quality than can be found in the originals in many cases. The parcel post markings of more recent years are a case in point, most that one sees today are unreadable but the illustrations of these are first rate.

There may be errors of omission or commission in the text but they are certainly minor and Mr. Mackay welcomes additions and corrections from readers.

The book closes with a "Glossary of Gaelic Words Found In Postmarks" and a "Recommended Reading List. This latter is an

THE NEW ISSUES

The "Literary & Musical Figures" stamps were a disaster. Whether one is pro- or anti-Joyce the inept caricature must be condemned as in bad taste and annoys philatelists because fine used are difficult to find. The portrayals of O'Connor and Kichham are drawn from photographs of statues. Why? Find an artist competent to design a stamp, with his own impression of what the man looked like, with an appropriate setting. The Field design is acceptable because it used a drawing and was given a background.

The Fish series are attractive and beautifully executed, but have their faults. Stamps intended to appeal to collectors overseas must have the inscriptions in an internationally understood language and English should replace Irish. Secondly, the size of each creature should have been suggested by introducing others for comparison - small fish with the shark and salmon, mussels or cockle-shells with oyster and prawn. Oysters normally live in large colonies and that could have been indicated by lightly sketching a few in the background. A writer to the IRISH TIMES points out that the oyster is drawn with the wrong side up!

22p ENVELOPE

The new envelope appeared on 29 July, only eleven months after it became necessary, and now useful for second-class mail. The remarkable feature is that although allegedly size A the new envelope is an unprecedented 162x114mm whereas all previous issues of size A have been about 120x96mm (officially 4 3/4 x 3 11/16 ins.)

ideal guide for some one starting a library on Irish philately.

The book is presented in a narrative style and makes for good reading. The most outstanding and important part of it, in my estimation, is the historical data contained in the text. Mr. Mackay has compiled all data recorded by previous authors, added his own research, and distilled it all into an interesting book. Whether you collect postal history or not, the book is recommended for the information it contains and because it is good reading. For those who have hesitated to dip into postal history here's the way to dive in ... come on in the water is fine.

Borek Briefmarkenkatalog Grossbritannien 1983 & Ireland, DM15, from Verlag Richard Borek, GmbH, Hamburger Strasse 267, 3300 Braunschweig, W. Germany. Soft cover, 5 1/4" x 8 1/4".

The Irish part of this catalog is the first specialized catalog of Ireland in the German language. Its author is Otto Jung an EPA member as well as a member of the newly formed group of Irish collectors in Germany, the F.A.J. (Irish Working & Study Group).

The catalog is well produced, printed on slick paper with illustrations in color (reduced size). The Irish section has 45 pages and three pages of introductory matter. The overprints are not illustrated but starting with the first definitives and continuing through the Irish Authors and Musicians issue of 1982 every stamp is shown in color.

Where appropriate prices are shown in 4 columns; gutter pairs, MNH, MH and used. First Day Covers are priced. The overprints include control numbers, and minor and major varieties priced.

My lack of fluency in German precludes a review of the method of listing the overprints but from the first definitives onward I found the catalog very easy to use. The Gerl's get specialized treatment and the book closes with a specialist listing of paste-up coil pairs, booklets, and booklet panes.

Despite my linguistic shortcomings, over all, I find this welcome addition to the list of Irish catalogs. At the moment, it is the most up-to-date.

DUBLIN NEWSLETTER

by Eddie Fitzgerald

Very little news of specialized interest came to notice during the Summer months, and what is worth recording will be recorded in the next "That Was the Year, That Was" review. Within the past few days we have heard that the new definitive series is planned on a phased basis beginning next December with two further phases in the first part of next year. We understand that Phase I will consist of 6 values and that Phases 2 and 3 will consist of 14 values. It has been reported already that there will be separate designs but we are unaware of the allocation of particular values to particular designs.

While engaged in certain research activities last year, two eminent philatelists, William Kane and David MacDonnell placed their individual reference files of information data at my disposal, to take notes and to photocopy what I required. This act of imparting/sharing information is the hallmark of the true philatelist and, in this case, has set off a chain reaction of discoveries relating to the definitive stamps of the 1922-68 period. So far, all I have managed to do is to scratch the surface and to prepare some ground for planting and later harvesting.

Perhaps the most remarkable item of information in these files is a newspaper clipping dated 3 September 1937 headlined "Free State Has New Stamps - Higher Denominations Issued." The text deals with "... a new issue of postage stamps of the 2s6p, 5s and 10s denomination which completes the permanent series of postage stamps of this Administration." These stamps were, of course, the St. Patrick high values and the text continued with the news that "... the new stamps will be on sale at all post offices at 9 A.M. on Wednesday, 8 September next." The really important paragraph is as follows "... The stamp is printed in different colours for the three denominations, 2s6d green, 5s ruby red and 10s blue. **The paper was specially made at Saggart Mills** and the stamps have been printed and produced by the Stamping Department of the Revenue Commissioners." (emphasis by the author) This was the earliest reference that I had read regarding a paper manufacturer for Irish stamps and the importance of this reference can be gauged when I quote from a 1977 letter from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs "... I regret to inform you that information regarding the suppliers of the paper used in the printing of our stamps is not released".

This reference to Saggart was just the break that was needed and as luck would have it, I was able to make contact with an erudite individual who had many years of experience of these Mills. What he had to say was a revelation and indeed certain assumptions which we hold at present to be correct are in fact incorrect. The gist of what I was told was as follows. 1) He confirmed that the Swiftbrook Paper Mills at Saggart, Co. Dublin manufactured stamp paper under conditions of high security. The paper was watermarked and on production days "detectives" (presumably officers from the Post Office Security Branch) would arrive with the Dandy Rolls for use, stay there all the time during manufacture and at the end of the working day would remove the Dandy Rolls, and also all trimmings and waste. Every finished sheet of stamp paper was counted and accounted for.

2) The Mills **did not** manufacture chalk coated paper. This statement is extremely important as the 6d low value stamp was always printed on chalk coated paper. The reason why this value stamp was singled out for special treatment was that the 6d stamp was used for fiscal/legal purposes as well as postage purposes, e.g. insurance policies. A fugitive ink was used in the printing of the 6d stamps and the chalk coating could be deemed to be a further security device. The question now is where the chalk coated paper was manufactured if it was not manufactured at Swiftbrook Mills.

3) The Mills manufactured two grades of stamp paper, a) what is generally referred to as Ordinary paper by many philatelists and catalogue editors. This was a paper of excellent quality made from rags mainly and, during manufacture, resin size was added to the mix to act as a bonding agent. After manufacture, the printing surface of the paper was treated with a gelatin size to give a glaze to the paper, thereby producing a smooth surface for printing purposes. From the description, I take it that this paper was used for printing the low value stamps and also the postage due labels. b) The other paper grade was what he referred to as Substance paper. This was a heavier paper and while it was a rag base paper, kaolin (i.e. China Clay) was added to the mix during the manufacture so as to give substance to the paper and also to make the paper opaque, i.e. that printing would not show through to the other side. The China Clay was not a coating but was an integral part of the mix. From this description, I take it that this paper was used for printing the high value stamps from 1937 to 1967.

To go on a sidetrack for a moment; it should be noted that high value stamps with the E watermark do exist on chalk coated paper. These high values appeared in early 1968 and are instantly recognized as the lighter shades of colour which are listed in the specialized catalogues. This coated paper came from a different manufacturer and is similar to the paper used in the first two releases of the pre-decimal Gerl definitives. This matter is another chapter in the chain of events and will hold for another day.

Coming back to the uncoated papers, there is a minor complication insofar as there is a Cream paper version and a White paper version. These versions should not cause any problems as neither version exists with the lighter printing shades of colour. The cream paper is the earlier version and the white paper appears to be an improvement on the cream paper due to the use of Optical Brightening Agents. It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when the white paper appeared but the Gibbons, Part One catalogue made a reference to "... a much whiter paper was introduced in 1967", when listing all values of this definitive series.

