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EDITORIAL:

When Michael Richards passed away so tragically towards the end of 1988, I volunteered to assume editorship of the Journal on a temporary basis. While I have enjoyed bringing out the six issues since then, it did take up much more time than I anticipated. Most articles have to be re-typed and many edited for content, re-phrasing, and, alas, correcting spelling and grammatical errors. New layouts were slowly introduced, more text incorporated per issue and, I hope, a Journal worthy of the IPC and its original aims was produced. A few (very few) articles were rejected because they were concerned more with Irish tourism than Irish philately and, similarly, any reference to commercial aspects in letters or articles was deleted.

Colm Hinneberg-Murphy has agreed to take over the role of Editor on a permanent basis starting with the June issue and I sincerely hope, and expect, that members will give him the encouragement, support and cooperation that I have been fortunate enough to receive during my stewardship of that office.

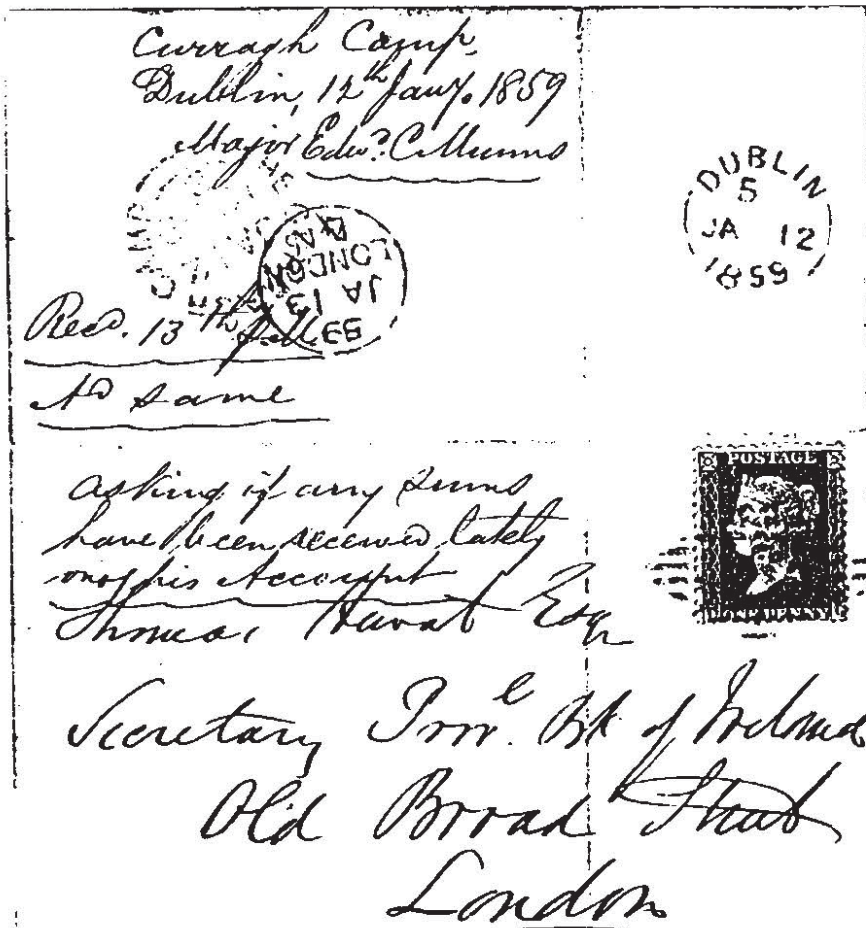
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Curragh Camp

Further to Bill Kane's article "The Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare (September 1989 IP), allow me to add a small contribution.

The photocopy below is a letter from Curragh Camp to London dated January 12, 1859. Two features may be noted.



Firstly, the double arc date stamp THE CURRAGH CAMP has a Code B above the lower inner arc. It is difficult to imagine that the Code B could be the first letter of a word as proposed by Bill Kane for M, E, D, A and E. Dublin GPO Codes in use at that time, apart from M and E, also include the letters A,B,C,D,F,G,H....etc. Is it really certain that the letter E, in the middle of the series, stands for Evening? If so, then there are alternative possibilities that might be considered. For example, M could stand for Morning and the other letters might be indicative of a time Code. Or perhaps, M might stand for Master (i.e. Office Master) with the other letters coded for Clerks.

The second feature refers to the shape of the numerical diamond. The diamond on the letter illustrated, identical to that on Patricia Stillwell-Walker's letter shown in the December 1989 issue of IP, is very similar to those delivered by the London GPO in 1844. It may have been manufactured at that time as part of a complete set and sent to Curragh Camp in 1855 as part of the 453 to 458 batch.

The diamond displayed by Bill Kane as being circa 1856 looks very similar to the Dublin diamond of 1870 to 1875, 4343 bars and vertical axis longer than the horizontal.

J. Renollaud, Boulogne.

150th Anniversary Northern Ireland Railways

Members of IPC may be interested in the following letter:

It is 150 years since the first railway was established in what is now Northern Ireland. This was opened on August 12, 1839 and ran between Belfast and Lisburn. On the day of the opening some 3000 passengers made the 20 minute journey between the two towns. Although the service was not initially used for carrying mail, Northern Ireland Railways (N.I.R.) have marked the occasion by issuing a stamp.



The stamp was designed by creative pencil and printed by Impro Ltd, appropriately a Lisburn company. It has been produced in blocks of four, gummed and perforated with surrounding selvedge. Each stamp has a face value of fifty pence, but I have been informed by N.I.R. that they have no postal validity and are not being used by the N.I.R. parcel service. Blocks of the stamps can be obtained from:

Mrs. Jean Hazley
Northern Ireland Railways
Central Station
Belfast
Northern Ireland

enclosing £2 sterling or a cheque payable to Northern Ireland Railways A/C and a stamped addressed envelope.

Ian Englander, Greenisland

Cóbh Paquebot Hand-stamp: Missing Year Slug

Further to the various letters published in IP during 1989 regarding this hand-stamp. Among a leading dealer's stock at STAMPA 89 was a postcard dated by the sender as May 7, 1932 with the cancellation merely indicating May 7 with no trace whatsoever of the year. Again this tends to confirm that for some reason, as yet unexplained, the hand-stamp with the year slug missing was in use in the early 1930s.

