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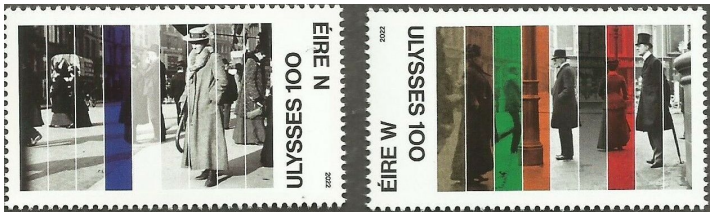
In the Spring 2022 issue:

4. President's column
4. EPA at CAPEX 2022
5. Advertisements
6. Membership report
7. Creation of the Border Between the Two Irelands
13. TWTYTW 2020
20. Telegraph Development in Ireland



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Winter: November 15; Spring: March 7; Summer: June 7; Fall: September 15
Each Issue published about a month after above dates

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Dues in the Association with Quarterly Journal delivered as follows:

	Annual Sep - Aug	Life Membership
Electronic version only - worldwide	$20.-	$400.-
Printed copy with electronic – U.S. only	$30.-	$600.-
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Family memberships are the same as a single membership

Due to to continuing delays in postal deliveries, increases in postal rates and printing costs, and the need to upgrade our web site, the Board of the ÉPA will be offering members two options in their membership rates and the delivery of our quarterly journal, *The Revealer*.

Starting with the Winter 2021-22 issue of *The Revealer*, members can have *The Revealer* delivered by two different methods, a hard copy or an electronic copy. Those that choose the hard copy option will continue to receive *The Revealer* as they do now, through the U.S. Postal Service. You will also receive the electronic version at no extra cost. Members who choose the electronic-only version will receive *The Revealer* on their computer via WeTransfer. On your computer, WeTransfer will provide a link (or a file folder) that will allow you to access *The Revealer,* and allow you to read it, save it or print out a hard copy. You must have a registered email address to receive the electronic version for either option. **This does not affect life members.**

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You may change your membership option when you pay your annual dues which are due on September 1. Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful association.

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Wanted: **Ireland Slogan Cancels** before 1938. Wanted: **Official franks with slogans** prior to 1938. Please provide scans and prices wanted to: Steve Friedenthal: stevefr1@telus.net.

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PR8			½ PENCE,DOLLARD OVERPRINT IN RED
T16	16b	12	2 PENCE, DIE II, THOM OVERPRINT IN BLACK
T27	25	32	1 ½ PENCE,THOM OVERPRINT IN BLUE BLACK"

President's Message

Almost time for CAPEX 22! The show goes on in spite of COVID. Unfortunately, I won't be able to make it to the show, but I will be welcoming everyone via Zoom. In the next few months, we will have our new website operational (I hope). We plan to have several new areas along with some of the older ones.

Now is the time to start working on an article for the Revealer. We could also use a few new ideas for the ABC's. One topic that will come up at the AGM is where to have our next AGM. We need a national-level show having hotels and reasonably accessible to public transportation. Any suggestions?

Another area is what topics would you like to see addressed in the Revealer? At this time of year, I'm somewhat adverse to considering revenues, especially since I've barely started on my taxes, but possibly some other brave soul who has already received their refund might have something if you ask! (Or are we all procrastinators?) Irish philately can be a very broad field both in time and topics. What can you contribute?

I'd like to wish all members a hearty *Bon Chance!* at the show,
Warmest regards,

Ray Murphy
President, E.P.A.

ÉPA at CAPEX 22

CAPEX 22 will take place in Toronto, Canada, June 9 - 12, 2022. The ÉPA is planning to have its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, June 11 at a time to be announced.

The meeting will be both in person at Capex and virtual via Zoom. You will receive an email with a link to join the Zoom meeting. The business meeting will be followed by a PowerPoint presentation on Irish philately. This promises to be an exciting show with 26 philatelic societies and over 75 dealers attending. Of course, there will be numerous speakers and many exhibits. Please know that the ÉPA is carefully monitoring the Covid-19 pandemic and travel restrictions between the United States and Canada. Our plan as of march 2022 is to be part of this wonderful show, but things can change. The ÉPA asks its members to check our website (www.eirephilatelicassoc.org) for the latest updates. Also, please check the Capex 22 website at capex22.org.

John Sharkey,
Secretary, EPA

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3012 Linda McBride, Doohamlet, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan, Ireland
3013 John C. McBride, Westlake Village CA 91362
3014 James Haffey, Westminster, MD 21157
3015 Greg Richards, Birmingham, AL 35216
3016 Terence S. Fitzgerald, Norwalk, CT 06854

Change of Address
2200 Chris Hee, Ann Arbor, MI 48197
2923 Tim Carey, Orchard Park, NY 14127
2985 James L. York, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

New Email Address
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3012 Linda McBride. linda_mcclure_2000@yahoo.co.uk
3013 John C. McBride. mcbridej@gtlaw.com
3014 James Haffey. jshaff74@gmail.com
3015 Greg Richards. greg@jrag.com
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Resignations
1702 Bill Carritte, Fairfax, VA, 22031

Deaths
2543 Michael D. Frechette, Killingworth, CT, 06419
2951 Louis P. Pataki, Norwalk CT, 06853

Membership Status

Membership as of September 1, 2021	289	
New members	6	
Life members	46	
Resignations		1
Deaths	2	
Complimentary mailings		12
Membership as of November 15, 2021	289	

JBS, 030322

SPECIAL FEATURE

THE CREATION OF THE BORDER BETWEEN TWO IRELANDS

By Robert Benninghoff

The 6 December 2021 marked the 100th anniversary of independence for the 26 counties of Southern Ireland, also known as the Irish Free State, and, since 1949, the Republic of Ireland or Éire. At the same time, six of the nine counties of Ulster became Northern Ireland and remained part of Great Britain. In the first of a series of articles from the Eire Philatelic Association, Robert Benninghoff discusses the philately of the first year of partial Irish independence from Great Britain.

This article looks at the social, economic and political forces that caused the creation of an international border in Ireland (*Fig 1* and *Fig 2*). The focus is on Irish agitation for home rule in 1913; the British Parliament's 1914 Home Rule Bill and the resulting Ulster Crisis; Irish social and political divisions caused by the failed 1916 Easter Rebellion; and the creation of two Irelands by the British Parliament's 1920 Government of Ireland Act.

Discussions about Anglo-Irish history have resulted in strong emotions for centuries and I will offer an American's perspective on the 'Border Between Two Irelands'. For simplicity, I will refer to the Government seated in London as the British Government or the British; the 26 counties of Ireland as Southern Ireland; and the six counties, ruled by the British, as Northern Ireland.