A proper listing of all the St. Patrick high values is as follows, in my opinion:

Yr. of Issue	Watermark	Values	Colours	Paper Type
1937	SE	2s6d	Green	Cream-Uncoated
	SE	5s	Ruby	Cream-Uncoated
	SE	10s	Blue	Cream-Uncoated
circa 1942	E	2s6d	Green	Cream-Uncoated
	E	5s	Ruby	Cream-Uncoated
	E	10s	Blue	Cream-Uncoated
circa 1967?	E	2s6d	Green	White-Uncoated
	E	5s	Ruby	White-Uncoated
	E	10s	Blue	White-Uncoated
1968	E	2s6d	Lt Green	White-Coated
	E	5s	Lt Ruby	White-Coated
	E	10s	Lt Blue	White-Coated

It is well known that when chalk coated paper has been marked with a silver object, a black mark or line appears on the coated paper. However, it does not follow that any paper with the telltale black mark when silver tested is necessarily chalk coated. China clay used in industry comes in degrees of quality depending on the particular use for what is required and may contain traces of minerals such as chalk. This could explain why the black mark appears on the uncoated "Substance" paper when silver-tested and also the understandable confusion amongst catalogue editors when listing these issues.

I wish to return to the topic of the 1922-68 definitives in the next issue of **The Revealer** as there are more items of interest now known. In the meantime, assistance from members in the form of comments and/or elaboration will be welcomed.

INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS

by Brian Warren

International Reply Coupons are exchangeable at post offices abroad for postage stamps equivalent to the foreign surface letter rate, and thus enables the sender of a letter to a place abroad to prepay a reply. They are sold at the larger post offices in Ireland. Coupons from abroad may be exchanged for postage stamps (24p at present) at any Money Order Office. Coupons are uniform in design, and with the issue of a new style 16p coupon in 1975, the only indication of country of origin is the datestamp of the issuing office; the currency may also identify the country of issue. I have attempted in recent years to identify and collect all issues since demical day (15/2/71). I have also established details prior to 1971 based on information obtained from fellow members, Bill Kane and Padraig O. Mathuna. Members based abroad may have received I.R.C.'s from Ireland over the years; can you help? I would appreciate any further information either through the columns of **The Revealer** or by writing to me at 42 Lohunda Park, Clonsilla, Co Dublin, Ireland.

In the accompanying table, I have attempted to link the postal rates with the equivalent I.R.C. rate. Rapid increases in postal rates in recent years have been accompanied by an ever widening gap between the foreign surface letter rate and the cost of an international reply coupon. Most coupons are known uprated in manuscript. 16p and 18p coupons are also known uprated to 20p by the use of a small rubber stamp. The existence of a rate does not necessarily result in the issue of a coupon e.g. no 3Ip coupon was issued in 1981. The current philatelic bureau stock list includes a 37p coupon – none exists as yet; this refers to the cost of an old 24p coupon uprated in manuscript to 37p. Until the early '70s Britain and certain Commonwealth countries issued Commonwealth coupons. They were issued in connection with preferential postal rates between Commonwealth countries – since abolished. Did Ireland ever issue such a coupon(s)?

FOREIGN SURFACE RATE	DATE	RATE	INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON		
			RELEASE DATE	ACTUAL COUPON ISSUED	NOTES
3d	1/1/1922	4d	?	4d?	Note 1
4½d	1/3/1951	6d	?	6d?	Note 2
5d	18/5/1953	8d	?	8d?	Note 3
6d	1/4/1959	1/-?	?	1/-	Note 4
8d	1/6/1964	1/-	?	1/-	Note 4
7d	1/1/1966	?	?	?	
9d	1/1/1969	1/3	?	1/3?	Note 5
1/2	1/10/1970	?	?	?	
6p	15/2/1971	6p?	?	6p?	Note 6
7p	1/7/1973	8p	Late 73	8p	Note 6
9p	1/10/1974	10p?	2/1/75	16p	Note 7
11p	1/1/1976	18p	1976	18p	
12p	1/4/1977	20p	Late 1977	20p	
11p	25/7/1977	20p	—	20p	no change
13p	1/8/1979	24p	Late 1980	24p	
16p	1/7/1980	24p	—	24p	no change
19p	1/4/1981	31p	—	—	no coupon issued
24p	1/9/1981	37p	—	—	no coupon issued to date

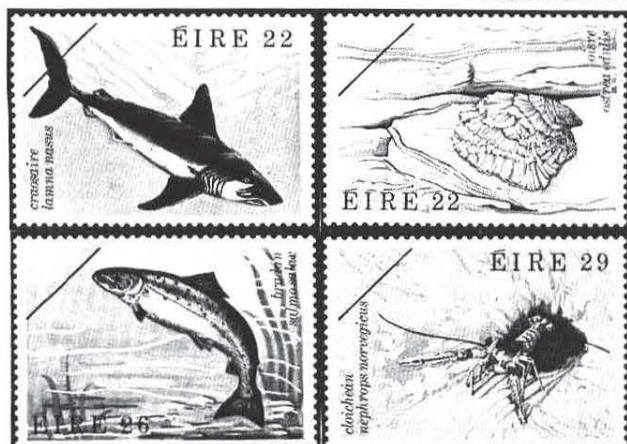
NOTES

1. Per 1929/30 edition of Eolai an Phoist. Has anybody seen a 4d coupon?
2. Per 1950 edition of Eolai an Phoist i.e. one year before the change in the letter rate. Did the rate for an I.R.C. alter between 1922 and 1950. Has anybody seen a 6d coupon?
3. Per 1953 edition of Eolai an Phoist. Has anybody seen a 8d coupon?
4. Per 1964 edition of Eolai an Phoist. Earliest coupon known dated 1961 which implies that the rate was in force since 1/4/1959.
5. Per 1969 edition of Eolai an Phoist. I have only seen uprated 1/- coupons for this rate. Has anybody seen a 1/3 coupon?
6. I do not possess a 6p coupon. This is the rate mentioned in the 1971 edition of Eolai an Phoist, Part 1, Inland. In Part II, Foreign, issued in 1972 the I.R.C. rate is listed as 8p. As no

increases had arisen between 1971 and 1972, the 8p rate may have been in force from 15 February 1971 i.e. the 1971 entry was incorrect.

7. The Post Office list of rates issued in connection with the increases on 1/10/74 clearly states a rate of 10p; however a 16p coupon was issued on the following 2 January. This 16p coupon was the only coupon to be given advance publicity by the Post Office in recent years. Did the rate change at the beginning of 1975 or was the entry of 10p incorrect?
8. The foreign surface rate for letters (and postcards) includes the cost of air mail charges for all European countries, Azores, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Cyprus, Greenland and Madeira. The above rates prior to 1970 were obtained by reference to the October 1974 edition of "The Revealer" supplied by the Department of Posts & Telegraphs. Prior to 1953 there was a cheaper preferential rate for the U.S.A. and British Commonwealth.

RECENT ISSUES



FAUNA & FLORA

On 29 July the Irish Post Office issued the fifth set of stamps in the series depicting Fauna and Flora of Ireland. The issue was devoted to fish associated with Ireland shown in four different designs and three values. A 22p (1,000,000) showing *Lamna nasus*, a 22p (1,000,000) showing *Ostrea edulis* (these two 22p values were printed se-tenant) 26p (3,000,000) showing *Salmo salar* and a 29p (1,000,000) showing *Nephrops norvegicus*.

Lamna nasus The porbeagle shark. Sharks are plentiful off the west and south coasts of Ireland and are the basis of a popular sport fishing industry. Most of the fishing is done from boats, but porbeagles may be caught even by anglers standing on the shore. The porbeagle visits the west coast in the warmer months, from June to October, and feeds to a great extent on mackerel which are abundant during this season.

