

The Revealers

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Presenting Irish Coils



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The REVEALER

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President's Message



For many years now we have been fortunate to be able to keep our dues unchanged. Since I have taken office last year I have looked into the complete financial status of the association and I have found that we can no longer survive at the present rate. Our accountant in his recent report has advised me that we are now using some of our financial reserves to fund our major production, *The Revealer*. Over the past year Pat has put a lot of work into the issues he has produced and we made these issues a little bigger than usual to make up for lost time. We now have to face the reality that our present dues will no longer cover the cost of the four issues per year, 800 members at \$7.00 only gives us \$5600 and four issues cost \$6000. We need to come up with another \$500 per issue in the next year to cover ever growing expenses and to allow Pat to keep the standards high. For this reason the following rates have been set by the Board of Directors to take effect at the end of this fiscal year.

U.S.	\$10.00
CANADA & MEXICO	\$11.50
REST OF WORLD	\$13.00
FAMILY	+ \$3.00 to the above

We hope that this increase will not discourage any of our members and we will do our best to provide even more services in the future.

Some of you may be wondering what has happened to the new directory that was mentioned in the winter issue. When I received the report from our accountant last month there were 225 members who had not paid their dues for this year so this has set our schedule back. As soon as this is remedied the directory will be published. Please remember to send in your dues as soon as possible as this helps the accounting and saves us mailing overdue notices.

The Annual meeting went well in Boxborough in May. Our business meeting took almost five hours as we had a lot of issues to discuss. Hopefully we made some good decisions and laid the ground work for some ambitious projects for the association in the coming year. The general meeting was well attended and that ran for an hour and a half.

Bill Zellers exhibited 10 frames of embossed revenues and I exhibited 9 frames of general revenue material and we both won vermeil awards. Dick McBride won a silver award for his overprint exhibit. The EPA booth was a hive of activity during all three days of the show and I think everybody had a good time. I was asked by a member at the show to explain about some of the organizations that we are affiliated with and also about other groups in Europe that collect Ireland. In the next few issues we will have a write up on each of these groups. Until next time, good collecting.

Dues Are Due

Dues envelopes are in this issue.
Dues are payable by 1 September 1988.
Send yours in today.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

New member are accepted subject to no objections received within 45 days of publication.

- #2166 Sean Amiot, 1412 Foothill Meadows Ct., San Jose, CA 95131
- #2167 Michael G. Freyer, Ballydaniel, Moyard, Co. Galway, Ireland
- #2168 Margaret R. Hofmann, 1006 Carousel Lane,
Hendersonville, NC 28739
- #2169 Karl Winkelmann, 9 Baggot Ct., Dublin 2, Ireland
- #2170 Dennis McMahon, 7032 Fourth Ave., Apt. B9, Brooklyn, NY 11209
- #2171 Nelson W. Kessell, Box 4546, Riverside, CA 92514
- #2172 Gary L. Stevens, 10465 S.W. Hawthorne Ln., Portland, OR 97225
- #2173 Silvia Hanvey, Me Market Place, Regent St., Newtownards,
Co. Down, No. Ireland
- #2174 James J. McKenna, Box 96, Beacon, NY 12508
- #2175 William R. McGrath, 8117 Magnet Rd., Minerva, OH 44657
- #2176 Thomas J. O'Hagen, 11452 Oak Leaf Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20901
- #2177 Donald W. Harns, Box 501, McIntyre, GA 31054
- #2178 Thomas A. Leahy, 1729 Manhattan Ave., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
- #2179 Robert P. Reed, 24 S. Main St., Colchester, CT 06415
- #2180 Gary L. Cruse, 3631 Dunbar Ct., Fremont, CA 94536
- #2181 Udo Jarczyński, Ritter-Tuschl Str. 29, 8359 Aldersbach, W. Germany
- #2182 Joseph Treadway, 2010 Hunters Walk Ct., Lawrenceville, GA 30244
- #2183 Ruth Mensing, E. 7435 Sunnyside Rd., Coeur D'Alene, ID 83814
- #2184 Larry Clough, Box 283, Cheshire, OR 97419-0283
- #2185 Michael Rupp, Rosenstrasse 3, 2853 Cappel, West Germany
- #2186 John Flaherty, 511 Princeton Blvd., Lowell, MA 01851
- #2187 Edward F. Klimeck, 75 High St., Waterbury, CT 06704
- #2188 Thomas J. Kane, 68 David St., Naugatuck, CT 06770

Recruiting Honor Roll: The following members have contributed to the cause of Irish Philately by recruiting new members for the association: Preston Pope, Bill Zellers, Richard McBride, A. Finn, Belinda Kemper, Michael Giffney, William McCaw, Joseph Foley, Vic Drozd and Frank Holzmüller.

REINSTATED MEMBERS

- #1890 Paul D. O'Neil, 5 Haskell Rd., Pepperell, MA 01463

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Membership as of 30 November 1987	846
New Members	23
Reinstatements	1
Membership as of March 15, 1988	870

CHAPTER REPORTS

James Hoban Chapter Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia

by Bob Moskowitz

JHC continues to grow. We have just signed up our 38th member. We also continue to be active both as a club and as individuals. Member Christine Jolly of Saddlebrook N.J. received a Silver Medal for her four-frame exhibit at Interpex 88 (junior division): Postal Markings of Ireland before Independence. Member Pat Walker, herself a frequent exhibitor, has been selected as one of the five judges to judge the World Series of Philately at STAMPSHOW in Detroit this August.

Our meeting at BOPEX was the occasion of JHC's annual auction and as usual some interesting items were offered. JHC donates 5% of the gross sales to EPA. We thank those from outside JHC who wanted to send material, but we do not accept material from non-JHC members as we do not want to in any way be in competition with the quarterly EPA auctions.

At our NAPEX meeting in May we plan to show the slide presentation JHC produced IRISH PHILATELY FROM THE BISHOP MARK TO MODERN DAY. We have donated copies of the presentation to both EPA and APS. We hope EPA members will make an opportunity to view the program and will write us concerning suggestions for improvement.

As JHC grows it takes in more territory. We started with the Maryland, D.C., Virginia area. We now have members in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. For our members' benefit we are in the process of producing our second membership directory.

Anyone interested in more information about JHC should write to me at 3313 Southern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21214.

THE LONE STAR CHAPTER

by Jim Lavelle



It was called by some "the Irish-American Philatelic Event of the Year". It was that and more. A full report on the TEXPEX '88 Show will be given in the next issue of *The Revealer* along with photos.

The LONE STAR Chapter has some St. Patrick's Day (17 March 1988) cancelled cachet covers from the USS TEXAS (CGN-39), an active duty nuclear-powered cruiser

presently on station in the Persian Gulf. These covers carry U.S. postage with an Irish and/or Texas significance and a ship cancel. We also have a U.S. postal stationery .14 flag postcard with the ship's 17 March cancel and cachet. The LONE STAR Chapter is selling these ship cachet covers for \$1.25 each plus SASE. The postcard is .75 plus SASE. Three cachet covers with different postage stamps and the postcard is yours for \$4. plus SASE (.45 postage please). If E.P.A. members are interested, please write me at 522 Indigo Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78216. Proceeds from these sales go to the LONE STAR Chapter for the expansion of the E.P.A. in Texas.

The LONE STAR Chapter has an excellent pair of cachet covers which were cancelled with the show cancel at TEXPEX '88. The show cancel honors the Irish Settlers of South Texas. Each of the two covers commemorates by name an Irishman who fell in defense of the Alamo in 1836. These are the first two of a series which the LONE STAR Chapter will issue yearly during the annual TEXPEX event. There were 13 native-born Irishmen who were part of the group of 182 valiant defenders who were designated by Texas law in our history as "Defenders of the Alamo". These covers have appropriate U.S. postage of significant Irish and/or Texas history. The pair of covers are for sale at \$2.50 plus an SASE. The art work on these covers is excellent and was done by Cian Connery Gallagher, a young Irish-born artist-dramatist residing in South Texas.

The LONE STAR Chapter also produced a stamp booklet for TEXPEX '88. This stamp booklet consists of 3 panes of stamps in a gutter block of 4 format. The 1d, 2d and 3d values of the current Irish architecture definitive series are represented. The booklet cover, front and rear, commemorates a. TEXPEX '88 and the "Early Irish Settlers of South Texas"; b. the Eire Philatelic Association; c. the Texas Philatelic Association; d. the LONE STAR Chapter. These souvenir stamp booklets are for sale to E.P.A. members at \$1.50 each plus SASE.

If you send \$8. for all the items, the LONE STAR Chapter will pay the postage and you will receive 3 St. Patrick's Day Covers with different U.S. postage, 1 cachet postcard, 2 Irish-Texas patriot covers and a souvenir stamp booklet.

I received an interesting note from John Brinckloe of Hyde Park, NY, which I brought to the attention of the San Antonio Study Group at our

last meeting. John is collecting used Irish stamps which he prepares into small hand-out packets which the E.P.A. members can request as hand-outs for their local shows. What a perfect way to advertise the E.P.A. and Irish philately around the country. John is hampered by a lack of stamp donations for this project. Please help him by sending your duplicates. Just the common definitive run-of-the-mill issues are sufficient. Don't send any torn, cut, or stained stamps. We don't want to start kiddoes off with bad habits. The LONE STAR Chapter will donate their excess used Irish stamps to John for his E.P.A. project, and we hope that other chapters can see fit to collect for his worthy project. John's address is 25 Circle Drive, Hyde Park, NY 12538.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

by Jim Lavelle



The U.S. postage rates which went into effect in April make it necessary for your library to increase the fees required for the borrowing of books and slides and also increase the insurance requirement necessary to maintain a continuous receipt system between the library and the user.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY U.S. borrowers must pay the fee of \$2.25 to borrow one book.

