



The Revealer



Vol. XIX No. 3

EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

April-June, 1969

Whole No. 97

(International)
Issued Quarterly

John J. Walsh, Editor



Irish 1922 Provisionals Thom 5 Line Overprints

THE NARROW SETTING PLATES
by M. H. Priestley

Alex. Thom & Co.
Rialtaí
Sealadóir
na
hÉireann
1922.

In "The Postage Stamps of Ireland", W. G. Meredith lists 10 plates of the Thom 5 line narrow overprints; a chart at Fig. 1 shows which plates were used for each value and control number. Mr. Meredith distinguishes the plates by the difference in distance between stamps 1, 2 and 3 in rows 19 and 20 for all values except the 1d and between stamps 10, 11 and 12 for the 1d, since the control number appears under stamp 11 for that value. He also gives certain recurrent type varieties to assist identification.

Plate Measurements

My efforts to plate Thom control blocks from the Meredith measurements were unsuccessful. The measurements of these blocks which could be clearly identified by type varieties bore little resemblance to those given by Mr. Meredith, so that where there were no type varieties, plating was a matter of conjecture. The possible plates could of course be narrowed down by the information in Fig. 1.

I was therefore particularly pleased to be shown an article by "Erinneach" in the March, 1947 issue of The Philatelist (published by Robson Lowe). Erinneach had also met this problem and, having been lucky enough to borrow some hundreds of control blocks of all values, had compared his measurements with those of Mr. Meredith and Captain Vesey, an earlier writer. Erinneach's results are given in Fig. 2 and comparing them with the plates in my collection, I find them much more useful than those of Mr. Meredith. Under magnification, it is possible to judge measurements to within + or - 0.1 mm and I found my measurements agreed with Erinneach's to within 0.2 mm in almost every case except one or two where the overall measurement 3 differed by up to 0.5 mm. I was, however, able to identify all my control block plates with reasonable certainty since the difference or similarity of measurements 1 and 2 gave a good indication of the plate in those cases.

Plate Varieties

Plate 2. There appear to be two varieties of Plate 2. Both have the measurements of Plate 2 but have different type varieties.

Type A. This has the damage stop in 20x2 and heavier overprint in 20x3, but no damaged Jubilee line.

Type B. The damaged Jubilee line appears under 20x2 (a common variety appearing in several plates) but does not have a damaged stop in 20x2 or heavier type in 20x3.

I thought at first that Type B must be another plate but being 2d. Die II (black overprint) S 22 Imperf it can only be Plate 1, 2 or 3 and as the type runs up to the right and not down, it surely cannot be Plate 1 or 3.

(continued on page 697)

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It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of Hans G. Zervas, a fine gentleman and an acknowledged expert on the high value overprints of Ireland. He prepared the translation of the Kohl Handbook on Ireland which appeared in the Collectors Club Philatelist. His contributions to The Revealer enriched our knowledge of Irish Philately. We express our sympathy to the members of his family.

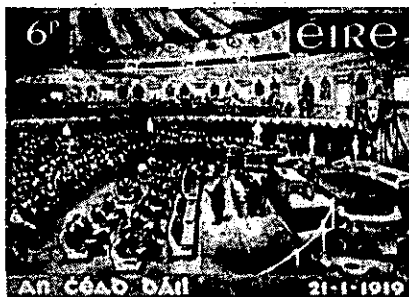
THE NARROW SETTING PLATES - THOM FIVE-LINE OVERPRINT - PLATES AND CONTROLS

(continued from page 695) Fig. 1

Q20	Q20	Q21	Q21	R21	R21	S21	S21	Value	Opt	S22	S22	T22	T22	U22
I	P	I	P	I	P	I	P		Color	I	P	I	P	I
								1/2d	B			5,7	5	
								1d	B			4		
2,3	1,2	1,2	1,2					1 1/2d	B			9	9	
						1,2	2	2d Die 1	B	1,2,3	1,2,3	2	2	
								2d Die 2	B	1,2,3	1,2,3	2		
								3d	B			2,4	3	
						1,2		6d	B			2,3		
								10d	B	7	7			
				1,2	1,2	2	2	1/=	B	1,2,3	2,3			
								1/2d	B-B			5,6,7	5,6,7	
								1d	B-B	4,5,6	4,5,6	4,5,6	4,5,6	
										7,10	7,9	7,9,10	7,9,10	
								1 1/2d	B-B			2,3,4	2,3,4	
												5,6,8	5,6,9	
								2d Die 1	B-B	2,3	2,3	2,3,4	2,3	
										4,5	4,5	5,7	4,5	
								2d Die 2	B-B	2,3,4	2,4	2,3,4	2,3,4	
												5,6,7	5,6,7	
												8,9,10	8,9,10	
								3d	B-B			2,3,4	3,5,6	
												5,6,9	8,9,10	
								5d	B-B			5,6,7		
												8,10		
								6d	B-B			2,3,4		5,6,8
														9,10
								10d	B-B	9	5			
								1/=	B-B	2	2	5,6	5,6	
												8,9	8,9	
								2 1/2d	Red			8	9	
								4d	Red		9	9	8	
								9d Agate	Red	4,8	4			
								9d Green	Red			9	9	