Ostrea edulis, the Oyster. The great Irish oyster beds are situated in shallow water in sheltered bays on the west coast. The oysters have risen in status since the mid 19th century from a poor man's meal to a gastronome's delight. Careful study of the oyster's growth and habits has led to very successful projects in mariculture. The young oysters, called "spat", can be collected and transferred to the best natural feeding grounds where they stay until big enough to market.

Salmo salar, the salmon. . . Some of the earliest known inhabitants of Ireland, the Mesolithic hunters, settled on the banks of rivers where they could catch salmon. In later times thriving communities developed beside the salmon rivers and today the salmon remains the most highly prized of all Irish fishes. Commercial salmon fishing provides an important part of the income of many small farmers while salmon angling provides recreation for native anglers and visiting tourists.

Nephrops norvegicus, the Dublin Bay prawn. These beautifully colored shellfish are known by a variety of names including "Norway lobsters" and "scampi". The names reflect their wide distribution: from the Mediterranean to Norway and Iceland. They are relatively large prawns, most of them measuring 10cm to 15cm when caught. Dublin Bay prawns are caught by trawlers on muddy ground all around the Irish coast. The Dublin Bay fishery flourished in the 19th century but nowadays most of the Irish Sea catch is made north of Dublin.

The stamps feature original drawings by Wendy Walsh with graphics by Peter Wilbur. Printing was by lithography by Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd., perf 14 x 15.

IRISH BOATS

On 21 September the Irish Post Office issued the third issue in the "Ireland" series which featured Irish boats. On four separate designs and 3 values. A 22p (1,000,000) showing the Galway Hooker, a 22p (1,000,000) showing the Currach, a 26p (2,500,000)



showing the Asgard II and a 29p (1,000,000) showing the Howth 17-footer.

The Galway Hooker. Galway hookers ceased fishing operations a long time ago but, when hooking was abandoned, they were kept in service by plying a passenger and turf trade around Galway Bay. A census compiled in 1977 showed a total of fifty-two hookers in commission, mostly in Ireland. The biggest hooker ever constructed is thought to be "The Ark" 43½ ft (13 meters), built in Connemara in 1887. The oldest hooker on record is the "Connacht" built around 1800.

Currach The currach, a skin or cloth covered wicker boat, the traditional Irish fishing vessel, is now limited to the West Coast. It plays a vital role in the lives of many fishermen in the western maritime counties of Kerry, Clare, Galway, Mayo and Donegal. Each area of the western seaboard developed its own design to suit local conditions, with progressive refinement moving from North to South; the Mulroy Bay Currach being the most primitive and the Kerry Naomhog (currach) the most advanced. Today's currach averages 25 ft in length (8 metres) by a beam of 4½ ft (1½ metres) to a depth of 2 ft (0.60 metres) and carries a crew of three.

Asgard II The sail training vessel *Asgard II* derives her name from this historic *Asgard* from which guns for the Irish Volunteers were landed at Howth in 1914. "Asgard" (Norse) means "Home of the Gods." *Asgard II* is a wooden brigantine, 84 ft long, with 4,000 square feet of sail. Designed by John Tyrell she was built at Arklow and commissioned in March, 1981. She is used by Coist An Asgar (of which the Minister of Defense is Chairman), under the day-to-day management of Irish Shipping Ltd., to provide cruises for young people. *Asgard II* won an international race of sail training vessels from Great Yarmouth to Ostend in 1981.

Howth 17-footer The distinctive Howth 17-footers are the oldest one design class yacht still sailing, as originally designed. One design racing, where all the boats are identical, was first introduced in Dublin Bay in 1886. In 1896 the Howth Sailing Club asked their Commodore, W. H. Boyd, the noted amateur yacht designer, for plans of a seaworthy small keel yacht. The result was the Howth 17-footer, a classic miniature of the great yachts of the latter part of the 19th century, just 17 foot on the water line, with an overall hull length of 22 ft and setting a rakehelly gaff rig complete with a distinctive and very large topsail. This unique class is still sailed hard in local and regatta racing.

The stamp designs by Peter Wilbur are based on photographs taken by Jamie J. Blandford (Currach and Howth 17-footer), Yann Guimard (Galway Hooker) and Michael Chester (Asgard II). Printing was in lithography by Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd., perf 14 x 15.

OFFICIAL STATIONERY OF IRELAND 1922 TO PRESENT

by Richard J. Swords, EPA #67

PART 2

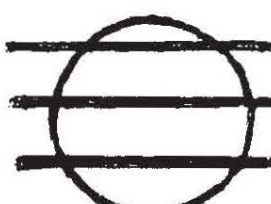
In Part 1 of this series of articles (Summer 1982 **Revealer**) it was stated that Irish Official Stationery changed, historically, with Governmental changes. Each time the name of the country changed, markings on the Official Stationery changed to keep pace. Apparently, as each name change was made, all stocks of stationery then on hand were reidentified. As a result, more than one change appears on some envelopes. Various methods were used to obliterate the old name. Seven different methods are listed here. Most obliterating was done on the O.H.M.S. envelopes but others were subsequently obliterated as needed. This listing will give a good idea of the range of markings that can be found. I suspect there are more. Additions from readers are welcomed.

In classifying the envelopes rather than attempt to assign a type number to each individual variety major types have been assigned numbers (E1 through E5 in the listing). These major types include reidentified as well as newly printed envelopes. Within each type I've listed constant features that I have noted. Papers of war time

envelopes vary in color and texture (E3). Some envelopes have opening flaps on the end of the envelope. There may be some type E1 (Rialtas) envelopes with franking but I haven't seen any. Where franking has been seen I've shown a type number. This type number refers to a listing which will appear in a subsequent part of this series of articles. Two envelopes to watch for are the type E2A (Soarstat) issued in 1927 to which a black border was added in honor of Kevin O'Higgins and a type E3a (Eire) with a revised (u) in the word hOIFIGIUIL.

Postal Cards and Reply Cards are not as prevalent as envelopes, none have been seen with the "Rialtas" imprint. Registered envelopes also seem to start with the "Harp" insignia. In studying the Harp on the Harp Design envelopes I find there are four types. The "Envelope Harp Design" list shows these four types with a table of years of usage and dimensions. I measured the harps by placing a millimeter grid over the harp in the manner shown in the sketch.

OBLITERATING METHODS

//////////////////// RIALTAS SEALADACH NA hÉIREANN Method 1.	Purple ink RIALTAS SEALADACH NA hÉIREANN On His Majesty's Service Method 2.
//////////////////// SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN Method 3.	Handwritten Black ink Soarstat RIALTAS SEALADACH NA hÉIREANN No. 2. On His Majesty's Service
Purple ink SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN ON Method 4.	AIRBACHTAN PHUISÍ Post Office Method 5.
SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN EIRE Method 6.	 EIRE Method 7.

ENVELOPE TYPES

TYPE

E1 - 1922 to 1924

Imprint: Rialtas Sealdac na hEriann
Size: 76 x 127mm to 97 x 210mm
Paper: Buff or Manilla
Printing: In black
Franking: None

E2 - 1924 to 1940

Imprint: Saorstat Eireann
Size: 76 x 127mm to 97 x 225mm
Paper: Buff or Manilla
Printing: In black
Franking: None, Type 1 or Type 2
Variety:
a) Mourning border added in memory of
Kevin O'Higgins (1927)
Note:
Window envelopes exist

E3 - 1940 to 1948

Imprint: Eire
Size: 88 x 152mm to 90 x 212mm
Paper: Manilla &, War time, Fawn & grey
Printing: In black
Franking: None, Type 1, Type 2 or Type 3
Variety:
a) a reversed "U" in hOIFIGIUIL, about 1945
Note:
Window envelopes exist. Envelopes with Eire on the flap
were for use with the National Economy Labels.

