



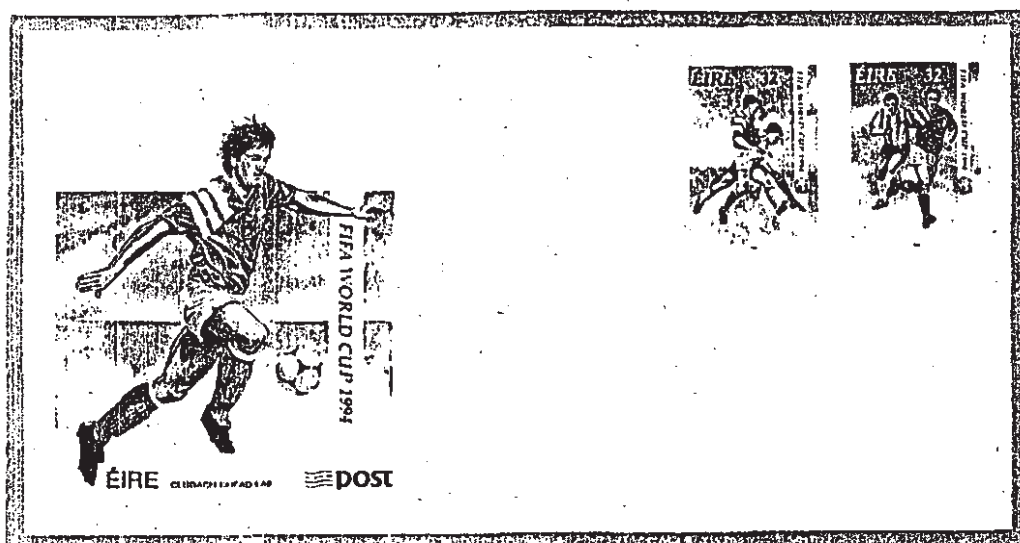
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Irish Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

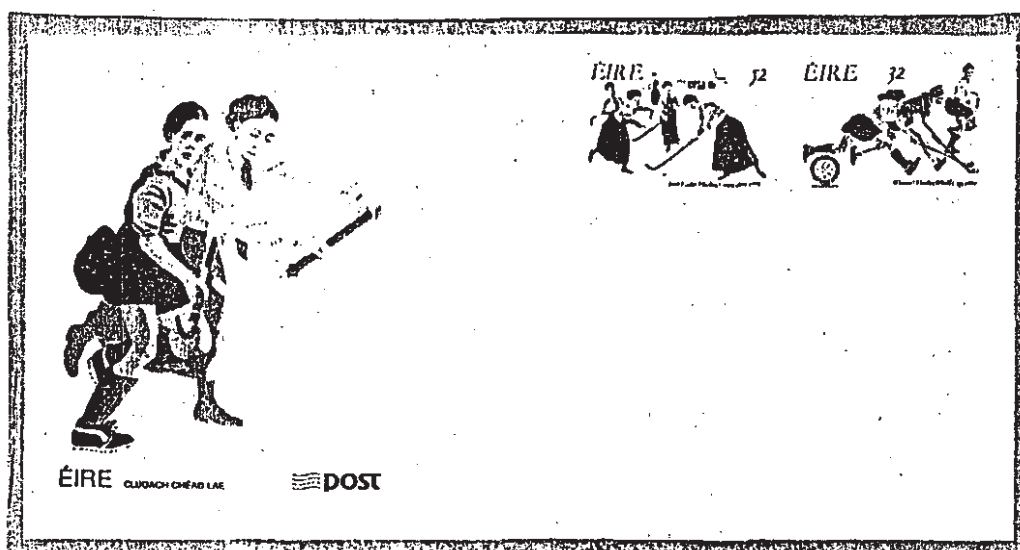
Issue No

JUNE / 2



IRELAND WORLD CUP ISSUES, May 31st, 1994:

(above) the FIFA [football] World Cup finals commemorated with a se-tenant 32p pair and (below) the Irish Ladies Hockey Union centenary issue; the 8th Women's World Hockey Cup is being held in Ireland this Summer and is part of the centenary celebrations.



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NEWS & VIEWS**Editor**

Few will not have heard that the big sporting events of the Summer is the World Football Cup Finals to be held in the United States. For the second successive Finals the Republic of Ireland will be in attendance. Indeed with the absence of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland the football enthusiasts will have just the Irish squad to support.

Needless to say that An Post are again commemorating the Finals and Ireland's participation; back in 1990 there was a double stamp issue for the event and a miniature sheet. This year, on May 31st to be exact, there is a similar issue of two stamps and a miniature sheet of eight stamps - 4 pairs of the 32p values. There is also a presentation pack for the more enthusiastic of collectors of modern issues.

The double stamp issue to commemorate the Irish Ladies Hockey Union also appears on May 31st. This is the Union's centenary year and is indeed the oldest Women's hockey union in the world. In its centenary year the Union is hosting the 8th Women's Hockey World Cup with no less than the top twelve countries in the world coming to Ireland to contest the championship.

As members will be aware the TPO ceased in January of this year; the Dublin/Cork and Dublin/Galway routes ceased on January 14th. The night mail continued for an extra week, making the final run on January 21st. The Philatelic Service arranged to have a limited number of covers carried on the last runs and the set of 12 is available at £10,80.

Unfortunately it appears that the postal service within Ireland remains in a sorry state to judge from the delays that many have experienced. One hopes that the situation will be rectified shortly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

'ARTHUR STREET' (Belfast) HANDSTAMPS

I enclose illustrations of three different variations of the Arthur Street handstamp. As William Kane only records two types it would be interesting to make a more detailed study of the dates of use for the three types

1844 - 1853?

Arthur Street RH
Belfast

1844 - 1853?

Arthur Street RH.
Belfast

1852 - 1854

Arthur Street
Belfast

James Rankin,
Randalstown, County Antrim

Sir,

THOM 5-LINE NARROW SETTINGS IN CONTROL BLOCKS

I refer to the masterly article by Bill Fletcher in IP Vol 1993/4 (Dec. '93) at page 77. I was provoked into looking at my examples and can add a little to the information given at pp. 83/5 on the settings recorded with the various controls. I can verify the following:-

1d Blue-black S22 imp. setting 5
T22 imp. " 4

1½d Black T22 perf. ?Add setting 3. (I am cautious about this as the two examples I have are both in grey black. I am not certain whether these are still regarded as being 'trial' blue-blacks. Doubtless our President will enlighten me!)

2d Blue-black T22 perf. setting 5.
1/- Black S22 perf. Add setting 3
1/- Blue-black T22 perf. Setting 9

A few months ago I was gently chided by our President for not having classified my controls by the three types of watermark - see the SG Specialised catalogue - and seeing what conclusions could be drawn. Years ago he and I had lots of fun looking for plates of the overprinted stamp ('base Plates') which were unrecorded; and we had some success. Who says there's nothing left to do with controls?

Patrick Williams,
Birkenhead.

JOURNAL MASTHEADS
E Margiotta

When I received my first issue of IRISH PHILATELY in March, 1984, Michael Richards was the Editor and the masthead was within a double box as per Figure 1. At that time the JOURNAL still had Fred Dixon's random notes and Brian Warren was busy with TWYTW.

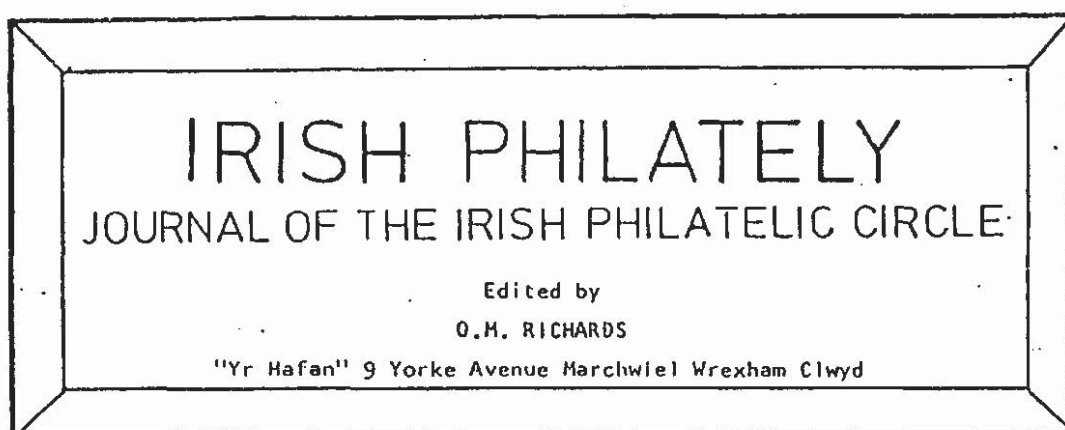


FIG.1

During this time the masthead of IRISH PHILATELY remained unchanged.

