



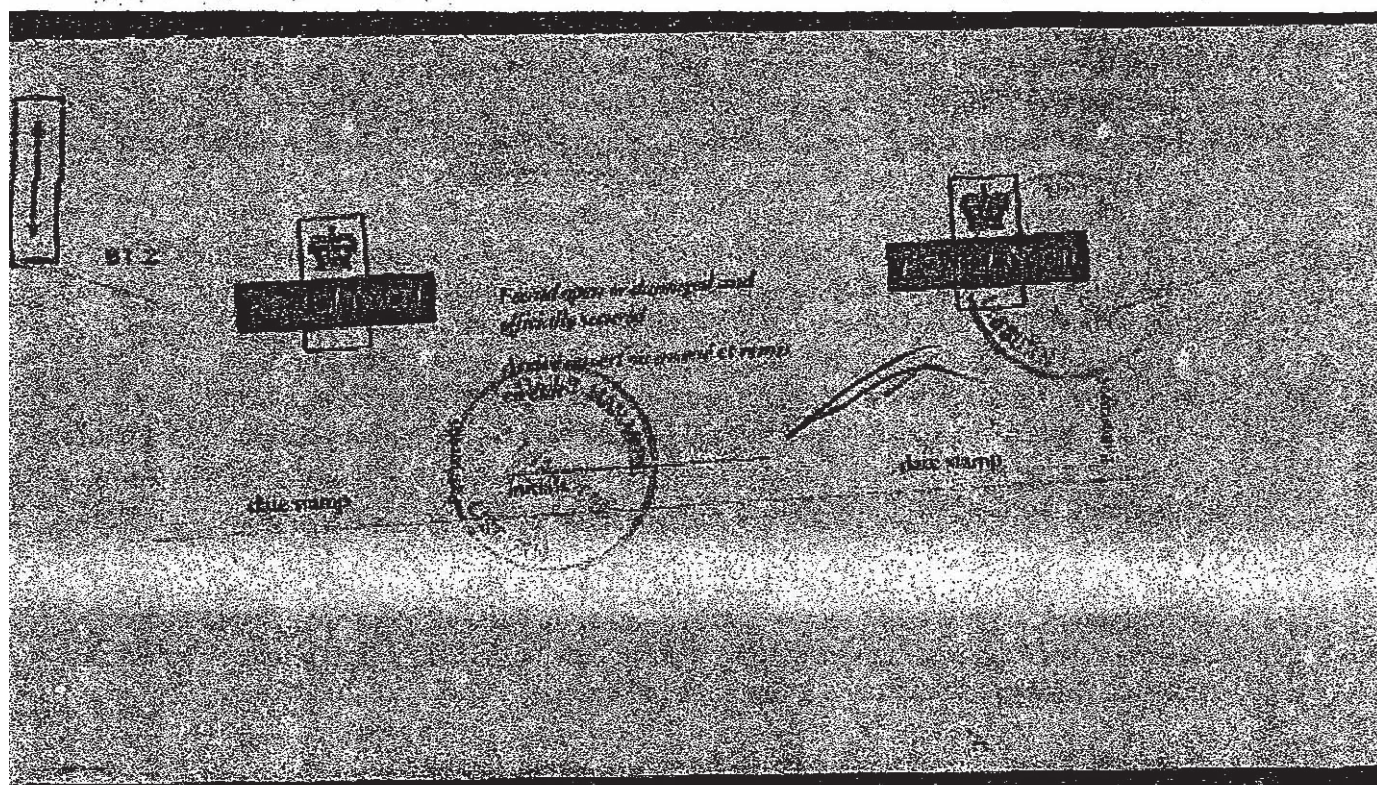
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Irish Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE – IRISH RAPTORS, BELFAST UPDATES, IRISH POST OFFICE'S, MORE ON QUEENSTOWN PAQUEBOT AND MORE



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In my wisdom (it is nice to be of Irish ancestry) I am trying to encourage those of you that have the email to use it. This allows me as Editor to send a copy of the Journal directly to you BUT again in my wisdom, I failed to inform you that you that you can obtain a free download of Adobe Reader 4 (or later version) at

www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html What can I say but sorry to those of you whom I have misled. Still I will keep "trying".

