

IRISH PHILATELY

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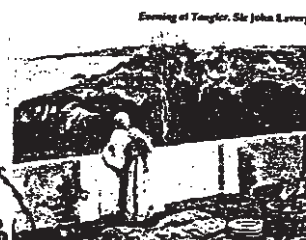
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POST i.p.t.a.



CORK REGIONAL SHOW

28



The Goose Girl, William J. Leach



15 V 1993 No 174

IPTA/An Post Road Show; the Cork overprinted souvenir.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

SCROLLS

I write in reply to Cyril Dulin's article in the March issue of IRISH PHILATELY on the subject of SCROLLS.

I have recently been setting out my own collection of numeral cancels and although this collection understandably contains many a gap, it was interesting to note that at each of the four offices there are some years in the 1880s when it does appear that the diamond numeral cancellations MAY not have been in use.

My comments are as follows -

CORK -

duplex seen until June 1882 and then nothing until December 30th, 1889.

LIMERICK -

duplex seen until July 1st, 1882 then nothing until May 23rd, 1886.

LONDONDERRY -

duplex seen until April 17th, 1882 then nothing until September 2nd, 1888.

WATERFORD -

nothing seen between January 9th, 1882 and September 28th, 1885 - with the next item dating from 1889.

I have never gone out of my way to get postmarks from any of these four cities, so other members will surely be able to provide more detailed information,

S.D. Challis,
Saint Peter Port, Guernsey.

Sir,

VICEREGAL LODGE POSTCARD

I recently came across the following postcard - see illustration on following page - and was intrigued by the inset in full colour in the lower bottom corner.

The logo of the inset reads - 'London & North Western / Railway Company' with the image of Britannia seated within the circle that is the inset.

I cannot date the postcard because it is unused, but it is obviously pre 1922!

Perhaps one of our postcard historians can furnish an answer,

G Etoe,
Ashton, Preston



Sir,

GERLS & 3d 1966/67 PHOTOGRAVURE

I apologise in advance if the following questions are of the 'old hat' variety but the only recent source of information to hand is that of the 1991 MacDonnell/Whyte catalogue -

1] 1981-1982 GERL LITHO PRINTING; does D100 exist on CCP2 paper?

I have an example in my collection, perforation Type P0, and purchased on the day of issue from the Philatelic Bureau. It has the same UV reaction as the 18p CCP2.

2] The 1972 Hibernian Specialised Catalogue, 1978 Feldman and 1978 Gibbons Elizabethan Catalogue all list the 3d 1966-67 Photogravure printing as existing with inverted watermark (ex coil), SG 227a/033a.

The 1991 MacDonnell/Whyte Catalogue has no mention of this variety.

I have not got one - but does it exist?

I would welcome a response from any members on both or either of the above queries,

Paul Baines,
Nether Poppleton, York

RANDALSTOWN POSTMARKS

Jim Rankin

After reading 'IRISH POST OFFICES' by Harold Frank and Klaus Stange, I was greatly inspired to find out more about my local post office in RANDALSTOWN and indeed to study it's postmarks in more detail. The following is a summary of my findings to date.

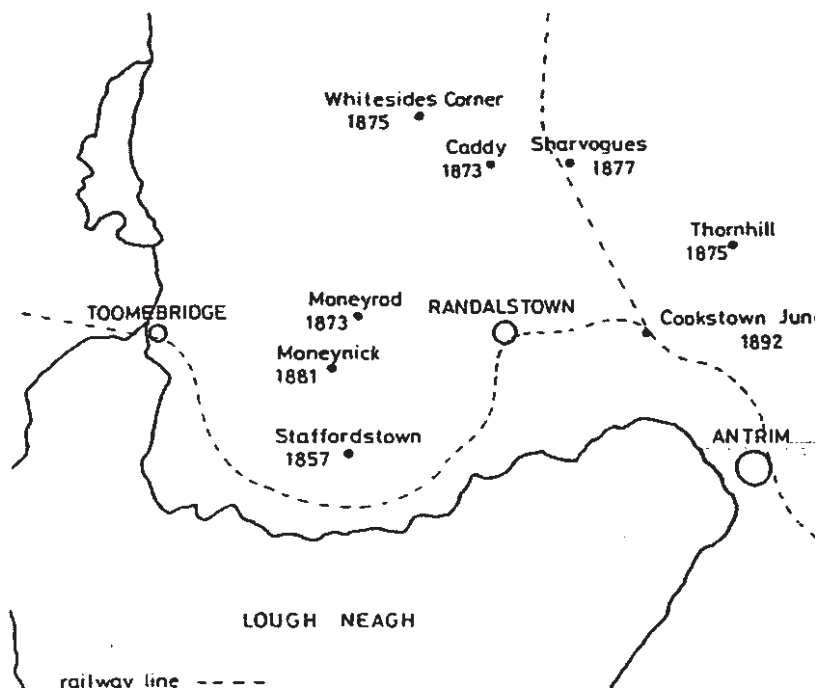
On November 9th, 1807, the BELFAST COMMERCIAL CHRONICLE announced the establishment of a Post Office in Randalstown. At this time, the mail was carried by Horse Post to the various post-towns until the establishment of a Mail Coach on April 6th, 1809 which ran from Belfast to Coleraine via Antrim, Ballymena and Ballymoney. Earl O'Neill of Shanes Castle whose residence was located between Randalstown and Antrim, had taken Office in Dublin as one of the Postmasters General in November, 1808. He remained in Office until 1831 - and no doubt made many improvements in the service of the various and many Northern Counties.