C.I.Dulin, Geneva

Meter Franking On Irish Mail: Correction

Please note that unfortunately a finger erred when writing this article. Jack Leach should be Jack Peach. My apologies to that gentleman and to any readers who may have been misled.

George Ithell, Ashford

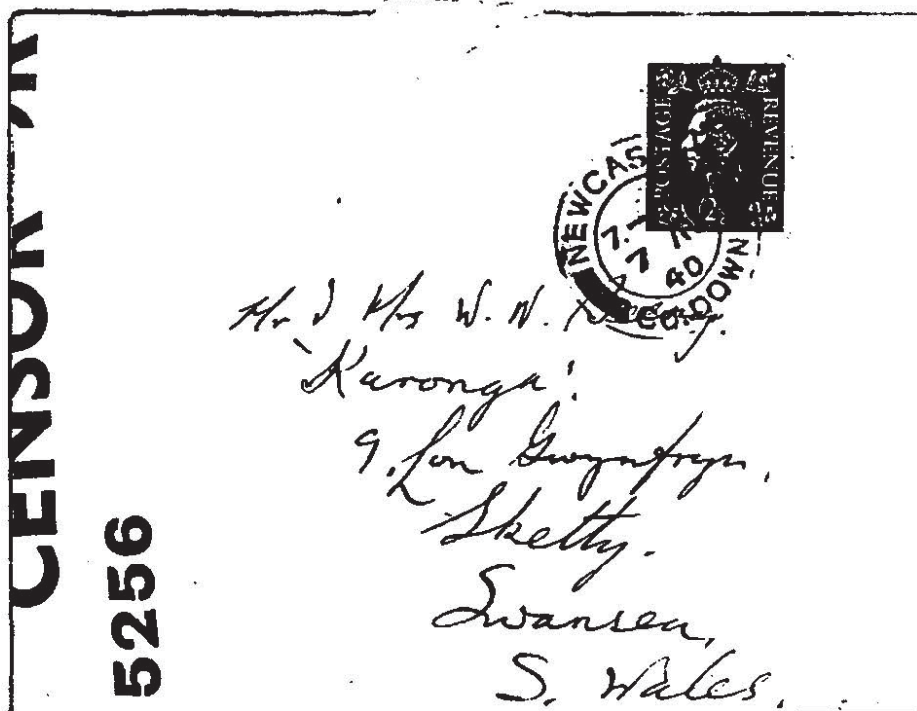
Bradbury, Wilkinson 10/- Plate A: Corrections

Please note that in the December issue of IP. p.77, the Top Right vertical marginal line is 19.75 mm from stamp no.4 (and not 15.9 mm as printed) and that with reference to the Bottom Margin, the length of the upper arm should be 6.0 mm and not 6.3 mm. Additionally on p.78 the Top vertical line should read the Top horizontal line.

Johan Rehnberg, Göteborg

British Censor Labels

I was very interested in this article by Paul S. Wittreich in IP September 1989. I have found in my own collection a cover from Northern Ireland (Newcastle Co. Down) which has a label similar to Type 1A, with Censor No. 5256 (see illustration). The cover is addressed to Great Britain, but I suppose it is possible that labels by the same censor might have been used on mail to or from Eire. The word "CENSOR" I measure as 51.5 mm long, rather than 50 mm. The date at the postmark is 7/8/40.



I also take the opportunity to mention that I have an example of the BALLINDERRY BRIDGE (MONEYMORE/Co. LONDONDERRY) rubber mentioned by P.Quigley in a letter to IP September 1987. Mine is dated 21 FEB 13 (This is not the same as the one in the October IPC auction).

May I also add that I have begun listing the names, locations and postmarks of as many Belfast post offices as possible, the listing being firmly based in the 20th century. I would be interested to hear from anyone who can offer assistance, or can advise me if a listing has already been made. I have identified about 70 offices so far, by location, but do not have a complete list of names. I will be pleased to correspond with any member on the subject. Parcel postmarks of Northern Ireland welcome, all periods, especially Belfast.

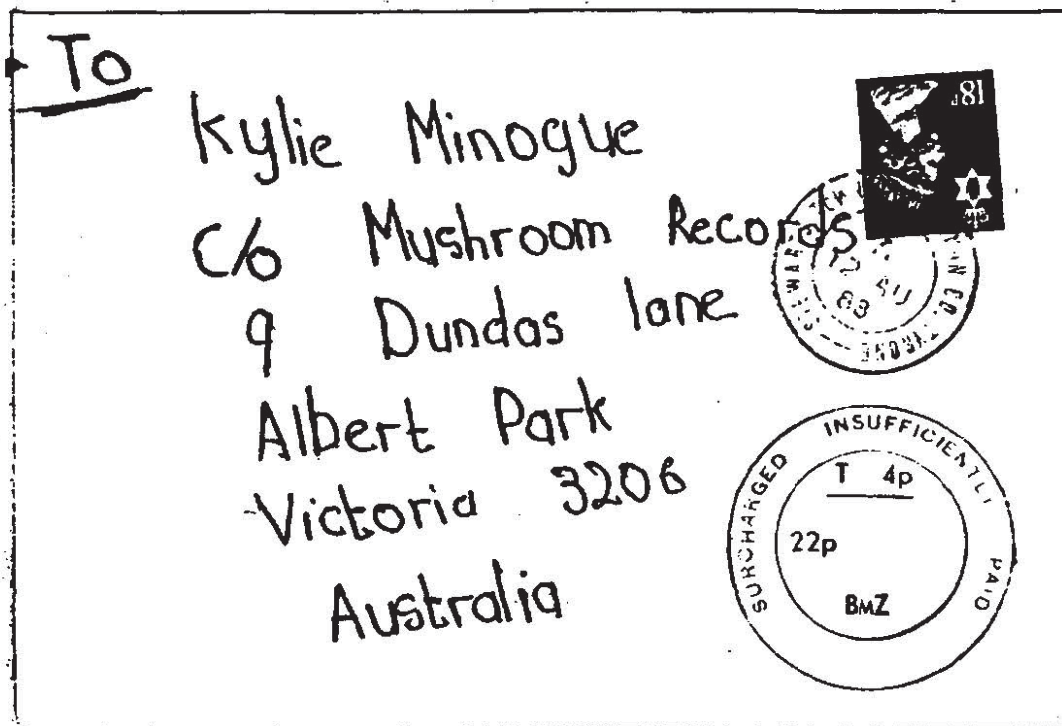
Tim Stephens, Emsworth

(Editor's Note: The listing of the Northern Ireland post offices should be a simple, if tedious, task. All the offices are given in the British Post Office Directories, including their locations. They can also be deduced from the equivalent Irish guide where the English, Scottish and Welsh offices are omitted. The only problem that I would foresee is that there were border changes in 1927 and some post offices were, effectively, moved from Northern Ireland to the Free State. I have made what I believe is the definitive listing of these and it will be published shortly).

