

Volume
2000

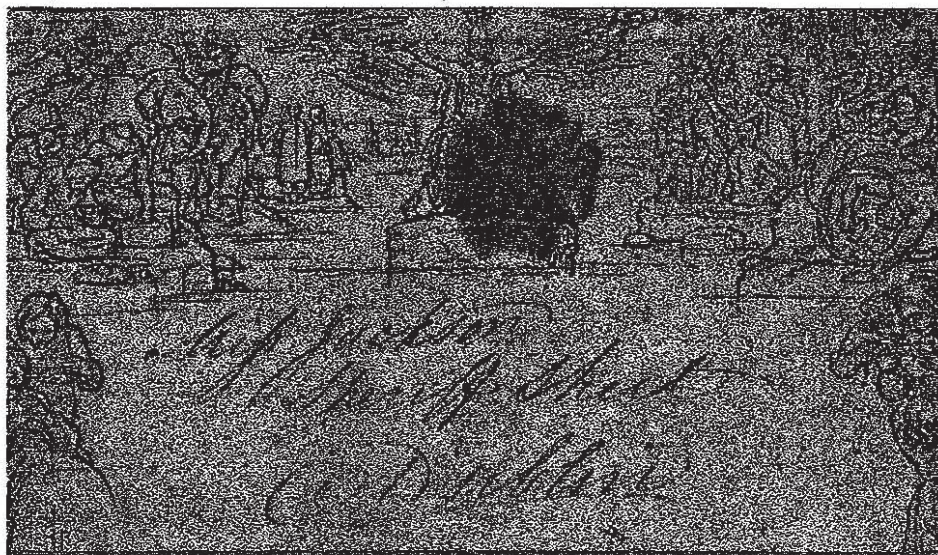


Issue No.
DEC/ 4

Irish Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE – OAP CASH SUPPLEMENT STAMPS, BELFAST CENSOR OFFICE
HANDSTAMP, MICHAEL LEONARD, THE NORTH of IRELAND ANNUAL POSTCARD
AND MORE**



**Red Maltese Cross from (Multyfarnham) ? to Dublin
31st October 1840**

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A continuance of the page number from the last issue has been undertaken, after due criticism from a member and all being equal, no doubt I shall start fresh again next year.

Strange thing! At Stampa there was this “auld fella” running around saying our President would NOT be submitting an article for the Journal, which I for one do not believe and yet “another”, whom I have yet to remind is going to write an article so it looks like the Journal may be getting better. Otherwise I found Stampa and all it’s members well, in good spirits and enjoyable, being pleased that I was able to attend.

One of our members from Holland contacted me for one of the piece’s that had been published, via the “Web” and I am pleased that other members have also contacted me using this method.

At the present time I shall include something from my own “collection” in the form of a “SNIPPET” until such time as I have some from other members.

The next meeting at the Barbican in London is on Saturday 2nd December at 2.00pm.

May I thank those who have contributed to this issue, most of them on short notice and take this opportunity of wishing you all well and the Seasons Greetings and good health.

This information and any other relevant pieces, I usually try to put up on the web page which is www.philatelic.cwc.net also email me at eddydalton@cwcom.net.

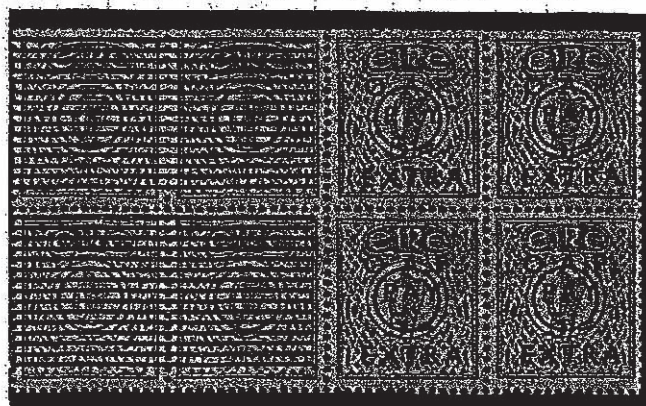
Telephone 01494 58311 in the UK.

Eddy DALTON
Editor

O.A.P. Cash Supplement Stamps

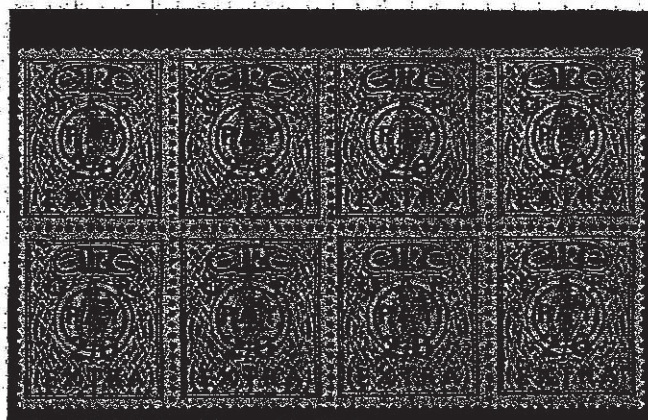
I was interested to see the snippet in the June issue "Irish Philately" related to the "possibly revenue" labels with an overprint of bars. Unfortunately the colour was not mentioned, but I similar items in blue and can predict that orange will exist!

The clue is that the block of four shown is only the invalidated left hand half of pane of eight "OAP Cash supplement stamps" while the other four were overprinted with the description and value. (illustration 1)



BLUE

After the "emergency" (my notes mention in 1947, but more of that later) a cash supplement was paid to pensioners at the rate of 2/6 for a single person or 5/- for a married couple. This payment was made by means of a booklet of stamps, comprising seven panes each of eight stamps. Half of one was obliterated to give the required fifty two weekly stamps for the year. The underlying design consists of a Celtic interlacing around an encircled harp, in orange for the 2/6 value and blue for the 5/- value, in both cases the overprint is black. (illustrations 2 & 3)



ORANGE

Belfast Censor Office Handstamp

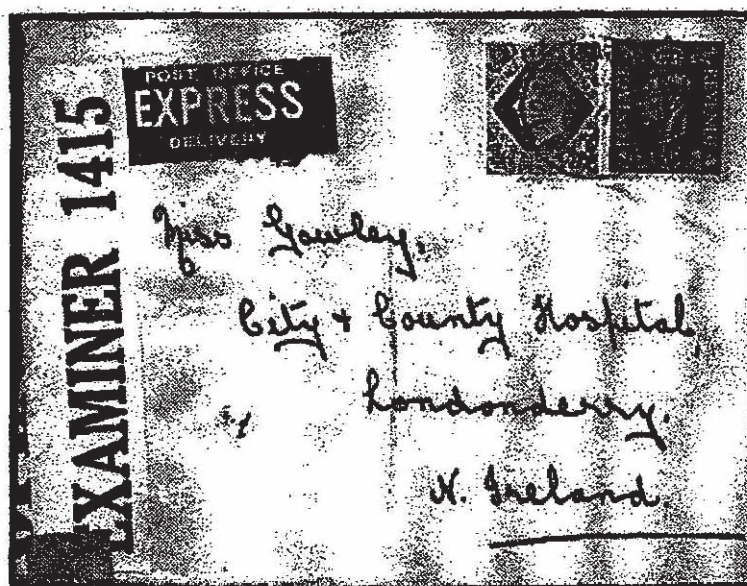
Alan Kane wrote about the Belfast Censor Office handstamp as shown on the cover of Irish Philately in September 1999. The cover was from Beaconsfield to Bangor, Co. Down. While he may have not seen it before, I corresponded with fellow Civil Censorship Study Group, CCSG, members more than twelve years ago about this dated handstamp and John Daynes listed it in the 1984 FPHS book *World War Two Censor Marks*.

I have only seen this handstamp on Express Delivery mail to Northern Ireland and not on registered mail as might be expected. My opinion is that this handstamp was used to indicate that the Belfast Censor Office was not responsible for any delay in delivery of this category of mail (see Post Office Archives extract below concerning delivery times).

The authority on British censorship is the 1991 Torrance & Morenweiser book *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices: World War II - United Kingdom*. An example of the handstamp is shown but there are no cover details nor does it say whether it was incoming or going. T&M have a section entitled "Cachets of the United Kingdom Censor Offices" and illustrate this marking as well as a similar one from Birmingham.



