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EDITORIAL

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| 68-72 | While keeping to the same basic format of the Journal established by our late Editor, Michael Richards, starting with this issue we are making an attempt to satisfy some of the suggestions made at the last AGM in altering the layout. In particular, the size of print and number of lines per page. This will allow us to print more text per page. |
| 73 | |
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| 83-86 | All we need now, of course, are more articles to fill the expanded pages. |

C.I. Dulin

"Irish Philately"

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Letters to the Editor:-

Dear Sir,

BRADBURY WILKINSON 2/6 PLATE 12 A

The information given by Johan Rehnberg in the Journal for June 1988 is interesting and important.

Very little information is available on the marginal markings of the plates used by Bradbury Wilkinson for printing the high value stamps which were overprinted. As a starting point, Volume IV of the Postage Stamps of G.B. by Beaumont and Stanton, is invaluable. There is a series of articles in the G.B. Journal by Sir Leonard Atkinson describing the marginal markings and the re-entries and retouches found on the 2/6 Plates 2, 3, 5 and 6 (the last only for the top half of the sheet). Johan Rehnberg has been able to make an important addition to that list.

He also draws attention to a number of faint lines appearing over various stamps. Similar lines can be found on other 2/6 plates, but probably not to the same extent as on plate 12 A. It occurs to me that these lines may have been drawn on the plate as a means of positioning correctly the guide dots which were used to align the transfer roller. If so, these lines should have been removed by polishing.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Williams

Dear Sir,

Reading Colm Hinneburg-Murphy's excellent article on the Maritime Handstamps of County Cork (IP Sept '88, p57) prompted me to delve into my collection of philatelic press cuttings and my accumulation (not very extensive) of paquebot markings. I reproduce here photocopies of 2 cuttings which refer to the Cobh paquebot handstamps as they may be of interest to our readers, some of the younger of whom may not have been bitten by the philatelic bug when this information was published, or indeed even been born.

The article was written by the late Alan W. Robertson and published in Stamp Collecting in 1960 and it brought further information from the late Fred Dixon. In 1964 I acquired a piece, unfortunately only a piece, with a Thom 5-line overprint cancelled by a PAQUEBOT/COBH double ring (as per fig. 1) dated 2 JY 22, and seemingly an earlier example of use to that illustrated in the article - see fig. 4. both the above gentlemen confirmed it to be so but they could not throw any light on the "26" just below PAQUEBOT.

Can any of our readers come up with an explanation of the significance of these numerals or is it an example, as Fred Dixon suggested, of "the man replacing them varied the arrangement" ?

Keith Jamieson

October 7th, 1960

STAMP COLLECTING

123

IS THIS THE RAREST IRISH "PAQUEBOT" HAND-STAMP?

By ALAN W. ROBERTSON



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

THE establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922 soon resulted in numerous repercussions as the postal administration passed from the overall central control of the Post Office in London to the new Irish Government administration in Dublin. Nationalist sentiment expressed itself in the changing of numerous place-names, hitherto spelt in English, to their original Irish names or Irish derivatives (e.g., Baileatha Cliath—Dublin; Dun Laoghaire—Kingstown, etc. The ancient and important harbour of COVE, in County Cork, was renamed QUEENSTOWN in 1849 by command of Queen Victoria; in 1922 the name was changed back to the original and spelt COBH in Irish.

Soon after the changeover of postal administration, a number of hand-stamps incorporating Irish wording and place-names were issued to replace the now obsolete "English" hand-stamps. As with the G.B. stamps, which were provisionally overprinted in 1922 pending the printing and issue of Irish stamps, some of the new handstruck stamps were of a somewhat provisional design and nature.

In the case of COBH the innovation of a circular PAQUEBOT date-stamp took the form of a new type of wording within a double circle. A single record (Fig. 1) reveals that the first of these COBH hand-stamps had the word PAQUEBOT at the top

and COBH below. The example here illustrated shows the date "23.JY.22". The next revelation is the appearance of another circular date-stamp, similar in size and appearance but with the word COBH at the top and PAQUEBOT at the bottom (Fig. 2). The earliest present record of the second hand-stamp is August 23rd, 1922, and it would seem reasonable to assume that this had replaced the first date-stamp at least by August 23rd.

Since the first provisionally overprinted Irish Free State stamps were issued in February 1922, and assuming that the first PAQUEBOT hand-stamp may have come into use then, the effective life of this first type was barely six months at the most. In all probability it is very much less, and this would materially assist the classification of this hand-stamp as Ireland's rarest PAQUEBOT date-stamp. The second "Provisional" (?) hand-stamp is also of considerable scarcity; it was replaced in 1924 by the more typical, and not uncommon, circular paquebot date-stamp (Fig. 3).

The extremely limited amount of material available for study leaves the subject of the earlier PAQUEBOT date-stamps open to amendment and any further information regarding other examples known to readers would be greatly appreciated by the writer.

COBH PAQUEBOT MARKINGS

SIR,—With reference to my short article on the Cobh Paquebot hand-stamps (S.C., Oct. 7th issue), Fred E. Dixon, of Rosslare Harbour, has sent the following information in the context of a letter to me:

"The hand-stamp of Figs. 1 and 2 in your S.C. article are one and the same hand-stamp—typical of the 'skeletons', i.e. travelling stamps of the period, made up from movable type. Presumably during its short period of use at Cobh the letters loosened and/or fell out and the man replacing them varied the arrangement.

"And the period of use must have been even shorter than you realise. It is unlikely to have started before May 1922, as it was in that month that the first COBH hand-stamp was registered. The official announcement of the change from Queenstown did not appear in the weekly Circular (Iris an Puist) until June 6th. Your Fig. 3 was registered on October 5th, 1922, and probably reached the Cobh office next day.