Surcharge & Bag Opening Postmarks

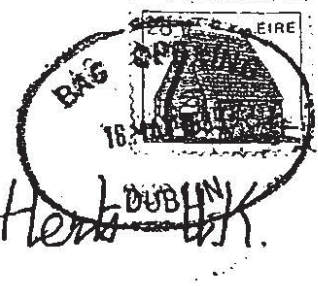
The following two items may be of interest to IPC members:

The first is the surcharged marks that I thought were applied in Belfast. Having seen other mail recently I have know they were struck at the Foreign Section in Birmingham.



The second item is the Bag Opening Dublin 18 May 1989 oval handstamp that is struck on both the front and the back of the cover.

Kybe Miregue En club:
P.O. Box, 292, Watford, Herts.



ENGLAND

Maybe some IPC members can give some background information on this postmark.

Alan Kane, Bracknell

(Editor's notes: 1. Only one of the two photocopies of the surcharge marking received is shown here. The other is identical save for the amount of surcharge.

2. The Bag Opening Dublin marking on the back of the cover is shown here as an insert on the illustrated photocopy of the front).

The Dublin Mulready Find

by A.Cassidy & C.I.Dulin

Among the Minutes to Postmaster Generals Records at the G.P.O. Archives in London there is interesting account (2046 and 2050) of a discovery of a hoard of early postal material found in the Dublin Post Office in 1899:

"The Postmaster General,

With reference to my conversation with you on the 6th instant, I submit that the Treasury be written to as follows:

My Lords,

I have the honour to acquaint Your Lordships that among some old papers in Dublin a number of Mulready Envelopes and adhesive postage labels of various issues have been found which had evidently been sent at the time of their issue

for distribution as specimens among different branches of the Post Office, the larger number of them having the word "specimen" printed on the face. A schedule of these envelopes and labels is annexed (Note: This schedule was not included in the Minute).

Many of these stamps are of a kind which are now eagerly sought after by Stamp Collectors, and one of my Officers, who has experience in such matters has, after carefully examining them, expressed the opinion that for "collection purposes" their present value, calculated at the price which similar stamps, when sold individually, fetch in the Stamp market, might be estimated in the total at upwards of £6,000.

How far this estimate would be realised, or how far it might be affected by so large a number of stamps being thrown upon the market is, of course, uncertain; but it is clear that the stamps &c. are saleable for a large sum and I do not see why advantage should not be taken of this circumstance to benefit the Public Revenue.

With Your Lordships' approval, I propose to obtain a tender for them from a stamp dealer of repute, retaining a few sets for presentation to the Record Room and for distribution among some of my Officers who seem entitled to consideration. No stamp, however, will be given to these Officers without my personal approval."

The letter was signed S.W. and dated February 8, 1899. A reply (not in the Minute) must have been received from the Treasury giving partial approval for on May 6, 1899 a further memo was sent to the Postmaster General from G.N.M. (otherwise unidentified but surely a very senior Officer within the Post Office):

"The Postmaster General,

On the question of distributing some of the stamps among Officers of the Department, I am disposed to agree with the Treasury view. There is no criteria by which the merits of the different claimants could be logically and equitably judged; and I submit accordingly that as regards that part of the proposal the Treasury may be informed that Your Grace on further consideration does not desire to press it (sic).

As regards selling the stamps, I am inclined to think that the best course would be to enter into negotiations with one of the principal Stamp dealers such as Mr. Phillips of Stanley Gibbons & Co., with a view to his undertaking the sale on commission and advising generally as to the best means of disposing of the Stamps.

If we invite tenders, each dealer would want to see the stamps for himself and an opportunity would be offered for making a 'ring' which would also, I think, be almost certain result of putting them up for auction (sic).

If your Grace approves I will ask Mr. Phillips to call here and discuss the matter."

Unfortunately there is no further correspondence in the file to indicate the outcome of the discussions with Gibbons. If the material was actually sold, how much it fetched or whether it eventually remained within the Post Office is unknown. Doubtless if it was sold there might have been some mention of it in the philatelic magazines of the time, although the manner of proposed disposal was distinctly low-profile. Does any reader have any more information on this ?

Undated Namestamps of Ireland 1823-1871: An Update

by Bill Kane

In 1981-1982 I wrote a series of articles on the Undated Namestamps of Ireland These appeared in IP issues No.3-September 1981, No.4-December 1981 and No.1-March 1982. Following publication I received new data and amendments numbering 192 items which I then published in IP No.3-September 1985.

Again in December 1987, I was able to publish another listing of Additions and Amendments giving over 300 items of new data. Now, once again, with the wonderful help from interested collectors, I am able to publish another listing of over 350 new items.

My thanks go to: Rev. W.E.Davey, Herr M.Dittman, Herr H.Frank, Dr. J.Mackey, Mr. D.MacDonnell, Mr. J.Madeley, Mr. D.O'Kelly, Monsieur J.M.Renollaud, Mrs. P.Stillwell-Walker, Mr. T.Stephens and Mr. G.Wikstrom.

