

the Revealer

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

VOL. 59 NO. 2

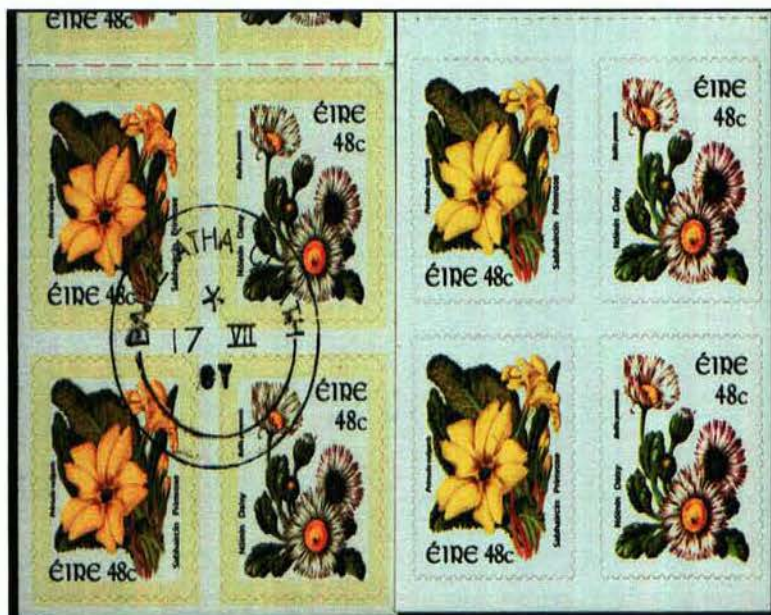
WHOLE NUMBER 256

FOMHAR

FALL 2009



ISSN 0484-6125



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Telegrams: "CRAIGIE, DUBLIN."

Telephone: 76205

CRAIGIE BROS.

37 Prussia Street, Dublin, April 9th 1952

	Supply	Increase	Decrease
Cattle	3,557	81	-
Sheep	5,368	-	60

Does your kiloware contain a newly discovered rarity? Page 4

Find out if you own any Craigie Cards? Page 12

Time to reexamine your control blocks? Page 12



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THE REVEALER

www.eirephilatelicassoc.org

ISSN 0484-6125

Published quarterly by the Eire Philatelic Association: Membership dues are as follows: U.S. (\$15.00); Canada / Mexico (\$20.00); all other countries (\$25.00).

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Literary Update

Our President, Paul Bento, asked Tim O'Shea to inform us that the EPA Special Offers includes the Stamp 2008 Gold Medal winning expanded edition of *Hibernian 2009*. The same fine quality as in the 2002 edition with full color illustrations and almost 16,000 valuations. New features include booklet panes from 1931 up till mid 2008; Railway Letter Stamps; illustrations of almost every Forerunner; overprint controls with a comprehensive plating guide for all values. For updates & corrections go to <http://hibernian-news.eu/> and click on Hib.,09 corrections. EPA Members pay \$46.00

Postal Stationery of Ireland by Clancy and Jung, 2002 edition and Irish Post Offices and their Postmarks are no longer available. A few copies remain of the 1994 edition of the *Postal Stationery of Ireland* (including Stamped to order) by Otto Jung on sale at \$7.50.

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Common Rd., Auburn, MA 01501

The Association Secretary will write the appropriate Coordinator when a new member joins the Association and provide the Coordinator with the name and address of the new member. The role of the Coordinator is to contact the new member, welcome the member to the Association, and invite the member to join the local Chapter.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Summer: May 1; Fall: Aug. 1;

Winter: Nov. 1; Spring: Feb. 1

The Revealer ADVERTISING RATES

	size (inches)	per issue	4 issues (contract rate)
Full Page	7.375 X 9.75	\$100	\$350
Half Page Horizontal	7.375 X 4.875	\$60	\$200
Half Page Vertical	3.625 X 9.75	\$60	\$200
Quarter Page	3.625 X 4.875	\$35	\$120
Eighth Page	3.625 X 2.50	\$25	\$85

CAMERA READY COPY REQUIRED

Literary Update (contd)

We now have an updated index to The Revealer for volumes 1-49. If you belonged to the EPA in 2002 it was part of the *Golden Book of the Eire Philatelic Society*. (No more copies of the Golden Book exist).

When you are ordering material can you please include your EPA membership number. Should you have any questions you can email me at tosheal@comcast.net or call 413 467-9158.

DUES NOTICE

Please note that membership fees for the 2009-2010 fiscal year are due by September 1, 2009.

If the year 2009 appears next to your EPA membership number on the front cover, then you owe payment for new 2009-2010 fiscal year.

A dues mailing envelope is included in this issue for your convenience. Please send your their payment as soon as possible to avoid EPA sending out reminders.

