



The Revealer

APRIL 1916

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ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
(International)

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Issued Quarterly

John J. Walsh, Editor

The Irish Commemorate Their Great THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RISING OF 1916



P. H. Pearse

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916 in April, the Department of Posts and Telegraphs of Ireland will issue a series of eight commemorative postage stamps. Seven of the stamps, designed by Mr. Raymond Kyne of Signa Ltd., Dublin will each bear a portrait of one of the seven signatories to the Proclamation of the Irish Republic who were executed for their part in the insurrection. The designs are to be taken from drawings by Sean O'Sullivan, R.H.A. which were presented by Miss Madge Daly to the National Museum.

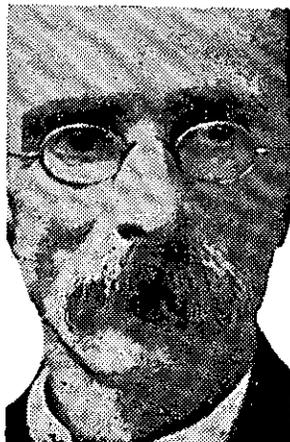
The eighth stamp, designed by Mr. Edward Delaney is more general in nature, in commemoration of all those who lost their lives in the War of Independence.

PATRICK H. PEARSE was chosen to be the Provisional President of the Republic. He was 36 years of age, a native of Dublin. A renowned scholar and student of Gaelic, he was at the time Principal of St. Enda's School for Boys at Rathfarnham. He was executed on May 3, 1916.

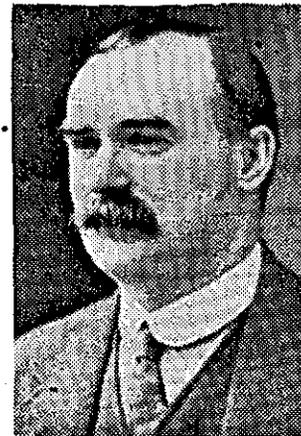
THOMAS J. CLARKE was the beloved representative of the old Fenian movement of the Eighties who was the link between the old fighters for Irish freedom and a new generation. After serving a term of penal servitude in England for his part in the dynamiting conspiracy, he returned to Dublin in 1907 and opened a small tobacco shop and newspaper agency in Parnell Street. This soon

became a center of the revolutionary movement and youth came to seek his advice and counsel. He was born on the Isle of Wight in 1857. During the Rising, he fought at the G.P.O. He was executed with the others.

JAMES CONNOLLY, the Commandant of the Irish Citizen Army was born on June 5th, 1868 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He came to Dublin in 1914 as Acting Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union. He was chosen to be the Commandant of all the Republican Forces in Dublin during the Rising. Severely wounded in the fighting at the G.P.O., he directed the defense from a stretcher. He was executed on May 12th, 1916 while seated in a chair.



Tom Clarke



James Connolly

Fire Philatelic Association

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BACK ISSUES STILL AVAILABLE

There is considerable demand for back issues of The Revealer and some numbers are in short supply. Those who wish to complete their files should do so before the supply runs out.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This commemorative issue of the Revealer was made possible by the kind cooperation of many people, including: Mr. Fintan Kennedy, Secretary Irish Transport Workers, Dublin who supplied much background and photos of Liberty Hall and the Citizen Army.

The Minister for Posts and Telegraphs for the 1916 postmark and his Secretary, Mr. Draper for the photo of the 1916 GPO clock.

Fred E. Dixon and Dr. Brian de Burca not only for photos and stamps but for considerable advice and help in the correction of material.

William Kane and Vincent Linnell for much background material.

Gerald O'Reilly for the design of the commemorative gold medallion 620 to be issued commercially.

THE IRISH COMMEMORATE THEIR GREAT

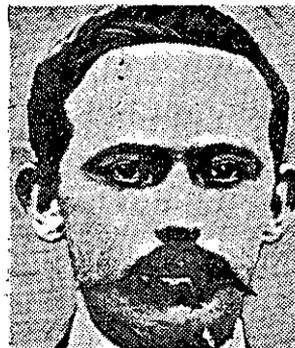
THOMAS MacDONAGH

was 38 years of age, a native of Cloughjordan, County Tipperary. He commanded the Volunteers in the St. Stephen's Green area with Michael Mallin, Chief of Staff of the Citizen Army. He was executed on May 3rd, 1916 with other signatories.



Thomas MacDonagh

EAMONN CEANNT was 35 years of age and a native of Glenmeaddy, County Galway. He was employed in the Treasury Office of the Dublin Corporation. In command of the Fourth Dublin Battalion of the Volunteers, he seized the South Dublin Union. He surrendered with his 43 surviving comrades on Sunday afternoon, April 30th, 1916 and was executed on May 7th.



