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## THE IRISH WOLFHOUND



THE NATIONAL DOG OF IRELAND

By Robert J. May

The Irish Wolfhound, the king of the canine race, has become generally accepted as the national dog of Ireland. Along with the round tower and harp he is firmly established as one of the national emblems. From most remote times he has been known and prized for his wonderful ability in hunting and destroying the wolf. He had to possess great speed and an abundance of strength for this difficult work. The Irish Wolfhound had both of these qualities.

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THE IRISH WOLFHOUND

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Cattle were of supreme importance in Ireland in past ages as they are today, and the ravages caused by wolves attacking herds were curtailed by the wide-spread use of wolfhounds. In some of the famous hunts organized by the Finna, some thousands of men and hounds were used to clear whole regions of the country of wolves. It is said that sixteen thousand men, each with his hound, were used in the hunt organized by Cailte for Eochaid, King of Ulidia when they hunted the whole range of the Mourne Mountains, clearing them of wolves and wild boars.

The hunts usually took place during the summer months when the country was less liable to invasion from enemies. They also served as a means to keep men and hounds trained and in good condition if called upon to defend their country.

THE HOUND, FAMOUS IN WARFARE

The fame of the hound in warfare is told in many old tales. One of the best known is that of the famous hound, Ailbe, who was so swift that he could run through all Leinster in one day, and his fame was so great that the Kings of Connacht and Ulster both offered 12,000 cattle and a Royal Chariot with two of the finest horses to be found for him. The contest for the possession of the hound ended in a battle between the Kings of Connacht and Ulster, in which Ailbe was killed. We can gain some idea of the value of Ailbe on present-day standards by reckoning the twelve thousand cattle at the present-day price of £600 each. This would make the price for the hound £7,200,000. By comparison, the price paid for Tulyar, the famous sire, would seem quite reasonable.

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WOLFHOUND DATES BACK TO NINTH CENTURY

A good idea of the size and conformation of the Irish Wolfhound can be obtained from the skulls of specimens of large dogs that have been found in the bog of Lagore, Dunshaughlin, county Meath, which are estimated to date from ninth or tenth century. Carvings of dogs are also to be found on the Celtic Cross of Kells. The first writing of the Irish national dog comes in 1571. In that year the Blessed Edmund Champion, S.J., compiled his Historie of Ireland at Turvey House, Donbate, County Dublin, the present home of the Counihan family. He wrote as follows:

*'They (the Irish) are not without wolves and greyhounds to hunt them, bigger of bone than a colt. The Irish wolfhound is similar in shape to a greyhound, bigger than a mastiff and tractable as a spaniel.'*

This description stands good for the present-day specimens of this historic breed. That the Irish Wolfhound possesses wonderful courage and strength and is able to hold his own well against great odds is brought out in many stories. But, our hound has also another side to his nature--he makes an ideal companion, trustful and true, devoted to his master and prepared, if necessary, to give his life for him.

DUBLIN MAN ERECTED MEMORIAL FOR HIS HOUND

The wonderful love and devotion of dog and man is to be found in a fine memorial erected over the tomb of an aged Dublin citizen in 1865 at Mount Jerome Cemetery. A life-sized statue of a massive aged Irish Wolfhound is placed on a pedistal surmounting the tomb of the hound's departed friend.

THE DEVOTION OF GELERT FOR HIS MISTRESS

The love and devotion of the famous hound, Gelert, to his little Mistress, the daughter  
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## THE IRISH WOLFHOUND

(Continued from page 274)

of Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, caused his death in another tragic manner. The story is told that the Prince was looking for his lost daughter when he came upon her and found her covered with blood. On seeking the cause he found Gelert also covered with blood and thinking that the hound had savaged the child he immediately killed the dog. A few moments later, to his terrible grief, he found a large dead wolf nearby. It was then that he realized that Gelert had in fact protected the princess and killed the wolf. A monument was erected over the hound's grave and the story is also commemorated in paintings—one by Malcise, the Cork painter, about 1820. There is also a poem commemorating Gelert's sad end by the Hon. W.R. Spencer.

### HOUND EXPORTATION BANNED IN 1652

The fame of the Irish hound spread to all parts of the Continent and their export was one of the chief causes for the continued decrease in the numbers remaining in Ireland. So much so that an order was passed at a Parliament sitting in Kilkenny in 1652 prohibiting all persons from exporting them.