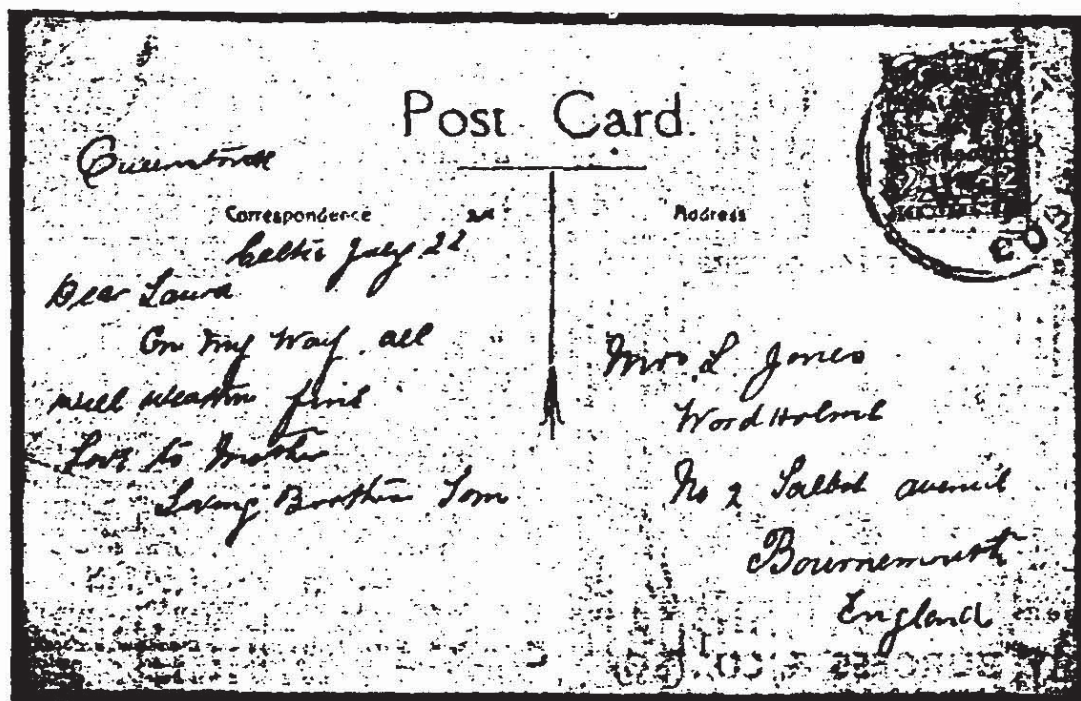
"My data are from the notes extracted from the now vanished P.O. records by Dr. Stafford Johnson".

Pinner, Middlesex.

ALAN W. ROBERTSON.



Fig. 4



Postcard showing the PAQUEBOT COBH cancellation of 23 JY 1922

Editor's additional plea:

On the more mundane Fig.3 type PAQUEBOT COBH postmark there was a period when the year slug was completely omitted from the handstamp, leaving just the day and month indication. I believe that this was done in the late 1920's or early 1930's, but am not at all sure. I vaguely recall that 1931 was suggested, but I cannot find the reference or check its authenticity. The omission seems to have been quite deliberate and emphatically not due to poor stamping. The handstamp itself was in use from 1924 to 1958. I wonder if any readers could identify this period more exactly and suggest why the omission was effected.



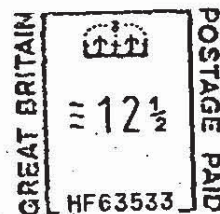
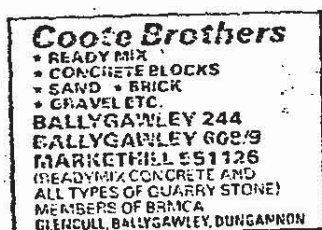
PAQUEBOT COBH Postmark With Missing Date

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a photocopy of a franking machine mark which may be of interest to IPC members. It shows the County name at the top and the town name at the bottom. It is the only example I have seen.

I also enclose a couple of machine cancels and two covers with unusual marks. The Official Paid has a blank value space. I presume that is because it is from the Post Office itself. The other cover shows a nice "Not Called For I S" mark on it.

Alan Kane

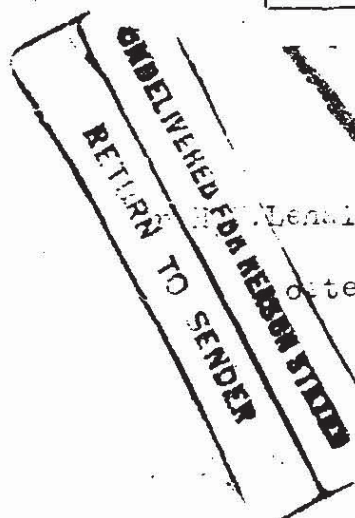


Wilkinson Rubber Linotax, Ltd,

Co. Tyrone-Dungannon Machine Cancellation



OFFICIAL PAID Blank Value Space



Lenin,
Poste Restante,
Bellet,
Northern Italy.



"Not Called For I.S." Cachet

Editor's note: The following announcement has been received for inclusion in the Journal. Although it is in German and French, I have taken the liberty of adding an English translation.

Je voudrais faire cet annonce dans votre revue:

"Tausche gestempelte gedenmarken, ausschliesslich arabische lander, gegen ausgaben der restlichen welt 100/100. Sergio Ferrari - Cas. Post. 10272 Eur - 00144 Roma Italien".

Ou, en langue francais:

"Échange 100/100 commemo. oblitérés du monde, arabes exclus."

English translation:

"Would like to exchange used commemorative stamps from all countries, except Arab states, on a one to one basis"

Sergio Ferrari
Cas. Post. 10272
EUR
Rome 00144
Italy

Mr. Ferrari does not state which catalogue will be used as the basis of exchange, but presumably any interested reader will come to a prior agreement. In general, both Gibbons and Yvert are used in Italy rather than Bolaffi.



Quaternions

The Story of a Stamp - Almost

by Jim Madeley



It's a reasonable assumption that anyone who could translate Latin, Greek and Hebrew by the age of five is going to march through the sands of time wearing hob-nailed boots rather than tiptoe in carpet slippers as most of us do. This is just one of the accomplishments of Sir Rowan Hamilton, the Discoverer of Quaternions.

The rather drab little pair of stamps issued by the Irish Post Office in 1943 to remind us of this achievement gives no clue as to what a Quaternions is - Sir Rowan apparently discovered the plural version and doesn't look too happy about it. Our local librarian wasn't much help - "is he the man who plays 'Black Adder' on television?". They are human after all.