Eamonn Ceannt

SEAN MacDIARMADA was 32 years of age, a native of Kiltyclougher, County Leitrim. Suffering from rheumatic fever, he was lame for most of his life. He took an active part in the formation of the Irish Volunteers. He was a great speaker and organiser and went throughout Ireland organising the Volunteers. He was executed May 12th.



Sean MacDermott

JOSEPH MARY PLUNKETT was born in 1887, the eldest son of Count Plunkett. He was a writer of prose and poetry and had been editor of the Irish Review. He rose from a sick bed to attend the signing of the Proclamation and to fight at the G.P.O. He was executed with others in May, 1916



Joseph Plunkett



Irish Stamps: A Retrospect.



Irish Rebel Stamps

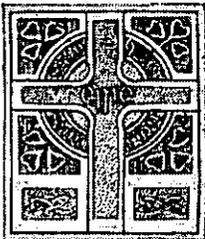
A set of three stamps was prepared in New York City in 1865 for the Fenians, then planning Risings in the U.S.A. According to Stamp Collector's Magazine, Vol. IV p. 25, Feb. 1866) the values were 3, 10 and 24 cents. The 3 cent is not known however and instead there is a 1 cent. Forgeries exist of the 24 cent, some being based on the magazine illustration which appeared also in the Philatelist 1867 and in Moen's catalogues. There is no evidence that the Fenian stamps were produced in quantity and no used copies are known. The 3 cent stamp shown above was illustrated in the Daily Graphic in 1893.



Two stamps appeared about 1907 which have generally been regarded as "imposters", produced merely to fool philatelists. They are thought to have been produced before that time by a well-known forger, who adapted the British Colonial key-plate design. (See illustrations)



Sinn Fein Propaganda Labels



The Sinn Fein labels are of particular interest, being issued by the principal Nationalist Organization, being the subject of Post Office Regulations, and being widely accepted as Sinn Fein "stamps". They were suggested by Sir Thomas Esmonde, and the idea was encouraged by Arthur Griffith, afterwards the first President of the Irish Free State.



They came into use about the end of 1907, sold through members of the movement at 2/6 a gross. Contemporary correspondence reveals that the members were pledged to reply only to those letters which bore the labels, and that the money was earmarked to found a newspaper and after that a bank.

The use of these labels on the front of the envelope was forbidden by a Post Office Order of July 1908, and few are known between that period and the time of the Rising in 1916. Dr. deBurca has been able to obtain a copy of this Order:

"The practice has recently been adopted by some persons of affixing to the covers of letters adhesive labels, somewhat resembling postage stamps, which are used for advertising or other purposes. Although these labels are obviously not issued with any intention of defrauding the revenue, their use on postal packets, especially when they are placed on the addressed side causes embarrassment to the officers of the Post Office, and gives rise to delay in the treatment of other correspondence. In these circumstances, the Postmaster General has deemed it necessary to issue instructions that, after the 31st July, any letter or other packet observed in the post bearing on the front a private label in any way resembling a postage stamp shall be returned to the sender.

General Post Office. 21st July, 1908. By Command of the Postmaster General."

(a) CELTIC CROSS. The Celtic Cross design consisted of a Celtic Cross, surrounded by shamrocks with the word, "Eire" in the center of the Cross and "Sinn Fein" on the circle. It was designed by Miss Lily Williams.

There appear to have been at least two printings of this label. The first was around 1907. This original printing was bi-colour blue and black on white paper and were rough rouletted or perforated 11. The second printing appeared about the time of the Rising and varied in colour from the original. They appear to be green and black on white and are rouletted instead of being perforated. The most striking difference in the two printings is the narrow Cross in the second. The gum on the rouletted reprints is not as colorless as on the originals, but is slightly yellowish.

(b) HIBERNIA & WOLFHOUND. The other design features a female figure with harp at centre and a wolfhound reclining below. The arms of the four Provinces fill the corners. "Eire" appears at top and "Sinn Fein" in the side columns. The suggestion that the design is attributed to Joseph Plunkett cannot be maintained. He was still a schoolboy and did not join the movement until 1913.

The original issue was in multicolour blue-green, yellow and black. The gum was yellowish and the separation was perforation 11 and a rough roulette. A later printing about the time of the Rising in 1916 had a paler green and differed also in the design. The Crown in the upper left corner is taller and the hound is much fatter. A tetebeche variety occurring twice in the original plate of 10 x 10 was not repeated in the 1916 issue of sheets 10 x 5.

Both designs are believed to have been engraved on wood by H. Kirkwood, associated with Waller & Co., Printers, in Suffolk Street, Dublin. However, the printing is generally attributed to Thom. Distribution was through J. Whelan, Newsagent, 17 Upper Ormond Quay and he had agents throughout Ireland, and in London, Liverpool and Manchester.

