

The Revealers

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Fall 1984

BOOKLETS AND BOOKLET PANES

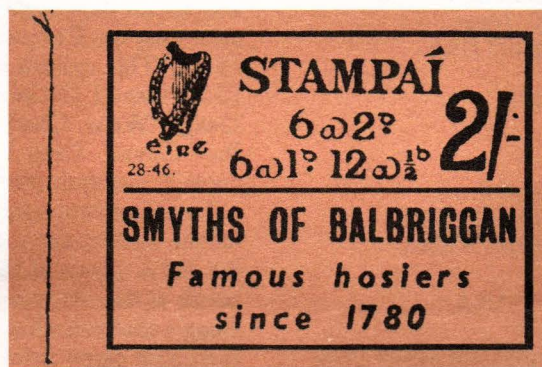


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THE REVEALER

Whole No. 156

Fall 1984

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

New members accepted subject to no objections received within 45 days after this publication.

- #1909 Gerard B. Hanifan, RD 2, Box 337, Newton, N.J. 07860
- #1910 Cliff Robinson, 643 N.W. Survista Ave., Corvallis, OR 97330
- #1911 Jerry Bell, 3016 Laredo Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76116
- #1912 Raymond H. Toomay, 16222 Monterey Lane Sp179, Huntington Beach, CA 92649
- #1913 Carsten Gardan, Box 191, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
- #1914 William G. Workman, 107 Horshoe Lane, Horsham, PA 19044
- #1915 Gerard M. McAree, 94 Deerpark Rd., Belfast BT14 7PW, N. Ireland
- #1916 William S. Shields, 1858 E. Atlantic St., Philadelphia, PA 19134
- #1917 Joseph J. O'Reilly, 10880 Seamount Rd., Richmond, BC Canada V7A 4P6
- #1918 James N. Joy, 8663 Oak Ave., Orangeville, CA 95662
- #1919 Bernard C. Clancy, 5250 Valley Forge Dr., Alexandria, VA 22304
- #1920 William Urko, 10 Morningside Dr., West Granby, CT 06090
- #1921 Paul E. Daugherty, RD 1, Box 210, Wrightsville, PA 17368
- #1922 Eugene C. Tilley, 439 Shady Lane, Howell, N.J. 07731
- #1923 Vincent J. Cattie, MD, 6530 N. 7th St., Philadelphia, PA 19126
- #1924 James W. Farrell, 210 Locust Rd., Fort Washington, PA 19034
- #1925 Joseph B. Timoney, Jr., Box 244, 340 Honey Rund Rd., Ambler, PA 19002
- #1926 Keith Jones, 209 S. Orange St., Media, PA 19063
- #1927 James J. Rodgers, 113 Andrea Rd., Cheltenham, PA 19012
- #1928 John C. Sproule, Box 12, Merion Station, PA 19066
- #1929 Robert Benninghoff, 9 Briar Rd., Maple Shade, N.J. 08052
- #1930 Owen T. Kelly, 227 Manning Ave., S. Plainfield, N.J. 07080
- #1931 John J. Carpitella, 1350 Welsh Rd., Warrington, PA 18976
- #1932 Paul Mc Gonigale, 209 Cedar St., Somerville, MA 02145
- #1933 Russel White, IV, 189 High Range Rd., Londonberry, N.H. 03053
- #1934 Stephen F. Cohen, Box 867, New York, N.Y. 10150
- #1935 William P. McLain, 391 Mahoning Ave., N.W., Warren, OH 44483
- #1936 Raymond F. Moran, 1P2 Marsha Dr., Middletown, N.J. 07748

- #1937 Colleen Wilhere, 211 Odessa Ave., Wilmington, DE 19809
- #1938 Jimmy L. Byrd, 7307 Falmount St., Springfield, VA 22150
- #1939 Juliette E. Sarschensky, 825 Bridewell St., Los Angeles, CA 90042
- #1940 David F. Boeshaar, Box 3355, Santa Susana, CA 93063
- #1941 John K. O'Brien, 1644A Monterey Blvd., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
- # 426 Robert E. Cronin, 255 Madison St., Wrentham, MA 02093

Note: R. Cronin requested his father's number

RECRUITING HONOR ROLL

Known members who have proposed new members for the EPA: George Workman, Walter R. Potts, William H. Doe, Peter E. Bugg, Robert E. Moskowitz, Joseph E. Foley, B.B. Zellers, Patricia S. Walker, Michael P. Giffney.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Membership as of June 1, 1984	756
New Members	34
Reinstatement	1
	+ 35
Membership as of November 1, 1984	791

CHAPTER REPORT

JOHN J. McCORMACK CHAPTER

The Boston Chapter is now to be called the John McCormack Chapter of the EPA. This was adopted unanimously at the September 29th, 1984 meeting at the home of Peter E. Bugg, Chapter Chairman in Franklin, Mass. This was an all day, eight hour meeting with several hours spent arranging the Chapter exhibit for the Boston Show, October 12-14. This exhibit consisted of First Day covers from the 1928 Daniel O'Connell set to the Christmas 1983 issue. Dwight Wahr, Charles West, William Doe, James Meehan, Ray Coyne. Chip Cronin, Robert Jones and Peter Bugg contributed their best covers for this joint exhibit.

Other matters considered and acted upon were regulations for the auction sales, chapter dues and the set-up and manning the EPA booth at the Boston Show. Without question, the booth at this show was the most successful so far under Peter Bugg's chairmanship. Over 40 members signed in at the booth. members came from Rhode island, California, Connecticut and New Hampshire. Bob Moskowitz was present for all three days. It was our pleasure having Pat and Dan Walker with us also.

Three Irish exhibits were entered. Pat Walker won a Gold for her Irish PAID markings, Peter Bugg a Silver for Irish Coils and Coil Leaders and Dick McBride a Bronze for his Examples of the Overprint Types.

At the EPA meeting on Saturday, with some 20 persons present Peter Bugg, Pat Walker, Tim O'Shea, Bill Doe and Bob Jones made brief addresses on various subjects.

The Banquet on Saturday evening was well attended by EPA members including all three who had won awards. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the John J. Clark Award plaque to Edward J. Ryan in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the EPA in numerous capacities from President to Manager of Auction Sales and now as Special Offer Manager.

A REMINDER!

Dues are due. It's that time of the year again and dues came due on September 1st. Please remit to the Treasurer in the envelope provided with the last issue of The Revealer. Incidentally, there is an error on the envelope. It should read "Dues to: August 31, 1985" not 1984. How many noticed it? These envelopes are included with all Revealers whether your dues have been prepaid or not. If you are in doubt as to your status please contact the Secretary. A self addressed postal card would be appreciated.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The 1983 Winter Issue of *The Revealer* included an appeal from the President for more participation by EPA members in their local stamps shows and exhibitions. They are a splendid means for getting EPA known and for recruiting new members. There are many Irish collectors out there who would benefit from membership in our Association.

Surprisingly, such an effort is not difficult and is personally rewarding for anyone organizing such an effort. Most stamp club show organizers, even the small shows, welcome a national stamp club's presence. The biggest problem is personnel to man a table or booth. A one day show is easy, a two day show is more difficult, yet, it can be done.

The effectiveness of such an effort can be proven by a look at the States of origin of the new members listed in this issue. They are predominately from the Eastern Seaboard, an area in which the EPA chapters have been having booths at shows for over a year. At the end of the list are some California members. Bill and Peg Zellers had an EPA booth at SESCAL just before this time.

There is great satisfaction signing up new members at a show but the long term effects are equally gratifying. It is important to "show the flag" and hand out information and applications . . . the pay-off comes in the months that follow.

Would you be willing to undertake the manning of a booth in your area? Determine the date or dates of shows where you are. Get in touch with those sponsoring these shows. See if they will let us have a table or booth. If so, then write to the EPA Secretary, Robert Jones. He will provide you with materials, literature and guidance. It may well be worth a try.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Not long ago the EPA received a letter of complaint from a member stating that a number of issues of *The Revealer* had not been received. That isn't unusual, we make mistakes from time to time but they are cleared up routinely. This one was different because the writer was so beligerent, threatening to have the Association thrown out of the APS. He said that it pained him to have to write such a letter, well, I assure you it pains the Officers of the EPA to receive such a letter. I would like to take a few lines to show how these problems can be headed off.

The membership records are kept by our Secretary, Bob Jones, in Massachusetts. He records changes of address on the records and then forwards them to Bob Corless in Arizona who does the mailing of *The Revealer*. I don't know how often Bob Jones updates the information to the publisher but when I was Secretary I did it quarterly. To simplify matters when you send a change of address to the Secretary send one to the Publisher. Our letter writer moved six times in six years, that was bound to cause a foul up.

One of the comments he made in his letter was the APS managed to get all his Journals to him but EPA failed. I can understand why, APS maintains a staff of paid employees who work eight hours a day five days a week. Certain employees primary responsibility is to maintain the mailing list. EPA Officers on the other hand are all volunteers who do EPA work for the love of it in their spare time when they can find some. After all, family and work have to take priority over EPA business. They merit praise, not abuse.

While I'm on the soap box here's a reminder. Nominations for officers of the EPA are open. Why don't you make your services available to the EPA by sending in your name to the Nominating Committee listed in the Summer *Revealer*?

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It has been a relatively quiet summer for EPA activities. The James Hoban Chapter in Washington D.C. had a successful meeting at NAPEX in June. Several new members were recruited. Many meetings are being planned for the fall and early winter months, on both the east and west coast.

I am sad to report the death of long time member Bill Greeley from Detroit; for the last several years he acted as our Back Issues Manager. He will be greatly missed.

A new Back Issue Manager has been appointed. He is Patrick McNally in Denver, Colorado. Due to the efforts of member Mike Lenane in Detroit and the help of other area members and Bill Greeley's relatives, eight boxes of material have been shipped to Pat. He is busy organizing it and working to fill the gaps. When you send him requests, please be explicit as to the issues you want. Pat is unfamiliar with the content of the earlier issues, but will be doing his best. If you have a request outstanding and have not heard from Pat, Mike or Bill Zellers, please write to Bill. Bill has volunteered to straighten out the confusion.

Don't forget to be thinking of who you would like to serve the Association in the future and pass on your ideas to the Nomination Committee.

Patricia Walker, President

STAMPA '84 AWARDS

Norah K. Wright was awarded "The David Feldman Trophy for the Best Overall Exhibit of STAMPA '84", A Gold Medal, and the EPA Medal for Best Exhibit of Ireland, for her exhibit entitled "Handstruck Stamps of Ireland" a specialized postal history display from the 17th century to the middle of the 19th century.

Gerard Brady T.D. was awarded "The Stamping Branch Trophy for the Best Exhibit of Irish Postage Stamps Issued since 1922", a Gold Medal and the EPA Certificate of Merit for his exhibit "Overprint and Basic Stamp Flaws" an exhibit of Irish rarities commencing with Dollard Proofs showing the only known Blue Proofs. All missing accent varieties including the only known complete sheet with the penny missing accent are shown. The display also incorporates a study of the development and correction of major flaws and finishes with Basic Stamp errors.

Geoffrey McCauley received a Gold for his "World War I in the Czech Lands" in which he showed the effects of the war on the postal system.

Fred Dixon received a Silver-Gilt and an EPA Certificate for "Cut-outs from Postal Stationery used as Adhesives" an area not often seen. John E.O. Hobbs also received a Silver-Gilt for his "Stamps in Wartime."

Silver Medals were awarded to Francis L. Connery for his "Irish Postal Stationery Registered Stamps of Ireland (1971-1984) and Barra O'Keefe for his "Impressed Stamps of Ireland 1922-1975."

Bronze medals were awarded to Peter FitzGerald for "A Tale of Telegraphy", George E.R. Ithell for "Handstamps of Ireland" and Robert F. Smyth for "Ireland - Postage Due."

In the Literature Division, Mairead Reynolds received a Silver-Gilt medal for her book "History of the Irish Post Office". Otto Jung was awarded a Silver medal for his "Postal Stationery of Ireland" and C.P. O'Neill and S.P. O'Neill received a Bronze for "Armagh Post Office - Its History and Postmarks." Gerard Brady T.D. was awarded a Certificate of Merit for his article "The Rarest Irish Postage Stamp."