Additionally John Little told me he noted a similar handstamp for London. His incoming cover is included in the listing and this is likely to be the same marking illustrated in the *AGZ Rundbrief* 59/89 issued in 1989.



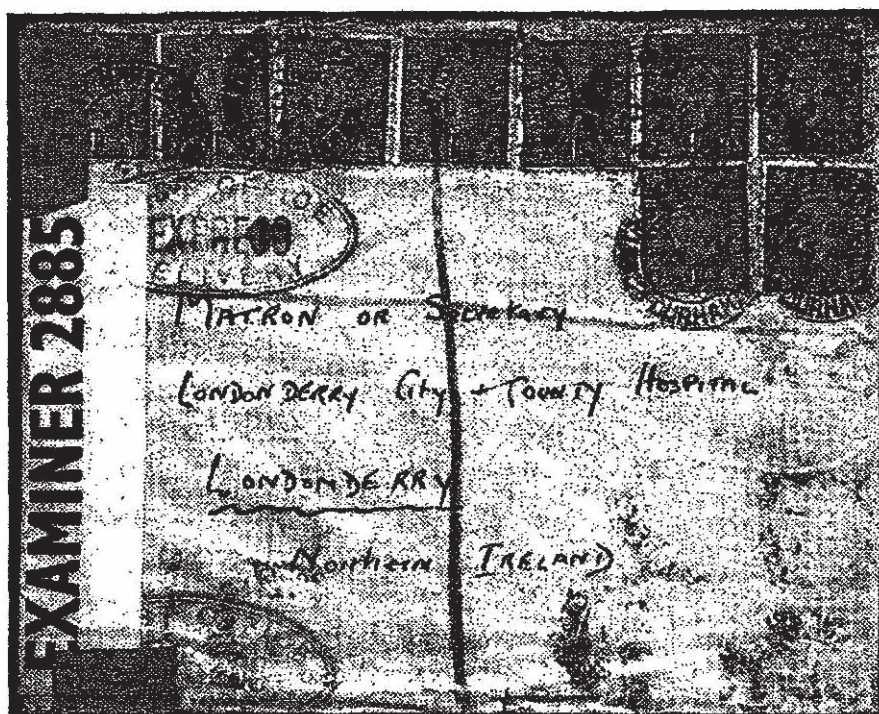
Extract from "The War Report of Northern Ireland: The Post Office"

"A censorship of mail passing between Great Britain and Ireland was introduced for security reasons in May 1940. This necessitated a complete overhaul of the mail organisation and had the effect of considerably extending the time required for the conveyance of letters from the sender to addressee. It was an innovation which gave rise to a great deal of irritation and public complaints in the early stages. The position was kept under constant and close observation by both the Post Office and the Ministry of Information. Censorship of correspondence for Northern Ireland at first carried out at Liverpool was transferred to Belfast in October 1940. The work settled down quickly, delay being out to the minimum. Public complaints - a barometer of the service - dwindled and indeed became rare.

For a short period in 1944 when Allied plans for the invasion of France were about to be carried into effect it became necessary to impose a more rigorous censorship and the assistance of the Liverpool censor staff was once more enlisted. As soon as conditions permitted the work transferred to Liverpool was brought back to the Belfast Censor office."

Post Office Archive, London: Post 56/13

Details of the five examples noted to date are given in a table below.



There may well be more than five examples but during the last thirteen years Alan Kane's cover is only the fifth one to come to light. His find prompts me to enquire from the censorship fraternity if more examples are hidden away.

Like many other collectors, Alan was under the impression all Northern Ireland mail was censored in Liverpool - much mail was censored there, but on 1 October, 1940, the Belfast Censor Office was opened at Castle Street as a way of expediting mail to and from Northern Ireland.

The Belfast Censor Office was a Branch office, was autonomous and worked directly for the Chief Postal Censor, while Provincial Units were under control of the Provincial Units Section. The 1996 release of a nearly 900 page "History of the Postal and Telegraphic Censorship Department 1938-1946" has a notation beside the entry on the opening of the Belfast Censor Office that says: "Complaints of delay to business correspondence had been numerous, and after consultation with the Post Office, it was decided that mail from Great Britain to Northern Ireland could be examined with a minimum delay in Belfast, and Belfast Postal Branch was established for the purpose."

It would be logical to say it was not the concern of the Belfast Censor Office if outgoing Express mail was delayed by them, so there was no reason to mark outgoing mail with this handstamp. Any responsibility to appease recipients is the concern of the delivery office or its nearest censor office. My only outgoing Express Mail does not have the Belfast Censor Office handstamp.

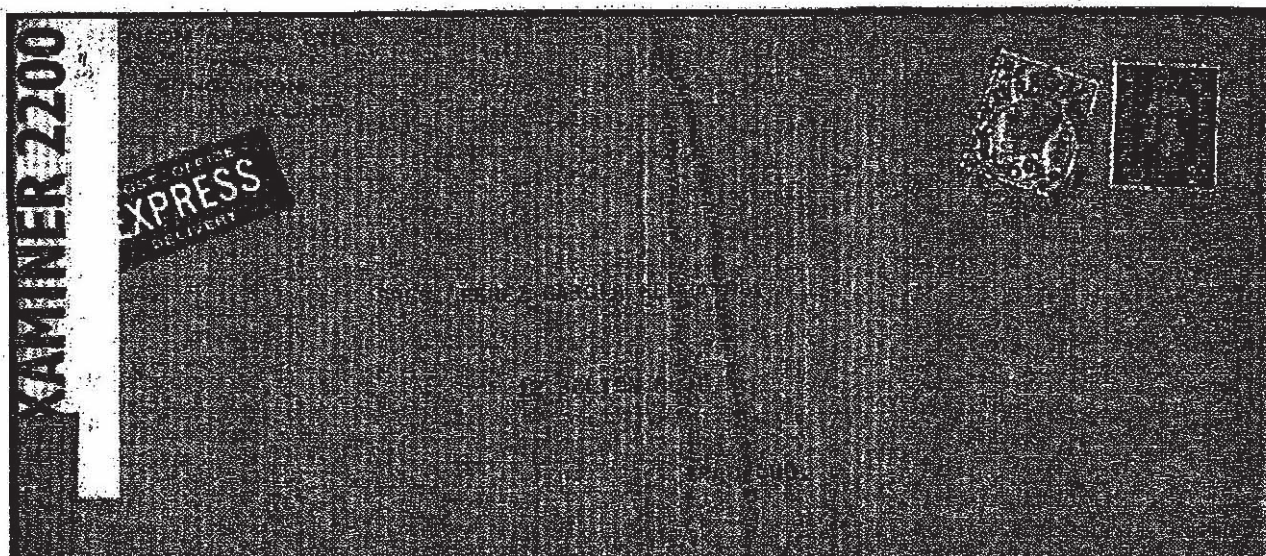
A lot more work needs to be done to determine which censors actually worked in Belfast but I have observed that many items passing through Belfast have censor numbers in the 2000-3000 range. Looking at a censor label gives no indications, per se, that it was opened in a particular censor office, be that in Belfast or elsewhere.

There don't seem to be enough covers to do a good study though Moxter has attempted to relate covers to particular offices. I find it difficult to attribute covers to an office with any certainty.



According to the Northern Ireland War Diaries A 1939-1945 (Post 56/144) states that on May 5th, 1941, the German air raids on Belfast damaged: "The Postal and Telegraphic Censorship Office was burnt out. Included in this loss were the inward mails via Heysham on the 4th May together with about 5000 items from cross channel mails of the 3rd May." Temporary accommodation was obtained and temporary arrangements were made by diverting Northern Ireland mail to Liverpool and the Provincial Units in Great Britain. A new premises were occupied on May 25th at Drumglass House, Marlborough Park.