OTHER PROPAGANDA LABELS & POSTAL MARKINGS

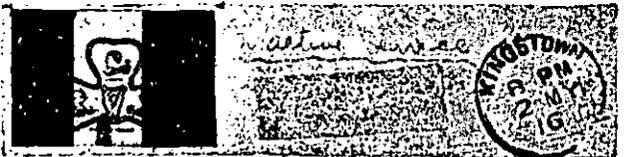
Of course, not all the Irish wanted a Republic. Some desired to maintain the Imperial Union and others wanted Home Rule for Ireland within the framework of the Empire. Many such labels appeared and much still has to be learned about their authorship and use.



One of these was the Imperial Union design, in green and in orange, although classified by some as "bogus" may possibly have been issued by the "Irish Imperial Home Rule Association" which existed in 1908, as a reprisal to the Sinn Fein labels.

A more extreme organization sold, at one penny each, a stamp printed in imperial red. The design consisted of the historic arms of the United Kingdom under the Imperial Crown, with the motto at the bottom, "PATRIOTS MAINTAIN THE UNION". This was in opposition to the Home Rule for Ireland, passed by Parliament in 1914.

Finally, there are the so-called "Manchester Martyrs stamps", which have sometimes been sold as stamps prepared by the Irish Republicans. This legend was assisted by the inclusion of the design in a series of "cigarette pictures" of famous stamps, given away



with Godfrey Philips cigarettes. There are even forgeries of them, roughly cut and clumsily gummed. The originals were in pairs (with the tricolour reversed) for sticking round a pin as a flag day emblem. We illustrate this above used on a cover by a British soldier "on active service" and postmarked Kingstown May 2, 1916. This originally appeared in The Revealer in 1951.

Among the mysteries of the period are the origin and purpose of eight labels with the inscription I.R. ERIE PUIST. The eight were printed together (4 x 2). Each has a border of shamrocks in green. Seven have the portraits of figures prominent in the Rising of 1916 and the eighth has a harp. These centers are in black, and the portraits are of Patrick Pearse, Thomas MacDonagh, James Connolly, The O'Rahilly, Eamonn de Valera, Con Colbert and Eamonn Ceannt. All except the second are from photographs by Keogh or Lafayette, used in the "Irish Times" and also on the postcards sold soon after the Rising.



Copies of a handstruck marking "Irish Republican Post" (illustrated are in existence, some with the ink written 1d in the circle. Its use is somewhat of a mystery. Fred Dixon gave this explanation (Revealer, page 507): "I was told some years ago that the postmark was on envelopes containing propaganda leaflets and dropped into the citizen's letter boxes by the Nationalists. The word, "POST" is misleading. There were no collections of mail or facilities whereby the public could entrust their letters for dispatch.



JAMES CONNOLLY AND THE IRISH CITIZEN ARMY

The Irish Citizen Army was founded in 1913 and its constitution required membership in a trade union, and the vast majority were members of the Irish Transport Workers Union. Its original purpose was to protect union meetings and members from police interference. James Connolly became its Commandant in 1914, with Michael Mallin as Chief of Staff.

The Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1915 formed a secret military Council and developed plans for an insurrection, to be spearheaded by the Irish Volunteers. When Connolly informed them that they would have the full support of the Citizen Army if and when they were prepared to take action and that if they delayed too long, the Citizen Army would act alone, he was invited to become a member of the seven-man Council.

From then on, Liberty Hall became an armed camp for military training and a guard was placed on the building. On Palm Sunday 1916, Connolly assembled the Citizen Army with his Lieutenants, Countess Markievicz and Michael Mallin on either side and a colour-bearer climbed to the roof of the Hall and fastened the Irish tricolour flag to the flagpole.

This was the first act of defiance and an irrevocable step had been taken, a step that was to lead in eight days to open conflict. The planned insurrection was to take place on Easter Sunday, April 23rd.

Late on the following Saturday, news reached Liberty Hall that Sir Roger Casement had been captured after landing from a German submarine on the coast of Kerry and that a German ship, the AUD, had been unable to land its cargo of arms and ammunition and had been sunk by its crew to prevent capture. In addition, Eoin MacNeill of the Volunteers had created confusion by publicly calling off the "maneuvers" scheduled for the next day.

The Military Council was summoned to meet at the Hall at 8 A M on Easter Sunday. All seven members voted to issue orders that the Volunteers and the Citizen Army would go into action as the Army of the Irish Republic at noon on Monday, April 24th.



THE IRISH CITIZEN ARMY AT LIBERTY HALL

THE 1916 PROCLAMATION

THE PROCLAMATION OF
POBLAcht NA H EIREANN.
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God. Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE.

SEAN Mac DIARMADA. THOMAS MacDONAGH.

P. H. PEARSE. EAMONN CEANNT.

JAMES CONNOLLY. JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

(reduced facsimile)

REBELLION OF 1916

On Easter Monday morning, four contingents of fighting men and women left Liberty Hall to take up their battle stations. The first party left at 11:35 A.M. and occupied the Harcourt Street Railway Station; another under Commandant Michael Mallin and Lieutenant Constance Markievicz marched to take up positions on St. Stephen's Green and the surrounding area including the College of Surgeons; a third under Captain Sean Connolly occupied the City Hall area; and, finally Commandant-General Connolly with President Pearse, Thomas J. Clarke, Joseph Plunkett and Sean MacDermott led the main column from Liberty Hall in the direction of the General Post Office.

