DIXONS IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS. 1

CHRISTMAS 1956

THE FIND OF THE DUBLIN DOCKWRA. Watch for details in "The philatelist"

THE KILCOCK FIND AND LOSS. Two years ago, a shopkeeper friend of mine acquired from a stranger a small lot of letters of the 1840's, all addressed to Kilcock (Co. Dublin). The stranger proposed to bring him a few more. He has just kept his promise – and has revealed the tragic story. An ancient tower of Kilcock was examined by an architect, who declared it beyond repair. Demolition was ordered, and workmen forced open the bricked-up entrance. Inside was a spiral staircase originally lit by slits in the wall. These were blocked – packed solid with papers, letters and bills and deeds and possibly other treasures. The architect took away a few as souvenirs, the remainder were taken out and burned and the destruction occupied a whole day. What waa sacrificed can only be judged by what I have seen of the few things retrieved, some of which are in immaculate condition. The cover the periods from 1810 – 45. There are at least two PENNY POSTS new to me, Stillorgan and college Green (Dublin: There is a nice 2 of Roscreak a P.O Notice of June 1840 about the sending of cash by post. Included are several attractive billheads, including one of C & R Elliott used in 1845, issuers of the first Irish adhesive labels e 1821, of which there are examples in the Field and Stafford Johnson collections.

The above-mentioned shopkeeper is himself a collector and it may be some time before I can induce him to part with those refugees from what Postal History enthusiasts will remember as "The Slaughter of Kilcock",

DUBLIN CHRISTMAS POSTS. Not only does the Post Office ask each year for even earlier posting, but it starts asking earlier. This year the POST EAST FOR CHRISTMAS slogan was introduced on 30 November and so far, I have seen it from 18 provisional offices as well as Dublin machines and A(Paid and official) B, C (Paid) F (Plus paid and Official) H, I, and O. No errors h been noted so far, except the allowing through of a Greetings Card with only a 1d adhesive.

OTHER SLOGANS. At most, possibly all, places the POST EARLY slogan replaced AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X-RAY, which however has been on only three days in Dublin, where most of the month say SUPRESSORS STOP RADIO INTERFERENCE, which had made its debut with a one-week appearance at the end of September. It has not so far been used outside Dublin. At recent the P.T. engineers are very helpful. They will fit any desirable suppressers, charging only the cost of the attachment.

SG 74 B,_ It becomes more and more difficult to decide how rare this elusive item is. A Dublin collector recently told as that, over 20 years ago, he had plenty of copies, which he sold through club sheets at a few pence each. Some of those probably still exist unrecognised in collections handed down through schoolboys. He still has one copy himself and has recently parted with two others – One to the Mint Stamp Co. and the other to the writer of this note.

CANCELLATIONS WITH CODE - LETTERS FOR TIME Recent additions have swollen the list of towns until it is now unwieldly, and I present it in less detail then formerly. The earliest date I have recorded is still Parsonstown May 13, 1884 , but the latest is not Tyrrellspass September 22, 1906.

Single Circle	Double Circle
BALLYMONEY	BALLYBROPHY
BALLYVAUGHAN	BELTURBET
BLACKLION	BRAY
CK. ON SHANNON	CARRICK ON SHANNON
CASTLEBELLINGHAM	CASTLETOWNROCHE
CASTLEBARBON	CAVAN
CORK K.P.D.	CLAREMORRIS
DRUMCONNICK	CORK
DRUMSK	COURT C HENRY
DUBLIN	CURRAGH CAMP
FOXFORD	DRIMOLEAGUE
GLASSLOUGH	DUBLIN
GRAIGNE	DUNGANNON
H & K PACKET	ENNISCOURTHY
KILKENNY	FERMOY
KILLINICK	GALWAY
LISNASKEA	GOREY
MALLOW	GREYSTONES
MANORHAMILTON	KILDARE
MILFORD/LETTERKENNY	KILKEE
NAVAN	KILKINNY
PARSONSTOWN	LISBURN
NEALE/R.S.C.	LISDOONVARNA
RATHDRUM	LONGFORD
TUAM	MAYNOOTH
WOODLAWN	MULLINGAR
	NAVAN
	NEWROSS
	ROSCOMMON
	ROSSCARBERY
	THOMASTOWN
	TRALEE
	TYRRELLSPASS
	WATERFORD
	WEXFORD

JOHN BARRY 3D The early announcement if the first findings have aroused considerable interest and several collectors have joined in the hunt for printing flaws, I recently learned that, although the stamps were printed in Dublin (by De La Rue) the plates were made in England and the place makers allege that any defects must have been caused by damage in transit !

The list of plateable varieties known to me is now:

1A No.11. Split frame in outer side-line near lower Left corner

1A & 1B. Many stamps show a marked thickening of the top lines, suggesting a slight slip when the design was being rocked in. No.7 of 18 shows a similar thickening of the upper part of the left side-line.

2B. No.16 Slight re-entering at top right corner, and of edge of hat on forehead.

No.17. Another slight re-entry, affecting the OH of JOHN, being clearly doubled.

No. 26. The most prominent re-entry, easily seen at top right corner, but also doubling the right of the har and the HN of JOHN

No 33. Faint extra line just above top right corner. Doubtful whether it is a trace of re-entry or a guideline

No. 37. Thickening of left side-line, especially at upper end, similar to, but more pronounced than, thickening of 1B ,No.7

No.38. The dot on sheet, mentioned in an earlier report, does not seem to be to have been constant through the printing, and I saw it only on the few consecutive sheets which I bought. No used copy has turned up.

Nos.51-56. Faint guide-lines just below or merging with the top line, with slight projections into margins.

3A. 3B There are many guide-lines, similar to 2B 51-56, especially to those of 1A and 1B, but not affecting the right portion as much as the left.

CHRISTMAS POSTING P.S. I have just telephoned the Rathmines Sorting Offices to report that I had difficulty in posting at the local Pillar box, it been peeked tight to the roof. This was already Known at the office, and the matter was been attended to " but They could not unlock the box owing to a defect in the lock! So If some cards are delayed the P.O. will have a new excuse.

DIXONS IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS. 2

6 January 1957

THE KILCOCK "FIND" The present possessor of the principal survivors has let me have the rubbish (from the postal collector's viewpoint) – a few legal documents which the National Library will welcome, a selection of engraved billheads of Dublin firms, and a few letters with quite common postmarks : the only interesting postal history item is a receipt for £5 for Sir Gerald Ayleer, paid to J. Allen of Kilcock "one quarters" salary for letter carrier and for 1/6 for "keeping the postbag for half a year". These payments were probably a private arrangement between Sir Gerald and his local post office. Thom's Directory states that the Kilcock postmistress at the time (1845) was Elizabeth Allen. A surprising feature is that the receipt is unstamped. A number of embossed receipts are in the lot and there is a protested Bill. The Protest bearing a hitherto unrecorded 1s stamp. A few of the receipts are on specially watermarked paper.

MAILBAG SEALS A New Year Gift is a sheet of paper with impressions in wax of ten circular marks, each about 25mm diameter. Three have the Irish harp at centre, surrounded by a crown and with the name at top, Down, Naas and N.T. LIM. Four have a rose at centre, crown at top and name at foot – Ragnelstown, Killyleagh, Millstreet, Skibbereen. Two have the crown at top, rose at foot and name across the centre – Ferns, Tramore. The tenth has a larger crown at the centre and, above and below, Post office Currane. Currane is a parish in Co. Kerry and, as far as my reports show, has never had a post office!

My only theory about them so far is that they are impressions of mailing seals – possibly proof impressions taken by the manufacture.

EXHIBITION LABELS I am happy to report that I have acquired the label is use for the Cork Exhibition. It was stuck in the back of a friends stamp album.

SHANAHAN AUCTION I attended the sale yesterday – the first I have been to in the new premises. The new auction room is very small; the chairs are very hard; and smoking is banned! Are these devices intended to discourage personal bidders ? There are two overseas buyers there yesterday, a continental dealer named Rosen and a mysterious Fr. "euer whose knowledge of English is so limited that Fr. Singer had to translate the proceedings to her – which slowed things considerably but provides good material for newspaper publicity.

Prices averaged a higher proportion of estimates than formerly and were probably about 80%. Singer ostentatiously withdrew one or two lots in which imperfection or misdescription had been pointed out.

Perturbing features. Who is paying such high prices for lots Of forgeries ? e.g. £6.10 for lot 448, £3 for 465, £8 for 447. Many collectors like to own examples of the forgeries for Reference or as curiosities, but do not value them so highly. One is driven to the conclusion that the purchases are the Less scrupulous dealers hoping to resell the spurious as genuine.
At the other extreme, who is out of pocket when mint modern stamps are sold well under face value? E.g. Lot 77: wholesale lot of N.Z. 1936-47, Face £18. Sold for £6 (with 15/- commission each way) If the seller can afford to Accept Such a figure he cannot have acquired the stamps honestly!

As usual, most of the lots I was interested in went too near to valuation (auctioneer's) for me to make a bid, and towards the end of the sale I was in the dangerous frame of mind which can lead to disaster: I felt that my afternoon would have been wasted if I didn't buy something. I had not bothered to inspect Lot 759 but the catalogue mentioned a bundle of 50 postcards with Irish pmks. As well as the B.M.A overprints mint to $5 and about 450 used colonials. Estimated realisation £3. So, when the lot was offered, and there was no other bidding, I raised a finger (£1 & 2/6) .
It was not a sensational Bargain, but the Irish pmks. Includes a Dublin exhibition 1907 and a 1918 machine cancellation of Ballymena, new to me !

NEW IRISH STAMPS

1957 will have at least two new issues, one honouring John Redmond and the other Thomas O' Criomhthain. At or, best known for "The Island man"

DIXONS IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS. 3

An irregular periodical

13th January 1957

IRISH CANCELLATIONS WITH CODED TIMES

In the Christmas issue I gave a list of the towns using the code-letters. It will soon be easier to list the towns which did not. However, continuing from that list, these are a few more since discovered:

Single Circle	Double Circle
Downpatrick	Kinsale
Newry	Queenstown
Roscommon	Youghal
Sligo	

DUBLIN NEWSPAPER BRANCH CANCELLATIONS

It now seems to be accepted that the Dublin double-stamps with letter N and a number (1 to 4) above DUBLIN was used in the Newspaper Branch of the Dublin G.P.O. I have now found similar cancellations with NA5 and NA6, dated De 2 and DE 11 1894, respectively. Could it be that those were reserved? for cancelling for precancelling) newspapers posted by the Newspaper Agencies ?

DUBLIN DOUBLE STAMPS WITH SUB-OFFICES NUMBER

I still have not found a complete strike of this type, My few all being single stamps off cover cancelled with a killer numbered 186, with an additional digit breaking the bar immediately above the 186. I now have digits 2,3,6,8, the latest to be found being No.6. In this case the 186 is large (186 9mm high: diamond probably 30x26mm) suggests that they many have been similar if smaller.

STOLEN GOODS There have been several leakages of used postage stamps from Irish P.O. In particular there are large quantities of high-value purloined from used telegraph forms. These can be readily identified by the pattern of closely spaced bars which defaces them effectively.

Recently there have appeared in circulation quantities of stamps removed from Postal Orders. Those I have seen had been cancelled, before sending to the pulping mills, merely by a red or blue crayon, but I believe that many others had escaped defacement or cancellation.





DIXONS IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS. 4

20 January 1957

IRISH REGISTRATION LABELS There are several variations in the types in use, the office name been either in normal Roan Type with upper- and lower-case letters (e.g. Dublin) or in sans serif capitals (e.g. DUBLIN) The name is normally printed on the label, but there are exceptions: "Dn, 195" appears hand stamped. "Howth Summit" has the name inserted in manuscript, and at the temporary Office for Royal Dublin Society Shows I have seen "Showgrounds" handwritten on Dublin labels.

The Irish offices do not seem to follow the British practice of allotting a different number to each counter in the larger offices, the Irish numbers being allotted to separate offices, Dublin G.P.O. has no number, "Dublin 1" being formerly the college Green sub offices, but now the Saint Andrew Street premises, Similarly "Dublin 7" was Duke street and is now Anne Street

At most offices the labels are in sheets of 50 (5 x 10) numbered from 1 to 10 down the right column, 11 to 20 down the next etc. The next sheet is similarly numbered 51 to 100, and so on. The numbering does not usually go past 999, the series then been restarted at 1. I have just one exception, Cavan No.1, 829 so suspect that the number printed is arbitrary, probably depending on the requirements estimated by the local postmaster,

The label numbers are generally printed at the same time as the rest of the label. Recently however, some offices have introduced labels with the numbering applies in a lighter shade of blue, and these go to 9,999. They differ from the British (and Northern Ireland) types in that the digits are serifed.

SLOGAN CANCELATIONS As usual the **POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS** was gradually taken out of use from about 17th December to (I think) 21st December. **AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X RAY** was reintroduced of 1st January and I have seen one example for the previous day. Does anyone bother about the details of the circular name-and -date stamp which accompanies the slogan ? It
is odd that Cork had its old type with an arc at foot for the CHRISTMAS but have the newer version are for the X Ray.

BPA CONVENTION FRIDAY 18TH This turned out to be mainly a meeting of the Dublin Stamp Society, plus five BPA Members
from England, and at least 50 miscellaneous people who had accepted the general invitation. Dublin's Lord Mayor presided, and the agenda were a talk on the B.P.A. by Miss Evens and an account of Sperati by Mr. W. Lee, who had many of the famous forgeries on view

POSTAL STATIONARY I relaxed my vigilance in this department and so inevitably something turned up. Sometime during the past few months the E size registration envelope, with 9d stamp, appeared in the same form as the current envelopes of other sizes, i.e. all inscriptions reset and reverse revised, the heading becoming Cúiteach, and the limits of compensation altered to £5 and £2.18.0.

There is no sign of any issue with 1/- Impressed stamp (or 1d which is the minimum for a registered foreign letter. Similarly, the 1 ½d newspaper wrappers are still on sale although the inland rate is now 2d. But the 1½d rate still applies to Canada.

WHAT USE IS THE HALFPENNY STAMP? In our mourning of the passing of the penny post and the 1 ½ d post we have completely overlooked that there is still one case in which even a halfpenny is valid postage – on literature for the blind. It is an interesting survival of the Charity Letter schemes of the early 19th century.

THE POSTALLY USED SINN FEIN LABELS or some time, I have owned an envelope bearing the Sinn Fein label (Cross design) cancelled 28 AP 16 with a circular handstamp reading DUBLIN at the foot but with the lettering higher up indistinct. I have now seen four similar envelopes, unaddressed, and with the same cancellation carefully impressed so that only the date and DUBLIN are legible. I think it highly probable that these were made some time after The Easter rising with one of the handstamps looted from the G.P.O. ruins.

TIME-CODE CANCELLATIONS Those interested should certainly read the articles by W.G Stitt Didben in PHILATELY Vol VI Nos. 4 and 6.

DUBLIN MACHINE CANCELLATIONS Mr. Brady (a Dublin collector) has shown me a trebly cancelled envelope of November 1933. The first (illegible) cancellation is hand-stamped and applied y the post office. The other two are impressions of a machine canceller with parallel straight bars, of a type never officially used in Dublin. This envelope is one of a small number passed through the machine in a demonstration to P & T officials. It is not known if others survived.

DIXONS IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS. 6

2 February 1957

AER LINGUS LABEL This year is the 21st that the state subsidised Irish Air Line (Aer Lingus) has been in operation and various commemorative features are in course of preparation. The first I have seen is a very well designed "sticker" of the conventional size 2 ½ x 1 ½ins. (about 63 x42 mm , An example is enclosed.



BOOKLET Prompted by an enquiry, I tried the Dublin G.P.O again, today and learned that a new booklet has just appeared. It is numbered 38-56 and has a new make-up. 12 each of the 3d and 1d values. This the 1 ½d with inverted watermark is withdrawn and will be quite scarce, having appeared in only one edition of the booklets (plus the error in sheet printing discovered by Mr. Leonard.

IRISH FISCAL STAMPS POSTALLY USED OR POSTMARKED Along oddments which came my way last week is an envelope postmarked at Craobh Chumhra (Cre- cora in Co. Limerick) in June 1941, bearing the ½ d and 6d savings stamp made by surcharging a 6d sword of light design printed in orange. As the printed Paper Rate at the time was 6d it is probable that the envelope passed open through the post and that the Savings stamp represents 6d squandered.

1944 IRISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION OVERPRINT Has anyone seen mint copies of the ½d stamp with red overprint advertising the exhibition? I recently examined my copy on cover and am satisfied that it was overprinted only <u>after</u> it had passed through the post. The proofs are that the impression of the type strikes right through the envelope and depresses the black lines of the cancellation into the hollows of the stamp, where they could not possibly have reached it the overprint had been applied first. I still do not know who perpetrated this bogus effort.

1920 PEN CANCELLATION Today I obtained part of a parcels wrapping, with Parcel post and Registration labels of Brownstown (Co. Meath). The R.P. label and the stamps, which are placed separate from it are cancelled by pen and ink "Brownstown 1st June 20". A note has been added that the Brownstown date-stamp had been taken in an I.R.A. road. Such a piece could have been faked and I do not claim its authenticity until some enquiries have been made

13 February 1957

1920 PEN CANCELLATION The Brownstown provisional cancellation mentioned in my last is authenticated. The addressee remembers the circumstances, but does not remember how he parted with it.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS February has seen the re-introduction of Diphtheria immunisation slogans in place of the anti-TS Mass Radiography propaganda.

FISCAL ADHESIVE STAMPS For some time I have has 2/6 and 5/- Old Age Pension stamps. I have now found a 1/- of similar type but earlier, the key plate being inscribed SAOR-STAT EIREANN and the paper having a  watermark.

MILAEAGE MARKS A new one to me is **RATHOWEN** in black on a letter Of 1831 **55**

POSTAL HISTORY ITEMS I have to open a new file or album, for another acquisition, the printed specification for the building of a "New Crown Post Office at Skibbereen" in 1903. The 356 paragraphs specify interesting details of prices from 310 for serving Royal Arms to 5/- a dozen for the hat and coat pins in the women's retiring rooms.

JOHN BARRY 3d I have made a tentative plating of one more variety. There is a short scratch on Barry's right chest, of which I have found several single use copies. Now I have found it in vertical pair with what resembles No.7 of pane 1B, which has some thickening of the upper part of the left side line. Unfortunately other stamps show a similar variation, and the plating needs confirmation by locating it on a complete pane. The scratch was not present in the earlier printing on 1B bit may have developed later.

15 February

SLOGANS AGAIN Blackrock (Co. Dublin) has changed its name-and-date stamp from **CARRAIGH DHUBH-Á CLAITH** to **CARRAIG DHUBH** above and **CO.BH.A. C** below, which I believe more correct Irish.

1 March 1957

IRISH ELECTION LITERATURE An interesting survival of the ancient privileges of franking is that each candidate nominated for a Dáil (Irish Parliament) election is allowed the free delivery to each constituent of one item, normally the candidate's election address. To obtain this facility each item must bear the endorsement **"LITIR UM THOGHTA"** (Election communication). This usually handstamped in black, purple, green or blue ink. (I have not seen red) and the spelling varies widely, variants been

LEITIR UM THOGHACHÁN
LEITIR UM THOUGCHAN (These are old handstamps
LITIR UM THOGEA still in use.)
LITIR UM TOGEA
LITIR UM TEFA
Litir um Thoghahan.

P.S. I have since seen an item with "Election Communic-Ation.

The free supplement to this issue comprises a card as issued by my wide for the election on Tuesday next.

4 March

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS "Prevent Forest Fires has appeared again, in the province's, but the anti-Diphtheria campaign continues in Dublin.

7 March

ELECTION RESULTS The wife failed to get elected, but fared better than most people expected, being 7th of the 12 candidates for 5 seats.

The Change of Government to Fianna Fail (De Valera's party) is unlikely to modify the post office policy. It was when they were last in power that a new permanent issue of stamps was promised – <u>if</u> the minister was satisfied that the extra sales to collectors would cover the cost of issue!

10 March

JOHN BARRY 3d I can now confirm that the stamp with a vertical scratch on Barry's right chest and thigh is No. 17 on Pane 1B, "second state", the scratch being missing on the first sheets placed on sale. The earliest used example I have is of 27 Nov. '56. In this second slate 1B has another flaw, No.43 showing a pattern of dots near the left corner of Barry's hat. I have a copy of this as early as 5th October.

DIXONS IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS. 9

12 March 1957

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS Yesterday saw the introduction of a new slogan with the very simple wording **"BUY PRIZE BONDS".** The Lottery imitated from Great Britain by the outgoing Government, came into being on 11th and the first draw is promised in the autumn.

22 March

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS "**BUY PRIZE BONDS**" seems to have been distributed to all offices having cancelling machines, as I have already seen it from 15 places outside Dublin. The time of introduction is on one case well defined: Dublin H machine impressions timed 12.30 PM on 11th March exist with **BUY PRIZE BONDS** and also one of the Diphtheria Immunisation slogans,

SG 74b Another copy found, alas not by me. It is in the possession of a small dealer-collector, who will not part unless he receives a very handsome offer?
The Stamp is used on piece, the cancellation being the double circle type of Loch Garman (Wexford) dated 29.XI.35. As far as I know, this is the first recorded used outside Dublin and it suggests that at least one coil may have been issued though a vending machine in Wexford.

DUBLIN PENNY POST The article I wrote for the Philatelist has still not appeared, but at last I have an explanation for the delay. My manuscript is among some papers taken home by one of the editorial staff who has since been rather ill. Robson Lowe expects to regain possession of them shortly, probably in time for use in the April issue

28 March 1957

BARRY STAMPS The 3d is no longer available, either at the Dublin G.P.O, or at the principle Sub-offices that I have visited.

R.D.S. SPRING SHOW STICKERS. This year's issue has just appeared, and regrettably continues the policy of recent years in presenting the same design with a change of colour.

PRINTED MATTER POSTAL RATES. As I type, an announcement comes via Radio Eireann regarding new regulations for "Printed Matter at reduced Rate". If my first impression is correct, the wording is misleading, the change being a restriction of the classes of item permitted at the existing rate (Next Day) I apologise for Doubting radio Eireann: the change <u>is</u> a reduction, the press Announcement being as follows:

> "The postage abroad for books, periodicals, pamphlets, sheets of music and maps which are printed and produced here will be cheaper from April 1st , the Post Office stated yesterday. The reduced rate, which is equivalent to the inland rate of postage for printed paper packets, is 2d for the first 4 oz. and 1d for each additional 8 oz. or fraction. Printed packets of a commercial character are not admissible, and neither are books or periodicals which contain publicity otherwise than on the cover or flyleaves."
>
> I foresee acrimonious discussions as to what constitutes the commercial character, and what is publicity.

3 April

THOMAS MOORE 2 ½d I have kicked myself many times for neglecting the Moors while they were current. The latest discovery is a fascinating crack in plate 2, pane A. It occurs in the gutter between 39 and 40 continuing downwards between 49 and 50. It peters out, then recommences at the lower left corner of 50 and wobbles across to the top left corner of 60. It possibly started in that region as I find corner 60. It possibly started in that region as I find a slight trace of it in a pair of 50-60 purchased early in the issue.

The variety with two dots outside the Lower left corner and a third over the stop left of "Eire" Can now be assigned to Pare 2B. No.8 and the blurred doubling Of the left 2 is No. 5 on the same pane.

SLOGANS

The prize bonds are longer on sale, and the slogan has been withdrawn. Its replacement is a revival of **PREVENT FOREST FIRES**, both at Dublin and in the Provinces.

AN OPPORTUNITY The Irish Times for Saturday last 6th, carried in the "partnerships" column:

> WANTED. Partner with knowledge of Stamp Business to open auction stamp market and shop specialising in stamps only. Dublin capital not necessary. Box Z 3188. Partner.

I did not answer it. There is certainly room for a philatelic trader in Dublin – someone with knowledge and capital preferred.

THOMAS MOORE 2½d



A block showing the crack (see D.I.P.N, for 3 April) has now been photographed. My method of contact copying is not good enough to reproduce the fine detail of a recess-printed stamp. In this case, however, the cracks are prominent enough to be seen in the photo – and without a lens. Note that if the stamps were well centred most of the crack would be lost in perforation holes. Fortunately stamps from the right of a pane are usually off centre in that direction, even when the left of the pane is correct. So far, I have seen only two copies, and await an opportunity of visiting the G.P.O at a time, the philatelic counter is open. Then I shall try to obtain more.

METER MARKS. Meter marks are among the Few branches of postal Collecting which do not appeal to me. A member of the I.P.S. has given me a piece which I shall find room for – among the errors. The Irish name for Dublin is given as BAILE AHTA CLIATH. The date is 26th October 1954 and the machine M207, which I understand is operated by the national transport concern, Córas Iompair Éireann. We do not know how long the error remained undetected.

15 April 1957

SLOGANS The closing date for purchasing prize Bonds was originally announced on the 5th April. Then there was a shorter extension, until 8th. Incidentally this led to a newspaper correspondence , debating whether this extension was a breach of the Government's contract with the original investors. I think it was. However, what concerns us is that the BUY PRIZE BONDS slogan was taken off in Dublin on the 4th, and presumably provisional offices had been instructed to do likewise. At least two offices failed to comply. Drogheda was still appealing to The speculative public at 8 PM on 8th, after the banks were closed. And Sligo was till using this slogan an 11th. !

BUY PRIZE BONDS was used on at least nine of the Dublin machines and at more than 20, probably all 32, of the provincial offices.

How many other cases have there been of Slogans? used when no longer valid ? I have **BUY THIRD NATIONAL LOAN** clearly dated Oct. 1931 from Galway, over a year after everyone else had discarded it. And **BUY SECOND NATIONAL LOAN**, first used for a few days in December 1927, reappeared at Dublin in October 1929, Was there a further issue of the stock?

19 April

ANOTHER BARRY STAMP VARIETY ! Yesterday's Dublin "Evening Mail" had a letter as follows:

"Sir,

I recently purchased two 3d stamps of the commodore John Barry issue and found that one had a white line through the stamp where the paper was crinkled while being printed. The stamp and the figure of John Barry are accordingly larger that the ordinary stamp. I wonder if any of your readers could tell me as whether the stamp has any value as a rarity. – "wondering".

I have sent a reply as under:

"Sir,

Fashions in stamp collecting change from

Year to year as different types of persons Take up the hobby. At one time a misprinted Stamp, such as that described by "Wondering", Would be regarded only as curls and few Collectors would have given it album space. Now, however, speculations with no knowledge of the finer points of philately are paying large sums for anything out of the ordinary, and if "Wondering" can contact one of them he may well be rewarded with his find.

"Philatelist"

21 April 1957

LABELS Ireland is staging an increasing number of Trade Shows, and we expect "Stickers" and labels among the advertising material. I have been given one for a "show and Leather Fair, Mansion house, Dublin, 7-10 May 1957", printed in green, yellow and black, imperf.

THOMAS MOORE 3½d A similar variety I have not seen recorded is on pane 1A of the 3½d. It comprises a slightly curved line in the sheet margin, near the base of stamp no. 1.

ANOTHER DUBLIN POSTMARK ERROR The only local letter I received today (23rd) was cancelled by machine 1 with slogan **PREVENT FOREST FIRES** and it is timed 6.30 PM 22 APR 1957 : As it was the Bank holiday very little correspondence will have been posted, and it will be a difficult item to obtain. The inversion of the years seems to be the commonest of the many possible errors. The most peculiar I have seen is from Limerick in 1945: it has two times and the year but no month or day !

TIME-CODE CANCELLATIONS **Add one more to the list of towns using** the lettered code for indicating time: DOWRA, single circle, 1899.

NEW POST OFFICE BUILDINGS

30 April

Today I attended a scientific meeting to hear an account of some recent measurements of atmospheric pollution. It transpired that these were made for the Dept. of Posts & telegraphs, who are planning to build a large new Sorting office near Amiens Street and have not yet decided whether the air there is sufficiently dirty to necessitate an air conditioning plant.

2 May

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS Yesterday Dublin was still using PREVENT FOREST FIRES, but Blackrock had introduced (or revived) IRELAND FOR HOLIDAYS and did so, with the circular name-and-date portion **inverted.**

When I went to enter this in my check-list I was surprised to find that the slogan has not been used since 1953, and was then used only at the select few more important offices.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS. 14

8 May 1957

THE BUDGET No postal changes – but a very bad budget. Considerable increases in the cost of living, But no evidence that the Government has any comprehensive plans to reduce unemployment or solve any other major problems.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS "Ireland for Holidays" has now reappeared in Dublin.

JOKE



Original jokes are uncommon, and that reproduced herewith deserves wider circulation – particularly among the people who, like ourselves, often find it expedient to use such an endorsement on the packages we send each other.

9 MAY

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

The May situation turns out to be rather mixed.: Ireland for Holidays" is current in Dublin, Cork, Blackrock and Dundalk. Limerick and Waterford are extolling the charms of Their local resorts (Kilkee $ Tramore respectively), but neither Galway nor Sligo has (yet) revived it's social slogan. Both places l like most of the others equipped With machine cancellations, have only the envy here in operation. I have not seen any Wexford correspondence, so cannot say what it is doing,

POST OFFICE EXPLANATORY INSCRIPTIONS A cover from Clonmel arrived from Dublin looking much the worse for wear, and was partially patched with the label R. L. S. 54, bilingually inscribed "officially sealed in the Post Office".
On this label has been added in pencil "Torn in cancelling machine"

"EXHIBITION LABELS" Another not hitherto recorded is of the Limerick horse show 1929. I saw it today adhering to a Gladstone bag. But the owner was not around, and it would of required expert soaking to remove it. So, I can only place it on record – green & brown, perf. with a horse's head as its main features.

24 May 1957

NEW STAMPS Today, Friday 24th May, has appeared the long awaited definite pronouncement regarding the next Irish stamp Issue. The John Redmond 3d blue and 1/3 ruby will be placed on sale on 11th June. Although it commemorates the centenary of his birth, the design does not mention any date or disclose whether the man is alive or dead. The stamp is officially described as "in single size" which probably seems about 20 x 24mm, perf, 14 x 15, which probably means 15 x 14. Like the Barry, etc. sets, the new emanations have been recess-printed by De La Rue - so we can hope for some more re-entries and other of the true philatelist's delights .

REGISTERED DISAPPOINTMENT. "Bank Lot" is a term used by dealers to denote superiority to the normal mixture. There are, alas exceptions. I have just acquired (admittedly for a trivial outlay) some thousands of registered envelopes addressed to the head office of a Dublin bank from its country branches. 99% are the K-Size Post Office envelopes with the 9d embossed stamp, plus supplements 7 Adhesives. They have been so clumsily torn open that scarcely any ore worth keeping intact. And the cancellations are mostly illegible. And the adhesives used are nearly all in low values, ½ d to 3d, of the definitive types. So the best hope of finding something worth while is in the Registration labels, which represent about 100 Irish towns and display the many types of lettering and numbering. So far, I have found one misspelling – Cahersiveen for Cahirciveen.

29 May

THE REGISTERED

The minor finds in the last few days, sorting through some hundreds of the above-mentioned envelopes are:

1. a very deep shade of the 9d embossed stamp,
11. a serious misrouletting of an Ennis registration Label – reducing its width by about a third. Fortunately the next envelope had the adjoining label from the sheet, showing the extra width.
111. labels with handstamped names from Sligo, Manorhamilton and Dungarvan. The last is the most interesting, since it uses the Irish spelling DUNGARBHAN. There is one with the name in manuscript – Moate.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS I have now seen recent envelopes from Wexford with the simple wavy bard cancellation, so it appears that, like Sligo and Galway, the local Slogan is not been used this year.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS. 16

1 June 1957 – 7 June 1957

1925 CHRISTMAS SEALS I have obtained a few more copies of the attractive and rare seal, printed by the Dundalgan Press, and issued by the Women's National health Association. There is a hope That I shall secure several sheets (of eight) and if so, I shall be delighted to pass some on to other collectors.

Meanwhile I can report that these are complete as issued, whereas the first I saw were proofs and lacked the printers' imprint. A feature of the imprint is that No. 8 of the sheet has lower-case lettering, although the other seven are all upper-case.

SLOGAN CALCELLATIONS Changes of slogan used to be on the first day of the month : they now seem to be normally on the last day. **Ireland for Holidays** has been replaced by **AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X-RAY** in Dublin and probably elsewhere as well.

R.D.S. HORSE SHOW STICKERS. The 1957 horse show literature reached me today. The design is that of horses on Globe, as used in 1949, 1958, 1955 but the background colour is this time yellow rather than pale green, The design is again reproduced as well in postcard form.

REGISTRATION What is the Irish for "Registered" ? the Heading of the envelopes has remained unchanged Since 1924 at **CLÁRUITE**, even when LEITIR was revised to LITIR. On the receipts the spelling became **CLÁRAITE** about 10 years ago, and both spellings are still current in postmarks. most of the towns using distinctive marks for registered mails have, however, adopted the different word **DEIMNITE**, and I have seen an oval type with this so early at 1930 (Dublin)

These markings are not normally used at the P.O counter, but in the sorting offices, and often appears as transit marks.

An interesting sidelight on the registration envelopes I am sorting through is the variety of devices used as seals, thumbprints, monograms, heraldic crests, etc. One cover from Enniscorthy has impressions of observe and reverse of a money weight for 5 dwt and 2½ grs. (the standard weight of a sovereign) made by Kames Pickering of Dublin. I have an identical weight, should I ever wish to fake covers from Enniscorthy,

1925 CHRISTMAS SEALS The hoped-for supply has arrived, and I can Supply at 4d each (except imprint variety 6d) or complete sheet of eight for 2/6. Postage extra. (That sounds very professional but the list price in the U.S.A. is 75c each ! My offer is only to member of the Irish Study Group.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS.

WHITSUN June 9th 1957

SUPPLEMENT ; CONTACT PHOTOGRAPHY.

To select members of the Irish Study group and others requiring photographs of stamps, postmarks, etc, I am giving below instructions for a little-known method which requires no camera. The requirements are:

(a) a supply of reflex Document Paper, supplied by most leading photographic dealers, in rolls or sheets. It is a "slow" paper and can be handled safely in subdued artificial light,

(b) developing and fixing fluids as for bromide or gas-light papers.

(c) Printing frame, or merely a piece of good glass and a block of wood, or a book, or similar device to hold the paper in close contact with the glass and the item being photographed.

A piece of the photographic paper is cut to a suitable size and placed in the printing frame with its sensitive side away from the glass and in contact with the item to be copied.

↓ ↓ Light ↓ ↓

_____ glass
_____ sensitised paper (face down)
_____ object (face up)
_____ back of frame.

The exposure time depends on many factors, but it usually about 10 to 15 seconds at a foot from a 40 watt bulb After exposure the paper is developed and fixed in the usual way. If necessary, it may be rinsed and dried before fixing is complete (if however, the negative will be needed later, the fixing must be thorough,

↓ ↓ Light ↓ ↓

_____ glass
_____ negative (face down)
_____ sensitised paper (face up)
_____ back of frame.

At this stage the "reflex document" paper is not essential, and any other photographic paper may be substituted. The exposure depends on the density of the negative and the paper used, but I find it usually longer than when maxing the negative.

The negative is easily retouched with soft pencil to suppress unwanted marks, The attached examples sown an application to producing copies of sketches or diagrams for writing-up one's stamps.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS. 17

11 June 1957

JOHN REDMOND STAMPS I have just completed (11/6/57 11.15pm) A quick examination of a sheet of the 3d. It is from plate 1, in two panes, each 12 x 10, and with the plate number (1A & 1B) below the second stamp of the bottom row

I do not see any prominent flaws – only a few smudges, chiefly at corners, and unlikely to be constant varieties. The improvement in the plate construction may be due to a new method of laying down the impressions. This is prominent in the Barry issue. Those does appear in the space at the centre of each block of four, and should therefore be cut out by a perforation hole. Fortunately, (?) my sheet is badly centred throughout and a large number of the dots are visible. they seem to be present above and to the left of each pane but not below or to the right.

Either the perforations or the stamps or both are out of alignment with the edges of the paper, stamps near the centre of the sheet being centred higher than those at the edges. If this is a regular feature of the printing well centred examples will be extremely scarce.

The colours do not agree with the official announcement, To my eye, assisted by an S.G. colour chart, the 3d is more ultramarine than blue and the 1/3 either lake or brown purple: it is certainly not ruby, which is more like a carmine,

The perforation is, as announced, 14 x 15. This is surprising, as one would expect the 15 x 14 so long established for stamps of this size and shape.

The general appearance is excellent, and I predict the stamps will be fairly popular with collectors. But I am sure thematicists will want to know whether to put John Redmond with their poets, Musicians, Philosophers, Presidents, or where. The Irish are still divided as to whether he was a great man or villain and correspondents have been writing recently to the Dublin "Evening Mail" deploring the official view that he is worth of commemoration. My opinion is that Redmond was right and the 1916 rebels were wrong,

EOLAI AN PHOIST (Post Office Guide) I was informed recently that the 1956 edition is out of print. However, hopes of a new edition were dashed when I received today s supplement to that 1955 edition and giving the full regulations for the reduced rate for printed papers. This would not have been issued if the new edition had been almost ready

13 JUNE

THOMAS O CRIOMHTAIN stamps will appear on 1st July, similar to the Redmond's in size and style, but 2s agate and 5d violet.

18 June 1957

THE REGISTRATION LABELS I have now soaked off and sorted about half of my "bag" and, inter alis, have "reconstructed" a sheet of No. 1 to 50 using the label of a different town for each number ! I have further amused myself by demonstrating that can be salvaged – several yards of string, literally pounds of sealing wax, and a quantity of the serum linings. The latter are for my wife, who intends to use them for straining for dress padding and for French Polishing wade.
Has anyone any other ideas?

PROPAGANDA LABELS From Belfast comes a "sticker" depicting A spray of flax and inscribed "**FRIENDS OF IRISH LINEN**", printed in blue, imperf, The two copies I have seen are both on letters from the Irish Linen Guild, 7 Donegal Sq. W. Belfast.

PSEUDO-CANCELLATION I have just seen an envelope with a strike of a rectangular handstamp, similar in size and shape to the slogan cancellations, inscribed **SOCIAL STUDY CONGRESS / BALLSBRIDGE. / 23-30 JUNE 1957.**
I shall try to ascertain if it is used during the congress, and if possible obtain some samples.

1 July

"ISLANMAN" stamps appeared today – but not last night. For the last few issues (Except Redmond which appeared on a Tuesday instead of a Monday) the Dublin G.P.O was specially opened at midnight for The benefit of first-of-the-day enthusiasts. But apparently Dublin philatelists have not turned up in sufficient numbers. Last night the G.P.O Was closed and no stamps could be bought until 8.00 a.m

The colours are drab, the head is too small, the inscription inadequate. And I have no yet found any flaws, the only interesting feature being the presence of guide-dots similar to those of the Redmond stamps.

THE GUIDE DOTS My suggestion that the dots visible on the Redmond's were a new feature is quite unjustified: I find similar dots are present on all the Irish Issues printed by Messrs De la Rue !

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS Yet again a change has been made before the End of a month. On 29th June the **CLEAN FOOD** Slogans reappeared.

16 July 1957

ANOTHER NEW SLOGAN Ennis is now using a new machine Cancellation publicising **"MUINTIR NA TIRE" RURAL WEEK, ENNIS 11th-18th AUGUST**

18th July 1957

PATIENCE REWARDED On several occasions I have suggested to the Irish post office that collectors would appreciate it if new issues of postal stationary were announced in advances is always done for adhesive stamp issues. My first representations were met with the assurance that it would not be possible, owing to the procedures for distribution, or some such vague reason. Eventually I persuaded a responsible official that what was possible for sheets of stamps was possible for packets of envelopes etc. So yesterday I received a circular reading as follows. And the same day it appeared in the newspapers.

"**NEWS ITEM**
NEW ISSUE OF OFFICIAL REGISTERED ENVELOPES AND NEWSPAPER WRAPPER.

The Department of Posts and Telegraph's announce that A new series of registered envelopes bearing a 1/- embossed stamp and a newspaper wrapper bearing a 2d printed stamp will be on sale at the Post offices as from Monday, the 29th July "

It will be interesting to see if the 1/- is embossed from the same die as that used pre-war on Telegram forms

27 July 1957

18th CENTURY NAME STAMPS I have this week acquired an entire Lot of 1769, with indistinct impressions Of the Dublin COUNTRY and a name stamp new to me and not in the Stafford Johnson collection. It is the abbreviated L>KENNY for Letterkenny. Rather a late date for this style of abbreviation.

29 July

THE NEW WRAPPER The new wrapper has this same dimension as previous issues. 10¾ x 4¾" (Approx. 273x 120mm) and the 2d stamp appears to be from the same die that was first used as long ago as 1924 on the letter card. And has since been used for typographed envelopes and postcards.

THE REGISTRATION ENVELOPES Contrary to expectation, all four Sizes have appeared together. They Must be classed as only a provisional issue, in that the new 1/- stamp has been applied to envelopes printed from the same plates as the last issue used with the 9d envelopes but it may have been. Comparisons this evening have led to the discovery that there were two printings of 9d K envelope, the later one appearing less heavily printed and having the label box only 90 mm from the central blue line, instead of 93mm in the first printing. What a headache are these Irish Reg envs. ? Has anyone a complete collection

The 1/- stamp is from a new die. Obviously the existing 1/- die 9 used pre-war on telegraph forms) was inappropriate as it was "Postage 1/- "(In Irish). The colour is best described as orange red (Blood orange?) and varies considerably with different angles of incidence of the light,

I rather thought that the Post Office would make yet another increase in the charge for the envelope, as well as that for the stamp, But they have refrained, leaving the exorbitant figures at F 1 ½d, G 2d, H 3½d and K 5½d.

The packet wrappers show some inter esting features. The Irish language is conspicuous by its absence, as with post – 1953 issues (of regenvs). All bear imprints of August 1956, but whereas the F, G and K were printed by"R & S" the H were the work of the "Fleet" printers.

1 August 1957

SLOGANS Yet again the Irish slogans have changed at the end of the month. Yesterday (31 July) Dublin reintroduced anti-Diphtheria - or rather pro-inoculation slogans in place of the Clean Food propaganda.

Today I filled in one more gap in my collection. In a box of otherwise junk there was one piece with the **LABAIR GAELGE** (i.e. with the revised spelling from Cork,

A correspondent has asked me about the **MUINTIR NA TIRE**, whose rural Week slogan from Ennis was recently reported. The literal translation means something like "people of the Land" and it is a movement to develop the community spirit in rural areas, to raise the standard of living and of culture in the villages and to halt the drift to the towns. The rural week is an annual function, a sort of annual conference for the organisers of village activities.

REGISTRATION LABELS I am continuing to sort my stock – doing an average of 50-100 an evening. The latest discovery is a pair, No's 1 & 2, from Glenties with clumsily torn apart and used on separate envelopes. has such a variety been recorded in Ireland hitherto ?

3 August

SHA**NAHAN'S SALES** I have been privileged a pre-view of the Catalogue of the colossal sales at the beginning of September, the first two sessions been devoted entirely to literature. Valuations are ludicrous. £50 For a volume which can still be picked up at under £1. (I've had three copies which cost me 2/1, 5/-, 7/6) , £1 for a booklet that's still currant at 5/- , £3 for a book still in print at 25/- etc. Trivis of no real value, historic, philatelic, or literary are carefully listed as desirable items instead of been bundled into dozens. I hope to be able to attend – especially as t here are just a few items I would like to value at what seem to be reasonable figures

7 August 1957

DUBLIN HORSE SHOW 1957

I am not at all interested in horses, but always manage at least a half-day at the annual Horse Show, and always meet a few old friends there. and my regular habits include a visit to the Post Office, and send off one or two registered letters to obtain the special "**SHOW YARD**" cancellation which has been currant for many years Today I only had one item ready for sending, and my eyes popped when I was handed the registration receipt: it showed a new cancellation, made up from movable type n a circular handstamp (30 mm diameter) , with the legend **HORSE SHOW DUBLIN** and the date in line at centre. So, I hurriedly prepared and sent off a few covers to myself, and will decide later how to distribute them to interested collectors.

Regrettably I was unable to attend the show yesterday. The first day, and it's unlikely that any collectors will obtain first-day impressions of the postmark. watch out for it - 6 August 1957. I feel tempted to post a few tomorrow and alter the 8 to a 6 with the aid of a razor blade and Indian ink !

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

I could not use the new 1/- envelopes to secure the cancellations as only the 9d issue was on sale. According to the counter clerk only a small supply of the new envelopes were made available on the schedules first day, and all old stock must be used up before any more new are issued.

10 August

AIR LETTER FORMS

The fourteenth issue has come to my notice. I noticed at Dublin GPO today that the counter stock seemed to be in a lighter shade that the last I obtained. When I got them home, I found that there is a more important difference: the Irish text has been reset with the use of a lower- as well as upper case type.

As a supplement I am retyping the list of Irish Air letter forms known to me, which you may like to use to amend your copies of the late O.P Kennedy's check list. Any extra details will be released, IE other imprints, or earlier dates of those listed.

CHECK LIST OF IRISH AIR-LETTER FORMS, based on the compiled
By O.P. Kennedy, with additions by F.E. Dixon,

No.	Date	Schedule No.	Imprint	Remarks
1.	1st Sept. 1945 (reissued in Oct. 1947).	O. E. 6	D.P.D. 50M D.100 W.512	No overlay. "GEARR ANSO" alongside "Cut here".
2.	15 Sept 1945	O. E. 1	D.P.D. 225M D.100 W.512	With overlay. "GEARR ANSO" "above "Cut here"
3.	July 1946	O. E. 1	D.P.D. 400M D.45 W.5757.	As No. 2
4.	June 1048	O. E. 1	D.P.D. 400M W4718	As No. 2
5.	1 Sept. 1949	O. E. 1	D.P.D. 400M D44 W.3637	No overlay. "GEARR ANSO" alongside "Cut here".
6.	5 Sept. 1949	O. E. 1	D.P.D. 400M D44 W.3637. (i.e. as No. 5)	As No. 2
7.	20 Sept, 1949	O. E. 1	D. P. D. 400M W.4758	As No. 2. Large 4 in 4758
8.	1950	O. E. 1	D. P. D. 500M 247 2383	As No. 2
9.	1952	O. E. 1	D. P. D. 1000M. 290 2239	As No. 2
10.	Nov. 1953	O. E. 1	D. P. D. 500M. 71. 3275	As No. 2, but overlay fainter, and AEROGRAMME added.
11.	1954	O. E. 1	296. 690,000 12/53.-B&N Ltd.	Otherwise as No. 10
12.	1955	NIL	NIL	Completely redesigned, printed in purple on green. Irish text all caps. Address lines consist of dashes. No fold lines
13.	April 1955	NIL	NIL	As No. 12, except that all line are dotted, and fold lines are included
14.	August 1955	NIL	NIL	As No. 13, except that Irish text includes lower case. Ink brown rather than purple

N.B The date of No.1 is the official day of issue, Other dates are the earliest recorded by O.P.K or F.E.D

27 August 1957

EXHIBITION The Dublin Stamp Society is at present much more enterprising that is senior (some think senile) the Irish Philatelic Sec. The latest enterprise of the Dublin is a comprehensive display in the "little Theatre" at Messrs Brown Thomas's Grafton St. store. This is an annex to the basement of the store and is used from time to time for art exhibitions etc. The present display loaned by members of the Dublin S.S is intended to show the wide range of interest of modern Philatelists - pictorials, thematic, fly- spots, classics, cancellations, etc I was unable to get off for the opening this afternoon by the minister for Posts and telegraphs, and only looked in for a few minutes just before it closed for the day. As I was at once buttonholed by Mr. Kane (Member I.S.G.). I had no chance to see more than half a dozen frames. But the show is for ten days and I hope to have more time next week, when I will report in more detail.

28 August

AIR LETTER FORMS Mr. Field has pointed out an error in the list circulated with the last number of D.I.P.N. THE 14th Issue should be dated "August 1957" not 1955.

NEW STAMPS The Irish Department of Posts & Telegraphs has apparently decided to make a bigger effort to exploit philatelists. Today's newspapers carried the advance publicity for two new issues. each will comprise two values 3d and 1/3. In September we shall have Admiral Brown(1772-1857) "Father of the Argentine Navy, and in November "Father Luke wadding (1588-1657) founder of the Irish College in Rome and a distinguished ecclesiastic. The former will be typo graphed and the latter recess-printed. All will be in what is officially termed "Single Size". I still do not understand why the Irish Commemorate anniversaries of Deaths, while most people prefer to celebrate birthdays. And is it good propaganda, at a time when the decline of population is a serious problem, to publicise the successes achieved by former emigrants ?

2 September 1957

SLOGANS 31ST August witnessed the re-introduction of LICENCE YOUR RADIO PROMPTLY I have not yet seen a revival of the Irish Language version but expect that it has also reappeared.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES Hopes of an early new printing with the reverse insertion correct have been dashed. In reply to my query the Department of Posts & telegraphs state that there will be no further issue until stocks of the present envelopes are exhausted, which will be about June 1958 for G and as late as January 1959 for K! It thus appears that the recent printing with 1/- stamp was not merely a using up of unstamped stock, and the failure to amend the reverse was an oversight.

The same letter states that first-day cover sales of the 1/- envelope were negligible, and there will be no prior notification of the introduction of the next printing,

DUBLIN S.S. EXHIBITION I have now seen a few more of the exhibits – very varied, with many attractive items well displayed. The highlight for the Irish enthusiast is a frame holding 14 different essays for the 1939 Eucharistic Congress design, all by G. Atkinson, and including the design adopted. This frame is loaned by Mr. McLaghlin, who is talking of resuming serios collecting after a lapse of some years.

Mr Kane's exhibit include several flaws On the 3d airmail, one of being the well-known re-entry. The others appear to have been constant for some period of the printing, but we do not know (at present) whether This was early or late in the issue.

Dr Renouf contributes a fascinating all-world collection illustrating "Man", and accompanied by an essay on aspects ranging from Zoology to Theology.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION Today (3 Sept.) I sent a few more covers but found there was no special B.A. cancellation. Instead there is one reading MANSION HOUSE DUBLIN, made up of movable types. It is used at the Post Office in the Reception Hall. In addition, the press Room has a handstamp of permanent type reading **TIGH AN ARD MHÉARA** – House of the Lord Mayor. The counter clerk is very obliging and is willing to apply either handstamp to ordinary mail.

10 September 1957

BRITISH ASSOCIATION TEMPORARY POST OFFICE When I visited this counter (actually a trestle table (for the last time today, I learned that the clerk had erred in cancelling letters and postcards for me as he had done. . The MAINSION HOUSE cancellation should have been used only on registered items and the TIGH AN ARD MHERA should not have been used ion mails at all!

I had quite a chat with a (& T official on the subject of special postmarks – comparing the Irish policy with the enterprise shown elsewhere and think I got home the view that appreciable extra business wold result if special hand stamps were cut and announcements made through the press.

This official confirmed my belief that the last occasion a MANSION HOUSE DUBLIN mark was used was for the B.M.A. in 1933. On that occasion a made-up stamp of the larger kind was used : the only examples I have seen are in the Post Office registration Receipt book. He mentioned that another function to have temporary handstamp took place a few years ago in UNIVERSAY COLLEGE DUBLIN, Has anyone seen examples of it?

11th September

WILLIAM BROWN STAMPS

The definite announcement of 3d blue and 1/3d cerise appears in today's newspapers. The design, by Sean O' Sullivan, is most unpromising, the style being suggestive of a medieval woodcut. Date of Issue 23rd September 1957.

GIBBONS CATALOGUE VOL.1 So, Ireland is back in the British Commonwealth, but the rewriting is less Thorough than some of us hoped. Even minor varieties escape mention And there is no reference at all to booklets or booklet pages.

SHANAHANS'S AUCTIONS I did not attend last week's sales. According to newspaper reports they were fabulously successful, successful bids totalling £59,000. But I understand that only three customers turned up for the Friday evening session, and they were told that if they indicated which lots interested them, those lost would be put up. The rest would be automatically sold to the postal bidders. My informant enquired after the one lot he wanted, and while negotiations were proceeding a messenger rushed down the stairs to say that a bid had just been telephoned from France from that very lot, offering twice the valuation! C'est incroyable.

21 September 1957

DUBLIN MACHINE CANCELLATIONS

When did Dublin receive its first cancelling Machine ? The earliest I have found is the Columbia type (A&H Fig.2131 – 6 straight bars, No. 1) for 17 June 1906. It differs from later examples by having the time below the date. My next earliest is 24 June 1906, and is normal with the date in the bottom line,

23 September

WILLIAM BROWN STAMPS

Certain Irishmen and women refused to use the Emmet stamps because they alleged the design was based on a caricature and not a portrait. Admirers of Admiral William Brown will probably denounce today's new stamp for showing a caricature of a portrait. The design is unbalanced, the EIRE far too small. WILLIAM BROWN too large. The printing is as bad as the designing, the fine lines showing many small beaks, due mainly to the unevenness of the paper. These are far the worst Irish stamps since the 1953 An Tostal Issue, and even worse than the preliminary Picture in the newspapers led us to expect: it was made almost certainly, from the artist's drawing: many lines of shading have been grossly thickened in making te master die, the lighthouse (?) has been lopped, and the tail of the R in EIRE altered. Incidentally the lighthouse is still far too big. If it, and its rock , were on the horizon as shown, and of normal size, they would be barely discernible in an ordinary picture.

The crudity of the printing (and its flat-Ness) resemble the 1941 effort with the G. P. O . Volunteer design. I have not time for the necessary study at present, and hope that some other lens wielder will investigate the possibility that the plates have been made up in as primitive a fashion.

25 September

I've just spent another few minutes study-Ing the "Brown" and find more evidence of primitive technique, the alignment is erratic, so that a well centered stamp may be in pair with one noticeably off centre. One possibly constant flaw is a break in the horizon line just right of the lighthouse, which occurs on stamp 21B of the sheet (2nd stamp, 9th row lower pane) .

October 1957

REGISTERED LABELS

Although the preliminary sorting of my few thousands of labels is now complete, it is not yet possible for me to decide what I shall mount and what will be available for exchange purpose.

Another handwritten registration label has just reached me. It is of Clonalvy, a very small place in North Co. Dublin

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

Another error to report: on 19th September Tipperary was using "**Licence your Radio Promptly**" with the circular name-time-and-date portion inverted.

Going through the same batch a cork " **FAIGH CEADÚANAS DOD RADIO**" caught my eye as a little different from a Galway one. Measurements reveal that whereas the Cork frame is just under 18mm from top to bottom the Galway measurement is 18½ mm. A quick check through some others fails to find any more as narrow as the Cork, but reveals that the peculiarity has been there since the slogan first appeared in March 1953.

These "**Licence your radio**" slogans seem to be Continuing for October.

16 October

PAQUEBOTS Home again after a delightful holiday, the highest light been my sojourn with the Field collection and its owner, and the last being spot being a too brief first encounter with Michael Leonard in Liverpool. As usual I posted a few postcards on board The British & Irish Seamer and (again as usual) the results are worthy of record. Those posted on the outward journey, reaching Liverpool 3rd October, were not postmarked until the following day, and then received impressions from a handstamp not recorded since 1952. Those posted last night were handled more promptly and were delivered this afternoon, bearing the battered Dublin Paquebot handstamp introduced in 1935.

18 October

WILLIAM BROWN

At last night's meeting of the Irish Philatelic Society I was shown an envelope bearing the 3d blue Brown cancelled 20th September – three days before the official day of issue. It seems to be an authentic case of leakage and there may be a few others around.

20 October 1957

ROSS When Alan Robertson produced his booklet on Irish Ship Letters etc (Philatelist Suppl. Dec, 1954) he was of the opinion that the Ross Ship Letter mark could be allocated to Rosscarbery. Others have preferred the claims of what is now New Ross. And a cover which has just been presented to me by Frank Staff strongly supports the New Ross attribution.

It is a paid letter from ross to London where it arrived 15 January 1799. The MSS inscription is red reads:

Pd Irish 2
British 8
10

And these fit perfectly with 2d for a letter from New Ross to Waterford (10 Miles) and 8d for the Packet Rate Waterford-London via Haverford West.

26 October

SHANAHAN'S Today's sale was much like the others, lots knocked down at 500 per hour, mostly to alleged postal bidders, but a few to a group of continental dealers. Dr Singer has reformed in one respect: where his visiting expert (M.Brun) has noted defects, these are briefly mentioned before the lot is put up. I was lucky (I think), my only purchase being the covers of No. 386 at half the auctioneers' valuation.

ANOTHER LUCKY BUY It was one of my good days. Before going to Dun-Laoire I had hurriedly skimmed the bookshops along the Dublin quays, bought three quite sound penny blacks at 5/- each and then found, on a 3d (!) a book I had hunted for years.- the autobiography of Col. Meadows Taylor. I notice a couple of postal history items. He describes the Dublin and Liverpool packets of c.1820: "Stout cutters, with one narrow cabin for passengers and berths all round it : no wonder no one went across who could avoid it. We were three days and nights at sea: and as provisions were reduced to salt junk and ship's biscuit, we amused ourselves by catching gurnards off the kish bank, and these split and broiled were very good." His first job was as a clerk in a Liverpool office, for a time as a post office clerk – not an easy task in those days, as the postage on letters send and received was of considerable amount and variety.

MY MOVE Being cut off from most bookshops will be one of the major hardships of my rustication to Rosslare harbour. Although I hope to weekend in Dublin for a few months. My address on and after 5th November will be

Metrological Station
Rosslare Harbour,
Co. Wexford.

6 November 1957

ROSELARE HARBOUR

I'm typing this in my office, a stone's throw from the pier whence the ships ,ao;) thrice weekly only in winter) to Fishguard. But is a mile from her to the railway station, the last train out is 2.50 p.m. and the first one in doesn't arrive until noon. There are no bus services, and the trains don't run at all on Sundays. Even when they do run the trains take 60 minutes to do the journey to Wexford – a little over seven miles So men without cars are somewhat marooned, and if I cannot escape otherwise I shall have to buy a car and learn to drive it. I know of no collectors or other congenial companions nearer than Wexford and D.F.P.N must depend even more than ever on my own resources.

LUKE WADDING STAMPS

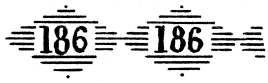
The design, as divulged through the newspapers, looks rather like a death mask but will be more attractive that the Bill Brown. date of issue Monday 25th November, and I do not advise anyone to depend on me for first-day-covers as the local cancellation is rarely even legible.

SLOGANS

The Radio licencing appeals soon to have been withdrawn at the end of October and so far nothing has replaced them: i.e. the wavy bars are in use without slogans.

I only brought a few albums with me when I came, intending to bring more after each visit to Dublin (when it can be wrangled). So I cannot check when Athlone changed the Irish form of it's name. But last evening, skimming through a bundle of duplicates intended for the Packet ÁTH LUAIN caught my eye in the middle of a batch of ÁTHA LUAINs. I see from the newspapers that the inhabitants of the one-time Kingstown, who have become reconciled to the grotesque DUN LAOIRE, are objecting strongly to Civil Service attempts to make it DUN LAOIRE. The latter has been current for some time in e.g. the Telephone Directory, but I have not yet seen it in any Post Office cancellations.

19 November



The continuous "roller" type of Dublin is a cancellation which comes to me rather rare. I have just seen it on an irregular block of 1d reds, about 1860, is a small lot I am hoping to buy. What do others think ? and who possesses dated pieces or covers.?

O'CONNELL CORRESPONDANCE

I had a short weekend in Dublin – last Sunday and Monday and managed to start one of the tasks I have postponed too often- looking for postal History material in the library of University College Dublin. A glance through the earlier years of the O' Connell family papers suggested that I am too late. The letters of the 1750's reveal a few bishop marks but many "fronts have been removed – probably by some 19th century collector.

26 November 1957

FATHER WADDING STAMPS appeared as scheduled on Monday 25th November and will do something to restore the prestige of Irish Stamps after the appalling lapse of design and printing shown by the Brown issue.

The sheet layout is the same as far for the Redmond issue, two panes 12 x 10, separated by a wide blank gutter and with numbers 1A and 1B below stamp 110 of the panes. The new, and I think welcome, feature in the inclusion of the printer's imprint in the margin below stamps 114 and 115 of each pane. As far as I have investigated there is no major Re-entry or other prominent flaw.

ROSSLARE HARBOUR & PIER I had been resident in the village of Rosslare harbour for nearly a month before I took a stroll on the pier – not a pleasant pier, but purely for business, and incorporating all the amenities of a railway terminus - refreshment room, bookstall, etc. open of course only when the Fishguard boat is due in or out. There is a Pillar Box and a telegraph office but no Post Office. I was surprised to find that the telegraph Office has no post office canceller, using only a handstamp of the railway company.

3rd December

FATHER WADDING STAMPS I did not see a complete pane of the 1/3 until I got to Dublin for the weekend, and was surprised to find that my note above re imprint applies only to the 3d. The 1/3 has plate numbers but no printers name

SLOGANS "Post Early for Christmas" appeared on 30 November. I reported earlier that the LICENCE YOUR RADIO PROMPTLY was taken off at the end of October. I now find that there were at least two exceptions: Tipperary and Tullamore were still using it near the end of November.

POSTMARK ERRORS Yet again inverses. This time Galway, where the name-time-date portion of the machine cancellation was upside down for the 12.30PM/25 NOV/1957 despatch

THE VALUE OF POSTMARK RESEARCH I was fortunately able to have another short weekend in Dublin and to take another glimpse at he O'Connell papers. Gn no important discoveries, but I was able to point out that the cataloguer had slipped in dating one letter "1830". The writer had omitted the year from his date and the year portion of the postmark was missing. But sufficient remained to identify it as th Dublin type used only from 1800 to 1807. Has anyone ever written a compact postmark guide for archivists and librarians,

MALTESE CROSSES I have secured the lot including the Dublin 186 roller, and find inter alia a battered pair of 1841 2d blue with a "Maltese Cross" closely resembling the rarest Leeds Cross. i.e. with the white outlines on a black ground, as it a normal handstamp was used to give an intaglio instead of a surface printed impression. I have a similar one from Carnew, but do not think the new find is quite the same.

6 December 1957

RAILWAY STAMPS Who has envelopes bearing Irish companies' parcels labels used as railway letter " stamps ? I have only two, both used on the G. N. R. (1) in October 1938, and neither bearing any postage stamps or post office markings; they were thus conveyed as Parcels rather than Letters.

INSURANCE STAMPS POSTALLY USED

To those already recorded may be added to a pair Of the 1/- "Health " (ÁHACAS SLÁINTE AGUS PINGIN) postally cancelled at Cork 30 March 1938. The pair is only on small piece so there is no evidence of whether they actually did postal service.

CHARITY LABELS The Irish series this year comprises six new designs, issued in panes of 48 or sheets of 96. "progressive Colour Proofs" are again available.

16 December

2d O CRIONTAIN I was disappointed, when I went to buy 2d stamps for despatching of Christmas Cards, to find that only the 2d map definitives were available. Does this mean the 2d O CRIONTAIN is withdrawn without plate 2 ever appearing ?

YET ANOTHER INVERTED DATE My job is training meteorologists. Whether or not my efforts are successful, I can claim that some require the right type of observing eye. One man today bought the wrapping of a Christmas Parcel, he had just received, and he happened to notice that the 57 of the date was upside down, and thought I'd be interested ! the cancellation is the normal parcels type of Dublin G.P.O and the date reads LIL DEC instead of 17 DEC 57. This is an item of really exceptional rarity: to decipher any part of the date is normally and achievement.

31st December

THE CHRISTMAS CANCELLATIONS **POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS** seems to have been used at he aame time as last year: no newcomers: the Dublin machine employing it went as far as O, and the machine applying the wavy bars cancellation after the slogans were withdrawn (e.20th Dec.) included P. The only approach to an error I have seen for this period was Dublin B machine with the short central section of bars omitted.

Another variation came to my notice is the Christmas batch of mail, but it turns out to have begun some months back: when Blackrock first had its cancelling machine about 5 years ago the name read **CARRAIGH DHUBH-Á CLAITH** around the circle. Early this year (see D.I.P.N. 1 Feb) This was changed to CARRAIG DHUBH above the **CO. BH. A.C.** below. This must have worn badly for by May a third version was current **CARRAIG DHUBH-Á CLAITH** around the circle. i.e. the original inscription less the H of CARRAIGH. It is not, however the original die reset, as the letters are slightly smaller and the accent shortened, etc. So t February to April variety is liable to be very rare.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS. (Published 2 April 1958)
Summary of the principle items of the issues of the year 1957

SLOGAN CANCALLATIONS

In January **AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X RAY** was revived, and in February it gave way to the varied slogans of the anti-Diphtheria campaign. At the beginning of March provincial offices used **PREVENT FOREST FIRES** until the introduction of a new slogan, BUY PRIZE BONDS, on 11th at most places it was discontinued after 4th April, but Drogheda was still using it on the 8th and Sligo on the 11th, three days after the closing date for buying the Bonds! **PREVENT FORESY FIRES** then reappeared in Dublin as well as the provinces. In May **IRELAND FOR HOLIDAYS** was taken from the shelf it has occupied since 1953, but only a few offices used it. Limerick had **KILKEE FOR HAPPY HOLIDAYS** and Waterford **GLORIOUS TRANMORE FOR YOUR HOLIDAYS.** Surprisingly Galway, Sligo and Wexford did not extol their beauties this year.
AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X RAY came back again in June, and in July a few places has the **CLEAN FOOD** slogans. Ennis had a new item for July and August, **MUINTIR NA TIRE, RURAL WEEK, ENNIS,11th-18th AUGUST.** Elsewhere August saw the Anti Diphtheria slogans again, and in September there was a general change to **LICENCE YOUR RADIO PROMPTLY** (and the Irish equivalent). They continued to October and at a few places in November, when the majority of te machines used their wavy bars. Then, inevitably, December had **POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS** in the same dies as the past several years, but wavy bars came back for the second half of the month.

It is noticeable that in many cases where a change of slogan was due on the 1ST of a month it was often accompanied on the previous day. Thus the story of the year really end with the reintroductions of AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X RAY on 31st December.

INVERSIONS

Three cases came to my notice with the whole of the name-time-date portion of a machine cancellation inverted. They were Blackrock on 1st May, Tipperary 10th Sept. and Galway25th Nov. In addition, there was one example , Dublin (Machine 1 22 April) with the year only inverted.

A less common type of error was in a Dublin Parcels cancellation which shows the date as 17 17 DEC instead of 17 DEC 57.

VARIANT NAMES

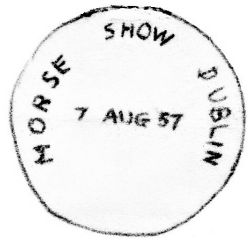
For some years the Blackrock machine cancellations have borne the spelling CARRAIGH DHUBH – Á CLIATH. In February this was replaced by **CARRAIG DHUBH** at top and **CO. BH. A.C.** at foot. Then in May it became **CARRAIG DHUBH-Á CLAITH,** i.e. as at first except for the H of CARRAIGH. Another change noted (but occurring before 1957) was from ATHA LUAIN to ATH LUAIN. Limerick continues to waver between LUIMNEACH and LUIMNEAC.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS.

Summary of the principle items of the issues of the year 1957

SPECIAL POSTMARKS

The temporary post office at the Spring show and Horse show of the Royal Dublin Society has long used a special SHOW YARD handstamp. At the 1957 Horse show, 6th – 8th August, a new handstamp appeared, made up of movable type. It was used only on parcels and registered letters.



In September the British association for the Advancement of sciences visited Dublin, using the Mansion House for headquarters. Two handstamps were applied in the temporary post office, the upper at counter for delegates and the lower (meaning House of the Lord Mayor in the press room Through a fortunate mistake on the part of the official, both were used on small quantities of ordinary mail. (Illustrations are not exact, being drawn from memory.



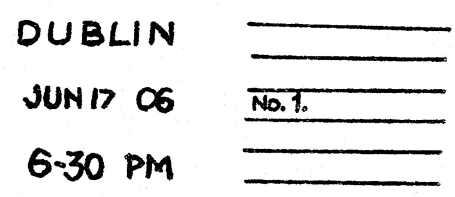
1944 DUBLIN EXHIBITION OVERPRINT

The few examples I have seen of the overprint illustrated have all been on the 1/2d Brother O Cleairigh stamp and all on envelopes. Careful scrutiny of my own copy, which bears the exhibition Cancellation shows that the overprint was printed <u>over</u> the postmark. Has anyone seen an example on an unused stamp, on a value other than the 1/2 d, or off cover ? and does anyone know who produced this bogus issue.



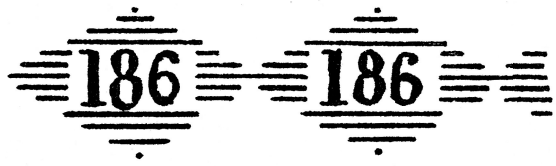
FIRST DUBLIN MACHINE CANCELLATIONS

What is the earliest date for the Dublin machine cancelling? . Here is a sketch of my earliest. It differs from the normal later versions by having the <u>time</u> in the bottom line. How long did this practice last?



186 REPEATING KILLER

One of the scarcest Dublin postmarks is that giving a continuous sequence of the 186 in diamond pattern. The only example on datable piece that I know is in the Field Collection dated October 1860. Can any collector produce earlier or later dates?



DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS.

Summary of the principle items of the issues of the year 1957

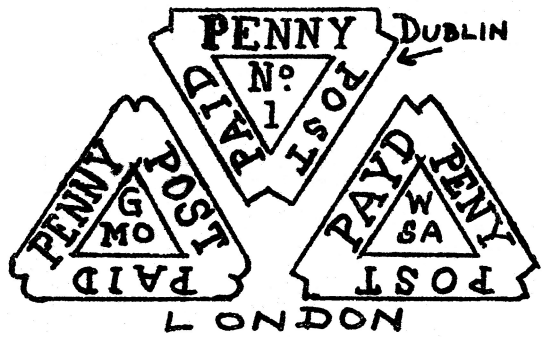
INTAGLIO MALTESE CROSS

In a small lot of material, most of which had Irish cancellations, was a pair of 2d blues defaced by strikes of a "Maltese cross" in intaglio. i.e. ink filling the spaces between the lines instead of being on the lines. The best-known example of this practice is a rare Leeds cross. I have one Irish example, from Carnew, but the new find seems to be from a different stamp, Can anyone suggest an allocation ? (The sketch serves only to Illustrate what I mean by Intaglio: the outlines of the actual cross are much more like the normal type.

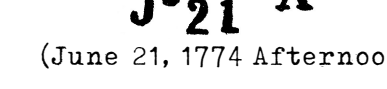


DUBLIN "DOCKWRA'S"

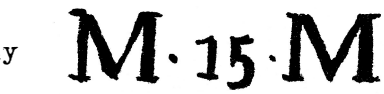
The most highly prised of the Irish pre-adhesive stamps is still the triangular mark closely resembling that invented in London by Wm. Dockwra. But how many could tell at a glance the difference between the London and Dublin stamps ? There is a real possibility that Another Dublin stamp may be found in a collection or dealer's stock, wrongly labelled as a London mark. As only six of the Dublin ones are known we do not know much about them, but all have the centre either blank or with a number. One donating the office and the others the day of the week. Whereas the Dublin spelling seems to have been correct that in London was erratic. Finally, whereas all the Dublin stamps are on the front of the cover, the London ones are normally on reverse.



Sorry! Not finally. Also, the Dublin Dockwra's are all accompanied by the date-stamp of the Dublin Penny Post, Which is found on general Post letters transferred to the P.P office for delivery, and which continued in use, with many changes of size, from 1773 to 1809. My sketches are of the smallest and largest I have seen,



(June 21, 1774 Afternoon)



(May 15, 1784 Morning)

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

31st January 1953.

CORK DUPLEX



Am I right in thinking this unusual? The numeral-in-date portion is like Bramall's Fig. 250, but whereas the circle for that type normally has a diameter of 20 mm or less, this example from York has a diameter of 23mm. Has anyone a cancellation of this size from any other town?

1st February.

IRISH CANCELLATIONS Today's postbag reveals that, again following last year's pattern, the Irish A and E slogans are being followed by those of the REPUBLICA TELEVISION campaign, which reappeared yesterday.

7th February

PRINT 3d VARIETIES Very little has been published about the numerous, if admittedly minor, varieties of the Robert Emmet 3d stamp. I have just discovered another and would like confirmation of its constancy. Stamp No. 10 of Pane 1B (i.e. top right corner of sheet) showing blurring of EMMET and all horizontal lines of shading above those words. Under high magnification (about 10 times) the line between EMMET and EMMET is found to be double but the other lines still seem only broadened.

11th February

MORE HAIRS



rough sketch of the design.

I was home in Dublin for the weekend and found among the bills awaiting me one from the Electricity Supply Board franked with a Metermatic which is new to me. Here is a

16th February

AIR LETTER RATES Rev. J. Eneeman has kindly sent me two more Irish Air Letter forms to add to the list I compiled last August. I think they belong to the period 1950-52 and suggest they be added to the list as:

c.1951	O.A.1	O.P.O. 40GM. 150. 25%.	As No.2
c.1951	O.B.1	O.P.O. 50GM. 224. 22%.	As No.2

These should probably be inserted 9 and 10 and the existing numbers 9 to 14 should all be increased by 2.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

1st March 1958

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS Once more the change was made on the last day of the month. At least in Dublin, the anti-diphtheria slogans were replaced by "License your Radio promptly".

6th March

FISCAL WATERMARKS When were stamps first printed on specially watermarked paper? The beautiful Irish embossed Receipt and Bill stamps of the early 19th century are found embossed on paper about 24x10cm. which is watermarked;

STAMP OFFICE DUBLIN
RECEIPTS
W 1815 H
A.B.KING HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONER

or similarly but with BILLS or PERMITS instead of RECEIPTS. Was this a pioneer effort, and was it the result of private enterprise by Mr.A.B.King, or by W.H. his paper maker? Can anyone add information of earlier or later watermarks, or of similar varieties elsewhere?

P.S. I should add that at about the same period State Lottery tickets were printed on paper with watermark LOTTERY: my example is of 1821.

18th March

MORE POSTMARK ERRORS. During February Cavan was using the interrupted wavy parallel bars instead of a slogan. On 25th FEB 1958, at 5.45 PM, the time and date slugs were inverted. Similarly, at 3 P.M on 3rd MAR 1958 Galway (with slogan FAIGH CEADUNAS DOD RADIO) had the time inverted and below the date.

26th March

1864? FENIAN ESSAYS Has anyone reliable information about the Fenian "Republic of Ireland" stamps of the 1860s, the date being given in various places as 1864, 1865 and 1866? The latest mention of them is particularly doubtful, and has appeared in at least two newspapers, one British and one Irish, in connection with a One Cent on show in STAMPEX. It alleges that the stamp was printed to commemorate a Fenian raid on St.John, New Brunswick in 1866. Undoubtedly the 3c, 10c and 24c stamps existed before that year but the early references I have seen do not mention the 1c. Was it issued later?

The present owner has been informed that only one other copy exists. Where is it? Is it the one in my collection or is mine a third?

These Fenian emanations deserve careful study as the earliest Irish postal adhesives and it is very desirable that the true facts should be unearthed if possible. I have waded through many books on the Fenian movement without finding any mention of stamps. Has anyone else been more successful?

SLOGANS Although Irish "Prize Bonds" are again on offer the slogan used at this period in 1957 has not reappeared, the "Licence your Radio Promptly" (and Irish equivalent) is still current.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

1st April 1958

SPRING SHOW

The Royal Dublin Society has once more issued envelope stickers to advertise its annual Spring Show, and the design is as before, except for colours - the Society's badge in orange, with the inscription in emerald green. One wonders whether the Show will follow the precedent set by the 1957 Horse Show in having a new cancellation at the temporary Post Office.

SHADES OF DEFINITIVES

I am normally too busy using up broken sheets of commemoratives to buy definitive stamps. Today, however, I bought a few 2d map and found them to be in a paler shade than I had seen before. I do not think there has been any change of ink, but cannot decide whether the cause is excessive cleaning and abrasion of the plate or merely underinking.

3rd April

SLOGANS

The slogan for April appears to be a revival of PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

MACHINE NAMES

Am I spending too much time with machine (including slogan) cancellations ? The latest point to worry me is the precise significance of the letters in the Dublin machine cancellations. We talk of them glibly as identifying the machine, but the numerous variations in the lengths and positions of arcs, the slope and position (and absence) of the accent on A of ÁTHA, suggests that the number of cancelling machines exceeds the number of identifying letters. I have found one case (9.15 PM 6 Nov. 1953) in which two quite different H machines were in use simultaneously !

Some of the dies used have been short-lived; others have become quite venerable, such as Dublin d introduced about 1930 and still current. I think that a really thorough study will reveal that some of the single circle types were made by modifying the earlier ones with double circle. That inner circle must have been a nuisance to the P.O. clerks; it was so easily damaged when inserting the year and time plugs. Look at impressions from the B machine in 1935 or 36.

14th April

I have long believed that the DUBLIN barred-circle handstamps, used on letters etc. in the temporary offices used after the G.P.O. was destroyed in 1916, were borrowed from the Parcels Office. A list compiled by Dr Stafford Johnson from the official register of cancellations shows that a new stamp of this type was registered on 23rd May 1916 - for issue to the Rotunda Office, and that this was the only DUBLIN of this type registered between 1909 and 1924. Where did the other come from ? At least two handstamps were in use, the most obvious difference being in the size of the letters. The sketches herewith slightly exaggerate the difference. Has anyone dated covers of early May or late April which will prove which was the old handstamp and which the new ?





DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

1st April, 1958.

Revised Check-List of Irish Air-Letter Forms based on that by O.P.Kennedy with additions by F.E.Dixon and Rev. J. Brennan.

No.	Date	Schedule No.	Imprint	Remarks
1.	1 Sep. 1945 (reissued in Oct.47)	O.E.6	D.P.D. 50M. D.100. W.512	No overlay. "GEARR ANSO" alongside "Cut here"
2.	15 Sep.1945	O.E.1	D.P.D. 225M.D.100. W.512	With overlay. "GEARR ANSO" above "Cut here"
3.	July 1946	O.E.1	D.P.D. 400M. D.48.W.5757.	As No. 2.
4.	June 1948	O.E.1	D.P.D. 400M W4718	As No. 2.
5.	1 Sep.1949	O.E.1	D.P.D. 400M. D.44. W.3637.	No overlay. "GEARR ANSO" alongside "Cut here"
6.	8 Sep.1949	O.E.1	D.P.D. 400M. D.44. W.3637. (ie as No.5)	As No. 2.
7.	20 Sep.1949	O.E.1	D.P.D. 400M W.4758	As No.2. Large 4 in 4758
8.	1950	O.E.1	D.P.D. 500M 247. 2383.	As No. 2.
9.	c.1951	O.E.1	D.P.D. 600M. 130. 253.	As No. 2.
10.	c.1951	O.E.1	D.P.D. 500M. 224. 2234	As No. 2.
11.	1952	O.E.1	D.P.D. 1000M. 290. 2239	As No. 2.
12.	Nov.1953	O.E.1	D.P.D. 500M. 71. 3275.	As No. 2, but overlay fainter, and AEROGRAMME added.
13.	1954	O.E.1	296. 690,000 12/53.-B.&N.Ltd.	Otherwise as No.12
14.	Mar.1955	Nil	Nil	Completely redesigned, printed in purple on green. Irish text all caps. Address lines consist of dashes. No fold lines.
15.	April 1955	Nil	Nil	As No.14, except that all lines are dotted, and fold lines are included.
16.	August 1957	Nil	Nil	As No.15, except that Irish text includes lower case. Ink brown rather than purple.

N.B. The date of No.1 is the official day of issue. Other dates are the earliest recorded.

Note. The above merges F. E. Dixon's supplement to D.I.P.N. of August 1957 with the two reported by Rev. J. Brennan as noted in D.I.P.N. of 18th February 1958. Numbers 9 to 14 of the August 1957 list, become 11 to 16.

22 April 1958

POSTAGE DUES The "Eire" Postage Dues, ½d, 1d, 2d and 6d, began to appear early in 1925 [What is the earliest date recorded?] but British ones continued in use until stocks were exhausted. In the case of other values, such as 1/-, it is possible that stocks were even replenished.[What is the latest date of use in Ireland, and what value ?] Stocks obtained from mid-1924 onwards would have the ~~the~~ multiple Crown GvR watermark and it seems likely that a collection of G.B. Postage Dues used in Eire could include S.G.Nos. D1, D2, ... D9 and D10 to D17 or even D18. Of the first set I am missing the 5d, and of the second I have only the 1/- [What others are known ?]

The most prominent flaw of the first Irish printings is listed by Robson Lowe as "Dot on "O" of "POSTA"" This is misleading: in my example the O of POSTAGE is almost completely obscured by the dot, and it covers most of the neighbouring P and S. He is further at fault in mentioning the 2d with watermark sideways but not with watermark inverted. Neither is common.

I have heard of a funny price being asked for an English example of a postage stamp being used as provisional substitute for a Postage Due. So it is probably worth recording that the same has happened in Ireland. I have a 1941 envelope from India on which 1½d due has been made up of a 1d Postage Due and ½d 'Sword of Light' - at Dairbhre (= Valentia).

28 April

WILLIAM BROWN ½d. The generosity of Rev.J.Brennan (a visit from whom gave me a very interesting evening last week) enables me to illustrate a variety he found on several sheets of the Brown issue. It is a dot, easily seen without a lens, below and to the left of "1777", and is found on stamp 51 (1st stamp 6th row) of the upper pane.



CHARITY LABELS Another interesting item from the same source is the 1d label issued in connection with a nursing scheme. This has been reported before in two shades of green, but has now appeared in blue.

1866(?) FENIAN One CENT Rarely has a stamp achieved such widespread publicity as the One Cent to be auctioned by the London Stamp Exchange. I have been sent a cutting from the London "Evening News" revealing that a director of the concern assesses the value as over £100. I disagree with him, but admire his technique: he may attract the attention of the speculators capable of keeping the bidding going. The fun will really start if the buyer tries to get a Certificate. What would be the reaction of the "Royal" or the B.P.A. if they were asked to certify such an item ? It could be a quite bogus imitation of the better authenticated 3c, 10c and 24 c values !

30 April

DUBLIN REGISTERED Official registered mail, such as that containing pay cheques, is normally datestamped with the same stamps as appear on other official mail. An envelope received today, however, bore the stamp illustrated here - in red. The "CLAR." indicates that it belongs to the Registered Letter Office, but there is nothing to connect it with Official Mail. Does anyone know of its use in black on ordinary registered letters ? The early time of day is noteworthy. I am sure the letter was handed in on the previous evening, presumably too late for despatch.



P.T.O.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

1 May 1958

THE DOTS OF COUNTY CORK

The Irish 1d coil printing of 1946 was noteworthy for dots, each recurring in every 16th stamp, and showing approximately the positions of the towns New Ross, Newry, Galway, Limerick and Dublin. About the same time H.Exley (now in Australia) noted similar dots, near Dunmanway and Clonakilty, on a few stamps with @ watermark, apparently from sheets. We later (about 1950) found a few with e watermark, also from sheets. I have not paid any attention to the 1d for some time, so the dots may be present on more recent printings. They certainly are present on the plate used for the current booklets - No.38/56. The Dunmanway dot was visible in 11 of the 12 1d stamps in one booklet I bought recently and there was at least a trace of the Clonakilty one in all 12. The Clonakilty flaw is usually a northward extension of the end of Clonakilty Bay, but occasionally shows as a separate dot.



PAPER VARIATIONS

The paper used for modern Irish stamps varies widely in thickness and transparency, but the differences are of no help in identifying successive printings. In the particular booklet mentioned above the two pages of 3d were on quite different paper !

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

As last year, PREVENT FOREST FIRES has been withdrawn at the end of April and replaced by IRELAND FOR HOLIDAYS.

2 May

THE IRISH POSTAL GUIDE

For details of the postal rates and services one usually consults an "Almanack" or "Directory"especially when one is dealing with the earlier years of postal history. So I was surprised today to find a mention of The Irish Postal Guide for March 1840. Does any I.S.G. member know what it comprised, who issued it, and how many issues appeared ?

RACE MEETINGS

Finding a Newmarket Grand Stand cancellation the other day reminded me that I have never seen a special cancellation for any Irish race course. Post Office lists copied by Dr Stafford Johnson included "GRAND STAND" handstamps for Phoenix Park, Baldoyle, Curragh, Limerick Junction and Mullingar; and others inscribed "RACES" for Clonmel and Tuam. They were registered on various dates between 1911 and 1920. Presumably the use would be mainly, or entirely, on telograms. Have any examples survived ? Equally important is the question "Are similar stamps still used ?" I do not go to the races myself but perhaps someone who does can ascertain. The telephone has largely supplanted the telegraph and it is possible that the temporary offices are no longer opened.

BOTH SIDES OR NOT ?

I am suggesting to our Honoured and Honorary Printer and Publisher that this issue of D.I.P.N. should be printed on both sides of the page, thereby halving the cost of the paper used and also halving the weight. If readers are strongly in favour of "one side only" please let us know: if not - and if Mr.Field's charming operatives find no technical difficulty in the printing, future issues will also take this form.

P.T.O.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

7 May 1958

DUBLIN SPRING SHOW

As we hoped, Dublin celebrated the 118th anniversary of the first cancellation of adhesive stamps by the unannounced introduction of a new cancellation for the Spring Show. Like that of last year's Horse Show and of the British Association Meeting, it is a temporary hand-stamp, made up from movable type, the only special feature being that the 58 belongs to a smaller fount than the remainder, being barely 2mm tall.



TEMPORARY "PAID" STAMPS

When did that style of temporary handstamp come into use ? The earliest I have seen as a cancellation is 1938 (Galway), and it is only recently I realised that a very similar set of movable type had been in use over 10 years earlier for the red-inked impressions on bulk postings prepaid in cash. My illustration shows the earliest I have. It seems likely that the "PAID" was a fixture but that the rest of the letters and figures could be changed readily. Note that the circle is only 29mm diameter compared with the 31mm diameter of the temporary cancellations.



12 May 1958

1846 COVERS

I'm back from another brief break in Dublin, and again the pleasures of the capital included minor finds. On Friday evening I acquired a small bundle of 1846 entires with some attractive sub-office marks. I illustrate one that is in green and which I have not seen before. Groomsport is in Co.Down and was a sub-office to Bangor.

GROOMSPORT

CAMP CANCELLATIONS

On Saturday the shops visited included a furniture dealer who keeps for me any odd papers he finds in his purchases. This time a bureau yielded an attractive invitation to a Court at Dublin Castle in original envelope (1911). and also a Geo.V 1d cancelled with the single circle mark of BALLINOVEAR CAMP 21 AP 1915, made up from movable type in the style which preceded that discussed above. Has anyone ever listed the Irish military camps used during the 1914-18 war ? The earliest Irish Camp mark I have seen in this style is Coolmoney (June 1914) but Dr.Stafford Johnson recorded a Whitfields Camp, Dublin, of 1911.



13 May 1958

AERLINTE 1st TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHTS

Just a fortnight after the arrival in New York, "First Flight" covers were delivered in Ireland today and I find that the cancelling handstamp used on covers specially handed in at Dublin is that numbered 70, which I have seen hitherto only on first day covers of new stamps, the earliest use being 21st September 1953 for the Emmet issue.

I hear that the Company has covers brought from the U.S.A. on the so-called pre-inaugural flight, although the original intention was that these covers should travel on the first scheduled eastbound flight after the inauguration. They may become the most desirable of the covers, if only for their freak value.



DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

16 May 1958

R.S.O. In an auction catalogue received today I find an "R.S.O." cancellation described as "Railway Sub-Office" - and it may be correct. But in modern post office jargon R.S.O. = Rural Sub-Office to distinguish from T.S.O. = Town Sub-Office. I cannot say when the change of significance occurred or whether it changed in Britain as well as in Ireland, but enthusiasts for railway items should be cautious .

EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

It is uncertain how many Irish Exhibitions, Congresses, etc. have supplied items for philatelists, and I shall be very grateful for comments on the following list of items known or suspected to exist.

1853. Dublin, Exhibition. There is a special envelope, but no distinctive cancellation

1865. Dublin, Exhibition. Nothing known.

1882. Dublin, Exhibition. There was a P.O. on the premises, but nothing is known of the postmark used.

1902. Cork, Exhibition. Picture postcards can be found, and Alcock & Holland illustrate a cancellation, but I have not yet heard of any example extant.

1907. Dublin, Exhibition. Picture postcards exist in great variety and are much commoner than the exhibition cancellation.

1908 and 1909. "Ballymaclinton" - a synthetic Irish village in the exhibition grounds at White City, London. There are many postcards and two types of cancellation.

1911. Dublin, Health Congress. A cancellation was registered 3rd August, but I know of no surviving examples.

1911. Dublin. Chamber of Commerce Association. A cancellation was registered 23rd August, but I know of no surviving examples.

1917. Dublin, Irish Convention. Cancellation registered 23rd July. Used at various times in 1917 and 1918, mainly on "philatelic" mail.

c.1920-57. Dublin, Spring Show and Horse Show. Cancellation reading SHOW GROUND BALLSBRIDGE.

1933. Dublin, British Medical Association. Large cancellation reading "MANSION HOUSE, DUBLIN". I know of no surviving examples.

1938. Dublin, Irish Philatelic Exhibition. Cancellation, mainly on "philatelic" mail: and unauthorised overprint on ½d stamp.

1945. Dublin, Military Exhibition and Tattoo. Cancellation is rare.

1957. Dublin, Horse Show, August. Cancellation so inscribed succeeded the "Show Ground" type.

1957. Dublin, British Association Meeting, September. Two types, English and Irish, for "Mansion House, Dublin".

1958. Dublin, Spring Show, May. Cancellation so inscribed succeeded the "Show Ground" type.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

21st May 1958

THE NURSE STAMPS

On 28th April I reported Rev.J.Brennan's news that these had been printed in blue, and I am now able to add that supplies are obtainable and that I shall put some into the next exchange packet. For the benefit of collectors requiring details: the labels are issued by the "Queen's Institute of District Nursing in Ireland", printed in sheets of 12 (4x3), and stapled five sheets to a book, rouletted 6½-7 but outer margin imperf. I am not expert on printing techniques but suggest that the method of printing is photo-lithography. There are trivial flaws to help plating enthusiasts and an appreciable variation of shade across the sheet.

ANOTHER POSTMARK MYSTERY

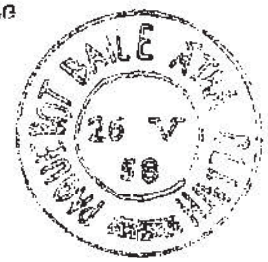
It is well known that Dublin offices used a series of handstamps, from about 1895 to 1922, characterised by a double arc on either side of the serial number. The earlier ones had an outside diameter of 27-28mm and the later ones only 24-25 mm. Until tonight I thought that the smaller type was introduced in 1916, and this was confirmed by Mr Stafford Johnson's list of dates of registration of new handstamps. But now I find an example clearly dated 1 JU 15 ! It is unlikely to be an error of date, and may be an experimental usage prior to the decision on the size of the next batch to be ordered. Can anyone produce other dates for this type before 13th August 1916, the date of their first registration ?



27th May 1958

DUBLIN PAQUEBOT

After over 20 years, the Dublin Paquebot handstamp has at last been replaced , and depicted herewith is the new design. So yet again the Irish Post Office has caught us by surprise. My latest example of the old type is 11th March this year. Has anyone later ? and has anyone an earlier date of the new than 26th May ?



29th May 1958

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

Still no sign of the expected new printing. Owners of the Kennedy check-list of Irish Postal Stationery are advised to make a correction: I have found an example of his Registered Envelope issue)(the last of the 5d) Size G used in December 1941 and suggest that that date be substituted for "Aug.-Dec.1942".

3rd June 1958

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

IRELAND FOR HOLIDAYS was discontinued at the end of May and AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X-RAY reintroduced in its stead.

There has been an innovation at Cork: the date-stamp accompanying IRELAND FOR HOLIDAYS, like all (?) previous machine types at Cork, had the month in clear, i.e. "MAY", but I find an example at the end of the month with the Roman numeral substituted, the date reading "30 -V" and today's post brought this month's type, reading "2 VI" instead of the usual "2 JNE"

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

3rd June 1958

ENVELOPE PROPAGANDA

I surmise that the cessation of the cancellations advertising the glories of Sligo, Galway, Tramore and Wexford is due to the cost. At Sligo one concern has overcome that difficulty by applying its own hand-stamp to the top right corner of the envelope, then fixing the postage stamps alongside. Here is a rough sketch of the design, advertising the annual "FEIS CEOIL" the Irish equivalent of a Welsh Eisteddfod.

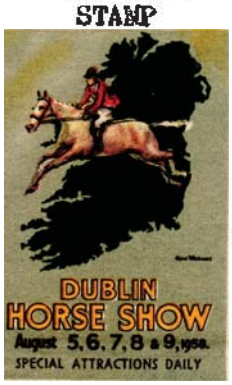


UNRECORDED DUBLIN TOO-LATE STAMP

The heading of my irregular notes does not mean that I wish to concentrate on my own comments or discoveries, and I am willing, or rather eager, to incorporate any information likely to be of value or interest to members of the Irish Study Group.

So I am delighted to depict a postal marking recently found by our President, T.E.Field, and not mentioned in any of the standard handbooks. It occurs on an envelope posted in Dublin on April 20th 1881, the stamp being cancelled with the contemporary TOO-LATE. It seems to be in the same class as the "Posted since 6 P.M. last night" of the late 1850s, and its existence raises the problem of whether anything similar was in use in the 1860s and 1870s.





HORSE SHOW LABEL

This year's Horse Show "stickers" have Miss Whitmore's design of a hunter taking off from a map of Ireland in the direction of New York, as used in 1937 1949, 1951, 1954 and 1956.

DUBLIN 186 "ROLLER"

My enquiry of November about the continuous impression 186 killer has brought a valuable reply from Mr Preston, who has an example on dated cover of September 17 1857, appreciably earlier than we thought.

MOVABLE TYPE HANDSTAMPS

Yet another application of the single-circle handstamp with movable letters has turned up, this time not a cancellation but a stamp of the Post Office Savings Bank. My example is in a new bank book, is undated, and the N of BANK is missing. Has anyone ever tried to collect examples of "postmarks" by systematically paying in and taking out money at a succession of different offices ? It would be cheaper than posting parcels or registered letters as we sometimes do for the sake of a distinctive marking.



7th June 1958

"WRECK" COVERS

Today's newspapers report that last Sunday (1st) two Limerick school-boys found floating on the river Shannon some airmail letters addressed to Scotland and with Californian postmarks of recent dates. Neither postal nor police authorities are willing to make any statement.

So collectors with Scottish contacts should try to find out when the letters are delivered and what cachet is applied to explain the delay and the damage by water.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

10th June 1958

BANGOR ABBEY

Hitherto my notes of Irish slogans have ignored issues North of the Border, since they are usually the same as in Great Britain and are adequately written up in the general philatelic journals.

Today's mail, however, brings me a new cancellation from Bangor, Co.Down, which will appeal to most collectors of Irish items, and which is the first distinctively Irish machine cancellation that the North has produced since 1925(Wembley Exhibition - Ulster Pavilion).



30th June

LABELS

Fr.Brosnan reports two more for our lists:

1957 Slonskility Agricultural Society. Annual Agricultural,Horticultural and Industrial,Show, July 13th. Red & black. Imperf.

(used 1957,undated) Men of the Trees. Plant Living Christmas Trees. Green. Perf.

And a new one this year is

1958. Irish Radio and Television Show, Sept. 25-27.

1st July to 9th July

SLOGANS

Today's post brought only two items from Dublin. One had DIPHTHERIA!! IS YOUR CHILD IMMUNISED? and the other BIA BLAN - BIA FOLLAIN ! Later it appears that the Diphtheria slogans are in general use but the other is adopted for the Dublin Official Paid correspondence.

13th July

PERSONAL

I am happy to report that I am back in Dublin, and that my address for at least the next few weeks will be 15 Terenure Road,East, Rathgar. And I have hopes that this 25year old typewriter will cut better stencils for you than the modern machine in Rosslare Harbour !

BELFAST Z

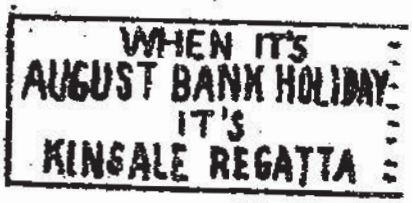
Examples of this cancellation have been seen only for 1943 and 1944, and I think that it was attached to the Postal Censorship office. Can anyone confirm or refute this ? or give earlier or later dates of use ?



15th July

SLOGANS

Today brings from Mr.Kedroff the news that the slogan illustrated herewith came into use at Cork on 9th July, the first new one this year in the Republic. Kinsale is a town and harbour about 14 miles South of Cork.



DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

23 July 1958

SLOGANS AGAIN !

The slogans in use this month in Ireland are more numerous than I first thought, and exemplify the difficulties of maintaining a complete list. Here are what I have seen so far:-

Dublin A has used DIPHTHERIA!! IMMUNISE YOUR CHILD NOW on bulk paid letters and DIPHTHERIA!! IS YOUR CHILD IMMUNISED? on official mails.
Dublin B - DIPHTHERIA KILLS IMMUNISE YOUR CHILD
Dublin C - FOOD KEEP CLEAN PREMISES on paid letters.
Dublin D - BIA GLAN - BIA FOLLAIN! on official letters at first. More recently has used bars without slogan.
Dublin H - DIPHTHERIA!! IS YOUR CHILD IMMUNISED ?
Dublin I - Bars without slogan.
Dublin J - FOOD KEEP CLEAN PREMISES on paids and BIA GLAN - BIA FOLLAIN! on official letters.
Dublin K - COSAIN DO LEANBH AR AN DIFTEIR on official mail.

Athlone, Ballina, Carlow, Clonmel, are all using bars and no slogan.
Cavan, Kilkenny, Dun Laoghaire, have DIPHTHERIA!! IS YOUR CHILD IMMUNISED ?
Cork used COSAIN DO LEANBH AR AN DIFTEIR until 8th and then WHEN IT'S AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY IT'S KINSALE REGATTA.
Drogheda and Naas have -DIPHTHERIA- IMMUNISE YOUR CHILD NOW
Thurles has its Food slogan, not used anywhere else, -FOOD- THE CLEANER - THE BETTER.
Galway continued AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X RAY into July, but soon changed to DION DO LEANBH IN AGHAIDH AN DIFTEIR.
Wexford, Longford, Waterford, Sligo, Tralee, have DIPHTHERIA KILLS IMMUNISE YOUR CHILD.
Limerick has ARE YOUR SURE YOUR FOOD IS CLEAN ?
Monaghan has the type in two boxes CLEAN FOOD / KEEP FOOD PREMISES CLEAN.

That's six different slogans in Dublin and ten in the provinces ! And there may be others I have not seen.

ERRORS

The above list is the result of sorting a few hundred envelopes. Yet only one error caught my eye. At Tralee, on 8th July the year plug was inverted, reading 9561.

PROPAGANDA LABELS

A few months ago Mr Leonard reported receiving, via U.S.A. examples of some new labels commemorating various patriots. He later obtained, through Mr Kane, complete sheets of 24, comprising 8 designs repeated three times. I find that these are still on sale in Dublin, and that they are issued by "COISTE FOILLSEACHÁIN NAISIÚNTA CORCAIGH" which I think means "NATIONAL PUBLICITY COMMITTEE, CORK". The general tenor, and especially the inscription on the eighth design (Ireland unfree shall never be at Peace) suggests that this is a subsidiary of the I.R.A., but as the labels are displayed in a prominent shop window this is unlikely ?

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS'S

28 July 1958

THOMAS CLARKE BIRTH CENTENARY

Today's new issue is uniform in style with the Redmonds, etc. and it is unlikely that there will be any major plate flaws. My first cursory inspection a few minor blurs and blobs, some of which may be recurrent, but I am not optimistic.

The plate layout is the same for both values, sheets of 240, divided into two panes 12x10 by a vertical gutter. Each pane is numbered (1A, 1B) below stamp 110, and the printers' imprint is below stamps 114 and 115.

The gutter ornamentation is a major difference between the values. The 3d has a roughly scratched oval opposite each row, and the ovals are linked by carelessly drawn lines. On the 1/3 the ovals are missing and six parallel uniform lines are ruled the whole length of the gutter.

29 July 1958

POSTAL BALANCE FIND

Tonight I broke my journey home to visit one of the little curio shops in a back street and there acquired one of the ingenious designs of postal scales inspired by the introduction of the Penny General Post in 1840. Its special feature is that the weights are permanently housed in slots, and as the letter pan sinks successive weights are engaged so that the other end of the balance points to the correct postal charge. The design is mentioned in R.K.Wortley's classic articles (P.H.S.Bulletins Nos. 36 and 51) as recorded but not seen.

The interest to Irish enthusiasts is that mine bears the label of the supplier - J.Browne, Nassau St. Dublin. Incidentally that helps in the dating, proving the Balance to be pre-1850, as in 1849 the firm became Messrs Browne & Nolan, whose works include the premises where De La Rue print the modern Irish stamps. Before De La Rue set up their plant, Browne & Nolan did some stamp printing, being responsible for many of the Irish Railway Letter Stamps.

3 August

THOMAS CLARKE (cont.)

A wet Sunday evening has been happily spent with two sheets of the 3d, but I did not find any flaws present in both and believe what I did see to be only specks of dust etc. The guide dots characteristic of De la Rues' Irish printings are present, usually cut out in the perforating. That to top right of 1st stamp and top left of 2nd stamp of pane 1B is very prominent.

(continued from overleaf)

The alignment of the cliches is a bit erratic and a peculiar feature is that the design is not rectangular: the base is about ½mm narrower than the top.

6th August 1958

THE HORSE SHOW

The movable-type handstamp introduced last year has been set up again for this week's show, with some trivial changes in the spacings of the letters, sufficient to prove that it has been reset. Last year the inscription was skewed anticlockwise with regard to the date. This year it is skewed clockwise to a lesser degree (or number of degrees!). The period of use will be 5th to 9th inclusive and, as before, only on registered letters, parcels and bulky packets.





COLLEGE GREEN, DUBLIN

There is no office in College Green now, but there was for a very long time. The Dublin G.P.O. was there from early in the 18th century until the present one was opened in 1818. The ex-G.P.O. then continued as a Penny Post Office, and one would think a busy one. But I do not remember seeing a College Green Penny Post marking, and until today had not seen the succeeding type, the COLLEGE GREEN name without "Penny Post". Has anyone compiled a list of the known markings of the Dublin Penny Post Offices ? Dr.Stafford Johnson has listed the known offices, but one cannot assume that they all represented in our albums.

The illustration is from the front of a cover used October 1845, the 1d red being cancelled with 186 in diamond.

COMBINATIONS

A combination cover may be defined as one belonging to two parts of a collection, and deciding which part shall house it is sometimes difficult. e.g. one envelope recently acquired has on the front PAQUEBOTS applied at Naples, and on the reverse a good strike of the R.M.S.Connaught's date-stamp. Shall it go in the foreign Paquebots, or the H.& K. volume, or with the G.B. used abroad ?



DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

19 August 1958

BRITISH REGIONAL STAMPS

Many thanks to my various good friends who have sent me first-day covers of the new speculatives, and especially to the anonymous sender of a block of mint. The only attractive design is the Manx: the Irish one is the worst, with its most prominent feature looking like a small boy's Sheriff's Badge. And why have the ER ? It was not considered necessary on the others.

THOM's DIRECTORY

Irish historians (postal and otherwise) are very fortunate in having available comprehensive annual volumes dating back over 200 years. For more than half the period the principal issuers were Thoms, and it is sad news that the firm has decided to cease its production.

In its earlier years(i.e. 1844 on) it gave such details as as a list of all the provincial post offices with the name of the Postmaster, the distance from Dublin and the times of arrival and departure of the Dublin mails. It was not so informative about the Dublin sub-offices, merely giving addresses, but other contemporary directories, and later Thoms' tell us such fascinating details as that the Dawson St. office was run by the Court Hairdresser and that in College Green by Simpson & White "nursery and seedsmen, and gunpowder merchants".

HISTORY OF IRISH PHILATELISTS

Among the multifarious topics to be considered by the Irish Study Group must be numbered the study of their forerunners. It must not be forgotten that (according to the Williamses in their Pelican Book) the first stamp collection was compiled by an Irishman, John Bourke, in 1774 ! Where is his album ? And had he any contemporary rivals ?

When did the dealers start ? Thom's Directory for 1893 lists one Leslie O.Beater at his residence in Terenure Road as "Philatelist". He is not in the Barker & Morgan list of dealers and collectors in 1900. They list only two Dublin dealers and two in the provinces. They knew of only 13 Irish collectors, mostly in the North, and including only one in Dublin

SLOGANS

I have not noted any changes since the beginning of July - but expect one in Dublin soon. The DIPHTHERIA KILLS IMMUNISE YOUR CHILD used by the H machine has got badly damaged. The corner of the frame broke some time ago; now the RIA KI are all damaged and the NISE is missing completely.

31st August 1953

The "1844" OBLITERATORS

Our knowledge of the office numbers is not yet complete. Nor has anyone (as far as I know) classified the numerous variations of shape and size of these obliterators. Brumell considers that there was no standard, but I believe most examples could be allocated to one of about six main types. One distinctive type is about 35mm long by 20 mm high and did not appear until the 1850s.



The example I illustrate is cancelling a 1d red on an envelope addressed to Dublin. The reverse bears the date stamps of Dublin and Delgany, both DE 9 1854. The number is indistinct, probably 446, but possibly 443 or 448. But none of these is consistent with the "Delgany" which had No.171. Now it happens that 446 was used first at Waringstown and later atx Woodlawn. Is it possible that it was erroneously issued to Delgany in between ? I shall be grateful if anyone can report other covers which may help to allocate the number.

Owners of Brumell's book on the P.O. Numbers may like to modify the note on p.126 to no.383. It was used at Rathdowney in 1874 as well as 1873. Similarly the note on p.124 to no.291 should give the period of use as 1857-60 instead of 1859.

SHIP LETTERS

Subscribers to A.W.Robertson's superb volumes on "The Maritime Postal History of the British Isles" have just received a list of valuations of all the known SHIP LETTER & PAQUEBOT marks, etc. The figures given for the Irish items are very gratifying for the owners of examples. The "Ship Letter from India" only recently identified as belonging to Dublin, is among the select few items valued at £50. Other rarities such as the Caherciveen "Ship Letter" are put at £40 and as modern an item as the Galway machine PAQUEBOT is £7.10. While I think that these are justifiable I consider that the suggested prices for the commoner markings are too high, e.g. 10/- for the current Dun Laoghaire PAQUEBOT !

*I find that it is only £30 in the Dublin listing.

MARY AIKENHEAD STAMPS

There was a peculiar paragraph in yesterday's "Irish Times" to the effect that the next Irish commemorative issue would be to Mary Aikenhead, but that no date had been fixed and no design yet approved. If the latter is oorrect we shall be kept waiting several months for the stamps. Earlier it was expected they would be ready by October or Novem ber:

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

3 September 1958

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

From the small amount of correspondence I have seen, it appears that the Clean Food campaign lasted only for July but that the Diphtheria Immunisation were in use throughout August. Cork joining in with COSAIN DO LEANBH AR AN DIFTEIR when the Kinsale Regatta was over. Cork is still using that in September but I have seen no slogans this month from other places - only the bars. An interesting point about them is that, whereas most places have the typical broken bars of the Universal machine, Galway still has the six continuous bars it has had since about 1930.

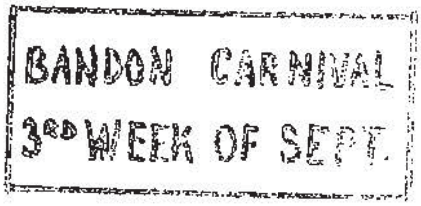
OFFICIAL ENVELOPES

Yet another change. For some years the stationery of the "Dail" had a harp embossed on the envelope flap and "Oireachtas" printed on the obverse. The latest has nothing on the front, but "Dail Eireann" embossed with the harp on the flap.

9th September

SLOGANS AGAIN

Between 3rd and 8th September Cork has given us another surprise with a slogan advertising festivities next week at Bandon, a small town in Co.Cork, about 15 miles SW of Cork city.



19th CENTURY DUBLIN RECEIVING HOUSES

The Directory searching is yielding more fascinating results, such as disparities between Receiving House names and their postmarks. The office in MECKLENBURGH St. was closed in 1832 but the handstamp was still in use 15 years later, presumably at the office whose official address was in Gloucester Place. Similarly the TEMPLE ST. stamp was transferred to Gt.Denmark St. Can anyone find covers of the 1830s or 1840s with markings of Gloucester Place or Gt.Denmark St. to disprove my theories ?