The fees for 2 or 3 books will remain \$2.50 and \$3. respectively. For your information, the **FOURTH CLASS-LIBRARY RATE** increased from .54 to .64 for the 1st lb and went from .19 to .23 per lb for the next six lbs.

Canadian members borrowing books or slides as well as Republic of Ireland and United Kingdom members must pay \$4. to borrow 1 or 2 books. A borrower from Canada requiring 3 books will be required to deposit \$4.50. The **FOURTH CLASS-OTHER ARTICLES** fee increased from .96 to \$2.39 for the 1st lb.

To maintain a receipt system, it will be necessary for **all** borrowers returning book packages to the library to insure the package for \$100. This is the minimum insurance rate for which postal authorities will issue you a receipt. Although the insurance requirement has increased from \$50. to \$100, the cost of this increase went from \$1.10 to \$1.50. A part of the fee that you forward to the library goes towards purchasing \$100. of insurance in mailing the book(s) to you.

When requesting a book or program to borrow or a pamphlet to reproduce, **please** forward the basic fee along with your request to the librarian. No action will be taken without having the fee.

My oh my! Have you seen all the postcards printed and distributed by An Post, the Irish post office, so far this year? This seems to be the time to stop hesitating and dive into Irish postal stationery as a collection specialty. Review your copy of the John Blessington Memorial Library reference pamphlet for interesting books and articles to assist you in preparing a **WORLD-CLASS** collection. For starters, let me recommend to you a copy of Otto Jung's excellent award-winning 1987 catalog **POSTAL STATIONERY OF IRELAND**.

There are several worthwhile research projects currently underway by members of the E.P.A. of which you should be made aware since research eventually leads to the publishing of a manual, and we all benefit from that. One such project being undertaken by Bill Murphy is an updating of Irish flight and acceptance covers. The last time Irish flight covers were written up was the excellent Irish Aero-philately articles written by past editor James Brady which appeared in *The Revealer* issues 10 years ago. Please note that an extracted copy of these articles is available from your library. Well anyway... Bill is looking for information and copies of air covers that you may have in your collection. No matter how insignificant you may think your cover is, it may, because of a different date, or the absence of a cachet, be a completely new entity. If you would please reproduce the front and rear of your cover(s), then mail them to Bill at 5813 Castano Drive, San Jose, CA 95129. Please assist in the research project.

The only slide program which we have available for loan at this time is the one entitled **IRISH PHILATELY FROM THE BISHOP MARK TO**

MODERN DAY. This program consists of 55-35mm slides and a 16-page script (that's right, you gotta talk and also provide the slide tray!) that is directed towards a general audience as an introduction to Irish philately. The slides are excellent specimens of 35mm photography, clear and colorful. The program takes the viewer from the early period of Irish postal history, through the Dublin and provincial handstamps, the English-used-in-Ireland cancellations and handstamps, the propaganda and political labels, the overprinted British stamps, the different definitive sets, the commemoratives, postage due labels and airmail stamps. The heroes and the Nobel prize winners are all there. I believe that general Irish collectors would find the program of interest. A nice touch would be to play some Phil Coulter **TRANQUILITY** music softly in the background. A \$2.25 charge (the same charge for one book) will cover the mailing costs. Please remember that you must insure the package for \$100. when returning it in the mails. We thank the James Hoban Chapter for its donation. I also read that this same program is listed in the American Philatelic Slide Program file.

A **WARM FUZZY** is given to Michael Hartnett of Limerick, Ireland, for his donation of IPC journals. Thank you Michael.

A *****CLARION CALL***** (sorry about all those trumpets) is going out for a copy of the 1981 issue No. 2 and a copy of 1987 issue No. 2, 3 and 4 of the **IRISH PHILATELY**, Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle.

From the Desk of the Editor



This issue features Irish Coils. In Mr. Benninghoff's article there is the allusion to the existence of Irish Revenue Coils. I went to three prominent members of the EPA, Bill Zellers, F.E. Dixon, and Declan O'Connor, asking about the possible existence of Coils in the Revenue area. F.E. Dixon states that Revenue coils are mentioned in the 1927-30 edition of *Eolai An Phoist* as "both Health and Unemployment insurance stamps could be obtained in rolls." Since only coils come in rolls one might deduce or assume that these could be coil revenue stamps. Seems to me that this is an excellent area begging to be researched by some young lad seeking to put his stamp on Irish Philately - as it were. You might even surprise some of the older coil and revenue collectors that think their collections are complete without them. Your editor stands ready - prepared to publish your research study.

During the process of normalization in publishing the last three issues, I have experienced an area of possible misunderstanding and concern. I have established deadlines for receipt of material to be published in *The Revealer* in order to have definite cutoffs to insure the timely processing and publication of our journal. These dates are as follows:

Spring - 1 March
Summer - 1 June
Fall - 1 September
Winter - 1 December

I have been receiving articles that really should be in the current issue after my established deadlines. I would like to explain to everyone that I allow myself 15 days to put each issue together after these dates. Absolutely no exceptions can be made. Any material received after the cutoff will be held till the next issue. Before hurt feelings develop let me explain that I interpret any attempt to delay the publication of *The Revealer* as lack of support for both *The Revealer* and the membership. As a reminder I shall publish the next cutoff date at the end of each editorial.

As you all know I am constantly seeking interesting material to publish. I am still looking for articles on Postage dues, current and past definitives and Postal History (there has been a remarkable shortage of articles in this area). The majority of the membership according to my correspondence, is interested in

(continued on page 12)

Ireland's Back Of The Book

by Bill Zellers

Here we go, to the Back Of The Book. Surprisingly, I have a few more names to add to the Back Of The Book items list in the last issue. They are "seals, stickers, junk and trash". If you don't want to collect Back Of The Book that's your business. However, there are a number of Irish collectors who do and I'm one of them. I will try to enlighten those that are on the fence.

This segment will be devoted to cyphers. The collecting of cyphers is a fallout of collecting revenue stamps. Cyphers are stamps used in conjunction with semi-adhesive embossed revenue stamps on vellum or parchment documents. Vellum is the skin of an unborn lamb. It is smoother, lighter and easier to write on than parchment made from the skin of an older animal. These two types of document material would not hold an embossed imprint that could be identified. Therefore, a piece of paper, usually blue, was glued to the parchment or vellum. Two slits were made in the paper and the skin. Next a strip of tin foil was folded and put into the slits to serve as a "staple". The tin foil was folded in the back and a cypher stamp was glued over the tin foil. See figure 1. The paper was then embossed. It is reported that the base paper that was originally blue, has, in some instances, changed color to browns, tans and greys. Pink paper was used for colored impressions. Green base paper has also been used. Base paper differed in type and quality.

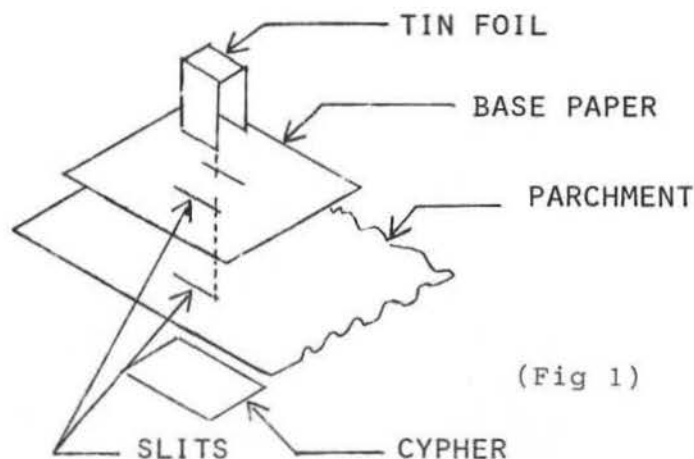
These items are also known as "Cypher Labels or Tickets". The cyphers were printed, usually 320 to a sheet, with the reigning king or queen's official monogram. A crown was on top of the monogram. These stamps, fixed with glue to the back of the document, were to prevent the tin foil attachment from being removed and the embossed revenue stamp being used again. At one time, it has been reported, people were removing the bright and shiny tin foil thinking it was silver.

The London Gazette for 1 January 1701 records:

"The Commissioners for Managing the Duties of Stamp Vellum, Parchment and Paper, do hereby give notice, That for preventing Several Frauds practised on the said Duties all Stamps on Vellum and Parchment, and all the Forty Shillings and Five Shillings Stamps on Paper, now issuing from the General Office, have a piece of Metal impressed through them, and a printed Cypher fixed to the Reverse..."