The December 1987 edition was, for the time being, the last use of the Figure 1 masthead.

The following edition of IRISH PHILATELY came as a surprise to us all. The new masthead, as Figure 2, was very striking. The design had a far more 'Irish' flavour; complete with 'little people' playing fiddles and flutes with mushrooms and a variety of flora.

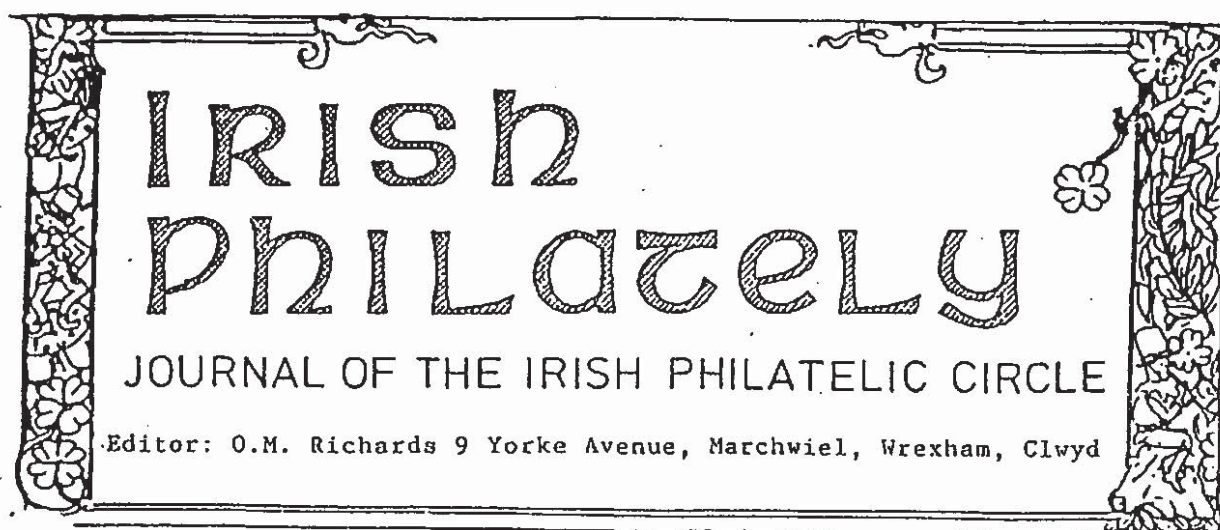


FIG.2

The front of this issue also carried Michael Richards' remarks, "I hope that the members will approve of the 'new look' IRISH PHILATELY". He went on to thank those who had helped with the new design.

But the 'natives' were restless and the next issue of IRISH PHILATELY saw the reinstatement of the original masthead. The members did not approve the 'new look'.

This time our Editor "reverted.....reluctantly" to the original masthead "because of comments made at the A.G.M.". That was June, 1988. Sadly Michael died on October 31st that year.

The following edition in September, 1988 had as it's editor Cyril Dulin of Geneva. He stated that in complying with the wishes expressed at the A.G.M., he was altering "the size of print and number of lines per page. This will allow us to print more text per page". This final sentence was followed by the plaintive plea of all Editors -

"All we need now of course, are more articles to fill the expanded pages".

Cyril's stay as Editor continued to the March, 1990 issue.

The JOURNAL received a typographical facelift. In the meantime the IRISH PHILATELY edition of December, 1989 saw a change to the masthead with the inclusion of the CIRCLE's new badge.

Two designs of the new badge were positioned at bottom left and right of the masthead in the corners as per Figure 3. In his last edition, Cyril's final plea was for encouragement, support and co-operation for the new Editor, Colm Murphy.

Colm's first edition of IRISH PHILATELY contained two fine articles written by himself together with his own pen and ink sketches.

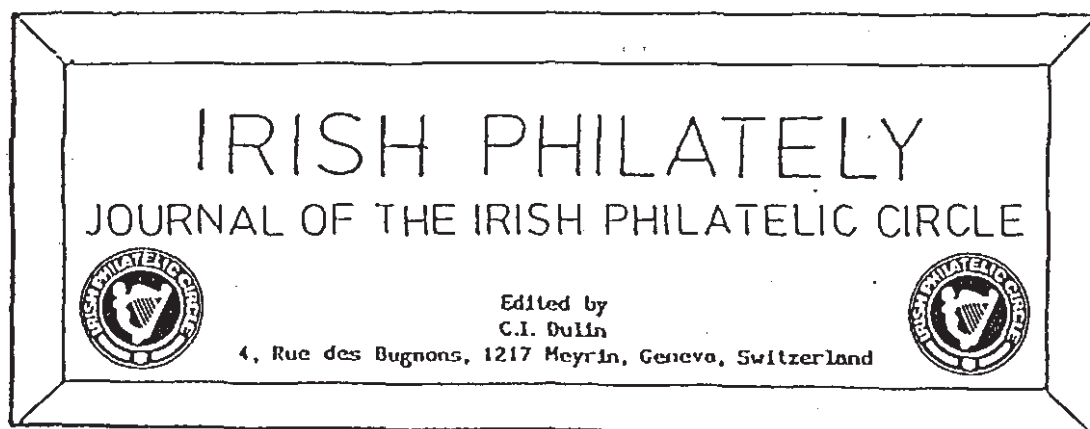


FIG.3

It was at the Chester A.G.M. of 1992 that a proposal for a new masthead for IRISH PHILATELY be drawn up. So it was in December issue of 1992 that six freehand designs were produced and a

ballot taken from amongst our members. The winner was design number 4 (Figure 4).



This design was suggested by Paul Appleby. The professional artwork for the design being completed, it now appears as the new masthead of IRISH PHILATELY. This artwork was produced by my friend, Brian Mayers to whom I am very grateful.

NEW POST OFFICE COUNTER DATE STAMPS

B Warren

New counter date stamps are currently being introduced at all Money Order offices. The new datestamps are scallop edged and have self-inking pads. UK based members will be familiar with this style of datestamp which has also been introduced by the Royal Mail. I understand that a total of 660 postmarks have been produced by the Retail Services section of An Post - whether this is 660 post offices or 660 datestamps I do not know. As you can see from the illustration of the KILKENNY 3 postmark, larger offices are provided with several numbered cancels. They will be introduced on a phased basis. This change is also accompanied by the introduction of computer terminals in many of the same offices though not necessarily at the same time.

I have not seen any postmark of this type earlier than January 1994. Can any member report otherwise?

The use of English rather than Irish or bilingual text appears to be contrary to regulations and represents an apparent policy change by An Post. Alternatively it maybe an error and the current English only datestamps will be replaced in due course.



5/- BRADBURY WILKINSON SHEET, Plate 4A, & 10/- BRADBURY & WILKINSON SHEET, Plate 5A (Broken "S" plate, 22.5mm stamps).
Johan Rehnberg

In the last issue of the JOURNAL (March, 1994) the 2/6 Bradbury Wilkinson sheet, plate 7A was discussed. Herewith two further sheets are under review - the 5/- Bradbury Wilkinson sheet - plate 4A and the 10/- Bradbury Wilkinson sheet, plate 5A.

Any additions from members of the CIRCLE would be greatly appreciated.

Bradbury Wilkinson 5/- sheet, Plate 4A.

TOP MARGIN

Distance to stamps (cross) is 12.0mm.

Length of horizontal arms - left 6.0mm and right 6.0mm.

Length of vertical arms - upper 6.0mm and lower 6.0mm.

Top left line is 8.00mm long and 20.0 from stamp no. 1.

Top right line is 11.25mm long and 20.0mm from stamp no. 4.

There is a dot to the very left of the line which is doubled for about 5mm at the very right hand side.

BOTTOM MARGIN

Distance from stamps (cross) 12.0mm.

Length of horizontal arms - left 6.0mm and right 6.0mm.

Length of vertical arms - upper 6.0mm and lower 6.0mm.

The upper arm is bent to the right.

Bottom left line is 9.0mm? long and 20.0mm from no. 37.

Bottom right line is 8.0mm and 20.0mm from no. 40.

There is a very faint horizontal line which is 42.0mm long below no. 39 and is 20.0mm from the stamp.

(Parallel to the other left and right horizontal lines).

LEFT MARGIN

Distance to stamps is 9.25mm.

Length of arms (cross) left 6.0mm and right 6.0mm.

Length of vertical arms - upper 6.0mm, which is thinner at top, and lower is 6.0mm.

Lower vertical line is 14.0mm and 17.5mm from nos. 33 and 37.

The line is double at its base for 3.25mm.

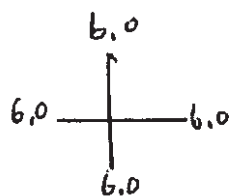
RIGHT MARGIN

Distance to stamps 9.25mm.