Group 1A - Straight Line, Serifed Letters, Unframed. 1823 - 1859

Ardagh	Bg	1847-49	Clonevan	B	1845-47
Ardee	B	1833-36	Clonroche	g	1855
Arklow	Br	1833-36	Clonthain	B	1843
Aughrim	b	1848-49	Coleraine	Bbr	1824-40
Aungier St. (DN)	B	1845-46	Comber	B	1835
Bagnalstown	B	1833-49	Coolkenno	b	1849-53
Baggot St. (DN)	B	1835-45	Collon	Bbr	1832-39
Ballinalee	Bb	1830-51	Collooney	B	1826
Ballinderry	Bbg	1836-44	Coolraine	b	1852
Ballinrobe	B	1833-40	Courtown Harbour	B	1843-47
Ballon	b	1847-49	Crettyard	B	1841-53
Ballycardry	B	1849	Crookstown	B	1841-47
Ballyclare	B	1836	Dame St. (DN)	B	1845
Ballyhaise	Bbr	1832-45	Down	Br	1824-39
Ballylongford	B	1843	Drumlish	b	1844-53
Ballyporeen	B	1844	Dundrum	g	1851
Ballywalter	b	1843	Dunmore	b	1842
Baltinglass	B	1831-40	Dunmurry	g	1847-48
Beaufort	B	1840	Dunshaughlin	Br	1835-38
Beragh	Bbg	1848-52	Ennis	r	1827
Bride St. (DN)	Bbr	1836-50	Fintona	Bb	1833-45
Broughshane	Br	1833-47	Five Alley	Bg	1848-56
Burrisakane	Bb	1836-40	Foynes	B	1852
Bushmills	Bbr	1826-40	Galbally	b	1846
Butlersbridge	B	1848	Glanworth	bg	1848-56
Callon	Br	1838-40	Glaslough	B	1841
Carbury	rg	1848-54	Glenbeigh	B	1849
Castlebridge	B	1846-48	Glin	Bb	1833-53
Castlefin	B	1828-38	Golden Ball	B	1847-48
Castlewellan	Br	1831-39	Grafton St. (DN)	B	1836-46
Chapelizod	B	1841	Grayabbey	r	1826-32
Churchtown	g	1853	High St. (DN)	B	1845
Clare St. (DN)	B	1833-47	Inishcroane	B	1846
Clogher	Br	1825-35	Keadue	Bbrgy	1850-55
Cloghnakilty	B	1836-40	Kill	bg	1850
Clones	B	1824-34	Killurin	Bg	1849-58

Group 1A Continued

Kilmeadan	bg	1851	Pallasgreen	B	1830-48
Kilmoganny	B	1843-46	Patrickswell	B	1852
Kilrea	Bbg	1834-48	Phipsboro (DN)	B	1847
Larne	Bb	1832-36	Portarlinton	Br	1840-41
Leeson St. (DN)	B	1847	Portglenone	Bgr	1834-40
Letterkenny	Br	1834-36	Queen St. (DN)	B	1847-51
Lisdoonvarna	b	1857	Ramelton	Bb	1832-37
Lisnagry	Bbg	1845-59	Rathkeale	B	1836
Loughall	B	1835	Rathmines (DN)	Bb	1842-44
Magherfelt	bg	1832-37	Rathmoylan	Bg	1851-52
Maguiresbridge	Bg	1846-49	Shanagolden	B	1837-40
Milltown (Kerry)	Bb	1851-58	Shannonbridge	b	1850
Milltown Malbay	B	1833-38	Spiddal	bg	1845-47
Mohill	r	1835-38	Stradone	B	1834-37
Mount Talbot	B	1834-46	Summerhill (DN)	B	1845-48
Moy	B	1833-36	Tashinny	b	1846
Newmarket	Bbg	1850-51	Temple St. (DN)	B	1845-48
Newtownforbes	B	1838	Toomebridge	B	1832-45
Newtown Stewart	B	1834-36	Tulsk	Bb	1846-49
N. Brunswick St. (DN)	B	1845	Tynan	bg	1836-40
Northumberland	B	1845-48	Usher's Way (DN)	B	1846
Buildings					
O'Connelly	B	1871	Virginia	Bb	1834-38
(Co. Clare)					

Group 1B - Straight Line, Serifed Letters, Framed

Belfast	r	1844	Northumberland	B	1843
Dugort	Bb	1840-52	Buildings		

Group 1E - Two Lines, Serifed Letters, Unframed, Second Line "Receiving House"

Ballyhaise/ Receiving House	r	1827-36	Templepatrick/ Receiving House	B	1828-31
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Group 1F - As 1E but Framed

Draperstown/ Receiving House	br	1831-35			
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Group 1G - Two Lines, Serifed Letters, Second Line "R.H."

Aghadowey/R.H.	Bb	1844-48	Cairncastle/R.H.	Bb	1843-52
Ahoghill/R.H.	b	1844-52	Newtownbreda/R.H.	bg	1848-57
Bettystown/R.H.	Bg	1845-46	Rathmines/R.H.	B	1849

Group 2A - Single Line, Sans Serif

Athleague	Bb	1857-59	Curryglass	b	1853-54
Ballickmoyler	Bg	1840-57	Foulkmills	B	1859
Ballivor	Bb	1851-58	Furty	Bbg	1857-59
Ballyclunin	bg	1849-56	Glenville	Bb	1854
Ballyfarnon	Bg	1851-59	Goleen	Bb	1856-57
Ballylinan	B	1858	Kinnagh	Bg	1858-59
Ballymore	b	1858	Kinnety	bg	1858-59
Ballymurry	b	1858	Knocklong	b	1851-57
Blackrock	Bb	1857-59	Lecarrow	b	1851
Brownstown	b	1842	Lisryan	Bbr	1849-59
Bruree	b	1855	Lisselane	b	1856-58
Bunnaden	B	1852-53	Milltown (Co. Kerry)	B	1855
Cappawhite	g	1856-57	Quinn	r	1857
Carrigaline	B	1853	Robinstown	b	1857
Castlefrickard	b	1854	Sharavogue	bg	1856-58
Castleknock	Br	1853	Townley Hall	Bgb	1852
Crebally	B	1856	Watergrasshill	B	1852
Crosshaven	b	1837	Woodlawn	Bg	1854-55

Group 2B - Single Line, Sans Serif, Including Head Office Name

Ballyamouth Co. Cork	B	1844	Daunts Square Cork	Bg	1854-57
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Group 2C - Two Lines, Letters Sans Serif