A list in the Post Master General's Minute Book dates 17th October, 1851, records that Randalstown was reduced from a post-town to sub-office status with less than one thousand letters in a week - 600 in all.

The railway line from Belfast to Ballymena with a short branch line to Randalstown, opened on April 11th, 1848 - with an extension of the branch line to Cookstown opening on November 10th, 1856. An entry in the Minute Book for 1871 gives an allowance to the sub-Postmaster for fetching his day mail-bag from Cookstown Junction.

The map, right, shows the location of the rural sub-offices with their opening dates. Today, only Whiteside Corner and Caddy remain open and the Randalstown Office now only has a counter service, all sorting and delivery of mail having been transferred to Antrim in May, 1870.

The abbreviated mileage mark, usually struck in black, has also been recorded in purple for April 13th, 1821 and in red for February 24th, 1823. The latter on



mail addressed to the Lord Lieutenant, Dublin Castle and sent free.

RANDALST^N
97

POST PAID

The 'POST PAID' had also been recorded in purple for December 28th, 1827, and in green for September 4th, 1840. As yet, I have not seen a maltese cross cancellation. The 22mm datestamp used in 1898 re-appeared again on a postcard with the last year digit missing, cancelling SG 351 - so presumably 1913 or later.



1898 22mm CDS

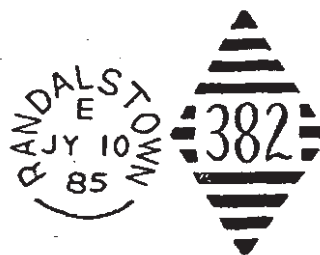


MONEYROD rubber

I have but the one example of the Moneyrod rubber date-stamp for Agust 3rd, 1905 which was struck in violet on the back of a Church ticket!



382 OBLITERATOR



Duplex - code 'E'

My thanks to Cyril Dulin for his assistance with the duplex. Any additional information from readers regarding dates of use, new types and such like would be gratefully received.

RANDALSTN/97
POST PAID
Maltese Cross

EARLIEST DATE
Apr 13, 1821
Oct 17, 1826
-

LATEST DATE
Mar 12, 1832
Sept 4, 1840
-

Double Arc date stamp (green)
382 Obliterator (Proof Book)

Sept 4, 1840
Jun 24, 1844

-
Oct 22, 1861

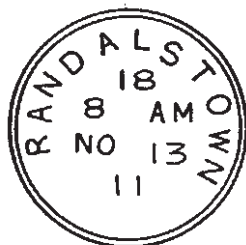


21mm CDS (backstamp)
Duplex (code 'E')
22mm CDS
27mm SR (large lettering)
32mm DR Skeleton (code 18)
22mm CDS (same as 1898)

Oct 22, 1861
Jul 10, 1885
Sept 8, 1898
Jul 15, 1898
Nov 8, 1911
Jan 22, 191?

-
-
-
Jul 17, 1911
Nov 15, 1911
-

32mm Skeleton -



27mm SR-



27mm SR - large lettering

small lettering

27mm SR (small letters)
27mm SR (Co Antrim)
DR Type 1
DR Type 2
DR Type 3
DR Type 4

Feb 6, 1912
Oct 12, 1922
Feb 22, 1935
Aug 24, 1940
Jan 25, 1965
Aug 27, 1968

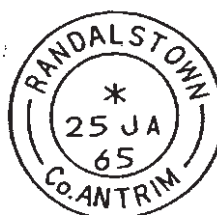
Apr 6, 1921
Jul 15, 1939
Dec 22, 1965
Dec 18, 1967
-
May 17, 1970



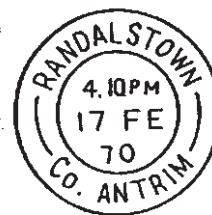
DR - type 1



type 2



type 3



type 4

FIRST POSTBUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

A W Graham

Readers may be interested in the following item concerning the FIRST POSTBUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

On February 9th, 1993 there was a special handstamp in use to commemorate the OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE FIRST POST BUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. Again, it was purely by chance that I found out about this as there was no mention in the Postmark Bulletin or indeed the Philatelic Bulletin.

The illustration does not really do justice to the cover which is multicolour and there being also a colour picture of the postbus outside CASTLECOOLE or perhaps FLORENCECOURT.