In England the cyphers were first used with William III's monogram (1701-1702). Next were Anne (1702-1704), George I (1714-1727), George II (1727-1760), then George III (1760-1820). It was under George III that Ireland, in 1774, came under the stamp duties. Not all stamp duties were embossed, some were printed. Examples are newspaper stamps, medicine, almanac, etc. The embossed stamps with cyphers are the ones I have interest in. Ireland had some unique cyphers which were printed in red ink and only used in Ireland. (Some Irish monogram cyphers were printed in red and/or black.) In my collection, I have over 200 documents or pieces of embossed stamps of Ireland. 19% of these have red printed cyphers. 8% have had the cypher removed. The last document in my collection that used a red printed cypher was 1833. The remaining were all printed with black ink.

The cyphers used on the documents were not always the same as the reigning monarch. As an example I have 1830 documents with George III cyphers. That is ten years after his death. It has been reported that George IV (1820-1830) cyphers have been found on documents dated 1840, ten years after his death and three after William IV's death. It appears that no cyphers were printed during the William IV (1830-1837) reign. Victoria (1837-1901) cyphers are the most common. Edward VII (1901-1910) had three very distinctive types that are scarce. But



George V (1911-1936) cyphers are very rare. Only one type was printed. In 1921 cyphers were discontinued.

There are ten different George III stamps identifiable. One type is the same as George II except there is a number three between the monogram and the crown above. There are four recuts of this one, all of which have position numbers on the right as you look at the stamp. There is the Irish type that has the number three between the two initials. The next is similar to the first, except the position numbers are split between the right and left and there are three recuts of the stamp. (See Figure 2) George IV can be found with one primary stamp and two recuts for a total of three. Victoria had three different plates of one type and a recut of each of these. Plate 1 had position numbers 1 to 320. Plate 2 had position numbers 321 to 640, Plate 3 had position numbers 641 to 960. Another type had letters instead of position numbers. The last type did not have any position numbers or letters. Edward VII had three types. One printed in black, no position numbers or letters. Another was a coil perforated across the top and bottom. The last was from a perforated sheet. These latter two were greenish in color. The George V cypher was a perforated stamp sheet without position letters or numbers.

The information in this article was for the most part gained from the books listed below. Those of you who are interested in this material can check out the following from the EPA library; Barefoot, John and others, *BG Revenue Compendium*, J. Barefoot Investments, Viking Press, York, 1981.

Frank, Samuel B.M.D., Schonfeld, Josef, Barber, William and others, *The Stamp Duty of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. 3, Mamaroneck, N.Y. 1974.

The Story Behind the Stamps The Republic of Ireland

by Tom Polick



It came as a surprise,... almost overnight and the next three issues of postage stamps reflected the country's name change in Gaelic, and for the first time a translation into English.

For a little more than a year, "Poblacht na hÉireann-Republic of Ireland" was the official name of the nation. Then without fanfare the name reverted to the familiar, "Éire".

The Coalition Government headed by Prime Minister John Costello declared Ireland a republic on Easter Monday, 1949, abruptly ending the Free State association with the British Commonwealth.

The change was so sudden that it was not until November, six months later that two stamps celebrating the proclamation of the republic of Ireland were released. Leinster House of Dublin where the Irish legislature sits was pictured with the coat of arms for the four provinces. The design is framed on three sides with, Poblacht na hÉireann-Republic of Ireland.

The next month the 1d stamp honoring the centenary of the death of poet James Clarence Mangan was issued with the same Gaelic/English combination.

The last issues to use the republican title (Gaelic only) were the three commemoratives to recognize the Holy Year of 1950. St. Peter's statue and the Papal coat of arms are shown with, "Poblacht na hÉireann."

The declaration of the Irish Republic was a product of a change in philosophy which accompanied the banding together of several groups to form a new political party, Clanna Poblachta. Their victories in the 1948 election tipped the scales which brought Dublin barrister, John Costello to be chosen as Prime Minister.

Tony Gray, in his book *The Irish Answer* tells a story that would explain the suddenness of the move and the waning of the name change. He relates that Mr. Costello participated in the Commonwealth Bar Association conference of 1948 which was held in Canada. The Governor-General of Canada, Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis hosted an evening gathering. Alexander, an Ulster Protestant from County Tyrone in some way offended Mr. Costello and it's said that he left the dinner in a "rage".

A short time later in an interview with a Canadian newspaper reporter, Mr. Costello's intention to declare Ireland a republic was revealed.

Robert Briscoe, a member of the Irish Dail confirms this anger motivation theory in his book, *For The Life Of Me*. The External Relations Act was repealed and the Declaration of the Republic of Ireland was ratified.

There wasn't much of a change between the Irish Republic and the United Kingdom. The citizens of both countries could still live, work and vote in the other and Irish travelers in Britain were still treated as British subjects. Affairs involving Ireland continued to be handled by the Commonwealth Office and the currency remained tied to sterling.

Some anxiety had been created that the division between north and south had been made more permanent, but there didn't appear to be any significant change in Irish life.

As time passed the prospective settled to where the use of the name, Éire, became the accepted title for postage stamps and other official purposes, and I believe that's the story behind these stamps.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I have been corresponding with Bill Murphy, the author of the article **O.A.T. Cachets** in the Winter 1987 edition of *The Revealer*, since October 1987. I have informed him of the existence of 6 other O.A.T. covers and I would like to share this information with your readers.

1940	Oct. 15	Clifden, co. Galway	U.S.A.
1942	Jan. 24	Blackrock, co. Dublin	Azores
	July 24	Blackrock, co. Dublin	Azores
	Nov. 11	Blackrock, co. Dublin	Azores
1944	Aug. 30	Dublin	Stockholm
	Nov. 02	Currow, co. Kerry	Azores

As you can see by the above, this information adds two new countries to Mr. Murphy's list; i.e. Sweden and the Azores. As well it extends the known period of use of the Irish O.A.T. marking by almost 5 months.

The general use of O.A.T. marks extended from 1938 to 1965. The U.P.U. changed its rules in 1965 which made their use redundant. In fact, there is little reported use of O.A.T. markings after 1947.

Murray Heifetz, in his article **OAT and AV2 Markings on International Mail** in the *PHSC Journal's* 15th anniversary issue (30 June 1987), states that:

"A major problem with the study of these markings is that, not only was the whole routine optional for each postal administration but, at each exchange office, it was somewhat arbitrary as to whether or not the mark was applied to individual covers. Among the factors that apparently influenced the use of the markings were:

- (1) cases where only a few letters were being forwarded to a destination; not enough for a sack or a pouch. Hence, they were individually marked and placed with other envelopes. [This probably accounts for the above average number of covers with O.A.T. markings to the Azores. CJGV].
- (2) a shortage of facing labels in Britain during the latter part of the war, resulting in increased frequency in the use of the OAT marking on individual covers during 1943-1945.
- (3) a practice in the United Kingdom [and in Éire?] of bringing attention to the request of the sender for onward air transmission from London to Europe. At this time, there was "all-up" air service to Europe with no extra airmail postage required.
- (4) small packs of letters to a single destination were bundled and only the top cover was marked with the rubber stamp."

I hope this provides additional information on a subject whose origin, authority for use and methodology are obscure.

Sincerely yours,

Charles J.G. Verge

Forming An E.P.A. Chapter

In the Winter 1986 edition of THE REVEALER, Gene Labiuk discussed the important role Chapters played in keeping the Association together during the period when the organization was unable to produce THE REVEALER. As a charter member of the Connecticut Chapter, I would agree that a strong and active chapter is most important.

As I read Gene's remarks it occurred to me that it might be helpful to describe how the Connecticut Chapter was formed and how it has evolved over time.

The thought of forming a Connecticut Chapter was first advanced in February, 1983. Mr. Richard McBride, who was later elected the first President of the Chapter, sent a letter to a number of E.P.A. members in the state. Dick put together a mailing list by referring to the E.P.A. Membership Directory. The letter was designed to survey possible interest in forming a Connecticut Chapter. To facilitate responses, a postal card was included and each respondent was asked to indicate best day, time of day, preferred meeting format, programs of interest, etc. The cards were mailed to Dick and after tabulating the returns Dick called the first meeting of the Chapter for Sunday April 17, 1983.

At this meeting the members decided to meet four times a year, on the second Sunday in April, June, September and December. The second Sunday of the month was chosen because a major Connecti-

cut stamp show is held on the same day at a nearby motel. Many E.P.A. members attend the stamp show prior to the Chapter Meeting. The Chapter meets from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

To attract new members, the Chapter sponsored a table at a March 1985 Stamp Show that had as its theme St. Patrick. We displayed Irish stamps and related materials and answered questions from the public. At the end of that day we had added six names to our mailing list.

As for our Chapter meetings, we stress informality and everyone is expected to bring stamps, covers, and related materials. We encourage show and tell sessions, swapping/trading, auctions, periodic visits by a dealer, exhibits, and refreshments.

Annual dues are \$2.00 and any money raised in the auction is deposited in the Chapter checking account.

I started collecting Irish stamps at about the same time I joined the Connecticut Chapter. As a member of the Chapter I have certainly expanded my knowledge of Irish philately largely as a result of what I have learned from fellow Chapter members.

In summary, it is not difficult to form a Chapter. All it takes is a commitment by one or two collectors to start the process. Our Chapter has benefitted greatly from the advice and support provided by Bob Jones, Chapter Coordinator. Just ask him for help. I am certain Bob will furnish all the help you require.