The Irish Volunteers at the same time sent several battalions to occupy other strategic positions under various commandants - Edward Daly to the Four Courts law buildings, Eamonn Ceannt to the South Dublin Union, Thomas MacDonagh to the Stephen's Green area, and Eamonn deValera to Boland's Flour Mill in the Ringsend district of Dublin to cut off British reinforcements from England. All initial positions were soon occupied.

On Easter Sunday morning, two composers, Liam O'Brien and Michael J. Molloy, and a printer, Christopher Brady, members of the Dublin Typographical Provident Society were called to Liberty Hall for the purpose of printing the Proclamation of the new Irish Republic.

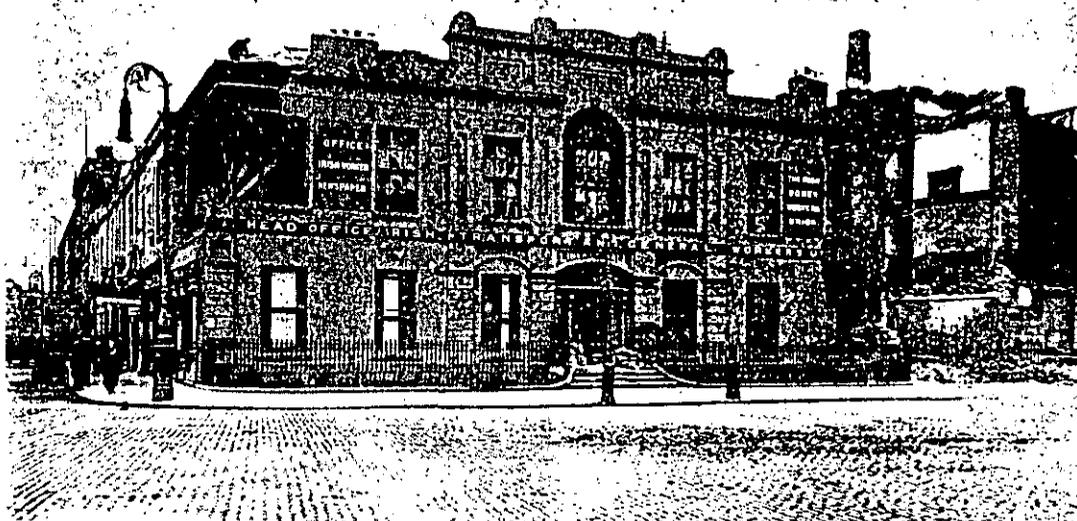
In the basement of the Hall was a printing press which Connolly used for printing his newspaper, "The Workers' Republic" and his political pamphlets. The manuscript of the Proclamation which is attributed to Padraig Pearse or Eamonn Ceannt, with amendments and additions in Connolly's handwriting, was handed to them by Thomas MacDonagh.

It was obvious to the composers that the fount of type available was hopelessly inadequate so they decided to set up the first half of the document and when that was run off by Christy Brady, the type was broken up and the bottom half was set up. Owing to the shortage of type, different founts and even sealing wax were used to complete some letters. In all, 2,500 copies were printed.

After the bombardment of Liberty Hall on Wednesday of Easter Week, the British authorities occupied the building and found the printing press and numerous copies of the Proclamation. The type was scattered around the basement floor.

Sometime after the insurrection, some of the survivors gathered together the remaining type found in the basement and used it in part in making facsimiles of the Proclamation which are sometimes mistaken for the originals.

THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES DECLARE MARTIAL LAW



A view of Liberty Hall after bombardment during the 1916 Rising

Battalion of the Dublin Fusiliers [a reserve battalion] and the Third Irish Rifles (Royal Antrim Militia). After an initial skirmish at the G.P.O., with the exception of some sniping on Monday and Tuesday, no serious attempt was made by the British forces to dislodge the Republicans. Reinforcements began to arrive early Tuesday morning from the Curragh Camp, County Kildare, from the north, and other points including an artillery brigade from Athlone. The Viceroy declared martial law in Dublin on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, fierce fighting broke out in Dublin with heavy guns operating from Trinity College and machine guns barking from the roof of the Custom House and Tivoli music hall. The gunboat HELGA steamed up the river to batter the walls of Liberty Hall, which had already been evacuated. The upper story of the G.P.O. was wrecked, and many buildings in O'Connell Street were set on fire.

The 178th Brigade (Sherwood Foresters) arrived on Wednesday at Kingstown Harbour (Dun Laoghaire). Later, as one column attempted to march into Dublin, Captain Malone, de Valera's aide-de-camp with six Volunteers kept up such a steady rifle fire from Clamwilliam House that it was held up for about 5 hrs. before the stronghold could be blasted out with machine guns. The British losses were 234 killed and wounded, or about half of the total incurred in the entire Rising. The Volunteers lost six men in this engagement.