When hostilities ended in Europe, censorship of correspondence between Great Britain and Northern Ireland ceased on 14 May, 1945. It was June 7th before censorship of postal packet and parcels between Great Britain and Northern Ireland and from Northern Ireland to Eire ceased. According to the *British Postmaster's Instructions* dated May 30, 1945, (their bold text): **"exceptionally the censorship of letters and postcards sent from Great Britain to Eire will continue."**



1941 outgoing Express cover from Dungannon to Bradford
- No Belfast Censor Office handstamp

Covers recorded to date

Posted	From	To	BCO h/s	Collection
15 Aug 41	West Hartlepool	Londonderry	18 Aug	KW
25 Aug 41	Sutton, Surrey	Belfast	27 Oct	JL
? Oct 41	-	-	27 Oct	T&M
25 Aug 42	Beaconsfield, Bucks	Bangor	27 Aug	AK
23 Nov 42	Harrow Middx	Londonderry	25 Nov	KW

Karl WINKELMANN

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barton, Brian	<i>The Blitz: Belfast in the War Years</i> The Blackstaff Press	Belfast	1990	330p
Barton, Brian	<i>Northern Ireland in the Second World War</i> Ulster Historical Foundation	Belfast	1995	164p
Blake, John W	<i>Northern Ireland in the Second World War</i> H.M.S.O.	Belfast	1956	569p
Daynes, John A. / FPHS	<i>World War Two Censor Marks</i> FPHS	England	1986	118p
Torrance/Morenweiser	<i>British Empire Civil Censorship Devices WW II - United Kingdom</i> C.C.S.G.	Dollar, Scotland	1991	244p

Michael Leonard – an Appreciation

Michael was born in Sligo on 20th May 1916 and died peacefully in his sleep in his home in Liverpool, on 5th October 2000.

In 1981 he wrote a brief account for the Sligo P.S. entitled "Philately in Sligo 50 years ago" about the small group of collectors who welcomed him as a young schoolboy into the world of stamp collecting. By the age of 12 Michael was trading used O'Connell commemoratives obtained from a local bank with a Liverpool dealer in exchange for all-world mixture. After schooldays, London beckoned, soon followed by service in the RAF in Calcutta maintaining Catalina flyingboats. This provided scope for Indian philately. Returning to England Michael joined a shipping and forwarding office in Liverpool.

He immersed himself in philately. A member and office holder of six or seven local societies simultaneously, he attended a meeting every weekday evening; gave numerous displays to societies all over the north-west of England; built collections of France, Tasmania, Australia and USA; was the recipient of the British Philatelic Federation's Award of Merit in 1990.

But it is as one of the original founders of the I.P.C. that he will be particularly remembered. His contribution is recorded in the "History of the Irish Philatelic Circle" published in 1995 and written by Michael's great friend from those early years, Bill Kane. As the first secretary of the small group, including Field, Renouf and Stafford Johnson, Michael was a pioneer in the study of Irish Philately. His knowledge was extensive, far greater than he cared to claim, especially in the byways such as perfins, labels and cinderellas. A student of postal stationery and postmarks, long before most collectors even considered such aspects of the hobby, he carried his knowledge lightly. But his most significant contribution was his discovery of the rare 2d definitive coil stamp, SG 74b, first reported in The Stamp Lover, in March 1937. A full account was given in a letter from Michael to T.E.Field in April 1957 and reproduced in the IPC Journal for June 1982.

Attending nearly every AGM until a few years ago, Michael was President in 1979/80 and was Auctioneer for many years with outstanding success. Invariably courteous and kind, his enthusiasm was truly infectious. Humorous and friendly he was always keen to welcome new or shy members and to ensure they were made to feel included. This was often accomplished by a fund of extraordinary stories or anecdotes, which left his listeners as startled as they were amused. While competitive philately was not for him, his deep and extensive knowledge, not only of Ireland, made him able to contribute greatly to the enjoyment of any philatelic gathering.

Michael was a devoted family man, proud of his sons and daughters and above all to his dear wife Vera, whose death overshadowed his last few years. Declining health in recent months had prevented him from getting out and about among his friends and latterly from pursuing his interest in the hobby which had brought him such contentment and to which he contributed so much. We who had the pleasure of knowing him and enjoying his gracious friendship, will miss Michael's gentle voice, his humorous conversations and his enthusiasm for the hobby we shared with him.

R.I.P.

Patrick H. WILLIAMS

The North of Ireland Philatelic Society

The above Society has recently issued it's annual postcard, this is the 15th one and are available from N.Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, Belfast, BT5 7BZ



North of Ireland Philatelic Society POSTCARDS STILL AVAILABLE

			MINT	F.D.I.
No.3	1988	VR Pillar Box	Yes	No
No.4	1989	Postman 1919	Yes	No
No.5	1990	150 th Anniversary of Penny Black	Yes	No
No.6	1991	Vintage Mail Bus	Yes	No
No.7	1992	1832 Irish Postal Map	Yes	No
No.8	1993	1938 Sorting Rail Coach	Yes	No
No.9	1994	1905 Randalstown Post Office	Yes	Yes
No.10	1995	1910 Clogher Valley Railway Stamp	Yes	Yes
No.11	1996	1937 Sandy Row Post Office	Yes	No
No.12	1997	1935 Newtownards Airport - Unloading mail from Hillman's Airways Ltd	Yes	Yes
No.13	1998	Newry Post Office Van 1925	Yes	Yes
No.14	1999	1951 Loading the Belfast Mail	Yes	Yes
No.15	2000	1920 Motorcycle and Sidecar Combination	Yes	Yes

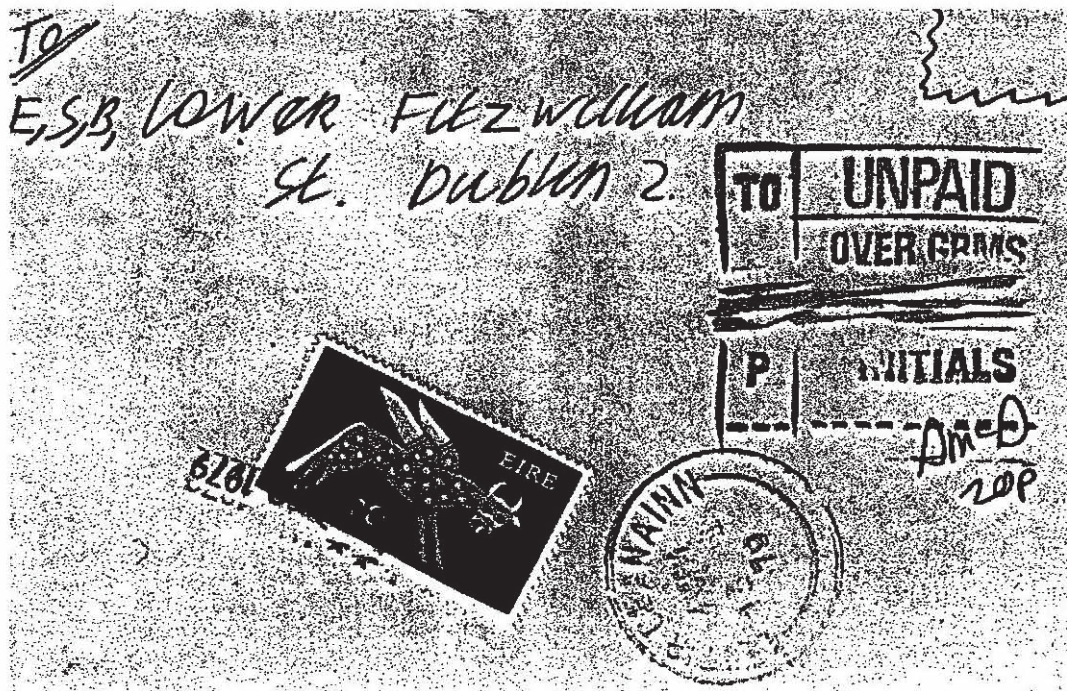
Mint copies 30p each F.D.I. 60p each Postage & Packing per delivery 40p. Make payable to 'N. Scott'

SNIPPET: Back No's of "Irish Philately", i.e. March, June, Sept and Dec @ 1982. Also March, June, Sept and Dec @ 1985. These weigh about 60g each and cost of posting to be paid by recipient, otherwise they are free. Available from Tim Stephens, 8 Christopher Way, Emsworth, Hants PO10 7QZ

An Evening with Stan

One of the attractions of the Annual Convention is meeting fellow members and chatting about various philatelic topics. Convention 2000 was no exception and for me resulted in an evening with Stan Challis at which the subject of Postage Due came up. Over the years I have rescued a fair bit of material from bins and brought out my 1979-80 'file'. My working days (and nights!) have been spent with the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) which has been the largest customer of the Post Office/An Post for many years. By the mid seventies I had got to know the staff in the Mail Room and the bill payments area and they were used to my idiosyncrasies. In July 1979 when postal services resumed after the strike I heard that definitive stamps were being used as Postage Due. This was confirmed in the ESB Mail Room and I was able to get some examples by paying the fee myself. Otherwise the stamps were taken off the covers and stuck on a daily sheet that was sent to Accounts as receipts for the petty cash withdrawals. In some cases, such as returned bills which could be numerous, the stamps were already stuck on a separate sheet for the total amount due and not on the individual covers. Luckily, I also knew the person responsible for keeping these sheets until audit time and he sent them to me when they were no longer required, so I ended up with a daily record of how the Central Sorting Office, in Sheriff Street had treated Postage Due. Stan pointed out that nothing had been written about the period so we went through it and herewith is the result.

