

The development and Use of the 2d Map of Ireland Stamp -- December 1922 to June 1941

Synopsis by Robert Benninghoff

Purpose and Scope: This single frame exhibit shows the development and use of the first Irish Designed Stamp. The 2d Map of Ireland was the only Irish stamp to be issued in sheet format, as paste-up coils, booklets, experimental coils (both horizontal and vertical) and as a commemorative stamp (April 1941). The exhibit sufficiently presents all of the formats in which the stamp was issued, *in the order they were issued*.

Importance: The stamp was designed and issued as a **Political Statement** showing all 32 counties of Ireland including the 6 counties of Northern Ireland which remain part of Great Britain. . It was **Important** for the new Irish Free State to show the world that Ireland was **Considered to be One Country and Indivisible**.

The 2d stamp paid the letter rate within Ireland and to Great Britain and several preferential countries such as the Commonwealth and the USA. The exhibit time period is from 1922 until June 1 1941 when the letter rate increased to 2 1/2d.

The exhibit represents over 50 years of research & collecting Irish material related to the first Irish designed stamp. The 2d, **Map of all Ireland**, stamp was issued on 6 December 1922 to mark the beginning of the Irish Free State. **Important and Rare items are show with a green background. Rare items are indicated by a census.**

Noteworthy: **The 2d vertical coil (Scott 68b) is considered one of the rarest of Irish stamps with only 5 coil rolls made and only 4 known examples used on cover – one of which is included in the exhibit.**

Treatment: The exhibit is laid out in eight chapters on eight, 11 x 17inch double pages.

Highlights:

The exhibit shows several proofs of the design by James Ingram leading to the printing and issue of the stamp, in sheet format, on 6 December 1922. Several interesting First Day of Issue covers are shown.

The exhibit shows the paste-up coils issued in 1925 finally replacing the Harrison & Son coils (1922 and 1923 -1925). Included in this section are the paste-up coils used to pay the 2d receipt fee on documents.

Exhibit shows the development and use of the booklets, beginning with the first, issued in 1931. The booklets had panes of 6 stamps and several values included. Several pages of advertisements were intermixed between the panes of stamps. Shown is one of these booklets sent as a proof to an advertiser. Several booklet stamps and panes are shown on cover. **Few of these covers with booklet panes are known to remain.**

The 2d stamp was the only coil to be produced as both Vertical and Horizontal experimental coils beginning in 1934. **The 2d vertical coil is shown both used & on cover (one of four known on cover). A mint copy has been added since November 2023, 1 of 30 recorded.**

The exhibit concludes with the 2d MAP stamp issued as a commemorative (25th Anniversary of the 1916 Rebellion) on April 12 1941. The stamp was issued in **Orange** and overprinted in Green, **in Gaelic, and was the same size and sheet format as the 2d Green Map stamp**. Several interesting covers are shown including First Day of Issue. The exhibit ends with a postage due cover on June 16 – there was a grace period of 15 days after the letter rate change of June 1. 16 June 1941 was the first day that postage due was charged.



2d Orange Commemorative Map Stamp

Illustration shows this stamp was laid out & printed same as 2d green definitive stamp. *Illustration is from the top right Marginal Block of 30 shown in exhibit*

References available from the American Philatelic Society Research Library

Benninghoff, Robert: *2d Printer Trial Sheets for Stamps and Booklets*, Irish Philately, Journal of the Irish Philatelic Society, April 2023, pages 10 to 11

Cousins, Barry: *Ireland's Permanent Definitive Stamps and Essays 1922 to 1937*, second Edition, 1915 Self Published, Pages 1.03 to 1.08 and 5.01 to 5.09.

Cousins, Barry: *Irish Booklets 1931 -1966*, Irish Philately, Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle, August 2022, pages 42 to 49

Dulin, Dr. C.I.: *Ireland's Transition*: MacDonnell Whyte Ltd, Dublin 1992, pages 37 to 42

Dulin Dr. C.I.: *Irish Booklets*, Self-Published 2008. Pages 37 and 38

Warren, Brian: *Irish Postal Rates 1839 to 2014*, FAI, German- Irish Philatelic Society, Pages 11, 20 & 28

Changes since last showing at Chicagopex 2023

- (1) Added a mint copy of the 2d Vertical Coil (Scott 68b) one of 30 known -- Page 7
- (2) Added a crash cover with 2d paste-up coils to frame 5