NEW ISSUES

FIRST DAIL ISSUE
1969



A special stamp issued on the 21st January, 1969, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the first meeting of Dail Eireann. This took place at the Mansion House, Dublin on the 21st January, 1919, when the Sinn Fein members, who had been elected to the British Parliament at the General Election of 1918, met and in pursuance of their election policy, issued a declaration confirming the Republic proclaimed in 1916 and constituted themselves the National Parliament (Dail Eireann).

The artwork for the stamp was prepared by Mr. Michael Byrne who used a photograph of the Assembly as a basis for the design.

The stamp made up in sheets of 72 and in two values.

6d. (16 million) 9d. (2 million)

The 6d. rate printed in green and the 9d. rate in blue.

NEW DEFINITIVES

The Irish Post Office will issue the remaining values in the new series of definitive postage stamps on the dates shown below. The first 4 stamps in the new series at 2d., 8d., 2s. 6d., 10s. were issued on 14th October, 1968. Because of changes in postage rates it has been found necessary to alter the schedule of issues as announced in September, 1968, and to replace the 1s. 5d. stamp by one at 1s. 9d. The new 1/2d. denomination will be withdrawn from general sale on 31st July, 1969.

The new definitive issue will replace the existing series most of which have been in use since 1922 and 1923.

Date of Issue	Value	Colour	No. of Stamps per sheet
24th February, 1969	6d.	Dark Brown	240
	9d.	Olive Green and Blue	240
	1s. 9d.	Turquoise and Black	240
	5s.	Dark Green, Blue, Yellow and Light Green	120
31st March, 1969	4d.	Red	240
	5d.	Dark Green	240
	10d.	Violet and Brown	240
	1s.	Light Brown and Dark Brown	240
9th June, 1969	1/2d.	Orange	240
	1d.	Light Green	240
	3d.	Blue	240
	7d.	Yellow and Brown	240



One of the new designs for Irish stamps shows a dog in stylised form based on a decoration on an ancient Irish brooch.

FIG. 2 THOM PLATES FIVE-LINE OVERPRINT NARROW SETTING (continued)

Plate	Row	Measurements (Stamps 1, 2, 3)			(Stamps 10,11,12)			Remarks
		1	2	3	1	2	3	
1	19	20	20	50.3				l slightly to left of i. 19x3 c chipped top right +. 20x3 stop slightly low. Type runs down to right
	20	19.9	19.8	50.5				
2	19	20.2	20.2	51.5				l almost under i. 20x2 stop damaged. 19x3 overprint heavier. 20x2 Jubilee line damaged.
	20	20.2	20.2	51.5				
3	19	19.9	20	50.5				19x2 l of Sealadac more to right of n of na. 20x1 r broken and l short. Types runs down to right.
	20	19.9	19.9	50.5				
4	19	19.7	19.8	50.5	19.9	20.4	51.4	19x1 19x2 19x10 l under Ei. Type runs down to right.
	20	19.9	19.9	50.5	20	20.5	51.2	
5	19	20.5	19.9	51	20	20.5	52.2	19x2 19x3 19x11 19x12 l under Ei. 20x1 dot on right of first a in Sealadac. Type runs down to right.
	20	20.5	19.9	51	19.9	20.4	51.2	
6	19	19.8	20.3	50.5	20.5	19.9	51	19x2 19x3 19x11 19x12 l under Ei. Type runs straight.
	20	20	19.9	51	20.5	20	51	
7	19	19.8	19.8	50.5	19.8	19.9	50.5	20x1 Line through top half of S. 19x10 19x11 19x12 l under Ei.
	20	19.8	19.7	50.4	19.9	19.9	50.9	
8	19	19.9	19.9	50.5				20x1 Line through top of S in Sealadac and damaged 9 in 1922. 19x2 hole in top of r. 19x3 d
	20	20	20	50.5				
9	19	20.5	19.6	51	20	20.5	51	broken and line in i of Eireann. 20x1 nick in R. 19x12 l under Ei. Type down to right.
	20	20.5	19.9	51	20	20.5	51	
10	19	19.8	20.2	50.5	20	19.7	50.5	19x3 19x10 19x11 l under Ei. 20x2 bulge on right of first a in Sealadac. 19x10 R broken and c for e.
	20	19.7	20.5	50.8	19.9	19.8	50.5	