John LENNON



The following article is a result of the above.

Editor

1979-80 Postage Due Transition

In 1979 stocks of Postage Due labels ran down and, due to pressure of other work, the Revenue Stamping Branch were unable to print more. The next series, printed by the Irish Security Stamp Printers Ltd., wasn't issued until 1980 so in the interim, the Central Sorting Office in Sheriff Street used definitive stamps as postage due labels and this article is based on treatment of mail to the ESB in Dublin 2.

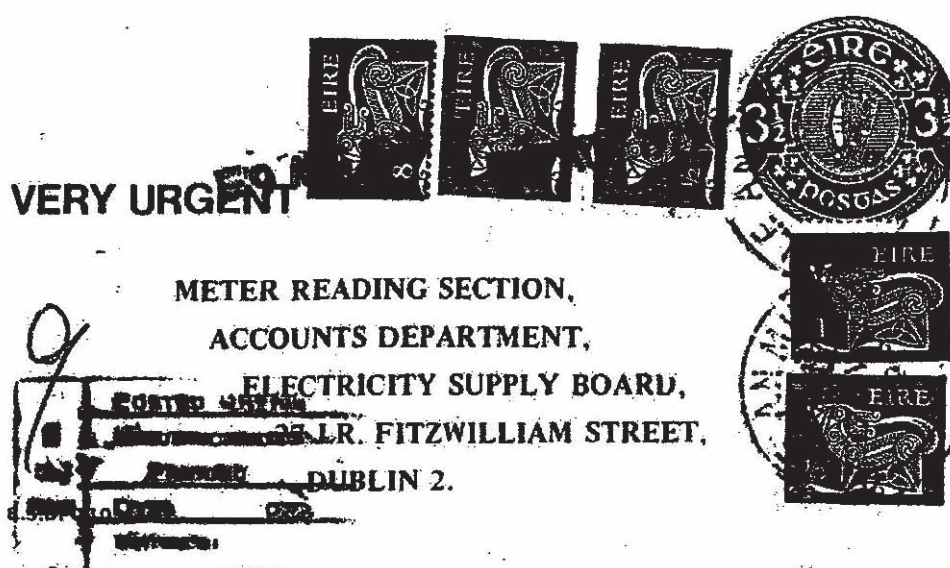
Items posted at the printed paper rate that are returned to sender are liable to postage due for the return. From this alone the ESB faced a daily charge of several pounds. The highest value Postage Due label in 1979 was 8p so to charge about £10 it needed a lot of labels - sheets of them. This had been going on for years and no doubt contributed to the shortage of labels. The labels were cancelled with either single ring no.11 or double ring no.18 datestamps. On 8th February 1979 a charge of £17.48 was made up using 99 x 8p, 127 x 7p, 13 x 3p and 28 x 1p.

The first day that definitives were used as postage due labels was 9th February 1979 when 96 x 20p and 5 x 1p (plus 23 x 7p and 12 x 3p postage due). They were cancelled with cds no.18. An explanatory note was added to the daily sheet by the ESB :- "20p stamps used by Post Office Authorities in Sheriff St. in lieu of postage due labels". From Monday 12th February a straight-line datestamp (obtainable from any stationer) was used in violet, obviously to identify the different use of these stamps and possibly in response to doubts expressed over charges used on the Friday. Regularly a postage due label was included with the definitives. Letter Post at the time was 10p which is probably why 20p definitives were issued, with 1p for small amounts, rather than higher values.

Up to 16th February definitives were overwritten "Surcharge Labels", most likely by ESB. Then the Post Office strike began and when normal service resumed on Monday 2nd July the definitives were cancelled 17th February and 29th June. In the following months surprisingly large multiples of low value definitives, with blocks of 50, 60 & 70, were used (including a block of 20 ½p!).

The following definitives were seen used (officially) to collect postage due: ½p, 1p, 2p(scarce), 3p, 4p, 5p, 6p, 7p, 8p (quantity), 9p stag, 9½p (only 6th & 9th May 1980), 10p, 12p (stag & dog), 15p (ox & dog) and 20p(in quantity & in large blocks).

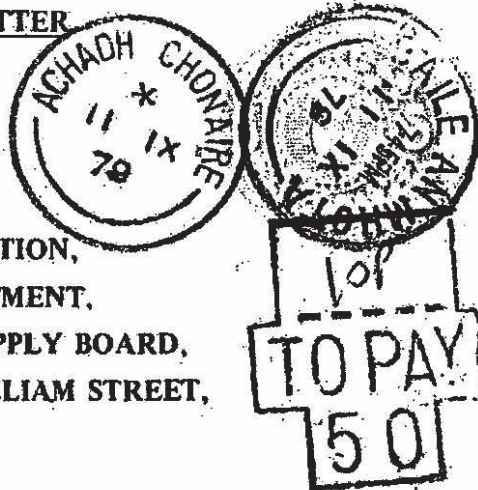
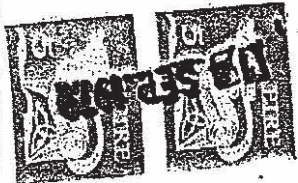
Postal rates changed on 1st August and introduced, for the first time, a different rate for printed papers (9½p) and postcards (10p). This caused a bit of confusion not only publicly but also within the Post Office as can be seen below.



PRINTED MATTER

VERY URGENT

METER READING SECTION,
ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT,
ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD,
27 LR. FITZWILLIAM STREET,
DUBLIN 2.

