



The Revealer



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EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
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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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Barley Cove lies beside Mizen Head, the extreme south-west corner of Ireland.

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.

M.P. 480 ΣΕΛΑ ΟΡΙΣΙΩΤ (Official Seal)

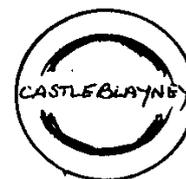
ΦΥΛΕΤΑΙ ΑΝ
 ΟΙΣΤΑΙ
 ΟΡΕΑΙΤΑ
 (no tearing)

Παλ-Stampa

COVER FOUND
 OPEN
 (OR TORN)



(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.



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.

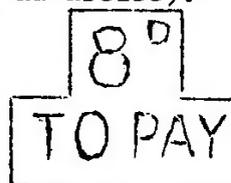
Although I have seen nothing of the kind in the modern style (inscribed merely "ARACAS" I suspect that the many increases of rates during the last ten years must have involved some provision-

als.

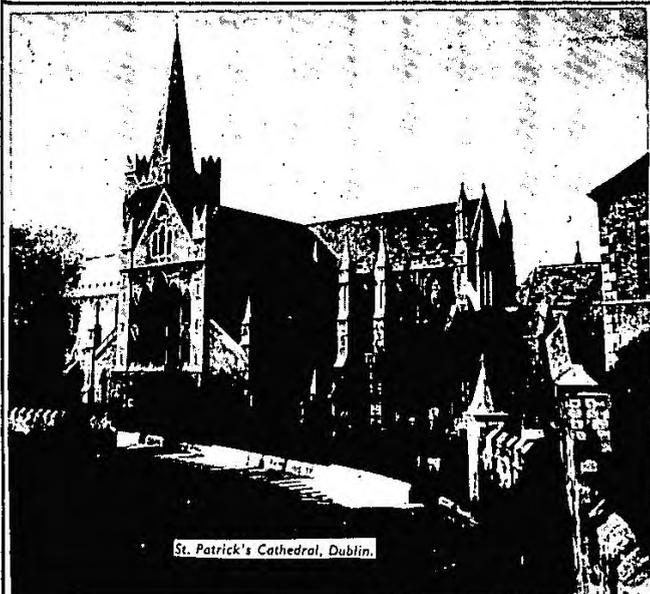
At least two Entertainment Duty stamps were produced by overprinting stocks of an obsolete value-5d and 7d, each on 1/6.

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.

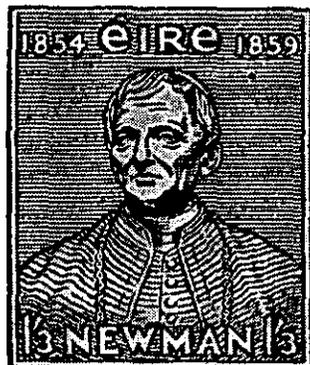
Commemoratives

Supplement No. 11

ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

May- June, 1963

1954 (July 19th) CENTENARY OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND. Watermark E. Perf. 15 x 14. Designed by Leo Whelan. Lithographed by Dublin Castle in sheets of 240 stamps, 2 panes of 120.



2d Roman purple
1/3 Deep blue

Issued in commemoration of the centenary of the opening of the Catholic University of Ireland under the rectorship of Dr. John Henry Newman - later Cardinal Newman. The design features a pictorial representation of a bust of Cardinal Newman by Sir. Thomas Farrell which stands in the University Chapel at St. Stephen's Green, in Dublin. The dates 1854 and 1859 which appear at the top of the stamp denote the period of Newman's rectorship of the University. There are no notable varieties.

1956 (September 16th) COMMODORE JOHN BARRY ISSUE. Watermark E. Perforations 15 x 15. Engraved. Recess-printed by Messrs De La Rue in sheets of 120 stamps, two panes (A-B) of 60 stamps each, 10 x 6.



3d mauve
1/3 blue

The design shows the Barry statue, the work of Wheeler Williams, the American sculptor which shows the Commodore with a sword in his right hand while his head is thrown back in a gallant gesture with cape flying. The statue, a gift of the United States Government was erected and dedicated in Wexford Harbour, Ireland

on September 16th, 1956.

Barry was born in Ireland in 1745 and emigrated to America in his youth. Joining the American colonists in their fight for freedom, he was the "Father of the American Navy" in 1775. He died in 1803.

Plates Known: 3d. 1A-1B ; 2A-2B ; 3A-3B
1/3 1A-1B ;

Varieties of 3d

Pane 2B; (A) Stamp No. 16 (6th stamp on row 2). There is a slight doubling of the top horizontal lines in the extreme right hand corner of the stamp.

(B) Stamp No. 17 (7th stamp on row 2). There is a partial doubling of the letters "OHN" in the word, "JOHN".

(C) Stamp No. 26 (6th stamp on row 3). There is a re-entry at top right, involving doubling of all four side frame lines. There is also a thickening of the words, "JOHN BARRY".