In this particular edition the subject of the Post Offices in Ireland has come to the foreground. This is not through any effort of mine and is in a few articles.

There is something that I need from you the members That is an opinion on the amount of material published, in one form or the other.

This is because Stan Challis has finalised his treatise on a "Classification of Irish Material/Items/Postal marks" and is prepared to let me publish it. Bearing in mind that this treatise/catalogue constitutes a mere 50 something pages, it would take a few years at least to publish it in instalments. I, for one, would be happy to have this published as supplements to the Journal, say twice a year for 2 years to include all of Stan's treatise/catalogue. The introduction being included in the first edition of next year's Journal. But, of course, it is up to you the members to decide what you want, if I am to be democratic in general terms. Please exercise your right to express your view and make this Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle function for you all.

At this time, we are pleased to welcome at least another 4 members to our Circle and I also thank those of you that send material to me for publishing.

I am pleased to report that the recent meeting, at the Philatelic Bureau in London, was a success with John Matthews and new member Tony Lovelock – both winners of medals for their exhibits at Stampex - a few days before.

The seasons greetings to you all and may peace be upon you.

This information and any other relevant pieces, I usually try to put up on the web page which is www.philatelic.cwc.net. Also you may email me at eddydalton@cwcom.net. Telephone 01494 583111 in the UK.

Editor

Eddy DALTON

A MODERN IRISH LAMENT

*IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY,
NO MORE, THAT'S THE PITY,
STOOD NELSON SO HIGH AND ALONE.
HE FELL DURING THE TROUBLE
AND IS NOW ONLY RUBBLE,
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF THAT STONE?*



Seriously Members, I would love to know more about the history of the monument and what happened to it after it was demolished in 1966.

George ETOE.

More Belfast updates and information

The new Millennium seems to have brought many changes to Northern Ireland's postmarks. Having become very centralized in recent years, most mail from the Region seemed to get postmarked BELFAST, whether by machine or rubber packet cancel.

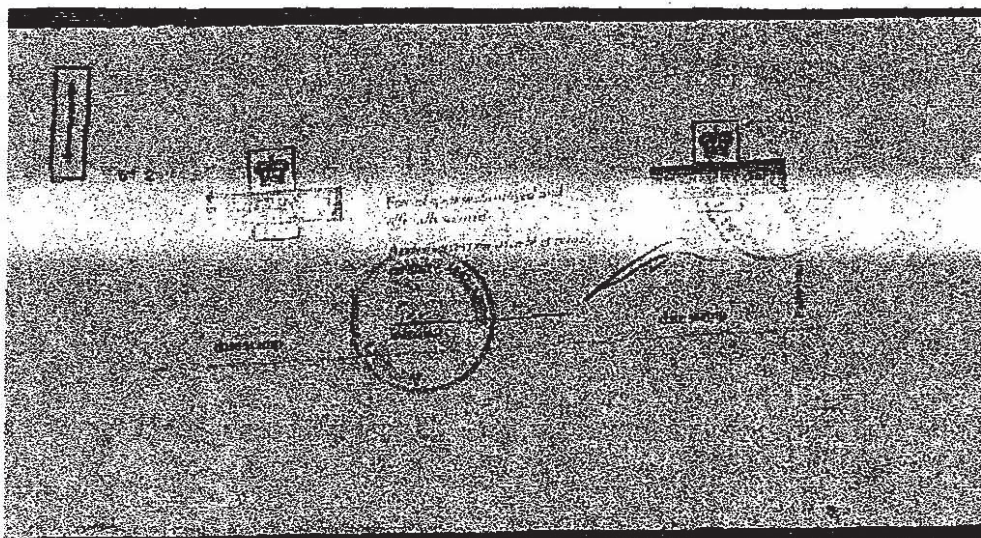
Now the new machine postmarks and rubber cancels are inscribed with ROYALMAIL/NORTHERN IRELAND. The last rubber I saw inscribed ROYAL MAIL BELFAST was dated Sept.2000. The earliest with the new inscription I saw was October (20th?) 2000.

