

THE FIRST DEFINITIVE STAMP ISSUE OF IRELAND 1922 – 1968: AN INTRODUCTION

This exhibit aims to show the viewer the first set of definitive stamps used by Ireland in its many permutations and types. It will also demonstrate the history of these stamps, various watermarks and formats. Background on the designs of the stamps, their production and dates of usage are also stated. Finally some examples of their usage are shown.

The first series of Irish definitive stamps lasted nearly 50 years from 1922 to the end of the 1960s. It was used at a time of great change in Irish society, from the rough years of Independence struggles, through the poverty struck 1930s and 1940s and then into the changing world of the 1950s and 1960s. By the time these stamps were replaced in 1968/69, Ireland was more wealthy and approaching the modern world. These stamps were issued at a time, when they were seen as revolutionary, but by the late 1960s were being seen as dated and no longer relevant.

These 8 pages will feature all the stamps as issued between 1922 and 1968, their usages, types and issuing formats. Some postal history is also displayed with them.

Blue card = Ordinary Postal and larger items, not stamps. **Red Card** = Scarce and special items, including stamps.



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1972 Sheetlet: 50th anniversary of 1st definitive

Bibliography

Feldman, D. – Handbook of Irish Philately, 1st edition 1968, Dolmen Press, Dublin Ireland

Gibbons, Stanley Ltd – Ireland: 5th Edition, Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue. 5th edition 2011, Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Ringwood, UK

THE FIVE MAIN DESIGNS OF THE FIRST DEFINITIVE ISSUE OF IRISH STAMPS

The Designs remained the same throughout the entire period of issue of these stamps.

Map of Ireland – J. Ingram

The Map of a unified Ireland on a frame with a Romanesque Arch with "Eire" in capitals. Shamrocks and Celtic art whorls at top, value in numbers and Irish Currency (Pingin = Penny). Used on 1d, 1½d and 2d. Design was controversial as it showed Ireland unified, was designed before partition in late 1922.



Celtic Cross of Cong – Miss L. Williams

This design dates from a 1907 series of stamp essays by members of Sinn Fein. It was the wish of Arthur Griffith. The design is reminiscent of carved stone. This design was used only the 3d, 10d and 11d stamps.

Arms of the Four Provinces – Miss M. Girling

The Provinces include Leinster, Connaught, Ulster and Munster. They are in a shield design surrounded by a sea of shamrocks. Used on the 2½d, 4d and 9d

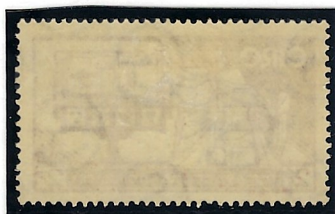


Sword of Light – J. J. O'Reilly

An ancient symbol denoting Resurgence. The Sword shows light and is in a ovoid frame which is surrounded by a stylised snake of Celtic design, with rays. This design was used on 5 stamps, ½d, 5d, 6d, 8d and 1/-

St. Patrick and the Paschal Fire – Richard J. King

This design showed St. Patrick as the Apostle of Ireland bestowing a blessing on the Paschal Fire, surrounded by Acolytes bearing crosses, in a stylised frame of an 11th century bell. These long type high value stamps were introduced in 1937 and have an Art Deco style, which contrasts to the older folksy style of the smaller stamps introduced in 1922 and 1923. Used on 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values.



Watermarks (Stamps are not definitives)

"ES" 1922 – 1940 - Used on first series.
When Ireland was not a republic. S inside an lower case E, with line in middle.



"E" 1940 – 1968 – Used on second series and All the later permutations. Just the letter E
Watermarks phased out in the 1970s

Production notes

Smaller stamps under 2/6, printed in sheets of 240 with 2 panes of 120 (12 x 10) and gutter margin. Perforation 15 x 14. St Patrick long types are Sheets of 40 (8 x 5) and Perforation 14 x 15.

All printed at Government Printing works, Dublin unless noted otherwise.



↑ Middle Gutter
↓ Lower Pane

THE FIRST SERIES 1922 – 1937

The first series of stamps were released between Dec 6 1922 (6d) and Dec 21 1923 (6d)



