Money Orders

Postal Orders

Savings Bank

Savings Certificates

IRELAND

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

MISCELLANEOUS

SERVICES

Telegrams

Telex

Telephones

SUPPLEMENT No. 40 ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION April, 1968

The public postal service for Ireland was begun in the reign of Charles I of England in the 17th century. An act of parliament in 1711 set up a unified Post Office for England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Subsequently there evolved a distinct Irish Post Office with a service centred in Dublin controlled by its own Postmaster General. The Act of Union in 1800 by which the English and Irish Parliaments were combined did not affect this aspect of the Irish Post Office until 1831 when the Irish and British Post Offices were amalgamated.

In 1835, the Post Office took over control of the privately run Money Order Department and the prepaid registration of letters and packets, and in 1861 the Post Office opened its Savings Bank. In 1870 the telegraph system was taken over by the Post Office and in 1883 parcel post began. Finally, in 1912, when the licence of the National Telephone Co. expired, the post office took over the telephone system. Power to licence wireless transmitting and receiving apparatus and to collect fees was vested in the Postmaster General from 1904.

After the foundation of the Irish State in 1922 the services provided by the Irish Post Office under British rule were continued. By the Ministers and Secretaries Act, 1924, a Minister of State was appointed to replace the Postmaster General and to take charge of what was now to be called the Department of Posts & Telegraphs.

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs operates the public postal, telephone and telegraph services and a money order and postal order remittance systems. The Minister for Posts and Telegraphs is the political head of the department. There is a directly employed staff of 16,700 together with the 2,150 postmasters who run Sub-Post offices on an agency basis. It is one of the biggest employers in the country.

The Department also performs Agency services on behalf of other Government Departments. One of the oldest and best known of these services is the Post Office Savings Bank. The transaction of Savings Certificates business by the Post Office is also long established. A more recent service in the sphere of savings is the facility provided at any Post Office to buy Government Prize Bonds. Part of the Department's work which affects a considerable cross-section of the public is the paying out of old age pensions and other social welfare benefits through its offices, and the collection of certain licence fees.

The Department has general responsibility for radio and television. From the beginning, in 1926, the radio broadcasting service was operated as a direct State service under the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs. The Broadcasting Authority Acts 1960 to 1966 have, however, given a statutory body - Radio Telefis Eireann - responsibility for the sound and television services, subject to certain powers which are specifically reserved to the Minister or to the Government under the Acts.

Ireland is a member of the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunication Union, both agencies of the United Nations. It is also a member of the International Savings Bank Institute and the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations.

This series of supplements will contain information about the little-known services performed by the Department of Posts & Telegraphs which have a close relationship to Irish philately.

Departments of Posts and Telegraphs

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

BANC TAISCE AN PHOIST

This special article is based upon information kindly supplied by Mr. R. Goff, Director of Savings of the Post Office Savings Bank, Ireland.

The two main services of the division of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs known as the Post Office Savings Bank - the Post Office Savings Bank and Savings Certificates - have been in existence since 1923, shortly after the emergence of an independent Irish State, although the Savings Bank had actually been in operation under the British regime since 1861. As of October 1968, the amounts due to the depositors in the Savings Bank and to holders of Savings Certificates amounted to about 116 million Pounds and 60 million Pounds, respectively.

To open a Postal Savings Account, any person over 7 years of age may in his own name, jointly with others, as trustee, in the name of a child under 7 or on behalf of societies, clubs, church funds, etc. open an account with a deposit of 10/- or more. An individual may deposit up to 5000 Pounds in such an account; there is no limit for societies, clubs and similar institutions. Each Pound of deposit earns interest currently every calendar month at the rate of 3 1/2 % per annum. The first 70 Pounds interest (double that amount for a husband and wife) is exempt from Income Tax and Surtax.

About 1400 Post Offices in the Republic are authorized to transact Savings Bank business. Withdrawals up to 10 Pounds can be made on demand at a post office by presenting the deposit book or up to 25 Pounds by telegraph on payment of the telegraph and a special service charge. Larger amounts require sending the request and the deposit book to the Savings Bank headquarters in Dublin. The book is sent back a day or two later with a notification to call for payment at the post office selected by the depositor.

POSTAL SAVINGS STAMPS

The Savings Stamps are of particular interest to philatelists. The Post Offices sell two values of postal savings stamps at the present time. These stamps are provided especially to help savers of small sums, particularly children. The stamps serve a double purpose. In a small way they are intended to act as "feeders" to the two major services but are unremunerative, in the business sense. Their more important object is to inculcate the habit of thrift in children and young adults.

