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EDITORIAL:

The feedback we have received regarding the general layout currently adopted for the Journal has been largely positive and thus we will maintain in this way for the time being, subject to readers' future likes and dislikes.

Perhaps of more import to what the Journal looks like, is what goes in it. Recently there have been some lengthy articles submitted which have also appeared, almost simultaneously, in the Journals of our sister Societies the FAI and the EPA. While this may be superfluous for a member who belongs to one or both of the other Societies, it does ensure that the article, especially if it is a good one, gets the widest readership. Conversely, it also means that when we are blessed with a back-log of articles waiting to be printed (as we fortunately have now) a decision has to be made as to priority for publication. For those who have not seen their submission in this issue, please be patient.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

N. of I.P.S. Annual Fair

The N. of I.P.S. held an annual Fair & Exhibition on Saturday April 15, 1989.

At this Fair they issued their 4th postcard. A copy is enclosed. (Ed: Shown in reduced size below. The original looks far better than the photocopy).



They will be available from the address below @ Mint copies 15p and F.D.I. copies 30p (The used card will have a N. of I. Regional Postage Stamp (14p) with a Belfast Philatelic Counter post-mark dated April 15, 1989.

Post and Packing: 20p British Isles or 30p elsewhere.

Norman Scott
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Belfast, BT5 7BZ
N. Ireland

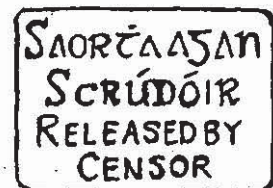
WWII Irish Censor Cancel: Ink Colours

During the second World War, mail coming in or going out of Ireland was subject to censorship. In addition to the use of the S.P.I. pink label was the use of censorship cancel marks. The most common of these censor marks was the rectangle with rounded corners and a four line inscription, in Gaelic and English, 'Saorta Ag An Scrudoir' with 'Released By Censor' below (Listed in James A. Mackay's "Irish Postmarks Since 1840" as no.1837). This mark exists in three different colours of ink: green, red and black.

An observation has been made by this collector of censorship of Irish mail in WWII that these three different colour inks were used in three distinct periods during WWII. Based on 25 covers, all going into Ireland, the following breakdown was noted:

Green cancel: (11 covers)
Red cancel: (10 covers)
Black cancel: (4 covers)

March 19, 1941 to July 21, 1943
August 10, 1943 to October 6, 1944
October 20, 1944 to February 3, 1945



The exclusivity of periods of use for each colour seems apparent. In all probability examples of earlier use of green and later use of black can be found. Likewise the possibility of overlap exists. Regardless, it is apparent that a particular colour of ink was bought and used during certain periods of WWII without mixed usage.

Paul E. Wittreich, Tenafly, New Jersey

Editor's Note: There are at least two types of this rubber stamp known. One, with thinner lettering and spacing above the first S, is known primarily in green and also in a scarcer purple-brown. The other, later version, with almost no space above the S, is known in green, red, black and, more rarely, in purplish-brown. It is also apparent that this stamp was used only on mail that was not Inland (i.e. not on mail entering Eire from Great Britain, but from elsewhere including Empire and Foreign). Consequently any chronological overlap of stamping colour that may be noted could also be due to the difference in nominal date (date of posting) and the usually unknown date of arrival. As an example, on a cover from Fiji, where the arrival date was noted in manuscript, the transit time was over four months. It is, of course, also unlikely that all the pads in use were re-inked on a specific date. The purplish-brown stamps (usually associated with military mail) were certainly used concurrently with another colour. Doubtless some of our members better versed in the use of these stamps than myself can provide more data - perhaps even a reason for the change of inking colour.

A Challenge For The 1990's and Beyond

I think that the majority of our members have an interest in "Postmarks". That interest may take the form of Postal History with the member collecting nothing after, say, 1840; he (or she) may collect but one or two individual counties in depth; he may collect special purpose postmarks or, as in my own case, he may have a general "reference" collection. He may be actively involved in original research, examining archives, post office guides, old maps, correspondence etc., or he may prefer to rely on the work of others. The pleasure of collecting whether it be modern first day covers or eighteenth century postal history must always remain the prerogative of the individual collector and the last thing I would seek to do is to tell him what he should or should not collect!

I have noted that other specialist societies have produced detailed listings of all known postmarks from the respective countries they study and feel that the time has come for us, as a society working together, to do this for Ireland.

It will of course be a long job, but I would hope that it might prove possible for us to publish our collective findings in Irish Philately, in instalments, over a number of years, by way of supplement if necessary. I would like to see each known postmark listed from its earliest to its latest known date of use in a simple format suitable for computer storage. Hopefully we will, over a number of years, be able to produce what will ultimately turn into the "Bible" for all collectors of Irish Postal History, whatever their particular area of specific interest.

Of course, a great deal of work has been done already and I would in no way seek to denigrate the efforts of others who often have to work in fresh fields with no other available references to guide them. Feldman and Kane produced their "Handbook of Irish Philately" some ten years or more ago. More recently Bill Kane has produced his listing of "Undated Namestamps of Ireland" and "Hans Möxter, in Germany, has written "The mileage Marks of Ireland". James Mackay (who has kindly given me permission to incorporate date information from his books into my own computer) has written not only on Irish Postmarks in general, but also specifically on the rubber (Climax) datestamps that were used at smaller offices from the 1880's until the early 1950's. In addition we have seen many other publications and articles too numerous to mention in this letter, but without which my own collecting would have been much less meaningful.

The recording of all known postmarks is a major project. I do not believe that any one collector has either the time or the access to sufficient material to be able to complete it in a meaningful way. Such a production can only be tackled by a group of several members (as many as possible) each taking responsibility for certain aspects. In fact the most logical way to go about this work is, in my opinion, not by looking at groups of postmarks (e.g. rubber date stamps) but office by office within counties. If membership wished it I would be happy to co-ordinate the project, but since many of our members have specialised knowledge of the postmarks and postal history of individual counties, I would hope that they would feel able to take responsibility for accumulating detailed information on their county (or counties) and make their own knowledge available to the rest of us, and to those individual members the credit for seeing this project forward must go.

For my part I have entered a detailed listing of the postmarks of Co. Laois into my computer, together with much information on Co. Galway, but work and other commitments are sufficient to ensure that there is no way in which I could ever hope to go into so much detail for the remaining 30 counties (it will be noted that I would propose to include the six counties of Northern Ireland in this project).

If we are to go ahead and do this work, how is it best documented? What is easiest for the compiler and most beneficial to the end-user? Members may recall that Michael Richards was kind enough to publish a lengthy article of mine in the December 1986 edition of Irish Philately in which I set out my thoughts on recording the use of handstamps since 1900. Prior to this date my own collection is of insufficient strength to permit me to do the detailed research that is needed.

I do however take the liberty of appending to this letter a computer printout of the first two offices (alphabetically) in Co. Laois detailing those postmarks I have been able to trace and that I have had reported to me. It will be seen the basic layout I use for each office comprises a brief summary of the office's postal history which needs to be expanded to include details of Penny Posts and other relevant information, brief geographical information, to be followed by a summary of all known postal markings. In these two cases I start at 1900, but the list is of course capable of extension backwards to the opening of the office. The layout for each postmark is similar to my 1986 article, but I have extended this to show my source of information for first and last use of each mark. The numbers allocated to each source must naturally remain confidential, although the observant will quickly appreciate that the code M relates to James Mackay's books which I do recommend to those who have not yet read them.

To gain some impression of the amount of work involved, I calculated some years ago that there were about 2200 offices open in the Republic plus a further 850 in Northern Ireland. This number will have reduced by perhaps 10% since that time, but to the calculation there must also be added perhaps a further 1000 offices which have closed giving a total of some 4000 Post Offices to review. This represents a lot of work, but I believe that given the willing co-operation of the membership of the IPC we can produce between us over the next 10 years or so what will prove to be an invaluable tool for future postal historians. I hope we are, as a society, capable of meeting the challenge. To fellow members, I say "Get out your pens and paper; let me have your comments and criticisms; tell me how you would like to help, and above all, good luck!"