1/2d – Sword
20/4/23



1d – Map
23/2/23



1 1/2d – Map
2/2/23



2d – Map
6/12/22



2 1/2d – Shield
7/9/23



3d – Cross
16/3/23



4d – Shield
28/9/23



5d – Sword
11/5/23



6d – Sword
21/12/23



9d – Shield
26/10/23



10d – Cross
11/5/23



1/-, - Sword
15/6/23



2/6 – St. Patrick



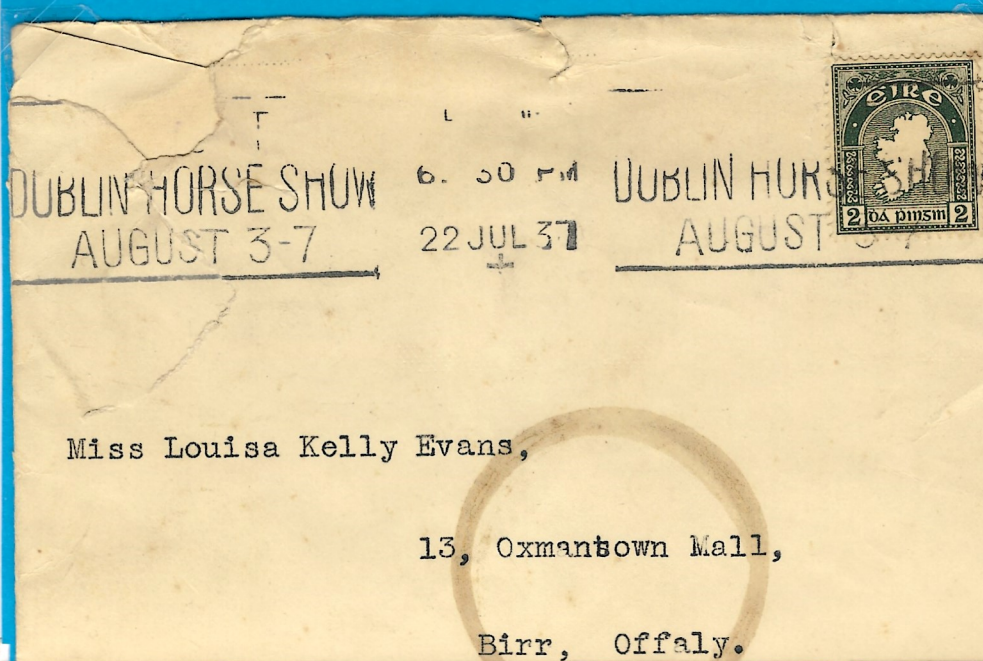
5/-, - St. Patrick



10/-, - St. Patrick

St. Patrick high values all released 8/9/1937. First watermark examples are expensive as they were only used for a few years. The 2d stamp was released first as it was the local postage rate from 1922 until 1941. The 1d, 3d, 5d also represented important postage rates. 1d was Postcards and printed matter, 3d was to the UK, and 5d was global surface rate. These stamps were not withdrawn, but were gradually replaced with the second type, which had the changed watermarks between 1940 and 1945. Coils of the 2d stamp exist in Perf 14 (Scarce) and Perf 15 (Rare) with imperf sides.

EXAMPLES OF USAGE OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF THESE STAMPS



22/7/37

Local letter rate of 2d
Sent from Dublin to
Offaly, cover has slogan
Interesting for a teacup
stain (Small teacup!)
Stamp is first watermark
Twopence – standard.



March 19 – 1924 – Cover to Pasadena, USA from Dublin. Marks indicate it is philatelic mail from a stamp dealer. Rate is 9½d made up of (½d, 1d, 3d and 5d of first type). Likely 5d postage rate plus 3d Registration rate (With label) and 1½d for oversize letter amount. Arrival CD on back shows April 10.

THE SECOND SERIES – INITIAL REISSUE 1940 – 1945

Ireland left the British Empire in 1937 and the watermark was changed in 1940. All the stamps so far issued were reissued between Jan 1940 and July 1945. The ½d and 1/- were replaced by the O'Cleary designs in 1944. All values can be found with inverted watermarks.



½d – 24/11/40



1d – 26/10/40



1½d – 1/40 (Jan)



2d – 1/40



2½d – 3/41



3d – 12/40



4d – 12/40



5d – 7/40



6d – 1942



9d – 7/40



10d – 7/40



1/-, - 6/40

Withdrawal dates - ½d and 1/-, 30/6/44, 1½d and 2½d – 1/11/59, 3d – 31/3/67, 5d – 31/3/68, Rest 15/2/1971.



2/6, – 10/2/43



5/-, - 15/12/43



10/-, - 7/45

White paper versions of these stamps were issued in 1967 and 1968. These are more common than the cream paper examples shown here. These high values were replaced in Oct 1968 (2/6, 10/-) and June 1969 (5/-) with the high values of the Second definitive "Celtic Animals" set.