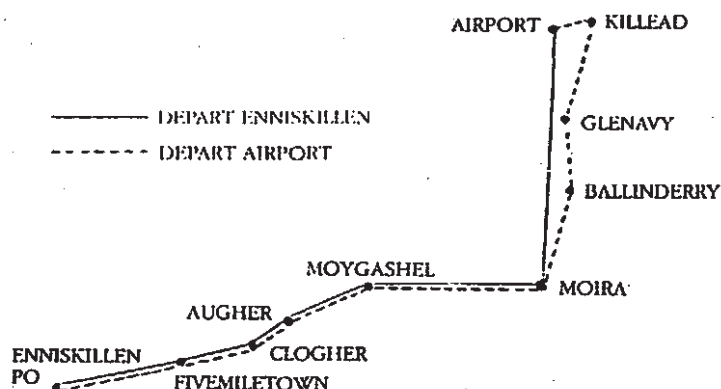
I have requested further information on this item but to date still await a response.



The handstamp (above) with the legend - 'OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE FIRST POST BUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND', dated February 9th, 1993 and emanating from Enniskillen.

The insert (right), showing the evening route of the Postbus service from Enniskillen to Belfast Airport.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF POSTBUS SERVICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND 9th February 1993



EVENING ROUTE TO BELFAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Royal Mail's Postbuses provide an essential post and passenger service for thousands of people throughout Scotland and England. The Postbus service celebrated its 25th year in 1992 and now operates over 170 routes in Britain. To mark the 25th anniversary Royal Mail announced a major expansion plan with an additional 20 routes being introduced.

We are therefore delighted to launch the First Postbus service in Northern Ireland as part of our commitment to rural life and communities.

We would like to acknowledge the support and financial assistance given by:-

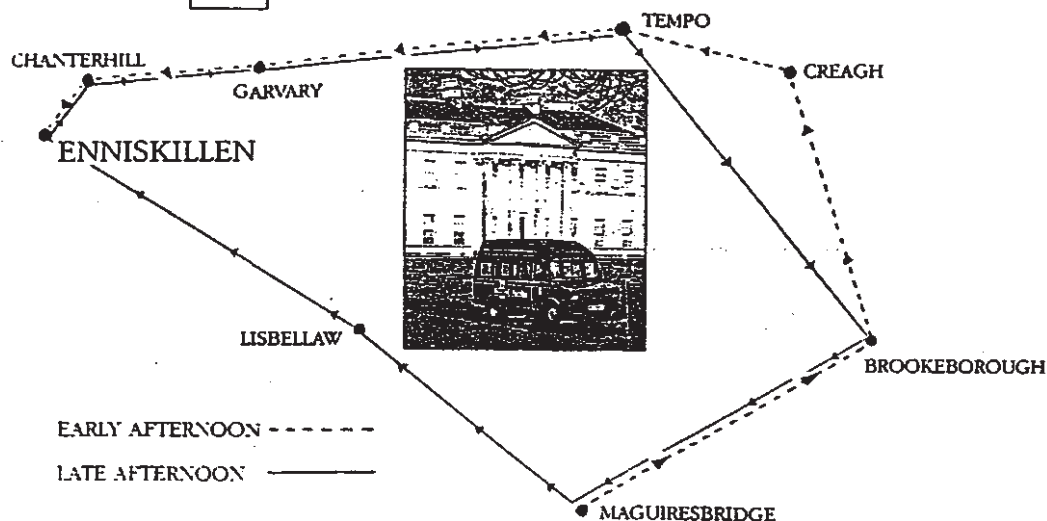
The Rural Development Council
Loughry College
Cookstown
Co. Tyrone BT80 9AA

Thanks also go to:-
Fermanagh District Council
The Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland
Ulsterbus Ltd.

Further information about the routes, timetables and fares is available in the Postbus Guide and can be obtained free at selected post offices and tourist outlets in the area where Postbus operates.

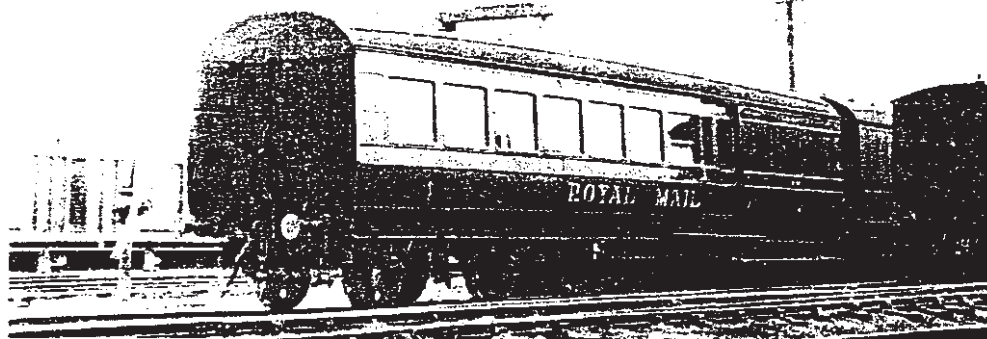


THE FIRST POST BUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND



NORTH OF IRELAND PS POSTCARD Norman Scott

The NORTH OF IRELAND Philatelic Society has just published the 1993 Society's postcard - the eight such annual publication. The postcard - in black and white - features the Royal Mail Sorting Coach, the COLERAINE. This operated on the Belfast / Londonderry line and the illustration dates from 1938.