E4 - 1948 to present

Imprint: Harp insignia (see listing)
Size: 90 x 151mm to 303 x 403mm
Paper: Manilla, buff, brown
Printing: In black
Franking: None, Type 2, Type 3 or Type 5
Variety:
a) Returnable envelope with Type 6 Franking on the flap
and on the back. Original mailer tucks flap inside.
It is returned by sealing the flap on the outside.

E5 - 1944 to present

- a) Imprint: Harp on flap
Size: Various
Paper: Cream, white or white w/blue lining
Printing: None
Franking: None or Type 6a
Note:
For Executive use
- b) Printed Harp
Imprint: Harp insignia on flap
Size: Various
Paper: Cream, white or white w/blue lining
Printing: Green
Franking: None or Type 6a
- c) No Harp
Imprint: None
Size: Various
Paper: Cream, white or white/blue lining
Printing: Green
Franking: None or Type 6a
Note:
Type 'b' and 'c' are for use by members of the
House of Government

MISCELLANEOUS ENVELOPES

There are many other envelopes in "Official" use but since they are not normally sent through the mails to the public they are outside the scope of this listing, i.e., Telegraph Envelopes, Savings Bank Envelopes, etc.

POSTAL CARD TYPES

TYPE

PC1 - 1924 to 1940

Imprint: Saorstat Eireann
Size: 83 x 129mm
Paper: Brownish
Printing: In black
Franking: Type 2

PC2 - 1950

Imprint: Harp
Size: 89 x 159mm
Paper: Medium grey
Printing: In black
Franking: None

PC3 - 1951

Imprint: None
Size: 76 x 115mm, 126 x 177mm
Paper: Green, brown
Printing: In black
Franking: Type 2 or Type 3

REPLY CARD TYPES

PCR1 - 1930's?

Imprint: None
Size: 126 x 178mm
Paper: Greenish grey
Printing: In black
Franking: Type 3
Note:
Used for survey of travelers entering Ireland. Used copies
have not been seen so dates of usage are unknown.

PCR2 - 1969 to 1971

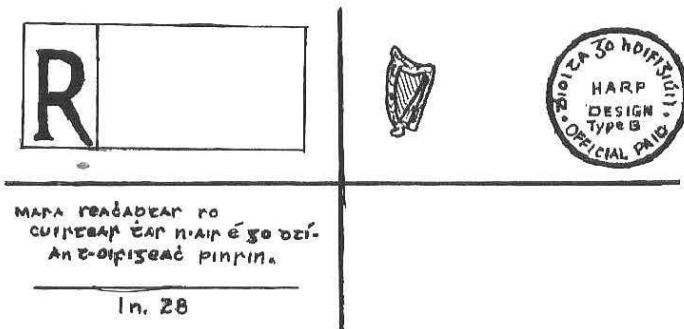
Imprint: None
Size: 102 x 105mm, 102 x 116mm
Paper: Rust or grey
Printing: In black
Franking: Type 6b

PCR3 - 1979

Imprint: None
Size: 106 x 116mm
Paper: Red or lilac
Printing: In black
Franking: Type 6b

Note:
Both PCR2 and PCR3 are mail back cards from the Eolai
an Phoist and the years of use are the years of publication
of the book.

REGISTERED ENVELOPES TYPES

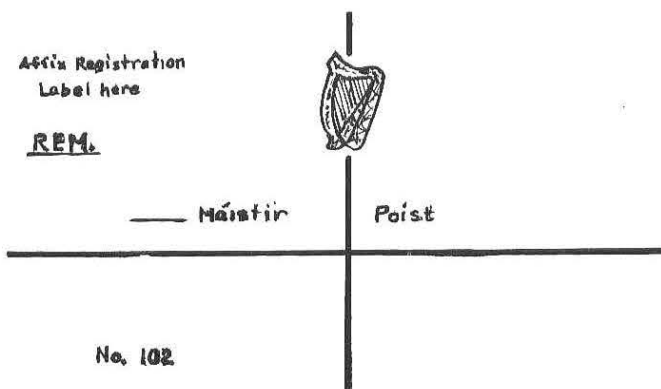


TYPE

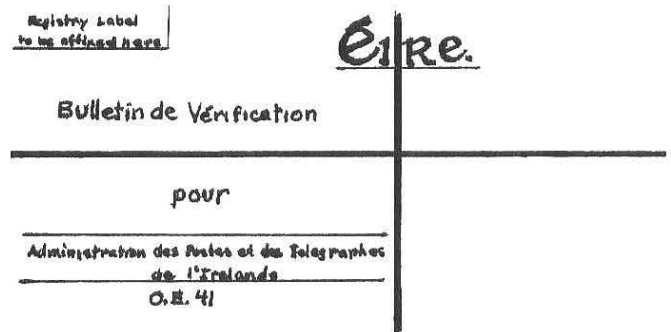
RE1 - Imprint: Harp
Size: 122 x 248mm
Paper: Brown
Printing: In purple
Franking: Type 1



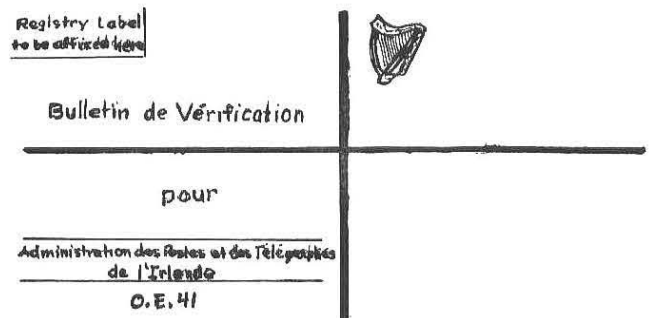
RE2 - Imprint: Harp
Size: 253 x 380mm
Paper: Manilla
Printing: In purple
Franking: None



RE3 - Imprint: Harp
Size: 98 x 225mm to 152 x 248mm
Paper: Manilla
Printing: In purple
Franking: None



RE4 - Imprint: EIRE
Size: 102 x 227mm
Paper: Brown
Printing: In purple or black
Franking: None



RE4a - Imprint: Harp
Size: 102 x 227mm
Paper: Brown
Printing: In purple or black
Franking: None
Note:

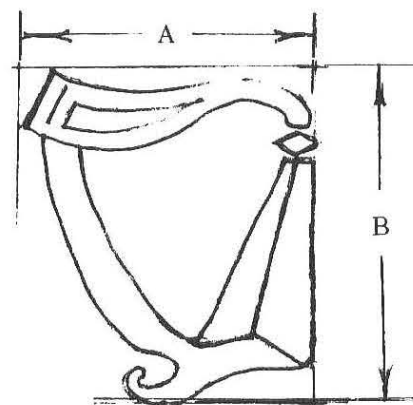
Both RE4 and RE4a are printed in French. The Irish Post Office informed me that since Ireland belongs to the UPU (Universal Postal Union) French, the universal language of the UPU, is for international usage.

It has been reported that some Registered Envelopes with SAORSTAT heading have been located. When firm information is compiled this section will be revised.

HARP INSIGNIA DESIGNS

Measurement of the Harp

Use a millimeter grid over the Harp to obtain dimension width "A" and height "B", as shown in the tables of the Harps.



TYPE I ENVELOPES



YEAR OF USE	
Earliest	Latest
1949	1959

APPROX. SIZE, MM	
A	B
11	17

TYPE II ENVELOPES



YEAR OF USE	
Earliest	Latest
1961 1977	1978

APPROX. SIZE, MM	
A	B
10 13	16 26

TYPE III POST CARD



YEAR OF USE	
Earliest	Latest
1952	

APPROX. SIZE, MM	
A	B
9	14

TYPE IV REGISTERED ENVELOPE



YEAR OF USE	
Earliest	Latest
1949	

APPROX. SIZE, MM	
A	B
9 9½ 10 11	19 15½ 17

MY IRISH COLLECTION

by Gotz Weihmann

Starting this article I beg your pardon for very terrible style in which it is written. English is a foreign language for me. However, I think it is easier for you to read a bad English rather than a good German.

