

The 2d Map of Ireland Stamp – December 1922 to June 1941

This exhibit shows the development and use of the **First Irish Designed Stamp** from the issue date of 6 December 1922, until 1 June 1941 when the letter rate changed from 2d to 2 1/2d. **Importance:** 2d paid the first class letter rate within Ireland & Great Britain, & to preferential countries such as the British Commonwealth, USA & Egypt where many Irish lived & worked. The 2d Map stamp issued in sheets of 240; Horizontal & Vertical Pasteup Coils; Booklets; Experimental Horizontal & Vertical Coils; & as a Commemorative Stamp. **All formats are shown in order of issue**

Historical Background

The Anglo-Irish Treaty signed on December 6 1921 ended the War between Ireland & Great Britain, & established the Irish Free State with 26 counties of Southern Ireland. The Country would be governed by a Provisional Government for the first year & the **Irish Free State** would come into existence on **6 December 1922**. The 6 counties of Northern Ireland had the Option to remain part of Great Britain which they decided to do on 7 December 1922.

1 February 1922, JJ Walsh the Irish Postmaster General (PG) called for a public competition to design Irish Postage stamps. The designs had to have Irish symbols & inscriptions in Gaelic. This would take some time & the PG decided to overprint stamps of Great Britain in Gaelic with the **Provisional Government of Ireland 1922**. These **5 line overprint** stamps were issued on 17 February 1922. The first **Irish stamp** was designed by **James Ingram** & featured a **Map showing all of Ireland** with the word **Éire** (Ireland in Gaelic) & **the 2d was issued on 6 December 1922**. The stamp was printed in **green**, with **SE** watermark & issued to "**commemorate**" the start of the **Irish Free State**.

The exhibit is organized as 8 chapters on Eight double pages as follows

- o Introduction
- o The Design of 2d Map Stamp – Original Artwork, Design Proof & Paper Trails
- o The Design of 2d Map Stamp – Perforation & Printing Trials
- o The Varied Use of the 2d Sheet Stamp
- o 2d Pasteup Coil Stamps made from Sheet Stamps
- o 2d Booklet Stamps
- o The 2d SE Watermark Experimental Coils 1933 to 1936
- o 2d Map Stamp Printed in **Orange**, Change to **e** watermark & Epilogue: Letter rate change

Scarce and Interesting items are shown on a **Green** background.

Important Philatelic information is shown in bold green italic letters

Each page is a **New Chapter** – introduced in **BOLD GREEN ITALIC** letters at the top of the Page

Unadopted designs for the first Irish designed Definitive series

Over 120 stamp designs were received by 1 March 1922 in response to the JJ Walsh competition. Many were from individuals and art groups; however, several came from printing firms, and several with 2d designs from these firms are shown below **left to right**

Dollard Printing Co, Dublin Angel Sounds Trumpet; Dollard, Valdivia print essay; Hely Ltd, O'Loughlin Murphy Boland



Introduction:



17 February 1922 First Day Issue of 2d
5 Line overprint on Stamp of King George V

Overprinted Provisional Government of Ireland 1922
in Gaelic *Rialtas Suidéach na hÉirann 1922*

Cover mailed from Kinsale to England

2d Stamp prepared by IRA July 1922 during Irish Civil War
Stamp printed in Gaelic in Cork when the IRA held the City in June & July.
Planned issue August 1922, but National Gov recaptured the City on Aug 8.
Historically the first Irish designed postage stamp, but was never issued.
2d value printed in Green both imperf & perforated (only 250 known)



2d horizontal coil stamp with
1d booklet stamp paid 3d surface
rate to West Indies in 1934

The map stamp was selected as a
Political Statement showing all 32
counties of Ireland as one Country.

Important because 2d stamp
paid the letter rate in
Ireland, to Great Britain,
the Commonwealth
& USA

Cancelled Dublin, 12 Dec 1934



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. A full page is devoted to *Sheet Stamp Usage* because this was the longest produced and most widespread format of this stamp

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: *Irelands 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.: *Irelands 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
See illustration to the right.

Changes since COLOPEX June 2024

- (1) Added a 2d Vertical Coil used as a receipt.
The only example I have seen in 30 years – Page 7

Changes since SESE Atlanta 2025

- (1) Changed Exhibit Title to
The 2d Map of Ireland Stamp -- December 1922 to June 1941

- (2) Changed Page 4 title to
The Varied Use of the 2d Map Sheet Stamp

A full page is devoted to *Sheet Stamp Usage* because this was the longest produced and most widespread format of this stamp

Changes since March Party 2026

Revised Title page and Last Page and the name of the printer to Page 3, *De La Rue of London*