A brief historical review

Invited by the deposed King of Leinster to resolve an Irish political dispute, the British Normans invaded Ireland in May 1169. Irish history became intertwined with that of England for the next 853 years (*Fig 3*). Over the centuries there were numerous rebellions in Ireland against British rule; however, it was during the 1600s that the British had the biggest impact on the politics of Ireland. The century began with the O'Neill Uprising in Ulster starting in 1592, which spread to all of Ireland over the next nine years (known as the Nine Years war). Several British armies were defeated by Hugh O'Neill and his associate, Rory O'Donnell, and they even had assistance from Spain with an Army of 4000 men landing at Kinsale on the south coast of Ireland in 1601. However, O'Neill's supply lines were overdrawn and communications with his Spanish Allies were very poor. The Irish were defeated in December 1601 by the British under Lord Mountjoy. The Spanish abandoned Ireland and O'Neill and O'Donnell were forced to flee the country. Ironically, this is known as the 'Flight of The Earls' because Queen Elizabeth had made the two men Earls of Ulster in 1587 (*Fig 4*).

The defeat of O'Neill saw the end of Irish dominance in Ulster. The lands of the Earls were confiscated by the Crown (King James I) and the following decades saw an increase in Scottish and English settlers moving into Ireland and particularly into Ulster, onto lands granted to them by the Crown in London.

Fig 1 An Irish f.d.c. commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first Irish designed postage stamp, which showed all of Ireland as one country

Fig 2 An 1869 registered cover sent from Londonderry to Italy showing two Irish cultures; the city is known as Londonderry to the Unionists and Derry to the Nationalists

Fig 3 An f.d.c. dated 9 March 2007 showing Irish castles. The two top stamps are Norman built castles. Trim Castle is one of the oldest Norman Castles in Ireland and was built on the River Boyne during the late 12th century by Hugh de Lacy, granted Lordship of Meath by Henry II. Dunluce Castle was started in the 13th century by the 2nd Earl of Ulster

Fig 4 A miniature sheet commemorating the 400th anniversary the flight of the Earls from Ulster. The stamps were issued 23 February 2007 and show Hugh O'Neill and Rory O'Donnell

All items shown reduced

The Battle of the Boyne

The rest of the 17th century did not go well for the Irish and Old English (the Norman descedants) in Ireland. James I, Charles I, Cromwell and Charles II and the growth of English, Welsh and Scottish plantations in Ireland all changed the social, economic and political landscape in Ireland. The new settlers in Ireland were protestants and many of the Irish and Old English were Roman Catholic. Religion became a major focus with land ownership in Ireland, which came to a head on 1 July 1690 at the Battle of the Boyne. The army of William of Orange soundly defeated those of (the deposed) King James II (and his French allies) (*Fig 5*), allowing William to take Dublin two days later, and all of Ireland by October 1691.

These victories ensured that the dominant political forces in Ireland and Britain would remain protestant and are commemorated every July by Unionists in Northern Ireland. Roman Catholics were barred from public office or owning weapons. Religious activities were limited and discouraged. Also, Ireland would be governed by Parliament in London.

Home rule for Ireland: 1782–1800

The 18th century was relatively tranquil in Britain and Ireland compared with the religious wars of the 1600s. Colonies in North America and India were adding increased wealth to the British Empire at the expense of the French and Spanish. Ireland saw a long period of peace and innovation, including the start of the Guinness Brewing empire in 1759 (*Fig 6*).

An Irish Parliament (restricted to Protestants) was allowed regular

Fig 5 A 1914 Unionist postcard showing King William III crossing the Boyne River during his defeat of the armies of James II. This event is commemorated annually by the Unionists in Northern Ireland

Fig 6 A souvenir card from Guinness Brewery showing the two stamps issued on 20 July 1959 by the Irish Post Office to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Birth of Arthur Guinness

Base image: Blarney Castle, Ireland

meetings during the 1700s but with limited authority. By mid-century, the Irish were calling for full legislative independence from London and the British Parliament acceded to these demands in 1782, trying to avoid the same mistakes in North America (the American colonies gained independence in 1783). The independent Irish Parliament met in Dublin and was known as Grattan's Parliament after a well-known orator and champion of legislative independence (*Fig 7*).

The Rebellion of 1798

However, the events in America and France in the 1780s and 1790s had a major impact on Roman Catholics in Ireland who were the majority population but had no political power and were economically depressed. They found a champion with Theobald Wolfe Tone, who founded the United Irishmen in 1791 along with several other wealthy Protestants. The goal of the organisation was democratic reform, greater political independence and Catholic emancipation. The United Irishmen looked to revolutionary France for both economic and military assistance, similar to that which France provided America in the 1780s.

The Irish Rebellion of 1798 began in Dublin in May and spread quickly to much of Ireland. Like all previous efforts, this Rebellion was poorly coordinated and brutally suppressed by the British Army. Wolfe Tone arrived off the coast of Ulster in October with an army of 15,000 from France. The force was intercepted by the British Navy and Tone was captured and sentenced to death (*Fig 8*).

The British Parliament now saw the events in America and France as a direct threat to the Monarchy. The 1798 Rebellion showed that the Irish Parliament could not govern the country and the fact that Wolfe Tone had united both Roman Catholics and Protestants proved that all aspects of Irish affairs had to be controlled from London. The result was the merging of the British and Irish Parliaments by the Act of Union creating the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on 1 January 1801. Ireland would now be ruled from London, but Ireland would send 105 MPs to the new Parliament (*Fig 9*). One major benefit of the Union was creation of a free trade between Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

Rebellions, famine and the push for home rule

The 19th century saw three more uprisings in Ireland. The Robert Emmet Rebellion of 1803, The Young Ireland Rebellion of 1848 (*Fig 10*), and the Fenian Rising of 1867 (supported by former Irish-American Union soldiers returning to Ireland after the American Civil War). All three rebellions failed due to poor communications and a lack of widespread support among the general population in Ireland and the devastating impacts of the Irish Famine of 1845 to 1849.

Fig 7 An f.d.c. commemorating the 200th anniversary of the independent Irish Parliament, which sat in Dublin from 1782 to 1801. The cover was issued on 14 October 1982 and shows Henry Gratton, the chief parliamentarian (Reduced)

Fig 8 Stamps issued by the Irish Post office on 19 November 1948 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Wolf Tone Rebellion

Fig 9 A folded letter from Dublin to London cancelled 12 November 1800. The letter is from a newly elected Irish MP to Westminster asking for advice on lodgings in London and complaining about the cost of moving (Reduced)

Fig 10 A folded letter from Mobile, Alabama, to Londonderry cancelled 24 April 1848. The letter discusses the Irish famine and the 1848 Rebellion (Reduced)

While these rebellions failed to gain Irish Independence, political efforts by the Irish continued during the 19th century. Daniel O'Connell gained political emancipation for Catholics by winning a seat in Parliament in 1828. The Prime Minister (The Duke of Wellington) acquiesced in 1829 allowing him to take his seat. O'Connell wanted to repeal the Act of Union and his Repeal Movement gained so much Irish support that he was arrested for sedition in 1843 and spent six months in jail. The Repeal Movement lost its momentum and was also overshadowed by the famine.