Stan Challis, Guernsey

Editor's note: For reasons of economy of space, I have taken the liberty of reproducing the computer data on only one of the two Offices which Stan Challis appended to his letter. It does, I believe, give the reader a good measure of the method and technique adopted. Should a member want the raw data on the other office, Aghavoe, I am sure Stan would be happy to send it.

ABBEYLEIX - MAINISTIR LAOIGHISE

IRISH = MONASTERY OF LAOISE
STATION GSWR OPENED 1865:CLOSED 1963
10 MILES SOUTHWEST of PORTLAOISE
POPULATION 1118

OPEN:1809
1844 = 1
1910 HEAD OFFICE
1916 POST TOWN
1960 PT = PORTLAOISE
TEL. CODE = AKC

SIZE	INSCRIPTION	TYPE	NOTE	FIRST:LAST	SOURCE
SKD33/31	ABBEYLEIX	66		00:	2
DR27/16	ABBEYLEIX/=	35		28.11.03:26.12.04	1:1
SKD33/30	ABBEYLEIX (2)	66		13.04.05:	1
SR27	ABBEYLEIX	11	1	21908 :28.09.28	1:1
DR26/17	ABBEYLEIX/=	35		08.09.08:13.07.10	1:1
SKD34/31	ABBEYLEIX	66		19.10.11:	1
SR24	ABBEYLEIX	13		15.08.13:17.04.26	1:4
SKS34	ABBEYLEIX/QUEENS CO	67		25.03.22:10.05.22	3:3
DR29/17	MAINISTIR LAOIGHISE/- + -	40		13.07.22:25.09.29	4:4
SKS34	MAINISTIR LAOIGHISE	67		20.08.30:28.08.30	3:4
DR31/17	MAINISTIR LAOIGHISE/-	54		16.10.30:26.04.39	4:4
DR31/17	MAINISTIR LAOIGHISE/-	53	2	18.05.39:07.04.51	1:1
SR31	MAINISTIR LAOIGHISE	19	1	10.09.41:09.11.45	1:4
DR30/17	MAINISTIR.LAOISE/-	50	3	00.11.53:05.05.86C	4:1
DR30/17	MAINISTIR LAOISE/-	50	3	26.01.55:23.01.62	1:1
SKS30	MAINISTIR LAOISE	70		58:	2
SR30	MAINISTIR LAOISE/-	27	1	03.10.59:28.03.85C	1:1
RPR	MAINISTIR LAOISE			30.04.54:	3

Notes -

1. Main use apparently as a counter handstamp on registered mail etc.
2. During period of use the bar gradually got fatter and by 1950 was akin to type 53; best identified by checking gap between S and E.
3. Two very similar datestamps. One has a wide gap between Mainistir and Laoise which by December 1956 had a full stop appear to fill the gap. The other has a smaller gap and no full stop. At least one has been recorded for 30.11.53.

The C6bh Paquebot Hand-stamp With Missing Year

Bernt Dienelt has sent an article he wrote for the booklet published to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the FAI in 1987 ("The Paquebot Postmarks of C6bh, Co. Cork") wherein he remarks for this hand-stamp (see Irish Philately December 1988) the missing year was due to wear of the date slug and occurred sometime during the 1930's. An illustration in the article of a partly worn year date shows an eroded 1937 (September 25). More significantly he notes that the year slug was always in the hand-stamp, but for the missing date examples it "no longer touches the paper".

Editor's note: While respecting Herr Dienelt's opinion, it still seems not wholly convincing. The missing year period was sometime around 1930. There are many examples with complete year date in the mid-1930's. The illustration in his article showing wear (which certainly occurred) is from the relatively late 1930's. Even assuming that the missing year was indeed from the late 1930's (and my example of October 31 would be compatible with the wear on the 1937 date even if the stamp that bears the cancellation is block watermark and not a post-1934 photogravure), it still seems odd that it was not corrected immediately. Wear is one thing, complete absence of even a trace of the slug is another. Moreover wear would normally affect other parts of the hand-stamp as well. Examples I have seen of the missing date hand-stamp are usually virtually perfect in every respect other than the missing date. I also have an example of missing day for the year 1928. My own thesis is that some figure slugs did indeed become damaged (rather than worn) and were removed, but that the hand-stamp remained in use without them while more cypher type was being sought as a replacement. It may well be that, unlike a normal Post Office, no spare type was on hand and a finite time would be needed before repair could be effected. Obviously more examples are needed to resolve this. A cover bearing an arrival stamp could be decisive.

Irish Philately

I like the proportional spacing with justification as used in the March issue. I do not like the size 17 used for the footnotes and would use the same typespacing etc as the main article. I would like BOLD headings (same size) and italics for illustrations.

Brian Warren, Dublin

Editor's note: The above is an extract from Brian's letter in which he notes that due to a heavy work load and the arrival of his second child, his annual TWTYTW article may be delayed. Hopefully we shall receive his invariably admirable summary in time for the September issue. A Year without Brian's review of all its philatelic happenings during that time is like an empty album page in an otherwise complete collection.

We are incorporating his suggestion for italics for illustrations in this issue. As to footnotes, for the sake of continuity the size 17 will be maintained for the extracts of Mike Priestley's article.

Co.Galway - Post Office Lists 1844 - 1906

I would offer an apology to any reader who may have been misled by several mistakes in the article under the above heading which appeared in the March issue of "Irish Philately". The Editor has kindly allowed me space in this issue to correct them.

1. The heading "FROM" does not clearly indicate the date 1844 where given. It was intended to show that this number was extracted from the lists of 1844-1857 as originally listed by G.Brumell.

2. Ahascragh: From 1888 - vacant by 1857.

3. Aughrim: Vacant by 1857. This number was allocated to Aughrim, Co.Wicklow, from 1885.

4. Carna: Should read - from 1885

5. Cloggan: Number is 139 and not 138 as shown in the article.

Michael Hartnett, Limerick

1922 Irish Overprints - The Low Value Issues

The Thom Issues: The 5 Line Narrow Setting

By M.H.Priestley

(Previous parts of this article appeared in the December 1988 and March 1989 issues of the Journal).

1. Background to the issue:

Alex Thom & Co. was, with Dollard Printing House and Harrison and Sons, one of the firms invited to perform the overprinting of the low value issues. No explanation has been given regarding the division of work between Dollard and Thom, though probably the ability of each company determined the amount of printing allocated (1).

Thom did their overprinting at Glasnevin which was some distance from the Dollard plant on Wellington Quay, the scene of the Four Courts battle (2). Thom overprinted the 1½d, 2d, 6d and 1/- values from the beginning (February 17, 1922) and from June 12, 1922 the other values as well after the contract with Dollard had been terminated (3). (Editor's note: June 12 was the day Dollard lost their contract. June 19 is the usual date quoted for the earliest Thom blue-black printings. There is, as yet, no firm indication that Thom printed their "July" overprints as early as mid-June. This was first mooted by Mrs. Charlotte Cooke without any confirmatory evidence.)

2. The 5 Line Narrow Setting Overprint:

Overprint type: The Thom 5 line narrow setting differs from the Dollard in the date, which is in block type with full stop (4). The size of the overprint (14½ X 16 mm) is characteristic of the issue (5).

Quantities printed: The value of the first printing was said to be £73,000 (4), and the total quantities of the first four values overprinted are given as 1½d (960,000), 2d Dies I & II (9.6 m), 6d (480,000), 1/- (480,000) (6).