ADDITIONS 1944 – 1949, BOOKLETS AND NON POSTAL USAGES



Michael O' Cleary ½d and 1/-, 30/6/1944
Commemoratives which became new designs
And replaced the older stamps. Green and
Brown, designed by R.J. King,

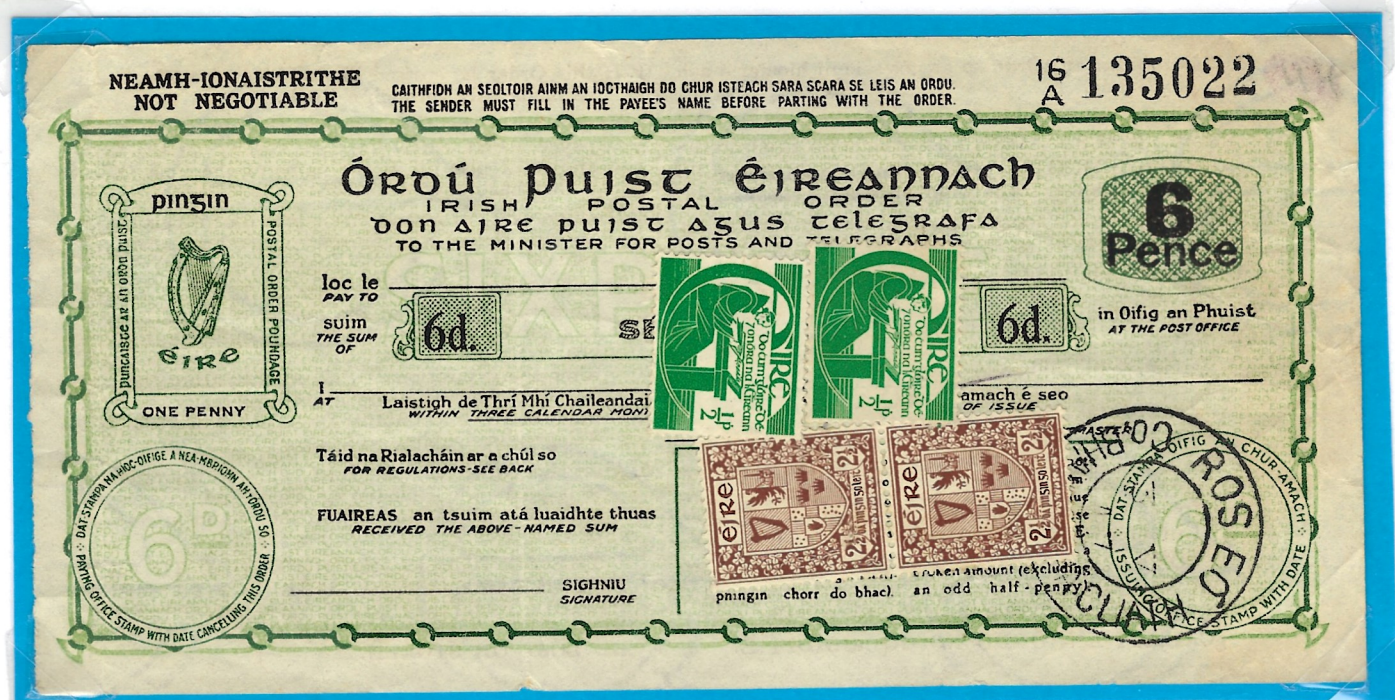


8d and 11d – 12/9/1949
Added to the line-up as these were new
rates, 8d Sword and 11d Cross of Cong.
Designers as 1922/23 issues.



BOOKLET – 1953

Booklets before 1960 are very scarce. This booklet from early 1953 includes the 2½d and 1d of the second series along with the ½d O'Leary (*O'Clerigh*) stamp. We know its early 1953, as the local rate rose to 3d later in the year. 4 Panes, one of each value with an extra one of the Penny stamp (3½d was English letter rate). Panes are interspersed with ads for Insurance, Vellum and Travel to the UK. Cover in Irish Gaelic, with English language ads throughout. Scarce and Complete booklet.

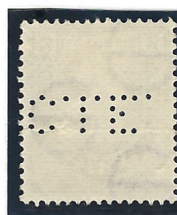


POSTAL ORDER – 1947

Irish Postal Order from 1947 (3 May) used in Dublin for Sixpence. Bilingual, but with bolder Irish Gaelic. Cancelled 2 x 2½d Shield and 2 x ½d O'Cleary over Dublin (Ros Eo Baile Atha Cliath) cancel from 3 V 47 (May 3rd 1947). Unsigned and not used. Bilingual instructions on back. Interesting Item.

PERFIN USAGE C.I.E. 1940s – 1960s

CIE was "Coras Iompair Eireann" (Irish Transport System). This was a government department which controlled most bus services and some train services. Perfin randomly applied. Other perfin exist.