I am one of the relatively few German collectors of Irish stamps. Most Germans prefer other countries. Some years ago there was a poll in West Germany: What are your favorite countries in collecting stamps? The results were: Germany (West, Berlin, East) first followed by Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, European Common Issues, France, Vatican, Netherland, Great Britain, Luxembourg, Denmark and so on. Ireland held the 21st position with Cyprus being next.

I started collecting Ireland around about 20 years ago. There were two reasons for this decision. The first; I learned to love Ireland in 1959 travelling some weeks through this marvelous island from South to North and from West (including the Aran Islands) to East. The second; I looked for a philatelic field which a man with a small pocket may complete (or nearly complete) from the first issue and which does not load the collectors with new issues. So, I got to Ireland from two directions.

With respect of my purse I decided to collect only unused stamps. (Solely one exception happened in all the years, which you will read about later.) Also in this area there are a lot of possibilities to expand one's collection.

I began with buying a very incomplete collection at a German auction. The price was low, the quality of the stamps was medium to superb. It was a skeleton of a collection "without grease or meat" ... no Seahorses, of course, no specialties at all. Trying to fill in this collection I learned that it was (and so it is today) very difficult to find and to buy older Irish issues in Germany. Most of the usual dealer have only the last years in stock. They don't stock Overprints which should be the core of a good Ireland collection. Only at auctions will you find better Irish stamps.

It was real luck that I found, very early, a fabulous and first-class dealer in Ireland. That was "The Shamrock Stamp Service" in Dublin, later named "David Feldman Ltd.," then "David MacDonnell Ltd.," and now "MacDonnell White Ltd." (I think you all know this Stamp Dealing House in Leinster Road.) David Feldman was the man who helped me to fill my collection from point to point. Often he gave me the first chance of buying when he had a rare stamp on my want list.

Very useful to me was Feldman's "Handbook of Irish Philately". Step by step, I learned to distinguish Dollard and Thom and Harrison, narrow date and wide date, short 1 and long 1, and all the other details of the Overprints, also the difference between Die 1 and Die 2 on the 2 pence stamps (which you won't find in Michel, the favorite catalogue for Central European collectors.)

Finally, I arrived at the Overprints with accent problems; accent inserted, accent reversed, accent missing, circumflex accent, and so on. These I decided *not* to collect. Why? I only start a special branch if there is a chance to complete or nearly complete it. A partial collection which contains only the cheap and moderate values is without real value. Examining the catalogue I found such a lot of very expensive accent varieties that there was and there is no chance for me.

Looking out for another special branch, I discovered the phrase "gutter pairs". Deciding that this might be a good possibility for me I opened a want list "Irish Gutter Pairs Unused". That was in 1965. I did not foresee what a load I had put onto my shoulders at that time.

At the beginning, I got a good number of gutter pairs (overprints, definitives & commemoratives), first, and most of all from Feldman, then, also, from other dealers in Ireland and some in London. But from year to year it became more and more difficult. I wrote over a hundred letters, perhaps, one hundred fifty, to American and Canadian dealers, nearly always without success. In all of Germany there was not one gutter pair except from the Philatelic Service of Wolfgang Grohn in Hanau, who is the best specialist for Irish stamps in Germany. My gutter pair idea developed into a "mouthfull of concentrate with tooth breaking quality".

A highlight occurred when I bought from MacDonnell a very fine gutter pair N.H. of Feldman No T11A (SG 25a). I think there exist not very many pairs of this rarest overprint low value. At the start of 1981 my "gutter pairs" want list was reduced step by step and pair by pair to 29 items (altogether there are, at the moment, 296 Irish stamps with gutter pairs). You can imagine my delight when I got, in the spring of 1981, a letter with 11 gutter pairs at once. At that moment my want list diminished from 29 to 18. What are the 18? well Feldman No. T10A, 25, 28, 32, 50; C36-38, 55-56, 69; D5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 (SG No. 24, 30, 33, 37, 55, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 81, 82, 149-151, 168-169 & 182.) For each of these eighteen items which I can buy I will make a high jump to the ceiling.

However, there is a problem with C36-38 (SG 149-151), this set was printed in sheets of 120 stamps in two panes of 60 with gutter margins between. But as Hibernian wrote to me (and MacDonnell agrees) there are really no gutter pairs in existence. They were all separated by the officials before selling at the counters to the public. In any case, nobody has seen pairs of these three stamps. Is any reader of this article able to tell me something further on this problem? I would be glad to hear this or that about it. (My address: Haydnstr. 22, D-7148 Remseck 1, West Germany). I also have a very interesting item in this collection, a block of four with gutters in between of the ½p green with red overprint proof!

Speaking about Proofs, this is another small section of my collection. I collect them with and without rubber stamp "Original Proof DOLLAR 17.2.22" on the reverse. On the want list are only two items PR 1 blue overprint (but only one block of twenty-four is known in the whole world) and PR5 with rubber stamp on reverse.

Another section of my collection is "Irish Se-tenant stamps". It begins with the Seahorse Three-line overprint with the Composite Setting of the Dates. Fortunately, I started this section in the early days when the prices weren't as high as nowadays. It was my idea to collect all four main combinations; narrow/wide, and wide/narrow in horizontal and vertical pairs, altogether with three values in four combinations each making a total of twelve items. Fortunately, the rare shilling combinations were available at relatively low prices. (To barter stamps like these is absolutely impossible in Germany, you will never find another collector to work a trade with). I am very happy to have, now, all the twelve composite pair combinations.

An observation about composite pairs ... most dealers and auctioneers write in their lists simply "Composite Pair", sometimes they may write "Horizontal (or vertical) Composite Pair", but they nearly never write the position of the narrow and the wide date stamp. Is the offered pair narrow/wide or wide/narrow? You may learn what it is only if the pair is photographed. I think it would be helpful to describe the pairs exactly.

In my se-tenant section are also all the common issues like Easter Rising (1966) Swiney/Curtain (1970) and Horses (1981). Here we have a similar problem. Most dealers offer them as "Se-tenant pairs" but these stamps exist also in different combinations left/right and also some up/down depending on printings. I am surprised at the little interest of dealers and collectors in this

difference. Is it not of more weight than all the little dots and spots on stamps which are often observed so very extensively? (This, of course, is only my personal point-of-view. Everybody has his own ideas about questions like this. Philately lives by the individuality of the philatelists. What for one is without interest is for the other of high importance.

Now, I come to the coil stamps. This is a very small but interesting part of Irish philately. Fortunately, it is not too expensive to complete ... with one exception ... the 2p, watermark SE, vertical imperforated (F NO D4c11, SG 74b) I think all readers of *The Revealer* know this rarest stamp of Ireland (except some Seahorses accent errors). As shown in "Irish Stamp News" No. 8 (Summer 1981) there exist only 18 or 20 stamps in unused condition ... impossible for me to buy one of these copies. However, four years ago I found a *used* copy in very good condition, pretty cancel with readable date, in a Dutch auction catalogue. I decided it was better to have one used copy in my unused collection than no copy of all of this rare stamp, so I gave a bit for this coil stamp and got it. The price was favorable, DM1300 presently about 380 Irish pounds.

So, My collection of "Ireland Unused" contains *one* used stamp!

Finally, I come to the section "Booklets: You know there exist some very rare booklets. Two of them have been on my want list from the very beginning to this day, Feldman No 2B and 3B, also the special booklet pane No B7 which comes from booklet 3B. But I am proud enough of my booklets 1B and 4B which are also not very common. (Of course I collect only *one* copy of each booklet, it is quite impossible for a normal collector to subdivide in serial number and advertising inscription).