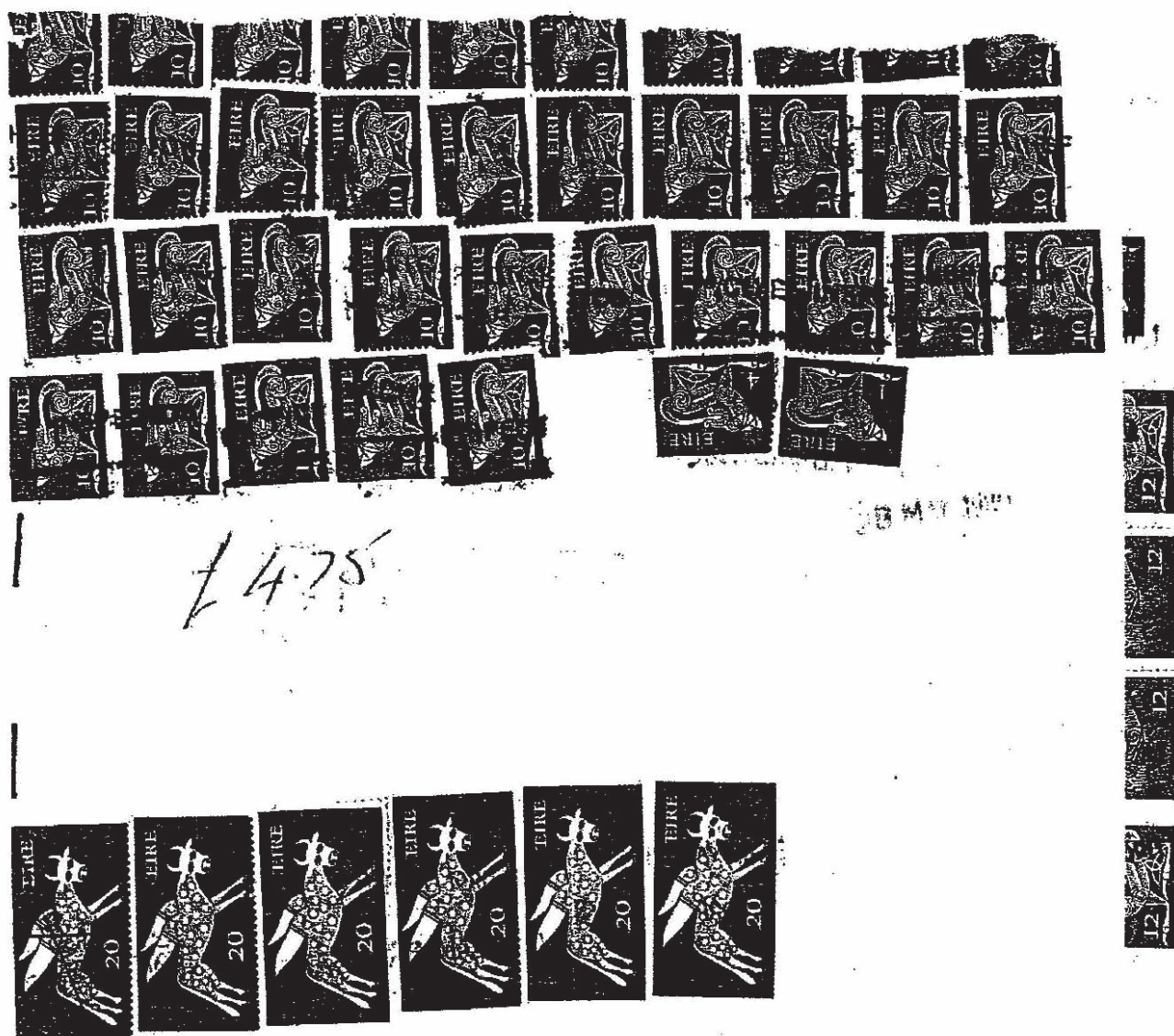


Special & commemorative stamps were also used. The first seen were two 8p wren, on 3rd September and several days thereafter, followed by 10p Childrens' Year and then 8p Cross Country, all stamps issued for the obsolete rates.

The following were seen (some in very small quantities): - 8p wren, 8p Cross Country, 10p Childrens' Year, 10p Europa, 12p Papal Visit, 12p Pearse, 12p De La Salle, 12p stoat, 12p musicians, 12p Bianconi, 15p hare, 15p Piper, 17p Childrens' Year, 20p sculpture (large quantity) and 20p Christmas.

May and June 1980 are interesting. Suddenly 50p and £1 definitives appeared but it doesn't need close examination to see they are reused stamps and looking through the sheets for this period several others were reused, including a 10p Christmas 1975! Many 7p, 9p & 10p had been cancelled **CHIEF INSPECTOR** or **SUPT. OUTDOOR**.





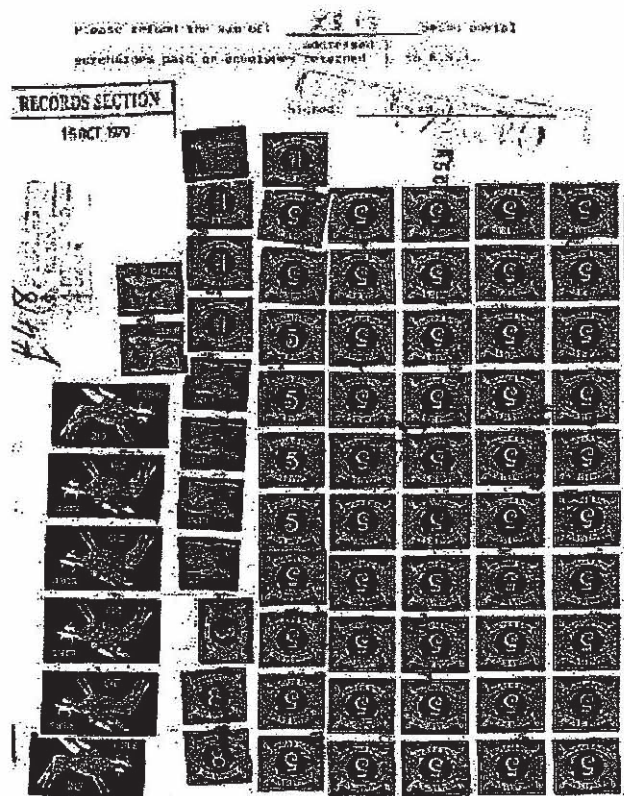
Care needs to be taken when dating covers with the straight-line datestamp as on several occasions the date rolled back while in use and two dates can be found on one cover. On 16th April 1980 the cancellation showed 1978 and the next day started with 1978 but was corrected to 1980. The ink changed to black on 6th March 1980.

The new series of labels was issued, officially, on 11th June 1980 but they took some to come through the system and the first use of each value in this file is:

8p	20 th June
24p	4 th July
6p	18 th July (6p dog first used on 26 th !)
1p	25 th August
4p	30 th October
18p	3 rd November
2p	18 th November



A review of covers shows no earlier dates than these for anywhere in the country and would be glad to hear of any (non-philatelic). The last use of the old series was on 13' May 1980. The use of definitives and the straight-line datestamp continued to the end of October. From 3rd November only the new labels were used, cancelled with the same datestamps as before (11 & 18). The only other location we know of to use definitives and special stamps for postage due is Phibsboro DO in Dublin. Most offices had stocks of the old labels even after 1980.



Stan CHALLIS and John LENNON



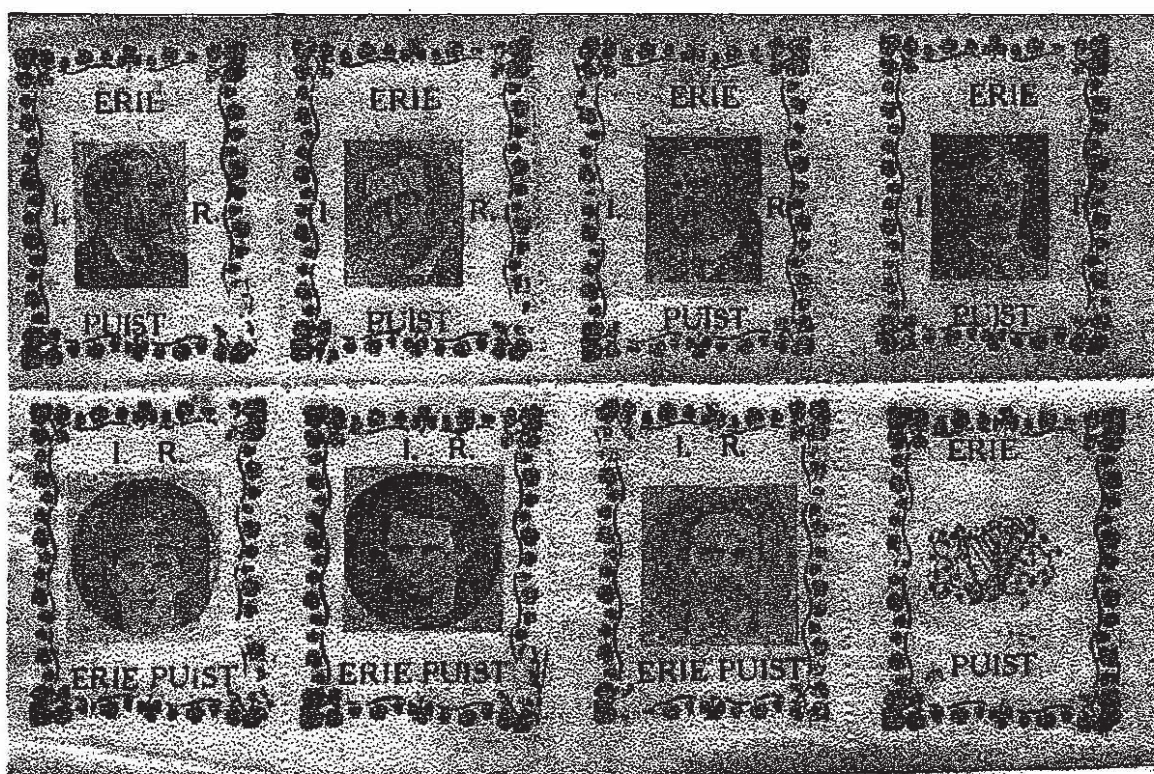
Volume
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Issue No.
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Irish Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE – THE EMMET REBELLION, POSTER STAMPS,
THE BLESSED OLIVER PLUNKETT AND MORE**



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THE GOOD NEWS

Since I last wrote I have had three enquires for membership of the I.P.C., two of them via the web of which, one was through the Irish Embassy in Delhi, India.

The recent meeting at the Philatelic Bureau was a success with John Matthews becoming this year's Quiz Champion, after which a lively bring and buy occurred. To the pleasure of the Treasurer the members all paid in their subscriptions for the ensuing year.