Norman Scott, who is the source of information in respect of this postcard, advises that these are available at 20p (mint) and 45p for first day of issue specimens. Post and packing is an extra 25p. Norman's address is 49 Kingsdale Park in Belfast - the postcode is BT5 7BZ.

NORTHERN IRELAND NEWS (Part 1)
Alan Kane

During 1992 there were quite a number of new commemorative handstamps, slogans and other postmarks introduced in Northern Ireland. The various examples are outlined in the following article.

SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

Sixteen new slogans - plus a repeat of the 'HAPPY CHRISTMAS' slogan were introduced through 1992. The seventeen with details are as follows: -

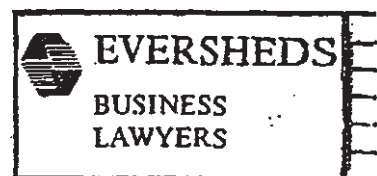
1. **ADVERTISING? / THIS SPACE COULD REACH / MILLIONS**
in use at Belfast from January 13th until February 2nd in the transposed position.

2. **IMPACT / 92 / DERRY CITY COUNCIL**
in use at Derry from February 1st until April 30th.



3. **CAPTAIN / BIRDSEYE / SILVER / JUBILEE / 1967-1992**
in use at Belfast, February 17th to March 14th, transposed.

4. **POST OFFICE / CHARTER / CUSTOMER FIRST**
in use at Belfast in the transposed position and in the standard position at Ballymena, Derry and Portadown from February 24th to March 2nd.



5. **EUROPE / FOR WORKERS / SAFETY / AND HEALTH**
in use at Belfast, transposed from March 2nd to the 28th and again from July 1st to the 31st.

6. **EVERSHEDS / BUSINESS / LAWYERS**
in use at Belfast from April 1st to May 31st - transposed.

7. NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EPILEPSY / NSE 100 / 1892-1992
in use at Belfast, May 4th to 18th - transposed.

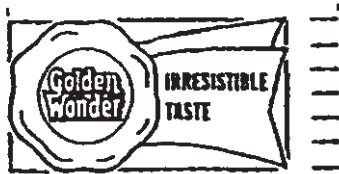
8. 40th ANNIVERSARY 1992 / THE SPASTIC SOCIETY
in use at Belfast from June 1st to the 28th, transposed.



9. BELFAST / HARPERS / 1792-1992 / TEL (0232) 23076
in use at Belfast in the transposed and standard positions from
July 1st to September 30th.

10. W H SMITH / 200 / YEARS
in use at Belfast - transposed - from September 30th to October
28th.

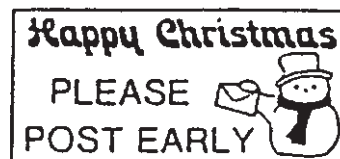
11. GOLDEN / WONDER / IRRESISTABLE / TASTE
used transposed at Belfast and standard at Ballymena, Belfast
and Portadown from October 1st 1992 until February 27th of this
year.



12. 1982 / 4 / 1992 / TEN YEARS OF BROADCASTING
in use at Belfast, October 28th to November 4th, standard and
transposed.

13. WALLS / TOO GOOD / TO BE TRUE / VIRTUALLY FAT FREE
in use at Belfast, August 1st to the 29th inclusive,
transposed.

14. DEC 2nd 1942-1992 / ENRICO FERMI / 50 YEARS
in use at Belfast - August 1st to the 29th.



15. HAPPY CHRISTMAS / PLEASE / POST EARLY

in use at twenty three offices from November 30th to December 21st at Antrim, Armagh, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Banbridge, Bangor, Belfast, Coleraine, Cookstown, Downpatrick, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Limavady, Lisburn, Londonderry, Lurgan, Magherafelt, Newcastle, Newry, Newtonards, Omagh, Portadown and Strabane.

16. ORANJEBOOM / PREMIUM LAGER

in use at Belfast, December 1st to the 31st.

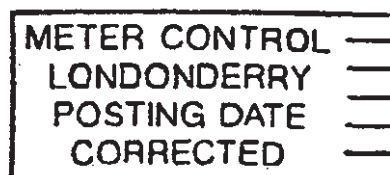
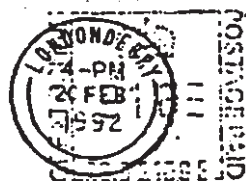


17. SAFEWAY / WHERE GOOD IDEAS / COME NATURALLY

in use at Belfast from December 1st to the 31st.