REDUCED SIZE 3d and 5d – 1966 – 1968



3d – 1/8/67



5d Booklet – 1/12/1966

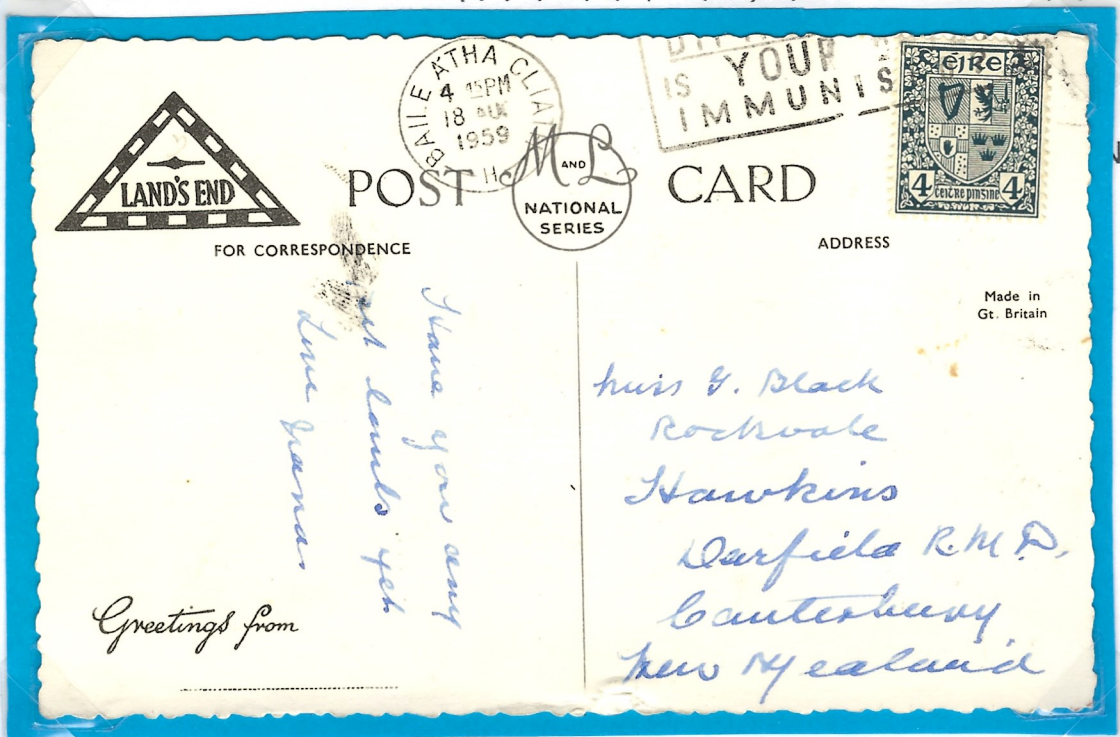


5d Sheet – 1/4/68

Printed using photogravure and smaller format. Issued when 1st class was 5d and 2nd class was 3d. Booklets issued initially for 5d (Shown below pane and cover). 3d and 5d sheet stamps in sheets of 240 (2 panes of 120 vertical 12 x 10). Perf 15. Size 17 x 21mm, white paper. Withdrawn 24/10/68



Booklets issued Dec 1966 (5/-, 1/12, 2/6, – 9/12). 2/6 One Pane of 5d, 5/- 2 Panes, no ads in booklet.



POSTCARD 1959

Postcard of Land's End (UK) New Zealand using 4d Global Postcard rate (1953 – 1962) 4d Shield tied with 18/8/59 Dublin (Baile Atha Cliath) Machine cancel. No receiving marks

PIECES WITH VARIOUS POSTAL RATES 1941 – 1969



2½d Local Rate (3/41 – 6/53)

2½d on piece – 21/6/41



3d Local Rate (6/53 – 10/62)

3d on piece – 16/11/59



5d Local Rate (1/65 – 10/68)

5d Machine cancel 12/3/68



6d Local Rate (10/68 – 9/70)

Late use of 6d sword stamp
1969 Obsolete, but still legal



5d rate (6/53 – 10/62)

Either large letter or overseas
2 x 1d and 1 x 3d – 4/5/57



1/4, Overseas Airmail

1/- O'Cleary and 4d shield
Date either 1954 or 1956



1955 July 25 – Letter to South Korea from Kilkenny. 5d overseas surface rate (1953 – 1962). Dublin cancels tied with 1 x 4d and 1 x 1d. Receiving marks Kobe, Japan(26/9/55) and Korea (15/10/55) – Unreadable (International) and on front. Letter took 79 days (59 to Japan and 20 more to Korea).