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ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION and IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

EDITORIAL

We have now reached the final number of Volume 1, how quickly that year has passed away. For Irish Philately it was a good year, much has happened to increase the interest of all interested in our hobby. Towards the end of the year we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Irish Stamps (see report of "Stampa '72" on page 61) and we have been most fortunate in that many fine publications on various aspects of Irish Philately were published during the past year. Literature is the life blood of the hobby, I cannot emphasise too strongly the importance of a Philatelic Library.

Just before going to press I received the following data, too late to include in the reviews on pages 58 and 59, so I mention them now.

BRITISH STAMPS OVERPRINTED BY THE REPUBLICAN PHILATELIC OFFICE

The American Philatelic Society has recently published a booklet by J. E. Foley on the recent illustrations of notices of the I.R.P.O. and the British Post Office, newspaper accounts and the stamps themselves. The booklet is available from the American Philatelic Society, Box 800, State College, Pa. 16801, for one dollar twenty-five cents, postpaid.

NEW IRISH REVENUE CATALOGUE

James J. Brady of Newark, N.J. has completed the draft of a listing of the Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Ireland, 1858 to 1925. This catalogue is the culmination of considerable research by Mr. Brady, and contains much information heretofore unrecorded. Over 600 stamps are listed, plus many varieties. The work is well illustrated with over 85 photographs of revenue stamps and overprints. The catalogue will initially be published in the American Philatelist in the near future. However, the Éire Philatelic Association has made arrangements with the A.P.S. to reprint the catalogue in booklet form. The booklet will be available after publication in the American Philatelist, the date will be announced in the Journal of Irish Philately. The text has been reviewed and contributions made by F. E. Dixon, Dr. S. B. Frank, J. Schonfeld, J. E. Foley, W. Hickey, and the late John Sherman. Jim Brady plans a sequel to the catalogue covering the period 1925 to the present, and also to include Northern Ireland. Any members having information concerning revenue stamps in these latter groups are urged to contact Mr. Brady at 55 Lockwood Street, Newark, N.J. 07105, U.S.A.

I.P.C. — A.G.M. — Liverpool, 12th & 13th May, 1973

Am looking forward to meeting many old friends at this meeting, since it is an excellent venue, I sincerely trust there will be a good attendance, also there is much to discuss.

W. KANE.

E.P.A. NOTES

APPOINTMENTS

Michael Lenane, 632 Larchlea, Birmingham, Mich. 48009, U.S.A., has been appointed to fill the newly-created position of 2nd Vice-President. Mike's former position as Director of Mid-West U.S. and Canada has been filled by Eugene Labiuk, 100 Alexander Street, Apt. 810, Toronto, 284, Ontario, Canada and Thomas McLaughlan, 15495 Lahser, Detroit, Mich. 48223, U.S.A. has been appointed as Alternate Director of that territory replacing John Cooper who asked to be relieved of that position.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a welcome to the following new members:

943 George K Lechliter	950 K. V. Staley	937 K. L. Roberts
944 Mrs. F. A. Vaupotic	951 J. Paterson	938 T. D. Rowan
945 Seamus Kearns	952 W. A. Moore	939 Felix da Costa Ilha
946 A. Langenbach	953 A. S. Chamberlain	940 James Walsh
947 S. J. Klinecicz	934 M. B. O'Brien	941 A. A. McDonnell
948 Dr. Dulin	935 Stefan Klinecicz	942 W. T. Armstrong
949 D. Hennessey	936 F. Komers	

(Addresses will be published in next issue)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

809 G. E. Wright, 2219 Kensington Ave., Youngstown, Ohio 44505.
Dr. Groskreutz, 2421 Krummsee, Bruhnskoppelerweg, W. Germany.
Tage Kindstrum, Soldatvagen, 14. s 186 00 Vallentuna, Sweden.
Revd. W. E. Davey, The Vicarage, Bayton, Kidderminster, Worcs., DY14 9LP, U.K.
W. Salzmann, Ulmenstrasse 12 (Block B/WHG 4) D 43 Essen 1, West Germany.

REINSTATED

477 A. R. Gillespie, 2725 Grindley Park, Dearborn, Mich. 48124.

RESIGNED

726 Major Thomas E. O'Donovan, Jr.

AUCTIONS

Bruce Weinman, P.O. Box 274, Cedar Grove, New Jersey, 07009, U.S.A. is now the new Auction Manager replacing James Brady. Our congratulations go to Jim for a job well done in the past and best wishes to Bruce in this most difficult of assignments.

Meetings

A regional meeting will be held at Toronto '73 June 8-10, at the Four Seasons-Sheraton Hotel, Toronto, Canada. Chairing this event will be Eugene Labiuk and those interested in further information should contact him at 100 Alexander St., Apt. 810, Toronto, 284, Ontario, Canada. The meeting will be held on June 9th at 4.00 p.m.

A regional meeting in the Baltimore area will be held in June 1973 with the Chairman, Jamie Gough, 10 Arlie Drive, Pendennis Mt., Annapolis, Md., planning to notify all members in the vicinity regarding same by direct mail. At this time, exact details as to date, time and facilities are not available. Any member desiring further information should contact Jamie at the above address. Since this is one of the major shows on the east coast of the U.S., it is hoped that all will support the event in whatever way possible.

Donations

As of this date, through the efforts of Jim Etherton, more than 3,000 Irish stamps, donated by our members, have been distributed to various Veterans' Hospitals with the compliments of the E.P.A. Once again, those with any duplicates that can be spared should send same along to Jim at 222 No. Madison, Grand Island, Nebraska, 68801, U.S.A. Donations are not limited to North America, of course, and Jim would welcome any suggestions from any collector as to possible recipients anywhere throughout the world. Certainly, a most worthy project, due to the sincere efforts of Jim Etherton.

E. J. RYAN.

I.P.C. NOTES

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

We extend a welcome to the following who have recently joined the Circle.