RANDOM NOTES

By F. E. Dixon

ANOTHER NEW SLOGAN

In mid-June a new slogan cancellation was introduced, reading BLOOD DONORS/ARE/ALWAYS NEEDED.

OFFICIAL SLOGANS

I reported a Department of the Environment slogan on their meter-marking machine PB T 1920 V. They have different slogans on their other machines: 2236M has CONSERVE ENERGY and 1186 S has HELP STAMP OUT FIRES.

PENNY POSTS PUBLICATION

I recently retyped the comprehensive lists of Irish Penny Posts, head offices and sub-offices, from 1831 on. Deciding that the result was too long for a magazine article, I had the result photocopied and can supply for £1.75 Irish, £1.25 sterling and \$2.00 US including postage.

OLYMPIC GAMES STAMPS

I am an admirer of Louis le Brocquy's work as an artist, and do not blame him for the deficiencies, notably the ridiculous use of metallic ink, invisible from most angles, and the clumsy lettering, for which Peter Wilbur must be held responsible. In the first two sheets of 26p which I examined there was a prominent pale spot on stamp 4 of the top row; it is about 2mm above the hurdler's outstretched hand. However, I have not yet seen it on other sheets.

SLOGAN FOR JULY

The newest slogan cancellation has the UNICEF emblem plus the wording "HELP UNICEF/Give a Child a/ CHANCE TO SURVIVE/Tel: 01.770843".

IRISH PLACE NAMES

More and more collectors are becoming seriously interested in postmarks but many, even those conversant with the Irish language, are baffled by some of the spellings they find, but cannot locate in the Post Office Guide. The latest puzzle is a skeleton datestamp reading MAGH NUADHAD, not in the 1977 or 1982 editions of the Guide. However, it is in earlier editions, for MAYNOOTH, the Irish version of which is now officially MAIGH NUAD. Is An Post repealing the reformed spellings of 1977? Another inconsistency is on a registered envelope posted in June at Athenry. The registration label has "Baile Atha an Riogh" but the cancellation has BAILE ATHA AN RI.

REGISTRATION DATESTAMP

Not often used nowadays is the oval handstamp inscribed DEIMHNITHE/BL. ATHA CLIATH with number below date. No. 10 has turned up in June applied to a Business Reply Packets docket for unregistered mail.

DISCOUNT STAMPS

The cheap booklets launched on 9th July have attracted little attention. The average person buys only one stamp at a time and 11% discount is not enough to induce him or her to invest

£2. The inscription on the gum "Booklet Stamp" is silly; it should have read "Discount Stamp". More business would be generated by lowering the postal rates and by publicising existing bargains such as 16p for printed papers sent abroad (only 13p in special cases). Why is there no 13p or 16p stamp? A sensible booklet would be £1 made up of 4@16+4@6+3@4p. To make it a bargain an extra 4 or 6p could complete 12 on the pane. The "Booklet Stamp" is printed over the gum and disappears when the stamps are soaked or steamed off the paper. However, certain of the stamps will be identifiable, the 26p with straight right side, the pair of 4p, and single 4p with straight side below (in the £1 slot-machine booklets the 4p is straight at the top).

AUCTION NOTES

The Robson Lowe Postal History Sale on 11-12th July had a large Irish section. I bid on six lots, but obtained only one of them. What I wanted in it is the rare framed namestamp of KILCOCK, but a bonus is an unrecorded two-line san-serif BALLYMORE EUSTACE/NAAS. However, buying at auction is now expensive with 8% buyer's premium +15% VAT on that, +registered postage. Even so, I was lucky in that the lot came by letter post, was not inspected by Customs and so I escaped paying the Irish VAT.

KILCOCK

My example of this is in green on a cover of 1849. Hitherto, this has been listed with the Receiving House marks, but wrongly. Kilcock was a post town, using the barred diamond cancellation numbered 262 and by 1844 had the normal dated circular namestamp. So the undated straight-line type was probably a temporary expedient while the datestamp was being repaired? Who has other examples to determine the period of use, or covers with the datestamp soon after 1849?

NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Although there had been rumors, the issue of 7th August had minimal publicity. The first published announcement I saw was a small newspaper paragraph on the previous day, a Bank Holiday when not everyone buys the paper. The postcard will be popular with its reproduction of an early engraving of the GPO. The card alleges the date to be 1820, but I believe it to be rather later. The card and envelope are reasonable at 2p more than the postage but 2p for the wrapper is gross overcharging. The redeeming feature of the stamp design is the prominence given to the figures of value. Otherwise, it is lamentable and emphasizes the feebleness of the symbol of wavy lines and the word POST with ST joined. I suppose the official harp had to be abandoned, but the present device is unsatisfactory. Why not the internationally recognized symbol of a posthorn?

THE SLOGANS ON OFFICAL AND PAID MAIL

The Summer issue of Irish Stamp News included an advertisement by Mike Giffney offering a new publication I had compiled. Unfortunately the printing was a failure and I have therefore prepared a simplified version and had 150 copies photocopied. These are now available for sale at £1.50, plus 30p packing and postage. UK £1.50 including P & P, USA & Canada \$2.00, ditto.

DOUBLY OVERPRINTED ONCE INVERTED.

The Hibernian auction catalogue for 1st September has one of the stamps from the notorious stolen sheet of printer's waste. It was Row 2, Number 2 in the sheet, and was sold at a Stanley Gibbons Auction in 1968, as one of the top right corner block.

ESSAY

Another undesirable item in the sale is lot 424, a narrow overprint suitable for insurance stamps, but applied to 1d postage. All I have seen of this overprinting have been on the GvR watermark stamps which did not appear until 1924. Any overprint prepared at that date would have been SAORSTAT, not RIALTAS. A final damning feature is that if the plate had been prepared for insurance stamps the spacing would have been unsuitable for the postage stamps. This overprint was first noted in Munk's Handbook (1935).

ILLNESS

My apologies to correspondents for my relative inactivity for much of August and September - rather severe leg ulcers resulting in three weeks lying idle in hospital. The leg is now healed but I am finding it difficult to resume full activity.

AUCTIONS

I was unable to attend either Hibernian or MacDonnell Whyte auctions. However, a good friend reported the Hibernian realisations. The boxed DUGORT (less rare than the auctioneers suggested) went to £280. The alleged 1925 trial overprint, £260. Lot 657 (the stolen printers' waste mentioned above) £1500. The Field example of SG74b, almost mint, £7250. And one of the rarest booklets, 36-10, brought £1750.

MAPS

M. Dittman, Ziegeleiweg 14, 5000 Köln, W. Germany, has compiled another superb map, this one comprising the Irish Post Town and Provincial Receiving Houses, 1828-1840.

PARCEL POST CANCELLATIONS

John Lennon reports two new types: one is the rectangular 68x31mm with the date added by a one-line handstamp. The other is a large, single-circle rubber, the examples he has given me being AN CLIOCHAN LIATH, 39mm diameter, and AN Longfort, 42mm. A peculiarity of the latter is the fancy lettering, a hybrid fount, somewhat cursive but not fully Irish.



COLLECTORS' FESTIVAL

Another event that I missed was a "Collectors' Festival" on 16th September in the Royal Dublin Hotel, with displays of stamps, post cards, etc. as well as dealers' stands. The limited edition (375) commemorative booklet contained a gutter pair of the Irish John McCormack stamp, and the demand exceeded the supply.

OFFICIAL MAIL

The treatment of the mail from Government Offices continues to become more complicated. Department of Education now has a license for its Hawkins House office, Ceadunas 41. In July Oireachtas was still using envelopes with harp and IOCTHA GO h-OIFIGIUIL, but in August there was an Oireachtas envelope with An Post's Postage Paid symbol. Another Government Office to get a license is that of the Paymaster General—Ceadunas 50.

OBSOLETE STAMP

A letter posted in Carlow (date illegible, but probably September 1984) had three 8p stamps plus a 5d Sword of Light to make up the 26p letter rate.

POST OFFICE BICENTENNIAL

The design of the new stamp is poor. It suggests continuity from 1784 to 1984 whereas the 1784 foundation survived only to 1831. And the reproduction of the 1784 datestamp is absurd, copied from a rough sketch instead of an actual postmark. The dies of 1784 were carefully cut - and much more elegant than the absurd POST symbol of today.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARDS

by John J. Blessington

Fred Dixon's report in Random Notes on the Post Office's stand on the status of the St. Patrick's Day Cards was of particular interest to me for I too had doubts. You will remember that An Post failed to send copies of the cards to a customer with a standing order account because they did not consider them postal stationery. When I received my cards my immediate reaction was that An Post had a winner. However, on turning them over and examining the indicia the thought came to mind "... but are they postal stationery?"

My concern regarding their status was brought on by the fact that I had seen a copy of the final draft of the definition of postal stationery which was to be presented to the Federation Internationale Philatelique (F.I.P.) at ESPANA '84. By that definition our St. Patrick's Day cards couldn't be classified as postal stationery. One of the criteria which had been established was the requirement that an indication of value be in the indicia. I was familiar with the definition because good friend and fellow EPA member John G. Fluck is the United States Representative to the F.I.P.'s Postal Stationery Commission and he had shown me a copy. John was going to ESPANA '84 to attend the meeting of the Commission. He agreed to get a clarification of the status of our cards.

At the meeting John presented the facts to the members and requested that the set of cards be recognized as postal stationery. The members did not receive his request with open arms! They had spent years hammering out a definition acceptable to all and weren't in a mood to change. They were really giving John and the cards a bad time when the meeting was interrupted by the arrival of another member, Alan Huggins, the British Representative. He had been delayed by his duties as one of the Judges at the show.

Our St. Patrick's Day cards now got some unexpected support. Mr. Huggins had brought two similar examples for discussion. Andorra had issued a postal card for internal use with no value shown and Great Britain had issued a series of envelopes with no value. These envelopes carry only the word "First Class" or "Second Class" to indicate value. So now instead of Ireland being all by itself, issues from three countries were on the table... perhaps a trend was being started. After further discussion, the Commission agreed to accept all three and it was decided to write an amendment to the definition to cover this new type of postal stationery.

What does this mean to Irish collectors? Perhaps not a great deal for we will continue to collect as we please. It will allow the cards to be listed in catalogs as Postal Stationery. Should any of you exhibit your St. Patrick's Day cards internationally in an FIP sponsored show it is nice to know that the judges must accept them as postal stationery. John Fluck deserves a vote of thanks from all collectors of Irish Postal Stationery.

DUBLIN NEWSLETTER

by Eddie Fitzgerald

Readers who have a special interest in the current Architecture definitive series are recommended to re-read my notes on the series in past issues of *The Revealer*. This series is rapidly becoming a subject of great interest and reward to the specialist collector.

The diagram shown below should be studied carefully as it sets out the three perforation types within sheets of the Architecture definitives. If my lay-out recommendation is followed whereby the plate corner block is always lower left and the imprint block always lower right irrespective of the design formats of the stamps, everything falls into place when relating corner blocks from A sheets with corner blocks from B sheets.

As I mentioned before, the changes in perforation types are the result of complaints from post office clerks of difficulties in tearing stamps from litho sheets with the perforation style G1. The perforation style G2 can be viewed as an interim solution to the problem as it is peculiar to a second release of the 26p value only... the commonest value in use. The perforation G3 appears to be the new standard method of perforating sheets and we should expect all values to appear in this style in time. Specialists here in Ireland have now established that we are dealing with a Grover perforator the whole time, but with different settings. Now to the expressions G1, G2 and G3; collectors here and in Germany have recognized the importance of "speaking" the same technical language and have agreed on G (for Grover) and 1, 2 and 3 for sheets perforated through 1 margin, 2 margins or 3 margins as the case may be.

In an earlier issue of *The Revealer*, when writing about the Gerl definitives, I commented on the 18p dog stamp appearing on a distinctive paper known to collectors here as "white paper". Early this year, a further release of £1 stamps (Cahir Castle) appeared in post offices with the sheets perforated G3 now, and printed on this "white paper." Even if you are happy to collect single stamps only, I strongly recommend that collectors get this £1 "white paper" as it is distinctive in its own right. I believe that the major international catalogues will list this item. Certainly the catalogue editors in Ireland will do so.