By the end of the eighteenth century, the number of hounds to be found in Ireland became very few indeed. The last wolf was killed in Ireland in 1786 at Myshall near Ballydarton by a pack of wolfdogs kept by Mr. Watson—a well-known master of the hounds. From that time on, native hounds were kept by only a few lovers of the breed or from a sentimental point of view; some kept them as a faithful companion.

### THE WOLFHOUND THAT "TOOK TO DRINK"

Hamilton Rowan, the founder of the United Irishmen, was often seen in Dublin accompanied by two Irish wolfhounds. Mr E. Wilmont Chetwode of Portarlinton got some specimens from Rowan and gave a young hound to his neighboring friend Mr. Pim, the brewer. The story is told that the wolfhound "took to drink" and had to be carried to bed twice a week by the brewer's men. It seems that he drank too freely of the liquor that overflowed from the vats. Owing to the development of this bad habit the dog was returned to Mr. Chetwode where he reformed and led a life of sobriety.

### THE WOLFHOUND'S ENTRY INTO THE U.S.

Mr. Chetwode gave a brace of hounds to his

cousin, a Mr. Henry N. Thompson, who took them back to America in 1832. Six years later another pair was sent to Fort Snelling in order to establish the breed there. Since then other Irish Wolfhounds have followed. And now, the breed is firmly established in the United States.

### THE IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB OF AMERICA



The Irish Wolfhound Club of America has recently published a monumental work entitled—"FIFTY YEARS OF IRISH WOLFHOUND REGISTRATIONS IN AMERICA." It was the work of Mr. Le Roy Foss, the club's editor. The book tells the history of the breed in the United States by giving full particulars of each of the 2,275 registered dogs.

The society also publishes a quarterly magazine devoted to the Irish Wolfhound.

### EMBLEM OF THE FIGHTING 69th REGIMENT

Two Wolfhounds adorn the original flag of the famous 69th Regiment—The "Fighting Irish." And, two Wolfhounds head the Color Party of that Regiment in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City each year.

### A BRIGHT FUTURE IN ITS NATIVE LAND

The future outlook for the Irish Wolfhound in his native country is bright. There are now many faithful followers of the hound with good kennels particularly in the eastern part of Ireland. From the north to the south many champions of the breed are to be seen at the dog shows. It is not infrequent that he gains the award of "Best in Show." The Irish Kennel Club fosters the breed as much as possible and works in close co-operation with the Irish Wolfhound Club. No pageant or procession in Ireland is considered complete unless at least a pair of Wolfhounds figure in it. (The End)

### WHO'LL BUY KILLARNEY?

Old Killarney is up for sale. Its owner, Mrs. Beatrice Grosvenor, says that the British tax man wants \$196,000 on the famous Irish estate's subsidiary property in England, so she is putting most of Killarney itself on the block.

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## WHO'LL BUY KILLARNEY?

(Continued from page 275)

The estate embraces all of the Killarney lakes and three picturesque mountain-ringed pools in central Kerry. Mrs Grosvenor will sell about 8,000 acres and keep perhaps 1000.

### OVERPRINTS WITH OFFSET ON REVERSE

Mr. Perry Adams wrote on these interesting varieties as listed in Meredith's "Postage Stamps of Ireland, 1922-27" in the May-June 1956 issue of The Revealer.

Mr. William Kane of Ballsbridge, Dublin, desirous of adding to the completeness of the list, submitted a 10/ from the Thom Sacrstát three line with an obvious offset on the back.

Are there any other values to add to the offset list?

### THE SHORT THIRD LINE—REVISITED

By Malcolm G. O'Reilly  
(E.P.A. President)

Recently, I scrutinized the back issues of The Revealer. Among the articles I reviewed was one written by Mr. Perry Adams, in the Sept.-Oct. issue of 1951. Mr. Adams wrote on the "Short Third Line" variety which occurs on the shilling values overprinted by Messrs. Dollard. He wrote at that time in a precautionary manner to insure that some collector would not mistake the Short Third Line Dollard for a black Thom.