The superior strength of the British force began to demonstrate itself on Thursday and Friday, when much of central Dublin was on fire.

On Friday, a fire broke out in the G.P.O. and in spite of valiant effort it got out of control and by Friday night, it was necessary to abandon the Post Office. On Saturday, Padraig Pearse signed a surrender document at 3:45 P.M. to spare the lives of as many survivors as possible.

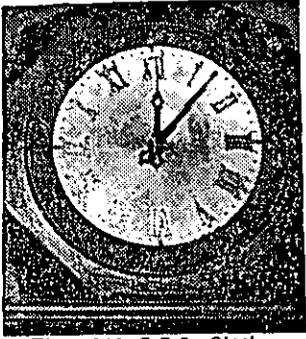


Lower Sackville Street, from the corner of Abbey Street, showing broken flag-post on G.P.O. from which Republican flag was flown.

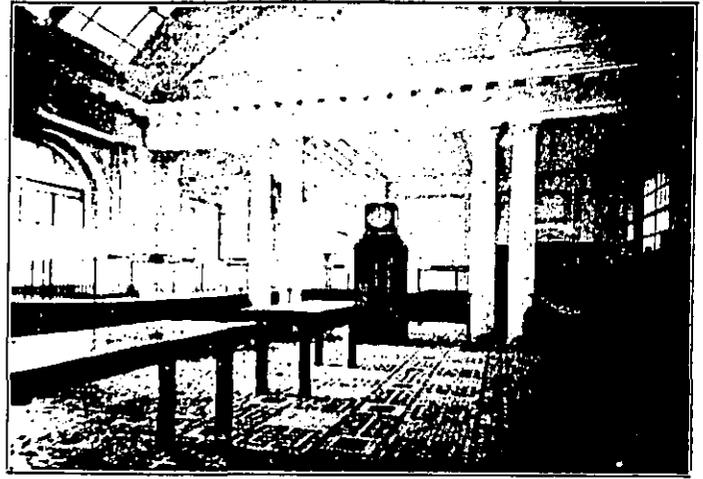
In all, approximately 1,100 men and women comprised the Army of the Irish Republic on Easter Monday morning and they were widely distributed in Dublin. Fewer than 100 were assigned to Eamonn de Valera.

The British forces consisted of 2,500 men in the city, composed of the Sixth Reserve Cavalry (Lancers), the Third Royal Irish Regiment (North Tipperary Militia), the Tenth Service

THE SEIZURE AND BURNING OF THE G.P.O. IN DUBLIN



The 1916 G.P.O. Clock.



The reconstructed Public Office at the G.P.O. as it appeared before the revolt.

The main body of men led by James Connolly from Liberty Hall on Monday, marched through the streets of Dublin in soldierly fashion and into the broad expanse of Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street). When the column reached the front of the General Post Office, upon command, it swung sharply into the G.P.O. itself. A few revolver shots gave proof of the seriousness of the action being taken and the building quickly emptied itself of the public and postal officials. It was approximately 12:07 P.M. on Easter Monday.

All the glass in the large windows was broken with rifle butts and barricades of furniture and mail bags set up. An armed guard was posted, the Proclamation of the Republic posted on the door and the tricolour flag of green, white and orange hoisted on the flagpole on the roof.

Shortly thereafter, a squadron of Lancers, which had been escorting several ammunition wagons on the quays nearby, only to be met with rifle fire from the G.P.O. They retired after several Lancers were killed.

The fire which broke out at the G.P.O. on Friday after three days of incessant artillery fire not only destroyed the building but also the post office equipment therein.

One of the most interesting questions about the seizure and burning of the G.P.O. is whether or not a de facto postal service was attempted during the week of the Rising by the Republican Government.