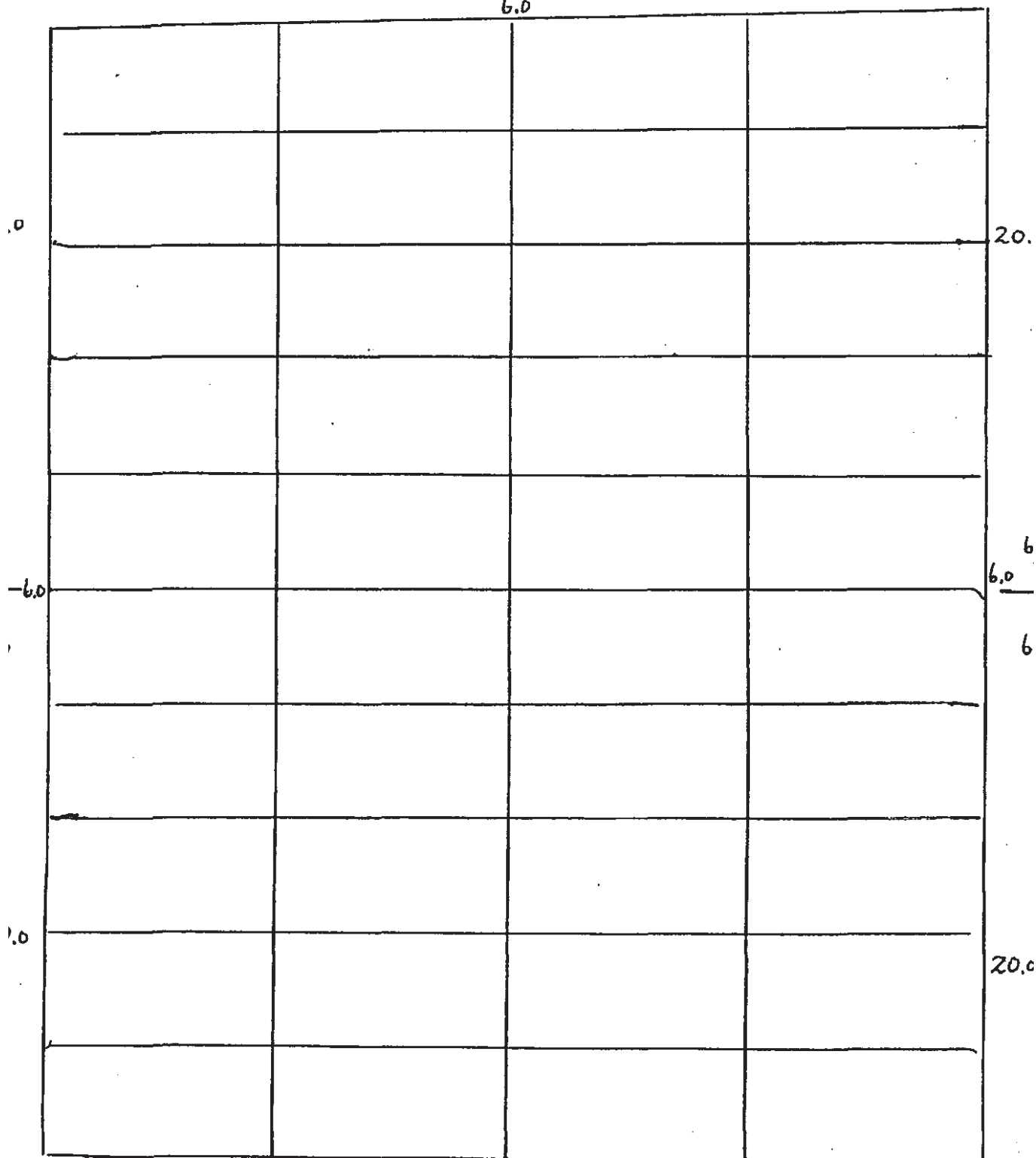
Length of horizontal arms - left 5.0mm (perf), most probably 6.0mm, and right 6.0mm.

5/- PLATE 4A.

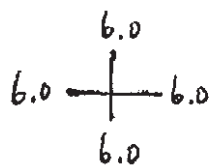
10.0



10.0



10.0



10.0

Length of vertical arms - upper 6.0mm and lower 6.0mm.
No vertical lines due to cut.

The plate is found with Thom Rialtas and Saorstat overprints.

Bradbury Wilkinson 10/- sheet, Plate 5A
Broken "S" Plate, 22.5mm stamps.

TOP MARGIN

Distance from stamps 12.0mm.

Length of horizontal arms - left 6.0mm and right 6.0mm.

Length of vertical arms - upper 6.0mm and lower 6.0mm.

Top left line is 15.3mm long and 20.25mm from stamp no. 1 and double at right.

Top right line is 15.75mm long and 20.25mm from stamp no. 4.

The very left of the line is thinner and there is a dot 5.5mm from the very left on the line.

BOTTOM MARGIN

Distance from stamps 12.0mm.

Length of the horizontal arms - left 6.0mm and right 6.0mm.

Length of the vertical arms - upper 6.25mm and lower 6.0mm.

No horizontal lines due to cut.

LEFT MARGIN

Distance from stamps 9.0mm.

Length of the horizontal arms - left 7.0mm and right 6.0mm.

Length of the vertical arms - upper 6.0mm and lower 5.5mm.

Lower vertical line is 15.0mm long and 17.25mm from stamp no. 37.

Top vertical line is 15.75mm long and 17.00mm from stamp no. 1.

No lower line due to cut.

RIGHT MARGIN

Distance from stamps 9.0mm.

Length of the horizontal arms - left 6.0mm and right 6.0mm.

Length of the vertical arms - upper 6.0mm and lower 6.0mm.

No top vertical lines due to cut.

Lower vertical line is 15.75mm long, thinner at bottom and double for 2.0mm. Distance from no. 40 is 17.0mm.

The plate contains the well known re-entries in stamps no. 1, 5 and 14; the major re-entry, the major re-touch and strokes over "TEN". Dollard overprint, Thom Rialtas and Thom Saorstat overprint are found on this plate.

RECENT SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS & SOUVENIR COVERS, NORTHERN IRELAND
A W Graham

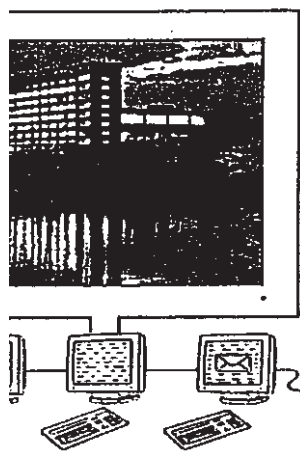
The Post Office/Royal Mail (Northern Ireland) have rarely in the past indulged in such philatelic frippery as special handstamps and commemorative souvenir covers. Members may thus be surprised to learn that four such covers and three special handstamps have appeared in the last year.

The usual announcement was made in the Postmark Bulletin in respect of the handstamps for the following events -

- 1; First Post Bus - February 9th, 1993.
- 2; Newry Delivery Office - June 25th, 1993.
- 3; Ballymena Delivery Office - October 1st, 1993.

However, there was no mention of the souvenir covers and I believe most collectors found out purely by chance. I doubt if there has been any major change in policy here and that the production of four covers has been purely coincidental with recent developments.

The National Return Letter Centre, opened on November 5th, 1992, is located in the sorting office complex and HQ at Donegall Quay, Belfast - itself officially opened on April 1st, 1976. The photocopy of the cover does not do justice to the multicolour design which includes a photograph of the building and the coat-of-arms of Belfast. There was no special handstamp for this event, the standard Philatelic counter date-stamp being employed.



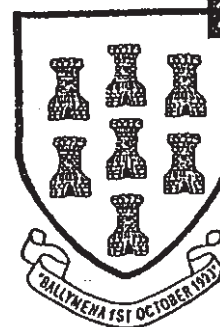
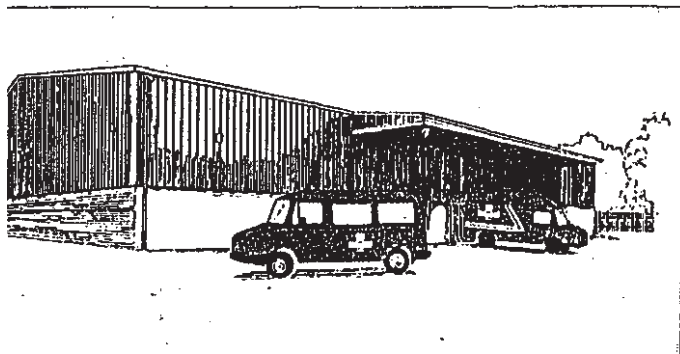
- 5 NOV '92

NATIONAL RETURN LETTER CENTRE BELFAST
Official Opening 5th November 1992





OFFICIAL OPENING BALLYMENA DELIVERY OFFICE



1st OCTOBER 1993

BALLYMENA DELIVERY OFFICE; the cover to commemorate the official opening on October 1st, 1993; (above) the cover and (below) the insert with details of the Royal Mail service at Ballymena.



