

RECENT NEW ISSUE

In Tribute To Famous Scholars



The special Irish postage stamp to commemorate the centenary of the deaths of the Irish scholars John O'Donovan and Eugene O'Curry was issued on 26th March, 1962

John O'Donovan (1806-1861) and Eugene O'Curry (1794-1862) are acknowledged as the greatest of the Irish scholars who began in the last century the work of editing, translating and annotating the source manuscripts and the mediaeval and an-

cient works of Irish literature, history and law. Their work in these fields was vast and authoritative and their reputation as scholars was international.

Eugene O'Curry (1796-1862) obtained employment in the typographical section of the Irish Ordnance Survey from 1834-1837. He copied and arranged Irish manuscripts. He was the first professor of Irish History and Archaeology in the Catholic University of Ireland in 1855.

He gave an account of mediaeval Irish manuscripts and their contents in a series of lectures (published in 1860 and 1873) and his text and translation of two mediaeval Irish tales was published by the Celtic Society in 1855. His facsimile copies of Irish character of manuscripts are preserved at Trinity College, Dublin and the Royal Irish Academy.

John O'Donovan (1809-1861) obtained work in the Irish Record office in 1826. He was appointed to the historical department of the Irish Ordnance Survey in 1829 and was called to the Irish bar in 1847. In 1852 he was employed to translate legal manuscripts by the Commission for the Publication of the Ancient Laws of Ireland. He also transcribed, translated and edited the "Annals of the Four Masters" between 1848 and 1851. He published, among other works, poems and tales and a "Grammar of the Irish Language" in 1845.

These two men were responsible for the re-birth of interest in the ancient culture of Ireland. Their efforts and enthusiasm bore a direct relationship to the spirit of unity among the Irish which culminated in the Gaelic League and the resurgence of the desire for freedom which found its expression in the Easter Rebellion and the subsequent creation of the Irish Free State and the Republic of Ireland.

The stamp issued to commemorate this event was issued in two denominations, 3d. colour crimson and 1sh. 3d. colour purple. The stamp was printed in sheets of 120 and features portraits of the two Irish scholars and includes their names and life-spans as well as the denomination and the name of the State. Printing was by recess process on paper watermarked with the letter "E" Perforations 15 x 15.

First Day covers were serviced by the Controller, Philatelic Section, General Post Office, Dublin, 1, and the Postmasters of Cork, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Limerick, Waterford and Exford. A special first day of issue mark was impressed on first day covers, at the offices mentioned.



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SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members:

- # 363 Dorrance I. Moore, 347-99-94
 DT 2 U.S.N. c/o DE 750
 Mare Island Naval Shipyard,
 Vallejo, California.
- # 364 Daniel J. Friedman,
 141-50 71st Ave.,
 Flushing 67, New York

Death

- # 178 Bernard J. Murphy (March 18,
 1962.) Ozone Park, Queens. Mr.
 Murphy was a radio operator
 for the N.Y. Times and was one
 of the greats of the Liverpool
 Irish. He was devoted to the
 cause of Irish freedom.

Changes of Address:

- # 2 Neil Stack, 1733 E.Garfield
 St., Phoenix 6, Arizona.
- #111 Rev. E. Doherty, 351 North
 Lincoln, Villa Park, Illinois
- #340 Joseph E. Foley, Jr.
 1825 Cromwood Road,
 Baltimore 34, Maryland.
- #354 David Avison,
 118 Roberta Drive,
 Liverpool, New York
- #313 Mrs. Rosemary Fisher
 c/o Capt. Robert B. Fisher, Jr
 Co. B 16 Engr. Bn 1st A.D.
 Fort Hood, Texas

Acknowledgement of Stamps for E.P.A.
 # 24 Mrs. Anna M Casner, Havertown, Pa.
 #243 E.J. Hogan, Sarasota, Florida

FIRST DAY COVERS. Collectors desiring
 first day covers of the new Irish
 commemorative stamps may write to
 IRISH CACHET COVERS, 947 East 32nd.
 Street, Brooklyn 10, New York. -532-

PRINCIPALITY OF THOMOND

On February 26th, 1962 in Linn's
 Weekly Stamp News there appeared a
 full page advertisement for the Europa
 issue of the Principality of Thomond.
 The claim was made that this was an
 independent principality within the
 borders of the Republic of Eire and in-
 cluding within its borders the fam-
 ous Shannon Airport. Complete sets of
 the stamps of the principality under
 the rule of "Prince O'Brien" were ad-
 vertised together with so-called "first
 day" covers. It was further claimed
 that this principality had equal claim
 to sovereignty as Monaco, Liecgten-
 stein, Andorra and San Marino.

Your editor referred this adver-
 tisement to our good friend and fellow
 member, William Kane for comment. By
 return mail, he informed us that these
 "stamps" had not been offered to his
 knowledge in Dublin and directed an
 enquiry to the Department of Posts and
 Telegraphs.

The following reply is printed for
 the benefit of our membership:

AN ROINN POIST AGUS TELEGRAFA
 (Department of Posts and Telegraphs)
 ARD - OIFIG AN PHOIST
 (General Post Office)
 BAILE ATHA CLIATH, 1.
 (Dublin)

27 March, 1962

Dear Mr. Kane,

With reference to your inquiry of
 24th March, 1962, the position is that
 the "Thomond" stamps to which you re-
 fer are not valid postage stamps, and
 "First Day" covers bearing them have
 not been serviced by this Department.
 It is possible however that an occas-
 ional item bearing one of these articles
 but probably together with valid stamps
 in prepayment of postage may have been
 date-stamped without coming under
 notice. A packet bearing on its address
 side an adhesive label or printed de-
 sign either resembling a postage stamp
 in shape or size or in the form of a
 frame for a postage stamp is of course
 prohibited from transmission by post-
 see Paragraph 2, Page 22, of Eolai an
 Phoist Vol. I.

Yours faithfully,
 J. DRAPER /s/
 (J. Draper)

I.P.S.G. RANDOM NOTES

By F. E. Dixon

SHANNON SCHEME FIRST DATE

M. Leonard has found an example clearly dated 5th October, the cancellation being a Dublin handstamp, number 23. My cover is cancelled similarly by No. 20. Why were they not machine cancelled? The Dublin machines were operating on 16th.

THE MAIL BOAT

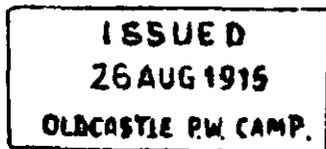
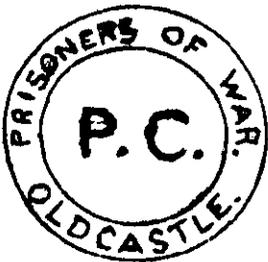
The vessels sailing between Rosslare Harbour and Fishguard are still termed Mail Boats. I have discovered that letters can be sent via Rosslare-Fishguard, using the railway letter service. Each letter therefore has an Irish (C.I.E.) railway parcels label for 7d, cancelled at Rosslare Harbour, plus a 3d U.K. postage stamp for the charge of transmission from the U.K. railway station of posting.

REGISTRATION LABELS

Those keeping their check-lists should note that the size G with a "PHOIST" too many was already in use at Ennis in May 1960.

CHEQUE STAMPS

From August 1961 until recently the cheque-books issued by the Irish banks had impressed 2d plus 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.



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.

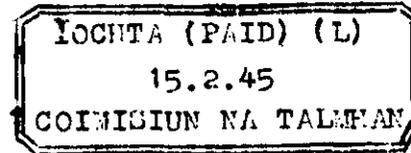
CUSTOMS ENTRY DUTY STAMPS

I have only just discovered that the fiscal changes of 1st August 1961 include 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 purchasable 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.

Father 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.

OFFICIAL PAID

One of my specialties is the "Official Paid" and I was very surprised to see a type unknown to me, peculiar to one Government Department, the Land Commission. Here it is -----



LETTER-CARD VARIETY

Yet another of Father 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.

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. This report is, "Design in Ireland" and is published at 3/- by the Irish Export Board, 74 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2.

Travel
to



IRELAND the easy way! 533

AER LINGUS
IRISH AIR LINES



Towards

better design

The Irish Government commissioned Coras Trachtala to enquire into ways and means of improving standards of industrial design.

The report made by Scandinavian experts contains a section on the production of Irish postage stamps.

According to this report what is important for a stamp is in order of priority:

1. Clear indication of value.
2. The name of the country clearly visible.
3. An easy and balanced composition or layout.
4. Being a paper of value, it should not be easy to counterfeit and it will be if this is not inherent in the design.
5. If possible, the subject or eventual picture on the stamp should appeal to the public.

From a random selection of 41 Irish stamps, divided into three groups composed respectively of (a) portraits, (b) figures, landscapes and buildings, and (c) symbols, the experts laid down their opinions and the reasons for their selections.

In group (a) the highest rating went to the Thomas Moore issue "for its clear and well executed subject in balance within the surface and with a distinct text not harmful to the picture." Then followed the following issues: Rowan Hamilton, Luke Wadding, O'Connell, Redmond, O'Crohan, Tom Clark and Douglas Hyde. Lowest rating in the same grouping went to the following: Father Mathew, Wolfe Tone, Robert Emmet and Mangan.

In group (b) the highest rating was given to the St. Peter issue and in order: Marian Year, Four Masters, and Leinster House. Lowest ratings were given to the Hurler, Volunteer, Irish Constitution, St. Patrick High Values, Par-nell & Davitt, Shannon River and the Sower.

In group (c) the highest rating went to the Arms of the Provinces definitive Issue, the Postage Dues, Celtic Cross definitive, and the Eucharistic Congress. The lowest ratings were given to An Tostal, Sword of Light definitive and the Map of Ireland definitive.

With specific reference to the individual factors outlined in the report, the following stamps were found not to give a clear indication of value: Mangan, Father Mathew, Wolfe Tone, Cardinal Newman, Brown, Volunteer, Royal Dublin Society, Hurler, Four Masters, Shannon River, An Tostal and Eucharistic Congress.

The name of the country was not found to be clearly visible in the Mangan, Newman, O'Connell, St. Peter, Leinster House, Sword of Light, or Celtic Cross issues.

An easy and balanced composition or layout was found wanting in the following issues: Mangan, Father Mathew, Wolfe Tone, Admiral Brown, Mother Aiken-head, Volunteer, Shannon River, George Washington, An Tostal or Sword of Light.

The findings with respect to the fourth and fifth factors employed in judging the stamps are general in nature.

Mr. Fred Dixon reports that this report entitled "Design in Ireland" is published at 3/- by the Irish Export Board, 74 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.