Adamstown/Enniscorthy	b	1857	Glenegary/Kingstown	b	1854
Aughnaputten/Ballymena	B	1855	Green Island/Belfast	bg	1850-57
Ballybrack/Cabinetly	Bb	1853-56	Holycross/Thurles	b	1854
Beleek/Enniskillen	Bg	1848-59	Inniskeen/Dundalk	b	1858
Bridgetown/Wexford	B	1854-58	Kells/Thomastown	Bbrg	1853-59
Carnlough/Glenarm	B	1852	Kilbride/Wicklow	g	1858
Clonevin/Gorey	B	1850	Kilmore/Down	B	1853
Clontibret/Monaghan	g	1856	Louth/Dundalk	Bg	1856-58
Corcreachy/Dundalk	B	1854	Mountnorris/Markethill	B	1853-58
CourtownHarbour/Gorey	Bg	1850-51	Newbridge/Rathdrum	b	1853
Crossakeale/Kells	Bbn	1856-57	Pomeroy/Dungannon	B	1854
Daunts Square/Cork	B	1856	Rathcabbin/Parsonstown	bg	1854-57
Domnick St./Galway	B	1853-56	Roundwood/	b	1856
Donard/Newbridge	B	1851-55	Newtownmountkennedy		
Dunkerrin/Roscrea	b	1852	Upper Georges St./	bg	1852-58
Fethard/Ross	g	1851	Kingstown		
Foulksmill/Ross	B	1850-57	Urlingford/Kilkenny	b	1851
Glenealy/Ashford	b	1851-53	Stradbally/Waterford	B	1853
			Whitehall/Bagnalstown	B	1850

Group 3A - Single Line, Italic

Crawfordsburn	B	1858
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Group 3B - Two Lines, Italic, Top Line "R.H."

Ashfield R.H./Dromore	b	1845-51	Pharis R.H./Ballymoney	Bb	1845-48
Ballyward R.H./ Rathfriland	Bb	1845-51	Saint Douloughs R.H./ Dublin	g	1857
Courthouse R.H./Belfast	bg	1853-54	Stackallen R.H./Navan	Bbg	1846-49
Katesbridge R.H./ Rathfriland	bg	1844-48	Waterside R.H./Derry	g	1848-52

Group 3C - Two Lines, Italic, No "R.H."

Aclare/Ballymote	B	1847	Kilnaleck/Ballyjamesduff	g	1847-50
Annalong/Kilkeel	bg	1846-58	Lifford/Strabane	bg	1846-47
Ballindine/Claremorris	b	1847	Lisbellaw/Enniskillen	Bg	1847-56
Ballivor/Kinnegad	b	1848	Malone/Belfast	Bg	1848-51
Ballyfarnon/Boyle	Bg	1847-51	Manorcunningham/Strabane	Bg	1848-56
Ballygar/Ahascragh	B	1847	Middletown/Tynan	Bb	1848-54
Bready/Strabane	b	1857	Mosside/Ballymoney	b	1846-58
Carnlough/Glenarm	g	1850-52	Muff Don/Derry	bg	1846-47
Carnlough/Newry	b	1848	Newcastle/Castlewellan	br	1847-49
Carrick/Killybegs	b	1847	Omeath/Newry	bgr	1848-49
Carrickallen/ Killishandra	B	1848	Pettigo/Kesh	bg	1847-49
Churchtown/Wexford	b	1855	Poyntzpass/Loughbrickland	B	1845-48
Clarecastle/Limerick	B	1855-56	Rathmullen/Ramelton	b	1846-58
Clonlara/Limerick	b	1853-55	Roundstone/Galway	b	1854
Clonmellon/Athboy	b	1846-47	Skerries/Balbriggan	Bg	1847-57
Collany/Collooney	Bg	1848-58	Speenoge/Derry	b	1846-47
Coolsallagh/Dromore	g	1854	Straid/Carn	B	1847
Convoy/Raphoe	b	1848	Stratford/Newbridge	B	1847-57
Donadea/Kilcock	Bbg	1850-55	Tempo/Enniskillen	bg	1847-48
Duleek/Drogheda	Bbg	1846-56	Termoneckin/Drogheda	Bbg	1847-49
Dunkineely/Donegal	Bbg	1848-51	Trillick/Enniskillen	Bb	1846
Drumconra/Ardee	Bb	1845-49	Trillick/Omagh	b	1846-56
Errill/ Borris In Ossory	B	1847-52	Tullyvin/Stradone	Bb	1846-51
Feeny/Derry	B	1847	Upper Georges St./ Kingstown	Bbg	1848-53
Island Magee/ Carrickfergus	b	1846-50			

Group 4A - Circular, Two Arcs, Serifed Letters

Ballyclare	B	1837-50	Fintona	Bg	1850-52
Ballyhaise	b	1847-49	Glasslough	Bg	1840-51
Ballymoney	Br	1834-37	Greyabbey	Bb	1836-43
Banagher	B	1838-57	Killough	bg	1836-57
Belmullet	B	1835	Killyleigh	B	1835-38
Blackwatertown	B	1847	Kilmallock	B	1839
Castlecomer	Br	1834-37	Kinsale	Br	1823-37
Coachford	Bbgr	1841-49	Lismore	B	1835-41
Coalisland	Bbg	1840-57	Louth	Bbg	1835-52
Dromaragh	B	1841-48	Maghamorne	B	1838
Fetherd Tip	B	1838-40	Mountmellick	Bb	1831-41

Group 4A Continued

Newbliss	Bb	1842-49	Ringsend (DN)	Br	1838-61
Newtownards	B	1834-47	Saintfield	Bb	1836-43
Newtownlimavady	B	1834-36	Tanderagee	Bb	1831-40
Pallaskenry	B	1843-46	Waringstown	bg	1846-48
Portlaw	Bbg	1838-56			

Group 4B - Circular, Two Arcs, Letters Sans Serif

Ballinacurra	bg	1858	Foulksmill	Bbg	1853-59
Ballinafad	g	1857-59	Glanworth	B	1854
Ballinater	b	1851	Hacketstown	Bb	1857
Ballon	b	1857	Inniskeen	b	1859
Ballyaughlis	B	1858	Kells	Bb	1855-59
Ballybrack	B	1858-60	Kildemo	B	1857-58
Ballyhooly	Bb	1860	Killinardish	Bb	1857-58
Ballynakill	B	1846-57	Kilmeaden	Bg	1859
Ballyneen	B	1859	Kingwilliamtown	b	1858-60
Bawnboy	Bbgr	1853-59	Kinnagh	Bg	1858-59
Blackrock	B	1858	Loughill	g	1857
Boosterstown	B	1859	Louth	Bb	1859
Cappawhite	g	1857	Lower Georges St. (Kingstown)	bg	1858
Carberry	g	1858	Malahide	Bbn	1838-54
Castlefreke	B	1859	Miltown (Co. Kerry)	b	1859
Castletown	g	1860	Monelea	g	1859
Clones	B	1858	Mooncoin	B	1858
Coolraine	g	1860	Moylough	Bg	1858-59
Corboy	Bbg	1858-59	New Inn	Bbn	1858
Crinkle	B	1858	Newtown Hamilton	B	1855
Dervock	Bbg	1851-58	Oylgate	bg	1852-59
Drumcollogher	b	1860	Pallaskenry	B	1859
Easky	Bg	1858-59	Priesthaggard	Bg	1858
Ferrybank	Bg	1859-60	Ratharney	Bbg	1857-71
Five Alley	g	1859	Swanlibar	Bbg	1857-58