The Dollard 2/6, 5/ and 10/ Third Line measurement is normally 21.5 mm. while the Thom Third Line measurement for these values is normally 21.0 mm. The Short Third Line on the Dollard shillings is also 21.0 mm.—hence the confusion.

Although Dollard used a black ink for overprinting and Thom a blue black, one does not always have optimum conditions for distinguishing the color of the overprinting inks. For this reason collectors are more inclined to use measurements to distinguish these two issues.

### DESIRE TO OBLIATE 21.0 mm. AS CRITERION

Mr. Adams desired to obviate the erroneous acceptance of a 21.0 mm. third line measurement as the criterion for distinguishing the Dollard from the Thom. In his article, Mr. Adams quoted Meredith's handbook on "The Postage Stamps of Ireland, 1922-27." He gave the positions of the short third line as 1 x 4, 2 x 4, 6 x 4, 7 x 4 and 9 x 1. In

accepting this data he was following such authorities as Robson Lowe (Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Vol. I) and the equally eminent Dr. Herbert Munk (Kohl's Handbook).

### FEEL LISTING INCOMPLETE

I have always felt the listing to be incomplete. The Dollard shillings were overprinted using one plate—which was made up of two identical stereotypes of 20 subjects for the 40 positions. It was logical therefore, to assume that since the Short Third Line was found in 9 x 1 (position 33) it had also to occur in 4 x 1 (position 13). Following this theory to a practical conclusion, involved obtaining sufficient material to prove that the Short Third Line does exist in position 13. The successful conclusion to this project was reached some time ago. But after the momentary exhilaration of success waned, the incident was forgotten.

For the record, the Dollard Short Third Line may be found in the following positions.

.	.	.	X
.	.	.	X
.	.	.	.
X	.	.	.
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	X
.	.	.	X
.	.	.	.
X	.	.	.
.	.	.	.

The three positions (6 plate positions) may be identified. Without side (or top) selvege they can not be identified on the sheet. They can be reduced to two possible positions.

- (1) Positions 4 & 24 — The tail of the r in h Éireann, if extended, would pass between the 1st and 2nd 2's of 1922. The i of Rialtas, if extended, would pass between the uprights of the h in h Éireann.
- (2) Positions 8 & 28 — The tail of the r in h Éireann, if extended, would strike the cap of the second 2 of 1922. The i of Rialtas, if extended, would pass through the large upright of the h in h Éireann.
- (3) Positions 13 & 33 — The tail of the r in h Éireann, if extended, would touch the rear of the 1st 2 of 1922. The i of Rialtas, if extended, would pass through the small upright of the h in h Éireann.

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THE SHORT THIRD LINE—REVISITED  
(Continued from page 276)

ILLUSTRATIONS OF RIALTAS POSITIONS

RIALTAP  
SEALADAC  
NA hÉINEANN  
1922

Positions 4 & 24

RIALTAP  
SEALADAC  
NA hÉINEANN  
1922

Positions 8 & 28

RIALTAP  
SEALADAC  
NA hÉINEANN  
1922

Positions 13 & 33

The illustrations are slightly exaggerated to emphasize the points of identification. They are enlarged for the same purpose.

While there are other points of differentiation, these should be sufficient for the purpose.

I am willing to identify by stereo position, any Short Third Line Dollards sent to me. Postage and risk to be borne by the individual submitting the material. (The End)

IRISH P.O. WILL ISSUE BARRY COMMEMORATIVE

Word has been received that the Department for Posts and Telegraph, in Dublin, will issue a single commemorative stamp in memory of Commodore John Barry.

It will be recalled that Barry, a Wexford man, was the founder of the United States Navy.

The stamp is expected to be issued in late September and will have its First Day of Issue at Waterford, County Waterford. It will be in two values—a 1 Sh. 3d. and 3d. The first value will carry the overseas air mail rate while the other will be used for the inland postage rate.

The printing will be done by the recess process method. The color of the adhesive has not been announced..

IRELAND TO RECEIVE BARRY STATUE FROM U.S.

A statue of Commodore John Barry, costing \$500,000, a gift from the United States Government, will be erected in Wexford this fall. The statue will be located near the spot from which he set out on his historic journey.

The statue will be taken to Ireland on a U.S. cruiser, accompanied by several destroyers. The ships and their crews will take part in the unveiling ceremonies.