If you have the Trains commemorative set (4 values) it is worthwhile taking another look at them - this time the backs of the stamps. It is apparent that the paper used on the lower values is different from the paper used on the higher values. This is simply due to the use of stamp paper from different suppliers. The paper used on the lower values is the same as that used on the Architecture definitives; however, it now appears that this "low value" paper is being superseded by the Trains "high value" paper as fresh supplies of all values appear in post office.

To everybody's surprise the 4p definitive appeared during September on plate 2. Most post offices are still working on the remainder stock of plate 1, thus many specialists are patiently awaiting for stocks of 2A 2B to appear in their local post office. But already, a magnificent variety has come to notice. The variety concerns the extension holes on the left hand vertical margin on the 2A sheets. On every alternate row, the extension hole is missing. So far 2B sheets have not been seen with this variety, but I believe that it exists on the right hand vertical margin of 2B sheets. Time will tell. My second table is a listing of all paper and perforation changes to date on sheet stamps of the Architecture definitives.

On Monday, 9th July and aptly named Bonus Booklet of stamps cost £2 went on general sale for a limited period. The contents of the booklet are 5x22p, 4x26p and 3x4p totalling £2.26. Official news of these booklets was released only on the Thursday beforehand and these particular booklets can be looked on as a promotional campaign by An Post to encourage people to write more letters - the benefit to the public being the bonus 26p stamp. Officially, these booklets were limited to two per person and sale of booklets limited to July, later extended to the first ten days or so of August.

Now to the very interesting part from the collectors' point of view. On the back of all stamps is these Bonus Booklets, on top of the

adhesive, there is printed in green, non-toxic washable ink the slogan "Booklet Stamp." The reason for this backprinting should be obvious to most readers and I do not propose to spell out the necessity to those innocent of the ways of this world. Thus, these stamps in Bonus Booklets are distinctly different from the stamps in the £1 booklet issued in 1983 and still on sale. It should be noted that if one tries to float off from an envelope a used stamp with the backprint, that it disappears - the backprint, that is. Thus the backprint relates to unmounted mint condition.

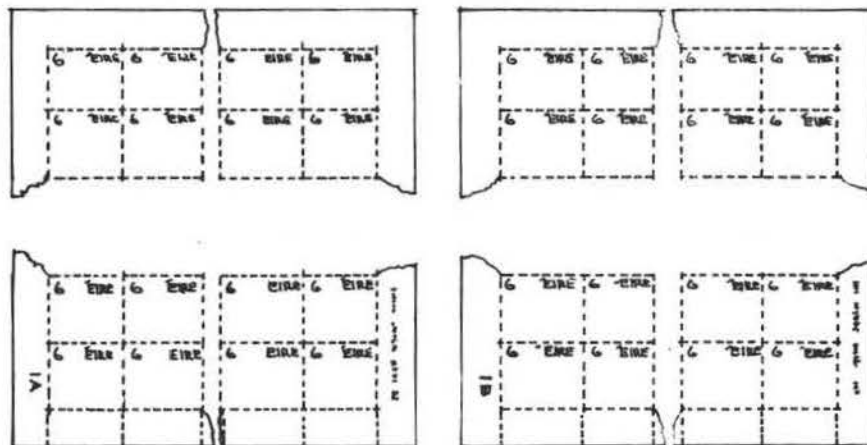
In recent weeks, An Post have issued a number of interesting Postal Stationery items - a printed envelope and some printed post cards. Before the end of October, I believe that we will have some new Registered Envelopes. These matters are outside my general interest and competence but I expect and hope that F.E. Dixon will comment on these matters in his Random Notes. Recently I have heard criticisms from some veteran collectors and indeed a few dealers that An Post are giving a minimum time-gap between announcing something new and selling same, e.g., the Bonus Booklet and one for the printed postcards. In my opinion, An Post is right and the critics are wrong. As I see it, the function of An Post is to provide an efficient public service at a profit, not at a loss. If their marketing strategy is based on the principle of short notice for maximum impact with the public, so be it, they have the marketing expertise and they know what they are doing. The hallmark of a good philatelic researcher is the ability to anticipate the unexpected.

STOP PRESS As I finish writing this Newsletter I hear from Brian Warren that he has found, on a 1A block of the 19p value, the same perforation variety which I have described for the 4p value. Oh well, back to the drawing board.

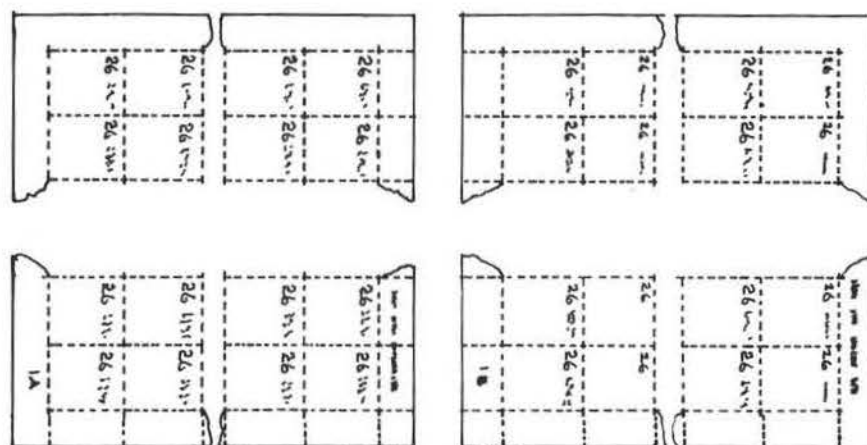
VALUE	PLATE NUMBER	PERFORATION TYPE	PAPER TYPE
1p	1A1B	G3	CCP I
2p	1A1B	G3	CCP I
3p	1A1B	G3	CCP I
4p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
	2A2B	G3	CCP I
5p	1A1B	G3	CCP I
6p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
7p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
10p	1A1B	G3	CCP I
12p	1A1B	G3	CCP I
15p	1A1B	G3	CCP I
20p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
22p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
	1A1B	G3	CCP I
	1A1B	G3	CCP III
23p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
26p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
	1A1B	G2	CCP II
	1A1B	G3	CCP III
29p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
	1A1B	G3	CCP III
30p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
	1A1B	G3	CCP I
44p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
	1A1B	G3	CCP I
50p	1A1B	G1	CCP I
£1	1A1B	G1	CCP I
	1A1B	G3	CCP II
	1A1B	G3	CCP III
£5	1A1B	G1	CCP I

PAPER STYLE A paper suitable for photogravure printing is not suitable for litho printing. Lithography requires a stiffer paper with a surface suitable to receive the oil based inks used in litho printing, hence the use of clay coated paper (CCP). The numeral I refers to the original paper used in this series, II to the so-called "white paper" and III to the latest paper. These terms are arbitrary on the part of Brian Warren and self, pending general agreement on a better descriptive classification.

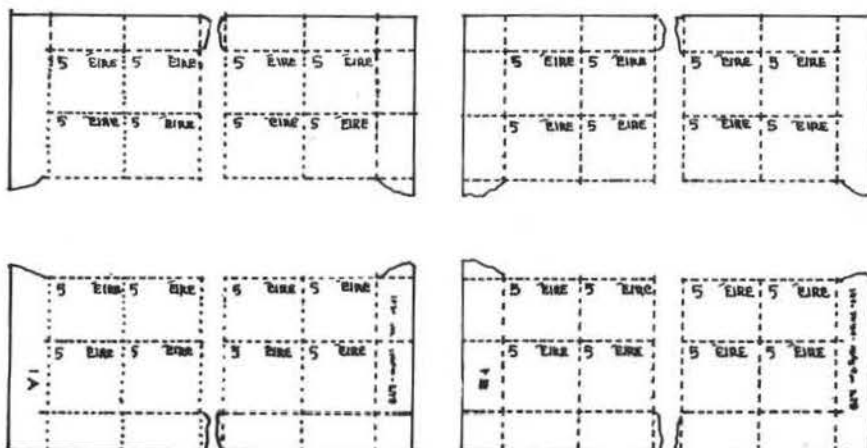
The Architecture Definitives; The three perforation
types known to date. ~ ~ ~ November 1984.



TYPE G.1.



TYPE G.2.



TYPE G.3.

BOOKLETS AND BOOKLET PANES

by John J. Blessington

With the advent of the new experimental booklets utilizing the Architectural series it is appropriate to publish this overview of Irish booklets. It is possible that the stitched booklets are a thing of the past.

Stamp booklets were available in Ireland during the administration of Great Britain, however, when G.B. stamps were no longer available in Ireland (31 March 1922) no booklets containing the overprinted stamps were issued to replace them. In fact, no booklets at all were issued by the Irish Post Office until 21 August 1931.

BOOKLET MAKE-UP

Booklets are made up of one or more panes of stamps bound together between light weight cardboard covers (front and back). Binding is accomplished by a row of stitching to the left using black thread until 1964 and white since.

The covers were a dull red color from the first issue in 1931 through the 1945 issue. The 1946 issue saw a change to buff which remained in use through 1963. From the 1964 issue to the present colors have varied. Through 1963 printing was black and has varied since then. Starting in 1931 two numbers were printed on front covers, the year of issue followed by the booklet serial number (31-1). In 1938 the order was reversed. . . serial number followed by year (15-38). This continued through 1963 (44-63) after which numbers no longer appeared. From No. 1 in 1938 through No. 38 in 1956 all booklets carried advertising on the front and back covers except 27-45 which had none on the front. Some booklets were reissued without changing serial numbers but with different advertising, for example, 28-46 is known with a back cover ad for "Round Tower Products" as well as one for "Shamrock Underwear."

Through booklet 42-61 all booklets contained four panes of stamps but from 43-62 to date quantity has differed from one to four. From the first booklet and continuing through No. 38 in 1956 interleaving was used between panes (none since). These interleaves contained advertising on both sides except that postal rates were on one. Through the years some were blank and the quantity in each booklet changed to three, or two or even none. The reissue of 35-52 contained no interleaving. As with the covers, different interleave printing can be found within booklets bearing the same number because of reissue. The only listing of the advertising contained in booklets may be found in four issues of *The Revealer*; April-June 1957, pp. 311-15; July-August 1957, pp. 321-23; September-October 1957, pp. 330-32 and November-December 1957, pp. 337-41. This is the work of Perry Adams, one of the pioneers of Irish Philately, who did much of the basic research on Irish booklets. The list, while admittedly an interim list and incomplete, is the only one that has been published.

PANE AND SHEET LAYOUT

All booklet panes of Ireland are arranged in a 3x2 format with a tab or margin to the left for stitching. Two panes have 3

stamps plus 3 labels below, 5 panes have five stamps plus one label, all others have six stamps.

Because of the need for a margin strip to the left for binding purposes it was necessary to prepare special plates for printing the booklet panes. The Irish authorities have never released information as to the plate make up nor had an uncut sheet of panes been examined by philatelists until 1978. Thanks to the research of Andrew Ballard published in *Irish Stamp News* No. 16, Oct-Dec 1983 we know that starting with the first issue, plates of 264 stamps (12x22) were made. The stamps were printed by topography in a vertical format (except Sc#128a) with gutters, in which were printed columns of bars, between rows 3 and 4 and between rows 9 and 10. The cliches for the first and third panes were inverted in relation to the second and fourth. The sheets were perforated between each row of stamps, both vertically and horizontally making a total of 15 rows of vertical perforations and 23 rows of horizontal perforations. Perforation was, nominally, 15x14, although using a Gibbons Instanta gauge the 15 is more like 14 $\frac{3}{4}$. Panes were guillotined through the perfs . . . trimmed size approximately 48mm x 72mm, resulting in trimmed perforations on three sides of each pane.

On December 1, 1966 the first booklet pane appeared printed by Photogravure. The 5d (Sc#227a) pane of six was printed in the same pane and sheet layout as the typographed panes. Diagonal lines replaced the columns of bars in the gutters, and perforations changed to 15x15, a true 15 this time. The stamps were approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mm narrower than previous booklet pane stamps. When the first Gerl booklet appeared in September 1969 the panes were identical to this 5d except the stamps were printed horizontally instead of vertically.

