

Commemoratives

Supplement No. 9

ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

January-February, 1963

1937 (Dec. 29th) NEW CONSTITUTION COMMEMORATIVE. Watermark SE. Perf. 15 x 14. Designed by R. J. King. Printed at Dublin Castle in sheets of 120 stamps - two panes of 60 - 6 x 10.



Scott No. 99 Gibbons No. 105 2d plum or ruby
100 106 3d deep blue

Issued to commemorate the inauguration of the new Irish Constitution on December 29th, 1937. The design represents Eire as a young woman seated and holding a quill pen in her right hand, resting on a harp, having just written the first words of the new Constitution of Ireland, "In Ainm na Tríonoide Ro-Naomta" (In the Name of the Most Holy Trinity). A feature of the lectern is the incorporation of the Coats of Arms of the Four Provinces.

This issue differs from the same design issued in 1958 in that in this issue, the frame-line dimensions are 37 mm horizontally by 20½ vertically whereas the 1958 issue measures 39 x 22½mm, and is thus two mm wider and two mm taller than this issue. In addition, the watermark on the later issue is E rather than SE and the values and colors differ.

Varieties

There is little in this issue in the way of variety that is not traceable to worn plates. The background of solid color behind the word "Eire" in the top left corner of the stamp and in the legend panel at the base lend themselves to inking varieties which are not constant. There is some off-color paper. The issue was withdrawn from general sale on May 31, 1938

1938 (July 1st) CENTENARY OF THE TEMPERANCE CRUSADE. Watermark SE. Perf. 15 x 14. Designed by S. Keating. Printed at Dublin Castle in sheets of 120 stamps - two panes of 60, 6 x 10.

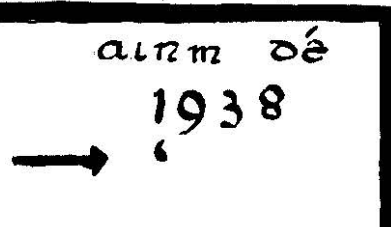


Scott No. 101 Gibbons No. 107 2d. black brown (shades)
102 108 3d. ultramarine

Issue to commemorate the centenary of the Temperance Crusade begun by Father Theobald Mathew, called the "Apostle of Temperance". He was born on October 19th, 1790 at Thomastown, near Waterford, Ireland and died on December 8th, 1856. The design by Sean Keating, R.H.A. is a portrait of Father Mathew after a bust by Hogan, the Irish sculptor. At the top of the stamp appear the words uttered by Father Mathew when he signed the first pledge of total abstinence: "Seo Cuise in Ainm De" (Here goes in the name of God). At the bottom is the Gaelic inscription "An T-Ath. Mathiu O.M. Cap." (Father Mathew O.M.Cap.)

Varieties

There are two or three shades of the 2d. The chief variety and not commonly found is a flaw consisting of an inverted comma found directly under the figure "1" of the date "1938". The variety was constant during the time it was on sale when the stamp was first issued, but when the Post Offices received fresh supplies, the variety had been corrected and no longer existed. It occurs only on the 2d value and on the second stamp of the second row from the top left corner (Stamp #8 in the sheet). The issue was withdrawn from general sale on December 31st, 1938.



1939 (March 1st) 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. Watermark SE. Perf. 15 x 14. Designed by G. Atkinson. Printed at Dublin Castle in sheets of 120 stamps - two panes of 60 - 6 x 10.



Scott No. 103 Gibbons No. 109 2d. bright carmine
104 110 3d. deep blue

The design by Atkinson, depicts the American Eagle bearing the shield of the original thirteen states with a profile portrait of George Washington and the Irish harp on either side. It was issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the United States Constitution. The Gaelic inscription reads, "Ceileabran Muintear na hEireann Cuimniu igead bliana bunreacta Aimeirice" (The people of Ireland celebrate the 150th anniversary of the American Constitution). The issue was withdrawn from general sale on May 31, 1939.

1941 (April 12th) COMMEMORATION OF THE 1916 EASTER RISING. Watermark E. Two values of the regular definitive issue overprinted "In memory of the Rising of 1916". Printed at Dublin Castle in sheets of 240 stamps - two panes of 120, 12 x 10. (Provisional Issue). Gaelic overprint: "1941 gCuimne Aiseirge 1916".

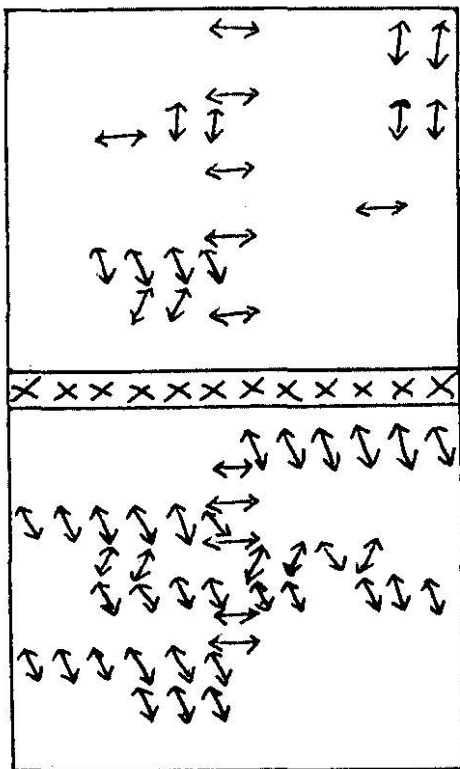


Scott No. 118 Gibbons No. 126 2d yellow orange (green ovpt)
119 127 3d blue (violet overprint)

Since the planned commemorative could not be issued in time, two of the stamps of the definitive issue were overprinted on paper watermarked E. Since it was desired to overprint the lower value in green, it was necessary to reprint sufficient numbers of the 2d value in a contrasting color (orange). This issue was withdrawn from general sale a few days before October 27th, 1941. The 3d value is in short supply and is becoming scarce.

Varieties

(a) Out of Alignment Pairs. Mr. Malcolm O'Reilly wrote a very interesting article on the out-of-alignment pairs of this issue in the March-April, 1956 issue of The Revealer, pages 259-261 together with a chart illustrating one sheet of two panes of 120 stamps. Where a horizontal or vertical arrow appears, the subjects involved are out-of-alignment only in measurement. Where a diagonal arrow appears, the subjects involved are misaligned in the direction of the arrow.

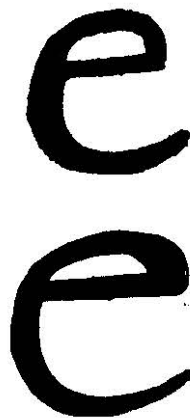


(b) Open and closed "p" in "pingin" - 2d

(c) 2d - A variety where the cross bar of the final "e" of "gCuimne" is missing. The position on the sheet is not reported.

(d) 2d - "Snub-nose E". William Kane reports a variety of the final "e" of "gCuimne" which he calls a snub-nose. It is the 3rd stamp from the left hand margin but the row is uncertain (reported variously as the 6th and 15th row).

(e) 2d- Corrected "e". Mr. Kane also has found what appears to be a corrected "e". Here, the eye of the "e" is very small and the nose larger than the normal stamp.



(f) Joined Letters. 2d. The letter "l" is joined to the letter "s" in the word, "AISEIRGE". This variety is placed on Row 6, Stamp No. 5.

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(g) There are also minor type irregularities and it is also reported that there is a constant blob of ink in the letter "A" of "AISEIRGE" on Stamp 12, Row No. 19.

1941 (October 27th). "25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1916 EASTER RISING. Watermark E. Perf. 15 x 14. Designed by Victor Brown. Printed at Dublin Castle in sheets of 120 stamps - two panes of 60, 6 x 10.



Scott No. 120 Gibbons No. 128 2½d blue-black

The design by Victor Brown, depicts a young volunteer of the period, in the foreground of the G.P.O. in Dublin, carrying a rifle and bayonet. It bears the Gaelic words, from the opening lines of the 1916 Proclamation of the Republic: "In Ainm De agus in ainm na nglun d'imigh romhainn... Forogra, 1916." (In the name of God and of the dead generations...Proclamation, 1916).

Varieties

This issue produced two very interesting and constant varieties, first discovered by Mr.A.H.K.Roberts. Examination of full sheets of the stamps disclosed:



(A) Broken Statue. This variety consists of a chip or notch in the waist of the left hand side of the statue, just above its base.



