

POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

OVERPRINTS OF 1922



King George V



King George V



King George V



King George V



King George V



King George V



King George V



King George V

Feb. 17 and later. Overprinted by Dollard Ltd. in five lines, black or gray-black, on stamps of Great Britain. The overprint, 15x17½ mm., means "Provisional Government of Ireland." In 1922, pending enactment of the statutes to make Ireland a Free State, the Government was only Provisional. In addition to dimensions of overprint, key to Dollard issue is "antique" type used for 1922 — unlike block type used in dates of all other overprint issues.



King George V



King George V



King George V

In April Dollard altered the overprint color on certain values to red or carmine, to overcome a lack of contrast between the original black overprint and the color of the engraved stamp.

OVERPRINTS OF 1922



George V and Allegory



George V and Allegory



George V and Allegory

The 4-line Dollard Overprint on the high values measured $21\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ mm., and 21×14 mm. In both, the word "hÉIREANN" alone measures $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm. This key is important, as will soon be seen.



King George V



King George V



King George V



King George V

Feb. 17. Since Dollard did not overprint certain needed values, the work was entrusted to Alex. Thom & Co. The supplementary values appeared simultaneously with the Dollards, and upon the same British issues. In black, these 5-line overprints measure $14\frac{1}{2} \times 16$ mm. The Thoms are easily distinguished from the Dollards not only by size of the overprint, but by the date in block type.



POSTAGE STAMPS OF

IRELAND

(ÉIRE)

OVERPRINTS OF 1922



In July, during street fighting, the Dollard plant was badly damaged. All overprinting contracts, except for coils, now passed entirely to Thom. Through summer and early autumn, Thom produced a further printing of all low values with the same Thom overprint as before, but now in blue-black, glossy blue-black, carmine and red. Distinguishing the 1½d, 2d, 6d and 1/- values of this overprinting from the same denominations of the first Thom printing in February, is perhaps the most difficult task. Variations in the plates are subtle, and while these are often pointed to as adequate for distinguishing the printings, the only safe guide is in the inks used - blue-black against the plain black of the original Thom values.



OVERPRINTS OF 1922

The Overprint on the Thom high values, 21x13 1/4 mm., greatly resembles the Dolland, for in this case only, the antique 1922 again appears. The two issues are constantly confused, but their distinction is really simple.



George V and Allegory

Quite aside from the differences in the sizes of overprints and the ink, the sure guide is in the length of hÉireann - 14 mm. You will recall that the Dolland hÉireann is 14 1/2 mm. Other words of the overprint differ by 1/2 mm., as well, but the foregoing will suffice.



George V and Allegory



George V and Allegory



King George V



King George V



King George V



King George V

In November - December some shortages loomed, but the definitive issue was almost daily expected, and the overprints being on a more or less hand to mouth basis, the needed values were overprinted from the master plate direct, resulting in what is called the "wire setting," in which the overprint measures 15 1/2 x 16 mm. Use of the master plate made no provision for the usual stereo shrinkage, which accounts for the variation. Overprinted in the now familiar blue-black, this last Provisional issue can with practice be distinguished by eye.



King George V



OVERPRINTS OF 1922-23



The awaited legislation being enacted, Ireland officially became a Free State, and in December appeared the first of the "Saorstát Éireann 1922" or 3-line overprints in blue-black, size 15x1 1/4 mm. These "Irish Free State 1922" overprints were necessary due to still further delays in producing the definitive issue.



POSTAGE STAMPS OF

IRELAND

(ÉIRE)



45b



49a



50a



53a



POSTAGE STAMPS OF

IRELAND

(ÉIRE)



48a



44b

ACCENT INSERTED
MIDDLE RIGHT



POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

OVERPRINTS OF 1922-23



LH



King George V



LH

The Thom high value Saorstát overprints with their 6½ mm. 1922, are frequently mistaken for a later printing. Distinguishing between the two issues will be taken up presently.

FIRST DEFINITIVE ISSUE

1922-23



Sword of Light



Map of Éire



Map of Éire



Map of Éire



Coat of Arms



Cross of Cong

After many delays and complications with the definitives, small quantities of the 2d. Map of Ireland variety were rushed through for limited sale December 6, to mark establishment of the Free State. The other low values appeared piecemeal during the following year. The four designs at last chosen for the long-awaited definitive issue were, in addition to the "Map of Ireland," the "Sword of Light," "Coat of Arms" and "Celtic Cross" or "Cross of Cong." The issue was typographed at the Government Printing Works, Dublin Castle.



