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John J. Walsh, Editor

THE OVERPRINTED HIGHER VALUES OF IRELAND by Rev. J. Brennan

Mr. Hans G. Zervas' informative article in The Revealer (Nov-Dec.1962) prompts me to add some further notes for the benefit of collectors.

When dealing with the Bradbury-Wilkinson printings (1918-1930) it is important to bear in mind a classification of plates noted by Beaumont and Stanton in their book "The Postage Stamps of Great Britain - The Issue of George V". This classification is into A type plates or "Dot" Plates and ^B type of "Non Dot" plates.

The dot plates get their name from a small dot, sometimes no larger than a pin point, which appears in the centre of most stamps. Sometimes it is above the top horizontal frame line, sometimes between the inner and outer frame lines and sometimes it does not appear at all due to the fact that it coincides with the top frame line. These dots are the remains of setting points punched in the plate by hand before rolling in commenced. The dot assisted the workmen in aligning the transfer roller. They exist above every stamp of every row, except the top row.

All the plates which show these dots are called the "Dot" plates or A Type Plates. In later printings, i.e. from 1927 to 1930, this method was not used, no dots appear, and the plates made during that period are called "no dot" plates. In Beaumont and Stanton's book, referred to above, plate 1A is never a distinct plate from "plate 1". There is really no such plate as plate 1, as such, it is either 1A or 1B. Experience has taught me to recommend collectors to keep this in mind so as to avoid confusion in naming and distinguishing these plates.

Amongst the plates referred to by Mr. Zervas, in his Article, is plate 2 (type A). On this plate the following are noteworthy:-

Row 1, Stamp 2:- Doubling of horizontal lines in lower half of shield, shading lines near Britannia's foot and in garment, and in top and bottom frame lines.

Row 1, Stamp 3:- Vertical lines in shield and diagonal lines in upper half of shield, upper half of vertical frame lines at left and right, Britannia's forehead and nose, helmet, and ornaments in front of and behind helmet all doubled. This is called the "Nissen" re-entry.

Row 2, Stamp 1:- Doubling in garment under shield, in shading near the foot and in horizontal lines in bottom part of shield.

Row 4, Stamp 1:- Close doubling in lines of St. George's Cross, especially in right arm of same (facing it). There are two slight marks above the helmet.

Row 5, Stamp 1:- Vertical lines in shield, clearly and distinctly doubled.

Row 7, Stamp 1:- All vertical lines in shield, diagonal lines in St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's Cross, lines in helmet, in ornament of back of helmet lines of shading at right of shield and right frame line at top distinctly

(continued on page 561)

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THE UNDATED PARCEL POST STAMPS OF IRELAND

By B deBurca

(reprinted from the Journal of the Irish Philatelic Study Group, Dec. 1961, page 47)

Subsequent to the introduction of the parcel post in the British Isles, on the 1st August, 1883, undated parcel post stamps were issued about 1886. Though the types issued are illustrated by Alcock and Holland, the date of their issue is not given, nor is it mentioned that they were issued elsewhere than in England.

The types issued to Ireland were similar to those issued throughout the United Kingdom. The barred type (A) was issued to Dublin in February 1887, and twelve copies were supplied. Cork and Letterkenny received this type in May 1887, and Clones in September, 1888.

The next type (B) was issued to Limerick in June, 1889, followed in the same year by Castleblayney, Ballymena, Oranmore, Dungannon, and Lisburn. Further issues followed in 1890, Donegal (2), Waterford (2), Ennis, Atherney, Belfast, Lurgan, Dundalk, and Strabane. Waterford (2) did not receive its copies until December, 1898. This type remained unaltered until 1916.

A complete list has been given of all the issues which I have been able to trace in the record books, and if it is complete then the issue seems to have been a very limited one.

The next type (C) which was issued in England in 1916, is thus curiously the common type found on letters after the Easter Rising of 1916. I have been unable to trace its issue in the record books, but some of the records for this year are missing. Could it have been made in Dublin to meet the emergency which occurred?

I have to thank Mr. E.C. Baker, Chief Archivist to the G.P.O., London for access to the records.



(A)



(B)



(C)

doubled. A major re-entry.

Row 7, Stamp 2:- Close doubling in vertical lines of shield (St. George's Cross).

Row 8, Stamp 3:- Some diagonal lines in lower part of shield and in garment all doubled.

Row 9, Stamp 1:- Lower left arm of St. Andrew's Cross doubled.

Row 10, Stamp 2:- Horizontal frame lines doubled at top left.

Row 10, Stamp 4:- Lines in garment and horizontal lines in lower right corner of stamp doubled.

Stamps No. 3 (1 x 3) and 25 (7 x 1) are major re-entries. There is a very close resemblance between these, but note the following points of difference:-

(a) No. 3 has a constant guide line or scratch which takes the ink close to the 4th and 5th perforations (horizontal) near N.W. corner. There is also a small dot above N.W. corner of frame. No. 25 has not got these peculiarities.

(b) No. 25 has the usual guide dot, referred to above, which shows prominently above the frame (centre). No. 3 being a top row stamp has got no dot in this position.

(c) Britannia's forehead and nose are clearly doubled on No. 3, but not on No. 25.

Plate 3 (type A) Many of the prominent re-entries of this plate are correctly noted by Mr. Zervas. However, I think the following are also worthy of some prominence:

Row 2, Stamp 4:- Doubling in main vertical lines in top of shield, in ornament at back of helmet, in outer vertical frame lines at top right and bottom left.