The change over to decimal currency saw the issue of new booklets on 15 February, 1971. These new panes are printed in the same format as the first Gerls. Perforation gauge is 15x15 again but vertically there were no perforations on the outside rows of the sheets nor between rows eight and nine. Horizontally there were no perforations between every other row as well as top and bottom edges. This meant there were a total of 12 rows of perforation vertically and 11 horizontally. The sheets are guillotined so that each pane is imperforate on the outside edges—trimmed pane size is approximately 48mm x 70mm. The printing and sheet layout of the decimal Gerls was confirmed when the Post Office exhibited an uncut sheet of the 7p booklet pane in October 1978 at the Cork Stamp Exhibit.

SPECIMEN BOOKLETS

During the period that booklets carried advertising on the covers and interleaving, specimen booklets were presented to advertisers. In such specimens the stamp panes were defaced by punching triangular holes in some and circular holes in others to prevent usage.



COLLECTING BOOKLETS AND THEIR PANES

Whether to collect complete booklets or only their panes must, of course, be decided by each collector but certainly booklets are collectible and enhance a collection.

The possibility of making a complete collection of Irish booklets is remote. It is doubtful if many such collections exist and even with unlimited funds such a collection probably couldn't be assembled today. However, it is possible to put together some very representative collections of later booklets. For instance, in 1946 booklet cover stock was changed to buff. A complete collection can be made of booklets from that date to the present, with a little effort... 28-46 will probably be the most difficult. A very fine collection can be made of the Gerl booklets. So, by all means, add booklets to your collection.

Acquiring a complete collection of booklet panes is a more attainable goal although it will take a lot of looking and some patience. The most difficult and expensive will be the demipanes of the 1d (Sc#66b & 107b) with 107b being the more difficult. A really fine specialised collection of the Gerl booklet panes can be made. The book "The Gerl Definitives" by Brian Warren and Eddie Fitzgerald is highly recommended for this area of collecting.

The method of printing, as described earlier, makes it apparent that half of the panes have watermarks inverted in relation to the normal. Since all panes except the 7p Gerl are on watermarked paper, by collecting the watermark varieties the scope of a collection is doubled.

For those who collect used stamps the booklet field is limited. Earlier used booklet panes are practically non-existent but the more recent can be found. In fact, First Day covers exist for the Gerls. Used singles or blocks of the earlier can sometimes be identified by the trimmed perfs. Used singles from the decimal currency Gerl booklet are readily identifiable. Since the outside edges of the panes are imperforate all stamps from panes have one or two sides imperforate. The four varieties for each value are: imperforate top & left; left only; right only and top and right. These show up in mixtures from time to time and a complete collection makes a nice page.

LISTING OF BOOKLETS 1931-1977

In this listing, booklets are grouped by pane arrangements rather than by year of issue. Quantities issued, as shown in "British Empire—Postage Stamp Booklets" edited and published by H.R. Work, are listed for earlier issues. No records of later issues are available. Booklets remain on sale at the Post Office until the edition is sold out. No booklets have been withdrawn from sale or destroyed.

No. 1 (21 issues) 1931-1940 Face Value 2/-
31-1 thru 21-40, red covers, black stitching and lettering contain 1 pane of ½d (Sc#65a); 1 pane of 1d (Sc#66a); 1 pane of 1d (Sc#66b) and 1 pane of 2d (Sc#68a). 100,000 printed of each

No. 2 (1 issue) 1940 Face Value 2/-
22-40 red cover, black stitching and lettering contains 1 pane of ½d (Sc#65a); 1 pane of 1d (Sc#66a); 1 pane of 1d (Sc#107b) and 1 pane of 2d (Sc#68a). 100,000 printed

No. 3 (1 issue) 1940 Face Value 2/-
23-40 red cover, black stitching and printing contains 1 pane of ½d (Sc#106a); 1 pane of 1d (Sc#107a); 1 pane of 1d (Sc#107b) and 1 pane of 2d (Sc#109a). 100,000 printed

No. 4 (5 issues) 1941-1946 Face Value 2/-
24-41 thru 27-45 red covers, 28-46 buff cover, black stitching and lettering contains 2 panes of ½d (Sc#106a); 1 pane of 1d (Sc#107a); and 1 pane of 2d (Sc#109a). 250,000 printed of each

No. 5 (2 issues) 1946-47 Face Value 2/-
29-46 and 30-47 buff covers, black stitching and printing contain 2 panes of ½d (Sc#128a); 1 pane of 1d (Sc#107a) and 1 pane of 2d (Sc#109a). 250,000 printed of each

No. 6 (6 issues) 1948-1953 Face Value 2/6
31-48 thru 36-53 buff covers, black stitching and printing contain 1 pane of ½d (Sc#128a); 2 panes of 1d (Sc#107a) and 1 pane of 2½d (Sc#110a), 31—350,000, 32 thru 35—500,000, a reissue of 35 (no interleaves) 132,000 printed, quantity of 36 unknown

No. 7 (1 issue) 1954 Face Value 4/-
37-54 buff cover, black stitching and printing contains 1 pane of ½d (Sc#128a); 1 pane of 1½d (Sc#108a) and 2 panes of 3d (Sc#111a).

No. 8 (5 issues) 1956-1961 Face Value 4/-
38-56 thru 42-61 buff covers, black stitching and printing contain 2 panes of 1d (Sc#107a) and 2 panes of 3d (Sc#111a) 38—500,000 printed

No. 9 (2 issues) 1962-1963 Face Value 3/-
43-62 (Oct) and 44-63 (June) buff covers with black stitching and printing contain 1 pane of 4d (Sc#112a) and 1 pane of 2d (Sc#109a).

No. 10 (1 issue) 1964 Face Value 3/-
Yellow cover, white stitching and red printing contains 1 pane of 4d (Sc#112a) and 1 pane of 1d (Sc#107a).

No. 11 (1 issue) 1966 Face Value 2/6
White covers, white stitching, red printing contains 1 pane of 2d (Sc#109a) and 1 pane of 3d (Sc#111a).

No. 12 (1 issue) 1966 Face Value 2/6
White covers, white stitching, blue printing contains 1 pane of 5d (Sc#227a).

No. 13 (1 issue) 1966 Face Value 5/-
1 December 1966 white cover, white stitching, green printing contains 2 panes of 5d (Sc#227a).



No. 14 (2 issues) 1960-1970 Face Value 6/-
12 September 1969, blue-green covers, white stitching and lettering contains 2 panes of 6d (Sc#256a) with Gum Arabic. Reissued in 1970 with PVA gummed panes. First of Gerls.

No. 15 (2 issues) 1971-1973 Face Value 30p
15 February 1971, blue-green covers, white stitching and lettering, contains 1 pane of ½p (Sc#290a); 2 panes of 1p (Sc#291a) and 1 pane of 2½p (Sc#294a). This 2½ pane has Gum Arabic. Reissued in 1973 with the 2½ pane having PVA gum.

No. 16 (1 issue) 1974 Face Value 50p
11 March 1974, Pale green covers, white stitching and lettering contains 2 panes of 5p (Sc#298Ad).

No. 17 (1 issue) 1974 Face Value 50p
11 March 1974, blue covers, white stitching and lettering contains 1 pane of 1p (Sc#291c); 1 pane of 2½p (Sc#294a) and 1 pane of 5p (Sc#298Ac).

No. 18 (1 issue) 1975 Face Value 40p
27 January 1975 Pink covers, white stitching and lettering contains 1 pane of 1p (Sc#291c); 1 pane of 2p (Sc#293b) and 1 pane of 5p (Sc#298Ad).

No. 19 (1 issue) 1975 Face Value 70p
27 January 1975. Light grey covers, white stitching and lettering contains 2 panes of 2p (Sc#293b) and 2 panes of 5p (Sc#298Ad).

No. 20 (1 issue) 1977 Face Value 50p
21 March 1977, Olive green covers, white stitching and lettering contains 1 pane of 1p (Sc#291c); 1 pane of 2p (Sc#293b) and 1 pane of 7p (Sc#352a).

LISTING OF PANES 1931-1977

All panes, except the last (7p), exist with watermark normal and watermark inverted.

FIRST ISSUE WATERMARK SE

½d	Emerald green	(pane of six)	Sc#65a
1d	Carmine	(pane of six)	66a
1d	Carmine	(pane of 3+3 labels)	66b
2d	Pearl green	(pane of six)	68a

2nd ISSUE WATERMARK E

½d	Emerald green	(pane of six)	Sc#106a
1d	Carmine	(pane of six)	107a
1d	Carmine	(pane of 3+3 labels)	107b
1½d	Ruby	(pane of six)	108a
2d	Pearl green	(pane of six)	109a
2½d	Red Brown	(pane of six)	110a
3d	Blue	(pane of six)	111a
4d	Steel Blue	(pane of six)	112a
½d	Green	(pane of six)	128a

PHOTOGRAVURE ISSUE

5d	Deep violet	(pane of six)	Sc#227a
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GERL DEFINITIVES

£s-d ISSUE

6d	Dark brown, Gum Arabic	(pane of six)	Sc#256a
6d	Dark brown, PVA gum	(pane of six)	

DECIMAL WATERMARKED ISSUE

½p	Bright green	(pane of six)	Sc# 290a
1p	Blue	(pane of six)	291a
1p	Blue	(pane of five+1 label)	291c
2p	Myrtle green	(pane of five+1 label)	293b

2½p	Sepia, Gum Arabic	(pane of six)	294a
2½p	Sepia, PVA dull gum	(pane of six)	
2½p	Sepia, PVA shiny gum	(pane of six)	
5p	Yellow green	(pane of six)	298Ac
5p	Yellow green	(pane of five+1 label)	298Ad
DECIMAL UNWATERMARKED ISSUE			
7p	Olive green	(panel of five+1 label)	352a

PHILATELY IN SLIGO 50 YEARS AGO..... by Michael Leonard

It will come as a surprise to many stamp collectors in Sligo, to learn that there was a very active, though small, group of philatelists in town during the late twenties and early thirties.

Firstly there was J.J., a civil servant and a keen collector of Irish and World covers. During World War One he had spent some years in a P.O.W. camp in Germany and continued to correspond with ex-service friends and continentals.

In Sligo after office hours J.J. could often be found making a tour of the visiting ships on the quays asking the crews for any used foreign stamps. It was on one of these excursions that he made the acquaintance of Tom from Hull, an engineer member of the crew of a small oil tanker which made monthly trips to Sligo harbour.

Tom produced many interesting stamp items of current GB, such as photogravure printings of the period when he joined our meetings.

Then there was our educational member Dom, an enthusiastic collector of Irish overprint stamp issues. He also received mint Western Europe new issues via a leading new issue approval service.

The fourth member, myself, a school-boy collector in 1928, did a spot of trading in 1929 when Eire issued the first commemorative set, i.e., the Daniel O'Connell stamps. I had a "banking house" contact for used commemoratives and having soaked the stamps off the paper and sent bundles of 100 to a packet making dealer in Liverpool I received in return many packets of used world stamps. In those far off days, we did not know very much about the first day cover cult or printing flaws. Since then I often wonder how many O'Connell retouches and other varieties passed my way unrecognized.

Another philatelic event I recall was the purchase of the first Irish issue of Booklet stamps at 2/- per book and using the 1d stamps with advert attached on my letters to correspondents.

My folks considered me not quite right in the mind when they observed me addressing to myself covers to be postmarked on the first day of issue of the Royal Dublin Society stamps of 12th June 1931.

We always had a meeting and a meal at J.J.'s home when Tom came into port towards the end of each month for a 24 hour visit. The rest of the group, 3 Sligo residents, always exchanged "Stamp Collecting", "Stamp Magazine" and "Gibbons Monthly" in order to keep up to date with the stamp collecting world.

J.J. had an exchange correspondent in the Argentine who was a keen collector of Irish Postmarks and my first lessons in Irish Postal History were learned while gathering Gaelic postmarks to pass to J.J. to forward to Buenos Aires.