Encyclopaedia Britannica tells us that the discovery of Quaternions theory was a major landmark in the development of algebra and we learn that the solution came to Sir Rowan as he walked towards Dublin - "along the Grand Canal" - the Encyclopaedia would have us believe, presumably meaning "by the side of". One never knows, something similar has been done before though not in Dublin and definitely not in pursuit of Quaternions.

The stonework of Brougham Bridge received the first impression - Plate 1 as it were - of the formula $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1$. So there it is. No longer would we be able to disclaim $a \times b = b \times a$, as we frequently did in less enlightened days.

As one who languished for most of his formal mathematical education in Set 4 and once enquired, "Please Sir, How many yards did you say there are in a gallon?", I cannot hope to comprehend the magnitude of Sir Rowan's achievement. However, if like me, you have occasionally glanced at this little set of stamps and wondered what on earth a Quaternions is - well now you know - or do you?

Editor's note: As one who once had the outrageous fortune to suffer the scalars and vectors of Quaternion theory, may I remark that it is very understandable why this issue has a "Bullet Hole" variety. Indeed it is remarkable that it occurs only in one position.

I seem to remember that we were also informed that Sir William knew 13 languages at the ripe old age of 13. To boot, he used to read Persian for pleasure. This may explain the Grand Canal expression used in Encyclopaedia Britannica. For as he traipsed towards Dublin with his loaf of soda bread and a jug of wine (does wine, like ale, come in yards?) the thought beside me in the wilderness may well have been the necessary adjunct of every Quaternion, its Conjugate.

The Postmarks of Cavan County.

By George Ithell

Collecting postmarks from Ireland is easy enough, but to complete a County with a postmark from all the Offices is something else! I started to collect postmarks of Cavan Offices in 1970 when I first joined the I.P.C. and mixed with the experts.

An introduction, and how to collect anything in this art, was helped with a sight of the wealth of material brought along to the Reform Club meetings on those Saturday afternoons years ago by our contemporaries.

Not having first-hand knowledge of Cavan, but having a friend in Ardlogher whose daughter is the Postmistress there, and encouraged by the late Dr. Brian de Burca, I started to accumulate Cavan postmarks from the Offices. I was also fortunate in being able to buy the Doctor's collection when he offered it to me. I was pleasantly surprised to find that only four Offices were missing from our combined efforts according to the Eolai an Phoist at that time (1977). These omissions were soon added with a personal plea to the respective Master or Mistress of these Offices. Now I am complete, or so I thought! Shortly afterwards different spellings appeared, some Post Offices were shut and new ones were opened! I soon learned that completeness is virtually impossible. With this in mind, I'd like to record my findings up to the date of Eolai an Phoist 1982.

There are 72 Post Offices according to the guide and the following Offices have facilities for Banking, Money Orders, Telegraph and Express Letter Services:

Arva	Cross Keys
Ballieborough	Crossdoney
Ballinagh	Killeshandra
Ballyconnell	Loch Gowna
Ballyhaise	Loughduff
Bawnboy	Redhills
Belturbet	Stradone
Butler's Bridge	Swanlibar
Cootehill	Tullyvin

The following Offices function with a more restrictive service, with one or two of the expected services unavailable:

Ardlogher	Corlough
Ballyjamesduff	Kingscourt
Canningstown	Madabawn
Carrigan	Milltown
Carringallen	Mountain Lodge
Cloverhill	Tullyco
Corlesmore	Virginia

The remaining number of Offices have only facilities for the sale of Stamps, Postal Orders and a Public Telephone. Generally the Offices are part of a shop, which in most places, is the local emporium:

Aghavas
Ballyhugh
Beglieve
Carrickaboy
Clifferna
Cornafean
Corranery
Corraville
Corrawallen
Corriga
Dartrey
Dernacrieve

Derrylane
Doogarry
Drumanespic
Drung
Eighter
Grousehall
Gubaveeny
Kilbracken
Kildorough
Kill
Killegar
Killinkere

Lisboduff
Lisduff
Lisgrey Cross Roads
Lisnageer
Losset
Moneygashel
New Inn
Poles
Ryefield
Termon
Tunnyduff

Additionally, Altachullion was changed to Altinure in the 1982 list.

Earlier, handstamps shew some interesting styles of script and in colours of blue, green and black. A 1771 entire has a Roman 'U' for 'V' in Cavan and a 1791 entire from Virginia has a similar 'U' in the unusual spelling, Virginea! in an overall size of 51 mm X 7 mm. Examples of the Cavan handstamps measure 41 mm X 7 mm in capital letters, seriffed and with and without mileage. Other Offices have examples in similar type and instances are seen of a two-line handstamp which includes the Receiving House and Post-Town.

Unframed circular dated handstamps are known from 1841, with single and double arcs; some with a letter breaking the arc(s). The Rev. Edwin Davey has these with the letter 'M' on Belturbet, Cavan and Cootehill cancels!

UIRGINEA
1791

CAUAN
1771

CAVAN

1796

CAVAN
54

1823

CAVAN

1817

KILLESHANDRA
64

1830

BYCONNELL
68

1833

REDHILLS
CAVAN

1853

COOTEHILL

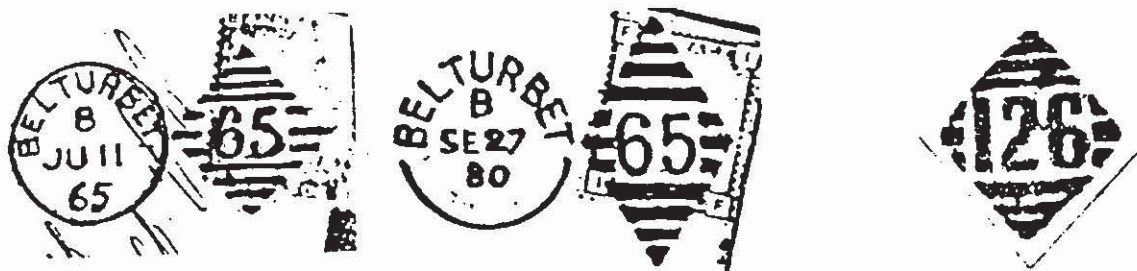
1828

SWANLINBAR

1853

In the early 1840's with the advent of postage stamps, the diamond numeral cancels appear, but are not very common on or off cover; I can boast of Belturbet, Cavan, Cootehill and Ballyconnell. Edwin adds Baillieborough and Kingscourt (Editor's note: May I add Arva, Ballyjamesduff and Virginia to these from my own collection). Duplex type cancels are seen from Belturbet, Cavan and Cootehill in different sizes and in broken and unbroken circles. The small