Richard J. McBride
153 Orchid Road
Meriden, Ct. 06450
EPA 1677

February 25, 1983

Dear New England E.P.A. Member:

Last Fall I attended a meeting of the New England Regional Chapter held at Stoughton, Massachusetts. I enjoyed an afternoon of chatting with fellow collectors, purchasing philatelic material, participated in an auction, viewed several interesting displays of Irish philatelic material and in general thoroughly enjoyed myself. This meeting was organized by Bob Jones who is our EPA Secretary.

In conversation with Bob, he mentioned that it would be great if we had a Connecticut River Valley Chapter. I expressed some interest and recently I wrote to Bob and he has given me some ideas and encouragement.

I would be able to obtain a suitable meeting place for an organizational meeting here in Meriden, which is centrally located. I need some input from you so that we can determine interest level. The meeting agenda could be informal, perhaps including a get acquainted session, discussion of interests, swapping and or sale of philatelic material, perhaps a short program by a member, an auction, we could have a dealer present, etc. What are your interests?

I have enclosed a post card for your reply and comment. Better still, write me or call me at 203-237-7952. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Richard J. McBride

REGISTRATION IN IRELAND FROM 1809

by James A. Mackay

I was very surprised to read Tony Booth-Jones' article about the Dublin Windowmen in the Fall 1987 issue of *The Revealer*, and note his sweeping statement that there was no registration "as we know it" until after 1841. I fear that he has not read my book "Registered Mail of the British Isles", nor the supplementary notes which appeared in "The Postal History Annual" (1984).

First of all the present system of registration of inland letters and packets has been in continuous operation throughout the British Isles since January 6, 1841; but registration of letters has a much greater antiquity, dating back to an Order in Council of July, 1556. This was a temporary measure for political reasons but it involved the taking of signatures from the sender and the recipient, as a means of monitoring postal traffic between London and the North of England. Registration was one of the facilities offered by Dockwra's London Penny Post of 1680, including a generous compensation for loss or damage. The facility of registering letters and packets of value passing to and from overseas countries was offered long before it was extended to the inland service, and was certainly well established by 1784 when the table of registration fees was revised, and distinctive printed receipts for this purpose, issued by the Foreign Post Office in London, are extant from 1814.

From July 1792 a system of quasi-registration applied to Money Letters. These were simply letters which were found to contain a coin or coins. These were endorsed "Money Letter" in red ink and given special care in transit, but at no extra charge to the sender or recipient. For this reason people would sometimes enclose a farthing in a letter merely to ensure that it would get special care en route. From 1824 onwards special treatment was also given to bankers' parcels containing banknotes.

As far as the general public were concerned, however, there was no system of registration for inland letters and packets which might contain banknotes, share certificates and other documents of value. The need for inland registration was keenly felt and from 1788 onwards many suggestions had been made and systems devised, but none was actually implemented - except in the case of Ireland.

In January 1807 Samuel Browning, a clerk in the Inland Office, London, published an elaborate plan "For the Improvement of the Post Office Revenue and the Security of Property Letters". Browning was concerned about the temptation placed in the way of postal staff who risked transportation and even capital punishment if they stole letters. He was also aware that "an entire network of corruption" might develop in an office "which would lead to the systematic plundering of the property letters".

It is evident that Browning had the Dublin office in his mind as he wrote this, as he had contacts in Ireland who kept him fully informed of the scandalous situation there. One of the appendices to his printed report was a newspaper account of a special meeting held in January 1807 by the Corporation of the City of Dublin to protest at the situation. Alderman Kirkpatrick had compiled a massive dossier on thefts from letters in the mails, while the Bank of Ireland had over 2,000 affidavits concerning letters which had been robbed "within a period of Time incredibly short". Alderman Harty alleged that this was tantamount to the systematic plundering of the mails; he himself had recently lost a letter containing £500. This sorry situation, which must have had a serious effect on the development of trade between Dublin and the provincial towns of Ireland, was brought to the attention of the authorities in Dublin Castle.

A report to the Lord Lieutenant and General Governor of Ireland, dated November 10, 1807, criticized the General Post Office: "The Sorting Room in the Dublin office is in shape so ill adapted to the business for which it is occupied, is so confined in point of extent, so ill arranged and so dark, that the Officers on duty, even under the present inadequate Establishment, are considerably interrupted and impeded in their business and every facility is afforded, for the plunder of the property of individuals entrusted to the charge of the General Post Office. Indeed, so great is the temptation offered by those concurring circumstances, that numerous as the complaints have been of losses actually sustained by deprecation, that we are more inclin-

ed to be surprised at their having been so few, than to wonder at their multiplicity."

This desperate situation was conveyed to London, at a time when Browning's plan was being actively considered. He was now encouraged to revise it in light of the special problems in Dublin, and on March 31, 1808 he submitted a manuscript report entitled "Plan for the Security of Property Letters passing through the Dublin Post Office inwards". This was a considerable modification of his original scheme, as it was now restricted to inward, pre-paid letters. Central to Browning's plan was a system of special postmarks, circular in format, with twin bars across the center. The letter at the top signified the mail coach by which the property letters were to be conveyed to and from Dublin, the numeral in the middle denoted a post town on that particular road, while the manuscript number at the foot was the serial number of the letter. Thus A5 denoted Clare, B5 Belfast and C6 some other post town belonging to a different coach.

Space prevents me from quoting this remarkable document, which will be found verbatim in my book on Registered Mail. Browning gave details on how the system was to operate and included examples of the forms and other documentation required. In effect, he devised a rigid hand-to-hand checking system, with signatures taken at each stage from the handing over of the letter to the postmaster, receiver or windowman, to the eventual delivery of the letter to the addressee, so that in the event of any enquiry the entire journey of the letter from sender to recipient could be accurately pinpointed.

Browning became embroiled in a vendetta with his superior officer Daniel Stow, for reasons which need not concern us here. Stow, who operated the Money Order Office virtually as his private fiefdom, felt that Browning's system would threaten his lucrative little sideline and tried to block him at every turn. In desperation Browning sought the intercession of a senior colleague, J. Whitbread, with the Postmaster General, Lord Chesterfield. In a letter to the PMG, dated March 13, 1809, Whitbread writes: "As there appears to me to be merit in the scheme, and that the Post Office at Dublin are now giving it a partial trial, I have no hesitation in thus naming it to your Lordship."

Chesterfield sought an explanation from Stow, who responded by making a savage attack on Browning's character in particular and his scheme for registration in general. A relevant paragraph reads:

"It should appear that Mr. Browning's Plan for securing Property Letters Outwards is now partially acting upon in Ireland, and by the way in which the subject is introduced it resolves into this Question: If the plan has merits sufficient to entitle it to be adopted in the Sister Kingdom, why has it not experienced the same sort of trial here? By a reference to the Public Advertisement it will be seen that the measure is confined to only twelve towns in Ireland, and that all Letters must be paid for and brought to the Office Windows between the Hours of 10 and 4 o'clock, thus six Hours are devoted exclusively to the Duty; but when the Number of Letters of every description passing through the Dublin Office be contrasted with those in London and the due Preparation of Property Letters comparatively considered the assigned be altogether impracticable here, and I have learnt from the Postmaster General of Ireland that although the proportion of Letters containing Property when compared with the general Mass be infinitely less than our own, his Lordship has no great expectation that the Plan can be established after all. I hope I shall have proved to Your Lordship's satisfaction in the Irish Plan that Mr. Browning was not the Inventor of the Stamp which he has stated to be the principle and very Essence of the Plan Inwards."

The Public Advertisement to which Stow referred appeared in Faulkner's Dublin Journal of May 4, 1809, repeated in subsequent issues until May 18 to ensure maximum publicity. The notice was dated from the General Post Office on May 2 as follows: The Public are requested to take Notice that the POSTMASTERS GENERAL have it in contemplation to establish a REMITTANCE OFFICE, having for its object a more secure System for the Transmission of the Public Property frequently contained in Letters; which, however, notwithstanding that their utmost exertions have been used in order to bring the Plan connected with it to the desired perfection, their Lordships are not yet able to recommend for general adoption throughout the Kingdom. Anxious, however,

to try the experiment, in the first instance partially, and without committing themselves to its ultimate success or failure of any Property conveyed under the regulations, the Public is informed that, on and from the 10th, instant, regular Officers will attend at the POST-PAID WINDOW, from the Hours of Ten until Four each Day, who will receive all Letters containing Property, directed to the Towns mentioned underneath, providing the Postage chargeable on such be previously paid.

Proper receipts for such letters will be given to the Parties conveying them to this office; and their Lordships have sanguine hopes, that, by a gradual extension of the Plan, they will be able to make it apply to every Part of the Kingdom, and secure under its operation all Letters containing Property both to and from the Metropolis and every Post Town in Ireland.

The twelve towns selected for this experiment were Cork, Limerick, Belfast, Sligo, Derry, Enniskillen, Wexford, Newry, Kilkenny, Drogheda, Clonmel and Waterford. This notice is of fundamental importance, not only for confirming the introduction of inland registration in Ireland on May 10, 1809, but also for the explicit details concerning the receipts which were to be given by the windowmen at the Post-Paid Window. From this it seems that the Windowmen receipts were in existence at a much earlier date than hitherto recorded, though none has so far come to light from such an early date.