Dates of issue: The first four values were available on February 17, 1922 at the same time as the Dollard values. The dates of the later values are given by Kohl's Handbook as follows: ½d (June 19), 1d (July 20), 3d (July 11), 4d (September 8), 5d (August 11), 6d (August 21), 9d Agate (August 10), 9d Green (November 6), 10d (August 24), 1/- (August 21) (7). Dates of issue of individual plates are listed in Supplement 17 of the Revealer (8).

Inks: The ink used to overprint the first four Thom values in February 1922 is described as black and grey-black (1). At the time Thom took over the overprinting of all values after June 12 a shortage occurred in the Post Office supplies of stamps which had been formerly provided by Dollard. Thom had been experimenting with a dull blue-black ink and some of these experimental sheets

were released by the suppliers (9). Meredith describes this ink as thinner than the later blue-black, in a medium shade between black and blue black (4).

A few proof sheets of the ½d, 1d, 3d and 10d values were also overprinted in dull black or dull grey black, and released for issue. (Editor's note: Again there is no evidence that these issues were from proof sheets, or indeed, even from experimental ink trials). Nearly all the supposed dull black of these values viewed under 40X magnification show obvious traces of blue. Other methods of distinguishing black and blue black overprints tend to be subjective (9).

Kohl's Handbook makes the point that because the blue black overprints began to appear in June while the grey black did not appear until July, the grey black overprints should be considered varieties of the blue black. To distinguish between black and blue black Kohl recommends viewing the stamp in sunlight at eye level or holding it close to a strong light source to note if a bluish tone is present (7).

Thom finally developed a bronze blue ink which was clear and outstanding and is generally called blue black. It is always shiny with a distinct dark blue lustre, whereas the experimental blue blacks are dull (9).

Details of dates on which the black, blue black and red (for the 2½d, 4d and 9d values) appeared are given in Supplement 17 of the Revealer (8).

Plates: Ten plates of this issue are listed by Meredith (4). These are differentiated by measurements of the control block (the method well described by R.Swords (10) and by the recurrent type flaws (4). (Editor's note: Virtually all the definitions and descriptions of these overprint setting plates were noted by Vesey in the London Philatelist in 1924. Apart from Control block measurements, his papers have not been improved upon since that time. Meredith initially gave attribution to Vesey in the earlier editions of his handbook, but by the fourth - and widest known - edition this attribution was dropped. The modifications made by Meredith to the Vesey descriptions have largely proved to be erroneous. Most of the later work quoted below by the author is based on Control blocks and only rarely on complete sheets, although inferences are made about them. For this reason, it is very strongly recommended that any new student to the subject would be strongly advised to consult Vesey's classical papers before accepting conclusions based on relatively slight later evidence. Perhaps it should also be noted that Settings 1, 2 and 3 were used for the February printings and Settings 2 to 10 for the July printings. The existence of a Setting 9 for the 1½d February printing is contentious).

The Meredith measurements proved to be inaccurate in some cases and were re-measured by "Erinnach" (11), and later further refined (12) (13). Plate 2 appears in two forms. Both have the same measurements and type shifts, but different type flaws (13). (Editors note: J. Munro was the first to distinguish this plate setting in two forms. The differentiation is largely based on the wear of the stop after 1922 in position R20/2. However, there is no evidence at all in his, or later work, to believe that one form is any different from the other except from a wearing of the overprint plate. Similarly Settings 7 and 8 are essentially the same plate but with different shifts of the stereo block arrangements on printing). Dr.Harrow has identified the plate flaws and type shifts for each plate where only a control block of 3 stamps is available (14) (Editor's note: Not so. The plate flaws and type shifts were inferred from the Control blocks of 3).

A chart giving the type shift positions throughout the sheet for all ten plates is also given. This makes possible the plating of blocks which do not contain

the control block (15). (Editor's note: This chart is largely based on Vesey's papers and while generally reliable, it is not infallible. Certain plate settings are known with different type shift stereo settings. This occurred not only with Settings 7 and 8, but also on Setting 9).

Method of printing: Although no authentic information is available from Thom, an account on February 18, 1922 in the Stamp Collector stated that the overprint was set up by a monotype machine 6 overprints at a time (16). There is evidence from the recurrence of type flaws that Plate 1 was printed from a stereo the size of a complete 12X10 pane (17). Most other plates appear to be formed from stereos 4 stamps wide. Only in Plate 2 is there evidence of a 6 overprint stereo (18).

Proofs: Thom seems to have submitted overprint proofs using a smaller type than that eventually used, at least such specimens exist with the date figures identical to the Thom overprint (16). Proofs of the actual Thom overprint are found on plain paper in black ink (19).

3. Varieties.

Errors in the British stamp: Engraving errors are noted in the specialised catalogue on the 1½d and 1/- values with black overprints, and on the 1d, 1½d, 4d, 9d, 10d and 1/- with blue black overprints (6).

The reversed Q for O which is found on Row 15 Stamp 9 Control T22P on the 1d is clearly illustrated (20). Since the flaw occurred on the printing plate before the sheet was perforated, the question of sheet perforation is relatively immaterial (21).

The PENCf variety is found on the chestnut and pale red brown shades of the 1½d value on Row 15 Stamp 12 Control Q21P (21). By June 1922 the error had been corrected, but the lower bar is longer than the upper. PENCf corrected is found on Control T22P (21).

Three varieties are found on the 4d value, the frame break flaw on Row 5 Stamp 12 (22), the break over FOUR on Row 19 Stamp 2 (23) and the broken crossbar of 4 on Row 19 Stamp 4 (6).

The 9d sage green PQSTAGE variety on Row 3 Stamp 1 Control T22I is associated with a v cut in the outer frame line (23). (Editor's note: This also occurs on the 9d agate).

The 10d frame break flaw is similar to that on the Dollard overprint with evidence that it occurs on Row 1 (24). However, it is recorded as Row 9 Stamp 1 in the catalogue (6). (Editor's note: There is no doubt whatsoever that this frame break - by E of POSTAGE - occurs in R 9/1).

The ONF shilling variety on Row 8 Stamp 9 is illustrated on the Thom 3 line overprint (21) but is noted in the catalogue as also on the Thom 5 line overprint (6). (Editor's note: This variety is in position R8/10, not R8/9, and exists in all overprint issues of this value).

A frame break flaw on the 2d Die II on Row 20 Stamp 2 is also illustrated (25). (Editor's note: This occurs with S22 and T22 controls. There are also many other frame break flaws which exist in the overprinted values. There are a few on the 1d - in R19/12 and R20/12 - for example; an important one on the 1½d which occurs with the February printings only; on the 3d value in R15/12; and another on the 4d also in R15/12. All these have been verified - at least three

examples of each is a useful criteria - and in most the position, GB Plate Number as well associated overprint settings are known. A major plate flaw on the 1d, QNE, also exists).

A number of watermarks are listed as inverted, reversed or both (6). Some of these do not correspond with what might be expected from the known controls and GB plates involved since they have yet to be found in the unoverprinted state (26).

Inverted Overprints: The inverted overprint varieties are dealt with in detail in Supplement 4 of the Revealer. Two sheets of the 2d Die I black with the inverted overprint were sold in Cork on the first day of issue, one person obtaining a complete pane (Control S22I). One sheet had a definite overprint displacement to the left. A sheet of the 2d Die II black with inverted overprint was apparently issued from Enniscorthy Co.Wexford as used examples were received on letters with that postmark.

A sheet of the 2d Die II blue black inverted was said to have been sold to a Dublin firm from the main O'Connell Street Post Office. The 2d Die I blue black inverted was also discovered in Dublin, but only three specimens from the sheet seem to have been recovered (27). This 2d Die I blue black is listed but not priced both by Meredith (19) and by MacDonnell Whyte (6), but the legitimacy of both blue black inverts has been the subject of debate. The Royal Philatelic Society declared in 1925 and 1926 that they were not legitimate issues over the counter (27).