The dates and offices of use are courtesy of the POST OFFICE POSTMARK BULLETIN. This year there was nearly double the number of slogans than in previous years as well as the usual four 'postcode' slogans. The only anomaly noted to date, I believe, is the non use of the 'EUROPE FOR WORKERS SAFETY' slogan in July.

A slogan that has appeared on wrongly dated franked mail in 1992 is the unannounced METER CONTROL / LONDONDERRY / POSTING DATE / CORRECTED.



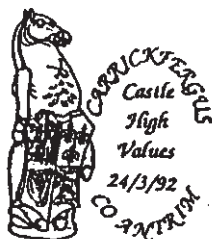
Courtesy of the BRITISH POSTMARK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER.

COMMEMORATIVE HANDSTAMPS

There were three special handstamps used in 1992.

The first in use was on March 24th and in use to cancel the redesigned One Pound Carrickfergus Castle stamp on the first

day of issue. The handstamp was sponsored by a philatelic trader.



The second one was for the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children and was sponsored by the Hospital on April 7th. The final handstamp was issued to commemorate the amalgamation of the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Irish Rangers to become the Royal Irish Regiment on July 1st.



An 'Official' postmark seen in 1992 is the 32mm diamtere STORES SECTION / 14 FEB 1992 / N.I. Letter District Office Belfast. Presumably this postmark is meant for use on internal mail only.



NEW COUNTER HANDSTAMPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

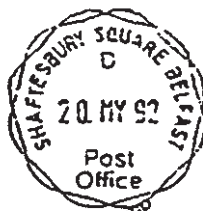
(Similar information has been furnished on this particular topic by A W Graham but is listed here to be included in Alan Kane's report. My thanks to Mr Graham for his efforts and as such the following comes from the pen of both A Kane and A W Graham.)

With the introduction of the new ECCO counter system at crown post offices in Northern Ireland the style of the counter datestamps was changed to the scalloped edge inking type first tried out in 1985. The changeover was largely unannounced, unreported and probably not noticed except by avid postmark

collectors.

Below is a listing of the offices affected and the dates when introduced.

office	date
ANTRIM	30 April 1992
BALLYMENA, Co Antrim	30 April 1992
BANBRIDGE, Co Down	28 May 1992
BANGOR, Co Down	28 May 1992
CASTLE PLACE, Belfast	14 May 1992
COLERAINE, Co Londonderry	18 June 1992
COOKSTOWN, Co Tyrone	25 June 1992
DUNGANNON, Co Tyrone	11 June 1992
LISBURN, Co Antrim	18 June 1992
LONDONDERRY	28 May 1992
NEWRY, Co Down	11 June 1992
NEWTONARDS, Co Down	7 May 1992
OMAGH, Co Tyrone	4 June 1992
PORTADOWN, Craigavon	7 May 1992
LURGAN, Craigavon	21 May 1992
SHAFTESBURY SQUARE, Belfast	21 May 1992



Apart from the format and style the most interesting change is that of the main post office in Castle Place, Belfast. The new main office was opened on February 11th, 1985 to replace the old Victorian building which had been sited nearby in Royal Avenue since August 1886. With the inclusion of the location in the datestamp, this is the first time ever that the main office in Belfast had been so named.

It should be noted that these counter handstamps are for use only on registered mail, postal orders, certificates of posting and other documentation.

Information provided by Post Office Counters Ltd., Belfast, the British Postmark Bulletin and by new member, A W Graham.

NORTHERN IRELAND NEWS (Part 2)

A W Graham

(the following adds further to Alan Kane's item on the newly introduced COUNTER HANDSTAMPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND - and indeed much of the work in this particular area has been done by new IPC member A W Graham. Mr Graham provided similar information in relation to these new counter handstamps but this has been included in Alan Kane's report. - Editor.)

As from the illustrations of the PHQ cards registered at Carrickfergus and Castle Place, Belfast on the first day of issue, the new designation of the HPO datestamp has found it's first good use! Incidentally only the one pack of the £1 Carrickfergus cards was ordered by the Philatelic counter at



The £1 CARRICKFERGUS PHQ Card with CARRICKFERGUS cancellation of February 16th, 1993 - the first day of issue.



The £1 PHQ CARRICKFERGUS Card with scalloped cancellation of CASTLE PLACE, BELFAST of February 16th, 1993 - the first day of issue.

Belfast and these did not arrive until mid-afternoon on the day of issue.

Needless to say, it was quite difficult to arrange to get them to Carrickfergus for registration and the appropriate postmark. Thus only twenty of the cards were available and I believe fifteen were serviced at Carrickfergus and two to three at Castle Place.

Unwittingly the Royal Mail have perpetrated a somewhat rare philatelic item which I hope other member of the IPC will enjoy.

I believe there were similar problems with the supply of the new definitive PHQ cards in the mainland UK. I was disappointed in that I was unable to arrange a further connected postmark from Greencastle Newtownabbey, County Antrim which is conveniently sited on the main road from Belfast to Carrickfergus.

(The PHQ card and stamp are printed in green ink and Carrickfergus is in County Antrim!).