Official Opening of Ballymena Delivery Office 1st October 1993

Royal Mail Ballymena delivers over 40,000 letters and packets every day to over 22,000 addresses. Collections are made from 104 post boxes and 17 firms. The Royal Mail operation in Ballymena employs 76 staff and uses a fleet of 39 vehicles. The annual budget is over £1 million.

The move to the new premises at 111 Railway Street has been made necessary by greatly increased mail volumes over the past few years.

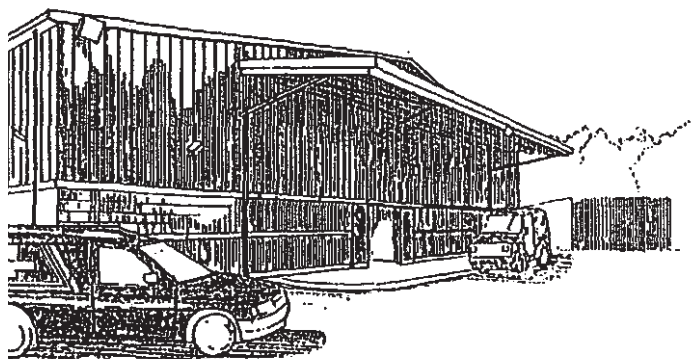
The new purpose built Delivery Office has a customer reception facility where the public can call between 7.30am and 5.30pm to buy stamps, collect their mail or post meter items.

The local Delivery Manager, Paul Turton, can be contacted on Ballymena (0266) 652498 or 652226.

The handstamp used on this envelope depicts the Seven Towers of Ballymena and the artwork for it was kindly provided by Ballymena Borough Council.



OFFICIAL OPENING NEWRY DELIVERY OFFICE



25th JUNE 1993

NEWRY DELIVERY OFFICE: the official opening commemorated on June 25th, 1993; the cover (above) with special handstamp and (below) the insert with details of the Newry Royal Mail postal service.



Official Opening of Newry Delivery Office 25th June 1993

Royal Mail Newry delivers almost 50 thousand items every day to over 15,000 customers, using 35 vans. Collections are made from 89 post boxes and 19 firms. Employing a staff of 15, Royal Mail's operation in Newry has a budget of over £1 million per annum.

The new purpose built office at Clanrye Avenue is considerably more up to date than the former premises at Hill Street, which had become unsuitable due to increased volumes of mail.

The public can call at the office's purpose built customer reception facility between 7.30am and 6.00pm where they may buy stamps, collect their mail or post meter items up to 6.00pm.

The local Delivery Manager, Billy Baines, can be contacted on Newry (0693) 62449 or 6060.

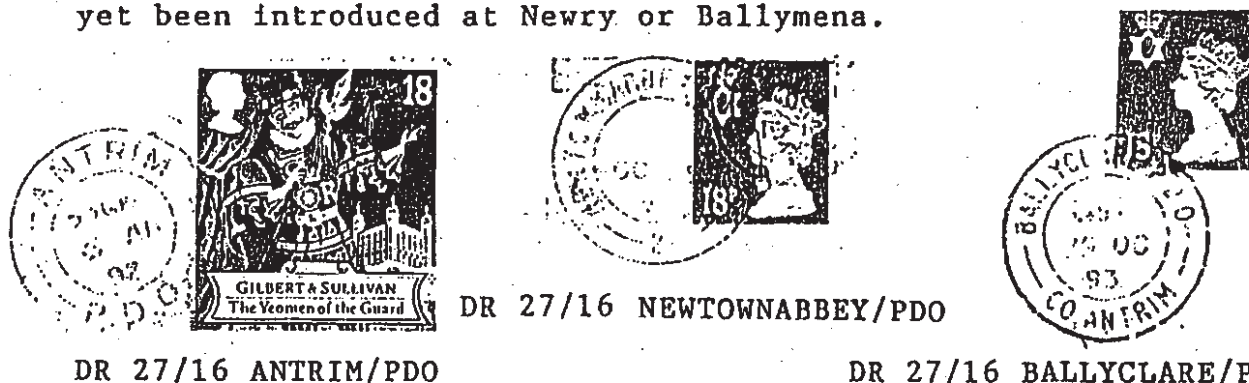
The design for the handstamp used on this envelope was provided by Newry 850 Ltd, the organisation set up to commemorate the 850th anniversary of the town of Newry in 1994.

The new delivery offices at Newry and Ballymena are part of an on going divorce proceedings between Post Office Counters and the Royal Mail. This now involves physical separation. Most of the former Head Offices in the provincial towns of Northern Ireland have now been abandoned, and the Post Office Counter business relocated as a quasi franchise operation in rented property nearby in the town centres. The Royal Mail side has usually been transferred to the outskirts of the towns. It seems that Enniskillen is to be the next candidate for this treatment. There will be the usual local howls of protest but few doubt the eventual outcome. The Newry and Ballymena covers are a little less inspiring but then the warehouse style buildings are hardly architectural masterpieces. The covers are printed in red, yellow and black. I have had unconfirmed reports that only five hundred Newry and two hundred and fifty Ballymena covers were printed.



DR 27/16 'E.P.D.O. BELFAST / A' (thin arcs) - EAST POSTAL DELIVERY OFFICE.

There are a number of Postal Delivery Offices and examples of the various postmarks currently in use to identify these PDO's in Northern Ireland are illustrated. No similar ones have as yet been introduced at Newry or Ballymena.



DR 27/16 ANTRIM/PDO

DR 27/16 NEWTOWNABBAY/PDO

DR 27/16 BALLYCLARE/PDO

(Editor's note; the following article comes from Robson Lowe. The main article deals with forgeries with some relevance to those interested in Ireland and Irish related material. Rather than give an abbreviated version the article as furnished by Robson is printed in full to give thus ensuring a better all-round understanding of the issue at hand. An introduction on the HOUSE OF STAMPS pre-cedes the main article.

THE HOUSE OF STAMPS

Peter Winter started his business reproductions of rare stamps in the early eighties, under the title PRO PHIL FORUM in Bremen, Germany. About 1986, the British Library took action against him for breach of copyright as he had reproduced items from their collections. They won their case and a number of items were withdrawn.

He then moved his operation to Switzerland under the title of The House of Stamps and continued in business until recently. Their first catalogue was published in 1985, and more recently, another catalogue was produced in Switzerland.

In these catalogues, stamps were priced from 20 to 45 Swiss francs unused or used singles, and 40 to 80 francs on piece with covers from 70 to 180 Swiss francs. Most of the reproductions are stamped "Prefabrik" on the reverse but there are occasional exceptions.

Some of the great rarities such as the British Guiana 1856 1 cent were priced as 50 francs used and 100 francs on cover. The Cape woodblock errors of colour were priced at 45 francs and 95 francs on cover. The Post Office Mauritius were 50 francs and 110 francs on cover with the India 1854 4 annas inverted head at 34 francs unused. The Canada 12d. pair on cover retailed at 135 francs.

European rarities included the Austrian red Mercury at 39 francs, the Bavaria 1849 1kr black pair on cover 175 francs, a French Ceres 1fr. used block of four with one tete-beche cost 120 francs used and a Great Britain £5 mint was only 40 francs. A mint sheet of twenty of the Saxony 1850 3 pfg. was one of the highest prices at 330 francs. The Spain 1851 2 reales blue in pair with the 6 reales on cover cost 90 francs and the Sweden 3sk.bco. error in yellow in pair with the 8sk.beo cost 70 francs mint and 120 francs on cover.

The Swiss double Geneva mint was 40 francs and on cover 120 francs, while a block of four Basle Doves on cover cost 175 francs. A mint sheet of six Wurtemberg 1873 70 kr. cost 140 francs and a pair on cover cost 120 francs.

Having seen some of these reproductions in collections, we felt it was necessary to record what we know existed.

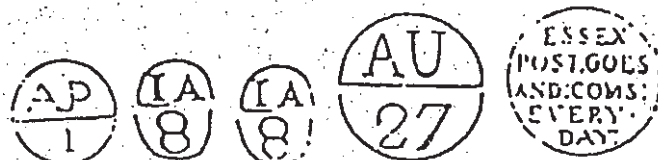
HOUSE OF STAMP FORGERIES Robson Lowe

Through the kind co-operation of a good friend we have available the records of most of the forged handstamps, datestamps, explanatory handstamps, and adhesive stamps produced by the HOUSE OF STAMPS.