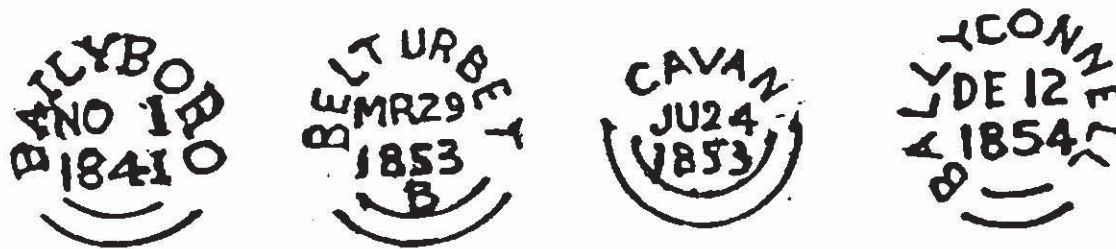
circular and dated handstamps, generally seen as backstamps, include Ballyconnell, Belturbet, Cavan, Cootehill and Kingscourt.



Collectors of Victorian Town Numbers have seventeen to look for and a changed number in the 1880's list affects six of these. The Offices were: Arva (12 in the 1844 lists and changed to 19 in the later list. In parenthesis are noted other changes; Baillieborough 26 (509), Ballyconnell 39 (559), Ballyhaise 43, Ballyjamesduff 44, Belturbet 65, Cavan 126, Cootehill 155, Crossdoney 163, Killeshandra 279 (270), Kingscourt 288 (510), Redhills 393, Ricehill 394, Scrabby 404, Stradone 414 and Virginia 443. Bawnboy is not listed in the earlier numbers, but appears with the town number of 558 in the 1880 list.

Some time ago, valuable information was given to me by Rev. Edwin Davey, and unfortunately I have not been able to incorporate all the details in this essay. Snippets here and there, are being used and hopefully the rest will be filed and used later. One of these adds to the perplexities and frustrations one meets in attempting to complete any list of historical value.

In a question to Edwin some time ago re a problem regarding Scrabby; we know that in the 1844-57 lists of Victorian Town Numbers, Scrabby was 404, but in the 1874 list the number was allocated to Scarva, Co. Down! All maps don't place the village, especially the modern type. My atlas of 1897 pinpoints it and Edwin has it on an 1825 map, but spelt Scabbagh! Quoting from his letter...."It is right on the Cavan/Leitrim border, but in Cavan. A long time ago an annual fair was held there (dates uncertain), so it had some importance as a village, but it is merely a hamlet now. I have an old map of Ireland (1825) in which it is spelled Scabbagh. It must have had some importance then since it is given on the map, for places like Stradone, Ballyjamesduff, Swanlibar, Mullagh etc. are not listed! The map gives some strange spellings; Crossdony, Ballymanaght (Ballinagh), Shircock; Arvagh is also omitted from the map. Tom Current lists Scrabby as a post office 1844-57, but says that the office was there in 1811. It was not even listed in the population census of 1881. Ballinagh is sometimes spelled Ballina(gh). Hope this is of interest". So here we have some anomalies to overcome. The earliest Post Office Guides in the archives now at Blackfriars, are dated from 1856. Before this period then, dated material will determine an approximate date when Offices were opened. Closures could be easier. Ardlogher had a Post Office in 1860, but my earliest item posted there is dated 1873! Although world-famous amongst the piscatorial enthusiasts for their supplies of maggots and bait and a large creamery, little mail emanates from that village. This could be true of the many smaller Offices in Cavan.



Unframed town handstamps

Cavan town is served by two Offices, one of which is the Head Office where all types of business is dispensed, including the sorting of mail for that area.

Many Offices had their administration altered and an interesting study of this aspect can be made. For the time being, however, we know that some towns outside Cavan County geographically, were considered to be under Cavan's administration at some time and certain towns and villages in Cavan County were administered from adjacent administrations. A few instances are: Kilcogy was transferred to Longford, Glassleck and Shercock to Louth, Glangevlin to Leitrim and Kilnaleck, Mullagh, Teeworker with Ross to Meath. Except in the case of Kilcogy, when the transfer was noticed in the 1969 guide, the dates for the other movements are at present unknown. (Editor's note: the Kilcogy, Glanelvin and Mullagh transfers were noted as far back as the 1924 guides. These also list Glassleck and Shercock under Monaghan, while the 1953 guide lists them both under Louth. Kilnaleck may be noted under Meath in 1953). Conversely, Aghaves and Carrigallen, both in Leitrim, are administered by Cavan. It is highly probable that other instances are known since a last check some months ago.

Now under Meath administration



Kilnaleck.



Ross.

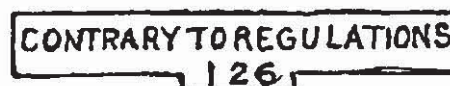
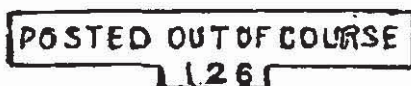
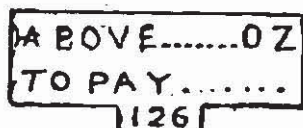
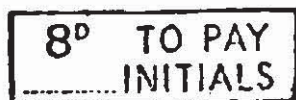
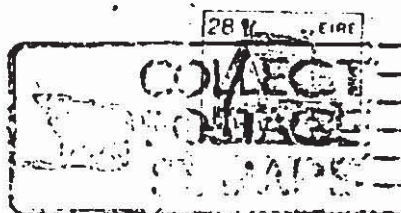


Teeworker.