THE BAD NEWS

Only three members contributed to this issue of the Journal and one of them because I "begged" certain members at the last minute. Other members have been approached for articles but none have been forthcoming. At this moment in time I have no material at all to publish in the June edition, that remaining so **there will not be one!**

Included in this issue are a couple of "wants" from members. If I should get "a deluge" of wants or queries, it will be first come, first published. As I have a scanner you may send me a photograph or decent photocopy of material/items to be included.

The next meeting at the Barbican in London is on Saturday 24th March at 2.00pm, with "An Irish Mixture" by guest speaker John Holman.

This information and any other relevant pieces, I usually try to put up on the web page which is www.philatelic.cwc.net also email me at eddydalton@cwcom.net.

Telephone 01494 58311 in the UK.

Eddy DALTON
Editor

M.P.460: Official Enquiry Label

Examining some material from a recent purchase I came across a Post Office label that while new to me (but undoubtedly known to others) may interest some readers. Essentially the label (buff in colour) requests the return of the "cover of this letter for the purpose of an Official Enquiry". After a while the reason for this apparently strange request finally dawned on me. The 2½d Gaelic League stamp had an official day of issue on 31 July 1943, but the letter posted from Caorthannan (Castlehill, Co. Mayo) was clearly postmarked 30 JULY 1943, that is one day before the official release date. Hence, one can only conclude, that the request of the Postmaster at Ballina Co. Mayo for the return of the cover. Presumably the Mother Superior at Gortuor Abbey, Crossmolina failed to do so.

For the record there are two warrant numbers at the base of the label. These read:

Gp.25.M 11218. Wt 5319.20,000 (8).4/36. J.E. & Co. and

Gp.25.N9324.Wt 4444.20,000 (8). 7/37.

The quantities printed (20,000) suggest that there must have been some modest demand for the labels. It is difficult to guess what other reasons or circumstances may exist for the use of such a label but it would be of great interest if any member has a similar type of envelope. I can find no reference to the label in my (somewhat antiquated) copy of 'Instructions for Postmasters and Supervising Officers' or, indeed, any other reference works that I possess.

M.P. 460.

Cop. clúdach na leiríse seo fán n-áit, leo' tait, fán 50 bréagap fionraí Oifigeil do déanamh.

Please return the cover of this letter for the purpose of an Official Enquiry.

Maistir Póist } *Ballina*
Postmaster of }

Data } *30/7/1943*
Date }

Gp. 25 M 11218 Wt 5319.20,000 (8) 4/36 J.E. & Co.
Gp. 25 N 9324 Wt 4444.20,000 (8) 7/37.

Mother Superior *héisá,*
Convent of Jesus and Mary,
Gortuor Abbey,
Crossmolina.



C.I.DULIN

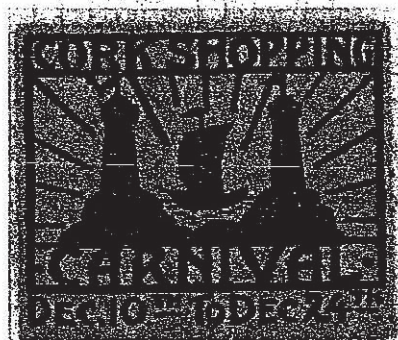
Cinderella's

Cork Shopping Carnival

A recent acquisition was this label advertising "Cork shopping carnival". It is black on yellow.

I wonder if other colours exist?

Do any members with Cork connections know which year or years saw the shopping carnival in existence.



Peter WOOD

SNIPPET: Two of our members Ray How and Dr. Colin Ross each had a display at the Glasgow 2000, at the end of last year.

Cinderella Cards

A recent letter to "The Cinderella Philatelist" made enquiries about Trade Cards featuring stamps. The items involved are those with pictures of stamps rather than actual stamps stuck on, although I believe the latter do exist.

The collector had cards from a few sets showing stamps from certain countries and sought details of the existence of cards showing stamps of other countries.

While these are not generally included in Cinderella collecting the request was made for members to respond to enable an article to be produced.

While that has not yet appeared I append copies of three cards in my possession that show the Stamps of Ireland. Some may feel two were a bit of a "cheat" at the time they were produced because they actually show British stamps.

Despite Ireland then being within the United Kingdom the continental producers of such items clearly felt that potential collectors would recognise Ireland as a separate country justifying its own card, and showed the stamps, which would have been used from Ireland to the continental counties where the cards were produced.

When the article appears I will be interested to see if there are any reported for Scotland or Wales, as well as any more for Ireland of course!



Front

Margarine
BRABANTIA

Fabrieken te Lier - Usines à Lierre

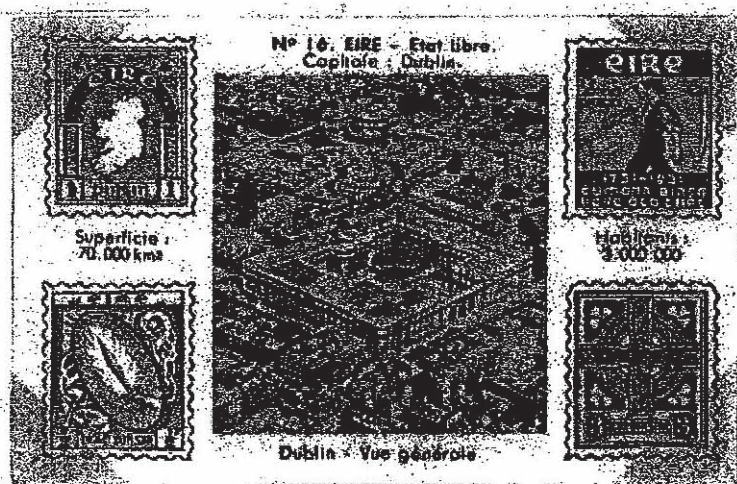
Back



Front



Back



Front

CHARCUTERIE, COMESTIBLES, PATISSERIE, CONFISERIE
CONSERVES, VINS ET LIQUEURS
SPÉCIALITÉS D'ALSACE ET DE SUISSE

PRODUITS
SCHMID
SCHMID PÈRE & FILS

GROS & DÉTAIL : 8, Rue Saint-Laurent

76, B° de Strasbourg - PARIS-10°

TELEPHONE : Botards 61-40 et 61-43

USINE & GROS : 199, Rue Championnet - PARIS-18°

MARCADET 68-24, 68-25

EXPÉDITIONS EN PROVINCE

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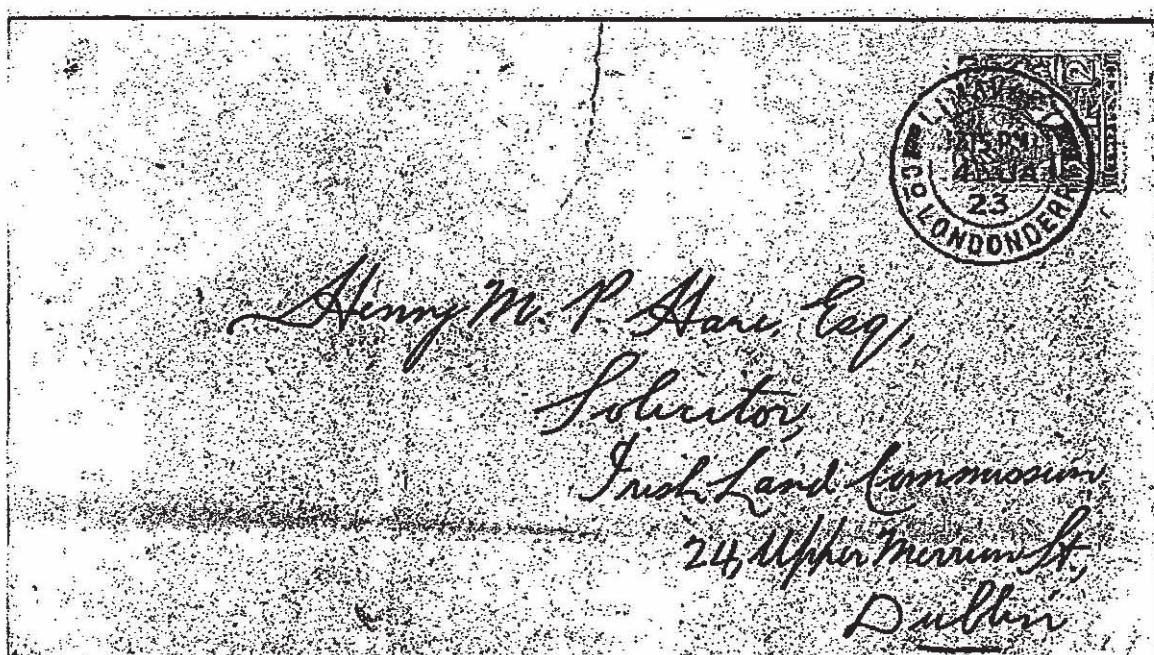
Peter WOOD

Another Transition Anomaly?