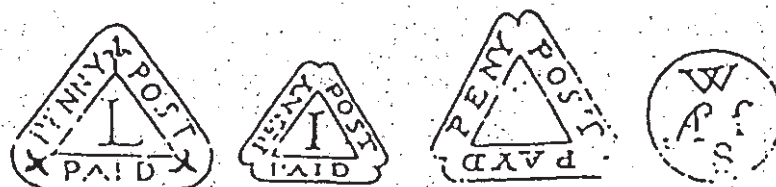
Some of the productions are laughable - for instance a pair of penny blacks on piece tied with blue Maltese Cross and the ESSEX/POST GOES/AND COMS: EVERY DAY. Also a penny black used from Guernsey on a registered cover to Olten, Switzerland, the stamp being cancelled with a GUERNSEY type which we have no seen before. A V.R. penny black on piece cancelled with a red HONITON No 29 1840.

Therefore we have decided to list and describe these imitations so that future generations are not misled.

GREAT BRITAIN



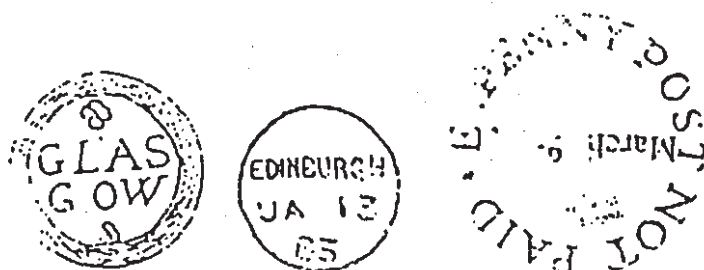
To start with Postal History, the Lodon Bishop mark is appropriately AP/1, the Edinburgh 1693 IA/8 and the Dublin 1746 AV/27. There is also 1665 ESSEX/POST GOES / AND COMS: / EVERY / DAY.



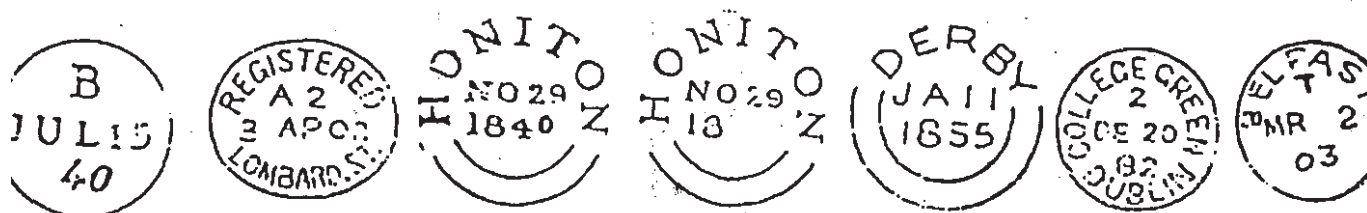
There are three of the triangular PENNY POST PAID of the London Penny Post, the best being Dockwras, 1680 type with L in the centre. The second small example of 1681 and has a capital I in the centre. The third is a 1685 PAYD PENNY POST with a blank centre, although it would be simple to insert the post office initial and the first two letters of the day. There is also a time stamp, 1683 W/Af/8.



Early London datestamps include two double circles, one 1787 MARCH/H/15, the other 1787 JU/8/0. Provincial handstamps are few, the 1765 Bristol B containing RIS/TOL, the 1792 East Grinstead Crown type, and the script Penny Post.



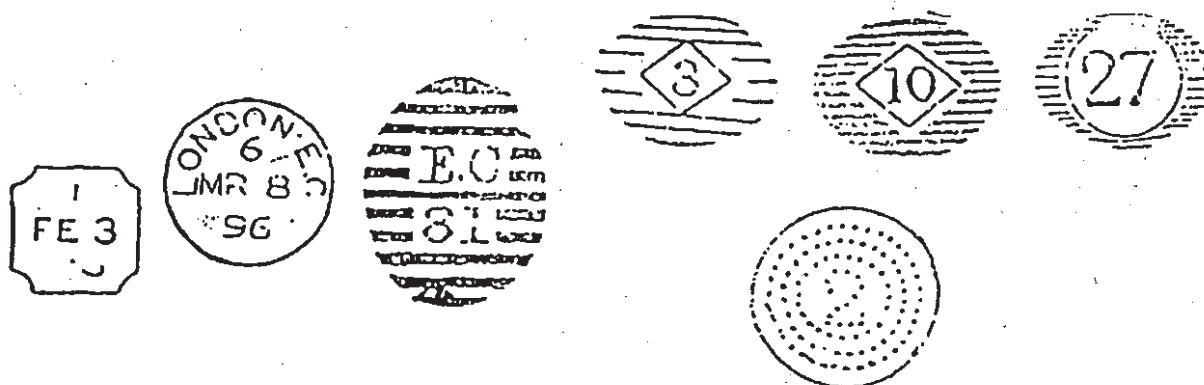
Scotland has two, a Peter Williamson 1782 E.PENNY POST NOT PAID with an inverted date March 9th, and the decorative circular GLAS/GOW which was in use in 1742.



The date stamps from 1840 on are:-

(London) B JUL 15 40
HONITON NO 29 1840
DERBY JA 11 1855
BELFAST T MR 2 03

REGISTERED Lombard St A2 3 AP 02
or No 29 18
EDINBURGH UA 12 83
COLLEGE GREEN DUBLIN 2 DE 20 82



There is also the small London Inland Office square with 1/FE 3/-, an oval REGISTERED LOMBARD ST A2 3 AP 82, a London duplex LONDON E.C. 6 MR 8 96 with EC 81 and London numeral cancellations 1, 3, 10, 27 and 38. In the records there is a

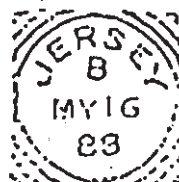
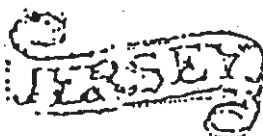
strike of the dotted 2 in three circles of dots enclosed in a circle. This was a trial used by the London G.P.O. circa 1860-70.

There are two other handstamps that should be mentioned - the curious Rail ROAD, the Foreign Branch BRITISH/FOREIGN. There are three types included among the British which I do not recognise - III between two lines contained in a circle, 6 between two rough circles and italic P.D. underlined in an oval.

BRITISH BRITISH
FOREIGN FOREIGN

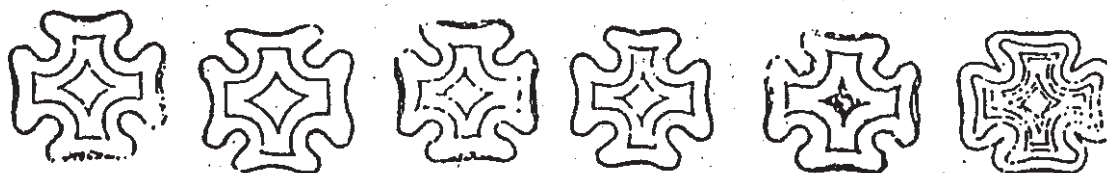


Channel Islands has the curious straight line GUERNSEY in a circle (a reduction of the 1956 type), the Jersey scroll and the Jersey squared-circle B MY 16 88.

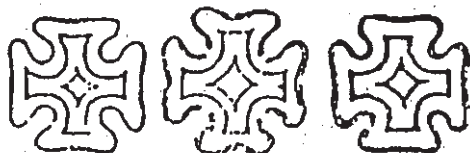


THE MALTESE CROSS

There are no less than sixteen Maltese Crosses, including the special types used in Helston, Manchester, Norwich and Plymouth, York and Wotton-under-Edge; the Scottish types with the standard type cross and Kilmarnock; and the Irish types with Belfast, Mullingar and Westport.



Some are cleverly done and in future these will be looked at more closely by the experts.



