

the Revealer

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE
ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

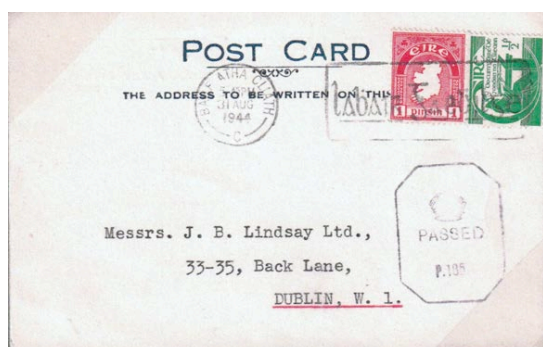
VOL. 73 NO. 3
WHOLE No. 312

FOHAR
AUTUMN 2023



ISSN 0484-6125

www.eirephilatelicassoc.org



IN THIS ISSUE:

Page:

- 3. Presidents' Reports
- 4. Reports
- 6. Closed Albums: Michael Giffney
- 7. Documenting the Irish Civil War ...
- 9. Irish Provisional Government...Overprints
- 15. Letter: Iben Olsen's Question
- 18. Erie Puist Labels – Revisited
- 19. The Story of Mary Aikenhead ...
- 22. Book Review

**RIALTAÍ
SEALADAÍ
NA
hÉIREANN
1922.**

Type 1

**RIALTAÍ
SEALADAÍ
NA
hÉIREANN**

Type 2

**SAORSTÁT
ÉIREANN**

Type 3

**SAORSTÁT
ÉIREANN
1922**

Type 4



THE REVEALER

www.eirephilatelicassoc.org ISSN 0484-6125
Published quarterly by the Eire Philatelic Association: Membership dues are as follows: U.S. (\$20.00); Canada/Mexico (\$25.00); all other countries (\$30.00) by cheque or money order to EPA, PO Box 116 Maple Shade NJ 08052. **Dues may also be paid by Paypal to EPADUES@aol.com**

ELECTED POSITIONS: Officers:

President: **ROBERT BENNINGHOFF**, PO Box 116, Maple Shade, NJ 08052. eparmb@gmail.com

Vice-President North America: **MICHAEL S. CANAVAN**, 44 Lakeshore Dr., Garnett, KS 66032. michaelscanavan44@gmail.com

Vice-President Europe: **BRIAN WARREN**, brian.warren2@upcmail.ie

Directors:

BRIAN CALLAN
PHILIP KANE
RAYMOND MURPHY

RICHARD KELLY
MICHAEL O'REILLY
TIMOTHY O'SHEA

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Secretary/APS Representative/Chapter Coordinator: **JOHN B. SHARKEY**, 1559 Grouse Lane, Mountainside, NJ 07092-1340. jsharkeyepa@me.com

Treasurer: **JEAN BENNINGHOFF**, PO Box 116, Maple Shade, NJ 08052. eparmb@gmail.com

Editor: **STEVEN FRIEDENTHAL**, 3 Lindbergh Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 2S8 Canada. stevefr1@telus.net or eparevealer@gmail.com

Editor Emeritus: **LIAM MALONE**. liammalonedc@gmail.com

Auction Manager: **MICHAEL O'REILLY**, 16691 S 18th Way Phoenix, AZ 85048 AuctionManagerEPA@gmail.com

Auction Manager Emeritus: **BOB KEMPER**, 1301 Willow Bud Dr., Walnut CA 91789. Epa-auction@roadrunner.com

Advertising Manager: **RICHARD KELLY**, kellyrd@sbcglobal.net

Special Offers/Librarian/Historian: **TIMOTHY O'SHEA**, 58 Porter Street, Granby, MA 01033-9516. Toshea1@comcast.net

Youth/School Program Managers: Ireland: **PHELIM O'NEILL**, pfoneil@gmail.com. USA: **RICHARD KELLY**, kellyrd@sbcglobal.net

Address and email changes should be sent to the Treasurer Robert Benninghoff at eparmb@gmail.com

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

The Association Secretary provides Coordinators with names and addresses of new members. Coordinators welcome new members and invite them to join the local Chapter.

Commodore John Barry Chapter

Members reside in NJ, NY, PA Coordinator: John B. Sharkey, 1559 Grouse Lane, Mountainside, NJ 07092 jsharkeyepa@me.com

James Hoban Chapter

Members reside in MD, VA, DC Coordinator: Liam Malone liammalonedc@gmail.com

John McCormack Chapter

Members reside in CT & MA Coordinator: Timothy O'Shea 58 Porter St, Granby, MA 01033-9516 toshea1@comcast.net

Lone Star Chapter

Members reside in Central TX Chapter is currently inactive, please contact the Secretary if you wish to volunteer for this position.

Northern California Chapter (NORCAL)

Members reside in Northern CA. Chapter Coordinator: Christopher Palermo, 230 Alberta Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070 CHRIS_PALERMO95125@yahoo.com.

Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)

Members reside in Southern CA Coordinator: William A. O'Connor, 3803 Foxglove Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028 waoconnor@aol.com

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Winter: November 15; Spring: March 7;

Summer: June 7; Fall: September 15

Each Issue published about a month after above dates

The Revealer ADVERTISING RATES

	Size (inches) Approx.	Per issue	4 issues (contract rate)
Full Page	7.4 X 9.7	\$160	\$550
Half Page Horizontal	7.4 X 4.9	\$90	\$320
Half Page Vertical	3.6 X 9.7	\$90	\$320
Quarter Page	3.6 X 4.8	\$50	\$180
Eighth Page	3.6 X 2.5	\$30	\$105

Camera ready copy required – Contact Richard Kelly at kellyrd@sbcglobal.net

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.-
Printed copy with electronic – Outside U.S.	\$35.-	\$700.-
Family memberships are the same as a single membership		

President's Message

This will be my last message as your president. Due to failing health and old age I had to make the decision to step down. I made the executive decision to appoint Bob Benninghoff to fill in the remaining time in my term until the next election. He did not feel comfortable with me making that decision without full board approval so our secretary, John Sharkey polled all of the officers and board members and Bob was unanimously approved to replace me as president. I know good talent when I see it so it was no surprise to me.

I have known Bob and his family for many years. It was a tradition at Balpex for Bob to bring his entire clan to the show and included some of us to go to the Inner Harbor for a night of fun and relaxation. Bob has been our good will ambassador for several years now and has kept our Association in the forefront with his many exhibits.

We are facing rough times now with decreasing membership and I feel that Bob will be addressing this in the near future. I want to thank John Sharkey for carrying me during my current term. We have a great team in place and I see blue skies in our future.

Slainte, **Dave Brennan**

Hello Fellow Enthusiasts of Irish Philately



It is a great honor to become your President of the Éire Philatelic Association, a role that has some big shoes to fill, including those of our retiring President Dave Brennan. I would very much like to thank Dave for his many years of service to the ÉPA.

I travel to several National and International stamp shows each year, where it would be grand to meet as many ÉPA members as possible. Email me at rmerc01@aol.com and let me know when you will be at the following shows and, hopefully, we can meet over a pint or two. I will also be bringing stamp exhibits for several ÉPA members including my Granddaughter, who has just started exhibiting.

- STAMPA (Ireland) - 5 to 8 of October,
- Chicagopex - 17 to 19 November

- Florex (Florida) – 1-2 December

I am also an enthusiastic collector and exhibitor of Irish material and have been for over 40 years. Several of my exhibits will be at these shows.