Happy Collecting!
Barney Clancy, EPA Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

2805 Bergh, Peter L.
11165 Howells Rd,
Colorado Springs, CO 80908
peterbergh@wildblue.net

Reinstatements

2679 Linehan, Kevin J.
725 Oak Ridge Drive
Neosho, MO 64850

1935 McLain, William P.
2770 Dartmoor DR N.E.
Warren, OH 44483-4308

2571 Smithers, Paddy J.
Belgard Heights
Dublin 24 Ireland

Deceased

1736 Heinz, George D.

Change of Address

2643 Greer, John
231 Glassaree Road
Finglas East
Dublin 11 Ireland

2537 Kuipers, Henry
Beethoven Laan 1-215
7604 GC Almelo
Netherlands

New Email Addresses

Please send new or corrected email addresses to Barney Clancy at bclanz@aol.com

1355 Barry, Rev. James F.
jfb1@earthlink.net

2656 Burt, Randall E.
rburt48@comcast.net

Membership Status

Membership as of May. 16, 2009
.....383

New Members +1

Deceased -1

Reinstatements +3

Membership as of
August 11, 2009 ...386

STAMPA is now on Twitter (stampaireland). Please pass this news on to all your Stamp collecting colleagues. All membership enquires can be sent to: stampa@ireland.com. Or visit: stampa.ie. To get the new competition regulations/entry forms and Stampa 2009 Membership forms or send on your e mail and/or postal address details and we will forward same to you immediately. Thank you, Philip Kane.

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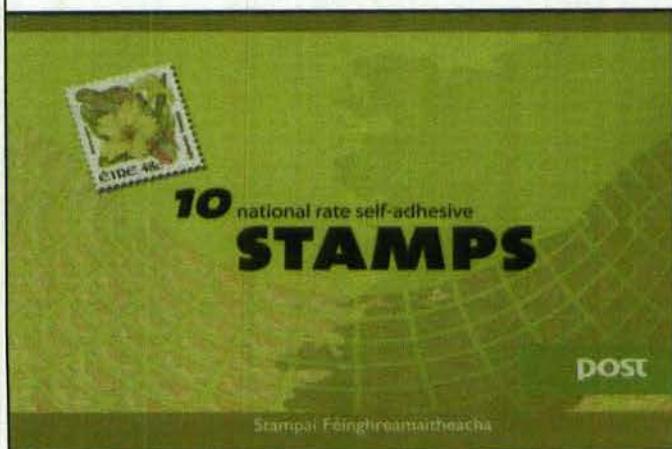
New Booklet Printing Found

David MacDonnell

A completely new printing of the €4.80 self-adhesive Flowers booklet has surfaced in Dublin. The cover is the green and yellow "10 national rate self-adhesive stamps" background with a picture of a single 48c Primrose, not the red and green GPO motif. The die-cut perforations are markedly different to the original printing and the teeth have flat points compared to the sharp points of the 2004 printing. Furthermore, the stamps are completely missing the phosphor frame. The lettering "Primrose" is closer to the flower than on the original, and "Daisy" is positioned higher up the design. The differences are readily apparent in the illustration below. No firm details are known about this printing, nor how many were made. It is suggested that it may have been made early in 2007, but not proceeded with as the domestic rate was changed to 55cent on 1 March 2007. As these stamps appear quite different physically to the original, it may be worthwhile sorting through recent kiloware to see if any further examples could turn up. If they are assigned separate numbers in the main catalogues there might be a bit of a hunt on to find singles to complete collectors' sets.

2004 printing – phosphor frame, sharp perfs.

2007(?) printing- no phosphor, flat perfs.

**IRELAND!**

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1922 - 1995

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PO Box 8795
Madison WI 53708

stamps@nolimitsstamps.com

The Private Craigie Cards
by Robert Dombrowski and Otto Jung

It was a real sensation when in spring 2007, for the first time, unknown postal stationery items stamped to order of the livestock auctioneer Craigie appeared on the market. Except for a ½d copy, issued in 1928, and the card of 2d + 1d, illustrated in the FAI postal stationery catalogue, no more issues of this company seemed to exist.

But all of a sudden, a never seen selling campaign started through eBay, clever, consequently and successfully run by the only owner of these cards, on the basis of his monopoly. This man now lives in Canada and is the living son of Major Coddington, a former customer of the livestock auctioneer Craigie. His father obviously was the only one who saved the cards of the Craigie Company. As a non-philatelist, he – alas – did not care for our philatelic quality demands, because he pinned up them on a needle. So nearly all the items have a hole, the 1d and 1½d cards a small one, the later cards a larger hole as usual for a file. Only three 1½d and one 2d cards are known without holes. If you like it or not, you have to accept that a card with a hole is the normal status. The early card at ½d of 1928, which originates from a different source, is without a hole as well.

DUBLIN CATTLE MARKET

(Thursdays)

The Largest in the British Isles

NUMBERS FOR 1928:

182,627 Fat Cattle	47,000 Store Cattle	14,697 Dairy Cattle
368,756 Sheep	47,995 Pigs	3,833 Calves

AVERAGE WEEKLY NUMBERS:

4,000	300	1,000	7,000
Fat Cattle	Dairy Cattle	Store Cattle	Sheep

An Xmas Fat Stock Show and Sale is held by the Dublin Cattle Salesmasters' Association each year early in December

Numbers exceeding 1,000 Cattle.

This year's fixture will be held on Wednesday, 11th December.