(D) On the same stamp (No.26) there is also a slight re-entry at the top right hand corner of the hat.

(E) Stamp No. 37 (7th stamp on row 4). There is considerable broadening of several frame lines, especially at top left and around the right "3p".

(F) Stamp No. 51 (1st. stamp on row 6). Horizontal guide line just inside top frame.

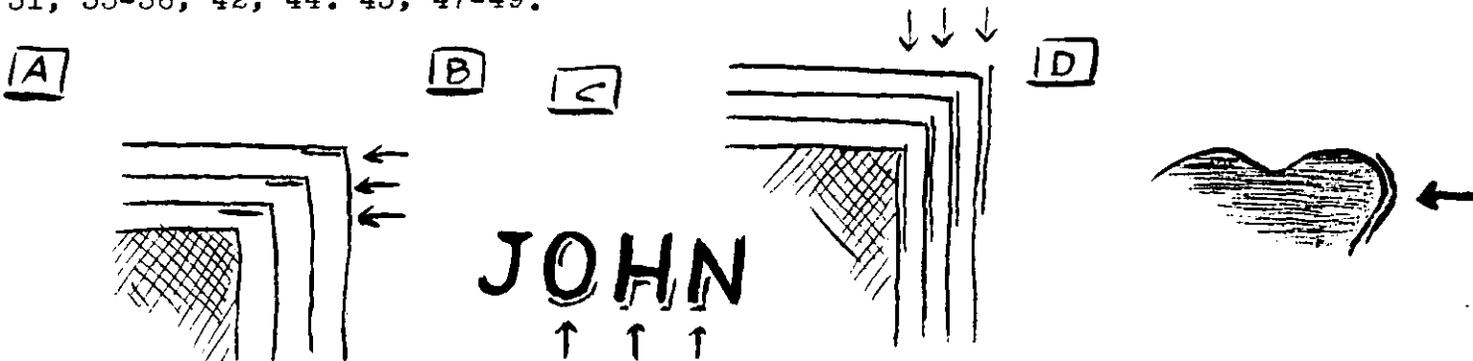
(G) Stamp Nos. 52, 53, 55, 56 (2nd,3rd,5th and 6th stamps in row 6). Horizontal guide lines in left margin near the top.

(H) Stamp No. 57 (7th stamp on 6th row). Two short lines about 5 mm from perforations in sheet margin below the stamp.

PANE 3A (I) Stamps Nos. 35 and 45 (5th stamp in Rows 4 and 5). Very prominent horizontal guide lines below and often merging into the top frame line. Fainter ones detectable on Nos. 7, 32-34, 36-39, 47, 50, 59, 60.

(J) Stamp No. 51 (1st stamp in 6th row). Marked thickening of all the horizontal lines near the top probably a slight re-entry

PANE 3B: (K) Stamps Nos. 32 and 43 (2nd stamp in row 4 and 3rd stamp in row 5). Very prominent guide lines similar to (I) above. Fainter ones on Nos. 31, 33-36, 42, 44, 45, 47-49.



1957 (June 11th). CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN REDMOND. Watermark E. Perf.14 x 15. Engraved. Recess printed by Messrs De La Rue & Co.



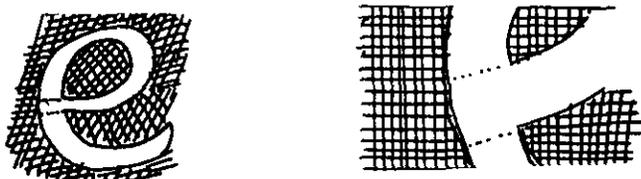
3d blue
1/3 ruby

In 1900, Redmond as a member of Parliament, reunited the Irish Parliamentary Party and was chosen its leader in the House of Commons. He successfully led the fight for the passage of the First Home Rule Bill for Ireland which was not put into effect because of World War I. He died in 1917.

Plates Known: 3d 1A-1B ;
1/3 1A-1B

Varieties

1/3 Value. A variety is found on the 4th stamp on the fourth row (left hand corner of pane 1A). It has the appearance of two lines running across the upright portion of the letter E of EIRE, as if the downward sweep of the letter was continued.



1957 (July 1st) THOMAS O'CROHAN COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE. Watermark E. Perf. 14 x 15. Recess printed by Messrs De La Rue & Co.



2d agate
5d violet

Issued to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Tomas O'Críomhtháin in 1856. Tomas was the simple, uneducated Blasket Island fisherman, whose autobiography, "The Islandman" which he wrote in Gaelic, earned for himself international literary renown. There are no notable varieties reported.

Plates Known: 2d 1A-1B
5d 1A-1B

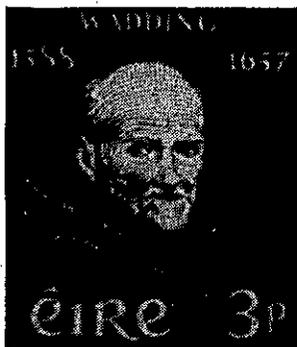
1957 (September 23rd). ADMIRAL WILLIAM BROWN. Watermark E. Perf. 15 x 14. Designed by Sean O'Sullivan. Typographed by Dublin Castle.