WHITEFIELDS CAMP - DUBLIN
Jan Kershaw

A Military Camp was set up in Phoenix Park, for the visit of King George V in July 1911, between the Vice-Regal Lodge and Ashton gate. This area was called Whitefields. At first a few "Pioneer" sections were installed to start pitching tents for the 6,000 men, drawn from Battalions in the Irish Command, due to arrive on Friday July 7th.

A quote from the Irish Times of July 7th advised that "when all are installed the camp will be a White City worth viewing." Some of the troops were stationed elsewhere in Dublin - these being the specials. The 1st Life Guards arrived on Thursday 6th on the LNWR "Slievemore" and were stationed at Marlborough Barracks. The Irish Guards were sited in Wellington Barracks and the Yeoman of the Guard at Ship Street Barracks.

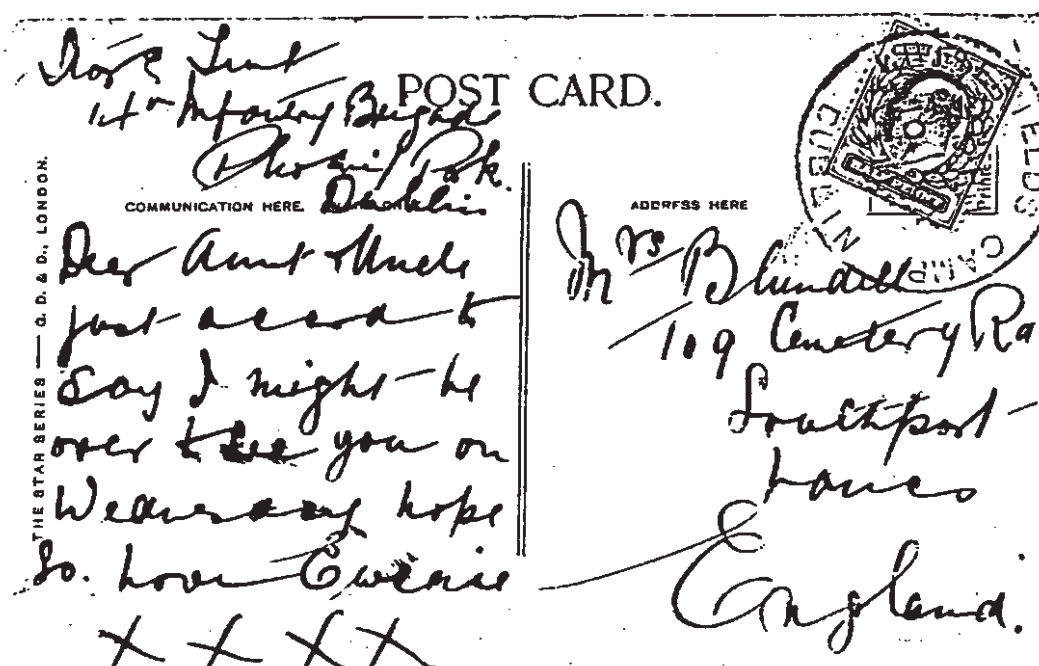
The Irish Times of July 8th under the heading "The Camp at Phoenix Park, the Huge Military Camp at Whitefields", states that from midday troops continued to arrive from across the Channel and various parts of Ireland.

Altogether about 9,000 men reached the camp, over 1,000 Cavalry and 8,000 Infantry. Brilliant weather enabled troops to partake of meals outdoors.

The Royal Yacht was anchored off Kingstown Harbour on the evening of 7th and the King came ashore on the 10th and 11th with a special parade and similar in the Park on 11th. The troops left on the 12th July.

A skeleton datestamp was issued for use at Whitefields Camp for the duration of the visit, which was less than one week.

My many thanks to Tony for his help in the research of the above.



CORRECTED METER MARKS

Tim Stephens

Since I wrote 'CORRECTED METER MARKS' which appeared as an article in the March issue of IRISH PHILATELY, page 12, I have obtained more of the Northern Ireland 'Meter Control' cachets. The article also drew a letter from member Trevor McClean, who provided a most detailed list of cachets of this type known to him.

This allows me to compile a list of 'additions'.

There appears to be three types of cachet in use outside Belfast, which I will term A,B and C.

Type A; framed with no date - boxed c43X30mm. This is the most common type seen and for an example I refer to those illustrated in the March 1993 issue of 'IRISH PHILATELY.'

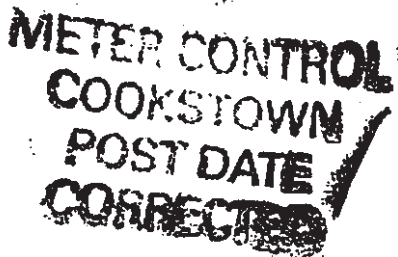
Type B; framed and dated - boxed c33X21mm. This is known at Downpatrick and Magherafelt.

Type C; unframed and undated - maximum dimensions being 52X27mm. This is known only for Cookstown.



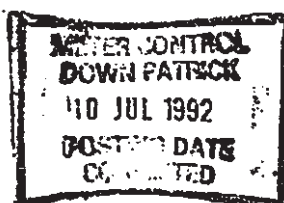
D.O.E. Water Charges Branch
Hampden House
55 Royal Avenue
BELFAST
BT1 1PX

COOKSTOWN: Type C -
unframed & undated;
struck in red.



Belfast has, in fact, three more differing types of cachet. However these are for use probably on larger items of mail, while Types A,B and C are used on 'ordinary' size meter-marked envelopes. Belfast aside, a complete list of towns known to use cachets, with earliest correction dates to me, is as follows -

town	date corrected	type	colour
ANTRIM	19/6/90	A	blue
ARMAGH	22/6/90	A	blue
BALLYMENA	18/7/91	A	black
BANBRIDGE	30/5/90	A	blue
	9/5/91	A	purple?
BANGOR	5/7/90	A	black
COLERAINE	12/3/92	A	black
COOKSTOWN	6/8/92	C	red
(the above has 'POST' instead of 'POSTING')			
DOWNPATRICK	10/7/92	B	black



DUNGANNON	3/1/91	A	purple
	13/11/92	A	blue/black
ENNISKILLEN	23/6/92	A	blue
LIMAVADY	2/1/92	A	purple
LISBURN	3/7/90	A	black
MAGHERAFELT	14/8/90	A	purple
	27/3/91	A	black
	2/1/92	B	blue
	2/4/92	B	purple?
(more recent examples known in blue or purple of Type B)			
NEWTONARDS	12/5/90	A	blue
	11/8/90	A	purple
OMAGH	28/?/91	A	purple
	19/3/92	A	blue
PORTADOWN	18/3/92	A	black
STRABANE	7/9/90	A	blue

I have not seen any purple examples myself, so I cannot judge the depth of the colour. Cookstown seems to be exceptional in having both its own distinctive type of cachet and in the use of red ink.

Trevor McClean comments that most of the incorrect meter mark dates are caused by mail being franked and not delivered to the Post Office until the following day.

Belfast's cachets are quite distinct. I have only found one myself, and Trevor records two others - all appear to have been used on large envelopes.

The three types are -

1] unframed; maximum dimensions of c62X27mm and in red ink.

'METER FRANKING CONTROL / 28 MAR 1990 / BELFAST LETTER DISTRICT OFFICE'.

2] framed - 40X32mm in black ink.

'METER CONTROL / BELFAST / 28 MAY 1991 / POSTING DATE / CORRECTED'.

This appears to be similar to Type A.

3] framed with maximum dimensions of c90X40mm and in black ink.
'CORRECTED DATE OF POSTING / 14 SEP 1991 / BELFAST LETTER DISTRICT OFFICE'.

My thanks to Trevor McClean for much of the information used in this article.

NEWS & VIEWS

Since the last issue of IRISH PHILATELY there have been two issues from An Post. The FANUA & FLORA of April 20th and the EUROPA pair of May 18th. The outlay for the former was some Ir£3 for the basic set and miniature sheet with the latter being a more modest 76p. The sheetlet format of this EUROPA issue did mean of course a total costing of Ir£7.60 to secure the variations that An Post impose on their stamp issuing policy. Quite a healthy outlay for anyone.

The month of June proved a respite for new issues with the next on the programme for 1993 being the double centenary set coming out on July 8th -

IRISH SWIMMING ASSOCIATION se-tenant pair of 32p

CONRADH NA GAEILGE

32p & 52p

The IPTA/An Post Road Show was in Mullingar on April 17th and in Cork on May 15th. Despite being informed at the Cork Philatelic Bureau that no souvenirs would be available for the Cork event - contrary to what was published in the EUROPA Bulletin - there was nonetheless such souvenir which is illustrated on the front of this issue of IRISH PHILATELY.

Although there was posting facilities no envelopes were available at the Imperial Hotel and collectors buying the souvenir had the option of having same cancelled at the An Post stand - shades of CT0?

Finally after much effort to ascertain whether there was a special commemorative handstamp for the EUROVISION in Millstreet I was told that it does require two years advance notice to prepare such handstamps! Therefore, none available and thus nothing of note from Millstreet - philatelically wise.

P.S. O'HEGARTY -
FIRST SECRETARY TO THE IRISH POST OFFICE, 1922
William Kane



The above is not an Essay for a new or old stamp, it is the cartoon which appeared on the menu cover of the banquet on the occasion of his retirement from the General Post Office, Dublin in 1945. His staff had wanted to get up a memorial for him, but he would not permit this. The gentleman with his beloved bicycle in the cartoon is P.S.O'Hegarty, standing on the Pillar Box, and the G.P.O. in the background.

The value on the stamp may confuse some people, but the One Penny Farthing is the name of the bicycle in the lower right hand corner of the stamp.