The 6d stamp is mainly for the younger children; it is the basis of Savings Groups organised very widely in the National (or primary) Schools by the voluntary effort of teachers. Free booklets are supplied in which up to 40 stamps can be affixed. About 16 million 6d stamps a year are sold. The booklets consist of four pages, each containing spaces for 10 6d stamps. The pages are perforated so that they can be detached by the post office. These stamps may be used to open a Post Office Savings Bank account; to make deposits in existing accounts; to buy Savings Certificates; or, they may be exchanged for cash. As is to be expected, some 80% of these stamps are cashed.

The new 2/- stamp is intended primarily for use by similar Savings Groups in Vocational Schools, for older children and young adults on the verge of employment. It can, however, have a wider market, e.g. housewives, young wage-earners, etc. The 2/- stamp may also be used as Savings Bank deposits or for the purchase of Savings Certificates, but they are not cashable directly, because it is assumed that those who buy them will do so with the serious intention of making them the basis of further saving.

<u>6d</u> <u>SAVINGS STAMP</u>

The 6d Savings Stamp currently in use is the 6d "Sword of Light" definitive postage stamp, printed in orange with the overprint in black, "STAMPA / COIGILTIS / Savings / Stamp". It has been in use for many years. The Savings Bank is holding a competition for the design of a definitive 6d stamp and a new issue will appear soon.

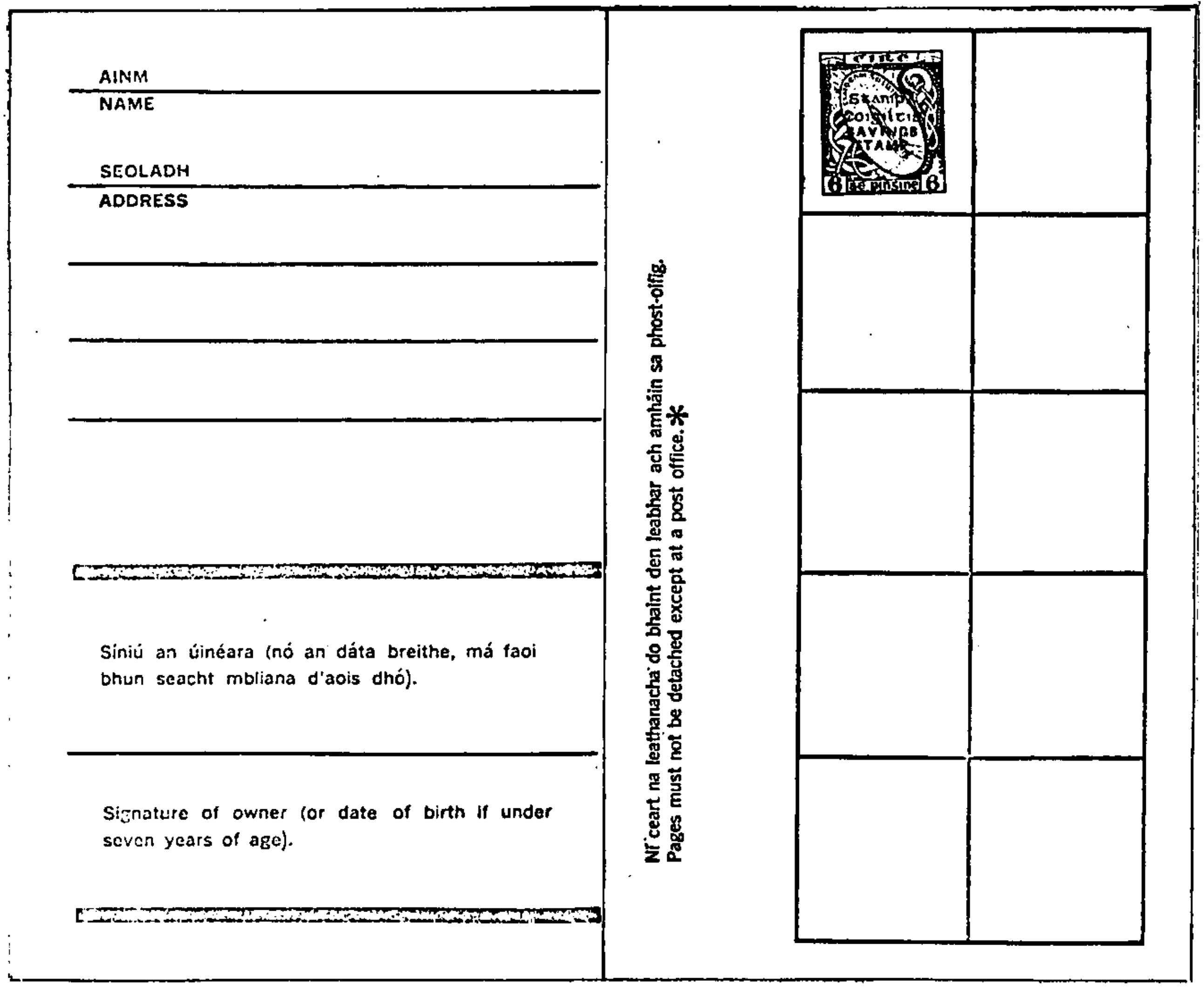
"The only reportable variety that I have seen is a piece broken off the top of the second A of STAMPA, giving the remainder a squat appearance. It is the end stamp of Row 2, i.e. No. 24 in the sheet (F.E.Dixon The Revealer, page 522).

