



The REVEALER



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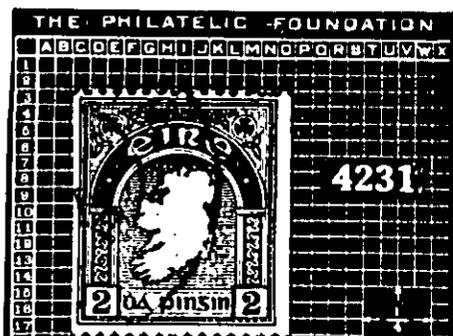
ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
(International)

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John J. Walsh, Editor



THE IRISH 2d COIL OF 1935 (S.G. 74b = Scott 68b)

By Russell Jackson

While looking at one of the major catalogues a few years ago, I noted it was stated that very few copies of the above stamp existed. (1). This intrigued me and I decided to locate as many copies as possible.

The stamp appears to have been issued in 1935, the exact date is not known, but the earliest date noted is the 8th Sept: 35. (2). and the latest 9th July, 36. (3)

Mr. A.H.K. Roberts, in a letter to "Stamp Collecting" (4) mentions the small printing of 48,000. It is interesting to note that one of the other experimental coils, the 1d. (S.G. 72a, Scott 87a) had a lower printing of 28,000. (5). This penny coil must be a lot more plentiful than 74b, which is surprising, considering that there were nearly twice as many of the 2d coil issued. Probably this is due to the fact that the 2d coil was not noted by philatelists at the time of issue, and most of the copies were destroyed, also a large number of them appear to have been sold in country towns where philatelists might not notice them.

This 2d grey-green Map stamp had been on issue for thirteen years at this time and was a very common value, being the normal letter rate at that time, so that few people would bother to save them and the usual heavy postmark in Ireland would make the imperforate edges not very noticeable on cover. Fred Dixon has noted that a number of copies were discovered by a "mission" stamp dealer in Dublin. (6)

The fact that no pairs of this stamp have been recorded would suggest that no philatelists purchased copies at the time of issue, all the other experimental coils being available in pairs and strips. The Irish Post Office at this time did not publicize the issue of new stamps, excepting only the commemoratives

So far as I am aware, only four mint copies of 74b exist. (7). Twenty-five used copies have been recorded, and from personal examination of the stamp, photographs or tracings of the postmark, eighteen of these are definitely different. Four other copies from letters (8) & (9), the auction catalogues (10), have been noted also. This gives a possible total of 23 used copies, but undoubtedly many more exist, and the writer would be pleased to hear of the location of other copies, photographs, and/or tracings of the postmarks are most helpful. (17).

The following is a list of the legible postmarks noted:

Nas na Riogh (Naas)	8 copies
Loch Garman (Wexford)	2 copies
Grow More Wheat	2 copies
Daigean na Bhfailghe (Philipstown)	1 copy
Use the Telephone (Dublin - BAC)	1 copy
Annamoe	1 copy

I have also seen reference to a copy postmarked Dun Laoghaire. (11)

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(INTERNATIONAL)



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NEW ISSUE NEWS & NOTES

The 5d (Sword of Light) formerly printed by letterpress was being gradually replaced commencing April 1st, 1968 by stamps of the same design printed by photogravure. This will be temporary pending the new definitive design for the 5d due sometime this year. The first day covers of this issue (April 1 1968) from Dublin do not contain first day of issue marking according to our information received from the G.P.O.

The Europa issue of 1968 appeared on April 29th, 1968. Designed by Swiss artist, Hans Schwarzenbach. Lettering by the Irish artist, Michael Biggs.

7d. gold on
brown backing
(2 million)
1/5 gold on
blue backing
(2 million)
Wmk E
Perf. 15 x 15



THE IRISH 2d COIL OF 1935 (continued)

Mr. Towers mentions in a letter (12), the fiscal use of this stamp on receipts by the Dublin Gas Company. I have not been able to find any evidence, nor has Mr. F. E. Dixon. (13). I personally examined a large number of receipts from the Gas Company dated 1935 and 1936, and noted no coil stamps, also, from the list of Post offices above I do not think the gas company had any offices outside of Dublin.

This stamp is now catalogued as follows: S.G. 74 b Mint. 200 Pounds. Used. 80 Pounds. Scott 68b Mint \$400.00. Used \$200.00.

From records of auction sales, the highest prices noted have been 70 Pounds for a mint copy, (14) and 65 Pounds for a used one. (15). With the increase in value of Irish stamps during the past year the catalogue valuations probably approximate the actual values. One correspondent mentions that a used copy was purchased a few years ago from a California stamp dealer for 25 cents or about 2/- (16).

Fakes: - With the high valuation of this stamp, I am sure that some of the philatelic forgers have tried to make copies of this stamp. I have seen no record of fakes, but no doubt some exist. I have tried clipping the perfs off ordinary copies of S.G. 74, but the overall width is always under 20 m/m/

COMPARISON OF THE MEASUREMENTS;-

	Coil	Normal
Overall width,	20.75 m/m. (Three copies measured)	20.00 m/m (Measured from the narrowest part of the perforations.)
Distance between frame lines.	18.5 m/m	18.5 m/m
Paper thickness:-	0.0025 inch.	0.003 inch.

Two copies of the coil stamp were measured and compared with some normal copies dated 1935. The coil stamps were always a shade thinner than the normal. It is realized that 1/2000 of an inch is not easily measured, but on repeating the measurements I was convinced that there was a difference. A National Micrometer was used which is accurate to .0005 inch. The watermark on the coil stamp seems to stand out a little clearer than the normal.