Overprint Shifts: In a large number of positions in the Thom 5 line narrow setting plates lines of the overprint have shifted, giving rise to the R/Se, R/S, E1/1 and E1/19 varieties recorded in detail by Meredith for each plate (4). These varieties are due to the movement of the second line of the overprint (R/Se and R/S varieties) and the fourth line of the overprint (E1/1 and E1/19 varieties), the various combinations being recorded by sheet and plate position in chart form (28). The amount of the shift varies considerably in different positions. Five varieties have been noted for each of the two types of shift.

The E1/1 varieties are useful for plate identification since they occur so frequently. No E1/1 shifts occur on lines 1,4,10,11,14,17 and 20 on any plates; this may be evidence of the method of plate preparation (28).

Two letter spacing varieties are associated with the overprint shifts:

R/S and wide ac. The distance between a and c in Sealadac is greater than normal. This is found on Plate 3 Row 17 Stamp 4 and Plates 7 & 8 Row 1 Stamps 8 and 12.

R/Se and wide ac. The distance between a and c in Sealadac is greater than normal. This is found on Plate 2 Row 12 Stamp 4 (29).

Shifts of the whole overprint similar to the Dollard shifts are recorded, giving rise to the following varieties: date omitted, date at top, part date at top and part at foot, Rialtas at foot, part Rialtas at top and part at foot (4) (3). Out of alignment pairs are noted on a number of plates (8).

Type Flaws: Meredith noted the sheet position of a number of type flaws in this issue (19). Where recurrent flaws occur in the control lock they are particularly useful in identifying the plate concerned (14) or the position of a particular R/Se variety (30).

Similar type flaws which are found in a number of plate positions can give an indication of the stereo layout of the plate. For example, several flaws occur in the same position in the upper and lower panes in Plate 1 (17) while the split

s of Rialtas is found in a regular pattern on several plates indicating a stereo 4 stamps wide on those plates (15). Another variety recurring in two positions is the broken 1 of Rialtas (31).

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Irish Philately Sep 69 p 42-49 V.Linnell | (15) Irish Philately Nov 70 p 33-38 M.Priestley |
| (2) Revealer Sep-Oct 50 p 375, 379, 380, J.Walsh | (16) Revealer Jul 76 p 1088-1091, Kohl Handbook tr H.Zervas |
| (3) Revealer Apr 76 p 1076-1080 Kohl Handbook tr H.Zervas | (17) Irish Philately Mar 71 p 10-11, M.Priestley |
| (4) Revealer Apr 78 p 61-66, W.Meredith ed J.Foley | (18) Irish Philately Oct 70 p 33-38, M.Priestley |
| (5) Revealer Sep-Oct 53 p 137-138 P.Adams | (19) Revealer Jul 78 p 8-15, W.Meredith ed J.Foley |
| (6) Stamps of Ireland Specialised Cat 1987, MacDonnell Whyte | (20) Revealer Jan-Mar 57 p 302, M.O'Reilly |
| (7) Revealer Oct 76 p 1105-1107 Kohl Handbook tr H.Zervas | (21) Revealer Supplement 5 Mar-Apr 62 p 17-19, J.Walsh |
| (8) Revealer Supplement 17 May 64 p 69-70, J.Walsh | (22) Irish Philately Mar 72 p 13, M.Priestley |
| (9) Revealer Oct-Dec 68 p 683-685, J.Walsh | (23) Revealer Oct-Dec 66 p 640-641, G.Brady |
| (10) Revealer Jan 78 p 44-45, R.Swords | (24) Revealer Apr-Jun 67 p 647, G.Brady |
| (11) Philatelist Mar 47 p 167-170, "Erinneach" | (25) Journal of Irish Philately Oct 72 p 20-21, C.Dulin |
| (12) Revealer Apr-Jun 69 p 695, 697, 698, M.Priestley | (26) Revealer Jul 75 p 1022, C.Dulin |
| (13) Revealer Supplement 46 Oct 70 p 213-216, M.Priestley | (27) Revealer Jan-Feb 64 p 57-60, J.Walsh |
| (14) Revealer Summer 87 p 11-15 M.Harrow | (28) Revealer Oct 69 p 193-196, M.Priestley |

(The final instalment of M. Priestley's article will be continued in the September issue of the Journal).

The '186' Dublin Diamond With Figure Above The Numeral

By Bill Kane

It was with great interest that I read the article on the above subject by C.I.Dulin, in the March issue of Irish Philately. When I wrote the booklet on the Postal Markings of Dublin, c.1840-1922, I was not as well informed on the subject of the 'Number above the Number' handstamp as I am today. I now record the data that I have since obtained relative to this interesting Dublin cancellation.

As far as I am aware, it was first reported by Dr. Alfred Whitehead, in an article he wrote for the British Philatelist, in October 1940. When he drew attention to a new type of Dublin 'Killer' which consisted of a break in the centre of the bar above the Office number '186', and the insertion of a small figure in that space. He stated that he had found the following numbers: 1, 3, 4 and 7. He also stated that his impressions at the time were that the experiment was short lived.

In 1942, Alcock and Holland published their Third Supplement to their "Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland", on page 7 of which they record the following: 'Page 292, First Paragraph, Line 3; After "side" insert: "There is a scarce Dublin variety in which the first bar above the office number is broken by the insertion of an index number".

Shortly before his death in 1972, the late John Sherman-III wrote me from Leucadia, California, telling me that he had in his possession four stamps on pieces with the numbers 2, 5, 6 and 7 above the '186'. He sent me a drawing of the number 7. John requested my observations on same.



4
3 3
4

Eleven bars in diamond.

"Four bars above and below the figure '186', and three bars on each side of the numeral.

I also know that the late F.E.Dixon wrote to John Sherman telling him that he, (Fred), had four single stamps with the numbers 2, 3, 6 and 8 above the figure '186'. Later on Fred acquired three more cancels, two on registered covers, and a doubtful one on a form acknowledging the receipt of a registered letter. Strange to say, the numbers 5, 6 and 7 of these items all differed in some respect. The 5 was a Diamond consisting of nine bars, three above and below the '186', with three bars on each side of the numeral. The 6 was an eleven bar Diamond, four bars above and below, three on each side of the '186'. The cancel with the 7 was much different in that the figure 7 was in a break of the second and third bars, instead of the fourth bar as recorded by John Sherman, in his letter to me.



F.E.Dixon's items

The dates respectively for these cancels are as follows: July 8, 1892, May 19, 1892, and May 15, 1893.

At that time Sub Offices were not allowed to cancel the adhesives on Registered letters, hence the Killer type Diamond was applied at the G.P.O. Dublin.

After writing my "Dublin Postmarks" I acquired a Registered envelope similar to the one illustrated by C.I.Dulin. It was posted in Molesworth St, Dublin in 1893. I also found a poor copy of a $\frac{1}{2}$ d Q.V. Plate 9, on piece, written on the back in pencil.

In 1979 a friend of mine told me about a Dublin lady he knew who had three volumes of the United Service Gazette for the years 1876 to 1878. The adhesive stamps on each of the magazines were cancelled by the Dublin Diamond Killer with the number above the numeral. All the code numbers 1 to 7 were found there.

James A. Mackay, in 1982, published his excellent book "Irish Postmarks Since 1840". On page 12 he illustrates a Numeral Diamond '186' with the figure 5 above the '186'. It is a nine barred diamond similar to the one described by F.E.Dixon. On p.14 Mr. Mackay states "Dublin had a series of obliterators with stamper's numbers breaking the bar immediately above the numeral".

Finally, Eugene Labiuk published in the 'Revealer' No.115, July 1974, a photo of a Registered cover posted at the Sub Office in Merrion Row, Dublin, on December 15, 1890. The adhesive stamp was cancelled by a number 8 which had four bars above and below the '186' and three bars on each side of the numeral.

Before we come to any conclusion, some questions must be answered.

1. Do we agree that there are now code numbers 1 to 8?
2. Can we extend the dates of usage on what we already know, on piece or cover? Newspapers etc. 1876 to 1878, Registered letters 1890 to 1893.
3. Surely there must be some examples of usage between 1878 and 1890. Also we must give thought as to why two separate forms of usage. We had registered mail between 1876 and 1878, also newspapers between the years 1890 and 1893.
4. Do we agree that the numbers above the numerals are stamper's numbers, similar to those used in the Duplex obliterators in use since 1856?

5. That the formation of the Diamonds is confined to nine bars and eleven bars as described?

The above clearly demonstrates that Irish Postal History is still a fascinating subject for study.

Editor's note: We would like thank our good friend Bill Kane for his most informative and comprehensive article. While not attempting to answer his questions, it did occur to me that perhaps because they were first found on newspapers we have tended to assume that they were Newspaper stamp cancellations which, for some as yet unknown reason, were later used on Registered mail. On the extremely tenuous data from my two covers, I wonder if the killer may have been used for a special form of Bulk mail. For the earlier period covering Newspapers this would be obvious, but since both my covers are from Societies (the Scottish Widows Fund and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland) which might have had a relatively considerable amount of registered mail to post, it could conceivably suggest that at some stage (presumably around 1887, the earliest thus far noted) they were treated in a special way. It certainly would be interesting to know if the other registered covers which exist were also from Societies or Charities of this type or not.

To add to the mystery, I have recently acquired a newspaper wrapper with Killer 6 (4-3-4) used in 1888. This not only extends the period of Newspaper use but, and more importantly, shows that the cancellations on registered envelopes overlaps that on Newspapers.

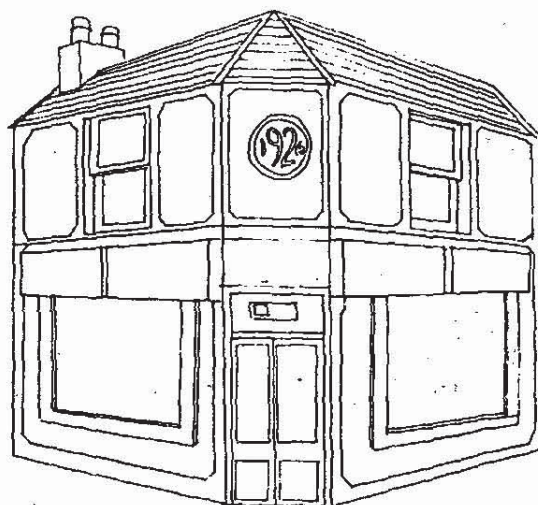
Pen Pictures of The Cork City Sub-Post Offices

By C.T.Hinneburg-Murphy

Even if views of the Head Post Office of Cork are not numerous, one does occasionally stumble across old photographs, postcards or even book illustrations depicting the imposing edifice. The fate of the many Sub-Offices is altogether a different matter, with very few being reproduced in picture form. Though often located in charming, if not elegant, buildings, the town Sub-Offices have long been neglected by the researcher.

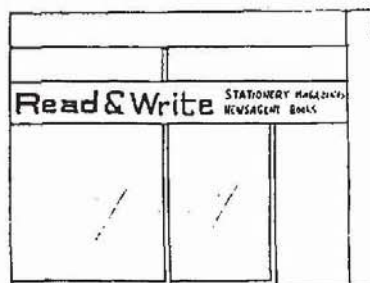


Cross Douglas Rd
(Now closed)



High St

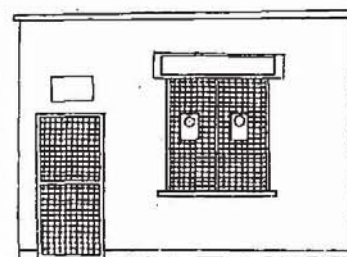
the Williamite siege in the late seventeenth century. Then located near the Southgate Bridge, between South Main Street and Grand Parade, the Head Office was to eventually settle at its present location midway through the last century. John Lawrence included the front entrance - on Pembroke Street - in his photographic ramblings through Ireland. By the turn of the century, the public were gaining access to the Post Office via the Oliver Plunkett Street entrance and the building took the now familiar aspect.



Knocknaheeny

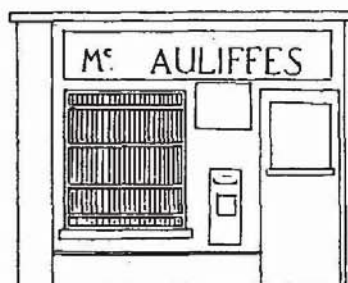


Bishopstown

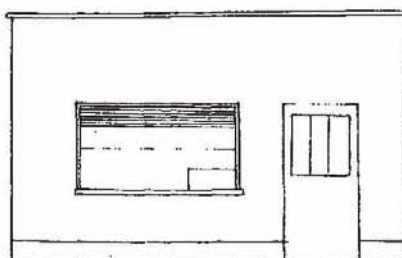


Blackrock

Of the original five receiving houses - at Old Chapel Lane, Glanmire Road, North Main Street, St. Luke's and Sullivan's Quay - none remain in their original situation. The Old Chapel Lane and Sullivan's Quay Offices survived a mere decade before terminating business. The remaining three survived but of course have long since been relocated. The North Main Street establishment, though, has a most unusual history; nearly a century and a half ago it opened at no. 96 North Main Street under the guidance of one J.K.Oakshott. Subsequent moves to no. 23 (North Main Street) in the 1850's, to no. 99 in 1903 and to no. 106 in 1907 followed. In 1916 the Sub-Office was re-established at its original location (where else?) at no. 96 where it survived to the present day. Unfortunately no trace exists of the former receiving house.



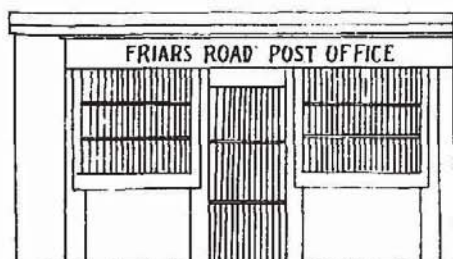
Gurranebraher



Pouladuff



Dennehy's Cross



Friar's Rd

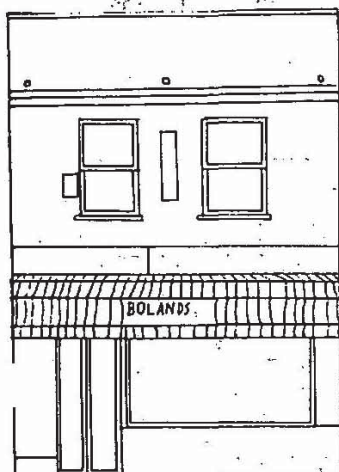


S. Douglas Rd



Montenette Park

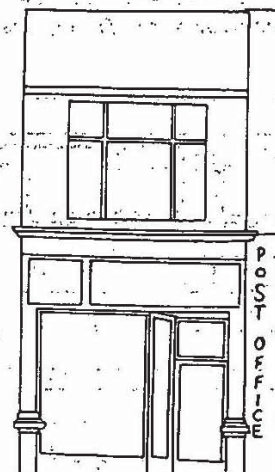
By the turn of the century the number of town Sub-Offices had increased to fifteen with the latest, St. Finbarr's, opening in 1900. This figure was augmented by a further five before responsibility for the Posts in Ireland fell to the newly created Department in Dublin. The increase to the current total of 34 reflects the growth of the city. The extension of the corporation boundaries has, of course, had the consequence of several hitherto County Post Offices