DUBLIN EXHIBITIONS

I have ascertained that the International Exhibition held at Dublin in 1865, like the next one on 1882, had a branch Post Office. The printed account of the Exhibition is fascinatingly complete, even detailing the 442 items in the lost property office at the close!

20 September

POSTAGE STAMP FOR POSTAGE DUE

My wife is becoming quite well trained: it was she who has just secured for me another example of a ½d postage stamp being used as a "Postage Due". It is on an envelope from Austria to Baily,Co.Dublin, charged 4½d, and delivered on 17th September 1958. The charge was shown by the London F.S. handstamp in green in which the ½ has been inserted by hand!

29 September 1958

"IRISH" There is a certain type of stupidity which is proverbially associated with Ireland. My attention has recently been drawn to two examples supplied by the workings of the Irish Department of Posts and Telegraphs. One is that the Saturday afternoon delivery is no longer made in the suburbs but it is in the business quarters, where the vast majority of the premises are closed. The other is disclosed by a newspaper letter today: the writer is one of the careful people who post every item in its appropriate slot "Dublin", "Ireland outside Dublin", "Great Britain and Abroad". He was therefore shocked to see the St.Andrew's Street boxes all being emptied into the same bag !

30 September

British REGIONALS Generous friends have again obliged me with first day covers. None of the 6d or 1/3 designs is excellent but the Scottish 6d is good and the Scottish 1/3 is next best. After them I place the Irish 6d, then the two Welsh and last the Irish 1/3. The defect of the Irish 6d is the undue prominence of the flax stalks: unbroken straight lines are inartistic . On the 1/3 the symbols are too scattered and all on different scales. However valid as a symbol, the gate looks ridiculous when no bigger than the hand. On the subject of the hand I see that there is a suggestion it should point the other way. I disagree, my main argument being that the Irish Republic and the earlier "Free State" have used a right hand since 1923 without comment.

1 October

SLOGAN ONCE MORE Judging by examples on today's mail, October is to have a revival of FAIGH CEADUNAS DOD RADIO and LICENSE YOUR RADIO PROMPTLY - as were current in the last four Octobers.

Skimming through a few of the barred cancellations of last month a few things caught my eye. Firstly, by 17th Cork had abandoned Bandon. Secondly a few more towns have been issued with new dies for the name-and-date portion. e.g. Áth Luain and Dún Dealgan have both adopted the new style of accent, not acute, nor grave, nor circumflex, but horizontal.

ERROR Yet another example of the commonest slip. On 22 July Kilkenny had the year as 9561 accompanying its DIPHTHERIA slogan.

CAMP CANCELLATIONS M.Leonard has sent for my inspection and admiration a hitherto unrecorded mark of KILBRIDE CAMP, August 1944, made up from movable type in a 36 mm circle. There are several Kilbrides: I think the Camp is at the one in Co.Wicklow.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

23 October 1958

WINDSOR

I am back from a holiday in England, including a weekend with the Postal History Society at Windsor, where I.S.J. members Field, de Burca and Dixon had several enjoyable chats together.

MARY AIKENHEAD STAMPS

The new stamps are disappointing in several respects; the engraving is coarse and does not do justice to the painting by Crawley on which it is based. The colours are too pale. And the perforating is bad, so that separating is difficult.

A very interesting feature is that the sheet make-up is different from earlier De la Rue issues, and I suspect that the stamps were printed by another firm. It seems that there is only one pane for each value, 12x10, and that printing is by a rotary press, giving successive impressions on the continuous roll of paper, the panes being separated by a gutter of doodles. Perforating is by a single comb, erratically applied so that in extreme cases holes almost overlap !

So far I have seen no prominent flaws, but there are some minor ones and several "hair-lines" which may be constant: there are other lines which appear to be only smudges.

The above remarks are based on only a brief inspection of a single sheet comprising two panes of the 3d value, and my views may be modified when I have seen more.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

For months I have been enquiring at the Dublin G.P.O. about the expected new printings. In spite of my pertanicity, I missed the first day, and the first of the new ones I acquired from a London dealer last week ! a used size F, cancelled in Cork 11th October. So Dublin G.P.O. had to be visited again on my return. And still the same reply "No, sir. Nothing new". However I persisted and eventually persuaded the man that his Size F were what I wanted.

The modification expected was the correction of the amounts for fee and compensation stated on the reverse, but the changes are far more extensive. There are changes of wording and spelling and Irish types have been abandoned, so that one sees such monstrous words as "scriobhadh" instead of the elegant "scríobadh". Presumably sizes G,H and K will be issued with the same alterations in due course.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

"License your Radio Promptly" continues in use. One of the Dublin dies is very worn, the r of "your" being battered and the l of "promptly" being more like an r !

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

25 October 1958

PRINTERS' PROTEST

The workers' side of the Joint Industrial Council of the Dublin Printers have protested to the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs against his placing the order for prirting the Mother Mary Aikenhead stamps outside Ireland. In moving the resolution Mr William Whelan said that previous Irish commemoration stamps had been printed in Dublin without any complaint. The fact that this issue was sent to England was a very poor recommendation for the requests made by various Irish Governments to "be Irish and buy Irish". He said that the country suffered a greater tragedy than the civil war when it had foisted upon it a civil service machine devised for an empire upon which the sun had never set, and the persons in charge of that machine to-day still had their eyes on the other side of the world, and not on the country that had to pay for their upkeep.

There seems little doubt that some small firm has secured the contract by undercutting De la Rue on this occasion.

It is not clear whether the printers realise that although most Irish stamps (except the Airmails) have been printed in Ireland the major operation of producing the printing plates hae normally been done in England !

CONSTITUTION ISSUE

The Aikenhead stamps (at least the 3d value) will have an unusually short life, as we are promised an issue on 29th December to celebrate the coming-of-age of the Constitution. Designs will be as the 1937 typographed issue.

"THE IRISH MAIL"

A booklet by Cyril Kidd, so entitled, has recently been issued by Robson Lowe, prise 2/6 post free. The title is mialeading as the author deals with only the Holyhead and Kingstown portion of the route. He does so very well and thoroughly all the common and most of the uncommon markings, and explaining such mysteries as the rarity of even-numbered handstamps.

3 November 1958

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

The "License your Radio Promptly" and "FAIGH CEADÚNAS DOD RADIO" were withdrawn at the end of October and nothing has yet taken their place.

The damaged "License your Radio Promptly" die which I mentioned earlier has been used variously with the B,H and I machines !

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

13 November 1958

MARY AIKENHEAD STAMPS In reply to a question in the Dail, the Minister for Finance has revealed that the contract was placed with Waterlows' for production at their Brussels works. That is no surprise: **what is surprising** is that he further stated "The stamps was printed by the recess process and that was the reason it was placed outside the country." What do De La Rue think about that ?

28 November

MARY AIKENHEAD 3d VARIETIES There seems little doubt that the numerous lines, sometimes quite prominent, running down the sheet, are "doctor knife" flaws resulting from defects to the blade removing surplus ink from the printing cylinder. Thus they are constant in position for several consecutive sheets but are liable to change whenever the knife is cleaned or adjusted.

There is a wide range of shades due, I think, to wear of the plate rather than changes of ink. Thus early impressions are almost Edinburgh blue and show all details. Later examples are nearer the Cambridge favour and the finer lines are faint or missing.

The recurrent dots I have noted are:



No.23,(Row 2,No.11) Dot in crucifix. Varies considerably in size and a pane without it has been seen. (Reported to me by Mr.R.Collie)

No.61,(Row 6,No.1) Dot in left margin, opposite middle of first e in "eire"

No.64 (Row 6,No.4) Dot at lower left corner.

No.73 (Row 7,No.1) Outline irregular to lower left.

More important is a variety not yet plated, what looks like a retouch between coif and collar. This may be evidence that a second cylinder has been used, or may reveal that the plate was touched up during the printing. Can anyone locate it on a complete pane and see if the pane also shows any of the varieties listed above ?



I.S.G.MEETING Again I can report that taree of our scattered members have assembled together. On 21st I had the pleasure of the company of Dr.Renouf and Mr Kane, and we discussed the I.S.G. and its great value to collectors, and compared notes of our recent discoveries.

B.P.A. Members are reminded that the I.S.G. is affiliated to the B.P.A. and that the B.P.A. will advise you about the reputation of dealers in Ireland or Great Britain, if you enquire.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

2 December 1958

SLOGANS

I find that, although most towns had withdrawn "Licence your Radio Promptly" at the end of October, Navan and Thurles continued it for at least a week of November. Waterford revived "Avail of Annual Mass X-Ray" for a time in November, presumably prior to a visit from the travelling X-Ray unit.

Following the usual programme "Post Early for Christmas" on December 1 - possibly on Nov. 30, but I have seen no example.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

The new seals for 1958 have appeared, in six designs. All six incorporate the name IRELAND and the double barred cross, and the designs are:

1. Three cherubs above a snow covered city (Dublin?), "Christmas Greetings". Red, blue, orange, yellow, black.
2. Shamrock + holly. "NODLAIG SONA DUIT". Red, blue, green and yellow.
3. Arms of the four provinces in wrong colours (Ulster hand is black!) and holly. "Season's Greetings". Red, blue, green, yellow and black.
4. The Magi espying the Star over an eastern city. "SEASON'S GREETINGS". Red, blue, orange, yellow, black.
5. Shamrock and Harp. "Christmas Greetings". Red, green, yellow and black.
6. Irish landscape in winter, with Star. "Merry Christmas". Red, blue, mauve and black.

Nos. 4 and 6 are good designs: the others are poor, especially No. 3.
They are issued in panes of 48 (8 blocks of the 6) two panes to the sheet. Price ½d each seal.
Alleged "progressive colour proofs" at 1d each proof are also available, the sequence being Red, Yellow, Red+Yellow, Blue, Red+Yellow+Blue, Black, Red+Yellow+Blue+Black.

STAFFORD JOHNSON MATERIAL

I am happy to report that another volume of Dr. S.J's notes and cuttings has been secured - and will supply some more notes for Mr Telfer's Bibliography when that next comes my way.

The contents are very varied - from the the P.O. Rates Act of 1805 to a modern parody beginning:

> "The postman sighs: That ends another day;
> And calmly thinks what he'll do after tea;
> And smartly homeward strides his carefree way,
> And leaves behind him parcels meant for me."

Among miscellanea tucked into the volume is a cover, postmarked 1941 bearing, inter alia, forgeries of the ½d and 1d Dollard inverted and a bogus 6d three-line inverted. When were they perpetrated ?

4 December 1958

Booklet
1 3d

The long expected new booklet has appeared, again 4/-, made of 12 each of 3d and 1d. The changes are the absence of any interleaving pages, absence of advertisements, and even absence of the usual list of postal rates ! I hope this does not anticipate further increases of the rates

Letter-Card

An unexpected discovery is a new printing of the 3d letter-card, distinguished from earlier issues by the substitution of Roman for Irish printing type. An odd feature is that the packet wrapper still has the obsolete spelling and type LEITIR-CHARTA. This is not due to the use of old wrappers as the type has been reset to include the further rise in price from 3/9 to 4/- per dozen

11 December 1958

IRELAND

Until 1939 collectors followed Henry in accepting the IRELAND handstamps as Dublin markings. When Col.Crouch suggested from a study of a Sunday example that they should be attributed to London, and more recently Dr de Burca published a similar note In their Handbook Messrs Alcock and Holland (p.132) quote Col.Crouch and give as contributory evidence that letters from Dublin to Scotland bore no IRELAND mark.

P.H.S. member A.Welsh has two covers which demolish this assertion and T.E.Field finds that he also has two. The details of these four covers are:

Dublin - Glasgow	20.xi.1784	IRELAND 43mm.	Charges	4d,11d.
Dublin - Glasgow	30.iv.1785	" 40x6mm	"	4d,11d.
Dublin - Ayr	15.x.1785	" c.40x6mm	"	4d,9d
Belfast - Ayr	3.iii.1786	" c.39x5mm	"	2d,7d

Were all four cases of missorting which travelled via London ? If so, why should there be four recorded in two years and none in the following 24 years ? It seems possible that IRELAND stamps were used in Scotland as well as England. Please let us know what covers you have from Ireland to Scotland, so that further study may be attempted in the hope of solving the mysteries.

23 December 1959

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

The form of slogan cancellation was as in the last several years. Dublin had it on machines A,B,C,E,F,H,I,J, and G. On 18th I and K also appeared, but without slogan.

The provinces were normal, i.e. all (as far as I have seen) using the same as Dublin except Nenagh, which continues to use the type with large thick lettering, as was used in Dublin 1948-49.

DIXON's IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS
7 January 1959

ADDRESS — I regret to report that until further notice my address will again be "Rosslare Harbour" Co. Wexford, Ireland".

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS — As in other recent years, after a few days without any slogan the AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X-RAY reappeared on 31st December 1958

POSTAL STATIONARY CHECK LIST — One of the projects we had hoped the I.S.G might achieve was the issue of a comprehensive list of all issues of Irish Postal Stationary. Now, thanks to "The Revealer", we may relax our efforts in and up to-date list, summarising the articles it has been running.

11 January

CONSITIUTION COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS — The new 3d and 5d duly appeared on the 29th December, and the printing seems to have been slightly "sharper" than that of the 1937 issue. Athough based on the same design, the new plates have all lettering and other details slightly larger. The requisite space has been made by reducing each stamp. But the area of solid colour above "EIRE" and the figure of Hibernia is larger than before, and the sloping white lines near the head are longer.

The first reports of varieties come from M.Leonard, who has seen sheets showing a large ring left of the harp on the 3d (No.67 - 1st stamp of 2nd row in lower pane). There was no trace of this on any of the sheets examined by me and it seems likely that is was present for only a short period of the printing,

He also saw some sheets of the 5d in which the 4th stamp of the top row was incompletely printed, the edge of the solid colour at top left degenerating into a dotted pattern such as one finds with a photogravure printing. This I have found, although I have seen other sheets without it. My theory is as follows:

Close inspection shows that the guard lines in the margin, and even more the lines marking the centre of the sheet. Are pressed more deeply into the paper than are the impressions of the stamps.

The inference is that unless precautions are taken those lines will old the edge of the plate away from the paper and the nearby stamp will be incompletely printed. If the fault is not corrected the strain on the plate may lead to a crack. Watch out for it. !



15 January

AIKENHEAD 3d — When I first examined these, I disregarded the numerous small dots and smudges in the words MARY AIKENHEAD. I have since realised that in a few cases these are the result of re-entering, Unfortunately, although I have found two of three good examples used, I have not seen one as good in a mint sheet, and suspect that the re-entered details were among the features which wore rapidly and did not show in the latter period of the printing. Has anyone a sheet showing the clear early printing ? Mine were bought in Dublin soon after the issue date, but belong to a late printing.

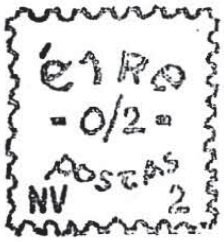
G.B USED IN IRELAND — Is there any pro-1922 British stamp which was not used in what is now the republic of Ireland? One I had not found until this week is the 1d red Die 11, Alphabet 111, perf.14 on small crown paper (R.L. No.41: not listed by S.G.) One of the tasks some I.S.G. Member might undertake is listing all of the G.B known used in Ireland.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

20 January 1959

METERMARKS I'm not very interested in those, but report what comes to my notice, and therefore illustrate a style I have not seen before. The special features are the arrangement of the BAILE-ATHA CLIATH (no accent on ATHA) and the code letters NV.





AEROGRAMMES I can confirm, what was first reported in the U.S.A., that another variety of the Irish form has appeared. This necessitates rewriting the end of the list prepared in April 1958, as follows:

15	April 1955	Nil	Nil	As No.14, except that all lines are dotted and fold lines are included. AEROGRAMME 18 mm long, with large accent.
16	August 1957	Nil	Nil	Similar to No.15, but Irish text has some lower-case letters. AEROGRAMME 20 mm long, with small accent.
17	1958	Nil	Nil	Similar to No.15, with Irish text all upper-case, but AEROGRAMME 20 mm long, with small accent.

3 February

SLOGANS On 31st January AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X-RAY was replaced by the various slogans of the Diphtheria immunisation campaign.

7 February

? P.T.O. ? Illustrated is a cancellation I have just found on a picture postcard, and suggestions would be welcomed as to what the abbreviation signifies. My own theory is "Parcels & Telegraph Office" and the explanation for its use on a postcard the confusion of the pre-Christmas rush.



CONSTITUTION COMMEMORATIVES The 5d variety reported on 11 January now has a companion on the 3d: the latest supply to arrive at Rosslare Harbour P.O. all show a split guard-line above stamp number 4 of the sheet.

19 February

METERMARKS Another NV machine has come to my notice, NV28 used in Dublin by the Irish Assurance Co.Ltd. Its peculiarity is that the name reads BAILE - Á/THA - CLIATH, i.e. hyphenated and with the accent after the A instead of on it !

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

5 March 1959

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

Most places had the Diphtheria Immunisation slogans for February. Carlow and Drogheda, however, continued the Mass X-Ray drive and Athlone, Bray, Clonmel, Dundalk, Ennis all used bars and no slogans. As usual in recent years, March has the slogans re Licensing your Radio promptly.

CROYDON TO GALWAY Flight

Cards and covers carried by the special flight from Galway to Croydon on 26th August 1929 are not rare. But who has items alleged to have been carried unofficially on the return flight ? And is there satisfactory evidence that any of these were actually carried ? I have two covers, one cancelled 5 P.M. 26th August and the other cancelled on the London & Holyhead T.P.O. Night Down of that day. Both have the untimed Galway datestamp of 26 August. A similar cover illustrated in the "Monthly Air Mail" of June 1932 bears a Croydon cancellation of 3.15 PM. None of these three can have been carried on the return flight, which left Croydon at 1.58 p.m.

I have been assured that the Galway date-stamp is genuine, but I strongly suspect that it was actually applied at a later date.

POST OFFICE SEALS

I have just acquired a registered envelope posted at Drumraney (Co.Westmeath) and with the flap secured by a blob of sealing wax impressed with the sealing stamp of that office, probably as a substitute for the adhesive label "Found open and re-sealed". Are other examples of this practice extant ?



7 March

POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY BULLETIN

The special No.100 of the P.H.S.Bulletin is almost an Irish issue. An outstanding article is by Alan Robertson on the "LONG PUIST" mark of Dún Laoghaire and the same author is largely concerned with Irish covers in his sidelights on the "India Letter" story. And the longest paper is an important contribution to postal history - "The Irish Post Office 1638-1707" by T.J.Jackson. Finally, I.S.G. member Dr.B.deBurca contributes a note on one of his many interests , Jamaican railway cancellations.

18 March

SLOGAN ERROR

The first slogan mistake spotted this year is Dublin (A machine) which was used on Paid correspondence of 11 March with the name-and-date portion inverted.

24 March

NEW RATES

From 1st April the Irish rates for foreign postage are to rise. The first ounce of a letter will cost 6d instead of 5d and extra ounces 4d instead of 3d. Postcards also rise from 3d to 4d. There is to be a new "small packets" service of which I have not seen any details. Presumably there will 6d instead of 5d commemoratives in future.

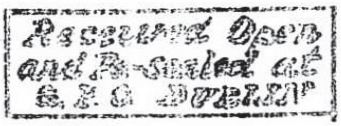
DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

2 April 1959

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

Still sticking to their regular programme, the Irish Post Office has re-introduced PREVENT FOREST FIRES as the slogan for the month of April. This is one of the most widely used slogans, being issued to all machine-equipped offices except I think Dundalk, Maryborough and Wexford.

21 April



My illustration is one of the elusive handstruck markings of the mid-19th century, and one I have not seen before. It is on a cover of October 1869.

BELFAST SPOONS

The lot yielding the above contained a few Belfast Spoons, one of which extends the known period of use to 24 Aug.1859. It is the variety with double bars on either side of 62.

SLOGAN ERRORS

Tralee has been using its PREVENT FOREST FIRES with the year inverted, reading 6661. I have seen two examples, dated 9th and 11th April.

24 April - 29

INVERTED WATERMARKS

M. Leonard reports a new discovery, a pair of the current 10d, used in 1958 with the "o" watermark inverted, and has also produced a block of the 5d with a similar variety. This has I think been reported before.

BOOKLET SPECIMENS USED

"Specimen" stamp booklets, as given to advertisers, and possibly to prospective advertisers, have the stamps cancelled by punching large holes in them. The earliest I have seen (No.3, 1932) has triangular holes. Another (No.20,1946) has round holes 4½ mm in diameter. Now Mr.Leonard has found a pair of 1d stamps, watermark  with typical booklet straight edges, each punctured by a hole 5½ mm across. The remarkable feature is that these have been used on a receipt.

AIRMAIL LETTERS

Most collectors are familiar with the small stickers inscribed PAR AVION / AER-POST used to identify airmail letters. What I hadn't seen until Rev.J.Cronnan gave me some are larger labels (about 65x30 mm) intended for airmail parcels. He reports that they were available about three years ago. They are in two varieties, one white on deep blue, perforate, and the other black on pale blue, rouletted. Both are inscribed PAR AVION / BY AIRMAIL and look more British than Irish !

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

1 May 1959

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

PAY/PT TOURIST TITLE continued until 30 April when it was replaced by "Ireland for Holidays".

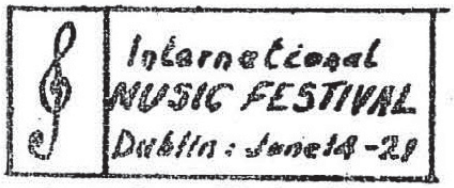
DUNDALK PAQUEBOT

A note from A.W. "Ship" Robertson reveals the existence of a PAQUEBOT / DUNDALGAN handstamp, used 8 August 1955. This is a surprise as I don't think that passenger vessels call there as a schedule. The handstamp is of the temporary type and may have been made up for one special occasion.

2 May 1959

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

This morning's post brought a surprise: two letters posted in Dublin brought "Ireland for Holidays" but the third, which passed through the I machine, bore the new type illustrated herewith .....



(Later) It now appears that this is used also on machine 1 and was first used on 30 April.

6 May

6661

has turned up (!) again. I have seen examples from Dublin 5 machine of both 28 and 29 April, with the slogan PAY/PT TOURIST TITLE.

DUBLIN SPRING SHOW

The temporary office for the show, open this year from 5th to 9th May has a temporary handstamp similar to that of last year, and it is, as usual, available only on registered mail or parcels.

POSTAGE DUES

Just over a year ago (22 April 1953) I enquired about the use in 1925 and after of British Postage Dues with the multiple Crown and GvR watermark. I have just acquired a piece used in December 1926 with the 2d Irish + 4d British Postage Dues, the 4d having clearly the GvR watermark.

ANOTHER COD DATE

Messrs Miller & Son Ltd., Crow Street, Dublin, have Meter mark M 215. One day last week (I don't know which) it had as the date the unprecedented 38 IV 59 !

13 May

SHANAHAN'S BURGLARY

After the front-page accounts of the burglary last weekend the newspapers have hurriedly dropped the affair - possibly disgusted by the firm's celebration party the night after the stamps went. Ostensibly the party was to celebrate the firm's fifth birthday. The "Daily Mail" photographed Mr. Singer pouring from one of the 150 bottles of champagne and describe his behaviour - pouring champ. down the neck of one girl's dress, and stout down another's. "He was so gay that he might have just enjoyed a £500,000 windfall".

The publicity has enabled Mr. Sharman and the [illegible] to spread more widely their disapproval of the Shanahan techniques, disapproval shared by most philatelists.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

26th May 1959

SHANAHANS I

Irish newspapers failed to follow the lead of the "Daily Mail" and had no references to the reported burglary between the news of that event and the offer (ten days later) of a £10,000 reward. They have broken silence now that the bubble has burst and the firm has gone into voluntary (!) liquidation. Even that gesture is done in the grand manner. The announcement came from Ireland's leading solicitor, Arthur Cox, and the liquidator is to be Mr.C.T. O'Brien of Dublin's leading firm of Accountants. He took possession yesterday and a police guard was placed on the premises. He will supervise the three auctions already scheduled, but it is not yet known what will happen to other stocks - nominally bought by the investors at recent sales. And who will enforce Shanahan's Guarantee, the Stop Loss Insurance, the emphatic statement to investors that their Capital is absolutely guaranteed and will be returned intact, whatever happens. If the Directors fail to carry out such promises they will open to charges of fraud.

Thus, although the crash has come, we have still to learn a lot of the facts and there can be very interesting developments. It is understood that there are nearly 10,000 Irish investors, and the amount they have invested must be over £1,000,000.



Since Kingstown is so much in the news it is appropriate that I should illustrate this "Maltese Cross" from a letter posted there on 22 August 1842. The distinguishing feature is a small but clear dot near the centre. Can anyone produce another example to confirm it ? I should confess that the stamp is not well tied and may have been transferred from another letter.

3rd June 1959

SHANAHANS II

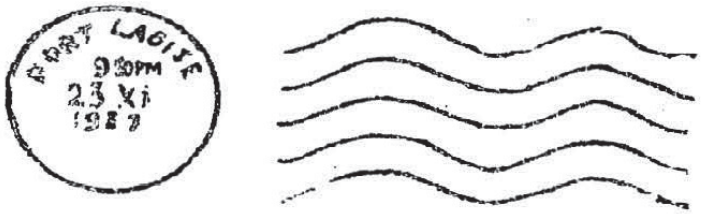
Now that the Directors have been arrested the publicity given by all the newspapers and the radio bulletins is so great that I do not propose to devote further space in my notes.

SLOGANS

For the fourth consecutive year the June slogan is AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X-RAY.

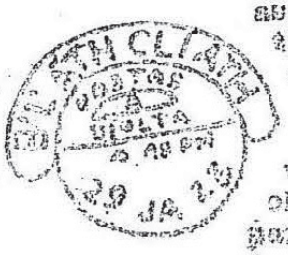
CANCELLING MACHINES

I have ascertained that the mystery machine used occasionally at Portlaoise between May 1956 and May 1958 was a hand operated machine, Type 413-H made by the Société d'Etude et Construction d'Appareils de Précision of Asnieres (Seine). It has now been withdrawn from service.



OBITUARY

I am sorry to report the death of Dr.F.M.Bourke, Fitzwilliam Square Dublin. Philately was one of his many interests and he was best known as one of the outstanding collectors of Irish books, and have been much indebted to him for snippets of information on a variety of subjects including postal history gleaned in his travelings. And I was privileged to receive several of his distinctive "first-day" envelopes with a brief printed caption and sometimes including the autograph of the designer of the stamp.



It is fortunate for modern students of Irish Postal History that Doctor Stafford Johnson was so active during the 1920s, not only assembling a remarkable collection, but (more difficult) finding out the story behind some of the oddities and getting dates of issue from official sources. In an album sold at a recent Robson Lowe auction there are examples of the shaped marking of 1922-23 with the explanation of how they can be inscribed POSTAGE PAID (=Postage Paid) without any indication of the amount. The type was used during the changeover period on correspondence of certain Departments which paid a lump sum for postal charges, calculated on the basis of average letter counts of the letters. An example was the Dublin office of the British Ministry of Pensions - which later used adhesive postage stamps.

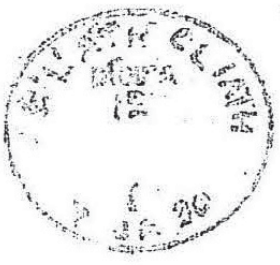
Other oddities in the same album are 1928 examples of a two-line anonymous cancellation, applied in the Dublin Chief Sorting Office to stamps which had escaped proper cancelling elsewhere, and impressed with the edge of an ordinary hand cancelling stamp.

In 1922 similar cases were obliterated by thumb !

HOUSE OFFICIAL PAID

It is difficult to discover if there is any explanation of the variations in treatment accorded to different official communications nowadays. The printed circular stamp bearing the harp at centre and inscribed "Official Paid" is applied mainly to items on which there can be no question of payment, e.g. on the official cards notifying electors of their Polling Place and number in the voters' lists. Particularly puzzling is the fact that for this week's double event the Presidential Election cards have the Official Paid in Irish and English, whereas the cards for the Referendum have only the Irish.

(5 minutes later). I've suddenly realised the reason: the Election cards were prepared so long ago as 1951 in readiness for an election which was uncontested. But the Referendum cards had to be specially printed.



The album mentioned above reveals that the type of hand-struck Paid chalked heretofore was applied by a series of handstamps, numbered 1 to 6 with removable plugs for the values ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 3½d, 4d, 4½d, 5d, 5½d, 6d, 6½d, 7d, 7½d, 8d, 8½d and 9d. How many of these have been found in normal use ?

There were also handstamps numbered 3 and 6, but they had the value (1d) fixed, in a series which also included numbers 1 to 4.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

30 June 1959

GUINNESS STAMPS

There are two peculiar features about the forthcoming stamps, due on 20th July. The official announcement describes the size as "intermediate", without indicating between what it is intermediate. Secondly, it is odd that the 3d and 1/3 values are again chosen. I expected a 6d, now that the foreign rate for ordinary mail starts at that figure. And 2d is a popular value in summertime for use on picture postcards.

G.P.O. PHILATELIC STOCKS

Most of us will welcome the official statement that, beginning with the Guinness issue, the sale period for commemorative stamps will be not more than six months. Withdrawn values of non-commemorative issues will be available from the Philatelic Section for only three months after the withdrawal from general sale.

Existing stocks of all types will continue on offer by the Philatelic Section until 1st October 1959. Thereafter obsolete issues will be available only in the souvenir brochures.

It is important to note that no Irish stamps have been demonetised and all will continue valid for postal use.

1832 Map

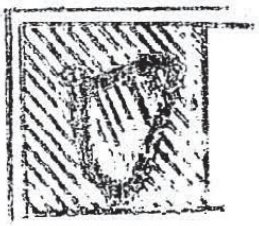
One of the most useful of the Irish maps depicting mail routes, post-towns, etc. is that of about 9¾ miles to 1" printed by E.A. and J.W.Allen. I have just acquired an edition of 1832 and would like to know what earlier editions are extant.

5 July

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

Dublin at least has changed to the Dixon Pook slogans for July, Bigg Cork is using the Kinsale Regatta advertisement introduced last year.

Dr Roncuf has advised me that there are current 9d showing signs of plate wear. When I checked my stock of duplicates I found an example of a variety worth looking for - a naked-eye dot near the harp in the position sketched herewith.



I did not find any clear evidence of a worn plate, most of the variations being more consistent with under- and over-inking as with the other values of the Arms design the variations are best marked in the eye of the eagle and the degree of separation of the fingers on the Ulster hand.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

I am assured that the new printing of the design envelopes will be on sale any day now and the H and K will follow next month.

Ken Roady

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND 1922-1959

A 20-page Pr.8vo booklet with complete list and indexes.

2/9 Post free. Special price to I.S.P.S. members 2/- Post Free

Obtainable from T.P.Dixon, Dunleary Harbour, Co.Wexford.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

31 July 1939

GUINNESS STAMPS

THE most attractive of the first-day covers was that presented to each of the 20,000 Guinness shareholders, containing a printed message from the Chairman and a set of the stamps. The 3d stamp outside the envelope was cancelled with a clean No.2 handstamp of the St.James's Street sub-office, and the appearance was marred only by the ridiculous and superfluous Post Office cachet. Somehundreds of similar envelopes, with enclosures, were addressed to the firm and presented to members of the staff. There are also in circulation examples of the envelope, without the enclosures.

Covers posted on the first day at Dublin main offices received clear strikes of the handstamps numbered 70 and 71, reserved for such occasions.

The only variety I have seen so far on the stamps was inside one of the presentation envelopes. It is on the 3d and compromises two fine lines across the cravat, below Guinness's right cheek. I have not been able to locate it on either Plate 1 or Plate 2.

DEFINITIVE STAMPS VARIETIES

Sorry the sketch of a 9d flaw in my last was so bad. The dot should have been about 10mm down and 1mm in from the right edge of the sketch.



A minor variety found years ago on a used single, but not seen mint until this week, is a break in the bar of the e of "pingino" on the 4d. I have now seen it on No.29 (3rd row,5th stamp) of a sheet but cannot confirm if it occurs on other sheets.

A commoner variety which has attracted more attention is the damaged E or "IRE" on the 3d (and similar on the 10d). This cannot be plated as it is liable to occur in many parts of a sheet when the plate is not fully inked. I find it three times in one quarter sheet (Nos.142,180 and 191). There are other similar breaks of which I illustrate one - a double break in the second e of "IRE"

10 August

SLOGANS NEWS

As in 1938, the July slogans situation was confused. Dublin used Clean Ford slogans, as did Killarney, Letterkenny, Limerick and Thurles. Cork had the Kinsale Regatta advertisement. Nenagh used "Licensse your Radio Promptly" and Tullamore continued AVAIL OF ANNUAL MASS X-RAY. The majority of towns had no slogans.

August sees the revival of the various Diphtheria Immunisation exhortations.

July saw the introduction in Dublin of some new dies for the name-and-date circles in the machine cancellations of machines B,d and I. They are only about 20½mm diameter instead of the usual 21 to 22 mm and the lettering is smaller than hitherto. Particularly striking is the new I which is sans-serif (i.e. 1)

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

14 August 1959

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

I have now studied the variety of the F-size envelope reported to the "Revealer" by Mr.Lane, and also the new G-size. All are lithographed from transfers from the same typographed original.

My assessment of the main differences between the two printings of the F are:

		Oct.1958	1959
Front	Colour	Dark blue on pale cream	Blue on white
"	Long thread line	Complete	Break left of centre
"	Frame of label space	Complete	Break at corner
"	Inchts	Normal	Inchts
Back	Address space to centre line	35m	33m
"	Accent on SUITEÁIL	Thick	Thin
"	Comma and line 1	Raised	Normal
"	Comma line 5 after cheigriche	Normal	Missing

In the 1959 version the letter i is in several cases faint or missing.

On the G envelope the details are as the earlier F except that the address space is 33 m from centre line and the paper as white as the more recent F.

16 August



Herewith the latest slogan, used only at Waterford. Unfortunately, judging by the examples I have seen, the details of the city arms do not print well and clear strikes will be very scarce. Precise first day not known, probably 4th August.

20 August

Today I was honoured with a copy of the first auction catalogue of "Mission Stamps Experts". Rather a feeble imitation of Shanahans' efforts, with the same chaotic arrangement, the same excessive valuations . A very objectionable feature is trying to cash in on rarities manufactured by the firm in connection with a flight they organised to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Alcock & Brown Atlantic flight. Our grandsons may value those highly but I think it bad form of a concern to ask 25 for a sheet of labels they themselves have had printed. And which they can reprint if they wish !

The firm promises the publication of an "Ireland Specialised Stamp Catalogue" in the autumn.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

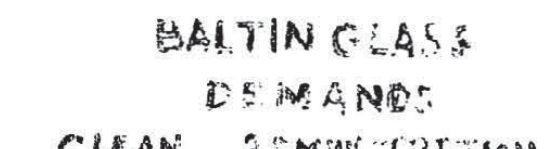
2 September 1959

REGISTRATION LABELS

The new style H is now on sale, and differs markedly from the F and G. It is typographed and the Irish headings are in upper and lower case Roman instead of all upper case. The founts used are so much larger that the reverse inscription almost fills the area available.



Illustrated is an unusual marking, handstruck on the envelope enclosing the letter returned. It is difficult to understand its necessity as the envelope also bears the dated mark (5 VI 59) of the Returned Letter Section, Dublin.



An unofficial slogan, but a Post Office one ! Applied by rubber stamp during January 1951 when the inhabitan of Baltinglass successfully opposed the transfer of th Post Office from the family who had run it for many ye

10 September 1959

DUBLIN 'A' SLOGAN LIST

Rather belatedly, I have obtained official confirmation of three slogans whose existence I had hitherto doubted. They are:

1950 VISIT DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONG 1ST JUNE 1932

Apr. 1932 COLE TO TAILTEANN GAMES DUBLIN 29TH JUNE-10TH JULY 1932

1 July 1958 AN CHAD LA A TABHARTA AMACH [= First Day of Issue] Intended for use on Father Mathew first day.

I would very much like further details of any of them, and also of the following, the existence of which was discovered by Rev.Neo

24-27 July 1959 MUINTIR NA TIRE RURAL WEEK CARLOW 19-26 AUGUST

This was hurriedly withdrawn discovery that the dates were wre Used at Carlow only.

Other additions to slogans data:

Nos. 65-7 & 70 have been used in 1959. Add Roscommon to the towns having and Killarney and Letterkenny to those with 66.

No. 77 was used also at Sligo (1952)

No.78 has been used at Sligo from 1955 to date .

No. 87. Add 1959 after 1958.

No. 94. Repeated in 1959 (the only slogan current this month!

°°°

IRISH STUDY GROUP

Dixon's Irish Philatelic News

October 1959

IRAD No. 1

Hearing of evidence continues very slowly, but will now be speeded up by the decision, unprecedented in Ireland, to take it all down by typewriter instead of longhand.

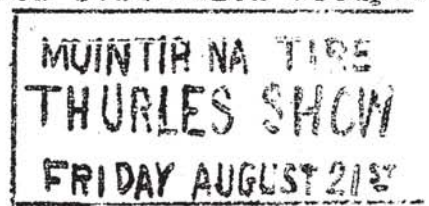
One development is that Mrs. Dinger has been released on her own bail of £12,000.

IRAD No.2

As expected since the flop of the Galway sale, "Mission Stamps" bubble has burst: most of the staff walked out, grabbing what they could in lieu of pay and the police are hunting head man Kennedy, armed with a warrant. The main assets of the concern are several hundred sacks of the stamps collected from schools etc.

SLOGANS

Mr Leonard has discovered another new item which escaped notice when current, probably used only at Thurles, and probably current from mid-July to mid-August. Early in July it had its special Clean Food slogan.



On 31st July Dublin 3 machine had its COSAIN DO LEANBH AR AN DIFTEIR with the slogan inverted.

The year's fifth new slogan, used in Limerick during September and early October. Likely to be popular with thematic collectors as well as other enthusiasts.



I still have a fair stock of the list of the Irish slogans, obtainable from me at the special price to I.S.G. members of 2/- post free.

AEROGRAMME

Yet another small change has been made, the most prominent alteration being a reduction in the width of "AIR LETTER" to 15mm. Also obvious at a glance is that the arrow at "Cut here" is given a more graceful point than hitherto. The Irish text on reverses has the lower case r and s (i.e. ɾ and ſ)

Stamp Designs

The "Irish Times" satirist Myles na Gopaleen has attacked what he terms the shocking incompetence of the Post Office branch responsible for stamp design and production - and he particularly attacks the use of the name FIPF, pointing out that most people call it Fifers and the few Gaelic speakers use Fifinn.

30 November 1959

Clarke

Rev.J. Brennan reports a variety on the 1/3 of the rather neglected Tom Clarke issue of 1958. It comprises a thickening of Clarke's left ear and occurs in the last column of pane 1a, but we do not yet know which row.

Canada used in Ireland

The use of foreign stamps is sometimes paquebot usage, sometimes the work of a "philatelic" enthusiast. A postcard salvaged from a pasted down scrap-book has another story. It was delivered in Feb.1931 bearing a Canadian 2c and a British ½d, both cancelled Dublin. The writer explains that the card should have been posted in Hamilton (Ont.) but the posting was forgotten.

10 December

Guinness f.d.c.

I have discovered now the firm's specially printed envelopes got into private hands - at least how one batch did. A printer who normally prints "first day" envelopes for sale to collectors wrote to Guinness's asking for the loan of a block of their distinctive harp. The firm could not oblige, explaining that they hoped everyone would use their envelopes, and sending him several boxes of them !



This is a Postage Due mark I have not seen before. It was used last month in conjunction with "POSTED WITHOUT LATE FEE" on the Cork-Dublin T.P.O. Is it used only on board the train, or is it a new type in the Dublin chief sorting office ? I think the former.



What is this one for ? F can hardly be "foreign", as this drawing is taken from an inland letter (registered). If it means that extra handstamps are now lettered instead of numbered, where are A,B,C,D,E used ?



We thought that all the "English" postmarks had been superseded, but now it seems that Dublin, the last stronghold, is still holding out . USHER's QUAY is one of the small sub-offices which uses its handstamp on registered mail, parcels and postal orders. I have never seen it on ordinary mail.

ECIAL AN PHOIST

At last the new edition of the Irish Post Office Guide has appeared today (12th December). In two parts. Volume 1 will suffice for most collectors: it deals with Inland Post and general regulations, and includes the invaluable lists of Post Offices in English and Irish. Volume II relates to Foreign services. The price continues to rise (1955 ed. was 2/-) and is now 1/6 per volume, plus 7d postage for one volume or 1/1 for the two. However the price includes a free service of supplements.

Christmas 1959

SLOGANS

Quite a lot to report since I was last on the subject. Firstly, inversions. On 6th October Dublin J machine was in use for cancelling (instead of its normal Official or Paid franking) with the Licence Your Radio inverted.

More remarkable was the I machinds performance in having the World Refugees appeal slogan upside down on 5th, 6th, 7th and I believe 8th November !

The change to the Refugees' Appeal continuedx through most of November. e.g. Ennis changed on 21st: by the end of the month over 20 towns had changed.

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS was revived at some places on 1st December, but not everywhere. Mullingar not until after 8th. The types are as last year, which means that Nenagh is still odd man out with its thicker letters and larger FOR. I've seen Dublin machines A, B, D, P, S, H, I, J, K and P and all the provincials except Sligo. I think that Cork had a new die, judging by the fineness of the letters.

At the end of November Cork was using an old name-and-date die, with ors at foot, but on 5th December a new one appeared with tall narrow letters. A striking new spelling arrived at Enniscorthy in mid-December the INIS CORTHAIDH becoming INIS CEITHE - much more sensible.

BOOKLET

One of my annual habits is to visit the G.P.O. in the lull of Christmas Eve to discover what novelties have sneaked out during the rush. This year the new item is No. 40 of the Booklets. It is of the same get-up as 39 and indistinguishable except for the number 40-59.

IRISH CONVENTION

Among the rarest of Irish cancellations is the handstarp used at the special office opened in Trinity College, Dublin, during the meetings of the Irish Convention from 25 July 1917 until some time in 1918. The finnings of the meeting, the basis of the Treaty, were announced in xxx April. Most of the few postmarks I have seen are "philatelic". The Irish delegates boycotted the office for fear their letters would be intercepted. How many different dates are known? I can only offer 30 July, 15 August and 26 February.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

The only Irish ones I have seen this year are those of the Rehabilitation Institution. Very similar to those of 1958 - six different designs, xmore colourful than artistic.

ADDRESS

From 4th January I shall be serving another term at Roselare Harbour, Co. Wexford.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP



AIRMAIL EQUETTIES

The latest issue again has the inscription in white on blue, but The blue is very dark. The important change is the omission of the Hyphen, so that it reads AVIATION
AERPHOST

6d Airmail

Mr. Brennan has observed my loneliness with a visit – and with the sight of an interesting pane of the 6d Airmails, bought 1in 1959. Nos. 21, 24 and 55 of the pane all show slight rarities, near the base of the design or (No. 24) to the left of the value.



At newspaper offices the delay in distributing by post is sometimes reduced by having wrappers prepared in advance. Even to the extent of having stamps stuck on and cancelled. For such processing and undated handstamp is preferred, since the wrappers can be prepared even days in advance – and surplus once can be retained for another issue. Thanks to the co-operation of Rev. W. Noonan I have found that the diamond killer numbered 97 has been used in this way at Carlow on wrappers for the local "Nationalist". But the practice was stopped at the end of 1959



Mr. Todds has asked me to explain this cancellation from Ennis. Only a practical explanation is possible. The initials are the Irish equivalent of the English M.O. & S.B. – Money Order and Savings bank, as was formerly used at many British and Irish post offices. But they were usually much smaller and were not normally used to cancel postage stamps. I have not seen examples of the O.A & B.T from any other offices and suspect that the use at Ennis was either experimental or accidental. However, Ennis has used it for about 20 years or more on all types of correspondence. Letters and parcels registered and unregistered, as an alternative to its other handstamps. Since 1952 Ennis has had a machine for cancelling normal letters and postcards, but there are always hand stamps retained for bulky packets, parcels etc

REFUGEES

SLOGANS

The first revival of the slogan "support RED CROSS appeal for WORLD REFUGEES was on the 21st December in Dublin. Its use spread during January and I have now seen examples from 30 places as well as Dublin. In fact, from all towns with machines except mallow and Mullingar.

If you collect Northern Ireland, make sure you obtain copies of the Belfast (and other places) use of the ill-fated British design. It was a particularly stupid design for use in Ulster where any detached hand is liable to be mistaken for its own emblem.

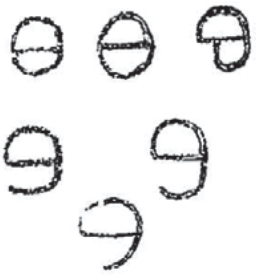
DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

31

February 1960



I had thought the last Christmas had yielded none of the usual errors of machine cancellations. I was wrong ! Illustrated is an abnormal inversion, involving only the BAILE ATHA CLIATH and machine letter B.



Among the Shanahan's (or rather Singer's)) less objectionable schemes was their magazine, which included some good articles and some which, although unsound, developed interesting themes. Such a one was by R.J. Sutton on the Irish e watermark and illustrated some of the variations he had found. I illustrate one or two that I have noted and hope that someone with bags of time and bags of material will undertake a thorough study of them. It seems likely that they are the result of damaged "bits" and it may even be possible to study the development of each of the more prominent flaws.

Dates in Postmarks

One of the perplexing features of Irish cancellations is the variation in the month designation, sometimes the abbreviations of the English words for the months, sometimes Roman numerals. I have recently met cases of another system – Artabic numerals. Baile an Rodbha 1= Ballinrobe) and 7 for July in a skeleton Handstamp on 1st July 1958, but a week later it had changed to JY. And Mainistir Laoise (-Abbeyleix) used 12 for December of The same year, also a temporary issued skeleton type.

Postal History

A letter to the Irish Times of 16th February, from a James Maher (A prolific writer on local history) suggests that a history of the Irish Postal service should b written, and gives some notes about Daniel Gahan, Governor of the Irish Post Office in 1666. I replied to Maher's letter, indicating that there are already publications on the subject, that there will be listed in a bibliography soon to be published, and inviting readers of the newsPaper to submit references to early post office history. This has already brought in some useful information.

Slogans

This month we have the Diphtherias Immunisation again. I find that Dublin's overworked machine has another new die Which reverts to the style without arcs and is distinguishable from the predecessors by having a normally placed accent on ÁTHA. There have been at least three new dies within a year, but the current F is 10 years old and the rarely used E twenty!

DIXON's IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

March 1960

Machine Cancellations

When the spelling of ATHA LUAIN was reduced to ATH LUAIN in 1957 a new die was supplied but I find that for some time past the original one has come back, with the second A removed. As usual in such cases, the evidence is supplied by the accent on the A.

Another short lived change has been at Tullamore which used / for January 1960, but reverted to normal with FEB last month.

Slogans

Correction! I said that the Diphtheria immunisation slogans were current for February. An important exception was Cavan which alone revived PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

Completion! The last gap is filled in the list."Support RED CROSS appeal for WORLD REFUGEES" was used on <u>all</u> the provincial machines, as well as Dublin B,F,H,I and P machines. The rarities to watch for, in addition to early November dates and the Dublin (I) inversion, are Dublin P and the use in red with the PAID die at Limerick.

This month has revivals of the two versions of the reminder to buy Radio Licences. This may the slogans' last year, as Ireland's plans for a television service are progressing.

Stains

How often has each of us thrown away the wrong stamps ? I have discarded many because they seemed defaced by coloured smudges, as if a spot of writing ink had been dropped on the stamp, and it had "run" when the stamp was being soaked off. The usual colour was greenish blue. Now I have found a 3d (in a new booklet) with a green spot embedded in the paper. Is it possible that such impurities could cause the stains ? It is too late to salvage the dozens I've destroyed, but I have since found two used examples, one on unsoaked piece, with stains of this same greenish tinge.

Correction to Addendum

In a D.I.P.N. note dated 10 Sep.1959 I passed on information of three slogans reported by the G.P.O. but unknown to collectors. I now have the further information that the reported AN CEAD LA A TABHARTA ANACH was not actually put into use - only planned.

Changed Names

When the main Dublin sub-office was moved from College Green to St.Andrew Street the Irish name of the new site was given as SRAID AINDREIS, but I find that, at least on the Parcel "water-marks" it is now SR. SAN AINDRIAS.

Watermark POS



ISC member N.J.Langton has discovered a block of 9d SAORSTAT from the right of a sheet, and the marginal pair have the watermark POS, part of the word POSTAGE which normally occurs in the edging. Although this displaced watermark is fairly well known in some of the unoverprinted stamps Robson Lowe (Enc.Vol.I, p.199) specifies that it is not known on 6d, 9d or 10d.

The latest use of the movable type handstamp that I have seen, with the name in English !

DIXON's IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

March 1960

Savings Stamp Postally used — An early D.I.P.N.[2.2.57] mentioned the postal use of the 6d black-on-orange Savings Stamp at Craobh Chumhra (=Crecora in Co.Limerick) in June 1941. Now M.Leonard has found another example from the same place and two days earlier than mine. Other pieces of the same period remind us that the most commonly used stamp just then was the 2d green-on-orange provisional commemorative. It seems likely that the use of the Savings Stamp was a genuine error on the part of the postal clerk who thought he was selling the commemorative. In poor light, or to poor eyes, the two are very similar.

Thus the 6d Savings Bank stamp should be raised to catalogue status and a price quoted for the postally used examples.

SEALS (Seal here) — The R.D.S. Spring Show sticker for 1960 repeats the design of the Society's badge for the 15th consecutive year.

Here is a complimentary example of an international seal used in Ireland. A small supply was obtained by Irish collectors from the international headquarters in Genova.

METERMARKS — The makers of the dies for the NV metering apparatus continue to add new solutions to the problem of fitting in accents. The latest I have noticed is Goodbody's NV 36 at Dùn Laoghaire, which places the accent down the middle of the U, i.e. [illegible]

THE END OF THE HALFPENNY — How are your pages of ½d stamps ? After the 28th March its only use is on literature for the blind. The rates for letters, etc. now include only multiples of 1d and the charges for Late fee and for certificate of posting are both raised from ½d to 1d.

April

IMPROVISATIONS — Every increase in postage rates catches someone unprepared. e.g. the users of metering machines find that they lack the dies for the new rates. This time the G.P.O. is caught: their parcels post machines do not print some of the new charges, and the deficiency is being remedied by supplementing the printed labels with 1d postage stamps, the ensemble then being cancelled with the rectangular Parcel Post obliterator.

SLOGANS — This month has another revival of PREVENT FOREST FIRES .

REFUGEE STAMPS — Although there was a Radio announcement last week that Ireland will issue 3d and 1/3 World Refugee stamps at the end of May, I have not yet seen any press announcement.

What about using the seals (as sample above) on your first-day covers ? I can arrange supplies and suggest a price of 1/- a dozen post free. All proceeds will go to the World Refugee funds. Send your order without delay to

F.E.Dixon, Rosslare Harbour, Co.Wexford

DIXON's IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

April-May 1960

NO. 34



No, it isn't the price. Thanks to Mr Field's generosity, more than mine, these notes are still gratis. The 3d is a handstruck mark normally used to denote postage due; but I have found it as a cancellation on a George VI 2½d pink, which is further defaced by a Belfast counter-stamp of 19 September 1951. Why ? The most obvious theory is that the clerk picked up the wrong handstamp, but more attractive is the possibility of the 2½d being revalued to 3d. Other ideas will be welcomed.

MACHINE NAMES

Killarney has a new die for its cancelling machine: it appeared first last autumn and is identifiable by narrower lettering and by a wider space between CILL and AIRNE.



My second sketch is of a long overdue new die on official paid envelopes. For several years the dies used have been the bilingual ones with the English version defaced, sometimes clumsily. Now we have this which some will call monstrous for its presenting the Irish words in Roman lettering instead of the more attractive uncials.

Other Postal Stationery news is that the Letter Cards are now on paler, almost white, card and that the spelling on their packet wrappers now agrees with that on the cards.

WILLCOCKS's SPOONS

"The Spoon Experiment, 1853-58" is now on sale from R.M. and R.W. Willcocks, 42a Hillfield Road, Muswell Hill, London N.10 at 12/6 (interleaved 16/-) and is recommended. Only about nine of the 46 pages concern the Irish spoon cancellations, but the treatment is thorough and includes a welcome guide to rarity and valuations - which range from "under 10/-" to "over £10".

SLOGANS

The April slogan was PREVENT FOREST FIRES - except at Wexford, which has never yet had it, and used LICENSE YOUR RADIO PROMPTLY. May has a different mixture, some towns IRELAND FOR HOLIDAYS and others SUPPORT... WORLD REFUGEES

MORE INVERSIONS &c

1960 is one of years whose digits are all still digits when turned upside down. The first Irish example has been found by Mr Richards - at Longford on 14 January.

He also reports a fascinating oddity from Bray. On or about 4 January the date was omitted and a second time inserted, so that it read 11.0AM / 17,15AM !

DUBLIN SPRING SHOW

I could not be in Dublin for the start of the Show this year, but my wife nobly co-operated in obtaining some first-day cancellations. The handstamp is similar to the last years', made up in the 31mm diameter temporary type, but this year, instead of using the registration labels of the Ballsbridge P.O. there was a stock of blanks on which the clerk had to laboriously write "Spring Show Dubl". One of my envelopes arrived with the label still blank !

SCATTERED SKELETONS

A disadvantage of those temporary handstamps made up with movable type is that the type is too movable. It falls out and gets put back in the wrong order. I have just met another case. GEATA ABR / VEST N CORA [= GEATA BAN, MAINISTIR NA CORAN]

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

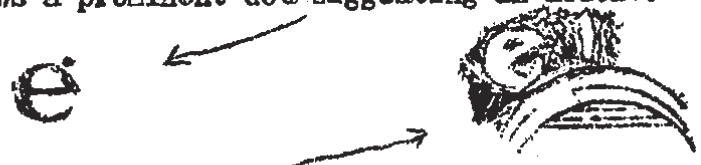
June 1960 No. 35

DUBLIN DISTRICTS It is announced that the Irish P.O. is to re-introduce the system of dividing Dublin into numbered areas (like London, Liverpool, etc. and will ask the public to co-operate by including the numbers with the addresses they write. As a persistent pessimist I predict that the scheme will fail like the last one. If a sorter saw a district number at the end of the address on an envelope he automatically flung it into the London bag ! That explains such a case as one I have, an envelope from Lisaduff (Co.Meath) to Dublin& censored by a British Censor in 1942.

HORSE SHOW This year's "stickers" and postcards are already in use, and have the design of a hunter jumping Ireland - the sixth use of the design first introduced in 1937.

REGISTRATION LABEL ERROR Loch Gamhna (= Loch Gowna, Co.Cavan) is at present using labels inscribed "Gowna", with "Loch" added in pencil.

3d DEFINITIVE The éíRe continues to be worth watching. In a booklet just bought the central stamp of the lower row on both pages of the 3d shows a prominent dot suggesting an accent. on the second e.



AND THE 1d Mr Longton reports an even more prominent variety which recurs on every tenth stamp of a recent coil of 1d, made up from sheets. It must have been present somewhere in the top row of the pane and should be looked for on the sheets. It comprises a gap in the semicircular arc below the é or 6íRe.

I find, however, that there is often a weakness there, and examples with a marked break cannot be assigned to the top line. The first example I found was the lower of a vertical pair.

MACHINE DATES I still have not found a date 0961 , but in hunting it have discovered that on 8 June the Dublin I machine was missing its year, at least for the 9.15PM dispatch.

PARCELS LABELS Another problem piece. A parcel posted in Dublin on 11th June, bearing the 3/- bus-ticket style label legibly (only just) dated 9th June, and then corrected by adding the counter stamp hand cancellation. The odd feature that it was pre-cancelled, i.e. corrected before affixing to the parcel. My theory is that the clerk had turned the date setter the wrong way , from 10th to 9th instead of to 11th; discovered his slip just after printing this label, and corrected it on his pad before handing it over for affixing.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

Midsummer 1960 No. 36

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

At long last the K size envelope has emerged in the same style as the others, or rather a similar style . The Irish text is all in "Roman" type but uses lower-case for the headings on front and back.

W.R.Y. Stamp Issue

I think that the Irish P.O. deserves praise for its boldness in accepting so unconventional a design, even though some may think the subject ill chosen. Although many have fled on account of their religion, recent waves of refugees have suffered more because of politics, and it is the modern refugee for whom funds are being raised. And if the Bible is to be consulted, why not go back to Adam and Eve - the first displaced persons ?

There are no obvious printing errors visible on my first look for them, only the corner smudges which De la Rue's cannot avoid. The paper is poor and I see cases of white marks because the paper was too thin, and green spots which are flaws in the paper.

The guide dots between the stamps are very prominent and in a few places duplicated.

Canada Cup

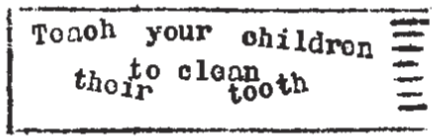
Our perseverance is paying, and at last the Irish P.O. is becoming postmark conscious. Not only is there a special handstamp (31 mm) at the temporary on the Portmarnock Golf Course, but it has been publicised by a Radio Eireann announcement. I believe that the office opened on the afternoon of 20th and will continue for the week of practice and play.

IRISH RED CROSS EXHIBITION

To coincide with the new stamps, an exhibition was put on in the Dublin Mansion House, displaying alleged first day covers (actually sets cancelled-to-order) of the W.R.Y. issues of other countries. Far more attractive were the selections loaned by our Dr.Renouf, with superb Papal States pre-adhesive covers etc etc. the rarest items being some of his choicest Irish pages.

1960's first new SLOGAN

A Dental Congress was held in Dublin from 20th to 25th June, and it was planned to celebrate it with this slogan. But the dies were delayed and the earliest date seems to be 29th. Intended distribution is Dublin, Cork, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Limerick and Waterford.

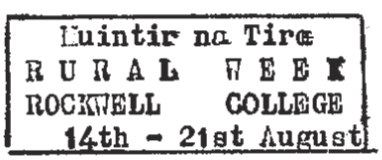


BUT -

The Cork in that list is made doubtful by the arrival of a letter from there with the slogan WHEN IT'S AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY IT'S KINSALE REGATTA, used 1st July.

AND -

Without any warning , Tipperary has produced this year's Muintir na Tiro propaganda': and Wexford, after a lapse of 4 years, has its Holiday advert.



DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

July 1960 Number 37

THE Exhibition

To me the greatest attraction of "London 1960" proved to be the people rather than the stamps. Many happy hours were passed chatting, discussing - even arguing - with old friends and new friends. The I.P.S.G. meeting without Michael Leonard was Hamlet without the Prince, but was pleasant and useful.

After Sir John Wilson's remarks (S.G. p.555) it seemed unlikely that the Judges would approve our Chairman's heterogeneous exhibit of superb Irish rarities of all periods, and in the circumstances a Silver Gilt award is gratifying, both to Mr Field and to his friends of the I.P.S.G.

The stiffener to the Exhibition envelopes devotes a fair share of its space to Irish "crosses" and it is regrettable that it copies the misleading version of the Mullingar cross. The nicks in the outer line are not central and at least as important are breaks in the innermost area of the outer cross.

More Slogans

P & T inform me that Waterford will use WATERFORD INTERNATIONAL LIGHT OPERA FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER during August and September.

1922 Map 2d

An article by M.G.O'Reilly in the 1954 (May-June) REVEALER stated that the 2d stamps sold on the first day (6 December 1922) were an emergency printing made in England, and that only the later printings - beginning with that in fugitive ink - were done in Dublin. An enquiry from G.P.O. has elicited the categorical statement that the "dies and plates were made by the Royal Mint in London but all the printing was done by the Revenue Commissioners' Stamping Branch in Dublin." It is still just possible that Mr Perry Adams's version is correct - that the printed sheets had to be rushed to London for perforating.

Machine Cancellation Months

This month shows an important change at Dublin, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, and probably elsewhere. The abbreviations (JAN, FEB &c) have given way to the Roman numerals (VII for July), following the precedent established at Cork in May 1958.

Guinness 1/3

I've found two examples of the 1/3 Guinness blue with faint scratches or guide lines almost parallel to and just outside the top frame line. Can anyone with blocks or panes confirm that it is a platable variety ?

A non-P&T slogan

Dr Mackay has drawn my attention to this slogan handstamped on envelopes used by Dublin Corporation in recent months, presumably by the Health section.

→ HAVE YOUR CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Irish Expeditionary Force

Although press and Radio have devoted considerable space to the news of Irish forces (one battalion) flying to help U.N. in the Congo, I have seen no mention of whether they have a Field Post Office and I hope that I.P.S.G. members will be able to find out whether letters home have Irish or Congo or U.N. stamps and whether special postmarks are used. Letters to the forces must be sent c/o U.N.

"Bullet-holes"

[We hope not an appropriate sequel to the last paragraph]

It is well known that the 2d O'Connell bullet-hole in the forehead varies in position, but I was surprised to see a similar, but smaller, flaw just below his left ear.

P.T.O.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

August 1960 Number 38

"Bullet-holes" (cont.) M.Leonard has just sent for inspection yet another - on the 2d 1933-34 Holy Year - a small white ring surrounding a green spot, on the left inner frame line, 5 mm from the top margin.

Slogan Waterford is again publicising its Light Opera Festival, the die introduced a year ago having been modified by showing the date as SEPTEMBER (draped round the city badge). First day 2nd August.

Horse Show 2nd August was also the first day of the Dublin Horse Show, the cancellation being once more the 31mm diameter "skeleton" handstamp reading HORSE SHOW DUBLIN and with an asterisk above the one-line date. As at this year's Spring Show, the registration labels are improvisations, "Horse Show Dn" being written on unallocated numbered labels.

Efficiency Orders for my list of Irish slogans still dribble in. The latest arrived on 3rd August, posted in New York only three days before and stamped only for surface transmission ! Obviously it was missorted into air mail.

1d Mangan Ireland's only 1d commemorative has been neglected by the microscopists, and I hope that someone will studyit as there seem to have been many spots etc. Admittedly most appear trivial but not all. e.g. the 11th stamp of (I think) the 5th row has a slight break in the bottom line below EP of REPUBLIC and the break continues upwards to widen the space between E and P - as if it may have been a deliberate attempt to adjust that spacing.

1/3 W.R.Y. I have only just obtained a plate number block from Pane 1B, all previous supplies in this area having been 1A, and find a spot on the corner stamp, a squiggle like a sideways g about 1 mm below the I of eIRe. Any confirmations ?

6d Postage Due M.Leonard has sent for my admiration the long awaited 6d P.D. with multiple e watermark, with a clear cancellation of Cork, 6th July. So the 6d on se paper at last becomes obsolete - after 35 years.

Horse SHOW (cont.) A note from Capt.Dunstan suggests that a little more information is desirable about the postal arrangements at the Spring and Horse Shows. The Post Office is in the permanent buildings of the Royal Dublin Society (to the left of the main entrance) and is opened for the duration of each show. The special cancellation is applied only to mails handed in at the counter - and ordinary letters, postcards, etc are not accepted. So to obtain examples one must post parcels or registered letters, or packages too large for the posting boxes. Items posted in the box at the office (or pillar boxes in the grounds) receive the same cancellations as mails posted anywhere else in Dublin.

Slogans The teeth cleaning propaganda has been continued for August, at any rate in Dublin. I have seen very litte provincial mail of late.

DIXON'S IRISH PHILATELIC NEWS

Number 39

Mail Bag Seals Among the most fascinating of improvised cancellations are those applied by the brass seal supplied to an office for embossing the wax when a mail bag is sealed for despatch. Examples are rare and Irish examples very rare. I have just been shown one on a penny red of about 1860, the inscription reading CORK ... DUBLIN. The dots represent an indistinct word, probably HILL. Cork Hill is a small throughfare in the oldest part of Dublin and had a Penny Post Receiving House for a time.

SLOGAN NEWS "Teach your children to clean their teeth" has now been seen from Dublin (B,H and I), Cork (after Kinsale Regatta), Dundalk,Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Limerick and Waterford (replaced by Light Opera Festival).

THE IRISH IN THE CONGO An enquiry I addressed to the 32nd Infantry Battalion, now with the U.N. forces in the Congo, about the postal services, has brought an interesting reply from Lt.Col. Buckley. All letters from the men to Ireland are now carried post free. They are sent to Dublin by air, via the Leopoldville HQ. But initially local stamps were used and my letter bears 1f and 5f stamps of the Belgian Congo overprinted CONGO and cancelled by an oval handstamp "HEADQUARTERS 32ND INF BN" There is also an illegible circular mark, probably of Leopoldville.

H & K Packet The early H & K datestamps with even numbers are uncommon, because they were applied on mail to Irish addresses outside Dublin. At the weekend I saw a cover of 1867 with two strikes one of No.7 and one of No.6. It was addressed to just outside Dublin and the sorter was probably uncertain whether 6 or 7 was correct !

REGISTRATION LABELS Another manuscript label to report - from SHANNON AIRPORT, on a letter posted 24 August 1960.

ARTISTS & THEIR DESIGNS I recently mentioned how disappointed Karl Uhlemann was at the way his design for the w.r.y. stamps was mutilated by the P.& T. department and their printers. Another example of maltreatment was the 1943 Hamilton design for the centenary of Quaternions. Sean O'Sullivan had included the epoch-making formula in his drawing but P.& T. insisted on its deletion as upsetting the balance of the design. Now I hear of an earlier case. The widow of Victor Brown has told me that his design for the 1941 Insurrection commemorative had a Phoenix as the focal point. But high authority, probably Mr (now President) De Valera, decreed that a Volunteer in uniform must be substituted. No sketches etc of the first draft are known to survive, unless in the G.P.O. archives.

SLOGANS (addendum) The paragraph above already needs supplementing. By 26th August Cork had revived BANDON CARNIVAL / 3RD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER.

BANKRUPTCY The pitiful remnants of the "Mission Stamps" (Kennedy) stock id to be auctioned in Dublin on 9th September - including about 30 sacks of unsorted (possibly) material.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

Random Notes - September 1960 - No. 40

Editorial. These notes began some years ago inspired by my laziness. Instead of typing the same thing several times for different correspondents I made carbon copies. Then, when the I(P)SG was founded by Mr Leonard, and Mr Field volunteered to duplicate my notes for all members, they continued under the same ostentatious title as before. Now that the Group is a real entity, and now that much of my material is supplied by members, the time has come to denote me from heading to more editor of what will I hope long continue as the I.P.S.G. Random Notes,

edited by
F.E.Dixon

W.R.Y. 3d shades Mr Leonard draws my attention to an apparent shade variety of the still current 3d - slightly brighter and redder than the normal. But I was careful to write "apparent" as I find that the ink is slightly liable to spread in water . Soaking in hot water makes the colour show red through the back of the stamp - reminiscent of an anilino ink appearance. But of the stamps I tried some were more affected than others, suggesting that the ink used was not uniform.

Rivals or Comrades ? There is certainly growing interest in Irish Philately, and in unexpected places. Dr med.Christian Rójskjaer writes to me from Odense (Denmark) that about 30 collectors of Irish stamps have formed a Club; and asks some queries.

Postal Rates One query I cannot answer as fully as I would like - on the Irish postal rates since 1922. Can anyone produce a complete list ? It is not enough to consult P.O. Guides: they are apt to be out of date by the time they are issued and one needs access to the weekly circulars to get the dates of change and full details of the changes.

Inversion L.Leonard has found a remarkable example from Enniscorthy, of 9 Nov. 1953. The 3d (Emmet) stamp is twice cancelled by the parallel bars but the circle with name and date is inverted with only one of them. Obviously the clerk discovered his error and recancelled the envelope when he had corrected it.

Irish Overseas Contingents Our Hon.Sec. also submits some covers and pieces posted home by a member of the Irish Brigade which served in the Spanish Civil War. They are of March to May 1937 and bear various stamps with normal cancellations, mainly Caceres. Three are struck with CENSURA MILITAR CACERES and another has instead a circular impression reading 18 BRIGADA MIXTA 2º BATALLON. Can anyone confirm whether that 2nd batallion was mainly or all Irish ?

1d Postage Due The latest supply to reach the local P.O. is of a sharper print than usual suggesting that the plate has been cleaned. The bottom left corner stamp of the pane has the variety "inverted Q for O" in POSTAGE and on the adjoining stamp of the row the P is like a broken R. The former has been constant for some time, but I think the other only casual.

And the 6d Looking at some of the new 6d P.D. I notice that it differs from the other values by having a blank top to the A of POSTAGE. In the SE paper printing there was sometimes a very small dot.

Irish EUROPA stamps

Bad! Messrs De la Rue have had to waste their considerable technical ability on a design unsuited to line-engraving. The design might have been just tolerable in photogravure, but I don't think so: there is too much waste space. The British effort is much superior with its scroll containing the complete title instead of the inconspicuous initials of the Irish.

Coincidences

It is inevitable that certain items pass through the same hands more than once. A mixed lot I once bought in Dublin included covers I had sold in England months before. But the latest example is more remarkable. At the recent sale of "Mission Stamps" bankrupt stock one of the 33 sacks of (I hope) mostly unsorted mixture was knocked down to me. It happened to be the one containing a bundle of covers that I had sent to an English collector five years ago ! Quite useful covers, which will now have further wanderings in an I.P.S.G. Exchange Packet.

Holyhead & Kingstown Packet

In spite of the hard work put in by successive students, our knowledge of the markings of the H&K PACT. is still incomplete. It was known that Nos. 4 (Fr.Brennan),9,13,14,15 (Kidd) of the earliest numbered series were revived in the 1890s. I can now add No.12,on a registered letter from Rochester to Dublin in Nov.1895.



Some collectors are very fussy. I find a picture postcard of Henley-on-Thames which a former owner has endorsed as "Spoilt Card", apparently because the view side bears a beautiful (to my eyes) strike of a later H & K PACT. datestamp !

Parcels Labels

The dies for the new rates are still not to hand and the tram-ticket labels still have to be supplemented by ordinary postage stamps. The latest error is from Dublin G.P.O. The date printed is 39 VIII 60 instead of 19 IX 60.

DUBLIN Duplex

The classification of the successors to the "Spoons" is very complicated and I have just found another which does not fit with anything else I have. It is the first I have seen with X instead of a number later than 1862, and at the same time it is the earliest I have seen with very thick bars. So it is literally in a class by itself.





"Roman" dates

My notes have often mentioned the inconsistencies between the month designators (e.g. SEP or IX). I find that as long ago as 19 May 1926 there was an official pronouncement that thereafter all new date stamps would bear the month in Roman numerals. But that has often been forgotten.

1857 Dublin Scroll

Most impressions of this handstamp recorded only on the backs of envelopes and only from March to September 1857, have A at foot.
B has been recorded but that traced herewith is the first I have seen with E. Do C & D exist ?



IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

October 1960 RANDOM NOTES No.41

W.R.Y. Both 3d and 1/3 seem to have been withdrawn after just 3 months use. Fr. Noonan reports a variety on the 3d, a squiggle like that mentioned in our No.38, but occurring on the 3d and near the 6 of 1960. I think that these must result from fibres of a wiping pad and cannot be expected to recur.

Registration Label Names I have before remarked on the persistence of the "English" office names on the labels, with very few offices providing exceptions. Another such exception just discovered is from Galway. Although in recent years its labels have been inscribed GALWAY I find that in December 1946 they read "Gaillimh".

Year 0961 M.Richards has found this error again, at Cavan for at least two days, 1st and 2nd August.

New Slogan Weeks ago I learned of a pending new slogan to be used at all offices, due mid-September. But it did not appear until 4th October. Unlike the last recent efforts dies for PAID and OFFICIAL PAID have been made this time.

MAKE SURE
you are on the new
V O T E R S L I S T S

Postal History Society Conference We missed the Fields at this year's P.H.S. Annual weekend gathering, and were very relieved when news arrived that Mr Field would soon be at least 99% fit. I won't pretend that we convened any IPSG meeting, but can report that Dr de Burca, T.V.Jackson and F.E.Dixon had some useful chats together, as well as ensuring individually that Ireland was not forgotten in discussions and displays.

Treasures of M.Leonard On the way back to Ireland I enjoyed a pleasant evening with our Hon.Sec. and saw several interesting items worthy of record in these notes.

Firstly a letter of 1846, written aboard the "Java" off Cork and brought ashore at Cove by the pilot. Nowadays such a letter would probably have a Paquebot cancellation. This has only the normal Cove marks.

Secondly, two "Returned" letters of 1883 in their original envelopes, the cover of one having an oval "REGISTERED OFFICIAL DUBLIN" I have not seen before.

Thirdly a Ship's Letter Telegram envelope. Although it bears the harp of official envelopes it was prepaid with the An Teastal 2½d, cancelled at Malin Head. A possible explanation is that the letter was addressed to Lisburn, across the Border.

Fourthly, a remarkable provisional Registration label of 1952 from Finglas (Co.Dublin) perpetrated by handstamping the name on a piece of stamp edging.

COBH PAQUEBOT It is not often that Alan Robertson boobs, but his page (123) in Stamp Collecting for 7 October needs amending. His Figs.1 and 2 are of the same "skeleton" handstamp, and his Fig.3 was registered as early as 5 October 1922 and was probably in use shortly afterwards .

RANDOM NOTES

No.41 (continued)

Newspaper Strike or lockout — There have been no Dublin newspapers since 12th October. Most people quickly readjusted themselves to managing without, but it is sad that we should miss the details of Paul Singer's trial, begun Monday 17th. His wife's trial is further postponed, owing to the death of her Counsel.

The new slogan — Correct what I said overleaf. It has still appeared at only a few offices. Some are still on the Teeth, and others using bars.

Registration Envelopes — There has been a new printing of at least F and G sizes. The main change is in correcting the reverse inscription by omitting reference to the 6d fee for foreign letters, but the opportunity has been taken to modify the Irish wording and to lower the "FEE PAID". The size G is my Fyndem tip: it has a bad slip. the word "PHOIST" being left in place at the end of the Irish text although the new wording requires its deletion.

Ocean Penny Postage — Among the decorative propaganda envelopes of a century ago are those urging the extension of the Penny rate to overseas mails, and of these there is at least one Irish contribution "Designed, Engraved & Printed by Figgis & Carroll Stationers, 27 College Green & 8 Church Lane, Dublin." But the design is a close copy of a British one (Bradshaw & Blacklock's). Has anyone a dated example?

Slogans — Another surprise ! The Voters List slogan was replaced by License Your Radio Promptly about 24 October, the dies revived in Dublin including the battered one with nearly half the word "your" missing.

Registration Envelopes — One of my pet theories is that a complete collection of G.B. could be assembled from items used in Ireland. Uncommon envelopes that I have seen so used are the 3d+1d and 3½d+½d 1920 provisionals. To these I can now add the succeeding issue 2d+3d .

Another PAQUEBOT Port — That notable expert on all things maritime keeps me informed of his Irish finds, and has just reported that in August this year Bantry had a temporary PAQUEBOT cancellation during the call there of the luxury cruise liner "Caronia". I don't know why she called there instead of the more usual Glengarriff, or whether she did call at Glengarriff, which is a sub-office to Bantry.

Irish Forces in Congo — On 30th I had a pleasant afternoon with Dr Mackey, admiring some of his recent acquisitions, especially his wife, whose accomplishments include superb writing up. He has obtained several covers from Congo, some of them without stamps or postmarks, but bearing instead the dated handstamp of "Organisation des Nations Unies au Congo."

ADVERTISEMENT I still have copies of the Irish Slogans List. Special price to members of the I.P.S.G. 2/- post free.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

November 1960 Random Notes No.42

Parcels Stamps — In the last week of October the counter machines at Dublin G.P.O. (and possibly elsewhere) were taken away for the long overdue modification to the new rates. They have not been returned up to today (17th November).

EUROPA C.E.P.T. variety. — At tonight's IPSG regional meeting in Dublin the only new discovery on show was a flaw on the 1/3, found by Mr Glynn, comprising a blur on the left extremity of the U in EUROPA, on the 5th stamp of Row 5 of pane 1A. What has happened to pane 1B of the 1/3 ?
Mr Glynn has seen several copies, but has also found examples of the pane without it.

FREEs in Armagh — Mr Douglas reports seeing in Armagh Public Library a three-volume collection of autographed "fronts" of the period 1825-1839 with a good proportion of Irish postmarks on them. Unfortunately he had not time to study them closely and hopes that some other enthusiast will find an opportunity of investigating them.

SLOGANS — "License your Radio Promptly" (and the Irish version thereof) continued from the end of October into November.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, LIBRARY — It is never easy to gain access to the Manuscripts Room of an important library, and to reach that of T.C.D. one has to pass through a locked gate as well as a locked door. And when I was there today there were two dogs on guard as well . I went to confirm T.V.Jackson's report of a 1670 Dublin Bishop mark in MSS G.6.23, And I am happy to report that it seems quite definitely Irish, the letter being from Dublin to Donaghadee. Diameter is 14mm and seems to be from a solid handstamp. The earliest marking I could see in the correspondence that looks as if the stamp was in two halves is AP 1 1708, on a letter bearing also an indistinct impression which I decipher to be SLIGO somewhat telescoped ...





The next in the volume to catch my eye was from Donagahadee to Dublin, via BELFAST (a neat stamp with letters 3mm tall) with a fine strike of a remarkable FREE, presumably of Dublin. Date 1st July 1709.

In other volumes (Ref.T.6.1 &c) there are some early examples of coloured name-stamps from DURROW, which used red, blue, and green inks at various times from 1786 to 1788.

And a very early (for Ireland) mileage mark noted is NAAS of 1808.

REGISTRATION LABELS

Yet another oddity. One of the new G envelopes, used 4 November at St.Margaret's (Co.Dublin) with blank label No.80 in the appropriate space and no printed or written name thereon.

THE NEW SLOGAN

The short lived "MAKE SURE you are on the new VOTERS LISTS" (about 6th to 20th October, varied dates at various places) has reappeared in new guise. I understood it was to appear at all offices on 21st November but find that Athlone introduced it on 12th or sooner.

are you on the
VOTERS LISTS?
ckeck now at
the post office

THE WAR IN WEXFORD

At last I have done what I have long planned to do, waded through the newspaper files in the National Library in search of the dates of the Post Office raids which led to the emergency cancelling devices at Castlebridge, Foulksmills and Wellington Bridge. Alas, I find that raids were so frequent during 1922 that one cannot get the details. Castlebridge was one of five offices raided on a single day (22 April) but these were polite raids as in each case a receipt was given "Official Receipt - Received for the Provisional Government from the Postmaster (or Postmistress) of .... Post Office stamps to the value of £ s d approximately. 22/4/22 Le Sarbhuideachas"

Armed hold-ups of trains and seizure of mails were frequent, but often the mails were put on to a train next day after censoring. One big haul was at Palace East on 27th July. Some of the raiders were later captured when they were trying to buy goods with some of the stamps they had taken, with a value of £2,575.

CHECKING ONE'S FACTS

I felt sure that the Dublin temporary GPO fire of 5th November was accidental, but in the Wexford newspaper of 11th Nov. are full details of how it was engineered by raiders. An interesting detail is that the first item sought for in the wreckage was the case containing the keys of all the pillar boxes. Although the account is convincing I must find some better evidence

CHRISTMAS SEALS

It is disappointing to have to report that there are no new Seals in Ireland this year - only a reissue of last year's designs.

Editor's Address

From 1st December 1960 until further notice the editor of "Random Notes" will again be found at Rosslare Harbour, Wexford.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

December 1960 RANDOM NOTES Number 43

OFFICIAL PAID HANDSTAMPS

The vast majority of Irish official correspondence emanates from Dublin and is there passed through the machines. Bulky envelopes and large items have to be marked by hand and there have been various series of handstamps for this purpose, normally struck in the familiar red - either to simulate "Paid" or to match the tape. The first Irish series of 1922 comprised ten stamps, each inscribed "DIOL OIFIGIÚIL" . The next issue, about 1950, seems to have been only 1 to 7 , and had the same legend, except No.2 which had only "OIFIGIÚIL". Now a new batch is appearing (I have seen 3,4 and 5) with "IOCTHA GO hOIFIGIÚIL", as shown herewith, and we will be grateful if some Irish scholar can explain the significance of the change.



EUROPA 6d

The last block of 6d I have bought shows a wavy line joining stamps 50 and 56 of pane 1A, ie. the two next above the marginal "1A". It is about 3mm right from the centre, and continues into the cross-hatching of both stamps .

SLOGANS

The revised version of the VOTERS LIST slogan had a short run as POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS appeared 1st December as usual.

SPANISH CIVIL WAR

My note in Random Notes No.40 has elicited the following note, thanks to Mr Telfer and his contact R.G.Shelley:

"Eire's contribution to the Nationalist victory was not impressive. It took shape in a unit of 730 Irishmen under the command of a General O'Duffy and recruited "In Defence of Christianity". Well armed and equipped and, as many of them were ex-Sinn Feiners, wearing green uniforms, they had excellent transport and, on account of the rapidity with which they were wont to transfer themselves from place to place without ever becoming involved in a serious engagement, became known as "The Gasoline Brigade". Eventually, the members having decided by 654 votes to return to Ireland, they had to be repatriated at the expense of the Nationalist Government, such popularity as they had momentarily enjoyed forgotten."

EMBOSSED FISCALS

One rarely knows the dates of issue of the early embossed revenue stamps and I am happy to be able to supply some from newspaper announcements.

5 June 1813. General Duty 1/- Dio FF, 1/6 Dies CC and DD. 1/- (A & Eagle) and 1/6 (A,B) were then withdrawn.

5 January 1815. Special issue for BILLS instituted, the rates being 3d, 1/-,1/6,2/-,3/-,4/-,7/-,10/-, £1.

"First" Flight Cachet

After several practice flights to and fro, the first Irish-owned Boeing 720 started to earn some revenue on 14th December, when it carried 70 passengers (little more than half capacity) from Dublin to New York. Specially posted letters were datestamped at Dublin 12.30 p.m. and on arrival at Idlewild airfield, 7.30p.m. (= 0.30 a.m. 15th December, Dublin time). They were also cacheted by an oval device reading AN CHÉAD EITILT - SHAMROCK JET SERVICE - FIRST FLIGHT.

POST OFFICE INSTRUCTIONAL LABELS

An item I have only just seen is a "form" number H.P.504, used at Bray in 1956 to reseal an envelope and inscribed in small print:

"CAUTION

"Valuable articles should not be forwarded in unregistered packets.

Packets containing Coin or Jewellery, and packets bearing the word "Registered" or any word, phrase, or mark to the like effect, are, if posted without registration, subject to compulsory registration and charged with a registration fee of 1s., less any amount paid in excess of the postage.

Certain other unregistered packets are liable to be compulsorily registered and charged with a fee of 6d. (see Eolai an Phoist (P.O.Guide) under "Compulsory Registration").

This packet has been registered for the following reason ..... "

My example has the words "Contains Coin" written at the end and the amount collected from the addressee was 1/6 , the registration fee having gone up since that edition of the form was printed.

I'm losing my grip ! I now find that I already have H.P.504, an earlier edition from when the registration fee was only 3d, and headed RABAD as well as CAUTION.

NEW CANCELLING MACHINES

This illustration is one of my failures. It purports to represent the latest addition to the Irish machine cancellations. It is from CLÁR CLAINNE MUIRIS = Claremorris, Co.Mayo, and differs from most of the machine types by having an arc at the foot of the circle and by having continuous wavy bars, instead of the interrupted ones of the "Universal" machines. Watch out for slogans from this place - and for new machines elsewhere. It was in the Christmas rush of 1951 that the last spate of new machines began.



SEASONABLE GREETINGS

It is too late to wish you a Happy Christmas, but this should reach you early in the New Year, and I hope it finds you beginning a successful and prosperous one. We shall miss the variety of year inverted, and must hope for something new instead.

And finally don't forget to keep the Hon.Sec. and Hon.Editor and myself happy by keeping up the flow of packet and Journal material - and random notes.

Irish Philatelic Study Group

January 1961 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 44

DUBLIN Hand Cancellers

The latest replacements of handstamps for use at counters and elsewhere are of a new design - single circle, with number at foot between arcs. So far I have seen only 42 and 65.



The Plates of the Overprinted Issues

Although much has been written about the minutiae of the various plates employed to overprint the stamps of 1922-23, collectors of Irish do not seem to have concerned themselves with the plating of the stamps overprinted. Those interested must obtain copies of the "London Philatelist" , beginning with the issue for December 1960, for the series of articles therein by R.H.Sampson. Mr Field hoped to arrange for reprinting the articles in our Journal but the rules of the R.P.S. forbid it. Copies of the London Philatelist are obtainable at 4/6 each, post paid, from Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W.1.

The Newest Slogan

Philatelists continue to agitate for an Irish pictorial set displaying the most picturesque of the Irish scenery. So far nothing has appeared except the successful airmail set. But the beauties of Ireland are being publicised by the Post Office and 28th December 1960 was the first day of a new machine cancellation for Killarney, with the slogan KILLARNEY FOR HOLIDAYS above and below a general view of lake and mountain, with Ross castle [nothing to do with Princess Margaret's stepo-in-law] as a prominent feature. First-day impressions are not good and it is to be hoped that any similar ventures will be better designed.

BOOKLET No.41

Although I do not think that it was on sale until this month, the latest issue is given the serial indicator 41-60. Otherwise it seems to be identical with numbers 39 and 40.



The change of typewriter for that last paragraph is because I was in Dublin. And with my usual luck I found another bundle of penny reds, the most interesting of which is on a cover, apparently from Athy, the stamp on which has 85 in diamond as cancellation. Athy was normally No.20, but it happens that 85 is a number which was lying idle for some time, and it seems possible that it was reallotted temporarily. Mine is 1869. Has anyone confirmatory covers of the period ?

More on the Killarney Slogan

The "Sunday Independent" of 15th January has illustrated the new slogan - heavily touching it up for reproduction, and adds the news that Westport [one of the towns with a newly installed machine] is likely to be the next resort to advertise its attractions in this way.

P.T.O.

Still on Slogans

The post office has slipped up again - in various ways. They notified that the dies of this one would be introduced everywhere on 16th January. I planned to send first day examples to several correspondents - only to discover that it was already in use at Dublin on 13th. This was stupid in that the public were not told their numbers until 16th, and the spelling "SHEW" is equally stupid as being at least obsolescent.

PLEASE SHEW DISTRICT NUMBER IN DUBLIN ADDRESSES

1/3 EUROPA C.E.P.T.

Good copies, used, are very scarce, especially as the ink is slightly "fugitive" and runs unless one is careful in soaking off. How do you deal with such stamps ? One method I use is to take a 2 oz. tobacco tin of a design which has a ridge in the base. One can pour a few drops of water in the space outside the ridge: the stamp on paper rests inside it. The lid is put on and the tin left for a a few hours. By then the moisture permeates the paper without the stamp being touched by liquid water.

PARCELS POST TICKETS

At long last the machines have arrived back in Dublin G.P.O. now equipped to print all the current parcels post rates. The first I have seen is a 2/7 for 1st February, and the only other difference from the last issues is in colour, being more orange than red.

IRISH MALTESE CROSSES

I am happy to report the acquisition of another quantity of 1d reds on piece, including many scores of maltese crosses. There is only one Lullingar (!) but a few blue Tullamores and several which will need careful study. e.g. Parsonstown seems to have had a cross with thick outer frame - very similar to that credited to Hollymount. I promise you all some good bargains in future Exchange Packets.

DUBLIN RED CANCELLATION

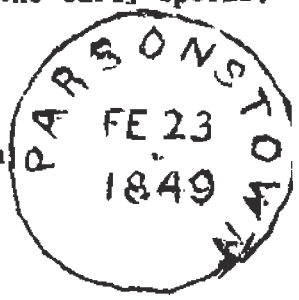
An item new to me is the large circular Dublin date-stamp, normally found as a backstamp, used in 1849 to assist the obliterating of a 1d red not adequately cancelled by the 186 in diamond (1844 type).

AND GREEN AND BLUE

Also from Dublin originated late style of the 186 killer in bright green during 1855, similar to the colour of the early spoons: and also in dark blue later in the 1850s.

EARLY SKELETON

For my illustration I've selected the earliest Irish "skeleton" datestamp I have seen, and also one of the largest - appropriate for the place which then had the largest telescope in the world. The skewness of the name is rather typical of the type.



SUBSCRIPTION

Have you sent that 10/- yet to Mr Leonard ?

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

February 1961 RANDOM NOTES Number 45

STICKERS

Our Hon.Sec. has added one more to the long list of propaganda "stickers" produced in the early 1930s. It has the badge of the Carlow Rowing Club and advertises the regatta and dance of July 28, 1932. Size 49x33 mm, imperf. pale green.

IRISH CROSSES

I am getting maltese cross eyed through trying to establish how many different crosses were used in Dublin. Most of the book illustrations are useless [I admit I have not got the Alcock book of Crosses, which may be better] being too symmetrical, whereas the skewness is sometimes the best identifying feature. This applies very much to the Mullingar cross: only one of the cuts in the outer rim is near the centre of its arc !

THE LATEST FROM P.& T.

Some of the information just elicited from Dublin is worth passing on. The first is a negative. It is not intended to celebrate the centenary of the Fenians: I had suggested that a stamp should be issued using one of the designs of the Fenian essays of the 1860s.

MACHINES

It is confirmed that "DD medium speed type" machines, similar to those already used elsewhere, have been introduced at Ballinasloe, Castlebar, Claremorris, Cobh, Dungarvan, Portlaoise, Tuam and Westport. The Nenagh machine has been replaced by one transferred from Dublin.

SHAMROCK JET FIRST DAYS

I had asked for explanation why two covers flown on the first mail carrying eastbound flight, backstamped in Dublin on 15th December, were not delivered until more than a week later. It is stated that the letters were accidentally included in a batch of items with American addresses, flown back to the States and then reflown again.

NEW PERIODICALS

1. "The Philatelic Guide" sounds promising - but is not likely to be useful to Irish specialists. Can any IPSG member volunteer to see it and report when there is anything Irish ?
2. "The Cinderella Philatelist" is promising . By concentrating on the rejects of most philatelists the editors must include Irish topics ! So No.1 has paragraphs on the Ulster Volunteer Force labels of 1914 and the "S.A.G." seals which are much used in this country.
3. In spite of its name "The Great Britain Philatelist" is going to be useful. Its first number has stolen my thunder by drawing attention to the misleading illustrations of the Mullingar cross, and also illustrates the last type of Dublin FREE handstamp and asks why it always read FREF. It didn't but for my views buy no. 2 of the magazine.

SHANAHAN AFFAIRS

Most of us expected that Mrs Shanahan would escaped with a nominal sentence, and are surprised that she has got off altogether the judge "refusing informations" at the end of the taking of depositions. An interesting figure given on the last day of the hearing (15 Feb) is that claims against the company now total £1,840,000.

P T O

DUBLIN Single Circle Datestamps

The official type mentioned in our No.43 has now been seen with all the numbers from 1 to 5.
The cancellation reported in No.44 has been seen with 11,24, 42,59,61,63 and 65.

"1844 Type" Cancellers

Such books as I have are vague about the actual date of change from Crosses to numbered Diamonds, although it does seem to be accepted that the month was May for England and Wales, June for Scotland and Ireland. Can we fix a date more precisely ?
One piece I have is helpful. It has a datestamp 22 June 1844, and the stamp is defaced by an unidentifiable cross and two strikes of an illegible number in diamond. If, as I think, the datestamp is an arrival mark, the cancellations were probably applied on the previous day. The other latest Irish crosses are seen Limerick and Galway of 21st June. But I have no other "1844 type" earlier than 1st July (Eyrecourt). Can anyone report covers or dated pieces of the last week of June to decide whether the crosses disappeared simultaneously ? Or can you report later crosses or earlier 1844 types ?



Inversions

Alongside is a monogram which M.Leonard reports as a "perfin" in a GB 1d used at Dublin in 1912 and also in an Irish 2d of the 1920s. It seems to be P.A. CO. which might represent Prudential Assurance Co. - although I think that they usually add "Ltd."
1961 cannot be upset by inverting but everything else can, as exemplified by the machines at Mallow (31 -I) and Drogheda (25FEB) where the name and date circles were put in wrongly, in both cases in conjunction with the wavy bars.

Applications of Postal History

A meteorological colleague is studying the disastrous famine of the 1840s. Estimates of the potato crop - and of the blight losses - are complicated by the confusion of the different sizes of the acres [British,Irish,Cunninghan] and this has led to an investigation of just what units were current, de jure and de facto !
I was able to supply the date 1826 for the legal introduction of "Imperial Standard" miles and acres, exemplified by the usage of the Irish Post Office. But within a few years the P.O. had reverted to Irish miles, and the postmarks were never changed (with one doubtful exception, Athy). And as a by-product of the investigation I am coming to the conclusion that the Irish P.O. never charged on the basis of distances in British miles, in spite of what is published in the R.L. Encyclopaedia, etc. An oddity I had not realised before is that the new rates of 1826 included a 1d charge (up to 7 miles), abolished by an increase, I think in the following year. I don't think I've ever seen a cover of the period showing this rate, which was ridiculous. Thus a letter from Swords to Dublin would be 1d, whereas one from Drumcondra (a third the distance) was charged the Dublin 2d post.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

March 1961 RANDOM NOTES Number 46

SLOGANS "PLEASE SHEW DISTRICT NUMBERS IN DUBLIN ADDRESSES" has spread to most, if not all, machine offices and is continuing into March.

I have official confirmation the first date was deliberately brought forward from 16th to 13th January. And, more important, it is admitted that the second Voters List slogan "are you on the VOTERS LISTS? check now at the post office" was inadvertently introduced prematurely at Athlone on 10th November 1960. It was withdrawn on 12th when their mistake was noticed.

SKELETONS Mr Langton has discovered a new variety of the modern skeleton handstamp (31 mm diameter) used at Cork and with the handstamp number (or sub-office number ?) in Roman numerals !



CHARITY LABELS Also from Cork comes my next item - a rather belated report of "seals" issued by the Cork Spastic Clinic, and although intended partly for Christmas, carefully designed without any mention of it so that they can be used at any time. They are issued in sheets of 12 different designs, mainly children or cherubs, drawn by Gladys Leach of Cork and attractively printed there.

I will arrange for some to be circulated in the Exchange Packet.

SLOGANS again My opening par. was premature. The "License your Radio Promptly" slogans were re-introduced on or about 8th March.

SHANAHANS Those still interested in the slow unrolling of the story will like to know that the firm's shop premises at 28 Up. George's St., Dun Laoghaire, were sold by auction for £4,000.

LATE When did the "Late Fee" system start in Ireland ? The query is one of the many inspired by my recent attempts to analyse the postal charges on some of the 19th century letters. One letter, from Belfast to Edinburgh in 1831, and charged 3/6½, fits with the then current rates only if an extra 6d can be found. It bears the Belfast "LATE" in red but only one Belfast date-stamp, whereas most Late letters of the period were "Too Late" and were datestamped again on the following morning.

So I suggest that the "LATE" in this case signified "LATE FEE" although its normal use in Belfast was certainly "TOO LATE".

COMMEMORATIVES We learn that in June there will be 6d and 1/3 for the 25th birthday of Aer Lingus, although several more important jubilees [I'm thinking of the Irish Girl Guides and the Irish Countrywomen's Association] are being ignored. In September there will be three values 3d, 8d (for Air Letters) and 1/3 commemorating the 1500th anniversary of the death of St.Patrick.

DE LA RUE & WATERLOW Watch the airmails. The taking over of Waterlows' may be marked by changes of shade and/or perforation.

IRISH MILES

I was in Dublin for St.Patrick's Day and the following weekend, and in the absence of buses spent most of the time at home delving further into the matter of Irish miles and Irish postal rates. There are amazing disagreements between authorities. Morden's maps of about 1700 make the Irish mile 2400 yards. Italian maps of the 18th century use 2500. Watkins's Cyclopaedia (1814) states 2200 yards, but Barlow's Tables of the same year gives 3038 ! The published Post Office distances of the 1700s reveal that the mile was elastic, getting longer and longer as one travelled west from Dublin. As standardisation spread and as new roads were made the published distances oscillated, but usually became larger.

IRISH RATES

For much of the 18th century the General Post rate for letters to or from Dublin was allegedly 2d for up to 40 miles, 4d for more than 40 miles. But even that was not observed strictly. e.g. Oldcastle people had to pay 4d for 36 miles, but from Leighlinbridge it was only 2d for 44 miles, and there are other examples.

The moral is that none of the existing postal history handbooks is reliable on Irish matters, and collecting the facts must be among the primary objects of the I.P.S.G.

POSTED OUT OF COURSE
No 445

Alongside I've sketched a mark used currently at Waterford on a registration envelope which had been mis-posted by dropping into a pillar-box. It is unusual in having the "No" before the office number.

AEROGRAMMES

Yet another new printing, first seen by me at the G.P.O. on 20th March. It reverts to upper-case letters for the Irish text, and is readily identified by the "MA bíonn .. " beginning further left than the "If anything ...."

STRAIGHT-LINE POSTMARKS ?

A recent swop with an English picture postcard collector yields a Kingstown card, used in 1911 from Monkstown, the ½d stamp being normally cancelled. Elsewhere on the card is a purple "MONKSTOWN SUB OFFICE" from a rubber stamp probably supplied for use on forms etc. but in this case probably put on the postcard before sale to advertise where it was sold !

MORE INVERSIONS

Dublin B machine has done it twice this month, the circle being upside down with the DISTRICT NUMBERS slogan on 2nd March and the "License Radio.." on 20th March, both for the 9.15PM dispatch.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

While at home for the weekend I forgot to include the H size envelope in my enquiries. The deficiency was remedied during a short visit on 23rd & 24th, when I found that the new H has at last appeared with the reverse inscription amended .

MACHINE CANCELLATIONS

Some time during February Limerick introduced a new name-and-date die, the LUIMNEACH having the very slender lettering characteristic of other recently supplied dies.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

April 1961 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 47

SPRING SHOW STICKERS

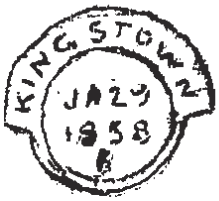
The Royal Dublin Society has departed from its usual behaviour, by not sending stickers to its members with the advance announcements of the Show. However, the familiar stickers are in use - with the badge in green and the lettering in black.

ST.PATRICK'S POSTMAN

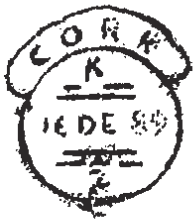
If we ever get to writing a complete history of Irish Posts, can we start any earlier than the 5th century ? The first reference is in the "Confessions" of St.Patrick, when he mentions letters brought from Ireland to his Scottish home by Victoricius. The version of the incident consulted when the Air Mail designs were drafted quotes the arrival of the messenger as in a vision: hence the adoption of the Angel symbol. But I've seen another translation which suggests that there was a human messenger.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

April sees the usual revival of PREVENT FOREST FIRES, but offices without that die continue PLEASE SHEW DISTRICT NUMBERS IN DUBLIN ADDRESSES, as does Dublin on Official Paid items. That slogan has now appeared on all Dublin machines from A to K as well as at 40 provincial towns. I think it is the first time that the 50 has been reached for the number of different examples to be found.



M.Leonard would like a Note on what are usually classed as the "scroll" style of postmark. The Irish ones fall into two series. The first, like the Kingstown herewith, and the Dublin in R.N.No. 40, was used in the 1850s on the backs of letters, not as a cancellation. It is known only for Dublin, Kingstown, New Bliss, and Newtownards, and examples are scarce.



The second series differ in detail, especially in having only a single-lined circle, and there are variations from place to place in the identifying numbers and letters, some of which were probably a time code. This series was in use from , I think, 1883 to 1894, at Cork, Limerick, Londonderry, and Waterford. It does not seem to have been reserved for any special usage, and was probably an experimental alternative to the clumsy "duplex" obliterators. Similar designs were introduced in London and Liverpool at about the same time. In London they continued in use into the 20th century.

Form E.P.460

Our Hon.Sec. also sends for inspection a letter posted in Sligo 1955 and bearing a bright orange label with official number E.P. 460, and bearing a printed request in Irish and English that the "cover" be returned for an Official Enquiry.

Guinness Stamp Advertising

He also sends an interesting piece of Guinness propaganda. It is a circular issued by the Liverpool offices of the firm, two days after the stamps were issued, and enclosing two copies of the 3d. The text mentions "two stamps" and one feels that the original intention was to send a 3d and a 1/3 !

Machine Paid Dies Although one of the selling points of the "Universal" machine is that the central block of bars can be replaced by a die for "OFFICIAL PAID" , "PAID 2D" etc. this convenience is not much used at Irish provincial post offices. And such as I have seen, like Dublin, use the English forms. Now Bray has gone Irish and I have an example reading 2D ÍOCHTA.

Slogans The continuance of the Dublin District Numbers appeal mentioned overleaf freed one or two PREVENT FOREST FIRES dies which have gone to the country, so that Monaghan, Navan, and possibly others are using it for their first time.

Killarney has dropped its special local propaganda slogan, but I see that the same scene is attractively printed on the envelopes of the Killarney Tourist Development Co.

Dublin Horse Show Stickers It is inevitable that when there is multicolour printing, performed in several operations, one operation is sometimes omitted. It happened with last year's Dublin Horse Show stickers - the omission being the dark green map of Ireland.

THE BUDGET No postal changes appear in this year's Budget statement, but one alteration will concern collectors of fiscal stamps. The cheque stamp, which has been 2d since 1918 (I think), goes up to 3d. Watch out for "provisionals" made by adding an embossed 1d alongside the existing 2d, or by affixing a postage 1d stamp.

Peculiar Date A cover of 1950 in a small lot just acquired shows the cancellation of SGEIRI (=Skerries, Co.Dublin) with the date and time mixed up and inverted so that it reads ..... 24 MdO 5 05

Getting the Slogan Cancellations What support would there be for a scheme like that organised in the United Kingdom by the British Postmark Society ? Each participant would send the organiser say 12 self-addressed and stuffed envelopes, stamped or with the money for postage, plus a small fee for expenses. An envelope would be posted with every new slogan or other special cancellation, or from a different machine-using town each time.

Please let Mr Leonard know if you are interested, and if you could undertake to operate the scheme - yes YOU, who have not yet done much to help the I.P.S.G.

ENNIS SPOONS Two copies of the rare Ennis spoon cancellation have turned up in England, and they reveal, what is not apparent on my indistinct example, that the office number was wrong, 112 instead of 211. This makes it even more desirable, as the error fanatics will be seeking examples as well as the spoonatics.

T.E.FIELD You will be sorry to learn that our Hon.Chairman is again hors-de-combat and unable to cheerfully chair our activities for another spell. I'm sure that you all join in wishing him a speedy and permanent recovery.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

May 1961 Number 48

RANDOM NOTES

A Dating Problem Studying a picture postcard of about 1900 I found that one poster on a gatepost had a date - apparently Thursday 6th May. A little calculation shows that the photograph must have been taken in 1897 - the only year between 1886 and 1909 that 6th May fell on a Thursday!

Irish Regional Secretary We are sorry to hear that W.Kane is so busy in his official duties that he is resigning from the regional secretaryship. However, an enthusiastic successor has been found in N.Langton [49 Sycamore Rd., Finglas, Dublin 11], to whom congratulations and thanks. And we must not let Bill Kane retire into the relative obscurity of mere membership without a vote of thanks for his untiring efforts on behalf of the group and of Irish philately.



Mr Langton sends for illustration another new temporary cancellation, that of a recently opened (1st March) sub-office at Finglas,East.

Memorable Weekend Doctors put on hobby exhibitions. Why not clerics ? Clergy of all denominations have often been prominent in many pastimes, including philately, and their training makes for the patience and thoroughness essential to real research. I have just been privileged to enjoy a weekend as guest of Rev.J.Brennan, and the enjoyment was as much due to his approach to philately as to the treasures he possesses. His understanding of the varieties on the high value U.K. stamps, and of the settings of the overprints on them will put him in the Gold Medal class when he decides to exhibit. I must not steal his thunder by reporting details, and we most hope that Fr.Brennan will soon write some comprehensive articles in the I.P.S.G. Journal or elsewhere.

Spring Show The cancellation is of the temporary type as in the last few years, and most of the first day examples I arranged for are poor strikes. In even the best of them the U of DUBLIN is missing. The registration label is again improvised in manuscript.

RULES FOR POSTMEN From a very reliable source I learn that the Irish Postmen at last have their own rule book. Until quite recently they were still using 1921 reprints of 1911 Regulations, which were in two versions, one for Towns and one for Rural rounds. The new publication covers both categories.

"FIRST" Flights Yet another unofficial cachet for the TWA Superjets. I was privi legod to receive a cover, datestamped at Idlewild 10.30PM 4 May and at Shannon Airport 6 PM 5 May - but due to the absence of superjets on internal Irish cross-country routes it did not reach me until 9th May ! The explanation for delay may be the same as with the Aerlinte Shamrock Jet Flight covers. It may have been inadvertently carried back to U.S.A. on 6th and reflown to Ireland on 7th !

P.T.O.

T.E.Field. Better news. He is home from hospital and well on the way to fitness again. There is even a possibility that he will be able to attend the I.P.S.G. Annual General Meeting at Blackpool on 8th June.

AEROGRAMMES W.Kane has spotted yet another printing. It differs from the last reported [Random Notes No.46] in several respects. The fold lines are dashed instead of dotted: the dots of the address lines are larger and further apart: the stamp space is shorter: the four lines on the back all begin at different distances from the edge: AERLITIR and AEROGRAMME are narrower, etc.
J.J.Walsh of the E.P.A. points out that there are varieties of recent printings, recognised by differences in the lengths of the inscriptions and of "AEROGRAMME". Has anyone else spotted these ?

"MIDLETON CROSS" Among the attractive things that Fr.Brennan showed to me were some Dublin Crosses on entires, with letters written from "Midleton" apparently the name of a house near Dublin. I find that the Alcock and Holland Handbook illustrates a cover from the same correspondence (Fig.2719) and assumes the "Midleton" to be the town of that name, although the cross is a clean version of what is illustrated from a dirty specimen at Fig.980.

MACHINE CANCELLATIONS I've seen no slogans for May so far, Dublin at least having only the bars for cancellation. On 16th the K machine was operating without the central, adjustable, part of the bars.

LABELS 1. M.Leonard supplies a neat rouletted seal in green and orange commemorating the Patrician Year. Probably of U.S. origin.
2. From Belfast comes the annual label heralding the Balmoral Show, imperf., red white and blue.
3. At last I have real evidence concerning the well known Sinn Fein labels. A series of postcard messages of early 1908 make it clear that it was made the rule that no Sinn Fein member should reply to correspondence that lacked their "stamps". The second supply to reach London comprised 1600 and was almost sold out in 24 hours.

SLOGAN Westport is to introduce a pictorial slogan with the legend "Westport for Sea Angling" - due 1st June.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES The G size envelope has appeared in a corrected form, the superfluous "PHOIST" [See Random Notes No.41] having been dropped. Otherwise the resemblance is so close that I think the "plate" (maybe "stone") is a new transfer from the same original.

CHECK-LIST of POSTAL STATIONERY Dr Mackey has given me the January 1955 issue of "L'Entier Postal", a magazine published in Brussels. Nearly half the issue is devoted to a check-list of Irish, in French, translated from one supplied by "L'Administration des Postes de l'État Libre d'Irlande". However it is no official compilation, but that put together by the late O.P.Kennedy, and the basis for more recent works such as the lists in "The Revealer".

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

June 1961 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 49

SAVINGS STAMP — Has anyone studied the 6d Savings Stamp, made by bilingually overprinting the 6d Sword of Light design printed in orange ? I think that the same plate has been used for the overprinting for many years, and can be expected to show signs of wear. 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. Any confirmation ?

AIRMAIL ETIQUETTES — Miss Wright reports a new version, similar to other recent printings by having the inscription in white on dark blue, but with the important change that the "Form Number" O.E.78 appears on each label.

" Too late for delivery." is an intriguing rubber-stamped impression in violet on a piece of 1950. How much is missing ? Only letter T ? Or something like "Received in registry t ". However, it does not look official.

WRONG DATES — The vagaries of the date-stamps are one of my commonest themes. The latest noticed is an early one - the double-arc type from Down used in March 1850 with the year shown as 1859. The cover bears the elusive PAID AT DOWN 1d in green, four years later than recorded for this colour.

AER LINGUS — I have to confess that I do not know what special covers or cachets were used in Ireland for the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Aer Lines (27th May). However, I am grateful to some anonymous American friend for a cover flown that day from New York and bearing a cachet to commemorate the occasion.





My tracing cannot do justice to the excellent design of the new Wesport slogan which appeared on 1st June as scheduled. Impressions are good and fall clear of a normally placed stamp, since the name and date portion are to the right of the slogan .

CORK TEMPORARY DATESTAMP — Mr Langton has a follow-up of the temporary style CORCAIGH XII illustrated in R.N.No.46. He has found a similar cancellation of the same period but XI instead of XII. Any others to report ?

HORSE SHOW LABELS — The stickers and postcards have been issued in the same design as 1932,49,55,57,59 - a group of horses around the North Pole of a Globe. The imprint of the postcards shows a change which sounds very philatelic. They are no longer Thom printings, but Dollard !

RECUT DATES ? — Mr Leonard sends a Sligo cancellation of 1941 in which the year "41" is of peculiar appearance, as if roughly recut from "40". Are there other examples of such a practice ?

AN OLD IDEA REVIVED ?

In the days when every shop had its sign there was naturally rivalry between competitors. If a grocer erected his Golden Sugarloaf, someone else would take the sign of the Two Golden Sugarloaves. Now we have the same mentality at work in the design of slogan cancellations. This month Westport displays its one large fish: next month the Letterkenny office will introduce a postmark with two fishes, and the slogan "Moville for Sea Angling" !



Dublin & Cork Travelling Post Office is using a datestamp that I have not seen before, the distinctive feature being the long thin arc at its foot.

The P.O.T. & T.P.O. abbreviations remind me of another I've been thinking about. "P L O" found on a Dublin Registered marking of about 1868-1892. The published suggestions (see Alcock & Holland p.379) are "Principal" and "Packet" Letter Office. I don't like either and suggest "Paid" Letter Office. The "Packet" idea is made unlikely by the appearance of the mark on purely internal Irish letters.

AER LINGUS JUBILEE STAMPS

Again we must sympathise with Messrs De la Rue, who have had to recess-print a design more suited to typography, and a very poorly planned design. The composition is lamentable, with too many focal points but no dominant one. And where is the observer meant to be ? The plane on the ground is above him but he is looking down on the one in the air and on the airport building - which looks ridiculous, floating in mid-air, and which has some minor inaccuracies in the placing of doors and ventilators on the top "decks". The artist has the common weakness in drawing the letter "S", manifested most in "LINGUS".

V.I.P.s

Having castigated the new stamps I can now be nice to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and congratulate them most sincerely for having recently purchased portraits of the Lees family. Every student of Irish Postal History knows that the Lees clan dominated the Post Office for two generations and made fortunes out of it - but at the same time were introducing many good things. By buying these portraits the Lees' successors have shown a breadth of outlook often lacking in public departments, and a realisation that the Dublin G.P.O. has a history worth commemoration even before 1916. Dr Stafford Johnson must share in the credits. It was he who located the portraits and has kept in touch with the family possessing them. The people portrayed are Sir John Lees (1737-1811) First Secretary of the Irish P.o.: Sir Edward Smith Lees, his son,(1733-1846) Joint Secretary 1801-31; and their respective wives.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

July 1961 Number 50

RANDOM NOTES

NOVILLE FOR SEA ANGLING

Anticlimax. After the excellent effort from Westport, that from Letterkenny, which duly appeared on 1st July, is feeble. The two fish - of doubtful species - take up too much of the space, and lack the vitality of the Westport bass.

OTHER SLOGANS

It is one of the messy months for one's systematic listing. Cork has re-introduced WHEN IT'S AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY IT'S KINSALE REGATTA, while Dubliners/have "Teach your children to clean their teeth". and Galwegians

AER LINGUS STAMPS

I have still seen only small quantities, not even a single whole sheet, and it is M.Leonard who reports the first reportable variatic~. One which I can confirm is in the first column of Pane 1A of both 6d and 1/3 values , where the 7th and 8th perforation holes, c ..ing from lea.. corner, are out of alignment. The persistence of this down the column proves it to be a comb perforation. He has also seen spots in the top of the loop of the first E of EIRE and a smudge to the I, on the stamp adjoining the marginal IB of the 6d. These are not in my copy.

OFFICIAL SECRETS DISCLOSED

We have long bemoaned the normal practice of the Irish P.O. of suppressing what philatelists regard as essential facts about the stamp issues. Their policy has improved of late but we still have much to learn regarding the issues of 20-30 years ago.

Thanks to B.Grindy, interesting details can be added to the writing-up of several commemoratives, from the Shannon Scheme, 1930 to the Quaternion Centenary, 1943. In most, and probably all, cases the procedure was the same. The design was engraved on steel by the Royal Mint's engraver (then T.E.Storey) from the artist's drawing. The steel die was hardened and impressed into sufficient lead cubes to make up the plate or plates. The cubes were assembled and copper deposited on them. These plates were stripped from the lead and given a final coating of <u>chromium</u>. These were a new departure in 1930, the protective metal having been nickel hitherto.

It is very remarkable that the same engraver should have produced the master dies for such different designs as the two of 1943, and that the differences must be blamed on the artists.

OFFICE NUMBERS

R.Crookes sends a pretty problem - a letter from Churchtown, Mallow, Co.Cork charged 3d postage due at Mallow, the 3d charge mark bearing the appropriate number, 321. But the explanatory marking, which one would expect also to have been put on in Mallow, has number 932. This is much larger than the 564, reputed to be the last number assigned in Ireland, and must be an error. Can anyone confirm the use or supply other large numbers ?

P.T.O.

Your Postal Address should include the DISTRICT number

DUBLIN 11

and its omission may cause delay. Please advise senders

Depicted is the first reported handstamp in the campaign regarding Dublin District Nos., discovered by N.J.Langton, but so far seen on only one of the numerous incompletely addressed envelopes which he has received. Note the "wrong fount" error , numeral 1 being used in place of capital I in the word DISTRICT.

THE ROSE OF TRALEE — Both animal and vegetable versions of the rose are depicted on the newest slogan "COME TO THE FESTIVAL OF KERRY SEPTEMBER TRALEE" which came into use on 24th July. First day examples are very poor.

AEROGRAMMES — Fr.Brennan points out that the new features of the latest issue (See R.N.No.48) include revised (and grammatically better) Irish. Also he has discovered a remarkable variety of an earlier printing - printed in reverse on the wrong side, the ungummed side being blank !

PSEUDO-STAMPS — Among the rarities missing from most (possibly all ?) of our albums are certain fantasies of which very little is known. Member H.G.L.Fletcher is seeking news of and information about:

1) Design labelled IRELAND in the De LA Rue key type used for Cyprus, Grenada, &c. described in Melville's "Phantom Philately".

2) Design with a border copied from France, with the Ionian Islands garter, and at centre a winged harp. On the garter is "ERIN GO BRAGH" This design is probably the source of the 24 cents of the Fenian 1865 essays.

3) Design based on the U.S.A. 1861 1 cent with "IRELAND" above the head and "AMERICA" below. Letters HG/GH in corners.

INTERNATIONAL SURGERY CONGRESS — Perforations and bisects may be discussed in Dublin next month, but not the philatelic ones. All letters posted in the temporary post office in University College for the Surgeons' Congress from 2nd to 9th September will bear a special cachet. A skeleton (how appropriate?) hand date-stamp will be used at the counter, but probably only on registered items.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

August 1961 & September — Number 51

RANDOM NOTES

SLOGANS Dungarvan continues to urge Dublin District Numbers. Waterford has introduced the same form of its Light Opera Festival as was used last year but now places it left of the name-and-date circle.

PENNY STAMP SHORTAGE On 1st August there was a sudden demand for large quantities of 1d stamps, to pay the increased duty on cheques, but I have not heard of any emergency bisecting or overprinting.

AER LINGUS 6d Fr.Brennan has found that on many sheets.No.49 (1st stamp 9th row next to that mentioned in the last R.N.)of 1B there is a smudge on the tail of the R of EIRE.

1d variety A new member, J.A.Williams, has sent for inspection a remarkable block of 1d (SG 72) printed with think shiny ink so that at first sight it seems to be gummed on the face. The ink stands out from the paper as much on a recess-printing, and my diagnosis is an experimental printing. The impression is smudged, probably due to careless handling while still wet.

DUBLIN PARCELS DATES Yet another date error on the Dublin GPO parcels stamps. I've just received one dated -0 VIII 61. It should read 11 and one surmises that the clerk moved the wrong wheel when changing from 10.

EUROPA C.E.P.T. 1/3 I have been officially assured that the number printed and sold was 1,250,000.

ENNIS SPOON J.D.Houston, President of the I.P.S.(without G), has found an example of the hitherto unknown Irish type spoon for Ennis with correct number 211.

LEES FAMILY PORTRAITS In R.N.No.49 the acquisition of some Lees portraits by the Irish P.O. was reported. But they did not get them all, and two miniatures now ornament the Dixon home. One shows Edward Smith Lees and the other the wife of Thomas Orde Lees. She was nee Armit and it is noteworthy (I hope) that F.E.Dixon's only connection with Ireland until settling there was that his grandmother was a governess to an Armit family - probably that of Mrs Lees's brother.



This year's Horse Show cancellation differs from its predecessors by having the sensible improvement of "Horse Show" above and "Dublin" below. Registration labels were again hand written.

P.T.O.

INTERNATIONAL SURGERY CONGRESS

I have to correct the note in R.N.No.50. The skeleton datestamp , reading SURGERY CONGRESS above the date and DUBLIN below, was used only on parcels. The cachet, applied to ordinary letters, was bilingual. At left, around the portraits of two eminent Irish surgeons of the last century, Colles and Corrigan, is "ANCHOMHDHAIL IDIRNAIS-IUNTA MAINLEA ATH CLIATH 1961" and at right "SOCIETÉ INTERNATIONALE DE CHIRURGIE DUBLIN 2-9 SEPT.1961". The cancellationsused with the cachet are the BAILE ATHA CLIATH single circle handstamp with C3 and 65 at foot.

For registered letters the temporary office had yet a fourth handstamp, one normally used I think in the main sorting office, reading "B'L'ATH CLIATH 7.DEIMHNITHE". The registration labels had "Surgery Congress Dublin" handwritten.

EXHIBITION LABELS

How many varieties are there of the 1907 Irish International Exhibition label? The commonest, with the date straightforwardly "1907", occurs in several shades of bright green. The others have the date in a clumsy monogram and also differ in colour, the green being very dark, and there being a printing in blue. My latest addition is printed in brown !

P.O.S.B.

An article by John McCaffrey in the Irish Independent, 14 Sept., reminisces about the numerous Irishmen and Irishwomen who started their careers in the London HQ of the Post Office Savings Bank. The chief of these was Michael Collins, one of the most able leaders Ireland produced: another was Colm Murphy, Collins's Intelligence Officer and later Clerk to the Dail.

OFFICIAL PAID HANDSTAMPS

How many are there of the"official paid" hamdstamps, used in Dublin on official letters too bulky for the machines, registered mail, etc.? The highest number I've seen on those inscribed in English is 8. The first Irish series, known from December 1922, went as far as 10. Then the highest noted for type used in the 1950s is 7. Now the latest variant (See Random Notes No.43) has yielded an 8. Can it be that there have been ten in each set but the higher numbers are kept in reserve ?

"FYNDEM" TIPS

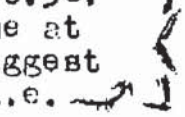
I see that "Stamp Collecting" is tipping the current Aer Lingus commemoratives. If you've money you wish to invest in Irish stamps, I'd recommend the Patrician Year issue and especially the 8d value used. Its main usage is on aerograms.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

September - October 1961 — Number 52

RANDOM NOTES

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS Routine continues. After a long spell of CLEAN TEETH the first type of VOTERS LIST reminder was reintroduced in mid-September. Cork again used BANDON CARNIVAL for a time, following the current trend by placing the slogan to the left.

DUBLIN DISTRICT REMINDER I have now seen a handstamp for DUBLIN 7 similar to that for DUBLIN 11 reported in R.N. No.50. The illustration there is wrong, the frame at the right being deliberately broken to suggest an arrowhead pointing in to the number. i.e. 

ST.PATRICK COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE One serious criticism of the design is the failure to include a date or explain the reason for issuing the stamps in 1961. The omission may be deliberate. Modern scholars believe that the St.Patrick died in A.D.461, but are not unanimous. So it is possible that the 1500th anniversary may be celebrated again when other scholars' views prevail.

The origin of the "portrait" used has been well publicised, but I have seen no mention of the fact that the portrait has been available to numismatists long before philatelists get examples. It was used on Irish copper coins 300 years ago ! And the coin reproduction was more faithful, in showing a cathedral in the background and groups of people to right and left. The feeble arch on the stamps is much less attractive.

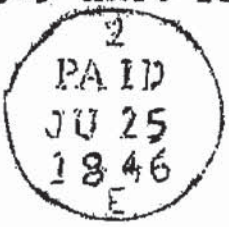
The engraving is not up to de la Rue standard and one wonders who is responsible for the printing. There are some intriguing features. Why has only the 8d any plate identifier ? Why does the gutter ornamentation cross a margin on the 3d and 1/3 ? What is the perforation ? Although usually 14½ each way, some examples are nearer 14½x15. The paper is usually white but sometimes shows a pale tint of the colour of the stamp.

IRISHMEN ON STAMPS Yet another to be added to the list. J.R.GREGG, inventor of a successful system of shorthand, was born at Rockcorry in Co.Monaghan.

SLOGANS A peculiar feature of the VOTERS LIST revival is that it has been distributed mainly to the towns which did not have this first version last year - Cavan, Castlebar, Cork, Drogheda, Dubdalk, Galway, Navan, Tuam, Wexford.

INVERSIONS It seems quite a time since any was reported. The latest is from Ennis, the name+date circle being upside down on 7 Sep. in conjunction with wavy bars.

ETC. The exchange packet provides another type of error. With several examples of a skeleton handstamp used at Thurles between October 1942 and March 1943 there is one clearly dated 30 OC 10 !



A messy cover in the same packet has the Dublin circular PAID three months earlier than I have seen hitherto.

NOON ? In wading through a mass of rather ordinary U.K. on piece one intriguing postmark of Dublin, 1900, came to hand. Instead of the usual time indicator with AM or PM there seems to be 12 N. The N is definite but the 1 falls off the piece and is my surmise.

In the same batch there were two examples from Westport with the unusual time 121. PM . Does this signify one minute past noon ? Whatever the meaning it was used at Westport for over a year, apparently.

MORE AND MORE POSTMARKS Those of you who think we write too much about postmarks are going to be increasingly annoyed. The first skimmings of another big purchase include



(1) the cancellation used formerly on tele grams handed in at the railway office on the Pier - now replaced by a telephone kiosk.



(2) A type of handstamp on mails prepaid in cash which I have never seen before. Probably a short-lived experiment. In violet ink as used with the corresponding parcels post types.



(3) A variant of the Parcel Post pink label, for affixing to FRAGILE matter. This is number P.P.43 and bears ulhe in very large letters. The translation is much smaller - (EGGS.) The imprint is of 1940.

(4) The skeleton type used during a Dublin meeting of the British Medical Association.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

October 1961 Number 53

RANDOM NOTES



Continuing the interesting finds reported in R.N.No.52 we have illustrated yet another of the skeletons. The letters at foot are "G.S." and are the initials of "Grand Stand". There used to be (possibly still is) a temporary post office at every important race meeting for the convenience of pressmen and the cancellations are rare as they occur normally only on telegrams.



In this one, an unusual Rosslare Harbour cancellation, the G.S. appears as part of the "Great Southern and Western Railway".

To the right is one of the rather surprising bilingual cancellations. Another, also under Dun Laoghaire, was Sandycove.







More railway relics. Two examples of the unusual abbreviation "RAIL" for "Railway Station". Neither of the stations now has a post office.

Inevitably the slogans in the lot supply me with more examples of inversion - too many for me to bore you with. One I had not met before is Dublin with GROW MORE WHEAT. The BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH is upside down but the date and time are upright, and with the time between the 29 JAN and the 1939.



This is a variant of the PAID stamp illustrated in our last issue, the lettering being serif. However, the special feature of this example is that the value has been excised and the remainder used (in black) as a cancellation during the pre-Christmas rush.



Another of the railway telegraph office handstamps. Note absence of stops after abbreviations.

Another bilingual marking, in the same class of telegraph usage.



TAĆUMSHIN

My biggest find in the lot: an unrecorded temporary cancellation of the "trouble times". Like the very similar FOULSMILL, this emanates from the south of Co.Wexford. It is a very small place and no longer has any post office.

CONGO COVERS — Mr Langton has the first example I have seen of a neat machine marking on a cover from the Irish forces in the Congo. The emblem is at right, the date and time in circles at left and inbetween are wavy lines below the legend ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES AU CONGO.

AIRMAIL ETIQUETTES — He has also sent me some of the current stickers (i.e. with "0.E.78" on each) so erratically rouletted that some are only 9 mm tall while others are over 20 mm !

M.P.422 — The numbered forms and labels cover a vast range of purposes. An unusual one is a small (17x25mm) label intended to fill otherwise blank spaces in the days of Health Insurance cards. It has the inscription "Contributions not payable. SICKNESS.M.P.422."

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES — Irish postal stationery has in the past shown minor errors, but not major ones. At last it has happened. I have a K size 1/- envelope used from Fermoy last March, normally printed on the back, and with its stamp on the flap, but with no printing at all on the front !

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS — In the published lists (including the I.P.S.G. effort) there is mention of "BOOK NOW FOR AONAC TAILTEANN. AUG.5-14." used at Galway in 1922. My first example was an indistinct impression presented to me by the late J.Preston, without any trace of the first ~~two~~ words. Now I have a slightly better strike (actually another pi of the same envelope!) but also missing those words. Can anyone find evidence as to whether the list version is wrong?

SHANNON AIRPORT — just like that - serif lettering, is the cancellation on four 1/- (Sword of Light) on what seems to be part of a cablegram. It seems feasible that it was an improvisation between the opening of the airport in 1945 and the establishment of the post office there in 1946.

T.P.O. — A skeleton type not, I think, recorded hitherto is for the Dublin-Wexford route. 30mm circle, reading P O T A CLIATH 7 LOCH GARMAN 22 DE 41.

GOLF POSTMARKS — One of the large skeletons, like the NAAS depicted overleaf, and also with GS at foot, was used at Portmarnock in June 1931 during the Ladies' golf internationals and championship.

MANSION HOUSE DUBLIN — In 1957 there were used, during the meeting of the British Associa tion, two postmarks. One was a modern skeleton "MANSION HOUSE,DUBLIN" and the other a permanent type "TIGH AN ARD MHEARA, ATH CLIATH". I find this was not new, but had been used on a telegram form 25.X.45, but so far have not discovered what event was occurring then.

MAPS — A fascinating exhibition in Trinity College Library this month is of maps, and includes some of the series begun in 1805 in connection with the mail coach routes.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

November 1961 Number 54

ERRATA In Random Notes 53 under "SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS", line 5, the penultimate word should read "three" i.e. I now think thatthe slogan reads "AONAC TAILTEANN AUG. 5-14".

At a meeting of the Irish Philatelic Society on 2 Nov. I perpetrated a worse mistake by showing a drawing of the TACHUMSHIN cancellation mis-spelled TACUMSHANE, which is the modern spelling of the village name although the other persists on the maps for one of interesting lagoons on the south coast.

WEXFORD REGUMMING To add to the confusion of our little knowledge of what really happened, and when, I have found a 1d , cancelled at Wexford 9 October 1922 with no gum on the face but looking as if it has been soaked. And see overleaf.

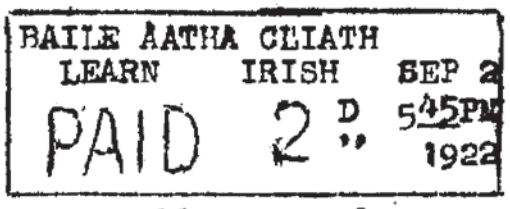
M.G.W.R.
*JUL 22
GALWAY

Yet another style of railway cancellation, on a 2d. on part of an envelope. The middle line is very faint, only the UL being really legible.

CURRENT SLOGAN NEWS The Voters List reminder has been replaced by the PLEASE SHEW DISTRICT NUMBERS IN DUBLIN ADDRESSES.

AND NEW LIGHT ON AN OLD SLOGAN





The sketch to the left above shows a fairly well known slogan but it has long been a mystery why the "D" was left in an Official Paid stamp. The version at right helps in the explanation, The slugs for OFFICIAL and (larger) PAID were interchangeable.

The machine which printed these postmarks was one acquired after the 1916 destruction and was itself destroyed in the fire of November 1922.

YET ANOTHER SLOGAN SENSATION You will remember that from 1935 to 1937 there was a slogan "BUY AT SAORSTAT FAIR .." with appropriate dates. Then, from 1938 to 1940 it was replaced by "VISIT THE SPRING SHOW ..." However I have found one example of "BUY AT SAORSTAT FAIR, BALLSBRIDGE DUBLIN MAY 2-6" used on Dublin B machine on 4 April 1939 ! The dates prove that it is not an old die reintroduced.

I.P.S.G. Random Notes. No. 54 (cont.)

CHRISTMAS SEALS — At last Ireland has followed the general trend by introducing for 1961 a sheet of 48 different designs which make one coherent pattern - a Celtic cross on a mountain top being the central feature. The inscriptions, in gold, are Irish and English for alternate lines, the English being DISABLED PERSONS YEAR / IRELAND / CHRISTMAS 1961. Published by Rehabilitation INstitution Ltd, 37 Pearse St. Dublin 2, price 2/- per sheet of 48.

BOOKLET — Issue 42-61 is now on sale, but I cannot say whether it was available earlier than mid-November. It shows no change from the last.

THE WEXFORD REGUMMING — Among the stories still incomplete is that of the sheets of 1d Thom (S.G.36) stolen but later recovered lying in the open and with gum washed off by rain. These were roughly regummed, many showing the gum on the face, and put on sale. Robson Lowe (Enc.Vol.I.p.397) states that copies bearing the Wexford office cancellation are fraudulent. I think that this is too dogmatic although I have a probably fraudulent example, the gum appearing to overlie the cancellation. What I think authentic is a piece cancelled on the DUBLIN & WEXFORD TPO 30 Jan. 1923 where the cancellation seems to be on top. Mr Harradine recently presented me with a mint example. This, of course, cannot be authenticated.

CURRENT SLOGANS — In the last week of November Dublin at least is changing to the second form of Voting List slogan "are you on the VOTERS LISTS ? check now at the post office".

NEW ROSS HOARD — The indefatigable Fr.Brennan has located an important accumulation of early 19th century correspondence, with at least a few hitherto unrecorded markings. Noteble are two Paid markings of New Ross, one the simple PAID, and the other P OST - P^{d}. an unframed scroll type.

Another gem - and superb impression - is a crowned oval handstamp inscribed TAXES, similar to those already known with REVENUE or EXCISE PAID. And the cover also bears the rare GEN^{L} P^{Y}. P. OFFICE
1 P^{Y} PAID

OVERPRINCED VARIETY — Mr Leonard has sent some of his latest finds for reporting, the most striking being a 1d overprint (Thom wide) with broken e in Sealadac and also a prominent flaw between the E of ONE and P of PENNY

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR

Fred. E. Dixon

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

December 1961 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 55

COBH RAIL STRIKE An unofficial strike of railwaymen in Cork and elsewhere in SW Ireland has paralysed parcel post and caused serious delays in letters. Watch out for covers bearing evidence of the delays.

SHANNON SCHEME FIRST DATE M.Leonard has found an example clearly dated 15th October, the cancellation being a Dublin handstamp, numbered 23. My cover is cancelled similarly by No. 20. Why were they not machine cancelled ? The Dublin machines were operating on 16th.

BORDER TROUBLES. The misguided fanatics who continue to elude the border patrols and do appreciable damage have recently singled out the mails as targets - or rather the mail vans, as they have usually allowed the bags to be removed before blowing up the vans. However, a van seized in the Killea area of Co.Derry was set afire together with its contents, and only some of the mail was recovered. This was on 12th December.

RECUT CANCELLATIONS. The mention of the border reminds me to add to the list of recut cancellations the name of Castlefin in Co. Donegal, formerly under Strabane (Co.Derry). So the word "Strabane" was excised from its double-circle canceller, leaving one like those of Moville, Greencastle, etc.

TEACH TAGHT, A CLIATH is the wording of a cancellation found in green with dates in 1950, although no such name appears in the Post Office lists. But I find that the list of Irish P.O. names issued by the Gaelic League in 1905 mentions it as an alternative for TEACH SAGRA, the now official Irish for Saggart.

THE MAIL BOAT The vessels sailing between Rosslare Harbour and Fishguard are still termed Mail Boats although I have never yet seen any letter bearing evidence that it went that way. Such may exist: the P.O. Guides of 30 years ago have a special footnote explaining that Express letters for Sunday delivery in Bristol, Cardiff or London could be handed in at Cork up to the time of posting on Saturdays for the despatch via Rosslare.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES Those keeping their check-lists should note that the size G with a "PHOIST" too many (reported in Random Notes No.41) was already in use at Ennis in May 1960.

P.T.O.

SLOGAN COMPLICATIONS

Fr Brennan reports another mix-up from Carlow, where the slogans "MAKE SURE you are on the new VOTERS LISTS" and "are you on the VOTERS LISTS ? check now at the post office" were both in use for the 4.45PM despatch on 20 October. It seems likely that the second version was introduced in error, and the other substituted when it was realised that the P.O. had not yet received the new lists.

CHRISTMAS SLOGAN

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS did not appear until 11th December, but in the Dublin area the propaganda was assisted by a neatly designed card dropped into the letter boxes

By 18th - approaching the peak of the rush - Dublin machine M had been pressed into service, without the slogan, but with the name-and-date portion inverted.

On 20th the L machine was used with bars, not the interrupted bars of the Universal machines but the seven continuous bars as introduced in 1960 with the new provincial machines.



Since the days of Hendy collectors have known that cancelling machines were used in Dublin from 1865 but have been unable to identify any distinctive cancellation. At last the problem is solved, by W.G.Stitt Dibden, in his current series of articles in "Stamp Collecting" on the Pearson Hill Obliterating Machines . It appears that the odd dots occasionally found above, below, or to left of, the combination of postmarkkand obliterator were made by the screws fixing the dies into the Pivot, (and possibly also its precursor, the Parallel machine?) Confirmatory evidence is supplied by the fact that these dots have been seen only with die numbers 1,2 and 3, the same as the London G.P.O. Records Books show for the replacement dies of 1881, recently discovered by Dr de Burca.

CHEQUE STAMPS

From August 1961 until recently the cheque-books issued by the Irish banks had impressed 2d & 1d stamps, both in green. The latest printings bear instead a new 3d stamp, its colour being one of those peculiar mauve or faded purple shades.

DUBLIN DISTRICTS

The handstamped reminders (see R.N. 50&52) have now been seen from districts 1,2,6,7 and 11, and in most cases the design is as my first illustration.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

January 1962 No.56

RANDOM NOTES

A RARE SLOGAN It is only when one sees a dealer's prices that one realises how rare certain items are. One current list offers a cover with tthe Belfast slogan of 1923 advertising the Ulster Pavilion at the Wembley Exhibition. Price £10 ! What then are the valuations of the items the dealers never have on offer ?

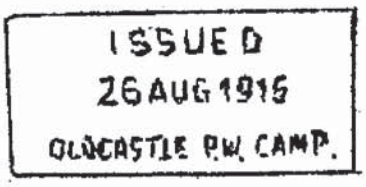
PATRICIAN YEAR M.Leonard, happily recovered from the 'flu, has sent me the colourful set issued by the Vatican City. 10 an 40 lire values show a sculptured representation of the saint and the 15 and 150 l. depict the island sanctuar at Lough Derg, as seen from the air. The designs are more suggestive of advertising labels than postage stam and are artistically inferior to the Irish set.

DUNDALK CURIO. Single circle cancellations with the name only in the upper half sometimes show smudges in the space below the date. I have often looked at them in the hope that there were traces of a head-office or county name. An example from Dundalk, 14 July 1914, has disclosed something unexpected, several letters showing in white on the black ground - apparently the words HALF PENNY

The obvious explanation that some coin or token was used for cutting the metal handstamp is untenable as in that case the letters would be reversed.







The above are the markings on some items just added to my collection. The first appears on both inwards and outwards mail, the second on one inwards, which also has the third. Each is accompanied by the double circle, double arc, datestamp of the Oldcastle post office.

THE MAIL BOAT Since writing about it in R.N.55 I have discovered that letters can be sent via Rosslare-Fishguard, using the railway letter service. Each letter therefore has an Irish (C.I.E.) railway parcels label for 7d, cancelled at Rosslare Harbour, plus a 3d U.K. postage stamp for the charge of transmission from the U.K. railway station of posting.

Some Pre-First Days ?

M.Leonard sends me two abnormal covers. One has the 1934 hurler cancelled in Ballinfull,Co.Sligo on 9 VII 34, nearly three weeks earlier than the date of issue ! It is unlikely that supplies would be distributed so early and one suspects that the VII should have been VIII.

The other has a 2½d An Tostal with the machine cancellation of Sligo 6 February 1953. The official day of issue was 9th Feb. and one guesses that tha 6 is a 9 inverted.

SPRING SHOW "SLOGAN"

The Royal Dublin Society has been metermarking its correspondence for some time, but without including any advertising matter. It is now, however, incorporating "SPRING SHOW & / INDUSTRIES FAIR / MAY 1st. to 5th. 1962".

CUSTOMS ENTRY DUTY

I have only just discovered that the fiscal changes of 1st August 1961 included the withdrawal from issue of the Customs Entry Duty Stamps. So hunt for examples if you can especially the last printings inscribed EIRE, as they were current for a much shorter period than the preceding SAORSTAT EIREANN. These were purchaseble in main post offices and were affixed to documents which were held in Dublin for seven years. So used examples have escaped accidentally or by favour.



Yet another of the little known railway station cancellations. Ballingrane is a tiny junction in Co. Limerick, with one train each way each day on each of the lines meeting there. The station's telegraph office is one of those which has been closed in the last few years.

SLOGANS

The only slogan I've seen used during January 1962 has been the Holiday one of Killarney, now placed to the left of the name-and-date circle.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

I have just been shown an attractive Christmas Seal issued by the Toghermore (Tuam) rehabilitation and training centre for the tubercular. The Double Cross and holly leaves are the main features of the design.

S.A.G. labels

I find the red and yellow embossed seals with S.A.G. are obtainable from St.Ant hony's Annals, 14 Temple St. Dublin. A philatelically unusual feature is that the perforations are embossed with the design. Hence off-centre copies do not exist.

Irish Stamp Designs

A team of Scandinavian experts, reporting on Irish stamp designs as part of their survey of standards of industrial design have criticised 41 designs, with only a few surprises. The Thomas Moore design is praised but so is the Postage Due, whereas the damned include the sword of light.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

February 1962 — RANDOM NOTES — No.57

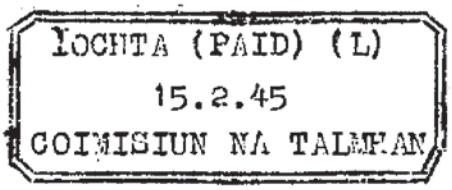
FISCAL STAMP — An unusual present from an English friend is an Irish Sweepstake ticket. But not for a "Hospitals" sweep. It represents a one-sixteenth share in a ticket for a State Lottery drawn on 18 November 1799. The philatelic interest is that it bears an embossed stamp with the harp and "IRISH STATE LOTTERY 1799". This is 20 years earlier than I have met hitherto for this class of stamp.

CUSTOMS ENTRY DUTY STAMPS — Fr.Brennan has succeeded in locating several copies, which include some interesting variations in the overprint, most obvious in the size and position of the figure 6. The variations seem to be constant in each column, suggesting that the plate printed only one line at a time. However there are other possibilities and one would like to see a complete sheet.

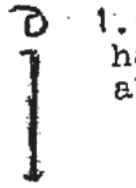
I'm just back from a thrilling weekend as guest of Fr Brennan, his collection supplying many notes for my records, and some for these Random Notes.

One of my specialities is the "Official Paids" and I was very surprised to see a type unknown to me, peculiar to one Government Department, the Land Commission.—

Here it is - - - - - -



The climax of the weekend was the visit to a country house and examination there of several bundles of ancient letters. There was no Dublin Dockwra-type, but two letters each add two more to the list of known stamps of the Dublin Penny Post:



1.(1788) The first handstruck 1 by about 20 years!

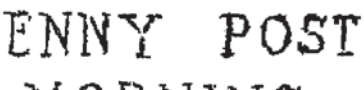
2. The first 18th century "Unpaid" to be found. The central feature is indistinct, may be shamrocks.



3.(1809) A very large variety of a stamp known hitherto only much smaller.



4. The first known example with "Morning" although an "Evening" version is recorded.



LETTER-CARD VARIETY

Yet another of Fr Brennan's discoveries is a bundle of the current 3d blue letter-card which have escaped the rather important process of having gum affixed at their edges !

CORRECTING ADDRESSING

Dublin is not the only place to have a campaign against incomplete addressing . Lifford has been using a handstamp on mails intended for its sub-offices. My example is of September 1961 addressed to a lady at "Raphoe,Co.Donegal". It is of interest that these instructional markings are always in English, not even bi-lingual.

> Your postal address includes
> LIFFORD
> and its omission causes delay
> Please advise sender

SLOGAN NEWS

The first new slogan of the year will be in use before this reaches you and will be too complex for me to illustrate. It advertises the Cork International Choral Festival May 16-20 and incorporates some notes of music and the Cork city arms. It will be current at Cork from 1st March until 20th May.

LABELS

Some of the neatest labels are anonymous. One now appearing on the correspondence of a Dublin firm states "JUNE for holidays in Ireland". It is very sensible as the resorts are less crowded than later and the weather is usually drier and sunnier than in the other so-called holiday months.

DUBLIN OR BAILE ATHA CLIATH

A scholarly article in the Irish Times for February 24th suggests that the authorities were wrong in changing the official name of the capital city. The writer - Liam S.Gogan - claims the Dublin is the older name and is corrupted, not from Duibhlinn (= Blackpool) but from Uibhlinn or Dun Duibhlinne. He demonstrates that these are consistent with the "Eblana" of the Greek books, based on the name of the people - the Eblani. Other geographical names to commemorate them are the place Elphin and the river Delvin.

IRISH STAMPS DESIGNS SURVEY

The Scandinavians' report, mentioned at the end of Random Notes 56, is "Design in Ireland" and is published at 3/- by the Irish Export Board, 74 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2. It is well written in good English. One of the few lapses is the use of "xylographic" (= engraved on wood) for "typographed".

ANNUAL REMINDER

Have you paid that subscription ? If not why not ?

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

March 1962 RANDOM NOTES No.58

THE ONES OF BALLYMONEY



1840-41

1843



1844

The first two illustrated above are listed in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia, but the third is a new find by T.E.Field and complicates an already involved subject. All three are at least as crude as my sketches suggest, and were probably produced locally.

SURGERY CONGRESS M.Richards adds another to the list of cancellations to be found on items posted at last September's Congress in Dublin. It is the double-circle BAILE ATHA CLIATH. CLAR.2.

NEW SLOGAN The label announced in R.N.57 is accompanied by a slogan, "JUNE for your IRISH HOLIDAY" with the sun's face and a pointing finger. The period of use is 7th March to 31st May and the places using it are Dublin, Blackrock, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Limerick and Waterford.

BILINGUAL CANCELLATIONS Another curiosity from Bray, obliterating 2d Fr.Mathew. M.O.& S.B.= Money Order and Savings Bank, the Irish for which is O.A. & B.T., as evidenced by the Ennis example illustrated in R.N. No.30.



That Shannon Scheme Date of Issue This is a perennial subject, although the evidence for 15 October is overwhelming. The latest first-day cover to come to light is for that date and was sent by an official in the Stamping Branch of the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin Castle. Like those mentioned in R.N.No.55 (where the date, alas, misprinted as 5th) the stamp was cancelled by a handstamp, in this case numbered 21.

Postmark Misprints It is inevitable that slips occur with temporary, skeleton, cancellers, but errors in others are rare. N.J.Langton reports a recent case, from Kilmurvey on the Aran island of Inishmore. It reads CILL MUIRBHÍ CO.AN GAILLIMHE, the AN being a mistake for NA. According to the P.O Guide index MUIRBHI should be MHUIRBHI, and according to the main list CO.NA GAILLIMHE should read merely GAILLIMH !

P.T.O.

Postmark Misprints (cont.) Another recently found misprint is in a rubber handstamp of Ballingarane (See R.N.55) which is alleged to be in CO.LIMEIRCK. My example is of 1930.

T = ? Caiseal Mumhan is the Cashel in Co. Tipperary, the principal other Cashel having for its Irish name simply "Caiseal" . So the T of the cancellation illustrated may signify "Telegraphs", but I suspect that it stands for "Tipperary".



A new type of PAID



So far I have seen only one poor strike of this, which appears to be a new and distinctive stamp for items prepaid in cash. The solid bar instead of a time suggests that, at least in this case, it has been used to precancel the magazine wrapper.

Wrong dates. Mistakes in setting the date are much commoner than the type of misprint discussed above. I have two recent finds worth recording. One is a 2d overprint cancelled Dromin, Dunleer, Co. Louth 14 JUN 21. The other is a 2d O'Connell used at Sligo on 26 VI 8.

An Essay Mystery A recent bundle of miscellanea to come my way includes a yellowing newspaper cutting illustrating "one of the designs accepted for the new Free State issue of stamps". The design is that of Perkins Bacon & Co., depicting Hibernia seated and holding a torch, but the country name is shown as "EIRE" instead of the "SAOR STÁT NA hEIREANN" on (12c) and (12d) of the R.L.Encyclopaedia. Is it possible that the design was approved sufficiently for the firm to be asked to resubmit it with the changed name ?

R.S.O. Although sometimes (e.g. near Dublin) the abbreviation R.S.O. = Rural Sub-Office, the R. usually signified Railway. The earliest use I have come across is Duhkettle Station R.S.O. as an arrival stamp on an envelope of 1875. Lists show that by 1874 Dunkettle Station had been allotted No.195, which was transferred soon afterwards to Glanmire. Duhkettle is the first station out of Cork on the Cobh line.

March Slogans The new slogans already reported for this month accompany revivals and continuations. Killarney has its own special: Tralee is already heralding its September Festival of Kerry: and Drogheda continues the Dublin District No. reminder.

Date Upset On March 2nd Blackrock machine had the date - or rather the line 2-III, inverted.

Parcels Post Correction I humbly correct a mistake in the article in the Journal. The Roman numerals I thought to be office numbers are only machine numbers within the office.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

April 1962 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 59



Last month we started with some handstruck Penny Reds, and this month here is a rather different one, denoting the postage due on an understamped postcard from the U.S.A. in March 1921. The A is the unusual feature and may identify the handstamp as one of the series for foreign mails. The still current series with "DN F" at foot did not appear until 1923.

PRINCIPALITY OF THOMOND

The "stamps" for Thomond, described in "Stamp Collecting" for March 23rd, should certainly be boycotted. Mr O'Brien claims several titles as well as "Prince of Thomond" and alleged that he was entitled to be present at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In Dublin he is regarded as a harmless eccentric and does a fair trade in secondhand sewing machines. If sufficient dupes are found to buy the labels we can expect another issue, for Prince O'Neill who owns the uninhabited Saltee Islands, off the Wexford coast.

BLUE-BLACK OVERPRINTS

Does anyone know a reliable technique for detecting the blue-black printings ? If so does he agree with the catalogues which specify that the shiny blue-black ink did not appear until July 1922 ? I have a 2d on cover which looks blue-black to me but the date is June 19 . (And I'm satisfied it is not a wrong postmark this time.)

O'DONOVAN & O'CURRY

The new stamps are a very feeble design - with no indication that the men were Scholars and not merely politicians. The dark background occupies almost 60% of the area, and instead there should have been some scrolls and tomes of the ancient manuscripts.

The first variety to report is a thick line left of 1802 on No.2 of row 6 of a right-hand pane of 3d. The gutter ornaments, very like those of St.Patrick issue, suggest that there are at least four panes of 3d.

N.Langton has given me a first day cover with the Dublin handstamp No.70, one of those kept clean and reserved for special occasions. As it was the first such occasion this year the date still read "61" and on Mr Langton's covers the 1 has been amended by overstriking with a 2.!

STAMPING MACHINE

The new prepaid marking reported in R.N. 58 is the imprint of a new machine, designed by Mr Brendan Scally of P&T Engineering Branch. It can deal with parcels up to 2½ inches thick at a rate of 300 per minute. The Irish Times reports that it was introduced in Pearse St.

STAMPING MACHINE(cont.) in January of this year and was constructed in the Department's engineering works at Kilmainham.

CHEQUE STAMPS English banks have for some time been using printed stamps to indicate that Stamp Duty has been paid, in place of the embossed device more often applied. M.Leonard reports that Irish banks are new doing the same, the stamp showing a harp and the words DLEACT STAMPA IOCTA.

SLOGAN NEWS During April most towns are back to normal with PREVENT FOREST FIRES, and Dublin is using it on the Official Paid machine A.

O'DONOVAN & O'CURRY The 3d variety reported overleaf is not on all the sheets, Fr. Brennan reports, and I can confirm, a smudge on the 1/3 between Nos.31 and 37 of the upper right pane, lost in the perforation holes if the printing is off centre upwards.



Another addition to the list of triangular marks. KS = Kells, and my example is unusually early for the type as it is cancelling a ½d envelope of Queen Victoria and was in a batch of 1902 covers.



Imitating the practice of the pioneer philatelic journals, happily revived by the "Cinderella Philatelist" we bring you a free gift of the sticker for this year's Spring Show. The badge and inscription are the same as for every year since World War II, but a new combination of shades has been found. As was the case last year, there has been no issue to R.D.S. members - only the printing with "VISIT OUR STAND" at the foot, for use by exhibitors.

"Via Derry" is the title of an article by W.G.Stitt Dibden in the Strand S.J. for May 1962. It describes the use of the London-Holyhead-Kingstown-Dublin-Derry route to speed the transatlantic mail.

Postage Increase On and from 30th April 1962 the minimum postage for letters from Ireland to Irish or British addresses is 4d - returning to the 1840 value !
However, at the beginning of 1840 the 4d covered only half an ounce. Now it does two ounces. So a letter of just two ounces still costs no more than it did 100 years ago. It was not until 1897 that postage became really cheap - 1d for four ounces.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

May 1962 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 60

SLOGANS I have not worked out how many places have been using PREVENT FOREST FIRES: quite a lot, but not enough, judging by the busyness of the fire brigades. One point to note is that Dun Laoghaire had the slogan with its triangle and DLO to the right.

SPRING SHOW The skeleton handstamp was made up again and was giving clear impressions on the first day. Registration labels were again improvised by writing in "Spring Show Dublin" on blanks.

ANOTHER WRONG DATE A startling find is a ½d Thom overprint cancelled SRAIDBHAILE DEIGEACH 4 JA 22 - an impossibly early date, either for the overprint or for the Irish form of name. It is obviously a case of forgetting to change the year, and should be 23.

INVERSION The new stamping machine is not foolproof and on 9 May was used with the name-and-date portion inverted.

4d The increased postage rate and consequent increase in demand for 4d stamps seems to have caused a rush printing and the stamps now on sale include many of such trivial flaws as webbed fingers and broken harp strings.

RAILWAY STATION POSTMARKS I seem to make a point of recording the cancellations used at the now diminishing number of post offices at railway stations. One of the commonest was that of Dundalk, but I have just found that the office had a 30mm "skeleton" in October 1938.



Another style of railway cancellation - used normally on railway parcels, but occasionally seen obliterating postage stamps. The examples which prompt this note are from Ballyhale, Bennett's Bridge and Waterford, all of 1932. The 32 is pen written in the one illustrated.



Why a postmark for the Plaza ? Because it was used for the mixing and drawing ceremonies at some of the earlier Irish Hospitals Sweepstakes and a temporary post office was provided, presumably for the benefit of the journalists.

P.T.O.

SLOGAN NEWS — All the towns with cancelling machines are to use a new slogan "SUPPORT THE FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN" with famished figures incorporated in the design. The dies will be distributed as they become available, beginning at the end of May.

ANOTHER WRONG POSTMARK — In the early 1930s Clogher,,Co.Mayo, was using a rubber handstamp with the name reading CLOCAR instead of CLOĊAR.

CONFUSING IRISH NAMES — I dont suppose that Irish names are any more confusing than those of other countries are to the uninitiated. However foreigners (like me,F.E.D.) are apt to be puzzled that Baile Áta Cliaṫ = Dublin, but Dublinn = Doolin (in Co.Clare). And having learned that Íochta=="Paid" it is annoying to find that a handstamp reading "ÍOCHTAR / ACHADH LIR is not a paid stamp of Virginia, but the obliterator of the village of Eighter!

O'DONOVAN — Myles na Gopaleen has pointed out (Irish Times 29th May) that the stamps are probably wrong in giving the date of O'Donovan's birth as 1806. Most of the works of reference accept the date believed by O'Donovan himself, i.e. 1809, and 1809 is the year shown on the monumental cross in Glasnevin cemetery.

"ENGLISH" NAMES — One of the translations unlikely to confuse is the Irish CLARACH = English CLARA. The close resemblance of the two forms may help to explain why it has reverted to the CLARA in a recent skeleton handstamp. More surprising is its inclusion of the abbreviation S O, for "Sorting Office" ? It is more probably "subordinate office" usually dubbed "sub-offices".

SUB-OFFICES — The union of sub-postmasters held a very short strike to focus attention on their poor pay and the lack of independent machinery to assess their claims. So most of the small offices were closed on 5th and 6th June. The Guards' (Police) barracks were used as emergency centres for collection and distribution of mails and it will be interesting to watch for "emergency" cancellations of these dates.

SLOGANS — The dies mentioned at the top of this page were not ready at the end of May and instead the Dublin District numbers appeal was reintroduced for the beginning of June.

IRISH PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

June 1962 — Number 61

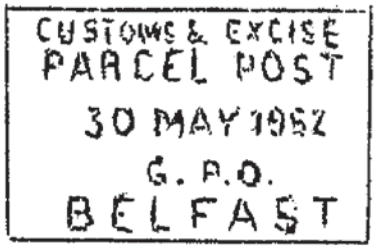
RANDOM NOTES

LIBRARY HUNTING While in Dublin for a pre-Whitsun holiday I had a pleasant morning studying postmarks in the Library of the Society of Friends (Eustace Street: open Thursday mornings). No new postal markings were added to my lists, but one bundle of 18th century correspondence was wrapped in a page torn from a Post Office register for recording the numbers of various types of letters sent.

SPECIMEN OVERPRINTS Has anyone any guaranteeable examples of the Irish overprints with the additional overprint "SPECIMEN" ? J.B.Foley of the E.P.A. reports that some recently offered in the U.S.A. seem to have received the overprint from the same rubber stamp as alleged Specimens of other countries, and it is reasonable to conclude that other sets are in circulation from the same source. Beware !

GUINNESS STAMPS The I.P.S.G. sub-group in Denmark continues very active and sends our Hon.Sec. some searching queries. One concerns corner extensions seen on the 3d Guinness. Similar varieties occur on other of De la Rue's recess printing, But their positions on the sheets varied and I think that they must be dismissed as smudges.

BALPEX "62" Our good friends the E.P.A. are among the Societies participating in the Exhibition to be held in Baltimore (Maryland, not Co.Cork) from 14th to 16th September. Anyone considering sending an exhibit may obtain the prospectus from F.E.Dixon, Rosslare Harbour, Wexford.



Sketched are the datestamps on an envelope shown me by Mr Langton. The one at left was used to indicate the address for return if undelivered, and that at right cancelled the OFFICIAL PAID franking. Both were struck in purple.



COPYRIGHT The June I.P.S.G. Journal makes a kind reference to these Random Notes, but goes on to say that anyone using them when compiling an article must submit the result for approval. That is too strong. I am always willing to advise and assist where I can but you may use any of "Random Notes" as you wish. All I ask is that due acknowledgement of the source of the information should be made.

P.T.O.

June
1962

PRINCIPALITY OF THOMOND

On 27th June Raymond MoultenSean O'Brien was fined £10 and bound to the peace for three years for the "unauthorised uttering and possession of stamps". The charges described the Thomond stamps as being fictitious and offending the provisions of the Post Office Act 1908 (brought about by the Sinn Fein "stamps"); and also as forged, contrary to the Forgery Act 1913. I find it hard to understand how the same item can be genuinely fictitious and also a forgery !

The charges were inspired by eight of the fictitious and forged stamps seen on postcards in November 1961, and 961 of them found in O'Brien's house in January. Evidence was given that a Dr.Keesing of New York had approached Irish firms with a view to their selling the stamps. O'Brien described this Dr Keesing as the Thomond observer at the United Nations !

Thus the Thomond issue become distinguished as having provoked a prosecution. Dealers can imitate the book-sellers and advertise their wares as "banned in Eire", while collectors in Ir eland holding any must dread the approach of the Law Officers, since they are liable to prosecution.

Congratulations to the Irish Post Office for setting an example for others (e.g. U.S.A. and U.K.) to follow.

THAT NEW DUBLIN PAID MACHINE

The two parts of the die can be combined in four distinguishable arrangements, of which I have already seen three. The usual is as shown in R.N.58. In R.N.60 I mentioned an inversion, which is foot to foot. Now I can report IOCHTA 3P below the name-and-date portion, but upright. There remains only the combination head-to-head.

RECESS PRINTING VARIETIES

Many of the major varieties of modern Irish recess-printed stamps have shown similarities, but no-one yet seems to have explained them. I have in mind the Marian Year 3d hand flaw,, the hand flaw and extra feather on the airmails, and the blob on the 3d O'Donovan-O'Curry which I reported with misplaced confidence. None of them is a retouch or a re-entry or a fresh entry, and when a variety has disappeared there has been no evidence of repair to the plate. I hazard a theory that in each case the defect was not in the plate but was a hollow in the blanket on which the paper rested during printing. Can anyone with detailed knowledge of the printing comment ?

July 1962 — RANDOM NOTES — No. 62

THE SPECIMEN OVERPRINTS

T.E.Field points out, a propos of the apparent faking mentioned in R.N. No.61, that he did not know of the existence of any such SPECIMENs until some were offered to him, without warranty, in 1952. Further, the auction catalogues of the outstanding Irish collections do not list any examples prior to the Preston Sale of 1959, and there was no certificate or other evidence with the set then included. It therefore seems unlikely that any of these SPECIMENS are genuine - but more information is obviously needed.



The datestamp illustrated has not yet been seen by me on correspondence of the Irish contingent, but it probably does appear on some. My examples, in black and red, are from internal letters - Elizabethville to Leopoldville - on U.N. business. Note the peculiar mixture of English and French.

1933-34 ANNUS SANCTUS

Mr.Harradine reports a prominent dot in the U of ANNUS on the 3d value of the 1933-34 Holy Year issue. It is on the first stamp of the second row of the sheet. Can possessors of corner blocks check whether their examples show anything similar ?

CUSTOMS ENTRY DUTY STAMPS

At the time I reported last January (R.N.No.56) that the Customs Entry Duty stamps were no longer in use, I began enquiries with the Revenue Commissioners as to the values issued and their dates of issue. After writing four letters and making a personal call at Dublin Castle my perseverance has been rewarded. The information specifies two issues, both printed in black on the "escutcheon plate" in colour.

I. Saorstát Éireann. August 1924.
6d green, 1s blue, 2s yellow, 2s 6d ruby, 5s violet.

II. Éire. April 1954. 6d green.
June 1956 1s blue.

The dates are those of delivery to P & T, not those of being placed on sale, and there is no indication of how often there were reprintings. At least the 6d Saorstát Éireann exists on both se and e watermarked papers, but it seems possible that the use of the highest three values was so limited that a single printing on se paper sufficed.

Efforts to obtain examples to test this point will continue.

SLOGAN NEWS

R.N.No.60 rashly promised the FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN slogan for the end of May. One die did appear on a Dublin paid machine in early June, but I saw no other until late in July. Meanwhile the offices filled in with PREVENT FOREST FIRES and Cork introduced its annual advertisement for Kinsale regatta.

The new slogan is not a good design, there being too much detail in the emaciated figures depicted. Clear impressions will be scarce.

O'Donovan & O'Curry 3d

I find that these random notes have so far omitted to mention the occurrence (pun?) of a plate number in the top margin, often cut off in the trimming but sometimes showing enough to be identified. At first only 1 was seen but N.Langton found 2 and Fr. Brennan 3. Hunt for these before it is too late.

BISECT

M.Richards reports a new discovery in the field of "U.K. used in Ireland. It is an envelope posted at Holywood,Co.Down on 30 Dec. 1918, the 1½d letter rate being paid with one 1d stamp and half of another one, the bisecting being diagonal. Obviously this was not authorised, and we can only surmise as to whether there was a temporary shortage of 1½d or ½d stamps or whether the cover is "philatelic". The fact that the envelope has survived intact for 44 years rather suggests the latter ?

THOMOND STAMPS

The suppressed issue is very colourful, but some of the designs are inappropriate, especially the quite unIrish birds. One of the sporting scenes commits a gaffe, showing hurling with a football, instead of something more like a cricket ball.

ANOTHER CANCELLING MACHINE

Arklow (= Inbhaar Mor) is the latest town to receive a machine. The earliest example I have seen is 4 June, when the familiar seven wavy bars were in use, continuous as in the case of other recent machines.

HORSE SHOW

Postally as last year, the skeleton handstamp being similar and the registration labels being handwritten. The publicity stickers were supplied only to exhibitors, with "VISIT OUR STAND" at the foot in red. The new design, in black half-tone, depicts a horse's head over the R.D.S. main building.

OTHER LABELS

A recent find is an envelope of 1953 bearing an label advertising the Ulster TT, 5 September.
Now on sale (2/6 per sheet,10x5) at the Parochial House, St.Therese's, Mount Merrion, Co.Dublin, are well printed seals showing the patron saint, often referred to as "The Little Flower".

PAID

Rev.J.Brennan has discovered another "PAID" stamp. It is of Hollywood,35x4 mm, in black, and unrecorded by Meredith or other listers. Date 1840.

Scottish IRELAND

Through him I can also report another cover to Scotland bearing "IRELAND" and not passing through London. Date 6th August 1787, but impression inadequate for reliable measurement.

Spelling

I should probably explain that the 1918 Holywood and 1840 Hollywood referred to above are the same place. The second of the ls was dropped only towards the end of the 19th century.

Printers' Waste

Gibbons's asking £15 a pair for 2d Fiji on Irish paper prompts several questions, especially on the statement (GSM July, p.141) that De la Rue made the Irish plates.
It has long been thought that the definitive plates, like those of the first commemoratives, were made in

Definitives Plates As a sequel to the last para. of R.N.No.62, I must report that I wrote to the editor of Gibbons's Stamp Monthly asking if he knew of any evidence supporting the attribution of the Irish plates to De la Rue. The reply is vague, and we should continue to believe that the Royal Mint was responsible for those plates.

Paraguayan Irish I am only just over a year late in reporting the use of a handstruck cachet on an official letter from Paraguay. It depicts and describes "Elisa Alicia Lynch, La Heroica Compañera del Mcal.Lopez. Vuelve por siempre a su segunda patria." Enc.Brit. is less complementary, describing Madame Lynch as an Irish adventuress of many talents and popular qualities, who became the mistress of Francisco Solano Lopez (1826-1870) and influencing many of the ambitious schemes he was involved in. My example is dated 24-vii-1961 and I've no idea how long it was in use.

Dublin Exhibition 1907 It does not seem to be widely known that there were at least two handstamps used in the 1907 Exhibition Post Office.

In my experience they are equally common (or equally scarce: it depends whether you are buying or selling). The best way of distinguishing them is to look at the spaces between the arcs at the foot, below the date. On one the space between the inner arcs is only slightly wider than that between the outer. On the other the difference in width is much more pronounced.

Cancelling Machines At long last Waterford has been supplied with a new die for the name-and-date portion of its machine cancellation. The old one, with a long arc below the date, had been in use since (I think) 1935. The new one has more slender lettering and no arc.

How many Post Offices ? A question often put to me is the number of post offices in Ireland, and I have hitherto avoided giving a direct answer, regarding the matter as one deserving considerable research. However, I did recently attempt to count the numbers of the offices listed in the Post Office Guide. I cannot guarantee the results, as it is almost impossible to check that none is included twice, and of course the lists are always obsolete before they are printed.

The approximate totals are 2300 for the Republic and 700 for the "Six Counties". I put that in quotes because the P.O. classes Belfast as a separate, seventh, county !

P.T.O.

Numbers of Post Offices in Ireland

The numbers for the individual counties, rounded off to the nearest multiple of five, are as follows

Carlow	30	Longford	35	Antrim	125
Cavan	75	Louth	65	Armagh	70
Clare	65	Mayo	155	Belfast	125
Cork	285	Meath	70	Derry	90
Donegal	150	Monaghan	50	Down	120
Dublin	185	Offaly	40	Fermanagh	65
Galway	135	Roscommon	80	Tyrone	130
Kerry	85	Sligo	65		
Kildare	50	Tipperary	130		
Kilkenny	50	Waterford	50		
Leitrim	50	Westmeath	75		
Leix	35	Wexford	85		
Limerick	135	Wicklow	60		



Herewith is illustrated a new style of postage due marking, first reported by N.J.Langton, and used at Kilcoole. It seems likely that it is a standard pattern to be issued to many of the main offices. The space for initials is a novel feature.

Dunmore East.

To many people Dunmore East is a small fishing village with an attractive harbour. To students of Irish Postal History it is far more, having been the terminus of a regular service of cross-channel Packets long before Rosslare appeared on the map. To architects it is also a place of pilgrimage, the designs of the harbour works, whether individually or as an ensemble, being of outstanding merit.

It is therefore very sad to hear that drastic changes are contemplated - and not because the old structures are decrepit, but because something more modern and more efficient is to be built. This argument could be used to justify destroying the G.P.O., or the Houses of Parliament !

Irish 1962 "Europa"

Whatever the artistic merits of the design, its symbolism is stupid for a September issue - when the leaves are beginning to fall from the trees. Continental dealers were not caught napping this time: at least one flew to Dublin to buy £1000 worth . They seem typical De la Rue printing, with the panes lettered 1A and 1B (the only ones seen so far) and with minute guide dots usually lost in the perforating. The only flaw reported so far was found by N.Langton, a projection at the base of the tree on some examples of Pane 1B, Row 10,No.5.

Registration Envelopes

The expected, but unannounced, new 1/1 embossed stamp was first placed on sale in September - or possibly late August, on envelopes of size G. The blue colour is attractive but the engraving is not quite up to the usual high standard. For the first time the offially correct form "PINGIN" is substituted for the plural forms used hitherto.

Mis-spelling

Corlesmore (Co.Cavan) is usually designated COR-LIOS MÓR on its cancellers, but in 1934 had a rubber stamp reading COR_LOIS MÓR. The companion piece is from Caherlistrane (Co.Galway) usually Irished as CATHAIR LOISGREAIN, but the rubber stamp it had in 1938 read CATHAIR LIŚGREAIN!

Book on Bianconi

A new book of interest to us is "Bianconi, King of the Irish Roads", by M.O'C.Bianconi and S.J.Watson, published in Dublin by Allen Figgis, price 21/-. However, the book adds little to what is already in print about the remarkable transport organiser, whose services materially assisted the post office.

Printers' Waste

Messrs Gibbons have admitted to me that their write-up of the Fiji stamps on Irish paper (See R.N.62) was wrong. They now confirm that the dies and plates of the Irish definitives were all made in the Royal Mint. De la Rue have explained how they happened to have Irish paper at the time. The Irish P.O. had approached De la Rue for assistance in obtaining supplies of suitable paper for the Free State stamps.

1d waste = £27.10

In "Stamp Collecting" Sept.28th, Nissen offered at £27.10 an example of engraving by Perkins, Fairman & Heath. There is a similar but smaller plate of interest to Irish philatelists. My example was bought for 1d from a pile of waste paper in a bookshop. Later I ascertained that it had been a plate in the "Dublin Magazine" - one of a long succession of short-lived publications bearing that title.

Code Letters G.K.L.

A Parcel Post label of 1917 discloses that G.K.L. was the code for Glencolumkille (Co.Donegal)

Slogan News

1. My pessimism (see R.N.62) about the SUPPORT the FREEDOM from HUNGER CAMPAIGN was unjustified, although the dies of Dublin B and H machines were very quickly.
2. In mid-September it was replaced by a revival of MAKE SURE you are on the new VOTERS LISTS.
3. Another new machine. ROS LHIC TREOIN = New Ross (Co.Wexford).
4. An unheralded new slogan at Limerick [which I discovered in Foyles' while holidaying in London!]. A decorative proscenium frames GRAND OPERA FESTIVAL LIMERICK - NOV.
5. Scheduled for 22 October to 19 November is a new MAKE THE ROADS SAFE slogan incorporating a hexagonal STOP sign.

INCOME TAX STAMPS

N.Langton has drawn my attention to a series of stamps not hitherto reported, introduced in connection with the P.A.Y.E. system. They occur in values 1,2,5,10,20 and 40 shillings and are inscribed "cÁin ioncaim / INCOME TAX"

POST OFFICE GUIDE

There is a new edition of Volume II. i.e. that dealing with foreign services.

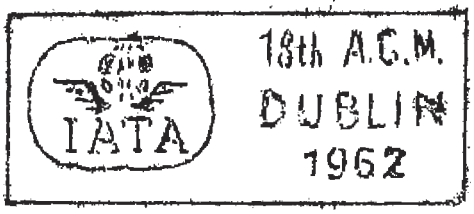
1962 EUROPA — Fr.Brennan reports some varieties on the 6d, Pane 1A. Row 3,No.3 has a dot outside the frame at lower right. Row 4,No.5 has three small dots in the E of CEPT. And Row 5, No.6 shows thickening or doubling of several lines at the top and in and around PA of EUROPA.

NEW ROSS MACHINE — Fr.Brennan has ascertained that the new New Ross machine is an up-to-date Pitney Bowes, and was used first on 19th September with continuous bars. But the date was missing in early impressions.

PARCELS POST DATE ERROR — Dublin GPO has slipped up again, one of the counter machines being used on 30th October with the date plugs reading 36 X 62 !

NEW BOOKLET — The latest booklet surprises by being cheaper, 3/- instead of 4/-, the make-up being 6 @ 4d and 6 @ 2d.
This means that the 3d watermark inverted is no longer available, also the 1d, but instead we have 4d and the 2d again, for the first time since 1948.

Unofficial Cachet ? At the beginning of September the International Air Transport Association held its annual general meeting at the Shelbourne Hotel (and adjoining Shelbourne Rooms) Dublin. I enquired at the time as to whether there was any special, postmark, and was assured "No". It has since been ascertained that there was a posting office in the Shelbourne Rooms and items posted there were given the cachet illustrated herewith, in green.



.....

"Random Notes", the I.P.S.G. and the I.P.C.

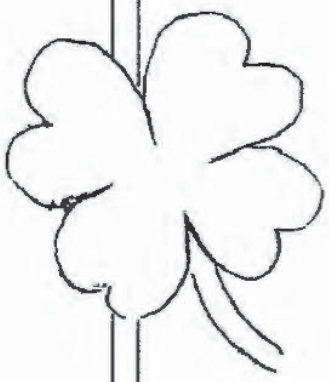
These Random Notes began as an individual effort entitled "Dixon's Irish Philatelic News" and , largely through the generosity of T.E.Field, who has supplied the paper and arranged the printing, copies were made available for all members of the Irish Philatelic Study Group. As the majority of my friends in that Group are joining the newly established Irish Philatelic Circle I am, with Mr Field's continued co-operation, transferring the service to the Circle.

The contents of the Notes have varied widely since their initiation and have included many tidbits contributed by IPSG members. Please continue to send me the odd scraps of information - anything likely to interest other members, but not suitable for a lengthy Journal article.

Fred G. Dixon

12th November 1962

IRISH PHILATELY



IRISH
PHILATELIC
CIRCLE

Irish Philatelic Circle

November 1962 & December — RANDOM NOTES — Number 65

REGISTRATION ENVELOPE, Size K

K size with 1/1 stamp appeared on sale about the middle of November . The wording on both front and back has been modified from that of the last issue ("scriob" for "scriobhadh" etc.) and is now the same as other sizes.

8d POSTAGE DUE

This came into use at about the same time, the design being as the other values and the colour orange. The first sheets I have seen all have the watermark inverted, and it may be that the whole of the first printing is similar. There is a smudge in the top gutter above stamp No.3, which stamp has small coloured dots in the top white frame line.

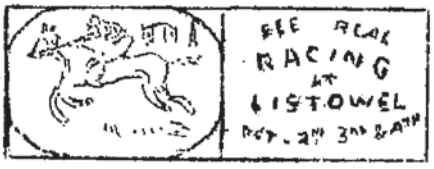
POST PAID

The Irish Electricity Supply Board has introduced a new system of "stamps". Instead of passing envelopes with accounts through a meter-marker as heretofore, each account has on it

POSTAS ÍOCTHA
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.
CEADUNAS 1.

which = POSTAGE PAID
DUBLIN
PERMIT 1.

The envelopes used are double windowed, one window displaying the name and address and the other this new style of frank. Each can do service at least twice - when the account is issued, and again when it is re-sent receipted. Unfortunately it does not save the consumer from paying postage if he posts his cheque.



The Post Office apologised for not notifying us of the last Limerick slogan, but did not disclose even then that we had missed an earlier one from the same place! It is a non-collecting friend, who knows of my mania, who produces for me at the end of November, a slogan used at Limerick during September.

At the left is a spirited representation of a racing horse and jockey in a television screen frame. To right is the advice "SEE REAL RACING AT LISTOWEL OCT. 2ND 3RD & 4TH."

CHRISTMAS SEALS

Rehabilitation Ltd have six new multicolour designs this year, and some new ideas. The seals are in panes of 12, but the second six are a permutation of the first, and eight panes are bound together into an attractive booklet. Price 4/- for the booklet. Later. There is another issue: books of 48 for 2/-

Some collectors will be disappointed to learn that this year there are no "progressive colour proofs". I thoroughly approve their absence, as they were very artificial, specially produced for collectors.

CHRISTMAS SEALS The Re-ablement Centre at Toghermore, Tuam, is again selling seals. The design is the same rather simple one as was used last year, but the colours differ slightly, this latest having the cross in red, the background yellow, the holly in blue-green and the words in dark green.

CHRISTMAS SLOGAN The POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS slogan did not appear until on or about 11th December, long after the latest dates for posting surface mails to most parts of the world.

POSTAL HISTORY The P.O.Magazine for December has an interesting page on some early Irish mail- and stage-coaches. The earliest mentioned is the opening of a Belfast-Newry coach route in 1704. There no coach linking Dublin and Belfast until 1742.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPE, Size F F size with 1/1 stamp appeared early in December. Except for the stamp it appears to be identical with the F of the last issue.

INSUFFICIENTLY PAID FOR AIR SERVICE One of my Christmas presents is a bundle of covers and one of the covers is of 1943, Ireland to U.S.A., censored in Ireland and Great Britain, and bearing this cachet, the frame being 74x12½mm. I already possessed a similar item of 1941, from Ireland to Portugal. It seems likely that the word "TRANSATLANTIC" has been deleted from the lower line. Does anyone know if this was an Irish or a U.K. handstamp ?

CHRISTMAS POSTMARKING The slogan was little used in Dublin this Christmas, and the spare machines (M,O,P ...) were in use with bars. On 19th December a new E die was introduced, with small letters, and the first E re-lacement for 31 years. The old die was still in use next day, so there were probably two Es simultaneously, as has been known before for Hs.

STATIONERY As usual, I found time on Christmas Eve to visit the G.P.O.,(its quietest day of the year). And as usual I found that new things had appeared during the rush period. One is the Registration Envelope, size H, with 1/1 embossed stamp, completing the series. The other is ordinary cream envelope with typographed 4d stamp in deep blue-green .

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR I.P.C. SUBSCRIPTION YET ?

P.S. I find that the E.S.B. Bills, referred to overleaf are usually sent without envelopes, just folded.

Irish Philatelic Circle

January & February 1963 — Number 66

Random Notes

Post Office Guide — Amendment List No.7 to Volume I,1959, includes details of many changes of country post offices, and a few in Greater Dublin. Other alterations include permission to send leeches and silkworms by post, as well as bees. Certain useful parasites are also permitted, but only between recognised Institutions !



Is there any system in the changes of designation of the Sorting Carriage operating for a short pre-Christmas period between Mallow and Tralee ? Some years Mallow-Tralee: other years Tralee-Mallow. Alongside I illustrate the only version that I have seen for 1962.

3d LUKE WADDING VARIETY ?

R.P.Woods has an imprint strip on which the end stamp (Pane 1B,Row 10,No.12) has a mark across the lower part of one e in éire. None of my examples from this position shows any flaw. Can anyone else produce an example to confirm the variety ?

INVERSIONS

I was puzzled that we got through 1962 with so few mistakes on the cancelling machines. Now O.M.Richards reports that on 19th September Athlone inverted its name-and-date circle in conjunction with the Freedom from Hunger slogan.

INJUSTICE TO IRELAND

The February issue of the "G.B.Philatelist" has several things of interest to I.P.C. members. There is more of H.G.L.Fletcher's account of the Fenian and other mysterious Essays, and the further extracts from Rowland Hill's Diaries have Irish references. In April 1849 he complained that although the P.O. revenue in Great Britain was ten times that of Ireland the amounts overdue from Postmasters were twice as great in Ireland as in G.B. He explained this as due to the inferior morality of the Irish. This is grossly unfair, and he should have taken into account that he was writing of debts developing during the years of the Irish famine !

Later in the month he was much concerned with improving the mail service to Ireland and hit on the then revolutionary idea of sorting on board the Packetboats. He was naturally annoyed when he found that Col.Maberly was pushing this and other ideas as being his own. Actually it was not until 1860 that sorting on board commenced .

NEW STAMPS

Why does the Irish P.O. herald the "Freedom from Hunger" campaign stamps as a new commemorative issue ? Surely they are intended not to commemorate , but to propagate the international campaign.

CURRENT SLOGANS — The Freedom from Humger slogans (which have worn very badly in Dublin) were replaced at the end of January by the Dublin District Numbers appeal.

SURCHARGES — Ireland has so far refrained from changing the face value of its postage stamps by overprinting. There have been such surcharges, however, on the insurance stamps, and other fiscals.

The Unemployment Insurance rates were at first 4½d, 5d, 8d, 8½d, 9½d, 10d, 1/3 and 1/7. Later there were 5½d, 6d, 6½d, 7d, 11d, 1/1 and 1/11. The first 11d were improvised by overprinting on 9½d and the 1/1 was on the 1/7. But the 1/7 rate came in again so one finds 1/7 on 1/3, followed by a new plate for the 1/7. This in turn was overprinted to provide 1/11 value.

In the case of the Health and Pensions series I have only two surcharges, 1/5 on 11d and 2/- on 1/4.

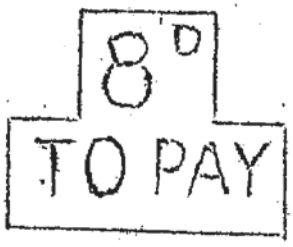
Although I have seen nothing of the kind in the modern style (inscribed merely "ARACAS" I suspect that the many increases of rates during the last ten years must have involved some provisionals.

At least two Entertainment Duty stamps were produced by overprinting stocks of an obsolete value:- 5d and 7d, each on 1/6.

I feel sure that there are many more, and will welcome details.

PARCEL POST — The changes of the official version of the Irish language continue. For many years (I think since 1922) the Irish for "Parcel Post" was "Post na mBeartán" . Then the bus-ticket style labels had "Post na mBeart". Now I find that one of the rectangular obliteratmrs used in Dublin G.P.O. is inscribed"BEABTPHOST" and expect that we shall find that form adopted in other hand-stamps, labels, and forms.

POSTAGE DUE — The new type, necessitated by the increase in postage rates, illustrated in Random Notes No.63, is not the only one. Below I depict a very large one seen on a letter posted at Bruff (Brugh na nDeise)



GREEN LABELS — The Green "Douane" labels supposed to be used on packets posted abroad, have been reprinted several times with some variations, but have been trilingual (Irish, English, French) W.Kane has discovered a new, 1963, version with no Irish at all, only English and French.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

March 1963 — Random Notes — Number 67

SLOGAN NEWS — I have used my duplicator to produce a supplement to the list published in 1959. Price 4d plus 2d postage. There are still a few copies of the list: special price to members 2/- post free.

INVERSION — The first seen this year is from Westport, the circle with name and time and date all being upside down.

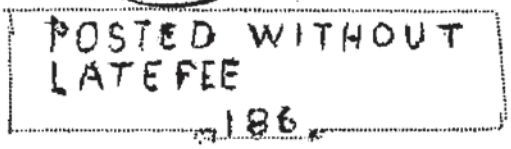


Mr Kane's contribution: This is a sketch of an unusual marking seen on a parcel insufficiently addressed. D.P.D. is Dublin Postal District, and one suspects that the L.P.S. is "Lost Parcels Section."

That I.A.T.A. Meeting. — In R.N.64 it was reported that there was no special cancellation for the September Conference, although there was a cachet. Thanks to Mr Brady that must be corrected. There was a cancellation of the temporary type, inscribed "I A T A MEETING DUBLIN" . Yet I was assured on the spot at the time that there was none!



Also thanks to Mr Brady, I depict a Dublin Postage Due marking of 1871 - in the period when the Penny Postage covered only ½ ounce. It was extended to 1 ounce in the following year.



And this promising new member's third discovery is a variant of the Posted without Late Fee handstamp, used in 1958 on the Dublin-Cork T.P.O.



Rather more difficult to draw is this rubber stamp, which I saw for the first time last week. My example is only a pull on part of a telephone slip, but I suspect that it was used as the franking stamp of the Convention's Secretariat.

The term "precursor" covers a great variety of items. I offer this Dundalk handstamp as a precursor of the Irish forms of postmark. It occurs on a picture postcard of November 1911, but was applied before the stamp was affixed.





My final sketch on this page is much the oldest item. It was applied, probably in Dublin, on a letter received from America via Cork, and preserved in the library of the Society of Friends, Eustace Street, Dublin. Date 1719, only a year after the earliest English type.



This is one of the less common of the many postmarks used in Dublin on letters posted after the outward mailbags had been made up. Alcock & Holland attribute it to the early 1860s and I think that it was succeeded by duplex types in 1864. The first copies that I saw were all in black, but I can now report its occurrence in red in November 1862.

MARCH SLOGANS

Dublin and a few other places (probably the same selection as last year) are using a revival of "JUNE FOR YOUR IRISH HOLIDAY" but Cork is advertising its Internation Choral Festival in May, the die being similar to last year's, but with the date specified only as "MAY".

The sensational discovery depicted here is not my discovery but must be credited to M.C. Goodman(possessor of the only example I know of the 1902 Cork Exhibition postmark)



This is copied from a postcard showing the presentation of an Address to the King and Queen in Monkstown (Co.Dublin) at about 10.30 a.m. on 8th July 1911 - the same date as the postmark !

I surmise that the office was a telegraph office, set up for the use of journalists during the Royal Visit. Some enthusiastic reporter arranged to get this strike of the postmark on his postcard, which bears no writing or address.

The cross at the foot is similar to that on a Westminster Abbey postmark at the Coronation in the previous month. One wonders if it was the same reporter whom we have to thank for both these leakages of special datestamps not intended to reach the public.

£961 Yes, another inversion, from Dundalk, with the slogan PREVENT FOREST FIRES. Unfortunately it is doubtful whether the month is I or II.

MORE MARCH? SLOGANS In view of various past disappointments, the latest Post Office annouucement is carefully vague. As soon as the dies are received there will be :

At Sligo, "JUNE HOLIDAYS COST LESS HERE" with a lake and the Sligo coastline with Sligo,Rosses Point and Strandhill.

At Wexford, "VISIT WEXFORD IN THE SUNNY SOUTH-EAST" with a view of the town and the new bridge as foreground.

NEWTOWN STEWART

A recent purchase includes a cover of 1812 with two-line name-stamp of Newtown Stewart. The most interesting point is that the letter is to the celebrated Miss Owenson, later Lady Morgan. Has anyone else any of the correspondence

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

April 1963 Number 68

Random Notes

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER STAMPS

The design disappoints. There is far too much solid colour, in space which would have been better used conveying the message in an intelligible language. And the drawing is not up to Mr Uhlemann's usual standard. One feels that he did a number of rough sketches, and that the P.& T.officials selected one and got the die engraved, without giving the artist a chance to correct the outlines of the continents etc.

Watch out for pre-first-day covers. They exist, but those noticed in the post office had the date in the cancellation deleted. This is an effective device which the U.K. P.O. has copied from the Irish.

On the first day the stocks in Dublin were all of Plate 1 for the 1/3 and Plates 2 and 3 for the 4d. We do not yet know whether Plate 1 of the 4d was withdrawn as defective or whether the impressions from it have been used for overseas orders, etc.

First inspection of the sheets showed a few lines and dots of possible significance, but none of them were present on other sheets * Even the interesting Xs in the left margin of the 4d are not always there.

*See below

DUBLIN LIBRARIES There has been another opportunity to browse in the manuscripts sections of the libraries, where there are still many thousands of letters never inspected by philatelists or devotees of postal history. In Trinity College I was shown letters of the 1630s and 1640s which look what seem to be charge marks, that for Dublin-London being 9d. In another box there is possibly the earliest use of blue ink in Irish postmarks, a bright KINSALE of 1789.

Another visit to the Society of Friends yielded some useful additions to the list of early name-stamps, notably WICKLOW 1700, K•KENY 1717.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER 4d

A variety not on the first sheets I bought, but reported by both Miss Wright and Fr.Brennan is a line through the left ear of wheat running North as far as Greenland. It is on Pane 2B, Row 6, No.2. and occurs on the sheets with two crosses in the left margin of the A pane, opposite the third row. All 2B panes show at least traces of a line between the 3rd and 4th columns, starting at the SE corner of 15, eventually turning SW and crossing the S of CERAS on 39 , the 4 and C of 45, and

P.T.O.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER 4d (continued)

right and centre ears of wheat on 51, and just reaching Cape Molotov on No.57.

(Later). I find that this line actually starts near Novya Zemlya on stamp 3, heading SSE across the middle ear. It crosses the R of OCRAS on No.9 and the p of 15. It is therefore detectable on, or alongside all ten stamps in the column.

Although centering is not generally good, I have so far seen only one sheet so bad that the guide dots typical of De la Rue escaped removal during perforating.

"UNITED KINGDOM"

Those who share my dislike for the widespread misuse of the term "Great Britain" will be delighted to see that the latest publication of the British Postmark Society is entitled "Current Machine Postmarks of the United Kingdom". At 7/6 it is a valuable compilation, and it could well serve as a model for a work on the machines of Eire.

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

Of much greater interest to us the appearance of Noel J.Langton's Study of the Dublin Postal Handstamps of 1922-62, just published by O.M.Richards, at 10 Esslemont Avenue,Aberdeen, price 3/6. It also is a model which many which many will wish to see followed by similar efforts, for other towns and other types of postal marking.

SLOGANS

One expected that the Freedom from Hunger Campaign slogan would accompany the new stamps, but so far the only slogan I have seen for April is the PREVENT FOREST FIRES, now in its eighth year.

DUBLIN CASTLE postmark

R.M.Willcocks has shaken my theories about the DUBLIN CASTLE marking illustrated in R.N. No.67, by producing a strike date JY 11 10, a year earlier than mine. I obstinately assert that the year is wrong in his, due to a slip when changing the day from 10 to 11.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER 4d

At Easter there is still no sign of Plate 1, but plate 4 has appeared - and is quite interesting. The Guide Dots are not well centred (or else were not followed) and are thus visible with reasonably centred sheets. There are also Guide lines and at least four (!) hair lines like that described above for Plate 2. Details will be given in our next issue of Random Notes.

I.P.C. Random Notes

May 1963 No.69

8d POSTAGE DUE — Two items recently discovered by Miss Wright are the 8d P.D. with upright watermark, which I did not find at Dublin G.P.O. until the end of April

and

AIRMAIL PARCELS EITIQUETTE — a new label for air parcels. The inscription is "PAR AVION / AERPHOST" in white on bright blue, and each label has O.E.7 at lower left. The size is even greater than before, averaging 66x35½mm. Sheet make-up(4x6) is similar, as is roulette.

THE BUDGET — Some time before Budget date (23rd April) we had been warned that there was to be a Sales Tax. Now we know that it is 2½%, on a wide variety of sales and professional fees. What is not yet clear is how the collection will be accomplished, and it is obviously a possibility that there will be adhesive stamps (as in Channel Is.).

Added later. No! It is now apparent that the tax will be levied on total turnover. Each trader is free to work out his system of collecting from his customers.

HEREDITY ? — Until today I thought that my attempts to interest my daughter (now 11) in philately had failed. But when Fr.Brennan and I were poring over some sheets of 4d Freedom from Hunger, scrutinising dots and hairlines, she was looking on. Suddenly she made the comment "They're different colours". And they are, and I had not noticed ! My sheet of plate 4 is perceptibly darker than the others.

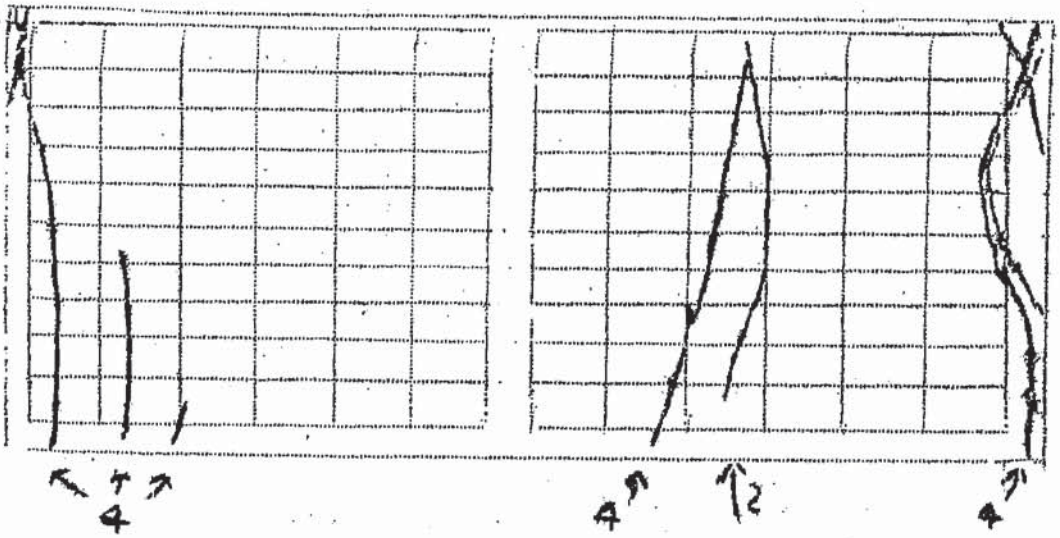
The most prominent of the flaws spotted by Fr. Brennan and confirmed by me are

Plate 1 Pane B,Row 7,No.1. Dot on left edge of left wheatear, (near Spain)
Plate 3 Pane A, Row 7,No.2. Dot near S.Pole vertically above H .
Do. Row 10,No.3. Dot in S.Pacific off Chile.
Plate 3,Pane B,Row 7,No.3. Dot outside right side near lower corner.
Do. Row 10,No.4. Marks at base of middle ear.
Plate 4,Pane B.Row 5,No.6. Line in Atlantic off Brazil.

2D GUTTERS — W.Kane has drawn our attention to a new style guttering between the panes of 2d definitive. The shaded pillars are broken across the centre and there are further interruptions caused by circular white blobs. We have had such blobs before, in the 1939 U.S.A.Constitution issue.

BELFAST SLOGAN — Belfast is using a slogan cancellation to commemorate the 350th anniversary of its Charter. Why ? According to some authorities the 1613 Charter is void !

May 1963 IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE Random Notes Number 69



Not a graph, but a rough indication of the position on the sheets of the hairlines on plates 2 and 4 of the current 4d "Freedom from Hunger" issue. They nearly all need good light and a good lens for identification.



A few Irish hotels have followed a practice commoner on the continent, of handstamping their name on picture postcards sold on the premises. They are of little postal interest in general, and the one sketched here is exceptional because my example (of July 1930) was applied after the postage stamps had been affixed.

ENGLISH POSTMARKS

Another revival of an English name ! On the current 4d Freedom from Hunger I find a movable type 30mm diameter handstamp of which the legible parts are STOWN / RLOW. It is probably HACKETSTOWN (Baile an Droichid) rather than BAGENALSTOWN, which has long been Muine Bheag even on Registration labels.(Yes.HACKETSTOWN confirmed by another copy.)

4d FREEDOM FROM HUNGER

The problems increase in complexity. I have found two used copies with a line similar to that of No. 32 on Pane 2B but further West, running South from Baffin I. as far as the latitude of Gibraltar. The same batch yielded two copies with two lines forming a 7, with apex near Cork and with the long line reaching the wheatear just off Spain. This I should have seen before: it is on both states of 2B, Row 10,No.2. Row 10,No.6 of the pane has two dots, one in the top of the right wheatear and the other below the bottom left corner.

SLOGANS

JUNE FOR YOUR IRISH HOLIDAY is being revived for May,but Sligo has a feebly designed local effort, as announced somewhat prematurely. See R.N.67.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

May-June 1963 Number 70

Random Notes

SPRING SHOW The datestamp used this year is from the same set of movable type as last, judging by the breaks in the rim, but the arrangement reverts to that of 1958-61, with SPRING SHOW DUBLIN round the top. Registration labels are written.

The envelope "sticker" has the badge in orange and inscription in black, the same as in every post-war year except for colour.



Much more attractive is this year's design for the Horse Show, which is presented herewith. The Royal Dublin Society is unfortunately keeping to the policy of having only the one printing with "VISIT OUR STAND"

AIRMAIL ETIQUETTE It was in the Spring Show Post Office I spotted yet another issue. This is in the small size for letters, and differs from the issue reported in R.N.49 by having no hyphen in AERPHOST and by having the O.E.78 much smaller.

10d Definitive. I posted a few letters at the Spring Show, using various combinations to make up the 1/1 rate. One of the 10d I bought shows appreciable clogging, especially in EIRE.

And 8d Definitive. An 8d purchased at the same time is in a paler shade than usual and the dots on the wrist, beloved by students of the old ½d, are represented by only a single minute speck.

4d Freedom From Hunger. The panes on sale at the Show were neatly guillotined down the central gutter although elsewhere the sheets supplied are complete. Unfortunately they had not the pane I was then seeking, 3A. When I found one later in the week it showed what may be one of the most interesting of the issues numerous varieties - one which I had already found on a used copy. The lower left corner stamp shows a definite re-entry, and No.3 of the same row has it less prominently. The place to look are the letters C A T H, which have a fuzzy outline, especially the T which looks like  . There was no trace of this in the first sheets of plate 3 on sale. But another flaw on the same stamp has been present throughout: it is a small dot in the R of EIRE.

U.K. "First Day of Issue. This neat new "slogan" comes into our range of interests because Belfast is one of the places where it was applied on 16 May to the Nature Week issue. Attractively delicate labels but so obviously intended to be collected mint. Any cancellation spoils the appearance.

I.P.C. Random Notes No.70

EXPRESS W.Kane points out that one P.O. form which has not yet appeared inscribed in Irish is No. M.P.459, the pink label for affixing to Express Letters. The current version differs from previous ones by not having the line "(Including .... for Reply)".

IRISH STAMP DESIGNS Yet again there is agitation in various quarters, including the Dail, for a change in the definitive postage stamp issues to something more colourful and attractive. Unfortunately the agitation is mainly from anti-Government sources, which automatically prejudices the Government against the proposals.

A criticism of a former design appeared in the Irish Times (20th May) in an instalment of the Memoirs of Lady Glenavy. She mentions that Sarah Purser (a very gifted artist) was shocked by the portrait of her friend Douglas Hyde on the 1943 Gaelic League commemoratives. She was ringing him up to suggest a protest and have the stamps withdrawn when she had a seizure, which led to her death a few days later.

PARCELS TICKET-STAMPS I do not see many of the parcels stamps nowadays, but it seems that date errors continue. One of machines in Dublin G.P.O. on 25th May had the date as 25.V.62, i.e. a year out.

PARCELS POST CANCELLATION At last I am getting to the bottom of the sack of mainly rubbish bought after the demise of Missions Stamps Ltd. And I still find enough to justify the expenditure of time and energy. Herewith is a tracing of an unusual canceller, applied three times to a piece bearing five 3d Robert Emmet, and therefore probably used in 1953 or 1954. Does any member know of any similar handstamp elsewhere ?

MALLOW

SLOGANS MAKE THE ROAD SAFE around the STOP sign is the revival for the month of June.

Belfast is among the U.K. towns to have the slogan advertising the INTERNATIONAL LIFEBOAT CONFERENCE at Edinburgh.

I cannot say how many of the local slogans are now in use. Tralee had the "FESTIVAL OF KERRY" slogan last month, with better impressions than earlier usage.

1961 Cavan had the year thus with the PREVENT FOREST FIRES slogan on 27th May.

HOLIDAYS The real philatelist keeps going right through the summer, even if his Societies cease to meet. So please keep me informed of any reportable finds, and I'll do my best to maintain the issue of Random Notes month by month.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

July 1963 Number 71

Random Notes

THE SACK Only a few handfuls remain in the sack I have mentioned so often. In a recent handful was a 3d Guinness which was on the brink of the w.p.b.(as being torn) before I noticed that the cancellation is the rarest of modern slogans - MUINTIR NA TIRE RURAL WEEK CARLOW 19TH-26TH AUGUST. The piece shows about $\frac{7}{8}$ of the slogan, much more than the only piece I have seen with it hitherto.

SLOGANS Waterford is supporting the MAKE THE ROADS SAFE campaign, but using the old die introduced 1948 and last seen in 1954 (List No.56).

ANOTHER SPECIAL POSTMARK Although I had heard of it I have only just seen (and not,alas, acquired) an example of the single-circle datestamp of the VICEREGAL LODGE. The example is on a pair of 1/- overprinted stamps, and is dated 4 DE 22, two days before T.M.Healy was sworn in as first Governor-General superseding the long succession of Lords Lieutenant. The post office is one of the mysterious ones, not listed in Post Office Guides. Official correspondence from the Viceregal Lodge, both before and after 1922, was franked and marked "Official Paid" by the ordinary Dublin handstamps for that purpose.

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR 3d Mr.Oman reports a variety of which he has seen several used copies but no mint. It is a break in the outer ring of St.Joseph's hal●, opposite his nose. Can anyone give the sheet position ?

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER 4d Various further reports have been received, but I defer describing them until a thorough summary of them can be accomplished.

FISCAL OVERPRINTS An overprinting which I do not think I have reported before is as shown at right, in bright red on a 2d Cardinal Newman of 1954. The firm are well known brewers. They have long used the practice and I have a 1d Edward VII overprinted sideways in black italic type.

Receipt
Beamish & Crawford Ltd. Cork

Received for Beamish and Crawford Ltd.
£_____

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S IRISH VISIT Although the preparations for the four day visit at the end of June included numerous telephone lines , I know of only one temporary post office. It was at Dublin Airport. I was away on holiday, but a colleague posted me a letter in the office, and

P.T.O.

(continued from overleaf)

I was disappointed that it bore no evidence of any special posting, there being no cachet and only a normal Dublin machine cancellation. This was evidence that the office did speed up mails. Letters posted normally at the Airport are collected and dealt with in the village office at Cloghran.

NEW BOOKLET Issue No.44 has appeared recently, similar in contents and make-up to No.43. The only differences I can see are that 44-63 are in the very small type last used on 38-56 and the solidus (/) is longer and fatter than before.

IRISH WHITE CROSS I find that the Irish White Cross, founded in 1920 to relieve distress caused by the "Black and Tans", had a subsidiary which survived until 1935. It was the Children's Relief Association and it distributed over £150,000 to assist in the maintenance and welfare of over 1100 children. There is no evidence that the "stamps" were sold after the initial period 1920-1922.

H.S.KENNEDY, alias Paul C.Higgs, head of the defunct Mission Stamps firm, who fled to England to escape arrest, is now doing five months there for obtaining credit without disclosing that he was an undischarged bankrupt. It will be interesting to see whether he is handed over to the Irish authorities when he has served the sentence. The sack I bought when his firm's assets were sold is at last empty, my final finds therein being numismatic ones - an 1826 ½d and an 1894 groat of British Guiana !

HELICOPTER MAIL The new number of the Cinderella Philatelist illustrates a 1d Irish overprinted "FIRST HELICOPTER MAIL 1957" seen also on other low values. Does anyone know the culprit, or whether there was any corresponding helicopter flight ?

SPECIAL EVENT POSTMARKS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM is the title of a new book by Mr G.R.Pearson and it is very good value at 9/-. Consistent with the title, there are no Eire items later than the 1917-18 Irish Convention.

NEW BOOKLET ERROR. N.Langton reports a copy of the booklet with inscription on back cover inverted !

NEW DUBLIN MACHINE ? The H machine is now using seven continuous bars instead of the interrupted Universal.

NEW SLOGAN It is hoped that this will bring you a slogan due on 1st August "A FULL ADDRESS SPEEDS DELIVERY".

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

August 1963 Number 72

Random Notes

NEW SLOGAN "A Full Address Speeds Delivery" is an excellent design but, judging by the first examples I received, you are unlikely to have got satisfactory examples with the "Random Notes" No.71.

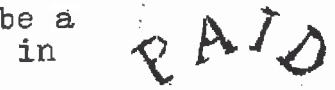
CANCELLATION ERRORS On 16 May Dublin used the OFFICIAL PAID die with code C (I think that is more correct than saying machine C) in black on ordinary letters.

On 19 June Drogheda had the date above the time (4 30PM) on its machine.

M.P.87. is the identifier of the Irish Post Office's form of advice of delivery of an inland registered packet. The form is a reply post card, posted by the P.O. to the Postmaster at the town of delivery. He completes the particulars, folds the card the other way, and sends it to the poster of the registered packet. An interesting point about the one before me is that it was returned from Oxford to Dublin without postage being paid. Another point is that the fee for the service is still only 3d, and has I think remained at that for 40 years !

HORSE SHOW The cancellation is similar to that of 1961 & 62, the 31mm diameter "skeleton" with "HORSE SHOW"at top and "DUBLIN" at foot. There are minor differences: 63 is from a very small fount and the B and N in DUBLIN are smaller than last year. Registration label is again inscribed by pen.

A PAID Discovery. Some of us are busy preparing various things for the delectation of the Postal History Society next month. While remounting some pages for the Exhibition in the Dublin G.P.O. I found a faint mark on a cover in my possession for over 20 years. Close inspection reveals it to be a PAID stamp of Letterkenny, used in 1832 and differing from all the other Irish variants.



FISCALS Not all the avenues explored in connection with the Exhibition have led anywhere, but one brought me into the Stamping Branch in Dublin Castle. They have nothing suitable for present requirements but what I was shown included three charred volumes recovered from the ruins of the Custom House. They contain impressions of embossed revenue stamps of the 1860s to 1890s - with face values up to £1500. I hope later to find time to study them in detail and report the findings.

Most of you would have been more interested in listening to the reminiscences of a member of the staff who took up duty there on 6th December 1922 and vividly remembers the difficulties emcountered with the first definitive postage stamps.

I.P.C. Random Notes No.72

DOG LICENSE (Yes the S is correct according to the stamps.) Will the Irish wolfhound reach its century ? The design was introduced 1865 (Die Proof date) and the latest example I have seen, overprinted NORTHERN IRELAND, is of March 1956. Can anyone confirm that it is still current ?

OVERPRINTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE Lists of known overprinted non-postal stamps (notably that by J.J.Walsh) include 8½d Unemployment Insurance. Now I find that there are two . The earlier is a provisional, the value being in black on red printing of the ship design with corner panels void. On this the overprint differs from that on other stamps. It reads RIALTAS SEALADAC NA hEIREANN in four lines but the wide space (6mm) is between the 2nd and 3rd instead of 1st and 2nd as is normal in this fiscal overprint The later 2½d is the definitive design in orange with value in figures at centre and in words at foot. My example of this has the three line SAORSTAT EIREANN 1922.

PAID AT CAVAN Those of you interested in such minutiae, as first and last dates may like to amend the list entry for the "PAID AT CAVAN" to 24 January 1840. It is probably almost or quite the earliest date as similar letters a few days earlier bore only pen-written markings.

I.P.C. MEETINGS It is hoped to hold a meeting of the Irish Sector of the Circle in Dublin on 23rd September, and members visiting Ireland for the Postal History Society Conference will be expected to stay the extra day so that they can attend the meeting. Details will be announced later.

The Annual General Meeting of the Circle is planned for 30th November, at the Irish Club in London.

OBITUARY You will be sorry to hear of the death of N.Dobbs after a long struggle with ill health. He has been enthusiastic and hard working in the interests of Irish philately. especially as Secretary of the Irish Philatelic Society.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER 4d I find that supplies are still obtainable from the Philatelic Counter at the Dublin G.P.O. and hope that some of you will stock up with mint sheets to help in the study of the fascinating dots and scratches. I cannot at present devote much time to this study, but in one batch of several hundred used found that about one in twelve was worth an second look for its flaws.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

September 1963 Number 73

Random Notes

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH cancellers — Sales of N.J.Langton's book have been very disappointing. Those who have invested in it may like to make the following amendments, all reported by O.M.Richards:

Type G.11. Add No.29 (seen on St.Pat. f.d.c.)
Chap.10.Para.3,line 1. For 1928 read 1924.
" No.13 exists in type P.B.8.

BIBLIOGRAPHY — Those maintaining a comprehensive bibliography of Irish Postal History will need to note "Anthony Trollope and the Irish Post Office", by P.J.Meghen in the magazine "Administration" (journal of Public Administration of Ireland) Vol.XI,No.2. It is a competent summary from sound sources, but adds nothing to the information in the stock Lives.

1935 HIGH VALUES — "Fyndem"has tipped the overprints on the Waterlow 2/6, 5/- and 10/-, asserting that they are now wanted in Ireland. I am sceptical and would advise speculators to prefer the Air Mail set, Thomas Moore, Marian Near and St.Patricks. However, as I've heard Dr Paul Singer say, any publicity is better than none. and mention of any Irish stamp issue in the magazines is welcome.

DUBLIN DISTRICT NOS. — The Minister of Posts & Telegraphs cannot like some of the publicity he is receiving, especially that relating to the mishandling of the sub-postmasters. And a newspaper columnist relates that one missive,delivered with the handstamped endorsement requesting the sender to be notified of the addressee's District Number, was from the Minister's underlings in his Telephone Branch !

IRISH TELEVISION — Still on the theme of publicity, I must report that the press in general has given reasonable space to the announcements of the Postal History Society's Conference, and associated Exhibition. And I had the honour of demonstrating a few of my early letter weighers before the television cameras, as part of the advertising of the Exhibition.

1963 EUROPA — The quality of engraving is not as good as it ought to be, the lines being much coarser than in the artist's drawing depicted in the publicity photo. On the 6d there is a serious weakness of the top frame line at right whereas on 1/3 top line projects very slightly to the left. Guide dots are lower than usual.

P.T.O.

I.P.C. Random Notes

Sept.1963 No.73

EUROPA (continued) The first plate variety seen is an apparent re-entry of 1/3, pane 1B,Row 9, No.2. It shows best in the doubling of the background mesh, especially at upper left.

POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITION Thanks very largely to the efforts of some G.P.O. staff,we were able to put on quite an attractive display which attracted some 100s of visitors. I was struck by the number of G.P.O. men who dropped in and became genuinely interested. There was delay in servicing the 1000s of items posted to receive the special cancellation, as it was not well designed for speedy application. (partly my fault)

POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY CONFERENCE This is not the place to report the Conference proceedings, but I must mention the souvenir cards produced for it, especially that with reproductions of Kingstown and Dun Laoghaire markings, 500 of which were sold with 4d. impressed stamps. These are a must for collectors of postal stationery who are advised to seek the examples in very deep green, I think doubly struck.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER The Freedom from Hunger stamps are no longer on sale, the last sales from the philatelic counter being on 21st September. For some weeks the only 4d sheets on sale there were from Pane 2.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS "MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON THE NEW VOTERS LISTS" reappeared on or about 16th September.

So far I have not seen any unofficial slogan inspired by the subpostmasters' strike, like the 1951 "BALTINGLASS DEMANDS CLEAN ADMINISTRATION."

I have seen an unofficial slogan stamped on an envelope from Tipperary, posted 6.VIII.63. This is not communistic propaganda, but linked with the praiseworthy Muintir na Tire organisation, which has used official slogans .

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT !
GACH POBAL INA MHUINTIR
EVERY PARISH A COMMUNITY

FENIAN STAMPS My talks with visitors to the Dublin Postal History Exhibition were interesting, but yielded little fresh information. One item is worth following up if possible, a statement that the Fenian "essays" were produced in Chicago, and that the main stock was destroyed in the great fire. However the interval between the issuing (1864?) and the fire (1871) should have been sufficient for the distribution of appreciable quantities.

J. C. Duncan

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

October 1963 Random Notes Number 74

REDIRECTION &c In my note in the August Journal it was surmised that other towns would be found to have used stamps of similar types. I find that what I have long regarded as an illegible town mark is a rather blurred impression of

Missent from
to Armagh

of 1846, similar to T.E.Field's example for Newry.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS "Teach your children to clean their teeth" has replaced the Voters' List reminder.

From 22nd to 25th October there will be an important Scientific and Technical Exhibition in the Royal Dublin Society premises at Ballsbridge. At a special office (not the temporary office used at Spring and Horse Shows) a slogan die will be in use, incorporating the Lamp of Learning and the words "Royal Dublin Society SCIENCE EXHIBITION October 22 to 25 1963". It is not yet clear whether this will be a handstamped cachet or a machine cancellation, but it is hoped to post this issue of Random Notes there so that you will see for yourself.

DESIGN COMMITTEE On 3nd October it was announced that the Minister for Posts & Telegraphs has set up a committee to advise him regarding new designs for definitive stamp series and special commemoratives. Most of the members are distinguished artists, but there are two representatives of the world of philately. One is Mr Robson Lowe and the other is Mr J.A.Scannell, Assistant Secretary of the Department, and an enthusiastic collector of Portugal and of Australia George V. He has long been a member of the Irish Philatelic Society.

When modern collectors deplore the long-lived Irish definitive designs they should be reminded of the part played by philatelists in 1922. The then members of the I.P.S. were invited to inspect the hundreds of essays submitted and to vote for their choice. Admittedly it is not known how much weight was given to their opinions. Some of those essays have never since been seen by outsiders.

CANCELLING MACHINE ERRORS. Navan is one of the offices without the Clean Teeth slogan. On 7th October it was using its continuous bars in conjunction with an inverted name+date circle.

P.T.O.

I.P.C. Random Notes

October 1963 No.74

PILLAR BOXES One cannot collect Pillar Boxes, or certainly not full-size ones, but an interesting collection could be assembled by photographing examples of the different types and periods. Photographs of Dublin boxes taken now will differ from any taken earlier as each now bears a neat stencil stating the District Number.



This insignificant initial is the most important Irish stamp discovery for some time. It is on a letter of 1669 from Dublin to Killybegs, in the period before Dublin had its bishop-mark. It is obviously comparable with the 1668 W on letters in the National Library. The W might represent Warburton, Deputy Post Master in Ireland and the D = Dowling who was managing the Dublin Post Office a few years later.

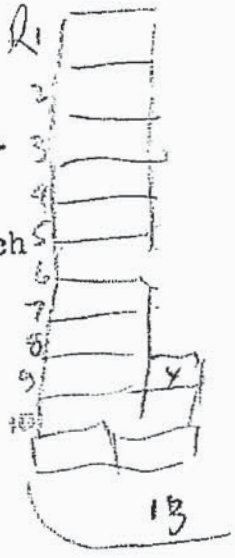
A follow-up letter a few days later had no handstruck stamp, only the MS charge-mark, and several other letters of the cofrespondence seem to have been consigned by private carriers.

FISCALS The same sack of solicitors' waste paper had a few interesting documents. One of 1800 bore an embossed stamp for 11/3 which does not seem to have been recorded hitherto.

SLOGANS Limerick has revived the GRAND OPERA FESTIVAL slogan which it introduced last autumn.

FIELD POST OFFICE 202 In 1937 Col.Crouch wrote articles for the "Philatelic Adviser" on various Army Post Offices and mentioned F.P.O.202 as one of those operating in Ireland 1921-22, but it was the only one for which he could give no location. Has anyone found it out since ?

O.A.P.B. Dr R.P.Towers of Dublin has in his collection a block of four 2/6 Castle overprint, cancelled at Kinsale in 1934 but also bearing a rubber-stamped O.A.P.B. reading vertically. It seems likely that the block had been used as a means of paying an Old Age pension and after cashing had been sent to the Old Age Pensions Board.



1/3 1963 EUROPA Fr.Brennan reports further varieties to look for. The re-entry prominent on 1B Row 9, No.2 has less well marked co-panions at Row 9 No.4 and Row 3 No.6. On Pane 1A the bottom right corner stamp has a line extending down from the lower left corner. He has been no more successful than I in finding flaws on the 6d.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

October-November 1963

Random Notes

Number 75

BAILE ATHA CLIATH

Numbers 21 and 58 have now been reported for Langton's classification type G.3 .

P.& T. Forms

A little used official form is that bearing reference number "T.91." It is a small pink label with the single word "URGENT" and is applied to some telegrams.

SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL EXHIBITION

I watched the machine-cancelling of the batch of Random Notes No.74, the 70+ flicking through in about ¼ minute. Items too large or too thick for the machine received a 30mm skeleton handstamp reading "SCIENCE EXHIBITION / DUBLIN". This was also available on request for ordinary mail, and for registered letters. The labels on the latter were pen written.

The commonest form of the machine-marking will be on cards presented to all comers for them to address to themselves.

VANDALISM

A malpractice of which many have been guilty in their youth is despoiling an album of picture postcards of their stamps. A sad example lies before me. It is a colourful card of the White Star "Oceanic" written on board, put ashore in New York (PAQUEBOT / (N.Y. 2D DIV.)) and sent to Dublin. The stamp has gone but some of the cancellation remains, sufficient to suggest a double circle type with doubled arcs, the number 55 at foot and part of the first letter of the name, probably a D. Almost certainly this was DUBLIN:and 55 of that numbered series is one of the rarest. Can it be that it was reserved for this special job? One surmises that the stamp was a 1d U.K. and therefore left uncancelled in New York. Has anyone anything comparable ? I have a 1913 New York Paquebot with Geo.V 1d, and in this case the stamp was certainly left uncancelled until it reached Dublin, but the number is 38.

P.S. I see I've omitted the important data of the date. The despoiled card was written on Oct.30th 1902.

RED CROSS STAMPS

The surprise in the announcement of the Irish Red Cross Centenary issue (4d,1/3, due 2nd December) is that the printing will be "by the photogravure process", and multicolour.

I.P.C. Random Notes

Oct.-Nov. 1963 No.75

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS — The Road Safety campaign has been resumed for the month of November.

STAMP DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE — The Committee met for the first time on 11th November and the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs told the members that their primary task would be to seek and recommend new designs for the ordinary permanent series.

Probably the most interesting point in his speech was the disclosure that the Stamping Branch in Dublin Castle will be acquiring "within the next year or so" new and modern printing equipment. One can only infer that it will be one of the variants of photogravure and capable of printing in several colours.

The Irish Times made a bad slip in its leader devoted to the occasion. It asserted that there has never been a bicolour stamp here. What about the 2½d green and yellow commemorative of 1941 and a host of revenue stamps from the 1850s onwards ? I think that the earliest were the "ADMIRALTY / IRELAND" pink and green.



No, it is not any special marking, just a typical Dublin killer of the late 1840s. The noteworthy thing is that I have found an example "cancelling" a Paid handstamp. It seems that the clerk at first treated the letter as being prepaid in cash. When he discovered the Penny Red he picked up the 186 stamp and used it to obliterate the "label" as well as to cancel the misapplied "stamp". On reverse he then added the correct datestamp for SE 18 1847.

I.P.C. and E.P.A. — My position in the continuing groping for ideas to bring the I.P.C. and E.P.A. into closer liaison is being complicated. The E.P.A. have honoured me (and thereby the other enthusiasts in this part of the world) by electing me to their Presidency. This should assist in cementing the friendships, and I am confident we shall find a "formula" which will benefit both organisations.

EMBROIDERED SILK POSTCARDS — The World War I postcards in silk are very popular among collectors. They include some of Irish interest. One has the badge of the Irish Guards and another the map of the country and the motto "My heart is in Irland" (sic).

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

December 1963 Number 76

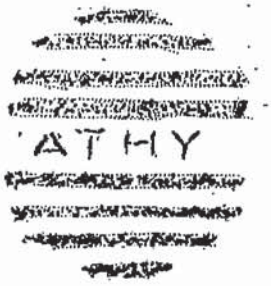
Random Notes

CHRISTMAS SEALS The first on sale are from the Rehabilitation Association. They are reprints from last year's plates (or unsold remainders) differing only in the covers of the books, which show the price in red instead of blue, and bear the imprint "The Three Candles Ltd. Dublin". Last year there was no imprint.

BAILE DOMHNAILL RUADH Did anyone think of the possibilities of posting their 2nd December First Day Covers at this little village in Co.Wicklow ? Because the usual name for the place is Redcross. Nowadays it seems to be one word but 40 years ago the cancellation read RED CROSS.

AN CHROIS DHEARG is the wording on the stamps, in awkward Roman type instead of the graceful Gaelic. The multicolour experiment is a calamitous failure, the green being much too bright and the grey much too feeble. The merits of the basic design are quite lost in the violent colour contrasts and attention is distracted by the vast area of solid background. These will join the lamentably large number of Irish stamps to be shown to designers as examples of what not to do.

Even the sheet make-up is objectionable, 20 rows of 6. This is oversize for even the largest standard albums, which can just take a pane of 60. The firsts sheets of 4d that I saw had serial numbers in the right margin and "traffic lights" for colour registration at bottom left. The 1/3 appears to have neither.



Two years ago the Journal, then the I.P.S.G. Journal, had notes by Dr de Burca on undated Parcels Post stamps. Illustrated here is a variant of his type A, rather larger than the usual and without enclosing circle. This, from Athy, is on a strip of Q.V. 1d purple. I have a partial strike of what seems to be the same sub-type from Roscrea.

POSTAGE DUE J.Keenan reports the 1½d Postage Due with inverted watermark. This stamp is due for withdrawal, I think.

He also has a complete pane of 6d in a very deep shade, possibly best described as mulberry.

P.T.O.

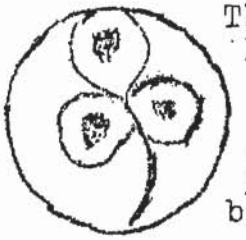
DEFINITIVES — Mr Keenan adds another to the values known with watermark inverted, the 6d, wmk e. His example is a block of four used in 1961. This is a difficult stamp for watermark appraisal. The method I use is strong side-lighting of the back of the stamp.

RED CROSS STAMPS — Since typing the para. overleaf I have seen a few more sheets. The 4d all have the serial numbers but it can be in either margin, opposite the 10th row. The perforations extend one hole into each margin. On the 1/3 the holes are larger and the perforations cross one margin but the other is completely imperf. I have seen a few small stray spots of colour, but nothing that looks promising. A counter-clerk in Dublin G.P.O. thought he had found a variety, but it was only the result of rubbing: the paper is what we were brought up to call "chalky-surfaced" (easily proved with a silver coin) and very easily damaged.

POSTAGE STAMP DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE — Two days after the Red Crosses appeared the newspapers carried an invitation from the Committee. They will welcome suggestions and ideas for a new series of postage stamps. Any that you can offer should be sent to the Secretary, Room 281, G.P.O. Dublin.

RED CROSS VARIETIES — Our two clerics, Rev.J.Brennan and Rev.M. Noonan, have both reported a red line across stamps 4 and 5 of Row 12 in the 4d value and naturally we are watching for the appearance of copies from other areas.

SLOGANS — The POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS slogan came into use about 9th December. The card dropped into letterboxes to help the campaign is quite neat. It shows a well-laden Christmas tree and the message "Make Sure the gift you send is on the Tree" ..... "Happy Christmas from the G.P.O.".



The latest addition to my Shamrock collection. It is Canadian and effectively obliterates ad Ed.VII 2c on a postcard published in Vancouver. Can any knowledgeable member inform me at what town or village it was employed ? I know of places called Shamrock in the U.S.A. but my books list none in Canada.

CHRISTMAS SEALS — The Marie Curie Memorial Foundation is selling seals in Ireland this year, but they seem to be unsold remainders of those used in U.K. last year.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

January 1964 Number 77

Random Notes

SLOGANS In Dublin the POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS dies were withdrawn on 20th December and "PLEASE SHEW DISTRICT NUMBERS .." was substituted. Next day, however, some of the machines carried instead the slogan STOP / MAKE THE ROAD SAFE"

ERRORS The only error that I noticed during the Christmas rush was Dublin machine E with bars showing year above date and no time.

RED CROSS STAMPS Still no more striking flaws to report. The colours show considerable variation. The registering of the colours is not perfect but I have still not seen anything bad enough to arouse enthusiasm among such "eccentric collectors" as pay more for the defective article than for the normal.

PRINCIPALITY OF THOMOND It is now nearly three years since the scandalous issue of the bogus labels, which led to prosecution. Inevitably they have some interest and it is noteworthy that they have recently been on offer, wholesale, in London at a small fraction of their face value. But do not quote me as recommending anyone to lay in a stock. To buy or sell them, at any price, would incur the risk of prosecution.

DISHONEST POSTMAN R.M.Willcocks should have some interesting covers for his collection after his unfortunate experience. Correspondence sent to him between about 20 December 1963 and 3 January is among items discovered in the house of a postman. If you wrote to him during that period, write again in case your letter had been destroyed.

Misadventures happen here too. An envelope addressed to my daughter was delivered recently, open and without contents. So far we have not been able to ascertain the sender - who is probably perturbed at the lack of acknowledgement.

P.T.O.

I.P.C. Random Notes

January 1964 No.77



Covers bearing proof of the interpretations of the code letters in triangular cancellations are quite hard to find. I was given a nice one for Cobh. Apparently the KOV plug had been in the machine for cancelling a batch of printed matter. And when he had finished the operator forgot to change back to the circular die with name and date. When the error was spotted the erroneously cancelled envelopes were given a further cancellation, the circular handstamp COBH 1,7.15PM, 2 I, 64, being applied on the triangle.

THOMOND AGAIN

I find that the full facts of the "Principality" are not as widely known as they should be, and Mr Hopson has supplied me with a particularly misleading report which appeared in a French Journal. This alleges that Thomond has an area of 3000 square kilometres, a population of 30,000, and is a constitutional monarchy, but subject to the laws of England ! The facts are that Thomond lost its independence about 500 years ago and modern maps do not even mention the name. That name does survive, however, as that of a bridge in Limerick. One of the O'Briens, a descendant of the ancient kings, with a written pedigree all the way back to Adam (!), claims royal privileges and the little lodging house he keeps in Dublin has a beautiful brass plate describing it as the Dalcassian Consulate. Dalcassia is I think a more ancient name than Thomond, and as insignificant today. In Dublin he is regarded as a harmless eccentric. Three years ago he was exploited by Americans who used his pretensions to justify the printing of the set of gaudy labels. Very foolishly, some were passed through the post, and that enabled the Irish authorities to prosecute and to sieze the stock held by "Prince" O'Brien. He was bound over for three years and fined £10.

The labels comprise a set of 12 designs and exist in three versions - normal, overprinted EUROPA 1961, and in miniature sheets.

1949 REPUBLIC 3d

The best evidence that a variety was present from the start of an issue is to have it on f.d.c. It is only now I've acquired that evidence for the flaw at No.1 of the sheet: a dot above and to right of the left chimney-stack.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

February 1964 Random Notes Number 78

UNLISTED POST OFFICES

Postmark collectors can usually identify the offices with the aid of the Post Office Guide, but there are occasional difficulties, such as changes of spelling, and, more rarely, the absence of the name from the lists. One such case is Whitehall District Office, Irished as FIONN-BHRUGH O.C. ATH CLIATH, seen on registered letters. It is only a distribution centre and so does not qualify for listing as a public post office.

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

Year by year the Post Offices insist more and more on the need for early posting. Thanks to Ballinasloe, Ireland can now claim a record in this direction. That town was using the slogan cancellation POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS on 1st January 1964 !

OTHER MACHINE NEWS

At least two offices suffered delays in the delivery of their "1964" dies. Both Ballina and Carlow started the New Year with no year indicator on their machines.

Limerick has a new set of seven continuous bars in place of the 5 irregularly spaced ones, and more sinuous than the seven used from about 1920. Cork has a similar new set.

I don't think that I reported another new set of bars, introduced some time last year, only six in number, and joined by a bar at one end.





ÍOCTNA

Although the last new machine for use with items prepaid in cash (See R.N.58,59) had "IOCTHA" for "PAID", the Dublin machines have normally continued the English version. But I have now seen an example of the Irish from the K machine.

Finally (under this heading) we must announce the year's first new slogan, a pictorial one for Bray, inaugurated 1st Feb.

THOMOND LABELS

The "Cinderella Philatelist" for January mentioned that the Thomond Series has appeared in yet another guise - overprinted "Rockets for Peace".

POSTAL STATIONERY

Again an issue has sneaked out without any advice to collectors. The long-awaited 4d Letter-card, blue-green on pale cream, with the letter-press as before (except for value). I'll be interested to hear of early examples used, as I suspect that it may have appeared as long ago as the end of 1963.

DESIGN COMMITTEE

You will like to know that the Committee is meeting and is receiving assistance from at least one I.P.C. member (not the writer of these notes)

ANOTHER SLOGAN — Bray was not the only Irish town to launch a publicity slogan on 1st February. Enniskillen is using a rather feeble design with the legend "VISIT FERMANAGH / ULSTER LAKELAND".

RED CROSS 4d — Although no major flaw or misprint has yet been seen searchers' patience is being rewarded. On a few sheets the right margin is wider than usual and includes the tops of cylinder identifiers, such as apparently "G 1 GREY R2 RED" in the appropriate colours.

"BOMB" COVERS — On 3rd February Sandymount, Dublin, was disturbed by a big bang , caused by the detonation of a bomb in a wall Letter-Box. The door was shattered and letters scattered. It is not yet known whether the damaged envelopes were given any special endorsement to explain what had happened.

WHAT'S IN A NAME ? — John F.Kennedy will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the truly good men. Meanwhile another Kennedy, Herbert of "Mission Stamps" notoriety, proceeds from jail to jail. His latest sentence in England is for 3½ years so the Irish authorities must wait until 1967 before executing their warrant.

THE FIRST FREE STATE OVERPRINT ? — I am at present sorting some fiscals, which are yielding impressive pieces like a block of nine £1 (Registration of Deeds Ed.VII).The most interesting find is a cut-out 6d embossed Supreme Court of Judicature, die Z Shamrock, dated 14.12.21, and therefore possibly not "used" until after the setting up of the Provisional Government (16.1.22). This would explaiin its having been overprinted in black SOUTHERN IRELAND.

SLOGAN NEWS — Early in February Dublin reverted to PLEASE SHEW DISTRICT NUMBERS IN DUBLIN ADDRESSES and on 10th the slogan was inverted on the I machine.

Such few provincial covers as have come my way suggest that no slogans are current there (except Bray) only wavy bars. Galway has the absurdity of the bars to left and the name-and-date circle on the stamp.

DOG LICENSE — R.N. 72 included a request for information. I can now confirm that the 4/- Wolfhound <u>is</u> still current, in its 99th year.

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Ireland

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Random Notes

March 1964 Number 79

IRISH ADDRESSED "PAR BALLONS MONTÉS" Airmail covers often seem to be valued by the smallness of the number consigned to a particular destination, rather than the total number on the flight. Is this true of letters flown out of Paris when it was beseiged by the Prussians in 1870-71 ? If so, those sent to Ireland must be very valuable ! How many do you know of ? I have just obtained two, sent by different balloons. One reached Dublin in seven days; the other in only four, the arrival dates being supplied by H&K PACT. datestamps.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES There was a slip in Random Notes No.65. The 1, F size envelope differed from its predecessor by the absence of brackets around "This space .. ..Label" and "REGISTERED LETTER". What has drawn my attention to this is that the same modification has now been made on the G size envelope as well. Inspection of what I thought were duplicates reveals that the modified G appeared as long ago as March 1963. The situation regarding the K size is just the reverse. The first of the K 1/1 had the brackets but they reappear on one used this month.

Regarding the fourth size,H, I have seen very few, none of which has the brackets.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS "JUNE for your IRISH HOLIDAY" came into use in Dublin early in the month of March. Cork is once more advertising the International Choral Festival.

WAVY BARS In R.N.78 it was mentioned that Limerick has a new set of seven bars, but I can now add that the irregular quintet has not been scrapped and have reappeared.

LONG-LIVED FISCALS Where are George V stamps still current ? In Northern Ireland ! . Their 6d Petty Sessions is still the same as in 1922. With the rise in cost of litigation as well as everything else there is now little use for the lowest value.

When the N.I. series started it was the high value (2/6) which was least used and there were still stocks of Edward VII to be used up.

The Elizabeth series comprises 1/- red+black, 1/- green(shades)+black, 2/6 green+red, and 5/- purple+red. The second colour is that of the "PETTY SESSIONS/NORTHERN IRELAND" on the tablet at foot .

P.T.O.

WOLFE TONE There is something of a mystery about the new issue announced for 13th April, honouring the memory of the Irish patriot Wolfe Tone. The bi-centenary of his birth was last year, and I believe that the suggestion of commemorative stamps was then rejected on the grounds that the 1948 issue was enough. However, pressure was brought to bear and the decision was changed, but a year late.

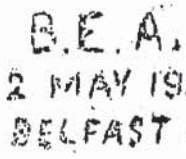
RED CROSS Both 4d and 1/3 are now withdrawn from general issue and are obtainable only from the philatelic counter at Dublin G.P.O.

My apologies to you all for a mistake in R.N. 78. The letters in the marginal inscription are C, nor G and R.

SAINT ANDREW'S STREET P.O. I am surprised to find that the numbers in the counter-stamps used at St.Andrew's St. cancelling registered letters and parcels, on licences, etc. go as far as 22. How many have you seen ?

H.G.L.Fletcher deserves congratulations in two directions. Firstly for the unprecedently thorough treatment of the 1922 Irish Essays in the "Stamp Magazine" and secondly for achieving mention in the "Readers' Digest" for his colossal accumulation of forgeries !

POSTAL AUCTIONS are becoming increasingly popular as an activity of societies and study circles. They provide a means of selling items unsuitable for an Exchange Packet; and the system eliminates the chance element so important to the early receipients of a Packet. And it eliminates delays and heavy postal charges. Some of the Irish area members are planning an experimental auction. Watch out for details and meanwhile be putting together lots that you would like to offer if it is decided to repeat the experiment.



My illustration is of a cancellation found on U.K. stamps, on letters flown to Belfast from London by British European Airways, to be posted on arrival - like the Railway Letter system. The B.E.A. labels on the letters were uncancelled, in most cases.

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IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Random Notes

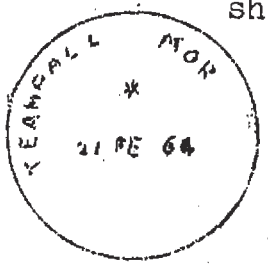
April 1964 Number 80

MISSING YEAR — As late as 9 March Ballina was still using its machine canceller without the year in its date.

PENNY POST — I have never liked the description "postal historian", which seems to describe someone learning history by a correspondence course. I see the description applied to my good friend Frank Staff in the publicity for his book "The Penny Post" (Lutterworth Press, 30/-) due to appear on 10th April. My copy has not come but I am confident in recommending it as a readable and comprehensive presentation of the whole story from 1680 to 1918. He has warned me that Ireland plays only a small part in the story, and the book is not designed to be an account of the postmarks. However, there are 23 half-tone plates and 38 other illustrations.

LIMERICK MACHINES — The explanation of the two types of bars at Limerick seems to be that there are now two machines, the new one having A between arcs in the name-and-date circle.

The earliest example I have seen of this is 3-III, and is notable for the time of the despatch, allegedly 23 PM. The most likely explanation of this is that it should have read 3-PM / 23-III.



Templemore, which was without a post office for some time last year, has one again, which was using, in February, a "skeleton" with the words rather skew.

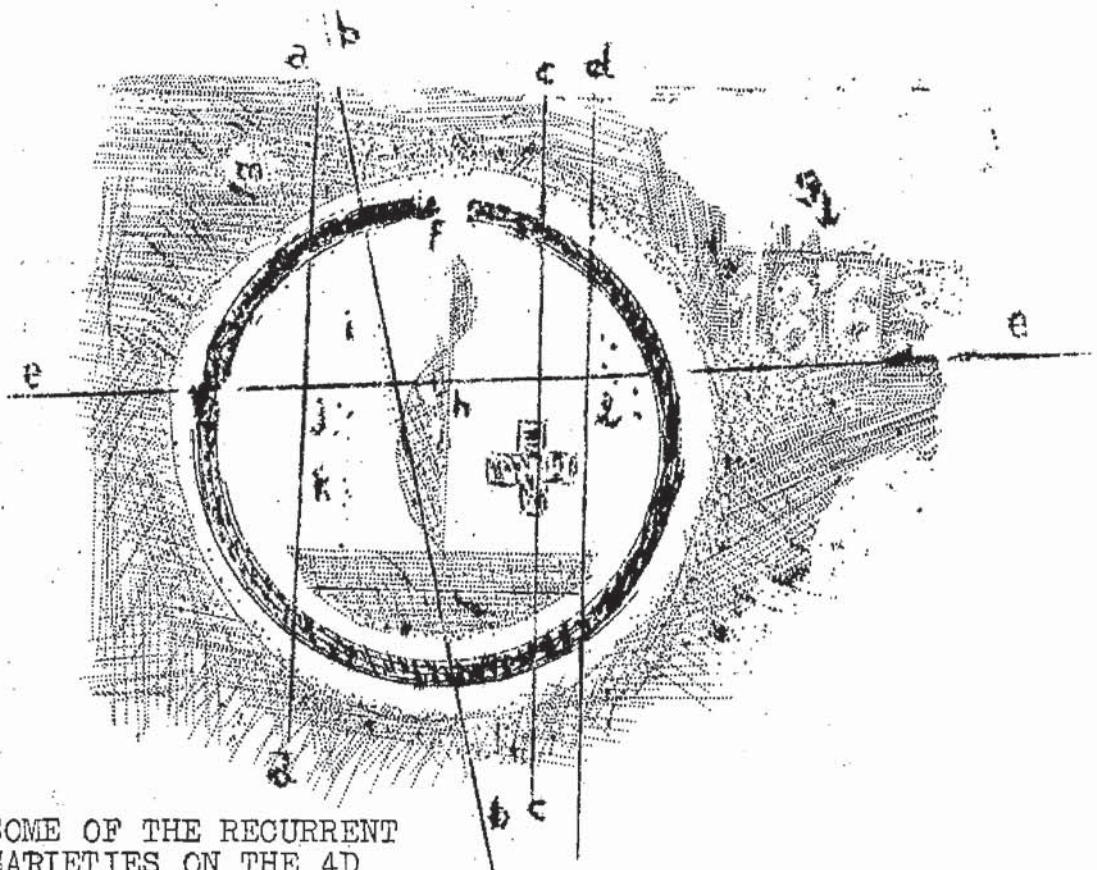


A small bundle presented to me by an English friend includes another cancellation which I think I am right in classifying as hitherto unrecorded. It is of CORK BARRACKS MILITARY TELEGRAPH OFFICE and is cancelling a 1d Ed.VII ARMY OFFICIAL. Incidentally that stamp used in Ireland is very much scarcer than the Q.Vic. issue.

APRIL SLOGAN — I forgot to mention that the towns not urging the attractions of their respective localities are now using PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

DON'T BUY Irish, or anything else, except from reliable vendors. We are very sorry to learn of the losses by theft from our member R.D.Bansdale. If you see on offer anything liable to have been his, let him or the police know at once. (See short list in Stamp Collecting April 3rd.)

P.S. The Penny Post book has arrived, and comes up to expectations. If you don't buy it yourself urge your local library to do so.



SOME OF THE RECURRENT VARIETIES ON THE 4D RED CROSS

(a) Red line continuing on to stamp below where it appears a little further right.
(b) (c) (d) (e) red lines. (e) is on Row 12, No.5 and continues into No.4.
(f) Weak spot in circle.
(g) White dot above 86.
(h) White dots on lamp. Row 12, No.6.
(i) Line of double red dots.
(j) Two red dots with grey accompaniments.
(k) Dotted red line. Row 20, No.3.
(l) Red dots.
(m) Weakening of grey background.

KILKENNY SLOGAN — On 1st April Kilkenny introduced a machine cancellation with a vague symbol like a smoking chimney, plus the words "KILKENNY BEER FESTIVAL MAY 10-17,1964". Actually the symbol is possibly a beer barrel with a banner streaming .

On 8th April it transposed the dies.

LANGUAGE — Practically all the Irish Government Departments and associated offices now use franking rubber stamps inscribed in Irish, or in both Irish and English. One exception is the office of the DIRECTOR OF DTAMPING, REVENUE COMMISSIONERS, DUBLIN CASTLE, which has an all-English stamp !

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

April-May 1964 Number 81

Random Notes

Indexing. I really must prepare a detailed index for the Random Notes. One reason for doing so is to prevent unnecessary repetition. N.Langton has shown me an interesting case of compulsory registration, with the explanatory label M.P.504., and I was about to write a lengthy paragraph on the subject. Then my memory woke up: the text of that label was given in full in R.N. No.43 (Dec.1960).

SHAKESPEARE It seems definite that Ireland will not commemorate the 400th anniversary. Understandably in view of Shakespeare's poor opinion of the Irish "..uncivil kernes from Ireland are in arms.." And the Irish P.O. is presumably included in York's criticism "What! are there no posts dispatch'd for Ireland ?"

Even the Irish Stratford-on-Slaney has nothing to do with S.-on-Avon it being christened with the family name of the founder.

IRISH BUDGET The Minister of Finance, in his Budget speech, disclosed that the postal services had to provide him with another £2m. and that details would appear later, presumably hoping to spread the shock over a period. However, he was got at that evening and at 11.30p.m. the Dept. of P. & T. issued its statement, revealing that everything is increased by at least a 1d, to take effect about the end of May. This has stirred the Opposition and the general public far more than anything else, and I defer giving details in the hope that they will be at least modified before introduction.

WOLFE TONE STAMPS. Another feeble design, with too much waste space and no explanation of why the issue has been made. There are some interesting differences between the two values. The 4d plate 1 has the left frame thicker than the right and the ugly square dot in Eire is  . For the 1/3 plate 1 it is the right side which shows the thickening and the dot is  . Some of the guide dots on the 1/3 are very large and double.

My first sheet of 4d has three Xs in the left margin, suggesting that there have been retouches, but I have not located any. There is a faint line from above 1A, Row 1, No.2 down into Row 3, No.3.

P.P.32 is the identification of the Certificate of Posting an unregistered parcel. W.Kane reports that there has been a change. A.T.& Co. (Thoms) who printed the form from 1948 or earlier, have lost the contract and E.P.C. Ltd. are now responsible. Irish lettering no longer appears .

I.P.C. Random Notes

No.81 Ap.-May 1964

SLOGANS Northern Ireland offices are using a new die in the road safety campaign. The design is peculiar. Two midgets at lower centre. A car shaped "balloon" shows one to be remarking "think ahead". At the top "ON THE ROAD". Below "STOP ACCIDENTS". A man with umbrella is departing right, ignoring the plight of a parcel-laden lady stranded on the opposite pavement.

DAY OF ISSUE CACHET O.M.Richards draws attention to a new version of the "La a Chead Eisiuna/ First Day of Issue", on some of the Wolfe Tone first day covers. The lettering is sans-serif and the height 12mm.

R.D.S.LABELS Here, with the compliments of the Royal Dublin Society, is the label advertising this year's Spring Show. It has depressingly the same simple design for the 19th consecutive year, but there is a minor change: the top line was formerly sans-serif. However, we are promised something more attractive for the Horse Show, which is celebrating its centenary this year.

DUBLIN HANDSTAMPS Langton type G.10, number 61 handstamp is now very worn, there being scarcely any of the circular rim left.

THE BUDGET The neatest comment in "Dublin Opinion" (the Irish equivalent of "Punch") reads:

No more may I drink or smoke
Or 'phone or write to my friends.
I have striken to make ends meet,
But the Minister moved the ends.

RED CROSS 4d I apologise for omitting one of the thin red lines. Rev.J.Noonan reminds me that the varieties found by Rev.Brennan and himself include a line down the C of CHROIS on Row 18, No.6.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS "JUNE for your IRISH HOLIDAY" is revived during May.

SPRING SHOW The cancellation is the usual type of skeleton handstamp with the words reverting to the 1962 arrangement - SPRING SHOW above and DUBLIN below. The office is usually stocked with remnants of old printings, but this year the registration receipts, are a very new printing, in sans-serif like most other recent items.

The registration labels are again inscribed "Spring Show" by hand.

POSTAL AUCTION Mr.Kane tells me that the first postal auction was a great success, and appeals for more lots to remder other auctions possible.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

May-June 1964 Random Notes Number 82

WOLFE TONE 4d — The three marginal Xs reported in R.N.81 have now increased to five, and I feel sure that anyone with good enough sight and time to use it will discover evidence of retouching.

UP AND DOWN AND * — The collector of Irish postmarks finds that he learns something of the Irish language. He notices that in the T.P.O. cancellations ANICS = UP (to Dublin) and SIOS = DOWN. But what does the asterisk stand for ? I have seen an example in the ATH CLIATH - GAILLIMH P.O.T. OICHE, used during the Christmas rush of 1948. The letter was posted on the Up train standing in the station after arriving in Dublin and therefore ready to change its ANIOS to SIOS.

BELATED SLOGAN NEWS — Long after the main Freedom from Hunger campaign had ended, and when everyone else in Ireland was running the pictorial slogan "A full address speeds delivery", Tuam, from 5th -12th September 1963 and possibly longer, had the slogan "Support Freedom from Hunger Campaign".

O'LOUGHLIN, MURPHY & BOLAND ESSAYS — When I wrote the account of the Essays to accompany the details of the second of Mr Kane's Postal Auctions I really thought I'd put together all the basic facts. Alas (or should be "Oh Joy!"?) three days later Dr O'Loughlin presented to me some of William MacBride's first sketches, notably one for a 9d value which they did not proceed with. They are scribbled on the back of drawings for a motor car that he and Colm O'Loughlin built to take an engine they had acquired ! Further examination discloses that the 9d design is that modified into the ½d, the emblems used being round tower and harp and wolfhound and horizon sun.

1932 Airmail. Collectors of illustrations may like to buy No.2 of the new Irish aviation magazine "Flarepath". The picture shows a mailbag being handed over at Baldonnel en route to Berlin. Unfortunately the accompanying article has the year wrong.

LOCALS — Has any of our readers an early run of the "Stamp Collector's Fortnightly" ? I would like to see the article in No.438 (1911?) by F.W.Edwards, listed as "Dublin: Stamps and Tokens".

I.P.C. Random Notes

May-June 1964 No. 82

IRISH PHILATELIC LITERATURE

The reference overleaf to an S.C.F. article caught my eye in the 1933 edition of the Harris Standard Index to Philatelic Literature for 1879-1925. It is staggering to find that the space needed for Ireland and I.F.S. was more than for Canada, twice as much as Newfoundland or Mauritius! It confirms my view that too much was written by too many, too soon.

SLOGAN NEWS

Towns without the JUNE HOLIDAYS dies used PLEASE SHEW DISTRICT NUMBERS IN DUBLIN ADDRESSES during May. For June there is a general revival of the pictorial A FULL ADDRESS SPEEDS DELIVERY.

On 1st June Dublin D machine started the day with the OFFICIAL PAID version, but in black as a cancellation.

The Minister for Health is behind the times: the experts are at last admitting that the increase in lung cancer is due more to air pollution from smoke and diesel etc fumes than to cigarettes. But Mr McEntee now tells the Dail that he is worried about the cigarette menace and the campaign he is launching will include the use of a slogan cancellation.



The batch of material which yielded the error from Dublin D had also a piece with the circular "Paid" stamp of Drogheda, in black as a cancellation. My sketch shows all the details that can be deciphered.

NEW POSTAL RATES

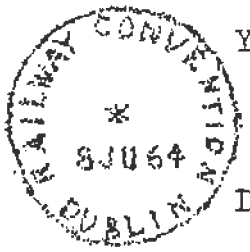
The increased impositions of 1st June cause many moans, but so far I have not noticed any of the expected diminution in the number of letters posted. A few, including myself, are achieving some economy by using postcards in place of letters as far as possible.

An interesting feature of the new rates is the reappearance of the odd ½d. e.g. the internal rate for Printed Papers, etc. is 1½d per 2 oz., with minimum 3d.

O.M.RICHARDS We are very sorry to hear that our very active Aberdeen member is one of the victims of the alarming typhoid outbreak. He is in Ward 1, City Hospital, Aberdeen, and will obviously be glad to receive letters - but not material which might acquire infection with the virus.

I.P.C. Random Notes

July 1964 No.83



Yet again a special cancellation has been used without any warning to collectors. Fortunately Mr Keenan did hear about it, and thanks to him I can illustrate the skeleton handstamp of the International Railway Convention held in Dublin last month, from 8th-11th June.

WOLFE TONE 4d

There are two sets of guide dots. Firstly, the ones found in all De La Rue printings, usually lost in the corner perforation holes, and seen only on badly centred stamps. The other dots are at the top right corner of the design, and in most cases merge into the frame lines. Some show as minute projections and there are just a few (e.g. Pane 1B, Row 1,No.1) lying outside the corner.

BOOKLETS

Booklet 44-63 is sold out in some offices and it is likely that the next issue will have a different make-up, with 5d included. A few panes of the 4d with inverted watermark might be a good investment.

DELAY CAUSED BY USEOF INCORRECT POSTAL ADDRESS

Note the error, running together of "USEOF", in this new instructional marking, which Mr Langton reports in use at Kildare.

Bruff Penny Post

Bruff is a village in Co.Limerick, and became a post-town in 1800. My reason for illustrating its Penny Post mark is that the existence of a local post there does not seem to have been recorded. It is not listed by Meredith or Robertson and was not represented in the Stafford Johnson collection. The example that I have just found is on a letter from Bruff to Dublin of December 1837, giving in great detail the recipe for "Turkey and Trufles"(sic).

POSTAL AUCTIONS

With this you will receive the report on the second I.P.C. Postal Auction, which was very successful and added a useful sum to our revenue. Some of the Essays sold out, but not all and Mr Kane would be willing to dispose of a few more at the reserve figures:

½ yellow,lemon, 2d yellow,lemon, all imperf.	10/-	each
½d yellow, lemon, both perf.,green imperf.	12/6	"
2d green imperf.	12/6	"
½d green perf. red imperf.2d yellow perf.	15/-	"
2d green perf. 7d yellow, lemon, imperf.	15/-	"
1/- yellow imperf.	15/-	"
1/- green, red imperf. 10/- yellow,lemon,imp.	£1	"
2d chestnut imperf.	£2	"

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

July 1964 RANDOM NOTES Number 83

SOLICITORS' HOARD

A Dublin firm of solicitors has disposed of two lorry loads of old papers accumulated during the last 250 years. It is an unusual transaction in that the papers have been sent to the National Library, on loan, with the proviso that they will be available to the firm if required. It is not possible to say when philatelists, etc. will gain a sight of the accumulation. Probably not until the papers are all sorted and catalogued, a task expected to take about two years.

NUMISMATICS

I would like to welcome a new magazine "Coins and Medals" (2/6 quarterly). The first article is the best treatment I have seen of the Mail Coach tokens, popular with all collectors of Postal History items. The excellent illustrations include the St.Patrick's halfpenny, based on the same "portrait" as was the basis for the 1961 stamps design - but advertising it as American colonial coinage ! An interesting difference from philatelic magazines is that the advertisers are more anxious to buy than to sell.



Here is the new label, a colourful one to commemorate the centenary year of the Show. There have not been shows every year and the first one was not organised by the Royal Dublin Society. The promoters were the Royal Agricultural Society, but it was held on the R.D.S. grounds on the land now occupied by the National Museum and National Library. Initially it was only a show. The jumping competitions which are now the main attraction date from 1868.



My summer holiday this year took me to the Channel Islands, where I did not expect to add to my knowledge of Irish Postal History or philately. And I didn't, However, in two shops I bought picture postcards and each yielded an example of the skeleton cancellation of Ballinvonear Camp (near Buttevant in Co.Cork). From different writers to different addressees in Jersey. Both are in April 1915 - the same month as the only other example that I have seen hitherto. Can other possessors report earlier or later dates ?

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR IRISH PAVILION

Collectors were given less than a month's warning of the date of issue of the 5d and 1/5 depicting the exterior of Andrew Devane's design. A peculiar feature is that the announcement does not tell us what colours will be used.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

August 1964 RANDOM NOTES Number 84

NEW YORK FAIR STAMPS

The issue of 20th July is a better attempt than the Red Cross to exploit the colour possibilities of the modern developments of photogravure processes. But the Irish Post Office still has a lot to learn. The green of the 1/5 is too bilious and the olive(?) of the 5d is just mud. A technical weakness of the design is that the colours must be in register very exactly. e.g. if the brown is displaced the rock garden at the corner of the pavilion becomes a mess.

I've seen a few minor lines and dots, the most prominent on the 5d being:

Upper pane, Row I, No.6 . Grey dot left of lowest window.
" " " III, Nos.1-6. Purple line where mud and purple merge.
Lower Pane, Rows V and VIII. Nos.1-6. Grey line across pavilion.
" " Row X, No.6. Grey line between left window and lowest window.

A different type of flaw is a small white spot on the roof the right wing of the building, on VII,4 of the upper pane.

POST OFFICE NAMES

The Dublin "Evening Herald" recently revealed that one sub-office was simultaneously displaying three names! Its usual title GRANBY ROW was on a notice in the window. Above the window there is painted "Oifig an Poist Raed Granbi", but above that an older board has been uncovered during reconstruction, with the legend "Oifig Posta Sreata an Da Teampann". I can find no mention of this name and surmise that it was an unofficial attempt to change the name, presumably about 1922. Translation is difficult. "Sreata" is wrong for "Street" and ought to mean "Fen" or "Swathe" or "Tax". My guess is that it was meant to mean "Street of the Two Troubles" i.e. the Insurrection and the Civil War.

SHANNON AIRPORT SILVER JUBILEE SLOGAN

As soon as the dies become available, Dublin, Limerick, Ennis and Galway will have a slogan cancellation "SHANNON AIRPORT, IRELAND, SILVER JUBILEE 1939-1964". The inclusion of the word "IRELAND" is peculiar in that most people have heard of the airport and know where it is. The existing Shannon Airport did not open until 1945 and the significance of 1939 is that regular transatlantic flights via Foynes began in that year.

P.S. Slogan appeared at Dublin on 8th August, but not elsewhere up to 15th.

I.P.C. Random Notes

August 1964 No.84

IRISH DOG LICENSE Hitherto I have thought my favourite Irish adhesives, the long-lived Dog License issue, all had the familiar sheet arrangement of two panes, each 10x12. Now I have found a 10/-, watermark shamrock, with a wing margin. This suggests that for it, and probably the 20/-, the early printings were in smaller panes, probably 4x5. Can anyone report confirmatory evidence ?

FISCAL "OVERPRINTS" The same lot provided several examples of the U.K. 1d Inland Revenue adhesive (SG F16&17) overprinted with "Isaac Beckett / Dublin / £ " or "Received for / Isaac Beckett / £ ", for use on receipts. This individual carried on a business at 15 Fleet Street, Dublin, describing himself as a Commission Merchant.

LIMERICK MACHINE MONTHS In 1961 (I think) Limerick followed the general trend by adopting Roman numerals to identify the month in its machine cancelling. It is therefore surprising to find it using AUG at the beginning of this month, when, in common with other towns, it was continuing the "full address " campaign.

HORSE SHOW CANCELLATION Skeleton very like last year.

AND ANOTHER EVENT It was in conversation with the counter clerk at the Horse Show that I ascertained there will be a temperary P.O. in the Intercontinental Hotel next month during an international conference on Aviation Medicine.i.e. co-ordination of regulations for vaccination etc. and quarantine enforcement when epidemics happen.



I do not see much correspondence prepaid in cash and hand-stamped. I suspect that the spread of the meter-mark is tending to reduce the use of the handstamps. However, there is apparently enough use to necessitate replacements and illustrated is a new style that has only just come to my notice. Can anyone give an earlier date, or other numbers than 12 ?

DUBLIN 33 O.M.Richards reports that a registered f.d.c. with World Fair stamps had a new handstamp, type G.11, numbered 33.

EUROPA 1964 The design for the 8d and 1/5 Europa issue, due on 14th September, was published 6th August. Again we are not informed what tints comprise the "multicolour".

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

September 1964

RANDOM NOTES

Number 85

PHILATEC Awards — It is good to see that Irish items gained medals in the Paris "Philatec" Exhibition, a German (H. Hemmer) receiving a Bronze Silver for Pre-adhesives and a Norwegian (S.Pedersen) gained a Bronze for Eire adhesives.

NEW YORK FAIR IRISH PAVILION — R.N.84 reported lines across the pavilion on the 5d value. I have since found that at least one of them (lower pane, row VIII) occurs also on the 1/5, interesting evidence that the same cylinder was used for the two values, or else that the lines developed in a master copy from which reproductions were made.

J 19.A

JY 2.M

I'm very fond of these Dublin datestamps. When they were first illustrated in the "Philatelic Adviser" in 1938 they were thought to be private marks used in Dublin Castle ! It is now accepted that they were applied in the main office of the Dublin Penny Post, most examples being on letters transferred from the General Post for local delivery.

Examples of 1774-1788 had only one letter for the month. Those of 1792-1809 used the more sensible two letter abbreviations. Can anyone fix the date of the change more precisely ?

SHANNON AIRPORT SILVER JUBILEE — Something went wrong in that the slogan introduced 8th August was withdrawn immediately and had not reappeared up to the end of the month.

Meanwhile I have seen an attractive multi-colour label commemorating the event. I'm leaving space at left in the hope that I can obtain enough to supply you with one each, as with the R.D.S. labels.

WEXFORD FESTIVAL SLOGAN — Ireland has too many so-called "Festivals", feeble imitations of the Edinburgh Festival. The Wexford Festival is one of the worst. It does attract a few visitors, but what they spend is more than outweighed by the fees paid to not quite first rank opera stars from overseas and other expenses. This year, for the first time, Wexford is resorting to slogan advertising, beginning 7th September.

I.P.C. Random Notes

September 1964 No.85

"ULSTER" or "NORTHERN IRELAND"

Someone recently mentioned to me special covers issued on the occasion of the opening, on 16 November 1932, of the N.Ireland Parliament buildings at Stormont. I can now describe it. The envelope bears a view of the premises, with the correct description Northern Ireland Parliament Buildings and specifies the date and official opening by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The cancellation is a single circle STORMONT B.O. BELFAST and there is a rubber-stamped oval "PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT / NORTHERN IRELAND". In addition, and indeed the most prominent of the markings, is a circular "ULSTER PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS/ STORMONT/OPENING DAY 16.11.32". Who perpetrated this erroneous cachet? "Ulster" is one of the provinces of Ireland, containing the six counties governed from Stormont, plus Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan which are ruled from Dublin.

INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS

How many different issues have there been for "Southern Ireland" ? I have the following:

1. Oct.1931 Old style (legless female flying from old world to new) Etat Libre d'Irlande.-Saorstat Eireann. Languages Irish, French, German, English, Spanish, Italian. Cost 4d.
2. Dec.1931. New style. Same names of state. Same languages, but six-months validity omitted. 4d.
3. 1946. As 2 except that country is "IRLANDE • EIRE, and price increased to 6d.
4. 1949. As 3 but languages Irish, French, English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, Russian.
5. As 4, but price amended by pen to 8d. (1951?)
6. 1952 (?) As 4 but price now printed as 8d.
7. 1963. Similar but coupon has C 22 at top right. Languages Irish, French, German, English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, Russian. Also a change of wording at lower left "Empreinte de controle du Pays d'origine (date facultative)" instead of the "Timbre du Bureau d'Origine". Price 1s.

All have the imprint of Benziger & Cie S.A. Einsiedeln.

SHANNON JUBILEE SLOGAN

The slogan re-appeared in Dublin 4th September, and was simultaneously introduced in Ennis. Limerick (still using SEP for the month) followed the next day.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

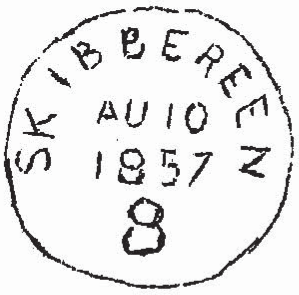
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

October 1964 — Number 86

RANDOM NOTES

WATERMARK INVERTED AND REVERSED

We of the I.P.C. often discuss the need for a good handbook of Irish Philately. But if we had one would anyone use it? Recently we had some correspondence concerning the 3d Thom with its watermark inverted and reversed. No-one seems to have thought of consulting Meredith ! In the 3rd edition the variety is priced (m.30/-,u.20/-) and is recorded also for the 3d Dollard, ½d and 6d Saorstat and for the 2d definitive !!



Sketch shows an unusual early skeleton owned by A.T.Sedgeley. The 8 is probably the identifier of the particular set of movable letters. I have a similar 7 in a Lismore skeleton of 1861.

That Skibbereen sketch is not very accurate, but the next sketch, the SAORSTÁT, is fairly faithful. It is taken from a 7d National Health Insurance stamp, but I have a very similar mess on an 8d.

SAORSTÁT

CONGRESS OF AVIATION AND SPACE MEDICINE

Covers posted at the Congress, 14th to 18th September, bore a rubber-stamped cachet 74x28 mm, and a circular rubber-stamped cancellation, 28mm diameter, both specifying XIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AVIATION AND SPACE MEDICINE DUBLIN. The cachet repeats the DUBLIN and adds IRELAND, above and below the caduceus symbol. Both are in purple.

NEW MACHINE

The latest town to be issued with a cancelling machine is "BIORRA" = BIRR, for a long time known as Parsonstown. The first I saw was 9 SEP (sic) used with seven continuous wavy bars for which the circumscribed rectangle would be 51x23 mm.

5d NEW YORK FAIR

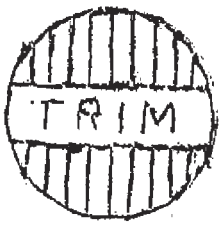
I do not enthuse about varieties due to faulty registration of the different colours, but have seen one such worthy of mention. Upward displacement of the purple causes a a pale purple patch on the lower left corner of the building. Another result is that the design is 21¼mm tall instead of about 21⅜mm.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

N.Langton gets the credit for spotting the appearance of a new issue of registration envelopes with embossed 1/5 green stamp. Sizes F and G have been seen so far, both with the old letterpress, amended only by a rectangular handstamp reading "THE MINIMUM REGISTRATION FEE IS NOW 1/-S." It is not clear what the final S signifies. And the price of the envelopes has been increased, by ½d, so that the inclusive price is 1/7 for size F and 1/7½ for size G.

I.P.C. Random Notes

October 1964 Number 86



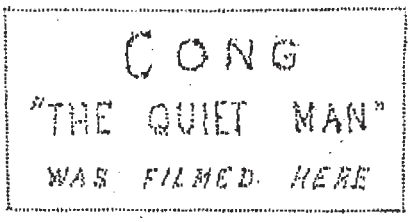
We continually find more surprising cases of the persistence of "English" or anglicised forms of Irish town names in cancellations. The latest is a parcels type of Trim (Irish name Baile Atha Truim) still used 1964.

NEW BOOKLET

A new issue has appeared (about 18 September) as expected, but the make-up disappoints: your 3/- buys six at 4d and 12 at 1d. The surprise is the front cover, printed in red on yellow, with inscription "STAMPAÍ 3/-" with no other indication of the contents , and with no serial or date number. Stitching is white.

BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Next January's London exhibition is promoted by the philatelic press, and although announced as "new style" resembles the old in its treatment of Ireland. Group 1 is "English-speaking countries: British Commonwealth,U.S.A. and its Overseas Territories," which would seem to exclude stamps of the Irish Republic. An enquiry has, however, brought the information that Ireland is included in Group 1 as an English speaking country. The letter also points out that only British subjects may compete, and only if resident in the British Isles.



An unofficial slogan which I have just seen for the first time on a postcard issued by the Ashford Castle Hotel, on the shore of Lough Gorrib.

IRISH GUM

The "cement" of the Penny Black and later U.K. issues was of varied origins, and for a period was prepared by the printers from their own secret formula. According to the Stamp Collector's Magazine for September 1866 this formula was an accidental discovery by six Dublin drunks. While rolling home from special potations in honour of George IV's visit in 1821 they rolled through water flowing from a starch factory at Chapelizod, water applied to extinguish a fire. Next day they found their clothes glued together. They were sober enough to appreciate the value of the discovery and sold the secret to a firm in Manchester. Of the six one died soon after, two were jailed for rioting and the other three emigrated to U.S.A. and there succumbed to disease.

EUROPA 1964

I have not left much space to discuss the new issue. Choice, and use, of the colours is much better than the New York Fair effort. No flaws reported yet.

I.P.C. Random Notes

November 1964 No.87

SHANNON SILVER JUBILEE SLOGAN

The slogan has continued in use intermittemtly in Dublin. I have not seen recent examples of Ennis or Limerick. Galway rather belatedly joined the celebration on 23 October. Was it coincidence that on 21st I wrote to Galway asking when the slogan, promised in August, would appear?

SHADES OF 1923

A newspaper cutting (paper unknown) of 16 March 1923 states that the 3d definitive, due to appear that day was printed "in a fine pale blue shade, generally known as 'Cornflower Blue'". It also reveals "the issue of the 1d stamp in the Sword of Light design has been postponed owing to the authorities not being satisfied with the bilious shade of green in which it is printed,"

ANOTHER ESSAY

A surprising feature is that the illustration of the 3d design is not of the stamp as issued, nor of the earlier version illustrated in L.H.G. Fletcher's Stamp Magazine articles (Fig.10) but an intermediate state. The cross is that of the early essay, but the value in words is in full, although the lettering is much smaller than that eventually chosen.

"EARLY STAMP MACHINES"

Many will regard this title as curious for the latest work by W.G.Stitt Dibden, as it refers to the stamp cancelling machines used in the United Kingdom from 1857 onwards. There are few specific references to the machines used in Ireland, and one of those is very wrong : on p.66 Dublin is listed as one of the offices in Scotland ! Even so it is a book to recommend, published at 20/- by the Postal History Society.

POLITICS?

I have been reproved for, inter alia, touching on a delicate political matter in R.N.85, by referring to the non-identity of Northern Ireland and Ulster. I would like to assure all my readers that I was concerned only in stating the fact, as evidence for my belief that the cachet is the result of misguided private enterprise. It is an interesting coincidence that the word "Ulster" should have to appear again so soon after that reference. See over. In this case it does seem that the wrong name has been officially authorised.

POSTAL AUCTIONS

With this issue of Random Notes you will receive the report on Auction No.3 and the list of lots for No.4.

Read carefully the revised regulations, and keep them, so that we do not need to repeat them all with every later auction.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

November 1964 — Number 87

RANDOM NOTES

EUROPA 1964 — The day after I'd run off the stencils with R.N.86 I learned from W.Kane some discoveries in the 1/5 Europa, of which there are apparently four panes. One has hair lines down the fourth column and the stamps in the right end column of this pane have spots across the flower.

1961 — It seems quite a time since I reported any postmark errors: on 26 September Dublin H machine had the year inverted.

TELEGRAMS — The obsolescence of the telegraph system should make for greater interest by collectors in such souvenirs as they can preserve, especially the telegram forms and envelopes. A feature I have only just noticed is that in the 1880s and 90s there were special printings by both Harrison and Eyre & Spottiswoode, with DUBLIN printed in the address space. The E&S version has the ridiculous variant of the Royal Arms, found also in the first Truscott printings, in which the "supporting" lion and unicorn have their backs turned to the Arms.

FISCAL PROVISIONAL — Another recent discovery is that in 1918, as in 1961, the expedients resorted to in meeting the increases in Stamp Duty included adding a further embossed 1d stamp to the cheque blanks already stamped 1d. My example has the stamps of 7.9.16 Die Shamrock H, and 2.9.18 Die Shamrock Q.

4d ENVELOPE — The latest, and presumably last, printing of the envelope with 4d impressed stamp has the stamp in an even deeper shade than earlier printings, being nearer black than the former blue-green.

M.V. LEINSTER — The British & Irish Steam Packet Co.'s sister ships continue to differ in their treatment of mail posted on board. Last month letters that I posted on the LEINSTER were delivered next day, with a large cachet (57x5mm) and proper Paquebot cancellation. The letters posted on the reverse journey by the Munster had not been handed in at the Post Office but just dropped in a pillar box after being carried around for a whole day. And they had no cachet.

NOTTINGHAM SLOGAN CANCELLATION — In the second half of October Nottingham had a slogan "ULSTER WEEK IN NOTTINGHAM OCTOBER 26-31" Does this qualify for collecting by I.P.C. members ?

OVERPRINTED FISCALS — Hitherto unrecorded, I think, is the 1/- LAND REGISTRY OF IRELAND overprinted SAORSTÁT EIREANN.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

December 1964 Number 88

RANDOM NOTES

HALFPENNY LETTER-POST — About 80 years ago enterprising advertising agents sold to the public at ½d each, letter sheets bearing an embossed 1d stamp. The other ½d (plus the firm's profits) came from the sale of spaces on the sheets to advertisers.

R.M.Willcocks reports that one edition of the letter sheets carried only Irish advertising, 19 ad vertisers having taken space, all with premises in Dublin. Six of them are still in business.

CANCELLING MACHINES — Another new one - in use from October or earlier - at BAILE ATHA h-I = ATHY.

"SOUTHERN IRELAND" — In R.N.78 the discovery was announced of a Judicature embossed stamp of 1921 overprinted by handstamp "SOUTHERN IRELAND". The corresponding adhesives were the Geo.V key-plate designs with JUDICATURE IRELAND in red on the panel at foot. During 1922 and 1923 these were overprinted with RIALTAS .. or SAORSTÁT .. overprints, like the postal overprints but without the "1922". These were succeeded by the ÉIRE key-plate series.

Now I am startled to find that there were also adhesives printed from the pre-1922 plates but with the inscription JUDICATURE SOUTHERN IRELAND, in black. Values seen are 4d,1/-,1/6 and 10/- so it seems that the whole range of values to £1 appeared.



One of the scarcest of the Holyhead & Kingstown backstamps is the first style with X abrve the year, instead of a number. Kidd (in "The Irish Mail")records only three examples, all of 1865.

I can now record another example, of the same year, on a letter from London to Dublin. My theory is that X was for 10, and its use was superseded by stamps with the digits 10.



Also short-lived were the Irish village undated dated name-stamps with circular frame. The few I have seen (Ballycumber, Kilbride, Killyleigh, Milltown and Munster Harbour) are all of 1859 or 1860.

FISCALS ERROR — The X for ten referred to above reminds of another recent find in solicior's waste, a Bond of 1819 bearing the appropriate embossed stamp, the value being expressed as X SHILLINS. According to the lists this was in use for a few years before a new one was made with the correction to SHILLINGS.

I.P.C. Random Notes

December 1964 No.88

IRISH PRINTINGS OF TELEGRAM FORMS

In R.N. 87 I mentioned special DUBLIN printings of telegram forms in the 1880s and later. Another batch, salvaged from the floor of a vacated solicitors' office, carries the story back another decade. In 1872, although the message form had nothing special, the envelope had a printed space for entering the time sent out and it incorporates the words "DUBLIN TIME". Then, and until 1916, Dublin clocks were 25 minutes slow compared with Greenwich.



Another telegram is noteworthy for its "office stamp", illustrated alongside. The coastguard stations, like some railway stations, were telegraph but not post offices. The date is pencilled and the year probably 04.

DUBLIN CANCELLING MACHINES

Machine L, rarely used, and probably kept as a spare, was employed during November, and had a new die, distinguished by the accent on ÁTHA , which is little more than a dot.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

The Rehabilition Seals for 1964 comprise four designs, two inscribed CHRISTMAS and two NOLLAG. Otherwise there is nothing distinctively Irish. The designs are mixed up to make panes of 12, and two panes make up a 1/- booklet. SEE BELOW

CANCELLING MACHINES

Another new one: DROICHEAD NA BANNDAN = Bandon. My example, 14 AUG 1964 shows damage to the circle, so it may have been introduced much earlier.

1965 issues.

We are promised stamps to celebrate the centenary of the birth of W.B.Yeats, Astrologer, Poet, Senator.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

There are also larger books at 2/- and 4/-.

STAMPS WITH IRISH ASSOCIATIONS

Various Falkland Is. & Dependencies stamps depict the ship "Discovery II". For over a year, 1948-49, this vessel was on charter to the Commissioners for Irish Lights and was used for relieving lighthouses and lightships around the coasts.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Partly because of the increased postal rates, my wife and I will send scarcely any cards this Christmas, but instead send a substantial donation to Oxfam. So I use this little space to send to all I.P.C. members my good wishes for Christmas and the New Year

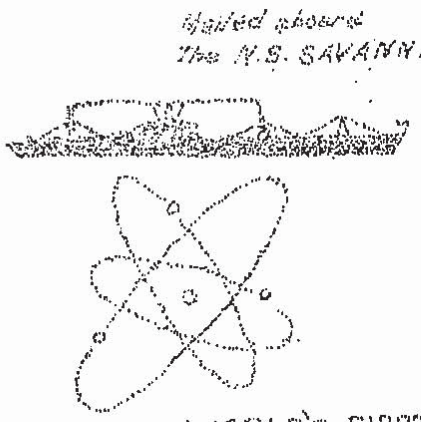
Fred E. Dixon

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

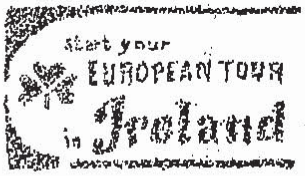
CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT 1964

Number 88 S

RANDOM NOTES



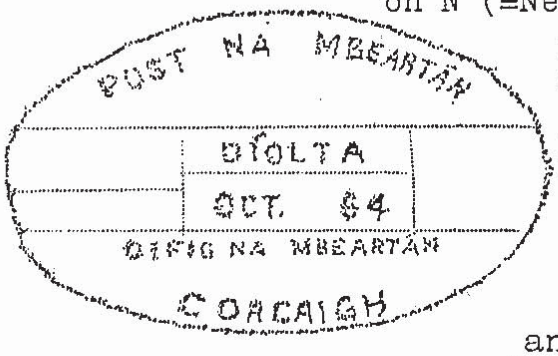
It is thanks to the generosity of Miss Wright, who learned of it from the U.S.A., that we can illustrate a cachet which someone ought to have discovered sooner. The cachet has probably been applied in many other ports, but the tracing has been made from an envelope addressed to Dublin and with Dublin cancellation handstamp 65 (Langton G.10). Date July 3 64, when the SAVANNAH was berthed in Dublin.



The second illustration is also American in origin. It is part of the metermarking of the Irish Tourist Office in New York. As U.S.A. regulations on colour are less strict than most, it can, and is, struck in green.

BLACK METERMARKS

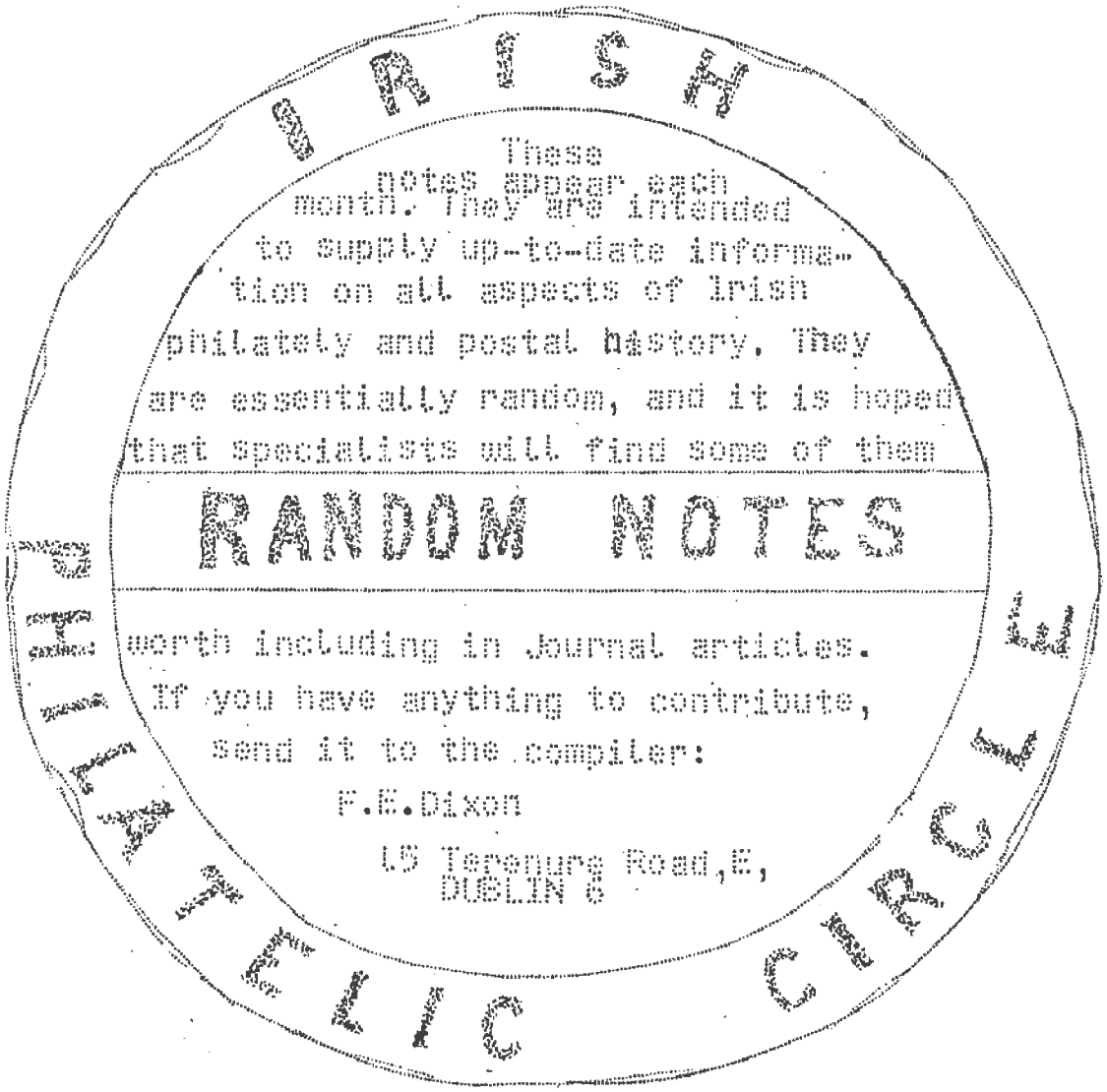
The day after I typed that paragraph about a green metermark I found two Irish ones in black, both used at the end of October and both on N (=Neopost) machines.



Normally in purple are the rarely used rubber stamps on parcels prepaid in cash. Langton illustrated two types of Dublin (PB 9 & 10) but I do not think this one, from Cork, has been reported or illustrated before.

"EOLAI AN PHOIST"

The new edition of Volume I of the Irish Post Office Guide is now on sale, and is very good value at 1/6. The lists of Post Offices are completely re-set in more legible type and show another interesting change. Where there is more than one office in a town (e.g. Cork, Galway) the address of the main office is included. One notable misprint is that although the price of newspaper wrappers is up to "2 for 7d" the heading still describes the impressed stamp as Twopenny !



From 1956 to 1960 the name used was "Dixon's Irish Philatelic News",unnumbered until No.27,Nov.1959. The issuing was at first erratic, the numbering being 1960, 30-45: 1961,46-55: 1962,56-65: 1963,66-76: 1964,77-88.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

O-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-O

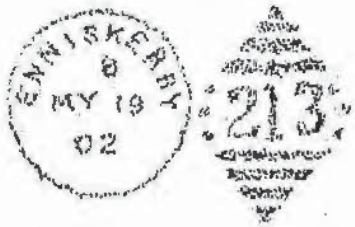
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IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

January 1965 RANDOM NOTES Number 89



In "Stamp Collecting" for 27 November 1964, D.R.Atkinson drew attention to the fact that whereas in England the duplex bar obliterators survived into the 1920s they vanished from Ireland quite early this century. He records only two seen on Edwardian stamps. I can confirm the Enniskerry, but not his Castleisland. I have one other post-1900, Bessbrook (66) in January 1901.

THAT PHANTOM

A recent 96-page issue of Linn's Stamp Weekly had only a solitary reference to Ireland in the numerous articles. That illustrated the mysterious Hibernia and harp design with "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IRELAND" at top and "IMPERIAL UNION" at foot. This account alleged that the labels were printed in America in 1916 ! Frankly, I do not believe it, and am writing to the author, a Scot.

(Later) Mr Stirling of Stirling confirms that he was relying on second-hand evidence or worse. He has very kindly sent me apparently bogus modern "IRELAND 2½ PENCE" illustrated in the last issue of the STAMP MAGAZINE.

INVERTED WATERMARK

Miss Wright has discovered the 5d definitive with watermark inverted. It can be distinguished from the similar variety of a few years ago by two features. The ink is slightly bluer and, most important, it seems to be a new plate, with all lines sharp and clean.



Langton's type G.9 has been seen with only a few numbers and I think this is the first report of No.1. It arrived on a plain envelope containing a document and a wrapper which had come apart.

1939 FIRST FLIGHTS

The American and British openings of the transatlantic airmail service were both exploited by the dealers and collectors. Covers exist from almost every possible combination of termini. There is an important exception. I have seen no mails carried Foynes-Southampton or vice versa. I find it hard to believe that no-one organised even unofficial covers, although it would have been difficult. All Irish airmail sorting was in Dublin, so that items posted in Foynes had to be at least a day early to allow them to go to Dublin for postmarking and bagging.

H A V E Y O U P A I D Y O U R S U B ? ?

I.P.C. Random Notes

January 1965 No.89

CHRISTMAS PRESENT One present that I bought myself is a stamp catalogue, the 6th edition (1883) of the famous pioneer effort of J.-B.Moens. This particular volume has the added attraction that it belonged to the Duke of Leinster whose collection is now in the National Museum. Irish fiscals are listed, and some priced. The 2/- Dog License is 1 franc, used, five times as much as the Penny Black ! Most interesting to us is the inclusion in the illustrations of the 24c Fenian Essay from the same block as used in the 1866 Stamp Collector's Magazine. But the only mention in the text is "Le type no.2593 n'a aucune valeur." (=worthless)



This sketch depicts the general appearances of the straight-sided Dublin crosses known from covers to have been in use from February 1843 to June 1844. I have, however, been shown a 1d red cancelled with it but it is claimed that the corner letters are of Alphabet II which did not come into use until 1852. I can find no mention of any Irish cross used after 1844 and suspect that the attribution of Alphabet II must be wrong in this case; recut letters can be misleading.

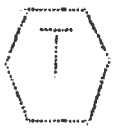
SHANNON AIRPORT SILVER JUBILEE The slogan continued at Dublin well into December, simultaneous with ARE YOU ON THE VOTERS LISTS... but the dies were very badly and clear impressions are scarce.

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS This slogan did not appear until 10th December, and its use was very erratic, so that I think one could find for Dublin on a single day, from different machines POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS; STOP, MAKE THE ROAD SAFE; SHANNON AIRPORT SILVER JUBILEE, and plain bars.

NEW MACHINES From 19 December on, many Christmas Cards were put through new cancelling machines with letters U,V as identifiers. One presumes that Q,R and T exist but none of them has been reported yet. I thought that I'd found a T, but it was an I with its lower part very faint.

Another new machine for Christmas was one at Gorey, Co.Wexford (Irish = GUAIRE).

OFFICIAL PAID MACHINES Dublin machine die L has recently been transferred into the Paid branch of the sorting office. So far I have seen it only with "OFFICIAL PAID", not with "PAID /d".



This coffin-shaped "Taxe" stamp is now in use at Boyle (Mainistir na Búille), with the amount due pencilled in below the m

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

February 1965 — Random Notes — NUMBER 90

THE NEW MACHINES Yet another seems to have appeared near the end of last year - RATH LUIRC = Charleville.

"EUROPA" 1964 5d The Stamp Magazine reports an extra leaf flaw. I have not seen anything quite worthy of this description. I have seen two minor projections from the stem, the upper on right pane, Row 1, No. 4, and the lower on the same row No. 7.



THE NEW MACHINES And one more just to hand, - BEANNTRAIGHE = Bantry, but my example is of last September.

ULSTER WEEK SLOGAN Last year Nottingham: this year Bristol. From 15th to 27th March Bristol will employ a slogan cancellation announcing its "Ulster Week" for the last six days of that period.

Quite a change from 1925 when Belfast used the slogan BRITISH GOODS ARE BEST !

POSTAL AUCTIONS Don't be discouraged if your bids have not been successful. Mr Kane reports that in the four sales of 1964 there were 529 bids for the 183 lots sold (out of 195 offered). The winning bids totalled £444.13.6 and after deducting all expenses from the commission there was a surplus of £31.13.4.

Some of the reserves stated in the list for Auction 5 seem rather low and I predict that again there will be many cases of realisations far in excess of the reserves.

PETTY SESSIONS STAMPS Another addition to my library. 1899 edition of the Guide to Clerks at Petty Sessions. It clears up some problems of the 6d pink and 6d green, the Victorian versions of which are so common. A green one had to go on every summons and every sub-poena, and one had to go into the Order-book when the case was finished. There were complicated rules as to whether the Complainant or Defendant had to pay the 6d. The pink (officially red) stamps were held by the Constabulary and used on the forms in cases prosecuted by them. If they won the case, they had to collect the 6d from the Defendant and pay it to the Petty Sessions Clerk.

I.P.C. Random Notes

February 1965 No. 90

INVERTED WATERMARK

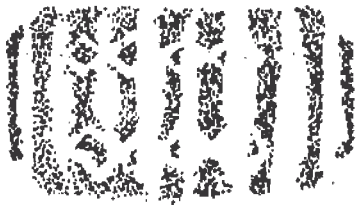
The report in "Random Notes" that Miss Wright had discovered the 5d definitive with inverted watermark has naturally led others to search for similar items. The only success I've heard of so far is from Fr. Brennan, who obtained a part-sheet of 6d in the diminutive local office. He quickly explored other post offices in the district, but their stocks were all normal.

BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

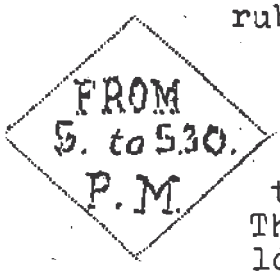
It was on his way to London that Fr.Brennan showed me some of the 6d. When he reached London he found that his study of the George V high values,mainly the plates overprinted in Ireland, had been awarded a Silver Gilt (with *) in the research section. The measure of his achievement can be judged when it is realised that it was the highest award for "Great Britain" in the section and no "Great Britain" entry reached the Gold standard in any section.

He can thus be thoroughly satisfied by the result of his first exhibition entry, and we can be very proud to have him as a member.

PROBLEM CANCELLATION



This is an attempted reconstruction from several partial impressions cancelling stamps on a parcel. Unfortunately the piece of wrapping which reached me has no clue as to where it was applied. My first theory is that this is the metal base of a handstamp from which the rubber has been lost.



A.Sedgley seems to be our expert in finding these rare markings of the Dublin "Late Fee" system. His latest find is of 1847, in red, and was posted in Dublin for conveyance by the Liverpool Packet, the ordinary posting for which closed at 5 p.m. The fee for posting in the next half-hour was only 1d. Letters could still be posted between 5.30 and 5.45 PM, but the fee was then 6d. Has anyone seen a letter posted in that short and expensive interval?

The 6d fee was charged also for Irish letters posted between 7.30 and 7.45 PM (in 1847: times were changed at other periods). I do not, however, know of any letter showing this endorsement.

NEW SLOGAN

Possibly, but not probably, the first new Irish slogan cancellation of the year will be in use before you get this. In mid-January it was stated that Ballina would introduce a slogan publicising the MOY FESTIVAL as soon as the die is ready.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

o-o-o--c-o-o--o-o-o-o-o-o-o

March 1965 Random Notes Number 91

SLOGANS & MACHINES The new Ballina slogan was in use earlier than I expected, the first day being Jan.29th. It is a good design. Get it.

As last year, there was a shortage of the new plugs needed for the cancelling machines. So Dundalk, Kilkenny, and maybe some others, have been leaving the year space blank.

EXPRESS W.Kane reports a new label for Express letters, the main change being in the colour of the paper, now a rich blood-ree instead of the former anaemic pink.

NEW AIRMAIL VALUE The expected new 1/5 airmail is promised for 1st April. The design will be the Rock of Cashel (as present 1/3) and the colour blue.

MACHINES Forgive my harping on cancelling machines so often: it just happens that they keep on supplying curiosities. On 10th February Dublin H machine was using the framed wavy bars which were introduced 1949 but withdrawn (I thought) in 1960.

Next day the B machine, the normal (Universal) interrupted bars, had the name-and-date portion inverted.

IRISH AIRGRAPH SERVICE A recent I.P.S. display (by our Hon.Sec.) of Irish airmail items reminded me of the existence of a little-known item of postal stationery.

Form O.E.144 was a large form 8½x11⅝ inches for writing messages destined to be sent overseas by the "Airgraph" service. It was closely modelled on the British original. There was a space on the back for the appropriate postage stamps, and full instructions, including the address of the HQ of the service: "Airgraphs," Foreign Section, Dame Court, Dublin.

There were at least three printings, identifiable by the printers' (Thom & Co.) imprints, which were

(1) B.9805. Wt.4922-28.U.9451.6.50,000.2/43. A.T.&Co.,Ltd.G.41.
(2) B.265.A.3235.Wt.1608-124,200,000.7/43
(3) (B.1055).Wt.3453- B.8081.5.250,000.11/44.A.T.&Co., Ltd. Est.864.

The service was little publicised in Ireland, probably because it was evidence of the close co-operation with the British authorities, and it would have been indiscreet to draw attention to the large number of Irish men and women serving with the Allies.

I.P.C. Random Notes

March 1965 No. 91

VALENTINE'S DAY — The expression "irregular block" has taken on an extra meaning for me since I was shown the stamps on an envelope which carried a Valentine to the Teleftis Eireann Weather Men. Two of the three 1d stamps were cut into pieces and then reassembled around the whole one to fill a heart-shaped space. The postal officials took a lenient view of the offence and took no action beyond cancelling the ensemble with a single handstamp.

VALUES — It is very difficult to adjust one's sense of values and keep abreast of current trends. I note that four Irish lots at a Bournemouth sale in February, valued at £18,£12,£12,£12, realised respectively £32,£26,£24,£20 !

AND SHANAHANS' — The increase in prices (largely inflationary?) is not confined to Irish stamps and the numerous speculators involved in the Shanahan bankruptcy have now been told that they will get more than was predicted. Some may receive as much as 7/6 in the £.

SAVINGS SLOGANS — The Post Office is advertising itself for a change, with two new slogan cancellations, both over elaborate and with too small lettering. The first, introduced Dublin 17th Feb. and later at Cavan,Dundalk,Limerick,Naas,Tralee,Waterford and Wexford, reads BUILD ON / SECURE / FOUNDATIONS / £1 UNITS / TAX FREE / SAVINGS CERTIFICATES, with the Dublin G.P.O. facade from the SE. The other, at Dublin 3rd March and then at Bray,Carlow,Cork, Drogheda, Dun Laoghaire,Galway,Kilkenny and Mullingar, depicts only the six pillars and pediment. The words are SAVE THE EASY EAY / EASY DEPOSITS / EASY WITH-DRAWAL / THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

REGISTERED ENVELOPES — N.Langton reports the current envelope with the correction on the reverse printed in red instead of handstamped in purple, but it has not yet been seen in the Dublin G.P.O.

IRISH POST OFFICE FORMS — We shall never know the whole series of numbered "forms", but steadily make progress. A.T.Sedgley has sent me another , O.E.266A, also numbered AV 8, probably the international designator. It is an airmail bag label, with details in French, for despatches from Dublin. This example was on a bag of mail to Irish troops in Cyprus.

I.P.C. Random Notes

April 1965 No.92

STAMP DESIGN COMMITTEE No news of the meetings of the Design Committee but it is generally expected that there will be a completely new series next year to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

SLOGANS I regret to report that the Irish Post Office has again let me down. A batch of covers supposed to have been posted at Dun Laoghaire on the first day of the Savings Bank slogan were posted on 4th March. I have since since an example from there on 3rd March. By 6th the two portions were transposed at Dun Laoghaire.

And yet another machine has been installed, at Cara Droma Ruisg = Carrick-on-Shannon.

The newest slogan is FESTIVAL OF SLIGO, June 13th-23rd,1965, with the city badge, used at Sligo from 23rd March. The festivities will include some of the celebrations of the centenary of the birth of W.B.Yeats.

POSTAGE DUE 10d N.Langton has the new 10d Postage Due, used on 5th March. It is similar to the other values but in what I think can be termed magenta.

METER MARK Another discovery by him is a bew style of meter, the value portion comprising the arms of the four provinces at the corners, linked by barbers' poles down the sides. At top is éIRe, and at bottom POSCAS With the identifier NP49, the NP being for Neopost.

The 1916 Tricolour "stamp" One item that continually provokes enquiries, and whose true nature is disbelieved my the owners, is the greer-white-and-orange label with the heads of the Manchester Martyrs (Allen,Larkin and O'Brien). One bit of evidence of the truth is that the colours can be either way. I have an unsevered pair showing that when stuck together round a pin the tri-colour would be correct on both sides, with green at the pin.

POSTAL AUCTION NO. 6 The list of lots of the sixth of the postal auctions organised for us by W.Kane will be sent out with these Random Notes.

The closing date for the receipt of bids, not mentioned in that list, is FRIDAY 30th APRIL 1965.

NUMISMATIC NOTE Look out for 1943 Irish 2/- and 2/6 coins. They were the last minted in silver and the stock was meant to be returned when the cupro-nickel appeared (1951). But a few hundred of each had been issued.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

RANDOM NOTES

April 1965 Number 92

SPANISH CIVIL WAR

Five years ago (R.N.40,43) we were looking for information about Gen. O'Duffy's contingent of 730 Irishmen which assisted Franco to obtain the control of Spain. Very few letters from members of this Irish Brigade are known. One batch of March to May 1937 was posted in Caceres, but only one letter had any military office markings - 18 BRIGADA MIXTA 2° BATALLON. Can any newer member add to our scanty information ?

PETTY SESSIONS COLOUR CHANGELING

The 2d 1922 definitive is not the only Irish stamp printed in a green that can be easily turned to blue. The 1858 (unwatermarked) printing of the 6d Petty Sessions stamp is another. Hitherto I had seen this blue version only in used examples which had been soaked. What prompts this note is the finding of unmounted mint examples, and so blue that it is hard to believe that the colour has ever been anything else.

"ESSAYS"

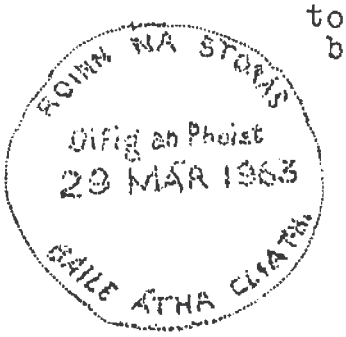
Like so many of us, I rarely see PUNCH except in doctors' or dentists' waiting room. The issue of 3 February was thrust into my hands the other day while I was in the dentist's chair. The front cover is filled with some malicious "Commemorative Stamps of Many Nations". Very prominent is an Eire 6d, listing some of its successful literary exports - Shaw, Wilde, Joyce, Yeats, O'Casey and Beckett. Unattributed, and therefore meant for U.K., is a 4½d vividly depicting the Black and Tans, 1919-1921. It is a page for "Cinderella" collectors.

EARLIEST PICTURE POSTCARDS

Although the connection with Irish philately is rather remote, I cannot resist reporting my latest discovery. Stuck down in a scrap album were three coloured Christmas Cards. I was inspired to look behind one and then spent a long time laboriously soaking them off. They are printed on the first version of the U.K. ½d postcard (with "To" and therefore 1870-75) and are addressed to a country house in Co.Kilkenny. Unfortunayely they are not postmarked - which does not mean they were not posted: postmasters at the time were authorised to ease their labours by letting postcards through uncancelled. These may prove to be the earliest coloured picture postcards.

I.P.C. Random Notes

May 1965 No.93



This sketch is from a rubber handstamp which seems to be applied in the P.& T. Stores Branch at Aldborough House, Dublin. My justification for including it here is finding it on an envelope addressed to that office, but then forwarded elsewhere.

PUBLICITY A recent news item announced that the Irish Post Office has appointed Miss Eilish MacCurtain as their Information Officer, succeeding the late Mr Larry Harty. It is to be hoped that there will be more information available than has often been the case hitherto.



Another Dublin rubber handstamp, probably an old one, although not corresponding with any listed by N.J.Langton. It was taken out of retirement in the 1964 Christmas rush. My example is cancelling a 5d. I've a note of a similar case in 1954.

SLOGAN NEWS

Except for the local efforts, PREVENT FOREST FIRES was used for April. At Dublin, on 6th and 7th, the I machine was using as a cancellation in black the die with "Official Paid" incorporated.

Enniscorthy's machine now prints the place name as INIS COIPTHE, the R, T and H all being damaged.

The Sligo Festival slogan had abandoned the transposed arrangement by 26th March, on which day it had the minor variation of interchanging the lines with time and day+month.

OTHER MACHINE NEWS

Charleville had its name-and-date circle inverted on an illegible date in March.

Alan Robertson illustrates in "Stamp Collecting" (30 April p.337) a PAQUEBOT / COBH machine cancellation, used with the PLEASE SHEW DISTRICT NUMBERS... slogan on 31.X.64. It is probably used with other slogans. It is probable that other ports with machines, notably Dublin and Dun Laoghaire, will be issued with similar dies. Galway already has a machine PAQUEBOT mark, but it has rarely been used.

INVERTED WATERMARKS

J.Keenan reports the 8d definitive with watermark inverted. I wonder why the printing office has abandoned their practice of having the top right corner clipped from the sheet to ensure its being fed correctly into the printing press.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

MAY 1965 o=RANDOM NOTES=o Number 93

INVERTED WATERMARKS

I notice reports in recent magazines of inverted watermark varieties of two current Irish definitives - the 9d and 2/6.



Herewith, with my compliments, and those of the Royal Dublin Society, is the label for this year's Spring Show. I can promise you that the Horse Show label for 1965 will be much more attractive.

Mr Stokes has sent for illustration this very distinctive variety of the "1844" type of cancellation for Enniskillen, with a solid block instead of the usual bars on at least one side of the number. It is on a 1d red plate 157 and therefore dates from about 1872.



SHAKESPEARE 1st day 1964

It is now well known that the unprecedented delays of "first-day" covers of the U.K. Shakespeare stamps, a year ago, was partly due to the posting in Stratford of vast quantities of commercial mail. At least one Irish firm added to the congestion in this way. The envelopes were 9x6 inches, specially printed; addressed by labels with "Medical Sample" and giving the name and address of the sender, a firm in Blackrock, Co.Dublin.

GENERAL ELECTION 1965

In this area the postman simplified his contribution to the election campaign by delivering all the candidates' election addresses in one delivery - on the eve of the poll. This constituency had only candidates of the three major parties: so I received only three versions of the Irish for "Election Letter". (There was as many as 13 noted in 1957 !).

Post Office Forms

Mr Sedgeley reports another form, C.E.1041, listing Air Parcels sent from Dublin to the Irish Forces in Cyprus.

1/5 Airmail

So far I have not found, nor heard of, any flaws - but I have not looked very hard, and rather expect there to be minor re-entries. A difference from the other values is that the printers seems to be De la Rue, judging by the inclusion of plate numbering.

Airmail Etiquette

The current printing of etiquettes has a paler blue than the last and the "O.E. 78." even smaller, less than 1mm tall.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

June 1965 Number 94

RANDOM NOTES



This triangular cancellation is made by a rubber stamp in the Savings Bank, to obliterate the 6d Savings Stamps affixed to the S 51 book. Don't ask me how cancelled examples have got into the hands of collectors !

METERMARKS — M.Richards tells me that the new Neopost meter machines can print in two colours. Thus machine NP 34 prints an emblem in black as well as the usual information in red.

SLOGANS — A.Stokes reports that in May Limerick (A machine) was using the framed "BANK YOUR SAVINGS IN THE SAVINGS BANK", first used 1944 and not recorded since 1950 !

COASTGUARD STATIONS — Earlier R.N. have mentioned postmarks, seen on stamps or on delivered telegrams, of some of the Coastguard Stations. I have recently read the regulations issued to the coastguards. They were instructed to send or receive telegrams for the public, provided that the work of the station was not thereby interfered with. The rates to be charged were the P.O. rates, but the Post Office paid 1d for each message sent or received, unless other arrangements had been agreed.

FORWARDING AGENTS — A batch of old letters which I hope to acquire soon has only one unusual item - a large handstruck

PACKET SHIP JOSEPHINE
MALCOMSON & BELL AGENTS
No.9 DONEGALL QUAY BELFAST

struck in very bright red. Unfortunately there is no datestamp and the writer of the letter was so inconsiderate as to omit the year. There is also a framed BELFAST/SHIP LETTER (Robertson type S 4) so it is unlikely to be later than 1830.
Correction. In a different light I have found a faint Dublin datestamp of October 1831.

POSTAL STATIONERY — The postcards, lettercards, and envelopes sold in the post offices are still the same as before last year's increase in rates, the extra being added by adhesives. There is, however, at least one provisional. When the electricity meter reader finds no-one at home he drops a card in the letter box with instructions for making and posting the reading The current (no pun intended) card has a 2d typographed plus a 1d embossed.

I.P.C. Random Notes

June 1965 No.94

U.I.T. My thanks to those who sent me first-day covers. But no gratitude for the designer or the officials who approved the the crass stupidities. The most important feature is the emblem of the U.I.T. and it is, through size and colour, reduced to insignificance. Most of the area is devoted to what are alleged to be symbollic waves of communication. They could represent sound waves, but are quite inappropriate to telecommunications. One can understand the use of the Irish language on stamps for internal letters, but surely for such a commemorative an internationally recognised tongue, French or English, is preferable. The choice of black is unfortunate. Finally, there is no attempt to exploit the possibilities of the printing process. Lines of varied width and solid colour are characteristic of typography.

Even the printing is a mess, with smudges and faint lines running the length of the pane

Yeats Birth Centenary The advance publicity reproduction suggests that the Yeats design will be less objectionable, but with some unforgivable blemishes. Again too much empty space. No indication of why Yeats is being commemorated. And the monstrous mixture of styles of numeral - I/5 instead of 1/5

PILLAR BOXES The "Belfast Telegraph" for 15 May had a good article by Elizabeth Chetwynd on "Pillars of our Postal Past" mentioning old boxes on both sides the Border.

POSTAGE DUES J.E.Foley (Baltimore,Nd.) contributed to the April "AMERICAN PHILATELIST" description and sketch of a variety of the 1d Irish postage due, and Nissen & Co. have plated it as Row 1,No.6 in panes with the barred gutter to either side. I'm reluctant to accept this as evidence that it is on two panes, preferring to believe that the plate is made up of movable parts. Th variety is an indentation breaking the margin of the white curved panel above the n of "le n'ioc" and is found with both watermarks.



This is from another Postage Due item. The handstamp was used to cancel normal mails during the Christmas rush, and this example cancelled a ½d Ed.VII on the picture side of a postcard. On the obverse (address) side is written "Contrary to Regulations" and handstruck "1d". The particular offence was usually condoned .

I.P.C. Random Notes

July 1965 No. 95

WORLD'S FAIR 5d MISPRINT ?

Bournemouth Stamp Auctions for 6th August include a pair of the 5d World's Fair, issued last year, with the brown colour missing, mint. It is the first such error to be reported for Ireland and one would like to know more about it. Until used copies turn up there is the possibility that it is only a bit of printers' waste.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION YEAR

The Irish I.C.Y. issue is announced for 16th August, with values 3d and 10d. The announcement specifies a printing of only ½ million for the 10d, but I predict that the demand will be enough to justify a second printing. This will be an easier procedure now than hitherto, the process being carried out in Dublin Castle instead of by an outside firm.



Here is the Horse Show label that I promised. I'm sorry that the "Visit our Stand" has no significance for us. It would be very pleasant if hobbyists could combine to rent a stand and publicise their interests. The Horse Show (more than the Spring Show) is a wonderful place for running into people.

AER LINGUS FIRST FLIGHTS

The special mails flown by the One-Eleven inaugural flights (Dublin-Dusseldorf-Dublin 8th June: Dublin-Zurich-Dublin 14th June) had suitably inscribed envelopes and simple hand-stamped cachets. All have the appropriate arrival datestamps. Each has as stiffener a postcard depicting the aircraft. One may disapprove of the issue of special envelopes for such trivial occasions, but at cost these should be a good investment.

CHAMBON PRINTING MACHINE

Your attention should be drawn to an informative article in Stamp Collecting for 2nd July, dealing with the machine recently set going in Dublin.

INVERTED WATERMARKS.

One unfortunate feature of the modern Irish photogravure stamps is the paper. It is easily damaged, and it makes watermark detection difficult.

Laboriously scrutinising some thousands of the definitives recently I found two of the 5d and two 6d with inverted watermarks. Those you know of already, but there was also one 10d with the variety. Date of postmark indistict but the year is probably 1964.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

July 1965 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 95

SENATE ELECTION

A graduate of Trihity College,Dublin, has shown me the envelope from his voting paper. It is a specially printed registration envelope with even the"label" printed, the number being added by pen. The feature to report is that the label reads "DUBLIN-DU". The DU probably = Dublin University, the correct name, Trinity College describing the buildings rather than the institution.

SLOGAN AND MACHINE NEWS

Wicklow, or rather CILL MHANTÁIN, must be added to the list of post offices with machine cancellations.

On 1 June Belfast introduced an attractive slogan, "More space - less pace / NORTHERN IRELAND HOLIDAYS" with a motor car and rural view, shone on by shamrock-shaped sun partially eclipsed by the Ulster hand. Or it may be the shamrock which does the eclipsing except where the hand lets the light through !

AIRPORT METER MARK

Meter NV 237 is installed in the offices of the Shannon Free Airport, and its frankings urge that one should fly via Shannon Airport - Ireland -.

There is still no news of any celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the opening of Dublin Airport.

SLOT-MACHINE BOOKLETS

Recent questions in the Dail extracted the information that it is planned to have printed special booklets suitable for issue through slot-machines. The machines will be tried first in Dublin, and if popular then provided elsewhere.

AUCTION REALISATIONS

At a Bournemouth auction last month there was offered a sheet of the 6d I.R.A. Cork issue. I was surprised to see it valued as little as £6 and se in an appreciably higher bid. There must have been at least two highef bids, the buyer being pushed to £35.

RURAL POST OFFICES

An Irish Times article on the future of the Department of Posts & Telegraphs predicts the closing of many of the small village offices as part of the drive towards more economical working. As Dr. de Burca's investigations have proved, some of the offices are very small and their continuance difficult to justify. So if you aim at getting the cancellations of all the offices in any area don't delay: look for them now, before it is too late.

I.P.C. Random Notes

August 1965 No. 96

SLOGANS Nothing new yet. Only a rather confusing mixture of stock types has been seen recently. There was an inversion on Dublin B machine on 27 July, the name & date circle being inverted with slogan FULL ADDRESSING SPEEDS DELIVERY.

The day after I typed the above, news came that there will shortly be a new slogan at Galway publicising "Junior Chamber of Commerce. Galway, Salthill" in use for one month.

I.P.C. MEETING August Bank Holiday (still at beginning of month in Ireland) is a surprising day to choose for a meeting, and it was therefore not surprising that only five IPC members turned up to meet the celebrated Neil Stack, on the last lap of a journey which has taken him round the world. Unfortunately it was the only possible evening. The five had a pleasant and informative chat .

HORSE SHOW Postmarking as before - 31mm skeleton handstamp, applied to parcels & registered letters, but not on ordinary letters or postcards. Registration label has name inserted by pen.

OPTICAL CONGRESS Last month there was an Optical Congress in Trinity College, Dublin. There was no special post office for it, but I learn that there was a special posting box, and items placed in it were given an unofficial cachet before passing on to the Post Office. I have not seen an example.

POST OFFICES LISTS Less well known than the Post Office Guide are four slim publications, one for each province, listing the post offices in alphabetical order for each county, with the recommended Irish versions. These do not always agree with what is shown in the postmarks. Price 1/6 each, and worth buying if you are interested. Text is all Irish, as are the titles "Ainmeacha Gaeilge na mBailte Poist i gCuige Chonnacht", "...Mumhan", "...Uladh", "... Laighean".

1916-66 COMMEMORATIVES Dublin is managing very well without newspapers at the time of writing, due to a printing strike, but the Radio news bulletins keep us informed. One surprise is the announcement that next year will bring not only commemorative stamps, but also a special coin, of 10/- value.

I.C.Y. This R.N. issue would have been sent earlier, but is being held until 16th so that we can send first-day examples of the International C-operation Year issue.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

August 1965 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 96

U.K. CHURCHILLS

The 4d Churchill commemorative will be disliked particularly in Ireland, where the Black and Tan combination is deemed a reminder of one of the worst episodes of British rule. However, the brown is more khaki than tan.

INVERTED WATERMARKS

The watermark examination mentioned at the end of R.N. 95 included the current 1/- definitive, which of course has the watermark sideways. It seems that the normal (as seen from the front) is Ⓒ but the reversed variety Ⓓ is fairly common. In the case of the ½d one finds the same two versions but the reversed is less interesting as it occurred on half the booklet panes.

CARRYING BRITISH MAILS OVERSEAS

I have recently found time to read Prof. Howard Robinson's latest book, published last year (George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 50/-). It is strongly recommended. If you cannot afford to buy it, make sure that your local Library gets a copy. There are many interesting references to the Great Britain - Ireland mailboats and good details pf the parts played by Irish ports in the development of transatlantic shipping services. Airmail is only briefly treated - two out of 24 chapters.

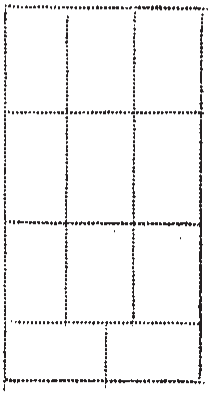
REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

Size H has now appeared with 1/5 stamp and with the erroneous inscription on reverse am ended by a footnote printed in red, like the F ... reported in R.N.91.

TELEGRAM FORMS

It is fascinating to study the efforts of the Irish Department of Posts & Telegraphs to kill it second half. Already "Posts & Telephones" would be a more appropriate combination. You all know of the slogan cancellations urging the use of the phone. How many knew that there was another slogan actually distributed by the telegraph section ! Printings of the "C. or B." form (that for telegrams delivered by hand) in the 1930s incorporated, in Irish and English:

(a) Learn Irish, foster Irish games, and support Irish Industries.
(b) Put your savings into the Post Office Bank.
(c) Instal a Telephone.



The forms are printed 11 to a sheet (30x16½ ins.) arranged as shown in margin. The 11 all have the same serial number.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

September 1965 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 97

METER MARKS — O.M.Richards reports that the NV series of meters now have a new design, similar to the NP series but larger, so that the emblems of the provinces are much clearer.

POSTAL STATIONERY — The provisional 2d+1d card used by E.S.B., reported in R.N.94, has been superseded by a definitive, the stamp being 3d typographed in blue.

N.I.SLOGANS — U.K. Philatelic Bureau's Bulletin Vol.II,No.7 announced that Enniskillen would have a slogan for the "Crown Jazz Festival, Fri.27 Aug." from 23rd July. This seemed surprising. Royalty may honour the Beatles but would hardly sponsor a Jazz Festival. The explanation is that "Crown" should read "Crom", the name of a castle on Lough Erne, about 15 miles SE from Enniskillen. It was here that King James II was twice defeated, the victors becoming the founders of the celebrated Inniskilling Dragoons and Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

1922 SALVAGED MAIL — Letters recovered after the fire in the temporary Dublin G.P.O., on 5th November 1922 , were handstamped SALVED FROM / FIRE GPO DUBLI(N). The "N" is missing in half those I have seen. In very few cases is there evidence of how long after the event the item was salved. However, one has turned up, resealed with the British resealing label (R.L.B.No.54) tied to the envelope by the newly introduced BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH datestamp No.24 on 15 December - almost six weeks after the date of the damage.



The R.M.S."Caronia" included Ireland in her cruise schedule, as usual, and put ashore some mail in Glengarriff. The envelopes have a red cachet "POSTED ON THE HIGH DEAS / R.M.S. "CARONIA" " and the stamps are cancelled with 30mm skeleton.

CO-OP stamps — How feeble can the Irish Post Office become ? The design which brought you R.N.96 is the worst yet. Even the basic idea is wrongly interpreted: the two hands should be of different colours. And they, which should be the dominant feature are barely discernible on the 3d. Another bad thing is "EIRE" without its accent (sine fada). When this was first perpetrated (Thomas Moore, 1952) there was widespread criticism, and the error was avoided for several years. There was less comment about last year's "Europas" but I suspect that the protests will revive now, especially as the 1965 Europa design has the same peculiarity.

I.P.C. Random Notes

September 1965 No.97

THE SINGER CASE A paperback has just been published "Doctor of Millions", by Seamus Brady, a Daily Express reporter. The publishers are Anvil Books Ltd. of Tralee and the price is 3/6. The author seems to have come on the scene only at the time of the crash and one would like to read more about the abortive efforts - such as the Experts' Committee. 90% of the book, or even more, is derived from reports of the trials and from the National Library's file of "Green Isle Philately".

SLOGAN IN RED On 22 August red ink was accidentally used in the Dublin B cancelling machine, the slogan being that advertising Savings Certificates.

DUBLIN & QUEENSTOWN T.P.O. Ward's "Irish T.P.O.s" illustrates only one handstamp inscribed "DUBLIN & QUEENSTOWN T.P.O." but mentions he had another, characterised by "1" above the date. It needs to be added that about 1904 a third handstamp appeared, without number. The best distinguishing feature is that the Q has a definite tail and the U is complete. In the earlier one without number the Q is almost an O and the U is broken into V. The latest is probably also the scarcest as the service ended in 1907.



55 is one of the rarer numbers of the Dublin double-circle handstamps, of the Victorian and Edwardian era. The first that I found was cancelling the stamp on a card which had been posted on ship and put ashore in New York, in 1902. Now I have found two more, also 1902, both used as arrival markings on postcards to Dublin from U.S.A., but quite ordinarily posted post cards. Can anyone find supporting evidence for the theory that 55 was reserved for the American Mail ?

NEW MACHINE Although he did not realise it, a note from I.P.C. member Mr Garner brought me yet another of the new machine cancellations MAINISTIR FHEAR MUIGHE = Fermoy. Like the other recent introductions it seems to be a Pitney Bowes machine, the wavy bars being continuous and the lettering small and neat.

MORE ON METERS. The NV series with the arms of the provinces (reported overleaf) are put out by Roneo-Neopost. Their N series now also have the arms type of stamp.

Mr Richards reported an interesting metermark of the M series. M177 shows its town bilingually - MUINEACHAN above and MONAGHAN below .

DUBLIN P.L.O. PLO is among the abbreviations which have been variously interpreted. It was definitely Paid Letter Office. Up to the 1890s that was the official description for that part of the G.P.O. for the sale of "postage labels" etc. The postmark reading "P.L.O." is seen on registered items, but was probably used also on parcels, postal orders, etc.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

October 1965 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 98

NEW MACHINE

Another to watch out for. EOCHAILL (=Youghal). Introduced August, or earlier, with continuous wavy bars. Total number of offices in the Republic so equipped now 53 (including Dublin).

OFFICIAL STATIONERY

Most of the millions of envelopes licked by civil servants are buff in colour. The chief exceptions are white ones, with the harp embossed in the flap, used for ministerial correspondence etc. Now a third style has appeared. It is azure: the harp is on the flap, recess-printed in bright green. The paper is watermarked with a mono-winged device and the words AER LINGUS BOND MADE IN IRELAND.

MACHINE CORRECTION

Mr Garner has ascertained that the Fermoy cancelling machine (reported in R.N.97) is a Universal.

O'CONNELL 9d BULLET-HOLE

The careless printing of the O'Connell 1929 issue, evidenced by the so-called "bullet-hole" known on several examples of the 2d, concerned all the values. While in Belfast last month Mrs Coburn showed me a prominent blob on The Liberator's left neck, on the 9d.

1916-1966 COMMEMORATIVES

More details have been released about the stamps to be issued next April. All multicolour photogravure. Two designs alternating on the sheet for each value, 3d Connolly and Clarke, 5d Pearse and a general design by E.Delaney, 8d Ceannt and MacDiarmada, 1/5 McDonagh and Plunkett. The portraits are all from the Sean O Sullivan drawings in the National Museum.

Still no news about definitives.



There was a temporary post office for the Dublin Conference of the Associated Countrywomen of the World. It had a skeleton canceller (31mm diameter) reading ACWW CONFERENCE / DUBLIN but also an attractive rubber cachet, designed to include the ancient Irish style of gold lanula and a straw knot representing an old folk-art which has survived.

"PRINCESS MAUD"

Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire travellers will be interested to know that the "Princess Maud" will sail the route no more. She was not regularly on the route but often deputised there, or augmented the sailings at busy periods. She has now been sold, renamed "Venus" and will serve the Greek Islands.

I.P.C. RANDOM NOTES

October 1965 No.98

NEW MACHINE And another ! AERPHORT NA SIONAINNE, which even the non-Irish can translate into SHANNON AIRPORT. First seen 19 SEP with -- in the space where time is usually shown.

U.K. SLOGANS It must be reported that Edinburgh had a slogan cancellation to herald an ULSTER WEEK there 27 Sept.- 2 Oct.

AIR EDITIONS OF NEWSPAPERS Irish airmail collectors are fairly familiar with the special printing of the "Irish Independent" flown on the 1929 flight from Galway to London. The Dublin "Evening Herald" has just reminded its readers of an earlier venture. An air race from Dublin to Belfast was planned for 7th September 1912. Two of the four entrants carried parcels of a special edition of the "Evening Herald". One of them failed to make progress against the strong headwind and quickly return to the starting point (Leopardstown). The other, Mr Astley, got as far as Drogheda. No-one got as far as Belfast.

MESSAGE FROM THE AIR Two days later (9 September 1912) H.Samet, a French aviator, gave a display of aerobatics over Phoenix Park, and before landing he dropped a message "My best thanks to the Dublin people", and it conveniently reached the ground at the feet of the "Evening Herald's reporter.



I have hitherto thought this style of rubber stamp, reserved for undeliverable Printed Papers, had the value fixed. An example of about 1930 has turned up with the ½d only half-way up instead of as shown here. Its Dublin allocation is proved by the presence on the envelope of the unframed NO SUCH PLACE IN DUBLIN.

THE NEW SLOGANS In R.N. 96 it was stated that a new slogan due "shortly" was JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, GALWAY, SALTHILL. This did not appear until 1 October. Galway is symbolised by a travelling crane and sheds: for Salthill there is a bikinied bathing belle.

AND THE OLD ONES For October most places have the VOTERS LISTS slogans, but Limerick has revived the one for its Grand Opera Festival in November.

POSTAL HISTORY PROPAGANDA All keen collectors have some missionary tendencies, and realise that a talk or display to to the unconverted is more worthwhile than meetings with fellow enthusiasts. You will therefore be glad to know that I.P.C. President Fr.J.Brennan will be talking on Irish Postal History to the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. Date: Nov. 4th.

DOG LICENCE STAMPS One of F.E.Dixon's missionary aims is to revive interest in some of the revenue stamps. He is happy to report that the dog's centenary has now been featured in the Irish Times (22 September) as well as Stamp Collecting (24 September).

I.P.C. Random Notes

November 1965 No. 99

DUBLIN'S NEW PILLAR BOXES

Most people have heard of the English visitor to Ireland whose photo-processer at home thought that he had erred when the pillar-boxes appeared green. I don't believe the story, because there are green pillar-boxes in England - in the Lake District.

Colour slides of central Dublin taken near 22 October could raise problems, because there were aluminium coloured pillar boxes on the pavements, alongside the green ones. They were awaiting installation (and painting). These new (?) boxes are oval and with two slots, one for local mail, and the other for items destined for outside Dublin. Except for the "P7T" in place of "VR" these closely resemble the design used 66 years ago in London, even to having the words "POST OFFICE" cast on each box.

FENIAN 24c FORGERIES

R.N.89 mentioned that the block used to illustrate the 24c Fenian Essay in Moens's 1883 Catalogue seemed to be the same as that of the February 1866 "Stamp Collector's Magazine". It can now be added that the same block was used in between, in "The Philatelist" of April 1867, illustrating an article reprinted from the"Boy's Journal". Did that Journal too borrow or copy the block ?

IRISH PHILATELISTS

"The Philatelist" of 1874 has the earliest advertisement that I know of from an Irish address. Mr R.R.Cherry, of 17 William St. Waterford, offered stamps for exchange.

1703 DUBLIN PENNY POST

Yet another quotable piece from "The Philatelist"(April 1875) is itself borrowed from the "Pall Mall Gazette".It mentions the petition of Eliza, Dowager Countess of Thanet, to Queen Anne, for permission to establish a Penny Post in Dublin. This article asserts that the petition seems to have been granted ! Modern authorities (e.g. Robinson) do not agree with this.

YEATS 5d

I have not seen the flaw or retouch, reported in Stamp Collecting as occurring on the 3rd stamp of bottom row. What I have noticed is the range of shades, especially in the brown bar to the right. I have one used copy in which this bar seems to be missing. The same batch had another variety - a break in the black bar, opposite the Y.

The brown bar is very weak in the last stamp of each row in the pane which has no marginal markings.

PARCELS INSURANCE RECEIPT

From 1886 to 1891 there were special receipts for insured parcels, with 1d stamp affixed. There was a Dublin printing by the firm Sealy,Bryers and Walker.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

November 1965 Number 99

RANDOM NOTES

SCIENCE EXHIBITION CORK

From 6th October to 6th November Cork has a pictorial slogan cancellation advertising the Science Exhibition to be held there from 2nd to 6th November. The picture is a caricature of a scientist pouring from a flask into a test-tube, and thereby producing fumes. One suspects that it will be demonstrated in the Exhibition. In any case we will try to have this posted so as to bring you examples.

INVERSIONS

Only a minor one. The 9.15 PM dispatch through Dublin J machine (with interrupted wavy bars) on 8 October had the time line upside down: all else normal.

IRISH FORCES OVERSEAS

The news-sheet issued by Mr Woods last month stated that the Irish troops returning at the end of September from Cyprus would not be replaced. They were replaced by a further contingent.

12 Irish Army officers are in Pakistan with U.N. forces supervising the cease-fire.

I.P.C. & E.P.A.

Another regrettable mis-statement in that news-sheet referred to proposals to merge IPC with EPA. There have been various attempts to find a means of closer liaison and merging of publications, leading eventually to one united world-wide body, but it has not been proposed that the I.P.C. should lose its identity.



Dr de Burca sends a tracing of this handstamp, seen on an 1815 letter, Dublin to Tullow. There were similar stamps for other Dublin offices, TAXES, EXCISE, CUSTOMS and ORDNANCE. They do not seem to have been Post Office stamps, but to have been applied in the offices, probably as evidence that the money for prepayment had been given to the officer entrusted with posting the letter. It had probably been found that such monies had been pocketed and letters posted unpaid. The introduction of these special stamps did not eliminate abuse. Dishonest clerks could slip into the official mail their own and friends' private correspondence.

ANOTHER SLOGAN REVIVAL

After missing 1964, "Teach your children to clean their teeth" reappeared at Dublin during October, first seen 15th.

H & K

A.Stokes has drawn my attention to an exceptionally informative article "70 Years of the Irish Mail" by A.C.Yeates in "Sea Breezes" for July 1961.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

December 1965 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 100

A POSTAL STATIONERY ERROR

Among the pre-1922 Irish postage stamps are some envelopes and wrappers with the stamps embossed in them. The stamps applied in Dublin are recognisable by the letter D before the die number. A very choice item is the 1917 error. The Representative Body of the Church of Ireland sent in some of its wrappers, ordering the 1d stamp. Inadvertently, the ½d die was used, but in the red colour of the 1d. I believe that examples of the error exist in this form, but most of the wrappers were corrected: the wrong impression was defaced with a heavy red grill (normally used for deleting incorrect fiscals) and the correct 1d then embossed below.

BOOKLET MACHINES

Last month a question in the Dail elicited the fact that about 50 books of stamps in a modified format were being made up for sending to a manufacturer for testing in machines which he had offered. The Minister could not say how long the tests would take.

PAPER DUTY STAMPS

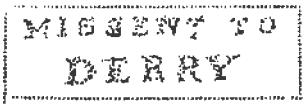
The Newspaper Stamps, introduced in England 1712, in Ireland 1724, are well known. There are many other stamps connected with the paper trade. There is an excellent article on them by Mrs H.G.Leask in the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Vol.XCII, 1962. It is the sixth of a series by her on Old Wall Papers. Her illustrations include what some regard as the largest fiscal stamp, a "Paper Label" 8 x 7 inches. In the case of wall-papers Ireland was not concerned in the taxation until 1797, although the sellers were included in the shopkeepers who had to have licences from 1785.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION YEAR

The designers of the Irish stamps have not yet learned all the limitations of their current photogravure process. Fine details cannot be shewn, particularly items like uncoloured lettering, such as the heading of the I.C.Y. 3d and 10d. Note how L degenerates to L, T to T, 5 to 5, etc.

R.N. 99

It was very disappointing that the last issue was so miserably postmarked, as N.J.Langton journeyed to Cork specially to get the slogan, and was assured when he posted the bundle that they would all pass through the machine. (And see overleaf "SLOGANS")



J.D. Houston has lent for illustration this hitherto unrecorded "Missent" mark, occurring on a letter of 1837 from London to Derby.

I.P.C. Random Notes

December 1965 No. 100

IMPERIAL UNION — Although the "Provisional Government: Imperial Union" labels, in green and in orange, are generally classed as bogus, no-one seems to know who perpetrated them, or when. A pamphlet has come my way which may supply a clue. It is issued by the "Irish Imperial Home Rule Association", dated August 1908. The address of the Hon.Sec. was the Gresham Hotel, Dublin. It seems to me plausible that it should have issued Essays as a counter-blast to the Sinn Fein labels.

DUBLIN - WEXFORD T. P. O. — It is confirmed that this T.P.O., started in 1894, has been definitely withdrawn, and will not even be revived temporarily for the Christmas season.

TOM CLARKE f.d.c. — It is inevitable that the red and black inks occasionally get mixed. One example that I have not seen reported was 28 VII 58 when the BAILE ATHA CLIATH c.d.s. No.70 was used to cancel some first-day-covers and cancelled them in a purplish brown .

IRISH PLACE NAMES — For years I have cherished my copy of "POST-SEANCAS" Part I, issued by Connrad na Gaedilge in 1905, hoping one day to locate Part II. Patience is rewarded and it now adjoins its partner on my shelves. It did not appear until 1911 and consists mainly of the Irish-English translations for every post office in Ireland. It is a scholarly work, with explanations and origins clearly set out by Seosam Laoide.

FYNDEM TIPS I.C.Y. PAIR — So far there is no evidence of speculators buying up the I.C.Y. issue. Although now on sale for over three months, they are still obtainable in the post offices. My feeling, as with other Irish stamps, is that for long-term investment fine used will prove scarcer than mint.

SLOGANS — November proved another difficult month to chronicle. Dublin had four different slogans and of 34 provincial towns 3 had the old MAKE THE ROADS SAFE, 12 the new: one (Bray) had the fancy FULL ADDRESS .. and 8 the DUBLIN ADDRESSES .... Eleven had only wavy bars. In addition Cork had its Science Exhibition until 6th, and Limerick started with its Opera Festival.

P.& T. let us down again. The batch of covers I had prepared and sent to Cork for first-day posting was cancelled there on 6th October. I have since found that the Science Exhibition was in use on the previous day !

Post Paid at CAMDEN ST

This handstruck mark is copied from Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia, but I have found no other evidence of its existence. Has anyone seen it ? Or is it a misreading of the CLARE ST. stamp, of which a few examples are known, usually indistinct ?

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

CHRISTMAS 1965 Number 101

RANDOM NOTES

GREETINGS - and many of them, with hopes for Happy hunting in the New Year.

F.F.FREEMAN Lt.-Col. Francis F.Freeman is remembered as co-author of the pioneer handbook of the I.F.S. Provisionals, and founder of the Mint Stamp Co. They were not his first efforts. In 1906 he had founded the Kildare Stamp Exchange (later merged with the Otterburn) and had dealt in stamps from London addresses in New Oxford St. and the Strand. For at least one year (1913-14) he issued "Freeman's Monthly Journal of Philately", edited by Major M. Connolly. It had little of permanent value, and only one item pertaining to Ireland:

DUBLIN STAMPING MACHINE EXPERIMENT ? That item (p.30, 9 October 1913) refers to the penny-in-the-slot machine for stamping letters, used experimentally in London during 1912. It quotes an Irish paper as stating that Dublin was to have a similar experimental installation. Has anyone heard anything more about it, or seen any letters which might have passed through the machine in Dublin ?

LONG-LIVED DEFINITIVES IPC News asks what country can beat Eire's record. I think that Tonga's 1897-1953 is usually regarded as the record-holder, but Norway must be considered: although there have been changes of currency and redrawings, the basic posthorn design has survived from 1871 to date.

STAMP POSITION ON ENVELOPE Mr Woods is wrong in asserting that the P.O. does not mind where you place the stamp. The various facing machines all assume that the posters have followed the normal practice. The Irish Post Office Guide is quite definite in stating that the stamp should be affixed to the right-hand top corner of the address side.

IMPERIAL UNION LABELS My theory, promulgated in R.N. 100, that these labels originated as early as 1908, is supported by the reference to them in the "Sinn Fein Rebellion Handbook" (2nd ed. Aug.1916,p.217) which describes "bogus stamps of English manufacture, printed several years ago." It is this short article which gives one important datum about the Sinn Fein labels: their price was half-a-crown a gross !

I.P.C. RANDOM NOTES

Christmas 1965 No.101

FORGERY OF THE MANCHESTER MARTYRS "STAMPS"

A small auction lot recently acquired included some of the tricolour labels with portraits of Larkin, Allen & O'Brien, which have been sold as being "rebel stamps" of 1916. These differ from the others I have seen, being roughly trimmed by scissors to only about 35x23 mm, roughly gummed with yellowish gum and with different lettering. e.g. the E in Allen and O'Brien should be Ɛ, and GOD SAVE IRELAND should be in serif type. In these respects the forgery is like the silk reproduction of Godfrey Phillips Ltd.

AND FORGERIES OF FISCALS

A Dublin lady has just loaned to me some dies dating from the early 19th century for impressing Duty Stamps on banknotes etc. Three at least are palpable forgeries. Two of them are engraved on the polished surface of "cartwheel" pennies and the third was made using punches on a sheet of copper. I intend to return them (after making a few impressions) before the authorities discover them in my possession. What would the penalty be ? At least transportation !

MAIL BAGS

More probably I'd be put to making mailbags, of which rather more are needed than formerly. To help keep separate the postings in the two halves of the "new" pillarboxes (and elsewhere) mails for Dublin are now placed in special sacks with prominent red and white stripes.

GOLD MEDAL

It is only rarely that a philatelic exhibit of Ireland reaches the Gold Medal standard, and it is great news for all enthusiasts that J.J.Walsh has achieved the distinction at "UNIPEX" in his home town of Utica, New York.

I.P.C. IRISH A.G.M.

These Random Notes will bring to the Irish-based members notification of the local A.G.M. next month. The theme for study at the meeting will be "1916" and members elsewhere are invited to send for inspection any exceptional covers or items which they think likely to help the study - or problems which the study might help to solve..

1916, please, not the later Civil War covers. One marking of this which has not been illustrated is on a choice cover in the Stokes collection, used in Dublin as late as March 1923: RECOVERED FROM RAIDED MAIL just about that size, but sans-serif.

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS slogan did not appear until 11th December.

R A N D O M

N O T E S

1965

(Numbers 89-101)

EDITORIAL: The high postage rates are causing societies to reduce their postings to members, and it is difficult to justify the present I.P.C. extravagance in issuing not only a quarterly journal but also these approximately (13 in 1965) monthly notes, and other newsletters. The cost of posting "Random Notes" is, however, partly subsidised by the Postal Auction, the commission of which pays its share of the cost of distributing batches such as brings you this page.

Sufficient appreciative remarks have reached me to encourage me to continue. I certainly hope that there will be many more "Random Notes" as they are among the many reminders of our late friend and benefactor Thomas E.Field. Following his example I used to make extra carbon copies of my letters and notes, and use these to inform other correspondents. Some of the notes were strung together on odd occasions under the heading of "Dixon's Irish Philatelic News". The idea caught on and, as one of the fundamental functions of the "Study Group", Tom Field arranged for the duplication of the "D.I.P.N." entirely at his own expense. When he and I and others found it impossible to agree with the organisation of the Study Group, and instead formed the Irish Philatelic Circle, his generous assistance was transferred to that body. I now operate my own duplicator, and charge the Circle with the cost of the stencils, ink and paper.

It is now public knowledge that T.E.Field made bequests to the I.P.C. and to myself. Regarding the former, it is to be hoped that there will be careful consideration of how best to use the money to perpetuate the memory of a good and kind man, in a way that he would have approved. In connection with his philatelic library, he left written instructions to me that books already represented on my shelves should be passed on to other of his philatelic friends. This is being done, but a bookplate is being placed in each volume before forwarding, stating "From the philatelic library of THOMAS EDWIN FIELD of Skelmanthorpe, 1905-1965. Bequeathed to his philatelic friends.

J. L. Dixon

December 1965

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The sad news of the death of T.E.Field was given in a slip circulated with R.N. 90

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Edited and produced by F.E.Dixon, 15 Terenure Road,East, Rathgar, DUBLIN 6

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

January 1966 RANDOM NOTES Number 102

HOW TO COLLECT

The confessedly misguided editor of "Irish Philately" asks where I get my information and material. I have no sources which could not have been found by anyone with adequate pertinacity. My collections include items scrounged or salvaged from multifarious sources, as well as those bought in shops or auction rooms. If I have any peculiar characteristics (Who hasn't: every bonnet has its bee) the dominant one is range of interests. Many choice postal items have come my way from fellow numismatists, or bibliophiles, or general antiquarians, often in exchange for what they want. Good and pleasant contacts have developed from casual chats in bookshops and antique shops, and each new acquaintan is liable to lead to more.

One difficulty met when buying from unusual sources i that one may be invited to buy at one's own price. If the seller is a dealer, be tough, and try for a bargain But don't take advantage of the innocent: my policy in general is to offer more than what a dealer would pay, but less than what he would ask. Quite apart from being ethical, I recommend the policy as one which seems to give satisfaction in most cases.

HOW TO LEARN

The editorial which has provoked me to write the above asks yet again how the beginners can acquire expert knowledge. NOT by reading magazines or buying ready-mad collections. Study meetings and study circulars help, i well organised, but must be supervised by someone who already has the spadework done.

Only a few organised studies can be in progress at one time and where a body like the I.P.C. or E.P.A. can help most is by putting the members in touch with one another. If you have a query don't hesitate to bring it to a meeting or to write to one of the old stagers. Most collectors with the knowledge are willing to share it, especially if there is a stamped addressed envelope enclosed for the reply.

FIRST DAY COVER CACHETS

R.P.Woods in the Journal describes the cachet used at Irish main post offices on f.d.c. As new offices were included, additions and replacements were needed and th number of different types is considerable. The first, Dublin 1949 was 48x9½mm. By 1954 there was another, 49x10, with larger letters, the F and E being distinctive. 1957 saw a shorter type 47 to 48 x 10 mm, with exxessively large accents.

Don't forget the machine type used in 1954 on the Marian Year issue. The die probably still exists and may reappear some day.

SLOGANS Please correct my first report of POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS: it was in use in some places by 7 December.

On 6 December Ennis was still using VOTERS LISTS die, and had the name-and-date circle all inverted..

SHADE OF 1d DEFINITIVE AND A 4d "VARIETY" I think that there has been a new printing of the stamp booklets. What caught my eye was a rather dark 1d on a letter from the country. I bought some booklets and in one of them both panes of 1d have this dark appearance, due I think to the plate being dirty rather than to any change of ink. The 4d pane is similar, the best evidence of the dirt being the filling in of the loop of the second e of centre. Not a cataloguable flaw but worth looking for. It is on the centre stamp of the lower row.

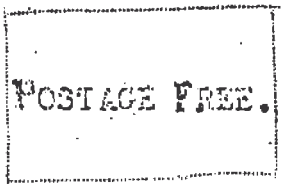
This particular booklet has a number of features which seem always to go together: red spots near stitching on front and back covers and white blobs in the lower left pillar, left of stitching. These possibly occur only once in each sheet of 44 booklets.

IRELAND FOR THE U.S.A.? A propaganda label reported, not yet seen by me, is put out by Pittsburgh merchant Hamilton Tanney, and bears the words "IRELAND FOR THE 51ST STATE" !

FYNDEM'S IRISH TIPPINGS Fyndem's Christmas Tips included Irish commemoratives of 1929-34, mint. This is gratifying confirmation of our belief that philatelic interest in Ireland is increasing. However, my first tip for 1966 is the 1908-16 Sinn Fein labels on cover, whether the original use in 1908 or the "use" with forged cancellation in April 1916.

REDUCTION OF A POSTAL RATE ! There was widespread surprise when, on New Year's Eve, it was announced that the minimum letter rate for foreign letters would be cut from 8d to 7d on the following day. So we can expect a new stamp of that value sometime during the year.

DEATH OF A DESIGNER Newspapers of 29 December reported the death at 96 of John Joseph O'Reilly, whose Sword of Light design has been used for ½d, 5d, 6d, 8d and 1/- definitive stamps



My note overleaf "How To Collect" omitted mention of one important asset - a well trained wife. It was my wife who discovered the latest batch of solicitor waste. Very little of postal interest, however. The only item worth mention here is illustrated alongside, from a printed form to be posted to the Estate Duty Office, Custom House, Dublin, in 1914. When was it superseded by the "Official Paid" encircled crown ?

The Income Tax Exemptions office at about the same time issued envelopes with "POSTAGE FREE." unframed.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

February 1966 Number 103

RANDOM NOTES

DUBLIN & EDINBURGH BISHOP-MARKS

An article "Old Scottish Postmarks" in a Robert Burns booklet sold by the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh indicates that Edinburgh had its Bishopmark from 1663. This would put it ahead of Dublin, and Irish collectors will be happy to know that the author made a slip and has confessed it in a letter to me.

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

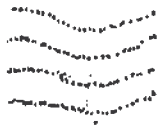
Two years ago Ballinasloe was mentioned as having "Post Early for Christmas" on January 1st. That record is now beaten by Monaghan which employed the slogan on 31 December 1965 !

Other Slogans

Most towns began 1966 with the VOTERS' LISTS slogans a notable exception being Killarney with its tourist propaganda.

PAR AVION AERPHOST O.E. 78

The airmail etiquettes are confusing. The 1963 print with O.E.78. 6½ mm long was very deep blue, but now I find a less deep variety. And the 1965 printing with O.E. 78 8mm long also has at least two shades. It has another peculiarity: the space between AERPHOST and O.E. 78 is usually only 2mm, but at least one label of the bottom row has it 3 mm.



I don't think that this machine cancellation has been recorded before, a hybrid of 1919, with the three line name, time, date of the 1906-12 types but the single block of waved bars introduced in Dublin July 1916. Has anyone other examples to check the period of use ?

TELEGRAM FORMS

The slogans on the 1934 printing of telegram form "C. or B.", reported in R.N. 96, were not new then. They appeared in a printing by Thoms as early as November 1922. Other printings were made next year by Easons and by Maunsell & Roberts - 50,000 pads each.



M.P.87.

My next illustration is of a rubber-stamped fiscal equivalent of the printed "POSTAGE FREE" described in Random Notes 102. My example is of 1910 on a Conveyance of Quit Rent of lands in Co. Limerick, the form being printed by Thoms in Dublin, but used in London, and signed by Sir Edward Stafford Howard, K.C.B., one of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods, Forests and Land Revenues.

In R.N.72 there was mention of the form for the advice of delivery of a registered packet, a sort of reply-postcard. That is superseded (since 1960 or earlier) by a reversible form of pink paper, with the same number (M.P.87.). The fee is now 6d

I.P.C. Random Notes

February 1966 No. 103

DEFINITIVE 3D NEW PLATE ?

The sheets of 3d definitive now on sale seem to be from a fresh plate. The evidence, as in other cases, is that the pillars of the gutter, between upper and lower panes, are all interrupted. The impressions are not, however, as sharp as one expects from a new plate, and may be an old one reconditioned.



Illustration R.G.2 in Noel Langton's book on the Baile Atha Cliath Postal Handstamps was based on one poor strike, only the D of the Deimhnithe being clear. Mr Rawlins now enables us to issue a corrected illustration, the word being in sans-serif capitals.

"IRELAND OF THE WELCOMES"

One of the best run efforts to attract visitors to Ireland is its bi-monthly magazine (1/6 per issue: 10/- p.a. post free) and the current Jan.-Feb. issue is particularly good. Outstanding is W.Kane's article on "Ireland's Postage Stamps", which will convert a few more to collecting. Established collectors will cut out the illustrations to embellish their albums.

5d LETTER CARD

Letter Cards with 5d impressed stamp are now on sale. Packet wrappers are the old printing, modified by overprinting the "5/-" with a bar and "6/-". The first packet I saw has the printing too far right so that some of the stamp falls beyond the perforations. This led to the discovery that there is a slight variation in the distance between LITIR-CHÁRTA and the stamp, some being about 1mm further than others. The perforator still has the two broken pins first noticed in 1955. (and see below)

ARCHER THE DUBLINER

One Irish connection not widely known is with Henry Archer, inventor of the perforating machines. His father was Willam Henry Archer, Lord Mayor of Dublin for 1811-12, Sword Cutler.

BOGUS OVERPRINTS

It is inevitable that the excess of demand over supply should lead to an increase in the forgeries of high value overprints and other expensive items. What is hard to understand is the carelessness of some of the felons responsible. One of our members has shown me photographs of a set of high values, which are bogus. They bear an imitation of the 5-line overprint used for lower values.

5d LETTER CARD

The next packet bought included one with the perforation holes through the "Chun an litir-chárta....." The displacement to right is also apparent, but not quite as pronounced as with the first packet.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

February 1966 Number 104

RANDOM NOTES

EDITORIAL NOTE — In spite of the absence of news from our members in England, the spate of interesting items from the Irish sector of the circle necessitates the appearance of a double amount of "R.N." this month.

PRESS TELEGRAM PASS — Mr Stokes has given me a relic of the days when the telephone was a novelty, wireless only a utopian idea, and the teleprinter an experimental toy. Instead the millions of words which make up the newspapers depended on the Post Office Telegraphs for their rapid transmission, and there were (as there are still) much reduced rates for Press Telegrams. A further concession was eliminating prepayment if the sender affixed an officially printed docket with the name of the newspaper addressee. What Mr Stokes has found is such a docket of the 1890s for the Dublin "Eveneing Herald".



It led me to look up my example of a press telegram. Herewith I depict its datestamp, which was used in the Press Section of the Dublin Central Telegraph Office, and was probably never used as a stamp canceller.

1916-66 10/- COMMEMORATIVE — Some details have been announced of the new 10/- coin. It will depict Padraig Pearse and the G.P.O. statue of Cuchulainn. By using silver the size will be reduced to less than that of the cupro-nickel half-crown.

THOMAS E.FIELD's PHILATELIC LIBRARY — I am now carrying out our benefactor's request and distributing to his philatelic friends the books he left me of which I already owned examples. The library included many important items which are little known, and which I propose to discuss in "Random Notes".

LISTS OF POST OFFICES — There are two early official lists of Irish Free State Post Offices. The first, published 1925, is a straightforward list of the Irish names with the English translations. The other is dated 1929 and has headings in French. It lists only the Money Order Offices, in English first, then Irish, and was presumably for issue to U.P.U. members.

The series of Irish Post Office Guides is almost complete, beginning with January 1923. This was a special printing of the British Guide, with a few pages, and the covers, to indicate the Irish postal rates, etc.

THE IRISH CANCELLING MACHINES AND SLOGANS IN 1965

Summary by F.E.Dixon

During 1965 five more offices installed cancelling machines, Carrick-on-shannon, Fermoy, Shannon Airport, Wicklow and Youghal.

The only new slogans for general issue were the pair with pictorial representations of the Dublin G.P.O. facade, and urging greater use of the Post Office's savings facilities, through The Savings Bank and Savings Certificates. They were distributed during February and March.

There were four new local slogans. In January Ballina began to publicise the MOY FESTIVAL to be held there in July. Sligo was less enterprising, the FESTIVAL OF SLIGO slogan not appearing until March. There were no more until October, when Galway had one advertising JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, GALWAY & SALTHILL. At about the same time Cork started the slogan for its SCIENCE EXHIBITION, held early in November.

Local slogans revived during 1965 included the holiday appeals of Wexford and Bray, the Choral Festival at Cork, the Opera Festival at Limerick, the Festival of Kerry at Tralee and the usual pair on the Cork machine, for the Kinsale Regatta followed by the Bandon Carnival.

Finally, there were the revivals of the various dies in general use, the commonest being that urging the use of District Numbers in Dublin Addresses, supplemented by the "Full Address Speeds Delivery". "Prevent Forest Fires" had its customary Spring use (for the 12th year) and from September onwards there were the two Voters Lists slogans, not systematically used, as the distribution of the Lists to Post Offices did not keep to schedule. "Teach your children to clean their Teeth" had a limited run in October and the Road Safety slogans came back in November and were only interrupted by the "Post Early for Christmas", which was inavertently used at Monaghan on 31st December.

A peculiarity (but not unprecedented) was that Dundalk and Kilkenny started 1965 with the year line blank, until the new dies were ready. There were other abnormalities, mainly inversions of the name-and-date circle, or parts thereof.

P.S. The P.O. Savings campaign included the revival in Limerick of the "Bank your Savings in the Savings Bank", introduced in 1944, but not used anywhere since 1950.

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The booklet about the Irish Slogan cancellations is now out of print, but thanks to T.E.Field's bequest I have a few spare copies which I can offer free to anyone lacking it.

F.E.Dixon, 15 Terenure Road,East,
Rathgar, DUBLIN 6, Ireland

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

March 1966 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 105

THE PASSING OF A POSTING BOX — Chroniclers of Dublin's Pillar Boxes have usually mentioned one antique item, a large wooden box with a brass-rimmed slot, with the words GENERAL POST RECEIVER on the brass, barely legible after over a century of polishing. This box was just inside Commercial Buildings in Dame Street, and has recently been removed.

R.S.O. — No ! I do not intend to re-open discussion on what these letters mean. My note is that a P.O. Circular of 12 August 1867 announced that the Railway Sub Office known as Clady (Tyrone) would henceforth be called "Urney (Tyrone)" .

P.P.6. , the small label used on parcels to take the date-stamp of the place of posting, has appeared with a new heading "Beartphost agus Tiachoga Oifigiula (Parcel Post and Official Pouches)".

MACHINE CANCELLERS — This year again there were not enough "66" plugs for all the cancelling machines, and Ballina was leaving the year space blank through January and the first half of February.

T.E.FIELD COLLECTION — It is a disappointment to many that the wonderful collection is being dispersed by private treaty, and not, as we had expected, by public auction. Most of the stamps have gone abroad, but major portions of the postal history sections have been purchased intact in the U.K.

EXCHANGE PACKET BOMBSHELL — There is consternation at the news of an Irish philatelist being stung for 2½% Turnover Tax on the entire valuation of an Exchange Packet received from U.K. Unfortunately there seems to be no legitimate escape from the impost, if and when it is demanded, and international exchange packets seem to be finished as far as collectors resident in Ireland are concerned.

T.E.FIELD LIBRARY — In addition to the Slogan List, mentioned in R.N. 104, I can pass on to several members copies of

1) The Irish Mail by Cyril Kidd
2) Robson Lowe Catalogue of 8 Oct.1952 sale. (many good Irish lots)
3) Ship Letter Stamps of Ireland and the Irish Free State, by A.W.Robertsson (1954)
4) Auction Catalogue . Dr Stafford Johnson "Ireland" sale 2 April 1958.
5) Auction Catalogue. Marquess of Bute "Ireland" sale. 6 May 1959.
6) (1 only) Auction Catalogue. Yates's Mulready etc. 9 Feb. 1949.

I P C Random Notes

March 1966 No.105

O.E.120 These Irish form numbers are difficult to classify. "O.E.120" which I've only just seen, is gummed brown paper, 1" wide, with the inscription "OPENED FOR CUSTOMS EXAMINATION" repeated every four inches.

FENIAN ESSAYS The T.E.Field collection of magazine cuttings contains many things new to me. One concerns two of the Fenian Essays given by the Fenian leader James Stephens to a friend shortly before his death. In 1922 Mr F.B.Smith was planning to give these to the "Irish Museum". The National Museum of Ireland has no record of any such gift and we would like to know where the stamps are now. An illustration in the Irish Independent 18 Jan. 1905 suggests that they were only rough lithographs, preliminary to the well engraved types which are better known. Can any member supply any clue, or discover what happened to Mr Smith and his stamps? It was not the Mr F.H.B.Smith (still happily active) but the man who was trading as F.B.Smith Ltd. at 432 Strand London, up to 1937 or later.

DUBLIN G.P.O. COUNTER STAMPS Another new "postmark" to add to the list in the Langton book. It is his type G.11 with number 30. So far I have seen it only on the receipt for payment of a telephone account, but it could be used also on radio licences, etc.

IRISH PAVILION, NEW YORK FAIR 1964-65. 5d & 1/5. A variety we should have discovered while the stamps were still purchasable is a small white projection just below the summit of the tower. I'm told that it occurs on both values, in the lower pane - I believe row 4, No.2, but have not been able to check it.



EXCHANGE ? Another letter has arrived seeking assistance in finding a correspondent willing to exchange Irish stamps for others. This one is from Mr. Rudolf Menze, 6 Nieder-Eschbach, Urseler Weg, W.Germany. Any volunteers ?

"AVIATION" 1935 A rare item in the T.E.Field library is the first issue of a short lived Irish Air Magazine "Aviation", edited by Col.C.F.Russell, pilot of the 1929 Galway-London airmail. The best article is an accurate account by O.St.John Gogarty of the problems of Stratospheric flight. One surprising (now) disclosure is that Col. Lindbergh had picked on Galway as the best site for a transatlantic air terminal. He is usually credited (or blamed) with being responsible for the selection of Shannon Airport. An editorial complaint was that the nation was still awaiting a National Air Policy, promised more than two years previously: the promiser was Mr Lemass, Minister for Industry & Commerce, now the Taoiseach.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

April 1966 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 106

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TIME-CODE DATE-STAMPS

A subject crying out for further research is the short lived experiment of the 1890s when new single and double-circle obliterators showed the time of the despatch in letters, e.g. CH *P. According to the PMG's 1895 report the first letter was the hour, coded clockwise from A=1 to M=12, J being omitted: for the minutes A=45,B=40 and round to I=5, K=55 and L=50. My example would be decoded 3.10 p.m. However, various evidence suggests that the operators adopted the simpler system of A = 5,B=10 mins. etc. How can one obtain proof ?

And when did the system start? My earliest Irish example (just found) is BALLISODARE HH *P AP 5 94.



Equally needing investigation is the variety of the Dublin canceller, illustrated here, with the letter N preceding the identifying number over the "DUBLIN". I have never seen it on other than ½d stamps, and believe the N indicates the Newspaper section of the office. Can anyone find the evidence (in GPO Records Room or elsewhere) to prove or disprove my theory? That shown,(of 1873) is 11 years earlier than my next earliest.

A sub-variety, for which I have no theory yet, has NA instead of N. Both N and NA series went at least as far as 6and the Ns continued until 1901. So it is remarkable that examples are scarce.

1916-66 COMMEMORATIVES

The official hand-out, dated February, but circulated 11 March, is a great improvement on earlier ones. Properly printed on good paper, with all the relevant details clearly expressed. The designs disappoint, there again being considerable waste of paper and ink, there being far more blank solid colour than portrait or inscription. The special design by Edward Delaney occupies only about a quarter of the total area, and, judging by the monochrome reproduction, will be quite incomprehensible to anyone who has not been told that it joins symbolically the lives lost in the war of independence and the theme of Ireland marching into an era of freedom ! The Irish legend on this starts with "Éiri" complete with accent, but the accent is omitted throughout from the "EIRE" !

T.E.FIELD FISCALS

When any major collection is transferred it is very desirable that all serious students should be kept informed of the whereabouts of the outstanding rarities. That is why I reveal (with more pride than modesty) that F.E.Dixon has acquired the four volumes of Irish fiscals. The strength of the collection lies in the number of die proofs, one being signed as approved by Pearson Hill.

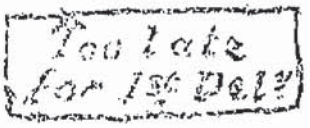
I.P.C. Random Notes

April 1966 No.106

NEWSPAPER STAMPS — One rarity, missing even from the Field Collection, (and from mine) is first (small) 1d Newspaper Tax stamp, current 1785-1788. Has anyone seen an example ? It was illustrated by Morley, O'Reilly, and Robson Lowe, the last-mentioned in the catalogue of the Stafford Johnson sale. Lot 127 included 12 examples of the rarity, but was among the few lots unsold!

"PRECANCELLING" — It is a common practice for senders of magazines by post to have batches of wrappers or envelopes stamped and postmarked before their contents are ready for despatch. An example just noticed is "Biatas", distributed by the printers from Tralee. The envelopes for the March issue had been put through the Tralee Universal machine to impress the waved bars and "3D PAID", but the time and date spaces were left blank, not even the year being shown. It is possible that this particular envelope is one of a batch kept in reserve.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: F.P.O.s — One series of postmarks used in Ireland is scarcer in Ireland than in England, because they were used mainly on letters home written by English army personnel during the period 1916-1922. At last we have a thorough account of the offices and their locations, from the pen of our member Dr.B.de Burca, M.B.E., in the March-April issue of the Postal History Society Bulletin.



Mr Sedgeley reports the marking illustrated here, on a letter from Liverpool to Ireland of July 1828. The evidence suggests that it was probably applied in Dublin.

OVERPRINTING FISCALS — Collectors of the fascinating fiscal overprints usually consider that there are four different overprints (plus sub-varieties for different sized stamps) Rialtas .. and Saorstat, each with and without 1922. It seems to me that the Saorstat Eireann, without 1922, printings must be further split. The normal printing was across the King's head, but I believe that at one period the printer carefully positioned the plate so that the words were impressed below the head. I first noticed it on JUDICATURE, but have since seen other cases. It may be relevant that the fiscals were overprinted in Somerset House and not by Irish printers.

NEW SLOGAN — The first new slogan of the year is "Go Gay in May DUNDALK FESTIVAL May 14 - 22nd" first seen 16 March.

SHANNON SCHEME DAY OF ISSUE — I can now confirm the existence of covers posted on 13th October 1930, two days before what is now accepted as the official day of issue.

May 1966 — Number 107

RANDOM NOTES

I.P.C. FIELD COLLECTION AUCTION

By now you will all have received the catalogue of the sale of 11th May, and we are very grateful to Robson Lowe's generosity in presenting it to each member of the I.P.C. Even those who fail to buy will preserve the record and illustrations of many of the outstanding rarities of Ireland. I apologise for the misstatement in R.M. 105.

EUROPA 1960 1/3

Although the price has slumped from its sensational peak, the 1/3 is still scarcer than it ought to be. The Dept. of Posts & Telegraphs states that the number issued was 1,170,240. However, so many were ruined by heavy postmarking, or by careless soaking, that fine used will never be common.

UNITED NATIONS STAMPS

The United Nations' definitive and recent commemorative issues may now be bought at Dublin G.P.O. (Counter 13, 9.30-5) or by post from the Philatelic Section, at face value converted at the prevailing rate of exchange.

NEW SLOGAN

For a short time from 25th April Mallow will use a slogan cancellation advertising its 1916-66 Pageant, to be staged May 8th, 9th, 11th and 15th.

WHO OWNS DUBLIN G.P.O.?

A Bill now before the Dail will enable many owners of property to buy out the ground rents at no more than 14 years purchase. It will then be possible for Ireland to make the G.P.O. its own at last. It has been disclosed that the G.P.O. ground rents amount to £224.7.8 p.a. some of it payable to an address in England !

LETTER-CARD ERROR

The 4d Letter-card is reported without any perforation, by a correspondent in Co.Tipperary.

DUBLIN OPTICAL CONGRESS 1965

In R.N.96 it was reported that last July's Optical Congress had a special cachet but no cancellation. Mr Sedgley enables me to correct that report. There was a circular cancellation of the temporary type, similar to those of the Spring Show, etc.



Mention of the Spring Show reminds me to leave a space for one of our annual free gifts, the R.D.S. "sticker" . I wish we could justify the "VISIT OUR STAND" by having one stand at the show to publicise the philatelic, numismatic, and kindred societies.

Macroom (MAGHCHROMTHA) and Athy (BAILE ATHA HI) have both been using skeleton handstamps recently. Both the 30mm circle with asterisk above date.

I.P.C. Random Notes

May 1966 No.107

1916-66 COMMEMORATIVES

My views in R.N.106 were not modified when the stamps appeared on 12th April. The special folder, with the whole set plus descriptions, is good value for money, but could have been better. It is too big for enclosure in a 9x4" envelope, unsuitable for mounting in an album, and will not satisfy the purists who want unmounted mint.

The "Philatelic Magazine" has recommended the se-tenant pairs for investment. I would prefer blocks incorporating the gutters between the panes.

The first variety reported was found by W.Kane on the first day: it is a small black dot above Clarke's right eye, on stamp 2 of row 3 of the lower pane.

POSTAL AUCTION

It has been decided to postpone Auction No.11 until after the T.E.Field Sale of 11th May, so if you have lots suitable for offering it is not too late.

1916-66 COMMEMORATIVES (cont.)

Also on Clarke's face can be found two dots above the nose: Lower pane, 9th row, 4th stamp.

R.P.Woods reports what seems to be a series of "doctor blade" lines, black lines down Connolly's left cheek, extending right down the stamp and probably affecting other stamps in the column. It does not exist on the only complete sheet I've searched for it

(LATER) There are so many dots that I defer listing any more until much later. Any volunteers to try to undertake a comprehensive survey ?

One technical detail is that the perforating is done by a double-comb perforator: the evidence is supplied by the recurrence in every second row of cases of incomplete puncturing of the paper.

Rev. Fr.Noonan has pointed out something that will simplify the dot hunting. Many of the coloured spots and white flaws in coloured areas are identical on the 3d,7d and 1/5 values. e.g. Top pane, row 1, no.1 a patch of weak colouring (retouch?) at top right. Ditto No.2, dots in both 6s of 1966 etc etc etc.

SHANNON SCHEME first day (CORRECTION)

Please delete the note about this in R.N.106. The cover mentioned was posted 13 November, not 13 October, 1930.

DUBLIN SUB-OFFICE REGISTRATION LABEL Nos.

One of the problem numbers is 82A. A recent use was on a jury summons, issued from the City Sheriff's office, 37 Parliament Street.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

May 1966 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 108

1916-66 COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

A peculiar remark in (IPCN) (21) seems to complain at the absence of news from Dublin regarding the parades and pageants and exhibitions. If there had been any of philatelic or postal history significance it would have been included in "Random Notes"

THE THOMOND LABELS

The illegal and suppressed (in Ireland) labels are again being advertised, this time with a Churchill overprint ! Those who have succumbed to the temptation to buy may like to have the full title claimed by the head of the state issuing them:

"His Royal and Imperial Highness, Reamonn Moulton Nathan David Seaghan Donagh, Prince of Thomond, Octavian Augustus of the Gael, Head of the Royal and Imperial House of Thomond and of the Government of the Sovereign Independent and Autonomous Principality of Thomond, Heir-at-Law to the Crown of Ireland and titular Emperor of the Irish, Scots, Britons abd Saxons and of North-West Europe".

IRISH "English" POSTMARKS

The article by J.A.McLeod in "Stamp Collecting" of 29 April is extremely neat and his classification of types particularly praiseworthy. However, further such division is needed. His D2 should be split into sections for name, or number, or cross, at foot; and the skeletons should be subdivided into single and double circles of different sizes, with and without identifying number, etc.

SINN FEIN 1916 "Stamp"

One reproduction which helped to establish the legend that the Sinn Fein labels were postage stamps was that of the Celtic Cross design on the cover of a book "The Sinn Fein Rebellion as I saw it" by Mrs H.Norway, wife the Secretary of the P.O. in Ireland, and mother of the novelist Neville Shute. The book is now really rare, and not even in the National Library. (They had one but it disappeared)

"MEREDITH" FOR LOAN

Having now passed on, to various of the suitable recipients the duplicate items of the Thomas E.Field philatelic library, I find that there is still one spare copy of W.G.Meredith's "The Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1927", the fourth edition of the standard guide to the overprints. I have decided to lend this to any member of the I.P.C. on payment of the postage. (In Ireland P.P.R. 3d) Those wishing to borrow it are asked to retain it for only a few weeks. Apply to F.E.Dixon, 15 Terenure Road, East, Dublin 6, Ireland.

I.P.S. Random Notes

May 1966 No. 108

T.E.Field Auction 11.v.66

Thanks to the kind co-operation of one of the members who was able to attend, I am able to report the prices realised, which established many new records for Irish material.

The sale opened quietly, the Fenians averaging only about half the valuations . The 1922 I.R.A. stamps sold better, lot 668 reaching £50, about four times what was paid for a similar lot at the Stafford Johnson sale. The Civil War items (671-674) which were almost all ex-Stafford Johnson, averaged over valuation. The major collection of overprints (675) was a bargain at £1150, cheaper than the used (676) at £3[illegible]5. The "unofficial overprints"(681-685) are of doubtful status and it was not surprising that they failed to reach valuations.

Lot 686 realised £135, and the genuine proof overprints (688) £55 - less than I expected. Then came the first real sensations with the inverted Dollards. Lot 693 £110 and 695 £100 ! After a few lots sold at near valuation more errors attracted special attention. Lot 719 £90, 733 £190.

Even the Controls, which many thought over-valued, fetched more than expected, the highest price I think being £67.10 for 783.

The intriguing intact coils (752) went to £105 - only a quarter catalogue,and liable to upset the market if the purchaser decided to break up the coils. I hope he doesn't.

The missing accents etc. brought the most spirited bidding of the day:

760	£150	766	£22	772	£85	778	£15
761	£55	767	£26	773	£260	779	£20
762	£400	768	£400	774	£240	780	£240
763	£200	769	£82	775	£80	781	£68
764	£80	770	£90	776	£60	782	£32
765	£45	771	£28	777	£45		

The succeeding lots of high values caused no excitement. Lots 800 & 801 at £300 and £105 respectively confirm the rise of prices for these. 802 surprised by reaching £360.

The only other highlight I've room for is lot 835 of booklets. Face £6. Valuation £20. Realisation £145.

Note The above prices are unofficial and I cannot guarantee their accuracy.

F.E.D.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

RANDOM NOTES

JUNE 1966 Number 109

T.E.FIELD AUCTION — Before you file away the catalogue you may like to a dd a few notes to supplement the descriptions of some of the many exceptional items.

FENIANS (Lots 653-660) — The realisations corrected the valuations by showing that the 3 cent is more elusive than the 1 cent .

THOM(?) ESSAYS (Lot 715) — The attribution to Thom is hard to justify. No reputable printer would commit the solecism of mixing two such different founts. It is much more likely that the stamps were imitations produced by a small printer with very limited stocks of type.

10/- DOUBLE OVPT. (Lot 802) — It is misleading to refer to the cancellation as "telegraphic": this was used quite normally on registered and express letters as well as on telegrams.

WALKER & PERKINS BACON ESSAYS (Lots 804-810) — These are obviously related (see illus.) but, judging from 807 & 809, the 2d are litho and 3d engraved. There is a newspaper reproduction of a similar design, but headed "EIRE" and described as having been selected for the Free State stamps !

2d p.15 x imperf. (Lots 831-3) — It is becoming quite clear that several of the coils were distributed to vending machines in different towns, including Dublin, Dun Laoghaire, Wexford and Naas. I was recently shown an example cancelled in the village of Annamoe, too small to have a machine.

BOOKLETS (Lot 835) — The collection was missing booklets 5,6,7, 13,14,16,17, 26. It is understandable that early ones should be scarce but 26 (1943 or 44) is a mystery, and its existence is doubtful.

CHARITY "STAMPS" — There are now on sale in Ireland labels for Father Pire's "Bread of Peace" campaign. They are 6d each and the proceeds are devoted to maintaining the Island of Peace project in East Pakistan and establishing another, in India. If you want to help, or even if you only wish to buy the stamps, contact me, F.E.Dixon. The format is in panes of 20 (5x4). Printers are Browne & Nolan.

RIALTAS / SEALADAC NA hÉIREANN — In R.N.106 I mentioned "SAORSTÁT" overprints which avoided defacing the King's head. In the earlier,"Rialtas", overprints on fiscals the defacement was avoided by having a wide space between 1st and 2nd lines - even wider on the 1/- and higher values than on the smaller low values.

DR.B.DE BURCA — Congratulations, Doctor, for emerging unscathed from another exploration of the wilds of Ireland. And many thanks for the "News" you brought back to civilisation.

I.P.C. Random Notes

June 1966 No. 109



Although many of the newsworthy finds are made in the country, and others in the London auction rooms, Dublin still holds good sources of material. The latest find is an interesting use in modern times of a 19th century killer. The sorter at Ballinasloe tried to cancel philatelically a first-day cover of the 2½d Ignatius Rice (29.8.1944). He missed the stamp completely and a colleague atoned by defacing it with the 32-in-diamond killer !

EXPRESS labels The same bundle yielded an Express letter posted 1947 in Ballinasloe. The label is the deep red one with sepcification "(M.-No.55.)" which was superseded about 30 years earlier by "Pmrs.No.459".

(Could it be that some precursor of Dr de Burca was on the prowl in Ballinasloe in the 1940s ?)

POSTAGE DUE 5d Another envelope held large blocks of 5d Postage Due, postmarked but with full gum. From them it is possible to reconstruct almost an entire pane (6x10) there being enough constant flaws to prove the overlap of the blocks.

1916-66 COMMEMORATIVE REPRINTING The news that 1.000,000 more each of 7d and 1/5 are being printed has met with mixed reception. Genuine philatelists will welcome the challenge to find differences between 1st and 2nd printings. Those who object are the speculators who have bought heavily in the hope that the market price would jump when the stamps were sold out in the post offices.

SHADES Collectors of the overprints have always paid far more attention to the colour of the overprint than to the colour of the stamp, and there is no comprehensive listing of the existing colours and shades. Rev. S.Cunnane is particularly interested in this problem and would welcome reports of any distinctive colours differing from those listed by Gibbons. His address is Catholic Church, The Strand, Cardigan, South Wales.

Pre-1916 STICKERS Mr Sedgley reports a label which does not seem to be recorded, and which was one of the counterblasts to the Home Rule and other Nationalist propaganda. Stuck on a postcard of March 1914 it is circular, in red, white and blue, with the simple slogan "SUPPORT LOYAL ULSTER".

PHILART PRODUCTIONS Whether or not one uses special envelopes for first-day covers, one must admire the enterprise of the English firm for moving into the Irish market and for printing Casement and Ballintubber covers superior to most of the Irish productions of special commemorative envelopes. One must disapprove, however, if any Ballintubber Abbey f.d. cancellation is reserved for clients of one firm.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

RANDOM NOTES

JULY 1966 Number 110

IRISHMEN ON FOREIGN STAMPS

Mr Feldman enables me to make an interesting addition to the list of Irishmen made famous in other countries. Arthur Richard Dillon was the youngest of ten children of an Irishman who had gone to France with James II. Arthur quickly achieved eminence and became successively Archbishop of Evreux, Toulouse and Narbonne. He was responsible for many large temporal works. In 1963 a philatelic exhibition in Narbonne celebrated bicentenary of Dillon's appointment to govern Languedoc, and the special stationery and cancellation shows his portrait and his badge.

KENNEDY issues

To the list compiled by D.Warren in "Irish Philately" of August 1965 may be added Bulgaria, Dahomey, Dominica, Honduras, Maldives, Panama, Togo and Venezuela

Label O.E.84

The British Seamen's strike closed most of the surface mail routes between England and Ireland. Inevitably it was parcels which showed the greatest delays in transmission. One from London was just three weeks en route to Dublin. Admittedly some of the time may have been spent in the Dublin Customs section, where some charges were levied, as shown by the red label O.E.84. This is a version first printed in 1961, characterised by the abandonment of the Irish language, which had survived hitherto in the heading "TÁILLE" and in "Dát-Stampa".

PRE-CHRISTMAS POSTING

The magazine "PJGB" continues to offend by failures to distinguish between GB & UK. It is a magazine that Irish collectors cannot ignore and the June 1966 issue has an item which staggers me. The story of the early 20th century experiments of Posting in Advance for Delivery on Christmas Day has been told quite often, notably by Meredith & Kidd in a P.A.Handbook printed 1964, whose listing of the postmarks was believed complete, embracing even some not known but believed to exist. Now Kidd with a fresh collaborator Alan Morley, reveals that the 1903 experiment was much more extensive than had been realised and extended to two Irish offices, Cork and Waterford. The experiment there was not regarded as successful, only 250 items being posted in Waterford and 800 in Cork. The chance that any survives is now very small, but I indicate below what the cancellation was probably like, the code letters being CK for Cork and WT for Waterford.



I.P.C. Random Notes

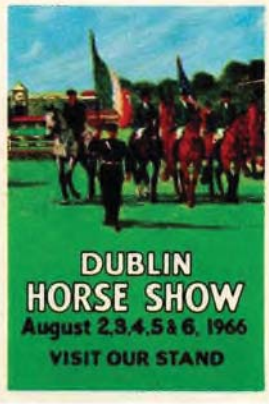
July 1966 No.110

POSTING BOXES While on holiday last month I confirmed the continued survival in Galway (corner of High St. and Bridge St.) of one of the Victorian six-sided pillar-boxes. In the neighbouring Salthill an interesting hybrid wall box was noted. It had the ER vii and Crown of Horner's type 3, but the door has the cast Harp and SE monogram of Horner type 7. (Horner type numbers refer to article in "Irish Philately" of August 1965.)



RN 88S (Christmas 1964) included an illustration of a Cork handstamp used on parcels posted in bulk and prepaid in cash. That is possibly now worn out and what I show is the replacement in use at the end of June. The main change is the substitution of "BEARTPHOST" for "POST NA MBEARTAN". In my example the space below "DIOLTA", where the date should appear, is blank.

HORSE SHOW With the compliments of the Royal Dublin Society I am able to include the sticker for next month's Show. It continues the practice of recent years by having a new and very colourful design.



DUBLIN MACHINE ERRORS On 29 June Dublin D machine, then using the District Numbers slogan, omitted the year from its date.

"English" Irish Postmarks The "NEWS" posted to us from the Brighton Congress quotes Tomkins's theory that the English forms of cancellations were revived about 1944. I have seen no support for the theory, the number of small offices using the English names declining fairly steadily. As the handstamps became worn out they were replaced by new ones with the Irish names.

SWEDISH ENTERPRISE While we of the I.P.C. continue to explore avenues which might lead to a new edition of "Meredith" Erik Kuylenstjerna has written a 58-page book on the Irish overprints. It is in Swedish but, as far as I can judge, there are more details of plates and settings than we have had hitherto.

AND AMERICAN A rumour reaches me that the U.S.A. firm, Scott Publications, Inc., plans to include a handbook on Ireland in a new series of single-country works.

POSTAL AUCTION Report of No.11 herewith. Mr Kane regrets that payment to vendors may be delayed owing to difficulties arising from the continued closure of the Irish Banks.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

RANDOM NOTES

August 1966 Number 111

THOSE LETTER BOXES — Since noting the wall-box in Saltbill, reported in the last R.N., I have seen a similar hybrid. It is in Moate (Co.Westmeath), has the VR initials on top, but the SE monogram.

COMMEMORATIVE ENVELOPE SEAL



The seal or label presented herewith is a "self-adhesive" with backing paper. The word is the Irish for Commemoration and the sword design is the official emblem for this year's celebrations. The seal is made by Irish Label Industries Ltd at the Shannon Industrial Estate, price 1/- for a sheet of 18, 2/6 for a pack of three such sheets. I have not seem them in Dublin shops, and found them on a day trip to Athlone.

ANOTHER "IRISH" LOCAL — D.M.Stirling reports in the July "Philatelist" that a U.S.A. source has supplied him with what purports to be a 1d stamp of Goat Island in Ireland. None of my gazetteers lists such a place, although there are such islands off U.S.A. and Australia and in the Azores. However, the Irish attribution is supported by the motto "Cha Chainich ach Godhair so", which the suppliers assert means "I change my colour at will", the ink being fugitive and changing hue when immersed. It does not look proper Irish to me and my dictionaries suggest a better translation might be 'Not offensive, this goat". It is offensive in my view, as must be anything claiming to be a stamp when it is issued without legal authority.

(Added later) Scrutiny of maps confirms that Goat (as well as Sheep,Lamb,Hog,Bull,Cow,Calf,Horse,Bear...) is used to label islands off Ireland. One is near Mizen Head,at 51°29'N, 9°37'W, and a second in Whiting Bay near Youghal at 51°56'N, 7°46'W. I'm sure thereare others.

DUBLIN & QUEENSTOWN T.P.O. PAQUEBOT — The possible date range of the 3rd type of Dublin & Queenstown T.P.O. is reduced by my finding an example of the second (with OUEENSTOWN) used in June 1903. Its unusual feature is that it has the desirable PAQUEBOT cancelling ½d U.K. stamp. The vast majority of covers or cards with these marks have U.S.A. stamps.

SHAMROCK STAMP SERVICE — Our policy in giving free advertisements is to do so only when we feel that the members of the I.P.C. will be able to benefit. That is why I give favourable mention to the Shamrock's new Price List. The reference numbers are from no fewer than four of the world's leading standard catalogues and the prices indicate how scarce many stamps have become. The often tipped 1/4 1953 An Tóstal has now dropped behind the 1/3 Holy Year and others. The rarity of the 1943 Quaternion Centenary pair is realised. Not all of you will agree with all the details, but I strongly recommend the list as the best available guide to Irish stamps.

DUBLIN NUMBERED C.D.S. Mr Stokes reports the discovery of No.56 in the Langton type G.M , so that we now know of all numbers 1 to 57 in both G.1 and G.2.

GRAND STAND POSTMARKS In R.N.53 there was mention of the G.S.(for Grand Stand) cancellers formerly used in the temporary press offices at race meetings. Mr Stokes has found that the one at the Phoenix Park Racecourse was still in use in 1957. As the normal use was on telegrams, examples of any of the G.S. markings are rare.

ANCIENT POST OFFICES To find proof of the age of a post office requires rather profound research and the subject raised in IPC News p.27 could keep us busy for a long,long, time. One of the complications in Dublin is renumbering of whole streets. Thus the Clare Street office was at No. 18,20,21,22 variously between 1810 and 1860, but some may have only renumbering. It is, I think the oldest of the existing city offices, having been unchanged (at No.16) since 1862.

The most attractive Irish Post Office is probably Westport, one of the original buildings of the 18th century town planning, well cared for and now well set off with hanging flower baskets etc. I suspect that it also has claims to be among the oldest.

BELFAST CANCELLING MACHINES Mr Moxter, reporting from Mexico, points out that the Belfast cancelling machines have new name-and-date dies, with larger lettering.

CASEMENT STAMPS LEAKAGE Most new Irish issues appear on Mondays. The Casements were scheduled for the Wednesday following a Monday "Bank Holiday" (unaffected by Bank Strike!). The resulting confusion led to several small offices getting mixed up and selling the stamps on Tuesday, 2nd August. A newspaper reporter gave a tip-off to the Post Office. There were hurried instructions to intercept letters bearing the stamps, but by then some covers were already delivered. Those intercepted after the cancelling either had the postmark (and hence stamp) violently defaced, or the date altered by hand from 2 to 3. The defaced covers are of curio value but could easily be faked by mutilating genuine first day, or later, covers. It is impossible to appraise the others until we know how many are available .

According to the "Irish Times" some of the prematurely posted letters arrived duly cancelled, but with the date space blank. These, too, could be faked by scraping out the date from later used examples.

When, as in this case, the advance selling was due to a mistake by P.O. officials, the letters should have been allowed through properly postmarked on the day of posting. Deliberate falsification of the date is a serious offence.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

RANDOM NOTES

September 1966 Number 112

CASEMENT STORY (cont.) Examples of the Casement stamps have now been reported postmarked on 1st August - the day when the only post office open was Dublin G.P.O. !

10/- COIN "PROOFS" Not by any means premature were the so-called proof strikings of the 10/- coin. The 20,000 were at last delivered at the beginning of August, after being definitely promised for May. They are not as perfect as proofs should be and the 4x3" boxes are stupidly large for so small a piece. However, it could be a good investment, issued at 30/-. Those who ordered the maximum of ten got seven.

1923 SLOGANS One of the most interesting pioneer Irish slogans is that improvised at Galway by squeezing "LEARN IRISH" into the name-and-date portion of the machine-canceller. Now Mr Stokes reports a remarkable find, this slogan in use together with the INVEST IN POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK instead of the mere wavy lines. It can have been used thus for only a few weeks at most.

GAILLIMH .....LEARN IRISH 3. 15 PM 31MAY 23

5d STAMPED ENVELOPE The newest Postal Stationery is the 5d envelope, which sneaked out unannounced some time last month, I think. So make sure you have the 4d, current for only four years, compared with 8 years for the 3d, 11 years for 2½d and 18 years for the 2d. The shortest-lived were the 2½ + ½d provisional and the 2d typographed .

I am lodging a protest at the increase in price of the envelopes. Up to 1942 a packet of 11, each with 2d stamp, was 2/-. i.e. the envelopes were charged less than ¼d each. For some years this has been ½d and now it is up to the ridicolous figure of 1d, the packet of 12 with 5d stamp costing 6/-.

CASEMENT 1/- BLACK One naughty philatelist (not an IPC member) confessed to me that he has an apparent error of colour, imperforate. He obtained it by cutting out the illustration from the Post Office's hand-out. It passed through the post without being detected.

DUBLIN CORPORATION "PUNSTS" The pins which puncture the DC, in the stamps used by Dublin Corporation offices, are getting more defective. the worst examples showing the D as :•

R.D.S. SCIENCE EXHIBITION. Since early August the R.D.S. metermark has included a slogan advertising the Science Exhibition to be held 18-22 October . I think it likely that there will be special postmarks for this, as there were in 1963.

I.P.C. Random Notes

September 1966 No. 112

MINISTERIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS A speech by P.& T. Minister Mr Joseph Brennan, when opening an automatic telephone exchange on 23 August, has been publicised. Regrettably it shows an 18th century mentality, assuming that improved services involve extra charges. Oh ! for another Rowland Hill ! It is regarded as something to boast of that over 90% of internal letters are delivered by the following working day: that means that nearly 10% are not, and as Saturday seems to be no longer a working day, it must be accepted as normal that a letter posted on Friday doesn't arrive until Tuesday.

It was surprising that the Minister did not mention one of the real reasons that his staff cannot cope: the amount of non-postal business they transact. In the year 1964-5 the Post Offices sold postage stamps to the value of £7½ million, but insurance stamps costing over £10 million!

EUROPA STAMPS 1966 The official hand-out for the issue due 26 September is beautifully produced, incorporating the design of the 7d in colour. This means that the naughty man mentioned overleaf can repeat his performance of passing an imperforate example through the post. Yet again the promoters of the Europa design have erred. The motif purports to be a boat in full sail and to symbolise progress, but the boat is crewless and rudderless.

G.F.HAUGHTON Collectors in many countries will mourn the death of their old friend, Mr Haughton, who has for so many years kept the small shop on Wellington Quay, Dublin. It was, and is, a shop of character, a meeting place where customers were always friendly, where willingness to stop for a chat was more important than the amount of money spent. For the last year the shop has been kept going by genial George Popp and we hope that he will be able to continue - but it will continue to be referred to as "Haughton's".

CASEMENT STAMPS A favourable comment on the design in an "Irish Times" leader provoked an excellent letter from Karel Bacik, touching on the wrong EIRE for ÉIRE, the stupid waste of space in many recent designs, and the decline in quality associated with the introduction of photogravure printing.

EARLY MAILBOATS It is a remarkable coincidence that another George Haughton should enter these notes this month. He was an 18th century artist and painted one of two recently discovered paintings showing ships of the Milford-Waterford route. They are reproduced in the September "Stamp Magazine".

GIBBONS 1967 Part I It is probably desirable to comment on Gibbons's new prices, tucked away on p.995, and confirming the tremendous increase in the demand for Irish stamps. A few items seem to me to have jumped too far, such as the 3d,4d and 5d values of modern commemoratives. On the otherhand the used prices for the higher values should in more cases be higher than those for mint. e.g. 1960 Europa. The real rarities are the fine used, and this remark applies to the 1922-23 overprints even more than to the recent issues.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

OCTOBER 1966 Number 113

RANDOM NOTES

TEMPORARY POST OFFICES

When the British Medical Association met in Trinity College, Dublin from 2nd to 6th August 1887 a special Post and Telegraph office was opened at the Main Entrance to the College. This is one of the several cases where we must regrettably report "Special cancellations were probably used, but no example is known to have survived." A remarkable adjunct was a free telephone, by permission of the Telephone Co. !

POST OFFICE HOURS

The Irish Post Office continues its remorseless progress, backwards as far as service to the public is concerned. 10 years ago the Dublin G.P.O. was open always and at the main provincial offices the hours were 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Then they were cut, especially Dublin becoming 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Now we have suffered further restriction, not in Dublin, but in the provinces. Practically all the offices will open only 9 a.m. to 5.30p.m. with extension to 6 on Fridays. The eight major offices (Cork etc.) will be open until 6 every weekday. It is to be hoped that this will be accompanied by the introduction of more slot machines, dispensing booklets, stationery, and postal orders, to assist the unfortunates who work the same sort of hours.

POSTAL STATIONERY (3d pc)

It is over a year since R.N. reported the existence of 3d postcards, stamped to order, but the Post Office issue of such cards has only just appeared, in packets of 10 for 2/11, the card being thus sold at about 3 to 4 times its cost. However, that has been the case since 1956. There are changes on the packet wrapper, the harp being clumsily redrawn and the "Cártaí Poist" being in an ugly Roman type, numeral 1 serving for lower-case i.

PUNST ERROR

Occasionally it is the messiest looking item which turns out to be the most interesting. This is the case with a rather battered 1931 2d of the R.D.S. bicentenary, which had been discarded because of the holes punctured in it. What caught my eye was the excessive number of holes. It seems to have PAC and also R I / Co. /LD. i.e. both the rival Insurance companies, Prudential and Royal ! The only explanation I can think of is that the firm doing the puncturing had accidentally used the wrong set of pins and then redid the sheet with the coreect ones.

9961

This sort of date inversion continues to happen occasionally. Miss Wright reports the latest example, from Dungarvan, where it continued for at least 11 days in June and July before the error was corrected !

GLENGARRIFF PAQUEBOT

Mr Jamieson reports that the cruising R.M.S. CARONIA this year put mail ashore at Glengarriff on 15 August, the usual "skeleton" datestamp being made up.

I.P.C. Random Notes

October 1966 ..... No. 113

"STAMPS WITH AN IRISH STORY" This is the title of an article by Rev.J.Brennan in the 1966 issue of"St.Kieran's College Record", the annual publication, issued from the College in Kilkenny, price 8/6. The article collects together details of the various propaganda labels etc from the Fenian Essays to 1916.

PRE-FIRST-DAY COVERS The recent premature sales of the Casement stamps were exceptional only in the large number of offices involved. Accidental leakages have occurred many times, ever since the use of 1d blacks and Mulready covers before 6th May 1840. H.Moxter sends photos of two Irish examples which do not seem to have been recorded hitherto. The ½d definitive cancelled in Dublin (by machine & handstamp) 19 AP 23. and the 3d used on 15 MR 23. These are both one day prior to the official issue dates. Mr Moxter would like to collect details of other discrepancies between the de jure and the de facto first days.

POST OFFICE GUIDE The first supplement to the 1964 edition of Vol.I has been distributed. It discloses that Dublin has a new Branch Office at North Wall, and alters the Telegraph Codes for several sub-offices:

Artane = ART	Harcourt St. DSG instead of J
Finglas = FIN	Harcourt Rd. DLB " " H
Raheny = RHC	Leinster St. DLI " " P
Rathfarnham = RHS	Lr.Baggot St. DLE " " M
(The above four are new)	Manor St. DMZ " " N
	Merrion Row DLM " " O
	Ormond Quay(Up) DKY " " C
	Portobello Bdge. DLJ " " Y
	Ranelagh DLX " " Z
	Terenure DTQ, correcting TDQ
	Thomas St. DTS instead of W

13 post offices have closed, but ten new ones are added. However, three of these are a remarkable new class of"Post Office" being only Telephone Call Offices, no other post office business being transacted !



Mr Jamieson remarks on the framed "DC" sometimes found on Official Paid envelopes. This is the frank of the Savings Bank section of the Dublin G.P.O. and is very like a similar type of the British counterpart. I do not know what the initials signify. My first guess is Deputy Controll



An unusual usage of a "skeleton" handstamp: impressed in red as the frank of the Telephone Section of the Department of Posts & Telegraphs. "An Runai" translates as the Secretary.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

RANDOM NOTES

November 1966 Number 114



Among the numerous labels issued by rival factions from about 1908 onwards one series seems to have been a neutral effort, marketed by a London firm as "Picture Stamps". They are large, 47x66mm, well printed in multicolour, and with black borders.

My reason for postulating the neutral source is seeing the Ulster label sketched. It has the hand in red on a white ground, with yellow for the space between shield and frame. In size, paper, perforation and inks, it matches the others I have which express pro-Home Rule sentiments.

One wonders whether the different designs were printed together on the sheet or whether there were separate sheets for sale in Ulster and in the other provinces!

INVERSIONS — On 12 July Drogheda's machine had the whole name-and-date circle inverted.

"NOON" — Most post towns avoid the ambiguity of 12 AM or 12 PM by timing a dispatch due then a few minutes earlier or later. Lifford is exceptional by boldly and sensibly declaring the time as "12 NOON" in its single-circle handstamp.

POSTAL HISTORY & PHILATELY — Some writers seem to think that collecting adhesive stamps is philately and collecting postmarks is postal history. Neither is any more than a half-truth. The complete philatelist must understand papers and inks and the printing techniques and can be as keen on other revenue stamps as he is on on the postal ones.

The study of postal history covers all branches of the Post Office since its inception (and before!) so that the date-stamps and charge-marks on the letters can be explained. Modern cancellations are an interesting study, but only come into Postal History when they are used to demonstrate the mail routes, changes of head offices, etc.

W.R.Y. 3d — Mr Allan reports a deep shade, in fugitive ink. I think that the ink was slightly water soluble. A little soaking caused the ink to spread and give a darker appearance, but prolonged soaking removed some of the dye, leaving the stamp apparently paler than normal.

MODERN PHOTOGRAVURES — He also mentions a Plunkett 1/5 with the head extra strongly outlined. I do not think it likely to be of significance. An essential feature of the printing process is the considerable range of intensity of printing, sometimes even in a single sheet.

HOUSEHOLD HINT — The scrim lining, soaked from P.O. registration envelopes is very good for teabags and various straining jobs.

P.T.O.

I.P.C. Random Notes

November 1966 No.114

SHAMROCK STAMP SERVICE — While gratified to be favourably mentioned in IPC News as well as Random Notes, Mr Feldman was not pleased by the suggestion that his Irish Price-list needed a currency conversion table. He does supply an excellent table to all clients living outside the sterling area.

DOUBLE EMBOSSING — It is through Mr Feldman that I can report a rare variety, a size G registration envelope, used from Mullingar in 1928, with the 5d embossed stamp doubly printed, the second print being nearly 4 mm to the right of the first.

1066 — Although not Irish Philately I cannot resist the temptation to relay the rumour (from P.J.G.B.) that the Battle of Hastings monsters will be reprinted with superimposed legend "ENGLAND LOSERS"

NEWRY depends on YOUth and industry Don't let the COUNTY DOWN

Two slogans current in the North. The punny one from Newry is scheduled to last until next June.

QUEENSUNIVERSITYBELFAST festival '66 11-26 NOVEMBER

1902 CORK EXHIBITION POSTMARK — Congratulations to whoever bought the registered cover with the very rare marking of the Exhibition, offered recently by an English firm, at £10. One Dublin collector sent for it by return of post, but his letter arrived too late.

"EMERALD POST" — Does any member know an Irish sub-postmaster well enough to borrow from him the magazine of his Union ? I do not think that it often has items to interest us, but one recent issue drew attention to the fact that, although the U.K. declared invalid the Rhodesian INDEPENDENCE stamps, the Irish authorities have accepted them, delivering letters bearing them without any comment or surcharge.

1924 BELFAST-LIVERPOOL AIRMAIL — How many flights were there ? Robson Lowe's Enclopaedia, Vol.I 2nd ed.p.398 indicates 2nd May only. Aero-Field Handbook No.8 (1947) states 1st May to 2nd June. And the Post Office Guide for July 1924 (p.39) lists the service as being in operation as if it were continuing indefinitely!

MADELAINE SMITH AND HARRY ROBERTS — In 1857 the indistinctness of a cancellation was a complication in the trial of Madelaine Smith. This year a letter from Ireland brought English detectives hereon the trail of Harry Roberts, but (according to one press account) the postmark on the letter was illegible, adding to their difficulties in tracing the sender.

"STAMPS WITH AN IRISH STORY" — Rev.J.Brennan's article mentioned in R.N.113, has been reprinted in the monthly magazine "The Cross", published by the Passionist Fathers, for October.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

RANDOM NOTES

NOVEMBER 1966 Number 115

IRISH RAIDED AND CENSORED MAILS

Increasing attention is being paid to the diverse covers with evidence on them of involvement in successive Irish troubles. Can anyone undertake to compile a list of all the dates and places ? Here is a start:

1920 May(?) Brownstown,Navan. Evidence: MS cancellation.
June 24. Raid at Kilfree Junction,Co.Sligo. Some of the mail was anonymously returned to Post Office and sent on with printed slips attached, dated 12 August.
July. Place unknown. Letter from overseas to Omagh, delivered 21 JY with MS endorsement "P.B.C./ I.R.A."
August. Letter posted Galway 2 Aug. Reposted Athlone on 22nd August with MS "Passed by Censor / I.R.A."
August. Posted Dublin 6 August. Delivered Cookstown on 11 Aug. with MS " P B IRA"

1921 February, Co.Kerry. Letter from Allihies, posted 12 Feb., redatestamped there 14th and resealed next day at Bantry with redink "Found open/ Recovered from Raided mails.B."
April, Cork. Local letter, resealed with rough label bearing pencilled "C by I.R.A" and redated 25 Apr.
July. Dublin. Local letter posted 8 July with handstamp in green "CENSORED / BY / I.R.A."
July, Waterford. Local letter resealed with cyclostyled label bearing "CENSORED BY - I.R.A. / 9th.JULY.1921."
At this time the Waterford Post Office appears to have allowed the I.R.A. access to all correspondence.

1922 March, North Ireland. Letter posted Belfast 29 March, Delivered Cookstown 7 April, with handstamped "RAIDED MAIL / CORRESPDCE"
August, Co.Kerry. Letter endorsed "No stamps obtainable". (May have been due to breakdown of communications rather than a local raid)
November Dublin Temporary G.P.O. in Rotunda set on fire by armed raiders. Much of the mail salvaged has handstamped "SALVED FROM / FIRE G.P.O. DUBLIN". I have one letter of the period which looks as if it had been in the fire, and was officially re-sealed on 9 November, with pencilled "C B I.R.A". Did later raiders seize mail?

December (?) When were the Co.Wexford P.O. raids in which the cancellers were stolen? Resulting improvisations are known from Foulksmills, Castlebridge, Wellington Bridge, and Tacumshin.

1923 January, Wexford. There is no doubt that some sheets of 1d stamps, stolen in a raid, and left lying in the open so that gum was washed away, were recovered, roughly regummed, and put to use. My best examples were used at Wexford 9 Jan. and DUBLIN & WEXFORD T.P.O. 30 Jan.

P.T.O.

IRISH RAIDED AND CENSORED MAILS (cont.)

1923 January. Dublin. A postcard, addressed locally, with penwritten "Cen I.R.A."
January, Bantry. Pencilled endorsement "No stamps available."
March, Broadford (Co.Limerick). Penwritten " No stamps obtainable".
March. At this time a handstamp was in use (Dublin?) reading "RECOVERED FROM RAIDED MAIL".

All the items referred to, except the last, are in the collection of F.E.Dixon, but the first (Brownstown) is only a photo-copy. All are available for loan to anyone willing to carry the research further.

THE NEW DUBLIN POST OFFICE

The new central sorting office in Sheriff Street will soon be finished and it is planned to have all the staff and equipment transferred there by early in 1967. The cost is over £1,000,000. It will accomodate 1250 staff. There are six lifts, and garage space for 110 vehicles. There are 1200 feet of chain conveyors and 800 feet of belt conveyors. One of the chain conveyors will connect the building with theadjoining railway station (Amiens Street, now called Connolly by C.I.E. but no-one else).

It will deal with 150,000,000 pieces of letter mail per year. The four parcels sorting machines will be able to handle 7,000 parcels per hour, and there is a separate packet sorting machine.

Some photographs of the new premises were among the P.& T. exhibits at the R.D.S. Science Exhibition last month. The stand was designed to show 100 years of progress of the telecommunications, beginning with the transatlantic cable via Valentia, and ending with Early Bird satellite. Thus the T. rather dominated the P. However, the cancelling machine was working busilly and was, as always, a popular feature of the Show.

OFFICIAL IRISH

Official efforts to spread the Irish language continue. A recent innovation is that telephone operators at Government Departments (including P.& T.) answer the phone in Irish. Of more concern to us is the fact that there are new dies to replace "OFFICIAL PAID" on the Universal machines. They read"ÍOCÍHA GO hOIFIGIÚIL" and are peculiar typographically in having a serif I for the first word and sans-serif for the last. The h and U both have odd tails, reminiscent of the Gaelic alphabet,which is out of fashion.

It is quite a time since the Dublin PAID and OFFICIAL PAID machines carried slogan dies. It wouldn't surprise me if the LABAIR GAEILGE (last used 1949) were revived soon.

I.P.C. Random Notes

December 1966 No. 116

IRISH RAIDED & CENSORED MAILS — I am happy to report that no fewer than three offers were received in reply to my appeal in R.N.115. It is embarrassing that all three cannot be accepted, but only one man can be in charge and so all information should be sent to A. Sedgley, 86E Wickham Road, Brockley, London S.E.4. He will particularly appreciate the loan of covers with interesting markings, labels or cachets, as he can then make a permanent Xerox copy of each and build up what will be a valuable reference collection. Meanwhile I can add to my list one item reported by a non-member of I.P.C. It is on a letter of 23 Feb.1923 from New Ross and has a cachet, applied apparently in Dublin on 3 March:

RECOVERED FROM
RAIDED MAIL

METERMARKS — Even those of you (the majority !) not collectors of Metermarks, would do well to invest 6/- in a new book by A.A.Dewey "Meter Stamps of Great Britain and Ireland(Eire)", obtainable from J.C.Mann, 19 Chartham Road, London S.E.25. Beautifully printed, with illustrations in red, it deals with the subject quite effectively. Ireland has 7 pages as well as its share of the introduction, and there is mention of the Post Office Parcel Post meters as well as those used by firms. It is regrettable that the dates of issue are a year out for these P.P.

BALLINTUBBER ABBEY STAMPS — The balance of the design is good and the colours are quite suitable for the reproduction of the old lithograph. But it would have been much better to use brighter colouring for the inscription and value (e.g. red with the black and blue with the brown) and the bare sans-serif lettering is quite wrong. Either Gothic or Gaelic would have suited, preferably the latter, as there would be insufficient space for flourishes. And yet again we suffer EIRE (which means encumbrance) instead of the name of the country, which is ÉIRE.

Continuing the policy of free advertisement of anything deserving it, I must praise the "Irish Times" first day covers. The envelopes are well printed and very much cheaper than any others. The charge for supplying and addressing and posting -in fact complete servicing was only 1d per cover !

Experience of other of these photogravure issues leads me to omit mention of such flaws as have been reported so far. You can have the fun of finding them yourselves: at the same time I shall not be publicising what later findings prove to be unimportant.

MEDALS — Congratulations to Messrs Telfer and Kane for their successes at the Seymour Hall Exhibition.

SG74b Wing Comm. R.F.Jackson, Box 386, C.F.B. Trenton, ASTRA, Ont Canada, is compiling a register of all the known copies of the rare 2d perf.15 x imperf. Please let him know of any examples you own or know of, preferably with photograph or at least a tracing of the cancellation. He reports seeing a copy in the Smithsonian Institution. It was used at Daingean, Offaly (formerly Philipstown, King's Co.) After typing this I find that a similar appeal was made on p,32 of the News. However, the above address is more complete.

THOMOND The crooks still trying to dispose of Principality of Thomond "stamps" continue to use up stock by inappropriate overprints, including one for the World Cup, another for "England Winners", followed by "England Losers 1066" ! This last idea was a good joke when it was first launched but has quickly worn thin. It is particularly bad taste on the Thomonds, which are allowed to be sold in England, although not in Ireland.

THE NEW POST OFFICE Although officially described as in Sheriff Street the new premises are also being referred to as "Sally Gardens". This is very interesting in that the area was occupied by gardens 200 years ago and before that was the sort of marshy ground where the sally (i.e.willow) flourishes. Is the name an old survival ? "Sally" in this context is a remarkably widespread word, occurring in Irish and Old English etc as well as Latin.

DUBLIN DUPLEX CANCELLERS In the "Philatelic Magazine" of 14 October S.G.Bailey gave a useful summary of the Dublin cancellations used from 1844 to the 1870s, which could well be adopted the basis for more detailed research .

HOTEL AEROGRAM An interesting variety of the Irish Air Letter Form has been made by, or for, at least one of the chain of Great Southern Hotels. That at Galway makes available to its guests airletters with the name of the hotel printed on it in green.

ERINNOPHILIA This word has nothing to do with the Irish Erin, but has its root in the German "Erinnerung" = reminder. "Erinnophilia" was coined 70 years ago for the collecting of commemorative, non-postal, labels, and has been revived in the "Cinderella Philatelist" which caters for erinnophilists among others.

IRISH PROPAGANDA LABELS It was inevitable that there would many articles this year on the labels of 1916, and others. For completeness we must mention one by H.F.Rooke the the American "Stamps" of July 9. However it much less comprehensive than that by Rev.Brennan, or that in the special number of the REVIEW.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

DECEMBER 1966 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 11[illegible]

POSTCARDS SUCCESS STORY

It is fascinating how many articles on postcards are appearing in the various philatelic and postal history journals - and elsewhere. Most of them are about the old: what I wish to report is about the new.

The firm of John Hinde Ltd recently celebrated its 10th birthday and made public some facts and figures. Mr Hinde was publicity manager in a circus. A trapeze artiste fell and broke an arm; and he fell for her. They married and left the circus. They came to Ireland on holiday and visited his mother's birthplace, Dalkey. They decided to stay. By then he had decided to use his photographic skill to launch a new style of picture postcard. But he could find no-one able to print them well enough to satisfy him, so the pair set out to master all the techniques, and succeeded. Now they can print 1,000,000 colour postcards a week, as well as thousands of calendars, etc. In Ireland the John Hinde postcards outsell all others, but, more significant, the firm has achieved major break-throughs in many other countries and now sales abroad are almost double those at home!

There is no doubt that the success is due to the combination of expert photography with superb printing. One wishes that the Post Office would learn the lesson: good printing <u>is</u> possible in Ireland.



Considering how much has been printed about the postmarks of the Holyhead and Kingstown Mail Packet service, it is surprising how much still remains to be discovered and/or explained. It has been accepted that type illustrated was superseded in 1901 by the separate series for each of the four ships (C1,C2,C3,C4,C5 and similar with L,M or U.) Now this turns up, clearly dated 1906. One plausible theory is that it was used on a fifth ship, brought int service while one of the others was undergoing overhaul.

IRISH PATRIOT PRISONERS' MAIL

I recently saw a bundle of letters sent by an Irishman from various prisons in Ireland during 1917-18. Although many of them were on specially printed forms, and some in envelopes with the royal crest on the flap, there were no external markings to indicate their origin, and the full letter-rate of postage was paid in each case.

DUBLIN REGISTRATION NUMBERS

One more can be added to the list compiled by N.Langton. DUBLIN 100 = Excise Office, Custom House.

DUBLIN OFFICIAL CANCELLATION

One of the regulations not rigidly enforced is that official registered letters must have the registration fee paid. Thus the envelope with the DUBLIN 100 label has a 1/- stamp, cancelled with the Official Paid c.d.s. No.8, in black. This is correct usage and quite uncommon. Try to find one !

I.P.C. Random Notes

December 1966 No. 117

DUBLIN MEETING — Although there was a disappointingly large number of absentees, the meeting on 10th November was much enjoyed by the few, and the opinion was voiced that we should meet more often. The President's choice high-value overprints were fully appreciated, as also his discovery of a map of Gowran of 1710 marking the Post Office.

CASEMENT 5d FLAW — As explained in R.N.116, it will be the normal practice hereafter to describe varieties only after they can be classed as significant. The 5d Casement had one such, noticed independently by many people. It was first shown to me by a Post Office clerk ! The most obvious part of the flaw is a black line from Casement's right ear to his left temple, found in the 6th stamp of the top row of the right pane. This line continues across the chest of the 5th stamp and there is just a suggestion of it near the lower right corner of the 4th.

OTHER BUSINESS — "Pressure of other business" is liable to become rather more frequent in my excuses for delay in dealing with correspondence. It is to explain this, rather than to blow my own trumpet, that I mention my recent election as President of the Old Dublin Society, the main achievement of which has been the establishment of Dublin's Civic Museum.

EFFECTS OF LIGHT ON STAMPS &c — A display of postmarks has recently been removed from that Museum. Some of the items were there for over ten years and have suffered from over-exposure to strong daylight. It is interesting to note that although early 1d reds and a 2d blue appear unaltered, the 1d reds from 1864 on are faded, and the design of 1870 ½d is almost completely gone. Other red stamps are faded, but greens and purples are intact. In several cases the items are improved for display purposes, the cancellations showing up more clearly than before! Cancellations are not altered, with one peculiar exception. The double-circle date-stamp on a 1d purple has faded although the stamp has not.

UK SG12a used in Ireland — I have before prepounded the theory that every U.K. postage stamp of before 1922 was used in Ireland, even the rarities. One of the extreme rarities has turned up - a four-margined example of the 1d imperf., plate 77 BA with the A missing, used at Ardee. It turned up in Dublin, with a few other imperfs some vandal had torn from the envelopes, among an accumulation of family papers and correspondence. It will probally be auctioned for the fortunate owner.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

CHRISTMAS 1966 RANDOM NOTES Number 118

TO ALL MY READERS I SEND GOOD WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND FOR THE NEW YEAR OF 1967

BIBLIOGRAPHY. W.WARD

A miscellaneous lot just bought includes one of the verbose and inaccurate articles by the main chronicler of the 1922-23 overprints, W.Ward. Entitled "FINDS IN STAMPS: Romance Among Rarest of Irish Provisional Specimens" it was Special to the Dublin "Freeman's Journal" of 2 January 1923.



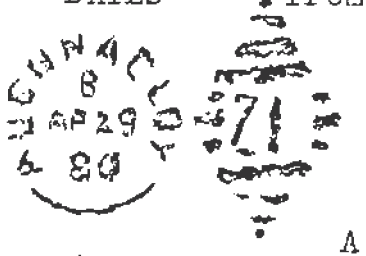
What I bought the lot for was an unrecorded version of the Dublin Late Fee time-mark illustrated. It is in red, on a letter 17 May 1847, Dublin to Londo At the time 1d fee covered posting between 5 and 5.30 and for 6d one could post between 5.30 and 5.45. There is no indication of which categgory the letter came into, probably the latter, as there was a contemporary mark reading "FROM 5 to 5 .30 P.M.

Chapelized Penny Post

One usually thinks of the Penny Post markings of the late 1840s as survivals from the days before the General Penny Post. Some pieces in this same lot prove otherwise. The Chapelized stamp was very worn in 1840 and a new one was made, with larger letters differently spaced. This was still current in 1849.

INVERTED DATES

Fewer than usual this year. Rev.Noonan reports one from Craughwell (Co.Galway). Handstamp 24.X.99.



Although colour was used quite often for stamp obliterating in the 1850s(and earlier) one rarely finds later examples of anything but black. Aughnacloy (Co. Tyrone) was one of the exceptions and a few covers have been found with the canceller struck in blue.

5/- Booklet of 5d photogravure

A new booklet containing 12 5d stamps was put on sale on 1st December, the only warning being in the newspapers of that day. The stamps are of the 5d definitive design, clumsily redrawn and reproduced in photogravure. The main differences from the typographed issue are in the size of the design (reduced) and the unevenness of the lines of the background. Colour is brighter.

The make-up of the 5/- booklet is very stupid. Six each of 5d, 3d and 2d would have been useful to posters of postcards and Greetings Cards (3d) and of ordinary foreign mail (5d+2d).

P.S. J.Kane has the new stamp used 29 November 1966.

I.P.C. Random Notes

CHRISTMAS 1966 Number 118

Post Office Form M.P.460 This orange sticker was described in R.N.47. Other examples have now been seen, in both cases asking for the cover to be returned for an official enquiry, and with a pencilled addition "Where posted please?" The cancellations are so faint that even the expert officials could not decipher them. One surmises that the enquiry was into the inefficient cancelling.

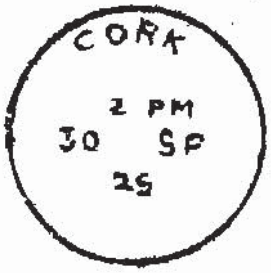
STRAIGHT-LINE POSTMARKS Such forms as MP 460 provide a use for the simple name-stamp marking, such as Dr de Burca has found at various offices in his travels.

P.& T. It is rumoured that the interpretation of the T will soon be officially changed from "Telegraphs" to the more accurate "Telecommunications".

DEFINITIVES Recommendations for new designs have now been made by the Stamp Design Advisory Committee.

FORWARDING AGENTS CACHET Collectors of Ship Letters are familiar with the labels and handstamps applied by Shipping Lines' Agents on mail that they have forwarded. A recently seen variant use is a red handstamp of Richard Hennessy, Queenstown, agent for Cunard, White Star and American Lines. It is a postcard of the S.S.Merion, apparently written on board just before sailing time, and taken ashore by the agent, who posted it in Queenstown, 17 December 1909.

HOTEL CACHET The same batch of postcards yielded another Queenstown item, an attractive handstamped "ANTHONY O'CARROLL.NEW YORK HOUSE, KING'S SQUARE,QUEENSTOWN" with, separately "First Class Boarding House". Date 1910.



For the benefit of the newer students of Irish postmarks, I will explain that this sketch shows a single-circle skeleton date-stamp, so termed because it is a temporary type, made up by inserting the individual letters and figures into the blank spaces of the skeleton frame. This is the normal type of the period and had been introduced as far back as the 1850s. From about 1940 it was superseded by a smaller style, only 30mm across, with smaller letters, and characterised by having the date in one line. The special reason for illustrating the example from Cork is the abnormal use of "CORK" instead of the already well established "CORCAIGH".

N.I. SLOGANS Londonderry is more honest than Belfast. In R.N. there was mention of a slogan heralding the Q.U.B. "Festival". Meanwhile Londonderry was running a slogan for its "MAGEE RAG, NOVEMBER 25" incorporating a depiction of the buildings of the Magee University. I may be doing Belfast an injustice, but most university students' efforts merit the description "rag".

9d POSTAGE — The flaw on the 9d has been grossly neglected. It is just as prominent, as, and much rarer than, the 1d QNE and the 1½ PENCE. G.Brady has an excellent article in the REVEALER No.87, with illustrations of SG 42 and 61 (Thom 5-line & Thom 3-line, both red) with the flaw. He had been unable to confirm a report of it on a stamp with Dollard overprint, which must have been agate. Further, no record could be found of the variety on any unoverprinted 9d agate (U.K. SG No. 392-393). That is now rectified, a mint example being found in Dublin, so it seems possible that Irish SG 8,25 and 41 with POSTAGE may all exist. The sheet position is No.1 in Row 3.

LLYMACLINTON — Postmark collectors are fond of the cancellation of this village, or pseudo-village, erected in the White City, London, for the Franco-British Exhibition of 1908. It was reopened, complete with post office, for the summer of 1909, but what about 1910 ? I find a postcard issued later by the soap firm (McClinton) who built the village, stating the village was at the White City in 1908, 1909 and 1910.

MACHINE-VENDED BOOKLETS — Even before the last Random Notes were passed to N.J. Langton for posting, further new booklets were on sale, through 2/6-in-slot machines. One booklet contains a single 3x2 pane of the new 5d: another meets my criticism by offering a pane each of 2d and 3d. However, these 2/6 booklets were initially available inside Dublin G.P.O. and three Dublin branch offices. Thus the main purpose of vending machines is not achieved - enabling the public to buy stamps when the offices are closed.

P.J.Lalor, T.D., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs and Transport and Power (what a title !) initiated the operation of the G.P.O. machines on 9th December, but this was not disclosed to the public until after the event.

MANGAN 1d — "Fyndem" tipped the 1949 1d commemorative just before Christmas, but boobed daily in giving the Gibbons price for used as 10s instead of 10d !

NEW DEALERS — It is significant that various new dealers are advertising from Irish addresses. Note that (like so many U.K. stockists) they seem to have only the more recent issues to sell.



Very little is known of the cancellations used in Irish post offices for newspapers and printed matter. In a quantity of stamps of the 1880s and 90s, mostly used in Ireland, were several with "N P D" cancellations very like the N P B of London. The numbers above range from 1 to 8 and a few have A or Z below. Is it possible that the N P D = News Papers DUBLIN ?

I.P.C. Random Notes

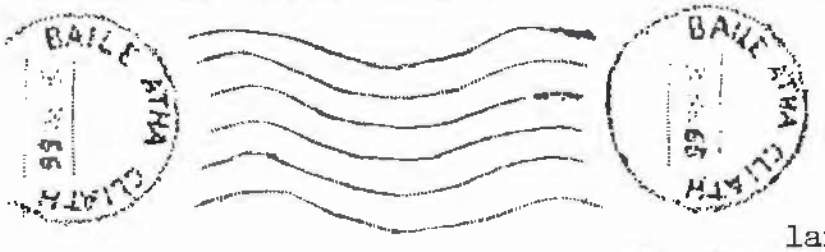
January 1967 No. 119

1967 STAMP ISSUES — There are two surprises in the list of events to be commemorated this year. Swift and Europa were expected: Tourist Year is understandable. The others are the surprises. The Fenian centenary was suggested some time back and the proposal then rejected. And it is peculiar that the Post Office should recognise the centenary of Canadian Confederation when Ireland will not be represented at the 1967 Canadian International Exhibition.

"POSTAL HISTORY OF SAXONY" — Congratulations to our member Dr John P.Mackey, and to all concerned in the production of his 80 page book. There were organised posts in Saxony in the 14th century, so there is a long story to be told, and Dr Mackey tells it well with a wealth of illustrations of milestones and postmarks and maps and stamps and entires etc. etc.

DUNDALK SLOGAN — The first new slogan of 1967 is expected to appear this month - at Dundalk only - advertising "DUNDALK MAYTIME FESTIVAL 12-21 May 1967"

EXCHANGE PACKETS — Associated Exchange Clubs have now come to terms with the Irish Revenue Commissioners. Their packets will now be allowed into Ireland if the addressee is on a declared list and if he undertakes to declare to the Commissioners what he has bought from the packet and sends them the turnover tax of 2½% (6d in £) on his purchases.



Has anyone seen a complete impression of this new Dublin cancellation? It seems to be a continental style of roller canceller, probably meant for use on packets and large envelopes. The date of my example is illegible, but it is in a batch of material with posting dates Nov. & Dec. 1966.

ADVERTISEMENTS — The best evidence of what is scarcest is not the dealers' price, but what they have not got at any price. Thus, one prominent firm (which has the delightful slip of Keats for Yeats) has plenty of mint, but scarcely any used before 1963 and F.D.C. only of the last two years ! I continue to repeat my tip, that the best investment is the fine used.

T.E.FIELD COLLECTION — Although not specified in the catalogue, most of the lots in the Robson Lowe Sale on 21 Feb, horribly called "Great Britain used in Ireland", are from the collection of the late T.E.Field. I recognise many of his treasures, but also note the absence of a few of his favourites. The catalogue is one of those which every student of Irish cancellations should buy.

ANNUAL REMINDER — Don't forget that your annual subscription of £1 is now due and should be sent without delay to the Hon.Treas. or to your Area Secretary.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

FEBRUARY 1967 RANDOM NOTES NUMBER 120



Another addition to the list of rhomboid killers which survived as late as the 1920s. The number 42 is that of Balla (pronounced something like BAAL) in Co. Mayo. My example is on a 2d Thom 5-line.



In the same batch of material (alas, only pieces, not covers) were ½d and 2d 3-line, each cancelled in purple by this oval undated handstamp, typical of those issued to the Telegraph Offices at Railway Stations. Examples of them cancelling postage stamps have probably been obtained by connivance.

2d George V Die II

The third find in the lot was a stamp I've been watching out for a long time, the unoverprinted 2d, with Die II, used in the Free State area of Ireland. Now I have it, used in Dublin 21 Feb.1922, four days after the overprints were introduced, but before the unoverprinted stamps were disallowed.

OFFICIAL PAID CANCELLATION

One of the accidents of the pre-Christmas rush was the use of Dublin machine I with the IOCTHA GO hOIFIGIUIL die, in black, as a cancellation, on 20 December 1966.

AÉROGRAMMES

Why does the Irish Post Office insert the accent on the heading of its aérogrammes when it refuses to use it on ÉIRE ? The latest modification of the forms is so slight that it may have occurred some time ago without being noticed by any of us. It is merely the elimination of the initial n from "ngnátpost". (Later: changed 1964)

DEFINITIVE SHADES

Who is working nowadays on the shades of the definitives? Don't wait until they are all obsolete. Get what you can before the new set appears. The only interesting one I've seen recently is a very pale shade of the 6d. The nearest thing to it on my ancient Colour Chart is termed magenta !

FREE LITERATURE

Thanks to the generosity of the late T.E.Field, I can still offer a few items to I.P.C. members willing to pay the postage. The items are:

"Random Notes" various issues from No. 38 to No.62.
"The Irish Mail" by Cyril Kidd.
"Ship Letter Stamps of Ireland and the Irish Free State" by Alan W.Robertson.
Auction Catalogues of Bute Sale 1959 and Stafford Johnson Sale 1958.
"Slogan Cancellations of the Replublic of Ireland 1922-59" by F.E.Dixon.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"The Luck of the Irish" in "Stamp Collecting "13 Jan, is a good example of what should be listed only with a warning that it is unreliable. There are several slips, but it is welcome as likely to encourage readers to look for more authoritative histories .

I.P.C. Random Notes

February 1967 No. 120

THE LANGUAGE OF STAMPS — There are many variations of the "Language of Stamps", by which changes of position and posture of the stamp on an envelope convey messages, usually amatory. Irish Nationalistsused the idea differently. They applied the postage stamps upside down as a mark of disrepect to the monarchy. My examples are of the 1918-20 period, but I expect that earlier ones can be found. (SEE BELOW !)

SINN FEIN LABELS — Although the facts about these are now well known (e.g. through Fr.Brennan's article) it is nice to acquire some confirmatory evidence. It is a letter on the notepaper of Whelan & Son, 17 Upper Ormond Quay, of 1944, mentioning that they had been appointed sole agents for distributing the Sinn Fein "stamps", by Arthur Griffith, in 1908.

THE SLUMP IN IRISH, 1930 — Our new member, W.G.Meredith, will (I hope) be interested to know that that a letter of his survives from July 1930 when he was clearing his stock of mint Irish in lots of £20 (approx.) catalogue value at £5 each. What would some of those £5 lots fetch today !

THE LANGUAGE OF STAMPS (cont.) — While I was typing the paragraph above there was in the post a letter from A.T.Sedgley enclosing Xerox copies of a 1916 ruins postcard with the stamp inverted - probably another example of the patriots' practice. However, an isolated case can be accidental or can mean "I love you" . A.T.S. is disappointed that so few collectors (and no I.P.C. members) have answered his appeal for the loan of covers from Ireland's Troubles period.

MAY MEETING IN DUBLIN — By now you know ,from Mr Telfer's News letter, that the Annual General Meeting of the I.P.C. is scheduled for 6-7 May. Visiting members requiring hotel bookings are advised to book very soon as it is the end of Spring Show week and Dublin will be very crowded.

IRISH NATIONAL COLLECTION — Mr Telfer's criticism of the philatelic presentation in the National Museum of Ireland is justified. Many suggestions have been made as to how philatelists could advise and assist in reorganising the collection, with no results. If half the profits made by the Post Office out of sales to collectors could be devoted to establishing a real postal museum it would be a wise investment. As it is, the money seems to be swallowed up in the general funds, and there is no official drive to swell the numbers of Irish atamp collectors.

AIR MAILS — The E.P.A.'s "Revealer" Supplement No.29 (Jan.1967) is a thorough study of the Irish airmails 1924-1939.

OVERPRINT CONTROLS — Supplement 30 is devoted to the Controls of the overprinted stamps, but is less important, in that most of the data are reaily available elsewhere.

I.P.C. Random Notes 120 SUPPLEMENT

IRISH SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS DURING 1966

The machines. No new machines were reported, the number of places having them remaining at 55. Of these Cork and Limerick each has two and Dublin has over 20, the identifying letters running from A to V.

New slogans comprised only two. "Go Gay in May. DUNDALK FESTIVAL, May 1st to 22nd" was used at Dundalk from 16th March and "MALLOW PAGEANT 1916-1966, May 8th,9th,11th,15th" appeared at Mallow for only three or four weeks.

Revived slogans. Most of the revivals were routine, including the local publicity for Ballina,Bray,Galway,Killarney,Limerick and Tralee. Similar are the succession from Cork for its own Choral Festival, for Kinsale Regatta and for Bandon Carnival.

"Prevent Forest Fires" was used widely in late Spring. Tooth Cleaning was again urged at a few places in October, followed by the Road Safety slogans, which included the old dies of "MAKE THE ROADS SAFE" at Cork, Naas and Waterford.

The 1965 pictorials for the P.O. Savings Bank and Certificates were used variously, Galway and Limerick adding to the variety by taking the 1944 dies out of their pigeonholes.

Both versions of the Voters Lists slogans had periods of use in September and December. Another pair of slogans are the "PLEASE SHEW DISTRICT NUMBERS ..." and "A Full Address Speeds Delivery". Both these seem to be used as stop-gaps, as for instance in the period between Christmas and the New Year.

No new dies were seen for the customary "POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS". The longest lived is the thick-lettered die at Nenagh: it was launched in Dublin in 1949.

One other slogan, which should have been mentioned earlier, was that for the R.D.S. Science Exhibition, used only on a demonstration machine in the Exhibition, 18-22 October. This was as in 1963, but without the dates incorporated.

Errors. Fewer than usual were seen, the most surprising being the inverted date (9961) used for as long as 11 days at Dungarvan before it was corrected.

"PAID" and "OFFICIAL PAID". No slogans were seen from these special markings during 1966.

. . . . . .

Addenda to the published List of Irish Slogans are being drafted, and it is planned to include them in a later issue of the I.P.C. Journal in due course.

If you know of anything not in the booklet and not reported in Random Notes please let me have details:

F.E.Dixon
15 Terenure Road (East)
Rathgar
DUBLIN 6

Some day an enterprising collector will publish an anthology of Post Office Poetry, and here is one contribution, to be sung to the tune of "An t-sean bhean bhocht", usually corrupted to "Shan Van Voght". It appeared in the "IRISH BUILDER" Vol.XXI.(1879)

THE G.P.O.

'Tis always the same at the G.P.O.,
There's no-one to blame at the G.P.O.
My letters are late,
And are marked OVER WEIGHT
But that is their game at the G.P.O.

Full three times a week at the G.P.O.
For justice I seek at the G.P.O.,
And when I wax warm
They hand me a form,
Through which I must speak at the G.P.O.

My cheques are oft lost through the G.P.O.,
Whether open or crossed, through the G.P.O.
They cannot be traced,
They're cashed in such haste
By Old Nick or Faust in the G.P.O.

Her Majesty's Chief in the G.P.O.
Can't find out the thief in the G.P.O.,
But hopes he'll soon trap
The light-fingered chap
That's causing such grief in the G.P.O.

Still covers drop off in the G.P.O.,
Nor Cocker nor Gough in the G.P.O.
Can count how much stamps
Are filched by the scamps
In the service thereof of the G.P.O.

And still I may swear at the G.P.O.,
And still they declare at the G.P.O.
They suffer no pause
In search for the cause
Of loss that I bear through the G.P.O.

'Tis certain folks rob in the G.P.O.
By day and by job in the G.P.O.;
But thief or the thieves
Still laugh in their sleeves,
And 'scape to the mob from the G.P.O.

The service is grand of the G.P.O.,
The best in the land is the G.P.O.,
Then "God save the Queen",
Though robbed I have been
By "her's to command" in the G.P.O.

H.C.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

MARCH 1967 Number 121

RANDOM NOTES

DUBLIN CORPORATION PUNSTS — One of the causes contributing to the scarcity of nice used stamps is that quite an appreciable number are rejected by normal collectors because of initials punctured in them. The commonest of the modern Irish punsts is the DC of Dublin Corporation, usually appearing twice in the long shaped commemoratives. I see a lightly cancelled 1/5 Europa (1965) ruined by six DCs, two inverted ! and missing only 5 of the 96 holes.

OBITUARY — I am very sorry to hear of the death of I.P.C. member, Dr.H.C.D.Miller of Skegness,Lincs. who joined us at the London meeting during the 1960 Exhibition.

DUBLIN G.P.O. 1916 — At last I can boast possession of the little book by Mrs Norway (wife of the Secretary of Dublin G.P.O. and mother of Neville Shute) on"The Sinn Fein Rebellion as I saw it", with the alleged Republican Stamp reproduced on the cover. It mentions many things not generally known, such as the fact that the G.P.O. had been completely reconstructed and reopened to the public only 6 weeks earlier.

INVERSIONS — The first for 1967 was Jan.13 at Drogheda, with name-and-date circle inverted, it has another error, the year being omitted; Each year some different town fails to receive its new year slug. This year Drogheda was still without one as late as 3 February.

DUNDALK FESTIVAL SLOGAN — Mr Sedgley has ascertained that the first day of the new slogan was 4th January, but that it was taken out of use because impressions were so poor, and the die returned to the makers for modification.

CASEMENT EARLY DATES — Rev.Noonan reports examples from Bracknagh,Kildare (but in Co.Offaly) dated 3.VII and 7.VII.66. However, this was a case of date error VII for VIII.

PARCELS POST TRAIN-TICKETS — Dublin G.P.O. has received new counter machines for printing adhesive labels, Plessey type, with full range of values from 1d to 9/11.

"DOUANE" GREEN LABELS — W.Kane has found a new style of the green labels needed for letters going overseas. The imprint shows that this "OE.77" was printed last February. Its special feature is instructions on the reverse, printed over the gum, urging accurate and complete details of the contents of the package.

I.P.C. Random Notes

MARCH 1967 Number 121

OBITUARY Dublin has lost another of its few stamp shops through the death of Mr Roy Collie. Primarily a clockmaker, he was wont to have a few stamps in the counter, and many choice pieces passed through his hands. His principal collecting interest was France, but one never entered the shop unless ready to stay for half-an-hour or more and chat about philately and philatelists and many other things.

SLOGANS Two new slogans are expected . As usual the advance notice was too short for us to notify you in advance, and it will probably be possible to give you t he dates of issue before this stencil is finished:

at Bray only BRAY IRELAND HOLIDAYS AND CONFERENCES

at Dublin,Dun Laoghaire,Galway,Limerick, Sligo and Waterford: IRISH HOLIDAYS IN MAY,ONE FREE DAY

We hope that the message of the latter slogan will help to persuade a few more members to cross to Ireland for the IPC conference in May.

EXPERIMENTAL CANCELLER It is officially confirmed that the postmark illustrated in R.N.119 is an experimental roller handstamp, two of which were introduced on 9 December 1966, for use on bulky packets. One of them has provision for showing time.

IRISH COILS Other information kindly supplied by P. & T. Information Officer Miss MacCurtain enables me to correct the allegation in a "Stamp Collecting" letter that ½d slot machines were not used in Ireland before 1951. The date of introduction was 1925, but the first experimental machines were not successful.

W/C Jackson reports that I.P.C. members have not been prominent in the replies to his appeal for reports of SG 74b. He now knows of 23 examples, used from at least six places.

FREE LITERATURE The catalogues and Random Notes offered in R.N. 120 have now all been distributed, but a few of the others remain.

"L EDITH" For the benefit of newer members I should mention that I hold a copy of the 4th edition (1927) of W.G.Meredith's handbook. This is available for loan to I.P.C. members on payment of the postage (7d)

I cannot lend the rare supplents 1-11 (were there more, Mr.M.?) the 11th being Nov.1929. Suppl.4 has valuable data on numbers issued; notably the accents inserted by hand: 3,867 of SG 52b, 3,041 of SG53b and 53c, but only 623 of 60a and 489 of 63b .

"STAMP COLLECTING" Nice evidence of the Irish boom of the 1920s is the fact that in S.C.'s special Irish Number of 1924 19 advertisers had Irish stamps to sell. P.Dworzakowski had several of the "no accent" varieties, including the ½d mint at 30/- .

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

EASTER 1967 Number 122

RANDOM NOTES

PARCELS SERVICES — Has anyone heard of VICTORWAYS EXPRESS LTD., who were operating from 7a Rutland Place (off Parnell Square), Dublin, in 1929 ? They apparently provided a delivery service to the provinces, and one wonders if they issued any stamps for prepaying the carriage.

ROBSON LOWE AUCTION FEB. 21st — Prices for the U.K. used in Ireland were much less sensational than recent realisations for other Irish material. Most of the first 200 lots fetched less than valuations, and the bidding seem to have been keenest for the Spoons and the high values at the end of the sale. Some of the higher realisations were

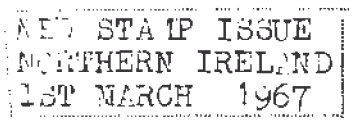
Lot 39	£52.10	Lot 191	£115	Lot 316	£105
45	£50	220	£60	338	£85
87	£34	231	£140	344	£105
95	£72.10	233	£57	348	£115
145	£85	275	£87.10		
151	£400	279	£85		

IRISH PHILATELIC "LITERATURE" — A real gem is the "IRISH STATE COLLECTOR" comprising four small pages, mostly advertisements. My copy is Vol.I,No.2, June 1929, and I quote just one sentence (?):

"It is our intention to have it published about the middle of each month after another issue or two it should have been issued a week earlier but owing to many enquiries about advertising we delayed its issue in order to cope with collectors in many countries, for the benefit of Philatelists and dealers who are anxious to take page, half page, column five inches or inch ads. the prices quoted are for six months, this is why a page costs only 22s."

Publisher was T.Tiernan, 12 Windsor Ter.Portobello Dublin.

EXPERIMENTAL ROLLER CANCELLATION — I hope that you all realised that the envelopes bringing you Random Notes 121 bore the new cancellation first mentioned in R.N.119. Our thanks are due to the G.P.O. Philatelic Section for kindly arranging to facilitate us.



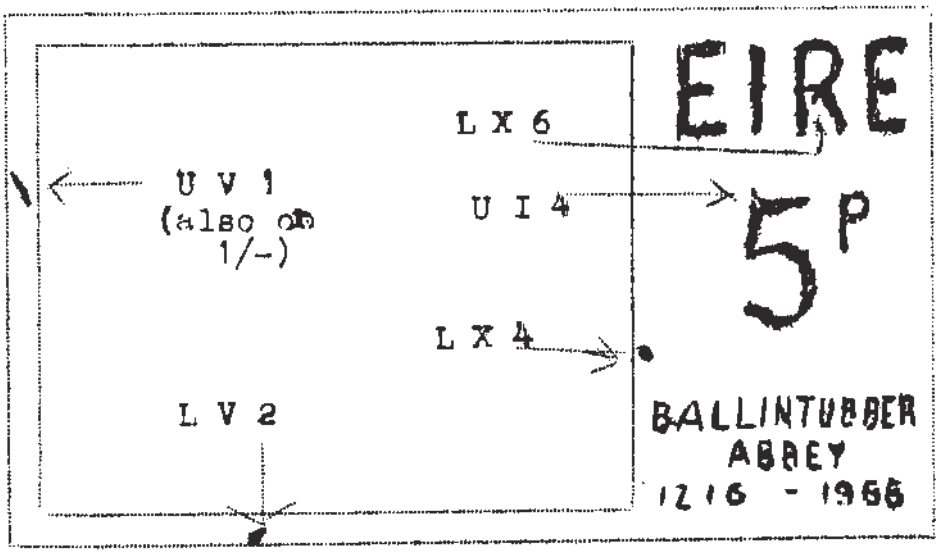
Although covers posted through the Philatelic Bureau received a neat circular handstamp, there was also a special machine cancellation as depicted here, but sans-serif, and larger.

P.O. HOURS — With most offices now closed at 5.30 p.m. it is interesting to note a 1900 newspaper report that the Tipperary P.O. had changed its closing time from ten to nine p.m.

I.P.C. Random Notes

Easter 1967 No.122

BALLINTUBBER
5d FLAWS



U,L = Upper, Lower pane of ten rows of six.
Second letter = Roman numeral of row.
Figure = number in row.

ROMAN NUMERALS. A nice point not understood by some postmark suppliers is that the Roman numeral I must have its serifs. Thus II II (seen in modern datestamps for 11th February) are wrong. They obviously signify 11th November.

THE YEAR AT DROGHEDA The "1967" plug for the Drogheda machine arrived between 15 and 20 February.

OBITUARY The deaths are announced of two pioneers in Irish Philately. Major A.E.Hopkins, who died on 1st March, took over the series of Irish catalogues started by Ware and was the first to produce a full account of the Cork I.R.A. issues.

The other loss to us is that of C.F.McLoughlin, who was the first serious student of the high-value overprints, and contributed an article on them to the 4th edition of Meredith's handbook.

IRISH HOLIDAYS IN MAY ONE FREE DAY This new slogan appeared on the cancelling machines on 8th March, but had been introduced earlier in the metermarks of the Tourist Board. We hope that the offer will help to persuade I.P.C. members to come to Ireland and take in the A.G.M.



A further inducement may be the Spring Show, and as a reminder of that I attach the usual "sticker", in the same design as every year since World War II.

In gloating over my 21 Feb. purchases I have been studying the "RAILWAY STATION" on Lot 299 and believe it was a Receiving House mark, probably at Athenry.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Easter 1967 Number 123

RANDOM NOTES

INVERTED WATERMARKS — Congratulations to A.L.Stokes on finding the 2d definitive with inverted watermark in sheet form.

MISUNDERSTOOD USE OF FIRST-DAY COVERS — A Belfast lady thought it would be nice to send the new regional stamps to a friend in Dublin, whom she knew to be interested. So she bought the new stamps, and the specially printed cover: placed the stamps inside and then posted the envelope bearing an ordinary 4d stamp !

PAQUEBOT / PAQUEBOT — A find in Lot 338 of the recent Robson Lowe sale is that the Dublin & Cork T.P.O. American Mail covers have both types of PAQUEBOT handstamp.— The upright one has not been recorded hitherto in conjunction with the American Mail datestamp.

CUSTOM HOUSE & FOUR COURTS — Other pleasant surprises in that lot were stamps bearing the single-circle cancellations of two of Dublin's most famous buildings, both devastated in the "Troubles" but later restored. In both cases the offices were telegraphic only. This applies also to the SHELBOURNE HOTEL of Lot 323 (which I did not get).

U.K. SG 12a — Dr.Stafford Johnson informs me that the B-blank to be auctioned on 12 April is not the first to be found in Dublin. Lane-Joynt found one, which was sold in 1922 for £56. However, it was used in London and was a poor specimen, cut into at the vital corner and at the top.

SELF-ADHESIVE TAPE — As I mounted the Spring Show labels on 200 copies of Random Notes No.122 I was speculating on the possibility of the invention of non-lick stamp-hinges. To new collectors I would like to issue a special warning about the use of the usual self-adhesive tape. DON'T allow it near stamps or covers. I'm breaking-up a collection of pre-adhesive stamps securely mounted on expensive album pagesby strips of the horrible stuff. Even if one can remove the tape without damaging the cover, there remains a stain which penetrates through the paper. One of the finest "mermaids" I have ever seen is ruined by such a stain. Does anyone know a remedy ?

PAID AT SLIGO — When R.P.Woods edited the late J.S.Preston's listing of the Irish "PAID AT.." markings, Sligo was deliberately omitted with the intention of producing a separate article. Has anyone yet sorted out the complications ? My present listing is

1824-40	Frame	31x11 mm becoming battered
Dec.1840	"	33x11 mm (Reported T.P.Field)
1840-47	"	32½x12mm
May 1846	"	31x10mm (Just discovered)
1847-50	"	26x10½mm (Sans-serif letters)

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

RANDOM NOTES

April 1967 Number 124

This issue is devoted entirely to a summary of the contents of the eleven supplements to his handbook issued by W.G.Meredith from December 1927 to November 1929 and which rank among the greatest rarities of Irish philatelic literature. We are much indebted to Mr Meredith for permission to reproduce from them.

The 1st supplement, December 1927 reported a November reissue of 5/- and 10/- Composite, but with different basic plates so that varieties V27,V28 do not occur. About 9 December there appeared the 2/6 "Parallel" overprint with all wide dates.

Supplement 2 (Jan.1928) reported the embarrassment of P.O. officials by all demanding pairs of wide-and-narrow dates just becoming obsolete, and gives particulars of newly recorded plates. identifiable by the positions of the wide dates. One had it at 2x1,2x2, 3x1,3x2,3x3,4x1,4x2,4x3,4x4,5x2,6x2,7x1,7x2,8x1,8x2,9x4, 10x1,10x2,10x4. Another block of the first seven rows had only 4x1,4x2 ,4x3,6x2.

No.3 in February reported the expected 5/- and 10/- of the "Parallel" overprint and mentions defective accent variety at 9x2 of all three values.

No.4 gave useful advice on the separation of the different high-value printings, and also lists the quantities overprinted which I have already quoted in R.N. 121

No.5 (Ap.-May) comprised list amendments and additions (P.T.O.)

No. 6 added more and proudly announced the award of a Plaque in the Monographs class at the Durban 1928 Exhibition.

No.7 did not appear until October and discussed Scott's and Gibbons's catalogue listings. No.8, at the end of 1928, continued this, and reported W.Dodd's winning the Irish Cup at the London Exhibition. (Where is the Cup now ?) Meredith received another medal, the only one for the class - as he did also in Melbourne.

No.9 commenced the comparative listing (with prices) from Gibbons,Scott and Yvert, a project which was not I think continued until Mr Feldman recently produced his catalogue.

No.10 (June 1929) announced the O'Connell Catholic Emancipation issue. The final supplement in November announced the withdrawal of the O'Connells on 30 September and described the Galway-Croydon flight of August 26.

Naturally much of the space in the Supplements is devoted to price revisions. Although now (regretfully) obsolete these reflect clearly what was in demand 40 years ago and they are listed, beginning overleaf.

Text addenda: p.36,line 20. Add "in POSTAGE" after "letter S"
p.17 After 3rd para. "4d Dollard red S21 Imp. also"

W.J. Meredith's Price List. Amendments and Additions up to November 1929

Number	Mint	Used
1	1d	1d
1a	2d	1d
2	2d	1d
3	10d	10d
4	3/4	8d
4a	4/-	1/-
5	1/1	1/1
6	3/-	2/3
7	4/-	3/-
7a	4/-	3/-
8	1/9	1/9
8a	1/9	1/9
9	14/-	14/-
10	25/-	25/-
11	48/-	48/-
12	1/-	2d
13	8d	1d
14	6d	1d
15	1/4	6d
16	4/3	7d
17	7d	7d
17a	10d	9d
18	1/6	1/6
19	5/-	2/-
20	1d	1d
20a	8d	8d
20b	1/	1/
21	2dd	2d
21a	9d	9d
21b	1/-	1/-
22	5d	5d
22a	4/-	4/-
22b	2/6	2/6
23	6d	3d
23a	1/6	1/6
23b	5/-	5/-
24	7d	6d
24a	5/-	5/-
24b	2/6	2/6
25	1/7	1/7
28	10/-	5/-
29	10/-	5/-
30	36/-	20/-
31	10d	1d
32	3d	1d
33	5d	2d
34	9/6	2d
35	6d	1d
36	1/6	5d
37	2/8	2/8
38	1/10	6d
39	22/-	18/-
41	6/-	3/-
42	1/-	1/-
43	4/8	3/-
44	2/6	2/6
45	75/-	75/-
46	60/-	60/-
47	90/-	90/-
48	1d	1d
48a		20/-
49	2d	1d
50	3d	3d
51	2/9	1d
52	1d	1d
54	2d	1d
55	3d	3d
56	4d	2d
57	1/-	8d
58	10d	7d
59	11d	3d
61	2/6	6d
64	36/-	36/-
65	1/4	1/-
66	10d	7d
67	1/3	8d
69	5/-	2/-
71	1/9	1/-
73	10/-	10/-
74	20/-	20/-
75	60/-	60/-
76	1d	1d
77	2d	2d
77a	1/-	1/-
77b	1/-	1/-
78	2d	2d
78a	1/9	1/9
78b	2/-	2/-
79a	1/-	1/-
79b	1/-	1/-
87	6d	1d
90	1/-	3d
92a	4d	4d
92b	4d	4d
93a	8d	8d
93b	8d	8d
94a	1/6	1/6
94b	1/6	1/6
95a	1/-	1/-
95b	1/-	1/-
97	2d	1d
98	3d	1d
99	8d	6d
100	4/-	4/-
101	8/-	8/-
102	16/-	16/-
"Parallel" Printing of 1927		
103(2/6)	3/-	3/-
104(5/-)	6/-	6/-
105(10s)	12/-	12/-
O'Connell, 1929		
106(2d)	4d	2d
107(3d)	6d	3d
108(9d)	1/6	9d

Add
V14a 2d Harr.SACRSTAT
- 20/-
V18 25/- 20/-

Add
V27a,V28a 50/- (n.f.p.)
V30 is on Control S22, Perf., and Plate 2.
V31 is Control S22 Imp.

V50a. Only T inserted, not accent.

Revise prices:
V66(R/S) 6/-
V69 " 17/6
V70 " 5/-
V73 " 15/-
V77 " 15/-
V81 " 20/-

V91 15/-

Add
V121a 5d Dollard black
50/- -

V146 found also 20x1 on plate 1.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

April 1967 RANDOM NOTES Number 125

Meredith Price Revisions (continued from 124)

Number	Mint	Used
V256	13/6	
V269	13/6	
V281	13/6	
V303	13/6	
V319	13/6	
V330	13/6	
V360	13/6	
V370	13/6	
V381	13/6	
V406	13/6	
V410	13/6	
V535(5/-)	27/6	
V551	20/-	
V552	25/-	
V553	50/-	
V554	15/-	
V558	15/-	
V559	15/-	
V562	15/-	
Parallel Print, damaged accent(9x2)		
V580(2/6)	7/6pair	
V581(5/-)	15/- "	
V582(10s)	30/- "	
Parallel Print Accent missing		
V583(2/6)	12/6	
ld map wmk.inv.		
V599	2/-	
V606	£8	
10d el+Re		
V611	20/	
V646a (10d Thom blue-black)		
C74a ld Thom black S22 Imp.		
C75a ld Thom black T22 pl.4		
C76 Plate 9		
C87	85/-	
C88	85/-	
C89	80/-	
C90	80/-	
C100	£10	
C101	£10	
C107	48/-	
C150a (6d Saoratat V2} Perf.)		

DOES HONESTY PAY ? A scrupulous customer found that his Bank had paid out 2/- too much.He put a florin in an envelope and asked the office boy to drop it in. The o.b. posted it. The post office detected the coin and charged accordingly. The bank, not knowing the value of the contents, therefore paid out 2/10 to get back their 2/-. The bank could have refused to pay the full amount, because the label used was an old one on which the registration fee was shown as 9d !

REGISTRATION LABELS One of the mysterious numbers in the series found on Dublin registration labels is 153, which I have now seen in conjunction with the cancellations of both At.Andrew St. and Dame St. The evidence suggests that the number is allocated to the head office of the Munster & Leinster Bank. The latest examples seen have a new variant, the name and number being shown as "Dublin (DN) 153" .

BRAY SLOGAN The new slogan came into use on 20th March, rather later than promised. The view incorporated is similar to the earlier one, but taken from a few yards further inland.

U.K. use of Irish Overprints I have received written intimation from the London G.P.O. that the Philatelic Bureau was wrong in stating that Geo.V U.K. stamps overprinted stamps are all still valid in the U.K. This is true for Tangier, etc., but not for the Irish overprints.

I.P.C. Random Notes

April 1967 No.125

LITERATURE An outstanding contribution to our bookshelves is No.1 of Vol.16 of the "Philatelic Literature Review". A useful Bibliography of the philatelic literature of Ireland and a complete index to the "Revealer" are the main articles. Although the E.P.A. is naturally to the fore the I.P.C. is given honourable mention.

Another recent publication deserves to be recorded. It is neither philately nor postal history, but many collectors will like to have it. "Coastal Passenger Steamers and Inland Navigations in the South of Ireland" by Dr D.B.McNeill, No.6 of the series of Transport Handbooks produced for the Belfast Transport Museum. It is amazingly cheap (3/6) for the wealth of fascinating data and illustrations of steamers and barges, some of which may have carried mails at some periods.

SG PRICES Have you got that 10/- Thom ? After being quoted at £6 for very many years it is £15 in the main listing of the "1967" catalogue. The April 1967 revisions, however, bring it to £105 ! The continuance of this upward trend should suggest to some bright dealer an idea for Irish Philatelic accessories - a safe. Have you revised your insurance valuation ? And are you sure that your insurance company is satisfied with your security arrangements ?

UK SG 12a It will always be one of my memories that for over 24 hours I had in my possession,uninsured, the stamp whose discovery was reported in RN 117. It was auctioned on 12th April and fetched £950, a record for the stamp, and justified by its fine condition and margins. The publicity has brought me many letters, mostly from ladies such as one who has a red penny stamp on her birth certificate (1903) and seeks assistance in selling it.

INVERSIONS O.M.Richards reports two recent slips. Naas had its name-and-date circle inverted 15 March and Dublin (B) had the same variety on 23 March.

NEW DUBLIN HANDSTAMP He has also found Langton type G.10 with number 76. It is therefore likely that handstruck datestamps exist with numbers 72 to 75. Has anyone seen any of them ? What styles ?

BOOKLET 5d PHOTOGRAVURE Watch the shades and the varied inking.With over-inking lines on sword merge and white dots shrink.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

MAY 1967 No. 126

RANDOM NOTES

EXHIBITIONS Messrs Kane and Dixon both contributed to a E.P.A. display, submitted as non-competitive, but given a bronze award, at "Interpex" (New York, March). At the same time Mr Kane had other treasures on loan for a show in the Cardinal Spellman Museum.



Every bundle of penny reds, however grubby and tatty, has to be scrutinised. One rubbishy lot on a dealer's counter has just supplied a very early date for the numbered obliterators introduced 1844, 22 June for Dublin. This is the same date as the earliest seen hitherto, on a small piece. What is your earliest for Ireland ?

10d George V BROKEN FRAME The broken frame-line near E of Postage (N31c in SG Specialised) exists with Irish SG9,43,62. G.Brady has discussed it in a recent REVEALER article. H.G.L.Fletcher reported what seemed to be an early stage of the flaw, apparently No.12 in Row 1. I have now found the fully developed break, with Thom 3-line. It is a marginal copy and a defective first A in SAORSTAT fixes the position as Row 3, No.1.

ENVELOPE SEALING Yet another curio has been reprieved from destruction: this time because of the novel envelope. A copper rivet was secured to the body of the envelope by a circle of thin card. The rivet was passed through a hole in an ornamental red circle on the flap. It was then hammered flat and the letter was quite safe from inspection. Used from Baltinglass in 1848.

UNOFFICIALLY FREE Dr de Burca deserves to be promoted to a post as Honorary Surveyor to the Irish Post Office. After his revelations of some inland offices he now reports a serious malpractice in the far west. He has found a quantity of postcards, all sent to a lady, apparently postmistress. None was stamped, and none was charged postage due, although they were certainly not on official business. We won't disclose the name of the place: if there is blackmail to be had we'll get it ourselves.





Another new style of Metermark, obviously Pitney Bowes, and presumably to be designated Series H. New members of I.P.C. should note that our Metermark expert is O.M.Richards who will welcome reports of anything new or unusual.

CODE LETTERS IN REGISTRATION LABELS. R.N.125 reported the addition of "DN" on a Dublin registration label. I have now seen a similar modification for Clonmel, "CLM" being added in brackets after the name.

INVERSION Port Laoise had name-and-date circle inverted 5 April.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
May 1967 A. No.126

REGISTRATION LABELS — Sorry to be boring those who are not interested, but I've found another complication. "Dublin 195" labels were used in the Dept. of Industry & Commerce, but a new "Dublin (DN)195" is on an envelope from the head office of the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin Castle !

"STAMPS" WITH AN IRISH STORY — Rev.J.Brennan's article, in "Stamp Collecting" for 28 April, has now appeared in five periodicals, and must have opened the eyes of many thousands of people, including non-philatelists. Few realised hitherto what varied material is available for the Irish enthusiast, and I predict that the prices of all such material will rise as rapidly as those of officially issued stamps.

POST OFFICE HOURS — More restrictions: from 1st May G.P.O. and St.Andrew St. are the only Dublin offices open after 6 p.m. and the latter closes at 6.30. On Sundays the only offices to open at all are now Dublin G.P.O., Cork, and Shannon Airport.

EXCHANGES WANTED — Anyone wishing to exchange Irish stamps for Dutch should write to A.E.Dykgraaf, St.Anthoniusstraat 19, VOLENDAM, Holland. G.Gilbert, 114c Amhurst Road, Hackney, London, E.8, would also like to acquire an Irish correspondent.

AIRMAIL PARCELS ETIQUETTE — J.O'Neil has found a new printing of the large (65x35mm) labels used on air parcels. Its main distinction from the last issue is in the size of the imprint "O.E.7", 9x2¾mm.

SLOGANS — My current policy is not to report routine revivals, except in the annual summary. Thus the notes included are of new slogans or unexpected revivals. In the latter category is KILKEE FOR HAPPY HOLIDAYS. It was used at Limerick in 1957 and 1958, and again in 1962. Now it has reappeared again after an absence of five years !

EUROPA STAMPS — General opinion seems to be that the issue of 2 May are more attractive than, say last year's. However, gold is never satisfactory in printing, looking dirty brown if viewed from the wrong angle. I again find fault with the symbolism. The wheels are presumably those of industry, but are not moving. The covers serviced by the Irish Times had a new cancellation, Dublin 27 in Langton's type G.10.

POSTAL STATIONERY — Another first day missed ! Asked to get some 2d wrappers, I found it was too late and that the wrappers with 3d stamp have been on sale for some time.

MANGAN VARIETY — One of many interesting things seen during the AGM weekend was shown by a visiting local philatelist, who had bought it at Stampex - the elusive 1d Mangan with the unrecorded variety of inverted watermark.

THE A.G.M. was very pleasant. Many of us met others for the first time and found them well worth meeting - especially the incomparable Meredith, whose talk on Saturday was the most memorable feature of an all too short weekend.

EIRE
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RANDOM NOTES

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IPC
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IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1967 NUMBER 127

RANDOM NOTES

E
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Our new heading is because R.N. is now being issued to all members of both societies. So the printing has increased by 10,000% since I started ten years ago, with carbon copies for a few select friends. The new scheme is wasteful in that some people will receive two copies until we can organise the cooperation to eliminate overlaps - and eliminate the need for paying two subscriptions.

3d Newspaper Wrappers

The actual cost is 3½d each, which is too dear. However, I've invested in a packet of 24. On 17 the stamp is in about the usual position, about 67mm from top edge and 8mm from the side. On the other seven the corresponding measurements are 46 and 17 mm respectively.

CANCELLING MACHINES

O.M.Richards is doing notable research on the successive cancelling machines. What he has already will make a fine article (or small book?). One of his discoveries is that the machine used occasionally at Port Laoise 1956-60 was introduced at Caislean Mathghamhnach (Castleblayney) on 14 June 1965.

DUBLIN'S NEW STAMP SHOP

For many years, on my rare visits to London I have put Foyles' bookshop high on my list of priorities. Partly for books, but more for the stamps and postmarks from the current correspondence. Now I don't need to go to London: that side of their activities is transferred to 49 Upper O'Connell Street, DUBLIN, where albums etc are also sold.

I.P.C WIN AT I.P.S.

At the Irish Philatelic Society's annual competition, I.P.C. members took four of the first six places. Congratulations to Miss Wright on winning the trophy and to Dr.Quigley who was a very close runner-up.

CUSTOMS ENTRY DUTY STAMPS

When these stamps were withdrawn in 1961, there was a strenuous hunt for surviving examples, but efforts to locate values higher than 1/- were in vain. At last a complete set has been found, unused, of the first issue with watermark SE: 6d green, 1/- blue, 2/- orange, 2/6 ruby and 5/- violet.

10d George V BROKEN FRAME

The note in R.N. 126 needs amending: for "Row 3,No.1" read "Row 9, No.1". The fortunate possessor of an entire sheet (from control T22) has corrected me.

1/- O'CLERY MISSING LINE ON CHEEK

The variety of the current 1/- without the usual line just in fromt of the ear is fairly well known, but I do not think any sheet position has been reported. It occurs on the right pane,Row 9, No.10 of a sheet just purchased, but I suspect that other examples have sometimes happened elsewhere in the sheet.

BELFAST SLOGAN

"ULSTER WEEK in Belfast MAY 20 - MAY 27"was in use from 13th to 27th May, in Belfast only.

E
I P C Random Notes
June 1967 A No.127

G.B.S. on G.P.O. Dublin G.P.O. is a place of pilgrimage, not only for what happened there in 1916, but as one of the finest buildings of the Georgian period. George Bernard Shaw thought otherwise. In the New Stateman, 6 May 1916, while the ruins still smouldered, he wrote:

"The General Post Office was a monument, fortunately not imperishable, of how extremely dull eighteenth-century (sic) architecture can be. Its demolition does not matter. What does matter is that all the Liffey slums have not been demolished .... How I wish I had been in command of the British artillery on that fatal field! How I should have improved my native city !"

DOUBLE PERFORATION New IPC member P.Ó Mathúna of Cashel reports a remarkable variety of the 2d map definitive, which probably occurred all the way down the sheet. The perforating "comb"was applied twice with a displacement of only about a millimetere, so that the column of holes is doubled. In the horizontal the holes overlapped so that the stamps were completely separated !

KILKEE slogan Another correction to R.N. 126. Limerick introduced the slogan in 1956, not 1957.

CIC I could offer as an excuse for mistakes that R.N.126 was rushed, so that it could be posted with the special cachet and skeleton cancellation - which we hope gave you a cic. The function, held in the Hotel Incontinental, Dublin, was a gathering of the people concerned with preserving game birds in order to shoot them.

MACHINE CANCELLING ERRORS O.M.Richards reports two recent errors. On 11 May Letterkenny had the DUBLIN ADDRESSES slogan inverted. On 4 May Dublin F machine had the boxed wavy lines, all in red.

SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN He also reports receiving, this year, from Bantry a printed acknowledgement (MP 65) of 1928 printing, thus being headed "Saorstát Éireann" .

METERMARKING. He (O.M.R.) will enthuse at the Minister's revelations in his annual moving of the P.& T. estimate. Meter-franked postings increased by 6% in 1966 and now constitute over a quarter of the total postings. In fact non-meter mail actually decreased during the year by 1.6%.

	1965	1966	
Meter	112	120	millions
Non-meter	311	307	"
Total	423	427	"

POST-OFFICES CLOSED 23 sub-post-offices were closed during 1966. The total of all offices is now £234

BOOKLET MACHINES The Minister stated that the trials of the vending machines (and also a change-giving machine in Dublin G.P.O.) have been satisfactory, and it is planned to install similar ones elsewhere.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JULY 1967 Number 128

RANDOM NOTES

NEW DEFINITIVES One of the less publicised statements in the speech by the Minister for Posts & Telegraphs was that he expected to make an announcement shortly about the new series of permanent postage stamps, the designs for which have now been approved by the Government.

UNRECORDED 10/- OVERPRINT ! A Dublin philatelist who had started collecting Irish only this year brought his album for me to see. I was startled to see there a 10/- Excise Revenue (normal use Entertainment Duty) with five line Rialtas overprint. The highest value reported hitherto is 1/6, and 1/6 was the top value of the first Irish definitive series of 1925-26.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES The 1/5 embossed stamp of the current series exists in a very deep shade. As is usually the case with such a variety it seems to be due to double printing, but the two impressions are almost coincident. It is odd (or is it I whoam odd for thinking so?) that the recurrent agitation for changing the definitives has never mentioned postal stationery. The basic design for the registration+postage stamp has now had seven values (5d,5½d,6½d,9d,1/-,1/1,1/5) in 43 years, and the only change,besides colour, is altering POSTACT to POSTAS.

MACHINE INVERSIONS I shall soon stop listing these. They are too common. This one must be mentioned, however. Enniscorthy name-and-date circle inverted 3.45PM 8 I 1965. The special feature is that the slip was noticed at the time, and my envelope was passed through the machine again to receive the correct impression as well as the wrong one !



This is undoubtedly a cancellation, handstamped in purple on Postage Due labels when the letter is refused or undeliverable. It is then returned to the sender and the fresh label is affixed at the office serving his area. This version of the canceller is from Cork and smaller than the one used in Dublin.

BOOKLET 5d FLAW Rev.J.Noonan reports a broken line over the úof cúig on Row 1,No.1 of both panes in a 5/- booklet. If it is a plate flaw it should appear once in every 44 panes if the sheet arrangement is the same as for the typographed printings for booklets.

POST OFFICE AND PHILATELISTS A cutting from the Irish Times of 17 February 1922 reveals that the press had been supplied with much information (and illustrations of overprinted stamps) in advance of that first day. People seeking sets for philatelic purposes were requested to say so in the Post Office and to sign a form !

E
IPC Random Notes
A
July 1967 Number 128

P.O. & PHILATELISTS (continued) That system has not survived, and philatelists are expected to use the Philatelic Section,GPO, Dublin. A recent news release stated that the Ballintubber issue had philatelic sales of over £8,000. I believe that this is a serious underestimate. Experienced collectors avoid the queues on First Days by using the less busy sub-offices and by delaying much of their buying until news gets around if there is anything special to look for. The best estimate of philatelic sales would be obtained by comparing the sales of, say, a 5d commemorative with the sales of the 5d definitive when no commemorative was current. Admittedly there are complications, such as the seasonal fluctuations in demand, and the people who always insist on the definitives, as requiring less lick than larger stamps.

THOMAS E. FIELD The family of our late patron,friend and benefactor has prepared a 12-page "Appreciation of his Work for Philately and Postal History", with articles by myself (F.E.D.) and others and illustrations of some of the most remarkable items in the collection. Mr Richard E.Field is very kindly letting me have a quantity for distribution. If you would like one send me a postcard without delay: address 15 Terenure Road(East), Rathgar, DUBLIN 6, Ireland.

LONDON DEALERS On 1st April I sent to a London firm a list of mint Irish commemoratives which I had been asked to sell, and quoted a price. No reply coming, I offered to a Dublin firm at a little less. They paid without demur. Two months later the auctioneering branch of the London firm wrote that my idea of value was rather optimistic ! They proceeded to offer to undertake a valuation if I would send the stamps. The charge would be only 5% on the first £100 and 2½% thereafter. Of course this would be waived if they had the job of auctioning and it is peculiar that the letter does not mention the rates of auction commission.

SHADE OF 5d DEFINITIVE One of the many problems for IPC members to tackle is to decide on a consistent system of describing the normal colours of certain stamps, and the shades thereof. Stanley Gibbons continue to list the 5d Sword of Light as "bright violet" although the normal for many years has been near to the "deep violet" of their Colour Card. I recently bought some in a pale shade (due to underinking) less intense than what the Card dubs "violet". I believe that the normal should be called violet. Then the bright shade can be used to describe the booklet issue, and we can (if we like this sort of collecting) label the shade varieties as "pale violet","deep violet" etc. Or would you rather try variations on the themes of purple and blue ?

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1967 — RANDOM NOTES — NUMBER 129



This skeleton slogan from Sligo is one of the choicer Irish slogans (but much less rare than the similar effort for the Fourth Loan). A recent opportunity to study 40 examples led to realisation that the SLIGEACH alignment was very erratic, especially the G, hardly ever on the line, sometimes high, sometimes low.

PALE 5D DEFINITIVE

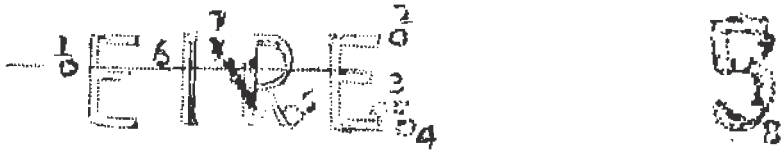
The distinctive shade reported in R.N.128 seems to have been quite a large printing. It was on sale fairly generally from late in May , and I must revise the diagnosis of under-inking, although the paleness is due largely to the white specks which interrupt the masses of solid colour.

1/5 AIRMAIL

Also in June, if not earlier, 1/5 airmail stamps from Plate 2 appeared in G.P.O. Few offices stock these when a 1/5 commemorative is available, so it may be some time before plate-number blocks can be obtained. There seem to be some faint scratches, e.g. Row 10,No.1 of Pane 2B has one between the solidus (/) and 5. The colour is decidely less dark than was usual in Plate 1 printings.

5P CASEMENT

Mr O Mathuna reports several constant flaws which I am attempting to illustrate herewith:



1 to 5 are all white dots. 2 is Row 1,No.4: 3(two dots) is left pane,Row 6,No.6. 8 is right pane, Row 2, No.1: positions of others not yet determined. Other of the white dots have been noticed above and below the A of CASEMENT, that above being left pane, row 6, No.4.

There is also a "hyphen" in the position marked 2 above, seen on right pane, Row 2, No.7.

SINN FEIN LABELS "USED"

Many collectors of the Sinn Fein labels have seen examples defaced in copying-ink pencil by scrawled Roman numerals. The explanation has just been given to me by an elderly man who remembers receiving many of these through the post, from a zealot who added the labels to his letters at least as late as 1932 . The system of the numerals was the date in reverse. Thus XXXII.II,XVI mean 16 February 1932

1/5 Airmail (cont.)

Mr O Mathuna has drawn my attention to something else on 2B,Row 10,No.1. The top line has been strengthened so that the thick dot is less prominent than on other stamps of the sheet.

P.T.O.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

August 1967

EUROPA 1/5
1967



[illegible] the numerous [illegible] and platitudes [illegible] such as we [illegible] in the [illegible] able with [illegible] [illegible] added, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the "[illegible]" [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] Irish philatelist. Conveniently they are all on the first three rows of the left pane and the sketch above shows the position of each.

METERMARKS O.M.Richards reports yet another new style of meter-marking, with larger arms of the provinces around the value. The series has letter J.

SLOGAN NEWS One of my reasons for terming my Notes "Random" is that there is no scheduled issue date. Although for convenience I usually put the month during which you will probably receive the page, the cutting of the stencil often occurs much earlier. Actually I am doing this at the end of June. The Post Office can be just as Random. Only on 27 June did they release the news of a slogan "CARRICK-ON-SHANNON IRELAND FOR FISHING AND BOATING" brought into use on 15th June. There is another, due just about now, "EUROPEAN SEA-ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIP" to be used at Cobh.

IRISHMEN ON OTHERS' STAMPS Watch out for the new U.S.A. One Dollar stamp, due in October, portraying playwright Eugene O'Neill.

IRISH STAMPS USED ABROAD Miss Wright has given me some delightful examples of what can happen when one tries to get letters posted aboard ships visiting Dublin. The choicest are some "posted" in May on U.S.A. submarines. They were eventually delivered 7 weeks later, the stamps cancelled at Groton (Ct) Submarine Base. Some, but not all were endorsed Postage Due, Quite improperly, by the Irish Post Office.

NEW ISSUES AUGUST 1. 3d definitive, as present design but photogravure!
AUGUST 28. Centenary of Canadian Confederation 3d.1/5.
SEPTEMBER 25. Int. Tourist Year, 7d & 1/-.
OCTOBER 23. Centenary of Fenian. 3d 1/-, commemorating 1c and 24c Fenian Essays.
NOVEMBER 30. Swift Tercentenary. 3d 1/5.

DUBLIN G.P.O. On 4 July the Dail was discussing the cost of the damage done to O'Connell Street when the Army demolished the demolition of the Nelson Pillar last year. Early on 5 July a large chunk of granite fell from the corner of the G.P.O., presumably a delayed result of the same blasting. Fortunately no-one was underneath when it fell, crushing the pavement at one of the busiest corners in Dublin, that of O'Connell St. and Henry Street.

EIRE
IRISHPHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

)RANDOM NOTES(

AUGUST 1967 NUMBER 130

CODED ADDRESSES Belfast is to be one of the places to introduce the coded address system, as experimentally initiated in Croydon.

BALLINTUBBER Although I still think that they should have been made more colourful, the choice of design and quality of reproduction continue to receive congratulations. An anonymous article "The Beauty of Ballintubber" in the July"Philatelist"gives full technical details.

POST OFFICE HITS BACK The July-August "Irish Spotlight" has a fatuous article by Rev.Philip Rice,O.P., "Our Stamps, Our Shame" trotting out the familiar arguments for the introduction of a new permanent series, the adoption of photogravure printing, and the use of stamps for tourist propaganda. The "Irish Times" regrettably reprinted the article (6 July) and this drew a prompt and effective statement from P.J.Lalor (Parliamentary Secretary to Min. for P.& T.)

REGISTRATION LABELS Labels with No.222 have been in use recently at Rathmines which had been No.14 since 1915 or longer.



My reason for illustrating the latest slogan (introduced 6 July) is not its artistic merit (!) but because impressions are so poor that those who have seen it will like to know what I think it is meant to look like.

AEROGRAMMES The 22nd version of the Irish "AERLITIR" came into use recently (What is your earliest date?) It differs from all the predecessors by using ugly sans-serif Roman type throughout, which means bringing in the clumsy h in place of the neat dot for aspiration.

THE EARL-Y STAMP COLLECTOR In the Williams's Pelican Book "The Postage Stamp" the first stamp collection recorded is stated to be that of Irish fiscals started by John Bourke in 1774. I have just discovered which of the many John Bourkes it was. His father (also John) obtained the restored Earldom of Mayo. John the Younger succeeded to the title. He died of dropsy in 1792.

SECRETARYSHIP Mr L.O Broin retires in September from his post as Secretary to the Department of Posts & Telegraphs, and it is already disclosed that his successor will be A.J. Scannell. He is a knowledgeable philatelist and I am hopeful that services to philatelists will be improved further under his direction.

E
I P C Random Notes No.130
A

Casement 5d Member M.Phelan reports on some of the flaws sketched in R.N.129. He finds on a left pane, flaw 4 in row 5, No.10; flaw 5 in row 3, No.5; flaw 7 in row 2, no.5.

SINE DIE ? An official document posted in Dublin on or about 11th July was given the circular "IOCTHA GO hOIFIGIÚIL" hand-stamp No.7, exceptionally clearly struck with time 6 30PM and year 67, but a big blank in between !

CORK I.R.A. The notes about the I.R.A. stamps in the June issue of our "Irish Philately" mention that the original intention was to incorporate the portrait of Patrick Pearse. One of H.G.L. Fletcher's correspondents has found what seem to be photographs of this design, in four values, ½d, 1d, 2d, 6d. The portrait is the one used last year for the 10/- piece.

"O'CONNELL STREET" On p.41 of that "I.P." it is implied that the renaming of Sackville Street occurred in or after 1929. The first attempt to change the name to "O'Connell St." was in the 1880s when the statue was unveiled, but the shopkeepers sought, and obtained, a perpetual injunction to prevent the change. I do not think that this has ever been legally rescinded but the City Commissioners (who operated 1923-29) seem to have assumed that it could be ignored under the Free State regime.

PARCEL POST MACHINES On the last page (39) of the reprint from Mr Dewey's book, the date for P.P.1 should be amended to "1948" and that for P.P.2 to "1952. The lowest value known for the latter is 10d.

CURRENT VARIETIES P.O Mathuna finds that sheets of 1/- now on sale include many examples of the "missing cheek-bone" variety.
He has also found another recurring flaw on the booklet 5d, a broken C in CUIG, No.1 of bottom row.
On the sheet 5d he reports considerable weakening of the line of dots on the wrist, completely missing in extreme cases.

POSTAGE STAMP DESIGNS Tomorrow, 17 July, we shall at last know what has been decided for the new definitives, and how far they are influenced by neighbouring countries, and whether they repeat any of the fundamental mistakes. A postage stamp should indicate its purpose, either by the word POSTAGE or by some obvious symbol (posthorn, uniformed postman, mailvan). It must have the name of the country correctly spelled. EIRE without the accent is wrong. The face value should be prominent. To satisfy philatelists the design must not be so delicate that even normal postmarking destroys the appearance of the stamp: this is the case with some U.K. emanations, especially the latest ridiculous trio of paintings. The size must be no more than the standard (24x20mm).

REGISTRATION LABELS Another extension to the list of Dublin numbers. "Dublin(DN) 271." Allocation not yet known.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1967 NUMBER 131

RANDOM NOTES

THE NEW DESIGNS

You were well represented at the function on 17th July where there were excellent speeches by Mr P.J. Lalor (Parliamentary Secretary in charge of Posts and Telegraphs) and Rev.Donal O'Sullivan,S.J. (Chairman of the Stamp Design Advisory Committee). There was no champagne for the launching ceremony, but most other alcoholic drinks flowed freely. None of the I.P.C. members took undue advantage of this: a few others did.

As some of us had hoped, and recommended, the Design Committee adopted the procedure which was so outstandingly successful for the Irish coinage. They studied the stamps of many countries and then nominated a panel of artists - three of them Irish, who were invited to submit designs. Again following the numismatic lead, the Committee stipulated the basis for the designs - early Irish art. Many of the 57 designs submitted by 11 artists from seven countries are very fine, and it is to be hoped that the coinage lead will be followed further by publishing in book form the story of Design Committee's work and all 57 of the designs.

Although the verdict may not be so unanimous as in the case of the coins, the majority will support the Committee's decision. Heinrich Gerl's four designs of fancy fauna form a harmonious set. They capture the spirit of the art 1000 years ago, while avoiding the best known (almost hackneyed !) sources like the Book of Kells.

Where I disagree violently with the Committee is, as foreseen in R.N.130, in the absence of anything suggesting postage. The labels could be price labels for cans of dogfood, or tablets of soap. It would even improve the balance to add the word "POSTAGE" just above or below the value. Secondly, the "EIRE" is wrong, not only by the absence of the accent, but by being in ugly modern letters. The artists should have been asked to use the more cursive characters, contemporary with the art forms. I suspect that the Design Committee were dictated to by the Irish Language "Experts" who are trying to revive the language by killing its alphabet.

It may not be too late to remedy these defects, and I suggest that all who agree with me write in at once before it is too late.

Mr Lalor was regrettably vague about the dates of issue, but expected it would be possible for a limited range of values, using the four chosen designs, to appear early in 1968.

SCOUT CAMP CACHET & CANCELLATION

17th July was also the first day of a National Camp of the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland, near Lismore, Co. Waterford. It has a temporary post office, with skeleton date stamp and a more elaborate cachet.

E.
I.P.C.
A.

August 1967 No.131

Random Notes

REGISTRATION LABELS — I have recently seen one or two provincial office labels using serif capitals for the name, rather different from any normally used in EIRE.

HUMOUR — Cartoonists have immediately seized on the new stamp designs. A neat effort by Till (Dublin Evening Press 19 July) shows the winged ox soaring over the flat-footing eagle and telling it "Get airborne and stop worrying about the price of petrol". The G.P.O. is also giving us a laugh. There is now a hoarding to prevent the public entering the danger area below the coping, but there are breaks to enable one to reach some of the posting boxes. There are signs directing to these posting boxes, but alongside them other signs "POST NO BILLS" !

OFFICIAL REGISTERED ENVELOPE — An unusual one is C.S.400 of "Coimisiún na Státseirbhíse" (Civil Service Commission) with printed address of the Commission and with postage and registration prepaid by the encircled harp with "IOCTHA GO h-OIFIGIUIL". All printing is in blue. It is used, e.g., by examiners returning examination papers.

DEFINITIVE HIGH VALUES — One of the most interesting realisations at the Robson Lowe Sale of 14 June was the last lot, the 1937 set SG 102 -104 in unmounted mint blocks of 4, £44 !

DEFINITIVE SHADES — Although the 5d is more striking than most, other values also seem to be paler than ever before. 10d is particularly pale. Incidentally, the darkest ever 10d was the first printing in 1923.

WATERFORD PAQUEBOT — An English correspondent (not in IPC or EPA) informs me that Waterford has a Paquebot cancellation. Will one of our southern members please confirm ? and discover how examples may be obtained ?

TETE-BECHE — Apologies to those whose R.N.130 has one side inverted. I was too lazy to involve myself in the messy job of putting on a stencil again in order to print an adequate number with the normal arrangement.



B.Cullen enables me to illustrate an unrecorded datestamp. This style, known only 1830-31, was seen hitherto only from Cork, Belfast and Waterford. The very similar datestamp, with day and month in the same line, is known 1829-31, at Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

3d DEFINITIVE PHOTOGRAVURE — How many of you have thrown away the envelope which brought this to you ? Rescue it if it is not too late. It is a first day cover (unless there have again been leakages).

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

August 1967 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 132



Except for special circumstances, such as in 1916, one would expect that Dublin offices would always have enough spare cancellers to obviate the need for skeleton handstamps. However, the one sketched has been seen, on a telegram.

P.& T. ADVERTISING

I have drawn attention (R.N.96) to slogans on the front of Irish telegram forms of the 1930s. I find that this propaganda was adopted as early as 1922, and that the back of the telegram carried ten advertisements, plus that of the advertising agency, McConnell's. The items advertised range from sweets to horse liniment, and include the Tailteann Games of August 1922.

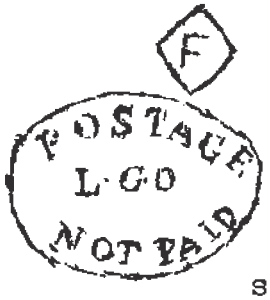
"SOUTHERN IRELAND"

Of the same period is the franking stamp of the Irish Supreme Court of Judicature. Like its predecessor, this is shield-shaped, with a crown over the initials S.C.J. but it has "SOUTHERN IRELAND" below the initials. My examples are on postcards of 20 Feb. and 20 March 1922, and the "On His Majesty's Service" has not been amended.





Further searching of the same batch of material has yielded two more skeleton datestamps, both specifically for use on telegrams.



The little framed F is shown by kindness of D.Feldman. It is on an envelope of 1876, posted in Dublin to a local address, and forwarded, still locally. It is tempting to suggest that F = Forwarded, but it is more likely to be merely an examiner's mark.

This next mark (also from D.Feldman) is also on a forwarded letter, of 1831. It was forwarded from Dublin to Bantry and again from Bantry to Celbridge, I think. And it bears also the larger oval stamp with sinuous outline "POSTAGE to DUBLIN NOT PAID 5 MY 5 1831" The "L.C.O." of the one illustrated probably stands for "Letter Carriers' Office" as in a similar London stamp.



The divided bars of this Belfast obliterator of the early 1850s make it quite distinctive. It is commoner than the dealers' prices suggest, but how many handstamps were there with the variety ? I recognise two. One has the numerals 8mm tall and has the bars $6\frac{5}{5}6$, or purists might write $6\frac{10}{10}6$: the top and bottom bars are obviously short and probably wore quickly. The other has 7mm numerals and the bars are $5\frac{4}{4}5$, but with this, too, later impressions miss the extreme tips.

August 1967 — I.P.C. Random Notes — No.132

F.
A.

SPECIAL HANDSTAMP — The North of Ireland Philatelic Society is more enterprising than those based in the Republic. To celebrate its 60th birthday there will be an exhibition, 19.x - 15.xi, and, for the first day only, a special cancellation. Three-colour commemorative covers may be bought, fully serviced, from V.H.Spry, Kirkells, Carney Hill, Craigavad, Belfast, and for an extra 6d they will be autographed by the designer of the cover and the canceller.

DUBLIN REGISTRATION NUMBERS — Another gap filled in the list. DUBLIN 91 was in 1914 the Irish Land Commission, and it was used sufficiently for there to be a special printing of envelopes incorporating it.

MORE P & T LIQUOR ? — In R.N.131 alcoholic beverages were mentioned in reporting the opening of the Exhibition of Stamp Designs. I can follow this up by quoting the Irish Times of August 5 in its announcement that the Taoiseach would open the new central sorting office:

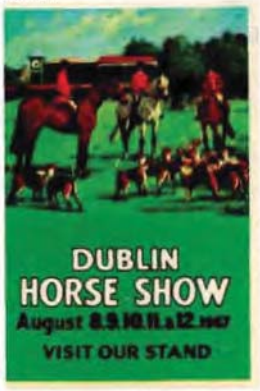
"The first stage of the transfer of operational work will be gin this weekend."

"POSTAGE NOT PAID" — Since perpetrating the bad sketch overleaf of the L.C.O handstamp of 1831, I have realised that it is the same stamp used in 1832 and after, with the "L.C.O" excised.

PHOTOGRAVURE 3d DEFINITIVE — N.J.Langton normally prepares all the envelopes for despatch, and despatches them. Last time (R.N.130,131) he prepared the envelopes, but I was faced with the jobs of folding and inserting the contents, which takes longer than cutting the stencils and running them off ! For the last stage of the operation - affixing the stamps, I was very happy to have the co-operation of W.Kane.

The stamps are much better than the 5d photogravure, more care having been taken in the photographic stage of the plate preparation. The only flaws seen so far are doctor-blade lines, in different positions on the first sheets inspected.

FORGERIES FROM HONG KONG — At present on sale in Dublin are pencil-cases covered in a plastic material embellished with a dozen modern Irish commemorative stamp designs, in more or less the correct colours, but slightly smaller than the actual stamps. It would be interesting to cut them out, put them on envelopes and see if they got through, but to try it would be committing a serious offence. You have been warned.



As usual the Horse Show sticker is evidence that the Castle is not the only place in Dublin that multi-colour photogravure printing is carried on. The Show cancellation was the usual "skeleton".

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1967 — NUMBER 133

RANDOM NOTES

G.B.!! One of my most determined campaigns is to persuade philatelists that stamps etc valid throughout the U.K. should never be attributed to "G.B." and that Stanley Gibbons and other cataloguers are wrong. It therefore raised my blood pressure to find I.P.C. NEWS assigning Londonderry to G.B.

CANADA CENTENARY STAMPS — Although the drawing of the leaves is good, the design is far from perfect. That objectionable "EIRE". The camouflaged figures of value. The vast wastes of white paper. All are defects. Heraldically the leaves are wrong. Every Canadian depiction has the leaf impossibly erect. Finally the colours of the two values are so similar that neat penmanship could transform a 5p into a passable 1/5.

STANLEY GIBBONS — The new prices for the Irish section of the allegedly 1968 catalogue are about as expected, some of them quite crazy such as 1/1 for 5d Casement or Ballintubberwood, and 1/3 for the 5d 1916-66. No stamp for the inland letter rate, current for a few months, can be so scarce, and those mentioned must be at least as common as, say the 3d values of 1957-58, listed mostly at 6d. It was bad editing to let the beginning of the Irish section get mixed up with Travancore, and many lines are wasted by the inconsistent treatment of colours. For earlier issues a simple "blue" or "slate" but for recent ones the full official descriptions are quoted e.g. N.Y.W.F. 1/5 "blue-grey,brown,turquoise-blue and light yellow-green" ! "Multicolour" would suffice and save two lines.

No, if your main interest is Irish stamps S.G.Part I is an unnecessary luxury. I shall continue to rely on the lists of I.P.C. member David Feldman.

SG 72b. & 72a — A letter to"Stamp Collecting" by A.G.K.Roberts seconds my proposal that the variety 72b(1d ccil, sideways wmk) is a mere myth and mentions that 72a exists with wmk inverted. An independent report of this had reached me from Rev. Fr.S.Cunnane.

DUBLIN CENTRAL SORTING OFFICE — Several I.P.C. members were privileged to attend the opening and sample the gin (See R.N.132) but I learned little of interest to us. None of the equipment is new: i.e. the machines are all of types already described in magazines when they were developed in other countries. One change noticed was that OFFICIAL PAID correspondence was being passed through the machine with "S" as its identifier. I was delighted to find that common but appropriate misspelling "STATIONARY OFFICE" painted in the section for sorting official mail. I can boast that I had a conversation with the Minister for Posts & Telegraphs but you will be disappointed to learn that we talked about the weather, not the posts. However, another conversation was with a member of the Stamp Design Committee, and I think my plea for an Irish ÉIRE made an impression. Fr.Brennan with Messrs Langton, Stokes and O'Neill had an informative session with a knowledgeable official.

F.
I.P.C. Random Notes
September 1967 A. No.133



The number of Irish postmarks of the News Paper Branch is remarkably small: one small series in Dublin, one handstamp at Cork and two at Limerick. That illustrated, 24mm diameter, has only just come to my notice. The other from Limerick is of similar arrangement but larger.

THE CANADA CENTENNIAL F.D.C. As with the 1967 Europa, there was delay in dealing with the covers serviced by the "Irish Times", mine not being delivered until the afternoon of 31 August. It was worth waiting for, being much more attractive than the amateurish "ICC" envelope. The stiffener is more informative and does not have the ghastly error of stating the printing of the 1/5 to be 20,000,000 !

1/- DEFINITIVE SWORD OF LIGHT e WATERMARK SG 122 will be one of the hard stamps to find, and many will now be hunting for it to complete their pages of definitives before the new series appears. Can anyone confirm a variety in this stamp, or in the earlier (and commoner) SG 82 ? It comprises breaks in the lines immediately above and below the c of scilling.

CANADA CENTENNIAL SHADES The range of colours, even within a sheet, is even more than one expects of photogravure printing. One finds the small leaf (mixed up with the value) in everything between tomato red and jellyfish grey-and-pink.

DUBLIN CANCELLING MACHINES I see that die Y has now appeared: it was in use at the end of August on Official mail. So W and X probably exist, but have yet to be recorded. Another newcomer is Q. (Later: Y is in use)

MISDATED CANCELLATIONS One wonders how many of the examples of apparently premature use of stamps are due to the date of the postmark being wrong. On 28 August the Dun Laoghaire cancelling machine carried the date as 26 AUG, which means that covers bearing the Canada centennial exist dated four months too soon !

SG 122 AGAIN Since mentioning this stamp above I had an opportunity of taking my own advice and acquiring a used copy cheap. It is only what a dealer might term "average used" but has the merit of having the variety watermark inverted.

CANADA CENTENNIAL The first comment from Canada to reach me suggests that the isolated leaf to the right can be interpreted as symbolising separatism !

P.O.HOURS Shannon Airport, after maintaining a 24-hour service since 1946 is to open from 06 to 18 h and on weekdays only.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1967 NUMBER 134

RANDOM NOTES

IRISH STAMPS USED "ABROAD"

Miss Wright's nautical postings have yielded more collectable covers. Some, entrusted to S.T.S. SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL while in the Irish Republic, were duly put ashore in Belfast and the "Eire" stamps accepted.

Another cover is from a routine cruise of R.M.S. CARONIA, whose schedule was upset by bad weather. However some mail with Irish stamps affixed received the ships cachet and the Cobh machine Paquebot cancellation.

DUBLIN PENNY POST

I've been trying to classify the name-stamps used at the Receiving Houses of the Dublin Penny Post, and find that they fall into three main groups:

1811-1833 The two lined CLARE ST. PENNY POST

1832-37 Without PENNY POST, often with dot after name - BAGGOT ˙ ST.

Then there was a period without the name-stamps. They were revived about 1845, a new series with slightly larger letters and without the dot - BAGGOT ST.

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST YEAR STAMPS

My thanks to the senders of f.d.c. I did not patronise the Irish Times this time, as they had put up the service charge too much.

Comments on the stamps are overwhelmingly adverse. Considering the vast number of beauty spots, it is thought that something could have been publicised other than one of the four airmailed views. Cashel people are indignant that the picture does not portray the Rock of Cashel. Artists object that the picture breaks all the rules of composition. Only the colour-blind like the colours - mud brown and mould green. My meteorological training enables me to decide that the sky shows mainly white fleecy clouds and, if P.& T. couldn't afford multicolour, bright blue would have been best.

All the examples I've seen so far have watermark inverted.

Reverting to the objectionable features: one must include the language. One of Ireland's attractions to most of its tourists is that English is understood. Stamps intended primarily for export (as 7d and 10d values indicate) should be inscribed in English.

TROLLOPE'S IRISH REPORT

The P.J.G.B. will have to change its name: so much of Irish interest is included. The September issue gives in extenso Anthony Trollope's sketchy history of the P.O. in Ireland up to 1857. It is regrettable that no notes have been added to show how much we know that Trollope did.

FENIANS

Also noteworthy is Mr Mackay's article on The Fenian Rising in the October STAMP MAGAZINE. I disagree with him on one point - the suggestion that the "Erin Go Bragh" One Penny has more claim to reproduction than the 1c and 24c. See next page.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

October 1967 No. 134

THE FENIAN STAMPS — The essays with values in cents are authenticated as Fenian by a report of 1905 (See R.N.105) as well as the first mention of 1866. But the "One Penny" of "Erin go Bragh" was not referred to in any magazine until 1870 and there is no attribution to the Fenian or any other organisation.

U.S.A. METERMARK PUBLICITY — Our good friend Miss G.Moon has sent me further examples of the envelopes used by the Irish Consul in Chicago. They are franked by meter PB 834428 with the slogan: "Fenian Rising Centenary 1967 Dean Swift Tercentenary"

5/- NOTES — A sad tale. I have just heard it from a lady whose father was a high official in the Dublin Custom House in the first two decades of this century. One of his non-routine duties was to supervise the destruction of a large quantity of five-shilling notes. He was allowed to keep two as a souvenir. These were carefully preserved by the family. Then, not very long ago, the house was burgled and the money and valuables taken included the notes. Others possibly exist in official files, but these two at least are - or may be- in circulation.

IRISH SOUVENIR AT BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION — It is enterprising of the Irish Post Office to have an exhibit in the Seymour Hall Exhibition from 1st to 4th November and to provide an Exhibition Souvenir. Unfortunately philatelists must disapprove the nature of the souvenir - the design for the Swift tercentenary commemorative, without value, printed on card. Thus, with the explanatory matter cut away, it will be indistinguishable from a die proof. Collectors in Ireland are upset that anything of the kind should be put on sale, especially when it is on sale only outside the country, and the printing is so small.

1/- SWORD OF LIGHT — Mr Stokes has a copy (se wmk) with a clear break in the tail of the first e of éire and with the line below scilling very weak.

U.K. — Mr Telfer (see I.P.C."NEWS") is among the many who refuse to listen to my pleas, but how can he justify his listing of a Londonderry Exhibition as a G.B. Special event ? And why cannot philatelists follow the example of the G.P.O. which describes itself as the United Kingdom Post Office ? The leading numismatic catalogue has a separate volume for the coins of "England and the United Kingdom". Why must the philatelists be different, and wrong ? Until someone can answer these questions satisfactorily my campaign will be continued.

FENIANS — A comprehensive article on the original Fenian stamps by myself (F.E.Dixon) appeared in the IRISH INDEPENDENT on 13th October.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1967 — NUMBER 135

RANDOM NOTES

1922 I.R.A. STAMPS — My experience is that articles published by non-philatelic journals arouse more response (as well as bringing in more money) than those in purely philatelic magazines. The first result of my article on the Fenians (see end of R.N.134) is another bit of information about the unissued I.R.A. stamps, produced in Cork during 1922. According to this, the printing works would not release the sheets as the money was not forthcoming. A collector thereupon bought the whole stock and destroyed most of them to increase the market value of the rest. This differs from the account by the late Major Adrian Hopkins, who was in Ireland (but not in Cork) at the time.

FENIAN STAMPS — My thanks to various friends who sent me f.d.c. and to the Dept. of P.& T. for servicing the covers I was not able to send personally. And I was sent an official letter signed by the Minister as a token of recognition for my assistance in lending my 1c. Fenian to help the stamp designer. It is regrettable that they should have chosen the wrong model for the 24c. The originals of that were green and lilac on white paper: the impressions in black on tinted paper are modern forgeries!

The reduction in size made it necessary for the artist to redraw both values to prevent some detail being lost, and his redrawing of the 1c is much more faithful than that of the 24c. By omitting lines of shading, from the garter and the panels with inscription and value, he has been too drastic

1968 ISSUES — Next year may be an expensive year for philatelists, as we shall be expected to buy not only the new definitives, but also at least five special issues:

The regular C.E.P.T. "Europa".
International Year for Human Rights.
Centenary of birth of Countess Markievicz
800th anniversary of St.Mary's Cathedral, Limerick
Centenary of birth of James Connolly

Two items overlooked which would have great pictorial possibilities are the centenary of Dublin's water supply and the bicentenary of the Poolbeg Lighthouse.

FENIAN ARTICLES — D.Feldman supplies another topical article. "An Irish Lost Cause and its Stamps" by Barbara R.Mueller in the WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR of 24.x.67. It is dreadful with the old stories rehashed without any attempt to check back to their sources.

EXHIBITION MEDALS — Congratulations to members W.Kane and Dr J.Mackey for their Bronze Silver medals at B.P.E., where the judges obviously decided to be very severe in view of the complaints that medal winning was becoming too easy.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1967 NUMBER 135

RANDOM NOTES

TELEVISION "Home Truths" on Irish Television on 28th December will include some revelations of the forged stamps and other undesirable things which innocent young (and other) stamp collectors are persuaded to buy.

REGISTRATION LABELS Some material loaned to "Telefis" for use with the above-mentioned was returned by registered post and the label thereon is of DUBLIN 140 . The number is probably allocated to the RTE offices at Montrose.



A.Sedgley reports this interesting error, 15 instead of I5 in a machine cancellation of Belfast, stated to have been used in March 1964

Non Postal



An envelope appearing in the next I.P.C. Auction nearly fooled me. Itsfrom Ballinasloe and the markings include a large framed PAID. No handstruck PAID is recorded for that town. Before rushing into print with the discovery I realised that there is a 1d adhesive, and also that the letter had been from a Bank - where just that style of handstamp was used to cancel cheques. It therefore seems likely that the PAID was marked on the envelope as evidence that the office boy had been given the penny to buy the stamp.

"MAXIMUM CARDS" Although disapproving of such artifialities, I felt it my duty to my readers to be able to report on the new service. So I handed in at counter 13 in the G.P.O. some postcards depicting the G.P.O. and bearing the 1941 2½d which also features it. Very shortly the unaddressed cards were handed back with the double-circle cancellation No.1 so delicately applied that the XI of the month reads X in one case and ' in another ' This canceller has had a dented rim (near A of BAILE) since 1962 or earlier.
A nice point is that the 2½d stamp is not enough for postcard or printed paper rate, but no surcharge was asked.

DUBLIN CANCELLING MACHINES Letter Z has now appeared. The alphabet is complete except for R,T and W. What will happen next ? My guess is that we shall see AA,BB, etc.

SWIFT DESIGN DISPLAY A week before the stamps were released two frames were set up in Dublin G.P.O., containing "progressive proofs" - the successive drawings produced by the artist and stamp-sized reductions therefrom. Bibliographers disagree with the description of the picture of Gulliver as being taken from an "early" edition of the book. "Early" suggests 18th century rather than the 1650s. However, it was an excellent choice, and the exhibit shows clearly the problems of adaptation and how well they were solved.

E
IPG Random Notes
A

December 1967 No.136

NEW TO WIN AWARDS

The President's Prize at this year's conference of the Postal History Society was won with an Irish item. The cover was not of any great rarity, and what won the prize was Col.Eley's neat presentation, commenting on the appropriateness of its "TOO LATE" marking; the letter enquiring after a man already dead !

BRITISH MUSEUM

The highlight of my first visit to London for five years was an afternoon at the B.M. with the indefatigable J.A.Mackay. Incidentally his new book "Money in Stamps" is strongly recommended, although it could have included more about the current boom in Irish stamps, especially as his next book (due in the New Year) will be devoted to Ireland and will help to accelerate the boom.

He showed me a volume of De la Rue Die Proofs, including some old friends (e.g. Dog License) and some unrecorded items. The first is a modification of the Q.Vic. 6d Petty Sessions, the head being replaced by a crown. Further on (and therefore later?) were examples in red, in green, and in blue, of a completely new design, also for 6d Petty Sessions. It seems likely that these were Essays, someone having suggested that a second design would be preferable to the system of having the stamp printed in different colours for different purposes.

Most of you will be more interested by the portfolio of sheet proofs which I was also privileged to examine. They are the proof impressions which passed between the Mint (where the plates were made) and Somerset House (supervising the job for the Irish P.& T.). Most of them are of the ½d to 1/- definitives and the notes reveal that for each value there was a master plate in copper. Impressions from this master plate were very thoroughly scrutinised, and the minutest variations eliminated before new working plates were made from them, nickel plated. Marginal notes make it clear that the plates had serial numbers, but there is no evidence of how the plates were marked.

There are also proof sheets of the Entertainment Duty definitive series and of the first Irish Insurance stamps. Finally there are proofs of two versions of the SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN 1922, one for the high value postage, and the other for the Insurance Stamps. We have long known that the overprint for the Health Insurance stamps differed from the others. The proof sheet explains why: Whereas the original for the others was typeset, that for this special plate was a woodcut Presumably no Irish fount small enough existed at the time.

STANLEY GIBBONS

I understand that confusion about the real market values of Irish stamps has been added to by the accidental interchange of Mint and Used prices of some Irish issues in the latest Gibbons's Simplified Catalogue !

CANADA STAMPS

It has been ascertained that some of the wide range of colour is due to a variation in depth of etch on a printing cylinder.

I
EPA Random Notes
C

December 1967 No.136

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING — W.Kane reports a new edition of form M.P.326, the Certificate of Posting used for an unregistered letter or packet. It is on buff-orange paper, and smaller than before, the economy being made possible by omitting the Irish version of the inscription.

THAT EXHIBITION SOUVENIR — How many of the 2500 souvenirs were sold ? Thanks to the scotching of the "die proof" allegation, the demand was apparently not brisk and one last-day visitor assures me that he saw a quantity still unsold, and that he saw no-one buying.

U.K.CHRISTMAS STAMPS — My sincere thanks to the good friends who sent me f.d.c on 27 November. Again we have fine examples of multi-colour printing, quite impractical as postage stamps. Unwieldy and showing little of the postmark - none at all where it falls on the gold.

EFFECTS OF DEVALUATION — My feeling is that devaluation will make little difference to philatelic prices. But in G.B. & I. the rise in the cost of living may be sufficient to reduce the amount of money available for hobbies, so that stamp prices will fall. One inevitable happening is a further advance in the postal rates.

THE SWIFT STAMPS — The designs are good, but not the colours. It seems incredible that four cylinders were used to produce the drab effect of the 3d. There should have been more contrast between head and background. Bright colours could have been added for the hanging banners, balanced by bolder shades for the top and bottom inscription. On the 1/5 Gulliver's clothes should have been dark green and red, and the Lilliputian army would look more martial with a few spots of colour.

The style of the lettering is pleasant, but how many more times must the authorities be reminded that FIRE is not the name of the country until the first E is accented.



This gigantic digit looks as if it ought to be one of the handstruck stamps of the 1839-40 General Fourpenny Post. Perhaps it is, but the example I have traced it from is as a Postage Due marking on a letter posted in Carrick-on-Shannon on Nov 5 1870.

Another envelope in the same batch of letters from Carrick-on-Shannon had this for its Dublin arrival mark. It is quite uncommon. Hitherto I had seen examples only of the years 1859 to 1864. So this one extends the date range by eight years !



EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

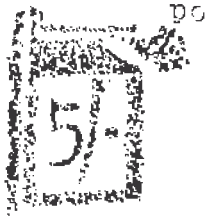
CHRISTMAS 1967 NUMBER 137

DUBLIN G.P.O. "When a bit fell off in July the scaffolding and hoardings went up very quickly, we thought to facilitate inspection and repairs. Nothing seemed to happen for two months: then cleaning started. At the beginning of December the scaffolding was removed, and we saw how thoroughly the front (but not portico) and part of the sides had been treated. The mechanical drills and scrapers used were far too drastic, leaving the granite blocks much rougher than they were. Architects and others are horrified, not only by the change of appearance but by the acceleration of further dirt-gathering and decay.

MAXIMUM CARDS I find that my report in E.N. 136 should have been preceded by describing the new service. Postcards bearing the stamps on the picture side may now be handed in, or sent in, to Dublin G.P.O. where the stamps are cancelled. These sent in must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope to enclose them for the return. Thus the stamps are not postally used, but cancelled to order - which purists deem unworthy of inclusion in their albums. Continental "Carte Maximum" fanatics will not like the Irish service either unless special cancellations are introduced to match each new stamp issue. They - who invented the concept - argue that a card is not maximum unless picture, stamp, and cancellation, all feature the same subject, or at least are closely related.



Sorting aboard the Holyhead & Kinstown mailboats began in October 1860 but the "H & K PACKET" handstamps were not introduced until July 1861. Cyril Kidd in The IRISH MAIL suggests that the Dublin datestamps with sideways H above the date were used on the mailboats, but he had seen only examples with "A" added, probably to indicate the morning sailing. I illustrate one of four without the A, all on the backs of letters from Bristol to Dublin posted during February 1861.



Many collectors devote many hours poring over the Irish definitives vainly seeking significant flaws. At last one man has succeeded where the others have failed and Mr. Healy has detected an extra white line above the left value panel of the current 5/-. It is on the third row of the sheet, second stamp from the right end of the row, alongside the marginal ornament. Can anyone tell us if it occurred also with sc watermark ?

NEW MACHINE. The pre-Christmas period is still the favourite time for installing new cancelling machines. This year's first such installation is at ROS CRE (Roscrea) in Co.Tipperary. Earliest date seen 23rd November,

F.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

Christmas 1967 No.137

Mileage Marks — My list of the towns known to have used mileage stamps (i.e. incorporating the distance from Dublin), based largely on the Stafford Johnson and Field collections, has over 380 names. It is thus quite an event to be able to add to it. The latest addition is GEASHELL /49, in blue and in red, 1822-3.

The bundle including the covers also yielded an interesting example of late use of a mileage stamp. VALENTIA/17d on an envelope of 1850.

SWIFT 1/5 — The first report of a variety in the Swift issue is from Fr.Noonan, who describes it as an extra cloud just below the first E or EIRE. Right pane, Row 1, No.6.

QUANTITIES SOLD — I hope that the Irish Post Office will publish the numbers of the various commemorative stamps sold, as well as the numbers printed. Reports from the provinces show that there is a shortage of the Swift issue. e.g. Mr Ó Mathúna states that Clonmel and Tipperary had only small quantities on the first day, and that there are no 3d to be had anywhere in the area. The 1/5 generally available there is the 1/5 Europa which should have been withdrawn early in November. And Cashel Post Office recently had 1/- Casement, the remainders of which should have been destroyed months ago.

PRINTED ALBUMS — I.P.C."News" raises the question of printed albums. The only one for Ireland that I have seen is well made, with stout paper, and an acetate protector in position for every stamp. But it caters only for the exceptional collector who wants only one of each stamp. Even the Saorstat coils with long 1 variety have only a single space for each - whereas the variety is normally offered for sale se-tenant with normal. So this album cannot be recommended, and my advice to anyone buying albums is to obtain the simple spring-back loose-leaf album, with leaves 11x9¾ ins. For unhinged mint stamps Hawid or other similar devices should be used, and covers should be held in place only by photograph mounting corners

GREETINGS — My thanks to the senders of Christmas Greetings, as well as to those whose reports of finds and discoveries provide so many of our "Random Notes"

Edited, printed and published by
F.E.Dixon, 15 Terenure Road (East), Rathgar, DUBLIN 6

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

1967 Supplement summarising Slogan Cancellations etc.

NEW MACHINES: Dublin Q,X,Y,Z. Roscrea.

NEW SLOGANS: The only one of more than local use was "Irish Holidays in May. One Free Day " used in the Spring at Dublin and five major towns.

The first new local slogan "Dundalk Maytime Festival 12-21 May 1967" was introduced 4 January, quickly withdrawn for adjustment, reissued in April, and revived in December with the dates cut off.

Bray used its 1964 slogan in January. Then in March had a new version, redrawn and reading "Bray Ireland, Holidays and Conferences". In May Carrick-on-Shannon introduced a heat pictorial "Carrick-on-Shannon, Ireland, for Fishing and Boating". Finally, there was "European Sea Angling Championship, SEP.10 -16" used at Cobh from early July until the event.

OLD SLOGANS REVIVED: The pair "A Full Address Speeds Delivery" and "Please Shew District Number in Dublin Addresses" appeared in many places at various times. The three slogans urging saving through the Post Office also had various outings, but I saw the old type (introduced 1944) only from Galway. "Prevent Forest Fires" had its normal Spring run. Other annual revivals wre Tooth Cleaning in October. Road Safety in November and "Post Early for Christmas" in early December. Nenagh again had the thick-lettered variant of the latter.

Cork had its normal succession for its own Choral Festival, Kinsale Regatta and Bandon Carnival. Limerick publicised its Opera Festival after boosting Kilkee . Killarney's continued to advertise itself, and Ballina revived the slogan for the Moy Festival.

NEW POSTMARKS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS: Skeleton handstamps were made up for C I C DUBLIN (Conseil International de la Chasse) May 14-17, and for a Boy Scouts' Camp at Lismore in July. Both had cachets as well as the cancellations.

REGULAR POSTMARKS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS: Dublin Spring Show for the tenth year and Horse Show for the 11th year, had "skeletons". It should be noted that these are used only on registered mail and other items which have to be handed in. Impressions on ordinary envelopes are "cancelled by favour".

NORTHERN IRELAND: It would require considerable space to discuss all the slogans used in Belfast and elsewhere in Ireland outside the Republic. Two slogans of great interest, and very well designed were from the rapidly developing Coleraine. The first, launched 1st September, read "Christians.Pray for Coleraine's New Life. Ask about it." This was followed in November by "First Ever Christmas Present - God gave his Son".

I.P.C. Bandom Notes

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Contributors include Messrs or Revs. Brady, Brennan,Cullen, Cremane,de Burca,Feldman, Fletcher,Jackson,Kane, Langton,Meredith, Noonan,O Mathuna, Phelan,Richards,Sadgley,Stokes & Telfer and Miss Wright.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1968 NUMBER 138

RANDOM NOTES

U.K. We may as well start the New Year with a perennial topic. Mr Telfer seems to think that the repetition of the "G.B." error at two international meetings is enough to justify its continuance! I prefer to accept the authority of the United Nations and its specialised Agencies, which normally refer to the United Kingdom, never to "Great Britain". If the G.B. die-hards look at their passports or other official documents they will have to admit that "United Kingdom" is the proper designation, and that U.K. is the only reasonable abbreviation.



What used to be the Returned Letter Office cannot now make up its mind whether it is a Branch or a Section. My illustration is of a new(?) rubber datestamp, seen on a 15x12" envelope, R.L.S.No.21, which has imprinted "Brainse na Litcacha Fáin", which would seem to denote "Branch for delayed letters".

DUNDALK SLOGAN — Early in December Dundalk re-introduced its MAYTIME FESTIVAL slogan, with the dates neatly cut out.

BALLYBRACK (Co.Kerry) — A subject crying out for research is the effect of the Great Famine on the Irish Post Office, including the closing of post offices in the depopulated areas. A few envelopes have turned up with the straight-line name-stamp of the Ballybrack near Killarney where an office was opened in the 1840s, when the population was at its maximum. But the office was closed by 1860 and has never reopened.



Another field for research concerns the numbers allotted to, and the numbers actually used by, the post offices. I am confident that there were more changes, and more errors, than the published lists disclose. e.g. my sketch is from a postcard of 1894 concerning a Dublin parish magazine and almost certainly posted in or near Dublin. But 28 belonged to Ballaghaderin ! Could the 28 be a miscutting of 26, the number for Baily ?

FISCALS — A minor addendum to the list in REVEALER Supp.33. Add 3d to the values known for the first "Coimisiun na Talmhan" series. It should also be noted that the next issue, with carmine inscription, is bilingual, the words "LAND COMMISSION" being included.

COINCIDENCE OR ? — It is very remarkable that the Swift 1/3 variety reported in R.N. 13 has the same sheet position as the major flaw in Casement 5d and one of the best in Ballintubber 5d, allowing for the different orientation !

E.
I.P.C. RANDOM NOTES
A.

January 1967 No. 138

MORE RETURNED LETTERS Overleaf there is mention of the confusion between the names of the Returned Letter Office, Branch or Section. Since writing it I have found a returned letter of 1865. The covering envelope is of the "Returned Letter Branch, Dublin" according to the front, but the inscription around the royal arms embossed on the flap has the most popular form "Dead Letter Office". It is noteworthy that as late as 1865 the advice printed inside the flap included the recommendation that Banknotes, etc. should be cut in half and the halves sent by different posts, registered .

WATERMARKS (OLD) Early in the last century specially watermarked paper came into use, Irish examples already recorded including BILLS Banknotes, etc. One not, I think, recorded before is EXCISE OFFICE in a double-lined frame on printed forms for details of "Hearth Money" - which comprised window-tax, carriage tax, manservant tax and other minor items as well as the tax on the fire-hearths. My example is of 1811.

WATERMARKS (NEW) P. Ó Mathúna has succeeded in convincing Stanley Gibbons that the "e" of modern Irish stamps is significantly smaller than that introduced instead of the se monogram watermark. I am not happy about this as single stamps cannot be classified with confidence there being some variations, so that the largest form of e now is about the same as the smallest before. The change seems to have been made about 1962.

2/6 DEFINITIVE VARIETY The same active member reports a variety on the 2/6, top row of pane, No.7, there being a small projection on the first e of élRe.

THE LONGEST NAME I thought that NEWTOWN MOUNT KENNEDY had the longest name of any Irish Post Office, but I've now seen a longer one: NEWTOWN GORE CROSS ROADS - all in one line, sans-serif, on an envelope of 1855. The last two words were dropped and the first two combined for the modern form of the name.

DELAYED MAILS A U.K. device which deserves to be copied in Ireland is a 2½x2ins. adhesive label bearing the apology "The Postmaster is very sorry that this packet has been accidentally damaged/delayed in the post." My example is on an airmail envelope from U.S.A. to London which took just a month in transit !

5d ENVELOPE I think the use of Post Office issues of envelopes and postcards is declining - due to their excessive prices. However, I have just invested in a packet of envelopes, finding that the paler ink introduced last year for the 5d adhesive is now being used on the 5d envelope stamps. The paper is also paler, nearer white than cream, but it still has the DEAN SWIFT watermark.

OBITUARY I am sorry to report the death of Prof.L.P.W.Renouf after a prolonged illness. He was a major figure in Irish philately and a founder member of the I.P.S.G.

FIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1966 Number 139

NEWSPAPER STAMPS — A centenary that we overlooked last year was that of the death of the 1d stamp printed in red on many newspapers. Initially they were primarily newspaper tax stamps, linked with the advertising tax, but their sole function in the 1860s was to prepay the postage. A late example just discovered is of April 25 1867 on the "Impartial Reporter and Fermanagh Farmers Journal"

I.R.A. STAMPS — The information about the stamps printed in Cork in July 1922 is usually based on Hopkins's article of 1924. I have now come upon an earlier, if rather brief, reference. A cutting from the "Daily News" of 18 August 1922 reads:

"STAMP OF IRISH REBELS

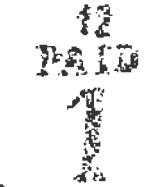
"Stamp collectors will be interested in the accompanying reproduction of an Irish Republican stamp which has never been issued. (Illustration shows 2d value)

Its denominations are 1d (brown),2d(green), and 6d(blue). These were to have been put in circulation through Cork post offices on Saturday, but the Irregulars fled on Thursday. It is believed that most of the sheets were destroyed as specimens are very difficult to obtain."

With this cutting is a much longer one from the "Irish Press" of 18 May 1932, illustrated by blocks of four of all values, and based on information given by Prof. Benouf. This gives another twist to the story. It alleges that the stamps had been delivered to I.R.A. HQ but the issue was held up in the hope that the agent sent to London would come back with supplies of the Patrick Pearse design. I prefer the explanation quoted in R.N. 135.

SINN FEIN "CANCELLATION" — The legend that the 1908 labels were used as "stamps" is based on the existence of examples postally obliterated, or defaced by Sinn Fein markings. One such device is circular, 24 mm across, with SINN FEIN at the centre and NORTH EASTERN BRANCH + N.C. + round the ring. My example is on piece and I suspect that it was perpetrated in 1916 for sale as a "genuine used rebel stamp" !

GENERAL PENNY POST DUBLIN — Although sometimes thought of as connected with the "Dublin Penny Post" the handstruck markings like that sketched here did not come into use until the General Penny Postage of Jan. 1840. The number at the top probably identified the "receiving house" or sub-office. I have 1,5,9,10,11,12, and 23, but as there were 37 receiving houses it is possible that all numbers up to 37 exist. Can you report any ?



INVERTED WATERMARK. V.A.Linnell reports inverted watermark on SG 136, the Thomas Davis centenary 2½d.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

February 1968 No. 139

POST OFFICE CODE LETTERS — For those of you who maintain a list of the P.O. telegraphic code, used in the triangular obliterators but also on parcel post labels and cancellers, I give some additions, all taken from P.P. labels of about 50 years ago:

BXA = Ballinamore
BZO = Boyle (which is BZQ in lists)
BZT = Bruff
CGG = Cork (Great George's St.)
CTR = Carnew
CVP = Castletownsend
CWR = Cong
DIS = Delvin, Killucan
DKB = Drumkeerin
DKF = Drumquin
DLK = Dublin (Ranelagh Rd.)
DMM = Dunfanaghy
GIY = Glenbeigh
GJB = Goresbridge
LTT = Letterfrack
MPX = Miltown Malbay
PKE = Portumna
TYH = Tynagh
ZAU = Clonbur

CANCELLING MACHINE NEWS — Another gap filled in the Dublin series. Machine T came into use in December. The crossbar is so short that the letter looks like an incomplete serifed I.

The towns selected this year to be without new plugs were Wicklow & Cavan: on 8 Jan it still had the year-line blank.

And the town to forget to take off its POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS slogan last Christmas was Monaghan, still using it on 28 December.

NOT KNOWN AT KILDARE — Handstamped markings of this kind are not common, even for Dublin, and it is surprising to find that Kildare had enough misaddressed letters to justify having the stamp made up. My example is on an envelope of 1880

LOUIS LE BROCQUY — When the designs for this year's new definitives were submitted there were regrets that Dr Le Brocquy was ill and unable to accept his invitation to compete. He has found wider recognition, however, his design having been chosen for the 1968 CEPT issue, in Ireland and all the other participating countries. We offer congratulations to him and to his father, the doyen of Irish philatelists.

POST OFFICE CODE LETTERS — A few days after I'd cut the stencil with the list above, the B.P.S. Bulletin arrives with a list of all the two-letter abbreviations for G.B. & I. This supplies seven Irish which I have not met before:

EZ = Ennistymon
FP = Frenchpark
HM = Hollymount
OO = Oranmore
PL = Pallasgreen
PS = Parsonstown (became Birr, BQ, in 1902)
VA = Virginia

The list also provides confirmation that two attributions in a decode supplied by the Irish Post Office are wrong, the CV being a misprint for OV (Ovoca) and the MG being a slip for DMG (Dundalk), both CV and MG being allocated in England.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1968 Number 140

RANDOM NOTES

SWIFT 3d — It seems that the Christmastime shortage of 3d Swift commemoratives was due to printing problems, especially the deficiencies of the black cylinder. In January a new supply became available, at first in the provinces, later in Dublin. The margin shows that a new cylinder, numbered "2", was used, and the black inscription is much more intense than the first printing. The blackness is emphasised by the effects of wear on the cylinders printing the other shades.

Fr. Brennan was the first to tell me of a naked-eye flaw on the 3d - a coloured dot in about the position of Adam's Apple. It is in the left pane, row 2, No.6, of both printings.

ST.PETER — Stories involving St.Peter are popular in Ireland. Robson Lowe has given us a new one. When he had his first shop, in the 1920s one regular patron was a cherubic figure in a black cloak and large black hat. One day he remarked that he would have to give up his regular visits, but would like choice items to be sent on approval. When R.L. enquired the name and address he got only the street name and what sounded like "St. Peter". Searching directories revealed St.Johns and St.Josephs and other saintly names, but no St.Peter. Eventually the truth emerged. What the philatelist had murmured was "Chester Beatty" ! That great philanthropist has died at the age of 92, bequeathing to Ireland his superb collection of oriental treasures, valued in millions of pounds.

FENIAN 5d — Fr. Noonan reports a minor, but constant, broken harp-string, in the cluster of shamrocks. It is right pane, Row 5, No.8.

INVERTED DATES — I think I promised not to fill my pages by reporting all the numerous slips noticed in cancellations. However, it is worth pointing out that this year the inversion of the two digits of the year, as in normal circular date-stamps, looks quite reasonable. Thus I've seen a registered letter posted at North King Street, Dublin, apparently on 29 JA 89.



A parcel from London to Dublin arrived after six weeks sojourn somewhere and the cancellation (and only postal or Customs marking) was the large D illustrated, hand stamped in purple. What does it stand for, Dublin, Detained, Delayed, or what ?

UNRECORDED OVERPRINT — In R.N.128 it was reported that a 10/- value had been found in the "Excise Revenue" overprinted series. To this I can now add the 2/- sepia with the same five-line overprint.

FATHER MATHEW 2d — In looking for the definitely rare variety with a comma below the date I found a remarkable right margin strip of three, all dotty. The topmost has a dot alongside d of de. and a group of dots behind the head. The lowest has two dots SW of "IN" and all three have a dot 3mm from the temple. A quick look through my duplicates suggests that this dot is present in about 30 % of them.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

March 1968 Number 140

IRISH PHILATELY A CENTURY AGO

It was in the 1860s that stamp collecting enjoyed its first boom, but Ireland was not prominent. Continental albums had spaces for two Irish stamps - 6d Petty Sessions, green and red. Although the Fenian Essays were featured in the magazines, no dealer had any to offer for sale.

There were not many collectors in Ireland at the time, judging from Volume II (1864) of the "Stamp-Collector's Magazine". Only three of the writers give Irish addresses, J.C.Andrews of Belfast, E.N. of Athboy and R.F.Wilme of Dublin. One of the Irish-based dealers was R.Schmidt & Co. 5 Clarence Place, Belfast, probably an agency for a continental firm. More Irish was R.W.Pegg, advertising from Holles St., Dublin offering e.g. "rare Swiss on approval". He went into partnership with a Mr Reilly. By July they were selling off, packets of mixed at 1/1 a 100. However they were still in business in December. The most popular pseudonyms at the time were "Alpha" and "Omega": both were used by Irish advertisers, the latter c/o Post Office, Kingstown (Was he an official?) and the former in Great Brunswick St.(now Pearse St.) Dublin. The magazine's publishers, Stafford Smith & Smith, had agencies in booksellers in Armagh, Cork, Dublin, Kingstown, Enniskillen, Londonderry and Waterford, but the Cork and Dublin addresses disappeared from the list during the year.

The other mentions of Ireland are mainly derisory. The fewness of the letters written is evidenced by some 1862 statistics suggesting that in Ireland the number of letters posted per person per year was only 9, compared with 19 for Scotland and 24 for England. Then there is an excerpt from the "Nenagh Guardian" asserting that letters between Drangan and Cloneen, only 2 miles apart, had to travel 222 miles and took 2 days to do so. One wonders what happens now, Drangan being under Thurles and Cloneen under Clonmel.

I am happy to report that Ireland was not involved in the then profitable business of forgeries, or "fac-similes" as the vendors described them. Every country from Argentine to Zurich, at a flat rate of 1d each. It is surprising that S.S.& S. should accept such advertisements while publishing E.L.Pemberton's pioneer articles describing the forgeries.

A problem which philatelists had even in the 1860s was how to find the money to buy all the magazines, and an ingenious enterprise worth imitating was the "Circulating Library for Stamp Literature" at 20 Park Side, Knightsbridge, London S.W. They changed only a penny a time for the loan of any issue of six periodicals.

Most of the stamps offered at the period were either "unused" or "used": the term "mint" had yet to be borrowed from numismatics. A nice description worth reviving, for those awkward stamps which have no postmark but no gum, is "unobliterated".

L.T.R.S.
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1968 NUMBER 141

RANDOM NOTES

DESIGNING CANCELLATIONS — It is obvious that the designers of special postmarks do not realise all the possibilities of what combination with a stamp design can do. The classic was the unfortunate hand of the U.K. World Refugee Year slogan with the thumb liable to appear next to the Queen's nose. A happier event which has occasionally happened in Ireland recently is when the sun's smiling face (with "Irish Holidays in May. One Free Day") falls on the map portion of a 1d or 2d stamp. However, what prompted me to start this paragraph is finding a 1/3 airmail cancelled by the slogan "A full address speeds delivery". The legs delete the cathedral and thus come just below the angel's head, with a quite ludicrous result.

OBITUARY — I am very sorry to report the death of Very Rev. W.C. de Pauley, Bishop of Cashel etc. a keen stamp collector whom I first met in 1940 when he visited me - a newcomer to his parish. Our last encounter was when he came to Dublin in February and gave a brilliant and touching oration at the Memorial Service to the late Miss M.I.Ruttle who had raised nearly £1500 from stamps for the Mission she had retired from 30 years before.

CORRECTION — In R.N. 139 I mentioned Louis Le Brocquy's success in having his design accepted for Europa stamps. I carelessly said it was this year his design would be used, whereas it will not be until 1970.

MISSING YEAR — Wicklow cancelling machine was still showing — for the year as late as 27 March !

NETTO CATALOGUE — Thanks to Dr de Burca I am able to review the new catalogue of the stamps of Ireland. It is beautifully produced but almost useless. The overprints are grossly over-simplified: no inverteds, no missing accents, no wide and narrow dates. No varieties are mentioned with later issues except inverted watermarks from booklets. The cost of the printing has been inflated by the provision of a square for each stamp unnused (sic) and used. presumably to facilitate noting what one has or has not. Most of the prices are realistic, the lowest quotations being as little as 1d.

CANCELLATION ERRORS — The oddest of the items seen recently is the attractive pictorial slogan of Carrick-on-shannon with the date reading 27 45PM instead of 27 MAR.

3d SWIFT — An inconspicuous, but definite retouch was found by a young pupil in Knockbeg College. It is on Swift's hat, right pane, row 3, number 5, on both printings.

MILEAGE MARKS AND OTHERS

It is pleasant to combine business with pleasure, and when I accepted an invitation to give a meteorological lecture in Armagh a major inducement was the promise to allow me to examine old letters in the archives of the Observatory there. The nicest thing I saw there was a Dundalk handstruck 4 of 1839 but more important were some additions to my lists :

Mileage marks: AUGHNACLOY 71 blue 1827-30
DUNNAMANNA 106 black 1831 (This is now Dunamanagh or Donemana, Co.Tyrone)
MAGHERAFELT 94 red 1827

PAID stamps: PAID AT FLURRYBRIDGE red 1840.

There were several other useful additions to date-ranges, and I did not see everything, as I wanted to spend some time in the Armagh Library where they have letters of Jonathan Swift and 17th century correspondence.

NEW 5d

The 5d photogravure "Sword of Light" duly appeared in sheet form at Dublin G.P.O. (but not elsewhere) on 1st April but it is unlikely the stamp is distinctive enough to achieve a new entry in the catalogues. The background shading is more even than on the booklet cylinder, but the frame lines, especially below, are peculiarly variable and not straight. The only sheet I have scrutinised so far has several faint lines, presumably doctor-blade flaws.

SPRING SHOW

Unfortunately I have not enough labels for everyone this time but will stick one on each copy as far as they go. The design is the same as for many years, but a new combination of colours.

PAQUEBOT Markings ?

From time to time we hear of letters originating on ships being posted at various Irish ports. Three have just been given me by Dr R.M.Baguley, all from the Limerick m.v. "Mulcair", all bearing U.K. stamps and with the datestamps of the Dock P.O. Limerick; Fenit, Co.Kerry; and Kilrush (Co.Clare) respectively. None has any explicit PAQUEBOT mark, and it would seem that such special handstamps are issued only to the larger ports visited by vessels with facilities aboard for the posting of letters by passengers.

"THE STORY OF EIRE AND HER STAMPS"

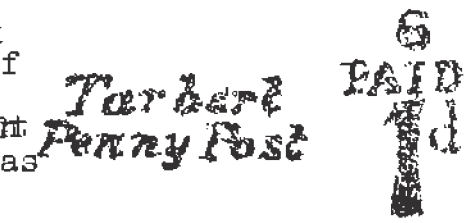
James A.Mackay's book is now published as a "Collecta Handbook", price 25/-. It is intended primarily for readers outside Ireland, and for beginners rather than established Irish collectors. However, it can be recommended, there being a considerable amount of interesting information, and some hitherto unpublished essays are included in the illustrations. The check-list mentions no varieties, although many are described in the text of the book.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

MAY 1968 Number 142.

RANDOM NOTES

PENNY POSTS — Two more additions to our check lists, seen in the collection of a Dublin philatelist not yet a member of either IPC or EPA. I don't think that the Tarbert Penny Post has been recorded before and the No.6 is an addition to my list of the Dublin sub-offices. More important is its date, 14 July 1841, some months later than the others recorded.



UNPATRIOTIC SLOGANS — One of the slips on Mr Mackay's new book is stating that slogan cancellations were not used in Ireland until 1922. Belfast (but not Dublin) had the BUY NATIONAL WAR BONDS in 1918 if not earlier. That was understandable. However one of the later Belfast slogans, which probably annoyed most Irishmen, was BRITISH GOODS ARE BEST. Now Newry has joined the "I'M BACKING BRITAIN" campaign, although it is a place with a considerable proportion of its population favouring the Republic rather than the United Kingdom.

SWIFT 3d HAT RETOUCH — My description of this flaw as "inconspicuous" is true of the first printing. During the second printing, as the cylinder developed more wear and printed more faintly, the spot became appreciably more prominent.

29 APRIL F.D.C.s — Profuse thanks to the senders of various covers, both Irish Europas and U.K. Bridges. Of the latter I particularly like the Welsh envelope with bilingual cancellation from Menai Bridge. What I do not like this time are the absurd colourings. In the case of the Irish issue, it is the colours which make them the most attractive yet, and my only adverse criticism is the lack of éire's accent.

About 2000 of the Irish first-day covers, arranged through the Irish Times, were several days late in arriving. In this case the Post Office is not at fault. In other cases they were. I have seen one cover which had the "First Day .." cachet but no cancellation !

DELAYED MAIL — Another slip-up was reported in a North of Ireland newspaper. After paying postage due on an understamped letter the recipient discovered that the letter had been eight years in transit, and the stamps affixed were quite sufficient at the time of posting. He has been promised a refund!

E.P.A. MEETING — The E.P.A. is planning a meeting on Saturday 14 September at the Thousand Island Club, Alexandria Bay, New York, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. It is planned to have informative talks on several branches of Irish philately and postal history, including one on the overprints illustrated by colour slides. It is hoped to have also a display from the Irish Post Office.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

May 1968 No. 142

THE IRISH POST OFFICE

Although we talk and write about the Irish Post Office, that description has no official standing. The correct description is "Roinn Poist agus Telegrafa na hEireann", the literal translation of which is "Department of Post and Telegraph of Ireland" but on some forms (e.g. Customs Declaration on outward parcels, O.E.54) it is Englished as "Postal Administration of Ireland".

64 YEARS SERVING T.P.O.s

With trade disputes and bickerings filling the newspapers, it is refreshing to find long and faithful service being recognised. Since 1904 Miss Hannah O'Callaghan's house at Gratton Hill, Cork, has been the home for the staffs of the Dublin-Cork T.P.O. and on May 4th the 84-year old lady was brought to Dublin to be the guest of honour at a dinner and other functions organised by her "boys on the mails" with official co-operation.

MODERN FAKES & BOGUS ITEMS

A very mixed lot which came my way recently included several of the crude modern productions which are being made to meet the demand for "Cinderella" material. Most can be classed only as ugly sisters. The lot included two Irish items. One is a badly printed forgery of the 1 cent Fenian on blue, and it will deceive no-one, the paper being far too bright and obviously modern. The other is one I have not heard of - and which is possibly of very recent origin. It is a roughly (lithographed ?) impression of the 3d Celtic Cross definitive design, in red on unwatermarked paper. It is copied, not from the issued stamp, but from the first essay, with larger numerals and with only "PINGINE" in the panel between them. Be warned: it is liable to be offered as an essay or a colour trial. Unfortunately I do not think that the printer - if he could be discovered - could be charged with forgery. What would be possible would be prosecution for fraud if the item were offered for sale as a genuine 1922 essay.

R.D.S. SHOW CANCEL-LATIONS

It is desirable for the benefit of new members, to repeat some information. The Royal Dublin Society has been organising Shows of a kind for over two centuries, but I do not think there were distinctive postmarks until about 1920(?) when the temporary office used a single-circle datestamp, 22 mm diameter, inscribed "SHOW YARD / BALL'S BRIDGE", and this was wielded at both Spring and Horse Shows until the Spring Show of May 1957, by which time it was very worn. It was therefore withdrawn and in August a "skeleton" c.d.s. of 30 mm diameter was made up to read "HORSE SHOW DUBLIN", It repeated for each show since, with some rearrangement of the words. Examples are scarce because it is used only as a counter stamp, i.e. on parcels, registered letters and telegrams, but not on ordinary mail which has to be posted in a box and eventually machine-cancelled like most other Dublin postings.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1968 NUMBER 143

RANDOM NOTES

HOPEFUL EXCHANGERS — The continued interest in Irish stamps is evidenced by the increasing number of requests from overseas from philatelists who would like to exchange stamps of their own country with someone able to supply Irish. The latest two are Mrs S.C.de Wijeyeratwe, 19 Middle Street,Fort,Galle,Ceylon, and MrJohn Busklein, Box 60, Harstad, Norway, who offers German as well Norwegian.

WICKLOW's YEAR — Well into May the Wicklow Post Office was still awaiting the "1968" plug for use on its cancelling machine. Could it have been lost in the post ?

T.E.FIELD LIBRARY — As most members know already, the late T.E.Field bequeathed his philatelic library to me with the request that items of which I already had copies should be passed on to other of his philatelic friends. I find that there are still a few not distributed and can offer

(a) carbon-copy of typescript of A.Trollope's Report on the Irish Post Office.
(b) Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia Vol. I, 1st ed. 1948.
(c) Sidebotham's "The Overland Mail".
(d) Clear's "John Palmer, Mail Coach Pioneer"
(e) The 7th supplement to Alcock & Holland's "Postmarks of Great Britain & Ireland."
(f) Seven odd numbers, 1948-54 of Alcocks' "Philatelic Adviser"
(g) Eleven numbers of "The Great Britain Philatelist" 1961-64.
(h) Dixon's "Slogan Cancellations of the Republic of Ireland to 1959".

For new members I should mention that a copy of Meredith's "The Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1927" may be borrowed from me on payment of the postage. I have decided that another book which may be loaned similarly is that by the Willcockses & Bentley on "The Spoon Experiment 1853-58",

PROPAGANDA LABELS — I have seen two examples of a new label, printed in green on yellow, 37x23 mm, rouletted, inscribed "LIMERICK UNIVERSITY NOW !" It seems unlikely that the agitation will get results, the general feeling (except in Limerick) being that Cork and Galway serve the area adequately. Both my examples were improperly affixed alongside the postage stamp and duly cancelled without any evidence of Post Office disapproval. It is an interesting aspect of increasing mechanisation that the elimination of hand facing-up and sorting will make it easier to get away with labels alongside stamps - if the stamps are correct.

CHARITY LABEL — A label I havn't seen until now, but probably of the 1930s, was used by the Jubilee Nurses to encourage visits to gardens open in aid of their funds. Blue+yellow,32x44mm.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

June 1968 No.143

GIBBONS SALE 26-28 June — Many of you will have seen in the catalogue for this auction illustrations of several blocks and pieces of SG 85 showing the variety "Double overprint, one inverted" on alternate lines. The description of the lots incorporates a statement "possibly the most remarkable find in the history of Irish Philately", and suppressing the fact that a block was illustrated in the West-End Philatelist as long ago as 1940 !

I have written to the auctioneers, giving my opinion that the blocks are in the category of "printers' waste", the error having been detected before the sheet could be placed on sale. How the sheet escaped we do not know, but I have the negative of a photograph taken before the sheet was split up and showing a broad streak of defacement, presumably made by the scrutineer when he detected the sheet as "wrong". The stamps from which the defacement could not be eradicated were destroyed; one block was sold to a lady, now dead, but whose collection has not yet been dispersed. The remainder of the sheet is completely accounted for in the lots 538 to 545 and ,I think, lot 551 of the June sale.

It is hoped that the auctioneers will withdraw the lots, in view of the information summarised above.

I should mention that I believe them to have acted in good faith. The facts have been known to very few people, and when I first learned them I was pledged to secrecy. However, my informant is dead, and I believe that I am free to publish the story. More than that, if he were alive I believe that he would not have let the stamps be sold for hundreds of pounds without the buyers being made aware of the nature of what they were buying.

PILLAR BOXES — On my first visit to York, 25 years ago, I noticed an old pillar box without writing down details. Later visits were too brief for me to find it again . A recent trip was more successful. I refound it, and another was spotted, identical boxes, both older than the hexagonal type surviving in Galway, New Ross, etc. They are cylindrical, very plain, with the only ornamentation scalloping around the domed top. The slit is in the top, the entry of rain being prevented by a flap. The box on Pope's Quay still has its flap: the other hasn't, and does not need it, as it is under cover on the railway station. The Quay box is sufficiently out of the ground for the maker's name to be discernible Cochrane & Co. of Dudley. A date is there too, 1867 apparently. However, that is late for the type with the flap and it may be 1857 ! I am happy to share the credit for the discovery with Rev.J.Brennan and to have a photograph of him at the Pope's Quay Box.

SOUTHERN IRELAND FISCALS — During the short period between the establishment of "Northern Ireland" and that of "Saorstát Eireann" a few of the revenue stamps were printed with the 26-county area designated "Southern Ireland". One now recorded for the first time is 2/6 Land Registry.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JULY 1968 RANDOM NOTES Number 144

WHITE CROSS — A question I have been often asked is "what was the White Cross which issued labels ?". The IRISH WHITE CROSS was established in 1920 and worked in close association with the American Committee for Relief in Ireland . In 1920-22 it distributed over £1,000,000, mainly to victims of the Black-and-Tan war.

It was quite independent from the Dublin White Cross Association, which existed from 1886 to about 1935. It was an evangelical protestant body with its principal objects stated as "purity among men; and a chivalrous respect for womanhood".

SEALS & LABELS STUDY GROUP — W.Mathews, 43 Roker Park Road, Sunderland, Co.Durham, would like to organise a study group for Irish erinnophilists (see R.N.116). Let him know if you are interested, and can help in listing charity and propaganda seals and labels.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES — The spate of requests from other lands continues embarrassingly. It is so rarely that we can find any Irish collector able to undertake further exchanging. Would anyone oblige Mr Leif Gustadsson, Fiskedamsgade 13.2th Copenhagen 2100, Denmark ?

T.E.FIELD MEMORIALS — It is good news that the E.P.A. has established an award as the highest honour it can bestow, and that its first recipient is J.J.Walsh, under whose guidance the REVEALER has been developed into the excellent journal it is.

Meanwhile the Society of Postal Historians is preparing a set of transparencies of Irish postal history material, to illustrate a memorial lecture. We hope that this will be available to other societies through the new Federation of societies interested in postal history.

ANGLO-IRISH METERMARK — The supplement to the book on "Meter Stamps of Great Britain and Ireland", recently published, illustrates a delightful metermarking, the stamp being for Saorstat Eireann, but the place of ostensible posting London ! With it is a Neopost slogan, and there is little doubt that the impression was only done for demonstration purposes, possibly at a Spring Show or similar Industrial Fair.

OTHER DUBLINS — The arrival of an envelope with the cancellation of Dublin, Texas is a reminder of a branch of postmark collecting that has tremendous possibilities for Irish enthusiasts. Very many Irish placenames have been taken overseas by emigrants and to obtain all the Dublins, all the Belfasts, etc. will keep you busy for years.

RE-ENGRAVED REVENUE STAMPS — A nicety that remained unrecognised until recently is that the embossed "Registration of Deeds Fee" stamps including a crown continued in use as late as 1939, when they were recut, a harp being substituted for the crown. The modified dies are still in use.

E.

I.P.C Random Notes

July 1966 No.144

CANCELLATION PROBLEM On the 9th,19th or 29th of April the S Ann Street office, Dublin, was using its rectangular parcels canceller apparently defaced by zigzag lines. What seems to have happened is that the rubber was coming away from its metal base: so the official reinforced it with elastic bands! Does (s)he deserve an award for ingenuity or a reprimand for allowing the equipment to get into such a state ? (And see below!)

POSTAL STATIONERY The Irish section of Higgins & Gage's catalogue was a very welcome gift with the "REVEALER" and E.P.A. members will be very grateful, the pricings being something which no-one has attempted before. The prices for the earlier items are reasonable, but 50 cents mint and 25 cents used for the current 5d letter card (and similar high figures for other items still current) are too much. Added later: The revised prices now circulated are much too high.

THE OLDEST POSTMASTER I have been given a cutting from the Illustrated London News of 1898, with a photograph of Mr Robert Taylor, Postmaster of Scarva (Co.Down) who had died on 25 July. There was doubt as to the year of his birth, believed to be either 1764 or 1780 ! Modern views on the limits of longevity suggest that an age of 118 is just possible, but not 134. However, I am sceptical, my directories disclosing that he became postmaster in 1854 or 1855, and I doubt if he would have been appointed when already in his 70s.

MORE RUBBER BANDS The finding and solving the problem mentioned above has naturally prompted me to look for more, with success ! On 14 May Wicklow was using its parcels canceller similarly repaired with ½inch rubber bands, completely obscuring the CILL of CILL MANTAIN.

DUPLICATING I must correct one statement in Mr Kane's Auction Report, presented at the A.G.M. The Auction account is debited with the cost of stencils, paper, and ink. I have been more fortunate than the I.P.C. in my duplicator investment. The Roneo 250 was bought for £25, a reconditioned model, over five years ago, and so far has needed no repair.

MOLLISON'S 1/- OVERPRINT The I.P.C. enquiry about Mollison's westbound transatlantic flight is answered in the REVEALER 45 & 48. The stamps were overprinted unofficially: we do not know how many were done or whether the plate was destroyed. No mail was officially carried, and postmarked examples of the stamp were cancelled by favour and did no postal service, air or surface.

"MAXIMUM CARDS" I've pointed out before thr error of the Irish interpretation of a maximum card, since card,stamp and postmark must all be associated. What,however, does one call a card which has all three, plus a label. I have a 1965 Swiss postcard featuring the Matterhorn in this way. Can it be called supra-maximum ?

EXCHANGING Mr J.Walker, 18 Exeter Road,Davyhulme,MANCHESTER, England offers stamps of U.K.,Commonwealth,U.S.A. and other countries in exchange for Irish. Another enquiry for exchanges comes from Marion Webster,425 Bate Crest ,Saskatoon,Sask. CANADA.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1968 NUMBER 145

RANDOM NOTES

BIBLIOGRAPHY Rather belatedly (because I had not seen it) attention must be drawn to a fine article by E.P.A. President J.E.Foley on "Ireland's First Commemorative" (1929 Catholic Emancipation) in The American Philatelist Vol.81, No.1, October 1967.

AIRMAIL DISCOVERIES It has long been known that Aer Lingus carried mails from Dublin to the Isle of Man in July 1937, but most mentions of the service lament that no covers are known to have survived. Thanks to Rev.J.Brennan, it can now be disclosed that at least three covers have survived. They are from the 260 carried on the first day, and their owner's notes reveal that he had six others. Two of the nine had been sent to "Poste Restante, Douglas" and were datestamped on arrival. The other seven were also given the 1 July datestamp of Douglas, but not until a fortnight later !



Even less known are the covers prepared for a flight from Valentia Island to Rome in August 1933, part of the celebrated two-way transatlantic formation flight under Balbo's command. The route was changed and no mail was picked up in Ireland. Some envelopes had been prepared and cacheted in green and sent to Valentia Island. On 5 August these were sent to Rome by surface mail, arriving there on 9th. Meanwhile other covers, insufficiently prepaid, had been so endorsed in Dublin and arrived in Rome on 2nd August !

EXCHANGERS Yet another possible contact for someone: George R. Skea, 12 Trevor Court,Mount Waverley 3149, Victoria,Australia, would like to exchange Australian and other for Irish.

CONSTITUTION DAY 1937 Another of Fr.Brennan's finds is that on 29 Dec. 1937 a batch of Motor Taxation forms were posted in Kilkenny, prepaid in cash. The envelopes were therefore put into Kilkenny's "Krag" machine and received the "La an Bunreacta" with "PAID ½D" in red.

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION The special cancellation on your (i.e. I.P.C. members') last "R.N." posting was for an exhibition in Messrs Brown Thomas's "Little Theatre, Grafton Street,Dublin, organised jointly by the Irish Aviation Club and the Dublin Stamp Society. The outstanding exhibit was that loaned by the Irish Post Office, comprising proofs and colour trials of the Airmail series, as shown last year in London . The Exhibition was designed to demonstrate the wide range of possibilities in stamp collecting, with thematic displays as well as specialised studies of many kinds.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

August 1968 No.145

HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR slogan — A slogan cancellation with the Human Rights symbol and the words "Bliain Idirnaisiunta Chearta an Duine 1968" came into use at Dublin, Cork and Limerick on 9th July, and a similar one with English wording will be used at Dublin only. I have not seen it yet.

NEW STAMPS — The Limerick Cathedral Octocentenary stamps, due 26 August, will be printed by the recess process (official wording) and the two values will be 5d and 10d.
The next issues will all be photogravure,
23 Sept. 3d & 1/5 Countess Markievicz birth centenary.
23 Sept. 6d & 1/- James Connolly birth centenary.
4 November. 5d & 7d. International Human Rights Year.

R.D.S. HORSE SHOW — Herewith, thanks to the generosity of the Royal Dublin Society, I supply an example of this year's Horse Show design. As usual, it depicts a typical colourful scene in the Show. I do not think that any particular horse or rider is intended.



YEATS 1/5 — E.T.Sullivan reports a major variety on the 1/5 value of the Yeats centenary issue. The shiny brown bar at left is missing. Can anyone find a second example ?

SAVINGS STAMPS — News from both sides of the Irish Border. In the Republic there is to be a 2/- Savings stamp, due 1st August. . In Northern Ireland the British 2/- "Save for Britain" stamp will not be on sale. An official announcement explains that Northern Ireland savings are used for capital projects in that area and not in Great Britain.

RATHFRILAND CIVIC WEEK — A special handstamp which missed me at the time was used at Rathfriland, Co.Down for its Civic Week in May. The example now discovered is poorly struck and I cannot give full details.

GIBBONS SALE 26-28 JUNE — It is reported with regret that the "printers waste" was duly auctioned, with only a half-hearted warning to prospective purchasers; and that the auctioneers' estimates were exceeded for all except one lot.
Can anyone lend me, or provide a photocopy of, the article about the variety in the 1940 West-End Philatelist ? I need this to complete the dossier before writing a really comprehensive article.

CORRECTION TO IPC NEWS — Mr Talfer's gibe at Mr Feldmah's excellent book for not recognising I.P.C. reveals that he did not look at page 174 !

EXHIBITION — David Feldman Ltd are displaying Irish Stamps in Jury's Hotel, Dublin, during the Horse Show, 6-10th August, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 1968 NUMBER 146

2/- SAVINGS STAMP

The Post Office Savings Banks must derive much of their profit from the stamps purchased but never cashed, and this will be very much the case with the new stamps, which cannot be paid in until 10 have been stuck on the card. We are told that the stamp design depicts a salmon, and that the main reason for the choice was that the fish is the feature of the 2/- coin. However, there have been many adverse comments. Very few of us can afford to buy salmon: even fewer can afford to buy a licence to fish for one: it is a fish which does not keep well: and at present there is considerable worry about salmon diseases.

The design is inept, and the printing another example of the failure of the printers to understand the potentialities of multicolour printing. Four cylinders were used, but the effect could have been produced by only two. And the first block that I inspected has an ugly line through "2/- SAVINGS STAMP" on the first stamp of each row.

PagusT is the ingenious title of the new magazine for the staff of the Department of P. & T. (in Irish P agus T) a well produced eight pages of varied material, mostly of interest to the staff rather than outsiders. However, there are short articles of postal history and a section on Philately. The latter includes a photograph of the presentation to Superintendent Bishop of an American award for the efficiency of the philatelic bureau.

DEFINITIVES At last we have the dates for the appearance of the new definitives:

2d,8d, 2/6,10/-	October 14 1968
3d,6d,7d, 5/-	Febfuary 24 1969
4d,5d,10d, 1/-	March 31 1969
½d,1d,9d,1/5	June 9 1969

Note the inclusion of a 7d and omission of 11d. It is a relief that no 20/- has been added.

INTERNATIONAL BOY SCOUT CAMP WESTPORT

There was no post office, and hence no special cancellation, for the recent camp, but there was an unofficial cachet.

BANKERS' CONFERENCE

There was also a cachet for a recent gathering of Bankers in Dublin. In this case there was a special P.O. but its canceller was only a normal Dublin c.d.s.

I have not yet seen examples of either cachet, and apologise to correspondents to whom I usually send such things

POTENTIAL EXCHANGERS

K.E.Sirevaag, Vålstadveien 47,4000 STAVANGER,Norway (aged 36) offers Nowwegian for Irish stamps.
C.C.Champion,164 South Ridge Road,DURBAN,S.Africa. offers S.African countries' stamps for Irish.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

September 1968 Number 146

OFFICIAL PICTURE POST CARD

The rubber stamps supplied to the Civil Service to overprint official stationery (See REVEALER Supp.35) could be used on other items. In 1932 an official of the National Museum, then the Dublin Museum of Science and Art, applied his "SAORSTÁT EIREANN" stamp to an attractive post card depicting the ruined fishery at Cong. He confirmed the official use by adding his oval franking stamp, the full inscription on which was "An Roinn Oideachais: Fundaireachtai Eoluiocta 7 Ealadan, At-Cliat"

OFFICIAL POSTCARD STAMPED

An interesting contrast is afforded by a plain postcard of 1895 shown me by D.Feldman. It was used from an office in Clonmel, had "O.H.M.S." printed on it, but carried a ½d adhesive stamp !

BOOKLET STAMPS

The announcements of the dates of the new definitives do not mention how soon they will be available in booklets. My guess is not until 1970. However, I continue to tip the 5d photogravure from booklets as a scarce stamp in fine used condition. I recently inspected a few hundred used 5d. Only about one in ten was from a booklet and very, very, few had the light strikes from circular datestamps which many collectors insist on. Remember that the quickest way to identify the booklet printing is from the uneven widths of the lines behind the sword.

THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST

23rd August 1968, is an important date in the history of Irish Philately. His Excellency Eamonn De Valera, President of Ireland, graciously accepted a copy of the Feldman ~~Handbook and chatted about it~~ to the author and some of those associated, R.Stein, Rev.J.Brennan, G.Brady and F.E. Dixon. We found it difficult to explain to him why stamp collecting has become so widespread. He was far more lucid explaining to us that he knew nothing of the 1916 labels etc, having been far more concerned with other matters. He was particularly keen to point out that the "Sinn Fein" of 1903 was quite different from the "Sinn Fein" of 1916 and after. The first movement had looked back to pre-Union Ireland: its successor looked forward to an independent republic. After the interview the visitors were privileged to see the gallery of pictures of Irish History, and to stroll through the grounds of Arus an Uachtaran, admiring trees planted by Queen Victoria and other visitors, ancient and modern.

SLOGAN NEWS

There is still lack of liaison between the P.& T. Information Service and the slogan die distributors. The English version of the Human Rights Year slogan, promised in July has not been seen in the third week of August * On the other hand "INTERNATIONAL SEA ANGLING FESTIVAL COBH 1st week SEPT" was already in use when the notification of its introduction was received !

* See R.N. 147

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1968 Number 147

RANDOM NOTES



This framed E is handstruck on an 1842 letter from Cork, shown to me by D.Feldman. A similar A and B are known, believed to be identifiers of the Cork sub-offices, or"Receiving Houses". It now seems likely that C and D exist. Have you seen them ?

CIVIC WEEK POSTMARKS — The report in R.N.145 of the Rathfriland Civic Week special handstamp brought from A.T.Sedgley the news that Ballyclare and Clogher used similar designs, the dates of their weeks being 18-25 May and 10-15 June respectively.

LIMERICK CATHEDRAL STAMPS — Rather late to give my comments, which are not favourable. The drawing is inartistic, with wrong perspective, and the engraving exceptionally poor, with no attempt to indicate the stonework of the cathedral, and with a very limited range of engravers' strokes, e.g. on foliage. So far I have not heard of any striking variety.

1/5 Airmail. The "recutting" reported in last month's "Stamp Magazine is Thirkell position E2. It looks as if a spot of acid was dropped on the plate. On my example there is another coloured spot on the angel's draperies, just above H of HIBERNIA, Thirkell C5.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR SLOGAN — Without any further advance notice, the English language version of theslogan appeared at the beginning of September.

I.I.A.S. Equally without warning,a special datestamp was introduced on 3rd September for the Dublin Congress of the International Institute of Administration Sciences. It was the usual improvised "skeleton" with the inscription "INST PUBLIC ADMINSTNS DN" - abbreviating the name of the local body. It was intended for use only on registered mail and parcels, but a misguided friend obtained for me some impressions cancelling 5d stamps on envelopes .

H & K PACKET — It is widely realised that some of the numbered H & K PACT. datestamps are much commoner than others. The count of one lot of 85 envelopes yielded

No No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	illegible
10	13	0	8	1	15	0	7	4	15	0	2	2	8

Those without number were all 1861-64; the 4,8,12 were all 1864-68 whereas the others ranged from 1864 to 1879. Almost all had the A above the date, believed to indicate the morning sailing.

HOWTH DATES — Beann Eadair (= Howth, Co.Dublin) is at present mixing up its Roman and Arabic numerals. A letter posted on 4th September was cancelled with the date IV 9 !

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

SEPTEMBER 1968 Number 147

IRISH PHILATELIC DEALERS

In R.N.140 I mentioned Irish philately of the 1860s. W.R.Lane Joynt, writing in the "London Philatelist", January 1909 reminisced that the only real dealer in stamps was Mr Gerrard, whose stationery shop, first in Nassau St., later in Grafton Street, was the meeting place for all the collectors in the early 1870s.

STAMPS OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC.

The same important Journal in its issue for May 1916 had the following remarkable paragraph, and the absence of corrections in later issues suggests that the information was accepted !

"STAMPS OF THE IRISH "REPUBLIC" !

The Times of May 9th is responsible for the following statement, but at present we have not been able to elicit any corroboration. The specimens in question will probably turn out to be rather a projected issue in the nature of essays than a regular issue, for which no scope could have arisen within the limited area of the rebellion:"Documentary and other evidence of the plans for the setting up of an Irish Republic continue to come into the hands of the authorities. Some of them are almost pathetically elaborate. I have seen, though I failed to acquire it, one of the Republic's penny stamps. The complete set will probably be a subject of acute interest for philatelists."'

One surmises that the "stamps" were the Sinn Fein labels, and the essays theory was in a sense correct, the cross design being the basis for the definitive design adopted in 1923 for the 3d and other values . And the last sentence is an accurate forecast, although the commonest type has not quite regained the price level attained in 1916 - up to a guinea !

1967 SPECIAL POSTMARKS

An item caught my eye in the Hibernian Stamp Co.'s nicely produced price list "International Chess Congress". I could not remember any such event - and eventually realised that it is a mistranslation of "La Chasse" ! It is interesting to compare the prices with those of David Feldman Ltd. Although the mint sets are cheaper in the Hibernian, many of the used are dearer .

POSTAL GO-SLOW

At the time of writing (10th Sept.) the situation is worsening. The sorters' refusal to work overtime or Sunday duties is causing a big pile-up, especially of mails coming into Dublin . The resultant delays are already far worse than official spokesmen admit - and journalists have not been allowed to see the size of the piles of unopened mailbags. Watch out for covers bearing evidence of the delay: they may be sought for by future generations of Postal History enthusiasts.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1968 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 148

CONNOLLY & MARKIEVICZ CENTENARY STAMPS — The two designs, in contrasting styles, have one peculiarity in common. Both show elementary mistake of having the first letters too far apart, making it necessary to compensate by squeezing the letters at the other end. Compare the J A M with the LLY and C O U with ICZ !

BANKS CONFERENCE POSTMARK — In R.N.146 it was stated that there was no special cancellation for the Bankers' gathering in July, the information having been given me by a P.O. official on duty in the temporary post office. I have since been informed that envelopes exist bearing the cachet and a distinctive cancellation, presumably of the skeleton type!

PILLAR BOXES — When Dublin introduced double boxes three years ago, with one slot for local mail and another for provincial and overseas, the design was that of the London 1899 type, even to having the words "POST OFFICE" cast on them. A new box put up in Parnell Street last month is from a fresh mould, without these words - only the "P 7 T" .

POST OFFICE GO-SLOW — The overtime ban was lifted on 16 September, when considerable arrears were cleared. However, the congestion in the Dublin sorting office is probably the cause for delays in Irish deliveries of first-day examples of 5d letters from England. None reached me before the second post on 18th, arriving at the same time as 40 items posted on the same day.

PHILATELIC POSTINGS — Labels as suggested in the IPC News circular would probably contravene the 1908 U.K. Post Office Act, brought in to suppress the use of Sinn Fein labels on the front of envelopes. The Irish postal officials are normally co-operative if one hands in a letter at the counter and asks for special clear cancelling. But be reasonable and avoid asking during rush periods.

ALCOCK AND BROWN — The same circular mentions a statue to Alcock & Brown. This is not a statue, but a monument in the shape of an aircraft tail fin, on a hill overlooking the place of the landing in Derrygimlagh bog. There is also a cairn at the edge of the bog.

PILLAR BOXES — New member J.R.Dick has lent to me considerable information supplied to him by the U.K. Philatelic Bureau. As well as the comprehensive article printed in the Bureau's bulletin Vol.2,No.3(Size, soon abandoned,8¼x11¾") and Stamp Mag. Nov. 1964, he has a long list of the oldest surviving pillar boxes in G.B. and the Irish Republic, but not Northern Ireland ! The list includes one of the Cork 1857-59 boxes as the only known survivor of its type. It also lists 1866-79 hexagonal boxes at Roscommon and Skibbereen.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

October 1968 No.148

ANOTHER EXCHANGER — M. André Ribot, 11 Rue Vergne,47 Marmande,France, would like to fill his wants in Irish stamps by exchange for French,Dutch,Russian and Haitian, using Yvert & Tellier's catalogue prices as a basis. He writes excellent English.

PARCELS CANCELLATION — R.N.144 reported two offices which had used rubber bands to hold the rubber parcels obliterators on to the metal bases. I can now add a third, Westmoreland Street,Dublin (Sraid an Fheistighe) in May of this year. And the day after typing that I found a fourth, Bri Chualann (Bray) ! It is as recent as 18 Sep. and is neater, in that the bands are carefully placed so as to obscure neither name nor date.

TWO-TIER LETTER SYSTEM — Judging by the times of delivery in Dublin of letters from London and other places in U.K., the 5d letters take two days and 4d take four or five days. My best example of how things used to be done is a postcard from Tiverton (Devon) to Kilkenny. It was forwarded, with the aid of the Gt.Sn. & Wn. R.P.O., and was in Dublin the day after it was posted ! This was in 1891, before airmail or even the motorcar.

"FULL-GUM" MINT — The commemoratives for Connolly and Markievicz show, even more than other recent issues, an interesting defect in the gumming. The gum is applied so thinly that it fails to reach the paper where there is the infinitesimal depression of the watermark. So the watermark is easily seen, but the stamps can hardly be described as fully gummed and I foresee many stamps being returned to dealers by the purists.

IRISHMEN & WOMEN ON FOREIGN STAMPS — A.L.Stokes has drawn my attention to an Indian issue, due 27 October, honouring the memory of Sr.Nivedita, 1868-1911. Her original name was Margaret Noble and she was born in Ireland.

CHARITY LABELS — The Rehabilitation Institute (the last organisation to fail in efforts to establish Christmas Seals in Ireland) held an Exhibition last month, and among the publicity literature given away were sheets of labels for Disabled Persons Year. The design shows one hand reaching to help another, on a red ground. Inscription is in purple. Rouletted: sheets 10x5.

FIRST-DAY CARDS — The Hibernian Stamp Co. deserves congratulations for its enterprise in having postcards,based on the stamp designs, suitable for use as "maximum" cards.

OLD POSTING BOXES — Possibly the oldest surviving wall-box in Ireland is near the top of Mount Merrion Avenue, Blackrock,Co.Dublin. It is distinguished by having the slot very high, with a pivoted cover opening inwards.It has been modified by the addition of a sloping "eaves". I do not know how long it has been there. There was one installed on the opposite side of the road about 1860, and I suspect that this is the same box, transferred.

MARKIEVICZ 3d VARIETY — Of the numerous minor flaws the one most likely to be deemed collectable is a "hair on nose" on lower pane, row 4,No.6. The same stamp has a tail to the second 8.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1968 NUMBER 149

RANDOM NOTES

POLITICAL LABELS — A.L.Stokes has generously added to my collection a label of the "Release the Irish Political Prisoners" fund set up by the National Amnesty Committee: Chairman H.Diamond,M.P.,Stormont, Belfast. Henry Diamond was first elected to Parliament in 1945 and I think that the label dates from soon after that event. It depicts a clenched fist chained to prison bars, and is roughly lithographed in black and yellow.

FENIAN ESSAY "REPRODUCTIONS" — The Cinderella Philatelist continues to find a free sample stamp or label for each subscriber in each issue. The 32nd (October 1968) is one of the Phil-art imitations perpetrated last year. My copy of the magazine happened to have the 1c, which is not likely to be mistaken for an original, being too large, and with the green colouring only on the surface of the paper.

CODES IN TRIANGLES — The October number of the B.P.S. Bulletin included a further list of the "Telegraphic Code" letter combinations used, inter alia, in the triangular frames on printed matter. Those new to me are:

AKC = Antrim
BLB = Ballybrophy
BWT = Bagnalstown
BYE = Ballymote
CTT = Carrickfergus
CVI = Castlerea
CVR = Charleville
CVU = Claremorris (before CQN)
EIM = Enfield
~~KGT = Kildare (not Kingstown)~~
LTS = Limavady
MPB = Magherafelt
MPM = Marlborough
MRJ = Monasterevan (not MJR, as reported in some lists)
MSC = Moy

SHIPS' CACHETS — Miss Wright has had a remarkably successful year in obtaining examples of the cachets of foreign ships visiting Irish ports, although the post offices have not collaborated by applying the "Paquebot" cancellations that they should.

Feb. Dutch naval "De Ruijter". Postmarked Dublin.
Mar. Danish Fishery Control Frigate "Vaederen", Dublin.
Apr. Belgian Fishery Vessel "Godetia", Cork.
May. Holland-America Line "Statendam", Galway.
" U.K. submarine visiting Dublin. Stamps cancelled on return to "Clyde Submarine Base, Helensburgh".
June. H.M.S. "Endurance", Belfast.
July. H.M.S. "Ulster", cancelled London "Maritime Mail"
Aug. French "Malgache", Dublin.
" Holland-America Line "Statendam" (different cachet)
" Italian training ship "Amerigo Vespucci", Dublin.
Sep. German training ship "Corch Fock", Cork.
" H.M.C.S. "Restigouche", Dublin

The most unusual of Miss Wright's cachets is, I think, that of the Irish Light Vessel "Blackwater", Dublin in September.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

November 1968 No.149

NEW DEFINITIVES The first point of interest is the amount of change of design which has occurred in the 15 months between the first public display and the appearance of the stamps. The main alteration has been to reduce the size of the animal, especially in the low-value dog. It is an improvement, as is the inclusion of "p" for "pingin". The one major change which was necessary has not been made. "EIRE" is still in unsuitable lettering and without the important accent. And there is still no hint that the labels are intended for postage stamps, rather than price-labels for an EIRE brand of dogfood, canned venison, etc.

The colours of the 10/- and 8d are excellent, those of the 2/6 not bright enough, and the 2d too pale. The gumming shows the deficiency remarkedon in R.N. 148.

FELDMAN HANDBOOK Congratulations to David Feldman (and all converned including myself !) on the Silver-Gilt award, with felicitations of the Judges, at the 1968 British Philatelic Exhibition.

NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM HANDBOOK If Robson Lowe had entered "The British Postage Stamp in the nineteenth century" he would have been awarded a Gold, and it is a work I heartily recommend, both as a work of reference and as an investment. It describes,and lavishly reproduces in superb colour, the greatest treasures in the National Postal Museum of the United Kingdom, There are many items of interest to IPC & EPA members, the earliest being the pane of 1840 "rainbow trials" obliterated "National Bank of Ireland". It has never been explained why this was used in the trials, but it should be remembered that the Bank's head office was (and is) in London. The next page displays magnificent Maltese Crosses, among them Mullingar on cover, Hollymount,and Ballymoe in red on a 1d red, plate XI. A remarkable example of the 2d blue unlettered proofs postally used is on cover from Skibbereen in 1841. Of the same year is the only known envelope with 1d pink embossed cancelled by red Maltese Cross, at Belfast. In 1884 the experimental printings with fugitive inks included trials on coloured papers, and there are some examples on Dublin P.O. envelopes with Dublin cancellation. Ireland is well represented in the Museum's collection of revenue stamps. Robson Lowe does not say much about the pre-1839 era, but there is mention of five volumes of Irish postal markings. These had been part of the Dendy Marshall collection, acquired intact by Mr R.M.Phillips, whose munificence has made the Museum possble. What benefactor will do the same for Ireland ?

CONNOLLY VARIETIES On both 6d and 1/- the flaws include: Left pane : row 5,no.1 "extra button"; row 2,no.5 "hole on arm"; Right pane,row2,no.8 "dark spot on waistcoat"; row 6,no.5, "dot on right knee". The 1/- has also , left pane, row 1,no.9 "dark V between "EIRE" and"1/-".

MARKIEVICZ VARIETIES 3d Top Pane,row 10,no.2 "extra lock hair" , and (later printings?) lines below Lower pane, row 1,no.1 and row 2, no.2. 1/5 has prominent white spot, Lower pane, row 5, no.5.

EIRE

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1968 - NUMBER 150

RANDOM NOTES

A NEW SOCIETY — Congratulations to Cork philatelists for having established a new "Cork Philatelic Society", meeting on the second Saturday of each month in the C.C.Y.M.S. Hall, Castle Street, and planning to organise auctions and exchange packets. Those interested should contact the Hon. Sec. Mr P.Casey, 20 Kent Park, Assumption Road, Cork.

TRANSATLANTIC AIR RACE — Although the race being organised for next May by the "Daily Mail" is primarily between London and New York it is expected that there will be flights to, from, or via Irish airports, and at least one Irish competitor will be willing to assist with specially flown covers if there is any demand .

S/S UNIVERSE IRELAND — Congratulations to Miss Wright on securing cacheted covers from the largest ship in the world, built in Japan, registered in Monrovia, and designed to bring 2,250,000 barrels of crude oil from Kuwait to Whiddy Island refinery in Bantry Bay. Miss Wright obtained the cachets on the tanker's first visit, 29 October 1968, and the Captain (American, James Hornby) kindly autographed some for her. The vessel is 1132 feet long, total loaded weight 326,585 tons, and although only 20 feet appear above sea level there are 60 feet more submerged. Four sister ships should be ready next year, one arriving at Whiddy Island every ten days.

T.E.FIELD MEMORIAL LECTURE — The attendance at the S.P.H. meeting on 4 November was disappointingly small, even with the I.P.C. visitors Fletcher, Telfer, Douglas, O'Connell and Dixon. The slides are excellent and it is hoped that many societies will borrow them and dispaly to their members. We plan to have them in Dublin for a joint EPA & IPC meeting early in the New Year.

DUBLIN DUCKWRA-TYPE — I have promised to revise the notes to accompany the slides and one interesting revision is to amend the number of known examples of the triangular PENNY POST PAID markings from six to seven, a hitherto unknown example having been acquired recently by an English collector. It has "No.7" inside and is a very fine strike.

SECOND-CLASS MAIL — A Birmingham reader of the "Irish Times" wrote to the paper reporting the results of an experiment. He had posted letters to himself in a nearby posting box. One bearing an Irish stamp was delivered without delay, but the other properly bearing a U.K. stamp had taken a day longer !

1968 EUROPA — Two varieties which I should have reported earlier are:
Top pane, row 6, no.1. line from top of e or europa to end of shaft of key.
" " " 9, " 6. retouch just above left end of key.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

December 1968 Number 150

BOGUS FENIAN STAMPS — Does anyone admit to knowing anything about a 6d "stamp" typeset in green, inscribed "EIRE / FENIAN RISING / CENTENARY/ ERIN GO BRAG / 6d. 6d." and rouletted? The examples seen are on envelopes with a well printed harp design and words "FENIAN RISING CENTENARY 1867-1967 / UN-OFFICIAL ISSUE (Ireland for Ever) FIRST DAY COVERS". To complete the spoofing there is a circular cancellation "FENIAN RISING CENTENARY / FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / 23 OCT 1967". There is even a variety of the stamp, the left 6 of a few copies being damaged and more like 5.

T.P.O. News — I was privileged to attend the formal inspection of three new 60-foot sorting carriages, made for the Dublin-Cork T.P.O., by Mr P.J.Lalor (Parl.Sec. to Minister for P.& T.), Post Office staff and the Press, on Monday 11 November. And when Mr Lalor asked for a few letters to demonstrate his prowess as a sorter the only ones available were a few I had handed in for sending on the first run of the new coaches! They were duly delivered and show that there are no new cancellers.

HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR — Sincere thanks to the various senders of f.d.c.s. The Hibernian Stamps' "Maximum Card" was well contrived except that the date in the cancellation fell on the black of the 5d stamp and is thus illegible. In the Dublin area all the early sheets were from cylinders numbered I I I, but in and around Clonmel the 5d sheets were from I 2 I, the 2 being the black, and printing less intensely than cylinder I. Ten days after the day of issue my local office (Rathgar) had only 5d Limerick Cathedral !
(LATER) 5d I 2 I has appeared in Dublin .

RECOMMENDED READING — G.Crabb's latest article on U.K. and Irish private cachets in the November "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" is recommended. And "Gabriel" Vol.XIV,No.3 has considerable information on Br.Edmund Ignatius Rice, and also an article by the Dean of Limerick in connection with the recent stamp issue.

CHURCH CENTENARY — The latest special cancellation is a neat circular handstamp used 23 Nov., reading "ST.MARY'S BELFAST 1868 1968".

CHRISTMAS SEALS — Again Ireland seems to have no Christmas Seals on sale. I was sorry to see a dealer offering the issues of the 1940s as "official Seals of the Republic of Ireland". They were issued by the Irish Red Cross, and were sold mainly through stationers. It also alleged that the first issue was in 1944. Other Irish organisations issued Christmas Seals as early as 1909.

WHERE IS ERIN ? — Those collecting "Irish" postmarks of other countries know that the U.S.A. has several towns named "Erin". But did you know there is one in Trinidad ? When slavery was abolished large numbers of Irish labourers were shipped to that island and others of the West Indies.

INVITATIONS TO AUTHORS — At least five magazines are at present planning special Irish numbers, and you are urged to try to contribute articles, preferably the results of new researches.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

CHRISTMAS 1968 NUMBER 151

RANDOM NOTES

"AN DAIL" 50th ANNIVERSARY

Philatelists and others were taken by surprise when it was disclosed, in answer to a Dail question, that 6d and 9d stamps will be issued on 21st January, the 50th anniversary of the assembly in Dublin of the Sinn Fein Members of Parliament elected the previous year. They had refused to go to Westminster, and set up their own parliament, renewing the 1916 declaration of independence. This open defiance was one of the major causes of the "Black and Tan" war.

The stamps will be largest Ireland has yet issued, and show a welcome return to Irish lettering and of the long lost accent on "ÉIRE". It is not disclosed just how much gum there will be to lick, but the size of the first newspaper illustration of the design is nearly 19x15 cms!

"FLY AER LINGUS"

After fifteen years dust-gathering the Fly Aer Lingus slogan cancellation has reappeared. It is especially surprising to find that the place of its revival is the seaport of Drogheda, which one would have expected to encourage surface transport rather than aviation.

AIRMAIL 8d Hand Flaw

One of the few slips in the Feldman Handbook is in the sheet position assigned for the "spot on hand" variety. The correct position is Row 4, No.3. The sheet with it that I have seen has an X roughly engraved below the corner marker at lower right. I had thought such Xs indicated retouchings but have not found any.

PERFORATIONS OF AIRMAIL STAMPS

Has anyone studied the changes of perforating that have occurred with the airmail stamps? The first printings had perforations across both side margins. 8d and 1/3 are found with two holes projecting into the margins. I have also 6d, 8d and 1/- with six such holes and the 1/5 with only one. Four different perforators ! And I feel that more research might show that they were associated with different printings.

CONNOLLY VARIETIES

Miss Peile points out that on both 6d and 1/-, left pane, Row 5, No.2 (next to extra button) there is a retouch on the right trouser leg near the chair.

ANOTHER SLOGAN RESURRECTION

In 1954 "THINK FIRST, SAFETY FIRST" was used all over the country. It was succeeded by the more specific road safety slogans. In November, however, Thurles brought out its old die .



My sketch is of a "skeleton" cancellation from Swords (Co.Dublin), its unusual feature being the omission of the designator for the year. I hope I have the spelling correct, but most of my example falls on the black of a 5d Human Rights Year, and is quite illegible.

E.
I.P.C. RANDOM NOTES
A.

CHRISTMAS 1968 No. 151

BIAFRA It is very welcome news that we nan again get in touch with Rev.R.Maher. The note in I.P.C. NEWS is however not complete. Items should be sent under cover to the address in Dublin.

POSTAL STATIONERY STAMPED TO ORDER The article in IRISH PHILATELY 1968 No.1 asks about "stamping-to-order" facilities at the time of change-over 1922-24. U.K. Post Office Guides, up to and including the Jan. 1922 issue, included Dublin as one of the places where stamping of cards and envelopes could be arranged, but Dublin was omitted thereafter. And the Irish Guides do not mention the facility until the edition for 1925-26.

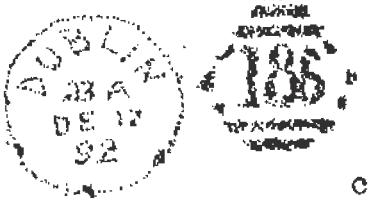
A surprising point about the Registration Envelopes is that, althoughh there were the special Irish printings with green stamps, these with 5d orange were also valid. I have two used in 1924, one at Cobh, the other at Dublin.

IRISH POSTAL HISTORY Arrangements have been made for the Society of Postal Historians "Thomas E.Field Memorial Lecture" to be given, and the slides shown, to the Old Dublin Society on 15th January 1969. Members of I.P.C. and E.P.A. will be welcome. The venue - City Assembly Rooms, 58 South William Street, Dublin, beginning at 8 p.m. F.E.Dixon will give a modified lecture, bearing in mind that many of the audience will know neither philately nor postal history. He plans to incorporate a few extra slides.

2d (MAP) DEFINITIVE SHADE The shade of the latest printing of 2/6 (6@2d,6@3d) booklets is very pale, the palest I have noticed since sheet printings of 1959.

3d PHOTOGRAVURE DEFINITIVE EPA member Sam T.Wilson has pointed out a surprising feature of the redrawn Celtic Cross: although the Celtic knots in the other arms of the cross have been faithfully copied, that at the foot of the cross has been given an opposite twist, thus





This type of combined name+date-stamp and obliterator is often called duplex although that term should be reserved for the more sought after "spoons". Will someone please make a New Year Resolution to do a thorough classification of the numerous Dublin types and sub-types. The one illustrated is remarkable for having only two bars below the 186 - probably the result of damage. The first I saw was dismissed as an incomplete strike: then another turned up, four days earlier.

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

F. E. Dixon

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1969 NUMBER 152

RANDOM NOTES



The neatest of the several styles of Receiving House stamp of the 1840-60 period is that with the name curved, within a circle, and sans-serif. Of the seven I have seen three are near Dublin, Milltown, St.Doulaughs, and that illustrated, CLOGHRAN HUDDARD. That place was formerly "Cloghran-near-Hiddert" (pronounced "heather") to distinguish from the Cloghran near Swords, and is now Ballycooley and has no post office.

HALFPENNY FISCAL STAMPS — Both the embossed and the engraved types of Halfpenny stamp used in the early 19th century to collect the advertisement tax are well illustrated in the December 1968 number of "P.J.G.B."

HALFPENNY AND OTHER DEFINITIVES — As was to be expected with the new postage rates in force from 1st Jan., the schedule of the new definitives has been modified to

6d,9d,1/9,5/- on 24th February
4d,5d,10d,1/- on 31st March
½d,1d,3d,7d on 9th June.

Thus the 1/9 (minimum airmail letter) replaces the 1/5 and, as there have been no such stamps hitherto, it is brought forward. It is bad news that the 7d value is retained. The only justification I can see is that a further rise of the normal letter rate to that figure is planned ! The most surprising news is that the ½d value will be withdrawn from general sale after 31st July, giving it what must be a record short life for a definitive !

REQUEST TO CORRESPONDENTS — Please include in your New Year Resolutions one that you will enclose the postage whenever you send an enquiry requiring an answer. With even the humble postcard costing eight times what it did when the Irish Republic was proclaimed, the outlay on postage stamps is becoming embarrassingly heavy.

MISSING YEAR — Each year I faithfully, if maliciously, record the result of the Irish Post Office's lottery for the new year plugs. One of the losers this year is Dublin E machine which opened 1969 with its year-line blank.

HALFPENNY STAMP — It was only after I had typed my remarks 2½ inches above that I realised the swindle. None of the postage rates now current (except articles for the blind, which use embossed labels) involve any odd ½d. So the new stamp is for sale only to philatelists, and therefore to be condemned.

CASTLEBAR SLOGAN — Another black mark against the Post Office. There was no notification of the slogan "You'll come again to Castlebar" which was in use during December, and withdrawn before any of us heard about it.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
January 1969 A. Number 152

BIBLIOGRAPHY The tourist magazine "Ireland of the Welcomes" has in its current issue (Jan.-Feb.) another article on Irish postage stamps. It is by David Feldman and Liam Miller and is noteworthy for the excellence of the colour reproductions. I'm sorry to see the allegation that the I.R.A.'s Cork issue was actually used. The one cover existing in support of this story is of doubtful provenance.

T.E.FIELD MEMORIAL LECTURE The transparencies have made their Irish debut. It was a private showing to Rev.J.Brennan who was in Dublin collecting his successor as I.P.C. President, H.G.L.Fletcher. Then the lecture was given to about 50 Post Office personnel, headed by the Secretary. Next day there were nearly 100 in the City Assembly House when a modified talk was given, and all the slides shown, to the Old Dublin Society plus guests from the Irish Philatelic Society. There were many appreciative remarks and expressions of surprise that Ireland should have so much Postal History.

NEW DUBLIN CANCELLER A new handstamp has come into use at the G.P.O. for cancelling to order - and also on some first-day postings of the Dail Commemoratives. It is of Langton's type G.7, with very thin lettering, and with no number at foot.

DAIL JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVES The first complaint I heard was from a counter clerk, baffled by the sheet arrangement of 9x8. My theory is that there had been a misunderstanding when the cylinders were made. The stamps are each 4x3 cms which means that twelve rows of six would have filled exactly the same size of paper as the nine rows of eight, and I suspect that the 12x6 was intended.

The printing is very bad, with scores of small white specks (some the same on the two values) and some scratches. Colours are poor and the design ineffective. The first impression is of a circus tent. The most prominent figures are the wraithlike statues. The best feature is the lettering, but that at the base is not bold enough. White letters and figures require a solid background - as was provided for the value and "6lRe".

1969 COMMEMORATIVES

April 28 C.E.P.T. (Europa) 9d and 1s 9d.
July 14 50th Anniversary of International Labour Organisation 6d 9d
Sept.1. Contemporary (sic) Irish Art. Evie Hone's window in Eton College Chapel. 1s.
October 2. Centenary of birth of Gandhi. 6d 1s 9d

POSTAL STATIONERY The first provisional caused by the new postage rates is the Electricity Supply Board's meter-readings card, stamped to order. They apparently held sufficient stock with 3d stamp to justify their being sent to the Castle for the addition of 1d alongside.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1969 NUMBER 153

RANDOM NOTES

PAQUAVION Some such word must be coined for letters posted on board aircraft. I do not know of any airline providing posting boxes yet, but such a development cannot be far away. Aer Lingus supply notepaper and arrange for the letters to be posted. My latest example was written 29 Jan. on the way to U.S.A., brought back on the return flight next day and posted in Dublin. Such a practice probably does contravenes the postal regulations but is cheaper and at least as quick as the proper procedure.

EXCHANGER ? Mr E.Birtwistle, an English emigrant to New Zealand, Civil Servant, aged 35, would like to receive Irish stamps in exchange for N.Z. Write to him c/o P.O. Box 17, GISBORNE, New Zealand.

HANDSTAMPED OVERPRINTS I'm a notorious sceptic, and among the stories I have doubted is that of handstamps issued to government offices in 1922 to overprint small stocks of postage stamps. I thought that the only handstamps were those designed to cancel the "On His Majesty's Service" on official envelopes. I was wrong in one respect: there was a rubber handstamp faithfully copying the first Dollard five-line overprint. But the example which proves it is an official envelope and the handstamp has been used in violet to cancel the O.H.M.S. heading. I now have to admit that there can exist stamps with genuinely handstamped overprints.

ERINNOPHILIC FUND In spite of valiant efforts, no-one seems to be able to compile a complete list of all the advertising stickers. As soon a list is neatly typed something else turns up which has to be squeezed in. I've just been given a hitherto unrecorded multicoloured label issued by the Royal Irish Automobile Club to advertise the Irish International Grand Prix, Phoenix Park, Dublin, July 12-13 1929.

OTHER HANDSTAMPED OVERPRINTS Among the bargains at the sale of T.E.Field's stamps were the covers with stamps bearing the unofficial overprint "IRISH FREE STATE PROV.GOVT." Although used as early as 19 December 1921 there is little doubt that these did pass through the post in their overprinted state. I predict keen bidding when the next examples are auctioned - in the next I.P.C.Auction !

1844 CANCELLATIONS R.P.Woods is doing further research into the varieties of the numbered obliterators introduced in 1844. A question I have asked before, but still unanswered is "Has anyone an Irish Maltese Cross used later than 22 June 1844, or a numbered obliterator used before that date ?" As 22 June was a Saturday I suspect that Monday 24th was the scheduled day for the inauguration of the new devices, but confirmation is desirable.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

February 1969 No. 153

E.P.A. AWARD — I would like to express my sincere gratitude, both to the E.P.A. for honouring me with the Thomas E.Field Award for 1969, and to the many philatelists and others who have sent messages of congratulation. I am particularly touched by comparisons between Mr Field and myself, because I have made a conscious effort to imitate his thoroughness and his attitude to other enthusiasts.

ALCOCK & BROWN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS — There is widespread disappointment that there will be no Irish stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first transatlantic flight. Will there be even a postmark ? Manchester has a well designed slogan cancellation, depicting the aircraft and with the words "Manchester Airport salutes Alcock & Brown, 1919-1969. First Atlantic flight - by two Manchester men."

V.A.LINNELL, of Montreal, Vice-President of the E.P.A., plans to have a few days in Dublin, either at the beginning or or at the end of a holiday beginning 22 March. In the expectation that he can start here I am provisionally planning a meeting of interested I.P.C. and E.P.A. members at 15 Terenure Road (East),Dublin 6 at 8 p.m. on Monday 24th March. Mr Linnell will show his slides of Irish overprints, which have already been acclaimed by the Canadian R.P.S. who had the set copied for their library.

THE MISSING YEARS — Mr Richards reports that Ballinasloe had no "1969" plug for its machine canceller at the beginning of the year. One was therefore improvised, reading "6 / 9"

The Bray postmaster was less enterprising: he left the year line blank.

6d ÍOCHTA CANCELLATION — On 2 February the Dublin G machine was used to cancel ordinary mail with the "6D ÍOCHTA" die still in place, but with the ink black. This is quite a rare error, more so than the similar misuse of "OFFICIAL PAID"

NEW DEFINITIVES — Nothing special to report about the four values released on 24 February. The shapes of the digits 6 and 9 are quite absurd.

STAMPS RE-ISSUED — There are again reports of bygone commemorative issues, no longer obtainable from the G.P.O. philatelic section, being put on sale at provincial offices.

MINISTER'S SPEECH — The annual survey in connection with the token supplementary estimate had little news for philatelists. The most interesting is that the very cheap postage on literature for the blind is to be replaced by free transmission. This ought to mean an interesting new type of postage label..

EIRE
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MARCH 1969 — RANDOM NOTES — NUMBER 154

CONCORDE STAMPS — I like the Goaman version of the aircraft, on the 4d value of the new U.K. issue, but his distortion of the coastlines is grossly unfair to Ireland !

U.K. HIGH VALUE DEFINITIVES — Sincere thanks to the various senders of f.d.c. Line engraving is still the best means of producing attractive stamp designs, and it is very regrettable that the Irish authorities should have abandoned it. Admittedly their last use of the method (Limerick Cathedral) was inferior, and it is hard to realise that the new U.K. definitives come from the same firm that perpetrated that badly drawn cathedral.

FELDMAN PRICE LIST — The new edition of the price list shows further rises in the prices of the more popular items, and for the commemoratives there are now three columns, headed "Unmounted", "Mint" and "Used". Simpler, and more accurate would be "Mint", "Unused" and "Used". Although many of the new prices can be justified, few will agree with the new quotations for the Fehian Essays, beginning with £3000 for the 1 cent !

POSTAGE DUE 1s — The increase in postage rates made it inevitable that there would be a Shilling Postage Due label, and this came into existence more expeditiously than such things usually happen, the date of issue being 10 February.

ESPERANTO CONGRESS — Just too late for inclusion in the last Random Notes we received the announcement that mail posted in the first Esperanto Congress to be held in Ireland, in Trinity College, Dublin, will receive a cachet : "la Irlanda 53 Brita Kongreso de Esperanto 4-7 Apr 1969 Dublino". (But see P.N. 155 :)

STAMPEX AWARDS — Congratulations to members Kane and Feldman on the medals. Why were there no other entries from Ireland, or of Ireland ? Is everyone waiting for an Exhibition in Ireland ? Will we get one organised in 1972 for the Golden Jubilee of the overprints ? Who is able and willing to devote the necessary time to make the arrangements ?

SPECIAL NUMBERS — "Stamp Collecting" of 13th March has a useful plug for the E.P.A. by President J.E.Foley, a long general account of the Overprints by V.A.Linnell, and a useful article for postmark collecting novices by Mrs Boyd. The only European to contribute an Irish article is John Bentley whose account of the Irish Sea Packets at the beginning of the 19th century. Strongly recommended.

E,
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

March 1969 No.154

SPECIAL NUMBERS (Cont.) "The Philatelic Magazine" of 14th March has a page by R.M.Willcocks on Early Cancellations of Ireland, a page by F.E.Dixon on that 10/- doubly overprinted, once inverted, ⅔ page by David Feldman on Price Trends, with a note on the author; and a ½-page query from E.C.Ehrmann on the printing of the first definitives.

"Philatelia" gives more space to Irish than does "Fyndem", but I disagree with his diagnosis that the rising standard of living in Ireland is a cause for the boom. It is overseas that the demand for Irish stamps has increased most rapidly.

RUBBER-BAND CANCELLATIONS It was last May that I first found Wicklow to be using a rubber band to reinforce its parcels canceller. Now, ten months later, the rubber band has worn out and been replaced by another.

VISITORS One visitor is very disappointed to be missing V.A.Linnell, he being booked to leave Dublin the very day that the latter is showing his slides. The unfortunate is the celebrated Dan O'Herlihy, who showed me some lovely items, including an item whose existence I had predicted, the 9d Dollard with POSTAGE.

Another visitor due soon is Rev.P.Maher, due in Ireland on leave from Biafra, and who sent me a very colourful aerogram from Sao Tomé. Why cannot the Irish Post Office imitate San Tomé, both by issuing attractive aerograms and by accenting their E in Eire? It is a marvellous inconsistency that the Irish forms do have the accent on AEROGRAMME !

HALFPENNY O'CLERY Stocks are running low in Dublin G.P.O. and the sheets being placed on sale must be from near the bottom of the pile. Paper, gum, ink and the smallness of the e in the watermark, all agree in assigning them to one of the earliest printings, nearly 25 years old. One "flaw" I found seems to the stain left by the corpse of a small spider !

CLISIKO POSTILAITOSTEN MERKKIJAANNOSVARASTOT POLTETTAVA ? This is the fascinating heading in "Philatelia Fennica", reaching me from Finland via Hans Moxter in Mexico. The prominence of my own name in the article, combined with the presence of certain dates, suggests that the article is on the causes of the revival in Irish philately, based on the foreword to the Feldman Handbook. Bibliographers please note !

"CINDERELLA PHILATELIST" April issue has an article on "Some Irish Cinderellas" and a note on the Irish Old Age Pensions stamps, both by F.E.Dixon, and the free gift with the issue is one of the O.A.P. stamps. Also of interest is the news that I.P.C. President H.G.L.Fletcher was the first winner of the Glass Slipper trophy.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1969 — NUMBER 155

RANDOM NOTES

DUBLIN MEETING 24 MARCH

There was chaos at 15 Terenure Road (E) on 24 March. Ten philatelists assembled to meet Mr Linnell and see his slides. However, they found the Drawing Room already occupied by my wife showing slides of the garden to a group of ladies ! Fortunately there is space elsewhere and later we ejected the ladies and took over the use of projector and screen. The slides are superb and present a very clear introduction to the Irish overprints and their major varieties. The evening passed very pleasantly, but there never seemed to be a chance of getting down to business; i.e. discussing the old problem of the closer liaison between E.P.A. and I.P.C. For the record it should be stated that those present were V.A.Linnell, Rev.J.Brennan, G.Brady, D.Buchalter, D.Feldman, M.Giffney, W.Kane, P.Pigot, R.Steen, A.L.Stokes and F.E.Dixon.

ESPERANTO CONGRESS

Just as well that R.N.154 was not circulated in time for you all to seek examples of the promised cachet. When the Esperantists learned that all they were allowed was a cachet, and not a cancellation, they decided not to have one. The Congress did have on sale stickers showing the usual green star, with a shamrock in a heptagon at the centre. And John Hinde produced special printings of four of his very colourful viewcards with the inscription "SALUTOJN DE LA 53a BRITA KONGRESO DE ESPERANTO".

"TREES FOR IRELAND"

is the appeal on another recent sticker, printed in black. There is a background of tree trunks and also the words "MARTA ARBOR MONTH". It is peculiar to put the name of the month in Irish and the rest of the wording in English.

SPRING SHOW

As the Esperanto stickers cost 1½d each and I do not know where to obtain the Trees stickers, the only one I can present to you is the usual Spring Show advertisement.



I.P.C. A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting will be in Dublin on 3rd or 4th May, so those of you who can make a holiday out of the trip can stay on for that Spring Show, which is primarily an Industrial Fair with the main emphasis on agriculture. There are sheep-shearing demonstrations and the ever-popular demonstrations of sheep-dogs shepherding, and a full programme of horse jumping competitions.



An unusual example of coded time, as normally seen in circular cancellers of ordinary mail. It almost certainly decodes as 10 a.m.

E.

I.P.C. Random Notes

April 1969 A. Number 155

POSTAGE DUE 2d

W.Mathews reports that some 2d postage due recently obtained from the philatelic section are in a quite new shade and that they also differ from earlier printings by having no horizontal bars in the gutter.

10/- DOUBLY OVERPRINTED, ONCE INVERTED

There is a footnote to be added to my story as given in R.N. last year and in Phil.Mag. last month. The block of four disposed of in Dublin before the other saleable pieces went to London has never left Ireland! I had been misinformed as to the fate of this block. It was Mr O'Conor Brady, now 84, who obtained it as a swop for a few choice duplicates. On 10th April he emerged from retirement and displayed his 3-line overprints to the Irish Philatelic Society and pointed out the very special piece as the only item on show which he had bought in post offices at face value .





Illustrated here, thanks to D.Feldman, are two hitherto unrecorded "postmarks". It is possible that neither exists as a cancellation: both are copied from impressions on post office labels or waybills. My guess is that the Dublin Night Mail handstamp was used in Cork.

GUILD OF ST.GABRIEL

The quarterly bulletin of the British and Irish Guild for collectors of Christian religious stamps has a very fine issue to start its 15th volume . There are two articles by F.E.Dixon, one on Saints' Postmarks in Ireland and the other on the Irish 1950 Holy Year stamp issue.

POST OFFICES' CODES

From time to time I have reported additions to the lists of what I normally term "telegraphic" code letters, although some have been taken from the triangular cancellations, and some from parcels post labels and cancellers. I now find it necessary to issue a warning that the code letters were not always identical. The example which I found is Lower Baggot St.,Dublin which is telegraphically DUBLIN M, but which in 1923 incorporated PPD in its parcels post rectangular rubber stamp.

"1844" KILLERS

A.T.Sedgley reports that at least one of the old numbered cancellers is still in use. He has a 57 used at Bray in January to deface a stamp which had accidentally escaped obliteration elsewhere.



The cancellation for the temporary office in the Shelbourne Hotel,Dublin, for the overlapping meetings of the International Public Relations Association and the Conférence Européen des Relations Publiques.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

MAY 1969 — RANDOM NOTES — NUMBER 156

"IRISH RECEIVING HOUSE STAMPS 1840-1860"

Another of the articles intended for the spate of special Irish numbers of the magazines, has appeared. It was not ready in March as planned but is in STAMP COLLECTING WEEKLY for 1st May. It will I hope be useful to some of you getting interested in the remarkably numerous styles of postmarks used at the smallest sub-offices.

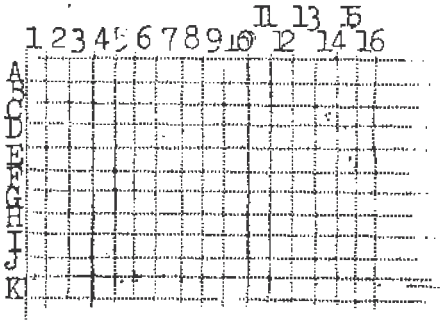
I.P.C. A.G.M.

The Dublin meeting was very pleasant, but I will leave it to Mr Telfer to report the proceedings. I would like to express thanks to the outgoing officers and good wishes to their successors. Especially I must refer to Noel Langton's continued efforts on behalf of the Irish Sector of the Circle. Now he will have more time for collecting and it is Peter Pigot who will have the frequent task of addressing, filling, and despatching all the batches of Random Notes and Auction Lists and Reports.

DESCRIBING AND/OR ILLUSTRATING STAMP VARIETIES

What is the most convenient way to present information about stamp varieties ? Sketches (e.g. those of Markievicz & Connolly with M. Phelan's article in "Irish Philately") are very desirable, but they require a lot of time and trouble. And when the varieties are numerous the number of sketches may become excessive. I would like to urge more use of the co-ordinate system, the best known philatelic application being the Position Finder attributed to "Thirkell". It is not necessary to buy the printed gadget. Make your own:

Copy this diagram onto thin perspex or strong clear tracing paper, making the squares just 3 millimetres each way. For use place it over the stamp with the A1 square on the top left corner. Then the position of any variety or other feature can be specified by the letter and number of the appropriate square or squares.



DAIL JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE VARIETIES

I have used this system to help you to study the flaws of the 1969 DAIL commemoratives. All the spots and blobs and retouches listed are found on both values. Several of them deserve catalogue ranking, and the printing of 16,000,000 of the 6d should supply enough for all enthusiasts to find adequate numbers for research. But most of the 2,000,000 9d have gone abroad, and those used in Ireland were on parcels: so fine used showing the major varieties will be very hard to find.

E.

I.P.C RANDOM NOTES

A.

May 1969 No.156

Varieties of "An ĊÉAD DÁIL" Commemorative Stamps 6d and 9d

Sheet Position Row, Column		Description	Thirkell Position
I,2		Dot left of second window	C3
I,7	*	Dot on right frame of seventh window and Dot over éA	C11 I3
I,9		Dot on white rail	H9
II,1		White spot on front seat	H6
II,2		Dots on margin between An and ċéad	I2
II,3		Small dot on balcony rail	D10,11
II,6		Dot near ninth "porthole"	A8
"	*	White spot between dAlL and date	I8
II,7		Small spot on rail post	G,H10
II,8	*	Dot above top right of value tablet	A2
III,1	*	Dot between eighth and ninth portholes	B8
III,2		Dot on drapes over seventh porthole	A7
III,3		Extra dot on rim of seventh porthole	B7
III,6		Dot below ninth porthole	B8
III,8		Dot between An and ċéad	I2
III,9		Dot over 21	I10
IV,1	*	Dot in front of reader's foot, and	G6
"		Dot above second 9 of 1919	I12
IV,2	*	Small retouch left of An	I1
IV,3		Dot on hangings over second porthole	A4
IV,6		Dot near centre of A of An	I1
"		Small dot between dAil and 21	I8
IV,7	*	White apostrophe before 1919	I11
IV,8	*	Dot below readersfoot (Compare IV,1)	G-H,6-7
V,1		Small dot in first é of éIRe (varies)	A9
V,2	*	Line on floor	H8
"		Dot on drapery over fourth porthole	A5
"		Line near top left corner of second window	C3
V,3		Two small dots next d of dAil	I5
V,4	*	Two dots on dais table	E9,F9
V,7	*	Dot in first window	C2
"		White accent to l of dAil	I6
V,8	*	Line down centre (just detectable on IV,8 above and VI,8 below)	A8-I7
V,9	*	Three dots along line of lights	B4,5,7
"		Retouched(?)spot right of dAil	I7
VI,2		Dot under light below eIRe	B9
VI,4		Dot on drapery over eighth window	A7
VI,8	*	Dot on dais	F10 G10
VI,9	*	Dot on first statue	D-E2
"		Small dot on first hyphen	I10
VII,4	*	Prominent retouch behind middle row of seats	H4,I4
VII,8	*	Dot on fifth window	C7-8
"		Dot on side of front seat	H8
"		Dot on table at right	H11
"		Dot touching A of ĊéAd	I3

(to be continued)

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

MAY 1969 NUMBER 157

RANDOM NOTES

"An CeAd dAil" varieties continued:-

VII,9	Small dot in i of dAil and white spot below.	I6
VIII,1	Dot in second 9 of 1919	I12
VIII,2 *	Dot in sixth window	C9
VIII,3 *	Dot on the bald head	H13
"	Dot below the coat of arms	C10
VIII,9 *	Retouch below seventh porthole	B7
"	Dot on side of seat	I4
"	Dot on end of dais	G10

NOTES . The asterisks denote the more prominent of the varieties, visible to the unaided eye when you know where to look and what to look for.
"First" etc. indicates the sequence from the left side of the stamp. The first of the row of what look like portholes is almost invisible.
Total listed 58 varieties on 39 stamps.

"THE VOICE OF IRELAND" In the early days of the Irish Free State a very handsome volume was published with this title, and described on the titlepage as A Survey of the Race and Nation from all angles, by the foremost leaders at home and abroad . This was no exaggeration the contents being really comprehensive and the authors the most eminent and best qualified. Thus Seamus S.Breathnach (James J.Walsh) wrote on "The Future of the Irish Postal Service" and in his article displayed considerable knowledge of Irish Postal History . One incident mentioned I would like more details of. It is stated that in 1843 (but from the context probably 1834) 10,000 people gathered to deride and fling mud at the newly organised mail coaches. A charge by the 5th Dragoon Guards was needed to disperse the crowds. The illustration to the article is of J.J.W. and two other men studying a tableful of essays for the new Irish stamps. The half-tone reproduction is not sharp enough for the designs to be identifiable.

UNRECORDED OVERPRINT VARIETY ? A.W.Hughes reports 2½ Dollard (SG4) on which the C of SEALADAC appears to be inverted. Although I've seen numerous cases of damage to this letter, including its almost complete disappearance, I have seen nothing answering Mr Hughes's description. Have you ?

ANOTHER CONFERENCE International Federation for Housing and Planning has a temporary P.O. with Skeleton handstamp, in use 19th to 24th May (not from 18th as announced).

THURLES CANCELLATION ERROR On or about 30 March Thurles machine omitted the most important data, the result reading 11PM 1969 with the third line blank !

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

May 1969 Number 157

MISUSED 1/- Changes of stamp colours always cause confusion. I have seen an ordinary 1 ounce letter with 1/- O'Clery stamp, obviously put on by mistake for the 6d dog definitive, also brown.



Collcctors of curious official envelopes must try to obtain one bearing this symbol of the Irish Decimal Currency Board, under the Department of Finance. The symbol represents two hands, thumb to thumb, and is a reminder that the decimal system is based on courting the fingers and thumbs.

NATIONAL MUSEUM PHILATELIC COLLECTION It is regrettably necessary to advise visitors that none of the stamps are now accessible to the casual caller. If you wish to see any of the frames it is necessary to make written application to Dr.A.T.Lucas, Director of the Museum. This restriction is grossly unfair to philatelists oonsidering that numismatists can see thousands of coins and medals on open display, and worth far more than the vast majority of the stamps.

GORMANSTON CAMP CANCELLATION Those interested in the various Camp postmarks should note that the handstamp of Gormanston Camp, Co.Meath (now an Air Corps airfield) had a replacement in 1922. The earlier was 26 mm diameter, with letters about 4mm tall. The later was the same diameter, but the letters were only 3 mm. In between one finds a 34-35mm skeleton. My example is 4 Jan. 1922.

BEGINNERS' BOOK Hibernian Stamp Co. is to be congratulated on the 12-page introduction to Irish stamps which they include with their handsome packets, designed expecially for sale to tourists.

AN CÉAD DÁIL VARIETIES: Addenda

I,1	Dot below 1 of Dail	I-J6
II,1	Line across lower left corner	H1-I1
III,9	White spot on end of settee	F3
VI,7	Dot at foot of A of CéAd	I3

This brings totals to 62 varieties on 41 stamps.

STRAWBERRY FAIR Those of you who can get to Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, should note that the attractions of the Strawberry Fair, 28 June to 6 July, will include a philatelic and postal history display organised by the South Eastern Philatelic Society, with Fr.Brennan taking a prominent part.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1969 — RANDOM NOTES — NUMBER 158

SPELLING MISTAKE — A.L.Stokes has discovered a remarkable mistake in the first Irish circular-date-stamp issued to Portumna,Co.Galway. The county is specified as Cº. NA GAILLINNE instead of Cº NA GAILLIMHE ! Stafford Johnson notes record that the stamp was registered as ready for issue to Portumna in June 1922. Mr Stokes's present to me is dated 27 Sep. 1922. How long before it was corrected ?

½d FOR THE BLIND — Last-minute representations from philatelists failed to stop the issue of the unnecessary ½d stamp on 9th June. The official justification is that an odd ½d is still present in the postal rates, those on parcels of literature for the blind. However, the Senate has passed a Bill cancelling these charges, and, although it is not yet Law, kindly postal officials have anticipated the enactment and have been accepting the parcels free for some time. Moreover, when the postage was charged it was normally prepaid by stamps embossed on printed labels so that the ½d adhesive was not needed. Incidentally Ireland is the last country in Europe to introduce the legislation allowing these parcels free.

1922 ESSAYS — Five years ago the 2nd I.P.C. Postal Auction included a remarkable series of the essays by O'LOUGHLIN,MURPHY & BOLAND, and we collected together all the information about them that we could, and it is well summarised in the Feldman Handbook (pp 71-72). Now another has turned up. Miss Wright has the 10/- value printed in violet - a colour not known hitherto for any of the series.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS FEE STAMPS — Among the most attractive and interesting of Irish revenue stamps are the numerous and complicated issues for the Registration of Deeds. There were long series of both adhesive and embossed stamps, and one can find examples of each on a single deed. A major complication is the existence of the embossed dies, printed in grey-blue on gummed, watermarked, paper. Until recently I had not seen examples. Now I have,and find that they were cancelled in Belfast, in 1902 and 1903. This is consistent with the similar use of General Duty dies sold in the offices there, but I can see no explanation for using them instead of the surface-printed adhesives. Has anyone any ideas ?

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

June 1969 No. 158

NORTHERN IRELAND CANCELLATIONS

My thanks to the senders of covers with the special cancellation of the "Ulster" recruiting campaign for the U.K. Forces, especially to Mr Sedgley who contrived to have it on a Forces Air Letter. He advises three slogans:
Coleraine Civic Week 30thMay-6th June, used from 15 May.
Bangor Festival of Light Opera,Gilbert & Sullivan, May 17- 24.
Ballymena Civic Week: Expand with Ballymena:May 24-31.

PagusT, the staff magazine of the Irish Post Office, has found a new name for me - a postscholiast. I rather like it, as many of these "Random Notes" are in the nature of scholia, i.e. explanatory comments. One major news item in the new issue reports that when the S.S.Orsova (P.& O.) visited Ireland early in May an Irish Post Office was set up on board during a special short cruise from Cobh to Whiddy Island and back. It is not specified what canceller was used in the floating office, or whether the items posted were dealt with as Cobh Paquebot items.

AN CEAD DAIL STATISTICS

If a sheet comprises n different stamps, the chance of finding examples of all the n in a lot of N single copies is given by the formula

$$C = \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^{N}\right]^{n}$$

. This means that for n=72 (as in the Dail Jubilee commemoratives) N must be nearly 400 before the odds are in favour of your having all the varieties ! By the time you find the last you will have as many as ten, or even twelve, of some of the others.

ESSAYS

D.Feldman has discovered some very interesting essays, probably dating from 1912, when George V stamps were being designed for the whole British Empire. One is large,40x49mm, with value 1 cent, headed "BRITISH EMPIRE" and with a portrait of King George in the centre. At the foot is a blank tablet for the name of the colony or dominion. The other is a reduction of the same design, 18x24mm, value 1d, and with IRELAND at foot. A peculiar feature is that the portrait is from a half-tone block whereas the surround is typographed. Can anyone confirm the date or tell us more about the essays?

CANARD !

A friend in U.S.A. sends me a cutting with assertions by a Philadelphia philatelist that Penny Blacks were not sold in Ireland outside Dublin and that Mulready envelopes and wrappers not available even in Dublin !! Had he never heard of the T.E.Field collection with nearly 100 1d blacks on Irish covers and about 50 Irish used Mulreadies, mostly used in the provinces ? How do such stories get around ? Are they spread by unscrupulous dealers trying to exaggerate the rarity of their wares ? The relative scarcity of the Irish-used items is due mainly to the population being less than half that of Great Britain, and with a smaller proportion able to write.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JULY 1969 NUMBER 159

RANDOM NOTES

RECEIVING HOUSE MANNERS

We tend to think that the increase of incivility as well as that of inefficiency is a recent development. Not so! The following is transcribed from "The Train" magazine of July 1856 (the journal in which C.L.Dodgson first used the Lewis Carroll pseudonym).

"What is there in a Government appointment that compels the holder of it to act like a brute? How is it that a shopkeeper, because his house is made a receiving-house for letters, cannot possibly be civil to anyone who enters upon post-office business? I went the other day into a shop belonging to a watchmaker, which shop was also a post-office, and holding a dozen letters in my hand requested he would let me have a shilling's worth of stamps. He held his hand out without speaking. Thinking that he desired to look at the letters I intended posting, I offered them to him. He shook his head impatiently, gave a savage grunt, and once more stretched out his hand. This time I guessed correctly. He required payment in advance. I gave the shilling and received the stamps, which I was about to stick on. Then broke the silence -

"I don't allow stamps to be stuck on in my shop"

This prohibition was extremely awkward, I was some mile or two from home, and it was nearly post time. I begged as a special favour that he would for once depart from his stern rule. Lo! he consented! and, in a voice like that with which we bid an intruding cur "get out", he said "Go over there and do it, then."

I did go over there, and did it; over there being the darkest and dirtiest corner of the shop. Still was I grateful for the kind exception in my favour. Probably very few had been allowed to stick their stamps on - even over there.

And yet I know this watchmaker, in his non-official capacity, to be the civillest of tradesmen. It happened that I once - it was in happier days when I could afford such luxuries - purchased a gold watch at that self-same shop. He was polite enough on that occasion. I wonder what has changed him ! There must be something that we know not of in Government appointments. "



I've been asked, not for the first time, about the triangular (or trilateral) IRISH postmark. It was first use early this century on missorted mails, but did not appear as a cancellation until World War II. It was then used on items (mainly periodicals) handed in to the Censorship and passed by them to the Post Office. Such handing in saved at least a day.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

July 1969 No.159

POSTING OF R.N.156,157

You were probably surprised that the first-day covers of the new definitives which brought you our last issues should have been so long in transit. Mr.Pigot had handed them beforehand, and the philatelic section of Dublin G.P.O. kindly affixed the stamps and cancelled them and despatched them in due course. Note the unnumbered canceller, which I think we may classify as reserved for philatelic mail.

1950 HOLY YEAR STAMPS

It is widely known that the statue of St.Peter from which the design was taken is in Rome. A postcard picture reveals that there is a very faithful copy of it in London - at the Brompton Oratory. Are there more ?

NON-PHILATELIC SILVER MEDAL

With all due modesty, I feel that it should be disclosed that the Old Dublin Society's annual medal for the best paper of the season has been awarded to me (F.E.Dixon) for my talk on Irish Postal History, based on the T.E.Field memorial lecture and illustrated mainly by the slides prepared by the Society of Postal Historians.

DUBLIN HORSE SHOW



Again I must apologise for not having enough to affix an example to every copy of this issue of Random Notes. I have 500 labels but have 530 copies to print. The design is rather feeble in label size, and looks better as a poster. We hoped for something special, it being 50 years since the Horse Show stickers came on the scene.

ALCOCK & BROWN

Celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the flight included feting at Clifden Messrs Tommy Lee and Gene Locke who had reflown the route in a Piper Navajo. Unfortunately weather would not allow them to land at Clifden: they flew to Shannon and transferred to a smaller plane for the final hop. They carried [illegible] letters for Newspaper Editors etc. but I do not know of any coming on the market. The flight was sponsored by the Royal Trust Co.

WARNING

"Irish Philately" mentions a home-made Ultra-violet lamp. Be careful. It is very dangerous for the UV rays to reach the eye. The lamp must be effectively screened and the stamps being inspected should be laid on black paper.

NEWMAN 1/5 PROOFS

I am pleased to be able to report that the sheet recently advertised by Bridger & Kay has been returned to official custody, and will not be sold.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1969 — NUMBER 160

RANDOM NOTES

P.PIGOT — Some philatelists are rather secretive, concealing their enthusiasm from even friends and associates. It is equally normal for philatelists to regard as guilty secrets any interests outside philately. If, however, his prowess is outstanding, a man cannot escape publicity. So I feel that you should all know that Mr Pigot, the Irish area secretary of the I.P.C., was one of the heroes of the Irish Bridge team which performed admirably in the European championships at Oslo, especially in defeating the champions, Italy.

ALCOCK & BROWN — I have been asked about a cachet and special envelopes posted in Clifden on 14 June. I have not seen them, but understand that it was a private speculation.

ENNISCORTHY EXHIBITION CACHET — The envelope and cachet for the Enniscorthy philatelic exhibition, 29 June-6 July, were in a different category, being organised by the South-eastern Philatelic Society. I was unable to attend, but heard loud praise for the success of their initial effort.

"BREMEN" POSTCARD — An unusual souvenir of the 1928 first westbound transatlantic flight has just been given me. It is a picture postcard, with wording in German, issued in Milwaukee, U.S.A. to commemorate the welcome given there on 13-14 May to the triumphant trio Köhl, Hünefeld and Fitzmaurice. It describes itself as the first international commemorative airpostcard and was flown from Milwaukee to New York and may also have flown for the hop London to Germany.

POST OFFICES' CODES — Thanks to D.Feldman, here are some more additions to the lists of code letters, as used on Parcel Post labels early in this century:

BCD Ballylanders	DLY Donaghcloney	LTO Leighlinbridge
BLN Ballycarry	EIS Enniskerry	LYR The Rock, Londonderry
BWV Balbriggan	EYS Eyeries	NWL The Naul
BYA Ballymahon	FCK Shanagolden	QEC Connswater
BYQ Baltimore	FKE Feakle	QEG Bradbury Place
BZD Beragh	FRM Freemount	QEO Ballynafeigh
BZP Borrisoleigh	GIP Glanmire	QGZ Ballintogher
CTH Caherconlish	KIN Kiltyclogher	TIG Tandragee
CVA Castleconnell	KIT Stoneview, Kingstown	TNY Tamney
CVY Clogheen		

6d SAVINGS STAMP — The change in design of the 6d definitive postage stamp necessitated a change in the Savings Stamp, and an attractive new design, featuring a wolfhound, was on sale early in July at a few offices, without any advance notice to collectors.

CENTENARY CANCELLATION — My thanks to P.V.Sullivan for the machine cancellation of the centenary celebrations at Avoca, Iowa, one of over a dozen U.S.A. towns to have that name !

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

August 1969 Number 160

I.L.O.JUBILEE STAMPS — The Irish issue will surely rank as the least successful adaptation of the internationally agreed motif. Who is to blame for such ignorant mistakes as having white lettering on a yellow ground? No competent printer or artist could approve it. The E of EIRE still lacks its accent. And the hand-outs still allege that the paper has watermark E, instead of the e.

POST OFFICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1969 — Almost the first legislation in the new Dail was to put through this Bill which has three main subjects. It abolishes the charges on literature for the blind and enables the Minister to extend the concession to others - as yet unspecified. It gives the Minister more power in increasing rates. And, most sinister, it enables him to delay 2nd class mail if he thinks he can thereby improve the efficiency of handling 1st class mail. The Opposition raised the obvious objections, without achieving any amendment.

IRISH PRESENTATION PACKS — Yet another infuriating example of the muddling of the Irish Post Office is the fact that, without any announcement or advertisement, they have produced what many have asked for. The current definitive set from ½d to 10/- (total face 24/10½) is on sale in neat pochetted cards with descriptive literature. However, the price of 27/6 is excessive. A proper figure would be 26/-. The cover has the accent on ÉIRE

LAST DAY OF HALFPENNY — My thanks to the senders of special covers posted on 31 July, especially Mr Mathews for his clever use of Reply-paid postcards to obtain the HALFPENNY GREEN cancellation on Irish stamps.

NEW 1s9d STAMP — A further black mark against the Irish Post Office. They failed to advise us that the new registration envelopes were ready for issue. The first supply reached Dublin GPO on 13th August but I have seen no first-day examples. The design is similar to previous ones, except that the values are abbreviated (1/3 & 6p) instead of in words. The "CLARE" and "POSTAS" are enlarged to fill the spaces, and the result is less attractive than the earlier dies.

This will be one of the collectable errors in that the text on the reverse of the envelope refers to the minimum registration fee of 1s instead of 1s 3d. So far I have seen only size F.

SHANAHANS' FINALE — At last, ten years after the bubble burst, Shanahans' investors and other creditors have some of their money. Most received 8s 8d in the pound, but some rather less.

PRESIDENT'S EVENING, LEICESTER — Mr.A.Acheson sends you a cordial invitation to see some of his Irish stamps, 23 September, 6.45 pm, in the Constitutional Club, Rupert St., Leicester.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1969 NUMBER 16.

RANDOM NOTES

INADMISSIBLE AT PRINTED PAPER RATE

This is a wording I have not seen before for an Irish post office. It occurs on an understamped envelope from Ballinasloe, dated May 1969, and is accompanied by "4D /TO PAY/ 32"

REV. R. MAHER is safely back in Biafra but finds the situation precarious with insufficient relief getting through. Letters for him should be addressed Rev.R.Maher(Biafra) c/o Rev.M.Kenny, B.P.1146,Libreville,Gabon, W.Africa.

IRISH COMMEMORATIVES 1970

1. C.E.P.T. (Europa)
2. European Conservation Year
3. 50th anniversary of death of T.McSwiney
4. 250th anniversary of Royal Cork Yacht Club
5. 50th anniversary of the death of Kevin Barry
6. A work of art by a contemporary Irish artist.

One feels that the first and last should be combined in view of the fact that Louis Le Brocquy's design will be used for the Europa issue.

BELFAST SPECIAL CANCELLATION

It is appropriate that St John's Ambulance Brigade should have organised a recruiting week last month when the efforts of such services did much to relieve the sufferings of those caught up in the disastrous conflicts. My example of the special rectangular datestamp is 23 August.



A cruel joke has been played on the Irish Post Office. The design at left purports to be a monogram of p and t so positioned that they form a natural + symbol to act as a conjunction between them. What the Kilkenny Design Workshops have really done is to symbolise that the postal service is crumbling and the telegraph service quite broken down.

The new device will appear on a white ground, at first on motor vehicles, possible later of posting boxes etc. The perpetrator of the joke is an orange man, and he has persuaded the Department that the dark green now in vogue will be replaced by orange. It is officially termed "marigold" and will also be used on vans, pillar boxes, telephone kiosks and elsewhere.

ISRD DUBLIN 1969

A cachet will be applied to mail posted at the 11th World Congress of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, to be held on the R.D.S. premises, Ballsbridge, from 13th to 19th September.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

September 1969 No. 161

"CONTEMPORARY IRISH ART" 1s STAMP

The new stamp on 1st September is another flop. Even its vast size is not large enough to fairly represent the subject and it would have been preferable to show only a few panels of the window on a larger scale. The brown partitioning is absurd: grey should obviously have been used. The muddy panel of the inscription should have been white. To use "e" in "evie" and "E" in EIRE shows a disordered mind, and to omit the dot from the i is as bad as the omission of the EIRE accent. Yet another mistake is "eton chapel" instead of "eton college chapel".

ORANGE

Overleaf is mentioned the adoption of "marigold" as the P+T colour. Since typing that I have found some advice to Orange Lodges regarding banners: "The colour is of itself very beautiful, but agrees badly with almost every other. Purple when judiciously used with it presents a fine contrast, but it should be used sparingly"

C.I.A. 1s VARIETY

The first variety reported is a short 1 in 1894, on the first stamp of the second row, and therefore found in corner cylinder number blocks.

LONDONDERRY SLOGANS

The disastrous discord in what most Irish people call Derry has not interfered with the machine canceller's publicity campaign. The latest I have seen has a neat depiction of the city's Bishop Gate and the slogan "LONDONDERRY. GATEWAY TO INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION. SITES READILY AVAILABLE."

ECLAÍ AN PHOIST

New editions of the Irish Post Office Guide, both parts, have been published, price 2/- each part. Part I is the more useful to us, it having the lists of Post Offices in English and Irish as well as general information. Part II is concerned entirely with Foreign Services. The first mistake to catch my eye is the continued inclusion of the charges on literature for the blind. On the other hand we are informed of postal stationery and a 6/- (12x6d) booklet which have not yet been issued.

C.I.A. 1s VARIETY No.2

On the stamp below that mentioned above, i.e. on the first stamp of row 3, there is a light-coloured circular spot above the space between E and 1s.

Mention must be made of the wide range of shades (all ugly) shown by the value tablet, even within a single sheet. Note especially the darkening in the stamps to the right of the sheet. This suggests non-uniform lighting during the photographic preparation of the cylinders.

EXCHANGES

Mr Stig Sandklef of Skjutsareg 24, S-61100 Nyköping, Sweden would like to exchange Swedish and other Scandinavian stamps for Irish.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1969 NUMBER 162

RANDOM NOTES

U.K. STAMPS USED IN IRELAND

One of the less common British fiscal stamps is the 3d MEDICINE DUTY provisional made by over-printing the George V postage stamp in 1915. The overprint included the words "NOT AVAILABLE FOR POSTAGE" and inevitably unscrupulous philatelists tried to use them postally. D.Feldman has found an apparently successful case, the cancellation being of Cork in August 1924. As the cancellation is heavy the stamp could be passed over at first glance as being an Irish five-line overprint.

H & K PACKET DAY BOAT

When Cyril Kidd wrote "The Irish Mail" he knew of only one example of the cancellation used with the wording "DAY BOAT". The date was 7 AU 22. D.Feldman has found earlier ones, the earliest 2 April .



More important, the lot included a hitherto unrecorded skeleton with "H AND D L" in place of "H & K", the D L obviously denoting Dun Laoghaire. It is depicted herewith and ranks as a really major discovery. The skeleton frame is one of the numbered series used in Ireland. The number is indistinct and 13 is only a guess.

GUILD OF ST. GABRIEL DUBLIN EXHIBITION

The Guild is holding a one-day exhibition in Dublin on 6th December and items posted there will receive a special cancellation incorporating the Madonna and Child. Special envelopes are available at 9d each. They can also be serviced with 1/- Eton Chapel window stamp and the special cancellation, at 2/6 inclusive. Serviced Madonna and Child postcards are also 2/6. Orders should be set to M.P.Giffney, 22 East Road, DUBLIN 3.

SG 74b Another example of the 2d coil imperf vertically is to be auctioned (Bournemouth 7 November) and it adds yet another to the list of places from which they were used. Edenderry, Co. Offaly, not one of the towns likely to have had one of the half-dozen 2d machines then in the country.

GANDHI BIRTH CENTENARY STAMPS

Full marks to the Stamp Design Committee for having at last admitted that the name of the country looks better in Gaelic type, and for having found the long lost accent. The main adverse criticism of the design is the waste of space occasioned by the large blank areas. Especially in these days of tension, it would have been better to include some symbol or quotation stressing Gandhi's insistence on non-violent agitation.

IRELAND AT SESCAL — While British Exhibitions continue to relegate Ireland to the miscellaneous unclassified countries the U.S.A. is more in touch with current philatelic interest. At SESCAL in Los Angeles last month there were five entries in the Irish section and three received Gold Awards !

IPC-EPA JOINT MEETINGS — Efforts are being made to organise co-operation between our two Societies by holding joint meetings in England next year, both during Philatelic Congress and during Philympia. Are there any volunteers to help in making the arrangements ?

NEW BOOKLETS 12@6d — On 16 September there was a vague press announcement that the long awaited booklets would be on sale shortly. On enquiry I was told that this would be amended and a definite date announced. However, the next information was that the booklets had been on sale in some post offices as early as 12th September ! The information came, not from officialdom but from one of our members who secured an apparent first-day cover.

The stamps of the first booklets which I bought (on 20th) differed from the 6d definitive in sheets only by being a paler shade. The make-up of 12 @ 6d is asinine. Much more popular would be a 2/- booklet containing 6 @ 3d and 6 @ 1d, enabling one to make up the 4d for a greetings card or the 9d on a 2 to 4 oz. letter, or foreign letter under an ounce.

And why not revive the useful practice of including a page with a summary of the postal rates ? Is it because of the fear that they would be obsolete as soon as printed ?

5d BOOKLET PRINTINGS — Those of you who have useful quantities of the 5d photogravure from booklets may like to search through them for varieties discovered by P. Ó Mathúna. With watermark erect he finds (a) lines above cuig weak or broken, and (b) dot inside c of cuig (middle,lower row). Those with inverted watermark include another variety, dot outside the same c (no.3 upper row). He also has panes in which perforation holes almost touch - just below centre of upright watermarked panes and hence just above the centre with watermark inverted.

My own contribution in this field is to point out the variability of the lines on the wrist. There are usually five, but you will find a few with only four, and still fewer with only three. I've just one example of five staggered ∴.

W.KANE's TRIUMPH — Hearty congratulations to the winner of the Link House Cup & cheque & Silver Gilt Medal for "War & Philately".

R.N.161. Owing to the printer's carelessness a few members did not receive No.161 with the last auction report. If you are among the unfortunates please let Mr Pigot know.

1/5 AIRMAIL RETOUCH — It should be noted that the retouch (I think an accidental spot of acid) justifiably boosted by "Sagesse" in Stamp Magazine occurs on Pane 2B.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1969 Number 163

IRISH SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

A.F.Finn's short article in the October "Stamp Magazine" has one or two slips, especially in stating that none are yet too hard to come by, and I feel that the time is ripe for publishing my list of what there is to look for.

1865 DUBLIN International Exhibition
1882 DUBLIN Exhibition of Irish Art &c
1892 DUBLIN Masonic Female School Centenary Exhibition

} All had post offices but no special cancellation has yet been found for any of them.

1902-03 CORK International Exhibition. s.c.25mm. Very rare, and seen only on registered mail.

1903 CORK & WATERFORD "Posted in advance for delivery on Christmas Day" oval canc. No example known to survive.

1907 DUBLIN International Exhibition. d.c.27½mm. Two handstamps.

1908-09 BALLYMACLINTON. The Irish village in the Franco-British Exhibition, London. s.c. 24mm. d.c. or

1911 The record books (no longer extant) showed that/s.c.skeleton datestamps were issued for several race-meetings. As their intended use was on press telegrams it is unlikely that any survive. Those which were recorded are:

28.iv and other dates: PHOENIX PARK RACECOURSE G.S.(Grand Stand)
25.iii: MULLINGAR G.S. s.c. 30.v: CLONMEL RACES d.c.
4.vii: TUAM RACES d.c. 8.viii : GALWAY G.S. d.c.
lo.vi & 6.ix MULLINGAR G.S. d.c.

1911 DUBLIN Health Congress d.c.skeleton. Recorded on 3.8.11
DUBLIN Assn. Chambers of Commerce. d.c.skel. Recorded 23.viii

1917-18 DUBLIN. IRISH CONVENTION. Used during the various sessions held in Trinity College.

1919 On 15.x the record book had strikes of four definitive s.c. datestamps for the Grand Stand offices of the four race courses near Dublin. Baldoyle, Curragh, Leopardstown and Phoenix Park. Leopardstown is 26mm diameter.

1920 Similar recording for LIMERICK JUNCTION G.S. s.c. 7.vi

c.1920 (earliest seen 1928)-May 1957. SHOW YARD BALLSBRIDGE, used, as a counter-stamp only, at Royal Dublin Society Shows.

1931 A series of s.c. skeletons are known through pseudo-proof impressions of the dates shown:
7.iii & 16.v NAAS G.S. 30mm. 4.vi NAAS G.S. 34mm.
18.vi POWERSTOWN PARK G.S. 34mm
4.vi and 12.vi. PORTMARNOCK G.S. 37mm (This was the Ladies International Golf meeting and Championship)
2.vi. MANSION HOUSE, DUBLIN. 37mm (possibly temporary use for Hospital Sweepstake Draw)

1931-32 THE PLAZA, DUBLIN s.c.skeleton 37mm. (Normal premises for the Sweepstakes at the period)

1932 STORMONT. Official opening of the N.Ireland Parliament Buildings. There was an unauthorised circular cachet, reading "Ulster Parliament Buildings, Opening Day, 16.11.32" seen only on covers addressed to Stanley Gibbons.

IRISH SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS & CACHETS - continued

1933 MANSION HOUSE,DUBLIN s.c. skeleton 37 mm Seen 26.vii (Meeting of British Medical Association)
1944 IRISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION,DUBLIN, 23.x-4.xi.d.c.31mm.
1945 MILITARY EXHIBITION & TATTOO,DUBLIN,28.viii-8.ix.s.c.30mm
1951 Belfast. VISIT OF FESTIVAL SHIP CAMPANIA. 2-line cachet.
1952 BELFAST BAAS 3-10.ix. s.c.skeleton 29mm.(Brit. Association)
1957-69 HORSE SHOW,DUBLIN s.c. skeleton 31mm. Reset each year with variations. Normally first week in August.
1957 MANSION HOUSE,DUBLIN. s.c.skeleton, 31mm, 3-11.ix
TIGH AN ARD MHEARA,ATH CLIATH s.c.31mm. These were used during the British Association Meeting: the Irish form was intended for the press only, but a few covers were cancelled with it.
1957 BELFAST NORTH OF IRELAND P.S. JUBILEE EXHIBITION. Special d.c. 37mm. 9 Oct. - 2 Nov.
1958-69 SPRING SHOW,DUBLIN, s.c. skeleton 31mm. Reset each year with variations. Normally first week in May. Like the Horse Show cancellation it is only a counter stamp and examples cancelling ordinary letters are irregular.
1959 A very unofficial cachet "CARRIED ON MISSION STAMPS EXPORTS Philatelic Charter Flight Derrygimla to Galway City" on 15.vi.59 has to be mentioned as it has been seen cancelling a stamp. There was another perpetration for cancelling the grotesque label also associated with the venture.
1960 CANADA CUP,IRELAND. s.c. skeleton 31mm. Used at Portmarnock Golf Course 20-25 June.
1961 IRISH GIRL GUIDES INTERNATIONAL CAMP, BLARNEY Co.CORK JULY 1961. Rectangular cachet applied to all mail handed in at the camp office.
1961 SURGERY CONGRESS,DUBLIN 2-9.ix. A s.c. skeleton,30mm,was used on parcels. Registered and other letters had normal Dublin cancellations, but letters were given a decorative cachet 29x65mm.
1962 I A T A MEETING, DUBLIN (International Air Transport Association) The 31mm s.c. skeleton is mysterious in that official answers to enquiries denied its existence, but covers exist! What was authorised was a rectangular cachet 59x19mm.
1963 PRESS CENTRE,DUBLIN s.c.31mm skeleton was used equally mysteriously at a temporary office in Dublin Airport during the visit of the late President Kennedy, at the end of June.
1963 POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITION,DUBLIN, Sep.19-24. Special cancellation (designed by F.E.Dixon) based on a Dublin "spoon". This was a genuine exhibition, not a competition.
1963 SCIENCE EXHIBITION,DUBLIN 22-25 Oct. There was s.c.skeleton 30mm as well as a machine cancellation.
1964 RAILWAY CONVENTION,DUBLIN 8-11 June. s.c.skeleton 30mm.
1964 XIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AVIATION AND SPACE MEDICINE 14-18 Sep. s.c.28mm and also cachet 74x29mm.
1965 OPTICAL CONGRESS,DUBLIN 19-27 July. s.c. skeleton 31mm and also cachet of irregular shape, maximum dimesion 72mm.
1965 ACWW CONFERENCE,DUBLIN 14-24 Sep. s.c. skeleton 31mm and almost circular cachet 32mm across. (Associated Country-Women of the World)

to be continued

LIST OF IRISH SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS & CACHETS continued

1966 SCIENCE EXHIBITION,DUBLIN 18-22 Oct. s.c. skeleton 31mm, and also the machine cancellation of 1963 with dates deleted.

1967 C I C DUBLIN 14-17 May. s.c. skeleton 31mm. and a more informative cachet "CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DE LA CHASSE,XIV ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY" with a heavily antlered stag to symbolise the quarries of the hunting.

1967 BOY SCOUTS CAMP,LISMORE 17- July s.c. skeleton 30mm and a cachet GASÓGA CATOILICÍ NA h-ÉIREANN

1967 IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION LONDONDERRY 2o-30 Sep. d.c. 34mm.

1967 BELFAST, NORTH OF IREL ND PHILATELIC SOCIETY DIAMOND JUBILEE, 1907-67, 19 OCTOBER. A one-day rectangular canceller 58x33mm.

1968 There was a series of circular cancellers advertising local Civic Weeks in Northern Ireland, and used in advance of those weeks. The ones seen are
RATHFRILAND,NEWRY,Co.Down 11-18 May
BALLYCLARE, Co.ANTRIM 18-25 May
CLOGHER, Co. TYRONE 10-15 June.

1968 HOLY TRINITY FLOWER FESTIVAL, CRAIGAVAD,HOLYWOOD,Co.DOWN 18th May 1968. Rectangular 54x32mm.

1968 DUBLIN STAMP SOCIETY PHILATELIC EXHIBITION,DUBLIN 25 June - 6 July. Rectangular 59x40mm

1968 PORTSTEWART,Co.DERRY. ALL IN ONE FOR CHRIST JESUS.FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION. d.c. 34mm

1968 BANK SUMMER SCHOOL,DUBLIN July. s.c. skeleton 30mm and rectangular cachet 45x25mm.

1968 INST PUBLIC ADMINSTNS DN Sep. s.c.skeleton 30mm. (Dublin Congress of the International Institue of Administration Sciences

1968 ULSTER TATTOO , BRITISH FORCES POSTAL SERVICE 1072.d.c.34mm. At Londonderry 11 Sep. Omagh 13th, Belfast 19th & 20th.

1969 I.P.R.A. BAILE ATHA CLIATH 28 Ap 1968. s.c.38mm. First day of meeting of International Public Relations Association.

1969 There were further Civic Weeks in Northefn Ireland, but the only special cancellation I have seen is ANTRIM 3-10 May. d.c. 34mm

1969 HOUSING CONFERENCE, DUBLIN. 19-24 May. s.c. skeleton 29mm. (International Federation for Housing and Planning)

1969 ULSTER RECRUITING.BRITISH FORCES POSTAL SERVICE 1085, used at Enniskillen 28 May. (Other centres used FPO 1000)

1969 ENNISCORTHY,FIRST PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 29 JUNE - 6 JULY. Rectangular cachet 44x31 mm.

1969 ST.JOHN'S AMBULANCE BELFAST AREA RECRUITING WEEK 23 AUGUST. Rectangular canc. 56x 32 mm

1969 I S R D DUBLIN 15-19 Sep. s.c. skeleton 30mm and rectangular cachet 31x41 mm. (International Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled)

1969 SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR SCHOOLS FETE Belfast, 25 October

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

November 1969 No. 164

The list of cancellations and cachets is not complete, especially for Northern Ireland. And a very long supplementary list could be compiled of special flight cachets, and for those applied on board visiting ships in Irish waters.

Some unofficial cachets should be ignored as they were private speculations, unauthorised by the post office. One recent example is a rectangular cachet of 25·Aug.1969 associated with a Living Chess Tournament at Castlebar. The perpetrators applied it to specially printed envelopes endorsed "Special Postmark Cover". This adds to the offence as a cachet is not a postmark unless it is put on by postal officials or is reserved for items posted in a special posting box.

Another problem for the list compiler is that some ordinary-looking markings have special significance. For example, a recent find is a skeleton datestamp of CAMPA BHAILE DOMHNAILL 8 JA 47 . Baldonnel Camp (now Casement Aerodrome) is the headquarters of the Irish Air Corps, but I know of no post office there, and feel that the skeleton was made up for some special occasion, but what occasion ?

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

Ireland continues to have very few new slogans, and the first seen this year did not appear until September, and I did not discover it until much too late to arrange any postings bearing it. When will the Irish Post Office keep their promise to let us know of such things in time ? The slogan is, or rather was "BALLINASLOE SHOW AND FAIR 1ST WEEK OCTOBER" used at Ballinasloe during September.

DUBLIN GPO PHILATELIC COUNTER

Last month there at last appeared what philatelists have frequently requested - a display frame near Counter No.1, containing examples of all the postage stamps currently on sale at that counter. The next stage should be to have "prepacked" singles and blocks of four of each set.

GANDHI STAMPS

The design is a great improvement on the recent issues, but the head is placed too low. As so often, there is shocking waste of space. A generation is growing up that knows nothing of what Gandhi stood for. It would have been pertinent and useful to have described him as "Apostle of non-violence" or "Civil Rights Leader". (Sorry: I said most of this before)

CANCELLATION

Worth putting on one side are examples of a Gandhi stamp with "Teach your children" across it, and missing the remainder of the slogan "to clean their teeth".



Ed Sullivan reports this "dot over 3" variety on the 1/3 Commodore Barry stamp. Can anyone confirm that it was a significant variety and give its sheet position ?

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 1969 Number 165

DECIMALISATION The P.& T staff magazine "Pagust" reveals that the new definitive values in February 1971 will be ½,1,1½, 2,2½,3,3½,4,4½,9,10,20,50 of the new pence, equivalent to 1.2,2.4,3.6,4.8,6.0,7.2,8.4,9.6 pence,1s,1s 9.6d,2s,4s and 10s respectively in our present currency. I confidently predict that the range will be modified before D-day.

Congratulations to the Dept. for having found a way of avoiding increasing charges through the abolition of the halfpenny. The fee for the business reply service has hitherto been one halfpenny per item. The fee is now specified as one unit, the unit being defined by "2 units = 1 penny". We hope that other traders will follow this example.

NEW POSTAL STATIONERY Unfortunately the same policy has not been adopted with the postcards and newspaper wrappers, put on sale (without advance publicity) 29th October, and both bearing 4d stamp impressed in very deep blue. The pcs are in packets of 10 for 4s 2d, and the wrappers in bundles of 24 at 10s. So in both cases the price of the actual stationery has been increased by 100% from ½d to 1d. In 1924 one got 10 postcards for 1d so the increase since then is 900%. And one got 21 wrappers for 1½d, and the rise is therefore 1300% ! (And see below)

DIE IRISCHEN POSTSTEMPEL MIT MEILENANGABE This is the title of a very comprehensive listing of Irish mileage marks prepared by Hans Moxter and published by the Deutscher Altbriefsammler-Verein. It is to be hoped that one of our societies can arrange for its reprinting with the introduction translated into English.

"IRISH POSTAL HISTORY" I should also draw the attention of I.P.C. members to the new publication of the E.P.A. - a reprint of the Irish seetion of Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia, Vol.I, with corrections and additions incorporated, but without modifications of the prices. Copies may be had from M.P. Giffney,22 East Road, DUBLIN 3 , price 8s. .

MORE STATIONERY The 6d stamped envelopes appeared on 18 November, four days after the announcement, but,as they were available only at Dublin GPO,provincial - and even Dublin suburban - philatelists have a grievance. Watermark is still "Dean Swift Bond" (but hard to see). The unexpected change is on the packet wrappers, which have a Wiggins-Teape imprint instead of Armstrong. The cost of envelopes, (1d each since 1966) compares with 11 for 2d in 1924 (and until 1940), so the rise in this case has been only 450%.

1932 EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2d Rev. Brennan reports that a provincial collector has discovered this stamp with inverted watermark.

E

IPC Random Notes

A

December 1969 No.165

GANDHI STAMPS — Fr.Brennan draws attention to a variety of the Gandhi commemorative issue, both values, in which the grey shading from the jacket has almost or quite disappeared. This is a typical result of wear of the printing cylinder.

DEFECTIVE GUMMING (1) — He also finds a constant gummimg flaw on the 1s Evie Hone commemorative. It comprises a band without gum the whole length of the third row of the sheet. The band is about 1mm wide but of irregular width, as if made by a piece of string. A similar defect has been seen on the 4d definitive.



One of the best of bygone magazines was the "Philatelic Record" which ceased in 1914. I bought myself a Christmas present by securing its last five years' issues in a Dublin bookshop. The penultimate number had an article on letter registration, beginning with 1556. Among the postmarks illustrated is the Dublin type current for a few years around 1860, but the illustration differs from others known to me, and from the few examples I have met, by having "W.O" above the date. Has any one seen it ? The "P.L.O." of later types is Public or Paid Letter Office. and my theory is that W.O = Window Office, because G.P.O. staff in the 1850s included "Officers of the Paid Window": in the 1860s the description disappears and "Paid Letter Office" replaces it.

We ought to study the old books: I find that Hendy illustrated this postmark, without however commenting on the "W.O".

LITERACY — The "Philatelic Record" has remarkably little of interest to modern collectors of Irish material, but I notice further statistics which help to explain the scarcity of U.K. stamps used in Ireland. For the year 1880-81 only 15 letters were delivered in Ireland per head of population compared with 38 in England and Wales. Thirty years later the numbers had risen to 40 and 73 respectively.

DEFECTIVE GUMMING (2) — I have now seen a sheet of the 1s Evie Hone, with the ungummed line through the first row, and accompanied by a similar band in the top margin.

(3) — One packet of 12 lettercards, bought the first day of issue, had the gum on the rear half instead of the front.

½d LETTER-CARD — The letter card appeared 8 December and again we did not know in time to let you all know. Apart from the misgumming error it is a botched job, hand folded, showing a range of shade of card and stamp, and perforated by the same perforator, with two broken pins, as several issues. However, it is a bargain compared with other postal stationery, costing only 1d more than the face value, the same as since 1956, and only 150% more than in 1924 when one bought 10 2d lettercards for 2/-.

It should be mentioned that the packet-wrappers are also of interest, they being old stock with "6/-" deleted and "7/-" added.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1970 NUMBER 166

RANDOM NOTES

GUILD OF ST.GABRIEL EXHIBITION — The posting box in the Exhibition was filled to the slot and our thanks are due to the clerk on duty who hand-cancelled some thousands of cards and covers, including those with R.N.165. The stamps were an excellent selection, tastefully displayed, although some of us deplore the encouragement of highly speculative [illegible] series. The cancellation did not show well on the 1s "Eve [illegible]" and it looks best with the pale blue of the 3d Marian [illegible].

RAILWAY PARCELS LABELS — Although Railway Letter stamps are gaining popularity other railway items find few collectors interested. Why not take them up while prices are still low? Parcels labels were used to frank letters before the Railway Letter system started, and they are still used [illegible] them. A typical example of what can be found is the 1d [illegible] issued by the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway, of which there were at least five issues:

1. Large "PARCEL LABEL". Stop after "ONE PENNY" roul.
2. " " " " " " " perf.12½
3. Lettering smaller: no stop. "B&W" added below crest. perf.10
4. As No.3 but perf.11
5. As No.3 but perf.12.
6. (or 5a) As No.5 but hyphen between ONE and PENNY.

ETON COLLEGE CHAPEL WINDOW — Robson Lowe's monthly "The Philatelist" is rather an extravagance at 5/-, but Irish collectors will find the December number worth buying for its front cover. This has a 12½x15½ cm reproduction of the colour transparency from which the 1s Evie Hone commemorative was reduced. One can understand the enthusiasm of the Design Committee, even if one disagrees with their belief that the design could be done justice to in the adopted size. And inside the magazine is a photo of the stamp-printing in progress in Dublin Castle.

"THE LETTER BOX" — The new book, by J.Y.Farrugia (Centaur Press 84/-) is disappointing. It is well illustrated but not well written. There are mistakes and omissions and repetition. The reader must frequently turn to the back to find notes which should have been embodied in the text. It is not worth 4 guineas, but is worth reading from a Library. Ireland gets adequate attention, all its antique pillar boxes being mentioned and the unique (?) square one illustrated. And the book solves one of my mysteries by showing the identity card of the holder of a private box at Liverpool, remarkably similar in design to an Irish card Town - depicted in "The Philatelist" August 1954.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

January 1970 No. 166

POSTAL STATIONERY — The G and H sizes of registration envelope have been on sale for some time, but not the K, as yet. Both are like the F size in having the fee wrongly stated as is on the reverse. The enormity of the charges for the ordinary stamped stationery is emphasised by the relatively moderate increases in the charge for the registration envelopes. The increases since 1924 have been F ¼d to 2d, G 1d to 3d, H 1½d to 4d, percentages being 167,200,167 respectively.

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS — The first interesting cancellation noticed this Christmas was Dublin N machine with one of the "PAID" varieties of the POST EARLY ... slogan, with the "PAID" roughly cut off.

LONGFORD SLOGAN — The fist announcement of 1970 cancellations heralds "MOTO 70 LONGFORD MAY 27th - JUNE 1st" to be used at LONGFORD only throughout February to May.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES — Size K provides more headaches than any other. I find that there are two 1/5 with back correct (I never saw the error in this size). Letterpress is completely reset. One has the fee "1s." and the other "1/-". I think the "1s." is the later; it reintroduces the brackets in the label space and for "REGISTERED LETTER"

UNRECORDED FISCALS — I have been given a newspaper cutting of 1817 from which it appears that a series of "Request Note" dies had been prepared to be used on special paper with "STAMP OFFICE" watermark. This is the first record I have seen and more information is desirable.

BOYLE MALTESE CROSS —  One acceptable Christmas present was a 1d red on cover cancelled at Boyle 11 May 1842. This enables me to state that the Boyle cross is identifiable by two small breaks in opposite sides of the central squashed rhomb. My other example is 10 December 1843. Can you extend the date range ?

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE — The first Irish philatelic article of 1970 was a short note by me in "Philatelic Magazine" Jan.2nd, supplementing and correcting the earlier article on the 10/- doubly overprinted, once inverted.

"REMEMBER TO DI" — The new road safety slogan, originally announced for November last, eventually appeared on 2 January 1970, at Dublin, Cork, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Limerick and Waterford.

INVERTED DATE — A full-page newspaper advertisement for Rothman cigarettes features an enlarged photo of a telegram from London to their Irish subsidiary. The datestamp is No.7 of the Dublin telegraphic single-circle series, dated I I 0 L

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1970 Number 167

RANDOM NOTES

3d COILS P.O Mathúna has discovered some interesting points about the current 3d as sold through the slot-machines. Except at the end (or ends?) there are 22 stamps between joins, and the same coil can contain examples of both upright and inverted watermarks. Both these bits of evidence are consistent with the coils being pasted-up from sheets originally intended for booklets. The stamps are the otherwise obsolete Celtic Cross, typographed.

AUCTION PRICES The marvellous Glassco Collection (British Post Offices Abroad) sold last November contained little to attract Irish enthusiasts. Lot 1393 was an ~~exception~~, it being a quite ordinary envelope posted at Lurgan in 1880 addressed to Peking. En route it collected a SINGAPORE TO HONG KONG backstamp and a Chinese stamp canoelled CUSTOMS SHANGHAI. These were enough to encourage the catalogue compiler to put the valuation as high as £25. The list of prices realised shows that this was wrong by a factor of ten. £250. The sale provided abundant evidence that the current craze is for covers and entires, and with rare postal markings receiving more attention than the stamps.

GANDHI VARIETIES I have not felt the urge to try to list all the flaws but must report those found by the more industrious, notably three white spots detected by W.Kane, above the right eye on Row 6, No.6, on the head, Row 18 No.2 and on the temple Row 19, No.2.

AIKENHEAD DIE PROOF I don't understand how Robson Lowe can justify having Irish stamps in his February "Great Britain" sale, and one of the lots (933, 1958 Aikenhead proof from die without value) is almost certainly illicitly on the ~~market~~, and I hope ~~that it will be withdrawn~~.

"1922 PROOF HARP IN PURPLE" The William Frazer advertisement on the back cover of Jan.1970 "Stamp Magazine" was very misleading in several respects. It implied that only one pair was on offer - but two purchasers have sought my opinion of their pairs! The date is not 1922 but 1930s or 40s, and the items are not proofs as they are from a defaced die. The die is the "unappropriated" one used for Customs Entry Duty and Old Age Pensions stamps. My theory is that the items are from one of the trials when Dublin Castle Printery was experimenting with producing its own coils. If so they cannot be legally on the market.

3d COILS P.O Mathuna also finds problems with the 3d photogravure coils: the marginal markings visible at the ends are not consistent with the guttering of any sheets seen. Was there a plate 3 - or rather cylinder 3? (Added later: he has ascertained that there were two versions of cylinder 1.)

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

February 1970 No. 167

EUROPEAN CONSERVATION YEAR

Occasionally the Irish Post Office earns approval for a stamp design. Then it rushes to get back to normal with something stupid and inept. It was obvious that for the Conservation Year there should have been designs with some typical Irish fauna, flora, or landscapes. My suggestions (duly submitted in good.time) included the Dublin Tailors Hall, due to be reopened this year and an excellent demonstration of skilled conservation. Instead we have another feeble product of the Kilkenny Design Centre which will be hailed with delight by the makers of Bird's Custard. It shows their bird involved with an electric mixer, with a large blank surround to allow for the splashes. And "Eire" has again lost its accent. The colours are named after two of the designer's girl-friends, Olive Brown and Heather Blue.

DATES OF 1970 COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

23 February European Conservation Year 6d & 9d
4 May C.E.P.T. (Europa) 6d,9d and 1/9
13 July 250th anniversary of R.Cork Yacht Club 4d
1 September Contemporary Irish Art 1/-
26 October 50th Anniversary of deaths of T.MacSwiney and T. MacCurtain 6d,1/9 for each
2 November 50th anniversary of death of Kevin Barry 4d & 9d

NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATION

I'll try to have this issue of "R.N." posted to I.P.C. members from Athlone when that office introduces the slogan cancellation ATHLONE MUSICAL SOCIETY "SOUTH PACIFIC" 8th to 17th March 1970 due to appear on or soon after 20th february.

I. E.
L. P. S.
A. C.

The Irish Philately Society meeting of 22 January was well attended by members of EPA and IPC. The attraction was a remarkable display of Dublin postmarks given by IPS President W.Kane, beginning with the Bishop mark and including many rare items, attractively written up.

I.P.C. A.G.M.

The annual general meeting will be at the Queen Hotel, Chester, England on May 2nd and 3rd. Will those hoping to attend please let Mr Telfer know .

SHELBOURNE HOTEL DUBLIN

Enquiries are again reaching me about the status of the post office in the Shelbourne Hotel, the postmarks (at least two) of which are to be found (if you are fortunate) on the higher value stamps. The Directories show that it was a purely Telegraphic Office, and functioned from 1871 or 1872 to 1900 or 1901. The hotel eventually decided against its continuance, there being too many non-residents using the office. No other hotel provided such a service. At one time there were as many as 25 purely telegraphic offices in Dublin City, with more in the suburbs. They included the Railway Stations, the Corn Exchange, Custom House, and Four Courts.

IRISH
EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
CIRCLE

MARCH 1970 NUMBER 168

RANDOM NOTES

Bilingual Parcel Post Cancellation — Only a few offices have ever used circular dated cancellers specially made for parcels. Mr. Stokes has found a remarkable one from Lifford, double-circle, reading LEITH BHEARA / PARCELS 10 AP 28.

Boyle Maltese Cross — Messrs Stokes and Wallas confirm the identifiability of the Cross described in R.N. 166 and extend the date range to 15.ii.1842 to 18.xii.1843. It is difficult to assess a value, but I would expect it to be at least as rare as the Mullingar Cross !

U.K. RURAL ARCHITECTURE — The U.K. stamps continue to be better designed than the Irish, but many natives of Northern Ireland will disapprove of the latest series being termed "British": even more of them will resent the suggestion that Ulster dwellings are more primitive than those in G.B. ! And why purple trees ?

IRISH WHITE CROSS LABELS — I have recently seen for the first time complete sheets of both designs. That showing a distressed family and their burning house is arranged 4x5 and the other, simple cross design, 6x6. In both cases the top and side margins are imporforate and there is a plain margin below. I did not scrutinise them fully, and did not find any prominent flaws



Mr B.Wallas has discovered an unrecorded handstruck Penny stamp, used at Athenry. His cover is of 1843 but it was probably introduced in 1840.

EXCHANGE ? — Sverre Johan Schmidt, Fjellveien 1, 9800 Vadsø, Norway, would like to exchange stamps with someone in Ireland.

CONSERVATION YEAR F.D.C. — Atleast two provincial offices servicing first day covers omitted to change the year plug in the cancelling handstamp. So the covers bear the date 23 FEB 69 !

The first reports of flaws of the new issue come from P.O Mathúna. Top pane, both values Row 10 No.5 Thirkell E6, large black spot. Lower pane, 6d, Row 8,No.2, Thirkell A3, retouch over r of Eire. Lower pane 6d Row 10,No.3 Thirkell B&C 12, pale spot right of symbol. Lower pane 6d, Row 10,No.5, Thirkell C5, pale spot

ATHLONE SLOGAN — The last I.P.C. posting of Random Notes was cancelled with first-day impressions of the slogan originally expected 20 Feb. but actually used for only 13 days, 4th - 16th March.

LONGFORD SLOGAN — "GO TO 70 LONGFORD MAY 27th - June 1st" came into use at Longford on 5th March. It was due on 1st February !

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

March 1970 No.168

DUBLIN TELEGRAPH OFFICES

Until 1869 the telegraphs were operated by private companies. When the Post Office bought them out some of the offices continued in operation but other offices were established, not necessarily at premises conducting other post office business. The following list of non-postal telegraph offices is compiled from successive volumes of Thom's Dublin Directory. An asterisk (*) indicates that I have seen stamps cancelled at the office: the markings may also occur as date-stamps on delivered telegrams.

7 BALLSBRIDGE TERRACE 1874-1901
BROADSTONE Railway Station 1870-1937
33 Castlewood Avenue, Rathmines 1874
CATTLE Market (Thursdays only) 1870- c.1954 (changed to Wednesdays only in last few years.)
*29 COLLEGE GREEN 1870-2. This had been Irish HQ of the Electric and International Telegraph Co. It became a full post office in 1872 or 73. The cancellation continued to include the "29" until the late 1870s.
CORN EXCHANGE (Tuesdays & Fridays only) 1870-1922
*CUSTOM HOUSE 1870-1921
2 Duggan Place, Rathmines 1875-85
* FOUR COURTS 1870-1922
GRAND CANAL HARBOUR 1870-1893
HARCOURT STREET Railway Station 1871-74
*KINGSBRIDGE Railway Station 1870-1960
NORTH WALL (M.G.W.R. Stores) 1870-1905, then transferred North Wall District Office.
*SHELBOURNE HOTEL 1871-1900
STOCK EXCHANGE 1887-1950s, but not listed in Post Office Guide for the later years
100 Thomas Street 1885-99. Then transferred to post office at No.108
*VICEREGAL LODGE 1870-2. It probably continued much longer but was not listed, it not being available for public use. The only examples I have seen of the cancellation were struck in 1922 when the new post of "Governor General" changed the status of what is now the President's residence.
WESTLAND ROW Railway Station 1870-1950s

A DUBLIN CASTLE cancellation, known by favour on a 1912 postcard may be in the same category os the Viceregal Lodge.

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EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1970 — RANDOM NOTES — NUMBER 169

NEW VARIETY OF DUBLIN DATESTAMP

At an I.P.S. "bourse" I secured a bundle of covers for the sake of one filthy letter of 1807. What attracted me was that the Dublin datestamp (RL50f) of the type current 1800-1807 is in purplish red. Only black has been recorded for this type hitherto. The date, DE 23 1807, is the latest I have seen for the type, and it seems likely that the change from it to the "mermaid" took place on 1 January 1808.

POSTAL STATIONERY FIND

All the lists of registration envelopes indicate that although the smaller sizes of Irish printings appeared in 1924, there was no K size until the 1926 issue. D.Feldman has now found a K size used at Youghal in October 1924.

EUROPA 1969 "PHILART" COVERS

Hibernian Stamp Co. draw my attention to an interesting, if rather contrived, variant of the colourful envelope issued by Philart last year. It has an extra inscription "Liaison Europeenne Dublin-Strasbourg Conseil de l'Europe" and a printed address "Europa FDC Service, Poste Restante, Bureau de Poste Temporaire, Conseil de l'Europe, Strasbourg". The covers so prepared were duly posted in Dublin on 28 April, but did not reach Strasbourg until a week later, when they were neatly datestamped in the Council of Europe post office.

MINISTER'S SPEECH ON ESTIMATES

The annual account of progress and retrogression makes it clear that postal rates will soon increase yet further. One very striking figure is the percentage of internal letters delivered the day after posting. Last year 94% was claimed: this year only 90% ! i.e. the number subjected to delay is nearly doubled in a year!!

GORTA slogan

Another example of the increasing inefficiency is the succession of delays to slogan cancellations. The HELP GORTA TO HELP THE HUNGRY was announced for 1st March. It was in use in Limerick by 23rd March and in Dublin the next day. "Gorta" is the Irish word for hunger and it has been adopted by an organisation collecting for famine relief. It uses the same slogan in its meter-mark.



Yet another new design for the stamping machines. The only example I've seen so far is used by a Limerick firm, but I do not know which firm, or even the number of its meter, the impression being indistinct.

E.

I.P.C. Random Notes

A.

April 1970 No. 169



Each year I threaten to cease presenting the R.D.S. Spring Show and Horse Show labels: it takes so long to stick them all on . However, here is one more for you

SPECIAL EVENT CANCELLATIONS

One special event last month was a trip to Dublin by W.Mathews of Sunderland. He has pointed out an omission from the list in R.N. 163-164:

1968 Nov. 23. Circular handstamp "St.Mary's,Belfast 1868 1968"

I have also him to thank for the newest item, also from Northern Ireland:

1970 MAR 25. Rectangular handstamp from Limavady, Co.Derry, commemorating the55th Anniversary of No.204 Squadron of the R.A.F. Why 55th ? Although bearing 5d stamp the letter bringing this to me was a week in transit .

1970 APR 1. A sequel to the last mentioned item answers my question "Why 55th?! It is also from Limavady but the wording on the rectangular canceller is "AIR-SEA WARFARE DEVELOPMENT UNIT DISBANDMENT ROYAL AIR FORCE BALLYKELLY".

EUROPA STAMPS 1970

Admirers of Louis Le Brocquy's artistry will approve the clean lines of the new stamps. As usual I find fault with the symbolism. The woven fabric is meant to represent the international co-operation andintegration, and the sun-shape symbolises the radial nature of the communications systems. However my comment is that the most obvious feature is the fraying at the edges ! We are pleased to see the return of the EIRE accent, even though it is a rather feeble one.

SLOGAN NEWS

The next slogan promised is "FOR YOUR HOLIDAYS VISIT TRALEE KINGDOM OF KERRY" at Tralee from 13th April to the end of June. If possible I'll try to arrange for Mr Pigot to have this issue of R.N. posted there, but it won't be ready for the first day.

U.N. COMMEMS.

Yet again, many thanks to the senders of FDCs with the glorious multicolour snippets of education. What worries me most is the Astronomical Society. Will it be followed by the Botanical, the Chemical and so on right to Zoological ? For S there is obviously the Society for the Suppression of Speculative stamps.

N.IRELAND LABELS

Mr Mathews reports shield-shape labels in two sizes (stamp size and larger for use on cars). They incorporate the red hand, crowned, on St.George's Cross, and the motto "I'm Proud of Ulster".

SPECIAL EVENT

A skeleton date stamp "FIABCI Congress BAC" will be used 23 to 28th May at the International Congress of Real Estate Agents on the R.D.S. premises.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

MAY 1970 RANDOM NOTES Number 170

e WATERMARK — If you wish to study the vagaries of the e in the multiple watermark you may now obtain quantities of watermarked paper without the expense of buying stamps. I was surprised to find that "O.E.54" - the Customs Declaration form - is now on paper similar to that used for the typographed stamps

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS — Responsibility for delays must be shared. Obviously the suppliers of the dies are primarily to blame; but the Post Office should not announce dates until they believe them possible. It was on 6th April that a circular appeared announcing the Tralee slogan for 13th. It did not actually come into use until ? ? (see below) We have much longer notice of the next new slogan: "EUROPEAN CONSERVATION YEAR 1970" is promised for Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford for the months July to September.

ROYAL CORK YACHT CLUB QUARTER MILLENIUM — The C.R.Y.C. is rather overdoing things, but I suppose that many philatelists will wish to know of the special souvenir package which the Club (at Crosshaven, Co.Cork) is offering at 7s 6d. It will contain (a) specially printed envelope with gold foil, bearing the 4d stamp, addressed to the Club's Admiral, and cancelled at Cork on 13th July, (b) souvenir brochure with history of the club, and (c) 6x4" colour reproduction of a 1738 painting of yachts in Cork Harbour.

ANOTHER POST OFFICE — A form referring to an undelivered item bears a hand-stamped "TEMPORARY SORTING OFFICE / CATHAL BRUGHA BKS. DN.6." I think that this must be quite new and would welcome any further particulars. (P.T.O.)

"EUROPA" stamps — I have already commented on the design, but could not discuss the colours until I'd seen the actual stamps. They all look synthetic and less attractive than would simple natural tints. The aluminium (?) is absurd and by involving a second cylinder added considerably to the cost of production. It would have been more effective to make all the inscription white - like the value. The "Harp" envelope for the FDC shows effective use of colour.

The first flaws noted are two small retouches, on 6d only, in the cylinder number blocks: row 9, no.1, below O of "Europa", Thirkell B3, and row 10, no.2, near emblem at 10 o'clock, Thirkell c6.

PERSONNEL CHANGES — Mr P.L. O Colmain succeeds Mr J.A.Scannell who retires on 26th May from the Posts & Telegraphs Secretaryship and in the Cabinet changes Mr Gerard Collins has taken over the Department on Mr Lalor's transfer to Industry & Commerce.

TRALEE SLOGAN — Earliest date seen 9 April but the covers bearing that date did not arrive until a month later !

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

May 1970 No. 170

EUROPA FDC — As it seemed likely that I'd return from the I.P.C. A.G.M. on the day of issue of the stamps, I had handed in my covers for servicing by the philatelic section at the G.P.O. Myown, and probably those of other addressees, were not attended to until a week later, being eventually delivered on 12th. I believe that most philatelists would prefer to pay for the servicing if the money were used to hire extra staff so that fewer covers were delayed.

COLOURED POSTMARKS OF THE 1850s — A.W.Robertson, in P.J.G.B. March 1970 reveals that from 1st Jan. 1853 the datestamps applied to the reverse of the letters were to have distinct colours for different districts, the colours allotted to Ireland being

Southern	RED	South Midlands	BLUE
Northern	BROWN	North Midlands	PINK

It is obvious that the scheme did not remain in force for very long and it would be interesting to make a collection showing datestamps of the right colours ! Try it.

N.IRELAND ESSAYS — The same journal illustrates three 1958 essays for N.I. regionals

IRISH PENNY POSTS — Mr B.Pallas, Beacon Gate, 3 Westdown Road, SEAFORD, Sussex , is particularly interested in the PENNY POST namestamps, and seeks your assistance in compiling a list of the offices specifying the types used, the colours and the range of dates.

THE FIRST IRISH AIRBORNE MAIL ? — While doing some research on Dublin's city walls I learned that in 1535 when Thomas Fitzgerald was besieging the city his archers "shot in letters, and foretold them of all the treacherous stratagems that were in hammering". The threatening letters misfired: the attackers were routed by a sortie of 400 armed citizens .

FLYING 5d VARIETY ? — Mr Harvey reports a lengthened upper serif on the I or EIRE. He would like confirmation of its constancy and the sheet position. I've skimmed through a few hundred used stamps without finding an example.



1970 EUROPA PERFORATIONS — He also draws attention to broken perforating pins, occurring in the even numbered rows and affecting both sides of the sixth stamp. Holes are missing where should be the third up on the left and the second up on the right. The hole in the margin is similarly affected. This is interesting evidence that a double harrow perforator is still employed.

CATHAL BRUGHA BARRACKS P.O. — The office referred to overleaf has operated there since August 1969 and is a temporary displacement of the Rathmines District Office, whose canceller it uses.

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1970 NUMBER 171

RANDOM NOTES

FENIAN & I.R.A. "STAMPS" Leslie Fletcher has contributed an important article to the May STAMP MAGAZINE. I share his doubts about the recent appearance of the essays with P.Pearse design. However I am also doubtful about the cover illustrated bearing 2 d I.R.A. cancelled at Belvelly. Other odd items exist with this cancellation and one must suspect that the stamp was cancelled by favour. My belief is that the I.R.A. never collected the stamps from the printers, who sold the stock to an enterprising local philatelist.

EUROPEAN CONSERVATION YEAR SLOGAN A die probably the same as will be used as a cancellation in July is already in use as a metermark by "Failte Dubhlinn" (= "Dublin Tourism").

BELFAST-HEYSHAM SAILINGS There were special cancellations at Lancaster & Morecambe and at Belfast for the new service which began on 22nd May, but only the Belfast handstamp was inscribed "PAQUEBOT". I suspect that the appellation is incorrect: "PAQUEBOT" is an international word used in connection with international routes and not intended for one linking two parts of the United Kingdom!

DUN LAOGHAIRE - HOLYHEAD Complaints about mishandling of items posted at sea between Dun Laoghaire and Holyhead have uncovered information that there have been changes in procedure at Holyhead. The Post Office stopped collecting mail from the ship on 22 April 1967. After that date the Purser/Catering Officer cleared the postbox, placed the contents in an envelope which he sealed and posted in the Holyhead Station pillar box, addressed to the Holyhead Sorting Office. However, the Bangor office has taken over much of the Holyhead work and it seems likely that even the "Holyhead Paquebot" datestamp is now actually applied in Bangor Post Office !

FIABCI CONGRESS The official announcement quoted in Random Notes 169 was wrong in two respects. Firstly it suggested that the place of the meeting would be shown as "B A C": it was actually the more familiar "DUBLIN". Secondly it had the dates wrong: the office was not open until Monday 25th May although delegates could register on 23rd.

ANOTHER SLOGAN Some time ago the European Conservation Year slogan was announced as due on 1st July at Dublin, Cork and elsewhere. We are now told that from 8th June to 4th July Cork will have "FESTIVAL OF WEST CORK, CLONAKILTY, JULY, THE FAMILY FESTIVAL"

HEXAGONAL "PENFOLD" PILLAR BOXES Add to the list a second in Bray, in Sidmonton Road. Unlike the one in Main Street, the top knob is missing.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

June 1970 No. 171

"TREBLE POSTAGE" Two major finds, now owned by W.Kane, were first seen at last month's I.P.C. A.G.M. One is a well struck "TREBLE POSTAGE" on a 1794 letter from Kilkenny to Dublin. The addressee was an MP and it is not apparent why the privilege of free postage was witheld.

"LINEN BOARD PAID" The other cover, of 1823, is from the Linen Board offices in Dublin and has a delightful red oval stamp, of the same class as those used by "TAXES" and "EXCISE".

BELFAST-HEYSHAM Further to the information overleaf: the covers arranged by "Irish Philatelic Enterprises" had a rubber-stamped cachet "POSTED AT SEA /T.S.S. DUKE OF ARGYLE", that being the vessel which inaugurated the new car ferry service. Similar covers are being arranged for the opening on 27th June of a car ferry between Heysham and Dun Laoghaire.

EVAN VAUGHAN T.V.Jackson continues his researches in the Irish Posts of the 17th century and in the May-July Bulletin of the Postal History Society (No.164) summarises a pamphlet in the British Museum detailing the grievances of Evan Vaughan, Postmaster of Dublin from 1638 to 1649.

IMITATION TYPEWRITING Whoever posts the next issue of "Random Notes" is reminded that these are examples of the "Imitation Typewriting" which is admissible at the Printed Paper Rate only if it is declared as such at a post office counter. It is very rarely that this regulation is enforced, and I was surprised to see a recent example of postage due being charged and collected in such a case.

CARELESS CANCELLING The example was the principal item of interest in a batch of envelopes from an office I frequent. Otherwise the main reward for my efforts was 6/4 worth of Unused 4d and 6d stamps. Also worth salvaging were two labels, one advertising "Ansafone" equipment and the other publicising

COMPEX, i.e. a Commercial Productivity Exhibition on the R.D.S. premises from 15 to 19 September.

REGISTRATION STAMP SHADES Most, if not all, the numerous successive embossed stamps on registration envelopes are found in deep shades, occasioned by double printing. An example seen on the current 1/9 (size G) is what would have been termed "nigger" brown before the use of that word became unfashionable.



One rarely sees nowadays the handstruck stamps (using the word in its true sense) for items prepaid in cash. Sketched herewith is a new (?) style from Mallow. [P.S. Not new: existed Waterford 1961]

Stencilled and published by F.E.Dixon for the I.P.C. and E.P.A.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JULY 1970 NUMBER 172

RANDOM NOTES

POSTAL HISTORY PRICES — Robson Lowe's valuers continue to underestimate the demand for Irish Postal History items. 14 lots in the April sale realised £398.10 against a valuation of £171, and a mixed lot valued £20 realised £85. By comparison the Scottish section went cheaply: valuation £162; realisation £212.

5d DEFINITIVE — When the 5d definitive was issued in March 1969 the cylinder was 2, and we understood that cylinder 1 was that with the sword-of-light. But now the 5d dog is on sale from cylinder 1, and one reason for surprise is that a second should have been used so soon. The 5d is one of the least used values and fine used are strongly tipped.

MONTH DESIGNATORS — The Irish Post Office has never made up its mind on how the month should be shown in cancellation, some towns using abbreviations (of English names - never Irish) while others use the Roman numerals of the month number. Cork machine started April with "APR" but soon switched to "IV"

SLOGAN CACHETS — Should one collect everything that passes through the post ? From time to time handstamped slogans are added to envelopes, sometimes without official approval. One to which I'm sure there is no objection is "SHIP THROUGH THE PORT OF GALWAY" in red on envelopes of the Galway Corporation.

NORTHERN IRELAND — The need for additional troops in Northern Ireland may mean the opening of further F.P.O.s. Mr Sedgley reports that there have been two. One at Lisburn used F.P.O.576 until 1st May and thereafter F.P.O. 551. The other was H.M.S. "Sea Eagle" at Londonderry which had F.P.O.1062 until 1st May and F.P.O.552 until the office closed June 25th. The single-circle rubber stamps of F.P.O.s 175,176 and 179 have also been in use, and F.P.O.179 has a parcel-post oblong canceller. HMS Eagle had a special decorative handstamp for items posted on its last day . See

IMPERIAL UNION 1d LABELS — J.Foley's draws my attention to an article in "Stamp Collecting" 2 July 1932 by one of my bêtes-noires, Mr.W.Ward. The article is an attack on one by Prof.Renouf and alleges that the Cork I.R.A. issue was entirely a private speculation. This is just possible, but unlikely in view of the contemporary newspaper references. However Mr Ward went on to confess that it was he who invented the "Imperial Union" labels. He designed them and had them printed in Manchester in 1912. Only 1500 were printed on gummed paper. The colours, two shades each of green and orange, were chosen to avoid political bias. The ungummed impressions on card were specimens . Although the confession is probably genuine, his memory let him down.

IMPERIAL UNION 1d LABELS (cont.) He alleges that the plate was made by stereotyping from a half-tone block, but the labels look like lithographs and there was no half-tone involved.

Another typical Ward blunder in the article is a statement that the ERIE PUIST labels were in sheets of 12. (Correct number is eight.)

EXCHANGERS ? Names and addresses of three philatelists wishing to exchange Irish stamps for those of their own country :

Marc Debusscherc
Peter Benoitsraat 15
B-8400 OOSTENDE
Belgium

Marcel Benaets
Rue des Messes 2
B-5201 Eihange
Belgium

Bjørn Grøulebakke
6830 Sanøe Sunnfsord
Norway

REGISTRATION ENVELOPE SIZE K After a premature announcement some time back, the new 1/9 stamped envelope (price 2s 4d each !) sneaked out about the end of June. The letterpress reverts to that of the 1967 issue (e.g. no brackets around "REGISTERED LETTER" and the registration fee is yet again left uncorrected on the reverse, i.e. "1/-" instead of "1/3".

THE IRISH TEMPERAMENT One of the fascinating aspects of collecting "Postal History" is the very occasional discovery of a letter worth keeping for itself rather than its postal markings. I have just been given an 1834 letter from the then Bishop of Ferns. Writing to his brother he refers to "that gloomy state which the conduct of the Ministry towards Ireland must inevitably produce". Later he states "Vex an Irishman & he will retaliate promptly, without any regard to future consequences."

HORSE-SHOW STICKERS Sorry I cannot supply this time. The design is another attractive one showing mare and foal being led in the judging ring. The new departure is that label is available in a large size (10x14 cm) for car windscreens.

MARITIME HISTORY Enthusiasts may like to know of a new book by Christopher Fox on "Skerries Harbour" printed by the Three Candles Press, Dublin, price 8s. Skerries was one of the harbours sometimes used as an alternative to Dublin in the 18th century by the packet vessels and other shipping.

CORK YACHT CLUB 4d The new stamp shows better understanding of the photogravure process than most Irish attempts to use it, but there is again considerable shade variation even in one sheet . Of course the "EIRE" is unforgivable. There are too many spots to be worth counting. The defective perforating pins are again evident - the first column. A striking feature is the use of a matt-surfaced adhesive, similar to (but not necessarily the same as) that used in the U.K.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1970 NUMBER 173

RANDOM NOTES

CORK YACHT CLUB COMMEMORATIVE — The large printing of 16,000,000 stamps (133,333 sheets + 40 stamps!) made it likely that more than one set of eylinders would be needed. At first I have seen only "1 1 1 1" and "2 1 1 1" the 2 being the gold.

USCGC CINCOTEAGUE — A few of you were probably mystified by the envelopes bearing a datestamp 16 JUL 1970 and the namestamp of the United States CoastGuard Cutter Chincoteague. That vessel serves as a "Weather Ship" and came to Dublin to provide a holiday for the crew. I was one of the first on board and arranged for the "posting" of a bundle of envelopes with U.S.A. stamps affixed. As has happened so often before, the Irish Post Office did not apply the PAQUEBOT postmark, and instead used a dirty hand canceller BAILE ATHA CLIATH 1.

CARLOW STAMP EXHIBITION — The Old Dublin Society this year chose Carlow for its annual all-day outing, and the date happily fell on the last day of the Exhibition. I can therefore give a firsthand account. Fr.Noonan and his helpers had assembled a compact yet representative series of frames, designed to demonstrate the varied attractions of philately - through themes or countries or postal history. Irish stamps were used especially to demonstrate the many types of variety, including some of the misplaced specks of colour on the current 4d commemorative. The rarest item on display was one of the only two recorded part-impressions of the 1959 slogan for the Muintir na Tire Rural Week, held in Carlow.

UNIONISM — Another quotation from a letter demonstrating how the Irish problems persist. Written in 1831 "the repeal (of the Union) is a fatal question... nothing will satisfy but their (Roman Catholics') turn of ascendancy .. and they will have to fight the Northerns first.."

ORANGEISM — The orange colour is spreading through the post office. The small label, P.P.38 used on parcels returned to the senders is now orange instead of the former pink.

THE PENCIL BALANCE — One of the major rarities I keep on hunting for is a propelling pencil which screws apart in the middle to reveal a miniature spring-balance for letter-weighing. The only one I have seen is in Dublin and I was able to borrow it for the Postal History Exhibition in 1963. But diligent enquiries have failed to locate a second. At last I have secured the balance-half of the pencil and wonder what happened to the rest ! Made by JOHN SHELDON who registered the design in February 1842 it still weighs accurately to its limit of 2 ounces.

E.

I.P.C. Random Notes

A.

August 1970 No. 173

STAMP DESIGN COMMITTEE Most of the old committee has been reappointed, the notable change being the addition of Miss Anne Crookshank, very knowledgeable in art matters but not in philately. It is preposterous that there is still no representative of any Irish philatelic concern.

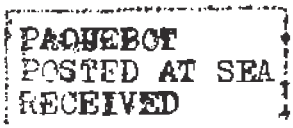
ETON COLLEGE CHAPEL WINDOW In R.N.166 I reported an admirable reproduction of the colour photograph from which the 1s commemorative stamp was produced last year. After frustrating delays I am now able to supply reprints of this illustration on highly glazed card, at 1s (= 5np or £0.05) each. Postage and packing 6d (£0.025) for small quantities. Anyone wishing to buy several may have them at the special rate of 10s (£0.50) per dozen, postage and packing included. For U.S.A. and Canadian collectors the same rates apply, converting the currency at 1s = 12 cents.

DESIGN Very well designed and produced is a novelty from the Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd, a folding card with spaces for all the 1969 Irish commemoratives, with adequate details of why each issue appeared and of the designers, and properly omitting the particulars of watermark and perforation gauge. Unfortunately when the card is filled one's first impression is the general feebleness of the stamp designs and colours and the failure to use the photogravure process effectively.

DECIMALISATION PagusT v.3,no.3, repeats the list of values due next year (see R.N.165) adding that the designs will be as at present but that the colours of the ex on 1½p and 20p will differ from those on the current 2/6 and 5/-.

The same issue quotes Anthony Trollope urging the need for reform of the currency - in 1858.

PACKETBOT POSTED AT SEA RECEIVED



Having forgotten the special markings for the opening of the Dun Laoghaire-Heysham route I was pleased to receive a routine item posted on board on the night 21-22 July. It arrived 25th having been postmarked at Lancaster 5 AM 23rd with the additional handstamp illustrated herewith. Has something been chopped off the original handstamp ?

DOCK STRIKE At least one English firm has been enclosing in exported parcels slips apologising for delay in the mail due to the dock strike. The first example that I saw was in a parcel which took less time than the usual !

MORE TRADE-UNIONISM While the Unionists are still dominant in Northern Ireland the Tradeunionists are increasing their power in the Republic. The selfishness of Dublin postmen has proved more powerful than their ideals as civil servants, and from 22 August there are no Saturday deliveries. This makes life very difficult for those who do most of their letter-answering at weekends.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1970 NUMBER 174

RANDOM NOTES

POSTAGE RATES October 1st is the centenary of one of the greatest reductions of postal rates - the introduction of the ½d rates for postcards and printed matter. In Ireland the centenary is celebrated by one of the most savage series of increases conceivable, the basic letter rate leaping from 6d to 9d, the postcard 4d to 6d, airmail letters 1s 9d to 2s 9d etc. And within a few months decimalisation will involve further increases: obviously the 9d will be converted to 4p (=9.6d)

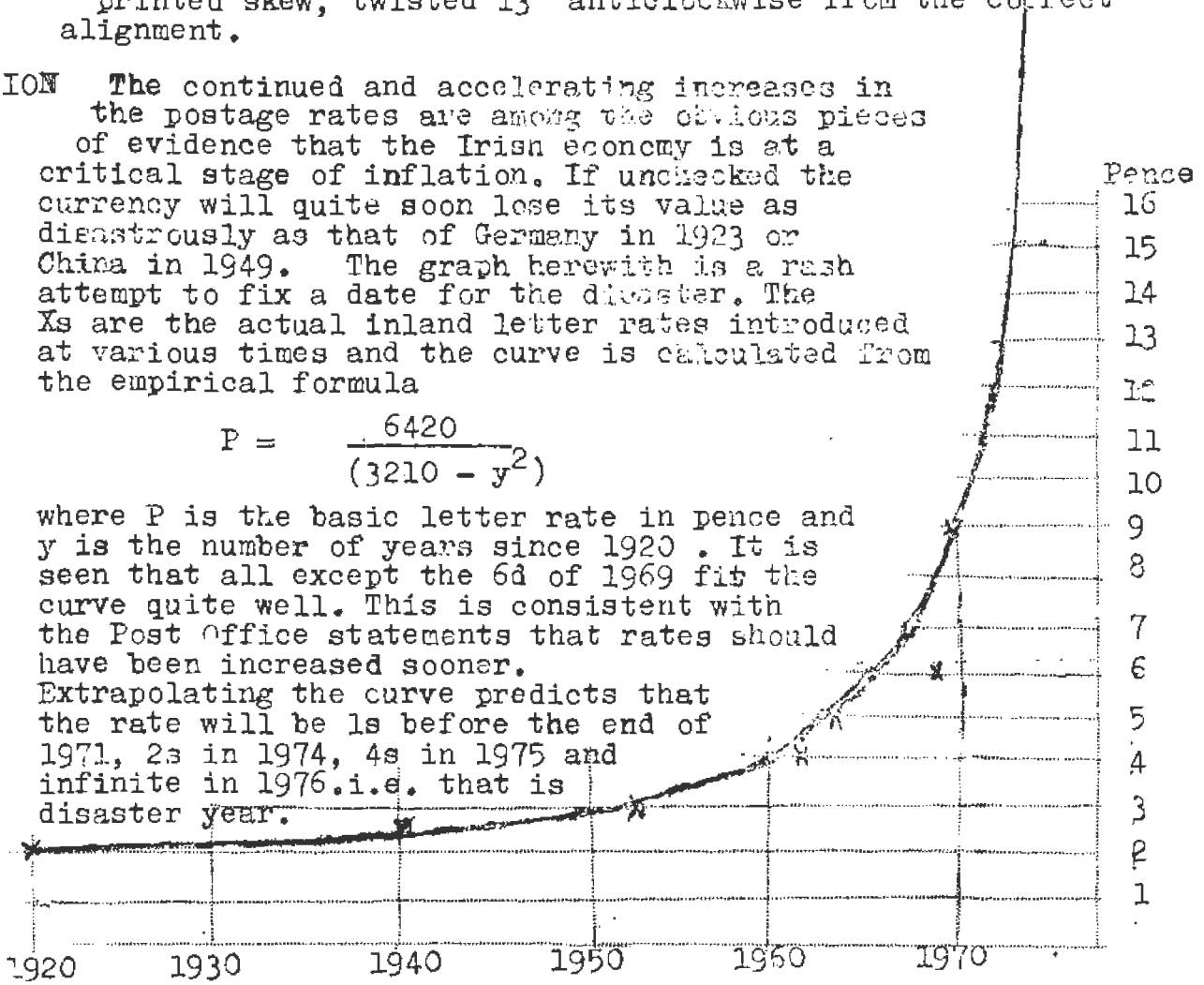
FIRST DAY ERRORS Mr Stokes reports that F.D.C. bearing the Cork Yacht Club centenary stamps posted in Thurles were all date-stamped 13 VII 66 !

6d ENVELOPE VARIETY A batch of envelopes from Co.Donegal all had the stamp printed skew, twisted 13° anticlockwise from the correct alignment.

INFLATION The continued and accelerating increases in the postage rates are among the obvious pieces of evidence that the Irish economy is at a critical stage of inflation. If unchecked the currency will quite soon lose its value as disastrously as that of Germany in 1923 or China in 1949. The graph herewith is a rash attempt to fix a date for the disaster. The Xs are the actual inland letter rates introduced at various times and the curve is calculated from the empirical formula

$$P = \frac{6420}{(3210 - y^2)}$$

where P is the basic letter rate in pence and y is the number of years since 1920 . It is seen that all except the 6d of 1969 fit the curve quite well. This is consistent with the Post Office statements that rates should have been increased sooner.
Extrapolating the curve predicts that the rate will be 1s before the end of 1971, 2s in 1974, 4s in 1975 and infinite in 1976.i.e. that is disaster year.



E.
September 1970 I.P.C. Random Notes No.174
A.

ROWLAND HILL ON ARCHER — Rowland Hill's Journal being serialised in the P.J."G.B." was obviously not written with any idea of publication, some of his remarks being libellous. An example in the Sept. issue where Henry Archer is referred to "evidently an unreasonable, and, I suspect, an unprincipled man". He, Archer, rejected an offer of £3000 or another of £1000 plus £300 a year as long as his patent lasted. Eventually he accepted £4000. His antipathy to Archer may help to explain Hill's lukewarm reception of the proposals for perforating.

RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS — The September "Stamp Magazine" has a useful article, well illustrated, on the Railway Letter Stamps used in Ireland up to 1920. It is important to realise that the system still exists, with a 7d fee, but only Railway Parcels stamps are applied.

JELLETT MADONNA — The general public have not enough art education to understand the type of picture on this months 1s stamp. To the uninitiated it looks more like the flames of purgatory than any other religious symbolism. Technically it is extravagant, four cylinders being used to produce a two-colour effect. The gutter design is careless. The reason for expending ink in the gutter is to ensure that there are no pieces of watermarked paper large enough to be used in forging stamps. But the two parallel lines leave ample space for the forger of insurance stamps ! The range of shades is further evidence of slovenly production: some impressions have almost as much flame as navy blue whereas others show little more than variations of blue.

POSTAL HISTORY — I reported earlier that the text of the "T.E.Field" lecture had been rewritten as a paper to the Old Dublin Society. This version is now printed in the DUBLIN HISTORICAL RECORD , Vol. XXIII No.4, price 5/-.

PRICES — The new edition of the Feldman pricelist "Stamps of Ireland" is very well worth having even if you have not the Handbook. The prices are in decimal currency and otherwise show relatively few changes. Such changes as have caught my eye are all upward, but the rate of increase seems to have steadied. There are still some inconsistent pricings. e.g. 1969 "An Dail" varieties are all listed at £2 each, mint and used, 6d and 9d. Fine used 9d are about 100 times scarcer than 6d and should be priced appreciably higher. There are too many cases of equal prices for mint and used - e.g. postage dues



A subject inadequately studied is the range of date-stamps used in Dublin on letters being sorted there. Illustrated is an unusually small variety (diameter 17 mm) of which I have seen only the one example so far.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1970 NUMBER 175

RANDOM NOTES

MORE INFLATION FORMULAE — If one had access to a computer it would be easy to discover more accurate expressions than that in R.N.174. Having only sliderules and log. tables to assist I am trying only a few of the less complex possible forms. One defect of the first tries was that I failed to realise that so near the end one must consider the month as well as the year: the 1970 increases are in October whereas those of 1969 were January. Allowing for this a better fit to the data is obtained by $p^2(19734-10y) = 2140$, by which infinity is reached in May 1973. In this p is again the postage in pence, but y is the year. The postcard rates from 1924 are consistent with $p^2(5914 - 3y) = 142$. This is even more pessimistic, predicting the crash in April 1971 !

MILEAGE MARKS — Thanks largely to David Feldman, I can supply some additions and corrections to the list by Hans Moxter in REVEALER Supplement 45

Add ATHENRY I 100 r 1833
" BALLYMONEY I 119 r 1831
Amend BURRIN dates to 1841-44
Add CABINTEELY I 6 r 1826
CKFERGUS Add colour r
CLE MARTYR extend date, 1810-
CLOGHER 82 Add r 1831-38
COLOONEY extend dates 1820-
Add ENNISCORTHY I 62 r 1823
GLENARM Add r 1810-
KILWORTH Amend 140 to 104
Add MOY I 71 b 1828
SUMMERHILL Extend date 1829-
Amend RUSKEY to 66 s 1825-50

SEALINK — In RN 173 it was mentioned that I had omitted to post any covers on the Dun Laoghaire - Heysham inaugural sailings. Since writing that I have received a card and covers with the compliments I.Phil.Enterprises. It is very remarkable that "PAQUEBOT" was (properly) omitted from the cancellation of eastbound covers but used on my July cover!

NORWEST ULSTEREX — Many thanks to the various senders of the special cancellations of the Limavady exhibition of 12 September. I disapprove of using two different markings for one half-day exhibition, but each (Arms of Londonderry and of the Fishmongers' Company) is superbly drawn by F.G.Sellar, the artist whose brilliant tree design will be used in machine cancellations to advertise Ulster's Tree Week.

FRANK & COHONFELD — Although the first of the planned three volumes on the "Stamp Duty of Great Britain & Ireland" has only passing references to the Irish all collectors of embossed fiscal stamps will find it worth having. It is the outcome of years of hard work by a team of collaborators. It is far more comprehensive than anything attempted hitherto and the only disappointment is the absence of even a tentative guide to rarity or market value.

E
IPC Random Notes
A

October 1970 No.175

PHILYMPIA The Exhibition was stupendous, and the medal winners can feel very proud of succeeding against such tremendous competition. However it was memorable also for the meetings with old friends and the making of new ones. I could not be at the joint IPC+EPA meeting on 19th, but those who were there seem to have enjoyed it. And I can confirm that the follow-up on 26th went very well - and I am confident that the majority of the active members of both our societies agree that some formula for federation must be found.

DISCOVERIES The two Irish trade stands in Philympia helped materially to keep Irish philately on the map and I hope that they did satisfactory business. One old-time postmark collection bought by D.Feldman included three hitherto unknown cancellations ! Two were TPO markings, one of a BANTRY-CORK M.C. and the other ENNIS-DUNDALK G.N.R.(I). The second is a surprising one in that the probable route (via Athenry, Athlone, Mullingar, Clones) involved three different companies' lines. The third cancellation poses several problems. It is of a FISHGUARD & ROSSLARE PKT, but is dated 1902, four years earlier than the route was opened for regular sailings. My theory is that it was a private marking used in the offices of the company planning the route and that the impression on the postage stamp (½d O.Victoria) was applied as a curiosity. Until an example is found on cover or postcard its status must remain doubtful.

PAQUEBOT Miss Wright has drawn my attention to a report in the journal of the MARITIME POSTMARK SOCIETY (who may have other theories on the Fishguard-Rosslare item) that Sligo had a 31mm skeleton PAQUEBOT cancellation in use on 15 October 1969

PHILYMPIA I find that I have omitted to thank the many who sent me the special stamps and special cancellations, the choicest item being Mr Mathews's special envelope for the joint meeting. The Philympia cancellations are the feeblest ever perpetrated for a major exhibition and the clumsy use of unpleasant colours only emphasises the badness of the designs.

IRISH SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS The inefficiency of the Irish Post Office has caused me (and many others) to miss two special markings. No advice was given to philatelists of a temporary post office for the Alcan golf tournaments. And notification of one for a Gas Chromatography Congress was issued only after the event started: I was in England and did not know in time to arrange my usual postings.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1970 Number 176

RANDOM NOTES

"GUM" The thin matt adhesive has now replaced the shiny gum on some of the definitives, the first seen being 3d,6d, 9d and 2/6. In the case of the 9d there is also a new cylinder, No.2 having come into use for the black.

EXCHANGERS Erna Bürgel, BERLIN 42, Siegertweg 2, Germany wishes to exchange German (W & E) stamps for Irish. Used only.

Werner Simon, 690 West Suggs Drive, Memphis, Tenn 38117,U.S.A. offers stamps (inclusing U.S.A. or U.N.) or cash for Irish metermarks on cover.

"GUM" When I enquired from the authorities about the nature of the adhesive I was politely reminded that the announcement in July of the Royal Cork Yacht Club commemoration stamp included a note that it would be the first special issue on which the adhesive PVA (Poly Vinyl Alcohol) would be used.

THE NEW STAMPS In the notorious areas where stamps are published with the philatelic trade as the main object, the promoters devise attractive, colourful and meaningful designs. The Irish Post Office, in spite of having a Design Committee, are antagonising collectors by issuing too many stamps quite bad in design and execution. The alternation of the MacSwiney and MacCurtain heads is presumably a device to double the philatelic sales, and could be justified only if the designs were balanced, which they are not. And who, outside Ireland, has any idea of what the stamps commemorate ? It would have been much better to incorporate the two heads on one stamp, with the Cork city arms above, a representation of the Mayoral regalia below and some inscription - perhaps just the word "Patriots".

Most of the mistakes are as before: no accent on ÉIRE; too many cylinders for too few colours; unsuitable colours(ÉIRE is scarcely discernible on the 9p). In addition the alignment on the 2/9 is poor.

WEXFORD FESTIVAL The attractions of the Wexford Festival this year included a "minibition" - 29 frames organised by Tony Byrne and Fergus O'Toole. I have not heard any comments from the spectators

POST OFFICE ECONOMIES It seems that only ten dies have been made with the new slogan. It was introduced on 1st November at Athlone, Carlow,Cavan,Drogheda, Dundalk, Kilkenny,Naas, Navan (where the inhabitants recently voted against "An Gaimh") and Tralee. After a fortnight they will be transferred to Dublin,Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford. The slogan is one in the road safety series " BE SAFE BE SEEN"

COILS I have learned through D.Feldman that 1p,2p and 3p stamps of the animals definitive issue are now available in coils made by pasting together strips cut from sheets. The sheets are, however from special cylinderss so that there are 20 stamps between joins.

E
IPC Random Notes
November 1970 A Number 176

MAINIE JELLETT MADONNA VARIETIES — The most prominent variety is listed by David Feldman in his attractive Newsletter as a "hairline" showing mainly as a series of pinkish dots, on the left pane and running diagonally from the top right of stamp 10, Row 1 to the bottom left of stamp 5, row 2. I think it is due to a scratch on a cylinder and its intensity varies from one batch of sheets to another. Mr Mathews reports it to be traceable right across the pane. The most prominent portion is a tangent to the Madonna's head on no.7 of row 2.

KEVIN BARRY — Yet another failure in design. Too faithful a reproduction of the photograph and too dark a background lead to the outline of the head being lost and a peculiar isolated white spot (tip of ear). There is not enough gradation of tone on the face. Some sheets have it all colour: others all almost white. Last year I was ridiculing the fancy names given to stamp colours. Now the men responsible have gone too far the other way. **The official colours are 6d green and 1/2 purple. My** descriptions are deep bronze-green and indigo-blue. Such misinformation in the handouts makes me see red !

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES — A news release posted on 10th November stated that G,H and K envelopes with 2/9 stamp "are now on sale at the GPO Dublin" At lunchtime on 12th a counter clerk wouldn't believe me until I showed him the circular. He then investigated and found that the supply had just arrived. So I was the first purchaser and the first to see that yet again there is no liaison between the stamp printers and the envelope printers. G and K sizes state on the back that the registration fee is 1/3 and 1s 3d respectively, but the H is two steps out of date and has it as "1s." The stamp is light blue and (for economy?) only 28x23mm compared with the 29x25mm which has been usual since these far-off days when the stamp was only 5d.

LONDONDERRY & LOUGH SWILLY RAILWAY — W.Mathews has acquired some very interesting stamps and labels including a set of 6d,2/6,5/-,7/6 and 10/- with "C.C.C." at foot which is assured signifies "Customs Clearance Charge". I find that I have a similar, but 2d value, of the Great Southern & Western Railway . Who else has any to report? It seems likely that the Great Northern Railway should have used them on cross-border parcels.

AEROGRAM — The counter clerks have new scribbling pads, the fate of a fair proportion of the aerograms. They will like the new issue: it is 23% larger. Otherwise it is a mess. Still the clumsy three-fold system instead of the two-fold designs elsewhere. Five different type-founts used, most of them ugly. The stamp space is the wrong shape. The orange colour is ghastly. The ironically appropriate pt symbol is incorporated, but it is mercifully obscured by the flap.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1970 Number 177

RANDOM NOTES

KEVIN BARRY 6d — The first sheets on sale in Dublin G.P.O. were from cylinder 2. I surmised that cylinder 1 was defective. However, when I secured a sheet from it I could not see any evidence of a major defect. Soon afterwards counter-clerks reported that they were being issued with only upper halves of sheets. It therefore seems that the crack or whatever defect developed on cylinder 1 was so bad that the proof showing it were scrapped. It is unlikely that any sheets with the flaw were put on sale but you are advised to watch for examples: they may exist.

ADVERTISING LABELS — One of the popular annual events of the Edwardian era was the Royal Irish Military Tournament and there are sets of postcards featuring the highlights of each event. A recent find is a purple-on-yellow label advertising "MILITARY TOURNAMENT LANSDOWNE ROAD FRIDAY & SATURDAY 14TH & 15TH SEPTEMBER". The almanacs fix the year as 1906. The postcards for that year are from photographs taken in the R.D.S. grounds, Ballsbridge, presumably at rehearsals.

PARCEL POST STAMPS — Items rarely mentioned are the bus-ticket type printed labels produced by counter machines in the principal post offices. I have recently seen an unusual usage: a label for 4/2 on a registered envelope, making up 2/3 additional registration and 1/11 additional postage. The envelope carried £340 in cash (not to me!)

OFFICIAL STATIONERY — There is a spreading trend for civil service offices to use printed envelopes instead of laboriously hand-stamping the departmental frank on each item. And a few offices are trying to be bright. Dept. of Lands has been using good white envelopes with the European Conservation Year emblem in black and blue and the slogan "Ireland a better land in which to live to work to play"

POSTMARK ODDITIES — I have mentioned before how the illustrated slogan cancellations can produce peculiar effects if they happen to hit the stamp in the right (or wrong) place. A current example concerns the "A Full Address Speeds Delivery". If the legs happen to fall on the face of any of the current portrait commemoratives they provide a superb moustache !

Independently Mr Mathews reports a similar peculiarity.

COILS — The 1p, 2p and 3p coil stamps mentioned in R.N.176 will achieve catalogue distinction because they are perforate 14x15 instead of the 15x15 of the normal sheet issue.

PREPAYMENT IN CASH — I have mentioned before that a few concerns are licenced to pay postage direct to the Post Office and to use envelopes with imprinted "POSTAS IOCHTA". The latest variant is UNICEE which sends out envelopes with a hand-stamped POSTAS IOCHTA BAILE ATHA CLIATH CEADUNAS 7.

E

IPC Random Notes

A

December 1970 No. 177

4+2 = 6 I have seen, but not yet acquired, an Electricity Supply Board meter-readings card with stamped-to-order 2d added to the 4d value. .

POSTAL USE OF INSURANCE

It was very pleasant to meet Mr Brian Wallas during his short visit to Dublin, and to admire a few of his treasures. One which I liked particularly was the first U.K. 4½d National Health Insurance stamp accepted for prepaying the 2d registration plus 2½d postage on a letter from Cork to Switzerland. It is clearly not "philatelic" and possibly a misunderstanding by the counterclerk of what the stamp was for. There was no current 4½d postage stamp, but the particular letter needed one !

My earliest example is a 1½d National Health accepted for prepaying inland postage on a letter from Newbridge to Dublin in December 1918. My next is an 8½d Unemployment Insurance, with Rialtas overprint, on piece, disallowed and incurring 1s 5d postage due, in June 1922. Then there is the 8 d National Health, also with Rialtas overprint, on piece, probable date 1923 and with no evidence of it being disallowed. In this case I suspect a genuine mistake by a counterclerk or subpostmaster who thought he was handing out a ½d stamp, also green.

A similar explanation is likely for a pair of 7d green ÁRACAS SLÁINTE (Health insurance) used from Bray in 1930 and a 5/6 blue (mistaken for 3d blue postage) used from Belturbet in 1957. Another of the same kind is a pair of 1/- red ÁRACAS SLÁINTE AGUS PINSIN (Health & Pensions) which was red like the 1d postage. Here, however, one could postulate that someone misread "PINSIN " as "PINGIN".

A case for which another explanation is needed is a 3/4 purple used Dublin 1953 and accepted as paying the inland letter rate, which had just gone up from 2½ to 3d. Could it be that an ignorant office boy stuck on the first stamp he found in the office box of stamps?

I have yet another - and which was possibly a deliberate attempt to produce a philatelic rarity. This is a 1/3 ÁRACAS DIOMAOINTIS (Unemployment Insurance) attempting to prepay the airmail postage to India, in 1941. This was not allowed, but instead of forwarding and charging postage due it seems to have been returned to sender under cover.

Who has other examples, especially on cover, with convincing proof of whether the stamp was really accepted as prepaying the postage ?

I am probably too late to wish you a Happy Christmas, but not to express the hope that you will enjoy a pleasant and prosperous year 1971 F. E. Dixon

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1971 NUMBER 178

RANDOM NOTES

4d + 2d PROVISIONAL — I was fortunate in obtaining one or two of the stamped-to-order cards of the E.S.B. (mentioned last month) and sacrificed one in order to add another rarity to my collection of cut-outs from postal stationery used as adhesives. The self-addressed card bearing the two was delivered without comment, the stamps being cancelled by an almost illegible impression of an ancient rubber hand-stamp.

CHRISTMAS MAILS — The use of such things can sometimes be explained by the Christmas rush of post office busyness. As was generally expected the postal rate increases led to a serious fall in items posted (first estimate was 30%) but this did not lead to any reduction in delays. A "Special Delivery" letter posted in Edinburgh on 18th December did not reach me until 22nd.

IRISH LANGUAGE — Possibly as a counterblast to Navan (which I mentioned as having voted to revert to that name from An Uaimh) the Conradh na Gaeilge has persuaded the Post Office to adopt the Irish forms of office names on the labels affixed to registered items The change will be made as soon as possible in the areas classified as "Gaeltacht" (i.e. Irish speaking) and gradually elsewhere. It is absurd that one small group of enthusiasts should be able to bring about such a change - which is I am sure against the wishes of the majority of the people

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS — The list of 1971 issues (but not dates) was released on 22 December . 1. J.M.Synge (born 16.iv.1871) 2. C.E.P.T. "Europa": 3. International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: 4. Jack B.Yeats (both birth centenary and "contemporary" art ! 5. What there has long been public pressure for - a Christmas stamp. A surprising revelation is that in 1972-3 will appear a symbolic design honouring the memory of those killed during the Civil War of 1922-23. No hint of the possibility of a 1922 issue for the jubilee of the overprinted stamps or of the independence of the Irish Post Office.

OBITUARY — You will be sorry to hear of the death of Pat Woods on 26th December. He was a really enthusiastic member of I.P.C. and for a time edited the journal .

ANOTHER LATE NOTIFICATION — A P & T information circular, dated and posted 1st January, announced the slogan "Decimal Day 15th February" as in use for the month of January at Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford. There being no Saturday delivery, and the Monday delivery being after I leave home, the circular reached me at 8 p.m. on 4th.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

January 1971 No.178

R.S.O. Cancellations — Mr.J.R.Henderson, 28 Newhailes Avenue, Musselburgh, Midlothian, Scotland, is collecting details of all the cancellations using the abbreviation R.S.O. which is now almost universally accepted as meaning Railway Sub-Office. I have sent him a list of over 120 Irish ones, ranging in date from Dunkettle 1875 to Chapelizod 1954. The lists will be published by the British Postmark Society, but we may be able to arrange a special reprinting of the Irish section.

Postal Services Decay — The rot is spreading. The stopping of Saturday deliveries is being extended from Dublin City to Dun Laoghaire and adjacent areas. Thus in the most populous part of the Republic of Ireland there are now only ten deliveries per week compared with 31 (including one on Sunday) up to World War I.

It is evidence of the P & T new language policy that, although the press hand-out was in English, the formal announcement in the newspaper advertisement columns was in Irish.

New Coils — Some of those who have been fortunate in finding stamp-vending machines in working order, and vending the new stamps, have suggested that the perforation is 14x14½ rather than 14x15. I'm willing to compromise: if one believes in measuring or estimating to the nearest ¼ then 14x14¾ is the designation. However, if one goes decimal, my reading of the scales yields 14.1x14.8, the value for the short side being thus nearer to 15 than to 14½.

Decimal Day Slogan — Errors in machine cancellations are too common to be worth detailing. However, I think it noteworthy that on 7 January two of the Dublin machines (H & I) both had the name and date portion inverted: Waterford had boobed similarly on the previous day.

Barry Pre-First Day — I learn that one Dublin subpoffice released Barry 6d , but not 1s 2d, on 1st November instead of 2nd, and a few covers posted on 1st got through without comment or interference.

1/- Postage Due — P.Smithers reports finding the 1/- Postage Due with sideways watermark.

The new Postage Dues — The official handout announces that on 15 Feb there will be new Postage Due labels with values ½,1½,3,4,5,7 and 8p. It stated that further details, notably colours, would be supplied on request. So far my request has not been answered.

Postal Stationery. — No details of the new envelopes etc have been received either, but I believe that the size F registration envelope will not be included.

SUPPLEMENT TO RANDOM NOTES 178

Copied from "The Tower of St.Michan's and other verses" by Randal M'Donnell, Dublin (Gill & Son) 1902

THE QUEENSTOWN LETTER-EXPRESS

She has left the Phoenix Tunnel, just beyond the Kingsbridge Station,
And her carriages are crowded full of bags
Of letters by the million from every land and nation,
So woe to any wheel of her that lags!
She is painted black as coal with a pretty red striped line,
And the mountings on her footplate in yellow glory shine;
She's our Locomotive Superintendent's very last design,
And her sideplate proves she's registered ""Three Hundred and Nine"
But glance along the top of her splasher's quarter moon,
And you'll see she has been christened the "Eileen Aroon".

Her Christian name's correct indeed; she is a perfect treasure,
Her Virtues are so many that it's hard to take their measure;
She's an engine in a hundred to assist you in a fix,
With her twenty-six inch stroke, and her drivers six foot six;
While her pressure is tremendous,
And her power is stupendous.
As a stranger learned the other day in other terms than "horses,"
Who on asking what's the load she'd pull, and what her tractive force is
Was told "She'd pull the d--l nearly out of Dublin city."
And her driver said it in a voice of mingled pride and pity,
For this "horse-power" explanation in a manner all his own
Suggests a rooted tendency to a residence in town !

As she passes by you'll hear her driver urging her to haste,
For not one single moment can this train afford to waste;
And observe his mate is feeding her with coal and trying to coax her-
Her digestive apparatus is too full and that provokes her;
For I heard her on emerging from the Tunnel,
Grunt out this sentence slowly from her funnel,
Though I'm doubtful if she meant it for a jest -
"Sure the bank we're coming through
Is just one in sixty-two,
Don't you know that in a moment I'll do my level best ?"
Now she's turning round the corner, now she's slipping on the ridge
Though the down grade in the Tunnel gives her power up the bank,
"Puff! puff-puff-puff: puff -" and then a blank;
That first "puff" means she's slipping,
And the last "puff" means she's gripping,
While the blank shows where she's muffled passing under Island Bridge !

Now the rails are rather greasy and the bank is steep and long,
And the weather's what is called extremely thick;
But you needn't be unhappy, for the engine's going strong,
And the regulator's well controlled by Mick -
Yes, Michael M'Namara,
Assisted by O'Hara,
Will take good care the "Eileen" doesn't stick,

THE QUEENSTOWN LETTER-EXPRESS (continued)

For an Inchicore Mail engine will simply break her heart,
And you'll see her swelling in her lagging bands,
Ere she fails to take the bank when she gets a proper start
From a driver whom she really understands !

Tolling, straining up the bank, until Clondalkin's past her,
See, my lady takes to travelling every moment faster;
On along vibrating metals, flying through the summer air -
Making sixty miles an hour past the Tower of old Kildare.

Now she feels the downward grade,
And a higher speed is made,
As she flies past Monasterevan going free,
And the fa ster that she goes,
All the more her hunger grows,
And the way the coal is ea ten is most wonderful to see.
And although it seems unfair
That any man should dare
To describe a lady's appetite in rhyme;
Still on fireman O'Hara for more food she's always calling,
While her thirst, to put it plainly, is disgusting and appalling,
For she drinks from one injector all the time!
But to call my lady greedy seems a petty fault to find
With an Inchicore Mail engine and twelve bogie trucks behind,
She's well worthy of her feed,
For there's magic in her speed, -
And she's moving like a hurricane of wind !

As Portarlington is passed
She seems shouting through her blast
And comes sweeping round the station with a roar,
Then away into themoonlight which floods the grey-hound o'er;
And which makes her whirling motion
Flash like a silver ocean,
As she swings upon her cradle to and fro,
And comes crashing through the midnight past Straboe!

But those who rule and have thepower to guide her fearful might,
See how keenly both will watch throughout thelivelong night.
For is there anywhere a man of human nerve who feels
When standing on thefootplate, from danger really free ?
Who knows that just a narrow rim - a single thread of steel's
The all that lies betwixt him and Eternity !

. . . . . .

So on through the darkness till morning shall break,
And the slumberers startled shall feel the earth shake;
And hear moans of distress in the wind,
And see engine sparks melting behind -
(Sparks of passion that spit from her mouth) -
While those moans of distress
Mean the QUEENSTOWN EXPRESS
Then en route for the glimmering South !

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY NUMBER 179

RANDOM NOTES

15 FEBRUARY NEW ISSUE DAY

It was a very expensive day for those who bought everything on offer, which comprised:

Stamps - 15 values, ½ to 50. In most cases colours correspond with those of the nearest equivalent in the last series. The new colours, notably 10 and 20, are good.
Cost per set £1.25½

Booklets. 6 @ 2½p. 12 @ 1p, 6 @ ½p: watermark sideways, imperforate around each pane, but p.15 between stamps. Cost per book 50p

Coil stamps: obtainable in machines. Each shilling or 5p purchased a strip of three se-tenant 1½,1,2½p, watermark upright, perforate 14½x14¾. I found one join, but then got a strip of 21 stamps without any.
Minimum outlay 5p

Postcards with 2½p stamp	Cost	3p
Wrappers " 2½p "	"	3p
Envelopes " 4p "	"	4½p
Lettercards " 4p "	"	4½p

The 20% increase in the price of the stationery, already too dear at 1d, is outrageous. Outrageous in another sense is the clumsy redrawing of the stamp design.

Registration envelopes with 14p stamp. Sizes G,H,K, at 15,15 and 16 p. each respectively. I suspect there was confusion and that I was undercharged at 46p
The 14p stamp is in the design of its precursor at 2s9d, a better design than that on the other stationery.

Remembering all the successive errors on the reverse of registration envelopes, I was not surprised that the idiots (no other word will serve) have on the back converted the wrong figure from the previous issue and specify the fee for registration as 6p instead of 10p !

Adding up you will find the minimum cost of buying one of each comes out as £2.21½.

(Added later) I waited a day or two before seeking cylinder-number blocks of four:(Cost £5.02) All number 1.

An item quite unannounced, but obviously necessary, is a new edition of the Post Office Guide (Eolaí an Phoist), Volumes I and II at 10p each. Vol.I tells me that I was undercharged for my registration envelopes. The H and K should have cost me 15½ and 17p.

CONCESSION An important concession to all users of postage stamps was made public on 15th Feb. Previous issues of stamps may be used - and at the pre-D-day rates. e.g. the inland letter rate of 9d still applies although if you have only new stamps it costs 4p = 9.6d.

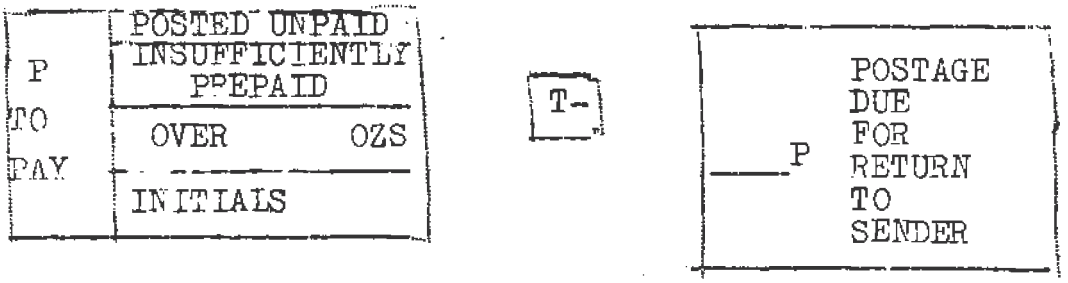
E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

February 1971 Number 179

D-Day or P-Day ?

Although 15 February was often referred to as D-day, I think that P-day would be as appropriate. P was the prominent letter in the shops: P immediately became the normal name for the new penny e.g. "5 P please" to a bus conductor.

Except for isolated cases (as on stamps) the post office had hitherto used D for the old pence. So the new currency necessitates many changes, including a wide range of postage due explanatory markings. This was evidenced by an envelope which has quite a story to tell. It was posted in Dublin on 11th February. It was mishandled at the facing-up table and escaped cancellation. The slip was discovered and the envelope set aside. It was cancelled, and presumably forwarded next day. The addressee was not available and early on 15th the official on duty at a southern post town decided to return to the senders - whose name and address were properly and prominently on the front. So he (or she) applied the normal handstamp "UNDELIVERED FOR REASONS STATED / RETURN TO SENDER". Then he looked for the handstamp which would specify the reasons and applied in turn three new ones -



As none of these was applicable, the letter being fully prepaid at letter rate, he obliterated them with blurred strikes of his datestamp. But this is not the whole story. When he made the first impression of the datestamp he noted that the 15 of the date was inverted. He put that right and tried again, only to realise that the 7.15AM was also upside down. At last he got this righted. Eventually he threw the letter into the bag for despatch without stating the reason for its return.

Two days later it was datestamped again in his head office, and without further misadventure it was delivered on 18th at the office it had left a week before.

It is probable that the three new handstamps have been supplied to all offices and that hundreds of old ones will be scrapped. It is to be hoped that a representative few will be preserved for the long promised postal museum.

Advertising stickers

The Gestetner firm (duplicators) is adding labels to their outward correspondence announcing the whereabouts of their '71 Show Train. It was in the Royal Dublin Society private siding on 25-26 January.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1971 — NUMBER 180

RANDOM NOTES

ENGLISH IN IRISH POSTMARKS

One of the slimmest of my files is that devoted to bilingual cancellations, its principal contents being DROMINA /RATHLUIRC CO.CORK, KILMACANOGUE / BRÍ CHUALLANN, MUINE BHEAG/CO.CARLOW, SANDYCOVE / DÚN LAOGHAIRE and BRÍ CHUALANN / M.O. & S.B. I have refrained from adding the large number which use abbreviations of the English names for the months.

I am adding a double-circle canceller from Ceann-Saile (Kinsale). It solves the midday AM or PM problem by stating the time as 12 NOON . This is interesting because the Irish word is just as short (NOÍN).

There is another mixture in another file: one of the otherwise English worded markings of the Dublin & Galway T.P.O. has "ANIOS" instead of the expected "UP".

LATE USE OF SLOGANS

Although announced only for the month of January, the DECIMAL DAY slogan was still in use at Limerick on 23rd February !

The next day the Tourist Board was still advertising "European Conservation Year 1970" with its metermark.

U.K. POSTAL STRIKE

Very few items have reached me at the time of typing (10 March). I am grateful to the I.P.C. member who sent a Decimal Day FDC via Hounslow and Sagittair. At my office one item arrived by mysterious means 16 days after posting in Forces Post Office 176.

A radio report mentioned that a private post started in Belfast was discontinued through lack of support. Can anyone add details of this ?

FISCAL STAMP ENGRAVER

The wider one's interests the more one learns in each field of collecting. At a numismatic meeting I was admiring medals and other items designed by Isaac Craig Parkes. With them was a superbly embossed invitation card, made from a die by this man, and disclosing that at the time (1837) he was Die-sinker to His Majesty's Stamp Office. From 1790 to 1830 the directories list J.Camillus Hone as engraver of the dies. We did not know who succeeded him, but did know that from 1838 the Irish dies were made in Great Britain. It now seems likely that Parkes made the dies from 1830 to 1837.

U.K. POSTAL STRIKE

I have seen more of the colourful and costly covers perpetrated by the profiteers, including covers printed for a "Liverpool to Dublin Emergency Postal Service". They are curios, designed to appeal to the most mentally deficient type of collector and should be boycotted .

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE

It is widely known that the privilege of sending and receiving letters free of postal charges was enjoyed by members of both Houses of Parliament. It is not so widely known just how many people enjoyed the same privilege. The complete list appended to the 1832 Act (2 Wil.IV.Cap.XV) is set out below. In most cases the freedom from postage applied only within Ireland.

His Majesty's Lieutenant General or other Chief Govefnors of Ireland.
His or their Chief Secretary.
His or their Secretary for the Provinces of Ulster and Munster in Ireland
The Under Secretary for the Law Department of the Chief Secretary's Office.
The Under Secretary and First Clerk for the Military Department of the Chief Secretary's Office.
The First Clerk in the Office in Ireland of the said Secretary for the Provinces of Ulster and Munster.
The Lord High Treasurer or Commissioners of the Treasury.
The Lord High Chancellor.
The Chancellor of the Exchequer.
The Vice Treasurer.
The Secretary of the Treasury.
The Secretary to the Postmaster General.
The Adjujant General.
The Quartermaster General.
The Chief Commissioner of the Barrack Board.
The Assistant Under Secretary for the Law Department of the Chief Secretary's Office.
The First Clerk of the Civil Department of the Secretary's Office.
The Treasurer of Receiver General of the Post Office.
The Comptroller of the Sorting Office in the General Post Office.
The Surveyors of the Post Office.
The Registrar of Kilmainham Hospital.
The Officers for taking the Population Returns.
The Commissioners for the Assistance of Trade and Manufactures.
The Secretary of such Commissioners.
The Commissioners for the Issue of Exchequer Bills and Money out ofthe Consolidated Fund for the Encouragement of Public Works and Fisheries, and the persons appointed by them to sign Letters on the Outside.
The Secretary of such last mentioned Commissioners.
The Special Commissioners for receiving Applications for Relief in case of extreme Necessity, and their Secretary.
The Commissioners for the Extension and Promotion of Public Works, and the Person appointed by them to sign Letters on the Outside.
The Secretary of such last mentioned Commissioners.
The Commissioners for auditing Public Accounts.
Divisional Justices.
Charitable Institutions or Societies

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1971 RANDOM NOTES NUMBER 181

TREBLE POSTAGE

Last year Mr Kane acquired a cover of 1794 with a handstruck "TREBLE POSTAGE". Looking into the Post Office Acts I find that Stat.25 Geo.3 cap.19 specified that trebke postage should be charged in three cases: (a) where a letter had been sent under cover to someone entitled to receive letters free, but intended for someone else not entitled to the privilege. (b) where a letter has been found concealed in a newspaper or packet which travelled at less than the normal letter charges. (c) where a "free" letter has any part of the superscription forged, counterfeited or altered.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE

An item which I have only recently realised was in the Irish National Library is "Instructions for the Guidance of Letter Receivers in Ireland", published 1846. One puzzling instruction concerned the carriage of newspapers bearing the Newspaper Duty Stamp. If for delivery within the "Free Delivery" area they were to be charged 1d, but there was no charge if they were to be sent further ! There is scope for considerable research in what happened in the 1840s and why the Penny Post handstamps continued in use.

MORE POETRY

In the 1880s Mrs Rosa J.Solomons, wife of a Dublin optician, suffered a series of miscarriages and was advised to stay in bed for the whole of her pregnancies. Her pastimes during the enforced inactivity included writing verse and apparently collecting stamps. Here is an extract from lines "For a Stamp Album"

"Though youth is charming, sums untold
Are paid for here, if stamps be old;
Forgive then, friends, the strange array
Of profiles pink and brown, that stray
Across the page with blue between,
And queens with features mottled green!
For, thing of joy though beauty be,
We stamp collectors all agree
In finding joy in nothing fair
Save ugliness - if only rare! -
How pleased are we if friends have gone
To live in arctic, torrid zone;
Or in a land with stamps yet strange
Beyond our fellow gatherers' range.

Should you bring treasures to our store,
We'll thank you - then we'll ask for more !"

A son born successfully after one long rest inherited some literary ability, but became better known as an Irish rugger international and as holder of that coveted post: Master of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. He was Dr Bethel Solomons.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

April 1971 No.181

SAVINGS STAMPS — As one might have expected, the salmon design has been kept for the "10" which replaces the 2s savings stamp. The colours have been improved, giving a realistic metallic sheen to the fish. The lower demomination is "5" instead of the expected "2 ½". This meant a new design and a black-and-white (Kerry?) bull is depicted on over-grazed pasture (evidenced by daisies) in an impossible posture. The right foreleg is raised and the left foreleg is so placed that the animal could not keep erect !

MULTI-VALUE COIL — The Dublin GPO and Sheriff St. sorting office are the only places where the new coils seem to be available at present. A complete coil includes 500 of each value, 1, 1½ and 2½, and thus costs £25. The outer wrapping has no key letter, or indeed any printing - only a typed label specifying the quantities and price. I have not seen a complete coil but understand that the interval between joins is erratic. It seems that ithe paper should be continuous and that the joins result from accidental breaks.

HMS ANTRIM — On 30 March there was an attractive circular handstamp for British Forces office 1148, on the occasion of the commissioning of H.M.S.Antrim. I saw no mention in Irish newspapers, but assume that the ceremony was in Belfast.

ST PATRICK'S DAY COVER — It was from a shop window in Birmingham that I learned that the BFPS 1225 had an elaborate cover and cancellation for 17 March 1971, featuring the Royal Irish Rangers. The envelope filler gives the history of the Regiment and of those it amalgamates (R.Inniskilling Fusiliers, R.Ulster Rifles and R.Irish Fusiliers - 27th,83rd and 87th)

This much more desirable than the covers of the

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST — The Post Office made a mistake in allowing itself to be exploited by supplying a special posting box for a pop-song contest. The contest is an extravagant misuse of the television medium for what is purely radio material, and material for only a small fraction of the listeners and viewers. Such papers as I saw during the weekend (Observer, Sunday Times and Monday's Times) did not think worth mention! The special cancellation for items posted in the box was an amateurish composition with ugly colouring and clumsy letters. An expertly designed cancellation in black is much more appealling than such feeble multicolour efforts.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES — I have received a printed price-list from the Department of Posts & Telegraphs. This shows that I was charged correctly and that the H and K size quotations in "Eolai and Phoist" are wrong. (See R.N.179)

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

MAY 1971 Number 182

RANDOM NOTES

FENIAN ESSAYS

In 1958 "Dixon's Irish Philatelic News" - the precursor of these "Random Notes", pointed out that my efforts to find evidence confirming the Fenian origin of the well known Essays had failed. I asked others to help in the research. In correspondence I stressed that the information was most likely to be found in U.S.A. Now, 13 years later, J.E.Foley has put together the results of a really thorough hunt through the possible sources, and the result is in "The American Philatelist" for March 1971. It comprises 25 pages with 25 illustrations and 80 footnotes and the title "The Taylor-Made Fenian Essays" neatly summarises the contents: the labels were the invention of the well-known S.Allan Taylor of Boston, Mass. and were not authorised by any section of the Fenian Brotherhood.

Although the evidence will satisfy most readers, there is still one difficulty. H.G.L.Fletcher is familiar with the numerous items attributable to Taylor, and he thinks that the "Fenians" are of different workmanship.

An item about which Mr Foley has not been able to add to our knowledge is the 1d "Erin Go Bragh" design. I think that its first mention was in the "Philatelist" in 1870. Who is going to find the answers to all our questions about it ?

FISCAL STAMP ENGRAVERS ?

One aspect of research - in any field or subject - is that every reference must be investigated and checked. I recently read that the 18th century artist Jonathan Fisher had a post in the Dublin Stamp Office, and it was implied that he used his artistic gifts there. The Directories show, however, that his post was Supervisor of Stampers. This was probably a sinecure, there being an Assistant to do the work, while Jonathan could carry on with his painting and aquatinting !

CORK'S FIRST SLOGAN CANCELLATION

Of many interesting things shown during the Birmingham meetings, the most surprising was an example of the slogan "FEED THE GUNS WITH WAR BONDS" used at Cork in November 1918. Dublin had no machine at the time and we had thought that Belfast was the only Irish user of the earliest U.K. slogans. M.Leonard's find is a major discovery. Is it unique ?

FIRST(?) NEW 1971 SLOGAN

The post office internal communications are not improving, in spite of successive promises of reform. None of us was notified of the introduction of a slogan at Clonmel - "CLONMEL / BIANCONI DAYS / 16th-23rd MAY 1971", in use probably from the beginning of April. Clonmel was the centre of the network of coach routes established by the remarkable Bianconi who started life as a penniless peddlar of pious pictures.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

May 1971 No. 182

"G.B." As many of you know, one of my pet schemes is to teach all concerned that the abbreviation "G.B." must never be used when "U.K." is more correct. I have found another objection to "G.B.". It is the designator for one of the nasty nerve-gases - Isopropyl methylphosphonofluoridate !

EUROPA STAMPS 1971 The obvious criticisms of the Irish version of the international design are the common ones - too much blank space, absence of "Postage", absence of the ÉIRE accent. A peculiar feature is that the advance publicity mentioned only one colour for each value and illustrated the design with EIRE and the value in white. The actual stamps are in black plus colour, the black being used for EIRE and value.

1972 COMMEMORATIVES When the resolution passed at the IPC AGM was reported to the Post Office Mr Telfer received a courteous reply pointing out that the stamp programme for 1972 has not yet been decided, and implying that there is a possibility of commemorating the jubilee of something to do with 1922.

POSTAL HISTOBY Anyone seeking details of the development of the mail services will find a valuable section in a book by E.R.R.Green , "The Lagan Valley 1800-1850" published 1949.

P.& T. INFORMATION OFFICER The news has been released that last month Mr Frank Ryan took up duty as Information Officer. A graduate of University College , Dublin, called to the Bar in 1949, he has wide experience as a Secretary and Organiser. His brother to the prominent Fine Gael T.D. Richie Ryan, and there was surprise when Frank was appointed as Public Relations Officer of the Fianna Fail party. He was in that post from 1963 to 1965. More recently he has been General Secretary to "Gorta" the main Irish organisation collecting to provide famine relief in distressed countries.

DELAYED INFORMATION The announcement of the CLONMEL BIANCONI DAYS slogan was received (with apology for delay) on 11th May, more than a month after it came into use !

LACK OF INFORMATION Another news item, not yet officially released is that Castlerea (CAISLEAN RIABHACH) now has a cancelling machine. First date seen 11th May.

FOLEY ON FENIANS It is good news that J.E.Foley's great work on the true story of the "Fenian Essays" is being reprinted in booklet form and will soon be available. 53 pp from M.P.Giffney, 22 East Road, DUBLIN 3.

FIRST FLIGHTS Some of the covers carried on the first Aer Lingus Jumbo B 747 flight from Dublin to New York on 5 April had a neat shield-shaped cachet, and were datestamped on arrival at Kennedy Airport.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1971 — RANDOM NOTES — NUMBER 183

POSTAGE DUE VARIETY

A variety that does not seem to be recorded is on the elusive ½d value, and comprises a prominent dot on the second S of POSTAS. I have seen it only with e watermark, but suspect that it occurred also on se printings. Can anyone confirm ? It is from the left side of the sheet: I do not know which row.

EUROPA 1971 VARIETIES

The most conspicuous of the flaws on the new stamps is a circular blemish near the top right (Thirkell A9) of Row 2, No.7 in both values. It is just about worth catalogue listing



The hexagonal shape usually indicates a Late Fee usage, but the postmark sketched here was used on a postcard from Chicago to Belfast (time en route 8 days) and I can see no reason why any special date-stamp was necessary. Have you any theories ?

KRAG MACHINE "ERROR"

I was interested to see offered in a postal auction a Dublin Machine Cancellation of the Krag (Misspelled "Kragg") machine with an alleged error of date 13 FEB 48 for 13 FEB 14. This is obviously a misreading of 13 FEB 14B.

ULSTER '71 EXHIBITION

The reality of the border is evidenced by the difference between the celebrations North and South. Northern Ireland has a major exhibition commemorating the golden jubilee of its independence. The Republic does not plan any commemoration of its Provisional Government and Free State periods.

The special cancellation for the '71 Exhibition is a mediocre rectangular handstamp.

? CLIATH

Looking through some Dublin sub-office postmarks I was struck by the great variety of designations. Very few have "BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH" in full: most omit the first word, and abbreviate the second to a single letter with or without an array of punctuation marks. One finds A Á A. Á. Á' Á, Which is correct ?

A P

A recent addition to my Irish Postal History items is a small brass button (made in England) featuring a harp flanked by the letters A and P. I believe that the letters are for AIREACHT AN PHUIST, the Irish for "Post Office" as used on 1922 official postal stationery.

MULTIVALUE COILS

A remarkable feature of the current coils is the range of shade of the 1½p value, noticeable even between successive examples of the stamp in a strip.

E.
I.P.C. Random Notes
A.

June 1971 No.183

NEW BOOK The Forces Postal History Society has published "Camp Postmarks of the United Kingdom" by R.A.Kingston, price £1, obtainable from the author at 150 St.Paul's Avenue, Slough, Bucks. England. It illustrates all the known handstamps, including all Ireland up to 1922 and Northern Ireland since then.

TOURIST LITERATURE Many Northern Ireland products are much superior to their counterparts in the Irish Republic. The North has issued a very attractive booklet "The Post Office in Northern Ireland" with useful information and maps (e.g. one showing all the posting boxes in Belfast). It has coloured illustrations of the "Ulster Paintings" stamps due 16 June, all by living artists.

1971 COMMEMORATIVES The dates of new issues in Dublin were released 31st May with an apology for the delay. Synge 19 July, 4 & 10p; Jack Yeats (Contemporary (!) Art) 30 August, 6p; Combatting Racism etc 18 October, 4 & 10p; Christmas 15 November, 2½ & 6p.

SPECIAL CANCELLATION One thing that has been overdone in the North is the issue of special event cancellations. The latest (and last?) from Ballykelly signals the closure of the Royal Air Force base there on 1st June.

"ULSTER PAINTINGS" The colours of the illustrations mentioned above differ considerably from those in the U.K. Philatelic Bulletin, and it will be interesting to see which is more nearly right. One peculiar feature of the N.I. booklet is that it illustrates the new 3p regional four times instead of the four-value set.

CIVIL WAR STAMP DESIGN Here is your great opportunity to make an impact on the much-maligned (justifiably) Stamp Design Committee. There is a competition, open to anyone living in Ireland, born in Ireland, or having at least one parent of Irish birth. The prize is £250. According to the announcement this offers a unique opportunity for young designers. I hope that this is not literally true. It ought not to be unique, but a regular event; and it ought to be open to the middle-aged and elderly as well as the young. Details are obtainable from the Secretary, Stamp Design Advisory Committee, Room 290, G.P.O. DUBLIN 1.

MICHAEL COLLINS COMMEMORATIVE STAMP Many people think it a mistake to remember the Civil War at all. And very many believe the most important 50th anniversary next year is that of the death of Michael Collins. A writer to the "Irish Independent" invited opinions on the desirability of a Collins commemorative stamp. There were 599 who wrote in support of the suggestion, and only one against it.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

JULY 1971 RANDOM NOTES Number 184

REPLY COUPONS One of those thoughtful correspondents who sends a stamp or reply coupon to assist me to reply has sent me the latest "Commonwealth Reply Coupon". Although such coupons have been exchangeable in Ireland this is the first printing which I have seen to bear a statement to that effect. The remarkable feature is that at the moment one could make money on them, as the purchase price is 3p but the Irish Post Office must supply a 4p stamp in exchange.

THE MINISTER AND THE PUBLIC Mr G.Collins, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, did not add to his prestige when he faced a public meeting on 15th June, organised by the Consumer Association of Ireland. He and the four officials who supported him had to be smuggled in by a back door to avoid meeting a picket of his disgruntled telephone staff. I was unable to attend. Others were disappointed because the room could not hold all who turned up. The crowds caused a complaint from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had an E.E.C. Dinner in the next room. Press reports suggest that the public's complaints were only the predictable ones of inefficiency (especially telephones) and staff discourtesy. No-one seems to have raised the inefficiency in the management which leads to unattractive stamp designs, stupid commemorative stamps which mean nothing to overseas recipients, and the general failure to use the opportunities of increasing the revenue from philatelists.

CIVIL WAR STAMP DESIGN I have now seen the detailed instructions for entries to the design competition. They include recommendations for the inscription, and one of these shows either a warped sense of humour or lack of realisation of the pun involved. The expression is "Ar son Eireann" which means "For the sake of Ireland" but obviously "Ar son" can be one English word which describes the burning of the Four Courts and other incidents better forgotten than commemorated.

ULSTER '71 PAINTINGS STAMPS My thanks to the senders of First Day Covers with the interesting new issue, in which the 3 and 7½p please more than the 9p. The Philatelic Bureau Bulletin reproductions were more nearly right than those in the N.I. Post Office booklet. The title of the 9d is stated in the official description to be "Slieve na brock" which sounds more Irish than it looks. Slieve should be Sliabh and means Mountain: I think that Na Brock means Speckled and should be Breac. This is a typical example of the misspellings perpetuated by the Ordnance Survey.

1971 IRISH OVERPRINTS

The Ulster '71 Paintings stamps are reported to have been overprinted "SAOIRSE EIREANN 1916,1971" with an "X" on the Queen's head. These are interesting reminders of one of the anti-British groups, but think twice before buying them: you may be helping illegal activities.

CHANGES OF POSTAL RATES

The newspapers of 26 June carried in the advertisement columns the announcement, entirely in Irish, of new postal rates coming into force on 1st July. By the time I had managed to decide on their significance an English version had appeared - on 28th June. The welcome feature is that airmail rates are reduced, that for letters from 14 to 12p for the first half-ounce, and that for aerograms (still stupidly called "Air Letters") from 7½ to 7p. The rate for foreign surface mail (allegedly by air within Europe) is still 6p for one ounce but jumps from 9½ to 11p for 2 ozs. and by increasing the size of the steps some staggering increases occur e.g. from 20 to 32p for a letter between 4 and 5 ozs; from 34 to 60p for a letter between 8 and 9 ozs !

The jump is Printed Paper Rate overseas is even more savage, resulting in some rates being more than doubled, e.g. a packet weighing 8 to 10 ozs will cost 14p instead of 5½p.

"DECIMAL" FISCALS

Mr Harradine is the first to report new embossed revenue stamps with values in decimal currency. They are circular, 30mm across, date at top, value at foot, inscription at sides. The central area has a harp and a doodled background only vagaely suggestive of Celtic scrolls.

MICHAEL COLLINS LABELS

The obstinate refusal of the Government to allow postage stamps in honour of Michael Collins has led two concerns to prepare labels. The Fine Gael party (main opposition group) announces that it will issue one early next year. They have been forestalled by a commercial group "Thomas Associates" whose design is stated to have come into use on 1st July. I have not yet seen it.

(LATER) I have seen a photo of a cover which passed through the post without comment, and without any postage stamp. 3,000,000 have been printed, in sheets of 30, to be sold at 1p per label. Outrageous profiteering !

POST OFFICE RELENTS

Although still adamant about Michael Collins, the responsible authorities have now yielded to outside advice and the latest programme of next year's special issues included "50th anniversary of the issue of the first Irish Postage Stamp".

SYNGE COMMEMORATIVE

Although Jack B.Yeats's "contemporary" art is to be commemorated by a stamp issue later in the year, a portrait by him has been used as the basis of the Synge stamps due 19th July. It is from a stencilled original and not suitable for reproduction by photogravure. When will they learn the fundamentals of what is good taste in printing ?

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1971 — RANDOM NOTES — Number 185

NEW SOCIETY — IPC and FPA members are prominent in a newly formed Society THE WELSH PHILATELIC SOCIETY or CYMDEITHE FFILATELIG CYMRU. Subscription £1.00 per year, and the Hon.Sec. is A.H.Morgan, 12 Swansea Road, Penllergaer, SWANSEA SA4 1AQ. I look forward to there being a joint meeting with the IPC to discuss the Holyhead & Kingstown and other sea routes. A subject I would like to see studied is the illicit carrying of letters, which must have been prevalent at various times. I've demonstrable examples from the Isle of Man but not from Wales.

THE 1971 OVERPRINTS — I have obtained the leaflet issued by "The Irish Republican Philatelic Office" giving details of how they expect to make money out of sympathetic (and also out of politically apathatic) stamp collectors. The stamps are the Ulster Paintings '71 3p value only. The overprint reads "Saoirse Eireann / Fight for United Ireland/1916-1971". The price is 10p each or £2.50 for a block of 25. 50 covers are available cancelled with a Belfast postmark, price £2 a cover. And whatever you order 5p must be added for postage ! My advice is to ignore the offer: the 7p profit on one stamp might buy the bullet which killed an Ulsterman or a British soldier defending Irishmen from Irishmen. Of course in 2071 these overprints may be as valuable (and as much a mystery) as the Fenian Essays are now, especially if only a handful get into philatelists' albums. I have no intention of buying, but would like to examine one of the 50 covers: it is possible - even probable - that they are like the 1944 Dublin Philatelic Exhibition overprint, added after the item had been through the post.

NEW SLOGANS — Yet again the P. & T. Information Office was unable to let us know until after the first day of a slogan "Come enjoy yourself at Mardi Gras '71 Castlerea 25th July - 2nd August" in use at Castlerea. I suppose that Castlerea will have their Easter in mid-September !

"SHOP IN THE GOLDEN PAGES" was used at several offices from 12th to 25th July and will be resumed 6 to 19 September.

The Enniscorthy Stamp Exhibition 12 to 17th July had a special handstamp cancelling items posted at it.

(These last two were announced five days before their introduction, hardly adequate notice).

COMMONWEALTH REPLY COUPONS — Further to what I wrote in R.N.184, I am told that the last pre-decimal printing (price 7d) also mentioned its exchangeability in the Irish Republic.

CANCELLING MACHINES — Another addition to the list of towns equipped for machine cancelling DUN NA NGALL (no accents), DONEGAL. First example seen 19.VII.1971.

E.

I.P.C. Random Notes

August 1971[A]. No. 185

DISCOVERY !

In 1864 a certain "J.C.H." contributed a paragraph to the Stamp-Collector's Magazine, quoting an old newspaper and describing the collection of Irish revenue stamps assembled by John Bourke in 1774 for presentation to the Revenue Commissioners. Later references have, I think, all derived from this one. The most widely read is in the Williamses' book "The Postage Stamp"(Pelican, 1956) which goes so far as to describe John Bourke's compilation as world's first stamp album.

When I heard of it, I made various enquiries as to its possible whereabouts and came to the conclusion that the volume had perished either in the Four Courts or in the Dublin Custom House. I was wrong. That great researcher, Mr J.Schonfeld of Vancouver has discovered it to be in the library of the Royal Irish Academy - a library that I have often had the privilege of using, and which I pass almost every day. It was presented to the Academy as recently as 1934 and a label inside discloses that at one time it was sold by a bookdealer for 28s 6d ! In most cases each stamp is embossed as a semi-adhesive, tied to the vellum page by a metal strip, sealed on the back by a GR3 cypher label. With the stamp is a written account of the stamp's special purpose. The embossed stamps included are £6, £2, 5s, 2s 6d, 1s, 6d, 4d and 1d. There are also the 2d and 1d engraved stamps for almanacks etc and the ½d newspaper stamp. On another page are impressions of a wide range of the circular stamps in black, from ½d to 7s, denoting the price of the paper or vellum supplied with the stamp.

There is a fulsome page addressed to the Revenue Commissioners, and careful consideration of this leads me to the view that there was a similar volume made up for each of the seven Commissioners - John Bourke (father of the compiler), Rt.Hon. John Beresford, John Monck Mason, John Staples, Richard Townsend, Sir Francis Bernard, Bart., and James Agar. So it is just possible that six others exist !

The day that I visited the Academy to inspect the "album" I went on to the National Library and there, looking in vain for something else I found a volume of "St. Patrick's Anti-Stamp Chronicle". This was a weekly, begun 16 June 1774 to denounce the imposition of the stamp duties.

CASTLEREA Mr Smithers reports that the Castlerea machine came into use 22nd April and its special slogan began 6th July.

COLLINS & GRIFFITH SEALS Fine Gael have abandoned their plans for their own issue of labels and have combined with the promoters of the 1p labels already on sale - without informing us of how the profits will be spent.

EIRE
IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE
ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1971 Number 186

RANDOM NOTES

MULTI-VALUE COILS — The machines have slowly spread, but, judging by the few examples of the stamps that I have seen on correspondence, the general public is not using them much. Erratic performance of the machines does not help. I predict that future philatelists will seek strips of various lengths used on appropriate cover e.g. at present 1+1½p on inland postcard, 1½+2½ inland letter 1+1½+2½+1 on letter overseas, etc. Strips incorporating joins will also be very desirable, but could be faked.

ABBREVIATED YEAR IN DATE-STAMPS — It is noteworthy that only two Dublin cancellations or datestamps follow the correct practice of using an apostrophe when only two digits represent the year (e.g. 1971 = '71). They are a circular rubber canceller occasionally used on soft packets, and one of the datestamps of the Returned Letter Section.

"CONTEMPORARY" IRISH ART — This is being typed before the Yeats commemorative stamp appears. Yet again one must criticise the choice. Although Jack B.Yeats was an important artist and his work influenced many artists still painting he is not contemporary. And the choice of subject is inappropriate, being a style which he abandoned 60 years ago.

Another criticism is the face-value. During the summer period there is demand for 2½p stamps, for use on holiday postcards. Surely one of the commemoratives sold at this time of the year should have been 2½p !

EXCHANGES WANTED — Mr Richard E.Redfield , Box 119, Rt.2, EVERGREEN, Colo.80439, U.S.A. would like to receive used Irish stamps in exchange for those of U.S.A.

The 1971 OVERPRINT — An interesting correspondence developed in the Irish Times, during which it was denied that the profits are for the I.R.A., but there was no explanation of how the money would be spent. My main contribution was pointing out that such overprinted items, sold at much more than the face value, and not obtainable in post offices, are typical of what is condemned by the International Philatelic Federation, so that a collection containing them could be disqualified from international exhibitions. I have seen two of the covers and am satisfied that they did pass through the post with the overprint, but that does not raise the status above that of a curio.

DONEGAL MACHINE — Some waste paper salvaged from a refuse dump included a postcard with the Donegal machine cancellation 13 v 1971. Other pieces showed that some offices are getting rid of 7½p stamps by using a pair for the 15p parcel rate.

E
IPC Random Notes
September 1971 A No. 186

HIBERNIAN STAMP CO. SIMPLIFIED CATALOGUE

Collectors of Irish stamps include the complete range of types of collector - from the most advanced enthusiast delighting in the worst printing to the more easily satisfied customer who is happy to have one of each stamp. The latter customer is well catered for in the Simplified Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-1971, just issued by the Hibernian Stamp Co.Ltd. It is well illustrated and the prices, in sterling and U.S. dollars, are realistic. For mint they are higher than Feldman's: for used a little less in most cases. The simplification could have been taken further by ignoring the difference between red and carmine overprints, or black and blue-black . And I do not think that there is any need to give the designers' names, method and place of printing, and sheet format. Quite good value at 95p, and we look forward to the same firm's specialised catalogue due this month.

SCOTCH TAPE

The greatest inventions of the 20th century include the so-called self-adhesive tape which adheres to anything. It must never be allowed near stamps and a particularly objectionable practice is to apply it to a parcel over the stamps. I am informed that such stamps can be salvaged by dissolving the tape by applying Trichloroethylene, obtainable from laboratory suppliers. It may affect the colour of some stamps, but it is worth taking the risk when the stamp is otherwise useless.

JACK B.YEATS STAMP

Another flop. The reduction to stamp size destroys the impressiveness of the original. And again there is a vital difference between the advance publicity illustration and the actual stamp. The illustration had the artist's signature at lower left, but on the stamp there is only a reddish blur. Without the signature, it is probable that many seeing the stamp will think it a portrait of the man and not a sample of his work.

The Harp Cover Club's envelope for the occasion features a much more attractive early sketch, very well reproduced.

NEW SLOGAN

On 31st August we received advice that Portlaoise would introduce the slogan cancellation "Visit Inex 71 September 17 18 19 Portlaoise" on 1st September. I've no idea what Inex is but I do know what's inept - the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

Having made that unkind remark, I must add that the slogan provided an example of the efficiency which occasionally reminds us of what used to be normal. I posted a batch of envelopes to Portlaoise post office at 1120pm on 31st August. Those addressed to myself were delivered here on the afternoon of 1st September, having been to Portlaoise and back within 16 hours !

EIRE
PHILATELIC
ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1971 Number 187

RANDOM NOTES

EXCHANGE WANTED

Anyone willing to offer used Irish stamps in exchange for Spanish stamps and postcards should write to Sr.Tomás Seisdedos Martín, Cristobal Quintero, No.4, bajo, derecha, HUELVA, Spain.

ESPERANTO LABEL

V.A.Linnell has sent for my inspection a fascinating label depicting an Irish piper and inscribed, in Gaelic type "LABOIR AN TEANGA ESPERANTO" and at the foot "IRLANDA". The piper is copied from a postcard which was common at the beginning of this century, but the general appearance of the label is typical of those widely used in the 1930s. The inscription means "Speak the Esperanto language".

ENGLISH & IRISH

Perhaps some of Ireland's problems would have been solved if Esperanto had been officially introduced as a compromise ! As it is confusion continues. While the pro-Gaelic faction urges the Post Office to revert entirely to names abandoned centuries ago, the officials prefer to act otherwise. The latest example is that Blanchardstown (Co. Dublin) has been using a skeleton canceller with that name instead of the "Baile Luindin" of its normal canceller.

1970 COILS

I am told that Stanley Gibbons have still not listed the 1d,2d and 3d coil issue of last year with distinctive perforation. This annoys some dealers whose customers buy only what is in the catalogue. However, it is difficult to know how scarce they are. Months after stating that the stamps were no longer available the Philatelic Section of the GPO has written to one dealer offering him the coils, but at a price above their face value. This is disconcerting, and we must press for further reforms of the Philatelic Section and its policies.

SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

One of our most regular complaints is the short notice of special cancellations. I had just enough notice to obtain examples (but not first day) of the cancellations for the International Dairy Federation Congress at Dun Laoghaire 20 to 24th September. Absence on holiday prevented me knowing in time of the one-day "Cork Philatelic Exhibition" on 2nd October. At least four weeks notice should be given of every case.

Incidentally the weakly struck "skeleton" for the DAIRY FEDERATION reminds one how frequently we have suffered in this way. Surely there are enough special events with temporary offices to justify the purchase of a better frame and set of type ,

CHANGE OF HEADING

The more observant of you will have noticed that the name of the Irish Philatelic Circle has been dropped. That is because I, F.E.Dixon, have resigned from that body, and for the present am issuing "Random Notes" only to the E.P.A.

E.P.A. Random Notes

October 1971 No.187

ANTI-RACISM STAMPS The new issue of 18 October offers evidence of the ineptitude of the United Nations designers as well as of the Irish Post Office. The design is much too reminiscent of a particular flag (Korea) . Representation of linked hands of different colour is not too hackneyed and could have been used again.

Even before adhesive postage stamps were introduced it was foreseen that it would not do for black stamps to be cancelled in black ink. But 131 years later we find that fundamental point again disregarded. Of course the reason for the objection has changed. In 1840 the authorities were worried by the possibility of stamps being re-used. Now the objection is by philatelists who cannot determine whether a particular stamp is used or not ! However, most postal authorities believe that any cancellation on a stamp should be legible, and one would think that adequate reason for rejecting any Design Committee's recommendation of dead black. One feature which will be generally welcomed is the absence of a watermark. Searching for inverted watermarks must have wasted many thousands of man-hours !

ESSAY OVERPRINTS A watermark has provided a useful clue to the mystery of a rare variety of Irish overprint, a small 5-line type, measuring only 12x16mm. The only illustrations I know are (a) Kohl handbook p.472, and (b) T.E.Field sale catalogue , lot 715. What has been overlooked by the earlier owners is that the 1½d stamps used for this overprint have the block GvR watermark introduced 1924. The size 12x16 suggests that the essay was intended for use on the National Health Insurance stamps. It was rejected as unsuitable because it obscured the value. It seems likely that the printing block was disposed of (by a Dollard's man?) at the same time as others in private hands, and misapplied to the postage stamps in or shortly after 1924. Who else has examples, and has anyone seen essays on insurance or other non-postal stamps ?

COMPETITION RESULT The £250 prize for a symbollic design commemorating the patriots killed in the 1922-23 Civil War has been won by Patrick Scott, a Cork-born artist, self-taught, whose work is represented in many major Galleries, including the New York Museum of Modern Art. His design is described as "a white dove soaring across the rising moon", and the astronomers will be very interested to discover how the viewer is persuaded that the moon is rising and not setting.

NEXT COMPETITION On 27 October it was announced that there is another competition, with closing date 1st December !! It is for a stamp commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Olympic Council of Ireland, and is open only to students in Irish (32 counties) schools of art.

EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

RANDOM NOTES

November 1971 & December No.188

ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL OVERPRINT — The extreme Nationalists' overprinting of U.K. stamps has been followed by a similar effort from the other side - the Ulster Loyalists. What I have seen is the 3p of the Ulster Paintings set overprinted in bold black type "NORTHERN IRELAND JUBILEE 1921-71" My example is used on cover from Belfast, 26 November, and it was allowed through the post without comment.

POST OFFICE CASUALTIES — "Courier", the staff magazine of the U.K. Post Office, devoted a page of its October number to the effects of terrorists' activities in Northern Ireland. Between 8 August and 6 October, there were 22 raids on sub-offices, 23 vans blown up or seized, 7 telephone exchanges blown up or damaged. And one series of explosions broke every window in the Belfast HQ one evening. But it operated normally next day.

50 YEARS AGO — The Winter number of David Feldman's "D.F.Newsletter" has a remarkable article by the veteran Swede Erik Kuylenstjerna. He has assembled all that can be found of the instructions and advices of 1922 relating to the areas of validity of the overprinted and non-overprinted U.K. postage stamps. The article is illustrated with excellent reproductions of covers and pieces. One complication to the story that Mr Kuylenstjerna has not included is the fact that after 31st March 1922 when unoverprinted stamps had no validity, Dublin G.P.O. was still selling them - to the customers ordering coils. The discovery of this lapse led to the temporary relaxation of the regulations and to the order for coil printings by Harrisons.

1968 DEFINITIVE VARIETIES — Michael Phelan reports some interesting flaws on the pre-decimalisation version of the definitives. On the 6d Row 7. No.19, there is a line from the top margin to the dog's head, just left of "EIRE". On the 9d, Row 2 No.5 there is a line NW-SE between the legs, and Row 12, No.13 has a round spot in the same position. The latter is proved to be a flaw on the green cylinder as it occurs with both black cylinders.

DEMONETIZATION — 31st December 1971 will be the last day on which the stamps with values in shillings and "old" pence will be valid for postal use. However, mint stamps will not lose their value immediately. For the first half of 1972 Post Offices will exchange them for their equivalents in decimal stamps. It will be interesting to see how this is calculated. Will one receive a½p for each 1d stamp ?

ANOTHER SLOGAN — The Post Office failed yet again to give adequate warning of a new slogan - ATHLONE ON THE SHANNON - introduced on 19th December.

EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1971 RANDOM NOTES Number 188

TRAVELLING POST OFFICES

Strongly recommended is Part I of a new publication, "T.P.O. A history of the travelling post offices of Great Britain, written by H.S.Wilson and published by A.J.Lowe, Rookwood, Bentinck Road, ALTRINCHAM,Cheshire, England, price £1.65. It has a very thorough section on the London & Holyhead route, and the illustrations include the time bill as used in the 1860s.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Yet another failure, showing unforgivable elementary mistakes. Firstly, if a madonna design is chosen for a Christmas picture it must be one showing Jesus as an infant, not as a sturdy two-year-old. Secondly, a background is needed to give scale to the sculpture. Thirdly, it should have occupied a far greater proportion of the area. The general impression is of a small mantelpiece ornament and not a full-sized statuary group. The lettering is again a clumsy mixture of founts, and it is time it was realised that gold in unsuited for the job. It is visible only when lit from the right angle. Cheaper and more legible would be white letters on the coloured ground.

To say something on the credit side, it is good that John Hughes's work should obtain recognition. He was a great artist, although remembered mainly as being responsible for the ugly statue of Queen Victoria which was outside Leinster House. However, the ugliness was probably the result of his producing too faithful a likeness.

FISCALS POSTALLY USED

David Feldman, home from his world tour, has shown me an interesting cover, posted at Queenstown in 1861, bearing a 1d Receipt stamp,accepted in prepayment of the postage. It was not until 1881 that such postal use was authorised,

NEW PERIODICAL

Congratulations on the appearance of No.1 NEWSLETTER of the Irish Philatelic Society, edited by Mr Iam Whyte. The most interesting of its contents is a short article by Miss Norah Wright on "Irish Perfins" - which I prefer to call punsts (short for punctured stamps).

UK POSTAL STRIKE "STAMPS"

Our good friend O.W.Newport, editor of "Phil Mag" , reports a 1s 3d label, printed in black on grey, featuring the Union Jack and initials E.C.M. in three diamonds down the left . Can anyone interpret the initials or report more about it ?

And I have been sent a 15p label, black on green, with a head profile design. The scalp is divided into the Irish provinces, and one piece marked by a crown is broken away. Alongside are the words "CE MEID ?" meaning (I think) "How much ?". At the foot is ICON probably signifying "Irish Connection" which name features on onee of the covers sent me at the time by P.Sullivan Again futther details would be welcome.

I.R.A.CENSORSHIP IN 1923

The envelopes of 1921-1923 bearing hand-stamped or written endorsements that the contents had been censored by the I.R.A. can (sometimes) be put into different categories. Most of them had been intercepted in raids on post offices or mail vans. Some (e.g. at Waterford) were censored on the post office premises. I have been given the envelope, and hope to acquire the letter, of an item which falls into a third category. The writer explained that he was held captive by the I.R.A. and that he would therefore be unable to attend in Court as arranged. The envelope is addressed to the Judge **presiding over the Court. The rubber-stamped endorsement is in purple, in one line, reading**

CENSORED, I.R.A.

The envelope bears a 2d definitive and has been resealed with the P.O.T. label P.480. The cancellation is a Dublin handstamp of 25 April 1923, and this is over the resealing label.

DUODECIMAL LAST DAY & DECIMAL FIRST DAY

I have only just learned that one enterprising person last year arranged to obtain, on a single large sheet 15x9 ins, impressions of the embossed revenue stamps (General Duty dies). Those of the £.s.d. system are dated 12.2.71, and those with the existing decimal currency were impressed when the Stamping Office next opened, 15.2.71. For the affluent, impressions were taken from all dies up to 10s and 50p, total face value £6.60. For the smaller investor sets were obtained going only to 2s 6d and 12½p; the face value in this case is £0.90. Anyone interested should write to Mr K.Doyle, c/o Munster & Leinster Bank, ARKLOW, Co.Wicklow.

The juxtaposition of old and new reveals how sadly Irish standards have declined. The obsolete dies were carefully designed, with a different shape for each value and with neat Celtic interlacing, assisted by a few shamrocks filling the shape. The new series differ from each other only in the value. All have the same circular shape filled by a hideous doodle, grossly overcrowding the harp, which itself is less elegant than the old one.

The new design is objectionable in another way. It will be very easy to alter a 5p to a 45p, a 30p to a 50p.

E.P.A. Random Notes

January 1972 No.189

P. & T. STUPIDITIES

The postman recently delivered a torn and empty envelope addressed in typescript to myself. With it is the appropriate form (M.P.173) inviting me to advise the officials of the name and address of sender, place, date and time of posting, full description of the missing article and whether, if found, it should come to me or go back to the sender !

Unfortunately I cannot identify the typewriter: the envelope bears a 2½d stamp, from which I deduce that the contents were a bill or circular. I could reply listing a dozen Societies which might be contacting me, but it would be pointless: the instructions on M.P.173 conclude "It is not practicable to make any further search for a missing newspaper or ordinary printed paper". Then why send the form with an envelope prepaid at the printed paper rate ?

The stamp-vending machines with the multi-value coils are nearly a year in use and are still suffering teething troubles. The staff at the enquiries counter in Dublin G.P.O. regularly refund shillings lost in the malfunctioning machines. Even when the machines are in working order they deliver the stamps in the wrong order 2½,1.1½. So if you want to post a letter with 4p you must tear the strip into three separate stamps ! It was obviously intended that the sequence should be 1,1½,2½. (or 2½.1½,1) so that a single separation could yield either 1 and 4, or two 2½s.

And in spite of all the trouble, and the philatelists' desire to have long strips, the philatelic counter is still forbidden to sell the coil stamps except in complete coils at £25.

IRISH TIMES

On 14th January the Irish Times devoted a leading article to praising the P & T philatelic record and its choice of subjects for this year's commemoratives. It failed to point out a serious omission - stamps to celebrate Ireland's entry into E.E.C. if this should be accomplished. It also failed to comment on the absence of denominations from the announced particulars. This absence is obviously due to uncertainty of what further increases in postal rates will be inflicted by the times of the successive new issues.

ANTI-RACISM 4p

There have been various reports of "bullet-hole" type flaws in different positions on the sheet. Unfortunately each has been seen only on one batch of sheets, so none can be accepted as a cylinder flaw.

1972 IRISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

A joint committee, with representatives of the Irish Philatelic Society, Dublin Stamp Society, E.P.A., I.P.C. and dealers, is proceeding with plans for an exhibition to celebrate the 50th anniversaries of Irish adhesive postage stamps. It will be in Dublin during the first week in December and thus include the 50th anniversary date of the 2d map definitive.

EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1972 RANDOM NOTES NUMBER 190

OVERPRINTS OR UNDERPRINTS ?

The 50th anniversary of the Irish postage stamp overprints may lead to increased study of some much older items - provisional Irish revenue stamps produced by modifying those of Great Britain. Note I use the term "Great Britain" because the original stamps in question were valid only there and not throughout the United Kingdom.

The pioneers were the ADMIRALTY IRELAND stamps of 1857 or 1858 and the IRELAND PETTY SESSIONS printed December 1858. These have been described as overprints, but that description is incorrect. In both cases the designation was printed on blank watermarked and gummed paper. Afterwards the stamps were embossed in colour. So the only reasonable description of the process is underprinting although the glossaries assure us that underprinting is adding an inscription to the back of the stamp!

The next Irish provisionals, CHANCERY FEE FUND 1868, and JUDICATURE, 1880, were genuine overprints applied to existing British stamps.

1921 OVERPRINTS

A period of which we know very little, philatelically, is that between the passing of the Government of Ireland Act in Dec. 1920 (which established "Northern Ireland") and the ratification of the Treaty of 6 December 1921 (which established the Provisional Government of the Irish Free State). For some revenue stamp issues there were separate printings, inscribed NORTHERN IRELAND and SOUTHERN IRELAND. In other cases a handstamped overprint was used. The examples known are SOUTHERN IRELAND on the embossed stamps of the Supreme Court of Judicature. I am sure that the same overprint was applied to other stamps, and it seems likely that there was a similar handstamp for NORTHERN IRELAND

FEBRUARY 17th CELEBRATIONS

My attempts to obtain "50 years after" cancellations were unsuccessful. The envelopes were treated very carefully with a neat handstamp cancelling the current stamp leaving the overprinted one untouched. Apparently strict instructions have been issued that no pre-decimal issues may be cancelled under any circumstances.

David Feldman's Exhibition of Irish stamps in Jury's Hotel, Dublin, was excellent, with a comprehensive display of superlative examples of Irish stamps from 1922 beginning with an array of the 17 February 1922 first-day-covers. The Minister for Posts & Telegraphs attended and made a gracious speech without raising our hopes that his Department has any definite plans for improving its philatelic section, or for establishing the long-promised postal museum.

The special meeting of the Irish Philatelic Society brought together another remarkable array of rarities.

"SOUTHERN IRELAND" I find that so little is known about the 1921 episode that I should write more than I have mentioned overleaf. The 1920 Government of Ireland Act is the Act which established partition and ordered the setting up of a parliament for each section of the country as soon as elections could be organised. The northern elections were on 23 May 1921: the Unionists won 40 seats, Nationalists 6 and Sinn Fein 6, including Collins, Griffith and De Valera. Only the Unionists took their seats when King George opened the northern parliament on 22nd June with an impressive speech in which he appealed "to all Irishmen to pause, to stretch out the hand of forbearance and conciliation, to forgive and forget, and to join in making for the land they love a new era of peace, contentment, and good-will".

There were no contested elections in the South. Sinn Fein apparently accepted the situation by nominating candidates and all 128 were unpopposed. Four non-Sinn Fein were equally unopposed in the remaining constituency, Trinity College, Dublin. When the southern parliament was convened on 28 June those four were the only members of the lower house. Meanwhile various negotiations were in progress between Mr De Valera, the British Premier Lloyd George, and some representatives of Irish non-Sinn Fein groups. General Smuts was also trying to mediate. The British Government allowed the elected members of the southern parliament to meet as the Dail on 16 August, those interned or imprisoned being released - except for Sean McKeown. Not until October 11 was it possible to agree to a conference and it took eight weeks more before the terms of the treaty were settled. The treaty was signed on 6th December, sanctioned by the British parliament on 16 December, and by the Dail on 7 January. However, it was also necessary to convene the parliament of southern Ireland and it was this body which ratified the treaty on 14 January, and established the Provisional Government. The Irish Free State came into being on 16 January when Lord Fitzalan, in Dublin Castle, handed over the reins of government to Michael Collins as acting Premier.

The tragic Civil War which followed is not part of my story. What I have tried to explain is that from 28 June 1921 until 16 January 1922 there was a de jure parliament of southern Ireland. It is therefore understandable that during this period supplies of revenue stamps supplied from England had the SOUTHERN IRELAND inscription, and handstamps were supplied for modifying previous issues. During the period there can have been very little use for the stamps. Most of them were connected with legal proceedings and in most of the 26 counties the official Courts were inoperative. In their place were local Sinn Fein tribunals. These charged substantial fees to the litigants, but I have not heard of any stamps used in connection with the payment of these charges.

EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1972 RANDOM NOTES Number 191

MULTI-VALUE COILS — I must report that there has been an improvement in the behaviour of the machines at Dublin G.P.O. At my last attempt ten 5p pieces operated satisfactorily. AND SEE BELOW!

COMMEMORATION OF 17th FEBRUARY — Mention must be made of Michael Giffney's enterprise in having suitable envelopes designed and stamped-to-order with the current 4p+2½p dies. E.P.A. members therefore have a souvenir. No other Societies had anything done for their members.

EARLY CIRCULAR DATE-STAMPS — Those of you who receive the DF Newsletter will have seen my analysis of Irish provincial date-stamps of the last century. There was an unfortunate misunderstanding which allowed misleading drawings to appear for types D11 to D14 and D16 to D19. In none of these should the lettering be serif. B. Wallas has sent me some important additions to the earlier items: Belfast M1 was in use in 1817 and M2 until 1829. And Belfast D1 was used in black as well as red. Limerick is added to the towns using D1, and had two different ones, the earlier (Jan.1830) having stars or florets, and the other (Sep. 1830-July 1831) having dots,

JAMES JOYCE'S "ULYSSES" — I've never yet succeeded in reading the whole book, but have just started another attempt, and think I've found a mistake. Early on, Mr Bloom visited the sub-post office in Westland Row. I can find no evidence of one ever existing there. And Bloom saw there "Too late box". No such thing ever existed and "Late Fee" posting at that time was confined to the G.P.O. and College Green. The Late Fee pillar box at Westland Row station was not mentioned in Directories until 1919. A further point is that "Poste Restante" services were not available at town sub-offices !

THE IRISH TRICOLOUR — Collectors seeking Irish items on foreign stamps will have to consider the set issued last month in Kenya for the all-Africa Trade Fair in Nairobi. They feature the flags of 41 African states, including the orange, white and green of the Ivory Coast, i.e. Ireland flying a distress signal.

POSTMARK ERRORS — It seems a long time since I mentioned any of the curiosities resulting from careless operation of the machines. On 1st February the Shannon Airport meter-mark had the year "82", amended by red biro.

MULTI-VALUE COILS — It was on 21 February that I obtained 50p worth of the 5p coil: if I had gone to the machines next day I'd have discovered that the new machines had been installed, delivering (in the order of emergence) 1½+2+4+2½ for each 10p piece. Once more philatelists were not advised. Once more the sequence is wrong: it should be 4,2,1½,2½. And the printing is poor, the impression of the lower part of the 2p being very weak.

E.P.A. Random Notes

March 1972 No. 191

NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATION — "HOLY CROSS ABBEY HELP THE RESTORATION" will be used at Thurles from 13th March to 8th April, and in fairness to the Post Office, it should be mentioned that this time we did have a fortnight's warning.

WORLD HEALTH DAY STAMPS — And we had a month's notice of details of the stamps to commemorate World Health Day on 7 April. The design, by Irish artist Louis Le Brocquy, features a heart with irregular lines around it which the publicity informs us show the influence of Irish Megalithic design. So we can accept it as symbolising the heart of stone of the Irish authorities ! Most of the usual criticisms apply. Ugly lettering; no accent on EIRE: design unsuitable for the photogravure process: no clue to currency: no mention of postage: wrong language. For international celebrations, and stamps designed to go abroad, an internationally understood language must be used. The legend reads "Do chroi do shlainte" meaning "Thy heart thy health" and the i of chroi should have been accented.

One welcome feature is that the denominations - 2½ (postcard) and 12 (airmail letter) suggest that the expected incfeases in postal charges are deferred.

FISCAL STAMPS — While checking through the marvellous collection of maps in the Irish National Library I noticed one estate map which had been used as evidence in the Law Courts, and had been registered in the Records Office. It bore three adhesive stamps, 1s Edward VII, plus 6d and 10s George V, the last being a value not hitherto recorded in the George V series of RECORDS IRELAND.

CANCELLING MACHINES — At least two more offices have installed machine cancellers Kilmallock (Cill Mocheallog) and Clonakilty (Clanna Chaoil[illegible]). In both cases I have seen January examples but suspect they may have been provided before the end of 1971.

NEW YEAR CONFUSION — As often before, the Post Office had insufficient new dies of "1972" to supply all the machines. This year the places left out were Bandon, Letterkenny, Mullingar and Sligo. Bandon put in "19"; Letterkenny an illegible blur; Sligo left the space blank. It was Mullingar who had the right idea. The postmaster decided to admit that the organisation is twenty years out of date and inserted "1952" !

BLANCHARDSTOWN — In October I mentioned that Blanchardstown was using a "skeleton" canceller with the English form of the name. The replacement handstamp had not arrived up to 6 January!

POSTAL RATES — Although there has been no public statement about the values of the 1972 commemoratives, the "Irish Times" on 13 March was advertising its first day cover service with full details, demominations being consistent with rates being unchanged.

E.P.A. Random Notes

April 1972 No.192

A POSTMAN'S POEM

Looking into the first volume of "ZOZIMUS", the Irish rival of the English humorous weekly journal, PUNCH, I noted it was 1870 and turned to October to see if there was mention of the postcard then introduced. I found that there had been no delay, the issue for 5th October containing the following:

P O S T C A R D S

(By a Postman)

I likes these ha'p'ny postage cards,
And so, I prophesy, will most men;
The people's pockets they regards,
And gives amusement to the postmen.

No envelopes, when people write,
Hides people's secrets from their betters,
I takew particular delight
In reading other people's letters.

I likes these new post-office cards,
Though true I have the more to carry;
I likes perusing amorous bards
Requesting bardesses to marry.

I reads them nearly every time -
Proposals one day, then rejections;
Some laughable, and some sublime:
Perhaps you'd like a few selections:-

"Dear Sir - You mustn't be enraged -
I've read your kind communication;
But, as I chance to be engaged,
I must reject your application."

"Dear Guy - I've come to smash - almost -
I haven't got a single stiver!
So, send me by tomorrow's post,
A tenner, or at least a fiver.
Now, then, I do sincerely hope
You'll pack it off the very minute
This finds you; use an envelope,
And don't to one of these things pin it."

"Sir - Could you you kindly cease to rave
Of Cupid's darts and silken fetters,
Of Queen of Hearts and grov'ling slave?
(This post returns your stupud letters.)"

"Dear Tom - I very much regret
We didn't chance to meet, because
I want you to be sure to get
Me fifty copies more of Zoz."

"Zoz" in the last line is short for the name of the paper

EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1972 Number 195

RANDOM NOTES

DEAD LETTER OFFICE — Miss Wright reports an interesting new rubber date-stamp, applied on the envelope enclosing an item returned to sender as undeliverable. It has neat serif lettering and reads BAILE ATHA CLIATH / LITREACHA FÁIN , which being interpreted is DUBLIN / STRAY LETTER. Hitherto the Returned Letter Section has preferred the English language. The Irish purists will still not be satisfied: although there is a prominent accent for the A of FÁIN, none has been included for ATHA ! Miss Wright's example is 29 September 1971: the latest I have seen of the previous type is April 1971.

STAMP ADHESIVE — The latest supply of 6p definitive differs from the first printings in that the gum (or whatever it is) has a shiny appearance suggestive of gum arabic in place of the matt PVA.

YET ANOTHER OVERPRINT — The perpetrators of other overprints to exploit philatelists have treated the 3p N.Ireland regional definitive by the addition of "I gCuimhne DHOIBE 30.1.72" (In Memory of Derry 30.1.72). It is stated that 300 envelopes bearing the stamps were posted in Northern Ireland and that 100 of them were allowed through the post.

SPECIAL CANCELLATION — The British Forces Postal Service celebrated St.Patrick's Day 1972 with a special cancellation in honour of the 60th anniversary of the death in the Antarctic of Captain L.E.G. Oates

"NOT GUILTY" — Recent cases in Irish Law Courts, when men have been acquitted against the weight of the evidence, remind me of a celebrated case which Lord Chancellor Sir Maziere Brady liked to quote. At Clonmel in 1845 a teen-ager was charged with stopping a Mail-car with intent to rob. When asked whether he pleaded guilty or not guilty, he replied "How can I know that till I'm tried ?" In spite of such an apparent confession, the youth got off as there was no satisfactory evidence identifying him as the culprit.

HEADS STAMPS — Another peculiar feature of the latest commemoratives is that, unless deeply imprinted, the postmark can be wiped off quite easily and the stamp made to appear as good as new.

MULTI-VALUE COILS — When the machines are only slightly out of adjustment the separation at one end of the strip is a zigzag roulette, gauge 13. The other end should have the same plus the row of gauge 14 perforation holes, but I have not seen a strip showing this well.

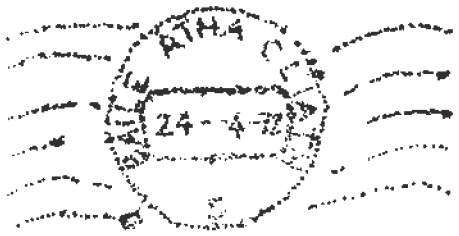
EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

RANDOM NOTES

MAY 1972 Number 193

DUBLIN SPRING SHOW — For the first time since 1946 there has been a change in the label advertising the Show. It is still basically the Royal Dublin Society's badge with the announcement of the Show superimposed in black, but the lettering has been rearranged and modernised, and the frame omitted.

More surprising, for the first time in over 40 years, there was no post office.



When Dublin adopted the continental style of roller cancellation in 1966 two were in use, one without number and one with "1" after the date.

Now three more have appeared, with numbers 3,4 and 5 identifiers. Has anyone seen a 2, or was the blank of the 1966 type considered to be No.2 ?

PROVINCIAL CANCELLING MACHINES — R.N.191 mentioned two new cancelling machines. Now I can add two more. Ceanannus Mor (Kells) in use by October 1971 and Sciobairin (Skibereen) the November.

DUBLIN ROLLER CANCELLATIONS — O.M.Richards has evidence that No.2 referred to above was the unnumbered one . And he has found that there are more numbers of the new type. However, I will leave it to him to tell his interesting story.

I.F.A.T.C.A. CONGRESS DUBLIN — This is the inscription of the skeleton canceller used on 24 to 25 April at a temporary office in the new Burlington Hotel for the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations. Unfortunately the Department of Posts and Telegraphs boobed yet again and failed to notify us . As there were over 200 attending from overseas, some with their wives, there are probably a few thousand covers in existence, but the only one I have seen in Ireland is one that I begged from the organisers when I belatedly learned of the existence of the special postmark.

HEXAGONAL PILLAR BOXES — While enjoying a few days as guest of Fr.Brennan I added two slides to my collection depicting post office boxes. One was The Rower post office, at present painted a pleasant blue. The other is the hexagonal box outside Waterford railway station. Like the older round box at Cork station, there is a "Late Fee" collection mentioned on the plate.

THE FUTURE OF RANDOM NOTES. This will be the last issue in the present form. The next of my contributions will be in the new unified journal of the I.P.C. and E.P.A.

E.P.A. Random Notes

May-June 1972 Number 193 and last

PATRIOT DEAD COMMEMORATIVE

It is amazing, and tragic, that Irish commemorative stamp designs maintain so low a standard of design, of artistry and meaningfulness. Not one recipient in 100 will realise that the splodges are a dove against a rising moon. Even fewer will consider the symbols appropriate to the occasion. I wonder if my ridicule in R.N.184 is responsible for the absence ofany inscription.

One of the first-day-cover artists put an olive twig into his dove's mouth: this is wrong. The dove is used to symbolise the soul and in early Christian art is shown leaving the mouth of a dead saint. I am sure that Patrick Scott had this in mind and it may explain why he drew a bird-headed angel.

I find it more difficult to find an explanation for the allegation that the circle represents the rising moon: it is as much like the setting sun, and more like a meteorological balloon.

The colours are peculiar. One could understand the use of green white and orange, but why green white and yellow ? And the 4p colours are very near the red white and blue which Irish anglophobes abhor .

1922 FISCAL OVERPRINTS

There were some bargains at the Robson Lowe sale on 16 May. Lot 75, valued £50, realised £120 (not from me) and was worth more: included mint sets to 10s, and many unrecorded items. The following additions are necessary to the list in REVEALER Supp.32 (1967)

p.147 CONTRACT NOTE Geo.V Rialtas. 3/-,4/-,5/-,10/- all Type II
p.148 INSURANCE,HEALTH. Rialtas. 4d Type II
" UNEMPLOYMENT 8d (Type II on definitive)

FOR DOG LICENCE Geo.V. Rialtas 6d green (Type II) on a special printing with "FOR DOG LICENCE very small. Saorstat. 6d green Type IV.

JUDICATURE Geo.V. Rialtas. 1/6 and 2/6 (Type II)

LAND REGISTRY Geo.V. Rialtas. 3d,4d,6d, 1/-,2/6, 5/- and 10/- (Type II)

p.147 FOREIGN BILL Geo.V. Rialtas. 1d,2d ,3d, ,6d,9d,1/-,2/- 3/-,4/-,5/-,10/- (Type II)

MINISTER FINED

Many Civil Servants in various departments other than the Post Office joined in the jubilation when the Minister for Posts & Telegraphs was fined £1 for failing to supply adequate lighting in the Navan Post Office. Hitherto it has been assumed that the Offices Premises Act could not be enforced in relation to offices occupied by Civil Servants.