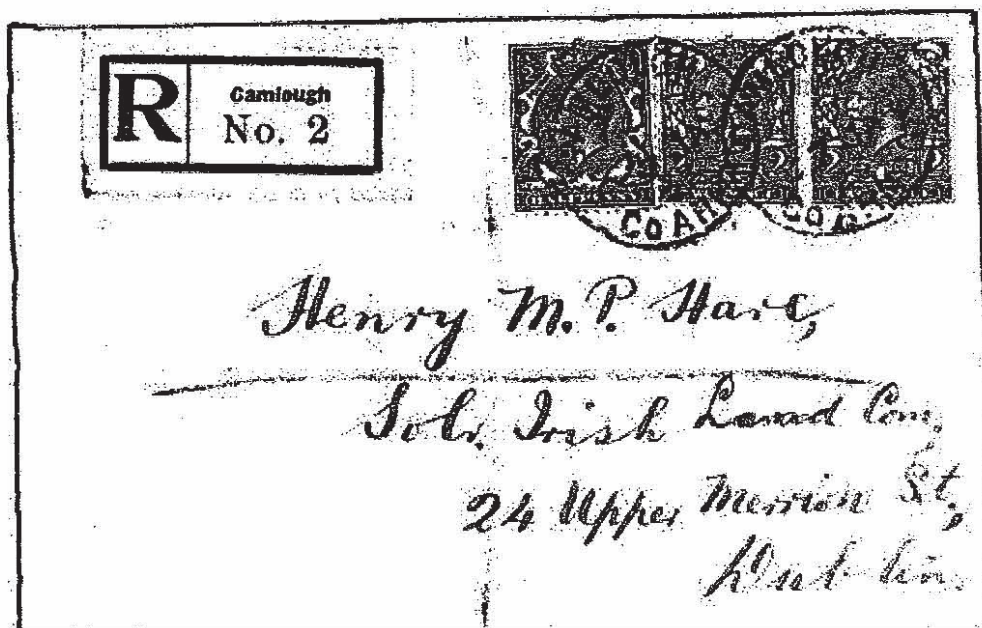
As I tried to demonstrate in my book ("Ireland's Transition"), there were many anomalies involving postal usage during the period 1922-1925. Although I attempted to cover most of these, the odd new one keeps turning up.

A possible one is that covering correspondence with Governmental departments. Even at the time it was not widely known that no postage was necessary when writing to a Governmental department provided the subject was exclusively concerned with the business that the department conducted and was in no way concerned with personal matters. Additionally the mail had to be addressed to an officer whose name appeared on an official list. That is, it was not simply sufficient to address to the Governmental department alone.

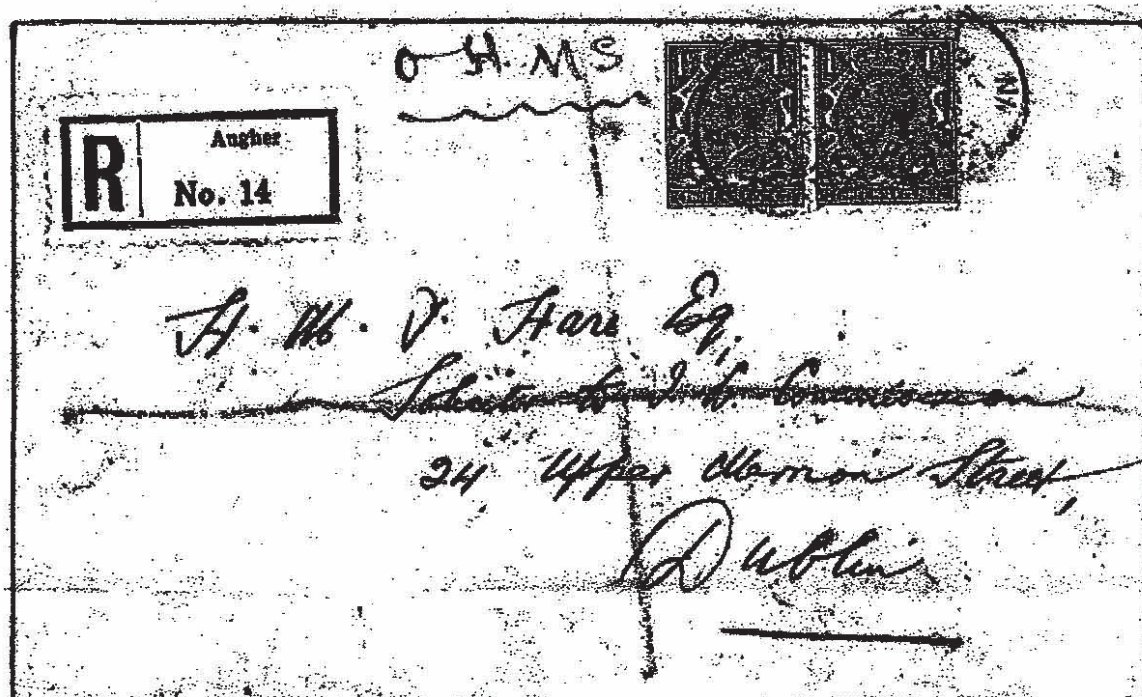
The Irish Land Commission was a fairly popular destination for many private communications. In the majority of cases postage was paid although legally it was not compulsory to do so. In fact it is quite common to find letters from outside the Free State that have been overpaid rather than under paid. Fig. 1 for example shows a letter from Limavady Co. Londonderry (Northern Ireland) to the Irish Land Commission Dublin dated January 1923 with a postage stamp for 2d when the rate at the time was 1½d.



After the formation of the Irish Free State, there was no definitive pronouncement from either the British or the Free State Post Office on how to deal with similar communications if they came from outside the Free State into the country. For the most part this was inconsequential since the postage was paid. For example Fig. 2 shows a registered letter dated January 27, 1923 from Camlough in Co. Armagh (Northern Ireland) to the Land Commission in Dublin. The postage of 4½d covers the registration fee of 3d and the Northern Ireland basic letter postage of 1½d (as opposed to the 2d rate then prevalent in the Free State).



On the other hand Fig. 3 shows a letter, also to the Irish Land Commission in Dublin, which was sent registered from Augher Portadown (Co. Tyrone Northern Ireland) January 29, 1923). Here the registration fee of 3d has been paid but not the postage (1½d). Although the letter is marked OHMS there no confirmatory signature for this. Normally OHMS letters sent abroad did not have to bear the postage rate provided they were properly certified. The question here is whether the OHMS had any validity in the absence of official approval. If not then it would seem to be another case of postal anomaly. It would be interest to learn if any reader has a similar type of envelope.



C.I.DULIN

Blessed Oliver Plunkett

On the 13th October 1975 Ireland issued a pair of attractive stamps in honour of the Canonisation of Oliver Plunkett, who was martyred in 1681. The dates on the stamps are 1625 – 1681, however a little book, which I have in my possession, disputes the date of his birth as being 1629. The book is written by the Rev. Sir John O'Connell (Now there's a name to inflame the heart!) It is dedicated to His Grace Archbishop Hinsley in the author's own handwriting. It traces the life of Oliver from boyhood to his death at Tyburn – being the last victim to suffer death for the faith there.

In about 1645 young Oliver wrote a letter whilst training for the Priesthood in Rome, which is worth quoting from, "Of my relatives some are dead, others have been sent into exile, and all Ireland is reduced to extreme misery." Probably this letter was used as an indictment against him at his trial in London on 3rd May 1681. However before that Oliver had received his Doctorate of Divinity in Rome and had spent almost twenty-five years in the 'Eternal City' before receiving the call to return to his roots.

Such was the persecution of Irish Bishops and Priests that his Consecration as Archbishop of Armagh had to be performed in the Episcopal Palace of Gwent, Belgium. Finally in March 1670 Dr Plunkett took possession of Armagh and began his opposition to the religious persecution of Catholics in Ireland.