Londonderry had held out almost to the end with its LONDONDERRY/PACKETS rubber but a package I received this week (early May) from Londonderry had a new Northern Ireland type cancel. Does anyone know the precise date of change? There were probably several postmarks replaced (or are the old ones still in use or in reserve?). Any marks of BELFAST after Sept.2000 I would be interested to have details of. To say that I am glad that I took the trouble to save old rubbers when they were more commonplace is an understatement!

Another change that has been is the introduction of inkjet idents for the BT (Belfast) postcode area (i.e. the whole of Northern Ireland). These can be found on the backs of envelopes and also are already fairly commonly found from other parts of the UK.

But there still some interesting items of postal history, which can be found. Illustrated is the back of an envelope from the Norwich Union (the envelope is a PPI window type PHQ 420 and gives no town name on the front)? It received one of the new BT inkjets, which reads "BT 25.01.01" and then a long number (number of letters processed?). This is partly obscured by a Royal Mail "Found open or damaged and officially secured" tape: MAILS MANAGER/LISBURN (27 JAN 2001), which has been tied by an interesting rubber.

Possibly the envelope travelled from Belfast to Lisburn, but it may have come from further afield. Has anyone else come across this Mails Manager postmark or seen similar ones for any other towns? I would also be interested to know if Belfast has one.



SPOT THE BELFAST BUS ON NEW STAMPS!

The 15th May 2001 issue of UK stamps features 16 buses in a strip or miniature sheet of 5. Bus no.13 is in fact a no.59 with destination given as "BALMORAL / VIA GT.VICTORIA ST." which travelled along the route out of Belfast City centre to the SW via Great Victoria Street and the Lisburn Road. This type was common when I lived in Belfast-indeed I probably travelled on a bus just like this. (It's just a pity that the way the stamps were designed the perforations cut vertically through the bus...)

LONDONDERRY ODDITIES OF THE 1990s

I recently sorted through a batch of postmarks including many from Londonderry. Some rubber packet types were amongst them and most of these were the familiar LONDONDERRY/PACKETS type. However, I found three on piece that were not familiar to me. It seems worth recording them (see illustrations):

- 1) 5 NOV 1997 LONDONDERRY/SORTING OFFICE (beside machine die of 28th OCT which presumably cancelled stamp)
- 2) 6 MAY 1998 LONDONDERRY DELIVERY OFFICE/ (15/21 /GT.JAMES ST.) BT48 7BE
- 3) 12 NOV 1998 LONDONDERRY MAILS/P.E.D.OFFICE - larger type than usual on piece from prepaid envelope



I can't think of another postmark from anywhere in the UK which has the initials 'PED'. My best guess is Postmen's East (or Eastern) Delivery Office. It is possible that these three marks were used in the same office.

Tim STEPHENS

Queenstown Paquebot – The changes to Cóbh

A significant aspect of the "Transitional Period" in the Irish postal history consists of the change from English to Irish in postal matters and the changes of place names appearing in postmarks. It is this aspect that is shown here as a continuation to the recent article by Paul Baines ("Irish Philately", September 2001, page 61).

My example of the double-ring handstamp "Paquebot Queenstown" type is dated 28th May 1922, which it appears must be at the latter end of the possible date range and may in fact be the last date of use (see below).

As has been recorded elsewhere this handstamp was initially replaced by a skeleton handstamp reading "Paquebot / C  bh, my example being 23rd July 1922. At some time during its use the skeleton was re-arranged so that C  bh appears at the top. My other example is of 5th October 1922, which leaves a 10 week period available for this change to have occurred. Do other members know of dates that may help to narrow this gap?

In Cyril Dulin's book "Irish Transition" there is an illustration of the skeleton dated 27th May 1922, which is interesting in that it overlaps with the 28th May use of the Queenstown Paquebot. This is the evidence for that being perhaps the last date.