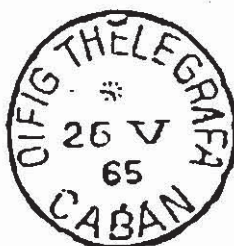


Contracted
CHABAIN.
Mullagh.

Cavan town appears to be the only Office in the County where a machine is used for cancelling the mail and is used with various slogans. A variety of handstamps used at the Head Office exclusively, are illustrated.



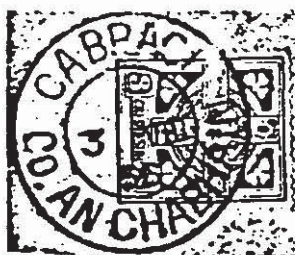
Special purpose handstamps, such as to the 'TO PAY' and similar, are only used at the Head Office in Cavan, but the more important of the minor Offices have examples of the triangular telegraph coded handstamps.



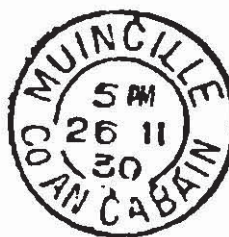
I pass over the period in the later part of the 19th century owing to the lack of material dates in my collection, but when the new administration of 1922 was becoming effective, much can be written on that transition period. Many changes took place, Offices were opened and a very important change was the adoption of the Gaelic spelling for town and village postmarks. In the Cavan area, Kingscourt appears to be one of the earliest to conform, having a Cabrach Co. An Chabhán and dated October 5, 1922; another early one is from Belturbet. Surprisingly, Redhills and Blacklion, both Receiving Houses of the past, still shew the English spelling as late as 1949 and 1946 respectively. The spelling of Cavan shews many variations such as: Chabháin, Chabhán, Cabáin, Cabhán and Co. An Ch'n.



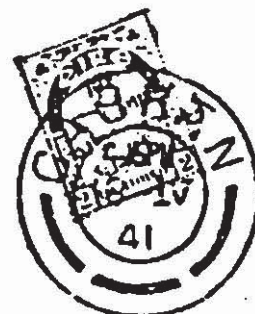
Kingscourt
CO AN CHABHAN
October 5 1922



Kingscourt
CO AN CHABHAIN



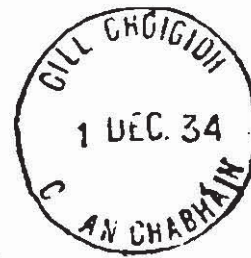
Cootehill
CO AN CABAIN



CABHAN

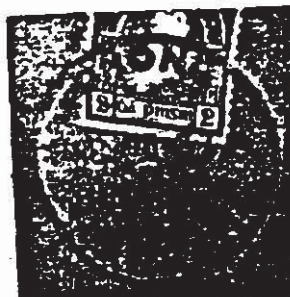
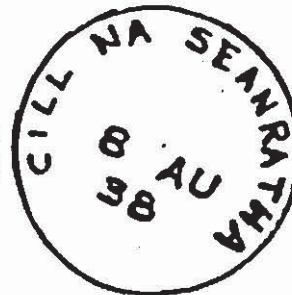
As mentioned earlier, the smaller Offices will create the most problems, but I intend to list, at a later date, my own cancels with dates. Offices such as Ballynarry (closed 1969) has a date in 1929, Carrickaboy 1930, Butler's Bridge 1928, Ballinagh 1927 and Cornafean 1929, but of course this is not conclusive and many hours of browsing and searching are to be experienced before a reasonable amount will be unearthed.

Re-shuffling Offices into different administrations is another area for research and an instance of Kilcogy is seen administered from Longford in the 1930's. A known Cavan cancel of 1954 shews Co. Cavan and the Eolai an Phoist gives Kilcogy as Longford from 1969! Another cancel of Kilnaleck of May 4, 1953 shews Chabáin, another of 1972 is seen with Co. Cavan! The Eolai an Phoist allocates this village to Meath, in the 1969, 1977 and 1982 editions! A recent find shews November 6, 1983 with the Co. An Chabáin again. A similar story applies to Shercock with Louth as the alternative administration.



Gaelic Cancellations

Interesting types of skeleton cancels exist with various sizes of diameters. A 40 mm double ring cancel from Cavan and a similar cancel of 32 mm from Ballieborough. Single rings of 38 mm from Ryefield, a 37 mm example from Belturbet and Killeshandra has one of 35 mm amongst the more attractive types. These are to be found amongst the 1930's dates. About the 1934-35 period there seems to be a spate of rubber ring cancels becoming distorted. These are caused by the use of the wrong ink. The smaller Offices shew a greater proportion of this type, possibly duplication of an ink-pad, with all the other paraphernalia on the restricted area of the counter was an excuse to dispense with an extra piece of equipment.



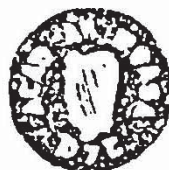
Skeletons and Distorted Rubber Ring Cancellations

PARCEL POST		S. I. R. Letter and Number	
CAVAN (CVM)		Post- age	
For Postage Stamps.		Registration and Express F.	
			

PARCEL POST		X LIST Letter and Number	
Bawnboy (BYX) (Under Belturbet)		Post- age	
For Postage Stamps.		Fee paid on Registration	
			

Telegraphic Code Listed On Parcel Post Receipts

Cros na nDrumann
New Inn
Ballyjamesduff

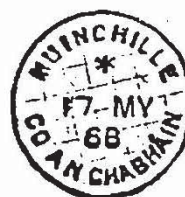


Achadh an Mheasa
Aghavas
Carrigallen

Bag Seals



Cootehill.



Telegraphic Code Handstamp

Telegraph Cancel Handstamp

This brief resume is a beginning, but reports from members and their knowledge of Cavan Offices will be very much appreciated. Dates of Offices opening and closing; early use of the Gaelic spelling on the handstamps and changes in spelling will be collated and acknowledged.

Editor's Note; The following article has been submitted anonymously. It provides a fascinating glimpse of late 18th century social graces, customs and conditions.