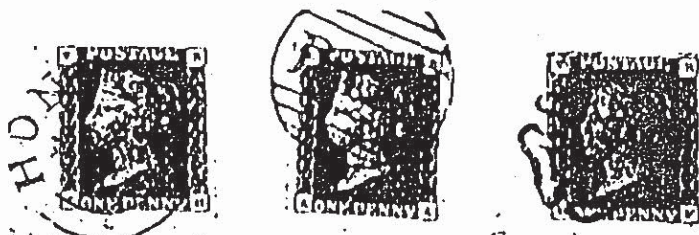
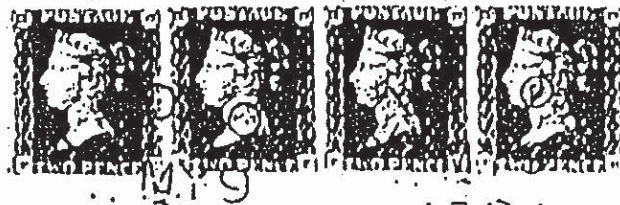
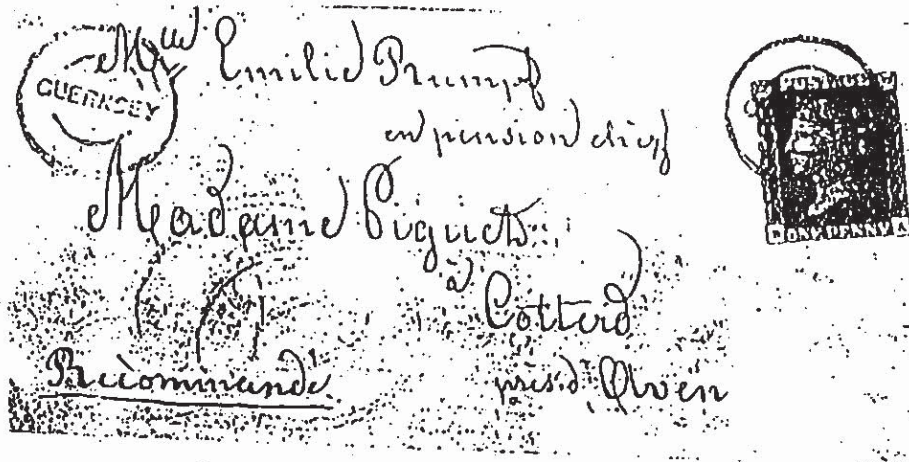
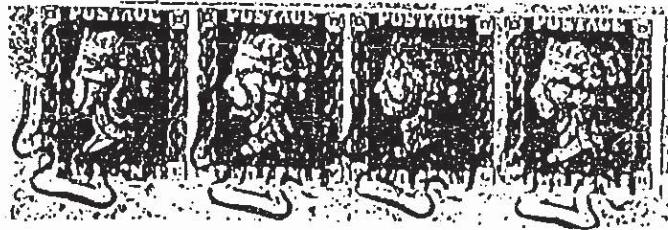
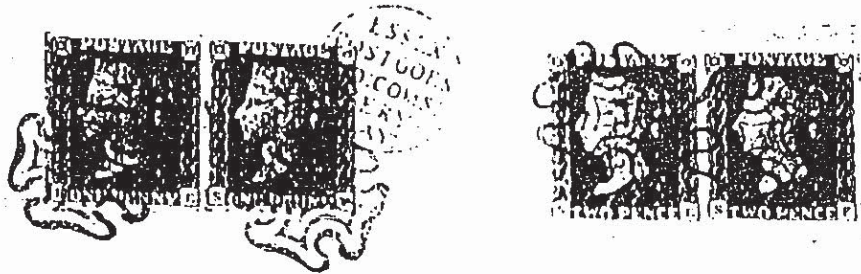
Ireland



England

Scotland





THE ADHESIVE STAMPS

The penny blacks are readily identified as they are lithographed. Unused I have seen BG (? plate VII) and SG (? plate IV). The used pair cancelled in blue with the ESSEX POST GOES etc. is lettered SE-SF but this seems unplateable. The single on cover cancelled at Guernsey (an adaptation of the 1956 type) is lettered BA (? Plate Ib) and is on a Registered front addressed "Mile Emilie Prumpf en pension chez Madam Piquete a Cottered pres d/Olven".

The VR penny black unused has been seen AA, AB, BA, BB, PH, QH, SG, SH and TH: and comes cancelled with the red HONITON c.d.s.; also RF cancelled with a Maltese Cross; cancelled with the Boston, Mass PAID we have seen AA, BA, BB, PF, QE and QF.

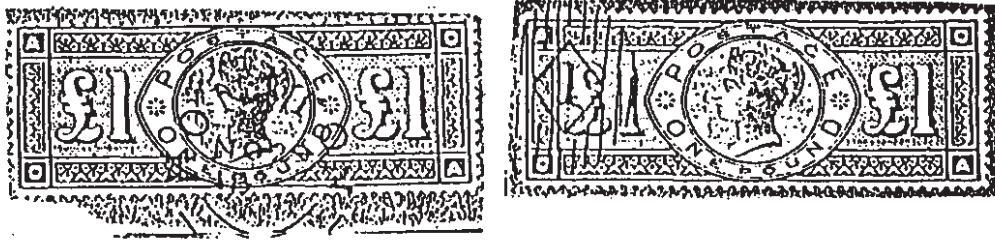
The 1840 two penny blues are lettered RG, RH, RI and RK unused, and used come in strips of four FE-FH, RE-RH and TE-TH cancelled with the LUDLOW MY 9, GE-GH cancelled with the Maltese Cross, SE-SH cancelled with the Belfast Cross. There is a pair of twopence BLACK SE-SF cancelled with a Maltese Cross.

The 1882 Postage £5 orange is lettered DO as is the Telegraph £5 purple-brown (instead of orange); the former has the oval REGISTERED LOMBARD ST/A 2/S AP 82, BELFAST T ME 2/03 and COLLEGE GREEN DUBLIN 2 DE 20 82; the Telegraph £5 has a large sans-serif LUDLOW MY 9 1894 and is found on a front to "Schansenkommision Cantons Zurich"; also cancelled GLASCOW FE 20 94. The two unused examples illustrated, both are on blue unwatermarked paper.

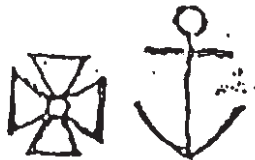


The 1884 £1 lilac-brown is letter OA and cancelled with the c.d.s. HONITON NO 29 18, while the 1892 £1 green is the same

lettering and the cancellation the London District 1 in a diamond frame contained in an oval of bars.



In the records there were the drawings of the watermarks, Cross and Anchor.



NORTHERN IRELAND ACRONYM

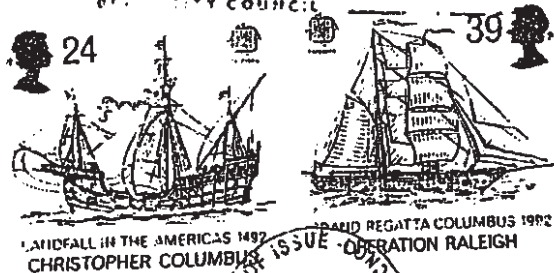
A W Graham

One of the most striking obscure acronym of recent years is illustrated below; it is obvious once translated and quite relevant to the stamp issue. Only four such covers were serviced and experts will note that the operational slogan postmark was mixed with the FDI - contrary to guidelines.

Slogan; 1st Feb-30th Apr 1992;
4339 / type 3013; Londonderry
only. IMPACT - International
Meeting Place for Art & Cult-
ural Tradition.