His outspoken views and attempts at promoting the faith soon had him in trouble with the authorities and he was suspected of various crimes and misdemeanours. He was even accused of organising an army of 70,000 men to create an uprising, an accusation he strenuously denied

Such was the hostility against him that he was forced to go into hiding, but he was discovered in Dublin, arrested and detained in Dublin Castle. Subsequently he was put on trial in London, found guilty of treason and hanged at Tyburn. His remains are now in the Blessed Oliver Plunkett Memorial Church, Drogheda.



The two stamps issued to honour the Canonisation of Oliver Plunkett.
Designed by the artist Imogen Stuart.
Recess printed by Harrison.
Date of issue 13th October 1975.

George ETOE

The Emmet Rebellion - An Interesting Letter

On July 23 1803 Robert Emmet led an insurrection in Ireland. The plan was to seize Dublin Castle, the seat of power, and hold the Lord Lieutenant hostage. As with most Irish uprisings, it was well planned and poorly executed. The crimes of violence committed by his small band of followers sickened Emmet and disillusioned, he fled. Later he was captured, tried and hanged.

A contemporary letter dated July 25, 1803 by a F. Freeman to a friend (only identified as Willy but possibly William Hutchison) throws some graphic light on the attempted insurrection. It reads:

"Dublin July 25th 1803

Dear Willy,

I suppose you have heard all the news about the situation of this Place. I will let you know every Particular concerning it. About three o'clock Government got Information of an attempt that would be made on the City on Saturday night last which they did not give Credit to. About the Hour of Eight o'clock they began. When there were an Express sent off for Lord Kilwarden to come into town to attend the Privy Council. He was at his Country House when he received his order. On his coming through James Street he was stopped and Dragged out of his Carriage by the Rebels and Pyked to death in a Shocking Manner. Also his nephew a clergyman by the name of Woolfe. His Daughter was in the Carriage with him she escaped unhurt. Military then came up a Battle ensued. There were a good many lives lost on Both sides but a great number of Rebels were taken Prisoners and some Principles. There was a fellow of the name of Costigan a Distiller has made off who was a Principle in the B (?) he is a Queens County Man from Upperwoods. There was arms, Pikes, ammuniton for Sixty Thousand men Taken in a House in the Drury Lane also Provision for one Month for that number of men. Bread, Biscuit and Cheese. There (sic) Intention was to have not stirred until the 25th instant but finding there (sic) was discovered they could not withstand. There were Rebels from all parts of the Country a great number from County Kildare. Nothing to be seen in the streets at Present but Red Coats. Dublin was Distracted all Day yesterday the Bridges all made up. There is a Principle of the Rebels to be tryed this day - one Mickebe a Grocer from Back Lane. He was taken at the Head of Them. It is thought that he will be Hanged instantly. I hope in God our Country is quiet. You have no army in Roscrea at Present. I wish you have me Proposed a Member of the Roscrea Infantry. I will be a Private. If you have no Arms let me know and I will see and Procure some. I think if your Country is Disturbed you would get an addition to your Corps. There has been a Manifesto Taken up it is Thought it has been Rote (sic) by Emmet in Paris. It is Remarkably well done if was in a good cause. If I can Procure one of them I will send it to you. The mail from Belfast brought bad news from that Part of the Country this day that to yourself as Government dont wish to let it be known that the North is Disturbed. I am Greatly afraid our Government is too lenient to the Damned Villains. I would not make a Prisoner of one of them. Put them to the Bayonet at once. If anything Particular occurs I will let you hear from me. I will expect to

get a letter from you by Return of Post. I hope in God the People are all Quiet. I expect I will see you in a few days. Give my Best Compliments to Mrs. Hutchison and Family. Believe me ever

Yours Sincerely

F. Freeman"

Although I have not had-enough time to research all the characters mentioned in the letter, the Costigan mentioned was indeed a distiller in Dublin, the distillery lasting for the next couple of hundred years.

C. I. DULIN

MEMBERS WANTS: Hugh McGoldrick

Irish Postal Orders 1922 – 1988, with or without counterfoils.
Replies to: Clonavilla, Clones, Co. Monaghan, Ireland.

MEMBERS WANTS: Des Conboy

"Stamps of Ireland" Specialised Handbook 1991 Edition, red cover. Published by MacDonnell Whyte.
Replies to: 50 St.Marys Grove, Chiswick, London W4 3LW.

SNIPPET: The Mulready cover featured on the front of the DEC/4 Journal had a Multyfamham date mark on the back but Hans Moxter does not list this as one of the Maltese Cross types. As yet there have been no comments about this item!

SNIPPET: Stan Challis has been actively working on a "possible publication" entitled "Irish Postmarks Simplified". Of course this has been over a considerable time. But he has made the kind offer of allowing parts of this work to be serialized in this Journal and whilst I realize this is not to everyone's choice, I for one – personally - would appreciate this as another reference piece.
Comments invited!

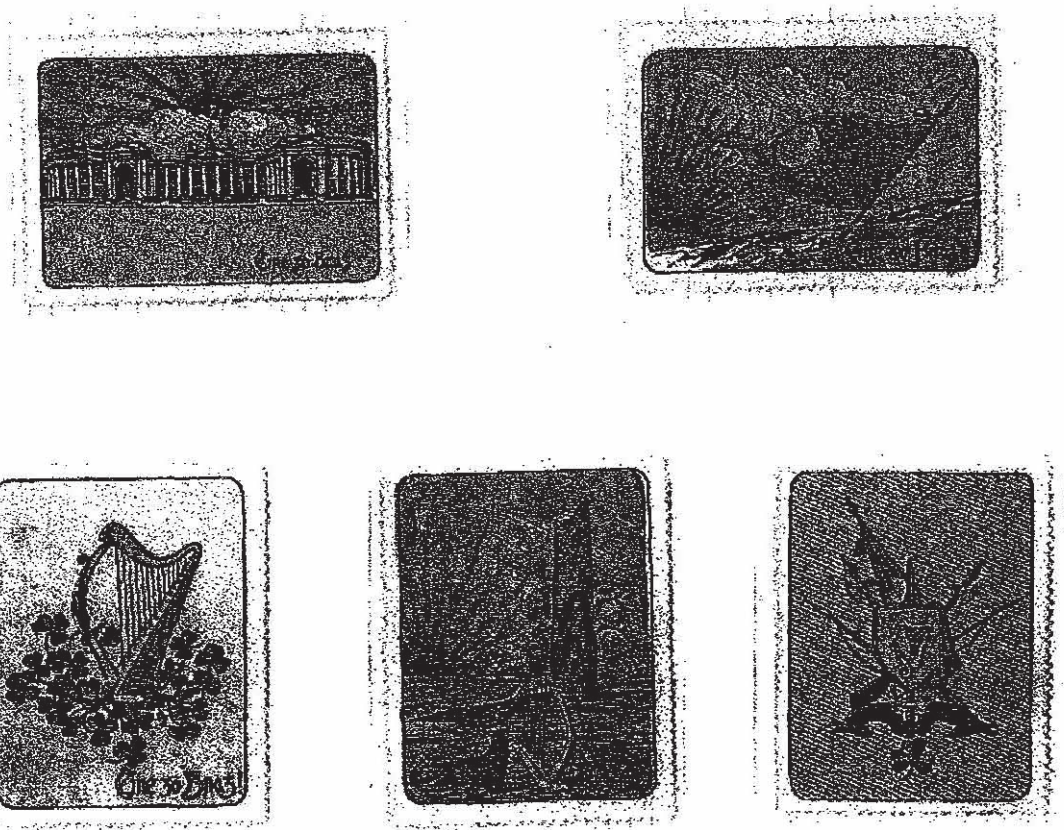
Poster Stamps

At the London International "Stamp 2000" exhibition, I spent most of my free time looking at the various exhibits and weren't there a lot to look at! However on a rare foray amongst the dealers I managed to obtain an attractive group of "Poster Stamps" with a distinctly Irish flavour.

Does anyone know who produced these and when?

Pencilled on the reverse of each is the date 1956 and the dealer thought this referred to the date of acquisition by the previous owner. He was a European collector of Poster Stamps who was supplied by contacts around the world.

So one theory is that they were produced in the mid-fifties, not necessarily in Ireland, while having the appearance of being produced early in the 20th Century.



Peter WOOD

SNIPPET: Des Conboy has been elected onto the Committee of The Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum.