

The Irish Gerl Definitives - £.s.d. Issues

Purpose and Importance of Exhibit: This exhibit charts the introduction and issue of the second set of permanent definitive designs issued by the Irish Post Office. This was the first change in designs in forty-five years and heralded a new more modern approach by the Irish postal authorities. The set was only in use for a relatively short time from 1968 as the country changed over to decimal currency in 1971.

Research: The exhibitor co-wrote the leading specialised catalogue on this issue in 1978. Subsequent new information was published in *Irish Stamp News* and *Irish Philately*. The postal rates information was obtained from official Post Office rates information held in the National Library of Ireland and published in the exhibitor's own joint publication referred to below.



*Photograph of an original essay of unaccepted design by Heinrich Gerl
(from the only known set of photographs in private hands)*

Organisation of Exhibit

- Changeover and launch of issue
- Designs including unadopted designs
- Sheet layout and markings
- Sheet Issues - Samuel Jones Paper
- Sheet Issues - Change to Harrison & Sons paper
- Sheet Issues - Change to PVA gum
- Coil Stamps
- Booklet issue

Significant Items: Apart from the a block of the 2d value from the only recorded sheet with PVA gum, the exhibit also includes one of the few "Specimen" stamps known to exist and the only known unissued 1s5d stamp in private hands. 2d and 3d coil strips produced from regular sheets from the one known set of coil rolls to survive are also shown as is an example of the only known perforation variety (6d). The only known example of the 1d stamp used on a Telegram Receipt form is also shown. All unusual and significant items are marked with a .

Bibliography

: The Gerl Definitives by the exhibitor and Eddie FitzGerald (Ian Whyte, 1978)

Irish Postal Rates – 1839 to 2014 by Joachim Schaaf and the exhibitor (Forschungs-und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland, 2014)