The Thomas Edwin Field Award

The announcement just received by your editor that the Board of Directors has unanimously approved the recommendation of the Award Committee that the Thomas Edwin Field Award for outstanding service to Irish Philately be given to Mr. Fred E. Dixon will be received with great pleasure by both E.P.A. and I.P.C. members.

On the evening of 27th January 1965, a great philatelist and a fine gentleman, Thomas E. Field of Skelmanthorpe closed his stamp albums for the last time, leaving a warming glow in the hearts of all who had had the pleasure of corresponding with him. For his great contributions to E.P.A. our organization established the Thomas E. Field Award to be presented to those who would pick up the same spirit of research and willingness to share the knowledge of Irish Philately with others.

Fred Dixon has carried on the work of Thomas E. Field and given a great amount of time and effort in the furtherance of our hobby. He has served as President of both organizations and his never-ending quest for knowledge both by reference to his own extensive holdings of Irish material and inquiry among officials of the Post Office and his fellow-collectors has enriched the journals of both. Because Fred Dixon has given all of us not only many hours of pleasurable reading but re-kindled the spark which has finally placed Irish Philately among the most popular hobbies today, all members of E.P.A. rejoice at this well-merited and long overdue honor. We hope that he will receive it as an expression of our respect and gratitude for him.

QUANTITIES OF FIRST DAY OF ISSUE COVERS SERVICED (OFFICIAL IRISH P.O. FIGURES) 1968

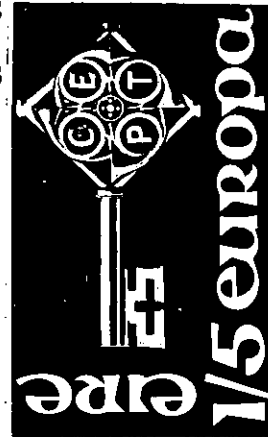
By Michael Leonard

Dublin continues to service the highest percentage of first day of issue covers. The Limerick total greatly increased for the St. Mary's Cathedral commemorative and similarly, because of the local interest, the Sligo total for the Countess Markievicz stamps increased nearly five fold.

It is not possible to separate the James Connolly figures from the Countess Markievicz figures as both commemorative sets were serviced together on the same day 23rd Sept. '68.

I wish to express my thanks to the Philatelic Section of the G.P.O. Dublin for their cooperation in supply the details included in the following chart:

Post Office	EUROPA 29 Apr '68	ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL 26 Aug '68	CONNOLLY MARKIEVICZ 23 Sept '68	DEFINITIVES (New) 14 Oct. '68
AN UAIMH	91	54	48	26
ATHLONE	212	189	220	133
BALLINA	18	35	78	23
BANTRY	1,800	200	160	100
BIRR	101	46	65	58
CARLOW	139	84	160	121
CARRICK-ON-SHANNON	57	12	27	23
CASTLEBAR	104	42	42	76
CAVAN	76	45	85	40
CLAREMORRIS	71	11	32	18
CLONMEL	219	266	408	150
CORK	2,247	3,032	4,400	4,583
DONEGAL	50	64	108	33
DROGHEDA	111	87	170	104
DUBLIN	40,424	19,043	29,975	17,692
DUNDALK	188	157	268	194
DUN LAOGHAIRE	767	971	1,631	780
ENNIS	113	48	93	102
ENNISCORTHY	98	43	190	34
GALWAY	437	385	623	460
KILKENNY	173	85	170	131
KILLARNEY	58	78	214	57
LETTERKENNY	185	124	291	70
LIMERICK	507	5,023	1,143	596
LONGFORD	72	45	73	13
MALLOW	158	89	109	67
MONAGHAN	111	66	64	42
MULLINGAR	90	39	71	48
NAAS	128	67	157	84
NENAGH	64	34	43	29
PORTLAOISE	91	54	68	42
ROSCOMMON	68	25	28	16
SLIGO	364	377	2,065	304
THURLES	119	42	56	44
TRALEE	487	56	115	60
WATERFORD	421	389	578	301
WESTPORT	65	34	34	94
WEXFORD	223	210	289	151
WICKLOW	97	64	64	30
TOTALS	50,804	31,715	44,415	26,929





Timely Observations



Distinguishing The Photogravure 3d Definitive

Many of us have had difficulty in distinguishing the 3d photogravure issue of 1967 from the previous typographed SE and E water-marked stamps. We have been told about perforations and stamp sizes but member Sam T. Wilson, of Seattle, Washington has discovered a very simple solution. He writes:

"There is also another difference that I have not seen in print. A real difference in the design that requires no magnification.