Home rule efforts once again saw popularity in the 1870s with Stewart Parnell and his Home Rule Party who won 85 seats in 1885. Aligning with Gladstone's Liberal party, they almost won home rule for Ireland in 1886. However, Parnell's personal problems (an affair with a married woman) cost the Reform Party its momentum and popular support. Ireland would have to wait until the 20th century for the next major effort for Independence.

In 1898, the huge celebration of the 1798 Wolfe Tone rebellion once again sparked widespread interest in Irish independence. John Redmond took over leadership of the fractured Irish Home Rule Party in 1900 and, working with various British Governments, helped force the passage of the Home Rule Bill in 1912. The House of Lords was able to delay the Bill for two years, but home rule for Ireland was set to become a reality in 1914. The next ten years would see major changes in the social, economic and political landscape in the British Isles and result in the 1920 Government of Ireland Act creating Northern and Southern Ireland.

Fig 11 1914 Political postcards showing Unionist leaders and their Militia and Nationalist Militia marching past the old Irish Parliament in Dublin (Reduced)

Irish Nationalism and Ulster Unionism

King George V became King of Great Britain and Ireland in 1910 and he would remain sovereign of all Ireland during his reign from 1910 to 1936. He began his Accession Tour of Ireland in July 1912. News reports stated that the King and Queen Mary were received with, 'Such rapture and joy, that they may have resolved the Home Rule Crisis'.

However, Irish Nationalists paid little attention to the cultural differences that were developing between Ulster and the rest of the country and were demanding complete independence from Britain, not just home rule. Both the Nationalists and the Unionists had formed social organisations in the previous decade to promote their political agenda. Arthur Griffith's Sinn Féin and the Ulster Unionist Council were formed in March 1905. However, by 1913 both groups were forming armed militias. The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) was formed in January and The Irish Citizen Army and Irish Volunteers were formed by Nationalists (*Fig 11*). Both groups were bringing in arms and ammunition from Germany during the spring and summer of 1914. Politically, the Unionists were represented by Edward Carson (1910 to 1921), who opposed home rule and ensured that the Home Rule Bill was amended to eventually exclude Ulster. The Nationalists were politically fragmented. Home rule in Ireland was championed by John Redmond (*Fig 12*) while those seeking an Irish Republic (Republicans) were led by Padraig Pearse and James Connolly, two leaders of the 1916 Easter Rebellion.

The Home Rule Bill was set to be enacted in May of 1914 but was delayed until September. The Unionists made it very clear that they would fight any effort to be separated from Great Britain. In March 1914, the British Government mobilised the Army in Ireland (based in the Curragh, west of Dublin) to move into Ulster to suppress any Unionist uprising. One hundred and thirty officers (many of whom were Unionists) tendered their resignation rather than fight in Ulster. This event, known as the Curragh Mutiny, forced the Government to back down and was duly noted by the Germans in the months preceding the Great War.

Fig 12 A 1914 political labels of Edward Carson (left) and John Redmond. Two dominant political leaders with opposing views of home rule in Ireland

Home Rule in Ireland suspended

During the summer of 1914, Ireland was on the brink of Civil War by well-armed militias, which was also noted by the German High Command. The British declaration of War on Germany on 4 August 1914 caused the Home Rule Bill to be suspended for the duration of the war. Both Carson and Redmond asked their militias to join the British Army. The Ulster Volunteer force became the 36th Ulster Regiment and were allowed to keep their unionist insignias. The Irish Volunteers (over 150,000) were distributed throughout the British Army. The War that was supposed to be over by Christmas dragged on for over four more years (*Fig 13*).

Fig 13 An envelope with letter written on Christmas day 1914 by a soldier in France. Postmarked 27 December 1914 and mailed to Belfast. The Great War was supposed to be over by Christmas 1914 (Reduced)

The year 1916 saw two major events that impacted the social and political fabric in Ireland. The first was the 24 to 29 April Easter Rebellion in Dublin and the second was the decimation of the 36th Ulster Division on 1 July, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, leaving Ulster without its militia.

The 1916 Easter Rebellion was poorly organised and executed, and the nationwide uprising was cancelled by Eoin MacNeill, President of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, after 20,000 rifles from Germany were intercepted off the west coast of Ireland. However, Padraig Pearse (*Fig 14*) and James Connolly decided to

Fig 14 Padraig Pearse shown on an Erie Post political label used on a local Dublin cover, postmarked 12 February 1922. The political label is from a sheet of eight that includes the six executed leaders of the 1916 Rebellion (Reduced)

proceed with the Rebellion in Dublin on Easter Monday which lasted six days. The Rebels seized the General Post Office (GPO) and other sites in Dublin but failed to take Dublin Castle (Government Headquarters). The British Army brought in artillery and the end result was much of central Dublin was destroyed, including the GPO (*Fig 15*). Most of the leaders were arrested, court marshalled and 15 were quickly executed, including Pearse and Connolly. One notable leader to escape execution was Éamon de Valera, reportedly because his mother was American and the British did not want to further antagonise the USA.

Martial law was initially imposed on Dublin but was extended to all of Ireland on April 29, along with increased mail censorship. The Unionists became enraged with what they saw as the Nationalist's major act of treason. Furthermore, the loss of the 36th Ulster Division was blamed on the Nationalists because British forces sent to Ireland to keep the peace were not available for the Somme. Home rule for Ireland became an even more remote possibility.

Fig 15 A postcard showing the destruction of the General Post Office in Dublin after the 1916 Rebellion (Reduced)

Fig 16 Postcard mailed from the Irish Convention established by British Prime Minister, Lloyd George to allow Sinn Fein and the Unionists to work out their Home Rule differences (Reduced)

Fig 17 Sinn Fein election fund-raising labels and election mail (Reduced) for the 1918 and 1920 British elections

The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921

The collapse of the Easter Rebellion and the execution and imprisonment of the leaders created an immediate void in the political landscape in Southern Ireland. John Redmond and his party represented Irish home rule efforts in Parliament but his support for the war and condemnation of the Rebellion saw a rapid decline in his Party's popularity.