In early October 1922 the permanent double-ring "Paquebot / C  bh" type was introduced into use, my example is 23rd October 1922.

According to the Stafford Johnson list as shown in appendix 7 of "Ireland's Transition" this handstamp was registered on 5th October 1922 and the Maltese cross at its foot is mentioned.

Once again this is an interesting date to me, as it is the same as my example of the skeleton, implying a possible latest use for the skeleton.

Can other members give later dates or early uses of the permanent handstamp?

(Following on the next page is one of the author's items from an exhibit he has and is reproduced here)

Change of Name

change of name



A double-ring handstamp for "Paquebot Queenstown" was in use until late May of 1922, when a skeleton type was introduced showing the name change to "Cóbh". The skeleton was amended to show "Cóbh" at the top instead of the foot. The permanent double-ring "Cóbh" handstamp arrived early October.

Reference: "Irish Transition" by Dr. C.I. Dulin, published by MacDonnell Whyte Ltd., Dublin, 1992 ISBN 09517095-1-8.

Peter WOOD

The following is an extract from The Anglo-Celt of 23rd August 2001.

Local sub postmasters in Cavan and Monaghan are convinced that if An Post goes ahead with its plan to offer Post Point franchises to supermarkets and petrol stations it will be the certain death knell of post offices in towns and rural areas of both counties.

Local sub postmasters in Cavan and Monaghan are convinced that if An Post goes ahead with its plan to offer Post Point franchises to supermarkets and petrol stations it will be the certain death knell of post offices in towns and rural areas of both counties.

Post Point terminals for topping up Eircell mobile phones are being installed in 2,000 retail outlets throughout the State, including outlets in these two counties and have the capacity to take laser cards credit cards and have the potential to make bill payments.

A spokesperson for An Post indicated to the Anglo Celt that the company were introducing a pilot scheme for bill payments using the Post Point terminals which would come into being in the autumn. She wasn't able to state what type of bill payments would be undertaken in the new pilot programme but she stated that it wasn't An Post's intention to take away businesses from the post offices.

However, post masters and sub post masters are alarmed by the new development and members of the Postmasters Union from Cavan and Monaghan are four square behind the demand of their union that Post Point must be withdrawn. At a largely attended meeting of IPU members in Portlouis on Sunday it was decided that if An Post refused to abandon the system the union would ballot its members for industrial action.

There are between sixty and seventy post offices in County Cavan with a similar number in County Monaghan. It is reckoned that about one third of these are viable while the other- two-thirds are finding it more difficult to survive. The new Post Point service which will be offering its facilities in shops and petrol stations that remain open well into the night is seen as a real threat not alone to rural post offices but also to post offices in towns because of the attractions of the later opening hours.

The General Secretary of the Irish Postmasters Union, Mr. Anthony Clinton. (from Moynalty), has strongly attacked An Post for introducing Post Point and committing itself adequately remunerating those outlets for this service while at the same time allowing a situation to exist whereby a sizeable proportion of his members were earning, less than the minimum wage. He estimated that 30% of his members were earning less than £6000 a year while 50% were receiving, an income equal to the minimum wage. He said that the income was so low because postmasters were paid on the basis of the number of transactions that were undertaken at their post offices.

"I can't understand how they could offer this business to other people and pay them an adequate amount considering the pittance we are receiving" stated Mr. Clinton. He called on An Post to upgrade the post office service and to introduce technology in those sub post offices that still hadn't such facilities.

Members of the Post Masters Union are fearful that if bill payments are to be introduced via the Post Point terminals then it could lead to the transition of other payments such as those for Social Welfare, ESB, Eircom, TV licences etc, thus wiping out the reason for the existence of post offices.

However, a spokesperson for An Post said that they were committed to introducing the Post Point service. If they didn't then others would step into this field. It was not the objective of An Post to take business away from the Post Office network and their move

into this line of business was purely to safeguard their position. The move was customer driver with people shopping later in the evening she said.

An Post are on contract to Eircell to provide the Post Point terminals for topping up mobile phones. They fear that if they don't proceed in this field their space will be taken by other competitors such as ITG. The entire system was new and was just being rolled out, state the company.