Row 6, Stamp 1:- Prominent doubling of frame lines, both vertical and horizontal at bottom right corner.

Row 8, Stamp 3:- Good doubling in shading and ornaments above medallion for King's head, also along top frame line.

Row 9, Stamp 3:- (no. 35) Very good doubling in lines of the value panel at right of CROWN, in harness of white sea horse, in waves, on Britannia's foot, skirt and close to shield in top right shading.

On this plate No. 2 is the major re-entry, Nos. 29 and 30 are the notable re-entries. Perhaps No. 35 could be included in this class.

Through Mr. T.E. Field's kindness, I have studied his complete sheet (2/6 value) lot No. 485 (Bute Sale) referred to by Mr. Zervas. Most marks have been guillotined from the side and so I have not succeeded in plating it. It is singularly lacking in re-entries, having nothing of note except a slight doubling of 2 in 2/6 on stamp No. 12 (3 x 4). It has, however, what may be a unique overprint characteristic viz. a combination of accents missing on Nos. 10 and 30 but without the more usual reversed accent and broken T on No. 28 (7 x 4). The ink is blue black. I consider that this is one of the very earliest sheets issued, and that the reversed accent and broken T were due to an injury to the overprint subject not there when issued. In my opinion since the "no accents" were corrected very quickly after discovery and at an early stage after issue, such varieties should never be accepted by collectors as genuine Thom's unless the ink is blue black. Black ink was used by Thom's later but by that time the accents were corrected by the postal authorities. Later overprints had accents missing or apparently missing. These are worthy of note but they should not be confused with "Thom Missing Accent Variety".

Finally may I seek the assistance of collectors. So far in my studies over some years I have found plate 2 A (2/6) with Dollard overprint only, and plate 3 A (2/6) with Thom (Saorstat) only. Will collectors kindly report to "The Revealer" if they find any other overprint on the major re-entries of these two plates. Everybody's help is needed in this fascinating hobby.

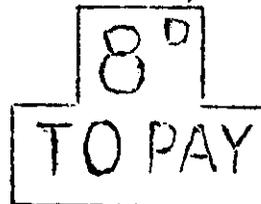


als.

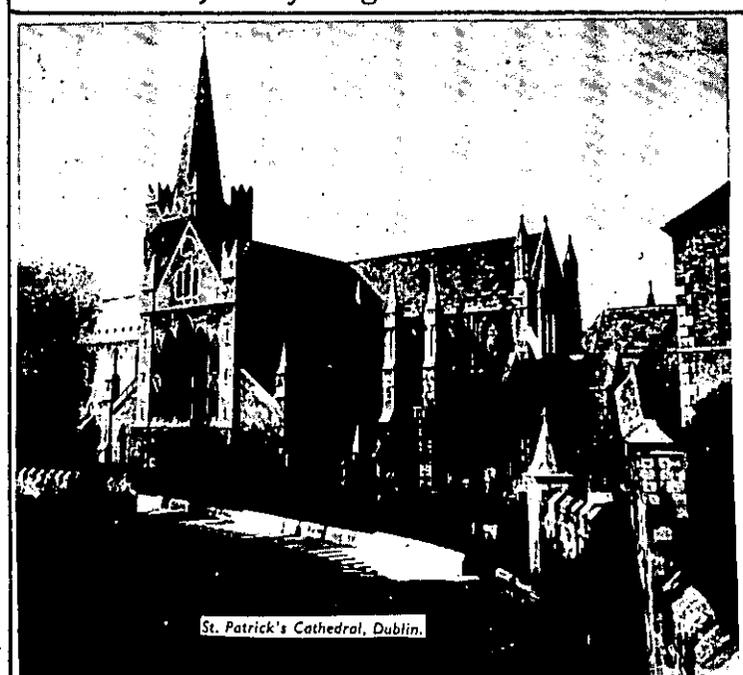
At least two Entertainment Duty stamps were produced by overprinting stocks of an obsolete value-5d and 7d, each on 1/6.

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 mBeartan". Then the bus-ticket style labels had "Post na mBeart". Now I find that one of the rectangular obliterations used in Dublin G.P.O. is inscribed "BEARTPHOST" and expect that we shall find that form adopted in other handstamps, labels and forms.

The new type of postage due handstamp, necessitated by the increase in rates and previously illustrated, is not the only one. Below I depict a very large one seen on a letter posted at Bruff (Brugh na nDeise).

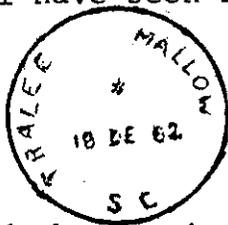


The green "Douane" labels supposed to be used on packets posted abroad, have been reprinted several times with some variations, but have been tri-lingual- (Irish, English, French). W. Kane has discovered a new, 1963, version with no Irish at all, only English and French.



St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

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. Below I illustrate the only version that I have seen for 1962



R.P. Woods has an imprint strip of the 3d Luke Wadding issue, on which the end stamp (Pane 1B, Row 10, No.12) has a mark across the lower part of one "e" in Eire. None of my examples from this position shows any flaw. Can anyone else produce an example to confirm the variety?

The Freedom from Hunger slogans (which have worn very badly in Dublin) were replaced at the end of January by the Dublin District Numbers appeal.

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 4 1/2d, 5d, 8d, 8 1/2d, 9 1/2d, 10d, 1/3 and 1/7. Later there were 5 1/2d, 6d, 6 1/2d, 7d, 11d, 1/1 and 1/11. The first 11d were improvised by overprinting on 9 1/2d 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 provision-