Group 4C - Name Curved In Circular Frame

Ballivor	Bb	1859-60	Glasnevin	Bb	1859-60
Drumiskin	B	1859	Termonfeckin	b	1860

Group 4D - Straight Line In Circular Frame

Collon	B	1860	Lisryan	Bb	1859-60
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Group 4E - Circular, Unframed, Head Office Name Below

Ballyaughlis/Lisburn	Bg	1858-59	Monkstown/Cork	B	1859
Blackrock/Cork	Bb	1856-58	Nobber/Kells	B	1857-59
Fethard/New Ross	Bg	1858-59	Riverstown/Newry	Bg	1860
Knockbridge/Dundalk	B	1858	Tassagh/Armagh	b	1858
Mountcharles/Donegal	B	1857			

The Dublin Receiving Houses 1822/1823

by A.C.Booth-Jones

I do not recall finding any lists of Dublin Receiving Houses, and certainly not the actual quantities of letters posted. This article gives the listing for the 1822/23 period and the letters received over a six month period at that time.

General Post Receiving Houses 1822

These Keepers were paid £10 per annum and had no duties, the Letter-Carriers or Messengers having the keys to their receiving-boxes which they cleared at 5.00 p.m. daily.

Location	Keeper	Appointed
James Street	John Purser	1821
High Street	John White	1821
Dorset Street	C.B.Peters	1814
Great Britain Street	C.D.Devitt	1814
Dorset Street	F.Fearis	1814
Clare Street	Amy Douglas	1793
St. Stephen's Green	G.Kavanaugh	1809
Capel Street	Thomas Pearce	1810
North King Street	Bridget Madden	1808
Inn6s Quay	Owen Ryan	1819
Queen Street	A.Doran	1811
Bride Streets	S.Boileau	1811
Aungier Street	H.Logan	1811
Meath Street	R.Morris	1810
Newmarket	Richard Clarke	1813

It is not clear why Dorset Street appears twice. (Editor's note: Presumably Upper and Lower Dorset Street).

Penny Post Office Receiving Houses 1823

These Keepers had to stamp, batch and deliver to the Letter-Carriers 6 times a day (since April 1822) and were paid £5 per annum plus 1 penny for every 10 letters ("tenths").

The following is a Return stating the Number of Letters put into the Penny Post Receiving Houses (Districts 1 to 7) for six months from January 6 to July 5, 1823. Similar data for the Twopenny area is also appended.

The data is from the Report of the Treasury Commission on the Irish Post Office 1823-1826. The Report also gives a list of the names of the Penny Post RH Keepers during 1822, but I have no way of matching names with addresses. Of the 65 Keepers, 21 had been appointed since 1818; and the list of names must be RH Keepers in the Penny Post area itself because in the list given above there are only 56 RHs there (plus the 26 in the Twopenny area).

Clearly the position with RHs and their Keepers was anything but static, as one might expect; and with the steady expansion of the City, especially in the Twopenny Post area, the above can only be a rough guide to rarity.

No.1 District

Clare St	6,019
Townsend St	1,444
Sir John's Quay	927
Holles St	2,520
George's Quay	1,117
Baggot St	3,230
Molesworth St	5,081
Merrion Row	9,000

No.2 District

Stephen's Green	2,861
Anne St (South)	6,076
Harcourt St	5,231
Grafton St	9,781
King St (South)	2,636
Leeson St	3,883
Digges St	4,261
Essex St	1,472
Cork Hill	3,731

No.3 District

Essex Bridge	4,679
Royal Arcade	16,320
Werburgh St	3,151
Stephen St	6,918
Kevin St	1,228
Camden St	4,657
Bride St	1,943
New St	1,725
Meath St	1,037
Cork St	1,048
Cross-Paddle	960

No.4 District

Frances St	1,242
Echlin Lane	1,529
Thomas St	3,980
Royal Hospital	1,069
James's St	2,738
Bridge St	5,133

No.5 District

Queen St	6,341
Manor St	978
Barrack St	1,182
Brunswick St	941
Inns Quay	5,197
Green St	1,775
Ormond Quay (Upper)	3,821
Church St	697
Pill Lane	2,225
King St (North)	2,917

No.6 District

Bolton St	4,493
Dorset St (Lower)	6,554
Dorset St (Upper)	4,957
Capel St (Upper)	3,519
Ormond Quay (Lower)	2,088
Mary St	4,113
Great Britain St	
(Lower)	5,930
Capel St (Lower)	5,069

No.7 District

Great Britain St	
(Upper)	8,966
Mecklenburgh St	2,698
Summer Hill (Upper)	5,797
Summer Hill (Lower)	1,897

Ball's Bridge	203
Sandy Mount	328
Donnybrook	328
Ringsend	288
Ranelagh	647
Portobello	569
Rathmines	260
Boaterstown	1,066
Black Rock	2,398
Kingstown	2,055
Stellorgan [sic]	203
Dundrum	379
Harold's Cross	185
Rathfarnham	374
Roundtown	114
Chapelizod	110
Kilmainham	603
Castle Knock	290
Glasnevin	75
Finglass	106
Drumcondra	393
Dounycarney	44
Ratheny	125
Coolock	78
Clontarf Sheds	171
Windsor Avenue	588