DUBLIN CATTLE SALESMASTERS' ASSOCIATION

List of Members:

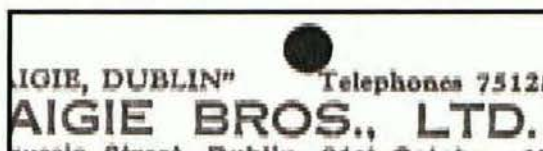
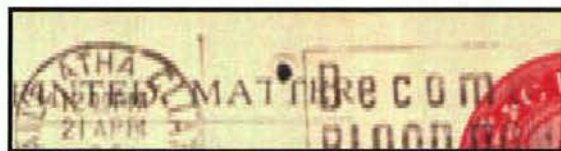
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Christopher Barry & Sons, 183 N. O. Road, Dublin.
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Craigie Bros., 37 Prussia Street, Dublin.
John P. Cuffe, Ltd., 31 Manor Street, Dublin.
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J. J. & P. Dolan, 27 Blackhall Street, Dublin.
James Dreaper & Sons, Donoughmore, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.
John A. Farrell, Glenmore, Clonee, Co. Meath.
Denis Fay & Sons, 12 Ardmore Avenue, N.C.R., Dublin.
Ganly, Sons & Co., 18 Usher's Quay, Dublin.

Hanbury & Potterton, Smithfield House, Dublin.
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W. Harrington, Cherryfield, Templeogue, Co. Dublin.
George H. Lennon, 29 Prussia Street, Dublin.
Leonard, Son & Co., Ltd., 17 Lr. Dominick St., Dublin.
Lavin Low, Ltd., 50 Prussia Street, Dublin.
Mangan & Butler, 37 Smithfield, Dublin.
MacCann & Byrne, 17 St. Joseph's Road, Prussia Street, Dublin.
Valentine McDermott, Rosetown House, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath.
McKeown, MacKeogh & Co., 4 Haymarket, Dublin.
Patrick O'Connor & Son, Ltd., 49 Queen Street, Dublin.
John Oram, 187 North Circular Road, Dublin.
Rourke & Molloy, 98 North Brunswick Street, Dublin.
James J. Rooney & Co., Ltd., 36 Prussia Street, Dublin.
Smith, Griffin & Co., 57 Prussia Street, Dublin.
John Taylor, 17 Lr. Ormond Quay, Dublin.
W. & J. Waldron, Finnstown House, Lucan, Co. Dublin.
R. & J. Wilkinson, 40/41 Prussia Street, Dublin.

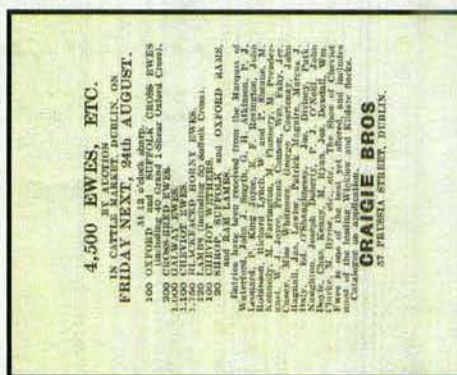
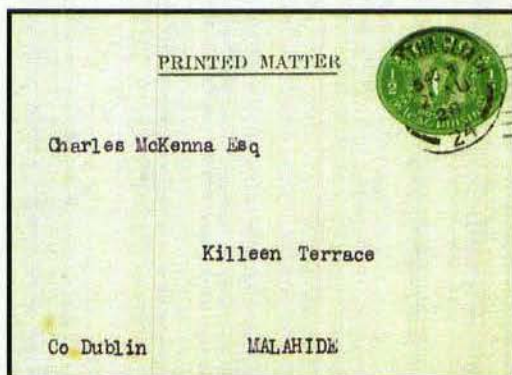
FRANK WARNER, Secretary,
23 Lower Ormond Quay, DUBLIN

Thin pin hole in lower left card and thick file hole in lower right card.

Advertisement of the Dublin Cattle Salesmasters' Association in the BOOK OF DUBLIN



eBay selling Coddington succeeded only because collectors and dealers played along with him. It has been over a year since his eBay auctions found buyers at high prices. Sometimes he offered cards of the 50s or the 60s. Rarely a complete set could be bought. Lately single cards were put on sale. Although the offers were always illustrated often only the front was shown and in such bad quality that no details, particularly dates of the postmark, can be clearly made out.



Craigie card of ½d,
issued in 1928
(front and reverse)

Only two collectors seem mainly involved in the research on this topic, Barney Clancy from America who, in his unselfish attitude, left the results of his studies in my care, and Robert Dombrowski, the co-author of this article who watched and noted down nearly all eBay offers during the last months. On the basis of these studies, we are well informed of what has come to light in the period when the cards were issued. The first to do is to define which kind of postal stationery is dealt with in this article: All items are postal stationery stamped to order which were sent by the auctioneer Craigie to his customers to inform them about the auction results of the day before, which kind of livestock had been sold, how many animals were auctioned and which prices had been realized. All cards were sent at printed matter rate. Two cards are known announcing the postponement of an auction. All cards are sized about 125mm x 110mm, but varying around 5mm. These cards were used from at least 1928 to 1967. After that time cards are no longer postal stationery because they bear adhesive stamps.