"On the lower part of the Celtic Cross there is a figure of symbol that looks like a rope with a loosely tied knot in it. Comparing this with the previous issues the knot appears to be left-handed. Also, there are less blue dots around the figure."



Typographed



Photogravure

Postal Stationery

"Mr. Wilson has also contributed several interesting observations on postal stationery. The first is the 1 1/2d embossed stamped-to-order envelope. The second is the 2 1/2 plus 1/2d embossed provisional envelope with the date 25 August 1953. This envelope has the typed notation that this was first day of issue. The third is the one shilling 5 pence registered envelope (size K) of the current series (EPA No. RE-26, Feldman PSRE-39, Higgins & Gage 26c) on pure white paper, whereas the other sizes are in the usual buff or pale yellow paper. The envelope seems to be a slightly thinner paper than on other size K issues, and the scrim inside shows through the paper and the printing is not nearly as sharp and neat as on the other values. Compared to the size H envelope of this same issue, there is no appreciable difference in the wording or lettering. Has anyone else noticed this? Is it an error?"

Coils

The fine article by Colonel Jackson on the Irish 2d coil stamp of 1935 (Revealer, July-September 1968) lists only four mint copies and a possible total of 23 used copies. Mr. B. S. Wallas, Sussex, England reports a mint pair with B. P.A. authentication dated 20th July 1964 and a used copy, date undecipherable, which carries the postmark Nas na Riogh. Any others?

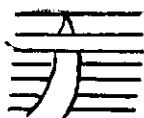
Distinguishing the Photogravure 5d Definitive



The difficulty in distinguishing the 3d photogravure stamp from the 3d typographed is relatively simple when compared with the 5d photogravure which appears currently both in booklet pane and sheet form. The booklet pane appeared first in 1967, followed on 1st April 1968 in sheet form. From Fred Dixon's Random Notes and your editor's observations, the following characteristics can be mentioned as distinguishable:

Typographed. The frame lines are straight, the white shading around the Sword has no broken spurs of light and the lines behind the Sword are even.

Photogravure. The white shading around the Sword is not as sharp and two spurs of light on the right side have broken pieces. The second from the top appears as illustrated at the right. The second from the bottom appears as illustrated at the left.



The booklet panes can also be distinguished from the sheet stamp: Booklet. The frame lines are straight but give the appearance of being serrated. In addition to the broken spurs of light the lines behind the Sword are uneven in width and distance.

Sheet Stamp. The broken spurs of light appear as usual in the photogravure series. The background shading is more even than on the booklet cylinder but the frame lines of the stamp itself are variable and not straight. They are not however, of the serrated appearance as in the booklet stamp.

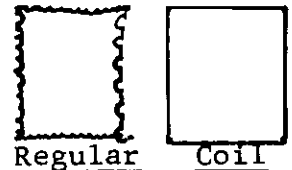
5d Booklet Pane Varieties

Mr. P. O. Mathuna reports a broken C in CUIG, No. 1 of the bottom row of the pane. The Rev. J. Noonan reported a broken line over the U of CUIG 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. (Random Notes, July 1967 No.128).

Coil Stamps Scott No. 87, S.G. 72c

A recent inquiry regarding Scott No. 87, S.G. 72c, the 1d carmine coil of 1934 prompts us to review this issue since a nice trimming job on the perfs. might produce a "fake" coil.

Supplement No. 15 of March 1964, page 62 quotes the Kohl Handbook to the effect that "The width of the stamp measures 21mm, making it quite impossible to make up this coil variety by trimming stamps of the regular issue." This appears to be a true test when explained a little more clearly.



My own observation is that the width of the stamp (the complete stamp itself and not the design alone) is closer to 20.5 mm than 21. The 1d regular issue stamp is also the same size but it is cut into on each side by the perforation holes so that if the perforation tips are trimmed to make a coil "fake", the resulting stamp must then measure somewhat less than the full 20.5 of the genuine coil. After trimming several regular issue stamps, I find that the resulting "fake" coil will not measure more than 20 mm.