POSTAGE STAMPS OF

IRELAND

(ÉIRE)



↑
562





59a-62a



POSTAGE STAMPS OF

IRELAND

(ÉIRE)



NH

NH

776-796





DEFINITIVE ISSUE

1922 - 23



Coat of Arms



Sword of Light



Sword of Light



Coat of Arms



Celtic Cross



Sword of Light

OVERPRINTS OF 1925-27



King George V

In 1923, plans for producing the definitive high values remained confused. A further issue of Saorstáts, in black and gray-black, appeared from Dublin Castle. The length of the overprinted 1922 was shortened to 5 1/4 mm. "Castle" high values can be told from Thom high value Saorstáts by the color of the overprint ink and the "narrow" 1922 (5 1/4 mm.) as against the Thom "wide" 1922 (6 1/4 mm.)





POSTAGE DUE ISSUES

1925



No definitive Postage Due stamps appeared at the time the regular issue was offered -- British dues, not overprinted, continuing in use until 1925. In that year the first Irish Dues appeared -- an issue made up of 1/2d, 1d, 2d, and 6d.

1943



1952



POSTAGE STAMPS OF

IRELAND

(ÉIRE)



J11a



J15a



POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

CENTENARY OF CATHOLIC EMANCIPATION

1929



Daniel O'Connell



Daniel O'Connell



Daniel O'Connell

On June 22, 1929, appeared the first of Ireland's Commemoratives -- three values to mark a hundred years of Catholic Emancipation. The issue bore a likeness of Daniel O'Connell, lawyer, politician and great Irish patriot, Daniel O'Connell goes down in history as "The Liberator." This name was given him for his unceasing efforts to gain Catholic Emancipation -- a goal attained in 1829.

HYDRO ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

1930



Shannon River

To memorialize completion of the Shannon Hydro Electric Scheme, a special stamp went on sale October 15, 1930. The Shannon project had long been an Irish dream, for the nation badly needed increased electric power. The stamp shows the wire near O'Brien's Bridge, County Limerick.

ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY

1931



Peasant Worker

The 200th Anniversary of the Royal Dublin Society was postally marked on June 12, 1931, by issue of a pale blue commemorative. The color was chosen over green out of compliment to the Society's blue flag. Founded in 1731 for the improvement of husbandry and "other useful arts," this group is father to all such societies in Europe.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

1932



Cross of Cong



Cross of Cong

The 1932 International Eucharistic Congress was marked on June 12 by issue of two commemoratives, depicting the Cross of Cong (Celtic Cross) with a choice inset. The theme of this issue's design followed that of the Eucharistic Congress badge. The actual Cross of Cong, a magnificent gold and silver ornament, was made in the 13th Century for Turlough O'Connor, King of Connaught, and is now in the Irish National Museum.

HOLY YEAR

1933



Adoration of the Cross



Adoration of the Cross

For Holy Year, 1933, two commemoratives appeared on Sept. 18. They remained current until the close of the Holy Year at Easter, 1934. Designs for this issue were solicited through a competition, won by R. J. King, whose artistry is seen in several of Ireland's stamps.

GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1934

The Golden Jubilee of the Gaelic Athletic Association was commemorated on July 27, 1934, by issue of a stamp showing a hurler in action. Founded in November, 1884, to keep alive the National Games (such as hurling), the Gaelic Athletic Association's first meeting was attended by only seven people. Today the Association claims to be the most powerful amateur body of its kind in the world.



Hurling



POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

OVERPRINTS OF 1934



George V and Allegory



George V and Allegory



George V and Allegory

In 1934 plans for issue of definitive high values were still incomplete, resulting in a further overprinting, this time upon the British issue engraved by Waterlow. These were the last of the overprints upon the stamps of Great Britain. The Waterlows were overprinted in black with the Saorstát "wide dots" cliché, but need never be mistaken for earlier issues, since the portrait background is made up of crossed lines, while all previous engravings had horizontal lines only.