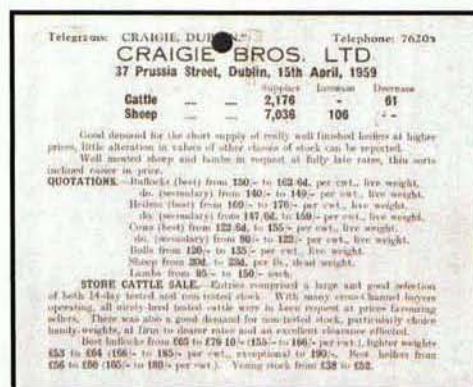


Card with 1d +
adhesive stamp
posted on
06/12/1951



Card with
1½d stamp
printed on
16/04/1952

Plan to attend Chicagopex 2009 and EPA's Annual Meeting



Card with 2d typographed stamp printed on 15/04/1959

During the period of the ½d postage cards bore a typographed printed oval stamp. From July 1950 to July 1951 cards had a stamp of 1d typographed. From September 1951 to January 1952 the same cards were used but bearing an additional adhesive stamp of ½d. From February 1952 new cards with imprinted 1½d typographed were issued, without additional adhesives used up to November 1955. After this date again an adhesive stamp of ½d was added to make up the now required printed matter rate of 2d. This period reached from January 1956 to April 1957. The interim solution found its end when a new card of 2d typographed appeared in June 1957. This card was used up to January 1963 without additional franking. From May 1963 a new card appeared, also having an imprinted 2d stamp but embossed and typographed. It was used up to May 1964 without additional franking. But when the postage rate was raised to 3d a new card was issued from August 1964 bearing two stamps, 2d + 1d, both embossed and typographed. This card had the very short run only to November 1964. From January 1965 the new print of a card with a 3d stamp typographed is found. The last card of this type was seen in January 1967. Already in February a redesigned card came, showing a new format, green text print on front and no imprinted stamp. The auction house Craigie had stopped its time of postal stationery.

There is a problem with the periods of postage rates. If all cards were sent by printed matter rate, as is expressively written on each card and what is self-evident with commercial correspondence as the cheapest way to post things, it should be possible to insert the cards we know without a gap into the scheme of the table of postage rates printed in the FAI catalogue of postal stationery. But there are problems. So let us have a look at the periods in detail:



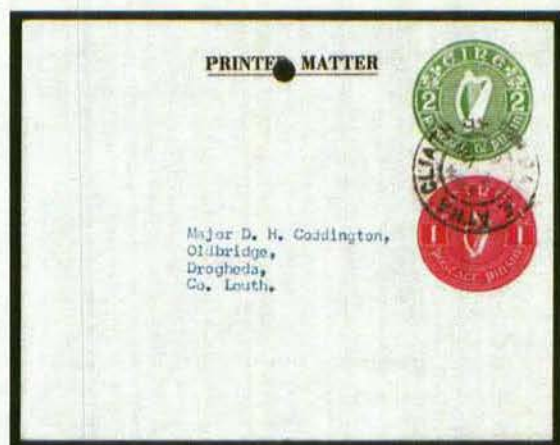
Card with 2d embossed and typographed stamp printed on 29/04/1964



Card with 1d stamp printed on 13/09/1950

1. The ½d rate was valid from 01/11/1922 to 30/06/1948. Only one card, dated 1928, is known of this period. The table of rates is correct.
 2. The 1d rate was valid from 01/07/1948 to 08/07/1951. We know 19 cards of 1d which were used from 12/07/1950 to 04/07/1951. That fits exactly into the scheme of the rates table if you delete the remark that there was a short period of the 2d rate from 01/03/1951 to 08/07/1951. I think this was an error transferred from the column of the foreign printing matter rates.
 3. The 1½d rate for printing matter was valid from 09/07/1951 to 03/06/1956. 12 cards at 1d plus ½d adhesive stamp have been found within this period (12/09/1951 to 23/01/1952) and 21 cards (from 06/02/1952 to 02/11/1955) bearing the new imprinted stamp of 1½d. The postage of two cards of 04/01/1956 and 04/04/1956 remains unexplainable. Both of them have an additional ½d stamp though the 2d period started only on 04/06/1956.
 4. The 2d postage rate began on 04/06/1956 and ended on 31/05/1964. 10 cards of 1½d plus adhesive ½d are known for this period (cards from 27/06/1956 to 10/04/1957). 28 cards typo-graphed were used from 20/06/1957 to 16/01/1963, and 16 more embossed cards were found out of 29/05/1963 to 20/05/1964. The table of postage rates is correct for this period.
 5. From 01/06/1964 to 31/12/1968 was the period of the 3d postage rate. In the first months (from 12/08/1964 to 11/11/1964) the cards of 2d with embossed stamp got an additional 1d, printed embossed as well. 12 cards of this type were found during this short time. From 31/01/1965 to 04/01/1967 12 cards with a new typographed 3d stamp are known.
 6. From 01/02/1967 only cards franked with adhesive stamps exist.
- Summary of our view on the postage rates of the period: a difference from the table in the FAI catalogue which cannot be explained is found with two dates: the rise from 1d to 2d on 01/03/1951 must be an error, and the additional adhesive stamps on the cards of 04/01/1956 and 04/04/1956 are suspect.

More cards exist the postmarks of which are illegible or the illustrations of which in eBay are so poor that few of them can be identified.



Card 2d + 1d embossed, dated 12/08/1964



Card 3d typographed, dated 16/06/1965

Telegrams "CRAIGIE, DUBLIN" Telephones 75128 (3 Lines)

CRAIGIE BROS., LTD.
38 Prussia Street, Dublin, 12th August, 1964

	Supplies	Increase	Decrease
Cattle	2,097	313	-
Sheep	7,085	1,444	-

The increased numbers did not help in the beef market and with the exception of best hindquarters and bulls a reduction of 2/- to 3/- per cwt. had to be accepted in off-cut sales.
Sheep and lambs in quiet request at slightly reduced prices.