I have not been able to find any report on this interesting experiment or how long it continued. But we know that it did operate for at least two years, from the existence of an entire which was illustrated on the cover of the David Feldman Newsletter (Vol. 2, No. 33, 1978). This intriguing item from Wexford to Dublin was sent in 1811 and bore the Wexford mileage mark, the Dublin Mermaid paid stamp and manuscript rate 1s2d. In the upper right-hand corner was a curious mark, the like of which has not been seen before or since. This was a large circle divided into three parts, with G9 and a red "1" interred in manuscript. This mark was applied in the same ink as the mileage mark. The writer of the letter complained about the second hand pianos and enclosed £5 as a loan. The Editor of the David Feldman Newsletter described the item and concluded by asking "Could this be an early money letter marking?" The mark was, of course, identical to those proposed by Samuel Browning and the existence of this remarkable entire proves that his registration scheme was still in operation as late as January 1811. The registration mark would have been applied at Wexford, G denoting the mail-route to Dublin and 9 probably identifying Wexford itself. The manuscript "1" was the serial number of the letter itself. It should be remembered that money letters from 1792 to 1840 were confined to packets containing coin, and Browning deserves the credit for producing the first practical scheme for inland registration for letters containing valuables, such as banknotes in this instance.

In view of the immense rarity of such registered letters — this is the only example known to me, although others may exist in collections undetected — it appears that Browning's scheme was not a success. Browning's Irish plan envisaged giving the sender a "counterpart" bearing an impression of the special stamp. These receipts would have been given by the postmasters of the twelve towns aforementioned and as none of these post offices was important enough to have a windowman as such it is unlikely that the term "windowman" would actually apply also from Dublin to the twelve towns, so the receipts given at the Chief Office in Dublin should theoretically have been given by the windowmen — though whether thus inscribed we do not as yet know.

We do not know when the Browning scheme came to an end or, indeed, whether it was actually terminated. It may merely have lingered on, to be resuscitated a decade later. This brings me to Tony Booth Jones' extraordinary statement: "Ireland had a system of internal registry of double and weight letters between 1823 and 1830... but this had nothing to do with the public." Tony elaborates by saying that there was no mention of Windowmen's receipts in the accounting system "which is described in the greatest detail in the Report which is my main source."

The Report in question appears to be the Report to the Treasury by the Commissioners of Inquiry as to the Management of the Revenues in Great Britain and Ireland, to give it its full title. The enquiry began in 1823 and its damning report was published

six years later. The evidence quoted by Tony Booth-Jones, however in his article pertains solely to the operation of the Dublin Penny Post and the absence of any reference to registration cannot be proved or disproved from this source alone.

In point of fact, the revival of inland registration of letters in Ireland is believed to have arisen out of the sudden descent of the Treasury Commissioners of Enquiry. Thomas Moore records in his diary, in 1823, of a trip made to England that year: "Skinner, in whose packet we sail, told me of the havoc these English Commissioners are making in the [Dublin] Post Office." There are several references in Post Office Archives in London relative to the adoption, or re-introduction, of registration on an experimental basis in Dublin in that year.

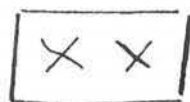
There is a report from another Commission of Enquiry which sheds light on this episode, which I have called for the sake of convenience, the Second Period of Registration (1823-31). An enquiry was undertaken in 1835 into the Irish method of registration which had been discontinued only a few years earlier. The enquiry was conducted by James R. Gardiner whose report included as appendices letters from John Burrows and Sir Edward Lees. The letter from Burrows, a senior official of the General Post Office in Dublin under the Lees administration, was dated December 17, 1835 and this made it quite clear that "No letter leaving Dublin for England would be allowed to be registered at all; and those coming from England could only be attempted after the arrival of the mails, and therefore hurriedly and imperfectly performed." This statement has been interpreted too narrowly by R.M. Willcocks (in England's Postal History) as meaning that England was singled out, on grounds of "sheer spite" (sic). I think Burrows used "England" loosely to mean "Britain" — despite the fact that the extensive find of letters from Ireland in the Wilson of Bannockburn correspondence included many registered from Ireland in 1823-31. I can only suppose that there were exceptions to the rule. The inability to register letters going forth from Ireland rested solely on the fact that there was no machinery in Britain at that time for handling incoming registered letters, other than those treated as foreign letters.

Burrows stated that registration had been in operation "five or six years". Sir Edward Lees, in a letter of January 1836, gave the period as "eight or nine years". The actual period was from early 1823 until March 1831, about eight years.

As Tony Booth-Jones implies, this system applied to all letters of double weight or heavier. Sir Francis Freeling (1835) alleged that the scheme had been a failure because it had been too sweeping in its scope. Burrows was more explicit in his letter: "It professed to take cognizance of every letter, not being a single letter, passing through the post-office. This I consider quite superfluous, and more than was necessarily required. As, for instance, fully three-fourths of the franked letters alone are, what are technically called, double letters, from the envelopes that cover them, and a much greater number, I am satisfied, contain no valuable property whatever... It was optional with the public to pay the postage in the instance or not, as they pleased. This led as a matter of course, to the creation of two distinct checks — one for the paid, the other for the unpaid letters; and, coupled with the gratuitous act of the Post Office, tended very materially and unnecessarily to add to the duty, as well as the number of hands requisite for its performance."

After recommending that any resumption of the registration system (which was then being contemplated for the United Kingdom as a whole), should be confined to prepaid items, Burrows went on: "The paid letters were received in the Paid-Letter Office, and a receipt given for each if required — the unpaid letters in a distinct office, and by an officer specially appointed for the purpose, who also gave a receipt for each if required. It had been the practice of the Dublin office, long prior to this, to enter the address of all paid letters; the single letters in one book, and the double letters in another, whether registered letters or not." Perhaps Tony Booth-Jones' reference to the system being an "internal registry" and not "registration as we know it" alludes to this particular aspect.

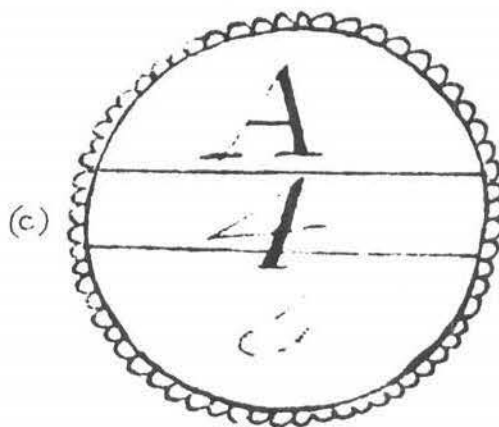
But there is ample evidence to show that the Irish systems of 1809-11 and 1823-31 were, if not entirely identical to the modern system of registration, merely variants or rudimentary versions of it in fact, and fully similar to it in spirit.



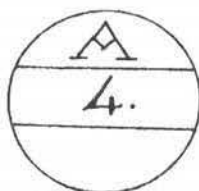
(a)



(b)



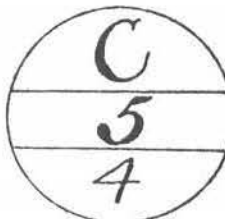
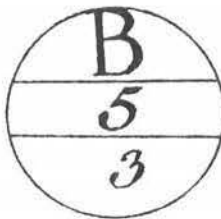
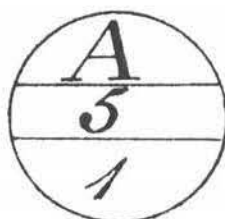
(c)



(d)

.DERBY.
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(e)



(f)



(g)



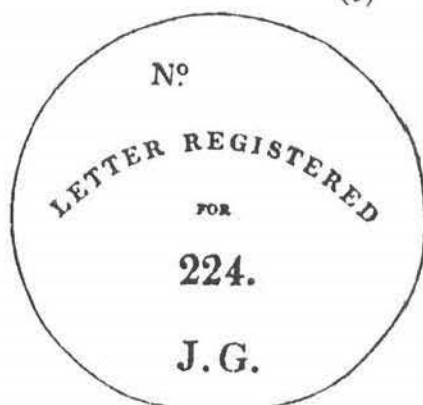
(h)



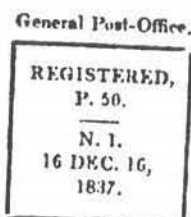
(i)



(j)



(k)



(l)



ESSAYS FOR REGISTRATION

(a) Daniel Stow, 1799 (b) Daniel Stow, 1800 (c) Samuel Browning, 1804 (d) Daniel Stow, 1804 (e) Macclesfield surveyor, 1804 (f) Samuel Browning's Irish plan, 1808 (g)(h) Samuel Browning's printed plan, 1807 (i) Charles Hughes, 1816 (j)(k) Sir Edward Lees, 1837 (l) William Bokenham, 1837 (+) G9 postmark ex Waterford 1811

Thus Burrowes continues to give a most detailed account of the various procedures adopted by the several officers involved in the receipt of the registered letters, and the subsequent sorting, handling and documentation thereof. This extremely important document is quoted to Sir Edward Lees in Edinburgh for his comments and his answer, dated January 29, 1836, adds a number of points which helped the London authorities understand the working of the Irish system of inland registration, out of which came the United Kingdom system adopted on January 6, 1841. The reason that implementation of the scheme was delayed till then was the imminence of Uniform Penny Postage. Because of the sweeping measures which postal reform entailed, registration was shelved until the larger upheaval had been accomplished.

Sir Edward's comments included a summary in which he categorised the Irish registered letters as follows:

1. Letters from England to Dublin
2. Letters from Dublin to every post-town in Ireland
3. From every post-town in Ireland to Dublin
4. From every post-town to every post-town, via Dublin
5. From every post-town to every post-town, not going via Dublin

Arthur Greene, the Registry Clerk during the registration period, compiled a table of the eighteen reported cases of lost registered letters for the period between January 18, 1824 and April 18, 1830. This interesting table forms Appendix 18 of the Commissioners' Report of 1838 and furnishes us with fascinating details on the actual working of the system in Ireland in that period.

Appendix 17 to the Commissioners' Tenth Report was a return showing the number of letters registered in the General Post Office, Dublin in the period from 1823 till the end of 1830. Apart from these statistics, this appendix contained a remark which indicates that registration was originally confined to prepaid and franked letters, but was extended to unpaid letters in 1827. The value of this system of inland registration was demonstrated by the fact that the losses in the entire period numbered only eighteen - a dramatic and substantial reduction in the losses hitherto sustained.

I think that the last word should rest with Sir Edward Lees who

gave a detailed description of the handling of the outward registered letters brought to the Dublin General Post Office for onward transmission:

"An officer styled the Registry Officer was in attendance from an early hour in the day until 6 p.m. Every person offering a letter to be registered obtained a receipt, which was stamped with the day of the year and month, and a number from 1 to 480 denoting the post-town the letter was addressed to. The address of the letter was immediately entered in a book, and from that book it was copied into a separate sheet or list, of which there were eight in number, corresponding with the roads or divisions of the Inland Office. The letters were deposited in a secure box in the Registry Office, also divided into eight divisions; and at a certain hour in the evening the registry officer went into the Inland office with his eight slips or sheets, with the addresses of the letters entered on them. The box was opened, the letters were taken out and compared, and the slips signed and certified by the clerk of each road and returned to the registry officer. The letters were then entered and charged against the deputy postmaster (i.e. the postmaster of the town to which the letter was addressed.)"

Admittedly Sir Edward did not mention the windowmen in this description, but there can be no doubt, I think, that the registry officer was a windowman specially designated for the express purpose of the registered mail. As he would have been in attendance at one of the window positions he would have been, per se, a windowman.

In investing some exotic or almost magical property to the celebrated windowman receipts, various fanciful theories have been put forward. My feeling is that they were only receipts - no more, no less - which could be used for registration or any other purpose in which a receipt was required (e.g. bulk postings of prepaid local penny post items). But I hope that I have proved conclusively that these receipts were certainly given in connexion with registered mail, whatever other purpose may also have been found for them. That they are rare, cannot be contradicted. I might add that receipts for UK inland registration in the early period from 1841 to 1846 are also very rare, and the number recorded in existence from 1841 itself can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I would like to congratulate Tony Booth-Jones on his article, *The Window Men*, in the Fall issue of *The Revealer* (168). He has thrown some new light on a most interesting subject.

Recently I read a booklet "The Case of Christopher Byron, an Officer in His Majesty's Post Office, Dublin." This publication is a series of letters, and the replies to same, written by Byron regarding the injustice of his superior officers in the G.P.O. Dublin. The opening statement is of interest, I quote it verbatim:

"The Author of the following narrative is not prompted by any kind of vanity to appear in print, too conscious of his incapacity, nothing but the fatal necessity, arising from the frequent injurious and oppressive proceedings of men in ill placed power and authority in that office, wherein he was immediately concerned, has induced him to undertake this disagreeable, and to him, painful task."

Most of the letters are addressed to The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Leicester, and Sir Everard Fawkener Bart. His Majesty's Post - Masters General, also to The Rt. Honourable Sir Thomas Pendergast, Bart. Post - Master General of Ireland. The first letter was dated 1755, and the final one 1762.

I will confine myself to the data, which is of interest at this moment, that of the Window Men.

In a letter from Christopher Byron to the Right Honourable William Henry Fortescue, Esq. Postmaster General, dated 2nd. August 1761, following his suspension from office. The letter is too long to quote in full, but at one point he refers to:

"A Mr. Quinn, who, by order, assisted in my Department, and received postage for foreign letters, in my absence, which he never entered, or accounted for, contrary to his Oath, the detriment of His Majesty's Revenue, and the great prejudice of the subject; yet tho' it was on complaint from the London Office, and enquiry here, evident, that said Quinn was culpable, he was for some time kept in his employment, and every little art and subterfuge made use of, for his vindication, and every hardship imposed and layed on me, and my character, (being at that time Window Man, and Principal of that Department) blasted all over the City."

So now we find that the office of Window Man existed in 1761.
William Kane
Dublin

Provisional Issues

by Max Harrow

The pencf error of the 1½d British stamp appears in position 15/12 of plates 12 and 19. Over time these occurred in controls L18, M19, O19, and Q21. The obliteration of the lowest horizontal bar of the E of penc(e) most likely was obtained from foreign matter filling the narrow incised area representing this bar in 15/12. I do not know why this cliché was uniquely susceptible to this damage. In each case the error was corrected, probably by picking out the foreign matter with a fine incising tool. At least in the Q21 a bit too much pressure was used on the tool so that the lowest bar is somewhat longer than normal. If the correction is recognizable on the other controls is unknown to me.

To overprint collectors only the Q21 is of interest, as none of the others were overprinted for use in Ireland. Specifically Q21P is of interest, since Q21I does not have the pencf error. Q21P was overprinted, in black ink, from settings 1 and 2. Examination of seventeen pencf varieties yielded six pencf errors, each of which show the error overprinted with a cliché containing ei/1 and a nine in date which is mutilated on both sides of its loop. (See Fig. 1) This is characteristic of setting 2. It is possible that the pencf error was not overprinted with setting 1. Any information to the contrary is appreciated.

The corrected error resulted in a lower bar which is longer than normal and is generally described as easily recognized. My own view is that there are so many variables in size and shape of the normal bar, that some bars are obviously long and others less so.



Fig. 1 Pencf

It is advantageous to have other recognizable characteristics, the more the better, see additional verification. (See Fig. 2) The ideal verification would be a suspected pencf corrected in position 15/12 in a full lower pane with proper control number. But there are other useful indicators. After the pencf was corrected, the plate was reissued bearing a slug for control T22P. In the black overprints, this control was overprinted from setting 9. Unfortunately, I know of no consistent characteristic in



Fig. 2 Corr. Thom 5-Line

15/12 of setting 9. Of course, the ink is black, but that is true of many 1½d. A tab to the right of the stamp is helpful, but the right tab must be imperforate. A perforated tab on the right is not from T22P. If one is fortunate to have a vertical pair (15/12, 16/12) in black ink and correct tab with the 16/12 showing ei/1, but not so on the 15/12, one can be fairly sure that the suspect item is a pencf corrected.

The next use of the pencf corrected is in the Harrison 5-line coils. Here we have no control or margin to work with. But a joined horizontal pair is advantageous if the suspect stamp is to the left

of the join. Fortunately, in this series the long lower bar is prominent. (See Fig. 3) There is a peculiarity in the example we show



Fig. 3 Harrison

here. The connecting joint tab is imperforate. It is part of the stamp to the right of the join and represents the left hand margin of the sheet. In T22P this should be perforated! This may be an example of the haphazard joining of different sheets for coil manufacture. Another is the joining of 2d die I and die II that has been reported.

Thom overprints in blue black ink use the T22P through a range of settings: 2-6 and 9. A tab is helpful. Priestley illustrates a pencf corrected with the same characteristics as the pencf error above. Although I have found none in my sample, it is possible, as the blue black used setting 2 on T22P. The item in figure 2 is in blue black and has an ei/1 in 16/12 but not 15/12. Unlike the black series this could be settings 5 or 9. At any rate, considering the imperforate tab and the ei/1 position, this can safely pass as a pencf corrected.

The Thom overprints are a problem. There are only two settings and T22P was used in both. There are no 15/12 characteristics and we have to rely on other evidence.



Fig. 4 Saorstat

The saorstat printings are the easiest. T22P is overprinted only from setting 1. Position 15/12 shows a c for (E)ireann and the i is pinched in at the top. (See Fig. 4) Of course a correct tab would help, but we use what we have. Positive positional pieces are prohibitively expensive, if they can be found.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Why was T22P overprinted in both black and blue black inks in setting 9, long after the blue black ink was in common use?
- 2) Why are there no pencf corrected in T22I? This points to different plates for what seems a simple change in perforation. What is the reason behind a change in perforation pattern using the same control number?
- 3) Is it possible to have a T22P sheet without a pencf corrected?

EDITORIAL

(continued from page 4)

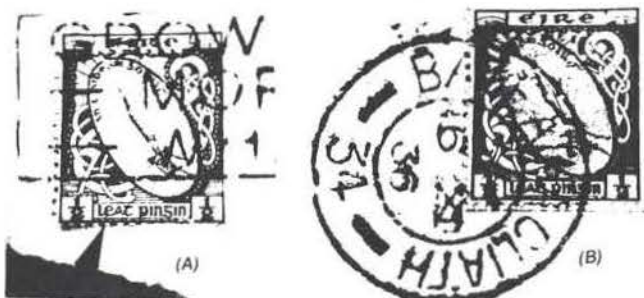
simple, understandable, down to earth, articles. All of you budding authors who feel you can't write a high-class article and get it published in *The Revealer* just haven't tried. Put it down on paper and send it in - you'll never know till you try. We have over 870 members out there who are interested in reading about Irish stamps. Contribute! I guarantee it will be of interest and will be used. Deadline for Fall '88 is 1 September 1988.

IRISH COILS

by Robert M. Benninghoff

During the last ten years I have been very interested in Irish coil stamps. The following paragraphs will illustrate several of the more interesting varieties that I have noticed while collecting.

Perfin Paste Up Coil



Two examples are illustrated of the 1/2d SE watermark paste up coil (Scott 65/SG 71). The first example, photo A, has the paste up strip attached to the bottom of the stamp thus indicating that the stamp came from a vertically fed roll. The stamp is perforated "ITC" for use by the Imperial Tobacco Company. The second example, photo B, is perforated "JPS" for use by John Player & Sons LTD.

I would be most interested to hear from other collectors with additional Irish perfin coil examples, and in particular any mint examples.

Harrison 3 Line Coil Printing Variety

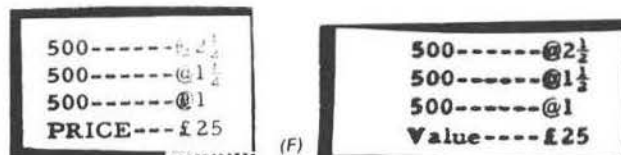
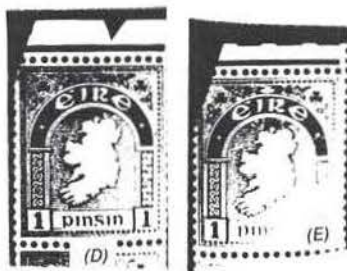


I have noticed a printing variety that occurs in the same position on some but not all coil strips. The photograph (C) indicates a much heavier overprinting of "Saorstát Eireann 1922" on the right stamp adjacent to the pasteup join. Notice that the left most stamp in the strip of three has the Long 1 variety. I have examples of this printing variety for the 1/2d, 1d, and 1 1/2d values in horizontal strips of three with the 1 variety as well as the 1d value in the vertical format.

I would be very interested to hear from collectors who have the 2d value in strips of three with Long 1 variety as well as anyone who has the heavy overprint in other positions in a coil strip.

DID YOU KNOW?

Paste up coil leaders can be made from both the outside of the sheet (i.e., the top and bottom margins), see photograph D and the center of the sheet or gutter margin, see photograph E.



DID YOU KNOW?

Time was short when the Irish Post Office was preparing the leaders for the first decimal Gerl definitive coils (DF DS1). Consequently the text for the coil leader was typed onto gummed paper and pasted to the leader. However, not only were different typewriters used, but also different text formats as illustrated in Photograph F, Value versus PRICE. I would be interested to hear from collectors with other text formats.

BAD TEETH II

In the Fall 1987 issue of *The Revealer*, Ralph Chait illustrated an example of the 3d coil Scott 225 with serrated tears both top and bottom of the stamp. A further example is shown in the following photograph (G - the 1d paste up coil Scott 66 SG 72).



During the dispensing of coil stamps from Post Office vending machines certain industrious patrons discovered that after the first stamp appeared, they could obtain two or more free stamps by pulling down on the stamp while inserting a second coin into the machine. However, this usually resulted in a remaining coil roll becoming misaligned in the vending machine. Consequently when further transactions occurred, the machine would cut through part of the stamp rather than through the perforations at the end of the stamp.

Imperforate "Paste Up" Coils

It would appear that during the printing and perforating of the experimental imperforate coils, that breaks would occur in the coil web. This occurred either deliberately at the production stage in order to remove misprinted stamps or accidentally when the perforations became torn. Whatever the reason, the coil roll was rejoined using gummed paper or part of the coil print sheet margins.

Two examples are illustrated. The first, photo H, is the 2d coil Scott 92/SG 74a and is part of a strip of ten. The second example, photo I, is Scott 91/SG 71a and also shows a flange line in the top right corner of one stamp. The flange line is an impression occasionally left by the screw used to bolt the coil printing plate to the roller. The flange or screw mark indicates the beginning and end of one cycle of the coil web.



(H)

This position may have been one of excessive wear during printing thus resulting in damage to the stamps.



(I)

I have examples of the flange mark for the 1d Scott 87a, 1/2d Scott 91, 2d Scott 92, and 2d Scott 68b. I would like to hear from collectors with other examples of coils with flange marks (particularly 1d Scott 87) as well as collectors with paste up joins in strips from the other experimental imperforate coils.

Misaligned Row In DA 10p Gerl Coil

The photograph (J) illustrates a misalignment of the 4p value during the printing of the 10p Gerl coil. The misalignment is repeated every time the 4p value appears. I have four examples of this variety and all four leaders are dated 15 Sept. 1971. The leaders that I have seen earlier or later do not show this variety. One interesting note — the coil strip shown in the photograph also has a paste up, and the 4p value adjacent to the paste up is properly aligned.

I would be interested to hear from collectors who may have noticed this variation with other dates on the DA leader as well as from other Gerl definitive coils.

PRINTING OF THE HARRISON COILS AND THE LONG 1 VARIETY

In December 1921, the Provisional Government of Ireland assumed control of the Post Office. The Government ordered the Overprinting of stamps of Great Britain prior to the selection of a design for the first regular definitive issue.

During this period several businesses and post offices required a continuing supply of coil rolls for use in their automatic dispensing machines. The Irish post office contracted with Harrison & Son Ltd. of London to produce the required rolls of stamps. The contract was given to Harrison because of their experience in producing coil stamps in Great Britain. However, instead of preparing a new plate for the coils it was decided to make copies of the plates used by Alex Thom & Co. The method

adopted was that of ELECTROTYPE in which a duplicate of the Thom die was made by electro galvanic deposit of metal (copper-zinc) into a mould taken from the Thom die. The results were far from perfect, particularly with the 3 Line Coils. Excessive metal deposits caused numerous printing varieties on the 3 Line Coils, most famously the Long 1 variety. According to Harrison & Son Ltd. (Stamp News, 23 June 1923, page 234) the Long 1 resulted from a "filling up or blobbing of the electrolytical deposits".

From the dates on the TAB ENDS, I have noticed that the Harrison 3 Line Coils were reprinted at least twice (June 28, 1923 and January 2, 1924) and that during the later printings the Long 1 variety had begun to fade and somewhat disappear, probably due to wear in the printing plates.

I have examples of the Disappearing Long 1 in the 2d and 1/2d values. I would be most interested to hear from collectors with TAB ENDS dated other than Feb. 23, 1923 (first printing) and the two dates mentioned above. In addition I would like to hear from collectors who have noticed a fading of the Long 1 variety.

REVENUE STAMPS ISSUED IN COIL FORMAT?

Recently I was reading an article on the Harrison Coil Overprints by W. Ward in the June 23, 1923 issue of Stamp Collecting. In this article, Ward, notes that Irish Insurance Stamps were printed and made up in coil rolls of 480 stamps: The 7d and 8d HEALTH INSURANCE stamps as well as the 1s 3d and 1s 7d UNEMPLOYMENT TAX stamps.

Although Ward does not give any specific dates for the printing of these Insurance stamps, he does mention that they were printed during the time of the Harrison 5 Line coil stamps of 1922 and 1923. From a business viewpoint, rolls of Insurance stamps make perfect sense because of the need to provide weekly stamps to 10s or even 100s of employees.

I would be most interested to hear from collectors who have seen mint or used examples of these or other Revenue stamps from coil rolls.

Acknowledgments

I am very grateful to the following people for their comments during the preparation of this article: Roy Hamilton Bowen, Stefan Klinecicz, Pádraig O Mathuna and Ian Whyte.

**New Catalogue of Irish Exhibition Souvenirs on the Horizon**

A report has it that Otto Jung is in the process of preparing a new catalogue. The subject is Exposition/Exhibition Souvenirs of Irish interest. He is having a particular problem with the USA and those diverse groups who take such a deep interest in Irish Philately as to go to the trouble of issuing a souvenir commemorating the Irish connection in the US or producing a small memento to commemorate a specific stamp show with an Irish connection.

He has contacted each of the Chapter coordinators that exist in the US and has asked for help. The purpose of this small article is to notify the membership, in general, so that one or two unique or unusual pieces may be identified and provided to the author. You can be assured of recognition in the publication when it is complete and you just might contribute to the expansion of interest in this collecting area and make your item more valuable.

Please send a photocopy together with a small explanation of the event, when it was held and a general idea of the number that were produced. He is interested in events, dates and cancellations, numbers printed, prices originally sold and current availability. Information is to be sent to Otto Jung, Studiendirektor, Kreuzherrenstr. 19, 5160 Duren, West Germany.

Letter To The Editor

Sir,

I am obliged to Mr. James Mackay for his courtesy in correcting (*The Revealer* Spring 1988) my account of the Dublin Window-men (Fall 1987). I may not have made it clear that I was referring only to those window-men in Dublin who issued those charmingly printed tear-off receipts, of which a handful have survived (see Pat Walker's illustrated in *The Revealer* Summer 1986). I can't prove it, but am willing to wager that those receipts were one of the civilised niceties which that Scotchman Augustus Godby swept away when he took the place of Sir Edward Lees as Secretary of the Irish Post Office in 1831.

As Mr. Mackay points out, Window-men generally are still with us; and if you buy a railway ticket at Waterloo Station, London, England, or a Greyhound bus ticket at Grand Central Station, New York, NY, you do so from a clerk at a window (a "guichet").

Mr. Mackay offers to demonstrate a connection between the famous Dublin Window-men receipts and registration; and also that Ireland had a registration system (as we know it) before 1841. But he doesn't do so, at any rate not in the recent article to which I am referring. So I don't think I have a case to answer yet.

Tony Booth-Jones

The 1922 Low Value Overprints Harrison 5 Line Coils

Edited by M.H. Priestley

1. Background to the issue.

As neither Dollard nor Thom were able to overprint coil stamps, the overprinting of these issues was performed by Harrison and Sons at their London plant (1). By the time the firm was approached, Alex Thom and Co were in sole charge of the rest of the overprinting. Harrison asked Thom for "working examples" of the current overprints and by pure chance the samples provided were R over Se. Hence this type shift peculiarity became constant in the Harrison cliché (2).

Four values were issued solely for use in vending machines, the ½d, 1d, 2d Die 1 on June 19th 1922, the 1½d value on June 21st and the 2d Die 2 probably in August (3).

2. The Harrison 5 line overprint.

Overprint type. The overprint (Fig 1) is slightly wider and taller than the Thom narrow setting, but otherwise that are so like each other that identification marks are necessary to distinguish them. In particular while the i of Rialtas rests on the base line in the Thom, it extends below the base line in the Harrison. Any overprints not R/Se are Thom (4). It has been suggested that the long i came by error from another type fount (1).

Ink. The ink used is a brighter and glossier black than Thom, without showing the bluish tone of the later Thom overprints (4).

Method of Printing. Unlike the Dollard or Thom overprints which were printed from type or stereo, it was thought that the Harrison overprint was from an electro type plate made by Messrs Harrison, who were also the printers of the British stamps (5). By matching small irregularities in the type on horizontal and vertical strips it has, however, been shown that the complete sheets from which the coils were prepared were overprinted by a plate made from eight stereos each 3 stamps wide by 10 stamps deep (6).

Quantities printed. ½d - 492 coils, 1d - 1454 coils, 1½d - 118 coils, 2d Die 1 - 672 coils, 2d Die 2 - 820 coils (5).

Plates. Although at one time it was thought that two plates might be involved in the overprinting of this issue (6), in a later study of a large number of strips the recurrent type flaws examined were all considered consistent with printing from a single plate (7).

3. Coil manufacture. The stamps for coils were made by pasting panes of 120 stamps together by means of the trimmed sheet margins, into either horizontal or vertical lengths, which were then cut by machine vertically into 12-strips or horizontally into 10-strips. As a result trimmed perforations often occur. Vertical coils contained 500 stamps, or in exceptional cases 1000 stamps, whereas horizontal coils always contained 480 stamps (8).

It is fairly certain that sufficient sheets were guillotined at the same time to form a complete coil since no coil join has been found in which a strip of a particular vertical or horizontal stereo row was joined to a different row (9).

To make a coil the machine first took in a piece of coloured paper on which the maker-up signed his initials and the date. This was rolled into the centre as evidence of the workman's identity. The final strip is a piece of imperforate emerald green paper which is finally bound in a khaki cartridge paper, the whole being tied with a narrow holland tape and sealed with a lead coin (5). The vertical coils were rolled so that the stamps would feed from the coil either top or bottom end of the stamp first (8).

The end paper code letters are listed by Kohl and in Supplement 18. These letters indicate the value, the number of stamps and the kind of coil (vertical bottom or top first, or horizontal) (8) (5).

4. Varieties.

Errors in the British stamp. Meredith lists PENCf corrected on the 1½d value and watermark inverted and reversed on the 2d Die

2 (10). The specialised catalogue also lists QNE on the 1d value, unpriced (11).

2d Die 1 and Die 2 in joined pairs. In some instances panes of both Die 1 and 2 were used for making up 2d coils, resulting in a rare variety showing a paste-up of a Die 1 and a Die 2. This variety is easy to manufacture, but there is no question about its issue. Gibbons, for example, found such varieties in their own stock (8).

Coil joins with control letters. A rare example of a 1½d coil join sold at auction in 1930 shows the top of the Control T22 visible on the selva remnant used for the join. Malcolm O'Reilly describing this and two similar examples from the Harrison 3 line coil issue gives details of the unusual circumstances which are required to make such a variety possible (12).

Type flaws. In a series of articles in *The Revealer* and *Irish Philately* the recurrent small irregularities in the 3x10 stereo have been identified. These are illustrated on enlarged photographs of the stamps (6) and more clearly on drawings (7). The pane position of two recurrent plate flaws are also illustrated (9) (7).

Examination of a vertical coil of the ½d value revealed a number of recurrent ink marks and type flaws which are shown (13) (14).

5. Harrison coils stamps in sheets. Perry Adams speculates whether any coil stamps were issued in sheets. Although no examples of blocks have been recorded, W. Ward writing in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Circular* in November 1922 says that supplies of the ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2d were ordered from Harrison in June-July 1922 "but only the 2d value, and the ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2d in rolls were delivered". If this is true, there is a possibility that the 2d was issued over the counter from sheets (15).

- (1) *Irish Philately* Sep 69 p 49-50. V. Linnell
- (2) *Revealer* Nov-Dec 53 p 144, 146. P. Adams
- (3) *Revealer* Apr 78 p 61-66. W. Meredith ed J. Foley
- (4) *Revealer* Apr 76 p 1076-1079. Kohl's Handbook tr H. Zervas
- (5) *Revealer* Supplement 18 Jul 64 p 73-76. J. Walsh
- (6) *Revealer* Jan 78 p 38-41. M. Priestley
- (7) *Irish Philately* Jun 76 p 29-31. M. Priestley
- (8) *Revealer* Oct 76 p 1105-1107. Kohl's Handbook tr H. Zervas
- (9) *Revealer* Jul 78 p 5. M. Priestley
- (10) *Revealer* Jul 78 p 8-15. W. Meredith ed J. Foley
- (11) *Stamps of Ireland Specialised Catalogue* 1987. MacDonnell Whyte
- (12) *Revealer* Jul-Aug 63 p 563-566. M. O'Reilly
- (13) *Irish Philately* Dec 79 p 67-68. M. Phelan
- (14) *Revealer* Winter 72 (Actually 71) p 799. M. Phelan
- (15) *Revealer* Jan-Feb 58 p 347. P. Adams

Photocopies of references are available from the author.

Charles P. O'Neill
Requiescat in Pace

by Michael P. Giffney

On a beautiful sunny January morning we laid Charlie to rest in the shadow of Armagh Cathedral. Cardinal O'Fiach conveyed his condolences to his widow, Monica, after the Mass attended by a large circle of his friends including collectors and dealers from Belfast, Dundalk and Dublin. Those who knew him recognised his many and varied talents - author of "Newspaper Stamps of Ireland" which won several international awards; an authority on coins; a brilliant pianist; he was also a gifted artist both on canvas and glass and was always willing to share his knowledge with others. He was for a period Vice-President of the Irish Philatelic Traders Assoc. and a "regular" at Stampa. We shall particularly miss him from "No. 39". On behalf of the I.P.C. members we convey our deepest sympathy to his wife, Monica, his four sons, and daughter. May he rest in eternal peace.



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Die Meilenstempel Der Irischen Post — (The Mileage Marks of Ireland) 1808-1839 by Hans G. Moxter. 1985 Edition. 64 pp. Text in German and English. Published by FAI, the Irish Philatelic Group in Germany. Most informative and well illustrated. A complete listing of all known Irish mileage marks. Price \$3.50

Ireland - Catalogue of Perfins — compiled and edited by Richard L. Mewhinney. Published by The Perfins Club - 1984. 34 pp. punched for 3 ring binder. The catalogue is designed for use as an album as well as catalogue. Only observed Perfins are catalogued. Also, 2 pages of suspected or previously reported designs. Price \$5.50, Supplement \$1.00

The Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Ireland: 1958-1925 — James J. Brady's detailed study of the Irish Revenue Stamps. All are in easy-to-follow catalog form with many details. A must for the Auction. Price to members \$2.25.

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Undated Namestamps of Ireland 1823-1860 — by Bill Kane. This booklet has been produced by FAI of West Germany. In English and German and records the colours, periods of usage on the various types of undated namestamps. Price to members \$3.75

"Die Ganzsachen Irlands" — (The Postal Stationery of Ireland) by Otto Jung. 1987 Edition, Text in German & English. Published by FAI, the Irish Philatelic Group in Germany. This new edition is by far the most specialized and authoritative and gives a very complete listing of Irish postal stationery available. Well illustrated. Prices for mint and used in DM, IR£ & US\$. Price \$7.50

The Post Office Guide of 1923 — This is a reprint by FAI of the Irish Free States first guide. A must for postmark students - Price \$5.00

Irish Postal Rates Before 1840 — by F.E. Dixon. Produced by FAI it is in German and English. This publication lists the Irish Postal Rates from 1657 to 1840. A superb guide for Postal Historians. Price \$4.00

The Maritime Postmarks of Ireland — by Bernt Dienelt. Published by FAI it is the first of three booklets on the subject. An excellent reference for collectors of Paquebot and Maritime Postmarks. Printed in German and English. Price \$4.50

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