This is the story of my collection "Ireland Unused" which is absolutely the best and most enjoyable part of my philatelic activities. I beg your pardon for the length of this article and, once more, for the bad English.



IRISH GROUP FORMS

Franz Holzmüller of Munich has been elected President of a new club of collectors specializing in Ireland in West Germany, "The Ireland Research and Study Group." The organizing meeting was held in Munich on 24 July 1982. Approximately 20 collectors, from all over Germany, attended. With those who wrote in, but were unable to attend the meeting, membership stands at over 40. Greetings and wishes of success were received from Irish collectors in Ireland, Great Britain and the United States.

The club has been accepted as a member of The Federation of German Philatelists. The first issue of the club publication, *The Harp*, was scheduled for release in October. Among other things, an auction and an exchange listing will be regular features.

Further information concerning the group may be obtained from Franz Holzmüller, Auenstrasse 21a, 8000 München 5, West Germany.



REVEALER DEADLINES

In order to insure that your material reaches the Editor in time for insertion in the next current issue of *The Revealer* be sure to submit your copy to meet the closing dates listed below:

Spring Issue	March 1st
Summer Issue	June 1st
Fall Issue	September 1st
Winter Issue	December 1st



THE REVENUE SCENE

by Declan O'Connor

NEW EXCISE DUTY



Illustrated above is a fairly new Irish revenue stamp which has a number of interesting features. The inscription translates as 'Excise Duty'. This series of stamps has three values. £15, £25 and £100 (definitely a sign of inflationary times).

They were introduced as a measure to obtain further revenues by Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1980, and are payable as additional taxes on applications to the District Court for public dancing licenses and on applications by hoteliers, registered clubs and the ordinary holders of Liquor Licenses (publicans) to authorize them to serve liquor for a defined extended period beyond the permitted hours of closing (11 p.m. in winter – Oct. to March – and 11:30 p.m. in 'summer').

Every application must have these Excise Duty stamps affixed in addition to the ordinary District Court stamps being so affixed also. The section specifically prohibits the clerks in the District Court offices from accepting such applications for entry on the Court list unless the Excise Duty stamps are so affixed. This prevents such applications being granted by the Court on the undertaking of the applicant to hand in the proper stamp duties later. I wonder if this objective prompted their printing in the unique color combination (yellow, blue, red & black) so as to avoid any possible confusion or mistake from the standard color combination of all the other Irish revenues. Personally, I think the color combination of these Excise Duty stamps is a pleasant one.

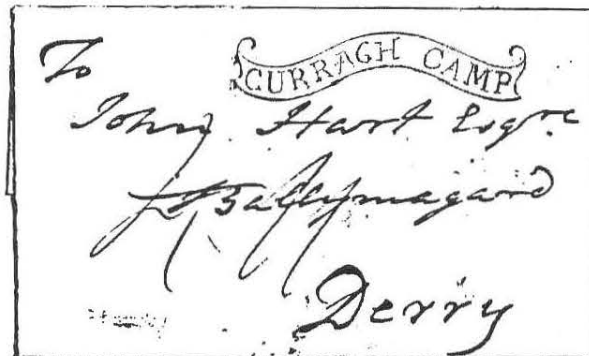
Originally, only applications for an annual dancing license attracted the duty of £100. An application for a 'temporary' public dancing license (the license extends for the maximum duration of a calendar month) attracted an E.D. stamp of £15. More recently, the Excise Duty on public dancing licenses has been reduced from £100 to £75 and from £15 to £10, always an encouraging sign. The various 'liquor' applications carry an E.D. of £25.

It is not known if there are any plans to issue new stamps to accommodate these new duties. It is possible that the £100 value stamps might now become redundant.

CURRAGH CAMP, CO. KILDARE

by William Kane

Recently I received a photostat of an entire, bearing a "CURRAGH CAMP" scroll type handstamp.



In the past I have seen about four of this mark but always on piece. As far as I know the date of use has not been recorded, so I was very pleased to get this photocopy which was dated, on the reverse was a "Mermaid" of 1808.

The sender requested some information relative the mark, also some details of the camp. In order to get this data, I got out a file where I throw anything relative to Military Camps. To my surprise I found a cover which must have lain unnoticed for years.



It has a faint, but readable, two line "CURRAGH CAMP/Co. KILDARE", the "CURRAGH CAMP" measures 40 x 4mm and the "Co. KILDARE" measures 34 x 4mm. (Ed. note: marking has been darkened for reproduction).

The Curragh Camp is located on an expanse of grassland, known as the Curragh, which extends to almost 5,000 acres, and can be traced back to remote antiquity. It is recorded that in the year 777, the Battle of the Curragh was fought between Ruadhri, son of Faelan, and Bran, son of Muireadhach. There are records that in 1599, the Earl of Essex camped on the Curragh. In 1688, records tell us, there was a camp on the Curragh consisting of three regiments of horse, one regiment of dragoons, and seven regiments of foot. The reorganization of the Irish Militia, in the years prior to the 1798 rebellion, saw the force assembled on the Curragh. It is known that six regiments of cavalry were in camp on the Curragh in 1797.

It was the Crimean War, 1853-1856, which led to the construction of the first permanent camp on the Curragh of Kildare. In August 1860, a total of 11,000 men were located in the camp under canvas. By 1901 seven barracks made up the camp. There was a famous "Mutiny" in the Curragh Camp during the month of March 1914. The Irish Volunteer prisoners, 1,500 in number were held in the Curragh Camp in 1921. The British handed over the Curragh Camp to the Irish Army on the 16th May 1921. It must be the largest Military Barracks in Ireland, and is still in use.

DEFINITIVE COILS

by John J. Blessington

By the end of 1923 the Irish Post Office had completed issuing the low values of the permanent definitive stamps. Replacements were required for the "Saorstat" coils, supplies of which were running low. The decision was made to produce them in Dublin.

"SE" & "E" WMK COILS

To replace the "Saorstat" coils, paste-up rolls were made from sheets of the ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, and 3d values and were made available late in 1924. Member Bill Kane (Revealer 1964) reported that he had in his collection a leader of the ½d Sword of Light dated 31 October 1924 with a pencilled note . . . "1st of permanent to be issued". Unlike the Harrison coils these coils have not been granted catalog recognition in the major catalogs despite the fact that they were both produced in the same way.

When the change over to "E" watermarked paper was made only four values appeared, ½d, 1d, 2d, and 3d. Again, both vertical and horizontal rolls were produced.

HOW THE COILS WERE PRODUCED

Coil rolls were produced from counter sheets of 120 stamps. The panes were pasted together by means of the trimmed sheet margins into either horizontal or vertical lengths. These pasted up strips were then cut by machine and rolled. Leaders and end tabs, in the same color as the stamps, were added. Production and contents data were marked on the leader. Vertical rolls were made up of 500 stamps (50x10), Horizontal rolls were made up of 480 stamps (40x12). Some 1,000 stamp rolls were also made up.

THE "EXPERIMENTAL" COILS

Because of the costs involved in the joining and trimming of the hand joined coils, experiments were made by the Irish Post Office, starting in the early thirties, in the production of coils in continuous rolls.

In April 1933 the 1d map stamp was issued as the first of these so-called 'endless coils' in vertical rolls. The top and bottom are perforated 15 and the sides are imperforate except for one hole on each side just below the top horizontal perforations. The two perforations were to act as guide holes in a new vending machine. The stamps were issued in rolls of 960 and only 30 rolls were printed. Stamps exist with watermark inverted.

The vending machine proved to be unsuccessful but the continuous printing process was considered worthwhile, enough so, that a second experimental printing was made sometime in July 1934, again perf 15 x imperf but this time without the two perfs on the side and again printed in rolls of 960.