WANTS:

Barry Cousins, a new member, in Malaysia is interested in the 1922 Transitional period only and has written a study paper on this but would like to exchange information and/or data concerning this period. As there are many "grey areas" he would be happy to correspond and in the course of doing so – verify his findings.

Is there a member or group who would like to partake of this offer?

Email bcousins@tm.net.my or contact the Editor.

SNIPPET:

For those of you who like nothing to change, Michael Giffney (the original Ha'penny Bridge man) still is dealing under P.O.Box 1096, Dublin 1, with no fax or web, but he is still using postage stamps on all replies at the present time.

SNIPPET:

Peter Wood has been invited to display at the Merseyside Philatelic Society, on 3rd June 2002. The display will be entitled "Irish Stew".

SNIPPET:

Whyte's have changed their address to 38 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 BUT general sales of stamps and postal history will now be dealt with by MacDonnell Whyte Ltd., 102 Leinster Road, Dublin 6.

Spark Number 15 Spring 2001

Townland Names Under Threat

Editor, Jack Johnston

Editorial Committee Jenny Brien, Anita Gallagher, Marianna Maguire, Gerry Hull

The use of townland names in Fermanagh has come under threat as a result of recent pressure by credit card agencies and mobile phone companies to make people use the Post Office's alternative naming system. This system of naming and numbering rural roads was devised by the Post Office in the early 1970's. Its use (where it gained acceptance) has seriously undermined the use of townland names. There was widespread opposition to the change and the Post Office then agreed to the use of both elements in the address. However, when a new telephone directory was produced the townland names were dropped as the entries proved too long. Since then time has proved that in cases where both have been advocated it has been the townland name that has suffered. Most people do not want to write an extra line in their address.

The District Council has sole responsibility for what address is given official status within its local government area. Fermanagh District Council - which represents the entire county - has been the only Council in Northern Ireland to successfully resist the Post Office's alternative scheme.

The new system is being used by statutory agencies like the Valuation Office, the Electoral office and the Ordnance Survey - though Council policy has dictated otherwise. This is how the alternative system has stealthily gained some acceptance in Fermanagh where it is in fact an illegal address.

Other parts of Britain as well as the Republic of Ireland have survived adequately without a contrived address. Folk in Cavan and Donegal, in the Cotswolds and in Severn Valley who live in rural areas have not had any rural numbering or naming scheme foisted on them. There is one answer which does not in any way compromise the use of the townland name. If we use the postcode with the townland then the mail can be delivered safely to ninety nine per cent of all households. The Council have the authority to make the decision. It is for them (and no one else) to call the tune in the matter.

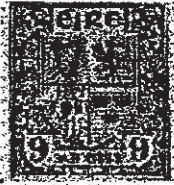
The latest assault on the townland in Fermanagh has come from commercial interests, principally in England. Are we to allow what is essentially the heritage debate to be manipulated by such people?

Reproduced from The Spark, a journal of the Border Counties History Collective, produced under the Peace and Reconciliation Programme as administered by Co - operation Ireland.

This may be obtained from the Collective Office at Main Street, Blacklion, Co. Cavan. 072 53440 or 00353 372 53440 from England.

Irish Raptors

The current definitives, which feature the Birds of Ireland, prove that this theme is very popular amongst philatelists. The birds issue deserves a feature all to itself because of the difference in shades, paper and gums. This article is just a light-hearted look at the birds of prey, which Ireland has produced on stamps over the years.



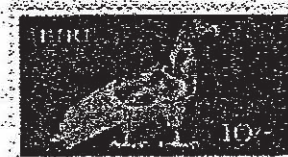
1922 9p Arms of Ireland
Which feature the Eagle and raised sword
of Connacht. (West half an Eagle)



1939 150th Anniversary of US Constitution
The American Bald Eagle



1953 "An Tostal" (Ireland at Home Festival)
Eagle Framed Harp



1968 Definitive.
Stylised Eagle with "Bullet Hole?"
Just Missed!



1975 Contemporary Irish Art
"Bird of Prey." Goshawk?



1979 Birds Issue
Peregrine Falcon



1997 Definitive Issue
Another Peregrine Falcon

George ETOE

The following is a letter and enclosure I received recently, which I am printing in it's entirety. The strange thing is the articles from Hugh McGoldrick, which are also included in this edition of the Journal, represent a similar vein of thought!

