

Irish Postal Stationery 1922 - 1983

The purpose of this exhibit is show the postal stationery in use since the formation of the Irish Free State in 1922, until the reorganization of the Irish Post Office to form "An Post" on 31st December 1983, when the distinctive Irish harp motif was retired.

Introduction

Following the formation of the Irish Free State in 1922, Irish postal stationery was introduced in 1924, with the distinctive harp motif which lasted until January 1983. After the signing of the 1922 Treaty with Britain, the British stamps used in Ireland were overprinted. However, this procedure did not apply to Postal Stationery, so the British range of envelopes remained in use until December 1924. Prior to 1924, the King George V orange 5d embossed postal stationery envelopes were used, with a green King George V 5d envelope introduced between 1922 and 1924 to differentiate mail posted in the new Free State.

Scope

The exhibit includes postal stationery envelopes, postcards, letter cards, newspaper wrappers and registered envelopes, all of which include the Irish "Free State" harp motif. Included also are the immediate King George V forerunners used in the transition period to establishing a fully independent post office. Air letters are not included due to the absence of the harp motif. Exhibit numbering follows that used in reference 1 (most comprehensive study to date) issued by Forschungs und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland e.V. (FAI).

Epilogue

The iconic harp motif was retired on the formation of "An Post", with the final issue being the 96p registered envelope, issued in January 1983. This forms the logical conclusion to this exhibit.

Plan

<i>Section</i>	<i>Exhibit Plan</i>	
Section 1	Postal Stationery Envelopes	14 issues (2d to 26p)
Section 2	Postal Stationery Letter Cards	8 issues (2d to 9p)
Section 3	Postal Stationery Postcards	11 issues (1d to 12p) plus 14 STO cards
Section 4	Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers	8 issues (½d to 8p)
Section 5	Postal Stationery Registered Envelopes	18 issues (up to 4 sizes each) 5d to 96p



Items of significance are indicated by red text or red spot



Cover with George V 1½d embossed stationery, with an overprinted British ½d adhesive, to make up the correct 2d letter rate. Posted in Buncrana, Co. Donegal on 3rd January 1923.

Bibliography

- Otto Jung, Postal Stationery of Ireland, FAI Literature Series, Volume 30 2014
- Joachim Schaaf and Brian Warren, Irish Postal Rates 1839 - 2014, FAI Literature Series, Volume 31 2014