North Main St

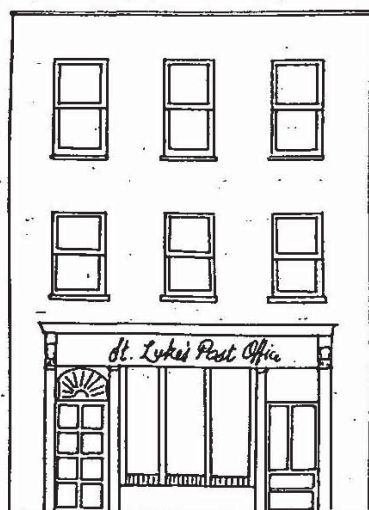


Mayfield



McCurtain St

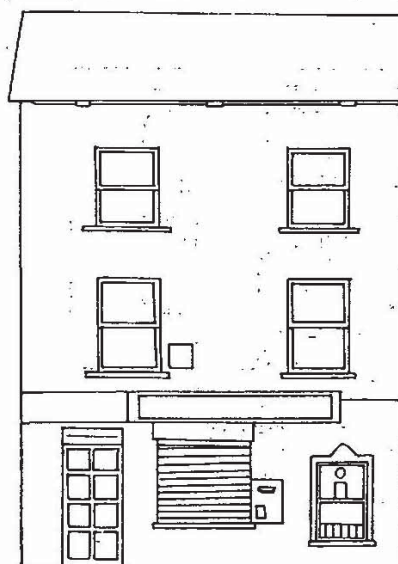
being re-designated Town Sub-Offices - the Douglas and Togher branches being but two. New Suburbs created a demand for local postal facilities. In the post war period Bishopstown and Ballinlough have served the needs of those to the south of the city. Much of the contemporary expansion has been to the north - from Montenotte (1937) to Knocknaheeny (1984), the latter being the latest addition to the list. In that intervening period other Offices opened at Farranree, Gurranebraher, Fair Hill and Mayfield. One no doubt can anticipate a new Office with the more recent and continuing development in the Mahon area to the south west.



St. Luke's

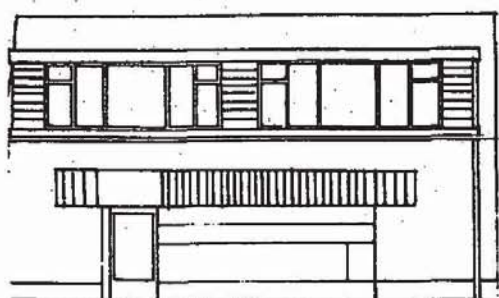


Grand Parade

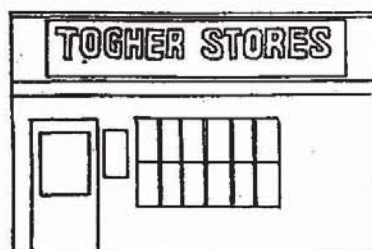


Blackpool

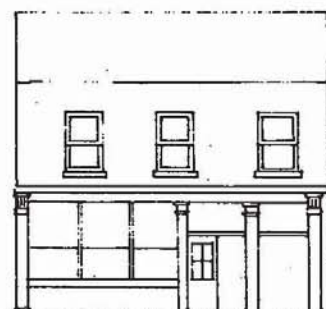
The various Sub-Offices reflect a very broad spectrum of architectural styles. Varying from the elegance of the Victorian and Edwardian eras to the more functional block units of the contemporary shopping centres, the range of exteriors reflects the history the postal service has witnessed. The St. Luke's and Capwell Offices are a world apart from the 'modern' all-encompassing premises of Knocknaheeny and Togher.



Albert Rd

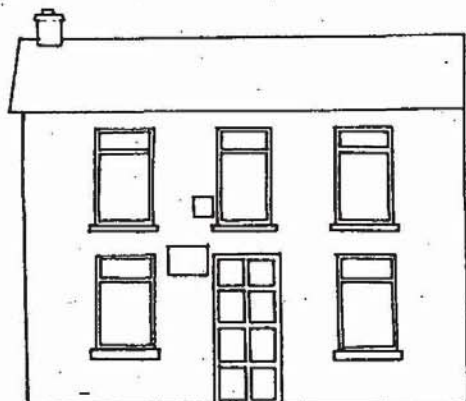


Togher



Sunday's Well

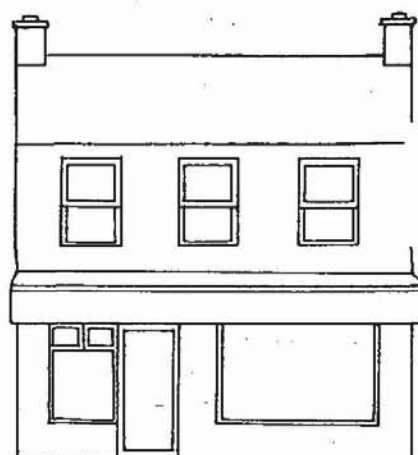
Disregarding the aforementioned North Main Street Office, no less than five of the current postal establishments have been in their present location for over a century. Four - St. Luke's, Sunday's Well, Capwell and Washington Street -



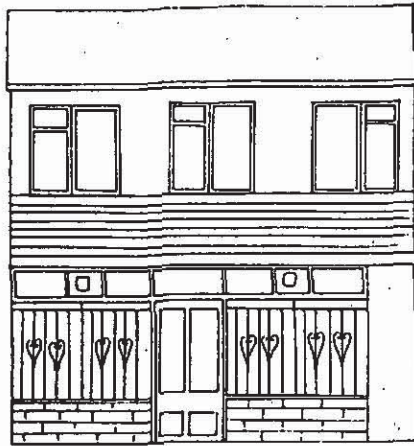
Douglas



College Rd



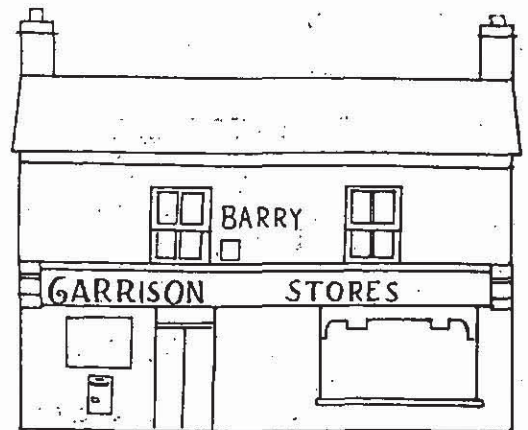
Farranree



Fair Hill

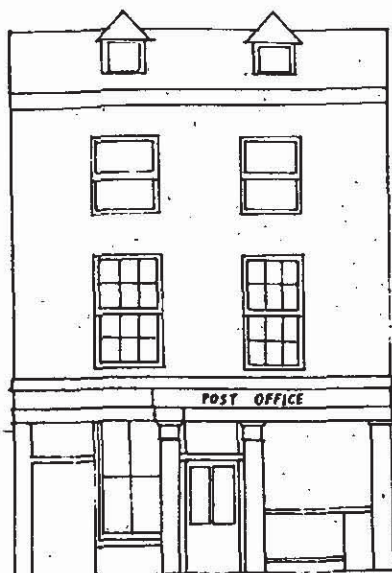


Blarney St

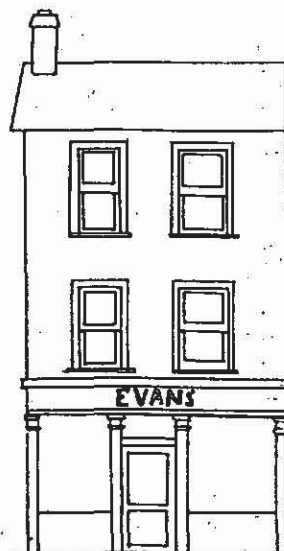


Barrackton

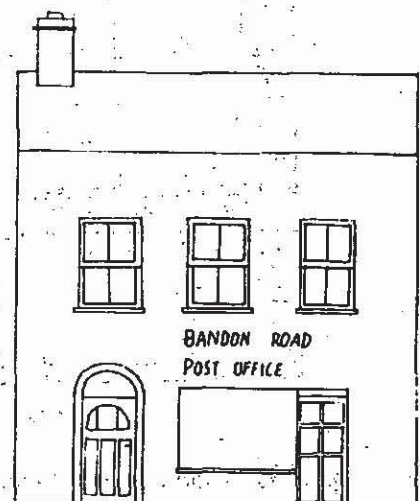
reflect the architectural nuances, both internally and externally, of the late nineteenth century. The Sunday's Well Office has seen some 'modernisation' to the outside, yet still retains an elegant interior. Both St. Luke's and Capwell have, to date, avoided the developer, both inside and outside. The fifth Office to remain on its present site for over a century, Bandon Road, bears little, if any, resemblance to the original.