Sinn Féin was a poorly organised group of social and sports clubs until the summer of 1917. Although historically blamed by the media for the Rebellion, the organisation did not play any role in the event. However, in October 1917, the surviving Rebellion leaders (including Éamon de Valera and Michael Collins) began to organise Sinn Féin into a much more radical political organisation, demanding a complete break with Britain and the formation of an Irish Republic for all of Ireland. The 15 executed rebellion leaders became martyrs and folk heroes, Sinn Féin membership increased to over 300,000 and Éamon de Valera was elected Sinn Féin's President.

British Prime Minister Lloyd George organised an Irish Convention at Trinity Collage Dublin in July 1917 to let the Irish settle the home rule question. The Convention lasted until March 1918 but was poorly attended and mostly boycotted by the Unionists and Sinn Féin. It appears that the purpose was mostly to show the Americans that something was being done to solve the 'Irish Problem' (*Fig 16*). Antagonizing the Irish American politicians was not something Lloyd George could afford to do in 1916 and 1917.

The year 1918 saw a major shift in the politics within Ireland. John Redmond died in March. The Irish Home Rule party lost is chief advocate and although John Dillon became the Party's leader, all momentum was gone. Sinn Féin figures began to win British Parliamentary by-elections, including Éamon de Valera, but they refused to take their seats in London. Desperate for manpower in France, the British passed a Conscription Act for Ireland in April, which was immediately opposed by Sinn Féin, many other Nationalists and the Roman Catholic Church. However, the act was supported by many Unionist organisations, viewing it as a way of putting the radical nationalists 'To Good Use at The Front'. However, the Conscription Act for Ireland was never enforced, and the British, fearing another Rebellion, were forced to send even more troops and aircraft to Ireland. In May, Sinn Féin and many other nationalist organisations were banned and their leaders arrested for treason by 'plotting with the Germans'. While these accusations were never proven, the rift between Ulster and the rest of Ireland was becoming unrepairable.

The end of the Great War saw a British General election in mid-December 1918. Sinn Féin won 73 of the 105 Irish seats including Éamon de Valera from East (County) Clare (*Fig 17*). Many members were still under arrest or in hiding but all refused to take their seats in London. Instead, they formed their own Independent Irish Parliament Dáil Éireann (the Dáil), which met for the first time in Dublin on 19 March 1919 (*Fig 18*). This date has further significance as the start of the War of Independence between Ireland and Britain when the Irish Volunteers shot and killed two policemen

escorting explosives in Tipperary. The Irish Volunteers were renamed the Irish Republican Army (IRA) by the Dáil in July of 1919. The Dáil declared Ireland a Republic and proclaimed the IRA to be the defenders of the new Irish Republic. Both the Unionists and British Government vehemently opposed Irish independence and a brutal war followed for the next two and half years with murder, destruction and atrocities committed by the British, Unionists and the IRA against the people of Ireland.

Ireland divided

The British Parliament's Government of Ireland Act (introduced in February) became law in December 1920. The Act created Northern Ireland from six of the nine counties of Ulster, while 26 counties became Southern Ireland. Belfast and Dublin would have independent Parliaments dealing with local Irish issues, with defence and foreign affairs controlled from London. Unionists embraced the new law and the Belfast Parliament was opened on 22 June 1921 by King George V. The King offered to do the same for Southern Ireland, however the Dail rejected the terms of the law and the War of Independence continued.

By July 1921, the war in Ireland had reached a stalemate with the deaths of over 1400 people, including British military, IRA and civilians. Lloyd George offered the Dail a truce, which was accepted and peace negotiations began in the summer between Eamon de Valera and Lloyd George (*Fig 19*). Little progress was made because of de Valera's demands for independence for all Ireland, and the Dail's decision to re-elect him President of the Irish Republic on August 26 did nothing to help the negotiations.

Lloyd George ended talks with Eamon de Valera and told the Dail to send him a serious team of negotiators or he would use the British Army to destroy the IRA. The talks resumed on 11 October with Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins leading the Irish delegation. Lloyd George and Winston Churchill represented the British Government. The negotiations were more of a dictation of terms to the Irish, with both sides knowing that the IRA was almost out of armaments, manpower and money (*Fig 20*). The final result was the Anglo-Irish Peace Treaty signed on 6 December 1921 with Southern Ireland becoming The Irish Free State one year later on December 6 1922.

Three main issues were agreed to by the delegations. The Irish Free State was to be part of the British Commonwealth (similar to Canada) with King George V as Sovereign. The British Navy would retain three naval ports at Berehaven, Queenstown and Lough Swilly. However, the most contentious point was the agreement to partition Ireland, with Northern Ireland having the option to remain part of Great Britain, which it did on December 7 1922.

The new country would be governed by a Provisional Government for the first year led by Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith. Eamon de Valera, and almost half of the Dail and IRA rejected the Treaty and what followed was almost 15 months of brutal Civil War in Ireland fought by former political and military comrades.

Future articles will explore the first year of Irish Independence in Southern Ireland, the Irish Civil War, and the social, political and economic impacts of partition on the two Irelands.

Fig 18 A 21 January 1969 f.d.c. commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first meeting of Dail Eireann (Reduced)

Fig 19 British Military mail from Belfast to Dublin postmarked 6 December 1912. This was the date when the Anglo-Irish Peace Treaty was signed in London (Reduced)

Both the Unionists and the British Government vehemently opposed Irish independence

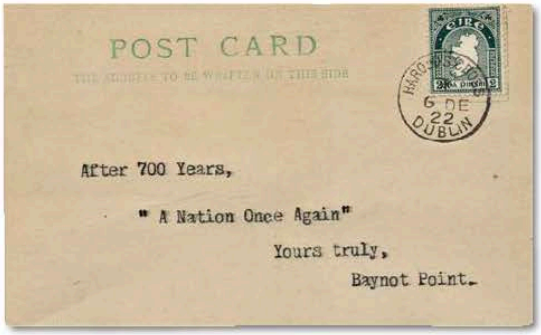

Fig 20 A postcard cancelled 6 December 1922. The date that a new country, the Irish Free State, came into existence after the year of the provisional Government of Southern Ireland. The first Irish deigned stamp was also issued on this date. The 2d. definitive stamp shows all of Ireland as part of the new country (Reduced)

The Éire Philatelic Association

Formed in 1950, the Éire Philatelic Association is a non-profit philatelic organisation specialising in the collecting, study, and enjoyment of stamps and other postal items of Ireland. For more information on the benefits of membership, including details of the *Revealer*, the Association's scholarly, award-winning, quarterly journal, please visit eirephilatelicassoc.org

Selected Readings

Dulin, Dr. C.I.: *Ireland's Transition: The Postal History of the Transitional Period 1922 to 1925*. This book is available from MacDonnell Whyte Ltd, Dublin Ireland. email mdwltd@eircom.net

Hamilton-Bowen, Roy and Wolverton, Lee: *Hibernian: Handbook and Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland 2020*. This book is available from Rodgau Philatelic Services: email roy.hb@online.de

Lynch, Robert: *Revolutionary Ireland 1912 – 1925*. Bloomsbury Academic, London, 2015 www.bloomsbury.com

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GSM February 2022

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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS – 2020 Part 2

By Brian Warren

The bureau in Dublin sold the FDC's with the Galway preprinted pictorial first day postmark. However, a Dublin pictorial postmark could be obtained if you made-up your own covers.