Colour:- The coil stamp appears to be slightly lighter in shade than the average normal copy. I have examined the stamps under ultra violet light and can find no difference in the paper or the ink as compared with the normal.

Printing:- The frame lines of the coil stamp are slightly thicker, and in general the impression is not as crisp as in the normal stamp.

Perforation:- 14.7 on both coil and normal stamp.

General:- If you place a normal SE watermarked 2d stamp over the coil stamp and the width of the coil is the same or greater than the tips of the perforations of the normal stamp you have a genuine coil, also any stamp purporting to be a coil which is less than 20.25 m/m in width is unlikely to be genuine. Using a good glass, if the frame lines on the coil are slightly thicker than on the normal stamp, this is confirmatory evidence, as is also if your copy is a slightly lighter shade.

My thanks are due to the following correspondents who helped in tracking down copies of the stamp;- F. E. Dixon (Dublin), D. Feldman (Dublin), J.L.Hamill (Penna), W.J. Hayes (Calif), W. Hickey (Rhode Island), W. Kane (Dublin), J. Keenan (Dublin), M. Leonard (G.B.), Hans Montes (Mexico), Rev. Noonan (Carlow), G. Roberts (Calif), J. Sherman (Calif), R. Swords (Calif).

References

- (1) Scott's Catalogue. Footnote under No. 76 Ireland
- (2) Nas na Riogh. 6.30 P.M. 8 IX. 35. I have seen another copy with a blurred postmark from Naas which may be 20 April 35 (20.iiii.35).
- (3) Use the Telephone. Dublin BAC 9 Jul 36.
- (4) Letter to "Stamp Collecting" 3 Feb 67

- (5) Kohl Handbook Trans: by Zervas Collectors Club Philatelist. 1941 Vol.XX (page 216)
- (6) "The Revealer" Supplement No. 15. Page 64
- (7) The Field copy. Sold by Robson Lowe 11 May 66. The Hamill copy, in a collection in the U.S.A. John Sherman, a California stamp dealer, also had a mint copy. A Mr. Blair mentions the purchase of a mint copy in a letter to "Stamp Collecting", 9th June 1961.
- (8) D. Feldman (9) John Sherman
- (10) H.R. Harmer Catalogues, Lot 608, 21/7/65. Lot 634, 20/7/66 and Lot 635, (on piece) 20/7/66.
- (11) F.E. Dixon, "The Revealer" Supp: No. 15, page 63
- (12) Letter to "Stamp Collecting: 30th June 1961.
- (13) Letter to "Stamp Collecting: 13 January 1967
- (14) T.E. Field sale. Robson Lowe, Lot 831. 11th May 1966
- (15) D. Feldman. Dublin Auction. Lot 65. 10th February 1967.
- (16) R. Swords, California, U.S.A.
- (17) Please address all correspondence regarding this article to;- Lt. Col. R.F. Jackson, 75 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

General

"The Revealer" - Journal of the Eire Philatelic Association, containing references to this stamp on pages 96, 139, 354, 395, 396 and 582. Also E.P.A. Supplement No. 15. Pages 63 & 64.

Auction Catalogues. Contain many photographs and descriptions. R.H. Harmer, London, 19/4/66. Lots 471 & 472. 21/ 7/65. Lots 608 & 609. 2/3/67 Lot 979. 11/5/65 Lot 416. 21/7/65 Lot 608. 20/8/66 Lots 634 & 635. Robson Lowe Ltd. London. 11/5/66 (T.E.Field Sale) Lots 831,832,833. 8/10/66 Lot 365. 8/3/67 Lot 480. Bournemouth Stamp Auctions. 9/12/66 Lot 645. D.Feldman Dublin Stamp Auction 10/2/67 Lot 65.

NOTICES OF INTEREST TO THE MEMBERS

A group meeting for E.P.A. members is being held on Saturday, September 14th. 1968 at 2:30 P.M. at the THOUSAND ISLAND CLUB, Alexandria Bay, New York.

This meeting forms part of the programme of activities being held at the Annual meeting of the ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA which is attended by many leading collectors in the United States and Canada

We plan to have speakers on Postal Stationery and Revenue stamps, also an illustrated colour slide address on the 1922 overprints. This together with a history of E.P.A., a possible display by the Irish Post Office of designs for the new definitive issue, also open discussion period on IRELAND'S stamps will provide an interesting event for all who attend.

John Sherman, of Leucadia, California won a Gold Medal at WESTPEX in San Francisco with his "Specialized Exhibit of the Stamps of Great Britain overprinted for Ireland." Mrs. R.B.Gillrie of Kitchener, Ontario received a gold medal award and the Dominion Life Trophy at the Kitchener-Waterloo Annual Exhibition for a 48 page exhibits of overprints, including proofs and inverts.

Effective immediately, life memberships may no longer be subscribed to. All those now in existence will remain in effect. Dues will be a flat \$ 3.00 per year, expiring August 31st of each year. Those joining during a calendar year will receive Revealers to bring them up to date.

"THE STORY OF EIRE AND HER STAMPS"

James A. Mackay's book is now published as a "Collecta Handbook", price 25/- from Philatelic Publishers Ltd., 2 Henrietta St., London WC 2. It is intended primarily for beginners in Irish Philately, but it is recommended for established collectors because of its interesting information and some hitherto unpublished essays for the definitive series. It is a well-written book.