Alas, J.J., Tom and Dom are no longer with us. R.I.P. During the early 1940's other duties called and it was not until 10 years later that I took a hand in the setting up of the Irish Philatelic Study Group. This later became the Irish Philatelic Circle and the 1985 meeting will be their 25th AGM.

P.S. The rare 2d coil stamp of Ireland was first discovered at Sligo and reported to the stamp world from there.

AN INTERESTING COVER

by Jamie Gough

After some years of dormancy, I will endeavor to write up some covers in my collection for *The Revealer*. The cover for this edition is one that I am fond of because it fits into my two main interests: Irish postal history and postage dues of the world on cover.



After years of not being able to locate Irish postage due covers anywhere, a small flood has occurred in the last year. It is in this flood that I bought the depicted cover and was offered up to eight of its 'sisters' for prices ranging from \$32.00 US in an American auction to the very 'special' price of £250 sterling (then \$375). All of these covers have been addressed to either E. King, Esq. or "RA King Esq." Although philatelically engineered, these covers are not to be treated with disdain because we owe Mr. King some appreciation since examples of proper postal handling/marking may not otherwise exist today.

What made these covers especially interesting to me was the fact that they all had the same consistent story, namely:

- 1) "Franked with two KGV definitives, one with an Irish overprint and the other without. The overprinted stamp was cancelled at Monaghan and a handstruck "2" applied alongside the stamps because the stamp lacking the overprint was not valid in Eire. The Irish rate was 2d, with only 1d being legally paid, the "2" was noted for collection of double deficiency."
- 2) "In Belfast the unoverprinted stamp was cancelled but since the Irish overprint was not valid in Northern Ireland and since the British postal rate was then 1½d, the British PO only recognized a shorpaid of ½d which was then doubled to 1d. Thus the unoverprinted 1d KGV and 1d postage due were both cancelled BELFAST. A fascinating, cross-border item."

Although paragraph one is wholly accurate, the second paragraph is more interesting than the cover . . . because it is simply not true. The second paragraph would be true only if political hostilities were so intense that the different post offices (Eire c. GB) did not recognize each other's right of franking within their respective territories. This type of situation typically happens when territorial claims are heated, i.e., Chinese refusal to recognize the franking of Japanese occupation stamps for the puppet state of Manchuria. In

Ireland, however, the British had peacefully handed over postal operations to the Irish on the conclusion of the peace treaty, recognizing Irish independence.

The charge of 2d postage due (which was raised in the Irish Free State) was lowered in Belfast to 1d simply because the British Post Office gave credit to the addressee for the British stamps found on the cover (2d-1d = 1d). This did not involve any readjustment of the rate raised in the Irish Free State. This follows normal Commonwealth and UPU convention whereby credit is given in the recipient country for its own franking found on the envelope/parcel. This credit is then applied against the postage charges.



LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life Memberships in the Association have been authorized by the Board of Directors. The fees are:

Members resident in the U.S.A.	\$140.00
Members resident in Canada or Mexico	170.00
Members resident in rest of world.	200.00

Any member who has already paid his dues for the current year may take credit against the life membership fee for the amount of dues paid. Payment may be made in 3 monthly installments. Application for life membership should be by letter to the Secretary accompanied by the appropriate fee.

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POST OFFICE ISSUE ENVELOPES & ENVELOPE COLLECTING

by John J. Blessington

Collecting Irish envelopes, or any other postal stationery for that matter, has never been a major collecting interest of large numbers of Irish collectors but, fortunately, there has always been a hard core of dedicated enthusiasts to record the various items now collectable. In the last year or so there has been a resurgence of interest in postal stationery collecting. It would seem that this is a good time to review and update earlier listings of postal stationery that have appeared in *The Revealer*, starting with the envelopes.

Although Ireland didn't issue its first envelope until December 1924 there are a great number of "forerunners" that rightly belong in a comprehensive Irish collection. This refers, of course, to all issues of the Post Office in Great Britain properly used in Ireland prior to 1924.

GREAT BRITAIN USED IN IRELAND

The first envelopes issued by the British Post Office were the Mulready envelopes, 1 penny black and 2 penny blue, on May 1, 1840 but not available for use until May 6. Copies of the 1 penny black are known with the May 6th date used in Ireland. I have seen no report of the 2 penny blue used in Ireland for that date. The 1d Mulready used in Ireland is certainly not rare, a goodly number are known to exist, the 2d blue Mulready is much more difficult to find.

The one penny envelopes were withdrawn from sale, because of poor reception by the public, at the end of January 1841 and were replaced by envelopes bearing an embossed stamp in pink utilizing the William Wyon head of Queen Victoria. The two penny envelopes were replaced in April 1841 by an envelope bearing the same stamp embossed in blue. Although the one penny envelopes are relatively easy to find used in Ireland the two penny blue envelope is probably the rarest piece of G.B. stationery used in Ireland. It is not common used in England and is much less common used in Ireland. The envelope was so little used that it remained available in Post Office stocks into the 1880's.

During Queen Victoria's reign, including the Mulreadys, 39 major varieties of envelopes were issued (does the "Penny Postage Jubilee" envelope exist used in Ireland?). The King Edward VII reign saw 14 issues and, using the 2d orange of 1921 as a cut-off date, 10 different were issued under King George V. Theoretically, all 62 or 63 of these envelopes exist with Irish cancels. I wonder if anyone has them all.

IRISH POST OFFICE ISSUES

The first envelope of Ireland was embossed and featured an Irish harp. All envelopes since then up to the An Post issue, have also contained a harp. Issues through November 1937 were all embossed, since that date they have been typographed.

PAPER & WATERMARKS

Unlike postage stamps, special paper with an official watermark was not manufactured for envelopes. Commercial grade paper was purchased from various sources so we have paper with the manufacturer's watermarks of "BALLYCLARE/CO. ANTRIM", "GLENMAC/MADE IN IRELAND", "DEAN SWIFT", and in recent years "GLENMAC/MADE IN EIRE". Unwatermarked paper was also used in some cases, manufacturer unknown. All issues were made from laid paper through 1971 (B24) and from wove paper thereafter.

The basic colors of paper used have been buff, cream and white but identifying these colors can be a problem in some cases. It is particularly difficult to identify colors in the early issues for the whites have yellowed with age and the creams faded. Then too, there have been a variety of shades of the issued stock of some issues. The paper supplied by Dean Swift is noted for this with as many as four shades of paper found for an issue. There is no way to know if these shades represent separate printings or not so no effort has been made to catalog them in the listing below although they are certainly collectable.

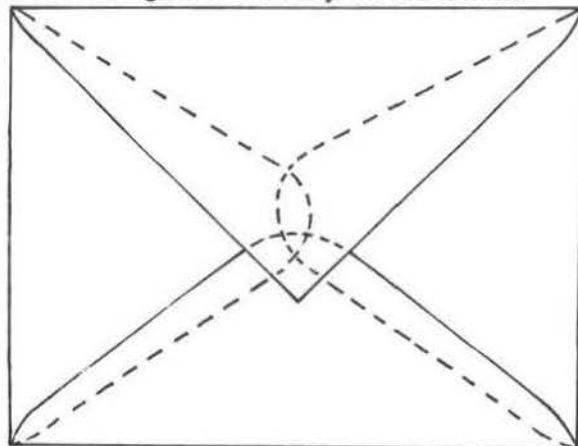
ENVELOPE MAKE-UP

No information has ever been made available by the Post Office on how the envelopes were or are made. From examination of the envelopes we can determine that the stamp was embossed on the paper before folding. We don't know whether stamping was done in multiples or singly. The envelope blanks were apparently cut by special machine dies. It is assumed that the envelopes were folded and gummed by machine although the earlier issues look as though the gum might have been applied by hand.

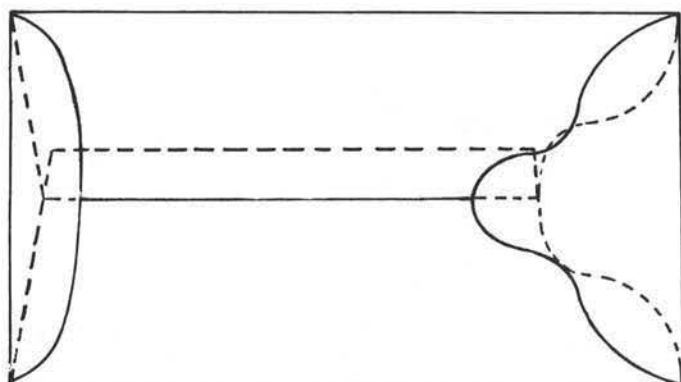
ENVELOPE KNIVES

The cutting die or knife creates a flat pattern which, when folded, makes the envelope shape we are familiar with. From 1924 through 1945, eight different knives were used. With the 1950 issue another new knife was introduced and this became the standard knife remaining in use up to the recent 22p issue. This, being a new size, required a new knife.

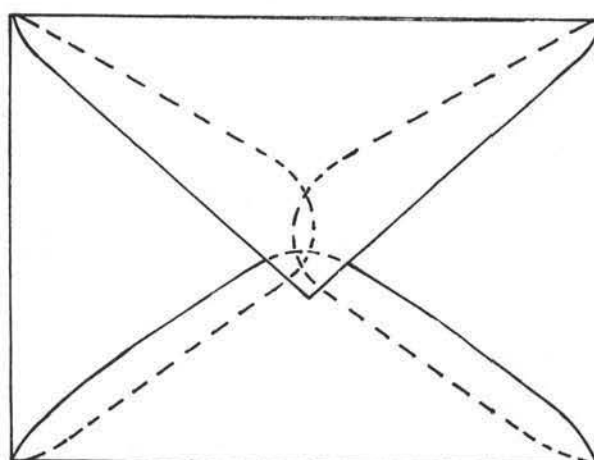
Illustrations of the knives were originally published in *The Revealer*, Supplement No. 13, Oct-Dec 1963. In 1968 the Higgins and Gage "Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World" used the tracings from *The Revealer* in their listing of Ireland. H & G renumbered some of the knives. The numbering used below is the same as H & G except that I have renumbered No. 9 & 10 as No. 8 & 9 and added new knives No. 10 & 11. The knives have all been redrawn to scale and illustrations are shown at 65% of original size except Nos. 10 & 11 which are at 55%. To be technically correct, the knives should be shown in the flat pattern but to be more useable to collectors they are shown as folded envelopes looking at the back. Hidden edges are shown by the dotted lines.



