



The Revealer



Vol. XIV No. 3

EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
(International)
Issued Quarterly

January-March, 1964

Whole No. 77

John J. Walsh, Editor



ST. PATRICK Ireland's National Patron

March 17th is to every Irishman, wherever he may be throughout the world, the day on which his thoughts turn home to Ireland - the land of his birth or ancestry.

Among the traditions observed is the wearing of the shamrock, a trefoil enshrined in the memory of the Irish from the days of the faith of their fathers - a faith established in 432 when St. Patrick planted its roots on the hill of Tara.

By pointing to the shamrock, St. Patrick convinced the people of the beauty of the Faith by demonstrating in it the mystery of the supernatural Christian doctrine of the Trinity. The name Shamrock is anglicized from "Seamrog" which means trefoil (three-leaved), a plant found in the moist woodlands of Eire.

St. Patrick and the shamrock have long been prominent in the postage stamps of Ireland. The high values depict St. Patrick extending his blessing over the Pascal fire which he enkindled in defiance of the pagan laws.

Our own President, Mr. F. E. Dixon in Stamp Collecting for March 17th, 1961 wrote an excellent article on the "Shamrocks of Ireland" pointing out the widespread use of the shamrock on the fiscal stamps of Ireland and said that the shamrock was "prominent on the Fenian essays of the 1860s for the 'Republic of Ireland' and on all the stock designs used by 'Eire' from 1922 to date."

The shamrock was also used by the Irish International Airlines in 1960 in a cachet used in connection with the establishment of their transatlantic Shamrock Jet service and on May 27th, 1961 for the 25th anniversary flight.

The harp was the favorite instrument of the old Irish poets and it has become one of the emblems of Ireland, like the shamrock. It has often been used in connection with Irish coinage and fiscal stamps and was the subject of an interesting article by F. W. Meredith, entitled, "The Harp, the Spirit of Song, and the Governor-General's Frank", in Philatelic Magazine for December 15th, 1923.



Shamrock Jet Service cachets

Fire Philatelic Association

(INTERNATIONAL)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My stamp collection and the Irish Free State came into being at about the same time, but it was only when I settled in Ireland 16 years later that I took much interest in Irish stamps. Then they were unfashionable and it is still interesting to wonder why. My view is that too much had been published about the overprints, so that collectors were scared by the difficulties and complications. The unattractiveness of the definitives and early commemoratives was another factor.

In the last few years the situation has changed and dealers are now regretting they did not lay in stocks of Irish when they could. Some of the credit must go to the Post Office, both for issuing some well designed and well printed series, and for ceasing to sell obsolete issues. The prospects are further improved by the establishment of the new Design Committee and by the acquisition of modern photogravure printing plant.

The revival of interest has also been largely assisted by the efforts of the E.P.A. to bring together the collectors of Irish stamps and exchange their stocks of knowledge. Work on similar lines by other groups in Eire and the United Kingdom began

more recently, and one of my first objects as President will be to encourage the friendly spirit already existing and bring about more permanent links.

My own collecting interests are diverse, and I shall be happy to engage in correspondence on Revenue as well as Postage Stamps, cancellations of all periods, and all types of handstruck markings from the 1660s onwards. I am often asked how to start collecting some special line, and am requested to recommend some field for research. My advice is usually to collect what you can find, and then study it, and compare notes with other philatelists. I have been privileged to learn from several great collectors: Postal Stationery from the late O.P. Kennedy; Postal History from Dr. Stafford Johnson; and much in many fields from T.E. Field. So far my correspondents in the U.S.A. have been few, but I look forward to finding many more.

In electing me as your President I feel that you have honoured all the enthusiasts on this side of the Atlantic, and I shall do all in my power to ensure that your confidence in us is not misplaced.

Dublin

12th November 1963

F.E. Dixon

IRISH WHITE CROSS LABELS

Our charter member, Mr. William P. Hickey reports that he has a rare set of Political Labels, known as the Irish White Cross. They were issued by an Irish charitable organization working with the American Committee for Relief in Ireland to wounded soldiers of the I.R.A. This was in 1920-21, during the war of the Black & Tans.

Mr. Hickey states that the Committee issued a report that only £ 52-15-3 was raised by such sales. And, if they were sold for only 1/2d each this would represent only 12,603 sold, thus making them a scarce set.

Fred Dixon's Random Notes for July 1963 contained the following reference to the IRISH WHITE CROSS:

"I find that the Irish White Cross, founded in 1920 to relieve distress caused by the 'Black & 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."

NEW ISSUE



The special Irish postage stamp to commemorate the centenary of the founding of the Red Cross was issued on Monday, 2nd December, 1963.