- D. M. Cassidy, 17, Windwill Hill Lane, Derby.
- K. F. Corry, Barkhall, Port Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
- H. M. Findlater, The Glebe Cottage, Bucklebury, Reading, Berks.
- O. Hatling, P.O. Box 2038, 7001 Trondheim, Norway.
- Miss W. H. O'Connor, 111, Peregrine House, Hall Street, London EC1 V7PR.
- I. P. Smith, 8, Nicholas Gardens, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey.
- B. B. Thomson, 16c, Colquhoun Street, Stirling FK7 7PX.
- A. Wright, 1, Longmead, Fleet, Hampshire.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

R. D. Anderson has moved to The Mill House, Kington, Flyford Flavell, Worcestershire.
Dr. D. O'Connell is now at Fulham Hospital, St. Dunstan's Road, London W6.
Major T. C. Thornton is now at RCT MP10, H.Q. U.N. Forces in Cyprus, B.F.P.O. 567.
R. H. Wright has moved to Copsewood, Hoe, Dereham, Norfolk.

RESIGNED

H. Milner of Cornwall.

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Arrangements have now been completed for an Irish Study Circle to be held during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain which takes place in London between 1st - 3rd of May, 1973. The Irish Study Circle is to be held at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, W.C.1 at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday, 3rd. Mr. H. G. L. Fletcher has agreed to lead the Circle and it is hoped that London Area members will attend in force as well as a number of the delegates to Congress.

I. P. C. MEETING IN LONDON

Some 16 members attended a meeting at the Reform Club on 13th January under the Chairmanship of our President, Mr. W. G. Meredith. The subject of the meeting was Postal History and many interesting items of this branch of philately were displayed during the course of the afternoon. One item, however, was shown to those present which does not fall into the postal history class but nonetheless merits a mention and this was the double and inverted overprint on a pair of 10/- stamps (SG 85) together with a photograph of the original sheet from whence it came.

The meeting closed with a mini-auction which proved to be very popular.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

Members in the London Area should note a change of date for the May meeting which was scheduled for 12th. The meeting has now been re-arranged for the 19th so as not to clash with the I.P.C. Annual General Meeting which is to be held at the St. George's Hotel, Lime Street, Liverpool during the weekend of 12th - 13th May.

EXCHANGE

Our new member, Olav Hatling of P.O. Box 2038, 7001 Trondheim, Norway, would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to exchange Irish stamps for Norwegian.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE — 1973

Mr. O. M. Richards, Area Secretary has made arrangements to hold the A.G.M. for 1973 within the St. George's Hotel, St. John's Precinct, Lime Street, Liverpool during the weekend 12th/13th May, 1973. A booking has been made with the management for the Huskisson Suite, which seats about thirty, we hope we will have to ask for more chairs. For those who wish to stay in Liverpool, Michael will be pleased to advise re accommodation, rates, etc. — drop him a line to his home address (please see back page). As Liverpool is an easy point for all to get to, please make this meeting a must, there will be plenty of discussion, and with the arrangements in the hands of Michael Richards and Michael Leonard it will be first class.

E.P.A. NOTES

NEW MEMBERSHIP

- No. 891 Arthur Wohlfrom, 219 Muskingum Drive, Gahanna, Ohio, 43230.
- " 892 John J. McGuire, 4 Jay Drive, New Monmouth, N.J. 07748.
- " 893 Emmett G. Marsh, 2049 Brown Road, Cleveland, Ohio, 44107.
- " 894 Francis H. Daft, 7685 Frontera Ave., Yucca Valley, California, 92284.
- " 895 Martin L. Mac Cracken, P.O. Box 11164, Philadelphia, Pa., 19136.
- " 896 Mrs. Leota M. Robleske, 1036, Beech Street, Wyoming, Mich., 49509.
- " 897 William J. O'Toole, 3026 Santa Monica Drive, Decatur, Georgia, 30032.
- " 898 John J. Murray, Box 31346, Temple Hills, Md., 20031.
- " 899 Robert W. Emerson, 825 E. Broadway, South Boston, Mass., 02127.
- " 900 Arthur Dove, 4439 N. Chesnut, Fresno, California, 93726.
- " 901 J. M. Melson, 610 Lee Street, Hampton, Va., 23369.
- " 902 Michael McHugh, 311 Winthrop Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11225.
- " 903 F. Bonnie Ryan, 115 S. Hancock Street, Apt. 3, Madison, Wisc., 53703.
- " 904 Theodore T. Foley, II, P.O. Box 7032, San Antonio, Texas, 78207.
- " 905 Dr. Ralph E. Green, 914 Magnolia Lane, Orrville, Ohio.
- " 906 Alfred Moore, P.O. Box 21, Newton, N.J., 07860.
- " 907 Mrs. Jean Talman, 74 O'Hara Ave., Toronto 3, Ontario, Canada.
- " 908 Thomas P. McCabe, 90 Gold Street, Apt. 11K, New York, N.Y. 10038.
- " 909 William H. Purnell, P.O. Box 1443, Coral Gables, Florida, 33134.
- " 910 Kenneth G. Spalding, 1209 E. Wadwick St., Carson, California, 90746.
- " 911 Mrs. Charles J. Casper, 5221 Southridge Ave., Los Angeles, California, 90043.
- " 912 Miss Lenore McLaughlin, 3910 W. 2nd Street, Los Angeles, California, 90004.
- " 913 John J. Bonang, Jr., 11620 A. Freeman Ave., Hawthorne, California, 90250.

REINSTATED

- No. 547 Mrs. Maura D. Drechsler, 11670 Picturesque Dr., Studio City, California, 91604.
- " 801 Edward A. Tucker, 100 McCann Road, Sycamore Gds., Newark, Delaware, 19711.
- " 459 T. G. Cuniffree, 1107, Fifth Ave., East Northport, N.Y. 11731.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- Jack Flanagan, 4250 Kenneth Road, Stow, Ohio, 44224.
- Patrick Duffy, 5316, Dorchester — 327, Chicago, Ill., 60637.
- D. J. Voorhees, 3005 King Street, Enwell, New York, 13760.
- Richard A. Sullivan, 11303, N. Highway 99, Space 33, Lodi, California, 95240.
- John L. McManus, 1 Stuyvesant Oval, New York, N.Y. 10009.
- Denis J. Behen, 70 Santa Margarita, San Leandro, California, 94579.
- Eugene M. Labiuk, 100 Alexander St., Apt. 810, Toronto 284, Ontario, Canada.
- William P. Timoney, 12625 S.W. Colony Lane, Beaverton, Oregon, 97005.
- Daniel I. Murphy, 173 Woodstock Road, Villanova, Pa., 19085.
- Dr. L. F. Barrington, 434 W. Deer Park Road, Gaithersburg, Md., 20760.
- Patrick Duffy, 3639 S.W. 50th, Portland, Oregon, 97221.
- Henry O. Nouss, P.O. Box 2754, Pomano Beach, Florida, 33062.
- Dr. D. L. Palmer, 3401 E. Clark, Wichita, Kansas, 67218.
- Paul Aaron, 1345 Pennsylvania Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida, 33139.
- David Minars, 24 Steers Street, Staten Island, N.Y. 10314.
- William J. O'Connor, 3706 Hackett Street, Long Beach, California, 90808.
- Rev. Garner Scott Odell, 182 Alvarado Road, Berkley, California, 94705.
- Ralph A. Weil, 5907 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45216.
- Jim Wilson, P.O. Box 520, E. St. Louis, Illinois, 62202.
- Patrick H. Murphy, P.O. Box 2324, Boulder, Colorado, 80302.

CINDERELLA Continued

IRISH ERINNOPHILIA by Bill Mathews — with help from F. E. Dixon

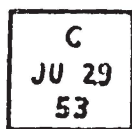
T.B. Rehabilitation

Issued by the Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Tuberculosis, later incorporated as the Rehabilitation Institute Ltd.

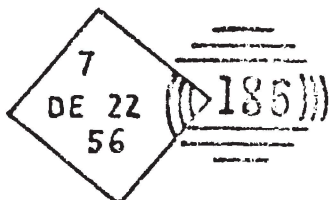
- 1954** Five types in sheets; all have "T.B. Rehabilitation Ireland 1954" in tiny blue letters at bottom; all are V.F. 23 x 28 mm. Roul. 9½. 1,500,000 printed — 300,000 sold.
- 1a Nativity scene on blue disc; "Christmas Greetings" and double barred cross, multi-coloured with red background.
 - 1b Large red D — b cross and "Nodlaigh 1954" on green leaf, all on yellow background.
 - 1c The three wise men, one on a camel, "Season's Greetings" and star in sky, multi-coloured.
 - 1d As 'B' but white leaf and green background.
 - 1e Angel and shepherds; D—b cross and "Christmas Greetings" in sky multi-coloured.
 - 1x Sheet 10 x 6, arranged aa bb cc dd ee in each row.
 - 1p Proof as 1x but on unsurfaced paper.
 - 1pcp a. Red. b. Yellow. c. Red and Yellow. d. Green. e. Red, Yellow and Blue. f. Blue. g. Red, Yellow, Green and Blue. All Roul. as above.
- 1955** Eight designs all multi-coloured, V.F. 23 x 28 mm. 3,000,000 printed. 1,000,000 sold.
- Set No. 1. Designs as 1a, b, c, and d, with date omitted from text as bottom. Roul. 9½.
- 2a Design as 1a, lighter colours.
 - 2b Design as 1b, but date on leaf changed to 1955.
 - 2c Design as 1c.
 - 2d Design as 1d, but date on leaf changed to 1955.
- SET No. 2. Roul. 6¾.
- 2e Choir boy and large D—b cross, "Merry Christmas" at bottom. Ireland on boy's surplice, green background.
 - 2f Candle and D—b cross on crossed evergreen boughs, "Happy Christmas" at top, "Ireland" at bottom, purple background.
 - 2g Shamrock, D—b cross, "Happy Christmas" with "Ireland" in lower left with red background.
 - 2h Church on snow clad hill, "Merry Christmas" in sky, Ireland and D—b cross in snow, blue background.
 - 2x Sheet of two panes each 8 x 6, upper pane had efghefgh in each row, and lower pane had aabbccdd in each row.
 - 2pcp a. Yellow; b. Red; c. Yellow and Red; d. Green; e. Yellow, Red and Green; f. Blue; g. Yellow, Red, Green and Blue; All Roul. 7 sets of 8 (sets 1 and 2).
- 1956** Six designs, all H.F. 30 x 22mm. Roul 4½. All with D—b cross and "Ireland". All multi-coloured.
- 3a Shepherd, sheep and star, "Christmas Greetings" with blue background.
 - 3b Head of Father Christmas on black ground with "Merry Christmas".
 - 3c "Happy Christmas" on red tree ornament, brown (red on blue) and yellow background.
 - 3d Green Christmas tree on red, yellow and blue background with "Merry Christmas".
 - 3e Shamrock on yellow ground, "Christmas Greetings" at bottom.
 - 3f Three snowflakes on blue ground with "Happy Christmas" at bottom.
 - 3x Sheets of 8 x 6, odd rows abc, even rows def def.
 - 3pcp (I) a. Yellow; b. Red; c. Yellow and Red; d. Blue; e. Yellow, Red and Blue; f. Black; g. Yellow, Red, Blue and Black; All imperf.
 - 3pcp (II) as pc. (I) a. - g. But all Roul.

POSTAL HISTORY

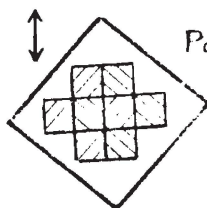
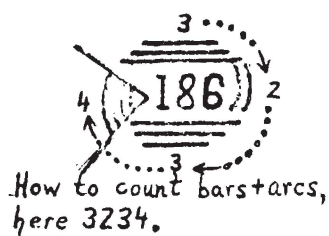
DUBLIN DIAMOND SPOONS by Hans G. Moxter



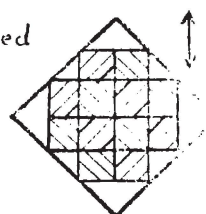
Early combined London
Cancellation Device of 1853



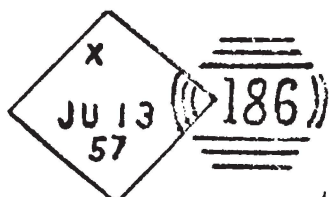
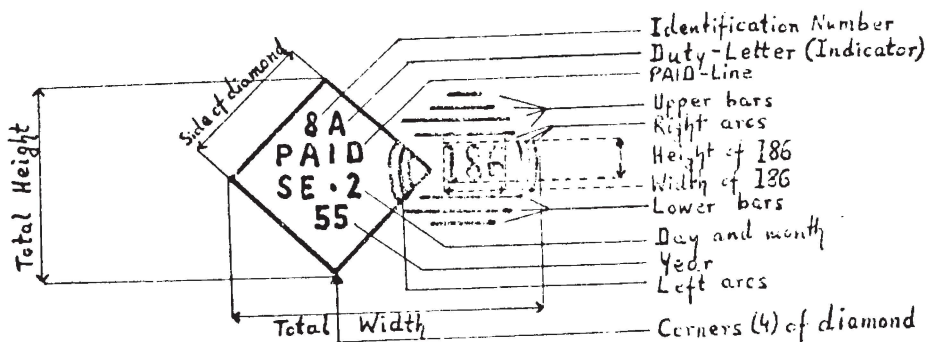
Dublin Diamond Spoons
without and with PAID-Line



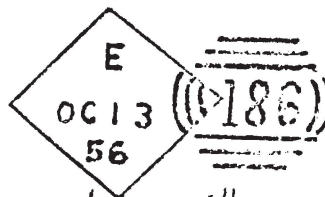
2+4+2



2+4+4+2



Device X with removed
PAID-Line.



This device with removed PAID-Line has a
missing identification number—either I or X—
and shows indicator E.



Device I with rare indicator C.

POSTAL HISTORY

THE DUBLIN DIAMOND SPOON CANCELLATIONS OF 1855 to 1857

by Hans G. Moxter

Almost 120 years ago the London Inland Office of the British Postal Administration started using a double-device for the cancellation of postage stamps on letters on which a late fee had been paid. (see illustrations.) Two years later the Dublin Post Office received in 1855 a series of double-devices designed in a way (see illustrations) that seems to have been influenced by the earlier London post-mark. With the beginning of the year 1854 the so-called spoon cancellation had been introduced in some offices in England, Hull being the earliest known user with a first date of January 2nd, 1854. A good deal of research has been done by philatelists during the years in connection with the spoon cancellations used in the United Kingdom and the results have been published for the benefit of all collectors (see bibliography). We find however, that the Dublin Diamond Spoon Cancellations are more or less neglected in these studies and the present article is aimed at overcoming this deficiency.

In order to obtain a sufficient supply of data for evaluation I approached a number of collectors and dealers in five countries and asked them to fill questionnaires. From 75% of the approached parties I received an enthusiastic co-operation. This enabled me to evaluate 323 items and to reach the figures mentioned in the enclosed data sheet.

General Data

The Dublin Diamond Spoons are units consisting of two components: the date-portion on the left and the obliterator-portion on the right. The overall measurements of the devices vary between 27,0 and 28,0 mms for height and 43,0 to 45,5 mms for the width. For the diamond on the left the sides measure between 19,0 and 21,0 mms with the inner angles at theoretically 90 degrees each and actually slightly varying but compensating the variations by adjustment of the neighbouring angles. The four corners of the diamond are normally rectangular, but — probably due to wear — sometimes more or less rounded. On the right side we find the obliterator-portion with always the number allotted to Dublin in the Irish postal system i.e. 186. The height of 186 varies between 5,5 and 7,0 mms and the width between 8,5 and 12,0 mms. The 186 is always framed by bars on top and below and by arcs on both sides, with the arcs on the left being placed inside the diamond's right corner. These bars and arcs will help in distinguishing the different types of Dublin Diamond Spoons (see also illustrations).

The Use

This series of cancelling devices was used only at the Dublin main post office. Cancellations on 173 letters have shown the following distribution of destinations for the investigated letters:

Dublin local mail	19 letters	(11%)
Mail to the Irish Province	108 "	(62%)
Mail to the U.K.	32 "	(19%)
Mail to Foreign Countries	14 "	(8%)

This key of distribution does not lead to any definite conclusions, but it may perhaps serve as a basic contribution for further separate studies as to the different destinations of mail leaving Dublin in that period. Among the letters to foreign countries some were addressed to military personnel serving in the Crimea.

The earliest use so far recorded for this group of cancellation is June 3rd, 1855 and the latest use so far registered is October 20th, 1857. During the early months of use up till August 1855 we find almost all impressions in green ink, but this demonstration of Irishness was later on eliminated in favour of a more or less grey-black inking. Rarely cancellations have shown up in blue ink.

POSTAL HISTORY **Continued**

Distinction of Types

In order to answer the question "What types of Dublin Diamond Spoons exist and how can they be identified?" I have tried first to classify all noticeable peculiarities of the examined items into two groups :

(a) Recurring definite characteristics and (b) mere eventualities.

The latter easily misguide the observer and have to be sorted out. In this category I found e.g. shifted letters, omissions, switches or inversions of letters, casual use of punctuation, damages to interchangeable parts of the device and bad inking. All these may cause appearances of no value to the definite identification of types. Here are a few examples. Shifts occur frequently with identification number and indicator letter. The positions of month and day are often switched, especially during the early months of use. Omissions give us impressions that make us believe we found some type without identification number. Casual punctuation gives no lead, switches and inversions do not help us and bad inking results in the supposed discovery of new letters e.g. a small c originating from the lower part of an E or an F — as illustrated on page 401 of the Kohl Handbuch — which probably resulted from a broken E.

The recurring definite characteristics in the Dublin Diamond Spoons are mainly the following:

1. The positions occupied within the diamond i.e. the three or four lines of interchangeable text, explained in detail later on;
2. The arrangement of bars and arcs, and
3. The size of the 186.

For the arrangement of figures and letters within the frame of the diamond two different modes existed; the first one with three lines having 2 + 4 + 2 positions and the second one with four lines and 2 + 4 + 4 + 2 positions. In the first case we find the indications for month and year exactly on the line which we can draw between the right and left corners of the diamond. The second arrangement on the contrary shows month and day below that imaginary line. With the help of the illustrations you will easily understand how this works. We shall later see that this distinction is quite helpful for sorting out the different types.

The upper position in the diamond gives the number of the device, sometimes more to the left, sometimes more to the right side. Where the identification number is missing we only face an omission, not a different type. As you can see in the data sheet, devices with three lines of text in the diamond exist with numbers from 1 to 8 and such with four lines show numbers 1, 2, 3, 7, or 8 when they have the PAID-line or numbers 1, 8 or X when the PAID-line has been removed.

The duty-letter or indicator sometimes shows up aside the identification number. Of 323 items 55 (or 17%) did have an indicator. When observing similar indicators in the Irish Provincial Spoons we find the following letters: A, B, C, D, E, M, Mg, Eg, EgX. Obviously the Mg stood for Morning and the Eg for Evening indicating the device had been used during that particular part of the day to cancel the mail. When in Dublin the indicators at first showed only 40 E and 12 A indicators — later also revealing one C and two D's — temptation was great to interpret these two common letters with Evening and Afternoon. On the other hand this would say that 83% of all mail had been cancelled before noon, which seems most unlikely. It must also be mentioned here that the use of these indicator letters stretches out over the whole period through which Dublin Diamond Spoons were used. So the theory of a marking of the shift of duty by the indicator letters seems to have collapsed and I only can offer a few figures showing what letters were used and in what approximate percentage. There still remains some hope that some day someone will turn up with an explanation out of archives that by some strange coincidence perhaps have evaded the great destruction at the G.P.O. in 1916. A very faint hope indeed.

The PAID-line and the removed PAID-line make up half of all 16 types mentioned in the data sheet. Out of 323 inspected items I found 69 (or 21.3%) belonging to this category. These 69 split up into 27 (or 8.3%) with PAID-line and 42 (or 13.0%) with removed PAID-line, leaving 254 (or 78.7%) in the 2 + 4 + 2 group.

POSTAL HISTORY Continued

Observation of the dates of use and their evaluation has revealed interesting facts. Here are the known dates of earliest and latest use for the different groups of types.

	Earliest date	Latest date
1. 2 + 4 + 2 (three-lines devices)	JU 3 55	OC 20 57
2. 2 + 4 + 4 + 2 (four-lines devices)		
(a) with PAID-line	AU 11 55	DE 10 55
(b) PAID-line removed	JA 4 56	SE 22 57

From this comparison we learn that obviously both groups of different types have been used simultaneously during the whole period from summer 1855 till autumn 1857. But it also becomes clear that we do not seem to be the only ones who have asked for what the word PAID had been included in the date-portion of this type of device. In December 1855 there was still use of devices with PAID-line and in January 1856 the same appear with the word PAID removed remaining in use as long as the other normal (2 + 4 + 2) types, but never seems to appear another cancellation with a PAID-line, which perhaps gives a hint as to some instruction eliminating the unnecessary word PAID by the end of the year 1855.

For the study of British and Irish numerical cancellations and their permutations the old game of counting bars and arcs in a clockwise fashion has always been helpful and it works here too. Not all impressions are legible enough to permit exact counting. The quantity of material inspected has however permitted to establish the correct figure for each type as it is given in the data sheet. Should variations appear they are probably caused by insufficient or too heavy inking, or also by uneven application of pressure in the moment of cancelling.

The size of the 186 is another helpful factor for establishing the different types. The measurements given in the data sheet are mere averages and a tolerance of one millimetre should be allowed in both directions, due to the variations caused by heavy or light application of the device.

Conclusion

I can say that this study was intended to find a systematic way for an easy description of the Dublin Diamond Spoons. Through methodic investigation of 323 different impressions (182 on covers and 141 on pieces) the aim has been reached and the above mentioned facts came to light. Unresolved remains the question why some devices during their early use showed the word PAID for which there seems to have existed no need. Not quite clear is also whether the indicator letters were inserted to fulfil some special purpose. Maybe at a later date we will also find an answer to those questions.

This investigation would have been impossible without the help of Messrs. R. C. Alcock Ltd., Cheltenham, England; Mr. Karl Boos, Bad Ragaz, Switzerland; Dr. E. R. Clark, Wolverhampton, England; Mr. F. E. Dixon, Dublin, Eire; Mr. J. Foley, Livingston, N.J., U.S.A.; Mr. W. B. Gledhill, Wymondham, England; Mr. W. Kane, Dublin, Eire; Messrs. Robson Lowe Ltd., London, England; Mr. B. S. Wallas, Seaford, England and a friend who wishes to remain anonymous.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- R. C. Alcock and F. C. Holland, *British Postmarks* (1960).
- G. Brumell, *Post Office Numbers* (1946).
- F. E. Dixon, *The Revealer*, Supplement 31 (1967).
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LITERATURE

HIBERNIAN SPECIALISED CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND 1922-72

Obtainable from the Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd., 11 Harrington Street, Dublin 8, Ireland.
Price £2.50 plus P.P. 15p Inland (Abroad 25p.).

The specialised Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland, compiled and edited by Mr. Don Buchalter, LL.B., made its appearance on the opening day of the recent Irish National "Stampa '72". It is a first rate production.

Due acknowledgments for help received is given to Mr. David Feldman, whose "Handbook of Irish Philately" of 1968 won some international awards, but I think the "Specialised" outshines the "Handbook". Apart from being completely up to date to the end of 1972, there is much material which hitherto has not been presented in one volume — if, indeed published at all. The quotation on page 11, from a letter sent by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Dublin, to Mr. Buchalter stating that nearly all the "Castle" high value overprints were, in fact, printed at Somerset House, London, has shaken many Irish philatelists.

The errors and varieties of all Irish issues are given in great detail with many descriptive illustrations. The overall illustrations in the appropriate sections are profuse and excellent, including the "Postage Due" varieties on page 95.

Slogan postmarks from 1922 to 1972 (which have been listed for the first time since Mr. F. E. Dixon's Handbook and Supplement) have been given in Mr. Buchalter's book, complete with illustrations. An interesting little point in this section caught my eye, illustrating the "reformed" spelling of the Irish language introduced by the Education authorities; on page 127, SP 54 "LABAIR GAEDILGE" becomes in SP 57 "LABAIR GAELIGE".

Other sections worth mentioning are "Special Handstamp Cancellations", Maximum Cards, and Northern Ireland regional issues, all again well illustrated, as is also the section on Aerophilately. Perhaps it should be mentioned that the recent Northern Ireland issues overprinted by the Provisional I.R.A. for propaganda purposes, are included in the "Political and Propaganda Label" section. Many of these are known to have passed through the post from England and Northern Ireland, cancelled in the ordinary way without surcharge.

I think Mr. Buchalter and all others concerned, including the printers, deserve our warmest thanks and congratulations on their excellent achievement, and in conclusion I should like to add a personal note of congratulation on this catalogue having been the first which I have seen to give the correct perforations of the "Animal" pre-decimal coils, viz. 14 x 14½.

A. L. STOKES

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

— A Summarised Catalogue to 1840

by R. M. Willcocks

Obtainable from Vale Stamps, 21 Tranquil Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 OBU.

Postal historians have anxiously awaited the day of publication of this catalogue. For those fortunate enough to own a copy of the 1952 "Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia" Part I, and have valued their material in accordance with the prices given by R. L. in 1952, will be most pleased at the prices quoted by Martin Willcocks.

While England, Wales, and Scotland are given good coverage, Ireland remains as R. L. Part I. To quote from the heading to the Irish Section of the catalogue.

"It is regretted that it has proved impossible to include the complete rewriting of Ireland that is badly needed. Therefore the existing list from the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia is reprinted with price revision by R. M. Willcocks and a few by F. E. Dixon. It is intended that a complete revision will be in the next edition. Pricing is very difficult, as few rare covers have appeared in auction recently, and strikes of most Irish stamps are notoriously bad. Superb strikes of many are very difficult to obtain, especially the various "Mermaids".

The index for the Irish section include the following:— General Post — Dublin and Provincial; Local Post:— Dublin and Provincial, Uniform Fourpenny and Penny Post — 1839-40; Franking Privilege, Other Miscellaneous Stamps, and Ship Letters.

The book is well printed and illustrated, and the author R. M. Willcocks must be congratulated on this book the first of a series which will cover the whole story of the postal history of Great Britain. This catalogue is a must for all those interested in postal history.

LITERATURE — continued

IRELAND 1922-1972 — by Robson Lowe

Price 50p (p. and p. 5p)

Obtainable from David Feldman Ltd., 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6, Ireland.

To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the first Irish definitive, Robson Lowe has written this well illustrated brochure. The 12-page booklet gives brief details of the overprinted British stamps, but deals mainly with the essays and designs prepared for the 1922 definitives. Through the kindness of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Dublin, seventy-five designs are illustrated, each with the number allotted to it in the records. In all some 85 designs are illustrated and discussed. This booklet makes a valuable contribution to Irish philately. The brochure is produced on art paper, and the printing and illustrations are of a very high standard. Highly recommended.

THE REVENUE STAMPS OF IRELAND — by David Feldman

Price 50p (p. and p. 5p).

Obtainable from David Feldman Ltd., 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6, Ireland.

This eight-page booklet with illustrations in both full colour and black and white, illustrates and prices various Irish fiscals overprinted specimen. It includes the issues of the Admiralty Court, Chancery Fee Fund, Dog Licence, and Petty Sessions. Most Irish collections contain some fiscals, they have always been considered as cinderella material, but with the coming of literature they will find their rightful place in Irish philately. Mr. Feldman is to be congratulated on this fine production, and I trust this will be the forerunner of many similar booklets.

NEWSFRONT ON IRISH PHILATELY — by Stefan Klinecicz

Price 15p (p. and p. 5p)

Obtainable from the Cork Philatelic Service, Mount Carmel, Beaumont Drive, Ballintemple, Cork, Ireland.

Mr. Klinecicz is to be congratulated on his enterprise in producing this booklet to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first Irish stamps. This 54-page work includes a newsletter and price list. It also contains a number of useful articles on Irish stamps, including an interesting article on that most popular subject "Coils". Varieties, Booklets, and re-engraved High Value Overprints are also covered. A booklet recommended to all interested in Irish stamps.

'STAMPA 72' OFFICIAL CATALOGUE

Price 25p (p. and p. 10p)

Obtainable from the Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd., 11 Harrington St., Dublin 8.

The National Exhibition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Irish stamps is now a memory, but there is one thing that every collector of Irish stamps should have and retain, and that is the catalogue of the exhibition.

This excellent booklet containing many illustrations in full colour, was produced by Ian Whyte, and it is the opinion of many experts in this field that it was a model of what an exhibition catalogue should be. It contains many articles of permanent reference value. Worthy of mention are the following:— "The Early History of the Irish Post Office" by F. E. Dixon; "Ireland — 1922" by Robson Lowe; "The Definitive Stamps" by Ian W. Whyte; "The Commemorative Issues" by David Feldman and Liam Miller; "Revenue and Fiscals" by F. E. Dixon; "Postage Dues" by Ian W. Whyte; any one of these articles is worth the price of the catalogue. An outstanding production, one we can be really proud of.

W. KANE.

THE CHESTER AND HOLYHEAD RAILWAY — by Peter E. Baughan

Published by David and Charles. Price: £4.20.

Volume I of the history of the Chester and Holyhead Railway contains much of interest to those who are students of the mail service to Ireland via Holyhead. Beside giving an excellent account of the difficulties that were met in planning and building the railway, and the running of it to 1880, the book gives much detail of the postal services to Ireland prior to the advent of the railway. Details of the various postal packets and the personalities connected with them are profuse, as is the account of the struggle between the City of Dublin Steam Packet Co. and the London North Western Railway to gain the coveted mail contract. The development of the port of Holyhead is absorbing, and there are plenty of maps and diagrams plus some excellent photographs. As with all new books these days the price of £4.20 is daunting, but enquiries at your local library should produce a copy of the first volume of a most interesting history.

O. M. RICHARDS.

POSTAL HISTORY

*Missent to
Dublin*

MISSENT TO IRELAND — by Dr. B. De Burca

I have not seen any article on Irish missents, and this is more of a note to initiate information from other members who may have material. I have only seen two missent handstamps. That illustrated herewith, "Missent to Dublin", I have from 1832 to 1838 in red and black, and the Missent to Dalkey illustrated in Alcock and Holland's "The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland."

Missents occur normally in two ways, either from reading the address wrongly, particularly with such similar names as Killarney and Kilkenny, and secondly by accidentally putting a letter in the wrong bag.

In Ireland missent letters normally had the town datestamp applied and missent was written in manuscript. I have examples from Arklow, Ballyshannon, Clara, Clonmel, Killarney, Larne, Roscrea, Straffan and Tullamore, for the period 1830 to 1864.

The earliest missent which I have is for 1798 on letter from Aberfeldy to Edinburgh which turned up in Londonderry, and is inscribed "Missent to Ireland."

Missents present many problems in tracing their routes. One example on a letter from Kilbeggan (Westmeath) to Rathdowney (Offaly) bears the following datestamps, Kilbeggan 22 Dec. Tullamore 23 Dec. Missent to Roscrea 24 Dec. Parsonstown (Meath) 24 Dec. How a letter for Offaly, missent to Tipperary could then be sent to a tiny village in Meath is difficult to understand. Another letter posted in Chard, Somerset to an address in this village ended up in Clara, Offaly.

Particulars of any other missent handstamps would be welcome and dates for the two mentioned.

OVERPRINTS

COMMITTEE ON FORGED AND BOGUS MATERIAL

Forged Thom Five-Line Overprint

In this issue we present a very interesting forgery submitted to the committee by James T. Howley of Toronto. The overall size of the forged overprint is 15½ x 16½ mm.; which doesn't match either of the Thom printings. There are considerable differences in the individual letters and numerals indicating an entirely different font of type, note particularly the letter "a" and the numerals. The stamp bears a Wicklow C.D.S. but the date cannot be made out.

In the next report of the committee we plan to present a number of forged three-line overprints.



The 50th anniversary of Irish Stamps is now a memory, but what an exciting memory we retain here in Ireland. To celebrate that occasion "Stampa '72" was held in Dublin. This exhibition was Ireland's first National Stamp Exhibition for over 50 years, and it is estimated that over 8,000 people visited Ireland House, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin where the exhibition was held during the four days, 6th to the 9th December, 1972.

There was a wealth of material on display, ranging from the 17th century to the present day, covering all aspects of Postal History, Fiscal Stamps, Stamps of the U.K. used in Ireland, Overprints, Essays, Definitives, and Commemoratives, finishing with Airmails.

The exhibition was formed on material from the collections of the following:

Mr. F. E. Dixon (Postal History and Fiscals), Mr. J. D. Houston (Postal History including Mulready Covers and Archer Perfs.), Dr. J. A. Quigley (Overprints and Definitives), Mr. Horst Schubert (U.K. used in Ireland), Mr. C. Calmonson (Varieties and Flaws), Miss N. Wright (Ireland and Her Troubles), a really wonderful display which was admired by all. Mr. A. T. Killeen (First Flight Covers) and several other individual philatelists and Philatelic Societies. In addition, a special display, showing items relating to the design and production of Irish postage stamps over the past 50 years, was provided by the Revenue Stamping Branch. Here we saw for the first time some really wonderful material, Mr. Jim Sheehy of the Stamping Branch must receive our heartfelt thanks for the excellent display, also for the most courteous manner in which he attended to each enquiry, this also goes for the members of the staff both of the Stamping Branch and the Post Office. They never seemed to be a moment idle, yet they were always on top of the situation.

Visitors to the exhibition included several from the U.S.A. and Great Britain. It was my pleasure to spend many happy hours in the company of Mr. and Mrs. Keoghe, and George Losco of the U.S.A. George gave an interview to the 'Irish Press', our national newspaper, he had some interesting things to say. Visitors from the U.K. included the Reverend W. E. Davey, Robson Lowe O. W. Newport, and Mr. A. G. Neilis. There were others but I did not get their names, please excuse me this omission.

The highlight of the 'Stampa '72' was the official catalogue. This was really a wonderful production (see review on page 59). Every collector of Irish stamps should have a copy of this booklet.

The standholders who had a real busy time were as follows:

David Feldman Ltd., 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6.

Cork Philatelic Service, Mount Carmel, Beaumont Drive, Ballintemple, Cork.

Lighthouse Publications Ltd., D2504 Geesthacht, P.O. Box 340, Western Germany.

Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd., 11 Harrington St., Dublin 8.

Nummus, 2 Mary Street, Dublin 1.

Irish Times First Day Cover Service, 31 Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2.

Philatelic Societies: Irish Philatelic Society, Eire Philatelic Association, Irish Philatelic Circle.

Dublin Stamp Society, Guild of St. Gabriel.

Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Philatelic Section, G.P.O., Dublin 1.

Revenue Stamping Branch, Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.

All the Societies had literature to give to those interested and I am sure many new members joined as a result of this effort.

SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMP



The 50th anniversary of the issue of the 2d. 'Map of Ireland' stamp was commemorated by the issue of a special stamp on December 6th, 1972. The stamp features a facsimile of the original and is designed and printed by the Stamping Branch, Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin Castle.

Printing details are as follows:—

Date of issue: 6th December 1972.

Value and Quantity: 6p (2 million).

Size: 24mm. x 40mm.

Make-up: Sheets of 100.

Printing Process: Photogravure.

Perforations: 15.

For the first time the Post Office issued miniature sheets, containing four of these stamps surrounded by a margin on which an inscription reads "Postas 1922-72". They were originally printed in a sheet of 14, i.e. two rows of seven, then guillotined in to single miniature sheets.

DEFINITIVES VARIETIES

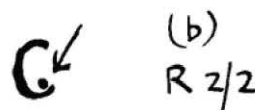
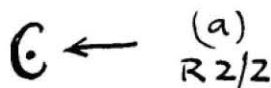
PÁDRAIG Ó MATHÚNA

BOOKLETS

CONSTANT VARIETIES IN 5d. PHOTOGRAVURE BOOKLETS — Issued 1st December, 1966

Upright Watermark Panel

- (a) R 2/2 Spot in C close to left vertical.
- (b) R 1/3 Spot in C as above (in (a)).
R 2/2 Spot in C centre bottom curve.
- (c) R 1/2 On right side of oval the 7th white dot from top greatly enlarged to four times normal size. Also break in shading line under sword hilt, and bottom line of shading in oval missing.
- (d) R 1/1 Line above U of cúig gapped on top.



Inverted Watermark Panes

- (e) R 1/3 Small circle at tip of C (forms serif).
- (f) R 1/2 Two breaks in shading lines in oval.
R 2/2 Bottom curve of C broken.
- (g) R 1/1 Large white area at left centre edge of oval caused by two breaks in shading line at junction with oval.
- (h) R 2/3 Right leg of N gapped.

In the entire printing two main shades as in the 5d. photo sheet stamps.

1. Warm Purple. 2. Cold Violet.

DECIMAL DEFINITIVES — BOOKLET PANES — Issued 15th February, 1971.

Watermark e Head to the Left — ½p Value

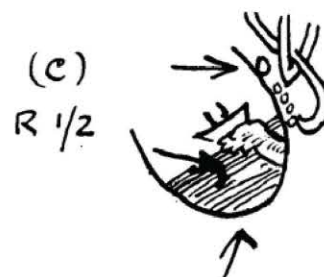
Pane A R 2/1 Thirkell D1 — Bright circular retouch areas.

R 3/1 Thirkell C1 and E1 as above.

1p Value Panes: Each booklet contains two panes of 1p which are identical and contain same flaws. This applied to booklets purchased up to the end of 1971.

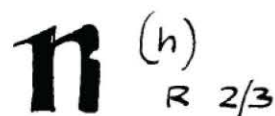
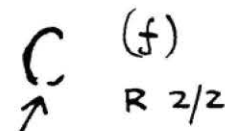
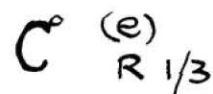
Watermark e Head to Left

- (a) R 1/2 Thirkell A4 — Retouch.
- (b) R 1/2 " B1 — Retouch.
- R 2/2 " E7 — White Spot.
- (c) R 1/1 " A1 — White Spot.
- R 3/2 " B1 — Retouch.
- (d) R 2/2 " D1 — Retouch.
- (e) R 2/2 " A2 — Retouch.
- (f) R 1/1 " B6 — Retouch under the tail of R.
- (g) R 1/2 Dark spot 8 to 9mm. to right of bottom frame line.
R 2/2 Retouch on top of 1.



Watermark e Head to Right

- (h) R 1/1 Retouch at left of 1.
R 1/2 Lighter retouch at left of 1.
R 3/2 Pale area above claw at left of 1.
- (i) R 1/2 White line downwards from point 4 mm. in from top left corner to point 2 mm. in from bottom left corner.
- (j) R 2/2 Thirkell D3 — Retouch.
- (k) R 1/1 " A1 — Pale Spot.
R 3/1 " D1 — Weak area on left vertical frame.



RANDOM NOTES — F.E. DIXON

Westpex

One of the major stamp exhibiton is Westpex in San Francisco, and it is planned that in 1975 it will have a strong Irish theme. The E.P.A. has undertaken to lead the way with exhibits filling 96 frames of 16 pages each, and it is hoped that members on both sides of the Atlantic (and Pacific) will be ready to help when the time comes.

Dublin Spoon Cancellations

It is good news that Hans Moxter has completed his studies of the Dublin "spoons". It is to be hoped that others will continue the good work with analyses of the later cancellations. One rare oddity is the miniature spoon illustrated here. The shaping of the bars to the circle justifies this description. It was in use, possibly only now and again, from March to August 1857, or longer (?) while the other spoons were still in normal use. Later in the year the new series of cancellers appeared, with numbers 1 to 9, X, O, = and *. Their bars were cut to the diamond outline and the figures of 186 were not quite so small.



1972 Miniature Sheet

Although Dublin G.P.O. sold out quite soon, stocks of the miniature sheet were still held elsewhere up to Christmas. So there was no panic buying, and it will be a long time before it realises more than face value.

Skeletons

1. The anomalous spelling LEITHBHEARR (Lifford) of 1971 is explained by K. L. Roberts, who reports that this skeleton type was in use by 1968, before the Irish was amended.
2. BLANCHARDSTOWN still had their English version skeleton cancellation as late as 3rd January 1973.

Machine Cancellations

1. One of the rarest of slogan cancellations is that announcing 'Stampa '72'. It was scheduled to run for 11 days, November 23rd to 3rd December, at Dublin, Cork, Galway, Sligo and Waterford, but at Dublin it was only on one little used machine.
2. Some postmasters have their own ideas about using slogans. Longford has often used "PREVENT FOREST FIRES", when it seems unnecessary, e.g. last October. And in December that office suddenly revived "BUY PRIZE BONDS". Similarly Killarney re-introduced "SUPPORT THE FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN" in November.
3. Each year I report which postmasters failed to receive their new year die for the cancelling machine. In 1973 the unlucky ones included Cavan and Gorey. Cavan received their "73" early in February.

Pioneer Stamp Collectors

Ireland already boasts the first ever stamp album — that of revenue stamps compiled by John Bourke in 1774, now in the library of the Royal Irish Academy.

I am now claiming for Ireland the distinction of producing also the first collector of adhesive postage stamps. The lady, I think Miss C. Barrington, had a small album in which she neatly pasted "fronts" from franked letters, starting with those bearing the autographs of Wellington, Robert Peel and Daniel O'Connell. Another unusual item is her father's admission ticket to Westminster Abbey for Queen Victoria's coronation. Nothing in the album is after 1840, when she headed one page with the word "POSTAGE" cut from the back of a Mulready 1d. envelope or wrapper. Below that is the cut-out front of that Mulready, used. Below that in turn are an unused 1d. black and 2d. blue, plus a used 1d. black. The following two pages bear unused front of Mulready caricatures.

Sticking into her album unused examples of the postal labels entitles Miss Barrington to the honour of being Philatelist No. 1, and she is possibly the only philatelist ever to have achieved a complete collection of unused adhesive stamps of the whole world!

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always welcome, and should be
addressed to the Editor.

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THANK YOU .

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