My wife Jean has agreed to assume the formal position as Treasurer of the Éire Philatelic Association, a role that she has been helping with for the past 6 years,

I will have more about Robert (Bob) and Jean Benninghoff in the Winter Revealer. We would both love to hear from our members with suggestions and thoughts about the future of the ÉPA and the Revealer. PLEASE consider writing an article for the Revealer about your travels to Ireland; your favorite philatelic item; a famous (or infamous) Irish person shown on stamps; an event in Irish History – ideas and themes are almost limitless. Best wishes for a Grand Autumn

Robert Benninghoff

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Autumn 2023**New Members**

3034 John Healy, Saginaw, MI
 3035 Laurelei Fox (and family), Maple Shade, NJ
 3036 Labron Harris, Glen Echo, MD

Change of Address	New Email Address
2616 Michael Doherty, Narberth, PA	2638 Thomas Meade,
2703 John Fogarty, Webster, NY	2906 George Cvejnovich,
2765 William Malone, Washington	3034 John Healy, johnhealy745@gmail.com
2972 Jerome Rosenthal, Salem OH	3035 Laurelei Fox, foxlaurelei@gmail.com
	3036 Labron Harris, labronharr@aol.com

Reinstatements

0717 Thomas Patrick Doherty, Westminster, CO
 2856 Michael Fricken, Albuquerque, NM

Resignations	
1017 James Lawless, Groveland, CA	2404 Anthony Hughes, Co. Westmeath, Ireland
1560 Brian O'Shea, Co. Cork, Ireland	2428 Maurice Bursey, Chapel Hill NC
1601 Kenneth Goettel, Davis, CA	2930 John Stringer, Tamworth Staffs, U.K.
1669 Michael Hartnett, Co. Galway, Ireland	2975 Barry Feddema, Wayne, NJ
2218 John Lorenzen, Bakkesvinget, Denmark	2404 Anthony Hughes, Co. Westmeath, Ireland

Deaths

0105 Michael Giffney, Co. Dublin, Ireland
 1115 Michael Drum, Clayton, CA
 1849 Kenneth Grant, Baraboo, WI
 3001 Barra O'Keeffe, Berlin, Germany

Unable to Locate

0114 William Scheetz, Newark, NY
 2815 Frank J. Martin, West Valley, UT

Membership Status

Membership as of June 9, 2023	271	
New members	3	
Reinstatements	2	
Resignations and dues non-payment	9	
Unable to locate	2	
Deaths	4	
Life members	30	
Complimentary mailings		10
Membership as of September 5, 2023	263	

JBS, 090823

Treasurer's Report for September 1 2022 to August 31 2023

The past 12 months find the EPA in good financial shape. This is largely due to the hard work of Bob Kemper and the EPA auctions which added almost \$5,000 to our Bank account. We also received \$2273 in member donations including \$1,000 from a very generous member. These combined funds contributed greatly to our net income of \$6,697. *I will send a STAMPA souvenir to all members who send the EPA a contribution during the 2024 membership dues period (For contributions received before Dec. 1 2023).*

Membership dues are down about \$1,500 from 2021 with several members opting for digital only membership at \$20 rather than \$30 (\$35 for non-USA). However, we did have an increase of about \$350 in dues from 2022.

200 members paid their 2024 dues as of August 31 2023 out of 330 total dues paying members. We expect additional membership dues during the fall of this year which will be reflected in next year's income statement. John Sharkey provides a membership status in his Secretary's report. Special Offers (Thank you Tim O'Shea); Advertisements in the Revealer (Thank you Richard Kelly) and other income (Thank you members) have added \$673 to our income.

The biggest expense is the printing and mailing of the Revealer which cost \$6,665 last year, down about \$500 from 2022. Many thanks to our printer and mailer, Minuteman Press, who have held the costs of printing the journal. We lost our Bulk Mailing status because of fewer copies being printed and mailed. The Revealer is now sent via First Class Mail but is now returned to John Sharkey if the address is bad or a member has moved, resigned or passed away.

The annual expenses of the Treasurer, Secretary, President and AGM remain about the same as 2022 with small increases due to inflation. We now have the additional expense of \$300 for web site maintenance. The Eire Philatelic Association donated \$255 to St Jude's Children's Hospital in memory of Barney Clancy. Full details can be seen in the Income Statement and Balance Sheet.

Good luck and best wishes for 2023 / 2024
Robert and Jean Benninghoff

Longest EPA MEMBER Passes

In this issue of the REVEALER you will find a Tribute to **Michael Giffney** by Brian Warren from the August, 2023 issue of the **IRISH PHILATELY**.

Michael joined the EPA in 1951, the second year of our existence, and was member number 105. In 1980 Michael won the Field award for outstanding philatelic contribution to Irish Philately. In 2000 he also won the Clark award for outstanding service to the EPA.

I first met Michael during the Stampa show in Dublin in the early 2000s. At the time Michael was helping Andy Ballard at his stand. I inquired about certain covers I was looking for and Michael greeted me like a long-lost friend. As he was gathering a bunch of covers for me we have a wide-ranging talk about stamp collecting, Ireland, the World and all points between. Michael had a natural charm and grace. I always enjoyed the few more times we met at the Stampa show.

Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to the Giffney family.
Richard Kelly

Closed Albums: Michael Giffney



Sadly, I have to report that Michael Giffney, one of our longest (if not the longest) serving members of the Circle died on 29th June 2024, after a long illness, age 93.

He began collecting in 1947 having acquired his elder brother's stamp collection. He was a founder member in 1948 and the first Secretary of the Dublin Stamp Society. He also was the European representative for the Éire Philatelic Association and also served as Chairman of Stampa.

He lived in the East Wall area before moving to Drumcondra and in his latter years retired to Swords, Co. Dublin. Michael worked in the drinks industry and was a representative for the well known Irish firm Cantrell & Cochrane Limited (now C&C Group plc), an Irish manufacturer and distributor of alcoholic and soft drinks. Although working full time, he commenced dealing on a part time basis in the 1950s. He was known during this period to be first in the queue at the GPO Dublin at midnight to buy sheets of the latest commemorative issue. Back then the GPO was open 24 hours. He would then rush back home to stick them on FDCs and hand them in the next morning before heading to work. He even managed to have his picture taken in the GPO and published in one of the daily papers.

Following redundancy in 1980, he decided to go full time into the stamp business and leased a premises on Ormond Quay in Dublin. A number of other part time dealers also took space in his premises at weekends and there was a steady trade on Saturday mornings. Our Associate Editor, Philip Kane, as a student, worked with Michael. It was always a very sociable occasion for both dealers and collectors. In later years, he helped Any Ballard on his stand at Stampa and in 2016 he was proud to display at the show his late father's 1916 Easter Rising medal. His father was one of the genuine volunteers to be actually in the GPO.

He was always willing to help collectors and many became his friends. His last public appearance was at the Stampa Awards Dinner in October 2022. A Silver Salver had been sponsored by him for the best multi-frame exhibit in the Open Class. He and his wife Marie always attended the dinner each year in order for him to present the award.

Michael was also a member of the Éire Philatelic Association. He joined in July 1951, as member #105, and was the longest surviving member of the group.

He is survived by his wife Marie, daughter Michelle and his sister Florrie.

(Reprinted from the IPC's journal *Irish Philately*, Summer 2023, with permission of Brian Warren)

Documenting the Irish Civil War: December 1922 to Spring 1923

Robert Benninghoff

The April Irish Philately looked at The Irish Civil War from the Summer 1922 to the establishment of the Irish Free State in December 1922. This section concludes my series on the Civil war and looks at the winter and spring of 1923 when The IRA decided to stop military operations on 24 May.

Ireland had been at War for over eight years by December 1922. The Civil War continued to split the Irish Free State and the IRA continued to disrupt the lives and commerce of the Irish people. The IRA attacks on post offices and the railroads (See Figures 1 and 2) only caused increased hardship, and by January 1923 much of Ireland and the church was turning against the violence. Responding to attacks on the railways, the Government established the Railway Protection, Repair & Maintenance Corps (RPRMC) in October 1922 (See Figures 3 and 4)

The Irish government had approved the execution of several IRA Leaders including Erskine Childers who had led the Irish Volunteer Gun Running of August 1914. The Army carried out several summary executions, including one on 7 March, 1923 when 9 IRA prisoners were tied to a mine and blown up at Ballyseedy Barracks. The IRA was forced to hide in the mountains and caves to avoid being turned in by neighbours and friends who hoped to receive the Government bounty being offered on IRA members.

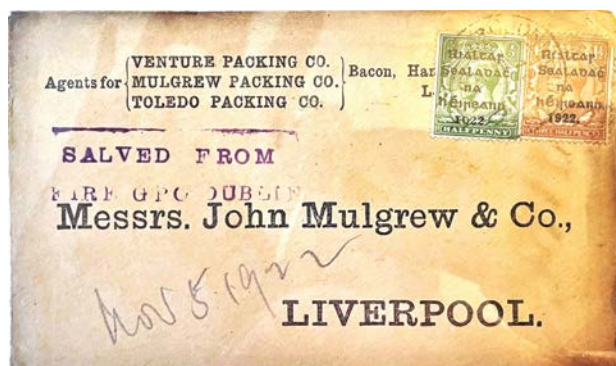


Fig. 1. Mail from Clonmellon to London Salvaged from Dublin Rotunda post office Fire caused by the IRA on 5 Nov 1922



Fig. 2. Edenderry Junction train wreck caused by IRA on 17 Feb 1923. IRA attacks continued into April 1923. Photo courtesy of *The Irish Civil War in Colour*, Page 222, ##



Fig. 3. Armoured Cars adopted for railway use by the RPRMC. The Corp was disbanded in Sept. 1923. Photo Courtesy of *The Irish Civil War in Colour*, Page 223 ##



Fig. 4. Registered Local Dublin cover mailed to the RPRMC on 23 January 1923

Ending of the Civil War

Arms for the IRA from the USA, never materialized, despite Eamon de Valera's connections during his 1918 / 1919 tour of America. Similarly, attempts to purchase munitions from Germany were foiled by British and Irish Government intervention with the German Government. The IRA found it increasingly difficult to maneuver. The war effectively came to an end on 10 April, 1923 with the death of Liam Lynch (IRA Executive Commander). He was killed by Government troops in the Knockmealdown Mountains while enroute to an IRA meeting on continuing the Civil War (Figure 5). His Successor, Frank Aiken, sent an Order on April 27, 1923 for the IRA to suspend operations effective April 30. (See Figures 6 & 7). On May 24 both Frank Aiken and Eamon de Valera ordered the IRA to "Dump Arms and return Home" (Figure 8). The event was marked by the Irish Government this Year on May 28, 2023 (Figure 9)

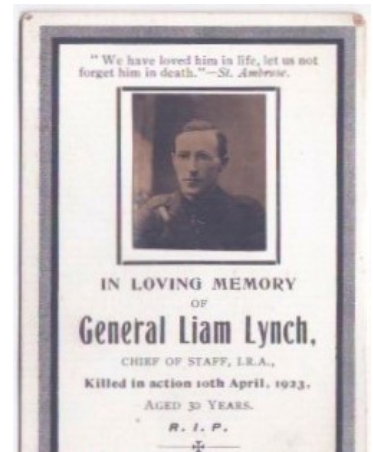


Fig 5. Liam Lynch Mass Card



Fig. 6. Cover from Cloughjordan, Tipperary to Maple Shade NJ cancelled 27 April 2023 marking the 100th Anniv. of the IRA's order to **Suspend Hostilities**. **County Tipperary was a major center of IRA support.** Cover prepared by Brian Warren



Fig 7. Cover prepared by John Mullen, cancelled 30 April, 2023 marking the 100th Anniv. of the IRA's actual **Suspension of Hostilities**



Fig 8. Cover prepared by Brian Warren and Cancelled near the Four Courts on 28 May 2023 marking 100 years since the **End of the Irish Civil War**

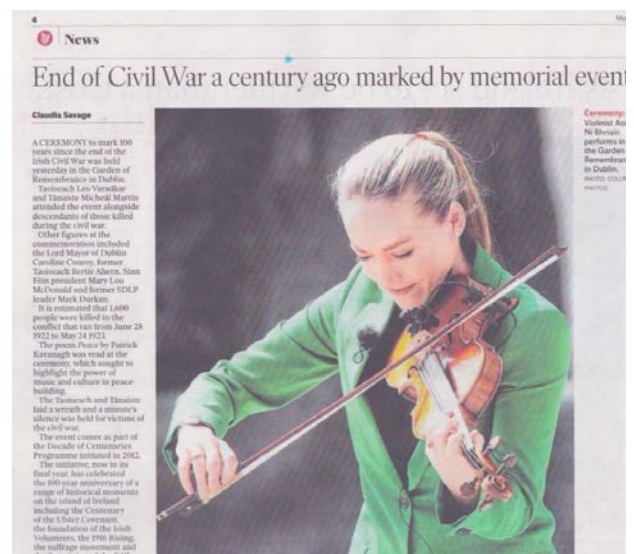


Fig 9. Article from Irish Independent (29 May 2023) shows Violinist Aoife Ni Bhrian performing as part of Irish Governments Brief celebration to mark 100 years since the **End of The Irish Civil War**

Irish Provisional Government and Free State Overprints on UK Adhesive Fiscal Stamps*(Part 2)

John Lush FRPSL and Paul Skinner FRPSL

Excise Revenue stamps were printed by Harrison and Sons (National Archives 1916) on postage stamp paper with the Simple GvR Cypher watermark (Booth type 38-6) until 1923 and by Waterlow and Sons, using the Harrison plates (Booth), on postage paper with the Multiple Block GvR Cypher watermark (Booth type 38-7) from 1 January 1924, under the terms of a new contract (Postal Museum, 1924).

National Health Insurance: introduced in 1912 by Part I of the National Insurance Act 1911 (1&2 Geo. V c.55). The stamps were used throughout the United Kingdom. Because of the range of values required, the use of key-type designs was not appropriate so new designs were developed using a crown instead of the king's portrait, to avoid confusion with postage stamps. For the same reason the stamps were made slightly smaller than postage stamps (1/8 inch in width, 1/16 inch in height) (National Archives, 1911-23). The values were printed in an area in the bottom half of each stamp. Because of a delay in the supply of NHI watermarked paper (National Archives, 1911-23), the first stamps were printed on Multiple Script GvR watermarked paper (National Archives, 1948) at Somerset House. The stamps on NHI watermarked paper were printed by Waterlow Bros. and Layton (Postal Museum, 1912), which became Waterlow and Sons in 1920. From 1 January 1924 the sheets of stamps were printed by Waterlow and Sons without an interpane margin (Postal Museum, 1924).

Unemployment Insurance: introduced in July 1912 by Part II of the National Insurance Act 1911 (1&2 Geo. V c.55). The stamps were used throughout the United Kingdom. For similar reasons to the National Health Insurance stamps, the stamps were designed to be the same size as National Health Insurance stamps, but in horizontal format (National Archives, 1911-23). The first designs featured a ship in the centre with the values printed in small shields either side of the bottom of the stamp, but this design was soon modified by removing the figures of value from the shields and overprinting the value in large figures in black on red stamps. Later designs replaced the ship with a large central figure of value against either a clear, shaded or solid coloured background. The designs with the values in small shields or with a clear background to the figure of value did not receive Irish overprints. Examples of all the other designs are shown below in connection with the overprints which they received.

Unemployment Insurance stamps were printed by Waterlows under the same contracts as National Health Insurance stamps, and without interpane margins from 1924.

Irish Overprints on Fiscal Stamps

Four basic types of Irish overprint were applied to fiscal stamps, mainly in 1922 and 1923. These are illustrated in Figure 1, and have been given Type numbers in chronological order of their use on fiscal stamps (see Table 1 below):

Type 1 Rialtas Sealadac na hEireann 1922. (in five lines, with full stop).

Type 2 Rialtas Sealadac na hEireann (undated, in four lines).

Type 3 Saorstát Eireann (undated, in two lines).

Type 4 Saorstát Eireann 1922 (in three lines, without full stop).



Figure 1. Irish Overprints on Fiscal Stamps

On fiscal stamps, there are considerable variations in the Type 2 overprint, largely consisting of different spacing between the first and second lines or between the second and third lines, sometimes to accommodate another overprint on some of the stamps or, depending on the size of the stamp, to avoid obscuring the king's head or the value tablet. These variations are designated as Types 2a-2h. There are variations in the size of the Type 4 Overprint because it was used on stamps of different sizes. These variations are designated as Types 4a-4c. There are no variations in the Type 1 overprint, which was only used on Excise Revenue stamps, or in the Type 3 overprint, even though it was used on stamps of different shapes and sizes. The details are described below.

Booth assigns type numbers X41 -1, X12, X27 and X62- 1 respectively to the four basic overprints, the numbers being allocated in the order in which they appear in illustrations in his catalogue of fiscal stamps. Booth does not note differences in the overprints of any type, but illustrates Types 2f and 4b overprints as Types 87-6 and 87-7 respectively for National Health Insurance stamps, and Types 2h and 4a overprints as fig (v) and fig (vii) respectively for Unemployment Insurance stamps. Brady assigns type numbers I, II, IV and III respectively, and identifies two Type II overprints with different line spacings, but in a typewritten supplement to the printed booklet introduces another Type II and changes the suffixes allocated to Type II in his original article. The present article identifies eight variations of Type 2.

In the official handbook of the Twenty-ninth National Stamp Exhibition held in Dublin in November 2000 (Stampa, 2000) a list was published, following 'admittedly sketchy' research, suggesting that 14 plates were required to print the different overprints on fiscal stamps. In that list, 'plates' usually (but not always) refers to an overprint type, and some fiscal stamps have been overlooked or ignored. The present article will show that at least 24 plates were required for the different overprints on different sheet layouts (see Table 3).

Printing of Irish Overprints

The certificates on the reverse of the registration sheets in List 2 of the Stamping Department Archive are of the form 'This sheet of stamps was taken at [place] being the first printing of stamps of [type].' 'Type' gives the reason for printing the stamps, such as a new value, colour or design, a change of watermark, or a new overprint. The sheets are dated, and the sheets of stamps with fish overprints are signed by either the Director (G. W. Stonestreet) or Deputy Director (H. W. Longley) of the Stamping Department at Somerset House. With only one exception, the 'place' is described as 'in my presence' which confirms that the majority of the Irish overprints were applied at Somerset House, unless the Director of Stamping visited a printer (even possibly in Ireland) for a week or more at a time (see dates in Table 1 below). The only exception in List 2 is for the 'Rialtas Sealadae na hEireann' overprint (Types 2g and 2h) on the Unemployment Insurance stamps, which were described as having been applied under supervision by a superintendent at Waterlow and Sons, and are again signed by the Director of Stamping, who obviously did not attend the printers for the purpose.

It is known that most of the postage stamps which received Irish overprints were overprinted in Dublin (Cousins, 2014), but all of them received an overprint which included the date '1922'. With the sole exception of overprint Type 4c, no key-type fiscal stamp received a 'Saorstát Éireann 1922' overprint. On the basis of the 'high' positioning of the Saorstát Éireann overprints on some key-type fiscal stamps, it has been claimed that some were applied in Dublin, but no evidence has been found for this (see below). Brady states that the later printings of the Saorstát Éireann overprint were done in Dublin, but he gives no dates for any of the overprints.

It is not known where the Saorstát overprint was applied to Excise Revenue stamps because there are no examples with registration certificates in the Inland Revenue Stamping Department archive. The Saorstát overprints appear not to have been applied to the Dog Licence stamps, or to the Ireland Petty Sessions for Dog Licence stamps, because the issuing of Dog Licences was transferred to the Irish Post Office in 1922, although applications for Dog Licences made to the Petty Sessions Courts were still to be accepted as previously (Mansfield, 2003).

Table 1 lists the earliest printing dates known or inferred (see below) from the registration sheets of all the fiscal stamps in the Inland Revenue Archive which received Irish overprints. Almost all the key-type fiscal stamps overprinted at Somerset House were printed on stamps of George V, but some were printed on stamps from the previous reign (noted as EVII in the tables), even though the corresponding George V stamp was available. Watermark variations on overprinted key-type stamps are recorded in some catalogue listings, but these have not been verified. The watermarks on Excise Revenue and National Health Insurance stamps changed with time (Booth pp.81-82 & 372), so original and later printings can be differentiated in some cases. These are noted below, for reference.

Date	Overprint	Overprint on:
19 Apr 1922	Rialtas 1922	Excise Revenue 1s 6d, 2s, 4s, 5s (144 set)
20 Apr 1922	Rialtas 1922	Excise Revenue ½d, 3s (120 set) 8s, 10s (20 set)
21 Apr 1922	Rialtas 1922	Excise Revenue 1d, 1½d (120 set)
22 Apr 1922	Rialtas 1922	Excise Revenue 2d (120 set)
26 Apr 1922	Rialtas 1922	Excise Revenue 3d, 4d, 6d, 9d, 1s (120 set)
2 May 1922	Rialtas	County Courts Ireland 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d
3 May 1922	Rialtas	Contract Note 3d, 6d; Foreign Bill 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 9d; Records Ireland 6d
4 May 1922	Rialtas	Land Registry of Ireland 3d, 4d, 6d,
6 May 1922	Rialtas	Companies Registration 4d; Ireland Petty Sessions 6d red, 6d green Ireland Petty Sessions for Dog Licence 6d
8 May 1922	Rialtas	Civil Service £1, £5; Companies Registration 1s, 5s, £1 Contract Note 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 6s, 8s, 10s County Courts Ireland 1s, 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s, £1
9 May 1922	Rialtas	Civil Service 1s, 1s 6d, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s; Contract Note £1 Foreign Bill 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s; Land Registry of Ireland 1s, 2s 6d, £1
10 May 1922	Rialtas	Bankruptcy 5s, 10s, £1, £5; Estate Duty £1 10s, £2 10s; Foreign Bill £1, £5 Land Registry of Ireland 5s, 10s; Records Ireland 1s, 5s, 10s, £1
11 May 1922	Rialtas	Dog License 4s Official Arbitration (Land) £1

13 May 1922	Rialtas	Judicature Ireland 1d, 3d, 4d, 6d; National Health Insurance 7d, 8d, 5s 10d, 6s 8d, 7s 7d; Ireland Petty Sessions 2s 6d
15 May 1922	Rialtas	Judicature Ireland 1s, 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s, £1, £5 National Health Insurance 4d, 1s, 8s 8d
19 May 1922	Rialtas	Unemployment Insurance 4½d, 8d (Waterlow)
22 May 1922	Rialtas	Unemployment Insurance 5d, 8½d, 9½d (Waterlow)
24 May 1922	Rialtas	Unemployment Insurance 10d (Waterlow)
26 May 1922	Rialtas	Unemployment Insurance 1s 3d, 1s 7d (Waterlow)
10 Nov 1922	Rialtas	Records Ireland 3d
29 Nov 1922	Rialtas	Ireland Registration of Deeds 2s 6d, 10s
8 Mar 1923	Saorstát	County Courts Ireland 6d; Judicature Ireland 3d, 4d, 6d
9 Mar 1923	Saorstát	Contract Note 6d County Courts Ireland 1s, 5s
10 Mar 1923	Saorstát	Judicature Ireland 1s, 5s, 10s; Land Registry of Ireland 1s, 2s 6d, 10s
12 Mar 1923	Saorstát	Contract Note 1s, 2s; Judicature Ireland 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, £1, £5 Land Registry of Ireland £1
11 Apr 1923	Saorstát	Contract Note 3s (EVII); Land Commission Ireland 1s
27 Apr 1923*	Saorstát	County Courts Ireland 2d, 3d, 2s, 2s 6d, £1; Estate Duty £1 10s, £2 10s Ireland Registration of Deeds 3d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 2s 6d, £1; Judicature Ireland 1d
4 May 1923*	Saorstát	Income Tax 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s Land Commission Ireland 2d (EVII), 3d, 6d, 2s, 5s; Land Registry of Ireland 6d, 5s
10 May 1923*	Saorstát	Excise Revenue 1d (120 set)
16 May 1923	Saorstát 1922	Unemployment Insurance 8½d, 1s 3d, 1s 7d
4 Jul 1923	Saorstát 1922	National Health Insurance 4d
5 Jul 1923	Saorstát 1922	Unemployment Insurance 8d, 9½d
7 Jul 1923	Saorstát 1922	Unemployment Insurance 10d (scarlet), 3s 2d, 6s 4d, 12s 8d, 16s 3d, 20s 7d
25 Sep 1923	Saorstát 1922	National Health Insurance 7s 7d, 8s 8d
28 Feb 1924	Saorstát 1922	Unemployment Insurance 10s, 10s 3½d
16 Jun 1924	Saorstát 1922	National Health Insurance 7d
19 Jun 1924	Saorstát 1922	National Health Insurance 8d
12 Feb 1925	Saorstát 1922	National Health Insurance 6s 8d
31 Mar 1925	Saorstát 1922	Unemployment Insurance 10d (green)

Table 1 gives the earliest known registration dates for the overprints, as recorded on the registration certificates on the backs of the sheets of stamps in List 2 of the Inland Revenue Stamping Department Archive. There are some sheets of stamps overprinted Saorstát in List 3 of the Archive, which are not also in List 2, but because the sheets of stamps in List 3 do not have registration certificates their dates of printing are unknown. However, some stamps were occasionally removed from the sheets of stamps in List 3 to provide samples or specimens for various purposes, and the dates on which these stamps were removed are noted in List 3. These dates (all in April and May 1923) are identified by an asterisk in Table 1 (and in Figures 10 and 14); they represent dates before which the stamps must have been overprinted. Comparison of the known dates from List 2 and the inferred dates from List 3 (for County Courts Ireland, Judicature Ireland, Land Commission Ireland and Land Registry of Ireland) suggest that the actual printing dates may have been 6-8 weeks earlier than the inferred dates, implying that all the (undated) Saorstát overprints on key-type stamps may have been applied in March and April 1923. All of the overprinted key-type stamps bear the portrait of George V unless otherwise noted.

It is notable in Table 1 that there is no overlapping of dates for the four overprints. All the Rialtas 1922 overprints preceded the Rialtas overprints, and all the Saorstát overprints preceded the Saorstát 1922 overprints. From Table 1 it may be seen that, as was to be expected, all of the Rialtas overprints were applied in 1922. As soon as the Irish Free State came into existence the Rialtas overprints were

discontinued and the Saorstát overprints were introduced, but the latter were not applied to fiscal stamps until March 1923. The Saorstát Éireann 1922 overprint was still being applied to some fiscal stamps by the Inland Revenue Stamping Department in 1925.

Table 1 gives some interesting insights into the organisation of the work of overprinting the stamps. For example, by 1922 the Excise Revenue stamps were in three different sheet sizes, printed by Harrison and Sons. On the first day of overprinting, 19 April 1922, the Stamping Department of the Inland Revenue applied the Rialtas 1922 overprint to all of the Excise Revenue stamps which were in sheets of 144. On the next day, 20 April 1922, they overprinted the two highest values (sheets of 20) and started on the remaining values (sheets of 120), completing the overprinting of the sheets of 120 over the next few days. This obviously facilitated efficient working, by minimising the number of times plates had to be replaced on the printing press. (The report of the 1910 Inter-Departmental Committee on Inland Revenue Contracts (National Archives, 1910), described the security arrangements which the Inspector of Stamping imposed on contractors before the Stamping Department assumed responsibility for printing fiscal stamps. Plates not in use were to be kept in Revenue safes on the contractor's premises, while any plate in use at the end of the day was to be secured on the press in such a way that it could not be removed or used. The Stamping Department would almost certainly have adopted the same practice.)

On four days between 2 May and 6 May 1922 the Stamping Department only overprinted pence key-type fiscal stamps, so they were able to operate for four days without having to change the printing plate, except for the Ireland Petty Sessions for Dog Licence stamp overprinted on 6 May. From 8-10

May 1922, they overprinted only shillings and pounds key-type fiscal stamps. This could easily have been achieved by only having to change the printing plate once on each day. One plate change would have been necessary on 11 May, two on 13 May and two on 15 May. Waterlow and Sons adopted similar procedures for overprinting the Unemployment Insurance stamps on four days between 19 May and 26 May 1922 even though this involved no fewer than six different plates (see below for details). Similar principles seem to have been applied for the early Saorstát overprints, but after the middle of April 1923 the evidence is not so clear, partly because of uncertainty about some of the dates and partly because the Saorstát 1922 overprints seem to have been applied to fewer stamps over a longer period. It must be remembered that overprinting was not the only work being done at this time, so the overprinting may have been interrupted by other printing work, depending on how many presses were being used.

Several overprinted fiscal stamps are listed in one or more catalogues but there are no copies in the Inland Revenue Archives (so the dates on which they were overprinted are not known). Some of these stamps are illustrated in the catalogues which list them; others have been located in other publications or in private collections. The stamps of which illustrations or copies have been seen are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Overprinted Fiscal Stamps not in the Inland Revenue Archives

Overprint	Overprint on:	Reference:
Rialtas	Contract Note 3s (EVII)	Barefoot
Saorstát	Contract Note 2s (EVII)	Gledhill
Saorstát	Excise Revenue 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d	McClellan
Saorstát	Ireland Petty Sessions 2s6d (EVII)	Barefoot
Saorstát	Ireland Petty Sessions 6d green, 6d red	Bending (2015)
Saorstát	Ireland Registration of Deeds 10s	Barefoot
Saorstát	Records Ireland £1	Barefoot
Saorstát 1922	Ireland Petty Sessions 6d green	Barefoot
Saorstát 1922	Ireland Petty Sessions 6d red	Private Collection

Sizes of Fiscal Stamps and Irish Overprints

The sizes of the fiscal stamps and of the overprint applied to them are shown in Table 3. For the present study the overprints have been measured on enlargements of high-resolution scans, and are considered to be accurate to about ± 0.1 mm (but it should be appreciated that the overprints are sometimes difficult to measure accurately, partly because of the effects of 'ink squash' which is a characteristic of letterpress printing). The variation in the sizes of type 2h is due to the inclusion of the overprinted duty of the stamp being incorporated in each overprint.

Table 3. Sizes (mm) of Fiscal Stamps and Irish Overprints

Type	Appropriations / Values	Printed Size	Overprint Size	Plates
1	Excise Revenue	38.4 x 19.2	14.6 x 16.2	3
2a	Key Type (Pence)	18.7 x 22.6	14.6 x 13.5	1
2b	Key Type (Shillings)	18.2 x 31.3	14.7 x 14.3	1
2c	Key Type (Pounds)	22.7 x 38.9	14.7 x 18.9	1
2d	Key Type (Pence) Petty Sessions for Dog Licence	18.7 x 22.6	14.9 x 10.3	1
2e	Dog License	22.6 x 18.7	14.6 x 13.4	1
2f	National Health Insurance	15.6 x 21.0	13.0 x 8.9	1
2g	Unemployment Insurance	21.0 x 15.6	14.5 x 13.2	1
2h	Unemployment Insurance (Value in overprint)	21.0 x 15.6	14.4 x 14.6	5
			14.6 x 14.2	
			14.3 x 14.9	
			14.4 x 14.7	
			14.5 x 14.3	
3	Key Type (Pence)	18.7 x 22.6	15.0 x 6.0	1
3	Key Type (Shillings)	18.2 x 31.3	15.0 x 6.0	1
3	Key Type (Pounds)	22.7 x 38.9	15.0 x 6.0	1
3	Excise Revenue 1d	38.4 x 19.2	14.9 x 6.1	1
4a	Unemployment Insurance	21.0 x 15.6	14.9 x 9.4	2
4b	National Health Insurance	15.6 x 21.0	13.3 x 8.4	2
4c	Key Type (Pence) Petty Sessions 6d red	18.7 x 22.6	15.2 x 9.2	1

This article "Irish Provisional Government and Free State Overprints on UK Adhesive Fiscal Stamps" by John Lush and FRPSL and Paul Skinner FRPSL was originally published in The London Philatelist, Volume 132, April 2023, Number 1504. It is reproduced here in The Revealer with the kind permission of The Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Letter re: Iben Olsen's Question

Re: Iben Olsen's question about his 1939 First Day Cover in The Revealer Spring 2023 Vol 73 #1

The US Constitution stamp was issued on 1 March 1939 which was a long time before either Ireland or the UK started to censor mail relating to World War II, or "The Emergency" as it was known in Ireland. Besides the time difference of 6 months between the issue date and the start of censorship, this particular British censor label was only seen in small numbers in mid-1942 and used from then until at least September 1945, but then only on certain mail still being censored by British authorities.

My initial opinion is that this is an enhanced cover with a newer censor label affixed to an older, pre-censorship, cover and intended to fool collectors who don't know the period or history well enough to make them pay more than it is worth. Even if one does not know postal censorship of the period well, the stamp issuing date alone should cause one to think a bit more about this cover and not jump to immediate conclusions.

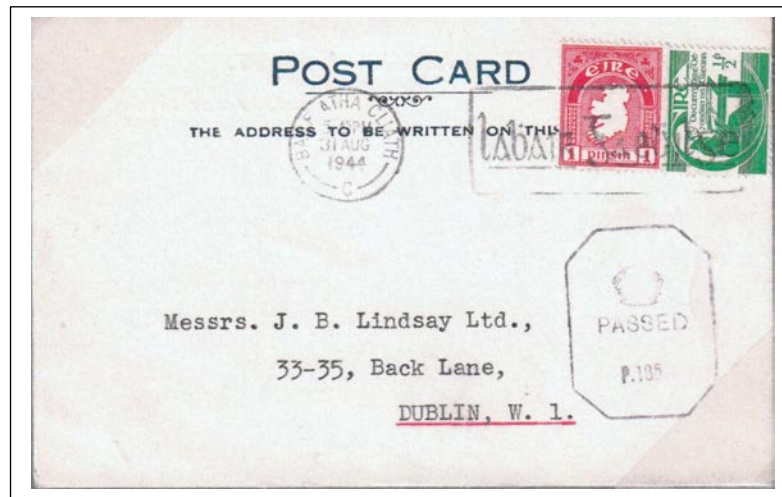
It is possible that Charles Bourke, the Waterford dealer, could have sent this first day cover to a collector in the UK or further afield, in another envelope now lost, under cover. In that case, being philatelic mail, it should have been condemned by the British Censorship and not released until the end of the war. That was the normal procedure and most such items were released in 1946. I illustrate such an October 1944 cover which has CONDEMNED and RELEASED marks on the back, though it is not dated as some are.

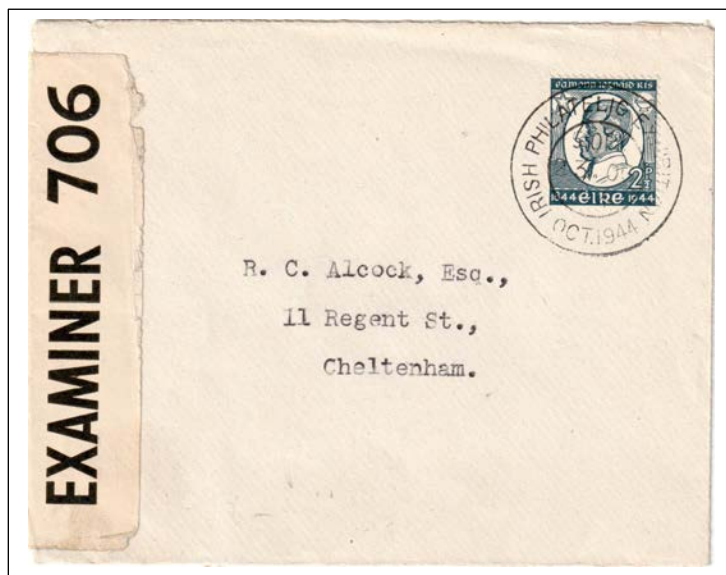
However, it is highly unlikely the postal sorter in Waterford would have mis-sorted the cover into a UK bag without actually taking note of the town name, when the addressee's post town is quite clearly the same as the posting town and with nothing that could be thought to be for a UK town. I don't recall ever seeing a genuinely used domestic cover with a British censor label though I show a genuine mis-sort here that has a GB censor handstamp not a label.

These are some suggestions. I would inspect the label very carefully to see if there is any evidence of tampering, such as the paper being crinkled by steam, the disturbed gum not allowing the label to sit well or it being previously creased around a cover and not applied as neatly as you would expect an unused label to look, to see if it has been removed from another cover in some way. If not, then it may well be correct even though it is without the Condemned and Released marks which is slightly odd to me, but possible.

So take your pick of my theories unless someone else has another suggestion.

Karl Winkelmann





IF YOU COLLECT IRELAND
*Send for your **FREE 2018 PRICE LIST** covering All issues from 1922-2017*

For **SPECIALIZED MATERIAL**
including Postal History, request my next

MAIL SALE LIST

A.R. BALLARD

**PO BO 780, LONDON SE13 5QA,
 UK**

Email: arballard@hotmail.co.uk

LINEHAN STAMPS

Ireland and the World

**Buy all your stamps from an
 EPA Member in USA**

**Worldwide or Ireland approvals
 (no U.S.)**

**Great Prices—Personalized
 Service**

kjlinehan03@yahoo.com

[\(new email address\)](#)

**P.O. Box 846
 Neosho, MO 64850**

Regular Public Auctions in Dublin

Please write or call for a copy of the next
catalog

Want lists serviced.

Expertization service.

Literature list sent on request.

MacDonnell Whyte Ltd.

102 Leinster Road Dublin 6 Ireland Tel:

+353 1 4977449 Fax: +353 1 4977440

Email: mdw ltd@eircom.net

Raven Stamps

12C Washington St. West, Cork, Ireland
For all your Irish Stamp requirements

(Callers by appointment only)

Tel + 353 87 2574309

Website: www.ravenstamps.com

e-mail: ravenstamps@gmail.com

STAMPA 2022

The Irish National Stamp Exhibition
50th Anniversary



Stamp Dealers - Competitive Exhibits
An Post - Valuations - Souvenirs
7th to 9th October 2022 (Friday-Sunday)

The Griffith Conference Centre
South Circular Road, Dublin 8
(Near Leonard's Corner and
National Boxing Stadium)

Free Admission!

Friday & Saturday 11am to 5pm - Sunday 11am to 4pm

See www.stampa.ie for membership details

paddyAchill

Irish FDCs and Stamps

I have an extensive stock of Irish Mint NH
stamps from 1922 to the present at
competitive prices. I specialise in

Irish First Day covers

holding a good stock from 1929 to the
present.

**I produce my own illustrated covers for all
new issues with local cancellations as an
alternative to the official An Post FDCs for
the discerning Cover collector.**

**Contact: Paddy Lineen, Achill Sound, Co
Mayo, F28 F386, Ireland.**

Phone: 098 45284;

email: lineensachill@hotmail.com

Erie Puist Labels – Revisited

Gerry Byrne

I wrote in the April 2021 Irish Philately about the recent discovery of a set of 8 ERIE Post Labels cancelled on 8 individual covers with Dublin postmarks, mailed between 29 January and February 19 1922. Seven covers were written in the same handwriting and all were addressed to Mr. J Braken 4 Upper Kevin Street, City (Dublin). The one posted on 9 Feb has different handwriting and is address to No. 4 Upper Kevin Street— See figures below. This address was considered a tenement house shared by several families in 1922. However, the 1900 and 1910 census records show it as an **upscale neighborhood**. The address is also across the road from site of the Jacob Biscuit Factory (now The National Archives) where some fighting occurred during the 1916 Rebellion. This site was commanded by Thomas MacDonagh, and most of the **Hostilities** came from the local residents who worked at the Factory and feared the same destruction going on in Central Dublin. MacDonagh was executed by the British on 3 May 1916 and he is also one of the 1916 Leaders shown on the ERIE Post Labels. Gerry Byrne has written to me on several occasions indicating that he considers the Labels to have been printed in England during 1918 by Sinn Fein sympathizers rather than in ERIE Pennsylvania (USA). The 8 labels were made from photos taken from the 1916 Irish Times “*Sinn Fein Rebellion Handbook*” The Misspelling of ERIE for EIRE is still a mystery but Mr. Byrne thinks that the British misunderstood the pronunciation of **EIRE**. The mystery of when and how they found their way back to Ireland remains, but the covers prove that they were used in Dublin beginning late January 1922.



Eamon de Valera Erie Puist Label posted 29 Jan 1922



Harp of Ireland Erie Post Label posted 19 Feb 1922



Eamon Ceannt, Erie Puist Label. Posted 9 Feb 1922. Posted twice because the label and stamps were not tied to the cover by the first cancel. **The handwriting is different from the other 7 covers**



Thomas MacDonagh Erie Puist Label posted 19 Feb 1922

Mr. Byrne also states that his research has found that Sinn Fein propagandist Art O'Brien lived in London during World War I working with several unions and may be responsible for the production and distribution of the Labels. *Questions still remain - Why has only one set appeared on cover and why as late as 1922 ?*



The Story of Mary Aikenhead and the Irish Stamps

Liam Malone and Willie Mackle with assistance from Iben Olson
(Part 1)

Stamps to commemorate the Centenary of the Death of Mother Mary Aikenhead were issued by Oifig an Phoist [The Irish Post Office], on the 20th of October 1958. Two values were printed, 3d in Prussian blue and 1s3d in rose carmine.

Hibernian Catalogue numbers C61 and C62, set 33C; Scott -#167-168;

Stanley Gibbons - #174 & #175; Michel - #138 & #139 **Printer:**

Waterlow & Sons, this was an English company founded in 1810 and acquired by De La Rue in 1961. They had offices and facilities in London, Watford and Dunstable, England. The company engraved currency, postage stamps, and stock and bond certificates. It engraved its first postage stamp in 1852. This issue was "recess printed" - that is to print by an intaglio - engraved die or plate.

Format: The stamps were printed in sheets of 240 in two panes of 12x10 joined by a horizontal gutter.

Perforation 15 x 14. Watermark "e"

Numbers Issued: 3d Prussian blue 21,960,240 1/3 Rose carmine 1,260,240.

Value: Hibernian 2020 catalogue suggests values for the set of MNH €26, VFU €13, FDC €28

Image: The image of MMA used for these stamps was taken from a portrait painted by Nicholas Joseph Crowley R.H.A., in 1844. Mr. N.J.Crowley, portrait painter, draughtsman and illustrator was born in Dublin in 1819 and he died in London in 1857. His other works include portraits of Prince Napoleon Bonaparte and Daniel O'Connell.



Gutter pair block left side T block available from Raven Stamps for €380 pairs of singles also available.



Pen and letter in hand, Mary was a prolific letter writer.

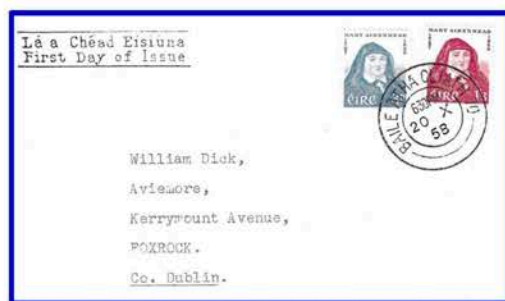
First Day of Issue Covers

Ever since the postal service in Ireland issued its own stamps, 100 years ago, first day of issue covers have been a fascination for philatelists who specialise in Ireland. Mother Mary Aikenhead has not let us down in that respect. In fact by the 1950s, FDCs were a thriving part of Irish Philately. We are going to treat you to a wide variety of the covers for this 1958 issue, but of course there are likely many more interesting covers and cachets out there that these two Billys have not seen. Some covers are quite plain while others excel in their artistry. Let us start with some modest examples.

This pair of covers were cancelled in Dublin and delivered to a Dublin address. The top cover has selvage left on by a clerk not making an effort to remove it? Or, was it left on intentionally, which is what Liam thinks. It is addressed to Emerald Stamp Company, but the web is not helpful.

[Google maps show a private home at this address, likely built in the 50s]

The second cover shows sloppy adhesion: the stamps do not line up neatly.



Beautiful blocks of 4 were used here. This desirable cover is cancelled in Dublin and addressed to New York City. The back is blank.



The light weight airmail envelope was cancelled in Limerick and addressed to Rochester, New York. The SW corner bears a green logo stating Republic of Ireland, First Day Cover. The envelope remains unopened leading to the conclusion that the Franklin Stamp Company requested this cover. Willie believes that Charles F. Bourke sent this FDC, because other covers from Bourke have a similar green logo.

Like the envelope above this is unopened and a lovely cover. Sr. Smith wanted a first day cover of these stamps. The cancellation is very faint, but it does read the first day of issue. Liam can not make out the cancellation town;

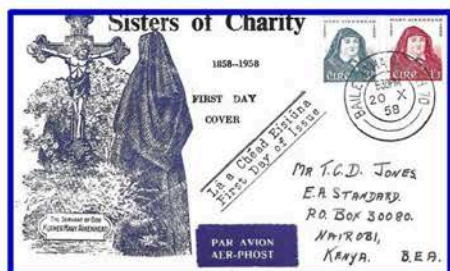
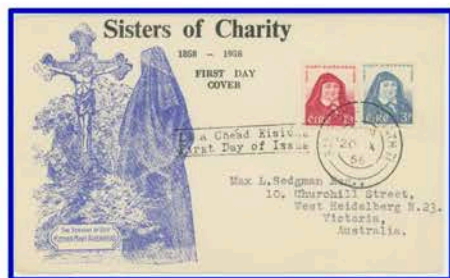


Willie thinks it Lifford or in Irish 'Leithbhearr'. Would any readers able to decipher the this postmark

and confirm the post office please email Liam at liam.malonedc@gmail.com

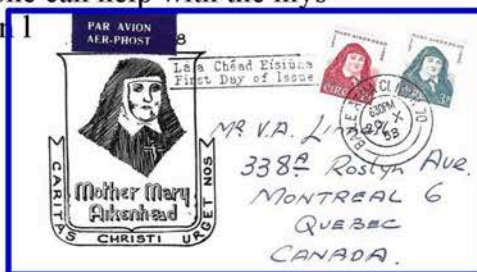
A very fine FDC to London for sale by Aztec Collectables on eBay. Healey & Wise have been stamp dealers since 1885. They are now located in Turnbridge Wells, Kent.

Lets us move now to cachet FDCs.



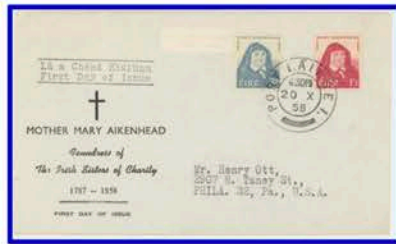
The top specimen, is Willie's cover with the cachet depicting the good nun praying in front of a cross. It is titled The Servant of God, Mother Mary Aikenhead. Cancelled in Baile Átha Cliath [71] on the first day of issue, the 20th of October 1958, it was posted to Max Sedgman in Victoria, Australia. Below is Liam's cover with the same cachet, but the whiter envelope is from the scanning software and the cachet text is moved around so the FDI strike does not overlap on the image of the nun in the cachet. This is postmarked in Dublin 70 and addressed to Kenya, an unusual destination, with an etiquette neatly placed to avoid cachet and address.

A registered cover mailed from Dublin No. 3,986. The date stamp is from Baile Átha Cliath [38], believed to be Capel Street, although the high number on the registration label would suggest the GPO. The cachet has an image of the foundress and an appropriate religious symbol for the time. This cover is Willie's and was cancelled with a circular date stamp in Dublin and addressed to Glasnevin. If anyone can help with the mystery of the postmark and registration I wmackle751@gmail.com



We continue with another pair of covers. Willie's cover is on the left. Addressed to England, each stamp has it's own Baile Átha Cliath 71 circular date stamp. The cachet on this cover is partly obscured by the Aer-Phost label, with the etiquette also covering most of the top banner.

The cachet depicts a charcoal image of Mother Mary and the congregation's motto *Caritas Christi Urget Nos* in Latin, which means *The Love of Christ Urges Us On*. Liam's cover on the right is addressed to Canada. No doubt the stamps adhered to at an angle bear significance between the addressor and the addressee. Only one postmark hits both stamps.



These covers have simple printed cachets stating Mother Mary Aikenhead foundress of the Irish Sisters of Charity. They also tell us that she lived from 1787 to 1858. The left cover is a plain printed envelope that was cancelled in Port Láirge and mailed to Philadelphia.



One has to wonder if Capt. Charles F. Bourke created this cover, but of course there is no evidence to confirm that notion. The right cover was sent to a physician, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where Willie worked in 1985.



This beautiful cachet was designed by Ludwig Wolfgang Staehle. He adorned it with a large heart to represent her charity and a couple of shamrock leaves for her heritage. Staehle was born in Wurttemberg, Germany on January 2nd, 1893. He was trained as an interior decoration draftsman, but he then went on to the College of Fine Arts and Architectural Design and later the School of Industrial Art. His studies concluded, he was drafted in 1914. Probably, lucky for him, he was captured on the French front in 1914 and held prisoner until 1922.

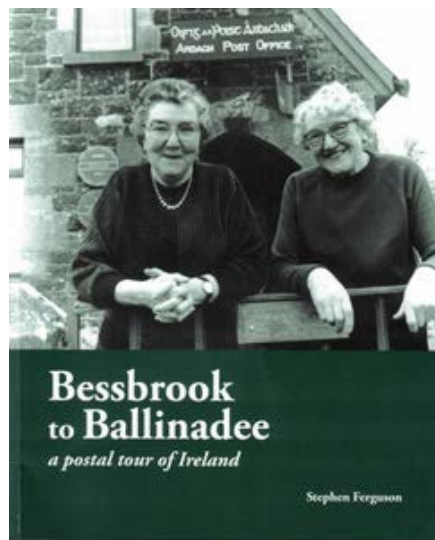
Returning home, he found the post war period had little opportunities for artists. He worked whenever and wherever he could, to survive. He married during this difficult time. His relatives living close to New York City encouraged him to emigrate and fulfill his dream. So, in 1927 he landed in the U.S. There, he quickly established himself as an interior architectural designer, of both private and commercial buildings, working on projects in New York and along the eastern seaboard as far as Florida. His lifelong interest in philately lead him to take up cover design. His earliest known cachets are from 1928, soon after he arrived in New York. World War 2 likely interfered with his architectural design business, but his cachet design business flourished. Here he excelled and Staehle Cachet Covers are much sought after by philatelists. His cachets were unique and they were very patriotic to his adopted homeland. His family was obviously important to him. On one cover he honoured his son Oswald by spelling out his name in navy signal flags. A Staehle Irish Castle series cover that I recently acquired was signed and sent to his daughter Hatty. It is signed RCD-206, registered cachet designer #206. This cover was made available to me by his grandson Stephen Tobin. L.W. Staehle died in 1967, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Some of L.W. Staehle's covers are at the Smithsonian Institute and there is a very comprehensive book available called "The Cachet Catalog of Staehle & Knapp", by M. Douglas Parks, from which this information was gleaned.



Book Review

Bessbrook to Ballinadee, a postal tour of Ireland, by Stephen Ferguson. Published by An Post, General Post office, Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, Ireland. Softcover, 2023.

Stephen Ferguson, An Post's Company Archivist and Museum Curator has written on various aspects of Irish postal history including GPO staff in 1916, the Irish Post Box and the Post Office in Ireland. Here he adds another fine book that records and acknowledges the place of local post offices in Irish life over several generations. In alphabetical order, there are brief descriptions of 89 post offices in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.



The book starts with 31 pages on the general history of Irish post offices. In his introduction, Mr. Ferguson writes “For generations the local post office has been the heart of communities, both urban and rural, throughout Ireland. From the splendid magnificence of Dublin’s GPO to the humble interior of some isolated cottage, the post office has served as the medium that connects the State with its citizens, an honest broker that can be trusted with messages and money and relied on for a bit of sensible advice in difficult times”. Introductory sections include the development of the network, becoming a postmaster, post office buildings, the daily routine – work and conditions, and modernizing the system.

The book then covers the post offices from Abbeyleix in county Laois to Youghal in county Cork.

Approximately one page is devoted to each post office. A brief history is given for each town, as well as any historical events that have taken place there. What would draw a tourist to the town? A photograph of the last or existing post office in the town, mostly taken by the author, as well as an historical photo of the original post office. The historical photos were accessed through sources such as the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, the National Library of Ireland and the Postal Museum. Finally, there is a brief description of the architecture of many of the post offices. A great deal of information for one page, but the author achieves this very nicely.

Some of the towns mentioned have had post offices since the 17th century; for example, Carlow, on the Munster Road – the postal route south to Cork. The post office in Belfast dates to 1739. Many of the post office buildings date to the mid 1800s and are still standing, although many are no longer used as post offices; for example, Bessbrook in county Armagh, built in 1866. One of the earliest illustrations of an Irish post office, dating to 1835, is of the building in Piltown, County Kilkenny; originally a hotel and post office, the building still stands as a pub and restaurant.

There are descriptions of several unusual post offices. The Curragh Camp, in county Kildare existed to serve the needs of one class of customer in particular – soldiers. The Drumcree post office in county Westmeath, until it closed in 2006, was the last thatched premise operating as a post office in Ireland. The Floating Post office was a special service associated with the mail boats that plied between Kingstown (now Dun Laoghaire) and Hollyhead in Wales. Twenty-one Post office staff lost their lives in 1918, when the mail boat *Leinster* was torpedoed by a German submarine. The Mountjoy, county Tyrone post office is now part of the Ulster-American Folk Park at Omagh. The North Strand post office in Dublin, that was bombed by the Germans in 1941, although Ireland was neutral in the war. There is much more; the post offices associated with the formation of the Irish Free State, post offices on islands, Travelling Post offices etc.

The author includes many photos of the postmasters, post mistresses, and postal staff who worked in these post offices. Most were hard working and their jobs were taken up by later generations of the family. They were positions that required the highest degree of honesty and if one was caught being dishonest there was a high price to pay. Postmaster Arthur Wallace, from Carlow, was found guilty of stealing money and forgery and was hanged in Barrack Street just one week later.

There is little in the book on “postal history”, that is postage, postal routes and rates. But for those interested in the many surviving post offices throughout Ireland, this is a wonderful addition to the literature.

One of the largest and most comprehensive stocks of Irish material available on the market.

Some recent offers from our ever-changing stock



2 - 3 Mail-Bid
and Internet Auctions
every year with lots
of exciting IRELAND
material. Send for
YOUR free copy of
the next catalogue
TODAY !!!

Specialising in **collection-building** for the general collector and for Exhibition: whether you collect Ireland **for pleasure**, maybe are even interested in **winning an award** for your collection, or you collect with an eye to **investment**, my business is to help you achieve **your goals**.



Roy Hamilton-Bowen

Eisenbahnstrasse 8

DE- 63110 Rodgau GERMANY

Call: (+49) 6106-3023 Fax: -3024

e-mail: roy.hb@online.de



Publisher of the award-winning Hibernian Handbook and Catalogue

THE web-site for Irish Philately:
www.hibernian-news.eu