Dear Eddy,

As FAI President - and as well as a member of the IPC for many years- I ask you to publish this open letter to Pat Carolan, the Philatelic Manager of AN POST, in the IPC winter journal. This letter will be printed in the December journals of FAI (Die Harfe), EPA (The Revealer) and in Michael Connolly's Newsletter.

I think it is of interest for all members of our societies to correct the way AN POST goes. The FAI AGM participants were, at least, extremely annoyed. This letter shows their mood only very softly. I thank you for your cooperation. My best greetings

Otto Jung

Mr.
Pat Carolan
Manager Philatelic Service
Philatelic Bureau
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FAI President
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52355 Düren
Germany
Tel. 02421 /61723
email: Jung.FAI@t-online.de

Dear Sir,

September 20th, 2001

The FAI members participating in the Annual General Meeting 2001 of the F A I , have engaged me to write a letter of protest to the philatelic management of AN POST. The F A I (Research and Study Group Ireland) is a Germany based philatelic society with some hundred members all over the world. We are sure that we represent the great majority of the collectors of Irish postal material in Germany.

We have been very concerned for some years about the inappropriate policy of AN POST in issuing stamps and the excessive expenditure needed to get the new issue. In 2000, the F A I new issue service had a dramatic drop in customers, and the orders have come to a standstill in 2001. A number of our members have stopped collecting Irish stamps because of this policy.

These are the points we object to:

- 1) We object to the great number of commemorative stamps. Why does an occasion need a set of four stamps, where one would be enough? Look at the way the German post commemorates events by issuing one stamp at the letter or postcard rate, rarely by a stamp of higher face value.
- 2) We object to the high face values which are found in each set. That they are not needed is recognizable from their low prints. They only aim at the purse of the collectors and a high income for AN POST.

3) We object to the number of sheets combining different stamps and issuing them in multiple formats -sheets, rolls, booklets etc. This is only to force collectors to buy more stamps than actually needed.

4) We object to the way the new issues are extolled as a great financial investment for the future. Every serious collector knows that there will not be the least profit from the average commemorative stamps of the last 40 years. These "wonderful pictures" are often being ignored by the adult collector. They are mainly aimed at the children who cannot judge the future value of the stamps. It is irresponsible to lead them to believe that they have not only a fine hobby but also a good investment for their future. These issues are far away from serious philately, which does not mean to add stamp to stamp bought from the post office.

5) We object to the motifs chosen for many years. Stamps with ship motifs appeared in 1982, 1986, 1988, 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999 (set and 2 mini sheets) and 2001. Why so many sets showing cars, motorbikes, trains, trams, buses? And why illustrating the pine martin in 1992 four times? And - I beg you pardon - the yearly issued minisheets to celebrate the Chinese New Year are so far away from any reality that the annual repetition causes collectors to shake their heads in disbelief. Why all the sportsmen on stamps? In most countries it is frowned on to picture living persons on stamps. All the Millennium sheets were strictly to extract additional money from the collectors.

In 2000, the German agency Roll, who distribute the stamps of 231 countries, sent collectors an advertising leaflet. The new issues of all these countries, the average number of yearly appearing stamps and their cost are to be found. Only 3 three countries out of 60 European charge more for their stamps than Ireland does. Even countries as large as China and Russia require less money. Great Britain is less expensive. The annually issued stamps of Switzerland, Austria and The Netherlands, which are extremely popular with collectors, cost nearly half the amount the Irish stamps demand.

You should be aware that each collector who cancels his standing order will never return. Hundreds have turned away from new issues and are ending their Ireland collection with the year 2000 or 2001.

Yours sincerely

(Otto Jung, FAI President)