The PENC F and PENC F Corrected Errors

by William P. Fletcher

The PENC F error is found on the 1½d value stamp of Great Britain 1912-1922 and was reported in the British Philatelist in December 1919. This error in which the word HALFPENCE has the final letter as F instead of E occurs on stamps from some sheets with the control number L18, O19, Q21 and T22. The variety stamp is the twelfth stamp on row fifteen (Stamp 15/12). The variety is found on two plates and these are Plates 12 and 29. Plating of the GB stamps of this period is related to dots and cuts in the marginal rules (Jubilee Lines) particularly those in the margin of the bottom row of the sheet. These are detailed in Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Catalogue Volume 2. Plate 12 is divided into Plate 12a on sheets with Control L18 and O19 and Plate 12b on Control Q21 and T22; the differences being in these cuts and dots in the marginal rules. Plates 12a and 12b both show two cuts in the marginal rule to the left of stamp 20/1 5.5mm and 7mm up the marginal rule, and a minute dot in the rule under F of HALF on stamp 20/12. Plate 12b has an additional dot in the rule under A of HALF on stamp 20/9. Plate 29 is recorded by Gibbons as only occurring with Control Q21 but as we will see it must also have been used with Control T22. Control blocks from Plate 29 are difficult to plate as there are no flaws in the marginal rule in that area but Plate 29 is identified by a dot in the rule to the right of stamp 20/12.

The variety was corrected on both plates 12 and 29 and this correction has resulted in the final E having an abnormally long lower serif with a marked upward tilt at the end, giving the variety PENC F Error Corrected.



PENC F



PENC F CORRECTED

Plate 12 or 29

On the overprinted issues, Plate 12b is found with Control Q21 and T22 and Plate 29 is only reported with Q21 but must have been used with T22. It is possible to differentiate marginal copies of both varieties PENC F and PENC F Corrected from the two plates by reference to the marginal rule to the right of the variety stamp. On Plate 12b this marginal rule is described as "thin" (about 0.8 mm) and on Plate 29 it is "thick" (about 1.0 mm). Additionally these two marginal rules can be separated by their characteristic shape as can be seen in the illustrations.

It has been suggested, but not proved, that this variety may exist on more than two plates. This is usually discounted but must always be kept in mind when dealing with difficult items which do not comply with the two known plates.

As the variety occurred on more than one plate, it is reasonable to assume that the variety was first on the master plate and transferred to the printing plates. It is the printing plates that were corrected to give the variety PENC F Corrected.



Plate 12b. Thin Rule.



Plate 29. Thick Rule

PENCF Error

Marginal Perforations

Perforation of this GB issue was by a vertical comb perforator, perforating from left to right or right to left. This is identified as Type 2 if left fed and results in sheets with a bottom margin with a single extension hole (i.e. Imperf control block), top and right margins perforated and left margin imperforate. If right fed sheets are Type 2A with perforated bottom margin (i.e. Perf control block), a single extension hole in the top margin, imperf right margin and perforated left margin. Therefore if we know plates 12b or 29 exist with a particular control imperf, it seems logical that the variety must exist with perforated right margin. And vice versa.

Thom 5 Line Black

The PENCF variety is found on both plates 12b and 29. The vast majority of marginal pieces show plate 29 and are overprinted setting 2. The variety stamp shows a large void top right of 9 of 1922 and is variety Ei/1. This has an Imperf right margin with Control Q21 Perf.

Very rarely are seen pieces from Plate 12b with imperf margin from sheets with Control Q21 Perf. The overprint is setting 1 and the variety stamp has a nick half way down the right side of the 9 of 1922.

PENCF Corrected exists from Plate 12b with perforated right margins from Q21 Imperf. This is setting 2 and shows the large void top right of 9 on the variety stamp.

To help confirm the settings of any of the plates, the occurrence of the variety Ei/1 in the various settings is given below in the area of the variety. These of course apply to the Thom black and blue black issues only.

	Stamp 10	Stamp 11	Stamp 12
Row 13	4 7 8	4 7 8	4 7 8
Row 14	-	-	-
Row 15	3	2 3	2 3
Row 16	4 7 8 10	7 8 10	5 7 8 9
Row 17	-	-	-



Plate 29. Thick Rule. Setting 2.
Flaw in 9 of 1922



Plate 12b. Thin Rule. Setting 1
Nick in 9 of 1922

PENCF Error Thom 5 Line Black Printing

Thom 5 Line Blue Black

The PENCF variety is not found on this or any later issues. The PENCF Corrected is found from Plate 12b from sheets with Control T22 Perf from both settings 3 and 9 and both on pieces with Imperf right margins. This is also recorded as existing from Plate 29 with setting 8 and has a perforated right margin.

Harrison Rolls

The PENCF Corrected is found in the horizontal coils but there is no reason why it should not exist on the vertical rolls. It is obviously easier to spot in the horizontal format as it is found to the left of the join. Strips with the variety show an imperf left margin in the join and are therefore from sheets with perforated right margins and as a stamp of this value is known with a portion of the T22 control in the bottom margin, the sheets used must be T22 Imperf. It is not possible to give the plate as the right margin is not used for making the coil joins.



Thom Blue Black Plate 12b
Setting 9



Harrison Horizontal Coil

PENCF Corrected

Thom Wide

The corrected variety is found from Plate 12b with Imperf right margin from Control T22 Perf. It is setting 1; setting 2 is not possible as it is not found on Plate 12b.

Saorstát

Again the corrected variety from Plate 12b with Imperf right margin from sheets with Control T22 Perf. This is found on setting 1 of the overprint and the variety stamp shows a missing bar to the E of Eireann. Setting 2 does not exist on Plate 12b. The variety is reported from Plate 29 with perforated right margin and setting 1 and presumably come from sheets with T22 Imperf.



Saorstát. Plate 12b. Setting 1 Flaw in E of Eireann

PENCF Corrected

Discussion

It may be possible to differentiate stamps with the corrected varieties from the two Plates 12 and 29 as the printing plates were corrected separately and the two corrections might reasonably be expected to show minute differences.

1½d GV PENCF and PENCF Corrected Row 15/12

Printing	GB PLate	Control	Right Margin	Settings Known	Possible Settings	Notes
Thom 5 Black	12b	Q21 Perf	Imperf	1	2	PENCF
	29	Q21 Perf	Imperf	2	1	(a)
Thom 5 Black	12b	Q21 Imperf	Perf	2	1	PENCF Corrected
Thom Blue Black	12b	T22 Perf	Imperf	3 & 9		
	29	(T22 Imperf)	Perf	8		
Harrison 5 Line	?	(T22 Imperf)	(Perf)	Horizontal	Vertical	(b)
Thom Wide	12b	T22 Perf	Imperf	1	Nil	
Saorstát	12b	T22 Perf	Imperf	1	Nil	(c)
	29	(T22 Imperf)	Perf	1	Nil	(c)

Notes:

(a) Flaw on 9 of 1922

(b) Join shows Imperf left margin; therefore Perf right margin and Imperf control. T22 reported.