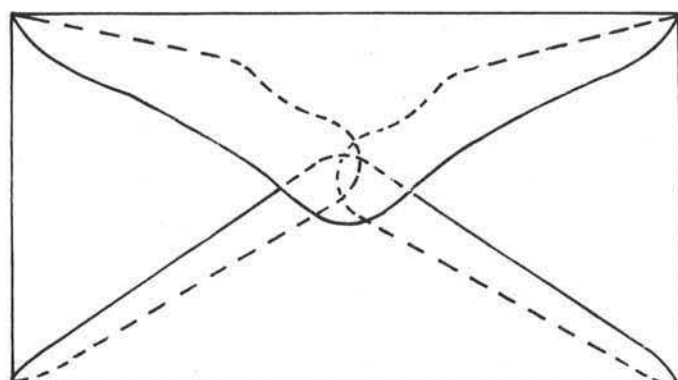
Knife #1



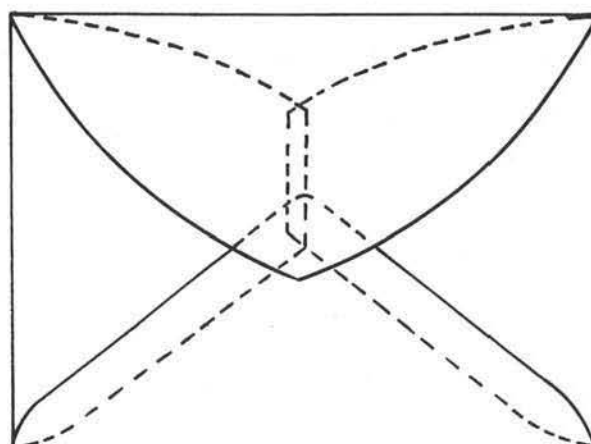
Knife #2



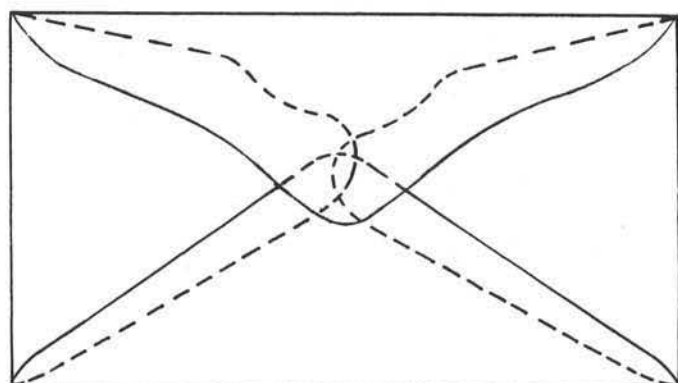
Knife #6



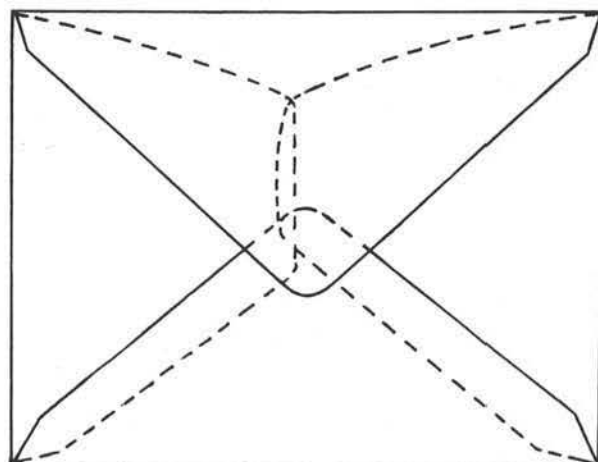
Knife #3



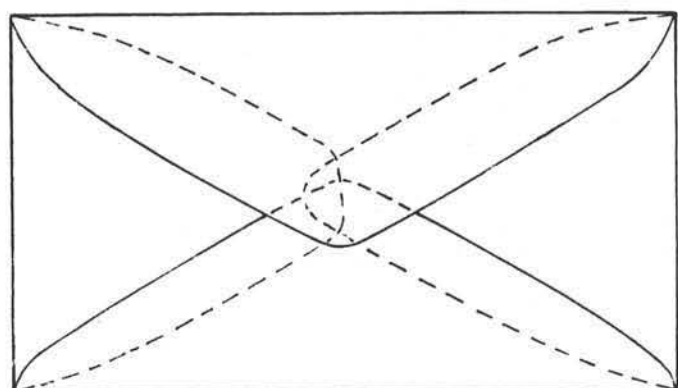
Knife #7



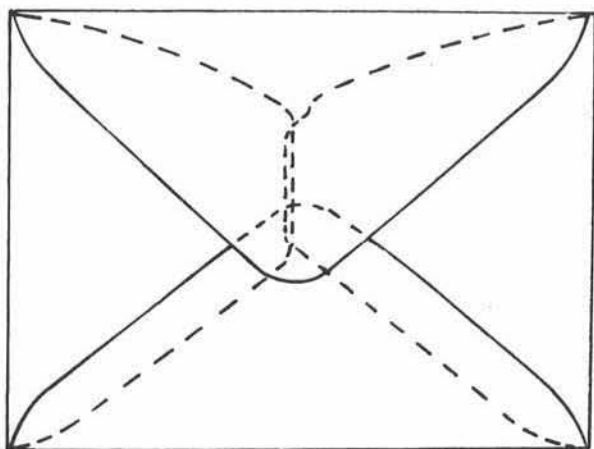
Knife #4



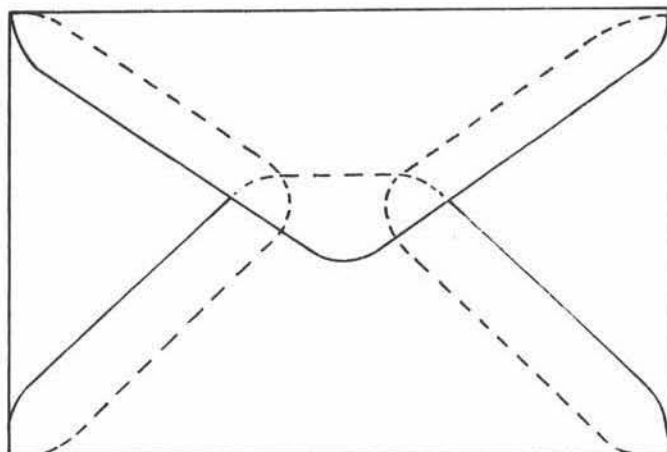
Knife #8



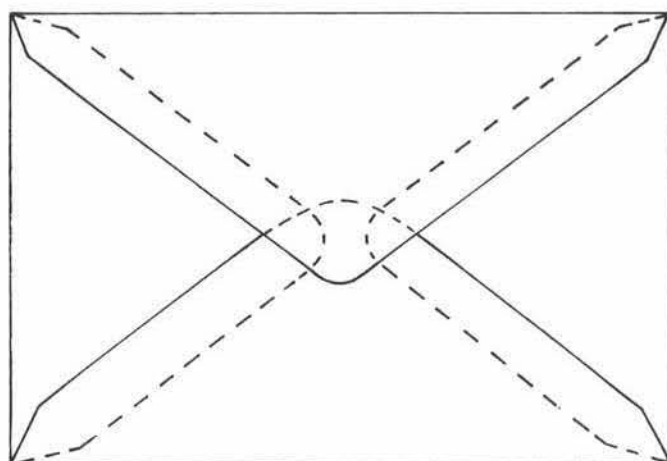
Knife #5



Knife #9



Knife #10



Knife #11

LISTING OF ENVELOPES

Higgins & gage numbers are used

B1 thru B10 are embossed, B11 & onwards are typographed
FDI=First Day of Issue: EDR=Earliest Date Reported of use

Sizes: a = 120x95mm; b = 137x80mm; c = 162x115mm

Note that the end opening and top opening size b envelopes may vary in size.



Figure 1



Figure 2

1924 Fig. 1, Wmk Ballyclare/Co Antrim; knife #1, size a
B 1 2 penny green on cream EDR:

1925 Fig. 2, Wmk as before, knife #2, size b
B 2 ½ penny emerald green on white EDR:

1925 Fig. 2, no watermark, knife #2, size b
B 3 ½ penny emerald green on white EDR:

Note: B2 & B3 have the opening to left or right

1925 Fig. 1, Wmk Ballyclare/Co Antrim; knife #3, size b
B 4 2 penny dark green on white EDR:

1925 Fig. 1, Wmk Glencamac/Made in Ireland, knife #4, size b
B 5 2 penny dark green on white EDR:

1926 Fig. 1, Wmk Ballyclare/Co Antrim; knife #5, size a
B 6 2 penny dark green on white EDR: 20 May 1926

1929 Fig. 1, Wmk Ballyclare/Co Antrim; knife #6, size a
B 7 2 penny dark green on cream EDR: 29 Aug 1926

1930 Fig. 1, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #6, size a
B 8 2 penny dark green on cream EDR:

1931 Fig. 1, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #7, size a
B 9 2 penny dark green on cream EDR: 26 Aug 1931

1934 Fig. 1, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #8, size a
B10 2 penny dull green on cream EDR: 23 Mar 1934



Figure 3

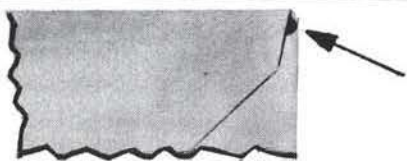


Figure 4

1940 Fig. 3, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #8, size a
B11 2 penny dark green on cream EDR: 5 Aug 1941

1942 Fig. 4, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #8, size a
B12 2½ penny brown on cream EDR: 16 Jul 1942

1945 Fig. 4, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #8, size a
B13 2½ penny brown on buff EDR: 1 Jul 1945



1945 Fig. 4, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #8, size a
B14 2½ penny brown on cream EDR:

Note: This is identical to B12 except for the 2½mm dot in brown ink as shown.

1950 Fig. 4, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #9, size a
B15 2½ penny brown on cream EDR:



Figure 5

1953 Fig. 5, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #9, size a
B16 2½ penny brown + ½ penny green on cream FDI: 25 Aug 1953



Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

1954 Fig. 6, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #9, size a
B17 3 penny blue on cream EDR: 24 Jun 1954

1954 Fig. 6, No watermark, knife #9, size a
B17A 3 penny dark blue on light cream EDR:

Note: smooth, hard finish paper

1962 Fig. 7, No watermark, knife #9, size a
B18 4 penny dark blue on cream EDR:

1966 Fig. 8, No Watermark; knife #9, size a
B19 5 penny dark purple on cream EDR: 2 Jun 1966

1966 Fig. 8, No Watermark; knife #9, size a
B20 5 penny light purple on cream buff EDR:

1966 Fig. 8, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #9, size a
B21 5 penny light purple on cream EDR:



Figure 9

Figure 10

Figure 11

1969 Fig. 9, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #9, size a
B22 6 penny brown on cream FDI: 18 Nov 1969

1971 Fig. 10, Wmk Dean Swift; knife #9, size a
B23 4 pence purple on off-white FDI: 15 Feb 1971

1971 Fig. 10, Wmk Glencamac/Made in Eire; knife #9, size a
B24 4 pence dark purple on white EDR:

1974 Fig. 11, Wmk Glencamac/Made in Eire; knife #9, size a
B25 5 pence yellow green on white FDI: 13 Nov 1974
B25a variety, missing stamp



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14

1978 Fig. 12, No Watermark; knife #9, size a
B26 10 pence purple on white FDI: 6 Feb 1978

1982 Fig. 13, No Watermark; knife 10, size c
B27 22 pence blue on white FDI: 29 Jul 1982

1983 Fig. 14, No Watermark; knife 11, size c
B28 26 pence black on white FDI: 29 Nov 1983

COLLECTING ENVELOPES

Collecting envelopes is not like collecting the overprints. Once a collector learns to identify the various printings of the OP's they are all readily available at a favorite dealer or in auction. There are no stocks of the early envelopes in dealers' hands. They must be searched for and finding one is really an occasion. I have been collecting envelopes for over twenty years and have at least one copy of each variety shown in the list in my collection (except B25a). However, I am still looking for five or six items to complete the envelopes mint and used.

Starting with B12, the 2½ brown of 1942, and onwards, all envelopes seem to show up fairly regularly on sales lists or in auctions and might be a good place to start a collection. Earlier issues aren't often seen.

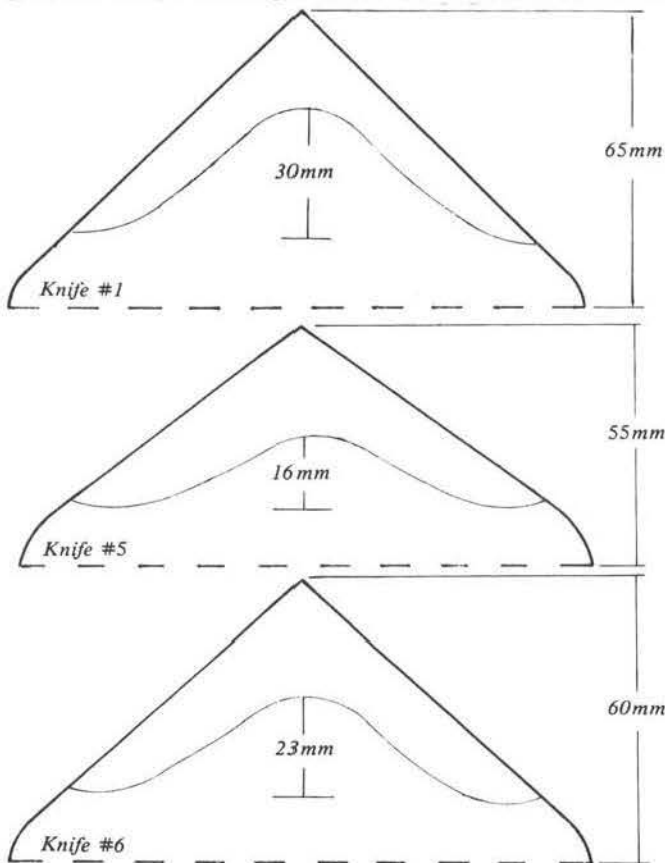
Prior to B12 there are nine different issues of the 2d green on various papers, with different watermarks and knives. Using the information in the listing above six of these fall into place without much trouble. The remaining three, B1, B6 & B7 on the Ballyclare paper cause problems. Over the years these three envelopes have been misidentified by more collectors and dealers than any other pieces of Irish stationery.

