



JOURNAL OF IRISH PHILATELY

Vol. 1 No.1 — JULY 1972



INCORPORATING "THE REVEALER" AND "IRISH PHILATELY"
ISSUED JOINTLY BY
EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION and IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

EDITORIAL

As I am about to write this, my first Editorial, I feel like the man who has just learned to swim, and is going to take his first dive into the swimming pool — at the deep end. Just imagine all the thoughts that could run through his mind — "Will I hit my head on the bottom of the pool?" or again, "When I do come up will I be able to swim the length of the bath." Similar thoughts are running through my head at this moment. I leave them to your imagination.

There is only one consoling thought. "Never venture, — Never win" and it is with this ringing in my ears that I push onwards.

I would like members to realise that this Journal is not a one man effort, without your support it will surely be a failure. Following in the footsteps of such great men as Judge J.J. Walsh, and W. Meredith is no easy matter. These men have given excellent service to their respective Societies, and I am sure it is in order for me to say "THANK YOU" Gentlemen on behalf of both the E.P.A. and the I.P.C.

The Revealer was first issued in 1951, that is 21 years ago, and Irish Philately started its career under the name of the I.S.G. Journal in March 1960, it later changed its title to the I.P.S.G. Journal, and then finally to Irish Philately, a life span of 12 years. Some great men have acted as Editors for the respective Journals. Now it is my turn to follow in their footsteps — I need all possible help, need I say more.

W. Kane

E.P.A. NOTES

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As President of the Eire Philatelic Association, it gives me great pleasure to greet you in this, the first issue of the "Journal of Irish Philately."

After many months of preparation and a few years of negotiation, it is most gratifying to see the results of the unified efforts of the Irish Philatelic Circle and the E.P.A. in this historic document. With the combined efforts of our two memberships and the capable leadership of the Editor, Bill Kane, the publication is certain to provide much interest in Irish Philately to the members of both societies as well as to the general stamp collecting public.

On behalf of the entire E.P.A. membership I would like to offer our gratitude to Judge John J. Walsh, who has served this society so ably and conscientiously as Editor of the Revealer for the past twelve years. I am certain, that without Judge Walsh at the helm, our publication would have never achieved the success and recognition that it has attained. Recognition should also be given to those, who from the first issue over twenty years ago, have contributed articles, helped with the distribution and accomplished the many tedious tasks required to produce such a fine publication. Our appreciation goes to all!!

A special vote of thanks must be recorded to Vince Linnell, who has crossed the Atlantic Ocean twice in order to finalise all the necessary arrangements relating to the publication of this, our new Journal; without Vince's help this progress would not have been accomplished.

With this issue we look forward to the advent of a new era in the field of Irish Philately and I sincerely wish Editor Kane and his staff great success and our pledge of support in this venture.

Yours sincerely,

E.J. Ryan

I.P.C. NOTES

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity of saying how much I appreciate the honour Irish Philatelic Circle members have conferred on me by electing me as President in this historic year for Irish stamps. I wonder how many members have been collecting for the whole fifty years since February 17th, 1922. Well known collectors of those early days, who are unfortunately no longer with us, included John Agnew, William Dodd, John R. Kerr, and John Dixon.

This first issue of "The Journal of Irish Philately" has come about as a result of a majority vote of both E.P.A. and I.P.C. members, and it has entailed a considerable amount of preparatory work. Our grateful thanks are due to all those concerned, and it is up to members to maintain the standard by contributing articles and any items of interest relating to Irish stamps.

Yours sincerely,

W.G. Meredith

Abingdon
16 Gallwey Avenue
Birchington
Kent

DEFINITIVES

VARIETIES

FOURTH DEFINITIVE SERIES DECIMAL CURRENCY

PÁDRAIG Ó MATHÚNA

15th FEBRUARY 1971.



- K. R15/10 Thirkell. F6. Weak area between leg and frame.
- L. R19/10 Thirkell E2. Vertical white area to right of 2. Clearly visible on lighter printings.
- M. R1/8 Thirkell. D1. Dark spot of colour left of frame.
- N. R3/7 Weak retouch over I of Eire
- P. R3/10 White spot after second E of Eire.
- Q. R8/8 White spot between first E of Eire and nose.
- R. R9/10 Weak spot. Thirkell A.1.
- S. R10/8 Thirkell F.7. White spot in bottom right corner.

1/2p Value. S.G.287 S.290 DF. D51.

- A. R2/2 Weak area in First E of Eire
- B. R4/1 Thirkell. 2C. White diagonal line above 1/2, near ear.
- C. R4/2 Weak area under 1 of 1/2.
- D. R5/4 Thirkell A3. Circular Retouch. Very clear in light printings.
- E. R6/1 Thirkell. A2. Circular Retouch.
- F. R7/6 White spot under 2 of 1/2.
- G. R8/6 White spot at top of divider between 1 and 2 of 1/2.
- H. R9/5 Thirkell. A1. White spot.
- I. R11/9 Thirkell. D3. White spot under neck.
- J. R14/10 Thirkell D1. White spot to left of I.



DEFINITIVES

VARIETIES Continued

1p Value. Cylinder 1
S.G.288 S.291 DF. D52.

- A. R18/1 Thirkell D8. Blue spot between right vertical frame and perfs. 10.5mm down from right top corner.
- B, R19/5 Weak area under first E of Eire and above nostril.
- C. R4/1 Thirkell A5. Pale spot above IR.

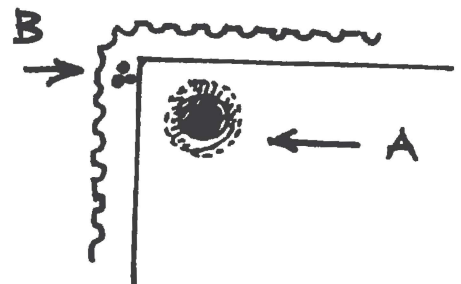
1½p Value. S.G.289. S.292 DF. D53.

- R20/1 Red spot under frame 14.5mm from left corner.



2p Value. S.G.290 S.293 D.F. D54

- A. R12/4 Dark spot retouch on top of 2.
- B. R16/3 Thirkell D.1. Dark linear retouch in weak area above and to left of 2.
- C. R17/1 Thirkell C.1. Dark oval spot to left of ear.
- D. R17/2 Thirkell B.7. Retouched circular weak area at end Eire.
- E. R1/1 Top left corner frame repaired by dark retouch, but angle is not perfect.
- F. R5/1 Thirkell B.2. White spot on top of ear.
- G. R6/2 Centred on Thirkell C—D. 1—2. A large circular retouched area above 2.
- H. R7/3 Thirkell C.1. White spot to left of ear.
- I. R8/2 Thirkell B.1. Dark circular retouch to left of ear tip.



(2½p value.)

DEFINITIVES VARIETIES *Continued*

2½p Value S.G.291 S.294 DF. D55.

- A. R 8/2 Thirkell A1. Large circular Retouch 1mm diameter. Shows most strongly in the lighter printings.
- B. R8/2 Same stamp as above, Midway between left frame and perfs. a Brown spot 1mm below top left corner. Under lens the spot is seen to be made of 3 screen dots.

4p Value. S.G.294 S.297 DF. D58.

- A.R3/7 Thirkell C1. Circular Retouch to left of ear.
- B. R9/9 Thirkell. A7. In top right corner, two white spots.
- C. R17/10 Thirkell. C7/8. On right vertical frameline a projecting spur out to right.
- D.R19/3 Semi-circular Retouch above R upsetting top frameline.
- E. R20/1 Pale semi-circular area above first E of Eire, and another midway to the left.

3½p Value.S.G.293 S.296 DF. D57.

- R20/2 Circular retouch to the left of the first E of Eire.

NOTE ON GUM

From beginning dull matt P.V.A. New shiny gum appeared February/March 1972. Paper surface seems to have a higher finish. Printing is richer and has a sheen, as if lightly varnished.
What is this gum—PVA or GA?



6p Value. S.G.296 S.299 DF. D60.

March 20th—New supply have shiny gum, as on the 4p, with slight sheen on printed surface.

- A. R10/1 Thirkell E.5. Weak spot at tip of leg nearest to 6.
- B. R15/2 Thirkell B.4. White area after cond E of Eire.

DO YOU KNOW ?

THAT—

Michael Phelan of Waterford won the 1972 Melville Award of the Philatelic Congress of G.B. for the second year in succession. His exhibit was "Irish Coils 1922-71". Michael who is aged 20 is at the moment studying for his exams on the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators.

Close behind him in second place was Anthony Finn of Dublin with his entry of "Irish Airmails". Both members were sponsored by the E.P.A. and are to be sincerely congratulated on their success.

THAT—

The "Dobbs Memorial Cup" was won by Mr John Houston with an excellent exhibit of Irish Postal History. The Society Medal for the Best Irish Exhibit following the Cup Winner was awarded to Mr Anthony Finn for his Irish Airmails entry.

The awards were presented at the meeting of the Irish Philatelic Society held at the Clarence Hotel, Dublin, on the 27th April '72.

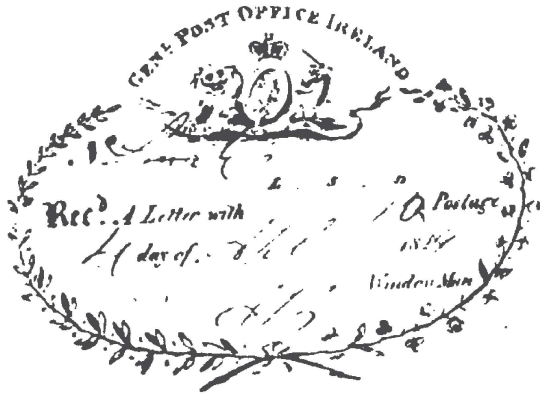
THAT—

At the May 10th, '72 meeting of the Dublin Stamp Society held at the Ormond Hotel, Dublin, the Mortimer Cup was presented to W. Kane for his entry of Irish Mileage Marks. This is the fourth occasion Mr Kane has won this Cup. The Judge for both the "Dobbs" and "Mortimer" Cups was a visitor from London in the person of Mr Roberts who has been a member of the London and Provincial Stamp Clubs for 40 years. Mr Roberts held several offices in his club over these years.

THAT—

The Cork Stamp & Coin Centre, 27 Cook Street, Cork, have published a "SPECIALISED CATALOGUE OF IRISH PHILATELY 1865-1971". The price 50 pence, postage extra.

POSTAL HISTORY



"WINDOW MAN RECEIPT"

Very little information is available relative this section of the Post Office staff, but they will be long remembered by the receipt they issued, which is known as the "Window Man Receipt". This is a well produced steel engraving, which was bound in book form, and when the receipt was torn out the left hand side had a jagged edge.

In my life I have only seen four such receipts. The first one was dated 1826, and the year was printed in its complete form. The size of the receipt was approx 4" x 2½".

The second one had the date 1827. This receipt had the printed date of 1826, but the final figure 6 was changed by a manuscript 7 being superimposed on it. The size of this receipt was also different, it now became more square like in shape, i.e. approx. 3¼ x 3.

The next receipt was dated 1829, having the first three figures of the year printed and the final figure inserted by hand. The fourth and final receipt I have seen was smaller in size approx 3" x 3", and was dated 1830. Here again the first three figures of the year were printed and the final figure in manuscript.

Strange to say all four receipts bore the same initials "A B" indicating the same Windowman was in office over the period 1826—1830.

He was probably Arthur Barker, appointed a clerk in 1819. From 1823—1830 the Superintendent of the "Alphabet and Window" in Dublin was Anthony Lyster. The Dartmouth Papers have details of the system in London in the 1670s:

POSTAL HISTORY

INLAND OFFICE, LONDON

"Three Windowmen—Mr Chapman £50. Mr Brees, £30. Mr Ledsman, £30. These men take in all letters that are brought to the office window, paid and unpaid, which they put into several boxes, belonging to several Roads. The money they receive for the paid letters, they lay down on the counter in view of the rest of the officers which after they have told over they deliver to the Comptroller of the Inland Office, whose name is Thomas Gardiner, £200."

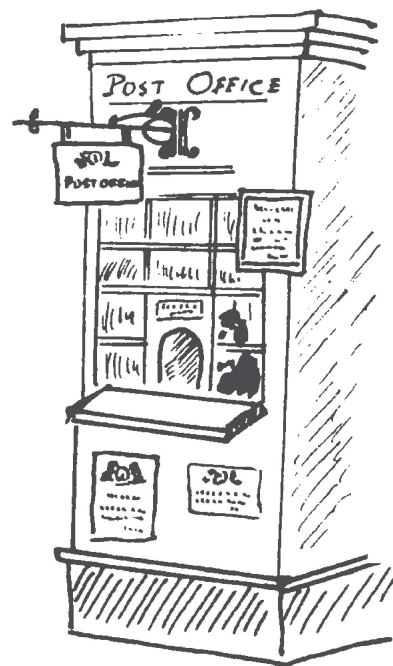
Unquote—It will be noted from the salaries the Windowmen received at that time, they must have been responsible officers, they were just below the rank of Clerk of the Roads. From the same papers I give another extract, with a slight reference to the Windowmen.

"The Comptroller every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning payes the money he received from the Windowmen and the Letter Receivers for the paid letters sent to the Country the night before, into the hands of the Cashier, he also takes the Book, that is when the Letter Carriers bring back the covers of any letters to show him they were overtaxed and that they were forced to rebate for them, he also keeps the Account of the Members, and State Letters coming in."

And again a further extract from the same papers.

Speaking of the Clerks of the Roads:

"These Clerks come into the Office at Six every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday night, as soon as the Windowmen have almost fill'd the boxes appointed for the several Roads, each Clerk has his letters of his Road stamped with the Office Stamp of the day of the month, and then given to him by the Sorters of Letters, which he takes to a part of the Office appointed to him, and taxes them, then puts them into so many bags as there are Post Towns on his Road."



POST OFFICE WINDOW

METER MARKS W. KANE

GUINNESS
is good for you



I write this short article, as a mere introduction to a subject that I think will be of interest to all those collectors who are looking for an Irish theme which will provide scope for study, and be at the same time inexpensive.

Meter marks were first introduced by the business houses in Ireland some time in 1926.

The first machine was the "NEOPOST" model (Prefix "N"). This was followed in 1928 by the "MIDGET" model (Prefix "M"), and in 1934 two new models appeared, one was the "UNIVERSAL" model (Prefix "U"), and the other the "PITNEY BOWES" model (Prefix "H").

All four of these models could be fitted with a slogan, or the Name and Address of the firm using the machine. The slogan could be changed in a matter of minutes, and could be omitted if desired.

Each machine carries a number which identifies the machine. These numbers are consecutive throughout the country, with one early exception, that of the Neopost machine (Prefix "N") which in the beginning was numbered from 1 for each separate town, after a while on the suggestion of the Post Office, this procedure was changed to consecutive numbering regardless of the post town.

"SAORSTAT EIREANN" appeared on the frank in the beginning, this was changed to "EIRE" in 1938.

I depict 14 different types that have appeared in the last three years. I await readers reactions as to their interest in this theme, and if this is forthcoming will endeavour to get a specialist article on this subject in one of the future issues.

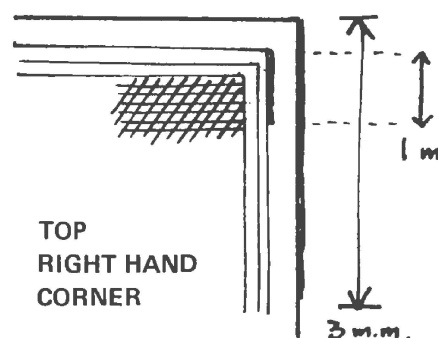
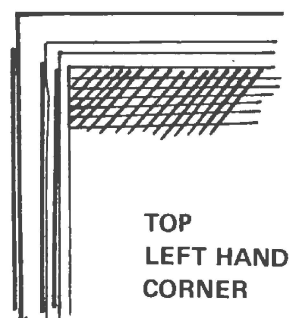


COMMEMORATIVES

BARRY — 1956. 3 penny value.
S.G. 162 Sc. 155. D.F. C49.

Pádraig Ó Mathúna submits this most interesting variety that has not been illustrated before, although mentioned in S.C. 16 Sep. 1956. It is Pane 2B, Row 4, Stamp 7, two stamps below the well-known JOHN entry.

In addition to the left verticals being heavily re-engraved, showing double lines, there is ditto for 3mm on the top R.H. outer lines and again similar for 1mm at the top of the next vertical inwards. The Illustrations are self explanatory.



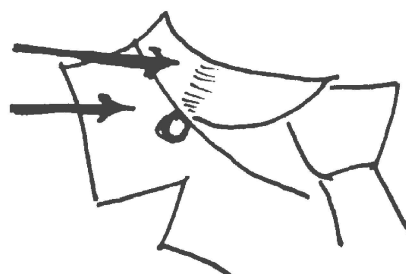
Stamp 7. 8. 9. 10.

R.1				
R.2	OWN			
R.3				
R.4	X			

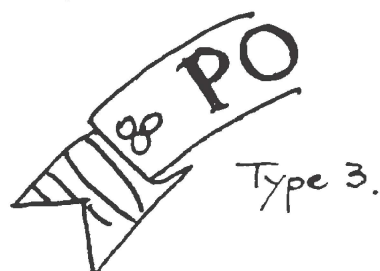
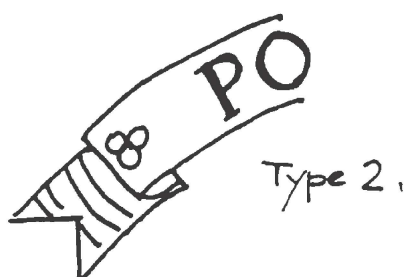
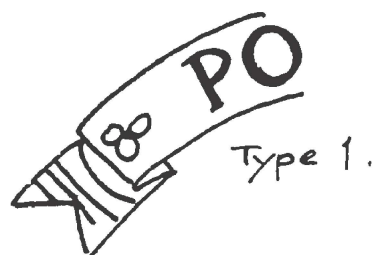
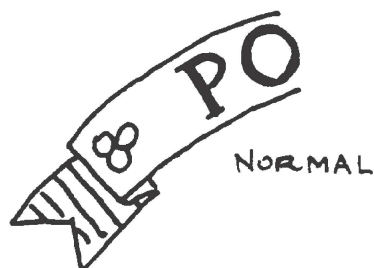
Plate 2B.

THOMAS MacCURTAIN — 2s9p Value
S.G.284 Sc.287 D.F. C153

The variety appears as a white button retouch with "Wrinkle" extending upwards into the shirt collar. Submitted by Pádraig Ó Mathúna.



COMMEMORATIVES



SCROLL ON 5p FENIAN COMMEMORATIVE
S.G.235 Sc.238. D.F. C120

E.P.A. member Clifford F. Westerby sends the above varieties, and suggests it might be interesting for anyone with a complete sheet to try and position same. Please send me your observations.

In the Irish Independent published in Dublin on the 18th April 1972, there appears an item I considered would interest readers of this Journal. The Editor of the Irish Independent has kindly given me permission to reproduce same.

ERRORS MAY ADD VALUE TO NEW STAMPS IF CORRECTED

By a Special Correspondent

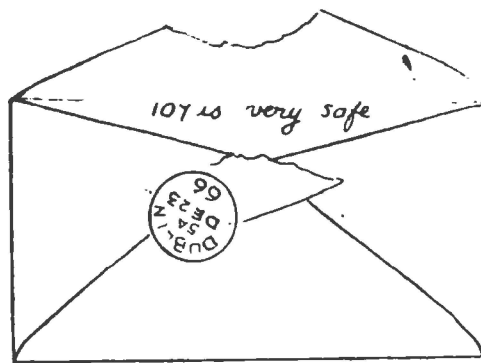
THE NEW Irish postage stamp with the heart symbol has at least two mistakes and, if they are corrected, which is considered unlikely, may be worth much more than the face value.

Most Irish stamps in recent years get by with one mistake — the sine fada (or accent) does not appear over the initial letter of the traditional name of this country—Éire. Instead we are given "Eire" which means "burden."

The second mistake in the latest Irish issue comes in the message: Do chroí do shláinte (your heart your health). Again, a sine fada is missing, this time on the last letter in the word meaning heart.

From time to time the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has excused itself in mis-spelling the name of the country on the grounds that "capital letters are not accented" (look at your coinage, your currency notes and check in Bunreacht na hÉireann) or that "accents take from the general design" (disputed by many artists).

There is some evidence that the authorities are not quite sure as to what the country should be called — burden (P.&T.); Éire (Bunreacht), Republic of Ireland (the Act declaring a republic) or the Irish Republic (which appears on some Irish products). The Government seems to prefer "Ireland"—this appears before Irish delegates at all international conferences; and the Government has decided that, if we enter the E.E.C., "Ireland" will be the legal term.



COVER WITH A STORY

Miss Norah Wright, that wonderful collector who has so many out of the way items in her collection of "Ireland and Her Troubles" recently showed me a cover of great Irish interest. Sometime in the year 1858 an organisation was formed, although it came to be variously designated "Fenianism" "Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood" and also the "Irish Republican Brotherhood" there was no official name, the oath being merely of allegiance to the Irish Republic, but to posterity it shall be known as Fenianism.

In the year 1866 the Fenian movement was flourishing in Ireland, and Cork was one of the most active centres. The Government, in order to keep themselves informed of all that was going on developed a means of so doing by a system of spies.

Now in order to defeat this system, names of the leaders were rarely mentioned, reference being by a number. Hence the endorsement on the inside flap of the envelope illustrated above, sent by someone in Cork on the 22nd December 1866 to a lady in Dublin, who strange to say was the Sister of an Attorney. The message being "107 is very safe". The interpretation of the words "very safe" implies that the man referred to was trustworthy.

Three months after this letter was written, in March 1867, the attempted Fenian insurrection took place in Ireland. It did not succeed for two reasons, not only were the Government on the alert, but heavy snow fell for many days and nights, a rare thing for the South of Ireland. The military forces were under the command of General Sir Alfred Horsford.

OVERPRINTS



1922/3 THOM Three Line Overprint. S.G. 53a Sc. 45c D.F. T48d.

"ACCENT AND FINAL T MISSING"

The above illustration is that of a certified FÖRGERY.

It would be most interesting to know how many such copies exist. Will be pleased to hear from anyone who has a similar stamp. Please write me.

W. Kane, 7 O'Connell Gardens, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland.

LUCKY FIND

E.P.A. member Mr John Smallman, who lives in a small village north of Toronto in Canada, was remounting some Irish stamps he got from his late Father. When he was working on the Thom Three line overprints, looking to see if there were any varieties among them, to his great surprise he found the 1/- value without an accent. This he has now had certified as genuine. This was indeed a most lucky find. Congratulations.

RANDOM NOTES — F.E. DIXON

In the 1950s I began to send carbon copies of my philatelic correspondence to Prof. Renouf, T.E. Field and a few others. This led to what was jocularly entitled "Dixon's Irish Philatelic News". Tom Field arranged for duplicating enough copies for members of the Irish Study Group, and later for the Irish Philatelic Circle. In 1963 I began to cut the stencils and duplicate the notes myself, and in 1967 began supplying to E.P.A. as well as I.P.C. Eventually 700 copies were being run off of each issue!

One major defect was that my notes often repeated information which editors accepted from elsewhere. Such repetition will be eliminated in this new regime, but I hope to continue with useful reports and comments.

AUCTION PRICES At the Robson Lowe sale on 16 May Irish revenue stamps sold mostly near valuation, but Irish Railway stamps averaged about twice the valuation.

Back issues of some "Random Notes" are available at 1p each plus postage. Apply to F.E. Dixon, 15 Terenure Road (E), Dublin 6.

DUPLICATES. Exchange Packet and Auction organisers urge us to dispose of duplicate material. My advice is "Don't!" until you are absolutely sure they are all duplicates. Recently I was reading the draft of Mr Schonfield's next study, on the cypher labels used to tie embossed revenue stamps to documents. I took out an envelopeful of my surplus, and looked at them more carefully than hitherto, with the result that I found a remarkable and (I think) unrecorded variety. It is label 570 of the GR3 issues and the variety is that the letter to right of the crown is clearly P instead of R.



"Normal"



"Error"