The stamp which was in two denominations, 4d. colours grey and red (25 million), and 1s.3d. colours green, grey and red (1 & 3/4 million) was made up in sheets of 120 stamps. The design by Peter Wildbur features the Red Cross Centenary Emblem; a lighted lamp and a red cross. The stamp also includes the words An Chrois Dhearg and the dates 1863-1963, the denomination and the name of the State. It was printed by the photogravure process on paper watermarked with the letter "E". Perforations 15 x 15.

First Day covers, serviced by the Controller, Philatelic Section, general Post Office, Dublin 1 and by the Postmasters of Cork, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Limerick, Waterford and Wexford were impressed by a special first day of issue mark.

The real founder of the Red Cross was Jean Henri Dunant, a Swiss citizen. Touring Italy in 1859, he witnessed the bloody battle of Solferino between France and Austria where 40,000 dead and wounded soldiers dotted the battlefield. He organized local residents to help him in his work of mercy.

In 1862, he voiced the plea that societies of volunteers be formed in all civilized countries, "who in time of war would give help to the wounded without regard for their nationality."

On October 26, 1863, at a meeting in Geneva, the symbol of a red cross on a white background was chosen and in August 1864, the International Red Cross Treaty was drafted at Geneva.



HELICOPTER MAIL. The new number of the Cinderella Philatelist illustrated 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?

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.

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. 1935 HIGH VALUES. "Fynden" 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 Year and St. Patricks.

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 guide line projects very slightly to the left. Guide dots are lower than usual. 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.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER. These 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.

(continued next page)

DESIGN COMMITTEE. On 3rd October it was announced that the Minister for Posts and 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.

CORRECTIONS TO LAST SUPPLEMENT

Your editor has noted a very definite error in listing the envelope flaps and Mr. Dixon has noted a few additional matters which should be corrected before we forget the matter. The following are the changes as suggested:

"1. Designs 2 and 3 on page 50 should be interchanged. (flap designs)

"2. a footnote is desirable to explain that designs 7 & 9 differ only in the dot at the corner of the latter

"3. I am not happy about some of the dating of the registration envelopes. I think that RE-4 is definitely 1924, RE-5 probably 1926 & RE-7 1927 RE-10 is 1945, RE 13a 1946 and I feel that the rest of the 1945-47 group should be split, but am a little doubtful.

"4. Remarks on LC-6 and LC-8 should include hyphen in LITIR-CARTA.

"5. The remarks at the foot of p. 55 are not quite fair to the printers suggesting that they made a mistake between s and r. The facts are that the S is upper-case and the r the lower-case of the same Gaelic fount.

Mr. Dixon also suggests that we should include mention of Postal Stationery Stamped to Order and we do so herewith:

POSTAL STATIONERY STAMPED*TO*ORDER

All types of postal stationery can be stamped for payment of a small fee, under certain conditions, and this has been arranged by many Irish firms. The printing has always been done in the same colour as the post office issues of the time, but not always by the same process. Our knowledge of what has been issued is scanty, and the list below does not claim to be complete and no attempt is made to assign dates.

1. Envelopes. 1/2d (I), 1d (VII), 1 1/2d (VI) 2d. (II) all embossed.
578

2. Postcards. Including those for printed Paper rate.

1/2d (I) embossed and (IV) typographed.

1d (VII) and 1 1/2d (VI) both embossed and typographed.

2d. (II) embossed.

4d (II) blue-green embossed.

1/2d (I) + 1 1/2d (VI) reply paid, both embossed.

1 1/2d (VI) + 2d (II) reply paid, both embossed.

3. Wrappers.

1/2d (I) embossed and (IV) typographed.

1d (VII) embossed.

1 1/2d (VI) typographed.

4. Parcels Labels for parcels of literature for the blind.

1d (VII) embossed.

Revenue Stamps

C. BANKRUPTCY, IRELAND (1873)

Overprinted at base on the unappropriated dies, "BANKRUPTCY, IRELAND" in colored block letters. Typographed in color on white wove paper; perf. 14. Watermark - V.R. in block letters.

1. 5/- green, value in mauve

2. 10/- green, value in carmine

Watermark - balances

3. L 1 lilac, value in black

4. L 2 lilac, value in dull blue

5. L 5 lilac, value in green

(1882) Same as above. Perf. 14. Watermark - V.R. in script letters

6. 5/- green, value in mauve

7. 10/- green, value in carmine

Watermark - two orbs

8. L 1 lilac, value in black

9. L 2 lilac, value in dull blue

10. L 5 lilac, value in green

D. CHANCERY FEE FUND, IRELAND (1867)

Embossed designs, differing for each value, but bearing the title, "Chancery Fee Fund, Ireland".

Embossed in color on white wove paper; imperforate. Watermark: V.R. double lined.

1. 1p rose

2. 6/2 rose

3. L 3 rose

4. L 5 rose

On azure tinted paper: 5. 1p. rose

(1867) Same designs on white wove paper; perf. 12 1/2. Wmk. as above

6. 1p. rose

7. 6/2 rose

(To be continued)

**AER
LINGUS**

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