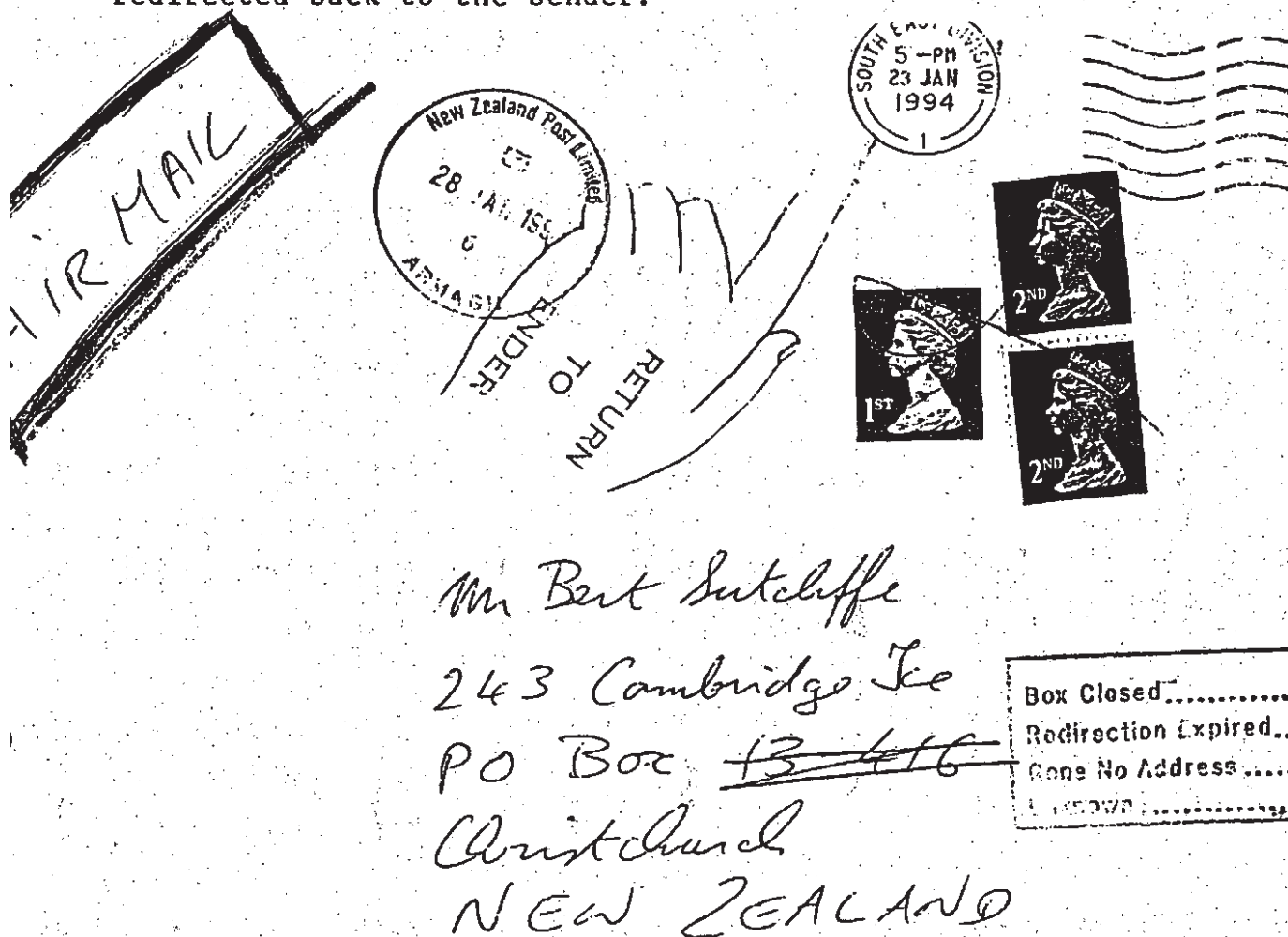
IMPACT CITY COUNCIL



LANDFALL IN THE AMERICAS 1492
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS
GRAND REGATTA COLUMBUS 1992
OPERATION RALEIGH

NEW ZEALAND POST - ARMAGH
C Murphy

A recently returned cover from New Zealand attracted my attention, not merely through the annoyance of 'the return to sender' instruction but more so because of the added single ring handstamp 'NEW ZEALAND POST LIMITED / ARMAGH'. The cover was sent to a box number address in Christchurch, New Zealand. As same was closed with the redirection period expired (as per instructions in the box, bottom right) the cover was redirected back to the sender.



Recent articles by Alan Kane and A W Graham in the JOURNAL have advised of the opening of the new national - UK - return letter centre being now based in Northern Ireland. Here, therefore, is an example of one (?) of the new handstamps now in use. The strike is in purple ink with the other instructional marks in red.

The attention of members is drawn to the time span involved in returning the letter; the original machine cancel is dated January 23rd; the 'NEW ZEALAND / ARMAGH' strike is dated January 28th and it was back in my possession on the 29th!

A DISCOVERY: THE DOLLARD RUNNALS RE-ENTRY
C I Dulin

Undoubtedly one of the rarer re-entries on the Bradbury 10/- GB base plates used in the overprinting for Irish stamps is that first reported by Runnals (July/August 1952 Philatelic Adviser: 13th Supplement "British Postage Stamp Varieties" by R.C.Alcock and C.W.Meredith).

Initially discovered with a December 1922 Thom Saorstat overprint, a year later it was found in the unoverprinted state. Eventually it was determined that it was from the Bradbury Plate 2A. Its position is R6/S1 and nominally it is similar to the Major re-entry in R1/S1 from GB Plate 5A (this is the one that also has the mis-named Major re-touch in R2/S1 and the Strokes over Ten in R4/S2). In fact, the Runnals is extensively re-entered far more than the Plate 5A example.

Very few examples of Runnals re-entry are known in conjunction with the overprints and hitherto they were found either with the December 3-line Thom Saorstat overprint or with the later Narrow setting. Probably this was because most of the overprints were printed on Broken S in POSTAGE plates (such as Plate 5A). At one time it was believed that Perfect S plates were only found with the December Thom and later printings (e.g. "Handbook of Irish Philately" by D.Feldman) and, even with these, examples are found less frequently than those from Broken S plates.

Although aware that Perfect S plate examples actually do exist with the Dollard and 4 line Thom overprints, I had never paid much attention to them except for hunting for pieces from the mixed Perfect S, Perfect P plate (found in a portion of the elusive Plate 7A). Even with examples of the O flaw on Perfect S base stamps from the 4 line Thom overprinting, I did not attach too much significance to them.

Recently, however, in response to a study being made on GB high value plates, I listed all my overprinted examples having marginal markings or which could be positively identified with a given plate because of associated characteristics. Defined re-entries would constitute a typical associated characteristic, but also the state of the S in POSTAGE (for the 10/- value) or the R in CROWN (for the 2/6 value) might also be helpful clues. It was only when I made the listing that I realised that one 10/- example which I had nominally described in my collection as the Dollard Major re-entry some time ago, was with Perfect S - an impossible combination. A re-examination showed that it was, in fact, the Runnals re-entry. Thus far, it is the only recorded example, but I wonder how many others, like myself, have ostensibly "Plate 5A Major re-entries in their collections and which are, in reality, Plate 2A Runnals. One reason could be because of the older conventional wisdom that the Dollard overprint on a Perfect S plate does not exist. Another may be that it is not generally known that the Runnals is, indeed, from a Perfect S plate. Happy hunting.

HISTORY OF THE IPC (Part 2)

William Kane

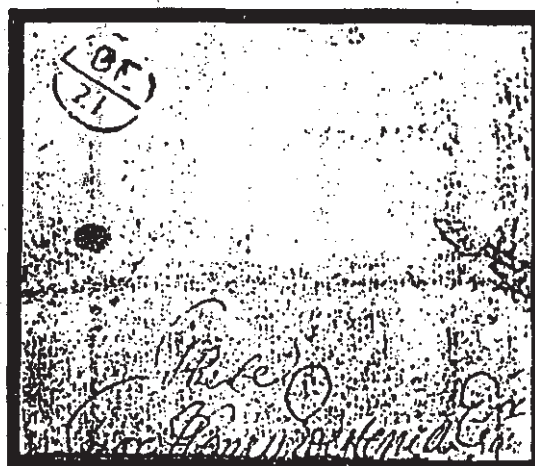
In the December 1993 issue of the JOURNAL the first part of an introduction to a history of the IPC was published. This was a brief review of the early years of the IPC. Herewith is Part 2 which consists of a tribute to one of the all-time great philatelists - Thomas Edwin Field.

This article - which will be published in two sections, the second to come in the September issue of the JOURNAL - is a review of the splendid collection of Thomas Field, a collection remarkable for its completeness and thoroughness. The reader will certainly gain some impression of the quite unique collection that the great Yorkshireman had.

My thanks to Bill Kane for providing the article. The HISTORY OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE is at present being researched by Bill Kane and John Lennon with assistance from many members including Cyril Dulin and Michael Leonard. Thus the following item on Thomas Field is considered a suitable introduction to the members of the extent of Thomas Field's collection.

THE COLLECTION OF IRELAND

The collection of Ireland was all embracing and commenced with an historical section among which were 1647 and 1649 letters from Colonel George Monk, the soldier whose fame as a Cromwellian leader was later surpassed as he was responsible for the restoration of King Charles II to the British throne. A 1657 letter from London to Cashel was endorsed 'Postage Paid to Dublin', which at that time was 9d, the recipient having to pay a further 4d to cover the postage from Dublin to Cashel. There was a similar letter written three years later which referred to the restoration of Charles II and one written by Prince Rupert when in Ireland in 1667.



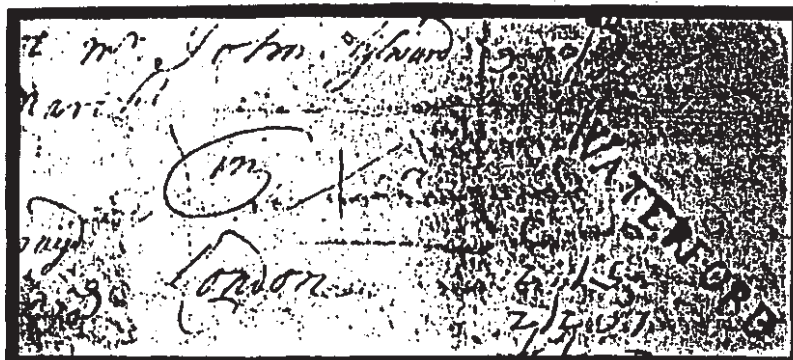
1686, an early Dublin BISHOP MARK. DE 21= December 21st.

THE HANDSTRUCK STAMPS

Handstruck postage stamps were introduced in Ireland in the latter part of the seventeenth century. Thomas Field collected these in groups so that the development of every aspect of postal history could be studied. The first of these stamps was the date-stamp used in Dublin known to collectors as the Bishop mark, so called because it was first introduced in London by Colonel Henry Bishop in 1661. It was struck by an instrument not unlike the old fashioned clothes peg, two pieces of wood bound together with cord or wire. On the semi-circular base of one half was carved the first two letters of month; the other half contained figures showing the day of the month. The two halves were then wedged into a handle and bound round and the result was the circular impression of which one is illustrated for 21st December (DE 21). The earliest examples in the collection were dated 1676 and 1686.