The 6d Savings Booklet consists of four pages, each containing space for 10 6d stamps. The front cover has in Gaelic "An Roinn Poist Agus Telegrafa / Stampa Coigiltis" with the value 6d and a large Harp.

Ní mór bheith fíor-churamach faoin leabhar seo óir ní féidir luach stampaí a chaillfear nó luach stampaí a aisíocfar le duine ar bith a shlánú. Níl an leabhar seo inaistrithe. Iarrtar ar aon duine a gheobhaidh an leabhar seo é a shíneadh isteach i bpost-oifig nó é a chur go dtí an Stiúrthóir Coigiltis, An Roinn Poist agus Telegrafa, Baile Átha Cliath 1; ní gá aon phostas a íoc.

Great care should be taken of this book as the value of lost stamps or of stamps repaid to any person whomsoever cannot be made good. This book is not transferable. Any person finding it is requested to hand it in at a post office or forward it to the Director of Savings, Department of Posts & Telegraphs, Dublin 1; postage need not be paid.

S. 51.



AINM
NAME

SEOLADH
ADDRESS

Síniú an úinéara (nó an dáta breithe, má faoi bhun seacht mbliana d'aois dhó).

Signature of owner (or date of birth if under seven years of age).

Ní ceart na leathanacha do bhaint den leabhar ach amháin sa phost-oifig.
Pages must not be detached except at a post office.*

Inside pages of 6d Savings Bank Booklet (note perforations for removal at the post office)

2/- SAVINGS STAMP

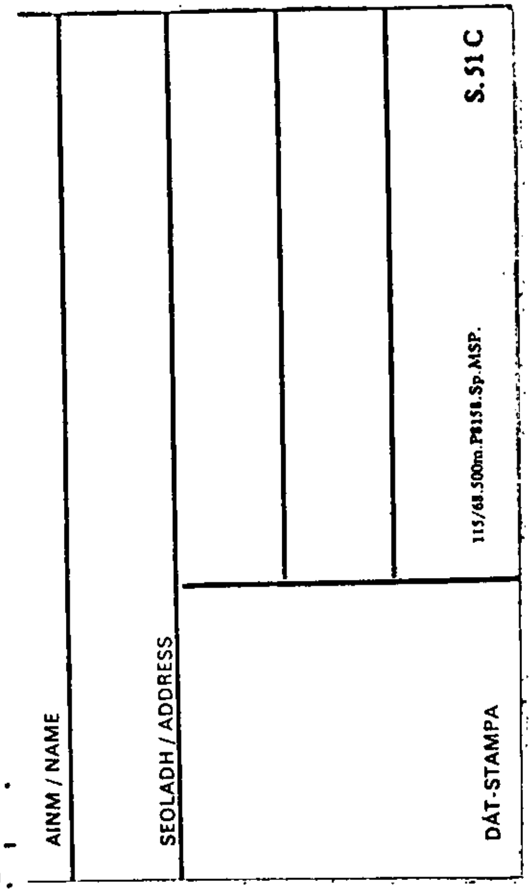
Issued August 1st, 1968

This new definitive Savings Stamp shows a leaping salmon with the value 2/- and the words "Savings Stamp" at the left and "Stampa Coigiltis" at the bottom.

The 2/- Savings Card (designed to hold ten 2/- stamps to a total of One Pound) is made of cardboard. The front has a special design showing two large salmon circling with the value "2/-" in the center. At the top is "P & T" and the words, "STAMPAI COIGILTIS / SAVINGS STAMPS".

Date-Stamps

The Money Order and Savings Bank Sections of the Post Office have their own distinctive date-stamps. The one in use at Bray, Co. Wicklow (Bri Chualann) in 1938 is shown herewith thru the courtesy of Fred Dixon.



S.51C

115/68.500m.P8158.Sp.MSP.