DEFINITIVE ISSUE 1937



St. Patrick and Paschal Fire



St. Patrick and Paschal Fire



St. Patrick and Paschal Fire

The original plan for definitive high values was for three scenic denominations, but in 1935 this idea was abandoned in favor of a symbolic presentation. The design finally chosen shows St. Patrick and the Paschal Fire. The stamps did not appear until September 8, 1937. The designer was R. I. King who in his quest for symbolism, went to the heart of Irish history. His St. Patrick design proved immensely popular.



POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

CONSTITUTION DAY

1937



Allegory of Eire



Allegory of Eire

On December 29, 1937, Irish Constitution Day was honored by two commemoratives showing a symbolic figure beside an Irish harp (national emblem), examining an open book upon which were inscribed the opening words of the new Constitution. The seated figure is "Dear, Dark Rosaleen" Irish symbolic counterpart of "Uncle Sam."

TEMPERANCE CRUSADE

1938



Father Mathew



Father Mathew

For the Centenary of the Temperance Crusade in Ireland, on July 1, 1938 two stamps were issued, displaying the head of Father Theobald Mathew, who had inaugurated the movement. Father Mathew, a member of the Capucian Order, sponsored that most difficult kind of all national movements—one designed to alter the social habits of a people. His famous phrase, "Here goes, in the name of God," appears on the stamps.

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

1939



American Eagle and Harp

On March 1, 1939, two stamps appeared to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the American Constitution. In this issue G. Atkinson, the artist, combined a profile portrait of Washington, an American Eagle with shield of the 13 original American colonies, and at right, the Irish harp. Across the lower part of the designs appear the words: "May the Irish people celebrate the occasion of the 150th year of the American Constitution."



American Eagle and Harp



POSTAGE STAMPS OF

IRELAND

(ÉIRE)





POSTAGE STAMPS OF

IRELAND

(ÉIRE)



POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

EASTER REBELLION

1941

OVERPRINTS



Map of Éire



Celtic Cross

To memorialize the 25th Anniversary of the never to be forgotten Easter Rising of 1916, and in anticipation of a commemorative still in preparation, on April 12, 1941, the 2d. and 3d. of the regular issue, in special colors, went on sale overprinted "1941 Easter Rising 1916."

EASTER REBELLION

1941

DEFINITIVE

In 1941, Easter fell upon April 13, but it was not until the following October 27 that the definitive commemorative for the Easter Rising of 1916 was issued. The stamp shows a young volunteer outside the General Post Office, Dublin, where traditionally, the 1916 fighting began. At the stamp's upper left is the opening phrase of the Proclamation of an Irish Republic. Signers of the document were captured and sentenced to death.



Volunteer Soldier and Dublin Post Office

GAELIC LEAGUE

1943



Dr. Hyde



Dr. Hyde

The 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Gaelic League was marked by an issue of two stamps on July 31, 1943, honoring the League's (and the nation's) first President, Dr. Douglas Hyde. Brilliant teacher and immortal patriot, Dr. Hyde devoted his life to the task of gaining Home Rule for Ireland. Though a Protestant in a land overwhelmingly Catholic, so great was Hyde's popularity that he was unanimously chosen Ireland's first President.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

SIR ROWAN HAMILTON

1943



Sir Rowan Hamilton



Sir Rowan Hamilton

November 13, 1943, marked the Centenary of the Announcement of the formula of Quaternions, a new, far-reaching method of mathematical analysis. To commemorate the important scientific milestone, two stamps appeared, bearing a likeness of Sir William Rowan Hamilton, discoverer of the formula.

MICHAEL O'CLERY

1944



Michael O'Clery



Michael O'Clery

The tercentenary of the death of Michael O'Clery, Irish poet and historian, was honored June 30, 1944, by two stamps. Born in 1575, Michael O'Clery became a Franciscan friar and spent his life collecting Irish manuscripts of historic significance. His most famous work was "The Annals of the Four Masters."

BROTHER RICE

1944



Brother Rice

August 29, 1944, was the Centenary of the death of Brother Rice, founder of the Irish Christian Brothers. Edmund Ignatius Rice (1762-1844) so systematized his efforts, that the religious order in which he was the prime mover, extended its charitable work beyond the shores of Ireland, into England. Today the Irish Christian Brothers have numerous branches, schools and orphanages not only throughout Ireland, but in far off Australia, India and Newfoundland.