When this cartoon came into my possession recently, it brought back a flood of memories, in 1924 I entered the Post Office, as a Boy Messenger, and worked in a building attached to the Central Telegraph Office, and the Parcel Office in Amiens

the Bibliographical Society of Ireland, to be read by his friend Dr. F.S.Bourke.

Hence it is understandable to those who know Mr. James Joseph Walsh, the first P.M.G. of the Irish Free State, 1922, who was born in Cork on the 20th January 1880, who sat for the first S.C.&T (Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist) examination in Cork in the early 1900's. He was involved with the Irish Volunteers, and was soon in trouble with his employers, the G.P.O. He was transferred to Bradford in Yorkshire, but to no effect, and so he was dismissed from service. So it is easy to understand, that when J.J.Walsh was appointed P.M.G., he should appoint another colourful personality, so much like himself, in the person of P.S.O'Hegarty as his principle officer, and Secretary of the Post Office, to replace Mr S.G.Forsythe, the British appointed Secretary.

WHO DESIGNED THE SINN FEIN LABELS OF 1908 and 1916? William P Fletcher

Arthur Griffith was the instigator of the SINN FEIN stamps and he announced details of these labels in his newspaper 'SINN FEIN' in the weekly edition, dated January 4th, 1908. He detailed the two designs and stated that they were 'designed and drawn up by one of the foremost Irish artists, engraved in Dublin by the first Irish engraver'. Later he stated that they were printed by James Walker and Co Ltd of Jones' Road, Dublin.

But who designed these two labels? No contemporary publication seems to record the designer. Miss Charlotte J Cooke in her booklet 'IRISH POSTAL HISTORY', published in 1935, states that the Celtic Cross label was 'said to have been designed by the late Joseph Plunkett'. More recently other writers have said that the Celtic Cross labels were designed by Miss Lily Williams and others that both labels were designed by her.

We know that when designs were being considered for the First Permanent Issue, Arthur Griffith, now President of the Irish Free State, requested that the design of one of the Sinn Fein labels be used as the basis for one of the designs. Miss Lily Williams based her design that was accepted for the 3d and 10d stamps of 1923 on the Celtic Cross label. However this does not necessarily mean she designed the original label(s).

Miss Lily Williams (1874-1940) was a prominent portrait painter who exhibited over 130 times and who lived in Dublin. She was elected an associate member of the Royal Hibernia Academy (ARHA) in 1929.

Can anyone shed any light as to who designed the Sinn Fein labels in 1907?

Street, Dublin.

During the summer months, boys would be sent to substitute indoor messengers, who went on holidays, in the various departmental offices.

It was in 1925, I was sent as a substitute messenger to the Secretary's Office in Dublin Castle. This building was situated in the top right hand corner of the Upper Castle Yard.

The function of Indoor Messengers was to deliver and collect correspondence throughout the entire building, every hour, but the temporary staff would perform the outdoor duties, i.e. delivering the correspondence to the other departments, such as the Accountants Office in Marlborough Street, and Talbot Street. The Stores Department, Aldborough House. The Engineer in Chief, in the Upper Castle Yard, and Stephen Street. The Controller of D.P.D., College Green, and several other departments.

It was at this time I got to know all about P.S.O'Hegarty, and his beloved bicycle, because it was then that Mr. Thomas Coyle, the Head Messenger to the Secretary, instructed me to clean and oil Mr. O'Hegarty's cycle, when I cleaned and oiled my official cycle, which I did once a week.

It was a well known fact that Mr. O'Hegarty cycled to work every day, also that he had a special pocket made inside his coat to carry books, as he cycled across Dublin.

Mr. Colm O'Lochlainn, who was the proprietor of the Dublin book and printing shop at the "Sign of the Three Candles", was a great friend of P.S.O'Hegarty. Colm O'Lochlainn was the man that helped W.G.Meredith with chapters on the Irish Overprint High Value stamps of 1922, when he wrote his book which is now famous. Colm was another wonderful man, one I will never forget. I was introduced to him in the late 1950's, he left an indelible impression on me.

P.S.O'Hegarty was born in Cork in 1879, and educated by the Christian Brothers at the famous "North Mon", after working for a short time in a lawyers office, he entered the Post Office, in which he had a distinguished career. His administrative capacity was gained in the Secretary's Office in London from 1902 to 1913. During these years he was a prominent figure in all Irish activities in London.

He was transferred to Cork in 1913, but the British Authorities considered him a dangerous rebel, and when the 1914 Great War broke out, he was moved to Shrewsbury, later to Welshpool. In 1918 he refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to England, and resigned his post.

He returned, to Dublin and took charge of the Irish Book Shop, in Dawson Street, Dublin. This shop became the Mecca for all Dublin booklovers. He read French easily and spoke it with a fair fluency, so it was natural that he should have a knowledge of the French classics.

During the years from 1922 to 1945 he worked strenuously to build up the Irish Post Office administration, after the years of unrest, and the establishment of the Irish Government. He always found time to visit book shops, and hunt for treasures. He took great joy in preparing short papers which he sent to