QUOTATIONS.—Hindquarters (best) from 155/- to 164/- per cwt., live weight.
Hindquarters (best) from 130/- to 140/- per cwt., live weight.
Cows from 115/- to 120/- per cwt., live weight.
Bulls from 105/- to 110/- per cwt., live weight.
Hoggets and Wethers from 85/- to 90/- each.
Ewes from 65/- to 68/- each.
Lambs from 65/- to 67/- each.

STORE CATTLE SALES.—Increased entries for this week's sale comprising many consignments of forward-conditioned cattle also a good selection of young stock. A brisk demand prevailed from the large attendance of buyers present and a complete clearance was accomplished at prices in sellers' favour.
Best hindquarters from 185/- to 190/- per cwt. Secondary from 154/- to 165/-.
Best forequarters from 165/- to 170/- per cwt. Secondary from 145/- to 155/-.

Ongoing Sale of Hasting Park, Rossmore etc. in Cattle Market on Friday, 21st August.
Our next sale of good stock will be held on 9th September. Hindquarters on application.

Telegrams "CRAIGIE, DUBLIN" Telephones: 75128 (3 Lines)

CRAIGIE BROS., LTD.
38 Prussia Street, Dublin, 7, 16th June, 1965

	Supplies	Increase	Decrease
Cattle	1,674	19	-
Sheep	4,844	495	-

Cattle suitable for the Continental trade in request and slightly heavier, other sorts particularly beef cows, in quiet demand and lower prices had to be accepted in off-cut sales. Apart from well-conditioned hoggets which realized late rates all other classes of sheep and lambs in quiet request and under in price.

QUOTATIONS.—Hindquarters (best) from 187/- to 190/- per cwt., live weight.
Hindquarters (best) from 155/- to 160/- per cwt., live weight.
Bulls from 170/- to 185/- per cwt., live weight.
Hoggets and Wethers from 85/- to 90/- each.
Lambs from 65/- to 67/- each.
Ewes from 65/- to 68/- each.

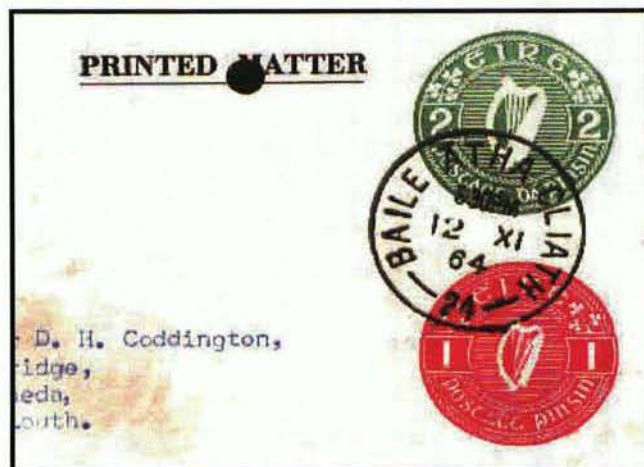
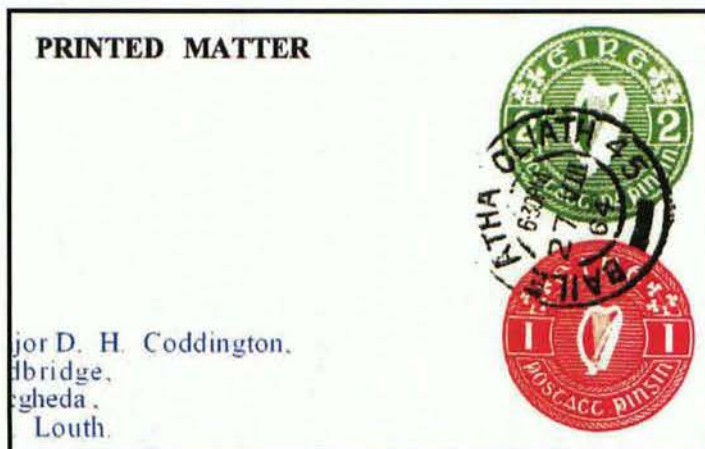
STORE CATTLE SALE.—A much improved share of cattle forwarded for this week's sale. With a large attendance of buyers present, representing Cross-Channel, Northern Ireland and Home interests, a very brisk trade ruled throughout the sale at a time which were free to dispose a complete clearance being accomplished. Best lots of medium weight hindquarters realized from 180/- to 190/- per cwt., some exceptional lots making up to 215/- per cwt. Heavier hindquarters from 155/- to 165/- each. Best forequarters from 145/- to 155/- per cwt.

WOOL SALE.—FRIDAY, 2nd JULY.—Consignments should be forwarded as early as possible.



Left: Non postal stationery card, posted with 3d adhesive stamp. These cards showing a different size were used after the postal stationery cards were abolished.

PRINTED MATTER with serifs in thin lettering on 1 1/2d and in thick lettering won 2d and on dark green 2d and 1d



Left with light green 2d + 1d card, dated 27/08/1964, with faults.