Washington St



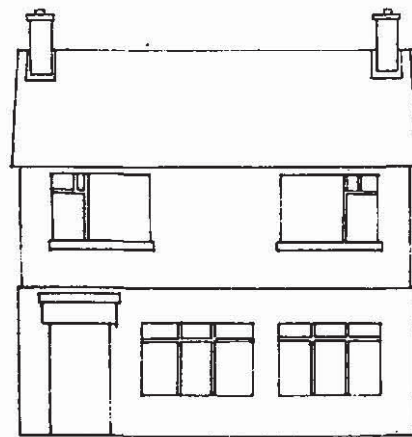
Shandon St



Bandon Rd



Ballintemple

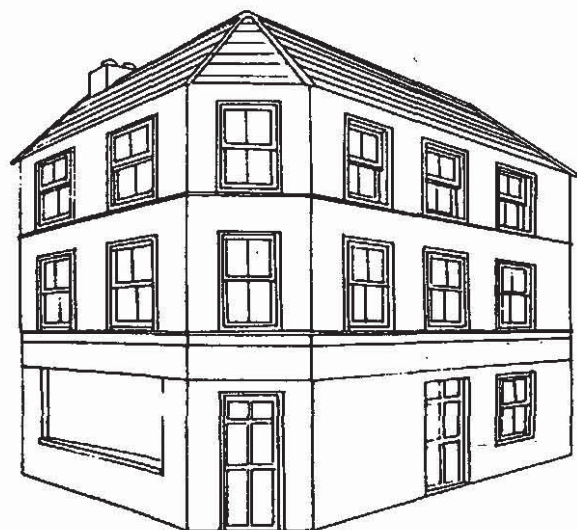


Ballyphehane

There are other Offices, Grand Parade for instance, which are housed in splendid buildings. On the whole, however, this trend is confined to the 'Island' and its immediate environs, that is the inner city. In the suburbs, Sub-Offices were established in either retail outlets or in self-contained premises. The latter bear all the resemblance to a large box - functional but not to any extent aesthetic! Neither, of course, can match the elegance of long surviving Sub-Offices; they nevertheless reflect the immediate requirements of an ever changing city.



Capwell



Western Rd

Special thanks to Thomas Chan Pang who made the drawings of the Post Offices from photographs taken by Catherine Murphy (my wife!).

Appendix I.

Using a 20 year cut-off mark, the following Table shows the periods of expansion of the number of Sub-Offices in Cork.

Offices Still Open	1840	1860	1880	1900	1920	1940	1960	1989
Glanmire Rd	*							
North Main St.	*							
St. Luke's	*							
Blackpool		*						
Grand Parade		*						
Sunday's Wall		*						
Barrackton			*					
Albert Rd				*				
Ballintemple				*				
Brandon Rd.				*				
Capwell				*				
McCurtain St. (King St.)				*				
Washington St. (Gt. George's St.)				*				
Blackrock					*			
Blarney St.					*			
College Rd					*			
Douglas					*			
Western Rd.					*			
Dennehy's Cross						*		
Friar's Rd.						*		
High St.						*		
Montenette Park						*		
Ballyphehane							*	
Bishopstown							*	
Gurranebraher							*	
Mayfield							*	
Shandon St.							*	
Togher							*	
Fairhill (1962)								*
Farranree (By 1973)								*
Knocknaheeny								*

Offices Now Closed	1840	1860	1880	1900	1920	1940	1960	1989
Old Chapel Lane	*							
Sullivan's Quay	*							
Butter Market			*					
St. Finbarr's				*				
Boreenamana Rd.					*			
Spangle Hill (Farranree)						*		

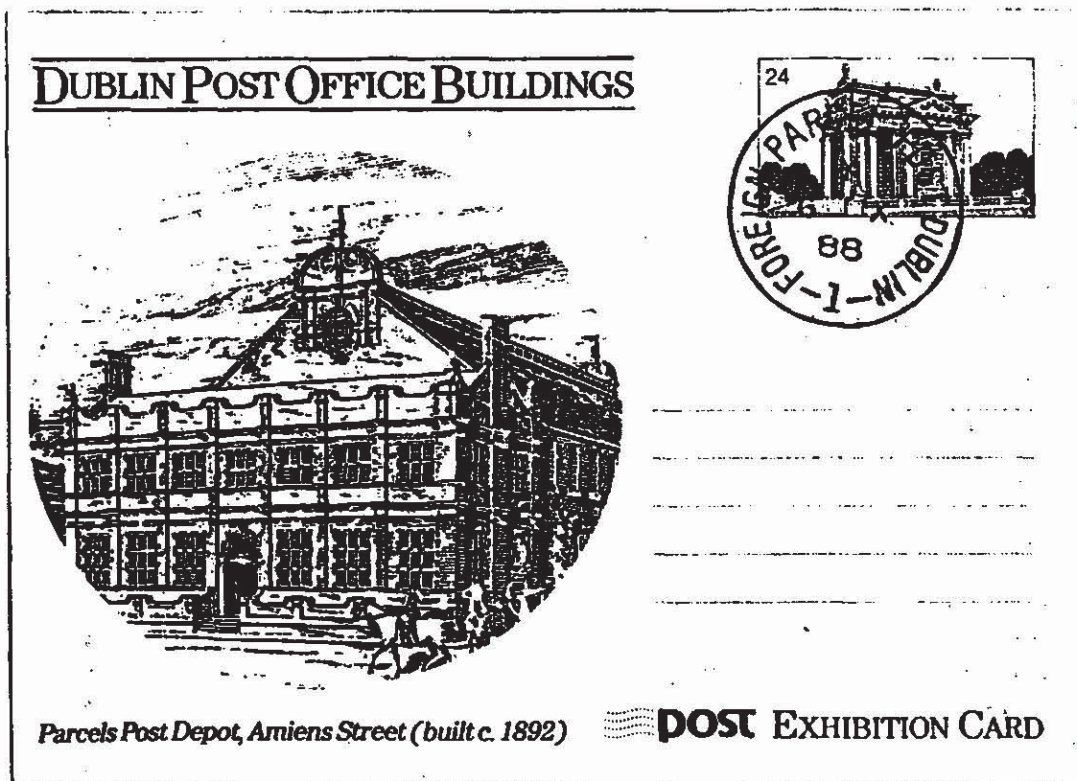
Appendix II. Closure dates of Receiving Houses/Sub-Offices

Old Chapel Lane	1853
Sullivan's Quay	1957 ?, by 1960
Butter Market	1952 Business switched to newly opened Shandon St
St. Finbarr's	1974
Boreenamana Rd.	1974
Spangle Hill	1973 Farranree took business of Spangle Hill S.T.O.

Dublin Post Office Buildings, Parcel Post Depot, Amiens Street

By K. Winklemann

On the first day of Stamp '88, An Post issued four postal stationery postcards illustrating Dublin Post Office Buildings, The General Post Office, Ballsbridge D.O., Rathmines D.O. and the Parcel Post Depot, Amiens Street. It should be noted that the country of issue does not appear on these cards in the impressed stamp.