THE 2d DARK GREEN ON "BALLYCLARE. CO ANTRIM" PAPER

The paper colors of B1, B6 & B7 are listed by the catalogs as cream-white-cream respectively but this is deceptive. The colors are, in fact, most difficult to differentiate and should not be a determining factor. When O.P. Kennedy of Dublin made the first list many years ago there must have been an observable difference in paper but 60 years after being issued the colors are not consistent enough for positive identification.

The knife is the primary means of identification. There are subtle differences in the three knives but the main difference is the length of the flap... knife #1 is long, knife #5 is short and knife #6 is medium length. Even knowing this, it isn't always easy to identify an envelope unless coins of all three are available. To simplify the procedure, several years ago, I worked out a measurement for each flap for my own use. In preparing this article all previous data was checked carefully. While examining all three envelopes side by side a fact became

apparent that I have never seen recorded before . . . each of our three envelopes has a different gum pattern! I made tracings of the flaps and they are shown below with dimensions and gum patterns. I hope this helps make identification a little easier.



2d DARK GREEN ON UNWATERMARKED PAPER

Stamps of Ireland by Mac Donnell Whyte Ltd. and Otto Jung's 1984 edition of *Postal Stationery of Ireland* by FAI both list the 2d dark green on unwatermarked paper. I did not list it since I have never seen one. Not long ago I acquired one described as an unwatermarked paper. cursory examination seemed to confirm the description but on minute examination under strong light a portion of one letter was found where the back flap overlapped the side flap. By the knife the envelope was identifiable as a B7.

Normally, the words "Ballyclare/Co Antrim" were so placed on the dandy roll that all or a major portion of the wording appeared on each envelope blank. It would appear, therefore, that to account for missing or partly missing watermarks we can assume that by the time B7 was printed the dandy roll must have been breaking up.

To try to prove this, I would like to hear from any one owning an unwatermarked copy. I would particularly like to know if it can be identified as to issue.

DATES OF ISSUE

Outside of the more recent issues for which envelopes with verified first day of issue cancellations are known the dates shown in various catalogs purporting to be issue dates are imprecise to say the least, and in some cases are open to suspicion. With a concerted effort from all collectors having envelopes perhaps we can narrow down the dates of issue.

In the list I made a start. I have recorded the Earliest Date Reported (EDR) of use in my collection for those items used within the year of issue. If my earliest date of use was other than the first year I left the space blank. Will each member who has envelopes with identifiable dates in the cancels check them against the list and report results to me? I will accumulate the data and print an update to this list in a future *Revealer*. There are 13 envelopes with no EDR and 8 for which earlier EDR's probably exist. Much help is needed so report your finds even if it is only one date.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Die Gansachen Irlands, Postal Stationery of Ireland, Katalog und Handbuck, Otto Jung, FAI, June 1984, 2nd Edition

In April 1983, Otto Jung and the FAI produced their first catalog of Irish Postal Stationery in 19 pages, this second edition has grown to 64 pages. It is offset printed on good quality paper with soft card covers. Illustrations are good. There are some dealer ads. The numbering system seems awkward to me but I presume it is familiar to collectors in Germany. The text is in German with English translations where needed. Prices are in DM, IR£, and US\$.

The listing of early envelopes leaves much to be desired. I never could fathom the reason for lumping envelopes together by value rather than by issue. The lack of information on the knives is certainly a handicap and in fact causes the omission of some envelopes. For instance, there were three different issues of the 2d green on Ballyclare paper and there was another issue of the 2½ brown in 1950. In fact, the issue that was surcharged with the 2½ green stamp to make the provisional issue. The envelope section has been brought up to the latest issue.

The postal card and letter card sections seem to be pretty straight forward and offer no problems. The section on wrappers gives prices for unfolded copies. I have never seen the earlier issues in this condition. Aerogrammes are not recognized internationally as postal stationery when there are

no imprinted stamps but are listed here. The section on registered envelopes is quite good although there are some items missing, most of which were listed in earlier issues of *The Revealer*. All sections are up to date and the St. Patrick's Day cards are listed.

Despite the shortcomings I have noted this is really a good, up to date catalog of Irish Postal Stationery and will certainly prove worthwhile for all collectors although American collectors will be shocked by the alleged US prices (I wonder what the source was?). I recommend the catalog to all.

Slogans on Irish Official & Paid Mail compiled and published by F.E. Dixon

Irish Provisional Penny Posts by F.E. Dixon

Fred Dixon has published two lists in July and August of 1984. They are compilations of the great knowledge he has on both subjects.

The listing of slogans deals with the Dublin slogans first followed by Provincial towns. Sketches or photocopies are shown for all slogans.

The listing of the Irish Provincial Penny Posts is the most comprehensive to date. Fred has included all that he has found mentioned in directories or House of Commons Reports. All handstamps recorded to date are listed.

Both lists are highly recommended.

jib

THE DE LA RUE INVOICES 1922-1927

by John A. Fingleton

The following is the precis of work carried out by Messrs De La Rue & Co, London during the period from November 1922 to October 1927, for the Irish Free State. The extracts are taken from their invoice ledger which is now kept in the National Postal Museum, London, who's Curator Mr. J. Davies, I thank for his assistance in supplying the information. Ledger No. 285 November 25, 1922. The Minister of Finance; Irish Free State Govt. Aldborough Hse, Dublin. Twelve 2p Steel cheque dies, pierced for plugs, lettered on front, and numbered on back 1 to 12. Price each £8/15—Total £104.0.0. A complete set of Day, Month and Year plugs (=44 plugs) returned herewith.

Ledger No. 361. April 18, 1923. The Minister of Finance, Irish Free State Govt. Aldborough Hse, Dublin. Embossing Ink. 20lbs Green (with special ingredients) in 2 lb. tins. Price per lb 4/9 (four shillings and nine pence) Total £4.15.0. Packing and Carriage 7/6. Grand Total £5.2.6. Send to A.S. Roberts, Esq. Stpg. Depot (the next two words are abbreviated and unreadable Ir. Her.?) DublinCastle.

Ledger No. 402. June 21, 1923. The Minister of Finance, Irish Free State Govt. Aldborough House, Dublin. Order No. 178. Embossing Ink. 20 lbs Green (with special ingredients) Price per lb. 4/9 Total £4.15.0. Packing and Carriage 7/6, Grand Total £5.2.6.

Ledger No. 438 August 21, 1923. Rialtas Sealadach (their spelling) no HEireann, General Post Office. Contract No.16. Postage Paper (Gummed and Milled). Despatch(ed) 10th May 1923, 52 reams; 22nd, 40 reams; 28th, 52 reams; 7th June, 15.485 reams. Total 159.485 reams. Price per ream 18/10, Total price £150.12.9.

On the 20th of June another 52 reams were despatched and again on 6th July a further 52 reams. The total price for this 104 reams was £97/18/8 giving a grand total of this invoice of 248.11.5. The address of delivery, was as follows: Controller of Store, P.O. Stores Depot, Aldborough House Dublin. In the margin of the ledger, against this entry, the number 175, appears for the first time. It would appear that this was a customer number reference, as it appears in all future entries.

Ledger No. 498 October 26, 1923. Irish Free State, General Post Office. Date of Despatch 5.9.'23. Contract No. 16. Postage Stamp paper (Gummed and Milled) 96 reams and 64 reams. The price per ream was the same as in No. 438. The grand total £150.13.4. Delivery address as No. 438.

Ledger No. 20 December 1, 1923. The Controller, Post Office Stores Dept. Aldborough House, Dublin. Order No. 296 (S D3 B). 144 1 1/4 oz. Bottles Violet Stamping Ink for India rubber stamps. Price per bottle 3p, total £1/16.0.

Ledger No. 28 December 17, 1923. Irish Free State, General Post Office. Despatched 29.10.'23. Contract No. 16. Postage Stamp Paper (Gummed and Milled) 115 reams, 1 sheet. Price per ream 18/10 Total £108.5.10.

Ledger No. 28 December 17, 1923. Details same as above. 21 reams purchased. Total price £19/15/6.

Ledger No. 29 December 17, 1923. Details as 28(1). Local order No. 2. Despatched 4th Oct 1923. 21 reams, coated. Price per ream 7.5. Total £7.15.9. The reason for the lower price on this invoice, seems to correspond with the finished quality of the paper, i.e. not gummed & milled.

Ledger No. 57 January 22, 1924. Heading as 28(1). Contract No. 232G. Postage Stamp paper, Gummed and Glazed. 120 reams delivered 28th Nov. 1923, and the same amount on 11th Dec 1923. The word "Good" is against each quantity. Price per ream 18/10 Total £226.0.0.

Ledger No. 75 February 16, 1924. Heading as 28(1). Contract No. 232G. Postage Stamp paper, Gummed and Glazed. Date of Delivery 18.12.1923 160 reams. Date of delivery 3.1.1924 36 reams 498 sheets. Price 18/10. Total price £185.10.-.

Ledger No. 144 May 19, 1924. Heading as 28(1). Two invoices are listed on this page. The first under Order No. 93 is for 288 bottles of 1 1/4 oz. Violet Stamping Ink. The price was 2 3/4p (two pence and three farthings) per bottle. This one farthing cheaper than in Dec 1st (ledger No. 20). Total price £3.6.0. The second under order No. 95 is for 1000 bottles of same. Total price £11.9.2. Also included on this invoice is an order for 50 1 lb. tins of Red Stampin composition (for metal stamps). Price 1/2 1/4 (one shilling, two pence and one farthing). Total price £2.19.4. Grand total for invoice No. 95 £14.8.6.

Ledger No. 192 July 11, 1924. Heading as 28(1) Order No. 128 P 720 bottles Violet Stamping Ink (1 1/4 oz.). Price 2 3/4p. Total £8.5.0.

Ledger No. 123 October 19, 1927. The Minister of Post and Telegraphs, Post & Telegraphs Dept., Aldborough House, Dublin. Contract Order No. 1568G. 100 tins (1 lb.) Black Stamping Composition. Price per 1 lb. tin 1/1 (one shilling and one penny). Total price £5.8.4. Date of despatch 3rd Sep 1927. 1000 1/2 lb. tins, of same, price per tin 7p, Total price £29/3/4 Date of despatch 29th Sep 1927 (5 boxes) Grand Total of this invoice, £34.3.4.

NOTES

The ledger numbers are taken from the page headings. These are not exclusive to Irish invoices, as other dealings are also dealt on these pages. Prices are in old money ie £-s-d.



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RECENT ISSUES

GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CENTENARY

The Post Office issued two postage stamps on Thursday, 23 August, 1984. These two stamps commemorate the centenary of the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association (G.A.A.). The stamps were in two denominations and separate designs. The 22p (1,500,000) depicts hurlers from Cork and Kilkenny in action. These two counties are the most successful in hurling—Cork having won 24 All-Ireland Hurling Championships and Kilkenny having won 23. The 26p (1,500,000) depicts footballers from Kerry and Dublin in action. These two counties are the most successful in football—Kerry having won 27 All-Ireland Senior Football Championships, and Kilkenny having won 21. The stamps were printed by lithography in multicolor by Irish Security Stamp Printing, Ltd. and perforated 14x15. They were designed by Colin Harrison.



G.A.A.

The Gaelic Athletic Association was founded at a meeting attended by athletic enthusiasts held in Hayes Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary on 1 November 1884.