Front: **PRINTED MATTER** not underlined
Reverse: DUBI instead of DUBLIN, no second quotation mark, lettering with serifs (the only card)

Telegrams: "CRAIGIE, DUBI		Telephones 75128 (3 Linen	
CRAIGIE BROS., LTD.			
38 Prussia Street, Dublin, 26th August, 1964			
	Supplies	Increase	Decrease
Cattle	1,899	-	25
Sheep	6,261	-	8



1 1/2d card of 16/03/1955 with double post-mark (the only card that was postmarked two days after the auction)

3d card, dated 13/10/1965 that got two different postmarks on the next day.





Left: 2d card of 05/02/1958 giving notice that the auction of the day before had to be closed for business owing to strike.

Right: A card that got two file holes by error.



Two 1d cards concerning wool auctions

1½d card of December 1954 with Happy Christmas greetings to the clients.

This is a list of the numbers of the cards which have been found by us:

1. 1 copy of the ½d card (card without hole).
2. 17 copies of the 1d card without adhesives.
3. 12 copies of the 1d card with adhesives.
4. 21 copies of the 1½d card without adhesives.
5. 12 copies of the 1½d card with adhesives.
6. 28 copies of the 2d card typographed.
7. 16 copies of the 2d card embossed.
8. 12 copies of the 2d + 1d card embossed.
9. 19 copies of the 3d card.
10. Some cards franked with 3d adhesive stamps, but with little interest because they are not postal stationery.
11. Two 1d cards of the same size but with very different text give notice of wool auctions.
12. A card of 05/02/1958 notifying that the auction of 04/02/1958 had been closed for business owing to strike.
13. One 1½d of 22nd December 1954 with season greetings.

Together with the unidentified cards we know about 175 cards in January 2008.

Two elements of uncertainty remain: The authors of this article do not know whether also lists of the cards and their dates of issue have been recorded by other collectors. And it is not to predict if more cards will be offered in the future. The great number of known cards is deceptive: many of them do not satisfy collectors' demands. Apart from the hole which is found on all cards – only the card of ½d, three cards of 1½d and one 2d card typographed do not show a hole – many cards have tears, folds and soiling so that they are regarded as damaged. Also the postmarks are often smudged, not complete and not legible. As a result of these faults, the number of cards which are worthwhile collecting considerably shrinks. This is dearly realized mainly with those cards of which only small numbers were found. Especially the 2d embossed card, the 2d + 1d and the 3d become rarer in comparison to the other issues. Cards without a hole deserve a special position and collectors' prices.

The print of nearly all cards is made in the same design. Only the ½d card has vertical format on reverse. The 1967 card without imprinted stamp has long size and green print on front. All other cards (from 1d to 3d) are imprinted on front. All other cards have on front PRINTED MATTER in capitals in black colour with underlining. One 2d + 1d card is known not underlined.

All lettering on front has serifs, some with thin print, most being thick. In the fifties the telegram address and the telephone number is found at top. The name of the company, CRAIGIE BROS., is printed beneath.

The owners are obviously a family clan. In November 1952 a new legal position occurred: the company got the name CRAIGIE BROS., LTD. New telephone numbers came, and the reverse was altered. CRAIGIE BROS., LTD was the

top line in the late 60s. The address changed from 37 Prussia Street to 37/38 Prussia Street and finally 38 Prussia Street.

Telegrams: "CRAIGIE, DUBLIN." Telephone: 76205

CRAIGIE BROS.
37 Prussia Street, Dublin, April 9th 1962

		Supplies	Increase	Decrease
Cattle		3,557	81	-
Sheep		5,368	"	60

Telegrams: "CRAIGIE, DUBLIN" Telephones 75128 (3 Lines)

CRAIGIE BROS., LTD.
37/38 Prussia Street, Dublin, 14th December, 1960

		Supplies	Increase	Decrease
Cattle		4,973	-	22
Sheep		7,032	-	354

CRAIGIE BROS. 37 Prussia Street, Tel.76205 /// CRAIGIE BROS., LTD 37/38 Prussia Street, Tel.75128 (3 Lines)

Telegrams: "CRAIGIE, DUBLIN" Telephones 75128 (3 Lines)

CRAIGIE BROS., LTD.
38 Prussia Street, Dublin, 4th March, 1964

		Supplies	Increase	Decrease
Cattle		2,585	99	-
Sheep		6,559	"	761

CRAIGIE BROS., LTD.
38 Prussia Street, Dublin, 7. 23rd November, 1966

		Supplies	Increase	Decrease
Cattle		3,139	-	383
Sheep		5,549	47	-

CRAIGIE BROS., LTD 38 Prussia Street, Tel.75128 (3 Lines) /// CRAIGIE BROS., LTD 38 Prussia Street, no tel. no.

Which animals were auctioned by Craigie? The "BOOK OF DUBLIN", printed in 1928, tells us. Declan O'Connor has dug it out and sent me photocopies of some pages referring to our story. Fat cattle, store cattle, dairy cattle, calves, sheep and pigs were the mainly dealt with animals in Craigie's auctions. As we know from some cards there were also wool auctions. The number of the animals sold strongly varied with the seasons, and so did the prices. More than 8000 sheep and 4000 cattle changed their owners in some weeks. Also prices – being of high interest for the farmers – were noted. Most livestock auctions were held on Wednesdays, sometimes on Thursdays. Wool was usually auctioned on Fridays. In our days the auction company is no longer to be found in its original place. Instead of Craigie a shopping centre, some small shops, a restaurant and a post office are seen on the site of Craigie's 38 Prussia Street. Also the internet gives no information what has happened to the auctioneers Craigie. Had they to give up though being among the most important in Ireland? Had they to join together with other companies and lost their name? We do not know. It would be nice to be helped by better informed residents in Dublin.