This variety appeared in the following locations on the sheet:

Row 2	Stamps 2, 4 and 6	Row 12	Stamps 2, 4 and 6
Row 3	Stamps 1, 3 and 5	Row 13	Stamps 1, 3 and 5
Row 4	Stamps 1, 3 and 5	Row 14	Stamps 1, 3 and 5
Row 7	Stamps 2, 4 and 6	Row 17	Stamps 2, 4 and 6
Row 8	Stamps 1, 3 and 5	Row 18	Stamps 1, 3 and 5
Row 9	Stamps 1, 3 and 5	Row 19	Stamps 1, 3 and 5

(B) Broken Pillar. This variety consists of a small break in the lower right hand side of the extreme right hand pillar which supports the portico.

This variety appeared in the following locations of the sheet:

Row 5	Stamps 1, 3 and 5	Row 15	Stamps 1, 3 and 5
Row 10	Stamps 1, 3 and 5	Row 20	Stamps 1, 3 and 5

Mr. Albert H. Harris made further studies of this stamp which he reported in "The GUNMAN Stamp of Eire" which appeared in the Philatelic Magazine for April 20, 1945. By plotting the locations of the 36 broken statues and the 12 broken pillars, he deduced that a zinc line block was made either from a photo of or the original design and from this, ten electros were made. Apparently several of these electros developed the minor flaws shown. The ten electros including the imperfect ones were clamped together in a block of ten (two across by five down). From this plating, twelve or more stereotypes were made and arranged to form a printing plate of 120 stamps (3 stereotypes across by 4 down). Thus the flaws were carried over into the printing plate and this logically accounts for the locations of the varieties on the complete sheet.

	b
b	
b	
a	

Group of 10 stereotypes showing position of varieties.

1943 (July 31st) 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE GAELIC LEAGUE. Watermark E. Perf. 15 x 14. Designed by S. O'Sullivan. Printed at Dublin Castle in sheets of 240 stamps - two panes of 120, 12 x 10.



Scott No. 124 Gibbons No. 129
125 130

1d. green
2d. red lilac

Issued to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Gaelic League. The design, created by Sean O'Sullivan was taken from a photograph of Dr. Douglas Hyde taken about 1893. The stamp bears the three-line inscription "Connradh na Gaedhilge-1893, Dubhglas De h'Idé, an Chead Uachtarán." No significant varieties are noted. Withdrawn from sale March 5th, 1944.

1943 (November 13th) CENTENARY OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISCOVERY OF QUATERNIONS. Watermark E. Perf. 15 x 14. Designed by S. O'Sullivan. Printed at Dublin Castle in sheets of 240 stamps - two panes of 120, 12 x 10.



Scott No. 126 Gibbons No. 131
127 132

1d. deep green
2d. dark red brown

In 1843, Sir William Rowan Hamilton, famed Irish mathematician and physicist announced the discovery of the theory of Quaternions. To commemorate the centenary of Hamilton's discovery, Eire issued a two-value set of stamps. Mr. O'Sullivan designed the stamp, featuring a drawing of Hamilton's head from a bust by Hogan. This bust is in Trinity College Library.

Two distinct printings appear, both on very thin war-time papers. One printing is on white and the other is on a distinctly cream coloured paper.

On the 2d value, some printings show the shading to the left of the head almost completely solid, this being caused no doubt by a worn plate or improper inking.

When the multiple E of the watermark coincides with the head which shows clearly in reverse on the back of the stamp, it encircles it, thus causing a sort of "Death mask".

1944 (June 30th) TRICENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF MICHAEL O'CLEARY. Designed by R. J. King. Watermark E, sideways. Perf. 14 x 15. Issued in sheets of 240 stamps - two panes of 120, 10 x 12.



Scott No. 128 Gibbons No. 133
129 134

1d. emerald green
1/- red brown

Issued to commemorate the Annals of the Four Masters. While this issue is included with the commemorative stamps, it was in reality a definite issue, since it temporarily replaced the same values of the definite series. The 1d. value was issued not only in sheets but also in coils and in booklet panes.

Varieties

The 1d value shows much variation in shade from light to deep green, whether in sheets, coils or booklets. This no doubt resulted from successive printings over the years. The 2d also shows variation in shade from red brown to deep dark brown.

(1) On the 1d., the lower line of the letter "E" is completely broken in some cases at its base. This flaw is found on the 2nd and 3rd stamps of the last row of the bottom pane of stamps. It is also found corrected. In this instance, the white line is much thicker than the normal line.

(2) On the 1/-, "No cheekbone" is probably due to wear of the plate as it is found in varying degrees from full cheekbone to no cheekbone. Strange to say, this variety has only been found in the 1/- value and on the red brown shade of the stamp.