3d blue
1/3 cerise

Issued to commemorate the centenary of the death of Admiral William Brown who was born in County Mayo in 1777. He emigrated as a child to Philadelphia. When the Spanish-American colonies revolted against Spain in 1810, Brown joined them and created the Argentine Navy. He died in Buenos Aires in 1857.

1957 (November 25th) TERCENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF FATHER LUKE WADDING, O.F.M. Watermark E. Perf. 15 x 15. Recess-printed by Messrs De La Rue & Co.

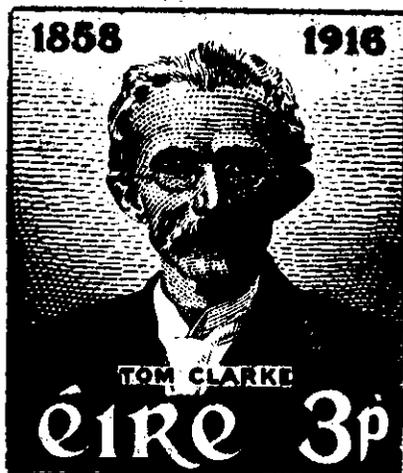


3d blue
1/3 ruby

Luke Wadding was born in Waterford in 1588. Unable to secure his schooling in Ireland during the troubled times he went to Portugal and entered the Franciscan Order. He was sent to Rome and when Ireland was passing through one of the darkest periods of her history, Father Wadding worked incessantly to secure men and money to help in the national struggle. He died in 1657.

Plates Known: 3d 1A-1B 1/3 1A-1B

1958 (July 28th) TOM CLARKE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE. Watermark E. Perf. 15 x 15. Recess-printed by Messrs De La Rue.



3d green
1/3 brown

Tom Clarke was born in 1858 and became a member of the Fenian Brotherhood. In 1883, he was arrested in England on a mission for the Irish organization and was sentenced to prison. Upon his release 15 years later, he emigrated to America. He returned to Ireland in 1908 and in 1916 was one of the leaders of the Easter Rebellion. For his part in the abortive attempt to set up an Irish Republic, he was executed.

Plates Known: 3d 1A-1B 1/3 1A-1B

Varieties

1/3 value. There is a variety on pane 1A (Stamp No. 72, the last stamp on the sixth row). This stamp is the one which has the centre gutter on its right hand side. The variety may be called "Hairs Behind the Ear" and has the appearance of some hairs growing from the back of the ear and coming forward.



NORMAL



VARIETY



3d blue
1/3 red

Issued to commemorate the centenary of the death of Mother Mary Aikenhead, the foundress of the Irish Sisters of Charity. She was born in Cork in 1787. Encouraged by the Archbishop of Dublin, she established the first convent of her Order in that city in 1815. She was inspired to specialized social service in providing industrial schools, schools for blind children, hostels for women, hospitals, convalescent homes and hospices for the dying. She died in 1858.

Varieties
3d Value

(1) "Hair Line" or as some people like to call it, a "Doctor Knife" flaw. This variety appears to have been caused by some defect in the blade which removes the surplus ink from the printing cylinder. This variety was constant in the early printings, but disappeared later. Its disappearance can possibly be attributed to the blade of the knife being cleaned or adjusted. This line started in the gutter at the top of the pane and continued right through the second vertical row of stamps until it reached the gutter at the bottom of the pane. It also appears in various positions across the pane.

(2) Dot in the first E of EIRE. This variety was constant, its position being the 12th stamp in the 2nd row.

(3) The same stamp (12th stamp in the 2nd row) at some stage before or after the "dot in E" variety developed a second variety of a broken P in the value "3p". Stamps exist showing only variety (2) above and others (2) and (3).

(4) Dot in the Crucifix is found on Stamp 11 on Row 2 - the stamp above that showing varieties (2) and (3). This appears to be a constant variety but it varies in the extent of the size of the dot. This speck does not appear to have been on the plate for the entire printing for this stamp is known without the speck also.

(5) Stamp No. 61 (Row 6, Stamp 1) has a dot in the left margin opposite the middle of the first E in EIRE. This is a constant variety.

(6) Stamp No. 64 (Row 6, Stamp 4) has a dot in the lower left hand corner. This too is constant.

(7) "Blue Cloud". This appears in the top left hand corner, which must have been the result of the wet ink being rubbed by the protective paper covering which the first issue of this stamp carried.

1/3 Value

(1) The "Hair Line" appeared also in this value and was constant in the same position as the 3d value, but this time on the 3rd vertical row, as opposed to the 2nd vertical row of the 3d.

There are also some minor flaws, which might be termed re-entries on the words "Mary Aikenhead" which might well be further studied and reported on.