EVENT WILL TIGHTEN FRIENDSHIP BONDS

The participation of American and Irish sailors in this tribute is a significant event. It will perpetuate the memory of Barry on the fringe of Irish territorial waters and serve as a lasting monument to this great Irishman. Also, it will tighten the bonds of American-Irish friendship of which he is so outstandingly the embodiment.



Mr. Michael Giffney, President of the Dublin Stamp Society (right) presenting the Canadian Philatelic Society Shield to Mr. Theodore W. Mortimer, Hon. Secretary, at the Society's annual competitions held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Westland Row.

DUBLIN STAMP SOCIETY WINS FORD TROPHY

Last year the Dublin Stamp Society won the Ford of Canada Trophy at the annual exhibition of the Canadian Philatelic Society. The award was for the best entry in the Inter-Club Class.

WINNERS AGAIN—THIS YEAR

The Dublin club scored again this year. The above picture shows Mr. Giffney presenting this year's prize to the club secretary.

E.P.A. members, in Ireland, who participated are: Mr. Louis le Page Renouf and our European Representative, Mr. Michael Giffney.

## THE BIRDSHOT OVERPRINT TYPESHIFT

—To the Left—To the Right—

By Perry Adams, E.P.A. #84

In its four editions, W. G. Meredith's Handbook, THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND, 1922—1927, extending well into the last named year, on the whole did a most thorough job. It is because he managed to catch and describe so many things related to the perennially amazing Irish overprints—findings which have largely stood the test of time—that his published studies remain in such demand.

### MEREDITH MISSED THESE TYPESHIFTS

Considering how little of moment escaped him, it is thus the more surprising that his report of overprint typeshifts (including several covered in these pages, the most recent of which were the "top-and-bottom" varieties) appear to make no mention of that odd group, part-left, part-right on the subject stamps, almost as if the Gaelic characters had been fired from a shotgun. When you glance at the illustration on this page, what happened is obvious enough. So greatly to one side was the shift of the whole cliché that the overprint from the stamp horizontally adjacent slid over, to appear in part upon the subject specimen, leaving the center of the stamp free of both part-overprints.

### I HAVE SEEN THEM, YET WITH A RESERVATION:

Over a considerable period, I have seen this "birdshot effect" several times, yet with a reservation: That, save once, it has appeared only upon the ½d and 1d Dollards (Scott and Gibbons-No. 1 and 2). The one exception was in the late 'Forties—a used pair of the 2½d with red Dollard overprint (Scott #9, Gibbons #22). I have been recently advised that the variation also appears on the Dollard ½d in red (Scott #10, Gibbons #23) and on the Thom first overprinting, the black ½d (Scott #15, Gibbons #10 or #11).

Summing up, my check-list appears at the top of this page—next column.



DOLLARD

THOM

½d  
1d  
2½d (red)  
½d. (red)

1½d (black,  
5/ line)

There appears to be no valid reason why this group should not be considerably more extensive than here noted. Members who have specimens other than those mentioned, are cordially invited to send them to the Editor of THE REVEALER, for examination. Their safe return is guaranteed. (The End)

### NEW TYPE LINEN MAY HELP TRADE.

The Chairman of Tootal Broadhurst Lee Co., Mr. A. V. Symons, announced that as the result of scientific research, their laboratories have found a new method of treating linen. The treatment causes the linen to be crease-resistant and needs only a slight ironing after washing.

### NORTHERN MANUFACTURERS TO BENEFIT

Since the greater part of the world's production of linen is concentrated in Northern Ireland, it could mean an additional earning power. This estimate has been placed at the million dollar figure. Belfast states that the new process will be available on license to manufacturers and processors.

The first sales to American importers will be made this fall. The British and European markets will not be supplied until early next year—in time for the Spring season.

### NEW POSTAL RATES IN EFFECT IN IRELAND.

Postage rates were increased by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs on June 1. The printed paper rate has been 'upped' ½d. to the new rate of 2d.

For covering compensation on letters and parcels up to 40 there is an average increase of 3d. After the 40 the increase is 1d.

On an average, the weight charged for parcels is up by ½d. to 6d. This is for parcels delivered within the 26 Counties. The rate to Britain and Northern Ireland has been 3d. The new rate prevailing is 6d.