AINM / NAME

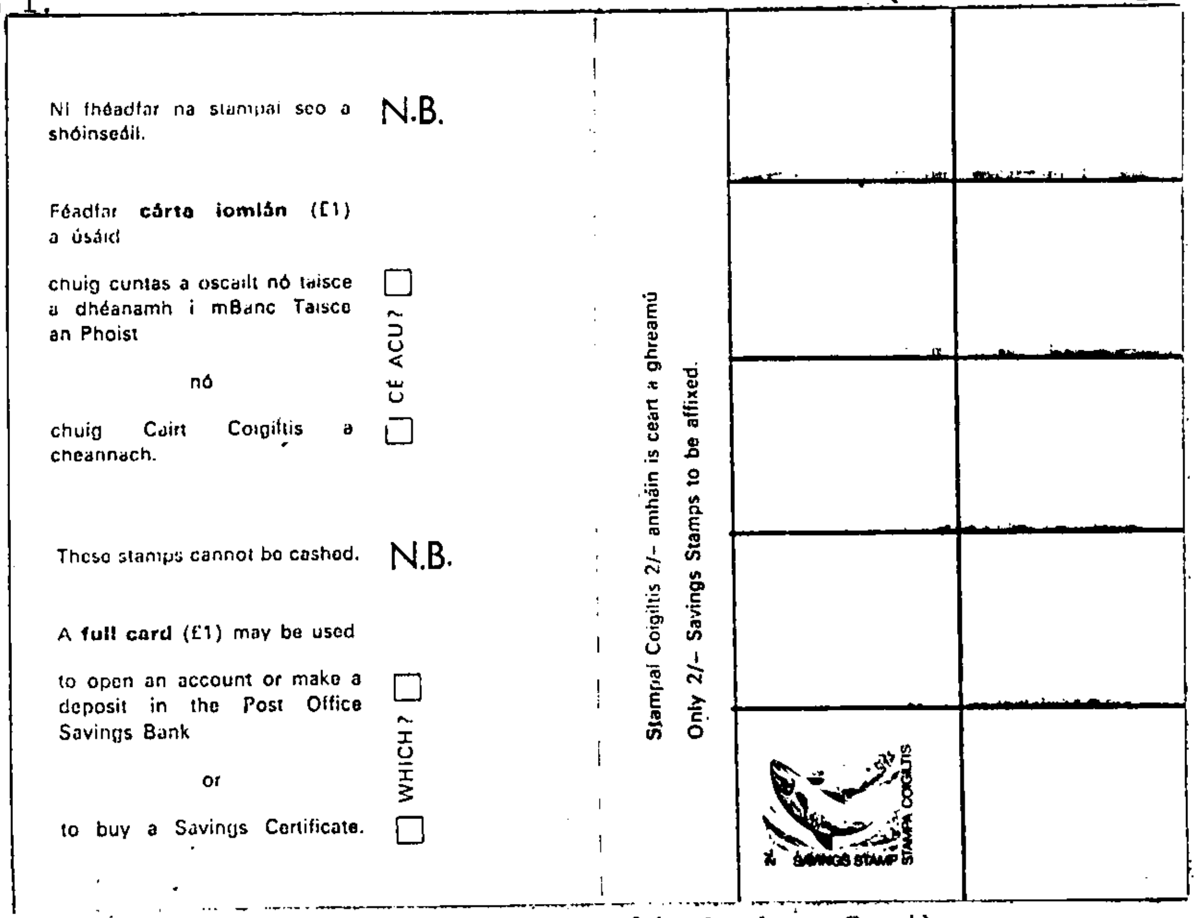
SEOLADH / ADDRESS

DÁT-STAMPA

(Back of Savings Card)

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

Savings Certificates may be purchased at most Post Offices as well as at Banks in the amount of 1, 5, 10 and 25 units at One Pouhd each unit. Special Certificates for 26 units to 2,500 units at the same unit price may be obtained on application to the Savings Certificate Section, G. P. O. Dublin 1.



N.B. Ní fhéadfar na stampaí seo a shóinseáil.

Féadfar **cárta iomlán** (£1) a úsáid

chuig cuntas a oscailt nó taisce a dhéanamh i mBanc Taisce an Phoist

nó

chuig Cairt Coigiltis a cheannach.

CÉ ACU?

N.B. These stamps cannot be cashed.

A **full card** (£1) may be used

to open an account or make a deposit in the Post Office Savings Bank

or

to buy a Savings Certificate.

WHICH?

Stampaí Coigiltis 2/- amháin is ceart a ghreamú

Only 2/- Savings Stamps to be affixed.

(Inside of the 2/- Savings Card)