Most of the credit for the establishment of the G.A.A. goes to Michael Cusack (1847-1906) a Clare schoolteacher who set up his own academy in Dublin in 1877. Maurice Davin (1842-1927) was a Tipperary athlete of international fame and the support he gave Cusack was of considerable significance. Davin became the Association's first President and Cusack the first secretary.

The G.A.A. was an immediate success. Its first patrons were Charles Stewart Parnell, the Home Rule leader, Michael Davitt, the Land League founder and Archbishop Croke of Cashel. By 1886 hurling and gaelic football tournaments, as well as many sports meetings under G.A.A. rules, were being held all over the country. In 1887 the first All-Ireland hurling and football Championships were played. These have been the Association's most popular annual competitions ever since. The two field games, hurling and football, are accepted as being two of the most exciting and skillful games of the world.

In 1913 a semi-derelict site at Jones Road in Dublin was acquired for £3,500. Re-named Croke Park this was to become the G.A.A.'s headquarters and the first sports stadium in Ireland capable of holding over 90,000 spectators.

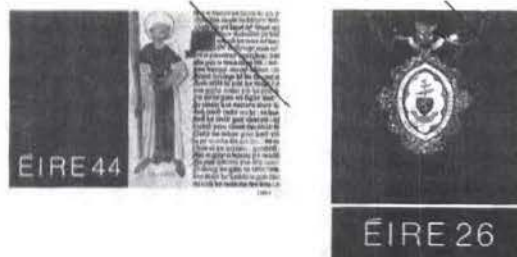
The modern G.A.A. has a club in almost every parish in Ireland and more than 150 clubs have built Community centers in recent years. The real wealth of the Association lies in the committed voluntary workers throughout the country and the number of playing fields at club and county level which have been purchased and developed to meet the needs of the modern-day Ireland.

1500th ANNIVERSARY OF ST. BRENDAN

500th ANNIVERSARY OF GALWAY MAYORALTY

On 18 September the Irish Post Office issued two stamps with two denominations and two separate designs. The 44p

(1,000,000) commemorates the 1500th Anniversary of the birth of St. Brendan and features a representation of St. Brendan from a 15th century English manuscript supplied by the Bodleian Library, Oxford. The 22p (1,000,000) commemorates the 400th Anniversary of the Galway Mayoralty and features the Galway Mayoralty Chain. The stamps were printed in lithography in multicolor by Irish Security Stamp Printing, Ltd. and perforated 14x15. Peter Wildbur was the designer.



ST. BRENDAN

St. Brendan was born of noble parents near Tralee in County Kerry in or around the year 484, little, however, is known of his early life. He became a monk and, as was the custom in early Christian Ireland sought solitude in remote areas. His name is connected with the founding of a number of monastic settlements in his native Kerry and also in Clare and Galway. His most famous monastic settlement was at Clonfert in East Galway and it was there that Brendan heard stories of the Island in the western sea. Brendan lived in a period when Irish monks were beginning to leave Ireland to spread the Gospel to other countries.

Brendan is reported as having sailed to Iona, the Orkneys, the Shetland Islands, Britain and Brittany. In due course, he became known as the "Voyager" and it is for these voyages that he is most remembered. The earliest accounts of St. Brendan's voyages date from as far back as the seventh century.

The most famous of these stories, however, was the "Voyage of St. Brendan", written in Latin by an Irish monk in or about the year 800.

Scholars have equated the descriptions given in the work to various islands in the Atlantic Ocean. The Saint is supposed to have visited an Island of Sheep and another close by which he called the Paradise of Birds. These could be the Faroe Islands and the coagulated sea mentioned by the Saint could be the Sargossa sea. He is also reported to have discovered an island in a region of fog, which could be Newfoundland. While it is accepted that the story includes a degree of fiction, it is based on the fact that St. Brendan was known as a voyager. The story relates how St. Brendan, on hearing tales of the "Promised Land" at his Clonfert monastery, set out from the Dingle Peninsula in a hide boat in search of this land. It is recorded that St. Brendan spent seven years on his voyages before returning to Ireland. He died at his sister's convent at Annaghdown, Co. Galway sometime around the year 580.

Tim Severin and his Brendan Voyage aroused and renewed public interest in St. Brendan and proved that it was possible for the Saint to have reached America in the sixth century, nearly nine hundred years before Columbus.

GALWAY

The merchant princes of Galway, who established the town in the thirteenth century, had ambitions for its future develop-

ment even as they asserted their power against the overlordship of the Norman de Burgo family, and against the threats of the Irish O'Flahertys, O'Dalys and O'Hallorans from outside the walls. It was 1484, when Richrad III was on the throne of England that they achieved what has long been their ambition, a charter which made the town a Mayoral City and gave Galway its first Mayor, Pyerse Lynch.

The Merchants of Galway were not content however with just procuring the charter from Richard III. They also aspired to a degree of ecclesiastical independence which no other Corporation in Ireland had at that time. The city stood within the ancient diocese of Annahdown which at that time was ruled by Archbishop Donagh O'Murray of Tuam. The Burgesses of Galway approached him to seek the establishment of their parish church, which had been re-constructed after a disastrous fire in 1473, as a Collegiate Church. The Archbishop consented and so was instituted the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas.

The Mayor and Corporation of Galway were given the right of nominating the priests and Warden. It was a unique power which, within a few months, was endorsed by a Papal Bull from Pope Innocent VIII. Galway had reached "the summit of Civic Independence under a Mayor."

The exodus of the famine years and its aftermath saw more Galway people in the cities of the east coast of the United States than in Galway itself. Decay set in and 1840 saw the suppression of the Corporation and the abolition of the Mayoralty. The town Commissioners who replaced the Corporation however never lost sight of restoring the city's former civic status, and in 1937 Galway again became a Corporate Mayoral City.

200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRISH POST OFFICE

The Irish Post Office issued a stamp on 19 October, 1984 to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the found of the Irish Post Office.



The 26p (2,500,00) stamp is a symbolic one, evoking the continuity of 200 years of Post Office service, from 1784 to the present day. It incorporates an example of an early postmark (called a Bishopmark) in use around the period of the foundation of the Irish Post Office. The significance of the date is that the Act establishing the Irish Post Office was passed on 14 May 1784. This type of postmark, of course predated the introduction of the adhesive postage stamps in 1840. The modern logo of the newly formed post company, An Post, is also featured.

THE IRISH POST OFFICE

In 1638 as "Postmaster for Foreign Parts" in London, Thomas Witherings sent his Deputy Evan Vaughan to Dublin. To Vaughan may be attributed the initial development of the Irish postal service. He organized post-stages from Dublin to Belfast, Coleraine, Derry, Sligo, Galway and Cork, and attempted to improve the service to London by putting three thirty-ton mail boats on order. The Dublin General Post

introduced the Bishop mark about 1670. This stamp was invented by Col. Henry Bishop, Postmaster of Englan about 1660-03 and it was so successful in Ireland that it was used there until 1795.

The Act of 1711 which reformed the postal system ensured, amongst other developments, the creation of a unified Post Office for the British Isles under the control of the Postmaster-General in London. However, when the Irish Parliament was granted a degree of independence in 1783 the obvious corollary was the passing of an Act on 14 May, 1784, granting independence to the Irish Post Office. This established for the first time an independent Irish Post Office. However, the systems operated by the Post Office soon became independable and fraud and nepotism were soon rife. From about 1809 London began to encourage reform in the Dublin Office but Dublin was not brought back under the direct control of the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom until 6 April 1831.

The Irish Post Office remained under the control of London until 1922 when the change-over from the British to the Irish Administration took place quietly. While some of the British Post Office officials remained at their posts for a number of months, the Irish administration took responsibility.

Over the past sixty years the Irish Post Office has been subject to constant revision. The biggest change of all, the establishment of An Post the State company to operate the Postal Service was begun in 1978 with the appointment of the Review Group to examine the operation of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. Their recommendation was that the operation of the Postal and Telegraph Services should be split and handed over to two separate state companies. These recommendations being accepted legislation was prepared to put them into affect and on 1 January 1984 both bodies were established.

The postal service of today is efficient, speedy and reliable, giving daily delivery of mail, Monday through Friday, throughout the mainland. An Post is continually seeking to improve, update and introduce new services.

CHRISTMAS

On 26 November An Post issued two stamps, the fourteenth in the Christmas series.



The stamp was issued in two denominations, 22p (2,000,000) and 26p (4,000,000) with a common design based on the painting of the "Virgin and Child" by Sassetto. This painting is currently on display in the National Gallery of Ireland. The stamps were designed by Peter Wildbur.

Sassetto or Giovanni Battista Salvi (1605-85) was born at Sassetto, in the March of Ancona. His paintings, which were very popular during the 19th century, were noted for their fine colouring.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Sc #68b, Sg74b

Enjoyed your fine article.

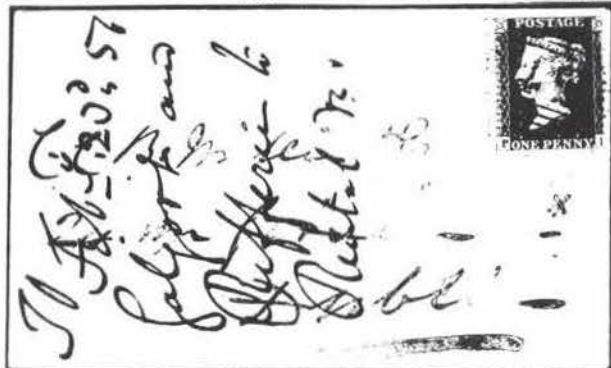
An earlier article in *The Revealer*, July - September 1968 by Russell Jackson gave several references and a list of six post offices noted on 15 used copies. Col. Jackson was still on EPA rolls in July 1981.

In 1968 I wrote to Col. Jackson with details of the postmark on my copy of 68b. This is a circular date stamp 9 IX 36 in DAIGEAN US BHFAILGHE. He wrote back on 10 Sept. '68 and advised that the other copy with the Phillipstown postmark is in the Smithsonian Collection in Washington, DC. VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA CHARLES UBER

BALLA - BALLYGLASS?

by Eugene Labiuk

The following 1d cover is rather interesting, as it is cancelled with a numeral 42 diamond cancellation of Ballyglass and backstamped with a Ballyglass handstamp dated January 23,



1856, with code B at bottom in blue. Also, on the back is a Balla straight line in blue and a Dublin circular receiving mark in green dated January 24, 1856 with code 8 at top and A at bottom.

This had determined that the cover had been posted at Balla cancelled at Ballyglass and then put on its destination to Dublin.

The interesting aspect of this cover is why the straight line Balla and not a numeral diamond cancellation?

In the 1844 list of offices which were issued numeral diamond cancels, Ballyglass was issued number 42. On the 1874 list numeral 42 was assigned to Ballinrobe, which previously had number 36. On the 1855 list, numeral 42 was assigned to Balla, Ballinrobe was assigned 507 and Ballyglass was given 527.

Ballyglass had two receiving houses, Balls and Kiltimangh. This indicated that the cover was posted at the Balla receiving house and then forwarded to the Ballyglass post office.

Based on the above, two descriptions could be used to describe this cover:

Cover posted at Balla, cancelled with the numeral 42 diamond cancellation of Ballyglass and then forwarded to Dublin.

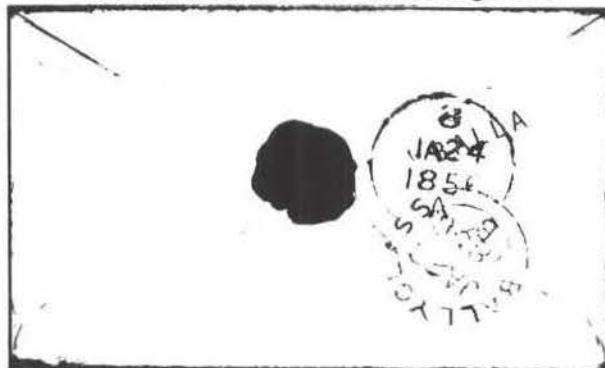
or

Cover from Balla to Dublin cancelled with numeral 42 diamond cancellation which it did not receive until 1885!!

References

Feldman Kane, "Irish Postal History"

Note: Upon photographing the cover, some artwork was needed to show the Balla straight line



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