The charge for re-directing mail has been doubled—from 5/ to 10/ per year.

### THOMAS E. FIELD WINS AWARD AT FIPEX

Mr. Thomas E. Field, E.P.A. Director of Huddersfield, England, won a silver medal for his entry of Irish material at the Fipex Exhibition held at the New York Colliseum.

IRISHMEN, IRISH HISTORY ETC.  
ON THE STAMPS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

By Neil Stack

A natural corollary to collecting the adhesives and Postal History of Ireland, is that of collecting the stamps of other countries having to do with Irishmen or Irish History. This sidlight to an Irish collection can be fun as well as educational.

The most complete collection of this type has been assembled by Mr. Thomas E. Field, of Huddersfield, England. Mr. Field has carefully scanned each item to insure its rightful place in his collection.

It is interesting to note how far the Irishman has wandered from his native land and the nature of his ultimate success—whether it be as a soldier, statesman or professional man in every-day-life. I won't attempt to tell you what each man has done to achieve fame. You will be familiar with the lives of most of these great Irishmen. But, if you do not know about them it will prove good reading for you.

MR. FIELD LISTS THE FOLLOWING BY COUNTRIES

**ARGENTINA** The 20 pesos of 1891 portraying William Brown who emigrated from Ireland in 1786 and became a Naval Commander in the Argentine.

**BRITISH GUIANA** The 96 cents in black of 1934 and in purple in the same design of 1938, showing Sir Walter Raleigh and his son.

In 1580 Sir Walter was Captain of a Company of Foot in Munster. In 1586 he was given 40,000 acres of land which he leased to English settlers; it is understood that he sold this land to Mr. Richard Boyle in 1602.

**CANADA** The 5 cents of 1927 portraying Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Irish poet and historian who became a member of Parliament in Canada and rose to the position of President of the Executive Council. He was assassinated in 1825.

**CHILE** Various items connected with O'Higgins as follows:

1. 1910-1929 His portrait on the 5 centavos in blue and the 10 centavos in blue and black of various printings; the 20 centavos of 1910 showing his abdication, and 30 centavos of 1910 showing his monument.
2. The 1927 set of 5, overprinted 40 cen-

tavos, 80 centavos, 1p 60c. and 2 pesos for air mail use on a stamp originally printed to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Maipu but not issued. This has O'Higgins portrait in blue, with frame in sepia. In addition to the mint set, Mr. Field has one of each value used on a flown air mail cover. (separately).

To be Continued in Sept.-Oct. Issue of THE REVEALER.

ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN E.P.A.

Mr. M.D. Bachalter  
126 St. Stephen's Green, West  
Dublin  
Ireland

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

If you are interested in Irish Overprints and Overprint Proofs you will probably need my help in locating them. And, for those interested, I have available a limited number of varieties. Drop me a letter and let me know what you are seeking. Write to Perry Adams, Port Murray, R.D., New Jersey.

Commodore John Barry First Day Cover orders are now being taken for the expected release in late September. Reserve your First Day Cover NOW! The price is 75¢ per cover. Write to Irish Cachet Covers, 947 East 32nd Street, Brooklyn 10, New York.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

When you change your address please let our Acting Secretary know about it. It will help your association, the mail man, and will insure prompt delivery of THE REVEALER.

MISCELLANEOUS

E.P.A. Labels - 40¢ per 100 or 300 for \$1.00.  
Back copies of THE REVEALER .. 35¢ each.  
Gaelic-English Town Cancellation Listing—only a few left—at \$1.50 each.  
Map of Ireland—a small supply on hand—at 10¢ each while they last.

The above miscellaneous items are obtainable from Mr. John J. Clark, 947 E. 32nd St., Brooklyn 10, New York.

MEXICO TO MARK CENTENARY OF ITS FIRST STAMP

The Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition, honoring the First Mexican Postage Stamp, Aug. 1-15, will be held at the Communications Palace in Mexico City. A set of airmail and regular stamps will be issued.



# *Irish Linen*

For Irish landscape, you must come to Ireland. . . .  
But the traditional elegance of Irish Linen can grace  
every home.

Issued by the Irish Linen Guild on behalf of the Irish Linen Industry.