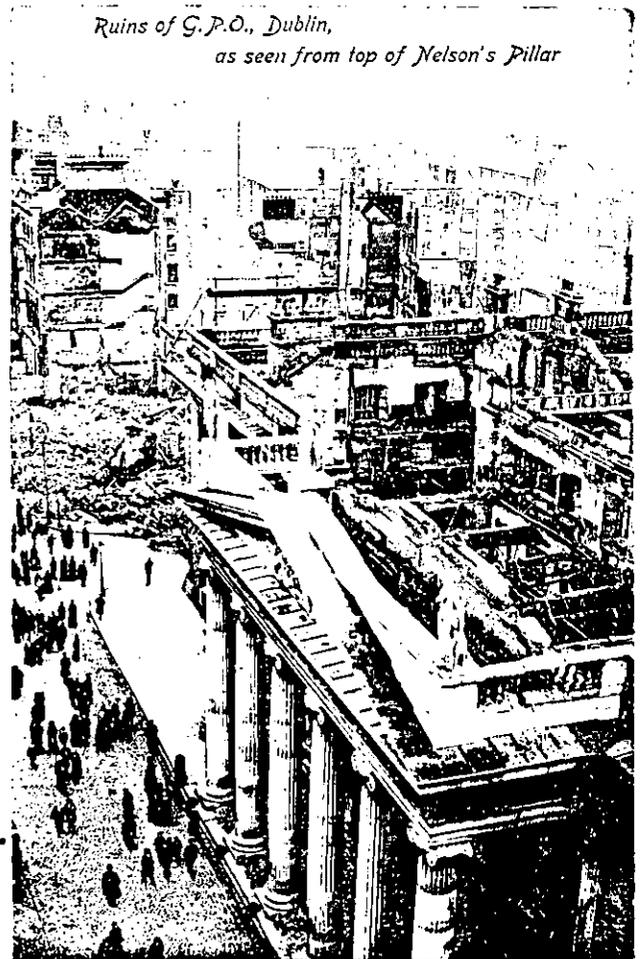
Mr. Michael F. O'Donnell in Stamp Collecting, June 30, 1928 wrote, in part, as follows:

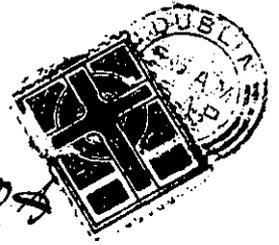
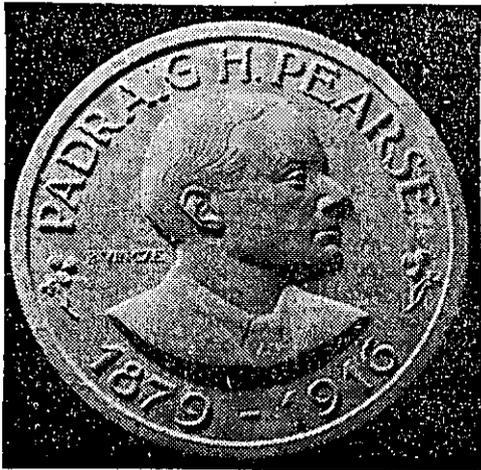
"I understand that during the occupation of the General Post Office the Republican Headquarters Staff - to assert their independence and allegiance to the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic - received and issued through the post messages under cover bearing an affixed "Celtic Cross" design stamp which was duly franked with the late British post office cancellation date stamp. The messages were conveyed by special runners....."

"About eight years ago I purchased two covers which are still in my possession. One of the covers is addressed to one of the signatories to the Easter Week Proclamation with the 'Celtic Cross' design stamp

Ruins of G.P.O., Dublin,

as seen from top of Nelson's Pillar





Commandant Edward Kelly
Four Courts

thereon bearing a Dublin postmark cancellation dated April 24th, 1916. The other is addressed to Commandant.....I.R.A. Four Courts, with a similar stamp on cover bearing a Dublin postmark cancellation 5:45 A.M. April 25th, 1916....."

The two covers are apparently in the collection of Mr. Fred Dixon who has enclosed with his comments photos which we illustrate on this page. "Mr. Dixon reported some time ago that: "At least two date stamps survive and were kept as souvenirs. They have been employed to fake covers bearing the Sinn Fein labels.

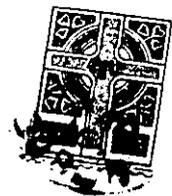
"One of these two date stamps is the common double-circle type in its later and smaller form, 23 1/2 mm. diameter; the number at the foot appears to be 57. The other seems to be an Express type but all of the half-dozen copies I have seen have been struck in such a way that most of the upper word is missing and in no case is more than the final ESS legible."

Dr. Brian deBurca furnished additional information about the date stamp. He wrote: "It was in private custody for years and then handed back to the G.P.O. at Duke Street. The donor was given two impressions on a Parcel Post label of Duke St. and they read 5:45 A M 25th April 1916 - probably the last occasion on which it was used. So far as I know no other impressions were taken from this handstamp. The label is now in my collection."

The interesting prospect presented itself of being able to illustrate this postmark in this issue of The Revealer and in response to a request made to the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, your editor was pleased to receive the following communication on January 28th of this year from Mr. J. Draper:

"With reference to your letter of 3rd December, 1965 regarding your forthcoming publication dealing with the Irish Rising of Easter 1916 I am directed by the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs to enclose herewith a photostat copy of the datestamp to which you refer which was rescued from the G.P.O. fire in 1916."

We are deeply grateful to the Minister for Posts for his kind permission to complete this story of the philatelic history of the Rising of 1916 by illustrating the postmark.



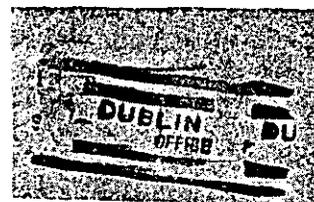
Comy ua Clerys
TSA traps sy pargell
Acs Clac

After Easter 1916

During the week of the Rebellion, it seems extremely unlikely that normal postal facilities could be carried on since the sniping was constant throughout the city and heavy artillery fire from field guns and the naval gunboat HELGA on the Liffey being centered in the area of the General Post office.

