

World of Stamps:

Island Communities: Ireland

by Geir Sør-Reime (*From Mekeel's & Stamps, November 26, 2010*)

The island of Ireland is currently divided between the Republic of Ireland (described in this "Islands" series under E, Eire) and Northern Ireland, a country within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Except for pretender issues of Irish republicans, no stamps have ever been issued for the whole of the island, but British stamps were used throughout Ireland from 1840 until 1922, and in Northern Ireland, British stamps are still in use.

But unlike the case of the postage stamps, distinct fiscal stamps were issued for Ireland before independence. In 1838, embossed revenue stamps inscribed "IRELAND" were first issued. In 1858, "Petty Sessions" and "Admiralty



Ireland 1868 Admiralty Court revenue (Barefoot#13)

Ireland 1882 Judicature revenue (Barefoot#24)

Ireland 1895 Judicature revenue (Barefoot#32)

Court" stamps of Great Britain were issued with Ireland overprints. Later, distinct stamps for Chancery Court, Ireland (from 1867), County Courts (from 1878), dog licences (from 1865), Judicature Ireland (from 1878), Land Commission (from 1881), Land Registry (from 1906), Registration of Titles



Ireland 1868 Chancery Fee Fund revenue (overprinted Specimen) (Barefoot#30)

(from 1865), and Registration of Deeds (from 1861) were introduced, many of which displayed a portrait of Queen Victoria, or later monarchs.

The first issues for the southern part of Ireland, the part that later became the Republic of Ireland, were British stamps over-



1922 "Provisional Government of Ireland" overprint on British stamp (Sc. 13)

printed "Provisional Government of Ireland, 1922" in Gaelic, first issued February 17, 1922.

In December 1922, British stamps overprinted "IRISH FREE STATE 1922" were issued, but except for the high values, these were replaced by stamps inscribed "EIRE" from December 6, 1922 onwards. The high-value overprints continued in use, however, until replaced by a design inscribed "EIRE" only in September 1937.



1949 for proclamation of republic and inscribed "Republic of Ireland" (Sc. 139)



When in 1969, the Free State was proclaimed a republic, stamps inscribed "Republic of Ireland" in English and Gaelic were issued. Also two subsequent stamp issues of 1949 and 1950 had this inscription, whereas later issues reverted to the "EIRE" inscription.



1949 for poet James Clarence Mangan and also inscribed 'Republic of Ireland' (Sc. 141)

Factions within the Irish Republic Army, an active agent in securing Irish independence, never accepted the partition of Ireland into a Free State and the British-ruled Northern Ireland, and already in 1922 revolted. For some time, the Republicans held large areas in the south of Ireland, and in July 1922, the Republicans also issued distinct



1922 Sinn Fein stamp inscribed "Post of the Republic of Ireland" and used in Cork area when the IRA had control over large parts of Ireland

stamps. Few of these stamps ever saw postal service, as the bulk of the supply was destroyed in a fire before they could be released. These stamps were inscribed “Republic of Ireland” in Gaelic. The IRA has also issued a number of propaganda labels.

There also exist so-called essays for Irish stamps made by the Fenian Society in the U.S. in 1866 or 1867. Most of these are inscribed “REPUBLIC OF IRELAND”, but are denominated in Canadian currency, and is said to have been prepared for



Sinn Fein label, design later used for first definitive series of Eire



1967 Irish stamps reproducing the Fenian ‘essays’ (Sc. 238-39)



1866 Fenian ‘essay’



1866 Fenian ‘essay’

a planned invasion by Irish into Canada. Some of these stamps were in fact reproduced on 1967 Irish stamps for the centenary of the Fenians. According to Scott, these “essays” are fantasies produced by S. Allan Taylor.

Local souvenir labels were issued in 1997 to commemorate the 1400th anniversary of the death of St. Columba. As there is a post-office in the village, these ‘stamps’ are merely souvenir labels rather than genuine local carriage labels.

The British post-office in 1997 also issued four real postage stamps to celebrate St. Columba (Sc. 1730-33).

Celebrating St. Patrick’s Day

by John F. Dunn

It is hard to discuss Ireland for long without also including St. Patrick—and St. Parick’s Day—in the discussion. And so, as a supplement to the historical focus of the World of Stamps article by Geir Sør-Reime, we add here a selection of St. Patricks stamps—the Saint himself as well as the tradition of St. Patrick’s Day and the worldwide ‘Wearing of the Green’—a song and a term, incidentally, that is not related directly to St. Patrick, but instead is related to the Irish Rebellion of 1798 in particular and to the fight for Irish independence in general. (See page 4 for the lyrics.)

On this page we start with a display of stamps issued by Ireland honoring St. Patrick.



1982, Sc. 520: Conversion of Ireland to Christianity; “St. Patrick and His Followers” by Vincenzo Valdre



2006, Sc. 1649: “St. Patrick Lights the Paschal Fire at Slane” by Sean Keating.