Irish personality showed on two examples used in 1706 and 1716 for in both these cases the figures had been engraved upside down. This form of date-stamp was in use in Dublin from 1672 to 1792 although the size grew larger with the passing years. At first the handstamp was probably made of box wood, but improved methods of production resulted in it being made of metal from about the middle of the eighteenth century. The varying date-stamps of Dublin were carefully studied and in this record it is not necessary to mention more than the curious harp-shaped type introduced in 1808, the left outline being the figure of a mermaid, the curious Sunday stamps which came in various shapes such as the octagonal and oval from 1815 to 1820, and the mid-day mail stamps in either oval or circular serpiginous frame lines and which were in use at the same time.

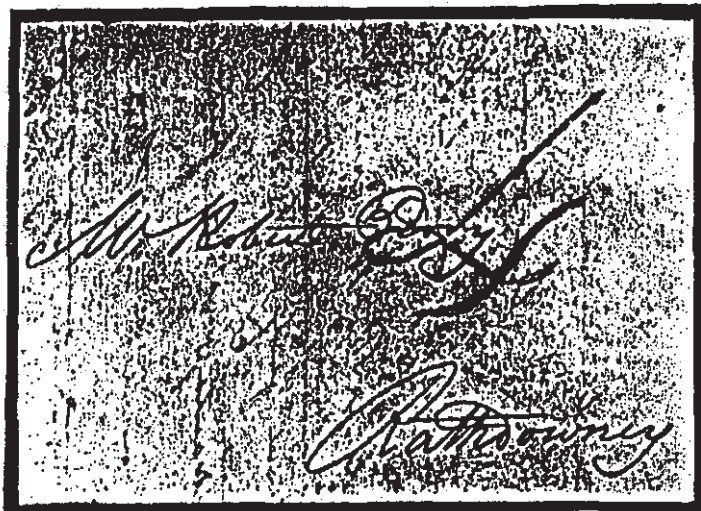
It should be mentioned here that like England and Wales, the post was divided into two main services - the General Post and the local Penny Posts. The first handstamps of the General Post to appear in Dublin contained the words "POST PAID" and the letter "D" and these are known from 1763; there was a fine example in the collection on an entire written in 1774. In 1808 the harp-shaped Paid stamp appeared showing the outline of the mermaid and the collection included one of the earliest known examples used on the 13th of May, 1808.



1699, the Waterford town-stamp on a letter to London.

In this country the first town-stamps were just the name in the a straight line. The two earliest examples were both in the Field collection, the first on an entire letter from Strabane in 1698 and showing two strikes of the town-stamp (this is the earliest known town-stamp in the British Commonwealth) and an entire from Waterford to London in 1699.

Other early town-stamps in the collection included Cork and Lisburn in 1703, Clonmel and Limerick in 1704 and the abbreviated Athlone ("A-lone") in 1712. Many of the early Irish handstamps were uninked impressions and three of the earliest included in the collection were 1717 "D-PAT" (Douglaspatrick), 1721 Belfast and 1737 "B-MONE" (Ballymoney). Handstamps for Provincial letters prepaid in cash did not appear until 1790 but there was a letter of this year in the collection from Belfast which had "P.PAID" as well as the Dublin "POST PAID D". Another interesting variety was shown on an 1804 letter where the Belfast stamp read "POST PAID/IRISH/BRITISH", the purpose of which was to differentiate between the proportion of the postage to be allotted to the Irish and the British Post Offices. With the coming of the nineteenth century there was a variety of Paid stamps in fancy scrolls and circles and these were followed in the 1830's with various shapes, one of the most attractive of which was issued for Dugannon.



The handstruck "4" used during the experimental period of Uniform Postage "4d." - 5th December 1839 to 9th January 1840.

In 1839 the first stage of Rowland Hill's Reform was introduced when Uniform Fourpenny Postage commenced on the 5th December, 1839 and which lasted until 9th January, 1840. During this period a number of post towns were issued with a stamp comprising the figure "4" and among the most unusual were letters used on the first and last day of this service and bearing the handstruck "4" of Dublin. Among the other towns

represented in the collection were those of Armagh, Belfast, Derry, Drogheda, Galway and Roscrea.

Uniform Penny Post was introduced on the 10th January, 1840 and in the Field collection there was a splendid cover with the handstamp "Paid at Kells" and the "1" in manuscript used on that day. Many of the Irish towns had their own handstruck penny stamps which were brought in before the adhesives and continued in use up till the early fifties.

Among those of particular charm were the Abbeyleigh, Cookstown, Craughwell and Portarlinton. There was also a companion volume of letters all with the handstruck "2" which was applied on letters which had not been prepaid, and on which postage due was charged.



The triangular Dublin Penny Post stamp used on a 1784 letter.

Before one leaves the history of the early posts one has to record the local posts, the first which was established in Dublin in 1773. From its inception in 1681, the first stamps of the London Penny Post had been triangular in shape with the words "PENNY POST PAID" on the three sides.

The first stamps of the Dublin Penny Post were of a similar shape and there are one or two examples known, one of the finest being on a letter dated the 4th March, 1784 which was in the Field collection. Many later Penny Posts of Dublin, some of which are of curious and unusual shapes, were complete and the provincial Penny Post stamps which were used in over two hundred places in Ireland were over ninety per cent complete.

From the earliest days of the organised postal service Members of Parliament and certain other Government officials were

allowed the privilege of sending their letters free of postage. Such letters were known as "Franked Letters" and one of the conditions was that the writer's name should be written in the lower left corner below the address and when the letter passed through the Post Office a special handstamp was applied which contained the word "FREE".

The first of these to appear in Ireland came at the beginning of the eighteenth century and of the single word "Free" there were two examples in the Field collection dated 1707; even more interesting was a 1746 letter stamped "COUNTERFEIT" as the signature franking the letter had been identified as a forgery. The sizes and shapes of these franked stamps varied considerably and when the harp embellished with the mermaid was the design for the Dublin date and paid stamps, a similar stamp appeared among the franks.

In addition there were a number of special handstamps used when franks were rejected, such as "Member not in Ireland" and "above number privileged" when more than the privileged number of free letters were posted. Certain charity letters were allowed to be sent through the mails free of postage and these were stamped "Charity Letter". All franks applied in Ireland were struck in Dublin at the General Post Office.

The unique 1740 "SHIP G.R.2" applied in Dublin on a letter from North America to London.



Perhaps the most popular section in Irish Postal History are the Ship Letter stamps and one of the three earliest examples known, which was in the Field collection, is illustrated. It was sent from the British Colonies in North America in 1740 and addressed to the Society of Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts and bears the only known example of the circular handstamp containing "SHIP G.R.2".

The Irish Ship Letters come in various forms. There is the single stamp "SHIP" or "SHIPP" which came in the mid-eighteenth century and these were immediately followed by two-line types, the first of which had the town name and a separate handstamp with the word "SHIP". Then followed the two-line types with the word "SHIP LETTER" under the town name, at first plain and later framed. A number of towns used oval shaped types and Dublin had a particular fancy frame surmounted by a Crown that was quite distinctive, all being represented in the collection. Among the early letters in the Field collection was an 1745

"SHIPP", 1762 Clonmel in manuscript, 1767 Cork "SHIP" and 1773 "L-DERRY" (Londonderry) in manuscript.

There were two examples of the mileage handstamp, (i.e. showing the mileage from Dublin) the first on a letter from New York to Bordeaux in 1822 which was marked "KENMARE/156" with "Ship Letter" in manuscript and a letter of 1827 with a similar handstamp of "Cahirciveen/178" and "SHIP LETTER" in an oval frame. Examples of the town date-stamps used with a separate "SHIP LETTER" handstamp in a fancy scroll were there for Portaferry in 1824, Limerick in 1827 and Buncrana in 1845, while a straight-line handstamp accompanied the Kilrush circular date-stamp on an 1842 letter.

The two line types are usually the commonest but for some of the ports they are extremely rare and among those in this collection was a 1784 Ross (New Ross), 1800 Passage, 1813 Warren (Warren Point), 1834 Castle Town, 1838 Rostrevor and 1848 Kinsale, the latter being struck in blue. Among the more unusual framed types was the 1818 Belfast with a fancy oblong frame and 1837 letter from Bahia to London with the Limerick stamp.

Among the ovals were the English standard type with a crown in the centre for Derry in red in 1826 and in green in 1847, while the peculiar Newry oval with the sunflower in the centre was struck in blue on an 1846 letter. Letters carried by the East Indiaman are rare carried to Ireland but were shown for Cork and Cove on letters of the 1837-39 period.

The Holyhead and Kingstown Packet Service of 1860-1925 was fully explored.



1813, the rare Warrens Point Ship Letter stamp applied on a letter from Philadelphia to London.

Part 2 of this particular item on Thomas Field's collection of Ireland will be published in the September issue of the JOURNAL.