As the British forces regained control of Dublin at the end of the week, attention was turned to the delivery of the mails. With the General Post Office burned and its cancelling devices unavailable, postal service was conducted on a makeshift basis. The postal service only really began to function again on Tuesday, May 1st, 1916 with such crude cancellers as could be found.

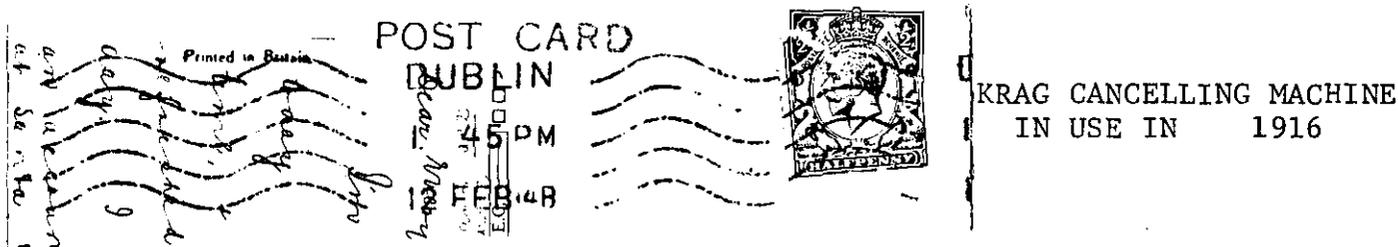
In 1916 Dublin's chief Parcels Post office was not at the General Post Office but in Amiens Street and it is possible that some postmarking devices were available there.



Dublin "skeleton" date stamps numbered from 1 to 12 were located, with single or double rings. Single rings Nos. 1 to 7 with the exception of No. 6 which is not recorded, may be found. Double rings Nos. 10 to 12 are known. There is no record of Nos. 8 and 9. Recorded dates are from the 4th to the 26th of May, 1916. Several types of rollers giving continuous impression of DUBLIN between the bars as well as a roller or rollers with the word PARCELS more or less completely deleted and the so-called Dublin barred cancel, normally used on parcels were also used during this period. (See illustrations).

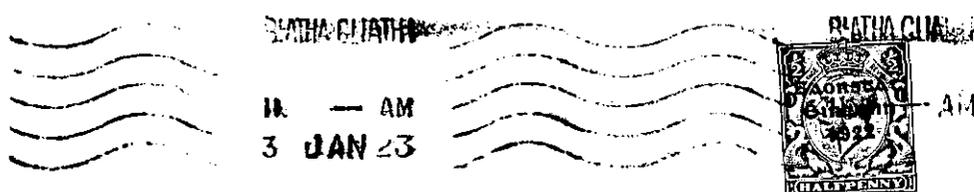
Mr. Dixon reports that the only cancelling machines in Dublin in 1916 seem to have been the "Krag", which gave continuous impressions of five wavy bars between successive strikes of DUBLIN with time and date. These were badly damaged in the fire but not completely destroyed.

When the replacement machines later supplied were themselves put out of action in the November 1922 fire, it was the old "Krag" which were repaired and, with BL ATHA CLIATH dies instead of DUBLIN, used from December 1922 to the end of January 1923. The following examples from the collection of Fred Dixon:



KRAG CANCELLING MACHINE
IN USE IN 1916

THE 1922-1923
DIES IN KRAG
CANCEL.



BRITISH FIELD POST OFFICES IN IRELAND 1916-1922

by Dr. B. deBurca



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3



Type 4



Type 5

The full story of these Post Offices has never been recorded. Colonel G.E. Crouch gave a brief account under "Expeditionary Forces, Ireland 1921-22" in the Spring Number 1938, of the Philatelic Adviser. Unfortunately the story is still incomplete, due to the great scarcity of Field Post Office mail for this period. The present account is based on my own collection and covers seen in a display at the Forces Postal History Society.

The first Field Post Office recorded was F.P.O. (HD) 40 with code letter A, from 5th May to the 16th August 1916. The 178th Brigade composed of the 2nd Battalions of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Sherwood Forresters (45th Regiment). The 7th, the Robin Hoods, arrived at Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) at 4 A.M. on the 26th April 1916, and F.P.O. (HD) 40 may have come in with the remainder of the Brigade during the following week. Mail from 178th Brigade was date stamped at Kingstown Post Office until the 2nd of May. The Rebellion collapsed on the 30th April.

Mail for troops was postage free for one week after the Brigade arrived, but after the 5th May unstamped letters were charged the postage due rate of 1d. on arrival in England. By this time temporary Post Offices had been set up in Phoenix Park and in the Rotunda Gardens. Parcel Post hand stamps, and skeleton date stamps have been recorded from the 4th of May.