YOUNG IRELANDERS

1945



Sower

The Centenary of the death of Thomas Davis, founder in 1840 of the Young Ireland Party, was commemorated September 15, 1945 by an issue of two stamps. These bore a figure of youth sowing seeds of freedom, symbolic of the movement which Davis sponsored.



Sower

PARNELL AND DAVITT CENTENARY

1946



Plowman



Plowman

On September 16, 1946, the Centenaries of the births of Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt were noted on a set of two stamps. Leaders in the long struggle for Irish political independence, both specialized in Land Reform. The stamps showed a typical Irish rural scene, titled "Country and Homestead."

THEOBALD WOLFE TONE

1948



Theobald Wolfe Tone

The 150th Anniversary of the Irish Insurrection of 1798 was recalled November 19, 1948, with two stamps bearing the likeness of Theobald Wolfe Tone, instigator of the unsuccessful movement which cost his life. In the main, he urged close cooperation between the religious sects of Ireland, as a practical means of attaining political emancipation. Later, with French and Dutch aid, he attempted revolt against the British in Ireland. At last, captured in the uniform of a French officer, Tone was sentenced to be hanged.



Theobald Wolfe Tone





FIRST AIR MAIL ISSUE

1948-49



Rock of Cashel



Lough Derg



Croagh Patrick



Glendalough, Leinster

Up to 1953 there has been but one Irish Air Post issue, and this was divided into two parts. The 3d. and 6d. appeared April 7, 1948, while the 1d. and 1/- values were offered a year later - April 4, 1949. All four show the allegorical "Voice of Ireland" or "Angel Victor" soaring over well known Irish scenes. The views used for the four air post values are as follows: 1d: Rock of Cashel, Munster; 3d: Lough Derg, famous summer resort; 6d: Croagh Patrick; 1/-: Glendalough, Leinster.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

POSTAGE ISSUES OF 1949



Sword of Light



Celtic Cross

In 1949, the need arose for additional values in the regular issue. 8d. and 11d. stamps resulted, the designs uniform with the older emissions.

POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

1949



Leinster House - Dublin



Leinster House - Dublin

Although the de facto Republic of Ireland had at last come into being through Legislative Act on Easter Monday, April 18, 1949, it was not until November 21 that the legalised Republic was honored by a set of two. These commemoratives show Leinster House where the Republic of Ireland Act was signed. The design was by Mrs. Mariel Brandt, noted Irish painter.

JAMES CLARENCE MANGAN

1949



Mangan

The 100th Anniversary of the death of the poet Mangan was remembered with a special stamp first sold December 5, 1949. James Clarence Mangan (1803-1849) is generally rated as the greatest of the Irish poets who wrote in English, prior to Yeats. Humbly born and something of a mystic, Mangan was widely read in Oriental literature. In his autobiographical ballad, The Nameless One, he subtly caught the underlying tragedy of Irish hopes and aspirations.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

HOLY YEAR 1950



St. Peter



St. Peter



St. Peter

This series of three commemoratives was issued to mark the Holy Year of 1950. The design depicts the bronze statue of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, the foot of which has been worn considerably by the kisses of pilgrims.

THOMAS MOORE

1953



Thomas Moore



Thomas Moore

November 10, 1952 was the Centenary of the death of the poet, Thomas Moore. Born in Dublin in 1779, Thomas Moore is perhaps best known for his Irish Melodies, in which he set lyrics of haunting beauty to traditional Irish airs, such as *Off in the Stilly Night* and *The Last Rose of Summer* - both still popular. Moore's novel, *Lalla Rookh*, is also read to this day. In youth Moore was a close friend of Robert Emmet, and a song of Moore's laments Emmet's tragic end.

AN TOSTAL

1953



Harp



Harp

To bring advance publicity to An Tostal, the elaborate Irish Home-coming Festival of April 5 to 26, 1953, on February 9 two stamps appeared, bearing the Festival's official emblem - a traditional Irish harp, symbolic of gatherings. The head and forepillar of the harp used in the An Tostal issue, were woven into an ornamentation taken from the Book of Kells. These stamps marked a first departure from conventional design in Irish commemoratives.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

ROBERT EMMET

1953



Robert Emmet



Robert Emmet

Born in Dublin, in 1778, Robert Emmet gave his life for the Irish cause. He led a revolutionary uprising in 1803, but failed and was apprehended and hung September 20, 1803. These stamps commemorate the 150th anniversary of the execution.