Queries

Another member has presented some interesting queries which your editor will mention in the hope that some of our members can furnish the answers:

Propaganda Labels. "A dealer in Ireland quotes 12 Pounds for the 'bluish green Sinn Fein Propaganda Label of 1916'. At the same time a dealer in Wales quotes the 'guaranteed genuine pale green Cross of 1916' (not the blue cross) at 35 shillings and will accept offers near this price. The spread is remarkable. Presumably there is some explanation."

Castle High Values. "I note with interest your article in Supplement No. 20 February 1965, in which you suggest that perhaps Castle used the same overprinting plate it used in late 1927. Has it been subsequently confirmed that they did use the same plate? I have a mint block of four of the 2/6 value, Scott 93, in which the LR stamp has a flat tailed nine which seems identical to the nine in position 12, Dublin Castle wide date overprints. (Mr. O'Reilly's article, page 555, March-April 1963). On the other hand position 12 is marginal and there is no margin on this block. I also have the 5/- value, Scott 94, mint, with a similar flat tailed 9."

Sir Rowan Hamilton. Scott 126, Sir Rowan Hamilton, 1/2p, is quoted at \$4.00 mint. What happened to this stamp to make the price so high? There were 28 million issued. Scott 124, Sir Douglas Hyde, was issued earlier in the same year, 26 million, and is quoted at 30¢. Did somebody corner the market on No. 126? "

Thom High Value Rialtas. "Feldman in his Handbook describing the differences between the Thom (Scott 36-38) and Dollard (Scott 12-14) overprints on the high values says that Thom's has the 'h' and 'e' much closer together, 'being less than 1 m.m. apart'. This seems confusing as these letters on the Dollard prints appear to be just under 1 m.m. apart. Would it not be better to describe the Thom letters as 'less than 1/2 m.m. apart' ? "

Certificates. "Auction catalogues often include Ireland high value overprints with Certificates, 'Royal' etc. Why would any owner consider it desirable to obtain certificates on items which cannot be mistaken as to identity such as Scott 93-95? Is it because of possible forged overprints? "

ADDENDA TO SUPPLEMENTS

Additional information on matters which have appeared in our supplements:

Supplement No. 22 Irish Air Mail Stamps. On page 99 (N-3) add under the 1/5 airmail stamp, issued 1st April 1965, the following: "In June 1967, 1/5 airmail stamps from Plate 2 appeared. There seem to be some faint scratches e.g. Row 10, No. 1 of Pane 2B has one between the solidus (/) and 5. The color is less dark than the usual Plate 1 printings. Mr. O Mathuna has drawn our attention to Row 10 No. 1 on Pane 2B. The top line has been strengthened so that the thick dot is less prominent than on other stamps of the sheet. (Random Notes August 1967 No. 129).

Supplement No. 29 Historical First Flight Air Covers. On page 131 (T-3) correct the "There are no reports of existing covers" to read: "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."

Also, add the following: "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 August 5th 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" (Random Notes August 1968 No. 145)

INSUFFICIENTLY PAID FOR
AIR SERVICE

Supplement No. 32 Revenue Stamps of Ireland. On page 144 (Y-4) under the subject "Land Registry" add the following:

1921 Geo. V G green f 2/6 LAND REGISTRY/SOUTHERN IRELAND

On page 147 (Y-7) under "Excise Revenue" Rialtas Overprint, Type 1 the following additional values: 2/6 sepia 10/-

In Supplement No. 33 Revenue Stamps. Definitive Issue. On page 154 (Y-14) under first issue, date ? , add the value: 3d

POSTS & TELEGRAPHS ANNOUNCES COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS FOR YEAR 1969

The Department of Posts & Telegraphs announced that the remaining issues of commemorative stamps for the year 1969 will be as follows:

28th April 1969. Denominations 9d and 1s.9d. Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (Europa Stamp).

14th July 1969. 6d and 9d. 50th Anniversary of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

1st September 1969. 1s. A work of contemporary Irish art (Evie Hone Window of College Chapel, Eton).

2nd October 1969. 6d and 1s.9d. Centenary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution Messrs. G.P. Roberts, M.P. Giffney, J.J. Clark, J.J. Walsh and L.L. Kay have been requested to serve on an Election Committee. Ballots for the election of officers & members of the Board of Directors will be included with the July mailing of Revealer. Nominations for any elective office shall be in writing and filed with the Secretary not later than June 15, 1969, and made by five or more members or by the Election Committee.
J.E. Foley, President.