The Galway design exists with four different plate combinations (A, B, C & D). "A" and "B" blocks were the only sheets in the bureau stock at the time of issue. The Rijeka design has only been seen with the usual "A" and "B" blocks. Each stamp measures 42mm x 36mm.

Love and Marriage: The booklet contains two blocks of five self-adhesive stamps. The design features the word LOVE together with the well-known love-heart sweet superimposed in the position of the letter 'O'. The word 'GRÁ' meaning 'love' in Irish, features on the sweet. Two small love-hearts in a decorative sparkle are also included.

Each of these three hearts is die-cut within the design. As a result, when the stamp is removed from the booklet the hearts remain behind and can act as fun stickers on the outer envelope. A pair of stamps with normal booklet backing was also available from the philatelic bureau. The stamps in this pair do NOT have the hearts die-cut and thus the whole stamp peels away from the backing. Similarly, the stamp used on the serviced first day cover does NOT have die-cut hearts. Subsequently, a further collectors' pair matching the stamp in the complete booklet was made available from the philatelic bureau. The stamp measures 32mm x 32mm.

In addition, there is no phosphor frame. So effectively there are two variants of this issue. The pattern of the stars within the two small silver hearts varies from stamp to stamp in the booklet (and pair).

Unissued stamp

War of Independence (Struggle for Sovereignty): This was the first stamp in a continuing series marking the War of Independence (1919 to 1921). The issued stamp features the Seán Keating painting *"Men of the South"* representing the idealism of those who fought for freedom. The painting is held in the Crawford Gallery in Cork.

The Collector issued by An Post also illustrated a second se-tenant value which focused on the Government of Ireland Act 1920, with a map showing the border that resulted between the North and South of Ireland (illustrated above). This would have been a very controversial stamp if issued and it amazes me that it passed through the various management levels in An Post before finally being "pulled". The Cabinet, who scrutinise all issues before their release, would never have authorised a stamp showing the Irish border. The online edition of *The Collector 01/2020* uploaded on the An Post website in late 2020 has the relevant page redrafted to exclude the unissued design. "A" and "B" plates only seen. The stamp measures 51mm x 30mm.

The Irish Abroad: In effect this issue is a substitute for the St. Patrick's Day stamps issued up to 2018 and honours the contribution of emigrants to their adopted countries.

The "Galtymore" dance hall on the first N value was based in Cricklewood in London, a hub for Irish people living in London. The second stamp features the Newbridge, Co. Kildare-born scientist Dame Kathleen Lonsdale (née Yardley 1903-1971) who lived in England. She was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1956. The second person on the same stamp is Limerick-born actor Richard Harris (1930-2002) and the third is Ballygar, Co. Galway-born Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore (1829-1892), the noted US based composer and musician who wrote the lyrics to the song *"When Johnny Comes Marching Home"*.

The first person on the third stamp is accomplished author Co. Clare-born Edna O'Brien (1930-) together with Co. Offaly-born and Zambia-based Fr. Michael Kelly (1929-) who is acclaimed for his work as a priest and aid worker. The third person on this N value is Mary Elmes (1908-2002) from Cork, a humanitarian worker renowned for saving the lives of 200 Jewish children in France during World War II. I thought it quite amusing that Edna O'Brien was positioned next to a priest on the stamp as her first series of books were banned and, in some cases burned, in her native country due to their frank portrayals of the sex lives of their characters. She was appointed an honorary Dame of the Order of the British Empire in 2018. The title is Honorary as she remains an Irish citizen and therefore cannot use the pre-nominal style of 'Dame', but can use the post-nominal letters DBE after her name.

Produced in sheetlets of 12 stamps (4 x 3). 1D, 1E or 1F (x 4) sheets not seen on the N value. Each stamp measures 51mm x 30mm.

Unissued design

Issued Design

The first W value shows a selection of suitcases from the 1960s era and represents emigrants departing from Dublin Airport in 1969. This was another change from the stamp illustrated in *The Collector*. The original design (shown at foot of previous column) was a photograph of families waving off their loved ones from the balcony of the original terminal building at Dublin Airport. There was no explanation from An Post as to why the change in design. Perhaps there was a copyright problem with the original photograph.

The second W stamp features a detail from the painting *"Emigrant's Letter and Envelope, 1988"* by Geraldine O'Reilly. There was some confusion among collectors as to the reference to 1988 given

that the postmark in the painting is from 1912. The reason is that the painting was produced in 1988.

Unissued design

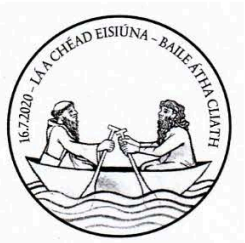
Issued design

Here again there is another difference from the illustration shown in *The Collector*. The stamp in the magazine illustration has the caption *"Emigrants envelope and letter to mother Geraldine O'Reilly"* as against the actual stamp *"Emigrants letter and envelope, 1988 Geraldine O'Reilly"*. Also note that Emigrants should read Emigrant's. Most online references to the painting also leave out the apostrophe. All in all this was an interesting stamp issue for the collector. Produced in sheetlets of 12 (3 x 4).1C or 1D sheets not yet seen on the W value. Each stamp measures 51mm x 30mm.

Pioneering Irish Women: Carmel Snow (née White, b. Dalkey, Co. Dublin 1887-1961) was considered the most powerful arbiter of fashion in the US when she was editor-in-chief of Harper's Bazaar magazine. Co. Antrim-based Lilian Bland (b. Kent, England 1878-1971) was the first woman in the world to design, build and fly an aeroplane in Randallstown in 1910. Maureen O'Hara (née FitzSimons, b. Dublin 1920-2015) became a renowned Hollywood actor and is best known for her work with director John Ford and actor John Wayne. Dr. Maeve Kyle OBE née Shankey (b. Co. Kilkenny 1928-) was a highly acclaimed sportswoman and competed at international level for Ireland in both athletics and hockey. She competed in three successive Olympics in 1956, 1960 & 1964 and reached the semi-finals of both the 400m and 800m in Tokyo in 1964. In 2006, she was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (DUniv) from the University of Ulster. Sarah Purser (1848-1943) was born in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin and is a portrait and stained glass artist. In 1924 she became the first female member of the Royal Hibernian Academy. 1E or 1F (x 5) sheets not seen and may not exist. Each stamp measures 30mm x 51mm. Produced in sheetlets of 15 stamps (5 x 3).

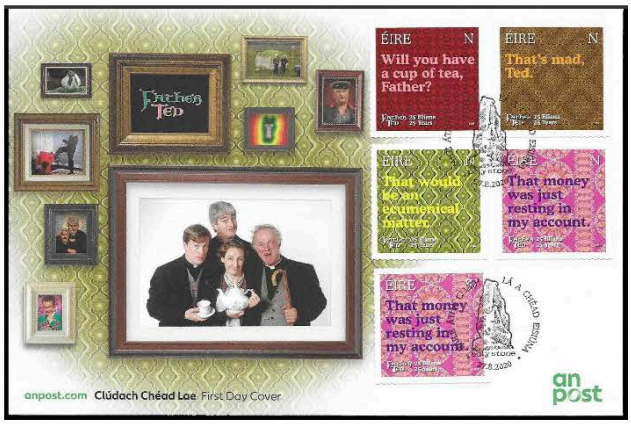
See also entry under *"Stationery and Postcards"*.

Liam Cosgrave (Birth Centenary): Liam Cosgrave served as Taoiseach (Prime Minister) from 1973 to 1977 and as a TD in the Irish Parliament (An Dáil) from 1943 to 1981. He died in October 2017, age 97. His father W.T. Cosgrave was the first President of the Executive Council in the newly formed Irish Free State in 1922. The stamp features a portrait by Edward McGuire which hangs in Leinster House. The front cover of *The Collector* incorrectly captions a picture of Government Buildings (Merrion Street, Dublin 2) as being Leinster House. Presumably the intention was to show a photo of Leinster House. The stamp measures 30mm x 41mm. "A" and "B" plates only seen. Although the issue date was 9 April, the stamps did not go on sale at the philatelic bureau until July due to Covid-19. Has any member seen any commercial use during the period April to June?



Europa (Ancient Postal Routes): The images on the first stamp feature both the author of the message and the message being carried overseas by boat. The design reminds me of the O'Cleirigh issue of 1944 and the 32p value from the St. Brendan's Voyages Europa set released in 1994.

The second stamp features both the message being carried over land on horseback and the delivery of the message to the recipient. Both stamps measure 51mm x 30mm. "A" and "B" plates only seen. Both sheetlets contain 9 stamps (3 x 3). The designs are very poor when compared to the more imaginative designs released by other European postal administrations.



Father Ted (25th Anniversary): This popular comedy series was first broadcast on 21 April 1995 and ran until 1 May 1998.

The show has received several BAFTA awards, and remains a popular sitcom on the repeat channels in the UK and Ireland.

The title character was played by Irish comedian Dermot Morgan. On 28 February 1998, the day after recording the final episode in the series', Morgan suffered a heart attack while hosting a dinner party at his home in south-west London. He was rushed to hospital, but died soon afterwards. Each stamp in the self-adhesive booklet features a catchphrase associated with one of the four main characters on a background of the parochial house's lurid wallpaper:-

- N Value: *"Will you have a cup of tea, Father"* – Mrs. Doyle, housekeeper (Pauline McGlynn);
- N Value: *"That's mad, Ted"* – Father Dougal McGuire (Ardal O'Hanlon);
- N Value: *"That would be an ecumenical matter"* - Father Jack Hackett (the late Frank Kelly);
- N Value: *"That money was just resting in my account"* – Father Ted Crilly (the late Dermot Morgan); and
- W value: As above.

The W value, which repeats the Father Crilly catchphrase, was NOT included on the serviced FDC provided by An Post. Do An Post not recognise it as a different stamp? However, collectors could add the additional stamp to the serviced FDC and hand it in for handstamping (as illustrated on the previous page). Each stamp measures 36mm x36mm.

The four characters are shown on the front of the booklet. Although the intent of the designs was good, it would be preferable if the actual characters as well as their catchphrases featured on the stamps.

The left-hand panel on the miniature sheet features a comedic list of priests' names from the *"Father Ted Christmas Special – A Christmassy Ted"* which aired in 1996. Mrs Doyle tries to guess the name of a visiting priest. After rattling off a host of bizarre names, she finally guesses correctly on the 29th attempt, when she recalls the name *"Father Todd Unctious"*.

The "W" value is not included in the miniature sheet which is printed on regular gummed paper. All stamps in both the booklet and the miniature sheet have a phosphor frame. Each stamp measures 36mm x 36mm.

U2 – A Celebration: Each of the four booklet stamps represent a different era from U2s musical journey and reflects four of the bands most memorable albums. In addition, each stamp has a different shape and the use of different print finishes captures the evolution of the band over four decades. The FDC for the booklet stamps features a photograph of U2 performing at the Dandelion Market, Dublin, 1979. The bureau first day postmark was pre-printed in gold.

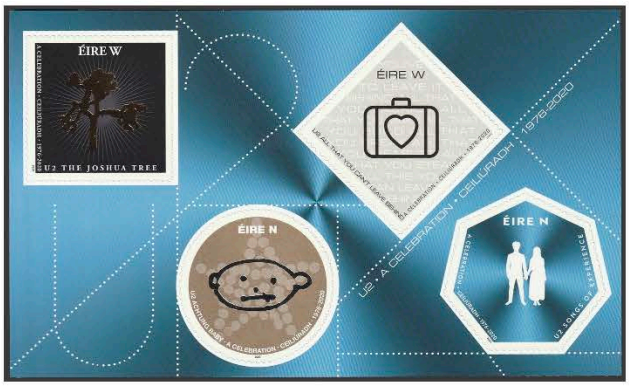
Any covers handed in by collectors received a black postmark (same design). The gold colour is not accurate in the above illustration. "LÁ A CHÉAD EISÚNA" and "U2" are in a bolder font as compared to the rest of the cancellation. The four stamp designs are as follows:-

"The Joshua Tree" (Square format W value – perf. 13¼ each side and measuring 36mm x 36mm), released in 1987, was arguably U2"s first masterpiece album and put them on the cover of *Time Magazine* as "Rock"s Hottest Ticket". Central on the stamp is a silhouette of a lone Joshua tree with its iconic cruciform shape and unique grandeur;

"Achtung Baby" (Circular N stamp perf. 13¼ approx all round per An Post) was released in 1991. Its experimental, industrial, darkly lyrical songs were one of the soundtracks of the early 1990s. The iconic achtung *"baby"* on the stamp was originally spray painted on the wall of Windmill Lane, where the band recorded many of their early songs and albums. The diameter of the stamp is 38mm;

"All That You Can't Leave Behind" (Diamond shaped W value – perf. 13¼ each side) was released in 2000. This soulful album was seen as a return to the band's traditional sound after their more experimental records of the 1990s. The album and the stamp feature an icon of a stylized suitcase with a heart inside it. The stamp measures 36mm x 36mm; and

"Songs of Experience" (Heptagon N value – perf. 13½ each side) was released in 2017 by a now seasoned band of four musicians, looking back. The album cover photography by Anton Corbijn features two of the band member's children holding hands, which is depicted on the stamp as a white silhouette against a graduated blue. Each of the seven sides of the stamp measure 17.5mm.



The self-adhesive miniature sheet contains the same designs in a different layout. Same perforations.

All stamps in both the booklet and the miniature sheet have a phosphor frame. No serviced FDC was provided by An Post for the self-adhesive miniature sheet. It was possible for collectors to carefully peel of the sheet from the backing paper and place the sheet on a blank booklet FDC. The FDC was then cancelled with the black first day postmark. Both self-adhesive issues incorporated foil Silver (Kurz

Alufin Special), Gold (Kurz Luxor 232) and UV Lacquer.

The second miniature sheet was printed on regular gummed phosphorised paper and features the band at Wembley Stadium, London in 2009 during their 360° tour, so called because the group performed "in the round" on a circular stage, allowing the audience to surround them on all sides. Images of the four band members are superimposed on the centre of the design. The €3.60 value is not a current postal rate. A serviced FDC with gold postmark was available from An Post on a plain blue envelope. Blanks of this envelope were not available at the time of issue from the bureau counter in the GPO Dublin.

A competition was run online by Hotpress magazine (an Irish pop music magazine) which offered a prize of a "pack". I was not successful in this competition but I understand that the only extra item was a large card which featured the same image as the booklet cover on the obverse side and text on the reverse explaining the issue written by the designer Shaughn McGrath. It is disappointing that An Post do not make available to collectors these extra "postcard" type items. There would be a market for such extras which are often far more attractive than the first day covers.

Christmas: The €19.00 booklet includes one free stamp and is set out in two rows of 10 with five blocks of four stamps containing four different designs. Each block of four contains one design.

Design 1: A post-person check-in (Block 1);
Design 2: A family baking together (Block 2);
Design 3: Nativity scene (Blocks 3 & 5);
Design 4: Santa at night (Block 4).

The cover of the booklet reproduces the *"A post-person check-in"* design.

The €5.00 booklet contains the stamps as listed above. The cover of the booklet reproduces the *"A family baking together"* design.

The €8.50 booklet contains two further designs:-

Design 5: A virtual Christmas party;
Design 6: An Angel.

A collectors' pair of the two €1.70 stamps on plain backed paper was also available. Each of the six booklet stamps measures 37mm x 26mm.
The cover of the International booklet reproduces the *"A virtual Christmas party"* design (not illustrated).

All six stamps measure 37mm x 26mm.

YEAR PACK AND YEAR BOOK

Year Pack: The Year Pack contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2020, including a pair of the Love and Marriage self-adhesive booklet stamps, the Father Ted and U2 booklet panes, the Christmas collectors' pair ('W' values), the four other Christmas booklet stamps but excluding the SOAR issues, all booklets and all miniature sheets – a total of 35 stamps with a face value of €40.60 (2019: €44.70). Cost €46.00 (2019: €48.00).

Year Book: The bilingual book contains all of the special and commemorative stamps issued during 2020, including both regular gummed and self-adhesive stamps as included in the year pack, together with the four miniature sheets and the eight new definitive SOARS (but not the four commemorative/special SOARS) - a total of 43 stamps plus four sheets with a face value of €63.60 (2019: €54.70).

SOAR Block 1 of 2

All are pre-mounted in the year book. This was the first time any SOAR issues were included in the Year Book. <u>The eight SOAR stamps are included as two blocks of four (see illustration) and NOT the usual vertical strips of four. This format is only available in the Year Book.</u>

Total printing of 700 (2019: 900) standard copies and 80 (2019: 70) leather-bound editions. Cost €80.00 (2019: €80.00). Leather bound editions cost €235.00 (2019: €230.00). Note the advertisement in *"The Collector"* stated incorrectly that 900 standard copies were printed.

First Day Cover with four of the new SOAR definitive designs
(Stamps printed from one of the bureau back-office machines - 025003)

To be continued

Telegraph Development in Ireland – Part 1

By Brian Callan

The first company to successfully lay a submarine telegraph cable between Great Britain and Ireland was *The British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company (British & Irish Magnetic)*, who laid their cable between Portpatrick in Scotland and Donaghadee in Ireland in 1853. This allowed the company to reach agreement with the Midland Great Western Railway in Ireland and to become the dominant telegraph company within Ireland for the following twenty years. The largest private telegraph company in Great Britain was the *Electric Telegraph Company*, founded in 1846. Both these companies dominated the market until the telegraph system was nationalised and became part of the British Post Office in 1870.

The British and Irish Magnetic had its headquarters in Liverpool and its network primarily focussed on northern England, Scotland and Ireland. Like most telegraph companies, the company ran its major lines along the railways in its home area. However, a number of the major British railway companies already had exclusive telegraph arrangements with the *Electric Telegraph Company*, shutting out the *British & Irish Magnetic* and this gave rise to the company building an extensive underground cable network. However, within Ireland, the *British & Irish Magnetic* quickly became the larger company with the Electric Telegraph Company being forced to use roadways and canals for its telegraphic lines.

The *British & Irish Magnetic* was formed from the merger of two existing companies, the *English & Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company* (incorporated 1851) and the *British Telegraph Company* (incorporated 1853), both working in close collaboration with the Submarine Telegraph Company (incorporated 1850). The *Submarine Company* had already successfully laid the first cable between Britain and France.

The Magnetic Telegraph Company / The English & Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company

The Magnetic Telegraph Company was founded in 1851 by John Brett and it changed its name the following year (under Royal charter) to *The English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company*. Unlike its competitors, most of the early telegraphic lines of the company were underground, the first being a six wire line between Manchester and Liverpool in 1851. This was followed by a line between London and Birmingham and onward to Manchester (10 wire line). It was this company that actually laid the first successful telegraph cable between Great Britain and Ireland in May 1853, with the cable construction contracted to R.S. Newall & Co. (Gateshead). This cable connected Portpatrick and Donaghadee and where the *English & Irish Magnetic* had already prepared lines to further connect to Dublin. The company also had a close working relationship with the newly formed Meteorological Department, sending daily reports on the weather, from Irish stations to London. The lines of the *English & Irish Magnetic* were the only ones to be extended throughout Ireland.

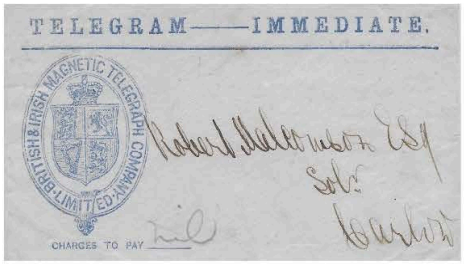


Figure 1. British & Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company delivery envelope showing company emblem (reduced).

The *Electric Telegraph Company* had bought the Cook and Wheatstone patents for its telegraphic technology while the *Magnetic Telegraph Company* had invested in a system that generated power electromagnetically, based on the invention of William Thomas Henley in 1848. In this instrument, the telegraph operator used push pedals which moved coils past a permanent magnet generating a telegraphic pulse of current. Key personnel in the *English & Magnetic Company* were the Bright brothers, Charles and Edward, who took out a famous patent in 1852 with 24 different telegraphic inventions. Charles Bell, who was the company's chief engineer, produced an Acoustic Telegraph in 1854 (known as "Bright's Bells") in which the message was rung through in code on differently toned electric bells, with the receiving clerk recording these without having to watch a visual message being transmitted. The greatest speed normally reached on a double needle instrument was 24½ words per minute whereas speeds of 35 to 40 words per minute were routine for Bright's Bells. This system was introduced to the most important *English & Irish Magnetic* routes.

The company started to have insulation issues with its underground cables and it merged with the *British Telegraph Company* in 1857 in order to access increased overhead cable capacity. The new company became *The British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company* and it worked very closely in collaboration with both the *Submarine Telegraph Company* and *The London District Telegraph Company*.

1857 was also the same year that *The English & Irish Magnetic Company* released its first and only stamps, bearing the signature of Company Secretary Edward Brailsford Bright. These stamps were issued in five denominations (Figure 2 & 3):

1s (black), control A series,
1s 6d (mauve), control B series,
2s 6d (blue), control C series,
4s (red), control D series,
5s (green), control G series.

Stamps were lithographed on white wove paper by Mawdesley & Co., Liverpool. Various shades are seen for each value, with all stamps derived from the same design, imperforate, and without watermarks. The values were inserted by hand, which gave rise to slight differences e.g. the "1" in the "1s 6d" value has an exaggerated serif and can be mistaken for a "7".
Stamps were printed in sheets of 50 or 100. Those printed in sheets of 100 had actually two panes of 50 with the lower sheet being inverted. This meant that the junction between the two sheets had two middle tête-bêche rows (such as the 1s black pair which are part of the Tapling Collection in the British Library, London). The vertical spacing of the stamps in each sheet is very narrow and top and bottom margins are very small or absent.

The printing in 1857 meant these stamps got very little usage as the company merged the same year and the company name changed. The black numbers are the control numbers for the stamps issued and these were stamped somewhat inaccurately by hand (Figure 2). Those stamps which have no control number and tight margins are remainders (Figure 3). These remainders were unissued and for the most part destroyed when the Post Office took over responsibility for the telegraph service in 1870. However, in the case where the stamp has no control number but has wide margins, then Hiscock, Lister and Langmead report these to be proofs rather than remainders.

Figure 2. 1857 English and Irish Magnetic Company set of 5 imperforate multiples, with control numbers applied.

Figure 3. 1870 English and Irish Magnetic Company Remainders.
Stamps with "clipped narrow top and foot margins". Company name on blue 2s 6d stamp is double printed.

The British Telegraph Company

The British Telegraph Company began life as *The British Electric Telegraph Company* (incorporated 1849) and changed name in 1853 by Royal Charter. The company acquired *The European & American Electric Printing Company* the following year "by an exchange of shares and a cash sum". The company was also founded in order to connect Great Britain and Ireland by submarine cable and to implement the telegraphic inventions of Edward Highton, a telegraphic engineer with the London and North Western Railway Company. This company was also successful in laying a cable between Portpatrick and Donaghadee in 1854 and it had a hundred principal offices throughout Great Britain and Ireland, many of these shared with the *Submarine Telegraph Company* which did not have its own inland network. *The British Telegraph Company* was not operating at a profit when it merged with the *English & Irish Magnetic* but it did have exclusive rights to run its overhead cables along public roads in great Britain.

The telegraph rates set by the British Telegraph Company were those agreed with the Electric Telegraph Company in August 1855:

1s 6d for telegrams within a distance of 50 miles,
2s 0d for telegrams between 50 miles and 100 miles,
3s 0d for telegrams between 100 miles and 150 miles,
4s 0d for telegrams beyond 150 miles,
5s 0d for telegrams to Belfast and Dublin.

The *British Telegraph Company* issued stamps in late 1855, reported at two values, the 2s and 4s (Figure 4), although the company's published rate within a circuit of fifty miles indicated that a 1s 6d stamp was also required. This value was unknown to Hiscock, Lister or Langmead

but a single 18d (1s 6d) stamp (black on green paper with control no. 4091) has recently surfaced at auction from Stephen Lawrie's collection (October 2020). Stamps are printed on thick wove paper with Watermark "BRITISH TELEGRAPH COMPANY" and are titled FRANK STAMP (Figure 4). The message on these stamps had the warning "The Company will not be responsible for the correct delivery of this message unless the extra fees for repetition and insurance are paid in addition to the above sum." Stamps were signed by George Saward, Company Secretary and Manager.

Figure 4. The British Telegraph Company Stamps 1855.
Mint 2s black on blue paper, thick wove, control no. 3246,
Mint 4s black on yellow paper, control no. 8790 (large part of original gum).
Lister reported that used copies were unknown and lists just five known mint examples of the 2s and 4s stamps (these included the 2s with control no. 3254 and the 4s with control no. 8798, both of which are part of the Royal Collection). Langmead notes just six mint examples known, including two pairs, but list does not include those above. These stamps are rated R4 by Langmead, probably less than ten copies existing. Seven copies of 2s and nine copies of 4s are now known (listed by Panting).

The surplus of stock paper from the *British Telegraph Company* was later used for the early stamps of the *British and Irish Magnetic Company*, which included four different colours of paper, the 2s being printed on yellow paper and the 5s being printed on blue paper. This suggested the possibility of an 18d stamp (now known on green paper) or a 3s stamp which would likely have been a dull buff paper, as used in the 2s 6d *British and Irish Magnetic* stamp. Panting points out that the reverse of the 1854 British Telegraph transmission form also lists a rate of 1s as well as a 3d requirement for additional words. This also opens up the possibility that these existed as stamps but have not survived.

To be continued

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