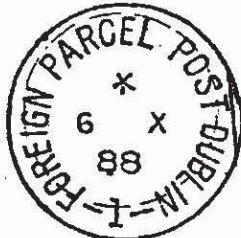
The following is a copy of an article in 'The Irish Builder' issue of July 1, 1892.

NEW PARCELS POST DEPOT,
AMIENS-STREET.

The illustration which we publish to-day is a reproduction of a pen-and-ink drawing, exhibition in this year's Exhibition of the Royal Hibernian Academy, by Mr. Howard Pentland, Bac. Eng., F.R.I.B.A., Chief Surveyor to the Board of Public Works. The building, which is being pushed on vigorously by the contractor, Mr. Samuel Worthington, is at the corner of Amiens-street and Preston-street, adjoining the junction of the Great Northern Railway and the Dublin Junctions Railway. The position is a most central and convenient one for the English and Irish traffic, and has been necessitated by the great increase of the Parcels Post business within the last few years. The portion of the work in Mr. Worthington's hands will cost some £9,000. Specifications have

been prepared, and tenders invited for the hydraulic accumulators, lifts, and other plants, and others will shortly be invited for an electric light installation. The whole expenditure is estimated at some £16,000. The Amiens-street facade is devoted to offices, while the rear is occupied by the stores, engine, and boiler-houses, van yard and sorting office, the latter having a steel roof of 70 ft. space, out of which is slung the basket gallery. A pair of steel Cornish boilers will supply the steam for both the hydraulic and electric plant, and the parcels will enter and leave the Depot by a bridge over the line connected to the several platforms by hydraulic lifts. The building will be faced externally with best quality Portmarnock bricks, with dressings of Skerries limestone, and plastered internally with Bloomfield and Co's plaster.

The building is currently being used for Foreign Parcel Post. Internally, the front portion is used as an open plan office area and at the rear the general sorting and bagging takes place. It is in poor condition but is to be improved in the near future in the refurbishment programme being executed by An Post. The building is known to the employees as Preston Street and not as Amiens Street as the entrance is in Preston Street.



Alongside are illustrated the two types of handstamp being used at the Foreign Parcel Depot. They are among the few English Language handstamps currently in use within the Irish Postal System.

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE

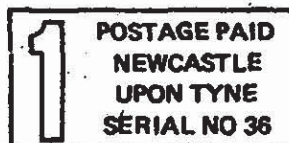
by K. Winkelmann

Further to A.F. Finn's article of June 1987, I have discovered that the British Department of Health and Social Security (D.H.S.S.) are using the Dublin Business Reply Service Licence No. DN 3372. The use I have seen is for replies, from Irish residents, to the DHSS from people receiving DHSS Pensions.

As can be seen from the illustrations it originally emanates from Newcastle Upon Tyne. It is likely to be an entirely new service as they are using the modern type design on the envelope and the licence number is consistent with being no more than one year old. Licence No 3242 seen by A.F. Finn in Dec 86, Licence No 3337 seen by me May 88 (Grennan Life & Pensions Ltd.)

The question posed by this discovery is, how many other non-Irish users are there of the Business Reply Service in Dublin or elsewhere.

WE(N)5(F)
DHSS ref on
sending
envelope



PPI on sending
envelope

Postage will be paid
by Licensee

No Postage Stamp necessary
if posted in Republic of Ireland

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence Number DN 3372



D.H.S.S.
P.O. BOX 419
DUBLIN 2

MF(N)28C

Address on reverse of
sending envelope is:
Department of Health
and Social Security
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE98 1YX, England

Of interest in this
area of collecting
should also be the
Business Reply Packet
Dockets, known as form
M.P. 1009. This
identification number
has been dropped from
the recent forms since
An Post have reprinted
the forms. Some forms
have the postage rate
preprinted on them
while others have
omitted the fee to be
charged.

I also illustrate the
Business Reply Service
Form C52 used for
accounting within An
Post for the fees
collected.

C 52



BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE

Advice of Delivery Dockets
(To be furnished daily)

Top Copies of Dockets:-

Number to Number

Number to Number

Number to Number
herewith.

Signature of Counting Officer

(or Chargeteller): _____

Note:-

This form to be furnished daily and passed together
with top copies of Dockets M.P. 1009 to officers
responsible for
posting amounts to
Forms C. 51. Nil
Dockets need not be
furnished.

Date Stamp

Box for Date Stamp

M.P. 1009 **41**
Docket No. **41**
Business Reply Packets

Postage Rate (p)	No. of Packets	
1280		In addition to the postage a fee of $\frac{1}{2}$ p is chargeable in respect of each packet
1280		
Total No. of packets	1280	

Date Stamp: **BALETHA CLATH**
Entered by: **1240? NG**
2/10/78

M/s **E S B**
Licence No. **1865**

are requested to receive the packets as detailed above, and to note that the amount due will be debited to their account. This advice should be retained as no detailed statement will be rendered when exhaustion of credit is notified. Any representation regarding the accuracy of this advice should be made within 24 hours of receipt.

M.P. 1009 **1**
Docket No. **1**
Business Reply Packets

Postage Rate	No. of Packets	
58	1727	In addition to the postage a fee of $\frac{1}{2}$ p is chargeable in respect of each packet
58		
Total No. of packets	1727	

Date Stamp: **BALETHA CLATH**
Entered by: **1727 NG**
6/10/78

M/s **E S B**
Licence No. **1865**

are requested to receive the packets as detailed above, and to note that the amount due will be debited to their account. This advice should be retained as no detailed statement will be rendered when exhaustion of credit is notified. Any representation regarding the accuracy of this advice should be made within 24 hours of receipt.

An Post **No. 26**
BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE

Book No. **26**

Postage Rates	No. of Items	Amount Due
22	1	
		In addition to the postage a fee of $\frac{1}{2}$ p is chargeable in respect of each item.
Total No. of items	1	
Total Amount Due		

Date Stamp: **BALETHA CLATH**
Entered by: **86**

M/s **UD-40 Campang**
Licence No. **12375**

Please receive the items as detailed above. This advice should be retained. Any representation should be made within 24 hours of receipt.

M.P. 1009 **97**
Docket No. **97**
Business Reply Packets

Postage Rate (p)	No. of Packets	
8	1730	In addition to the postage a fee of $\frac{1}{2}$ p is chargeable in respect of each packet
8	1780	
8	155	
Total No. of packets	3665	

Date Stamp: **BALETHA CLATH**
Entered by: **26/1/79**

M/s **E S B**
Licence No. **1865**

are requested to receive the packets as detailed above, and to note that the amount due will be debited to their account. This advice should be retained as no detailed statement will be rendered when exhaustion of credit is notified. Any representation regarding the accuracy of this advice should be made within 24 hours of receipt.

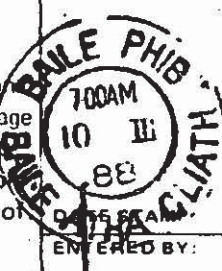
Note: All the above forms were printed in black ink only.

No Postage
Stamp
necessary if
posted in
Republic of
Ireland

009 BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE		POST	
POSTAGE RATE	NO. OF PACKETS		
28p	1	In addition to the postage a fee of 1p is chargeable in respect of each packet.	
TOTAL NO. OF PACKETS	1	ENTERED BY: <i>17</i>	

M/S *Batchlors*
Licence No: *930*

are requested to receive the packets as detailed above, and to note that the amount due will be debited to their account. This advice should be retained as no detailed statement will be rendered when exhaustion of credit is notified. Any representation regarding the accuracy of this advice should be made within 24 hours of receipt.



BUSINESS REPLY ENVELOPE
Licence No. DN 930

BATCHELORS LIMITED
POST OFFICE BOX 88
CABRA WEST
DUBLIN 7

Note: The above form was printed in green, with the ref number applied in red.

The 009 is not a short version of M.P.1009, but is a sequential number from a book of forms.

Postage will be paid by Addressee