In November two new values appeared, a ½d and a 2d. However, these are imperforate horizontally and vertical perforations are 14. The reason for the change is unknown. Another major difference is that the watermark is sideways. Assuming the same press and paper as the previous 'experimentals' and the paper fed to the press with watermark upright then the stamps must have been printed horizontally. We know that printing and perforating were done in a single pass through the machine (Sheehy 1970). It was only necessary to adjust the spacing between rows of perforating pins to perforate the horizontal stamps. Were these coils printed to prove the feasibility of manufacturing horizontal feed coils? The number of stamps on a roll or the number of rolls produced is not known. One source (Zervas 1941), states 960 stamp rolls but this statement must be taken with some skepticism since he also states . . . "sides were completely imperforate." EPA member Bruce Weinman reports a copy of the ½d postmarked 4 November 1934, which may well be the date of issue.

The next 'experimental' coil to appear is the most expensive stamp of Ireland, a 2d green perforated 15 horizontally x imperf vertically. The earliest recorded postmark is 8 September 1935 although another copy with a blurred postmark may be 20 April 1935 (Jackson 1968). When it was manufactured is unknown. Being perforated 15 it is possible that it was printed before the ½d and 2d of November 1934 when the perforation gage was changed to 14. It would appear that collectors were completely unaware of

its issue, evidenced by the lack of multiples. There are two pair known and a strip of five which was removed from a parcel wrapping. (Brady 1981). Brady also reports a strip of six used. In the last few years many new copies have been reported. A census of used copies needs to be taken to go along with Brady's excellent report of mint copies. Certainly, there must be more than 50 copies now known!

As a result of experiments up to that time the Government Printing Works ordered a new press which was installed in Dublin Castle. The first printing from this machine appeared in 1940, a 1d printed on the new watermarked 'E' paper. The horizontal perforation is 14 and it is imperforated vertically. Only 45 rolls of 480 stamps each were issued.

Problems relating to World War II caused work on the machine to be discontinued for the duration. After the war, on 30 March 1946, another 1d printing was made, this time perf 15 x imperf. Rolls were made up of 480 stamps, watermark is 'E' and both inverted and upright watermarks are known.

This concluded the production of the so-called 'endless' coils. As can be seen, there is still much to be discovered about these interesting issues. During this time paste-up coils were also made.

O'CLEARY & 3d PHOTOGRAVURE PASTE UP COILS

The next coil to appear was a paste up made from sheet stamps. On 30 June 1944 ½d and 1 shilling stamps were issued in honor of Michael O'Cleary. These two stamps then became definitives replacing the stamps of the same value. Subsequently the ½d was issued as a coil. Both horizontal and vertical coils were made, horizontal coils with 960 stamps and vertical with 480.

On 1 August 1967 the 3d Cross of Cong stamp, printed by photo-gravure, was released. Some time later, 960 stamp paste-up vertical coil rolls were issued. The earliest date recorded on a leader is 2 September 1968 (O Mathuna 1975). Two cylinders were used in printing the sheet stamps and coils were made from both printings (O Mathuna 1982).

"BOOKLET COILS"

In 1969 the lithographed 3d was reissued in a vertical format. The discovery of these coils was made in 1970 (O Mathuna 1975). These are paste-up coils trimmed on both sides and look like the earlier lithographed coils. However, they were made from sheets which had been printed for making booklet panes. These sheets contained 22 stamps vertically and watermarks are both upright and inverted. Each roll had 960 stamps, 43 strips of 22 plus 14 stamps. Since this 14 stamp piece had no margin tab it was necessary to use transparent gummed tape to attach the leader. Five leaders are known to exist. These leaders show dates from 18 August 1969 to 4 September 1969.

£s.d. GERL PASTE-UP COILS

The first Gerl definitives were released on 14 October 1968 but it wasn't until late in 1970 that the first coils were issued (Warren/FitzGerald 1978). At that time, ½d, 2d, 3d horizontal coil rolls were issued. These paste-up coils were made from special cylinders which were 20 stamps wide. The gum used was Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA) and perforations were 14 x 15. Rolls contained 960 stamps with leaders and end tabs.

DECIMAL MULTIVALUE COILS

Change over to decimal currency occurred on 15 February 1971 at which time all new stamps were issued. New stamp vending machines were introduced to accept the new 5 pence coin. These new machines were made to dispense a multivalued coil strip of three stamps. The first 5p coil strip was issued on 15 February 1971 on paper with watermark 'E', perforated 13 x 15 and with values of 1p, 1½p and 2½p. There were 1500 stamps (500 strips x 3 values) in a vertical roll. These stamps were printed from special cylinders with stamps 10x24 on a continuous web of paper, trimmed into strips and have leaders attached. Two types of gum were used on these, PVA with a dull finish and PVA with a shiny

finish. In late 1973 coil rolls with 900 stamps appeared (300x3). Both PVA dull and PVA shiny gum were used.

In February 1972 the 5 pence stamp vending machines were replaced with 10 pence machines which dispense a strip of four stamps. The first 10p coil, issued on 24 February 1972, had the values 1½p, 2p, 2½p and 4p. The values were printed 4p, 2p, 1½p and 2½p on watermark 'E' paper and perf 14x15. Manufacture was the same as the 5p coils except that they were released in rolls of 3000 stamps (750x4). Leaders were attached and gum used was PVA dull. On 29 January 1974 a new coil was issued with the 5p included so that the strip contained 2x1½p, 2p and 5p, printing order 5p, 1½p, 1½, 2p. In all other respects they are the same as the 1972 10p coil.

In May 1974 it was announced by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs that the Watermarked paper would no longer be used for Irish stamp but it wasn't until 21 March 1977 that the 10p coil appeared on unwatermarked paper. Composition was changed to 1p, 2x2p, 5p, printing order 5p, 2p, 2p, 1p. Gum used was PVA blue green with ribbed effect (Type C). In all other respects they were the same as the two previous coils.

IDENTIFYING AND COLLECTING COILS

Most preprinted albums provide spaces for the 'experimental' coils and the more recent Gerl coils but do not provide spaces for the coils made from sheets. However, this shouldn't prevent you from collecting them. They are usually collected in 'paste-up' pairs. Adding multiples, leaders etc. add spice to a collection.

Coils made from sheets are only identified by their trimmed edges. Only Irish specialist dealers are likely to stock them but they can be found mixed in with sheet stamps some times. Try to find both horizontal and vertical paste-up pairs. The 'SE' watermarks in all values are scarce and putting a collection together will prove difficult. The 'E' watermarked coils are easier to find except the 1d horizontal paste-up pairs. The ½d O'Cleary and 3d photogravure are not difficult. Leaders and end tabs can be found.

All of the 'experimental' coils, with the exception of the rare 2d perf 15 x imperf, are generally available but somewhat expensive. The first 1d with the single vertical perfs comes with watermark upright and inverted and are worth looking for. The 'E' watermarked 1d perf 15x imperf also comes upright and inverted watermark. Finding these experimentals used is more difficult.

As stated earlier, few 'booklet' coils were made and fewer saved so they are very scarce, although, a strip shows up in auction periodically. Since there are 22 stamps between joins, as opposed to 12 on the normal 3d coils, strips must contain more than 12 stamps *without* a join to prove 'booklet' coil provenance.

Singles of the first Gerl coils are easily identified by perforations ... 14x15 as opposed to 15x15 for the sheet stamps. Paste-up pairs of the three values (1d, 2d, 3d) are available as are leaders and end tabs.

The decimal Gerls are collected, mint, in strips of 3 for 5p coils and strips of 4 for the 10p coils. Individual stamps are identifiable by their 14x15 perfs. The 5p coils should be collected, mint, in the two gum varieties, PVA dull and PVA shiny. The two 10p coils on watermarked paper have only one gum. On unwatermarked paper, the one 10p strip issued only comes with one gum. Leaders are available. End papers weren't issued attached to the stamps. There are collectible constant varieties on some stamps. First Day covers are available. Paste-up joins exist where repairs were made to repair paper breaks during the production process.