This year the Forces Postal History Society Journal recorded F.P.O. (HD) D 14 date stamping a letter from Phoenix Park on the 5th July 1916.

Censorship of both incoming, outgoing, and internal mail continued during 1916, and of the first two during 1917 and 1918. Internal censor labels are now a great rarity, though extensively used during 1916. Later, counter censorship measures were taken by both sides. A Republican Army Post was organised in 1918, and though it had many depots, only a single date stamp has survived. The British Army found that official mail was being opened, and so Field Post Offices were organised at Headquarters centers, and details of these follow.

F.P.O. 8, Belfast. Three types of date stamps were used. Type 2 from the 26th March to the 30th June 1921; type 3 from the 27th September to the 21st October 1921; and type 4 from the 28th November 1921.

F.P.O. 10. This was reported to have been at Belfast from the 20th August 1921 to 2nd December 1921, and at Carrickfergus from the 22nd December 1921 to the 14th April 1922. Later dates have been seen, but have been unable to confirm the location. Two types of date stamp were used:- (1) as type 2. Recorded from the 20th August to 2nd December 1921. Have never seen it on cover, but have three copies on part covers. (2) As type 4. Recorded from the 22nd December 1921 to the 27th January 1923. Two copies have been seen on cover and four on piece.

F.P.O. 220. Type 5, with code letters A and B. It was located at the Headquarters, North Ireland District, Newtownards from May 1921. It is extremely

(continued next page)

rare, and have seen only three copies on piece and one on cover dated 22nd September 1921 with code A. This F.P.O. closed down on the 14th March 1923.

F.P.O. D 41. Type 5 with codes + and B. Located in Dublin from the 21st October 1921 to the 14th July 1922. Later records exist, but have not seen any covers confirming that it was in Southern Ireland. It is frequently seen on English overprinted labels with 1922 dates. The use of English labels ceased on the 31st May 1922.

The main difference between the two date stamps, apart from + and B, is in the length of the thick side bars between the circles. This is the only common F.P.O. seen used in Ireland, and probably some hundreds exist.

F.P.O. T 29. Type 5 without code. Recorded from the 15th February 1921 to the 21st March 1922. Have seen it with codes A and B from July to November 1922, but the covers examined did not appear to have originated in Ireland. It may be found on English overprinted labels in March 1922. The commonly accepted location for this F.P.O. is the Curragh Camp in County Kildare, but Colonel Crouch located it at Kilworth, in County Cork. In my collection, however, there is a cover posted in Belfast on the 16th March 1921 addressed to Dover, Kent. It has a transit date stamp of T 29 for the 27th March showing that at least on this date it was located in Dublin. Mail from Belfast to Southern England is normally routed through Dublin.

F.P.O. 3 K. Type 5 with code +. Code A has been seen for the 22nd May 1919, but this was probably used in France. Recorded from the 26th September 1921 to the 27th March 1922. On the basis of a single cover posted at the Royal Garrison Barracks, Tallagh, County Dublin, this has been given as its location. It has not been recorded on transit mail passing through Dublin. I have it on an English overprinted label for March 1922. It is extremely rare.

F.P.O. W 16. Type 5 with codes +, A, and B. Located in Dublin from the 20th January 1921 to the 29th September 1921. I have one unusual cover posted from the Command Pay Office, Dublin, to the Regimental Paymaster, Dover, and charged 4d. on arrival. There are eight covers or part covers in my collection and have seen a number in other collections.

This concludes my story, and reading through it, noted that the 178th Brigade was the only unit mentioned in connection with the 1916 Rising. This is because it is the only unit from which letters have been found.

(Reprinted from the Postal History Journal by kind permission of the Editor)

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MILITARY MAIL DURING THE RISING

by V. A. Linnell, EPA

In my collection, I have the following military covers of the Easter era:
1. A cover bearing the Dublin barred cancel with the following: "1 JUNE 1916" in red ink and "1934" red written figures in a red box 12 mm high by 27 1/2mm wide and also bearing signature _____ Col H G and back crest: 10 BATT ROYAL DUBLIN FUSILIERS. The number of the red box being the regimental censorship number.

2. A second cover from the same unit showing a roller postmark in black ink. The censor (regimental) marks are in red as on the other cover, and dated 12 JUNE 1916 2056 and is signed by the Colonel.

MARTIAL LAW - 1916

F. E. Dixon

The Viceroy, Lord Wimborne, proclaimed Martial Law in Dublin on 25th April and the next day this was extended to the whole of Ireland. A special order by General Maxwell made it an offence for letters to be sent except through the Post Office.

Letters of the period are found opened and re-sealed with labels bearing the words "OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW". F.E. Dixon reports two types. One is white, about 150 x 40 mm, the words sans-serif occupying 91 x 7 mm. The other has green surfaced paper, 105 x 18 mm: the words are serified and smaller, only