Grounds of Graige



Post office of our time, surely not attended by Craigie.

Pub where auction profits were "invested?"



Did Craige post his cards in this old Letter box?

A supplementary article by Declan O'Connor, appears in the FAI journal "DIE HARFE" no. 103 (summer 2008).

The authors Robert Dombrowski and Otto Jung gratefully thank for the help of:

Barney Clancy

George King

Declan O' Connor

Ireland Thom Overprints: Something Didn't Fit

When I was compiling the 2002 edition of the Hibernian Handbook and Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland, I wanted to include a chapter on the 1922 Overprint Controls, a very popular theme for serious collectors of Ireland. At that stage I had assembled a reference collection of over 1100 Controls of varying sizes and had access to another collection of over 1000 Controls. Still, all the pieces of the puzzle didn't quite fit. I had about thirty Control blocks which fitted into the general "established" plating guides and should have all been from the same overprint plate, but which struck me somehow as being not quite identical. Also, the other reference collection had another twenty such similar Control blocks. Not satisfied, I held back publishing a plating guide in the 2002 edition.

When the first overprinting contract was given, it was divided between the Dollard Printing Co. Ltd (SG 1-9 and 17-21, Hib. T1-8, 12-14) and Alex Thom Ltd (SG 10-15, Hib. T15-19). The reasons are not known but it may be that neither printing company had the capacity to overprint the entire required quantities of stamps in time for the proposed issue date.

For the low values, Dollard used three plates of 240 each consisting of stereos of 15 (5 x 3) repeated 16 times within the plate. A mixed plate consisting of stereos from plates 1 and 3 is also known. The plating of the Dollard Controls, even of the 1d (Control under stamp 11), is therefore relatively simple due to the recurrence of various setting differences within the individual master stereos (or the absence thereof, as in Plate 1).

It has long been accepted that Thom also initially carried out the overprinting of the low values using three plates. Literature up until now has differentiated the three plates by defining specific and obvious differences in the shape or form of individual characters within the overprint, some quite prominent, especially in the area near to the Control.

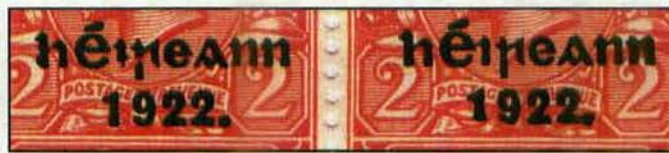
Control blocks from Thom Plate 1 (as identified until now) showed a very regular type with no obvious setting or type varieties. Control blocks or strips from Plate 2 can be identified by the triangular instead of square stop after "1922" from R20/2 (illustr. 1). Plate 3 is the most obvious with a broken "r" in "héireann" on R20/1 and a short "1" and distorted second "2" in "1922" on R20/2 (illustr. 2) as if the plate had buckled slightly.

Now we come back to Plate 1. If sorting Control pieces from the Thom "black" period, according to the distinguishing features used up until now, one would look for either of the above-mentioned obvious varieties; if neither was present, then the Control piece was, by default, attributed to Plate 1. This has long been the tradition and seemed satisfactory. However, with the large number of Control pieces available to me, it became clear that all those put on the pile for Plate 1 were not exactly alike. Since 2001, my reference material has grown by another 40 Control pieces which had been, also by default, attributed to Plate 1 by their previous owners.



Left: Illustr. 1 Thom Plate 2

Right: Illustr. 2 Thom Plate 3



In 2008, while working on the 2009 edition of the "Hibernian", the time was right to try and finally define the differences in the Control pieces which were all theoretically from Plate 1. I wanted to be able to include a comprehensive plating of the Overprint Controls in the new edition of the catalogue and needed this final piece of the puzzle. The other reference collection of Controls which I mentioned at the start of this article resides in Switzerland and is the result of 30 year's dedicated collecting by a philatelist for whom GB Controls (also with overprint) are a passion. This collection had grown significantly in recent years and now contained over 40 Control pieces from Thom "Plate 1".

I travelled there with all my notes, sketches and scans. I could not bring my actual reference material with me due to Customs difficulties. All the formalities for the import and re-export of my stamps would have cost too much time. The publication deadline for the new "Hibernian" was drawing near.

I spent many hours working late into the night with the Swiss philatelist in his house not far from Geneva. We sorted his Thom "black" Controls into 3 piles according to the traditional manner, all those pieces with neither of the prominent varieties for Plate 2 or 3 going into the pile for Plate 1. Then we started to seriously examine every piece in the "Plate 1" pile. We found no constant varieties of broken type or letter distortions which could be used for any reliable differentiation, although individual, fortuitous varieties abounded. There must be another way to sort these pieces more accurately, although the actual differences were somehow not readily apparent. Then we took a long break and talked. During the chat, I suddenly thought of the measurements and particularly the slight alignment differences worked on by previous researchers. We set ourselves once again to the task at hand with a magnifier and an architect's ruler. We both felt that exact relative measurement of the position of each line of overprint type with respect to the one above could hold the key.

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Ireland Thom Overprints: Something didn't fit. Contd.

The results of another couple hours' work were surprising. Suddenly, the pieces of the puzzle started to fall into place. Once we had identified a very clear but minimal difference in the relative alignment of two lines of the overprint, every Control piece, even down to single stamp Controls, could be quickly and confidently sorted into two, and only two, piles without exception.

Now we sat back and talked again. What to do? Up until now, everyone wrote about 3 Thom "black" plates. But now we could, without qualm, sort these Thom "black" Control pieces into 4 piles! How to proceed with a listing in the new edition of the "Hibernian"? While we talked, it became clear that it would be too disruptive to try and re-number the Thom plates, as this would have a knock-on effect on the traditional numbering of the subsequent Low Value "blue-black" plates (SG 30-43, Hib. T25-38). To try and devise a cross-reference index for the "old" versus the "new" plates would only cause confusion among collectors and future researchers. There was no choice but to divide Plate 1 into "a" and "b" and thus preserve the traditional numbering sequence of the subsequent plates

After returning to Rodgau, I started to work on my own Control pieces which had been set aside as all coming from Thom Overprint Plate 1. Now armed with a new way to separate Plate 1a from 1b, I was able to sort these by sight into two piles.

The differences between Plates 1a and 1b:

Let us begin with differences outside the immediate area of the marginal Control number, i.e. in other areas of the traditionally collected corner blocks of 6. On none of the six stamps on a Control block from Plate 1a is any constant broken type variety to be found; yet on Control blocks of 6 from Plate 1b, the upper right stamp (R19/3) shows a minor but constant variety: a tiny chip in the top right end of the "c" in "Sealadac". However, for the plating of Control strips of 3 or corner pairs, this difference is not very useful.

Illustr 3: Thom Plate 1a



Illustr 4: Thom Plate 1b



Another slight difference on the first and second stamps from row 20, directly above the Control, holds the key. On what I have now designated Plate 1a, the right side of the "1" in "1922" is almost under the centre of the "i" in "héireann"; the stops after "1922" are close to the date (illustr. 3). On stamps from Plate 1b, the right side of the "1" in "1922" is just under or very slightly to the left of the "i" in "héireann"; also, the stops after the date are very slightly further away (illustr. 4). The thin second "2" in 1922 from R20/1 is not constant and varies in thickness. However, these absolute differences in the position of the 4th and 5th lines of the overprint in horizontal relation to each other clearly show that there were either two plates, until now considered the same plate, or that there were adjustments or repairs made to a single plate leading to two states.

Further research has yielded another interesting aspect. Although the Thom Plates 2 and 3 continued in use after the change-over to blue-black ink in July 1922, I have yet to find a Control piece with a blue-black overprint showing the setting characteristics of either Plate 1a or 1b. This leads to the conclusion that either the first TWO plates used by Thom during the "black" period (Feb.-July 1922) were retired before the end of the "black" period, or that the first plate was adjusted or repaired during the "black" period but did not survive in its second state beyond the end of the "black" period.

Epilogue:

I am not bold enough to assume that this chapter is closed as there is still much room for further research in this fascinating field, but I hope that at least one annoying anomaly can, after over eighty years, finally be set to rest.

Roy Hamilton-Bowen, BPP; Rodgau, Germany July 8, 2009

Press Release From FAI

Heidelberg, 9th June 2009 (CJ) – In July 2009, the newest issue of DIE HARFE is published, the magazine of the German Study and Research Group on Irish Philately (FAI - Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland e.V. im BDPh e.V.). The current summer issue (no. 107) contains 68 pages.

On the occasion of the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin (and a commemorative stamp by An Post), the title story by Clemens Jesenitschnig deals with the life and works of this English natural scientist.

The 100th anniversary of the death of John Millington Synge, commemorated on a stamp by An Post, offers the opportunity to inform about the Irish writer and his oeuvre.

In an interview, member of the An Post board, Peter Gallagher, speaks about the year 2011 when the Irish postal market will be completely liberalised and gives his view on possible changes and effects for An Post.

Joachim Schaaf's report on the FAI Annual General Meeting 2009 in Oberaula, Hesse, is rich in photographs, and John Mullen presents the souvenir covers he designed for this special occasion.

Hans Bergdolt informs about the state of the FAI photo archive which was initiated in 2008.

Beside many other articles - for instance, John Mullen informs about the 125th anniversary of the Gaelic Athletic Association - the regular columns are included. In his "Recent Releases", Brian Warren informs in detail about An Post's newest stamp issues, and Maurice Barrett reports on the newest Irish slogans in his column "Modern Postal History".

If you have any further questions, please contact: Clemens Jesenitschnig (Editor of DIE HARFE); Bahnhofstraße 9, 69115 Heidelberg, Germany; email: cj.fai@gmx.net

My Other Collection—Stanhopes.

Michael Priestley

Stanhopes are souvenirs that were popular in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries – Queen Victoria is said to have had some. They come in all sizes and shapes – pens, pencils, bottles, scissors, needle cases, binoculars, boxes, and many others. All have one thing in common, they contain a little hole through which a magnified picture can be seen when held up to the light. The pictures may commemorate places, people, events or religious themes.

The optical system was invented by Earl Stanhope and consists of a tiny glass rod, rounded at one end to provide magnification. The other end of the rod is flat, onto which the picture is pasted. Stanhopes can be found in antique shops and fairs or on eBay. A glass-topped case can display your collection, and can be a source of great interest to visitors



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