CHECK LIST

For those coils not listed in Scott's catalog, the catalog number of the sheet stamp from which the coil was made is given.

WATERMARK 'SE'

½d Emerald Green Perf 14x15	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#65
1d Carmine Perf 14x15	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#66
1½d Claret Perf 14x15	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#67
2d Pearl Green Perf 14x15	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#68
3d Blue Perf 14x15	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#70

EXPERIMENTALS WMK 'SE'

½d Emerald Green Imperf x perf 14	.....	Horizontal Sc#91
1d Carmine Perf 15 x imperf (single holes)	.....	Vertical 87a
1d Carmine Perf 15 x imperf (no holes)	.....	Vertical 87
1d Carmine Perf 15 x imperf (no holes)	.....	Vertical 87
1d Carmine Perf 15 x imperf (no holes) mnk inv	...	Vertical 87
2d Pearl Green Imperf x perf 15	.....	Horizontal 92
2d Pearl Green Perf 15 x Imperf	.....	Vertical 68b

EXPERIMENTALS WMK 'E'

1d Carmine Perf 14 x imperf	.....	Vertical Sc#105a
1d Carmine Perf 15 x imperf	.....	Vertical Sc#105
1d Carmine Perf 15 x imperf wmk inv	.....	Vertical Sc#105

WATERMARK 'E'

½d Emerald Green Perf 15x14	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#106
1d Carmine Perf 15x14	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#107
2d Pearl Green Perf 15x14	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#109
3d Blue Perf 15x14	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#111

O'CLEARY & 3d PHOTOGRAVURE

½d Green Perf 14x15	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#128
3d Blue Perf 14x15	.....	Horiz & Vert Sc#225

BOOKLET COIL

3d Blue* Perf 15x14	.....	Vertical Sc#111
3d Blue* Perf 15x14 wmk inv	.....	Vertical Sc#111

*Can't be identified as a single

£ s d GERLS

1d Light Green Perf 14x15	.....	Horizontal Sc#251
2d Light Ochre Perf 14 x 15	.....	Horizontal Sc#252
3d Blue Perf 14x15	.....	Horizontal Sc#253

DECIMAL WATERMARKED GERLS

1p Blue Perf 14x15	.....	Vertical Sc#291
1½p Lake Brown Perf 14x15	.....	Vertical Sc#292
2' Deep Green Perf 14x15	.....	Vertical Sc#293
2½p Sepia Perf 14x15	.....	Vertical Sc#294
4p Bluish Violet Perf 14x15	.....	Vertical Sc#297
5p Yellow-Olive Perf 14x15	.....	Vertical Sc#298a
5p strip of three - 1p, 1½p, 2½p	-	Sc#291, 292, 294
10p strip of four - 1½p, 2p, 2½p, 4p	-	292, 293, 294, 297
10p strip of four - 1½p, 1½p, 2p, 5p	-	292, 292, 293, 298a

UNWATERMARKED

1p Blue Perf 14x15	.....	Vertical Sc#344
2p Deep Green Perf 14x15		Vertical Sc#345
5p Yellow-Olive Perf 14x15		Vertical Sc#348

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MY IRISH COLLECTION

By: D. Matthews

It is about 15 years since I started collecting anything connected with Ireland, in the postal sense, and even this was off and on. Looking at it now, however, I'm happy. My collection is broken down into five sections.

- 1) Postal History pre 1840
- 2) G.B. used in Ireland, 1840-1922
- 3) Pre-Decimal, 1922-1971
- 4) Decimal
- 5) Mail going in to Ireland

I'll cover section 1 and part of section 2 in this first article and the balance in the next, telling you some of the highlights.

The Postal History pre 1840 section starts with a "Bishop Mark" of 1789 with MULLINGAR (uniform height) and goes to Mileage marks, Mermaids, PP Offices, 9 o'clock (note spelling), 6 o'clock eve, Free Mail and TOO LATE. In fact, the normal kind of marks you would look for in such a collection. I also, however, have one that puzzles me, a cover from Gorey with LATE MAIL B. I have looked in D.F. but cannot find the B over late mail type. Can anyone help me?

I think I am a stamp collector first rather than a Postal Historian for in this second section I have done a bit better. I start off with a Penny Black on cover from Galway to Ballinasloe with a red Maltese Cross, half on the stamp & half on the cover. It is a four margin copy and, as a bonus, is plate 9 with the "O" flaw, dated January 2nd, 1841. I am just as pleased with a pair of 'reds' on cover from Moate dated October 5th 1841 (in 1951 Moate's population was only 1,274!). It was because of the year that I slipped in an item of postal history in this section, PAID AT SLIGO in a box, with all the trimmings, red box, blue date stamp on the front, February 1843, and on the back, Enniskillen and Belfast, both in blue, and Glasgow, boxed in black.

A couple of postal stationery items have found a resting place just about here, Queen Victoria one penny pre-paid envelopes, one from Dublin and the other from Carrickfergus with T.P. Both have black Maltese crosses, the straight line of the Dublin cross very prominent, Type 2. On the Dublin cover, another item I have a little trouble with is a PAID AT CASTLE EBELLINGHAM, 26 September 1843 in blue in unframed circle . . . is this an early use?

The imperf 1d penny reds are plentiful, on or off cover, but a strip of three from Limerick '303' showing the P converted to an R from plate 83 is worth a mention. One item which I am proud to own is from Cullybacky/Ballymena in two line italics with a fine example of the 1/- embossed cut square, with a 2d blue imperf. Going to Canada, it is cancelled at Ballymena '46'. Coming back to perf reds, I have an envelope to His Grace the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, Brodrik Castle, Arran, with the Dublin "Spoon" 3 lines in the diamond (I have never seen the 4 line type). This is dated October 1855 and has the signature, W. R. Hamilton. Here again, but not to get carried away, I have a block of four on cover from Carrick-On-Shannon with "Spoon" dated May 8th 1855.

It is at this period of time, 1850 to 1870's, when some very nice G.B. stamps came out and I have been very lucky to pick up one or two items over the years. For example, two 4 penny SG 66 on cover to Canada from Edworthstown '206' with this little note ("I have been obliged to tear off part of my last page for it was too heavy, did not signify much, just goodbyes.") written on the inside flap, a rather personal touch. Now we come to something different, an envelope from K to India, with embossed OVERLAND VIA MARSEILLES in a black box.



A privately printed envelope, very odd. Has anyone seen anything like it? On the back is the Newtownards 'signet ring' type mark while the stamps are cancelled '358'. LATE MAIL above DUBLIN from Banbridge '58' dated 1863 is another worth mentioning. It is an envelope going to Bengal with a pair of reds and a pair of the 4 penny deep vermilion, SG 95, plate 8, and cancelled '400' ROSSTREVOR (again, note spelling) and to add to it, on the back, is a TRAVELLING P.O. No. 1, BENGAL.

What about just stamps? Well here goes, to name but a few; Medium Garter watermark 4, SG 64, '186' DUBLIN, Large Garter, '357' NEWRY, 1/- SG 117, plate 6, BALLINGARRY, 6d SG 109, a pair from TRALEE, 4d SG 192 a vertical pair with the Cork "Scroll" which has been reported in the past editions. I also have this type on an envelope dated January 1883 the stamp being the one penny lilac of 1881. One item which should be mentioned is a Queen Victoria half-penny wrapper complete with the '357' of NEWRY. There is no year or date. I made this note, "These wrappers are very hard to get complete and unripped in a used condition." The last item of the Queen Victoria era is a 1901 LATE FEE DUBLIN with the added half penny stamp.

(To be continued)

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