TWENTY YARDS OF IRISH POPLIN

From: Sir Richard Heron, Bart., Dublin Castle
To: Timothy Brecknock, London

Sept 30 1778

On saturday was sennight your obliging little Missive came safe to hand, accompanied with twenty Yards of Irish Poplin, for which, Sr Richard, you have Mr= Brecknock's and my Thanks. Mr= Brecknock's, because the Poplin is a Wear she is extremely fond of: mine, because the Present itself bears evidence that I still occupy a little Corner in the Back-ground of your Memory.

The Day, Sr Richard, I received your Letter, I was also favored with one from Mr= Wills, written by her fair Amanuensis Miss Rastall, and thro' that Channel I understand you have promised my Nephew Brecknock a Pair of Colours. It gives me great pleasure to find that in your Relaxations from State-Affairs, you think so favorably on that part of your family which bears my Name. Perhaps there is another of that Name, more far-advanced in the Vale of Years, who might not disgrace your Patronage & Protection. I have been told, he is superlatively well-qualified to take upon the Education of one or two young Noblemen of the first Distinction in Ireland. I mean an Education, in which the Great Out-Lines are Rhetoric, Oratory, History, the Laws of the Land, the Law of Nations, and the more learned languages of Latin, Greek & Hebrew. Such a Preceptor may possibly be a valuable Acquisition to several Personages of your present Connections, but then I must beg permission to add, that such a Preceptor could not go over to Ireland, to reside there, for less than £300 per annum - the french Proverb you know is "à demi-mot". As to the News of this Morning, Sir, we learn at Loyds Coffee-House, that a ship of Admiral Keppel's Squadron has taken a very large S^t Domingo Ship, that fourteen other french Merchant-men from the same Island were likely to become prizes to the same Admiral, as he has dispatched a sufficient Force from his Fleet in pursuit of them. This News, which one should apprehend to have been highly satisfactory at least to our own Merchants has had quite a different Effect, for at Loyds nothing was seen this morning but Long Faces. The Mystery will cease, when I acquaint you that almost every one of this french S^t Domingo Fleet has been insured at fifty Guineas by our own Under-Writers.

There was likewise a strong Report this Morning that the Albion Ship-of-War had been taken by the french, but I enquired at the Admiralty & there no such intelligence hath been as yet received.

Be pleased to re-peruse the Contents on the other side of this Sheet, and as a fit opportunity think of

Sr

Your Obed^t humble Servant

Timothy Brecknock

Richard Heron, aged 52 at the date of our Letter, was then Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland; John Hobart, Earl of Buckinghamshire, an amiable, rich, well-intentioned lightweight who did his best to promote free trade for Ireland and was a friend and defender of Irish Catholics and Dissenters. Horace Walpole's nickname for Hobart was "Clearcake:- fat, fair, sweet and seen through in a moment". And he made minimal progress in his liberal policies in the teeth of the resistance and obtuseness of the British Treasury and of Lord North's Administration. William Knox wrote to Lord George Germain in May 1778: "Lord B would be a good Lord-Lieutenant were it not for his family connections and his incompetent Secretary, but Mr. Connolly [a relative of Buckinghamshire's second wife] and Sir Heron were both sacked in 1780.

Richard Heron's mother's maiden name was Brecknock, and our letter-writer Timothy Brecknock was evidently a relative.

The twenty yards of poplin which occasioned the letter was a rather different material from the more modern poplin. It was made of fine wool on a warp of strong silk or linen and must have been something like flannelette but ribbed. It was, in the 18th century, a speciality of Dublin and would have been then a narrow cloth done on a hand-loom, maybe 54 inches wide. The name means "papal" because it was developed by the French early in the century in Avignon, which was a papal city until 1731 when it was engulfed by revolutionary mobs.

1778 was an eventful year. The war against the American colonies continued (after Burgoyne had surrendered at Saratoga to the American General Gates in Oct. 1777); in March France concluded a treaty of friendship with the Congress and with her ally Spain declared war on England. In April the great Chatham (the elder Pitt) had made a dramatic return to Parliament to implore the Administration of Lord North to make peace with the colonies; and was dead the following month. Simultaneously the Scotchman in American and French pay, Capt John Paul Jones, made his famous descent on Whitehaven and Ireland which alarmed the nation and, what really hurt, doubled insurance premiums. Capt Paul (the "Jones" was a nom-de-guerre) then appeared off Carrickfergus at the entrance to Belfast Lough, captured the "Drake" sloop-of-war and sailed off to France. In July Admiral Keppel himself (commanding the Home Fleet) fought an indecisive action against the French off Ushant, and quarrelled with Admiral Palliser (both were court-martialled and acquitted). And Mozart composed the Hafner Symphony.

By way of footnote for those interested in insurance matters, a 200-ton merchant vessel could at that time be built for £3,000 in England or £2,600 in Massachusetts.

Editor's note: Unfortunately the photocopy of the entire which accompanied the article was too faint to reproduce adequately here.

Addressed to The Right Honorable Sir Richard Heron, Bart, Dublin Castle, it bears strikes of a FREE in a circle, a London Bishop of 30/SE (September 30) and two strikes (one partial) of the Dublin Bishop mark O C/5 (October 5).

It is possible that the covering letter which may have been sent with this article was mislaid when transfer of Journal material took place after Michael Richard's tragic demise. If so we must apologise and, naturally, would be delighted to print the author's name, if he or she so wishes, in the next issue.

1922 Irish Overprints - The Low Value Issues

The Dollard Issue

by M.H.Priestly

1. Introduction.

The aim of this series of articles is to summarise the wealth of information on the low value overprints which has been published in the Revealer and Irish Philately or which is available in print. The source of information is noted in the text and listed at the end of each article. Photostats of the Revealer and Irish Philately references are available from the author. Where several sources give similar information, generally the source with the most detail will be given.

2. Background to the Dollard Issue.

The Treaty establishing the Irish Free State was signed on December 6th 1921. The Post Office was operating under difficult conditions; the GPO had been destroyed during the Easter Rising and was still in ruins; the mails between Dublin and Cork had practically ceased overland. The postal administration which was to be taken over by the new government was making a loss of £1.25 million per year. [Editor's note: The two latter statements are not wholly correct. They are applicable later in 1922, not at the start of the year when the Post Office was still under British administration].

Mr. J.J.Walsh, the first Postmaster General, invited designs for a new series of postage stamps for Ireland. In the meantime it was decided to overprint British stamps. Dollard Printing House, Dublin was invited to submit bids for overprinting the ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 10d and the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- value British stamps. On February 2nd 1922 Dollard submitted their bid, which was accepted the same day.

A six weeks supply of stamps was ordered, to a face value of £215,000 (including 49,000 sheets for Dollard) and this was received by the GPO on February 10th. Overprinting began on Saturday February 11th. On Tuesday February 14th the Post Office Department began distribution to Head Post Offices and by Friday February 17th 1922 overprinted stamps were on sale at all post offices (1).

Between February 17th and March 31st both overprinted and unoverprinted stamps were current in Southern Ireland. During this period overprinted stamps were not valid in Northern Ireland or Great Britain, but a number of overprinted letters did reach destinations there (2). [Editor's note: Overprinted stamps were valid in both Great Britain and Northern Ireland for both postal and other purposes up to March 31, 1922. This is clear from the British Post Office Circulars of the period]. Covers with both overprinted and unoverprinted stamps were known as combination covers (3).

Control of the Post Office did not pass to the Irish authorities until April 1st 1922. Until then proof sheets of each value of Dollard and Thom issues had to be sent to London. They are now at the London Postal Museum (4).

After April 1st unoverprinted stamps were not valid in Ireland and were surcharged if detected (5), except for British postal entires with imprinted values (2). Overprinting by Dollard continued until 12th June when stamp

deliveries to the company ceased and the contract was cancelled. This was probably due to the Government being concerned that the Dollard works was close to the area of the battle of the Four Courts (1). Another factor may have been that the Post Office Department had become irked by lax procedures at Dollard (6).

3. The Dollard Overprint.

Overprint Type. Dollard used an overprint for printing the low values which differs from all the other types in that the date 1922 is set in antique type with the figure 1 similar to the Roman type and the tail of the 9 below the base line of the other numbers (7). The Irish overprint "Rialtas Sealadaí na hÉireann 1922" (Irish Provisional Government 1922) was suggested by the Postmaster General (8).

Printing. The printing plates were set up using a Monotype machine which set up one letter at a time. A number of clichés were made each 3 rows wide and 5 rows high. From this a matrix was prepared and stereos made. Sixteen stereos were locked or nailed on a base in 4 rows each of 4 to make up the composite printing plate. The printing was performed on a Dawson Wharfedale flat bed machine (1), which is illustrated in the Revealer (9).

Plate Settings. Three stereo settings were used for the plates. The first setting was very accurately set with no setting varieties. The 1 of Sealadaí is vertically above the n of na and the 1 of 1922 is directly under the i of hÉireann. The horizontal repeat of the overprint was practically the same as that of the stamps; the vertical repeat of the overprint was a little short.

The reason for changing the setting was said to be with a view to improving the register of the printing. The second and third settings show a slight reduction of the horizontal repeat and a slight lengthening of the vertical repeat. These later settings were not nearly as accurately set up and show many shifted lines (6). 31 varieties of setting are possible (1 from Setting 1 and 15 each from Settings 2 and 3). An attempt was made to distinguish between these varieties (10) but slight variations between measurements on different sheets made this unsuccessful. However the general similarity between Settings 2 and 3 made it likely that Setting 3 was made to eliminate the damaged c of Sealadaí in the top left stamp of the stereo in Setting 2 (11).

Black Overprints. The ½d, 1d and 3d values are found in all three settings. The 5d, 9d and 10d are found in Settings 1 and 2, and the 2½d and 4d only in Setting 1 (6).

The ink used is non glossy black, colour deep black to grey black (7). It is possible that the grey black was not a different ink but a mixture of the normal ink with the cleaning solvent (12).

Red Overprints. Shortly after the 2½d, 4d and 9d values were issued it was felt that the overprint did not show up distinctly. The printers suggested that red ink be used for these values; red overprints were on sale on 1st April 1922 (6). Carmine overprints did not appear before July, yet must have been printed prior to 12th June [Editor's note: only if it is assumed that Dollard did the printing of these]. According to the printer the carmine shade was due to the plates being inked two or three times before printing (13). J.Foley, however, is convinced that two distinct shades were used red and carmine, and notes that the red is found in varying intensities (14).

H.Zervas records the red overprints in Setting 2 and in a composite plate of alternate Setting 1 and 3 stereos. The latter gives the possibility of finding Setting 1/Setting 3 pairs and Setting 3/Setting 1 pairs (6). Kohl lists a Setting 1 plate as well as the Setting 2 and composite plate (13).

The printers said that the mixture of settings was due to the replacement of worn out or damaged stereos. In view of the regular alternation of the stereos this seems unlikely. The combination plate is found on all three red overprinted values (13).

Quantities Printed. The total number of sheets overprinted by Dollard is given by Freeman and Stubbs and by Meredith (16) as follows: ½d (43,000), 1d (112,000), 2½d black (1502), 2½d red (1298), 3d (6500), 4d black (1702), 4d red (1798), 5d (2100), 9d black (2398), 10d (900).

4. Proofs and Essays of the Dollard Overprint.

Essay. The bid submitted on February 2nd 1922 by Dollard included a sample of the proposed overprint. This was said to include a hyphen between the h and the É of hÉireann, and if in existence should be considered as an essay (6).

Proofs. Proofs of the Dollard overprint were produced in red, carmine or black ink on white or coloured paper. Some are stamped on the reverse in pale violet in large or small type "Original proof, Dollard, 17.2.22" and initialled B.J.B. (B.J.Brennan, the Dollard Manager) (1). It is doubtful if they were true proofs taken before overprinting, but were probably philatelic proofs produced for a Dublin stamp dealer with the connivance of Dollards. Proofs are listed in all three settings with the various types of handstamp and ink colours (8). An unusual block of 8 proofs in dark blue was sold in auction in 1959; [Editor's note the block was one of 12 and has reappeared in auction since] this was likely to be genuine since it was signed by the Stores Department of the GPO. A half sheet signed "Genuine Proofs / For Dollard, Printing House, Dublin Ltd / B.J.Brennan / Manager / June 14th 1922" was dated two days after Dollard ceased overprinting and must have been done for philatelic purposes (6). Complete sheets of proofs have been seen in the Agnew and Vesey collections (8). A variety with a vertical unprinted strip has also been seen (15). Meredith considered only the backstamped proofs to be genuine (16).

Connection between Dollard and Thom. Evidence of a connection between Dollard and Thom [Editor's note: Thom was the other company who, initially, overprinted stamps for the Irish Free State Post Office at the same time as Dollard] is indicated by Thom proofs backstamped "Original / Proof / Supplied by / Thom to / Dollard / 17.2.22" in the identical typeface used in the Dollard backstamp and another in Brennan's distinctive hand "Original / Proof / received / from / Thom / by / Dollard / B.J.B." (17). Brennan had a connection with F.F.Freeman and T.T.Stubbs, authors of Handbook of Provisional Issue Irish Free Stamps which was published by the Mint Stamp Company in April 1922, and he possibly provided the illustrations for the Thom and Dollard overprints in that book (12).

Overprint in red on the ½d value. Proofs of the Dollard overprint on the ½d value also exist with the same backstamp on the reverse as the plain paper proofs, although the colour of the backstamp is rose purple. A 3x2 corner block of this proof has been seen with the late control S22. It was probably made in connection with the changeover to red overprinting on April 1st 1922. Examples without the backstamp may be printers waste (7). There seems to have been more than one sheet of these stamps on the market: they may also be ascribed to the connection of Dollard with a Dublin stamp dealer (6). The colour is described as vermillion by Meredith (16).

5. Varieties.

Errors in the British stamp. In the values overprinted by Dollard the engraving errors listed in the catalogue are as follows: 4d Break over FOUR (Row 19 Stamp 2), Breaks under FOUR (Row 5 Stamp 12), Broken crossbar of 4 (Row 19 Stamp 4), 9d PQSTAGE (Row 3 Stamp 1), 10d Broken frame line (Row 9 Stamp 1). In addition inverted watermarks are found on the 1d and the watermark reversed on the 5d (18). The QNE 1d has been noted on the Dollard issue at Row 20 Stamp 10 (19).

The Breaks under FOUR variety is associated with a damaged frame (20) and an earlier stage shows 9 breaks instead of 10 (4). A diagonal break over the U may also be found on the Break over FOUR variety (21). A damaged scroll is recorded on the left side of the ½d, position unknown (22).

A detailed study of the 10d broken frame line variety has been made, indicating stages in the flaw and a position on Stamp 12, row unknown (23).

Inverted and doubled overprints. During March 1922 three sheets of the ½d were discovered with inverted overprint in the GPO in Dublin. They were ordered to be destroyed but one sheet and part of another had already been sold over the counter. The overprints of these sheets are all shifted to the right (24). The legitimacy of this variety seems to be established by a letter from the Postmaster General, although the letter admits to only one sheet (25).

One sheet of the 1d value is supposed to have been sold in Dublin with the overprint shifted to the left and at least four sheets with well centred overprints came from unofficial channels, most with Control S22 (13). This value is also illustrated shifted towards the bottom (24). The ½d value is noted as being from Setting 1 and the 1d from Setting 2 (8).

A lightly doubled overprint of the 1d value has been seen caused by shifting of the sheet in the press (13).

Misplaced overprints. Improper feeding of the sheets of unoverprinted stamps into the press resulted in some cases to the date appearing wholly or partly on the next stamp below or Rialtas on the next stamp above (26). One sheet received no overprint on the six right hand stamps of each row, while the gutter and the bottom margin received 12 overprints. Examples of stamps from this sheet show staining (13). A list of the vertical misplacements compiled from Meredith is given in Supplement 16 (26), and are illustrated also by Perry Adams (27).

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| (1) Ir, Phil, Sep 69 pp 42-46, V. Linnell | (14) Rev, Jul 74 p 933 J. Foley |
| (2) Rev, Jan 76 p 1049, Kohl's Handbook tr. H. Zervas | (15) Rev, Jul 73 p 855, J. Brady |
| (3) Rev, Nov-Dec 55 p 243, P. Adams | (16) Rev, Apr 78 p 61-66 W. Meredith |
| (4) Ir, Phil, Dec 78 p 75-77, C.I. Dulin & P.H. Williams | (17) Rev, Mar-Apr 55 p 208, 212, 214, P. Adams |
| (5) Rev, Jan-Feb 58 p 350, Editor | (18) Stamps of Ireland Spec. Cat. 1987, MacDonnell Whyte |
| (6) Rev, Supp, 21 Jun 65 p 89-96, H. Zervas | (19) Ir, Phil, Jun 87 p 26, P.H. Williams |
| (7) Rev, Apr 76 p 1076-1080, Kohl's Handbook tr. H. Zervas | (20) Ir, Phil, Dec 75 p 75 C.I. Dulin |
| (8) Rev, Supp, 12 Jul-Aug 63 p 45-48, H. Fletcher | (21) Rev, Oct-Dec 66 p 640-641, G. Brady |
| (9) Rev, Winter 72 (actually 71) p 802-805, Editor | (22) Rev, Jan 80 p 47, J. Howley |
| (10) Rev, Jan-Mar 69 p 687-692, M.H. Priestley | (23) Rev, Apr-Jun 67 p 647, 649, G. Brady |
| (11) Rev, Winter 70-71 p 752-753, M.H. Priestley | (24) Rev, Apr-Jun 57 p 316-317, J. Walsh |
| (12) Rev, Apr-Jun 65 p 602, J. Foley | (25) Rev, Supp, 14 Jan-Feb 64 p 57-60, Editor |
| (13) Rev, Jul 76 p 1088-1091, Kohl's Handbook tr. H. Zervas | (26) Rev, Supp, 16 Apr 64 p 65-68, Editor |
| | (27) Rev, Mar-Apr 56 p 261-262, P. Adams |

....This article will be continued in forthcoming issues of the Journal....