1937, Sc. 96



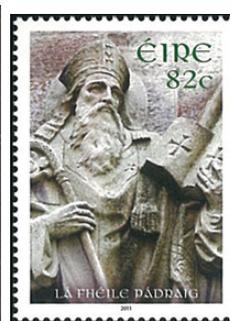
1961, Sc. 179



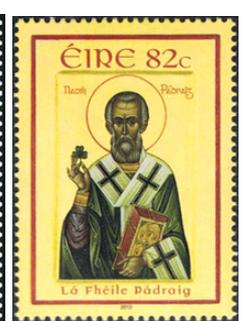
2004, Sc. 1535



St. Patrick’s Day issues, left to right: 2008, Sc. 1769;



2011, Sc. 1912; 2012, Sc. 1952



Next we see a selection of St. Patricks stamps from around the world.



From the Vatican City, a First Day Cover for the October 6, 1961 set, Sc. 313-316, commemorating the 1,500th Death Anniversary of St. Patrick.



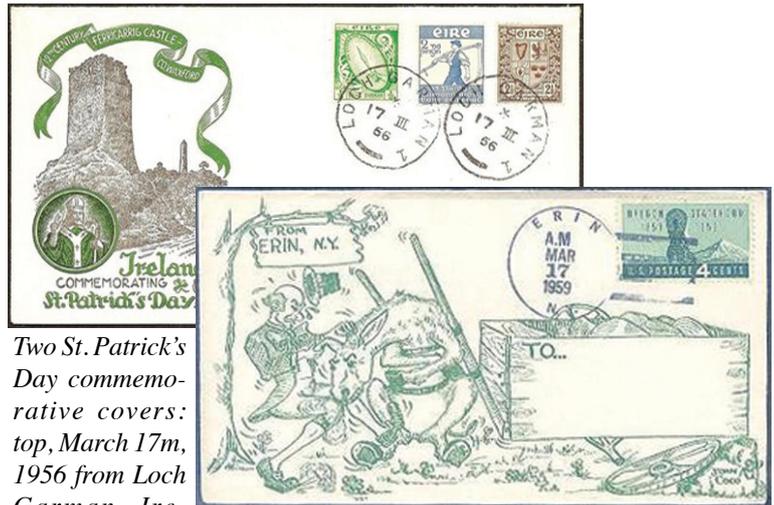
From Pakistan, a First Day Cover for the September 29, 1978 set, Sc. 455-456, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Karachi, Pakistan



Monaco Sc. 1195, St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York



France Sc. 2508, St. Patrick's Day, 1996



Two St. Patrick's Day commemorative covers: top, March 17m, 1956 from Loch Garman, Ireland; bottom March 17, 1959 from Erin, N.Y. The U.S. cover is one of a number of annual cacheted covers, sometimes with pictorial cancellations, produced by towns with names related to Ireland or St. Patrick.

Next we show a few more Ireland issues for St. Patrick's Day with themes other than St. Patrick himself.



2007, picturing a Shamrock

2013, with St. Patrick's Day revellers



Ireland St. Patrick's Day 2003, Sc. 1457-59: St. Patrick; St. Patrick's Day Parade, Dublin; St. Patrick's Day Parade, New York

Finally, seven Irish airmail stamps were issued between 1948 and 1965, Sc. C1-C7. The designs feature the Flight of the Angel Victor—Messenger of St. Patrick—carrying the Voice of the Irish over the world flying over four well-known Irish historical landmarks, one from each of the four provinces of Ireland:

Lough Derg (on the 3p and 8p values)

Rock of Cashel (on the 1p, 1sh/3p and 1sh/5p values)

Glendalough (1shilling value)

Croagh Patrick (6p value).



The Wearing of The Green version by Dion Boucicault

*1. Oh! Paddy, dear, and did you hear
The news that's going round,
The shamrock is forbid by law
To grow on Irish ground.
Saint Patrick's Day no more we'll keep
His color can't be seen
For there's a bloody law agin'
The wearing of the green.*

*I met with Napper Tandy
And he took me by the hand
And he said "How's poor old Ireland?
And how does she stand?"
She's the most distressful country
That ever you have seen,
They're hanging men and women there
For wearing of the green.*

*2. Then since the color we must wear
Is England's cruel red
Sure Ireland's sons will n'er forget
The blood that they have shed.
You may take the shamrock from your hat
And cast it on the sod,
But 'twill take root and flourish still
Tho' underfoot 'tis trod.*

*When the law can stop the blades of grass
From growing as they grow,
And when the leaves in summer time
Their verdure dare not show,
Then I will change the color
I wear in my caubeen,
But till that day I'll stick for aye
To wearing of the green.*

*3. But if at last our color should
Be torn from Ireland's heart,
Her sons with shame and sorrow
From the dear old sod will part.
I've heard a whisper of a country
That lies beyond the sea,
Where rich and poor stand equal
In the light of freedom's day.*

*Oh, Erin! Must we leave you,
Driven by the tyrant's hand?
Must we ask a mother's welcome
From a strange but happy land?
Where the cruel cross of England's thralldom
Never shall be seen
And where in peace we'll live and die
A-wearing of the green.*