MARIAN YEAR

1954



Madonna & Child



Madonna & Child

Issued to commemorate the Marian Year, 1953-54, the design features a Madonna and child, the work of the famous Italian, della Robbia.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)

CARDINAL NEWMAN

1954



Cardinal Newman



Cardinal Newman

John Henry Newman, cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church, was born in London, February 21, 1801. His career is an unusual one in that he began as a Protestant clergyman, but later became a zealous Catholic and rose to high rank in the Roman Catholic Church. The stamps were issued for the centenary of the opening of the Catholic University of Ireland.

AIR MAIL

1954



Lough Derg



Rock of Cashel

These additional denominations to the first air mail series were necessitated by changes in air mail postage rates.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND (ÉIRE)



John Barry

JOHN BARRY

1956

John Barry was known as the "Father of the American Navy." He was born in Tacumshane, Ireland, in 1745 and came to America at the age of 15 and settled in Philadelphia, where he acquired wealth and influence. In 1776, at the beginning of the American Revolution, he was appointed commander of the Lexington and captured the Edward, the first British ship to be taken by an officer of the United States Navy.



John Barry

THOMAS O'CROHAN

1957

This set of two stamps honors Thomas O'Crohan on the centenary of his birth. He wrote "The Islandman" which became a classic in Irish literature. The book enshrines a faithful description of the way of life on the islands off the coast of Kerry. It was a remarkable achievement by an uneducated fisherman.



Thomas O'Crohan



Thomas O'Crohan



John Redmond



John Redmond

JOHN REDMOND

1957

Featuring a portrait of John Redmond, this set commemorates the 100th anniversary of his birth. Redmond was a follower of Parnell and a leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party. The stamps are recess printed by Messrs. De La Rue at Clonskeagh, Dublin on paper watermarked with the letter "E".

IRELAND

(ÉIRE)

WILLIAM BROWN

1957



William Brown



William Brown

Irish-born William Brown emigrated with his family to Philadelphia when just a few years old. In 1810, when the Spanish-American colonies were in revolt, Brown threw in his lot with the insurgents. From small beginnings he created the navy of the Argentine and quickly established a reputation for exceptional courage, skill and daring in battle. His numerous successful actions against superior Spanish forces played a key part in the winning of independence by his adopted country and earned for him the rank of admiral. These stamps commemorate the centenary of his death.

REVEREND LUKE WADDING

1957



Rev. Luke Wadding



Rev. Luke Wadding

Luke Wadding was born in Waterford in 1558. He studied first in Portugal, where he entered the Franciscan Order, and later in Spain where he was ordained to the priesthood. When Ireland was passing through one of the darkest periods of her history he worked incessantly to secure men and money to help in the national struggle. The stamps mark the three hundredth anniversary of his death.



IRELAND

(ÉIRE)

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ARTHUR GUINNESS

1959

Issued in 1959, this set commemorates the bicentenary of the world famous Guinness Brewery in Ireland.



Arthur Guinness



Arthur Guinness

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

1960



Holy Family Flight



Holy Family Flight

This set was designed by Karl Uhlemann and is based on the Flight of the Holy Family. It was released on June 20, 1960 in cooperation with other member nations of the United Nations.

EUROPA

1960



Nineteen Spoke Wheel



Nineteen Spoke Wheel

Released on September 19, 1960 to commemorate the founding of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations. The design features a wheel with 19 spokes, one spoke for each member administration.





AER LINGUS

1961



De Havilland Dragon & Boeing Jet



De Havilland Dragon & Boeing Jet

Issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Aer Lingus (Irish International Airlines), this set of two stamps was released June 26, 1961. Featured in the design are the original and the latest type of aircraft used by the Company—A De Havilland Dragon and a Boeing Jet—as well as portions of the terminal building at Dublin Airport.

15TH CENTENARY OF ST. PATRICK

1961



Saint Patrick



Saint Patrick



Saint Patrick

The fifteenth centenary of the death of St. Patrick, Ireland's Patron Saint to whom Churches have been dedicated throughout the world, is the subject for this set released September 25, 1961. The design is based on a representation of the Saint contained in a Biography of Irish Saints published in Paris in 1624 by Reverend Dr. Thomas Messingham.