(c) Flaw on E of Eireann

The question of plate and setting order is sometimes raised. The numbering is entirely arbitrary, indeed Plate 29 could have been the next plate made after Plate 12. The same applies to the settings of the overprint, in the Thom 5 line black we have recorded settings 1,2,3 and 9 but this does not mean that setting 9 was the ninth made.

To achieve plating of the GB stamps, copies of the varieties are best collected as marginal pieces. Non marginal PENCf Corrected examples are difficult to authenticate unless they show minor errors of the overprint type. All PENCf Corrected on the Saorstát must show the flaw on E of Eireann on the variety stamp. However all stamps with the flaw on E of Eireann are not PENCf Corrected.

Great care must be exercised in purchasing the corrected variety as the difference in the length of the lower bar is extremely small and it is possible to be mistaken over the identification of the genuine variety.

I should be most grateful to hear from members who can add to this listing of this interesting variety.

Editor's Note: Bill's welcome contribution on the 1½d PENCf flaw goes a considerable way in correcting some of the misinformation on the subject that appeared relatively recently in a harrowing article in the Revealer. Since this is my favourite variety and having a fair number of them, I would ask readers' indulgence in adding a few observations..

Firstly, although there have been suggestions (L.N.Williams) that 4 plates show the flaw, this has been largely discounted. Moreover, there is ample evidence in the British National Archives at Kew to confirm that only two plates were involved. There is some fascinating correspondence between the Mint and Somerset House on the discovery of the flaw and complete astonishment that it re-occurred on another plate. Interestingly, up to this time no one had ever bothered to check the plates for flaws since all departments believed the engravers to be infallible. After this incident measures were taken to examine all plates minutely before release to the printer. If other plates contained the flaw it is extremely likely (although not inevitable) that they would have been discovered. There is no mention of them in the files.

Other flaws to the final E of PENCE do exist although none show the typical ½ mm extension of the lower member of the corrected PENCf flaw in R15/12. Omitted from Bill's article is the supposed existence of PENCf Corrected on the Harrison 3-line coil Saorstát coil stamp. Conceivably this could exist. However, the item that came up in auction a couple of years ago certainly was not the true PENCE Corrected. It had an old Royal certificate to go with it - illustrating, I suppose, the danger of "Experts".

By the same token, there is some risk in relying too much on standard catalogues. For example, although Gibbons only show Plate 29 occurring with Control Q21 on the unoverprinted 1½d Simple Cypher GB stamp, on the overprinted version it most certainly exists with T22. Thus far, for different values, there are at least 10 other overprinted plate-control combinations known which have not been reported on the unoverprinted equivalents. For plate-control-watermark type combinations there are even more.

Similarly, known plate-overprint settings are those recorded thus far and although they can provide a guide in confirming flaws such as PENCf Corrected, they cannot be regarded as all-inclusive. Other combinations can exist and indeed occasionally turn

up (I have discovered three such combinations, on other values than the 1½d). For example on the Thom Wide printing Settings 1 and 2 are not the easiest to differentiate and, to my mind, it would not be at all surprising if a 1½d overprint was found with Setting 2 on T22 control.

Perforation differences on the control-plate combinations are largely irrelevant as far as the PENCf Corrected is concerned other than as partial confirmation of what is already known. The Type 2 and Type 2A perforation (these, incidentally are the Gibbons designations) are not exclusive to the plate flaw. At least one other variety of perforation exists with the PENCf Corrected. As an aside, as far as is known, only one roll of the Harrison 5-line coil has been discovered (the horizontal) and the flaw was noted throughout the roll. From the coil joins it is not possible, as Bill notes, to determine the perforation type of the sheet (or sheets, remember) from which it came. However, the leader for this coil exists (as does the coil end) and from that the perforation type (positively at least of the top sheet used) could be determined.

Again, although flaws of the overprint can provide further confirmatory evidence of a PENCf Corrected, not too much reliance should be placed upon them. By their very nature overprinting flaws are progressive. It is easily possible, if fact largely inevitable on the Thom 5 line and most of the Saorstát settings (unlike the Thom Wide), that they will change during the setting life. I think that Bill is stretching things a bit when he says that all PENCf Corrected examples must show the flaw on E of Eireann. Although this is true on the majority of examples seen, it is not a mandatory confirmation.

Perhaps, too, the marginal rule lines call for some comment. The rule adjacent to R15/12 on Plate 12b is indeed invariably thin. It is also invariably smooth and, perhaps more importantly, tapered to a slight but visible extent. The corresponding adjacent rule on Plate 29 is not only thicker but is always ragged. The ragged thickness can be more than 1 mm (in fact up to 2 mm depending on the printing and the degree of raggedness).

Finally, a word on plates and settings. The numbering order applied to the GB plates is not entirely arbitrary. From other inferential data (principally from the controls but also from printing colour) a rough order can be established. There are, of course, many exceptions especially among the lower values. With the overprint settings, however, there is considerably more certainty. The numbering for these Settings (at least for the Dollard and Thom) was first put forward by Vesey in 1924 and although the numbered order is not absolutely correct in terms of printing order it is not too bad an approximation. Thus for the Thom, Setting 1 certainly preceded 2 which probably preceded or was contemporary with 3. Setting 9 was never used for the February black printings although it is found with that colour ink much later at the tail end of the blue black period printings. Settings 7 and 8 are certainly the same Setting not different ones and preceded Setting 9. Settings 4,5 and 6 present some difficulty in establishing exact printing order and Setting 10 almost certainly preceded Setting 7/8.

As to the relative occurrence of the plates, there is no doubt that PENCf on Plate 12b is considerably scarcer than the flaw on Plate 29, while conversely PENCf Corrected is usually found with Plate 12b and is extremely uncommon on Plate 29. It is noteworthy that for the unoverprinted stamp the situation is similar for the PENCf flaw but quite the contrary for the PENCf Corrected variety where Plate 12b is the scarcer of the two.